

Hired armed steamer Corsair, 18th Regiment—4 officers, 106 non-commissioned officers and rank and file.

Total Infantry—44 officers, 922 non-commissioned officers and rank and file.

Hired lorcha, No. 1, armed as a gun-boat—Detachment Royal Artillery, and all the Ordnance stores, &c.

Hired lorcha, No. 2—Detachment Royal Sappers and Miners, with tools, scaling ladders, and other materials.

At nine o'clock the following morning, the Squadron arrived at the Rocca Tigris, when the Vulture, taking up a convenient position, with the Old and New Arrunghoy Batteries on one side, and the North and South Wangtung Batteries on the other, lowered her boats, in which two detachments, the one under Lieutenant-Colonel Brereton, C.B., Royal Artillery, the second in command, the other under my immediate superintendence, were instantly disembarked, and the respective batteries having been surprised and taken possession of without opposition, the guns were spiked, the ammunition destroyed, and the garrisons permitted to retire without molestation.

At six o'clock the squadron arrived at Wampo, beyond which the Vulture's draught of water would not permit her to proceed.

The following morning the troops were distributed in the steamers Pluto and Corsair, and the armed boats of the Vulture, with the exception of the detachment of Seapoys on board the Espiegle, and a party which it was deemed prudent to leave for the security of the Vulture, in consequence of the greater part of her crew being employed on boat service.

I have established my head-quarters on board the Pluto, to which vessel Sir John Davis likewise removed from the Vulture.

About eleven o'clock we arrived at a reach of the river on which stand four strong forts, namely, Pachow, Wookongtap, Napier, and Wampo creek.

The attack on the two first I entrusted to Lieut.-Colonel Brereton, C.B., and that on the two others, which was led by Major Aldrich, Royal Engineers, I reserved for my own immediate supervision.

To gain access to Forts Pachow and Napier, which were approached simultaneously, it was found necessary to blow in the gates, after which the guns were spiked and the troops re-embarked.

On proceeding towards Forts Wookongtap and Wampo Creek, a well directed fire of round shot, chain shot, and grape, was opened by those batteries upon the steamers and boats; and I consider it due to Lieut.-Colonel Brereton to state, that, but for the intelligent manner in which that officer directed the crowded boats under his command, to be steered upon the salient angle of Fort Wookongtap, a very heavy loss must have inevitably ensued, as the showers of grape which were poured from guns of large calibre fell thickly around the boats almost immediately after the Lieut.-Colonel had caused this judicious movement to be made.

The greater part of the seamen being employed in pulling the boats, the guns of the steamers Pluto and Corsair were chiefly manned by the acting

gunners of the 18th Regiment, and I have much satisfaction in stating, that, on the batteries opening fire, they were promptly replied to by the steamers, in a style that would have done credit to experienced Artillery men.

The gun boat of the Royal Artillery also opened its fire, and threw some shot into Fort Wampo Creek.

On the troops reaching the shore, the garrisons of Forts Napier and Wampo Creek evacuated the works by the rear, but entrances were speedily effected by means of powder bags, which were applied to the principal gates by Captain Durnford and Lieutenant Da Costa of the Royal Engineers.

The guns having been all spiked and the magazines exploded the expedition next proceeded to the French-folly Fort, a strong work, surmounted by a Keep, commanding one of the narrowest bends of the river.

The descent upon this fort was equally rapid as upon those that preceded it, and the gate having been blown in, it was ascertained from the preparations obviously made in the batteries for our reception, that a very few minutes delay would have brought upon us the fire of this formidable work.

Four other batteries were afterwards spiked without opposition, and by six o'clock in the evening the greater part of the troops had landed at the British Factories, after having spiked, or otherwise rendered unserviceable, eight hundred and seventy-nine pieces of heavy cannon, as per annexed return.

It became now necessary to secure our position from attack on the land side, and fortunately the situation of the factories in relation to the surrounding suburbs, enabled me, by a series of defensible barricades, to shut up all the avenues of approach.

The following day, the 4th instant, the detachment arrived from the Espiegle, and additional measures were taken to strengthen our position, and to obtain local knowledge of its environs.

The same day Sir John Davis was waited upon at the British Consulate within the Factories, by the Chinese High Commissioner Keying, to whom he prescribed certain terms, failing compliance with which before six o'clock the next evening, his Excellency declared his intention of breaking off all further negotiations, and of employing the forces under my command, in conjunction with that of my coadjutor Captain McLaughlin, in redressing by more serious hostile operations the injuries complained of.

The ensuing day, the 5th instant, the High Commissioner requested that the period allowed him for consideration of the proposed terms might be extended to 8 o'clock the following morning. After this request had been granted, intelligence was received of bodies of troops moving into the city. I accordingly lost no time in making my dispositions for the assault.

I will here inform your Lordship that my confidence in our dispositions for the attack was much strengthened by the result of a reconnaissance made at day-break that morning by Captain Clark Kennedy, the Acting Assistant Quarter-Master-General, and Lieutenant Da Costa of the Royal