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A CENTENARY WH TREACHER AND THE LIMBANG REVOLT, 1884-5**AVM Horton**

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INTRODUCTION

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Beginnings

On 16 September 1884 Mr WH Treacher,⁴ acting British consul-general in Borneo, reported that there had been "disturbances in the Limbang 'river' (i.e. district) in the neighbourhood of the city of Brunei, one of the principal sago 'rivers' of . . . the Sultan"⁵ Some weeks earlier, the *Pengiran Temenggong*⁶ (namely *Pengiran Anak* – later Sultan – Hashim), who had "the chief interest in the 'river'", had sent his agents upstream to collect duties and revenues. The people there refused to pay and killed two of the messengers to emphasize the point. At the beginning of September, the *pengiran* himself travelled upriver in the hope of settling matters, but his messenger, who had been sent on ahead, was fired upon and further fatalities occurred. Soon afterwards the *Temenggong*'s own launch was attacked, the rebels maintaining "what the Malays here deem a very heavy fire for a couple of days from the river bank where they were protected from the return fire by jungle and by sago palm trunks". The *pengiran* then returned to Brunei Town, but not before his own launch had been several times struck, one shot going through the funnel and entering the cabin. At least two more Bruneis were killed and several more wounded during this last attack.

Following a request from Sultan Abdul Mumin (r 1852–85), the British consul agreed to enforce a ban on the export of arms *via* Labuan