

Outside the Box

Transcript

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Camp before Sebastopol
June 8th 1855

My dear Father

You will I suppose by the time you get this have heard of the row that took place last night the result of which was that the French established themselves in the Mamelon & we established ourselves in a place called the Quarries which is a large trench parts of which are formed of large loose blocks of stone

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I will now tell you how it all happened our regiment was among those that were told off for it & our right wing was to act as storming party & the left wing as working party. Well, as soon as we got down there we were waiting for orders when we observed that the storming party was getting driven back by degrees so an officer of ours (Lord Browne) & myself ran up with as many men as we c^d get gether which was about 100

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altogether. When we arrived
there the storming party had
already charged 2 or 3 times
so we went at it again &
made a few more charges &
kept them at bay whilst the
fellows in rear made some
sort of cover in rear of us
we then returned to the Quarries
where this cover was made
& kept it although they made
expected attacks on us through
out the whole night. It seems
a perfect miracle to me how

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I escaped but thank God I
was all right during the night
but I got knocked down this
morning about 5 oclock by
a grape shot on the side of the
head but it did not hurt
me much it just stunned
me at first & it bled a little
but I walked home all right
& tied him up so I am comfor
table enough now but I am
to keep out of the sun. You
sh^d have seen us when we
came in; face & hands covered
with dust powder, smoke

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blood & all sorts of dirt & every body as tired
as possible with hardly a leg to stand on
for we were fighting all night long almost
continually once we were, shying stones
at one another I had a regular stoning
match with one fellow but he was a
capital shot & hit me in the side with
a big stone very soon but I must have
hit however for we were so close to them
I only fired 2 shots with my pistol

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I suppose that you will get this letter
by time the lists of killed & wounded, our
regiment suffered rather severely, out of 300
men who started 100 are killed & wounded
& 4 officers wounded but luckily no
wounds of any consequence. When I mentioned
the stoning party & working party in the
beginning of my letter you must not
suppose that only our own regiment was

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engaged because almost all the regiments
of the Light & 2nd divisions had a hand
in it. I must now finish with Best love
to all at home

Believe me to remain
Y[ou]^r ever affec[tiona]^l Son
G H Waller

P.S. The French had 56000 men engaged I
believe & about 10000 killed [&] wounded
but I suppose we shall see the official report
soon. GHW