

to search the small nooks and coves in Sandy Bay, St. John's Island. At the extreme end of one of the bays we came suddenly upon a piratical junk of 10 guns, all on one broadside, and 38 men all at their guns, pointed for the entrance between the rocks. As he evidently intended disputing our entrance, and it would be impossible to board him on account of his being high and dry on the mud, I had the gig's crews landed on the rocks with their rifles. Upon our opening fire the pirates immediately fled, many being killed;—on board we found two women, who had been prisoners for upwards of two months, whom we liberated. In the forenoon, seeing some junks to the westward, I despatched Commander Brooker in the *Inflexible* with the boats of the *Magicienne* under Lieutenant Soady to examine them, remaining at anchor in *Magicienne* to superintend getting the pirate junk out to where we were at anchor. Off Hawchum Bluff, the *Plover* and *Algerine* came upon six piratical junks, upon which they made a spirited attack, doing much credit to Lieutenants Wynniatt and Arthur; after an exchange of shot for several minutes, the pirates jumped overboard, upwards of 190 being killed or drowned, 36 taken alive, 22 people rescued, and 80 guns destroyed; the *Inflexible* with *Magicienne's* boats coming in very opportunely to prevent any escape, and to give a finishing stroke to an affair so ably executed by Lieutenant Wynniatt. For the particulars I must refer you to the letter written by Lieutenant Wynniatt, enclosed herewith.

*30th August.*—At 4 p.m. hearing a gun fired from the northward, I had the *Plover* ready with the *Magicienne's* cutter under Lieutenant Soady, and *Inflexible's* cutter under Lieutenant Bevan, and started at daybreak, with Mr. Caldwell and Commander Brooker after four vessels for the land.

Upon our getting within gunshot, the crews of the two larger junks took to their boats and made for the shore, ourselves opening fire with musketry and great guns, destroying the greater part of them.

The vessels turned out to be one pirate junk mounting 5 guns, on board of which we found a Chinese woman, who had been made a prisoner with 7 men, some days before, near Macao; her vessel, the second large one, having been kept by the pirates to form one of their squadron. The remaining two were fishing vessels, one with five men, the other with four on board, whom we liberated. The other two vessels I had taken into deep water, set fire to, and guns thrown overboard. The woman I had sent to the *Magicienne*.

Weighing with the ships at 8 p.m., we proceeded to Mong Chow, where leaving the *Magicienne* and *Inflexible* at anchor, I proceeded at 1 p.m., with Mr. Caldwell in the *Plover*, taking in tow all the *Magicienne's* boats under Lieutenant Soady, Commander Brooker going in *Algerine* with *Inflexible's* boats. Proceeding up for Tywooshan, at 3 p.m., we discovered two junks; and on giving chase, one lowered her sails and anchored, turning out to be our old friend the rice junk, who had been again captured by another pirate (the vessel ahead), who was sailing away with a good breeze, and pulling with all her oars to escape up to the fort of Tywooshan. As soon as we came up within range, we opened fire, the Chinese villagers on shore following her up, so as to slaughter any one attempting to escape by swimming from her. At 4.10 p.m., the pirate opened fire upon us, and continued so doing until she was taken. The *Plover* having got within canister distance, did great execution, as did the

*Algerine* and all the boats. Pushing off in the boats at 4.40, the pirate still sailing and pulling, gave us a hard chase; my gig being light, consequently got within pistol-shot distance before the other boats could come up. I cannot speak too highly of Mr. Brabazon, Acting Mate, and Mr. S. G. Anstruther, Midshipman, who came with me, or of the whole boat's crew, as, out of nine men, eight were wounded by the pirates; Mr. Brabazon with the two marines keeping up a most effective fire with their rifles; Mr. Anstruther most gallantly jumped overboard after T. Mills, Ordinary, one of the gig's crew, who in consequence of a stinkpot having exploded upon him, had to jump overboard to save himself, but being unable to swim, was fast sinking, when Mr. Anstruther rescued him; Mr. Anstruther's strength was also exhausted when assistance came to him. At 5.30 p.m., the boats having come within canister distance, as well as the *Plover* and *Algerine*, the pirate grounded in a sinking state; those on board of her not killed, jumped overboard, the few escaping us being immediately slaughtered by the villagers ashore.

One Chinese, who had been taken prisoner by the pirates and rescued by us, informed us that this junk was commanded by the pirate chief Cheppoo, who was killed shortly before the vessel grounded; also that she mounted 9 guns, having a crew of upwards of 65 men, not one of whom escaped. The coolness displayed throughout the expedition since leaving Hongkong by all on board, the accuracy of the fire from the *Plover* and *Algerine*, also from the boats of *Magicienne* and *Inflexible*, do great credit to all on board; and I take this opportunity of recommending to your favourable notice, as I have done in my covering letter, particularly Commander Brooker, Lieutenant J. C. Soady, Lieutenant Wynniatt, Lieutenant Arthur, Lieutenant Bevan, Acting Mate Brabazon, Midshipman Anstruther. The conducting of the *Plover* and *Algerine* through such intricate channels reflects the greatest credit on Mr. J. Harvey, and Mr. Clements, Masters; Mr. Jno. Phillips, Acting Second Master, and Mr. H. Swainson, Second Master.

I enclose herewith a list of casualties, in which I am happy to say are none killed.

*31st August.*—Searching the various creeks, we found two junks with no guns on board, but as they answered the description given to Mr. Caldwell, I had them destroyed, meeting with no resistance, with the exception of one gingall shot. Before high water, I had the *Plover* and *Algerine* placed in position before the battery of Tywooshan, in which were two heavy long guns, besides smaller ones: sending a boat in under Lieutenant Soady, to set fire to a large junk, which had been used as a pirate, but whose guns had been removed, our firing of the previous day giving them timely warning. We remained opposed to the battery until the vessel was burnt to the water's edge; however as no shot was fired, I did not feel myself authorised in acting in any way against it, although it is well understood that the Hakka tribe, living there always, give protection openly to the pirates, the mandarins never yet having been able to take the place, although they have tried with a large force; the Hakka tribe being in open rebellion against them. There being nothing more to complete the destruction of, I returned with the vessels and boats to where the *Magicienne* and *Inflexible* were at anchor.

*1st September.*—Proceeded with gun-boats in tow to Namee, when sending for the Mandarin, I handed over to him 22 pirates for his disposal.