

Introduction

The Charge of the Heavy Brigade at Balaclava on the 25th October 1854, is one of the most neglected events in the annals of British military history. On the day in question the Heavy Brigade were involved in two separate charges.

The first was the successful charge of the Brigade on the advancing Russian cavalry, who were intent on capturing the over crowded port of Balaclava, the main supply point for the British army.

The second was in support of the Light Brigade on their unsuccessful attack on the Russian artillery. Raglan's real intention was to prevent the Russians from removing the British guns situated in the redoubts along the Causeway heights, but the orders were confused. As the Light Brigade advanced down the valley the Heavies followed in support. Lord Lucan had sufficient foresight to halt the advance which had come under heavy bombardment, to prevent the brigade from being annihilated in the same fashion as the Light Brigade.

In character General Scarlett in command of the Heavy Brigade was brave, good-natured and unassuming; his men holding him in great regard. In contrast Lord Cardigan in command of the Light Brigade was wealthy, out spoken and full of his own self-importance. Both were involved in cavalry charges on the same day. The Heavy Brigade under the command of General Scarlett had assembled at the foot of the heights, organizing his troopers into a near perfect formation, he instructed his trumpeter to sound the charge. Then against all odds they attacked a Russian force which outnumbered them 5:1. The charge was made uphill against an oncoming force, the British taking few casualties the Russians were routed and the British forces could claim another victory.

Lord Cardigan charged later as a direct result of a garbled message and a total misunderstanding. Riding straight at the Russian artillery located at the end of the valley, with enemy guns to the left and right of them. The result was the loss of the brigade with 118 men killed, and 127 wounded or taken prisoner.

Following on from the Charge of the Light Brigade William Russell was to write a poignant newspaper report which appeared in the Times some three weeks later. This in turn inspired Tennyson to write a poem, published on the 9th December 1854. The result was Cardigan landing to a hero's welcome at Dover the following January.

The poem was recited up and down the country in music halls. The scene was now set to immortalise the Charge of the Light Brigade who charged into the "jaws of death." The heroism of all the men involved in both of the charges along with their unwavering devotion to duty should have been equally recognised. As an after thought Tennyson wrote a poem about the Charge of the Heavy Brigade some 28 years after the event.

Various authors have put the total of Heavy Brigade troopers who charged at between 600 - 900. The number of men who were effective on the 25th October was 1311. There were 945 horses available taken from the musters. No allowance has been made for sick horses. To arrive at a meaningful number who could have participated, we would need to remove a quarter, approximately 327 men and horses from the total who were engaged on forage duties (see note 1). There would probably be pickets in position at various positions in the valley. We can add to this total 91 officers with their own horses, giving a grand total of 709.

Men and Horses effective on the 25th October 1854

Regiment	Effective men	Balaclava Clasp	No. Horses 1st Oct 1854	Horses Died 1-24th Oct	Horses available 25th Oct	Horses Lost in the Charge
Staff	13	13			13	
1st	253	239	182**		182**	22
2nd	300	270	156	3	153	22
4th	265	245	217	7	210	2
5th	245	230	220	7	213	17
6th	248	237	190*	3	187	35
Totals	1311	1234	965	20	945	76

* Includes 35 horses supplied by the Light Brigade on the 19th October

** Taken from Little Hodge p83 (Number of horses available on the 1st November)

Note 1 - A military board was assembled to discuss the findings of the Commissioners sent out to the Crimea in February 1855 to investigate the inefficiency of the supply chain with horses starving and men lacking basic necessities. Below are two extracts:

Because of the failings of the Commissariat, the Heavy Brigade was obliged to use its own horses to transport supplies from Balaclava. The duties included "carrying up of their own forage from Balaclava, and furnishing parties occasionally to bring down sick and carry up provisions to the front (which seems never to have occupied more than about a fifth of the whole)." This together with a stronger picket in the valley; and inlying pickets.

The next question to Lord Cardigan concerned the starvation of the horses of the Light Brigade, and why he did not seek assistance from the Heavy Brigade, when he found the Commissariat transport failing "What then was the state of the Heavy Brigade after the 21st November, which made it quite enough to forage for themselves" - a duty which usually occupied only one-fourth of the Force".

The Crimean Commission and the Chelsea Board by Colonel Tulloch 1857.

Staff

JOY, Trumpet Major Henry

Born : 1819 - Ripon, Yorkshire

Enlisted : 13th May 1833

Medals : Crimea (B.I.S), Turkish Medal, Distinguished Conduct Medal, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal
Medals held in the National Army Museum, Crimea medal includes clasp for Alma.

Died : 17th August 1893

Status : Rode in the Charge

Henry Joy was born in Ripon, Yorkshire in 1819. Soldering was a family tradition, his father James Joy had been a Private in the 1st Life Guards and had served under Wellington in the Peninsula and Waterloo campaigns. In 1825 at the age of only six Henry was to enter the Royal Military Asylum at Chelsea. In May 1833 he enlisted in the 17th Light Dragoons as a bandboy, becoming a trumpeter in 1838 and promoted to Trumpet-Major in 1847. The state funeral of Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington took place on the 12th November 1852, Trumpet-Major Henry Joy had the honour to be in charge of the regimental band.

At Balacava Joy was Orderly Trumpeter to Lord Lucan and sounded the Charge of the Heavy Brigade on his bugle. He subsequently rode in the charge and had two horses shot from under him. Later, despite a wound, he carried a flag of truce into the Russian lines and appeared before General Liprandi. In *The Pocket Hercules* by M.J Trow Captain Morris describes the troop horses, three were grey (one was that of Henry Joy, the Trumpet Major, a typical colour for buglers' horses), one black, the others bay chestnut or brown. Virtually all were bought locally in Ireland.

On the regiment's return to Ireland the officers of the 17th were keen to display Joy's bugle in their mess. The plan was to make a copy in silver which they would present to Joy in exchange for his brass bugle. The exchange did not take place because Joy preferred to keep his own Bugle. In 1898 some 5 years after his death his family decided to sell the bugle at Auction by Messrs Debenham, Storr and Sons, the price realized was 750 guineas. The bugle along with Joy's medals was bought by Mr Middlebrook, the landlord of the Edinburgh Castle in Regent's Park. On the death of Mr Middlebrook in 1908 his executors once more put the bugle up for sale and it was bought by the Royal United Services Institute Whitehall and is now with his medals in the National Army Museum.

Private James Wightman of the 17th Lancers wrote an article in "Nineteenth Century Magazine" of May 1892 p 850:
"Trumpet-Major Joy, of the 17th Lancers, was Lord Lucan's field-trumpeter, and we men of that corps envied him his good luck, for we made sure he had charged with the Heavies; but this was not so and, tied like he was to the divisional commander, he had the misfortune also not to share in the charge of the Light Brigade; wherefore we have been obliged to exclude him from our commemorative banquets ever since, as no man can take part in them who did not actually charge down the valley"

It is quite probable that Henry Joy accompanied Lord Lucan on their support of the Light Brigade. But it is debatable whether he charged with the Heavies, Wightman disagrees with Morris on this issue.

There is some controversy as to whether Joy sounded the Charge of the Light Brigade or indeed if the command charge was sounded at all.

In the 1861 census returns Henry Joy is living at No.4 Smarts Terrace, Addington Street, N.Lambeth London. Head of household age 42 Messenger and Chelsea pensioner, born Ripon, Yorks.

Jane	wife	age 31	born 1830 Hounslow
Amy	dau	age 10	born 1851 Dublin
Beatrice	dau	age 8	born 1853 Canterbury
Bertha	dau	age 6	born 1855 Hounslow
Emma	dau	age 2	born 1859 Canterbury
Jenny	dau	age 6 wks	born 1861 London.

In the 1881 census Henry Joy is shown living in the Commander-in-Chief's Office, London Middlesex, aged 62, occupation Messenger for the War Office, and married to Jane ten years his junior. Living with them are their three daughters and three sons, all born in London:

Emma	dau	age 20	born 1861 London
Marian	dau	age 19	born 1862 London
James	son	age 16	born 1865 London
Henry	son	age 15	born 1866 London
Grace	dau	age 13	born 1868 London
Herbert	son	age 8	born 1873 London

When comparing the previous census returns with the 1871



Staff

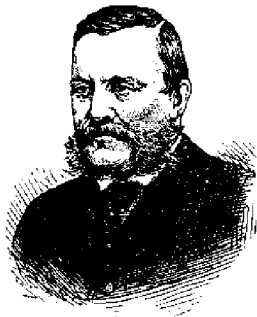
census it would appear that Emma born in 1859 died, the couple going on to name another daughter after her in 1861, another daughter named Amelia born in 1869 died in 1880 at the Strand aged 11 years. Henry and his wife had a total of twelve children.

Joy's son Henry Charles born in 1866 died whilst serving in the Royal Garrison Artillery at St. George's, Bermuda in 1894. His two other sons both joined the army and retired 1914.

In Spring of 1863 a libel action was taken out by Lord Cardigan with a large number of affidavits being sworn in. A letter from Joy to Cardigan is printed in "Statement and Remarks upon the Affidavits filed by Lt-Colonel Calthorpe", London, 1864. The letter was sent from 18 New Milman Street, Guilford Street, London, and dated the 4th September 1864. In the letter Joy confirms that Cardigan had reached the Russian guns.

Henry Joy was discharged from the army on the 24th April 1860. He attended the First Balaclava Banquet on the 25th October 1875. His portrait (below) can be seen in the "Illustrated London News" 30th October 1875.

Henry Joy died on the 17th August 1893. A service took place at the Parish Church of St Nicholas before he was buried in Chiswick Cemetery, London, a marble cross marks the grave. His obituary appears in "The Graphic" of 2nd September 1893. Henry took many unanswered questions to the grave with him.



TRUMPET-MAJOR HENRY JOY, 17TH LANCERS.

Portrait from the Illustrated London News 1875



Henry, Jane and Son



Henry's grave at Chiswick Parish Graveyard



From left to right:
J. Ireland, W.G. Cattermole, H. Joy, C. Aldous (standing), G. Weatherley, J. Scarfe, T. Dyer. This photograph was used to produce the sketches in the ILN 1875 Banquet issue.

In 1875 Joy attended the 1875 Balaclava Banquet, the photo above being taken at this event.

832 MONKS, Trumpeter Thomas

Born : Unknown

Enlisted :

Medals : Crimea (B.I.S) French Medaille Militaire, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

Died : April 1902 - Shrewsbury

Status : Rode in the Charge

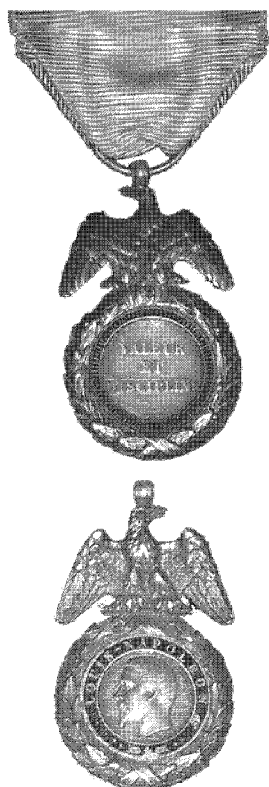
LETTERS FROM THE CRIMEA.

Scarlett's Brigade Trumpeter was Trumpeter Monks who came from Scarlett's old regiment. The musters show he was effective from the 1st October to the 31st December spending 3 days on board ship.

Monks accompanied Scarlett along with Elliot and Shegog at the front of the Charge. Before the Charge of the Heavy Brigade Lord Lucan lost patience and ordered his Trumpeter (Joy) to sound the Charge, this he did twice, but was totally ignored, the reason being was that the Inniskillings and Greys had to complete their formation, when this had been achieved the command was given "eyes front", then Scarlett turned to Monks and ordered him to sound the Charge. On this third signal the Brigade moved forward.

The French Medaille Militaire. (For) "gallantry in the field in the action of Balaclava on the 25th. of October, 1854; and served with uniform good conduct during the whole of the campaign." WO102 L.S & G.C awarded to Sgt. Thomas Monks, gratuity £5, recommended 6th March 1868, issued 20th April 1868.

Article right taken from *The Times* 5th January 1855.



French Medaille Militaire

The subjoined letter has just been received from a young man named Monks, a trumpeter in the 6th Enniskillen Dragoons :—

"Camp before Sebastopol, Dec. 4.

"My dear Father,—I now take the opportunity of writing to you, hoping to find you all well, as this leaves me quite well, thank God for it. I suppose you have been anxious about me because I did not write to you before, but the reason was, because I could not get any paper to write on. I was very glad to think that the little present came in so good time for you. I hope mother is better than she was. I was very ill myself for about six weeks with the bowel complaint. I was in hospital till we came to this country, and after we landed I got better every day. I thought it was all over with me, it made me so very weak.

"I suppose you have heard about the battle we had on the 25th of October. If you could see *The Times* of November the 12th, you will see a very good account of our regiment, and the old Scotch Greys, who made a grand charge against double their number. The heavy brigade got great credit for that day; but I am sorry to say the light brigade got cut up. They lost about 600 men out of 800. It made me feel very much when we went out to cover them, to see them fall. It brought us under a very heavy cross fire from the enemy, the balls and shells bursting beside us. A ball would burst under a horse, and blow it to pieces, and never hurt the man. You would see men running back with arms off, and others bleeding from all parts of their bodies.

"Dear father, I never once thought that I should have seen such a sight as a battle. On the 5th of November we had another hard and bloody battle, but it did not come so near to us as we expected it would. It began near to Sebastopol. The Russians took our Foot Guards by surprise in their tents before they had got up. The poor fellows fought well, and only with their bayonets. There were about 4,000 of the Russians killed. What with ours, the French, and the Russians, the whole valley was full of the dead. We kept our lot back that we had had the fight with. Talk about the 5th of November being kept up for bonfires and firing of arms, it was a 5th, and no mistake. I thought of it often afterwards that that day of the battle was on a Sunday. I thought about you being at chapel, and how you could all be clean, while we were like navvies, all dirty and hungry, besides being in the rain. I can tell you, dear father, when one thinks about home, it is enough to make one cry; but I hope we will have sunny days for these yet. It is now December, and we are in camp yet. We had a great storm about a week ago. I was on trumpeter's guard at the time the storm came across the plain, accompanied with hailstones and snow, and it blew all our tents down. The only way to keep still was to lie down. I had to do so for fear of being borne among the dirt. You may think in what sort of a state our tents were, as, after it was all over, we had to lay down that night on the wet ground without anything to eat, the cooks being unable to keep the fires in. We had our grog and a bit of biscuit at night. Ever since then it has been very wet and cold. Our poor horses are dying by sections every day, and Sebastopol is not taken yet, though we have had about seven weeks' hard firing at it. The Russians often make a sally out, but are driven back again. The Russian shipping is all that they can fire from, but we can't get at it yet. I was on picket the other day; we have to stay out all night with our horses, and it was very wet and cold. I don't think we can stand this much longer, but still we all keep up our spirits well. I only hope we may get one more good charge at them and finish it. I must now conclude for the present, and I hope I have eased your mind about me. Accept of my kind love yourself, and no more from your affectionate son,

"THOMAS MONKS,

"Trumpeter, 6th Enniskillen Dragoons.

"P.S. The guns are firing away now. We are about two miles off them, but we can see the flash and smoke.

"You may guess what sort of a state we are in when I tell you I have not had a chance of washing my face these four weeks, let alone having a clean shirt. We are, I am sorry to say, in a state of filth, but we do the best we can."

6th Dragoons

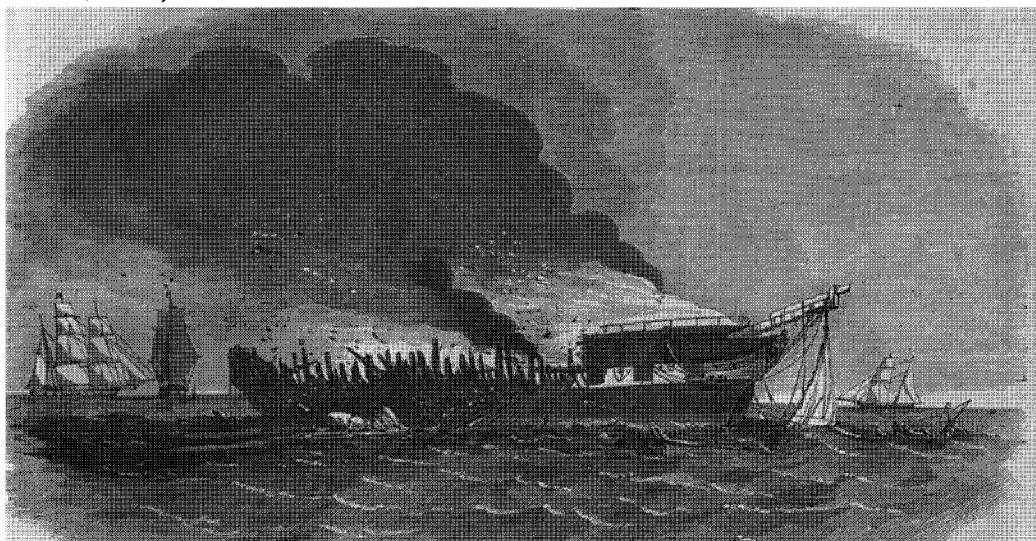
Destruction of the Europa

Accounts were received yesterday, announcing the destruction by fire of the transport Europa, on the night of the 31st of May, and the loss of two officers, four sergeants, 12 men, and one woman of the 6th Dragoons.

The transport ship Europa sailed from Plymouth on Tuesday morning, the 30th of May. She belonged to Messrs. Somes and Wharton, of London, burden per register 841 tons, new measurement, and was commanded by Captain Gardner.

The four service troops of the 6th Enniskillen's were embarked at Plymouth in five ships-viz., the Europa, Escort, Sutlej, Lord Raglan, and Talavera. Each of the last four conveyed a large portion of one troop. The Europa took portions of each of the four troops, viz, five sergeants and 54 rank and file, and the commanding officer and staff, Lieutenant-Colonel Willoughby Moore, Lieutenant and Adjutant Weir, Cornet Henry Timson, Surgeon Macgregor, and Probationary Veterinary Surgeon Kelly. She had in the lower hold 13 officers' horses and 44 troop horses, and carried an extra freight of forage, which may have become overheated and have caused the accident

The Times, Saturday June 17th 1854



Names of officers, men, and one woman, belonging to the 6th Dragoons, who were drowned from the wreck of the ship Europa.

Lieutenant-Colonel Moore
Kelly, veterinary surgeon
A.M'Clelland farrier-Major
Charles Montray, quarter-master sergt.
William Johnson, hospital sergeant.
Thomas W.Gore, hospital sergeant
John Watson, lance-sergeant
Robert Wilson, lance-corporal
John Coleman, private
John Evans, private
James Killender, private
Denis Mahon, private
Patrick Maguire, private
Phillip M'Caffrey, private
William Strong private
Abel Walters, private
John Watson, private
Hoult Waning, private
Mrs Parsons.

Names of officers, men, and two women of the 6th Dragoons saved from the ship Europa.

Archibald Weir, Liet. and Adj.	George Haines, private.
Alexander M'Gregor, surgeon.	Robert Jennings, private.
Henry Timpson, Cornet	David Knight, private.
John K.Mountain, R.S.M	George Lemmon, private.
Andrew Morton, lance-sergt.	Charles Maguire, private
David Gooding, corporal	William Madgwick, private.
Robert Cotton, corporal	*Robert Nairn, private.
William Ainsworth, private.	George Nugent, private.
Charles Burnett, private.	John Patton, private.
*Poter Butter, private.	*William Parsons, private.
William Corpe, private.	Alexander Russell, private.
Charles Clarke, private.	Robert Renton, private.
Thomas Caughie, private.	Michael Rourke, private.
*John Curry, private.	Joseph Ross, private.
Benjamin de Carle private.	Gavin Shephard, private.
Charles Delany private.	Henry Snelling, private.
Robert Easy private.	George Seymour, private.
John Elmes private.	John Tooth, private.
Samuel Forsyth, private.	Robert Turner, private.
Andrew Ferguson private.	William White, private.
Charles Goble, private.	John Walsh, private.
James Guilleace, private.	Mrs Mahon..
Robert Hunter, private.	Mrs Currie,
Thomas Hastler, private.	T.Bishop, private servant.
John Jackson, private.	*Unable to locate