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Admiralty, July 20, 1865.

A DESPATCH, of which the following is a copy, has been received from Captain Bowden, of Her Majesty's ship "Wasp."

*Her Majesty's Ship "Wasp,"  
Seychelles, May 26, 1865.*

SIR,

IN compliance with Article 31, page 5, of the Slave Trade Instructions, I have the honour to report, that on the night of the 12th May, an Arab dhow was captured by the pinnace and cutter of this ship, under the charge of Lieutenant Charles C. Rising, at a distance of from 8 to 10 miles from the port of Zanzibar, with 283 slaves on board.

She had a large crew of northern Arabs, who made a desperate resistance, but owing to the gallantry displayed by the officers, whose names are in the margin,\* and their boats' crews, the vessel was carried, the Arabs taking to the sea, and to a boat they cut from the stern, but leaving 3 dead and 13 prisoners.

I regret to say that John New (coxwain of pinnace), the first to board, was killed, and 3 officers and 8 men wounded.

I cannot speak too highly of the judicious way in which the attack was conducted, and the gallantry displayed by Lieutenant Rising, who has received three very severe wounds.

Lieutenant Theobald received a severe wound at the onset, but notwithstanding boarded, and afterwards remained in charge.

By the prisoners' statement there were 70 Arabs on board at the time of the attack, and by report from the shore 25 are missing of those who took to the sea.

I beg to enclose the officers' reports of their proceedings, and the surgeon's list of casualties.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. BOWDEN, Captain.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty,  
Whitehall, London.

*Her Majesty's Ship "Wasp,"  
Seychelles, May 26, 1865.*

SIR,

IN obedience to your orders of the 12th May, I proceeded with the pinnace and first

\* Cutter.—Charles Compton Rising, Lieutenant; William Wilson, Midshipman; and 11 men.

Pinnace.—Charles Barstow Theobald, Lieutenant; John James Ava Campbell, Midshipman; and 13 men.

cutter, manned and armed, to endeavour to intercept a dhow which was to sail from Zanzibar the same evening.

On leaving the ship I at once sent Lieutenant Charles B. Theobald, in the pinnace, down to Chapney Island, giving him directions to look out for the dhow, and also for me in the cutter. I then went in to where the dhow was at anchor, at sunset, but found that she had sailed. On enquiring on board another small dhow, I heard that she had sailed about half an hour with only part of her slaves on board, and that the rest had gone after her in three large canoes. I immediately proceeded to pick up the pinnace, and having come to the conclusion that she must have anchored somewhere close in shore to receive those slaves, I proceeded, in company with pinnace to search the shore, intending to go down to Cockotoni, if we did not find her in our way, the pinnace being about a mile from the shore, and the cutter about a half a mile.

After proceeding about two miles, I observed a canoe in shore of me, and immediately chased her; as soon as she saw me she made for the shore, and reaching it all the crew ran into the bush. I searched the canoe and found in it several baskets of yams and a copper kettle, and from what the interpreter said I had no doubt she was one of the three canoes. I took her in tow and shoved off, and just as I hoisted the sail, I observed a sail coming round the point, and stood off towards her. As I closed her I saw that it was a large dhow with her sail half hoisted, apparently looking for something. When I was within 200 yards of her she appeared to make me out, and hoisted her sail, at the same time firing at me. I at once chased and commenced firing at her, she returning it, and finding that the cutter was sailing faster than the dhow, I kept about 80 yards astern of her, intending to wait for the pinnace. After chasing her about half a mile I observed the pinnace commence firing on her from some distance ahead, and at once got the oars out. About ten minutes after I saw the pinnace close to the dhow, and almost immediately she boarded her on the port bow. I at once boarded with the cutter on the starboard quarter, and after about ten minutes severe fighting we succeeded in capturing her, many of her crew jumping overboard; and, owing to the darkness, succeeded in cutting the boat away from the stern of the dhow, and escaping in her.

I must leave Lieutenant Theobald to finish this report, as I regret to say I became insensible