

ti's division, and suffered very little loss—a few hundred men; but they have to regret the loss of a distinguished general officer, the Brigadier general Count Montevicchie, who is severely wounded, and is not expected to live. Not protected by any intrenchments, except that small *epurement* near the bridge, which, moreover, could be turned on all sides, our gallant allies, although taken by surprise, showed once more that the Russians have no chance against them in the field—that they must remain behind their earthworks, and be protected by siege guns, in order to establish a kind of equilibrium with the allies. It is worthy of remark that the greater part of the Russians were old soldiers, scarcely one under thirty. According to the account of the prisoners, most of them came from Bakchiserai, and they had to attack without resting after their march. They had all large quantities of bread in their foraging sacks hung across their shoulders, but no knapsacks.

From the Correspondent of the Daily News.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE BOMBARDMENT OF SWEABORG.

Nargen, Aug. 14.

You will have heard from the French despatch that the bombardment of Sweaborg has taken place, and will form not only the event of the second year in the Baltic, but will place on record a new way of attacking granite batteries, so much under discussion of late, with complete success. Suffice it to say from the day of fixing the vessels in position till the finish, there has been a continued stream of excitement, and the coolness of the most apathetic has given way under the stirring events. The large ships, the Duke of Wellington, Exmouth, Edinburgh and Pembroke, with hospital ship Belleisle, were anchored on the Sweaborg side of Melko, and the 21 mortar vessels in an arc extending between Otter-Lohme Rock and Leghara Island. There were 16 English, with French mortar vessels, the former having only one mortar 13 inches; the latter two 10½ inches. The French had only five mortars and one long gun landed on the island of Abraham, which made French and English much alike in point of numbers. As covering vessels, depots and securing immediate medical assistance, were anchored outside this arc and well out of the enemy's range—Euryalus (senior officer), Dragon, Magacienne and Vulture, two French transports, one with the French Admiral's flag, and the *Aeolus*, the collier, with shot and shell. The *Arrogant*, *Cossack* and *Cruiser*, were outside the Island of Melko, near Drumsio, on the extreme left, and the *Cornwallis*, *Hastings* and *Amphion*, on the extreme left, both to attack and distract the attention of the enemy in these different points from the great centre that was to be bombarded. The *Merlin*, *Princess Alice*, *Geyser*, *Locust* and *Volcano*, were all on the move. The whole of the 8th and the morning of the 9th were employed placing mortar in position. They were anchored at 3,500 yards, and a second anchor placed in shore, so as to enable them to shift their position 600 yards inwards, so that they might command their position according to the range of the enemy's fire; and during the nights of the 7th and 8th the French were busy with 2,500 bags of sand, that they had brought over from Nargen, in making a parapet composed of these bags on the Abraham shoal the first night, and the mortars were landed during the second night. There were also 15 English and five French gun boats engaged. The style of tactics consisted in a small division of the gun boats performing circles at a pretty smart speed several hundred yards inside the mortars, the French gun boats forming an occasional exception to this manœuvre by anchoring, fancying they had greater advantages by this.

The different captains of frigates and gun-boats were signalled on board the Duke of Wellington; and, so as to place them in full possession of the ideas of the Commander-in-Chief, and as we to understand the perhaps abrupt termination of the bombardment, without following it up by assault, it was pointed out to them clearly to be a bombardment, where as great amount of destructive missiles were to be lodged in the fortress of Sweaborg, and cause as much possible damage on their side, as we were to secure to ourselves the least possible sacrifice of life on our part. Thus then every one was on the *qui vive* at half past 7 on the morning of the 9th. The signal was made from the flag-ship, and repeated by Euryalus, to open fire, and shortly after the Pickle mortar fired, followed in quick succession by the others, the shells almost immediately falling in prominent parts of the fortress.

The gun-boats took their appointed positions up in steaming rapidly round a given point, and delivering their shot and shell at the nearest point to the forts; but little was observed by the eye, although no doubt masses of fire were being lodged from the bursting shells in different parts.

About 10, fifteen fires burst forth in the centre of the principal island, Targon, and about noon a shell lodged in one of the magazines of the forts of East Svarto, which gave rise to one of the most beautiful sights it is

possible to conceive. First, the bursting of the shell, followed immediately by violent explosions in regular periodic succession, and more like a volcanic eruption than any thing I can fancy. Instead of lava, there were guns and their rammers shot, shell, rafters, stone, and every conceivable thing that entered into the composition of a fort, vomited forth in most terrific confusion, and splashing the water round an extensive circle. Volumes of smoke and flame followed, and the whole thing appeared obliterated. The damage done here to life, must have been very great. In the meantime the crews of the mortar vessels and gun-boats were gaining fresh stimulus from such splendid results, aided by the burst of applause that rang through the fleet. The enemy's return fire was tame and insipid; a few guns at a time, and not nearly ranging us. At this time the *Arrogant*, *Cossack* and *Cruiser* opened fire upon bodies of troops on the island of Drumsio with considerable havoc; and, on the other hand, the *Cornwallis*, *Hastings* and *Amphion* tackled the forts on Sardaann with much less success; they got hulled 15 times, with eight men wounded, and, in return, only dismounted one of the enemy's guns. Towards the latter part of the day, the enemy's shot from the two decker at Langorn fell pretty near the nearest circle of gun boats, and the higher guns on Bak-Holmen reached the gun-boats near the French battery, who, by the way, were firing with great zeal and alacrity. As the gun-boats were fitting about in such rapid cycles, that they must have distracted much the enemy's range some of the mortars were temporarily disabled, from pivots and gear giving way; and, during the day, one was split into two halves one half going overboard without doing any damage. The temporary disabilities were soon put to rights, under the superintendence of Mr Ward, inspector of machinery, who went to them in the *Volcano* (smithy shop.) At 7.20 p. m. the gun boats were recalled, and boats held in readiness from all the ships with rockets, to proceed under cover of night. The flames in various parts of the town were splendid, and the house of the main guard was perfectly red hot, flames extending in all directions round it. The rocket flotilla, under Captains Caldwell and Hall flag Captains, opened fire at a quarter to 10, and continued with great vigour till 1.30 next morning; the effect from these rockets was violently to increase the conflagration. The mortars continued uninterruptedly during the night. An accident happened to one of the *Vulture's* boats, by the tricing line giving way, the rocket being discharged into the bows of the boat, blowing it to pieces, and burning two men—one to a very dangerous extent. At 4 a. m. on the 10th the gun boats again joined with renewed vigour, and, as they expended their supplies of ammunition, proceeded to the *Dragon*, which had everything in readiness to supply them. The second day's firing was almost a repetition of the first. The boat-building sheds were utterly consumed, as well as the arsenals, and the three decker behind had to be hauled out of the way, she had been so severely handled. The two decker at Langhorn had several shots in her hull. The only prominent building left was the church, which had escaped, almost scathless. One or two round shot had gone through the base. The crowds of Russians of both sexes who had collected at the heights of the town of Helsingfors had disappeared, and only a few scattered people here and there were now observed. The French had now raised a pole with their tricolour at top, and fought without a casualty, although only 2,500 yards from the forts. The rocketing was continued during the second night, but had to withdraw from the precision of the enemy's fire, the night being too light. Although shot and shell ranged amongst the boats, no accident occurred. On the morning of the 11th, the firing was signalled to cease, and a total finish of the bombardment. It was found that eight of the mortars were disabled; two split in halves. Some of the French vents had fused, thereby permanently disabling them, and it was settled generally that a great triumph had been achieved. We had performed wonders; we had reduced to ashes a first-class fortress; and that without a single casualty, excepting a few that might occur on any exercising occasion; and although they had got well our range, and some few shot struck some of the gun-boats and their rigging, by the admirable tactics, not a life was lost. It would be difficult to form any estimate of the amount of life lost by the enemy, but on a quiet reconnoitering by Captain Sullivan after all was over, not one of the three islands had escaped. Their hospitals, store houses, arsenals, and everything that made any appearance, were burnt down. Their ships were mauld, and a though the place was not taken, they must have been sadly prostrated, for their defence was indeed paltry. Two great practical lessons will have been taught—the first, to the Russians. The blow is heavy, and they must feel it. To us there will be many practical hints as to the working of mortars, particularly after 40 hours' constant service. The ball appears to be at our feet, and all that is wanted is an extension upon the principle of

burning Sweaborg. Let the mortars and their gear be of stronger construction and much increased in numbers, and let the gun-boats be proportionately increased; and should the war unfortunately last till a third year in the Baltic, Cronstadt must tremble. Many fancy it would have had better effects if the present blow had been levelled at Cronstadt; every one will form their own opinion on that point. The different Admirals were cruising both day and night about the lines, and the different captains doing likewise. Indeed, the greatest zeal and excitement were displayed by every one; as a sight to an amateur, it was most splendid. They appear to have had some notion that the town of Helsingfors was to follow the same fate as that of Sweaborg, as from some distance to the left of the town, a large white painted sign was put up outside a long red building with the words, 'Lunatic Asylum,' in plain English. The thing looked like a begging petition to spare this. The Admiral never intended destroying the town, although they hardly deserved this immunity, for some forts had fired upon some of our boats, depriving themselves of any right to expect any privilege of protection under the plea of being a quiet town. On the evening of the 12th the *Wee Pet* yacht, with some officers of the *Cossack* on board, and Prince Leiningen amongst them, much to the annoyance of the Admiral, stood in towards the forts about 9, and had a regular brisk fire opened upon her, with red hot shot and shell, and a bursting and hitting near her without any results—more than they deserved. It appears that while both Admirals were reconnoitering from Miolo the destruction they had caused, they had a smart fire from Bak-Holmen opened upon them. The Russians appear much more plucky on these trumpety occasions than when defending their stronghold against the enemy.

Both fleets started early on the 13th for Nargen, and reached the old anchorage of Nargen about noon, when immediate preparations were made for coaling and provisioning the different ships.

From the correspondent of the Times.

Dantsie Aug. 17.

In describing the bombardment of Sweaborg, the principal features of which have already been communicated by electric telegraph, I shall endeavour, as nearly as possible, to relate the facts in the order in which they actually occurred.

On the 7th of August at 9.30 a. m., signal was made from the flag-ship, "Outward and leeward-most ships weigh." The fleet consisting of 9 British line-of-battle ships, 13 steam-frigates and sloops, 16 mortar vessels, and an equal number of gun-boats, sailed from Nargen, and after a pleasant run of five hours anchored at a distance of about 5,000 yards from the fortress in Sweaborg. In the course of the same evening the French fleet joined, and immediately commenced throwing up a mortar battery on the island of Langhorn, situated some 2,000 yards to the North of the cluster of five Islands which forms the principal part of the fortress of Sweaborg. During the 8th both fleets were busily employed for action; the mortar vessels were towed into position about 3,700 yards from the fortress, with 400 fathoms of each cable to "haul and veer on," as circumstances might require. The line-of-battle ships remained in the same order they had at first anchored in. The steamers *Magacienne*, *Vulture* and *Euryalus*, took up a position in rear of the mortar vessels, for the purpose of being ready to give them and the gun-boats any assistance they might require. The *Lightning* and *Locust* were ordered to hold themselves in readiness to tow out any gun or mortar vessels that might be injured, or otherwise rendered incapable of remaining longer under fire; in fact every possible arrangement having been made which prudence and foresight could suggest, the signal was made from the flag-ship at 7.15 in the morning of the 9th, "Gun and mortar vessels open fire with shell." At 7.30 a. m., the first mortar was fired, and taken up along the whole line, the gun-boats running into within 3,000 yards and getting their range. The enemy returned our fire very briskly with red hot shot and shell, but, although their range was good, the damage inflicted was comparatively trifling, owing principally, to the excellent handling of the gun-boats, and mortar vessels, the former being continually on the move, and the latter hauling or veering on their 400 fathom cable, as soon as they found the Russian shot falling too close to be pleasant. At 10.20 the first Russian magazine exploded; and at 12.15 a most terrific explosion took place, followed by a succession of minor ones. The force of this was so immense that a battery of guns en barbette was literally blown to pieces by it. At 12.40, more magazines exploded. At this time, the dockyards, arsenal, barrack, all the Government buildings, storehouses, &c., were burning furiously. The sight was most grandly imposing. The yards and poops of the line-of-battleships were crowded with the excited seamen, who cheered vociferously after every explosion, as only British sailors know how to cheer. To add

to this frightful din, the liners *Cornwallis* and *Hastings* and steam frigate *Amphion* opened their broadsides at this moment; and as if to crown the whole, the *Arrogant*, *Cossack* and *Cruiser* chimed in by commencing a heavy fire, with good effect, on a large body of troops which they chanced to spy on a small island to the Eastward of the fortress. The cannonade continued with little abatement up to 8 o'clock p. m., when the gun-boat recall was hoisted. Several of the mortar vessels were also found to be injured from the quick and incessant firing and had to be brought out to undergo repairs; those, however, which were not damaged, still kept up their fire, in conjunction with the French mortar battery until 10.30 p. m., at which hour the rocket boats from the fleet went in and kept up their part of the performances until daylight. The scene during the night was grand beyond description; the whole of Sweaborg appeared one mass of flame, the rockets and shells adding not a little to the awful splendour of the fiery landscape.

At 5.30 a. m. on the 10th the fire again opened from our whole line, and continued throughout the day, at the end of which little appeared left to be done; all the mortars, French and English, were more or less injured. Some idea, however, of the services rendered by these vessels may be gathered from the fact that, during the two days' bombardment, not less than 1,000 tons of iron were thrown into a space of about half a mile in diameter, and upwards of 100 tons of powder were expended. This, incredible as it may appear, applies to the English mortar vessels alone, and does not include the quantity (which was equally large in proportion) used by our gallant allies on that occasion.

On Friday night, the 10th instant, the rocket boats again went in and played with great effect. On Saturday no firing took place, and Sunday was a day of rest. On that day everything was quiet and in repose; even the mighty deep bowed in reverence to a holy influence, and was still. The tolling of the bells at Helsingfors was distinctly to be heard; the dull and plaintive sounds, mingled with the strains of sacred music from our men of war, came floating over the calm waters, and offered a strange but soothing contrast to the noise, turmoil and excitement of the two preceding days.

On Monday morning, the 13th inst., the two fleets got under way, and returned the same day to Nargen, having performed in an incredibly short space of time, with comparatively no loss, one of the most wonderful exploits recorded in modern times.

The following interesting extract from a private letter by an officer of the fleet, dated off Sweaborg, August 14, was posted on Wednesday afternoon in the Underwriters' rooms, Liverpool:—

'You will be glad to hear of our great success at Sweaborg; at all events it is creditable and satisfactory, and our not losing a man is very extraordinary. The gun boat were repeatedly struck, and a French mortar boat and the *Growler* got a heave from a shell each that made them believe they were going up. However, neither was hurt. At times the Russian fire was very hot, and nothing but our tremendously rapid fire prevented loss to us, except God's mercy and protection. The practice made by the mortar vessels and gun boats astonished us all by its excellence. From the English mortar boats 3,200 shells were thrown 45 hours, and at least 500 13 inch shells must have fallen in the place from the English and French mortar boats in the first hour. The summary of the business is this:—1,100 men destroyed a dockyard in 45 hours, defended by one of the strongest fortresses in Europe, mounting 1,600 guns. Captain Wemyss, of the *Marine Artillery*, commanded the gun boats, and his general arrangements were splendid. It was hard work for all in the boats, and at the end they were all worn out with fatigue. Their ears were padded during the bombardment, and I do not learn that any one's sense of hearing suffered much. Most of them felt pain in the chest afterwards, but that has now passed off. Lieutenant Horsey, of the *Growler*, who threw the most shells of all, had not recovered his voice clearly last night. After the fire of the enemy's guns was subdued, about four to six shells per hour from each mortar kept the fires alight in Sweaborg, and retained the ascendancy of the allies.

The gun boats being nearer in, took a great deal of the fire from the mortar vessels, and it was a most beautiful sight to see the former manœuvring—they literally dodged the shot. The mortar vessels were manoeuvred stem to stern, and continually altered their position, to destroy the range of the enemy, and the gun boats kept steaming round in five different circles. The fleet was at anchor outside, beyond the range of the batteries.'

The letter is accompanied by an enlarged plan of Sweaborg, with the positions of the gun boats, mortar vessels, and fleet, marked as they were ranged during the bombardment.