



FOREWORD

This Journal relates to the period of Army service (1852 to 1856) of Charles William Usherwood, born 1831, the fourth of ten children of a glass maker in Worsbrodale, Rotherham, Yorks. His parents died in 1848 and 1850, by which time he seems to have become a grocer's assistant, but at the age of 20 enlisted as a private soldier in the 19th Foot (in which his two brothers later joined him).

The Journal here is the first half of Charles Usherwood's Service Journal. The second half describes his life in the Army between 1856 and 1864, including service in India.

No information is available as to Charles Usherwood's education, but it must have been good for his time and background. The Journal shows that he rose by successive stages in the service, to reach the rank of Lieutenant and Quartermaster by his retirement at the age of 33. In the previous year (having by then transferred to the 8th Foot) he married the daughter of his late adjutant, and on leaving the army, entered the prison service as a clerk at Salisbury; he later became Chief Warder at Horsemonger Lane in Southwark, and then went to Usk in South Wales as Deputy Governor; succeeding as Governor in 1879, he died at the end of 1880, aged 49. He left 6 children, and his widow survived until 1932. There are several references in the Journals both to Thomas Thompson, the adjutant, and his daughter, Elizabeth (Lizzie).

It would seem that it was during his service at Salisbury that he wrote the manuscript of the Journals, but it is clear that he must have kept extensive notes during his Army service.

The text of the Journals has not been edited in any way, and the author's occasional variants in spelling have been retained.

I am much indebted to Day Cooper for typing what is at times a far from easy manuscript.

Kenneth Usherwood

THE CHAPTERS

- 1 [JOINING THE REGIMENT](#)
 - 2 [DESPATCHED TO THE CRIMEA](#)
 - 3 [FORCES ESTABLISH THEMSELVES](#)
 - 4 [CHOLERA AND HARD TIMES IN CAMP](#)
 - 5 [THE BATTLE OF THE ALMA](#)
 - 6 [THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL STARTS](#)
 - 7 [THE BATTLE OF INKERMANN, & A HARD WINTER](#)
 - 8 [SEBASTOPOL FALLS TO THE ALLIES](#)
 - 9 [WINTER, AND THEN PEACE](#)
 - 10 [THE RETURN HOME](#)
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The Service Journal of Charles Usherwood, Sergeant in the 19th Foot, 1852 - 1856

1. JOINING THE REGIMENT

At the age of 20 years and 5 months, being at the time in Leeds in the County of York, I was asked on a Saturday afternoon the 3rd January 1852 by Private Michael Maloney of the Grenadier Company 19th Regiment of Infantry whether I should not like much to become a soldier, when after some further conversation with him I consented to become the owner of a Red Coat. I was sworn in before Sir John Chapman, Mayor of Leeds on Monday following (the 5th January 1852) at the Town Hall and after staying some few days in Leeds was despatched with other recruits to join the Regiment which at that period lay in Devonport.

In our journey we stayed one night at Hull where one or more of our pugilistic comrades managed to get up a fight as a recreation somewhat of the character which they thought was tolerated in the Army so pugnacious were these innocent foundlings for Her Majesty's Service.

From Hull we sailed in a Steam Boat and after a few days which were certainly the most forlorn in my existence, landed at London Bridge, where after staying in Billets for about the space of a week set sail again in company with many more recruits for other Corps (whose Regiments were stationed in Ireland) and landed at Plymouth and joined my Regiment at Mount Wise Barracks, Devonport, early on Saturday morning the 24th January 1852 - the recruits in company with myself being Ben Thompson who bought himself off before the Crimean War, John Macmananmam who was afterwards wounded at Alma and lost his finger in the Siege of Sebastopol afterwards discharged in 1856 on a pension, and Joseph Reilly who went through the whole of the Eastern Campaign in Turkey in the Crimea and ultimately died in India in 1861.

On the 8th of May 1852 the Regiment which at that time consisted only of one Battalion left Devonport in two Divisions by rail to Exeter the Head Quarter portion of which I was one starting on the 8th and remained in Barracks at Exeter a few days whence on a Monday morning we proceeded per route march to Sidmouth, Lyme, Bridport and Dorchester and from which latter place by rail through Southampton on to Winchester where we were stationed with the 38 Foot. My Company at this time I had never joined as it appears it had been on detachment, but on its arrival with the second portion of the Regiment at Winchester I joined it, the Captain of it being the late Lt.Col. Rooke CB and its Color Serjeant the late Lieut. & Adjutant Thomas Thompson but my only comrade and whom I chose on account of his respectability (Joseph Southwood) being in Company No.8, of which Captain Bright was Captain, I desired an exchange so as always to be with him, and which I effected tho' opposed by Color Serjeant Thompson who told me at the time that if I would only remain in the Company he would guarantee to me a Lance Corporalship by means of his Captain who had taken much interest in myself.

On the 14 Nov 1852 the Regiment was ordered to proceed to London to be present at the funeral of the late Duke of Wellington and in which we acted a part remaining in billets till the 19th of same month when we returned to Winchester, our parade while in London being the square of St Thomas Hospital near London Bridge on the Surrey side of the River.

While stationed at Winchester an accident occurred to me by which I nearly lost my life for while bathing with Joseph Southwood and a few others of the Regiment in the locks on the river there, a Serjeant swam out to where I was, unseen by me and out of a freak caught hold of my shoulders and sank me beneath his body keeping me there immersed within the locks until my strength was gone when he cruelly swam away from me. My companion seeing the predicament in which I was plunged to my assistance and by the help of his walking stick swam out with me to the bank on which I lay for some time unable to speak or move from pain and exhaustion.

On the 4th January 1853 the Regiment removed by rail from Winchester to Portsmouth where the Head Quarters took up Cambridge Barracks, my Company and the Light, Colworth Quarters and No 5 Company Fort Monkton Barracks.

After having once been refused promotion by Col. afterward Major General C. C. Hay, of the School of Musketry at that time Lt.Col. of the Regt Commanding on account of my youth tho' he had promoted my companion months ago and who was younger than myself, I eventually obtained the high and first step on the ladder of preferment under the designation of Lance Corporal (minus extra pay) on the 6th of April 1853, a dignity which I appreciated better than the appellation Private.

In May 1853, principally on account of a disgraceful disagreement between the 38th and 19th Regts the Regiment was removed to Gosport and a detachment consisting of Nos, 1, 6, 7 & 8 Companies were despatched to Weymouth and Portland to duty over the convicts. Of this detachment I was one and it was at Portland where I first commanded a guard on my own account, their arms always

being loaded. For two months we remained divided when orders were given that the whole of the Corps should proceed to the Encampment situated at Chobbam formed for exercise when after a month's drilling we started for Walmer in Kent by rail, the right wing of the Corps occupying the South and the left Wing the North Barracks.

Not long after the Regiment had settled down in quarters at Walmer, and which I think was about the 20th of August 1853) Captain Bright asked me whether I would like to go and assist as clerk in the orderly room reminding me at the same time that a good opening would there offer itself to my future prospects owing to the retirement shortly of Orderly Room Clerk Wheatly and also that the other clerk Corporal Pollard was on the eve of leaving the service his period of servitude being about expired. The offer I accepted.

For the first time during my service I availed the opportunity of a furlough and went on the 1st Dec 1853 to London, Birmingham and Rotherham returning to Walmer at the end of the month. On the 1st Dec the Corps was augmented to 1000 strong.

During this winter which produced great quantities of snow, Colonel Unett, who at this time was in temporary command of the Regiment organised together with the Adjutant of the Corps Lieut. R. Barrett, two parties for attack and defence, i.e. the Right wing against the left, and caused to be erected in both squares batteries and entrenchments of snow, himself heading one party and the Adjutant the other the missiles of course being confined to balls of snow. The action commenced by the left wing attacking midway the snow lines of the right whose embattlements were nearly carried by the brave leftions, so vigorously was the assault made. By a turn of good luck or else the sheer weight of the Grenadiers, the left felt themselves manfully opposed, for as the balls flew fast and thick the Grenadiers closed and besides pelting beyond arms length nobly received their adversaries who once fell unfortunately too near their grasp and not content with half smothering them under the snow finally ejected them by main force through the gates; following up this advantage they rushed upon their foes outside who thought it more prudent to gradually retire within their own defensible lines their stock of ammunition not being within reach but at these points.

Having gained their entrenchments they set to to defend them with the utmost vigour and long and debateable did they do so until it was found that nearly the whole of the material of which their forts were constructed was converted by friends and enemies alike into an uncountable number of missiles broken and unbroken and strewed about in every direction of similar make and material of original projectiles, so much so, that the whole space on which stood their defiant strongholds did not offer the least protection. Finding it was useless to carry on the struggle longer the left wing was obliged to succumb and lay down their weapons of snow at the feet of their victors.

Great praise was due to the Commanders of their respective Brigades for the manner and the hearty goodwill they shewed in the attack and defence for alike to their men they in turn got well battered with well directed showers of snow balls and sometimes one or two good rolls beneath the white feathers of winter.

Ever anxious to amuse the men Col. Unett exerted himself to get up an amateur theatre, the performers at which were to be officers and men whose taste and abilities tendered thereto; himself by no means a bad imitator in such characters as suited his appearance, enlivened the performances often. Of the actors the Officers being generally Col. Unett, Lt. Clay, Capt. McDonald, Chippendale etc. and of the Non-Comd. Officers and men, Colour Sergts Madden and Thompson, Sergt Armstrong & Haskaid and Pte Austin. The theatre took better than anticipated and was generally overcrowded and was the means of much amusement to the men and credit to the Corps.

In addition to the performances singing classes were established under the conductorship of band Master Smith and Drum Major Hunt and concerts given; besides at times lectures were delivered by the School Master of the Regiment, illustrating subjects which was a source of much benefit and amusement. Unfortunately however, at the time when all these diversions were improving, rumours came of a move to London and which subsequently took place shortly after.

Before leaving Walmer, one day I had occasion to go to the Colonel's quarters in the North Barracks, for the purpose of having some documents signed by him, as I had done often before. As soon as I entered his apartments I saw the Adjutant there, (Lt. R. Barrett) and on my leaving to go back to the Orderly Room was called by the Adjutant to stay a little while, as the Colonel wished to speak to me; in a very short time I was called in, when he questioned me as to my relations and why I had enlisted, and so on. I told him the truth and he seemed satisfied with my answers, and upon going away told me that not only were I to be the successor of Wheatly the Orderly Room Clerk, but that when an opportunity offered I was to receive a Commission. It appears that a friend of my uncle a Banker, had written to him about me who well knew himself and family, and having ascertained my connections through this gentleman, he wished to forward my promotion.

On the 11th Feb 1854 the Regiment received a notification to move which they did on the 14th of same month, Tuesday to the Tower of London, per rail, and a detachment consisting of Grenadiers, No 2 and Light Companies went to Deptford, No 3 Company also (Color Sergt. Thompsons) to Kensington.

On the 25th Feb. 1854 I was promoted Corporal.

Rumours that a war between Russia and England was pending, recruiting for the Rgt was opened and on the 11th of March Minnie Rifles were substituted for the old smooth bore with which we had hitherto been armed.

12 March 1854, a most painful occurrence took place at Deptford, my comrade Joe Southwood having shot himself while on sentry, at about 5 minutes past 6 pm (Sunday). An inquest was held over him on Wednesday the 15 March and he was buried on the same day in

the churchyard at Deptford. Curiously I had written a note to him from the Tower on that same afternoon but as no one was going that way I did not send it, its contents being to the effect of asking him to go with me on a visit to my sisters at Peckham.



The Service Journal of Charles Usherwood, Sergeant in the 19th Foot, 1852 - 1856

2. DESPATCHED TO THE CRIMEA

On the 26th March 1854 the Regiment was augmented to 1500 strong and recruiting went on vigorously. Among the number we took as recruits was a Pole, named Soloman, who at the Battle of Alma was slightly wounded, and roared like a dying bull. He however did some good for he fell close to the Russian General whom we took prisoner, and would have thought him no more than a Private he wearing uniform similar to the men, had it not been for the brave Soloman who spoke Russian. Soloman afterwards went back to England and chose not to leave it again on such dangerous excursions as he was discharged shortly afterwards.

War having broken out a detachment on 2 April 1854 consisting of 1 Lieutenant, 2 Serjeants and 55 Rank and File embarked at Charlton Pier, Woolwich for Turkey on board the Toning sailing ship. Another detachment on the 7 April 1854, Friday, embarked at the same place on board the Emperor, Steam Vessel, for Turkey consisting of 1 Captain, 2 Subalterns, 5 Serjeants and 115 Rank & File, and on the 15 April 1854, 1 Captain, 1 Sub. S Serjts, 1 Drummer and 56 Rank & File sailed from Portsmouth with the Euxine for same destination; also two days afterwards viz: 17 April another detachment went off in the "Medway" steamship from Liverpool for Turkey, whose numbers were 1 Subaltern, 2 Serjeants and 45 Rank & File. But it was not until the 20th of April 1854 that the Head Quarters of the Regiment embarked and which they did at Woolwich Dockyard being carried from thence by a steamer to the "Victoria" steam vessel lying off Blackwall the Band of the Royal Artillery being present and playing complimentary airs.

The strength of the Head Quarters consisted of 1150 Rank & File beside Officers etc. the several companies being Grenadiers Nos.3, 5, 6 and Light. A few soldiers' wives were taken with us.

On the 23 April 1854 the ship steamed down the Thames, wind blowing fresh, the day being Sunday.

Next day Monday the 24th passed Lands End at noon. Wind gentle.

25 April, Weather fine, but during the night stormy, - day cold, passed few ships.

26 April, Morning beautiful, sea heavy during the day. Wind blowing hard.

27 April, Stormy morning - evening calm. Wind against us - land birds seen

28 April, Land seen - weather dull, sea calm, evening hot

29th April, Saturday. Coast of Africa seen, sea calm.

30th April, Sunday. Had divine service in the morning - passed Gibraltar at 8 am, sea calm. Wind against us.

1 May, Breeze favourable, weather sultry, sea calm. Thunder and lightning in the night and by some means or other, coals caught fire but put out immediately - a good lot of gunpowder on board.

2 May, Rain in the morning, latter part of day fine

3 May, Sea calm

4 May - Thursday - sailed in the Grand Harbour of Malta and attempted sail in the evening but were prevented by the chain of a buoy getting entangled with the screw.

5th May Sailed from Malta in the morning and took in tow No 14 troopship - sea calm, day hot

6 May Morning fine, and a good breeze

7 May, Sunday - fine breeze, 12 knots an hour passed between Greece and Cerego and had a squall.

8 May, Passed through the Archipelago, island being picturesque. Sea calm, wind unfavourable

9 May, Spoke the Army & Navy Steamship near the Dardenelles, entered and anchored in the harbour of Gallipoli. Sailed out in the evening. The Duke of Cambridge passed here, and during the time a Royal Salute was fired from the Men of War at anchor; French encampment seen.

10 May 1854, Wednesday, Anchored before Constantinople. We saw the City early in the morning which had a splendid appearance from the variegated coloured houses and tall mosques.



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3. FORCES ESTABLISH THEMSELVES

11 May, Thursday Landed at Scutaria which is on the Asia side of the Bosphorus. Here was the British encampment near to the Barracks and a graveyard.

The town is hilly and irregular, streets ill formed. Houses of a different architecture to European.

The Barracks have a fine appearance outside the gates, but inwardly they are filthy and full of fleas of no ordinary size. Accommodation there is none, those of the men who had to take up their abode in these quarters were compelled to lie down upon the bare floors. Dogs go about in packs, and frequent the graveyards where there are often evident signs of their handywork trying to haul out the dead so as to feast upon them.

The scenery about Scutaria is very good; water plentiful but the roads are a reproach. The Turks, are a lazy set of people, extremely filthy in their persons and move about in a sluggish manner.

They seemed entirely unconcerned on our arrival apparently shewing an utter ignorance of the object of our coming. A more decided lazy, sluggardly and ignorant filthy nation there is not to be found in the whole of Europe and questionable in any part of the world. Of Greeks, there are abundance contrasting wonderfully to their neighbours.

The Turkish women hide their unhandsome faces with a sheet brought over their heads leaving two holes for them to peep through. They wear thick soled boots turned at the toe and generally yellow.

The Turks in general seem extremely fond of colours but they are certainly a lousy people, as they think nothing of sitting in the public way louseing each other.

The streets in Constantinople are narrow - full of holes and the receptacle for every unmentionable filth, dead dogs here and there rotting in the very holes which the Turks seem not to consider should be filled in. A more filthy city of abominations there cannot be elsewhere, tho' at a distance there cannot be a more picturesque habitation of human beings.

On our first appearance at Scutaria, English gold sold well, a sovereign fetching as much an equivalent value to 24 or 25 shillings in Turkish currency - tho' curious to say that when in Bulgaria gold could not be passed but at a loss.

16 May 1854 A Division order was issued as follows:

To prevent confusion and misapprehension of orders in Field Evolutions the Lieut.General desires that all Regiments in the Light Division be told off in 8 Companies, Grenadiers becoming No 1 and the Light Company No. 8.

After our landing the Army was told off as follows:

Composition of the Army

1st Division of Infantry
under the command of
H. R. H. Duke of Cambridge

- 1st Brigade -Br.Genl. Bentick
3rd Bn.Grenadier Guards
1st Bn.Scotch Fusiliers Guards
1st Bn. Coldstream Guards

- 2nd Brigade -

Br. Genl. Sir Colon Campbell
42nd - 79th - 95rd Highlanders

2nd Division of Infantry
under the command of
Lt. Genl. Sir Lacy-de-Evans

- 1st Brigade -
30th - 55th - 95th Regts
under
Br. Genl. Pennefather

- 2nd Brigade -
under
Br. Genl. H. W. Adams
41st - 47th - 49th Regts

3rd Division of Infantry
under command of
Lt. Genl. Sir R. England KCB

- 1st Brigade -
under
Sir John Campbell Bart
1st - 4th - 38th Regts

- 2nd Brigade -
under
Br. Genl. Eyre CB
28th - 44th - 50th Regts

Light Division
under
Lt. Genl. Sir Ge. Brown
- 1st Brigade -
under
Br. Genl. Airey
7th - 23rd - 33rd Regts

- 2nd Brigade -
under
Br. Genl. Buller
19th - 77th - 88th Regts
2nd Bn Rifle Brigade

Foot Artillery attached to each
Division of Infantry beside
Royal Engineers
in all
25 Regiments

Cavalry Division
under command of
Lt. Genl. Earl of Lucan

- Heavy Brigade -
under
Br. Genl. Hon. I. G. Scarlett

1st Royal Dragoons
2nd Scotch Greys
6th Dragoons
5th Dragoon Guards
6th Dragoon Guards

- Light Brigade -
under
Major Genl. Earl of Cardigan
8th to 11th Hussars
13th Light Dragoons
17th Lancers

Troops of Horse Artillery

While the Army was remaining at Scutaria a heavy thunderstorm passed over the camp.

28 May 1854 The Light Division embarked on various transports for Varna, the 19th Foot on board the Medway Steamer which certainly was an old vessel as she took in water on to the decks that ought to have been free from it, to the no small disagreeableness of the Troops who had nowhere to sleep but on the bare decks.

30 May 1854 The Division with its Artillery disembarked at Varna, and took up its encamping ground outside the town at a distance from it of about 2 miles. Whilst the various vessels containing the Division were endeavouring to anchor within the harbour, the "Victoria" steamship the one which took out the 19th Regt from England and which had on board at this time the 33 Foot ran foul of a Turkish vessel causing the same to sink within a few minutes tho' luckily without the loss of life.

The town of Varna has a better appearance than many towns or cities in the same country, the streets are more regular and wide, and the houses are placed together it seems with a view to public convenience, the place itself being encircled with earthworks which of course means fortifications.

Near to the town is a lake of a good width where millions upon millions of frogs assemble and rend the air full with their melodious notes, if such can be so termed. From this lake arises heavy fogs especially in the early part of the mornings.

On the 1st June 1854, a Memo was issued discontinuing Stocks in hot weather, but were to be kept in the knapsacks and shewn at kit inspections. This Memo certainly came not too soon for glad we were to abolish the dog collar. From Varna on the 5th June 1854 the Light Division marched at 5 a.m. for Aledyn and encamped at about a mile from the village. The march was very tedious tho' the distance was scarcely more than 7 miles owing to the badness of the roads (whose name should be indifferently made ruts). Arriving at Aledyn in the afternoon and when the tents had been pitched the men went down to bathe when unfortunately an Artilleryman was drowned. Scarcely had we been any time at Aledyn when complaints arose between the villagers and the soldiery, the former it appears not being willing to sell the common articles of food at a reasonable price and in fact unwilling to part with them at all.

For the first time, outlying picquets were sent out and the men exercised in throwing up entrenchments. A great deal of the land about here seemed to have been never cultivated; the scenery is beautiful.

On the 8th June 1854, Marshal St Arnaud, Commander in Chief, of the French Forces came and inspected the Divisions. 17 Lancers encamped at Devna Mills. Today the 10 June 1854 orders were issued to march in the interior. Every thing was packed up and the Division actually on the move when orders came countermanding the move tho' it was again renewed on the 17 June and again countermanded, the other Divisions at this time being encamped as follows:

1st and 2nd at or near Varna
3rd on its way from Constantinople

Evidently there was something serious in the wind when ordered as we were on the 10th & 17th June to march for on the 20 June news came that the Russians had been defeated by the Turks at the Siege of Silistra on the Danube, and that the enemy had expected a British Division to encounter but had bolted towards their own country, finding that they could not penetrate further advantageously.

On the 30 June we again moved our ground some 10 miles nearer Shumla the Head Quarter town of the Turkish Army, and after a fatiguing march through sand and knee deep in dust arrived at a village called Devna, where the Russian Army in 1829 lost many of their men by cholera. We chose our ground on an elevation on the West side of the rivulet which flows through the valley below where to a great extent the land is marshy, the Cavalry being further away and toward the high road. On the 5th July 1854 no less a personage than the chubby and portly Turk, Omar Pasha, Commander in Chief of the Ottoman Troops, payed us a visit, and of course inspected the Division. Omar having heard of the British Cavalry wished to see a charge by the same, and placing himself in front of the leading line, galloped ahead as fast as his charger could carry his personage. Whether owing to the superiority of British horse

flesh or Omar's inability to get out of the way his Pashaship happened to be left behind not only the first but the second time when he drew up and praised the troops exceedingly; the consequence was (but whether it was a bet on Omar's part or not we did not find out) an extra ration of grog was issued free to the whole of the Troops on the occasion and which we got on the 7th July, my birthday,

Today the 7th July a Depot was formed at Varna to which the 19th Foot detached No 5 Company under Capt. Chippendale. The 3rd Division at this time being encamped between Devna and Aledyn.



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4. CHOLERA AND HARD TIMES IN CAMP

12 July. Weather very hot and in addition to which sickness began to be observed as by the subjoined General order of the 19th July 1854 will illustrate -

"Bowel complaints having become prevalent 2 oz of Scotch Barley or Rice and a ¼ oz of tea extra is authorized to be issued daily and in the same order Turkish Soldiers attached to the Commissariat Transport of the British Army were allowed the following per diem:

Captains, - one shilling

Subalterns, - sixpence

Non Comd Officers & Privates, - threepence

with free rations of provisions."

Let it be known in reference to the above that a British Soldier had to pay for his own rations out of his daily pay.

21 July 1854 Coming home from bathing in the evening I passed a number of Turkish labourers who it appears were on their way from work. After they had passed me which was from the direction of the marshy part of the valley and reached away at only a few yards distance, an old man with grey beard and hair suddenly became ill, who falling upon the ground rolled about in extreme agony of pain and vomiting very much. I stood by and watched his companions who did all in their power to relieve him but not being able to speak the language and having never seen such an occurrence before I wondered to myself of what could it be, as in a very short time only a few minutes the Turk died.

22nd July 1854, Sunday. Early this morning I got up, went down to the river to bathe and on my way passed the corpse of the old man who died yesterday evening and who was now lying upon the top of an Araba, or native conveyance. On reaching camp from bathing loaded as I was with milk and eggs, I learned that the cholera had suddenly attacked the Division, several men being in hospital at the time with scarcely any hopes of recovery.

In 8 days from today 92 men of the Division died of this scourge.

23 July 1854. In consequence of the rapid prevalence of cholera among the regiments of the Division the whole of the troops comprising the Division were ordered to march and take up a new encampment at Monestue about 5 or 6 miles away.

The Division moved and arrived at its new encampment in the course of the afternoon of same day where Serj Murphy, Serjeant of the Guard was taken ill and died.

After the arrival of the Division the two Brigades were separated at about a mile from each other and the Corps placed so as not to be too near each other. Here a Bazaar was established and the natives were induced to bring in produce of every description. Water too was plentiful and good, and which always seemed to be plentiful in this country. The houses of the inhabitants were constructed of mud and wood work and were generally encircled by a high mud wall. Within the enclosure they kept their cattle and from what I have observed found in general the interior of the dwellings of the Bulgarians very trim and clean that is to say according to their means.

During this month July the Regiment received a notification that its strength would in future be 1506 of the Companies to take effect from 10 May 1854 and which consequently gave me promotion to Serjeant from that date.

On 26 July a Draft came out for 19 Foot consisting of 1 Sub. Goren, 1 Asst. Surgeon Hifferman, and 102 Rank and file.

By a general order of 30 July one gill of spirits free the Commander of the Forces authorised to be issued to each man per day and also recommends coffee be given to the men before going on parade in the morning as recommended by the Medical Officers. Too as well in General orders of 1 August 1854 the ration of meat per diem for each man is to be increased to 1 ½ lb to be without additional stoppage and in consequence of the inclemency or unhealthy seasons.

Up to the 6 August 1854 cholera was still prevalent tho' not so frequent and serious in its attacks, but as a substitute debility and fever made their joint appearances which tho' few deaths occurred was short and severe, myself having felt the effects of the fever. About this time the weather was hot and sultry.

7th Aug 1854 a Circular Memo bearing date 21 July 1854 was promulgated announcing that moustaches were authorized to be worn.

24 Aug. Weather has become morning and evenings cold tho' at midday the sun is very warm. The Corps has lost since it left England by deaths 2 Serjeants, Murphy and Patterson, and 16 Privates. About this time we began to learn the news of the intended invasion of the Crimea.

While at Monestue each Corps of the Army were allowed to choose one Serjeant for recommendation to a Commission as Ensign. In the 19th the choice fell on Color Serjeant Thompson whom prior to his receiving his commission became Quarter Master Serjeant in room of Patterson died of cholera.

With regard to the mode of burials while the Army occupied Bulgaria, there being no wooden coffin for the corpses, shells constructed of twigs and small branches of trees were used as substitutes and which answered very well.

At this place Monestue we became very much infested with lice, and which we found were impossible to be got rid of, taking possession on the inside seams of our trousers these vermin deposited their eggs and tho' in spite of every contrivance such as lining the seams with soap, brushing etc etc nothing would remove them. The filthy creatures stuck to us as they always do to the wretched Ottomen who seem to be satisfied with them as a natural consequence.

Times upon times have I like others from the Generals downwards sat mourning over our circumstances endeavouring to rid myself of these pests, whom yet still could not be induced to quit. The only remedy was to burn our apparel and which at these times we could not well part with as we had none too many.

Our washing of course was done by each Individual himself and many a time have I stood up to my knees in a pond or stream of water cleansing the apparel I usually wore. During our stay here a most ludicrous circumstance occurred to Armstrong the Armourer Serjeant of the Regiment, who for the use of conveyance of his Regimental Tool Boxes was allowed one Bat. horse. These horses in general were uncommonly curious generally doing what was not required of them rather than the duty for which they were intended, which very often the Bat. horsemen found to their great annoyance tho' caused much merriment to the men at large by their tossing their loads etc. etc. Armstrong, who was certainly not the very best jockey in Turkey one evening as usual lead his animal to water or rather, that is, rode upon his back, minus a saddle. On his return to camp and whilst trying a gentle trot preliminary to cantering, which latter suited Armstrong's horsemanship the best, he Armstrong managed by some means or another to swerve on one side overbalancing himself in his equilibrium, and by the time he had again righted himself away went the horse, so to speak, at full gallop, caring evidently very little for the object on his back whose antics bore him out more of a monkey in appearance than a human being. Hard and fast stuck Armstrong nevertheless tho' at times his seat of honor being upon the animal's neck, then nearer his tail and sometimes neither on the animal's back or anywhere else except in the direction of the earth or sky, so changeable was Armstrong in his performances much to the excessive amusement of pedestrians who happened to be passing that way and who saluted him with roars of laughter mixed now and then with exhortations at the top of their voices to hold on, and go it that he entirely lost all control over the brute creation which was bearing him onwards to his own stabling and which byway led through a narrow and crooked lane up part of which were quietly jaunting alongside each other two sons of the Emerald Isle clothed in Red coats and bearing the facings and number of the 88th Connaught Rangers whom it appears had been watering their Masters' horses and were returning quietly to camp. Unperceived and unheard by them, Armstrong endeavoured to pass, that is to say the horse with Armstrong upon his back, and as there was scarcely room enough for three abreast in an ordinary pace the animal of Armstrong shot between the two, his rider holding on by main force to his flowing mane, the upshot being the capsizing of the two Connaught men into the ditch on the right and left sides of the road, their horses following train after Armstrong's animal's tail to the utter discomfiture of the flocks of geese etc. that had been assembled by the Mess Serjeant at the Officers' Mess, followed as he was by the enraged shipwrecked Irishmen whose horses bolted to their own camp, leaving Armstrong white with fright and exhaustion to settle the difference of damages done to the tempers and bones of the Connaught men, and which I believe he did amicably by an explanation and a quart of wine at the canteen.

Armstrong afterwards used to relate this exploit with great glee tho' he owned that he expected every moment to fall and break his neck.

25 Aug 1854. 250 Arabas were required in Division order to carry the men's knapsacks and 200 to carry the sick, each Araba not to carry more than 6 cwt expecting as we were now to move towards Varna. These Arabas are Turkish waggons rudely made with 4 wheels and drawn by black buffalos whose pace is very tedious. Great inconvenience we experienced in obtaining these numbers and the Turks were obliged to be pressed 'ere they would furnish them tho' well paid for the journey. Some time this month I think it was when a great fire occurred at Varna and altho' we were more than 30 miles distant we distinctly saw the flames.

26 Aug 1854 The 1st Brigade of the Light Division with the 2nd Bn Rifles marched from Monestue for Varna whose knapsacks were carried in Arabas and on pack horses. On the next day the 2nd Brigade marched also and encamped at Youksacouly one night.

In General orders of today the 5th Dragoon Guards were attached to the 4th Dragoon Guards owing to the former having suffered

severely in officials and men by cholera.

28 Aug 1854 The Brigade marched to Karagul and encamped.

29 Aug 1854 Again moved and arrived in the afternoon at Varna where we encamped.

30 Aug 1854 Embarked with the rest of the Army for the Crimea, the 19th Regt in the sailing transport "Courier" No. 50.

In general orders of this day the 1st Sept. Major General William Codrington is placed on the staff of the Army until Her Majesty's pleasure is known, as a temporary measure and will take command of Br. Genl. Airey's Brigade, Light Division, which was of course the 1st.

On the 5 Sep 1854, the "Courier" set sail for Baljak Bay where all the fleet and transports were to assemble, and anchored there on the 6th.

By Division orders of today the 5th, and which I took myself, having to go in a boat to the Medusa steam frigate for them, Officers commanding Brigades and Regiments of the Light Division were requested to understand that the several Corps are to land in the order in which they have been placed in Naval Programme viz: -

Reckoning from the right 7th. - 23rd - 33rd - 77th - 88th and 19th Regiments, afterwards if thought necessary the Regiments to resume their proper places in their respective Brigades; - any attempt to land otherwise in the 1st instance would only lead to confusion.

The Rifle Brigade which is dispersed in several Artillery transports will probably be marched a little in advance of the boats containing the Corps of Infantry, so as to occupy the beach above the landing.

The flag of the Light Division in sailing order being a chequered one we kept on the left of the fleet in sailing order.

7th Sept. The whole of the Fleet together with the French and Turks sailed from Baljak Bay the two vessels containing the 19th & 88 Regts towed by H. M. Steam Frigate "Fury". - by some means or other the "Courier" went foul of the Transport with the 88th on board but no damage done.

8th Sept 1854. At sea, nothing of any consequence occurring excepting the issuing of these orders:

Light Division to land first then the 1st Division; the 2nd, the 3rd and lastly the 4th. The 2nd Bt. Rifle Brigade to be attached by Wings to the 1st and 2nd Brigades of Lt Division and to form the advance - Regiments not to load till landed, and not then without a special order: great silence and steadiness to be observed and the men to take their knapsacks with them but not to put them on without an order. The men to land as they stand in the ranks, and the blankets etc to be left on board. 3 days provisions to be carried ready cooked by each man and officer. Regiments on landing will form in contiguous columns at quarter distance..*

* The order about knapsacks and blankets was altered - the knapsacks were left on board ticketed and each soldier took a blanket and a slight portion of his kit wrapped in the blanket which were slung on the back.

On the 9th Sep. 1854, the fleet anchored tho' we could not perceive the land being rather hazy. At midnight the Transport No 32 ran foul of the Courier damaging the latter a good deal as the wind was blowing fresh, and took some considerable time 'ere both could be separated the rigging having become entangled: morning shewed the havoc done as the "Courier" had the whole of her upper portion of the poop carried away besides other damages and a boat smashed to atoms. The Transport No 32 lost her Bowsprit and Jib boom and sustained other repairs.

10 Sept A Private 19th died and was thrown overboard. Still at anchor and under orders to land at 4 am on Monday.

11 Sept. Monday sailed again

12 Sep 1854 Land ahead seen, hail stones in the morning but after day fine; orders issued to land.

15 Sept 1854 Anchored off Eupatoria;

Flag of Truce sent in with Steamer. Eupatoria capitulated scarcely or no Troops in the place.

14th Sept 1854 The Fleet drew up their anchors, and bore landwards drawing their broad sides towards the shore, the French extending to the right and the British the left.

Received orders to land at 8½ a.m. and which was commenced in the boats of the various shipping; the Light Division landing first preceeded by the 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade on a space of sand that ran along the shore separating the sea from a lake which received the name of Tongle. No enemy appeared at this point to dispute our debarkation. After landing a portion of Artillery the Light Division moved off by fours from the right of companies preceeded by the Rifle Brigade in skirmishing order this Corps taking

possession of a village some 5 miles or so inward. While marching a little rain fell sufficient to damp our clothes. After a short march the Division halted and forming into contiguous Brigade order at quarter distance by companies bivouacked for the night the tents all being left on board ship.

The French who in the meantime had landed formed on the right of the British and as night was approaching picquets were detached to the front and as the remainder of the British Divisions came up formed into their respective positions.

During the night the rain came down pretty smartly and as myself, John Thompson and Nicholas Hopkins had made what we thought a comfortable shelter from quantities of dried grass which we had gathered, we ensconced ourselves thereunder placing over the top my blanket for a roof. Tho' of course we had better shelter than others from our timely exertions in procuring the stubble nevertheless like the remainder were saturated to the skin although not so dirty as they who both men and officers had to sleep on the mud that had been created by the tramp of many feet assisted by the deluge of rain.

Poor sorry creatures they did look when daylight broke upon them and many were the long faces that greeted the rising sun.

Orders having been given that the men were to take their knapsacks with them yet as it appeared more advisable not to do but to substitute the blanket in which should be folded one pair of boots, 1 shirt, 1 pair of stockings and 1 towel the blanket and greatcoat were folded separately and slung on the back, leaving the knapsacks on board ship with the greater portion of their kits labelled with the owner's name but which to the utter disgrace of them with whom they were left in charge were found months afterwards to have been ransacked and many articles stolen and in many cases entirely gone.

Having provided myself prior to disembarking with about 3 lbs of tea and 4 or 5 lbs of sugar and which by way of favouritism I had obtained from the steward on board the "Courier" and having been joined by I. Thompson and N. Hopkins as companions in my mess who between them brought about 14 lbs of rice in a bag, we fared sumptuously every day in comparison to others who had on the 2nd day finished their whole stock of the 3 days cooked provisions. We of course kept our own counsel and managed our affairs admirably and invariably could have tea in a morning so long as our stock lasted.

15 Sept 1854 At daybreak and which always was the case the Army was ready formed under Arms and in reference to this the subjoined Brigade order emanated from General Buller.

Regiments to be formed into Brigade every morning at daybreak ready to march; on arrival of the Brigade on the ground for halting for the night, each Battalion of the Brigade will detach 300 yards to the front one Company as an outlying picquet; these companies will send out a sufficient number of sentries to complete the chain of communication of the several picquets and of the Brigade or Troops on either flank. On the day of halt and during the day companies by turns of the Brigade will furnish a day picquet, this picquet will detach sentries to the front and keep up communications with the picquets furnished by other Brigades.

16th Sept. Today for the first time since landing, the tents were pitched having been bought from off board ship temporarily. In the evening after dark and at the time of tattoo when many of the men had quietly ensconced themselves comfortably within according as circumstances admitted the cry of stand to your arms ran through the various camps with the quietness of electricity proceeding as it did from the outlying picquet of the 19 Foot, all of a moment everything was in confusion for from the darkness of the night added to the uncertainty of the position where the arms were piled owing to the tents having been just pitched which confused the men and the condition in which they were, members having divested themselves not only of accoutrements but coats, trousers and boots rendered the scene not only ludicrous but dangerous, supposing the enemy were approaching but which happily was not the case as shortly afterwards it was ascertain that the alarm was false. How it originated none could tell or at least none came forward whose explanation was satisfactory.

17 Sept. In consequence of last evening's occurrence the following Brigade order to the 2nd Brigade Lt Division was issued.

When the Brigade is bivouacked without tents, the Battalions will there form as halted as the arms for security and dryness will probably be with the men and not the place of assembly. The position of the front company or pile of arms of each Battalion should be clearly known and marked in order that all the other Companies may know their own situation in Quarter distance columns. No Battalion, or Company or any body of men is to load without the orders of its Commanding Officer. Exceptions to this rule can only be made in the case of sudden attack upon advance sentries but at all times firing at night should be avoided as leading only to confusion, and doing more mischief to friends than enemies. If an officer has reason to think that any enemy may be advancing upon him, he should send back immediate information to the officer on duty, and if suddenly attacked will retire gradually upon the columns, if he has no orders to maintain his post until relieved or reinforced.

During the day sentries should be placed on the tops of rising ground near the Picquets, and during the night on the inner descent as, at that time light may be more easily discerned against the sky.

18 Sep 1854 The tents landed as a temporary measure on the 16th were struck and sent on board ships again on this day.

From the day we disembarked until today the 18th there was nothing doing except that of landing troops, artillery, horses and munitions of war. Our friends the French soon began to pillage whatever they could lay their hands upon and without payment too, for on passing through their lines evident traces were discernible from the quantity of offal strewed about such as heads of geese, skins and entrails of sheep, hairs and feet of pigs etc.etc. in quantities and description too numerous to mention. Tho' we were

strictly forbidden to take anything except by payment.

In General orders of the day the extra allowance of ½ lb of meat allowed to the men when at Monestue was discontinued in consequence of the scarcity of live cattle.

About the time we were for moving an old man made his appearance with a load of ripe apples drawn by a pair of bullocks on his way to Eupatoria and as carts at this time were very scarce we seized upon him, buried his apples in the ground and quietly ensconced him as driver of his own vehicle until we reached Sebastopol when we let him go.

With the breaking of morning on the 19 Sept 1854 might have been observed to our yet non troublesome enemy the whole of the British and French Army formed up in the order of battle, ready at any moment to move but as there appeared no enemy in sight were ordered to pile arms and cook their breakfasts. It will be well to mention, that that the word breakfast was often uttered after the daylight parade, yet as the rations of the men consisted only of 1 lb of salt meat and 1 lb of biscuit breakfast was certainly out of the question, in the sense conveyed to the old and fat homestead epicures of England, who while munching hot toast and muffins overloaded with butter, delighted themselves with following the movements of the Army as described by the none scrupled self designated correspondents of newspapers attached to the Army.

However breakfast or no breakfast I had mine, after nearly burning all the hair off my head together with half frizzling my face even as was always the case at these bivouacks of the absence of fuel and the non appearance of a hedge or tree, or bush or stick, nothing in fact save the long dry grass, which I took up by handfuls placing a heap together and the camp kettle on the top half filled with mud and the remainder half with water I blew away at the fire with my mouth causing every now and then the fire to flare up spontaneously and which almost as soon died away. However after great exertion and much patience I got the kettle boiled and with Thompson and Hopkins sat down to our morning repast on which a sorrying eye cast its reflecting glance and so mournfully depicted. 8 o'clock having arrived, the two Armies began to move or it may have been ½ past 8. The Light Division leading the British advance covered by the 2nd Bn Rifle Brigade, the French having the right and the British the left of the Allies.



The Service Journal of Charles Usherwood, Sergeant in the 19th Foot, 1852 - 1856

5. THE BATTLE OF THE ALMA

The Brigades of the Division moved off by Regiments by fours and in such a manner that when fronted each line faced outwards that is on either flank of the advance, and I think as far as I can remember the 19th & 23rd marched together, then the 88th & 33rd and lastly the 77th & 7th so that when they deployed on the leading files to the front, each Regiment would bring up right and left shoulders forward, the companies moving in an echelon direction into line, the cavalry, what few there were, protected the left flank of the march and sometimes to the front. The other Divisions with their artillery followed in succession the 1st immediately in rear of the Light Division.

There was nothing during the march to impede us and the day was exceeding fine.

Not even a single hedge or ditch for all the way we came was upon a sandy soil plain the grass being half withered, until late in the afternoon when approaching the brook named Buljanak, where for the first time the Russians shewed themselves (a column with some field pieces appearing on the other side of the river) our cavalry having observed the enemy they at once opened a fire and just at the time the Light Division entered the river, the Horse Artillery came galloping to the front having ascended the rising ground unhindered and threw shot and shell into the columns which in return sent theirs rolling through the lines of the Light Division who at this time had formed a little below the top of the hill on the left bank of the Buljanak.

After a few rounds of Artillery fire had been exchanged between each party, wounding several horses and a Serjeant of Cavalry the Russian column drew off yet as it was supposed not without some loss the shots from our side having plunged through their columns.

The Russians it would appear had been waiting our approach at this spot, for on the right side of the river stood a burning house which apparently had been an Inn or Post house and had been chosen as their advanced lookout.

On arrival of the other Divisions with their Artillery bn. the Armies halted - the French on the right in rear of whom were some Turkish troops and bivouacked for the night.

20th Sept 1854. Up this morning ready formed were the Allies at the break of day, but as no enemy appeared in night to molest us, we piled arms to cook and eat what scanty breakfasts each individual had at his command, for lo and behold it was everyone for himself and none to help him. Officers and men alike, breakfasted where he could and of what he could catch, so to speak; however after going through the performance of breakfast the bugle sounded to fall in for the march.

We had heard previously to this day that the enemy were awaiting us in an entrenched camp and rumour had it 40,000 to oppose us tho' of course as soldiers we knew nothing to the contrary.

The day being fine and our spirits in good order we tramped along very well and never expecting (except it might have been those better acquainted with present circumstances that in a few hours many of us were to bid goodbye to all earthly joys, we seemed to forget the awfulness soon to behold.

Marching in similar order as we had done the previous day we gradually felt our way but as we approached nearer to the heights seen at a distance every now and then orders were given to halt changing our formation with that of contiguous columns by Brigades in Divisions we at last received the order to halt and for the first time since our landing to load. Quickly were our rifles loaded and as soon as the last ring of returning ram rods had died away with the passing breeze, again we moved the Light Division leading the advance of the British covered by the Rifle Brigade in extended order. By this time large black masses were observed on the heights in front and Aides-de-Camp riding furiously from one position to another tho' as yet no shots had greeted us.

Shortly after our advance the French who occupied the right of the Allies became engaged driving as they appeared to be the skirmishes of the enemy who strongly opposed their advance along the shore of the Sea and mouth of the river Alma who assisted by the Fleet throwing shells among the enemy's masses were facilitated thereby.

In the meantime the advance of the British received no check but as the Light Division got nearer it deployed and advancing in this order were received with rounds shot at a long range and which as we still advanced ploughed through its ranks one shot smashing

the leg of a Grenadier named Keogh and the leg of Lieut Wardlam of the 19th Foot. Advancing still further covered by the 2nd Bttn Rifle Brigade who had now opened fire upon the enemy skirmishers in their front leaving every now and then behind them a fallen comrade or two, orders came that we were to lie down so that the shots from the enemy might not do as much damage, and as the ground upon which we advanced had no cover for us being one extended plain till reaching the Village and which latter the cute enemy had set on fire.

Just prior to receiving the order to make haste for cover under the wall several round shots passed through the ranks of the 19th Foot two of these passing through my own company, one of which grazed my pouch as I turned to avoid it and striking the hind leg of Carden's horse immediately in rear of myself wounded it severely, the other shot alluded to striking the front part and at the top of Pte Patrick Budgen's Chaco, which coming so suddenly not a little astonished him, tho' it did him no bodily harm at this time and while the round shots were plunging through our ranks the men of the 2nd Bn Rifle Brigade had reached near to the wall and as we were still further advancing in line the enemy's sharpshooters who it appeared were concealed behind the wall, poured into us a volley of musketry which coming upon us suddenly and unperceived startled us very much tho' owing I should imagine to their haste in retreating after the volley was delivered, not a shot took effect, the whole flying over our heads with a rushing noise similar yet still more powerful to a large flight of small birds. Feeling a little nervous I looked about to see if anyone had fallen but as far as I observed I saw none. Our Riflemen and those of the enemy in front of our line being pretty free in their mutual exchanges we of course felt our position not at all comfortable for as the shots aimed at the intended Rifle Brigade missed their object, they nevertheless came very unwelcomed among us, who at this time were mere spectators of the duel going on in front of us. However the word having been passed along to each regiment of the Division to double and lay under cover of the wall that ran along the front we did so pretty cheerfully the enemy's sharpshooters hurrying there from across the vine gardens to the banks of the river who finding that we did not follow them beyond this point immediately began to annoy us, their batteries also trying to drop shells upon us as we lay under the cover; the annoyance being greater than was desirable orders were given for the 2nd Bn Rifle Brigade to advance and drive them out of the gardens and which was done with much spirit, tho' it cost the Battalion some of its men.

While as we lay thus inactive awaiting orders to advance and which was understood to be when the French on our right had somewhat established themselves, our other Divisions especially the first approached nearer also in line and became targets for the enemy's cannons, besides receiving those intended for the Light and 2nd Divisions.

To combat with the practice at long range our Artillery did all in its power to effect what it there found was impossible to do owing to the ground occupied by us and the advantage the enemy had over this aim by the Russians being entrenched on the heights overlooking the plains along which we were marching. The Artillery however situated as they were took up every position which they thought would be of any avail and as a small rising piece of ground on the left of the 19th Foot appeared protected by the walls of a burning house the officer brought up a gun while we set to and pulled down a portion of the house so as to make a gap, but just as the Artillerymen were engaged in loading their piece Sir Geo Brown espied them and galloping up to the officer in charge expostulated with him in undignified terms on the unreasonableness of the attempt peremptorily ordering him to limber up and take his gun away as he had not only drawn the enemy's fire upon himself but upon the Division also while at the same time he could effect nothing; the gun being withdrawn relieved us a little bearing out the truth of Sir George's remark and our own opinion.

The French having now been engaged for some time and which must have been severely judging from the heavy fusilade going on, Aides-de-Camp rode up to Lord Raglan who with his Staff were near the Light Division stating that the French had established themselves and that St. Arnand wished the British to attack. Immediately the order to advance ran through the Division and all as one cleared the wall and pushed their way across the vine gardens whose vines here and there still bore their beautiful fruit. The gardens greatly exposed to the fire of all kinds of missiles, we hurried along so as to reach the Russian side of the river with all the haste we could as there we saw some cover would afford itself to us. Reaching the bank of the river through, one might really say, a storm of iron, we saw nothing for it but to plunge into the water and struggle across in the best way possible never waiting to learn the shallowest part and which afforded numbers who had the luck to drop on these points better chances to wade over at only knee deep while others more unfortunate (of whom I was one) got more or less a deeper immersion tho' the river was but a few yards wide.

Owing greatly to the bending of the river, the excitement in what was going on, the heavy losses experienced and the natural obstacles in the way aided by the increasing and terrible fire of artillery and musketry from the enemy, the Division could not keep its correct formation and as the first Brigade had better ground to advance upon than the 2nd they at once in the best line possible under the circumstances joined by the 19 Foot of 2 Brigade rushed up the slope at the double joined upon its right by 95 Reg and for the first time opening fire charging the enemy into and beyond the earthworks and the Battery which latter had simultaneously attacked by various men of 19th 23rd and 33rd Regts. The Russians not expecting such determination from the British immediately betook themselves to flight who when in the act of extricating their cannons out of the Battery alluded to lost two pieces together with some of their horses attached as they were to the guns. In this affair within the Battery several men made themselves very conspicuous Pte Pat Bulger of the 19th Regt being one and Troughton of No 3 Company another. Bulger during the rush made for the guns killing his man while sitting on the horse's back. Both beaten however tho' the trench and battery were in our hands. The Russians reattacked us by bringing up fresh masses and who as I observed myself did not deploy into line but opened fire as they stood in column the two leading ranks firing from the hip after which opening out right and left ran to the rear and which they did in successive ranks with rapidity thus throwing into us who were very close to them a heavy fire of musketry then charged us out of the works.

The suddenness of the approach of this column together with a report being circulated that we were firing on the French threw us into disorder, it at this time being out of the question for any Regt to keep its formation owing greatly to the losses each had sustained in Officers and men, our fire thereby slackened. The enemy noticing these circumstances instantly availed themselves to pour into us a heavier fire and to act with more boldness and summoning up all their vocal powers rent the air with their cheers

whilst we, speaking of the Division, gradually retired toward the bank of the river in order to gain a formation and to allow the Brigade of Guards to engage who at this moment were marching up from the river. By some mistake or another some confusion occurred to one of the Battalions of Guards (Fusiliers) construing as they did the word of command given by the Officer Commanding the 23rd Foot into that for their own, the word being "Fusiliers retire" meaning the 23rd Fusiliers so as not to obstruct the attack of the Guards. However, the mistake having been corrected by the Officers and which certainly at the time might have been of serious consequence the whole body of the Guards advanced followed by the remnants of the Light Division and whom with trenches very few yards away threw into the masses of the Russians a dreadful volley following up immediately and before the smoke could clear away with a charge and a huzzar. Again the action at this point of the field became severe but as the Highlands appeared on the left of our attack and the probability of the French outflanking the left of the enemy together with the advantage already gained by the 2nd Division and the Divisions of Napoleon on their right the Russians beat a hasty retreat which when once commenced literally became a rout as great numbers in order to facilitate their flights threw not only arms, drums and accoutrements away but their knapsacks and portions of clothes and leaving not only their dead but also all the wounded whom they could not conveniently carry along with them, so precipitate did they hurry away that for days afterwards we found numbers of their wounded lying in ditches along the line of route, and had we not had a sufficiency of cavalry whom by the bye did nothing as regards fighting there is no doubt the result would have been more disastrous to the enemy.

During the action above described taken as it is only as an individual combattant passing under my own observation, I with many others had some exceedingly narrow escapes one of which I will only describe as of course I cannot remember them all. After we had crossed the river and the 1st Brigade Light Division was in the act of moving up the slope joined by the 19th Foot and where Color Sergt Norris of my Company who together with myself were almost out of breath from exertion was uttering these words to me "This is awful work" a shell preceded by a shower of grape fell between both of us and which no sooner fell than exploded with a most dazzling light covering myself with earth and inflicting on my companion a most severe wound on the right side of his head whom after collecting together my scattered thoughts I found lying upon his face in a pool of blood only about seven yards distance from me. Lifting him up he appeared at first like one who had truly just departed this life the' quickly afterwards coming to in all the vigour of manhood minus that strength of nerve and spirit as wont to be within himself. Handing to him a handkerchief which I had in my haversack I said you had better get down to the rivers bank out of the way and if possible see the doctor while I hurried on into the fight going on near to the Battery opposite to us. After the engagement was over I again met my friend with his head bound up and who shook me by the hand with a feeling of thankfulness so kindly flowing through his veins conveying as it did the same feeling when beholding human beings by hundreds in all attitudes of death, the dreadfulness of their wounds and the unceasing cry for help, what could have been more pleasing than to find oneself in the land of the living and especially when having escaped through such frightful carnage.

It would be impossible for me to describe the ground on which we fought, the positions of both parties and to illustrate minutely the various advantages and disadvantages, suffice to say that all I can remember of the positions went to establish in my mind the superiority of the British and French, and to convince me that I belonged to a nation second to none in the world.

Immediately after the flight of the enemy the Army moved forward a little beyond the battle field and after sending outlying picquets bivouacked there.

By some curious movement or another the 88 & 77th Regts both of whom belonged to the same Brigade as the 19 Foot did not engage the enemy. Their loss therefore and which was but few would have arisen from stray shots than otherwise and whom at one time got into square being under an imaginary impression that the enemy's cavalry were coming down in great force, but who never shewed themselves or at least I did not see them.

While the fight was going on Lord Raglan could be seen in the thickest more to the right of the attack and near to the broken down bridge. How he escaped seemed to be a miracle but somehow or another he did while a number of his staff were killed and wounded. The loss in our Division was exceedingly severe as also it was in the 1st & 2nd.

Speaking only to the numbers of my own Corps we found that the following is pretty Correct tho' none were asserted killed except those who were found dead on the field.

One subaltern - One drummer - 36 Privates killed

2 Field Officers - 1 Captain - 2 Subs - 1 Staff - 16 Serjeants - 12 Corporals - 2 Drummers - 175 Privates wounded

and had every one who were contused and slightly wounded reported themselves at the time (of whom I was one having been shot in the leg) the sum total would have doubtless amounted to 300 killed and wounded including Officers.

With regard to the Subaltern killed whose name was Stockwell, an Ensign, who while unfurling one of the Colors of the Regt on the bank of the river endeavouring to cause a reformation, received a ball in the forehead and falling dead by the side of Ensign Thompson, this latter Officer coolly picked up the Color and carried the same throughout the remainder of the action - the cross belt being covered with blood.

Of the Field Officers wounded were Col. Saunders commanding (whose horse was shot) & Major McGee, Captain Harding, Lieut Wardlaw and another and Ensign and Adjutant Cardew who not only received a ball in the leg but another also in the neck which passed and lodged near his eye, his horse being also shot. Col. Unett too was hit on the wrist and his mare Bessy wounded on the

nose. As always is the case many of the men became anxious to know the contents of the knapsacks of the enemy which were lying about in great numbers. I among them of course being as much so to satisfy my curiosity strayed into the work or battery lately held by enemy and observing a heap of dead Russians whose knapsacks were still fastened to their backs rolled one or two over and on opening one of these having receptacles which like the one I did so at the top, discovered no less than 4 loaves of black bread there being nothing else whatever inside. Considering this a great boon having no commissary of my own and not likely to get any that evening I at once set to work to divest the corpse of his load by cutting the shoulder straps and carrying away the knapsack and its valuable commodity loading in the meantime myself more so with as much wood and empty knapsacks as I could conveniently carry lugging them off to the bivouack already forming on the hills at a short distance from thence.

On arrival at the bivouack where it now soon became dark, I at once commenced work to make myself as comfortable as circumstances admitted. Seeing within a few yards from where I intended to roost for the night a large heap of straw and hay I nothing daunted collected sufficient to form a kind of three cornered embankment so as to shelter me from the cold breeze which together with the dampness of the night and my saturated clothes demanded something of this kind when having done so I placed the heavy knapsacks on the ground and lay upon them (having previously kindled a fire) to ruminate upon the past.

Keeping awake for a length of time I managed to have a meal of the loaves of bread I had brought with me tho' I must confess I was not satisfied with my repast owing to the flavour of the bread which to me tasted like chopped straw. Nevertheless as the bread was better than nothing I ate it and falling off asleep with a piece in my mouth I slept till morning when to my great surprise I found that I had not only been robbed of my fuel and the very walls of my nest, but that I had been sleeping in the middle of the road and wondered still more that I had not been run over so near was I to the wheels of a passing artillery waggon and which certainly aroused me from my slumbers.

21 Sept 1854 Daylight having broken all hands excepting those for other duties were sent on fatigues in removing wounded and burying the slain the former being carried on board the various transports for conveyance to Scutaria and Constantinople and the latter laid in ditches made for this purpose. Owing to many of the Russian wounded using their arms orders yesterday were given that all muskets belonging to the enemy were to be broken so as to render them useless, and today in addition to collecting the human beings dead and alive all description of arms and their appendages were likewise collected and removed to the ships off the coast.

22 Sep 1854 Fatigue parties still employed in removing wounded, burying the dead and collecting arms.

23 Sep 1854 Today the allies commenced their march from their bivouac and after marching for some distance, halted a little before dusk, and taking up a position bivouacked for the night. Early this morning before we commenced our march Ensign Thompson who was acting Adjutant in view of Cardew wounded, came to me stating that I was at once to assume the duties of Orderly Room Clerk in place of Serjeant Newell tho' I strongly objected to becoming Orderly Room Clerk at that time. However as my name appeared in Regtl orders as such I was obliged to act accordingly.

24 Sep 1854 Again at an early hour the Allies moved and as the ground over which they marched was more diversified by hill and dale the march became exceedingly picturesque for in addition to the beauty of the scenery enlivened by a cloudless blue sky and the lukewarm rays of a brilliant sun the uniforms of the various bodies of men advancing in compact and easy order gradually descending the slopes at different elevations to the green valleys below rendered the scene not only attractive but imposing to a degree beyond the conceptions of a painter or the abilities of an author to describe.

Descending one of these hills towards the afternoon we came in sight of a village situated on the banks of a small river similar in size to the Alma whose name I think was termed Katchka. On beholding the position before us and which was admirably adapted for defence we of course expected to meet with some resistance from the enemy tho' we had not encountered them since the 20th. As a precautionary measure and fearing that they might be lurking near to, our cavalry were sent to feel the way, but finding no signs of an enemy or an inhabitant the latter of whom had all fled, excepting a female who had hidden herself in a Baker's oven, the Allied passed through the village and bivouacked on the heights overlooking the river which flowed along the valley below.

Here we obtained an abundance of ripe grapes and vegetables, the grapes growing upon trees similar in size to the common blackcurrant berry ones in English gardens.

25 Sep 1854 Today we had a most tedious march through a mass of forest from early dawn to late in the afternoon when we verged out at a farm situated on the level of McKenzies heights where we beheld before us the ruins of a Russian column which had been attacked by our cavalry and whom in their flight had left the road which here was almost knee deep in dust strewn by overturned carts, clothes, bacon, unbaked bread and a host of other things.

In this surprise the Russians not only lost their ammunition which was blown up but also 12 prisoners of whom one was an officer and a few carts and carriages.

Immediately after the troops had rested (and which they certainly needed) we began to move down the steep road leading from the heights to the valley below where the cavalry captured a large number of cattle and sheep. Moving along the green plain now familiar known as Badair we at dusk crossed the Tractic Bridge overstretching the Tchernaya and bivouacked for the night on the rising ground where in Aug 1855 the battle of Tchernaya was fought.

During the night on account of some misapprehension a false alarm startled the bivouac.

26 Sep 1854 When day broke we as usual were to be seen under arms ready formed in battle array, but as no enemy appeared to molest us we were allowed to cook and eat, after which the assembly sounded and on we moved in the direction of Balaklava before which at a respectable distance we again halted, selecting two Divisions, the Light and the 1st to drive out the paltry garrisons occupying the old tower overlooking the harbour. The rest of the army piled arms to watch the operations of the Divisions told off for this duty.

Immediately after Lord Raglan had held a conversation with a civilian prisoner brought from the village of Khadikoi by one of our men, the 1st Brigade of the Light Division were ordered to climb the heights on the right of the towns, while the 2nd Brigade with a couple of field pieces were told off to escale the heights on the left and near the old towers, leaving the 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade supported by the 1st Division to prevent the enemy from coming out of the towns and to assail them of course with rifle practice in extended order.

Being of course thus separated the knowledge of what was going on would necessarily be confined to the respective Brigades and as the 19 Foot formed one of the 2nd Brigade Light Division its duty was to assist in the escalating of the left and to assault the tower. Wending our way through farmyards, among gardens and orchards and green looking fields, 'ere we could begin to climb the steep cliffs, occasion brought us near to a number of Beehives the occupants of which were very numerous and whether by a freak of nature or the handywork of some mischievous bayonet, one or two of these honey nests were overturned which greatly exasperated the whole hosts of bees that they at once set to to inflict upon us a chastisement whom to avoid created no great merriment at the trifling cost of painful eruptions and the stirring command of "Keep in the ranks".

Passing on further lay a pile of apples the same as shots are piled, of which on our return not one was to be seen those not engaged having stolen them.

Through great exertion at last we reached the summit of the heights, the enemy replying our visit with a few shots and having hoisted up the flag two guns opened round shot on the old tower walls, the Agamemnon assisting us with a shell now and then evidently intended for the tower but which generally dropped nearer to us.

After pounding away for a time our Brigade being in a semicircular line a Company or so of the 77 Regt were sent crawling to the edge of the cliffs overlooking the harbour when after a few rounds from them, a white handkerchief became observable waiving in the breeze out of a window in the tower signifying surrender thro' which on ascertaining its correctness the firing on all sides dropped and the troops entered at the head of the town.

Balaklava and the surrounding country at this time was certainly nicely laid out being as it was the time when grapes in abundance abounded together with fruit of various kinds, plotted out into neat farmsteads and lovely gardens the scenery attracted the eye and brought it once more to view the objects around it with pity as to the circumstances under which soon it would desolve.

Khadikoi; close by with its small church too presented a neat appearance and bore an air of comeliness combined with comfort but alas like its neighbour desolation and the tramp of war removed its beauty for a time.

What became of the garrison we of course left to them whose duties called upon them to remove the prisoners as judging from the resistance given they could not but have been few.



The Service Journal of Charles Usherwood, Sergeant in the 19th Foot, 1852 - 1856

6. THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL STARTS

27 Sept 1854 In bivouac at Balaklava and Khadikoi. Today the French made their appearance at this place.

28 Sep 1854 Still in bivouac at the above.

29 Sep 1854 Today the Allies moved upon Sebastopol distant from Balaklava about 6 miles, where we made our appearance on the left attack or in other words nearest to the rear the French taking the position nearest to the blue waters having Kharmeish as their harbour.

As we approached the towns we received no opposition which in fact to all appearances would lead one to believe scarcely many troops were just then located at Sebastopol, the only signs of warlike preparations being a single shot or so from the White towers (afterwards the famous Malakoff) and excepting a few directed against the French so close did we advance to the town and the apparent undefensive state of the south side certainly in soldier's opinion warranted an attack for as far as our knowledge went we felt sure of taking the place by assault, the only enemy up to dark perceived being a civilian on horseback on a piece of rising ground near to where the Black battery was afterwards erected covering the road to the town, and who on being fired at by a Rifleman or two galloped off into the town.

The Brigades of the Division having deployed into line piled arms when we were dismissed to cook our meal. During the night a false alarm roused us up but as the report turned out to be nothing we again lay down wrapped in our blankets by the side of our arms.

30 Sep 1854 Today the Light Division moved away from the left and took up a position below the picquet house on the right adjoining the Woronoff road and other side of the middle ravine and where it remained until the termination of the war, the 2nd Division being on its right and on the right of it the 1st Bn Guards the ground to the right of the middle ravine being termed Inkerman.

By a General order today the issue of a ration of rice to the troops which was sanctioned in General orders of 19 July will be continued until 15 Nov.

A Depot also was formed at Balaklava as a garrison and was to consist of weak men, this port having been chosen by the British as their import and export harbour.

During the day rumours were circulated that the engineers had found out; and cut a number of waterpipes that conveyed water into one part of Sebastopol.

1 Oct 1854 Nothing occurring worth notice excepting picquets and sentries being placed.

2 Oct 1854 In tents, and duties as yesterday - the guards mounting at 7 am and the outlying picquets relieved at daybreak when both old and new picquets remained under arms at their different posts until sunrise so as to frustrate any designs of the enemy.

Today General orders as under were issued. *"Notwithstanding the Army is now in the country of the enemy, the Commander of the Forces desires that all supplies taken from the inhabitants by the Commissariat Officers for the use of the troops to be paid for and brought to account in the usual manner."*

The 2nd order ran thus *"as a preposition to the army before commencing Siege operations the trench will be opened this evening against Sebastopol. A working party consisting of --- furnished by the -- -- Regiment will be marched to the Engineers depot at ---- pm where they will receive tools and directions from Engineer Officers and Sappers who will guide them to their work; they will be without arms or accoutrements. The guards for the protection of the Working party and ground will consist of men furnished by --- and will parade at their camp at --- pm will be conducted to their position and receive instructions from the Staff Officers who will be appointed for the purpose. All the movements of both parties must be if possible kept out of the view of the plain. After moving from the last place of assembly which will be after dark, the utmost silence must be preserved and least possible noise of any kind made. The Working parties will be arranged in proper order by the Engineers but will not commence work until ordered*

after which it must be carried on with the greatest possible energy.

The Engineers will be charged with the arrangements, that the Officers of the troops must be responsible for the maintenance of order, attention to the directions given by the Engineers and for the amount of work done. On the diligence and regular conduct of the Working parties will depend the more rapid and complete success of the enterprise. The Working parties must not quit the work on slight alarm, if the enemy make a sortie the guard will advance and drive them in and before they reach the work if possible. Should the Working party be absolutely obliged to retire, they will take their tools with them and reform at a short distance in rear, to return to their work when the sortie is repulsed. The guard will be posted in rear of the working party and near to it, if possible under cover of the fire of the place, if not, they must lie down in order of battle with accoutrements on and each man with his arms close by him: One party not less than one third of the force absolutely on the alert all through the night, taking it alternately ready for an immediate rush upon the enemy.

A sortie is out on the works in a short time and therefore the guard must be immediately in readiness to attack it without hesitation, nothing is so easily defeated as a sortie if charged without delay.

After the repulse of any sortie the guard will return under cover as soon as possible and resume their position.

All Working parties and guards will be composed of entire Regiments, and not of Detachments made up of different corps.

'Ere the siege properly began the Allies were obliged to drive the enemy's picquets beyond the position where the 21 gun battery was subsequently constructed also on the left, the so called Green hill before a trench was cut.

The works of the enemy being by no means at all formidable the only construction apparently on the south side being the white or round tower excepting on the left and nearer the sea, the casemated batteries or defences being inward and towards the harbour and Euxine, tho' of course they were well able to erect such defences composed of the same material as were the works of the Allies and which during the siege well proved its value.

Judging from operations visible to the eye the Great Redan was about one of their first works tho' as time and circumstances intervened underwent various changes rendering it at last a model piece of engineering as were also every other work behind which the Russians defended themselves

On the Inkerman side at the foot of whose heights ran from the harbour inland the river Tchernaya a road and viaduct led into the Karabelnaia, round the head of the Carreen bay. By this road during the former part of the siege the enemy brought in convoys and troops crossing from the north side the river by a bridge situated near to the Inkerman Quarries and which for a length of time till after the Battle of Inkerman they had possession of but on the French taking upon themselves to protect the extreme right was wrested from them, their only means of communicating with the garrison being afterwards by means of steamers and boats across the middle of the great harbour and from the direction of Fort Catherine.

With regard to the situation of Sebastopol It will be sufficient to say that the North side has no town or in fact a house, the whole space being open land and the defences there on our first approach being to protect the harbour from the attacks of shipping for instance Fort Constantine, Starfort, Fort Catherine etc. etc. being situated on the South side of the harbour the former being divided by the mercantile harbour into the town side and that of the Karabelnaia. The town being nearest the sea was protected seaway by casemated batteries, Forts Alexander, Nicholas etc. and the latter by Forts Paul etc. Evidently from the first it would appear that were the Karabelnaia to fall into the hands of the Allies the other parts must follow suit as in the former the public building the Docks and the Arsenal were located. Besides the position stood upon a higher elevation and could not be flanked as long as the Inkerman heights were held and which of course would be so, hence as it was afterwards proved by the bloody contests going on at this point of attack and defence at whose capture fell Sebastopol.

Within the waters of the great harbour could be seen that fleet which destroyed the Turkish at Seriope, ignominiously keeping within its own bay tho' every now and then rendering what assistance its individual members were able to do by throwing a shell a shot or two, yet never seeming to aim to encounter the one at anchor within range of the forts of Sebastopol cooped up as it was consisting of three and two deckers, steamers, gun boats, and frigates, there it stayed awaiting the results of the siege, never daring to shew its nose beyond the precincts of its own caboose and where to this day it lies excepting that of being afloat on the waters it lies embedded within its own tomb beneath the surface of one of the finest sheets of water capable for a naval purpose.

Of the position taken up by the Allies in the immediate vicinity of the town, tho' of course their position for the whole of their armies covered a large area of ground from Inkerman to the seaboard to and beyond Balaklava and round on the ridge overlooking the valley Badair back to Inkerman again, looking as it did in fact at the later part of the war, the besiegers besieged in turn, as at one time a Russian Army watched them before Balaklava, another on the McKenzies heights thence stretching to the north side along.

But speaking of the vicinity, on the positions before Sebastopol the ground, intercepted by deep ravines, was cold, bleak, stony and barren, with not a vestige of a tree or shrub excepting on the Inkerman side where to the early part at December 1854 scarce a bush remained so entirely were we devoid of fuel that we were obliged to search for the roots of shrubs should there (like gold) be any remaining which while searching after drew upon us the fire of the enemies outposts sometimes killing and sometimes wounding such men as were so unfortunate. Water too was very scarce, indeed so scarce that to be in possession of a small quantity was ever considered a luxury there being only two or three springs or gullies to supply the wants of an army. This, however, was remedied towards the latter part of the siege a reservoir having been dug at the mouth of the valley of death (the ravine situated at the foot of Cathcart's Hill).

The army too was for about a month without tents and it was some time in October 1854 before they were sent to the troops.

4th October 1854 By a General order of the day the 7th, 23rd and 33rd Regiments will until reinforced be consolidated into 6 Divisions instead of 8 Companies each and in order to equalise the Brigades of the Light Division the left wing of the 2nd Btn Rifle Brigade will be attached to the 1st Brigade & take post on the left of it, when not otherwise directed.

About this time of the month of October the cholera began again to take off many men and in one tent alone I saw 6 to 8 men rolling over one another in the agonies of death they having been carried to this tent to die.

Dysentery and diarrhoea too the old scourge of our army held fast to the various camps emaciating their victims and ultimately laying the cold hand of death upon very many of them. How to stop the ravages of these additional enemies the Medical Officers could not tell for the arrangements in the medical department were woefully deplorable and disgraceful in the extreme. Literally I have seen poor wretches turned away from the hospital covered as they were with filth and rags, to take care of themselves with perhaps only a Dover's powder washed down their throats by muddy water as an antidote for the acutest dysentery.

One poor creature with a miserable form crawling as he was on all fours actually was refused either medicine or admission into hospital simply because they had none and there was room in the hospital there being only one hospital tent then available and which was unsupplied either with bedding, medical comforts, cooking apparatus and even sufficient attendance. Finding all appeal to the brutal Serjeant Tarley of no avail the poor wretch made his way to the latrine and died near to the ditch of accumulated filth.

6th Oct 1854 In today's Brigade orders the following appeared:

Officers Commanding Regts are requested to impress upon their men the importance in the presence of to enemy of vigilance on the part of the sentries of the outlying picquets. Neglect on this point may compromise not only the lives of individuals, but the safety of an army.

A soldier found asleep on his post may be deservedly sentenced to death so important is his duty.

Each Regt will detail daily one company to be always ready to turn out under arms to reinforce the picquets.

During this month the army received their tents.

8 Oct 1854 By General orders of the day an extra ration of rum was authorized to be issued to the troops at sunset until further orders.

11 Oct 1854 In General orders the Commander of the Forces desired that the Working parties or covering parties should receive a free ration of rum in addition to the usual issue.

During the earlier part of this month several skirmishes took place between the Allies and the enemy's picquets but which in no way retarded the progress of the siege.

This evening the army furnished the following number of men for the trenches 400 men at the Engineers' park in front of the Powder Mill at 4.30 pm to be furnished by the Light Division.

(*Note this Powder Mill was originally a windmill situated not far from the Middle Ravine and was encircled at this time by a wall).

The covering party of 1000 men from the 3rd & 4th Divisions.

3rd Division 300 men and 4th Division 600 men as Working parties.

Covering parties 2000 men.

12 Oct 1854 In today's General Orders Ensign Thomas Thompson was appointed to act as Adjutant of the 19th Regiment vice Cardew wounded in action. The following were the numbers required for tonight's duties

Green Hill Works or sailors' Battery 600 men of 3rd Division

4th Division 200 men to be relieved by equal numbers at midnight, this party to be further aided by 100 seamen with ship's

Carpenters - Covering party 1000 men 4th Division - Frenchmen's Hill Works, 400 men of the 2nd Division to be relieved by an equal number at Midnight. Covering party 1000 men 2nd Division.

13 Oct 1854 By orders of today covering parties were to mount at 4 am and remain on duty 24 hours.

14th Oct 1854 Major General Sir Colon Campbell, KCB was directed in General Orders to take charge of the British and Turkish troops (exclusive of the Cavalry) in front of and above Balaklava.

15 Oct 1854 Appeared in General Orders of today

The ration of biscuit whilst the troops are employed in the present laborious operations to be 1 1/3 lb per man daily.

16 Oct 1854 From the 2nd till the 16 Oct, the troops before Sebastopol worked with energy constructing batteries and entrenchments, repulsing sorties by night and skirmishes by day, scarcely ever taking off their clothes to rest, being as they were constantly on the alert for any attack which the enemy might make whom to speak well of lacked nothing in defending their position.

In order to assist the operations more fully the Commander in Chief adopted a voluntary measure consisting of sharpshooters of 10 men from each Regiment of the various Divisions, to be under charge of 1 Captain and 2 Subs and one Non Comd Officer from each corps, with directions that each man should select the spot that suits him best, and be guided only in that choice upon the cover it

may give him of an effectual fire on the embrasures, Captain Bright of the 19th Foot having charge of the sharpshooters from the Light Division.

17 Oct 1854 The Works of the Allies being now considered sufficiently advanced for a bombardment their batteries opened early this morning and which were replied to vigorously by the enemy doing considerable mischief in fact so much so upon. the Works of the French on the left attack, that they completely silenced them long before 3 pm. The British, however, whose batteries were more strongly built kept up the fire admirably especially from the Green hill and the 21 when 'ere noon had approached the White tower had crumbled and rendered useless tho' and excepting the earthworks at the base which every now and then discharged a round or two, the Redan as well suffered very much as large breaches were perceptible to the naked eye caused principally from the explosions of shells.

The enemy however nothing daunted kept well to their guns and had the satisfaction of greeting us with a terrific accident; immediately in front of the 21st for by chance one of their well directed shells blew up some powder boxes with a terrible noise, doing grievous harm to the men adjacent to the Work, 10 men of the 19 Foot being more or less wounded besides others of other Corps by the occurrence.

Stung to the wick by this mishap and by the shouts of the enemy our Artillerymen sent shot after shot upon the Redan with more fury than hitherto when as it would be for satisfaction's sake a by far more terrible explosion soon took place within the Redan, sending as it appeared a volume of fire towards the sky and which evidently must have been great and the sacrifice of life more so from the fact of their feebleness in replying thereafter.

Curious tho' the two incidents were, nevertheless our men cheered lustily in retaliation to the one the enemy gave them on the occurrence behind the 21.

As had been arranged the Fleet commenced their attack on the Works facing the sea and which would be about the hour of noon, gallantly they seemed to move in but scarcely had begun cannonading 'ere they were enveloped in dense masses of white smoke continuing as they did until about 3 pm when their fire gradually slackened and they drew off, as did also the fire from the batteries at about sunset.

With regard to the losses of life that of the enemy judging from the cannonading would certainly have been greatest, as at the close of the day their replies were but feeble. The casualties on the part of 19 Foot this day were 1 Serjeant (Campion), 1 Drummer and 8 Rank & File wounded.

After sunset the Light Division furnished the following numbers for duty in the trenches. The First Brigade, 400 men as a Working party at Frenchman's hill, and the 2nd Brigade 5 companies as a Working Party at the same place to be furnished by the 77th Regt.

18 Oct 1854 During the whole of last night shells were exchanged pretty freely altho' both the enemy and the Allies were engaged in repairing the damages done to their respective works, and as morning approached opened again as heavy a bombardment as on the day previous keeping up the firing till evening when it again changed to shelling each other's works. The French having repaired their batteries also shewing a good figure as if to make up for yesterday.

On relieving the trenches the following was the detail furnished by the Light Division. The 1st Brigade a guard consisting of 9 companies to Green Hill battery taking with them their provisions ready cooked.

The 2nd Brigade to furnish 4 companies from the 19th Foot and 5 companies of the 77th Regt for the covering party both parties to be on duty at Green Hill.

The 88th Regt relieving the Company of 7th Fusiliers stationed in the valley one hour before daylight next morning as well as the three other picquets of the Brigade.

19 to 20 Oct 1854 For several days the firing from the Allies continued heavily and which was replied to vigorously by the besieged, both parties repairing under shade of night the damages done during the day and alternatively annoying each other with shells and occasional shots, the enemy too in addition extending their lines of defences to frustrate the encroachments of the besiegers.

This bombardment having resulted only to convince the Chiefs of the Anglo French armies that a regular siege was necessary in order to reduce the place especially when in consideration of the few men at their disposal in the event of an assault which latter the enemy proved to them would be madness to attempt, finally settled down into what may be termed the memorable siege of Sebastopol and which for the stubbornness, bravery, hardships and prolongation there displayed both by the besieged and besiegers must be ranked as one of the greatest in the annals of war.

20 Oct 1854 The first batch of wounded men were removed from before Sebastopol to the depot at Balaklava on this day, there being no accommodation for them in camp.

About this time an army of the Russians made their appearance in the valley of Badair and took up their position near to the Tracktin Bridge, and whose appearance no doubt stimulated the Allies to throw up entrenchments along the ridge of heights stretching from Inkerman down to Balaklava which from their position overlapped the valley. On the McKenzies heights the enemy also made his

appearance.

24 Oct 1854 In General orders of today when fresh meat is issued the ration to be 1¼ lb each man, and in the same orders the number of sharpshooters were desired to be augmented, while too as an encouragement to the men to collect the shots that were thrown by the enemy, owing to the scarcity of these missiles in the British magazines, a payment of 4 pence for each small shot, and 6 pence for those of larger size was authorized to be paid to any soldier or seaman carrying the same to the camp of the Royal Artillery near the Light Division.

25 Oct 1854 The Russian army that had settled a day or two ago before Balaklava, began offensive operations by attacking two Redoubts garrisoned by the Turks, whom on their approach bolted without offering the least resistance and which ultimately led to a General Engagement in which the British Light Cavalry suffered severely. Not being an eye witness of this affair altho' the reports of cannonading and musketry could be distinctly heard by the troops before Sebastopol and who were out under arms the greater part of the day, suffice it will be to observe that this battle reflected both credit and discredit upon the British, tho' nevertheless no question could be put forward to the discredit of the bravery of the Troops engaged or the ultimate result of their behaviour as the enemy were defeated in their designs and prevented from further molesting for a time this position of the British.

26 Oct 1854 Not satisfied with the result of yesterday before Balaklava the enemy tried his hand in the shape of a sortie in broad day approaching as it appeared in the direction from the Carreen Bay toward the hill in front of the 1st Brigade Light Division, and of the 2nd Division where afterwards a redoubt was thrown up and named "Victoria". This sortie was met by the 2nd Division under Sir Lacy-de-Evans which after a sharp cannonading and fusillade he repulsed, the enemy retiring into the town.

Hitherto burials having been made at no particular place, and as it was desirable that some particular spot should be selected, a Division order was issued today directing the place in the ravine to the left of the Worensoff Road under the Picquet House to be the burial ground of the Light Division instead of in the hollow near the Windmill.

29 Oct 1854 In General after orders of this day the subjoined were issued to the troops in praise of the battle of Balaklava fought on the 25th and of the sortie repulsed on the 26th Inst.

The Commander of the Forces feels deeply indebted to Major General Sir Colon Campbell KCB for his able and persevering exertions in the action in front of Balaklava on the 25 Inst and he has great pleasure in publishing to the army the brilliant manner in which the 93 Highlanders under his able directions repulsed the enemy's cavalry. The Major General had such confidence in this distinguished Corps that he was satisfied that it should receive the charge in line, and the result proved that his confidence was not misplaced. The Commander of the Forces considers it his duty to notice the brilliant conduct of the Division of Cavalry under the command of Lt. Genl the Earl of Lucan in the action of the 25th Inst, he congratulates Br Genl the Hon I.G. Scarlett and the officers and men of the Heavy Brigade upon their successful charge and repulse of the Russian Cavalry in far greater force than themselves, and while he condoles with Major General the Earl of Cardigan and the officers and men of the Light Brigade on the heavy loss it sustained, he feels it to be due to them to place on record the gallantry they displayed and the coolness and perseverance with which they executed one of the most arduous attacks that was ever witnessed under the heaviest fire, and in face of powerful bodies of Artillery Cavalry and Infantry.

29 Oct 1854 The Commander of the Forces has the greatest of satisfaction in thanking Lt. Genl Sir Lacy-de-Evans and the officers and men of the 2nd Division for the gallant and energetic manner in which they repulsed the powerful sortie made upon this position on the 26 Inst. The conduct of all engaged was admirable and the arrangements of the Lieut. General were so able and effective as at once to ensure success and inflict a heavy loss on the enemy.

30 Oct 1854 "Up to the present time since landing every man had to cook the best way he could, having to procure his own fuel, his rations consisted of salt pork and salt beef with biscuit, sometimes a little tea, rice and sugar and to the utter disgrace of the British Government, coffee in its green and unroasted state. How or whyfore green coffee was substituted for ground or coffee roasted rests with them who proposed it, but such was the case which continued during the whole time the army were in the Crimea.

Not only were the Medical department in a deplorable state, but the Commissariat as well since that the men were made to act as beasts of burden in order to bring their rations from Balaklava which if they did not would have had to have gone without for days together.



The Service Journal of Charles Usherwood, Sergeant in the 19th Foot, 1852 - 1856

7. THE BATTLE OF INKERMAN, & A HARD WINTER

4 Nov 1854 In today's General orders the payment for shot carried to the camp of the siege train is cancelled.

Detail for duty for 19 Regt for tomorrow; The 19 Foot will furnish at 4.30 am a Guard of 5 companies to the Frenchman's Hill.

5 Nov 1854 At early dawn this morning shots were heard from the direction of Inkerman and which every now and then became more rapid the sound bearing with it every indication that an attack was being made but in what force or nature could not be ascertained owing to the thick mist which covered the ground.

Soon, however, from the rapidity of the discharges commingled with the yelling of the approaching force the truth oozed out that; the Russians were bent on crushing the right flank of the British army driving before them as they did the picquets in that locality. Surprised (as it was nothing else) of an attack of such magnitude the troops encamped on that flank assembled under arms whom tho' weak in numbers and 'ere Divisional formations could be made at once moved out to meet the foe who by this time had brought into play batteries of Artillery which it appears had been in position during the night. Nothing daunted however the troops attacked them relying upon reinforcements soon to make their appearance.

The enemy in the meantime being but opposed gradually encroached toward the lines and in fact seemed at one time able to carry out their intentions but upon the arrival of fresh bodies of the British the action became more obstinate and extended, the fog too clearing off rendered the combatants visible to each other when the real tug of war began. Deficient as the British were in Artillery to oppose theirs the Russians had the advantage for a time and which enabled them to inflict serious loss upon the English, but on the arrival of two 18 pounders dragged to the scene of action as they were by the Artillerymen themselves the tide turned in favour of the latter.

Meanwhile as the battle raged with more determination especially on the part of the British who from the smallness of their numbers were in reality overmatched, a Division of the French troops appeared on the extreme right and at once entered the engagement where at this point the struggle was the most severe, the Guards having suffered much in killed and wounded nevertheless maintained their ground.

By the timely arrival of the Allies together with the troops of the Divisions from the left of the British position the engagement became more equal tho' comparing the strengths of the combatants it was in favour of the Russians. Baffled in their repeated attempts to establish themselves on the British right they pressed on upon the centre of the field but were met bravely by the 3rd & 4th Divisions who charged upon them with the bayonet as well also on the left of the field, the position of the Light Division, where the 88th Regt were at one time obliged to fight their way out of them being in a most critical position owing to their impetuosity in following up a charge which this Corps carried through the enemy's ranks.

On the arrival of Lord Raglan and staff and which certainly was not until some time after the engagement began matters were most critical each Corps and Detachment fighting as it were independently of each other and taking such advantage of their various positions as they entered time field of action. Well may it be said that the Battle of Inkerman was the soldiers' battle for in fact the attack was a surprise and the battle was fought under these circumstances.

By the hour of 9 am or so the enemy appeared as if he would carry all before him, numbers of them having fallen around the tents of the 2nd and 1st Divisions but as noon approached evident signs appeared that from the heavy losses they had already sustained and their inability to hold even a single position on the heights met as they were at every point by the most determined antagonism, tho' ably assisted by a well and efficient park of Artillery, they must sooner or later quit the field.

Finding no doubt to their grievous vexation that they could not sustain themselves any longer fearing perhaps also they might be cut off from retreating within the town by the Carreen bay along the road that ran at the base of the slopes near the harbour over the viaduct that enters the Karabelnaia, gradually drew off their troops leaving an immense number of dead and wounded on the field and who fell into the hands of the British.

This action which was the most severe yet fought could not have been fairly over till about 3 pm when the field covered as it was at

this time with low brushwood presented a most fearful picture especially on the extreme right where a small battery piece for two guns protecting the road that leads from the wooden bridge. Here lay together within and around the precincts of this Work heaps of dead Russians and Britains whose embrasures were literally choked with the bodies of the enemy. In other places of the field one could scarcely step along without treading upon the body of a dead or dying man.

The sights there beheld was enough to fill one with awe.

In this encounter the 19th Foot had only 3 Companies on the field their position being the left near to the Victoria Redoubt or rather to the right advance of this work.

Consequently their loss could not be much the casualties being as follows:

Captain Ker, Leg shattered afterwards amputated, when he died.

Serjeant Major Madden, Leg shattered, amputated and died

Private Levi Cooper killed, head knocked off, and two other privates wounded both of whom died.

The other 5 companies being on duty at Frenchman's Hill as detailed in orders of the previous evening.

On the evening before this battle a little party had assembled in my tent amongst whom was the Serjeant Major of the 88 Foot. We kept up our convivial party till near 12 o'clock never once thinking what was to happen in the morning or that the Serjeant Major alluded to would be a corpse and which was the case on that day, his body being found after the action pierced by no less than 7 bayonets and which must have been done as he lay helpless on the ground from a shot in the knee.

6th & 7th Nov 1854 Fatigue parties employed in bringing in the wounded and of burying the dead.

9 Nov 1854. The following is the substance of a General after order on the Battle of the 5th. The Commander of the forces returns his thanks to the Officers and Troops for their conduct in the Battle of Inkerman on the 5th inst in which aided by their gallant Allies they succeeded in completely repulsing and defeating the enemy by whom they were attacked in very superior numbers with masses of Artillery both of Field and position as well as Ship Guns. Those who fell nobly discharging their duties were Lt.General the Hon.Sir George Cathcart, Br. General Strangeways and Br. General Goldie.

14 Nov 1854. As it would appear all our troubles were to come on in succession a terrible hurricane visited the whole of the camps tearing along with it everything moveable, throwing down our tents and leaving us exposed to the bitter blasts of a winter's anger, accompanied as it was with rain, and sleet abated not for one moment from early dawn till nightfall. Wretched tho' those in health were so to speak yet the poor unfortunate sick were worse, emaciated by disease and starvation and clinging as it were on the last hopes for relief were like the rest forced to withstand the cruel torture and abide the storm. So forcible was the hurricane that it was utterly impossible to put up the tents again until it had somewhat decreased and as the camps at the best of times were deep with mud this day was more so aided by a most bitter cold the wind tore and roared vehemently sufficient almost to annihilate the most sturdy man amongst us.

To describe the feelings of the various individuals who experienced this trial would be to attempt an impossibility for fearful must it have been when numbers of victims both in men and horses were the results besides immense damage done to the various shipping.

In today's General after orders Turkish Troops were authorized 3d per diem for mending the road from Balaklava to the encampment it having become so bad.

15 Nov 1854 To commemorate yesterday's storm the Russians saluted us with a heavy fire, evidently as we supposed for us to know that the storm made no impression upon them and which continued for a time then died away.

By today's orders Working pay was authorized on the following scale.

Non Comd Officers 1 for every 20 men 1 shilling by day and 1 shilling by night.

Rank & File 8d per day and 10d per night to be paid when the men come off duty or placed to their credit as they may prefer it.

Men and officers still pestered with vermin and which are impossible to be rid of.

Diarrhoea and dysentery very common among all and deaths therefrom accelerated by bad cooking, want of proper medicine, proper nourishment, clothes, food and accommodation. Green Coffee, when it happens to be issued, still considered good enough for soldiers.

20 Nov 1854 An attack made by the 2nd Bn Rifle Brigade during last night on the enemy's posts in front of Frenchman's Hill and which succeeded.

Weather very wet - camps in a state of inundation of mud and water decidedly most wretched tho' the air is not so cold as one would imagine from the lateness of the season.

21 Nov 1854 Today a draft of 102 men (the first since landing on the Crimea) joined the 19th Foot. Of this number the greater part died from disease ere the end of the month had expired.

22 Nov 1854 During last night much musketry was going on between the French and the enemy on the left attack.

24 Nov 1854 In today's General orders the Commander of the Forces proposes to give to each man of the army a woollen jersey, 1 pair of worsted socks and other winter clothing as soon as it is in his power to do so.

25 Nov 1854. Orders were issued that all Working parties to carry their arms with them and to pile them where the Commanding Officer will point out.

27 Nov 1854 Today in General orders a notice appeared that the April clothing was to be issued.

Deaths alarmingly numerous, duty excessively hard, rations extremely scarce, in one Company for 16 men there were only 4 rations (commissary unable to convey the requisite supply of forage etc. to Camp even only from Balaklava in consequence of the badness of the roads and death among the Transport animals G.O.No 3, 27 Nov 1854).

Weather very inclement and cholera raging, brought on by want of food, of exposure, want of nourishment, excessive duty, scarcity of medical comforts and proper accommodation for the sick.

Cooking still done by the men themselves individually wherever they could scrape together any fuel, as none now served out to them. Green coffee still issued when available, 5 beans about one man's allowance twice a week.

29 Nov 1854. In the event of serious alarms and attacks likely to be made orders were issued that the Reserve Minnie Ammunition to be carried on 4 or 5 Pack Horses. Very well for orders to be so given but where are the Pack Horses.

30 Nov 1854 Day fine, nothing occurring except death and misery.

1 Dec 1854 Weather very wet.

2nd Dec 1854 Today the sun shone out; during the night the enemy made an attack upon the picquets. Notification that potatoes had arrived at Balaklava and were to be paid for as extra diet.

3 Dec 1854. Sunday, five men of the 19th Foot were buried today which was very wet.

Brigadier General Buller assumed command for a short time of the 2nd Division, and Colonel Shirley 88 Foot, takes command of the 2nd Brigade Light Division for a short time in lieu of Br.. Buller.

Today a Guernsey and a pair of socks were given to the men of the Light Division being the first issue of warm articles.

4th Dec 1854 General orders No 2 of the day, Patent fuel and charcoal as also lights for the use of the troops were ordered to be issued at the Balaklava stores, tho' it will be well to remember that plainly as would appear by orders the Troops were better off than represented. We never had speaking of my own Corps any lights served out to us, our means being of a novel character using as we did an empty sardine tin filled with the fat from the salt pork of our rations after boiling and by placing in the fat a strip of linen or cotton torn off our own shirts to serve as a wick.

As to patent fuel and charcoal it was only at a later period and when Company cooking was established that fuel was served out and this so sparingly as to be of very little use, the men having to seek their own.

In the same orders but number 3, skins of dead horses were to be preserved and 2/6 for each skin properly cleaned and cured would be paid by the Commissariat of Divisions.

5 Dec 1854 Tattoo and the Reveille were ordered to be recommenced as hitherto there had been none. Today was fine.

6 Dec 1854 Brisk cannonading by the enemy. The 90th Regt. to be attached temporarily to the 2nd Division, The 19th Regt augmented to 16 Companies by War Office circular.

7th Dec 1854 A wonderful change for the better tho' doubtless only for a while. Full rations were issued i.e. every man got what he was entitled to by the regulations. Day very fine, considering the time of the year.

8th Dec 1854 Frosty day.

9th Dec 1854 In expectation of an attack from the enemy.

10 Dec 1854 Vegetables when we could have them were authorized to be issued free, the men still obliged to carry the provisions for

the day from Balaklava tho' they may have been in the trenches all night and had to be out again on their return.

11 Dec 1854 Last night there were heavy exchanges of musketry.

12 Dec 1854 The 54 Regt joined and were attached to the Light Division; today is unusually fine and which certainly brightens up our spirits.

In today's orders Deserters from the enemy employed under the Provost Marshal were allowed one shilling per diem.

13 Dec 1854 Weather mild - firing from the batteries regular.

14 Dec 1854 The 90 Foot were ordered to be attached to the Light Division and took up their positions in front of the 2nd Brigade. Wet day.

15 Dec 1854 Still raining, on the tip toe of an attack from the besieged, Regiment turned out and marched to the Middle Ravine but returned shortly afterwards.

16 Dec 1854 Still raining. On this day the men discontinued conveying rations from Balaklava.

17 Dec 1854 Heavy firing from the enemy. A sunshiny day.

18 Dec 54 Continuous fine weather - 17th Regt to be attached to 4th Division. Duties still furnished by Companies.

19 Dec 1854. Fine weather

20 Dec 1854 During the night of today the enemy made an attack on Frenchman's Hill works and entered the breast work killing 4 men, wounding 18 others, and took with them 1 Officer and 12 men prisoners. The 1st Brigade Light Division furnished the duties at this point and whom it appears quitted the breastwork on the approach of the enemy bringing down upon them a severe reprimand from the Major General Commanding the Division in an order which he issued on the 21st.

At last it was discovered that some system of cooking by messes should be adopted and orders were given that it should be looked into.

22 Dec 1854 Today requisitions for warm clothing were desired to be sent to the Asst. Q Mr General. - part of the day wet.

27 Dec 1854 Fine morning, nothing unusual occurring.

24 Dec 1854 Visited by sleet, snow then rain alternatively today - air chilly - and camp deep in mud.

25 Dec 1854 Frostbites very prevalent.

27 Dec 1854 In Divisions orders No 8 of today Returns of them entitled to the Alma Clasp were required describing those who marched from the Bulgarian River as only entitled thereto.

Rice or pearl barley authorized to be issued..

29 Dec 1854 Division orders No 8 special Working parties at Green Hill and Frenchman's batteries were to be furnished until further orders from the guards to the trenches.

5 Jan 1855 A draft of 1 Captain (Hugh Massey) 2 Subs and 16 Privates joined 19 Foot - being the 2nd lot.

13 to 15th Jan 1855 Heavy falls of snow, weather bitterly cold, our tents thin and rotten; no fuel and cannot get any and no stoves in nearly almost every tent. Pitiably objects certainly we look, crawling over as we are with vermin, and what remains of a shirt unwashed for 4 months. Water scarce and what can be obtained being more sand than liquid. Men dying in great numbers.

21 Jan 1855 A third Draft consisting of 1 Captain, 1 Sub and 50 Rank and File have joined us today, 19 Foot.

During the greater part of the month of January the enemy was very considerate whether in compassion or in ignorance of our deplorable state was best known to themselves for they molested us but little - objects of commiseration we certainly claimed by our dogged silence while undergoing the inexplicable misery (the faults of others). A consideration from someone, who can tell, but the heart of him who rules the destiny of the world was touched at our sufferings and withheld for a time the annoyances from the enemy before us, for if man pitied us not, providence it would seem did so. For me to explain the hardships consequent on the errors of the Government of England would be impossible, for language either verbal or in writing fails to convey the slightest approach in explanation of the feelings of the victims of incompetence and neglect which had its fountain 3 thousand miles away from the scene of anguish.

Judging from the number of deaths below will give but a faint idea of the missing in one Corps alone, the whole having died from disease brought on for want of proper provisions in each respect.

In the month of Dec 1854 the 19th Foot lost by deaths

3 Serjts, 1 Dr. and 55 Rank & File

In Jan 1855 1 Drummer and 51 Rank & File. Total in two months 111 men.

2 Feb 1855 Weather dull, and inclined for rain. Evening wet. Exchanges from the Garrison but little.

3rd Feb 1855 Wind rounded to North West and snow falling accompanied with a freezing breeze.

4 Feb 1855 Cold and frosty day. A poor Private soldier of the 23rd Fusiliers killed while in the act of gathering fuel to cook his meal.

6 Feb 1855 Weather finer, exchanges from the enemy brisk.

7th Feb 1855 Dull morning, in the evening snow and frost

8 Feb 1855 Dull and foggy. The enemy opposite Balaklava on the move, Allied Troops called under arms during the night the enemy made an attempt upon the French.

9 Feb 1855 All quiet today, in the evening had a fall of snow.

10 Feb 1855 Dull morning and snowing but at 9 am cleared up - in the evening had rain.

11 Feb 1855 Fine and frosty day - very little firing going on.

12 Feb 1855 Tho' the Sun shone out beautifully the day was windy, occasionally a fall of snow and weather cold.

The following are the numbers of rations drawn for the 19th Foot today and the strength of the Corps or Service Companies.

No of Rations drawn 489
Fit for duty - 31 Serjts, 10 Drs, 259 Rank & File.
Sick present 60 Rank & File
Otherwise employed - 3 Serjts & 99 Rank & File
Sick absent - 11 Serjts, 1 Dr., 342 Rank & File
On command - 5 Serjts & 35 Rank & File
Absent or missing - 6 Rank & File
Total - 50 Serjts, 11 Drs and 801 Rank & File

13 Feb 1855 Rough and windier morning but towards evening it turned out to be fine. The Garrison has been firing heavier today than usual.

The subjoined is the detail for the trenches this evening by the 2nd Brigade Light Division.

19th Regt - 100 men
77th Regt - 77 men
88th Regt - 167 men
90th Regt - 56 men
Total - 400 men

88th Regt - 50 for Piquet; 77th Regt. 50 for Piquet tomorrow morning and 19th Regt. 50 for Piquet tomorrow evening.

14th Feb 1855 Heavy cannonading from the enemy, day fine.

15th Feb 1855 Cannonading still going on as yesterday. In Division orders of today 2 Bandsmen are always to be with the party in the trenches with stretchers.

16 Feb 1855 Fine day but windy weather.

17 Feb 1855 Cold but fine - the firing from the enemy abated.

19 Feb 1855 An order was issued as follows: When salt meat is issued to the Division the men in hospital will receive ½ lb of fresh meat as part of their ration.

21 Feb 1855 The 2nd Division furnishes the Troops for the trenches for the next 24 hours

22 Feb 1855 Lt General Brown KCB rejoined this day and assumed the command of the Light Division, he having been wounded on the arm at the Battle of Inkerman.

22 Feb 1855 Orders that all bugling will consist of Reveille, Retreat and tattoo only.

22 Feb 1855 Dull and showery day. Enemy rather lively with his cannon.

Some time about the middle of this month Lieut. & Act Adjutant Thompson and Lt. Col. Unett left the Service Companies to join the Depot in England - as well with Captains Clay & Barrett. Glad I suppose to get away.

1st March 1855 A very sharp and keen breeze visited the camps attended occasionally with sleet.

2nd March 1855 Windy, snowing and frost - By Division orders No 1 each man going on duty to the trenches were in future to carry one shot.

3rd March 1855 Not quite so cold and dreary as on the two previous days; exchanges of solids between the Allies and the Enemy not more than usual tho' of course shells during the nights are.

4 March 1855 Very fine day and during the night our friends the French and the Russians warmly engaged each other with musketry

5 and 6 March 1855 Two fine days. The men are now beginning to pick up a little, a smile or two have seated themselves upon their countenance displacing the forlorn abjecture that so long had possessed himself of this seat of horror, better food, more clothes, less disease and finer weather rousing the almost worn out soldier into vigour-hood.

7 March 1855 Sir George at his long cherished wishes will make the men wear stocks. Orders in No 5. Officers commanding regiments to obtain stocks for their men. Not content as he was to compel each man whose chaco was either damaged or lost to get another many of whom had to do so at their own cost and government saving, the enemy having blown them to pieces. Speaking of Regimental Head dresses, the chimney pots as we termed them or Prince Alberts pattern were we found a most incommodious and useless piece of furniture and glad were we when we were allowed to do all our work in the common forage cap.

8th March 1855 Another dull morning. The Good ladies of Bradford in Yorkshire having sent out a Cheshire cheese for the men of the Light Division, and which of course when divided would scarcely have amounted to a crumb each it was decided that a raffle should take place among the various Regts of the Division the one winning to take the lot including the rind, and which as luck would have it fell into the hands of Serjt Forristall 19 Foot who bore it off in triumph to his own Corps.

9 March 1855 There is a change in the weather today as well also in the habits of the besiegers and besieged for they pummelled each other pretty smartly during the night especially on the left attack of the Allies.

21st March 1877 During this night the French right attack captured an earthwork from the enemy.

23rd March 1877 A smart sortie was made this night by the Garrison on the French right attack joining that of the British adjacent to the middle ravine at the foot of the Mamalom - the fight was obstinate and long, the enemy also attacking that part of the British Works joining the French in which Captain Vicars 97th was killed as well also a number of his men.

24th March 1855 Early this morning could plainly be seen what had occurred last night from the heaps of dead Russians lying about between the French Works and the Mamalom, the French in the meantime having received strong reinforcements. At 12 noon a truce was granted to enable the enemy to take off their dead whom they piled on heaps and removed to their own position in front of the Mamalom. The truce was granted till 3 p.m. when as the white flags were taken own from the 21 gun battery and the Redan the firing began as usual.

On this evening the Light Division furnished 1200 men for duty in the trenches.



The Service Journal of Charles Usherwood, Sergeant in the 19th Foot, 1852 - 1856

8. SEBASTOPOL FALLS TO THE ALLIES

26 March 1855 Today the 19th Foot was inspected by Brigadier General Buller.

9 April 1855 Commenced the second bombardment of Sebastopol opening as it did very early in the morning tho' the day was not at all adapted for it being wet and foggy; nevertheless it continued during the day with unabated vigour, the enemy replying thereto without interruption. Towards evening the cannonading subsided with a continual exchange of shells occasionally as well a round shot or two; in the evening the weather became stormy.

10 April 1855 Bombardment going on as before, the enemy replying vigorously and during the night employed both shells and rockets against the enemy's works, the French in the meantime making good an attack on their left.

12 April 1855 Day very fine and the bombardment heavier than the previous days. During the night rapid shelling.

13 April 1855 Beautiful weather. Firing very rapid, the French gaining some advantage.

14 April 1855 Cold and showery day but which did not retard the bombardment.

15 April 1855 Sunday, weather fine, cannonading rapid.

16 April 1855 Another fine day. Enemy on the offensive before Balaklava, the firing at Sebastopol the same as yesterday.

17 April 1855 Today the cannonading along the lines before Sebastopol decreased in rapidity evidently showing that the bombardment had terminated for a while. In the evening of today the French annoyed the enemy by firing rockets from Victoria Redoubt.

18 April 1855 The firing has now subsided into the ordinary pace characterizing a siege - day fine.

19 April 1855 Charming weather. Exchange of shots between the troops at Balaklava and the enemy during the night.

Detail of duties for the 2nd Brigade Light Division for the trenches tonight

21 Gun battery, - 19th Regt 156 men and 90th Regt 46 men

Advanced Works, - 88 Regt 224 men and 97th Regt 189 men

Reserve under Colonel Egerton 77th Regt, - 77th Regt 250 men and 90th Regt 50 men

Total 915 men

Per orders received the 77th and 90th Regts under Colonel Egerton attacked the Russian Rifle pits, and which after a brief struggle were captured tho' not without loss, Colonel Egerton with his Adjutant Lempere being among the killed. The way in which the Colonel was killed was while in the act of removing the body of his Adjutant a mere youth in appearance. They were buried in the graveyard of the 2nd Brigade on the side of the Woronzoff Road.

21 April 1855 The cannonading both from the enemy and allies today was heavier than usual.

24 April 1855 Severe musketry engagement On the left attack probably false alarm.

25 April 1855 Again tonight as last night on the French left attack heavy musketry going on.

5 May 1855 The enemy made an attack upon the advanced Works of the British during the night but were repulsed no doubt with severe loss.

In Division orders No 1 of today appeared the subjoined:

The firing from the Batteries having almost ceased the guards of the trenches will be disposed today as they were before the

bombardment

12 May 1855 By General orders of this day Officers were to provide themselves with Bat animals.

24 May 1855 Keitch taken by the troops under Sir George Brown

6 June 1855 The 3rd bombardment opened upon Sebastopol commencing about 3 p.m. During the night terrific shelling from the allies.

7th June 1855 Yesterday as well as today the enemy amused themselves by throwing shot and shell into the camp of the Light Division one shot passing through a hospital hut of the 23rd Fusiliers, another going clean over the camp of the 19th Regt in the direction of the Siege Train but as far as could be observed did no one any harm. From early dawn the firing became more rapid being a continuation of the bombardment and kept up vigorously till sun set when the French whose designs were to capture the Mamalom had assembled in sufficient force, attacked and after severe fighting established themselves in the Work losing as they did an immense number of men.

Later in the evening the British attacked the Quarries which being done at a time when the enemy did not expect them they carried the Work tho' the Russians several times reattacked the place but only to be driven back with loss. The detail for this night furnished by the 2nd Brigade Light Division being as under: Advanced works Advanced works, - 19th Regt 103 men and 97th Regt 294 men

Reserve, - 77th Regt 75 men and 90th Regt 62 men

21 Gun Battery, - 77th Regt 200 men

Total 734 men

Colonel Shirley, 88th Regt commanding.

In this affair the 19th Regt had 1 Officer wounded, Lt. E. W. Evans.

Every man in camp slept accoutred ready for any emergency.

It will be well to remark that the period between the 2nd & 3rd bombardments the enemy and the allies were constantly having skirmishes especially on a night losing as they did on both sides many men in killed and wounded.

8 June 1855 We have a fine day today tho' the wind blows hard; firing from the batteries going on briskly and shelling on a night rapid.

9 June 1855 A truce granted at noon today so as to collect the dead and wounded and which continued for the space of about 4 hours, sentries from both parties in the meantime having been placed so as to prevent encroachments on each other's position. After the truce had terminated the firing recommenced and was continued during the night by heavy shelling from the British batteries; the day was fine, tho' the wind blew strongly.

10 June 1855 The bombardment on the right attack discontinued tho' the French in the evening on the left attack opened a tremendous fire upon the enemy, to which the Russians replied vigorously.

From the 11th to 16th June 1855 the firing from the French left attack as well from the batteries in the centre of the Allied position was very rapid constant attacks being made by the enemy but which in general were repulsed.

17 June 1855 Another bombardment No 4, commencing very early on the left attack and which continued during the day without intermission, tho' as evening came it subsided and in lieu of which shells were used, the weather being at this time exceedingly favourable.

In today's orders the subjoined appeared directing an assault to be made upon the enemy extracted from the Divisional orders.

"The Light Division being about to be employed with others in the attack on the Redan, provisions will be issued and cooked this afternoon for tomorrow, and care must be taken that the Mess canteens are filled with water. Each man will be provided with 20 rounds of additional ammunition to be carried in his Haversack. The right attack will be made by the 1st Brigade under Col. Gea, 7th Fusiliers in the following order:

1st. 100 Riflemen as a covering party then

72 men with wool sacks furnished by the Rifle Brigade.

Then 400 men of 23rd & 34th Regts under Lt. Col. Lyons together with sappers and seamen carrying ladders to be formed in the quarries and in the Russian trenches to the right of them which have been appropriated, leaving room on the left for a detachment of the same strength from the 4th Division, and the support which will be composed of 800 men from the 7th, 33d, & 34th Regts. These will be immediately followed by the working parties consisting of 200 Rifle Brigade - 100 from the 23rd Regt and 100 from the 34th Regt.

The Lieut. General (Sir Gee Brown) having been charged with the 5 columns of attack, the command of the Light Division will be for the moment devolved upon Major General Codrington.

Detail of duties for the trenches on the 17th June for 18 June 1855 for the 2nd Brigade, Light Division:

<u>Corps</u>	<u>Cpts</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Serjts</u>	<u>Rank & File</u>	-
19 Regt	3	3	13	326	Reserve
97 Regt	3	3	13	326)
77 Regt	2	2	10	247)
88 Regt	2	3	12	295)Trenches
90 Regt	1	2	5	123)
Total	11	13	53	1317)

The 90th Regt will furnish 1 Captain, 2 Subs, 6 Serjeants and 144 Rank and file to parade at the Engineers park at 1 p.m. this evening with arms. The 77th will furnish 1 Captain, 1 Sub, 5 Serjeants and 115 Rank and file to parade in fatigue dress at the Right Siege Train Depot at 7 this evening. Every available man of each Corps of the Brigade not going on duty this evening will parade at ½ past 2 o'clock a.m. tomorrow for the purpose of joining their Regiments in the trenches".

18 June 1855 At daylight this morning the French on the left attack commenced to bombard that part of the enemy's works opposed to them, and as the hour of 7 approached a rocket as signal for the French to turn out and assault the Malakoff on the right, was fired, which being no sooner done than they issued forth in great numbers, hurrying as fast as they could to escale the ramparts. However as it would appear the enemy were more on the alert than was expected and most probably having anticipated an assault in that quarter had amassed huge bodies of troops, sufficiently numerous to defend not only the Malakoff but the works adjacent thereto, for on the approach of our allies at the edge of the ditch which surrounded the front of the work they met with a most terrible reception not only from that work alone but from others which in many respects flanked its face.

Baffled in their attempt to face this storm of iron and finding the ditch most formidable by its width and depth and considering the losses every moment becoming greater our noble friends were forced to beat a hasty retreat ensconcing themselves behind their own earthworks, tho' soon again to emerge out on another attempt but which like the former met with the same result.

The British in the meantime whose instructions were to wait till the French had established themselves, moved out before the proper time being as they were too eager to assail the enemy whom having to cross an open plain of about 200 yards flanked by the fire from the several batteries of the enemy besides facing the full discharge from the entire Redan found themselves in a most terrible position. However, nothing daunted they pushed on until reaching the ditch where from the smallness of their numbers (owing to the losses they had sustained) and the immense force there ready to repel them, they found that it would be an utter impossibility to effect the slightest advantage, seeing as they did that the French had been obliged to retire they therefore in consequence retreated to their own lines, leaving * (being unable to bring them away) the wounded and the slain upon the ground where they had fallen.

* In this encounter Col. Gea and Sir John Campbell were killed as well as numbers of the men under their commands.

While the French on the Malakoff and the British at the Redan were both defeated, the attack made under the directions of Major General Airey on the British left in the Ravine at the head of the Merchant harbour succeeded, the 18th Regt having advanced so far as to take possession of a number of houses near the graveyard and which they held until evening when they were withdrawn considering that the post would be of no use so long as the Great Redan remained in the possession of the enemy. Such was the attack on the 18th of June 1855 and which failed. When the fighting had commenced the Guards and the Highlanders were brought up from Balaklava as a Reserve who took up their position in line a little beyond the Picquet House when as night came on they defended the trenches but as they had not been for a long time accustomed to these works created a false alarm at some imaginary object, whereupon they drew not only a heavy fusilade upon themselves (to which they replied vigorously) but also no end of conjectures in camp together with annoyances having as we had to do to rouse up and move to their assistance.

19 June 1855 Today is very fine but excessively hot which in a great measure odds to the torture of the poor mangled beings who are now lying between the two fires on the plain where they fell yesterday being as we were unable to relieve them. However humanity prompted a truce, this was granted and at noon till the dead and wounded were removed after which the batteries opened their fire again tho' but regularly.

20 June 1855 Today we have fine weather - summer being in full bloom.

21 June 1855 Similar weather as yesterday, firing moderate.

22 June 1855 Nice warm weather

23 June 1855 Hot day, early this morning sharp cannonading and musketry from the allied works.

24 June 1855, Sunday. Had Divine Service. Firing but gentle. Day brilliant. Major Genl Eastcourt, Adjutant General at Headquarters died.

28 June 1855 Lord Raglan died and was succeeded by the Chief of the Staff, General Simpson as Commander of the Forces.

5th July 1855 Major general Codrington assumed the command of the Light Division.

During July nothing of any note occurred worth recording. Summer hot.

6th July 1855 In General orders of today the cavalry were distributed as follows:

1st Heavy Brigade

1st, 4th, and 5th Dragoon Guards
1st, 2nd, and 6th Dragoons
under Colonel Laurenson
17th Lancers

2nd Light Brigade

4th and 13th Light Dragoons
12th Lancers & 6th Dragoon Guards
under Col. Lord Geo Paget, 4th Lt Dragoons

3rd Hussar Brigade

8th and 10th Hussars
11th Hussars and 17th Lancers
under Col. Parlby, 10th Hussars

13 Aug 1855 By General orders of today the Infantry were distributed into 6 Divisions of 12 Brigades each Brigade of 4 battalions instead of 5 as far as practicable.

1st Division - Lieut Genl Lord Rokeby

Guards
3rd Bn. Grenadiers, 1st Bn Coldstream, 1st Bn Sc. Fusiliers
under Col. Drummond
9th, 13th, 31st & 2nd Bn Rifle Brigade
under Col. Ridley

Highland Division

Lt Genl Sir Colon Campbell, GCB

1st Brigade

42nd, 72nd, 79th & 93rd Regts
under Br Genl Cameron, CB

2nd Brigade

1st & 2nd Battn. Sc. Royals
71st and 90th Regts under Col. Horne, CB

2nd Division

Lt Genl F Markham, CB

1st Brigade

3rd, 30th, 55th, & 95th Regts under Col. Warren, CB

2nd Brigade

41st, 47th, 49th, & 62nd Regts under Col. Windham, CB

3rd Division
Major Genl Sir W Eyre, KCB

1st Brigade
4th, 14th, 39th, 50th & 89th Regts under Col. Barlow

2nd Brigade
18th, 28th, 38th, & 44th Regts. under Br. Genl. Trollope

4th Division Lt. Genl. Sir H Bentick, KCB

1st Brigade
17th, 20th, 21st, 57th & 63rd Regts under Br. Genl. Hon. A Spencer, CB

2nd Brigade
46th, 48th, 68th & 1st Bn Rifle Brigade under Col. Garrett, KH

Light Division
Lt. Genl. Sir W Codrington, KCB

1st Brigade
7th, 23rd, 33rd & 34th Regts under Br. Genl. Strawbenzee

2nd Brigade
19th, 77th, 88th, & 97th Regts under Br. Genl. Shirley, CB

Subsequently to this order, long after the fall of Sebastopol the changes were not effected altogether as the 90th Regt. and 2nd Bn Rifle Brigade did duty and shared with the Light Division.

16 August 1855 This day ushered in with a beautiful sunshiny morning which scarcely had it made its appearance when a heavy fusillade joined with repeated reports of cannon were distinctly heard proceeding from the valley of Badair in the direction of Balaklava arousing the whole camps into a state of activity, finding however that the firing proceeded from an engagement between the French & Sardinians on the one hand and the Russians on the other who during the night preceding had moved down from their position on McKenzies heights to drive our allies before them. We, of course, in camp had leisure to watch the combatants and which we did from the heights whereon we were located.

The enemy it would appear by their attack in this quarter endeavoured to establish themselves so as menace as they had done before our position at Balaklava & Khadiki thereby drawing attention to that point so as to relieve the sorely pressed garrison of Sebastopol who sooner or later would eventually have to quit their stronghold. However after hard fighting in which the Russians suffered the loss of many men they were forced back, leaving not only the battle field in possession of the allies but also their dead and wounded and whom were very many.

This battle which was fought near to the Bridge that crosses the river was afterwards designated the battle of Tchernaya.

17 Aug 1855 Heavy firing from the Allied batteries during the day.

19 Aug 1855 The following appeared in Division orders of today:

"It being ordered that musketry fire should be kept up day and night from the advanced trench, Officers in command of parties will give their best attention to this essential duty, the object by night is to prevent the enemy coming outside to repair the damage done to his work. Therefore constant dropping fire with small parties firing volleys now and then at the edge of the ditch and embrasure will prevent this effectually. The object by day is to keep a well directed fire into all embrasures though principally those from which Artillery is firing".

At this time the fire from the Allied batteries was very powerful during the day and at night; replaced by incessant shelling. Strict orders being constantly issued that officers and men should not absent themselves from camp but to be always ready to turn out at once.

29 Aug 1855 Early this morning a sad accident; took place in the Mamalom trench by which several thousands of the French were killed and wounded the cause supposed to be by a shell from the enemy igniting the powder in the magazine, the shock taking not only the allies but the enemy as well by surprise.

2 Sep 1855 Orders today were issued that every man in camp were to have his arms by his side when lying in his tent ready to turn out at the slightest alarm,.

5 Sep 1855 The 5th and final bombardment of Sebastopol commenced by sunrise this morning taking it up from the left attack it soon raged along the whole line tho' the heaviest of the firing confined itself principally on the left. The manner of the discharges being not as heretofore but by salvoes from each of the batteries from the Allied position allowing $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour of rest to intervene at different periods during the day. As night approached both the right and left attacks opened with shell and kept up the bombardment without intermission, the French firing a goodly number of rockets. 'Ere the night had far advanced flames of fire were discovered to issue from the shipping which were moored across the great harbour, bursting out as they did in one general conflagration which by its reflection threw a most brilliant light upon all the scenery around. On a nearer inspection it was ascertained that one of the enemy's frigates had been set on fire but whether from an accidental shell or a rocket thrown by the Allies could not be told. However, be as it might, the Frigate burnt down to the water's edge and was utterly destroyed, in spite of the exertions of the Russians to extinguish the flames. With regard to the bombardment the Russians replied but slowly from their Redan and Malakoff batteries, tho' on their right and against the left attack of the allies they kept up a vigorous response.

6 Sept 1855 As usual when day broke the bombardment opened on the part of the Allies especially from the left attack, the enemy replying but slowly. Similar as the day before, salvoes were fired for the space of from one to two hours when the men rested for a short time, commencing again as before, and which in similar manner was continued during the whole day and at night replaced by heavy shelling along the whole extent accompanied too by rockets. Tonight evident signs of the effect of the bombardment were visible as several parts of the towns were constantly on fire, tho' with credit to the garrison were soon extinguished. Considering the heavy firing by day and the incessant shelling by night it was enough to strike anyone with surprise how the enemy withstood the fearful havoc so long. Nevertheless they did and intended to do so to the last and so long as Sebastopol was tenable, tho' of course in the meantime making every preparation to retreat when that time came.

7th Sep 1855 Again on the approach of daylight the batteries as usual opened with the same rapidity and in like manner as heretofore, the Russians in the meantime replying but feebly.

During the day the weather was cold and bore every indication of falling rain.

Preparations now being desirable to be made for an assault the following is the substance of a Division issued to the Light Division on this evening

"The Redan will be assaulted after the French have attacked the Malakoff. The Light & 2nd Divisions will share this important duty and finding respectively the half of each party.

The 2nd Brigade Light Division with an equal number of the 2nd Division will form the 1st body of attack, each Division furnishing first a covering party of 100 men under a Field Officer.

2nd a storming party carrying ladders of 160 men under a Field Officer - these men to be selected for this essential duty will be the first to storm after they have placed the ladders.

3rd a storming party of 500 men with 2 Field Officers

4th a Working party of 100 men with a Field Officer.

The Supports will consist of the remainder of the Brigade to be immediately in rear.

The Covering party will consist of 100 Rank & File of the Rifle Brigade 2nd Battalion under the command of Captain Fyers, and will be formed on the extreme left of the 5th Parallel ready to move out steadily in extended order towards the Redan, their duty will be to cover the advance of the ladder party and keep down the fire from the parapets. The 1st Storming party of the Light Division will consist of 160 men of the 97th Regt under the command of Major Wellsford, this party will carry the ladders and be the first to storm, they will be formed in the New Boyeau running from the centre of the 5th Parallel, they will follow immediately in rear of the covering party, they must be good men and true to their difficult duty which is to arrive at the ditch of the Redan and place the ladders down it, to turn 20 of them so as to get up the face of the work leaving the other ladders for others to come down by. The next Storming party will consist of 200 men of the 97th Regt under command of Lt. Col. Hon. H. R. Hancock, and 300 of the 90th Regt. under command of Capt. R Grove. This party will be stationed in the 5th Parallel and will assault in a column of Divisions at one place.

The Light Division will lead the whole column of attack which will be formed of Divisions of 20 files and so told off.

The Supports consisting of 750 men of the 19th & 88th Regts with a part of a Brigade of the 2nd Division on their left, will be placed as they stand in Brigade in the 4th Parallel from whence they will move into the 5th Parallel, so soon as the assault is made by those in front of them. The Working party of 100 men will be furnished by the 90th Regt under Captain Perrin. The remainder of the Light & 2nd Divisions will form a Reserve, Light Division, in the right Boyeau between the 3rd & 4th Parallels - the 2nd Division in the left Boyeau between the 3rd & 4th Parallels.

The 1st and Highland Divisions will be formed in that part of the 3rd Parallel in communication with the French right attack, and in the Middle Ravine. Two days provisions will be issued and cooked before 6 o'clock tomorrow morning.

10 additional rounds of ammunition will be issued out to each man.

The men to parade in Red Coats and forage caps."

With regard to the last paragraph it is a most curious fact that in many prints that were issued for sale in England giving a view account of the attack, the artists gulled the people with the idea of knapsacks, chacos and even colors flying, none of which were

ever used.

8th Sep 1855 As daylight appeared the batteries on the left again opened as before the on the right the bombardment was anything the reverse to rapidity. With it came also a strong and cold wind carrying over and to the direction of the camps clouds of dust, while at the same time being unfavourable to an attack. Shortly after the men had breakfasted in camp the Corps assembled in their respective parades in order to move off to the trenches each on arrival taking up the places allotted to them as directed in orders of the previous day.

Everything being arranged for an attack and the hour appointed having arrived (viz. mid-day) the French at a given signal moved out with rapidity and escaled the work opposed to them which by its formation enabled them when once in it to retain possession, pouring in as they did immense reinforcements and destroying the face of the battery which would in any event prevent the enemy from holding it as before should the Allies be driven out by superior force. Taken by surprise and which evidently was the case from the feeble resistance offered by the enemy in the Malakoff on the first attack of the French, the Russians scooted, so many of them that were able to escape the bayonets of the French Infantry, but upon reinforcements coming up to their assistance returned and resumed the attack so as to retake the redoubt which the French had surprisingly taken possession of.

The French in the meantime knowing pretty well that the enemy would endeavour to drive them out, made all the haste they could to turn the work against its original owners, and by bringing up field pieces together with numerous troops ensconced themselves in such positions as defied all the exertions of the Russians to defeat them, their attention being most urgently required not only at this point but also at the extreme right adjoining the Carreen bay where at the little redan in order to flank the enemy the French had been for some time desperately engaged and who tho' they fought for several hours hand to hand were ultimately repulsed with exceeding heavy loss.

So soon as the French troops had entered the works of the Malakoff and displayed one of their colors, the British moved out of their parallels, the covering party then the ladder men, and in quick succession the remainder of the attacking forces, but as the Russians had had ample time to collect a vast body of men to the defence of the Great Redan, against which the British directed themselves, they met the leading troops with showers of grape and matching musketry and which cut down great numbers 'ere they could cross the wide space over which they had to go before replying to the enemy's fire being 260 yards in extent and flanked by various batteries. Nothing daunted, however, onward the troops went and reaching the ditch which was wide and deep instantly descended, some by the ladders (which unfortunately proved to be too short to be of any use) while the greater number did not and scrambled up the face of the work where they opened on the enemy a rapid and well directed fusilade entering at the same time the work as well as circumstances permitted, the enemy having blocked up all entrance by the embrasures by screens of sheet iron and plaited rope so as to protect their gunners, leaving only sufficient space through the screens to admit of the muzzle of the guns.

The supports having now arrived and entered the ditch, the enemy from all the batteries that would bear on the face of the Great Redan opened in that direction doing immense mischief on the attacking British, while too at the same time the Russians brought into play some guns that were ingeniously planted in the work of the Redan itself to sweep the several parts of the ditch, being entirely hidden from sight except to those in the ditch and which could be screened almost with impunity.

Immediately on the attack being delivered, the enemy rushed down from molesting the French in the Malakoff and assisting their brethren in the Great Redan, greatly added to the inconvenience of the British who tho' fighting at long odds and losing numbers every minute were still not reinforced. The enemy knowing that should the British succeed in holding the Redan their chances of escape from the town would be an almost impossibility fought also with desperation tho' always on the defensive, never daring to flank or to rush upon the British outside the work.

Four o'clock having now passed and no reinforcements coming to assist the few still holding the work tho' Colonel Windham who had succeeded be the Command in lieu of Lt. Col. Unett, 19th Foot badly wounded, had recrossed the plain to ask for them and finding that it was utterly impossible to remain any longer opposed to such a force as the Russians now had at their disposal the remnants of the attacking British retreated to their own lines leaving the Work in the hands of its original owners who tho' losing the Malakoff still held the Great & Little Redans.

In this affair the loss of the British was exceedingly heavy, but was greatly exceeded both by the enemy as well as by the French. Of the 19th Foot the following were killed, wounded, and prisoners.

1 Lieut Colonel (Unett), 1 Captain (Godfrey), 3 Serjeants and 23 Rank & File killed.

2 Captains, 6 Subalterns, 9 Serjeants, and 144 Rank & File wounded and 5 Rank & File missing

The original number in the attack including Officers and men being only 418.

9 Sep 1855 This morning presented a sad spectacle for independents of the numerous wounded taken away to various hospitals during last night, there still remained a great many more who were writhing in agony at the torture of their wounds, while calm and serene lay around them masses of dead.

All throughout last night and immediately after the failure of the British an incessant discharge of shot and shell were kept up by the Allies, the enemy only replying thereto from such guns that were not disabled and this with the intent to deceive the besiegers while they effected a retreat over the bridge of boats to the North side of the harbour having found it utterly impossible to remain in Sebastopol any longer.

As soon as darkness had cast its shade over the land, the enemy began their movement, and as the Allies were to a certain extent apprised of the intention of the garrison poured on to the bridge of boats a continuous fire, which in its effect did immense destruction to human life. Determined to make Sebastopol untenable the Allies' batteries secured to themselves the advantage of shelling the town, thereby causing repeated explosions, and numerous fires the latter of which were generally extinguished 'ere approaching to great seriousness.

By the time morning had appeared the enemy had removed such numbers of their men and material as in the short space of darkness admitted from the town to the North side, sinking at the same time the fleet that remained so as to prevent it falling into the Allied possession and removing such parts of the bridge that they were capable of so doing, alternately blowing up those magazines which would be of any use to their conquerors.

Finding that the Russians had effected a retreat from the Karabelnaia, the Allies cautiously entered that part of the town in order to secure every advantage and to rescue the wounded whom they found in all parts, and in cellars and among ruins, the enemy having left not only the whole of their dead but vast numbers of wounded whom they were unable to take with them, 500 being found by the British in Fort Paul alone.

So dreadful must have been the effects of the bombardment that the enemy could not find room enough for their wounded and sick beside time to bury their dead as in many cases putrid bodies were discovered lying among the wounded in the cellars beneath the buildings. In one tumbled down heap of rubbish were found an old man and woman and child, the man and child having been killed by the fall of the house while the woman lay unable to extricate herself from the debris by a wound from a shell, the whole being in one bed and the corpses almost putrid.

Owing to a strong supposition that the enemy might be treacherous with sundry mines, and which perhaps might cause considerable loss to the Allies, strict orders were given for no man to wander about or in fact any to enter that part unless upon duty besides which the men were warned against taking anything from the town be what it might tho' our friends the French had the run to do as they wished so far as what we saw of them being as they were generally laden with some articles or another.

After collecting all the wounded i.e. of those who could be found a Memo was issued from Head Quarters that the British dead were to be buried in the ditch of the Redan, the Russians being to a considerable extent collected and pitched anyway into a large square pit dug out at the rear of the Great Redan but whether this pit had been made by the British or Russians I cannot say, tho' when I saw the hole, it was almost full of dead bodies lying in all manner of postures and more or less naked and in every state of decomposition bloated and black.

10 Sep 1855 The Allies still engaged searching for wounded and collecting the dead, besides the Engineers engaged in destroying the enemy's Works especially those on the sides of the harbour for instance Fort Paul and Nicholos etc. The town being itself in utter ruin as far as the houses and streets are concerned, tho' the docks and many public buildings remain perfect, that is to say in comparison to other parts.

By a General order of the 9th Sep the Commander of the Forces congratulates the Army on the result of the attack of yesterday.

The brilliant assault and occupation of the Malakoff by our gallant Allies obliged the enemy to abandon the Works they have so long held with such bravery and determination.

The Commander of the Forces returns his thanks to the General officers, and Officers and men of the 2nd and Light Divisions who advanced and attacked with such gallantry the works of the Redan. He regrets from the formidable nature of the flanking defences that the devotions did not meet with that immediate success which it so much merited. He condoles and deeply sympathises with the many brave Officers, Non Comd Officers and men who are now suffering from the wounds they received in the course of their noble exertions of yesterday. He deeply deplores the death of the many gallant Officers and men who have fallen in the final struggle of this long and memorable siege, the loss will be severely felt, and their names long remembered in the Army and by the British nation.

General Simpson avails himself of this opportunity to congratulate and convey his warmest thanks, to the General Officers, Officers and Soldiers of the several Divisions, to the Royal Engineers, and Artillery for their cheerful endurance of almost unparalleled hardships and suffering, and for the unflinching courage and determination on so many trying occasions they have evinced.

It is with equal satisfaction that the Commander of the Forces thanks the Officers and men of the Naval Brigade for the long and uniform course of valuable services rendered by them from the commencement of the Siege.

In addition to the above, Lt. General Codrington issued an order to the Light Division of which the subjoined is the substance:

The Lieut General commanding the Light Division must give his hearty thanks to those who so gallantly attempted the assault of the Redan. Leaving a narrow trench they had to pass over 260 yards to the edge of the ditch crossed by the fire of heavy artillery as well as musketry on the open, and tho' many circumstances prevented the complete execution of orders, and interfered with that combined rush which would have ensured success, yet the Lieut General feels that efforts were made by Non Comd Officers and Men, and by Officers of all ranks and ages which entitled them to win and which must ever be remembered by him with gratitude

and affection.

Now the town was in our possession a General Order appeared giving instructions as follows:

The Police of the interior of the town of Sebastopol has been undertaken by the French Authorities for the present.

All persons whatever except bodies of troops on duty, and Officers on duty provided with passes from the English or French Headquarters are positively forbidden to enter the town.

Regimental picquets are not to be sent to the town without authority from Headquarters. Military posts are established near the town with orders to apprehend all stragglers, and send them to the Provost Marshal's Guards which is posted in front of the 4th Division. No persons military or civil except those en duty are to be permitted to enter the trenches without passes from Headquarters.

11 Sep 1855 By General orders of today Colonel Windham CB was appointed Commander of Sebastopol so far as regarded that portion of the town known as the Karabelnaia as Brigadier General.

After some days the restriction of going into Sebastopol was to a great extent removed, and the men were allowed to visit it provided they had passes granted to them by their respective Commanding Officers. Of course as one I availed this opportunity and took great interest in recovering and examining the various works and positions lately held by the enemy seeing that I had been never absent since the Allies first invaded the country. Wending our way down one day through our own lines we came to the Malakoff and in which we entered with a view to make ourselves acquainted with the design of the works but as the original construction had been greatly defaced from the fact of removing the timber for fuel and the guns as their prizes the French had left it more a heap of ruin than otherwise. However sufficient could be seen to shew the character that it once bore. In the middle or centre of the Redoubt were the basement remains of the White tower around which in the form of a circle the enemy had thrown up high banks of earth with traverses and embrasures for guns, being situated as it was up on a small hillock something like a basin turned upside down but gradually sloping inwards to the Karabelnaia.

Around the front face of the work was a wide and deep ditch near to the base of the hillock, but which at this time was easy enough to descend into and to climb out owing to the debris having been pulled down to facilitate an entrance. Adjoining to this work and fronting the middle ravine was a smaller earthwork battery and which during the siege did good service to the Russians.

Coming out of the Malakoff in fact by orders of the French sentry on duty who told us that the Russians fired always on the work from the opposite side of the harbour whenever they saw anyone about we were glad to move off for no sooner had we got out when a shell from the enemy came whizzing near to us bursting as soon as it had buried itself in the soft earth tho' fortunately with no harm to anyone.

Moving away from thence we came on to the Marmalom a similar work but situated further away from the Karabelnaia than the other and which in all respects bore the same aspect in regard to its situation and construction as did the Malakoff. This work being latterly in possession of the French from July we of course cared little to examine it tho' we felt more interested in leaving this for the works called the Little Redan, where on the 8 Sep the French met with such determination. Traversing along the line of work connecting the left flank of the Malakoff we come upon the work itself more like a larger formed trench stretching to the cliffs overlooking the harbour intercepted here and there with batteries, and enfolded in its position by others situated at different points behind and away from the work, besides which covered as it was by one face of the formidable Malakoff which stood cowering over that position. To defend it more effectually from a sudden surprise the enemy constructed what we generally termed rifle pits dug out in such a manner along the outside of the work as not to impede each occupant's fire, and which in the meantime was shelter for themselves excepting when in case of a shell falling into any one of them when of course they had to jump out exceeding nimbly.

Had the French succeeded at this point the Russians in the Karabelnaia would have been almost at the mercy of the Allies, and doubtless would have cost the Russians the loss of more lives than they did sustain. From the nature of the ground and the capital positions offering themselves enabled the French to push their labours exceedingly near to those of the enemy - their most advanced work being but a stone's throw from those of the Russians.

Leaving this portion of the ground we stepped along toward what had been a magazine or hospital of stonework pierced for two or three guns facing the harbour. Here evidently the Russians had carried their wounded from the works adjacent as clothes, accoutrements, pieces of flesh, hairs, stagnant blood etc. etc. lay about in profusion, the top of the building which stood alone being well covered with earth to prevent shells from penetrating its roof. Passing from hence we moved to our left through what had been one might say a village or an inhabited portion of the Karabelnaia located in rear of the Malakoff down alongside the high wall of the dockyard, thence in the direction of the Great Redan and which we were anxious to see more particularly 'ere we returned to camp. As we came up the first object that met our view was a deep square pit from which millions of flies were issuing and from whence a stench (the day being hot) the most horrible that I ever smelt floated upon the air. Curiosity leading us in this direction soon brought us to a sight that I cannot forget to record tho' I have made mention of it before under date of 9th Sept. In this pit lay indiscriminately a portion of the defenders of Sebastopol and who had either been deposited in there as they fell dead by the Russians themselves, or had been picked up and thrown in by the fatigue parties sent to collect the dead. However be as it may it certainly was a most scandalous thing to do for to all appearances the hole had been dug for the purpose and the bodies pitched in dressed, naked, or half dressed in a manner as if they had been shot into it from an ordinary cart after the fashion of a load of manure. Of the number of bodies there could scarce be less than from 100 to 150 in various stages of decomposition, and with the most horrid wounds on their persons that could be conjectured.

Sick at this scene we went into the battery and which by the by was entirely open toward the town tho' here and there its inner part was flanked by several batteries and trenches made for this purpose. Curiously and scientifically constructed, the Redan presented a most formidable appearance especially from its size, having its traverses so arranged as to protect its gunners from any cross fire that could be brought against the work besides which the embrasures close cased by screens of sheet iron and plaited ship ropes rendered the position of the Artillery men secure against musketry while to enable the Russian infantry to keep up a good and effective fire platforms were erected between the traverses and the Work. In addition to these advantages the enemy had also constructed barrack or guard rooms beneath the buttresses sufficiently large enough to contain a good number of men and wooden benches for them to rest upon when not on duty or on immediate guard and entirely secure from any harm. On beholding the Work and its arrangements for defence one could not but be struck with admiration at the skill evinced and the admirable position it occupied, tho' when in the battery it could be easily observed that so long as the Malakoff remained in their possession no enemy could retain the former, hence as it resulted in the capture of the latter.

Winding our way to the left we passed along the trench which connected the right of the Malakoff with the Great Redan and having seen sufficient for one day bent our steps for the middle ravine and thence home to camp.



The Service Journal of Charles Usherwood, Sergeant in the 19th Foot, 1852 - 1856

9. WINTER, AND THEN PEACE

21 Sep 1855 By a General order of this day we were gratified with the news that Field allowance of 6d per day was granted to all Non Comd Officers and Privates in the British Army when engaged in active operations from 1st July 1855. Viz: to the Royal Artillery, Royal Sappers & Miners, Cavalry and Infantry of the line. But soldiers in hospital not allowed it. Further that Officers commanding Regts were empowered to stop it for 7 days for a proved case of drunkenness, and soldiers who were unlucky enough to forfeit any portion of his pay either for absence or habitual drunkenness forfeited also their Field allowance for the number of days they so forfeited their pay or portions of pay.

And in a subsequent order Comd. Officers could stop the field allowance of any soldier for the period of punishments of any offence.

Tho' this order was cheering yet it only affected them who had the good fortune of retaining their health and had the good luck to escape the enemy's bayonets or missiles, for so long as they were wounded or by reason of hard duty fell sick thereby obliging them to go into hospital to get cured they nevertheless forfeited this allowance. A more flagrant and cruel piece of officialness could not have been concocted; oft have I heard from the lips of the dying men maltreated as they had been in the execution of their duty with the loss of a leg or some lesser fracture grieving over this cruel order which deprived them of the benefit which others were enjoying and which only added another blot to the miserable provisions made by the War Department for the care of the soldiers.

During the remainder of Sept & Oct. up to the 14 Nov 1855, the troops were more particularly engaged in housing themselves and had more leisure on hand tho' discipline was kept up, the enemy in the meantime being very busy in strengthening their position on the opposite side and daily annoying the garrison by shelling.

Of course, now that the Docks, the White buildings, the Government places and several stone casemated fortresses had fallen into the hands of the Allies they determined to have them destroyed rather than they should again be given up on the termination of the War and to effect which they were blown up.

Having seen what I desired the other day of the Karabelnaia, I wished very much to visit the town side which had been opposed to the French left attack, so moving off myself one morning I passed along quietly towards the Redan, intending to pass the Barrack battery thence through the narrow streets that lead the way on to the bridge of boats which crossed the creek or merchant harbour and thence to view what kind of a town Sebastopol had been.

On reaching the gateway that enters into the docks I had to run for shelter from the hissing pieces of a broken shell which had just exploded high in the air and perpendicular with the large doors, a piece of which in descending striking the heavy post with as heavy a thud, Feeling myself not altogether safe just here I hurried on till I reached the bridge over which I crossed and mounting the steep road on the other side found myself in the town where I amused my curiosity for a while. Not wishing to stay long I had not time to notice much but what I did struck me forcibly with the idea of the havoc the bombardment had done. The streets too the principal of which were becoming or bad become grown over with grass, scarcely a house could be seen but had had some damage more or less done to it and of the majority they were roofless or else so damaged as to be counted as such; going further I walked into what I suppose had been a theatre or some public building built after the Grecian style of architecture whose walls were standing minus a roof or anything else, bearing as it did every appearance of having been gutted by fire. Having satisfied myself so far I wished to gratify my curiosity further and therefore betook myself to the main street and which led to the batteries that had once defied the French power to take.

Continuing my progress I soon merged on to the Black and Garden batteries and having had a good view of the trenches made by the French and which in my opinion were considerably lower in point of position to the enemy's, I scrambled down the side of the steep declivity into the ravine at the head of the Creek made my way past the Magazines under the Rocks and on to the Woronzoff Road thence to my own camp a little if any the worse for wear for my trip.

15 Nov 1855 A most tremendous explosion occurred this afternoon at the Right Siege Train and at the French Magazine near to it, frightening as it were the very senses out of all in camp and giving rise to no end of conjecture as to what was then happening.

The immediate cause it would seem originated by a mystery and perhaps to the present moment is still so. However be how it may

have been its effects were certainly beyond conception for so powerful was the force from the quantity of matter brought in contact with the fatal agent of gunpowder that it not only shook the earth around but rent asunder the boards of the huts recently erected for the soldiers' habitations in the various camps within its scope besides displacing the roofs, snapping asunder tent cords and collapsing the canvas houses to the general consternation of their occupants, in addition to which lifting from the ground high in the air, numbers of live shells and bursting in many pieces killing and wounding those on whom they happened to fall. Being in my tent at the time I was thrown from off my feet and in scrambling out received a sharp rap in the hand from some missile which caused the blood to flow, at the same time no less than 4 or 5 pieces of shell falling close to my tent door one piece of which weighing about 5 lbs fell within a yard of where I was crouched.

To enumerate the various narrow escapes of individuals would be to overtask myself. One piece of a shell falling through the roof of the Hospital dispensary, another through the tent of the Pay Master while that functionary was at work on pounds, shillings and pence, another through a tent close by the head of a sleeping soldier and another striking the window sash of the Serjeants Mess rendering the whole of the various occupants terrified to such a degree that they bolted as it were for their lives. Of the accidents that occurred in the addition to the above in the 19th Foot no less than 7 men were wounded and of whom one died.

Luckily the small arm magazine and which stood near to the conflagration escaped by the united efforts of various men with wet blankets, who mounting the top of the Windmill placed the blankets over the woodwork.

Fortunately also the greater part of the men of the Corps near to the accident being on fatigue away from the camps saved numbers whom doubtless might have suffered.

Of the greatest sufferers, the French were the worst, tho' one Siege Train suffered considerably both in men and property, their camp being almost demolished by fire.

19 Nov 1855 The Commander of the Forces in General orders of today notified to the troops that the flotilla of gunboats in the Sea of Azof destroyed 6 rows of cornstacks two miles long near Gheisk, tho' defended by 3000 Russian troops. In same orders it was also notified that such Non Comd Officers promoted at the Depot without the approval of the Commanding officer of the Service Companies such promotion may be cancelled. So intolerable had this nuisance and injustice become of men being promoted at the Depots that it was desirable it should be stopped as it often occurred that recruits of only a few months service joined the service companies with the full rank of Corporal and even Serjeant over the heads of old Non Comd. Officers, and in many cases being entirely unfit to hold the rank thrust upon them by the snug berthed Depot commanders and their Adjutants.

On the retirement of General Sir James Simpson the command of the Army devolved upon Lt General Sir W. Codrington and the command of the Light Division being assumed by ----

Omitting at a previous stage of my diary to give an illustration of French justice, owing to particularly not knowing the date of the circumstance, I will here refer to it, and describe the transaction so far as what myself saw.

On the afternoon of a somewhat beautiful day and when nothing of any importance connecting with the Siege was transpiring an ordinary guard to the trenches consisting of a good round number of French troops wended their way from their own lines proceeded by their Drummers and Trumpeters to their position in the French Right attack. Their line of route lying through the middle ravine brought them to pass close by the camp of the 19th Foot which when they had passed and entered the Ravine was startled by the report of musketry proceeding as it did from the party who on the instant had halted. Curiosity drawing our attention to the commotion going on among them I among a number hurried into the ravine to learn what had happened and in doing so were met by a number of French soldiers bearing the dying form of an Officer and immediately following in custody of a number of others, a French soldier.

From the facts of the case it appeared that as soon as the party entered the Ravine the soldier in question suddenly stepped out of the ranks and shot his officer through the lungs, whereupon the party halted and siezed the culprit. A few minutes after they had lain the dying officer in one of our hospital tents to where they had carried him he died, after which and when it was ascertained that the officer was dead a few superior French officers consulted together and having decided to execute the Murderer at once, ordered him to be taken back to the party that were still waiting at the mouth of the ravine. On his arrival there, a few of the men were placed at a particular spot and the culprit made to kneel before them tho' at only a few paces distant when at a given signal each presented his piece and fired completely riddling the body of the man and killing him on the spot. Leaving a few men to gather up the remains of the corpse the party moved on to their destination while the men left for this purpose brought the body into camp and buried him with his face downwards in a hole near to a latrine.

From the first to the last of this singular tragedy scarcely an hour elapsed so prompt was the murder committed and as promptly the murderer executed.

6 Dec 1855 By General orders the following were the rations for all Mahometans attached to the Army, Eupatorians or Croats:
1 lb biscuit
5 oz rice per man
and 1 lb of Turkish butter per 30 men, or
1 lb Biscuit - 2 oz rice - 8 oz fresh meat per man

in addition to groceries and vegetables at present issued; and bread when issued to the troops.

On the same day news came of Omar Pasha having with a Turkish force successfully forced the passage of the river Ingour in Asia in face of the Russian troops.

21 Dec 1855 From this day the working pay hitherto granted to parties was discontinued.

Now that winter had finally set in and there being no likelihood of offensive operations in the field till Spring and the army being comfortably housed every preparation for the coming campaigns were vigorously proceeded with throughout the various departments connected with the command while at the same time the Troops were exercised in their different evolutions continual reinforcements in the meanwhile arriving to fill up the gaps among the Corps that had suffered the most.

With regard to our Allies the French who by the by like ourselves had had no less than three successive Commanders, viz: St. Armand, Canroberts, and lastly Pellissier, this winter suffered severely from disease and in respect to their wants were badly off, while we as it would be to make up for last season, had sufficient and to spare, deaths being but seldom among us.

Of the Sardinians smart, clean, well dressed and healthy looking men, little or no complaints were heard their little Army being in vigorous circumstances.

Alluding to the winter it would be well to observe that of the two which came upon us while located in the Crimea there were heavier falls of snow during 1855 than in the previous one and in point of temperature much the same as that during 1854, the evil being from want of accommodation, provisions, clothing, transit and of medical stores which had caused such sad havoc among the troops of the British Army during that unfortunate season, aided as the evil was by exposure, hard duty and the ravages of disease. Tho' the temperature would be about the same there was nevertheless more rain and sleet in the winter of 1854 than in the year alluded to and which in our pitiable condition was worse to us than snow, as we never had any means of drying our ragged and mud stained garments except when providence put forth the rays of a warm sun, besides which fuel which we obtained in abundance in 1855 from the town, could not be gathered anywhere in that of the previous winter.

Taking the climate as a rule scarce any difference would be observed to that of a South English one tho' the summer may be of a greater degree of heat, yet not injurious or inconvenient to an Englishman.

With regard to the continuance of hostilities a constant interchange of shot and shell took place between the belligerents, that of the enemy from their entrenched positions on the North side of the harbour as well from the McKenzies heights and that of the Allies from such batteries as were opposed to them until the 2nd of March 1856 when in General after orders the following appeared: *"Pending discussions for the establishment of an Armistice by land with the Russian Forces until 31st March there will be no firing on the part of the English Army upon the enemy and on the following day the 3rd March 1856, the line of demarkation was fixed from the line of the Aqueduct running along the left bank of the Tchernaya River, but which on the 15 March 1856, was extended to the left bank of the river itself."*

As soon as the above appeared in orders the men of the Armies anxious to have a view of each other were found at the demarkation line and especially when extended to the river, a narrow and fordable piece of water where on the one side stood the Russians while on the other gathered the Allies, curiosity bringing them there of course urged upon them especially the British to extend their veracity by an interchanging of sundry articles such as old pipes, wooden spoons, odd looking religious tokens of saints in brass, usually worn near their skin by a string from the neck, the Russians being of the Greek persuasion and many other frivolous articles too numerous to mention for which the simpleton John Bull would bargain for as they stood on either side the brook, rolling up the price in a ball of mud and jerking it over to the seller, who pocketing the amount saluted the buyer with bono Angleese and a grin, this sort of thing being more less kept up each day till the 6th April 1856 when passes were allowed to the Army to go over to the Russian lines by the Tracktic Bridge and on the 9th of the same month all restriction being removed in the English Army from passing the Tehernaya, subject however to Regimental rules as regards leave from camp.

2 April 1856. The field allowance of 6d a day so liberally allowed from July last, today died a natural death, as it was discontinued from this date.

Of the losses sustained by the Corps 19th Foot to which I had the honour to belong from the time of leaving London on the 23 April 1854 to the 1st April 1856 the following is a correct statement and which when reviewed will show that the Regiment had its share of casualties.

		Officers	Serjeants	Drummers	Rank & File
Killed		1	3	1	69
Wounded	Severely	13	11	2	250
Wounded	Slightly	7	17	1	207
Died	of Wounds	3	3	1	61

Died	of Disease	1	8	1	308
	Total	25	42	6	895
	Grand Total	968 all ranks			
Number who suffered amputation 1 Officer, 3 Serjeants and 23 Rank & File					
	Number of men and officers who landed in the East	57	53	21	1479
					=1610

17 April 1856 On this day a general Review of the French and British Armies took place before the Commander of the Russian Forces, General Luders, the French taking the morning part and the British the afternoon of the day.

Now that all restrictions was passed as to soldiers and officers of all Armies crossing the Tchermaya, of that of visiting the Russian camp, thousands awaited the opportunity and not only because of an excursion but also to satisfy their curiosity by inspecting the many and numerous spots of interest. Being one among the number, I of course must go, and did so in company with I Thompson.

On arriving at the ruins where Fort Nicholos had but recently stood, we hired a boat manned by Russians to take across the harbour to the north side, and which on the way proved to be very leaky. When we had reached the middle of the water and directly over one of the sunken line of battleships a most disagreeable row took place between several of the Muscovites owing to the sluggardly manner of rowing by one of them, and which, had it not been for Thompson and myself would have ended in the immersion of the culprit whom we protected tho' neither party could understand a word each other said.

Arriving at Fort Catherine we landed and after paying the boatmen for their trouble entered the fortress and viewed its interior the Russians being very affable and kind to us. From the fortress we wended our way to their entrenchments and were hospitably entertained by the Artillery with cold eggs, bacon, bread and liquor in one of their underground barrack rooms, after which were accompanied to a bazaar adjacent by one of them who made himself very agreeable even to a degree beyond our wishes. After spending a very comfortable day we moved off by the road leading to the end of the Harbour intending to cross the bridge at the foot of the Inkerman heights thence to our own camp and 'ere we had reached the bridge passed through the premises of a small farmer where in the garden were two young Russian females swinging upon a swingswang accompanied by two young men. We of course joined them and made ourselves very welcome, they in return inviting us to amuse ourselves for a time, but as it appeared that our company was not entirely approved of by the old matron of the house, we of course saluted them and jaunted off to our lines and which we gained by the time darkness had begun to clothe the earth.

Being also anxious to see more, and particularly this time in the direction of McKenzies heights myself and Serjt Major Campion accompanied with an Italian mounted each a Bat horse and started for the Tracktin bridge, thence to the heights above and after spending a very agreeable day (tho' by the by the rain descended for a time) we returned in the evening much edified having in our trip visited several of their camps and bazaars the latter being pretty well stocked with all kinds of provisions and liquor both malt and spirits.

During the intermediate time of granting an armistice and the evacuation of the Crimea the Allies occupied themselves by getting up horse races and hunting (or rather chasing) the scent of the game being by means of small slips of paper distributed by the game himself to shew what course he had taken when some capital fun was thereby derived to alleviate the nothing to do monopoly.

In winding up the affairs of this long and tedious war we of course must means be degraded by an execution for murder, the culprit being a recently sent out recruit of the 77 Foot who beat out the brains of a poor wounded artillery man.

It appeared the Artillery man received a bad wound at the explosion in Nov. at the light Siege Train and was put into one of the hospital huts of the 77th Regt and at the time of his death was recovering. In the same hut was also the murderer on hospital books, who having observed the Artillery man to be in possession of a few pennies, siezed a bar of iron and in broad day beat out his brains while lying helpless in bed.

The murderer it is needless to say was tried and hanged in front of the camp of the Light Division and in presence of the Division.



The Service Journal of Charles Usherwood, Sergeant in the 19th Foot, 1852 - 1856

10. THE RETURN HOME

2 May 1856 In General orders of this day the following Corps were nominated to proceed as under
3rd, - 46th & 68 to Corfu
2nd Bn Foot, 14th, 21st, 28th, 31st, 47th, 48th, 57th & 71st to Malta
13th, 30th, 55th, 89th & 92nd to Gibraltar.

4 June 1856 Today is very fine and the sun hot.

5 June 1856 Day fine but weather exceedingly hot, the Regt preparing for embarkation.

6 June 1856 Another hot day. On board the Aberdeen embarked 1 Field Officer, 7 Subs & 8 Privates of the 19th Foot for England.

By a return called for shewing the number of Officers and men who served interruptedly in the Crimea from the landing of the Corps to 5 June 1856 the following were the numbers of the 19th Foot out of a strength of 26 Officers, 49 Serjts, 43 Corporals, 15 Drs and 763 Privates who landed with the Regt. on 14 Sep 1854,
3 Officers (Major Bright, Major Chippendale & Pay M Palmer) and 174 men.

Today Viscount Gough GCB invested English & French officers with the insignia of the order of the Bath at the headquarters of the British Army.

The troops paraded in review order at 10 am commanded by Lord Paulet.

7 June 1856 Today is fine but excessively hot.

8 June 1856 Similar day as yesterday. The Connaught Rangers (88th) marched from camp to Balaklava and embarked for England being the 1st Regt of the Light Division who went home or at least who started, they having to return till next day, the 2nd Bn Rifle Brigade taking their place on board the King Philip

9 June 1856 Yesterday later in the day the wind became troublesome carrying along with it clouds of dust.

11 June 1856 The headquarters of the 19th Foot and with it Nos 1,2 & 5 companies marched from camp Sebastopol under the Commanding Officer Lt Col I L Rooke CB and embarked on board the steamer "Imperatriz" on board of which were the 7th Fusiliers. Sailed out of the harbour of Balaklava in the afternoon for England. The party of the 19th Foot consisting of 12 Officers, 19 Serjts, 7 Drs and 249 Privates. The day was fine but toward evening had rain.

12 June 1856 At 4 o'clock am, observed land on the leeside. At 3 in the afternoon entered the Bosphorous and at 7 pm arrived opposite Constantinople where the vessel stayed for about ¼ of an hour and proceeded onward.

13 June 1856 At 8 am passed Gallipoli - wind favourable and fine day.

14 June 1856 At about 10 am passed the island of Cerego where we experienced a sudden squall off land, tho' the sea was calm. At noon passed the King Philip on board of which were the Rifle Brigade 2nd Battalion with wind against us.

15 June 1856 Sunday, tho' the wind was against us we steamed along very well, the weather being fine but exceedingly hot.

16 June 1856 At dawn the vessel entered the grand harbour of Malta where she took on coals and water, and provisions, after which on attempting to steam out again was delayed owing to the fin of the screw getting entangled with the chain of a buoy until 6 pm.

17 June 1856 Land visible on the left being the Island of Goza. Tho' the day appeared with a beautiful morning yet at 8 am it succumbed to a heavy and dense fog for the space of about 2 hours when it cleared off and the sun shone out beautifully again. In the evening at a distance could be distinctly seen the coast of Africa and when darkness came on the wind began to blow boisterously and continued doing so the whole night carrying along with it heavy black clouds occasionally observing the brilliancy of the moon's

beams on the face of the disturbed waves.

18 June 1856 Wind blowing toward the coast of Africa tho' not so strongly as last night. Sailed along the coast during the entire day and in the afternoon passed the Brig "Viking" then at near 9 pm Cape Beagut. During the evening the sky was exceedingly clear from clouds and the moon shone beautifully on the calm sea.

19 June 1856 Africa still visible and at noon were only 360 miles from Gibraltar - day being hot.

20 June 1856 No land in sight this morning but about 2 pm the coast of Africa appeared in the distance - at noon being only 183 miles from Gibraltar.

21 June 1856 At 10 am Gibraltar was for the first time visible and at 12 noon entered the bay where the vessel anchored off the new mole to take in coal and water.

In the bay were the following vessels

The "Clyde" with Artillery. The "Murisnes" with the 66th Foot, the "Jura" coming in from Balaklava and which sailed from thence before the Imperatriz.

22 June 1856 Weighed anchor at 8 am and steamed for the straits in passing through which the wind blew very strongly. On both sides the straits land was distinctly seen being Spain & Morocco.

23 June 1856 Fine day and the sea calm tho' the wind is against the vessel. Passed off Lisbon about 2 pm the breeze being strong against us. Here we passed the "Murisnes" No 16 Transport with 66 Foot on board and which steamed out of the bay of Gibraltar 6 hours before the Imperatriz. At 7 pm passed the Burling Islands.

24 June 1856 Calm sea and fine day, land still visible on our right.

25 June 1856 Wednesday. During the whole of last night the wind blew strongly against the steamer which caused her to roll and pitch heavily. This morning however the day is fine and the sea tho' heavy is not quite so bad as last evening.

26 June 1856 Last night we had rain.

This morning the air is thick and gusty and sky cloudy, the mist continuing till 11 am when it cleared off and the remainder of the day became fine; during the night tho' the sea was calm the ship rolled very much. No land in sight today.

27 June 1856 Sea exceedingly calm and morning fine.

At 11½ o'clock am the English shores became observable through the haze off land, and at 7 pm after passing through the Needles came to anchor at Spithead.

28 June 1856 This morning Saturday, the Imperatriz entered Portsmouth harbour, and we landed at the Dockyard, from whence both the 7th Fusiliers and 19th Foot proceeded the same day by rail to the camp at Aldershot.

Thus ends my first services abroad as a soldier being 2 years and 2 months

C Usherwood

late 2nd Bn, 1st Brigade 19th Foot
and of 1st Bn 8th the King's Regt.
