

Pekin, and in the vicinity of Tientsin since your return.

I have, &c.

EDW. H. BAYLY,

Captain and Senior Naval Officer, Tientsin.
Vice-Admiral Sir E. H. Seymour, K.C.B.,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure to Letter from the Commander-in-Chief
on the China Station.

No. 429 of 23rd July, 1900.

Report of Operations carried out by Naval Brigade
against Tientsin (Walled) City on 13th and
14th July, 1900.

SIR, Tientsin, 14th July, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report that, at 3.30 a.m. on 13th instant, the Naval Brigade, numbering a little over 300 bluejackets and Royal Marines, marched out of the European settlement by the Taku Gate, and joined the left attacking column to support the Japanese in the attack on the southern gate of Tientsin (Walled) City.

After passing the end of a deserted village at 4 a.m. the head of the column turned to the right in the direction of the western arsenal. The British naval guns on the mud wall now opened fire on the arsenal and city. Soon after the Japanese had reached the plain they deployed, and immediately came in contact with a body of Imperial Chinese troops, whom they soon drove back, with apparently slight loss to themselves. The column then advanced until the bridge leading to the front gate of the western arsenal was reached. This was at about 5 a.m., when a halt was made to permit the Japanese to repair this bridge, which had previously been destroyed by fire on the 9th instant. The Naval Brigade was extended and ordered to lie down, and maintained this position for some time when the Chinese small-arm men on the City Wall got the range very accurately and caused many casualties in our ranks, including the deaths of Captain Lloyd, R.M.L.I., H.M.S. "Aurora," and James Brown, A.B., H.M.S. "Barfleur." I then moved the brigade some distance to the right, and it was some little time before the enemy again obtained our range, when their fire was again very destructive.

At about 7.15 a.m., the Japanese, having completed the repair of the bridge, the whole column advanced over it, the Japanese entering the arsenal, and the remainder taking cover under its mud wall. Here we remained without further casualty until noon, when the Japanese had cleared the arsenal and commenced the attack. Shortly after this the American marines joined in the attack, and were reinforced by our "A" Company of seamen.

About 1 p.m. our "B" Company and all our marines advanced under a heavy fire in support of the Japanese centre, and took cover as supports in a village, and remained there for the rest of the day. At 8 p.m. the remaining two companies of our seamen went out to occupy two large houses on our left to prevent this occupation by snipers, and an hour later were reinforced by 100 French marines. All these men returned to the mud wall shortly after day-break on the 14th inst. At 10 p.m. (13th) our "A" Company returned from the firing line, bringing in the American wounded, who were very numerous.

At 3.45 a.m. (14th) the Japanese succeeded in blowing in the Outer Southern Gate of the city, and opened the Inner Gate and entered, supported by our "A" Company and Marines. They then occupied this gate. The remaining three companies of our seamen advanced a

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5 a.m., entered the city, and cleared the main road and side streets between the South and North Gates. Outside the latter were several junks in the canal, which were seized by us.

The behaviour of our officers and men was admirable under very trying circumstances, in which we lost very heavily.

An abstract of casualties is attached.

I have, &c.

J. H. BURKE,

Captain Commanding Naval Brigade.
Captain Edward H. Bayly, R.N.,
Senior Naval Officer, Tientsin.

Enclosure to Letter from the Commander-in-Chief
on the China Station.

No. 429 of 23rd July, 1900.

To Captain Burke, R.N., commanding Naval
Brigade on 13th and 14th inst.

Through the Senior Naval Officer, Tientsin.

From Brigadier-General Dorward, Commanding
British Forces, Tientsin.

SIR, Tientsin, 15th July, 1900.

I WISH to express my deep sense of the honour done to me by having under my command the officers and men of the Naval Brigade during the long and hard fighting of the 13th inst., which resulted in the capture of Tientsin city.

The success of the operations was largely due to the manner in which the naval guns were worked by Lieutenant Drummond, R.N., the accuracy of their fire alone rendering steady fire on the part of the troops possible against the strong Chinese position, and largely reducing the number of casualties.

The delicate operation of withdrawing troops from advanced positions at nightfall, to strengthen other parts of the line, and the bringing back of the wounded could not have been effected without the aid of the well-directed fire of the guns.

I desire to place on record my appreciation of the gallantry and fine spirit of the men, and to join in their regret for the heavy loss in killed and wounded, and particularly with the Royal Marines in regret for the death of Captain Lloyd.

The Naval Brigade had their full share in the fighting at the centre and right of the position, and had the honour of being among the first troops to enter Tientsin. The succour they brought under a heavy fire to the hard-pressed American troops on the right was highly appreciated by the 9th Regiment United States Infantry, who found themselves unexpectedly under the heaviest fire of the day, and were much heartened by the arrival of Lieutenant Phillimore, R.N., and his men. It will be my honour to bring their conduct to the notice of the Secretary of State for War.

I join with them in their admiration for the gallantry, soldierly spirit, and organisation of our comrades of the Japanese Army.

I have the honour to thank you particularly for the ready and unquestioning assistance which you personally gave me at all times during the progress of the operations, and for the cheerful co-operation of your officers and men in instantly carrying out any duty assigned to them.

I have, &c.

A. R. F. DORWARD,
Brigadier-General.

Abstract of Casualties.

Killed: "Barfleur," seamen, 4. "Aurora," officer, 1; total 5. Died of wounds: "Barfleur," seaman, 1. Wounded: "Barfleur," officers, 2; tseamen, 14; marine, 1. "Terrible," seaman, 1;