



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of FRIDAY the 20th of FEBRUARY.

Published by Authority.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1852.

*Admiralty, February 20, 1852.*

THE following Dispatches have been received at the Admiralty from Commodore Bruce, reporting the destruction of Lagos by Her Majesty's naval forces on the West Coast of Africa.

*Capture of Lagos.*

(No. 10.)

SIR, *Penelope, off Lagos, January 2, 1852.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that their Lordships' instructions of the 14th October, and the wishes of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, as far as respects Lagos, have been most faithfully fulfilled by the expulsion of the slave-dealing chief Kosoko and his people, the utter destruction of his town, and the establishment of the friendly chief Akitoye, with his followers, in the seat of power at Lagos.

2. By my letter No. 216, of 1851, their Lordships are aware that Kosoko very recently rejected the proffered friendship of England, and that he opposed with fire and sword the approach of a flag of truce proceeding to his seat of Government with Mr. Consul Beecroft, who offered to negotiate and to advise with him, and who was merely attended by an escort of armed boats, scarcely or problematically sufficient for his personal safety among savages.

3. I therefore determined to send a strong and well-organized force to punish this refractory chief, and having, through the untiring energy and exertions of Mr. Beecroft, procured the attendance of Akitoye and nearly 500 of his followers near the scene of action, ready to take advantage of a clear sweep when we should make it, I concerted measures with Captain Lewis T. Jones, of the Sampson, and Captain Henry Lyster, of this ship, who both were volunteers on the occasion, and intrusted the detail and execution of the service to Captain Jones, seconded by Captain Lyster, and their Lordships will see, from the accompanying reports, the complete success with which the enterprise has been crowned.

4. I am at a loss to do justice to the chivalrous bearing and devoted bravery of these two officers; Captain Jones, who, commanding the expedition,

was no less conspicuous for his gallantry and firmness than for his judgment and energy; and Captain Lyster, who, finding himself, by unavoidable circumstances, exposed in the Teazer to be summarily destroyed by the enemy's guns, made a noble rush into the midst of armed hosts on shore, and with his undaunted followers spiked the obnoxious guns, and turned the fortune of the day at that point. It is to be borne in mind, that our people could expect no quarter, nor did they get any.

5. I should come short of my duty did I not bring before the notice of their Lordships the ardent and devoted gallantry exhibited during this very severe affair by officers and men. The responsible post which Captain Lyster filled cost him a severe wound, happily not dangerous. Commander Hillyar, of this ship, who charged with him, is severely, but not dangerously wounded. Lieutenants Edward Marshall and F. D. Rich, each in command of a paddle-box boat, exhibited heroism and firmness never surpassed. Lieutenant John Corbett, in command of Mr. Beecroft's iron boat with rockets, with his own hands spiked the guns, receiving a shot in his arm after doing so, and had five severe wounds before the affray ended. Lieutenant Williams, Royal Marine Artillery, was dangerously wounded, and Mr. Frederick Fletcher, midshipman, commanding one of the cutters appointed to guard the boats when on shore, defended them to the last, and fell with two balls in his forehead. With the other division, Lieutenant Saumarez, of the Sampson, received a dangerous wound while encouraging his men, and Mr. Richards, midshipman of that ship, got his death wound. The conduct of Lieutenant Patey, commanding the Bloodhound, and Lieutenant Leckie, commanding the Teazer, and the success attending their efforts, is beyond all praise; besides their annihilating fire, their vessels were a rallying point for the respective divisions of boats, and were conspicuously instrumental in the attainment of victory, reflecting infinite credit on all belonging to them. Commander Coote, of the Volcano, and Commander Gardner, of the Waterwitch, with their detachments, contributed, as soon as they arrived, to the labours of the hour with an energy and zeal well worthy of them.

Nothing could exceed the devotion of the officers of the medical staff to the exigencies of the day,—Mr. Richard Carpenter, Surgeon, Mr. Walling, and Mr. Sproule, Assistant-Surgeons of this ship; Dr. Barclay, Acting Surgeon of the Sealark, and Mr. Morgan and Mr. Penarth, Assistant-Surgeons of the Sampson. Wherever a man was struck in the boats a medical officer was immediately by his side, setting their own lives at nought when compared with the wants of their brave companions in arms. Mr. Walling and Mr. Sproule landed at the charge, with their comrades, under Captain Lyster.

Mr. Beecroft during all these operations was on board the Bloodhound, and gave every assistance that his advice and experience could afford.

6. I cannot withhold the expression of my regret for the very severe loss which has attended this achievement, but in which I trust their Lordships will feel that the dignity of England has been asserted, and the honour of the flag gloriously sustained.

7. The enclosures with this despatch will afford all further information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. W. BRUCE, Commodore and  
Commander-in-Chief.

To the Secretary to the Admiralty,  
&c. &c. &c.

*A Schedule of the Enclosures contained in a Despatch from Commodore Bruce to the Secretary of the Admiralty, No. 10 of 1852.*

- 1.—29th December 1851, from Captain Jones, of the Sampson, to the Commander-in-Chief, reporting the capture of Lagos.
- 2.—29th December 1851, from Captain Lyster, of the Penelope, to Captain Jones, of the Sampson, proceedings on the 26th December 1851.
- 3.—29th December, 1851, from Captain Lyster, of the Penelope, to Captain Jones, of the Sampson, list of killed and wounded on board H.M.S. Sampson.
- 4.—26th December, 1851, from Captain Lyster, of the Penelope, to Captain Jones, of the Sampson, list of killed and wounded on board the Penelope.
- 5.—27th December 1851, from Captain Lyster, of the Penelope, to Captain Jones, of the Sampson, list of killed and wounded on board the Penelope.
- 6.—27th December 1851, from Captain Lyster, of the Penelope, to Captain Jones, of the Sampson, list of officers and men sent from H.M.'s ships Sampson and Penelope.
- 7.—26th December 1851, from Captain Lyster, of the Penelope, to Captain Jones, of the Sampson, regulations for the attack.
- 8.—28th December 1851, from Captain Jones to Kosoko, calling on him to surrender.
- 9.—29th December 1851, from Commander Coote, of the Volcano, to Captain Jones, account of guns brought off.
- 10.—29th December 1851, from Commander Gardner, of the Waterwitch, to Captain Jones, account of guns brought off.
- 11.—26th December 1851, from Mr. Olive, master of Sampson, to Captain Jones, proceedings on board Sampson.
- 12.—28th December 1851, from Mr. Olive, master of Sampson, to Captain Jones, proceedings on board Sampson.

H. W. BRUCE, Commodore and  
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure No. 1.

*Her Majesty's Steam Vessel Bloodhound,  
off the North Point of Lagos, 29th  
December 1851.*

SIR,

1. IN my letter to you dated the 27th, I had the extreme gratification of reporting to you the entire and complete success of the expeditionary forces which you did me the honour of placing under my command, upon which event permit me sincerely to congratulate you.

2. It now becomes my duty to represent to you in an official form my proceedings since leaving the Sampson, and to thank you for allowing me hitherto to keep you acquainted with these movements by private notes as opportunities offered.

3. In entering into the various details arising from the nature of the service of the several divisions, and to do justice to all, and particularize those who have had the opportunity particularly to distinguish themselves, I feel that I shall be obliged to write rather a long despatch in the form of a daily journal, commencing on the day of my crossing the bar of Lagos on the 23rd to the subjugation of our opponents on the 29th December, and finally rejoining you on the 1st January.

4. You are, aware, Sir, that on the 23rd December, in pursuance of your orders to place the Sampson in the most advantageous position for throwing shells occasionally across the lagoon, I moored the ship as near as possible at the back of the surf, and then with the boats of the Sampson, crossed the bar, preceded by the Bloodhound, and anchored off Point Bruce for the night.

5. On the morning of the 24th, in company with Akitoie and Mr. Beecroft, Her Majesty's Consul for the Bights, I mustered and inspected the Badagry and Abbeakutuan forces, at the time of muster numbering 500, and increasing during the day to 640. To these we distributed as a mark of recognition a white neck-tie, with which they seemed much pleased. I then ordered that these men should be supplied with three days' bread from the Bloodhound. At 2 P.M. the Bloodhound weighed and crossed to the opposite side of the river, where the boats of the Sampson, under the orders of Lieutenant Thomas Saumarez, were sent to launch all the canoes at the slave-station on the left bank, worth bringing off. At 3, Lieutenant Saumarez returned, having in a very short time launched seven large and two small canoes, a most desirable acquisition for the conveyance of the auxiliary forces. The landing party was covered by the guns of the Bloodhound, right, left, and overhead, to check the advance of an armed force, seen from the masthead, advancing. This service being finished, the Bloodhound dropped up the river with the tide, for the purpose of acquiring piloting knowledge, and examining the lines of defence. Three guns from the south end of the island opened on her: the fire was exceedingly well directed but faulty in elevation. We now knew the channel and therefore steamed down. At 3-30 P.M., true to time and promise, the Teazer, accompanying the boats of the Penelope, was seen crossing the Bar, and at 5, Bloodhound and Teazer anchored near together out of range of the enemy's shot. Captain Lyster immediately came on board and placed himself under my orders; we then consulted and decided on the plan of attack as shewn by paper 3, and that the auxiliaries should keep on the right bank of the river, proceeding up as the steam-vessels advanced\*. The day was too far gone to commence the attack, and we also de-

\* The force now assembled consisted of the men and guns specified in No. 2 paper.

terminated that Christmas-day should be a day of rest, and the 25th was a quiet day, with the exception of the enemy wasting a vast deal of ammunition.

26th. The plan of attack was the suggestion of Captain Lyster, that we should pass the lines of defence as quickly as convenient, and round the north point of the island, and at that point make the grand attack, it being there that Kosoko and the slave dealers reside, and to let them have the first punishment. The line of sea-defence extends from the south point of the island of Lagos to the north point along the west front, a distance of nearly two miles, and in parts where the water is sufficiently deep for boats to land, stakes in double rows are driven in six feet water, and along the whole of this distance an embankment and ditch for the protecting of infantry, and at chosen points, stockades exceedingly strong, made from stout cocoa-nut trees, were erected for guns, the guns being laid for the difficult points of the passage. We could count four guns so placed, since found to be twenty-five.

6. Our work being thus clear before us, the Bloodhound weighed at dawn of day on the 26th, with the Sampson's boats in two divisions, the one preceding, the other following, proceeded up the river, the Teazer following with the boats of the Penelope similarly arranged, and accompanied by Mr. Beecroft's iron boat Victoria, fitted for rockets. The enemy immediately opened a fire of great guns and musketry, the whole line of embankment being filled with men, the muzzles of the muskets only being visible. This fire was returned from great guns only, and with very beautiful precision, yet with very little effect, for the shot did not do much injury to the green wood of the stockade, and the guns themselves, from being retired, could not be seen. At 7.20 A.M. the Bloodhound and her division of boats had passed the N.W. point, and in trying to get round the north point grounded in eight feet. The black pilot, John Johns, did his work well and steadily, and is not to blame,—the channel had filled up since he was last here,—Mr. Beecroft and his interpreter, Richards, assisting. We had carried three fathoms all the way up. On sounding it was found impossible to get further; anchors were therefore laid out to heave off. During this time a very deliberate and beautiful fire was kept up from the 18-pounder of the Bloodhound, directed by Mr. Barry, the gunner, and from the 12-pounder howitzer, by Lieutenant Mc Arthur, R.M.A. with shrapnel and common shells, by which means the great guns abreast were silenced; but nothing could silence the perpetual showers of musketry, the greater part of which fell short, but every now and then one or two would fall on board, and men were hit slightly; very few indeed escaped a slight touch.

7. The Teazer had grounded shortly after weighing, and I did not observe her to be aground before we had advanced too far "to anchor for mutual support," as had been agreed upon; I have therefore the honour to forward to you Captain Lyster's report of the proceedings of the division under his command during the remainder of the 26th and morning of the 27th. The operations of the division under my immediate direction continued occasionally to throw shot and shell as any movement was observed on shore, and to check the operations of the enemy, who had nearly succeeded in bringing an invisible gun to bear, the shot at each discharge coming nearer and nearer. At 10 A.M. I despatched Lieut. Thomas Saumarez in command of the gun-boats of H.M.S. Sampson, viz., first and second life-boats and pin-

nace round the north-east point, to ascertain the strength and position of the guns on that side of the island. A fire from 4 guns, strongly stockaded, was immediately opened; this fire was returned from the life-boats and pinnace, by the 24 and 12-pound howitzers, with such good effect as to have upset and turned out of its carriage one of these guns. The object being attained of ascertaining the position of the guns on the north-east side of the island, I recalled the boats, as it became requisite to reserve the ammunition and shells for the grand assault, when the other division, under Captain Lyster, should have joined. The fire from gingals, petrels, and muskets continuing from the ditch and embankment abreast, and observing the enemy busy in trying to bring other guns into position, I, at 2.30 P.M. despatched Lieutenant Thomas Saumarez, with the boats of H.M.S. Sampson, accompanied by Lieutenant Edward Mc Arthur, R.M.A. in command of the Royal Marine Artillery, to attempt a landing, and spike these small guns. They did all that men could do, but it was found impossible to make their way through the showers of musketry opened against them; and Lieutenant Saumarez, therefore, very properly relinquished the attempt, and returned, with 10 men severely wounded, Mr. Richards, midshipman, mortally, and himself hit in three places. I must here bring to your notice the gallant conduct of Mr. William J. Stivey, Carpenter, of H.M.S. Sampson, who, neck deep in water, axe in hand, was hewing away at the stakes to make a passage for the boats to land; he is one of those men always where he is wanted. The remainder of the day was passed in firing shot and shell as circumstances required, so as to prevent guns being moved against us, the nearest shot passing about ten yards astern. At daylight, on the 27th, I had the satisfaction of seeing the Teazer afloat; and at 7.20, that she had entered the right channel and coming towards us. I immediately ordered that a deliberate flanking fire should be opened on the west part of the enemy's defences from the Bloodhound and gun-boats, and sent a boat under Mr. Bullen, my clerk, to point out to Captain Lyster the position for the Teazer to anchor. 8.10.—Teazer anchored, and I went on board to see Captain Lyster. Ordered the rocket-boats to take up a position to the northward of the Bloodhound, which was quickly done; and Lieutenant Marshall threw some rockets with beautiful effect, setting fire to several houses, and particularly that of the prime minister, Tappis; this produced a spontaneous cheer, through the little squadron, for the rocket-boat. The rocket-boat shifted her position ahead of the Teazer, and a general but deliberate fire was opened from the whole force. At 10.45, Lieutenant Marshall threw a rocket which struck the battery below Tappis' house, and simultaneously a shot from the Teazer capsized the gun; an awful explosion ensued, and, from this moment, the fate of our foes was decided; it became evident they must submit; house after house caught fire, and the town was shortly in a general blaze.

8. At 10.30 Commander Coote joined with the boats of the Volcano, and at 1.45 P.M. Commander Gardner, with the boats of the Waterwitch. At 2.45 I despatched the gun-boats of squadron under Commander Coote, accompanied by the rocket-boat, round the north point, to salute Kosoko's house, but directed that they should only fire a few rounds, being unwilling further to destroy the town, the ultimate fate being positive should resistance continue. I therefore recalled the boats. Sent a summons to

Kosoko by a chief of the island, Echalli, and determined to wait till Monday morning at 7.

Sunday 28th. This on our part was a day of rest in preparation for the final assault of the 29th should Kosoko reject the proffered terms as in Paper No. 4. I felt a reluctance to destroy the detached part of the town still standing, as it would be required for the new-comers. I felt it as a national question that we should duly observe the Sabbath.

9. During the whole of the day canoes from the N.E. side of Lagos were observed crossing to the island of Echalli, loaded with furniture and household goods; but I conceived that it was no part of the grand object with which England had sent her forces here to care whether a bed or table and private property of any kind were on one side of the river or the other; that might safely be left to the choice of individuals fleeing from a city in flames. I therefore allowed this to go on without molestation, though a jolly-boat might have stopped it; it was also desirable to show that we did not come for pillage, but that our sole object was to stop slave-trade. At 3.45 P.M. it was ascertained that Kosoko and his followers had abandoned the island; I therefore sent my aide-de-camp, Mr. Bullen, with the interpreter, Richards, to the chiefs of the auxiliary forces, desiring them to close with the canoes, and escort the rightful king, Akitoie, to his house, and install him in office, preferring that they who had joined him in adversity should have the honour of being his body-guard. None of the British forces landed except a small party with Commander Cooke, to spike guns. In the evening I landed with Captain Lyster and Mr. Beecroft, when a scene of the most perfect desolation presented itself.

10. The lines of defence are the most cunningly devised scheme for entrapping assailants into ambush that can be conceived. I have desired Lieutenant McArthur to make sketches, which shall be forwarded to you when ready.

11. A creek and swamp running about 200 yards inland had checked the flames and saved the eastern division of the town.

29th. At daylight I ordered Commander Cooke with his own boats and those of the Sampson, and Commander Gardner with his boat and those of the Penelope, the one on the N.E. the other on the N.W. front to embark or destroy the whole of the guns. They returned at noon, having by extraordinary exertion embarked and destroyed 52 pieces of ordnance as stated in their several reports sent herewith, Nos. 5 and 6.

12. Thus sir, the island of Lagos and its dependencies are prostrate before us—ours by the right of conquest to deal with as might be most expedient—every one had fled.

13. It appears Kosoko, with about 2000 followers, had absconded in 50 or 60 canoes; the women and children had been sent away several days before. Akitoie and his followers are in full possession.

14. I have thus sir, arrived at the point when the full and complete accomplishment of your instructions were fulfilled; the climax of your expectations, as conveyed in your first order placing the gallant and devoted officers and men composing the expeditionary forces under my command, realized.

15. And I cannot in terms of adequate import convey to you how fully I appreciate the cheerful endurance of intense heat, the perpetual rattling of shot from an invisible foe, and the labour of getting the vessels afloat after grounding.

16. In these duties each and all in their several departments exerted their best, but the toil and anxieties of floating the vessels principally devolved on Lieut. Russell Patey, of the Bloodhound, and Lieutenant Leckie, of the Teazer. Each and all have done their duty with a cheerfulness and goodwill, worthy of the righteous cause upon which we have been engaged, and to all, my best thanks are due.

17. I have, in the course of this despatch, mentioned the names of officers who have stood forth as leaders, and of those in command of boats; and I fully adopt the report of Captain Lyster to bear testimony of the ardent zeal of Commander Hillyar and Lieutenants Marshall and Rich. My gallant friend, Captain Lyster, and Commander Hillyar, were each severely wounded in the assault to spike the guns, on the 26th, bearing on the Teazer, but nothing could induce these officers to return to their ship, though suffering severely, until they had seen the final triumph of their exertions. The gallantry and devotion of Lieutenant Corbett is fully set forth in the letter of Captain Lyster, and I trust, "I have done it," will not be forgotten as an example of what a man may do by courage and perseverance.

18. Lieutenant Thomas Saumarez, who was in command of the boats of the Sampson, is a most energetic and promising young officer; he has for some time been doing duty as first Lieutenant of this ship.

19. Mr. James Cooke, the gunner, has been the conveyer of all my notes to you, and keeping up the supply of ammunition.

20. Charles Blofield, boatswain's mate, has had charge of the pinnace, mounting a 12-pounder howitzer, for the last two days, having no officer left to put in her; he conducted his charge to my entire satisfaction, and is a deserving promising young man; and will with a little more experience make a good boatswain.

21. The 24-pounder howitzer in the first life-boat was served by George Yule, gunner, Royal Marine Artillery, with admirable precision.

22. Before concluding, I must, as senior officer of the Bights division, express to you how deeply I feel indebted to Commander Wilmot, of the Harlequin, for the manner in which he has executed my orders to make himself acquainted with the passage of the Lagos Bar. He first ferreted his way in his gig, and then, step by step, day by day, when the surf would permit, till he discovered a passage of ten feet, which enabled the steam-vessels to pass the bar. I much regret that he should not have been present to witness the final triumph of which he was the pioneer.

23. I forward to you two notes received from Mr. Olive, master, who was left in command of the Sampson, shewing that those who were left on board were not idle; and that the anxiety of Mr. Donnelly, the surgeon, to come to the assistance of the wounded, nearly cost him his own life; he succeeded however in joining us the following day.

24. Mr. Thomas Hocking, the purser, stationed himself in the maintop to report the effect of shells and progress of the forces inside.

25. I herewith send lists of the killed and wounded, amounting to:

Killed . . . . .	15
Wounded . . . . .	75

26. I have yet another paragraph to add to this lengthened despatch, which I cannot without extreme injustice omit; and that is to express how deeply I feel indebted to Mr. Robert H. Bullen, Clerk of the Sampson, who has combined the

duties of Secretary and Aid-de-Camp; and when I say that no Lieutenant could have done better, I hope I shall convey to you how fully I appreciate his services.

I have, &c.

LEWIS T. JONES, Captain.

Enclosure No. 2.

*H. M.'s S. V. Teazer (Tender to the Penelope), off the town of Lagos, December 29th, 1851.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report my proceedings from the time of entering the River Lagos until I anchored, in company with the Bloodhound, on the morning of the 27th instant.

2. On the morning of the 26th, while following you up the river, the Teazer grounded under the enemy's guns on the left bank; I ran anchors out immediately, and kept up a steady fire from the ship and boats. At half past eight, the water ceased to rise, and all our exertions to get off failed; up to this time Teazer's 32-pounders bore on the enemy's battery and kept it in check, but it was not long before two guns were brought to a stockade about a point on our quarter, in an unassailable position from us: these guns were admirably served, and I felt satisfied they would destroy the vessel before the tide rose again. Under these circumstances two courses were open to me; namely: to set fire to, and abandon Her Majesty's ship, or to land and carry the guns; there could be no hesitation on these points; I knew the sacrifice of life would in all probability be great, but I determined to adopt the alternative, and the cheerful and ready acquiescence which Commander Hillyar, and the rest of the officers with me, gave to my determination, left no doubt of its successful issue.

3. The boats, as noted in the margin,\* were formed in line abreast; we pulled in, keeping up a continued fire of spherical, grape, and canister shot, directly for the stockade, where the best landing-place appeared to be. As the boats touched the shore, we received a discharge of, at least, 1,500 muskets, notwithstanding, we landed, formed on the beach, and entered the stockade, from which the enemy retreated into the bush close to the rear. Lieutenant Corbett rushed ahead and spiked the guns; of this officer I shall have to speak again presently.

Having thus accomplished our object, I ordered the party to re-embark, and had scarcely done so when Commander Hillyar informed me that No. 1 life-boat was taken, and that the enemy were tracking her along the beach towards the guns that first opened on the Teazer. It was necessary to retake her, and we hurried down accordingly. As the crew of the captured boat, consisting of upwards of 60 men, had now to get into other boats, we became crowded, and some little delay occurred in consequence; all this time the enemy were coming from the bush in swarms, and poured a crushing, destructive fire on us at pistol-range.

1. Gig.—Captain Lyster, Mr. Wroughton, midshipman.
2. Whale boat.—Commander Hillyar, Mr. Park, midshipman.
3. 1st Life boat.—Lieutenant Ed. Marshall, Mr. Puddicombe, midshipman.
4. 2nd Life boat.—Lieutenant F. D. Rich, Mr. R. Brown, naval cadet, Mr. Wilcox, carpenter.
5. Victoria rocket boat.—Lieutenant J. Corbett, Mr. Gillham, master's assistant, Mr. B. F. B. Clark, master's assistant, Mr. Jas. Blight, boatswain.
6. Pinnace.—Mr. H. Hathorn, mate.
7. 1st Cutter.—Mr. J. B. Balfour, acting mate, Mr. H. A. Dewar, gunner.
8. 2nd Cutter.—Mr. F. R. Fletcher, midshipman.

When we had shoved off, and while Commander Hillyar was arranging the boats, I observed something wrong with the Victoria, which was nearer to the shore; on pulling back to her, I could only see Mr. Blight, boatswain, who said "the kroomen let go the anchor without orders;" I desired him to slip the cable; he replied, "it is a chain cable clinched to the bottom, and we can't unshackle it;" as I jumped on board to look, Lieutenant Corbett staggered up from the stern, saying "I have done it, and am alive!" Yes, he had cut the chain cable with a cold chisel, and in doing so received five different wounds, which, with a severe wound received on shore, rendered him almost helpless; his right arm was hanging by his side, but with the left he assisted in getting the Victoria off to the Teazer. I have entered into particulars here, because I feel that such heroic devotion deserves to be recorded.

4. On leaving the Victoria I was shot in the back with a musket ball, and I found that I had too many of my force wounded to justify an attempt to recover the life-boat on this occasion, and most reluctantly left her on the beach, and returned to the Teazer. Some 40 or 50 of the enemy had the audacity to go on board the life-boat, seeing which, Mr. Balfour, acting mate, assisted by Mr. Dewar, gunner, threw a rocket into her magazine and blew it up.

5. On reaching the Teazer, I ordered all the provisions to be taken out of her, the coals, with the exception of ten tons, to be thrown overboard, and shored her up. We were not much annoyed by the enemy on this occasion. At sunset we succeeded in heaving her off, and anchored, out of gun-shot, for the night.

6. I had decided not to go up to you if I found the Bloodhound afloat at daylight, until I could communicate, by signal, the number of wounded men there were on board this small vessel; but as you were aground, I felt it to be my duty to join, which I did at 9 o'clock A.M. on the 27th, and took a position opposite the town batteries. Our proceedings there came under your own observation, and therefore need no comment from me.

7. Where each officer and man vied with the other in performing daring exploits of valour, I naturally feel a difficulty in naming particular individuals; but the prominent position of those who were in command, on whose coolness and courage the safety of the persons subordinate to them depended, compels me, in justice, to bring to your notice Commander Hillyar, Lieutenants Marshall, Rich, and Corbett, and Lieutenant Williams of the Royal Marine Artillery, who, although severely wounded in three places, remained at the head of his men until the last; also Lieutenant Leckie, commanding the Teazer, and Mr. W. R. Bent, senior mate.

Mr. John Brown, Master of the Penelope, was of great assistance in piloting the Teazer.

Mr. F. R. Fletcher, Midshipman, in charge of the 2nd cutter, who had the care of the boats while on shore, received a mortal wound, and died in the execution of his duty.

James Webb, gunner's mate, in attempting to spike the gun of the 1st life-boat, was cut down and mortally wounded.

The warrant officers, Mr. Dewar, gunner, Mr. Blight, boatswain, and Mr. Wilcox, carpenter, distinguished themselves.

The medical officers, Mr. R. Carpenter, senior surgeon in the expedition, Mr. Walling, assistant-surgeon of the Penelope, Dr. Barclay, acting surgeon, and Dr. Sproule, assistant-surgeon, never flinched from their duty; in the midst of the fire

they stepped from boat to boat, and alleviated the sufferings of the wounded and the dying.

To each of the above-mentioned and other officers and men engaged with me, and to the seamen and marines, collectively and individually, my warmest thanks are due; under the most trying circumstances their ardour was never checked, their spirit was never daunted.

8. I enclose a list of the killed and wounded. I deeply regret the loss which has been sustained, but even if it had been greater, I should feel that I had done my duty in preventing one of Her Majesty's ships from falling into the hands of the enemy.

9. I am happy to report that the 1st life-boat has been recovered.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) H. LYSTER, Captain of H.M.S.  
Penelope.

Enclosure No. 3.

*List of Officers, Seamen, Marines, and Kroomen, belonging to Her Majesty's ship Sampson, killed and wounded at Lagos, on the 26th of December 1851.*

Thos. Saumarez, lieut. R.N., shot through right thigh.

Thos. Richards, midshipman, shot through brain—since dead.

Ben. Harding, corporal, Marine Artillery, shot through left temple.

Geo. Yule, Marine Artillery, shot through left thigh.

James Wade, Marine Artillery, shot through left wrist.

Thomas Kirkpatrick, Marine Artillery, shot through right hand.

Joseph Martin, Marine Artillery, shot through right thigh.

S. Dobell, ordinary seaman, wound of ring finger, left hand.

P. Rowe, captain maintop, wound of left wrist.

P. Foot, A.B. wound of left hip.

Joseph Williams, captain foretop, wound of forehead.

Jno. Jumbo, krooman, wound of right shoulder.

Total killed . . . . . 1

Total wounded . . . . . 11

Total . . . . . 12

SAMUEL DONNELLY, Surgeon.

Approved, LEWIS T. JONES, Captain.

Enclosure No. 4.

*List of Officers, Seamen, Marines, and Kroomen, belonging to Her Majesty's ship Penelope, killed and wounded at Lagos, on the 26th of December 1851, in spiking the guns to protect the Teazer, then aground:—*

KILLED.

Mr. F. R. Fletcher, midshipman, shot through the head.

John M'Donald, A.B., shot through the head.

Wm. Laws, capt. foretop, shot through the orbit.

Frederick Hunn, armourer, shot through the brain.

Thomas Sutton, capt. forecastle, shot through the brain.

James Webb, gunner's mate, shot through the abdomen.

Thomas Davis, A. B., shot through the abdomen.

Samuel Pitt, stoker, shot through the head.

Benjamin Tracey, stoker, killed on shore.

Rd. Peacock, stoker, killed on shore.

Francis Bone, marine, shot through the brain.

Thomas Nonely, marine, shot through the brain.

Wm. Wilson, supy. do., shot through the brain.

King George, krooman, shot through the heart.

WOUNDED.

Henry Lyster, captain, severely.

C. F. Hillyar, commander, severely.

John Corbett, lieut., very severely.

J. W. C. Williams, first lieut. of marines, severely.

H. M. Gilham, master's assist., dangerously—since dead.

H. A. Dewar, gunner, slightly.

James Blight, boatswain, slightly.

Henry Huggins, ordy., severely.

Valentine Walter, capt. forecastle, dangerously.

George Strong, boatswain's mate, slightly.

Henry Keemer, A.B., severely.

Peter Coleman, capt. foretop, severely.

James Markham, ordy., severely.

George Day, capt. coxswain, severely.

William Voler, boatswain's mate, severely.

Thos. Stephenson, 2d cl. ordy., severely.

Hy. M. Davis, A.B., severely.

Henry Laws, A.B., severely.

Joseph Brunker, ordy., severely.

George Cox, 2d class ordy., severely.

William Walters, A.B., severely.

Richard Wisdom, A.B., severely.

George Bulley, A.B., slightly.

William Rice, ordinary, slightly.

William Hender, captain maintop, slightly.

Henry Harrison, sailmaker's crew, slightly.

Alex. Rutter, coxswain launch, severely.

John Murphy, A.B., severely.

William Smith, captain maintop, severely.

William Hayes, ordinary, severely.

William Aldred, quarter master, slightly.

William Windsor, gunner's mate, slightly.

Charles Whitcomb, stoker, severely.

Robert William, stoker, slightly.

James Fullerton, leading stoker, dangerously.

William Marshall, stoker, severely.

John Oakley, boy, 1st class, dangerously.

Thos. Saunders, supy. do. severely.

Thos. Rose, boy, 1st class, slightly.

Theophilus Cock, boy, 1st class, severely.

Richard Cocks, boy, 1st class, slightly.

G. Ben. Infrel, boy, 1st class, supy. slightly.

David Berry, boy, 2nd class, slightly.

George Peters, gunner, Royal Marine Artillery, slightly.

Geo. Glen, fifer, severely.

W. Wainford, gunner, Royal Marine Artillery, severely.

W. Bovingdon, gunner, Royal Marine Artillery, dangerously.

Wm. Botters, gunner, Royal Marine Artillery, dangerously.

William Chaffe, gunner, Royal Marine Artillery, severely.

Edward Cassidy, gunner, Royal Marine Artillery, severely.

George Lacey, gunner, Royal Marine Artillery, severely.

John Brown, bombardier, severely.

Robert Wood, gunner, Royal Marine Artillery, severely.

David Harlick, gunner, Royal Marine Artillery, severely.

George Maggs, sergeant, slightly.

Benjamin Liverpool, krooman, dangerously.

Tom Toby, krooman, severely.

Tom Peter, krooman, slightly.

Tom Bestman, krooman, slightly.

Jim George, krooman, slightly.  
Abm. Dennis, krooman, severely.  
Tom Barber, krooman, slightly.

Approved, H. LYSTER, Captain.

RICHD. CARPENTER, Surgeon, H.M.S.  
Penelope.

Total killed . . . . .	14
Total wounded . . . . .	62
Total wounded in Teazer . . . . .	2
	<hr/>
	78

Enclosure No. 5.

*List of Officers and Men wounded belonging to H. M. S. V. Teazer (tender to Penelope), at Lagos, the 27th December 1851.*

Mr. G. E. Howell, gunner, 3rd class, very dangerously.

John Yates, A. B., slightly.

Approved, H. LYSTER, Captain.

RICHD. CARPENTER, Surgeon of  
H.M.S. Penelope.

Enclosure No. 6.

*List of Officers and Men sent from Sampson, 23rd December 1851.*

1st Gig.

Captain Jones.  
Mr. Bullen, clerk.  
Coxswain and 4 men.

1st Life-boat. 24-pounder howitzer.

Lieutenant Saumarez.  
Lieutenant McArthur, R. M. A.  
17 seamen.  
13 Marine Artillery.  
4 kroomen.

2nd Life-boat. 24-pounder howitzer.

Mr. Bagley, mate.  
Mr. Pendrith, assistant surgeon.  
15 seaman.  
14 Marine Artillery.  
4 kroomen.

Pinnace. 12-pounder howitzer.

Mr. Ward, second master.  
Mr. Kelly, master's assistant.  
14 seamen.  
3 marines.  
2 kroomen.

1st Cutter.

Mr. Richards, midshipman.  
Mr. Stivey, carpenter.  
12 seamen.  
2 kroomen.

2nd Cutter.

Mr. Henderson, midshipman.  
11 seamen.  
2 kroomen.

2nd Gig.

Mr. Cook, gunner.  
4 seamen.

Total—12 officers and 122 men.

*List of Officers and Men sent from Penelope.*

1st Gig.

Captain Lyster.  
Mr. Wroughton, midshipman.  
6 seamen.  
1 marine.

Whaler.

Commander Hillyar.  
Mr. Parke, midshipman.  
5 seamen.  
1 marine.  
Mr. Carpenter, surgeon.

Rocket-boat (iron). 24-pounder and 12-pounder rockets.

Lieutenant Corbett.  
Lieutenant Williams, R. M. A.  
Mr. Clarke, master's assistant.  
Mr. Blight, boatswain.  
Mr. , assistant surgeon.  
28 seamen.  
16 marines.  
19 kroomen.

1st Life-boat. 24-pounder howitzer.

Lieutenant Marshall.  
Mr. Puddicomb, midshipman.  
19 seamen.  
6 marines.  
7 kroomen.

2nd Life-boat. 24-pounder howitzer.

Lieutenant Rich.  
Mr. Brown, naval cadet.  
Mr. Wilcox, carpenter.  
19 seamen.  
6 marines.  
7 kroomen.

Pinnace. 12-pounder howitzer.

Mr. Hawthorn, mate.  
17 seamen.  
6 marines.  
4 kroomen.

1st Cutter. 6-pounder rocket.

Mr. Balfour, mate.  
Mr. Dewar, gunner.  
12 seamen.  
4 marines.  
2 kroomen.

2nd Cutter.

Mr. Fletcher, midshipman.  
Mr. Gillham, master's assistant.  
12 seamen.  
4 marines.  
2 kroomen.

Total.

Officers - - - - -	20
Seamen - - - - -	118
Marines - - - - -	44
Kroomen - - - - -	41
	<hr/>
	223

Sampson's Total.

Officers - - - - -	12
Men - - - - -	122
	<hr/>
	134
	223

Grand Total] - 357

## Enclosure No. 7.

*Regulations for the attack on Lagos, Friday 26th December 1851.*

High Water,—full and change at six,—Rise 4 feet; new moon, Monday 22nd, 3. 34 P.M.

	DRESS.
Seamen	Blue frocks.
	White trowsers.
	Straw hats.
Marines	White frocks.
	White trowsers.
	White caps.

Aketoy's men to wear a white band round the neck.

150 of Aketoy's men to be embarked in the seven captured canoes, and follow steamers; the rest to remain in encampment until sent for.

Town to be shelled from the gun-boats in two divisions, at a range of 1,000 yards; then to advance under a deliberate fire of round shot.

Shapnel and case to be reserved for special service.

Officer in charge of explosion powder, Lieutenant M'Arthur, R.M.A.

Officer to spike guns, Commander Hillyar.

Bloodhound to lead, preceded by port division of boats, and followed by starboard division; Teazer to follow, with similar arrangement of boats. The gun-boats to keep up a fire with round shot, and, if near enough, with canister; but not to use shell without special orders. Should either of the steamers ground, the boats will take up positions for mutual support; but if nothing occurs to prevent it, it is designed to pass direct to the north part of the island.

General signals to be used to Teazer; Wilmot's signals to boats.

White ensign at the fore, signal for Aketoy's canoes to close round Bloodhound.

LEWIS T. JONES, Capt. H.M.S. Sampson, and senior Officer in command.

## Enclosure No. 8.

*Captain Lewis Jones, in command of the forces attacking Lagos, to the Chief, Kosoko.*

*Lagos River, December 28, 1851.*

KOSOKO is invited to come on board Her Majesty's ship Bloodhound, to meet the rightful king Akitoie.

Kosoko's life will be safe: he shall be provided for at Fernando Po.

Kosoko must resign to the rightful King, Akitoie.

An answer must be received by 7 o'clock tomorrow morning, by which many lives and much property may still be spared.

## Enclosure No. 9.

*Her Majesty's Ship Bloodhound, off the town of Lagos, December 29, 1851.*

SIR,

IN obedience to your instructions of the 28th instant, I beg to acquaint you that the following guns have been brought from the shore by the division of boats under my orders:

1 18-pdr. gun, mounted on a well-executed revolving carriage, near the King's House.

1 18-pdr. carronade.

1 12-pdr. gun.

1 12-pdr. carronade.

1 6-pdr. gun.

1 6-pdr. carronade.

1 4-pdr. gun, on travelling carriage

Also 5 small iron guns and 3 small brass guns.

All iron.

The following guns have been spiked and rendered useless. When possible, they have been sunk in deep water.

1 long 32-pdr.  
1 — 24-pdr. carronade.  
1 — 32-pdr. carronade.  
1 — 18-pdr. gun.  
1 — 12-pdr. carronade.  
1 — 9-pdr. carronade.  
2 — 6-pdr. guns.  
2 — Small guns.

In all 25 guns, in various positions, between the northern part of the island and the King's house.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. COOTE.

To Capt. Jones, Senior Officer,  
&c. &c.

## Enclosure No. 10.

No. 6. On board H.M. Sloop Bloodhound,  
Sir, Dec. 29th, 1851.

IN compliance with your order, I have taken, sunk, or destroyed guns from the N.W. front of Lagos, as per margin.\*

ALAN M. GARDNER,  
Commanding H.M. S. Waterwitch.

## Enclosure 11.

*Sampson, off Lagos,  
26th December, 1851.*

SIR,

I regret to inform you the 2nd gig was capsized on the bar yesterday, with the doctor and gunner in her, but both, I am happy to say, are saved and doing well. Commodore has ordered the boat to go on board with the powder and shot for shore party, without an officer, which I have done. I fear the shell from 68-pounder may strike the boat, so have ceased firing. Wishing you all success,

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. J. OLIVE, Master.

To T. L. Jones, Esq. Captain,  
H.M.S. Bloodhound.

## Enclosure 12.

*Sampson, off Lagos,  
28th December, 1851.*

SIR,

I SENT all the charges for boat's gun in the P. B. boats, as well the musket-ball cartridge, as also all the boat-shot that I can find in the ship. I shall go on filling musket-ball cartridge to-day.

I have fired several shells to the right of the

\* Guns taken.

Brass 1, length 10ft. 4in.; calibre 4.2in.  
Iron 1, length 5ft. 5in., calibre 3.5; 1, length 5ft., calibre 4in.; 1, length 6ft. 7in., calibre 4.2in.; 1, length 8ft. 2in., calibre 4.2in.; 1, length 6ft. 7in., calibre 4.2in.  
Carronade, Iron, length 4ft., calibre 5in.

Gun, Iron, 1, length 8ft., calibre 4.5in.; 1, length 4ft. 10in., calibre 3.5in.; 1, length 8ft., calibre 4.5in.; 1, length 4ft. 10in., calibre 3.5in.; 1, length 8ft. 7in., calibre 5in.; 1, length 4ft. 10in., calibre 3.5in.; 1, length 4ft. 5in., calibre 3.5in.; 1, length 3ft. 6in., calibre 2.5; 1, length 4ft., calibre 3.5; 1, length 5ft., calibre 3.5in.; 1, length 4ft. 10in., calibre 3in.; 1, length 2ft. 6in., calibre 3in.

Carronade 1, length 3ft. 8in., calibre 5in.; 1, length 3ft. 6in., calibre 3ft. 5in.

Guns sunk.

Guns 1, length about 8ft.; 1, length 5ft. 3in.; 1, length 4 ft.; 1 length 8ft.

Carronade 1, length 4ft.

One heavy gun remaining to be destroyed.

Total—Guns brought off 21, sunk 5, to be destroyed 1.



town, but fell short, and have therefore desisted, though I am keeping a good look-out for any party of the enemy that may come within range. Wishing you success.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. J. OLIVE.

To T. L. Jones, Esq. Captain,  
H.M.S. Bloodhound.

Representing the gallant conduct of Mr. B. F. B. Clarke, Master's Assistant, and several Seamen and Marines, at Lagos.  
No. 2.

SIR, *Penelope, off Lagos, January 1st, 1852.*

I TRANSMIT herewith, for the favourable consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of two letters from Captain Hy. Lyster, of Her Majesty's Ship, bearing my broad pendant, representing the gallant conduct of Mr. B. F. B. Clarke, master's-assistant, and several seamen and marines, at Lagos, on the 26th ultimo.

2. I trust their Lordships will be pleased to confer suitable rewards on these persons, and allow Mr. Clarke to be rated midshipman.

I have, &c.  
W. W. BRUCE, Commodore,  
and Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure No. 1.

(Copy.)

*H.M. Ship Penelope, off Lagos,  
31st December, 1851.*

SIR,  
I beg to call your attention to the gallant conduct of Mr. B. F. B. Clarke, (supy. master's assistant,) at the attack on the guns on the 26th inst.

He was stationed in the rocket-boat with Lieutenant John Corbett, and followed that officer up to the guns, and assisted in spiking them. Lieutenant Corbett speaks most highly of him.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HY. LISTER, Captain.

To Commodore H. W. Bruce,  
Commander-in-Chief.  
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure No. 2.

(Copy.)

*H. M. Ship Penelope, off Lagos,  
31st December, 1851.*

SIR,  
I beg to bring under your notice the praiseworthy conduct of the petty officers named on the other side hereof, who distinguished themselves very much at the attack on Lagos on the 26th instant, and who are highly deserving of reward.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) H. LYSTER, Captain.

To Commodore H. W. Bruce,  
Commander-in-Chief.  
&c. &c. &c.

*List of Petty Officers.*

George Day, captain's coxswain.  
Peter Coleman, captain fore-top.  
William Smith, captain main-top.

Robert Cante, captain afterguard.  
William Aldrid, quarter master.  
William Windsor, gunner's mate.  
Henry Davis, carpenter's mate.  
William Hall, quarter master.  
John Harris, carpenter's mate.

*List of Royal Marine Artillery.*

James A. Smith, sen. serjeant, 5th company. This man took charge of the party of marines after Lieutenant Williams was wounded.  
George Maggs, serjeant, 3rd company.  
George Baxter, corporal, 3rd company.  
Thomas Gill, bombardier, 8th company.  
John Brown, gunner, M. A. 2nd company.  
George Peters, ditto, 8th company.

*Admiralty, 20th February 1852.*

IN consideration of the successful engagement above detailed, the following Promotions have taken place, dated this day:—

*To be Captain.*

Commander Charles Farrel Hillyar.

*To be Commander.*

Lieutenant Edward Marshall.

*To be Lieutenant.*

Mr. Hugh Hathorn, Mate.

*To be Surgeon.*

Mr. Frederick Foster Morgan, Assistant Surgeon.

*To be Paymaster and Purser.*

Mr. Robert Henry Bullen, Clerk.

*To be Midshipman.*

Mr. Bennet Finlay Byng Clarke, Master's Assistant.

*To be Gunner of the First Class.*

Mr. James Cooke, Gunner of the Second Class.

*To be Boatswain of the First Class.*

Mr. James Blight, Boatswain of the Second Class

*To be Carpenter of the First Class.*

Mr. James Willcocks, Carpenter of the Second Class.

In consideration also of special services, as detailed in the above despatches, the Board of Admiralty have directed that the following additional Promotions shall take place, also dated this day:—

Lieutenant John Corbett to be Commander.

Mr. William T. Stivey, Carpenter of the Second Class, to be Carpenter of the First Class.

The Board have further directed that George Yule, Gunner, Royal Marine Artillery, shall be made a Non-Commissioned Officer; and Charles Blofield, Boatswain's Mate, shall be advanced to be a Warrant Officer, on his passing the required examination.

