

obtain the release of the two English prisoners they have among them; I learn, however, from the Americans, that they were very well treated.

12. In conclusion, I desire to add that although it has necessarily been a great disappointment to the squadron under my command to find upon arrival at this place, more than 2,000 miles outside their station, that the enemy had escaped, and the batteries were deserted, yet their Lordships will not fail to observe that not the less credit is due for the great zeal and anxiety that has been shown by each of the ships in pushing onward, in the hope of being in time to take part in the anticipated operations at this port.

13. The best understanding subsisted between Captain Penaros of the *Alceste*, and me, and I cannot say too much in favour of the zeal and activity he displayed to meet every wish of mine, and to keep the appointed rendezvous; the same continues with respect to Rear-Admiral Fourichon.

I am, &c.,

H. W. BRUCE,
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

No. 54.
SIR,

*President, of Sitka,
July 17, 1855.*

I REQUEST you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that before leaving Petropaulovski I succeeded in opening a communication with Captain Martinhoff, the temporary Governor of that place, who had retired into the interior, having for its object the release of two prisoners taken last year, as reported in my general letter of the 15th ultimo, No. 44.

Having forwarded a safe conduct to Captain Martinhoff, through the kind offices of an American resident in Petropaulovski, that officer sent 150 versts inland for them, and on their arrival, on the 25th ultimo, delivered them up to Captain Houston, of Her Majesty's ship *Trincomalee*, and three Russians that had been detained on board the French brig *Obligado* since last year, were given in exchange.

The two men proved to be William Garland, ordinary seaman, of Her Majesty's ship *Pique*, and Pierre Langois, of the French frigate *Forte*. The latter will be handed over to the *Forte* on my arrival at San Francisco, and the former will, at his own request, be appointed to the *Brisk*, his proper ship having sailed for the China Station. Both appear to have been treated with much kindness during the time they have been in the hands of the enemy.

I have, &c.,

H. W. BRUCE.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

WAR-DEPARTMENT, September 12, 1855.

LORD PANMURE has this day received a Despatch and its Enclosures, of which the following are Copies, addressed to his Lordship by General Simpson:—

MY LORD,

Before Sevastopol,

September 1, 1855.

THE siege operations during the past week have progressed slowly, the brightness of the nights rendering the work to be performed a task of great difficulty. The head of the sap is now about 150 yards from the salient of the Redan, and the enemy

interrupt the work by every means in their power.

On the night of the 28th a 13-inch shell fell into a magazine on the left face of the Mamelon, which exploded, causing some few casualties, but in no way interrupting the continuance of the fire.

On the night of the 30th ultimo, the Russian pickets made a rush at our advanced trench, upset a few gabions, and unfortunately killed Lieutenant Preston, of the 97th Regiment. In this affair Captain Pechell, of the 77th Regiment, who commanded the advanced party, and Lieutenant-Colonel Bunbury, of the 23d Regiment, who commanded the supports, behaved with great gallantry.

Great activity prevails on the part of the garrison in making use of the new raft bridge across the harbour, and stores of all kinds are daily transported to the north side.

Large working parties are employed in throwing up works on the north side, but as yet they are in too unfinished a state to judge of their exact nature.

From the information we continue to receive, it appears that the enemy is concentrating his force between the Mackenzie Heights and Fort Constantine; and although several minor changes of position have been made, no movement of importance has occurred to indicate a positive intention to attack.

All our accounts confirm the reports of the great losses of the enemy daily in Sevastopol, and that some discontent prevails in their ranks.

I have the honour to enclose the Lists of Casualties.

I have, &c.,

JAMES SIMPSON,
General Commanding.

The Lord Panmure, &c., &c., &c.

Enclosure 1.

Numerical Return of Casualties from the 27th to the 30th of August 1855, inclusive.

- 3d Battalion Grenadier Guards—1 Officer, 1 serjeant, 5 rank and file, wounded.
- 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards—1 rank and file, killed; 2 rank and file, wounded.
- 1st Battalion Scots Fusilier Guards—1 Officer, wounded.
- 1st Battalion 1st Regiment of Foot—1 serjeant, 11 rank and file, wounded.
- 2d Battalion 1st Regiment of Foot—1 rank and file, wounded.
- 3d Foot—3 rank and file, wounded.
- 4th Foot—1 rank and file, killed; 1 rank and file, wounded.
- 7th Foot—1 rank and file, killed; 7 rank and file, wounded.
- 14th Foot—2 rank and file, wounded.
- 17th Foot—1 rank and file, killed; 1 rank and file, wounded.
- 19th Foot—8 rank and file, wounded.
- 20th Foot—1 rank and file, wounded.
- 21st Foot—1 rank and file, wounded.
- 23d Foot—1 rank and file, killed; 1 serjeant, 17 rank and file, wounded.
- 30th Foot—1 rank and file, killed; 1 rank and file, wounded.
- 31st Foot—7 rank and file, wounded.
- 33d Foot—1 rank and file, killed; 14 rank and file, wounded.
- 34th Foot—5 rank and file, wounded.
- 38th Foot—1 rank and file, wounded.