

colour to the affair which would be more of a fact than straightforward in the element of naked truth. Deaten we have been, however, as the following unvarnished narrative of the whole matter, from first to last, will establish—in the face of every statement to the contrary, from those whom either official or other unwillingness to own the fact may induce to repeat otherwise. Camp rumour and significant movements of troops towards the front, justified the expectation of early and decisive action against the town. This took place about dawn yesterday morning, when a shower of heavy shot and shell began to be poured down on the devoted works of the Malakoff and Redan, which seemed to render it impossible for any man who ever breathed to work replying guns for an hour. Work them, however, the Russians did; and till well on in the forenoon, they gave us a "Roland for an Oliver," from every embrasure from which they could point a gun. About noon their fire slackened, and from the Malakoff especially—on which the French were keeping up a perfect flood of shot and shell from the adjacent Mamelon—only an odd discharge from a solitary couple of guns replied to the storm that burst from along the line of allies' batteries; the Redan was brisker; but, before sundown, it too seemed to have received its *quiescent* from the well-directed fire of our own batteries on its front, and the belief was general that its guns were deprived of further power for harm. The Russian shipping still lay out in the harbour, in a position of very tempting exposure; but a request having been made to Lord Raglan, early in the day, to spare them on the ground of there being sick on board his lordship, with his usual and characteristic readiness to comply with the wishes of the hostile general, gave orders to that effect, and the six liners, and eight or ten steamers and smaller craft, floated safely through the storm that raged around. Five hundred rounds per gun had been served round to the batteries; and from this ample store was poured out an incessant shower of shot and shell—mainly against the Malakoff and Redan—which fell as thickly within the enemy's enclosures as any anti-Moscowite spectator from the heights in front of our division could desire. In fact, the reverberating thunders of the discharges broke upon the ear, not in single sounds, but in one long deafening rumble, in which it was difficult to distinguish the separate peals. The Victoria (French) rocket battery kept sending its terrible messengers meanwhile into the town and occasionally amongst the shipping, but with what result in the latter direction I was unable to ascertain. The plan of the allied generals being to effectually silence the two main works of the enemy before storming, the fire was vigorously kept up with both shot and shell till sunset, when the fire was confined to the mortars; by which, however, the enemy received a sufficiently warm continuation of explosive compliments from both ourselves and the French.

Such, in brief, was the character of the bombardment throughout the day—unceasing and apparently in every way satisfactory in its results. So far as I can ascertain at this early hour after the unfortunate affair, the original design of the allied generals was to make a joint attack upon the Malakoff—which taken, the Redan could be no longer held by the enemy. The English were to assault it on the south west side, whilst the French stormed on the north east, another column simultaneously making a feint against the Redan, to keep those of its flanking guns which might be still unsilenced from annoying the assailants of the Malakoff. Our force to be engaged was to consist of three attacking parties of 400 men each, and the same number of working parties of 800 each. Such was the arrangement so far as any thing was known of it among the quid-nuncs of the camp till late last night. It then, however, became rumoured that the whole plan had been altered, and that the French were to have the Malakoff to themselves, whilst we made a threefold attack on the Redan at its salient and two re-entering angles. This was the case. Our force was to consist of four columns, one for each of the points of attack, composed of an Engineer officer and ten Sappers, a covering party of one hundred Rifles fifty men with wool bags, one hundred sailors with scaling ladders, four hundred main stormers, a supporting force of eight hundred, and a working party of four hundred, with a fourth to advance and threaten the enemy's works at the head of the Dockyard creek, and, if possible, effect a lodgment in the ruined buildings on the other side of the town. According to the several directions above mentioned, the services paraded and marched down from the camp by the ravines which lead from the front to the several directions above mentioned. I should remark that the 23rd Regiment had been chosen to lead the storming; but shortly after two o'clock—an hour before the affair began—General Airey succeeded in having this honour transferred to the 34th his own old regiment—with what result will be seen. About three o'clock the French advanced to the attack of the Malakoff, and a few minutes after the signal was made for our own rush on the Redan. By some unaccountable blundering the covering party got ahead of the stormers—to whom report attributes no great haste in advancing—so immediate confusion was the result. Equally unexplained is the fact that, instead of making for their assigned points of attack at the

three angles above specified, the parties jumbled into one, and in this state moved on into fire. Fearful then, was the reception that awaited them. From out every embrasure—whose guns we had fondly thought silenced during the day—an iron shower of grape and canister was vomited forth with desolating effect, knocking down dozens for every gun, and adding panic to the previously existing confusion. I may mention, in partial explanation, that many of the men present were raw recruits, recently drafted from the depots in England; but even had they been veterans of many a hard fought campaign, they could not have advanced under so terrific and annihilating a storm as met them along the whole front. Seeing the sad plight of the stormers and their coverers, the supporting party then dashed on to join them; but they too were compelled, with sadly shattered ranks, to seek shelter behind the broken breastworks of the old Russian trenches before the Redan, where they lay for several hours interchanging rifle-shots with the enemy's musketeers who swarmed within and along the parapets of the works. Seeing every thing lost, the commanders of the several parties gave the order to retire early in the morning, but that was found impracticable till our guns, by a terrific fire had drawn off the enemy's pieces from their grape and canister practice, when our men were gradually enabled to escape out of fire, and so off the field altogether—milled and cut up more than they would have been after an ordinary general action, and this without having done a single injury of importance to the enemy. The fourth column under General Eyre, had in the meantime effected the proposed lodgment so completely that they got in and could not get out, except at the cost of running the gauntlet of a similar fusillade of grape to that which had swept down so many of their comrades. They remain there at this moment, I believe, and can only hope to escape during the night.

Such, in few words, is the reverse which we have met with to-day—the fortieth anniversary of Waterloo. If report is to be believed, the day had been waited for, to wipe the last rankling memories of the great Belgian field, and cement our new sympathies, by a hand-in-hand victory over a common foe. Last night not a man in either camp doubted the certainty of our success; and yet failure has fallen on us like a thunderclap after all. The blame, however, lies not so much with Lord Raglan as with Sir George Brown, who generally commanded, and his brigade officers; the last especially have blundered in a manner which is as surprising as it has been disastrous, and—to repeat what I have already stated—we have in consequence lost as many officers and men as would have gained a pitched battle in the field. Of the former I may mention General Sir John Campbell, whose head was knocked off with a round shot; Lord West, lieutenant-colonel of the 20th; Colonel Yea, of the 7th Fusiliers, first wounded, and afterwards killed and stripped naked; and Captain Lea, of the 21st; besides many others both killed and wounded, whose names I cannot as yet learn, in the hurry of closing my letter for the mail. The regiments most severely injured have been the 7th, 23rd, 57th, and 88th; but as no returns have yet been made of their casualties, I can do no more than state this general fact of their heavy loss. In the first of the four, I hear eleven officers have been killed or wounded, whilst the number has been proportionably large in most of the others engaged. I may just mention that most of the grape shot fired was wooden, used either through a scarcity of the metallic article, or to scatter widely at a short range, as was that of this morning, whilst the men were under fire. Several of the buried infernal machines also exploded during the morning, and though not fatally destructive to any one, they inflicted serious personal injury on several, both on the officers and men. I know not if you have received any description of these ingenious contrivances for the blowing up of the unwary; and if not, I may repeat what I have heard of them from an officer who belonged to the party which dug up no less than eighty four of them during the late successful attack on the Quarries. They consist of two square boxes buried about ten inches below the surface of the ground and connected together with a glass tube, filled with an acid, and rising out of the mass of explosive material which fills both; from the centre of this last another small vertical tube rises to the level of the ground, likewise filled with a chemical liquid, which, when mingled with that in the lower tube, by being pressed down into it by the foot of the passer, ignites, explodes the powder, and blows the unfortunate victim or victims *in transitu* above into the air. In the attack upon the Quarries only two of these went off; but several, I am informed, exploded during this morning's approach to the Redan. A single letter, however, would not suffice to relate all the disastrous incidents of the day's doings, nor to detail the series of blunders by which the occurrence may be explained. I presume, of course, to offer no opinion on the worth or otherwise of the plan of attack which I have mentioned; it was probably capable of being carried out successfully, had its execution been other than the wooden-headed old women in regimentals, with whom lay its carrying out in their several brigades. The feeling, however, throughout the camp—both with officers and men—is, that a heavy

loss has been sustained, through the most wretched management by which troops could be sacrificed, rather than owing to any vast difficulties in the way of the capture of either of the works assailed. We have, at all events, the unsatisfactory consolation of knowing that not ourselves alone have failed; for the French have been beaten off from before the Malakoff with a loss compared with which ours has been trifling. Besides four generals they have lost very many colonels and other superior officers, and reports says, not less than three thousand rank and file. This last figure is probably exaggerated; but the fact is certain that their loss has been great. The enemy on the other hand, appeared to have gained their success at but a small cost, though they must have suffered considerably during the course of yesterday's bombardment. The terribly effective array of preparation with which they met and repulsed the advance of our men can only be explained on the supposition that their guns had been withdrawn under cover and kept in readiness for the assault which they knew would follow the bombardment; or, if really silenced by our batteries during the course of the day had been replaced by heavy field artillery, run up into the embrasures and loaded chock full of grape and canister as they were. The general feeling in the camp is, that the misadventure must be speedily and at all costs retrieved; and I hope, therefore, to communicate before many days that the debt we now owe the enemy has been gloriously liquidated. Enemies though they be, the Russians deserve all credit for the defence they have this day made; and it only remains for us to reap a double harvest of glory in our next attack to balance the loss of prestige which this affair is sure to cost the allied arms everywhere. We shall see if our generals grow wiser from dear-bought experience, or if errors in strategy or blunders in execution are to continue to cost us so many gallant lives and cover us with such accumulated national discredit.

The Times correspondent, dating Camp before Sebastopol, June 20, gives the following description of the attack on the Malakoff and Redan:—

The brigade under Major-General Eyre, which was destined to occupy the Cemetery and to carry the Barrack Batteries consisted of the 9th Regiment, 18th Regiment, 28th Regiment, 38th Regiment, and 44th Regiment. Four volunteers from each company were selected to form an advanced party, under Major Fielden, of the 44th Regiment, to feel the way and cover the advance. The 18th Royal Irish followed as the storming regiment. The brigade was turned out at twelve o'clock, and proceeded to march down the road on the left of the Greenhill Battery to the Cemetery, and halted under cover while the necessary dispositions were being made for the attack. General Eyre, addressing the 18th, said, "I hope, my men, that this morning you will do something that will make every cabin in Ireland ring again!" The reply was a loud cheer which instantly drew on the men a shower of grape. The skirmishers advanced just as the general attack began, and, with some French on their left, rushed at the Cemetery, which was very feebly defended. They got possession of the place after a slight resistance, with small loss and took some prisoners, but the moment the enemy retreated their batteries opened a heavy fire on the place from the left of the Redan and from the Barrack Battery. Four companies of the 18th at once rushed on out of the Cemetery towards the town, and actually succeeded in getting possession of the suburb. Captain Hayman was gallantly leading on his company when he was shot through the knee. Captain Esmonde followed, and the men, once established, prepared to defend the houses they occupied. As they drove the Russians out, they were pelted with large stones by the latter on their way up to the battery which quite overhangs the suburb. The Russians could not depress their guns sufficiently to fire down on our men, but they directed a severe flanking fire on them from an angle of the Redan works. There was nothing for it but to keep up a vigorous fire from the houses, and to delude the enemy into the belief that the occupiers were more numerous than they really were. Meantime the Russians did their utmost to blow down the houses with shell and shot and fired grape incessantly, but the soldiers kept close, though they lost men occasionally, and they were most materially aided by the fire of the regiments in the Cemetery behind them, which was directed at the Russian embrasures; so that the enemy could not get out to fire down on the houses below. Some of the houses were comfortably furnished. One of them was as well fitted up as most English mansions, the rooms full of fine furniture, a piano in the drawing-room, and articles of luxury and taste not deficient. Our men unfortunately found that the cellars were not empty, and that there was abundance of fine muscat wine from the south coast of the Crimea, and of the stronger wines, perfumed with roses and mixed with fruits, which are grown in the interior, in the better sort of houses. Some of the officers, when they went away, carried off articles of clothing and papers as proofs of their entrance into the place, and some others carried away pigeons and guineapigs, which were tame in the houses. The troops entered the place about 4 o'clock in the

morning, and could not leave it till nine o'clock in the evening. The Russians blew up many of the houses and set fire to others, and when our men retired the flames were spreading along the street. The 18th Regiment lost 250 men.

In the middle of the day Captain Esmonde wrote to General Eyre to say that he required support, that the men were snowed out of ammunition, and that the rifles were clogged. The rifles which were of the Enfield patent, had been only served to the regiment the day before, and again it was found that these admirable weapons are open to the grave defect which has been so frequently mentioned, and that they are liable to become useless after firing twenty rounds. A sergeant volunteered to creep back with this letter, but when he reached the place where the general ought to have been, he found that the latter had been obliged to withdraw, owing to his wounds, and he therefore delivered the document to Colonel Edwards. As there was no possibility of getting support down to the troops, Colonel Edwards crept down along with the sergeant, and got into the houses to see how matters were getting on. The officer in command, on learning the state of the case, ordered the men to keep up the hottest fire they could; and meantime they picked up the rifles and ammunition of the killed and wounded, and were by that means enabled to continue their fusillade. The 9th Regiment succeeded in effecting a lodgment in the houses in two or three different places, and held their position, as well as the 18th. A sergeant and a handful of men actually got possession of the little Wasp Battery, in which there were only twelve or fourteen Russian artillerymen. They fled at the approach of our men, but when the latter turned round they discovered they were unsupported; and the Russians, seeing that the poor fellows were left alone, came down on them and drove them out of the battery. An officer and half-a-dozen men of the same regiment got up close to a part of the Flagstaff Battery and were advancing into it, when they, too, saw that they were by themselves, and, as it was futile to attempt holding their ground, they retreated. About fifteen French soldiers on their left aided them, but as they were likewise unsupported they had to retire. Another officer with only twelve men took one of the Russian rifle-pits, bayoneted those they found in it, and held possession of it throughout the day.

Meantime, while these portions of the 5th and 18th and parties of the 44th and 28th were in the houses, the detachments of the same regiments, and of the 23rd, kept up a hot fire from the Cemetery on the Russians in the battery and on the sharpshooters, all the time being exposed to a tremendous shower of bullets, grape, round shot, and shell. The loss of the brigade, under such circumstances, could not but be extremely severe. One part of it, separated from the other, was exposed to a destructive fire in houses, the upper portion of which crumbled into pieces or fell in under fire, and it was only by keeping in the lower story, which was vaulted and well built, that they were enabled to hold their own. The other parts of it, far advanced from our batteries, were almost unprotected, and were under a constant mitraille and bombardment from guns which our batteries had failed to touch. Captain Smith, of the 9th, was struck by the grape-shot in the back as he was in the act of getting Captain Armstrong, of the 18th, into a litter with the assistance of Captain Gaynor. The shot broke his spine and drove his ribs into his lungs. He died yesterday. Lieutenant Douglas and Lieutenant M'Queen were also wounded. Of this regiment six men were killed and fifty-three wounded. In the 18th, Lieutenant Meurant was killed, Major Kennedy, Captain Hayman (slightly), Captain Cormick (severely), Captain Armstrong (slightly), Capt. Wilkinson (slightly), Ensign Fearnley and Ensign Hothan (severely) wounded; 34 men killed, and 216 wounded. In the 38th, Lieutenant Davies, a brave and esteemed young officer, was killed, and five were wounded more or less severely, among whom were the gallant Lieutenant-Colonel Lowth and Lieutenant French; the latter has a fractured thigh. In the 44th Regiment no less than seven officers were wounded, of whom three—namely, Captain Bowes Fenwick, Captain the Hon. Herbert Agar, and Captain R. Caulfield—are reported to have died of their wounds. Captain Mansfield's thigh is fractured; 17 men were killed, 108 wounded. 89th Regiment was in the trenches and had a few men wounded. The total number of killed and wounded in the brigade was, up to the last returns I could see, 107 killed, 552 wounded,—total, 659.

Some of the officers got away in the great storm which arose about eleven o'clock, and blew with great violence for several hours. General Eyre has issued the following order:—

Second Brigade Orders Third Division.

June 19.

The Major-General commanding the brigade requests that the officers, non commissioned officers, and men will accept his thanks for their conduct yesterday. He cannot sufficiently express his admiration of their coolness, gallantry, and discipline during a most trying day. He must tender his thanks to the medical department for their judicious arrangements to pre-