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Edited by John Gurwood

Excerpt

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

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PENINSULA AND FRANCE.

To Rear Adm. T. B. Martin.\*

Lesaca, 16th Sept. 1813.

I enclose you a letter for Lord Melville, and two or three others, which I request you to have put into the post office.

When the great fleet of transports, which had been attached to this army in 1810, was sent back to England in 1811, a certain number of troop ships of war were attached to it, and were generally on the Lisbon station.

I requested the Admiral on the Lisbon station (at that time Adm. Berkeley) to send these ships round to the Eastern coast at the commencement of the last campaign, in order that they might co-operate with the army then expected there from Sicily, whose operations, it was then believed, would be very closely connected with, and would depend upon those of the fleet.

Circumstances have since altered, and the army on the Eastern coast is a good deal independent of the fleet, while this army has become more dependent on its maritime communications. I therefore requested, some time ago, the General, Lord W. Bentinck, to urge the Admiral, Sir E. Pellew, to send all the troop ships of war round again to Lisbon. I shall be much obliged to you if you will draw the attention of the Admiralty to this subject.

It is very desirable that we should have the services of them to bring round reinforcements, both for the British and Portuguese army, which are waiting at Gibraltar and Lisbon for want of vessels to transport, and others to convoy them; and they would be very useful here in conveying

\* Adm. Sir T. B. Martin, G.C.B., then belonging to the Board of Admiralty.

G. O.

Lesaca, 16th Sept. 1813.

2. General officers commanding brigades must not give leave of absence to any officer or soldier to be absent from his corps or station for more than one night. General officers commanding divisions must not give leave of absence for a greater length of time than 8 days.

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the wounded to England, or to ports on the coast; and for the general purposes of the service.

A Don Fred. Moretti.

Lesaca, ce 16 Sept. 1813.

Je reçois votre lettre du 1<sup>er</sup>, et je vous ferai dire si j'ai l'occasion d'employer l'officier dont vous me parlez.

Je suis bien fâché que votre procès ne finisse pas. J'ai fait tout ce qui était en mon pouvoir; mais mon pouvoir dans ces sujets là est nul, et je ne peux plus rien. Je vous prie de m'indiquer ce que je pourrais faire.

To his Excellency Sir C. Stuart, K.B.

Lesaca, 16th Sept. 1813.

Having referred your letter of the 31st Aug., on the subject of Mr. A'Court's arrangements, to the Commissary Gen., I beg to enclose, for your information, a copy of his opinion upon it, by which it appears that he considers it too late in the season to adopt the proposed measure during the present year; but thinks it would be advisable to endeavor to procure the Emperor of Morocco's leave for the exportation of cattle and mules early in the next spring.

To the Rt. Hon. Sir H. Wellesley, K.B.

Lesaca, 16th Sept. 1813.

I have had the honor of receiving your letter of the 8th inst., enclosing one of the 31st Aug., from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in regard to the clothing supplied by Great Britain in the year 1813 for the use of the Spanish army. I beg you will inform the Minister that a part of that clothing has already arrived, and a small proportion of it has been issued to the troops. The remainder is daily expected.

I beg, however, that you will inform the Minister, that all the troops with this army, with very trifling exceptions, and I believe those on the Eastern coast, are very sufficiently clothed. That is not what is wanting for their comfort and preservation during the winter in this inclement climate; but food, and some assistance in money, in addition to the British subsidy, in order to provide for their payment.

To the Rt. Hon. Sir H. Wellesley, K.B.

Lesaca, 16th Sept. 1813.

I have received your letter of the 8th, and I am glad to find that the *Serviles* have had a little success.

I will not allow Sir J. Fellowes to be moved from Cadiz. I will see what stores there are there, preparatory to removing our troops and establishments from thence.

I shall be obliged to you if you will send 100,000 dollars to each of the following armies, on or before the 1st Nov., viz.: The 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, and army of reserve of Andalusia. That for the 1st and 2d should be sent to the Eastern coast; that for the 3d and 4th, and army of reserve of Andalusia, should be sent here. If you cannot send the whole at that period, send such proportion as you can, each having the same.

I recommend to you not to stay in your office one moment if it is likely to distress you.

There is nothing new. We are waiting for the equipments of the pontoon train, without which we can do nothing.

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The French have certainly been very roughly handled in the actions in Germany. In the extracts from the *Moniteur* of the 7th, which I have seen, it appears that Vandamme, having entered Bohemia, was cut off with the 1st corps, was himself killed, lost 6000 men, 30 pieces of cannon, and 300 carriages, according to the bulletin which I enclose.

It must be observed of these bulletins, however, that they are printed at Bayonne, and are improvements upon the lies even of the *Moniteur*.

I will answer by the next post respecting the clothing for the Duque del Infantado.

To Visc. Melville, First Lord of the Admiralty.

Lesaca, 16th Sept. 1813.

I have received your letter of the 3d. Rear Adm. T. B. Martin has been here, and I have explained to him our wants in such a manner, as that I hope there will be no difficulties whatever in future. I am not desirous of getting into discussions on any subject, and certainly not of continuing them after the occasion for them is over; but I assure you, that last year I began to draw the attention of the Sec. of State to this subject, and that I had done so again very early in this year; and, indeed, your letter of the 28th July adverts to the communications from Sir C. Stuart and me upon it.

There is one point, however, in your letter of the 3d Sept., on which I am very anxious that you should not believe that I intended to act, or acted, so improperly as to communicate to the officers of the navy censures on their superiors, the Board of Admiralty. Since I have received yours, I have read again with attention my note of the 20th Aug. to Sir T. Graham, which he communicated to Capt. Otway. The object was to let Capt. Otway know for what objects naval assistance was required, that he might judge whether he could, and decide whether he would, stay and give it to us. The last paragraph alone can be construed into any censure of the Admiralty; and the paragraph itself explains why it was inserted, which was certainly for any other object besides that of censure. Indeed, the other part of the note would have been deemed a trap for Capt. Otway, if the last paragraph had not been inserted.

Neither can I deem the communication of the extract of my letter to the Sec. of State, of the 19th Aug., to Sir G. Collier, the conveyance of a censure on a superior to an inferior. Sir George wrote to me regarding certain instructions which he had received from Lord Keith, regarding the disposal of the *President, Révolutionnaire, &c.*, in answer to which communication I referred him to this extract for my opinion on all the points adverted to by Lord Keith. It might have been as well, perhaps, to have written the same to Sir G. Collier, instead of sending him the extract of my letter to the Sec. of State; but excepting that irregularity, which is, after all, of trifling importance, there is nothing that I see to find fault with.

Lord FitzRoy Somerset, Mil. Sec., to Col. Bunbury.

Lesaca, 16th Sept. 1813.

M. Peltier having informed me that Lord Bathurst had authorised the transmission to Lord Wellington of 100 copies of each number of his pamphlet *L'Ambigu*,

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## SPAIN.

I am desired by his Lordship to mention to you, that he does not think it will be in his power to make a distribution of that number at present, and therefore begs that only 50 copies may be sent to him, till he is in a situation to circulate a larger quantity.

*The A.G. to Col. Elley, A.A.G., cavalry.*

16th Sept. 1813.

I am commanded by the Marquis of Wellington to authorise the horses referred to in your letter of the 13th inst., as recapitulated in margin, being cast from the cavalry service. In making this report to Sir S. Cotton, I request you will inform the Lieut. General that it is his Excellency's wish that such of these horses as may appear capable of quick draft should be handed over to the artillery, those equal to slow draft to the Royal Waggon Train, and the remainder to be sold by public auction, and the amount arising therefrom to be credited to the public in the usual manner.

*The A.G. to Major Marlay, A.A.G., Light division.*

16th Sept. 1813.

I am to desire you will report to Major Gen. Alten, I have had the honor to receive and lay before the Commander of the Forces your letter of the 6th inst., and enclosed letter from Mr. Assist. Commissary Gen. —, referring to damage committed by the irregular foraging of a party of the Light division on the 28th ult. By that letter it not only appears, as you have observed, that the Assist. Commissary Gen. does not feel himself authorised to remunerate the man injured above the amount of the value, viz., 33½ dollars; but what is more singular, Mr. — does not appear to consider himself in the smallest degree concerned in or responsible for a duty, the place, the quantity, and due requital for supplies obtained in the course of that duty being entirely under the direction of the department to which he belongs. His Excellency desires that Mr. — may be referred to the G. O. on this subject relating to foraging, by which he must be informed that finding troops with supplies of this nature is the business of the Commissary Gen. and his deputies and officers, and for which each is responsible according to his degree of rank and trust. Mr. — is to be called on to ascertain and report where the evident irregularity on the occasion alluded to arose, that the party found in error may be called on for the amount of damage, arising out of disobedience of orders on that head of service.

To Lieut. Gen. Sir T. Graham, K.B.

Lesaca, 17th Sept. 1813, 9½ A.M.

I received, about 2 this morning, your note of 6 P.M. yesterday evening. If the French hospital want any supplies of any kind, I should think the Purveyor had better give them in the usual manner. If the Purveyor wants them from the Commissary Gen.'s stores, he will apply for them. This is the usual course of the service, and had better not be departed from. If we have not medical officers in sufficient numbers to attend the French wounded, their own surgeons may be employed to attend them. Dr. M'Grigor will settle that.

I wish the pontoon bullocks not to be taken from the service of the pontoons at present, as I am most anxious to get our left across the river, which cannot be done till we have all the pontoons up, and in readiness to move.

— — is really too bad: this is the eighth day since he received the orders to collect the pontoon trains on the high road; and he is not now certain that the orders he sent have reached the officers in charge of them, and he has taken no measures to repeat them. He put his letter into the Spanish post office, I conclude, directed in English, and without knowing whether the officer in charge of the pontoons is in communication with that post office; and there he left the matter. This is the way in which all our arrangements fail. The officers charged to send an order

will not attend to that essential part of their duty, the mode of transmitting it.

Au Cap. Gén. Don F. X. Castaños.

Lesaca, ce 17 Sept. 1813.

J'ai reçu hier au soir votre lettre du 8, et j'envoie celle-ci à Alava, croyant possible que vous la trouviez à Vitoria.

Vous faites bien de continuer votre route vers Cadiz, sans donner motif à la jalousie, s'il est possible. Et pour cela, il faudrait éviter toutes les occasions qui pourraient se présenter, dans lesquelles les sentimens du peuple pourraient éclater. En arrivant en Andalousie dans les premiers jours du mois d'Octobre, vous serez dans le cas de juger de quelle manière les affaires vont tourner.

To Rear Adm. T. B. Martin.

Lesaca, 17th Sept. 1813, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  A.M.

I have received your letters from Oyarzun and off Pasages of yesterday.

In answer to the first, I have to observe that I know that Adm. G. Martin will send round the troop ships of war, or any other infantry transports he can get, with the 37th regt. from Gibraltar, the 77th from Lisbon, and about 1200 Portuguese drafts, and a considerable number of recovered English soldiers who are waiting in Portugal for means of conveyance. The object of my letter of yesterday was to urge you to request the Admiralty to order these troop ships round from the eastern to the western coast of the Peninsula.

From the conversation I had with you here, I understood that 4 vessels of those under Sir G. Collier were to be constantly employed in taking convoys from Pasages to Coruña, and from Coruña to Pasages; and the same number under Adm. G. Martin, from the coast of Portugal to Coruña, and from Coruña to Lisbon.

From your letter, written on board the *Creole*, of yesterday, I observe that 2 of the vessels of those under Sir G. Collier are already on the coast of Portugal, and are to bring convoys from thence. I certainly have nothing to say to this subject; and as long as the convoys come safely, and with the regularity which is permitted by the state of the weather, it is a matter of indifference to me how they are disposed; and I can only form a private opinion on the subject, which private opinion may not deserve much attention. If, however, I have misunderstood you, and 4 vessels only are to be employed in convoys between this and Lisbon, I cannot but be of opinion that they will not be sufficient.

If Sir G. Collier will send me the plan of the lighthouse, and will let me know where it is to be constructed, I will have it constructed. It will also be necessary that he should land for us the guns to be placed at Point Higuier.

Au Gén. Don P. A. Giron.

Lesaca, ce 17 Sept. 1813, 11 A.M.

Je vous envoie trois ordres pour 40,000 livres de riz à Vitoria, 40,000 livres à Tolosa, et 20,000 à Pasages. N'envoyez pas le dernier avant deux jours.

Les Français n'ont pas voulu laisser passer vos parentes sans être accompagnées d'autres; pour le passage desquelles le Gén. Freyre

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n'avait pas reçu d'ordre quand il m'écrivait. Mais je lui ai fait dire hier matin qu'il devait juger et décider à qui des Espagnols il donnerait permission de passer.

*The A.G. to Lieut. Col. —, Royal Engineer.*

17th Sept. 1813.

I am commanded to put to you the following queries, to which you will be so good as to reply immediately, for his Excellency's information :

1st ; On what day did you receive the orders to collect the pontoon train on the high road in the neighbourhood of Oyarzun, and what orders did you issue in consequence ?

2d ; How did you transmit those orders, and what measures did you take for their secure delivery ?

3d ; In the event of your having sent them by the Spanish post, did you know on what day it went to Vitoria ; and was your letter sent on that day ? Mention also whether it was directed in the English or Spanish language ; or whether it was directed to the care of any Spanish authority, or to the British Commandant at Vitoria.

4th ; State how orders have been transmitted to the officer in charge of the pontoon train till now, since the opening of the campaign.

5th ; Has the officer in charge of the pontoons orders to keep in communication with the Spanish post office at Vitoria ?

6th ; Were duplicates and triplicates sent of those orders, and by what means ?

In reference to this duty, which has been so long delayed, I am to desire you will send off an officer, forthwith to ride post, with orders to the pontoon train at Vitoria to move to Oyarzun.

*The A.G. to the Officer of the 6th division, to be embarked with French prisoners at Pasages.*

17th Sept. 1813.

As senior officer of the escort in charge of French prisoners of war, to be embarked from Pasages, you will upon your arrival in England transmit a report to the Adjutant General of the Forces, Horse Guards, London, with a complete state of your detachment, and receive from that office the necessary instructions for your return to this country.

*The A.G. to Lieut. Col. Sir R. Hill, Household cavalry.*

17th Sept. 1813.

By command of his Excellency the Commander of the Forces, I transmit you the proceedings of the General Court Martial on the trial of Sub-Lieut. and Adj. —, of the — Life Guards ; and I am to desire you will cause them to be read in presence of the officers of the Household troops, to be assembled for

G. O.

Lesaca, 17th Sept. 1813.

1. At a General Court Martial, held by virtue of a warrant and in pursuance of an order, &c., &c., Sub-Lieut. and Adj. —, of the — Life Guards, was arraigned upon the following charges, viz. :

1st ; ' For refusing to obey the orders of Lieut. —, of the same regiment, his superior officer, on a point of duty on the watering parade, on the evening of the 4th Aug. 1813.

' For unofficerlike conduct and disobedience of orders the same evening on parade, in peremptorily refusing twice, in presence of the piquet, to give over the same to Lieut. —, who ordered him so to do, and who was his senior officer, and appointed to that command ;' the whole being to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

The Court having duly weighed and considered the evidence in support of the 1st charge, viz. ; ' For refusing to obey the orders of Lieut. —, of the same regiment, his superior officer, on a point of duty on the watering parade, on the evening of the 4th Aug. 1813,' together with what the prisoner, Sub-Lieut. and Acting Adj. —, has offered in his defence, with the evidence thereon, is of opinion that the prisoner, Sub-Lieut. and Acting Adj. —, is not guilty of the 1st charge preferred against him, and does therefore fully acquit him of the same, and the Court is further of opinion that the charge is frivolous and vexatious.

The Court having duly weighed and considered the evidence in support of the 2d charge, viz. ; ' For unofficerlike conduct and disobedience of orders the same evening on parade, in peremptorily refusing twice, in presence of the piquet, to give over the same to Lieut. —, who ordered him so to do, and who was his senior officer, and appointed to that command,' together with what the prisoner, Sub-Lieut. and Adj. —, has offered in his

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that purpose, as well as No. 3 of the G. O. of this date, adverting to points of duty which appeared ill understood by officers of that brigade, on the face of the proceedings. It is desirable that Lieut. — should be present on this occasion.

To the Rt. Hon. Sir H. Wellesley, K.B.

Lesaca, 18th Sept. 1813.

I enclose a letter from Louisa for her poor brother, which I beg you to return to her, as she will pass Cadiz, or to enclose to her if she should have gone home. I understand that she had learned his misfortune from the Sicilian newspapers.

I shall be much obliged to you if you will tell — — that I have had frequent complaints of the incapacity of \* \* \* for his employment, which indeed is very obvious; and at last Gen. Freyre has sent me an official one to be forwarded to the government. I must send it in; but I propose to keep it by me for two or three posts, in order to give — — time to endeavor to get for him another office. The truth is, he is not fit for that which he fills; and considering that it is the duty of the person filling this office to provide for a very large army, with very small means, or rather no means at all, it will not be easy to find one who can perform that duty.

To the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of Dublin.

Lesaca, 18th Sept. 1813.

The Duke of Richmond has transmitted the address of the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Commons, and citizens of Dublin, unanimously agreed to be presented to me at a general assembly, held on Friday the 16th July, in which my fellow citizens have been pleased to express their approbation of my conduct, and of that of the troops serving under my command, in the late battle of Vitoria.

I beg that your Lordship and the citizens of Dublin will accept my best thanks for this mark of their favor; and that you will be assured that nothing can be more gratifying to the brave officers and troops under my command, and myself, than to know that our conduct has been approved of by such high authority.

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defence, with the evidence thereon, is of opinion that he is not guilty of the 2d charge preferred against him, and does therefore fully acquit him of the same, and the Court is further of opinion that the charge is frivolous and vexatious.

The Court cannot conclude the investigation of the above charges preferred by Lieut. — against Sub-Lieut. and Adj. —, without remarking that the conduct of Lieut. —, during the circumstances upon which the charges are founded, is highly unmilitary and reprehensible, and that he has not been actuated by motives for the good of the service, and that he has acted contrary to the advice of his Commanding officer, previously asked for by him.

Which opinion has been confirmed by his Excellency the Commander of the Forces.

2. Lieut. and Adj. — is to be released from his arrest, and to join his regiment.

3. The Commander of the Forces cannot avoid observing, upon the perusal of the proceedings of the General Court Martial on the trial of Lieut. and Adj. —, that Capt. — having been present on the parade on the night of the 4th Aug. when the transactions occurred which form the subject of the 2d charge against Lieut. and Adj. —, ought to have interfered as a superior officer of the regiment to protect Lieut. and Adj. — in the performance of his duty of Adjutant, as prescribed by the Regulations of His Majesty's service, and the standing orders of the regiment; and that it must be understood in the Life Guards, as well as in the army in general, that the possession of rank in the service is attended by the necessity for the performance of duty, and for attention to the maintenance of good order and discipline, and that it is not in the power of an officer to lay aside or assume his rank in the service at his pleasure, but most particularly not when he is on a parade on which troops are formed for duty.

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To Earl Bathurst.

Lesaca, 18th Sept. 1813.

In reference to your Lordship's letter of the 29th March, and to my answer of the 25th April last, I have now the honor to transmit to you a letter which has been received from Major Gen. Baron Bock, stating that the Paymasters of the regiments composing his brigade have taken to themselves the profit arising from the exchange in the remittance to England of the credits of deceased officers. I believe this has been generally the case throughout the army; but, as I observed in my letter of the 25th April, the remedy of the evil lies with your Lordship, and not with me.

To Earl Bathurst.

Lesaca, 18th Sept. 1813.

I beg to transmit a memorial which I have received from M. —, a deserter from the French army, in which he held the rank of Lieutenant. I perfectly recollect the arrival of this officer at my head quarters in September last; and I shall be obliged to your Lordship if you should think proper to give him some further provision till he is employed.

To Major Goldfinch, R.E.

Lesaca, 19th Sept. 1813.

From a letter received last night from the Principe de Anglona, commanding the division of the 3d army proceeding to the blockade of Pamplona, I have reason to apprehend that his troops have been sent there either entirely unsupplied, or very ill supplied with provisions, notwithstanding that I had placed 100,000 rations at the disposal of the Duque del Parque at Tudela. The Duque del Parque has been written to upon this subject. But, as the want of provisions by the Principe de Anglona's troops may materially influence the blockade, and they may be obliged to quit it in order to go in search of provisions, I herewith enclose an order upon a moveable magazine, belonging to the 2d division of the army, which magazine is at Berrio-plano, for such supply as you may require for them.

I beg you will understand, however: 1st; That you are not to use this order unless you shall be certain that the Principe de Anglona's troops are in the state of extreme distress supposed, and that they must either get the provisions or die, or raise the blockade to go in search of them. 2dly; That you are to take only one day's provisions, that is bread, at a time. 3dly; That you are to keep secret the existence of this order, as I know that if it were known it were in your possession, all exertion, excepting to prevail upon you to use it, would cease.

To Col. Bunbury, Under Sec. of State.

Lesaca, 19th Sept. 1813.

I am very much obliged to you for the map of France, which, however, is of a shape that I cannot conveniently carry, as we have no wheel

G. O.

Lesaca, 18th Sept. 1813.

3. Lieut. C. Holbern, of the 10th Royal hussars, is appointed Secretary to the Board of Claims.

4. Officers commanding regiments are informed the utmost punctuality in reply is required to any letter that may be addressed to them by Lieut. Holbern in the course of his official duty as Secretary to the Board.

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## SPAIN.

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carriages with the army, excepting the artillery. I have therefore had cut out the sheets, of which I enclose the numbers, containing the maps of the country immediately in my front, which I have had pasted upon linen by the Staff corps, and made to fold up according to the size enclosed. I shall be obliged to you if you will have the others done according to the same size, and if you will send me out, first, the numbers containing the maps of the country bordering on the Upper and Eastern Pyrenees, and on the Upper Garonne; and next those to the northward of the Lower Garonne, &c. I wish I may not require them; but it is as well to have them at all events.

I beg pardon for giving you so much trouble; and I do it only because I am apprehensive that Mr. Smith may not be in town; and it is desirable that no time should be lost.

To Earl Bathurst.

Lesaca, 19th Sept. 1813.

Nothing of importance has occurred, since I addressed your Lordship on the 10th inst., in the positions of the army.

The garrison of Pamplona having made several sorties during the blockade, in all of which they were repulsed with loss, made one in considerable force on the 10th, possibly with a view to reconnoitre the force by which the blockade was maintained; but they were immediately driven in. Mariscal de Campo Don Carlos de España, who commands the blockade, was unfortunately wounded, but is still able to exercise his command; and he has reported most favorably of the officers and troops employed under his command on this occasion. I have every reason to hope that the place will be under the necessity of surrendering early in October. The 3d Spanish army arrived at Tudela on the 15th; and one division of it, under the Principe de Anglona, arrived at the blockade on the 17th, in order to relieve the troops of the army of reserve of Andalusia, now employed on that service.

To Earl Bathurst.

Lesaca, 19th Sept. 1813.

I have the honor to enclose a memorandum by the Q. M. G., on the tin camp kettles which were brought out by the 76th and 84th regts., and a statement of the weight of that in use in this army.

In addition to these observations, I beg leave to remark that there ought to be a canvas bag with each kettle.

To Earl Bathurst.

Lesaca, 19th Sept. 1813.

It is very desirable that some arrangement should be fixed and made public soon, under which officers will be able to get from England those equipments which they want. We can get nothing in these countries; and those who have been here as long as I have, feel very uncomfortable for want of a variety of articles of their equipment, which they can get only from England. I cannot understand why the rule regarding the packets should have been made more strict lately; and I know that I, among others, am suffering from it, not having even a second saddle.

To Earl Bathurst.

Lesaca, 19th Sept. 1813.

I had intended to move the left of the army across the Bidasoa immediately after the fall of San Sebastian, and I still intend to make that movement, which has been delayed by a mistake made by the officer of engineers in transmitting the orders for the collection of the pontoon train. But I acknowledge that I feel a great disinclination to enter the French territory under existing circumstances.

The superiority of numbers which I can take into France will consist in about 25,000 Spaniards, neither paid nor fed, and who must plunder, and will set the whole country against us. Then we have the forts of St. Jean Pied de Port and Bayonne, that we must take or blockade; and matters on our right in Catalonia are not at all in the state in which they ought to be. If Suchet still has, or should acquire a superiority in the field, he may tumble Lord W. Bentinck back even to the Jucar; and all his posts, excepting Tarragona, which is destroyed, will fall into his hands again. I say, if he still has, as I confess I doubt his having detached Decaen into France, notwithstanding that Lord William sent away the 3d army after he had received an injunction from me not to do so, if he was not quite certain that the detachment supposed had been made, at least equal in strength to the 3d army. To all this I add the reports which we have here, that the Allies were defeated between the 26th and the end of August; to which, though I don't give entire credit, (and indeed it appears clearly that the 1st corps was cut off and destroyed,) yet it appears certain that the Allies were repulsed in their attack upon Dresden. However, I shall put myself in a situation to menace a serious attack, and to make one immediately, if I should see a fair opportunity, or if I should hear that the Allies have been really successful, or when Pamplona shall be in our possession.

I see that, as usual, the newspapers on all sides are raising the public expectation, and that the Allies are very anxious that we should enter France, and that our government have promised that we should, *as soon as the enemy should be finally expelled from Spain*; and I think I ought, and will bend a little to the views of the Allies, if it can be done with safety to the army, notwithstanding that I acknowledge I should prefer to turn my attention to Catalonia, as soon as I shall have secured this frontier.

To Major Gen. the Hon. E. Stopford.

Lesaca, 20th Sept. 1813.

I have perused the proceedings of the General Court Martial of which you are President, on the trial of Lieut. de —, of the — regt., and the recommendation of the Court, to which I feel every inclination to attend; but I return both with the wish that the Court should revise their sentence.

I cannot but consider the transaction which has been the subject of this Court Martial to be simply a private quarrel, which has as little connexion with the public service, and with the discipline and subordination of the army, as any that has ever come under my notice.

It is certainly true, that private quarrels between officers are proper subjects for the investigation of a Court Martial; but the complainant, in order to obtain a decision in his favor, must come with a fair case; he must not himself have been guilty of a breach of the G. O. of the army,