

## Incidents of the War.

## OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

Extracts from Lord Raglan's Despatch, dated March 24.

My Lord,—On the morning of the 22nd the French troops in the advanced parallel moved forward, and drove the enemy out of the rifle pits in their immediate front, but nothing of any importance occurred during the day.

Early in the night, however, a serious attack was made upon the works of our allies in front of the Victoria redoubt, opposite the Malakoff Tower. The night was very dark, and the wind so high that the firing which took place, and which was very heavy, could scarcely be heard in the British camp. It is, therefore, difficult to speak with certainty of what occurred from anything that could be heard or observed. It appears, however, that the Russians, after attacking the head of the sap, which the French are carrying on towards the Mamelon, fell with two heavy masses on their new parallel, to the rear of which they succeeded in penetrating, and momentarily possessing themselves of, after a gallant resistance on the part of our Allies.

Captain the Hon. Cavendish Browne, of the 7th, and Lieut. Gordon, of the 34th regiment, were unfortunately killed in this attack, after displaying the most distinguished gallantry; and Lieutenant M'Henry, of the former regiment, who commanded in the trenches, is, I regret to have to add, missing. The French, in retiring from their advanced parallel upon their supports, speedily rallied, and fell upon the enemy, whom they repulsed with great loss, and followed so far up towards the Mamelon that they were enabled to level and destroy nearly all the ambuscades or rifle concealments erected along their front. I fear, however, that this success has not been accomplished without considerable loss on their part, although that of the enemy is much greater.

Yesterday the whole of the ground between the posts of the two armies was covered with their dead, amounting to several hundreds, besides those which they had carried off before daylight.

In the meanwhile, the enemy in great numbers found their way into the advanced batteries on our extreme left, which are not yet armed, and momentarily got possession of them. Working parties were, however, speedily collected and re-formed by Capt. Capman, of the 26th regiment, acting engineer, and they at once drove the enemy out of the trenches with the utmost gallantry. Capt. Montague, of the Royal Engineers, superintending the works, unfortunately fell into the hands of the enemy.

I am, &c., RAGLAN.

The Marshal Minister of War has received, from the General Commanding-in-Chief in the Crimea, the following despatch, dated March 23d:

Monsieur le Marechal,—We have had this night, an action very obstinately disputed, and most glorious for our troops, on our right attack in front of the Malakoff Tower. About 11 at night, the enemy attempted a general sortie, which he does not appear to have supported with less than 15 battalions, which, according to the Russian prisoners, were of the full number of 1,000 men each. These troops, divided into two columns, advanced en masse, and with savage yells, to the attack of the work commanding the way which we had formed in front of our parallel, to reach the ambuscades previously occupied by the enemy, and which it is our intention to connect strongly together, so as to form them into a place d'armes. Thrice repulsed and thrice led back by the encouragements of their officers, the Russians were at last compelled to abandon the design of occupying this point, which was defended by companies of the 3d Zouaves, under the orders of Major Banon. The struggle was obstinate, and cost us dear, but caused the enemy even severer losses, and in proportion to the masses they presented. Colonel Janin, of the 1st Zouaves, directed the efforts on this point, and fought personally with with rare energy. He was covered with blood, from two wounds in the head but which are fortunately not severe.

The efforts of the enemy, who only succeeded in overthrowing the empty gabion-works which we had on this point, proving fruitless here, were next directed upon the left of our parallel towards the Karabelnaia Ravine, where he was warmly received with musketry fire, and was unable to penetrate. He then suddenly threw himself on the right of the English parallel, succeeded in crossing the works, and formed himself in the rear of our left, which for an instant was subject to a murderous rear fire. General Autemarre, commanding the trenches, made the necessary arrangements with his accustomed vigour and coolness. The 4th battalion of chasseurs a pied, coming up to the support, were thrown into the ravine, and bravely rushed upon the enemy, who being thus exposed in turn, sustained considerable losses, and were driven back not to return again.

Farther to the left, the English, who had as yet only been able to get up a force very inferior to that of the assailants, assaulted the enemy with their accustomed bravery, and after a very smart conflict, forced him to retreat. Still further to the left, the English had been attacked by a sortie, which seemed to be a diversion, and which they repelled in a very short time.

On the whole, this operation of the besieged differed completely from all those which he had hitherto made against our works. In order to effect it, and in spite of the already large amount of the garrison, he had brought from without two regiments (eight battalions of French reposee troops, the regiments of Dnieper and Ougletch). It was in fact, a sort of general assault against our works, and the combination appeared conceived in the best manner for obtaining a considerable result.—Accordingly the importance of this failure on the part of the besieged must be measured by the greatness of the object he had in view. The prisoners we have taken say that their losses have been enormous, and indeed we estimate that this irregular action, like all night actions, where the fire has been maintained for several hours, must have cost the enemy, looking at the masses he employed, at least 1,000 to 1,200 killed and wounded. The ground in front of our parallels is strewn with dead, and General Osten Sacken has just requested a suspension of hostilities, which has been granted, and fixed for to-morrow, to permit of the last duties being paid them.

Our own losses, respecting which General Boscquet has only been able as yet to send me approximative returns, are very severe, and cannot amount to less than 300 or 320 killed and wounded. We have particularly to regret the death of Major Dumas of the Engineers, a superior officer of great merit and promise, and who fell gloriously. He was slain of bayonet wounds, having been previously wounded in front of the works of attack. You knew and esteemed him, M. le Marechal; your sorrow will equal ours. The same also of Major Banon, of the 3d Zouaves who is missing, and is supposed to have been killed. I will forward you the detailed statements of our losses at a subsequent period.

I have nothing to add to what I informed you of in my previous despatches respecting the sanitary condition of the troops. It is excellent.

I am informed that many families, under the influence of anxieties, otherwise too legitimate, are astonished that no exchange of prisoners has yet been made in the Crimea, and have addressed to you complaints and pressing demands—at least I gather so much from a great number of private letters which have been received here.—On this head I can only reply, in concord with Lord Raglan I wrote on this subject to the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian army so far back as January last. Prince Menchikoff replied shortly after, that he was about to refer the matter to his government, and that its decision would subsequently be made known to us. There the matter rests, and I do not consider it would become us to break a silence which appears to be intentionally preserved.

Accept M. le Marechal, the tribute of my respectful devotion.

CANROBERT,  
General Commanding-in-Chief.

The Moniteur publishes the following despatch from General Canrobert, dated March 27, 1855, and addressed to the Minister of War:—

Monsieur le Marechal.—As I apprised you in my letter of the 23d, suspension of hostilities for a few hours, requested by General Osten-Sacken, took place, for the interment of the men killed in the conflict of the night of the 22d. The Russians carried away under our eyes about 400 of their men who had fallen in front of our trenches. They had passed the preceding night in carrying away those of their soldiers who had been killed in the vicinity of their own lines.

We have thus been enabled to estimate their loss with some exactitude. It must amount to 600 or 700 killed, and 1,200 or 1,500 wounded, making at least 2,000 killed or disabled. Our calculations, as has happened in all our former actions of war, must then have been greatly below the reality. Perhaps they are so still.

Our own loss amounts to—killed or died of their wounds, 13 officers and 169 privates; wounded, 12 officers and 361 men; missing, 2 officers, and 54 men.

We have news of two of the missing officers; they are in the hands of the enemy. One, M. de Crecy, Captain Adjutant-Major of the 3d Zouaves, has had an arm amputated, and has received other wounds. He is, however, progressing satisfactorily. This officer highly distinguished himself in the glorious action of the 22d. The other, Captain Malafaye, of 82d, has received several wounds, not of a dangerous character.

I have nothing to add to the details which I have already given of this engagement, which really assumed large proportions. You will certainly appreciate all the merit of troops who can thus defend trenches still incomplete.

I particularly draw your attention to two officers, already rich in services of war, and who have distinguished themselves anew in this bril-

liant engagement: General d'Autemarre and Colonel Janin of the 1st Zouaves. The latter wounded twice by stones, and once by a gunshot, fought in person like a lion.

The relieving army is still in the same position. Prince Gortschakoff has assumed the general command, which Baron Osten-Sacken had held ad interim. Tartar informations confirm the death of Prince Mentschikoff, which took place as he was about to leave the Crimea.

I have to announce a deplorable disaster: the steamer Edinburg, one of the largest English transports (for horses), chartered by your department, and which was going to Varna to embark the remaining horses of the 4th Hussars, mules, artillery horses, &c., went on shore to the north of Baltchik, and was lost, with two vessels which it was towing to the same place. No one was lost in this wreck, which took place on the 15th inst.

The sanitary condition of the army is still satisfactory; the moral condition was never firmer.—I am &c.,

CANROBERT.

General Commanding-in-Chief of the army of the East.

General Order.—On the 19th of March, in the trenches, a hollow projectile fired by the enemy, and which fell in the midst of a group of men on guard, was infallibly about to strike several of them on bursting, when Fusilier Davoine (Antoine, of the 21st of the Line, caught it up in both hands and flung it over the back of the trench, where it exploded. The General-in-Chief is happy to have it in his power to honour this act of courage by conferring, in the name of the Emperor, the military medal on Fusilier Davoine.—Head-quarters-General before Sebastopol, March 22, 1855.

CANROBERT, General-in-Chief.

Camp Before Sebastopol, March 26.—The affair of Thursday night and Friday morning last was not so serious for us as was first imagined. Our loss, instead of being nearly 1000 killed, wounded and missing, did not amount to much more than half that number: and Lieutenant Colonel Kelly, of the 34th Regiment, is, I am glad to say, alive in Sebastopol, with a slight wound. Captain Montagu, Royal Engineers, is also a prisoner. The French fought with remarkable energy, and repulsed the attack on them with great slaughter.

When the Mortar Battery was carried by an enormous force of the enemy on Thursday night, or more properly speaking Friday morning, they held it for about 15 minutes, and were dislodged by a handful of men, who according to the statements made to me, displayed the utmost gallantry and daring. Our men do not relish night fighting. The would sooner meet 10,000 Russians by day than 2,000 in the dark, but the circumstances attending this act evince the greatest coolness and bravery on the men and officers engaged in it. At the time the heavy fire between the French and Russians was going on, the 90th Regiment were employed on fatigue duty on the right of the new advanced works on our right attack. They were in the act of returning to their posts in the Gordon Battery just at the moment the heavy firing on the right hand had ceased when a scattered irregular fusilade commenced in the dark on the left of their position close to the Mortar Battery. Captain Vaughton, who commanded the party of the 90th, ordered his men to advance along the covered way to the works. They moved up in double time, and found the Russians in complete possession of the Mortar Battery. The 9th at once opened as heavy a fire of musketry as they could upon the enemy, who returned it, but the coolness and steadiness of our men were giving us the advantage, when an alarm was given that our men was firing on the French; but the mistake was speedily discovered by the enemy's fire being poured in with more deadly effect, and the small party of the 90th were thrown into great confusion. Captain Vaughton at this moment shouted, "Men of the 90th follow me!" and Sergeant Henry Clarke, Sergeant Brittle, a sergeant of the 7th Fusiliers, about 14 men of the 90th, and a few of the 5th dashed out of the confused ranks, and rushed right into the Mortar Battery. In a few moments these brave fellows drove the enemy beyond the first traverse and at the narrow way leading into the second traverse they made a stand, and opened a heavy flanking fire on the parapet, over which the Russians were making determined efforts to come upon them. The narrow pass was meantime defended by the sergeants and a few men, who delivered fire as fast as they could load right into the Russians, who gradually began to give way. With a loud "hurrah" the gallant little band sprang with the bayonet upon the enemy who at once precipitately retired over the parapet, followed by our rifle balls, which were poured in upon them incessantly till every round in the men's pouches was expended. In order to keep up the fire the men groped about among the dead Russians, and exhausted all the cartridges they could find in the enemy's pouches. At the first charge at the Mortar Battery the Russian leader, who wore an Albanian costume, and whose gallantry was most conspicuous, fell dead. As an act of justice, the names of the officers and men of the 90th whose conduct was distinguished in this affair should be recorded. They are—Clarke, Brittle, and Essex (serjeants), Car-

others severely wounded (corporal), Fare, Walsh, Nicholson (wounded), and Nash. Captain Vaughton received a severe contusion in the affair. The courage displayed by Captain Cavendish Browne, of the 7th, in another part of the works, was most conspicuous. He was severely wounded at the commencement of the attack, but he refused to go to the rear, though nearly fainting from loss of blood. He led on his men, encouraging them by voice and gesture to the front. When his body was found, it lay far in advance of our line, with three balls in the chest. The 77th regiment behaved admirably, and Major-General Codrington has communicated to the 88th (and I believe to the other regiments of the brigade of the Light Division engaged) the satisfaction of Sir George Brown at their gallant conduct. It is not known how many Albanian chiefs there were with the Russians, but certainly the two who were killed led them on with intrepidity and ferocious courage. One of them, who struggled into the battery in spite of a severe wound, while his life blood was ebbing fast, rushed at a powder barrel and fired his pistol into it before he fell. Fortunately the powder did not explode, as the fire did not go through the wood. Another charged with a cimetar in one hand and a formidable curved blade, which he used as a dagger, in the other, right into our ranks twice and he fell dead the second time, perforated with balls and bayonets. They were magnificently dressed, and it is supposed they were men of rank.

In my last letter I stated that the 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade and the 46th Regiment, were turned out at twelve o'clock on Friday night, and were ordered to the Quarry Pits over our left attack. A part of the Light Division was also ordered out, and marched to the ground over the lines of the right attack. At the same period Sir George Brown was informed that masses of Russian infantry had assembled in our front at nine o'clock, and he directed Sir John Campbell to occupy the position indicated with the regiments of the Fourth Division which I have named, while he advanced with his own men of the Light Division to support the party in the trenches. The men remained out till two o'clock in the morning, when as all was quiet, they returned to their tents. No attack took place on our lines, but the French on the right attack in the advanced parallels and the Russians had severe contests with musketry from dusk till early in the morning. The French lost a few men, beat back the Russians and killed a great number of them. Still the enemy kept possession of the rifle pits, covered by the Mamelon and the Round Tower works, and they actually dug four more during the night, and began connecting the pits with each other by some rudimentary works.

Early on Saturday morning a flag of truce was sent in by the allies with a proposition to the Russians for an armistice to bury the dead, which were lying in numbers—five or six Russians to every Frenchman and Englishman—in front of the Round Tower and Mamelon, and after some delay, an answer in the affirmative was returned, and it was arranged that two hours should be granted for collecting and carrying away the dead on both sides. The day was beautifully bright and warm. White flags waved gently in the faint spring breeze above the embrasures of our batteries, and from the Round Tower and Mamelon. Not a soul had been visible in front of the lines an instant before the emblems of peace were run up to the flagstaffs, and a sullen gun from the Mamelon and a burst of smoke from Gordon's batteries had but a short time previously heralded the armistice. The instant the flags were hoisted friend and foe swarmed out of the embrasures. The Riefmen of the allies and of the enemy rose from their lairs in the rifle pits, and sauntered towards each other to behold their grim handiwork. The whole of the space between the Russian lines and our own was filled with groups of unarmed soldiery. Passing down by the Middle Picket Ravine, which is now occupied by the French, and which runs down in front of the advanced French trench, within a few hundred yards of the Mamelon. The sight was strange, beyond description. French, English, and Russian officers were walking about saluting each other courteously as they passed, and occasionally entering into conversation, and a constant interchange of little civilities, such as offering and receiving cigar-lights, was going on in each little group. Some of the Russian officers were evidently men of high rank and breeding. Their polished manners contrasted remarkably with their plain and rather coarse clothing. They wore, with few exceptions, the invariable long grey coat over their uniforms. The French officers were all *en grande tenue*, and offered a striking contrast to many of our own officers, who were dressed *a la Balaklava*, and wore uncouth head dresses, catskin coats, and nondescript paletots. Many of the Russians looked remarkably like English gentlemen in "style" of face and bearing. One tall, fine looking old man, with a long gray beard and strangely-shaped cap, was pointed out to us as Hetman of the Cossacks in the Crimea, but it did not appear as if there were many men of very high military rank present. The Russians were rather grave and reserved, but they seemed to fraternize with the French better than with