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*War Department, February 7, 1855.*

**H**IS Grace the Duke of Newcastle has received a Despatch and its Enclosure, of which the following are copies, addressed to His Grace by Field-Marshal the Lord Raglan, G.C.B. :

*Before Sevastopol,*

**MY LORD DUKE,** *January 16, 1855.*

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Grace the copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Colonel Simmons, which he wrote by desire of Omer Pasha, expressing his Highness' approbation of the services of Major Bent, of the Royal Engineers, and the detachment of Sappers which I lent him in the summer; his regret at the loss of Lieutenant Burke, of the Royal Engineers, and his high sense of the conduct and exertions of Lieutenant Glyn, of the Royal Navy, of His Serene Highness Prince Ernest of Saxe Leiningen, and of the detachment of Seamen of Her Majesty's Fleet, employed in the construction of the bridge across the Danube, the success of which he attributes in a great measure to their well-planned dispositions.

Colonel Simmons, your Grace will perceive, has further been desired by Omer Pasha to say, that it would be very gratifying to him if Her Majesty should be graciously pleased to reward these Officers for the able services they have rendered to the Ottoman Army and the common cause.

I think it right to mention that the Honourable Major Gage, of the Royal Horse Artillery, was the officer who conducted these detachments to Roustchouk from Varna. I appointed him to this duty, having previously sent him to examine the armament at the former place, and being satisfied that the employment of his services on the occasion would be advantageous.

I beg your Grace will be so good as to obtain Her Majesty's permission for Private Andrew Anderson, of the Royal Sappers and Miners, to accept and wear the decoration of the 4th class of the Order of Medjidie, in consideration of his distinguished gallantry.

I have, &c.  
RAGLAN.

*His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,*  
*&c. &c. &c.*

Enclosure.

**MY LORD,** *Varna, January 8, 1855.*

HIS Highness Omer Pasha has requested me to write to your Lordship to return his best thanks for the services rendered to his army by Major Bent, of the Royal Engineers, and the detachment of Sappers under his command.

His Highness desires me to express his regret at the losses which have been sustained by this small detachment, who, under the direction of Major Bent, have well sustained the character of the British army.

His Highness has already expressed to your Lordship his regret at the loss of Lieutenant Burke, of the Royal Engineers, who his Highness considers to have been an officer of much merit.

His Highness desires me to inform your Lordship that he has done himself the honour to write to the Turkish Ambassador at the Court of St. James', expressing the desire of His Majesty the Sultan that Private Andrew Anderson, of the Royal Sappers and Miners, may receive and wear the decoration of the 4th class of the order of Medjidie, in commemoration of his gallantry in recovering the body of Lieutenant Burke, after he was killed at the passing of the Danube on the 12th of July last. In the meantime, he has presented Private Anderson with the decoration, and trusts your Lordship will allow him to wear it until the commands of Her Majesty may be received.

His Highness further desires me to express to your Lordship his entire approbation of the manner in which Major Bent has conducted his duties.

He desires me to inform your Lordship that this officer showed great energy in his endeavours to enter Silistria before the siege was raised; that he subsequently showed great gallantry at the passage of the Danube, when he was the first to land on the left bank, and covered the landing of the Turkish troops with a detachment of riflemen, who maintained their ground under a very heavy fire until the disembarkation of the supports was effected.

Major Bent and his Sappers were subsequently of great service in throwing up the tête de pont at Georgevo, and in the construction of the bridge across the Danube.

His Highness desires to take this opportunity of expressing to your Lordship his high sense of the services rendered by Lieutenant Glyn, R.N., and H. S. H. Prince Ernest of Saxe Leiningen, with the detachment of sailors of Her Majesty's fleet under their command, in the construction of the bridge across the Danube.

His Highness considers that the success of the construction of this bridge is in great measure attributable to their well-planned dispositions, which, although executed with limited means, proved fully effective to resist the storms and strong currents of the Danube.