THE FIGHT AT YANGTSUN

Descriptive of an Event Where American Troops Showed Their Valor.

WRITTEN BY A HOUSTONIAN NOW IN CHINA

Diagram Showing the Movement of the Allied Forces Sketched on the Ground.

A Houston boy, who is now in the civil service department of the United States government, stationed at Pekin, China, has written his father the following description of the movements and demeanor of the allied forces in the battle of Yangtsun, sending the accompanying diagram also, that the valor of the American troops may more readily be discerned:

Tien Tsin, China, November 2, 1900.—Your letters and The Post of the 13th of September, with accounts of the terrible storm of September 8, are just received. It certainly was awful and beyond description. The descriptions in all the papers received have been eagerly sought for, and it was very gratifying to the Americans here to read how the different sides and communities of the entire United States responded to the call and sent relief to the stricken district. It shows the sympathy that is general among our people, which is one of the grandest traits known, considering what a conglomeration of nationalities and creeds our country is made up of.

I have been very busy these days, but the time will soon come, if we stay in China this winter, when I will have more idle time on my hands than I will know what to do with.

We are all in a bustle, preparing and shipping our stores and office furniture to Pekin.

I expect we will pass the winter in the imperial capital, although changes may take place at the last moment which will leave us here. The situation is the same as for some time past, and as regards news, or the intentions of the different governments, we, in all probability, know less than you folk in the States, as the officers here are seemingly at sea themselves.

We will have but few men here this winter, perhaps 2000, while the Russians and Germans will have about 45,000 and 30,000 respectively.

It would seem that they intend to run up an immense expense account for the Chinese to pay, and at the rate they are piling it up, they will have to annex the whole of China, and then some more, to get enough to pay the enormous outlay.

The other nations are rushing troops here as fast as they can, and apparently have come to stay.

The Germans and Russians are the most numerous, and are certainly in force.

We have the most curious and motley crowd of soldiers here, I think, that was ever collected together in any one place on earth.

The Germans have their infantry, cavalry and artillery of the regulars, and also German Indians and German Chinese, French Chinese, French Indians, French troops from Algiers, and all the gorgeous colored French uniforms worn by the regulars from France.

The English have troops here from every part of the globe, prominent among them being the Bengal Lancers, and a fine appearance they make, although our boys say that they did not fight very well on the march to Pekin.

The Japs have any quantity of soldiers here, and next to the Americans they rank all the others in neatness and appearance.

The Italians are here, and they have some of their baggy pants with them; it seems as if they could not do any fighting unless they sat in a chair, for if they tried to kneel down they would get all tangled up in their skirts, as their pants look to be.

The Russians are here in all kinds and uniforms, and they are a gruff, bad-looking lot of fellows, and about as little liked on the Chinese, with a chance in favor of the latter.

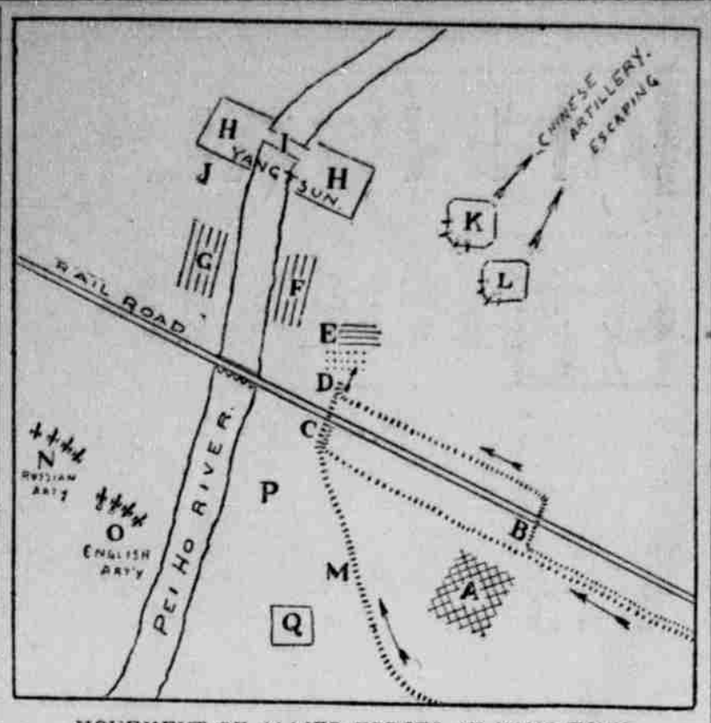
I never in my life felt so proud of being an American as I have since being here.

I have seen here the troops which represent the best of the different armies of the world; seen their uniforms, their ways of living in the field, their deportment among themselves and toward the Chinese; noticed their stature, their manner of marching, and a great many other things which I would not have noticed had I not been able to see them beside others and note the contrast, and of all that are here there is none of them so good looking, so well fed, so hardy with so natty a uniform, with so little surplus clothing on him, or who has such a rough and ready appearance or such a stay to the last look, as the American soldier here.

A young fellow belonging to the Fourteenth infantry, now detailed in the ordnance department, was in the battle of Yangtsun while on the march to Pekin and he has given me such a fine description of this fight that I have drawn a map of it and also a short account of same, which I know will interest you.

You will notice the distance on map as follows: From railroad to "E," 800 yards; from English and Russian artillery to forts "K" and "L," about two and one-half miles; from railroad, at "D" to "H," the city of "Yangtsun," one and a half miles.

As you know the battle of Yangtsun was fought on August 6 and the American forces lost nearly 100 men in killed and wounded, sixty-three of which were from the Fourteenth infantry. This is the story as told by David Walstrom, company H, of above regiment.



MOVEMENT OF ALLIED FORCES AT YANG TSUN.

(From a Diagram made on the Ground.)

Early on the morning of the 6th the Americans, who were quite in the rear of the majority of the other forces, started northward and they marched sixteen miles by 10 o'clock a. m., when they reached the outposts of the Chinese in the little village marked "A," where some few Chinese were, but who were either dislodged or killed in short order.

The Second and Third battalions of the Fourteenth were together until they rounded the village marked "A," but when they were exactly opposite this same place the Second battalion, composed of companies E, F, G and H, were ordered across the railroad at the point marked "B."

In the meantime the majority of the allied forces were advancing along the line marked "M," having left the railroad before having reached the village marked "A," and had stopped about between the points marked "A" and "Q." The marines, of whom there were about 400, were with the allied forces here. The English and Russian artillery were on the left side of the Pie Ho river, and were shelling the forts marked "I," "K" and "L," but most of their fire was directed on the fort marked "J," as also on the trenches marked "G," where they did awful slaughter.

The artillery began firing about 10 a. m. and the infantry a few minutes later. I must mention right here that the light battery "F" of the Fifth artillery crosses over the railroad at the point marked "B," at the same time as the Second battalion of the Fourteenth infantry, and they stayed together all the time up to the ousting of the trenches at the point marked "E."

The Second battalion of the Fourteenth infantry and the light battery F of the Fifth artillery marched along on the right side of the railroad up to the point marked "D," which was right in front of the Chinese trenches marked "E." They reached "D" before the rest of the forces marching on the line "M" reached the railroad, in consequence of which they had to stand the brunt of the fight at that point.

The Third battalion of the Fourteenth Infantry marched along the left side of the railroad, straight between the points "B" and "G," and across the railroad with the rest of the forces. During all the time that the forces were marching along the lines "B" to "D," "B" to "G" and along the line "M" to "C" all these troops were under a very hot fire from the forts marked "K" and "L," which was doing good execution among the allied forces. The American troops which were advancing along on the right side of the railroad were protected to a certain extent by there being a low ditch on the right side of the railroad, where the dirt had been taken out to make the embankment for the railroad, and also that the largest body of the troops were on the other side of the railroad and in consequence the Chinese fire was directed more to the farther side of the railroad from the forts.

As the Second battalion of the Fourteenth and the light battery F of the Fifth artillery reached the point "D" a regiment of English "Sikhs" from India, near Calcutta, rushed across the railroad and advanced for 100 yards abreast of the Americans, who had advanced along on the right side of the railroad to the point "D." When they reached the dots between "D" and "E," which represents a Chinese graveyard, and which is composed of round mounds made over the graves and which rise to from four to twelve feet high and are from four to fifteen feet in diameter at the base, the "Sikhs" found the fire getting too hot for them and refused to go any further, and the officers could not get them to go by threats or otherwise. As the Second battalion of the Fourteenth and light battery F of the Fifth artillery passed the "Sikhs," the English officers, or rather one of them who was in command of the "Sikhs," yelled, "Go on, you bloody Americans, you never were defeated. If I can't get my men to go with me, I am going with you," and he fell in with the Americans and went along in the rush on the trenches.

As the Americans rushed from the points "D" and "E" the most deplorable incident of the march on Pekin occurred. The Russian and English artillery, on the left side of the river, were shelling the Chinese in the trenches marked "E," and as the Americans advanced the Russian and English artillery, not recognizing them, began throwing shells, or rather shrapnel, into them, unawares, and quite a few of the good American soldiers lives were lost through this blunder, until the Americans hoisted flags, which advised the allies of their exact position and averted a repetition.

When the Americans reached the point "D" the infantry were ordered to set their sights at 800 yards, and they afterwards found the distance to be 750 yards, which is only one example of the American accuracy in firing.

As the Americans came to within about 300 yards of the Chinese trenches marked "E," the Chinese got up and commenced to retreat, and then the slaughter began in earnest. The person who relates this says that the trenches were almost full of empty shells, which shows how many shots the Chinese fired at them, and the work they did until 12:30 noon, showed the mettle and accuracy of the American aim. The light battery F also did very effective work and the English could not praise Captain Riley of the Fifth artillery too much; they said they had never seen such efficient work done by any light artillery before, and they were unstinted in their praise of the Americans in general. (Captain Riley was killed on the walls of Pekin afterwards, I am sorry to say, and the American army lost a valuable officer and good fighter.)

The Americans and the rest of the forces on the left and the artillery on the left side of the river soon routed the enemy from the trenches marked "E" and "G," and advanced on the city of Yangtsun, which they cleared in short order, and the artillery and a few Japanese infantry crossed over the river on the pontoon bridge, marked "I," and rejoined the rest of the troops on the right side and all encamped at the point marked "P" for that night.

A part of the Americans were sent back that same evening to recover knapsacks and haversacks which had been discarded on the hard march of the morning; these men did not return until the next day. There was one serious mistake made by the Bengal Lancers, who were with the forces on the right side of the river, although somewhat to the rear, when the Chinese artillery began to escape from the forts marked K and L, the Bengal Lancers could have very easily intercepted them and cut off their retreat, but for some unaccountable reason they failed to do so and let the artillery escape, while by a hard run they could have annihilated them entirely.

At the point Q the Americans buried eight of their comrades who were instantly killed during the fight, and the person who relates this could not say if there were more buried there or not, but he thinks not.

Some ten to twenty of the wounded of this same fight have since died of their wounds and have gone to add to the list of fatalities of the "China Relief Expedition," as the U. S. troops are designated here.

Yangtsun is about twenty-seven miles from Tien Tsin and, as the troops had to fight all the way there, one can see that they marched exceedingly well, as they left Tien Tsin on August 4 and started to fight at Yangtsun at 10 o'clock a. m. the 6th.

From the above description you will see that the Americans in the Orient still hold the reputation gained in the war of the revolution and the different wars of the Nineteenth century and too American people need never be ashamed of the army that is over here on the eastern slope of the Pacific.

Have just received orders that we are to load all office furniture on a houseboat and that we will make the trip to Pekin in that way. Chinese coolies to pole our boat up the river and Chinese to pull us with a rope. At this rate of locomotion I do not dare to estimate the time it will take.

Marq.

Pekin, China, November 22.—We are now in the city of the Chinese empire and all I can say for it is that it is a big pile of walls and if any difference more filthy and disgusting than Tien Tsin. We civilians are quartered in a small compound or walled inclosure inside the grounds of the temple of agriculture and are quite comfortable. Our troops are living in tents and are the only ones who are doing so. General Chaffee says that "he does not want any more feather bed soldiers around him."

The health of the command is very good and everything runs smoothly on in the same old military groove, but without any diversion whatever the winter will be very long unless the Boxers get troublesome and make us move around to keep warm.

The Germans are the most aggressive of all the troops here in China and they have three expeditions out against the Boxers, but we never hear anything, hence do not know what they have done. Will try to let you hear from me by each steamer.

Marq.

"77"

DANGER OF PNEUMONIA.

Our old winter enemy, Grip, is at hand, and in his wake will follow his twin brother. What is termed an "ordinary cold" is usually the first warning, and in a few days pneumonia follows.

The main trouble is centered in the neglect of the first symptoms. The latter are more ominous of evil in proportion to the age of the patient. Past sixty years of age Pneumonia is a very fatal malady.

The man who gets thoroughly chilled after exposure to inclement weather must needs concern himself as to the ultimate outcome, especially if high temperature, cough and difficult respiration supervene. The only safety lies in the prompt use of "Seventy-Seven," Dr. Humphreys' famous specific for the cure of Grip and the prevention of Pneumonia. At all druggists, or by mail, 25c.

Book Manual mailed free.

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OCCUPATION TAX NOTICE.

All persons engaged in business upon which an occupation license is due will please take notice to the following articles:

Article 555. Section 52 of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the city of Houston reads as follows: It shall be the duty of every person, firm or corporation or association pursuing a business, profession, occupation or calling, within the limits of the city of Houston, upon which there is or may be levied an occupation license tax by the city council, before commencing or engaging in such business or profession or other taxable calling or vocation, to procure a license from the assessor and collector of taxes of said city to pursue the same, and for any failure, neglect or refusal to procure said license shall be deemed guilty of an offense. Any person so offending must be arrested and fined in the sum of ten dollars for each and every day such violation of said ordinance may have or may thereafter be continued.

Section 54. It shall be the duty of the city marshal and city assessor and collector to see that the provisions of this chapter relating to occupation taxes are strictly complied with, and forthwith to present to the mayor (or recorder) any person violating the same.

James P. Welsh,
City Assessor and Collector.

C. E. OLIVER SELLS OUT.

Mr. R. W. Banta & Son of Crowley, La., have purchased my entire stock of musical instruments, fixtures, etc. They are in every way reliable and honorable gentlemen, and I take this method of thanking the public for past favors and introducing my successors to the people of Houston and South Texas. They pay spot cash for all pianos, thereby enabling them to do even better by you than I could do. I am in their employ and respectfully ask a liberal share of patronage from the public. Very truly, etc.,

C. E. Oliver.

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300 pairs Hanan's $6 and $5 Shoes, reduced to $3.85 and $4. Sizes somewhat broken. Sam's Shoe Store.

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Don't handicap yourself by a poor start. Success depends upon a good beginning, whether your effort is for wealth or health. Start with health and you will achieve all else. If you are struggling through life's journey, and lack health, make a new start; commence this time, with

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the foundation of health. Keep your blood pure and your system in good order, by regularly using "The 'Salt' of Salts," and success is yours.

Taken every morning, before breakfast, Abbey's Salt keeps the appetite on edge, the digestion good, and is an efficacious preventive of and cure for Sleeplessness, Constipation, Dyspepsia and similar complaints, caused by a disordered condition of the stomach and bowels.

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Sold by most druggists, or sent by mail. 25c., 50c. and $1 per bottle.

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SOUTHERN PUBLISHERS.

Preparations for the Meeting at Houston This Week.

The leading feature of the entertainment of the Southern publishers, who meet here Tuesday, will be the excursion down the bayou on the steamer Lawrence. This will prove an interesting and entertaining trip. The newspaper men will be accompanied by several prominent citizens of Houston, both ladies and gentlemen.

A reception by the ladies of Houston at the Rice hotel, in honor of the lady members of the party, will probably be arranged for Tuesday afternoon or evening.

The excursion down the bayou on the Lawrence will give the editors and publishers an opportunity to visit Galveston and several hours will be spent there. After the return to Houston a special excursion will be arranged for them to visit San Antonio and Austin, occupying only two days' time.

ARRESTED ON A REQUISITION.

Charged with a Crime Alleged to Have Been Committed Years Ago.

Sheriff Anderson yesterday arrested at his home in the outskirts of the Fair Grounds addition, W. S. Sowers, on requisition papers from the governor. Sowers was with his family when arrested. He is wanted in Winn parish, La., to answer a charge of embezzlement alleged to have been committed there thirteen years ago, when he was sheriff of the parish.

Mr. Sowers has been living in Texas for a number of years engaged in farming. He says he anticipates no trouble in proving his innocence of the charge. He admits that he was short in his accounts owing to having been robbed of public funds, but says that in settlement of the claim he turned over all of his property to his bondsmen and left Winn parish simply to avoid the humiliation incident to an investigation.

The sheriff of Winn parish has been notified of the arrest and is expected to arrive today to take charge of the prisoner.

City Assessor and Tax Colector Jamet P. Welsh is busy making out the delinquent tax roll for the year 1900 to have said delinquent tax roll published according to the provisions as set forth in the amended new city charter as passed by the legislature, and in order to save any costs or penalties it would be well for all taxpayers to call at the office of the assessor and collector and settle their taxes before said delinquent tax roll is ready for publication. The law on this subject, according to section 40 of the city charter, reads as follows: "Immediately after the 1st day of January in every year, it shall be the duty of the assessor and collector of taxes to prepare a roll containing a description of all property described in the assessment rolls of the next preceding year, that is to say, of the year ending on the next preceding thirty-first day of December, on which the taxes have not been paid. Said roll shall be called the 'Delinquent Roll,' and shall consist of so much of said roll as will identify the property and show the amount of tax due on the same. The city council shall not have the power or authority to extend the time for the payment of taxes, or in any manner delay the assessor and collector of taxes in the preparation of the 'Delinquent Roll.' During the time that the city assessor and collector shall prepare the 'Delinquent Roll' above described, he shall prepare separate statements of tax accounts due the city, to be furnished the city attorney, on which to bring suits, which statement shall contain the description of the property, the year for which the tax is due, the rate of taxation, and the person or persons, estate, firm or corporation, who assesses the same, or whether the property is rendered or unrendered, or owner is unknown, as appears on the tax roll."

Jas. P. Welsh.

THE BOSTON SHOE STORE.

Messrs. Levy & Wolfe, the proprietors of the above firm, are giving each customer a card with amounts of 25 cents, 50 cents and $1, amounting to $15 around margin. With each purchase the amount is punched in ticket and when full amount is used up they present to you free a handsome and durable workbasket, or for two cards a handsome workstand, Turkish rug or alarm clock.

A NEW PIANO CONCERN.

R. W. Banta & Son of Crowley, La., have purchased the Oliver Music house stock, stand and good will and will open a large music house in Houston. The style of the firm will be "The South Texas Piano Co." R. W. Banta, president, and R. C. Banta, secretary and treasurer. A full line of pianos, organs, musical merchandise and sheet music will be carried. The Kimball and other leading makes of pianos will be handled by the new firm. They have retained C. E. Oliver as one of their salesmen.

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CURED without the knife or detention from business. Fistula cured without the knife or detention from business. Nervous Debility, Organic Weakness, Failing Memory, Lack of Energy, Physical Decay, arising from Indiscretions, Excess, Indulgence or Exposure, producing some of the following effects: Nervousness, Debility, Self-Distrust, Defective Memory, Pimples on Face, Aversion to Society, Loss of Ambition, Unfitness to Marry, Melancholy, Dyspepsia, Stunted Development, Loss of Power, Pains in the Back, Premature Discharges, Safely, Speedily and Permanently cured. Home treatment $5 a month. Call or write for symptom blank.

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Back from the Philippines.

Corporal James W. Fenton, a Houston boy who served in the regular army for fourteen years and who went to the Philippines in the service in 1899 and contracted a rheumatic disease, is back in Houston. He spent several months in the Soldiers' home at Washington just prior to returning to this city. He is now with his niece, Mrs. M. A. Priester, 2115 Decatur, where he will reside in future. It is believed that the South Texas climate will soon improve his health.

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Lots 83 to 86—23 pairs Vici Kid Welt Lace Shoes, patent or kid tips, wide toe, modern low heel; sizes 5 to 8; C, D and E widths, $3.50 value, cut to ..... 2.

Lot 9759—A neat Dress Toe Welt Lace; all sizes and widths. $3.50 value; during this sale ..... 3.

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Lot A—20 pairs extra fine French Heel Dress Shoes, some kid, some cloth tops; sizes broken; $5.00 grade, now ..... 3.

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Lot 7463—Special lot $2.50 Winter Weight Tan Lace Shoes; just thing for bike or business wear; all sizes, now at 1.5

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Lot 9753—Best Vici Kid Lace Shoes, hand turned sole, kid tips, medium opera heel and toe; sizes 1 to 7, C, D and E wide; $3.50 value, at ..... 2.

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Lots 8607 and 8609—23 pair Vesting Top Lace, Kid or Patent Leather Tipped, heel and spring heel; sizes 2 1-2 to 8, E width; $1.75 value, to close at ..... 1.

Any Pair Ladies' $1.75 Spring Heel Kid Button Shoes, 2 1-2 to 8 E width ..... 1.

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All afflicted with above diseases are invited to call on DR. PUTNAM for friendly talk and advice, which will be given without charge, and may be of great and lasting benefit. Skillful treatment always tells, and a friendly call and consultation may save you years of suffering. Those unable to call can be equally well treated by mail. Office hours: 9 to 12, 2 to 5:30. Sundays 10 to 1. Write for symptom blank.

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