

**U DX106**

**Letter from the Camp before Sevastopol**

**1855**

**Historical Background:**

The Siege of Sevastopol lasted a year, from September 1854 to September 1855. The combined British, French and Ottoman forces had landed at Eupatoria and intended a swift march to the capital of Crimea, Sevastopol. However, it took a year of fighting to take the city, including the battles of Alma (September 1854), Balaklava (October 1854), Inkerman (November 1854), Tchernava (August 1855), Redan (September 1855) and Sevastopol (September 1855).

Sevastopol was the base for the Tsar's Black Sea Fleet and the siege of the strategically important port heralded the end of the campaign in the Crimea. The siege involved several artillery bombardments. The first began on 29 October 1854 and was resumed on 8 April 1855 after poor weather conditions during the winter had ruined the Allies' camps, destroyed supply lines and caused sickness and starvation within the army. The final attack on the city was made on 8 September 1855.

**Custodial history:**

Deposited by John Baker, Department of Social Administration, University of Hull, 18 December 1975. The letter was withdrawn and replaced by a photocopy in 1988.

**Description:**

This small collection includes a photocopy of the original letter showing that it was written both in horizontal and vertical lines to reduce the amount of paper used, as well as two typed transcriptions. The letter refers to the siege of Sevastopol and other aspects of the war.

**Extent:** 1 item

**Related material:**

Transcription of a letter from Sgt. David Angus, 179th Highlanders, Camp before Sevastopol [U DX105]

Copy of Letter from John Hepton killed at the taking of the Ridau [U DDSY/1/101/34]

The War Almanac for 1856 [U DDBH/29/35]

Diaries of Charles Raleigh Chichester, kept in the Crimea [U DDCH/99-100]

Bulletin on the fall of Sevastopol [U DDJ/34/127]

Sketch showing 'Tom's Hut' before Sevastopol during the Crimean War [C DFP/3283]

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Photocopy. Letter from Sgt. Joseph Pickford, 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade, Camp before Sebastopol to his father [in law] J.D. Clarke, London

9 Apr 1855

Describes his low spirits and a recent illness, cured by pills and plenty of hot rum and water. Includes a description of the English bombardment of Sevastopol and refers to possible attacks on Balaklava and Inkerman. Also mentions some races between the men, one in which two men were killed, and the decrease of sickness in the army. An addition to the end of the letter includes an account of the killing of some men in a rifle pit and a French attack on a battery in Sevastopol.

1 item