

## **Diary transcript and summary, 1807-1813**

### **Publication/Creation**

1807-1813

### **Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/byuk4hw9>

### **License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

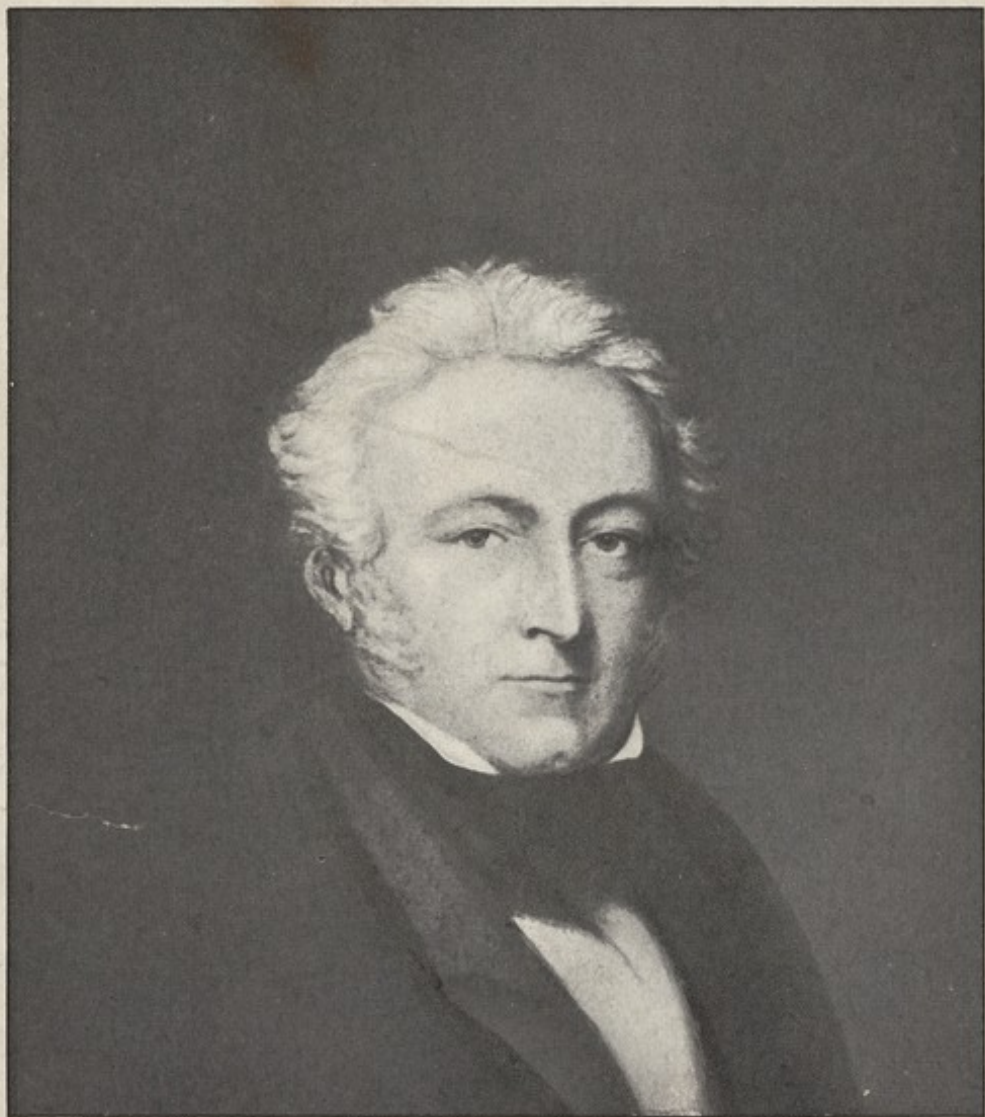
Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

P. W. F. Ramc 336



G. I. Guthrie F.G.P.







236

R.A.M.C. HISTORICAL MUSEUM,  
QUEEN ELIZABETH BARRACKS,  
CROOKHAM, HANTS.

R.A.M.C.  
MUNIMENT  
ROOM

RAMC 336

R.A.M.C. HISTORICAL MUSEUM,  
QUEEN ELIZABETH BARRACKS,  
CROOKHAM, HANTS.

R.A.M.C.  
MUNIMENT  
ROOM

2

CHICKEN HARBOR  
WILSON KILLICK BARRACKS  
STATE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

R.A.M.C.  
MUNIMENT  
ROOM

R.A.M.C.  
MUNIMENT  
ROOM



SOME EPISODES IN THE LIFE OF JAMES GOODALL  
ELKINGTON, AN ARMY SURGEON IN THE PENIN-  
SULAR DAYS, TOGETHER WITH EXTRACTS FROM  
HIS JOURNAL.<sup>1</sup>

BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. P. ELKINGTON.  
*Royal Army Medical Corps.*

JAMES GOODALL ELKINGTON was born on October 2nd, 1784. After serving as an apprentice to a surgeon in Bath from 1800 to 1805, he went to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and obtained his diploma from the College of Surgeons on January 15th, 1807. He then appeared before the Medical Board in Berkeley Street, and received his warrant as hospital mate on August 8th, 1807.

His first duty in the Army was that of assistant to the apothecary at Chelsea.

On September 7th he received a sudden order to report without one moment's delay to General Beresford, through Deputy-Inspector McGrigor at Portsmouth, for foreign service. He embarked for Cork in a transport on September 19th, which he did not reach until October 27th, owing to contrary winds. On November 10th, as the expedition was countermanded, he was ordered to return to England, and left in a supply transport with ten sail of transports under convoy; he arrived at Spithead on November 20th. Here the troops found orders to return immediately to Cork, as they had been directed back to England by mistake. On November 24th he embarked on board the "Centaur" at Spithead with General Beresford and his staff; they arrived off Cove on December 4th, and started for Madeira on the 6th. He was attached to the Light Companies of the 3rd, 25th, 63rd, and 11th Regiments.

"CAPTURE OF MADEIRA.

"December 24th.—At 6 a.m. the 'Centaur' was cleared for action, and at 10 a.m., with the ships of war, passed the Brazen Head and came in sight of the town of Funchal. The situations of the different ships of war being pointed out, the 'Centaur' came to anchor with a spring on her cable at 11.30 a.m., with her broadside bearing on the Governor's

<sup>1</sup> This journal was compiled by him in after years from the diaries he kept while in the Field, all of which are in my possession.—(H. P. E.)

house and the Grand Battery 350 yards distant. A flag of truce sent on shore with the terms which were to be accepted or refused in half an hour. At noon the flag returned with the acceptance of the terms, the Portuguese flag was lowered, and the English flag hoisted with the usual salutes. The 3rd and 11th Regiments landed and took possession of the Forts.

"The Medical Staff on the expedition were:—

"Deputy-Inspector.—W. Hogg, Esq.

"Physician.—G. A. Morewood, M.D.

"Surgeon.—Carrol (relieved by Messrs. Wooldridge and Taggart).

"Deputy Purveyor.—Matthew Emerson.

"Apothecary.—John Lewis.

"Hospital Mates.—J. G. Elkington, R. S. Morrison, L. W. Whitstone, H. McCreery, J. Thomas, W. Daunt.

"January, 1808.—The Nuns of the Incarnation Convent were removed to the Convent of Santa Clara to make room for a general hospital; the procession was very grand and had a singular effect, many of the females not having passed the walls for forty and fifty years before. They were mostly old, with one or two interesting young women.

"Madeira is principally celebrated for its wine, which is excellent and abundant. The effect of the new wine, if drunk to excess, is very prejudicial, and many of the soldiers died in the wine-houses. A suspicion was entertained that these men were poisoned, but the most minute *post-mortem* examination could not detect any such cause. Great determination of blood to the brain was clear in every case, and this was the cause of death.

"February 18th.—Orders arrived from England for my proceeding to the West Indies; was in daily expectation of embarking, but there was no vessel, and as often as the fleets arrived, a gale of wind came on which obliged them to proceed on their voyage.

"March 3rd.—Received orders to establish a Lock Hospital for the women of the Island at the factory; this measure proved as beneficial as it was humane, and completely answered the purpose intended. I continued in charge of it during my stay in the island.

"April 19th.—The 'Albion,' sloop of war, arrived with despatches for General Beresford, relating to the giving up of the Island to the Portuguese again.

"April 26th.—The 'Leander,' the ship in which General Miranda sailed to the Spanish Main, having arrived in distress with invalids of the 37th Regiment on board, I was directed to visit it and report on the health of the men, which I represented as unfit to proceed on their voyage to England without medical assistance; at the same time observed to Deputy-Inspector Hogg that being senior mate I should wish the charge. He kindly agreed to recommend it to General Beresford.

"April 27th.—Directed in general orders to take charge of the invalids of the 37th on their passage to England; embarked immediately.

"April 29th.—Weighed anchor and sailed. . . . The whole voyage which was very quick, but squally, was attended with a heavy swell; and the vessel, having been much strained, was obliged to be pumped every half-hour. She was as rotten as a pear; pierced for eighteen guns but having only three, the remainder having been thrown overboard in the gale which drove her to Madeira.

"May 13th.—Heavy fog. At 5.30 a.m. struck on the Mag Rock off Prawle Point, coast of Devon. Fired guns of distress; at 6.30 a.m. a shore boat came off; left the ship with the women and children, and the soldiers least able to assist themselves; conducted them to Kingsbridge by water and delivered them over to Surgeon Matthews, 3rd Regiment, in Barracks there.

"May 14th.—Left Kingsbridge for Plymouth, where I found the 'Leander,' having been got off the rock, had arrived.

"May 27th.—Having called daily on General England since my arrival and received as often orders and counter-orders, at length the General procured a convoy to the eastward and we were directed round to the Thames.

"May 31st.—Made the Isle of Wight and were run foul of by a Portuguese brig that carried away our only boat.

"June 4th.—Landed at Blackwall and reported arrival with the detachment at York Hospital."

On July 12th, 1808, he was gazetted Assistant Surgeon to the 2nd Battalion, 24th Regiment, which he joined at Guernsey. In April, 1809, the regiment embarked for the Tagus, where they disembarked on the 26th, and marched to Santarem. On May 18th they moved towards Sobura Formosa, but on arrival at Cardigos were ordered to halt; here they remained for five weeks, the headquarters of that portion of the army, under General Mackenzie, being at Corticada. On June 28th they moved onwards to Castello Branco, where the brigade was joined by that of General Donkin. Here the division was inspected by Sir Arthur Wellesley. They left on July 1st, arrived at Toralba on the 20th, and on the 22nd marched out and bivouacked in a wood near Talavera.

"1808, TALAVERA.

"July 23rd.—The army advanced at 3 a.m., supposed to attack the enemy, but at 1 o'clock returned, with the exception of our division that was in advance about a league on the Madrid road. I was directed to remain with the sick at Talavera, and establish a hospital. Went with my baggage to Talavera, but in the evening Dr. Ferguson directed Assistant Surgeon Rule, 87th Regiment, to relieve me. I joined my regiment in a wood one league in advance near the ruins of an old convent and within sight of the enemy's camp on the opposite side of the River Alberche.



"July 24th.—The division was under arms shortly after midnight. At 3 a.m. we advanced; each man received a pint of wine. At 5 a.m. reached the Alberche, but found the enemy had retreated during the night, crossed the river and passed the French Camp, marched through Cazalegas and recrossed the river one league beyond. The Spanish army was now in advance.

"July 25th.—Halted. July 26th a continued cannonading in our front. In the evening we crossed the Alberche and took up a position in front of Cazalegas to cover the retreat of the Spanish army that had been repulsed and were falling back in the greatest possible confusion and disorder, the whole night passed in alarms, expecting the advance of the enemy every moment.

"July 27th.—The line, consisting of two divisions under General Sherbrooke, was under arms 2 a.m., in front of Cazalegas. At 9 a.m. we retreated, as the enemy were rapidly advancing, recrossed the Alberche, and took up our old position in the wood. At 2 p.m. firing commenced, and the division began its retreat towards the main body of the army that occupied the position near Talavera, and for the last hour of the retreat we were cannonaded by the enemy, but, being in line, without much loss. At 9.30 p.m., the French attacked the hill that commanded our position on the left with great force and carried it; but it was regained and the enemy driven off with great loss. An attack was also made on the Spanish line on our right; this also was repulsed.

"July 28th.—The French 8 a.m., after heavy cannonading, again attacked the hill, but were repulsed with severe loss. At 2 p.m. they attacked the whole line and endeavoured to turn our left, but at every point were defeated, and as soon as the night approached the enemy retreated.

"July 29th.—At daybreak I went to Talavera to attend the wounded, the whole town being full of them. Our hospital was established in the convent of St. Jeronimo. Captain Evans died of his wound, a gunshot fracture of the cervical vertebra. The duties of the Army medical men were now very severe.

"August 3rd.—This morning the army marched towards Oropesa. Ordered to remain at Talavera with my wounded. At noon Lieutenant-Colonel McKinnon, of the Guards (Commandant), called all the officers together, and, after telling them that he expected the French army would shortly enter the city, he directed the whole of the Assistant-Surgeons, with Staff-Surgeon Higgins, to remain in charge of such wounded as could not get away, and that every one able to march should leave the city immediately. The whole left us in the evening to shift for ourselves. I had charge of 188 men of my own regiment, with the following wounded officers: Lieutenant-Colonel Popham, Captain Collis, Lieutenants Grant, Skene, and Allen. The whole of the British hospital may be calculated at 1800. We had a certain quantity of money and some provisions (but

as the French did not come on as rapidly as Colonel McKinnon led us to suppose, we soon fell short in the latter).

"August 6th.—At 11 a.m. we observed the advance of the French cavalry. They shortly after entered the town under the command of General Beaumont. They plundered everywhere; but respected the British hospital.

"August 7th.—At 8 a.m. the advance of the infantry under Marshal Victor arrived; they pillaged the whole town and many wounded English officers. I secured my kit, horse, and mule by keeping them in the hospital.

"It was reported that we were to be sent to Madrid as fast as possible, and that the surgeons were not to be considered as prisoners of war.

"August 13th.—Marshal Mortier's Corps arrived. The Marshal visited the British hospitals and expressed himself as extremely satisfied with their cleanliness, which, he said, he wished was equalled in the French establishments of the same kind."

On August 22nd he was taken ill with "fever," which lasted till September 19th, and he notes in his journal that this fever was so prevalent and fatal that out of 500 British sick, ninety-two died in sixteen days. On October 28th, three months after the action, he left with the wounded for Madrid, being given a passport. On arrival at Madrid, on the 30th, the passports were taken away from the officers and all were confined as prisoners in two rooms in the Retiro. The party consisted of Sir William Sheridan (Guards), Staff-Surgeons Higgins and McDougle, Captains Coleman, 31st, and Collis, 24th; A. and G. Beamish, 31st; Assistant-Surgeons Rule, Herriot, Curby and himself, and, notwithstanding a written application from Sir William Sheridan, they could not obtain permission even to walk in the Retiro Garden.

#### "ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE.

"November 7th.—George and A. Beamish, Herriot, Curby, Rule, and myself, having procured a rope, attempted to escape, and descended from the window into the garden, but one of the sentries was alarmed, and after two hours spent in endeavouring to get out of the gardens, we fell into a piquet and were conveyed to the Guard Room, from whence we were removed to the common dungeon (George Beamish and Rule had fortunately got clear and returned to their rooms). We remained a fortnight in this place, very cold, there being six windows, iron grates, without glass, and were supplied with black bread and water only; but having money and a canteen cooking machine, we procured many comforts and passed our miserable confinement in tolerable good humour.

"November 21st.—The Spanish prisoners made at Ocaña arrived 12,000 in number, and above 300 officers not one wounded."

On November 26th he was ordered to leave Madrid with twelve English officers and 100 English soldiers, together with 200 Spanish officers and 2,000 Spanish privates. They evidently had some exhausting marches, and were all confined together, officers and men, in immense barns. This state of affairs continued until after they passed Segovia, where a new Colonel for the convoy joined, a Colonel Krutzer, of the 2nd Regiment of Nassau, who directed that the officers should have billets every night. In recounting the march, he notes in the journal:—

"Many Spanish prisoners were shot, some as a warning to deter others from attempting to escape, and all that could not march, owing to weakness or disease, were immediately shot. This plan was followed during the whole of our route to Bayonne, and I may safely say that in this manner nearly 200 were butchered in our convoy."

The convoy passed through Valladolid, Burgos, Tolosa, and reached Bayonne on December 20th, where they reported themselves and the officers were given passports and a route to Verdun, to which they travelled by coach, arriving on January 14th, 1810. While at Verdun he was treated as comfortably as a prisoner of war could expect to be.

"1810.

"The number of English officers (prisoners) was very great—nearly 600. Since the departure of General Wisson, Governor of Verdun, their situation had much improved; he had rendered it by his extortion and cruelty almost insupportable. Being called to account by the Minister of War, he shot himself. His successor was also degraded, and was followed by a Baron de Beaucherre, a mild gentleman, who conducted everything to the satisfaction of all parties. Every fifth day by 10 a.m. we had to write our names in a book, this was called 'The Appel,' and every 24th of the month we were mustered by the commissary in the riding house. These two forms observed, the rest of the time was our own. (Photo of passport while at Verdun.)

"Our day was commonly spent in walking round the ramparts, or to one of the neighbouring villages, as we had the circuit of two leagues, about six English miles. The club-room also took up much of our time. Here was a good room with every newspaper, and furnished with chess and backgammon boards, a good billiard table and a card room, where there was often very great play, but no game of chance with dice was allowed: in short, the whole concern was well conducted. An excellent set of comedians made many of our evenings pass rapidly. The exchange

on England was generally much below par, but money was always to be got for good bills, and the English seemed always well supplied. By their extravagance they had doubled the price of every article and greatly enriched the town. The living was cheap and good. Thus had I conceived I was to have been only a short period here, I could not have wished to have passed my time in a better quarter; but being uncertain as to the duration of our confinement, it became every day more tiresome and irksome. We had been for some time buoyed up with the hopes of a general exchange of prisoners, Mr. Mackenzie having arrived at Morlaix for that purpose; but this, as all other negotiations with the French Government, fell through.



PHOTOGRAPH OF PASS ISSUED TO SURGEON J. GOODALL ELKINGTON WHILE A PRISONER OF WAR AT VERDUN.

"The surgeons left with the wounded at Talavera had sent one memorial to the Minister of War (before my arrival), without effect. We now determined to forward a second, which I drew up as follows: 'The undersigned medical officers of His Britannic Majesty's Service, having been for the sake of humanity left in charge of the English and French wounded on the retreat of the British army from Talavera, became prisoners of war. Whilst performing their duties at Talavera they received the commendations of Marshals Mortier, Victor and



Sebastiani. They humbly request to be allowed to return to their country, throwing themselves on the known clemency of the Emperor [this last sentence created opposition, but it was my opinion that, to gain our point, it was fair to use any flattering expression]."

This memorial, fortunately, reached the Emperor shortly after his marriage with the Archduchess of Austria, and on May 13th they received passports for Morlaix. He left Verdun on May 17th, after a stay of four months; passed through Paris, where he remained a few days sight-seeing, and eventually reached Morlaix on June 3rd (*via* Versailles, Alençon, Mayenne, and Rennes), where he and several others hired a vessel, reached Plymouth on June 8th, and, after reporting his arrival, he was granted leave of absence. On July 8th he received an order to rejoin his regiment, but on representing that his claims for loss on exchange and for his baggage had not yet been settled he was granted further leave.

"August 14.—Received orders, or rather entreaties, from the Medical Board to repair immediately to Portsmouth to embark for Lisbon, a general action being shortly expected.

"August 15th.—Arrived at Portsmouth, reported myself to Staff-Surgeon Fraser, in the absence of Dr. McGrigor, and applied for a passage to Lisbon—answer, no vessel ready!

"August 24th.—Received orders to embark on board the *Rialta* Transport, letter D., a dirty old collier brig just taken up, and on board which thirty-three officers were placed, with a few soldiers to act as servants. Our berths were between decks; the prospect of a pleasant voyage was therefore small.

"September 16th.—Landed at Lisbon."

On September 25th he left Lisbon for Coimbra, but on arrival at Pombal he met and dressed many wounded, and heard of the retreat of the army after the battle of Busaco, and that his regiment, the 24th, was retiring to Leiria, where he joined them.

#### "RETREAT FROM BUSACO."

"October 2nd.—I went to the quarters I had occupied a few days before on my way up, but it exhibited a serious change; the owner of the house, a priest, had fled, the apartments were filled with stragglers, English, Portuguese soldiers, and muleteers; most of the furniture taken away or broken up. . . . During the day's march the whole road was covered with the retreating army, baggage, ammunition, and stores of all kinds; added to which the inhabitants with their property, some in cars, others carrying their children and property; nuns, priests, aged, sick, and infirm—in short, the whole population—in full flight; terror in every countenance—a sight more distressing has been but seldom witnessed.

On the road articles of furniture and clothing, that the weary fugitives could carry no further, were lying in all directions. Fortunately the weather was fine and remained so till we nearly reached 'The Lines' of Torres Vedras, when it became very wet and windy, and much embarrassed our movements, in a country where the roads are at all times bad.

"October 5th.—The division bivouacked near Carvallos. Here I was nearly taken prisoner. The regiment fell in, as usual, an hour before daybreak, and whilst the men were under arms I lay down with the bridle of my horse round my arm and fell asleep. The troops marched off without the least noise, the enemy being on this side of Leiria. I slept for some time, when the movement of my horse awoke me and I found myself alone. I immediately mounted, and proceeded as fast as possible to the rear, keeping the high road in sight, and as soon as I reached a commanding spot, having a good glass, I minutely examined the high road, and at a distance discovered the rear guard of the cavalry of our army retiring. I made the best of my way and was soon in safety. Another half-hour's sleep would have made an awkward change in my situation.

#### "ACTION NEAR SOBRAL."

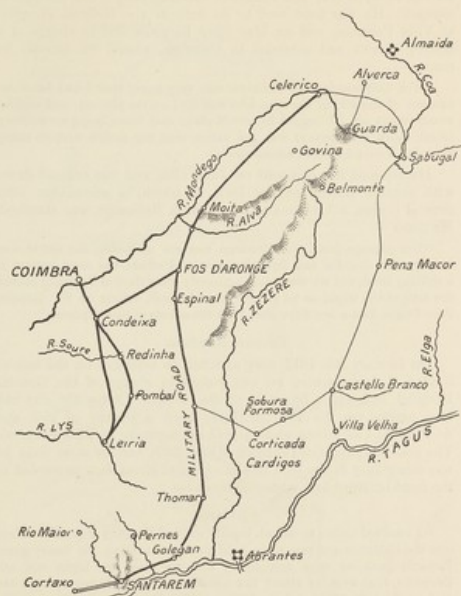
"October 14th.—While marching to position near Sobral, a Corporal Buckingham of the regiment had both knees fractured by a cannon shot, a few yards in my rear. After the skirmish, which was pretty severe, the enemy retired. We now proceeded to amputate the legs of the corporal; the operation had not been long performed when an order arrived to remove all sick and wounded to the rear. I was directed to superintend his removal. At 8 p.m. moved off with the wounded in bullock carts, passed the large Redoubt, and followed the road to Bucellas; a more tempestuous night or worse road I seldom passed. At about 4 a.m. on the 15th I reached Bucellas and delivered over my charge, having first redressed the corporal's stumps, the rain and motion having laid them bare. The suffering of this man and the other wounded from the roughness of the road was very great, their cries during the whole night horrible, and frequently they requested to be shot. As soon as it was daylight they were placed in spring wagons to proceed to Lisbon. (This corporal recovered, and afterwards followed his trade as a weaver near Leicester.) I now returned towards the army, and joined my regiment in the Lines of Torres Vedras."

He remained with his regiment in "The Lines" till November 16th, when, the enemy having retreated, they marched to Santarem and then to Cortaxo, where they remained till March 6th, 1811, when they again advanced, following up the retreating French

<sup>1</sup>*Vide Sketch of Lines.*



THE LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS, covering Lisbon, reached from near Torres Vedras to Alhandra on the Tagus (29 miles in extent).



ROUGH TRACING OF ROUTE FOLLOWED BY THE BRITISH ARMY AFTER THE  
FRENCH RETREATED FROM BEFORE THE "LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS."



army through Espinal and Alverca towards Almeida, where they arrived on April 9th,<sup>1</sup> and remained till May 11th, when the enemy escaped. He was then sent to do duty at the General Hospital at Villa Formosa, and on May 22nd he proceeded in charge of a convoy of sick and wounded to Coimbra, where, on arrival, he notes:—

"The Commandant at Coimbra was very angry that I had taken no account of the kits of the men who had died on the journey, and said he would report me. I begged he would state that there being no military officer (with the convoy) was the cause, that my duties with so many wounded were all I could attend to."

He rejoined his regiment on June 11th, and was ordered down with another convoy on the 13th, to which, in accordance with general orders, a Lieutenant Deane, 38th Regiment, was attached. He notes:—

"Our passage down the Mondego was not agreeable, the storm was terrific with thunder and lightning, rain and wind; the river bottom is a shifting sand, and we were often aground; every flash of lightning caused the man at the wheel to let go and cross himself, calling on St. Antonio. Poor Deane died a few days after from the effects of this exposure."

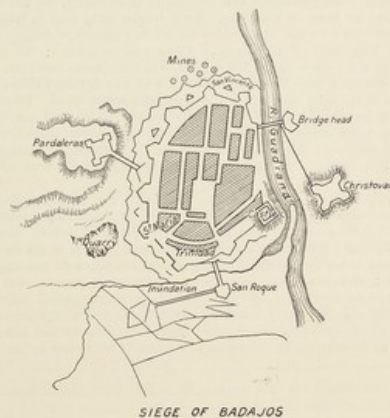
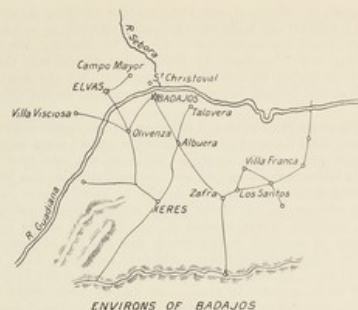
#### CIUDAD RODRIGO.

On January 8th, 1812, they marched to Gallegos on the way to Ciudad Rodrigo, where he was placed in charge of the General Hospital, and had a fine view of the assault. After the city had been carried on the 19th he took down a convoy of sick and wounded to Castinhera, and rejoined the regiment at Villa Formosa. The assault at Badajos began on March 25th, and for some days he was doing duty at the St. Clara Hospital at Elvas, but proceeded to the front on April 5th, where he notes:—

#### "BADAJOS.

"I received orders to attach myself to Staff-Surgeon Burnall. Went into the Batteries and saw some good practice in firing the heavy guns. Towards dusk we were ordered to advance with the Light and 4th Divisions, that were to attack the breaches and post ourselves near the part marked in Colonel Jones's map, 'The Quarry.' At 10 p.m. the assault began. The two divisions that marched up with us in such fine order were repulsed. The firing was tremendous, many of the musket shots from the walls passed us, and grape from Fort Pardaleras came rattling on the ground near. The two divisions retreated, completely

<sup>1</sup> Vide Route.



broken, the men and officers of every corps mingled together. As medical men we were useless; the badly wounded could not come to us and the slightly hurt would not remain under fire to be dressed. We heard great shouting and firing from the Castle, that Picton with the 3rd Division had assaulted by escalade, and carried. We also heard the bugles of Walker's Brigade (which had also escaladed on the Olivenza side).

"One of the staff came down and called on the two scattered divisions to reform and show a front, that the Castle was taken; some degree of formation took place and an advance. The town was ours by 5 a.m., and, it being full daylight, I entered the ditch and went up the breach. A most awful sight. The *chevaux-de-frise* of sword blades let into solid timber were on the top of the breach still standing; platforms of wood with large iron spikes chained lay on the front of the breach. In the bottom of the ditch a deep trench was dug, full of water, and many fell into it during the darkness. The dead and dying lay in every direction, and many, I think, were buried by the *débris* of the breach as they lay at its foot unable to move. All day we were employed in removing the wounded. I was ordered to do duty at the Convent of St. André. Many wounded were brought in immediately, but the whole were not for three or four days. Each fatigue party sent in from the front brought a certain number of wounded, but instead of returning for others they went off plundering. There was no control; the goods, chattels, and persons of the inhabitants were alike made free with. My horse and valise were stolen, and it was not till two or three gallows were erected in the chief square that the plundering was stopped. From fifty to sixty females, friends of the Spanish Colonel in whose house I was staying, came under my protection. Our loss during the siege and assault was near 5,000 killed and wounded. I remained in Badajoz till April 18th, when I was ordered to rejoin my regiment, now on its way to the north.

"July 20th.—'Canizal.' A fine morning. The division formed in lines and advanced. Soon after we perceived the French Army marching on a ridge of hills on our right, and orders were given to retreat. Nothing could be finer; we were moving in parallel lines in sight of one another, we could distinctly see the different French regiments on the opposite heights; now and then, as opportunity offered, a cannon shot was delivered on either side, but the whole day's march passed without a collision, although every moment expected. It was a regular steeple-chase or cross-country march, and proved very tiresome and laborious. Early in the morning an allowance of rum had been issued to the men,

<sup>1</sup> In connection with this, see App. No. 2 from Wellington's Despatches re Shortage of Officers.

and there being no water near they drank it raw; the consequence was most were half drunk. We marched in columns of brigades and halted at Val Verde.

#### "1812. SALAMANCA.

"July 21st.—Marched off at 3 a.m. through Morisco, forded the River Tormes at St. Marta, and, after marching a short distance, we bivouacked. Soon after halting a most tremendous storm of thunder, rain, and lightning took place; many of the cavalry and artillery horses of both armies broke loose. I believe I was nearly the only one that had my baggage so well up that I was able to throw some sheeting across a line like a gipsies' tent, and so obtained some shelter. The storm ceased, and never did a more glorious morn usher in a more glorious day than July 22nd. Before daylight both armies were in position; the whole morning was spent in movements. At 4 p.m. the action commenced, and before sunset every Frenchman was in full retreat. Our division was on the extreme left of our army and was not engaged, so I and my brother assistant, Burroughs, had a very fine view of the action. From our commanding situation we saw distinctly the attack of Pack and his repulse, and the beautiful advance of our lines of attack with their artillery at intervals. But we nearly paid dear for our curiosity, being covered by the dirt thrown up by some round shot fired at us. Our division commenced the pursuit of the retreating army.

#### "MADRID.

"August 14th.—The division entered Madrid, and encamped in the gardens of the Palace 'El Campo.' I entered the City. The French garrison, 2,000 picked men, retreated from 'The Retiro' to Fort La China, but, preparations being made to cannonade them with hot shot, they surrendered as prisoners of war. I saw them march out, and among them the savage old colonel and adjutant, who had treated us so harshly when prisoners in the Retiro after Talavera. I visited and showed some of my brother officers the dungeon in which I had been confined."

The army left Madrid on August 30th, marching towards Valladolid in pursuit of the enemy, and arrived near Burgos on September 18th. The siege commenced on the 19th.

#### "BURGOS.

"October 2nd.—I had been in medical charge of the regiment since Wylde's appointment to the 4th Dragoon Guards (March 2nd, 1812). The new surgeon arrived this day, my old friend and fellow-prisoner Herriot. I was now ordered to take charge of the hospital at Villa Toro for receiving the wounded during the siege, and I continued so during the whole time, a very severe duty, having no assistance (one or two young Spanish surgeons were sent to assist at the latter portion). The

operations were continued to October 21st, and my surprise was very great when at 4 p.m. that day I was ordered to send off every man that could be moved, and to clear the village of wounded officers. Shortly after Deputy Purveyor Hodges arrived, and informed me that I was to remain in charge of such wounded at Toro as could not be moved. On my objecting to the duty, having been before left with the wounded at Talavera, Dr. McGrigor went to his Lordship, the Duke of Wellington, who agreed with me, but stated that if I remained I should have my promotion, to which I agreed. (Whilst on this duty I slept in the sacristy of the chapel, where the hospital was established. My ague returned, and I was far from well, and one day, whilst in the paroxysm of ague, lying between blankets, his Lordship, the Duke of Wellington, came into my room and talked with me.)

"October 22nd.—Early in the morning I saw the last cavalry picket of our army retire. I waited the whole day in great anxiety for the arrival of the advanced guard of the French army, for I was left alone with the wounded and my Portuguese servant; a couple of stragglers from the Guards came in, and I made them useful in assisting me. About half-past five in the evening some cavalry approached the village; I attracted their attention, and an officer and party came towards me. I was taken to General Foy, who was very polite, and asked me to dine. At my request he sent me a safeguard. During the night many officers of the 1st and 7th French Divisions passed their time in my room; we talked much on politics. A French surgeon took a great fancy to my case of capital instruments, and left me his old ones!! My charge consisted of eighteen British and seven French wounded, but the French left some more the following day.

"October 23rd.—The two divisions of the French army marched off, leaving me two Gendarmes for the protection of the hospital, but they very soon proceeded to Burgos, not liking the prowling Spaniards.

"October 24th.—Having waited with the greatest impatience, and no communication coming from Burgos, I went into the city and waited on the Commandant de la place. He said he had received no advice of my being at Villa Toro, and hoped the Commissary would send for the wounded that evening. He did not wish me to return to Villa Toro, but I represented that my baggage was there, and that the wounded required my assistance. He at last gave me a pass. He told me that as the Marquis Wellington had detained the French surgeons at Coimbra, he supposed I should be sent to France, though I told him that General Foy had promised me to be permitted to return to the British headquarters. I returned to Villa Toro in bad spirits and health.

"October 25th.—No cars have arrived, nor any communication from the city; no rations, no purchased bread and chocolate for the wounded.

"October 26th.—No cars. In the evening I again went to Burgos, and seeing General du Breton in the Public Mall, went up to him and

explained my situation at Villa Toro, with so many persons without comforts or even rations. He was greatly displeased with the Commandant, abused him well, and assured me they should be brought in the next morning.

"October 27th.—At last, about 3 p.m., some cars arrived, but not in sufficient number to carry off all the men. They had a strong escort of cavalry and infantry with them, and were to return again that evening. The Intendant of the French Hospital wished to borrow my horse, but that I objected to. He appeared greatly annoyed at my refusal, and wanted me to proceed forthwith to Burgos; but, as the whole of my charge were not removed, I would not."

#### "ESCAPE FROM BURGOS.

"October 28th.—In the morning I again went to Burgos to report I had still four men to remove. The Commandant said the cars should be off at once for them. He desired me to call in the evening to sign my parole as prisoner of war. This was a death-blow to me, and I immediately went to Captain Menzies, a wounded officer in Burgos, to ask his advice about attempting to escape. He advised me not to try, as my health was so delicate; he thought I could not go through the fatigue. Some officers of the German Legion, however, were of a different opinion. Seeing the cars ready to start, I had no time to lose. I bought a bottle of brandy and two pounds of meat, and rode to the gate. The sergeant of the guard wished to detain me, but I showed him my pass of the 24th, which he did not examine minutely, and talking of Verdun, where his regiment had been quartered, he allowed me to pass. On arrival at Villa Toro, I got my horse and mule ready, with my Portuguese boy mounted on the latter, and, seeing the cars approaching, I took a dose of brandy and started off at a gallop. After a good ride over flat but partly ploughed land, I came to a village at the foot of the mountains. The inhabitants told me they were sure the French would not follow me up the mountain; so I ascended, and at the top halted, and with my glass distinctly saw some French cavalry in the village I had just left. I immediately struck off the high road, and, judging as well as possible my proper direction, I continued on till dark, when I fell in with a peasant, whom I compelled to show me the way to the priest's house in the village of Massa. The priest gave me a good supper and forage for my beasts, and, having rested till 2 a.m., I proceeded on my way to Aquillo-de-Campo, my intention being to reach the coast at Santander, as I knew Sir Home Popham and some English vessels were there. I arrived at Aquillo-de-Campo on the 29th, at 5 p.m. It was as much as I could do to keep my horse on his legs. Here I found some Spanish troops, and obtained a good billet. I proceeded on my journey, passing through Reinosa, where I had coffee with the Spanish General Renovales, who informed me that Soult had joined Joseph, and that they had advanced on Madrid, that



General Hill had retired, and that Wellington and Hill would unite. On arrival at Santander, on November 2nd, I made the best of my way to Sir Home Popham's quarters, and put him in possession of all I knew of the raising of the siege of Burgos and what I had heard of the evacuation of Madrid. He was quite unacquainted with these facts, and thought them so important that he made up his mind to despatch a frigate to England with the intelligence. Of course, he catechised me closely. I then asked him for a passage to England, as I thought it would be a long and very unsafe journey to attempt to reach Wellington's headquarters. I sold him my horse for £25 (he afterwards sent for the saddle as well, a first-rate London one. He was, in my case, a great hand at a bargain). He introduced me to Captain Seymour, of the 'Fortunée,' frigate, of whom he had obtained my passage. I dined at the Royal Marine Mess.

"November 3rd.—Embarked for Plymouth, which we reached after a fine passage in five days. During the voyage nothing could have been kinder than Captain Seymour's attention to me, as also the officers, and especially the Marine officers. They told me at parting that they had expected to have to drop me overboard before the end of the voyage."

"November 16th.—Waited on the Adjutant-General in London<sup>1</sup> and was by him sent to see Lord Bathurst, Secretary of State, to whom I repeated the information I had furnished to Sir Home Popham; (my report had been received in London on November 10th. Lord Wellington's despatch, with the news of the raising of the siege of Burgos and Hill's retreat from Madrid, did not arrive in London till a week after, so that the news I brought was important). Being still very weak and wretchedly thin, I obtained one month's sick leave.

"December 24th.—Joined the depot of 24th Regiment at Maldon, in Essex (four companies having been ordered home). . . . I now memorialised the commander-in-chief, through my commanding officer, for promotion. The Duke of York's reply was the copy of the Director-General's answer to him, who stated that my service was so short and there were so many senior to me that he could not notice my claims except I was on a foreign station. I also sent a report to Dr. McGrigor in Spain, detailing how I had fulfilled the duty I was placed on at Villa Toro and claiming the fulfilment of the promise of the commander of the Forces, of promotion.

"1813.

"March 14th.—I was agreeably woken this morning with the intelligence of my being promoted to the surgeoncy of the 30th Regiment, my letter to Dr. McGrigor having succeeded, and I was directed to join the depot at Berwick-on-Tweed."

<sup>1</sup> Letter from A. G. (vide Appendix No. 2)

1814.

He joined the 30th Regiment on May 13th, went with them to Jersey, and on January 2nd, 1814, they embarked for Holland. During the voyage they were nearly wrecked off the South Foreland, but managed to get to Ramsgate, where they were transferred to another transport, and after an exciting voyage, in which they stuck on a sand-bank, and were again nearly wrecked by ice coming down the river, they reached their destination and disembarked on February 10th. The regiment proceeded to Brussels on May 12th, from where, on June 27th, they marched through Tournay and Oudenarde to Antwerp, where they arrived on August 6th. Here they remained in garrison until April 8th, 1815. During their stay in Antwerp a Military Society was formed, called "The First Military Society of the garrison of Antwerp," under the patronage of Major-General Sir C. Halkett, K.C.B., &c. The directors of the Society were:—

Lieutenant-Colonel W. Bailey, 30th Regiment.

T. de Fevre, Ag. A.C.G. and Principal Commissary.

Captain C. G. Napier, R.A.

Surgeon J. G. Elkington, 30th Regiment.

Lieutenant Fred Aldrick, 95th Regiment, D.A.B.M.G.

1815.

The only record concerning this Society that I have found among his papers is an invitation card and notice for a ball and supper to be given by the Society on January 31st, 1815, and he notes that the balls, concerts, plays, dinner parties and excursions seemed to make the winter pass rapidly. On March 9th they heard of Buonaparte's escape from Elba.

"April 8th.—We marched to Malines.

"June 15th.—The whole brigade was ordered to assemble at Soignes.

"QUATRE BRAS.

"June 16th.—At 2 a.m. we commenced our march on the road to Braine-le-Comte and proceeded later on to Nivelles. Shortly after 4 p.m. we advanced, and as we passed the wood of Bossu a staff officer whom I had known in the Peninsula came out of it, wounded in the foot. The firing was sharp in the wood and some of the balls came whizzing over our heads, so he would not dismount, and I bandaged him up on his horse. The regiment passed Quatre Bras, and proceeded some way down the Namur Road and entered some cornfields. It was certainly 5 o'clock now. Soon after there was an order to prepare to receive cavalry, and I fell back and stood on the Namur Road, with my hospital serjeant and

Bat horse having my instruments and medicines. I had the regiment in view, knowing it more particularly by the Adjutant, Andrews, having a white horse. On the road I received Colonel Hamilton of the regiment, wounded in the leg. He did not dismount while I dressed him. I also received Lieutenant Lockwood with a wound of a musket ball in the frontal sinus. I sent him to the farm at Quatre Bras, whilst here I saw the artillery on my right open fire on the advance of cavalry up the Charleroi Road. Shortly after the repulse of the cavalry I was ordered up to the front to some wounded of the regiment. I attempted to pass down the high road, but my horse would not pass the numerous dead men and horses of the French that lay in the road, and I entered the fields on my left and dressed some men at a farmhouse. I then returned to Quatre Bras and extracted the ball (as I thought) from Lieutenant Lockwood's frontal bone (but three weeks after a portion of it was found in the sinus and the trephine was used to extract it). During the evening—for it was now getting dark—I dressed many wounded; and was at last called to an officer who had received numerous wounds; after having dressed a number of them, I told him that none of them would kill him. He replied, "But look at this doctor," taking up his shirt. A lance had entered his side; it was only a muscular wound. On my telling him that would not settle him, he opened his eyes and recognised me and said, 'Do you really think, Elkington, I shall live?' I then sponged his bloody face, and found it was my old friend Menzies, of the 42nd, that I had left at Burgos with a compound fracture.

"June 17th.—Early in the morning all our wounded were sent to the rear, and about noon the army retreated. During the retreat we encountered a most severe thunderstorm with heavy rain, and perhaps I may safely say, that a more severe night was never experienced by the British army, who were lying out in cornfields up to their knees in mire. Colonel Vigoreaux and myself lay together, having my hospital panniers to windward, our only shelter.

#### "1815.—WATERLOO.

"June 18th.—Early in the morn it began to clear; the men and officers were actually benumbed, being so saturated with the wet. After a little running about, wringing their blankets, and the issue of some spirits, the circulation returned, and by 10 o'clock the muskets were all in good order. We could now distinctly see the movements of the different French corps. At noon the action commenced. The artillery in front of our brigade opening fire on the enemy, advancing on Hougomont (I took out my watch as this took place). About 7 o'clock in the evening the final attack by the Imperial Guard was made, and, being repulsed, the whole French army was soon in full retreat and in inextricable confusion. I remained at Mount St. Jean looking after the wounded till June 21st, by which time I had sent off every man of my regiment to

Brussels. I rode over the field to report on the number of French wounded still to be removed. At La Haye Sainte I found numbers of badly wounded. Those able to walk made the best of their way to Brussels. The transport was not sufficient to remove the British; the different pieces of French Artillery as they were brought to the rear were loaded as well as possible with these unfortunate beings—(a day or two after a general action is the period to gain a fine idea of the miseries of war). The inhabitants were now returning to collect what little remained of their household property, for friends and foes had made free with everything they wanted. Their houses were so filled with wounded there was no room or shelter for them. The bodies of the dead began to be offensive, and the whole air was contaminated from the numerous carcasses of men and horses. Peasants were employed to collect the bodies of the men to burn, and bury the horses, having their nostrils covered with handkerchiefs to mitigate the stench."

He left Mount St. Jean, where he had been looking after the wounded, on June 21st, and rejoined his regiment near Baray, whence they left for Paris on June 24th, arriving on July 7th, and encamping in the Bois de Boulogne. Here they remained till the end of October; the regiment embarked for home on December 25th, landing at Cork on February 1st, 1816, and marched for Limerick.

This ended his actual war service. He continued serving in Ireland with the 30th Regiment until his Battalion was disbanded on April 28th, 1817; and while at Tralee he was attacked with severe deep-seated ophthalmia of the left eye, which eventually led to loss of sight of that eye. For this he was granted a pension in 1819.

On being placed on half-pay he spent some time at Edinburgh attending classes, and then set up practice as a surgeon in Bath.

#### "1820.

"December 1st.—Ordered by the *Irish Medical Board* to join the 35th Regiment at Cork. Declined the appointment.

"December 9th.—Ordered by the *English Medical Board* to hold myself in readiness for foreign service.

"December 10th.—Went to London, saw Sir James McGrigor, and got a favourable answer as to my remaining on half-pay.

#### "1821.

"July 19th.—This morning I was greatly surprised by the first intimation reaching me that I was Gazetted Surgeon to the 1st Royal Regiment. I applied to be allowed to remain on half-pay, but this was refused.

"October 15th.—Joined the 1st Regiment at Newry."

After five years with the Regiment, in various stations in Ireland,

he accompanied them to Barbadoes. He appears to have had his usual luck while on the voyage out, for he notes:—

"1826.

"January 15th (1826).—Thick weather. This night we ran down a large schooner from the Azores laden with fruit. As she was for some time entangled with our anchor, the crew escaped on board us. One man had his leg crushed, and in a few days I was obliged to amputate it. This in a heavy sea and in one of the most rolling vessels I was ever in, was very awkward. I was obliged to be lashed to the foot of the table; however, the poor man did well. He was on crutches before we arrived at Barbadoes."

1828.

After a year in Barbadoes he obtained leave of absence, and while on leave was posted to the depot of the regiment at Glasgow; in September, 1828, he was appointed Surgeon to the 17th Light Dragoons, which regiment he joined in Ireland in December. He remained with them until March, 1841, when he was appointed Staff-Surgeon to the Royal Hibernian School, Dublin, where he remained till his death in October, 1853.

#### APPENDIX I.

##### RECORD OF SERVICE.

Hospital Mate, August 8th, 1807, to July 6th, 1808.

Assistant Surgeon 24th Regiment, July 7th, 1808, to March 10th, 1813.

Surgeon 2nd 30th Regiment, March 11th, 1813, to July 24th, 1817.

Half-pay 30th Regiment (on reduction of Battalion), June 25th, 1817, to July 12th, 1821.

Surgeon 1st Battalion 1st Royal Regiment, July 12th, 1821, to September 10th, 1828.

Surgeon 17th Lancers, September 11th, 1828, to March 4th, 1841.

Staff-Surgeon Royal Hibernian Military School, March 5th, 1841, to October 3rd, 1853 (the date of his death).

##### WAR SERVICES.

Capture of Madeira, 1807.

Peninsula from April, 1809, to November, 1812; at the Battle of Talavera, left in charge of wounded, made a prisoner of war; released in May, 1810, and rejoined the army in Portugal on its retreat from Busaco.

Present in the Lines of Torres Vedras, at the battle of Fuentes D'Onoro, Sieges of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajos, battle of Salamanca and the capture of Madrid; during the siege of Burgos was in charge of the hospital, and on the retreat of the army was again left behind with wounded (managed to escape).

Served in the campaign in Holland, 1814 and 1815, present at Quatre Bras, Waterloo, and the capture of Paris.

#### APPENDIX II.

LETTER FROM THE HORSE GUARDS ON HIS RETURN TO ENGLAND AFTER ESCAPING FROM BURGOS, DATED NOVEMBER 13TH, 1812.

SIR,—I have received your letter of yesterday reporting your having made your escape from the enemy (whose intention it appeared to be to detain you, contrary to the custom of war), on the 27th ult., which I will immediately lay before the Commander-in-Chief.

As we have been disappointed in not having received intelligence from Burgos, on the Marquis of Wellington marching from the neighbourhood of that city, I shall be much obliged to you if you will furnish me with any information in your power in regard to the situation of the officers who have recently been wounded before the Castle of Burgos; and if you would particularise such as have fallen into the enemy's hands. I beg you to give me every information in your power respecting Ensign Knox of the 3rd Regiment Foot Guards, reported to be severely wounded in the head. I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your humble servant,

HARRY CALVERT,

A. G.

J. G. Elkington, Esq.

In connection with the Medical Department of the Army, the following extracts from Lord Wellington's despatches are of interest:—

"(1) No. 332. To the EARL OF LIVERPOOL. Badajos, November 14th, 1809.

##### "THE INSUFFICIENT MEDICAL STAFF.

"It is besides very necessary that some effectual measures should be taken to increase the medical staff, not with gentlemen of rank, but with hospital mates. The duty of the general hospitals in every active army ought to be done by the General Medical Staff, and the regiments ought to have their surgeons and assistants entirely disengaged for any extraordinary event, or sickness that may occur. We have not now one surgeon or assistant with each regiment, instead of three, the others being employed in the hospital instead of hospital mates, and we have always been equally deficient. Indeed, one of the reasons which induced me to cross the Tagus on August 4th, instead of attacking Soult, was the want of surgeons in the Army, all being employed with the hospital, and there being scarcely one for each brigade; and if we had had an action, we should not have been able to dress our wounded."

"(2) No. 480. To Dr. FRANK, CORTASCO, JANUARY 7th, 1811.

##### PRAISE OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

"... I have no objection to your making any use you think proper of this and my former letters; and you may be assured that I

<sup>1</sup> Selections from Wellington's Despatches. Gurwood, 1851.



shall be happy to avail myself of every opportunity of bearing testimony to the zeal, ability, and success with which the duties of the Medical Department of this army have been invariably carried on under your superintendence."

RE PROMOTION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS.

"(3) No. 685. To Earl Bathurst, Villa Toro, September 27th, 1812.

"I likewise beg to draw your Lordship's attention to the practice of the Medical Board in promoting to vacancies in this army. Instead of promoting the officers on the spot, who deserve promotion highly from their merits and services, officers are selected in England, the Mediterranean, or elsewhere, to be promoted. The consequence is increased delay in their arrival to perform their duty, and all who do arrive are sick in the first instance.

"It would be but justice to promote those on the spot who are performing the duty, and we would enjoy the advantage, and the seniors of the Department at least would have experience in the disorders of the climate, and of the troops serving in this country; to which climate they would have become accustomed."

PROMOTION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS.

"(4) No. 711. To Colonel Torrens, Badajos, December 30th, 1812.

"I enclose some letters which I have received from Dr. McGrigor regarding certain promotions made by the Medical Board. I entirely agree with Dr. McGrigor in opinion, that it is no encouragement to those who are performing their duty with the army in this country to see that when by their merits and exertions they have attracted the notice of their immediate superiors, and of the officers under whose command they are serving, and have been recommended for promotion, others have been preferred to them who have quitted the arduous service on which these have remained, probably to solicit from the Medical Board the promotion which these have been found to deserve by their exertions. The officers promoted by the Medical Board (one of them, Mr. Higgins, I know is) are meritorious; but neither deserve promotion equally with either Dr. Tyce or Mr. Guthrie. I have frequently made you acquainted with my sense of the inconvenience felt by the constant change of the officers employed by every branch of the Service in this country. One of the principal causes of these changes is the practice of going to England to apply for promotion which ought to be acquired by service here; and I acknowledge that I do not see the utility of my forwarding the recommendations of the heads of departments of those officers whom they deem deserving of promotion, if to these recommendations are to be preferred the claims and applications of those who quit the Service here to go home to make them."

"Napier, in his 'History of the Peninsular War,' in commenting on the operations in Andalusia writes:—

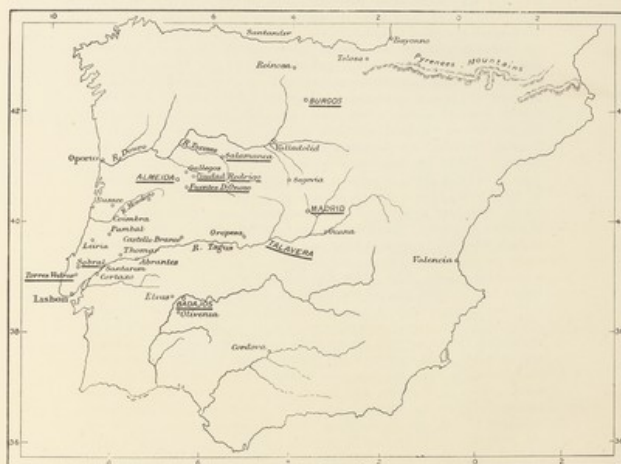
RE MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

"All the hospitals in the rear were crowded, and Salamanca itself, in which there were 6,000 sick and wounded, besides French prisoners, was the very abode of misery. The soldiers endured much during the first two or three days after the battle, and the inferior officers' sufferings were still more heavy and protracted. They had no money, and many sold their horses and other property to sustain life; some actually died of want, and though Wellington, hearing of this, gave orders that they should be supplied from the purveyor's stores in the same manner as the soldiers, the relief came late. It is a common yet erroneous notion that the English system of hospitals in the Peninsula was admirable, and that the French hospitals were neglected. Strenuous and unceasing exertions were made by Lord Wellington and the Chief of the Medical Staff to form good hospital establishments, but the want of money, and still more the want of previous institutions, foiled their utmost efforts. Now there was no point of warfare which more engaged Napoleon's attention than the care of his sick and wounded, and he, being monarch as well as General, furnished his hospitals with all things requisite, even with luxuries. Under his fostering care also Baron Larrey justly celebrated, were it for this alone, organized the establishment called the hospital or 'ambulance,' that is to say, wagons of a peculiar construction, well horsed, served by men trained and incorporated as soldiers, and subject to a strict discipline. Rewarded for their courage and devotion like other soldiers, they were always at hand, and, whether in action or on a march, ready to pick up, to save, and to carry off wounded men; and the astonishing rapidity with which the fallen French soldiers disappeared from a field of battle attested the excellence of the institution.

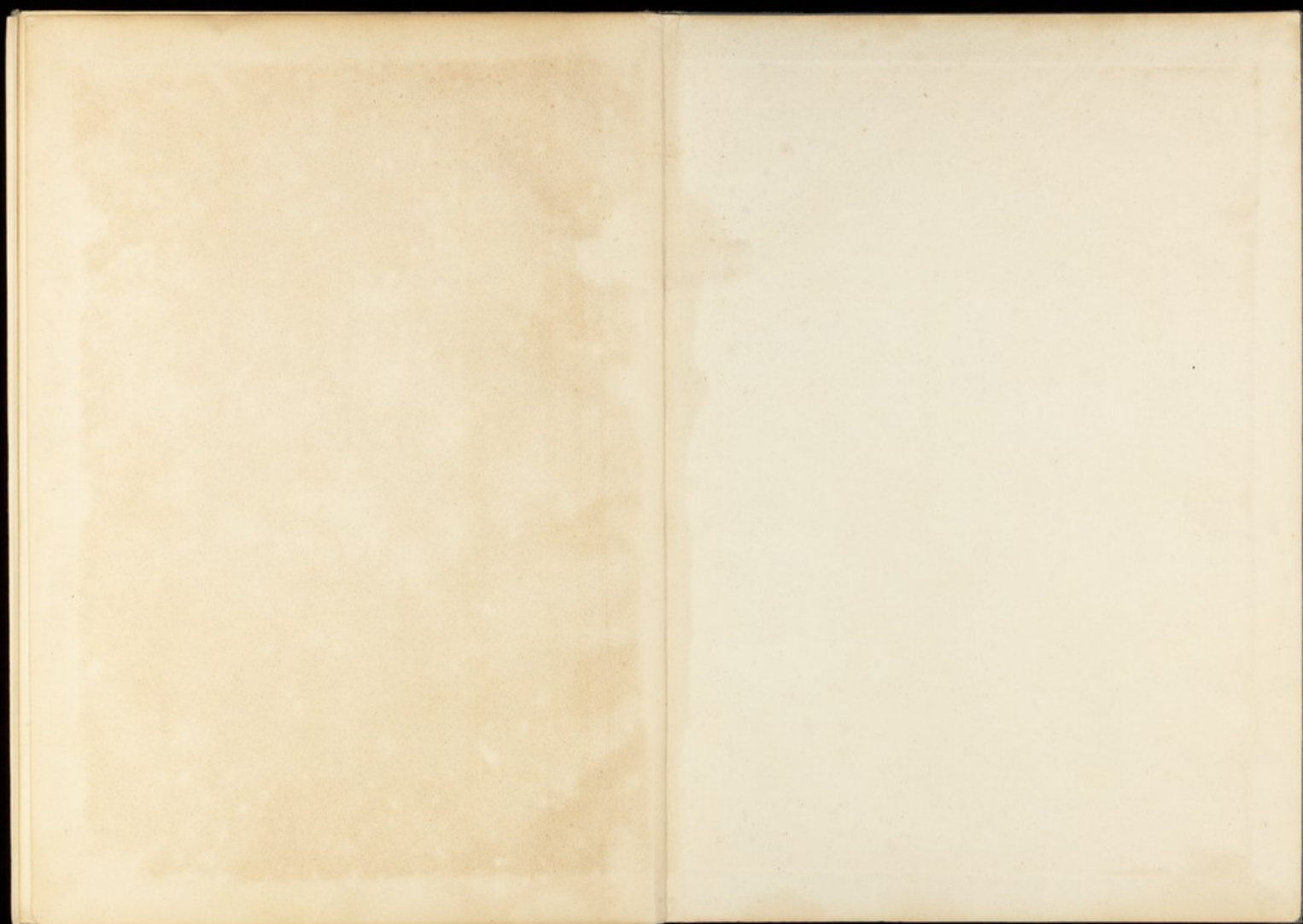
"But in the British Army, the carrying off the wounded depended partly upon the casual assistance of a weak wagon train, very badly disciplined, furnishing only three wagons to a division, and not originally appropriated to that service; partly upon the spare commissariat animals, but principally upon the resources of the country, whether of bullock carts, mules, or donkeys, and hence the most doleful scenes after a battle, or when an hospital was to be evacuated. The increasing numbers of sick and wounded, as the war enlarged, also pressed on the limited number of regular medical officers; and Wellington complained that when he demanded more, the Military Medical Board in London neglected his demands and thwarted his arrangements. Shoals of hospital mates and students were indeed sent out, and they arrived for the most part ignorant alike of war and their own profession; while a heterogeneous mass of purveyors and their subordinates,

<sup>1</sup> Second Edition, vol. v., Book 19, p. 248, August, 1812.

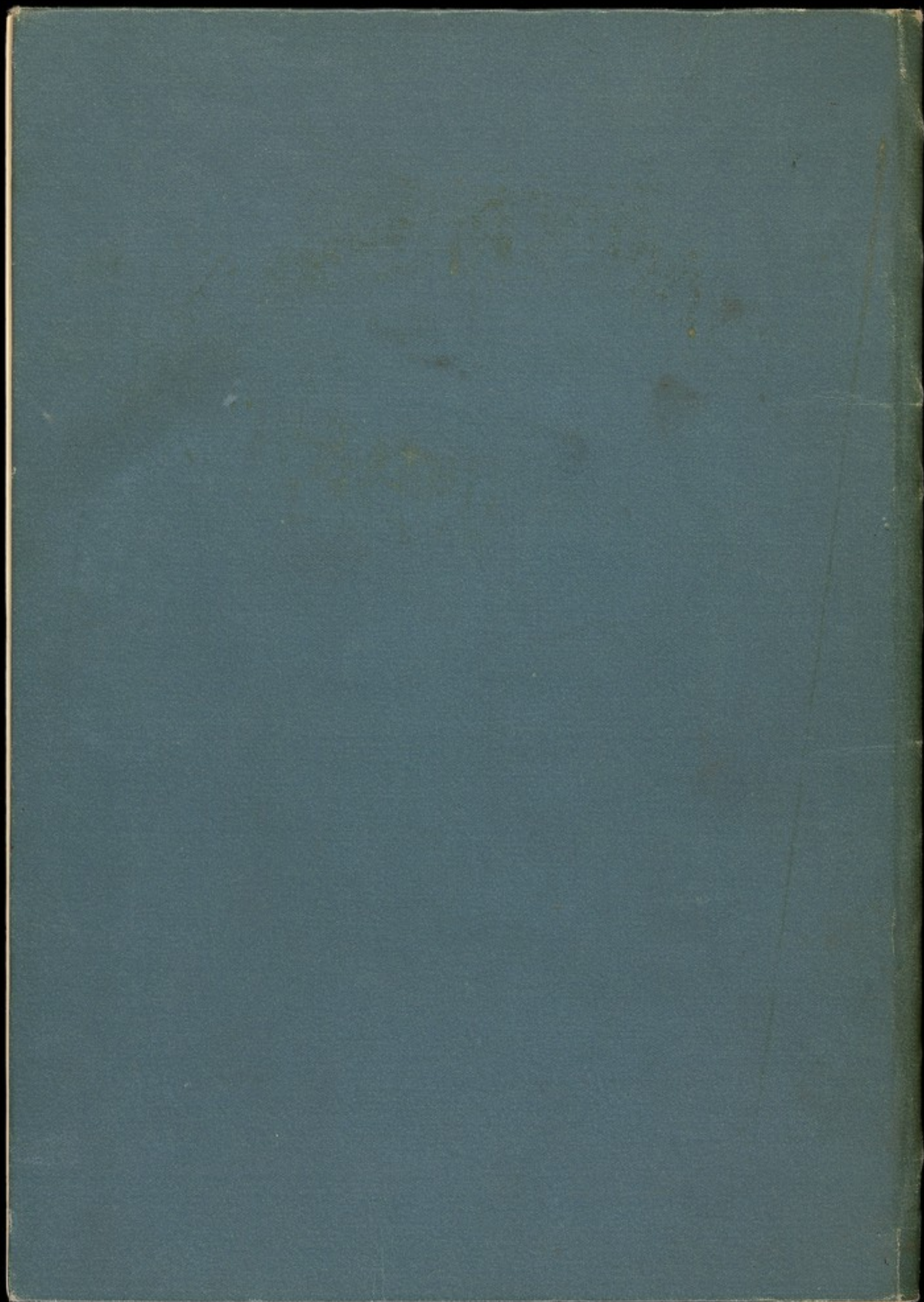
acting without any military organization or effectual superintendence, continually bade defiance to the exertions of those medical officers, and there were many whose experience, zeal, and talents would, with a good institution to work upon, have rendered this branch of the Service most distinguished; nay, many even of the well-educated surgeons sent out were for some time of little use, for superior professional skill is of little value in comparison of experience in military arrangement. Where one soldier dies from the want of a delicate operation, hundreds perish from the absence of military arrangement."



Map of portion of Spain and Portugal showing the principal places mentioned in the Journal during the Campaigns 1808, &c.







DIARIES OF JAMES GOODALL ELKINGTON

From :- 1807 to 1813

Sent to Major Worsty by

Arthur E.M.Elkington,

Ironfields,

Oxford Road,

WOODSTOCK,

Oxfrd'.

on behalf of

Captain E.H.O.Elkington,

Frogholt House,

NEWINGTON,

Nr. Folkstone.

-----



1805

- Oct. 14th Left Bath for London to attend the Hospital.  
 15th Arrived in London and remained two days at Anderton's Coffee House, Fleet Street. Entered myself as to the different lectures at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Took lodgings in Bartholomew Close. Attended the lectures of Messrs. Abernethy - Roberts - Edwards - and pupil to Sir James Earle.

1806

- May 8th Left London for Bath.  
 July 30th Went to Sherborne.  
 Aug. 5th Returned to London.  
 Oct. 19th Sent for from Bath on account of my Father's illness.  
 24th He died universally regretted and was buried in the family vault at Hampton near Bath.  
 Nov. 13th Returned to London and continued my studies.  
 Passed my examination and became a Member of the College of Surgeons in London. I was for some time uncertain as to where to settle, whether in private practice, in the army, navy or East India Service. At length pitched on the army and on 7th August 1807 I passed the necessary medical examination before the board in Berkeley St. and received my warrant as Hospital Mate dated 8th August. Ordered to do duty at York Hospital.

1807

- Sept. 7th Received orders from the Inspector General to join the medical staff at Portsmouth without one moment's delay, and report myself to Genl. Beresford thro' Deputy Inspector McGregor.  
 Sept. 8th Left London at 5 p.m. for Portsmouth.  
 9th Arrived at Portsmouth at 9 a.m. Reported myself to Dr. McGregor and Mr. Keate.  
 9-19th Remained in Portsmouth in lodgings - No. 40 St. Thomas Street.  
 19th Embarked on board the Samuel and Jane at Spithead. Sailed at 9 p.m. to Cowes Harbour.  
 20th Visited Cowes. On my return on board in the evening found  
 Sun.



orders to move to a copper-bottomed Transport - the Corn  
No. 168 - Capt'n. New.

20-28th Remained at anchor off Cowes. Wind SW/W/NW.

29th Wind SE. Weighed anchor 8 a.m. At 9 a.m. wind S. Anchored  
off Yarmouth under convoy of the Redbreast with a fleet of  
Transports with 34 Regt. Volunteers.

Oct. 1st Wind SE at 8 a.m. Weighed anchor. Sailed as far as Portland  
at 1 p.m. Wind SW. Returned to Yarmouth Roads.

2nd Wind WSW. Went to Lymington.

3-9th Wind SW: WSW: NW. 9th went to Yarmouth.

10th Wind NNW. Went to Lymington. Walked up the country with  
the Captain.

11-14th Wind SW and W.

15th Wind SE at 2 p.m. Weighed anchor at 3 p.m. Anchored under  
the Needles, the wind failing at 8 p.m. Sailed, wind SW in  
the night. Lost the convoy.

16th Wind SW. At 9 a.m. came in sight of convoy off Purbeck Isle.  
Returning, anchored in Yarmouth Roads. At 5 p.m. received  
a fresh convoy, the Decade Frigate.

Oct. 17-22 Wind NW. Went frequently to Lymington and Yarmouth.

22 Wind E. At 8 a.m. weighed course. Went SW under convoy  
of the Decade, in company with 40 sail.

23 Wind NE blowing hard at noon. From the mast head saw  
Guernsey. At 2 p.m. wind changed to SW. Steered back for  
3 hours. Wind 4 p.m. returned to NE. Again proceeded on  
our voyage.

24 Wind NE. At daylight made Edystone Light, made for the land  
to leave the Falmouth convoy. At 6 p.m. passed Lands End.

25 Wind NE blowing hard, a great swell. Lost a dog overboard.

26 Wind N. Made Old Head, Kinsale, at daylight. Tacked all day.  
At 4 p.m. took a pilot on board.

27 Tacked into Harbour. Wind N. Anchored at 11 a.m. off  
Cove.

28 Remained on board.



- Oct. 29th Remained on board.
- 30th Ordered to remove from the Corn to the Supply Transport.  
Slept at Cove.
- 31st Went to Cork.<sup>©</sup>
- Nov. 1-4th Remained at Cove, took a lodging.
- 4th Went to Cork on horseback by way of Glanmire and Camactowel.
- 5 Went to Monkstown.
- 6 Left Cove at 8 a.m. on horseback for Kinsale. Got to Kinsale at noon. Left Kinsale at 2 p.m. Passed through Innishannon. Arrived at Bandon at 4 p.m. Slept at the Kings Arms.
- 7 Returned to Cove by way of Cork.
- Nov. 7, 8 & 9 Remained at Cove.
- 10 Went to Cork by water. Extremely cold - thermometer 35°  
Called on Dept. Inspector Hogg, heard we were countermanded, the expedition being put a stop to.
- 11 Recd. orders to return to England from Dept. Inspector Hogg.
- 12 Went to Monkstown to see Collier, Asst. Surgeon 13th foot, then returning to England; met Strangford, Asst. Surgeon of the 3rd or Old Buffs.
- 13 Wind NW. Weighed anchor at 1 p.m. to return to England, in company with 10 sail of Transports having the 13th Regt. foot and volunteers from the Irish Militia on board, under convoy of the Espeagle Sloop of war.

---

© The second town in Ireland for trade. Its exports of Beef and Pork are immense. Situated on the River Lee about seven miles above Cove. The sail is delightful - a beautifully rich country on each side abounding with the seats of the persons of the first property in Cork. The (town) has two or three fine streets but very dirty and crowded with beggars. The suburbs are filled with dirt, filth and misery. It has a fine barrack for the Military situated above the town. Very large. The inns are bad.



- Nov. 14th Wind NE. At 5 p.m. made the Lands End. Wind E.  
Layed all night off the Long-ships.
- 15 Wind E. Blowing very strong. Bore off for Scilly,  
anchored in St. Mary's<sup>§</sup> harbour at 11 a.m. Blowing a gale  
from the East.
- 16 The gale continued. Could not send a boat on shore.
- 17 The wind abated E. Went on shore. Saw the town of  
St. Mary's, the castle etc. etc.
- 18 Wind N. Sailed from Scilly at 11 a.m. Made the Lizard  
10 p.m.
- 19 The wind west, blowing strong all day. Made Portland  
lights at 12 p.m.
- 20 The wind early in the morn amounted to a gale from the west.  
Passed through the Needles at 9 a.m. at 10 knots. At 11 a.m.  
anchored at Spithead. Gale continued all day, could not  
put a boat off to shore.
- 21 The wind moderate, west. Landed at 2 p.m. at Portsmouth.  
Recd. orders on landing to return with all speed to Cork to  
proceed with the expedition under Genl. Beresford.  
Took lodgings at Mrs. Dashes in Portsmouth.
- 22 Remained at Portsmouth. On the 23rd recd. orders to embark  
the next morn on board H.M.S. Centaur. Went to Dorchester  
Castle.
- 24 At 8 a.m. went on board H.M.S. Centaur at Spithead.  
Capt. Webley having Sir Sam Hood's Flag.
- 25 Wind SW blowing hard remained at Spithead.
- 26 Wind SW moderate. Unmoored at 2 p.m. having Genl. Beresford  
and staff on board.

---

§ St. Mary, the chief of the Scilly Isles. It is well  
built entirely of stone. The houses and inhabitants are  
remarkably clean. They live principally by fishing,  
smuggling and piloting. The Governor lives at St. Mary.  
It has since the war been secured by batteries and lines.  
It has a castle built in the reign of Elizabeth, now a  
barrack. It abounds in rabbits. The Duke of Leinster  
has the property of the Island. The lighthouse and  
revolving light at St. Agnes, one of the Islands, are much  
admired.



- Nov. 27-28 Wind SW beating down Channel. On the 28th at 4 p.m. anchored in Cawsand Bay, wind nearly calm by NE. Fired a salute in company with the Intrepid 74, Captain 74, York 74, Comus, Africane, Shannon and Success Frigates.
- Nov. 29th The 11th Regt. of Foot were embarked on board the Ships of War.
- 30 At 8 a.m. weighed and sailed, wind NW.
- Dec. 1 Becalmed off Scilly to the South. The Comus Frigate despatched by Sir Saml. Wood, Capt. McGeechy of 11th on board.
- 2 Wind NW beating up to Ireland.
- 3 Wind N. Do.
- 4 In sight of land, Old Head of Kinsale, lay too off Cove for the Convoy<sup>©</sup>. Fired a salute. Wind strong SW. Joined by the Alceste Frigate.
- 5 Wind nearly a gale, SW. Put back with convoy to Cove harbour. Moored at 6 p.m. under Spike Island to the SE.
- 6 Wind moderate NW. At 11 a.m. unmoored. Left Cove harbour with the Fleet; at 6 p.m. lost a man overboard.
- 7 Wind NE. Course SW. Heavy swell. At noon Lat. 55°: Thermometer F. 44°.
- 8 Wind NE. Early in the morn lost another man overboard. Course SW. Lat. 48°. Ther. Faht. 45°.
- 9 Wind NE. Course SE. Lat. at noon 45°33'. Therm. F. 48°.
- Dec. 10 Wind NE. Course SW. Lat. 42° 42'. Therm. Morn. 50: Even. 52.
- 11 Wind NE. In the even. it changed to SE. Course SWS. Therm. F. morn 52, even. 56. Lat 41°38: Long. 13°47.
- 12 Wind SEE. Therm. Faht. 56°. Lat. 39°52'. Long. 14°14'.

---

© A Fleet of Transports, having on board the 3rd, 25th, 63rd Regts. with Artillery and Engineers, these joined with the 11th Regt. formed the force of the Expedition.



Dec. 13th	Lat. 37°55.1	Long. 14°53.1	Therm. 57°
14	36°26.1	15°20.1	58°
15	35°42.1	15°48.1	58°
16	34°40.1	15°20.1	58°
17	34°1.1	14°52.1	60°
18	34°13.1	14°54.1	62°
19	34°35.1	15°38.1	62°
20	34°13.1	15°00.1	62°
21	34°00.1	15°12.1	64°
22	33°20.1	16°00.1	64°

At 10 a.m. in sight of Porto Santo bearing W: 15 Leagues.

23 At 11 a.m. fell in with the Comus. Capt. McGeehy came on board, he had left Madeira seven or eight days before. Lay too all day. Having communication with the heads of departments recd. directions from the Dept. Inspector to land with the First or Light Brigade. At 7 p.m. filled and made sail to Madeira. Orders issued that the light companies of each Regt, should form the Brigade that was to land first, under Major Farquarson of the 25th.

24 At 6 a.m. the Centaur was ordered to be cleared for action. At 10 a.m. passed Brazen Head and came in sight of Funchal, sent a flag on shore to the Governor with the articles of capitulation. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 came to anchor with a spring on our cable about 350 yards from shore. At noon the flag returned with the information that the island would be delivered up according to the terms sent. The 3rd and 11th Regts. were ordered to land and take possession of the Batteries, with the Artillery. Notice was given that the 25th and 63rd Regts. were to proceed to the West Indies.

15-18 Remained on board the Centaur. On the even of the 28th landed and slept at the Franciscan Friary. Remained without any other quarters until 11th Jan.



1808

- Jan. 8th Recd. Bat and Forage money for 100 Days and 165 Days - three rations - in Dollars at  $\frac{1}{4}/8d.$ , £19-17s-6d.
- 11 Removed to a small house with Messrs. Emerson and Morison. Very dirty and uncomfortable. Slept there on the floor that and the following nights.
- 13 Removed to a large house that was appointed for the Medical Staff above the College.
- Feb. 16 Ordered by G.O. with the other Mates to take orderly duty at the Incarnation Convent by Days.
- 18 Heard that the Dept. Inspector had recd. orders to direct us to proceed to the West Indies, if it met with the General's approbation.
- Mar. 3rd Recd. orders from Mr. Hogg to attend at the Factory Hospital to establish a venereal ward for Portuguese women.
- 20 Removed to quarters in the Incarnation Convent where we established a small Mess.
- 27 A storm of wind from the SW. Saw a vessel go ashore.
- April 6 A shock of an earthquake felt in a slight degree at about noon.
- 8th Arrived store Ships No. 6 lost from Gibraltar. Sailed from England with Adml. Cotton's fleet in Decr.
- 11 Recd. Bat and Forage for 200 Days - Three rations - £15-0s-0d in Dollars at  $\frac{1}{4}/8d$  each.
- 14 Recd. one months Pay from March 24th to April 24th - £10-9s-2d deducting Property Duty £1-3s-4d in Dollars at  $\frac{1}{4}/8d$  each.
- 19 Arrived the Albion Sloop with dispatches to the Governor, with directions to reinstate the Portuguese Governor.
- 24 The Portuguese Flag hoisted on all the Forts. Sent Gill a power of Atty.
- 26 Recd. instructions from Dept. Inspector Hogg relative to my returning to England.



- April 27 Directed by G.O. to return to England on board the Leander<sup>©</sup>, taking charge of Invalids of the 57th Regt. of Foot. Slept on board. Gave to Matthew Emerson Esqre., Dept. Purveyor to the Forces a Power of Atty. to receive my pay i.e. to the 24 of June inclusive 1808.
- 28 The vessel remained in the Roads, the wind E.
- 29 Wind W. Weighed anchor at 8 a.m. Lay too all day for the Captn. with the Island letters. At 4 p.m. made sail.
- 30 Spoke by the Pitt East Indiaman. Saw the East India Fleet. Blowing hard from SE.
- May 11 Got soundings Lat. 49°
- 12 A very thick fog. Spoke a Mounts Bay Fisherman.
- 13 The Fog still continued. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 a.m. struck on the Nag Rock off the Prawl Devon. Fired guns of distress. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 left the ship in a shore boat with sick, women and children also the officer commanding the detachment. Conducted the sick to Kingsbridge Barracks. Dined at Salteomb. Slept at Kingsbridge.
- 14 At 2 p.m. left Kingsbridge for Plymouth. Arrived there in the even. Reported myself to Dept. Inspector Grant. Found the ship had got off and had arrived safe at Plymouth. Remained at Plymouth till the 27 calling every day on Lt. Gen. England and receiving orders and counter-orders as often. Recd. for the use of the Detachment of Invalids £13 on acct. of Captn. Bedward, Paymaster of Detachment.
- 27 Sailed from Hamoaze - anchored in the sound. Wind SW.
- 28 At 7 a.m. weighed and sailed for London in the Leander, notwithstanding she had been condemned by Lloyds' agent. Wind SW.
- 29 Very foggy.
- 30 Made Portland at noon.
- 31 Made the Isle of Wight. Run on board of, by a Portuguese Brig that carried away our only boat.



- June 1 Made Beachy Head at 9 a.m. Anchored at Dover Roads at 6 p.m.  
 2 Had a Pilot on board for the Review.  
 3 At 9 p.m. moored at Woolich. (Sic).  
 4 At 8 a.m. landed at Blackwall. Reported myself at York Hospital.  
 6 Reported myself at the Medical Board. Delivered up my stores at the York Hospital, also the return of the invalids to Coln Burnet, Military Commandt.  
 7 Applied by letter to Mr. Keat for leave of absence for ten days.  
 8 Recd. leave of absence.  
 10 Left Town for Bath.  
 11 Arrived at Bath.  
 21 Arrived in Town.  
 July 12th Casetted as Assistant Surgeon of the 24th Regt. Foot.  
 13 Recd. orders to join the 24th from Mr. Keat. Directed to apply to Cox and Greenwood for particulars.  
 14 Informed by Cox and Greenwood that I was to join the 2nd Batt. then at Guernsey.<sup>©</sup> Paid by Window to the date of my commission, the 7th July. Paid by Cox & Co. in advance to the 24th July, deducting the fees of commission.  
 19 Left London for Bath.  
 22 Left Bath for Weymouth.  
 23 At 7 p.m. left Weymouth in the Guernsey Packet.  
 24 At 11 p.m. landed at St. Pierre.

---

© Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands situated on the Coast of Normandy about 10 miles in length and as many in breadth. Surrounded by rocks its navigation is extremely difficult which added to the different military works surrounding the coast has made it a of considerable strength and its fortress Fort George. It is from its local situation a very important naval situation as it completely secures and commands the passage-Channel. The Inhabitants are still governed by the Norman laws and the French language is that in common use. They are friendly, clean and laborious.



- July 25th Reported myself to Col Drummond and Mr. Keat.
- 27 Joined the Regt. Reviewed by Genl. Doyle at Doyle Barracks.  
Left Doyle Barracks on Detachment for Amherst Barracks.  
Bought the Paymaster's pony.
- Sept. 18th Went to Jersey with Majr. Chamberlin and Mr. McCulloch  
of Guernsey. Arrived at St. Helier's at 1 a.m.
- 19 Went to St. Aubins and St. Owens.
- 20 Went to Groville Barracks to see the 34 Regt. and Mount  
Orguille Castle.
- 21 Returned to Guernsey.
- 1809
- Jan. 11th Coln. Drummond received orders relative to our embarkation  
for Lisbon. From Jan. 11th to April 9 in continual  
expectation of removing.
- Apr. 9 The Transports arrived in the Roads. Ordered to embark  
on Tuesday.
- 11 The Regt. embarked.
- 15 The Convoy arrived.
- 17 At 8 p.m. weighed anchor. Wind NE.
- 22 Made Cape Finister 7 a.m. Wind N.
- 24 Made Rock of Lisbon at 7 a.m. Anchored in the Tagus at 2 p.m.

---

Notes at back of book on the Island of Madeira.

The Island of Madeira is situated about 360 miles north of Teneriffe and about 300 miles from the coast of Africa. The Island consists of an immense mountain, the top of which is covered with snow. The Island was formerly covered with wood which was purposely burnt and produced its present fertile soil which produces every kind of European and tropical fruit - oranges, lemons, bananas, citrons, peaches, figs, plums, and strawberries that grow wild. The (grape) of a peculiar, large size and flavour - The sugar cane and cedar tree. The hedges are in general low. Jessamine, myrtle, wild lavender with other aromatic herbs also grow wild and are so common that on all processions



the streets are strewn with them. The canary and goldfinch are common in the mountains. The climate is delightful and regulated according to the height you ascent the mountain. The Island is well situated and principally celebrated for its wine, which it produces in vast quantities. Funchal is the capital and a tolerable town. It is an Episcopal See. Besides the Cathedral the town has an immense number of Chapels. It has two convents for women, St. Clara and the Incarnation - and one for men, the Saint Franciscan which is a singular chapel of skulls of the monks of the same order - A Church dedicated to Nostra Signior and built about a mile up the Island is a good looking object the ascent to which is a flight of steps leading to the Church before which is a noble terrace. From the Church you have a beautiful view of the Town, a roadstead appearing to lay immediately beneath you.

1809

April

Monday April 24th arrived in the Tagus. Anchored off the Kings Stores, Balem, at 2 p.m. 26th went on shore in the forenoon and saw Balem, the new Palace etc. The Regt. disembarked at 8 p.m. and were quartered in the convent of St. Domingo. Wrote to Esther. 27th billeted on a Padre in Rua largo de armazenas. 29th the Coln. received the route for Santarem. Bought a horse for 7 moidores - borrowed of Sergeant Reville 20 guineas - gave a bill on Coleman Gill for the same.

May

May 1st at 7 a.m. marched from Lisbon to Villa Franca 6 Leagues. Got a good billet, bought an ass 18 Dollars. 2nd at 5 a.m. marched to Azambuyas 3 L. Good billet but nothing to eat - talked a Portuguese out of a dinner. 3rd marched to Santarem 4 L., where we were to halt. Quartered on a down. 5th. The Regt. received orders to hold themselves in readiness with three days provisions cooked to march at one hour's notice.



- 8th. Reviewed by Genl. Mackenzie. Bought a mule for 8 moidores. Sold my ass. Wrote to Coleman.
- 18th. At noon Regt. received orders to march by road immediately to Sobum Fornosa. Left Santaren<sup>©</sup> at 3 p.m. and arrived at Colgan<sup>§</sup> at 2 a.m. 19th our guide having lost his way 5 L. Left Colgan at 9 a.m., arrived at Punnetta<sup>&</sup> 3 L. Crossed the River Zesira over a well constructed bridge of boats.
- 20th. Marched from Punnetta to Villa de Rei 6 L. The road lay through a mountainous country. Near St., Domingo 2 L from Villa de Rei is a strong pass fortified.
- 21st. Halted. Billeted on a Priest who though poor treated us well.
- 22nd. At 5 p.m. marched and arrived at Cardigos 2 L. At 9 a.m. proceeded on our march to Corticada<sup>‡</sup> Met a dragoon with orders for the Regt. to halt. Returned. During our stay in this town five weeks wrote twice to England.
- June 1st. The Regt. ordered to hut.
- 22nd. 150 men arrived - volunteers.
- 26th. Lost my mule. The Regt. received orders to march in the morn to Corticada.

---

© Santaren is a large town, the streets narrow and dirty. The Regt. quartered in the convent of Trinity. It has two convents for nuns, a Franciscan convent, a very large Hospital and many churches. Most things may be bought here. It is situated about one mile from the Tagus on a hill. It is a very commanding situation. The country round is fine - plenty of wood, corn and fruit.

§ Colgan is a large town, the streets wide. It lays in a flat marshy situation and is said to be much subject to intermittents.

& Punnetta is a large town, the streets very narrow and dirty. It is situated at the junction of the Zesira and the Tagus.

‡ Corticada, a small poor town. It was entirely deserted, the houses stripped of everything moveable.



June 27th. Marched to Corticada 2 L.  
 28th. Marched from Corticada with the 2nd. Battn.  
 31st Regt., a brigade of artillery and the Kings German.  
 The passed thro' Soburn Formosa 2 L. where I regained  
 my mule for a moidore. Passed the strong pass of Traselas  
 which is fortified and arrived at Saizedas 4½ L.  
 29th. Marched to Castello Branco<sup>©</sup> 3 L. Passed about  
 half-way another pass not fortified.  
 30th. Halted. The brigade was here joined by the  
 1 Battn., 45th Regt. and Coln. Donkins' brigade was with  
 ours to form the division of Genl. Mackenzie. Sir. A.  
 Wellesley arrived, and reviewed the Division.

July 1st. Marched to La Dueim 3 L.  
 2nd. To Sobrim 3 L. Lodged in a barn.  
 3rd. Passed Salvaterra 3 L. Crossed the small river  
 Elga and pass which divides Spain from Portugal, passed  
 Zarza 1 L. from the pass, and marched 1 L. beyond and  
 hitted in a wood, total 5 L. The country fine and open,  
 the roads amazingly good.  
 4th. Halted. 5th marched nearly to Mor-allear 4 L. and  
 hitted.  
 6th. Marched to Coria<sup>a)</sup> 2 L. Not allowed to hut. Lay  
 under the trees. 7th halted in a wood 2 miles from  
 Galestia<sup>b)</sup> 4 L. and hitted on the banks of the river  
 D'allagon.

---

© Castello Branco, a large ill-built town. It has an  
 old castle in bad repair, which completely commands the  
 town. It is supposed to be the highest ground in Portugal.

a) Coria is a good town walled, has the remains of a  
 strong castle. A fine cathedral. The streets are narrow  
 but clean. It is situated on the river D'allagon which  
 has lately changed its bed. You now see a bridge without  
 any water. It has 1500 inhabitants. The Allagon receives  
 the Zerte and falls into the Tagus.

b) The walls of Galestia are in very good state of  
 preservation. It is a small town - about 1200 inhabitants.



July

8th. Passed under the walls of Galestoa, and marched to Placencia<sup>a)</sup> 3 L. The Regt. quartered in the Casa de Bobadeda which held 2000 men. Got a good billet.

9th. Marched 1 L. to a wood in a valley east of Placencia. Halted on the banks of the river. 10th halted.

11th. Received a sudden rout to march to Malpartida 2 L. over the mountains SE of Placencia. 12th. Halted.

13th. Halted. 14th. Halted. 15th. Halted on the banks of the river Teita near the Inn of Barnagona 3 L.

16th. Halted. 17th. Crossed the Teita on a bridge of pontoons and halted beyond the Inn of Barnagona 1 L.

18th. Marched thro' Mahadois 2 L. and halted in a wood 2 L. total 4 L. 19th. Passed Salayuela 1 L. Casa de Losloma 1 L. Ompeisa<sup>a)</sup> 2 L. to Tomilba  $\frac{1}{2}$ , total 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  L. 21st. Marched at 5 a.m. on the road to Talavera<sup>c)</sup> 1 L. Countermarched and returned. The Spanish army marched thro' in the even. Inspected by Genl. Cuesta.

22nd. Marched at 3 a.m. At 7 passed a deserted village, heard the firing of the French and Spanish. At 9 passed the reserve of the Spanish Cavalry drawn up; marched forward in column of Regts: 24th Light. 11, passed 3 frenchmen dead. At 3 p.m. halted in an olive wood on the left of Talavera, the french having retreated 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  L.

---

c) Placencia is large well-built town situated on the river Zerte. It has some fine churches - a tolerable market.

a) Ompeisa is but a small town in a good position - it has a Royal Palace. Near this town is the division of the Provinces of Estremadura and New Castille.

c) Talavera de la Reyna: a large well-built town formerly walled, parts of which still remain. Situated on the north bank of the Tagus in a fruitful valley abounding in grain and olives. Over the river is the bridge of St. Catherine of 34 arches. It contains many churches and monasteries, the chief St. Jeronimo, St. Bento and St. Augustine. The church of St. Jeronimo is very fine, particularly the altar-piece. The town was noted for its wealth and amusements. It had large silk, Royal manufactories, some of which the french have destroyed, the others are but little worked. The chief trade of the town was in silk, soap and hats.



July

23rd. The Regt. under arms at 3 a.m. The whole army advanced supposed to attack the french, but retreated to their old situation at 1 p.m. with the exception of our division. I was directed by G.O. to remain with the sick at Talavera, went with my baggage to Talavera, received the sick. Applied to Dr. Frymton and was relieved in the Even by Ast. Surgeon Rule of the 87th. Joined my Regt. in a wood one league in advance, near the ruins of a Palace and in sight of the French Camp. 24th. Under arms at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 12. Marched at 3 a.m.; each man received a pint of wine, arrived at the river Alberche in front of the french camp at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5. The french had retreated in the night, crossed the river and passed the french camp. Passed thro' Casalegas 2 L. and re-crossed the river one league beyond, and halted. 25th. Halted. 26th. Crossed the river and took up a position in front of Casalegas, to cover the retreat of the Spanish army that had been repulsed. The Spaniards were retreating in the greatest disorder the whole night. 27th. Under arms at 2 a.m. and 9 retreated, passed Casalegas. At 11 took up a position in front of the french camp, immediately left it and re-crossed the river Alberche. At noon took up our old position in front of the old Palace. At 2 p.m. the men loaded, the firing soon after commenced, very hot on the left. Began to retreat towards the main body at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2, occasionally taking up fresh positions until 9 p.m. and for the last hour under a heavy cannonade of shot and shell from the flying artillery of the enemy, without much loss. Passed through the line drawn out. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 p.m. the french attacked the hill that commanded our position on the right with great force and carried it. It was defended by the Germans; the 3rd, 29th & 1st Detachments. regained it and drove the enemy with great loss, at the same time there was a heavy firing on the right near the Town, where the enemy were also repulsed. Remained quiet till daylight on



July

the 28th. The Regt. ordered to take up a position in rear of the guards on the left of the 45th in a wood. The French<sup>①</sup> at 8 o'clock a.m. commenced the attack with a most tremendous cannonading, on the left and centre, at least 50 pieces of artillery, at the same time a strong column attacked the Hill, but was repulsed after a severe loss, and conflict of half an hour. A dead silence till 2 p.m. when the enemy made a false attack on the right which was followed by a serious one on the left and centre where they were after a most bloody fight of some hours repulsed. The field of battle was often occupied by the different parties, till 7 p.m. when both armies resumed their original position and all firing ceased. In the night the enemy retreated in great disorder. 29th. Early in the morn went to Talavera by G.O. to attend the wounded. 30th. Our hospital established in the convent of St. Jeronimo. Capt. Evans died of his wound.

August

3rd. The army marched towards Oropesa at 4 a.m. Ordered to remain at Talavera in charge of my wounded. At noon Lt. Coln. McKinnon of the Guards called all the English officers together and desired that everyone that could, should make their escape from the city as he expected that the french would enter it in the evening. The Adj. Surgeons were to remain and do as well as circumstances would permit. Wild left the town. At 4 p.m. the rearguard left the town. 4th. No french arrived.

---

① The French force was allowed by every officer to be 46,000. The English were 15,000 infantry and 3,000 cavalry, the Spaniards were but little engaged. Killed, wounded and missing: English 5,335, French near 13,000, out of whom 7,000 were killed or died in a few days. They lost 10 pieces of cannon and 3 Eagles. Official report of the French loss, 12,360 hors de combat.

Maj. Popham  
Cap. Collis  
Lt. Skeene  
Lt. Hispanin (?)  
Lt. Allen  
Lt. Grant.



August

5th. The Spanish cavalry retreated thro' the city. We were in the greatest want of provisions. 6th. At 11 a.m. saw the advance of the french cavalry from the church. They entered the town under Genl. Beaumont - fine troops, good horses, they pillaged the town. 7th. At 8 a.m. the advance of the Infantry. Arrived the commandant, Marshal Victor; the soldiers pillaged the houses and many wounded English officers. Secured my kit and cattle by keeping them in the Hospital. Reported we were to be sent as fast as possible to Madrid, and that the surgeons were not to be considered prisoners. 8th. At 3 a.m. the french infantry crossed the Tagus - a heavy firing on the right. Provisions issued by the french. More french arrived and also crossed the bridge with cavalry. 9th. The french returned. 10th. The french retreated towards Madrid, leaving a Regt. or two. Reported the Spaniards were defeated. 13th. Many of our wounded moved to Madrid. 19th. Marshal Mortier's corps arrived from Ompica. 22nd. In the afternoon found myself unwell with feverish symptoms - had been unwell ever since the retreat of our army. Obligated to go to bed - at night the fever was formed.

Sept.

5th. Convalescent. 18th. Gaining strength. 19th. Victor's army arrived. Part remained, the rest marched towards Ompica. 20th. Walked out. 27th. Returned to my duty. In the last 16 days 92 men died out of 500 British sick. The men were confined to Hospital by the french.

Oct.

1st & 2nd. Marshal Victor's army retreated. 3rd. Marshal Mortier's corps arrived. Numberless reports. 7th. Major Pohn left us for Madrid - sold him my horse for 60 Dollars. 26th. Ordered to go to Madrid next morn. Recd. a passport. 27th. Did not march.



Oct. 28th. Left Talavera for St. Ollala 5 L. 29th. To Navalcarnero 8 L. 30th. Through Santa Cruz & Mostoles to Madrid<sup>①</sup> 5 L. Our passports taken from us. Lodged close to prisoners in the retiro.

Nov. 2nd. Sold my mule for 20 Dollars. Skeene & Grant went to Hospital, Convent St. Francois. 6th. Made up my mind to attempt to escape with the two Beanishes 31st, Corby 29th, Herriott 61st & Rule 87th. 7th. Started by rope from the window at 1 a.m. Crossed the walls and arrived in the retiro gardens, almost immediately challenged by a sentry. Beanish & Rule fell back and retreated to their rooms, the rest advanced, and after more than an hour spent in the gardens marching, found ourselves in the midst of sentries, and were obliged to give ourselves up to a sergeant's guard. Conveyed to the officers' guard room, from thence removed to the Dungeon, with Herriott, A. Beanish and Corby. The place very cold having six windows iron grated without glass. Whilst confined here they allowed us very black bread and a little meat. 15th. The French began to fortify the gate of the Retiro towards the city. 21st. The Spanish prisoners arrived taken at Ocarra, near 12,000 - one general, a Brigadier - 300 officers of the advance only. 24th. Marched from the Retiro at 10 a.m. with 2000 Spanish prisoners, about 200 officers - arrived at Guardanama after a severe march of 8 Leagues at 2 o'clock.

①

The Entrance to Madrid is over the River Manzanares - over which is a most elegant bridge of 9 arches. At this time of the year the river is scarcely knee deep but swells greatly after the rainy season. The bridge communicates to a spacious raised road, we passed the south walls of the city and entered at the south gate into a handsome mall. On the left is the city. The streets are very fine - on the right is the botanical garden and the Retiro nearly half way down the mall.



- Nov. 25th. A.M. placed in the common prison with the privates. Crossed the mountains of Guardaramma<sup>©</sup> and halted at (Otero?) on the left of the high road near the Palace of Rio-frio 5 L. Lodged as last night. 26th. Arrived at Segovia<sup>6</sup> 2½ L. Confined with the Spanish officers in the Tower. The people very anxious to serve us. On the march 5 Spaniards shot. During our stay here many of the Spanish officers escaped. The weather very cold, the ground covered with snow. 27th. Halted. 28th. Halted. 29th. Marched to St. Maria 5 L. Lodged in a billet by ourselves - a poor town. Here we found the french had for their safety barricaded the streets - this plan was followed in nearly every town on the road, where a detachment was stationed. 30th. Marched to Coca 3 L. A small town formerly walled - has a fine old castle, gothic part in good preservation in a most delightful situation and in former times a strong position. Here is a royal glass manufactory.
- Dec. 1st. Olmado a very good town 3 L. On our march passed a large forest. Had a very good billet on a priest. 2nd. Valde Stillas 4 L. This town was nearly destroyed by the french about one week before our arrival. Near this the roads divide to Salamanca.

---

© Guardaramma is immediately at the foot of the mountains, you begin to ascend near the town for about two leagues. On the top of the mountain is a large stone pedestal and statue of a lion, erected in honour of Ferdinand 7th. This stone marks the boundaries of Old and New Castille. From it you have a view of the immense plains of New Castille as far as the eye can reach - you see Madrid and the grand Monastery of the Escorial. The prospect on the side of Old Castille is also grand but not so extensive. The descent from the mountain on this side is equal to the ascent on the other, at the foot of the mountain the road divides, the left to Valladolid, the right to Segovia & St. Ildefonso (?).

Segovia is a very ancient town built on a large rock in a very singular form. The streets are narrow and the houses ill built. It has a handsome gate on the Madrid side, also a fine aqueduct supposed to be built by the Romans tho' the Spaniards think it equal in antiquity to the Egyptian monuments. It is formed by a double row of arches supported in its great height by pillars. In the highest part it is 87 feet - you reckon 159 arches. Segovia has about 10,000 inhabitants.



Dec.

3rd. Crossed the river Duro at Puente Duro. Arrived at Valladolid 4 L. From Segovia the country is level - has many villages on all sides - a vast deal of wood - Pines, the soil very sandy. Valladolid is a large town, walled, the River D'Esgueva passes through it. It has some fine churches, a handsome Plaza with piassas, an English and a Scotch College. 4th. Halted. Dined with Dr. Cameron, vice rector of the Scotch College. 5th. Marched to Doeneas 6 L. On the march crossed the river over a handsome stone bridge. The town is poor, the streets narrow and dirty but in a very romantic situation. The caves for securing the wine on the side of the hill have a curious appearance. 6th. To Torquemada, nearly destroyed, the first town the french burnt in Spain. A woollen manufactory. On the right of the road half a league from Doeneas stands the convent of the Benedictines, San Lldro, supposed to have been before the arrival of the french one of the richest and finest in Spain. Torquemada is 5 Leagues from Doeneas - situated on the river Pisuerga over which is a handsome stone bridge of 28 arches. 7th. To Villa Rodarigua 4 L. A very poor town. 8th. To Celada del Camino 4 L. Small town. 9th. To Burgos 4 L. The road from Valladolid to Burgos is beyond everything beautiful - a fine rich country abounding in villages and perfectly plain. Burgos is a fine large town, has a fine Gothic Cathedral, said to be the handsomest in Spain - a very fine gothic gateway, a handsome Plaza in the centre of which is a well-executed statue of Charles the 3rd. A fine mall. It contains 14 churches and 24 monasteries. It is situated on the River Arlenson over which are three stone bridges. 10th. Halted. 11th. To Bierbesca 7 L. 12th. To Miranda del Ebro 7 L. Crossed the Ebro over a handsome stone bridge, 8 arches. On the march passed the village and strong pass of Pancorbo - here is a fort 4 L. from



Bierbesca. Near this the road to Bilbao divides. The pass of Rancorbo is formed as it were by the division of an immense mountain. It extends nearly half a league - in one part the rocks are very grand and hang over the road.

13th. To Victoria 6 L. One league from Miranda you meet on the left of the road a handsome Pedestal which marks the boundary of the provinces of Old Castille and Alava. The road from Burgos here is equal to any in the world, the country is more mountainous and contains an amazing number of villages - more especially near Victoria. Victoria is a good town, contains in the whole about 1200 houses and about 9000 souls. The Plaza is a regular stone building with Piazas; formerly many English resided here who traded with Bilbao and the interior.

14th. To Montdragon 5 L. On the march we enter the Province of Guipuzcoa. From Victoria every half league you find a small village. The common people do not speak Castilian in this province.

15th. To Villa Real 4 L. We crossed a very high mountain.

16th. To Tolosa 6 L. - the capital of the Province, situated on the river D'Oria in a very hilly country. We had a good billet. The people were very anxious for us to escape.

17th. To Hernanne 3½ L. - a small town.

19th. To Yroon 4 L. At 1 p.m. came in sight of the sea. We had a good billet. This is the last town in Spain and situated about 1 League from the river that divides France and Spain. Though so near France the manners, customs and dress do not in the least resemble the French. In the whole of the Province of Guipuzcoa, the people appear very industrious, the women are more handsome and wear their hair very long and plaited. The men have a very wild and ferocious look, and to the very last Town expressed themselves with more inveteracy against the French than those of any other province.



Yroon is a small town situated within sight of the sea. Here sixteen Spanish officers who had (their ?) paroles escaped we suppose on account of the brutal manner in which the Regiment of Nassau /2<sup>n</sup>/ treated the prisoners, shooting every man that could not march - they also shot a Spanish officer at Victoria for attempting to escape.

From Lisbon to on entering the Province of Estremadura at Zalsa you find the country nearly plain to Placencia which is situated in a valley surrounded by very large mountains. You cross the mountains to the southward for Malpartida. This mountain extends nearly to Navalearnero and runs East and West. At the time we passed it, July, it had snow in many parts; from Malpartida the country is a perfect Plain to Madrid. Between Malpartida and Ompica you pass an immense royal forest. From Madrid to Guardarama the roads are level, and after these mountains you have scarcely a hill until you pass Burgos, from whence to Yroon your journey lays through branches of the Pyrenus.

20th. Left Yroon for Bayonne 7 L. The river Bidosoa that divides France from Spain is one league on the march. You cross it over a fine wooden bridge. The river at this time was large owing to the late rains - we were given to understand in the summer it is but small. You pass the small town of Orogne, also St. Jean de Lux. Between this town and Bayonne the road runs very near the sea. We arrived at Bayonne about 3 p.m. and went into private lodgings. 21st. Halted. Reported ourselves to the Commandant and received our rout for Verdun also ten franks. Recd. directions to leave Bayonne next morn. This is a large town ill built situated on a good river - it had scarcely any shipping. It is fortified on the side towards Spain. We went to the Play.

---

	<u>Leagues</u>
The boundary near Salvaterra	45
From Salvaterra to Madrid	56
From Madrid to the river Bidosoa	100
1 L from Yroon	1
	<u>201</u>



Dec

22nd. Left Bayonne in a coach and six mules at 11 a.m. and arrived at Bordeaux on the 26th at noon passing through the towns of Montmarzan - Dax - Roquefort - Bartas - where we eat our Christmas dinner. Put up at the Hotel de Providence - not a very good inn. The road from Bayonne to Bordeaux is infamous, a perfect sandy plain. Went to the Play. 29th. Halted Bordeaux is a beautiful town situated on the Garonne. It has a beautiful theatre, a very neat exchange. The streets are wide and well built. We drew money here at 25 fr 6 c. 30th. At noon crossed the Garonne in a boat there being no bridge and the same even crossed the Dordogne in the same manner. Arrived at St. Andre.

1810

Jan.

1st. Passed Angouleme a fine town in a very good situation, and in a fine country supposed to be the garden of France. Passed Poitiers in a beautiful and formerly a very commanding situation - ancient walls amazingly thick. Also passed Tours - it has a most beautiful street, is situated on the Loire. From Tours to Blois the road is very fine, on the banks of the Loire - raised on account of the low ground, which at this time was flooded. We arrived at Orleans at noon Jan 8th - it is a large town on the Loire. The square is ornamented by a handsome statue of the Maid of Orleans. It has a fine cathedral. 9th. Left Orleans in a commodite, a cart without springs at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 a.m. Arrived in the even at Montargis 18 L. the road infamous. This is a very wretched and poor town. 10th. To Sens 18 L. The country from Orleans to Sens is most wretchedly barren - the road as yesterday. You have a fine view of Sens as you approach the town from the hill that commands it. It is a large town, has a fine cathedral, on a large river, a branch of the Seine. It is navigable to Paris. 11th. To Troye 18 L. A good road and fine country - it is a fine town - a large stocking manufactory, has a handsome cathedral and a Bishop's Palace.



Jan. 12th. At 1 p.m. left Troye for Chalons 22 L. in Diligence, a horrid winter conveyance. 13th. Arrived at Chalons at 8 a.m. A large clean town - a good inn, the Pousse d'Or. A stocking manufactory, a good market - has two fine churches, a Ecole d'Artes established 3 years past by the Emperor - a good building - good champagne (2) Liv. Left Chalons at 2 p.m. in a Partage for Verdun<sup>©</sup> - 20 L. Slept at St. Mirmeould, a regular built town. 14th. At noon arrived at Verdun. Reported myself, was registered, met Major Popham & Lieut. Allen of my own Regt. 15th. Took lodgings at No. 5 Rue de Commune at 30 Liv. per month. 6 L. maid, 4 Black. 18th. Admitted a member of the upper Club. 20th. Dined with Lieut. Sealey R.N. 21st. Met Capt. De Haverland R.M.R. 29th. A very strong letter was received by Mr. Gordon reporting that the exchange of Prisoners was settled in Paris.

Feb 22nd. Drew on Greenwood's & Cox thro' Perregeaux at Paris for £30 at 18.15. All hopes of an exchange are vanished. Sent a letter & duplicate to Cox & Co. enclosing one to Coleman Gill - also sent a letter by Major Lestrange of the 31st & by Mrs. Tucky.

---

© During the period of my stay at Verdun I was as comfortable as a Prisoner of War could expect to be; every fifth day we were to write our names in a Book by 10 o'clock - this was called the appel and on the 24th we were all mustered at the Riding House

and the rest of our time was entirely our own. Our day was usually spent in walking either round the ramparts or to one of the villages near the town, and in the Club Room which was well conducted having all the newspapers, a Billiard room, Card Room, and Backgammon and Chess - also a very excellent set of comedians which greatly assisted in passing the time. The numbers of English were very great - about 550 and were since the departure of Genl. Wisson not so dissatisfied with their situations. The exchange on England was general - 25s below par but yet there appeared abundance of money amongst the Prisoners. Living was very cheap and good. Thus, had I conceived my confinement was to have been so short a period I could not have wished to have passed this month in a better situation, but being uncertain as to the duration of our confinement every day became more insupportable. We are continually buoyed up with the hope of a general exchange of Prisoners which however fell to the ground. At length a memorial from the Surgeons taken at Talavera was sent off (Apr. 3 P.G.) and at the period of the marriage of Napoleon with Marie Louise was made our passports to return to England.



March 13th. Entered new lodgings No. 8 Rue port chatel with at 52 Ldv. 16th. Mr. Thery, French Master came first. 20th. Messrs. Higgins & McDougal recd. their orders for Paris. 30th. They left Verdun and took our memorial to the Minister of War. Wrote to my mother.

Apr. 5th. Major Popham left Verdun, wrote to Perreguere by him. 14th. Drew on Coleman Gill thro' Messrs. Perryman 450 at 25 Ldv. Wrote Major Popham from whom I recd. a letter mentioning the state of Collis - i.e. on the 7th of Jan. 17th. Went out of Port-Metz, first time of leaving the town. 24th. Thomas Allen and myself sent a Louis each thro' the Revd. Mr. Gordon to Serjeant Johnson - at Briancon.

May 13th. Our passports arrived for Morlaix. Capt'n. Collis arrived from Madrid - he left Madrid 11th March. 16th. Recd. our passports and indemnity to Chalons - 13 Ldv. 6. 17th. Left Verdun at 5 a.m. Passed Clermont, St. Minshould, halted at Tillac 14 L. 18th. Passed Chalons, recd. indemnity to Versailles 17 Ldv. 10. Passed Epernay and halted at a small village. 19th. Passed Dormans, Chateau Thearey<sup>©</sup>. Halted at Laferte 15 L. Here are thousands of large and small mill stones. 20th. Passed Maux - Claye and arrived at Paris by the Barrier of St. Martin. Stopped at Rue St. Dominique d'enfer Luxembourg. Went to the Theatre d'Imperatrice - a new building, very handsome but badly lighted. The house was very thin. The upper boxes have curtains which keep them quite private. Slept at the Ecu D'Orleans Luxembourg.

---

© Chateau Thearey has the remains of a castle on the hill commanding the town. It is a good town, has a handsome stone bridge. Dined at the Table d'hote with the Passengers of the Dilligence 3 L. 10 s.



May

21st. Called on Major Popham, Birmingham 29th Regt. Etat Majors for permission to remain 7 days and saw the Museum Napoleon, statues and pictures, the Palace and Gardens of Theuliers (Tuileries), the Triumphal Arch, Chariot of Victory, La Place de la Concorde where Louis was beheaded, Opera Conique, Cafe de Mil Columns. Saw Notre Dame with the Crowns, Robes & Pope's decorations, the Hotel Bibliotheque . Dined at Rocher de Coucelles Academic Imp. de Musee, Coffee Houses, Bal etc. etc. 23rd. Called on Perregeaux, drew for £20 on Greenwood 16L. 21s. Saw the antique monuments, Gallery of Luxembourg, Conservatoire, Senate & Chambers of the Emperor. 24th. Gobelins Tapestry, a royal manufactory, Jardin de Plants, Menagerie, Pont Austerlitz & Pt. St. Denis, Jardin de du & Tivoli. Supper with Barningham - Palais Royal & 25th. Sevres Porcelain manufactory, Commissary de Guerre Manufactory of Arms, two Palaces of Trianon - Omangerie, Bath of Apollo & Opera, Triumph of Trajan. 26th. Called on Major Popham, revisited the Napoleon Museum, the Legislative Body - the royal stables - in the even went to the Theatre Francais - saw Talmar and Mill. 27th. To the Public Promenade, Champs Elysees, Jardin de Prince & . Museum of Anatomy, Jardin de Plants, Hotel des Invalides, Jardin Tuileries, Bois de Boulogne & l'Etoile, Theatre . 28th. Left Paris at 2 p.m. in the Dilligence for Morlaix - 95fr. 2c. - rue Notre Dame de Victoire. Passed Versailles. 29th. Arrived at Alencon. 30th. Passed Mayenne, Laval. 31st. Rennes<sup>©</sup>.

©

At Rennes met and travelled with from thence to Exeter a M<sup>rs</sup>. Taylor and her Daughter M<sup>rs</sup>. Amelia Beaulieu.



June

1st. Rennes - Montfort - St. Brieux. At 1 o'clock came in sight of the sea. 3rd. Guingamp. Arrived at Morlaix at 4 p.m. 4th. Visited commissary de guerre & police - Mr. Mackenzie, English agent. Recd. the remains of my allowance. 5th. Embarked on board the Eliza of Morlaix schooner. 9th. Friday even at 5 o'clock arrived in Cat-Water, Plymouth. Went to the Popes Head. Reported ourselves to Capt. Rogers, Mill Prison and Genl. England. 10th. Left Plymouth at 8 a.m. Arrived at Exeter at 5 p.m. 11th. Parted with my companions. On the mail passed Taunton - Glastonbury. Arrived in Bath at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 p.m. Found my mother had left Bath. 12th. Went to Buridge to see my mother & Mrs. Brokenbrow. 13th. Remained at Bath. 14th. Left Bath. 15th. Arrived in London. Met Col. Drummond. 19th. Introduced to Sir D. Baird. Sent in our memorials to the Commander-in-Chief and claim of loss of baggage to the board of claims. 24th. Dined with Mr. Collier. 26th. Left London for Bath. 27th. Arrived in Bath.

July

6th. Received a letter from Coleman Gill with an account that orders were issued for my repaireing to Portsmouth. 7th. Went to Buridge. Took leave of my mother and sister.

-----



1810

On the 9th of June I arrived in a Cartel from Morlaix, our passage was very long, three nights and four days. The disagreeable circumstances in the voyage were in some measure compensated by the society of a most charming English young lady who had been educated in France.-----

With little obstruction from the Excise, we landed our baggage and proceeded to the Pope's Head. The uncomfotableness and dirt of the French Auberge were strongly contrasted by the cleanliness and order in every chamber of the Hotel. The next day, Saturday, we visited Dock, I reported myself to Genl. England, I also met Mr. Hogg, Head of the Medical Department here, under whom I first left England. The next morning we left Plymouth for Exeter, where we arrived at five in the Evening. This night I took leave of my fellow-travellers who were to proceed thro' Dorchester; at 3 a.m: I mounted the roof of the Mail and parted for Bath. How very different the mode of travelling here and on the other side of the water, this was very apparent to one who, like myself, had been conveyed but a few days before four hundred miles in a French Dilligence at a rate not exceeding the jog-trot of an English Butter Woman - in my present conveyance, hedges, mountains, villages were quickly left behind in a whirlwind of dust, in less than ten hours I had arrived in Bath - a space of Eighty Miles. I cannot say that I felt myself entirely happy this day, the frim friends left a great vacancy, and during the whole journey I felt myself ill at ease. As soon as the Mail stopped I made the best of my way to Pierrepont St. I was much surprised to find the house shut up and the exterior painted in quite a different stile - I had not received any intelligence from my friends for more than eighteen months, called on my Aunt Davis, here I learnt all the family news; that my Mother was on a visit with my oldest Sister, who had been lately married. I now returned to my inn, dined with my fellow passengers, and afterwards took my concerns to my Brother in Laws, where I established



my head Quarters. As may easily be imagined my tongue was not idle, the innumerable questions of my many friends and relations obliged me repeatedly to enumerate the different leading circumstances of my travels and my happy deliverance from confinement. Everyone was anxious to have some account of the manner in which English Prisoners spent their time at Verdun, and being so lately arrived from Paris, which so few Englishmen had lately seen, I became an object of surprise; and many were the enquiries concerning that Metropolis, as well as the other large Cities I had seen in France.

The Day after my arrival in Bath, I drove my sister Boord over to see my Mother at Burridge, my newly married Sisters House. The said House was pleasantly situated, the large Kitchen in old English-Farm-style -----.

My miniature was hung up in a corner of the room. I was afraid the sight of it had produced the original on the tapis most days. I was desirous of seeing my new Brother in Law, he at length appeared - a tall good looking fellow, without a coat, he had just returned from the Hayfield, he introduced himself with tolerable ease, but still I must lay him down as a man "sui generis".....

late in the Evening we returned to Bath. On the five o'clock coach next evening I parted for London, I had a most infernal Burdettite as one of my companions, the other was an Officer of Dragoons. I think on the whole the Democrat came off second best.....

On my arrival in Town I established myself at my Brother in Laws. With the other Medical Officers arrived from France, I reported myself to the Adjutant General of the Medical Board. After mature consideration, we determined to memorial the Lords of the Treasury through the Commander in chief, for a remuneration of the money lost us by Exchange & for our travelling expences amounting to Sixty Pounds Sterling.



The Memorial was favourably answered by the Lords of the Treasury and the Secretary at War was directed to look into our claims and compensate us. We at the same time memorialled for our loss of Baggage, and I received £17.12s. for it. I spent one month in the luxury of Domestic comfort. It was with the greatest joy I met two of my old schoolfellows, Stanier and Patrick - the latter had lost his Brother, Lt. Colvin in the Portuguese Service killed in action. I spent two or three pleasant evenings in the society of Stanier and his sister, a very nice young woman - seeing no chance of our claims being immediately decided, I again left town for Bath. My Stage Coach adventure was this time a very comical one and I shall long remember it. My time at Bath was spent in a continued circle of visits with my Friends, whose conduct evinced the pleasure my return gave them. One of my relations proposed to me a plan of settling in life, a pretty good one, however I had previously made up my mind to rejoin my Regt.

- |      |      |   |
|------|------|---|
| July | 8th  | On the 8th of July I left Bath outside the Mail, having received an order from the Medical Board to repair immediately to Portsmouth. - on my arrival in Town we made a representation to the Adjutant General that we could not join our Regts. until our claims were settled being destitute of money. The Commander in Chief directed that leave should be granted us till the Secretary of War had replied to our Memorial. |
|      | 16th | On the 16th I went with my Brother to Orsett in Essex to visit an Estate.   |
|      | 17th | On the 17th on our return we saw the Queen Charlotte launched at Deptford a most magnificent sight, she was the first Vessel of 120 Guns ever launched in the River. I speculated on the sum of money that I should receive from Government, by which I gained Ten Pounds.  |
| Aug. | 10th | On the 10th of Augt. I sailed in a Hoy from Billingsgate to Margate where we arrived at six in the Evening. We put  |



- Aug 10th up at the Duke's Head. Margate is the seat of Fashion for the London Citizen, here the shopman who a few hours before was measuring his linen, assumes the dress and manner of the Man of the World and with his companion under his Arm, he jogs in the crowd Men of the first consequence - in a few days he spends the savings of the year, and returns once more to the counter. The Dandelion & Public Libraries are without doubt worth seeing - a man may pass a day or two with pleasure here. Ass Racing, etc. served to pass the time.
- 12th We went to Ramsgate, here we had the good luck to fall in with a Mr. Maud, a City Wine Merchant, with whom we dined. The Pier of Margate is nothing to be compared with that of Ramsgate - this is truly a work worthy of the English Nation. The day was beautiful, we had a fine view of the Downs with a large fleet windbound. This place is visited by families of the first rank; in the Evening we returned to Margate.
- 13th In the Evening left Margate in the Canterbury Mail - passed thro' Canterbury, saw the Cathedral, thro' Rochester and arrived in Town at 8 a.m.
- 14th Here I found orders or rather entreaties from the Medical board to repair immediately to Portsmouth - drew my Ballance from McDonald up to the 24th of Augt. left three letters with Cox & Greenwood from Perigeaux, with the rate of exchange - left Town at five in the Evening - arrived at
- 15th Portsmouth 15th, 9 A.M. - reported myself to Staff Surgeon Fraser in absence of Dr. McGregor - reported myself to the General - recd. an order on Capt. Ratten for a passage, but he informed me that he could not give one at present and did not know when he would be able - took my old lodgings 40 St. Thomas Street with Curley 29th who messed with me - paid Mr. Meredith 12 shillings which I owed him since Nov '07 - here I met Bartholomew and Captn. Webbe - 7 R.V.B.
- During my stay at Portsmouth I visited the Royal Dock Yards, one of our greatest National Works, the Block, Copper & Anchor Houses are wonderful and shew the surprising effects



Aug 15th of machinery, the heavy work is all done by Steam Engines.  
My time passed very pleasant considering and I lived at a  
tolerable cheap rate.

Aug 24th Recd. orders for a passage on board the Rialto letter D  
began to lay in sea stock.

27th Embarked.

30th 5 P.M: weighed and anchored off Cowes at 9 P.M.

31st Weighed at 11 A.M: and anchored off Lynnington 3 P.M:

Sep 1st The Fleet 130 Sail weighed anchor at 9 A.M: passed the Needles  
with a fine breeze S.E.

3rd The Start Point N.W. 4 Leagues wind S.W:

5th 3 P.M: convoy steered for Falmouth.

6th Lay off Falmouth all day at 5 P.M: started from the Lizard  
fine wind N.E:

9th & 10th Perfect Calm.

11th A fine breeze N.W:

14th 4 P.M: made the Beerlings.

15th Made the rock nearly calm, boarded by a Pilot at Noon.  
Anchored under Fort St. Julian at 5 P.M.

16th At 2 P.M. anchored between Balem & Lisbon - went on shore  
- heard of the Conspiracy - dined at Caiones, went to the  
Theatre Rua Descendes, a pretty good ballet - slept at  
the Gibraltar.

17th Landed my baggage called on Johnson and Wilson - reported  
myself to the Adjutant Genl. & Dr. Inspector Bolton.

19th Bought a horse from Lieut. Leake 38th 70 Dollars, and an Ass  
from Wilson for 30. During my stay in Lisbon went to the  
Opera San Carlos a very good house but bad performance -  
also to the Saleta a low kind of Ballet - Saw the beautiful  
Mosaic Work of the Altarpiece of the Church of La Roque.  
This is supposed to be the finest specimen extant - sent  
from Rome and of immense value, it has also an altar piece  
of silver. The Estrella Convent is a beautiful Building.  
The view from the Copula is superior by far to the Hotel  
des Invalides at Paris - the Dome is doubled which admits



a perpendicular view of the Church from the very top - the stairs are of marble and easy of ascent. My sleep accommodation at Lisbon was much disturbed by fleas and the noise of the Dogs who devour the dirt collected in the streets.

- Sep 24th Got a rout to Coimbra with Asst. Surgeon O'Malley - paid 3 Dollars - arrived at Noon 4 hours - 6 L: got a good billet.
- 26th To Alcoentre 5 Long L; wretched town.
- 27th To Rio Maior - 2 Long L; a better town.
- 28th To Cavallos - 5 Leagues, a wretched Estralage, a heavy storm during the night.
- 29th To Liem thro' Battalhia,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  Leagues. Saw the Convent of Battalhia, supposed to be the most superb specimen of .... Architecture, it was intended as a burial place for the Kings of Portugal it is not completely finished. The Monks gave Coln. White 29th O'Malley & self an elegant breakfast - Tea, Coffee, Fruits, Preserves, etc., etc. Leira is 2 Leagues from Battalhia, we got a good billet - it is a large ill-built City - has a Bishops Palace, fine Cathedral in which are two or three good paintings and two fine organs. On the Hill is the remains of an old Castle which commands the Town - the Chapel of which is in good repair. - drank tea with Captn. Jernyn R.W. I played cards - heard reports of the Action of Busaco.
- 30th To Pombal 5 Leagues. On the road met many sick & wounded of the Army going to Leira, heard many reports of the Action - in Pombal I dressed many wounded - in Billet with Coln. White - met Preston slightly wounded - all accounts agree that our Allies the Portuguese behaved very well - Pombal is a tolerable town, has the remains of an old Castle on the hill commanding it.
- Oct. 1st Proceeded on march to Condeixa - on the road heard the Army was retreating and that my Regt. was marching for the Town - returned to Pombal, at Pombal I met Lieut. Redmond of ours - the Ammunition Cars, Sick & Genl. Pictons Division arrived.



- Oct 2nd My B.D. quite at a loss as to joining my Regt. Recommended by Genl. Hay to remain until Head Quarters arrived - soon after set Dr. Frank P.M. he directed me to return to Leiria as the 1st Division marched in another direction - on the road overtook Mr. Malin with the baggage, went on to Leiria, where I arrived at 3 PM. the Regt. halted short of the City one League. I went to the billets I had occupied a few days since the Patron had fled. He was a Priest - the house was full of things. Drank wine with Barker & Dunn who were ordered to return with Sick & Wounded to Villa Nova. In this days march the whole road was covered with the retreating Army, baggage ammunition & Stores of all kinds - added to which the Inhabitants some in Bullock Cars others carrying their Children & property, were flying as fast as possible, terror and dismay in every countenance, a sight more distressing perhaps was never witnessed - before I left Pombal it was deserted & nothing to be got - this Evening I met Mr. Buxton & Parson Scott, Chaplain to our Division.
- 3rd. I did not leave Leiria until Noon, on the road I again met Mr. Malin he directed me to the ground where the Regt. was to halt one League from Leiria, here the Regt. soon joined me - Wyde ill with ague & Neachan wounded slightly at Busaco - this night my first night of laying out.
- 4th. This day we halted to allow time for the road to be clear of the people and Stores.
- 5th. We marched on the Villa Franca road - halted two Leagues beyond Carvallos, on the right of the road.
- 6th. Marched thro' Rio Maior and halted in front of Alcoentre.
- 7th. Marched at 5 A.M. taking the road to the right across the country to Aldea Galega, 4 L: much to our surprise as it was supposed we should, being the 1st Division on the right at Villa Franca.
- 8th. Continued our Rout thro' Sobral to Cabida 2 L; wretched wet day & night - put under cover - .....



- Oct. 9th. The Regt. moved to a Wine House about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile, we remained with Scott & Lepper.
- 10th. Advanced to a village in front of Sobral one Mile - 61st Regt. left us - 79th joined us.
- 11th. We had been all night on the alert, about 10 A.M. moved to a few houses half way to Sobral, our Regt. with the 79th formed the rear guard in this direction,  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 P.M. an alarm that the French were advancing in force - the Regt. under arms instantly and marched towards Sobral, as our Regt. left the village, the enemy entered it, three of our Men taken prisoners. Took up a position one mile in rear of Sobral. The ground was so soft the men sank half way up their legs in clay & dirt - this day my Mare was very ill from eating wheat. My ass died on the road, but it was trucked away for the ass of a Portuguese. Remained horses saddled all night near the Position, very wet.
- 12th. Removed at 9 A.M. to a small village on our right, at Noon moved to a Convent a little higher up - at 3 P.M. ordered to turn out as the Enemy were advancing, took up our old position, some smart skirmishing between the light troops, saw some strong columns of the Enemy advancing; at 6 P.M. the Enemy again retreated - we were ordered into our quarters to be constantly alert - lay undisturbed all night.
- 13th. At 5 A.M. moved to a small village  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile nearer the grand redoubt on the hill - saw the Enemy the whole day on the right of Sobral - the 50th Regt. on our right.
- 14th. At 1 P.M. ordered under Arms, the men had been employed pulling down the walls - as our Regt. marched to the position Corp'l. Buckingham had both legs fractured by a cannon Shot - a few yards in my rear - both legs were amputated this Evening. Strong Skirmishing - 71st. Regt. & 5 Batta. 60th mostly engaged. At 8 P.M. left the Army with the worst wounded cases on Bullock Cans, very bad weather arrived at Buillas at 4 A.M.
- 15th. 2 Leagues met Barter, Curly & Hamilton.  
9 A.M. returned to the grand redoubt, learnt the Division



- Oct 15th. had retreated to the position in the grand line of defence, joined them at a Quinta near the Cantonment of the Guards.
- 16th. Under Arms at 4 A.M. at 1 P.M. moved to a small village near the great fort - one mile - Valdo Ves - here we had very cold & bad weather, our Cantonments were very bad, we lived well, plenty of good Port Wine, Poultry, etc. etc. We remained here until the French in our front retreated.
- Nov 15th. During the night the Enemies fires were observed more numerous & larger in the Morning we found they had withdrawn their Piquets & were on full retreat towards Santarem - the light division followed them.
- 16th. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  4 A.M. marched from Valdo Ves, joined the 6th Division and marched thro' Sobral, the place of which was in flames, to Alenquer & L: many French sick were found in houses and on the roads. Alenquer had long been the Enemies Head Quarters but was in a very terrible state, numbers of dead were found in the Houses. The Dragoons & Horse Artillery passed through.
- 17th. Remained at Alenquer, Officers sent to the Convent.
- 18th. Marched through Villa Nova, Asambuja - to Cortaxo &  $\frac{1}{2}$  L: numbers of dead were likewise found here in Houses, wells, etc.
- 19th. Marched at 6 A.M: On the road to Santarem, the general idea was that we were going to attack the Enemy who had taken up a position on the other side of the Rio Maior over which was a causeway of three hundred yards, a hill commanded our side of the Causeway, all in anxious expectation of receiving orders to storm as it was supposed we were to have the post of honor - we remained on the Hill during the night. A most terrible gale of wind came on accompanied with heavy rain, indeed in a more bitter night troops never laid out the ground was now very slippery from the rain, we could scarcely stand - the night was very dark - the Guns were dragged by the Men lighted by Torches.
- 20th. Remained all day on the Hill - saw the light Division advance on the left of the Enemy and skirmish - at dark in the Evening we were ordered to leave the Hill and march to



- Nov 20th. Cortaxo - here Wylde had provided a good fire & dinner - Baby & Andrews came into the same Quarter. The Brigade of Guards and our Brigade with Head Quarters remained in Cortaxo, during the stay of the Enemies Head Quarters at Santarem.
- 24th. Went with Sick to Villa Nova and returned the same Evening.
- 29th. Wylde went sick to Lisbon.
- Dec. 1st. Taken with Ague which lasted me off & on, until we advanced from Cortaxo.
- 2nd. Asst. Surgeon Burroughs joined us, he was from Bristol.
- 20th. O'Malley informed me he had received a letter from Collier which authorised him to draw Sixty Pounds which the Secretary of War had allowed us in answer to our Memorial.
- 21st. Saw the Cavalry reviewed.
- 25th. Christmas Day - Roast Beef & Plum Pudding with plenty of wine.

1811

- Jan 5th. Wrote to Dr. Davis - drew on Macdonald for the 60£ in favor of Gill.
- 24th. The Marquis Romana died - a fine patriot.
- Feb. 22nd. Wylde rejoined.
- Mar 3rd. Went with sick to Villa Nova.
- 5th. Mary reports that the Enemy were about to retreat, news of our reinforcements having arrived.
- 6th. In the night the French Army retreated - the Division marched thro' Santarem on the Golegan Road 2 L; halted at a small bridge which they had partly destroyed. In Santarem were found some guns which the Enemy could not take off. The Convent of St. Clara was destroyed - the Town in other respects not so much injured as might have been imagined.
- 7th. Marched at Day break, passed thro' Golegan the Enemies rear Guard had passed that morning - we halted some time for orders and proceeded to Atalia where we bivouaced - Golegan was in a most wretched state more than three parts destroyed, horridly filthy, and good specimens of French dirt - it was more remarkable on acct. of this being the Head Quarters for a length of Time - the bodies of dead



- Mar 7th. Frenchmen were in many houses and by the road sides.
- 8th. March thro' Thomar, which was full of people - they were supposed to be much in the French interest and had remained in their Town, but from the Starvation, Poverty and Wretchedness exhibited here they did not seem to have benefited much by their French acquaintance. The Town was entire. This Evening the 14 L:D: attached to our Brigade took 14 Prisoners. The main body of the Army took the Road to Leira - our Brigade & 14 L:D: the mountain road to Espinal, heavy rain this day.
- 9th. Marched and halted in a valley the Enemy had just left.
- 10th. Marched at 6 A.M: at Noon found the Enemy, consisting of Reyniers Corps, had halted at Espinal. The Regt. drawn out, in the Evening retired to a wood near Figuras de Sinhas 1 mile to the rear. Since leaving Thomar we had passed the following villages; Venda de Veira - Venda de Monte 1 L: Every village not only in the road but in the Mountains where the Enemy had foraged was plundered and many destroyed - nearly all the furniture taken from the houses with the doors & window shutters. Many inhabitants were found murdered - others dead and many starving. I saw a woman & two small children in bed and nearly starved.
- 11th. We advanced as far as yesterday, remained all day under Arms - and in the Evening retired as before - heavy rain.
- 12th. The same as yesterday went to Comina one mile found a small painting - heard H.Q. were at Pombal.
- 13th. Halted.
- 14th. Soon after daybreak a heavy firing Musketry and Artillery commenced on our left towards Redinhiah, the Morning was foggy at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9. the brigade advanced one Mile, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 the firing ceased - heard the French drum beats. Genl. Nightingale ordered the brigade back - at 2 o'clock the Enemy retreated the brigade marched through Espinal. The French retreated so suddenly they left their Dinners



Mar 14th. Knives & forks etc. much corn was found near the place.  
The French position was carried by Genl. Campbell Division  
in the Morning - Bivouaced the other side of Espinhal.

15th. Unfortunately this Morning was so foggy we could not advance  
before Eight o'clock - passed Miranda da Corvo on our left,  
halted half a league beyond at one o'clock. Light Division  
3rd Division Artillery etc. passed at 4 P.M: advanced again -  
at 20 minutes to 5 a heavy firing commenced which continued  
till dark, the Enemy were driven from their encampment (in  
front of Foy d'Aronce, situated on the River Ceira having  
a bridge over it) on the advance of the light companies,  
they threw away their Arms left Sick Wounded and destroyed  
much Equipage as Cars, baggage, etc. the confusion was so  
great that those first over the bridge fired on the remainder,  
many were killed this way - others to the amount of some  
hundreds were drowned attempting to ford the River - the  
Coln. 39th French Inf'ty. was taken - 25 Light Infantry the  
Verdun Garrison Regt. lost many men - had our Army not been  
delayed by the fog it is supposed the Enemy would have lost  
all their Equipage and much Artillery. The Appearance of the  
action was beyond everything beautiful as the day light  
diminished the flash of the Artillery and Musketry was quite  
clear and had a beautiful effect in the woods. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6  
all firing ceased - in this attack Lieut. Sawatsky 5 Batt 6 D  
who had long been attached to our Regt. was killed - our  
Regt. lost two men wounded one whose arm had since been  
amputated, the other a wound in the Neck, the Nerves of  
the left Arm were injured, as he lost the use of it for  
some time - he however perfectly recovered. We bivouaced  
this Night on the French encamping ground - heavy rain -  
in the Night the Enemy blew up the bridge - a French Eagle  
was found in the river. The Number of Asses the Enemy were  
obliged to leave with baggage, etc. was astonishing. Most  
of them they most cruelly ham-strung or stabbed.



- Mar 16th. Remained on the same ground, the peasants were busily employed picking up the French Muskets, with the Iron from the burnt Carriages.
- 17th.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 A:M: Marched and forded the river Ceira one league higher on the right - this day we found four peasants murdered and cruelly mangled - the Division halted in a wood one League and an half from the river.
- 18th. The Division moved at  $\frac{1}{2}$  before 8 Marched over a very mountainous country and halted on top of a high Sierra at 3 P:M: from where we had a distant view of the Sierra de Busaco and Estrella, also a large part of the French Army retreating along the high road by Moita covering an immense extent of ground - this sight was superb.
- 19th. The Brigade marched at 2 PM, forded the Alva at Sarnadas at 7 P:M: obstructed by the Artillery did not arrive at our encamping ground till 11 P:M: bad weather and ground - this day many prisoners were taken by the Light Division & Cavalry. 20th. Halted.
- 21st. Regt. moved to better ground 1 mile - by good luck bought a Pig - this Camp called Starvation Camp.
- 25th. At Noon marched entered the high road near Venda de Valle halted at Villa Ponca near Calisas - it has a fine Convent which held the Brigade. 26th. To Penhancos & L.
- 27th. Halted here we procured bread and the beautiful Estrella cheese.
- 28th. Marched at 6 A:M: passed St. Paio thro' Navais where Genl. Howard's Brigade were, to Nabuncos - on the right of the high road - here my mare foaled, a fine fowl for dinner.
- 29th. Marched at 5 A:M: thro' Villa Cortes 1 - Cotico 1 - Celarico 1 - here the Division joined & halted four hours - the Regt. marched to Valdestellas 7 L: this place but little injured.
- 30th. Halt. 31st. Thro' Lagiosa 1 L. crossed the Mondego by Ponte Lado thro' Barnal 1 Marshal de Chao  $\frac{1}{2}$  where the rest of the Brigade halted to Barn Cova 1 L.
- Apr 1st. Marched at 4 P M: to Alverca 1 mile.
- 2nd. Marched at 5 A:M: to Juzada left the Almeida Road and turned



- Apr 2nd. to the right passed Cartinharia and halted at Porta Velha, the Brigade halted at Masella. Porta Velha is on the Coa and has good fords - here by accident the Regt. burnt 3 houses. This days march was nearly 7 Leagues - 3 by mistake - the Regt. did not march till 4 P:M: to Sediem where it followed the Brigade.
- 4th. We arrived at Sabugal at 4 A:M: on the 4th - here we found the Light Division who were halted after the glorious affair of the day - this was a most miserable foggy, wet and uncomfortable night - at 8 A:M: we marched to Quinta de St. Bartholomew, one mile to the rear where we joined the Brigade.
- 5th. Crossed the ford of Sabugal and marched to Villa Boa 4 L: this day lost my watch, gold chain and seals.
- 6th. To Nave 3 L: 7th. To Rablosa.
- 8th. Halted, dined with Major Chamberlain.
- 9th. Marched to Aldea de Ponte  $\frac{1}{2}$  L: - this day was more cold than any I had as yet experienced in the country - Snow and Hail.
- 18th. The German Brigade left the Town.
- 21st. My half horse with Capt. Baby died, by a dose of Calomel lost 18 Dol.
- 27th. We recd. orders to march at a moments notice.
- 28th. The Brigade marched at 7 A:M: - I remained behind with Lt. Stack and proceeded to Cartinharia 4 L.
- 29th. Left Cartinharia in charge of Sick & Lt. Stack, arrived at 6 P:M: at Sobral de Sierr situated at the foot of one of the steepest hills I ever descended -  $3\frac{1}{2}$  Leagues from Cartinharia. When I left Aldea de Ponte 2 from Cartinharia.
- 30th. Started from Sobral de Sierra passed the Mondego at Ponte de Ladro, arrived at Celerico 2 Short Leagues at 1 P:M: - met Barton 24th.
- May 1st. Coln. Kelly arrived in the town with Lt. Ireland.
- 4th. Left Celerico for Sobral de Sierra - put up at my old quarters.
- 5th. Arrived at Cartinharia met many wounded did not report myself.
- 6th. Passed the Coa at Castell Bom, heard that Ireland was killed and that Capt. Andrews was prisoner - halted at San Pedro 4 L:



- May 6th. A village nearly destroyed by the French for fire wood, during the time they besieged Almeida, it is one League from that place.
- 7th. To Villa Formosa here I joined Wylde - the Regt. were in front one mile, in the position - ordered to remain in Town & do duty at Gen. Hospital.
- 8th. Went to Fuentes d'Honor where the action was fought on the 5th. Our Sentries & the Enemies quite close - in the late action our loss was near 1,000, that of the French near 5,000 - our Regt lost 30 & 2 officers - the Enemies attack failed as they could not raise the Investment of Almeida. The Corps of Don Julian Sanchez destroyed many of the French wounded near Foo.
- 9th. The Army remained in the same position.
- 10th. The French having retreated, the Army broke up from its position with Colours flying & Bands playing and returned nearly to their former Cantonment. 11th May 1812.
- 11th. Last night the Enemy made their escape from Almeida and blew up a large portion of the works, spiked their cannon, etc., and crossed the Aguada at Barba de Puerto to San Felices; but lost very severely during the night - in prisoners and killed; this affair caused much talk in the Army on the 6th Division. The Regiment was ordered to Miliada de Solda 1 L: I was directed to remain at Villa Formosa to do duty at the General Hospital.
- 12th. Massena advanced with two Divisions to reconnoitre but retired again immediately.
- 13th. Coln. Cameron 79th died - his wound was similar to Capt. Evans' thro' the cervical vertebra.
- 16th. Went to Almeida, the Enemy left many pieces of Field Artillery, (13) Cars, etc., in the Garrison.
- 19th. Went to Aldea de Ponte for money from Burton, 3 Leagues.
- 20th. Returned to Breakfast at Villa Formosa.
- 22nd. Left Villa Formosa with wounded - crossed the Coa at Castillo Bom - halted at Freixas 2 L.



May 23rd To Alverca thro' Freixadas 4 L.  
 24th Thro' Barasal to Celarico 3 L.  
 25th Bought an Ass 8 Dollars.  
 27th Left Celarico with 160 wounded and Sick for Coimbra, halted at Sampaio 3 L.  
 28th To Maceira 3 L. 29th. To Calizes 4 L.  
 30th To Farinha de Podre. 31st. To Riva 1 L: on the Mondego where we embarked for Coimbra and arrived there at 5 P.M: rejoined Stack at the Collegia Nova. Coimbra is a fine City, has many handsome churches, Colleges, an Observatory and Museum of Natural History, Library, etc - the French had not much time to destroy the City or the different churches. It has a good bridge over the Mondego two arches of which had been destroyed by Gen. Frank who occupied the City during the retreat. Met McDowal, Staff Surgeon.

June 7th left Coimbra for St. Andre - passed Cavallos, went the whole way on the South side of the Mondego, a much longer rout.

8th to Moita 4 L: forded the Alva at Ponte de Murcella which was destroyed by the enemy on their retreat.

9th Villa Ruco 4 L: 10th. to St. Iago near Maciera 4 L:  
 11th St. Paio passed Coa.  
 12th Celarico - here I found the Division had marched towards the Alentijo, met Redmond.  
 13th ordered again to Coimbra with sick - went to Sampaio.  
 14th Maciera. 15th. Calizes.  
 16th Farinha de Podre. 17th. to Coimbra by Riva 6 L:  
 severe storm - during this march Honble Lt. Deane 38th Regt. was attached to the convoy - he died in a few days from the effects of the exposure to the storm of that night - got a rout through Abrantes for Portalegre - directed my baggage to march with Stack - for Abrantes, having made up my mind to visit Lisbon - at Riva my servant was taken with ague and just as I was stepping into a boat a Portuguese Boy asked me if I was in want of a creado and I immediately accepted him.

21st Through Conderia to Soire 4 L:



- June 22nd To Leiria 8 L: the enemy has nearly ruined this fine city, having burnt the Palace of the Bishop and a great part of the grand square. 23rd. To Rio Mayor 8 L:
- 24th To Villa Franca 8 L: the road from Coimbra to Leiria is very excellent as also as far as Rio Mayor but between this town and Villa Franca the country is very sandy and the roads heavy. Met Woodrich R.H.A. and dined with him.
- 25th Embarked and after a very quick passage arrived in Lisbon - put up at Malins Quarters - went on board the vessel for my baggage and got out different articles.
- 26th At 3 P.M: embarked for Villa Franca, the wind was foul and we could get no higher than Saccaven.

---

After the Battle of Fuentes d'onor and the escape of the Garrison of Almeida, Massena left the French Army and Marmont took the command, cantoning his troops near Salamanca. The works at Almeida were ordered to be repaired. The news of the Advance of Soult in the front of Marshal Beresford who was besieging near Badajoz induced Lord W. to start instantly for the South - he arrived at Elvas on the 19th May, where he recd. information of the Battle of Albuhera, and ordered two Divisions to follow him. He commenced the Siege of Badajoz by attacking Fort St. Cristoval on the right bank of the Guadiana but after two assaults failed. Marmont came south to join Soult, L. Wellington raised the siege. Soult having joined Marmont. Drouot advanced and Lord W. took up the position of the Gage having Campo Mayor on the left and Elvas on the right. On Marmont marching South, Sir Brent Spencer who Wellington left near Almeida in command, marched also and crossed the Tagus, the 24th was in this (the 1st Division) early in June.

---

- 27th Embarked and at 7 A.M: arrived at Villa Franca and breakfasted with Woodrich after breakfast started for Santarem. My horse which I had left at the Estalaje was taken good care of. I arrived at Santarem at 3 P.M: passed my old quarters at Cortazo.
- 28th To Funchete 7 L.
- 29th Arrived at Abrantes at 8 A.M: 2 L: heard my Ass was stolen at Thomar - here I met Stack, Powel and Anderson 24th.
- July 2nd. Crossed the Tagus for Cavio, a small town 4 L:
- 3rd Gaffete 4 L: a small town.



- July 4th Portalegre 4 L: a large and fine city with excellent shops and beautiful Cathedral.
- 5th Through Assumar to Aronches 4 L.
- 6th To the Camp near St. Olaya where I rejoined my Regt.
- 17th To Elvas - a large and strongly fortified city - a fine Aqueduct, large churches, fountains, etc. Fort Lillipe which commands the Town is supposed to be a complete specimen of Fortification.
- 23rd. The Army broke up and moved Northwards, leaving Hill in command near Badajoz, marched and encamped at Assumar 3 L;
- 24th To Portalegre.
- 31st The Division marched for Castillo Branco - halted at Alpalhas 3 L:
- Aug 1st To Nisa 2 L.
- 2nd Crossed the Tagus at Villa Velha, halted half a league beyond in a wood 2 L.
- 3rd Passed Sarnada halted near a small village Benquerano 2 L.
- 4th To Castillo Branco 2 L.
- 5th Marched through Escallos en Cima and encamped a mile beyond Loza.
- 6th The Division halted - in the Evening went to Escallos en Cima with Major Balmaiz and returned.
- 7th Took charge of sick for Castillo Branco, dined with Barker 48th, and returned to Escallos en Cima.
- 8th Through St. Miguel joined the Regt. one league beyond at a small village called Aldoa.
- 9th Leaving Fernamador on the right halted near a small village Benquerano.
- 10th Halted. At this village the 79th remained and from its unhealthy situation were reduced greatly by sickness.
- 11th To Castilheiros 1 L: here the Regt, halted for some time, went to Caria, St. Estava and Sortelha.
- 28th The Division marched to Sabugal<sup>6</sup> 2 L.
- 29th To Ravim 2 L. 31st. to Soita through Nava 2 L.
- Sep 1st. Passed Alfaiates and Alca de Ponte to Milharca de Solda 3½ L.
- 8th Genl. Drummond of our Regt. died.
- 23rd Marched through Fao' d'aver and encamped one mile beyond in



- Sep 23rd a wood - our baggage sent to the rear, over the Coa - we understood Marmont was advancing in great force to throw supplies into Ciudad Rodrigo.
- 25th Captn. Le Mesurier and 80 volunteers joined 26th at 11 A.M: marched to the rear of Nao' d'aver, 1 League, and encamped.
- 27th At 4 A.M: marched to Bismula - since the 23rd we have been continually on the alert at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 P.M: we were roused by a sudden order to march, marched all night, halted at day-break at Runda 1 League from Sabugal - this was to have been our position, had the enemy advanced, our Division the left of the Army flanked by the Coa - bad weather.
- 29th Marched at Day-break - the Division halted and General Orders issued by Genl. Graham, who complimented the troops on their conduct and informing them that the enemy had abandoned their idea of attack, and had retreated, and that we were to be sent into cantonments, crossed the Coa at Rapula de Coa, encamped near Gafa, 3 L; our baggage joined.
- 30th Marched through Sobral de Siern to Barmcal 5 L.
- Oct 1st The Regt. moved to Minhocal with Genl. Stopford, one mile.
- 8th The Regt. went with Burton to Trancosa, a large town in a most hilly country - from its walls you can see Guarda<sup>s</sup>, Pinhel and Almeida.
- 16th Went to Guarda with Burton 3 L: an ancient and fine City, the view is very grand - it is supposed to be built on higher ground than any City in Europe - the road up the mountain is very steep but well made.

©

Sabugal has an old castle indeed this country abounds in remains of these hill forts, as Idanha Nova, Pannasacor, etc., near villages - the inhabitants formerly carried on a perpetual war with the Spaniards.

%

Guarda is built on one of the Estrella mountains the Mondego takes its rise near this - Guarda is surrounded with a stone wall and has an old Castle.



- Nov 2nd. The Regt. received orders to march to Guarda - had no sooner left the town when we received counter orders and returned. Heard that Count Dorsenne had relieved Ciudad Roderigo by forced marches; heard of Genl. Hill's affair of Arroyo de Molinos.
- 24th The Brigade received a rout not well understood the Regt. did not march till 4 P.M: ordered to remain with the sick of the Regiment in its cantonments.
- 25th Removed my sick to Barnocal where myself and Capt. Lepper remained in a mess.
- Dec 14th Deeping arrived from the Regt. on his way to Lisbon brought me 20 Dollars and a letter from Burroughs with orders to leave my worst cases at the General Hospital, Colerico.
- 15th Captn. Tudor arrived.
- 17th Tudor and Pell went to the rear, sent my sick to Colerico by Divisional Order.
- 18th Marched with Convalescent to Soumperes 5 Leagues.
- 19th To Pinhel 1 L: a large city with good Place and many excellent houses belonging to Nobility - the Bishops Palace is a very handsome modern building - the country round is mountainous and barren - the river Pinhel falls into the Douro.
- 20th Through Priu 1 L: to Valverde 2 L: a village nearly destroyed.
- 21st Crossed the Coa at Ponte de Almeida which was repaired, visited Almeida, saw the works in forwardness, passed on by Val de Mula, Fort Conception 1 L: which Lord W. destroyed on the advance of the enemy; through Alda de Bispo to Barba de Puero 4 L: where I rejoined the Regt.
- ( A small rivulet divided Spain from Portugal close to which is Fort Conception now in ruins. The Coa appears the natural boundary of the Countries, but King Dennis annexed to Portugal this tract called Riba de Coa )
- 25th Xmas-day, the officers dined together.
- 31st Ordered to Vermioja to attend the sick of the 26th & 79th Regt. arrived at 6 P.M: counter-ordered dined and returned to Barba de Puero.



Jan 1st Dined with Capt. Lepper.

2nd Went to San Felices crossed the Aguada by the bridge of Barba de Puerto, this pass the garrison of Almeida took. The descent to the river on both banks is very great and quite impossible for any kind of carriage.

4th A sudden rout to Val de Mula - bad quarters.

5th Went to Almeida bought a cloak - returned by Val de Mula Almeida to Barquilla.

6th & 7th Halted

8th Marched to Callegos, understood we were immediately to commence the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo - this night the Light Division took by storm a small fort commanding the City - a severe firing from the garrison all night.

9th At  $\frac{1}{2}$  before 6 A.M. the Brigade marched for Ciudad Rodrigo, passed the Aguada, over a well constructed wooden bridge built by the Royal Staff Corps - our Brigade was not in the Trenches but guarded the Salamanca Road, this night we lay out without any cover and suffered severely from the cold which was equal to anything I ever felt in England. The Siege of Ciudad Rodrigo was carried on by the 1st, 3rd, 4th and Light Divisions - I was not ordered to the works any more but directed to take charge of the Hospitals at Callegos, during the progress of the affair I frequently rode to a height which commanded a view of the whole - on the 12th the battering train passed - on the 19th two breaches being practicable the City was carried by assault - in the storming Genl. Crawford was mortally wounded and Genl. Mackinnon blown up.

20th I was ordered with the Sick of G.H. Castinhem; halted late this night at Villa Formosa 2 L: my Servants did not join me till the morning having lost their way.

21st By Castello Bon to Castell Minden  $2\frac{1}{2}$  L: this took me the whole day the pass being very difficult for the Spanish Waggon, I procured good quarters for myself and convoy.

22nd To Castinhem 2 L: here I delivered up my charge, having an order from Mr. Bolton not to be detained, much to the



- Jan 22nd annoyance of Staff Surgeon Terjile. At Castinhem  
I dined with Lt. Manners 95th.
- 23rd I returned to Castell Mindon.
- 24th Crossed the ford under the town to Frenada, this a good  
passage of the Coa in fine weather - joined my Regt. at  
Villa Formosa - the town was occupied by our Regt. and  
Marshal Beresford and his Staff.
- 25th We had orders to be in readiness to move at a moments notice,  
in a day or two these orders were countermanded.
- Feb 8th I went to Almeida 2 L.
- 9th The Regt. received orders to march to Sardoal near Abrantes.
- 10th The Regt. marched for Aldea de Ponte, just as we were marching  
off Capt. Strawbenzie burst a blood Vessel and I remained  
behind with him - I went to Frenada.
- 12th Started with Capt. Strawbenzie for Pinhel - crossed the Coa  
at Bridge of Almeida where Genl. Crawford's affair took place,  
halted that night at Prieru 4 L.
- 13th To Pinhel 1 L: here I met Burroughs who was doing hospital  
duty - went to his quarters where we were very snug and had  
much amusement with our Patron and his family. This same  
evening the bleeding from the lungs returned and Strawbenzie died.
- 14th I buried Strawbenzie in the Convent Yard.
- 17th I left Pinhel with Strawbenzie's baggage to rejoin my Regt.  
Halted that night at Baracal 4 L.
- 18th I arrived at Celorico and dined with Lewis.
- 19th To Naveis 3 L: on the left of the high road, as I understood  
that Sempayo was occupied by the 11th Regt.
- 20th To Pinhancos 2½ L.
- 21st To Sempayo de Guranicos 3 L: this village is on the right of  
the road, one mile from Olivaria de Hospital.
- 22nd Through Galizes, where I drew rations, Venda de Porco to  
Cavagozela, a small village on the right of the high road but  
little visited by troops and most things in statu quo near is  
Cinda and As Paris.
- 23rd Through Moita, St Martinha & Sobrira to Musalao 3 L: passed



- Feb 23rd this day the 11th Regt. on their rout to Coisbim.
- 24th To Foz d'Aronce 3 L:  $\frac{1}{2}$  L: from Musalao crossed the Alva at Ponte de Murcella which was repaired, passed St. Miguel and before entering Foz d'Aronce crossed the Ciern the bridge of which is also repaired, this was the spot where the enemy suffered so much in the retreat last Spring. From Moita to Foz d'Aronce there is another road by Pombeira and the bridge of Val de Espirito less frequented by troops.
- 25th Passed the ground where the action took place in March last. Through Corvo to Espinhal 4 L: the last day or two was bad weather, I therefore halted in the 26th.
- 27th Through Venda de Figueiras to Avalar 2 L: this is situated  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile on the left of the high road.
- 28th Through Cabacos 2 L: to Carilla total 3 L: this is on the Siern Road to Thomar - the other road passed Cenas etc.
- 29th Through Venda de Sima to Thomar, two long leagues - to St. Esceta 3 L: this village has a large Monastery and is situated on the Abrantes Road just after the division of the Golegan Road to Thomar.
- Mar 1st Crossed the Zernere through Punhete and leaving the hill of Abrantes on the right passed up the valley to Sardoal  $4\frac{1}{2}$  L: this is a very good town situated in a mountainous country having but one road to it passable for carsby Abrantes - the Enemy occupied it but a few hours so it suffered but little.
- 2nd To Abrantes breakfasted with Capt. Meacham 24th Commandant and rejoined my Regt. at Pego 2 L: found Wylde was removed to the 4th Dragoon Guards. During our stay here we lived well.
- 17th The Regt. moved to Caviao.
- 18th To Tolosa 4 L: this is  $\frac{1}{2}$  L: short of Gaffete.
- 19th Through Flor de Rosa, Crato to Alter de Chao.
- 20th By Cabacos de Vida to Veiros 4 L: we found on our arrival that the Brigade had moved; the whole of these towns, from Gaffete, were very good, extremely clean, differing much from the Province of Beira - we remained for orders.
- 22nd The Regt. received a rout to St. Martha.
- 23rd We marched to Barbacina 3 L.



Mar 24th To Elvas 2 L: the bridge of the Guadiana being carried away it was impossible to pass to St. Martha, the Regt. recd. a rout to Campo Mayor to cross the Guadiana at Merida, I was directed to remain and do duty at St. Clara Hospital.

25th The Regt. marched from Campo Mayor, this morning the batteries opened against Badajos.

27th Heard of the death of Capt. Wylde 87th Regt.

Apr 5th At 3 P.M: I received orders to proceed to the camp in front of Badajos the assault being expected this night. Crossed the Guadiana by a Pontoon Bridge and arrived at Camp late at night with Staff Surgeon Burnall.

6th Early in the morning reported myself to Dr. McGrigor, and received orders to attach myself to Mr. Burnhall and take the advance with the Light & 4th Divisions; at 10 P.M: the attack began, most tremendous firing, the two divisions after a most severe affair were repulsed, but the Castle was carried by the 3rd Division, at 3 A.M: the town was ours, at 5 A.M: I entered the ditch and breach a most awful sight, all day we were employed in removing the wounded, this day I had my horse and valise stolen. I was directed to remain in Badajos in charge of wounded - The City was pillaged to a great extent, even the persons of the inhabitants were not respected. I remained doing duty at the Convent of St. Andre.

10th Left Badajos for Elvas obliged to make a detour by Campo Mayor on account of the River, which was much swollen.

19th Halted at Elvas.

20th Proceeded to join my Regt. marched to St. Clara 2 L: this morning I visited Fort Idilippe.

21st To Assumar 3 L: here I had my horse & mules shoes removed both of whom had been pricked.

22nd To Portalegre 3 L.

23rd To Alpalhao 3 L.

24th To Nisa 2 L.

25th To Caviens  $3\frac{1}{2}$  a wretched village  $\frac{1}{2}$  a league beyond Villa Velha on the left of the road - this day I joined Barker, 48th on the rout - stole a sack of corn.



- Apr 26th Through Sarmadas to Benquerencos 3 L.
- 27th To Castello Branco 2 L: understanding the Army were on their return, Marmont having retreated; made up my mind to go no further, so took up my quarters with Barker at a neat Quinta de Ressoa half a mile from the City, here ourselves and horses were really in clover.
- 29th The Regt. marched through to a village one mile on the Villa Velha Road.
- 30th I rejoined the Regt. at Cebélais en Cima 2 L.
- May 1st To Niza 5 L.
- 2nd To Alpalhao 2 L: received an order to march to Abrantes for our clothing.
- 12th To Gavião 5 L.
- 13th To St. Miguel one league beyond Abrantes south of the Tagus.
- 14th Through Abrantes to Pombete, here we recd. our clothing.
- 19th To Abrantes.
- 20th Gavião
- 21st Gaffete found the Brigade had marched.
- 22nd To Alpalhao understood the Brigade had not proceeded further than Castell de Vida.
- 26th Regt. recd. a rout to Castell de Vida - quartered in a small village half a league beyond, Escioza - 2½ L: Castell de Vida is an ancient good town and was formerly very strong - surrounded by walls and a ditch and mounting cannon - but at present cannot be defended against regular attacks.
- 27th Went to Marvão ½ L: this is naturally the strongest place I ever saw - the ascent to it is very great even by its road, more than three parts of the sides are direct precipices, it is regularly fortified and garrisoned.
- 28th We returned to Alpalhao.
- 31st To Niza 2 L.
- June 1st Crossed the Tagus to Cebolais es Barho 5 L.
- 2nd Castello Branco.
- 3rd Thro' Ladiosa to Solliera 4 L.
- 4th Thro' Attalaya to Corpinhiera 4 L.



- June 5th To Valverde 2 L: passed within sight of the large town of Covillano.
- 6th Thro' Castelhieros, Aguas Bellas to Lumbal de Espirales 3 L:
- 7th Crossed the Coa near Landá, where the whole Division encamped.
- 8th Thro' Rovira, Bismula to Scavalado 2½ L:
- 9th Halted.
- 10th Thro' Aldea de Ribero where we crossed the Rio Mayor a branch of the Coa - by Almadillo to Pueblo Azava, in this days march we crossed the line dividing Spain and Portugal 12½ L:
- 11th Thro' Elbadon where the action of Septr. last was fought - encamped on the Aguada two miles in front of Pastores - half a league on the right of Ouidá Roderigo.
- 13th Forded the Aguada and encamped near Tenebron 2 L:
- 14th By Mores Verdes and encamped ½ L: beyond Tamasas 4 L:
- 15th Encamped near Villa Alva 2 L:
- 16th Encamped half a league from Salamanca 1½ L:
- 17th Marched at 5 A.M: At 6 A.M: came in sight of the City of Salamanca, a fine appearance was produced by the enemy setting fire to a number of houses that covered our approaches to their Forts; we forded the Tormes 1 mile above the City, at St. Martha - the Enemy had retired leaving a garrison in the Forts.
- I went to the City greatly pleased with the beauty of its buildings which are of stone - the Churches are beautiful specimens of the richest Architecture. The Grand Square is the handsomest I ever saw.

---

Every Spanish town of any consequence has its Plaza Mayor - forming a square of more or less extent - This is certainly one of the finest and largest - there is usually, as here, a covered piazza leading to the principal Shops, Cafes, etc. The front of this Piazza has numerous arches supporting three stories, each having a balcony - and surmounted by a balustrade that hides the roof - a rare occurrence in Spain where generally the rough roof is seen. Over each column supporting the Arches are Medallions of different kings, etc.

---



- June 20th We received news that Mexmont was advancing in order to raise the siege of the Forts which had commenced, the Sixth Division being quartered in the City for the purpose of carrying it on. We marched to the front and took up a position 1 League from the City - some cannonading, we all expected to be engaged - the lines were formed and the troops slept by their Arms.
- 21st We remained in the same situation expecting every hour an action.
- 22nd The Enemy having possession of a height on our right they were attacked and driven off by the 7th Division.
- 23rd The Enemy retreated last night from our front in the Evening we returned to our old bivouacking ground near the Tormes.
- 24th Reported that the Enemy had crossed the Tormes higher up, we forded at St. Martha, marched and countermarched all day - but the enemy not advancing we returned to our old station and again forded the river - This night the Fort was assaulted, but after a severe attack the Storming Party were repulsed. Genl. Bowes was killed.
- 26th In the Evening the Convent in the Fort was set on fire by red hot shot.
- 27th The Convent was completely on fire - at noon it was assaulted and immediately surrendered 600 prisoners marched out and 150 were in the Hospitals - our loss was at least 300.
- 29th Marched and encamped near Orbida 4 L: on the Toro Road.
- 30th To Carrizal 2 L:
- July 1st Passed Alaijos and encamped one league beyond 3 L: this day I found my pony in the 4th Division.
- 2nd Thro' Villa Verde encamped near Madama de Campo - 2 L: this is a large town built wholly with piazzas, it has the remains of an old castle, and an excellent Barrack which the French had destroyed.
- 4th Moved to Valladolid side of the City during our stay here the inhabitants visited us every Evening and gave balls etc.
- 12th Marched by a sudden rout at 4 A.M: to Villa Verde - the weather was now very hot - the troops were placed in the day time in the Towns but at Night we bivouaced.



- July 14th To Campillo 1 L: marched at Night  $\frac{1}{2}$  a league to our bivouac.
- 15th At 5 A.M: returned to Campillo for the day and in the Evening as before marched to our bivouac on our arrival we received a rout to Nava del Rio 1 L: quite dark at the time we arrived at our ground near the town.
- 16th In the Morning we were marched into the town it was very full having Head Quarters and the 5th Division. In the Evening as usual marched out - we had no sooner arrived at the place of encampment than we recd. orders to march to Carnisal - we commenced our march at 9 P.M: and did not arrive at our old encampment near Carnisal till 10 A.M: on the 17th, having marched all night without a halt. On our rout we passed Alaijos - 5 L: Nava del Rio is a very excellent town has many handsome wide streets and seems to possess wealthy inhabitants. The cause of this sudden and long march we understood to be Marmonts' having passed the Douro, and advancing towards Salamanca.
- 18th In the forenoon a heavy cannonading in front - at Noon we were marched one league to the rear - and at 4 P.M: received orders to return by a circuitous rout to Carnisal - in the Evening firing was renewed.
- 19th At P.M: we were marched to a plain on our right  $1\frac{1}{2}$  L: the whole Army was united, the enemy was at a short distance only, and all expected a general action in the Morning.
- 20th A fine Morning - the Division formed in lines, and advanced - soon we perceived the French Army marching on a ridge of hills on our right, and orders wer given to retreat. An Allowance of Spirits had in the Morning been given to each soldier as there was no water near our bivouac they drank it raw, the consequence was the whole Brigade were nearly drunk - we marched in Columns of Brigades to Val Verde 4 L: to the rear - passed on our march Hornillos. As we had a complete steple march it proved very tiresome and laborious, the whole Army halted near this village.
- 21st At 3 A.M: we marched passed one of the villages that the



July 21st enemy occupied (Morisco) during the time he was in our front and we covering the siege of the Fort of Salamanca - halted on our old ground on the Tormes near Salamanca - at 6 P.M: we forded the Tormes at St. Martha - we had perceived the enemy crossing in the Morning higher up - it was the general opinion that we were now on full retreat for Ciudad Rodrigo as we understood the Hospital Stores etc., had been ordered from Salamanca backwards, as well as the Civil Departments of the Army. We were rather surprised on being ordered to bring up our right shoulders, and after marching a short distance in this direction we took up our ground for bivouac. Shortly after halting a most tremendous storm of thunder, lightning, rain and wind took place the claps of thunder were so near and loud that it frightened the Cavalry & Artillery horses and numbers broke loose amongst the infantry, the flashes of lightning were so vivid as to deprive many of their sight for some seconds - the storm subsided and never did a more glorious morn usher in a more glorious day, than the 22nd of July - the whole morning the enemy attempted still to turn our right, threatening our communications, at 4 P.M: the action commenced by the 3rd Division under General Packenham attacking the left of the enemy- before sunset every Frenchman was in full retreat - as the 1st & Light Divisions were on the left of the Army they were not engaged. I had therefore an opportunity of seeing the action, but myself and my friend Burroughs had nearly paid dear for our curiosity - we commenced the pursuit immediately, halted at 10 P.M: at Calbomas en baxho 2 L:

23rd We marched at Day-break forded the River - the heavy brigade of German Horse in our front at 10 A.M: the Dragoons overtook and charged the rearguard of the enemy in a most gallant manner near Coca and made many prisoners - we halted near Coca 5 L: from Salamanca. In the action of Salamanca and this Days retreat the enemy were supposed to lose 22,000 men - and their General in Chief, Marmont, badly wounded as well as the second in command.



- July 24th We marched to Peramunda 2 L: a large well built town the people testified the greatest joy at our arrival and described the terror of the flying enemy to be great, and the disorder of their army immense. On this days march Lord W. publickly addressed Genl. Campbell - Baron Low - and Genl. Weatley on the immense straggling of the Soldiers of the Division.
- 25th We halted today "for the purpose of collecting the stragglers" as expressed in General Orders.
- 26th Through Flores de Avilla to Cabeza del Roza - 4L: we passed many dead French on the road.
- 27th Through Fuente de Anna, Villa Nueva, Aldea Secca to Arevola 4 L: a large town situated on the river Adaja which bifurcates and surrounds it.
- 28th To Puente de Raunel 3 L:
- 29th Crossed the Adaja at Puente de Raunel near Olmado ( to which I rode and there visited my old Landlord a priest). Crossed the River Eresma by the bridge of Medianna to Mojados encamped  $\frac{1}{2}$  L beyond Mojados on the River Caja 4 L.
- 30th Forded the Caja passed Guecillio and encamped near the Duero - the rear-guard of the enemy passed this morning - our Dragoons occupied Valloidolid -  $2\frac{1}{2}$  L: from where we halted.
- 31st Halted.
- Aug 1st Marched on the Segovia road, passed Aldea Mayor, to Aszabil de Portillo - a village situated under the immense rock on which Portillo stands.
- 2nd Marched in the evening and encamped near Cogeces 1 L: did not arrive before 11 o'clock p.m., our encampment was on the Caja.
- 6th To Remondo on the Piron  $1\frac{1}{2}$  L: went to Iscar.
- 7th To Medrian 3 L: encamped on the Piron  $\frac{1}{2}$  L: beyond the village.
- 8th Through Carbinero 1 L:, Vanga 1 L: to Los Huertos  $3\frac{1}{2}$  L: encamped on the Eresma.



- Aug 9th Through Malverde 1 L: Madrona  $1\frac{1}{2}$  L: encamped in the woods of the Palace of Rio Frio 3 L: rode to Segovia 2 L: saw the Cathedral, very fine - the Castle a very singular building - they show the room supposed to be occupied by Gil Blas - King Joseph left this 8 days past for Madrid, they spiked 8 or 10 pieces of Artillery and destroyed some cars they could not remove.
- 10th Through La Loza - Ortigosa the village where I halted when marched prisoner from Madrid on the 2nd Day - some of the inhabitants mentioned of the circumstance of the wretchedness of the situation we were in - encamped near Otero 2 L:
- 11th Entered the high road from Segovia to Madrid passed Fundao de San Raphael crossed the pass of the Guardaramma and halted near the village of Guardaramma  $4\frac{1}{2}$  L:
- 12th The Division halted, went to the Escorial - a most grand and extensive building consisting of a Palace, Monastery & Church. The latter contains a most beautiful Pantheon the burial place of the Kings of Spain is entirely of polished marble - the paintings in the Church are very fine, and those of the grand-Stair case representing the battle of St. Quintin, in honour of which this palace was built - the gardens and walks are pretty, a small banqueting house in the lower garden is very fine - the gates of Church are of real Bronze - this magnificent building is situated close under the Guardaramma Mountains, in a most bleak and dreary spot - from the rooms you have a view of Madrid. There are two villages that take their name from the palace (Upper & Lower) the former is one of the neatest and best built villages in Spain, built of stone -
- 13th Marched from the camp at Guardaramma through Galapagos halted on the River Guardaramma  $3\frac{1}{2}$  L: this day's march through the most barren country I ever passed.
- 14th Through Rozas (where the Portuguese Cavalry behaved so ill a few days previous, by which the Lt. Artillery lost three guns) to Madrid - the Division encamped in the gardens under the palace called El Campo. These gardens are well laid out having five basins of water small banqueting houses well furnished with beautiful paintings etc. went to the city



Aug 14th

the French Garrison 2000 retired from the Retiro to fort La China - and in the evening surrendered prisoners of war - saw them march out with my old friends the Colonel and Adjutant at their head - I visited and showed some of my brother officers the dungeon I was confined in - dined in an Estralage and went to the Theatre admittance to the boxes one Shilling English - the Inhabitants expressed the most unbounded joy at our arrival the whole City was decorated with tapistery and silks hung from the windows and at night well illuminated, the women appear overjoyed saluting the officers continually - vivas resounding on all sides. These expressions of joy continued for three days. Visited the Museum of Natural History - it contains besides the general curiosities, a most extensive collection from Spanish America and China, a fine collection of the different Spanish Marbles, a gallery of Statues and Paintings but mostly copies - a fine model of the Amphitheatre of Saguntum. The City itself is undoubtedly very fine indeed, well built, the streets wide, the houses grand and lofty, the Public Buildings noble; the Palace is very grand, supposed superior to anything of the kind as to its commanding situation - the rooms are most magnificent - the hall of Audience is unique - the City is well watered and boasts of what few Continental Cities can, sewer, by which all filth and dirt is removed. The Public Prado has some fine fountains. The Playhouses are small and neat. There is a botanical Garden situated near the Prado.

( The Calle de Alcalá is a noble Street, on the descent, has several magnificent palaces & Convents on both sides. At its lower extremity the Prado and its fountains are seen.)

On the 18th at 3 a.m. we marched and encamped near the old ground on the Guardama river  $3\frac{1}{2}$  L.



- Aug 19th To the Palace of the Escorial<sup>⑥</sup> - the whole of the 1st Division were quartered in the Palace - here Genl. Weatly died - of Typhus.
- 30th We marched to Guardarama  $1\frac{1}{2}$  L.
- 31st Crossed the Pass of Guardarama left the Sgovia Road on our right at Fundao de St. Raphael marched on the direct Valloidolid road - passed Navas - Puente de Castin - to Villa Castin 5 L.
- Sep 1st Through Labajos - Rio Boltoya P: San Chidrian to Danero 4 L: here we enclined to the left from the high road.
- 2nd By Espinosa to Arevola 3 L.
- 3rd Encamped from Arevola 1 L: on the Adaja.
- 4th Halted near Olmaido on the Adaja 4 L.
- 5th Marched through Honellias encamped in a deep wood on the opposite bank of the Brenna.
- 6th Crossed the Ceja by the bridge of Majados marched in the direction of Guecillio, forded the Duero under our old encampment advanced and found the enemy in a very strong position one league from the River - at 5 p.m. we were ordered into a wood on our left for the night expectations of a general action in the morning. This day's march was 4 L.
- 7th In the night the enemy quitted their position and retired across the Pisuerga at Valloidolid destroyed the bridge - encamped in a garden near the City - old Don Sebastian Ribas my former landlord, dead - visited Dr. Cameron Scotch College.

---

⑥ The Palace of the Escorial is overhung by Melancholy Mountain but yet it is on a considerable elevation. The Figures of Charles V and Philip 2nd, his Son as large as life are in the Church. Among the Relics of the Escorial they are said to possess a feather of the Wing of the Angel Gabriel. The Mausoleum of the Spanish Royal Family in the Palace of the Escorial is most magnificent - on opening the Doors of this abode of death the eye is really dazzled with the reflection of the flabeaux from the polished Marble Steps and walls of highly polished Jasper that lead to a rich bronze portal that opens to a circular Chamber about 35 feet in diameter. The Sarcophagi rich in every ornament are ranged in compartments one above another - nothing can surpass the splendour of this magnificent Saloon of Death. The Remains of the Queens & Infantas are placed in a separate Apartment near.

---



- Sep 10th Forded the river half a L: from Cabazon - passed Segales halted at Corcas  $2\frac{1}{2}$  L.
- 11th Passed Doenos encamped on the bank of the canal opposite the Convent of San Lldro 3 L.
- 12th Followed the course of the Canal to Villa Muriell 1 L: here we crossed the canal it appears finished no farther than this, here we also crossed the Carion by a handsome bridge and the high road to Palencia we were within sight of the City which appeared large it is reckoned one league from this village; we halted at Magas 2 L: on Pisuergra - & encamped bad weather.
- 13th To Torquemada and encamped 2 L: this village appears quite as wretched as when I last passed it.
- 14th Crossed the Pisuergra at Cordavilla - real and encamped on the Arlenson near Quinta de Puente, very bad day - 2 L: a fine bridge is here over the Arlenson.
- 15th Entered again the high road which we left at Doeneos marched to Villa Ordrego 2 L: wet - encamped.
- 16th To Pamplega 2 L: near this the enemy had taken up a position very strong - here the Spanish Army whose delay in coming up had caused the late slow movement, made their appearance under Genl. Castanos dispositions were made to attack the enemy the following morning.
- 17th Our Brigade having the post of honour marched soon after midnight, passed Villa Nueva to its position as soon as day appeared it was found the enemy had again retreated continued the pursuit immediately, we passed Celada one league beyond which the enemy had taken a position but were soon obliged to leave it Don Julian's Corps of Dragoons behaved well in sight of the whole Army skirmishing with the enemy we occupied the position the enemy had just left for the night.
- 18th Advanced towards Burgos halted  $\frac{1}{2}$  L: from it; the enemy had retired beyond it, leaving a garrison of 3,000 men in the Castle. Lord W. and Staff reconnoitring the whole day - reported as the opinion of the Engineers that the Castle cannot be carried by assault.



Sep 19th The 1st Division and Pack crossed the Arlencon - this evening at 8 the light companies of the brigade and the 42nd Regt. stormed the redout of San Michael which commanded the approach to the Castle - and carried it - we commenced the works of the Siege of the Castle of Burgos.

Oct 2nd Heriot joined - I was ordered to take charge of the hospital at Villa Toro for receiving the wounded from the works here I continued the whole time, very severe duty.

4th My Regt. stormed the outward works of the Castle of Burgos at 5 p.m. in sight of everyone - they were much commended for their gallantry and for this affair Capt. Hedderwick got his rank and Lieuts. Homes and Fraser Companies - during the siege Lt. Walton of my Regt. was killed - Capt. Coote wounded - the Operations against the fort were continued till the twenty-first - in the morning of the 21st Head Quarters were ordered in advance one league - my surprise was very great when in the evening at 4 o'clock I was directed to send off every man that could be moved and clear the village of the wounded Officers - a short time after Mr. Hodges D.P. arrived and informed me of Lord W's orders that I was to remain in charge of the Hospital as the Army would retreat this night; Dr. McGrigor called on me and informed me that Marquis Wellington assured me of promotion in consequence of my being ordered to remain in charge of the wounded.

21st I sent off immediately to the Regt. for Burroughs, to whom I gave every direction relating to my concerns.

22nd In the morning I saw the last Cavalry Piquet of our Army withdrawn waited the whole day with the greatest anxiety for the appearance of the French - about  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 in the evening my Portuguese Boy discovered some Cavalry approaching the town. I immediately went to the hill to attract their attention. An Officer and Soldier were immediately sent to me I was taken to the General Foy he behaved very polite, he sent me a safeguard and invited me to dinner; during the night many officers of the 1st & 7th Division remained in my room. A French Surgeon took a great fancy to my Capital Instruments and left me his old ones.



- Oct 23rd At 6 a.m. the two Divisions that halted here marched and the two Gend'armes left for our protection took themselves off for Burgos fearing the peasants, so I was now again alone - the enemy left two or three sick men with me, I had now 18 British and 7 French.
- 24th Having waited till 11 a.m. with the greatest impatience and no acct. from Burgos I went to the City  $\frac{1}{2}$  L: I waited on the Commandant de la Place he said he had no advice of my being there, and hoped the Commissary would send for us this evening - he did not wish me to return to Villa Toro but I at last got permission - he told me as Marquis W. had detained the French Surgeons taken at Coimbra he supposed I should be sent to France. I returned to Villa Toro in bad spirits and bad health.
- 25th No Cars have arrived, nor any communication with the City - no rations, purchased bread, chocolate, etc., for the Wounded.
- 26th No Cars - in the evening I again went to Burgos, saw General Du Britton in the street and immediately told him of my situation - he appeared much displeased that we had not been removed before, and assured me that the next morning it should be done - I called on Captn. Menzies 42nd gave him 64 Dollars on his receipt.
- 27th At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 p.m. some cars arrived but not sufficient to take off the whole of the men. They were to return again this evening - they had a strong escort of Cavalry and Infantry with them. The Intendant of the French Hospitals wished to borrow my horse, and appeared greatly enraged at my refusing him - he wished me to proceed immediately to Burgos, but that I would not do, as all my men were not gone.
- 28th In the morning I again went to Burgos to report I still had four or five men to remove the Commandant told me the cars would be off immediately for them - he desired me to call in the evening to sign my parole as Prisoner of War, this was a death blow to me, I went immediately to Captn. Menzies 42nd to ask his advice as to escaping. He advised me not to as my health was so bad he conceived I could not go through the fatigue - some officers of the German Legion were



Oct 28th of a contrary opinion. Seeing the Cars ready to start I had no time to lose. I bought a bottle of Brandy and two pounds of meat and left the City for Villa Toro - the Sergt. of the guard wished to detain me but I shewed him my passport of the 24th and he let me go. Immediately on my returning I got my horse and mule ready and now seeing the Cars and Convoy near the village I took a good dose of Brandy and started with my boy on the mule at a gallop, a German soldier likewise came with me and my goats, but falling in with a french officer I was obliged to leave them behind and make the best of my way, having passed a small river and a long flat of plow'd land I came in sight of a village at the foot of some high mountains - crossed the plain about a league and arrived at the village of Ubierna - the peasants told me I was now three leagues from Burgos, and that they did not think the French would follow me as far as the mountains. I ascended the mountain, a straight steep road, at the top I halted, and was greatly astonished to see the Enemies Cavalry in the village I had just left, they were about an English mile behind me - immediately struck off the high road and took to the mountains and judging as well as possible my proper direction, I continued amongst them till dark when I found myself near a village, Massa. I went to it having learnt by an inhabitant that no French were there - the priest gave me a good supper, I procured forage for my beasts, and having rested till 2 a.m. the moon being up, I proceeded on my rout, according to the priest's direction. I had left the high road near two leagues on the left, continued the march, about daylight I discovered the high road, but not choosing to risk travelling on it I still kept the heights, having continually a view of every thing that passed, at noon I entered the road half a league from Basconsillias here I halted and procured some fryed mutton, and corn for my cattle - not however liking much the manners of my host I again started and by 5 p.m. on the 29th I arrived at Aguillar de Campo - here I found some Spanish Troops and procured a good billet. The



- Oct 29th Country from Burgos to Ubierna is flat abounding in Corn - the whole way to Aguillar is very barren of wood - near Aguillar the mountains are lofty, they have much pasture and breed large herds of cattle - it is a good City, near the River Pisuerga which is here but small, it is 16 Leagues from Burgos.
- 30th To Reynosa a large town 5 long Leagues the whole road is paved - the country is mountainous and woody having little or no corn, some small quantity of the Indian Corn is planted in the grounds near the villages - it appeared very populous and by the number of Cars I met on the day's journey appears to have some trade, being destitute of corn or wine they must of course receive their supplies from other parts of the Country - the Country seemed tolerably stocked with Cattle - passed the R. Ebro here a small stream. At Reynosa I took coffee with the Spanish General Renovales.
- 31st Through a most romantic and mountainous country to Barcelona, 3 Long Leagues here I halted and enjoyed the luxury of a Spanish Posada, the filth and dirt of which would not be credited by English.
- Nov 1st Through a country nearly the same as what I travelled yesterday but rather better towards the end to Torre le Veja 5 L: Leagues - here great quantities of Indian Corn are grown the country is well stocked with cattle.
- 2nd To St. Andero 4 L. Leagues - the whole road from Aguillar is paved - near Torre le Veja the prospect is rather open but you have to pass some high mountains. La Puente de Arce is a fine large bridge, 2 Leagues from St. Andero; you come in sight of the sea on the top of a high hill  $1\frac{1}{2}$  L; from the City, but you may hear it long before - as I approached I discovered some British Men of War at Anchor - overtook some English Sailors who informed me Sir Home Popham was in the City I made the best of my way to Sir H's quarters and having put him in possession of the whole of the facts I was acquainted with relative to raising the siege, I asked him for a passage to England - he immediately consented - I sold him my horse and mule for 25 Pounds. Sir H. introduced



Nov 2nd me to Captn. Seymour of the Fortune Frigate of whom he requested a passage for me. Captn. informed me he should not sail before the morning - I dined with the Royal Marine Mess. St. Andero is a pretty good seaport town has a good Market. The Posada was very fair.

3rd By Day break I embarked on board the Fortune and at 2 p.m. we sailed in chase of a schooner which the next day we lost -

8th After a pleasant passage we anchored on the 8th at 9 p.m. in Sound Plymouth.

9th At 10 a.m. landed went to Popes Head - at 11 a.m. started with my boy in the coach for Exeter arrived there at 6 p.m. at 10 p.m. taken ill.

10th Started in the Mail for Bath in violent pain the whole way arrived at Bath at 4 p.m. found my Mother was in London - went to Boords - sent after Sloper went to the Warm Bath. Next morning not being able to proceed reported myself to the Adjutant General.

13th The Adjutant Genl. reply.

14th Left Bath for Town - arrived so late on the 15th as not to be able to call at Adjt. Genl. Office.

16th Waited on the Adjt. Genl. and was by him sent to Lord Bathurst Secretary of State - to whom I related what I knew of the retreat - Marquis W.'s dispatches were read. this day.

24th Got sick leave till 24th December -  
( Dec. 22nd went to Maldon )

27th Went to Bath put up at the White Lion.

Dec 24th Joined the Depot at Maldon Essex, four companies of the Regt. having been ordered home from Portugal - Colonel Chamberlin commanded. The Barracks at Maldon good - received a good deal of attention from Mr Simpson and lady the Rev & Mrs. Matthews, etc.

Memorialled for promotion through the Commanding Officer - the Duke of York, this Memorial being referred to the Medical Board I received a very unsatisfactory order. I had previously sent a letter to Dr. McGregor, Director General of Hospitals in Portugal and reminding him of the



Dec 24th promise of promotion that I had received from the Marquis Wellington.

Mar 14th I was agreeably awake this morning with the intelligence that I was promoted to the 30th Regt. of Foot - remained a few days at Maldon, and received an order to join the four Companies of the 30th Regt. at Berwick on Tweed.