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War Office, November 6, 1900.

THE following Despatches have been received by the Secretary of State for War:—

From the General Officer Commanding in China and Hong Kong to the Secretary of State for War.

Sir, *Hong Kong, July 5, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch received by me to-day from Major F. Morris, 2nd Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers, by which it would appear that his small force was fortunate enough to have been the means of at any rate assisting to open out the relief of Tientsin.

The reason this despatch was addressed direct to me was no doubt the fact that Major Morris had been detailed by me to command the force sent from Hong Kong, and it was only after he had left Hong Kong, and when all telegraphic communication with the north was interrupted, that I learnt that Colonel Dorward had been appointed to the command. Colonel Dorward had not joined at the time this despatch was written.

From what I learn, both Her Majesty's ship "Terrible," in which Major Morris and this force went up, and the transport in which the remainder left, encountered such severe weather as to delay their arrival at Taku; Her Majesty's ship "Terrible," though leaving Hong Kong a day later than the hired transport, arriving first at Taku. As troops were urgently needed, Major Morris started with his party, leaving the rest of the force sent by me to follow as soon as they landed. I learn, from unofficial sources, that these latter joined him later on, and the whole are now under the command of Brigadier-General Dorward.

It will, I think, be a source of satisfaction to you to know that the arrival of a British force enabled the relief to be successfully carried out.

I have, &c.,

W. J. GASCOIGNE, Major-General,
Commanding in China and Hong Kong.

From Major F. Morris, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Commanding North China Field Force, to the General Officer Commanding, Hong Kong.

Sir, *Tientsin, June 24, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to make the following report with reference to the relief of Tientsin:—

On 21st June I arrived in Her Majesty's ship "Terrible" at Tonku at 5 A.M., with details as per

margin,* and left by train a few hours later for the front. I was joined by Captain Craddock, R.N., Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Officers 7, rank and file 328.

Royal Engineers, Officers 1, rank and file 32.

Royal Army Medical Corps, Officers 1, rank and file 9.

Army Service Corps, Officers 1.

Army Pay Department, Officers 1, rank and file 1.

with the Naval Brigade. We proceeded to Chunlienshang Station, our advance being greatly retarded owing to the two leading trucks being derailed and overturned at some points, and also through having to repair the line where the sleepers had been burned. At Chunlienshang we encamped for the night, and found a combined force of Russians and United States Marines,† who, on the previous day, had attempted to enter Tientsin, but had been repulsed with the loss of their gun. Major Waller, in command of the United States Marines, informed me that the position was too strong to take without guns, I, therefore, in consultation with Captain Craddock, R.N., agreed that it was advisable to delay a day till a Russian Field Battery should arrive. In the meantime my force was occupied in clearing the line of communications of Boxers and other rebels; this was carried out completely, and a base for stores, &c., established at a place 10 miles west of Tientsin, where the line was so much destroyed that it was impossible for the train to advance further.

On 28rd June a Russian force‡ joined the British force, the latter consisting of seven Officers and 287 non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, under myself, and the Naval Brigade, under Captain Craddock, R.N., and advanced to the attack of Tientsin at 4 A.M. The whole advanced along the railway line, the Russians were on the right, and the British and Americans on the left.

At a distance of about 6 miles from Tientsin the attack was opened and a heavy fire returned by the enemy. From this point the Russians made the railway station their objective, and I was ordered by the Russian General in command to diverge, and in conjunction with the Naval Brigade and American Marines, attack the Military School. For about 5 miles the force fought its

* Military Force.

Naval Force.—About 150 strong.

† Russians about 300, United States Marines about 100.
‡ Infantry, Artillery, 4 guns, 1,500.