George William Mihill

Born 22 June 1838 Purleigh Essex

Died 7 April 1923 Langdon Hills Essex

This picture taken on his 46th Wedding anniversary to Maria Elizabeth Mihill

The Early years

George William Mihill was born in Purleigh Essex on 22 June 1838 to William (born 1812 Little Baddow Essex) a Journeyman Carpenter and Matilda Mihill (nee Smith 1818 – 1841 Maldon Essex). William Mihill (now a widower) in November 1842 then married Naomi Potter (born 1811 Woodham Mortimer and died 1888 in Chelmsford Essex. They had a daughter Cordelia Mihill (born 1845 in Purleigh Essex).

At the time of the 1851 Census George William Mihill was working for the Landed Proprietor the Douglas family at Baddow Court Great Baddow as an Odd-Job Boy aged thirteen. He enlisted into The 19th Regiment of Foot (1st Yorkshire North Riding – The Green Howards) prior to the commencement of hostilities in the Crimea in the September of 1854 and was wounded in the final assault on the Redan at the Battle of the Alma in September 1855. This event is most important in his subsequent life as being the first time he met Nurse Maria Elizabeth Hayden an Australian serving with Lady Alicia Blackmore and Miss Florence Nightingale subsequently Maria became his wife on 6 February 1861 in Shoreditch.

The Family years

Maria Elizabeth Hayden was born in Bathurst New South Wales Australia in 1839 and died in 1922 Langdon Hills Essex a year before her husband George. They went on to have eleven children five of whom had died before the 1911 Census but also others are also recognised in National Rolls of Honour due to their military service.

Jane Matilda Mihill (1862–1911)
Adelina Naomi Mihill (1865–1941)
Louisa Mary Mihill (1867-1869)
Henry William Mihill (1869-1870)
Maria Elizabeth Mihill (1871-1929)
Frederick Albert Mihill (1873-1955)
Ambrose George Mihill (1873–1915)*
Charles Robert Mihill (1877-1877)
Alfred Ernest Mihill (1878-1943)

Ambrose George Mihill was a Driver in the Royal Field Artillery Regimental no. 53000 of the 458th Battery who died through wounds received on 27 April 1915 in the First World War and is remembered with honour at Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery. He received the British war Medal and Victory Medal.

Alfred Ernest Mihill enlisted in the Royal Engineers Regimental no. 176066 on 8 September 1916 The rank of Sapper and was put to the Reserve List on 10 February 1919. He was awarded both the British Medal and

Victory Medal. He married Mary Ann Saxton on 25 December 1898 at Forest Gate in Essex. His son George William Mihill (1900–1986) also served in the armed forces enlisting in The Royal Tank Corps on 20 May 1919.

Frederick Albert Mihill became the professional soldier of the family enlisting on 13 December 1891 aged 18 years and with a short break of service between 1912 and 1915 before re-enlisting in in the First World War finally being discharged on 6 November 1919. He also was awarded the Chelsea Pensioner 'outbased' status.

The Crimea - History of the Regiment up to the Battle of Alma.

Origins of the Green Howards - In 1744 they were named the Green Howards by Field Marshal Wade on campaign in Flanders to distinguish Col. Charles Howard's Regiment from Thomas Howard's Regiment (the Buff Howards, later the 3rd Foot or 'The Buffs'). In 1751 renamed the 19th Regiment of Foot in King George II's reorganisation of the Army and in 1782 then named the 19th (or 1st Yorkshire North Riding) Regiment of Foot and given that area as its main recruiting ground.

Recruiting - Recruiting parties, usually an officer, two sergeants and a drummer covered the towns, villages and fairs in the area, but men also came from further afield. As many as half were Irishmen, forced to take the Queen's shilling by the Potato Famine of 1845-7 and its consequences, but many Englishmen had seen equal poverty. Over 60% of recruits were labourers, most semi-literate though many would have had a little schooling. Recruits were meant to be over 18 but were often taken younger and each Regiment was allowed to recruit a small number of boys as musicians.

Service was for ten years with the Colours followed by five years as a Reservist, liable to be recalled to the Colours in an emergency. Men often signed up for a second term of service. The recruit was given a very basic medical then signed an Attestation Form before an official, usually a magistrate. The Articles of War were read to him and a Bounty of around £7 15s 6d paid. They then marched to the Regimental Depot for equipping and training.

A Soldiers Pay - 13 pence a day, most of which was deducted for stoppages leaving little more than a penny a day. Officers were paid much more and many had private incomes which purchased their commissions (Lieutenant's £550, Colonel's £3,500).

A Soldiers Rations

Breakfast: hard tack and coffee;
Dinner: 1 pound of bread, ¾ pound of meat on the bone with a small amount of potatoes and other vegetables, usually stewed (each barrack room usually had 2 large copper cauldrons and soldiers often took it in turns to cook);
Supper: bread and tea.

The old beer ration had been replaced by tea and coffee, though a tot of rum per day was issued on campaign. Men could vary the diet a little by private purchase, but on average it was far better than they had in civilian life. When not in barracks the men would cook over campfires, often in small messes or using their individual mess tins.


Soyer's field stove

During 1855 the Soyer stove (invented by Alexis Soyer, a French 'celebrity chef' who made major improvements in Army cooking during the war) came into use. This was much more efficient and could cook for whole units at a time.

Regimental Organisation

In 1852 the Regiment had 38 Officers, 88 NCOs, a Drum Major and 15 Drummers and 810 men. They fell in Ten Companies of around 80-90 men, the Grenadier Company (no.1 coy.) on the right, the Light Company (no.10 coy.) on the left and the Centre Companies (nos. 2-9) in order between. It also had a Chaplain, a Schoolmaster who taught both Regimental children and soldiers who wished to improve themselves (literacy was vital for promotion to NCO) and a Bandmaster. The Band was paid for by the officers and acted as medical orderlies and stretcher bearers on campaign. Officer's wives often accompanied their husbands and around one in 12 of the other ranks were officially allowed to marry, only with the CO's permission. The wives were allowed to live in barracks, sometimes at the end of the room screened off by curtains, sometimes all together in a single 'married

quarters'. They were officially on the rolls and received ½ rations with ¼ rations for each child. The wives acted as laundresses, receiving 1 or 2 pence a week from each soldier, as well as acting as nurses in the Regimental hospital and as seamstresses (usually for officers).

The Commanding Officer was Lieutenant Colonel Robert Saunders, who had served with the 19th since joining as an Ensign in 1837. He was 40 in 1854 and on leave when war broke out, reaching the Regiment in Turkey in May 1854. He was shot in the thigh at the Alma and sent back home, not returning to the 19th until 1857. He died in 1860.

Major Thomas Unett joined the 19th in 1841. He was a popular officer and took command after Colonel Saunders was wounded, aged 54. He was badly wounded in the final assault on the Redan on September 8 1855, dying a few days later. His son Alexander was a Lieutenant with the19th and sold his commission after his father's death.

Thomas Unett's father John Wilkes Unett was born in The Woodlands, Harborne, Staffordshire, England. He was christened on 11 Jun 1770 in Saint Mary, Stafford, Staffordshire, England. He died on 12 Nov 1856 in Leamington, Warwickshire, England. John married Elizabeth Unett daughter of Thomas Unett on 6 Apr 1795 in Stone, Staffordshire, England. Elizabeth was christened on 18 Nov 1770 in Stone, Staffordshire, England.

Thomas Unett was born on 12 Nov 1800 in The Laurels, Handsworth, Staffordshire. He was christened on 10 Aug 1801 in Saint Phillips, Birmingham, Warwickshire, England. He died on 8 Sep 1855 in Siege of Sebastopol, Crimea. He is buried at St. Oswald's Church, Filey, North Yorkshire. Thomas married Mary Anne Ditmas daughter of Ditmas Capt. on 21 Dec 1830 in Saint John and Saint Martin, Beverley, Yorkshire, England.

Major John Rooke joined the 19th in 1840 and commanded No.3 Company at the Alma and Inkerman. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel aged 33 after the death of Major Unett and held command until his death of cholera during the Indian Mutiny in 1857. Captain George Lidwell joined the 19th in 1848 and commanded No, 6 Company at the Alma, aged 26. He survived the war.

Peacetime routine - Each weekday's routine was similar. Occasionally Saturday afternoons were free. Church Parades were held on Sunday, the rest of the day generally being free. Reveille at 6.00am followed by 1½ hours of drill. At 9.00am The Guard posted. A sergeant, 12 men and a drummer fully dressed with arms and ammunition kit were on duty for 24 hours. They were inspected by the Orderly Officer of the day and would be 'turned out' by him at least once, in addition to any emergency which might cause this.

Colonel's Parade at 10.00, up to 2 hours of inspection and drill before dinner at 1.00. Afternoon Parade at 2.00pm, up to 2 hours of training exercises (drill/musketry/bayonet etc.) 4.00 Return to Barracks to clean kit etc. and change into fatigue uniform before supper at 5.00. The men were then free until Tattoo at 10.00pm.

Peacetime Service - Many of the men were old soldiers, but few had seen any active service. There had been no major war in Europe since the Battle of Waterloo and whilst there had been some actions in parts of the Empire-India and South Africa-the 19th had not been involved.

Since 1840 the regiment had served in Malta, the West Indies and Canada (1848-52) before being posted to Mount Wise Barracks, Devonport. In May 1852 the 19th moved, by a combination of route march and train (probably the first time most of the men had been on one) to barracks at Winchester.

In November 1852 the 19th travelled by train to London to attend the State Funeral of the Duke of Wellington. Representative sections from all units of the Army took part, but the 19th, along with the 33rd (Duke of Wellington's Regiment) were the only infantry units to parade at full strength. Over 1½ million spectators crowded the route to St. Paul's Cathedral. The funeral carriage was massive, weighing 18 tons.

In May 1853, as a result of a 'disgraceful disagreement' (soldier's fights) between the 19th and the 38th, the 19th was moved from Winchester to Gosport. Some detachments were sent to guard convicts in Weymouth.

In August 1854 the 19th took part in Army manoeuvres at Chobham Common, Surrey, one of the largest military exercises for many years. Over 18,000 men took part and Queen Victoria reviewed the troops. Although it was an impressive spectacle, the Army's weaknesses (badly designed kit, inexperienced officers,

poor staff work, and the difficulties of drilling troops above battalion strength) were recognised by many foreign observers who reported that the British were 'out dated and lacked flexibility'. None of this was picked up on by the Army.

In February 1854 the 19th moved to garrison the Tower of London, where one sentry was convinced he had seen ghosts 'looking like a magic lantern show'. Shots were fired and The Guard turned out, the erring sentry being punished by being made to stand at the same post several times.

Rumours of war with Russia grew and the 19th were issued with the Minie Rifle to replace the Pattern 1842 Smoothbore. The Regimental strength was raised to 1,500 and frantic recruiting took place. On 24 March war was declared and 2 companies paraded at the Royal Exchange, where the Queen's Herald read the official proclamation. Arms were presented and the National Anthem played. In April 1854, some 1,200 strong and accompanied by 15 wives, the 19th marched by detachments from the Tower to sail to war.

Embarkation - The first stage was to Malta, a trip of around 10 days. The 19th were divided between the Tonning, a sailing ship, and 4 steamships: the Emperor, Euxin, Medway and Victoria. After a day or so of re-supply, the second leg to Constantinople took another six days. The Channel was rough, but the journeys were uneventful, if cramped and uncomfortable. There was a coal fire on the Victoria, which carried 'a good lot of gunpowder on board', but it was rapidly extinguished.

By early May the 19th were encamped outside Constantinople at Scutari, alongside a large cemetery near the Barracks. This was dilapidated and full of giant fleas and the men were plagued by 'Turkish cannibals', mosquitoes which bred in the stagnant pools around and carried malaria. A few men came down with the disease. For a short time the 19th used it, but found sleeping under canvas preferable. The town was hilly and irregular with narrow streets, the Turks unwelcoming and their women veiled. Dogs ran wild in the cemetery, occasionally disinterring human remains.

May 26 was Queen Victoria's birthday. The British paraded to give 3 enthusiastic cheers for Her Majesty, watched by the French Generals, the local Turks and their harems, the white muslin veiled ladies accompanied by their eunuchs an interesting sight to the 19th!

The Light Division - The 19th formed part of the Light Division commanded by General Sir George Brown, a stickler for discipline. 1st Brigade, Brigadier General Airey: 7th Foot, 23rd Foot; 33rd Foot, Right Wing, 2nd Rifle Brigade. 2nd Brigade, Brigadier General Buller: 19th Foot, 77th Foot, 88th Foot, Left Wing 2nd Rifle Brigade. Royal Artillery, Colonel Lake: C Troop Royal Horse Artillery, E Field Battery Royal Artillery.

Orders were given to consolidate the Infantry Regiments into 8 Companies, No 1 the Grenadiers and No.8 the light Company 'to prevent confusion in Field Evolutions'. This also helped to maintain company strength as men fell ill.

The Balkans - At its most basic, the aim of the Allies was to support the ailing Turkish Empire against Russian expansionism. The Russian Bear had defeated the Turkish fleet and was planning to invade the Balkans, then part of the Turkish Empire. British and French troops were sent from Scutari to assist the Turks to repel a Russian invasion across the Danube.

At the end of the month orders came to move up the coast to Varna, which were greeted with relief. The 19th sailed on the Medway steamer, forced to sleep on the leaky decks on the 3 day journey. Varna was a more pleasant camp ground than Scutari, but the exposure and difficulties of camp life combined with the increasingly warm weather. General Brown issued an order that stocks might not be worn, but must be kept and shown at kit inspection, a popular decision.

To the surprise of the British troops, who did not rate the Turks highly, the Russian invasion was halted before they could come into action. It was during the summer which followed that they began to suffer the ravages of disease. The 19th were marched to the village of Alledyn, where cholera broke out-the first to die Private John Sparrow.

General Brown kept up a series of gruelling drill and route marches, the tents being struck and moved every day. This wore down the men, in their unsuitable uniforms and heavy kit. Officers noticed the men becoming weaker and less disciplined, growing scruffier and talking in the ranks as frustration and disease set in. Morale was briefly raised by a visit from Omar Pasha, when an extra grog ration was issued, and a move to Devna, which appeared to be a suitable camp ground. However, it turned out to be a hotbed of cholera. By mid- July it was ordered that 'bowel complaints having become prevalent, 2oz of scotch barley or rice and ¼ oz of tea extra is authorised to be issued per diem'.

Cholera in Camp - By the end of July, cholera had reappeared. Men died in great pain in a matter of hours; Mrs. Kirwin reported how Sgt. Murphy died in the time it took his wife to come and borrow her frying pan; before she'd finished frying his beef , he'd gone. Nearly 100 men from the Light Division died in less than a week, together with many more seriously weakened, some too weak to eat the poor rations which were available.
There were no tented hospitals; shelters were improvised from brushwood. Lice were rampant, despite the brushing of clothes and lining their seams with soap. Men were buried in their blankets due to the shortage of coffins and, to the horror of the survivors, the locals were known to dig up the corpses to steal the blankets.

The cholera abated as the weather grew cooler in late August. Permission was given to grow moustaches due to the difficulties of shaving. Orders were given to move back to the coast to embark for the Crimea, but the 19th was so weakened the men were unfit to march until Turkish wagons, 'Arabas' drawn by 4 black buffaloes, were sent to carry the soldiers' knapsacks and the many sick.

On August 30th the 19th embarked on the old and overcrowded steamship the 'Courier'. The women were left behind, Margaret Kirwin fainting after her husband ran out of the ranks to kiss her farewell. They did not sail until September 5th, landing at Old Fort near Eupatoria harbour on September 14th.

The Landing - The Light Division, were the first to land at 8.30am, wading ashore from the ships' boats and forming on the beach behind a screen formed by the Rifle Brigade, part of a British force of 26,000 Infantry, 1,000 Cavalry and 60 guns. 30,000 Frenchmen and 7,000 Turks formed the rest of the Allied force. No enemy were in sight, but as they marched inland a light drizzle began which worsened during the night. Because of their physical weakness, the men were ordered to leave their knapsacks on board ship and land with minimal kit (spare boots, socks and shirt and towel wrapped in a blanket and rolled together with the greatcoat in the knapsack straps).

These knapsacks were looted on board or when they were finally landed, most men losing their spare kit and being without for months. No tents were landed, so the men were left exposed. The French, fitter, better organised and equipped, carried full packs and 'tentes d'abri (shelter tents).

Piquets were posted and the beaches secured. Bell tents were landed as a temporary measure for a few days, then sent back on board, not to be reissued for another month. Whilst the French pillaged without payment. British rations were reduced due to supply difficulties. One night a false alarm saw the 19th form up in shirt sleeves and no trousers, but with their belts and 60 rounds which they kept in their tents, their rifles piled in front of them. Small scouting parties of Cossacks were seen, but little other opposition until the march to Sevastopol began on September 19th. The French, with the Turks to their rear, held the right wing skirting the sea. The 19th were still weakened by disease and the sea crossing, and many fell out or struggled to keep up. The Russians finally appeared in force and it was clear their plan was to hold the next river crossing.

Nursing in the Crimea - Prior to the 1850s each British Army regiment had its own medical officer. Male orderlies, with no formal medical training, were seconded from the regiment. During peacetime the problems of a localised system were not apparent, but the experience of the Crimean War (1854-1856) highlighted the difficulties caused by lack of equipment and supplies, poor communication, inexperienced staff and badly managed resources.

The “Crimean War” took place in the Crimea, Asia Minor, the Baltic, the White Sea and on Russia’s Pacific coast between the nations of Russia, Turkey, Great Britain, France and Piedmont-Sardinia. The Crimean War has been characterised as one of the worst managed wars in history, with deaths due to illness and malnutrition at four times the rate of those due to enemy action. The Times war correspondent William H. Russell brought the desperate conditions in the Crimea to the attention of the British public and popularised the call for women nurses to join the forces.

“Are there no devoted women amongst us, able and willing to go forth to minister to the sick and suffering soldiers of the East in the hospitals of Scutari? Are none of the daughters of England, at this extreme hour of need, ready for such a work of mercy?” (The Times, 15 and 22 September 1854).

The government and nation were greatly embarrassed. Nursing in Britain was not seen as a respectable occupation, so trained nurses were few. In February 1855, Isambard Kingdom Brunel was invited by the Permanent Under Secretary at the War Office, Sir Benjamin Hawes (husband of his sister Sophia), to design

a pre-fabricated hospital for use in the Crimea, that could be built in Britain and shipped out for speedy erection at still to be chosen site.

Brunel initially designed a unit ward to house 50 patients, 90 feet (27 m) long by 40 feet (12 m) wide, divided into two hospital wards. The design incorporated the necessities of hygiene: access to sanitation, ventilation, drainage, and even rudimentary temperature controls. These were then integrated within a 1,000 patient hospital layout, using 60 of the unit wards. The design took Brunel six days in total to complete.

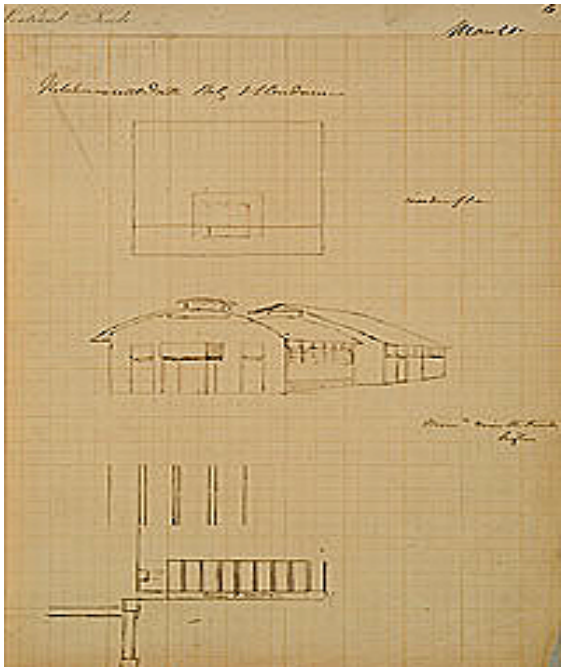
Fabrication - From 1849 Gloucester Docks-based-based timber merchants Price & Co. became involved in supplying wood to local contractor William Eassie, who was supplying railway sleepers to the Gloucester and Dean Forest Railway. Eassie's company diversified after the railway boom period, manufacturing windows and doors, as well as prefabricated wooden huts to the gold prospectors in Australia. As a result, when the Government wanted to provide shelter to the soldiers in the Dardanelles, Price & Co. chairman Richard Potter had tendered to supply Eassie design as a solution, and gained a 500-unit order. Potter then travelled to France and obtained an order from the French Emperor for a further 1,850 huts to a slightly modified design. French Army soldiers arrived in Gloucester Docks in December 1854 to learn how to erect the huts. Supply was delayed by the need to transfer the resultant packs from broad gauge GWR to standard gauge LSWR tracks, with the last packs shipped from Southampton Docks in January 1855.

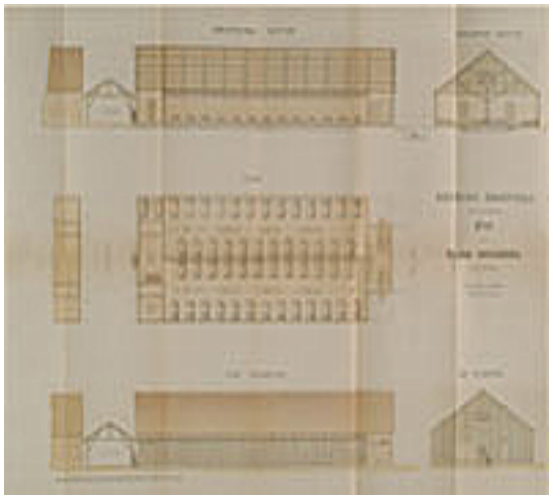
Having worked with Eassie on creating the slipway for the SS Great Eastern, Brunel approached Price & Co. about producing the 1,000-patient hospital. The last of the units was shipped from Southampton on one of 16 ships, less than five months later.

Construction - In January 1855, the Government had selected Dr. Edmund Alexander Parkes to travel to Turkey to select a site for the hospital, organise the facility, and superintend the whole operation.
Parkes had selected Erenkoy on the Asiatic bank of the Dardanelles near the fabled city of Troy. This was located 500 miles (800 km) – then three- or four-days' journey – from the Crimea, but importantly outside the malaria zone in which Scutari was located. Parkes remained onsite until the end of the war in 1856.

After William Eassie Snr. had seen the awful state of construction of the previously shipped British Army huts at Balaklava, he sent his son to supervise the construction of the hospital. The whole kit of parts had reached the site by May 1856, and by July was ready to admit its first 300 patients. Although hostilities had ceased in April, by December had reached its capacity of 1,000 beds, scheduled to expand to 2,200.

Renkioi – Isambard Kingdom Brunel's forgotten hospital (design and completion)





Management and operations - Renkioi was designated a civilian hospital, under the War Office but independent of the Army Medical Department, and hence outside the management of Florence Nightingale. It had a nursing staff selected by Parkes and Sir James Clark, including as a volunteer Parkes's sister; while other staff included Dr John Kirk, later of Zanzibar fame.

Run as a model hospital, it "demonstrated the best practices of the age". This was in contrast to the Army medical facilities, which between them had two clinical thermometers and one ophthalmoscope. Also, despite the Royal Navy's success in preventing scurvy through the provision of concentrated fruit juice, the army failed to learn the same lesson, and so its Crimean soldiers suffered from scurvy.

Renkioi Hospital however had a short life. It received its first casualties in October 1855, after the fall of Sevastopol, was closed in July 1856, and was sold to the Ottoman Empire in September 1856.

But even for such short-used institutions, it was feted as a great success. Sources state that of the approximately 1,300 patients treated in the hospital, there were only 50 deaths. In the Scutari hospital, deaths were said to be as many as 10 times this number. Nightingale referred to them as "those magnificent huts".

Fortunately, the Catholic revival was taking place and the Sisters of Mercy nursing order had been formed. Five Sisters from Bermondsey set out for the war zone on October 17th but the government instructed them to wait in Paris. A government committee, under Mary Stanley, was gathering a party of five Catholic care nuns, eight Anglo-Catholic (C of E) nursing nuns and 38 hired nurses and Ladies. FN was appointed as their leader and they left to join those waiting in Paris. The whole party reached Scutari in Turkey on November 4th, where they established two hospitals.

On December 17th Mary Stanley arrived with 15 Sisters of Mercy nuns and 31 hired nurses and Ladies. Florence Nightingale said she could not control such a large number and demanded they return home. The army Generals intervened and asked Stanley to use her party to open two hospitals (General and Lower) at Koulali, five miles from Scutari. Stanley appointed Mother Bridgeman, Superior of the nuns, to share the running of these hospitals.

Scutari and Koulali were 300 miles across the Black Sea from the fighting near Balaclava in the Crimea. So in October 1855 the army asked Bridgeman to move her nuns to the Crimea. She did this and established the Balaclava Barracks and Field hospitals on the 14th.

Florence Nightingale claimed she had the right to supervise these Crimean hospitals, but the army preferred to work with Bridgeman. With the help of the War Office, the generals found a technical way to exclude her from having any influence in the Crimea.

Following the armistice of 29th February 1856, the hospitals gradually emptied. On March 16th the War Office granted Florence Nightingale authority in the Crimea and she arrived there nine days later. On March 28th, Bridgeman entrusted the remaining few patients to her before sailing home on April 12th.

Working conditions in the hospitals had been terrible and few of the hired nurses and Ladies had stayed long. So the nuns, being the most experienced and disciplined groups came to form the hard core of the staff in all six hospitals. From 14th October 1855 - 25th March 1856 the Sisters of Mercy were in sole charge of the hospitals in the Crimea.

Two Sisters from the Order's Liverpool convent died from cholera and typhus and were buried in the Crimea. A memorial to them stands in the grounds of the Old Swan Convent, Liverpool. The others returned to their work in the diseased inner cities. To understand why the official history of this period omits to mention such a large part of the Crimean nursing story, we need to be aware of the sensitive political and religious situation at that time. But that is another story.

The Background - A large book would be required to examine in depth the reasons why the official history of this period omits over half the story of nursing during the Crimean War. All we can do here is to provide something of the background at the time.

For generations the British had been taught how they lived in a progressive, Protestant country compared to people living in poor, uneducated, superstitious Catholic ones. So, when newspapers compared Britain's nursing provision with Catholic countries, there was national embarrassment. If it became widely realised how much the Government had found it necessary to rely on hated and feared Roman Catholic nuns, the

embarrassment would have become politically sensitive. Civil rights had been granted to Catholics in 1828, but it was against strong opposition and so some restrictions still existed. As an example, the Bermondsey nuns going to the Crimea were not allowed to publicly dress as nuns till they arrived in France.

If it had become widely known that for the six months from 14th October 1855 - 25th March 1856, Catholic nuns had been placed in sole charge of the hospitals in the Crimea, there would have been political and civil unrest. An indication of this danger occurred in Portsmouth on the 8th May 1856. Twelve nuns, including Mother Bridgeman, arrived home on a troop ship. The officer commanding the regiment asked the Sisters to share their triumph by walking at the head of the regiment from the ship to the railway station a short distance away. The crowd began to hoot and pelt the Sisters until the soldiers lifted their rifles.

It is worth remembering that these were part of the party of 15 nursing nuns who had gone out with Bridgeman in the second party. Two had died and been buried in the Crimea and another was mortally ill and died the following year. In the government's view It was 'politically convenient' if the nuns quietly returned to their work in the diseased infested cities of Ireland and England, while the authorities directed every eye and ear to the Scutari hospital and Florence Nightingale, its heroine.

Personalities

Margaret (Fanny) Taylor had been a member of the Anglican Sellonites until she opened a 'ragged school' in London. She went out to Scutari as one of the 'Ladies' in the second party and assisted FN for some time before transferring to Koulali.
Taylor authored 16 books and in: *Eastern Hospitals and English Nursing*, she described how she and FN used a lantern to see the sick when paying night visits to the wards. This led to Florence Nightingale being later idolized as: 'The Lady with the Lamp'. She became a Catholic at Koulali and later founded a new religious Order: *The Poor Servants of the Mother of God*.

Mary Stanley, who had recruited and organised the parties going to the war zone, later became a Catholic and was very active in charitable work. St. John and St. Elizabeth hospital in London has a bed dedicated to her memory.

Mary Seacole was a self-taught, coloured, nurse from Jamaica who independently went to the Crimea to provide care and nursing. Recently Mary's exploits have become known due to her autobiography being reprinted in 1984. She is buried in the Catholic section of Kensal Green Cemetery, London.

Nursing Notes.

Mother Bridgeman's nuns came mainly from Ireland and they obtained better conditions of service from the War Office than had the Bermondsey nuns. For example: they remained under the authority of Bridgeman when not nursing, they were permitted to publically travel in England dressed as nuns and she would not be permitted to open and read the private letters of Sisters. During her long period of work in the cities, Mother Bridgeman had developed a detailed system of nursing practice. She used it at Koulali.

Evelyn Bolster writes: Florence Nightingale’s attitude to the Koulali system was one of vigorous opposition: but the superiority of the system is attested to by the fact that she began to revise her own methods to such an extent that the scheme for military nursing she submitted to the War Office after her Crimean experiences, was in many ways identical with that introduced by Mother Bridgeman."

In Turkey - When Florence Nightingale was made superintendent of the nurses being sent out to the war zone, the War Office used the term: 'in Turkey', which included the Scutari area. The Crimea, was part of Russia not Turkey. This enabled the Army Generals, with the agreement of the War Office, to exclude her from holding any nursing authority in the Crimea until after the armistice.

Catholic reactions - While the Government had political problems, its complete ignoring of the heroic services of the nursing Sisters, did not go unnoticed within the Catholic Community.

Margaret Taylor, (who had made known the night visits with FN) was now editor of her magazine: *The Lamp*. She wrote: "it behoved the aristocracy of Victorian England to erect a monument which would prove to future generations that Anglicanism in the space of three hundred years had produced one truly great and charitable daughter."

Cardinal Wiseman in his Lenten Pastoral 1856 wrote: "The charity which springs up suddenly in the world *and reflects credit on itself, the world will take care to* requite, to honour by loud praise, to exalt by exclusive applause, to commemorate by lasting monuments" but the charity which, " long nourished in the secret of the cloister, had been for years exercised amidst the infected and plague-stricken lanes of English

and Irish cities, was denied even the passing tribute of one generous word from those whose mouths were open to private charity."

Bank of England Bank Note.

From February 1975 till May 1994 a £10 Note was circulated with a drawing of Florence Nightingale and a separate portrayal of a ward at Scutari.

Catholic and Anglican nursing nuns formed a third of the staff and were the most permanent throughout the war. They were permitted to wear their distinctive habits. Apart from FN, the head covering of four nurses may be viewed working in the ward. Yet not one is distinguished as a nun. In 1854 the camera was in its infancy so the public had to rely on paintings and etchings to portray events abroad. Artists limited themselves to depicting the lay nurses at Scutari. This may have been viewed as justifiable at the time so as not to antagonise the anti-Catholic public at home.

When, over a century later, the *Bank of England* issued their £10 Note, the scene depicted was based on an old etching, not reality. 6,493 million of these notes were printed and, if reality had been portrayed, think of the good publicity there would have been for the Catholic Community.

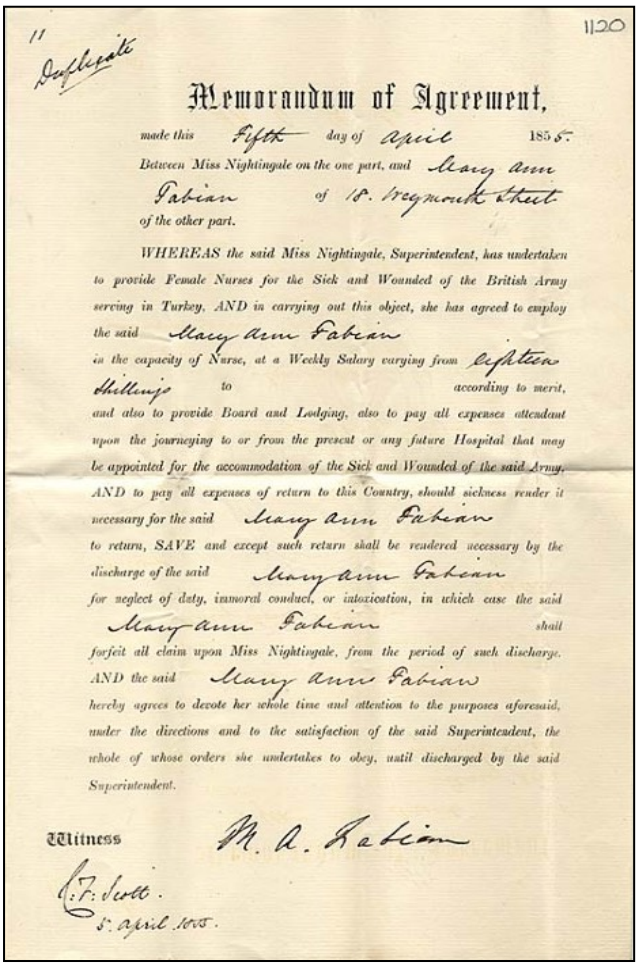
It is very unlikely the nuns were deliberately omitted — no one would have thought about it. But if members of the Salvation Army, Indians wearing sarees, Muslims in hijabs, or coloured people, had been involved — would they have been forgotten? This is an example of how anti-Catholic prejudice from the past intrudes into the present day. It is so ingrained in our culture that it is often unnoticed.

Books, Articles and Reviews.

BOOK: The Sisters Of Mercy In The Crimean War By Evelyn Bolster. Published in the U.S.A. by Mercia Press. 1964. This provides a good detailed account of the events based on Mother Bridgeman's diary.

BOOK: The Crimean Journal of the Sisters of Mercy 1854 - 1856. Maria Laddy (Editor). This is based on diaries left by three of the Sisters who were there. Published by Four Courts Press, Dublin, 2004.

ARTICLE: Sister Mary Joseph Cooke - Another voice from the Crimean war by Mary Ellen Doone. The Nursing Historical Review. Volume 3, 1995, Published by the American Association for the History of Nursing, Inc. Back copies may be purchased or borrowed through Library System.



11 1120

Duplicate

Memorandum of Agreement,

made this Fifth day of April 1855.

Between Miss Nightingale on the one part, and Mary Ann Fabian of 18. Weymouth Street of the other part.

WHEREAS the said Miss Nightingale, Superintendent, has undertaken to provide Female Nurses for the Sick and Wounded of the British Army serving in Turkey, AND in carrying out this object, she has agreed to employ the said Mary Ann Fabian in the capacity of Nurse, at a Weekly Salary varying from Eighteen shillings to according to merit, and also to provide Board and Lodging, also to pay all expenses attendant upon the journeying to or from the present or any future Hospital that may be appointed for the accommodation of the Sick and Wounded of the said Army, AND to pay all expenses of return to this Country, should sickness render it necessary for the said Mary Ann Fabian to return, SAVE and except such return shall be rendered necessary by the discharge of the said Mary Ann Fabian for neglect of duty, immoral conduct, or intoxication, in which case the said Mary Ann Fabian shall forfeit all claim upon Miss Nightingale, from the period of such discharge. AND the said Mary Ann Fabian hereby agrees to devote her whole time and attention to the purposes aforesaid, under the directions and to the satisfaction of the said Superintendent, the whole of whose orders she undertakes to obey, until discharged by the said Superintendent.

Witness M. A. Fabian

E. F. Scott.

5. April 1855.

Transcript - Memorandum of Agreement - made this fifth day of April 1855. Between Miss Nightingale on the one part and Mary Ann Fabian of 18 Weymouth Street of the other part.

WHEREAS the said Miss Nightingale, Superintendent, has undertaken to provide Female Nurses for the Sick and Wounded of the British Army serving in Turkey, AND in carrying out this object, she has agreed to employ the said Mary Ann Fabian in the capacity of Nurse, at a Weekly Salary varying from eighteen shillings to [blank] according to merit, and also to provide Board and Lodging, also to pay all expenses attendant upon the journeying to or from the present or any future Hospital that may be appointed for the accommodation of the Sick and Wounded of the said Army.

AND to pay all expenses of return to this Country, should sickness render it necessary for the said Mary Ann Fabian to return, SAVE and except such return shall be rendered necessary by the discharge of said Mary Ann Fabian for neglect of duty, immoral conduct, or intoxication, in which case the said Mary Ann Fabian shall forfeit all claim upon Miss Nightingale, from the period of such discharge.

AND the said Mary Ann Fabian hereby agrees to devote her whole time and attention to the purpose aforesaid, under the directions and to the

satisfaction of the said Superintendent, the whole of whose orders she undertakes to obey, until discharged by the said Superintendent.

Witness
[signature] R.F. Scott - 5 April 1855
[signature] M A Fabian

Florence Nightingale

In response to the worsening situation in the region, Florence Nightingale was appointed as "Superintendent of the Female Nurses in the Hospitals in the East" by her friend Sidney Herbert, Secretary of War. Nightingale arrived at the Barrack Hospital in Scutari, a suburb on the Asian side of Constantinople, Turkey, on the eve of the Battle of Inkerman, November 4th 1854, with 38 nurses.

The conditions were appalling and Welsh nurse, Elizabeth Davis, reported that "The first that I touched was a case of frost bite. The toes of both the man's feet fell off with the bandages. The hand of another fell off at the wrist. It was a fortnight, or from that to six weeks, since the wounds of many of those men had been looked at and dressed.... One soldier had been wounded at Alma.... His wound had not been dressed for five weeks, and I took at least a quart of maggots from it. From many of the other patients I removed them in handfuls."

With an incredible amount of hard work the nurses in Nightingales' charge brought the Scutari hospital into better order and 46 more nurses had arrived in the Crimea by December. Despite a rise in the number of nurses the workload was overwhelming. At one point less than 100 nurses had 10,000 men under their care. By February 1855 the death rate was running 42% due to defects in the sanitation system resulting in outbreaks of cholera and typhus fever. The War Office ordered immediate reforms in the sanitary system and by June the rate fell to 2%.

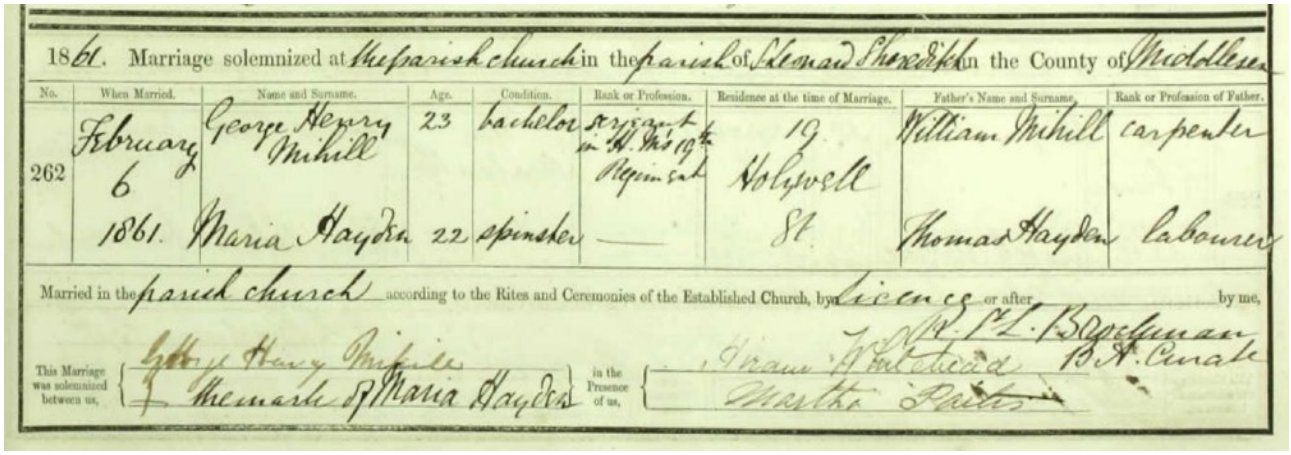
Maria Elizabeth Mihill (nee Hayden)

Nina Humphrey writes "In April 1923 the funeral of George Mihill took place with full military honours at St Mary's & All Saints (new church) Langdon Hills. He was afterwards buried in the same plot as his wife Maria at the old St Mary's & All Saints Church, in Old Church Avenue, Langdon Hills. Maria had died in October 1922. Their home address had been 'Clapgate Cottage'. Dry Street.

George Mihill was born 1838 in Purleigh, Essex and served in the 19th Regiment (1st North Yorkshire) The Green Howards (Regimental No. 332) in the Crimea War 1854-1855. He was wounded during the final battle for the Redan on 8th September 1855.

One of his nurses was Maria Hayden from Australia who went to the Crimea as a nurse with Lady Blackmore and assisted Miss Florence Nightingale in nursing the wounded amongst whom was Corporal G. Mihill. Maria afterwards proceeded to India as Matron in Charge of women and children. Maria Elizabeth Hayden was born in Bathhurst New South Wales around 1836 the daughter of Thomas Hayden (1805 Warwick UK-1861 Chippendale New South Wales and Susan Jones (1810 Mitchells Town Cork Ireland-1854 Buckland River Victoria. She was the daughter of a Non-Commissioned Officer and went to the Crimea with Lady Alicia Blackwood and finally assisted his recovery as mentioned under the care of Florence Nightingale. By this time he had already been promoted to Corporal.

George travelled to India where he fought through the greater part of the Indian Mutiny. He had many clasps and medals. Three years after their first meeting, George and Maria renewed their acquaintance while in India. George was invalided home and he and Maria returned to England together. They were married at St. Leonards, Shoreditch on 6th February 1861 and went on to have eleven children.



1861. Marriage solemnized at the parish church in the parish of St Leonard Shoreditch in the County of Middlesex

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
262	February 6 1861.	George Henry Mihill	23	bachelor	sergeant in H.M. 9th Regiment	19 Holywell St	William Mihill	carpenter
		Maria Hayden	22	spinster	—		Thomas Hayden	labourer

Married in the parish church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by licence or after by me, T. W. P. L. Bogelman B.A. Curate

This Marriage was solemnized between us, George Henry Mihill, the mark of Maria Hayden

in the Presence of us, Hiram Whitehead, Martha Pitts

A CRIMEAN ROMANCE

"Couple met in Battlefield Hospital."
(An article in the mount Ida Chronicle of 1914 in the National Archives of New Zealand)

Probably the most unique old couple in the United Kingdom live in Dry Street a half mile from Langdon Hills Essex. Mr. George Mihill, the husband, has served through the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny while his wife was also present during the war and knew Miss Florence Nightingale intimately.

The old couple celebrated their Golden wedding a short time ago but when interviewed the other day the looked as hale and hearty as possible though their combined ages fall only two short of 160. Mrs. Mihill was actively engaged in the housework but she paused to tell some of her reminiscences of Miss Florence Nightingale and the Crimean War.

"I was travelling in the Crimea," she said "at the time the war broke out. All means of communication were cut off directly hostilities broke out and I was forced to remain in the district. It was then I met 'the angel of the wards'. I fell ill with Scarlet Fever and was nursed back to health by Miss Nightingale. How well I remember her kindness to me! To repay this kindness I offered to help her with her work and she gladly accepted my offer as the hospitals were terribly short of aid."

Proposal in hospital.

"What can I add to the tribute that has already been paid to the best of women! Her goodness and patience were boundless. I recall on one occasion a Corporal named Persill had been brought into the wards mortally wounded. Miss Nightingale took special interest in his case as he confided to her that he was OK. 'Miss Nightingale' the man said 'one day how I would like to marry you' "Get well my man" replied the nurse "and you shall." Was it only to give him a fighting chance for life and cheer him up that she said this?

On another occasion a wounded man made an insulting remark to Miss Nightingale. She soothed him with a soft answer but not before the man in the next bed, badly wounded as he was, had sprung up and hit the insulter. The effort to protect her good name cost the man his life but I remember him murmuring before he passed away that he was glad he had done it.

I remember too, the marvellous effect of her ever presence amongst the wounded. When she was away many involuntary shrieks and groans escaped the badly hurt, but directly she appeared all was hushed to stillness, such was her personality.

Mrs. Mihill met her husband in a romantic way. He was one of the wounded but brought into the hospital; but the romance did not culminate until three years later when they met again in India during the Mutiny. He was invalided out of the Army in 1861. He has many clasps and medals. At the time of this article it includes the fact they have 26 grandchildren and one son serving in the Indian Army and another fought through the South African War. Two Grandsons are in the Northamptonshire Regiment while another is in the Seaforth Highlanders. Yet other two are in the Royal Navy.

By 1911 George and Maria were living at Clapgate Cottage, Dry Street. Shortly after celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary, the couple were interviewed for a newspaper article. Mrs Mihill was able to relate many stories about Florence Nightingale and her many acts of kindness. In 1921 Queen Alexandra was

made aware of the old veteran couple and showed a kindly interest. Unfortunately the Queen Alexandra's Library does not have any copies of correspondence to the Mihill's.

Upon the death of George Mihill, William Skinner, the Chairman of the Parish Council, via a series of contacts, arranged for a Military Funeral to take place. The Essex Depot (Army) very kindly sent a funeral party from Brentwood consisting of a firing party, buglers and bearers by motor and a very impressive service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev F. Clayton after which the coffin was carried by six bearers to the Graveyard of the Old Church some quarter of a mile distant and interred in the same grave that contained the remains of George's wife Maria. At least 100 Parishioners were present at the graveside, being most solemn and touching.

THE CRIMEA WAR AND PRIVATE GEORGE WILLIAM MIHILL.

Combatants: British, French and Turkish troops against the Imperial Russian Army. The Battle of the Alma (20 September 1854), which is usually considered the first battle of the Crimean War (1853–1856), took place just south of the River Alma in the Crimea. An Anglo-French force under Jacques Leroy de Saint Arnaud and FitzRoy Somerset, 1st Baron Raglan defeated General Aleksandr Sergeyevich Menshikov's Russian Army, which lost around 6,000 troops.

The Anglo-French forces landed on the western coast of the Crimean peninsula some 35 miles (56 km) north of Sevastopol, on 13 September 1854, at Calamita Bay ("Calamity Bay"). Although disorganised and weakened by disease (mostly Cholera and Dysentery), the lack of opposition these landings met allowed a beachhead of four miles (6 km) inland to be made.

Six days later, 19 September 1854, the two armies headed south. The march involved crossing five rivers—the River Bulganak, the River Alma, the River Kacha, the River Belbek and the River Chernaya. At the River Alma, Prince Aleksandr Sergeyevich Menshikov, , Commander-in Chief of the Russians forces in the Crimea, decided to make his stand on the heights above the south banks of the River Alma.

Although the Russian Army was numerically inferior to the combined Anglo-French army (35,000 Russian troops as opposed to 60,000 British and French troops), the heights they occupied were a natural defensive position—indeed the last natural barrier to the allied armies on their approach to Sevastopol. Furthermore, the Russians had more than 100 artillery field guns on the heights which they could employ with devastating effect from the elevated position.

The British and French bivouacked on the northern bank, where the ground sloped gently down to the river. The precipitous cliffs running along the southern bank of the river were 350 feet (107 m) high and continued inland from the river's mouth for almost two miles (3 km) where they met a less steep, but equally high hill known as Telegraph Hill across the river from the village of Bourliouk.

To its east lay Kourgane Hill, a natural strongpoint with fields of fire covering most approaches, and the key to the whole position. Two redoubts had been constructed to protect Kourgane Hill from infantry assault; the Lesser Redoubt on the eastern slope and the Greater Redoubt on the west. The road to Sevastopol ran between Telegraph and Kourgane Hill, covered by Russian batteries sited on the hills and in the narrow valley between them.

The Russians had only to hold their ground and keep the pass closed to achieve victory. The French, however, had a plan. Positioned on the allies' right (the western section of allied line, nearest the sea), they would assault the cliffs across the river. In theory, such an obvious attempt to turn the Russian flank would so concern the Russians that they would fail to notice a British attack on their centre and left.

Battle - Attack at the Greater Redoubt

September 20th dawned foggy, but as it cleared the Light Division was formed up with rest of the Allied army. The Russians, commanded by Prince Menshikof, commanded the heights, fielding some 37,000 men and 96 guns, many entrenched in positions such as the Great Redoubt. 10 French and 3 British warships sailed along the right flank of the Russian positions, supporting the advance of some 30,000 French Turkish troops, but the British force of 23,000 headed straight for the centre of the Russian positions. At 1.00pm the Light Division deployed into line to cross the vineyards lining the near bank of the Alma. As the men came under fire, they pulled off their stocks, as they would soon replace their shakos with forage caps.

No one knew the depth of the river as they approached it, the men holding their weapons and ammunition high as they crossed. They paused at the bank, waiting orders to advance, until a Yorkshire private cried 'we shall all be slaughtered if we stay here, follow me men!' Although disorganised, the 19th pressed forward up the hill, following Sir George Brown conspicuous on a grey horse, and found that their musketry was

effective against the columns opposing them. Men from the 19th, 23rd and 33rd took the Great Redoubt at bayonet point, finding themselves ordered to retire by bugle call. No-one ever determined who gave this order, but a counter attack by the Guards Division retook it.

The 19th were enraged, Lt. Lidwell noting that 'The Light Division have to thank the Grenadier Guards only for extricating them from the mess that the incompetency of our commanders had run us into'. The Russians fled, but no pursuit was organised, giving them time to fortify Sebastopol which could otherwise have been taken straight away. On the far right, General Bousquet's division, supported by the guns of the French fleet, crossed the river, scaled the cliffs and expelled the Russian infantry and artillery stationed there. Bousquet could not continue the advance without reinforcements, reinforcements that would not arrive quickly.

On Bousquet's left, French troops under General Canrobert crossed the river but were unable to move their guns up the steep cliffs. To Canrobert's left Prince Napoleon's division were not even able to cross the river. In the face of heavy fire from Telegraph Hill their advance stalled and the troops took shelter in the vineyards outside the village of Bourliouk.

Meanwhile, the British had moved forward. The army was arranged in two lines; the first had the Light Division on the left under Sir George Brown and the 2nd Division under Sir George de Lacy Evans on the right. Behind them on the right of the second line, Sir Richard England led his 3rd Division while on his left the Duke of Cambridge commanded the 1st Division. The 4th division under Sir George Cathcart and the cavalry under Lord Lucan were held in reserve.

Unfortunately, the Light Division had not extended its line far enough to the left and as it advanced it did so at a slight angle. Sir George Brown was extremely short sighted and he failed to notice that this had occurred. Soon the troops on the right of the Light Division and the left of the 2nd Division were merging. The parade ground precision with which the British had set off had been lost. The Russians were now faced, not with a disciplined British formation, but by something with the outward appearance of a mob.

Unable to reorganise their men into anything like their original makeup, British officers finally ordered their men to charge as they were. The men charged, and as they struggled up the slope a densely packed mass of Russian infantry came towards them. The British troops stopped and opened fire on the Russians. The skill of the British as professional riflemen, using the newly developed Minie ball, forced the Russians back.

The Crimean War was the first war in which the Minié ball was employed. Most British regiments in the Crimea had been fitted with the new type of shot, that took advantage of the rifling inside the barrel of the new British guns. Thus, a spin was placed on the Minié ball in flight on its way to the target.

This produced much more accuracy, over a much greater range, than the old style smooth bore muskets the Russian Army was supplied with. Here at the Battle of the Alma, the Minié ball was to have a devastating impact on the Russians. The Russians had to be within 300 paces of the British to attain any kind of accuracy with their smooth bore muskets, while the British began firing their rifled Minié balls accurately on the Russians at a distance of 1200 paces.

As the red-coated line started back up the hill, the Russian artillery opened up. Scrambling up the slopes of Kourgane Hill in the face of determined artillery fire, the British line was no solid mass of troops, forming more of a thick skirmishing line, which with the accuracy of the Minié ball, left the Russian artillery field unable to stop the British attack and only slow it.

The British continued upward until they finally tumbled over the walls of the Greater Redoubt, as the Russians were trying to move their guns. However, the Russians were set to rout and fled in all directions. As the British celebrated in the Great Redoubt, some troops carved their initials on the carriages of captured Russian guns and marvelled at their achievement, the lack of reinforcements soon made itself clear.

The First Division, consisting of the Guards and Highland Brigades, was still crossing the river, and a great Russian column was moving straight for the Greater Redoubt in a counterattack. At one point during the Russian counterattack on the Great Redoubt, as the British prepared to meet the Russian counterattack, an unknown officer shouted *"Do not fire! They are French."* Other officers shouted the order to fire, and in the confusion the British troops began to withdraw from the Redoubt.

Retreat and second attack

As the Russians column marched down to the Greater Redoubt, an astonishing fact became apparent. Earlier in the day, Menshikov had left Kourgane Hill and proceeded to view the action on the far left of the Russian army where the French had seemed to be initially, causing a danger.

Now his second in command, watching his men push the British down the hill, looked westward for a sign of Menshikov. Instead he saw the cocked hats and white plumes of British staff officers atop a spur of Telegraph Hill calmly watching the battle.

Lord Raglan had wanted a better view of the proceedings and followed by his staff had ridden past the French skirmishers on the left of Prince Napoleon's division and through the Russian skirmishers facing them. Stumbling across an upward path, he finally found himself on a ridge jutting out from Telegraph Hill, overlooking Kourgane Hill and the valley between. Suggesting to his staff that it might be a good idea to have some guns in such a commanding position, the thought was taken as an order and soon two nine-pounders were firing from the ridge. The Russian batteries in the valley were forced to withdraw by fire from these guns, and a few shots fired in their direction persuaded the Russians pursuing the retreating British down the hill that this was unwise.

By now, the First Division had finally crossed the river and the Russians by the Greater Redoubt saw approaching below them the Grenadier Guards on the right of the British line, the Scots Fusilier Guard in the centre and the Coldstream Guards on the left. Out of sight on the far left was the Highland Brigade. Below the Greater Redoubt, however, a group of Royal Welch Fusiliers had held their ground when their comrades had retreated and were firing up at the redoubt.

Suddenly the Russians unleashed hundreds of soldiers, who swarmed over the parapets of the retaken redoubt and poured a shattering volley of musket fire downwards. The Royal Welch Fusiliers were smashed and rushed down the hill, crashing into the advancing Scots Guards with such force that the line was broken in many places. The Scots Guards faltered, and when they were 40 yards (40 m) from the redoubt the Russians mounted a massive bayonet charge. The Scots Guards were forced to retreat and they did so stopping only when they reached the river. Almost 200 of them lay dead on the slope. A large gap now existed between the Grenadiers and the Coldstream Guards. The Russian generals saw their chance and pushed two battalions into the gap. As the Grenadiers prepared to meet this charge, again strange orders were given, as had occurred earlier in the Greater Redoubt.

An unknown officer told the Grenadiers to retire. The captain commanding the left-wing company of the Grenadiers, the Hon. Henry Percy, however, felt this order to be foolish and instead ordered his company to form a right angle with the rest of the battalion which thus now assumed an 'L' shape, with the base of the 'L' pointing back down to the river.

Final stage

The last act came on the far right of the Russian line where 10,000 troops were still unused and uncommitted. They were faced by the advancing Highland Brigade; a mere three battalions. Led by Sir Colin Campbell, the 93rd (Highland) Regiment, the 79th (Cameron Highlanders) Regiment and the 42nd (Royal Highland) Regiment were advancing in a dangerously thin line extended for almost 2,000 yards (2,000 m) although in the smoke and confusion of battle the Russians were unable to see that it was only two ranks deep.

The highly disciplined Highland Brigade advanced firing, a task difficult to accomplish in those days. For the Russians it proved too much and they fell back. The Battle of the Alma was effectively over. On the right of the Allied line, Canrobert had finally got his guns up the cliffs and his Zouaves seized Telegraph Hill. The

ridge Lord Raglan had so dramatically made his own was now swarming with red-coated troops. The Russian right was fleeing before the Highland Brigade, the Greater Redoubt was taken and the road to Sevastopol open.

As the Russians moved into the gap, his men were able to pour deadly accurate fire into their flank. The recently invented Minie ball bullet combined with this well executed manoeuvre caused the Russians to hesitate in their attack. Seeing this, the British Grenadiers and the Coldstream Guards were soon able to close the gap between them and the Russians were forced to retreat. The Greater Redoubt was again in British hands and the defences on the left of the Russian centre were shattered. The Russian retreat became a rout and Lord Raglan sought permission to pursue the Russians. Had the allies pursued the Russians at this point, they might have taken Sevastopol by surprise.

However, General St. Arnaud decided this was impossible for his French troops had left their packs at their start points across the river and would have to go back for them before further advances. Furthermore, unlike the British, the French had no cavalry with which to give chase. Further, convincing certain allied commanders of the need not follow the Russians was the Russians own decision to blow up and sink their own navy across the opening of the harbour of Sevastopol. Realizing that their fleet could not match the allied fleet in speed or gun power, the Russians made this bold decision to sink the ships across the opening of the harbour to prevent the allies from entering the harbour.

The successful allied land forces on the River Alma now realized that any attack on Sevastopol would have to be made without any support from their navies. Accordingly, under all these restrictions the French commanders were reluctant to pursue the Russians at this point. Raglan was unwilling to pursue the enemy without French support and the broken Russian army was able to escape unmolested.

Only on 23 September 1854, did the British and French land armies begin the march to Balaclava to begin the siege of Sevastopol. The Turkish contingent comprised 7,000 infantry, no cavalry and an unknown number of guns. The Russian Army was made up of 33,000 infantry, 3,400 cavalry and 120 guns.

Sergeant Luke O'Connor of the Royal Welch Fusiliers winning the Victoria Cross at the Alma leading the charge of his regiment with the Queen's Colour which he seized from the hands of Lieutenant Harry Anstruther, shot dead as he entered the Great Russian Battery. Sergeant O'Connor subsequently rose to the rank of Field Marshal, the only soldier to serve in every rank in the British Army.

Generals:

General the Earl of Raglan commanded the British Army, General Saint-Arnaud commanded the French Army. Prince Menshikov commanded the Russian Army. Size of the armies: The British Army comprised 26,000 infantry, 1,000 cavalry (the Light Brigade; the Heavy Brigade did not land in the Crimea in time for the battle) and 60 guns. The French Army comprised 28,000 infantry, no cavalry and 72 guns.

British Order of Battle:

Commander in Chief: Field Marshal Lord Raglan

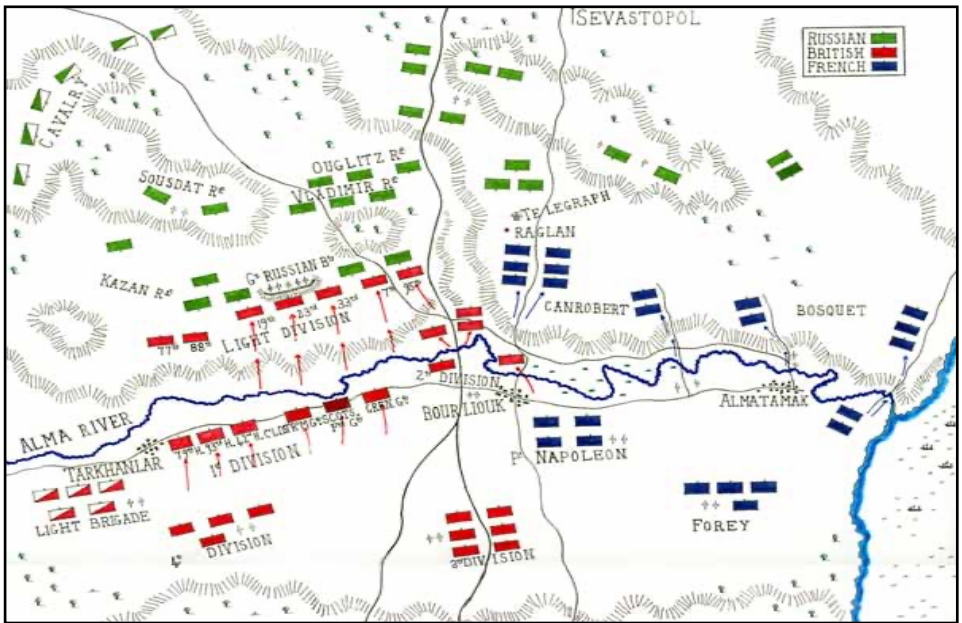
The Cavalry Division: General the Earl of Lucan
Troop of Royal Horse Artillery
Light Brigade: Major-General the Earl of Cardigan
4th Light Dragoons
8th Hussars
11th Hussars
13th Light Dragoons
17th Lancers
First Division: the Duke of Cambridge Highland Brigade:
42nd Highlanders
79th Highlanders
93rd Highlanders
Major General Sir Colin Campbell
Two field batteries Royal Artillery
Guards Brigade: General Bentinck
3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards

1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards
1st Battalion, Scots Fusilier Guards

The Scots Fusilier Guards Colour Party leads the regiment's attack on the Great Russian Battery. Lieutenant Lindsay carries the Queen's Colour; Lieutenant Thistlethwayte carries the Regimental Colour. Of the party, Lieutenant Lindsay, Sergeants McKechnie and Knox and Private Reynolds were awarded the Victoria Cross. The Queen's Colour received 24 bullet holes and the staff was shot in half.

Second Division: Lieutenant-General Sir de Lacy Evans
Two field batteries Royal Artillery
Third Brigade: Brigadier-General Adams
41st Regiment
47th Regiment
49th Regiment
Fourth Brigade: Brigadier-General Pennefather
30th Regiment
55th Regiment
95th Regiment
Fifth Brigade: Brigadier-General Sir John Campbell
4th King's Own Royal Regiment
38th Regiment
50th Regiment

Third Division: Lieutenant-General Sir Richard England
Two field batteries Royal Artillery
Sixth Brigade: Brigade-General Eyre
1st Royal Regiment
28th Regiment
44th Regiment
Fourth Division: Major-General Sir George Cathcart
One field batteries Royal Artillery
Seventh Brigade: Brigadier-General Torrens
20th Regiment
21st Royal Scots Fusiliers
68th Regiment
Eighth Brigade:
46th Regiment
(57th Regiment, which did not land until after the battle)
Light Division:
Lieutenant-General Sir George Brown
One troop of Royal Horse Artillery and one field battery Royal Artillery
2nd Battalion the Rifle Brigade.
First Brigade (known as the Fusilier Brigade): Major-General Codrington
7th Royal Fusiliers
23rd Royal Welch



Fusiliers
33rd Regiment

Second Brigade: Major-General Buller

19th Regiment
77th Regiment
88th Regiment

The Battle of the Alma

British Regiments:

4th Light Dragoons: now the Queen's Royal Hussars.*
8th Hussars: now the Queen's Royal Hussars.*
11th Hussars: now the King's Royal Hussars.*
13th Light Dragoons: now the Light Dragoons.*.
17th Lancers: now the Queen's Royal Lancers.*
Grenadier Guards:*
Coldstream Guards:*
Scots Fusilier Guards:*
1st Royal Regiment, the Royal Scots.*
4th King's Own Royal Regiment: now the King's Own Royal Border Regiment.*
19th Regiment: now the Green Howards.* In which George William Mihill was serving.
20th Regiment: now the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.*
23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers.*
28th Regiment: now the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.*
30th Regiment: now the Queen's Lancashire Regiment.*
33rd Regiment: now the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.*
38th Regiment: now the Staffordshire Regiment.*
41st Regiment: now the Royal Regiment of Wales.*
42nd Highlanders, the Black Watch (the Royal Highland Regiment).*
44th Regiment: now the Royal Anglian Regiment.
47th Regiment: now the Queen's Lancashire Regiment.
49th Regiment: now the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.*
50th Regiment: now the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.*
55th Regiment: now the King's Own Royal Border Regiment.*
63rd Regiment: now the King's Regiment.*
68th Regiment: now the Light Infantry.*
77th Regiment: now the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.*
79th Highlanders: now the Highlanders.*
88th Regiment, the Connaught Rangers, disbanded in 1922.*
93rd Highlanders: now the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.*
95th Regiment: now the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiments.*
Rifle Brigade: now the Royal Green Jackets.*

*** These regiments have the Alma as a battle honour.**

The French order of battle: The four divisions of General Bosquet, General Canrobert, Prince Napoleon and General Forey.

General Bosquet's artillery and Zouaves crossing the Alma River at Almatamak before climbing onto the Heights

Account: The British and French armies landed on the Crimean Peninsular on 14th September 1854 intending to capture the Russian naval base of Sevastopol on the South West of the Crimea. The landing took place on the western Crimean coast some fifteen miles to the north of the port.

Zouaves and Turcos storming the ravine south of Bourliouk in support of British 2nd Division at the Battle

The road down the coast to Sevastopol crossed four rivers flowing east to west into the Black Sea; the Bulganek, the Alma, the Katelia and the Belbeck.

The Light Division crossing the Alma River to storm the Alma Heights: the Rifle Brigade skirmishing the fore.

The allied army (British, French and Turkish) began the march south from the landing site on 19th September 1854. The French army marched by the coast with the Turkish contingent in its midst. The British in two columns took the inland flank.

The Light Brigade of cavalry provided a screen to the front and left flank. Ships of the British and French navies sailed parallel and in advance of the armies. A skirmish took place as the allied army crossed the Bulganek on the first day of the 25 mile march to Sevastopol.

As the Russians withdrew from the hills beyond the river Lord Lucan sought to pursue them with the Light Brigade but was ordered to withdraw by Lord Raglan. The allied armies encamped on the high ground beyond the river.

It was on the River Alma that the Russian general, Prince Menshikov, resolved to make his stand, taking advantage of the high ground along the south bank.

The axis of the advance was the post road which

followed the coastline from Eupatoria in the North of the Crimea to Sevastopol. The country was open rolling grassland enabling the troops to march on either side of the road.

On 20th September 1854 the allied armies continued their march in the same formations. At about midday a warship steaming in advance of the armies opened a bombardment on the shore. The armies reach the top of one of the low ridges that lay along the line of march and the valley of the Alma opened before them.

Three villages lay along the near bank of the river; Almatamak in front of the French; Bourliouk in the centre of the advance and Tarkhanlar to the left of the British. The post road crossed the Alma to the inland side of Bourliouk and ascended into the hills beyond the river. Along the high ground on the far side of the Alma lay the Russian Army in strength intending to give battle in defence of Sevastopol. The main body of Menshikov's force lay on Kourgané Hill in front of the British Army's centre, covered by a battery of 8 heavy siege guns at the front of its position. These guns were the focal point of the Russian defence and became known as the "Great Russian Battery" or the "Greater Redoubt". Immediately beyond Bourliouk the Russian reserves occupied a hill with a telegraph station.

The post road to Sevastopol lay in the valley between Kourgané Hill and Telegraph Hill. From Bourliouk to the coast, opposite the French line of advance, the south bank of the Alma became a cliff face. An accessible road crossed the river from Almatamak, ascending the cliff. Near the river mouth a steep path climbed the cliff face. The Russian presence on the high ground above this cliff was slight. Menshikov's leadership was uninspired and lacking in vigour. The Russians took little trouble to fortify their positions.

The heavy guns on Kourgané Hill were fronted by a low parapet intended to stop the guns from rolling down the hill rather than for protection. No works had been built to keep the French off the coastal high ground or to protect the Russian troops from naval bombardment.

The Heights of Alma: the day after the battle

The Allied plan, agreed between Raglan and St Arnaud that morning was for the French to begin the attack under cover of the fleet's guns. Bosquet's Division stormed up the coastal path and the Almatamak road. Canrobert crossed the Alma to the west of Almatamak and climbed Telegraph Hill, sending his guns up the Almatamak road. The Russian piquets set fire to Bourliouk and withdrew across the river and up the hill.

General St Arnaud sent word to Lord Raglan requesting that the British now launch their assault on the main Russian positions and Raglan issued the orders to his divisional commanders to attack. There now occurred an incident of extraordinary eccentricity. Leaving his generals to make the assault Lord Raglan led his staff across the river and rode up onto a promontory below Telegraph Hill. Raglan watched the British attack from a position behind the Russian lines.

The British infantry advanced towards the river in a line stretching from Bourliouk nearly to Tarkhanlar; the Second Division on the right and the Light Division on the left. The Third Division supported the Second and the First Division the Light. The Fourth Division remained behind the left wing. The Light Brigade of cavalry guarded the inland flank. The battery of heavy Russian guns on Kourgané Hill opened fire on the advancing British infantry with considerable effect both physical and psychological.

The burning village of Bourliouk caused considerable difficulty, the brigades of the 2nd Division being forced to bypass the village on either side to reach the river. The brigade of General Adams reached the river to the East of Bourliouk and found itself at the base of Telegraph Hill. General Pennefather's brigade passed to the West of the village. His third regiment, the 95th, joined Codrington's Fusilier Brigade and took part in the assault with that formation, leaving Pennefather with the 30th and 55th Regiments.

Codrington's regiments became the apex of the advance up to the Russian Battery. Two regiments of the Division's second brigade were held back to protect the army's inner flank. The remaining regiment of that brigade, the 19th, also joined Codrington's attack so that he led forward five regiments rather than the three of his brigade (7th, 19th, 23rd, 33rd and 95th).

The British infantry advanced to the river and began to cross, finding the water to be fordable at almost every point (it is not clear whether this fact had been discovered before the battle). The far side of the river comprised a steep six foot bank which caused a halt in the advance, partly because of its physical obstacle, partly because it provided cover from the bombardment. The divisional commander of the Light Division, Sir George Brown rode up he bank and urged his soldiers to follow. The division surged out of the river and scaled the hill beyond.

The brief action on the Bulganek on 19th September 1854; British light cavalry in the foreground.

The ground on the hillside was terraced and walled making it difficult for the regiments to reform after the river crossing and the British troops attacked up the hill in some disorder. The regiments reached the Russian Battery to find that the guns had been hastily limbered up and were being removed to the rear.

It is the view of General Hamley, who served as an artillery officer in the Crimea, that the precipitous retreat of these guns saved the British regiments from suffering appalling losses in the final stages of the assault. Even so Codrington's brigade was in a precarious position. There was little order and casualties were mounting particularly among the officers. Large masses of Russian infantry were bearing down on the battery. Many of the British soldiers retreated back down the hill towards the river. Raglan's position on the lower slopes of Telegraph Hill prevented him from exercising proper control over the assault by his army. If matters had gone according to plan the First Division should have been on hand to support Codrington's troops. It was not.

The Duke of Cambridge was slow in ordering his brigades of Guards and Highlanders to cross the Alma. Fortunately the Quartermaster General, Lieutenant General Airey had not accompanied his commander and was on hand to urge Cambridge forward. Even so the First Division was too far back to support the Light Division at the moment of crisis.

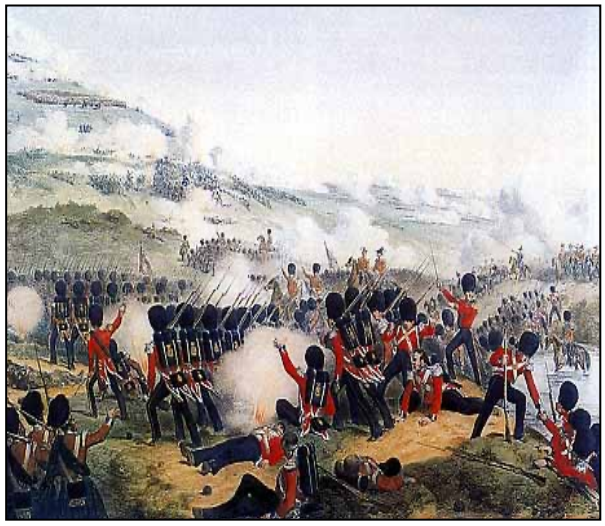
HRH The Duke of Cambridge watches as the British Foot Guards advance to cross the river at the Battle of the Alma.

The First Division moved forward to the River Alma with General Bentinck's Guards Brigade on the right and Sir Colin Campbell's Highland Brigade on the left. The two brigades were formed in accordance with precedent with the senior regiments on the right within each brigade, the next senior regiment on the left and the junior regiment in the centre: from right to left the Grenadier Guards, the Scots Fusilier Guards, the Coldstream Guards, 42nd Highlanders, 91st Highlanders and the 79th Highlanders.

The length of the line, substantially longer than that of the Light Division, extended beyond the Russian inland flank. Differences in the depth of the river and the height and steepness of the bank affected the speed with which these regiments were able to cross the river and begin the ascent of the hill.

The adjutant of the Grenadiers, Captain Higginson, described in his memoirs how his commander, Colonel Hood, noted the confused advance of the Fusilier Brigade as it attacked the Russian Battery and determined to keep his battalion under strict control. The Grenadiers formed in line before leaving the river and advanced up the hill firing two volleys at the Russian infantry on the hillside causing them to retreat.

At the top of the hill the 7th Royal Fusiliers, under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Lacey Yea, on the right flank of Codrington's brigade, had not retreated. Much of the rest of the brigade was falling back and the Scots Fusilier Guards in the centre of Bentinck's brigade was largely swept back down the hill to the river by the flood of men. The other two Guards battalions, the Grenadiers and the Coldstream, continued on up the hill and retook the Russian Battery. The 42nd Highlanders outstripping the other regiments of the Highland Brigade outflanked the Battery on the left; the other two Highland regiments coming up on the far flank.



The British Foot Guards crossing the Alma River before storming the Heights in support of the Light Division.

During the attack on the Russian Battery on Kourgané Hill the remaining regiments of the 2nd Division, the 55th, 30th and 47th, attacked up Telegraph Hill, supported by the 41st and 49th.

British gun batteries crossed the bridge beyond Bourliouk and bombarded the Russian regiments on Telegraph Hill. A Royal Horse Artillery battery climbed up onto the hill and fired into the Russian infantry from the right of the Guards Brigade. Other British guns came up on the flanks of the regiments of the Second Division and fired into the retreating Russian regiments. In one instance a battery outstripped its gunners, following on foot, and the guns were brought into action by the officers. The Third Division crossed the Alma in support of the Highland Brigade and the Light Brigade of cavalry moved forward on the inland flank.

The only allied cavalry on the field, Cardigan's Light Brigade, under the direct command of the Cavalry Division commander, Lord Lucan, pressed for permission to pursue the retreating Russians, but were specifically ordered by Lord Raglan to remain with the army. The allied armies camped beyond the battle field while Menshikov led his army back along the post road to Sevastopol.

Cleared from the Battery and under threat from the attacks on Kourgané and Telegraph Hills, now fully supported by artillery fire, the Russian infantry fell back and left the battlefield, marching away towards Sevastopol. The French force took little part in the battle. Bosquet's division had contact with the Russians. Canrobert's division in the centre made little use of its position to influence the attack on Kourgané Hill.

Casualties:

The Russians casualties were 5,709. The official French return claimed casualties of 1,340. The British belief is that this return was incorrect. Lord Raglan set French casualties at 560. 3 French officers were killed.

British casualties were set at 2,002.
British regimental casualties were:
Royal Artillery: 3 officers and 30 men.
Grenadier Guards: 3 officers and 127 men
Coldstream Guards: 2 officers and 27 men
Scots Fusilier Guards: 11 officers and 149 men
4th King's Own Royal Regiment: 2 officers and 11 men
19th Regiment: 8 officers and 119 men
20th Regiment: 1 man
23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers: 13 officers and 197 men
30th Regiment: 5 officers and 74 men
33rd Regiment: 7 officers and 232 men
41st Regiment: 27 men
42nd Highlanders: 39 men
44th Regiment: 8 men
47th Regiment: 4 officers and 65 men
49th Regiment: 15 men
55th Regiment: 8 officers and 107 men
77th Regiment: 20 men
79th Highlanders: 9 men
88th Regiment: 1 officer and 21 men
93rd Highlanders: 1 officer and 51 men
95th Regiment: 17 officers and 176 men
Rifle Brigade: 1 officer and 50 men

Follow-up:

Raglan urged his French colleague St Arnaud that the allies should follow the Russians into Sevastopol.

St Arnaud refused to do so. It seems to be the authoritative view, particularly of the Russians, that if the allies had launched a prompt attack they would have had little difficulty in taking the city. The delay enabled the Russians to recover from the defeat and put the city defences in proper order. This in turn condemned the allies to the winters of 1854/5 and 1855/6 in the siege lines around Sevastopol and to two further battles.

On the other hand General Hamley, who served in the Crimea, states in his book that when the army did follow the Russians they found few signs of a disorderly retreat. The battle revealed a number of stark failings in the British Army. There was no standard battle drill, each regiment's conduct depending on the whim of the commanding officer. Some regiments felt it necessary to form line and advance methodically, while others rushed up to the Great Battery as quickly as they could and in no order. There seems to have been little control at brigade or divisional level. There was no co-ordination between infantry and artillery, the guns being left to come on as and where they could.

Due to his curious expedition behind the Russian lines the commander in chief Lord Raglan largely lost control of his army. Hamley makes the comment: "It was fortunate in the circumstances, that the divisional commanders had so plain a task before them." It is apparent that however plain their tasks may have been, it was necessary for some control to be exercised. It fell to General Airey to take command of the assault, in particular propelling the First Division into supporting the faltering Light Division attack.

Regimental anecdotes and traditions:

All the Crimean battles are potent symbols for the British Army.

- Victorian accounts of the retreat of the Fusilier Brigade from the Russian Battery describe a bugle call to retire as being the cause. General Hamley, in his account of the battle makes no mention of this bugle call. It may well be that the causes of the retreat were the disorder of the regiments, the heavy officer casualties, the imminence of an overwhelming Russian attack and the lack of support from the First Division.
- The Royal Welch Fusiliers' Queen's Colour was carried into battle by Ensign Henry Anstruther. Anstruther was shot dead as the regiment stormed the Russian Battery. The Queen's Colour was taken up by Sergeant Luke O'Connor and carried through the rest of the battle. O'Connor was subsequently commissioned and rose to the rank of Major General. O'Connor is said to be the only soldier to have served in every rank of the army to that level.
- Because of the nature of the attack on the Russian Battery and the importance of maintaining momentum, the use of the regimental colours has achieved prominence in the history and traditions of the battle. Important pictures show the Colours of the Scots Fusilier Guards being carried into battle, Sergeant Luke Connor with the Queen's Colour of the Royal Welch Fusiliers and the Colour Party of the Coldstream Guards. Higginson states that the Colours of the Grenadiers were not uncased until just before the assault on the Russian Battery. He says the Colours of the Scots Fusilier Guards were shot through while the Grenadier Colours were largely unscathed.

The battle gave rise to controversy over the conduct of the Scots Fusilier Guards. It seems likely that the regiment was pushed back down the hill by the retreat of the Fusilier Brigade. It is reported that the Grenadiers and the Coldstream called out "What's happened to the Queen's favourites now?" a reference to the regiment's standing with Queen Victoria. There are additional criticisms that the regiment failed to re-form after crossing the river or to fix bayonets before advancing up the hill. The Scots Fusilier Guards seem to have begun the attack up the hill before the Grenadiers and the Coldstream on each flank could clear the river and form up to the satisfaction of their commanding officers.

Some of the poor decisions by British generals in the battle were attributed to their short sight. Higginson describes reaching the Battery and finding Sir George Brown sitting on his horse amid a hail of fire. Brown told him to press on. Higginson pointed out to the general that there was a large Russian column moving towards them. Higginson says "Sir George, being short of sight, had not seen this approaching column." It is suggested in the authorities that a brigade commander on the left flank of the army was hampered in making decisions by poor eye sight.

The 42nd Highlanders storming the Alma Heights, led by Sir Colin Campbell

Crimea War Medal

Indian Rebellion of 1857

Corporal George William Mihill then went on to serve during the Indian Rebellion of 1857 against the rule of the British East India Company, that ran from May 1857 to June 1858. The rebellion began as a mutiny of Sepoys of the East India Company's Army on 10 May 1857, in the cantonment of the town of Meerut and soon escalated into other mutinies and civilian rebellions largely in the upper Gangetic plain and central India, with the major hostilities confined to present-day Uttar Pradsesh, Bihar, northern Madhya Pradesh and the Delhi region.

The rebellion posed a considerable threat to East India Company power in that region and was contained only with the fall of Gwalior on 20 June 1858. The rebellion is also known as India's First War of Independence, the Great Rebellion, the Indian Rebellion, the Indian Mutiny, the Revolt of 1857, the Rebellion of 1857, the Uprising of 1857, the Sepoy Rebellion, the Indian Insurrection and the Sepoy Mutiny.

Other regions of Company-controlled India, such as Bengal, the Bombay Presidency and the Madras Presidency, remained largely calm. In Punjab, the Sikh princes backed the Company by providing soldiers and support. The large princely states of Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore and Kashmir, as well as the smaller ones of Raiputana, did not join the rebellion. In some regions, such as Oudh, the rebellion took on the attributes of a patriotic revolt against European presence. Maratha leaders, such as Lakshmibai, the Rani of Jhansi, became folk heroes in the nationalist movement in India half a century later.

The rebellion led to the dissolution of the East India Company in 1858. It also led the British to reorganise the army, the financial system and the administration in India. The country was thereafter directly governed by the Crown as the new British Raj.

Indian Mutiny Medal

The frontspiece shows George William Mihill wearing the medals from the Crimean Campaign but he also received the Indian Mutiny Medal and campaign clasps shown below.

Medal Ribbon (32mm with two red stripes)

The **Indian Mutiny Medal** was a campaign medal approved in 1858, for issue to officers and men of British and Indian units who served in operations in suppression of the Indian Mutiny.

The medal was initially sanctioned for award to those troops who had been engaged in action against the mutineers. However, in 1868 the award was extended to all those who had borne arms or who had been under fire, including such people as members of the Indian judiciary and the Indian civil service, who were caught up in the fighting. Some 290,000 medals were awarded.

The obverse of the medal depicts the head of a young Queen Victoria and bears the inscription *Victoria Regina*. The reverse shows a helmeted Britannia holding a wreath in her right hand and a union shield on her left arm. She is standing in front of a lion. The words "India 1857-1858" are inscribed on the reverse of the medal. The ribbon is white with two scarlet stripes.

Five clasps were authorised, though the maximum awarded to any one man was four. The medal was issued without a clasp to those who served but were not eligible for a clasp. The vast majority of these awards were made to those who became entitled to the medal as a result of the 1868 extensions of eligibility.

Clasps

Delhi

30 May - 14 September 1857. Awarded to troops participating in the recapture of Delhi.

- **Defence of Lucknow**
  29 June - 22 November 1857. Awarded to original defenders and to the relief force commanded by Sir Henry Havelock - Particularly rare and sought after by collectors. This medal was also awarded to the principal, masters and schoolboys from La Martiniere College in Lucknow.
- **Relief of Lucknow**
  November 1857. Awarded to the relief force under the command of sir Colin Campbell.
- **Lucknow**
  November 1857 - March 1858. Awarded to troops under command of Sir Colin Campbell who were engaged in final operations leading to the surrender of Lucknow and the clearing of the surrounding areas.
- **Central India**
  January - June 1858. Awarded to all those who served under Major-General sir Hugh Rose in actions against Jhansi, Kalpi, and Gwalior. Also awarded to those who served with Major-General Roberts in the Rajputana Field Force and Major-General Whitlock of the Madras Column, between January and June 1858.

Compiled by Basildon Borough Heritage Society
October 2018 – Updated December 2024.