

15. The troops returned this day to Shanghai, leaving a garrison of 200 British and 200 French troops to hold Kading until relieved by organised Imperialists.

16. A considerable amount of silver and a large quantity of rice was taken in the town, and I have much satisfaction in reporting that the orders previously given forbidding individual plundering were obeyed by Her Majesty's troops, seamen, and marines, to the letter.

17. The English and French admirals and myself propose our next operation being directed on the walled city of Tsingpoo, and I feel confident that we shall be in possession of it, and the other towns which complete the circuit of our limit of operations, in the course of three weeks, and before the hot weather sets in.

18. I beg to transmit a return of the troops, &c., employed in the recent operations, as well as a list of casualties; respecting the latter, I am happy to state that those dangerously wounded are considered likely to recover.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) D. STAVELEY,
Brigadier-General,
Commanding Her Britannic Majesty's
Troops in China.

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

(True Copy.)

LOFTUS MANSERGH.

*Head Quarters, Soonkong,
May 14, 1862.*

SIR,

My letter of the 25th ultimo has already apprised you of the plan of operations agreed upon by Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope, Admiral Protêt, of His Imperial Majesty's navy, and myself, for driving the rebels from Shanghai, to a radius of 30 miles.

I reported the first step taken in the above operations in the capture of Kading.

2. I have now to inform you that the walled city of Tsingpoo was taken by escalade on the 12th instant, by Her Britannic Majesty's land forces and the seamen, marines, and troops placed at my disposal by the British and French Admirals.

3. The force employed in the operation is detailed in the accompanying return.

4. The expedition left Shanghai, in steamers, on the 7th instant, and rendezvoused the same night at the Imperialists' town of Soonkong, situated about half way between Shanghai and Tsingpoo.

The next day it was embarked in small country boats, so as to proceed up the creek or canal leading to Tsingpoo, where it arrived on the 9th inst.

The 10th and 11th were occupied in reconnoitring the city and works, and in making preparations for the attack.

5. Tsingpoo I found to be about 3 miles in circumference, entirely surrounded by a wall 25 feet high, and a ditch 10 feet deep and 60 feet wide, the approaches affording but little cover, and canals intersecting the neighbourhood almost every 200 yards, rendering the country impassable except by means of bridges. Upon the walls several guns were mounted, varying from 6 to 18-pounders, and very many large gingalls.

6. Having decided on the point of attack, the whole of the guns and troops, with the axe, ladder, covering and storming parties were in position by 4 A. M. the 12th instant. Parties of British and French seamen were placed under cover in small

boats in canals leading into the moat, ready when the moment arrived to push forward and form bridges. At daylight the heavy guns opened fire, and by 7 A. M. two practicable breaches were established in the wall, the British Naval 32-pounders and especially a French rifled 64-pounder gun, which was worked from the only gun-boat whose draught of water enabled its being brought up, doing great execution.

7. The English and French bridge parties under the protection of coverers now cleared the stakes in the canals leading into the moat, and established two bridges across it.

8. As soon as the bridges were reported ready, the French ladder and storming parties on the right, and the English, consisting of detachments of the 31st, 67th Regiments, and 22nd Punjab Native Infantry, on the left, advanced, the whole of the small guns being dragged forward and opening fire at the parapet during the movement.

The enemy, however, did not quit the walls, but kept up a smart fire from gingalls up to the moment our men gained the top of the breach.

9. The troops having established themselves within the walls, the city was given in charge to Colonel Ward, of the Imperial Service, and the allied force withdrawn.

10. The next day the whole of the troops returned to Soonkong to prepare for further operations on the opposite side from Shanghai of the Woosung River.

11. We found that the rebels had built on the inside of the parapet a strong stockade, which extended all round the city, this, with the parapet, formed a passage which was covered with a beamed and tiled roof for protection; this roof, however, did not afford much safety to the defenders, four Armstrong guns having been placed in a position to partly enfilade the wall, almost every shell entered through the roof, and burst between the parapet and the stockade.

12. During the attack the city was surrounded by the Imperial troops, and Colonel Ward reports to me, that the whole garrison has been made prisoners.

13. In transmitting a list of casualties, I much regret having to report the death of Captain Bradshaw, R. A., from exposure and over exertion on the march to Tsingpoo; in him the service has lost a most zealous and energetic officer.

The health of the troops I have the satisfaction of reporting as being excellent.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) C. STAVELEY,
Brigadier-General Commanding
H.B.M.'s Troops in China.

*The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for War,
War Office, Pall-Mall.*

*LIST of Casualties which occurred at the capture
of Tsingpoo, 12th May, 1862.*

English.

22nd Regiment Punjab Native Infantry,
1 severely wounded.

Royal Marine Light Infantry, 1 killed, 1 severely wounded.

French.

Marines, 1 killed, 2 officers and 6 men severely wounded.

Total—2 killed and 10 wounded.

Correct,

LOFTUS MANSERGH,
Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant-General.
Sungkong, May 14, 1862.