

No. 71.

REGISTER ROLL of Casualties by Death, &c., among the European Non-Commissioned Rank and File of the Honorable Company's Army, in consequence of the Mutinies in Northern India, that have been reported to this Department from 21st of May, 1858, up to this date.

Corps.	Name.	Rank.	General Number.	Nature and Date of Casualty.
3rd European Regt.	John Call ...	Private	1083	Killed April 19, 1858, in action at Banda
Ditto	Patrick Fallon	do	640	Died April 20, 1858, at Banda, of wounds received in action

Adjutant-General's Office, Fort Saint George,
June 7, 1858.

F. GABB, Major,
Deputy Adjutant-General of the Army.

Admiralty, 27th July, 1858.

A DESPATCH, of which the following is an extract, has been received by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, from Rear-Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, K.C.B., the Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's ships and vessels on the East India Station, dated 21st May, 1858:—

I accordingly lost no time in consulting with Rear-Admiral Rigault de Genouilly, and making the necessary arrangements, and the same afternoon we proceeded with all the English gun-boats across the bar to the mouth of the river, where the gun-vessels and French gun-boats named in the margin* had been previously stationed, to give weight to the negotiations. The *Slaney*, *Firm*, *Staunch*, and *Bustard*, conveyed our landing parties, and the *Leven* and *Opossum* those of the French.

From the arrival of the Ambassadors on the 14th April, the Chinese have used every exertion to strengthen the forts at the entrance of the *Pei-Ho*; earthworks, sand-bag batteries, and parapets for the heavy gingalls, have been erected on both sides for a distance of nearly a mile in length, upon which, 87 guns in position were visible, and the whole shore had been piled to oppose a landing. As the channel is only about 200 yards wide, and runs within 400 yards of the shore, these defences presented a formidable appearance. Two strong mud batteries, mounting respectively 33 and 16 guns had been also constructed about 1000 yards up the river, in a position to command our advance. In the rear, several entrenched camps were visible, defended by flanking bastions, and it was known that large bodies of troops had arrived from *Pekin*. All the forts and the camps were covered with the various coloured flags under which the "troops of the eight banners," as the Tartar soldiers are styled, range themselves.

At 8 A.M. yesterday, the notification to the Imperial Commissioner *Tan*, and the summons to deliver up the forts within two hours, were delivered by Captain *Hall*, my Flag Captain, and Capitaine *Reynaud*, Flag Captain of the French Admiral, and accompanied by my gallant colleague, and attended by our respective secretaries and Flag

Lieutenants, we embarked in the *Slaney*, to direct the movements of the squadron.

I beg to enclose a copy of the plan of attack, which was arranged in concert with Admiral *Rigault*.

No answer having been returned to the summons by 10 o'clock, the signal agreed upon was made, and the gun-boats advanced in the prescribed order, led by the *Cormorant*. The Chinese opened fire immediately, and the signal to engage was made a few minutes afterwards from the *Slaney*. By the time all the vessels had anchored in their respective stations, the effects of our well-directed fire had become very apparent. The first fort was entirely dismantled and abandoned, and the second partially so, whilst those on the north side had been completely subdued by the *Cormorant* and two French gun-boats. At the short range within which we engaged, every shot told, and many of the massive embrasures of mud were levelled by shells. At the end of an hour and a quarter, the enemy's fire ceased. The landing parties were then pushed on shore, the one for the north forts, under the orders of Captain *Sir F. Nicholson* and Captain *Leveque*, and that for the south forts, under Captains *Hall* and *Reynaud*, Flag Captains, the Royal Marines on each side being commanded by Major *Robert Boyle* and 1st Lieutenant *McCallum*.

Owing to the destructive fire from the gun boats, but little opposition was made to our landing, and the Chinese troops were observed moving off in masses, whilst our people were in the boats. The flags of the Allied Powers soon replaced those of the Chinese. On the south side 200 large gingalls were found in position near the landing place, on an embankment.

Having obtained possession, the dismantling of the works was commenced, and field pieces landed for the protection of the forces against the possible attacks of the Chinese. Shortly after the landing, our gallant allies sustained a melancholy and heavy loss of men, killed and wounded, by the accidental explosion of a magazine.

When all the vessels had taken up their positions, a bold attempt was made to send down upon them a long array of junks, filled with straw in flames, and drawn across the river; but they fortunately grounded, and though the people, guiding them down the river with ropes, made great efforts to get them off, a few shells from the *Bustard*

* *Nimrod*, *Cormorant*. *Mitraille*, *Fusée*, *Dragonne*, *Avalanche*.