

the villages on the road leading to the south gate behind the Japanese, from which I judged that the fire on the right had been so heavy that the French attacking line could not be formed.

20. At the Arsenal I met the Acting Adjutant of the 9th Regiment, who said he had been sent back with news that his regiment were in a very exposed position, which from his description I made out to be near the French settlement, and that they had lost heavily, their Colonel amongst others being mortally wounded. He said he had been ordered to ask for reinforcements, and I directed 100 men of the Naval Brigade under Lieutenant Phillimore, R.N., to proceed to their assistance.

21. I signalled in to Lieutenant-Colonel Bower, who was in command of the forces left in the Settlement, to send me out two more companies of the Chinese Regiment with all the stretchers he could collect and on their arrival sent the stretchers forward carried by the men of the regiment under Major Pereira. Major Pereira made two trips out to the American position and brought back many of their wounded under a very heavy fire, losing several men and being himself wounded. He told me on returning from his second trip that the Americans and the men of the Naval Brigade had got into a fairly safe position, so I decided to leave them there till nightfall. They detained a considerable body of the enemy in front of them and prevented any attack being made on the right flank of the Japanese.

22. Major Pereira also informed me that the Americans were very badly off for ammunition, so I directed Captain Ollivant and a party of the Chinese Regiment to take a further supply to them. While performing this service I regret to say that Captain Ollivant was killed.

23. A Japanese Staff Officer afterwards told me that he had seen the 9th Regiment moving along the right rear of the Japanese attack in column of fours, and that he was afraid they must have suffered heavy loss.

24. The naval guns were all this time making splendid practice keeping down the fire from the city walls, and we were anxiously waiting for the sound of the explosion which would tell that the Japanese sappers had reached the city gate and blown it in. Shortly after 1 P.M. I received the following note from the Japanese Chief Staff Officer:—

“ Mon General. Nos soldats sont déjà entrés dans la cité. Je vous prie donc de faire cesser le feu de vos canons immédiatement.

ASKI, Lieutenant-Colonel.”

25. Orders were accordingly given for the cessation of all artillery fire and the advance of all our troops to support the assault on the city. The advancing troops were met with a very heavy fire from the walls, which continued to increase in intensity, and it soon became apparent that the Japanese troops had not entered the city. The troops were then forced to take cover close to the canal round the city. I shortly afterwards heard from the Japanese General that he had been misinformed and that his troops had not entered the city.

26. Orders were sent for all guns to open fire again and owing to the beautiful practice of the naval guns very little loss was suffered by the troops in the advanced trenches.

27. Towards evening the 1,500 troops on the left flank again advanced and began preparing a long line of shelter trenches. I received a request from General Fukushima asking me if I could undertake arrangements for the protection of his troops and the French, while in their

advanced positions, from attack from the left flank or rear, as his Cavalry had informed him that bodies of the enemy were threatening us from those directions.

28. The naval guns were then requested to direct their whole fire on the enemy facing the extreme left of our position and, under cover of that fire and of volleys from the detachment, Hong Kong Regiment, directed on the various points from which the enemy were harassing the retirement, the Fusiliers and American Marines were withdrawn with very slight loss and formed up behind the Mud Parapet. The movement reflected great credit on Colonel Meade, commanding the Marines, and Captain Gwynne, commanding the Fusiliers.

29. The more delicate manœuvre of withdrawing the 9th American Infantry and the Company of the Naval Brigade had then to be undertaken. The naval guns were directed to sweep the barriers constructed along the fringe of houses between the French Settlement and the city from which the fire on the American troops proceeded. The American troops themselves were only about 300 yards from this fringe and there was great danger of the fire from the naval guns injuring them as well as the enemy. The dead and wounded, of which the Americans had still a considerable number with them, were brought back with the assistance of the Company of the Naval Brigade, and shortly afterwards the 9th Regiment arrived at the Mud Parapet in safety. I would specially bring to notice the conduct of Major Jesse Lee during the retirement; in him the regiment possesses an Officer of exceptional merit.

30. The whole force is under the greatest obligation to Captain Bayly and Lieutenant Drummond, Royal Navy, for their working of the naval guns.

31. After posting troops to secure our flank and rear from attack, the troops turned in for the night, during which there was some rain.

32. About 3 A.M. next day the Japanese sappers, crossing the canal by a bridge they had made during the night, blew in the South Gate and in less than an hour, after some desultory street fighting, the city was in our possession.

33. The British force seized a large number of junks and one small steamer on the canal north of the city, which will be useful when we advance on Pekin, and also the eight guns which had kept up a steady fire on our artillery throughout the previous day.

34. News was then received that the Russian attack on the other side of the city had been delayed by unforeseen causes, but when made had proved very successful, resulting in the complete rout of the Chinese and the capture of 11 guns; the Russian loss was about 120 killed and wounded.

35. The losses of the Allied Forces in the attack on the South Gate were as follows:—

Royal Marine Light Infantry.—Killed, Captain Lloyd; slightly wounded, Major Luke; wounded, 16 men.

Royal Navy.—Slightly wounded, Lieutenant Field; killed, 5 men; wounded, 19 men.

Royal Welsh Fusiliers.—Killed, 5 men; wounded, 12 men.

Hong Kong Regiment.—Wounded, 8 men, of whom 1 afterwards died.

Hong Kong Companies, Royal Artillery.—Killed, 2 men; wounded, 5 men.

Chinese Regiment.—Killed, Captain Ollivant; slightly wounded, Major Pereira and 1 European non-commissioned Officer; killed, 3 men; wounded, 13 men, of whom 1 afterwards died.