

My instructions to Captain Rennie were "to steam up to Ahwaz, and act with discretion according to circumstances." Should the Persian army have arrived, and apparently be prepared to make a determined stand, the party was to return, after effecting the reconnoissance; but, in the event of the enemy having proceeded beyond Ahwaz, or if they continued their flight on seeing our steamers (as I fully expected they would, under the impression that the flotilla was the advance guard of the British army), it was my desire that the party should land, and destroy the magazines and stores which the Persians had collected.

3. By the annexed reports from Captains Rennie and Wray, which I have the honor to submit, your Excellency will learn how admirably my instructions have been carried out, and the complete success which has attended the energetic and judicious measures adopted by all concerned: indeed, it is impossible to calculate upon the advantages which must ensue from the successful result of this expedition, in the effect it will have upon the Arab tribes, who, in crowds, witnessed the extraordinary scene of a large army of 7,000 infantry, with five or six guns,\* and a host of cavalry, precipitately retreating before a detachment of 300 British infantry, three small river steamers, and three gun-boats.

4. I feel that I cannot sufficiently express to your Excellency the great obligation I am under to the several officers and men of the expedition.

5. Captain Rennie, Indian Navy, whose gallant conduct at the bombardment of Mohumra I so recently recorded, has again earned my highest praise and warmest thanks for the able manner in which he has conducted this expedition.

6. Captain Kemball, who on this, as on every occasion of difficulty and danger upon which I have required his services, has rendered me most valuable assistance, materially contributed to the success of the expedition by his counsel and energy. Great praise is also due to Captain Hunt, 78th Highlanders, who so successfully carried out the military operations; to Captain Wray, Deputy Quartermaster-General, and Captain M. Green, my Military Secretary, for the part they so ably performed; and to all the officers and men employed in the expedition. I have to thank them all, and beg to recommend those specially named to your Excellency's notice.

I have, &c.,

J. OUTRAM, Lieutenant General,  
Commanding Expeditionary Force.

*Acting Commodore J. Rennie, I.N., Commanding Squadron in the Persian Gulf, to Lieutenant-General Sir James Outram, K.C.B., Commanding Expeditionary Force.*

SIR, Ahwaz, April 3, 1857.

IT affords me much gratification to report the complete success that has attended the expedition you did me the honour to place under my command.

On arrival near Ahwaz, on the morning of the 1st instant, the Persian army was observed posted on a strong position on the right bank of the river; and, having reason to believe that whatever force there might be on the left bank, did not amount to such a number as would entail serious risk to our force, it was at once determined to carry Ahwaz.

Our arrangements for attack were speedily completed, and by 10-30, A.M., Captain Hunt, his advance flanked by the gun-boats, moved off with his gallant band of 300 men; and, in one hour and a half from the time of the gun-boats opening fire, he was in possession of Ahwaz; and the Persian army, consisting of 6,000 infantry, 5 guns, and a cloud of Bukhtiaree horsemen were in full retreat upon Dizful, leaving in our possession 1 gun (a brass 14-pounder field piece), 154 stand of arms, 56 mules, 230 sheep, besides an enormous quantity of grain, wheat, and barley.

Captain Kemball requested me to remain at Ahwaz for two days, to afford him time to communicate with the Arab tribes, as also to ensure the impossibility of the defeated Persians returning to Ahwaz. They retired so precipitately as to have been unable to carry with them means of subsistence for more than two days.

It would be presumptuous in me to offer a remark upon the gallantry and zeal of those serving with me. I shall, therefore, merely take the liberty of attaching a nominal list of the officers, with the number of men under their command, composing an expedition that penetrated over one hundred miles beyond Mohumra, and which, in so short a time, compelled the Persian army to abandon a depôt of provisions on which it almost entirely depended for subsistence.

In conclusion, I beg to add, that it is to Captain Kemball who planned, and to Captain Hunt who executed, this bold stroke, that thanks are more especially due. Further comments from me are unnecessary.

I have, &c.,

J. RENNIE, Commander, I. N.,  
Acting Commodore, Commanding Squadron,  
Persian Gulf.

*Nominal Roll of Officers and Men comprising the Expedition to Ahwaz, under Commander James Rennie, I.N., Acting Commodore, Persian Gulf Squadron, Commanding the Expedition.*

Lieutenants Crockett, Hag (*sic*), and Tozer,  
Naval Aides-de-Camp.

Armed Steamer Comet.

Commander W. B. Selby, I.N.; Acting Master Holland; Acting 1st Class Quartermaster Salmon; Assistant-Surgeon W. Wood, M.D.; 21 seamen, and 16 Mussoolies.

River Steamer Planet.

Acting Master Fletcher, in charge; Acting Master Keen, 6 Europeans, and 13 Lascars.

River Steamer Assyria.

Acting Master Neale, in charge; Acting 1st Class Second Master Fivey, 5 Europeans, and 12 natives.

No. 6 Gun-boat.

Lieutenant Edwards, Midshipman Burn, and 16 seamen.

No. 5 Gun-boat.

Mate Hewett, Midshipman D'Arcy, and 14 seamen.

No. 9 Gun-boat.

Lieutenant Lakes, Midshipman Finnis, and 14 seamen.

Falkland Cutter.

Midshipman Law and 11 men.

\* One or two guns said to have joined them at Ahwaz.