

It had been arranged that the boats fitted with the guns and rockets should in ascending the river keep well in advance of the troops, the boats with the reserve ammunition and for wounded keeping well astern.

The naval force was distributed and ascended the river in the following order:—

First native boat with 7-pounder, under Sub-Lieutenant Abbott and nine men; second native boat with 12-pounder howitzer, under Lieutenant Lowe, and eight men; third native boat, with 24-pounder rocket, under Mr. Tyler, Boatswain, and eight men—from Her Majesty's ship "Thistle." Fourth native boat, with 12-pounder howitzer, under Chief-Gunner's Mate of the "Fly," and eight men; fifth native boat, with cohorn mortar, under Sub-Lieutenant D. M. Ross, and eight men; sixth native boat, with 24-pounder rocket tube, under Lieutenant Forsyth, and eight men—under Commander Bruce, Her Majesty's ship "Fly." The troop boats and boats for the wounded were in charge of Dr. Lloyd, surgeon, and Mr. Vosper, Boatswain of Her Majesty's ship "Fly," and followed in the rear.

The military force consisted of one officer and 20 men of the Royal Artillery, with one gun (a brass 12-pounder howitzer), three officers, and 125 men of the 10th Regiment, and 15 Marines temporarily attached, Major Dunlop, Royal Artillery, Special Commissioner, and Mr. Swettenham, Assistant Special Commissioner, accompanied the advanced guard.

The whole force advanced in the prescribed order at about 10 o'clock; I, myself, leading in the steam gig, having with me Mr. Harrison, Assistant Paymaster of this ship.

When about 600 yards from the first stockade at Qualla Biah the enemy opened fire on our boats, which was at once replied to, but we were unable to silence them or drive them out of the stockade until our boats were within 300 yards of and enfilading it, and the Artillery had brought their gun into play, when, after having received no reply to our fire for some time, the troops advanced and took possession and found it abandoned. Two guns were captured here.

Continuing our way up the river, I directed rockets and shell to be thrown into the jungle at intervals to clear the way for the troops (who burnt the houses on their way as they advanced), and about a mile below Passir Sala (now in view), the enemy again made a stand, and opened fire on us with their rifles, but with no effect, and they were soon dislodged; nearing Passir Sala to about 1,000 yards, two guns were brought to bear on us, and also a fire of musketry on our flank; the latter was, however, quickly silenced by the advancing troops, while the boats shelled and rocketted the village of Passir Sala, taking up a position at 600 yards; the practice from the 7-pounder gun and rockets was excellent. After having completely silenced the enemy's fire, we moved the boats up, and the troops advancing at the same time, we took possession of the stockade, and found it abandoned. Three guns were taken, and in the Maharajah Lela's house (inside the inner stockade), the greater part of the late Mr. Birch's property was discovered; his two boats were also found undamaged, moored alongside the bank. It was now four o'clock, and after giving the men their dinner, I crossed over the river to Camponj Gaga, at Major Dunlop's request, taking with me Commander Bruce, Sub-Lieutenant Abbott, Mr. Harrison, and a party of seamen, and burnt the Datu Saga's house. Unfortunately, in executing this Inspector Laggis, of the Police, was severely wounded by a spear thrown by a native.

It was now getting dark, and, after burning the stockade and all the houses in the Maharajah's camponj, the troops were embarked, and the whole force descended the river and arrived at the Residency at 8 P.M., having completely effected our object, with but one casualty—that of Inspector Laggis.

It is impossible to estimate the loss sustained by the enemy, as they invariably carry off their dead and wounded, but I have reason to believe it is considerable.

The next morning the seamen and Marines returned to their ships.

I desire to express my thanks to Major Dunlop, Special Commissioner in Perak, for the great assistance he gave me in organizing the naval part of the expedition, and also to Captain Whida, commanding the troops, for the hearty manner in which he co-operated with me in every particular in an enterprise in which it was above all things necessary we should act in concert, and it is to this that I attribute chiefly the success of the day.

Owing to the extreme shallowness of the river and the rapidity of the current, the work of poling the gunboats was a most arduous one, the men being also exposed all day to a very hot sun; and my thanks are due to Commander Bruce, of Her Majesty's ship "Fly," who was most zealous and energetic in carrying out the duties intrusted to him, and also to the officers and men of both ships, who, not only on this occasion, but in the difficult work of transporting stores, &c., from Durian Sebatanj to Banda Bahru, showed the greatest cheerfulness and alacrity.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) F. STIRLING,
Commander and Senior Officer,
Straits of Malacca.

Vice-Admiral Alfred P. Ryder,
Commander-in-Chief, China Station.

OPERATIONS AGAINST THE DISAFFECTED MALAYS
ON THE PERAK RIVER.

SIR, *Kinta, December 29, 1875.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, with reference to a letter received by me from his Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements requesting me to proceed to Banda Bahru, on the Perak River, within five miles of the scene of the murder of the late Mr. Birch, I embarked Major-General Colborne, C.B., at Penang, and proceeded immediately to the Dindings, proceeding up the Perak River in Her Majesty's ship "Fly" as far as Durien Sabatang, the highest point in the river to which a gun vessel can proceed, and in my galley reached Banda Bahru on the 1st of December.

On our arrival there we consulted with Major Dunlop, R.A., Her Majesty's Commissioner for Perak, as to the advisability of proceeding up the river to Blanga, and as it was agreed no time should be lost in doing so, Major Dunlop proceeded in the most energetic manner, and with great difficulty succeeded in obtaining a sufficient number of native boats from friendly Chiefs, with Chinese polers, to convey 200 troops and 70 seamen, with two rockets and two guns, up the river.

At Banda Bahru every exertion was made to convert four native boats into gun and rocket boats for the Naval Brigade, and to get sufficient supplies up from Durien Sabatang; and flat-bottomed boats, which had been provided from Singapore, were altered to carry Control stores.

On the 8th of December the combined forces (40 Royal Artillery, two guns; 100 1st Battalion 10th Regiment; 100 80th Regiment; 70 Naval