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SLAVE TRADE. No. 4 (1880).

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CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO THE

BOMBARDMENT OF BATANGA.

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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.*  
1880.

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## Correspondence relating to the Bombardment of Batanga.

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### No. 1.

*Consul Hopkins to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)*

(Extract.)

*Fernando Po, July 18, 1879.*

THE natives of Batanga have forcibly taken a white man, a British subject, out of a British ship, and are keeping him a prisoner in their town; he has been more than two months a prisoner now. The natives will not deliver him up until the agent establishes a factory at their town; this he cannot do, as there is not sufficient trade, and his goods would be stolen when he had landed a sufficient quantity, so I am informed.

I have communicated with the Senior Naval Officer on this subject.

The Spanish gun-boat from Fernando Po went to Batanga, but could get none of the natives to go on board; so they returned, having done nothing.

These affairs happened before my return from Sierra Leone.

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### No. 2.

*Sir J. Pauncefote to Consul Hopkins.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, September 18, 1879.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 18th July, reporting your visit to Old Calabar and Victoria, and that you had communicated with the Senior Naval Officer on the subject of an outrage committed by the Batangas, and I am to inform you that his Lordship approves your proceedings as reported in your despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

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### No. 3.

*The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received May 6.)*

(Extract.)

*Admiralty, May 4, 1880.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the perusal of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, letters from Commodore Richards, with their inclosures, reporting his proceedings at Batanga and the steps taken to punish King Jack in consequence of the British schooner "Cyprus" having been boarded in July 1879, and the mate having been carried off in captivity by his people.

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### Inclosure 1 in No. 3.

*Commodore Richards to the Secretary to the Admiralty.*

(Extract.)

*"Boadicea," at Fernando Po, March 19, 1880.*

HER Majesty's Acting Consul having brought to my notice the case of the detention, in the early part of last year, of an Englishman named Govier, by the natives of Batanga, south of the Bight of Pauavia, where there are some factories established

engaged in the ivory trade, I inclose for the information of their Lordships the correspondence on the subject as far as it has gone.

As I judged that the matter should be properly inquired into on the spot without reference to the opinions of the traders in the Cameroons, I so acquainted the Acting Consul, and also informed Captain Dayas, the agent of Messrs. Kedway of Exmouth, whose employé Govier is, that I should require his presence and that of Govier at Batanga during the settlement of this question, and I accordingly took his vessel, the schooner "Cyprus," in tow of the "Forester" at daylight on the 18th, and towed her out of the river, transferring her to the "Firebrand" outside the shoals.

The "Firebrand" then proceeded for Batanga, and I returned to this anchorage in the "Forester" at 4 P.M. the same evening, when my pendant was re-hoisted in the "Boadicea."

The "Forester" having completed with coal will leave for Batanga this evening, and I propose to proceed there to-morrow morning at 5 o'clock.

Inclosure 2 in No. 3.

*Acting Consul Easton to Commodore Richards.*

Sir,

*Fernando Po, March 9, 1880.*

I INCLOSE two extracts from despatches sent by the late Consul Hopkins, one to the Senior Naval Officer, and the other to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Both relate to an Englishman, named Govier, who was imprisoned and ill-treated by the natives of Batanga. They will serve to supplement the facts already in your possession.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) S. F. EASTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 3.

*Consul Hopkins to the Senior Naval Officer, Bights Division.*

Sir,

*Fernando Po, July 5, 1879.*

I BEG to inclose for your perusal a letter I have received from Captain Dayas, of Cameroons River.

The natives of Batanga, a place a little south of the mainland of Cameroons River, have boarded an English ship, and taken the mate, an Englishman, away, and are holding him as hostage until some unjust claim of theirs is complied with.

The mere presence of an English vessel-of-war will procure the release of the man.

I am perfectly aware how "short handed" the station is at present, but I earnestly entreat you to take this case into consideration, and send a ship to Fernando Po to convey me to Batanga; but if on the arrival of a British man-of-war I should not be on the island, to instruct the Captain to proceed to Cameroons (a pilot can be obtained by anchoring at Green Patch and sending a boat up, all smooth water, no bar), and bring down Captain Dayas, and he being a nautical man can pilot the ship to Batanga.

As regards the latter part of Captain Dayas' letter, a complaint against the Spaniards, I have dealt with that myself.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) DAVID HOPKINS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 3.

*Commodore Richards to Acting Consul Easton.*

Sir,

*"Forester," at Old Calabar, March 12, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, with inclosures, relative to the case of an Englishman, named Govier, stated to have been imprisoned by the natives of Batanga, near Cameroons, prior to July of last year, and

with reference thereto I shall be obliged by your furnishing me with particulars on the following points, viz. :—

The name of the English vessel out of which this man was taken, and her port of registry.

On what his claim to being a British subject was based, and whether it is known what has become of him.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FREDK. W. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 5 in No. 3.

*Acting Consul Easton to Commodore Richards.*

Sir, "Firebrand," at Cameroons, March 16, 1880.  
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, and in reply to same have the honour to state that Mr. Govier is an English subject, that his claim to be such is recognized by every British subject in Cameroons, but that, like most Europeans on this coast, his claim is unsupported by documentary evidence.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) S. F. EASTON.

Inclosure 6 in No. 3.

*Acting Consul Easton to Commodore Richards.*

Sir, "Firebrand," at Cameroons, March 16, 1880.  
AT a meeting of the members of the Court of Equity, held on board this ship to-day, I investigated the case of the Englishman Govier, recently imprisoned by the natives of Batanga. The facts arrived at were :—

Captain Dayas, an Englishman, was asked by King Jack, of Kribby's Town, Batanga, to establish a trading factory there. He entertained the proposition so far as to plant a sub-factory, but this the natives objected to, desiring him to establish a full agency.

While matters were thus in abeyance, Mr. Govier, who was on the spot, was captured and carried into the bush, the natives hoping thereby to coerce Captain Dayas into granting their request. Instead of this he positively refused to have any further negotiations with them on the subject.

Govier was detained seven weeks by the natives, and a fortunate opportunity offering, he effected his escape. During his captivity he admits he was treated with no undue harshness.

The unanimous opinion of the members of the Court is that something should be done to show the natives that British life and property should be respected, and that as the surrounding tribes are watching the result of this case, should nothing be done it will form a dangerous precedent.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) S. F. EASTON.

Inclosure 7 in No. 3.

*Commodore Richards to Acting Consul Easton.*

Sir, "Forester," at Cameroons, March 16, 1880.  
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, acquainting me that you have investigated the case of the "Englishman," Govier, recently imprisoned by the natives of Batanga, and that the facts arrived at were that Captain Dayas, an "Englishman," was asked by King Jack, of Kribby's Town, Batanga, to establish a trading factory there; that he entertained the proposition so far as to plant a sub-factory, but this the natives objected to, desiring him to establish a full agency; and that while matters were in abeyance the natives, for the purpose of coercing Captain Dayas to grant his request, carried Govier into the bush, where he was

detained seven weeks, when he effected his escape without having been treated with undue harshness.

You add that the unanimous opinion of the members of the Court of "Equity" is, that "something should be done to show the natives that British life and property should be respected, and that as the surrounding tribes are watching the result of this case, should nothing be done it will form a dangerous precedent."

In reply, I have the honour to request you will be so good as to inform me in what way the Court of Equity at Cameroons is called upon to discuss a question relating to a place on the coast 70 miles south of that river, and totally unconnected with it.

2. In the event of anything being done, by which I presume you mean the natives being punished by the destruction of their town, &c., what will be the effect of such a proceeding upon the English trading factories now at Batanga after the departure of the man-of-war sent to inflict punishment?

3. I shall be obliged by your favouring me with a reply to my letter of the 12th instant relative to the claim of Govier to be regarded as a British subject.

You are doubtless aware that Her Majesty's Government do not profess to afford protection to British subjects who chose to establish themselves among savage tribes apart from recognized trading stations, and that people who do so do it at their own risk. I have therefore to point out that the first action necessary, if action should be taken in this case, would be the removal not only of the factory of Captain Dayas, but also that of Messrs. Hatton and Cookson, and of any others that may be established in the neighbourhood.

I was informed by Captain Dayas, when he visited me on arrival this morning, that the Batanga question had been settled by the natives restoring all the goods detained by them at the time of Govier's detention. I presume he so informed you also.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FREDK. W. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 8 in No. 3.

*Acting Consul Easton to Commodore Richards.*

Sir,

"Firebrand," at Cameroons, March 16, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this date.

In reply thereto I have to state that Captain Dayas' interest in Batanga are identical with his interests in Cameroons, *i.e.*, he being a trader here, is desirous of extending his sphere of operations as far as possible, and in that view included Batanga.

The people of this place and of Cameroons are of the same tribe; hence anything done to one is accepted by both.

The discussion to-day regarding Batanga was the result of my invitation, and the issue of any action taken against that town would not, in the opinion of the Europeans present to-day, have any other than a beneficial effect upon the natives, and further, would not militate against the interests of any white man.

Captain Dayas has not informed me that any settlement has been arrived at regarding the outrage upon his employé by the natives at Batanga.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) S. F. EASTON.

Inclosure 9 in No. 3.

*Commodore Richards to Acting Consul Easton.*

Sir,

"Forester," at Cameroons, March 17, 1880.

I HAVE to inform you that I received your letter, dated yesterday, this morning, and that I propose to visit Batanga before returning to Fernando Po, where you will have an opportunity of more fully inquiring into the circumstances connected with the detention of Mr. Dayas' agent there last year.

With this object I have postponed my departure from Cameroons until to-morrow morning as I shall require that both Mr. Dayas and Govier accompany me.

I have again to call your attention to the fact that there are other interests at stake

at Batanga besides those of Mr. Dayas, and I request that you will make it perfectly clear to any persons in Cameroons who have agencies there, that if in consequence of your representations any punishment is inflicted on the natives, the Europeans who remain at Batanga after the departure of Her Majesty's ships will do so at their own risk.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FREDK. W. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 10 in No. 3.

*Commodore Richards to the Secretary to the Admiralty.*

Sir,

*"Boadicea," at Batanga, March 23, 1880.*

MY last letter, dated at Fernando Po on the 19th, will have informed their Lordships that I had directed Lieutenant and Commander Sisson to convey Her Majesty's Acting Consul in the "Firebrand" to Batanga, in order that he might satisfy himself by further inquiry on the spot into the circumstances connected with the boarding of the English schooner "Cyprus" last July, and carrying the mate into captivity; and that I had informed Her Majesty's Acting Consul that I purposed to visit Batanga in the "Boadicea" on my way to the South Coast on the 20th instant, when I should learn the result of his proceedings.

2. I accordingly arrived there on the afternoon of that day, and found the "Firebrand" and "Forester" (which latter vessel had preceded me from Fernando Po) at anchor off the Waterfall, as also the schooner "Cyprus," which I had caused to be towed down from Cameroons for the investigation, the mate Govier being on board.

3. On my arrival Her Majesty's Acting Consul came on board, and informed me "that he had held a meeting of the Europeans, and that they were unanimously of opinion that something should be done." Later in the day I received from him the Inclosure No. 1,\* and finding that he had considered it of no use to attempt to establish any correspondence with the offending native Chief, I addressed a letter to King Jack myself, a copy of which is attached (Inclosure No. 2).† Early next morning I received from Captain Dayas a note, stating that he, King Jack, had had sent a verbal message to say he would not come on board, upon the receipt of which I sent him a second letter (Inclosure No. 4).‡

4. On the morning of the 22nd, 6 A.M. being the time named in my letter to the King (the ships having previously weighed and taken up the positions assigned to them off the town, situated about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the north of the factories), the signal was made for the gun-boats to clear the bush with shell, which was so well done by Lieutenant-Commanders Sisson and Smith that, though the enemy were seen assembling in considerable force at daybreak by the beach, no opposition was offered to the operation of landing on the open beach, though fringed with an impenetrable jungle.

5. I inclose a report from Commander Romilly of the day's operations, and I cannot speak too highly of the zeal and energy displayed by that officer and the officers named by him during a day of great physical trial under a burning sun.

6. Lieutenant Bouchier Wrey of the "Forester" acted as my Aide-de-camp, and rendered most useful service.

7. I regret to say that this service has not been effected without casualty.

8. The correspondence in this case will, I trust, be sufficient to show their Lordships that an absolute necessity for punishment existed, as the "Cyprus" was actually boarded and the mate carried away by force.

9. When the Spanish Governor of Fernando Po, at the request of the late Consul Hopkins, very kindly sent a gun-boat to endeavour to procure the man's release, the King met the demand with a defiance, and threatened to cut the man's head-off.

10. After the appearance of Her Majesty's ships off Batanga, and the defiant manner in which my summons was met by the King, there remained no alternative but to inflict such punishment as was possible, and that has been very severe. For an African town the houses were very well constructed, and the position was evacuated so suddenly on the gun-boats opening fire, that very little property was removed from the houses.

11. I regret very much the necessity of undertaking expeditions such as this; it is an ignoble species of warfare, but is, and I regret to say will be, from time to time, the natural outcome of the legitimate commerce which has succeeded the Slave Trade on the West Coast of Africa. While traders continue to push their way everywhere along the coast outrage by the natives will but too surely be repeated. It is a matter of great

\* See No. 11.

† See No. 12.

‡ See No. 13.



difficulty to arrive at the truth in African squabbles, but I am fully satisfied that in this case the punishment has been well merited.

12. The traders here having elected to remain by their factories, I have distinctly warned them that they must protect themselves in future.

13. I forward herewith, for the information of their Lordships, the returns, &c., mentioned in accompanying Schedule.

I intend sailing for the Congo district this evening, having completed all necessary arrangements here.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FREDK. W. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 11 in No. 3.

*Acting Consul Easton to Commodore Richards.*

Sir,

*"Firebrand," at Batanga, March 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that yesterday I held a meeting of the Europeans resident here, and ascertained from them their views regarding the recent imprisonment, by King Jack of Kribby's Town, of Mr. Govier.

It was the opinion of all present that King Jack should be severely punished for this arbitrary act, and that should nothing be done, European lives and property will be jeopardized.

Any chastisement dealt to the natives will not, in their opinion, expose them (the traders) to any retaliation on the departure of the men of war, and all of them have signified to me their perfect readiness to remain at their posts afterwards.

I shall make every effort to communicate with King Jack before to-morrow forenoon, and appending a list of the traders and their firms.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) S. F. EASTON.

Captain Parnell,	Agent for	Captain Dayas
William Woolliscroft,	"	Hatton and Cookson, Liverpool.
H. Mancke,	"	Woermann and Co., Hamburgh.
M. Kraserman,	"	Jansen and Thornählen.

Inclosure 12 in No. 3.

*Commodore Richards to King Jack of Kribby Town.*

King Jack of Kribby Town,

*"Boadicea," at Batanga, March 20, 1880.*

I REQUIRE you to come off to me on board Her Majesty's ship "Boadicea," to explain your conduct in making prisoner of an English subject last year who had committed no fault against you, your people, or your laws.

If you come off, I promise you full security to go back to your town when you like, after you have heard what I have to say to you.

But if you do not obey this summons you will have to take the consequences, which you will find will be very serious.

(Signed) FREDK. W. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 13 in No. 3.

*Captain Dayas to Commodore Richards.*

Sir,

*Waterfall, March 21, 1880.*

YOUR letter was sent to King Jack last night. He sends word to say he will not go on board your vessel.

Yours, &c.  
(Signed) THOS. Z. DAYAS.

## Inclosure 14 in No. 3.

*Commodore Richards to King Jack.*

King Jack,

"Boadicea," at Batanga, March 21, 1880.

I HAVE received your message that you refuse to answer my summons and come on board Her Majesty's ship "Boadicea" to answer for your conduct in having dragged one of the Queen's subjects from his vessel last year, and kept him a prisoner for many weeks until he escaped.

The consequences be upon your own head; as you refuse to come to me I will go to you, and I warn you to remove your women and children from your town before I come.

I hope your people, when they find the suffering that your conduct will have brought on them, will treat you as you deserve to be treated.

In my letter yesterday, I promised you that if you came to me you should be free to return: now I tell you that I give you till 6 o'clock to-morrow morning to come here and surrender yourself without any condition; after that time it will be too late.

(Signed) FREDK. W. RICHARDS.

## Inclosure 15 in No. 3.

*Commodore Richards to Captain Dayas and others.*

Gentlemen,

"Boadicea," at Batanga, March 21, 1880.

WHEN you visited me yesterday you informed me individually that if punishment were inflicted on King Jack, of Kribby's Town, for his misconduct, you would be under no apprehension for the safety either of yourselves or your factories, and that you would be in a far worse position if King Jack were not punished.

I understand these to have been your words.

You further informed me that there are no missionaries at present at the Mission, near Kribby's Town, and that there is no person entitled to protection by any European State in King Jack's power at the present time: as it is right that these statements should be clearly set forth in writing, I request you will address a short letter to me this afternoon, embodying the opinions you have verbally expressed.

You are perfectly aware that after this matter of King Jack's has been dealt with Her Majesty's ships will leave the neighbourhood, and that you cannot expect a vessel to remain here for your protection.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) FREDK. W. RICHARDS.

## Inclosure 16 in No. 3.

*Captain Dayas and others to Commodore Richards.*

Sir,

Waterfall, March 21, 1880.

YOUR favour of this afternoon to hand. In reply to your wishes that we shall send a written statement expressing our ideas on the subject made known verbally yesterday, we beg to state that we are under no fear of the Kribby natives interfering with us after you have dealt with them.

We think we should be in a far worse position if no notice were taken of the outrage committed by the Kribby people.

There are no missionaries at the above named town.

We have, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS Z. DAYAS.  
WILLIAM WOOLLISCROFT.  
RICHARD MANCKE.  
M. KRASERMANN.

## Inclosure 17 in No. 3.

*Captain Dayas to Commodore Richards.*

Sir,

*Schooner "Cyprus," March 23, 1880.*

SINCE Mr. Govier's return from the "Forester" I have come to the conclusion that the Kribby people have become desperate, more especially do I think so since hearing that they have had the courage to fire at and kill two of your men.

I should, therefore, esteem it a very great kindness if you will allow one of the boats of one of the war-ships now here to come and protect us during the night.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) THOMAS Z. DAYAS.

Kindly excuse commercial paper. I have no other on board the "Cyprus." The Kribby people can get canoes from Small Batanga.

(Verbal answer. If Captain Dayas is in any fear I recommend him to embark in his schooner.)

## Inclosure 18 in No. 3.

*Commodore Richards to Captain Dayas and others.*

Gentlemen,

*"Boadicea," at Batanga, March 23, 1880.*

ON my return to this anchorage last evening I received a note from Captain Dayas requesting the protection of boats' crews for his factory, on the ground that he had come to the conclusion that the Kribby people had become desperate and would attack him.

You have unanimously pressed upon the Consul and upon myself that the only danger you could apprehend would be the consequence of Her Majesty's ships leaving without the punishment of the Kribby people.

Now that these people have been severely punished, their towns and villages in ashes, their canoes broken, and their property destroyed, you would seem to have a fear if Captain Dayas is to be regarded as your spokesman.

I must, therefore, tell you plainly that if you think you cannot live in safety among these tribes you have the option of embarking your goods to-day and to-morrow and leaving. If you choose to remain you must do so at your own risk, as it is quite impossible that one of Her Majesty's ships can be stationed at Batanga for your protection.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) FREDK. W. RICHARDS.

## Inclosure 19 in No. 3.

*Captain Dayas to Commodore Richards.*

Sir,

*"Cyprus," March 3, 1880.*

IN reply to your favour just received, I beg to state that when I wrote you last evening I did not mean a boat to protect me at my factory on shore, but merely to keep watch over the schooner during the night, as I had heard some very alarming reports as to what the Kribby people intended to do.

We were most certainly unanimous in thinking that nothing serious would happen after you had punished those people, especially when remembering their previous behaviour.

We were given to understand by Mr. Govier last night that you wished to see us and the Chiefs of the other towns to-day.

We shall esteem it a favour if you will be kind enough to allow us the privilege of a personal interview, as we feel we can say more and give a fuller explanation verbally than by writing.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) THOS. Z. DAYAS.

## Inclosure 20 in No. 3.

*Commodore Richards to Captain Dayas.*

Sir, "Boadicea," at Batanga, March 23, 1880, 10.30 A.M.  
 IN answer to your letter just received, I beg to inform you that I shall be happy to see you and the other representatives of factories, together with the Chiefs of the friendly tribes, at 11.30 a.m. to-day, or as soon afterwards as may be convenient.

I have, &c.  
 (Signed) FREDK. W. RICHARDS.

## Inclosure 21 in No. 3.

*Detail for Operations against the Natives of Batanga, March 22, 1880.*

THE gun-boats will weigh at 5 A.M. and be in a position as ordered at daylight. On the signal being made they will commence to search the bush with common shell and shrapnel, on each side of the Lorly River and surrounding the town.

"Boadicea" will proceed to an anchorage abreast the gun-boats as near to them as her draught of water will admit.

The landing party will form on the off side of the "Forester."

The boats when ordered will advance towards the shore in line abreast in the following order:—

<u>"Firebrand."</u>	<u>"Boadicea."</u>	<u>"Forester."</u>		
Whaler—Cutter.	Whaler—Cutter—Launch—Pinnacle—Cutter—Whaler.	Cutter—Whaler.	}	Right.
Manned by "Boadicea."		Manned by "Boadicea."		
Whaler for surgeon.		Whaler for surgeon.		

Boats to be two boats' length apart.

Steam launch of "Boadicea" will tow surf boat and act as requisite.

Each boat to be provided with anchor and grapnel, and be prepared to anchor either by bow or stern.

The day's provisions cooked to be carried by each man landed.

*Detail of Landing Party.*

Commander Romilly.

Staff Officer: Lieut. Wynyard.

Company officers: Lieut. Scott, Midshipman Hewett, Sub.-Lieut. Valentine, Midshipman Crookshank.

Surgeons: Pollard and Vasey.

	"BOADICEA."	Men.
2 Rifle Companies, 50 men ..	.. .. .	100
2 Gunner's mates ..	.. .. .	2
Gatling gun, 5 cutlasses, and pistol ..	.. .. .	5
2 rockets, 6 cutlasses, and pistol ..	.. .. .	6
Pioneers .	.. .. .	4
Buglers ..	.. .. .	2
Signalmen ..	.. .. .	2
With medical officers ..	.. .. .	4
Total ..	.. .. .	125
Marines—Lieutenant Robyns, 1 officer, and 38 men.		
Kroomen for Gatling ..	.. .. .	13
Spare ammunition .	.. .. .	8
Stretchers ..	.. .. .	6
Rockets ..	.. .. .	12

Kroomen of gun-boats to be sent to "Boadicea."

Lieutenant Wrey and Sub-Lieutenant Taylor to be prepared to act with landing party, if required.

(Signed) FREDK. W. RICHARDS, *Commodore.*

To the respective Captains and  
 Commanding Officers of Her Majesty's ships present.

## Inclosure 22 in No. 3.

*Commander Romilly to Commodore Richards.*

Sir,

*"Boadicea," off Batanga, March 23, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in execution of your orders, I left Her Majesty's ship "Boadicea" at 8 A.M. yesterday with a landing party of 240 officers and men, including 38 marines and the kroomen of the squadron (61), and formed in line abreast on the off side of Her Majesty's ships "Firebrand" and "Forester," which vessels were shelling the bush.

2. On your signal being made to the gun-boats to "cease firing," and for the "boats to advance," the boats advanced for the beach in line abreast, following you in your galley, were all beached simultaneously, and with perfect success.

3. No opposition was offered on landing, the enemy, who had been seen in large bodies assembling at daylight, having been driven back by the fire of the gun-boats.

4. With the assistance of a native guide we proceeded by a narrow path through thick bush to the town of King Jack, which occupied a square mile on the left bank of the River Lorly; it consisted of about 300 well-built huts in quadrangles, some of them two-storied, and all with doors and wooden shutters; these we searched on our advance, and, having posted covering parties outside the houses, proceeded to burn them on our return, destroying many canoes, where found hauled up in the bush, and cutting down bananas and other crops.

5. These operations were successfully accomplished by 11 A.M., when we returned to the Mission House, posted pickets and rested the men, the heat (90 in the shade), combined with that from the burning town, being very oppressive.

6. At 11:20 a detachment was sent three-quarters of a mile down the coast to the southward to burn King Long-Long's town; this consisted of the same description of houses as King Jack's Town, and was also successfully destroyed.

7. After the work of destruction was complete the embarkation was commenced at about 1:30 P.M., the last boat leaving the beach at 3:30.

8. The surf having risen during the forenoon, the party were re-embarked in detachments, in a surf-boat lent from the European factories, and taken to the boats outside the line of breakers.

9. The enemy never showed during the day, but towards the close of the embarkation they assembled in the thick bush, and commenced a dropping fire upon the covering company, but they were quickly dislodged, and did not return.

10. I regret to have to report the death of William Likeman, private R.M.L.I., shot through the heart with slugs, and of James Allen, ordinary seaman, shot in the abdomen with slugs, who received his wound when covering the embarkation; happily there are no other casualties. I inclose the surgeon's return.

11. Lieutenant Wynyard gave me the greatest assistance in all the details of the expedition. Acting-Lieutenant Scott and Sub-Lieutenant Valentine, in command of the companies, were most zealous in keeping their men together. Lieutenant Robyns, R.M.L.I., with his Marines covered the embarkation of the remainder of the force most successfully. Surgeon Pollard, ably assisted by Surgeon Vasey, performed their duties with great coolness. Mr. Hewett, Midshipman, in charge of the Gatling, conducted it through the narrow bush paths with great skill. Messrs. Colville and Boldero, Midshipmen, in the steam pinnace, one directing the gun, the other managing the boat, were most useful in judiciously shelling the bush on our flanks. I have the honour to bring the conduct of all these officers to your most favourable notice.

12. I cannot bring my report to a close without mentioning with warm praise the cheerfulness and good spirit that prevailed amongst all the seamen and marines landed, whose arduous day's work, commencing at 4 A.M., did not terminate till after dark.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. ROMILLY.

## Inclosure 23 in No. 3.

*Mr. Pollard to Commander Romilly.*

Sir,

*"Boadicea," off Batanga, March 23, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report the following casualties which occurred during the expedition yesterday against King Jack's Town, Batanga:—

William Likeman, æt. 24, Pte. R.M., No. 36. Killed. Gunshot wound of left chest, two slugs entering the heart. Death must have been almost instantaneous.

James Allen, æt. 19, O.S., No. 61. Gunshot wound of abdomen. Two slugs entered the abdominal cavity, causing the intestines to protrude, and injuring the left common iliac artery. Death occurred in about 15 minutes.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) E. R. H. POLLARD, *Surgeon, R.M.*

Inclosure 24 in No. 3.

*The Secretary to the Admiralty to Commodore Richards.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Admiralty, May 20, 1880.*

TELEGRAPH specific reasons for destroying village of King "Long Long," mentioned in paragraph 6 of Report of Commander of "Boadicea."

Inclosure 25 in No. 3.

*Commodore Richards to the Secretary to the Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Simon's Bay, May 21, 1880.*

Village of "Long Long" was adjoining Kribby's Town. Both belonged to King Jack, and equally implicated in piratical seizure of mate of schooner.

No. 4.

*Acting Consul Easton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)*

(Extract.)

*Fernando Po, March 25, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I left Victoria in Her Majesty's ship "Firebrand," accompanied by Commodore Richards, in Her Majesty's ship "Forester," on the 15th, and arrived in Cameroons on the 16th instant.

On the afternoon of that day I held a meeting on the "Firebrand," and inquired into the case of the Englishman (Govier) who was captured and detained a prisoner for three months by the natives of Batanga in May of last year, as reported to your Lordship in the late Consul Hopkins' despatch dated the 18th July, 1879.

The statements made therein were confirmed by Govier himself, and by Captain Dayas, his employer.

I placed the matter in the hands of Commodore Richards, and requested him to repair, along with myself, to Batanga; and my procedure there will form the subject of my next despatch.

No. 5.

*Acting Consul Easton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)*

My Lord,

*Fernando Po, March 25, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 18th instant I left Cameroons in Her Majesty's ship "Firebrand," and anchored off Batanga on the evening of that day. I went there for the purpose of demanding satisfaction for the imprisonment of Mr. Govier by the natives of that place in May last (*vide* despatch dated the 18th July, 1879). I held a meeting of the European traders the following morning. Their names and the firms they represent are:—

W. Krasemann, for Jansen and Thorniählen of Hamburgh;  
Richard Mahuke, for Woermann and Co. of Hamburgh;  
William Woolliscroft, for Hatton and Cookson of Liverpool;  
Captain Parnell, for Captain Dayas of Bristol.

From these gentlemen I received a corroboration of the statements made by Mr. Govier.

I then wrote to King Jack of Kribby's Town, and requested him to meet me and

give me an explanation. I received no reply to this, but a verbal message was conveyed to me telling me that he would not come, and was quite prepared to resist the entry of any white man into his town. The Commodore arriving during the afternoon, I put the matter into his hands. He also wrote and urged King Jack to come and talk the "palaver," but, as with myself, received no reply.

The Commodore then prepared to attack the town, having received from each European an assurance that they did not dread any retaliation on the departure of the men-of-war.

Things remained in this state till the morning of the 22nd instant, when Commodore Richards moved opposite the town, shelled, and burned it, unfortunately with a loss of two men, and himself wounded.

This operation will not affect the trade of Batanga, as all the ivory is brought to market by the natives some distance in the interior.

On the 23rd instant I met Kings William and John, who possess small villages at the back of the factories, and drew up an agreement with them for the better protection of European life and property. Copy of this agreement (original) is inclosed.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) S. F. EASTON.

Inclosure in No. 5.

*Agreement with Kings William and John of Batanga.*

IT is hereby agreed upon between S. F. Easton, Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra, and the Island of Fernando Po, and Kings John and William of Batanga, that—

1. None of the European traders shall be in any way molested; that their communication with other factories shall not be interfered with; nor shall any obstacle be placed in the way of their securing supplies of food and water.

2. The said Kings William and John hereby guarantee that, in consideration of the comeys paid them, they will use every effort to protect the lives and property of the European traders upon every occasion.

In witness whereof we have this day affixed our signs manual, on board Her Majesty's ship "Boadicea," the 23rd day of March, 1880.

(Signed) KING WILLIAM, his × mark.  
KING JOHN, his × mark.  
S. F. EASTON, *Her Majesty's Acting Consul.*

Witnesses:  
(Signed) THOS. Z. DAYAS.  
WILLIAM WOOLLISCROFT.  
M. KRASEMANN.  
RICH. MAHUKY.

No. 6.

*Mr. Lister to Acting Consul Easton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 7, 1880.*

EARL GRANVILLE has had under his consideration your despatches dated the 25th March last, reporting your visit to Batanga, and the circumstances which led to the bombardment of that town by Commodore Richards.

I am now directed by his Lordship to inform you that, having regard to the outrage committed by the natives of Batanga in the case of Mr. Govier, the mate of the "Cyprus," and the persistently hostile attitude of their King when called upon for reparation, Lord Granville believes that you were justified in placing the matter in Commodore Richards' hands.

I am now, however, to observe that Her Majesty's Government would deeply deplore the recurrence of warlike operations against native tribes whose progress in civilization it is their desire to assist; and I am to impress upon you the importance of exercising the greatest caution against the adoption of hostile measures, on your own responsibility, whenever it may be possible for you to refer home in the first instance for instructions.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

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No. 7.

*The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Lister.—(Received July 14.)*

(Extract.)

*Admiralty, July 13, 1880.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit copy of a letter which will be addressed to Commodore Richards, defining the procedure which is to be adopted between Naval and Consular officers in future cases requiring coercive measures, drawn up after consultation between Earl Granville and the First Lord of the Admiralty.

My Lords desire me to request that, in laying this letter before Lord Granville, you will move his Lordship to cause similar instructions to be issued to the Consular officers on the West Coast of Africa.

Inclosure in No. 7.

*The Secretary to the Admiralty to Commodore Richards.*

Sir,

*Admiralty, July 13, 1880.*

WITH reference to my letter of this day's date, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that the condition of the West Coast of Africa being somewhat peculiar, their Lordships have been in communication with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in regard to the procedure which should be followed in future, if any case should arise which appears to require coercive measures.

2. The Consular officer will be instructed in such circumstances to confer with the Senior Naval officer present, and if they concur in their conclusions, they will record their joint opinion. Should the opinion be that coercive measures are absolutely necessary, without previous reference to Her Majesty's Government, the Consular officer will address a formal requisition to the Senior Naval Officer, which will constitute his authority to act in such time and manner as he may consider to be expedient.

3. If there should be a difference of opinion between the Consular officer and the Senior Naval Officer, the matter should be referred for the directions of Her Majesty's Government.

4. Instructions in this sense will be given to Her Majesty's Consuls, and you are to act on the same, and give the necessary directions to the Commanding Officers of the ships under your orders employed on the West Coast of Africa.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) G. S. LEFEVRE.

No. 8.

*Mr. Lister to Consul Hewett.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 26, 1880.*

WITH reference to the despatch from this Office to Mr. Acting Consul Easton, of the 7th ultimo, and to previous correspondence respecting the recent hostilities at Batanga, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, for your information and guidance, a copy of the instructions which the Board of Admiralty are about to address to Commodore Richards, defining the procedure to be adopted in future between Naval and Consular Officers in cases requiring coercive measures.\*

I am, &c.  
(Signed) T. V. LISTER

\* Inclosure in No. 7.



*Sir J. Pauncefote to the Secretary to the Admiralty.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 26, 1880.*

I HAVE laid before Earl Granville your letter of the 13th instant, inclosing a copy of the instructions which the Board of Admiralty are about to address to Commodore Richards, defining (with reference to the recent hostilities at Batanga) the procedure to be adopted between Naval and Consular Officers in future cases requiring coercive measures, and I am now directed by his Lordship, in reply, to acquaint you that he has caused a copy of those instructions to be forwarded to Her Majesty's Consul at Fernando Po for his information and guidance.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

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CORRESPONDENCE relative to the Bombardment of  
Onitsha.

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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-  
mand of Her Majesty. 1880.*

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