



This copy of John White's diary while in China with the Victorian Naval Brigade in 1900 was co-produced by the *State Library of Victoria* and *Friends of the Cerberus* (cerberus.com.au).



2010

45

MS 10660

John White
Gunner. V.M.

Diary of Campaign in
China

1900

July 31st left Melbourne

August 3rd Arrived Sydney

" 8 left "

" 16 Crossed line

" 26 Arrived Hong Kong

" 31 left "

Sept 3 Arrived Wu Sung

" 5 left "

" 7 Arrived Wei Hoi Wei

" 8 left "

" 9 Arrived off Taku forts

" 13. Mail from Australia, no letters

" 15. Disembarked from Salomon

towed to Linhs. & train on

proceeded in steamer up river to

Tientsin, food & water scarce,

my impression of Taku, awful,

dirty, stinking, ugly, busy,

Scene of Russian massacre

disgraceful to a civilized nation.

Pei hi hoc river average width
about 120 yards. Some sharp turns,
left bank going up all cultivated,
Mulberry trees abundant,

Numerous mud built villages.
Saw several dead Chinamen
floating in the river, with
their heads cut off.

Surrounding country very flat,
of a hill to be seen.

Scenery very poor.

Locusts in swarms all the way
up, at times sky almost
obscured,

fish plentiful

Chinese crew in tug very kind

Sept 15th 8.00 P.M. Anchored
for the night in Pei hi hoc
river, alongside about 200

Junks, noise of Chinese
chanting, no fuel,
Slept packed like sardines
470 men in a space not
big enough to flog a cat,
"viz - the deck of the tug,
personally I slept on top
of the galley & was done
to a turn, we also had
an abundance of mosquitos
& sand flies to add to our
discomforts.

Sept 16th 4-30 got under
way again to tow to
Tientsin, breakfast a
cup of tea without sugar
or milk, & half a biscuit.
Dead bodies plentiful
in the river, mostly turned
black.

Sept 16th 1-00. P.M.

Arrived at Lientzen, and disembarked, marched out to camp, distant about 3 miles, very hot, and being led by the Band of the Bengal lancers, who made the pace very hot, we were to a man knocked out, on our arrival at camp, which was I suppose due to our being cooped up on board the Calypso for seven weeks, the Lancers very kindly had our tents pitched for us, and done everything in their power to make us comfortable, for which we were very thankful,

7-30. P.M. got a meal of tea, without sugar or milk, some preserved meat and

biscuit, the first since breakfast
9-00 P.M. Turned in on hard wet
earth to try and sleep, but found
mosquitoes ready to get to work
on us, after trying for about an
hour to sleep, our hammocks
arrived, I thought I was in
for a luxury, but found my
hammock harder than the
ground, the Cois being all
in little hard lumps.

Sep^r 17th 5-00 Am. turned out
had breakfast of biscuit & tea,
marched into Tentsin and
brought out Guns, and what
else I could lay my hands on,
12-00 Arrived in Camp had
the first good drink of
water for four days.

1-00. All hands had a splendid
dinner of soup & boiled beef.

I am sorry to say our men
and indeed the officers find
it very difficult to manage
on the service rations, but we
hope to get used to it by and by.

God is good to us this afternoon
as it is raining like the Devil
and we are able to rest in our tents.

(Notes)

Went in tent this morning
I was talking to a doctor who
witnessed the whole of the
fighting up here, he told me
the story. The Russians
make the Chinese work for
them all day, without food,
and then take them down
to the river and shoot them
to save themselves the
trouble of looking after them

He also told me the Russians
ran away from the Chinese
three times,

The French troops also
ran away three times

The Americans also proved
cowards by being afraid
to press the attack home
on the Chinese,

The French were ordered
to support the Japanese
in their attack, and when
the Japs wanted their
assistance, the French
were too great a coward
to advance to their
assistance, the British
General had all he could
do to prevent the Japs

from shooting the French
down, after the engagement,

18th Nothing of any importance
occured, Drill 9C

19th 5-30 Rec^d orders for a forced
march on the Pei-tang forts
Naval Brigade of 300 men & 20 officers
under Command of Cap^t
Gillespie R.N. (150 P.M. 150 AM)
Marched out of Camp, without
tea, 11-00 P.M. embarked on
lighters with Indian & Chinese
troops & mules, stowed like sardines,
no rest during the night; no food.
towed 50 miles down the river,
20th 4-30 AM disembarked from
lighter, no breakfast; 9-30 AM
Commenced a march of 19 miles
to Pei-tang forts, under

Resumed march under more favourable conditions.

3.00 Pm. Camped till morning
22nd 6.00 Am. Resumed march and reached camp at noon

23rd Everybody resting after march
24th Ditto

25th Drill &c

26 " "

27th " "

28th Route march 3 hours

29th Drill &c (Pay day) letters

30th Sunday Went to mass at the Chapel of the French Mission station, wonderful sight, 9 different nationalities represented at mass, principally Chinese. (Rode in on Bike)
P.M. Writing letters home

Visit to Arsenal

Sept 27th Mr Robertson & self
paid visit to Chinese Arsenal
which we found in charge of
Capt Manning of U. S. Army,
whom we found exceedingly
kind & obliging, he gave permission
to go through and see what
we could for ourselves,

Result - we were amazed at
the enormous stocks of arms
ammunitions & guns of modern
pattern which we found lying
about everywhere, also an
unlimited quantity of arms
of ancient Chinese pattern,
together with large quantities
of munitions of war of every
description, ready for instant
use, also uniforms for
Chinese Imperial troops &
for Boxers also

Drove out to Arsenal in Rickshaw
and I find it impossible
to describe the sights I saw
on the way. Streets averaging
about 8 to 10 feet wide, with
a putrid canal or gutter
running along the side of the road
from which a stench arose which
was disgusting, and apparently
every Chinaman felt it incumbent
upon him to carry out a piece
on the side of the road in
the view of passers by, and
sometimes in front of his
neighbour's door, he was in
turn followed by pigs which
scopped all the refuse
sandwiched between the pigs
and Chinamen were Chinese cooking
stalls, exposing for sale, fried
grasshoppers & frogs, and they

were in turn surrounded by
Chinese beggars, who sat by
the roadside, lousing them-
selves, and when they were
not so engaged they were
handling the grabshoppers
aforesaid,

Result of my visit to
Arsenal.

Three Boxers Suits
Collection of ammunition

Pao Jing Fu Expedition

Leaving Tientain Friday 12.10.00
 at 7 am. our Forces rendezvoused
 on the old camping site. this
 was very quickly done. The Column
 consisted of the following Regiments
 Bengal Lancers. Madras Cavalry
 Royal Horse Artillery Pom Pom
 Battery. Victorian Naval Contingent
 20th Punjab Infantry, Bombay
 Sappers & Miners. I was in the
 Transport in charge of 3 mules
 carrying baggage. there were
 13 mules in all. and 5 native
 (Indians) mule drivers and a
 Jemadar or a headman over
 them, ~~the~~ My part of the
 Transport consisted of the 13
 mules & natives and three
 Victorians and myself. each
 Victorian had 3 mules to

guard same as I. We were
 soon underweigh the Cavalry
 going first Artillery following
 then the Infantry. Ammunition
 then ~~the~~ Field Hospital after these
 came the equipments of the Sappers
 and Miners, then following the
 general baggage this alone
 formed a considerable Column
 in itself. Our way lay across
 a vast plain some of it under
 cultivation, this night we
 camped at a village called
 Toun Sia, here the water
 was very brackish and disa-
 -greeable. Our tents had gone on
 in the junks, who were to pick
 us up further on, this night
 we laid down with the stars
 for a roof, the night was cold
 but fine. My first days

experience of mule driving did not make a good impression on me, for the mules had a clever knack of kicking sternwards, and scattering the packages, this seemed a catching complaint as it used to spread along the whole thirteen. The mule is not a poetic looking animal and when his ears are laid back it is time for you to get out of his kicking zone, as he can manipulate his feet at all angles. Sat 13. 10. 00
 Broke camp 9.30 am, passed through the villages of Hsao Lien Tze, and Ling Wang Chuang. also the City of Tu Liu. here the junko were met and our field tents were brought ashore to the Column

The Country was all good agricultural land and was or parts of it under cultivation. other places the crops had been gathered in and the stalks of Rice and Millet. Indian corn made travelling difficult this night having our tents we laid down in comfort. compared with the previous night
 14.10.00 Sunday

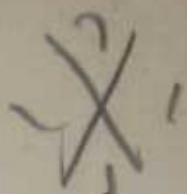
The morning broke with a dull leaden sky and a cold wind, we struck camp at 8 am. Our way lay across some very swampy ground covered with high reeds, to make things more unpleasant it commenced to rain a very cold rain, here our troubles commenced in earnest we had

wade through swamps and
 one place ~~at~~ nearly waist high
 and to crown all we had a
 mule stampede. To know
 what a mule stampede is you
 want to be an eye witness and
 the nearest to a description with-
 -out ~~any~~ exaggeration, is thus
 Take all the Traffic of Flinders
 Lane Elizabeth Street Bourke
 at their busiest time, put them
 on the Terrible plains mixed
 it all up and add a dozen
 caprizes and about 1500
 men speaking twelve different
 languages or dialects. and see
 the fighting line slowly
 moving out of sight. Then
 the Transport swearing at
 every body. the mules galloping
 off into the high reeds. god.

packs scattered to the four
 winds. Then up comes the Rear
 Guard, wanting to know what
 is keeping you. I thought our
 mules were gone for ever but a
 friendly Lancer rounded them up
 and after much exertion we
 were once more on the road but
 it was hours afterwards before
 some of them came in to the
 rear of the Column, besides
 having to ~~carry our~~ look after
 the mules and baggage we
 had to carry our arms rifle and
 bayonet. 120 rounds of ammu-
 -nition and a blanket and
 haversack these get very heavy
 after a while. We were slow
 in the Enemy's Country, and
 might be attacked any time
 sometimes we would pass

great stones up I ended after
 the ^{style} Ancient Druids ruins I
 could not find out what they
 were intended for, even the Chinese
 could not tell me, they must
 have been brought from a great
 distance as I saw no indication
 of stone or quarry. Then curious
 looking Cairns. This night we
 camped outside the City of Wan
 Chow a big walled city with
 curious looking watch towers
 as we passed through the narrow
 crooked streets on the walls I
 saw some curious looking old
 Cannon some were tied up to
 a stake others like very old
 ship guns and one had a fire
 pot with the poker in it ready
 for heating to fire the gun
 I dare say they had plenty of

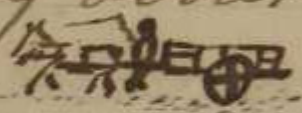
better guns but of course they
 were out of sight. This City I
 believe paid a big ransom.
 15. 10 or broke Camp & am
 Commanding and looting
 Villages who were boxer people
 This day was a very severe one
 we marched 22 miles with a
 hot sun. This day Mr Treacy
 our paymaster commanded
 a Chinese cart & I was going
 to say horses, but they were not
 It had four donkeys pulling
 it Drivers as well. Seeing me
 on the road, he called me to
 take charge of it. I parted
 with my mules and was not
 sorry nor do I ever again want
 to be a mule driver, for you
 never know your luck. At
 this time Mr Treacy handed the



The Chinese and cart over to me
 we were approaching the City of
 Keenan spelt this way (Wongang Hsin
 a very large City surrounded by
 great Walls, early during the day
 a message had come from this
 City to our Gen. Lorne Campbell
 the text of it was (do you come in
 peace or War) The reply made
 by the General was, it was
 for them to decide but we were
 coming. This City had a force
 of 5000 Boxers inside but
 they retreated in front of us
 as we came into camp I saw
 Eleven prisoners who had been
 taken by the Lancer who I
 believe shot some. They were
 big men and dressed in the
 gaudy uniform of the Chinese
 Soldiers. they it appears were

part of an outpost, belonging to
the force. ~~Already~~ who had cleared
out on our approach. I don't
know what became of them, but
their arms were taken from them
and broken up. Inside this City
were found some letters from
Prince Tuan to the General in
Command of the Boxer force to
attack us as we went through to
the high grass surrounding the
Town. This City played an impor-
tant part on our way back and
for the present I will leave it.

This We camped in front of this
City about 4.30 tired with our
long march. I did not bother
much about my charge but in
the morning I went and exam-
ined the Cart driver etc. A
Chinese Cart is a heavily

framed vehicle. The body is about 4 feet long by 3 feet wide. The shafts and body are built together. The bottom projects past the body about two feet. The wheels  and axle are built together solid. The wheel and axle revolve together. The whole turnout is not ornamental, it may be useful. To Chinese it is a cranky looking affair and the factor of safety against breaking down would be about 15. The old man who I brought in who was the driver, he was a little bandy legged active man. The other two had cleared out during the night, as we broke camp I ordered the old man to harness up so in went the little donkeys. and of course I took

charge and was going to show him how to drive. I never knew the Chinese roads were so bad before. I used to say whoa and they donkeys would pull away to the right, and on no pretence could you keep them on the center of the track if there was a bad piece of road that place they would find. I think the old man ~~was~~ enjoyed my exhibition of driving. I used to catch him chuckling to himself. I used to swear but it had no effect. The Donkeys were Chinese and only understood that language and swearing in English had no effect. I tried this for a day and a half then I handed over the team to the old man who took them with a grin on his

Since the change was remarkable
 the old man used to say. Auk, auk
 thror, thror. Whor. Whor. and
 the donkeys would stop go
 to the right or left or break
 into a trot. I was satisfied
 donkey driving was not in my
 line. ~~the~~ 16. 10. 00

Camped at Ling Cheng. here
 another celebrity turned up in the
 person of a young Chinaman he
 came into the Camp and went
 to Capt. Tickell and asked in
 fairly good pidgeon english to
 be allowed to come along with
 us he gave his name as Wong
 Chempod, he was engaged? and
 handed over to me. Wong as he
 was commonly called informed
 me he had been in the Navy
 (the Chinese Navy) and was

present at the Battle of Wai kai wai,
 the Great Naval Battle between
 the Japs and Chinese. his boat
 the Jing Yuan was torpedoed
 but Wong was fortunate enough to
 escape, his naval career finished
 here and he made his way to
 Tientsin, where he had relations
 his wife was in Wai kai wai
 and was killed by the Japanese
 Soldiers. The Chinese as a rule
 are not very truthful, but he
 knew a great deal about the
 Chinese Navy and seemed well
 acquainted with what occurred
 in Wai kai wai, he was a very
 chatty fellow and the long days
 went to pass very agreeable. The
 Commanding became very
 general and three more Coets
 were added to my part and

Wong became very useful he used to act as interpreter, and it was very funny the way he used to explain various matters.

17. 10. 00 Camped at City of Mou Chow. This old City had a remarkable leaning tower or Pagoda by the river. Lou informed me it was a temple but was plenty old hundreds years plenty, meaning some hundreds of year. For a single hundred years is nothing in China. Our way lay across large plains all under cultivation, this day I had a adventure I thought at the time would turn out serious. The day was rather hot and the roads were bad. The Donkeys commenced to knock up and I found

myself the last in the baggage
 Column. The Rear Guard caught
 up to me and the Officer in
 Charge asked if I could not
 get along quicker, I pointed
 out the state the donkeys were
 in our Wagon had broke down
 the day before and I was carry-
 -ing a lot of extra goods, my Pro-
 he halted his company and told
 me to do my best to get into camp
 before dark. as the Column
 had passed through Snow
 Snow and camped on the
 other side of the City as we
 entered the street there was
 nobody about. So Wong and I
 went into a large house to see
 what was to be found. I
 went through several rooms but
 got nothing when I heard a

yell I ran out into the yard
 and there was Wong on his
 back with two Chinese labor-
 ing him. I ran to his assistance
 before going into this place I
 had taken off my arms and laid
 them on the wagon with the old
 Man. Lau. I picked up a rake
 and charged for the two Chinese
 when four more armed with big
 sticks made their appearance
 to make matters worse I broke
 the rake over one of them, the
 new comers were just going
 to give me their attention when
 a Indian soldier rifle in hand
 put in his appearance the
 Chinese fled and I was not
 sorry for if the Indian had
 not appeared. I might have
 lost my number. but after

that I never went about unless armed. Wong got a fright, after that he was very careful to see I took (long Tom), my rifle.

18. 10.00 off again 8. am
 the same level plains dotted with conical shaped graves in fact every night we used to camp in a grave yard, but the ashes of the departed Chinese never disturbed. I have seen a fireplace cut out of one of these cones and the, wash and tea made over sometimes the large wood coffins would have portions of them burnt. We came to a Canal or River bridged over by Junks there was a stiff breeze blowing making the water ~~stopping~~ choppy and the Junks were see sawing up and down in an alarming manner

The approaches were very bad to reach the bridge there was a sharp incline down to it the decks of the junks were covered with rushes. It came my turn down the steep embankment with a rush the donkeys sprang on to the junks and with whips and yells we were across a large number of coolies had been commandeered and as we passed over the bridge they pushed us up the steep embankment on the other side of this canal was a remarkable wall or rampart running for miles it seemed to me as if it was for preventing the country from getting flooded. The country was all the same rich loamy soil fit to grow anything but

There was a scarcity of timber, with the exception of Willow trees, the inhabitants of the various villages used to fly on our approach.

Chinese villages are I should say about three miles apart. In some places the natives would be tilling the soil with their antiquated ploughs the same ~~and~~ kinds as they used in the days of Abraham, for the Chinese are conservative and do not like changing custom, at times the wooden plough would be drawn by a donkey, again by a bullock and sometimes by a man or boy. My old driver was a great success the way he used to handle the crazy old wagon drew forth our admiration around the native villages would be stored the grain gathered in the summer.

Another place we passed through I saw what I thought was some large bird nests and going close I discovered they were baskets with heads in them. The local Mandarin informed the General they were the heads of Boxers caught in that village, and he was showing his loyalty by beheading them and hanging them in the baskets, but of course they may have been the heads of people who had died a natural death and the heads taken off and exposed. The Chinese are not above this sort of thing, we used to commandeer all kinds of living things mules horses cows & fowls. Any animal will go in harness in North China. The fowls were plentiful and at times we lived well. This night we

Camped at the City of Kow Yang
 at a big place here several men
 who had bad feet were sent to
 join the water column

19. 10. 00 8-am broke camp
 worked our way out from amongst
 the tombs who had been piled here
 for centuries on the ploughed ground
 it seemed a pity to trample down
 the young crops but War is no
 respecter of property or feeling
 It is fine to read of a Army on the
 March the descriptions read well but
 you never want to see it pass your
 back door, for they only leave woe
 and misery behind them. The
 owner is driven from his house
 his cattle and horses taken and
 place ransacked and often forcib-
 -ly taken to drive his own horses
 and perhaps have to steal his

own food to live, this night we
 camped at the City of Shih
 Cha Chew a big place that
 suffered from looting. 20.10.00
 off again 8 am It was a miser-
 -able cold day we expected to
 make Pao ting Fu but the rain
 stopped us and we camped in the
 village of Jung Shih Chow this
 day on account of it being a extre
 miserable day everything seemed to
 go wrong in the transport mules
 bolting and carts capsizing we
 pitched our tent in the middle of
 a street. I had a look around
 and in a temple secured four
 bronze figures these were very old.
 In a shop or what had been
 a kind of store were on the floor
 needles, coltons and tapes made in
 Manchester also a fashion plate

of 1882 how these things found
 their way there, we wondered as
 very few white people had ever been
 that way. The only conclusion we
 came to was that the Missionaries
 had brought them there. In a
 large pot in the corner of the store
 was some Samsu & vile mixture
 drunk by the Chinese on Rivers
 discovered this and had a great
 old bust. Our Chinese at night
 used to sleep under the wagons
 with the animals tied around them.
 This is the usual Chinese style
 but this being a very cold day
 I made them go into one of the
 Chinese houses who owner had
 fled on our approach. This night
 they had their supper outside
 by the wagons. About 9 pm
 I went the rounds to see if

if all things were right the
 animals were all fed but aro
 -and a big fire sat my old
 Driver cross legged with a black
 bottle in his hand filled with
 samshu his eyes were winking
 and blinking. he rubbed his
 belly and offered me his bottle
 but I declined with thanks, as
 they were jabbering very noisily I
 told Wong to pipe down and as
 every one but the sentry were in
~~bed~~ ~~I~~ ~~be~~ bed but the sentry I
 turned in. Presently I heard Wong
 calling them to turn in but one
 would not come he was afraid of
 our sentry. then Wong launched off
 his pigeon english You bluff you
 no can come God damn long I can no
 catch you. God damn I wait flee
 minuet. I catchee you come but

he would not come so Wong went
down and led him up by the ear
administering a kick as he passed
into the belt were they made a
night of it. 2²¹. 10¹⁰ 00

Off again 8. am this day we
only 8 miles to go to reach our
destination It was Sunday morning
but all days are the same on a train
service. The Chinese drivers were
drinking water freely the effects
of last night's debauch. old Lou
had his kettle going freely after
passing over some very swampy
ground the Manchurian Mountains
came in sight and in the distance
we could see Pao Ling Fu, where
we arrived at 12 o'clock midday
The flags of the offices were
already flying from various
parts of the city it appears

A French force entered the City a few days previous when it was understood all the Allies were to act in concert, the City offered no resistance although it was anticipated they would. We camped on the South side of the City. Pao ting Fu is a great Walled City a typical Chinese City with great Watch towers on top of the Walls, which are about 70 feet high the slope side at an

~~of 70%~~ angle of 60% deg the top of the walls were about 25 ft wide. You enter the City through a great Gate into an inner Court then through another ^{an} ~~an~~ arched gate and into the city. The streets are slightly wider than some of the Chinese City.

the inhabitants at this time were rather shy as they were in fear of what kind of punishment was to be meted out to them

22. 10. 00 I left our Camp to the North side of the City

crossing the Canal by a very old bridge. on this bridge an un-

fortunate Missionary was murdered he escaped from the City and was being

carried by some of his converts in a box and on this ~~bridge~~ bridge

some boxes met the party and opened the box discovered the Missionary and promptly dispatched him

Pao Ling Fu gained a notorious name for the number of Missionaries and Christians murdered and tor-

tures there, chiefly amongst them was a family named Bagnall

of whom I will relate farther

Having pitched our Camp on the
 North side of the City, some of our
 men were told of to do Duty in the
 City; Lieut Biddalcombe M^r J. White
 Gunner, with the following P^os
~~James~~. M^r Biddalcombe having charge
 of the Police and M^r J. White in charge
 of Guard over the prisoners who had
 participated in the massacres there
 I obtained permission to go into
 the City so in Company of several
 others we visited M^r White first
 he had a special assortment
 and more were arriving daily
 There were Mandarins General
 Colonels and a variety of lesser
 lights. M^r White informed us
 the Mandarin had been taken
 away, so we began with the
 Colonel, this monster was
 named _____ and was a

Colonel of the Cavalry when the
 trouble began in Pao Ting Fu
 the Bagnell family who had been
 on very intimate terms with he and
 his family, and had at one time
 nursed him through a dangerous
 illness, applied to him for his
 protection. This he promised to do
 and safely escort them to Peking.
 He kept his word by handing them
 over to the Boxers who murdered
 them with fiendish cruelty. The
 Female members were stripped
 naked and ~~hanged~~ suspended
 on bamboos by the hands and
 feet after being outraged and
 dragged through the streets were
 taken to the Great Temple and
 murdered on the Altar one little
 girl having a spear driven through
 her back. He was a tall and

and well proportioned and might have been called good looking. Mr White introduced us as Christians who had come to see him die one of the Guard to keep his memory green drew his cutlass and put the edge to the back of his neck he smiled a ghastly laugh his food by the way was untouched it consisted of rice not too well done, he used to have a great number of dainty dishes sent him certain times of the day but our men used to eat it and give him the rice, Mr White did not allow him to suffer from over feeding after passing a few uncomplimentary remarks upon him we passed out of his cell which consisted of four bare walls with a raised brickwork

bench but no bedding. The
 next distinguished person was the
 General who had Charge of the
 North Gate and who led the Boxers
 in. He said he would not rest
 until every Christian and foreigner
 was exterminated. He was a
 little old man 80 years of age
 rather wiry looking and did
 not look, very ferocious he bowed
 very meekly when Mr White intro-
 duced us again as Christians and
 we certainly looked it as we were
 armed to the teeth, his Grandson
 a young Chinese was in prison
 with him and was very attentive to
 him his wants, then there was
 a varied assortment of Murderers
 thieves and Boxers. Eight of these
 latter were taken out and bound
 together by our men and led

through the City taken out
 to the German Gate made to
 dig their own graves then
 shot, The Colonel, General, Mandarins
 etc suffering the penalty of behea-
 -ding some time afterwards; the
 week, we spent before the City
 was spent in investigating the
 various Murders; It appears the
 Baynell family had entrusted
 to the Colonel some of their prop-
 -erty in the shape of a box con-
 -taining papers Jewellery etc
 when questioned about it he de-
 -nied it, but a strange coin-
 -cidence occurred that was the
 means of ~~bringing~~ bringing him
 to Justice, Our Junks coming
 up the River with some of our
 men aboard, who went ashore
 and amongst the ~~two~~ Chinese

who I believe belonged to the Colonel
 found the Marriage lines and
 Birth certificates of the Baynell
 family after he denying all
 knowledge of the box containing
 at the time they were picked up
 our men had no knowledge of the
 fate of the unfortunate Bagnells
 but the papers were taken charge
 of by the Officer in charge of the
 Water Column, and handed over
 by him to the General at Pootung
 Fu, Another family named
 Green suffered a great deal
 of misery at the hands of the Boxer
 Mr Green having a shot gun
 discharged at the back of his
 head, from which the lead
 had to be picked out, I saw
 some fine carving over a shop
 in this City it was a work of

art and all gilded over. The inhab-
 -itants appeared to be very timid
 and they had good reason to be
 for the Avengers were on their track
 for their misdeeds.

On the 24th 10.00 we broke
 camp and started back for
 Lenton this time taking a different
 route going out Southwards
 starting along the Canal up one
 of the worst approaches to a bad
 bridge, I have ever seen, under
 - Ancient gateways into the filthy
 suburbs, the narrow crooked
 street, pigs wallowing about in
 - filthy mud striking cook's shops
 jostling Gormans, Frenchman keep-
 -ing the coolies out into the
 pure air once more leaving this
 black spot, out once more into
 fine agricultural Country.

The Chinese looking with astonishment, and wondering were our large force was found. We were to attack another stronghold.

lying to the South west. About 2.45 pm passing through a village were a number of French who had just been in action, they had just buried a man under a willow tree. a wreath on the raised mound was all that marked the spot another soldier with his feet bare was limping up the village street suffering from a painful looking wound in his foot. He had been engaged by the Boxers and suffered severely, losing about 5 killed and 12 wounded. on either side of the street the soldiers were preparing ~~there~~ a meal poultry very much in evidence. I saw one of our

Men deliberately go and steal two
 out of the tins they were baking
 them in, the Frenchmens back
 was turned, I afterwards saw the
 Frenchmen go to look if all was
 right, seeing his poultry gone seized
 one of the Chinese Coolies, they had
 with them, thinking he had stolen it
 the Chinaman pointed to us then
 ran away but they Frenchman
 caught him, and the last I saw
 of him was the Frenchman drag-
 ging him along by his que.
 As we passed through into the
 open plain, the French Cavalry
 were burning a village and
 galloping about as if engaged.
 Our Column now got ~~orders~~
 orders to charge magazines and
 prepare for action, but our
 friends the Boxers did not

wait but cleared across the River
 we followed on, arriving at the stream
 the bridge had been destroyed so
 in revenge we burnt the two
 villages. on either side of the River
 this night we camped at the
 village of Cheng Tung. (meaning the lamp)
 Sunday 28.10.00 off again early
 after the Boxer force tried to
 ford the River, but ~~at~~ the site of
 the old bridge the ford was too deep.
 The French also said it was practic-
 ally unfordable, in any part and
 the only way was to pontoon it, after
 failing at the destroyed bridge we
 turned ^{down} the River and keeping to
 the bank, commenced to ford, this
 scene beggars description it was
 a study in White Black and yellow
 at this time my teams had become
 a mixture of all kinds, Ponys

Cows bullocks donkeys any animal
will go in harness in China. My team
was composed of the following or
one mule, bullock 2 ponies, donkey
the other donkey knocking up on
the road and had to be cast adrift.

The noise of the crossing reached
far back and for fully an hour
before, we could hear the shouting
here Wang's usefulness came in
he collected a lot of Coolies from
one of the villages, and under the
direction of Mr. White ~~the~~ the
packages were taken from the
wagons and carried across the
stream the carrier often being up
to his armpits, The River named
the Yang Ho, was a swift running
muddy stream and the ~~off~~
bank on the side we crossed went
down very abruptly, and the

current was deepest and swiftest here
 My turn came I started off with a
 run down the bank into the River
 my little donkey out of sight, but
 the Bullock struck out manfully
 the ponies snorted and kicked and
 at one time I thought we were going
 down stream, by degrees we worked
 our way out of the swift current
 on the other side were Mr White
 already had our loads waiting to
 put on. We forded this difficult
 river without the loss of a single
 package. but some of the other
 troops were not so successful as
 I saw all kinds of property floating
 down the stream, This night we
 camped at the village of Sung
 June 29. 10. 00 broke camp
 and our way lay across the
 usual agricultural country, this

day we learned that the City we
 were to attack had suddenly
 turned friendly, so we altered
 our course, and camped at the
 City of Kow Yang, here the General
 threatened to shoot some of us if we
 did not obey orders better. it hap-
 -pened this way forage was difficult
 to get, and he gave instructions
 about foraging a certain village
 but some of us not knowing
 went into the place and took a
 lot of grain, I was lucky enough
 to get away with my load but
 meeting some ~~more~~ others of our Con-
 -tingent, he treated them to a piece
 of his mind. ~~Camped this night~~
~~at the village of Shei Chung~~
 30.10.00 off again burning
 villages camped this night at
 the village of Shei Chung

3/10.00 8 am Advance we were off again burning villages who had given assistance to the Boxers Camped this night at Old Mow Chow. During our march the Chinese drivers with us had been looting on their own account as they have no compunction, in robbing one another, as they passed their native villages or towns they would drop their loads and rejoin us One driver named Yaw had a very respectable quantity of loot or clothes besides cash wanted to leave it at his village the village being about two miles from the and as no one was allowed through the lines at night this was rather risky. However two of us with Yaw and his two brothers with three great loads managed to

get through the lines my companion
had a revolver, while all I had was
a whip, we kept in under the
shadow of the City Wall then when
well clear of the Camp struck
across the plain passing several
villages the inhabitants clearing
out at our approach after
about a two mile walk we came
to a village. our man knocked
at a door but got no response
then he cried out in Chinese
suddenly a head bobbed over the
wall a few yards lower down
and seeing all was right adm-
itted us an old man bowed to
us in Chinese fashion whilst
the villagers crowded in to have
a look on at us, after a short
stay, we hunted at going Low
I jumped up and we started

off out of the village. I did not
care much for the look of the place
anyhow I said good bye to his
relatives, and off we started
across the plains to the Camp
which presented a curious sight
in the distance, here I was not
afraid of a boxer attack but
from getting potted by one of our
own sentries, We had got out
easy enough but the next trouble
was to get in, I had a presentiment
that something was going to happen
thus I communicated to my companion
but he only laughed, we got in
under the shadow of the City Wall
and I was shaking hands with
myself that all was right, when
suddenly the gates of the City
flew open and out walked four
Chinese with lanterns, a guard

Bengal Lancers on foot and a
 Officer in the Centre, and here they
 were right on top of us we had
 not gone far when in loud tones
 came the word. halt. What are you
 doing here? I thought what can
 I say. then it flashed across
 my mind the day before we had
 labelled all our Chinamen Yelloman
 Naval Contingent. Then I explained
 how this Chinaman had been
 with us from Tientain to Peking
 and this was, pointing across the
 the direction, we had come, his
 native village he wanted to see
 his Father and not being
 allowed out of the lines himself
 we had accompanied him and
 were now ~~for~~ bringing him
 back. The officer held up
 his Lamp and read in Yow's

Chief Victorian Naval Contingent
 Said, all right - my lad you can
 go., ~~but~~ I breathed free when
 we got into Camp for it would
 have been all wrong if he had have
 taken us into the Guard Tent, as
 we could not have explained so
 clearly. Nov 1. 11.00

Advance & am burning Villages
 This night we camped at a Village
 Seven Chinese were caught stealing
 mules and without ceremony were
 were bound together and shot
 I thought at the time for I saw
 the flash of the volleys ~~as~~ as I
 was quite close, they were burying
 a Artillery man who had been
 seriously burnt with powder in
 a Village a few days before
 Early in the morning I went over to see
 and there they lay all stretched out

fairly maddled they were a horrid sight. one man's head was half blown off. looked as if he had been hit with a dum dum bullet, as we shifted camp next morning wood and straw was thrown upon these bodies and fired,

Nov 2. 11.00

More village burning camped this night before Weenan City

Nov 3. 11.00 before leaving

here our Artillery shelled a village and we blew up the walls of this City for the reasons as follows. During the Boxer troubles Weenan was a hotbed for them. A village a few miles off had some Missionarys Roman Catholics with a number of converts, and hearing of the massacre of Christians entrenched themselves, and evicted

other. Missionaries of other denominations
 to join them as they had also a supply
 of arms, but these Missionaries
 preferred to trust themselves to the
 Chinese, with the result they were
 all massacred: The Head Mandarin
 in Charge of Wanan City marched
 against these Christians who had
 entrenched themselves, but was severely
 repulsed, but they destroyed all
 their property. When we arrived
 at Wanan the Missionary in
 Charge came into our Camp and
 told his tale to Gen. Lorne Campbell
 who arrested the Mandarin who con-
 fessed his guilt, at first they
 were going to behead him but the
 Priest begged of them not to do
 so as he was the only man
 capable of keeping order and
 if they executed him, they might

get worse. Gen Lorne Campbell then demanded hostages, but the Mandarin took the blame on himself. The General admiring his candid confession let him off with a fine of 50,000 taels to be paid in weekly instalments. The village the Artillery destroyed was a Boxer village and had assisted in this outrage.

Nov 4. 11.00

Struck Camp before leaving the Pom Pom Battery destroyed a Boxer village. This is a wicked machine gun and made the troops fly.

Nov 5. 12.00

A miserable dirty dusty day cold wind blowing clouds of dust in a manner I have never seen before getting up

eyes and mouth we entered
~~the~~ ^{the} Tin Lin City. after
 getting into the narrow crooked street
 we had to drive out the inhabitants
^{out} of their houses. It was a pitiful
 job and I passed many a one and
 did not try to see them. Whilst
 foraging for horse feed we heard
 a tremendous explosion, and a
 man came running to me and
 asked for the Doctors saying
 the Junks had blown up
 and the Australians and Hong
 Kong all burnt, after a very
 anxious time, we learnt of a
 dreadful explosion had taken
 place near the Junks; of powder
 taken from them. there were
 138 Casualties and the exact
 number will never be known
 but I am happy to say not

one of our men were hurt although
some miraculous escapes were
recorded.

Nov 6. 11 00

Leaving Tu Lien we camped
this night a few miles outside
of Tientain.

Nov 7. 11 00

Back again in Tientain
after 27 days absence 22 days
spent in marching and we
tramped about 350 miles

Note before leaving Pao ting for
the Great Temple was blown up
at 7 am and totally destroyed, the
scene of many cruel Christian
murders.

Mission

M^r Bates and M^r Inglis joined
the Column Friday Nov 2nd about
9 am

Marching kit in bag
 Singlets 1 ✓ Bootlaces ✓
 Drawers 1 ✓ Trench knives ✓
 Shirts 1 ✓ Straps ✓
 Collar belt 1 ✓ Fullers earth ✓
 Chest protector 1 ✓ Cass paper ✓
 Socks 2 pairs ✓ Cards ✓
 towel 1 ✓
 Badana cap 1 ✓
 Housewife 1 ✓
 Silk handkerchief 1 ✓
 pocket handkerchief 2 Red ✓
 2 white ✓
 Slippers 1
 Blanket 1
 water proof sheet 1
 Great Coat 1
 Soap 1 ✓
 Tooth brush 1 ✓
 Clothes " 1
 Tobacco + matches ✓
~~Pyjamas~~ ✓

Visit to Peking 20/2/01
Stations Lentsen
To Peking

Yang Sun

Lyfa

Lampfang

An Ding

Howfangtsan (gap) + 3

Fangtai

Peking

fris

H

1901

List of Goods Lent to Curio Exhibition

Large Dirty Joss	10/-	1
Byddah Joss	10/-	1
Small wood josses 2/6 each	2/6	3
Dragons head	2/6	1
Traveller's pistol £5-10-0	£5-10-0	1
Brass lion	10/-	1
" " Censer	£1-10-0	1
Horse pistol D. B.	2/-	1
Wood pillow	2/6	1
Opium pipe	5/-	1
Scales	2/6	1
Flute Chinese	1/-	1
Compass	1/-	1
Crystal mirrors 10/- each	10/-	2
Symbols	1/-	1
New Testament	-	1
Chinese Book	5/-	1
" " Smoking kit	2/-	1

pig tails	1/-	2
Wubble Bubble pipes	10/- each	3
Stone Bottle	2/-	1
Bells off prayer wheel	6	2
Chinese Ladies Shoes		3 2/6
" " Slippers		3 1/-
Incense bowl (Bronze)		1 5/-
Boscer Coats		3 2/6
" Vests		3 1/-
" pants		3 2/6
" Hats		2 1/-
Carving (Brackets)	20/- each	2 pieces
Chop sticks & knife in case		1/-
Umbrella		1 5/-
Bannerett	£ 1 ⁿ 10 ⁿ 0	1
Table Cover	5 ⁿ 0 ⁿ 0	1
Carved Samchu Cups	10/- each	4
Small		1
One string fiddle + Bow		1 2/6
Horn Carved Cup	£ 1 ⁿ 0 ⁿ 0	1
Boscer flag	£ 2 ⁿ 0 ⁿ 0	1

Korean Carved figure	£1. 10. 01		Inv
Bamboo " "	1. 0. 01		Pl
Snuff Bottles painted	2	5/- each	Bo
Straw Shoes	2	7/6	B
Jing's nail guards	2	2/6 each	Sy
Opium lamp	1	15/-	Sy
Clysonne Boxes	2	10/- each	Hal
" " Vase	£1. 10. 01		Ma
Map of Peking	1/-	1	Go
Embroidered Beads	5/-	1 set	
Christmas 27-2-01	1/-	1	
Photographs	2/6	4	
Chinese pocket-book	1	1/-	
Supper from ...		2	
Chinese Vop & sticks	1	5/-	
Pandoliers	2	2/6	
Mantichie's bag and belt	1	5/-	
Hair ornaments	2	5/-	
Seal	1	-	
Counting rack	1	1/-	
Cracked Vases	2	10/- ea	

Manchu woman's shoes	8/- each	1 pair
Plats	10/- each	3
Saucer	2/-	1
Basins	2/6 each	2
Silk pellicots	15/- each	2
Spectacles	1/-	1 pair
Walking sticks	5/- each	2
Manchu's rifle	£3.0.0	
Gong Bronze	£1.0.0	1

5/-
 2/6
 5/-
 5/-
 1/-
 10/- each