

FIGHTING THEIR WAY TO PEKIN

The International Troops Reported to Have Driven Chinese From Positions at Pei Tsang.

NATIVES OFFERED STRONG RESISTANCE

Allies Carried Trenches in Face of Heavy Fire—Another Message Alleged to Have Been Received From Conger.

(Associated Press.)
London, Aug. 7.—The special dispatch of the Associated Press from Tien Tsin, dated Sunday, is the only press message which has been got through from Tien Tsin since the battle of Pei Tsang.
Various Tien Tsin dispatches of earlier date allude to encounters with Chinese preparatory to a general attack on the Chinese positions, which are five miles long. The reconnaissances have developed that the Chinese are in greater strength than was expected, and the allies, according to a news agency dispatch from Tien Tsin, were each day pushing nearer to the Chinese positions.
The Russians, who are fighting around Tasi Chow, were reported in a dispatch from Shanghai, dated August 6th, to have killed 3,000 Chinese.
A dispatch from Hongkong, under today's date, says trade with the West river is at a standstill.
It is now fully confirmed that a fourth brigade of Indian troops had been ordered to China.

Is It From Conger?
New York, Aug. 7.—The Journal and Advertiser prints under Shanghai even date, copyrighted, a dispatch purporting to be the wording of a message from Minister Conger, received by Col. Meade, of the marine corps, from a native runner. It reads:
"Help at once, if at all. Besieged in British legation. No government in Pekin except military chiefs, who are determined on destruction of foreigners." Though the message is doubted, it is believed to have left Pekin within a few days, as its reference to the military chiefs being the only government tallies with the late reports of the ascendancy of Li Ping Heng and Prince Tuan and their slaughter of two pro-foreign members of the Tsung li Yamen.

Preparations for Battle.
Washington, Aug. 7.—The war department has received the following cablegram from Gen. Chaffee, Adjutant-General, Washington, Tien Tsin, Aug. 3.—The conference to-day decided on a battle on Sunday. Chinese are entrenched east and west through Pei Tsang. The rest of the Chinese are protected by flooded ground, practically unassailable.
Japanese, English and American troops, about 10,000 strong, will attack the Chinese right, west of the river in the flank; the other forces, Russian and French, about 4,000 strong, the opposite side between the river and railroad. The Chinese position is apparently strong.
An army, reported to number 30,000, is between Pei Tsang and Yang Tsun, or at the crossing of the road at Pei Ho. Yang Tsun is the objective.
"Sixth cavalry is left at Tien Tsin to guard the city and awaiting mounts."
"Ministers were safe on 28th of July."
(Signed) Chaffee.

The Attack.
Tien Tsin, Aug. 5, via Shanghai, Aug. 7.—This morning at daylight 10,000 allies attacked the Chinese at Pei Tsang and forced the enemy from the trenches. A heavy battle is still in progress.
Chinese Routed.
New York, Aug. 7.—The World's correspondent, Fredk. Palmer, cables the following from Chee Foo, and it is printed under a copyright head in an early afternoon edition:
"The Chinese works at Pei Tsang have been captured by the allies and the first battle on the way to Pekin won."
"The foreign troops are now in possession of Chinese trenches."
"There was fierce fighting. A strong force of Americans participated. It consisted of the 98th and 14th regiments of infantry, Reilly's and marines. They won a great victory."
"The attack was made at daylight on Sunday. The Chinese occupied a strong position. They had deep trenches, heavy breastworks and loopholed bastions."
"The allies advanced in the face of a hot fire. For seven hours the Chinese made a most stubborn resistance. Then the foreign troops pushed the position and the Chinese were swept from the trenches."
"The losses of allies were very heavy."
The Town of Pei Tsang.
Washington, Aug. 7.—The dispatch of Gen. Chaffee, written before the battle of Sunday, confirms the dispatch received at the navy department yesterday, and also the press dispatches received to-day.

concerning the attack on the Chinese at Pei Tsang.
Gen. Chaffee's dispatch, dated Friday, was not sent from Chee Foo until today, an inexplicable delay. The most interesting feature of the dispatch is the information regarding the position of the Chinese army and the fact that the advance upon Pekin is made by two columns, one on each side of the Pei river. It is evident that a thorough reconnaissance of the Chinese position had been made and that the international column did not blunder upon an entrenched position of the enemy.
According to the war department map, the town of Pei Tsang covers both sides of the river, but the main portion of it is on the left side of it, where the Japanese, the English and the American forces had arranged, according to Gen. Chaffee's dispatch, to attack the enemy in the flank. The left of the Chinese, on the other side of the river, was partially protected by flooded ground and practically unassailable for that reason. The Russian and the French forces were to attack the enemy's left on the right bank of the river, between the river and railroad.
Gen. Chaffee's dispatch also shows that the present objective point of the column is Yang Tsun, a town fifteen miles beyond Pei Tsang. Once in possession of the point, the international force would have both railroad and river in its rear for keeping open communication with Tien Tsin. It naturally would become the advance base from which the operations of Pekin could be projected.
The Chinese evidently are much impressed with the strategic advantage of Yang Tsun, as the enemy is reported 30,000 strong at the crossing of the road over the Pei river.
The general feeling at the war department is that unless the Chinese generals have been completely demoralized by the Pei Tsang attack, there is severe fighting ahead for the international forces and that the ground will be disputed all the way to Pekin.

Atrocities by Russian Troops.
San Francisco, Calif., Aug. 7.—A story of Russian brutality in China is told by Mrs. Drew, wife of the British commissioner of customs at Tien Tsin, who arrived from the Orient on the transport Logan. She says: "During the bombardment we lived most of the time in the cellar of our house. Our house was wrecked by big shells. Sleep was out of the question most of the time, and so unstrung were we that but little food satisfied us. There was ever present the haunting fear of the Chinese triumphing and slaughtering every foreigner and convert. Some, probably all of the women were all prepared to act. I did not know at the time, but I learned afterwards that 10 or 20 men had been detailed to kill all the foreign women in case the Chinese were the victors."
Mrs. Drew, with much indignation, then spoke of atrocities committed by Russian troops, saying they pillaged, looted, tortured and murdered right and left. There were many infants and children killed by bayonet thrusts and many were tossed from bayonet points only to be caught and tossed time and time again. There is ample evidence of these unspeakable occurrences. Out from Tien Tsin, along the Pei Ho and Yellow rivers, are numerous little villages through which the Russians swept, destroying life and property. The Russians also drove women and children into the Pei Ho and Yellow rivers, where they were drowned. There was no attempt at concealing any of the remarkable barbarous conduct. "I do not pretend to say how many women and children were butchered by the Russians. I never heard the number estimated, save that a great many had been bayoneted and some shot," concluded Mrs. Drew.

Mr. Broderick's Statement.
London, Aug. 7.—Parliamentary Secretary Broderick said in the House of Commons to-day that Her Majesty's government had informed the Chinese government that the members will be held personally responsible if the members of the foreign legations or other foreigners at Pekin should suffer injury. Her Majesty's government did not think any useful purpose would be served by further communications.
Safe on July 30th.
Rome, Aug. 7.—Information received from Taku, via Chee Foo, August 3rd, says the commander of the Italian cruiser Elba has seen a note of the governor of Shanghai Tung, dated Pekin, July 30th, saying the ministers and foreigners were

safe, and that provisions had been supplied to them.
London, Aug. 7.—The British consul at Tien Tsin cables under the date of August 4th that the advance of the allied forces commenced to-day. This is the first official information received here that the attempt to relieve Pekin has begun. It is accepted as correct. The British consul does not mention any fighting.
Sir Chih Chen Lo Feng Luh, Chinese minister, yesterday communicated to Lord Salisbury a message from the Tsung Li Yamen, dated July 21st, reiterating that the ministers were safe on that day, and recording the friendly relations existing between them and the Yamen, as well as reporting the sending of supplies to the legations by the Yamen.
The message contains the important statement: "A successful termination of the conference with the ministers for their conveyance under escort to Tien Tsin is expected, but on account of the recommendation of hostilities at Tien Tsin, the code telegrams for transmission to the representatives are considered undesirable." This appears to confirm the statement that the Chinese will not endeavor to stop the march to Pekin by using the ministers as hostages.
The Lokal Anzeiger, of Berlin, publishing an interview with Li Hung Chang, quotes him as declaring emphatically that China must not under any circumstances cede any more territory to any power.
A Shanghai special, dated August 6th, says: "Li Hung Chang has officially informed the consuls that the ministers left Pekin for Tien Tsin last Friday, August 3rd, with Gen. Lung in command of the escort. The consuls are by no means disposed to credit Earl Li's statement. All other reports that have reached London up to this hour indicate that the ministers have not left Pekin."
Earl Li interviewed.
Berlin, Aug. 6.—The German foreign office announces to-night that it had no China news, and that it doubted whether the advance of the allied forces from Tien Tsin had begun.
The Lokal Anzeiger prints a dispatch containing an interview by Dr. Zeiker, its special China correspondent, with Li Hung Chang at Canton, on July 6th. Earl Li told the correspondent that the Boxers would not rebel and were loyal to the royal house. This movement, he explained, was directed chiefly against native Christians, who had been using international protection to oppress the Boxers. With reference to the missionaries, he said: "It is my firm conviction that the missionaries are always in danger, for the relations between the Chinese population and foreigners have been the cause of nearly all the trouble and will continue to be so."
Earl Li went on to say that the Chinese hatred of foreigners had been increased of late through the action of the powers, particularly in the seizure of Kio Chou, which he described as "an exorbitant penalty for a couple of missionaries."
Referring to the murder of Baron von Ketteler, the German minister at Pekin, he gave positive assurance that neither Prince Tuan nor any other member of the government knew of the intended killing, and he also declared that Baron von Ketteler was murdered because he was a foreigner. In a word, he was a victim of Chinese hatred of foreigners.
"The government is not strong enough to put down the Boxers," said Earl Li, "but the thought of accepting assistance from the powers to put them down is extremely repugnant to the government."
In reply to a question as to who was at the head of the central government, he said it was administered by Prince Tuan in the name of the Emperor. He did not think a partition would be made of China.

On the Road to Tien Tsin.
Washington, Aug. 6.—The announcement received through Rear-Admiral Remey and Commander Taussig of reported heavy fighting on the river beyond Tien Tsin was the news of interest in the Chinese situation. Little doubt was expressed at the navy department that the news was substantially correct. It is probable that a later report may reduce the list of casualties among the international forces, but it is fairly understood that that strong opposition had been encountered.
The war department officials, who have been reticent for several days as to news from the seat of war, admitted today when the naval dispatches were received that the announcement of a battle was not unexpected. Opinions among the various officials now in Washington is somewhat divided as to just what is suggested by to-day's reports. "The more optimistic are inclined to think that such a severe blow as the Chinese must have received at Pei Tsang will result in the speedy disintegration of the forces now opposing the march of the international column."
In line with the prediction it was proposed that the Chinese government would find means to send the ministers from Pekin under escort, and thus stave off the advance upon the capital. On the other hand, a number of officers in a position to judge equally well hold that the fight at Pei Tsang was only the beginning of a strenuous resistance that would be continued to the gates of Pekin or beyond.
It was urged in support of this view that the Chinese had a hundred men to 1000 against one of the allies; that they were well armed with modern guns; and that apparently an abundance of ammunition. It is stated that much apprehension exists among those conversant with Oriental affairs of the appearance in Pekin politics of that rabid and anti-

foreign fanatic, Li Ping Heng. It is understood that his appearance in Pekin affairs may have had something to do with Shanghai rumors of Li Hung Chang's suicide.
The war department is in receipt of a dispatch from Gen. MacArthur announcing that he had shipped additional artillery supplies to Taku for use in the Chinese campaign. These supplies include several galling guns and the remainder of rifles already in the hands of the Manila, which, up to date, have remained useless in the Philippines on account of the bad roads.
"How much better Gen. Chaffee may be able to handle the siege guns through the almost impassible rice swamps of China, no one at the war department was willing to guess, but his recent dispatch contained an urgent appeal for more artillery and shells getting it."
Experts at the war department say that if it comes to a bombardment of Pekin, these five-inch rifles and seven-inch howitzers, with their enormous bursting charges of high explosives, will be the most effective battering weapons in the international column.
According to information in possession of the war department, the town of Pei Tsang is at the head of tidal water on the Pei Ho, between 11 and 12 miles by road beyond Tien Tsin. It is a village of mud huts of considerable size, but not walled. The river at this point is not navigable by anything larger than a good sized steam launch. The country all along the river between Pekin and Tien Tsin is a low, alluvial plain almost impassable for wheeled vehicles in the wet season.

Colonial Contingents.
London, Aug. 6.—In the House of Commons to-day, Parliamentary Secretary Broderick said the government had no information regarding the reported advance of the British or other relief forces towards Pekin nor as to the present position of foreign ministers there.
The first lord of admiralty, Mr. Goschen, said the colonial contingents in China would consist of 200 officers and men from New South Wales, and a contingent of 112 officers and men from South Australia. The cost, he added, would partly be borne by the colonies.
Washington, Aug. 8.—The message from Minister Conger brings the Chinese situation to its most serious stage, and the government is now waiting for the answer to the message. The answer is expected during the day or evening, and it probably will determine the future action of this government.

OFFICIAL DISPATCHES.
London, Aug. 8.—In the House of Commons to-day Parliamentary Secretary Broderick read a telegram from Sir Claude Robinson, British minister to Tien Tsin, received in cipher at the foreign office this morning. The dispatch was in reply to a government message and bore the date of Pekin, August 3rd. It was as follows:
"I have to-day received your cipher telegram forwarded to me by the Chinese minister in London, saying he has received a long imperial edict had been issued on August 2nd, authorizing the immediate and safe conveyance of all Europeans in Pekin to Tien Tsin."
Several dispatches are printed giving hearsay accounts of Sunday's battle.
The Daily Mail correspondent at Chee Foo, telegraphing on Monday, says: "The fighting lasted seven hours, and the allies, when they report left, were purchasing the Chinese, but owing to the floods, progress was difficult. Thus the Chinese will have time to reform, and to recover from the effects of the battle. Only a small garrison with fourteen guns remains at Tien Tsin, where some anxiety is felt because of a report that five thousand Chinese are said to be moving two days' march to the southeast."
All the reports agree in praising the bravery and organization of the Japanese.
Li Ping Heng, according to the Shanghai correspondent of the Standard, has been appointed generalissimo of the Chinese forces and left Pekin to command the troops outside the city.
A Shanghai special says that official advices from Tokio announce that armed collisions have occurred between parties of Russians and Japanese outside Taku. This, however, as it comes by way of Shanghai, must await confirmation before being credited.
The Daily Mail's Shanghai correspondent, confirming the massacre of missionaries at Chu Chow Fu, says that two American women were among the victims.
The Sebastopol correspondent of the Daily Graphic asserts that the Russian government will send 125,000 additional troops from Odessa to the Far East before the end of the year.
Berlin dispatches say it is rumored

that an agreement has been reached by Emperor Nicholas and Emperor William, whereby the German troops will be permitted to proceed to China, by way of Siberia.
The royal arsenal at Woolwich has been ordered to send 30,000,000 rounds of small ammunition to China.
London, Aug. 7.—A Shanghai special dated to-day says: "It is reported that heavy fighting took place last Sunday east of Pei Tsang, the allies losing 400, of whom 65 were British. The Japanese artillery did splendid service in the face of a galling Chinese cross-fire, under which they lost heavily. The Chinese were forced to retreat, but saved their guns. Their rear guard was attacked and practically decimated."
Conger's Message.
Washington, Aug. 7.—The following telegram from Minister Conger was received to-night by the state department:
"Tsin Nan Yamen, Aug. 7.—Still besieged. Situation precarious. Chinese government insisting upon our leaving Pekin, which would be certain death. Rife being upon us daily by imperial troops. Have abundant courage, but little ammunition or provisions. Two progressive yamen ministers have been beheaded. All connected with the legation of the United States are well at the present moment. (Signed) Conger."
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The most positive addition to the news of the day was the brief line from the Associated Press correspondent at Tien Tsin, stating that the 9th and 14th infantry, Reed's battery and the marines were in the battle at Pei Tsang on Friday. It is perhaps noteworthy and significant that in the plan of a attack upon the enemy at Pei Tsang, the British, United States and Japanese forces joined in the movement to turn the enemy's right flank, while the Russians and French operated together on the opposite side of the river against the enemy's left. This may indicate the line of cleavage among the allies.
It is also exceedingly significant that Gen. Chaffee does not mention the German force at all. The war department officials do not believe that this could have been due to an oversight on his part, if it was arranged that they were to participate in the movement. It therefore seems likely that the Germans were not engaged at Pei Tsang. It is thought possible that they may be acting independently.
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The information which came to-day that United States troops were engaged in the battle at Pei Tsang, established positively for the first time that notwithstanding the difficulties which Gen. Chaffee had encountered in debarking troops and supplies, at least a part—and a considerable part—of the United States force was in the forward movement. Gen. Chaffee's dispatch to the war department conveyed the most satisfactory evidence that the commanders had thoroughly agreed in advance upon a plan of action, and that there is every indication that this plan had been followed, as Gen. Chaffee on Friday sent the cable saying the attack upon the Chinese at Pei Tsang would be made on Sunday, the day when Admiral Meyer and the press correspondents say the fighting occurred.
The most positive addition to the news of the day was the brief line from the Associated Press correspondent at Tien Tsin, stating that the 9th and 14th infantry, Reed's battery and the marines were in the battle at Pei Tsang on Friday. It is perhaps noteworthy and significant that in the plan of a attack upon the enemy at Pei Tsang, the British, United States and Japanese forces joined in the movement to turn the enemy's right flank, while the Russians and French operated together on the opposite side of the river against the enemy's left. This may indicate the line of cleavage among the allies.
It is also exceedingly significant that Gen. Chaffee does not mention the German force at all. The war department officials do not believe that this could have been due to an oversight on his part, if it was arranged that they were to participate in the movement. It therefore seems likely that the Germans were not engaged at Pei Tsang. It is thought possible that they may be acting independently.
Another cablegram came to the state department late this afternoon from Minister Conger at Pekin—the second that has been received from him since June 12th. It is the first which has come direct from the minister since the above date, the other having been received through the Chinese minister here. To-day's telegram shows that the situation in the Chinese capital is still of a very serious character. So important were the statements contained in the dispatch that a conference was held by wire between several of the officials here and the President at Canton, lasting for several hours. At its conclusion the cablegram was made public.
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Brussels, Aug. 7.—The minister of foreign affairs has received the following message from the Belgian minister at Pekin:
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"All foreigners are at the British legation, where they have been besieged by the Chinese troops since June 20th. Up to the present 58 marines have been killed and 70 wounded. The attack has ceased since July 17th. Provisions are almost exhausted.
"We hope to be delivered next week. All the Belgians here are well."
Safe on August 1st.
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