

admirably done. The attack upon the boats proceeding along a narrow and obstructed stream by men firing on them from the thick bush, where it was impossible to see them, was of a harassing nature, and was steadily met and repulsed.

Lieutenant Ravenhill, who was the senior lieutenant present, carried out his portion of the Expedition with the same zeal and good judgment which I have more than once had occasion to bring to your notice with regard to that officer.

Lieutenant Bird, in command of the boats of "Brisk," gave me the most zealous assistance and support.

Mr. Friedrich, the partner of the late Mr. Behnke, accompanied me, and was of the utmost use as guide and interpreter.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McQUHAE,

Commander.

The Admiral,

The Hon. Sir E. R. Fremantle, K.C.B., C.M.G.,

Commander-in-Chief,

&c., &c., &c.

Enclosure No. 16 in East Indies Letter, No. 496, of 1st November, 1890.

EXPEDITION TO VITU.

H.M.S. "Boadicea," Kipini,

30th October, 1890.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that in compliance with the Commander-in-Chief's General Memorandum C, of the 19th October, I proceeded on shore at Kipini on the afternoon of the 25th, for the purpose of taking command of the Advance Guard of the Vitu Expeditionary Force.

2. On landing, I found that the "Conquest's" Marines and one company of her Blue-jackets, with 3 guns, the whole under Lieutenant Jerram, had started half-an-hour previously, taking with them a canvas water tank, and 120 porters carrying water.

I rode after, and overtook this force about 4-30 p.m., and found them halted, and the greater part of the water in the tank.

The position I did not consider good for halting for the night, but unless I abandoned the water I had no option but to remain where I was. I therefore made a strong zareba, with a shelter trench behind it.

3. At 5 p.m., Lieutenant Slater, with 5 guns, marched in, and at 8-30 two companies of the "Boadicea's" Blue-jackets, under Lieutenant Ainger, and accompanied by you, arrived. The force then consisted of the following:—

	Officers.	Men.
Field Battery (4 7-prs. and 4 machine guns)	11	152
"Conquest's" S.A. Company	4	53
" " Marines	1	33
"Boadicea's" Companies	6	111
Giving a total of	22	349

Exclusive of spare ammunition men, pioneers, armourers, stretchermen, &c.

4. On your leaving the zareba, I again assumed command, and have the honour to report the following:—

At about 11 p.m., we were attacked by the enemy who had very nearly surrounded the zareba, only leaving the road to Kipini open. They opened a heavy fire with small arms, which fortunately was very high, and which we returned.

Whenever, by the flashes, I could see there were a number of the enemy together, I ordered the 7-prs. and machine guns to be used, which generally