

on board the transports, the English and Russian officers and men wounded in the battle of the Alma, as well as the sick of the Army.

2. All the medical officers of the different ships have been zealously and usefully occupied in attending them, and I have been obliged to send several assistant-surgeons in the vessels with the wounded to Constantinople.

3. The Vulcan and Andes, with 800 wounded and sick, sailed for Constantinople yesterday, and to day the Orinoco and Colombo, with 900, including some sixty or seventy Russians will follow.

Another vessel (by the request of Lord Raglan), with about 500 wounded Russians, will also proceed, under charge of the Fury, to land them at Odessa.

4. On the night of the 21st instant the Russians made a very great alteration in the position of their fleet in Sevastopol. I enclose a report made by Captain Jones, of the Sampson; and I propose attacking the outer line the first favourable opportunity.

5. Captain Jones also reports that great exertions appear to be making to strengthen the land defences, as well as those by sea.

New batteries on both sides of the port have been erected, defending the entrances and line of coast. One, to the north, has heavy guns, of a range of 4000 yards, two shots having passed over the Sampson when nearly at that distance.

6. Provisions for the Army have been landed; and the Forces move on to-day towards Sevastopol, accompanied by the Fleets, which have anchored off the Katscha.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. W. D. DUNDAS,
Vice-Admiral.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE FLEET IN SEVASTOPOL,
MADE ON SEPTEMBER 22, 1854, BY CAPTAIN
L. T. JONES, C.B., H.M.S. SAMPSON.

Moored across the entrance of the Harbour.

From north to south are the following vessels:—

- 1st—A frigate, at northern extreme.
- 2nd—A two-decker.
- 3rd—A three-decker, with round stern.
- 4th—A two-decker.
- 5th—A two-decker.
- 6th—A two-decker, without masts, quite light, and appears to be newly coppered.
- 7th—A large frigate.

Artillery Creek.

The top-gallant masts of these are on deck and sails unbent.

The ship without masts is lying across Artillery Creek; inside is a two-decker ready for sea, and bearing an Admiral's flag at the mizen.

Head of Harbour.

The ships at the head of the harbour, which had hitherto been lying with their broadsides to the entrance are now lying with their heads out:

- No. 1—On the north a two-decker.
- 2—A two-decker.
- 3—A two-decker.
- 4—A two-decker.
- 5—A two-decker.
- 6—A three-decker at the entrance of the Dockyard Creek.
- 7—A three-decker bearing an Admiral's flag at the fore.

Above these are two ships, one appears to be a line-of-battle ship and the other a frigate.

Steamers.

Five steamers under the northern shore. Three small steamers at the head of the harbour, and four in Careening Bay.

General Observations.

Dockyard Creek shuts in with Northern Fort, bearing S.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. Observed about 500 infantry marching towards the town, from the direction of Balaklava.

Noticed about 60 men employed on brow of signal hill, carrying mould from brink of cliff to Square Fort.

3 45 P.M.—Cape Constantine and ships in one bearing, S. $\frac{3}{4}$ W.

(Copy.)

SINKING OF THE RUSSIAN SHIPS AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE HARBOUR OF SEVASTOPOL.

No. 489. *Britannia, off the Katscha,*
SIR, *September 24, 1854.*

IN my letter of yesterday, No. 487, I reported the extraordinary change that had taken place in the position hitherto maintained by the enemy's fleet in the harbour of Sevastopol, and I now beg you will acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the same afternoon, on the appearance of the Allied Fleets in sight of Sevastopol, the whole of the vessels moored across the harbour were sunk by the Russians, leaving their masts more or less above water, and I went last evening to the mouth of the harbour to assure myself of this singular event.

Captain Drummond has examined the harbour this morning, and reports that the lower mast heads of the ships are generally above water; that the passage is closed, except perhaps a small space near the shoal off the North Battery, and the double booms inside are thus rendered more secure.

Eight sail of the line are moored east and west, inside of the booms, and three of the ships are heeled over to give their guns more elevation to sweep over the land to the northward.

2. An intelligent seaman, a deserter, who escaped from Sevastopol on the 22nd, had partly prepared me for some extraordinary movement. He had informed me that the crews of the ships moored across the harbour (to one of which he had been attached) had been landed, with the exception of a very few in each ship; that the vessels were plugged ready for sinking; that the guns and stores were all on board; and that the other ships were moored under the south side to defend the harbour from attack from the northward. He reported that the Battle of Alma had greatly dispirited the Russians; that the troops had retreated on Sevastopol without a halt; that he believes the whole Russian force not to exceed 40,000. The man's statements were clear, and on points that came under his own observation