

way under a very heavy rifle fire; many villages were rushed and taken at the point of the bayonet. The Military School was not strongly held, and was easily cleared of the enemy, who retreated out of it, leaving 25 killed and wounded. This school was the enemy's strongest position holding the European settlement, the relief of which was effected at 1 P.M., the inhabitants pouring out of their entrenchments to greet our soldiers and sailors as they crossed the river. I wish to testify to the great steadiness of my force under a very heavy fire and the heroic manner in which the various villages were assaulted and the enemy driven out. I attribute my casualties being small to the fact that the men availed themselves of cover on every possible occasion.

The following are my casualties:—

Killed.

3752 Private F. Power.

Wounded.

4977 Private J. Jones, gunshot wound in knee.

4017 Private G. Martin, gunshot wound in thigh.

Self, slightly.

I wish to bring to your notice the names of the following Officers for favourable consideration:—

Captain J. H. Gwynne, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. This Officer has done most excellent work, and was conspicuous in leading some of the principal attacks on the various villages.

Lieutenant F. J. Walwyn, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. This Officer managed, under great difficulties, to make local arrangements to bring up the reserve ammunition into the firing line and assisted in saving the killed and wounded from falling into the hands of the enemy.

Lieutenant O. S. Flower, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, afforded me valuable assistance as Staff Officer.

Major Watson, Royal Army Medical Corps, performed excellent work under great difficulties.

In forwarding this despatch, I should like to point out the difficulties under which I laboured.

The whole of my stores, reserve ammunition, stretchers and medical comforts were on board the chartered steamer "Hansing," which did not arrive till four days after me, so that I had to borrow ammunition and food in small quantities from the Royal Navy at different times.

There is no transport of any kind available, except a few odd mules and donkeys found in the country, but they have no saddlery or gear.

I am now organizing a company of Mounted Infantry, under Lieutenant Walwyn, 100 strong. The ponies and saddlery are provided by the civilians in Tientsin.

I find that the number of Officers under my command is inadequate, and I request that you will send me four more for duty with the present detachment, and one more complete company of 100 men, to include as many men as possible who have been through a course of Mounted Infantry.

I have, &c.,

FRED. MORRIS, Major,

Royal Welsh Fusiliers,

Commanding North China Field Force.

From the General Officer Commanding North China British Field Force to the Secretary of State for War.

SIR, Tientsin, July 11, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the action which took place near here on the 9th instant:—

2. At 3 A.M. on 9th July a combined force of Japanese, Russian, American, and British troops

moved out from the Taku Gate at the southern end of the Foreign Settlements with the object of clearing the Chinese Imperial troops and Boxers and their guns from the villages south of the Mud Parapet and also from the Western Arsenal.

3. The force consisted of 1,000 Japanese, including three troops of Cavalry, a battery of Mountain Artillery, and a party of Engineers, under General Fukushima, and of 950 British,\* 400 Russian, and 200 American troops under my command.

4. The whole force, with the exception of the Americans, who advanced on the Arsenal along the Mud Parapet, proceeded south by the main road for one and a half miles to the village of Tung Lou; there the force turned to the west and half a mile further on deployed, when opposition from the enemy was met with, the Japanese being on the left and the British troops on the right. The Russians acted as reserve to the British Column.

5. Four guns, that for several days had annoyed the Settlements by their fire from the village of Hei-niu-Chuang, were quickly silenced and captured, and the Japanese Cavalry were able to execute three successful charges among a considerable body of flying enemy, who had made but slight resistance to our attack.

6. The line then wheeled to the right and attacked the Western Arsenal.

7. The Japanese Engineers had to make a bridge across a small stream before the Artillery could advance. The bridge was made under cover of our combined Artillery fire, slowly replied to by the enemy's guns left at the Arsenal.

8. At 7.30 A.M. the Artillery crossed the stream and took up positions on the further side; the remainder of the force followed, the left of the line resting on the road leading to the Arsenal and the city. The whole of the country to the west of the road had been flooded by the enemy and rendered impassable for troops.

9. The Arsenal was quickly captured by a rush of the Japanese and Americans, and was entered at 9 A.M. by the combined forces, which also spread along the Mud Parapet to the west. Artillery was brought up close to the Parapet and a heavy fire opened on the city, which was answered with vigour by the enemy.

10. It had been intended to leave a force to prevent the reoccupation of the Arsenal by the enemy, but, owing to its gutted condition and exposed position, it was considered untenable. The houses surrounding it, which might give cover to guns or snipers, were burned, and the bridge leading to the city from the south destroyed.

11. The combined forces then returned along the Mud Parapet to the Settlements.

12. The success of the attack has relieved our batteries in the British Settlement from both direct and enfilade fire to which they had been exposed and has also diminished the number of guns bombarding the Settlements.

13. The most arduous work in the day was done by the Chinese Regiment, who, as escort to the guns, worked indefatigably in getting them over broken and swampy country.

14. The casualties in the British Force were—1 private Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 1 private Royal Marine Light Infantry, and 1 Chinese hospital attendant, killed; 3 privates Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 1 private Chinese Regiment, and 1 Chinese

\* 2 companies 2nd Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 2 2½-in. guns, 2 Maxims of the Hong Kong Royal Artillery, ¼ company Hong Kong Regiment, 2 companies 1st Chinese Regiment, 400 Marines and Bluejackets.