

evening of the day before yesterday, and by which we were led to expect very shortly an attack on the line of the Tchernaya, I at once gave orders that my troops should be under arms yesterday morning at an earlier hour than usual.

At break of day our outposts stationed on the Mamelon which commands Tchorgoun were enveloped in a well-sustained fire of artillery, which proceeded from three batteries posted opposite to the breastworks by which our outposts were covered, and on the two Mamelons further to the right, which form the two banks of the Souliou. They were at the same time vigorously charged by three Russian columns, which came on with fixed bayonets, and attacked our breastworks in front and rear. The men composing these columns carried ladders with them to scale the parapets. The preconcerted signal of alarm was immediately given; and the troops took up the positions which had been assigned to them in anticipation of this attack.

I begged his Excellency Hosman Pasha to bring up the Turkish troops which were stationed furthest off; and I ordered the 4th battalion of Riflemen (Bersaglieri) to the support of our outposts, which only consisted of three companies, in order that these latter might be enabled to hold their ground as long as possible, and thus give us time to complete our arrangements.

Attacked in the rear by the enemy's artillery, and charged by three columns of infantry, the outposts, after an hour's firing, fell back, the reinforcements I had sent to them greatly facilitating their retreat.

At the same time I made every effort to silence the enemy's guns. In this endeavour I was assisted by the Turkish field-pieces from Alson, and by the English battery, with which you were good enough to reinforce us. Several of the enemy's ammunition waggons exploded between seven and eight o'clock.

In the meantime the Russians had stationed fresh batteries near the centre of their position, and had opened a most effective fire of artillery on the tête-de-pont at Tractir, and on the French positions on our left. A column of infantry, under cover of this fire, attacked the Mamelon, which formed the extreme right of General D'Herbillon's division. This first column had crossed the Tchernaya, and surmounted the steep ascent of the Mamelon in spite of the fire of the tirailleurs, when it was vigorously attacked by the French troops in support, and hurled back, broken and disordered, into the Tchernaya.

As I considered, from the subsequent dispositions of the enemy's forces, that he only intended to make a demonstration of artillery before our position, while he concentrated his infantry chiefly on the extreme right of the Third Division (Faucher's), on which point a second column was now advancing, I ordered a portion of my 5th Brigade, under the command of General Mallard, to march to the support of the right wing of the French, and I posted two of our batteries in a position from whence they could maintain an oblique fire upon the Russians. At the same time I requested the English cavalry to move down into the plain to be in readiness to charge. I had given similar orders to my own cavalry.

When the soldiers of my 5th Brigade arrived at the Mamelon they found that the enemy's attack had been already repulsed; but the fire of the two batteries of the 2d Division (Troth's) appeared to do great execution on the 2d Russian column, which, checked in front by the French troops, and harassed in the rear by the fire of our batteries and the musquetry of our battalions, fell back in the greatest disorder. I then ordered some of our

battalions to advance under cover of the Riflemen (Bersaglieri), but I was requested to countermand this movement.

The enemy repulsed at all points commenced his retreat. One column, which appeared to me to consist of a division, retreated by the valley of the Souliou. Another division, the one which had attacked our outposts and the French right in the morning, fell back upon the zig-zag Mamelon; while a third division followed the road which leads to Mackenzie's Farm.

I took advantage of this state of things to reoccupy with my troops the zig-zag Mamelon; in which design I succeeded perfectly, in spite of the imposing force which the enemy still retained on that point. In the meantime three battalions of Turkish troops advanced into the Valley of Tchorgoun, to replace the battalion of Cialdini's brigade, which was occupying the heights of Karlooka.

Later in the day, I crossed the Tchernaya with four squadrons, and marching in a parallel line with the zig-zag Mamelon, came upon the old Russian Redoubt, whence I could easily discern, at a little distance before us, a very fine array of regular cavalry, supported by horse artillery. It was distributed in twelve separate bodies, and must have been composed of at least fifty squadrons. This cavalry did not fall back on Mackenzie's road till the whole of the infantry and artillery had effected their retreat.

The losses sustained by our troops, a portion only of whom was engaged, were very inconsiderable. They amount to about two hundred men placed "hors de combat;" and I impute the fact of our not having lost more men mainly to the works with which we fortified our position, and to the batteries of heavy guns which you were so obliging as to lend us for their defence. It is, however, my painful duty to announce to your Excellency that Count Montevecchio, the General commanding the Fourth Brigade, is mortally wounded; a ball passed through his chest.

Pray accept, General, the assurance of my high consideration.

The General Commanding-in-Chief
the Sardinian Expeditionary
Forces.

(Signed) LA MARMORA.

*To His Excellency the General
Commanding-in-Chief the
English Army.*

Enclosure 2.

Supplementary Numerical Return of Casualties
on 15th August 1855.

Commissariat Department—1 Officer Wounded.

W. L. PAKENHAM,
Adjutant-General.

Enclosure 3.

Supplementary Nominal Return of an Officer
serving in the Crimea, who has been WOUNDED.

WOUNDED.

15th August 1855.

COMMISSARIAT.

Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General Charles G.
Blanc, slightly

W. L. PAKENHAM,
Adjutant-General.