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OUR SERVICE CONTEMPORARIES.

By the death of Commander Younghusband, at the early age of 44 years, the country loses one of its most distinguished officials. As superintendent of the Royal Gun Factories at Woolwich, he showed the highest professional and scientific attainments. In fact, it is scarcely too much to say that he was probably the best gunnery officer in the navy. Before his appointment to Woolwich, Commandria Younghusband was assistant to the Director of Naval Ordnance at the Admiralty. He was gunnery lieutenant of the Inflexible at the bombardment of Alexandra, and afterwards took an important part in the operations with the armoured train, which were so effective, pending the arrival of our troops, in keeping the enemy in check. It will be remembered that during the bombardment one of the 80-ton guns of the Inflexible became hopelessly choked, and there was

every prospect of its being thrown out of action. Younghusband, however, caused himself to be rammed right up the bore until he reached the powder chamber, when he was able to remedy the defect, after running considerable risk from the noxious vapours in the gun.

The champion recruiter of the British army is Sergeant G. Ellison, of the Medical Staff Corps, Rochester-row, Westminster, who has recruited and passed into the service during the last two years no less than 1,289 recruits. The sergeant has been commended for his energy by his superiors in high quarters of the service.

The brave fellows of the Italian 4th Bersaglieri have made a remarkable march. Starting from San Remo, under full weight of accoutrements, baggage, and arms, and led by Captain Campo, they marched 20 miles of mountain paths and 21 miles of high road at the rate of about 3 1/4 miles an hour. During the march they met with a storm of rain, wind, and snow. The march was interrupted by a long and a short halt, which took 6 hours 50 minutes. On returning to San Remo, the company formed in line, and the men and their captain were highly complimented by General Boido, a eulogium repeated next day by General de Sonnaz, who said he had never known of a similar march in 49 years of service. The height at which the company arrived on the mountains was about 5,000 feet.

Private W. Hardwell, No. 5,930, Medical Staff Corps, writes to the "Times," from Abourkir Camp, near Alexandria, stating that whilst digging near the camp he discovered the skeleton of a man apparently over 6 feet in height, the right leg amputated above the knee. On the chest was a round gold locket of 1 1/2 in. diameter, containing a lock of hair, and inscribed:—"I desire that this locket shall be buried along with me." Reference to the file of the "Times" shows that Col. Charles Erskine, of the 92nd Highlanders, lost his leg at the battle of Mandora on the 13th March, 1801. By the courtesy of the Adjutant-General, we have ascertained that Col. Erskine was

returned as killed in the action of the 13th, and was probably "buried somewhere in the position taken up by the army on the night of the 13th March, which is described as 'with its left to the canal of Alexandria and its right to the sea, about a league from the town of Alexandria.'" In "Burke's Landed Gentry," under "Erskine of Cardross," we find:—"Charles, lieutenant-colonel 92nd Foot, in the expedition to Egypt, under Sir Ralph Abercromby, mortally wounded at the landing of the troops at Alexandria, 13th March, 1801, and died, unmarried, two days after."

The Russian Government is making every effort to hurry on the works which go to make the port of Sebastopol a great arsenal and naval depot. It is stated that the progress made during the past half-year has been very great, and that the number of workmen employed in making the requisite changes has been largely increased. The development of Russia's naval power in the Black Sea during the past five or six years has been so great that the shipbuilding and dockyards at Nicolaiuff are inadequate to the demands made upon them. It is intended to construct docks and yards of greater dimensions at Sebastopol, and the work is even now so far advanced that the authorities hope to be able to lay down in them two ironclads and three cruisers in the course of the next twelve months. These vessels will be of large size, and are intended to reinforce the Black Sea fleet. The whole of Russia's naval power in the Black Sea is undergoing reorganisation at the present time, and when the work is completed the command of the littoral will be held by the Governor-General of Sebastopol. This office has hitherto been filled by a military officer of high rank, but in future it will be committed to a naval officer, with the title of Commander-in-Chief of the Black Sea Fleet.

Colonel H. Ricardo, Grenadier Guards, has again been appointed to command the troops at the Bisley meeting of this year. Captain H. R. S. Cotton, Adjutant of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion Oxfordshire Light Infantry, will be Camp Ad-