

some guns were advanced on a height to dislodge the troops, with which it was now observed the ramparts were lined, but the canal was found to run close under its walls, which rendered an assault at this point impracticable; it was therefore determined to blow open the west gate with powder bags, and enter the city by the bridge at that point as soon as the third brigade, under Major-General Bartley, (which was the last landed) could assemble.

During these proceedings, the boats of the *Blonde*, in an anxious desire to land the artillery guns as near as possible to the West-gate, unfortunately advanced by the canal, under the city walls, which were much obscured by buildings before they were aware of the force to which they became exposed; and thus fell under a very severe fire, by which sixteen men out of twenty-four, which formed the crews of the *Blondes's* barge and flat boat, and two officers and eight men of the *Madras* artillery were wounded; and it was only by great presence of mind that Lieutenant Crouch, of that ship, after receiving three wounds, succeeded in getting the men from those boats landed in the suburbs on the opposite side, and removed the other boats from a position in which it was impossible to use their guns.

Not a moment was lost in communicating this casualty to the flag-ship, when Captain Richards, with excellent judgment and promptitude immediately landed with 200 marines at the entrance of the canal, where he was joined by a detachment of 300 of the 6th *Madras* native infantry, under Captain Maclean of that corps, and pushed through the suburbs to the city walls, while the whole of the boats of the *Cornwallis*, with their guns, under the command of Lieutenant Stoddart, advanced by the canal on his right flank. This little flotilla having joined the boats of the *Blonde*, took up an excellent position and opened their fire with good effect in checking that of the Chinese, at the west gate.

Captain Richards had determined if possible to scale the walls, in the hope of forming a junction with General Shoedde's brigade in the city; and having fortunately discovered a heap of rubbish from which his ladders could reach the parapet (about thirty feet high) he was in the act of rearing them, when Commander Watson and Mr. Forster, master, with a boats crew and a small escort of marines joined him from the *Modeste*, which was stationed some miles higher up the river.

Lieutenant Baker, of the *Madras* artillery, Commander Watson, Captain Richards, and a private marine of the *Modeste* were the first who ascended. The two former were wounded, and the latter killed by the fire from the west gate, in this intrepid achievement; the remainder of the gallant band, including part of the 6th *Madras* Native Infantry, happily followed, without further loss, thus effecting an important lodgment in the suburbs of the city, between the outer and inner west gates, where they shortly afterwards communicated with the advance of Major-General Schloedde's brigade.

About noon, the arrangements for forcing the west outer gate being completed, it was most effectually blown in, when the third brigade, under

Major-General Bartley, accompanied by the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces, gallantly rushed in, sweeping all before them. The buildings above the gate, in which the Tartar troops had been posted, were at the same time completely enveloped in flames. The Tartars, however, within the city, were still unsubdued, and having collected in a large body, the 18th and 49th regiments, in advancing by the ramparts, about half an hour after the explosion of the gate, were suddenly fired upon, and unfortunately sustained a severe loss of officers and men, although their opponents suffered in a ten-fold degree.

The seamen and marines under Captain Richards were at this time halted for temporary rest, on another part of the ramparts, but immediately advanced in the direction of the firing, and in passing along a narrow street in the Tartar city, received a volley from a considerable body of those troops, who had posted themselves at a gateway, where they seemed inclined to make a determined stand; but on the advance of our men, and the discharge of a few rockets, they retired, leaving several men dead; and many others, who had the temerity to fire from the houses as our men passed along the streets, shared the same fate. In this movement, I regret to say, that Lieutenant Fitzjames, one seaman, and one marine of the *Cornwallis* were severely wounded.

The operations of this day were executed under a burning sun, with the thermometer above 90, and the loss of life in consequence has been serious; in addition to those killed and wounded in action, I have to lament the loss of Brevet Major Uniacke, an old and distinguished officer of the Royal Marines, and one private of the *Plover* who died from the effect of the sun; and I fear the army did not lose less than sixteen from the same cause.

The movements were so entirely military, that I can but express my admiration of the energy and ability with which they were conducted by my gallant colleague, the General; and it is with renewed pleasure, that I again report the zeal and gallantry evinced by every officer and man of the Royal and Indian Navy and Royal Marines under my command, which has been equally manifested in bringing the fleet up this river, as in the subsequent operations on shore, in which they have been engaged.

I enclose a list of the ships present in the Yang-tse-Keang, of the killed and wounded; and also of the names of the officers of the squadron, who were from circumstances most conspicuously engaged on the 21st.

It is unnecessary to speak further on the share which Captain Richards and his companions had in the assault on the outworks of the city; they will no doubt be properly appreciated by their Lordships. Lieutenant Tennant, my flag Lieutenant, took a prominent part in the attack of the Tartar Troops in the city.

Lieutenant Fitzjames (severely wounded) a highly deserving officer has already distinguished himself on different occasions.

Lieutenant Stoddart showed excellent judgment