

## INCIDENTS OF THE WAR.

## BATTLE OF INKERMAN.

## LORD RAGLAN'S OFFICIAL REPORT.

The following is Lord Raglan's official report of the Battle of Inkerman:—

Before Sebastopol, Nov. 8, 1854.

My Lord Duke:—I have the honor to report to your grace that the army under my command, powerfully aided by the corps of observation of the French army under that distinguished officer, General Bosquet, effectually repulsed and defeated a most vigorous and determined attack of the enemy on our position overlooking the ruins of Inkerman, on the morning of the 5th inst.

In my letter to your grace of the 3rd, I informed you that the enemy had considerably increased their forces in the valley of Tchernaya. The following day this augmentation was still further apparent, and large masses of troops had evidently arrived from the northward, and on two several occasions persons of distinguished rank were observed to have joined the Russian camp.

I have subsequently learned that the 4th corps d'armee, conveyed in carriages of the country and the lightest possible order, had been brought from Moldavia, and were to be immediately followed by the 3d corps.

It was therefore to be expected that an extensive movement would not be long deferred.

Accordingly, shortly before daylight on the 5th, strong columns of the enemy came upon the advanced pickets covering the right of the position. These pickets behaved with admirable gallantry, defending the ground foot by foot against the overwhelming numbers of the enemy, until the 2nd division under Major-General Pennefather, with its field guns, which had immediately been got under arms, was placed in position.

The light division under Lieutenant-General Sir George Brown, was also brought to the front without loss of time; the first brigade under Major-General Codrington, occupying the long slopes to the left toward Sebastopol, and protecting our right battery, and guarding against attack on that side; and the second brigade, under Brigadier-General Buller, forming on the left of the 2nd division, with the 88th regiment under Lieutenant-Colonel Jeffreys, thrown in advance.

The brigade of Guards under his royal highness the Duke of Cambridge and Major-General Bentick, proceeded likewise to the front, and took up most important ground to the extreme right on the extreme alignment of the 2nd division, but separated from it by a deep and precipitous ravine, and posting its guns with those of the 2nd division.

The 4th division, under Lieutenant-General Sir George Cathcart, having been brought from their encampment, advanced to the front and right of the attack; the first brigade under Brigadier-General Goldie, proceeded to the left of the Inkerman road; the 2nd brigade, under Brigadier-General Torrens, to the right of it, and on the ridge overhanging the valley of the Tchernaya.

The 3rd division, under Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Raglan, occupied in part the ground vacated by the 4th division, and supported the light division by two regiments under Brigadier-General Eyre, held the command of the troops in the trenches.

The morning was extremely dark, with a drizzling rain, rendering it almost impossible to discover beyond the flash and smoke of artillery and heavy musketry fire.

It, however, soon became evident that the enemy, under cover of a vast cloud of skirmishers, supported by dense columns of infantry had advanced numerous batteries of large calibre to the high ground to the left and front of the 2nd division, while powerful columns of infantry attacked with very great vigor the brigade of guards.

Additional batteries of heavy artillery were also placed by the enemy on the slopes to our left; the guns in the field amounting in the whole to 90 pieces, independently, however, of the ship guns and those in the works of Sebastopol.

Protected by a tremendous fire of shot, shell and grape, the Russian columns advanced in great force, requiring every effort of gallantry on the part of troops to resist them.

At this time two battalions of French infantry, which had on the first notice been sent by General Bosquet, joined our right, and very materially contributed to the successful resistance to the attack, cheering with our men, and charging the enemy down the hill with great loss.

About the same time a determined assault was made on our extreme left, and for a moment the enemy possessed themselves of four of our guns, three of which were re-taken by the 88th, while the fourth was speedily recaptured by the 77th, under Lieutenant-Colonel Egerton.

In the opposite direction, the brigade of guards, under his royal highness the Duke of Cambridge, was engaged in a severe conflict.

The enemy under cover of thick brush-wood advanced in two heavy bodies, and assaulted with great determination a small redoubt which

had been constructed for two guns, but was not armed. The combat was most arduous, and the brigade, after displaying the utmost steadiness and gallantry, was obliged to retire before very superior numbers, until supported by a wing of the 20th regiment of the 4th division, when they again advanced and re-took the redoubt.

This ground was afterwards occupied in gallant style by French troops, and the guards speedily reformed in rear of the right flank of the 2nd division.

In the meantime, Lieutenant-General the Hon. Sir George Cathcart, with a few companies of the 68th Regiment, considering that he might make a strong impression by descending into the valley, and taking the enemy in flank, moved rapidly forward, but finding the heights above him in full occupation of the Russians, he suddenly discovered he was entangled with a superior force, and while attempting to withdraw his men, he received a mortal wound, shortly previous to which Brigadier-General Torrens, when leading the 68th, was likewise severely wounded.

Subsequently to this, the battle continued with unabated vigor and with no positive result, the enemy bringing upon our line not only the fire of all their field batteries, but those in front of the works of the place, and the ship guns, until the forenoon, when the symptoms of giving way first became apparent; and shortly after, although the fire did not cease, the retreat became general, and heavy masses were observed, retiring over the bridge of the Inkerman, and ascending the opposite heights, abandoning the field of battle, five or six thousand dead and wounded, multitudes of the latter having already been carried off by them. I never before witnessed such a spectacle as the field presented; but upon this I will not dwell.

Having submitted to your grace this imperfect description of this most severe battle, I have still two duties to discharge—the one most gratifying, the last, most painful to my feelings.

I have the greatest satisfaction in drawing your grace's attention to the brilliant conduct of the allied troops. The French and English vied with each other in displaying their gallantry and manifesting their zealous devotion to duty, notwithstanding that they had to contend against an infinitely superior force, and were exposed for many hours to a most galling fire.

It should be borne in mind that they have daily undergone the most constant labour, and that many of them passed the previous night in the trenches.

I will not attempt to enter into the detail of the movements of the French troops, lest I should not state them correctly, but I am proud of the opportunity of bearing testimony to their valour and energetic services, and of paying a tribute of admiration, to the distinguished conduct of their immediate commander, General Bosquet, while it is in a high degree pleasing to me to place upon record my deep sense of the valuable assistance I received from the Commander-in-chief, General Canrobert, who was on the ground and in constant communication with me, and whose cordial co-operation on all occasions, I cannot too highly extol.

Your grace will recollect that he was wounded at the Alma. He was again wounded on the 5th, but I should hope that he will not long feel the effects of it.

I will in a subsequent despatch lay before your grace the names of the officers whose services have been brought to my notice. I will not detain the mail for that purpose now, but I cannot delay to report the admirable behavior of Lieutenant-general Sir George Brown, who was unfortunately shot through the arm, but is doing well; of Lieutenant-general his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, who particularly distinguished himself; and of Major-general Pennefather, in command of the second division, which received the first attack, and gallantly maintained itself under the greatest difficulties throughout this protracted conflict; of Major-general Bentick, who is severely wounded; Major-general Codrington, Brigadier-general Adams and Brigadier-general Torrens, who are severely wounded; and Brigadier-general Buller, who is also wounded, but not so severely.

I must likewise express my obligations to Lieutenant-general Sir Richard England, for the excellent disposition he made of his divisions, and the assistance he rendered to the left of the light division, where Brigadier-general Sir John Campbell was judiciously placed and effectively supported Major-general Codrington; and I have great pleasure in stating that Brigadier-general Eyre was employed in the important duty of guarding the trenches from any assault from the town.

Lieutenant-general Sir de Lacy Evans, who had been obliged by severe indisposition to go on board ship a few days previously, left his bed as soon as he received intelligence of the attack and was promptly at his post; and though he did not feel well enough to take the command of the division out of the hands of Major-general Pennefather, he did not fail to give him his best advice and assistance.

It is deeply distressing to me to have to submit to your grace the list of the killed, wounded, and missing on this memorable occasion.—It is indeed heavy, and very many valuable officers and men have been lost to her Majesty's service.

Among the killed your grace, is the names of Lieutenant-General the Hon. Sir G. Cathcart Brigadier-general Strangways, and Brigadier-general Goldie.

Of the services of the first it is almost unnecessary to speak. They are known throughout the British empire. And have within a short space of time been brought conspicuously before the country by his achievements at the Cape of Good Hope, whence he had only returned when he was ordered to this army.

By his death Her Majesty has been deprived of a most devoted servant, an officer of the highest merit, while I personally have to deplore the loss of an attached and faithful friend.

Brigadier-general Strangways was known to have distinguished himself in early life, and in mature age throughout a long service he maintained the same character.

The mode in which he had conducted the command of the artillery, since it was placed in his hands by the departure, through illness, of Major-General Cator, is entitled to my entire approbation, and was equally agreeable to those who were confided to his care.

Brigadier-General Goldie was an officer of considerable promise, and gave great satisfaction to those under whom he served.

It is difficult to arrive at any positive conclusion as to the actual numbers brought into the field by the enemy. The configuration of the ground did not admit of any development of their force—the attack consisting of repeated assaults in heavy masses of columns; but judging from the numbers that were seen in the plains after they had withdrawn in retreat, I am led to suppose that they could not have been less than 60,000 men. Their loss was excessive and it is calculated that they left on the field near 5000 dead, and that their casualties amount in the whole, in killed, wounded, and prisoners, to not less than 15,000.

Your grace will be surprised to learn that the number of British troops actually engaged little exceeded 8000 men, while those of General Bosquet's division only amounted to 6000, the remaining available French troops on the spot having been kept in reserve.

I ought to mention, that while the enemy was attacking our right they assailed the left of the French trenches, and actually got into two of their batteries; but they were quickly driven out in the most gallant manner with considerable loss, and hotly pursued to the very walls of Sebastopol.

I have, &c.,

RAGLAN.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c.

From the Special Correspondent of the Illustrated London News.

The 5th of November will be memorable, in future, as the anniversary of the hardest-fought action that has taken place for many years. It commenced at daybreak on Sunday—a favourite day with the Russians, who pretend the Divine right is on their side, and who persuade their soldiers that the Sabbath is propitious, experience not having taught the latter the vanity of the pretence. Oltenitz, it is true, might have been borne in mind, as a proof that victory is not always attendant on those who, for the satisfaction of one man's pride, break through Divine command, which makes that day a day of rest; but Russian soldiers are not supposed to reason, and so the pretence goes down. The dawn broke in upon a damp and misty morning, when the action commenced. A heavy gloom covered the spurs on the right and front of our position—the mist rolling slowly down their sides into the vales, and up again upon the hills which overlook Sebastopol and the ruins of Inkerman. During the night a heavy noise, as of carts moving into the besieged town, met the ears of the advanced pickets; but our officers were unable to conjecture, from the noise, that danger threatened them so nearly. The noise was that of 50,000 Russians moving up with guns and ammunition—carts to a position in front of our right. Heavy 24 and 32-pounders were in the train, and the masses of the enemy moved so silently that they caused us no alarm. The attack commenced as the light appeared. On our left, skirting a ravine which leads to Sebastopol, were pickets of the 47th, under Major Fordyce; and of the 41st, under Capt. Rowlands and Lieut. Fitzroy. The first announcement to them of the enemy's approach was a sharp fire from the sentries along the front.—The companies on moving out, found themselves instantly opposed by columns, when they expected to meet but skirmishers; and though they maintained a bold attitude, they were forced to retire before the heavy masses of the enemy advancing with irresistible force. Our pickets whilst retiring, charged repeatedly with the bayonet, causing the Russians in the front to fall back. Captain Rowlands and Lieut. Fitzroy were both wounded in their efforts to hold their ground against the enemy. The position which the Russians had assumed was the same as that from which they were expelled in the affair of the 26th October. Their columns moved simultaneously—their right extending to the ravine already mentioned, their centre on 'Shell Hill,' and their left up the main Sebastopol road. Whilst our pickets were driven in by the Russian right, those of the centre were forced back upon the barrier on the Sebastopol road, and a strong Russian force doubled

down the quarry ravine, to turn down the right flank of our position. The heavy guns, which had taken up a position during the night on the extreme right of the Russian position, and poured in almost immediately a hot fire of shot and shell upon the camp of the Second Division. The troops had barely had time to form when the fire commenced. The greater part of the tents were struck with great speed and the various regiments of the division moved up in haste to support its picket. The enemy had made great progress at this time, however. Their guns had moved to the brow of 'Shell Hill,' and were pouring in a destructive fire upon the advance of our men; whilst our artillery, which had hastily taken a position opposite them, were enabled to cope, either in weight of metal or in number, with the large and numerous train of the Russians. The enemy, therefore, gradually drove us back from the barrier on the Sebastopol road, from the spur on our right, and from that on our left. They did not do so, however, without heavy loss. As fast as the various regiments came up from the First, Fourth and Light Divisions to reinforce the Second companies, were attached to the divers points where they were required and this caused considerable confusion, by separating the different portions of regiments from each other. It is impossible, for that reason, to define with any accuracy the position of any detailed portion of our force. They maintained a determined front everywhere. The 88th, part of the 49th, and companies from some other regiments, were commissioned to hold the enemy in check on the left; whilst, on the right, three companies of the 49th, part of the 41st and 30th, and two companies of the Grenadier Guards, advanced from the two-gun battery against the enemy, and charged at them down the hill. The Russian swerved from them but continued their flank movement towards our right. As they moved down the hill, Sir George Cathcart, conspicuous by his dress, and the Guards by their bearskins, became a sure mark for the enemy. The Russians, however, grave way in front, but gradually closed in upon our right and in a few minutes outflanked us. Our men, by this time, had most of them expended their ammunition, and they found themselves in the dreadful position of charging back up the hill to cut through the enemy who had outflanked them and obtained possession of the two-gun battery behind. Luckily for us the work had been disarmed a few days previously. Sir George Cathcart and many other brave officers fell at this unlucky time, but our men used the cold steel with vigour, and they were cutting their way up when they caught sight of General Bosquet moving with a regiment of Turcos and one of Zouaves upon the battery which the Russians then held. The assistance of the French had not been timely only here, but had been of the utmost consequence in other parts of the field. Whilst Sir George Cathcart charged upon our right, the long line of English infantry which formed our centre had been strengthened and was beating back the Russians along the whole front. Our artillery which had been reinforced from the other divisions kept up a heavier fire and the enemy quailed everywhere at our advance. But when our right flank was turned, the effect was instantly felt at the centre. Fresh columns of Russians poured in to fill the space left by those which had been beaten back, and on all sides our line began to retire. Notwithstanding repeated charges at them, by which they were but partially and momentarily checked, the Russians poured an enormous column up the Sebastopol road, and reached the crest of the hill above the camp of the Second Division.

They formed a dense and compact mass, irresistible in weight wherever it struck, but slow and inert enough in motion. Our retreating companies retiring before this column, were formed up in line amongst the struck tents of 30th Regiment, and not 30 yards from the enemy. At the word of command they moved with left shoulders forward, and took the advancing Russians in flank; whilst opportunely, at the same instant, the French Light Infantry furiously attacked their front. The French had just come up running. They were in the act of formation, and it required all the energy of their Colonel, and the efforts of Captain Glazbrook and Gubbins, of General Evans's staff, to bring them up in time. They charged, in spite of their confusion, in gallant style, pouring in a deadly file fire in front, whilst our line poured in an equally deadly one in flank, and our artillery threw a volley of grape into the midst of them. The Russians withered away before the shower, and fairly ran, leaving the ground strewn with the dead and dying. French artillery came up to our assistance at the same moment, and the 6th Regiment of Infantry joined the 7th Light, the Zouaves, and Turcos in the onslaught, headed by General Bosquet, who had by this time cleared the two-gun battery on the right of the enemy. This grand effort of the Russians was beaten back at half-past nine in the morning, up to which time the British had thus been keeping in check with their comparatively small force, no less than 50,000 men, with sixty heavy field pieces. But, though they had received a severe check, the enemy retired very slowly from the field; and they even succeeded in a second flanking movement against General Bosquet's division. This bold officer after having re-taken the two-gun battery, and