

Typed transcripts of and extracts from letters (1854-1855) from the Crimean War

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CRIMEAN LETTERS

of

WILLIAM MARKHAM

July 1854 ~ May 1855

This typescript was made from copies of the original letters which were obviously made a short time after receipt. They all have the "long f" & were not easy to decipher.

They came to the museum through ^{the} Warren Hill ^{Longton} ^{Essex} good offices of Col. H. B. Lee T. D. ^{Col. 10} Gen. Hosp. TA, who obtained them on loan from his solicitor Marcus W. Wadsworth 74a Campden Hill Road. W8. They have been returned to the owner.

MAY 26

Dearest Mother,

Here we are after a jolly and bloodless campaign.

After closing my last the disembarking began. The Gunboats and steamers went in and cleared out a few Copacks, about 60 Cavalry and 6 or 8 field pieces. A few shots were fired by the French Chasseurs and a Copack or two paid for their temerity in staying to fire some hay, etc. with their lives. We all got ashore by dark, and stores, Artillery, etc. during the night and took up a position. During the afternoon the Russians blew up the magazines, etc. at the batteries, and Fort Paul, Kertch and Quarantine, the explosions were grand. The Genl. and staff took up quarters in a charming little country house with grounds, gardens, etc. but the French had pillaged and gutted every room. Early yesterday morning we ~~marked~~ and captured Kertch destroying and burning the stores and foundry without opposition. The town is handsomely and well built, and numbers of the Tartars and Greek and Russian Jews remained and bowed and shewed great respect to us, getting water for the troops, etc. We ^{dr} ~~marked~~ in great state through the town, leaving all alone and no plundering or sacking. The day became scorching hot. We passed and occupied the Quarantine, and visited the Magazines blown up and batteries - fine buildings and got possession of this place by 1 p.m. yesterday. This is a poor small place, but some farm houses and a large old

MAY 26th

Genoese Castle with Russian barracks, stores, hospital, etc.

The town is rather knocked about by the fire of the gun boats, and was immediately sacked, destroyed and plundered by the French, and some of course of our people. We could not stop it; such a sight of mischief, drunkenness, smashing and wild plunders I never beheld - a poor Highlander of the 42nd was shot by a Frenchman and another wounded. They afterwards set the town on fire in two places - it was not subdued till this morning. We have taken about 50 or more pieces of cannon, some of their splendid guns. Our small steam fleet has got into the Sea of Azov and (will?) attack Arabal and also destroy or capture all the Russian war steamers, ships, etc. that have escaped up there. W.Armytage I saw, and is with them all under command of Captain Lyons, the Ad Miranda. It has been a brilliant affair altogether and very good fun.

We are taking several prisoners by degrees. The men suffered a good deal in the march from want of water, and sun, but we have no sickness to speak of. It was one of the most tiring and longest days I ever passed, and I had to sit up with the Genl. writing and copying his despatch till long after midnight, and also had to ride out afterwards with orders about stopping the fire's progress. We are pretty well put up here in a Russian house, but the heat is fearful and we have nothing wherewith to slake our thirst; water good very scarce. We shall stay here till we have fortified the place sufficiently for

ZENIKALI, CRIMEA MAY 26th

Raschid Pasha to hold it with his Turks, and then we shall embark.
Billy Gull and horses quite well. Some few articles of plunder
have fallen to my share among them a case with gilt saints, etc. and
a shrine which would have been destroyed by the French - saved by
Gibson. Several Russians were here, speechlessly intoxicated and
wounded by the explosions of their Magazines. I hope this will have
a good effect. We won't do them infinite mischief by cutting off their supplies.
The Snake Gunboat had a very pretty action with some Russian steamers
and captured a small one, others are abandoned and by the enemy
themselves. I am hoping for a thunderstorm and rain to cool us. We
do not expect to be attacked at present but cannot tell. Our position
is strong and supported by small steamboats and gun boats. All the
troops and inhabitants left on our approach, and retreated towards
the interior and Sympheropol. (Simferopol)
Banshee leaving with post so Sir G's despatch to Lord Raglan is a good
account.

Your affec. Son

W.I.M.

RAMC 436 / 1
2

Camp Devna 12th July

My dearest Laura

I think it is your turn for a letter from me, as there is a mail tomorrow here goes. I have already written since I have been here, and have not, perhaps, much to tell you beyond a wearying long journey I made on horse-back up to Schumla last week. Malcolm and Capt. Forman with an Armenian syce (groom) my companions. On Monday 3rd the Light Division turned out in Review Order at three minutes' notice and were reviewed by Oman Pasha and his staff. He is a fine looking old soldier about 45 and nothing to distinguish him from any other officer in the Turkish service. On the 4th we got leave and rode to Schumla, 45 miles, and very weary work on our small Eastern horses though they travel very well. We were well repaid by the fine ~~scenery~~ scenery Balkans but the weather was very hot. We were shewn into 2 empty rooms by Major Oakinshore a Pole, the officer commanding and made ourselves as comfortable as we could. We could hardly get anything to eat the first night as there is nothing in the way of inns or cafs there, and the vermin that worried us and prevented sleep are worse than ever I had the misfortune to sleep amongst.

We spent two days there and found a feeding place appointed by Oman Pasha for strange officers and did better. This is a curious place and though the town is very nasty and full of offal and every sort of Turkish filth, it was crowded with the wildest set of men I ever saw. Bashi Bazouks Arabs, of Anatolia, Albanians and every nation of the East come to take part in the war as irregulars. These wild costumes and arms are splendid and I did ^{as} many sketches as I had time for, some of them portraits, and paid these wildfellows to stand for me.

They were generally greatly amused but some Bashi Bazouks indignantly refused the small coin I offered for reward. The position is very strong and we spent the best part of the 2nd day in seeing the fortifications. There is a fine corps of Turkish being raised there. We came back another way and through Para-vadi; where I met General Beatson of the Indian Army and staff. He is going in command of the Bashi Bazouks. Charles Fox, his ADC ranking Major in the Turkish service and having the title of Bimbashi Gusuf Bey & I am very glad the poor fellow has got employment they will have a wild time of it and lots of fighting no doubt. He looks all I think and does not wear his complexion of that tawny red with high

characterises the Light Division. They seemed much surprised at Aschumla at our not having moved onwards, they are going to cross the Danube at Ruschuk and advance direct to Bucharest. I knew G. Rhodes. formerly ? ADC on Genl Prc staff and he told me in about ten days they expect it will be our winter quarters, and I believe it is a good place but this war will prevent it being as lively as usual. I found 2 letters on my return.

We have just heard of another affair on the Danube at ? the Turks losing a good many men and 3 English officers killed who led them on, one of them poor ? Butler of the Engineers who I knew at Gallipoli, a fine young fellow. Lt Cardigan returned with his patrol yesterday; they have been up to Silistria and seen and Russians and had 1 or 2 alarm in the night, but of course no fighting as they were unsupported. They have had a rough time of it and lost some horses from fatigue. The heat has been very great lately, glass often from 95 to 105 in the shade for days together, so we can do little in the middle of the day, long field days 3 or 4 days in the week, early in the morning. My arm is well again but not strong and fails sometimes in trying to swim.....

We have no notion of what we are likely to do

I scribble a good deal but we are all hard up for reading. I did much french and some german at ~~Saxxix~~ Schumla, the latter I found I had chiefly forgotten. Turkish not much use here in Bulgaria. The language different. We have found out to make a very palatable 'cup' of the common country wine

QPM

3

Camp Devna Sunday July 23

William Markham to his Mother:

" I must write a letter to be ready for 5 this evg as well as I can , for with the hot wind and sand flying our tents are almost uninhabitable today and I write this squatting in a brushwood bower that we use as a sort of ante-room/- ^{for papers} smoking and sleeping during the heat of the day' You will be glad to hear that your 3 sons all had breakfast together last Sunday morning. The Buff (Alfred) had contrived to get leave from his ship about Thursday. I was away back to Varna Friday and did not get back here till Saturday night, when I found he had been to see me, and went to bathe as I was away with Wm Thynan and lost one of my small stock of towels . I left this early on Sunday morning and went over to Edwin's camp where I fo7nd the Mid in E's tent We breakfasted together at their battery mess where he had been for two days & then Edwin accompanied him to Varna to rejoin his ship, he just missed the Retribution and had to engage a small boat up to Baltshik. He is not so much grown (though a good deal) as I had anticipated, is much improved, very cocky, well dressed and gentlemanlike and I think we may look to his turn9ng out a real sailor now as he has seen some shots fired and I shd think tho' he enjoyed his look at our camp life, he wd not now prefer it to his won. He is extremely well spoken of & se9ms to know how to take care of himself by the way that he contrived to get horses lent and dine with Genl. Sir R. England at Varna when he was ~~start~~ making a start out to see us , 20 miles, bag in hand, on foot.

!!

I kept my birthday by a good dinner to Edwin, Wm.? Maude failed me .

I fancy there is now a real move in prospect, we cannot find out what. Sir G. ~~Brown~~ ^{Brown} is now away in the Agammennen either to the Crimea or Circassia to see about a landing place. We rather expect to have to take or embark at Baltschik to land in the Dobruschia and attack the Russian flank as the Austrians advance & so cut off communications from the army at Odessa, other run-ours talk about Sevastopol this autumn, the latter will be an awful affair but if it is to be done, we all want to go at once; the longer delayed the worse it will be. We had orders to march in the morning Tomorrow somewhere & shall be on the move.

again this week, but this is necessary from a sanitary point
point of view. There is a good deal of sickness, typhus, smallpox
besides the common low fever & Cholera showing itself. 2 deaths
in the 23rd last night, very quick cases, we lost one man
in 8 hours at Varna, in the French camp 15 in a day. I think
it is due to want of care in exercise, diet etc. We are all pretty
well except for one fever case... I am pretty right & in
capital health but my arm weak and from long disuse it has
fallen away much. I was surprised at our friend Russell
(The Times) bringing me before the public as he did.
His letters are good and amusing but slightly exaggerated
regarding game shooting etc as we can get nothing. We are living
well enough and get all we could possibly expect

4

Monastir Bulgaria

July 28

Dearest Mother

You will like a line or two tho I have not much to tell you as I despatched a letter a few days ago. Cholera broke out in the Division last Sunday morning and one officer of 7th and from 60 to 70 men have already fallen victims to its rapid progress, hardly a case has recovered. We have only lost 2 and no cases today and the Drs hope there is a lull, but it has been melancholy work the last few days seeing so many fine fellows swept off and funeral parties continually moving with nothing but some green twigs and blankets to bury the dead in. We got sudden orders to move and on Monday morning marched on here from Devna about 6 miles as a sanitary step but we are still in the part of the country that is called the Valley of the Plague where 6000 Russians were carried off in the wars of 28 & 29. and though our position is on a hill and the scenery more beautiful than I can tell you it must be one of the most unhealthy spots in this country and I wish we were off somewhere else. Our weather is very hot but generally a good breeze and lovely & I think we all seem uncommonly well. I am thankful to say so for myself.

Sur Geo. Brown is expected very shortly from his cruise in the Black Sea & it is the general impression that we shall very shortly embark again to strike a blow somewhere. I much doubt about Sevastopol this autumn. French are embarking now and there is a move going on. We fancy that Admiral Boscawen is at Anassa and a division there. The cavalry are moved I fancy to Jemersand towards Schimla. There is a good deal of sickness 600 English in hospital at Varna. The French, Turks and Egyptian allies have all suffered and lost many men. Scutari Corfu and Malta are talked of for winter quarters. We hear the Russians have crossed the Danube again at Brailow but the French from Horteridje will cut them off. I only wish we had a chance to do something soon. The monotony and idleness of the camp is getting tiresome. The Times letter about Allaydin overdrawn.... etc

He had received a letter from Whitby July 6th

CAMP MONASTIR

AUGUST 8th

My dearest Mother,

I had nothing much to tell, when the last mail went, so I did not write - I thought that the sickness seemed on the decrease when I wrote, and it seemed so only for a day; and we have lost 4 officers and 148 men in the division during the fortnight - but I really believe it is better now - and we have no cases. It has been cholera of the most malignant kind, as hardly a case once really seized has recovered. We have lost our poor old pay-master NEWBURY and 12 men. It has been a sad time, quite a gloom cast over the camp. I believe the Guards division, Sir K. England's at Varna have been very bad - Colonel Maule / Joe Maule's brother/ died - and some other officers; but one of the saddest things has been the death of Capt. Levinge, RHA. of this Division, who died by taking a strong dose of laudanum by mistake. We had reports 3 days ago of the capture of Cronstadt, but the mail arrived and no account of it. The Artillery marched this morning to Varna and we expect to go in 2 days. The 1st Battn arrived, and were sent back to Beicos bay, as the Cholera was so bad ashore, and they don't disembark, but wait for the grand move that is in hand. All is kept a grand secret, but it is supposed that we shall strike a blow on Sevastopol, Anapa or Odeŝa, almost directly. They say that Sevastopol if attempted is to be carried by a coup de main - so we have a little excitement, and something to talk about - and relieve

CAMP MONASTIR
AUGUST 8th.

the monotony of this sickly camp, which during the worst part, began to feel like a sort of horrid doomed charnel house. We begin to seem a sickly set - the Col. has been very unwell, a Major ill - some seedy Captains, and subalterns, 3 of whom are already on their way home, Balfour, Alexander and young Campbell, and 2 doctors. I am thankful to be extremely well. I had an attack one night, but some opium put me to rights - though my head suffered from it, and I have been very flourishing since. Poor Newbury has left a large family - grown up daughters quite unprovided for - we raised £140 for them at once, and are going to do more afterwards, the sale of his effects realized a good sum.

The other division have moved, and I have not seen them very lately, or Edwin, these 10 days. Alfred paid him another visit from Varna and brought a young Farquharson with him. We are having extremely hot weather and are daily employed in digging field works, lines, etc for siege operations for practice. We can't make out about our Austrian allies. You seem to have thought we were engaged at Quingero, but it was only a fancy of the papers - Jeni bazaar is our advanced post and the Cavalry under Cardigan are there. The heat makes one almost too lazy for anything. Sir G. Brown is away at Scutari getting the transports up. I should not be surprised if we were on board ship by this time week and I most truly hope we shall. What will become of our horses, I don't know. I don't think they will be taken.

8 AUGUST

I see ^{L7} ~~Fy~~ Erroll (Muthines) - she is intent upon going with her husband
anywhere, but I hope the authorities will not hear of her embarking -
to see him disembark - probably under fire -

We have got orders for the moustache movement - and have not
scraped this morning.

NO. 46 TRANSPORT CALLIOPE
BLACK SEA

SEPT. 2nd.

My dearest Mother,

My last letter on the march down to Varna was very hurried, but now I will write more at length, tho' I fear my letter missed the mail leaving Baljik, as we are all knocking about the Black Sea with contrary winds and our ship close hauled. You cannot imagine with what joy the orders for our move to Varna to embark were received, and the prospect of getting away from that dreadful sickly Monastir. Thank God I have been in excellent health myself, beyond one or two touches that nearly everyone has had; but for a long time we never knew what we should do, and I used almost to fancy it was the doom for more of us to sicken and die there. The cholera I hope has passed over, we lost one man on the march, poor Tom Inglis's servant, and are all well on board ship except from a sort of fever and ague that seems flying about. I rode into Varna the afternoon I last wrote to you and saw the busy scene that was going on, embarkation of troops, seige materials, etc. I heard that Edwin embarked; the best part of the town destroyed by the great fire, still smouldering. I rode down again for late parade, and at 9 in the evening we had orders to march in the morning. Sick and weakly were ordered to remain behind, and by evening we were all embarked. My Regt. in 8 different ships, all with the Light Division artillery on board, a Company in each. I am now attached to Inglis's

SEPT. 2nd.

Company, much to my disgust at changing, but the Colonel would have it and told me he sent me there to "take care" of Tom and his Company, so it was flattering but disagreeable. However, I hope a Markham and Inglis being again together may be a good prestige for our luck and honour in the coming field. Captain Anderson of the Artillery is on board our ship, an old friend of mine and we are very jolly, though our Capt. is a snob and is reported for his want of manners, etc. The ship is one of the worst and the Captain was only a mate a few days ago. The late Captain having died of cholera on board, but we have got this one into some order, and all goes right and the comfort of being on board ship and sea air after our late camps is almost a paradise. We all feel much better and stronger.

Poor Haggerty not very well. We expected to have gone immediately to Baldjik Bay but for some reasons or other remained in Varna Bay till yesterday morning, when we got our orders and have been beating to windward ever since and got carried right away to sea in the night, so we are not at Baldjik yet. The whole French and English expedition musters there, and in about 2 days we shall all be under weigh for the Crimea under steam. I have seen the plans and orders for landing. We are in the 1st row of ships having the AGAMEMNON and HIGHFLYER to fire over our heads if we are opposed, and to cover our landing. We have, you see, the post of honour and our (the Rifles) special duty to land and cover the Artillery, so we may have lots to do before any general

SEPT 2nd.

action may be fought. You never saw such a sight as Varna Bay, French and English line of Battle ships, the Turkish men of war and transports without end. The force that we take I hear will be about 24,000 English, 25,000 French, 12,000 Turks or Redifs or about 65,000 soldiers. The French army has been fearfully crippled by illness and we are leaving many behind.

POSTSCRIPT

SEPT. 6. Not off yet, but we sail in the morning - signals just made.

Poor Hammond is very ill of fever, and I am sent for to command my own Company, a great chance for me, but I much regret, of course, poor Hammond being unable to land. Lord Errol for a final stroke takes his wife with him to Sevastopol, I suppose he means to have shot down by his side if possible. Did you hear of such a thing? I have just got your letter of 17th August.

No more time. Again, God help you all. We have just heard of the capture of Åland. I now change my ship again. No.21 PRIDE OF THE OCEAN, a fine vessel.

I dined with W.Armytage on board the Highflyer, also dined and
slept on board the Agamemnon. Alfred very well, a fine stout
boy, and looking far better than when I saw him before. I gave
him what brotherly advice I could and begged him to work hard to
pass for mid, as he goes up for it in 2 months. Johnson says he
means to pass him, but threatens him not as he does not work very
hard. I got your letter and Laura's of August 10th, and of course
am very anxious to hear once more before we go in for this
unprecedented attack on the Crimea. I fancy it will take 4 or 5
days for the whole convy to get there together, all sailing vessels
in tow. The landing is to be attempted about 7 miles north of
Sebastopol. If course, we expect to be opposed but we shall
intrench ourselves as soon as possible, and then fight our way, till
we can invest the great land fortress that commands the town and
harbour. This they say must fall in about 12 days in the ordinary
way and then the bombardment begins and I trust the place will be
ours by this day month - I suppose we shall be on shore in the Krimea by
10th or 11th. The Duke of Cambridge is better and has come up from
the Bosphorous, and he and Lord Raglan go in the Caradoc. Sir Geo. Brown
in Alfred's ship, I believe. We are to land with nothing more than we
can carry on our own backs, so I must try to get a knapsack and then
we shall have 3 days biscuit and pork to carry as well. So we shall

have rough work, and can have no tents probably for some time,
till we have made good the landing.

5th SEPT. BALDIK. We anchored here late in the afternoon

yesterday. I believe the expedition will sail this afternoon.

The number of men of war and ships of all sorts swarming with

troops I suppose one of the most wonderful sights ever seen - we

are lying close to the flagship Brittania, Agamemnon and Highflyer

close to us. The Fury took away the mails yesterday and we were

too late, but I shall send this if I can on board the Flagship, from

which it is sure to go the 1st opportunity. I suppose the 8th or

9th will see us ashore and operations begun - beautiful weather -

we have had service in the field regularly every Sunday. I was

sorry at missing the Sacrament the last time. Every officer of

the Regt. attended but I was obliged to be away with the horses

alongside for water. If there is another chance you shall hear

again, but it is likely this is my last letter till we have done

something. The papers seem to have anticipated matters wonderfully

and I dare say you have been anxious.

Love to all at Farnborough and other relations and

remembrances to friends and neighbours.

W.I.M.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1854

8

Dearest Mother,

I must begin a few lines (tho' when they may be sent off, I do not know) to tell you that it has pleased God to spare me, and I believe Edwin, from hurt or death in a tremendously hot action we fought yesterday, against a large force of Russians. The victory and splendid and immensely strong position we seized have made it a most complete affair, but the carnage in some places, and loss on our side, as well as the Russians, has been awful. The Light Divn and Artillery bore the most part of it and have suffered fearfully. I have numbers of friends who this time yesterday were alive and well, and now are amongst the dead and wounded. The fire and terrific practice of the Russian grape and cannister was terrible, more awful than I can describe to you. I am now on guard over the wounded, just on the very ground where the Russian riflemen opened the action by firing into my company which was extended and covering the advance. It is a sad duty I am on, being close to hundreds of the wounded, and dying, while the surgeons are working to their utmost. The whole affair only lasted about $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours, while we seized their strong position which they had thought could have stood out for 3 days but I suppose nothing could have been hotter or more bloody for the time. I may as well tell you what happened since my last scrawl written on board ship. We were then further from Sebastopol than I thought. We stood in for some distance from Eupatoria and at 7 on the

SEPTEMBER 21, 1854

14th the disembarkation began totally unopposed. Some Cossaks nearly got hold of Sir G. Brown, as he was reconnoitring; we pushed on, a heavy march, rain and deep ground for about 3 ? (or 8) miles, no tents, officers all carrying their knapsacks, blankets, etc. and pork for 3 days; we were sent on to form the outpost, and I advanced with my company and took possession of a village, some of the inhabitants, chiefly Krim Tartars, welcomed us, but most had fled - we then had to push on extended for $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and my company took escorted in 80 waggons, with bullocks and dromedaries, loaded with provisions for Sebastopol; a good capture of great use to our army. Bivouac in a cowshed - the French came up next morning from their position and plundered the village most brutally, chiefly the Arab Corps. I was employed all the morning in trying to stop them and occupy the houses with my men, but we were sent too late to do much good - I was sent on outlying pickets then for the next 3 or 4 days. The Cossacks most nights tried to steal in, and surprise us, and we were up nearly all the nights, and no sleep, hardly worked patrolling, etc. and sometimes some firing at them - they burnt and set fire to all they could near us. I was out one night and got well peppered by the 8th Hussars who were in the dark and did not know which way they fired, but no one hurt. On the 19th we had a long march this way over a grassy steppe, and in the afternoon there was a slight affair, between our Artillery and some Russians, etc. a few horses killed and 3 Dragoons lost their legs.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1854

The Russians retired and we bivouacked in the open air for the night. No wood, and we could only make grass fires. The whole length extending some miles the French on the right towards the sea - The number of fires, and the whole thing an interesting and curious sight. Under arms before daybreak in the morning (20th) we could see Russian Cavalry and Cossack scouts watching us in front. We moved out at 7 a.m. my company in front skirmishing to cover the advance. We halted when formed for 3 hours, St.Arnaud and Raglan riding about with the Staff disposing all the Division, etc. ready. We marched on about 11 and could see after some few miles the Russian Army in a very strong position in the hills over the Alma River, which lies quite in a ravine. We pushed on till we saw villages and houses in flame on the slopes towards the river. All of a sudden showers of Rifle Balls came whizzing at my men, we dashed on, returing the fire, throwing ourselves down to avoid it, till we got towards certain marks put by the Russians, when their guns opened, and the shot and shells that began to fly about soon made sad holes in the advancing lines. We dashed on with our skirmishers, and soon occupied a walled vineyard, and pelted the riflemen who were annoying us from the other side of the river. Our articllery then began and the fire kept up on both sides was tremendous. The French were attacking near the sea, 2 of our ships shelling the heights. We rested under cover of a

SEPTEMBER 21, 1854

VINEYARD WALL FOR about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour, then Strington, and I shoved on thro' the thick vines with the Col, while Norcott and the left wing of the Regt. went thro' the river and occupied the other bank doing the enemy great mischief - we pushed on, under a tremendous fire, crossed the river, here in 2 streams deep to our hips; the grape cannister and round shots from the enemy's batteries whizzing by and making the river boil with terrible effect. Scores here were knocked over and wounded. Regiments crossed on our sights and we made at a strong earthwork battery, drove the enemy back, took 2 guns and occupied their work. I was nearly dead beat getting to it, the fire was awful. The Col fell close to me, his horse shot, but he was soon up again and only grazed. We got under cover of the parapets the Russians rushing and firing at us, here numbers were killed on both sides. Suddenly a Panic came that we were firing into a French Regt, the firing ceased, I saw the mistake of the Russian helmets, but an order was given to retire. There was a rush, then back to the river, which all the officers in vain tried to check. The Russians again seized their Battery and the carnage they caused as we retreated was awful. The Guards advanced in time, we rallied, cheered the men on again at the river, and again we took the place, killing numbers of the enemy. We reformed, the whole of the force in action then silenced the enemy and drove them from their position, the French doing the same on the right. The heights of the position were ours and

SEPTEMBER 21, 1854

the Artillery rattled into their columns extricating. The poor Light Div. was a skeleton of itself! The 23rd Fusiliers lost 8 officers. You will soon see the sad losses. Our casualties I think under 100 as the Regt. was never in line or column but extended as skirmishers. I cannot speak yet about the loss. No officers killed. Ld. Errol lost part of his right hand, and behaved well. Others only scratches, and some extraordinary scrapes! We were mostly in the thick of it, and I expected every moment to be down. How I escaped I cannot tell, I believe, I worked as hard as possible. I hear poor Dew of Edwin's Battery was killed - his head shot off! I have not seen Edwin yet. Father Ramsden all right I believe. The field afterwards was and is an awful spectacle, such horrors and sights as I was close witness of I wish could be effaced from my mind. The cheering immense after the day was over, Ld Raglan loudly hailed by the men! We are burying our dead today, and getting the wounded off to the ships - I believe we shall push on to-morrow towards Sevastopol, and I hope after this it will be an easier task - I was sent away from our bivouac late at night and had to come 3 miles here with my men dog tired and nothing to eat for 16 hours, a hard day for us. I am quite well, excepting stiffness and a sore heel. I got a knock from something and the muscle of my thigh is stiff from it, but no hurt or mark. Haggerty's rifle was shattered to pieces in his hand and the ball spout struck his knee, no worse. We are now I fancy about 12 miles from Sebastopol, and when we next engage, may God protect me as

SEPTEMBER 21, 1854

he did yesterday. I must now finish as I must send this off in case of their being a bag made up with despatches from Ld Raglan. The Papers and Telegraph will most likely have told you about it before this reaches you, but you will like to hear what parts I saw and had in the action. Weather beautiful and hot, nights very wet from dew. We have lost some men since landing from cholera and Col. Beckwith had an attack the night before the battle - The 1st Battn.R.B. not engaged. Guards did well, Cavalry not engaged. I must now finish, so goodbye. God bless you all and grant we may meet again. Chas. Fox in action as a volunteer, wounded slightly in the instep - Mr. Thynne, my Sub. all right for the Harewoods - Remembrances to all friends, neighbours, etc. etc.

MARCH TO BALAKLAVA - KRIMEA

SEPTEMBER 28th

My dearest Mother,

Here we are settled down on a new base for operations after a very clever dodge that has been successfully executed by our leaders - so now we are established here and all ready to begin the attack on Sebastopol from the south side where they are not so thoroughly fortified, and everybody seems to think now that it will be a comparatively easy business, and Sir J. Burgoyne has said in the presence of Lord Raglan and the Staff that he sees nothing to prevent our walking into the place in 3 days! After my last letters I had two more days alone at the Alma on guard over the wounded, and a more horrible piece of duty I never could have imagined. Number of the poor fellows dying, crying out to be shot and put an end to their sufferings. The place showered with corpses and limbs and heaps of dead officers. I had no doctor with me and some of my men had Cholera, and I had to treat them myself till I could get them away. Such neglect I never saw. Men of Regiments that were wounded and attached to others got no attention and were left starving and without food and numbers of them I had to see to myself. On the 3rd morning after the action we marched and I rejoined my Regt. The stench of the Battle field was awful. We marched with the French on our right to the Katochka river and encamped, a very strong position and not a Russian there, a pretty village, poplars, vineyards and grapes in abundance. 24th we marched to the Belbec near Sevastopol, a very

hard march, reconnoitred so did not get some bivouac till dark.

Everything late no provisions up or anything. The Cavalry went out at some Cozaks but they would not face them in the night.

Some shots and a gun were fired from the French piquets, and we

all got under arms but nothing turned up. We have been in advance

the whole time. 25th. - We marched at 8. The attack on Fort

Constantine and the north side being given up, and an attempt made

to get round to Balaklava, long harrassing work thro scrubby oak

woods with the Cavalry. Here we suddenly got into the rear guards

baggage of the Russian Divn making towards Sympheropol. We got (Simferopol)

the guns and Cavalry to the front pursued and knocked them about

a bit and captured several horses, much baggage, carriages, etc.

and all sorts of plunders, the men getting gold lace, arms, bread, sugar,

etc. A regular panic seems to have taken the Russians for they do

not show anywhere and the position we have crossed are splendid. We

halted after the pursuit for an hour, and then marched about 7 miles

on to the R. Tochernaya, running into the harbour of

Sebastopol, a long hard day, we must have marked 20 miles, and it was

dark when we halted to bivouac for the night, and I had to remain on

piquet to defend the main road. Marched in the morning (25th) towards

this place. We extended and skirmished at some soldiers we saw retiring

up a gorge in the rocky hills, and kept up a good fire for about half an

hour. We then advanced through a very dangerous strong rocky defile and

got to Balaklava creek where some shells were fired at us from an old castle fort over-hanging the sea. A shell broke

below us but they did not attack. We are strongly posted here, but have few men & have orders to hold it to the last ! We can see the Russian's cavalry, guns, and infantry below us within a mile and $\frac{1}{2}$. We are 1200⁰ feet above the sea and have a bird's eye view of the Agammannon and many ships at the entrance to the harbour below us, it is very exposed and cold and our tents nearly blown away .

I have got rheumatism and threatening dysentery and am anything but comfortable on the hard ground. ! but such are the troubles of war ! I fear we cannot make up our minds to winter here & cannot tell ~~how~~ how soon the beleaguered city may fall . I think it looks gloomy. We ought to have pushed our advantage after the Alma, we could have taken it then & there without our present ~~of~~ future loss.

Sir E. Lyons hoists his flag on the Royal Albert and I shall certainly make Albert volunteer~~ize~~ to go with him. He will be a great man & a valuable interest and friend for Alfred at a future day. Some chance of the Agamm. going home to be paid off & recommissioned but you must sacrifice your wishes to Alfred's future welfare.

Thanks to my correspondents for letters etc etc

We know nothing of who is killed but I write ~~me~~ at once to you what authentic news I can & this is a blow which will be felt

God bless you .

Yr affec

W.T.M.

SEBASTOPOL

OCTOBER 3rd.

Dearest Laura,

W

We have now been in position here before Sebastopol for three days since leaving Balaklava, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Batteries, and they keep firing shot and shells at us, but do no harm. We open the trenches tonight, and I believe begin the siege on Friday. They say it must soon fall on this side, but I do not know what to make of the north side. Sad cases of Cholera. Poor little Grant, Mrs. David Murray's brother, just died. I have written to her. I have seen Edwin and Alfred often lately - quite well, no more time. Best love, etc. W.I.M.

We have now tents for six of us after 16 nights in the open. Weather fine - hot days, cold nights. F. Ramsden in my tent just now, all right, but says he has no pens and paper.

close to Lord Raglan and staff and Stuart, and I was sent out skirmishing at the gunners and just saved having another in the middle of us. We clambered up the rocks, Brandling's troop of Artillery getting into position on the hills and firing a few pretty shots. The Agamemnon now fired from the sea and in about an hour the place surrendered. It is a strong position and we did not know what to expect of it. It was defended by about 60 men, 5 of whom and the commandant, were wounded.

OCTOBER 3rd.

It contained 4 brass mortars. I captured a pony and saddle and double gun brought me by my men. We bivouaced outside and our men feasted on poultry, paper, etc. and plunder. I got a bathe and refreshed myself much. We have been tremendously hard worked and I was footsore, stockingless and more like an old post horse in my legs than myself. We moved to a better place yesterday close by and are waiting till the siege guns are landed. The Agamemnon came in and Highflyer. I have seen Alfred and W. Armytage; got some cocoa, tobacco and brandy from them and better than all, some good socks from Mr. Johnson. I mean to dine on board the Highflyer today. I am now on the beach of the creek for the men to bathe and wash their shirts. Mr. Mure close to me, all well and reports himself thro' me, but has no paper to write, so you must tell them. Poor Col. Beckwith has died of Cholera and several other officers. General Tyldon, etc. and many men; much diarrhoea. It seems as if we had come in to it again, but the men have had so much fruit and grapes, no wonder. I wonder now how soon all will be over. I should be very glad of some quiet and repose, and shall be glad when Sebastopol is over, and we are making again for the Bosphorous. I trust we shall not winter here. The Russian loss at the Alma was 6,000 killed and wounded. The French 1,400, ours 2,098. Of this 1,000 in the Light Division, About 6,000 more Russians are supposed to have run away for the whole country seems strewed with their knapsacks and accoutrements. They went as hard as they could into

go

Sebastopol. I must now conclude as the letters are going.

I have not heard of you later than 1st September, but there

might be some letters. When we take up our position for the

siege we may perhaps get our tents - Nights cold now. Goodbye,

best love, etc. etc.

W.I.M.

SEVASTOPOL

OCTOBER 12th, 1854

Dearest Mother,

No time to write and a sudden mail. I am all right, and in good health, thank God. Edwin and Alfred, I believe both well. The sickness and cholera are still very bad, and we lose men and officers sick. We are very hard-worked, and hardly any officers left. Thynne is sick with Diarrhoea, and my Company much reduced. I am now in one of the open batteries, being fired at all day and night with immense shot and shells; sorties at night, etc. We never get a whole night's rest now. We have not fired a seige gun yet but are hard at work making approaches and batteries. The grand opening of the fire will be on Sunday: skirmishes take place frequently. Two men knocked down today and one of the guns nearly dismounted - hot work -

Thanks for letters of the 22nd.

Love to all

W.Markham.

12

Before Sebastopol Oct 17th

Dearest Mother

I know how anxious you must be for intelligence of us at this time & yet excepting 2 scraps to tell you I am well and all right. I never have time for a letter, but will try to send a little more by this evening's mail.

I am quite well and hearty and so are Edn. & Alfd tho' the fatigue and exertion we are undergoing are something more than the uninitiated people would imagine. I never now have my night in bed or rather at rest because there no beds but the ground in these times tho' we have a tent for 4 of us & blankets enough lately. The place has been invested since the 29th ultimo & the last week the batteries have been in progress. The place cannot be attacked by a regular siege, so we have made immense batteries at a distance for the heavy long guns.

We began about 6½ a.m. & the tremendous heavy cannonade on both sides has been going on all day, the fleet being in action with the forts from the sea.

I fancy I can hear the heavy broadsides from the Agamemnon frequently but the smoke is so great we cannot distinguish. The Russian fire is much diminished and numbers of guns silenced, there have been 4 explosions, 2 French magazines blown up I am sorry to say & lately they have not fired a shot, the others in the Russian batteries.

You would never imagine such a sight or din, nothing but smoke, booming & the vicious whistling roar of the heavy shot and shell. The Russians must have suffered seriously from our fire while our casualties are trifling, we have killed and wounded every day tho' we have been exposed now for days to a dangerous & sometimes hot fire as well as at night & occasional skirmishes, I imagine our loss of life is not more than 200, tho' today's firing may much swell the numbers.

I have had several narrow escapes but they are so common one quite gets used to round shot and shell. I was struck 3 times in one day by stones and dirt where the shot struck. We are out continually on picquet on covering parties to defend the batteries from sorties day and night, so the work is severe *and* often under heavy fire. We cannot yet tell when the assault will take place but I fancy at this rate very shortly. I wonder

whether we shall have to storm. We have more work than all the rest but are not employed in digging. We are always to the front, ready to fight & defend our batteries. I continue to keep notes for my journal.

Poor Capt. Rowley of the Grenadier Guards was killed yesterday, I knew him well & we are much shocked at hearing of the death of po-r Lord Pd.L.Goweŕs from dysentery on board the Bellerophon a great friend and messmate of mine.

The Cholera seems gone but I have lost 2 of my Sergeants by it & out of 5 with us at Alma only one remains

Sevastopol Octr 27th

13

Dearest Mother,

We work away from our batteries, the rocky nature and form of the ground will not permit us to sap in nearer as the French are now doing. I fancy the real attack will be from this side, and ours is only meant to occupy the besieged. For the nights I had never a whole night's rest; at last got one in bed in my tent on the 19th. Poor Childers R.A. killed the other day, Col Hood & Capt Rowley, Grenr. Guards & several others killed and wounded.

Thank God my health is good and constitution seems to be of leather or I must have long ago, as others have, been knocked up... We have frequent small skirmishes etc but on the 28th we had the most disastrous day yet of the campaign. Menzikoff and we hear Goadsha-off reorganised the scattered army and advanced on Balackava.

The Turkish behaved infamously and ran from the redoubts, which the Russians immediately took. Through a mistake of poor Capt Nolan, who was killed, Lord Lucan ordered the Light Cavalry Brigade. 11th, 8th, 13th, 4th Lgt Bragoons and 11th Lancers to charge. Away they went most gallantly under awful cross fire of artillery and infantry and out of 800 only 200 returned the rest are utterly destroyed !!! the killed and wounded officers is terrible and some of the Regts are really no more. A sad blow to us I believe as many Russians fell and they retired so it was no defeat, but a dreadful mismanaged affair.

The heavy dragoons charged and did well at first.

The Russians are now posted in force in our rear, close to Balaclava and would cut off our port if they could. I must say I think we are in a fix & dont see our way out of it.

Depend upon it Sevastopol is not the place to fall in a day and we have plenty of hard work yet before us. The Russians continually throwing up new batteries etc. Where or how we shall winter I know not. It is useless to send for things at present tho' we are all ragged enough and some without uniforms that will hold together.

I must lastly tell you to cheer you that we again defeated the R Russians in a good wholesome battle, They came out in force with guns from Sevastopol thinking to find us out from camp or attacking their position watching at Balaclava, they attacked our right, Sir De Lacy Evans' position at about 2 o'clock, the infantry sending swarms and thousands of skirmishers over the hills in clouds &

other infantry manoeuvring wonderfully rapidly. They advanced an immense way driving in the picquets of the 2nd Divn before them and then their right, making a flank movement, threatened the 5 gun battery, where I was with my company ~~xxxx~~ ^{and} # 2 of the 7th Fusiliers under command of Major Sir Thos Troubridge. They opened tremendous rifle and musketry fire on us like hail for some time, which we kept returning, things began to look bad for us & we were outflanked. Sir T. Troubridge sent me to order the ~~xxxx~~ ^{near by} officer to be ready to spike the guns, should we be driven out and soon after that our fire made some battalions turn.

More then seemed to swarm on our right attacking us and a picquet house in a ravine next which was our powder magazine in some caves. I was ordered to charge with my company under a heavy fire and we got to close quarters with their daredevil skirmishers and killed a good many and took a few prisoners & then by our rapid and good fire turned a battalion moving to attack us and the battery. Sir de Lacy Evans was then out with his division on the hills with artillery and they were repulsed with a loss of about 500 & 80 prisiners back into Sebastopol, rather a nice afternoon's work as our loss was very trifling, 2 of our poor fellows shot, one mortally I fear. We were so close that 2 men fell by my pistol though I believe people dont generally mention these things and a bullet touched my cheek without drawing blood, just a shave & I wonder my nose was not gone. I then returned to the battery & Sir T. Troubridge approved of my company's success, we were only just in time.

On coming in this morning I found your letters of the 8th and 12th, all the Alma despatches and congratulations. We are not half properly mentioned, ~~nor is the gallantry~~ ^{xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx} having stormed the right of the redoubt, and it is not even mentioned, nor is the gallantry of many commanding officers and of officers who did the real work - - all the staff generals mentioned - some having done nothing - a time-serving affier it is thought by many.

Accounts and descriptions are very good & also Illustrated News also the? marches Balaclava etc etc

The letters are called for, goodbye.-- W , Niven - Ramsden I think them well. I see Edwin today, he was not well but better

and I suppose in action yesterday

God bless you all

Yrs affly

W.T.M.

I only wish old Dundas was superseded by Lyons, who is a real
lion and would soon make short work had he command

SEBASTOPOL

OCTOBER 27th, 1854

14

Dearest Mother,

Again we have only an hour's notice of a Mail going, and as I missed the last I must send you a scribble and tell you how we got on, well feeling how much you must look for our letters and authentic news. This is now the tenth day of the bombardment, a perpetual cannonade ever since I last wrote. We work away from our Batteries, and the rocky nature and form of the ground will not permit us to ^{sap} / in nearer as the French are now doing. I fancy the real attack will be from their side and ours is only meant to occupy the besieged. Be that as it may, we work immensely hard, for 14 nights I never had a whole night's rest, and at last got one in bed in my tent on the 15th. Every other day going into the trenches and batteries at 3 in the ^{morning} and remaining there till 5 in the next morning and the next marching at 3 to some other battery or advanced post, and so on, and under continued fire from the immense heavy Russian artillery, both shot and shell, and wonderful escapes often enough. Poor Childers, R.A. killed the other day, Captain Rowley, Col. Hood, Grenadiers, and several others killed and wounded. Some days the casualties from shells bursting, etc. have been more than others, and I have seen much horrors in the way of mutilations and it is more horrid when in cold blood and not yourself engaged.

I believe from accounts of prisoners, deserters, etc. the town is in

OCTOBER 27th , 1954

a horrid state full of wounded and dead often on fire and
a week ago 5,000 hors de combat. However, we steadily
work away at them and I suppose it is a matter of time;
the fire seems to have slackened much on both sides, the
strong round town on one side of the attack has fallen to
pieces, a mass of ruins, and there have been several
explosions. The Fleet have done nothing since the 1st day
when the Agamemnon, Sanspareil, Arethusa and Albion came
close in to Fort Constantine, and did much damage, but
unsupported, had to go out again. Poor Albion being in
tow of Firebrand, disabled and much damaged and obliged
to sail for Malta, difficult to keep her afloat (14 killed)
and 70 wounded on board. Six casualties on board Agamemnon
only. In the whole Fleet above 3 officers and 250 men I hear.
I have heard nothing of Buff (Alfred) but he must be all right.
We only wish that old Dundas was superseded by Lyons, who is a
real Lion and would soon make short work had he command. The
Cholera I hope, is gone, the last case is another poor Sergeant
of mine. Now I will have lost 2 here by it already. Thank God
my health is good and constitution seems to be of leather or I must
long ago, as others, have knocked up. Our weather is perfect now.

I suppose you have regular periodical

I hope you take the Illustrated News and keep them. I often

see one of the artists and his sketches are good; I have done
none lately and cannot attempt it. We shall make a battery
close tonight. I see the scaling ladders being carried up -
I am afraid one of our magazine is blown up.

HEIGHTS OF BALAKLAVA

NOVEMBER 6th

Dearest Mother,

There is a chance of a boat going with the despatches so I send you a line. A wing of my Regt came here to join Sir Colin Campbell's force on the heights and watch a large force of Russians below. We came here on the 3rd. Yesterday an awful battle was fought at Sebastopol, the Russians again attacking our right. They say it was a bad or worse than Alma, but as yet we have no particulars, and I can tell nothing. Five of our generals killed and wounded and Regt. and Regt. and I fear the Guards cut to pieces. The Russians tremendously beaten and retreating - no news of Edwin who must have been in the thick of it. I trust he is safe, but I am very anxious. The despatches may tell more than I can. Cathcart, Pennyfather killed (mistake Strangways), Brown, Cambridge, Bentinck and Strangways wounded. Ben Malcolm of my Regt. killed. Newdigate wounded. We have suffered much, but done I hear gloriously. I am jealous of not having been there, but perhaps this has saved me, and I must be thankful. We must be in Sebastopol now directly. All going on well. I am not quite well, and have a touch of dysentery, not bad, rheumatism from being so much out at nights and weather now very cold. No more but love, your affec. W.I.M.

Another letter

NOVEMBER 7th

After writing in such a hurry yesterday, I got a letter from Edwin reporting himself all right, but not having been able to take part in

HEIGHTS OF BALAKLAVA

NOVEMBER 7th

the fight as he had been laid up with dysentery, but was better and Providence again seems to have ordered for the best! It seems that the Russians attacked at daylight on the same ground where we fought and beat them on the 26th, but they surprised us and were in great force, part of the Danube army under the Archduke Constantine having joined them, which had been marching 4 months, and they took us at such disadvantage that the 2nd Division and Guards had to bear the brunt of it a long time before reinforced, and lost immensely. 8 Officers of the Coldstream were killed, I hear and hope that Fk. Ramsden is among the survivors. Poor Col. J. Blair killed; Cartwright of our 1st Battn killed, and Malcolm of the 2nd and Newdigate wounded in the foot. We only had 2 companies fighting and they had 33 casualties! It seems to have been ill managed on our part, and I cannot make out who in particular commanded. So many of our Generals hit. Canrobert brought up some French and did wonders at one time of the day: the latter from 7 o'clock till 2 o'clock - our loss 1,600 killed and wounded, and they say the Russians left from 5 to 6,000 dead on the field, which with wounded would make near 20,000 and they mostly retreated to the north side, but we may expect another attack as they seem determined to fight hard for Sevastopol, which still holds out strongly and can only be taken at immense sacrifice, and then we shall only have the Town, i.e. the south side. During the action we were watching a great force close

? *Wright*

(EXTRACTS)

HEIGHTS OF BALAKLAVA

17th NOVEMBER, 1854

15

Here we are booked for the winter, and Sevastopol apparently still holds out and seems not even likely to become ours for the present. The bombardment from our batteries goes on very slowly. Sometimes only a few shots and shells are exchanged during the day. People begin to think that notwithstanding the sagacity of Lord Raglan, a younger head and a little more quickness would be an advantage. Since the 5th nothing much has occurred, excepting one or two sorties from the town against the French approaches, in which the Russians have been handsomely repulsed, with considerable loss. They seem hard at work strengthening the place still more, but reports and deserters speak of great discontent and almost mutiny in the town, and a scarcity of provisions. They are in great force in the plain below us, and an enormous quantity of field artillery. They are entrenching and hutting, and we have to watch them closely and be ready for an attack either day or night. Our position is strong, Highland brigade, Turks, 500 Zouaves and Marines, etc. We have orders to try and hut ourselves, now that the weather is getting too wild and severe for tents, but we are such a height up that we can get no proper wood, and have to burrow in to the ground for shelter. On the 14th we were visited with the most frightful storm and hurricane, ever witnessed. Our tents were mostly torn in pieces and went clear away to sea. I was buried under mine for half an hour before I could be extricated. It was impossible to keep your legs and the rain and wind

17th NOVEMBER, 1854

such, that huge stones are flying in all directions, and the men lost their blankets, and every sort of thing. For 24 hours we had nothing to eat, no fire, no shelter. It was a most frightful thing I ever saw. 22 Transports and 3 steamers wrecked, etc. Numbers of them close below us and the loss of life frightful. Those near to Katicha were burnt by the enemy's fire - crews all prisoners. My ship PRIDE OF THE OCEAN is safe close here, but wrecked. I hope my things are safe on board. The shore is a mass of wood, and wrecks and bodies, etc. and not a ship in the snug harbour of Balaklava, but what has lost or suffered somehow. In the night it was wretched. Morning came, and 2 of our men were starved to death, and 3 others carried dying to the hospital. The loss of winter comforts, etc. is immense to us. We have been trying to collect our things and get square again, but for two days we were quite disorganised, men lost, etc. Edwin never started for Constantinople and is all right again. I was with him yesterday. He goes back to the front in two days. Poor Hooper is dead of his wounds.

Tell me about the Haundens. I have no more particulars. How much I feel for them and think of them. I must go to work and dig myself a hole to burrow in.

nights cold, days awful hot and fair. Nearly every night I lie in the open air. I suppose we must have Sebastopol very soon now and wonder if we stay herefor winter. Most of the Army is out and about Sympherol, and also we learn, Menshikoff. W. Thynne, we hear, is much better but not come back to us. I saw B.Wilkinson 3 days ago looking quite well. W. Mure is quite well and F.Ramsden. Eliot begs his kind remembrances, Addington, etc. I dined on board the Highflyer 2 days ago and she went out of harbour to join the Fleet and I suppose is now pounding the forts of Sebastopol. The cannonade and broadsides are still roaring and tonight I shall have to be out again, I suppose in our batteries, and must try and get some dinner and a good sleep; the latter I stand in much need of. Sir E.Lyons is a great war dog, and will do anything. Old Dundas seems to funk. What think you of the accounts of the Alma which we expect to read in a few days in the papers. I shall be mightly glad when all this is over, it is hard work, but thank God I am blessed with excellent health and now there is excitement enough to carry one through anything. If I am spare^d to live thro' all the many dangers we have got to go thro', I will try to be with you this winter by hook or by crook. I fancy we might horse and reform our crippled army for St. Petersburg next year, but no one knows anything at present. Good-bye now, etc. etc. kind remembrances to G. Wharton, all neighbours, G. King, etc.

W.I.M.

W. Thynne has come back well. I am quite well again, though

rather inclined to rheumatic aches, after nights.

I hope

~~Shope~~ now to get a few more clothes and comforts from the

transport. Some warm clothing of ships just arrived. There

is a very cold wind up here, but weahter fine now.

December is a good month. The Agamemnon is round at the

Chersonese. You will see some good sketches of the gale in

the Illustrated, the scenes were frightful. If there was

time I should have liked to have got an Australian settler's hut

sent out.

It is a horrid prospect staying here. However, we must

look for glory and plenty of grub.

18

Not much news since my last as we do not hear what goes on always at the front, tho' able to hear every shot and even musketry. Poor Tryon, what a loss. His gallant conduct has been in every one's mouth and a General Order has been issued most complimentary. What a number of my friends have fallen already. I am just come into my tent after a night in the trenches - very cold and numb hands. We have execrable weather, wind rain, incessant and thick fogs. I have been trying to house myself in a sort of burrow in the ground, but my labours are not yet complete. There are many difficulties to overcome in procuring materials, etc. The Russian force below is quiet. It was reviewed by Princes Michael and Alexander, and the men presented with a silver rouble each, two days ago, preparatory to attacking our position, but they have not come yet. Sorties from the town occur nightly, but they are always repulsed with loss, and I do not believe our casualties have been more than the ordinary routine of a siege. Everybody in better spirits, etc. A good deal of sickness, not real Cholera. They say we shall have the town by Xmas. I rode to the front the other day and notified to the Coldstream that I was about to become one of them. They think if I get Dunkellins step I should come home, but shall be made to stay here so do not expect too much. How I wish poor Ramsden had lived and have been

NOVEMBER 28th

together again. I feel it much. You have relied so much
on each other for news, etc.

We are living in the greatest squalor. I have never
slept except with all my clothes on since landing and often days
without a wash.

W.I.M.

Copy of W. Markham's
letter rec'd Dec 29th.

HEIGHTS OF BALAKLAVA

19

December 12th, 1854

Dearest Mother,

I have nothing ^{new} much to tell you since my last to Laura,
but will not miss the opportunity of sending you a line or two.

We have finer and more settled weather now, and one day's frost
but no real appearance of winter yet. The 34th arrived a few days
ago from Corfu, and I have seen Arthur Goodenough, who is commanding,
twice. He is very well and in great force. He saw Edwin yesterday,
employed in getting more heavy guns up to the front. The weather is
getting more favourable for the roads, and I hope we shall do something
more soon. Every one thinks we shall be again attacked somewhere
before long, as a last effort before the severe weather sets in; but
it is impossible to say how soon an assault will be attempted. None
of the real authorities or engineers will express what they think, so
we are all in the dark. The French keep steadily on; but they have
got to rock and the work proceeds very slowly; but when in about another
week we put all our new guns and large mortars into position, I hope
the look of things may change, but the Russians are determined. A large
army occupies the hills on the north, over the Inkerman valley, and they
still are doing all they can to strengthen the place. We are getting
continual reinforcements. There was some sharp fighting last night, but we
have not heard the result. A week ago the Vladimir and another steamer
came out of Sebastopol, and actually did the French attach some damage
before they were driven back by the Valorous - this looks like a want of

DECEMBER 12th, 1854

care on the part of our naval people. I have not heard of you since my last, and the mails have been much delayed, but we hear that the mail should be out today, and containing despatches of the battle of the 5th November and Lord Raglan's new rank of Field Marshal. The 90th are come and I saw Jocelyn Pennington yesterday; he is coming up to the hills to see me today. We are at work building a new redoubt to strengthen our position. I hear we are to have some wooden houses sent out soon, they will be much wanted, long before they arrive. I saw my name figuring in a Times letter of the 18th, but I hear better mentioned in some other paper. I expect not to hear about my new corps till after Xmas now, and Mr. Thynne and I have got a pet goose, which we are endeavouring to pamper with out biscuit rations, with a view to our eating our Xmas dinner off him.

I have got my fire to do better, and we are pretty snug excepting in storms, which are so frequent here. It is a splendid morning down below, but here we are on the hill tops, like a thick November day, in dense fogs, and can occasionally see the camps and sunshine far below us.

Deserters come in to us, and tell stories of awful starvation among their troops, and that the Cossacks are robbing and plundering the Tartars to a terrible extent. W. Mure has had a touch of jaundice but I saw him yesterday and he is better. I met Gibson, poor F. Ramsden's soldier servant (he was at Busa with him). He had been wounded in the

DECEMBER 12th, 1854

hand himself, earlier in the day, but was with poor Fred when he died. He had been mortally wounded through the stomach at first, and when the Guards were surrounded and repulsed, just before the French came up, he could not be got off the ground, and suffered the terrible treatment I told you of. His last words, poor fellow, being, I heard : "Tell my father that I died doing my duty". I have told Gibson, that if I can manage it, I will take him into my service when I join them. The poor Ramsdens, how much I feel for, and think of them! I am extremely anxious about my change, and fear that others should be put over me for waiting when I ought to have got some places up at once. Our 2nd draft has not yet arrived, so I have not got your things yet, and heard nothing of Gregory's parcel. No more news I think at present, so good bye and a happy Xmas to you all. God grant that we may meet somehow before long, but I am not too sanguine about that yet. My best love to all and remembrances to friends, etc.

Your affecte some,

W.Markham.

From: W.I.Markham to
L.E.F.M.

1.

DECEMBER 17th, 1854

I have not heard of or from you for nearly three weeks. The weather is so bad we shall be very uncertain in post regularities as well as our siege operations. I rode to the front three days ago and saw Edwin and all the new works on the Inkerman hills. The general impression is that after another regular severe bombardment for three days the assault will take place at any cost. The ships are said to be going to attack again and we shall carry the place or get licked, it just comes to that now. We may as well storm at once and lose life in attempting it (if we attempt it we must succeed) as remain almost inactive, losing the number of men we do. I am not exaggerating when I tell you that our poor soldiers are dying like rotten sheep. It is not cholera but fatigue and exposure to the awful wet weather we have had for the last six weeks; they return from their duty in the batteries and trenches to their tents and lie down to die! this they do without complaining. It is melancholy work. We had far better try the assault. We had two inches of snow yesterday and are as wet and wretched as may be in our tents and mud huts! I am thankful to say I am very well - the love of tobacco increases with the severity of the weather. The Coldstreams tell me that my place will be kept all right, so as soon as the place falls into our hands, if I am spared, I shall start home if they allow me.

W.I.M. to his Mother.

DECEMBER 22nd, 1854

W

The late mail arrived two days ago, with your letters 25th and 27th November. We have still wretched wet weather - I saw Edwin yesterday well, and he is supposed to have got a vacancy in the Light Division troop of H.A. commanded at present by Brandling. Dundas has gone home and Sir E. Lyons commands. The Royal Albert arrived with Guards, etc. No news from the front to tell you. It seems as though we had raised the seige for the present, but I hope we shall have another good smash for it yet. We hear nothing of the Robert Lowe and our parcel. I believe we are to have fur coats from Government as well as Jerseys, etc. I hope you will not overdo me with bulk of things, as we have no sort of conveyance and in any move I should leave or lose most of the things. A water proof mackintosh sheet is useful. Haghagy got into trouble and I have parted with him. Very foolish and ungrateful of him and he will deeply regret his conduct - Lots of writing paper to be bought here, in fact, almost anything. I am quite well, sick of bad weather and inaction. We made a reconnaissance from here two days ago and drove in the Cossack piquet. The French Cavalry out - five men and horses killed and fifteen of the enemy a pretty sight. Remembrances to all relations. Best love Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Copy of Capt Markham
letter rec'd Jan 2 5th

BALAKLAVA

JANUARY 1st, 1855

21

Dearest Mother,

A Happy New Year to all! As yet we have but little frost and snow, and the latter does not lie - It is now cold and raining. I yesterday got your letters of December 13th and by the same mail one from Lord Strafford, saying as I expected, that I must join the 1st Batt. before Sebastopol, as soon as I was gazetted, so you will not see me this winter at least. If I had come home, I should have felt small and disappointed at not going through with our work. As things are at present, the siege seems at a stand still, and I can tell nothing of the plans in view. The Russians still fire heavily, and we do not reply to it - my blanket coat comes in well. No wooden huts yet, we got a few stores today issued, and I have got a Zouave hard at work at my chimney, which heretofore has never failed to smoke me out. I got to Balaklava to the Service on Xmas Day. On Saturday, we made another reconnaissance in force, and drove some Russians from their position, burnt their huts and advanced into some beautiful country, very satisfactory. The French Artillery fought a pretty little action for an hour, but we were not called into play, and watched it all. Not much loss that I hear of, probably only a few casualties and some horses killed. You need not send such little things as Lucifers, etc. All can be got here now, though at high prices. I will send my sketches and first volume of my journal, which will not be so interesting as the present, and is private - a hum drum diary from February 24 to September 14th. Thynne and I had our Xmas dinner and asked Captain Marryatt, Agamemnon marines and

JANUARY 1st, 1855

his sub - Potted Salmon, Soup, Goose and a Plum Pudding; not so bad!
and tonight we dine with them. He has a hut and fireplace, and our
tent^d pit is damp and cold. We are all most anxious about Austria.
Omar Pasha is here, or about here, and we hope that the Spring Campaign
will finish all. Some talk much of peace, they say the Russians are
wanting to give up, if allowed to retire from the Crimea with honours
of war.

I must write to Newdigate who is still at Scutari and see if he
can get any of my things from Grace at Constantinople. Thank Aunt Mary
for her nice long letter. I will write to Farnborough shortly. We are
by degrees getting more comfortable.

JANUARY 5th. Deep snow, almost frozen. Ink freezes in my pen - no huts.

BALAKLAVA, JANUARY 18.

23

We have had much snow and severe cutting weathers but today it is fine and thawing; only one real good fine day like Canada. High winds, the snow driving in and filling our tents and huts - wretched work. Lots of things are now being issued out to the troops, and they are most grotesque looking figures in every sort of sheep skin coat, Grigos etc. from Trieste, Servia, etc. but we still want big boots much - Lord Raglan and his staff are most indignant at a cutting tirade against them in the TIMES of December 23rd, but the article is much approved of out here. I know nothing of Alfred's movements. I was amused at the extract from his letter - every one says he is a good straight-forward boy, and he has a good character. I saw Edwin 2 days ago, he is quite well and warmly clad for the Artillery have had good supplies. I believe there will be seal-skin coats out soon for the Officers. My friend Jervis Smith and St.Leger Glyn of Lombard Street have arrived here to manage about the supplies from the yachts, etc. and Algernon West is here on his tour. Thanks for the poetry, the Grenadiers Song is good and soldier like.

I must look out and try and pick up a horse or two now that I am going to the front again but they are now difficult to get and little to feed them upon.

W. Mure has luck in getting his good company, in fact everyone is a step higher almost, and never were such times for promotion. The Russians began their New Year a few days ago by firing a most tremendous

Copy of Capt. Markham's
letter recd. March 9th

CAMP

25

FEBRUARY 19th, 1855

We have had some fair weather, and the mud has dried up for the last few days; a great comfort. Since I last wrote I rode over to Kamietsch and went on board the Royal Albert, a magnificent ship, and had an interview with Sir George Brown, offering myself as Aide-de-camp, if he had not already made other arrangements. I found he had written to a friend of his, and fancy he does not mean to take an extra; but I still have hopes. He thanked me for offering my services, and said I had a good claim. He would recollect my wishes, so I have done no harm, and he was very good-natured and gentleman-like. I also called on the Admiral, and spoke to him about Alfred. I suppose he has written to you about his accident, whilst doing some gymnastics, something about a fortnight ago. I did not see Alfred himself, as he was on board the Agamemnon, but saw Johnson, who reported well of him, and said he was perfectly well, and much grown. They say there will be no occasion to invalid him, and that every care will be taken of him. I shall go over again in a day or two, if I can. I saw Captain Mende, and heard him read his commission and address the crew. The Russians, 40,000 strong, attacked Eupatoria on the 17th, and were defeated by the Turks, and lost, I believe, 1,000. The Turks very little, but a brave Pasha was killed, and another wounded. They expect another attack there. The Valorous and Spiteful did well in shelling the Russian columns.

salvo at us for about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour at midnight, the heaviest fire I have heard I think since the 1st of the bombardments. I got the parcel from Gregory and it contained some most delectable chocolate; it was so good that I consumed my share at one sitting then and there, and if I was a few years younger would most likely have eaten Edwin's share as well. This is such a ~~h~~orrid life that I have quite given up drawing, and I have not a single representation of the Crimea which I am sorry for as they would be interesting but if ever we are blessed with these wooden houses I might attempt to do some. I expect nothing will be attempted or done now till spring, and we shall have to work on and content ourselves with skirmishes and repelling sorties till that time. Our Corporal is waiting for the letters...

The sickness amongst the men is most melancholy. The Army diminishes daily; many have been frost-bitten. The Turks die by scores and Balaklava is a horrid scene. The Surgeons say if the latter are not put out of the town, we shall have the plague soon. Scurvy showing itself ...

FEBRUARY 19th, 1855

Some gun-boats are sent down, in case of another attack. The railroad is getting on very fast. The Lowe is in, but no box yet. I have some capital boots, and socks from Duncan ; nothing yet to be got from the Crimean Fund stores. One vessel with tea and oranges has been in, and its contents issued, no potted meats, etc. Lord Blantyre's ship is in. Arthur Goodenough expects to be ordered home directly - I hope to send two large Russian shells by him. What rows are going on in the House! It is great fun to us reading all the papers; the stories and complaints are only too true. Our whole effective force is only 13,000 now, but I hope that things are now mending and beginning to look up again. I fancy we have some very cold weather yet in store for us, in March.

I am going to spend the night in Chapman's battery.

This letter is signed C.H.B. (not Markham)

RAMC 436/2
THE SISTER'S TOWER

22
BARRACK HOSPITAL, SCUTARI

14th JANUARY, 1855

Dear B.

Yours of December 14th is consolatory from your sympathy for us poor (Greek quotation here) and those other more miserable beyond Danubins and the Pontic Pool. We work on amidst this sorry sight, 4,500 sick and wounded countrymen around us: 500 of these in 2 ships, 300 at the Serai, 200 at Kuchuli (barracks up the Bosphorus), 1,000 in general hospital $\frac{1}{4}$ mile off, 2,500 here. Most of the wounded are well and gone; these are sick, pale emaciated phantoms so unlike the ruddy bright-eyed men of Alma, Inkerman and Balaklava, who never groaned or complained. Today, I stood by a Highlander, and an Irishman laid on the beach on stretchers to be borne up; and I gave them wine into the mouth, they looked up dimly; Sawney turned, but Pat said, "God bless your honours". When they get into ward, Mrs. Roberts or Mrs. Clack, gives them arrow-root and wine with a spoon; 16 milk pails full. F. Nightingale has sent out every evening with $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 bottles of wine in each - 8 or 10 are the average. The Doctors cannot succeed in stopping Dysentery, whatever drugs they try. They are worn out with exposure to cold and wet, without clothes or fire, and young lads die - 18 to 22 - will not stand it. They stretch out their hand and say sister, mother - they never groan, but most of them are scarcely sentient, and go off like animals, the mind gone before, and no apparent consciousness

14th JANUARY 1855

of what is about to happen. 1,106 were buried from October 1st to January 1st. 300 only died of wounds, and of the 1,106, 500 died in December after the camp living told on them. We have Doctors and Chaplains enough; but a confused system, everybody overdone with work; yet the main wants are attended to. But we have } where the French put one; 300 cubic feet of air per man probably instead of 800. Doctors are ill, orderlies die of low fever. Thank God we are well as yet. To walk between beds in the corridors is as familiar as between rose trees in the garden. Today, 120 went to the Crimea, 150 to England; about 100 more were received. This amount of movement is by no means unusual. About 7 services are performed and 2 sacraments. There are five Protestants and 3 R.C. Chaplains. We have no time to turn and my nerves suffer, which wastes time; but please God, we shall pull through. The TIMES story is all true from December 23rd to January 1st. It is somewhat brutally said, but the facts cannot be denied. There is a wonderful combination of mistakes and fatal ones; a want of combination of departments. Mud is the chain of the modern Prometheus Vincetus. Men have been exposed to what they cannot bear. Warm clothing is there now, and some of the houses; but the horses only suffice to take up the rations.

We saw your money in Glyn's account, it is very kind, and your village story very touching.

Yours ever,

C.H.B.

Mr. and Mrs. Bracebridge were to remove from their abode in the Hospital

You will see what a long time I have been writing this letter having sat down 100 times before I could finish, I will write again as soon as I get stamps in time and tell you more than this.

CAMP SEBASTOPOL

JANUARY 30, 1855

RAMC 436 | 3

24

Letter from Private G. Winterbourn
later of Aberford

My dear Parents,

I received your encouraging and affectionate letter with feelings of joy, and it is a great solace to us who are here to receive such consolation during our hard trials from those we love, and are beloved by. It is a long time since I last wrote to you, and that time would probably have been greatly protracted, had you not sent me postage stamps, the difficulty of procuring them being great. You will have been made aware by the public press of the proceedings of the Army, in the Crimea, and the siege of Sebastopol, therefore I need not give you any detailed account of them. However, as you desired to know if I had been in any engagement, I shall give you a brief account of the battles of Balaklava and Inkerman at which I was in the field. It was on 25th October that the former conflict took place; about daybreak the first shot was fired; I was on outlying picquet at the time and we were proceeding to the spot on which to post our videttes to watch the surrounding country, and from which we had retired nearer to our camp for the night. When, having ascended a hill near the village of Camara we suddenly came upon the vanguard of the enemy's army. We were only 18 men in all so we retired as fast as our horses could gallop, pursued by about 200 of the Russian Cavalry. We, however, proved too swift for them and gained the plain on which by this time our brigade was formed, and rejoined our

JANUARY 30, 1855

Regiment. The enemy began to open brisk fire upon the most advanced of a line of Turkish batteries, which overlooked a neighbouring plain. After a heavy cannonade their infantry advanced, charged the Turks up the hill, who remained skirmishing too long: after a few minutes struggle at the point of the bayonets the Turks gave way completely overpowered, and fled down the hill towards our camp. Instantly bringing up their artillery (Russian) upon the battery which they had taken, they opened a tremendous fire upon our brigade. Little by little we retired till we arrived in front of Balaklava. We were taking ground to the right when a strong body of Russian Cavalry advanced over the hills that ranged along the plain, we had barely time to form and front them when they were close upon us at a very short distance, the trumpets sounded for us to charge, but many thoughts darted through my mind in that short time; my first thought was that we should be cut to pieces as the enemy outnumbered us 6 to 1, and were picked troops of the Czar's Imperial Guard, consisting of Hussars and Lancers. I remembered the glorious charge of the British heavy cavalry at Waterloo against the French cuirassiers and prayed to heaven to grant us a like success. The Scots Greys in front of our column were the 1st up to the enemy's ranks and our Regt. the next, not the Cornishmen as has been reported. The enemy came on with a half singing half squalling. We by the loud hurrah which burst from the lungs of every

JANUARY 30, 1855

one in the brigade drowned it. The struggle was short but dreadful, but that short combat stretched many a brave man cold and bloody upon the plain; in a few minutes their ^h tickly _^ wedged ranks, 5 deep, began to waver and at last fairly turned and fled. It pleased God to watch over me and I escaped unharmed on that day in the fight where so many of my comrades lay lifeless and bloody. It was immediately after this that the light brigade made their fearful and disastrous charge upon the enemy's guns, and where they suffered so severely. The field after the battle presented some awful spectacle, some of the enemy had received dreadful wounds, some with heads split in two, others cut off limbs, lopped of by some strong arm, and gashes of a ghastly appearance - but I must now give you some account of our condition. You wish to know if I have got warm clothing; at the time I got your letter we had only what we left England with, and the weather was very cold and wet; for 6 weeks we were soaked to the skin every day - floundered up to our knees in mud and no dry things to change with, our tents were those we had in Turkey and Bulgaria and were worn thin and full of holes, through which the rain poured in torrents; often before I laid down my wet cloak for my bed, I had to shovel the water and mud from the place, and my only covering one single blanket, and in the morning often found them frozen stiff and snow over me. Often have I laid down with my shirt in the mud, and in the morning found it frozen to the ground, and my

JANUARY 30, 1855

limbs stiff with cold. Amidst all this we could scarcely get anything to eat, often only one meal a day, and that only hard biscuit and a bit of salt beef, as hard as wood, the rain putting out our cooking fires, which were made of what wood we could gather in the open plain and had to carry 2 men out of the tents who died during the night. I don't know how many of us ~~arrived~~ ^{Survived}. Above 70 men of the Regt. we have lost, some killed in Battle, some died of their wounds and the rest have died from hardship and exposure; out of 300 horses which left England with us 230 have died; in 9 days 93 horses died throughout the brigade - I have seen them frozen to death at the lines. Five and six in the night, some in a kneeling position just as they had been eating a few minutes before. Dead horses and unburied meet the eye at every step. It is amid such misery as this that we have passed the winter but our condition is improved for the better. We have now got 2 pairs of warm drawers, 2 prs of Socks, 2 guernseys, 2 coats, and a pair of leather gantlets lined with woolen - I am not now the same fresh and ruddy countenanced boy I once was, the hot sun of Bulgaria and the frost and snow of the Crimea have done much to alter my appearance. Every man has been weakened and reduced by hardship and we are ... but we are fast regaining our strength, and altho' I am nothing but bone and sinew hardened by exposure I am in perfect health, although being so young when I left home the campaign has been hard on me, but I thank God, I hope yet to see my native England, and to wear with pride

(Winterbourn)

-5-

CAMP SEBASTOPOL

JANUARY 30, 1855

the honours I have worked hard for, and this thought has supported me thro' all my misery. I could tell you volumes if I had time. England does not know half what her soldiers have suffered for her! We expect to be relieved in Spring and come home being cut up and useless for the field. Adieu, affecty yours

G.Winterbourn

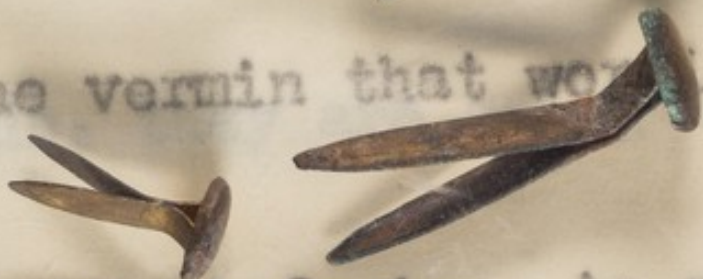
5th Dragoon Guards.

We thank England for what she has done for us, but we have done much for her.

PAPER
FASTENERS

RAWMC 436

RAWMC 436/A



... 45 miles, and very weary work on
... they travel very well. We were well
... but the weather was very hot. We
... by Major ... officer
... as comfort ... could b
... the first night ... nothing in the
... and the vermin that worried us and prevent
... had the misfortune to sleep amongst.
... days there and found a feeding place app

12th JULY

My Dearest Laura,

I think it is your turn for a letter from me, as there is a mail tomorrow here goes. I have already written since I have been here, and have not, perhaps, much to tell you beyond a wearying long journey I made on horseback up to Schumla last week. Malcolm and Capt. Forman with an Armenian syce (groom) my companions. On Monday 3rd the Light Division turned out in Review Order at three minutes' notice and were reviewed by Osman Pasha and his staff. He is a fine looking soldier about 45 and nothing to distinguish him from any other officer in the Turkish service. On the 4th we got leave and rode to Schumla, 45 miles, and very weary work on our small Eastern horses though they travel very well. We were well repaid by the fine scenery Balkans but the weather was very hot. We were shown into 2 empty rooms by Major Oakinshore a Pole, the officer commanding and made ourselves as comfortable as we could. We could hardly get anything to eat the first night as there is nothing in the way of inns or cafes there, and the vermin that worried us and prevented sleep are worse than ever I had the misfortune to sleep amongst.

We spent two days there and found a feeding place appointed by Osman Pasha for strange officers and did better. This is a curious place and though the town is very nasty and full of offal and every sort of Turkish filth, it was crowded with the wildest set of men I

ever saw. Bashi Bazouks Arabs, of Anatolia, Albanians
 and every nation of the East come to take part in the war as irregulars.
 These wild costumes and arms are splendid and I did as many sketches as
 I had time for, some of them portraits, and paid these wild fellows to
 stand for me.

They were generally greatly amused but some Bashi Bazouks indignantly
 refused the small coin I offered for reward. The position is very
 strong and we spent the best part of the 2nd day in seeing the
 fortifications. There is a fine corps of Turkish being
 raised there. We came back another way and through Paravadi; where
 I met General Beatson of the Indian Army and staff. He is going in
 command of the Bashi Bazouks. Charles Fox, his ADC ranking Major in
 the Turkish service and having the title of Bimbashi Gusuf Bey and
 I am very glad the poor fellow has got employment they will have a
 wild time of it and lots of fighting no doubt. He looks ill I think
 and does not wear his complexion of that twany red which characterises
 the Light Division. They seemed much surprised at Aschumla at our
 not having moved onwards, they are going to cross the Danube at Ruschuk
 and advance direct to Bucharest. I knew G. Rhodes formerly ADC
 on Genl Pec..... staff and he told me in about ten days they expect it
 will be our winter quarters, and I believe it is a good place but this
 war will prevent it being as lively as usual. I found 2 letters on
 my return.

We have just heard of another affair on the Danube at the
Turks losing a good many men and 3 English officers killed who led
them on, one of them poor Butler of the Engineers who I knew at
Gallipole, a fine young fellow. Lt Cardigan returned with his patrol
y'day; they have been up to Silistria and seen and
Russians and had 1 or 2 alarms in the night, but of course no fighting
as they were unsupported. They have had a rough time of it and lost
some horses from fatigue. The heat has been very great lately, glass
often from 95 to 105 in the shade for days together, so we can do little
in the middle of the day, long field days 3 or 4 days in the week,
early in the morning. My arm is well again but not strong and fails
sometimes in trying to swim..... We have no notion of what we are
likely to do.

I scribble a good deal but we are all hard up for reading. I
did much french and some german at Schumla, the latter I found I had
chiefly forgotten. Turkish not much use here in Bulgaria. The
language different. We have found out how to make a very palatable
'cup' of the common country wine.

3

William Markham to his Mother:

"I must write a letter to be ready for 5 this evg as well as I can, for with the hot wind and sand flying our tents are almost uninhabitable today and I write this squatting in a brushwood bower that we use as a sort of ante-room for papers, smoking and sleeping during the heat of the day. You will be glad to hear that your 3 sons all had breakfast together last Sunday morning. The Buff (Alfred) had contrived to get leave from his ship about Thursday. I was away back to Varna Friday and did not get back here till Saturday night, when I found he had been to see me, and went to bathe as I was away with Wm Thynan and lost one of my small stock of towels. I left this early on Sunday morning and went over to Edwin's camp where I found the Mid in E's tent. We breakfasted together at their battery mess where he had been for two days and then Edwin accompanied him to Varna to rejoin his ship, he just missed the Retribution and had to engage a small boat up to Baltshik. He is not so much grown (though a good deal) as I had anticipated, is much improved, very cocky, well dressed and gentlemanlike and I think we may look to his turning out a real sailor now as he has seen some shots fired and I shd think tho' he enjoyed his look at our camp life, he wd not now prefer it to his own.

He is extremely well spoken of and seems to know how to take care of himself by the way that he contrived to get horses lent and dine with Genl. Sir R. England at Varna when he was making a start out to see us, 20 miles, bag in hand, on foot.

I kept my birthday by a good dinner to Edwin, Wm. ? Maude failed me.

I fancy there is now a real move in prospect, we cannot find out what. Sir G. Brown is now away in the Agamemnon either to the Crimea or Circassia to see about a landing place. We rather expect to have

to take or embark at Baltchik to land in the Dobruschia and attack the Russian flank as the Austrians advance and so cut off communications from the army at Odessa, other rumours talk about Sevastopol this autumn, the latter will be an awful affair but if it is to be done, we all want to go at once; the longer delayed the worse it will be. We had orders to march in the morning tomorrow somewhere and shall be on the move again this week, but this is necessary from a sanitary point of view. There is a good deal of sickness, typhus, smallpox, besides the common low fever and cholera showing itself. 2 deaths in the 23rd last night, very quick cases, we lost one man in 8 hours at Varna, in the French camp 15 in a day. I think it is due to want of care in exercise, diet etc. We are all pretty well except for one fever case... I am pretty right and in capital health but my arm weak and from long disuse it has fallen away much. I was surprised at our friend Russell (The Times) bringing me before the public as he did.

His letters are good and amusing but slightly exaggerated regarding game shooting etc. as we can get nothing. We are living well enough and get all we could possibly expect.

JULY 28

Dearest Mother

You will like a line or two tho I have not much to tell you as I despatched a letter a few days ago. Cholera broke out in the Division last Sunday morning and one officer of 7th and from 60 to 70 men have already fallen victims to its rapid progress, hardly a case has recovered. We have only lost 2 and no cases today and the Drs hope there is a lull, but it has been melancholy work the last few days seeing so many fine fellows swept off and funeral parties continually moving with nothing but some green twigs and blankets to bury the dead in. We got sudden orders to move and on Monday morning marched on here from Devna about 6 miles as a sanitary step but we are still in the part of the country that is called the Valley of the Plague where 6000 Russians were carried off in the wars of 28 and 29, and though our position is on a hill and the scenery more beautiful than I can tell you it must be one of the most unhealthy spots in this country and I wish we were off somewhere else. Our weather is very hot but generally a good breeze and lovely and I think we all seem uncommonly well. I am thankful to say so for myself.

Sir Geo. Brown is expected very shortly from his cruise in the Black Sea and it is the general impression that we shall very shortly embark again to strike a blow somewhere. I much doubt about Sevastopol this autumn. French are embarking now and there is a move going on. We fancy that Admiral Boscot is at Anassa and a division there. The cavalry are moved I fancy to Jemersand towards Schimla. There is a good deal of sickness 600 English in hospital at Varna. The French, Turks and Egyptian allies have all suffered and lost many men. Scutari, Corfu and Malta are talked of for winter quarters. We hear the Russians have crossed the Danube again at Brailow but the French from Horteridje will cut them off. I only wish we had a chance to do something soon. The monotony and idleness of the camp is getting tiresome.

The Times letter about Allaydin overdrawn..... etc.

He had received a letter from Whitby July 6th

CAMP MONASTIR

AUGUST 8th

My dearest Mother,

I had nothing much to tell, when the last mail went, so I did not write - I thought that the sickness seemed on the decrease when I wrote, and it seemed so only for a day; and we have lost 4 officers and 148 men in the division during the fortnight - but I really believe it is better now - and we have no cases. It has been cholera of the most malignant kind, as hardly a case once really seized has recovered. We have lost our poor old pay-master NEWBURY and 12 men. It has been a sad time, quite a gloom cast over the camp. I believe the Guards division, Sir K. England's at Varna have been very bad - Colonel Maule/Joe Maule's brother/died - and some other officers; but one of the saddest things has been the death of Capt. Levinge, RHA, of this Division, who died by taking a strong dose of laudanum by mistake. We had reports 3 days ago of the capture of Cronstadt, but the mail arrived and no account of it. The Artillery marched this morning to Varna and we expect to go in 2 days. The 1st Batta arrived, and were sent back to Beicos Bay, as the Cholera was so bad ashore, and they don't disembark, but wait for the grand move that is in hand. All is kept a grand secret, but it is supposed that we shall strike a blow at Sevastopol, Anapa or Odeza, almost directly. They say that Sevastopol if attempted is to be carried by a coup de main - so we have a little excitement, and something to talk about - and relieve the monotony of this sickly camp, which during the worst part, began to feel like a sort of horrid doomed charnel house. We begin to seem a sickly set - the Col. has been very unwell, a Major ill - some seedy Captains, and subalterns, 3 of whom are already on their way home, Balfour, Alexander and young Campbell, and 2 doctors. I am thankful to be extremely well. I had an attack one night, but some opium put me to rights - though my head suffered from it, and I have been very flourishing since. Poor Newbury has left a large family - grown up daughters quite unprovided for - we raised £140 for them at once, and are going to do more after-

afterwards, the sale of his effects. realized a good sum.

The other division have moved, and I have not seen them very lately, or Edwin, these 10 days. Alfred paid him another visit from Varna and brought a young Farquharson with him. We are having extremely hot weather and are daily employed in digging field works, lines, etc for siege operations for practice. We can't make out about our Austrian allies. You seem to have thought we were engaged at Quingero, but it was only a fancy of the papers - Juni bazaar is our advanced post and the Cavalry under Cardigan are there. The heat makes one almost too lazy for anything. Sir G. Brown is away at Scutari getting the transports up. I should not be surprised if we were on board ship by this time week and I most truly hope we shall. What will become of our horses, I don't know. I don't think they will be taken.

I see Ly Erroll (Muthines) - she is intent upon going with her husband anywhere, but I hope the authorities will not hear of her embarking - to see him disembark - probably under fire -

We have got orders for the moustache movement - and have not scraped this morning.

NO. 46 TRANSPORT CALLIOPE

BLACK SEA

SEPT. 2nd.

My dearest Mother,

My last letter on the march down to Varna was very hurried, but now I will write more at length, tho' I fear my letter missed the mail leaving Baljik, as we are all knocking about the Black Sea with contrary winds and our ship close hauled. You cannot imagine with what joy the orders for our move to Varna to embark were received, and the prospect of getting away from that dreadful sickly Monastir. Thank God I have been in excellent health myself, beyond one or two touches that nearly everyone has had; but for a long time we never knew what we should do, and I used almost to fancy it was the doom for more of us to sicken and die there. The cholera I hope has passed over, we lost one man on the march, poor Tom Inglis's servant, and are all well on board ship except from a sort of fever and ague that seems flying about. I rode into Varna the afternoon I last wrote to you and saw the busy scene that was going on; embarkation of troops, seige materials, etc. I heard that Edwin embarked; the best part of the town destroyed by the great fire, still smouldering. I rode down again for late parade, and at 9 in the evening we had orders to march in the morning. Sick and weakly were ordered to remain behind, and by evening we were all embarked. My Regt. in 8 different ships, all with the Light Division artillery on board, a Company in each. I am now attached to Inglis's Company, much to my disgust at changing, but the Colonel would have it and told me he sent me there to "take care" of Tom and his Company, so it was flattering but disagreeable. . However, I hope a Marldham and Inglis being again together may be a good prestige for our luck and honour in the coming field. Captain Anderson of the Artillery is on board our ship, an old friend of mine and we are very jolly, though our Capt. is a snob and is reported for his want of manners, etc. The ship is one of the worst and the Captain was only a mate a few days ago. The late Captain having died of cholera on board, but we

- 2 -

have got this one into some order, and all goes right and the comfort of being on board ship and sea air after our late camps is almost a paradise. We all feel much better and stronger.

Poor Haggerty not very well. We expected to have gone immediately to Baldjik Bay but for some reasons or other remained in Varna Bay till yesterday morning, when we got our orders and have been beating to windward ever since and got carried right away to sea in the night, so we are not at Baldjik yet. The whole French and English expedition musters there, and in about 2 days we shall all be under weigh for the Crimea under steam. I have seen the plans and orders for landing. We are in the 1st row of ships having the AGAMEMNON and HIGHFLYER to fire over our heads if we are opposed, and to cover our landing. We have, you see, the post of honour and our (the Rifles) special duty to land and cover the Artillery, so we may have lots to do before any general action may be fought. You never saw such a sight as Varna Bay, French and English line of Battle ships, the Turkish men of war and transports without end. The force that we take I hear will be about 24,000 English, 25,000 French, 12,000 Turks or Redifs or about 65,00 soldiers. The French army has been fearfully crippled by illness and we are leaving many behind.

POSTSCRIPT

SEPT. 6. Not off yet, but we sail in the morning - signals just made. Poor Hammond is very ill of fever, and I am sent for to command my own Company, a great chance for me, but I much regret, of course, poor Hammond being unable to land. Lord Errol for a final stroke takes his wife with him to Sevastopol, I suppose he means to have shot down by his side if possible. Did you hear of such a thing? I have just got your letter of 17th August.

No more time. Again, God help you all. We have just heard of the capture of Aland. I now change my ship again. No. 21 PRIDE OF THE OCEAN, a fine vessel.

I dined with W. Armytage on board the Highflyer, also dined and slept on board the Agamemnon. Alfred very well, a fine stout boy, and looking far better than when I saw him before. I gave him what brotherly advice I could and begged him to work hard to pass for mid, as he goes for it in 2 months. Johnson says he means to pass him, but threatens him not as he does not work very hard. I got your letter and Laura's of August 10th, and of course am very anxious to hear once more before we go for this unprecedented attack on the Crimea. I fancy it will take 4 or 5 days for the whole convoy to get there together, all sailing vessels in tow. The landing is to be attempted about 7 miles north of Sebastopol. Of course, we expect to be opposed but we shall intrench ourselves as soon as possible, and then fight our way, till we can invest the great land fortress that commands the town and harbour. This they say must fall in about 12 days in the ordinary way and then the bombardment begins and I trust the place will be ours by this day month - I suppose we shall be on shore in the Crimea by 10th or 11th. The Duke of Cambridge is better and has come up from the Bosphorous, and he and Lord Raglan go in the Caradoc. Sir Geo. Brown in Alfred's ship, I believe. We are to land with nothing more than we can carry on our own backs, so I must try to get a knapsack and then we shall have 3 days biscuits and pork to carry as well. So we shall have rough work, and can have no tents probably for some time, till we have made good the landing.

5th SEPT. BALDIK. We anchored here late in the afternoon yesterday. I believe the expedition will sail this afternoon. The number of men of war and ships of all sorts swarming with troops I suppose one of the most wonderful sights ever seen - we are lying close to the flagship Brittania, Agamemnon and Highflyer close to us. The Fury took away the mails yesterday and we were too late, but I shall send this if I can on board the Flagship, from which it is sure to go the 1st opportunity. I suppose the 8th or 9th will see us ashore and operations begun - beautiful weather - we have had service in the field regularly every Sunday. I was sorry at missing the Sacramento last time. Every officer of the Regt. attended but I was obliged to be away with the horses

- 2 -

alongside for water. If there is another chance you shall hear again, but it is likely this is my last letter till we have done something. The papers seem to have anticipated matters wonderfully and I dare say you have been anxious.

Love to all at Farnborough and other relations and remembrances to friends and neighbours.

W.I.M.

FIELD OF BATTLE, RIVER ALMASEPTEMBER 21, 1854

J

Dearest Mother,

I must begin a few lines (tho' when they may be sent off, I do not know) to tell you that it has pleased God to spare me, and I believe Edwin, from hurt or death in a tremendously hot action we fought yesterday, against a large force of Russians. The victory and splendid and immensely strong position we seized have made it a most complete affair, but the carnage in some places, and loss on our side, as well as the Russians, has been awful. The Light Divn and Artillery bore the most part of it and have suffered fearfully. I have numbers of friends who this time yesterday were alive and well, and now are amongst the dead and wounded. The fire and terrific practice of the Russian grape and cannister was terrible, more awful than I can describe to you. I am now on guard over the wounded, just on the very ground where the Russian riflemen opened the action by firing into my company which was extended and covering the advance. It is a sad duty I am on, being close to hundreds of the wounded, and dying, while the surgeons are working to their utmost. The whole affair only lasted about $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours, while we seized their strong position which they had thought could have stood out for 3 days but I suppose nothing could have been hotter or more bloody for the time. I may as well tell you what happened since my last scrawl written on board ship. We were then further from Sebastopol than I thought. We stood in for some distance from Eupatoria and at 7 on the 14th the disembarkation began totally unopposed. Some Cossaks nearly got hold of Sir G. Brown, as he was reconnoitring; we pushed on, a heavy march, rain and deep ground for about 3 ? (or 8) miles, no tents, officers all carrying their knapsacks, blankets, etc. and pork for 3 days; we were sent on to form the outpost, and I advanced with my company and took possession of a village, some of the inhabitants, chiefly Krim Tartars, welcomed us, but most had fled - we then had to push on extended for $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and my company took escorted in 80 waggons, with bullocks and dromedaries, loaded

- 2 -

with provisions for Sebastopol; a good capture of great use to our army. Bivouac in a cowshed - the French came up next morning from their position and plundered the village most brutally, chiefly the Arab Corps. I was employed all the morning in trying to stop them and occupy the houses with my men, but we were sent too late to do much good - I was sent on outlying pickets then for the next 3 or 4 days. The Cossacks most nights tried to steal in, and surprise us, and we were up nearly all the nights, and no sleep, hardly worked patrolling, etc. and sometimes some firing at them - they burnt and set fire to all they could near us. I was out one night and got well peppered by the 8th Hussars who were in the dark and did not know which way they fired, but no one hurt. On the 19th we had a long march this way over a grassy steppe, and in the afternoon there was a slight affair between our Artillery and some Russians, etc. a few horses killed and 3 Dragoons lost their legs. The Russians retired and we bivouacked in the open air for the night. No wood, and we could only make grass fires. The whole length extending some miles the French on the right towards the sea - The number of fires, and the whole thing an interesting and curious sight. Under arms before daybreak in the morning (20th) we could see Russian Cavalry and Cossack scouts watching us in front. We moved out at 7 a.m. my company in front skirmishing to cover the advance. We halted when formed for 3 hours, St. Arnaud and Raglan riding about with the Staff disposing all the Division, etc. ready. We marched on about 11 and could see after some few miles the Russian Army in a very strong position in the hills over the Alma River, which lies quite in a ravine. We pushed on till we saw villages and houses in flame on the slopes towards the river. All of a sudden showers of Rifle Balls came whizzing at my men, we dashed on, returning the fire, throwing ourselves down to avoid it, till we got towards certain marks put by the Russians, when their guns opened, and the shot and shells that began to fly about soon made sad holes in the advancing lines. We dashed on with our skirmishers, and soon occupied a walled vineyard,

- 3 -

and pelted the riflemen who were annoying us from the other side of the river. Our Artillery then began and the fire kept up on both sides was tremendous. The French were attacking near the sea, 2 of our ships shelling the heights. We rested under cover of a vineyard wall for about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour, then Strington, and I shoved on thro' the thick vines with the Col, while Norcott and the left wing of the Regt. went thro' the river and occupied the other bank doing the enemy great mischief - we pushed on, under a tremendous fire, crossed the river, here in 2 streams deep to our hips; the grape cannister and round shots from the enemy's batteries whizzing by and making the river boil with terrible effect. Scores here were knocked over and wounded. Regiments crossed on our sights and we made at a strong earthwork battery, drove the enemy back, took 2 guns and occupied their work. I was nearly dead beat getting to it, the fire was awful. The Col. fell close to me, his horse shot, but he was soon up again and only grazed. We got under cover of the parapets the Russians rushing and firing at us, here numbers were killed on both sides. Suddenly a panic came that we were firing into a French Regt, the firing ceased, I saw the mistake of the Russian helmets, but an order was given to retire. There was a rush, then back to the river, which all the officers in vain tried to check. The Russians again seized their Battery and the carnage they caused as we retreated was awful. The Guards advanced in time, we rallied, cheered the men on again at the river, and again we took the place, killing numbers of the enemy. We reformed, the whole of the force in action then silenced the enemy and drove them from their position, the French doing the same on the right. The heights of the position were ours and the Artillery rattled into their columns extricating. The poor Light Div. was a skeleton of itself ! The 23rd Fusiliers lost 8 officers. You will soon see the sad losses. Our casualties I think under 100 as the Regt. was never in line or column but extended as skirmishers. I cannot speak yet about the loss. No officers killed. Lt. Errol lost part of his right hand, and behaved well. Others only scratches,

- 4 -

and some extraordinary scrapes ! We were mostly in the thick of it, and I expected every moment to be down. How I escaped I cannot tell, I believe, I worked as hard as possible. I hear poor Dew of Edwin's Battery was killed - his head shot off ! I have not seen Edwin yet. Father Ramsden all right I believe. The field afterwards was and is an awful spectacle, such horrors and sights as I was close witness of I wish could be effaced from my mind. The cheering immense after the day was over, Id Raglan loudly hailed by the men ! We are burying our dead today, and getting the wounded off to the ships - I believe we shall push on to-morrow towards Sevastopol, and I hope after this it will be an easier task - I was sent away from our bivouac late at night and had to come 3 miles here with my men dog tired and nothing to eat for 16 hours, a hard day for us. I am quite well, excepting stiffness and a sore heel. I got a knock from something and the muscle of my thigh is stiff from it, but no hurt or mark. Haggerty's rifle was shattered to pieces in his hand and the ball spout struck his knee, no worse. We are now I fancy about 12 miles from Sebastopol, and when we next engage, may God protect me as he did yesterday. I must now finish as I must send this off in case of their being a bag made up with despatches from Id Raglan. The Papers and Telegraph will most likely have told you about it before this reaches you, but you will like to hear what parts I saw and had in the action. Weather beautiful and hot, nights very wet from dew. We have lost some men since landing from cholera and Col. Beckwith had an attack the night before the battle - The 1st Battn. R.B. not engaged. Guards did well, Cavalry not engaged. I must now finish, so goodbye. God bless you all and grant we may meet again. Chas. Fox in action as a volunteer, wounded slightly in the instep - Mr. Thynne, my Sub. all right for the Harewoods - Remembrances to all friends, neighbours, etc. etc.

MARCH TO BALAKLAVA - KRIMEASEPTEMBER 28th

9

My dearest Mother,

Here we are settled down on a new base for operations after a very clever dodge that has been successfully executed by our leaders - so now we are established here and all ready to begin the attack on Sebastopol from the south side where they are not so thoroughly fortified, and everybody seems to think now that it will be a comparatively easy business, and Sir J. Burgoyne has said in the presence of Lord Raglan and the Staff that he sees nothing to prevent our walking into the place in 3 days ! After my last letters I had two more days alone at the Alma on guard over the wounded, and a more horrible piece of duty I never could have imagined. Number of the poor fellows dying, crying out to be shot and put an end to their sufferings. The place showered with corpses and limbs and heaps of dead officers. I had no doctor with me and some of my men had Cholera, and I had to treat them myself till I could get them away. Such neglect I never saw. Men of Regiments that were wounded and attached to others got no attention and were left starving and without food and numbers of them I had to see to myself. On the 3rd morning after the action we marched and I rejoined my Regt. The stench of the Battle field was awful. We marched with the French on our right to the Katochka river and encamped, a very strong position and not a Russian there, a pretty village, poplars, vineyards and grapes in abundance. 24th we marched to the Belbec near Sevastopol, a very hard march, reconnoitred so did not get some bivouac till dark. Everything late no provisions up or anything. The Cavalry went out at some Cossaks but they would not face them in the night. Some shots and a gun were fired from the French piquets, and we all got under arms but nothing turned up. We have been in advance the whole time. 25th - We marched at 8. The attack on Fort Constantine and the north side being given up, and an attempt made to get round to Balaklava, long harassing work thro scrubby oak woods with the Cavalry. Here we suddenly got into the rear guards baggage of the Russian Devn. making

- 2 -

towards Sympheropol. We got the guns and Cavalry to the front pursued and knocked them about a bit and captured several horses, much baggage, carriages, etc. and all sorts of plunder, the men getting gold lace, arms, bread, sugar, etc. A regular panic seems to have taken the Russians for they do not show anywhere and the position we have crossed are splendid. We halted after the pursuit for an hour, and then marched about 7 miles on to the R. Tchernaya, running into the harbour of Sebastopol, a long hard day, we must have marched 20 miles, and it was dark when we halted to bivouac for the night, and I had to remain on piquet to defend the main road. Marched in the morning (25th) towards this place. We extended and skirmished at some soldiers we saw retiring up a gorge in the rocky hills, and kept up a good fire for about half an hour. We then advanced through a very dangerous strong rocky defile and got to Balaklava creek where some shells were fired at us from an old castle fort over-hanging the sea. A shell broke below us but they did not attack. We are strongly posted here, but have few men and have orders to hold it to the last ! We can see the Russian's cavalry, guns and infantry below us within a mile and $\frac{1}{2}$. We are 12000 feet above the sea and have a bird's eye view of the Agamemnon and many ships at the entrance to the harbour below us, it is very exposed and cold and our tents nearly blown away.

I have got rheumatism and threatening dysentery and am anything but comfortable on the hard ground ! but such are the troubles of war ! I fear we cannot make up our minds to winter here and cannot tell how soon the beleaguered city may fall. I think it looks gloomy. We ought to have pushed our advantage after the Alma, we should have taken it then and there without our present or future loss.

Sir E. Lyons hoists his flag on the Royal Albert and I shall certainly make Alfred volunteer to go with him. He will be a great man and a valuable interest and friend for Alfred at a future day. Some chance of the Agamem. going home to be paid off and recommissioned but you must sacrifice your wishes to Alfred's future welfare.

- 3 -

Thanks to my correspondents for letters etc. etc.

We know nothing of who is killed but I write at once to you what authentic news I can and this is a blow which will be felt.

God bless you

Yr affec.

W.T.M.

SEBASTOPOLOCTOBER 3rd

Dearest Laura,

We have now been in position here before Sebastopol for three days since leaving Balaklava, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Batteries, and they keep firing shot and shells at us, but do no harm. We open the trenches tonight, and I believe begin the siege on Friday. They say it must soon fall on this side, but I do not know what to make of the north side. Sad cases of Cholera. Poor little Grant, Mrs. David Murray's brother, just died. I have written to her. I have seen Edwin and Alfred often lately - quite well, no more time. Best love, etc. W.I.M.

We have now tents for six of us after 16 nights in the open. Weather fine - hot days, cold nights. F. Ramsden in my tent just now, all right, but says he has no pens and paper.

close to Lord Raglan and staff and Stuart, and I was sent out skirmishing at the gunners and just saved having another in the middle of us. We clambered up the rocks, Brandling's troop of Artillery getting into position on the hills and firing a few pretty shots. The Agamemnon now fired from the sea and in about an hour the place surrendered. It is a strong position and we did not know what to expect of it. It was defended by about 60 men, 5 of whom and the commandant, were wounded. It contained 4 brass mortars. I captured a pony and saddle and double gun brought me by my men. We bivouaced outside and our men feasted on poultry, paper, etc. and plunder. I got a bathe and refreshed myself much. We have been tremendously had worked and I was footsore, stock-
ingless and more like an old post horse in my legs than myself. We moved to a better place yesterday close by and are waiting till the siege guns are landed. The agamemnon came in and Highflyer. I have seen Alfred and W. Armytage; got some cocoa, tobacco and brandy from them and better than all, some good socks from Mr. Johnson. I mean to

- 2 -

dine on board the Highflyer today. I am now on the beach of the creek for the men to bathe and wash their shirts. Mr. Mure close to me, all well and reports himself thro' me, but has no paper to write, so you must tell them. Poor Col. Beckwith has died of Cholera and several other officers. General Tylden, etc. and many men; much diarrhoea. It seems as if we had come in to it again, but the men have had so much fruit and grapes, no wonder. I wonder now how soon all will be over. I should be very glad of some quiet and repose, and shall be glad when Sebastopol is over, and we are making again for the Bosphorous. I trust we shall not winter here. The Russian loss at the Alma was 6,000 killed and wounded. The French 1,400 ours 2,098. Of this 1,000 in the Light Division. About 6,000 more Russians are supposed to have run away for the whole country seems strewed with their knapsacks and accoutrements. They went as hard as they could go into Sebastopol. I must now conclude as the letters are going. I have not heard of you later than 1st September but there might be some letters. When we take up our position for the siege we may perhaps get our tents - Nights cold now. Goodbye, best love, etc. etc.

W.I.M.

SEVASTOPOL //OCTOBER 12th, 1854

Dearest Mother,

No time to write and a sudden mail. I am all right, and in good health, thank God. Edwin and Alfred, I believe both well. The sickness and cholera are still very bad, and we lose men and officers sick. We are very hard-worked, and hardly any officer left. Thynne is sick with Diarrhoea, and my Company much reduced. I am now in one of the open batteries, being fired at all day and night with immense shot and shells; sorties at night etc. We never get a whole night's rest now. We have not fired a seige gun yet but are hard at work making approaches and batteries. The grand opening of the fire will be on Sunday; skirmishes take place frequently. Two men knocked down today and one of the guns nearly dismounted - hot work -

Thanks for letters of the 22nd.

Love to all

W. Markham.

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL 12OCTOBER 17th

Dearest Mother

I know how anxious you must be for intelligence of us at this time and yet excepting 2 scraps to tell you I am well and all right. I never have time for a letter, but will try to send a little more by this evening's mail.

I am quite well and hearty and so are Edn. and Alfd. tho' the fatigue and exertion we are undergoing are something more than the uninitiated people would imagine. I never now have my night in bed or rather at rest because there are no beds but the ground in these times tho' we have a tent for 4 of us and blankets enough lately. The place has been invested since the 29th ultimo and the last week the batteries have been in progress. The place cannot be attacked by a regular siege, so we have made immense batteries at a distance for the heavy long guns.

We began about 6½ a.m. and the tremendous heavy cannonade on both sides has been going on all day, the fleet being in action with the forts from the sea.

I fancy I can hear the heavy broadsides from the Agamemnon frequently but the smoke is so great we cannot distinguish. The Russian fire is much diminished and numbers of guns silenced, there have been 4 explosions, 2 French magazines blown up I am sorry to say and lately they have not fired a shot, the others in the Russian batteries.

You would never imagine such a sight or din, nothing but smoke, booming and the vicious whistling roar of the heavy shot and shell. The Russians must have suffered seriously from our fire while our casualties are trifling, we have killed and wounded every day tho' we have been exposed now for days to a dangerous and sometimes hot fire as well as at night and occasional skirmishes, I imagine our loss of life is not more than 200, tho' today's firing may much swell the numbers.

I have had several narrow escapes but they are so common one quite gets used to round shot and shell. I was struck 3 times in one day by

- 2 -

stones and dirt where the shot struck. We are out continually on picquet on covering parties to defend the batteries from sorties day and night, so the work is severe and often under heavy fire. We cannot yet tell when the assault will take place but I fancy at this rate very shortly. I wonder whether we shall have to storm. We have more work than all the rest but are not employed in digging. We are always to the front, ready to fight and defend our batteries. I continue to keep notes for my journal.

Poor Capt. Rowley of the Grenadier Guards was killed yesterday, I know him well and we are much shocked at hearing of the death of poor Lord Ed. L. Cowers from dysentery on board the Bellerophon a great friend and messmate of mine.

The Cholera seems gone but I have lost 2 of my Sergeants by it and out of 5 with us at Alma only one remains

SEVASTOPOLOCTOBER 27th

13

Dearest Mother,

We work away from our batteries, the rocky nature and form of the ground will not permit us to sap in nearer as the French are now doing. I fancy the real attack will be from this side, and ours is only meant to occupy the besieged. For the nights I had never a whole night's rest; at last got one in bed in my tent on the 19th. Poor Childers R.A. killed the other day. Col Hood and Capt Rowley, Grenr. Guards and several others killed and wounded.

Thank God my health is good and constitution seems to be of leather or I must have long ago, as others have, been knocked up... We have frequent small skirmishes etc. but on the 26th we had the most disastrous day yet of the campaign. Mensikoff and we hear Goadshaoff reorganised the scattered army and advanced on Balaclava.

The Turkish behaved infamously and ran from the redoubts, which the Russians immediately took. Through a mistake of poor Capt Nolan, who was killed, Lord Lucan ordered the Light Cavalry Brigade, 11th, 8th, 13th, 4th Lgt Dragoons and 11th Lancers to charge. Away they went most gallantly under awful cross fire of artillery and infantry and out of 800 only 200 returned the rest are utterly destroyed !!! the killed and wounded officers is terrible and some of the Regts are really no more. A sad blow to us I believe as many Russians fell and they retired so it was no defeat, but a dreadful mismanaged affair.

The heavy dragoons charged and did well at first.

The Russians are now posted in force in our rear, close to Balaclava and would cut off our port if they could. I must say I think we are in a fix and don't see our way out of it.

Depend upon it Sevastopol is not the place to fall in a day and we have plenty of hard work yet before us. The Russians continually throwing up new batteries etc. Where or how we shall winter I know not. It is useless to send for things at present tho' we are all ragged enough and some without uniforms that will hold together.

- 2 -

I must lastly tell you to cheer you that we again defeated the Russians in a good wholesome battle. They came out in force with guns from Sevastopol thinking to find us out from camp or attacking their position watching at Balaclava, they attacked our right, Sir De Lacy Evans' position at about 2 o'clock, the infantry sending swarms and thousands of skirmishers over the hills in clouds and other infantry manoeuvring wonderfully rapidly. They advanced an immense way driving in the picquets of the 2nd Divn before them and then their right, making a flank movement, threatened the 5 gun battery, where I was with my company and 2 of the 7th Fusiliers under command of Major Sir Thos. Troubridge. They opened tremendous rifle and musketry fire on us like hail for some time, which we kept returning, things began to look bad for us and we were outflanked. Sir T. Troubridge sent me to order the near by officer to be ready to spike the guns, should we be driven out and soon after that our fire made some battalions turn.

More then seemed to swarm on our right attacking us and a picquet house in a ravine next which was our powder magazine in some caves. I was ordered to charge with my company under a heavy fire and we got to close quarters with their daredevil skirmishers and killed a good many and took a few prisoners and then by our rapid and good fire turned a battalion moving to attack us and the battery. Sir de Lacy Evans was then out with his division on the hills with artillery and they were repulsed with a loss of about 500 and 80 prisoners back into Sebastopol, rather a nice afternoon's work as our loss was very trifling, 2 of our poor fellows shot, one mortally I fear. We were so close that 2 men fell by my pistol though I believe people don't generally mention these things and a bullet touched my cheek without drawing blood, just a shave and I wonder my nose was not gone. I then returned to the battery and Sir T. Troubridge approved of my company's success, we were only just in time.

On coming in this morning I found your letters of the 8th and 12th, all the Alma despatches and congratulations. We are not half properly mentioned, having stormed the right of the redoubt, and it is not even

- 3 -

mentioned, nor is the gallantry of many commanding officers and officers who did the real work - - all the staff generals mentioned - some having done nothing - a time-serving affair it is thought by many.

Accounts and descriptions are very good and also Illustrated News also the marches Balaclava etc. etc.

The letters are called for, goodbye. - - W , Hiven - Ramaden I think them well. I saw Edwin today, he was not well but better and I suppose in action yesterday

God bless you all

Yrs Affly

W.T.H.

I only wish old Dundas was superseded by Lyons, who is a real lion and would soon make short work had he command

SEBASTOPOLOCTOBER 27th, 1854

14

Dearest Mother,

Again we have only an hour's notice of a Mail going, and as I missed the last I must send you a scribble and tell you how we got on, well feeling how much you must look for our letters and authentic news. This is now the tenth day of the bombardment, a perpetual cannonade ever since I last wrote. We work away from our Batteries, and the rocky nature and form of the ground will not permit us to sap in nearer as the French are now doing. I fancy the real attack will be from their side and ours is only meant to occupy the besieged. Be that as it may, we work immensely hard, for 14 nights I never had a whole night's rest, and at last got one in bed in my tent on the 15th. Every other day going into the trenches and batteries at 3 in the morning and remaining there till 5 in the next morning and the next marching at 3 to some other battery or advanced post, and so on, and under continued fire from the immense heavy Russian artillery, both shot and shell, and wonderful escapes often enough. Poor Childers, R.A. killed the other day, Captain Rowley, Col. Hood, Grenadiers, and several others killed and wounded. Some days the casualties from shells bursting, etc. have been more than others, and I have seen much horrors in the way of mutilations and it is more horrid when in cold blood and not yourself engaged.

I believe from accounts of prisoners, deserters, etc. the town is in a horrid state full of wounded and dead often on fire and a week ago 5,000 hors de combat. However, we steadily work away at them and I suppose it is a matter of time; the fire seems to have slackened much on both sides, the strong round town on one side of the attack has fallen to pieces, a mass of ruins, and there have been several explosions. The Fleet have done nothing since the 1st day when the Agamemnon, Sanspareil, Arethusa and Albion came close in to Fort Constantine, and did much damage, but unsupported, had to go out again. Poor Albion being in tow of Firebrand, disabled and much damaged and obliged to sail for Malta, difficult to keep her afloat (14 killed) and 70 wounded on board.

- 2 -

Six casualties on board Agamemnon only. In the whole Fleet above 3 officers and 250 men I hear. I have heard nothing of Buff (Alfred) but he must be all right. We only wish that old Dundas was superseded by Lyons, who is a real Lion and would soon make short work had he command. The Cholera I hope, is gone, the last case is another poor Sergeant of mine. Now I will have lost 2 here by it already. Thank God my health is good and constitution seems to be of leather or I must long ago, as others, have knocked up. Our weather is perfect now. I suppose you have regular periodical

I hope you take the Illustrated News and keep them. I often see one of the artists and his sketches are good; I have done none lately and cannot attempt it. We shall make a battery close tonight. I see the scaling ladders being carried up - I am afraid one of our magazine is blown up.

HEIGHTS OF BALAKLAVANOVEMBER 6th 17

Dearest Mother,

There is a chance of a boat going with the despatches so I send you a line. A wing of my Regt came here to join Sir Colin Campbell's force on the heights and watch a large force of Russians below. We came here on the 3rd. Yesterday an awful battle was fought at Sebastopol, the Russians again attacking our right. They say it was as bad or worse than Alma, but as yet we have no particulars, and I can tell nothing. Five of our generals killed and wounded and Regt. and Regt. and I fear the Guards cut to pieces. The Russians tremendously beaten and retreating - no news of Edwin who must have been in the thick of it. I trust he is safe, but I am very anxious. The despatches may tell more than I can. Cathcart, Pennyfather killed (mistake Strangways), Brown, Cambridge, Bentinck and Strangways wounded. Ben Malcolm of my Regt. killed. Newdigate wounded. We have suffered much, but done I hear gloriously. I am jealous of not having been there but perhaps this has saved me, and I must be thankful. We must be in Sebastopol now directly. All going on well. I am not quite well, and have a touch of dysentery, not bad, rheumatism from being so much out at nights and weather now very cold. No more but love, your affec.

W.I.M.

NOVEMBER 7th

After writing in such a hurry yesterday, I got a letter from Edwin reporting himself all right, but not having been able to take part in the fight as he had been laid up with dysentery, but was better and Providence again seems to have ordered for the best! It seems that the Russians attacked at daylight on the same ground where we fought and beat them on the 26th, but they surprised us and were in great force, part of the Danube army under the Archduke Constantine having joined them, which had been marching 4 months, and they took us at such disadvantage

.../2

- 2 -

that the 2nd Division and Guards had to bear the brunt of it a long time before reinforced, and lost immensely. 8 Officers of the Coldstream were killed, I hear and hope that Fk. Ramsden is among the survivors. Poor Col. J. Blair killed; Cartwright of our 1st Battn killed, and Malcolm of the 2nd and Newdigate wounded in the foot. We only had 2 companies fighting and they had 33 casualties ! It seems to have been ill managed on our part, and I cannot make out who in particular commanded. So many of our Generals hit. Canrobert brought up some French and did wonders at one time of the day; the latter from 7 o'clock till 2 o'clock - our loss 1,600 killed and wounded, and they say the Russians left from 5 to 6,000 dead on the field, which with wounded would make near 20,000 and they mostly retreated to the north side, but we may expect another attack as they seem determined to fight hard for Sevastopol, which still holds out strongly and can only be taken at immense sacrifice, and then we shall only have the Town, i.e. the south side. During the action we were watching a great force close

(EXTRACTS)

HEIGHTS OF BALAKLAVA 1517th NOVEMBER, 1854

Here we are booked for the winter, and Sevastopol apparently still holds out and seems not even likely to become ours for the present. The bombardment from our batteries goes on very slowly. Sometimes only a few shots and shells are exchanged during the day. People begin to think that notwithstanding the sagacity of Lord Raglan, a younger head and a little more quickness would be an advantage. Since the 5th nothing much has occurred, excepting one or two sorties from the town against the French approaches, in which the Russians have been handsomely repulsed, with considerable loss. They seem hard at work strengthening the place still more, but reports and deserters speak of great discontent and almost mutiny in the town, and a scarcity of provisions. They are in great force in the plain below us, and an enormous quantity of field artillery. They are entrenching and hutting, and we have to watch them closely and be ready for an attack either day or night. Our position is strong, Highland brigade, Turks, 500 Zouaves and Marines, etc. We have orders to try and hut ourselves, now that the weather is getting too wild and severe for tents, but we are such a height up that we can get no proper wood, and have to burrow in to the ground for shelter. On the 14th we were visited with the most frightful storm and hurricane, ever witnessed. Our tents were mostly torn in pieces and went clear away to sea. I was buried under mine for half an hour before I could be extricated. It was impossible to keep your legs and the rain and wind such, that huge stones are flying in all directions, and the men lost their blankets, and every sort of thing. For 24 hours we had nothing to eat, no fire, no shelter. It was a most frightful thing I ever saw. 22 Transports and 3 steamers wrecked, etc. Numbers of them close below us and the loss of life frightful. Those near to Katicha were burnt by the enemy's fire-crews all prisoners. My ship PRIDE OF THE OCEAN is safe close here, but wrecked. I hope my things are safe on board. The shore is a mass of wood, and wrecks and bodies, etc. and not a ship in the snug harbour of Balaklava, but what has lost or suffered somehow. In the night it was wretched. Morning came, and

- 2 -

2 of our men were starved to death, and 3 others carried dying to the hospital. The loss of winter comforts, etc. is immense to us. We have been trying to collect our things and get square again, but for two days we were quite disorganised, men lost, etc. Edwin never started for Constantinople and is all right again. I was with him yesterday. He goes back to the front in two days. Poor Hooper is dead of his wounds.

Tell me about the Haundens. I have no more particulars. How much I feel for them and think of them. I must go to work and dig myself a hole to burrow in.

Extract from W.I.M.'s letter BALKLAVA, November 17th.

16

W. Thynne has come back well. I am quite well again, though rather inclined to rheumatic aches, after nights. I hope now to get a few more clothes and comforts from the transport. Some warm clothing of ships just arrived. There is a very cold wind up here, but weather fine now. December is a good month. The Agamemnon is round at the Chersonese. You will see some good sketches of the gale in the Illustrated, the scenes were frightful. If there was time I should have liked to have got an Australian settler's hut sent out.

It is a horrid prospect staying here. However, we must look for glory and plenty of grub.

nights cold, days awful hot and fair. Nearly every night I lie in the open air. I suppose we must have Sebastopol very soon now and wonder if we stay here for winter. Most of the Army is out and about Sympherol, and also we learn, Meshikoff. W. Thynne, we hear, is much better but not come back to us. I saw B. Wilkinson 3 days ago looking quite well. W. Mure is quite well and F. Ramsden. Eliot begs his kind remembrances, Addington etc. I dined on board the Highflyer 2 days ago and she went out of harbour to join the Fleet and I suppose is now pounding the forts of Sebastopol. The cannonade and broadsides are still roaring and tonight I shall have to be out again, I suppose in our batteries, and must try and get some dinner and a good sleep; the latter I stand in much need of. Sir E. Lyons is a great war dog, and will do anything. Old Dundas seems to funk. What think you of the accounts of the Alma which we expect to read in a few days in the papers. I shall be mighty glad when all this is over, it is hard work, but thank God I am blessed with excellent health and now there is excitement enough to carry one through anything. If I am spared to live thro' all the many dangers we have got to go thro', I will try to be with you this winter by hook or by crook. I fancy we might horse and reform our crippled army for St. Petersburg next year, but no one knows anything at present. Good-bye now, etc. etc. kind remembrances to G. Wharton, all neighbours, G. King, etc.

FROM W.I.M. LETTER - NOVEMBER 28th

18

Not much news since my last as we do not hear what goes on always at the front, tho' able to hear every shot and even musketry. Poor Tryon, what a loss. His gallant conduct has been in every ones mouth and a General Order has been issued most complimentary. What a number of my friends have fallen already. I am just come into my tent after a night in the trenches - very cold and numb hands. We have execrable weather, wind rain, incessant and thick fogs. I have been trying to house myself in a sort of burrow in the ground, but my labours are not yet complete. There are many difficulties to overcome in procuring materials, etc. The Russian force below is quiet. It was reviewed by Princes Michael and Alexander, and the men presented with a silver rouble each, two days ago, preparatory to attacking our position, but they have not come yet. Sorties from the town occur nightly, but they are always repulsed with loss, and I do not believe our casualties have been more than the ordinary routine of a siege. Everybody in better spirits, etc. A good deal of sickness, not real Cholera. They say we shall have the town by Xmas. I rode to the front the other day and notified to the Goldstream that I was about to become one of them. They think if I get Dunkellins step I should come home, but shall be made to stay here so do not expect too much. How I wish poor Ramsden had lived and have been together again. I feel it much. You have relied so much on each other for news, etc.

We are living in the greatest squalor. I have never slept except with all my clothes on since landing and often days without a wash.

W.I.M.

HEIGHTS OF BALAKLAVADecember 12th, 1854

19

Dearest Mother,

I have nothing new much to tell you since my last to Laura, but will not miss the opportunity of sending you a line or two. We have finer and more settled weather now, and one day's frost but no real appearance of winter yet. The 34th arrived a few days ago from Corfu, and I have seen Arthur Goodenough, who is commanding, twice. He is very well and in great force. He saw Edwin yesterday, employed in getting more heavy guns up to the front. The weather is getting more favourable for the roads, and I hope we shall do something more soon. Every one thinks we shall be again attacked somewhere before long, as a last effort before the severe weather sets in; but it is impossible to say how soon an assault will be attempted. None of the real authorities or engineers will express what they think, so we are all in the dark. The French keep steadily on; but they have got to rock and the work proceeds very slowly; but when in about another week we put all our new guns and large mortars into position, I hope the look of things may change, but the Russians are determined. A large army occupies the hills on the north, over the Inkerman valley, and they still are doing all they can to strengthen the place. We are getting continual reinforcements. There was some sharp fighting last night, but we have not heard the result. A week ago the Vladimir and another steamer came out of Sebastopol, and actually did the French attach some damage before they were driven back by the Valorous - this looks like a want of care on the part of our naval people. I have not heard of you since my last, and the mails have been much delayed, but we hear that the mail should be out today, and containing despatches of the battle of the 5th November and Lord Raglan's new rank of Field Marshal. The 90th are come and I saw Jocelyn Pennington yesterday; he is coming up to the hills to see me today. We are at work building a new redoubt to strengthen our position. I hear we are to have some wooden houses sent out soon, they will be much wanted, long before they arrive. I saw my name figuring in a Times letter of the 18th, but I hear better

- 2 -

mentioned in some other paper. I expect not to hear about my new corps till after Xmas now, and Mr. Thynne and I have got a pet goose, which we are endeavouring to pamper with our biscuit rations, with a view to our eating our Xmas dinner off him.

I have got my fire to do better, and we are pretty smug excepting in storms, which are so frequent here. It is a splendid morning down below, but here we are on the hill tops, like a thick November day, in dense fogs, and can occasionally see the camps and sunshine far below us.

Deserters come in to us, and tell stories of awful starvation among their troops, and that the Cossacks are robbing and plundering the Tartars to a terrible extent. W. Mare has had a touch of jaundice but I saw him yesterday and he is better. I met Gibson, poor P. Ramsden's soldier servant (he was at Busa with him). He had been wounded in the hand himself, earlier in the day, but was with poor Fred when he died. He had been mortally wounded through the stomach at first, and when the Guards were surrounded and repulsed, just before the French came up, he could not be got off the ground, and suffered the terrible treatment I told you of. His last words, poor fellow, being, I heard "Tell my father that I died doing my duty". I have told Gibson, that if I can manage it, I will take him into my service when I join them. The poor Ramsdens, how much I feel for, and think of them! I am extremely anxious about my change, and fear that others should be put over me for waiting when I ought to have got some places up at once. Our 2nd draft has not yet arrived, so I have not got your things yet, and heard nothing of Gregory's parcel. No more news I think at present, so good bye and a happy Xmas to you all. God grant that we may meet somehow before long, but I am not too sanguine about that yet. My best love to all and remembrances to friends etc.

Your affects son,

W. Marldham.

From: W.I. Maridham to

DECEMBER 17th, 1854

L.E.F.M.

I have not heard of or from you for nearly three weeks. The weather is so bad we shall be very uncertain in post regularities as well as our siege operations. I rode to the front three days ago and saw Edwin and all the new works on the Interman hills. The general impression is that after another regular severe bombardment for three days the assault will take place at any cost. The ships are said to be going to attack again and we shall carry the place or get licked, it just comes to that now. We may as well storm at once and lose life in attempting it (if we attempt it we must succeed) as remain almost inactive, losing the number of men we do. I am not exaggerating when I tell you that our poor soldiers are dying like rotten sheep. It is not cholera but fatigue and exposure to the awful wet weather we have had for the last six weeks; they return from their duty in the batteries and trenches to their tents and lie down to die ! This they do without complaining. It is melancholy work. We had far better try the assault. We had two inches of snow yesterday and are as wet and wretched as may be in our tents and mud huts ! I am thankful to say I am very well - the love of tobacco increases with the severity of the weather. The Goldstreams tell me that my place will be kept all right, so as soon as the place falls into our hands, if I am spared, I shall start home if they allow me.

20

The late mail arrived two days ago, with your letters 25th and 27th November. We have still wretched wet weather - I saw Edwin yesterday well, and he is supposed to have got a vacancy in the Light Division troop of H.A. commanded at present by Brandling. Dundas has gone home and Sir E. Lyons commands. The Royal Albert arrived with Guards, etc. No news from the front to tell you. It seems as though we had raised the siege for the present, but I hope we shall have another good smash for it yet. We hear nothing of the Robert Love and our parcel. I believe we are to have fur coats from Government as well as Jerseys, etc. I hope you will not overdo me with bulk of things, as we have no sort of conveyance and in any move I should leave or lose most of the things. A water proof mackintosh sheet is useful. Hagharty got into trouble and I have parted with him. Very foolish and ungrateful of him and he will deeply regret his conduct - Lots of writing paper to be bought here, in fact, almost anything. I am quite well, sick of bad weather and inaction. We made a reconnaissance from here two days ago and drove in the Cossack piquet. The French Cavalry out - five men and horses killed and fifteen of the enemy a pretty sight. Remembrances to all relations. Best love Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

January 1st, 1855

21
40

Dearest Mother,

A Happy New Year to all ! As yet we have but little frost and snow, and the latter does not lie - It is now cold and raining. I yesterday got your letters of December 13th and by the same mail one from Lord Strafford, saying as I expected, that I must join the 1st Batt. before Sebastopol, as soon as I was gazetted, so you will not see me this winter at least. If I had come home, I should have felt small and disappointed at not going through with our work. As things are at present, the siege seems at a stand still, and I can tell nothing of the plans in view. The Russians still fire heavily, and we do not reply to it - my blanket coat comes in well. No wooden huts yet, we got a few stores today issued, and I have got a Zouave hard at work at my chimney, which heretofore has never failed to smoke me out. I got to Balaklava to the Service on Xmas Day. On Saturday, we made another reconnaissance in force, and drove some Russians from their position, burnt their huts and advanced into some beautiful country, very satisfactory. The French Artillery fought a pretty little action for an hour, but we were not called into play, and watched it all. Not much loss that I hear of, probably only a few casualties and some horses killed. You need not send such little things as Lucifers, etc. All can be got here now, though at high prices. I will send my sketches and first volume of my journal, which will not be so interesting as the present, and is private - a hum drum diary from February 24 to September 14th. Thynne and I had our Xmas dinner and asked Captain Marryatt, Agassimon marines and his sub - Potted Salmon, Soup, Goose and a Plum Pudding; not so bad ! and tonight we dine with them. He has a hut and fireplace, and our tented pit is damp and cold. We are all most anxious about Austria. Omar Pasha is here, or about here, and we hope that the Spring Campaign will finish all. Some talk much of peace, they say the Russians are wanting to give up, if allowed to retire from the Crimea with honours of war.

I must write to Newdigate who is still at Scutari and see if he can get any of my things from Grace at Constantinople. Thank Aunt Mary for her nice long letter. I will write to Farnborough shortly. We are by degrees getting more comfortable.

JANUARY 5th. Deep snow, almost frozen. Ink freezes in my pen.-- no huts.

THE SISTER'S TOWERBARRACK HOSPITAL, SCUTARI14th JANUARY, 1855

22

Dear B.

Your of December 14th is consolatory from your sympathy for us poor (Greek quotation here) and those other more miserable beyond Damubins and the Pontic Pool. We work on amidst this sorry sight, 4,500 sick and wounded countrymen around us: 500 of these in 2 ships, 300 at the Setai, 200 at Kuchuli (barracks up the Bosphorus), 1,000 in general hospital $\frac{1}{2}$ mile off, 2,500 here. Most of the wounded are well and gone; these are sick, pale emaciated phantoms so unlike the ruddy bright-eyed men of Alma, Inkerman and Balaklava, who never groaned or complained. Today, I stood by a Highlander, and an Irishman laid on the beach on stretchers to be borne up; and I gave them wine into the mouth, they looked up dimly; Sawney turned, but Pat said, "God bless your honours". When they get into ward, Mrs. Roberts or Mrs. Clack, gives them arrow-root and wine with a spoon; 16 milk pails full. F. Nightingale has sent out every evening with $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 bottles of wine in each - 8 or 10 are the average. The Doctors cannot succeed in stopping Dysentery, whatever drugs they try. They are worn out with exposure to cold and wet, without clothes or fire, and young lads die - 18 to 22 - will not stand it. They stretch out their hand and say sister, mother - they never groan, but most of them are scarcely sentient, and go off like animals, the mind gone before, and no apparent consciousness of what is about to happen. 1,106 were buried from October 1st to January 1st. 300 only died of wounds, and of the 1,106, 500 died in December after the camp living told on them. We have Doctors and Chaplains enough; but a confused system, everybody overdone with work; yet the main wants are attended to. But we have 3 where the French put one; 300 cubic feet of air per man probably instead of 800. Doctors are ill, orderlies die of low fever. Thank God we are well as yet. To walk between beds in the corridors is as familiar as between rose trees in the garden. Today, 120 went to the Crimea, 150 to England; about 100 more were received. This amount of movement is by no means unusual.

- 2 -

About 7 services are performed and 2 sacraments. There are five Protestants and 3 R.C. Chaplains. We have no time to turn and my nerves suffer, which wastes time; but please God, we shall pull through. The TIMES story is all true from December 23rd to January 1st. It is somewhat brutally said, but the facts cannot be denied. There is a wonderful combination of mistakes and fatal ones; a want of combination of departments. Mud is the chain of the modern Prometheus Vinctus. Men have been exposed to what they cannot bear. Warm clothing is there now, and some of the houses; but the horses only suffice to take up the rations.

We saw your money in Glyn's account, it is very kind, and your village story very touching.

Yours ever,

C.H.B.

Mr. and Mrs. Bracebridge were to remove from their abode in the Hospital

23

BALAKLAVA, JANUARY 18.

We have had much snow and severe cutting weathers but today it is fine and thawing; only one real good fine day like Canada. High winds, the snow driving in and filling our tents and huts - wretched work. Lots of things are now being issued out to the troops, and they are most grotesque looking figures in every sort of sheep skin coat, Grigos etc. from Trieste, Servia, etc. but we still want big boots much - Lord Raglan and his staff are most indignant at a cutting tirade against them in the TIMES of December 23rd, but the article is much approved of out here. I know nothing of Alfred's movements. I was amused at the extract from his letter - every one says he is a good straight-forward boy, and he has a good character. I saw Edwin 2 days ago, he is quite well and warmly clad for the Artillery have had good supplies. I believe there will be seal-skin coats out soon for the Officers. My friend Jervis Smith and St. Leger Glyn of Lombard Street have arrived here to manage about the supplies from the yachts, etc. and Algernon West is here on his tour. Thanks for the poetry, the Grenadiers Song is good and soldier like.

I must look out and try and pick up a horse or two now that I am going to the front again but they are now difficult to get and little to feed them upon.

W. Mure has luck in getting his good company, in fact everyone is a step higher almost, and never were such times for promotion. The Russians began their New Year a few days ago by firing a most tremendous salvo at us for about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour at midnight, the heaviest fire I have heard I think since the 1st of the bombardments. I got the parcel from Gregory and it contained some most delectable chocolate; it was so good that I consumed my share at one sitting then and there, and if I was a few years younger would most likely have eaten Edwin's share as well. This is such a horrid life that I have quite given up drawing, and I have not a single representation of the Crimea which I am sorry for as they would be interesting but if ever we are blessed with these wooden houses I might attempt to do some. I expect nothing will be attempted

- 2 -

or done now till spring, and we shall have to work on and content ourselves with skirmishes and repelling sorties till that time.

Our Corporal is waiting for the letters...

The sickness amongst the men is most melancholy. The Army diminishes daily; many have been frost-bitten. The Turks die by scores and Balaklava is a horrid scene. The Surgeons say if the latter are not put out of the town, we shall have the plague soon. Scurvy showing itself...

You will see what a long time I have been writing this letter having sat down 100 times before I could finish, I will write again as soon as I get stamps in time and tell you more than this.

CAMP SEBASTOPOL

JANUARY 30, 1855

24

Letter from Private G. Winterbourn

later of Aberford

My dear Parents,

I received your encouraging and affectionate letter with feelings of joy, and it is a great solace to us who are here to receive such consolation during our hard trials from those we love, and are beloved by. It is a long time since I last wrote to you, and that time would probably have been greatly protracted, had you not sent me postage stamps, the difficulty of procuring them being great. You will have been made aware by the public press of the proceedings of the Army, in the Crimea, and the siege of Sebastopol, therefore I need not give you any detailed account of them. However, as you desired to know if I had been in any engagement, I shall give you a brief account of the battle of Balaklava and Inkerman at which I was in the field. It was on 25th October that the former conflict took place; about daybreak the first shot was fired; I was on outlying picquet at the time and we were proceeding to the spot on which to post our videttes to watch the surrounding country, and from which we had retired nearer to our camp for the night. When, having ascended a hill near the village of Camara we suddenly came upon the vanguard of the enemy's army. We were only 18 men in all so we retired as fast as our horses could gallop, pursued by about 200 of the Russian Cavalry. We, however, proved too swift for them and gained the plain on which by this time our brigade was formed, and rejoined our Regiment. The enemy began to open brisk fire upon the most advanced of a line of Turkish batteries, which overlooked a neighbouring plain. After a heavy cannonade their infantry advanced, charged the Turks up the hill, who remained skirmishing too long; after a few minutes struggle at the point of the bayonets the Turks gave way completely overpowered, and fled down the hill towards our camp. Instantly bringing up their artillery (Russian) upon the battery which they had taken, they opened a

tremendous fire upon our brigade. Little by little we retired till we arrived in front of Balaklava. We were taking ground to the right when a strong body of Russian Cavalry advanced over the hills that ranged along the plain, we had barely time to form and front them when they were close upon us at a very short distance, the trumpets sounded for us to charge, but many thoughts darted through my mind in that short time; my first thought was that we should be cut to pieces as the enemy outnumbered us 6 to 1, and were picked troops of the Czar's Imperial Guard, consisting of Hussars and Lancers. I remember the glorious charge of the British heavy cavalry at Waterloo against the French cuirassiers and prayed to heaven to grant us a like success. The Scots Greys in front of our column were the 1st up to the enemy's ranks and our Regt. the next, not the Cornishmen as has been reported. The enemy came on with a half singing half squalling. We by the loud hurrah which burst from the lungs of every one in the brigade drowned it. The struggle was short but dreadful, but that short combat stretched many a brave man cold and bloody upon the plain; in a few minutes their thickly wedged ranks, 5 deep, began to waver and at last fairly turned and fled. It pleased God to watch over me and I escaped unharmed on that day in the fight where so many of my comrades lay lifeless and bloody. It was immediately after this that the light brigade made their fearful and disastrous charge upon the enemy's guns, and where they suffered so severely. The field after the battle presented some awful spectacle, some of the enemy had received dreadful wounds, some with heads split in two, others cut off limbs, lopped off by some strong arm, and gashes of a ghastly appearance - but I must now give you some account of our condition. You wish to know if I have got warm clothing; at the time I got your letter we had only what we left England with, and the weather was very cold and wet; for 6 weeks we were soaked to the skin every day - floundered up to our knees in mud and no dry things to change with, our tents were those we had in Turkey and Bulgaria and were worn thin and full of holes, through which the rain poured in torrents; often before I laid down my wet cloak for my bed, I had to shovel the water and mud from the place, and my only covering one single blanket, and in the morning often

- 3 -

found them frozen still and snow over me. Often have I laid down with my shirt in the mud, and in the morning found it frozen to the ground, and my limbs stiff with cold. Amidst all this we could scarcely get anything to eat, often only one meal a day, and that only hard biscuit and a bit of salt beef, as hard as wood, the rain putting out our cooking fires, which were made of what wood we could gather in the open plain and had to carry 2 men out of the tents who died during the night. I don't know how any of us survived. Above 70 men of the Regt. we have lost, some killed in Battle, some died of their wounds and the rest have died from hardship and exposure; out of 300 horses which left England with us 230 have died; in 9 days 93 horses died throughout the brigade - I have seen them frozen to death at the lines. Five and six in the night, some in a kneeling position just as they had been eating a few minutes before. Dead horses and unburied meet the eye at every step. It is amid such misery as this that we have passed the winter but our condition is improved for the better. We have now got 2 pairs of warm drawers, 2 prs of socks, 2 guernseys, 2 coats, and a pair of leather gauntlets lined with woollen- I am not now the same fresh and ruddy countenanced boy I once was, the hot sun of Bulgaria and the frost and snow of the Crimea have done much to alter my appearance. Every man has been weakened and reduced by hardship and we are... but we are fast regaining our strength, and altho' I am nothing but bone and sinew hardened by exposure I am in perfect health, although being so young when I left home the campaign has been hard on me, but I thank God, I hope yet to see my native England, and to wear with pride the honours I have worked hard for, and this thought has supported me thro' all my misery. I could tell you volumes if I had time. England does not know half what her soldiers have suffered for her ! We expect to be relieved in Spring and come home being cut up and useless for the field.

Adieu, affecty yours

G. Winterbourn

5th Dragoon Guards.

We thank England for what she has done for us, but we have done much for her.

GAMP

February 19th, 1855

25-

We have had some fair weather, and the mud has dried up for the last few days; a great comfort. Since I last wrote I rode over to Kamietah and went on board the Royal Albert, a magnificent ship, and had an interview with Sir George Brown, offering myself as Aide-de-camp, if he had not already made other arrangements. I found he had written to a friend of his, and fancy he does not mean to take an extra; but I still have hopes. He thanked me for offering my services, and said I had a good claim. He would recollect my wishes, so I have done no harm, and he was very good-natured and gentleman-like. I also called on the Admiral, and spoke to him about Alfred. I suppose he has written to you about his accident, whilst doing some gymnastics, something about a fortnight ago. I did not see Alfred himself, as he was on board the Agamemnon, but saw Johnson, who reported well of him, and said he was perfectly well, and much grown. They say there will be no occasion to invalid him, and that every care will be taken of him. I shall go over again in a day or two, if I can. I saw Captain Hends, and heard him read his commission and address the crew. The Russians, 40,000 strong, attacked Eupatoria on the 17th, and were defeated by the Turks, and lost, I believe 1,000. The Turks very little, but a brave Pasha was killed, and another wounded. They expect another attack there. The Valorous and Spiteful did well in shelling the Russian columns. Some gun-boats are sent down, in case of another attack. The railroad is getting on very fast. The Lowe is in, but no box yet. I have some capital boots, and socks from Duncan; nothing yet to be got from the Crimean Fund stores. One vessel with tea and oranges has been in, and its contents issued, no potted meats, etc. Lord Blantyre's ship is in. Arthur Goodenough expects to be ordered home directly - I hope to send two large Russian shells by him. What rows are going on in the House! It is great fun to us reading all the papers; the stories and complaints are only too true. Our whole effective force is only 13,000 now, but I hope that things are now mending and beginning to look up again. I fancy we have some very cold weather yet in store for us, in March.

I am going to spend the night in Chapman's battery.

ZENIKALI, CRIMEAMAY 26

Dearest Mother,

Here we are after a jolly and bloodless campaign. After closing my last the disembarking began. The Gunboats and steamers went in and cleared out a few Copacks, about 60 Cavalry and 6 or 8 field pieces. A few shots were fired by the French Chasseurs and a Copack or two paid for their temerity in staying to fire some hay, etc. with their lives. We all got ashore by dark, and stores, Artillery, etc. during the night and took up a position. During the afternoon the Russians blew up the magazines, etc. at the batteries, and Fort Paul, Kertch and Quarantine, the explosions were grand. The Genl. and staff took up quarters in a charming little country house with grounds, gardens, etc. but the French had pillaged and gutted every room. Early yesterday morning we marched and captured Kertch destroying and burning the stores and foundry without opposition. The town is handsomely and well built, and numbers of the Tartars and Greek and Russian Jews remained and bowed and shewed great respect to us, getting water for the troops, etc. We marched in great state through the town, leaving all alone and no plundering or sacking. The day became scorching hot. We passed and occupied the Quarantine, and visited the Magazines blown up and batteries - fine buildings and got possession of this place by 1 p.m. yesterday. This is a poor small place, but some farm houses and a large old

.../2

- 2 -

Genoese Castle with Russian barracks, stores, hospital, etc.

The town is rather knocked about by the fire of the gun boats, and was immediately sacked, destroyed and plundered by the French, and some of course of our people. We could not stop it; such a sight of mischief, drunkenness, smashing and wild plunders I never beheld - a poor Highlander of the 42nd was shot by a Frenchman and another wounded. They afterwards set the town on fire in two places - it was not subdued till this morning. We have taken about 50 or more pieces of cannon, some of their splendid guns. Our small steam fleet has got into the Sea of Azov and (will ?) attack Arabal and also destroy or capture all the Russian war steamers, ships, etc. that have escaped up there. W. Armytage I saw, and is with them all under command of Captain Lyons, the Ad Miranda. It has been a brilliant affair altogether and very good fun.

We are taking several prisoners by degrees. The men suffered a good deal in the march from want of water, and sun, but we have no sickness to speak of. It was one of the most tiring and longest days I ever passed, and I had to sit up with the Genl. writing and copying his despatch till long after midnight, and also had to ride out afterwards with orders about stopping the fire's progress. We are pretty well put up here in a Russian house, but the heat is fearful and we have nothing wherewith to slake our thirst; water good very scarce. We shall stay here till we have fortified the place sufficiently for

- 3 -

Raschid Pasha to hold it with his Turks, and then we shall embark.

Billy Gill and horses quite well. Some few articles of plunder have fallen to my share among them a case with gilt saints, etc. and a shrine which would have been destroyed by the French - saved by Gibson. Several Russians were here, speechlessly intoxicated and wounded by the explosions of their Magazines. I hope this will have a good effect. We won't do them infinite mischief by cutting off their supplies. The Snake Gunboat had a very pretty action with some Russian steamers and captured a small one, others are abandoned and by the enemy themselves. I am hoping for a thunderstorm and rain to cool us. We do not expect to be attacked at present but cannot tell. Our position is strong and supported by small steamboats and gun boats. All the troops and inhabitants left on our approach, and retreated towards the interior and Sympheropol. (Simferopol) Banshee leaving with post so Sir G's despatch to Lord Raglan is a good account.

Your affec. Son

W.I.M.

PRAYER FOR THE ARMY IN THE CRIMEAW. P. MANN

God of mercy, truth and love;
Hear us from Thy realms above!
To our army now abroad
Thy protecting arm afford.
In the battle's bloody field
They the sword of justice wield;
Crown their arms with great success
and the cause of England bless.
For their country's right they stand
In a distant foreign land;
Be their guard by day and night
And for England's army fight.
If Though go not with our host
All their labour will be lost;
Israel's God their Captain be
Lead our troops to victory -
And on Victory's palmy day
Then may mercy bear the sway;
Each to others be a friend
Till all wars and bloodshed end.
Bless our Queen be Thou her guide
England's glory, England's pride,
To her Council wisdom give
Long may Queen Victoria live

TO FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

If ever Saint obeyed the great command
"Leave all and follow me", If ever hearts
Acted in love, the high and holy part
Of good Samaritan, from land to land
That praise is thine, O Lady, and thou art
Truly the crown of Christian womanhood
With tender eye, and ministering hand
Going about like Jesus, doing good
Among the sick and dying. What a scene!
Of wounds and writhing pain and hideous throes
for thee to dwell in. O! thou Martyr^s Queen
Calm dove of Peace, amid War's vulture work
Soothing their Fury by thy looks serene
And lulling agony to sweet repose.

M.F.I.

February, 1855.

THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADEby ALFRED TENNYSON

Half a league, half a league,
 Half a league onward,
 All in the valley of Death,
 Rode the six hundred
 Into the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred.

For up came an order which
 Someone had blundered
 "Forward the Light Brigade"
 "Take the Guns" Nolan said
 Into the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred.

Forward the Light Brigade
 No man was there dismayed
 Not though the soldiers knew
 Someone had blundered
 Theirs not one to make reply
 Theirs not to reason why
 Theirs but to do and die
 Into the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them
 Cannon to left of them
 Cannon in front of them
 Volley'd and thundered
 Stormed at by shot and shell
 Boldly they rode and well
 Into the jaws of death
 Into the mouth of hell
 Rode the six hundred.

Flashed all their sabres bare
 Flashed all at once in air
 Sab'ring the gunners there
 Charging an army while
 All the world wondered
 Plunged in the battery smoke
 With many a desperate stroke
 The Russian lines they broke
 Then rode they back, but not -
 Not the six hundred

Cannon to right of them
 Cannon to left of them
 Cannon behind them
 Volley'd and thundered
 Stormed at with shot and shell
 While horse and hero fell
 Those that had fought so well
 Came from the jaws of death
 Back from the mouth of hell
 All that was left of them
 Left of six hundred

Who can their glory fade?
 O! the wild charge they made!
 All the world wondered.
 Honours the charge they made
 Honours the Light Brigade
 Noble Six Hundred.

22nd January, 1855

the 20th SEPTEMBER, 1854

AS WRITTEN AND SUNG BY CORPORAL JOHN BROWN, GRENADIER GUARDS,
28 SEPTEMBER, 1854

Air: The British Grenadier

Come all you gallant British hearts, that love the red and blue,
And drink the health of those brave lads who made the Russians rue,
Then fill the glass and let it pass, three times three and one more
For the twentieth of September, eighteen hundred fifty four.

We sailed from Kalaminta Bay, and soon we made the coast,
Determined we would do our best, in spite of brag or boast
We sprung to land, upon the strand, and slept on Russia's shore
On the fourteenth of September, eighteen hundred fifty four.

We marched along until we came upon the Alma's banks,
We halted just beneath their lines to breathe and close our ranks,
"Advance!" we heard, and at the word, across the brook we bore,
On the twentieth of September, eighteen hundred fifty four.

We scrambled through their clustering grapes, then came the battle's brunt,
Our officers all cheered us on, our colours waved in front;
There, fighting well, full many fell, alas! to ride no more,
On the twentieth of September, etc. etc.

The French they had the right that day and flanked the Russian Line,
Whilst full upon their front they saw the British bayonets shine.
We gave three cheers, which stunned their ears, amidst the cannons roar,
On the twentieth of September, etc. etc.

A pic-nic party Menschikoff had asked to share the fun,
The ladies came at twelve o'clock to see the battle won.
They found the day too hot to stay, and the Prince felt rather sore,
On the twentieth of September, etc. etc.

For when he called his carriage up, the French came up likewise,
And so he took French leave at once, and left them to the prize.
The Chasseurs took his pocket book, the Zouaves they sacked his store,
On the twentieth of September, etc. etc.

A letter to old Nick they found, and this was what it said.
"To meet their bravest men, my Leige, your Russians do not dread"
But devils them, not mortal men, the Russian generals swore,
Drove them off the heights of Alma in September Fifty-four.

Here's a health to noble Raglan, to Campbell and to Brown,
And to all the gallant Frenchmen who share that day's renown.
Whilst we displayed the black cockade and they the tricolour
The Russian hue was black and blue in September Fifty-four.

One more toast we must drink tonight - your glasses take in hand,
And here around the festive board in solemn silence stand;
Before we part, let each take heart, drink once to those no more,
Who fought their fight on Alma's height in September fifty-four.

And now God bless our gracious Queen, and all her royal race;
And may her boys, to crown her joys, still keep the foremost place;
For in the van, each Englishman oft saw their sires of yore, -
Brave Cambridge showed the royal road in September Fifty-four.

IN MEMORY OF CAPTAIN ARTHUR WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN
 OF THE 23rd WELSH FUSILIERS, WHO FELL AT ALMA
 "THERE LAY COLONEL CHESTER AND FOUR OF HIS GALLANT
 OFFICERS WITH THEIR FACES TO THE SKY"

MORNING PAPER

"HE HAD GONE RIGHT UP TO THE GUN"

PRIVATE ACCOUNT

When from grim Alma's blood-stained height
 There came the sound of woe
 And in thy first and latest fight
 That noble head was low.
 Fond hearts that writhed beneath the blow
 Were tortured with keen thirst to know
 How, ere their loved and lost one bled
 By fate's cold hand the gloomy thread
 Of that last hour was spent.
 And yearnings from thine English home
 Bounded acrop the ocean foam
 "where did ye find my son?"
 The answer - from that fatal ground
 Came pealing with a trumpet sound
 "Close to the Russian gun"
 "With many a gallant friend around him"
 "In one proud death t'was thus we found him"
 "His look though soft was calm and high"
 "His face was gazing on the sky"
 "As if he said - 'Man cannot die' "
 "Though all below be done"
 "Thus was it that we saw him lie"
 "Beneath the Russian gun"
 Right up the hill our soldiers sped
 No hurrying in their earnest tread
 The iron thunder broke in storms
 Again and yet again
 On their firm ranks and stately forms
 It did but break in vain
 Though yet untrained by war to bear
 The battle's deadly brunt
 The ancient heart of Wales was there
 "Hell rushing to the front
 Their blood flowed fast along those steeps
 But the proud goal was won
 And the moon shone on silent heaps
 Beyond the Russian gun
 T'was thus with friends he loved around him
 Among the foremost deas they found him
 Oh! there are bitter tears for thee
 Young sleeper by the Eastern Sea
 Grief that thy glory cannot tame
 It will not cease to ache
 Ang anguish beyond any name
 In hearts that fain would break
 Still thy brave bearing on that day
 Sends those pale lips its strength to pray
 "Thy Will, o God be done"
 "We low before Thy living Throne"
 "And thank Thee for the Mercy shown"
 "Even when Thy message dread was thrown"
 "Forth from the Russian gun"

continued...

No agony that gasps for breath
Lengthened the hopeless hours of death
No quenchless longing woke in vain
For those he ne'er would see again
By noble thoughts and hopes befriended
By honour to the last attended
His haughty steps the hill ascended
At once - his hand and brain reposed
At once - his dauntless life was closed.
One mystic whirl if mighty change
One sea-like rush if blackness strange
And all the roaring tumult dim
Was cold, and blind, and still for him.
Pain cannot reach or fever parch
Now that his course is run
And ended that majestic march
Up to the Russian gun
For there with friends he loved around him
Serene as sleep, the searchers found him
And still for ever fresh and young
His honoured memory shall shine
A light that never sets among
The trophies of his ancient line.
Yes - though the sword may seem to kill
Each noble name is living still
A ray of glory's sun
And children of a future day
Each in his time shall proudly say
"I hear the name of one"
"Who in that first great fight of ours"
"Against the tyrant's lawless powers "
"Upon the red Crimean sod"
"Went down for Liberty and God"
"Close by the Russian Gun"
For there with friends he loved around him
Among the free-born dead they found him.

F.H.Doyle.
11th October, 1854

7

THE BATTLE OF INKERMAN

Dark storms swept o'er the barren lea
Dark rolled the rapid Tchernaya;
And thick the Russian Squadrons lay
As Autumn leaves on Inkerman.

There was no sign, no warning note;
No tongue disclosed the deadly plot
The sleeping Allies little thought
The foe was then at Inkerman.

Saw ye the flash that lit the vale?
Heard ye the crash of shot and shell?
Not all shall tell that evening's tale
Who met that morn at Inkerman.

Hail, heroes all, ye noble few
Keen were your swords, your aim was true;
What more could mortal powers do
Than ye have done at Inkerman.

Here France hath bound the wreath of fame
Round her imperishable name;
Her sons like a devouring flame
Rushed on the foe, at Inkerman.

There I beheld on Akbar's height
The Rangers foremost in the fight
Wreath, wreath their brows with laurels bright
Their arms were strong at Inkerman.

The Coldstream Guards as lions stood
Stained with the spray of hostile blood
Like rocks they spurned the rushing flood
And rolled it back on Inkerman.

There in the reeking jaws of wars
The lion gored the grizzly bear
Long may his crown its laurels bear
The Laurels won at Inkerman.

Jan.27.
From the Canada Hamilton Spectator.

LORD RAGLAN

In the cold grave, where we have buried him
Two armies weeping for the chief of one
Let Raglan rest, nor ask who hurried him
To his repose ere yet his work was done.

We may not seek to know if lying lips
Ever untrusted when slander may be spoken
Which strove in vain his glory to eclipse
Had power to kill, when the strong frame was broken.

These is no theme for us, Let those who lied
Against his greatness answer it to God.
He heard their calumnies with silent pride
Who sank to rest upon the Tartar's sod.

In his great master's school, he had been taught
How envious folly ever follows fame,
Hissing its idiot scorn at those who've fought
To save the land from bondage and from shame.

Nor will their late remorse who did the wrong
Attain the ear now dull to mortal breath
Nor the vain praise of those who silent long
With wordy grief, profane a hero's death

A nobler requiem shall soothe his rest,
His Monarch's tears, his warrior's rugged grief.
And their stern vow to do his high behest
Nor shame the spirit of their glorious chief.

W.W.F.S.

THE HERO OF BALAKLAVA

I sing of the Hero of Balaklava fight
And the Band of Light Horsemen who dashed in their might
Thro' the ranks of the foemen who stood all aghast
At the daring do deed and shrank from the blast.

"Let the horsemen advance at the full of their speed
"And cut off the rear of the foe and his steed
"Go, Cardigan, charge, let the dauntless lead on"
The words were scarce spoken when lo! they were gone!

Tho' the fire of the guns and the rifles as hail
Fell in showers that might well make the stoutest heart quail,
Yet onward they went as the feathers on down
In the place of round shot, and the Minie had flown!

"Tis done, the din of battle's o'er!
That feat of arms both hosts appalled!
They gazed in silence, fought no more
E'en death was with his victims stalled.

The welcome the Hero of Balaklava home!
Old England shall greet him with honour and glee!
Home, never more prized by the thousands who roam
Than by him who hath fought that that home may be free!

January 27th
in Leeds Intelligence.

LORD RAGLAN VISITING FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE
ON THE GENOESE HEIGHTS, BALAKLAVA, MAY 23rd

Upon yon crag where towers the castle high
 O'er sea and harbour dark against the sky
 Or sunset beams or moonlight's paler ray
 Where booms the cannon, dashes high the spray.
 On that wild terrace, beetling o'er the main
 Where rose the shrieks of Britain's shipwrecked slain
 What pine-built hovels stand. The soldier's home
 sent by his Queen, 'tis here the wounded came
 And who is with them? She came to save
 Is prostrate now needing the aid she gave
 The maiden leech the mother of the grave
 Who is it in plain garb, who asks to see
 Her whom he honours fevered though she be?
 Denied all entrance by the kindly nurse
 It may not be e'en for himself t'were worse.
 Whose is the armless sleeve, who grey head bends
 o'er that rude couch? whose gallant hand extends
 To the first sister. There a father stands;
 He begged for entrance who a host commands
 Not Israel's judge, not Sparta's hero king
 Whom priests record and classic poets sing
 Breathed o'er the self-devoted such a prayer
 As rose to Heaven from that brave chieftan there
 T'was heard, and Florence lives.

BALAKLAVA, MAY 25th

The firing of the guns in the trenches is distinctly heard
 day and night on the heights, six miles distant.

The prince and other ships were wrecked at the Base of the Castle Rock.