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*War Department, 11.55 a.m.,
November 11, 1854.*

HIS Grace the Duke of Newcastle has this day received a Despatch of which the following is a copy, addressed to His Grace by General the Lord Raglan, G.C.B.

(This Despatch was lost in its passage through France, and was received at the above hour, by His Grace, to whom it was transmitted by His Excellency the Lord Cowley, G.C.B.)

Before Sebastopol, October 18, 1854.

MY LORD DUKE,

IT was arranged between General Canrobert and myself, that the batteries of the two armies should open immediately after daylight on the morning of the 17th, and we invited Admiral Dundas and Admiral Hamelin to attack the enemy's works at the mouth of the harbour with the combined fleets, as nearly simultaneously as circumstances might permit.

Accordingly, upon a signal being given from the centre of the French lines, the batteries of the two armies commenced their fire about a quarter before seven yesterday morning.

On this occasion we employed about 60 guns of different calibres, the lightest being 24-pounders.

It may here be proper to observe that the character of the position which the enemy occupy on the south side of Sebastopol is not that of a fortress, but rather of an army in an entrenched camp on very strong ground, where an apparently unlimited number of heavy guns, amply provided with gunners and ammunition, are mounted.

The guns having opened as above stated, a continuous and well directed fire was carried on from the works of the two armies until about ten o'clock A.M., when, unfortunately, a magazine in the midst of one of the French Batteries exploded and occasioned considerable damage to the works, and

I fear many casualties, and almost paralyzed the efforts of the French Artillery for the day.

The British Batteries, however, manned by sailors from the fleet, under the command of Captain Lushington and Captain Peel, and by the Royal Artillery, under the superintendence of Lieutenant-Colonel Gambier, kept up their fire with unremitting energy throughout the day to my own and the general satisfaction, as well as to the admiration of the French Army, who were witnesses of their gallant and persevering exertions, materially injuring the enemy's works, and silencing the heavy guns on the top of the loop-holed tower, to which I adverted in my despatch of the 13th instant, and many of the guns at its base, and causing an extensive explosion in the rear of a strong redoubt in our immediate front, the enemy notwithstanding, answered to the last from a number of guns along their more extended line.

The fire was resumed this morning at daylight by the British sailors and artillery, and responded to, though in a somewhat less degree, by the Russians; but the French troops, being occupied in the repair of their batteries, and in the formation of others, have not contributed to the renewal of the attack, except from a work on their extreme left; they expect, however, to be able to do so tomorrow morning.

I beg to lay before your Grace a return of the loss sustained by the Royal Navy, and the Army under my command, between the 13th and the 17th instant, and to this I am deeply concerned to add that of Colonel the Honourable Francis Hood, commanding the 3rd battalion Grenadier guards, an excellent officer, whose death in the trenches this morning has just been reported to me.

The English, French, and Turkish fleets moved towards the mouth of the harbour about noon, and kept up a heavy fire upon the enemy's forts for several hours.

I am not fully acquainted with the details of the attack, or its result, but I understand that Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons, with the