

As it was of the utmost importance, with a view to ulterior operations, and the advanced period of the present monsoon, that we should be delayed as short a time as possible at Amoy, it was determined that the batteries within the barrier wall and on the island of Golong-soo should be immediately attacked by the squadron, and the troops landed within the barrier as soon as it might be practicable, to take the batteries in the rear. For this object the Wellesley and Blenheim were ordered to anchor against the strongest batteries on Amoy, and as near the entrance of the harbour as possible, leaving the Cruiser Pylades, Columbine, and Algerine, to engage the extreme point of the line, and cover the landing of the troops, flanked by the heavy guns of the Sesostris and Queen steam-vessels, the Phlegathon and Nemesis being appointed to receive the troops, and tow in the boats for landing them.

The attack on the island of Golong-soo, where we had reason to apprehend the water was shoaler, was assigned to Captain Bouchier, of the Blonde, with the Druid and Modeste, 150 marines under Captain Ellis, and a detachment of the 26th Regiment, under Major Johnstone.

Pending the necessary preparations for disembarking the troops and moving the ships into their appointed positions, a communication was received from the shore, requesting to know the object of our visit, to which the answer No. 1 was returned.

About a quart past one, a steady and favourable breeze having set in, the squadron weighed, and proceeded to their stations. The Sesostris, being the most advanced, received a heavy fire before any return was made. She was soon joined by the Queen, and both commenced action with good effect.

The Wellesley and Blenheim, after ranging along the line of works on Amoy under a smart fire, were anchored by the stern about half-past two P.M. admirably placed by Captains Maitland and Herbert in ten fathoms water, within 400 yards of the principal battery, precisely in the position allotted them, and the Cruiser, Pylades, Columbine, and Algerine, took their stations with equal judgment.

The Blonde, Druid, and Modeste, reached their positions against the batteries on Golong-soo a few minutes earlier, but their captains found such difficulty from the shallowness of the water in placing them satisfactorily, that to effect this object they very spiritedly carried their ships into almost their own draught.

The Bentinck had been appointed to sound the channel ahead of the Wellesley, as we ran in, which Lieutenant Collinson very skilfully performed, and then gallantly anchored the brig within the entrance of the harbour, where she was joined by the Sesostris, which was placed by Captain Ormsby in a very judicious situation for relieving her and the other ships from a flanking fire.

The fire of the Chinese soon slackened under the excellent gun practice of the squadron. At half-past three I had the satisfaction of seeing the marines and the 26th regiment land on the island of Golong-soo, and the British colours planted on the batteries. The Modeste and Blonde then weighed and stood into the inner harbour; and, after silencing, they passed the town batteries, which were out of our reach; they anchored completely inside and

abreast of the city, taking possession of twenty-six war junks, with 128 guns on board, in a state of preparation for sea, but deserted by their crews.

About the same time the first division of troops were landed under the able direction of Commander Giffard, of the Cruiser, and, headed by their gallant General, Sir Hugh Gough, escalated and took possession of the works at the barrier wall.

An outwork beyond this point (which had been previously silenced) was also entered, and the British colours hoisted by the crew of a boat from the Phlegathon; and the batteries immediately opposite the Wellesley and Blenheim being nearly demolished, a party of seamen and marines were landed from those ships, under the command of Commander Fletcher, and the officers undermentioned, by whom the Chinese, who had taken shelter in an adjoining building, were put to flight, after discharging their matchlocks, and possession taken of the works. Wellesley—Acting-Lieutenant Carmichael, Lieutenant White, Royal Marines; Mates, Lord A. Beaucherk, S. S. L. Crofton, L. G. Halsted; Midshipman, W. F. Jackson. Blenheim—Captain Whitcomb, Royal Marines; Mates, R. C. Kevern, F. A. St. Leger.

The General having cleared the intermediate space of such of the Chinese as remained, pushed forward and occupied the heights immediately above the town. For the night, every point being thus completely in our power.

In detailing this service to your Lordship, I have the highest satisfaction in reporting the gallantry, zeal and energy which have been manifested by every officer and man in Her Majesty's navy and royal marines, as well as those of the Indian navy under my command. They have vied with each other in the desire to anticipate and meet every object for the public service, and are fully entitled to my best acknowledgments, and the favourable consideration of the Board of Admiralty and Indian Government. I have no less pleasure in witnessing the anxiety which pervades all ranks to go hand in hand with our gallant companions of the army.

His Excellency Sir H. Pottinger and suite were with me on board the Wellesley during the operations of the 26th.

Captain Bouchiers' own report (Enclosure No. 2) will best describe the proceedings of the little squadron placed under his orders for the attack of Golong-soo, which was admirably executed; and I can only add my meed of praise on this additional instance of the gallantry of Captain Ellis and the officers and men of the royal marines under his command, as well as of Major Johnston and the detachment of the 26th acting with them.

The accounts we have received of the force of the Chinese for the defence of Amoy vary from five thousand six hundred to ten thousand troops; and it is with sincere pleasure I am enabled to transmit to your Lordship so small a list of casualties amongst the crews of the squadron. (Enclosure No. 3.) The resistance made by our opponents would have justified the apprehension of greater injury. Under the protection of their well-constructed casemated works, they stood on some points firmly to their guns. We have no knowledge of their actual loss. More than sixty dead bodies were, I believe, found in the batteries; but nearly all the wounded, and