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978-1-108-02519-5 - The Dispatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Volume 5

Edited by John Gurwood

Excerpt

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THE
OFFICIAL AND OTHER DISPATCHES
OF
FIELD MARSHAL THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

THE PENINSULA.

To Charles Stuart, Esq.

Villar Formoso, 9th May, 1811.

I have taken an opportunity of reading over the enclosures in your letter of the 21st April, in regard to the reforms of the departments attached to the Portuguese army, from which I find that nothing that was proposed is to be done. We are now getting beyond trifling upon these important subjects; and I must draw the serious attention of government to the state of things here. I assure you that, in a very short time, there will be no Portuguese army left, if all the military departments are not reformed as proposed, and all connected with them are not made liable to punishment for neglects under the military law. There is Barbacena's brigade, which is not now so numerous as one of our squadrons. Gen. Campbell sent me a regiment of it the other night, which he reported to consist of 60 horses. Is this to be borne? Can the war go on in this way?

Every thing else is the same. The sick and wounded are taken care of by our medical officers; the artillery have no mules, and the guns must be sent away; they have no ammunition, and we are at this moment picking up the French ammunition in our camps to make up again with powder and materials furnished by us!! It is because the departments at Lisbon don't take care to find means to move forward the reserves; and then, in order not to lose a battle, the British Commissary Gen. must find means of transport for the musket as well as the gun ammunition of the Portuguese army, which means of transport ought to be used to bring up food for the horses and soldiers of the army. All this falls upon me. I am involved in a most serious situation, and it is quite impossible for me to allow matters to go on as they are. The Portuguese army are not paid, positively; and many men, particularly of Pack's brigade, have consequently deserted.

I enclose the letter which I have written to the Prince Regent under a flying seal; and I beg you to peruse it, to allow Dom M. de Forjaz to peruse it, and then to close and forward it to Brazil.

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I cannot but observe that either — is very ill informed of what passes at Rio Janeiro, or else he must, on the 12th Feb., have been acquainted with the contents of the letter of the Prince, of the 7th Feb., to me.

If you think that any alteration of my letter would be advisable, let me know it, and I will alter it. I conceived it best to appear perfectly indifferent about you or Dom M. Forjaz; but to hold out that I should go.

To the Rt. Hon. H. Wellesley.

Villar Formoso, 9th May, 1811.

I have the honor to enclose the copy of a letter, and of a memorandum, which I sent to Gen. Castaños on the 24th April, proposing a plan of co-operation for the siege of Badajoz, to which letter I have hitherto received no answer. I have therefore written to Marshal Sir W. Beresford to desire that, until the Spanish Generals will positively engage to co-operate with him in the siege of Badajoz in the manner pointed out, he should proceed with caution in that operation; as I think there is reason to believe that the removal of the King from Madrid will occasion the march of the army of the centre to the southward, or into Estremadura, and I know that some battalions, now in this quarter, which have been in Portugal, are eventually destined to reinforce the 1st, 4th, and 5th *corps d'armée*, which are in Andalusia.

I have the honor to enclose the copy of my dispatch of the 8th inst. to the Sec. of State, from which you will see the state of affairs here.

I beg you to inform the Spanish government that I am much gratified by the alacrity of Don J. Sanchez to communicate with me, and to give me every assistance in his power, and by the constant attention and assistance I receive from Brig. Gen. Don M. de Alava and Col. Don J. O'Lawlor.

P.S. 10th May. I enclose the copy of my dispatch of this day to the Sec. of State, from which you will learn the result of the enemy's operations for the relief of Almeida.

The A.G. to Brig. Gen. Peacocke, Lisbon.

9th May, 1811.

I have the honor to acquaint you, in reply to your letter of the 19th April, enclosing charges from Capt. —, commanding at Belem, against Lieut. —, of the —, that the Commander of the Forces has taken all the circumstances into his consideration, and his Excellency cannot help considering that this dispute is childish, and might have been easily adjusted, if not avoided, more especially as he took some pains to explain to Lieut. — how completely he must consider himself under Capt. —'s orders, except in the details of the cavalry duties. The Commander of the Forces does not choose, at such a moment, to take up the time of the officers of the army in investigating trifling circumstances. Lieut. — must obey the orders he receives from Capt. —, the latter being responsible for the propriety of the orders he gives, and that he does not interfere with Lieut. —'s peculiar cavalry duties.

The Commander of the Forces trusts this explanation of his sentiments and opinion will enable you to satisfy Capt. —, and accommodate what has occurred, as that officer has conducted the business of the *dépôt* hitherto to the Commander of the Forces' satisfaction; and Lieut. —'s conduct has been in like manner approved by Sir S. Cotton.

To Marshal Sir W. C. Beresford, K.B.

Villar Formoso, 10th May, 1811.

I enclose my dispatch, &c., to my brother, to which I have added the copy of that of this day to the Sec. of State, from which you will see that our concerns here are happily concluded. My only anxiety now is on

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your side, and I propose immediately to put in motion some troops towards the Alentejo, to continue their march as soon as the place shall fall.

To the Earl of Liverpool.

Villar Formoso, 10th May, 1811.

The enemy retired on the 8th to the woods between Espeja, Gallegos, and Fuentes, in which position the whole army were collected on that day and yesterday, with the exception of that part of the 2d corps which continued opposite Almeida. Last night the whole broke up, and retired across the Azava, covering their retreat by their numerous cavalry; and this day the whole have retired across the Agueda, leaving Almeida to its fate. The 2d corps retired by the bridge of Barba de Puerco, and the ford of Val de Espino on the Agueda.

Our advanced posts are upon the Azava and on the Lower Agueda, and the army will be to-morrow in the cantonments on the Dos Casas.

To Charles Stuart, Esq.

Villar Formoso, 10th May, 1811.

I enclose a dispatch, which I hope will be in time to go with the letters.

It occurs to me that the articles most suited to relieve the distress of the Portuguese would be wheat, of which there are several cargoes now at Lisbon; Indian corn; planks and beams for building; nails, large pipe staves, and iron hoops, or rather casks (shapen), with their hoops, &c. If you are of the same opinion, write for these articles to England.

The A.G. to Major Gen. Picton, 3d division.

10th May, 1811.

In consequence of Ensign —, of the — regt., having sent in his resignation, no official notification has been received of the same having been accepted; still, as I understand it is much desired by the officers of that corps that the above officer should be removed thence, there will be no objection on the part of his Excellency the Commander of the Forces for that officer to proceed to Lisbon, reporting himself to the Commandant there, and waiting at the dépôt at Belem for further orders.

Au Maréchal Massena, Prince d'Essling.

Au Quartier Général, ce 11 Mai, 1811.

Le Capitaine Salles, du 66^{me} rég^{t.}, a été envoyé en parlementaire aux avant postes de l'armée alliée, dans la nuit du 3 de ce mois, par le Colonel de son régiment, d'une manière très irrégulière, et à une heure très indue. J'ai cru de mon devoir de le retenir pendant la durée de l'état des affaires qui existait dans ce moment là; mais étant persuadé qu'il a vraiment été envoyé en parlementaire, quoique dans des circonstances très irrégulières, je le renvoie à l'armée Française.

Au Maréchal Massena, Prince d'Essling.

Au Quartier Général, ce 11 Mai, 1811.

M. le Général Brenier, gouverneur d'Almeida, a fait prisonniers 4 soldats Anglais qu'il a renvoyés sur parole; j'envoie avec M. le Capitaine Salles 4 soldats Français, en échange pour les 4 soldats Anglais renvoyés par M. le Général Brenier.

To Major Gen. Long.

Villar Formoso, 11th May, 1811.

You will have observed by the G. O. of the day, that I have altered the arrangements which I had made for the command of the cavalry on the left of the Tagus. When I was at Elvas I found, upon communication

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with Sir W. Beresford, that it would be impossible to continue to employ Brig. Gen. Madden's brigade as I had proposed, and that this body of troops must have been joined to the remainder of the cavalry in Estremadura. Under these circumstances, Brig. Gen. Madden, the senior General officer, must have commanded the whole, notwithstanding the previous arrangement for the command which I had made.

As I was returning from Elvas I received a letter from Sir W. Erskine, who had for some time had the command of our cavalry in this quarter, connected in their operations with the Light division, requesting to be employed with the cavalry on the left of the Tagus, where, under different circumstances, I had appointed you. I intended to appoint you to the command of a good brigade of light dragoons with this army, only that I yesterday received the notification of the appointment, by command of the Prince Regent, of Major Gen. V. Alten to command the hussars of the Legion. This appointment, and his expected early arrival, must alter that arrangement; and I have not yet determined in what manner it will be most advantageous to the service to employ you. I request you, therefore, to remain with the troops under Sir W. Beresford till you shall hear further from me.

To Vice Adm. the Hon. G. Berkeley.

Villar Formoso, 11th May, 1811.

I have had the honor of receiving your letter of the 6th inst., regarding the prisoners of war proposed to be sent to England.

I consider it most desirable that even 1500 should be sent away, as the number is increasing daily; but I have had no answer from the Sec. of State upon the subject, and the Lords of the Admiralty have ordered you not to send home any more on any account whatever. I should think it very improper if I were to request you to send home any, so long as that order exists.

To Major Gen. Alex. Campbell.

Villar Formoso, 11th May, 1811, 10½ A.M.

Lieut. Cuyler, of the Royal dragoons, has just arrived here with a verbal report that the enemy's garrison had made their escape from Almeida, and that the 36th regt. and the 4th foot were on the Agueda near Barba de Puerco, that the enemy were drawn up in some force on the other side of the Agueda, and that you desired to have orders.

It is not easy to forward orders upon so indistinct a representation of the situation in which you find yourself, and I had hoped that I should receive some report from you in writing. However, as the garrison have escaped, there appears now no reason why the troops should be extended so far as Barba de Puerco. The 36th regt., therefore, may be drawn into their cantonments. The 4th regt., belonging to the 5th division, was, I conclude, at Barba de Puerco, in consequence of the orders sent to Major Gen. Sir W. Erskine; and orders will be sent to the 5th division respecting the disposal of that regiment.

To Marshal Sir W. C. Beresford, K.B.

Villar Formoso, 11th May, 1811.

I am concerned to inform you that Almeida was blown up last night, and I fear that the garrison has, in great part at least, escaped.* I cannot

* See Appendix, No. I.

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tell how this occurred; the troops which had been taken from the duty of the blockade were sent back to it yesterday afternoon, and in the whole were 4 times more numerous than the garrison. However, I suppose that I shall hear from Gen. Campbell soon.

I have had 2 conversations with —; and I am concerned to say that, notwithstanding his abilities, he appears to me but little calculated to do the business I require from him. I want him to assist me in obtaining a knowledge of the mode in which the connexion between the troops and the several civil departments is regulated; to know how all that business is now going on here; and to see how we can make the matter work better than it does under the existing regulations. He thinks of nothing but new regulations and establishments, which are very necessary perhaps; but it is not his business to propose them, nor mine to carry them into execution. I hope that we shall understand each other better, and that I may be able to put every thing on a good footing here.

You will hardly believe that we were obliged to pick up the French shot in our camp to make up ammunition for Arentschildt's guns, his reserve having been left behind at Caragoça; and there being no Portuguese means of transport to carry on the ammunition, the Commissary Gen. is obliged to undertake the business. The Commissary carried up the musket ammunition. Then I have been obliged to send back 2 guns of the brigade in the 6th division for want of mules to draw them!!! I have reported the state of things to the British government, and they will do as they please. In the mean time the Prince Regent of Portugal insists upon Dom M. Forjaz's going to his presence, and upon Mr. Stuart being recalled from Lisbon.

P.S. I shall be much obliged to you if you will make Gen. Castaños acquainted with the state of affairs here, and point out to him how important it is that no time should be lost in getting on foot the army of Galicia. The French will invade and obtain possession of that province as sure as we are alive if some decided measure is not adopted immediately.

The A.G. to Brig. Gen. Peacocke, Lisbon.

11th May, 1811.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ult., and enclosures, and have to acquaint you that the conduct of quarter master —, of the — regt., appears highly reprehensible to the Commander of the Forces. Mrs. — has no right whatever to have quarters by billet; and to have them at all is a favor conferred upon her by yourself and the staff officers at Lisbon. Under these circumstances the Commander of the Forces is astonished at quarter master —'s conduct in writing the letter he has done to Major —; and if he does not make the Major an ample apology for his conduct, he will not only be brought under the cognizance of a General Court Martial, but his Excellency will give orders that Mrs. — may be deprived of the accommodation of quarters she has hitherto enjoyed.

The A.G. to Col. de Berniuitz, Brunswick Light Infantry.

11th May, 1811.

I herewith enclose you a communication that has been forwarded, together with several enclosures, relative to the conduct of Capt. —, of the Duke of Brunswick Oëls' corps, prior to your assuming the command of it. It would be desirable you should fully investigate all the circumstances attending it, and report to me thereon, accordingly, for the Commander of the Forces' information.

It does not appear to me that a General Court Martial can investigate whether

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Capt. — had a right to wear a foreign order of merit; and unless there are more positive and important charges against him, little advantage would be derived from bringing that officer to a Court Martial. If the officers of the Duke of Brunswick's corps conceive Capt. — to have acted so improperly as not to associate with him, they certainly are at liberty so to do; but without stronger grounds of charge than there appears in the enclosed papers, and more positive evidence, little benefit would result from Capt. — being ordered before a General Court Martial.

To Marshal Sir W. C. Beresford, K.B.

Villar Formoso, 12th May, 1811.

I have been to Almeida, of which I don't think the destruction so complete as that the place cannot be re-established. All the outworks are entire and uninjured, excepting that in front of the gateway, the counterscarp uninjured, the exterior revêtement of the rampart uninjured, and the rampart itself so little injured, that, on our walking upon it, it is not perceived that the interior revêtement has been blown away; three fourths of the exterior revêtement uninjured, and where it is blown away it appears that the foundation is uninjured. I think that they had opened the mines on a level with the *terre plein* of the fort, and have carried them along the exterior revêtement, which being the line of least resistance, was blown away, while the rampart itself stood firm, and the guns are generally still in their embrasures, and the interior of the parapets standing.

There is a great deal of ordnance and shot in the place, better carriages, and I think more ordnance, than when we left it. I think that with some labor we might clear the rubbish out of the ditch, then scarp down the earth of the rampart where the revêtement is blown away, and stockade it at bottom and at top, by which we should make the place secure against a *coup de main*; and hereafter government might repair it. To do any thing, however, will require workmen and money, and I shall supply neither the one nor the other. The 7th division begin their march towards you to-morrow, the 3d next day.

P.S. I think the escape of the garrison of Almeida (although we have taken and destroyed a good lot of them) is the most disgraceful military event that has yet occurred to us. Excepting a few cavalry, which I believe crossed this morning, the whole French army have crossed the Agueda, and quitted Ciudad Rodrigo.

To Charles Stuart, Esq.

Villar Formoso, 12th May, 1811.

I received last night your letter of the 7th. I don't think that the conclusion which you have drawn, 'that the troops have all been paid to the end of April,' is warranted by Joaquim da Costa's paper. I have never perused a more loose performance on an official fact which ought to be stated in one line, and which the Paymaster Gen. of this army would state in 2 minutes regarding every individual in the army. The conclusion which you have drawn does not agree with the state of the fact, even with this part of the army. I will let you know, if possible by this post, to what day officers and troops have been paid.

I beg to draw your attention to the fact, that the British government give the old subsistence for the officers of 30,000 men in the subsidy, as well as the new addition to the whole army. Surely we have a right to

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expect that the officers of the regiments composing the 30,000 men shall have their old subsistence regularly, as well as the new addition.

In respect to money, you don't appear to me to have observed that, now that we feed 6 brigades of Portuguese troops, the claim of the Portuguese government to subsidy in money is much reduced, at the same time that our means of supplying them with money must be diminished. However, I ordered that they might have 100,000 dollars last week.

I have considered it my duty to write seriously to the government upon the whole subject. The responsibility resting upon me is too great for any individual, particularly for one so circumstanced as I am. As long as the French are not reinforced, matters will go on well enough; but, as soon as they are, there will be a terrible crash.

The unfortunate government of Portugal, by their miserable intrigues at Brazil, and their weakness here, are losing their country and the cause; and if our government don't produce a radical change, I will have nothing more to say to the concern.

To Charles Stuart, Esq.

Villar Formoso, 12th May, 1811.

Since I wrote to you this morning I have received your letter of the 8th inst.

The Portuguese government appear to me to wish to have their full subsidy, and to have their army provisioned likewise, which I conceive will not answer; and, at all events, I will neither give them a shilling which is required for the British army, nor allow a shilling to be raised for them in the money markets, allotted for us upon British credit, at least, if my opinion is consulted upon the subject.

In regard to increase of subsidy, by payments in kind, I understand that none is to be given till they shall change their mode of proceeding in respect to commissariat, medical department, arsenal, transport, &c. &c. All that I can say is, that it is useless to consult my opinion upon any part of their concerns, unless the changes which I have pointed out are made; it only takes up your time and mine unnecessarily, and it is much better to let them go to the devil in their own way than to give ourselves any further trouble about them.

To Major Gen. Howorth.

Villar Formoso, 13th May, 1811.

I beg to know what repairs are required to Fort S. Julian, besides a bridge to the ravelin, to enable Col. Fisher to obey the orders long since given to him, to lodge the ordnance and military stores belonging to the army in that fort.

To Marshal Sir W. C. Beresford, K.B.

Villar Formoso, 13th May, 1811.

I enclose you the extract of a letter which I have received from Sir D. Dundas, from which you will see that he allows of the recommendation of 6 officers for the brevet rank of Lieut. Col. or Major. You will select the persons to be recommended, and let me know their names. I beg to remind you of Arbuthnot, Elder, Sutton, and Douglas, as persons having claims, leaving it to you to name them or others, as you may think proper.

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It will be necessary that those promoted on this occasion should clearly understand that they are not, on promotion, to be made Portuguese Colonels, unless circumstances attaching to the Portuguese service should render it expedient on other grounds.

To Marshal Sir W. C. Beresford, K.B. Villar Formoso, 13th May, 1811, 6 P.M.

I enclose intercepted letters which I have just received. You see that you have nothing to apprehend from Lamartinière. I am glad to find that you have such good prospects at Badajoz. I continue the troops on their march; and I am inclined to go over and have a conference with Blake and Castaños. I have not yet had time to read your letter about the Portuguese troops.

To Capt. Gen. Don F. X. Castaños. Villar Formoso, 13th May, 1811.

I have had the honor of receiving your Excellency's letter of the 8th inst., and it gives me great satisfaction to find that the plan of operations for the allied armies, which I had proposed to your Excellency, with a view to the siege of Badajoz, meets with your Excellency's approbation, and will be carried into execution by your Excellency and the troops under Gen. Blake.

The alteration which your Excellency has made in the propositions made by me meets with my concurrence. It was my duty to make a proposition upon so delicate a subject as that of the command of allied troops acting in co-operation, which should be so reasonable in itself as to meet with the concurrence of all those to whom it should be made; but it is consistent with the manly good sense, and candor, and knowledge of the state of affairs, which characterize your Excellency, to amend that proposition, by one calculated to give satisfaction to those of the allies who have most to lose in the contest for which it is our object to provide. It is impossible but that what you have proposed should be approved by all parties; and I assure you, that the disinterested forbearance of your conduct is highly appreciated by me.

To Brig. Gen. Colman. Villar Formoso, 13th May, 1811.

There is nothing like striking while the iron is hot; and I write by this post to recommend that you and Madden may be allowed to return to the army, with the rank which you would have held respectively if you had not quitted it.

To Charles Stuart, Esq. Villar Formoso, 13th May, 1811.

Having directed the field ordnance and stores belonging to the British army to be placed in store at Fort S. Julian, it has been reported to me that the bridge communicating from the body of the place to the ravelin, in which the greater proportion of the stores are to be lodged, is in so ruinous a state as to render it dangerous to make use of it.

I beg to know, by return of post, whether the Portuguese government will or will not repair the bridge; and what orders they will give upon that subject, and to whom; and whether or not the officer, to whom the

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orders will be given, will be held at all responsible for the due and early execution of them.

To Charles Stuart, Esq.

Villar Formoso, 13th May, 1811.

I have the honor to inform you that the enemy blew up a part of the works of Almeida on the night of the 10th inst., when their army had retired and crossed the Agueda. I enclose a report of a British engineer, stating the extent of the damage done to the works of the place, which, in my opinion, can be repaired at no very great expense. The first measure to be adopted would be to render the place tenable as a military post against a *coup de main*. This would be very desirable, and the expense would be the work of 300 men for less than a month, according to the report of Lieut. Trench. The government would then have time to receive the orders of H. R. H. the Prince Regent, whether he will incur the larger expense of repairing the place entirely, which work I conceive can hardly be completed as long as the war shall last upon the frontier.

I beg to have forthwith the decision of the government, whether they will or not put this place in repair in the manner first pointed out. If they should determine to do so, it will be necessary that they should collect 300 or 400 men, with tools to perform the work, and officers to superintend them; and that they should have on the spot means of feeding them. I expect to have an answer upon this subject in two posts after you shall receive this letter; and that measures should be in progress to commence the work in one fortnight from this time, or I shall blow up the fort entirely, and withdraw from it all the allied troops.

The A.G. to Capt. —.

13th May, 1811.

I have not failed to state to the Commander of the Forces the circumstance contained in your private letter, of your having embargoed certain animals, mules, &c., to carry off wounded Portuguese to the rear; and I am directed by his Excellency strongly to animadvert on the impropriety and irregularity of such proceeding; as all applications for conveyance should be solely made to the Commissariat department, and no Commandant at any hospital station can assume authority out of the regular arrangements and orders of the service. I have, therefore, to desire that you will take effectual means not only to release all these animals, but likewise to have them returned to their several owners.

The A.G. to Capt. Kipping, Coimbra.

13th May, 1811.

In reply to your letter of the 6th inst., and enclosures from Capt. —, of the — regt., I am instructed to observe that as you are placed in the situation of Commandant at the Coimbra depôt, no officer can in any way interfere with the orders that have been laid down for your guidance, either in the march of convalescents or any other arrangements that may occur. But it appears in the instance of Capt. —'s request respecting the men of the — regt., that he submits the arrangement for your approbation. I have only to add that any orders you may think necessary to give, as commanding at that station, are to be obeyed by all officers passing on route with detachments or otherwise through Coimbra.

To Major Gen. Howorth.

Villar Formoso, 14th May, 1811.

I beg that you will write to Col. Fisher by this night's post, to request that the ships having on board the battering train may be sent off to Oporto without loss of time. I enclose a list of engineers' stores, which

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I request Col. Fisher will arrange to have put on board the ships with the battering train.

I write to Adm. Berkeley by this opportunity on the subject. There will be no occasion for sending any of the heavy ordnance which is landed.

To Major Gen. Howorth.

Villar Formoso, 14th May, 1811.

As I understand from you that there are 20,000 stands of arms at Lisbon, I request you to give directions to Col. Fisher that 20,000 stands may be given to the Spanish Ambassador at Lisbon, for the use of the troops under Gen. Castaños.

I also request you to direct Col. Fisher to send to Elvas 2000 barrels of gunpowder. He will be so kind as to arrange with the Commissary Gen. respecting the best mode of having this powder transported, whether by sea to Setuval, and thence by the river to Alcacer do Sal, and thence by land to Elvas, or to be landed at Aldea Galega, and thence by land to Elvas. Col. Fisher will apprise Marshal Sir W. Beresford of the road by which this powder will be sent off.

To Major Gen. Howorth.

Villar Formoso, 14th May, 1811.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date. I cannot but observe that, when you write to me to request that orders may be given to have a place put into such a state of repair as to make it capable of receiving stores, you should recollect that it is not in my power to give those orders, without knowing exactly what repairs are necessary; and you should take care, when you have no accurate knowledge upon the subject on which you write, to word your letter accordingly. Had you referred to the paper transmitted by Col. Fisher, you would have seen that the Colonel does not report any repairs to be absolutely necessary, excepting the bridge from the body of the place to the ravelin.

To Brig. Gen. Peacocke.

Villar Formoso, 14th May, 1811.

I enclose the copy of a letter which I have received this morning from Adm. Berkeley, to which I beg you will attend. It is desirable that the guns in S. Julian, Cascaes, Fort Bugio, and other batteries bearing upon the entry of the harbour at Lisbon, should be pointed towards the sea; and that you should be prepared to occupy those points with the troops at Lisbon, in case of the appearance of the enemy's fleet in that quarter, which I don't conceive very probable. I beg, at the same time, that you will understand that you are not to detain at Lisbon any men belonging to the regiments with the army who may be deemed sufficiently recovered to do their duty.

To Vice Adm. the Hon. G. Berkeley.

Villar Formoso, 14th May, 1811.

I request you to give directions that the ships, having on board the battering train belonging to the army, may proceed to Oporto under suitable convoy, as soon as certain engineers' stores, which Col. Fisher will have been ordered to have put on board these ships, shall have been embarked.