

on the part of the enemy actually ceased about noon on the 17th.

From the 17th July until the 4th August, except for sniping on both sides, but chiefly on the part of the Chinese opposite our western defences, there was a cessation of hostilities. This sniping gradually increased on the part of the enemy, until on the 4th severe fusillades and attacks were made on the Legation's Settlements; but, as before, the enemy never rushed in the open, but only approached behind brick barricades which they built, even under a heavy fire on our part.

2nd August.—The houses east of Mongul Market were occupied by Marines and Customs Volunteers under Lieutenant Von Stranck.

4th August.—Sergeant Murphy did great execution with the five-barrelled Nordenfeldt, mounted at the south-east corner of Imperial Carriage Park, in covering the subsequent occupation of the "Ruins" behind the Chinese Secretary's house, and the holding of the Mongul Market by us. Severe fusillades at night.

8th August.—The "Ruins" were occupied and fortified. Heavy fusillades all round the settlement, especially at night. This happened every night, more or less frequently.

9th August.—In the afternoon the enemy made three heavy attacks on the "Ruins," and the Chinese officers in their barricades only 15 yards off, were heard ordering their men to charge. But we were using our ammunition more freely than at any time during the siege, and firing volleys at their barricade, doing considerable damage to it. The last attack, and one at night, we were able to repulse by merely throwing bricks and stones.

13th August.—A note was received from the Chinese Government saying orders had been given for any Chinese soldier firing on us to be court-martialled. During a total cessation of firing in the afternoon the enemy mounted two Krupp guns on their fort in the Imperial city wall over the canal, with which they opened fire on the Legation during a heavy combined attack on the whole settlement at 7.45 P.M. They were also heard again trying to urge an attack on the "Ruins" at 3 A.M. next morning, but never came, our men, with reinforcements of volunteers, remaining at their loopholes for over two hours.

14th August.—Very heavy cannonading was heard, and from the South City walls shells were seen bursting against the gates of the Tartar City. This increased during the morning, and it was realized that relief was at hand. At 3 P.M. the allied army sent to our relief reached us; the first to enter the settlement, and two hours in advance of any others, being British native troops, one company of 1st Sikhs, followed immediately by General Sir Alfred Gaselee and his Staff.

I have the honour to bring before your notice the conduct of, and to recommend for the conspicuous gallantry medal, Lance-Sergeant T. E. Preston, of Her Majesty's ship "Orlando." On the 14th July, after the enemy had been driven down from their barricade on the Imperial Carriage Park wall near the West Hanlin, by shell fire, this non-commissioned officer climbed on to the wall, some 12 feet high, with the intention of capturing a banner left on the barricade by the enemy. Finding that he could not reach it, he called for his rifle to be given him, and pushing down part of the barricade he kept the enemy, some 50 in number, at bay, while an American gunner, named Michell, was enabled to lay hold of the flag. Sergeant Preston then jumped down and assisted Gunner Michell in

drawing the flag over with difficulty, as the enemy had laid hold of the other end. He was struck on the head at the same time by a brick, which partly stunned him.

I have the honour to bring before your notice also the conduct of Leading Signalmen H. Swannell, Her Majesty's ship "Orlando," and to request that you will be pleased to recommend him for that reward which you think his action deserves. I beg to enclose from Captain Poole his account of the deed, of which he was an eye-witness.

I have the honour to bring before your notice and to recommend for promotion the following:—

Lance-Sergeant T. E. Preston, Her Majesty's ship "Orlando."

Corporal W. Gregory, Wei-Hai-Wei Detachment.

Corporal D. J. Gowney, Wei-Hai-Wei Detachment.

Acting Lance-Corporal T. R. Allen, Wei-Hai-Wei Detachment.

Also the following Naval ratings:—

Armourer T. S. Thomas, Her Majesty's ship "Orlando." This man showed great ingenuity in constructing the charges, and in utilizing the modern Russian projectiles for the muzzle-loading gun. Also in making projectiles for the Italian 1-pr. field gun, as well as bullets for the German and Russian modern rifles. His services were invaluable.

Sick Berth Steward, second class, R. G. Fuller.

In conclusion, I beg to report that the behaviour of the whole detachment during a very trying time, and under fatiguing circumstances, was exemplary and deserving of all praise. As a proof of their steadiness and coolness, I beg to state that out of 18,000 rounds of Lee-Netford ammunition brought from Tientsin some 9,000 remain.

I have, &c.,

EDMUND WRAY, Captain R.M.L.I.,
Commanding British Marine Guard.

To the Senior Naval Officer,

Northern Division,

Her Majesty's China Fleet, Taku.

H.B.M. Legation, Peking,

July 31, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to bring to your notice particularly the conduct of Leading Signalmen H. Swannell, Her Majesty's ship "Orlando."

On the 5th instant, being in command of the Hanlin outposts, at 10.30 A.M. I heard that Mr. Oliphant, Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Service, had just been wounded.

I ran out to the spot and found Leading Signalmen Swannell attending to Mr. Oliphant, who was mortally wounded, under the close and accurate fire of the enemy.

He remained with Mr. Oliphant until he was brought into a place of safety.

I have, &c.,

F. G. POOLE, Captain,
East Yorkshire Regiment.

The Officer Commanding,

Royal Marine Light Infantry Detachment,
Peking.

H.B.M. Legation, Peking,

August 24, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the enclosed letter from Dr. Wordsworth Poole, Physician to the Legation, and Medical Attendant to the Royal Marine Guard, referring to the conduct of Sick Berth Steward, Second Class, R. G. Fuller, R.N.