

Enclosure to Letter from the Rear-Admiral on the
China Station, dated 11th July, 1900, No 26.
Imperial Russian Pacific Squadron.
No. 1648. Taku Roads,

SIR,
9th July, 1900.
CAPTAIN DOBROVOLSKY, who commanded the combined column of gunboats during the bombardment of the Taku Forts, expresses the highest praise of the gallant conduct of Commander Stewart, the officers and crew of H.M.S. "Algerine," and Lieutenants and Commanders Keyes and Mackenzie of the torpedo-destroyers "Fame" and "Whiting," which took part in the action and did good business under fire of the forts.

I am glad to be able to state this to you, sir, and on behalf of the Russian Fleet to acknowledge that we are proud to co-operate with the British Navy.

I am, &c.
J. HILTEBRANDT,
Vice-Admiral.

His Excellency Rear-Admiral Bruce.

"Barfeur," at Taku,
10th July, 1900.
SIR,
I HAVE much pleasure in acknowledging your kind letter in which you express the appreciation of Captain Dobrovolsky, who commanded the combined column of gunboats at the attack on the Taku Forts, of the gallant conduct of Commander Stewart, the officers and crew of H.M.S. "Algerine," and Lieutenants and Commanders Keyes and Mackenzie of the torpedo-boat destroyers "Fame" and "Whiting" on that occasion.

In thanking you, sir, for your letter of appreciation of the services of the officers and men of the British Fleet who assisted at the capture of the Taku Forts, I have the honour to inform you, sir, that the British Navy are proud to have co-operated with the Russian Navy, and been under the command of Captain Dobrovolsky.

I have, &c.
JAMES BRUCE,
Rear-Admiral.

To His Excellency Admiral Hildebrandt,
Commanding the Imperial Russian
Squadron at Taku.

In connection with the operations referred to in the foregoing despatches the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have caused a letter, of which the following is a copy, to be sent to the Commander-in-Chief on the China Station:—
Admiralty,

SIR,
1st October, 1900.
MY Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having had before them your letter of the 27th June last, No. 384, reporting the proceedings of the allied forces in the gallant attempt to relieve the Legations at Peking, desire me to convey an expression of their high appreciation of the tact and judgment displayed by you on that occasion, which contributed so greatly to the harmonious feeling that prevailed between the various sections under your orders.

Their Lordships consider that, having been suddenly called upon to assume command of a mixed force comprising representatives of almost every nation, great credit is due to you for the rapidity with which this force was organised, and for the manner in which the expedition was conducted, in view of the great difficulties necessarily attending it, and the overwhelming numbers of the opposing forces.

My Lords have read with pleasure your testimony to the courage shown, and the hardships cheerfully endured by Her Majesty's officers and

men during the period in question, and they desire that you will express to Captain Jellicoe (your Flag Captain); Commander Granville, of H.M.S. "Centurion"; Major Johnstone, R.M.L.I., of H.M.S. "Centurion"; and to all concerned, their unqualified satisfaction at receiving this high commendation of their conduct.

The further reports contained in your letters of the 8th, 12th, and 23rd July, Nos. 388, 402, and 429, respecting the state of affairs at Tientsin during your absence and subsequent to your return, have also been laid before their Lordships, and they desire that you will inform Captain Bayly, of H.M.S. "Aurora," whose tact and untiring energy contributed materially to the successful defence of that place; Captain Burke of H.M.S. "Orlando," who ably assisted him; Commander Beauty of H.M.S. "Barfeur"; Lieutenant (now Commander) Wright, R.N., of H.M.S. "Orlando"; Major Luke, R.M.L.I., of H.M.S. "Barfeur," and the officers and men under their orders, how fully their Lordships recognise the valuable services rendered by them during a time of great peril and anxiety.

My Lords, having had before them a letter from the Rear-Admiral, dated the 17th June, No. 4, containing reports on the storming and capture of the Taku forts, desire that you will convey to Commander (now Captain) Stewart, of H.M.S. "Algerine," who most ably handled and fought his ship; to Commander Cradock, of H.M.S. "Alacrity," who skilfully led the allied landing force; to Lieutenants and Commanders Keyes and Colin Mackenzie, who did good service in the "Fame" and "Whiting" respectively, especially in their smart cutting out of four Chinese Destroyers, and to the other officers and men engaged, an expression of their thorough approbation of the gallantry displayed by them during these successful operations which their Lordships are pleased to find from your letter No. 385 of the 4th July, have met with your entire concurrence.

Further letters from the Rear Admiral dated the 27th June and 11th July, Nos. 24 and 26, have also been received relating to other events which occurred whilst you were on shore, and their Lordships wish to take this opportunity of recording their appreciation of the manner in which Rear Admiral Bruce conducted the important duties which devolved upon him during your enforced absence, and of the excellent relations which he maintained with his foreign colleagues throughout a period of exceptional gravity.

I am to inform you that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs entirely concurs in the expressions of approval which it has given their Lordships great pleasure to signify in this letter.

The despatches will be published in the "London Gazette" with the names of the officers and men of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines specially recommended.

My Lords cannot conclude without expressing their deep regret at the casualties which have occurred amongst the officers and men in the various engagements and operations, especially at the valuable lives which have been lost to Her Majesty's Service, notably that of Captain H. T. R. Lloyd, Royal Marine Light Infantry, mentioned favourably on several occasions; and I am to add that they have caused expressions of sympathy to be conveyed to the relatives of those who have fallen.

I am, &c.
EVAN MACGREGOR.

Vice-Admiral Sir Edward H. Seymour, K.C.B.,
Commander-in-Chief of H.M. Ships and Vessels,
China Station.