

in the preparations of the Japanese owing to heavy rains, but I learned yesterday that the bombardment will commence on the 31st instant.

The health of the troops, notwithstanding the hard work and trying weather, is most satisfactory.

5. The line of investment we now hold extends from Kiao-Chau Bay to the sea, running approximately through Kushan, 119 degrees 21 minutes, 36 degrees 8 minutes (Lat. 36° 8' N., Long. 119° 21' E.), the high ground south of Chia-Lien-Kow to Foushan (Prince Henry's Hill).

The following is a summary of the order for the attack on the fortress, so far as concerns the British Force:—

The whole of the enemy's main line of defence will constitute the front of attack. All arrangements are calculated for a deliberate advance, but any opportunity of attacking which presents itself will be seized upon.

The front of attack is divided into four sections, the right central section being assigned to the force under my command. One front of about 600 yards is roughly bounded by two parallel lines running north-east and south-west—the right flank line passing through Tashan, 119 degrees 22 minutes, 36 degrees 7 minutes (36° 7' N., 119° 22' E.), village and Point 375, 372? the left, the north-west corner of Ho-Hsi and the eastern corner of Tiu-Tung-Chien (Tai Tung Chen?).

To-morrow the line of investment will be advanced to a line running through Kushan, Sh'vang-Shan, 119 degrees, 6 minutes, 36 degrees 6 minutes (36° 6' N., 119° 6' E.), Tung-Wu-Chia-Tsun, Tien-Chia-Tsun, Hsin-Chia-Chuang in the construction of which working parties from each section are employed daily and nightly.

When the bombardment begins, the Infantry and Engineers of the front line will prepare for the subsequent advance, and during the night of the 1st November will occupy a line through the high ground west of Han-Chia-Chuang, and south of Tung-Wu-Chia-Tsun, and north of Fou-Shan-So—also that village.

The first position of attack will be prepared on this line, and during the first two or three nights will be strengthened, communicating trenches completed, and preparations made for the next advance.

The second position of attack will be strongly constructed, approximately on the line Pump Stratton, Hsi-Wu-Chia-Tsun, the high ground east of Kang-Chia-Chuang and the ridge west of Fou-Shan-So, and in this position preparations will be made for the destruction of obstacles and the subsequent approach.

The main portion of the siege artillery will first fix on the enemy's forts and the remainder against his war vessels. Subsequently, as the first line advances, this portion of the artillery will fire on the enemy's redoubts.

Co-operation with the Navy is arranged for.

6. I am collecting 12 days' supplies at a suitable place in rear of the advanced position to provide against the eventuality of its being found impossible, in this very difficult country, to bring them up during the bombardment. A suitable place for my Brigade Ammunition Reserve, about 2 miles in rear of the first position of attack, has been selected.

The Field Hospital has been established at Che-Chia-Hsia-Chuang, about half-way

between Litsun-Erh-Shan and Prince Henry Hill, and dressing stations have been arranged for in nullahs in rear of the front line.

7. The half battalion of the 36th Sikhs under command of Lieut. Colonel E. L. Sullivan disembarked at Lao-Shan Bay on the 22nd instant and arrived yesterday at the front.

I have, &c.,

N. W. BARNARDISTON,
Brigadier-General,

Commanding Tsingtau Expeditionary Force.

[Despatch No. 3.]

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

Tsingtau,
10th November, 1914.

Sir,—

I have the honour to report the successful conclusion of this Expedition in the surrender of Tsingtau on the 7th instant.

The operations in which the force under my command have taken part proceeded as outlined in my Despatch No. 2, dated 29th October.

The advanced position indicated in that despatch was occupied on the 30th October. The bombardment commenced on the 31st, the enemy not replying to any great extent. During the first day some oil tanks and coal stores near the dockyard were burnt, and the forts and redoubts suffered severely. Throughout the bombardment the practice of the Japanese artillery was surprisingly good, and the accuracy of their fire and their numerical superiority in guns no doubt proved the principal factor in compelling the enemy's surrender. It is stated that the Germans expended all their gun ammunition. The bombardment continued with slight intermissions until the fall of the place.

On the 1st November the First Position of attack (see my Despatch No. 2) was occupied, and the preparation of the Second Position commenced. This position was ready for occupation on the 3rd instant, but, owing to its location in the immediate vicinity of the bed of the river, it was impossible to drain it or to occupy it permanently, and as it was everywhere under close infantry fire from the First Position, I merely held it during the night with piquets.

On the night of the 4th November somewhat heavy artillery fire was directed on our trenches, the 36th Sikhs losing 2 Sepoys killed and 2 officers wounded, while the 2nd Bn. South Wales Borderers had also several casualties.

On the 5th November I was ordered to prepare a Third Position of attack on the left bank of the river. This line was to a great extent enfiladed on both flanks by Nos. 1 and 2 Redoubts, especially the latter, from which annoying machine-gun fire was experienced.

The bed of the river (a small stream running over a broad bed of sand) had also to be crossed, and in doing so the working parties of the 2nd Bn. South Wales Borderers suffered somewhat severely, losing 8 non-commissioned officers and men killed and 24 wounded. The 36th Sikhs had only slight losses. Notwithstanding this a good deal of work was done, especially on the right flank.