

At the Council held on board the steamship "Kenia" on the 25th August, 1893, there were present, Captain Tritton, and Mr. McDougall, representing the Imperial British East African Company, Chiefs Omari bin Jaffir and Akidi Awall, and myself, representing the British Government.

The Chiefs were most friendly and willingly accepted the charge of the steamship "Kenia."

After three hours' consultation it was decided to give equal presents to these Chiefs, and to leave eight Sniders and ammunition for the defence of the forts and steamship "Kenia."

The Chief Omari bin Jaffir professed the greatest friendship for the English Government, and the Company, and would do all in his power to assist in defence of the steamer.

He would visit Kismayu if the Consul-General came there; and I assured him if he came to Zanzibar, His Highness the Sultan would give him a house to live in, and that he would be well treated, and that the Consul-General would be very glad to see him.

The steamship "Kenia" has been left in equal charge of the two Chiefs, one living on board, and one on shore. If there are signs of attack, they will send to Kismayu for assistance, which I have promised them should there be a man-of-war present, either to defend the "Kenia," or defend themselves if the "Kenia" is taken.

She lies in mid-channel between two forts, moored with three anchors down, and is as safe as it is possible to leave her under the circumstances.

She has trade goods to the value of 20,000 rupees on board; but her three guns I have brought back, and under all the circumstances it was decided to leave everything in the "Kenia," as although transports were asked from Kismayu, none came, and it was with much regret we left so much valuable property; but, as the lives of the small party were still in considerable danger, nothing else could be done, and I trust everything eventually will be saved.

I ordered an approximate survey of the ship and cargo with a view of clearing the Company's officers, concerning their books and accounts.

But until more peaceful times, the Company will be unable to move the ship without a force, and at present the only feed pump of the boiler is in a very defective condition, and must be repaired.

I would wish to bring to your notice Mr. Louis Barber, Gunner, who greatly assisted me throughout with his untiring energy, forethought, and suggestions concerning the defence of the "Kenia," and plan of attack, and in action he was always to the front.

The Count Lovatelli, who was the first to volunteer for the rescue of the Company's officials in the River Juba, was of the greatest assistance to me throughout with his knowledge of the country, resource, and general advice, and during the fighting behaved gallantly.

I would wish most strongly to bring to the notice of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty George T. Carey, Engine Room Artificer, Third Class, official number 141,577, and Alfred White, Leading Stoker, official number 114,956, and the four Stokers who repaired damages to the boiler of the "Kenia" on the two occasions when she was completely broken down; and serious consequences might have ensued on the second occasion had we been compelled to remain the night where we were. This work was performed under the enemy's fire, and I can honestly recommend them for some mark of

their Lordships' appreciation for the zeal and skill with which the work was done.

I have much pleasure in saying that there were no casualties on our side.

In conclusion, I can only say that the men who voluntarily accompanied me performed the forced and arduous marches they had to undergo in the most creditable and enduring manner, and were cool and collected under fire. I submit the attached list for your notice, as all the men were volunteers and of such miscellaneous ratings as to reflect great credit on them.

I have, &c.,

P. VAUGHAN LEWES,  
Lieutenant in Temporary Command,  
Her Majesty's ship "Blanche" and  
Commanding Naval Force landed.

List of Officers and men who voluntarily proceeded to Gobwen to the rescue of two Englishmen under my command:—

Mr. Louis Barber, Gunner.  
John Bennett, Chief Petty Officer.  
Harry Smith, Petty Officer, First Class.  
William Potter, Petty Officer, Second Class.  
William H. Taylor, Petty Officer, Second Class.  
Edwin S. Maddock, Leading Seaman.  
Samuel Train, Leading Seaman.  
Charles Evans, A.B.  
Thomas Cole, Leading Seaman.  
Charles Clift, A.B.  
Charles Grant, A.B.  
George A. Clark, A.B.  
Thomas Bridle, A.B.  
Archibald Howard, A.B.  
Ernest Richardson, A.B.  
Joseph Weekes, A.B.  
William J. Ware, A.B.  
Albert Maddock, A.B.  
Charles Lyne, A.B.  
Arthur W. Davy, Ord.  
Henry Singer, Ord.  
Headon Locke, A.B.  
William Bellamy, A.B.  
John J. Denham, A.B.  
George T. Carey, Engine Room Artificer, Third Class.  
Alfred White, Leading Stoker.  
William J. Easterbrook, Stoker.  
Henry Palmer, Stoker.  
William J. Edmonds, Stoker.  
George Cudlip, Stoker.  
William Henwood, Acting Chief Armourer.  
Alfred Johnson, Ship's Steward.  
Alfred Betts, Chief Writer.  
James Avery, Shipwright.  
Henry Marsh, Probationary Ship's Corporal, Second Class.  
Josiah Millett, Cooper.  
Ernest Reading, Corporal, Royal Marine Light Infantry.  
James Pedley, Sick Berth Attendant.  
Thomas W. Harding, 2nd Yeoman of Signals.  
Jumah Meycham, Seedie.  
Othman, Seedie.  
Moosa bin Assau, Seedie.  
Feraze Sumaheli, Seedie.  
Eussuf bin Abdullah, Interpreter, Third Class.  
P. VAUGHAN LEWES,  
Lieutenant in Temporary Command,  
Her Majesty's ship "Blanche," and  
Commanding Naval Force landed.