

Letter to Commander of Her Majesty's Ship, 31 May 1859

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

Shupanga 31st May

1859

To The

Commander of

Her Majestys Ship -

Sir

I took the liberty
of applying to Admiral
Sir Frederick Grey about
the beginning of the present
year for some salt provisions
for our crew and the
Expedition, and hoped that
it would be in the Admiral's
power to send a vessel
with them to the Mouth of
the Kongone on the 24th
May, but no ship appearing
[0002]

on that day either the Kongone
or Luabo mouths of the Zambesi
I conclude that my letter may
may have been detained in the way
or that the service required
all the ships elsewhere. We
buried a bottle on the island
in the entrance to Kongone
harbour ten yards Magnetic
North of a + cut on one
of the supports of what was
the flag staff containing an
appointment for the 30th
of July next in the same
harbour. It contained also
some account of our movements
and of the discovery of a large

inland Lake to which we propose
to return after visiting Tette.
[0003]

The despatches accompanying
this are of importance as
the first information
respecting the New lake to
our own Government
It is scarcely necessary to
mention this as any
despatches committed to your
charge will without doubt
be carefully preserved.
What is said in the buried
letter is for your own
private information and
that of the Admiral. We say
little to the Portuguese beyond
the fact of having discovered
a large Lake called Shirwa
As yet they have made no
pretensions to a previous knowledge
of it

[0004]

We have had some fever
but of a mild form
D^r Kirk and I have escaped

I have the honour to be

Sir

your most obedient

Servant

David Livingstone

Consul,

commanding Zambesi Expedition