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THE  
WAR CORRESPONDENCE  
OF  
THE "DAILY NEWS"  
1877

WITH A CONNECTING NARRATIVE

FORMING A CONTINUOUS HISTORY OF THE

WAR BETWEEN RUSSIA AND TURKEY

INCLUDING THE LETTERS OF

MR. ARCHIBALD FORBES, MR. J. A. MACGAHAN AND MANY  
OTHER SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS IN EUROPE AND ASIA

THIRD EDITION

CONTAINING A

FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE TAKING OF KARS

London

MACMILLAN AND CO.

1878

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V.58:1940591.M77

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LONDON:

WOODFALL AND KINDER, PRINTERS,  
MILFORD LANE, STRAND, W.C

## P R E F A C E .

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THIS volume has been issued to meet the wishes of those who desire to possess, in a permanent form, letters which once yielded them pleasure and instruction. On their first publication these letters were reprinted by daily and weekly Journals throughout the kingdom, and may, without exaggeration, be affirmed to have been more widely reproduced than any communications ever despatched from fields of battle. Of a large proportion of them, it may be said, that they were welcomed by the public as affording the earliest, fullest, and most specific information at critical moments of the campaign, and if it should further be found that these same letters, hastily written in the bivouac, on the field of victory, or in some hovel on the line of retreat, have at the same time the merit of being among the most vivid and truthful pictures of war that have at any time been offered to the public, the popularity they have attained would be accounted for.

Owing to the large number of the Special Correspondents whose letters are now republished, and in order that each of them may have credit for his own labours, a conventional sign has been appropriated to each correspondent and prefixed to his letters, by which his writings may be distinguished.

“DAILY NEWS” OFFICE, BOUVERIE STREET,  
*December, 1877.*

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# CHRONOLOGY OF THE WAR.

APRIL 24, TO NOVEMBER 18, 1877.

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**Apr. 24, 1877.**

Russian declaration of war, and immediate entrance of the Czar's troops into Roumania and Turkish Armenia.

**Apr. 25.**

Seizure of the Barbosch Bridge, and occupation of Galatz by a Russian division.

**Apr. 26.**

Abandonment of Bayazid to the Russians.

**Apr. 30.**

The Queen's proclamation of neutrality.

**May 1.**

Lord Derby's despatch to Lord A. Loftus, conveying disapproval of the war begun by Russia.

**May 6.**

Lord Derby's despatch to Count Schouvaloff, enumerating the British interests which the war might imperil.

**May 11.**

A Turkish three-masted turret-ship blown up near Braila, by a shell fired from a Russian battery. Serious repulse of the Russian Rion detachment by the Turks near Batoum. Bombardment by the Turks of towns on the Russian coast of the Black Sea.

**May 13.**

Capture of Sukhum Kaleh by a Turkish squadron, and landing of troops and Circassians in Great Abhasia.

**May 14.**

Great revolt of the Mussulman population in Trans-Caucasia.

**May 17.**

Capture of Ardahan by assault.

**May 26.**

Destruction of a second Turkish monitor between Matchin and Braila by Russian officers with torpedoes.

**May 30.**

Reply of Prince Gortschakoff to Lord Derby's letter of May 6: "the Russian Government will respect the British interests mentioned by Lord Derby, as long as England remains neutral."

**June 2.**

Investment of Kars.

**June 8.**

Sudden evacuation of Olti by the Russians.

**June 14.**

Investment of Bayazid by Faik Pacha.

**June 16.**

Battle of Taghir and defeat of the right wing of the Turkish Army in Asia.

**June 19.**

Surrender of 1,200 Cossacks to Faik Pacha at Bayazid, and instant slaughter of the whole body by Kurdish irregular troops.

**June 21.**

Battle of Eshki Khaliass and defeat of the left wing of the Russian Army in Asia.

**June 22.**

Passage of the Lower Danube by the Russians, and landing at Matchin.

**June 25.**

Defeat of the centre of the Russian Army in Asia at Zevin.

**June 27.**

Passage of the Danube by the main body of the Russian Army at Simnitza.

**July 2.**

Russian bridge completed at Sistova. Retreat of Russian Army in Asia to Kuruk-Dere.

**July 4.**

Occupation of Bjela by the Russians. Relief of Kars by Mukhtar Pasha.

**July 8.**

Capture of Tirnova by General Gourko.

**July 10.**

Relief of the garrison of Bayazid by General Tergukasoff.

**July 14.**

General Gourko debouches into the Tundja Valley beyond the Balkans.

**July 15.**

Capture of Nicopolis by the Russians.

**July 16.**

General Gourko defeats a Turkish force after a sharp engagement.

**July 17.**

General Gourko enters Kezanlik.

**July 18.**

General Gourko attacks the Shipka Pass in the rear.

**July 19.**

Occupation of the Pass by the Russians. Abdul Kerim Pacha, commander-in-chief of the Ottoman Army in Europe, dismissed. Mehemet Ali Pacha appointed his successor. General Krüdener, with part of the 9th Russian Corps attacks Plevna and is repulsed; is attacked in turn and defeated.

**July 20.**

Sulieinan Pacha at Adrianople with 20,000 regular troops.

**July 21.**

General Krüdener, having received reinforcements, renews his attack on Plevna, and is again defeated.

**July 28.**

Capture of Loftcha by Osman Pacha.

**July 30.**

Defeat of the Turks by General Gourko at Yeni Zagra.

July 31.

Decisive defeat of the right wing of General Gourko's force at Eski Zagra. General Gourko, menaced by the whole force of Suleiman Pacha, returns to the Balkan Passes. The Russians, under General Krüdener and Prince Schahofskoy, attack Osman Pacha at Plevna with 32,000 men, and are defeated with heavy loss.

Aug. 2.

Retreat of General Gourko into the Shipka Pass.

Aug. 19.

Suleiman Pacha occupies the village of Shipka.

Aug. 21.

Suleiman Pacha attacks the Russian position in the Shipka Pass, held by 3,000 men with 40 guns, but only gains the outer lines.

Aug. 22.

Repulse of a Turkish attack on Selvi.

Aug. 23.

Determined and prolonged attack on the Shipka Pass by Suleiman Pacha, which is repulsed late in the evening, when the Russians receive timely reinforcements. Turkish attack on Jaslar, retreat of the Russians to Sultankoi.

Aug. 24.

Renewed and desperate fighting.

Aug. 25.

Turkish attack on the Russian position near Kuruk Dere in Asia, with heavy loss on both sides. Passage of the Danube by the main body of the Roumanian Army.

Aug. 27.

Suleiman Pacha having failed to take the Shipka position, telegraphs for reinforcements.

Aug. 29.

Turkish attack on Karahassankoi, the Russians driven over the Lom to Popkoi.

Aug. 31.

Osman Pacha, making a sortie from Plevna, is severely repulsed.

- Sept. 3.  
Capture of Loftcha by General Prince Imeritinsky.
- Sept. 5.  
The Russians defeated by Ahmed Eyoub Pacha at Kaceljevo on the Lom. Turkish attacks repulsed at Ablava, and Popkoi.
- Sept. 7.  
A heavy fire opened upon Plevna from the Russian siege guns, and continued for four days.
- Sept. 11.  
Great infantry attack by the Russo-Roumanian Army: capture of two redoubts by Skobelev and of the Grivica redoubts by the Roumanians. Repulse of the attack at all other points with enormous loss.
- Sept. 12.  
Loss by Skobelev of the two redoubts captured the day before.
- Sept. 17.  
Suleiman Pacha makes another desperate attack on the Russian position in the Shipka Pass, and telegraphs to Constantinople that he has taken Fort St. Nicholas. He is repulsed with great loss, and Fort St. Nicholas remains in Russian possession.
- Sept. 18.  
First detachment of the Russian guards passed through Bucharest to the front. Unsuccessful attempt of the Roumanians upon the second Grivica redoubt.
- Sept. 21.  
Mehemet Ali attacks the Russians near Cairkoi, and is defeated.
- Sept. 22.  
Entry of Chefket Pacha's reinforcements and convoy into Plevna.
- Sept. 24.  
Mehemet Ali's retreat to the line of the Lom.
- Oct. 2.  
Capture of the Great Yagni position by the Russians in Asia.
- Oct. 3.  
Mehemet Ali succeeded by Suleiman Pacha.

- Oct. 9.**  
Bombardment of Sulina by the Russians.
- Oct. 12.**  
The bridge at Nicopolis carried away by a storm.
- Oct. 15.**  
Great battle at Aladja Dagh between Kars and Alexandropol; overwhelming defeat of Mukhtar Pacha's Army, and large capture of guns and prisoners.
- Oct. 24.**  
Capture of the Gorny Dubnik position on the Plevna-Orkanieh road, by General Gourko.
- Oct. 28.**  
Capture of Teliche by the same.
- Oct. 31.**  
Capture of Tetewen by the Russians.
- Nov. 1.**  
Occupation by the Russians of the Dolny Dubnik positions, from which the Turks had withdrawn during the previous night.
- Nov. 4.**  
The Deve-Boyun position before Erzeroum stormed by the Russians, the Turks losing 42 guns.
- Nov. 5.**  
Sortie of Turks from Kars, repulsed by the Russians, and eight guns spiked in Fort Hafiz Pacha.
- Nov. 8.**  
Russian attack on the outworks of Erzeroum.
- Nov. 9.**  
Retreat of the Russians from the position gained before Erzeroum.
- Nov. 12.**  
Second unsuccessful Russian attack upon the forts before Erzeroum.
- Nov. 17-18.**  
Kars carried by assault, 300 guns and 10,000 prisoners taken.