

# The Napoleon Series

## The Peninsular Journal of Major General John Randoll Mackenzie 1808-1809: October 1809

Transcribed, edited and annotated by [Moisés Gaudêncio](#) and [Anthony Gray](#)

Source: Mackenzie Papers Vol, XV Diary of Maj. Gen. J. R. Mackenzie 1808-09

9th October Embarked at Falmouth, in the fleet carrying the army under the command of Lieutenant General Sir David Baird.<sup>1</sup>

The army was then brigaded as follows:

Lieutenant General Sir David Baird Commanding

Major General Manningham<sup>2</sup>

Royals 3rd Battalion<sup>3</sup>

14th

23rd

26th

27th 3rd Battalion

31st

81st

Major General Warde<sup>4</sup>

Guards 1st Regiment 1st Battalion

Ditto 3rd Battalion

Major General Mackenzie<sup>5</sup>

51st

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<sup>1</sup> A brief service biography: McGuigan, Ron. "British Generals of the Napoleonic Wars". 2006-2014.

*The Napoleon Series*. Retrieved 26 March 2017. [http://www.napoleon-series.org/research/biographies/BritishGenerals/c\\_Britishgenerals4.html](http://www.napoleon-series.org/research/biographies/BritishGenerals/c_Britishgenerals4.html)

A biography: Hook, T. E. *The Life of General, the Right Honourable Sir David Baird*, in two volumes. London: 1832.

<sup>2</sup>Coote Manningham. A brief service biography: McGuigan, Ron. "British Generals of the Napoleonic Wars". 2006-2014. *The Napoleon Series*. Retrieved 26 March 2017. [http://www.napoleon-series.org/research/biographies/BritishGenerals/c\\_Britishgenerals42.html](http://www.napoleon-series.org/research/biographies/BritishGenerals/c_Britishgenerals42.html)

<sup>3</sup> 1st Regiment of Foot, 3rd Battalion.

<sup>4</sup> Henry Warde. A brief service biography: McGuigan, Ron. British Generals of the Napoleonic Wars.

2006-2014. *The Napoleon Series*. Retrieved 26 March 2017. [http://www.napoleon-series.org/research/biographies/BritishGenerals/c\\_Britishgenerals26.html](http://www.napoleon-series.org/research/biographies/BritishGenerals/c_Britishgenerals26.html)

<sup>5</sup> John Randoll Mackenzie.

59th 2nd Battalion  
76th

Brigadier General Craufurd<sup>6</sup>  
43rd  
95th 8 Companys [sic]<sup>7</sup>  
60th 2nd Battalion

Besides six Brigades of Artillery & 4 Troops of the Waggon Train.

Sir D. Baird [Sir David Baird] embarked on board of the *Loire* Frigate Captain Schomberg<sup>8</sup>, our Commodore. Generals Manningham & Warde on board the *Amelia*, Honorable Captain Irby<sup>9</sup>, and General Craufurd and myself, on board the *Champion* of 24 guns, Captain Coutts Crawford.<sup>10</sup> These three ships formed our convoy.

The *Champion* being ordered to see the whole convoy under weigh, and out of the harbour, we were not able to stand to sea, till late in the evening.

Nothing material occurred during our passage to Corunna [A Coruña], which took up the 10th, 11th, 12th & on the forenoon of the 13th we anchored in Corunna harbour. The first day of the passage there was a very heavy head sea, and the wind rather scant, but the swell abated on the 2nd day, and the wind became favorable, terminating at last almost astern of our course. Upon the whole there never was so large a fleet, about 150 sail, conducted to so great a distance, in so short a time, without a single accident. On our passage we met the *Resistance* Captain Adam<sup>11</sup>, having under convoy a part of Junot's<sup>12</sup> army from Lisbon [Lisboa] for Rochelle.

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<sup>6</sup> Robert Craufurd. A brief service biography: McGuigan, Ron. "British Generals of the Napoleonic Wars". 2006-2014. *The Napoleon Series*. Retrieved 26 March 2017. [http://www.napoleon-series.org/research/biographies/BritishGenerals/c\\_Britishgenerals121.html](http://www.napoleon-series.org/research/biographies/BritishGenerals/c_Britishgenerals121.html)

<sup>7</sup> According to Ron McGuigan, these were four companies each from the 1st and 2nd battalions, 95th regiment. McGuigan Ron. "The British Army in Portugal and Spain. Its Order-of-Battle (June 1808-April 1809)". *The Napoleon Series*. Retrieved 26 March 2017. [http://www.napoleon-series.org/military/battles/1808/Peninsula/BritishArmy/c\\_britarmy3.html#baird](http://www.napoleon-series.org/military/battles/1808/Peninsula/BritishArmy/c_britarmy3.html#baird)

<sup>8</sup> Alexander Wilmot Schomberg. A brief service biography: *Three Decks - Warships in the Age of Sail*. Retrieved 26 March 2017. [http://threedecks.org/index.php?display\\_type=show\\_crewman&id=7913](http://threedecks.org/index.php?display_type=show_crewman&id=7913)

<sup>9</sup> Frederick Paul Irby. A brief service biography: *Three Decks - Warships in the Age of Sail*. Retrieved 26 March 2017. [http://threedecks.org/index.php?display\\_type=show\\_crewman&id=6](http://threedecks.org/index.php?display_type=show_crewman&id=6)

<sup>10</sup> James Coutts Crawford. A brief service biography: *Three Decks - Warships in the Age of Sail*. Retrieved 26 March 2017. [http://threedecks.org/index.php?display\\_type=show\\_crewman&id=290](http://threedecks.org/index.php?display_type=show_crewman&id=290)

<sup>11</sup> Charles Adam. A brief service biography: *Three Decks - Warships in the Age of Sail*. Retrieved 26 March 2017. [http://threedecks.org/index.php?display\\_type=show\\_crewman&id=6](http://threedecks.org/index.php?display_type=show_crewman&id=6)

<sup>12</sup> General Jean Andoche Junot (1771-1813). Commander of the French army that invaded Portugal in November 1807. After his defeat at Vimeiro, Junot signed the Cintra Convention (30 August 1808) with the British which allowed his army to return to France transported by the Royal Navy. See: Chandler, David. *Dictionary of the Napoleonic Wars*. Wordsworth Editions Limited. Ware: 1999. pp. 220-221.

On our arrival at Corunna we found the Honorable Rear Admiral de Courcy<sup>13</sup> in the *Tonnant* of 80 guns. Sir D. Baird landed immediately with him, and waited on the Junta, when to our surprise we were informed the army could not be landed, until [sic] an answer was received from the Supreme Junta of Government at Madrid. The reason assigned was, that the powers of the provincial *juntas* had ceased, except as a subordinated body. Even on the supposition that the establishment of a Supreme Junta, would deprive the inferior *juntas* of much of the power they formerly exercised, yet at this moment, the Supreme Junta had not actually assumed the government. It was therefore evident to us, that there existed no great inclination for our reception. This must appear an extraordinary proceeding towards an army come for the express purpose of rendering them assistance, and as we had always understood, at their earnest request. As about seven days past [sic] before we could receive any return from Madrid, we had time to form some idea of the views of the Junta of Corunna. There seemed great jealousy of our being cantoned in Galicia, and most particularly of our getting into Ferrol with any part of our force. When at last the orders of the Supreme Junta arrived to permit us to land, (a strange expression) the anxiety expressed for our being pushed forward with the greatest expedition into Castille [Castilla], was seized upon by the Corunna Junta with avidity, and they pressed our moving on without any equipment at all, or any preparation for feeding our men or horses. This Sir D. Baird could not consistently with his orders or his duty comply with, and it was at last agreed on to land the army by corps, and push them on as fast as possible to Lugo & St. Iago de Compostella [Santiago de Compostela], at which places they might be expected as well as at Corunna, to procure the necessary equipment. The army had by this time been weakened by detaching two battalions, the 3rd Battalion 27th & 2nd of the 31st to Portugal, and after two changes, the brigades stood as follow [sic]

Major General Manningham  
Royals 3rd Battalion  
26th  
81st 2nd Battalion

Major General Warde  
1st Guards 1st Battalion  
Ditto 3rd Battalion

Major General Mackenzie  
51st  
59th 2d Battalion  
76th  
60th 2d Battalion

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<sup>13</sup> Michael de Courcy. A brief service biography: *Three Decks - Warships in the Age of Sail*. Retrieved 26 March 2017. [http://threedecks.org/index.php?display\\_type=show\\_crewman&id=1396](http://threedecks.org/index.php?display_type=show_crewman&id=1396)

Brigadier General Crauford [sic]  
14th  
23rd  
43rd  
95th (8 companys)

It was at this time I learnt my appointment to the staff of Portugal, a circumstance which distressed me beyond description, and for which I was altogether unprepared by any former hint or communication. In this situation, Sir D. Baird thought it right to keep me in command of my present brigade, untill [sic] we should meet with Sir John Moore's<sup>14</sup> army, now upon its march from Portugal, with which we are to form a junction somewhere in Leon [Léon] or Castille. Sir David was the more inclined to keep me in this manner, as there appears some chance that I may not be the person intended for the staff of Portugal, there being already two of my name on the staff in the Mediterranean.

On the 24th of October the army commenced its debarkation, by the 43rd & 95th of General Crauford's [sic] brigade & then the Guards, to go on different routes for Lugo & St. Iago.

The order of march was as follows:

For Lugo

The 43rd, 95th, 14th, 23rd Brigadier General Crauford. The Royals, 26th & 81st Major General Manningham

For St. Iago

The Guards Major General Warde. The 51st, 59th & 76th Major General Mackenzie

The 60th being intended to be left at Corunna.

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<sup>14</sup> Lieutenant General Sir John Moore. At this time commanding the British army marching from Portugal to support the Spanish armies facing the French forces in the Ebro river. A brief service biography: McGuigan, Ron. "British Generals of the Napoleonic Wars". 2006-2014. *The Napoleon Series*. Retrieved 26 March 2017. [http://www.napoleon-series.org/research/biographies/BritishGenerals/c\\_Britishgenerals43.html](http://www.napoleon-series.org/research/biographies/BritishGenerals/c_Britishgenerals43.html)

Moore's most recent biography: Macdonald, J. Sir John Moore: *The Making of a Controversial Hero*. Pen & Sword Books, 2016.

