

5. All our efforts to avert the evils of war from the Chinese having failed, through the obstinate determination which has characterized the proceedings of the Imperial Commissioner from October 21, 1856, nothing remained for the Commanders of the Allied Forces but to address the Imperial Commissioner, and to carry into execution the painful alternative of attacking Canton, which was commenced at daylight this morning. The departure of the packet will prevent my giving any further reports. I am now on the point of joining the forces disembarking at Kuper's Island for the assault on the city walls.

6. I beg to enclose copies of two General Orders of the 26th instant, and of Memoranda issued by Major-General Van Siraubenzee, containing the necessary arrangements for the attack, which I hope will put their lordships in full possession of our intended proceedings.

7. I have pleasure in reporting that the most perfect unanimity exists between the Commanders-in-Chief of the Allied Forces.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) M. SEYMOUR,

Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty,
London.

GENERAL ORDER.

Before Canton, December, 1857.

The naval and military Commanders-in-Chief of the allied forces before Canton have agreed to the following order of operations against the city. First bombardment to commence at daylight on Monday morning the 28th of December.

The ships and vessels named in the note (under letter A) on the signal hereafter indicated being made, will open fire on the south-west angles of the city walls, with a view to breach them, and impede the communication of the Chinese troops along their parapets to the eastward.

The ships and vessels named in the note (under letter B), near the Dutch Folly, with a similar object, will breach the city walls opposite the Viceroy's residence; the mortars in the Dutch Folly, and the Niger and Avalanche, likewise shelling the city heights and Gough heights.

The ships and vessels named in the note (under letter C), between the Dutch Folly and the French Folly, will open fire on the south-east angles of the new and old city walls, and the walls forming the east side of the city.

These three several attacks will commence simultaneously, when a white ensign shall be hoisted at the fore of the Actæon, and a yellow flag as a corresponding signal at the same time hoisted at the fore of the Phlegethon.

The Hornet and the Avalanche will repeat these signals at their fore so long as the flags shall remain flying on the beforementioned ships.

The bombardment is to be in very slow time, and continued day and night, not to exceed per each gun employed 60 rounds during the first 24 hours, except the ships under letter C, which will fire 100 rounds.

Immediately the bombardment opens the landing of the allied forces will take place at the creek in

(A) Actæon, Phlegethon, and gunboats.

(B) Mitraile, Fusée, Cruiser, Hornet; and a gunboat.

(C) Nimrod, Surprise, Dragonne, Marceau, and gunboats. After one P.M. the three first-named ships will alter their fire to the city and Gough's heights. The Marceau and gunboats will, after one P.M., alter their fire to the north-east city gate.

Kuper Passage, where the British and French flags will be planted) in the following order, commencing at daylight :—

1. Sappers and Miners, 59th Regiment, Royal Artillery, stores and ammunition.

2. The French Naval Brigade, stores, &c.

3. The Naval Brigade, under the orders of Commodore the Hon. C. G. I. B. Elliot.

4. The Naval Brigade from Canton.

5. Lieutenant-Colonel Lemon's battalion of Royal Marines, &c.

6. Colonel Holloway's Brigade of Royal Marines, &c.

(When last boat of No. 1 has passed No. 2 will commence and so on with the remainder.)

The disembarkation of the French forces will be superintended by Captain Reinaud, flag captain; the British troops and Royal Marines by Major the Hon. H. Clifford.

The British Naval Brigade, by Captain W. K. Hall, C.B., flag-captain.

The following will be the disposition of the united forces after landing :—

British Naval Brigade on the right.

Centre brigade, composed of Lieutenant-Colonel Lemon's provisional battalion, 59th Regiment, Royal Artillery, and Sappers.

French brigade on the left.

Colonel Holloway's brigade in reserve, with Royal Marine Artillery.

After getting into position the Allied Forces will remain in line of continuous columns of brigade until further orders for an advance, which will be made to a position for the night, preparatory to active service on the following morning.

M. SEYMOUR, Rear-Admiral,
Commander-in-Chief of Her Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces.

C. RIGNAULT DE GENOUILLY,
Rear-Admiral,
Commander-in-Chief of His Imperial Majesty's Naval Forces.

C. T. VAN STRAUBENZEE,
Major-General,
Commanding the Military Forces.

GENERAL MEMORANDUM.

*Coromandel, Canton,
December 26, 1857.*

THE Naval Brigade of seamen will be in three divisions. The divisions will be told off into companies, each division commencing No. 1, and the last number companies in 1st and 2nd divisions will be composed of boats' crews.

The field pieces of the Calcutta only will be landed, and designated the Light Battery, under the command of Lieutenant Goodenough, to be composed of three light 12-pounders, and the Heavy Battery of two 12-pounders, under the command of Lieutenant Beamish.

The two first companies of each division to carry scaling ladders.

The whole brigade to land with three days' provisions.

Four medical officers to be selected, to go with each division when landing, and names transmitted to the Medical Inspector.

Each division to be provided with four bags, capable of holding 100 lbs. of powder, with a proportion of Bickford's fuze.

Commodore the Honourable C. G. I. B. Elliot, C.B., to command the brigade.