

*Camp, Naval Brigade,
June 18, 1855.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that on Sunday, at 3 A.M. we opened fire as before on the different forts of Sevastopol, which was very soon returned, but not with the spirit or skill that usually characterizes the enemy's fire. Towards 2 P.M. the fire became very slack and their batteries appeared much shaken.

The fire continued all day, and the Commander of the Forces having intimated to me his acceptance of my proposal to carry the ladders in case of an assault being made on the town and batteries, I told off four parties of 60 men each to accompany the four columns ordered for this service; and Captain Peel having volunteered his services on this occasion, I placed them under his command, and I beg to enclose a list of the officers under him. I regret to say that the assault which took place at 3 A.M., was not successful; but our severe loss shows too plainly that the seamen and officers of the Naval Brigade did their duty most gallantly, and their ladders were at their places in spite of the most murderous fire I have witnessed.

Captain Peel led one party in the most gallant style, and Lieutenant Cave led the other. The other two columns did not advance, and consequently the ladder parties, although exposed to a severe fire, as indeed was everyone, did not suffer much.

Captain Peel was shot through the arm, but was enabled to continue his duty until the affair was over. I have to regret as well that Lieutenant Urmston, Cave, and Dalyell, Messrs. Parsons, mate, and Wood, midshipman, were all wounded.

Lieutenant Kidd and 9 seamen were killed, and 41 seamen wounded, and 1 missing; these men, I trust, will be got in to-night after dark. The party under Lieutenant Cave, with the loss of Lieutenant Kidd and 5 seamen killed, Lieutenant Cave and 7 seaman wounded, equally performed the duty assigned. A heavy fire was kept up from our batteries with admirable precision, until the Commander-in-Chief ordered it to be slackened.

I have also to report the bursting of one of the 95 cwt. 68 pounders, which caused the death of four men, and wounded three.

The enemy's line of battle ships did not fire, but the steamers did. I have the honour to return a list of casualties for the last two days, and to inform you our sick list is 49, and all doing well.

Every officer and man engaged in this arduous service has done his duty most gallantly, and I only await your permission to recommend those whose conduct I have particularly noticed.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN LUSHINGTON,

Sub-Enclosure No. 1.

A List of Officers attached to Scaling Ladder Parties on the 18th June, 1855.

Captain Wm. Peel, in command, severely wounded.
Mr. H. E. Wood, Midshipman, A.D.C., severely wounded.
Mr. E. St. J. Daniells, Midshipman.

No. 1 Party.

Lieutenant Urmston, severely wounded.
Lieutenant Dalyell, severely wounded.
Mr. Parsons, Mate, severely wounded.

No. 2 Party.

Lieutenant Hardinge.
Lieutenant Thompson.
Mr. Barnett, Acting Mate.

No. 3 Party.

Lieutenant Cave, severely wounded.
Lieutenant Kidd, killed.
Mr. Kennedy, Mate.

No. 4 Party.

Lieutenant D'Aeth.
Lieutenant Raby.
Mr. Armstrong, Acting Mate.

(Signed) STEPHEN LUSHINGTON,
Captain, Commanding Naval Brigade.

NIGHTLY ATTACK ON THE SEA DEFENCES OF SEVASTOPOL.

*Royal Albert, off Sevastopol.
June 19, 1855.*

SIR,

ON our return from Kertch, on the 15th instant, Vice-Admiral Bruat and I were informed by the Commanders of the Land Forces, that they intended to reopen the fire of the batteries on the following morning, and on the 18th instant to make further approaches towards Sevastopol, and endeavour to obtain possession of the enemy's positions of the Malakoff and Redan, and their Excellencies also informed us that they had ascertained that the nightly fire of our steamers had produced considerable effect.

2. On hearing this, my-colleague and I at once determined to repeat the operation on the two intervening nights, and accordingly on the 16th instant, the steam frigates and sloops named in the margin,* accompanied by several French steamers, discharged a heavy fire on the town and sea defences, whilst the Danube, Lieutenant R. P. Cator, and the launches of the Royal Albert, under the command of Lieutenants George W. Watson and Edmund Wilmot, poured in a shower of rockets, and happily without any casualty.

3. During the night of the 17th instant, the Princess Royal, and the steam-frigates and sloops named in the second marginal note†, and accompanied by a division of French steamers and the launches as before, renewed the firing, and on this occasion I am sorry to observe there was some loss, the Princess Royal having had one man killed, and two wounded; the Sidon, two men killed and eleven wounded; and Captain Lyons, of the Miranda, was so severely wounded in the leg by a shell, that I have been obliged to send him to Therapia Hospital.

4. Their Lordships will readily believe that a strong desire prevailed throughout the fleet to go under fire, but as only one ship of the line could do so with advantage, I thought it right that it should be the Princess Royal, commanded by Lord Clarence Paget, who having planned the course with infinite zeal and ability, was naturally best acquainted with it.

5. Returns of the casualties are herewith transmitted.

I am, &c.,

EDMUND LYONS,
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

* Tribune, Captain Hon. J. R. Drummond; Highflyer, Captain John Moore; Terrible, Captain J. McCleverty; Miranda, Captain E. M. Lyons; Niger, Commander H. W. Hire; Arrow, Lieutenant W. K. Jolliffe; Viper, Lieutenant H. W. Comber; Snake, Lieutenant H. F. McKillop; Weser, Lieutenant J. E. Commerell.

† Sidon, Captain G. Goldsmith; Highflyer, Captain John Moore; Miranda, Captain E. M. Lyons; Viper, Lieutenant H. W. Comber; Snake, Lieutenant H. F. McKillop.