

another force of from 5,000 to 6,000 men, under Commissioner Wun, with the military chest, was posted in a fortified camp in the hills at the Chang Kee pass.

The necessary arrangements having been made with Rear-Admiral Sir William Parker, the troops named in the margin,\* were all embarked by eight o'clock in the morning of the 15th, on board the steamers, Queen, Nemesis, Phlegethon. Sir William Parker placed at my disposal 350 seamen and marines, making up about 1000 bayonets; at twelve o'clock this force was landed, about 4 miles from Tse Kee, from whence we had a perfect view of the enemy's encampments, and I immediately pushed forward on the city. I feel it right here to observe, that Sir William Parker accompanied me throughout the operations I am about to detail, and from his sound judgment and excellent arrangements I received the most valuable assistance.

Upon our approaching Tse Kee and our occupying a hill which commands the southern face of the walls and the south gate, the Chinese fired all the guns and gintjals they had for the defence of this gate, but with so little effect, and at so great a distance, that it led me to believe that they, most unaccountably, did not propose to defend the city, and I was confirmed in this conclusion by observing that the ramparts nearest us were unoccupied, while the Segao hills, at the opposite side of the town, on which were their encampments, appeared crowded with troops. Lieutenant-Colonel Montgomerie having, with his usual promptitude, brought up his guns, I determined at once to take the city by storm, pass through to the north gate, there re-unite my force, and carry the enemy's encampment. I was led to this line of operation by the conclusion before mentioned, that the Chinese did not mean to defend the city, as well as with a view to expedite the attack on the height, as it would otherwise have been necessary, to provide for the possible care of the enemy's being in force within the walls, to make a detour, out of range, through the paddy fields, but my principal object was to prevent the enemy from falling back on the city when driven from the hills. In furtherance of these views, I directed the naval brigade, with a party of sappers, covered by the guns and the Madras rifles, if opposed, to escalate the walls in my front, assemble on the ramparts, and move along them to the north gate. The 49th I instructed to move on the south gate, blow it open, and join the naval brigade on the rampart. I had previously ordered the 18th to dislodge a body of the enemy that occupied a hill to the north east of the city, after which they were to move round the walls, out of gintjal range, and threaten the north gate; should the naval brigade and 49th meet with opposition, the 26th were placed in reserve, and were directed to move with and protect the guns.

\* Madras artillery, with 4 light field guns, 83; 18th Royal Irish, 201; 26th Cameronians, 156; 49th regiment, 805; Rifles, 36th N.I., 54; Sappers, 66.—Total, 865.

A few minutes placed the naval brigade on the walls unopposed, and the whole promptly formed on the rampart; the Royal Irish, meanwhile, dispersed the enemy in their front and rapidly moved on the north gate. I accompanied the 49th, but finding that the bridge over the canal close to the south gate, was destroyed, and that it would take some time to replace it, this corps passed along a canal under the walls, and I directed the naval brigade to move parallel with it upon the ramparts; the whole force thus soon arrived at the place of assembly, the north gate.

The city of Tse Kee is surrounded on three sides with precipitous hills, and the north gate is on a low spur of one of those hills, which terminates in an eminence with the walls; at the north-western extremity of a range of high hills, being a branch of the mountains that skirt the coast are the Clegaon or Seguen hills on which were the encampments, both were of considerable extent, and the natural difficulties of the position strengthened by a battis. These camps, which, as well as the summits of the hills beyond them, were thickly occupied, were within long range of the walls, the intervening space being a tract of paddy fields, with a few scattered houses. I at once perceived that the position was faulty, as the hills on our right commanded their left, while their left commanded our right, and I made my dispositions accordingly; the 18th with the Rifle company, 36th Madras Native Infantry, were ordered to move up a ravine and occupy a hill to the left of the position. The naval brigade was instructed to move under the walls and occupy two rather large buildings in front of the right encampment, making a lodgement, under cover ready to rush forward when the 18th should reach the summit, and turn the enemy's left; with the 49th I proposed to attack at the same moment the largest encampment in my front, my great object being to make a simultaneous attack with the three columns, pushing the 18th down in rear, while the naval brigade should cut off all communication with the city; so rapid were our movements that only one gun could be brought up, notwithstanding the praiseworthy exertions of Lieutenant Colonel Montgomerie, who dashed his gun into the canal and entered the city by a water gate. This gun was ably brought up and did good execution under the direction of Captain Moore, of the Madras artillery, who with his party merit great praise for the extraordinary exertions in dragging it through paddy fields and across canals.

The steepness of the mountain gorge by which the Royal Irish and Rifles ascended, notwithstanding the enthusiasm of their advance, occupied more time in surmounting than I had anticipated, and finding that the naval brigade might probably suffer more by the delay than in an immediate attack, and that the enemy appeared to gain confidence by their delay, I ordered the advance to be sounded, when the 49th with their accustomed spirit, rushed up the hill, overcoming all opposition, and crowned its height within a few minutes, driving every thing before them. From this height it afforded me no small satisfaction, to witness the spirited rush of the advance of the marine brigade, led by their gallant