

Henry Joy

I was trumpet major of the cavalry division, commanded by General Lucan. On the morning of the 25th October, 1854, as General Lucan and his staff were riding down the plain, all of a sudden some rifles were discharged at us, unfortunately killing Captain the Honourable Walter Charteris, aide-de-camp to the Earl of Lucan. After proceeding some short distance further we witnessed the blowing up of a Turkish redoubt. The Earl of Lucan got wounded in the foot, while several officers, who had come to join the staff, were also slightly hurt. Shortly afterwards Captain Nolan brought the order from Lord Raglan to General Lucan that the Light Brigade was to immediately attack and prevent the enemy from taking the guns. His lordship said that it was impossible, and that he had no supports or guns near him to assist in the attack; but Captain Nolan still persisted in the instructions that he had received. The Earl of Cardigan was then sent for, and to him was given the order. In the meantime the Earl of Lucan had sent Captain Walker, aide-de-camp, to the officers of the heavy cavalry, commanding them to bring up the Heavy Brigade in support as quickly as possible, which was done, and they came in position in line on the same ground as that from which the Light Brigade had just charged down the valley. Some time afterwards Captain Lockwood, aide-de-camp to the Earl of Cardigan, rode up to me in a state of great excitement, without his busby, asking if I had seen Lord Cardigan. I replied, "Yes; he has just passed me," and I pointed in the direction which he had taken. The captain rode away, and I never saw that officer again. On the day following the charge I went down the valley with a flag of truce to General Liprandi, the Russian general in command.