



SECOND SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of FRIDAY the 26th of FEBRUARY.

Published by Authority.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1858.

Admiralty, February 26, 1858.

DESPATCHES, of which the following are copies, have been received by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty from Rear-Admiral Sir Michael Seymour.

CAPTURE OF CANTON.

No. 14. "Coromandel," at Canton, January 13, 1858.

BY the last mail I had the satisfaction of reporting briefly to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the capture of the city of Canton. I will now do myself the honour of detailing the proceedings which crowned our efforts with success.

2. The demands made by the British and French Ambassadors on the 10th of December, having been rejected by Yeh (the Imperial High Commissioner), as well as a subsequent demand made by the Commanders-in-Chief of the Allied Forces (to whom the Ambassadors had transferred the question), for the peaceable surrender of the city, it was decided to resort to coercive measures, and as all the intelligence we had received, ascribed the number of troops comprising the garrison to amount to 30,000, and the confidence of the Imperial Commissioner in his own strength, led us to suppose the means of defence, both to the northward and in the interior of the city, had been greatly increased, it was decided that before our comparatively small force should act against the apparent odds in favour of the enemy, a slow fire should be kept up on the defences of the city from the English and French ships of war, in the directions where the troops were supposed to be stationed.

3. I have already reported the positions of the ships of war in the Canton Creek. At daylight on the morning of the 28th December, the signal agreed upon was simultaneously hoisted at the mast heads of the Actæon and Phlegeton, and a slow fire was opened upon the S.W. and S.E. angles of the old and new city walls;

along the east wall and on the south wall opposite the Vice Roy's residence To impede the progress and communication of the Imperial troops along the parapets, and to breach the walls, to facilitate the entry of the allied forces, a battery of two 13-inch and two 10-inch sea service mortars, and two 24-pounder rockets, under the direction of Major Schomberg, R.M.A., placed in position by Captain Hall, Commander Dowell, of the Hornet, and Captain Mann, R.E., on the Dutch Folly (where the French and English flags were hoisted), played on Magazine Hill, the City Heights, and Gough's Fort, with the other forts to the northward of the city outside the walls. The long-range guns of the gun-boats were also at a later hour of the day pointed in the same direction.

4. Major-General Van Straubenzee had been indefatigable in his search for a suitable point of debarcation, and at 7 A.M. the forces named in the margin* commenced to land inside of Kuper's Island Passage. The 59th Regiment, Royal Artillery, and Royal Sappers and Miners first; then the French Naval Brigade, followed by the Brigade of Royal Marines; and later in the day by the British Naval Brigade. From the pains taken by the officers who superintended the arrangements, Captain Hall, C. B., Captain Reynaud, of the Nemesis, and Major Clifford, Assistant Quartermaster General, aided by Messrs. James J. Hill and Henry Hill, Masters of the Calcutta and Hesper, the landing was effected with ease and dispatch. Soon after landing, Lieutenant Hackett, of the 59th Regiment, was surprised by a party of Chinese, who barbarously cut off his head and made off. Two were shot and a third was taken, and hanged.

* Troops	800
Royal Marines	2100
Naval Brigade	1829
French Naval Brigade	950
Total	5679

5. The Major-General, under whose command I had placed the whole of the Royal Marine Light Infantry forces, by my order of 22nd of December, having directed Colonel Holloway, with Lieutenant-Colonels Walsh's and Hocker's Battalions of Royal Marines, to remain near the landing-place, as a reserve to protect the rear, and to forward supplies; each division as it formed, advanced in the direction of Lin's Fort; the French Naval Brigade, under my gallant colleague, Rear-Admiral Sir Rigault de Genouilly, exciting admiration by the completeness of its equipments, and by the soldier-like and efficient appearance of its officers and men. The fort was at once taken possession of by detachments of the French Brigade and 59th Regiment, the enemy retiring as the troops advanced. Lin's Fort is a circular red tower, built of stone; it had twelve guns in position, but badly appointed and of small calibre.

6. As the 1st and 3rd Divisions of the Naval Brigade were advancing to the right, they joined the covering parties of the 59th Regiment, which were driving back a large body of Chinese. As these troops occupied the position assigned to the Naval Brigade, and were increasing in numbers, the Niger's and Hornet's detachments, under Captain the Honourable A. A. Cochrane, C.B., and Commander Dowell, were ordered to dislodge them, which was gallantly executed, the Chinese taking up a fresh position behind each ridge, and finally in a joss-house or temple, from which they were also driven, until they reached the main body of Chinese troops near Gough's Fort.

Captain Cochrane seeing the importance of this temple, put it in a state of defence, and held it till relieved by the 1st Division at 9 P.M. Its possession protected our right from annoyance during the night. The gallant conduct of Commander Dowell, and of the officers and men generally, in the face of greatly superior numbers, has been brought to my notice. Several casualties occurred on this service.

7. The enemy appeared in great force on the hills to the northward of the city, and a brisk fire of cannons, gingalls, and rockets, from the city walls and Gough's Fort, was kept up on our troops as they advanced; which was, however, kept in check by the French and English howitzers which had been brought to the front, notwithstanding the unfavourable nature of the ground for artillery.

8. The army bivouacked for the night round Lin's Fort, the ground being admirably adapted for an encampment, being honeycombed for miles by a vast assemblage of graves—the "Criminal's Cemetery." The spaces between the mounds affording excellent shelter.

The 1st and 3rd Divisions of the Naval Brigade occupied the right, supported by Lieutenant-Colonel Lemon's Provisional Battalion of Royal Marines; the 2nd Division of the Brigade the centre; and the French and 59th Regiment the left. An occasional fire was kept up from the walls during the night, but without much effect.

9. The head-quarters for the night were in a Buddhist temple, to the rear of Lin's Fort. Having had an opportunity of viewing the east wall, it was decided to take it by escalade on the following morning at 9 o'clock, and to ensure success, it was arranged that a brisk enfilading fire should be kept up along the east wall, from the East Gate to the North-east Gate, by the French and English gun-boats, near the French Folly, till the hour named,—the fire then entirely to cease. Instructions were accordingly sent to Captain Shadwell, C.B., and Captain D'Aboville, of the

Audacieuse, our respective senior naval officers, superintending the fire in the Canton creek.

10. The whole of the allied forces being under arms, at 5 A.M., on the 29th December, General Van Straubenzee ordered the field batteries to advance as soon as day-light permitted the passage of the guns over the uneven and unknown ground, to breach the parapet of the wall where the British Division intended to escalade, and the French guns were soon actively engaged on the portion assigned to their Division. Directions having been sent on the previous evening to Lieutenant-Colonel Lemon, and the 1st and 3rd Divisions of the Naval Brigade, to advance and take possession of a large temple in front of our position, within 100 yards of the wall, they were seen in quiet occupation as the day broke, and were soon after joined by Captain Key, C.B., with the 2nd Division. This temple afforded shelter from the guns of Gough's Fort, as well as from the fire that continued to be maintained from the city walls.

11. The scaling ladders, in charge of Commanders Hamilton, Fellowes, and Slight, and Lieutenant Viscount Gilford, were now carried as close to the shallow ditch as prudence permitted, in which service Mr. H. Thompson, Midshipman of the Sanspareil, a most praiseworthy and zealous young officer, was mortally wounded by a spear-rocket, causing his death on the following day.

12. At six o'clock the two battalions of the Royal Marine Brigade, under Colonel Holloway, arrived, and whilst the 2nd Battalion, under Lieutenant-Colonel Hocker, was placed as a reserve at Fort Lin, the 1st Battalion, with Colonel Holloway and Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh, were ordered by the General to support four companies of the Provisional Battalion, which were thrown out in extended order to check the enemy, advancing from Gough's Heights, in great force, and keeping up a heavy fire; a howitzer and a 12-pounder rocket subsequently supported the Royal Marines.

13. Soon after 7 o'clock, Captain Bate, of the Actæon, and Captain Mann, R.E., were directed to reconnoitre the wall, to select a fitting place for planting our scaling ladders. In the performance of this important and dangerous duty, Captain Bate was wounded in the chest by a gingall ball from the parapet. Dr. C. A. Anderson, Staff-Surgeon, at once proceeded at great personal risk, under a heavy fire to his assistance, but it was of no avail, as this gallant and highly esteemed officer died within a few minutes after receiving his wound. By this most unfortunate calamity, Her Majesty has lost one of the most talented and estimable officers in Her Service.

14. The fire from the walls having been kept in check by howitzers and the rifles of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, about half-past eight the French Brigade headed by its gallant Admiral, dashed forward with the scaling ladders. Our own ladders were at once in hand, and with a short run, planted against the wall, and amidst the hearty cheers of the whole army, the French and English Colours were floating over the Battlements of Canton. Division after Division rapidly clambered up the ladders, and advanced along the wall to the northward, taking Gate after Gate, (which form the principal defences of the city) in rapid succession; the enemy completely surprised, and confounded at the impetuosity of the attack, offering but trifling opposition. Before 10 o'clock the Flags of the Allied Powers floated over the five storied Pagoda, the city heights, including two Forts mounted with heavy guns, and the other defences of the city as far as the North Gate.

Our mode and plan of attack may be considered as a complete surprise, and may account for the limited loss which attended our operations. The authorities evidently expected we should first attack Gough's Heights and the defences outside the city, considering the height of their wall a sufficient security against an attack by escalade. The main body of their troops were in that quarter, and the guns on the city heights, in newly-constructed forts, bore in the same direction.

15. At the North Gate the enemy appeared inclined to make a stand. Captain Key, with one-half of the 2nd Division, advanced and took up a position in an earth battery in an elbow of the wall inside the gate, turning the guns upon the Sailor's Fort and the enemy's troops to the westward. The rest of the Division, by order of the General, passed through the North Gate, and drove the enemy back. The services of Commanders Hood and Slight, Lieutenant A. Bogle of the Sanspareil, and Lieutenant Viscount Gilford of the Calcutta, who was severely wounded, as well as Lieutenant W. O. Butler of the Hornet, were conspicuous on this occasion.

16. Occasional guns were fired from the forts outside the walls, but the rocket-party of the Cruiser, under Mr. Armitage, Midshipman, soon set on fire the buildings round the Upper and Lower Blue Jacket Forts, and compelled their evacuation, whilst the 1st Division of the Naval Brigade made a sortie, and captured Gough's Fort and the Marines' Fort, the former mounting 9 guns, and the other 12, blowing up the magazines, and destroying the guns and carriages.

17. In the direction of the West Gate, the enemy kept up a sharp fire from the reversed guns on the ramparts, and notwithstanding the fire from the Calcutta's field-pieces, in charge of Lieutenants Goodenough and Beamish, approached, under shelter of the wall and of some brick guard-houses, to within 50 yards of the North Gate, when Captain Sir Robert McClure, assisted by Captain Cochrane, made a sortie, which effectually dislodged them. The covering buildings were then destroyed, and several guns spiked or thrown over the wall. Except a desultory fire, which was returned occasionally, we suffered no further annoyance, and the fire ceased at 9 P.M.

18. I would here mention the zeal displayed by Lieutenants Goodenough and Beamish in bringing their guns to the front. Lieutenant Goodenough's light 12-pounders arrived at Lin's Fort on the evening of the 28th, and were in time to do good service at the north gate. Lieutenant Beamish's task was more difficult, as his two heavy 12-pounders, with limbers and spare waggons, had to be drawn up the wall, a height of 28 feet. The good conduct and exertions of the junior officers and guns' crews with the field pieces has been notified to me.

19. The 59th Regiment, on scaling the wall, proceeded to the southward, and went as far as the centre of the south wall, where they sustained several casualties; amongst the rest Ensign Bowen, who was mortally wounded, and died on the 10th instant. Having overcome all opposition, they returned to the South-east Gate, which they occupied and held as the extreme left.

20. As a diversion, and with a view to carrying the South-east Gate, Captain Hall left the river, where he had been employed on important duty, at 9 o'clock, with 100 Marines and 600 officers and seamen, volunteers from the gun-boats. Their services, however, had been anticipated by the rapid success that attended our force on other directions of the city walls; but the readiness and

zeal displayed by Captain Hall and these officers and men, is not the less commendable.

21. As large bodies of armed men were seen passing into the city, through the West Gate, during the afternoon, it led to the impression that an attack was contemplated during the night; which induced Major-General Van Straubenzee, to give directions to burn the houses in the vicinity of the North Gate. This duty was entrusted to Captain Osborne, C.B., who with Lieutenants Browne, Cator, Davidson, of the Royal Navy, and Lieutenant Pritchett, R.M., executed it under a sharp fire, and with considerable difficulty, the houses containing little inflammable material.

22. I have avoided making prominent mention of the services of the military branch of the force, it being peculiarly the province of my gallant colleague, Major-General Van Straubenzee, who having been in every position where his onerous duties called him, will be better able to do justice to the merits of the gallant officers and men under his orders.

The Royal Marine Battalions, having been placed under his Excellency's immediate orders; I also refrain, from the same reasons, from particularizing the good services they performed in this important affair. The provisional battalion of Royal Marines, from Her Majesty's ships, composed an efficient force of 800 men.

23. It is hardly necessary for me to mention that our brave Allies took a conspicuous share in all the operations I have endeavoured to describe. Rear-Admiral Sir Rigault de Genouilly showed a noble example, which was gallantly emulated by the fine body of officers and men under his command. It is but justice to add, that the French were the first on the walls of Canton. The Rear-Admiral has begged me to mention prominently the services of Capitaines de Vaisseau Reynaud, of the Nemesis, Jules Collier, of the Capricieuse, and D'Aboville of the Audacieuse, and that the whole of the brigade under his command, performed their duty with zealous alacrity.

24. I am assured that their Lordships will feel satisfaction in knowing that the most cordial good feeling, and perfect understanding, have been maintained between my gallant colleagues and myself; the one object, the occupation of Canton, agreeably to the instructions of our respective Governments, having been steadily kept in view.

25. On the morning of the 30th the enemy sent in a flag of truce, begging permission to bury the dead, which was granted. In the afternoon the Commanders-in-Chief, with their Staff, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh's Battalion of Royal Marines, Captain Key's Division of the Naval Brigade, Royal Artillery with 2 guns, and Sappers and Miners under Captain Knox, R.A., also a strong detachment of the French Naval Brigade, under Capitaine Jules Collier, proceeded to capture the West Gate. The guns on the parapet were loaded, and turned on our position, but all the defences were abandoned, and not the slightest opposition was offered. The guns, as far as the West Gate, bearing on our lines were spiked and thrown over the walls. The force then made the circuit of the city.

26. In the course of the day, an inferior officer came in with a message, stated to be from the Tartar General, but he was informed that we could only treat with the principal authorities.

27. The capture of the city having been now completed, it becomes my pleasing duty to bring to their Lordships' notice the good conduct of the officers and men composing the Naval Brigade, during the whole of these operations. Though brought together from so many ships, at short

notice, they formed a most serviceable body of 1800 men, independent of 100 Royal Marines and 600 seamen in the gun-boats, held in hand by the Flag Captain for any emergency.

28. My thanks are particularly due to Commodore the Honourable Charles Elliot, C.B., and the Captains of the several divisions of the Naval Brigade. Commanders Hamilton and Hood have been in the Canton River for nearly twelve months, and Commander Fellowes is stated to have been the first of the brigade on the wall, from a ladder planted by Lieutenant Marescaux, of the Nankin. The names of Lieutenants Curme, Honourable W. J. Ward, Jenkins, Alston, Reilly, Madden, Cator, F. Smith, and Broad, have been brought to my notice. Most of the above officers took part in the action in Fatshan Creek, on the 1st of June. I would also venture to mention the name of Lieutenant Sholto Douglas, commanding the Coromandel, tender, which has carried my Flag in the river since the commencement of the operations, and who has conducted himself entirely to my satisfaction. Lieutenant F. R. Purvis, Senior Lieutenant of the Actæon, was prevented from participating in these operations in consequence of a serious wound received whilst assisting to put out a fire on the night of the 27th December. I cannot bear too high testimony to the important services rendered by the gun-boat squadron, under the varied and difficult circumstances in which they were called upon to act. Through the unwearied exertions of Mr. John Davey, the zealous and active Inspector of Machinery, they have been kept in an efficient state. Their gunnery was highly creditable, and their participation with the French gun-boats in the fire along the east wall, was most effective, nearly dismantling several of the gateways. They had also been constantly employed in the conveyance of stores, ammunition, sick, and wounded, and I can most cordially recommend the lieutenants commanding and the second masters, to their Lordships' favourable notice. Lieutenant Colin Campbell of the Oposum, an officer of long service and merit, is placed on the staff of the Major-General commanding. I should be glad if their Lordships would be pleased to place at my disposal a few warrants for deserving Petty Officers, whose good conduct may be brought to my notice.

29. The fire from the Dutch Folly, directed by Major Schomberg, was very effective, many of the shells exploding in the midst of the Government buildings on the City and Gough's Heights. I may add, that the accurate fire from the Cruizer, Hornet, Mitraille, and Fusée completely demolished the Viceroy's Yamun. I have much pleasure in noticing the services rendered by Captain Shadwell, who had charge of the Gun Boats, and also of Commanders Dew and Cresswell, of the Nimrod and Surprise, the fire from whose heavy guns must have materially assisted in disconcerting the enemy on the distant part of the walls.

30. I enclose a list of casualties in the Naval Brigade, amounting to 5 killed and 34 wounded, and 17 men severely burnt by an accidental explosion of a magazine. Five men have since died.

31. Every necessary arrangement had been made by Mr. David Deas, C.B., the Medical-Inspector of the Fleet, for the comfort of the sick and wounded. The Inflexible was stationed for their reception, with a staff of medical officers and two "Chinese Chops," or covered junks, had been fitted up as hospitals and conveyed near the landing place. Besides these vessels, the Assistance, steam troop-ship, and Imperador and Imperatrice, steam-transports, were also prepared. Happily

they were not required. Mr. Deas makes favourable mention of Dr. John Cotton, Surgeon of the Inflexible; Mr. Richard D. Pritchard, Surgeon of the Racshore; Mr. Forbes, Surgeon of Cruizer; and Mr. Edward T. Mortimer, Assistant-Surgeon of Hesper. Commodore the Honourable C. G. J. B. Elliot, has also mentioned the assistance rendered by Mr. W. Baynes, Surgeon of the Sybille; Dr. Richard D. Mason, Surgeon of the Sans Pariel, and Mr. J. McSwiney, Surgeon of the Furious.

32. The services rendered by Captain Harry E. Edgell, of Her Majesty's ship Tribune, at Hong Kong, in forwarding our supplies and guarding the colony, entitle him to my warmest thanks and commendation.

33. I have on former occasions reported the great assistance rendered by Captain William K. Hall, my Flag Captain. I can only repeat, that I am under the greatest obligations to that officer for the untiring zeal with which he has devoted his whole energies to the good of the public service.

34. As active operations may now be considered at an end in this quarter, I also take the liberty of mentioning the valuable services of Mr. W. D. Jeans, my Secretary, and the very laborious duties he has had to perform during the whole period of the existing difficulties with the Canton Government.

I have, &c.

M. SEYMOUR,

Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-chief.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty,
London.

Enclosure to No. 14 of 1858.

Return of Casualties.

Her Majesty's ship Cruizer,

January 1, 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a nominal list of killed and wounded up to the evening of the 31st ultimo, and to inform you that, up to this time, the wounded have been disposed of without being exposed to the very least unnecessary suffering, and that every essential comfort has been afforded them.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) DAVID DEAS,

Inspector of Hospitals and Fleets.

To His Excellency Sir Michael
Seymour, K.C.B., Commander-
in-Chief, Canton.

List of Casualties of Naval and Marine Brigades
before and in Canton, on the 28th, 29th, and
31st December, 1857.

Actæon.

Captain Wm. T. Bate, gingall ball in chest,
killed.

Sanspareil.

Midshipman Henry Thompson, left arm and
kidney pierced by a rocket, mortally, since
dead.

Sybille.

Edward Loft, A. B., wound of chest, mortally,
since dead.

Nankin.

John Jackson, Blacksmith's Mate, wound of head, mortally, since dead.

Highflyer.

Joseph Bailey, Captain of Mast, wound of head, mortally, since dead.

Calcutta.

Lieutenant Viscount Gilford, arm broken by a gingall ball severely.

Charles Fossett, Captain of Forecastle, wound in right thigh, severely.

James Pearson, Ord., wound in right arm, severely.

William Payne, Ord., wound in right shoulder, slightly.

James Holland, A.B., wound of head, severely.

Sybill.

John Smith, A.B., wound in left elbow, severely.

Jacob Williams, A.B., graze of breast, slightly.

John Burleigh, A.B., wound in ear, slightly.

Phillip Palmer, Bandsman, wound in mouth, slightly.

William Jeffries, Sailmaker's Mate, wound in head, slightly.

Nankin.

J. Brumblecombe, Ord., wound in arm, severely.

Cornelius Sullivan, Ord., wound in breast, slightly.

William Bockham, A.B., wound in shoulder, slightly.

Alexander Charters, Carpenter's Mate, slightly.

Sanspareil.

George Lane, Ord., wound in right foot, severely.

Alfred Watson, Ord., wound in right knee, slightly.

John McGuinness, Ord., wound in temple, slightly.

William Croker, Ord., wound in wrist, slightly.

Esk.

Charles Bowen, Captain Mizentop, wound of chest, dangerously, since dead.

Highflyer.

William Bissider, Ord., wound of left arm, slightly.

Richard Sandfield, Boy, 1st class, wound of head, slightly.

Niger.

Charles Smith, Boy, 1st class, wound of left thigh, severely, since dead.

Furious.

William Randall, A.B., wound of left arm, slightly.

Racehorse.

George Hird, Armourer, sprain, slightly.

Hornet.

Lieutenant William O. Butler, scalp wound, severely.

James Fisher, Master's Assistant, wound of arm, slightly.

John Davies, Captain of Afterguard, wound of left eye, severely.

Elk.

John Manuel, A.B., contusion, severely.

Patrick Sweeney, Leading Seaman, slightly.

Cruizer.

Commander Charles Fellowes, slightly.

William Tilbury, A.B., wound of right thigh, severely.

J. Dunn, Captain Foretop, wound of left leg, slightly.

O. A. Vignold, Captain Foretop, wound of left arm, slightly.

Inflexible.

Samuel Polwan, Leading Seaman, wound of hand, severely.

Provisional Battalion of Royal Marines.

Calcutta.

Private James Allwood, wound of head, severely.

Private William Mason, wound of temple, slightly.

Private Francis Musselwhite, wound of arm, slightly.

Private William Smith, wound of ear, slightly.

Sybill.

Private Isaac Eaton, wound of right thigh, dangerously.

Private William Emmett, wound of ankle, slightly.

Assistance.

Private Thomas Hill, burn, slightly.

Private John Parker, wound of knee, slightly.

Private John Adams, burn, slightly.

Private Thomas Cooke, contusion, slightly.

Royal Marine Artillery.

Colonel Thomas Holloway, Commanding Marine Brigade, wound of right knee, slightly.

Colour-Serjeant Benjamin Wise, wound in left arm, severely.

Gunner James Fury, loss of left arm, severely.

Gunner Robert Hoddy, wound of foot, slightly.

1st Battalion Royal Marines.

1st Lieutenant W. F. P. S. Dadson, wound of right arm, severely.

Serjeant William Rea, wound of right leg, severely.

Private William Burton, wound of head, dangerously.

Private James Lucas, wound of right thigh, severely.

Private Frederick Mears, wound of right arm, slightly.

Esk.

William Oxford, Cooper, severely burnt by an explosion of gunpowder, on December 31.

Henry Page, Ord., severely burnt by an explosion of gunpowder, on December 31.

James Prior, Ord., severely burnt by an explosion of gunpowder, on December 31.

Edward Wiltshire, Captain Maintop, severely burnt by an explosion of gunpowder, on December 31.

William Dyer, Ord., severely burnt by an explosion of gunpowder, on December 31, since dead.

Thomas Williams, A.B., severely burnt by an explosion of gunpowder, on December 31, since dead.

Niger.

Henry Whitehead, Ord., severely burnt, by an explosion of gunpowder, on December 31.

Simon Holloway, Ord., severely burnt, by an explosion of gunpowder, on December 31.

John Bullimore, Stoker, severely burnt, by an explosion of gunpowder, on December 31, since dead.

William Atkins, Quartermaster, severely burnt, by an explosion of gunpowder, on December 31.

Furious.

- Josh. McBoil, Stoker, severely burnt, by an explosion of gunpowder, on December 31.
 Thomas White, Captain Mizen Top, severely burnt, by an explosion of gunpowder, on December 31.
 H. G. Ravenhill, Leading Seaman, severely burnt, by an explosion of gunpowder, on December 31.

Hornet.

- Thomas King, Ord., severely burnt, by an explosion of gunpowder, on December 31.
 Edward Cheeney, Ord., severely burnt, by an explosion of gunpowder, on December 31.

Woodcock.

- James Gorman, Quartermaster, severely burnt, by an explosion of gunpowder on December 31.

Killed and since dead, 10; Wounded 65.

(Signed) DAVID DEAS,
 Medical Inspector of Hospitals and Fleets.

Abstract of Loss.

	Killed.	Wounded.
Naval Brigade	10	46
Royal Marines	—	19
Troops	3	18
French Brigade	2	30
Total	15	113

OPERATIONS AT CANTON SUBSEQUENTLY TO CAPTURE.

No. 17.

"Coromandel," at Canton,

SIR,

January 14, 1858.

IN continuation of my letter No. 14, of the 13th instant, I have the honour to report proceedings at Canton, subsequent to the 30th December.

2. On the 31st, parties of sappers and miners commenced their preparations for blowing up Gough's Fort and the Upper Blue Jacket Fort, outside the walls to the northward of the city, and they were destroyed on the following day, the former by the English, the other by the French. On the evening of the 31st a heavy explosion took place near the North-east Gate. A magazine of Chinese powder was being cleared out, when, by some accident, it exploded, and 17 seamen were severely burned.

3. On the 1st January, the French and English Ambassadors visited Canton, under salutes, both on arrival and departure.

4. No communications having been received from the Chinese authorities, who had not in any way recognized our capture of the city, it was determined to march a body of troops through it and endeavour to effect their capture. On the 5th instant, therefore, at 8 o'clock in the morning, the city was suddenly entered in three different places. A strong division of the French Brigade, headed by their gallant Commander-in-Chief, proceeded to the West Gate, and, leaving a portion in possession of that point, hastened to the residence of the Tartar General, who was captured by Captain Jules Collier. The General and myself entering to the northward, marched down the north street towards the Yamun of Pequi, the Governor, who was taken by the Royal Marines under Colonel Holloway; and, as we were holding a conference with the prisoners already in our possession, Mr. Parkes, Her Majesty's Consul,

arrived, with the gratifying intelligence that Commodore the Honourable Charles Elliot, with Captain Key's division of the Naval Brigade, had seized Yeh, the Imperial Commissioner, with all the provincial Records, which are now being examined by Mr. Wade, Chinese Secretary. We directed the three captives to be taken to headquarters, much against the inclination of Pequi and the Tartar General, who stated their willingness to treat, and that they had not been informed by Yeh of our summons for the surrender of the city. A party of Royal Marines under Colonel Lemon, was also sent to secure the Imperial Treasury, which was effected, and three hundred thousand dollars in Sycee silver taken possession of; no opposition was offered to any of these proceedings, and the troops returned to their quarters. The silver is now on board the Calcutta for custody.

5. An account by Commodore the Honourable Charles Elliot, of the manner in which Yeh was taken, is herewith enclosed, No. 1, for their Lordship's perusal.

6. The streets of Canton are narrow and the houses are mostly of one story, and with the exception of the public buildings and stone arches, are of mean appearance. There is a great deal of open ground inside the walls.

7. On Yeh's arrival at headquarters, he was asked after the foreign prisoners, known to have been in his possession. His Excellency was perfectly indifferent on the subject, and replied that he would show us their graves, as they had all died. He added that he had taken great trouble with their burial. It having been determined to send Yeh to the Inflexible till it shall be decided how his Excellency is to be disposed of, Captain Hall conveyed him on board; Pequi and the Tartar general remained at headquarters.

8. On the 6th instant a conference was held by the Ambassadors in the city, to determine what should be done with the captives. It was agreed that the Inflexible should proceed with the Imperial Commissioner, and anchor off Tiger Island, and that the government of the city should be restored to Pequi, subject to our control, on the conditions specified in the inclosed paper No. 2, which his Excellency acceded to.

9. On the 9th, therefore, the Ambassadors, and the Commanders-in-Chief of the allied forces, proceeded in state to the city, and having installed Pequi under a salute, as Governor of the city, appointed a tribunal, as settled by the terms submitted to his Excellency, composed of Colonel Holloway, Royal Marines, Capitaine de Frégate Martineau and Mr. Parkes, Her Majesty's Consul at Canton. A guard of two hundred Royal Marines (which has since been increased) and a party of the French Naval Brigade, were left in the Yamun to support the Governor. The City Gates are now open by day, and tranquillity has been uninterrupted from the moment of the possession of the city.

10. In consequence of the peaceful aspect of affairs, I have, with the sanction of Major-General Van Straubenzee, removed the whole of the Naval Brigade to their ships, leaving the garrison composed of the Troops, Royal Marines, and French Naval Brigade. I enclose a copy of a General Order, No. 3, issued by the Major-General on the Brigade quitting Canton.

11. An excellent line of communication has been made by Captain Hall, assisted by Commander Fellowes and Captain Fisher, Royal Engineers, along the east city wall to the water, above the French Folly, with a serviceable pier; and the Commissariat and military stores of the

English and French are now in course of completion. The very useful corps of Chinese Coolies raised at Hong Kong by the military authorities, convey all the supplies to the front, a great saving of labour to the troops.

12. The future conduct of this question will now, unless hostile measures again become unnecessary, rest with the Ambassadors of the Allied Powers.

13. His Excellency Sir John Bowring, having obligingly on my application, attached Mr. Harry S. Parkes, Her Majesty's Consul at Canton, to my Staff, I have great pleasure in calling their Lordships' notice to the important services rendered by that gentleman. His zeal and ability, with his intimate knowledge of the manners, customs, and language of the Chinese, have been turned to most valuable account.

14. I am glad to report that the health of the forces afloat and on shore, continues satisfactory.

I have, &c.

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

To the Secretary of the Admiralty,
London.

Inclosure No. 1 to No. 17, of 1858.

PROCEEDINGS IN CAPTURING YEH, IMPERIAL
COMMISSIONER.

Head Quarters, Naval Brigade.

SIR, Canton, January 5, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you how it came to the share of 100 blue jackets, under Captain A. C. Key, C.B., to make the important capture of his Excellency Yeh, and the valuable documents found with him.

Captain Key was moving down at 8 A.M., this morning, with his party, to the position you had assigned to him, at the south-east corner of the Parade-ground, accompanied by me, when Mr. Consul Parkes informed us that the most important point, viz., the Yachua College, where, by information received, Yeh was supposed to be, had not been visited.

I offered to grant him an escort, which he gladly accepted, and we therefore accompanied him to the above named building.

We found it deserted, but Mr. Parkes there ascertained that Yeh had only left it on Thursday last, and he succeeded in picking up a guide, who pointed out on a map the position of Yeh's present abode.

From thence we proceeded to the Lieutenant-Governor's Yamun, which was already in the possession of Colonel Holloway, R.M., and Mr. Parkes having confirmed his previous information by the statement of two other men, we advanced without loss of time to the south-west corner of the city to take possession of the Lieutenant-General's Yamun, where the three guides we now had with us affirmed that Yeh then was; these men also knowing him by sight. We pushed on as rapidly as possible, and on arriving in front of the building burst open the doors and rushed in immediately.

Several pink button Mandarins were first seized, but at the further end of the house, on Captain Key bursting open a door, he perceived a stout Mandarin endeavouring to escape, and immediately secured him, assisted by my coxswain.

Mr. Parkes then brought in each guide separately, and, on being removed, each stated that the person seized was Yeh.

The attention of Mr. Parkes was then turned to securing the records and official correspondence, of which a large quantity was found.

In the performance of this search it was necessary to open every chest found in the building, as most of them contained papers; and every care was taken to prevent the destruction of clothes and a vast amount of valuable property, which was re-packed and left in the house.

I cannot speak too highly of the good behaviour and regularity of the seamen employed with our small party, which was much contributed to by my Aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Alfred Alston, and the officers commanding them, Commander Hood, Lieutenants Clutterbuck and Bogle.

It is not for me to represent the skill and ability displayed by Mr. Parkes, further than to observe that the success of the capture is due to him.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES G. J. B. ELLIOT,
Commodore, Commanding Naval Brigade.

Major General Van Straubenzee, C.B.,
Commanding the Forces.

Enclosure No. 2 to No. 17, of 1858.

Submitted to Peking, the Governor.

NO Proclamation is on any account to be issued without submission to the Allies, and without their counter seal.

In all disturbances in which foreigners are concerned, the case is to be referred to the Allied Tribunal established at the Yamun of the Governor.

All questions between the Chinese, are to be decided by their own tribunals.

Chinese committing offences against foreigners, or vice versa, to be handed over to the tribunal established by the Allies, except when the offences are committed within the portion of the city occupied by the allied forces, when they will be dealt with according to martial law.

An allied tribunal will be appointed to act with the Governor, and will be supported by a military force to assist in maintaining order; and further, patrols, mounted or otherwise, will be sent out daily.

All depôts of arms and military stores, to be handed over to the allied Commanders.

Head Quarters, 7th January, 1858.

(Enclosure No. 3 to No. 17, of 1858.)

GENERAL ORDER.

Heights in Canton, Jan. 12, 1858.

THE Naval Brigade having been ordered by Rear-Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, K.C.B., to rejoin their respective ships, the Major-General cannot allow this opportunity to pass without expressing his warm admiration of their gallantry and conduct during the period they have co-operated on shore with Her Majesty's other forces and our allies the French.

The Major-General begs to return his sincere thanks to Rear-Admiral Sir M. Seymour, K.C.B., for his cordial and ready support on all occasions, and to assure him that he shall ever esteem it an high honour to have been associated with so distinguished an officer at the taking of Canton.

The Major-General begs to express his best thanks to Commodore the Hon. C. Elliot, C.B., for the able manner in which he performed the arduous duty of commanding the Naval Brigade, a passage in the gallant Commodore's career of which he may be justly proud.

The Major-General's best acknowledgments are due to Captains Keith Stewart, A. C. Key, C.B., and Sir R. McClure, Kt., for the energetic and admirable manner in which they commanded and manœvered their respective divisions.

Dependent as the troops have been during this war, on the services of the Royal Navy, the indefatigable exertions of Captain Hall, C.B., have frequently elicited the Major-General's admiration, and merited his warmest thanks.

To Captains Hand, Honourable A. Cochrane, C.B., Sherard Osborne, C.B., the Commanders, Lieutenants, Officers, and Seamen of the Naval Brigade, the Major-General begs to return his heartfelt acknowledgments for their gallantry and admirable conduct, and feels confident that should circumstances again occur which may render their co-operation with Her Majesty's land forces necessary, the British Naval Brigade will add new wreaths to the laurels it has already so frequently gained.

(Signed) C. J. VAN STRAUBENZEE.
Major-General.
Commanding Her Britannic
Majesty's Troops in India.

In consideration of the services mentioned in the above despatches, the following promotions have this day taken place:—

To be Captains.

Commander Roderick Dew.
Commander William Montague Dowell.

Commander John Lane Charles Hamilton.
Commander Arthur William Acland Hood.
Commander Charles Fellowes.

To be Commanders.

Lieutenant Charles Thomas Curme.
Lieutenant Charles Stuart Forbes.
Lieutenant Hugh Arthur Reilly.
Lieutenant Frederick Harrison Smith.
Lieutenant the Honourable William John Ward.
Lieutenant James Graham Goodenough.
Lieutenant Colin Andrew Campbell.
Lieutenant the Right Honourable Richard James Viscount Gilford.
Lieutenant Henry Hamilton Beamish.

To be Acting Lieutenants.

(to be confirmed on passing at the Royal Naval College.

Mr. Alfred Caldcleugh May.
Mr. Charles James Carey.
Mr. Arthur George Robertson Roe.
Mr. Felix Stanley Henry Webber.
Mr. Edward W. Hereford.
Mr. Charles Henry Murphy.
Mr. Henry Salisbury Bagge.
Mr. John Edward Stokes.
The Honourable Francis George Crofton.
Mr. Uvedale C. Singleton.

To be Masters.

Mr. Frederick Kirkham.
Mr. Henry Bond.
Mr. Edward Griffith Lloyd Street.
Mr. Charles Frederick Puckett.