

Bridge. A heavy fusillade was opened by the enemy all round the settlement during a thunder-storm that night. Captain F. G. Poole, East Yorkshire Regiment, who was in Peking studying Chinese, and who was attached to the Marine Guard in June, was given a section of the defence of the Legation to command. Captain C. Percy Smith, late of the South Staffordshire Regiment, also became attached, and commanded another section.

21st June.—At the request of all the Foreign Ministers, Sir Claude MacDonald, K.C.M.G., K.C.B., Her Britannic Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary, took supreme command of the Legations Settlement, the Commanding Officers of each guard being in command of their several Legations.

22nd June.—An unsuccessful attempt was made to burn the Legations at the south-west corner. Captain Poole, with 15 Marines, reconnoitred the Hanlin. Private Scadding was killed.

23rd June.—The Hanlin was set on fire by the enemy with the object of burning Legation from the north; the wind changing in time, our front was cleared. Captain Poole, with a force of British and American Marines and Volunteers, drove out the enemy and occupied the southern part.

24th June.—Captain Halliday, with 30 Marines, was sent by Captain Strouts to drive the enemy from the houses behind First Chinese Secretary's house. He was dangerously wounded almost immediately after, killing four out of five of his assailants with his revolver, returned to the Legation, and has been disabled ever since. Captain Strouts, who was on the spot, then took charge and led the force. Driving the enemy back some 100 yards, he succeeded in taking several arms and much ammunition, besides burning several houses, thus clearing our front. Germans and Americans occupied South City Wall. Privates Sawyer and Goddard wounded this day.

25th June.—Captain Strouts formed and took command of a Company of 85 Volunteers of all nationalities living in the British Legation.

26th June.—Lance-Corporal Allin wounded.

27th June.—Lance-Corporal Sparkes wounded.

28th June.—Enemy opened fire with a 2·7-inch Krupp gun and a "1-pr. field gun" against the South stable quarters, doing considerable damage to the building; this was silenced by rifle fire.

29th June.—I made an unsuccessful sortie at daylight to capture the Krupp gun, with a mixed force of British, German, and Russian Marines and Volunteers. It was discovered that the gun had been withdrawn. Captain Poole, with a force of British Marines and Volunteers, at the same time made an unsuccessful sortie to destroy the enemy's barricade on the Imperial Carriage Park wall near the West Hanlin. On this occasion Corporal T. Johnson showed great bravery in covering the retreat, carried out under a very heavy rifle fire. Private Phillips killed on this day.

30th June.—Privates Tickner and Horne wounded.

1st July.—The Germans, having had to abandon their barricade on the south city wall near their Legation, I was sent with a party of 12 British, 3 American, and 2 Russians, to try and build a barricade as near the canal as possible, so as to cover the rear of the American barricade. After working for four hours, losing 2 men wounded and being wounded myself, I was ordered to give up the attempt, so retired the force to the American barricade. Corporal D. J. Gowney showed great coolness in carrying out

the retirement, and Private T. A. Myers showed great tenacity and courage in building the barricade under a heavy and accurate front and rear fire, and in spite of damaged hands. Five British Marines took part in an unsuccessful sortie made by the Japanese and Italians to capture a Krupp gun in the Suan Fu. This day, Privates King, Harden, and Heap were wounded, also Privates Deane and Buckler very slightly. Volunteers took an important part in the sortie.

3rd July.—Captain Myers, the officer commanding American Marine Guard, with a force of 15 Americans, 25 British Marines under Sergeant Murphy, and 15 Russians, carried and occupied two Chinese barricades on the South City wall towards the Chun Min gate. Sergeant T. Murphy showed great courage and coolness in leading the second assault after Captain Myers had been wounded. This action was carried out at night. Corporal Gregory wounded.

5th July.—Enemy mounted four smooth-bore M.L. guns firing round shot on the Imperial City wall. They opened fire on a working party, which, with its covering force of British Marines in the Hanlin, was forced to retire into the Legation. It was during this time that Leading Signaller Swannell distinguished himself. Considerable damage was done to the buildings at north end of Legation with these guns.

8th July.—An old smooth-bore gun was found and mounted by an American gunner, assisted by Armourer Thomas, Royal Navy, who also manufactured the ammunition; the projectiles being the shells of a modern Russian field gun. In the evening the enemy opened fire at the roof of First Chinese Secretary's house with a 1-pr. Corporal D. J. Gowney showed great coolness and pluck by firing at the flash of the gun from the fort on the top of the First Chinese Secretary's roof. The enemy's gun was only 100 yards off, and was silenced by Corporal Gowney at the ninth round.

11th July.—From this date eight British Marines were sent daily to reinforce the Japanese and Italian posts in the Suan Fu. (I beg to mention here that since about the 8th July the enemy seem to have given up trying to force their way into the British Legation, but to have made the Christian converts the object of their attacks, so that henceforth their worst attacks were against the Italians, Japanese, French, and Germans.)

12th July.—The Italian Officer having been wounded, Captain Strouts allowed my services, which I had offered, to be accepted, and I took command of the Italians at their post, together with eight British Marines.

13th July.—It happened that during this day British Marines were used in reinforcing every post outside the British Legation. Lance-Sergeant T. E. Preston distinguished himself on this day. (His conduct will be mentioned later.) Private Westbrook wounded.

16th July.—Captain Strouts was mortally wounded, and died three hours later. He was returning from visiting my post in the Suan Fu. His loss was deeply felt by all. Captain Halliday was the next in seniority, but being still unfit for duty, I took command of the Royal Marines, and was relieved from the command of the Italians by Lieutenant Von Stranck, late of the Prussian Army, and now in the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs. Sir Claude MacDonald now took command of the British Legation, and Captain Poole took command of the Volunteers. I have been in command of the British Marines ever since. A message was received from the Chinese Government saying they would protect us, and had given orders to stop all firing. Firing