

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02517-1 - The Dispatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Volume 3

Edited by John Gurwood

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

History

The books reissued in this series include accounts of historical events and movements by eye-witnesses and contemporaries, as well as landmark studies that assembled significant source materials or developed new historiographical methods. The series includes work in social, political and military history on a wide range of periods and regions, giving modern scholars ready access to influential publications of the past.

The Dispatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington

Arthur Wellesley (1769–1852), the first Duke of Wellington, was one of the most successful military figures of the early nineteenth century. After fighting in the fourth Anglo-Mysore war in India, his successes during the Peninsular War (1809–14) and his victory at the Battle of Waterloo (1815) established his reputation as a brilliant military tactician. These volumes, first published between 1834 and 1839, contain the letters, dispatches, instructions and general military orders Wellington wrote throughout his military career. Edited by his private secretary, Colonel John Gurwood (1790–1845), they offer a wealth of fascinating details concerning Wellington's campaigns in India and Europe, from mundane administrative tasks to discussions of tactics, personnel and intelligence-gathering. These volumes are reissued from the 1844 revised edition, and provide invaluable information for the study of warfare during this period. Volume 3 covers his Peninsular campaigns between 1808 and 1810.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02517-1 - The Dispatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Volume 3

Edited by John Gurwood

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection will bring back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02517-1 - The Dispatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Volume 3

Edited by John Gurwood

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The Dispatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington

*During his Various Campaigns
in India, Denmark, Portugal, Spain,
the Low Countries, and France*

VOLUME 3

EDITED BY JOHN GURWOOD



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02517-1 - The Dispatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Volume 3

Edited by John Gurwood

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108025171

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1844

This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-02517-1 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02517-1 - The Dispatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Volume 3

Edited by John Gurwood

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE
DISPATCHES
OF
FIELD MARSHAL THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON,
DURING
HIS VARIOUS CAMPAIGNS.

MONUMENTUM ÆRE PERENNIS.



AN ENLARGED EDITION, IN EIGHT VOLUMES.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02517-1 - The Dispatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Volume 3

Edited by John Gurwood

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE
DISPATCHES
OF
FIELD MARSHAL
THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON,
DURING
HIS VARIOUS CAMPAIGNS
IN
INDIA, DENMARK, PORTUGAL, SPAIN, THE LOW
COUNTRIES, AND FRANCE.

COMPILED FROM OFFICIAL AND OTHER AUTHENTIC
DOCUMENTS,

BY COLONEL GURWOOD, C.B., K.C.T.S.

*ESQUIRE TO HIS GRACE AS KNIGHT OF THE BATH, AND DEPUTY LIEUTENANT
OF THE TOWER OF LONDON.*

VOLUME THE THIRD.

LONDON:
PARKER, FURNIVALL, AND PARKER,
MILITARY LIBRARY, WHITEHALL.

M.DCCC.XLIV.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02517-1 - The Dispatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Volume 3

Edited by John Gurwood

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS OF THE THIRD VOLUME.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION. The Services of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington in Europe	vii
The Official and other Dispatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington in Denmark, 1807, and in the Peninsula, 1808, 1809, and 1810	1 to 814
Addenda	815
Appendix. French Official Reports, &c.	823

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02517-1 - The Despatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Volume 3

Edited by John Gurwood

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

I N T R O D U C T I O N .

THE SERVICES OF
FIELD MARSHAL THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON,
IN EUROPE.

MAJOR GENERAL the Hon. Sir Arthur Wellesley, soon after his return to England from India, in September 1805, was appointed to the command of a brigade in an expedition fitted out in the autumn of that year to proceed to Hanover, under the command of Lord Cathcart: but the consequences of the battle of Austerlitz induced the government to recall this force; and the troops composing it were placed on the coast for future operations, or for the defence of the country against threatened invasion.

In the mean time, Marquis Cornwallis had died at Ghazypoor, near Benares, on the 5th Oct. 1805, shortly after his arrival in India as the new Governor General; and, on the 30th Jan. 1806, Major Gen. Sir A. Wellesley succeeded his Lordship as Colonel of the 33rd regt., of which he had been Lieutenant Colonel above 12 years.

On the return of the expedition from Hanover, in the beginning of 1806, Sir A. Wellesley was appointed to the command of a brigade of infantry, stationed at Hastings, in the Sussex district; to the discipline, manœuvre, and minute details of which he paid the most scrupulous attention.* He had been elected to serve in the new Parliament for the borough of Rye; and in his place in the House of Commons, by a simple statement of facts, he repelled the unworthy attacks made upon Lord Wellesley's brilliant administration of the extensive Empire of India.†

* There is no situation, and there are no circumstances, that will not, in some manner or other, be stamped with the superior principles of the thorough soldier. An intimate friend having in familiar terms inquired of Sir A. Wellesley, when at Hastings, how he, having commanded armies of 40,000 men in the field; having received the thanks of Parliament for his victories; and having been made Knight of the Bath, could submit to be reduced to the command of a brigade of infantry? 'For this plain reason,' was the characteristic answer, 'I am *nimmukwallah*, as we say in the East; that is, I have eat the King's salt, and, therefore, I conceive it to be my duty to serve with unhesitating zeal and cheerfulness, when and wherever the King or his government may think proper to employ me.' This maxim has the more force from there being officers in the army, who, unfortunately, having declined subordinate employment from flattering themselves with superior pretensions, have repented their decision during the remainder of their lives; and it is for this reason that the Compiler has presumed to draw the attention of those who may hereafter be placed in similar circumstances to this great military principle, as well as to the example of the Duke of Wellington.

† See 'Hansard's Debates.' Mr. Paul's motions for the impeachment of Marquis Wellesley, 1805 and 1806.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02517-1 - The Dispatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Volume 3

Edited by John Gurwood

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

INTRODUCTION.

In the month of April, 1807, a new administration was formed. The Duke of Richmond was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; and Sir A. Wellesley, Chief Secretary, and consequently he was sworn of the King's Privy council.

In the month of August, in the same year, war was declared against Denmark; and on the 8th Sept. Adm. Gambier and Lord Cathcart, commanding a combined expedition, took possession of the city and citadel of Copenhagen. Major Gen. Sir A. Wellesley commanded the division of reserve; and at Kiøge, on the 29th Aug., had an affair with the enemy, described in his dispatch to Lord Cathcart, the Commander of the land forces.

On the 7th Sept., in conjunction with Sir Home Popham, Captain of the fleet, and Lieut. Col. Murray,* D. Q. M. G. of the British forces under Lord Cathcart, Sir A. Wellesley drew up and signed the articles of capitulation of the town and citadel of Copenhagen, in conjunction with the Danish officers deputed by Gen. Peymaun, the Commander in Chief of His Danish Majesty's forces in Zealand.

In Feb. 1808, Major Gen. Sir A. Wellesley being in his place in the House of Commons, the Speaker, having returned the thanks to other General officers, members of the House, for their conduct at Copenhagen, thus particularized Sir A. Wellesley on that occasion :

‘ But I should indeed be wanting to the full expression of those sentiments which animate this House, and the whole country, if I forbore to notice that we are on this day crowning with our thanks one gallant officer, long since known to the gratitude of this House, who has long trodden the paths of glory, whose genius and valor have already extended our fame and empire, whose sword has been the terror of our distant enemies, and will not now be drawn in vain to defend the seat of Empire itself, and the throne of his King. I am charged, Sir Arthur Wellesley, to deliver the thanks of this House to you, and I do accordingly thank you, in the name of the Commons of the United Kingdom, for your zeal, intrepidity, and exertion displayed in the various operations which were necessary for conducting the siege, and effecting the surrender of the navy and arsenal of Copenhagen.’

Major Gen. the Hon. Sir A. Wellesley replied as follows :

‘ Mr. Speaker; I consider myself fortunate that I was employed by His Majesty on a service which this House has considered of such importance as to have marked with its approbation the conduct of those officers and troops who have performed it. The honor which this House has conferred upon my honorable friends and myself is justly considered by the officers of the navy and army as the highest which this country can confer: it is the object of the ambition of all who are employed in His Majesty's service, and to obtain it has doubtless been the motive of many of those acts of valor and good conduct which have tended so eminently to the glory, and have advanced the prosperity and advantage of this country. I can assure the House that I am most sensible of the great honor which they have

* Gen. Sir G. Murray, G.C.B., &c.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02517-1 - The Dispatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Volume 3

Edited by John Gurwood

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

ix

done me, and I beg leave to take this opportunity of returning you, Sir, my thanks, for the handsome terms, respecting myself, in which your kindness to me has induced you to convey the resolution of the House.'

On the return of the expedition from Zealand, Sir A. Wellesley resumed his duties as Secretary for Ireland.*

In the spring of 1808 a force was assembled at Cork, with a view, as it was supposed, to some expedition against the Spanish colonies of South America; but extraordinary changes took place towards the latter end of 1807 and the beginning of 1808, in the affairs of Spain and Portugal, by French intervention, or rather invasion, and by the consequent national appeals from the inhabitants of those countries to Great Britain for aid to rescue them from the flagrant usurpation of Napoleon Buonaparte. The corps assembled at Cork was accordingly placed under the command of Sir A. Wellesley, and directed to proceed to the aid of the patriotic movement in the Peninsula. It sailed for Coruña on the 12th July, and finally landed, on the 1st Aug., at Lavos, at the mouth of the river Mondego, in Portugal.

The battles of Rolica and Vimeiro, fought on the 17th and 21st Aug. 1808, were followed by an armistice, and subsequently by the Convention of Cintra,† according to the stipulations of which the French army, commanded by Gen. Junot, was afterwards embarked at Lisbon, in British vessels, and landed at La Rochelle, in October.

An Inquiry was ordered by the King to be made into the Armistice and the Convention, and into all the circumstances connected with them; and a board of General officers was assembled for that purpose, at the great hall in Chelsea College, in the months of November and December, 1808.

In the mean time the British army at Lisbon being left disposable for other services, the greater part of it was marched into Castille, under the command of Lieut. Gen. Sir J. Moore, and was joined on the Duero, in December, by an additional force, under Sir D. Baird, which had landed at Coruña.

In the month of November, the French armies having been greatly reinforced, and the Spaniards having been successively defeated at Tudela and in other battles, the city of Madrid fell again into the hands of the enemy. Buonaparte, who had arrived to superintend in person the operations in Spain, directed, in the month of December, a combined movement of several corps, under the command of Marshal Soult, against the army under Sir J. Moore, which consequently retreated into Galicia; and a battle took place on the 16th Jan. 1809, at Coruña, where Sir J. Moore was killed in the hour of victory.

Sir A. Wellesley, on his return from Portugal after the battle of Vimeiro, again resumed the duties of his office as Chief Secretary for Ireland; and the Court of Inquiry held at the Royal College at Chelsea having concluded, in December he proceeded to Dublin.

* See 'Hansard's Debates.' The official and other dispatches, although full of local interest with regard to Ireland, are not inserted in this work.

† Erroneously called the 'Convention of Cintra,' that document having been framed and signed at Lisbon. This misnomer arose from the copy of the Convention having been forwarded by Lieut. Gen. Sir H. Dalrymple to the Sec. of State in a dispatch, dated Cintra, 3rd Sept. 1808. The error, however, having become fixed and habitual, the usual name has been retained.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02517-1 - The Dispatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Volume 3

Edited by John Gurwood

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

INTRODUCTION.

Parliament having reassembled in January, 1809, he returned to London to attend the House of Commons; and on the 27th Jan., when in his place, he received the Thanks of the House for his conduct at the battle of Vimeiro in the following terms:

‘LIEUT. GEN. SIR ARTHUR WELLESLEY; After the events of last year, it was impossible that Parliament should reassemble without directing its earliest attention to the services of the British army in Portugal; and amidst the contending opinions which have prevailed upon other questions, the public voice has been loud and general in admiration of your splendid achievements.

‘It is your praise to have inspired your troops with unshaken confidence and unbounded ardor; to have commanded, not the obedience alone, but the hearts and affections of your companions in arms; and having planned your operations with the skill and promptitude which have so eminently characterised all your former exertions, you have again led the armies of your country to battle, with the same deliberate valor and triumphant success which have long since rendered your name illustrious in the remotest parts of this Empire.

‘Military glory has ever been dear to this nation, and great military exploits in the field and upon the ocean have their sure reward in Royal favor and the gratitude of Parliament. It is, therefore, with the highest satisfaction, that, in this fresh instance, I now proceed to deliver to you the Thanks of this House; and I do now accordingly, by the command and in the name of the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, thank you for the distinguished valor, ability, and conduct displayed by you on the 17th and 21st Aug. last in Portugal; on the latter of which days you obtained at Vimeiro, over the army of the enemy, a signal victory, honorable and glorious to the British arms.’

Sir A. Wellesley rose and made the following answer:

‘MR. SPEAKER; I beg leave to express my acknowledgments to the House for the high honor which they have conferred upon me, by the notice which they have taken, and the approbation they have conveyed, of my conduct during the time I commanded His Majesty’s troops in Portugal.

‘No man can value more highly than I do the honorable distinction which has been conferred upon me, a distinction which it is in the power of the representatives of a free people alone to bestow, and which it is the peculiar advantage of the officers and soldiers in the service of His Majesty to have held out to them as the object of their ambition, and to receive as the reward of their services.

‘I beg leave to return to you, Sir, my thanks for the handsome terms in wreturn to you, Sir, my thanks for the handsome lity, for me, has induced you to convey the approbation of the House.’

The House of Lords passed the following resolutions, which were communicated to Sir A. Wellesley:

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02517-1 - The Despatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Volume 3

Edited by John Gurwood

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

xi

‘House of Lords, 23rd Jan. 1809.

‘Resolved, *Nem. dissent.*, That the Thanks of this House be given to Lieut. Gen. the Rt. Hon. Sir A. Wellesley, K.B., for the distinguished valor, ability, and conduct displayed by him on the 17th and 21st of Aug. last in Portugal; on the latter of which days he obtained at Vimeiro, over the army of the enemy, a signal victory, honorable and glorious to the British arms.

‘Resolved, *Nem. dissent.*, That the Thanks of this House be given to Major Gen. Spencer, Major Gen. Hill, Major Gen. Ferguson, Brig. Gen. Acland, Brig. Gen. Nightingall, Brig. Gen. Bowes, Brig. Gen. Fane, Brig. Gen. Anstruther, and the several officers of the army, for their skill and gallant exertions against the enemy in the battles of Roliça and Vimeiro, by which they reflected so much lustre on His Majesty’s arms.

‘Resolved, *Nem. dissent.*, That the House doth highly approve of, and acknowledge, the steady and disciplined valor displayed by the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers of the army on the above occasion, and that the same be signified by the commanders of the several corps, who are desired to thank them for their distinguished and exemplary conduct.’

To these resolutions, conveyed to him by the Lord Chancellor, Lieut. Gen. Sir A. Wellesley wrote the following answer :

To the Rt. Hon. the Lord Chancellor, &c.

London, 28th Jan. 1809.

‘I have had the honor of receiving your Lordship’s letter of the 24th inst., containing copies of the unanimous resolutions of the House of Lords, conveying the approbation of their Lordships of my conduct and that of the General and other officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers comprising the army which I commanded in Portugal, and their Lordships’ desire that I should communicate their Lordships’ vote to the respective General officers and to the officers commanding the corps employed in the service in that country.

‘I have received the mark of distinction which the House of Lords have conferred upon me with sentiments of gratitude and respect proportionate to the high sense I entertain of the greatness of the honor which it carries with it; and I shall have great pleasure in communicating to the officers and the troops the distinguished reward of their exemplary conduct which their Lordships have conferred upon them.

‘I beg leave, at the same time, to express to your Lordship my thanks for the expressions of personal civility with which your Lordship has conveyed to me the commands of the House.’

Early in the year 1809, after the battle at Coruña, Portugal again became the seat of active military operations, Marshal Soult having invaded its northern provinces from Galicia, and taken possession of Oporto on the 29th March. Lisbon was thrown into alarm, and the Regency urgently implored the further aid and protection of the British nation. Reinforcements were embarked, and Lieut. Gen. Sir A. Wellesley,

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02517-1 - The Dispatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Volume 3

Edited by John Gurwood

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

having resigned the office of Chief Secretary in Ireland and his seat in Parliament, was sent again to command the British army in Portugal. He sailed on the 15th April in the *Surveillante* frigate, which was nearly lost close to St. Katherine's, at the back of the Isle of Wight, in the night after quitting Spithead. On his arrival at Lisbon, on the 22nd April, he assumed the command of that army, with which, in the following years, he liberated the Peninsula from its French invaders, and ultimately placed the British standard at Bordeaux and Toulouse. He returned to England on the 23rd June, 1814, a Field Marshal, and took his seat in the House of Lords at once as Baron, Viscount, Earl, Marquis, and Duke!

After the capitulation of Paris, and the consequent peace in 1814, during the adjustment of the state of Europe at the Congress of Vienna, Napoleon Buonaparte suddenly re-appeared in France in March, 1815. He again rallied under his eagles a complete and organised army of Frenchmen, animated by enthusiasm for their Emperor, and excited by the recollections of their former victories. He attacked the allied Prussian and British armies, then in the Low Countries, under Prince Blücher and the Duke of Wellington, at Ligny and at Waterloo.

The battles of the 16th and 18th of June, 1815, undoubtedly the most important military events of modern times, were attended by results and advantages sufficient for the glory of many such armies as those of the allies thus engaged. The French army, defeated and dispersed at Waterloo, never rallied; Buonaparte fled from the field of battle, and lost his Empire for ever; Paris again capitulated; and the peace of Europe and of the World was settled on the basis on which it rests at this moment.