

CRIMEAN WAR 1853-1856

The Crimean War, also known in Russian historiography as the Eastern War of 1853–1856 (October 1853 – February 1856), was a conflict in which Russia lost to an alliance of France, Britain, the Ottoman Empire, and Sardinia. The immediate cause involved the rights of Christian minorities in the Holy Land, which was controlled by the Ottoman Empire.

The French promoted the rights of Catholics, while Russia promoted those of the Orthodox Christians. The longer-term causes involved the decline of the Ottoman Empire, and the unwillingness of Britain and France to allow Russia to gain territory and power at Ottoman expense. Russia lost the war and the Ottomans gained a twenty-year respite from Russian pressure. The Christians were granted a degree of official equality and the Orthodox gained control of the Christian churches in dispute.

The Ottoman Empire declared war on Russia in October 1853, and suffered a major defeat that gave Russia control of the Black Sea. The Russian threat to the Ottoman Empire required control of the Black Sea, and the key was the Russian naval base at Sevastopol, on the Crimean peninsula. The allies realized that, if they captured Sevastopol, they would control the Black Sea and win the war. France and Britain entered in March 1854.

During most of the fighting in the Black Sea, a large French army and a smaller British army fought to capture Sevastopol. Death from disease was very high on both sides. After Sevastopol fell, the neutrals started aligning with the allies. Isolated and facing a bleak prospect if the war continued, Russia made peace in March 1856. The original superficial religious issues had already been resolved. The main results of the war were that the Black Sea was neutralized—Russia would not have any warships there—and the two states of Wallachia and Moldavia became largely independent.

The war was largely fought in and near Crimea, with smaller campaigns in eastern Anatolia, Caucasus, the Baltic Sea, the Pacific Ocean and the White Sea. This war is also known as the "Eastern War" (Russian: Восточная война, *Vostochnaya Voina*).

The war had a permanent impact. Through nationalist movements incited by the war, the present-day states of Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, and regions such as Crimea and the Caucasus all changed in small or large ways due to this conflict.

It also helped set the backbone of several geopolitical conflicts between the Western world and Russia and other Eastern world powers, which would include the Cold War in the 20th century.

The Crimean War was one of the first conflicts to use modern technologies such as explosive naval shells, railways, and telegraphs. The war was one of the first to be documented extensively in written reports and photographs. As the legend of the "Charge of the Light Brigade" demonstrates, the war quickly became an iconic symbol of logistical, medical and tactical failures and mismanagement. The reaction in Britain was a demand for professionalization, most famously achieved by Florence Nightingale, who

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gained worldwide attention for pioneering modern nursing while treating the wounded.

CROSS, Ephraim, Private

Birth	1834 Eli, Cambridgeshire, England
Parents	Philip Cross & Ellen
Spouse	Fanny Foreman
Marriage	25-December-1855 Eli, Cambridgeshire, England
Occupation	Foot soldier
Service	Cambridgeshire Militia British Army Crimean War – served in Dublin during the Irish uprising
Arrived	“Robert Small” free 23-May-1856
Death	18-December-1919 Elderslie, NSW
Cemetery	St. Thomas' Narellan

ONSLow, Arthur Alexander Walton, Captain

Birth	02-August-1832 Trichinopoly, India
Parents	Arthur Pooley Onslow & Rosa Roberta Macleay
Spouse	Elizabeth Macarthur
Marriage	31-January-1867 St. John’s Anglican Camden, NSW
Occupation	Naval Officer
Service	Royal Navy
Arrived	1864
Death	31-January-1882 Camden Park, Menangle, NSW
Cemetery	Camden Park Private
Notes	also served in the Legislative Assembly

SHADFORTH, Thomas, Lieutenant Colonel

Birth	1805 Gibraltar
Parents	Thomas Shadforth & Frances Hinson
Spouse	Eliza Powell
Marriage	26-May-1831 St James C/E Sydney, NSW
Enlisted	1825
Occupation	Professional Soldier
Service	57th Regiment of Foot (the Die Hard’s)
Arrived	Convict ship “Minstrel” free 22-August-1825
Death	18-June-1855 Redan Fort, Sebastopol, Crimea
Cemetery	Cathcart’s Hill, Crimea
Notes	Lived for a number of years in the Camden/Greendale area

SHARPE, George, Private

Birth	1838 Bishop’s Stortford, Hertfordshire, England
Parents	John Sharpe & Mary Miller

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Spouse (1) Anna Loomes; (2) Sarah Latty
Marriage (1) 12-January-1864 St John's C/E Camden, NSW
(2) 05-September-1878 bride's Residence Greendale, NSW
Service Royal Marines
Death 27-July-1919 "Wickham Fields", Camden, NSW
Cemetery Glenmore Uniting
Honours Crimean War Medal with the Sebastopol Bar
Notes: Sons Henry and Robert served in the Boer War