

drove them away, and the vessels burnt out without doing any damage.

Much skill and labour had been expended in the construction of these forts. The guns were much better cast, and not so unwieldy, as those in the Canton River, and were better equipped in every respect. They had good canister shot, and the hollow 8-inch shot appeared imitations from our own. There were several English guns in the batteries.

Directions were now sent to Captain Sir F. Nicolson and Capitaine Leveque to advance and capture the two forts up the river, which had kept up a smart fire.

This movement was successfully executed, under the supporting fire from the Bustard, Staunch, and Opossum. Several entrenched camps were also destroyed.

The Chinese stood well to their guns, notwithstanding shot, shell, and rockets were flying thickly around them. Most of the gunboats were hulled, some several times, whilst boats, spars, and rigging were cut by round shot, grape, and gingall balls. This signal success, after the Chinese had ample time to fortify their position, and were confident of their strength, may probably have a greater moral effect on the Chinese Government than if we had attacked them in the first instance, when they were less prepared.

The necessary arrangements at the entrance of the river having been completed, a further advance was made to the village of Takoo, where we found a barrier of junks filled with combustible matter, moored by chains right across the river, whilst seven similar obstructions to our progress were observed within a mile higher up. Captain Hall, with my Flag Lieutenant and a party of men, landed, and took possession of 18 field pieces in front of an abandoned encampment at Takoo. Whilst on shore, the residence of the High Commissioner Tan was visited, and found deserted, though a significant proof of his recent presence was found in a beheaded Chinaman near his gate. It was ascertained here that the main body of the Chinese troops had retired with Tan to a position about 8 miles up the river.

The barrier at Takoo offering good security to our vessels below, it was made our advanced position for the night, in charge of Sir F. Nicolson and Capitaine Thoyon.

I enclose a list, of our casualties, amounting to 1 warrant officer and 4 men killed, and 2 officers and 15 men wounded. That of our gallant allies is, I regret to state, much heavier; amounting to 4 officers and 2 men killed, and 5 officers and 56 men wounded. Many of these wounded were taken on board the Coromandel, Flag tender, where arrangements had been made for the purpose, under the able supervision of Dr. C. A.

Anderson, Staff Surgeon, whose services on this occasion, and on all former occasions where we have been employed on active service, I feel bound to bring to their Lordships' favourable notice.

It now becomes my pleasing duty to mention to their Lordships, the laudable conduct of both officers and men under my orders. From Captains Sir Frederick Nicholson, Hall, and Osborn, I have received the greatest assistance, as well as from Commanders Leckie, Saumarez, and Cresswell. Commander Saumarez excited the admiration of the whole force by the noble manner in which he led the attack, and for some time sustained the heavy fire from the north forts.

I can bear witness also to the zeal and gallantry of the officers commanding the gun-boats, and beg to recommend Lieutenants Hoskins, Nicolas, Hudson, Wildman, and Hallowes, to their Lordships' favourable notice, as well as the second masters, particularly Mr. C. Prickett, of the Opossum, who has been severely wounded. I also beg strongly to recommend Lieutenant A. Bland, of the Pique, an old and meritorious officer. The names of Lieutenant R. P. Cator, of the Calcutta; Lieutenant A. T. Thrupp, of the Nimrod; Lieutenant H. K. Leet, of the Cormorant; and Lieutenant C. Parry, of the Surprise, have been also brought to my notice. Commander Saumarez has brought to my knowledge the gallant conduct of Mr. W. H. Fawckner, master of the Elk, lent from the Hesper, and of Mr. H. H. Burniston, Paymaster; Mr. Webster, Master's Assistant; and Mr. Campbell, Midshipman of the Cormorant, who worked a 24-pounder howitzer, and kept up a continued fire from that gun on the south forts. I beg to call their Lordships' attention to the list of the officers engaged.

Mr. W. D. Jeans, my Secretary, has accompanied me in this, as on other expeditions; also Mr. W. H. M. Arnold, Chief Clerk in my office, whom I would beg to recommend for promotion for his arduous duties during the progress of the operations in China.

In conclusion, I have much gratification in recording the cordial co-operation of my gallant colleague, and of the forces under his command. We have been actuated by the sole desire to carry into effect the orders of our respective Governments, in a spirit of the most perfect friendship.

Arrangements are making for a further advance up the river towards Tientsin.

I have the honour to enclose two sketches of the forts, made by Lieutenant A. T. Thrupp, of the Nimrod, and Mr. F. C. B. Bedwell, Secretary's Clerk.

I have, &c.

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

*LIST of Casualties at the Capture of the Forts at the Mouth of the Pei Ho, on the 20th May, 1858.*

KILLED.

Ship.	Name.	Rating.
Fury ... ..	Mr. John Colley } ... ..	Carpenter
Calcutta ... ..	Thomas Halloran } ... ..	A.B.
Nimrod ... ..	Henry Love ... ..	A.B.
Bustard ... ..	William Potter ... ..	Private Royal Marines.
Furious ... ..	John Cunningham } ... ..	A.B.