

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.