



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1857.

*Admiralty, August 1, 1857.*

THE Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, at a late hour last night, received Despatches from Rear-Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, of which the following are copies:

### OPERATIONS IN CANTON RIVER.

No. 133. *Calcutta, at Hong Kong,*  
Sir, *June 10, 1857.*

I HAVE the honour to report proceedings in the Canton River since my letter by the packet of 25th May.

2. The arrival of the Tribune and Amethyst having enabled me to reinforce Commodore Honourable C. G. J. B. Elliot, the senior officer in the river, that officer at once commenced offensive operations against the junk forces; and on the 25th and 27th ultimo, he took the gun-boats and the boats of Her Majesty's ships under his orders, up the Escape Creek, against the fleet which has been so long stationed in its inner waters, where he had the good fortune to capture or destroy about forty Mandarin war-junks, in a manner which has called forth my entire approval. I beg to invite the attention of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to Commodore Elliot's enclosed report of his proceedings, and to the officers he has named for their conduct in the affair.

3. In my letter, No. 119, I signified my intention of proceeding up the Canton River. I accordingly embarked in the Coromandel steam tender, Lieutenant Sholto Douglas commanding, on the 29th May, and with the remaining gun-boats, and the boats of Her Majesty's ship Calcutta, under the command of Commander H. R. Rolland, arrived the same day at the second bar.

4. I was reluctantly under the necessity of depriving myself of the urgently proffered services of my Flag Captain, Wm. K. Hall, whose presence at Hong Kong has long, under trying circumstances, proved most beneficial to the colony.

5. Having now an adequate force at my disposal, I lost no time in taking the necessary steps

for an attack on the war junks, which have been visible up the Fatsham Creek since 4th January last, when they made so determined and well arranged an attempt to recapture the Macao Fort and block up the channel. The enclosed copy of a General Memorandum to the squadron, and abstract statement (numbered 2 and 3) will shew my arrangements and the disposition and nature of the force selected for the purpose, which proceeded on the 31st May to the upper part of the river.

6. Just before daybreak on the 1st of June I advanced up the Fatsham Creek in the Coromandel, the Haughty following, having in both vessels detachments of seamen, under the command of Commodore the Honourable Charles Elliot, and of Royal Marines in charge of Captain Robert Boyle, R.M., and the other officers and boats attached to the First Division, in order to capture a fort with outworks, mounting 19 guns, on an advanced elevated point, which commanded the approach to the position occupied by the junk forces. The flight of several signal rockets showed that the Chinese were fully alive to our proceedings. When within about 1500 yards of the fort the Coromandel grounded on a barrier of sunken junks filled with stones, and the enemy opened fire. The landing party of seamen and marines were immediately put in the boats, and sent ahead, and under a very heavy fire of round and grape, in which the junk fleet joined, the fort was almost immediately in our possession, Commodore Elliot setting the good example of being one of the first in it. The landing was partially covered by the fire from the Haughty. One or two of the guns in the fort were immediately turned on the war junks. Happily this important service was effected without loss. The position was a remarkably strong one, and, defended by a body of resolute troops, might have bid defiance to any attack. The Haughty, having landed her party, went on with Commodore Elliot and the boats of the 1st Division, to co-operate with Commodore Keppel. I ordered a portion of the Royal Marines, under

Lieutenant and Adjutant Burton, to remain as a garrison in the fort, and sent Captain Boyle, with the remainder, about 150 in number, to the scene of operations by land, to cut off the enemy retreating from the junks, and to prevent the advancing boats being annoyed by gingalls or matchlocks from a large village adjoining,—a favourite tactic with the Chinese. One half of this force was ultimately sent back to the fort, and the remainder rejoined the squadron up the creek.

7. As soon as Commodore the Honourable H. Keppel perceived the men of the 1st division ascending the heights, he advanced up the channel on the east side of Hyacinth Island, with the gun and other boats of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th divisions, in the order stated in the programme. With the exception of the Haughty and Plover, the gun-boats soon grounded, but, agreeably with my instructions, the boats were pushed a-head. The junks which were admirably moored in position to enfilade the whole of the attacking force, soon opened a very heavy fire, keeping it up with great spirit until our boats were close alongside, when the crews commenced to abandon their vessels, and to effect their escape across the paddy fields. The blowing up of one or two junks hastened this movement. In about twenty minutes we had possession of fifty junks.

8. Leaving the 3rd and 4th divisions to secure the prizes, Commodore Keppel then proceeded about three miles further up the creek, where more mast-heads were visible, and found 20 junks moored across the stream in a very strong position, which opened such a well directed and destructive fire, that he was obliged to retire and wait for reinforcements. The launch of the Calcutta was sunk by a round shot, the Commodore's galley had three round shot through her, and several other boats were much injured. On additional boats coming up, the Commodore shifted to the Calcutta's black barge and again advanced, and after a severe action, the enemy gave way. They were pursued as far as Fatshan, a distance of seven miles, and seventeen of them captured and burnt. In consequence of my orders not to molest this large and important city, the three junks which passed through the creek on which it is built effected their escape.

9. The result of the expedition was the capture of between seventy and eighty heavily-armed junks, mounting, on an average, from ten to fourteen guns, (many of them long 32-pounders,) nearly all of European manufacture. As no object would have been gained by removing the prizes, I caused them, with a few exceptions, to be burnt; and the flames and numerous heavy explosions must have been seen and heard far and wide.

10. This engagement opens a new era in Chinese naval warfare. Great judgment was shewn in selecting the position for the fleet, and the Chinese, particularly the last division attacked by Commodore Keppel, defended their ships with skill, courage and effect. I enclose a list of casualties, which I regret to state is large, amounting to 3 officers and 10 seamen and marines killed, and 4 officers and 40 seamen and marines wounded, but it is to me a matter of surprise that under the circumstances of the case the loss was not greater.

11. I deeply regret to report the death of Major Kearney, Deputy-Quartermaster-General to the China Expeditionary force. This officer was on duty in the Canton River, and gallantly volunteered his services in the boats. He was killed by a round shot in the Fury's gig in the attack upon the upper division of junks.

12. I had the wounded collected as soon as

possible, and sent them to Hong Kong the same evening, in charge of Dr. Anderson, Staff-Surgeon of the Calcutta.

13. The force remained at anchor on the night of the 1st June, in the position before occupied by the junk fleet, and on the following morning dropped down to the main river, towing five of the captured vessels, which were the only ones saved from the general conflagration.

14. In the execution of these important services I need hardly state that every captain, officer, and man did his duty, and where all have so distinguished themselves I refrain from making individual selections. Should their lordships, therefore, consider the two engagements as worthy of special marks of their approval, I would beg to suggest that due regard should be paid to seniority and services.

15. I must not, however, omit to bring to their lordship's notice the gallant and efficient assistance afforded me by Commodores Keppel and Elliot, and the captains in charge of the several divisions. Commodore Keppel led the attack on the junks, and the fact of his galley having had three round shot through it, and five men, out of her crew of six, killed or wounded, is the best proof of the manner in which he maintained his position.

Commodore Keppel's report of his proceedings is herewith enclosed, and I beg to add a tracing of the Fatshan Creek, showing the position of the Forts and of the junk forces, before the commencement of the attack.

I left the river on the afternoon of the 3rd, for the purpose of receiving the mails from England, and of waiting the arrival of Lord Elgin.

All is perfectly quiet to the northward. The squadron continues generally healthy, but latterly there has been a slight increase of fever and dysentery, which may be expected at this season of the year.

I have, &c.

M. SEYMOUR, Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-chief.

I beg to add that Mr. George Raymond, Master of the Encounter, at Macao, volunteered his services as a pilot, and took the Hong Kong up the Fatshan Creek—a service of danger.

M. S.

*The Secretary of the Admiralty.*

#### OPERATIONS AGAINST MANDARIN JUNKS, &c., UP THE ESCAPE CREEK.

*Sybilie, 2nd Bar, Canton River,  
May 29, 1857.*

Sir,

I HAD the honour to report to you, yesterday, that Her Majesty's gun-boats, tenders, and ships' boats captured or destroyed about 40 mandarin junks (snake boats) on the 25th and 27th instant. I beg now to report the nature of the operations more in detail.

2. The fleet of junks which formerly remained near the main branch of the river, had moved to a position about five or six miles up the Escape Creek.

As it was very doubtful whether our small steamers could get up to them, it was necessary to have a sufficient boat force to follow up the creek, independent of gun-boat support. The arrangements I thought it necessary to make are chiefly embodied in a memorandum, of which I enclose a copy.

3. At daylight on the 25th, our force was in the creek, and soon afterwards a Mandarin fleet

of about 40 junks was observed, moored in good order across the stream; the tide was a strong ebb, which rendered it less easy for the junks to escape, and although it made our progress slow, it enabled us the better to thread the way amongst the shoals.

4. A heavy fire from the junks opened upon the leading steamers as they approached, but at too great a distance to tell with effect. Shortly afterwards, as the Hong Kong got within good range, she opened fire, and was soon supported by the Bustard and Starling, the others being at distant range.

The fire from the junks then slackened, and they got under weigh, some were soon afterwards abandoned, and the rest plying their oars, endeavoured to escape up the creek.

5. The steamers followed, though very slowly, on account of the shoal water, the Sir Charles Forbes and Staunch grounded early, then the Starling, and eventually the Hong Kong ran ashore.

The signal was immediately made for the boats to go ahead, and a general chase took place.

The junk force divided, the main body of about 15 continuing up the main channel, were followed by the boats led by Captain Edgell, who detached four pinnaces up a creek to the left to follow the smaller division. Commander Forsyth accompanied these pinnaces, which succeeded in capturing them all (10 in number). Commander Forsyth speaks highly of the gallant way the Hornet's pinnace, under Mr. R. A. Brown, Acting Mate, dashed in unsupported by the other boats, which she had distanced, against 3 of these heavily armed junks, which struck to her.

6. The main body, followed by Captain Edgell were soon beyond range of all except the Hornet's rocket boat and Sybille's pinnace, which kept within reach of them for a long time; and Captain Edgell brings to my notice the behaviour and most accurate fire kept up by Lieutenant Brock in the former boat, and by Mr. Hudson, Acting Mate, in the latter. The chase was continued by this division, which I accompanied 12 or 14 miles, far above the place where the steamers had grounded, when the work for the men at the oars having been excessive, I decided to turn back, but with the view of getting at the junks, which we still had in sight, at a future time by another passage.

7. Near the point at which we turned at the village Tsuen Tsune, we found the lorcha Anonyma, which was captured last December while in tow of the steamer Thistle, and burnt her.

8. On getting back to the gun-boats at night, I found that Commander Corbett, who had very properly remained with the Staunch on her grounding, the other Commanders having gone on, had sent the Inflexible's paddle-box boat after a junk that tried to escape down a creek to the right and captured her. Commander Forsyth had returned with his party, and Lieutenant Dent, assisted by the officers of the other gun-boats, had secured or destroyed all the prizes. The Chinese having returned to one of the junks below, she was captured by Mr. Molloy, Second Master, with the Starling and Hong Kong's boats. Lieutenant Dent brought to my notice the conduct of that officer.

9. In all 27 heavily-armed snake-boats (belonging to the Admiral Sonhay) were captured or destroyed. Their armament consisted of one heavy gun in the bow, generally a long 32 or 24-pounder, with from four to six lighter guns: each vessel pulls about 40 oars. This service was fortunately accomplished with the loss of two men only wounded. The day was excessively hot, and I cannot speak too highly of the spirit with which

the men stuck to their oars, through a harder day's work than I have ever before witnessed under a tropical sun. One or two cases (but not severe) of sun stroke occurred in the gun-boats.

10. At daylight next morning the steamers proceeded down the creek with the boats and ten prizes in tow, and anchored with the Sybille, at the 2nd bar.

11. Further arrangements were now made to follow up the war boats that had got away. I had already the previous day stationed the Tribune off Sawshee Channel, and I now moored the Inflexible abreast of the 2nd bar creek, down which her guns could then range. From the knowledge I now possessed respecting the various creeks from Escape Creek downward, I considered it possible to guard all the outlets to the river, and with a force of boats to scour the inland creeks and compel any junks there, either to meet that force or retire towards the main river. The enclosed memorandum which was issued for the information of the officers engaged, shows the principal arrangements made to attain that object. Commander Forsyth, with his division, took up his station in Escape Creek in the evening.

12. At daylight on the 27th, I proceeded up the Sawshee Channel, as previously arranged, the boats being towed by the steamers for ten or twelve miles. I then sent the Bustard to strengthen Commander Forsyth's division, and desired Lieutenant Dent, in the Hong Kong, to take with him the Inflexible's pinnace, and go a short distance up the 2nd bar creek; he succeeded in passing completely through into Escape Creek, and met Commander Forsyth. Casting off from the steamer, the boats pulled up the Sawshee Channel, and we soon heard from the natives (who showed us every good feeling), that four of Sonhay's retreating squadron had, on the 25th, gone up Toung Kōnan, and that there were other mandarin junks there. I beg here to mention the very great assistance I have received from Rev. Samuel Beal, Chaplain of this ship, who was good enough at my request to accompany me each day as Chinese Interpreter; to his aid the successes of the expedition are in a great degree due, as I had failed to obtain an Interpreter from Hong Kong.

13. About ten miles from where the steamers were left, we opened the city of Toung Kōnan, and observed the mastsheads of the war junks. The boats now gave way with a will, and though the junks were in sight, fully two miles off, they succeeded in taking them completely by surprise. The boats, as they dashed in, firing into a small battery which commanded the river and into the war junks, caused them to be immediately abandoned. The junks lay scattered along the whole length of the town, through which the river runs, and preparations were now made to destroy them, with the exception of one, the finest and heaviest armed war junk I have seen in China, and which I hoped to be able to take away.

14. It soon became apparent that the Chinese troops were not going quietly to submit to this proceeding without further resistance, and the creek being narrow, with houses on either side, they had every facility to pick off our men. As we first passed up only a few gingalls and matchlocks opened, these increasing in number presently gave considerable annoyance, and it was necessary to keep up a continued fire with some of the boats' guns, from musketry, and from the Tribune's rocket-boat, which did good service, while other parties were employed destroying the junks, which occupied some time, as it was necessary to burn these at the upper end of the town

first, and so on in succession, to enable our boats to get back.

15. The chief attacks from the shore took place towards our rear, at the battery at the lower end of the town, where most of the casualties occurred.

Commander Turnour was there most active and useful, and on two occasions landed in a very gallant manner with small parties of marines, under Lieutenant G. L. Blake, R.M., charged some 200 men, well armed, and drove them beyond the embankments.

16. An attempt was made to tow down the fine war junk already noticed, but she accidentally caught fire, and was, therefore, destroyed with the others. That being accomplished the boats returned down the creek.

17. This again was a severe day's work, officers and men behaved admirably and with the greatest spirit. I beg to report to you the able assistance I received from Captain Edgell, and from Commanders Forsyth, Corbett, and Tournour, during the two days' operations. Their zeal and activity the last day (as before) were emulated by the officers of all ranks under them, from Lieutenant Nares, the Senior Lieutenant, to the Junior Cadet.

18. Captain Edgell brings to my notice the active share taken by Lieutenant Staniforth, in the Tribune's barge; and the services of Mr. Hudson, Acting Mate of this ship, I beg particularly to notice.

Lieutenant Richard Cox, of the 38th Regiment Madras Rifles, accompanied the expedition each day as a volunteer, and made himself very useful.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) CHAS. M. ELLIOTT,  
Commodore.

The conduct of Mr. T. R. Hudson, Mate, has been highly represented, and was most exemplary.

*His Excellency Rear-Admiral Sir  
Michael Seymour, K.C.B., Com-  
mander-in-Chief.*

*Return of the Force engaged in the Escape Creek  
on 25th May, at the capture and destruction of  
Chinese war-vessels.*

Steam-tender Hong Kong, Lieutenant Edward F. Dent.

Gun-boat Bustard, Lieutenant Collinson.

Steam-tender Sir Charles Forbes, Lieutenant Viscount Gilford.

Gun-boat Starling, Lieutenant Villiers.

Gun-boat Staunch, Lieutenant Wildman.

Sybille.

Launch—Lieutenant E. Nares, Lieutenant Blake, R.M., Mr. Price, Midshipman.

Barge—Mr. A. T. Brooke, Midshipman.

Pinnace—Mr. T. K. Hudson, Acting Mate, Lieutenant Swale, R.M.

Cutter—Mr. W. H. de Burgh, Midshipman.

Raleigh.

Cutter—Commander Turnour, Mr. J. Forbes, Assistant-Surgeon, Mr. Pilkington, Midshipman.

Launch—Lieutenant Goodenough, Lord Charles Scott, Midshipman.

Pinnace—Lieutenant Graham, Mr. Dupuis, Midshipman.

Tribune.

Gig—Captain Edgell, Mr. F. Elwyn, Naval Cadet, Mr. Childers, Midshipman.

Barge—Lieutenant Staniforth, Lieutenant Boyle, Mr. Harvey, Surgeon, Lieutenant A. Ozzard, R.M., (Volunteer, Lieutenant Richard Cox, 38th Regiment M.N.I.)

Pinnace—Lieutenant Norman, Mr. Barker, Midshipman, Mr. Rowe, Assistant-Paymaster, Mr. Hawkins, Naval Cadet.

Cutter—Mr. Yeatman, Midshipman, Mr. R. Ferry, Gunner.

Hornet.

Gig—Commander Forsyth.

Pinnace—Mr. R. A. Brown, Acting Mate.

Cutter—Lieutenant Brock, Honourable A. Denison, Acting Mate.

Inflexible.

Gig—Commander Corbett

Starboard Paddle-box Boat—Lieutenant Hanson, Mr. C. Buckle, Midshipman.

Port Paddle-box Boat—Mr. J. Stokes, Midshipman, Mr. Magrath, Assistant-Surgeon.

Pinnace—Lieutenant Bacon, Mr. Trefusis, Midshipman.

Fury.

Paddle-box Boat—Lieutenant Smith, Mr. Moysey, Assistant-Surgeon, Mr. Hayes, Midshipman.

Pinnace—Mr. Smith, Acting Mate.

Total force—

Boats with guns	-	-	-	13
Cutters and Gigs	-	-	-	7

(Signed) CHARLES G. J. B. ELLIOT.  
Commodore.

*Return of the Force engaged on the 27th May, at  
the destruction of Chinese war-boats at Young  
Könan.*

Sybille.

Barge—Lieutenant Edward Nares, Mr. A. T. Brooke, Midshipman, Lieutenant George L. Blake, R.M.

Pinnace—Mr. Thomas R. Hudson, Acting Mate, Lieutenant Henry Swale, R.M.

Cutter—Mr. Walter H. De Burgh, Midshipman.

Raleigh.

Cutter—Commander E. W. Turnour, Mr. James G. T. Forbes, Assistant-surgeon, Mr. E. Pilkington, Midshipman.

Pinnace—Lieutenant James S. Graham, Mr. A. E. Dupuis, Midshipman.

Tribune.

Gig—Captain H. E. Edgell, Mr. W. Elwyn, Naval Cadet, Mr. J. Phillips, Acting Quartermaster.

Barge—Lieutenant William L. Staniforth, Lieutenant A. H. Ozzard, R.M., Mr. W. R. Bennett, Acting Assistant-Surgeon, Volunteer Lieutenant Cox, 38th Regiment Madras Native Infantry.

Pinnace—Lieutenant F. M. Norman, Mr. H. L. Barker, Midshipman, Mr. C. H. Hawkins, Naval Cadet.

Cutter—Lieutenant R. J. Stotherd, Mr. E. S. Mangan, Midshipman, Mr. Perry, Gunner.

## Inflexible.

Gig—Commander John Corbett, Mr. W. Burney.  
Starboard Paddle-box Boat—Lieutenant Henry E. Bacon, Mr. C. E. Buckle, Midshipman, Mr. Magrath, Assistant-Surgeon.  
Port Paddle-box Boat—Mr. J. E. Stokes, Midshipman, Mr. R. L. Turton, Midshipman.

## Fury.

Paddle-box Boat—Lieutenant E. M. Smith, Mr. Nicholas Moysey, Assistant-Surgeon, Mr. C. A. Hayes, Midshipman.  
Pinnace—Mr. N. B. Smith, Acting Mate.

## Total force of boats—

With guns - - - - 9  
Cutters and gigs - - - - 5

(Signed) CHAS. M. ELLIOT,  
Commodore.

*Return of Casualties in the Force engaged in the capture and destruction of Chinese War Boats in Escape Creek, on the 25th May, 1857.*

## Hornet's Pinnace (2).

Richard Warren, A.B., severely.  
Edward Roche, A.B., slightly.

## Casualties on the 27th May, at Young Kanon.

## Sybille's Boats (3).

Henry Matthews, Private, R.M., seriously.  
Thomas Macdonald, A.B., severely.  
Richard Hannaford, Private, R.M., slightly.

## Raleigh's boats (8).

Mr. A. Dupuis, Midshipman, severely.  
Mr. Pilkington, Midshipman, slightly.  
William Trewin, A.B., dangerously—dead.  
James Mansell, Leading Seaman, severely.  
Edward Pepper, A.B., severely.  
William Drew, Leading Seaman, severely.  
Luke Sharp, Private, R.M., severely.  
William Fogwill, A.B., slightly.

## Tribune's Boats (8).

Lieutenant Norman, bullet through right cheek.  
William Lanpidge, A.B., bullet lodged in left cheek (dangerous).  
William Nelson, Leading Seaman, bullet wound, right shoulder.  
Benfield Howe, Private, bullet wound, right hand.  
Edward Strickland, Private, bullet wound, upper lip.  
Robert Groves, Sail Maker's Mate, bullet wound, left hand and leg.  
Thomas Clark, Private, bullet wound, spine (dangerously).  
Henry Halfyer, Private, bullet wound, left thigh.

## Inflexible's Boats (5).

Lieutenant Bacon, slightly.  
Mr. M. Magrath, Assistant-Surgeon, slightly.  
William Yeo, Boatswain's Mate, severely.  
Colin Grant, A.B., severely.  
Thomas Farmer, A.B., slightly.

## Fury's Boats (5).

James Carey, Gunner's Mate, slightly.  
George Grogan, Corporal R.M., severely.  
Charles McDonnell, Private, severely.  
William Keedni, A.B., severely.  
James Gibson, Leading Seaman, severely.

Total wounded, 31.

Sybille, 2nd Bar, Canton River,  
May 24, 1857.

## GENERAL MEMORANDUM.

IT being my intention to take the gun-boats and ships' boats into Escape Creek to-morrow morning at dawn of day, to endeavour to get at the war boats lying there, the following arrangements are to be attended to:

1. The Hornet is to move down the river and anchor below Escape Creek, where I wish her to arrive by half-past three, A.M. (if the Hornet comes down before that time, she is to anchor lower down the river, but above the 2nd bar), her boats manned and armed, and provisioned for two days, under Commander Forsyth, are then (at half-past three, A.M.) to go to the Starling.

2. The Starling is to accompany the Hornet, and is to tow down the Sybille's barge, and the Niger's pinnace (if available) to where the Hornet anchors, and on meeting the Hong Kong there, the Sybille's barge is to go to her.

3. All the boats to be employed are to be provisioned for two days.

4. The Hong Kong is to tow the Sybille's boats.

The Bustard is to tow the Tribune's boats.

The Sir Charles Forbes is to tow the Raleigh's boats.

The Staunich is to tow the Inflexible's boats.

The Starling is to tow the Hornet and Fury's boats.

5. The order of sailing is as follows:

## FIRST DIVISION.

Hong Kong, Starling, Bustard,

The boats of which are under the orders of Commander Forsyth.

## SECOND DIVISION.

Sir Charles Forbes, Staunich,

The boats of which are under the orders of Commander Corbett.

The whole under the orders of Captain Edgell.

6. The gun-boats are to follow the Hong Kong in very open order to avoid confusion in the event of the water shoaling or a vessel getting aground, and to give time in such cases for those ahead to find the proper channel.

7. It must be recollected that the steam tenders have only Wilmot's signals, which code will be used.

8. In the event of the gun-boats getting within range of the junks, firing is not to commence generally, even if the leading vessel opens, till the signal (No. 3) is made or permission be otherwise obtained, and then great steadiness of fire must be observed, care being taken that neither shells nor rockets are fired unless all our boats and vessels are very wide of the line of fire.

9. Letter R being hoisted is the signal for the boats to shove off, and pull past the leading steamers.

10. Commander Turnour is to keep with the sternmost boats, to see that proper assistance is given to any boat that grounds or gets into difficulty, and that any heavy pulling boats, which cannot keep up, are taken in tow by the lighter ones.

11. The Commander of each gun-boat will have a copy of the plan of the entrance to Escape Creek, in order to avoid the shoals there.

12. The boats are to be alongside their respective gun-boats, ready for towing, at half past two,

A.M. The gun-boats are then to be ready to weigh, and are to follow the Hong Kong.

13. The officers are to take care, and are to caution their men, that unarmed Chinese are in no way to be molested, and that, afloat or on shore, private property is not unnecessarily injured.

(Signed) CHAS. G. B. ELLIOT,  
Commodore and Senior Officer in the  
Canton River.

*To the Captain, Commanders, and  
Commanding Officers of Her  
Majesty's ships and vessels pre-  
sent.*

*Sybille, 2nd Bar, Canton River,  
May 26, 1857.*

#### GENERAL MEMORANDUM.

WITH the view of getting at the war boats that escaped yesterday, the following arrangements are to be attended to.

The second division to be under the orders of Commander Forsyth.

The Hornet is to anchor off Escape Creek.

The Sir Charles Forbes and Bustard, with the launches of the Raleigh and Sybille, and the Hornet's boats, are this evening to take up a position off the lower lime-kilns, about three miles up Escape Creek, in order to prevent the war junks escaping to Canton by the small creeks leading up towards Whampoa. The first division to be under the orders of Captain Edgell.

The remainder of the gun-boats, steam tenders, and ship boats, with the exception of the Inflexible's pinnace, are to be ready to proceed down the river at 5 P.M. to day, to join the Tribune off Sawshee Channel, up which it is my intention to go to-morrow morning. Commanders Corbett and Turnour will command respectively the van and rear of this division under Captain Edgell.

On account of the delay and inconvenience that may be caused by any boats separating from the others, I look upon it to be an important part of the duty of the officer stationed in the rear, to see that all the boats are up with him.

The boats are to take two days' provisions with them.

(Signed) C. J. B. ELLIOT, Commodore  
and Senior Officer in the Canton River.

*The Captains, Commanders, and  
Commanding Officers of Her  
Majesty's Ships and Vessels  
present.*

#### ARRANGEMENTS FOR ATTACK ON WAR JUNKS IN FATSHAM CREEK.

*Coromandel, at Macao Barrier,  
31st May, 1857.*

#### GENERAL ORDER.

HAVING determined on attacking the junk fleet above Hyacinth Island, in the Fatsham Creek, the following arrangements are made known for the guidance of the Commodores, Captains, and other officers to be employed in that operation.

The whole of the ships' boats, manned and armed, are to be ready at 3.30 o'clock on Monday morning the 1st June, the crews having previously

breakfasted and been victualled for two days, according to memorandum already issued. Particular attention is called to the division of the forces as hereafter enumerated. The gun-boats and boats will advance in the order in which they stand, in such full open order as will prevent crowding or the possibility of accident.

The movement will commence by the Hornet,\* Cruiser,\* and Coromandel, moving up to a berth as close to Hyacinth Island as depth of water will permit, convenient for landing the Seamen and Royal Marines told off for the attack on the fort and guns in position for the defence of the junks; but the general advance of the gun and other boats is not to be impeded by the possibility of the two first named ships not being able to get into their positions.

When the forts and outworks are taken possession of, they are to be held, if desirable, and the officer commanding will determine either to advance by land or to re-embark in the boats, to unite with the other divisional attacks on the junk forces. The Commander-in-Chief objects to long range firing, and in the advance, the return to the Chinese fire is to be regulated by the officer commanding the leading division. The all important object is to reach the junks through narrow and shallow water, requiring attention to navigation, which should not be diverted by a too hasty discharge of guns. The Niger is to provide a second guns' crew to the Plover, and the Fury to the Bustard.

It is to be understood that if any impediments exist to the steam gun-boats' progress up the creek, which cannot be overcome, it is not to delay the prompt advance of the row-boats. All casualties for hospital treatment, are ultimately to be conveyed to the Inflexible, for conveyance to Hong Kong.

The Commander-in-Chief impresses on the officers the necessity of restraining their men from attacking unarmed people, confining operations against the war junks and troops, and they are strictly to respect and protect the persons and property of the peaceable inhabitants.

(Signed) M. SEYMOUR,  
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

*To the Captains and Commanding  
Officers of Her Majesty's Ships  
and Vessels, Canton.*

*Force destined for the Attack on the Junk Fleet,  
in Fatsham Creek, on Monday, the 1st June,  
1857.*

#### FIRST DIVISION.

Commander-in-Chief.  
Commodore the Honourable Charles Elliott.  
Coromandel, Cruiser, and Hornet.  
Boats of Tribune, Inflexible, Hornet, Cruiser, and Fury.  
Black barge of Calcutta.  
Pinnace from Macao Fort.  
Captain H. E. Edgell.  
Commander G. C. Forsyth.  
Commander John Corbett.  
Commander Charles J. Leche.

\* In consequence of the doubtful depth of water, these ships were not taken up for fear of impeding the progress of the other vessels, and the Haughty was substituted.

Seamen and Royal Marines to be told off for attack on forts and outworks, under the command of Commodore the Honorable Charles Elliot; the Royal Marines in charge of Captain Robert Boyle, from the following ships.

Calcutta, Nankin, Sybille, Tribune, Cruiser, Hornet, Fury.

Steam gun-boats and ship's boats under the command of Commodore the Honorable H. Keppel, C.B.

#### SECOND DIVISION.

Captain the Honourable A. Cochrane, C.B.,

Commander W. R. Rolland,

Commander E. Turnour.

Hongkong, towing boats of Raleigh (with Commodore's broad pendant)

Opossum, towing boat of Niger, and Calcutta's launch.

Plover, towing boats of Sybille.

Sir C. Forbes, towing boats of Calcutta and Haughty.

#### THIRD DIVISION.

Captain Sidney Grenfell.

Commander J. F. C. Hamilton.

Commander A. W. A. Hood.

Bustard, towing up boats of Amethyst.

Forester, towing up boats of Elk and Acorn.

#### FOURTH DIVISION.

Captain the Honourable Keith Stewart.

Commander C. Fellowes.

Starling, towing up boats of Nankin.

Staunch, towing up boats of Highflyer.

(Signed) M. SEYMOUR, Rear-Admiral,  
Commander-in-Chief.

*A Return of Gun-Boats, and of Officers and Men belonging to the Boats of Her Majesty's Ships under-named, employed on the 1st of June, 1857, in the destruction of the Fatshan Flotilla of War Junks.*

#### Coromandel, (Steam Tender.)

Sholto Douglas, Lieutenant; John Jones, Second Master, (bearing flag of Commander-in-Chief.)—11 officers, 36 seamen, 10 marines.—Total 57.

#### Admiral's Galley.

Sir Michael Seymour, Rear-Admiral; G. C. Fowler, Flag-Lieutenant.—2 officers, 6 seamen.—Total 8.

#### Sybille.

Commodore's Galley—Honourable Charles Elliot, Commodore; Lieutenant Cox, 38th Madras Native Infantry; H. Hipplesey, Midshipman.—2 officers, 6 seamen.—Total 8. (Mr. Wm. Baynes, Surgeon, Sybille, and twenty seamen of Sybille, accompanied landing party.)—1 officer, 20 seamen.—Total 21.

#### Hornet.

1st Cutter—A. M. Brock, Lieutenant; T. V. Williams, Naval Cadet.—2 officers, 11 seamen.—Total 13.

(2) Pinnace, (formerly Bittern's Pinnace)—Honourable A. D. Denison, Acting Mate.—1 officer, 15 seamen.—Total 16.

(1) Pinnace—R. A. Brown, Acting Mate.—1 officer, 15 seamen.—Total 16.

2nd Cutter—James Fisher, Master's Assistant; Dr. D. Ramsay, Assistant-Surgeon, (with Mr. Baynes, Surgeon of Sybille, in medical charge of landing party).—2 officers, 11 seamen.—Total 13.

#### Haughty, (Gun-Boat.)

R. V. Hamilton, Lieutenant; Major Dallas, (volunteer,) Staff.—1 officer, 17 seamen.—Total 18.  
G. Wesley, (gun's crew lent from Tribune), Naval Cadet.—5 officers, 28 seamen, 5 marines.—Total 38.

#### Tribune.

Galley—H. E. Edgell, Captain; F. S. Elwyn, Naval Cadet.—2 officers, 6 seamen.—Total 8.

Barge—W. L. Staniforth, Lieutenant; W. R. Bennett, Assistant-Surgeon; W. H. Childers, Midshipman; C. D. Rising, Naval Cadet; A. H. Ozzard, 1st Lieutenant, R.M., (with landing party).—4 officers, 22 seamen.—Total 26.

Pinnace—David Boyle, Lieutenant; H. L. Barker, Midshipman; C. H. Hawkins, Naval Cadet.—3 officers, 21 seamen.—Total 24.

1st Cutter—E. S. Mangan, Midshipman; Richard Verry, Gunner.—2 officers, 11 seamen.—Total 13.

Rocket Party—H. J. Clanchy, Midshipman.—1 officer, 8 seamen.—Total 9.

#### Hornet.

Gig—C. C. Forsyth, Commander.—1 officer, 5 men.—Total 6.

#### Inflexible.

Gig—J. Corbett, Commander; E. A. Rowe, Paymaster.—2 officers, 6 seamen.—Total 8.

Pinnace—Alfred A. Hanson, Lieutenant; G. R. Trefusis, Midshipman; M. M. Magrath, Assistant Surgeon.—3 officers, 16 seamen.—Total 19.  
Starboard Paddle-box Boat—H. E. Bacon, Lieutenant; C. E. Buckle, Midshipman.—2 officers, 17 seamen.—Total 19.

Port Paddle-box Boat—J. E. Stokes and W. H. Edwards, Midshipmen.—2 officers, 17 seamen.—Total 19.

#### Cruiser.

Pinnace—G. D. Broad, Lieutenant; G. J. A. McCullagh, Surgeon; Viscount Kilcoursie, Midshipman.—3 officers, 15 seamen, 10 marines.—Total 28.

Cutter—W. M. Latham and G. J. Armytage, Midshipmen.—2 officers, 11 seamen, 9 marines.—Total 22.

2nd Gig—A. W. Chimmoo, Paymaster; W. G. Best, Midshipman.—2 officers, 4 seamen.—Total 6.

#### Royal Marines.

Robt. Boyle, Captain Commanding; R. P. Henry, 1st Lieutenant; W. W. Allnutt, 2nd Lieutenant; H. T. M. Cooper, 2nd Lieutenant—Calcutta.

C. W. Burton, Additional 1st Lieutenant, Acting Adjutant.

A. F. Barnes, 1st Lieutenant, Nankin.

C. L. Owen, 2nd Lieutenant, Raleigh.

Thos. Magin, Captain, Raleigh.

Henry Swale, 1st Lieutenant, Sybille.

G. L. Blake, 1st Lieutenant, Sybille.

A. H. Pascoe, 1st Lieutenant, Amethyst.

A. H. Ozzard, 1st Lieutenant, Tribune.

12 officers, 22 non-commissioned officers, 250 privates.—Total 284.



Hong Kong (tender to Raleigh), bearing broad pendant of Commodore Hon. H. Keppel, C.B.

J. G. Goodenough, Lieutenant; Isaiah Thompson, Chaplain; Dr. J. I. Crawford, Surgeon; Mr. G. Antey, Secretary; Jas. Mitchell, Assistant-Surgeon (lent from Comus); Lord C. T. Scott, Hon. V. A. Montagu, and H. F. Stephenson, Midshipmen; Mr. G. Raymond (Master of Encounter, volunteered services as Pilot), Master.—9 officers, 50 men (including 8 lent from Nankin), 5 marines.—Total 64.

#### Raleigh.

Galley—Commodore Hon. H. Keppel; H. S. H. Prince Victor of Hohenlohe, Lieutenant.—2 officers, 6 seamen.—Total 8.

Launch—H. B. Hammersley, F. D. Forster, Midshipmen.—2 officers, 25 seamen.—Total 27.

Pinnace—J. S. Graham, Lieutenant; A. E. Dupuis, Midshipman; 2 officers, 17 seamen, 6 marines.—Total 25.

Barge—W. F. Johnson, Lieutenant; Hon. F. Crofton, Midshipman.—2 officers, 23 seamen.—Total 25.

1st Cutter—H. V. Russel, Master's Assistant.—1 officer, 15 seamen.—Total 16.

2nd Cutter—E. W. Turnour, Commodore; J. G. T. Forbes, Assistant-Surgeon; Edwd. Pilkington, Midshipman.—3 officers, 12 seamen, 4 marines.—Total 19.

#### Plover (Gun-boat).

Keith Stewart, Lieutenant; 5 officers, 28 seamen, 5 marines.—Total 38.

Nichs. Potter, Gunner, "Niger;" 1 officer, 14 seamen.—Total 15.

#### Calcutta.

1st Pinnace—R. S. Wynnatt, Lieutenant; W. R. Kennody, Acting Mate.—2 officers, 17 seamen.—Total 19.

#### Sybilie.

Cutter—C. E. McDougall, Midshipman; H. M. Barnard, Clerk.—2 officers, 11 seamen.—Total 13.

#### Niger.

1st Gig—A. A. Cochrane, Captain; J. C. Wells, Lieutenant.—2 officers, 7 seamen.—Total 9.

Pinnace—E. Madden, Lieutenant; Richard Waugh, Second Master; T. P. Gurdou, Naval Cadet.—3 officers, 13 seamen.—Total 16.

Cutter—A. R. Blanc, Lieutenant; Wm. Patrick, Surgeon; G. G. Hunt, Midshipman.—3 officers, 10 seamen.

2nd Gig—W. W. Smyth, Midshipman.—1 officer, 5 seamen.—Total 5.

#### Opossum (Gunboat).

C. A. Campbell, Lieutenant.—6 officers, 28 seamen (and 17 lent from Tribune), 5 marines.—Total 56.

#### Calcutta.

Launch.—W. R. Rolland, Commander; E. H. Stewart, Acting Lieutenant; E. H. Seymour, Midshipman.—3 officers, 21 seamen.—Total 24.

2nd Pinnace.—F. W. Hallows, Lieutenant; John K. Laughton, Naval Instructor; Herbert C. A. Brand, Midshipman.—3 officers, 17 seamen.—Total 20.

Barge.—M. C. Seymour, mate.—1 officer, 13 seamen.—Total 14.

1st Cutter—T. G. Price, Midshipman; 1 officer, 11 seamen.—Total 12.

2nd Cutter—F. T. Holdsworth, Midshipman, 1 officer, 11 seamen.—Total 12.

#### Bustard (Gun-boat).

T. B. Collinson, Lieutenant.—6 officers, 50 seamen (including 21 small-arm men from Nankin), 5 marines.—Total 61.

#### Amethyst.

1st Gig—Capt. S. Grenfell; W. Goldsmith, Master's Assistant; 2 officers, 6 seamen.—Total 8.

Barge—R. P. Jenkins, Lieutenant; A. H. Pascoe, 1st Lieutenant, Royal Marines (included in landing party).—1 officer, 17 seamen.—Total 18.

Pinnace—W. W. Howell, Lieutenant; G. G. Brodie, Midshipman.—2 officers, 15 seamen.—Total 17.

1st Cutter—C. A. Hoare, Midshipman; 1 officer, 11 seamen.—Total 12.

2nd Cutter—C. D. R. H. Tracey, Midshipman.—1 officer, 11 seamen.—Total 12.

Sir Charles Forbes (tender to Raleigh)—Viscount Gilford, Lieutenant; H. St. John, Acting Mate (lent from Nankin); F. L. Graham, Assistant Surgeon; H. McHardy, Midshipman.—6 officers, 42 seamen, 5 marines.—Total 53.

#### Fury.

Gig—C. T. Leckie, Commander; Major Kearney (volunteer), Deputy Assistant-Quartermaster-General.—2 officers, 5 seamen, 1 marine.—Total 8.

Starboard paddle-box boat—C. C. Robinson, Lieutenant; Dr. N. Moysey, Assistant-Surgeon; J. M. Lloyd, Master's Assistant; John Colley, Carpenter.—4 officers, 15 seamen, 6 marines.—Total 25.

Port paddle-box boat—C. P. Boger, Mate; Captain Magin, R. M. (volunteer), Raleigh; Thomas Davies (volunteer), Assistant Engineer.—3 officers, 15 seamen, 6 marines.—Total 24.

Pinnace—N. B. Smith, Acting Mate.—1 officer, 14 seamen, 4 marines.—Total 19.

#### Sybilie.

Launch—Edward F. Dent, Lieutenant; A. T. Brooke, Midshipman; B. S. Jackson, Master's Assistant.—3 officers, 21 seamen, 4 marines.—Total 28.

Barge—Edward Nares, Lieutenant; H. T. Price, Midshipman.—2 officers, 17 seamen, 2 marines.—Total 21.

Pinnace—T. K. Hudson, Acting Mate; Walter H. de Burgh, Midshipman.—2 officers, 17 seamen.—Total 19.

#### Forester (Gun-boat).

A. I. Innes, Lieutenant.—5 officers, 28 seamen (14 lent from Sybilie), 5 marines.—Total 38.

#### Elk.

Gig—J. F. C. Hamilton, Commander; John Farrell, Boatswain.—2 officers, 5 seamen, 2 marines.—Total 9.

Pinnace—F. A. Hume, Lieutenant; W. St. J. Hornby, Acting Mate.—2 officers, 15 seamen, 10 marines.—Total 27.

Cutter—J. W. O'Grady, Lieutenant; U. C. Singleton, Midshipman.—2 officers, 12 seamen, 6 marines.—Total 20.

William Crawford, Surgeon; G. C. Lee, Gunner (lent to Bustard gunboat).—2 officers.—Total 2.



Acorn.

Gig—A. W. Hood, Commander; W. E. K. Cockell, Naval Cadet.—2 officers, 5 seamen.—Total 7.  
Pinnace—C. H. Clutterbuck, Lieutenant; E. W. Hereford, Acting Mate; J. E. Fawcett, Assistant-Surgeon.—3 officers, 16 seamen, 4 marines.—Total 23.  
Cutter—J. F. Prowse, Lieutenant; Hort. Austin, Midshipman.—2 officers, 12 seamen, 2 marines.—Total 16.  
H. F. Smith, Surgeon; James Smedley, Gunner; Daniel Donohue, Boatswain.—3 officers (lent to Forester); 2 marines (lent to Fury's boat); 9 marines (lent to Inflexible's boat).—Total 14.

Starling (Gun-boat).

A. J. Villiers, Lieutenant.—5 officers, 28 seamen, 5 marines.—Total 38.—22 seamen (lent from Nankin); 14 seamen (lent from Sybille).—Total 36.

Nankin.

Gig—Honourable K. Stewart, Captain.—1 officer, 6 seamen.—Total 7  
Launch—C. G. Curme, Lieutenant; H. S. Bagge, Acting Mate; Dr. A. Rattray, Assistant-Surgeon.—3 officers, 35 seamen.—Total 38.  
Barge—Honourable W. J. Ward, Lieutenant; Alexander Collins, Assistant-Surgeon; O. T. Lang, Midshipman.—3 officers, 26 seamen.—Total 29.  
Pinnace—John Jenkins, Lieutenant; R. M. Lloyd, Midshipman; W. H. Leach, Midshipman.—3 officers, 26 seamen.—Total 29.  
Cutter—V. C. Scholefield, Midshipman.—1 officer, 13 seamen.—Total 14.

Cruizer.

Gig—Charles Fellowes, Commander; J. Shepherd, Boatswain.—2 officers, 6 seamen.—Total 8

Staunch (Gun boat).

L. Wildman, Lieutenant, W. S. Mann, Captain Madras Artillery.—6 officers, 29 seamen, 5 marines.—Total 40.

Highflyer.

Launch—F. H. Smith, Lieutenant; H. E. C. Robinson, Midshipman.—2 officers, 20 seamen, 7 marines.—Total 29.  
Pinnace—A. F. Marescaux, Lieutenant; E. C. Bryan, Master's Assistant.—2 officers, 14 seamen, 5 marines.—Total 21.

Total—211 officers, 1,286 seamen, 426 marines.—Grand Total—1,923.

(Signed) M. SEYMOUR,  
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

*A Return of Casualties on board Her Majesty's Gun-Boats and Boats of the Squadron during the operations in the Fatsham Creek, on Monday, 1st June, 1857.*

KILLED.

Raleigh.

Commodore's Galley—  
Peter Tolhurst, Captain of Forecastle.  
Launch—  
Thomas Coleman, A.B., mortally wounded, since dead.  
Pinnace—  
John Dart, A.B.  
Simeon Bone, Private Royal Marines.

Nankin.

John Smith, Private Royal Marines, killed on board Hong Kong.

Tribune.

Barge—

Richard Harper, A.B.

Pinnace—

Mr. H. Barker, Midshipman, mortally wounded, since dead.

Highflyer.

Pinnace—

Mr. R. C. Bryan, Master's Assistant.

Niger.

1st Gig—

George Griffin, A.B., mortally wounded, since dead.

Thomas Christian, Serjeant Royal Marine Artillery, killed on board Plover, gun-boat.

Hornet.

Cutter—

Thomas Cronin, Ord.

Fury.

Gig—

Major Kearney, Deputy-Assistant Quarter-Master General, who being on duty in the Canton River, gallantly volunteered his services in the boats.

Plover.

Gun-boat—

Charles Mead, A.B., mortally wounded, since dead.

WOUNDED.

Raleigh.

Commodore's Galley—

Alfred Jenkins, A.B., loss of left hand, severely.

James Buckley, A.B., contusions from splinters, slightly.

Edward Rowe, A.B., contusion of right shoulder by a grape shot, slightly.

Pinnace—

J. S. Graham, Lieutenant, contusion, slightly.

William Seymour, A.B., flesh wound of left shoulder from fragments of a man's skull, severely.

Mark Rideout, A.B., lacerated wound and contusion of shoulder by a round shot, severely.

John Godding, A.B., contusion of shoulder by a grape shot, severely.

John Raffell, A.B., contusion of elbow splinter, slightly.

Launch—

George Sackett, A.B., penetrating grape shot wound of right shoulder, severely.

George Payne, A.B., contusion, slightly.

1st Cutter—

Joseph Hatherby, Captain Foretop, grape wound left shoulder, severely

2nd Cutter—

Mr. E. Pilkington, Midshipman, contusion, slightly.

Hong Kong (Tender)—

Edward Broughton, Leading Seaman, gun shot wound of groin, dangerously.

Calcutta.

Launch—

J. Callister, Ord., right hand and leg contused by a round shot, slightly.

1st Pinnace—

Daniel Toomey, Ord. 2nd Class, contused wound of chest and knee by a round shot, severely

Michael Rourke, Ord., contused wound of left leg by a round shot, slightly.

2nd Pinnace—

William Green, Ord., extensive burn from a gunpowder explosion, severely.

Landing Party.

Royal Marines—

William Collins, Private, extensive burn from a gunpowder explosion, severely.

George Pope, Private, contused wound of chest by a round shot, slightly.

Sybill.

Commodore Elliot's Galley—

Mr. H. Hippeley, Midshipman, spear wound, slightly.

Launch—

Mr. B. Staunch, Master's Assistant, contusion of shoulder, slightly.

Richard Light, Captain of Foretop, contusion of shoulder, severely.

John Smith, Ord., wound of head, slightly.

Tribune.

Pinnace—

Benjamin Sheldrake, Leading Seaman, grape shot lodged in lung, dangerously.

William Nelson, A.B., grape wound of wrist with fracture, severely.

Niger.

1st Gig—

Honourable A. A. Cochrane, C.B., Captain, grape shot contusion of arm, slightly.

Mr. W. Potter, Gunner, slightly.

2nd Gig—

Henry Searle, Sailmaker's Mate, slightly.

Pinnace—

James Pearce, Stoker, slightly.

Alfred Durrant, Ord. 2nd class, slightly.

Hornet.

Pinnace—

Emanuel Buchanan, Gunner's Mate, grape wound of arm, dangerously.

Thomas Anderson, A.B., wound of shoulder, severely.

James Rively, A.B., wound of neck, dangerously.

David Aitchison, Leading Seaman, wound of scalp, slightly.

John Copping, Bombardier R.M.A., wound of arm, slightly.

Henry Wyatt, Private R.M., wound of neck, slightly.

Elk.

William Walker, Boatswain's Mate, gun shot wound in right lumbar region, slightly.

H. Starkes, Private R.M., splinter wound right thigh, slightly.

Cruizer.

Edward Mitchell, Private R.M., slightly.

Haughty.

Gun-boat—

Mark Patterson, A.B., wound of wrist, slightly.

(Signed) CHAS. A. ANDERSON, M.D.,  
Staff-Surgeon.

CAPTURE OF JUNK FORCES IN THE FATSHAM CREEK.

*The Raleigh's Tender Sir Charles Forbes,  
Canton River, June 2, 1857.*

SIR,

IN accordance with your Excellency's previous arrangements for the capture and destruction of the Mandarin junks at anchor in the Fatsham and adjacent branches of the Canton River, I have the honour to inform you that yesterday morning as soon as I perceived the first division ascending the heights for the Capture fort commanding the approaches to the enemy's position, I advanced in the Hong Kong steamer with the second, third and fourth divisions which you were pleased to place under my command.

2. The Hong-Kong having grounded shortly afterwards, we advanced with the boats, reserving our fire until within 600 yards of the enemy, when a sharp and spirited engagement ensued, the enemy continuing their fire until our men were close alongside.

3. Leaving the Third and Fourth Divisions to secure the prizes, we pushed forward up the Fatsham Branch, in which direction I shortly afterwards observed the mast heads of other war junks.

4. On approaching a bend of the river near the village of Foutchin, about three miles in advance of the position in which the enemy were first attacked, we came to a small flat island off the southern side of which several of the boom boats grounded, the deeper but more circuitous and confined channel we found was to the northward.

5. There were now in advance, Calcutta's barge, the Raleigh's 2nd cutter and pinnace, Fury's 1st gig, Hornet's rocket cutter, Sybille's launch, and Calcutta's black pinnace, with others close at hand, the tide was flowing, and before the boats mounting guns could be brought to the front, we were carried to within 800 yards of the enemy who were found to consist of twenty vessels anchored in close and compact line, presenting a front of heavy guns that could not have been more regularly placed had they formed the broadside of one long frigate, and their fire was so well directed that I found it necessary to retire, and endeavour to reform with the additional assistance of the steam gun-boats, at that time trying to get up, but detained by the shoalness of the water.

6. The Hong Kong having floated shortly after my reaching her, and she being within range of the enemy, I would have proceeded in her, but on her again grounding and on my observing the near approach of the increase to our force, which your Excellency had hurried on to the front from less important service, we again advanced with the boats, and after a second sharp engagement of a quarter of an hour's duration, the enemy slipped from their anchors and proceeded up the river, making use of their oars, and when the course of the river allowed them to do so, of their sails likewise.

7. A running engagement and exciting chase for about seven miles, led by Captain the Honourable A. Cochrane, now took place, the enemy quitting their vessels as they became disabled or leaky from the effects of our shot. Twelve of them were come up with in this manner; eight reached the extensive and populous town of Fatsham, three of which got in and escaped, as we could not follow and capture them without damaging the town (which is not fortified), or by otherwise annoying the peaceable inhabitants, contrary to your Excellency's instructions.

8. The other five junks we secured at the entrance to Fatsham, and have brought them down as prizes; the twelve taken on the way up have been burnt; each of these vessels mounted from ten to fourteen guns, the bow and stern being long 32-pounders.

9. With so large a force, I have not commented on the individual zeal or gallantry of any particular officer; there was plenty to do for the whole of them, and your Excellency is the best judge of how they performed their duty. I have contented myself with enclosing a list of the steam, gun, boom, and other boats, with the names

of the officers who commanded or served in them, and I might venture to remark that, with such material, failure would almost appear to be impossible.

10. I have not had an opportunity of ascertaining the amount of injury sustained by all the steam, gun, and other boats of my divisions, but the Hong Kong was hulled eleven or twelve times, the Plover, Starling, and Haughty gun-boats were struck, the Calcutta's launch was swamped, and several others much damaged.

11. I have the honour to enclose a list of casualties which, fortunately, is not so large as might have been expected from the nature of the service.

12. I have also endeavoured by a rough sketch to explain the position of the second division of the enemy at the time we met with our temporary check.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY KEPPEL,  
Commodore.

*To His Excellency Rear-Admiral Sir  
Michael Seymour, &c., &c., &c.,  
Commander-in-Chief.*

Published by THOMAS LAWRENCE BEHAN, Editor, Manager, and Publisher, of No. 7, Suffolk Place, Haymarket, at No. 45, St. Martin's Lane, both in the Parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, in the County of Middlesex.

Printed by THOMAS RICHARD HARRISON and THOMAS HARRISON, Printers, at their Office, No. 45, St. Martin's Lane, in the Parish and County aforesaid.

Saturday, August 1, 1857.

Price One Shilling.

