

## MS 321 Papers of Lieutenant Colonel J.Gurwood, 1810-1906

Lieutenant Colonel John Gurwood (1790-1845), the editor of the first Duke of Wellington's *Dispatches*, served under Wellington in the Peninsula. He went out to Spain and Portugal in 1810, was wounded at Sabugal, 3 April 1811, and distinguished himself leading the forlorn hopes at the storming of Badajoz and Ciudad Rodrigo. He was brigade major to the Household Cavalry from October 1812 to October 1813, when he resigned after Sir Stapleton Cotton, later Viscount Combermere, censured his conduct. The following month he was appointed a major of brigade to a brigade of infantry and joined General Lambert's brigade. He was aide de camp to Sir Henry Clinton after the Peace of Paris in 1814 until March 1815, again leaving his post after an altercation. He was appointed to the staff of the Prince of Orange, as Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General, but left to join his regiment, the Tenth Hussars in May, although he missed the battle of Waterloo on account of injury. He was promoted to a majority by brevet. He went on half pay in 1823 and moved to the Continent, where, in Paris, in March 1823, his friend, Sir Charles Stuart, the British ambassador, gave him despatches to take to Spain. Although he sought to return to full pay, in the hope of obtaining promotion, he was unsuccessful and accompanied Stuart to Lisbon and Brazil. In 1827 he was appointed to the post of Deputy Adjutant General in the West Indies, with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He spent some of his time there studying Wellington's general orders from the Peninsula, a subject to which he returned in 1830 when he was appointed major of brigade to the South West District and was stationed at Portsmouth. It was here that he embarked on his edition of Wellington's *General Orders*, with the Duke's sanction, which came to publication in 1832. From this start, he was able to persuade the Duke to the publication of his *Dispatches*, a task that was to occupy him, in various editions, for the remainder of his life.<sup>1</sup> He was made a Companion of the Bath in 1838; and in 1839 he became Lieutenant Governor of the Tower of London, deputy to Wellington as constable. He died by his own hand in 1845, overcome by his editorial work.

Gurwood met his wife, Fanny (who was already married to Louis Mayer), in the south of France in 1813. She left her husband to stay with him and her daughter, Eugenie, possibly Gurwood's natural daughter, was born at either Lyons or Paris in June 1814; and they subsequently had a daughter, Adèle. Eugenie, married William Baliol Brett, first Viscount Esher, in 1850.

Provenance: Gurwood's stepdaughter (and possibly his natural daughter), Eugenie, married William Baliol Brett, first Viscount Esher, in 1850. The papers descended through her to the family of the Viscounts Esher. The correspondence was purchased by the University as lots 88 and 91 at Messrs Christie's sale of their papers in London on 20 November 2002, with the support of the J.H.Hansard Trust.

### MS 321

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| 1 | A guardbook, marked on the spine "Gurwood papers: miscellaneous 1", containing, besides outgoing letters (copies) correspondence from: Colonel H.Torrens and the Adjutant General's Office, 181022; Arthur de Roos, at the Horse Guards, 1826; Lord Fitzroy Somerset, later first Baron Raglan, 1823, 1827-8, 1836, 1838 (8); Sir Charles Stuart, first Baron Stuart de Rothesay, 1825-6, ambassador on a special (mission to Rio de Janeiro, and 1832 (5); George Fitzclarence, first Earl of Munster, 1832-3; Sir Herbert Taylor, 1833; Philip Henry Stanhope, Lord Mahon, later fifth Earl Stanhope, 1833, 1839 (6); John Macdonald, Adjutant General at the Horse Guards, 1833, 1835; Sir John Conroy (private secretary to Duchess of Kent), 1833, 1835, 1837-8 (12), in part about presenting volumes of the <i>Dispatches</i> to Princess Victoria; Anne W., 1834, 1836; Percy Clinton Sydney Smythe, sixth Viscount Strangford, 1834; Charles Gordon Lennox, fifth Duke of Richmond, 1834, 1839; John Charles Villiers, third | 1810-43 |
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<sup>1</sup> For a longer discussion of his editorial work, C.M.Woolgar, 'Wellington's *Dispatches* and their editor, Colonel Gurwood' in *Wellington Studies I* ed. C.M.Woolgar (Southampton, 1996) pp. 189-210.

Earl of Clarendon, 1835, 1838; Samuel Whittingham, 1835, with a copy of a memorandum he wrote in 1809 on the battle of Talavera; William Carr Beresford, first Viscount Beresford, 1835-6; Lieutenant General Sir Colin Campbell, 1836; Mrs Damer, (about Mrs Fitzherbert), 1837; to the French government on behalf of Don M. Nuñez Abreu, a Spanish general detained by the French, 1837-8; Rowland Hill, first Viscount Hill, 1838; Henry John Temple, third Viscount Palmerston, 1838; Henry Richard Vassall Fox, third Baron Holland, 1839; C.G.J. Arbuthnot, 1839; John Hobart Caradoc, second Baron Howden, 1839; Arthur Richard Wellesley, Lord Douro, later second Duke of Wellington, 1840-1 (2); Miss Adèle Gurwood, 1840-1 (3) and other letters to her from Captain Norcliffe and others, 1841; the Duc d'Artois, 1841; Frederick John Robinson, first Earl of Ripon, 1841; to his wife, Fanny, 1842

2

A guardbook, marked on the spine "Gurwood Papers: Colonel Gurwood", containing: a copy of a letter from Gurwood to Wellington, 1812, on Gurwood's promotion; original letter from John Scot, first Earl of Eldon, to Wellington, conveying the resolutions of the House of Lords, Nov 1813, with a note by Wellington in pencil, "Look over the votes[?] and return for correction"; return of casualties for an action near Toulouse, 10 Apr 1814, First Battalion of the Eleventh Regiment of Foot; copy of a letter from Lord Holland to Charles Kinnaird, eighth Lord Kinnaird, on political and military conduct at Paris and the Duke of Wellington (non-molestation of French), 5 Dec 1815; statement of the strength of British forces at Waterloo, 1815: a later printed copy; statement of the distribution to Gurwood of Peninsular prize money, 1816

1812-46; 1872

Series of copies, probably made in the 1830s, in Gurwood's hand, of letters from the Duke of Wellington of W: to Sir John Sinclair about the defence of Hougoumont, saying that it is not exactly true and that publication therefore not helpful, 13 Apr 1816; further letter, 28 Apr 1816 on the same; to W. Mudford, May and Jun 1816, also on Waterloo and the meeting between Blücher and Wellington at Genappe (see *Blackwood's Magazine*, Nov 1829, p. 750: these copies were probably written after that date); to Stapleton Cotton, first Viscount Combermere, 4 Aug 1816; Lord Hill, 25 Dec 1821 and 1 [?] Nov 1821; Lord William Russell, 31 Jul 1826

Copy of letter from the Duchess of Wellington to Messrs Rundell and Co. about alterations to the die of an image of the Duke; copies of letters from Gurwood to Major General Sir John Macdonald, 20 Jul [watermarked 1831], and 1832; Gurwood's copy of letter from Wellington to Hon. F. Ponsonby, 7 Nov 1834; Gurwood to Wellington on receiving the Order of the Bath, 1838, and a copy of Wellington's reply; copies of correspondence with William Lamb, second Viscount Melbourne, about a pension, 1839; copies by Gurwood of a memorandum by Wellington on being asked to form a government in 1827-8 and the command in chief of the army, Mar 1839, and correspondence with Melbourne about the same; copies of correspondence about the appointment of Gurwood as Deputy Lieutenant of the Tower, 1839; the skeleton's of Napoleon's horse at Waterloo at the United Service Institution and request for that of the Duke of Wellington's horse, 1839; memorandum by Gurwood on duelling, c.1840, and related correspondence about a speech by Mr Bradshaw at Canterbury in October 1839 disrespectful to the Queen and her household

A collection of memoranda gathered by Gurwood, some copied in his hand: song written by a private of the Nineteenth Light Dragoons after Assaye; Major General Sir W.Napier's description of the assault at Ciudad Rodrigo in 1812, c.1845 [watermark]; operations around Toulouse in 1814; printed *Memorandum on the positions occupied by the allied armies, under the command of Marshal Prince Blücher, and Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, and the military operations previous to the battle of Waterloo* (London: Military Library, Whitehall, 1845); manuscript 'Mémoire sur la bataille de Waterloo', a French translation of the previous pamphlet, made by Gurwood and the French improved in pencil — based on the letter that Wellington wrote to Gurwood about the battle (MS 61 WP8/3/1, of 28 Aug 1842); memorandum of the substance of Mrs Fitzherbert's will, Mar 1836; memorandum by Gurwood on the papers of Mrs Fitzherbert and George IV, Aug 1832; notes on the camp at Coblenz of the Prussian Eighth Army Corps under the command of Lieutenant General von Borstell, Sep 1836

Character of Lord Lytton, mid to late nineteenth century; draft of a letter from Adèle Gurwood to Wellington about her father's papers, 1845-6; papers about Colonel Gurwood's estate, 1872; memorandum by Gurwood, Nov 1845, of his property, including the arrangements for printing the *Dispatches* in its various editions

- 3 A guardbook marked on the spine "Gurwood papers: miscellaneous 2", including: correspondence of Gurwood about Sir W.Twysden, 1843; Lord Douro, 1843; Comte Alfred Guillaume Gabriel d'Orsay, 1843, 1845 (11); H.Beaufoy, 1843, about likenesses of the Duke of Wellington in print; John Fane, eleventh Earl of Westmorland, 1843; G.Wellesley, 1843; Thomas Graham, first Baron Lynedoch, 1843; Lord Howden, 1843 (3); George Hamilton Gordon, fourth Earl of Aberdeen, 1843; Sir George Thomas Napier, Governor of Cape Colony, 1843; John Colborne, first Baron Seaton, from Corfu, 1844; correspondence, 1844, about the siege of and assault on Ciudad Rodrigo in Jan 1812; Edward Herbert, second Earl of Powis (2), 1844; Nicolas Jean de Dieu Soult, Duc de Dalmatie, French marshal; to Algernon Greville, 1844, about Siborne and Waterloo (2), 1845 (1); Count Moritz Johann Karl von Dietrichstein, Austrian general and diplomat, 1844
- 1843-5 and n.d.  
c.1830-45
- Sequence of undated letters: copies and originals of letters written by Gurwood; letters from the Damer family; to Mrs Fitzherbert from Gurwood; Lord Douro (3) and Lady Douro (1); Sir John Conroy (2); George Augustus Frederick Fitzclarence, first Earl of Munster (7); Anne W.; the secretary to Ferdinand Philippe Louis Charles Henri, Duc d'Orléans (2); G.Wellesley (1); Stapleton Cotton, first Viscount Combermere (1)
- 4 A guardbook marked on the spine "Gurwood papers: the Marquis of Hertford", containing letters (20) from Richard Seymour Conway, fourth Marquis of Hertford, to Gurwood, from Constantinople 1829, and from Paris 1831, 1836, 1841-4; letters (2) from Maria, Lady Hertford (wife of the third Marquis) to Mrs Gurwood and Gurwood; letters (3) from Lord Hertford to Mrs Gurwood, n.d. c.1840-5
- 1829-44, n.d.  
c.1840-5
- 5 A guardbook marked on the spine "Letters and journals of Colonel Gurwood 1810-1827", containing:  
(a) Secretarial copies of Gurwood's letters from the Peninsula to
- 1810-29: copies  
at various dates,  
c.1812-

- his mother, 9 Jul 1810 - 19 May 1811; Jan 1812 1830s  
 (b) Gurwood's journal (a later copy, probably written in the 1830s, although the paper is watermarked 1809), from 13 Oct 1812 to the late 1820s, noting events where Gurwood is associated with Wellington. It has probably been extracted from a much larger set of journals; but its contents are much fuller for 1815-22, with copies of associated correspondence  
 (c) letter from Gurwood to Sir Charles Stuart reporting on his journey to Seville, 1823; other memoirs and reports, 1827-9
- 6 A guardbook marked on the spine "Gurwood papers: Earl and Countess Lytton, 1846-1879", containing letters to Adèle Gurwood from members of the Lytton family (Edward Robert Lytton Bulwer Lytton, first Earl of Lytton, and his daughter Edith), 1872-9; and one letter from H.Bulwer to Mrs Gurwood of 29 Jan 1846 1846; 1872-9
- 7 A guardbook marked on the spine "Gurwood letters 1811-1896", containing: an original letter, in French, from Mariano Luiz de [?]Orguiz, Madrid, to [?]Joseph Bonaparte, on the raising of an army in Andalusia, 7 Apr 1811; copy, in a [?]female hand, of a letter from the first Duke of Wellington to the Prince Regent, about a lady dying of love wanting leave of absence for her major, 27 Jun 1811; list of storming party at Ciudad Rodrigo (some of whom served in the same party at Badajoz), in Gurwood's hand, probably 1820s; poem celebrating Gurwood's service in the forlorn hope at Ciudad Rodrigo, post 1812; memorial in French, submitted to Charles Stuart, at the request of the George Canning, from someone who was French government service, with the approval of M. de Villèle, on his experiences of the governments of Europe, c.1823; memorandum on Marshal Ney after the defeat of Napoleon, post 1839; letters to Gurwood relating to the preparation of the *Dispatches* for publication, sending letters (no originals present, but includes a letter from George Gordon, fourth Earl of Aberdeen about the death of his brother, Alexander, and the letter Wellington wrote to him at that stage); letter from Christovam Pedro de Moraes Sarmento, Visconde da Torre de Moncorvo, Portuguese legation, appointing Gurwood a knight commander of the Order of the Tower and the Sword, 16 Sep 1839; assignment of all copyright in the *Dispatches* by the first Duke of Wellington to Gurwood, Mar 1845; letters from the Comte d'Orsay (2), Gen Jomini; Napoleon Louis Bonaparte (4) and Napoleon III (3); to Mrs Gurwood from the first Duke of Wellington, 29 Jan 1846 and 2 Feb 1846, about Colonel Gurwood's papers; four lithographed pro-forma letters from the first Duke of Wellington as Commander in Chief of the army, in the Duke's hand, n.d. c.1842-5; Lord Mahon, about the *Dispatches*, 1847; Antoine Marie Philippe Louis d'Orléans, Duc de Montpensier, 1842 1811-1906
- Letters to Mrs Gurwood and her daughter Adèle, 1847-1906, from Mrs Gurwood's daughter Eugenie, later Viscountess Esher, from Durban (en route to India) and Simla (1870s-1880); Louis Charles Philippe Raphaël d'Orléans, Duc de Nemours; Lord Lytton; Emile de Girardin (8); Robert Browning (4), 1882-9; Field Marshal Garnet Joseph Wolseley, first Viscount Wolseley (7), 1898-1900