It is May 1822 and this is Southern China; Kowloon province

You are Commodore Gabriel Elliot RN, Flag officer China Station

In the years following the great conflicts in Europe the Europeans have tried to introduce their goods into China. This is partially a result of the massive tariffs imposed by Russia on sterling English goods such as cotton and ale. This has caused great unrest especially in the south of China. Perhaps the opium trade has something to do with this but that’s not your concern what these foreign jonnies do in their spare time. However restriction of trade is another matter.

Recent stories regards the barbarous murder on mutilation of a number of Swedish missionaries has led to the decision to evacuate the existing Honourable East Indian Company posts. You have been tasked with ensuring the safe and swift exit of one such post from Fort Amethyst. However the extensive river defences and absolute refusal of the local Governor to allow this has required an alternative approach. A more “muscular” approach is deemed the way ahead. One with which you are familiar after campaigns in North and South America.

You know that the traders from Fort Amethyst are en-route towards Hei-Wei and the sea. Equally the countryside is in turmoil with rebellion and banditry. So you have decided to land troops from the offshore reserve at your disposal to smooth the way. While this may not be to the liking of the locals you don’t care. Some silver tonged bureaucrat from Bombay can sort this out with a fistful of tael.

Your mission is to ensure the traders, and their goods, escape to sea. It is made harder as you cannot sail your main ships upriver due to a sandbar and the defences. HMS Cossack and HMS Jamaican sit offshore and can fire at riverine defence. HMS Hunter, a gun sloop can cross the bar and provide direct support. You’ll need this as you need to provide a path to the sea for the traders. You have been able to smuggle a message to Fort Amethyst earlier to state you’ll send a signal flare alerting them when you have a landing party ashore and where to head for. (Remember to do this as you won’t be reminded)

Victory Conditions part two; Escape to the Sea

1/ The traders must escape to the sea.

2/ You are British. So nothing else will be acceptable

Army Morale for HM Forces

-1 on command roles for every 12 bases lost. This includes the traders

The loss of HMS Hunter is equal to 4 bases

The loss of HMS Cossack or Jamaican is 12 bases (you lost a RN ship of the line!!)

Forces available

C in C; Commodore Gabriel Elliot; +1 on initiative rolls while on land. +0 if at sea

HMS Hunter; screw sloop; 2 x Heavy British guns +1 if shooting at shipping targets (both guns are mounted on centre line so can fire 120D arc to port or starboard. 30D either side of fore and aft is obscured by scantlings

HMS Hunter acts a battery which always can always move up to 9” and turn 45D. Can absorb 3 hits and then sinks.

HMS Jamaican, HMS Cossack; HM ships of line stationed off shore beyond sandbank.

3 x siege guns that can fire to 24” on table but must have line of sight

Ships can drop anchor to fire and get +1 shooting bonus. But will be treated as a +2 target if shot at

Treated as offtable artillery batteries which can absorb 5 hits each. If silenced will move off station for D4 turns

HM landing forces; OC Commanding Captain James Hope RN, Major Hope Grant RM

Royal Marines (2 x cutters at table edge)

**Elite, British, excellent shots, smooth bore muskets, 8/-/3**

78th Highland foot (2 x cutter at table edge)

**Trained\*, British, excellent shots, smooth bore muskets, Fanatics 8/-/3**

Bombay Marines (2 x cutter at table edge)

**Elite, British drilled Sepoys, good shots, SBm , 8/5/3**

42nd Bengal Infantry (2x cutter at table edge)

**Trained\*, British drilled Sepoys, good shots, SBm , 8/5/3**

\*Units have suffered from seasickness for several days so are handicapped

(Cutter crews can man Chinese artillery if positions captured. Guns will fire as ‘Other artillery’ with +1)

Cutters move 4” per turn but roll as regulars in good order – note officers can be attached to a cutter. When disembarking troops form on coast as single line disordered. Troops in cutters as masse targets.