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WAR-OFFICE, November 4, 1860.

MR SECRETARY HERBERT has received two Despatches with Enclosures, of which the following are Copies, addressed to him by Lieutenant-General Sir J. Hope Grant, K.C.B., Commanding the Forces in China:—

No. 37. Head-Quarters,  
Sir, Tangku, August 24, 1860.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Allied Forces were unable to leave Pehtang until the 12th August, on account of the very heavy rain, which had made the country almost impassable.

On that morning however, the troops marched, according to the following dispositions, viz.—the 2d Division of infantry, an Armstrong battery, a rocket battery, Madras sappers, and the cavalry brigade, with three 6-pounders. The whole, under Major-General Sir Robert Napier, struck off to the right of the road leading from Pehtang to Sinho, for the purpose of turning the left of the Tartar position. This column experienced the greatest difficulty in getting through the deep heavy ground, which extended for more than two miles out of Pehtang, and considerably delayed the departure of the main column under Sir John Michel, which moved along the causeway leading directly from Pehtang to Sinho, and which was composed as follows, viz.—The 1st infantry brigade, a company of royal engineers, an Armstrong battery, 1,000 French infantry, and a French battery, all under Brigadier Staveley. This was followed by the 2d infantry brigade, two 9-pounder batteries, and a rocket battery, succeeded by the main column of the French.

On approaching the entrenched camp, the Tartar cavalry moved rapidly down to attack Sir Robert Napier, who was at this time about two and a half miles off, on my right flank. His Report of that part of the engagement I beg to enclose.

Sir John Michel's Division deployed at the same time in front of the enemy's works, and opened fire with Lieutenant-Colonel Barry's Armstrong battery, and Captain Desborough's 9-pounders, a French battery being on the left, together with a French and an English rocket battery. These guns kept up such a heavy fire that the Tartars were unable to resist long, and they abandoned their works, being closely followed into their second

entrenched line at Sinho, which they were unable to defend, and fled to Tangku.

I enclose Sir J. Michel's Report of this affair.

The enemy's force was composed principally of cavalry, and numbered about 4,000 men. At Sinho I was joined by Sir R. Napier's Division and the cavalry, who had cut up a good number of the Tartar horsemen.

The loss of the Chinese was about 100 men.

On the 13th I reconnoitred the ground along the banks of the Peiho leading to Tangku, and found it tolerably firm, though intersected with creeks and ditches. I ordered these to be bridged during the night; and on the morning of the 14th an Allied Force moved from Sinho towards Tangku, keeping their right flank on the bank of the river. The English part of the force consisted of the 1st infantry division under Sir John Michel, and the artillery, as per margin,\* which formed one grand battery, under Brigadier-General Crofton, R. A.

On arriving within a mile of Tangku, a battery and some junks on the right bank were silenced by two Armstrong and two 9-pounder guns; and a party of sailors who had been brought up for the purpose, crossed the river and burned the junks.

The whole of the artillery was then advanced to within 600 yards of the entrenchment, and opened a heavy fire on the walls; two French batteries deployed on our left; the enemy replying with ten or twelve guns, and a brisk fire of gingalls and matchlocks. The artillery gradually advanced to within 350 yards, and the enemy's guns being silenced, a breach was commenced, when a passage across the double wet ditch was discovered at the river's edge by the 60th Rifles, and an entrance was effected, the Chinese retiring with great precipitancy. At the same time the French advanced with great gallantry and entered by the main gate, which had been partially broken in by the artillery fire. The garrison of Tangku retreated, some into the North Forts, and some across the river to Tangku.

I am happy to say that our losses in these engagements were very slight, owing to the enemy's

\* 2 Armstrong batteries, 2 9-pounder batteries, 2 rocket batteries.

NEWSPAPER



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