

silenced that part for the time being. The enemy were tolerably bold, many of them coming up within 50 yards of the zareba. After about 20 minutes the enemy's fire slackened, and 10 minutes later ceased altogether, they having drawn off. I cannot give any exact estimate of the enemy's force, but I should judge they must have had at least 500 riflemen, and probably three times that number of spearmen and bow and arrow men.

5. At daylight, on the 26th, I formed the force up outside the zareba, and at 5.30 a.m. marched in the direction of Vitu, leaving Lieutenant Jerram with half a company of the "Boadicea's" Bluejackets to hold the zareba and take care of the wounded and water, pending the arrival of the main body.

\* \* \* \* \*  
At 6.15 a.m. Lieutenant Tupper rode up and ordered me to halt. Half an hour afterwards you came up with the main body.

6. In summing up my report, I beg to bring to your favourable notice, the names of Lieutenants Ainger, Jerram, and Slater. These Officers gave me every assistance and rendered valuable services during the attack by checking and steadying the men's fire when they were a little excited. I also beg to mention the name of Surgeon Harries, who was most assiduous and attentive in the care of the wounded, and I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of the Officers and men generally.

7. Attached is a list of casualties, observing that some Officers and men, though not sufficiently hurt to be incapacitated for duty, received contusions from slugs and bullets, whose force was much spent by passing through the bushes forming the zareba.

8. Commander McQuhae, the Acting Quartermaster-General, was in the zareba during the attack, and I have to thank him for much valuable advice.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. A. J. MONTGOMERIE,

Commander, R.N.

Captain the Hon. A. G. Curzon-Howe, R.N.,

Chief of the Staff of the

Expeditionary Force to Vitu.

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*Enclosure No. 18 in East Indies Letter, No. 496, of 1st November, 1890*

Original.

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

29th October, 1890.

Sir,

The Expedition to Vitu having been brought to a conclusion, I have the honour to enclose herewith a list of petty officers and men who were wounded in the recent actions. I would also bring to your notice the fact that, though seven men fell out during the advance through exhaustion induced by heat and their heavy equipment, and twenty on the return march, owing to zarebas being erected at short intervals where patients were received and treated, these casualties in no way retarded the march of the column. All these men, sent by easy stages to the base hospital, recovered sufficiently to rejoin their ships with their respective companies.

I would here venture to suggest that in any future operations on this coast, Seedie boys only should be employed in the stretcher parties. The general health of the force was most satisfactory.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. MARTIN,

Fleet Surgeon in Medical Charge.

Captain the Hon. A. G. Curzon-Howe, R.N.,

Chief of the Staff of the

Expeditionary Force to Vitu.