The Cursed Map of Skeleton Island

Esteemed members of the Royal Geographic Society,

I, Jack Hawkins, have just returned from a treacherous expedition to Skeleton Isle, encountering munities on board along with a fire on the deck, which was likely to be lit by traitorous hands. When we arrived at the island, we encountered a dark spirit which let us choose our destiny, before obliterating a cursed amulet. This led us to break free the enchanted island from its spell.

As we drew near the island in the 100-gunned HMS Royal George (1756), we wrongly thought that little could possibly go wrong in our expedition. However, trouble soon arose. The middle gundeck was soon ablaze, and although nobody knew who started the inferno, our best predictions pointed out that it was likely a traitor, one from the treacherous gang led by Long John Silver. Despite our best efforts to put it out, the blaze was growing larger by the minute and by the time we managed to, the ship was badly damaged.

We had to abandon ship, so a few loyal seamen jumped into a paddleboat with me, and we paddled to the cursed shores of Skeleton Isle. Some of the men held back, convinced that the island was riddled with traps, though eager ones leaped out of the boat in the frantic search for treasure. However, those that held back were right - patches of quicksand and killed off many of our men. Thee rest of us loaded up muskets and rifles and ventured in the heart of the island.

Before long, more people in our squadron randomly went missing. I swear I saw one of our acquaintances fade slowly into thin air right before my eyes. The curse itself began to appear – in the form of a horridly frightening spirit. We naturally raised our weaponry and opened fire, but the spirit was unaffected. It told us to face our fears and vanished without a trace. With no pause, we all instinctively ran back to what remained of the Royal Geroge.

In the weeks in returning, we realized that we had not yet looted Flint’s treasure, though it barely mattered. The real lesson was the experience-this is a moment I will never forget. We had learnt the most asset – the wisdom of facing our fears rather than the treasure itself.

I stand ready to give a more detailed account at the society’s convenience.