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## DIARY OF THE SIEGE.

(From Correspondents of London Journals.)

July 29.—A reconnaissance was made by the cavalry on the 29th beyond Baidar, to investigate the probable force of the Russians in that quarter. By all accounts the allies deceive themselves with respect to the Russian forces in the Peninsula, they being neither so numerous in men or artillery as our late commander used to suppose. [The formation of the southern portion of the Crimea affords in many places great advantages to those who remain merely on the offensive, as our position on the heights of Sebastopol and the present position of the Russians in the pass of Mackenzie's Farm.] There are two passes leading from the plains of the Tchernaya, to the steppes of the Northern Crimea. Both of these can be held by a small force against one greatly its superior, and unfortunately the Russians have been beforehand with us in holding them both. Another pass is spoken of by the Tartars, but it does not present sufficient facilities for the transport of artillery, and yet Hannibal brought elephants over the Alps. Towards the side of the town resting on the Karabelnaia ravine, the Russians are endeavoring to strengthen it sufficiently with batteries in order to prevent a recurrence of the *coup de main* in that quarter. There is now little doubt that if the attack by General Airey had been seconded by reinforcements and simultaneously with the attack on the Redan the result would have been successful; and as for the oft-repeated excuse that the Redan is untenable unless the Malakoff is first taken, our engineers seem to be undecided on this point, as there is no point from which they can have a good view of the relative positions of one towards the other unless it be from the north side, and this land is at present in the power of the enemy.

July 30.—There has been a remarkable change in the state of the weather. The morning of the 28th instant was ushered in by violent showers of rain, which soon converted the ravines into so many channels for scarcely passable torrents. Heavy showers have continued to fall at intervals since, and the water reservoirs are again filled. The springs afford an abundant supply, and the restrictions, which a few days since were obliged to be adopted on account of the prevailing drought, have consequently been removed. The rain ceased on the 30th, and towards night the atmosphere exhibited a considerable amount of electric disturbance. The lightning was incessant, but consisted chiefly of "sheet lightning," and was not attended with thunder. The rain has been followed by the appearance of a few cases of cholera among the regiments in front. The troops generally are, however, enjoying good health, altho' instances of fever and dysenteric disease are continuing to occur. Since the sortie of the 23rd inst., nothing of importance has occurred. The casualties continue much as before, not heavy, although some days unlucky, and on the night of the 28th the Guards had 25 or 30 men killed and wounded. But, however unimportant, in a siege of ordinary duration, would be the usual daily loss here experienced, in one so prolonged as that of Sebastopol it becomes a serious consideration, especially when taken in conjunction with the loss from disease. This, I am glad to say, diminishes. Cholera cases have become very rare. Fever and diarrhoea are what most prevail, but not by any means to an alarming extent. Upon the whole, the sanitary condition of our army must be deemed satisfactory—far more so than many predicted that it would be at this season. It appears to me that more might perhaps be done by others than the medical department to sustain the health of the men. I have been told of instances in which sufficient care is not taken to save them, as far as possible, from exposure to the burning sun and chilling dews, which here produce such pernicious effects.—Thus may the difference that exists in the sick returns of different regiments or batteries be partly accounted for. One hears of men brought to Sunday parade in full dress, and fainting in the ranks from heat and fatigue. This is obviously not a season or a spot for the rigid carrying out of certain military practices which, in other climates, may be proper and desirable. Rations continue abundant and of excellent quality. The cleanliness of the camp is well attended to. The generally healthy condition of the troops has doubtless been favored by the weather, which lately has been wholesome, if not altogether pleasant. I rode this morning through a part of the French camp, reported to be usually not very fragrant in its exhalations, and I was agreeably surprised by the absence of evil odors. Considering the quality of the soil, it seems unaccountable that our authorities do so little in the way of road-making.—One would imagine they anticipate continual summer, or deplorable before winter arrives. While the French have made excellent roads, in our camp one sees mere tracks. As for the much-vaunted Balaklava

railway it will be useless within a short time after the bad season sets in. It is a very convenient summer construction, but the ground on which it rests will be converted into mud by the winter's wet. On the morning of the 30th, it was observed from the right that some Russian working parties in large bodies were moving toward the Bastion du Mat, and notice was sent of the observation to the French authorities on the left. A tremendous fire was at once opened by our allies, and the bombardment was kept up for two hours. The Russians at first replied with very great vigor, but the superiority of the French fire was subsequently strongly marked, and toward the conclusion the enemy's guns were nearly silent. In the afternoon, the French sprung a powerful mine, apparently near the salient angle of the Flagstaff Battery. Lines of earth were projected into the air to a great height, and a dense column of black smoke immediately followed the explosion.

July 31.—Soon after 5 o'clock this morning a most violent storm of wind and rain commenced, and continues as I write. It will cause, I fear, much discomfort, if not actual damage, in the camp, over which it rages with a combined fury and duration which I do not remember to have seen surpassed.—The firing during the last few days has been far more lively than for some time; this increased firing, however, a defensive rather than an offensive character. The Russians, seeing our works daily approach closer to theirs, are trying by their single gun practice to annoy us. The orders have accordingly been given to return the fire from our batteries whenever it becomes too annoying. Once already this was tried before, and it moderated somewhat the ardor of the Russian gunners. This is the second trial, which I hope will be not less successful in insuring us a little respite, for, somehow or other, the less we fire the better is the Russian gun practice, and vice versa.—But no firing of the Russians, be it good or bad, slight or heavy, is able to impede the progress of the works. The surface of the ground in the neighborhood of the Malakoff works and the Redan is presenting every day a more checked appearance. It is one mass of trenches, traverses, rifle pits and batteries—a perfect maze, so that it requires a strongly developed organ of locality, or else many days of trench duties, to find one's way. The railway is perhaps the best test of the gigantic activity which is prevailing; numbers of mortars and large quantities of ammunition come up daily by it, and vanish away again silently, to be replaced next day by others. It is as if the trenches were an unathomable abyss, such an incredible mass of mortars, guns, shells, and shot, do they seem to swallow up. I heard a few days ago from a French officer of artillery, that Pelissier, being asked when offensive siege operations would be again resumed, said—"Well, I don't know; the Russians are losing every day 300 or 400 men by sickness. If we wait a week they will have lost a brigade, if we wait a month they will have lost a corps d'armée." But, if the Russians lose many men by sickness, they seem to be careful to replace them again. The French have not advanced any further towards the enceinte of the Malakoff, but they have been busily occupied in extending and deepening the approaches already made. The trenches are now sufficiently wide for the troops to stand four deep under cover from direct fire. The moon was full on the 29th instant, and the nights have been sufficiently clear for working parties in front to be immediately perceived by the enemy. A newly-placed gabion becomes at once the signal for a terrific discharge of grape and small shells. The same causes have acted in preventing the sap from being extended toward the Redan.—When they will be satiated, and when the word "enough" will be said, seems as uncertain as Crimean weather. The enemy has executed a counter-approach, the object of which has been puzzling many of our engineers. On the night of the 28th the Russians were distinctly heard working, about the Korniloff bastion, as it was supposed, by the French in the advanced approaches on the Malakoff. When daylight appeared, however, it was observed that a deep trench had been cut in the glacis, at right angles to the great ditch around the Malakoff works.—It was almost directly opposite to the salient angle of the Korniloff bastion, communicated with the ditch by an opening in the counterscarp, passed through the abattis, and was extended in a direction towards the nearest point of the French approach. This passage, which seems to be very deep, decreases in breadth as it recedes from the ditch. The earth has been thrown up on either side, so as to form two parapets, and the whole has the appearance of one of those covered passages known, in the language of fortification, as a double "caponniere." But what the object of it is in the present instance is not very apparent. Whether intended to counteract any supposed mining in that direction, or to be used as a passage for sallying out against the besiegers, is a

matter of surmise. Since the night of its first construction it has been deepened, but in other respects it remains, as far as can be seen, in the same state in which it was when first observed.

August 2.—The recent rains have brought a slight return of cholera. The day before yesterday the 72nd buried 10 men, dead of that complaint, but the 72nd has a recent arrival out here, and may therefore be expected to suffer more than others. As a general rule, wet appears to bring cholera, and heat dysentery. At present there is little fever. The sanitary state of the French army is, so far as I can ascertain, pretty satisfactory; there is some cholera, but not to a great extent, and it seems chiefly consequent on severe duty in the wet trenches. An officer came off that duty at 4 o'clock on yesterday morning, and at 8 he was a corpse. To-day, riding along the Woronzoff road, I overtook a French battalion returning from duty in the trenches—their clothes, from head to collar, and their muskets, smeared and begrimed with mud. They marched briskly enough, but one poor fellow, who hung in the rear, at last fell by the roadside, deadly sick—the sweat literally raining from his face. The Russian steamers continue to annoy our allies in the night-time with grape. The French are constructing batteries to command the Russian fleet, and so to facilitate an attack on the Malakoff.

The following is the latest despatch from General Simpson, dated August 4th:—

My Lord—I have the honor to acquaint your lordship, that on the night of the 2nd instant, between ten and eleven o'clock, the enemy made a sortie, in considerable force, by the Woronzoff road. The strength of the enemy was calculated to be about 2,000.—Their object was to destroy a heavy iron *chevaux de frise* across the Woronzoff road, between the right and left attacks, being further supported by heavy columns in the rear, to take advantage of such circumstances as might present themselves.

They came on with loud cheers and bugling, and were received with great gallantry by our advanced regiment, under the command of Lieutenant R. F. Carr, of the 39th regiment, who withdrew his men firing at the same time upon the enemy—to the main body, under the command of Captain Leckie, 39th regiment. A heavy and well-directed fire was opened upon the enemy by the party under Captain Leckie on the Woronzoff road, as also by the guards of the trenches upon the right of the fourth parallel, under the command of Captain Boyle, 89th regiment, and Captain Turner, 1st Royals, which, in about ten minutes, caused the enemy to retire from an attack which, if it had not been so well met, might have been a serious affair. The enemy left four men killed, and some hundreds wounded, and many were also carried away. We have one man slightly wounded in this affair.

I have the satisfaction of informing your lordship of the return to this army of Captain Montague, of the Royal Engineers, from being a prisoner of war. He expresses himself grateful for the kindness with which he was treated by the Russians during his captivity. It is with great regret that I have to communicate to your lordship that Lieutenant-General Sir R. England, G.C.B., has been compelled, upon the recommendation of a medical board, to return to England. Sir R. England was the last general officer who left the United Kingdom in command of a division. He had remained at his post throughout the heats of Bulgaria, and the severities and hardships of the winter's campaign in the Crimea, and great credit is due to this officer for the constancy and untiring zeal he has exhibited in carrying out arduous and difficult duties.—I have, &c.,

JAMES SIMPSON.

Casualties from July 20th to August 2nd, inclusive—Total—Twelve rank and file killed. One officer, three sergeants, eighty rank and file wounded.

The following account of the positions and works of the besiegers and besieged before Sebastopol, is extracted from the *Presse d'Orient*.—The lines of the allies, which daily encompass more and more the fortifications of the place, extend at present from the entrance of the Quarantine Bay to the extremity of the harbor of Sebastopol, at the mouth of the Tchernaya. The left attack, which is especially directed by the French, begins at Fort Genois, on the sea coast, and ends at the ravine of the English. There are accumulated stupendous works, which are chiefly cut out of the rock, and remarkable for their admirable execution. The trenches, covered with batteries, run parallel with the fortifications defending the city of Sebastopol properly speaking, which rises behind it, round a considerable Mamelon, separated from the works of defence by a space of ground, intersected with ravines, of more than one league in breadth. This explains why, after a fire repeatedly opened by the besiegers with extreme violence, no house or edifice has been damaged in the place. The fortifications, scientifically erected by the enemy, and

which hitherto served so efficiently as ramparts to the besieged, consist of four principal forts or bastions. The Quarantine Fort, bathed by the sea, communicates with the Quarantine Bastion by a crenellated wall of more than half a kilometre in length. In front of that wall stand several batteries and redoubts, flanking each other, the principal of which are the Red Fort, the semi-circular Black Batteries, erected on rocks, to the right of Quarantine Bay, to the left and in front of the Quarantine Bastion. The same bastion is connected with the Central Bastion by a crenellated wall at the foot of which runs in a parallel line a deep ravine separating it from the Cemetery. The Central Bastion does not communicate with the Flagstaff by any crenellated wall, nor by any continued works. The deep and narrow ravine between these two bastions is defended by a system of batteries, the cross fire of which protects the entrance of the ravine, which is barely wide enough to admit the passage abreast of six or eight men. Its sides, moreover, are so steep that it is impossible to scale them. The Flagstaff Bastion itself rests on the ravine of the English. There, several batteries, systematically planned, defend its right flank, and can at the same time support the batteries of the Great Redan, attacked by the English. It is against this vast system of fortifications our left attack is directed, and we have erected there works truly gigantic, both from the difficulties presented by the ground in which we operated, and their extent, and which so closely hem in the place that the distance separating them from the enemy's lines varies from 50 to 120 yards at most. Fifty-six batteries are established in the most advantageous positions offered by these immense works. They are all constructed with extreme care and with remarkable solidity, particularly the battery No. 28, which is most exposed to the cross-fire of the left front of the Central Bastion, of the batteries of the crenellated wall, and the right front of the Quarantine Bastion. It mounts ten 30 pounders and four 22 inch bowitzers. The centre attack, confided to the English, extends on the right of our left attack, from the ravine of the English to that of Karabelnaia. Their parallels develop themselves opposite the fortifications of the Great Redan, which protects the quarters of the sailors and the barracks of the Arsenal. In front of us the Russians are masters of the entire vast system of fortifications which protect the southern part of Sebastopol. That system, beginning at the entrance of Careening Ravine, extends to that of Karabelnaia. It consists, on our right, of a semi-circular battery, with the sea in its rear, on the left declivity of Careening Ravine; of two small batteries established on the gable ends of two white houses, which sweep all the approaches of the ravines and up to the trenches; of another semi-circular battery, with the sea in its rear, mounting 30 guns, any flanked on both sides by a steam frigate. The battery is connected with the right front of the Malakoff Tower, from which it is distant about 700 yards, by a series of small batteries, flanking each other. At the foot of the angle of the right front of Malakoff are several rasant batteries, of which the fire was so disastrous to us on the 7th and 18th of June. The means of defence of Malakoff itself have been of late considerably increased—a deep fosse with a parapet, behind which are three rows of batteries rising one above the other, constitutes the first line of defence. In the interior are *places d'armes*, protected by bomb-proof lodgments, in which the riflemen are posted. These lodgments are curiously constructed—some of them are in masonry, and covered with gabionades; others are mere pits dug in the ground and covered with enormous trunks of trees, placed one over the other and capped with gabions full of earth.—One can conceive the difficulty even for large projectiles to damage such lodgments. Several covered ways lead from the *places d'armes* to the second Redan, which is equally defended by a fosse and two tiers of guns. This second Redan encloses the culminating point on which formerly stood the Malakoff Tower, at present a heap of ruins. But the Russians have established above those ruins a battery of field-pieces, commanding all the *places d'armes* and covered ways, into which it can pour grape, as was the case on the 18th of June. Such were at that date the internal defences of Malakoff. The enemy has not remained idle since then. Exteriorly, from the left front of Malakoff Bastion, extends a system of fortifications called the Little Redan, which connects the Malakoff with the Lunette, an immense work, dominating the Karabelnaia ravine, which suddenly turns at the foot of that fortification and passes behind the great Redan, attacked by the English. We are now laying a regular and methodical siege to all that system of fortifications, which is positively admitted to be the real key of the south of Sebastopol. Our trenches, boyaux, and parallels have already acquired an extraordinary development. Previous to the 6th of June, they did not extend on our right more than 18 kilometres. They have at