

After a short halt we again marched at 9.45, and arrived at Amquana at 12.20. This village was deserted, and I caused it to be destroyed.

We here halted on the beach, and at about 2 o'clock, after I had dispatched the wounded with an escort of native troops to Elmina, I left the greater part of the Royal Marines, whom I was anxious to spare undue fatigue, halted at Amquana, where they kept up my communications with Elmina, and moved with the remainder of the native troops, and a few volunteers from the Royal Marines under command of Captain Crease, westward along the beach. After being joined by all the available Marines and Blue-jackets who could be landed from Her Majesty's ships "Argus" and "Decoy," we proceeded to Akimfoo, found this village deserted, and destroyed it.

We then continued the march to Ampenee. This village was also deserted, and we destroyed it.

The two last named villages had been shelled by Her Majesty's ships "Argus" and "Decoy," for some hours previously.

After this last village was in flames, our troops were fired upon by a body of the enemy from the bush to westward; and some of the blue-jackets became engaged. By their fire and the use of a few rockets, we drove off the enemy.

After I had myself embarked on board Her Majesty's ship "Decoy," some firing took place from the bush, on the eastward side of the town, and was replied to by the 2nd West India Regiment, who drove the enemy away.

The 2nd West India Regiment, and the Marines who were bound for Elmina, remained until the men belonging to the "Argus" and "Decoy" had embarked, and then marched off leisurely, without further molestation. On the road home they were joined by the detachment left at Amquana, and arrived well and safe at Elmina, the Marines re-embarking on board Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta" immediately.

The detachment 2nd West India Regiment arrived here this morning, by road march.

There were no women and children in Essaman, when I attacked it, nor in any of the villages when I destroyed them.

I have to add that Lieutenant-Colonel Wood, V.C., whose despatch I enclose, carried out the operations entrusted to him to my entire satisfaction, and that I received the most valuable assistance from Captain Fremantle, R.N., who took personal command of the detachment of blue-jackets with the artillery. I enclose a copy of a letter which I have addressed to Captain Fremantle, expressing my sense of the services of himself, and of the officers and men under his command. Nothing could have been better than the behaviour both of the sailors and of the Royal Marines.

The medical arrangements, personally superintended by Deputy-Surgeon General Home, V.C., C.B., and the Control arrangements, were all that I could desire.

I hope that I have taught the Ashantees a great lesson, showing to them that even in the bush they are not secure against attack and defeat by English troops, and I anticipate that the result of this action will exert a most beneficial effect over the Fantee tribes, inspiring them with new hope, and so with new vigour.

But no less important is the lesson I have myself learnt from this affair. I have been shown how little reliance can be placed on even the best native troops in this bush fighting, where it is impossible to keep them under the immediate control of European officers.

The Houssas showed undeniable courage and spirit; but their uncontrollable wildness, the way in which they fired volley after volley in the air, or at imaginary foes in the bush, expending all their ammunition, shows how little use they are for the work we have in hand. I do not doubt they will improve, under the teaching of the officers of my force, and I hope shortly to have them more under my control; but I cannot expect ever to make of them a thoroughly disciplined body.

I have, &c.,  
G. J. WOLSELEY,  
Major-General.

*The Right Honourable*  
*The Secretary of State for War,*  
*&c., &c., &c.*

Enclosure No. 1.

*RETURN of Casualties amongst the Troops, Marines, and Seamen from Her Majesty's Ships in action at Essaman, 14th October, 1873.*

*General Staff.*

Colonel McNeill, V.C., C.M.G. (Colonel on the Staff), gunshot wound left forearm; very severe.

*2nd West India Regiment.*

Captain Forbes, wounded by slug, right hand; slight.

*Royal Navy.*

Captain Fremantle, gunshot wound, right upper arm; severe.

*Non-commissioned Officers and Men.*

Royal Marines, Company 44, Private Thomas Walsh, gunshot wound, left forearm; severe.

Royal Marines, Company 70, Private W. Broderick, wound by slug, thigh; severe.

*Royal Navy.*

Tom Porter (Krooman), gunshot wound, right side of neck; severe.

Henry Howard (Krooman), gunshot wound, left forearm; slight.

*Houssa Levy.*

James Peters (Interpreter), slug wound, right thigh; slight.

Private Lukera, slug wound, right arm and hand; slight.

Private Mahomet Maro, slug wound, left thigh; slight.

Private Mourn, slug wound, right thigh; slight.

Private Abudu Sheki Sheki, slug wounds penetrating abdomen and right thigh; dangerously; since dead.

Corporal Bramia, slug wound, neck; slight.

Private Naubaba, slug wounds penetrating abdomen; dangerously.

Private Grey, slug wound, right forearm; slight.

Private Ali Seriki, slug wound, left temple; slight.

Private Osuman Guntu, slug wound, right leg; slight.

Private Labran, slug wounds, left foot; slight.

Private Marma Maradi, slug wounds, scalp; slight.

Private Alafi Afo, slug wound, neck; slight.

Private Musa Bakarini, slug wound, left leg; slight.

Private Musa Afo, slug wound, left foot; slight.

Private Moru Dama, slug wound, right foot; slight.