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NATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS IN SEYMOUR'S MIXED TROOPS: THE AMERICANS COME BACK WITH NEW RIFLES TAKEN FROM THE ENEMY; THE OPERATIONS AT TIENTSIN.

Dr. G. P. Smith, who arrived by the City of Peking yesterday, is one of the first of those who saw and experienced the horrors of Chinese war at Tientsin to be able to tell the story of the striking events of which he was a participant and witness, directly to his countrymen.  
A brief interview with him was published in the Star yesterday, in which he emphatically denied that Admiral Seymour had shot his wounded to prevent them from falling into the barbarous hands of the Chinese. As he was in charge of the military hospital at Tientsin until July 5, and personally attended the wounded of Admiral Seymour's returning relief column, his statement comes with an authority that must relieve the feelings of civilization, harrowed by the dreadful tale it has been told.  
Dr. Smith gives much more concerning the situation at Tientsin.  
"I was present in Tientsin," he said, "from the very first bombardment, and remained there until July 5, when I was sent home on furlough, my health having broken down completely. The trouble around Tientsin started through some Belgian engineers. They reported one day, the latter part of May or the first part of June, that the railroad between Tientsin and Peking had been torn up by the Chinese. They demanded that a body of troops be sent forward to help them repair it. Such a column was sent and it encountered a large body of Chinese and a fight ensued. About twenty Chinese and two soldiers were killed by the Boxers, who had to return to Tientsin. The news of this fight spread rapidly, and infuriated the Chinese to a terrible state. They began gathering around the English settlement, which is outside of the walled city of Tientsin, and the situation became more threatening every day. It was reported that seven of the first relief columns had been left behind, so a second column was formed in Tientsin and ordered to start after them. It was a foolish attempt though, and they soon returned without getting any trace of the missing men who, it appears, had been killed by the Boxers.  
"After this the fury of the Chinese increased, and then followed the ultimatum by the Ministers at Peking ordering the Chinese Foreign Office to restore the broken railroad communication between Peking and the outside world. About the last message we had of the terrible straits in which the Ministers were, was from Sir Robert Hart, the English Commissioner of Customs at Peking. He sent the following, secreted in the sole of a Chinese runner: 'Ministers have been ordered to leave Peking in haste. Good-bye, Give bearer 100 taels. Hart.'  
"As the situation became more threatening for the Ministers the allies in Tientsin met at midnight to decide about starting their relief. The French and Russians held out on account of some disagreement, and refused to go. Finally Captain McCulla of the United States forces, brought matters to an issue. 'The Minister of my country is

in danger,' said McCulla, 'and I am going in the morning to his aid.'  
"This settled it, and the rest of the nations soon came to terms, and the relief column started. During their absence the people in the English town of Tientsin, where the foreigners reside, were subjected to a terrible experience, and but for the superhuman efforts on the part of the residents and the small body of troops left to guard the town, the Boxers would have destroyed every soul in the place.  
"On the night of June 14th the Boxers set fire to the chaplain. From 12 o'clock until the return of Admiral Seymour's column the enemy kept up a continual bombardment of the settlement. Affairs became so desperate that on Tuesday, the 17th, after the Russians and English had found it impossible to hold the station it was decided to send down to Taku for reinforcements. Four brave fellows got through the Chinese lines and the allies sent us a column of about 1,000 men. These succeeded in driving off the Chinese for a time. Soon after their arrival Admiral Seymour signalled from the other side of the town that he was in need of reinforcements. At night a column of 1,200 men left our settlement, worked its way around the Chinese, and succeeded in effecting the relief of Seymour, who had captured the Shu Go, the Chinese arsenal, and held it for three days. Inside was a vast quantity of ammunition and twenty Gatling guns, which had not even been unpacked. These were destroyed and as much of the munitions as possible, after which the two columns fought their way back to our settlement.  
"Had it not been that Admiral Seymour brought his wounded back to Tientsin with him, and had barely enough men to carry them, he would never have abandoned the fort.  
"The Americans were the only ones who brought anything back with them. They found a quantity of entirely new Lee-Metford rifles, so they destroyed their old ones and fitted themselves out with new ones.  
"On July 23rd the women and children were placed in lighters and sent down the river to Taku, from where they were conveyed in army transports to Nagasaki and other places of safety.  
"In regard to the report that the ministers have met death, I will say that while I expect that it is true, I would not be surprised to learn that they are yet alive. They were reported safe when we left, July 5.  
"What will be the result of the conflict I cannot say. It is one of the most serious that has occurred in hundreds of years. There is no doubt that the Dowager Empress encouraged the Boxers in their hatred of foreigners, but she did not realize the extent to which their fury would carry them. From a revolt, the affair has spread to a general uprising, until now it has gotten beyond the control of the Imperial Government, and even if it were the wish of the Empress to check the uprising she could not do it now without foreign assistance."

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