

The Fighting in North China

The
Fighting in North China

(up to the Fall of Tientsin City)

BY

G. GIPPS

MIDSHIPMAN H.M.S. "ORLANDO"



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PREFACE.

In presenting to the public a short account of the fighting in North China up to the fall of Tientsin Native City, in which the Navy took a very active part, it is hoped that due allowance will be made for any mistakes that may have crept into it. The experiences of Admiral SEYMOUR'S Relief Column to Peking have not been included, as they have been so ably related by many others.

G. GIPPS.

The Fighting in North China.

THE Capital of China was first occupied by British and French troops in October 1860. It has just been occupied again 1860. by the troops of all nationalities under circumstances widely different from the first. During the forty years which have intervened the relations between China and the Powers have been regulated for the most part by communications through the Tsung-li Yamên, the Foreign Office of China. This period has been remarkable for the number of outrages committed against foreigners. Ever since the interpreters Wade, Parkes and Loch with their two French colleagues were imprisoned by the Chinese there has been a series of dastardly attacks on foreign residents living in China. In 1868 the Protestant 1868. Missions at Yangchow were destroyed and the missionaries only saved their lives by flight. This outrage, for which compensation was obtained only after considerable trouble, was the first of a series of attacks on foreigners which culminated in the riots and massacres of 1895. In every instance it was clearly shown that 1895. the mischief arose not with the people but with the mandarin or literati class, who, while not as a rule taking an active part in the outrages, suggested insults, and even incited the mob to harry the Christian "barbarians" in their midst. In June 1870 a series June 1870. of the most cold-blooded murders occurred at Tientsin, where the Roman Catholic Missions were attacked and twenty-two persons, the greater part of them ladies, together with the French Consul, were brutally massacred. Among the numerous instances have been the destruction of the chapels at Fatsan in 1870, the attack 1870.

THE FIGHTING IN NORTH CHINA.

1878,

1890,

1894.

Dec. 1893.

Peking,
Jan. 5th.

on the Wushihshan Mission in 1878, the Chinkiang riots in 1889, and the massacre of native Christians at Jongtuytsin in 1890. In 1891 extensive rioting occurred in the foreign settlement at Wuhu; in the same year the Ichang Mission was destroyed. The outbreak of the war between Japan and China inflamed the anti-foreign feeling throughout the Empire, and the years 1894 and 1895 were marked by quite a number of outrages, accompanied in several instances by murder. The more notable of these instances occurred at Chengtu, Whasang and Fatsan. The massacre at Whasang was one of the most brutal which has taken place in China. The intense anti-foreign prejudice which found expression in these outrages was largely due to the attitude assumed by the mandarins, who did not scruple to advertise their dislike of the Christian barbarians. But the first ominous warning of brewing trouble was the murder of Mr. Brooks, on the 31st of December last, by the worshippers of the "I-ho Ch'üan," otherwise known as the Society of Righteous Harmony, briefly known from their use of the word "Fist" as "the Boxers." The Boxers seem to have originated in Shantung and spread from there into Chihli from south to north, arriving at Pao-ting-fu early in the current year, and working rapidly northward. The organization was a combination of the natural and supernatural combined in such a way as to deceive the major part of those who heard its claims. What is more efficacious than prayers to the "Spirits"? But the Boxers were specially protected by spirits of all degrees of power from impact of bullet or thrust of spear. These claims were substantiated in public to the satisfaction and delight of thousands. If an occasional youth was blown into fragments by the discharge of a cannon within two feet of him, or if the cut of a sword opened his abdomen, these incidents merely showed that the Divinity had not yet protected his whole body, and while the experiment failed but the principle remained the same, all were satisfied, even the friends of the deceased, who were paid a handsome indemnity out of the Society's fund. It is opportune to give here a letter from Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquis of Salisbury:—

My Lord,

For several months past the province of Shantung has been disturbed by bands of rebels connected with various secret societies, who have been defying the authorities and pillaging the people. An organisation known as

"the Boxers" has attained special notoriety, and their ravages recently spread over a large portion of Southern Chihli, where the native Christians appear to have suffered even more than the rest of the inhabitants from the lawlessness of these marauders. The danger to which, in both provinces, foreign missionary establishments have been thus exposed has been the subject of repeated representations to the Chinese Government by others of the foreign Representatives—especially the German and United States ministers—and myself. Early last month the Governor of Shangtung, Yu Hsien, was ordered to vacate his post and come to Peking for audience, and the General Yuan Shih-k'ai was appointed Acting Governor in his place. In Southern Chihli the task of dealing with the disturbances was entrusted to the Viceroy at Tientsin. Her Majesty's Consul at Tientsin has had repeatedly to complain to the latter of the inadequacy of the protection afforded to British life and property in the districts affected by the rebellion, and in consequence of these representations and of my own communications to the Tsung-li Yamên, guards of soldiers have been stationed for the special protection of the missionary premises which were endangered. On the 29th ultimo I took the occasion to warn the Yamên by letter that if the disorders were not vigorously quelled, international complications were likely to ensue.

Being well aware, therefore, of the condition of things in Northern Shangtung, it was with much anxiety that I received, on the 2nd instant, through **Jan. 2nd.** Bishop Scott of the Church of England Mission here, a telegram from the Mission at P'ing-gin, in Northern Shangtung, announcing that on the 30th of December Mr. Brooks, of the Mission, had been attacked, wounded, and captured by thirty "Boxers" in the Fei Ch'ing district. I at once sent Mr. Ker, the Assistant Chinese Secretary, to communicate the contents of this telegram to the Yamên, and to ask that urgent telegraphic instructions should be despatched to the Governor of Shangtung to take measures to deal with the rebels and especially to secure the release of the missionary.

The Yamên Secretaries said that information of this occurrence had reached the Yamên, and that a telegram had been sent to Shangtung to inquire particulars. They promised that my message would be reported to the ministers and a further telegram dispatched. They said that the new Governor, Yuan, had already reached the capital and taken over the seals of office.

On the following day I visited the Yamên. On inquiring what was being done, I was informed that the Governor had promptly taken steps with a view to effecting the release of Mr. Brooks. The Yamên had, however, to their great regret, received a telegram that morning from the Governor to report that the Deputy sent in haste to the scene of the outrage, had arrived only to find that Mr. Brooks had been put to death on the 31st of December, the day after he **Dec. 31st.** was captured. A despatch was being prepared, informing me of this lamentable intelligence, and expressing the deep regret of the Chinese Government. I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of this despatch. In addition to the particulars related therein, I have since learned that the unfortunate man was beheaded by the rebels and his body flung into a ditch.

In acknowledging to the Ministers of the Yamên at my interview the expressions of regret which they offered, I laid stress on the importance of

proving the sincerity of this regret by strenuous action in dealing with this case, and in guarding against the possibility of similar occurrences elsewhere.

Yesterday when the Ministers of the Tsung-li Yamén and other high officials paid their annual formal New Year's call at the Legation, the Grand Secretary Wang Wen Shao informed me that he was specially authorized by the Emperor and Empress Dowager to express to me the deep concern which was felt by the Throne on hearing of this outrage. An Imperial Decree was, he said, being issued enjoining the immediate capture of the murderers and the punishment of the officials who had neglected their duty.

The Decree to which the Grand Secretary referred was published in the Gazette this morning, and I have the honour to enclose a translation of it herewith.

I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship yesterday the news of Mr. Brooks' murder, and the substance of the message which I received from the throne on the subject. As regards the future situation in Northern Shantung the most hopeful feature is, I think, the choice of Yüan Shih K'ai as Governor. This official filled for many years the post as Chinese resident in Corea, and has lately been in command of some eight thousand foreign drilled troops near Tientsin. He has already announced the necessity of having the whole of this force sent after him to his province, and the decision of character and readiness to use force when necessary which has marked his action at various critical situations in his career, make it possible to expect that he will succeed in making short work of the rebels in the province which he administers.

In a note which I addressed to the Yamén this morning I took occasion to remind the Ministers that there were other British missionaries living in the district where Mr. Brooks was killed, and to impress upon their Excellencies the necessity of securing efficient protection to these.

I do not, however, entertain serious apprehensions as to their safety, because guards of soldiers have been for some time past stationed to protect the various missionary residences. The unfortunate man who was murdered was seized when he was travelling by wheelbarrow, without escort, through the country infested by the rebels.

I have, etc.,

[Signed] CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

We see by this letter that the Minister did not at the time consider the situation very serious, although some of the residents prophesied trouble, as may be seen by their letters to different papers. By March the disturbances in Shantung were spreading, recruits were being enlisted by the Boxers, and drilling in the environs of Peking and Tientsin was taking place daily, with the full cognizance of the officials. The foreign Ministers presented a joint address to the Government asking for a decree to be published declaring the suppression of two anti-foreign secret societies which were both causing disturbances in Shantung and

Chihli. The Yamên declined to publish the decree in accordance with their wishes. On the 8th of January Sir C. MacDonald paid an official visit to the Viceroy at Tientsin. His Excellency seemed to be fully alive to the gravity of the situation, but told him that the difficulty in dealing with the "Boxers" lay in the fact that they were composed of small bands of peasantry, some twenty or thirty in each band. On the approach of the soldiers these bands dispersed and returned to their peaceful pursuits. Within the last ten days two bands had been caught *in flagrante delicto*, and had been severely dealt with—a number killed and two chiefs executed. On March 29th five prisoners connected with the murder of Mr. Brooks had been caught and punished, and a sum of money had been paid to build a memorial chapel. Throughout April the Boxer organization continued to grow, and when it reached Peking about May 1st it was already under the patronage of the highest nobility in the Empire. Its headquarters was at the palace of Prince Chuan, near the north-west corner of the Imperial City, and its great and powerful patron was Prince Tuan, father of the youth who was recently made "Heir Apparent," and whom the Empress Dowager seems to have blindly followed. There seems good reason to suppose that the greater part of the Manchu and Mongol Princes lent the movement their active aid, and the rest must have acquiesced, for it does not appear that a single note of protest was raised from any influential quarter, or if there was such a warning it was lost in the general madness of the hour. Reports were continually current of "Boxers" drilling and enlisting near Peking and Tientsin, in spite of the Proclamation issued by the Provincial Governors, and the strongest pressure was necessary to awaken the Imperial Government to a sense of the danger of international complications ensuing if these societies were not promptly and vigorously dealt with.

On May 17th the French Minister reported that the "Boxers" had destroyed three villages and killed sixty-one Roman Catholic Christian converts at a place ninety miles from Peking, near Pao-ting-fu. This may be termed the first massacre that the Boxers committed of the long series that took place since that date. News coming in from all directions reported attacks on native Christians and chapels.

May 21st.

The Ministers held a meeting on May 21st to decide what was to be done. The Doyen was empowered to write, in the name of all the foreign Representatives, a note to the Yamèn to the effect that the Diplomatic Body, basing their demands on the Decrees already issued by the Palace denunciatory of the Boxers, requested that all persons who should print, publish, or disseminate placards which menaced foreigners, all individuals aiding and abetting, all owners of houses or temples now used as meeting-places for Boxers, should be arrested. They also demanded that those guilty of arson, murder, outrages, etc., together with those affording support or direction to Boxers while committing such outrages, should be executed. Finally, the publication of a decree in Peking and the Northern Provinces setting forth the above.

May 24th.

The note was accordingly sent in. On May 24th a Colonel in charge of a party of cavalry was caught in an ambush near Lai-shui, which is about fifty miles south-west of Peking. The party were destroyed. Energetic measures were taken by the Chinese Government against the Boxers, whom the progress of the movement had at last thoroughly alarmed. On May 27th Lord Salisbury telegraphed to Sir C. MacDonald: "If you consider it necessary for the protection of the lives of Europeans you may send for a marine guard." On the 29th the Admiral telegraphed to the Admiralty: "In consequence of unsettled state of affairs at Peking, I have sent Orlando and Algerine to Taku, ready to land guards if required by Minister." The above remarks give in a short way the state of affairs which led up to the present crisis.

May 27th.

May 29th.

We now come to the phase of active operations, and, having been with the landing-party of the "Orlando," I must necessarily only be able to give a detailed account of what took place around me, from my own observations, but at the same time I shall put in what took place in other parts as told by others, so as to account for our own movements.

The "Orlando" arrived at Wei-hai-wei at 10 a.m. from Amoy, and on the way in we passed the "Algerine," with a guard of marines on board, bound for Taku. As we came round the bend the "Centurion" made a signal to us to moor two cables ahead of her, which we proceeded to do. At 11.30, just as we were putting on the swivel, the flagship made a signal to us to unmoor and

prepare for sea by 3 p.m. The ship sailed from Wei-hai-wei at 3 p.m. for Taku, and on the way we exercised landing-parties and got all the heavy marching order leather gear, etc. up on deck ready for immediate use. We arrived at Taku at 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday the 30th May, and found H.M.S. "Algerine" already there, together with the Russian ships "Dimitri Donskoi," "Sissoi Veliki," "Navarin," and the "Gremiastchy," also two torpedo boats, American ship "Newark," French "Descartes," and Italian "Elba." Lieutenant Chambers came on board from the "Algerine" and gave instructions to the captain, he also informed us that the marine guard of twenty-five had been landed that morning and had proceeded to Tientsin. A steam tug came off from Taku and our marines prepared for landing. At 4.0 Captain Halliday and fifty marines embarked for Tientsin. In the meanwhile twenty-five bluejackets were told off ready to land at 4.0 a.m. Thursday morning, but at 9.30 a tug came off with a telegram from Sir C. MacDonald saying that "British life and property were in danger and that the first entry of troops into Peking should not be less than five hundred." Accordingly at 11.30 Lieutenant Wright, Sub-lieutenant Fisher and Midshipmen Gipps, Stanley and Taylor with sixty-five seamen embarked on board a tug for Tientsin; when we left it was extremely cold and we were all very glad to take refuge in the fore cabin. On the way in the tug stopped alongside the "Algerine" and took on board ten sailors, thus making our total force eighty officers and men, with five supernumeraries. We passed the Taku forts about 2 a.m. under cover of darkness, and proceeded up the river on the top of the flood-tide.

The river at the mouth is fairly broad, but as one ascends the stream it narrows very rapidly until at a distance of about twenty miles from the mouth it is only about thirty to forty yards broad and very winding. The colour of the water is brown, caused by the mud it brings down from the hills. The banks on either side are very low and covered with vegetation, while about every quarter of a mile a village is met with. The country round in this province is very flat and stretches away to the horizon without a rise, it is well cultivated and thickly inhabited. The river is crowded with junks and sampans, also large rafts of logs. The villages are built of mud

and the houses seem to have only one door and no windows. The inhabitants came out and clustered on the banks, and gazed at us with open-eyed astonishment as we passed. In the lower half of the river the junks make their way up and down by sailing or rowing, but in the upper half they are mostly pulled up by gangs of trackers. The majority of the large junks were very handsome, most of them having highly decorated sterns and all having the inevitable eye. We passed several brick kilns situated on the banks of the river. Most of the bricks that are made are of a mud grey colour. The means of irrigation are very primitive but extremely ingenious: there are several methods employed by the natives, one is to have a vertical pole stuck in the ground, on which is balanced a bamboo, one end being longer than the other; at the shorter end is attached a pointed bucket by means of a flexible bamboo, which is dipped into the stream and then raised and tipped into ditches and dykes which carry the water to the fields. Another method is for two men to stand about ten feet from each other, each holding a rope which is attached to a basket, then, with a swinging motion, they dip the bucket into the river, and, continuing, the swing, they empty its contents into a ditch. A third way is to revolve a paddle wheel in the river, which causes a stream to flow along a ditch cut at right angles to the river. The junks up the river seem to have very much larger sails than those at sea; in some cases I saw two sampans sailing stern to stern. As we approached Tientsin one could see signs of civilization in the shape of factories and an immense arsenal. We arrived at Tientsin about 9 a.m., having had a very good passage but no sleep. We landed on the bund and were met by the town band, and expected to go straight to the station to go up to Peking with the marines, but were told that the Russians and French had not arrived, and that the whole international force must start together. So we marched to the Barracks where the marines had settled down, to find that they had only arrived about half-an-hour before us, having stuck on the mud for seven hours.

I must now recount what had been going on all the time we had been coming up the river. News came in on the 27th that the Belgian line had been attacked by a party

of Boxers at Chang-hsien-tien. The engineers and foreigners who were there and beyond barricaded themselves in their houses, while those who were this side escaped in an engine to Fengtai and from thence by rail to Tientsin. Those who barricaded themselves in their houses eventually escaped to Peking. The Boxers then passed on to Fengtai, six miles from Peking, which was immediately burnt, and the workshops ransacked and looted. The Ministers decided to send for guards. Permission for the guards to come to Peking was refused by the Yamên; the Ministers then went to the Yamên and said that the number would be small if facilities were granted, but it must be augmented should they be refused, and serious consequences might result for the Chinese Government in the latter case. In reply the Yamên stated that no definite reply could be given until to-morrow afternoon, as the Prince was at the Summer Palace. As the Summer Palace is within an hour's ride we refused to admit the impossibility of prompt communication and decision, and repeated the warning already given of the serious consequences which would result if the Viceroy at Tientsin did not receive instructions that evening in order that the guards might be enabled to arrive here to-morrow. On May 31st the Yamên having given their consent May 31st. to the guards coming to Peking, provided the number did not exceed thirty for each Legation, it was decided to bring up the guards that were ready. As the Russians were approaching the Taku forts in their boats the Chinese fired a salute to a mandarin who was inspecting the forts. The Russians, thinking that the Chinese were firing at them, turned back, hence some delay. The Russians and French however arrived in the afternoon, and having had orders to send the same number of men as the foreign nations, one hundred marines were marched down to the station. I was in charge of the baggage party, and we found it very hard work getting along, as the trucks were very heavy and the roads none too good. When we came to the bridge of boats we experienced the greatest difficulty in getting across, as the boats sank deep into the water with the weight of the trucks, and they literally had to be bumped across. However, we arrived at the station all right and embarked the stores in an open truck. The American contingent

was already entrained. Soon after the Japanese arrived, and then came the marines, one hundred strong; headed by the Chinese band, they certainly looked very smart. The Italians next arrived, and the first part of the train steamed off, but returned and joined up with the second part. The Russians and French then arrived, and it was found that the greatest number of foreign troops was seventy-five, so twenty-five of our marines had to be left behind. The train then steamed off amidst cheers. The contingents sent to Peking were as follow:—Seventy-eight British officers and men with one Nordenfeldt, seventy-five Russians, seventy-five French, fifty Americans and a Colt, thirty Italians with a one-pounder gun, and thirty Japanese. Thursday night patrols were out, being guided round the Settlement by the volunteers, who of course knew the country well. About 2 a.m. Friday morning a fire broke out in the premises of Messrs. Caldbeck, Macgregor & Co. and the office of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, situated next to the Chartered Bank. The sailors were turned out and rendered great assistance, as Tientsin has no fire brigade. The Bank was saved, although the premises mentioned above were completely gutted. This is the third time that an attempt has been made by incendiaries to burn the Bank. I turned out at 4.30, having had the first patrol, and took charge of the fire party. The buildings were still burning, and as there was a high wind great care had to be taken to prevent the Bank catching. Eventually the fire was extinguished. That morning a telegram was received stating that all the guards had arrived in Peking, except twenty British, who had been left behind with the baggage at the station. The routine we observed was to go to drill once a day, and to keep patrols going all the time—not very interesting work, but expectation of something happening kept our spirits up. A description of Tientsin taken from the *China Directory* will not be out of place here:—“Tientsin is situated at the junction of the Yun Ho or Hwae River, better known as the Grand Canal, with the Pei Ho, in lat. 32° 4' N., long. 117° 3' 56" E. It is distant from Peking by road about eighty miles; but the bulk of the enormous traffic between the two cities is by the River Pei Ho as far as Tung Chow (thirteen

June 1st.

miles from Peking), and thence by carts and wheelbarrows over the once magnificent, but now dilapidated, stone causeway. The traffic is now, however, being rapidly diverted to the railway, which was opened in 1897, and the line doubled in November 1898. Tientsin was formerly a place of no importance, and till recently had few historic associations; till the end of the Ming dynasty [1644 A.D.] it was only a second-rate military station, but at the northern terminus of the Grand Canal it gradually became a great distributing centre. The navigability of the Pei Ho for sea-going junks ceases at Tientsin, and this made it the emporium for the very large quantities of tribute rice yearly sent up to the capital, after the Grand Canal shoaled up so as to be unfit for carriage in bulk. The trade of the city is now imperilled by the silting up of the Pei Ho. A river improvement scheme of some magnitude was inaugurated in 1898 under a Mr. A. de Linde, and is now rapidly approaching completion. It is, however, generally believed that no lasting success will attend the remedial measures until steps are taken with the Taku Bar by permanent dredging; meanwhile it is hoped that by closing the canals and creeks which take off most of the flood tide, the navigation of the river will be restored to its normal state before the year 1900.

"The expeditions of the Allies in 1858-61 greatly enhanced the importance of the city, as it was then proved to be the military key of the Capital and an excellent base. It was here, on June 26th, 1858, that Lord Elgin signed the treaty that was to conclude the war, but which unhappily led to its prolongation. The Temple in which the treaty was signed is about half a mile distant from the west gate and is now enclosed in a small arsenal (Hai Kwan Tze) and surrounded by factories for the manufacture of small arm ammunition. It is worth a visit, if only to see the large bell, which, as usual, has an interesting tradition connected with it.

"During the long satrapy of Li Hung Chang the trade and importance of the city developed exceedingly. Li, by the vigour of his rule, soon quelled the rowdyism for which the Tientsinese were notorious throughout the empire; and as he made the city his chief residence and the centre of his many experiments in

military and naval education, it came to be regarded as the focus of the new learning and national reform. The foreign affairs of China were practically directed from Tientsin during the two decades 1874-1894.

"The city will ever be infamous to Europeans from the massacre of the French Sisters of Mercy and other foreigners on June 21st, 1870, in which the most appalling brutality was exhibited; as usual the political agitators who instigated the riot got off. The Roman Catholic Cathedral Church, which was destroyed on that occasion, has since been rebuilt, and the new building was consecrated in 1897. The building occupies a commanding site on the river bank. All the missions and many of the foreign hong have agencies in the city.

"The population is reputed to be one million, but there is no statistical evidence to justify such large figures. The area of the city is far less than that of the Portsmouth boroughs with their one hundred and eighty thousand, and the houses are without exception one-storied. The suburbs, however, are very extensive, and there is the usual vagueness as to where the town begins and ends. The city walls are quadrate and extend about four thousand feet in the direction of each cardinal point. The advent of foreigners has caused a great increase in the value of real estate all over Tientsin, and, as new industries are introduced every year, the tendency is still upward.

"Li Hung Chang authorised Mr. Tong Kiu-song to sink a coal shaft at Tongshan (sixty miles north-east of Tientsin) in the seventies; this was done and proved the precursor of a railway, which has since been extended to Shan-hai-kwan for military purposes, and from thence round the gulf of Liau Tung to Kuiohow; 1900 will see this line pushed on to Newchwang. In 1897 the line to Peking was opened, and proved such a success that the line had to be doubled in 1898-99. From Fengtai, about seven miles from the capital, the trans-continental line to Hankow branches off. This line has already been made as far as Pao-ting-fu, the provincial capital of Chihli, and is now open to traffic. Its continuation is in the hands of the Belgians. About four hundred and thirty-five miles in all are open to goods and passenger traffic. As usual, the railway has

brought all sorts of foreseen and unforeseen contingencies with it. Farmers up near Shan-hai-kwan are supplying Tientsin with fruit and vegetables; an enormous trade in pea-nuts (with Canton) has been created; coal has come extensively into Chinese domestic use; the foreign residents are developing a first-rate watering-place at Pei-tai-ho on the Gulf of Pechili, and all the various industries of the city have been stimulated. Brick buildings are springing up in all directions, and the depressing-looking adobe (mud) huts are diminishing.

“The foreigners live in three concessions—British, French and German—which fringe the river below the city and cover an area of less than 500 acres. The Japanese are now (1900) taking up a concession, in accordance with the terms of the treaty of Shiminoseki. Very extensive building operations are going on throughout the concessions, which have excellent roads, with police, oil, gas lamps, etc. The British Municipality has a handsome Town Hall completed in 1889; adjoining there is a well kept public garden, opened in the year of Jubilee and styled Victoria Park. An excellent recreation ground of ten acres is also being developed, and three miles distant there is a capital race course. There are two hotels (the Astor House and the Globe), two clubs (Tientsin Club and Concordia, the latter chiefly German), a theatre, an excellent library, three churches (Roman Catholic, Anglican and Union) and no public-houses.

“Distilling is one of the largest local industries; it is chiefly from kowliang (sorghum) or millet. Although a spirit, it is called a “wine” and is exported to the South in large quantities. The manufacture of coarse salt (unrefined) by the evaporation of seawater is also carried on near Taku; the produce is stacked on the river bank just below the native city and sometimes gives off a very offensive smell, rendering life a burden. The trade in salt is a Government monopoly. Carpets, shoes, glass, coarse earthenware, and fireworks are also made in large quantities in Tientsin city, but it is at present essentially a centre for distribution and collection rather than for manufacture. The exports include coal, wool (from Kokonor, Kansuh, etc.), bristles, strawbraid, goat-skins, fur, wine, etc. The export trade is a recent creation and is largely due to the foreign initiative. Wool-cleaning and braid and bristle

sorting are the chief industries in the foreign hong, except those of the Russians, who are exclusively engaged in the transit of tea. The imports are of the usual miscellaneous nature: tea for the Desert and Siberia, mineral oil, matches and needles figure next in piece goods. The fine arts are unknown to the Tientsinese, except in the shape of cleverly made mud figures; these are painted and make really admirable statuettes, but are difficult to carry away, being extremely brittle. There is also a statistical report on the trade of Tientsin, which hardly bears on the case here. It is sufficient to say that the export of coal is increasing and that the general trade is increasing by leaps and bounds, and no wonder, as Tientsin is practically the only sea outlet for the entire trade of the provinces of Chihli, Shansi, Shensi, Kansuh, and part of Honan, with a population of not far short of 100,000,000."

June 2nd.

On Saturday fifty German marines and thirty-five Italians passed through Tientsin on their way to Peking. Thirty Europeans, mostly Belgians, fled from Pao-ting-fu *via* the river to Tientsin. About twenty miles from Tientsin they were attacked by Boxers, and several of them were wounded. Sunday morning, a mounted party of Volunteers and a detachment on foot went out to rescue them, but had not returned by the evening. The next morning they arrived in a most worn-out condition, the detachment on foot with the provisions having gone astray and missed the other party. The mounted men encountered the Boxers and about nine of them were killed, without any loss on our side. They successfully rescued the Belgians and brought them back to the Settlement, neither party having had anything to eat for over twenty-four hours.

June 3rd.

June 4th.

June 3rd.

Admiral Seymour and Staff arrived in Tientsin and inspected the Barracks and the system of defences that Lieutenant Wright had devised. He expressed satisfaction at the arrangements and complimented him on the harmonious relations with the foreigners. He left again at 5 p.m. for Taku. On Saturday night, owing to the fact that the Volunteers had not returned, a detachment of thirty Cossacks went out to rescue them. They encountered three bands of Chinese, of whom they killed sixteen, but unfortunately the captain was badly wounded by a spear thrust, and three of the men slightly wounded. These late encounters show

that the Boxers are closing in on us. On Monday we heard that the Rev. Robinson had been murdered, and that Norman had been captured. Permission was asked to take a force of thirty men to try and rescue him, but it was refused. We afterwards heard that he was murdered the next day. Anting, the next station below Fengtai, was to-day destroyed by the Boxers; they are gradually approaching this place, and a conflict may take place any day. An overland courier service has been started by the Customs, owing to the breakdown of the railway. Foreign war-ships continue to arrive at Taku, and there are there now about twenty-five ships of different nationalities. Mid. Collett was sent down with dispatches to the Admiral. Consul Carles telegraphed to the Admiral asking for strong reinforcements. Guards continue to arrive in small parties. Wednesday, Lieutenant Bomba and fifty men arrived from the "Centurion," as a reinforcement for the guard here. Sir Claude MacDonald wired for more marines, and accordingly Major Johnson and Captain Beyts arrived with seventy-five marines from the "Centurion," about half-an-hour after seventy-five Germans arrived. The Ministers had an interview with the Tsungli Yamèn to-day. They expressed much regret at the murders of Messrs. Norman and Robinson. The Ministers pointed out that there was not the slightest indication that the Chinese Government intended to deal severely with the Boxer disturbances, and that insecurity of human life within a few miles of the capital, and serious danger of an out-break occurring within the city itself, was the result of this attitude. They further said that the failure to suppress the Boxers was leading straight to foreign intervention, however much friendly Powers might regret such a course. No attempt was made by the Prince to defend the Government nor to deny the statements of the Ministers. He could say nothing to reassure them as to the safety of the city, and admitted that the Government was reluctant to deal harshly with the movement, which, owing to its anti-foreign character, was popular. He stated that they were bringing 6,000 soldiers from near Tientsin for the protection of the railway, but it was evident that he doubted whether they would be allowed to fire on the Boxers, except in the defence of Government property, or, if authorized, whether they would

June 4th.

June 5th.

June 6th.

obey. He gave the Ministers to understand, without saying so directly, that he had entirely failed to induce the Court to accept his own views, as to the danger of inaction. It was clear, in fact, that the Yamèn wished them to understand that the situation was most serious, owing to the influence of ignorant advisers with the Empress Dowager.

June 7th.

On Thursday news came of an engagement between the Boxers and General Nieh's foreign drilled troops, at Yangtsun; the Boxers suffered considerably. Complying with the request of Sir Claude MacDonald, Major Johnson with seventy-five marines marched to the station to go to Peking, but after waiting there the whole day had to come back again, as the Viceroy refused to give permission for a train. In the afternoon seventy-five Austrians arrived and placed themselves under the command of the British. Later on Commander Granville and staff arrived. A 3" Vickers Maxim gun was placed in position on the mud wall; it was a specimen gun that Vickers Maxim & Sons had out here for trade purposes. Unfortunately there are very few shells for it, but we have got a lot of tins and filled them with rivet heads, thus making case shot. The powder consists of saluting charges. Lieutenant Wright and several officials obtained an engine and went up the line to see the state of the railway. They got as far as Yangtsun and there met General Nieh, who received them very cordially but said that it was impossible for them to go any further as his engine was in the way; the foreigners, however, said that he must change trains, and seeing that they were determined to go, he accompanied them on their journey; they however were only able to proceed a little further, as they came to a stretch of line completely torn up. Seeing this, they returned to Tientsin, having carried out a very successful little reconnaissance. We heard that the "Humber" has gone to Shan-hai-kwan to take away refugees and also to send a guard to Tongshan to protect the coal mines. On Friday it is reported that the Chinese Government has ordered General Nieh's troops to retreat and leave the Boxers alone. There is another report that 1,500 of General Nieh's troops have been surrounded by the Boxers and 500 of them killed. All traffic on the Peking-Tientsin line is stopped. Small contingents of

June 8th.

guards continue to arrive. Captain Jellicoe and staff arrived in the evening. The following telegram was sent by the Admiral to the Admiralty:—"In view of the gravity of the situation, and it being unadvisable to distress ships for men, submit whether troops from Hongkong may be sent for Tientsin and Peking. 'Terrible' available for conveyance." Saturday we received news June 9th. from Peking that the Ministers' Summer Residences had been burnt and that the Grand Stand at the Race Course, some six miles from Peking, has also shared the same fate. An Imperial Edict was issued by the Chinese Government, which ascribed the recent trouble to the favour shewn to converts in law suits and the admission to their ranks of bad characters. It stated that the Boxers, who are the objects of the Throne's sympathy equally with the converts, have made use of the anti-Christian feeling aroused by these causes, and that bad characters among them have destroyed chapels and railways which are the property of the State. Unless the ringleaders among such bad characters are now surrendered by the Boxers they will be dealt with as disloyal subjects, and will be exterminated. Authorization will be given to the Generals to effect arrests, exercising discrimination between leaders and their followers. On June 8th the Admiral telegraphed to the Admiralty:—"In case of a sudden march on Peking, as regards command the best course might be for me to undertake it, with Russian Colonel as Chief of Staff. I think all or most of the foreign officers here would agree to this. Request instructions. Rear-Admiral would be left in charge of squadron off Pei Ho." Saturday evening a telegram arrived from Peking saying that if help did not arrive soon it would be too late. The telegraph to Peking *via* Tungchow has been destroyed and the only line available now is the Russian-European line. The Boxers have reached Yangtsun and have burnt the railway station. General Nieh's forces have been withdrawn. The Russian line to Peking has been cut at Kalgan and all telegraphic communication with Peking is now severed. Occasional runners get through, if offered large sums of money. Sir Claude Macdonald telegraphed to the Home Government before the line was cut, the following:—"I have to report that the situation is now critical. To-morrow or next day we shall meet to decide the question of a

June 10th.

personal audience with the Empress Dowager and the Emperor. If a demand for an audience is made, it is essential, first, that it should be insisted on, and that we should compel the Chinese Government to grant it; secondly, that a definite statement should be made to the Throne, when the audience takes place, putting in plain terms the existence of so deplorable a state of things in North China, owing to the Boxers not being repressed, and concluding with a strong intimation that, unless the Chinese Government immediately suppressed the Boxers and re-established law and order, the foreign Powers would be compelled themselves to take measures to that end, as the present state of things is fraught with so much danger to foreign interests." From this report it may be seen that the Chinese Government took no active measures to suppress the Boxer rising. The Admiral telegraphed to the Admiralty that he had received the following telegram from the Minister:—"Situation extremely grave. Unless arrangements are made for immediate advance to Peking it will be too late.' In consequence of above, I am landing at once with all available men, and have asked foreign officers' co-operation." About 9 a.m. in the morning the station was crowded with sailors and marines of all nationalities, on their way to Peking. Admiral Seymour in command of the expeditionary force was present. There were about 600 British there, and in all about 1,600. The first train left with 650 British, 100 Americans, 40 Italians, and 25 Austrians at 9.30 amidst great cheers. The front truck had a 6-pr. q.-f. gun mounted on a boat's mounting placed in it; also several field and machine guns. Later on a company of about 100 men arrived from the "Orlando," and at 11 a.m. a second train, with about 600 British, Japanese, Russian, and French troops, left. In the afternoon a train with 300 Germans left. Still later in the evening a train conveying six of our 9-pr. muzzle-loading field guns and some Russians passed through the station. The Chinese coolies and villagers crowding in on the trains, Captain Bailey found it necessary to clear the station with the bayonet. Opposition is expected to the Admiral's force and they are not expected to reach Peking before Monday. We heard to-day that the Lofa and Langfong stations had been burnt by the Boxers.

The guard of marines and bluejackets from the "Centurion" also left with the Admiral, but were replaced here by the arrival of a company from the "Aurora" with a field gun.

The total force with the Admiral is about 1,600 to 1,700 men. June 11th.
 Small detachments with provisions, etc. continue to pass through Tientsin on their way to Peking. Monday evening Commander Beatty, 14 officers and 190 men arrived, and next morning took over the part of the defence allotted to the British. Captain Bailey was in supreme command of all the forces in Tientsin. We heard that the Russians had landed 1,700 men at Taku and were advancing on Tientsin. During the night a Chinaman was shot on the mud wall for not answering the challenge. Small fires broke out in the native city at night. We received news that Admiral Seymour had advanced thirty miles with 1,000 men, he had met with no opposition, and hopes, unless opposed, to reach Peking this evening. Sir C. Macdonald sent the following telegram:—"It is reported that Admiral's party is at Langfong, half-way from Tientsin. All communication by telegraph with the latter place is interrupted. On the 8th June the Boxers attacked the student interpreters, close to the city walls, who only escaped by using fire-arms. Some soldiers yesterday assaulted the Secretary of the Belgian Legation at the end of Legation Street. The Summer Legation at the hills, which I had officially handed over to the Chinese Government, was last night totally destroyed by fire. I am sending this telegram by the Kiachta Route." The force up the line was increased by 450 Germans and 90 British. Assistant-Paymaster Murray passed through Tientsin with provisions for the party up the line. June 12th.
 Tuesday we were all called out and the Commanding Officers inspected the outposts and defences. Every night one company sleeps at the wool mills and one company at the recreation ground, while the rest of the force is held in readiness in the town for any emergency. Sentries are posted at all the most important places, including the mud wall, while patrols visit these posts every two hours. The 1,700 Russians reported to have been landed at Taku arrived in Tientsin to-day; they brought with them several guns, including four 4-inch guns. News received from the Admiral report him nearly half-way to Peking, though progress is much delayed by damage

still being done to the line as they advance. Boxers were found in considerable force yesterday afternoon near railway at Langfang and were engaged. They fled, leaving about thirty-five killed. No casualties on our side. Our force, increased by 200 Russians and 58 French who arrived yesterday, is now 2,000 strong. We received the news of the murder of Mr. Sugiyama, Chancellor of the Japanese Legation, by Chinese soldiers. Apparently he had gone to see if there were any signs of the foreign troops approaching. This seems to have been the first actual act of violence committed by the Chinese soldiers on a foreigner. In the evening fires again broke out in the native city, and some missions are said to have been burnt. There is great activity in the Settlement, sending provisions, etc. up the line to the Admiral. We made a reconnaissance in force towards the Western Arsenal, and found most of the houses looted and deserted; large numbers of villagers were removing their goods in desperate haste. A large crowd of Chinese collected in the distance at our approach, but having observed all we wanted we retired. In the evening Lieutenants Luard and Wright with Mid. Collett and a Petty Officer went into the native city to look at a Mission Station which had been threatened by the Boxers. They found it safe and deserted, but immediately after they had left it burst into flames and was totally destroyed; they must have been watching them, and set fire directly they left. We are all expecting an outbreak as this is the anniversary of the Tientsin massacre in 1870. The fires to-night assumed greater magnitude and the sky was lit up with a lurid glare from the burning buildings. We received the following news from the Admiral's force:—"Progress very slow, railway much broken up, only three miles during the last twenty-four hours. No further encounter with the Boxers, who are said to be two miles in advance in force. The Russians are landing an additional force of 1,700 troops, and I have requested General to send 650 troops, now ready at Hongkong, to Taku in the 'Terrible.' Trustworthy courier arrived from Peking reports great excitement there at our approach. General Tung expected to oppose entry within city."

June 13th.

June 14th.

Communications with the Admiral are interrupted to-day. Captain Burke and staff arrived in Tientsin with large quantities of provisions destined for the Admiral's party. He had been

ordered up to form a base at Lofa and left again for that place about 4 p.m. in the afternoon with a long train. He reached Yangtsun safely and was received by Chinese troops who were guarding the line; after parleying with them he proceeded cautiously, and seeing numbers of Chinese, and hearing that Boxers were in possession of the line, he decided to go back, and arrived in Tientsin safely that evening. No news from the Admiral's party to-day. On Thursday night large fires broke out in the native city, and in the morning we heard that the American Mission and the London Mission had been totally destroyed by fire. An attempt was also made on the French Roman Catholic Cathedral, but was stopped by a Chinese gunboat firing on the mob. All night the roar of the flames could be heard, and large flames and dense volumes of smoke were seen issuing from numerous buildings; at the same time a dull roar could be heard as the Boxers and mob proceeded on their diabolical work, sometimes swelling into a shrill tone and at other times almost dying away. The scheme of defence has been slightly altered, and we have taken up our positions for the defence of the Settlement in earnest. There seems to be no doubt that there will be an encounter with the Boxers before long; they are increasing in daring every day.

The native city is practically in the hands of the Boxers and the mob, who have burnt down the chapels and compelled the Chinese officials to get out of their chairs in the streets. Consul Carles reported to the Home Authorities:—"The action of the Viceroy has been very correct. Communication with the Admiral is cut off. The situation here is more serious than he is aware of. A portion of the Russian troops still remains in this place." Further dispositions were made for the defence of the Settlement and patrols were out as usual. The position of the guns was altered, and some of them were placed to command the main roads approaching the Settlement. Some houses were found to be in the line of fire, and I was detached with a party of men to pull them down. It is remarkable how difficult it is to pull down the mud houses that the Chinese about here live in; pulling out the main beams seems to have no effect, and in the end, after having spent four hours in fruitless work, we burnt them down, June 15th.

and thus we destroyed by fire in as many minutes what would have required the equivalent number of hours if we had done it by manual power. An armoured train was formed, and a search-light with a picket's boat engine and a dynamo were fixed up in a truck. A 6-pr. gun was also mounted in an open truck. This train was sent patrolling the line between Taku and Tientsin to keep it open. Captain Burke and a guard left in a train filled with supplies for Lofa; they proceeded to Yangtsun and found the station in flames. After looking round and seeing nobody they went on slowly and passed over a bridge, which was burning; this they put out and passed on to the next bridge, which they found in the same state; they passed the place where there had been a Chinese camp the day previously, but found it deserted. They passed on and came to a place where two lengths of line had been removed; these they replaced with the lines from the other track, and again proceeded cautiously and arrived at a spot where the line was very badly torn up. Whilst the line was being repaired Captain Burke walked on and came to a bridge, in the centre of which a line was torn up; the line by this time had been replaced and the train approached the bridge. Just at this moment a Chinese messenger, who professed to have come from Peking with despatches, arrived in a great state of fear, and said it was impossible to proceed, as the Boxers in great numbers held the line on ahead. They then observed great numbers of Boxers with numerous banners on ahead approaching the train. Captain Burke seeing this, decided to return to Tientsin, and the train proceeded back at full speed. They reached Yangtsun bridge and found it in flames, and just managed to pass over it before it broke down: as they passed over several sleepers fell down. When they approached Tientsin, numbers of Chinese fled from the line at the approach of the train. The guard in the train fired into them and killed several. It was found that they had placed stones on the line, and this necessitated frequent stoppages to clear it. They neared Tientsin as it was getting dark and were stoned as they passed through the suburbs, eventually arriving at the station at about 9 p.m. An armed steam pinnace from the "Bardleur" arrived during the day for the purpose of patrolling the river. The Germans sent one up as well. In the afternoon the

Consul sent the following telegram to the Home Government:—
“The Chinese Government are taking measures to concentrate troops along the approaches to Tientsin and on Taku. I am informed that, in consequence of this, the Admirals may be compelled to seize the Taku forts without delay.” Also later on:—“On the evening of the 13th June the Boxers entered Peking and destroyed the old Custom-house quarters and the establishments of several Missions. It appears that many Chinese were massacred, but there were no casualties among the Europeans.” Friday night the native city and suburbs were one vast sea of flames which destroyed the fine French Roman Catholic Cathedral, all the mission churches, the Viceroy’s Yamèn, and numerous other buildings. The first rifle firing that took place in the Settlement commenced early Saturday morning, when a horde of Boxers tried to invade the Settlement from the Taku road, and were repulsed with heavy losses by the Americans, who had their headquarters at the Methodist Mission. In this opening engagement the Americans lost one killed and one wounded. All this time that the engagement lasted the fires gradually increased in volume and approached the Settlement at the same time, until it almost seemed that nothing could save the outlying houses. A dull roar rose up from the city which proclaimed that the heathen mob were at their work of plunder and destruction. Towards the morning, however, the noise from the city abated, and the fires died down, until at sunrise only large columns of smoke were to be seen. The companies and guns’ crews were practically out all night, and we all felt pretty tired out in the morning. We were greatly aided by the full moon, which shone very brightly in a clear sky all night, and practically made surprise impossible. Saturday was a pretty quiet day, but the picquets, etc. were strengthened, and the usual patrols went round. The Settlement is practically deserted by the Chinese, except for the refugee Christians and a few trusted private servants. There are no rickshas to be had, and of course all our washing has gone. The Admiralty telegraphed to Admiral Bruce:—“In event of Viceroy, Tientsin, being in personal danger owing to his loyalty to British, he is to be afforded an asylum on board one of Her Majesty’s ships. Foreign Office is informing Consul accordingly.” The following telegram was sent by the

June 16th.

Foreign Office to India Office:—"In view of the considerable force of British and Indian troops which is being sent from Hongkong to Taku on the requisition of the Naval Commander-in-Chief on the China Station, the Marquess of Salisbury desires to submit, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India, the question of replacing them by the despatch to Hongkong of one or two battalions of native troops from India. It is possible that more may be required. The men who have been landed from the British Squadron at Taku cannot be spared for long from the ships; and having regard to the present state of affairs in China, and the impossibility of foreseeing the course which events in the Far East may take, it appears to his Lordship very desirable that the British garrisons should be maintained at their full strength." A similar letter has been addressed to the War Office. The Marquess of Salisbury sent the following telegram to Consul Carles:—"If possible communicate with Admiral by runner. You should inform him that 950 troops have been ordered to Taku from Hongkong. You should also ascertain his position, whether he needs reinforcements or supplies, and what his prospects are." The armoured train still patrols the line between Tientsin and Tonku. As the evening drew to a close, fresh fires started to burst out in the native city, and things looked as if they would be worse than the previous night. We heard that the Taku forts were to be seized that night, but the rumour proved to be false. The fires continued to increase until the sky was aglow with flames and sparks. At 10.30 we were all called out, and the different companies and guns took up their allotted positions on the outskirts of the Settlement. At about 11 p.m., suddenly a heavy volley crashed out from the direction of the station, and from that time onwards there was steady volleying, and intermittent firing from field guns. After each discharge a regular howl of rage went up from the Chinese mob, shewing that the Russians' fire was telling. As yet we had not fired a shot, but could trace the progress of the Boxers through the city by the trail of burning buildings they left behind them, and the continued outbreak of new fires before them. The moon was well up and we could see clearly for a great distance. Towards 2 a.m. the firing ceased, and only very occasionally a shot was heard. The fires, however, continued to increase in volume

June 17th.

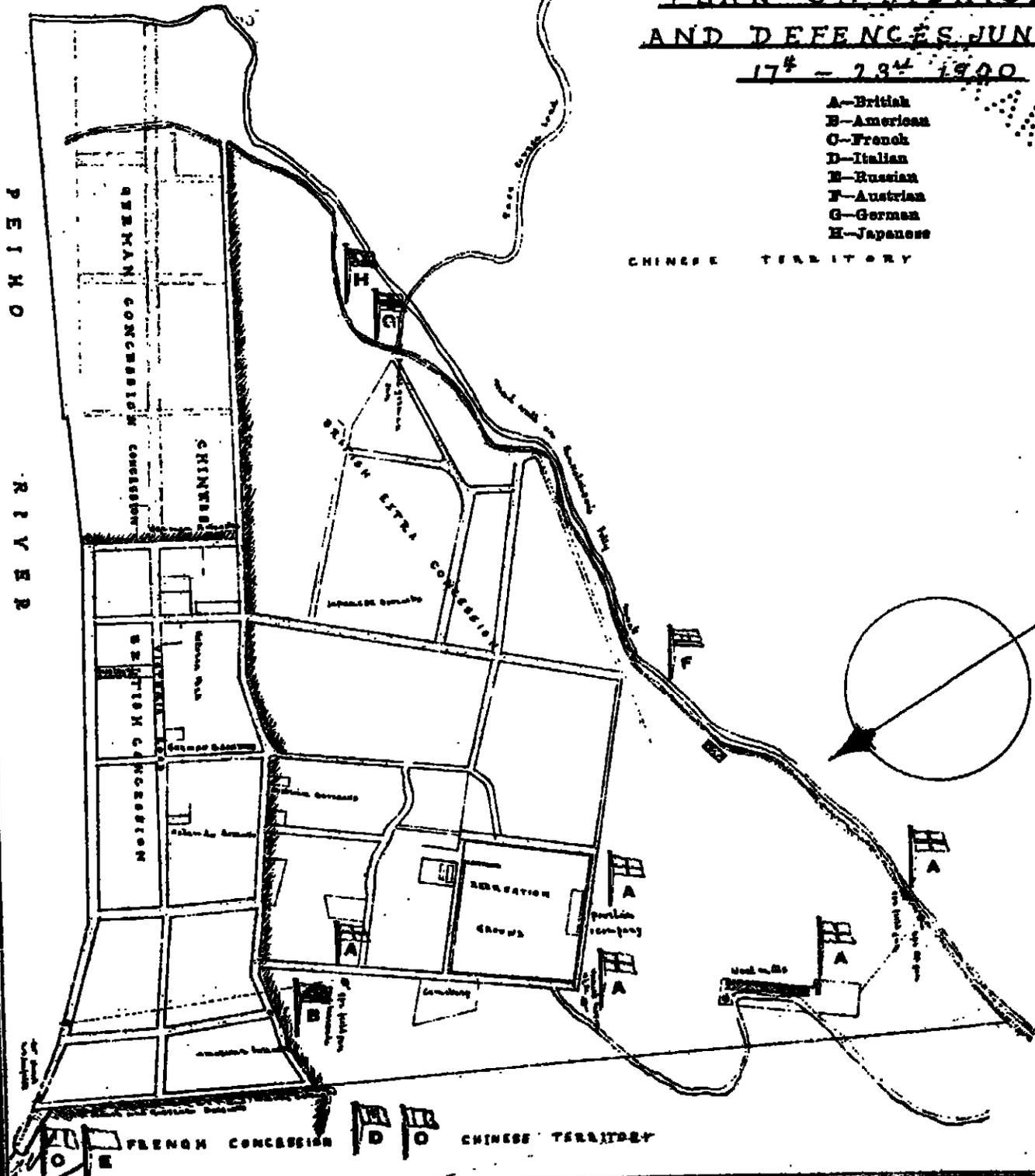
PLAN OF TIENTSIN
AND DEFENCES JUNE

17th - 23rd 1900

- A-British
- B-American
- C-French
- D-Italian
- E-Russian
- F-Austrian
- G-German
- H-Japanese

CHINESE TERRITORY

PEIHO RIVER



FRENCH CONCESSION

CHINESE TERRITORY

and one especially large building, a foreign flour mill, took fire and burnt to the ground. At 2.30, the firing having ceased completely, we returned to our outpost to sleep, only to be called out again at 3.15, and this time to play a more active part than before. We had not been long at our posts before we heard a low roar in the distance, which came from the Chinese mob, who had evidently been deflected from the station direction by the heavy Russian fire, and after crossing the river by the bridges were coming in our direction; the noise continued to swell in strength, until the head of the crowd came round the corners of the main roads. They all seemed to carry torches, and many of them had lanterns on long poles. As the crowd advanced it spread out, and small bodies entered all the houses and set them on fire, after first looting anything worth having and driving out the unfortunate inhabitants. We then opened fire on them and did considerable execution; the firing however seemed to madden the crowd, who commenced leaping and dodging in and out of the houses, while the shouting increased, until the whole scene developed into a perfect pandemonium. Our fire, however, had some effect, and they began to take cover; but the leaders, mostly dressed in white and red, scorning to take shelter, rushed out in front as though to encourage their followers, and with fanatical incantations and furious cursing, went through a sort of dance, often falling to the ground when we fired as though shot, but nearly always rising again and shaking their fists at us. As we advanced the mob retired, and we eventually drove them from the precincts of the Settlement. They took up their stand across a sort of deep ditch about 1,000 yards away. Lieutenant Wright went out with four marksmen and myself to see if we could shoot any of the leaders. We took up a most excellent position in a pile of bricks and managed to kill eight of them; after this we retired to the Settlement, and as there were no signs of the Boxers coming on again the forces were withdrawn. The Settlement throughout the whole night had been the centre of an incessant and heavy fire, and the Russians at the station seem to have had an especially hard time of it, being attacked by such enormous numbers. The armoured train during the night was at Tonku

and had heard the attack on the Taku forts and had seen the shells bursting, some of them very nearly hitting the train. Lieutenant Perfect was in command. Towards the morning the train slowly retired on Tientsin. There was no firing during the forenoon, and the quiet enabled us to get a little food. Referring to the armoured train again, it appears that the search-light attracted the attention of the Chinese, and that the northern forts opened a heavy fire on it, but only having forty men and not being able to render any assistance it returned to Tientsin with the news of the capture of the two forts. From this news and from the fact that the Admiral's party was cut off, we concluded that the Chinese Government had taken up arms against us, and knowing that the Military College, situated just across the river and opposite the Settlement, contained a great many guns and a large quantity of ammunition, it was decided to take it. Accordingly at about 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, Major Luke, Lieutenant Armstrong, with twenty-five marines from the "Barfleur," twenty-five marines from the "Orlando" and thirty Germans crossed the river in sampans, and advanced from the bank of the river towards the enclosure; they entered it by the gate in the mud wall without opposition, and immediately placed guards over both the gates. After this was done, they advanced across the compound to the armoury and buildings which formed a large square, and burst open the main door, which had been hastily barricaded, by continued charging; once inside the door they were met by a withering fire from all sides, and it was here that they sustained nearly all their casualties, two of their number being killed almost immediately. The fire of the Chinese students was very difficult to locate as they had drawn all the sunblinds; however, while half the force kept down the Chinese fire by shooting at the different windows, the other half entered the buildings on the left and gradually fought their way round the block, shooting and bayonetting the Chinese as they went. A very resolute band of students took up a position, approached by a very narrow corridor, and maintained a hot fire. Seeing that the room could not be captured without great loss of life, Major Luke ordered the place to be destroyed; it was accordingly set fire to in several places, and soon the sharp crackling that commenced told the tale that large

quantities of ammunition were being destroyed. Some of the students tried to escape over the mud wall but were shot down by the men stationed at the gates. In all eight Krupp field guns were captured, an immense amount of ammunition and small arms was destroyed, the college burnt down, and about fifty or sixty Chinamen killed. All through the evening and right into the night the sound of exploding ammunition could be heard. We afterwards found out that a large force had been sent to hold the college compound, and had arrived about three hours after the engagement, only to find the place in a blaze. If the Chinese had only been able to hold the college, it would have practically made the bund in the Settlement untenable, owing to the fact that it could be completely commanded by the guns from the college. The Chinese commenced shelling the Settlement in the afternoon for the first time, but the shells, which were mostly shrapnel, burst about 500 or 600 feet above the town and therefore did no damage. The fact that the Chinese were using artillery shewed that the Imperial troops were then fighting against us, as the Boxers did not possess any. Sunday night, expecting an attack, all the outposts were strengthened considerably, and we awaited the attack. In the distance, out by the Western Arsenal, we could see an immense crowd waving lanterns on poles and making the usual dull roar; it was very dark as yet, as the moon had not risen, which made it very difficult to see any distance. The crowd seemed to get nearer and the noise louder, but at about 9 p.m. they retired again, and finally, at about midnight, disappeared altogether. The moon was up then and we felt secure. One company slept at the wool mills and one at the recreation ground so as to be near the scene of action, if anything occurred. Monday at day-light the actual heavy bombardment commenced. A heavy shell fire was directed against the Settlement from all the enemy's positions, but most of the shells went too high, and very little real damage was done. Towards the forenoon, however, the shooting improved and a good many casualties were caused by shells. At about 7 a.m. the Chinese made an attack in force on the station which was held by the Russians. At 8.30 a.m. they brought three heavy field guns and one 1-pr. to bear on the Settlement from a pagoda on the south wall of the native city. Things were becoming very hot, and

June 18th.

having a 6-pr. it was decided to place it in position on the mud wall to engage the Chinese guns. Unfortunately, as the cart in which the gun and mounting had been placed, was being dragged out to the mud wall it broke down completely under the weight, and the gun and mounting had to be half dragged and half carried by about fifty marines to the mud wall, and then we had a hard job to get it up the incline on to the top. However, we got the gun up, and as soon as it was put together we opened fire on the Chinese guns, or what we could see of them at 3,200 yards range. I think our fire must have had some effect, as they immediately directed some shells at us, which all passed over and burst about 200 yards in rear. We fired four boxes of ammunition at them, which was all we had out there at the time, and then gave them a few shrapnel from the 9-pr. All through the forenoon, while we were firing from our side at the Chinese, we could hear a steady rifle and artillery fire going on at the station, and at 9.20 it grew much hotter, until at 10 a.m. the Russians sent back to say that they were hard pressed and that the position would be lost if reinforcements did not arrive. Accordingly Captain Bayley sent Lieutenant Perfect and forty men from the "Orlando." They marched to the bridge of boats and then broke into a double, as the Chinese had the range of the bridge to a nicety, and systematically burst shrapnel just over it, which ripped the planking up and lashed the water into foam. They arrived at the station shortly after 10 to find the place turned into a regular death-trap, and took up a position behind the station-house while they found out where they were wanted; in the meanwhile other companies of Japanese, French and Germans arrived and took cover. Half a company was sent on with a 9-pr. and took up a position behind the platform at the northern corner of the station; the platform there was only about eighteen inches high, which made it very uncomfortable crouching down behind it. The Chinese maintained an incessant rifle fire on the station from two directions, and shell after shell from their guns crashed into the engine-house and other buildings. The enemy made good use of the cover afforded by the numerous ditches and graves, and were very rarely to be seen except when running from trench to trench. Commander Beatty arrived with "A" Company of the "Barfleur" at about noon. The

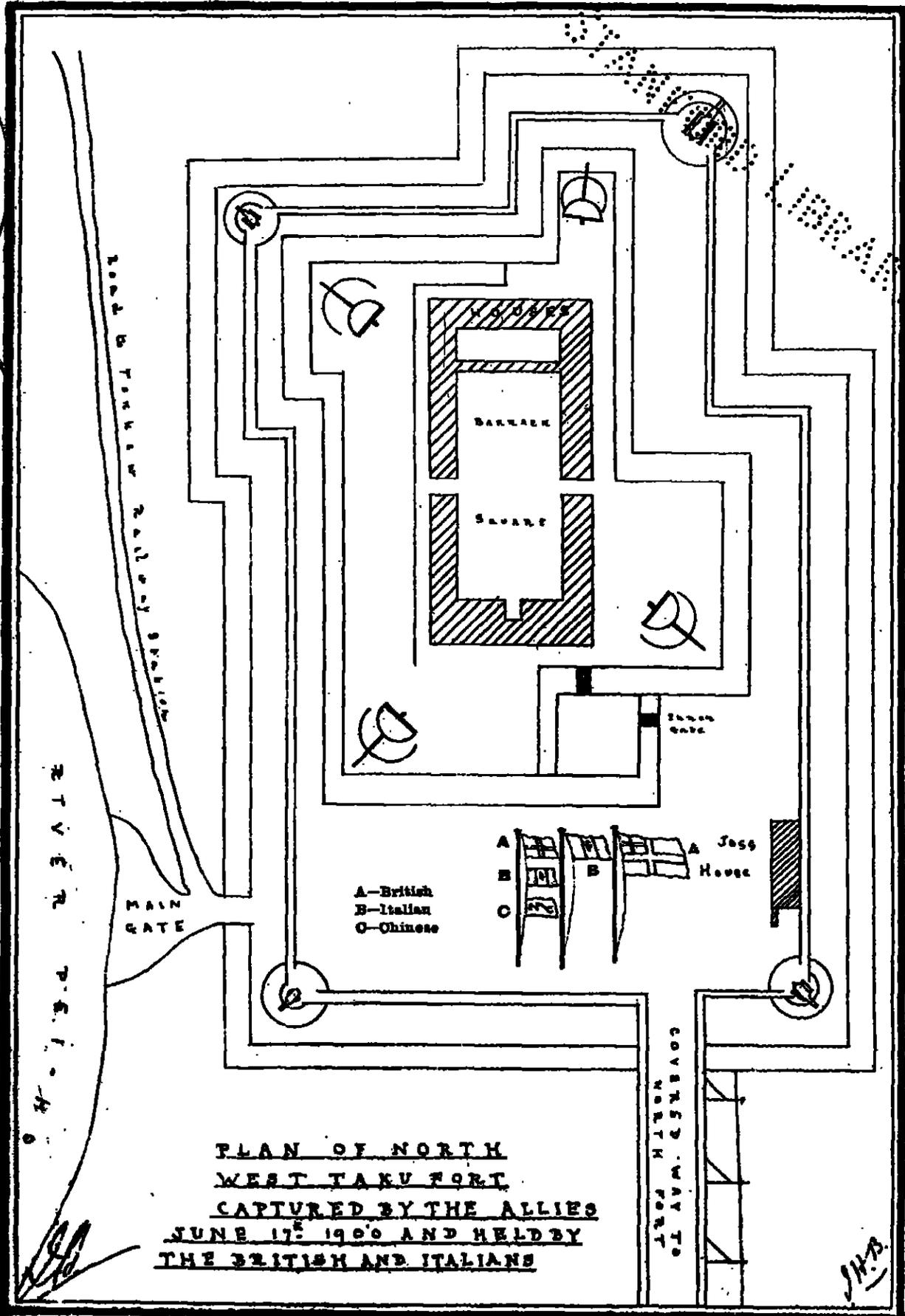
Russian guns were fought splendidly, doing great execution, as did the 9-pr., no less than five No. 1s to the gun being shot, one after the other. At 3.30 the Russian General who was in command, seeing that his troops were suffering heavily and not making much impression on the Chinese, decided to advance and attack their positions. The object of the attack was to clear the village to the left front of the station and if possible to capture some of their guns. The French and Japanese, who had in the meanwhile come up, advanced and made a flank attack on a few houses where some guns were situated, while the Cossack artillery stood by on the left flank to cut off a retreat. The British and Russians advanced in the centre, while the Germans and some more Russians formed the reserve. Once the advance had started there were very few casualties, as there was very good cover. It was not very long before the British were leading, as the Russians, though magnificent at defence, are very slow at the attack. As the attacking party approached, the Chinese began to fall back slowly, firing as they went and taking full advantage of cover, with the exception of a few who started running. A great many Chinese took cover behind a large mound; the force saw this move and divided, the British approached on the right, the Russians on the left. At about fifty yards from the mound the Chinese broke and fled for a village about 300 yards away, and were shot down in dozens as they ran. The British and Russians fixed bayonets and charged, utterly routing the Chinese. Meanwhile the Japanese and French had driven the Chinese from the houses opposite them, and the whole force joined up, and after the houses in the village had been burnt, they returned to the Settlement, leaving a detachment as before to guard the station. The casualties were:—British four killed, and about twenty-eight wounded; Russian twenty killed, sixty wounded. While all this had been going on an engagement had been fought out on the western side of the arsenal. At about 1 p.m. the Chinese brought out four field guns into the open and started shelling the wool mills, and especially the tower in the compound, which was used as a signal station by us to communicate with headquarters. At the same time large bodies of troops and Boxers appeared with banners under the city walls, and slowly advanced towards us. By this

time, seeing that an attack was imminent, the marines, Germans and Austrians, had come up to reinforce us, and formed a line right across from the mud wall to the wool mills. About 200 Chinese marched away to our left and advanced towards us under cover of the mud wall, which made a bend about 400 yards from our front: so that we could see them when 1,800 yards away, and again when 400 yards away, but not between these distances. All this time the guns slowly advanced, and we occasionally fired shrapnel at them. Suddenly about a hundred of the enemy came running round the bend on either side, firing rapidly as they advanced. The Austrians engaged them on the left, and the marines and Germans on the right, while we quickly got the 9-pr. trained on them and fired a shrapnel at 400 yards, which burst fairly in front of them and must have killed several. They could not stand this, and turned and fled. Our troops immediately advanced and drove the guns back, the 9-pr. firing at them as rapidly as possible. Thus the Chinese attacks on the Settlement failed all round. We found that several buildings had been hit during the day, including the Gordon Hall, where all the women and children had taken refuge. All day the male residents and Chinese Christians had been hard at work barricading the streets with huge bales of wool and skins in case of a rush, also to afford some protection from the snipers on the bund. All through the night the work of barricading went on, and all night the Chinese kept up a pitiless fire on the bund and from the houses out by the country, the bullets zipping round as one slept, while several came through our mat-shed during the night. Lieutenant Field and the armoured train returned in the evening, having failed to establish communications with Tonku. It found the line torn up and had a good many casualties. At daylight Tuesday the Chinese started shelling the Settlement again, and also opened a heavy fire on the wool mills; they evidently saw our signals from the top and were determined to put a stop to it. Time after time their shells just passed a few feet over the top of the tower, while some hit the body of the building and others burst short of the palings. The company stationed there were busy all day in fortifying the place, pulling down the palings, making trenches and loopholing the walls, all the time under a heavy shell fire, but fortunately only one or two men were slightly wounded, including

June 19th.

one midshipman named Gibbs. The sniping at times was very annoying, but we kept them at a respectful distance by having a couple of men with rifles on the top of the tower, where an excellent view could be obtained; several Chinamen were in this way killed. Towards the afternoon the Chinese guns started to advance, but, having a plentiful supply of 6-pr. ammunition, we kept them back; some snipers also tried to creep along the far side of the wall towards the guns, but were seen and accounted for. During that day, however, the Chinese had not been idle in other parts, for a strong attack had been made against the Germans from the direction of the Taku road, and had only been repulsed after heavy fighting, in which the Germans had to be reinforced by the British marines. On the Eastern side also, they got new guns into position, almost opposite the British Consulate, and it was there that Lieutenant Wright was seriously wounded while directing the fire of the 9-pr. gun from the top of the roof. A Maxim was mounted on top of the Taku Tug and Lighter Company's Tower to engage the guns shelling the Settlement from the direction of Peiyang. As the enemies report rang out, tap, tap, tap, went the Maxim in reply. Captain Bayley decided to attack these guns, and a force led by Commander Beatty tried to capture them, but things proving too hot for them they had to retire without effecting their purpose. Our casualties were heavy, including Commander Beatty, Lieutenants Powell and Sterling, Midshipman Donaldson, and about twenty men killed and wounded. All the officers mentioned were wounded, but poor Donaldson died after from the effects of his wounds. This day was the hottest we had during the siege. A desultory fire was kept up along the bund all night by the Chinese, the bullets flying down every street, some even finding their resting-place in the mud wall the other side of the Settlement. Tuesday evening Mr. Watts and four Cossacks started from Tientsin at about 9 p.m. to ride to Taku to ask for relief. Early in the morning the Chinese started shelling again as usual. We were kept busy fortifying the wool mills and making trenches. The 6-pr. gun on the mud wall was in a very exposed position, so a trench was constructed in front of it which gave some shelter from the snipers, while the far side of the mud wall gave protection from shell fire. June 20th.

We still maintained over look-outs and signalmen on the top of the tower, but during the day it was struck a great many times, each time great pieces being knocked down, and knowing that it was stocked with bales of hay, we feared lest it might take fire. Two of the "Orlando's" men crossed the river in a sampan and got the Maxim, ensign, etc., out of the German steam pinnace and brought them into the Settlement. During the day the Chinese several times tried to approach us from the far side of the mud wall but were repulsed each time with a few killed and wounded, no casualties on our side. There was also pretty heavy fighting at the station, but the Chinese were kept out at every point. Several godowns were burnt in the Settlement, one fire being caused by shells. All through the night the sniping continued as usual. On Thursday the bombardment started again with daylight, and seemed to be directed especially against the wool mills and the gas works, consequently the houses, all owned by Chinese but deserted by their owners, situated just in front of the gas works, suffered severely, and we could see shell after shell entering them but not setting them on fire; we occasionally returned the fire of the enemy, but not very often, as we had not much ammunition left. We began to think of a relief force coming up from Taku but saw no signs of one. About 9 a.m. the shelling stopped and the enemy did nothing in the forenoon, but at 1 p.m. they started shelling the wool mills and hit the tower again and again, until at about 2 p.m. the whole tower burst into flames and burnt with great rapidity; the fire spread to the whole block, which was completely consumed; the fire was accompanied by dense volumes of yellow and white smoke, which was caused by the large quantities of wool stowed therein. When the Chinese saw that the place was on fire they seemed to renew their energies and fired with greater rapidity and precision, rendering the place untenable; the company which was garrisoning the place retired till the intense heat had subsided. After the fire was practically out, large pieces of the tin roof kept falling down, and occasionally bricks. About 6 p.m. we heard heavy firing to the northward and supposed that it was the Admiral's party fighting its way back to Tientsin. That evening the Chinese were comparatively quiet,



PLAN OF NORTH
WEST TAKU FORT
CAPTURED BY THE ALLIES
JUNE 17th 1900 AND HELD BY
THE BRITISH AND ITALIANS

COVERED WAY TO
NORTH PORT

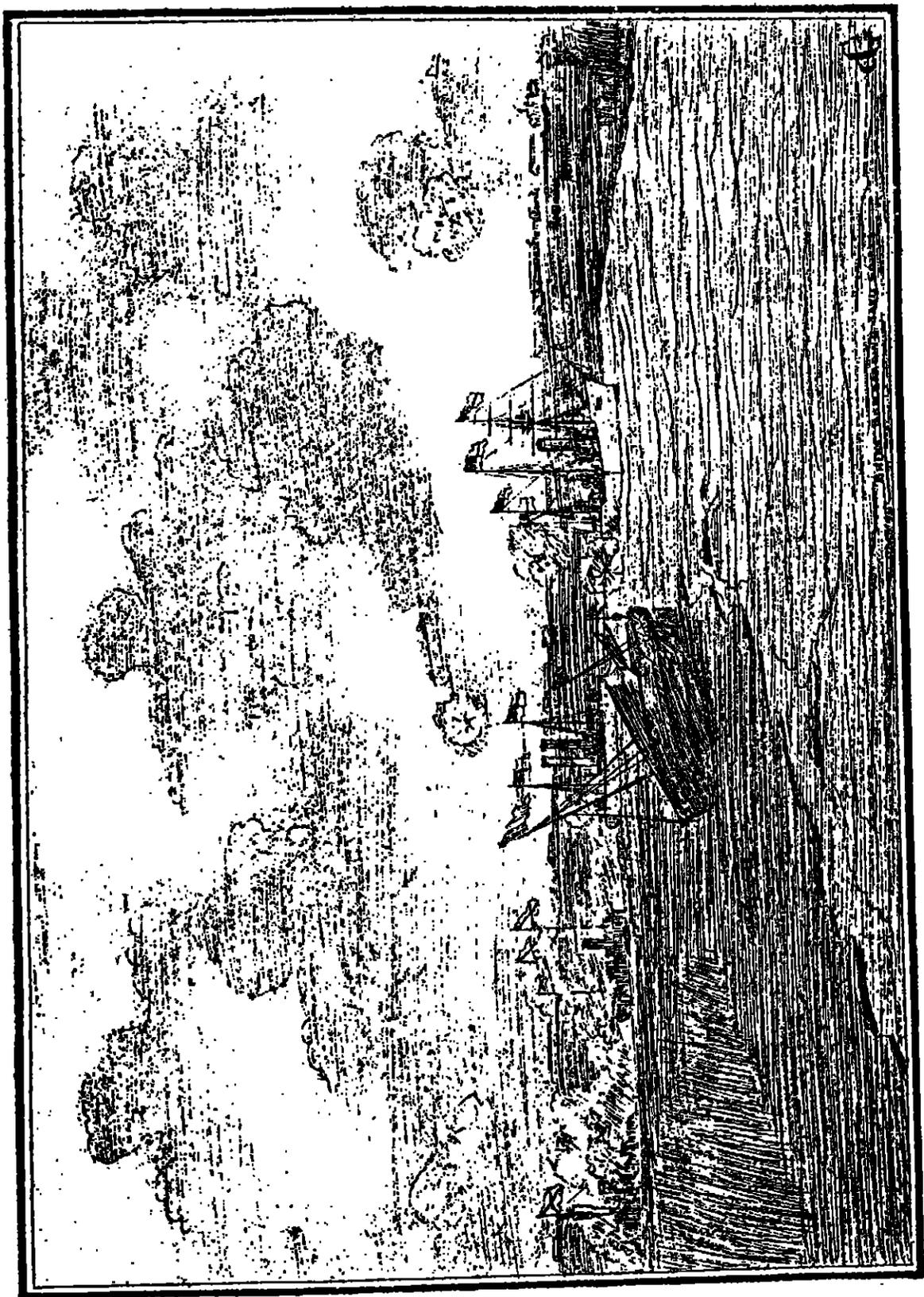
J.H.B.

and we saw a rocket go up from the northward, which must have been Admiral Seymour force signalling to us.

On Friday the Chinese kept up a feeble bombardment, but June 22nd. they seemed to have withdrawn all their guns to oppose the Admiral's party, who, judging by the sound of heavy guns, seemed to be having a very bad time of it. We expected a relief force to arrive any moment now, but could not as yet see any signs of their approach. Saturday morning, about 11 a.m., the advanced party June 23rd. of the relief force marched down Victoria Road, they consisted of sailors, marines and Welsh Fusiliers, who were quickly followed by Americans, Germans, French and Japanese, while the Russian forces went into camp on the other side of the river. Later on in the evening I went out with a party of coolies to bring in baggage and a 12-pr. gun from the "Terrible," which the First Chinese Regiment had pulled up from the rail-head, about twelve miles from Tientsin. We found them about one mile below the station and relieved them of their burden, and then the whole force, consisting of a detachment of the Hongkong Regiment and part of the Chinese Regiment, marched into the Settlement about 8 p.m. Now that the Settlement has been relieved, I will give an account of the taking of the Taku Forts and the Relief of Tientsin by one who was there.

"On the 15th of June it became known to the Russian Admiral off Taku (then senior officer of the allied fleet) that the Chinese had been laying down mines in the channel from the light-ship on the bar to the mouth of the river, also that troops were being rapidly massed in the forts on either side of the river mouth and were drilling night and day. This then, being the state of affairs, it was decided at a conference held on board the 'Rossia' on 16th inst. by the senior naval officers commanding the allied fleets off Taku, to send an ultimatum to the General in command of the Forts, demanding their surrender to the allied forces by 2 a.m. on the morning of the 17th inst. and stating that if this demand was not complied with the forts would be taken. Before the delivery of this ultimatum a force of 750 men, of whom 350 were British, was sent on board the gunboats inside the river entrance. The British were the last to arrive, reaching the 'Algerine' about 6.30 p.m. On the receipt of the ultimatum General Hiau telegraphed to the Viceroy of Tientsin for instructions and received

the order to fight and destroy all foreign devils. He accordingly communicated with Captain Lanz of the German gunboat 'Iltis,' who was the senior officer present, and at 12.50 on the morning of the 17th (Sunday) opened the engagement with the first shot from the south forts, where his quarters were. The ships, which had been ready all night, quickly replied, and the noise of the guns and the shriek of shells made a deafening roar. Shortly after 1.15 a.m. the Russian gunboat 'Guiliak,' which had been using her search-light, and thereby making herself and also the other ships a target for the Chinese, was struck by a large shell at the water-line, which blew up part of her magazine and also a boiler. This either caused her search-light to go out, or her captain ordered it to be extinguished, as she continued to fire in darkness. Between 1.30 and 2 the fire slackened considerably, probably owing to the fact that two small explosions took place in the South Forts. At 2.30 the British and Italian detachments of the storming party, which had hitherto been on board the 'Algerine,' landed in boats about 800 yards from the North-West Fort, which, owing to its guns not being able to get enough depression, could not get them to bear on the 'Algerine.' On landing, Commander Cradock, who was in command of the whole of the small force, was met by the Japanese, German, Russian and Austrian Commanders, and after a short conference it was decided to retire till day-light, which was accordingly done. On reaching a point some 2,000 yards from the North-West Fort, near the Tongku Railway Station and opposite the Chinese Dockyard, a halt of about ten minutes was made, and the force then advanced in quarter column, taking open order as dawn broke, this at about 1,000 yards from the fort and roughly 4.30 a.m. As it became lighter the firing, both from the forts and the ships, gradually swelled into one continuous roar; at day-light the garrison of the North-West Fort observed the advance of the storming party and opened fire with case shot from their smaller guns, which immediately got a tremendous hammering from the fore-castle guns of the 'Algerine,' firing lyddite. At 700 yards distant from the forts the storming party advanced by rushes, and finding it impossible to cross the moat, continued down the bank of the river to a light wooden bridge which led to the main gate in the outer rampart. The Japanese were first into the



fort, but the British had their flag flying first owing to the fact that the man hoisting the Japanese flag was shot down at the flag-staff. The fort was found practically empty, the defenders having fled, leaving their dead and wounded. The inner gate was defended with sand-bags, but the outer by nothing more than a few slanting poles to keep the gate closed, which were easily burst in. Two guns of the fort which would bear on the North and South Forts were quickly manned by a Japanese and British crew, and immediately opened fire on the North Fort and later, on the South Fort. The 'Algerine,' closely followed by the 'Iltis,' had by this time come down the river, the latter being abreast of the outer gate of the North-West Fort, and were both subjected to a heavy fire from the South Forts, to which they replied as rapidly as possible, assisted by the 'Koreetz,' 'Bobre,' 'Guiliak' and 'Lion,' who remained in their former positions and concentrated their fire on the South Forts. The storming party, having been mustered inside the captured fort, advanced along the covered causeway to the North or Outer Fort. This is very slightly curved with the bend of the river and could very easily have been entrenched and defended by a couple of field guns against a much larger force. The Germans led, followed by the British, Italians, Russians and Japanese. Not a shot was fired from the North Fort and the force had not got more than half way along the causeway when a lucky shell from one of the ships exploded the main magazine of No. 1 South Fort at exactly 6.5 a.m. The firing practically ceased from this fort, but Nos. 2 and 3 kept up a furious fire for about half-an-hour more, when they practically ceased, except for an occasional shot from one of the gunboats. In the meanwhile the storming party had arrived at the North Fort and divided into two parts. The British went round at the back or Eastern side of the fort, while the remainder entered by the gate on the river or Western side. The fort was found absolutely deserted and with very few killed or wounded. The 12-c.m. Krupp guns were immediately manned by the Germans and British, who directed a heavy fire on the South Forts. At this moment boats in tow of steam launches from the 'Algerine' and 'Iltis' dropped down the river and under a desultory fire took over the whole force, with the exception of the

guns' crews in the two forts already captured, to an iron pier on the other side of the river, where they disembarked. They made for the nearest fort, about 300 yards distant, and climbing in through a gun port, gained the inside of the fort, which presented a scene of absolute desolation and destruction, and was, with the exception of the dead and wounded, absolutely deserted. From the Signal Station, which is situated high up on the sea front of the fort, the Chinese could be seen streaming in hundreds through the streets of Taku in headlong flight and thence along the main road into the country, their officers, mounted on white ponies, urging their way through the flying rabble. The firing from the ships had now absolutely ceased, and the silence was only broken by an occasional shot from the South Forts at the flying enemy. The shells bursting amongst the dense crowds must have killed a great many. At 7.30 all was quiet, and the sun shone on a terrible picture of death and destruction, and the flags of the Allied Powers floated over the various forts.

During the time that the forts were being taken the t.b.ds. 'Fame' and 'Whiting' had not been idle. At midnight, according to previous orders, they made their way up river, towing their gigs, manned and armed, astern. Just after they had rounded the bend the Chinese opened fire on the gun-boats, and the 'Whiting' was abreast of the 'Gailiak' when her magazine blew up: the smoke from the explosion made it rather difficult to see the channel for a short time. On arriving abreast of four Chinese destroyers, which were moored in pairs alongside the dockyard, the gigs were shipped and proceeded to board. The 'Whiting' went alongside the destroyer furthest down the river while the 'Fame' took the one further up. The crews of these boats all escaped to the shore with the exception of a few who were below, who were immediately made prisoners. The men who had escaped to the dockyard took cover in some outhouses and opened a desultory fire, which the destroyers quickly silenced with their 6-prs. An armed party then went ashore and attacked the enemy, who fled from the dockyard. The 'Whiting' and 'Fame' then towed the four captured destroyers up the river out of range of the forts. During the engagement the 'Whiting' was struck by a 6" shell, which passed through



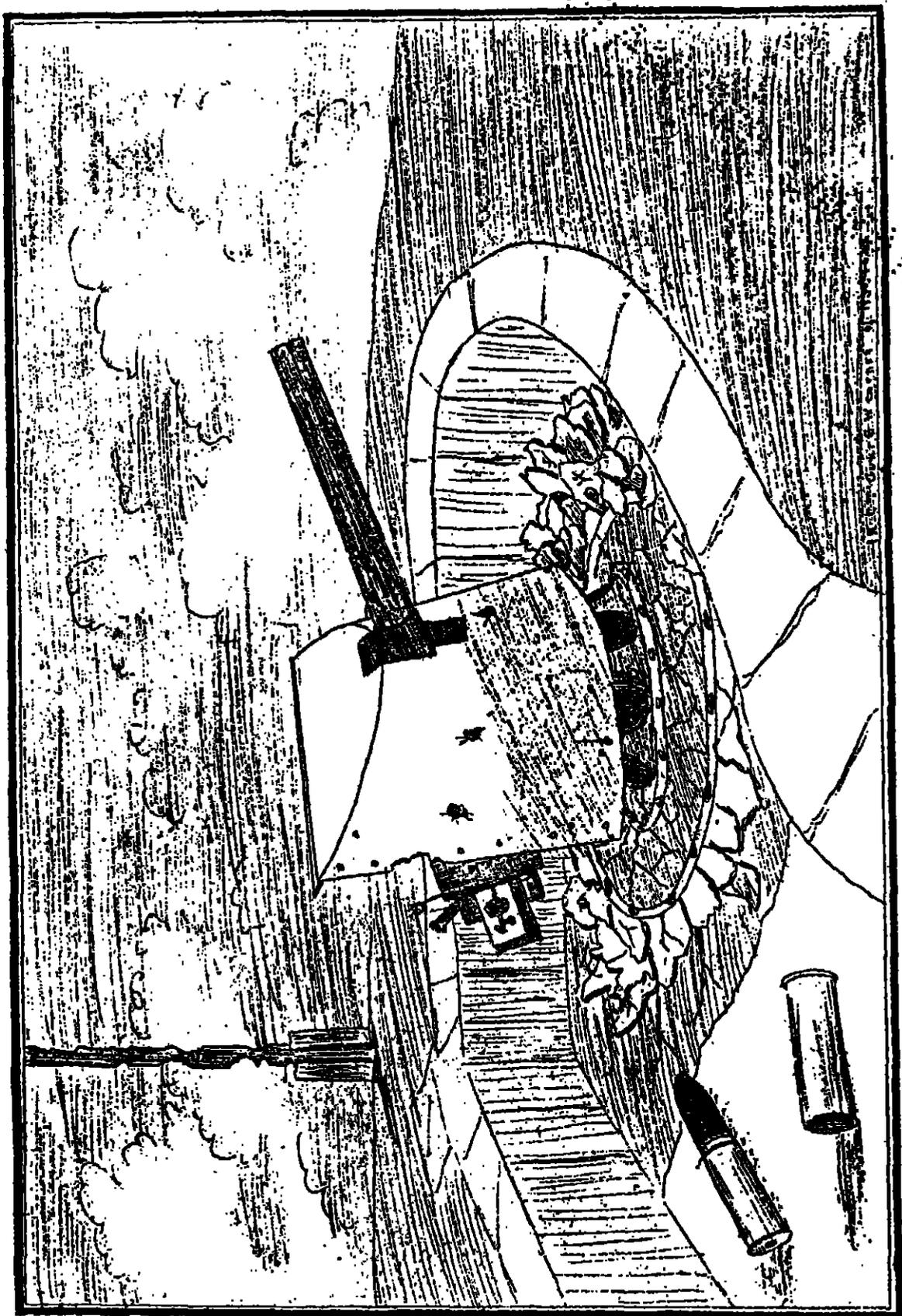
her coal bunkers and, after bending about 180 tubes, lodged in the far side of her boiler, luckily without exploding. The following telegram was sent by Admiral Bruce from Taku to the Admiralty, on June 17th: 'Taku Forts captured by Allied Forces this morning. Bombardment commenced 12.50 a.m., ended about 6.30 a.m. Details later on. Chinese Admiral present with Allied Fleet; flag flying in cruiser. At Council meeting this morning he agreed to anchor with fleet, putting out fires.' June 18th: 'Situation getting worse. All North China under arms. No news from Commander-in-Chief and advanced guard. Tientsin now cut off. Heavy fire heard there last night. My communications with Allied Authorities most harmonious.'

The above is an account of the taking of the Taku Forts, and I will now give an account of the relief of Tientsin.

Admiral Bruce telegraphed again on the 21st: "Latest information from Tientsin by runner, 20th June. Reinforcements most urgently required. Casualties have been heavy. Supplies of ammunition insufficient. Machine-guns or field-guns required. Beware ambushes near Tientsin. Russians at Railway Station hard pressed. Chinese maintain incessant fire with large guns on European Concession, nearly all which burnt. There are not reinforcements to send." Again, later on the same day: "No communication from Commander-in-Chief for seven days, or with Tientsin for five days. Allies hold Taku Forts and Tongku securely, and they will advance for relief of Tientsin when in sufficient strength. Troops expected from Hongkong to-morrow, and 300 from Wei-hai-wei day after to-morrow. Believe that fighting is constantly going on around Tientsin. Our garrison there should be about 3,000." Following Proclamation was agreed to this morning, to be at once issued: "The Admirals and Senior Naval Officers of the Allied Powers in China desire to make known to all Viceroy and Authorities of the coasts and rivers, cities and provinces of China that they intend to use armed force only against Boxers and people who oppose them on their march to Peking for the rescue of their fellow-countrymen." On June 23rd, he sent the following telegram: "The Allied Admirals are working in perfect accord with Russian Vice-Admiral as senior officer, and as the Council of Admirals has supreme control over all the operations, in order

to avoid opportunities of friction, the Officer Commanding Land Forces should belong to same nation as Senior Admiral, President of Council, as is case now." A Russian Major-General with the Russians, and German second in command, and Captain Warrender, are in charge of the operations from Taku forts for relief of Tientsin under general control of Russian Major-General. All Admirals-in-Command are together off Taku Bar. Have just received news that Americans and Russians attempted yesterday to relieve Tientsin, and were repulsed by Chinese with some loss. Expect Hongkong Regiments to-morrow, and know of no more reinforcements coming. Russians have landed altogether about 4,000. Russian Admiral told me yesterday he expected no more troops. Germany has landed about 3,000 and expects no more. Other forces landed besides ours, small numerically." The following telegram was sent by Admiral Bruce on the 17th, but was delayed on Chinese lines: "Council of Admirals this morning decided to attack Taku Forts 2 o'clock in the morning, 17th June, if not previously surrendered, for purpose of trying to relieve Commander-in-Chief and Allied Forces marching on Peking, and situation of affairs at Tientsin. Presented ultimatum to Chinese Governor at Tientsin and Commandant of Forts this afternoon. Chinese telegraph lines interrupted. Situation of affairs all over China very critical. Towns on the Yangtze-kiang anxious for protection. Commander-in-Chief is still cut off from all communication. Report arrived to-day that the Legations at Peking have been attacked. Tuan, new Head of Foreign Affairs in China, in my belief, is head of the Boxers. Am saving such missionaries as I hear reach coast." Telegram sent on the 24th June: "Total force which left Tientsin with Commander-in-Chief for Peking about 2,000, composed of detachments of the allied ships. German and American flag captains were with Commander-in-Chief. Captain Bayley, 'Aurora,' has been the commander, heart and soul, of the defence of Tientsin, assisted by Captain Burke, 'Orlando.' No action could be possibly taken to relieve the Commander-in-Chief, because it was only known he was cut off by Tientsin being invested. Tientsin has been fighting for its life ever since. It was on receipt of information that

June 24th.



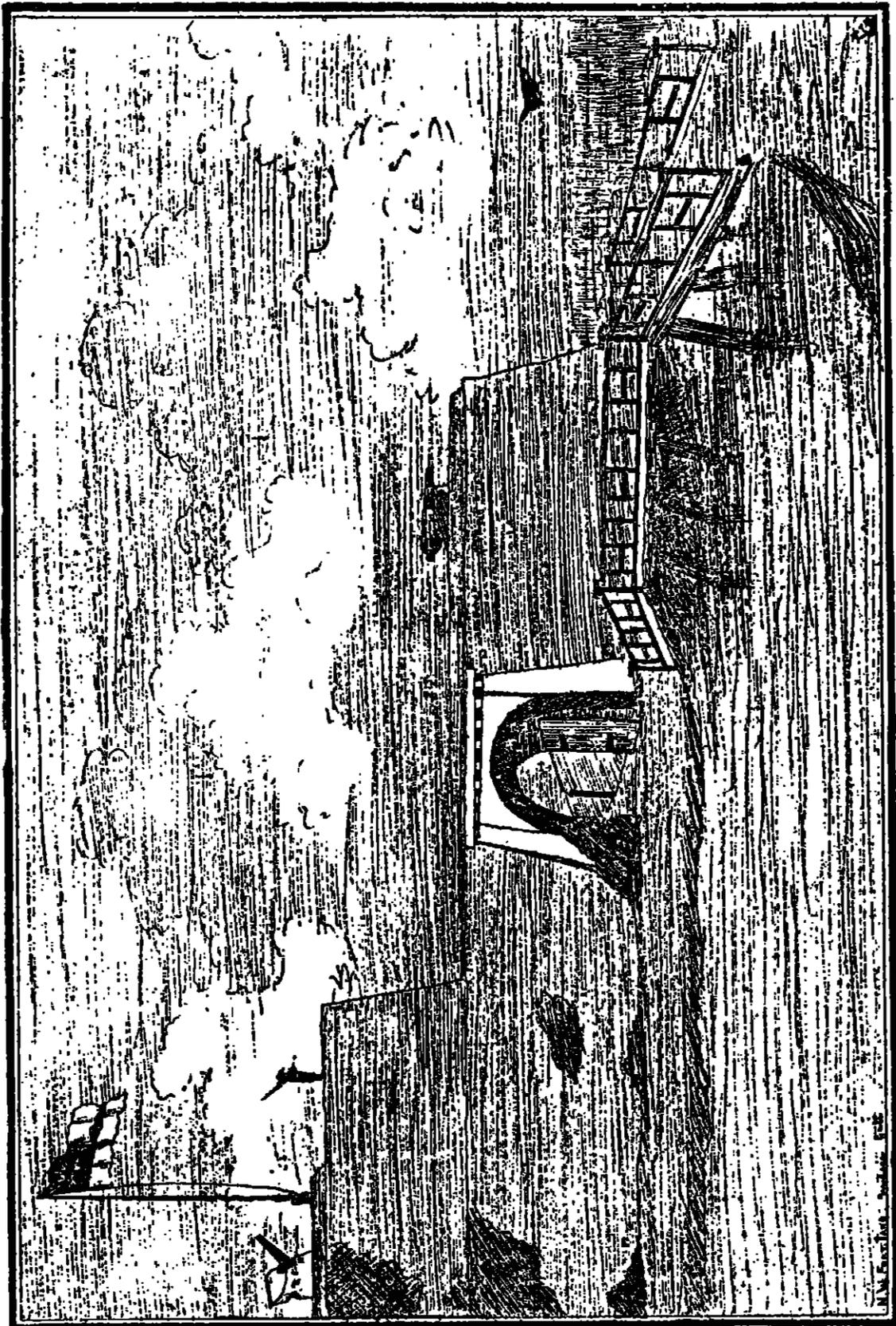
Chinese army had ordered trains for attacking Tientsin, ravaged Tongku, and were reinforcing Taku as well as mining the mouth of the Pei-ho, that it was promptly determined to seize Taku, just in time, since when every effort has been made to relieve Tientsin. Have commandeered small coasting steamer for taking troops, sick and wounded, across the bar and to Wei-hai-wei, where I intend making temporary base hospital and asylum for refuge until South China has settled down."

After the capture of the Taku Forts the Allies immediately took steps to put them in a state of defence against a possible attack from the Chinese. The interior of the North-West Fort was a regular shambles, the whole place being strewn with dead bodies, empty cartridge cases and kegs of powder. The main magazine of the fort had practically no protection, only a mud wall about 2 feet thick. The men and prisoners were employed clearing out the dead bodies and throwing them into the river. The guns of the North Fort were rendered useless by throwing the breech blocks away and destroying the rifling. About 8 p.m. the Russians reported that a Chinese army was supposed to be coming to retake the forts. Eighty men under Lieutenant Hyde were despatched to Tongku to reinforce the garrison of 150 Japanese there, who were protecting the station and rolling-stock. By this move the garrison of the North-West Fort was reduced to 230 men, which would have been hardly sufficient if a determined attack had been made by the Chinese. The gunboats were also placed in positions most suitable for the defence of Tongku and the forts. The night passed without any alarms, and the gunboats kept their search-lights playing on the surrounding country all night. Monday, the 18th, was spent in burying the dead, destroying ammunition and getting rid of the reeking corpses which came floating back with the tide. The Force which had been stationed at Tongku returned during the day, the British detachment reinforcing the North-West Fort and the Japanese taking over the North Fort. All Tuesday was spent in putting the forts in a state of defence. On Wednesday Mr. Watts arrived from Tientsin in the evening, having ridden the whole way with three Cossacks, with the news that Tientsin was being bombarded and surrounded by the Chinese, that there

June 18th.

June 20th.

were many casualties and hardly any ammunition left. Accordingly 250 British and 20 Italians were told off to leave the North-West Fort by 6 a.m. next morning. The Force marched at 5.30 a.m. under command of Commander Cradock and arrived at Tongku Station to find about 1,000 Russian soldiers ready to entrain. At 8 a.m. the British ammunition and stores arrived and at 11.30 H.M.S. "Fame" arrived with 300 Welsh Fusiliers, who had come up in the "Terrible" from Hongkong a few hours previously. These made a welcome addition to the Relief Force. On the arrival of General Stessel, the British part of the Relief Force steamed slowly out of the station amidst the cheers of the Russians. The train proceeded at about 8 miles an hour, and, on approaching the first station, was slowed down, and very opportunely too, as on nearing the points they were observed to be jammed with wedges and stones. The first truck was overturned and the next two were derailed, while the engine was just stopped in time to prevent it running off the rails. Luckily there were no people injured and the force immediately set to work to clear the line. The first truck was rolled down the embankment, and finding it impossible to move the other two trucks, they had to be abandoned, including the water tank. A message was sent back to the Russian General asking him to destroy the village where the accident had taken place, which he subsequently did during his advance. The train, minus the three abandoned trucks, again proceeded at a slow pace, with a pump trolley doing pilot ahead; this was very necessary as a great many sleepers were found to have been burnt underneath the fishplates. Strange to say none of the bridges had been tampered with, and eventually the train reached Cheung Liang Cheng Station. Here they found the advanced force of 500 Russians and 100 Americans, who were anxiously awaiting reinforcements, having been caught in an ambush while trying to relieve Tientsin and very severely handled, losing a gun and many men and having to retire. The troops disembarked and formed an advance camp here, and as soon as the train had been unloaded it was despatched back to Tongku to bring up the Russians. At dawn the British struck camp and advanced along the railway, with strong flanking parties



thrown out on either side; they had advanced about two miles when the train conveying the 1,000 Russians, including two batteries of artillery and half a squadron of cavalry, arrived. The first bridge beyond the station was found untouched but the the next one, at a distance of about four miles, was found to be torn up completely. At the same time a body of the enemy were observed in the distance, and as the force advanced several shells and numerous volleys were poured into them. The Chinese, however, held their ground until a company of Welsh Fusiliers advanced against them, when they fled. It was then decided to camp for the night, and accordingly two companies set to work preparing the camp, while the rest of the force continued to advance for about five miles, burning the villages on the way. About noon Major Morris sent back to Commander Cradock to say that he had found the enemy in force with cavalry and artillery. Reinforcements were immediately sent and the enemy were driven off with very little resistance. In the evening the British force returned to Railhead Camp, while the Russians encamped about five miles nearer Tientsin at 1 a.m. on Saturday 28rd. The "Terrible's" marines arrived with a 12-pr. gun and crew from Tonku at 3.0 a.m. The British force struck camp and advanced in column, leaving about 50 men behind at Railhead to guard the stores, etc., till the Russian camp was reached. The whole force then advanced in extended order. In the meanwhile the Germans, who had joined up on the Russian right, became heavily engaged, and some British were sent to reinforce them. The force continued to advance until the Peiyang Arsenal Creek was reached, when they came under a hot fire from the Chinese, who also exploded some mines which luckily caused no damage. They passed through several villages with little or no opposition, and came in sight of the University in the German Concession. From this point they marched along the banks of the Pei-ho and entered the Settlement by the bridge of boats. And thus with no very great hardship the relief of Tientsin was accomplished.

The following telegram was sent by Rear-Admiral Bruce to the Admiralty on June 26th: "Commander Cradock, Commanding British Contingent, Tientsin Relief, reports Tientsin

communicated with and reinforced, 23rd June. Commander-in-Chief reported 10 miles from Tientsin, hampered by sick and wounded, and engaged with enemy. Force landed: German, 1,340; American, 335; Russian Naval Brigade, 235; troops 3,500; Japanese Naval Brigade, 602; troops, 1,050; expected 26th June, 2,100; Austrians, 26; Italians, 138; French, 421. 3 p.m. June 25th, French expect one battery artillery, one battalion infantry."

June 24th.

The arrival of these forces in the Settlement put a very different face on the aspect of affairs, as with the additional troops we were able to take the offensive. All through the night of the 23rd, rejoicings went on in the Settlement for our relief. Signal rockets were seen to rise from the place where we supposed Admiral Seymour to be. On Sunday the "Terrible's" 12-pr. was dragged out to the wool mills, and with the assistance of the 6-pr. on the mud wall, bombarded the Western Arsenal, and after about half-an-hour a fire was seen to start near the Bell Pagoda, and there being a westerly wind it quickly spread to the main buildings, which were soon consumed by the flames, while the crackling which arose proclaimed that large quantities of small arm ammunition were being destroyed. During the bombardment a body of cavalry came out to see what was going on, but were quickly driven off with a few shell. The arrival of the Admiral and his force near Tientsin had greatly relieved the pressure on this place, as we were still having comparative quiet. In the afternoon the 12-pr. engaged the Black Fort, and after about an hour's shelling caused it to cease firing.

Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—June 27th: "Heavy firing has been heard for thirty-six hours, north of Tientsin, where the Commander-in-Chief is believed to be, at a place named Pei-tsang, about 9 miles from here. A note was received yesterday morning by the Commissioner of Imperial Customs from the Inspector-General, dated 19th June, 4 p.m., stating that the Legations had been ordered to leave Peking within 24 hours." Also, on the 24th, but delayed on Chinese lines: "News was brought yesterday by Bigham's servant, who is quite trustworthy, of the Commander-in-Chief. He was being bombarded by a large number of guns in a small arsenal called Haiku, north of Tientsin, which he had seized. His losses were about

40 killed and 70 wounded, and relief was urgently needed. Force to succour him leaves to-night." Comparatively slight damage was done to the foreign Settlements, which were shelled from the 18th to the 23rd June, except in the French Concession, which suffered severely; the British Consulate was also a good deal knocked about. The British casualties up to date of relief are 4 killed and 50 wounded, among the latter being 6 officers. The Chinese shelled the Settlement for about an hour and then knocked off again—a quiet before a storm—they are evidently preparing for some great coup.

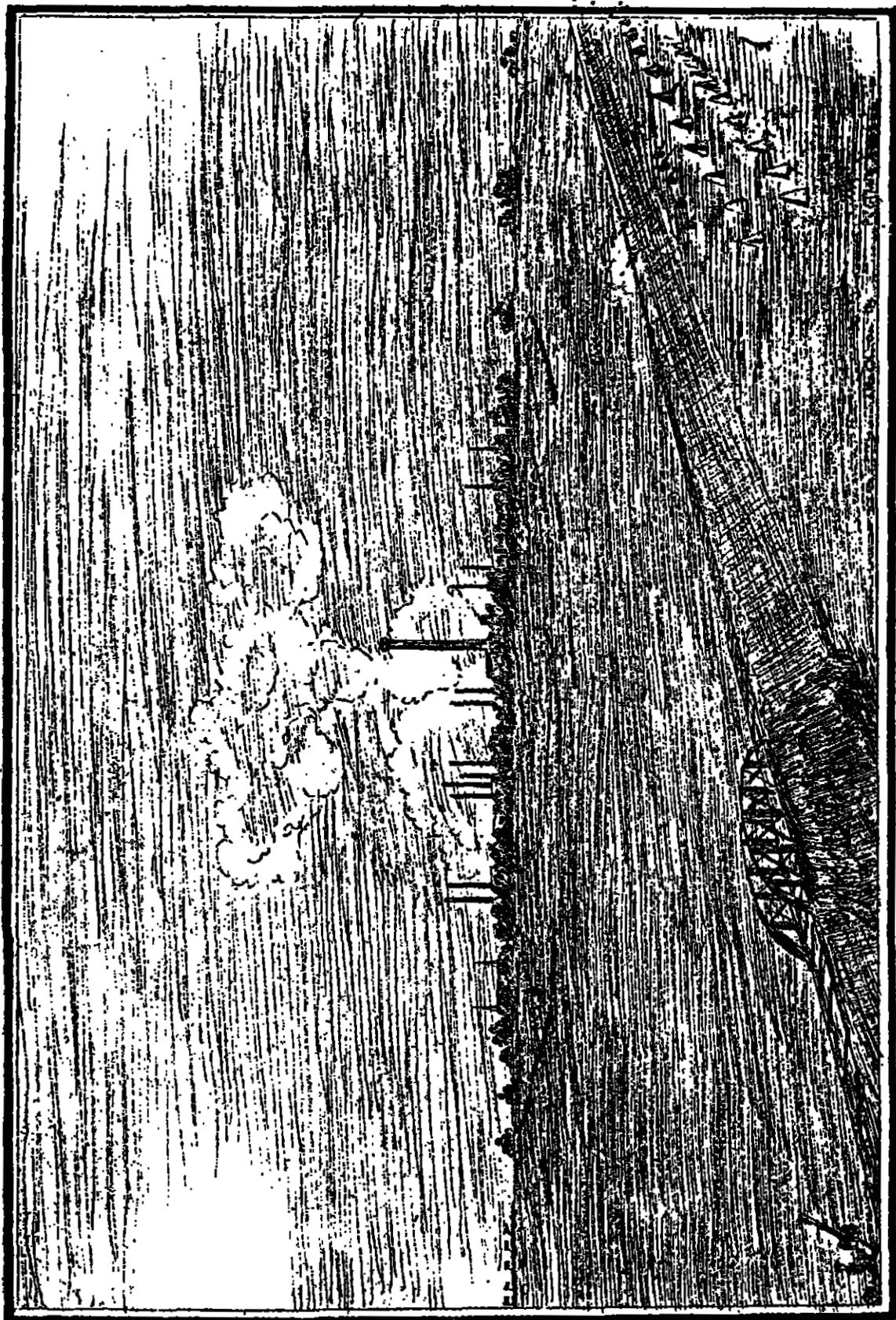
We heard that a force was to leave that night to try and relieve Admiral Seymour and bring his force into Tientsin. Accordingly a composite column of Russians and British, with a few of other nationalities, in all about 2,500 strong, left at about 12 p.m. Sunday night. The British force marched from the Settlement and crossed by the Russian bridge, a very incomplete structure; in places the boats were only joined by single planks, and great difficulty was experienced in getting ponies across. After about an hour's march they arrived at the Russian camp, and after a short rest there the combined force left at about 4 a.m., skirting the mud wall until they came to the railway, where they had breakfast, and again proceeded under cover of the embankment. It was evident that the Chinese had seen the force, as they opened on them with shrapnel, without any effect. Some cavalry also put in an appearance, but retired on the advance of the Allies. At about 11.0 a.m. they sighted the Admiral's party, and immediately everybody set up a great cheer, and rushed forward across ploughed fields and up the bank of the river and saw the Admiral himself and his force standing on the opposite side of the river, in an inclosure containing the Hsiku Arsenal. A pontoon was quickly made, and the majority of the force crossed over, the remainder stopping behind to guard the banks. There was practically no opposition on the part of the enemy. The Hsiku Arsenal was really an immense armoury containing vast supplies of guns, rifles, accoutrements and ammunition. Amongst the weapons found were forty-eight brand new '303 Maxims packed in cases. When Admiral Seymour's force arrived at that place they were very short of ammunition

but had luckily been able to refill their pouches from the stores there. The relievers and relieved left at 2.30 a.m. on their way back to Tientsin, after setting fire to and destroying the Arsenal. The force was not hampered by the Chinese, who were devoting all their energy to putting out the fire which, unfortunately for us, they managed to do. The whole force reached Tientsin by about 9 a.m. in a very tired condition. Nothing more was done that day, our troops being given a rest.*

June 27th.

On Wednesday the Russians started to attack the Eastern Arsenal (called Peiyang) early in the morning, and, judging by the sounds of incessant firing, seemed to be pretty heavily engaged. At about 10 a.m. the Russian General, finding that he was not making much headway, sent back to the Settlement for reinforcements. Accordingly, British, American, German and Japanese troops, to the number of about 800, marched out to their assistance and formed up on the Russian left. In the meanwhile the "Terrible's" 12-pr. was hammering away at the Arsenal from the railway embankment, and the Russians were pouring volley after volley into the compound. At about 11 a.m. a large magazine exploded, raising an immense column of smoke, which gradually ascended till it was lost in the clouds, while fragments, shells and débris were thrown violently outwards. Almost immediately after this explosion, two smaller ones took place; it is probable that all these were caused by the 12-pr. shells bursting in the Arsenal. The Chinese seemed somewhat shaken by these explosions as their fire slackened considerably; the combined forces, taking advantage, advanced in a semi-circle on the Arsenal; it was then noticed that several thousands of Boxers were advancing from the city, on the left flank, which immediately changed direction to beat off the attack, which was easily done with much loss to the Chinese and none to our troops. The Russians, continuing their advance on the right, scaled the embankment and entered the Arsenal, the Chinese fleeing away to the left. The British were hurried on to cut off their retreat, and succeeded in killing many. All the troops then occupied the Eastern Arsenal, which, after a rest, was handed over to the

*The experiences of the Admiral's force have been told so many times elsewhere that I shall not give them.



Russians, it being situated near their camp.* On the western side of the Settlement the Chinese were very quiet. A body of about 200 horsemen came out from the city and rode towards the Western Arsenal; they were quickly dispersed, however, and sent galloping away with a few riderless horses by four or five shells from the 6-pr. gun on the mud wall. All through the day, the Chinese could be seen carrying away loot, furniture and boards from the houses in the suburbs to a point just out of range of our rifles; there they seemed to be building barricades. The sniping at night had got much worse from this direction lately, which made it very hazardous to travel about at night. During the day the snipers lie low, evidently afraid of the guns, but during the night creep up close to our outposts and shoot haphazard into the Settlement. Since the Admiral's return, Captain Burke has been placed in command of the Naval Brigade, while Captain Bayley is Provost Marshall. In the evening the Russians had a triumphant march in the Settlement and held rejoicings for the taking of the Peiyang Arsenal. On Thursday the Chinese started shelling the Settlement with renewed vigour, and the "Terrible's" 12-pr., which had been placed in a position on the mud wall, returned the fire. About 1 p.m. a most disastrous fire broke out in a large godown, in which the Chinese regiment were quartered, next to our head-quarter barracks, and was completely gutted, together with a similar one on the far side, and it was only by great luck and hard work that the building was saved. It was afterwards found out to be the work of an incendiary. Captain Bayley gave out to the people that he wished it to be known through the Press that it was due to the Russians that anyone was alive in Tientsin. This of course referred to the fighting in Tientsin before it was relieved. [*Colonel Dorward, who had been given the temporary rank of Brigadier-General, arrived in Tientsin on the 26th.*] The railway to Taku was still threatened. The last section as far as Tientain had not yet been completed, the Russians having not yet rebuilt the bridge which was destroyed.

* The Arsenal was found to be full of the most valuable machinery, guns, scientific and nautical instruments; most of the latter were most ruthlessly destroyed by the Russians.

Fifteen civilian engineers arrived to assist in the rebuilding of the railway.

June 10th.

On Friday, Admiral Seymour sent the following telegram to the Admiralty: "Have returned Tientsin with force, unable to reach Peking by rail. On the 13th June two attacks on advanced guard made by Boxers. Repulsed with considerable loss to Boxers, none our side. 14th June, Boxers attacked train at Langfang in large numbers with great determination, but were repelled with loss of about 100 killed; our loss, 5 Italians.

"Same afternoon Boxers attacked British guard left to protect Lofa Station. Reinforcements were sent back and enemy driven off, 100 being killed—two of our seamen wounded. Guards pushed forward to Anting, engaged enemy 13th and 14th June, inflicting loss of 175—no casualties our side.

"Extensive destruction of railway in our front having made further advance by rail impossible, it was decided 16th June to return to Yangtsun, where proposed to organize advance by river to Peking. After my departure from Langfang, two trains, left to follow on, were attacked, 18th June, by Boxers and Imperial troops from Peking, who lost 400 to 500 killed. Our casualties: six killed, 48 wounded. These trains joined me Yangtsun same evening. Railway at Yangtsun found entirely demolished, and train immovable, forces short of provisions, and hampered with wounded, forcing us to withdraw on Tientsin, with which there had been no communication for six days, and supplies cut off. 11th June, wounded and necessaries started by boats. Forces marching alongside river.

"Opposition experienced during whole course of river from nearly every village. Rebels, when defeated in one village, retiring on next, and skilfully retarding advance by occupying well-selected positions, from which they had to be forced, often at point of bayonet, in face of galling fire, difficult to locate.

"June 23rd.—Made night march, arriving at daylight opposite Imperial armoury, above Tientsin, where, after friendly advances, treacherous heavy fire was opened while men were exposed on opposite bank.

"Enemy kept in check by rifle fire in front, while position was turned by party of marines and seamen under Major

Johnstone, who rushed and occupied one of salient points, seizing a gun. Germans lower down silenced two guns, then crossed river, capturing them. Armoury then occupied by combined forces. Determined attempt to retake it, made same and following days, unsuccessful. Found immense stores of guns, arms, ammunition, latest pattern.

"Several guns mounted for our defence and shelled Chinese forts lower down. Having found ammunition and rice could have held out some days, but, being hampered by large number of wounded, sent to Tientsin for Relieving Force, which arrived morning of 20th June. Armoury evacuated and forces arrived Tientsin. 26th June, On leaving armoury destroyed it by fire.

"Casualties to date:—British: 27 killed, 97 wounded; American: 4 killed, 25 wounded; French: 1 killed, 10 wounded; German: 12 killed, 62 wounded; Italian: 5 killed, 3 wounded; Japanese: 2 killed, 3 wounded; Austrian: 1 killed, 1 wounded; Russian: 10 killed, 27 wounded. The Chinese made a small attack on the station, which was repulsed with loss to themselves. The usual sniping was kept up during the day and night with an occasional shell thrown in."

On Saturday we heard that the German Minister, Baron Von Ketteler, had been murdered in Peking. Great reinforcements arrived for the Chinese from Lutai. In the afternoon, the Club, which had been temporarily turned into a hospital, was struck by a 4.7" shell, which luckily did not explode, several patients narrowly escaped being killed. All the converts and Chinese in the Settlement, directed by the civilian residents, were set to work to build a huge barrier round the Club with the bags of tribute rice stored in the China Merchants Godowns. Continual shelling and sniping went on all day. The Chinese must have had some mishap with their 4.7" gun as it only fired one shot, and was never used again. In the evening 800 Japanese troops arrived, looking very fresh after their long march; they were a welcome reinforcement. Admiral Bruce telegraphed to the Admiralty: "The conduct of Commander Stewart, 'Algerine,' and Commander Lanz, 'Iltis' (German) at bombardment of Taku Forts was magnificent, and elicited admiration of allied ships. June 30th.

"River route to Tientsin, 51 miles from Taku, now open. Railhead now nine miles from Tientsin, and road inwards now quite safe. Communication with Commander-in-Chief, Tientsin, difficult. Force with Cradock had to fight way into Tientsin. Cradock also commanded storming party previously Taku Forts. Fort which commanded river 13 miles above Taku was found deserted by Lieutenant and Commander Keyes, and blown up by him, leaving passage up the river free. Keyes reports to-day Arsenal Tientsin captured, 27th June.

"Naval Brigade losses: five men killed, Lieutenant Colomb, 'Endymion,' slightly wounded; Gunner May and 21 men wounded. No further details. Warrender, quite well, doing very good work, taking charge of all our forces on river and along lines of communication.

"Vice-Admiral Alexieff, Governor-General of Port Arthur and Liaotung Province, Commander-in-Chief of all Russian Forces in the East, has just arrived on his way to Tientsin, taking supreme command of Russian forces. Captain Jellicoe shot through the lung, doing very well.

"Forces landed to date:—Germany: 44 officers, 1,300 men; British: 184 officers, 1,700 men; Austria: 12 officers, 127 men; America: 20 officers, 329 men; France: 17 officers, 387 men; Italy: 7 officers 131 men; Japan: 119 officers, 3,709 men; Russia: 117 officers, 5,817 men with 53 field guns and 36 machine guns. No details yet of wounded and killed with Commander-in-Chief."

Admiral Seymour also sent the following telegram to the Admiralty: "Chinese couriers arrived from Peking with short message dated 24th June, stating that condition there desperate, and asking for help at once. Couriers interrogated, state all Legations except British, French, German and part of Russian destroyed. Europeans gathered in British Legation, have provisions but ammunition scarce. One gate of city near Legation held by Europeans with guns captured from the Chinese. Five of marine guard killed and one officer wounded; not much sickness at present. I propose to remain at Tientsin at present, unless naval operations in Yangtze or elsewhere. Vice-Admiral Alexieff is expected. Chinese inundated country near here yesterday from Grand Canal; object probably for defence of city to the South.

No injury to us. General health good. All agreed that no advance on Peking possible for many days at least, owing to want of force and transport."

The river route being open, Captain Bayley gave orders that all women and children were to leave the Settlement on the first opportunity. The sick and wounded were also sent down by degree. The "Endymions" returned to their ship. The flood that the Chinese caused in the extra concession slowly spread and necessitated a bridge being built by the Engineers to the mud wall. A long embankment was also thrown up from the mud wall to the wool mills and thence on to some buildings in front of the recreation ground, to give protection to men passing to and from the positions from the continual sniping and shelling which the Chinese kept up. The Chinese troops attacked the station but were repulsed after two hours' hard fighting by the Russians and Japanese. With arrival of reinforcements from Lutai, the Chinese grew much bolder, and pressed their attacks on the station with greater vigour, while the shelling was more severe and destructive, nearly every day one or two men being killed and five or six being wounded in barracks, either asleep or having meals. A great many shells and bullets fell into the Settlement, and it was marvellous that not more men were killed. 200 French troops arrived in the evening, they looked very tired and dusty.

Sunday,
July 1st.

On Monday Admiral Bruce telegraphed to the Admiralty: July 2nd.
"German Admiral reports Chinese runner, three days from Peking, arrived Tientsin yesterday. Brought despatches to say all Europeans in great distress; situation desperate; hoping for relief every hour. German Minister has been murdered by Chinese regular troops and large Chinese army advancing on Tientsin. Have had long conversation with Russian Governor-General. He agrees with me that, with all reinforcements expected, Russian and Japanese, it will only bring total to about 20,000 men, which would enable us to hold the base from Taku, Tientsin and probably Pei-ta-ho, but impossible to advance beyond Tientsin."

News was also received from Sir Robert Hart saying that "The foreign Colony is besieged in the Legations. The situation is desperate. Make haste."

The Japanese took over all the outposts in the extra concession, the British only provided pickets for the gun positions. The Chinese continued to shell the Settlement all day.

Monday night the French suddenly opened a tremendous fire. It was afterwards found out that they were dislodging snipers on the opposite bank of the river.

A large force of Chinese was seen entering the native city from the West; the guns on the mud wall dropped a couple of shells amongst them.

Tuesday,
July 3rd.

The Chinese increased their shelling and at one time in the day were evidently aiming at the house in which the Admiral was living, as the houses on either side were struck several times, but, luckily enough, he escaped untouched. A large body of Chinese appeared in the distance to the North and North-East, evidently from Lutai. The Japanese and Russians advanced to attack them and drove them back. Their operations, however, were retarded by want of water.

Consul Carles telegraphed to the Marquess of Salisbury: "The runner who brought Sir R. Hart's message states that several of the Legations have been destroyed and only two or three remain standing. The German Minister was murdered outside the Tsung-li Yamén by Kansu troops."

The Consular body held a meeting to-day and decided that, under the circumstances, the military authorities must now take control and take such measures as they thought necessary. Admiral Seymour and General Dorward were both present at the meeting. Admiral Seymour posted the following Memo. in the barracks.

Memo.

TIENSIN, July 3rd, 1900.

I desire to express to the officers, seamen and marines comprising the late expeditionary force towards Peking my high sense of satisfaction with their general conduct therein, during a time which comprised much discomfort, hard work and want of food and water, with little rest and decided anxiety, in addition to the dangers of war.

The above were encountered with a zeal, patience, courage and cheerfulness worthy of the noble Service to which we belong. Similar trials may be before us, but will, I know, be borne as the above were. At the same time I wish to express to the officers and men lately employed in the defence of Tientsin, and to those engaged in the operation about Taku, including the capture of those forts, my thorough satisfaction with all concerned.

The defence of Tientsin has been carried out with much risk and fatigue constantly harassing those employed, but met with the true naval spirit.

The capture of Taku forts was a brilliant affair, well planned and well carried out; success, as not unusually, crowned very gallant and daring efforts. I congratulate all concerned therein.

It is my pleasing duty, and was that of the Rear-Admiral in my absence, to convey the above to their Lordships at the Admiralty and it will be known generally in England.

To me personally, the fine conduct of those belonging to the British China Squadron is a matter of special pride and pleasure, and I have no misgivings but that, whatever is before us, we shall, if possible, do better rather than otherwise, and uphold the traditions of the British Navy.

E. H. SEYMOUR,
Vice-Admiral.

To be read, as soon as may be, to all concerned in the late operations and to all ships' companies in the north of China.

On Tuesday shelling went on between the Russians and Chinese all day.

The 12-pr. came into action at the station. The enemy placed two shells right under the gun which splintered the carriage and wounded one of the crew. The gun retired, not being able to effect anything. A French gun afterwards came into action in the same place and immediately had three of the crew wounded.

The flood increased out at the mud wall and swept away the bridge built by the Engineers. The Japanese Engineers were employed all day building a bridge to the wool mills for the passage of their artillery to the trenches. At about 10.30 a large body of Boxers was seen to leave the South Gate of the City and make towards the Western Arsenal. The guns on the mud wall gave them a shell or two, which were seen to cause some confusion; one of their leaders, on a white horse, was especially disturbed. The Boxers steadily proceeded along the road waving banners and shouting and occasionally firing rifles in the air. They crossed the bridge over the moat and then turned towards us, forming into a great body with a large banner in the centre and breaking into a double as they advanced. A message was sent back to head-quarters and the guns on the mud wall opened on them as fast as they could be worked. The range was soon obtained and shell after shell was sent right into the

Wednesday,
July 4th.

middle of them. In the meanwhile the pickets and sentries collected along the mud wall and opened a steady rifle fire on them. All this time the Boxers kept advancing towards our position, dancing and firing rifles with smoky powder, but every time a shell burst amongst them parties kept breaking off from the main body and dispersing over the plain, and in about half-an-hour only a small body was left still clustered round the centre banner, which slowly retreated under a steady rifle fire from a Japanese contingent which had arrived. Almost immediately after this attack had been repulsed, a Maxim battery and the Hongkong battery arrived to reinforce the outpost, while a company of marines and bluejackets were hurried out for the same purpose, unfortunately all too late. If we had only had a maxim out there at the time nearly all the enemy might have been killed. In the meanwhile the Chinese had attacked the station with great determination, and a battalion under Commander Granville went to reinforce the troops there. The fighting raged fiercely there all the morning, and the place becoming more and more pressed, the Chinese regiment, the Sikhs and Welsh Fusiliers were sent out there. The attack was finally beaten off by about 6 p.m., after considerable loss to the Allies. While all this fighting was going on round the station, an enormous crowd collected all along the top of the city wall and below it. The crowd swelled and began to advance towards the Settlement. The Admiral and Staff arrived out there and dispositions were made to resist the contemplated attack. Just then, however, it began to pour with rain and continued until dusk, and, as the Chinese do not like rain and the ground quickly became impassible, the attack never came off. However, two Maxims were placed in position for the night in case of emergencies. Two more of the "Terrible" 12-prs. arrived in the evening. We shall now be able to bombard the city with effect.

The Chinese were reinforced by several thousands of Ma's and Sung's troops.

29th June.

General Dorward telegraphed to the Secretary of State for War: "Owing to further news from Peking, it has been decided, at a meeting of Consular Body, Tientsin, to hand over situation to military authorities."

"Military situation as follows :—

"Russians, 4,000 strong, occupy left bank river here. Settlements on right bank occupied by about 2,500 troops of other nations, inclusive of naval contingents. About 3,500 troops, other than Russian, British, and chiefly consisting of Japanese, daily expected.

"Owing want of transport, no possibility of advance all the troops on Peking for the present. There is possibility, but not great probability, of attack upon Settlements by Chinese troops, in force, within the next fortnight. In that case positions held by French, British, Japanese, American, Italian forces would be unfavourable, owing to proximity of enemy's batteries and densely populated city.

"Russian position is a good one till rainy season ; German Settlement has only a few buildings, and is not an unfavourable defensible position.

"At a meeting of Officers Commanding Foreign Troops, June 29th, we considered what steps should be taken to resist the attack upon Settlements by strong force of Chinese. I pointed out if enemy were allowed to enter city, French Settlement would be hardly tenable and British, American, Italian, Japanese troops would be very unfavourably placed. I advised that steps should be taken by occupation of defensible positions well outside City to deny it to enemy. All officers present agreed to recommendation except German, Russian, who prefer to resist the attack in their present positions on ground that, in their opinion, combined forces were not strong enough to hold positions outside. Russian General Officer Commanding was not present, but was represented by Chief of Staff. Impossible to deny City to strong enemy without help from Russians.

"Meeting was presided over by Admiral Seymour and was adjourned pending arrival of Admiral Alexieff, Governor-General Eastern Siberia and Japanese General Fuksima. Both expected shortly, steps will be taken to at once improve defensive position [of] French and British Settlements. Water supply can only be diminished—not destroyed—by Chinese.

"Advance to Peking can be made best up the river owing to want of rain. It is said that crops have been planted only on the

bank of the river, leaving open country on both sides [of] planted strips. However high crops grow, these strips will not be disadvantageous to advance by river, which can be carried on to within 15 miles from Peking. Boats suitable for river traffic are being collected. Steps are being taken to repair line of railway and telegraph line here to Taku. Line of railway to Peking appears to be completely destroyed. Taking into consideration latest information of strength of enemy between this and Peking, and disjointed nature of mixed forces, 25,000 men will be necessary for advance to Peking."

Thursday,
July 5th.

One of the two 12-prs. that came up on Wednesday has been placed in position on the mud wall. There are now mounted there two 12-pr., four 6-pr., and two 9-pr. guns. All through the forenoon bodies of Chinese could be seen working in the Western Arsenal and building barricades in the suburbs, and, at about 1 p.m., two 4" guns opened on us from the Arsenal, completely enfilading our guns. They were in position behind the bridge which crossed the canal, and the only thing which showed their position was the dust raised when fired. The first shell took off a man's arm, and for about an hour a duel ensued, when the Chinese retired. Two guns arrived to-day, captured at the Taku Forts.

Friday,
July 6th.

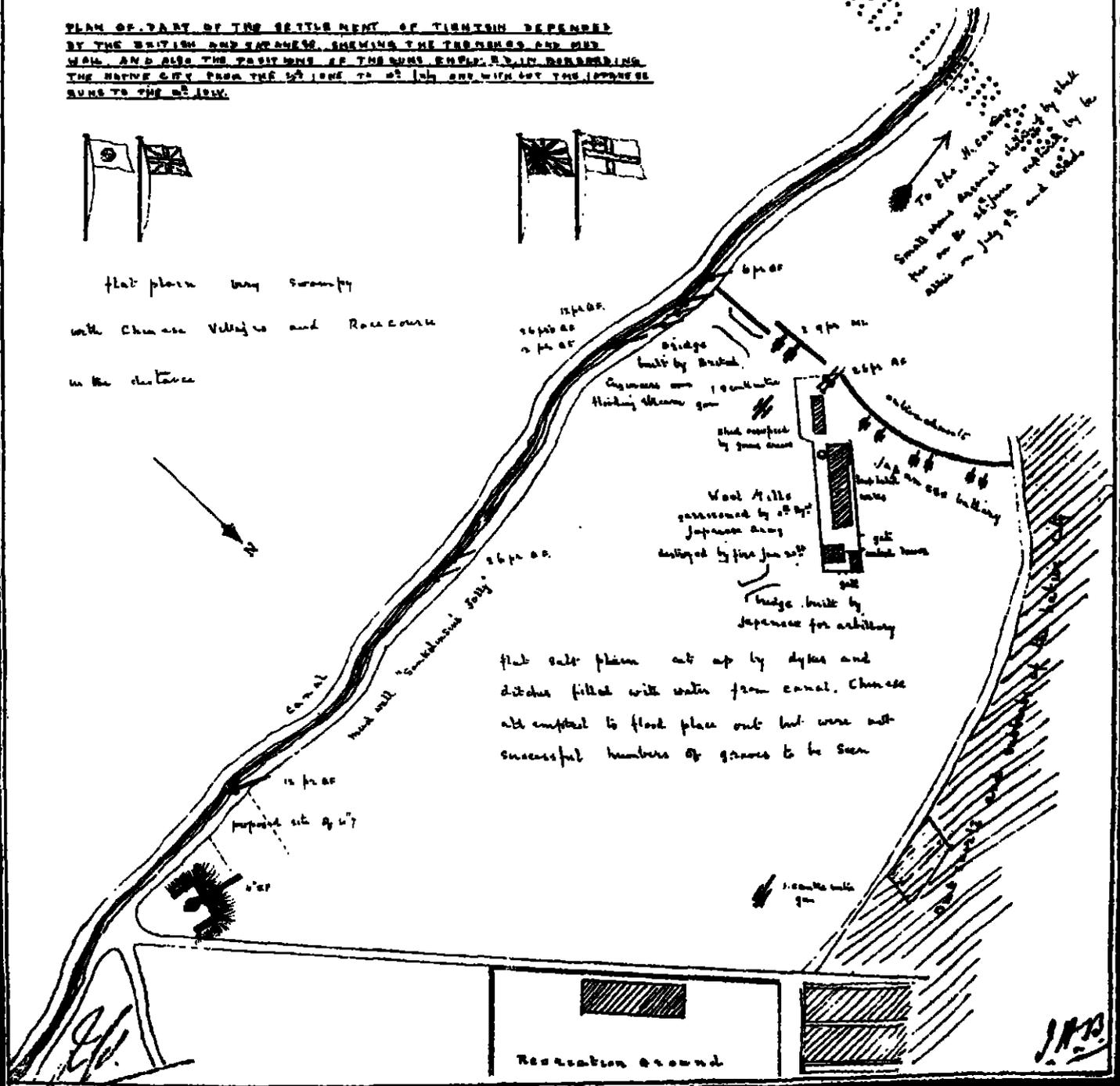
Three Russian railway companies have begun repairing the line between Taku and Tientsin. It is expected that the work will be finished in a few days, the line having been already repaired as far as the Peiyang Bridge. Last night signalling was observed in the Settlement but no spies were caught. At about noon a mixed force, mostly British, reconnoitred a gun that the Chinese had mounted some time ago and which lately had been causing considerable annoyance. They found the position of the gun, which was the south side of the river, at 2 p.m. The British and Japanese guns bombarded the native City, directing their fire mostly at the forts, pagodas and the Viceroy's yamên; very good practice was made and two of the enemy's guns were silenced. This is the first time that the native City has been bombarded; it will be a new experience for the Chinese as up till now they have done nothing but throw shells into our defences and Settlement. The guns taking part were two 12-prs., one 6-pr., two

PLAN OF PART OF THE SETTLEMENT OF TIENTSIN DEPENDENT BY THE BRITISH AND JAPANESE, SHOWING THE TRENCHES AND ONE WALL, AND ALSO THE POSITIONS OF THE GUNS, ENCL. P. 12, IN RESEMBLING THE MAP OF THE PART FROM THE 1910S TO 1914 AND WITH OUT THE APPROXIMATE RUNS TO THE 1914.



flat plain very swampy
with Chinese villages and Racecourse
in the distance

To the N. of the
Small town Annual destroyed by the
fire on the 25th June captured by the
Allies on July 15 and 16



bridge built by British
Captains own 1000 yds
Hindley steam gun
shed occupied by some men
Wool Mills
possessed by 250 ft
Japanese Army
destroyed by fire June 25th
gate
bridge built by
Japanese for artillery

flat salt plain cut up by dykes and
ditches filled with water from canal. Chinese
attempts to flood plain out but were not
successful numbers of graves to be seen

Racecourse ground

J.M. 1914

9-prs., two Krupp guns, a mountain battery belonging to the Japanese and 4 guns of the Asiatic Artillery. Unfortunately while the Krupp guns were being worked, one of the shells exploded prematurely and 3 men were badly injured. At 3 p.m. a British force of about 1,000 men and a 9-pr. gun endeavoured to capture the gun reconnoitred in the forenoon. They, however, encountered a tremendous rifle fire from a barricade across the river where the gun had been retired after the reconnaissance, and the attempt was abandoned, after a great many men had fallen, including Major Bruce and Midshipman Esdaile, who was mortally wounded. A large godown was fired by the enemy's shells; the damage is estimated at 100,000 taels. There is no doubt that the enemy are informed by spies of the position of the troops, whose quarters have suffered especially by their fire.

Last night the Chinese made a determined attack on the north-west corner of the Settlement, which was repelled by the Japanese. The racecourse, grand stand and both Dickinson's and Detring's houses were burnt last night, after having been first looted by the Chinese. The glare from the burning buildings lit up the sky and surrounding country all night. The sentries on the mud wall were silhouetted against the lurid sky. The Chinese guns again opened from the Arsenal at daylight and a duel ensued which lasted on and off all day. Several other guns bombarded the Settlements from different directions, the positions of the guns being very difficult to locate. One shell, entering the "Centurion's" barracks, killed two men and wounded three others. Vice-Admiral Alexieff, Governor-General of Port Arthur and Eastern Siberia and Commander-in-Chief of the Russian troops, arrived. In the afternoon we were surprised by the Chinese suddenly opening fire from six guns which had been got into position about 2,000 yards to the South-West, near the racecourse. By bringing these guns into action the Chinese were practically firing on us from every direction, in fact the position was almost untenable, and the guns on the mud wall had all they could do to reply to the enemy's fire. One of the enemy's shell nearly burst in the 12-pr. magazine, while the limber was struck and a box of 9-pr. powder was actually blown up.

Saturday,
July 7th.

Sunday,
July 8th.

The Chinese again opened fire at daylight from all directions, and the position where our guns were mounted became almost untenable. A steady duel went on all the forenoon, and at noon the firing ceased. At 2 p.m. the Japanese artillery came galloping out to the wool mills, and with all guns we opened on the Chinese position. The Chinese made no reply, but as soon as we ceased firing they commenced a terrific bombardment, shrapnel after shrapnel bursting right over our guns, and common shell falling into the Settlements. One of the two gas-holders was blown up. In reply, the French and Japanese guns caused an explosion in the West Arsenal and silenced the guns there, while the British guns silenced the guns out by racecourse, and in the south-west corner of the City; the Russians, from the other side of the river, engaged the Black Fort and Tree Fort. The Chinese have been reinforced by large numbers of men from the North, and are daily growing bolder and approaching nearer. The Admiral was present at the mud wall when the bombardment was taking place, and decided that it was necessary to alleviate the position of the guns. Accordingly, at a Council of the Senior Officers, it was decided to send a force to clear the country to the West, of the enemy, and, if possible, to capture the guns. Two 4" guns have arrived and will be mounted as rapidly as possible.

Monday,
July 9th.

At daylight the British and Asiatic gunners, infantry and bluejackets, with Japanese infantry and cavalry, a Japanese mountain battery, and Russian infantry and cavalry, about 2,000 men in all, left the Settlement by the Taku road, along which they advanced for about three miles; they then turned northward, and it was then that they were first discovered by the enemy, who opened a heavy shell fire on them. The Japanese artillery then came to the front and engaged the Chinese, while the cavalry, getting on their flank, soon put them to flight. In the meanwhile, the guns on the mud wall opened a heavy fire on the Chinese and on the city. The Allies steadily advanced, driving the Chinese before them, while shell after shell from the guns on the mud wall and from the Japanese and Hongkong batteries, burst amongst them, hastening their flight. The Japanese cavalry charged them, killing 100 and

capturing six guns. The force continued to advance clearing the country to the South-West and completely routed the Chinese, who soon fled, some to the Western Arsenal, some to the native city and some to join their countrymen in the plain to the North-West. Twice the enemy made a determined stand, but they could not resist the Allies. The combined force then attacked the Arsenal, and at the same time a mixed force of Americans and Japanese, about 300 strong, advanced under cover of the mud wall towards the Arsenal, which, after a short bombardment, was captured. The artillery was then brought up and the City and South Gate were shelled from both the Arsenal and the mud wall. The chief object of the expedition, which was to clear away guns and enemy to the West of the Settlements, was completely carried out. The day's honours rested with the Japanese. The Chinese Regiment, as escort to the Hongkong Artillery, worked splendidly, getting over difficulties of swampy country. The total Chinese losses were 350 killed, the number of wounded not being known. Our casualties slight. It was not considered expedient to hold the Arsenal, so the whole force retired to the Settlement under cover of the mud wall. There were several casualties during the retirement, chiefly while crossing the bridge over the canal.

Yesterday's victory seems to have had a very good effect on the Chinese as they are very quiet to-day. At the same time great preparations seem to be in progress and they are busily repairing the bridge over the canal which was burnt yesterday by the Allies after the evacuation of the Arsenal. Large reinforcements are expected shortly from Taku, where a great many troops have landed, mostly American and French. In the afternoon 1,500 Russians and about 1,000 French troops arrived.

Tuesday,
July 10th.

At three o'clock in the morning the Chinese made a most determined attack on the station in great force; they advanced in the darkness and succeeded in getting into the station and into some trucks, where a hand-to-hand fight ensued. The Sikhs managed to clear them out of the trucks by firing point blank through the sides. While the attack was in progress the Chinese poured a very heavy shell fire into the station, and at the same time swept the bridge of boats across the river with shrapnel,

Wednesday
July 11th.

to prevent reinforcements from arriving. They were finally driven off at about 6 a.m., not before, however, they had lost 500 killed, while the Allies lost 150.

The frequency and determination of the Chinese attacks on the station showed well that they appreciated the importance of that position, it being the key to the allied defences. At noon all the artillery in the place mustered at the western trenches, and at 1 p.m. a furious bombardment was opened upon the city and forts. The Chinese replied with vigour, but bursting their shrapnel too high, very few casualties were experienced. They, however, brought two 4" guns into play from a new position 5,200 yards away, which did some very accurate firing, wounding several of our men, and causing much annoyance, it was only after a two hours' duel that they ceased firing. Our 4" gun which had come up from Taku was used for the first time; it was mounted in a commanding position about 1,000 yards in rear of the wool mills. The Japanese and French fired salvos from their batteries, and it was very pretty to see the shells bursting in a line in the air in rapid succession. After an hour's heavy cannonading the bombardment ceased but the 12-pr. continued to engage the Chinese 4" guns and the Black Fort. At about 4 p.m. the tall pagoda, used as a watch tower by the Chinese, situated in the Black Fort, was seen to burst into flames and crash to the ground. The 4" guns in the fort to the West of the City were silenced by about 3 p.m. In the evening the Allies were reinforced by the arrival of 1,500 American troops from Taku, being the 9th Infantry, under Colonel Liscom.

Thursday,
July 12th.

Last night a raid was made on a house in the Settlement, where signalling had been observed. The Chinese in the house resisted and two of them were killed in the struggle for entry; the remainder were turned over to the police authorities. The usual sniping all round the Settlement continued throughout the day, combined with heavy shelling. It was decided at a Conference that all the Allied Forces except those necessary to guard the Settlements should make a general attack on the Native City, and the forts to the West, at daylight on Friday. This decision was first known amongst the troops on Thursday evening.

Early in the morning, before daylight, a large force of Russians, accompanied by some Germans and French, marched out to the attack to the East and North-East of the Settlement, while the remainder of the forces, except those necessary for the protection of the Settlements, consisting of British, Americans, French and Japanese, in all about 5,000, marched out of the Taku Gate to make an attack from the West and South. A further force of about 1,000 French was held in readiness in the Settlement to clear the suburbs to the South of the Native City, so soon as the main attacks had developed. At about 4 a.m., it began to grow light, and all the guns on the mud wall and at the wool mills were manned in readiness to bombard the City and forts. It was not, however, till about 4.30 a.m. that the guns opened fire, a thick mist overhanging the plain until then. A very heavy fire was opened on the Chinese from all guns. The Chinese immediately replied, shelling the gun positions and the Settlement, wrecking a portion of the hospital, established in the Tientsin Club, from which, fortunately, nearly all the wounded had been removed on the previous day. The column on the left followed the same route as on the 9th, advancing along the Taku Road until they reached the racecourse, then turning to the right, and approaching the Western Arsenal on a big curve. The Japanese, deploying on the plain beyond the racecourse, came in contact with a body of Imperial troops, whom they drove back with slight loss to themselves. The whole force then advanced until the bridge leading to the front gate of the Western Arsenal was reached. There a prolonged halt was made to allow the Engineers to repair the bridge, which had previously been destroyed by fire on the 9th inst. Dispositions were then made to keep off the Chinese, who were seen to be massing in great numbers in the distance, while the guns shelled them from the mud wall. It was here that the British sustained many casualties, including Captain Lloyd, R.M.L.I. In the meanwhile the Russians and Germans, advancing on the right, soon came into conflict with the enemy, whom they steadily drove back towards the city. A continuous heavy rifle and artillery fire could be heard on the right, while the guns on the mud wall ceaselessly bombarded the City, and, with the Chinese shells bursting all around, the column on the left attacking the

Friday,
July 13th.

Western Arsenal, and the French working through the suburbs, made a terrific din and presented a scene never to be forgotten. At about 4.45 an explosion took place in the direction of the Russian attack, which raised a large volume of smoke and débris, which could be seen all around. The fighting steadily continued until, at about 5 a.m., a tremendous column of smoke rose into the air near the right flank of the Russians and then about 10 seconds after a deep thud thud was heard, while the ground shook with the shock. This was caused by the blowing up of a magazine, said to be full of brown powder, close to the Lutai Canal, which had been set on fire by a shell from a French field gun. A volume of black smoke was thrown up into the air for a height of at least 600 feet, while many bursting shells and pieces of brick were thrown violently outwards like a fountain, until, mixing with the white clouds, formed a grey panoply to the sky. Much glass was broken in the Settlement, and the tower of the Gordon Hall rocked heavily for some seconds. No deaths or severe casualties resulted from the explosion, but very many Russians who were nearest to it were thrown from their horses, and the General-in-Command received a blow on the head and arm from the falling débris. There seemed to be a lull in the fighting for about 5 minutes, as though the opposing forces had been stunned, then suddenly there broke out, almost simultaneously, a terrific fusillade, which increased in intensity until a continuous roar seemed to come across the river from the right. It was as though the Chinese thought that they had delivered a crushing blow, and were determined to follow it up, while the Russians were infuriated, and pressed on impetuously to the attack. The intense firing lasted for about 20 minutes, and then slowly dying away. It was about then that the Russians captured Tree Battery, a position containing six guns, situated behind the railway embankment, which had, throughout the siege, done considerable damage to the Settlement and caused continual annoyance to the Russian camp. The attack on the right was pressed home until the Chinese were driven under the walls, after some very heavy fighting, as the casualty lists show. After the Russian attack had closed in near the City, the 4" and 12-pr. guns stationed in the Russian camp, which up till then had been assisting in the



advance, now turned their attention to the Black Fort, which they heavily bombarded. All this time the French had been steadily pressing their way in the centre through the suburbs, meeting with stubborn resistance all the way, the Chinese maintaining a heavy fire from barricades and windows of houses. Clouds of bullets sang through the air, the greater majority going over the Frenchmen's heads and striking our gun positions on the mud wall.

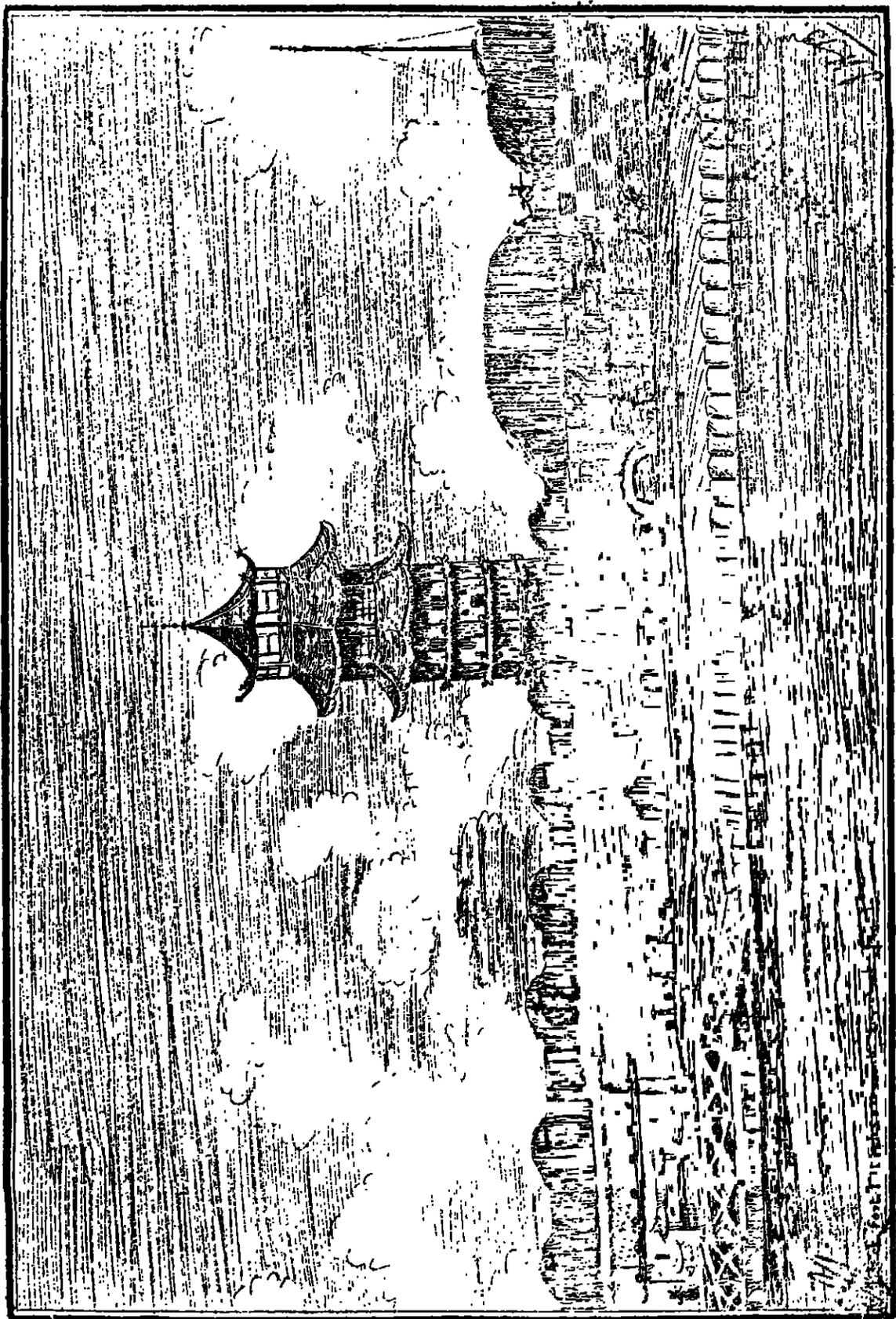
While these operations were being carried out with success on the right and centre, the Engineers on the left were working hard to repair the bridge over the moat leading to the Western Arsenal. At about 5 a.m. the Chinese from the city wall opened a heavy fire from some field guns, getting the range very accurately and causing several casualties. The guns on the mud wall immediately engaged these and eventually silenced them after a lively duel, two 20-pr. guns, at 5,200 yards range, being especially well served. At about 7 a.m. the Engineers, having finished the bridge, the Japanese crossed over into the Arsenal, while the remainder of the force took shelter behind the mud wall. The force remained in that position till about noon, without much loss of life, clearing the Arsenal of the enemy and preparing for the final assault on the City. The Japanese Artillery came into action on the right, the French and Asiatic Artillery took up their position by the Arsenal. At about 11.30 all guns were directed to pour their fire into the South Gate, and along the top of the City wall. And then there began to fall on the South Gate and along the City wall, shell after shell from the heavier British guns, causing great destruction, large portions of the wall being swept away, Chinese and all, while the Japanese burst salvoes of shrapnel on the walls, and the small French and British guns threw shell far into the City. The Chinese rifle fire was much reduced, but they continued to heavily shell the Japanese battery, which was the nearest to them. At noon the Japanese, having cleared the Arsenal and rested, sprang forward along the road leading to the South Gate to assault the City. They were quickly followed by the French and Americans, the British being held in reserve. The columns pressed quickly forward, halting at short intervals to take cover, on slightly divergent lines, driving the Chinese back into the City. During

the time that the advance was taking place a furious fire was kept up on the walls from all guns, until at about 1 p.m. the Japanese sent back to say that they had got into the City, and so the guns ceased firing. This, however, turned out to be a mistake, which had very grave results, as during the time the fire of the guns was taken off the South Wall, the Chinese remanned the battlements and poured in a very heavy rifle fire on our troops, until the guns once more received permission to reopen on the wall, which they did with great effect. The Chinese most gallantly stuck to their positions, keeping up a heavy rifle fire until literally swept away along with the wall.* It was long past mid-day, when the British, along with the American marines, advanced to the support of the 9th U.S. Infantry, who had by some mistake strayed from their line of attack, and were losing very heavily, having had their colonel killed early in the day; the rest of the forces on the West were lying down under such shelter as was obtainable from houses and walls near the native City and the Arsenal walls in the case of the supports.

The fighting went right on into the night, our troops finding it impossible to get into the City. All the small guns had practically finished their supply of ammunition, but the 12-prs. kept up a desultory fire on the City walls. It was interesting to watch the Chinese on the wall, most of whom were dressed in red, dodging behind the battlements, and firing round them when opportunity served. Up till about 10 p.m. the Chinese continued to fire from the City walls, flashes darting out continuously all along the wall. Two companies of our seamen were sent out to hold some villages on the extreme left, to prevent their occupation by snipers, while the Japanese cavalry bivouacked on the plain.

Killed and wounded were brought in in great numbers; the Americans lost very heavily in proportion to numbers engaged; the Japanese losses were, of course, greatest, they having such a large number of men engaged. The total killed and wounded worked out to about 750, which gave an average of 14 per cent.

* It was then that the fine double-storied pagoda over the South Gate burst into flames, and came tumbling to the ground, leaving a mass of smoking ruins where it had formerly stood.



casualties to the forces engaged. Search parties were out assisting to bring in the wounded, one of the British companies bringing in the American wounded.

The troops remained in their advanced positions all night, food and water, etc. being sent out to them from the Settlement. At about 4 a.m. the Japanese blew in the outer Southern Gate of the City, and climbing over, opened the inner gate from within; they then entered the City in force, supported by the British. The enemy it was found had practically quitted the City, and only a little sniping took place. A large body of Chinese was seen to the North-West. All the South side of the City was occupied by the Allied forces by about 6 a.m., the whole City being seized by about noon. The Japanese pressing on captured the Black Fort with all its guns, while the British seized some 200 junks and a stern wheeler which were lying in the canal to the north of the City: they afterwards proved very useful for water transport.

The Russians on the right occupied all the outlying villages, after capturing all the guns in Tree Battery.

And thus by the capture of Tientsin City, the road to Peking was laid open, for without its fall no advance could have been made on Peking with safety.

The following is a letter sent by General Dorward to Captain Burke, who was in command of the Naval Brigade:—

Sir,—I wish to express my deep sense of the honour done to me by having under my command the officers and men of the Naval Brigade during the long and hard fighting of the 13th inst., which resulted in the capture of Tientsin city.

The success of the operations was largely due to the manner in which the naval guns were worked by Lieutenant Drummond, R.N., the accuracy of their fire alone rendering steady fire on the part of the troops possible against the strong Chinese position and largely reducing the number of casualties.

The delicate operation of withdrawing troops from advanced positions at nightfall, to strengthen other parts of the line, and the bringing back of the wounded could not have been effected without the aid of the well-directed fire of the guns.

I desire to place on record my appreciation of the gallantry and fine spirit of the men, and to join in their regret for the heavy loss in killed and wounded, and particularly with the Royal Marines in regret for the death of Captain Lloyd.

The Naval Brigade had their full share in the fighting at the centre and right of the position and had the honour of being among the first troops to enter Tientsin. The succour they brought under a heavy fire to the hard-pressed American troops on the right was highly appreciated by the 9th Regiment, United

States Infantry, who found themselves unexpectedly under the heaviest fire of the day, and were much heartened by the arrival of Lieutenant Phillimore, R.N., and his men. It will be my honour to bring their conduct to the notice of the Secretary of State for War.

I join with them in their admiration for the gallantry, soldierly spirit and organization of our comrades of the Japanese Army. I have the honour to thank you particularly for the ready and unquestioning assistance which you personally gave me at all times during the progress of the operations, and for the cheerful co-operation of your officers and men in instantly carrying out any duty assigned to them.

I have, etc.,
[Signed] A. R. F. DORWARD,
Brigadier-General.

The scene in the city after its capture was most interesting, the number of dead bodies was extraordinary and the positions they were in were curious. Some of the Chinese had evidently been shot while running into their houses, as they were lying across the doorsteps; others had been killed in their houses by the dropping shell, and in some cases the skin peeled off by lyddite. In places along the South Wall, the bodies were piled thick, especially around the gate, which had experienced the fiercest fire.

It is difficult to think how our troops could have entered by the South Gate if the Chinese had stuck to it, as the gate was in reality an enclosed courtyard with an entrance at either side.

The houses on either side of the main road leading from the South to the North Gate, were all burnt as were a great many more, but parts of the City were standing and in good order although deserted, and seemed untouched by the bombardment.

There were a great many red placards in the streets and on the walls, which were probably most of them anti-foreign. Nearly all the yaméns seem to have been Boxer centres, as they were filled with jingals bound with red cloth, and rifles, new and old, modern and ancient, with all kinds of swords, spear banners, etc. There were also a great many uniforms, and unmistakable signs of meetings having been lately held in some of them. The inhabitants—there were only a few remaining—seemed very frightened of foreigners, running away in terror whenever they caught sight of them, but later on they appeared to grow less alarmed, and to be very anxious to have something written on their little white flags which they all carried, for which in

exchange they gave presents of chickens, melons, etc. Judging by their anxiety to get their flags written on, I fancy they all expected to get killed.

Looking from the outside at the South Wall, one could see how terribly it had been knocked about by our guns, parts of it being swept away, while for a space of about 150 yards the battlements had been swept away by the shells. The road leading to the City from the Western Arsenal, along which the main attack developed, was raised above the level of the surrounding country, and was devoid of cover; it was in advancing along this that a great many men lost their lives.

This account finishes the description of the active operations which took place in North China, mostly around Tientsin, up till the time when the advance on Peking was begun. From the 14th to the 20th, when most of the Naval Brigade sorrowfully returned to their ships, the time was spent in collecting gear and such curios as individuals might have obtained in the City, and getting ready for the journey back to the fleet off Taku.

The following is a copy of a letter written by Captain Bayley to the returning naval brigades.

Memo.

TIENTSIN, July 20th, 1900.

Having received orders from the Commander-in-Chief to send back to their ships a large portion of the former Tientsin Defence Force, who served here with me for nearly six weeks, I wish, in saying—temporarily only, I trust—Good-bye, to thank one and all for their invariable good behaviour, loyal support, and gallant conduct in action. No Commanding Officer could ever wish to be better supported and served than I have been by every officer and man of the Tientsin Defence Force, and I heartily thank those now here, and through them, all that have been with us during a trying time, for those services which I have much appreciated, though I fear but inadequately acknowledged. I wish all good luck and success.

[Signed] E. H. BAYLEY,
Captain and Senior Naval Officer.

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