

was made, and the troops were placed by two p.m. on that day in various craft, procured during the previous day and night by the great exertions of the royal navy.

4. From all the sources from which I had been enabled to collect information, or rather from the conjectures of persons who have long resided in China (for no European had been permitted to see the country above the factories, and the Chinese would give no information), I was induced to decide on making my principal point of debarkation to the north west of the city, while another column was to take possession of the factories, drawing the attention of the enemy to that quarter, and at the same time to co-operate with the naval force which was to attack the river defences, in order to silence numerous new works recently erected by the Chinese along the whole southern face of the city. A most spirited and judicious reconnoissance, made by Captain Belcher, of H.M.S. Sulphur, the previous evening, established the practicability of effecting a landing at the point I had selected.

5. Every arrangement having been completed by two o'clock, and the boats and other craft placed in tow of the steamers, the force moved to the point of attack as follows:

Right column, to attack and hold the factories, in tow of the *Atalanta*, consisting of Her Majesty's 26th Regiment, as per margin* an officer and twenty rank and file of the Madras Artillery, with one six-pounder and one five and a half-inch mortar, and thirty sappers, with an officer of Engineers, under Major Pratt, of H. M. 26th.

Left column, towed by the *Nemesis* in four brigades, to move left in front.

4th (Left) Brigade, under Lieut. Col. Morris, 49th regiment. - H. M. 49th, commanded by Major Stephens, 28 officers, 273 other ranks. 37th M. N. I. Capt. Duff, 11 officers, 219 other ranks. One company Bengal Volunteers, Capt. Mee, 1 officer, 114 other ranks.

3d (Artillery) Brigade, under Capt. Knowles, R. A. - Royal Artillery, Lieut. Spencer, 2 officers, 33 other ranks. Madras Artillery, including gun Lascars, Capt. Anstruther, 10 officers, 231 other ranks. Sappers and Miners, Capt. Cotton, 4 officers, 137 other ranks.

Ordnance. - Four twelve pounder howitzers, four nine pounder field guns, two six pounder field guns, three five and a half inch mortars, one hundred and fifty-two thirty-two pounder rockets.

2d Naval Brigade, under Capt. Bouchier, H. M. S. Blonde. - 1st Naval Battalion, Capt. Maitland, H. M. S. Wellesley, 11 officers, 172 other ranks. 2d Naval Battalion, Commander Barlow, H. M. S. Nimrod, 16 officers, 231 other ranks.

1st (Right) Brigade, (Reserve) under Major Genl. Burrell. - Royal Marines, Capt. Ellis, 9 officers, 372 other ranks. 18th Royal Irish, Lieut. Col. Adams, 25 officers, 494 other ranks.

6. The right column reached its point of attack before 5 p. m. and took possession of the factories, when Major Pratt made the necessary arrangements for strengthening his post, holding his men ready for offensive or defensive operations.

* 15 officers, 294 other ranks.

7. The left column, towed by the *Nemesis*, from the difficulties of the passage, with such a fleet of craft as she had in tow, did not reach the Sulphur until dusk, which vessel Captain Belcher had judiciously anchored close to the village of Tsing-hae, the point of debarkation, about five miles by the river line above the factories. I could therefore only land the 49th regiment, with which corps I made a reconnoissance to some distance, meeting a few straggling parties of the enemy. After placing the picquets, the corps fell back on the village of Tsing-hae, to protect and cover the landing of the guns, which was effected during the night by the zealous efforts of the artillery. The following morning, the remainder of the column landed, and the whole proceeded soon after daylight.

8. The heights to the north of Canton, crowned by four strong forts, and the city walls, which run over the southern extremity of these heights, including one elevated point, appeared to be about three miles and a half distant; the intermediate ground, undulating much, and intersected by hollows under wet paddy cultivation, enabled me to take up successive positions, until we approached within range of the forts on the heights, and the northern face of the city walls. I had to wait here some time, placing the men under cover, to bring up the rocket battery and artillery.

9. I have already informed your Lordship that I was totally unacquainted with the country which I had to pass over, the amount of the enemy's force, or the difficulties that might present themselves at every step; but I had the proud consciousness of feeling that your Lordship had placed under me a band, whom no disparity of numbers could dishearten, and no difficulty could check. They nobly realized, by their steadiness under fire, their discipline, advance, and their animated rush, my warmest anticipations.

10. Having at eight o'clock got up the rocket battery, with two five and half inch mortars, two twelve pounder howitzers and two nine-pounder guns, a well-directed fire was kept up on the two western forts, which had much annoyed us by a heavy fire. I now made the disposition for attack in echelon of columns from the left, and directed the 49th regiment to carry a hill on the left of the nearest eastern fort, supported by the 37th Madras Native Infantry and Bengal Volunteers, under Lieut. Col. Morris of the 49th regiment. The 18th Royal Irish, supported by the Royal Marines, under Major General Burrell, I directed to carry a hill to their front, which was strongly occupied and flanked the approach to the fort just mentioned. This movement was to cut off the communication between the two eastern forts, and cover the advance of the 49th in their attack and storm of the nearest. Major General Burrell had directions to push on and take the principal square fort, when the 49th made their rush. Simultaneous with these attacks, the Brigade of Seamen was to carry the two western forts, covered by a concentrated fire from the whole of the guns and rockets.

11. During the whole of the advance, my right had been threatened by a large body of the enemy, which debouched from the western suburbs, and just as I was about to commence the attack, a report was made that heavy columns were advancing on the