

The *Espiegle* and *Pluto* being the only men of war available, I was obliged to hire the *Corsair* merchant steamer to ensure the expedition arriving off the Bogue forts with the least possible delay.

At 10h. 0m. I directed Commander Thompson to proceed immediately towards the Bogue forts, after embarking the troops assigned to the *Espiegle*, taking with him nine Chinese boats laden with provisions, &c. for the troops. At 10h. 30m. she sailed.

At 3h. 30m. all the troops were embarked with their guns, stores, &c. when *Vulture* weighed, having two lorches with ordnance stores, sappers and miners in tow, making the night signal to the steamers to follow her motions; the *Corsair* having two cargo boats, with commissariat stores, &c. in tow.

At 9h. 10m. passed the Chumpee fort, where several Chinese men of war and armed junks were at anchor.

At 10h. 0m. the *Vulture* run within half pistol shot, and anchored off the Anunghoy fort, lowered the boats, and His Excellency and the General landed with the troops. The batteries were immediately in their possession, the guns spiked, and the ammunition destroyed.

At 10h. 20m. *Corsair* came up, Colonel Brereton, with the second division in *Vulture's* boats, crossed the river to the Wang Tung forts, which were carried in the same style. The Bogue forts being now secured, I directed the *Pluto* to proceed to Whampoa, and there await my arrival.

At 12h. 0m. anchored off the Wang Tung forts, desiring the *Corsair* to follow *Pluto's* motions to Whampoa, to protect the shipping there.

At 1h. 40m. having spiked upwards of 500 guns, and destroyed all the ammunition, re-embarked the troops, *Vulture* weighed, and proceeded at full speed to enable her to cross the first and second bars before the tide had receded too much. Saw the *Espiegle* in the distance approaching the Bogue forts, she being unable to contend with the strong tide, variable and adverse winds.

At 6h. 30m. anchored at the entrance of Junk River, as the *Vulture* could not proceed further from her great draught of water, and the tide at that time falling rapidly; and as the troops and seamen were very much exhausted from twenty hours arduous and laborious duties, the Major General and I agreed that it would be advisable to remain the night, and proceed as early in the morning as our arrangements could be completed. During the night, two days provision were cooked for the troops. Mr. Mundy's (Paymaster and Purser) exertions and zeal in supplying the troops with cooked provisions were very great, and at 4h. on the morning of the 3rd, the boats of the *Vulture* transferred the troops on board the Honourable Company's steamer *Pluto*, and the hired steamer *Corsair*, the tide not answering for passing the barrier with the number of boats in tow, it was deemed expedient to wait till the tide slackened.

At 8h. 0m. His Excellency Sir John Davis and suite, Major General D'Aguilar and Staff embarked on board *Pluto*, as did Commander Thompson, of the *Espiegle*.

Colonel Brereton, of the Royal Horse Artillery, accompanied me on board the *Corsair*. The Major General allowed about two hundred of the troops to remain in the *Vulture* and *Espiegle*, to assist in defending them in the event of an attack from the Chinese men of war, as nearly two thirds of the ships' companies were required in the boats and vessels. I left the ship in charge of Mr. Sanders, First Lieutenant, assisted by Lieutenant Dunn, Supernumerary, and the remaining officers that were not employed in the boats. I left orders to keep the ship clear for action, and every thing ready for lightening her if required, placing every confidence in Lieutenant Sanders' zeal and energy.

At 8h. 45m. both steamers proceeded up the Junk river to the Barriers forts, having the necessary boats to disembark the troops in tow, viz:—

*Pluto*.—Two large country boats, one containing engineers' stores, the other a party of the 42d Madras Native Infantry.—*Vulture's* starboard paddle-box boat, commanded by Lieutenant C. A. D. Pasco, R. N., containing a company of the 18th Royal Irish. Second cutter, Mr. J. Black, Midshipman, and *Espiegle's* gig.

*Corsair*.—Two large country boats, containing ordnance stores, &c. *Vulture's* pinnace, commanded by Lieutenant Robert Coote, R. N., assisted by Mr. M. B. Fitzgerald, Midshipman, and Dr. Duncan, Assistant Surgeon. Port paddle-box boat, commanded by Lieutenant G. Durbin, Supernumerary, R. N. First Lieutenant, F. W. Davis, R. M. A. First cutter, commanded by Mr. P. C. C. McDougall, Midshipman, and gig.

At 10h. 30m. passed the barrier, *Corsair* stopped abreast of the first fort, landed a party of the 18th Royal Irish, and a part of the Sappers and Royal Artillery, under Captain Durnford, Royal Engineers, the whole under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Brereton, C. B., Royal Horse Artillery, blew open the gates, spiked the guns, and destroyed the ammunition; at the same time *Pluto* anchored a little above Napier's fort, and performed the same service there.

At 11h. 15m. Troops re-embarked from both forts, in the boats, to cross the river. *Corsair's* division of boats going to the fort on

the north bank, near the barrier. *Pluto's* to the one opposite Napier's fort; both forts opened a fire on the boats and steamers of grape and round, which was returned by a well directed fire from the steamers, and a 12-pound howitzer in the ordnance lorch. On the near approach of the boats, the Chinese fled. The troops landed, spiked the guns, and blew up the magazine, when the *Corsair's* division of boats, with guns, took up a position at the entrance of a creek leading to a town, to prevent surprise, the *Pluto's* boats taking possession of a mandarin boat, whose crew had landed and assisted to man the batteries; shortly after noon boats returned with troops to their respective steamers, when both steamers proceeded as before up the river for Canton.

At 2h. 11m. *Pluto* anchored off French Folly fort, landed troops, and spiked the guns.

At 2h. 30m. *Corsair* anchored off Factories and landed her troops; and *Pluto*, off Ruge fort, landed troops, and spiked the guns.

At 4h. 30m. boats, containing parties of the 18th Royal Irish and 42d Madras native infantry, and sappers, under their respective officers, and accompanied by Major Aldrich, royal engineers, proceeded to and spiked the guns of the three Shanen forts, destroying the powder.

At 5h. 0m. *Pluto* anchored off the English Factories and landed her troops.

At 6h. 0m. *Corsair* proceeded to Whampoa with Commander Thompson, of the *Espiegle*, to bring that ship up, if practicable.

At 7h. all the troops were landed, except a small party of the 42d, left on board *Pluto* as a guard.

April 4th.—2h. 0m. A. M. paddle-box boats landed the ordnance guns and ammunition.

April 5th.—The boats, with a party of the 18th Royal Irish and sappers, under Colonel Philpotts and Major Aldrich, proceeded to French Folly fort and blew up the keep, clearing the river of junks, &c. and then landed at Dutch Folly and spiked the guns, relanding the troops after examining the Ruge Fort. On the *Corsair's* returning, I proceeded in her to Whampoa to endeavour to bring up the *Espiegle*, more powder, and the troops that could be spared from *Vulture* and *Espiegle*, and likewise to satisfy myself that no attempts were making to obstruct the passage of the river.

I returned at 2h. 30m. having succeeded, through the great exertions of Commander Thompson, his officers, and crew, by warping, towing, &c. in bringing the *Espiegle* above the barrier forts, she having frequently grounded upon the numerous obstructions made in the river during the late war, I then ordered the river to be entirely cleared of junks from the entrance of the Macao Reach to the French Folly fort, to prevent the possibility of our being harassed or annoyed by fire vessels or rafts.

April 6.—Steamers and boats kept in perfect readiness to take their positions to attack the town.

April 7.—All the boats but the pinnace and gig returned to *Vulture*.

April 8.—Commenced re-embarking the troops with the addition of the boats of the *Espiegle*, under the direction of her First Lieutenant, Vashon Baker.

At 2h. 40m. returned to Whampoa, leaving a guard at the Factories, and the *Espiegle* at anchor above the barrier forts.

Before daybreak of the 9th, the expedition left Whampoa, on return to Hong Kong, and when passing the Bogue forts, between 8 and 9 A. M., observed them full of troops, and the tompons out of the guns; we reached this anchorage about 3h. P. M., after having spiked eight hundred and seventy-nine guns, within the Bogue forts, and destroyed all their ammunition, with the exception of the fort in Tiger island which owes its salvation to the ebbing of the tide, and the Major General's and my anxiety to be at Canton on the night of the 2d, for the protection of British life and property.

The cordiality and unanimity that prevailed between both Services, during the whole of the within operations, was most gratifying to his Honour the Major General D'Aguilar. I am under the greatest obligations for the courteous manner in which he adopted my suggestions, in reference to the naval operations. Colonel Brereton, royal horse artillery, did me the favour to accompany me in my gig, his counsel was invaluable. Commander Thompson, of Her Majesty's sloop *Espiegle*, rendered me the greatest assistance. Lieutenant Airey, R. N., in command of the Honourable Company's steamer *Pluto*, conducted himself much to my satisfaction, he is an officer of long standing. Mr. Soames, the Master of the *Corsair*, merchant steamer, did his utmost to meet my wishes. It is impossible to say too much in favour of all. The conduct of those officers and men employed in the boats was most creditable; and when under fire, steady and commendable.

No casualties of any description occurred that came to my knowledge, every individual was animated with the same spirit of enterprise and devotion for Her Majesty's Service.

I have the honour, &c.

J. M'DOUGALL,  
Captain and Senior Officer.

*All Letters must be Post-paid.*

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