



SUPPLEMENT
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TUESDAY, 30 MAY, 1916.

War Office,
30th May, 1916.

DESPATCHES ON OPERATIONS OF THE TSINGTAU
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

[Despatch No. 1.]

From Brigadier-General N. W. Barnardiston,
M.V.O., to the War Office.

Investing Line before Tsingtau, 9th
October, 1914.

Sir,—

I have the honour to report that the force under my command embarked at Tientsin on the 19th September in the hired transports "Kwang Ping," "Shao Shing" and "Shuntien," and, escorted from Taku Bar by H.M.S. "Triumph" and the torpedo-boat destroyer "Usk," arrived at Wei-hai-wei at 2.15 p.m. on 20th September.

The number of mules necessary to complete our requirements in transport, which had been purchased by Captain Knaggs, Indian Army, were there embarked, that officer offering valuable assistance both there and also on disembarkation at Lao Shan Bay.

The s.s. "Shenking," chartered by the Naval Authorities as a hospital carrier, for conveyance of sick and wounded to Wei-hai-

wei, joined us, and the whole left at 4.0 p.m. on 21st September.

Before leaving, I inspected the arrangements made by Captain House, R.N., and Fleet-Surgeon Clarke, on the hospital carrier, and also on shore for the reception of the sick and wounded. These two officers, especially the last named, deserve the greatest credit for the excellent arrangements made to meet all our requirements.

Lao Shan Bay was reached at 2 p.m. on 22nd September, and arrangements were made with H.M.S. "Triumph," the Japanese Navy and the Military Disembarkation Authorities for the disembarkation of the Force on the following day.

Accordingly, on 23rd September, the 2nd Bn. South Wales Borderers disembarked at 8 a.m., followed by stores, ponies, mules and carts, &c. The men worked hard and cheerfully at landing and stacking stores, &c., and the entire disembarkation was accomplished by 6 a.m. on 24th September, with the exception of Base stores not immediately required, which were left on board the s.s. "Kwang Ping" in anticipation of a change of Base to Sha-tzu-kou Bay, within about 10 miles of the lines of investment.

The 24th September was spent in transferring stores from landing place to Base Supply Depot.

I sent Major H. G. Pringle, General Staff,