

own boats, under cover of our fire, to effect the capture of the junks. No resistance was offered, beyond the occasional fire of gingalls, from the neighbouring hills, the junks being deserted.

Several of them being aground and many others much shattered, from our fire, we only succeeded in bringing out seven, so I ordered the remainder to be destroyed by fire.

On boarding and landing, to effect this, we found a number of dead Chinamen, and observed, for the first time, several guns mounted on shore, commanding the creek, which were destroyed.

The capture of the piratical fleet being completed, 19 having been set fire to, and 7 taken possession of, and observing the total destruction of the ones fired by the explosion of their several magazines, I proceeded on my return to Hong Kong, taking 4 of the junks in tow, the 3 others being in charge of officers with orders to follow, and arrived at this port at 9.30 P.M., with the 4 junks, the others arriving during the night.

Of the seven vessels we have in our possession, two are lorcha built, one mounting 28 guns, the other 24—from 6 to 24-pounders; the remaining ones being junks of from 7 to 16 guns.

Of those destroyed five were heavily armed lorchas, the remainder averaging the same armament as above. In all mounting on board and on shore 327 guns, 103 of which are on board the vessels brought in.

I have great pleasure in bringing to your notice the conduct of Lieut. J. W. Webb of H.M.S. Cambrian, for the very gallant and judicious manner in which he fought the boats of that vessel; and of the assistance rendered me both on board and on shore by Lieut. Charles Parry, Senior Lieutenant of the Surprise, as also of the steadiness and zeal displayed by the other officers and men under my command.

The only casualty was Mr. Mallet, mate of the Cambrian, who, I regret to say, was severely burnt from an explosion whilst firing one of the junks.

I have, &c.,  
S. GURNEY CRESSWELL,  
Commander.

*His Excellency*  
Rear-Admiral Sir M. Seymour,  
K.C.B.

LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS.

*Her Majesty's ship Magicienne,*  
off *Linting Island, 4th September, 1858.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that in obedience to your orders for me to take under my directions Her Majesty's ships Inflexible, Plover, Algerine, and proceed with them to destroy and capture the many pirates represented as being in this neighbourhood, that I left the anchorage of Hong Kong with the said vessels and Her Majesty's ship under my command on the morning of the 26th ultimo, as soon as Mr. Caldwell, the Registrar General, and three Chinese informers had come on board.

From Hong Kong we proceeded and examined carefully the whole coast as far westward as Mamee, having up to the present date taken and destroyed—1 fortified stockade mounting 14 guns, 26 piratical fighting junks, 74 fast row-boats, 236 guns, about 372 pirates killed, 36 pirates taken alive, 6 cargo vessels recaptured from pirates, 54 men and 6 women retaken from pirates; with only a few wounded on our side.

I enclose herewith a detailed account of each day's proceedings, with list of captures, people

rescued, casualties, officers employed in boats, &c. I cannot say too much for the valuable assistance I have received from Mr. Caldwell, the Registrar General, who was most indefatigable in his exertions, gaining much valuable information from the prisoners rescued, and by other means, thereby being in a great measure the cause of our success, and he showed much judgment in discriminating the innocent from the guilty of those captured on board the junks, besides being a valuable acquisition from his intimate knowledge of the Chinese language.

In conclusion, I beg to draw to your favourable notice more particularly the following officers:—Commander Brooker, of the Inflexible; J. C. Soady, Senior Lieutenant of this ship; Lieutenant Wynniatt, commanding Plover; Lieutenant Arthur, commanding Algerine; Lieutenant Bevan, of the Inflexible; and Mr. Brabazon, Acting Mate of this ship, as being in command of parties. The work undergone by all the officers and men employed, the precision of the fire of the vessels and boats, the order and discipline sustained, reflect the highest credit to both officers and men, as also to the masters of the two ships and second masters of the gunboat, for their conducting their respective vessels through so many intricate channels.

To Commander Brooker I gave the command of the left division of boats, with the gunboat Algerine; besides his co-operating with me on all occasions, he was most energetic in endeavouring to carry out all my wishes, and I found his services most valuable, he having been employed against the Chinese pirates on former occasions.

To First Lieutenant J. C. Soady of this ship, I gave command of the right division of boats on every occasion; besides the entire management of getting guns out of vessels into deep water, landing parties on shore and setting vessels on fire, he is an invaluable officer; amongst many other claims on the service, he was First Lieutenant of the Arrogant at the bombardment of Sweaborg in 1855.

Lieutenants Wynniatt and Arthur are most highly deserving officers. Lieutenant Wynniatt's despatch concerning his gallant attack upon the pirate squadron on the 29th August, I enclose herewith. Lieutenant Arthur, although much hurt, on the 28th August, in both legs, by the carrying away of a hawser, refused to have assistance lent to him, but was always at work when anything was to be done.

First Lieutenant Bevan, of the Inflexible, acted with Commander Brooker, who speaks most highly of him and the assistance he received.

Mr. Brabazon, Acting Mate of this ship, besides being on board the Plover, with ten of the Magicienne's Royal Marine Artillery to assist in working her guns, was always away in the boats upon their shoving off from the gun-boat, and was with me on the 30th August, in the first gig, when, from being a light boat, we got within a few yards of the pirate junk, before the other boats could come up, the pirates making a good defence, so much so as to wound 8 of 9 men whom I took in the boat. I found his services as a good rifle shot, with the assistance of the two marines of great service.

Mr. G. Anstruther, midshipman of this ship, gallantly saved from drowning one of the gig's crew, of which I have spoken in the detailed account.

Commander Brooker, Lieutenants Soady and Wynniatt, were with me on the 27th August, when, with ten men, we made the night attack on the fortified stockade of 14 guns.

I have despatched the Algerine into Hong Kong