



The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1864.

Admiralty, November 16, 1864.

DESPATCHES, of which the following are copies, have this day been received from Vice-Admiral Sir Augustus I. Kuper, K.C.B., the Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Ships and Vessels on the China Station:—

OPERATIONS IN THE STRAITS OF SIMONO SEKI.

*"Euryalus," Straits of Simono Seki,
September 15, 1864.*

SIR,

I ACQUAINTED the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, briefly, in my letter of the 10th instant, No. 342, with the successful result of the operations of the allied squadrons in the Straits of Simono Seki; and I have now the honor of reporting, in detail, for their Lordships' information, the progress of events subsequently to the 29th ultimo, the day of our departure from Yokohama.

2. The "Perseus" having joined my flag in the entrance to the Boungo Channel, with a large collier in tow from Shanghae, and the "Coquette" arriving at the rendezvous on the 4th from Nagasaki, the force by which the operations were conducted, consisted of the undermentioned ships, viz.:—

British.

- "Euryalus,"
- "Tartar,"
- "Conqueror,"
- "Barrosa,"
- "Leopard,"
- "Argus,"
- "Perseus,"
- "Coquette,"
- "Bouncer,"

and the battalion of Royal Marines.

French.

- "Semiramis," screw, 35 guns, flag of Rear-Admiral Jaurés;
- "Dupleix," screw, 10 guns;
- "Tancredè," screw, 4 guns, despatch vessel.

Dutch.

- "Metalen Kruis," screw, 16 guns, senior officer's ship;
 - "D'Jambi," screw, 16 guns;
 - "Amsterdam," paddle, 8 guns;
 - "Medusa," screw, 18 guns,
- and the United States' chartered steam vessel "Takiang," with an officer, a party of men and a gun of the United States' corvette "James Town."

3. The whole squadron, having assembled at the island of Hime Sima, in the inland sea (the appointed rendezvous), left that anchorage at 9 A.M. on the 4th instant, and steered for the entrance to the Straits of Simono Seki, anchoring in the afternoon out of range of the batteries.

4. The accompanying tracing of the chart of the straits will explain to their Lordships the position and strength of the batteries as described thereon by Major Wray, Royal Engineers—the batteries being referred to in this despatch by numbers corresponding with those on the plan.

5. Having, in company with Rear-Admiral Jaurés, reconnoitered the position of the batteries belonging to the Prince of Choshu, it was arranged that the attack should be made on the 5th instant as soon as the tide served, and at 2 P.M. the signal was made for the ships to take up their positions.

As soon as this was accomplished the action was commenced from the bow gun of the "Euryalus," and the fire was smartly returned and kept up with much spirit by the Japanese batteries. At about 4.30 P.M. the fire from Nos. 4 and 5 batteries evidently slackened, and shortly afterwards ceased altogether; and by 5.30 batteries Nos. 6, 7, and 8 were also silenced. The day was now too far advanced to admit of the landing parties being disembarked, but the "Perseus" and the Dutch corvette "Medusa" being very close to battery No. 5, and, it being too dark to signalize for instructions, Commander A. J. Kingston, with Lieutenant F. J. Pitt and a party of men from the "Perseus," followed by Captain de Casembroot and Lieutenant de Hart, of the "Medusa," gallantly landed, spiked most of the guns in that battery, and returned to their ships without casualties of any sort, thus rendering very valuable service.

6. The positions taken up by the allied squadrons in this afternoon's engagement were as follows:—the advanced squadron, under the command of Captain J. M. Hayes, consisting of the "Tartar," "Dupleix," "Metalen Kruis," "Barrosa," "D'Jambi," and "Leopard," moved into the bay off the village of Tanoura, as shown on the plan, within easy range of batteries 3 to 9 inclusive, whilst the "Euryalus" and "Semiramis" opened fire upon the same works; the light squadron, under Commander Kingston, consisting of the "Perseus," "Medusa," "Tancredè," "Coquette," and "Bouncer," were directed to take the batteries in flank: the "Argus" and "Amsterdam," being at first kept in reserve to render assistance to any ship that might be disabled or