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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1855.

WAR-DEPARTMENT, November 7, 1855.

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

Sevastopol,
October 23, 1855.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the copy of a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Ready, of the 4th October, and its enclosure, giving an account of the proceedings of a detachment of the force which was sent to Taman for the purpose of collecting firewood and building materials.

The service was satisfactorily performed. Unfortunately three soldiers of the 71st lost their lives in consequence of their having strayed beyond the limits prescribed to them.

I transmit the nominal return of the non-commissioned officers and men of the 10th Hussars who were taken prisoners on the 21st September, in the affair with the Cossacks, reported by me in my letter of the 29th September.

I have reason to believe that the greater portion of the Turkish Contingent are now assembled at Kertch.

No further intelligence has been received from Kinburn.

The health of the army continues very good. A few cases of cholera have occurred during the past week, but it is confined entirely to the new comers.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JAMES SIMPSON,
General Commanding.

P. S.—Since I commenced writing this Despatch, I have received the accompanying Report from Brigadier-General the Hon. A. Spencer.

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

J. S.

Enclosure 1.

Yenikale,
October 4, 1855.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the joint French and English Expedition to Taman returned from thence yesterday, the 3d instant, and that the three companies of the 71st Regiment, under the command of Major Hunter, which

formed the British part of the force, have resumed their former quarters in Kertch.

Enclosed is the report of Major Hunter of his proceedings during his stay in Phanagoria. The arrangements he made for executing the duties entrusted to him, and providing against the desultory attacks to be expected from the enemy, gave me complete satisfaction. I regret, however, that I have, notwithstanding, to report the loss of three men, who were surprized by the Cossacks whilst straggling from their party, one of whom was killed and his body found, and the two others supposed to have been captured.

The French and English gun-boats having been suddenly recalled placed us under the necessity of abandoning a large quantity of timber, procured from the public buildings in Phanagoria. We however collected and transported to Yenikale a very fair supply, the rest was burnt, and the enemy will find it difficult to provide shelter for any number of troops there during the winter.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. READY,
Lieutenant-Colonel 71st Light Infantry.

Lieutenant-General Sir R. Airey,
K.C.B., Quartermaster-General,
&c., &c., &c.

Enclosure 2.

Kertch,
October 4, 1855.

SIR, I HAVE the honour to report the return to Kertch of the French and English troops under my command, from our joint expedition to Taman. It is with much pleasure that I recur to the assistance rendered by one to the other, but I have to regret the loss of three soldiers of the French Marine, and three soldiers of the 71st Highland Light Infantry; each party having strayed beyond the limits prescribed to them, was surprized by the Cossacks. The bodies of the three French and the body of Corporal McDougal alone were found murdered, each having received several wounds from ball and lance. The other two men of the 71st Regiment are still missing.

Having proceeded in quest of the missing men with both the French Chasseurs and the Hussars under my command, I was still unable to obtain any clue as to their fate.

