

knitted together by the creepers. In executing this service, which was specially under the charge of Lieutenant Heath, I remarked the exertions of Mr. Simpson, chief officer of the *Phlegethon*, whose small party of Javanese were most useful.

I may also mention, that on my calling for volunteers, Edward Burchatt, carpenter's crew of the *Iris*, swam the river, with his heavy axe in his hand, at the great risk of his life; John Martin, carpenter's mate of the *Iris*; Alexander Lucas, C.C., of the *Agincourt*, and the artificers and pioneers of all the ships worked heartily. On crossing the river our march was continued amidst a swampy jungle, with thicker underwood than we had previously experienced; but our guides pointing to some cocoa nut and palm trees in the distance, informed us that amongst them we should discover the Sultan's retreat; just before reaching this secluded spot, the natives rushed into the bush, and our whole party advanced, and on gaining the open country we found ourselves directly in face of a large and isolated building, standing on piles, with a rivulet ten feet broad passing in its rear, and the whole country round completely flooded. A glance at the desolated appearance of the place showed us at once that no enemy was there to oppose us. It had been evacuated probably the day before by the Sultan and his followers; magazines of powder, ammunition for guns of different calibre, and cartridges admirably made for musketry were found in considerable quantity, and one brass swivel gun of small dimensions, but the greater part of the valuable property had been carried off. Having destroyed the powder and well reconnoitred the swamp and jungle around, I directed Lieutenant Heath to expend his damp rockets on the building, which was then fired and burnt to the water's edge, which service concluded, we recrossed the river with our whole force, and after a march of seven hours from leaving Mallout encamped on the rising ground by the new house, in which was found the Sultan's shield. The rain had set in as usual in torrents at 3 p.m., and there being only shelter for half the force, the remainder bivouacked under bamboo sheds erected by themselves; during the whole night there was no cessation of the rain, no wind, and myriads of mosquitoes.

On the next morning, Wednesday, July 15th, we commenced our march at an early hour to return to Mallout, a decision which Mr. Brooke and myself had come to in consequence of the whole of our guides who were acquainted with this part of the country having left us, and it was therefore impossible to obtain further intelligence of the Sultan's movements. As the rear-guard passed out into the swamp, the Sultan's house was fired, and with the adjoining buildings and all the property, burnt to the ground.

Passing through Tanjong we reached Mallout in the afternoon, where I found Lieut. Dunbar and party. The water in the creek had fallen between three and four feet, and the launch with the other gun boats had dropped out into the river. As it was too late in the day to ensure the embarkation of the force before dark, we bivouacked at Mallout for the night, and at four

the following morning, the 16th, were in movement for the beach. The embarkation occupied three hours, the large boats being two miles from our first place of landing, and the swamp was now nearly dry across.

We reached the main stream without difficulty, and I had again the pleasure of meeting your Excellency coming up to look after us, and of reporting to you that though the Sultan had eluded us, we had this time effected our march on Damuan, and that every man of the party had returned in safety, and very few cases of sickness.

I have much satisfaction in acquainting your Excellency with the uniform good conduct of all the officers, petty officers, seamen, and marines under my command.

During the six days occupied in the double expedition, I had no complaint of straggling or misconduct, and though the enemy offered no opposition to our advance, I hope I may be excused for bearing testimony to the cheerfulness of all under the discouraging circumstances of continued marching in jungle and swamps, knee deep, with heavy rain during the whole period, constantly wet to the skin, and rest at night impossible.

I was much indebted to Captain Hawkins, commanding the detachment of royal marines, for his exertions during the march, and to Lieutenants Matthew, Heath, and Newland, who commanded divisions of seamen, and to Lieutenant Vansittart, my Aid-de-camp.

Mr. Reeves and Mr. Quin, Mates of *Agincourt* and *Royalist*, were attentive to their duties.

I was highly satisfied with the zeal and intelligence of Lieutenant Patey, in immediate command of the gun boats, and he was cheerfully assisted by Lieutenants Norcock, Dunbar, and Morgan, and by Mr. Loane and Mr. Sullivan, Second Masters of the *Agincourt* and *Iris*.

Mr. Brooke, throughout the march, shewed the greatest anxiety to spare the houses and property unconnected with the Sultan.

I have the honour to enclose a return of the ordnance captured. (B.)

I have the honour, &c.,  
G. RODNEY MUNDY,  
Captain of Her Majesty's ship *Iris*,  
and Commanding Officer.

To His Excellency Rear-Admiral Sir T.  
Cochrane, C. B. &c. &c. &c. Commander-  
in-Chief.

Return of the Force employed during the Expedition up the Borneo River under my Command, between the 10th and 16th of July 1846.

Detachment of royal marines, Captain Hawkins, 155 men; from Her Majesty's ship *Agincourt*, Her Majesty's ship *Iris*, Her Majesty's steamer *Spiteful*, Her Majesty's brig *Ringdove*, Her Majesty's sloop *Hazard*, Her Majesty's sloop *Royalist*.