

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

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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[0001]

Shupanga 31<sup>st</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> May, but no ship appearing

[0002]

on that day either the Kongone or Luabo mouths of the Zambesi I conclude that my letter 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>e</sup> Kirk and I have escaped  
I have the honour to be  
Sir  
Your most obedient  
servant  
David Livingstone  
Consul,  
commanding Zambesi Expedition