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DOWNING STREET—OCTOBER 6, 1810.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, was received, on the 4th instant, at the Earl of Liverpool's office, addressed to his Lordship by Lieutenant-General Viscount Wellington, K. B. dated Gouvea, 5th September 1810.

MY LORD, *Gouvea, September 5, 1810.*

I inclose a letter from Colonel Cox, late governor of Almeida, to Marshal Beresford, containing a copy of the capitulation of Almeida, and an account of the circumstances which occasioned the early surrender of that place.

It was impossible to expect that Colonel Cox should continue the defence of the place after the unfortunate occurrence which he mentions; and I am happy to add, that all the accounts which I have received from officers and soldiers of the militia, who have come into the interior under the capitulation, concur in applauding the conduct of the governor throughout the siege, and in the unfortunate situation in which he was placed towards its close. It is certain that till the explosion of the magazine of the place, the garrison had sustained but little loss, and were in the highest spirits, and, encouraged by the example of the governor, and the confidence they had in him, were determined to hold out till the last moment.

I have the honour to inclose the copy of a letter, which I received from Marshal Beresford, in which he inclosed the letter from Colonel Cox; to which I have to add, that the two officers mentioned in that letter, the Tenente del Rey, and the major of the artillery, have entered the service of France, and that the latter has been promoted to the rank of colonel.—I am also informed that when sent out by the governor into the enemy's lines to negotiate the capitulation; and after he had informed the

enemy of the unfortunate situation of the garrison, he did not return to the place when hostilities recommenced; but continued in the enemy's lines.

I have the honour to be &c.
(Signed) WELLINGTON.

Extract of a letter from Marshal Beresford to Viscount Wellington, dated Moimenta da Serra, 4th September 1810.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter I have received from Colonel Cox, late governor of Almeida, and a copy of the capitulation of that place.

With whatever regret it was we witnessed the unexpected fall of that place, uninformed as we then were of the cause, I think the circumstance related in the governor's letter of the unfortunate loss of his entire ammunition, and the injury sustained by the town and works, and loss to the garrison by the effects of the explosion, will prove sufficiently the impracticability of a protracted defence; and I regret to say the conduct of the Lieutenant Governor (Tenente Rey) Francisco Bernardo da Costa e Almeida, and of Major, commanding the artillery, Fortunato Joye Bareros, increased the difficulties occasioned by the explosion. The former had until the commencement of the enemy's fire acted with much zeal and propriety, but on that commencing shut himself up in bomb-proofs; and after the explosion, from personal fear and to avoid any further firing, took advantage of the consternation and confusion which must be ever attendant in such a case to counteract the governor's attempt to hold out at least some short time longer. The major of artillery, it appears, had acted well during the siege, but after the explosion appears to have added treachery to cowardice, and, to gain favour with the enemy, communicated to him the real state of

the garrison, and that it had no ammunition whatever left, which caused Marshal Messena to refuse the terms demanded by the governor.

Until the unfortunate accident of the explosion of the magazine, the garrison appears to have been in the highest spirits, and in the best possible disposition and resolution to defend the town, and which they unanimously state their governor's conduct inspired them with, as every officer and man gives the highest applause to his unremitting zeal and activity, encouraging all by his own example.

Your Lordship will see that it was of very little consequence what capitulation the garrison had got, as it is obvious the enemy would not have observed it, where it was his interest to break it, and which will be witnessed by his having detained by force, and contrary to the terms of the capitulation, seven officers and two hundred men from each of the three regiments of militia that were in the garrison, and this with the object of forming them into a pioneer corps.

The officers and soldiers of the militia regiments, to a man, continued to refuse to enter voluntarily into the service of the enemy, and the seven officers and two hundred men of each regiment were detained forcibly. Such are the circumstances which have come to my knowledge of the conduct of the garrison of Almeida, and which I think it necessary to communicate to your Lordship.

SIR, *Aldea del Obispo, Aug. 30, 1810.*

The painful task has fallen to my lot of acquainting your Excellency, that I was reduced to the necessity of surrendering the fortress of Almeida, which I had the honour to command, on the 27th instant, at ten o'clock at night, in consequence of the unfortunate explosion of the

Price Sixpence Halfpenny.



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