

10-inch, 9-inch, 8-inch, and smaller muzzle-loading rifled guns. These guns are precisely the same as those which Her Majesty's ships carry, and no better muzzle-loading guns could be found. They were abundantly, even lavishly, supplied with projectiles of the latest description, chilled shot; and the sighting of the guns was excellent. The same may be said of the guns in the Meix Lines, excepting that in them the 36-pounders were more used, and that one, if not two, 15-inch smooth bores were brought into action, in addition to the 10-inch, 9-inch, and smaller M.L.R. guns fired. Fort Marabout brought two 10-inch M.L.R. guns into action at long range, shell after shell of which came up towards the inshore squadron in an excellent line, falling from ten to thirty yards short. Not one shell from the guns in the Southern Batteries burst on board Her Majesty's ships during the day.

5. I forward for their Lordships' perusal the official report of Captain Walter J. Hunt-Grubbe, C.B., A.D.C., of Her Majesty's ship "Sultan," who most ably commanded the outside squadron, which bore the brunt of the action, as the accompanying statements of the damages sustained by the "Sultan," "Superb," and "Alexandra," fully testify. I have no account of the damage sustained by the "Penelope," as that vessel was shortly afterwards detached from my flag. The upper works of the "Invincible" and "Inflexible" were a good deal knocked about, but no serious injury was done. No damage was inflicted on the "Téméraire" or "Monarch."

6. I cannot speak too highly of the support I received from all the officers in command of the ships on this occasion. To Captain Walter J. Hunt-Grubbe, C.B., A.D.C., who commanded the northern division, my special thanks are due, and I would bring his name prominently to their Lordships' notice. I desire also to thank Captains Thomas Le H. Ward, of the "Superb," and Charles F. Hotham, of the "Alexandra," attached to his division, Captains Henry F. Nicholson, of the "Téméraire," and John A. Fisher, of the "Inflexible" (who were employed outside the reefs in support of the inshore division, and afterwards in aid of the northern attack), Captains Henry Fairfax, C.B., A.D.C., of the "Monarch," St. George C. D'Arcy Irvine, of the "Penelope," and Robert H. More Molyneux, of the "Invincible," for the way in which they performed their several duties.

Commanders George W. Hand, the senior of his rank engaged, of the "Beacon," Lord Charles Beresford, of the "Condor," Thomas S. Brand, of the "Bittern," Lieutenant Hugh C. D. Ryder, commanding the "Cygnet," an officer of over fifteen years' standing, and Lieutenant Arthur H. Boldero, commanding the "Decoy," are all officers well deserving of advancement, the duties which have fallen on them before and since the action have been unusually severe, as all the communication between the ships outside and inside the reefs has been carried on by them frequently in very bad weather, and at night, when the state of the Bar has required most careful handling of their ships and an accurate knowledge of pilotage. I would also mention the name of Lieutenant William L. Morrison, of the "Helicon," who, while repeating signals from me, was more than once under fire of the Northern Batteries, in a ship not constructed for warlike purposes. To the officers and men of the fleet generally I am much indebted for the speedy and successful issue of the engagement.

7. Captain Hotham, of the "Alexandra," has specially brought to my notice a deed of valour performed by Mr. Israel Harding, the Gunner of that ship, who probably saved many lives by lifting and placing in a tub of water a 10-inch shell with burning fuze, which had passed through the ship's side, and lodged on the main deck. He has also drawn my attention to the praiseworthy behaviour of Commander Alan Thomas, of the "Alexandra," throughout the day. I trust that this officer and Staff Commander Hosken, of my proper Flag Ship, who is most favourably reported on by Captain W. Hunt-Grubbe, will not suffer by my enforced absence from her. The whole of the Captains speak in the highest terms of the conduct of their officers and crew.

8. It is quite impossible for me to account for the very small loss sustained by Her Majesty's ships on this occasion, considering the amount of shell and shot which struck them, and the injuries inflicted on the hulls of the "Sultan," "Superb," and "Alexandra," and in a lesser degree on those of the "Invincible," "Penelope," and "Inflexible," but I may here express my deep regret that Lieutenant Francis Jackson, and Mr. William Shannon, carpenter, of the "Inflexible," should have fallen. The wounded, who when last heard of, were doing well, were sent to Malta, in the "Humber."

9. I enclose a nominal list of the volunteers who formed the landing party to spike the guns in Meix Batteries, together with the boat's crew.

I have, &c.,

F. BEAUCHAMP SEYMOUR,

Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Enclosure No. 7 in Mediterranean Letter
No. 657 of 1882.

NOMINAL List of Officers and Men who landed from the "Invincible," on the 11th July, 1882, and spiked the guns at Meix Fort and destroyed three with gun cotton:—

Barton R. Bradford, Gunnery Lieutenant.
Richard Poore, Lieutenant.
The Hon. Hedworth Lambton, Flag Lieutenant.
Major Tulloch, Royal Welsh Regiment.
James Cross, Chief Gunner's Mate.
George Jennings, Gunner's Mate.
James Williams, Leading Seaman.
Thomas Gleeson, Able Seaman.
Thomas Hawkins, Able Seaman.
William Fox, Able Seaman.
William Edwards, Able Seaman.
Henry Reardon, Able Seaman.
John Stanley, Able Seaman.
George Robinson, Able Seaman.
William R. Scorer, Able Seaman.
F. J. Harwood, Able Seaman.

The Officer and Men named below manned the Steam Pinnace, and remained in the Boat:—

Mr. Edward E. Hardy, Midshipman.
Robert Hewitt, Coxswain of Pinnace.
Francis Odum, Able Seaman.
John W. Towlson, Ordinary Seaman.
John E. Davis, Ordinary Seaman.
George Gurney, Ordinary Seaman.
John C. Western, Engine Room Artificer.
G. T. Barton, Stoker.

F. BEAUCHAMP SEYMOUR,

Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

"Helicon," at Alexandria, 21st July, 1882.