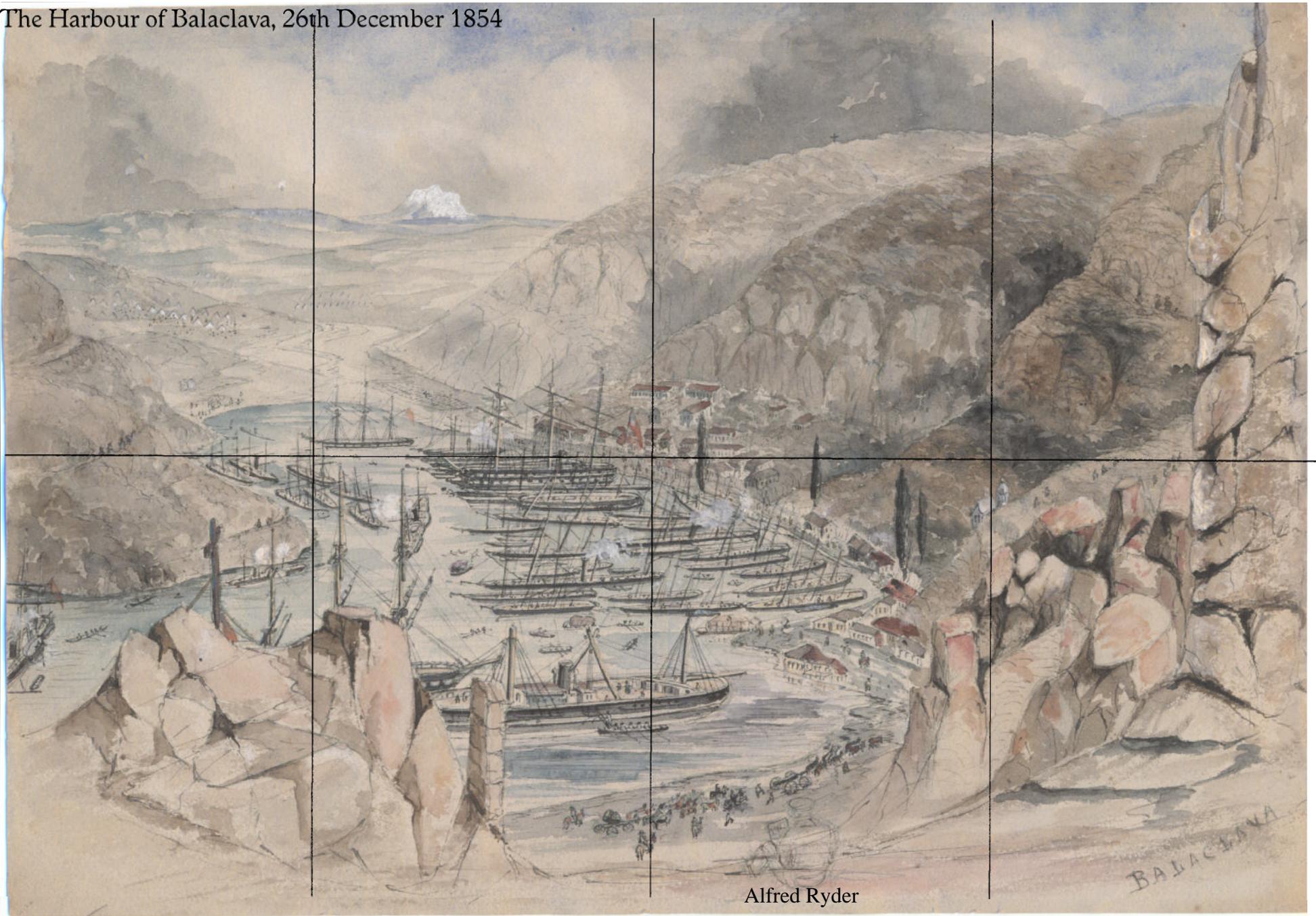


The Harbour of Balaclava, 26th December 1854



Alfred Ryder

## Description of the Sketch

The sketch is divided into 8 compartments.

No 1. The upper range of hills almost overlook Sebastopol which is on the other side of them. The tents of the 47th with a shell from one of the Russian ships in harbour bursting over them may be seen on the right of Inkerman range. The white tents in the centre of No 1 are the Guards who were landed from the Royal Albert. The mud on this hill appeared to be very thick & stodgy but was nothing to what we found further on. The little projections from the beach are two piers built by our men of war. Here the ordnance stores are generally landed. A long narrow dismantled steamer anchored close to the piers is the Merlin or some such name, a boat originally built for the Danube, but pressed into our service. She was pinched in the great gale and is now unserviceable. A party of men may be seen who have just landed and are beginning their weary march up to the camp. Close to them is the ruin of a Greek Church. On the lower string in No 1 some people may be seen proceeding along a narrow path on the near land they have been looking for wood on the beach from the wrecks. Where the centre parts of the lower string of No 1 cuts the beach is what is called the dockyard - a mere narrow well among the rocks where the carpenters of the Sans Pareil worked and turned wreck wood into platforms for the battery guns - so much for No 1.

No 2. That snow mountain is very remarkable. It can only be seen on fairly fine days. The white tents which run across into

No 1 are the Turks. The road is a great quagmire one foot deep in liquid mud.

Behind the corner of that hill that runs down from the right about a mile off (from where) the battle of Balaclava was fought. The cemetery is underneath it. Dear Harry's grave is in about the centre. The Diamond a pretty little 28 is anchored with her guns pointing up the Valley - The masts of the Sans Pareil a 74, Heath's vessel run up into the square from (6). The hospital is that red roofed house on the extreme right of No 2. The quarter M Genl office & the Engineers office are among these few houses which are to be seen in this square.

No 3. Contains the rest of the hospital. There is a telegraph on the top of the hill.

No 4. Those people walking up the hill are going to pay a visit to the Marines camp on the heights above Balaclava - The stone wall is part of the ruins of the old Genoese Castle on the East point of the entrance. The open sea is a few feet behind the sketched the rocks being some 200 feet perpendicular.

No 5. The Sphinx - Cap. Erdls Wilmot is just starting - She anchored in the very neck of the entrance rather inconveniently for other vessels going in or out: The little steamer in the right hand upper corner of No 5 is a tug going out to bring in or help to bring in one of the great P and O steamers: The Indefatigable - Comr Powell 2nd Harbour Master under Heath is on board her. The mizzen mast of the Dauntless anchored just under the rock passes above & shows on this side of the

smoke of the tug. There is no history attached to the cross. The bold near rocks form the crest of the east point of the harbour.

No 6. A large paddle steamer may be observed steaming up the harbour. The Dauntless's Fore T. Galt mast passes on this side of the smoke of the steamer. The Hull of the Sans Pareil may be seen underneath the upper string of (6). The Wrangler one of the new Gun Boats with her steam up a little above the centre of No 6. Underneath her a large dismasted steamer the Queen of the South - no I think the Pride of the Ocean is her name. The captain of the Dauntless is alongside her in his Gig. I forget her exact history. I think she rode that tremendous gale and was dismasted in it. At the bottom of this compartment a mortar may be seen on a carriage being dragged along the bog joining the beach.

No 7. The shipping does not represent anything like the number of vessels that are squeezed into Balaclava. Three times that number may generally be seen there unloading cargo of various descriptions. The building in the right hand upper corner is a new Greek Church half finished. A large gun on its way to the camp is to be seen at the bottom preceding the mortar. Heath the present Harbour Master has charge of the Harbour (and) gives directions where each ship is to be placed. As they arrive by dozens this is one continual exercise of wits. He has to provide for landing everything, to keep order and regulate (?) everywhere and not clash with the various military authorities with whom he has to deal. I am afraid after he goes that affairs will get worse. Old Admiral Boxer will certainly not

manage half as well.

No 8. Contains nothing of consequence. Just behind it is the signal station which signalizes to Heath (having ascertained it in the first place by enquiry by signal) the name of each vessel that arrives her cargo etc so that he can decide at once where she is to go. Underneath the signal station on the outside beach are innumerable fragments of wreck - all that remains of the five vessels that went to pieces in that great gale. On a hill about 3 miles off a solitary Cossack on horseback may be seen (not in the sketch) his figure cutting sharp against the sky: He may take account perhaps of all the vessels that enter that harbour if his master is curious on that point.

A. Ryder.