

Dennis Connor

I was in the 4th Light Dragoons (now the 4th Hussars), under Lord George Paget. We were drawn up ready on the morning of the charge. All were perfectly cool and collected. When the order was given I heard the men chaffing each other. One would tell another that he "would lose the number of his mess that day," meaning that he would be shot; others said, "Here goes for victory!" whilst others declared they would have Russian biscuits for dinner. Lord George led our line gallantly. There was no sign of flinching, but he made us laugh as he kept drawling out in his own peculiar tone "Now, then, men, come on," and on we went certainly. I saw Gowen's horse shot. The animal staggered, turned round two or three times, and fell. I was one of those who tried to cut the traces of the Russian guns. I used my pocket-knife, but I found that within the leather were chains of steel. Our officers did more service with their revolvers than we could with our carbines. They fired five shots to our one, and that seemed to alarm the Russians. I don't think we were away from our first position on the hill more than twenty minutes, and that included charge and all. The enemy retired in confusion when the charge was made. They could not reform their line.

We took some prisoners and exchanged them afterwards for our own men. When we returned we had a bottle of grog from the canteen, whilst Captain Cruikshank gave a glass of rum to each man who passed by him. I can corroborate everything that Corporal Grant has said. The Polish Lancers did follow us a little way up the hill, but they were cowards, and turned back again.