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TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1855.

WAR-DEPARTMENT, May 4, 1855.

LORD PANMURE has this day received a Despatch and its Enclosures, of which the following are Copies, addressed to His Lordship by Field-Marshal the Lord Raglan, G.C.B.—

*Before Sevastopol,
April 21, 1855.*

MY LORD,

OMER PACHA having considered it expedient to make a reconnoissance in front of Balaklava, with a view to ascertain what force the enemy had on the Tchernaya, he proceeded at daylight on the 19th instant, by the extreme right of Sir Colin Campbell's position, towards Kamara, with about twelve battalions of Turkish infantry, having, in the plain on his left, a body of French cavalry and a battery of horse artillery under General Feroz, and two squadrons of heavy cavalry and two squadrons of the 10th Hussars, the whole of which regiment have, I am happy to say, arrived, and half a troop of horse artillery under Colonel Parby; these detachments of French and English troops having been placed at his Highness' disposal by General Canrobert and myself.

The enemy showed only a few Cosaques on this side of the river, who remained on a height overlooking Chagouria till driven from it by a few discharges of rockets by the French artillery; and on the other side, behind the village, a small force with four guns only was visible.

Omer Pacha did not think it desirable to move across the river, but withdrew after he had satisfied himself that the enemy were not in strength, and the troops returned to their camps, the infantry covered by the cavalry and artillery. The appearance of the Turkish army was very satisfactory.

The rifle pits in front of the approach from the advance of our trenches, on the extreme right, were attacked and carried by assault the night before last in the most gallant manner, by a detachment of the 77th Regiment under Colonel Egerton, forming part of the additional force sent to reinforce the guard of the trenches in the evening.

The resistance of the enemy, although obstinate, was speedily overcome by the impetuosity of our troops, and the pit, which it was desirable to retain, was, without the loss of a moment, connected with our approach, and thereby furnished

protection to the working party to continue its labours without interruption for a considerable time. At the interval, however, of about three hours the enemy brought a heavy fire of artillery and musketry upon the party in advance of the pit, into which they retired, and which they effectually defended and maintained; but this brilliant achievement was not accomplished without considerable sacrifice of life, and it is most painful to me to have to announce to your Lordship the death of Colonel Egerton, of the 77th, who was unfortunately killed when forming the troops for the support of those on the extreme advance, and of that of Captain Lempriere of the same regiment, who fell in the first affair, in which also Colonel Egerton received a contusion that only incapacitated him for duty for a few minutes; and five officers were wounded, three of them dangerously.

Colonel Egerton was an officer of superior merit, and conducted all his duties, whether in the camp or in the field, in a manner highly to his own honour, and greatly to the advantage of the public; and Her Majesty's service could not have sustained a more severe loss, and it is so felt in this army and in the 77th, where he was much beloved, and is deeply lamented.

Captain Lempriere was a very young but most promising officer.

Captain Owen, whose leg has since been amputated, and Lieutenant Baynes, are both most valuable officers of Engineers, as is Captain King of the same corps, who was wounded two nights before.

Brigadier-General Lockyer, who was the General Officer of the trenches in the right attack, Lieutenant-Colonel Mundy, of the 33d, who succeeded to the command of the troops engaged in the operation on the death of Colonel Egerton, and Captain Gwilt, of the 34th, deserve to be most favourably mentioned, and Lieutenant-Colonel Tylden, the Officer of Engineers in charge of the right attack, distinguished himself, as he has done on many previous occasions, in a remarkable manner. The conduct of the troops was admirable.

I beg to lay before your Lordship the List of Casualties which have occurred since the Return was made out which I forwarded to you on the 17th.

In my Despatch of that day, I informed your Lordship that a magazine had exploded in one of