



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