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Admiralty, January 6, 1891.

DESPATCHES, of which the attached are copies, have been received from Edmund Robert Fremantle, C.B., C.M.G., Commander-in-Chief on the East Indies Station, reporting Operations against Vitu:—

No. 496.

“Boadicea,” at Mombasa,

SIR,

1st November, 1890.

The operations against the late Sultanate of Vitu undertaken by the squadron under my command in accordance with the orders of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, in order to inflict punishment for the murder of nine Germans in that territory on the 15th, 16th, and 18th September last, having now been brought to a successful conclusion, I have the honour to make the following detailed report on the subject.

2. It is unnecessary for me to go into any detail with respect to these murders which have been fully reported by Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; but it is necessary to call attention to the localities in which they took place as being naturally the objective points in any operations which had to be undertaken.

Of the nine murders, seven were effected on the 15th September in or near the town of Vitu, the Germans endeavouring to escape, and being pursued by an infuriated rabble armed in various ways, some with bows and arrows.

On the following day, the eighth, Karl Horn was murdered in cold blood at Mkonumbi, as alleged, by direct order of Fumo Bakari, the Sultan of Vitu, and on the 18th, the ninth, Herr Behnke was murdered on his estate at Baltia under the orders of a local Chief named Bana Heri Mkatna by the inhabitants of the two villages of Hadiskoma and Hadisiggio, his estate being completely burned and destroyed.

3. In accordance with instructions received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I agreed with Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General, Colonel Euan-Smith, on the 14th October, on the course to be followed, which was briefly to summon the Sultan of Vitu to come himself with those implicated in the murders to Lamu, to have a fair trial, and in default that I should lead an expeditionary force to Vitu to inflict all possible adequate punishment.

This proposal having received the approval of Lord Salisbury on the 15th October, and in Admiralty telegrams Nos. 51 and 53, I despatched the “Cossack” to Lamu on the 17th October, following myself in the “Boadicea” with the Consul-General on the 20th idem.

Our letters* of the 17th and 19th October to Fumo Bakari and his replies of the 19th and 22nd October are enclosed.

* Enclosures Nos. 7, 8, 9, and 10.