

river, from whence the rebels devastated the country. Vice-Admiral Sir J. Hope and the French Admiral Protêt, having placed under my orders the seamen, troops, and guns detailed in the margin,* the force, with the regiments under my immediate command, numbering in all 1951 men and 12 guns, as per accompanying return, was conveyed in gunboats, and landed at the mouth of the Tserpoo Creek on the morning of the 17th instant. By 2 P.M. the force had arrived in front of Tserpoo, a long and very strongly entrenched stockade and partly-walled town.

The part I selected for attack, though composed of 2 small bastions and a curtain, each bastion mounting 2 guns, appeared the easiest of approach.

Having thrown out Captain Burton's detachment of the 99th Regiment and a company of French Zephyrs to cover the advance of the guns, the former took advantage of some good cover afforded by ruined houses 200 yards from the rebel works, the English Naval and Royal Artillery guns took up a position on some mounds to the right rear of the skirmishers, at a distance of 400 yards from the wall, the French guns being in the left rear of the covering party.

The infantry and small-arms men of the Navy, provided with bridges, ladders, and axes, being under cover, and in immediate support of the guns.

After 5 rounds of shell from each gun, all which burst in and over the works with great precision, the English and French skirmishers, urged by the spirit of rivalry which invariably breaks out on such occasions, made a sudden rush at the place, compelling me to cause the guns to cease firing, and the 5th Bombay Native Light Infantry to dash up to the immediate support of the skirmishers; and thus, with the assistance of the bridges and axe-parties of the 5th Bombay Native Light Infantry and Royal Navy, the difficulties offered by a brisk fire from the rebels, an abatis of felled trees, two staked ditches, and a 14-foot wall flanked by 2 bastions, were overcome with—considering the strength of the place—the trifling loss noticed in the margin.†

I shall do myself the honour to report, by the next mail, the measures contemplated by Sir J. Hope, Admiral Protêt, and myself, for the further expulsion of the insurgents from this neighbourhood.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) C. W. D. STAVELEY,
Brigadier-General
Commanding in China.

*The Right Honourable the Secretary
of State for War, War Office.*

(True Copy.)

LOFTUS MANSERGH,
Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant-General.
19th April, 1862.

Extract of Letter addressed to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards, dated Shanghai, April 6, 1862, referred to in the foregoing Despatch.

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of His Royal Highness the General Commanding-in-Chief that, in consequence of instructions I received from Mr. Bruce, Her Majesty's

* ENGLISH:—293 Seamen and Marines; 3 12-pounder howitzers. FRENCH:—400 Seamen and Zephyrs; 5 mountain-guns.

† CASUALTIES.—Her Majesty's 99th Regiment, 1 private killed; Her Majesty's 5th Bombay Native Light Infantry, 1 wounded; 22nd Bombay Native Light Infantry, 1 wounded; Total—1 killed, 2 wounded. Commander Daverrones, Aide-de-Camp to Admiral Protêt, wounded.

Minister at Peking, to drive the rebels from the vicinity of Shanghai, I attacked on the 4th instant a camp containing about 9,000 rebels, twelve miles distant from this place, with a force numbering in all 1,700 men and 12 shell guns, and composed as follows, viz., 400 seamen and marines and 3 guns, placed at my disposal by Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope; 300 seamen and 4 guns, placed at my disposal by the French Admiral Protêt; half a company of Royal Artillery, with 4 mountain guns and 1 24-howitzer, under Captain Bradshaw, R.A.; 70 men of the 99th Regiment, under Captain Burton; the 5th Bengal Native Infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Stanley; and the 22nd Punjabees, under Major Stafford. The latter military forces being under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Moody, Royal Engineers, the officer in command of the troops at Shanghai.

Colonel Ward, of the Imperial Army, who has been drilling some Chinese, also assisted with 200 of his men.

After about three-quarters of an hour's shelling the rebels bolted from their stronghold, which consisted of a chain of forts very strongly stockaded and entrenched; we pursued them for about two miles, and then returned and burned their camp.

The loss of the rebels was about 300; the casualties on our side, 1 sepoy, of the 5th Bengal Native Infantry, killed, and two privates of the 22nd Punjabees, slightly wounded.

I have, &c.,

C. STAVELEY, Brigadier-General,
Commanding in China.

P.S.—Lieutenant Birch, of the 22nd Punjabees, who was my only Staff officer, was most active, not only during the action, but in making preparations for the expedition.

*Head Quarters, Shanghai,
April 25, 1862.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information copy of an agreement which has been made between Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope, the French Admiral Protêt, and myself, for the protection of Shanghai.

The red line on the accompanying plan shows the limit to the extent of country which we have thought it necessary to clear of the rebels with a view to the safety of Shanghai, and to the supplies of provisions for the support of its population.

Mr. Bruce having consented to the evacuation of Tientsin, I have arranged with Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope, that all the troops in the north, with the exception of a garrison of half a battery of Royal Artillery, and 500 men of the 67th Regiment at Taku, come to Shanghai to assist in the operations decided upon in the accompanying copy of agreement.

When these troops arrive from the north, I shall have at my disposal 2,824 men and 22 guns, as detailed in the margin;* a force, I consider,

* Royal Artillery, 10 officers, 317 Non-commissioned Officers and Men; 5th Bengal Native Infantry, 8 European and 11 Native Officers and 504 Non-commissioned Officers and Men; 22nd Bengal Native Infantry, 10 European and 12 Native Officers, and 577 Non-commissioned Officers and Men; 31st Regiment, 23 Officers and 1019 Non-commissioned Officers and Men; 67th Regiment, 9 Officers and 329 Non-commissioned Officers and Men; 99th Regiment, 4 Officers and 78 Non-commissioned Officers and Men—Total, 64 European and 23 Native Officers, and 2824 Non-commissioned Officers and Men. 6 12-pounder Armstrong guns; 7 4½-inch howitzers; 6 5½-inch mortars; 2 9-pounder guns; 1 24-pounder howitzer.—Total 22.