



SUPPLEMENT

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Downing Street, 23rd June, 1847.

A DESPATCH, and its Inclosures, addressed to the Right Honourable Earl Grey, of which an Extract and Copies are subjoined, have been this day received from Major-General d'Aguilar, C.B. commanding Her Majesty's Troops in the Island of Hong Kong, dated

*Victoria, Hong Kong,
April 15, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship for the information of Her Majesty's Government, the details of certain military operations in which the troops under my command, jointly with a small naval squadron under Captain McDougall of H.M. steam frigate *Vulture*, have been recently engaged upon the Canton river.

On the afternoon of the 1st inst. I received a communication from his Excellency Sir John Francis Davis, Bart., Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China, informing me that, in consequence of the repeated aggressions of the Chinese upon British subjects in the neighbourhood of Canton, and the unsatisfactory replies of the Imperial High Commissioner to his demands for redress, his Excellency had come to the conclusion that there was no alternative but to proceed to Canton with a force and demand reparation on the spot.

Upon receipt of the above letter I lost no time in communicating with Captain McDougall, of Her Majesty's steam frigate *Vulture*, the senior

naval officer in these waters, and the result of our deliberations was, that whilst we could not conceal from ourselves the difficulty of undertaking such an expedition with so small a force as that which would remain at our command, after providing for the security of this island, still the advantages attendant upon prompt and energetic action, before the hot season set in, appeared to us to justify the enterprise, provided the operation was conducted upon the principle of a *coup de main* and that no guns were left unspiked in our rear.

I was likewise influenced in my decision upon this question by a desire to teach the people of Canton that the troops in the garrison of Hong Kong, with the co-operation of the naval force in these seas, are at all times prepared to chastise aggression, without waiting for reinforcements either from England or India.

About midnight of the day on which I received Sir John Davis's communication, the troops embarked on board the vessels, and according to the distribution noted as follows:—

Her Majesty's steamer *Vulture*—18th Regiment, 24 officers, 403 non-commissioned officers and rank and file.

Her Majesty's sloop *Espiegle*, 42nd Regiment, M.N.I.—4 officers, 145 non-commissioned officers and rank and file.

Hon. Company's steamer *Pluto*, 42d Regiment, 12 officers, 268 non-commissioned officers and rank and file.

Hired armed steamer Corsair, 18th Regiment—4 officers, 106 non-commissioned officers and rank and file.

Total Infantry—44 officers, 922 non-commissioned officers and rank and file.

Hired lorcha, No. 1, armed as a gun-boat—Detachment Royal Artillery, and all the Ordnance stores, &c.

Hired lorcha, No. 2—Detachment Royal Sappers and Miners, with tools, scaling ladders, and other materials.

At nine o'clock the following morning, the Squadron arrived at the Rocca Tigris, when the Vulture, taking up a convenient position, with the Old and New Arrunghoy Batteries on one side, and the North and South Wangtung Batteries on the other, lowered her boats, in which two detachments, the one under Lieutenant-Colonel Brereton, C.B., Royal Artillery, the second in command, the other under my immediate superintendence, were instantly disembarked, and the respective batteries having been surprised and taken possession of without opposition, the guns were spiked, the ammunition destroyed, and the garrisons permitted to retire without molestation.

At six o'clock the squadron arrived at Wampo, beyond which the Vulture's draught of water would not permit her to proceed.

The following morning the troops were distributed in the steamers Pluto and Corsair, and the armed boats of the Vulture, with the exception of the detachment of Seapoys on board the Espiegle, and a party which it was deemed prudent to leave for the security of the Vulture, in consequence of the greater part of her crew being employed on boat service.

I have established my head-quarters on board the Pluto, to which vessel Sir John Davis likewise removed from the Vulture.

About eleven o'clock we arrived at a reach of the river on which stand four strong forts, namely, Pachow, Wookongtap, Napier, and Wampo creek.

The attack on the two first I entrusted to Lieut.-Colonel Brereton, C.B., and that on the two others, which was led by Major Aldrich, Royal Engineers, I reserved for my own immediate supervision.

To gain access to Forts Pachow and Napier, which were approached simultaneously, it was found necessary to blow in the gates, after which the guns were spiked and the troops re-embarked.

On proceeding towards Forts Wookongtap and Wampo Creek, a well directed fire of round shot, chain shot, and grape, was opened by those batteries upon the steamers and boats; and I consider it due to Lieut.-Colonel Brereton to state, that, but for the intelligent manner in which that officer directed the crowded boats under his command, to be steered upon the salient angle of Fort Wookongtap, a very heavy loss must have inevitably ensued, as the showers of grape which were poured from guns of large calibre fell thickly around the boats almost immediately after the Lieut.-Colonel had caused this judicious movement to be made.

The greater part of the seamen being employed in pulling the boats, the guns of the steamers Pluto and Corsair were chiefly manned by the acting

gunners of the 18th Regiment, and I have much satisfaction in stating, that, on the batteries opening fire, they were promptly replied to by the steamers, in a style that would have done credit to experienced Artillery men.

The gun boat of the Royal Artillery also opened its fire, and threw some shot into Fort Wampo Creek.

On the troops reaching the shore, the garrisons of Forts Napier and Wampo Creek evacuated the works by the rear, but entrances were speedily effected by means of powder bags, which were applied to the principal gates by Captain Durnford and Lieutenant Da Costa of the Royal Engineers.

The guns having been all spiked and the magazines exploded the expedition next proceeded to the French-folly Fort, a strong work, surmounted by a Keep, commanding one of the narrowest bends of the river.

The descent upon this fort was equally rapid as upon those that preceded it, and the gate having been blown in, it was ascertained from the preparations obviously made in the batteries for our reception, that a very few minutes delay would have brought upon us the fire of this formidable work.

Four other batteries were afterwards spiked without opposition, and by six o'clock in the evening the greater part of the troops had landed at the British Factories, after having spiked, or otherwise rendered unserviceable, eight hundred and seventy-nine pieces of heavy cannon, as per annexed return.

It became now necessary to secure our position from attack on the land side, and fortunately the situation of the factories in relation to the surrounding suburbs, enabled me, by a series of defensible barricades, to shut up all the avenues of approach.

The following day, the 4th instant, the detachment arrived from the Espiegle, and additional measures were taken to strengthen our position, and to obtain local knowledge of its environs.

The same day Sir John Davis was waited upon at the British Consulate within the Factories, by the Chinese High Commissioner Keying, to whom he prescribed certain terms, failing compliance with which before six o'clock the next evening, his Excellency declared his intention of breaking off all further negotiations, and of employing the forces under my command, in conjunction with that of my coadjutor Captain McLaughlin, in redressing by more serious hostile operations the injuries complained of.

The ensuing day, the 5th instant, the High Commissioner requested that the period allowed him for consideration of the proposed terms might be extended to 8 o'clock the following morning. After this request had been granted, intelligence was received of bodies of troops moving into the city. I accordingly lost no time in making my dispositions for the assault.

I will here inform your Lordship that my confidence in our dispositions for the attack was much strengthened by the result of a reconnaissance made at day-break that morning by Captain Clark Kennedy, the Acting Assistant Quarter-Master-General, and Lieutenant Da Costa of the Royal

Engineers. Those officers penetrated, during that still period of the morning, to the City Walls, which they ascended in two places, and ascertained satisfactorily that sufficient space existed thereon for making a lodgment.

Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary having informed me that all his demands had been fully acceded to by the Chinese authorities, I gave orders, with his Excellency's concurrence, for the return of the troops to Hong Kong, with the exception of the light company of the 18th Regiment, under Captain Graves, and a small party of Sappers, under Lieutenant Da Costa; both which it was thought prudent to leave behind in the Factories, until the various local improvements prescribed by the Treaty are fully completed.

At twelve o'clock on the 8th instant, the troops accordingly re-embarked, and arrived in Hong Kong the afternoon of the following day.

The Pluto has since been sent back to resume her position off the Factories, and as a further precaution I put on board her, with the concurrence of Sir John Davis and Captain Mc Dougall, two intelligent subalterns and thirty picked men of the 18th Regiment, to act as marines until the arrival of the Naval Commander-in-Chief.

I have since received several reports from these detachments, all which represent the aspect of affairs as perfectly satisfactory; and I shall be much mistaken if the lesson we have given the Government and people of Canton be soon forgotten, whilst the discipline and forbearance of the troops, during our occupation of the suburbs, and which I have acknowledged in the annexed General Order, can scarcely fail to engender amongst the Chinese inhabitants feelings of respect to which they have been hitherto strangers.

I cannot conclude this despatch without congratulating your Lordship upon the whole of these operations having been carried into effect without the loss of a man. More especially as in the crowded state of the boats, and the strong tide that was running at the time, any one shot taking effect from the heavy batteries opposed to us on the 3rd instant must have inevitably cost me seventy or eighty men, as it would have been impossible to render any assistance under the circumstances of our position.

The gratifying task now only remains to me of doing justice to the merits of the officers under my command, who have principally assisted me in the conduct of these operations.

Of Lieutenant-Colonel Bereton, C.B., the second in command, whose report I annex, I cannot speak too highly. His long experience, his distinguished military reputation, and his professional attainments and resources have been apparent in every step throughout this expedition, and I cannot sufficiently express my acknowledgments for the scope he has given to all these valuable qualities, and for his perfect and most cordial support.

Lieutenant-Colonel Phillpotts, the commanding Royal Engineer, never quitted my side from the commencement to the end of the operations. To him I am indebted for the most judicious and scientific advice, and to him also for the admirable plan for the attack upon the gateways of the City

of Canton, and for which I desire this able and meritorious officer may have all the credit to which he is justly entitled.

My sense of Major Aldrich's services is not easily expressed. I had appointed this officer to act as my Aid-de-Camp; but I soon found that his abilities and knowledge were much too valuable to be lost in a secondary situation. I charged him therefore with several operations under my own superintendance, the leading features of which I have already detailed, and on the approach to the Factories I employed him in all the descents upon the Forts in that neighbourhood; and which duty he performed with a promptitude, skill, and ability beyond my praise.

To Captain J. Bruce, 18th Regiment, the Assistant Adjutant-General, my utmost acknowledgments are due for indefatigable and most useful services. Every detail connected with the armament, equipment, and embarkation of the Troops, on this sudden emergency, was carried out under his judicious superintendance. He undertook also, on our arrival at Canton, in addition to his other duties that of a Field Engineer, and in twenty-four hours by means of his incessant activity and personal exertion, every approach to the position was barricaded in such strength, that every officer and man slept in the secure conviction that it was unassailable by any force the Chinese could bring against us. Neither would I limit my approbation of the services of this officer to the present occasion. Captain Bruce has been three years and a half on my Staff, of which two years and a half Assistant Adjutant-General, and in every situation, but in this last in particular, his services have been to me invaluable.

In the absence of the Assistant Quarter-Master-General on sick leave, Captain Clark Kennedy, 18th Regiment, conducted the duties of this Department to my entire satisfaction, and evinced the utmost intelligence combined with the best arrangement. Without putting me in possession of his intention, he made the reconnaissance already referred to of the City Wall, on the morning of the 6th instant, and succeeded in ascending the rampart in two places, before the guard was alarmed, and in bringing me back the most satisfactory information, respecting the space afforded upon it for lodgments. It was this proof of Captain Kennedy's zeal, combined with the knowledge he had so gallantly obtained; that induced me to select him to conduct the column under Major Fitzgerald in the projected attack upon the City, which the submission of the Chinese authorities so happily averted.

Lieutenant Colonel Cowper, C.B., 18th Regiment afforded me every assistance and support with the fine regiment under his command.

Major Fitzgerald, of the 42nd Regiment Madras Native Infantry, is a first rate officer. He unites conduct with enterprise, and to both may be added a zeal that communicates its spirit to every officer and sepoy under his orders.

To Captain Durnford, of the Royal Engineers, I am likewise highly indebted for the excellence of all his arrangements, and the skill, zeal, and efficacy with which he carried them into effect. Also

to Lieutenant Da Costa, of the same corps, whose name has been already mentioned in this despatch, as having rendered meritorious service.

Sir John Davis having placed at my disposal his Excellency's own Aide-de-Camp, Lieutenant Edmund Sargent, of the 18th Regiment, I gladly availed myself of this officer's services, and am happy to have this opportunity of acknowledging them.

Captains Graves and Campbell, commanding the flank companies of the 18th Regiment, and Captains Stuart and McLeod, commanding the flank companies of the 42nd Regiment Madras Native Infantry, were frequently employed in the more important operations, and evinced all the coolness and zeal that might be expected from British officers.

Lieutenant Paterson, commanding the detachment of Royal Artillery, afforded me every satisfaction.

The medical arrangements of the Deputy Inspector of Hospitals, Doctor Kinnis, were such as to meet with my entire approbation, although fortunately circumstances did not render the application of them necessary.

I cannot close this despatch without informing your Lordship that if anything had been wanting to encourage me in the recent undertaking, it was to be found in the ardent zeal and cordial co-operation of Captain McDougall, Royal Navy, my distinguished coadjutor, whose conduct throughout these proceedings has afforded one proof more of the united feeling which binds our two Services indissolubly together.

SIR,

Canton, April 8th, 1847.

In pursuance of the plan of operations previously arranged by you, upon arrival at the entrance of the Bocca Tigris, I proceeded from on board Her Majesty's steam ship Vulture to the forts on the islands North and South Wangtong, in the launches of that vessel, taking with me from the troops you had placed at my disposal, a detachment of Her Majesty's 18th Regiment, under the command of Captain Campbell, a detachment of Royal Sappers and Miners, commanded by Captain Durnford, and one of Royal Artillery, under Lieut. Paterson.

Having reached the northern island the gates of the fort were opened and possession taken, the garrison making no resistance; Captain Durnford with the Sappers was sent to destroy the magazine, and Lieutenant Paterson to spike the guns; both services were performed efficiently. In this fort are several dwellings, and a Temple containing much valuable property, all which was left undisturbed, so perfect was the discipline maintained by Captain Campbell, whose conduct in this and subsequent operations it becomes my duty to recommend to your notice. One hundred and fifty guns of great calibre were spiked, and large quantities of powder thrown into the sea.

The force then proceeded to the island and fortress of South Wantong, where the gates were thrown open, and the same forbearance observed by the soldiers notwithstanding much temptation

One hundred and nine guns of similar great calibre effectually spiked, the magazines destroyed, and much powder in cartridges thrown into the sea.

On the following morning, the 3rd of April, the expedition having reached the staked barrier of the River, in accordance with your explained plan for attacking the Barrier Forts, taking with me, from the division you had placed under my direction, in the launches of the Vulture, a detachment of the 18th Regiment commanded by Captain Graves, one of Sappers under Captain Durnford, and one of Artillery under Lieutenant Paterson, I proceeded to the Pachow Fort on the left bank of the river. On reaching it, entrance being refused, the gates were instantly blown open by Captain Durnford, the work occupied with perfect discipline and forbearance by the soldiers of the 18th Regiment. While Captain Durnford and Lieutenant Paterson were performing the duties assigned to them, sixty-four guns were effectually spiked; much powder in cartridges, and not made up, thrown into the sea; and the magazines destroyed.

The force was then conveyed to the Wookong-tap Fort, on the opposite bank of the river; on approaching which it became evident that opposition was intended: a cross fire was opened upon the detachment by this fort, and by another on the same bank of the river; and, on a nearer approach, grape-shot and rockets were fired from the fort to be attacked. The force was landed and formed, the garrison escaped from the rear. Captain Graves was sent with the light company of the 18th Regiment to keep clear the approaches from a large town adjacent, while Captain Durnford and Lieutenant Paterson were in the execution of their duties within the fort. Forty-one guns, as usual of immense size, were disabled, some of which were found to be loaded. The magazine was destroyed, with much powder, loose and in cartridges, and 150 rockets, all headed with barbed spear points.

The coolness and discipline of this little force while under fire have never been exceeded, and not a musket was fired during any of the operations; it is a mere act of duty on my part to bring to your notice the excellent conduct of Captain Durnford, Royal Engineers, of Captain Graves 18th Regiment, and of Lieutenant Paterson, Royal Artillery, in the performance of their duties; an incident of this attack excited attention while under fire, in the gig which led the advance, and which was steered by Captain McDougall, Royal Navy, the midshipman on duty was his son, a young lad, whose coolness emulated that of his father, and was admirable.

The Naval officers employed in the boats which conveyed the troops, were Lieutenants Robert Coote, C. A. Pascoe, and G. Durbin; the conduct of these officers throughout was worthy of the service they belong to, as was that of Lieutenant Davis of the Marine Artillery who was present and gave every assistance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. M. BRERETON.

Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding Artillery.
To M. General D'Aguilar, C.B.

Return of the Iron and Brass Ordnance, taken and spiked by the British Force under the command of Major-General D'Aguilar, C.B., on the 2d, 3d, and 5th April, 1847.

Forts of the Bocca Tigris.

Arrunghoy—194 iron ordnance, 14 brass ordnance; total 208.

N. Wantang Island—140 iron ordnance, 10 brass ordnance; total 150.

S. Wantang Island—101 iron ordnance, mounted, 3 iron ordnance, dismantled, 5 brass ordnance; total 109.

Forts of the Staked Batteries of the River.

Pachow Fort, right bank—35 iron ordnance, mounted, 29 iron ordnance, dismantled; total 64.

Wookongtap, left bank—35 iron ordnance, mounted, 6 iron ordnance, dismantled; total 41.

Rapier's Island—48 iron ordnance, 1 brass ordnance; total 49.

Whampoa Creek—63 iron ordnance, 2 brass ordnance; total 65.

Forts of the City of Canton.

French Folly—38 iron ordnance; total 38.

Dutch Folly—23 iron ordnance; total 23.

Ruge Fort—26 iron ordnance; total 26.

Zigzag Battery—20 iron ordnance; total 20.

Segment Battery—30 iron ordnance; total 30.

Shaneen Battery—56 iron ordnance; total 56.

Total 847 iron ordnance, 32 brass ordnance.
Grand total 879.

Time did not admit of taking the calibres of the guns in their several forts; their bores were found to be of unusually large diameter, some of nearly thirteen inches, and none under five inches. All were mounted upon new garrison carriages, on the English construction, and with iron truck wheels.

WM. BRERETON, Lieut-Col. R.H.A.,
Commanding Royal Artillery.

GENERAL ORDER,

By Major General D'Aguilar, C. B. Commanding
the Troops.

*Head Quarters, Victoria, Hong Kong,
10th April 1847.*

THE Major General congratulates the troops on the success that has crowned their exertions; he congratulates them still more on the discipline observed by them in the course of their late short but arduous operations; and, above all, he congratulates them on the praiseworthy manner in which they have abstained from every act of injury or outrage that could tarnish the honour of the British arms.

In the course of a few days, the Bogue Forts, and all the principal works and batteries on the Canton river, have been taken possession of, some of them by assault, and eight hundred and seventy-nine pieces of cannon, by the latest return, spiked or rendered otherwise unserviceable.

The Chinese have received a lesson, in return for their frequent acts of aggression on the persons of British subjects, that will not be lost upon them.

They have submitted to all the demands of Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary without reserve, and have yielded, happily for themselves, just in time to arrest the course of an assault that would have been attended with fearful loss of life to them, and the inevitable destruction of their provincial capital.

When such advantages have been obtained, let it be one more source of congratulation to British soldiers to reflect, that they have been purchased, under Providence, without bloodshed, and that the honour of the British arms has been proudly maintained, without one act of violence or one departure from the principles of humanity.

In recording these acts, so honourable in themselves and so deserving of approbation, the Major General desires to impress on the handful of men by whom they have been achieved, this great and most important of all lessons, "*It was discipline alone that could effect them,*" and while this first duty of a soldier continues to be practised, that the troops can never fail in fulfilling their duty to their Sovereign and maintaining the honour of their country.

By order,

J. BRUCE, Captain,
Assistant Adjutant General

Admiralty, 25th June 1847.

DISPATCHES have been received at this Office, from Rear Admiral S. H. Inglefield, C. B. dated Penang, 8th May 1847, and addressed to H. G. Ward, Esq. Secretary of the Admiralty, of which the following are copies:

*Her Majesty's Ship Vernon,
Penang, 8th May 1847.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the report from Captain M'Dougall, of H. M. Steam Ship Vulture, the Senior Officer at Hong Kong, relative to the combined naval and military expedition up the Canton river, in the early part of last month, which I have but this moment received, and I beg you will assure their Lordships, that it is only my unwillingness to detain the mail longer than may be absolutely necessary, which prevents me from calling their Lordships' more particular attention to this well executed and bold enterprise, which reflects so much credit upon the Hon. Major General D'Aguilar, Captain M'Dougall, and the whole of the Officers and men under their respective orders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. H. INGLESFIELD,
Rear Admiral and Commander in Chief.

*To Henry G. Ward, Esq. M. P.
Secretary of the Admiralty,
London.*

Her Majesty's Steam Ship Vulture, Hong Kong,
9th April 1847.

SIR,

HER Majesty's Plenipotentiary having communicated to me, on the afternoon of the 1st instant, that, in consequence of the evasive and unsatisfactory conduct of the Chinese Minister, he had communicated with the Honourable the Major General d'Aguilar, and determined with him on the necessity of proceeding with a force to Canton, to demand certain points on which he had been instructed to insist on by Her Majesty's Government; and having applied to me to co-operate with the naval force under my command, I lost no time in waiting on Major General d'Aguilar, and it was arranged that the troops were to commence embarking with their guns, &c. as soon after 8 P.M. as possible.

The *Espiegle* and *Pluto* being the only men of war available, I was obliged to hire the *Corsair* merchant steamer to ensure the expedition arriving off the Bogue forts with the least possible delay.

At 10h. 0m. I directed Commander Thompson to proceed immediately towards the Bogue forts; after embarking the troops assigned to the *Espiegle*, taking with him nine Chinese boats laden with provisions, &c. for the troops. At 10h. 30m. she sailed.

At 3h. 30m. all the troops were embarked with their guns, stores, &c. when *Vulture* weighed, having two lorches with ordnance stores, sappers and miners in tow, making the night signal to the steamers to follow her motions; the *Corsair* having two cargo boats, with commissariat stores, &c., in tow.

At 9h. 10m. passed the Chumpée fort, where several Chinese men of war and armed junks were at anchor.

At 10h. 0m. the *Vulture* ran within half pistol shot, and anchored off the *Aiungloy* fort, lowered the boats, and his Excellency and the General landed with the troops. The batteries were immediately in their possession, the guns spiked, and the ammunition destroyed.

At 10h. 20m. *Corsair* came up, Colonel Brereton, with the second division in *Vulture's* boats, crossed the river to the Wang Tung forts, which were carried in the same style. The Bogue forts being now secured, I directed the *Pluto* to proceed to Whampoa, and there await my arrival.

At 12h. 0m. anchored off the Wang Tung forts, desiring the *Corsair* to follow *Pluto's* motions to Whampoa, to protect the shipping there.

At 1h. 40m. having spiked upwards of 500 guns, and destroyed all the ammunition, re-embarked the troops, *Vulture* weighed, and proceeded at full speed to enable her to cross the first and second bars before the tide had receded too much. Saw the *Espiegle* in the distance approaching the Bogue forts, she being unable to contend with the strong tide, variable and adverse winds.

At 6h. 30m. anchored at the entrance of Junk River, as the *Vulture* could not proceed further from her great draught of water, and the tide at that time falling rapidly; and as the troops and

seamen were very much exhausted from twenty-hours arduous and laborious duties, the Major General and I agreed that it would be advisable to remain the night, and proceed as early in the morning as our arrangements could be completed. During the night two days provisions were cooked for the troops. Mr. Mundy's (Paymaster and Purser) exertions and zeal in supplying the troops with cooked provisions were very great, and at 4h. on the morning of the 3rd, the boats of the *Vulture* transferred the troops on board the Honourable Company's steamer *Pluto*, and the hired steamer *Corsair*, the tide not answering for passing the barrier with the number of boats in tow, it was deemed expedient to wait till the tide slackened.

At 8h. 0m. His Excellency Sir John Davis and suite, Major General d'Aguilar and Staff embarked on board *Pluto*, as did Commander Thompson, of the *Espiegle*.

Colonel Brereton, of the Royal Horse Artillery, accompanied me on board the *Corsair*. The Major General allowed about two hundred of the troops to remain in the *Vulture* and *Espiegle*, to assist in defending them in the event of an attack from the Chinese men of war, as nearly two thirds of the ships' companies were required in the boats and vessels. I left the ship in charge of Mr. Sanders, First Lieutenant, assisted by Lieutenant Dunin, Supernumerary, and the remaining Officers that were not employed in the boats. I left orders to keep the ship clear for action, and every thing ready for lightening her if required, placing every confidence in Lieutenant Sanders's zeal and energy.

At 8h. 45m. both steamers proceeded up the Junk river to the Barrier's forts, having the necessary boats to disembark the troops in tow, viz:

Pluto.—Two large country boats, one containing engineers' stores; the other a party of the 42d Madras Native Infantry. *Vulture's* starboard paddle-box boat, commanded by Lieutenant C. A. D. Pasco, R.N., containing a company of the 18th Royal Irish. Second cutter, Mr. J. Black, Midshipman, and *Espiegle's* gig.

Corsair.—Two large country boats, containing ordnance stores, &c. *Vulture's* pinnace, commanded by Lieutenant Robert Cooté, R.N., assisted by Mr. M. B. Fitzgerald, Midshipman, and Dr. Duncan, Assistant Surgeon. Port paddle-box boat, commanded by Lieutenant G. Durbin, Supernumerary, R.N. First Lieutenant F. W. Davis, R.M.A. First cutter, commanded by Mr. P. C. C. M'Dougall, Midshipman, and gig.

At 10h. 30m. passed the barrier, *Corsair* stopped abreast of the first fort, landed a party of the 18th Royal Irish, and a part of the Sappers and Royal Artillery, under Captain Durnford, Royal Engineers, the whole under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Brereton, C.B., Royal Horse Artillery; blew open the gates, spiked the guns, and destroyed the ammunition; at the same time *Pluto* anchored a little above *Rapier's* fort, and performed the same service there.

At 11h. 15m. Troops re-embarked from both forts, in the boats, to cross the river. Corsair's division of boats going to the fort on the north bank, near the barrier. Pluto's to the one opposite Rapier's fort; both forts opened a fire on the boats and steamers of grape and round, which was returned by a well directed fire from the steamers, and a 12-pound howitzer in the ordnance lorcha. On the near approach of the boats, the Chinese fled. The troops landed, spiked the guns, and blew up the magazine, when the Corsair's division of boats, with guns, took up a position at the entrance of a creek leading to a town, to prevent surprise, the Pluto's boats taking possession of a mandarin boat, whose crew had landed and assisted to man the batteries; shortly after noon boats returned with troops to their respective steamers, when both steamers proceeded as before up the river for Canton.

At 2h. 11m. Pluto anchored off French Folly fort, landed troops, and spiked the guns.

At 2h. 30m. Corsair anchored off Factories and landed her troops; and Pluto, off Ruge fort, landed troops, and spiked the guns.

At 4h. 30m. boats, containing parties of the 18th Royal Irish and 42d Madras native infantry and sappers, under their respective Officers, and accompanied by Major Aldrich, royal engineers, proceeded to and spiked the guns of the three Shaneen forts, destroying the powder.

At 5h. 0m. Pluto anchored off the English factories and landed her troops.

At 6h. 0m. Corsair proceeded to Whampoa with Commander Thompson, of the Espiegle, to bring that ship up, if practicable.

At 7h. all the troops were landed, except a small party of the 42d, left on board Pluto as a guard.

April 4th.—2h. 0m. A. M. paddle-box boats landed the ordnance guns and ammunition.

April 5th.—The boats, with a party of the 18th Royal Irish and sappers, under Col. Philpotts and Major Aldrich, proceeded to French Folly fort and blew up the keep, clearing the river of junks, &c. and then landed at Dutch Folly and spiked the guns, relanding the troops after examining the Ruge Fort. On the Corsair's returning, I proceeded in her to Whampoa to endeavour to bring up the Espiegle, more powder, and the troops that could be spared from Vulture and Espiegle, and likewise to satisfy myself that no attempts were making to obstruct the passage of the river.

I returned at 2h. 30m. having succeeded, through the great exertions of Commander Thompson, his Officers, and crew, by warping, towing, &c. in bringing the Espiegle above the barrier forts, she having frequently grounded upon the numerous obstructions made in the river during the late war, I then ordered the river to be entirely cleared of junks from the entrance of the Macao Reach to the French Folly fort, to prevent the possibility of our being harassed or annoyed by fire vessels or rafts.

April 6.—Steamers and boats kept in perfect readiness to take their positions to attack the town.

April 7.—All the boats but the pinnace and gig returned to Vulture.

April 8.—Commenced re-embarking the troops with the addition of the boats of the Espiegle, under the direction of her First Lieutenant, Washon Baker.

At 2h. 40m. returned to Whampoa, leaving a guard at the Factories, and the Espiegle at anchor above the barrier forts.

Before daybreak of the 9th, the expedition left Whampoa, on return to Hong Kong, and when passing the Bogue forts, between 8 and 9 A. M., observed them full of troops, and the tompons out of the guns; we reached this anchorage about 3h. P. M., after having spiked eight hundred and seventy-nine guns, within the Bogue forts, and destroyed all their ammunition, with the exception of the fort in Tiger island which owes its salvation to the ebbing of the tide, and the Major General's and my anxiety to be at Canton on the night of the 2d, for the protection of British life and property.

The cordiality and unanimity that prevailed between both Services, during the whole of the within operations, was most gratifying to his Honour the Major General D'Aguilar. I am under the greatest obligations for the courteous manner in which he adopted my suggestions, in reference to the naval operations. Colonel Brereton, royal horse artillery, did me the favour to accompany me in my gig, his counsel was invaluable. Commander Thompson, of Her Majesty's sloop Espiegle, rendered me the greatest assistance. Lieutenant Airey, R. N., in command of the Honourable Company's steamer Pluto, conducted himself much to my satisfaction, he is an officer of long standing. Mr Soames, the Master of the Corsair merchant steamer, did his utmost to meet my wishes. It is impossible to say too much in favour of all. The conduct of those officers and men employed in the boats was most creditable; and when under fire, steady and commendable.

No casualties of any description occurred that came to my knowledge, every individual was animated with the same spirit of enterprize and devotion for Her Majesty's Service.

I have the honour, &c.
J. M'DOUGALL, Captain and Senior Officer.

Memorandum of the Troops employed upon the Expedition to Canton, 2d April 1847.

Her Majesty's Steamship Vulture, 18th Regiment—24 officers, 403 non-commissioned officers and rank and file.

Her Majesty's sloop Espiegle, 42d Regiment, M. N. I.—4 officers, 145 non-commissioned officers and rank and file.

Hon. Company's ship Pluto, 42d Regiment, M. N. I.—12 officers, 268 non-commissioned officers and rank and file.

Hired steamer Corsair, 18th Regiment—4 officers, 106 non-commissioned officers and rank and file.

Total Infantry—44 officers, 922 non-commissioned officers and rank and file.

Hired lorcha, No. 1, armed as a gun boat—Detachment Royal Artillery, and all the Ordnance stores.

Hired lorcha, No. 2—Detachment Royal Sappers and Miners, with tools, scaling ladders, and other materials.

J. M'DOUGALL, Captain and Senior Officer.

Return of Iron and Brass Ordnance taken and spiked by the British Force, on the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 5th April 1847.

Forts of the Bocca Tigris.

Anunghoy—194 iron ordnance, 14 brass ordnance; total 208.

N. Wangtang Island—140 iron ordnance, 10 brass ordnance; total 150.

S. Wantang Island—101 iron ordnance, mounted, 3 iron ordnance, dismounted, 5 brass ordnance; total 109.

Forts of the Staked Barrier of the River.

Pachow Fort—35 iron ordnance, mounted; right bank, 29 iron ordnance, dismounted; total 64.

Wookongtap—35 iron ordnance, mounted; left bank, 6 iron ordnance, dismounted; total 41.

Rapier's Island—48 iron ordnance, 1 brass ordnance; total 49.

Whampoa Creek—63 iron ordnance, 2 brass ordnance; total 65.

Forts of the City of Canton.

French Folly—38 iron ordnance; total 38.

Dutch Folly—23 iron ordnance; total 23.

Ruge Fort—26 iron ordnance; total 26.

Zigzag Battery—20 iron ordnance; total 20.

Segment Battery—30 iron ordnance; total 30.

Shaneen Battery—56 iron ordnance; total 56.

Total—847 iron ordnance, 32 brass ordnance.

Grand total—879.

Time did not admit of taking the calibres of the guns in the several forts; their bores were found to be of unusually large diameter, some of nearly thirteen inches, and none under five inches; all were mounted upon new garrison carriages, on the English construction, and with iron truck wheels.

W. BRERETON, Lieut. Col. R. H. A.
Commanding Artillery.

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