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

You are EIC agent Captain Jonathan Richmond RN ret,

In the years following the Napoleonic wars Europe is at peace. However certain European states have sought to still restrict the imports of the world’s greatest traders, the English. One example of this is the massive tariffs levied by the Tsars of Russia on beers. This has lead in turn to expansion of trade in India and China. I’m sure you are aware of the new popular drink in India, India Pale Ale. In addition you have been a vital cog in the development of the Opium trade in Southern China.

All this is about to end. Recent unrest in the countryside has been exploited by the local governor in an effort to rid him of the exotic produce of India, and also to restrict the local Christian Missionary movement. You have decided it is best to make for the Portuguese settlement at Macao.

This is an exercise best performed in two parts.

1. Part one – You will need to travel from the local trading post of the Black Swan. This is an ironic pun on the local against the Christian missionaries who walk about dressed in black like a swan. Your initial destination is the trading factory or fort at Fort Amethyst. This is an inland riverine port
2. Part two- you will travel in strength from Fort Amethyst to the mouth of the Jin-Yang River. At the mouth of the river there is a set of coastal fortifications you will need to storm from land or sea in order to make a safe passage out to sea. If you try to run the forts it is assumed that you will run afoul of the assorted minefields and river obstacles. You will also have to explain the loss of the trading sloop Amethyst to EIC officials.

Victory Conditions part one; The race to Fort Amethyst

1/ Make your way to Fort Amethyst. There will be a sortie from the Fort to help you in.

2/ Victory is defined by ensuring you reach the fort alive with as many troops and baggage as possible.

3/ You have two baggage trains to transport to the fort. One is the missionaries who being good Christians must survive. The second is the properties of the HEIC.

4/ Critically one of the trains carries a chest of what you claim is vital company documents. Only you know that The Inn of the Black Swan has been in part a cover operating in very illegal ruby and amethyst trading. If this is found the local governor can have you all executed. It is also literally worth a king’s ransom. You will be asked to identify which train this is with and will not be able to transfer it during the march to the fort

Army break points

-1 On command rolls for every 8 bases lost. Note losing baggage counts as treble points. You’re not supposed to lose these after all.

Forces available

C in C; You ; +1 on command rolls

***The Black Swan party;***

Captain Bernard Skinner; HEIC 2nd Bengal Native Infantry Charismatic

Detachment Royal Marines (Elite, British, excellent shots, smooth bore muskets, 8/-/3)

1st Detachment Madras Grenadiers (Elite, British drilled Sepoys, good shots, SBm , 8/5/3)

2nd Detatchment Madras Grenadiers (Elite, British drilled Sepoys, good shots, SBm , 8/5/3)

HEIC Employees Infantry (Conscript, British, SBm, SBm , 8/6/4)\*

\*A collection of clerks, shopkeepers etc. pressed into uniforms and given muskets – god help us!

2 sections of Madras artillery (Elite, good shots, foot artillery) \*\*

\*\* this is in effect two guns per section. So damage will reduce the troop to one gun.

2 baggage trains moving at regular foot artillery speed. No shooting and -3 on combat.

Note; Troops are rated elite as they know they must get to the fort or die in a foreign field in some dreadful manner. They have nothing to lose.

***Forces in Fort Amethyst***

This is the garrison of the fort as well as the relief force for the Black Swan Inn train

Major Elias Dundee; OC commanding; Ex HM 25th foot

Captain Runciman; Madras Pioneers

Detatchment Skinners Horse (Elite, British, Lancers; 6/-/2)

Detatchment Bengal Lancers (Trained, well drilled, lancers; 6/4/2)

Lake’s Troop Horse artillery (Elite, light horse artillery)

1st Bengal Native Infantry (Trained, British drilled Sepoys, good shots, SBm , 8/6/4)

2nd Bengal Native Infantry (Trained, British drilled Sepoys, good shots, SBm , 8/6/4)

3rd Bengal Native Infantry (Trained, British drilled Sepoys, good shots, SBm , 8/6/4)

1st foot troop (Trained, good shots, light foot artillery)

2nd foot troop (Trained, good shots, light foot artillery)

3rd foot troop (Trained, good shots, heavy foot artillery)