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War-Department, April 3, 1855.

LORD PANMURE has this day received a Despatch and its Enclosure, of which the following are copies, addressed to His Lordship, by Field-Marshal the Lord Raglan, G.C.B.

*Before Sevastopol,
March 20, 1855.*

MY LORD,

IT is with deep concern that I transmit for your Lordship's information the copy of a letter, which I received on the 18th instant, from General Canrobert, announcing, with every expression of concern, the death of a British officer, who appears to have wandered into the French camp, and not answering the challenge that was repeated three times was shot dead by the French sentry, whose post he had approached.

This officer, Surgeon Le Blanc, of the 9th Foot, occupied a tent near the hospital huts of his regiment, situated at some distance from the encampment of the regiment itself. He was a gentleman of most temperate habits, and was occupied in reading, when suddenly, upon the alarm sounding, he rose from his seat, leaving his candle lighted and his book open, and walked out, he was never seen alive afterwards.

It should be explained that, shortly after the close of day on the 17th, there was a very heavy fire on the left of the French right, which was maintained for several hours. None of the English posts were attacked, but it was considered prudent to get the greater portion of our troops under arms. Mr. Le Blanc was shortsighted, and probably mistook his way from the first, the night being excessively dark, for he was found far distant to the left, and must have wandered from our position without knowing the direction in which he was going.

Being anxious to ascertain the facts of this unfortunate case, as correctly as possible, I have set on foot an enquiry to be conducted by English and French officers, in association with each other; and I propose to do myself the honour to send you their report.

I have addressed a similar letter to the General Commanding-in-Chief.

I have, &c.,
RAGLAN.

The Lord Panmure, &c. &c.

Enclosure.

*Au Quartier Général,
le 18 Mars, 1855.*

MYLORD,

J'AI la douleur d'avoir à vous rendre compte d'un événement bien regrettable, qui préoccupe péniblement l'Armée Française et son Commandant-en-Chef.

Cette nuit, alors que les troupes étaient tenues en état d'alerte perpétuelle, un officier Anglais s'est présenté vers minuit en avant du front de bandière du 18^e régiment, établi près du clocheton en arrière de nos tranchées des attaques de gauche. Interpellé trois fois par le *qui vive*, cet officier n'a pas répondu, la sentinelle a fait feu et il a été tué sur le coup.

J'ai peine à m'expliquer comment ce malheureux officier se trouvait à pareille heure si loin des camps Anglaise. Je crois que sa mort ne peut être attribuée qu'à son imprudence, mais je n'en déplore pas moins cet événement, qu'il faut attribuer aussi à l'émotion naturelle d'un jeune soldat, lequel, au milieu des circonstances qui ont marqué la nuit dernière a rigoureusement exécuté le règlement militaire.

Je prie votre Seigneurie d'agréer l'assurance de mon respectueux dévouement.

Le Général en Chef de l'Armée Française,
(Signé) GL. CANROBERT.

*A Sa Seigneurie le Feld-Maréchal
Lord Raglan, Commandant-en-
Chef l'Armée Anglaise.*

(Translation.)

*Head Quarters,
March 18, 1855.*

MY LORD,

I AM grieved to have to inform you of an event, much to be regretted, which painfully engrosses the French Army and its Commander-in-Chief.

Last night, whilst the troops were kept perpetually on the alert, an English officer presented himself before the line of the 18th Regiment, established near the watch tower behind our trenches of the left attack. Although summoned three times by the *qui vive* the officer did not reply; the sentinel fired, and he was killed on the spot.

I can hardly understand how this unhappy officer found himself at such an hour so far from the English camp. I believe that his death can