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WAR-OFFICE, PALL-MALL,  
January 8, 1863.

THE Secretary of State for War has received a Despatch and its Enclosures, addressed to him by Brigadier-General Staveley, C.B., Commanding Her Majesty's Troops in China, of which the following are Copies:—

Head-Quarters, near Kah-ding,  
SIR,  
24th October 1862.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that the Chinese authorities having expressed their willingness to place a garrison in Kah-ding, if the allied forces would recapture it for them, the place was taken by storm after a bombardment of two hours, this morning, by the force under my immediate command, mentioned in the accompanying return marked (A), as well as the British naval force under Captain Borlase, C.B., and the French troops, placed respectively at my disposal by Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope and Captain Fancón, commanding His Imperial Majesty's forces in China, also the so-called Ward's force, under the command of an American (Colonel Burgoviene), and Lieutenant Kingsley's 67th Regiment, battalion of 500 Chinese, and 6 mortars worked by Chinese, under Lieutenant Cane, R.A., all detailed in return marked (A).

The guns and mortars were got into position during the night, and opened fire so soon as the walls could be seen. At 8 o'clock two practicable breaches having been made, the French and British each established their bridges, the British under the direction of Lieutenant Knevitt, R.N., and Lieutenant Lyster, R.E.; the storming parties of the 31st and 67th Regiments, under the command of Captain Christian, 31st Regiment, then planted their ladders and entered the place without opposition, the enemy escaping by the opposite side of the city.

The place had been considerably strengthened since our last visit, by an outwork made to flank the walls, and protected by a sort of bomb-proof, which however was not proof against 8-inch mortar shells.

I gave over the place to Colonel Burgoviene and his men, and, except the storming parties, none of Her Majesty's naval or military forces were allowed to enter it.

The re-capture of Kah-ding completes the radius of thirty miles round Shanghai, which it was decided should be cleared of the Tai-ping rebels.

I trust that the excellent conduct of the troops, under very tempting circumstances, and the very arduous nature of the service, will be favourably considered.

I wish to mention for favourable notice, Captain C. Gordon, commanding Royal Engineers; Captain Mansergh, Deputy Assistant-Adjutant-General; Captain Gammell, Deputy Assistant-Quartermaster-General; Dr Rennie, 31st Regiment, Senior Medical Officer; Assistant Commissary-General Thompson, in charge of Commissariat; Lieutenant Jebb, 31st Regiment; and the Prince Witgenstein, of the 1st Prussian Lancer Guard Regiment, who acted as my Aides-de-Camp.

I take this opportunity of recording the great assistance I have invariably received on the occasions of the various expeditions from Mr Consul Medhurst, and Mr C. Alabaster, of the Consular service.

I also wish to mention the services performed by Commander Strode, of Her Majesty's ship "Vulcan," who was employed during the whole of the operations against the Tai-pings, and whose name was inadvertently omitted in my commendatory despatch; also of his first lieutenant, Lieutenant Grant.

Commander Strode had the working of the naval 32-pounders on all occasions when they were used, and was assisted by Lieutenant Grant.

In transmitting a list of casualties, marked (B), I have much satisfaction in calling your attention to the Senior Medical Officer's report (herewith forwarded) on the health of the field force.

I have, &c.,

C. STAVELEY, Brigadier-General,  
Commanding Her Majesty's Troops in China.

The Right Honourable the Secretary  
of State for War, War Office,  
Pall-Mall, London.

