

until nearing Tientsin, when at the last bridge before coming to the Settlement they encountered a heavy fire. This was checked by a 3-pr. field gun, lent by the Americans, assisted by the artillery of a Russian force (about 1,200) also advancing to Tientsin, and the enemy driven off. During this last part of the advance the British force lost two killed, five wounded, from a galling flank fire.

The Russian force camped on the left bank of the river, opposite the Settlement, where it still remains. Major-General Stessel is in command.

24th June.—Detachments of the Chinese Regiment and 50 men from "Terrible" with a 12-pr. arrived. In the afternoon the 12-pr., in conjunction with a 6-pr. on the wall, shelled the Western Arsenal and set it on fire. It contains a great quantity of small-arm ammunition, and some explosions took place.

Arrangements were made by Captain Bayly with the Russian General for the despatch of a force to relieve the Peking Expeditionary Force, then in the armoury near Hsiku, about five miles distant, from whom a messenger had arrived on the 24th asking for assistance. The Russian General provided 1,000 men with two guns, and 900 men were furnished by the remainder of the garrison at Tientsin (600 being British) with two maxims, the whole force being under the command of Colonel Shirinsky, of the Russian Army. The various divisions met at a rendezvous on the left bank of the river at midnight, and after a night march arrived soon after daylight of the 25th outside the armoury. Next day (26th June) the combined force returned to Tientsin without incident.

On 25th June the "Terrible's" 12-pr. was placed in position, on the river bank, to shell the fort in the City which had been bombarding the Settlement; the position of the gun (or guns) was not known, but by careful watching in the evening the flash was detected and the gun located. By directing the fire from the roof of some houses near, the direction and range was obtained and after a few minutes the gun was silenced. This accounts for the return of the forces from Hsiku to Tientsin on the following day having been unmolested.

Since the 14th June Captain Bayly, as commandant of the British Settlement, has been ably assisted by Captain Burke, of H.M.S. "Orlando," whom I placed, and who still remains, in command of the Naval Brigade.

I am highly satisfied with the behaviour of all employed in these operations, which reflect very great credit on all concerned, but I desire to bring specially to their Lordships' favourable notice the conduct of the following officers and men:—

(1) Captain Edward H. Bayly, of H.M.S. "Aurora," whose duties were most constant, harassing, and onerous. He displayed throughout great calmness, energy, and good judgment, and a tact and temper quite remarkable. He is now performing the same duties with equal efficiency and also those of Chief of my Staff, which combination he has proved himself quite equal to.

(2) Commander David Beatty, D.S.O., of H.M.S. "Barfleur," although suffering from two wounds only partially healed, one of which is likely to cause him considerable suffering and inconvenience for some time, begged to be allowed to accompany the expedition for the relief of the forces under my command. He is thoroughly deserving of any mark of appreciation of his services.

(3) Lieutenant Philip N. Wright's (H.M.S. "Orlando") services have been of a most arduous

nature and of the highest character. His coolness and gallantry on every occasion merit the highest praise. Lieutenant Wright's very dangerous wound caused a severe loss to the whole force, which was felt by everyone. I have recently ventured, by telegraph, to recommend this officer for special immediate promotion, and feel sure that if granted it will give pleasure and satisfaction to the whole force who served with him.

(4) Lieutenant Herbert du C. Luard, of H.M.S. "Barfleur," who took on the duties of inspection of defences after Lieutenant Wright had been wounded, and the defence of the line—a very long and troublesome one, constantly "sniped" by night—has been most indefatigable.

(5) Lieutenant Frederick L. Field, of H.M.S. "Barfleur," deserves mention for his very excellent and arduous services with the repairing and other armed trains, having been hard at work for almost 48 hours continuously on one occasion.

(6) Major Edward V. Luke, R.M.L.I., of H.M.S. "Barfleur," whose excellent leading and handling of his men at the attack on the Military College contributed very largely to the success of the operation. After Commander Beatty had been wounded, Major Luke assumed the duties of that officer with regard to the military work of the British Defence Force.

(7) Surgeon J. Falconer Hall, of H.M.S. "Barfleur," whose devoted care and attention to his patients (as well as his professional skill) during a most trying time have been the admiration of all.

(8) Mr. George Gipps, midshipman, of H.M.S. "Orlando," has been almost continuously in charge of a gun at an outlying and dangerous portion of the defences, and has displayed at all times great coolness and ability, calmly waiting the arrival of the enemy within effective range, when he has invariably dispersed them with a few well-directed shells.

(9) William Christmas, P.O., 2 cl., of H.M.S. "Barfleur," for coolness and gallantry during the British attack on the Chinese field guns, on 19th June, when he carried Mr. Donaldson, midshipman, severely wounded, on his back out of the firing line while exposed to a heavy rifle fire.

(10) Patrick Golden, A.B., of H.M.S. "Barfleur," on the same occasion assisted to carry Lieutenant A. J. B. Stirling, severely wounded, across an open ground, swept by rifle fire, and was himself wounded in so doing.

(11) William Parsonage, A.B., of H.M.S. "Aurora," on the same occasion assisted to carry Lieutenant G. B. Powell, wounded, to the rear, over open ground swept by rifle fire, and was wounded in so doing.

Many of the civilian residents have been most helpful, working hard continuously and unselfishly for the benefit of the community. Their kindness and generosity to the regular forces have been great. Mercantile and private houses have been placed at the disposal of officers and men.

Our relations with the representatives and commanding officers of other nations have been most cordial.

I have, &c.
E. H. SEYMOUR,
Vice-Admiral.

The Secretary, Admiralty.

Enclosure to Letter from Commander-in-Chief,
China Station.

(Dated 8th July, 1900. No. 388.)

APPROXIMATE numerical strength of force³.