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*War-Department, November 2, 1855.*

LORD PANMURE has received from the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, the Report and its Enclosure, of which the following are copies, addressed by Major-General Dacres, commanding the Royal Artillery in the Crimea, to General Simpson.

SIR,

*Camp before Sevastopol,  
14th September, 1855.*

WITH the successful close of the siege of Sebastopol, it becomes my duty to bring before you the share borne by the Royal Artillery in operations protracted to an unparalleled extent amidst extreme difficulty and hardship.

Notwithstanding the great and frequent obstacles to maintaining a constant supply of ammunition in the batteries, with roads almost impassable, for weeks together, and with a very precarious and insufficient transport, there has been no instance in which the Commander-in-Chief has required the Artillery to act where they have been found unprepared, and at the close of each bombardment they have always possessed the means of continuing the fire.

The officers and men of the Siege Train have shown unflinching zeal and cheerfulness in their arduous duties of arming the batteries, frequently under circumstances of great difficulty, and of directing and serving the guns. The ruined state of the enemy's works, and the silencing of their guns, have frequently testified to the excellence of our artillery practice, of which the number of dismounted ordnance found in the captured works opposed to us affords another convincing proof. Our fire has on several occasions rendered important assistance to our Allies, which their Chiefs have always warmly acknowledged. The state of the parapet of the Redan, which presents throughout one battered and ruined slope, from the interior crest to the foot of the counterscarp, is a remarkable instance of the effect of a well-directed fire against strong earth-works.

I have had frequently to lament the loss of valuable officers, among whom I wish to particularize the late Captain Oldfield, who was most zealous and indefatigable in his services in the left attack.

The great duration of the siege operations, and the number of officers who have come under my notice, forbid me to specify all whom I could wish; and besides the names of some who had served a

considerable period before Lieutenant-Colonel St. George took command of the siege train, I will only add to the enclosed report from that officer, that while some who have served through the entire period have necessarily executed their duties under circumstances of unusual hardship, all have shown the greatest zeal and ardour. The arrival of reinforcements from time to time up to the last day's fire, of course causes great disparity in the amount of service rendered by different officers and companies, and the earlier period involved much greater toil and endurance than the last few months. These circumstances I have carefully distinguished in a detailed report to the Adjutant-General of Artillery, but I wish to particularize the following officers who have served with great assiduity throughout the siege: Captains Hope, Luther, W. J. Bolton, and Owen; Lieutenants Ruck, Keene, Addison, and Tillard.

From Lieutenant-Colonel St. George, commanding the siege, and his Brigade-Major, I have received the greatest assistance in carrying out the operations of the siege.

The duties of the Artillery Staff have of course been constant, arduous, and important. From Lieutenant-Colonel Adye, Assistant Adjutant-General, I have received every assistance that zeal and energy could offer. Captain Field came out with the army in 1854, but from ill-health he was obliged to leave it, and joined me in January, 1855, since when he has performed the duties of Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, which have been very onerous, assisted by Majors Fortescue and Gage, very much to my satisfaction.

To my personal Staff, Majors Hamly and Gordon, I am much indebted for the assistance they have rendered me at all times by their activity and professional knowledge.

The numerous sick and wounded of the siege Train have been attended to with a degree of skill and interest which I have never seen exceeded, and which has given me particular satisfaction. The state of comfort and order in which Surgeon Bent who superintended the Medical Department of the right attack, and Surgeon Fogo, of the left, assisted by Assistant-Surgeon Taylor (who has served in the trenches through the whole siege and whose gallantry was most conspicuous as well as his skill) have, by their judicious arrangements, kept their hospitals during the greatest pressure of casualties from the enemy's fire and epidemic cases, has frequently called for my thanks and approbation, and I beg to recommend these officers to your notice. The