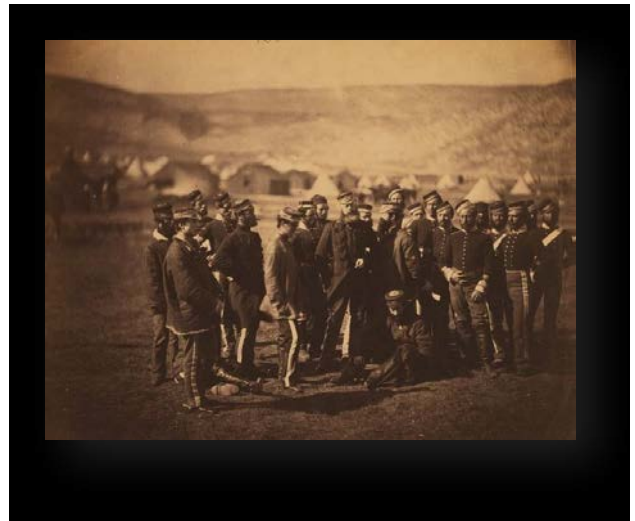


## The Great War

A chronology of the Crimean War 1853-1856

Half a league, half a league,  
Half a league onward,  
All in the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.  
"Forward, the Light Brigade!  
"Charge for the guns!" he said:  
Into the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred

Alfred Tennyson,  
*The Charge of the Light Brigade*, 1854



Survivors of the Light Brigade after the Battle of Balaklava  
R. Fenton, 1855

The Crimean War was one of the most gruesome wars Europe had witnessed up until then, an object lesson in bad planning and even worse organization.

The first war of the modern world, the first industrial war, in which material superiority mattered more than brilliant tactics. Pure attrition warfare, where human lives even counted less than before, while new military technologies were put to the test: improved firearms and ammunition of longer range, trenches and curtain fire.

This kind of technical progress laid the foundation for the devastating outcome of subsequent wars like the American Civil War or World War I.

On the other hand, the paralleling progress in the care for the wounded and the ill - like in the military hospital of Scutari under Florence Nightingale - was not more than a drop in the ocean.

Some of the most important events of this war resp. the most relevant for the novel are listed here in chronological order; for a better orientation, prominent events in the novel's storyline, indicated in color, are also included.

## 1853

End of February	Prince Menschikow, envoy of the Tsar, travels on a diplomatic mission to Constantinople in order to issue an ultimatum by the Tsar to the Ottoman Empire: The holy sites in Jerusalem are to be guarded by Russia instead of France; Russia intends to control the Orthodox Church on the territory of the Ottoman Empire and demands the dismissal of high officials of the sultan - demands the sultan conceives unacceptable and as provocation.
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	After the refusal of the sultan to meet Russia's demands, the tsardom severs diplomatic relations with Constantinople.
July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	The Russian army invades Moldavia and Wallachia.
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	The Ottoman Empire declares war on Russia.
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	The Russian Black Sea Fleet destroys a Turkish naval squadron in the Battle of Sinope, resulting in the decision of Great Britain and France to take reprisals.
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Jonathan returns to Black Hall on leave and brings Ralph Garrett with him as a guest.



Battle of Sinope - I. Aivazovsky, 1853

## 1854

January 4 <sup>th</sup>	Allied naval units arrive in the Black Sea.
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	Russia invades Dobruja (in the borderland between Romania and Bulgaria).
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	A British peace delegation meets with Tsar Nicholas I.
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	First British troops set sail.
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Aunt Dora's garden party in Summertown
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	French troops set sail. Mr. and Mrs. Greenwood reject Ralph's marriage proposal.
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	France and Great Britain declare war on Russia.
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	British troops arrive in Gallipoli.
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Russian troops occupy Silistria.
Mid-April	Ralph und Maya elope and get married in Gretna Green.
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Austria and Prussia declare their neutrality.
May	Ralph und Maya travel to Aden.
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Allied troops leave Gallipoli for Varna.
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	First French and British troops land in Varna.
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	French and British naval units land at Kronstadt, near St. Petersburg.

- June 28<sup>th</sup> The French and the British government decide to destroy the Russian naval base in Sebastopol.
- September 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Allied forces land in Calamata Bay north of Sebastopol, soon ironically called *Calamity Bay* by the soldiers.
- September 19<sup>th</sup> First clash of Allied forces and Russian troops on the Crimea; the fight for Sebastopol begins.
- September 20<sup>th</sup> Battle of Alma.  
 Great Britain: 26,000 infantry, 1,000 cavalry, 60 guns  
 France: 28,000 Mann infantry, 72 guns  
 Ottoman Empire: 7,000 Mann infantry, unknown number of guns  
 Russia: 33,000 infantry, 3,400 Mann cavalry, 120 guns  
 After the war, Alma became a popular name for British girls in remembrance of the battle; the Parisian bridge Pont de l' Alma, location of Princess Diana's fatal car accident in 1997, is also named after it.



French soldiers in the Battle of Alma

- October 9<sup>th</sup> Allied forces start to encircle Sebastopol.
- October *Burton und Maya visit the Tower of Silence.*
- October 25<sup>th</sup> Battle of Balaclava:  
 Allied forces ca. 20,000 infantry, ca. 3,500 cavalry, 76 guns. Russia ca. 23,000 men.  
 Casualties: Great Britain ca. 350, France ca. 250, Russia ca. 1,000  
 This battle gained sad fame by a wrong decision leading to great losses among the Light Brigade under Lord Cardigan, only saved by French cavalry; this episode, symptomatic for the whole war, was immortalized by Alfred Tennyson's poem *The Charge of the Light Brigade*.
- November 5<sup>th</sup> Battle of Inkerman:  
 Great Britain 8,500 men, 38 guns; France 7,500 men, 18 guns.

Russia 42,000 men, 134 guns.

Casualties: Great Britain 2,357 men, France 929 men. Russia 12,000 men.



Siege of Sebastopol

## 1855

January 26<sup>th</sup>

The Kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont enters the war on the side of the Allied forces.

January 31<sup>st</sup>

Government of British premier minister Lord Aberdeen dissolved.

February 5<sup>th</sup>

Lord Palmerston forms new government.

February 23<sup>rd</sup>

J.A.G. (1826-1855)



Camp in Balaklava

March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tsar Nicholas I. dies, succeeded by his son Alexander II.
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Peace conference in Vienna opens.
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Negotiations for peace end without results.
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Maya's abduction</i>
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	First Russian attack on Kars (Armenia)
July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Aunt Elizabeth, Bath</i>
September 9 <sup>th</sup>	Russia starts to withdraw from Sebastopol.
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Count Esterházy conveys an ultimatum by Austria to St. Petersburg.
December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	The British begin to dismantle their military installations at Sebastopol.



"The Valley of Death": Balaklava after the battle, ammunition on the ground – R. Fenton, 1855

## 1856

January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Tsar Alexander II. accepts Austria's demands.
February 25 <sup>th</sup>	Congress of Paris opens.
February 29 <sup>th</sup>	Armistice concluded
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Birth of Jonah</i>
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Treaty of Paris is signed; the war is over.
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Great Britain ratifies the Treaty of Paris.
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	The last of the British troops leave the Crimea.

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Image source: Wikimedia Commons