

Mr. Rodd, Her Majesty's Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General, having written to the Mahadi, the Chief of Jongeni, and waited 48 hours for a reply, requested me to accompany him with the force at my disposal. This I did, leaving Mkumbi at noon on the 12th with the Naval Brigade, consisting of 10 officers and 173 men, one nine-pounder field gun, and two rocket tubes. Also Brigadier-General Hatch, with 70 native troops and about 200 native porters.

2. We encamped that night about seven miles from Mkumbi, and at daylight next morning proceeded on the path to Jongeni.

3. About half an hour after leaving camp the enemy commenced a dropping fire from the forest on our right flank about 500 yards off; the enemy not being visible I took no notice of this, and continued the march, keeping the column well closed up. The country was of a park-like nature, interspersed with clumps of forest, offering an admirable position for an attack.

4. After proceeding about three miles from our camp, at about eight o'clock we were again fired on, and Mr. Rogers pointed out to me the position of Jongeni; we were now entering a large clearing in the forest stretching away to right and left, richly cultivated with rice, corn, and plantains, and the gates could be seen about 400 yards in front in the forest beyond.

5. I then ordered some of the skirmishers to fire, in order to draw the enemy's fire and to show me the position of the bomas (rifle pits). This had the desired effect, a heavy fire being opened from the gate and bomas on either side of it. The field gun and rockets were now brought into action, and delivered a well-directed fire on the gates and bomas, one rocket setting fire to a portion of the town. After an hour the enemy's fire slackened considerably and we gradually advanced.

6. When within 100 yards of the gate I gave the order to charge, and this was gallantly done by three companies of seamen and stokers under Lieutenants Hutchison and Molteno and Sub-Lieutenant Thorpe-Douglas, General Matthews and Mr. Rogers being with them. At the same time General Hatch with the Soudanese, and assisted by the marines, charged and drove the enemy from the bomas and the bush on either side of the gates, the guncotton party under Mr. Kelsey, Boatswain, blew them in, and the town was in our possession after an hour's hard fighting.

8. I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of all under my command. I had the same officers as at Pumwani, with the exception of Lieutenant Fitzmaurice and Sub-Lieutenant Gervis, who were wounded there, and who were replaced by Lieutenant Cole and Sub-Lieutenant Lockhart, in charge of the field gun and rockets, which were admirably worked against the enemy's position.

9. In the afternoon we were employed destroying the enemy's bomas and crops, and also destroyed three villages. On the following morning we were similarly engaged, and at noon left Jongeni, after burning it.

10. We arrived at Mkumbi in the evening. On the following day the landing parties from the "Swallow" and "Sparrow," with all stores, marched to Mkonumbi, and encamped there for the night, returning to their ships on the following morning (16th). The rest of the Naval Brigade, with the Consul-General, returned on board this morning (17th).

11. In accordance with orders received, the "Swallow" proceeds to Zanzibar this afternoon,

and the "Sparrow" to Mombasa with telegrams, and I hope to leave with the Consul-General on Saturday, calling at Mombasa, and arriving at Zanzibar on Tuesday, 22nd. I made an error in the date of the fight at Pumwani in my last letter; it should have been Monday, the 7th, not the 6th, as stated.

12. In conclusion, I wish to bring to your notice the good behaviour of all under my command. Commander Sampson I especially recommend to your notice, as he has behaved with untiring zeal and ability. Mr. Crocker, Clerk, has been in charge of stores, &c., at Mkumbi, and displayed great zeal and ability in discharge of this important duty. Lieutenant Wake has conducted the duties of Senior Officer during my absence much to my satisfaction, and Lieutenant Kiddle has acted as Transport Officer with zeal and ability, also making several rough surveys. General Matthews has afforded the Naval Brigade every assistance, and has provided them with every comfort, and we cannot be too grateful to him. Personally, he has rendered me valuable assistance in the face of the enemy by his experience and advice.

I enclose the list of casualties, which I am glad to say is small, and attributable to the enemy firing too high, and our being able to silence their fire with the field gun and rockets before storming the gates. I have not been able to obtain as yet any trustworthy information as to the enemy's loss. Accompanying are two rough plans of the fights at Pumwani and Jongeni by Commander Sampson.

I have, &c.,

G. R. LINDLEY, Captain.

Casualties at Jongeni on 13th August, 1893:—

William H. Leighton, P.O. Second Class, Her Majesty's ship "Sparrow," wound lower end of left forearm, wounds in the face.

Henry Ryder, Ord., Her Majesty's ship "Swallow," wound in arm.

Faray Abdullah, Soudanese, wound left hand and upper eyelid.

Extract from Letter of Proceedings from the Commander of the "Raccoon," dated 27th August, 1893.

Enclosure in Commander-in-Chief's Letter of 3rd September, 1893.

On arrival at Kismayu this morning (27th) I found Her Majesty's ship "Blanche" and His Italian Majesty's ship "Staffetta" at anchor.

Lieutenant Hutchison came on board and fully reported to me the events up to date.

I think the "Blanche's" arrival was most opportune.

It would appear that the reported disquiet at Kismayu was fully justified.

The mutineers, some 100 in number, no doubt assisted by some Somalis, opened with a rifle fire, on the Administrator's house principally, the firing ceasing at daylight. It is not supposed many men were in the affair; it was no doubt to try the feeling of the garrison, who were largely supposed to be in league with the mutineers.

Lieutenant Hutchison has been down with fever until this morning, received during the late expedition at Lamu, so that the responsibility of the ship and the action taken devolved on Lieutenant Lewes.

In forwarding the report of proceedings of these two officers I consider the measures taken by Lieutenant Lewes reflect great credit on all concerned, and that the latter officer acted with resource and courage on a very hazardous expedition.

In conclusion, I would like to mention the readiness with which Captain Incoronato, of His