

him. He was killed, as were many of his followers, the survivors regaining the crest in small scattered bodies. This crest, now bare of defenders, was occupied by Russians, one battalion facing eastward to surround our men who were still fighting lower down, when at this critical moment the French arrived on the crest, and drove the Russians back.

#### FIFTH ATTACK.

Covered by a heavy fire from one hundred guns on Shell Hill, six thousand Russians advanced against the allies, who now numbered five thousand. The first line of eight battalions in company columns came on from the Quarry Ravine, neglecting our right near the Sandbag battery, now held by a French battalion and a few men of the Rifle Brigade; this, the most determined attack of the day, was pushed home in echelon from the Russian right against our left, and up the main road against our centre. The enemy's columns penetrated our left, took and spiked some guns, bayonetting the gun detachments, who at first in the fog mistook the enemy for our men, and the Russian leading battalions were again fairly on the crest for a time. Just before the supporting Russian columns came up the English and French advanced and drove back the foe. The French, whose aid, offered early in the fight, had been declined by the officers commanding the Light and 4th Divisions, but whose help had been invoked later by Lord Raglan, were now in force on the ground, and, after some hesitation arising from various causes, were helping our soldiers. Two horse batteries went well down the crest to the east of the Post Road, and thence fired on the Russian guns on Shell Hill, though not without suffering great loss.

From the right attack batteries we were enabled to inflict severe losses on the enemy. The two roads near the mouth of the Careenage Ravine are very steep, that on the south exit being taken up ground which rises one hundred yards in four hundred, and reserves of men and ammunition were therefore sent by a track which passes east of, and then south of the Mamelon, till it descends by a valley running back northwards into the Careenage Ravine. As we did not then realize how the Russians were cramped by the ground, we at first imagined that the columns we saw were destined to turn our flank, and the guard of the trenches being inadequate for its protection, our position appeared precarious as the sound of the firing on the heights trended further southward. Six guns were run back to fire along the flank; spikes were issued, and the men shown the direction of retreat.

The head of the Russian column of men and wagons turned eastward at a point three hundred yards south of the Mamelon, and disappeared, but it was doubtless soon halted, for those behind remained for a long time exposed to our fire at fifteen hundred yards range, until, under its pressure, they melted away. I saw one of our guns pitch a shell into a powder wagon, destroying all the men and horses near it.

The Russians endured this destructive fire with resigned courage, their comrades in the Malakoff and Redan doing all they could to help them by concentrating fire on those guns of ours which were causing so much destruction.

The last attack by Dannenberg was delivered soon after noon, and shortly after 1 p.m. the Russians retired from Shell Hill, unmolested except by artillery fire.

The Russians lost two hundred and fifty-six officers and twelve thousand men, a large proportion being left dead on the field.

The allied losses, each nation having brought about eight thousand men on the field of battle, were:—

	Killed.	Wounded.	Totals.
English—Officers	39	91	130
Other ranks	558	1,670	2,228
French—Officers	13	36	49
Other ranks	130	750	880

Pauloff's men closed more resolutely with ours than Soimonoff's, but then the ground over which the troops advanced was very different. Pauloff's men had a steep climb, it is true, but whether they ascended the Quarry Ravine, or coming from Shell Hill crossed the ravine, they were scarcely punished at all until they reached their foes, and the nature of the ground enabled them to get within charging distance of our men before they saw each other. Then the weight of numbers told; each Russian company column had from one hundred and twenty to two hundred men, and in many cases was met by small parties of from fifteen to twenty Britons. That these were not annihilated was owing to the unskilful leading of the Russian officers, and the indomitable courage of our soldiers of all ranks.

Soimonoff's men were subjected to terrific slaughter before they got within charging distance, and under conditions most unfavorable for success. They were crowded together on a narrow neck, where bushes which did not shelter, yet broke the ranks. Their formation was so deep, that many of the hard-hitting Minie bullets went through half-a-dozen men. Then as some disorganized survivors approached the crest above them, they saw what in the fog doubtless appeared to be a serious entrenchment, and they were suddenly assailed by a confident soldiery who rushed at them, cheering with shouts of victory, as if they were but the advance of strong supporting bodies hidden be-

hind the crest. It is remarkable that small parties of our soldiers charging in line seldom failed to push back heavy columns, and it was only when the sheer weight of numbers stayed the onset of our troops that they were in turn driven back. So great is the moral effect of an aggressive movement!

When our officers and non-commissioned officers were shot down, groups of privates banding together under some natural and self-elected leader of men, would rush forward on the foe, and in the Naval Brigade we heard next day that Captain Peel had led seven such separate attacks.

### The Strength of the Army.

The returns of the strength of the regular army at the close of the year show that there are now rather more than 222,000 officers and men on the regimental rolls, and including the first-class army reserve of men who have been thoroughly trained within very recent years, and who are liable to be called up for service at any time, the full strength of the regular military forces is about 303,000 men. These, however, include the West India regiment, the Royal Malta Artillery, and a few corps raised in other parts of the world for special local duty, but who, of course reduce the demands upon the ordinary troops. Of the 222,000, about 106,000 are quartered at home, nearly 78,000 being in England and Wales, 3,800 in Scotland, nearly 26,000 in Ireland, and the remainder in the Channel Islands, a very large proportion of those in England being quartered in the southern parts, and convenient for the prompt mobilisation of an army corps at short notice. The Colonies and Egypt take the services of nearly 38,000 troops, and 78,000 are in India and Burma. The Egyptian Garrison absorbs quite 5,000 British soldiers of all kinds, beside the many British officers who are attached to the Kedive's forces, either to train or command those native levies; and in the Mediterranean Malta has a garrison of 8,500, besides the small force kept in Cyprus. Hongkong has a force of about 3,500, which, however, it is probable may be increased; Bermuda and the Straits Settlements have each about 1,500, Canada has only about the same number; South Africa, 3,400; the West Indies, 3,000; Ceylon, 1,700; and the remainder of those troops on colonial duty are spread over the West Africa settlements, Mauritius, and St. Helena, Australia containing no Imperial troops. The 78,000 British troops in India, beside the great native army, are reckoned under three heads—the Bengal establishment, accounting for 48,500; the Madras and Burma, for 14,500; and the Bombay, for 13,300—the remainder requisite to complete the 78,000 being accounted for as on passage either from or to home. In England the greatest aggregation of troops is at Aldershot, which has 16,000 in its division, and the next district in point of military strength is the Southern, including Portsmouth, which comprises more than 9,000. The Home District (including London and most of the Household troops) numbers over 8,000, the other districts reckoning—the North-Eastern, 4,800; the North-Western, 5,500; the Eastern, 5,300; the Western (Plymouth and Devonport), 7,000; the Thames (Chatham), 4,800; the South Eastern (Dover and Shorncliffe), 7,500; and the Woolwich, 5,500. In Ireland the strongest district is the Cork, containing nearly 10,000 troops, the Dublin having a little over 8,000, the Belfast rather more than 4,000, and the Curragh less than 1,000.—Naval and Military Record.