

being completely paralyzed by the superior fire of our artillery.

Forty-five guns were captured in Tangku. My thanks are due to Major-General Sir John Michel and Sir R. Napier, commanding divisions, (the former had a horse killed under him on the 14th,) also to Brigadier-General Crofton, commanding Royal Artillery, and Brigadier Pattle, commanding the cavalry, for the able way in which they exercised their respective commands; and the whole of the officers and soldiers acquitted themselves to my satisfaction.

I beg to enclose a list of casualties.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) J. HOPE GRANT,  
Lieutenant-General,  
Commanding Her Majesty's Forces  
in China.

The Right Honourable  
The Secretary of State for War.

No. 38. Head-Quarters, Tangku,  
SIR, August 24, 1860.

I HAVE the honour to report that after the capture of Tangku on the 14th instant, I commenced bringing up siege guns and ammunition from Pehtang, with a view to the reduction of the uppermost fort on the left bank of the Peiho, distant about two miles from Tangku.

The ground upon which it was necessary to advance was mostly of a very difficult nature, and intersected with broad and deep canals used in the manufacture of salt.

I placed Major-General Sir R. Napier in charge of the advance, his division being quartered in Tangku. Under his superintendence bridges were thrown over these ditches and canals by Lieutenant-Colonel Mann, commanding Royal Engineers; and heavy guns, as per margin,\* with a good supply of ammunition having been brought into Tangku, the 67th Regiment and an Armstrong battery were pushed forward on the evening of the 19th, to within 2,000 yards, to cover the working parties making roads, bridges, &c. On the 20th the road was made practicable to within 800 yards of the fort, batteries were traced, and the heavy guns were brought out ready to place in position by daybreak of the following day. The Chinese opened fire during the day, and were replied to by Captain Milward's Armstrong guns at 2,000 yards range, with good effect, and the firing gradually ceased.

During the night batteries were constructed for the heavy guns and mortars, and for one field battery, also for two 8-inch guns, which were brought up by great exertions from Pehtang during the night; and the whole were placed in position by daybreak of the 21st August.

It had been arranged with the Admirals that the gunboats should cross the bar that morning, and should engage the outer North Fort and the flank of the outer South Fort at the same time that the attack on the inner North Fort was commenced by the land forces.

At 5 A.M., however, the Chinese opened fire upon the troops from all their forts, within range, and we were thus forced to reply an hour earlier than had been intended.

The artillery was disposed as follows:—a French 24-pounder battery of 6 pieces, one English 8-inch gun, and 2 Armstrongs, played on the inner South Fort to keep down the fire they might

\* 2 32-pounder guns, 2 8-inch howitzers, 3 8-inch mortars, 3 5½-inch mortars.

otherwise have poured on our right flank. Two Armstrong guns and two 9-pounders fired from Tangku across the river, at an entrenchment which flanked the French right; three 8-inch mortars were in the centre at 600 yards range, and to their left rear an Armstrong battery, two 32-pounder guns, and two 8-inch howitzers, all of which played on the fort we were attacking. In addition to this two 9-pounder guns, four 24-pounder howitzers, the remaining 2 Armstrong guns, and a rocket battery, were placed in the open ground about 800 yards in front of the fort.

The storming party of infantry consisted of a wing of the 44th, under Lieutenant-Colonel MacMahon, and a wing of the 67th, under Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas, supported by the other wings of those two Regiments, and the Royal Marines under Lieutenant-Colonel Gascoigne. A detachment of Royal Marines, under Lieutenant-Colonel Travers, carried a pontoon bridge for crossing the wet ditches, and Major Graham, R.E., conducted the assault. The whole were commanded by Brigadier Reeves.

The fire of the artillery was most effective, the guns of the fort (of which many were of very large calibre,) were speedily silenced, and at about 7 A.M. the magazine blew up with a terrific explosion. A few minutes later the magazine in the outer North Fort was also exploded by a shell from the gun-boats.

The field guns were all advanced to within 500 yards of the fort, and redoubled their efforts.

The fire of the forts having almost entirely ceased, a breach was commenced near the gate, and a portion of the storming party was advanced to within 30 yards to open a musketry fire, the French infantry being on the right, the English on the left.

The fire of our artillery being thus partially compelled to slacken, the enemy emerged from their cover, and opened a heavy fire of musketry on our troops.

The French, under General Collineau, immediately pushed on to the salient next the river, crossed the wet ditches in the most gallant manner, and established themselves on the berm, from whence they endeavoured to escalate the walls; this, however, they were unable to effect, from the vigorous resistance of the Chinese.

The efforts of the Sappers to lay down the pontoon bridge were unavailing; no less than fifteen of the men carrying it being knocked over in one instant, and one of the pontoons destroyed.

At this juncture Sir R. Napier caused the two howitzers of Captain Govan's battery to be brought up to within 50 yards of the gate, in order more speedily to create a breach, and a space sufficient to admit one man had just been made when our storming party, (now joined by the head quarters' wing of the 67th, under Colonel Knox,) who had partly crossed by the French bridge and partly swum over, forced their way in by single file in the most gallant manner, Lieutenant Rogers, 44th Regiment, and Lieutenant Burslem, 67th Regiment, being the first to enter, when they assisted in the regimental colours of the 67th, carried by Ensign Chaplin, who first planted them on the breach (assisted by Private Lane 67th Regiment), and subsequently on the cavalier, which he was the first to mount. At the same moment the French effected their entrance, and the garrison was driven back step by step, and hurled pell-mell through the embrasures on the opposite side.

Here the same obstacles which had impeded our advance obstructed their retreat; in addition to two wet ditches and two belts of pointed bamboo