



SUPPLEMENT

TO

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1876.

*Admiralty, February 22, 1876.*

THE following Despatches have been received by the Secretary of the Admiralty from Vice-Admiral Alfred P. Ryder, Commander-in-Chief on the China Station :—

THE SERVICES OF THE ROYAL NAVAL BRIGADE IN THE MALAY PENINSULA.

*“ Audacious,” at Singapore,*

SIR, *January 17, 1876.*

THE letters from Commander Francis Stirling, of Her Majesty's ship “Thistle,” which I transmitted for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, in my letters No. 406 of 25th November last, and No. 425 of 8th December, 1875, will have informed their Lordships of the state of affairs in the Malay Peninsula and the services rendered by the Naval Forces taking part in the operations up to the 16th November, 1875.

2. Captain Alexander Buller, in Her Majesty's ship “Modeste,” having arrived on the scene shortly after that date, assumed the direction of the naval operations, and his letters, dated the 19th and 29th December, 1875, which he informs me he sent direct to their Lordships, will have carried up the account to the latter date.

3. I have now the honour to transmit for the information of their Lordships, a copy of a general letter from Captain Buller, dated the 8th January, 1876, summarizing the services of the Naval Brigades and the ships under his orders, and reporting the re-embarkation of the brigades.

4. At the same time, I transmit to be laid before their Lordships reports of proceedings from Commander Edmund St. J. Garforth, of the “Philomel,” dated 13th December, 1875, and 5th January, 1876, showing the services performed by the Naval Brigade under his command attached to the Laroot Field Force, and employed up the river of that name, and also reports of proceedings from Commander Francis Stirling, of Her Majesty's ship “Thistle,” dated the 21st

December, 1875, and 7th January, 1876, showing the services performed by a third Naval Brigade under his command, which penetrated in Sunghie Ujong, and was employed on the Linghie and Lukut rivers.

I should mention here that on Captain Buller's arrival in the Perak River the Naval Brigade, which had been landed under Commander Stirling, was re-embarked, and the ship was sent down to carry troops to Malacca, on account of disturbances in Sunghie Ujong.

5. There were thus three Naval Brigades attached to different forces: That under Captain Alexander Buller, accompanied by Commander Uvedale C. Singleton, of the “Ringdove,” and comprising officers and men of the “Modeste” and “Ringdove,” which co-operated with Major-General Colborne on the Perak River; that under Commander Edmund St. J. Garforth, of the “Philomel,” comprising officers and men of the “Modeste,” “Philomel,” and “Ringdove,” which co-operated with Brigadier-General Ross in the Laroot Field Force (northern attack); and that under Commander Francis Stirling, of Her Majesty's ship “Thistle,” which co-operated with Lieutenant-Colonel Hill in Sunghie Ujong, and in the Sunghie and Lakut Rivers.

6. In addition to this, a blockade of the coast north of the Perak River, to prevent the ingress of arms and provisions, was established under the direction of Commander John Bruce, of Her Majesty's ship “Fly.”

7. The services of the various Naval Brigades appear to have been highly appreciated by Major-General Colborne, Brigadier-General Ross, and the Colonels commanding the various corps to which the Brigades were attached. The naval officers and men were fortunate in being employed on expeditions calculated to call fully into play their sailorlike qualities.

8. The heavy work performed by our seamen in the Perak consisted in poling (cars were no use) numerous boats laden with guns, ammunition, and