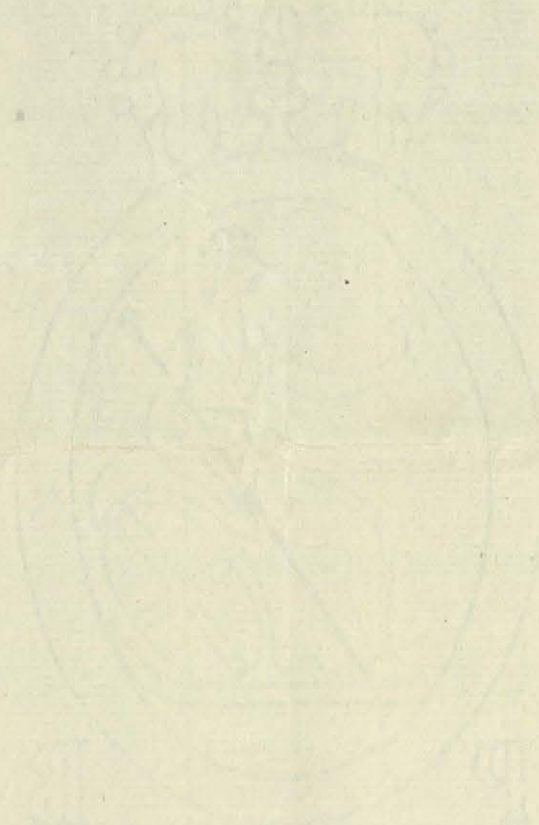


40006-40014

Correspondence between
H. R. H. & Duke of York

October 2-24 1803

Receipt



Brighton 2 October 1803.

My Dear Brother

Recd in 39968-9

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By the Last Night's Gazette, which I have this moment received, I perceive that an Extensive Promotion has taken place in the Army: wherein my Pretensions are not noticed; a Circumstance, which whatever may have happened upon other occasions it is impossible for me to pass by, at this momentous Crisis without Observation.

My Standing in the Army, according to the most ordinary Routine of Promotion, had it been followed up, would have placed me either, at the bottom of the List of Generals, or at the head of the List of Lieut Generals: When the younger Branches of my Family are promoted to the highest Military Situations, my Birth, according to the Distinctions usually confer'd on it, should have placed me First on that List.

I hope you know me too well to imagine that idle Inactive Rank is in my View. much less is the Direction and Patronage of the Military Department An object, which suits my Place in the State, or my Inclinations: But in a moment when the Danger of the Country, is thought by Government so urgent, as to call forth the Energy of every Arm in its Defence, I cannot but feel myself degraded, both as a Prince; and a Soldier; if I am not allowed to take a forward and Distinguished Part, in the Defence of that Empire & Crown; of the glory, Prosperity, & even Existence of that People,

in

in all which Mine is the greatest Stake.

To be told I may display this Zeal solely & simply
at the head of my Regiment is a degrading Mockery

If that be the only Situation allotted me, I shall
certainly do my Duty, as others will; But the
Considerations, to which I have already alluded entitle
me to expect, & bind me in every way to require a Situation
more Correspondent to the Dignity of my own
Character and to the Publick Expectations.

It is for the sake of tendering my Services, in a
way, more formal & officious, than I have before
pursued, that I Address this to you, My Dear
Brother, as The Commander in Chief, by whose Councils,
the Constitution presumes that the Military
Department is Administr'd

If those who have the Honor to advise His
Majesty on this occasion, shall deem my pretensions
among those of all the Royal Family, to be the
only ones fit to be rejected, & Disclaim'd, I may
at least hope as a Debt of Justice & Honor, to have
it explain'd; that I am laid by, in Virtue of that
Judgement, & not in Consequence of any Omission,
or want of Energy on my part.

Ja Ja Ja

Sign'd, G. P. W.

His Royal Highness
The Duke of York

Horse Guards October 6th 1803.

Dearest Brother

Nothing but an extraordinary press of business, would have prevented me from acknowledging sooner your Letter of the 2^d instant, which I received while at Oatlands on Monday Evening.

I trust that you are too well acquainted with my Affection for you, which has existed since our most tender years, not to be assured of the Satisfaction I ever have felt, and ever must feel, in forwarding when in my Power, every desire, or object of yours; and therefore will believe, how much I must regret the impossibility there is, upon the present occasion, of my Executing your Wishes of laying the Representation contained in your Letter before His Majesty.

Suffer me, My Dear Brother, as the only answer that I can properly give you, to recal to your Memory, what passed upon the same Subject soon after His Majesty was graciously pleased to place me at the Head of the Army; and I have no doubt that, with your usual Candour you will yourself see the absolute Necessity of my declining it.

In the year 1795, upon a general Promotion taking place, at your Instance, I deliver'd a Letter from you to His Majesty, urging your pretensions to Promotion in the Army, to which His Majesty was pleased to answer, that before ever he had appointed you to the Command of the 10th Lt. Dragoons, he had caused it to be fully explained to you, what his Sentiments were

with

with respect to a Prince of Wales entering into the Army,
and the Publick Grounds upon which he never could
admit of your considering it as a Profession, or of your
being promoted in the Service, and His Majesty, at the
same time, added His positive Commands and Injunctions
to me; never to mention this Subject again to him;
and to decline being the Bearer of any Application
of the same nature should it be proposed to me;
which Message I was of Course, under the necessity
of delivering to you, and have constantly made it
the Rule of my Conduct ever since, and indeed
I have ever considered it as one of the greatest
proofs of Affection, and Consideration, towards me,
on the part of His Majesty, that he never allowed
me to become a party in this business.

Having thus stated to you, fairly, & candidly,
what has passed, I must trust you will see that
there can be no grounds for the apprehension expressed
in the latter part of your Letter, that any Illus
can attack to your Character as an officer;
particularly as I recollect your mentioning to me
yourself, on the Day on which you received the Notification
of your Appointment to the 10th Lth Dragoons, the
Explanation & Condition, attached to it, by His Majesty,
and therefore surely you must be satisfied that your not
being advanced in Military Rank, proceeds entirely from
His Majesty's Sentiments respecting the High Rank
you hold in the State, and not from any Impression
unfavourable to you.

Believe me ever with the greatest truth.

Dearest Brother

Your most Affectionate Brother
Signed, Frederick

His Royal Highness
The Prince of Wales.

Brighton October 9th 1803.

My Dear Brother

I have taken two days to Consider the Contents of your Letter of the 6th inst, in order to be as accurate as possible in my answer, which must account to you, for it's being longer perhaps, than I intended, or I could have wished.

I confide entirely in the personal kindness and Affection, expressed in your Letter, and am, for that reason, the more unwilling to trouble you again on a painful Subject, in which, you are not free to act, as your Inclination I am sure leads you. But, as it is not at all impossible, that every part of this Transaction, may be publicly canvassed hereafter, it is of the utmost Importance to my Honor (without which I can have no Happiness) that my Conduct in it, shall be fairly represented, and correctly understood. When I made a tender of my Services to His Majesty's Ministers, it was with a just & natural Expectation, that my offer would have been Accepted, in the way in which alone, it could have been most beneficial to my Country, or Creditable to myself, or if that failed, that at least (in Justice to me) the Reasons for a Refusal would have been distinctly stated! So, that the Nation might be satisfied, that nothing had been omitted on my part, & Enabled to Judge of the Validity of the Reasons assigned for such Refusal. In the first Instance, I was refer'd to His Majesty's will

but, that I should have acquiesced in, or refer'd to a
 compromise, which I never made, is utterly Impossible.

Neither in His Majesty's Letter to me, nor in the
 Correspondence with Mr. Addington (of which you may
 not be fully informed) is there one word, or the most
 distant allusion to the Conditions Stated in your Letter,
 And even if I had accepted the Command of a Regiment
 on such Terms, my Acquiescence could only have
 Relation to the ordinary Situation of the Country & not
 to a Case so completely out of all Contemplation, at
 that time, as the probable, or projected Invasion
 of this Kingdom, by a Foreign Force, sufficient, to
 bring its Safety into Question. When the King
 is pleas'd to tell me, "that should the Enemy
 Land, He shall think it his Duty to set an Example
 in Defence of the Country", that is to expose the only
 Life, which, for the Publick Welfare ought not to
 be hazarded; I respect & Admire the Principle,
 which Dictates that Resolution; and, as my Heart
 glows with the same Sentiments, I wish to partake
 in the same Danger, that is, with Dignity & Effect.
 Whereever, His Majesty appears, as King, He Acts
 & Commands. You, are Commanded in Chief. others of
 my Family, are high in Military Station; and even
 by the last Brevet, a considerable Number of Junior
 Officers are put over me. In all the arrangements
 The Prince of Wales alone, whose Interest in the
 Event yields to none but that of The King, is
 disregarded; omitted; his Services neglected, so that
 in fact, He has no Post, or Station whatsoever, in
 a Contest, on which the Fate of the Crown & the
 Kingdom

Kingdom

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Kingdom may depend.

I do not, My Dear Brothers, wonder that in the
hurry of your present occupation, these Considerations
should have been overlooked, They are now in your View,
& I think cannot fail to make a due Impression.

As to the rest, with every degree of Attention possible
for your Judgement of what is due to a Soldiers
Honor, I must be the Guardian of mine to the
utmost in my power. — &c &c &c

I Signed / G. J. D.

His Royal Highness
The Duke of York

Horse Guards October 11th 1803.

My Dear Brother

I have this moment upon my Arrival in Town found your Letter, and lose no time in answering that part of it, which it appears to me highly necessary should be clearly understood.

Indeed My Dear Brother, you must give me leave to repeat to you, that upon the fullest consideration, I perfectly recollect your having yourself told me at Carlton House in the year 1793, on the day on which you was inform'd of His Majesty having acquiesc'd in your Request of being appointed to the Command of the 10th Regiment of Light Dragoons, of which Sir William Pitt was then Colonel, the Message, and Condition, which was deliver'd to you from His Majesty; and which His Majesty repeated to me, in the year 1795, as mention'd in my Letter of Thursday last. And I have the fullest Reason to know, that there are others to whom at that time you mention'd the same Circumstance, Nor have I the least recollection of your having deny'd it to me, when I deliver'd to you The Kings Answer, as I should certainly have felt it incumbent upon me to recall to your Memory what you had told me yourself, in the year 1793.

No Conversation whatever pass'd between us, as you justly remark, in the year 1796 when Sir William Pitt was promoted to The Kings Dragoon Guards, which was done, in Consequence of what was arrang'd in 1793, upon your first Appointment to the 10th Lt Dragoons, And I conceive that your mentioning in your Letter my having stated a Conversation to have pass'd between us in 1798, must have arisen from some Misapprehension

as

as I do not find that you ever adverted to in my Letter.

I have thought it due to us both, My Dear Brother, thus fully to reply to those parts of your Letter in which you appear to have mistaken mine; But as I am totally unacquainted with the Correspondence which has taken place upon this Subject, I must decline entering any further into it.

I remain ever, My Dear Brother, with the greatest Truth,

Your most Affectionate Brother
 T. Aquid, Frederick.

His Royal Highness
 The Prince of Wales.

Brighton October 12th 1803.

My Dear Brother

By my replying to your Letter of the 6th instant, which contain'd no sort of answer to mine of the second, We have fallen into a very frivolous altercation upon a Topic, which is quite foreign to the present purpose. Indeed, the whole Importance of It, lies in a seeming Contradiction in the Statement of a Fact; which is unpleasant, even upon the Collest Occasion.

I want to assert that no previous Condition to forego all Pretensions to ulterior Rank, under any Circumstances, had been imposed upon me, or even submitted to me in any Shape whatsoever, on my first coming into the Service: And, with as much Confidence, as can be used in maintaining a Negative, I repeat that Assertion.

When I first became acquaint with His Majesty's Purpose to withhold from me further Advancement, it is impossible to recollect, But that it was so early as the year 1793. I do not remember, and if your Expressions were less positive, I should add, or believe. But, I certainly knew it. as you well know in 1795 & possibly before. We were then engaged in War, therefore I could not think of resigning my Regiment, if under other Circumstances, I had been disposed to do so; But in truth, My Rank in the Nation made Military Rank in ordinary times a matter of little consequence, except to my own private feelings, This Sentiment I convey'd to you in my Letter of the second saying expressly, that mere Idle, Inactive Rank was in no sort my object.

But, upon the Prospect of an Emergency
where

where the King was to take the Field, and the Spirit of every Briton was roused to Exertion, the Place, which I occupy in the Nation, made it Indispensable to demand a Post correspondent to that Place & to the Publick Expectation. This Sentiment I have the Happiness to be assured, in a Letter on this Occasion, made a Strong Impression upon the Mind, and Commanded the Respect and Admiration of our very High in Government.

The only purpose of this Letter, My dear Brother, is, to explain, since that is necessary, that my former ones meant not to give you the trouble of Interceding, as My Advocate, for mere Rank in the Army; urging further My other more important Claims upon Government would be vainly addressed to any Person, who can really think, that a former Refusal of meer Rank under Circumstances so widely different, or the most express waving of such pretensions, if that had been the Case, furnished the slightest Colour for the Answers I have received to the Penders I have now made of My Services.

Your Department, My dear Brother, was meant, if I must repeat it, simply as a Channel, to convey that Pender to Government, and to obtain either their Attention to it, or an open avowal of their Refusal

(Signed) G. P.

His Royal Highness
The Duke of York

Horse Guards Octob. 13th 1803.

Dear Brother

I have received your Letter this Morning, and am sorry to find that you think that I have misconceived the meaning of your first Letter, the whole tenor of which, and the Military Promotion which gave rise to it, led me naturally to suppose your Desire was, that I should apply to His Majesty, in my official Capacity to give you Military Rank, to which might be attached the Idea of subsequent Command.

That, I found myself under the necessity of declining, in obedience to His Majesty's pointed orders, as I explained to you in my Letter of the 6th Inst. But, from your Letter of to Day I am to understand that your object is not Military Rank, but that a Post shall be allotted to you, upon the present Emergency, suitable to your situation in the State.

This, I conceive to be purely a Political Consideration, as such, totally out of my Department, and as I have most carefully avoided, at all times, & under all Circumstances, ever interfering in any Political Points, I must hope that you will not call upon me to deviate from the Principles by which I have been invariably governed.

Believe me My Dear Brother

Yours most Affectionate Brother

(Signed) Frederick

His Royal Highness
The Prince of Wales.

Carlton House October 14th 1803.

My Dear Brother

It cannot but be painful to me, to be reduced to the necessity of further Explanation on a Subject, which it was my earnest wish to have closed; and which, was of so clear, & distinct a Nature, as, in my humble judgement, to have precluded the possibility of either Doubt, or Misunderstanding.

Surely, there must some strange fatality obscure my Language in Statement, or leave me somewhat deficient in the powers of Explanation, when it can lead your Mind, My Dear Brother, to such a palpable Misconstruction (so far be it from me to fancy it wilful) of my meaning, as to suppose, for a moment, I had unconnected my object with Efficient Military Rank, and transferred it entirely to the view of a Political Station, when you venture to tell me "My object is not Military Rank, but that a Post should be allotted to me upon the present Emergency, suitable to my Situation in the State." upon what Ground, you can hazard such an Assertion; or, upon what Principle you can draw such an Inference, I am utterly at a loss to determine, for I defy, the most skilful Logician in torturing the English Language, to apply, with Fairness, such a Construction to any word, or Phrase of mine, contain'd in any one of the Letters I have yet written on this, to me, most interesting Subject.

I call

I call upon you, to reverse the Correspondence?
 In my Letter of the 2^d Inst^t, I told you unequivocally,
 that "I hope you know me too well, to imagine, that
 Idle, Inactive Rank was in my view," and that
 Sentiment, I beg you, Carefully to observe, I have in
 no instance whatever, for one single Moment, Relinquish'd
 or Departed from.

Giving as I did, all the Considerations of my Heart,
 to the Delicacy & Difficulties, of your Situation, Nothing
 could have been more repugnant to my Thoughts,
 or to my Disposition, than to have imposed upon you,
 My Dear Brother, either ⁱⁿ your Capacity as Commander
 in Chief or in the near Relationship which Subsists
 between us, the Poss^{ibility} much less the Expectation, of
 causing you to Misque any displeasure, from His
 Majesty, by disobeying in any degree His Commands,
 although they were even to militate against myself.

But, with the Impulse of my feelings towards
 you, & quickly conceiving what Friendship &
 Affection may be capable of, I did not, I own,
 think it entirely impossible that you might,
 considering the Magnitude & Importance which
 the object carries with it, have officially advanced
 my wishes, as a Matter of propriety, to Military
 Rank & Subsequent Command, through His
 Majesty's Ministers, for that direct purpose,
 especially, when the Honor of my Character & my
 future Fame in Life, were so deeply involved in
 the Consideration; For I must here, Emphatically
 again repeat, "That Idle, Inactive Rank was

never

never in my View; and that Military Rank; with
its Consequent Command was never out of it.

Feeling how useless, as well as ungracious,
Controversy is upon every occasion, & knowing how fatally
it operates on Human Friendships, I must entreat that our
Correspondence on this Subject shall cease here; for
nothing could be more distressing to me, than to
prolong a topic, on which, it is now clear to me, My
Dear Brother, that you & I can never agree. —

Sir per per
Signed. G. P.

His Royal Highness
The Duke of York

401
Copy of a Letter from The Rt. Hon^{ble} Henry Addington
Dated " Richmond Place, Oct^r 23^d 1803

Sir

In Consequence of some Intelligence, which has
reached me, I am impelled by a sense of Duty
to Your Royal Highness, and to the Public, to
Express an Earnest & anxious Hope, that you
may be Induced to postpone your return to
Brighton, until I shall have had an opportunity
of making further Enquiries, and of stating
the Result of them to Your Royal Highness.

I have the Honor to be, with the utmost
Deference & Respect, Sir, Your Royal Highness's faithful
& most humble Servant

H. R. M.
The Prince of Wales.

(Signed)

Henry Addington

Pl.
Per

(Answer) Carlton House, Oct^r 24th 1803.

Sir

By your Grounding your Letter to me upon Intelligence which has reach'd you, I apprehend that you allude to Information which leads you to expect some Immediate Attempt from the Enemy. My Wish to accommodate myself to anything which you represent as material to the Public Service would of course make me desirous to Comply with your Request: But if there be Reason to Imagine that Invasion will take place directly I am bound by the King's precise Order, & by that honest Zeal which is not allow'd any further Sphere for its Action, to hasten Instantly to my Regiment. If I learn that my Construction of the Word Intelligence be right I must deem it necessary to Repair to Brighton Immediately

Yours &c

(Signed) George P.

Wmth
 Henry Addington
 Sec^y to the Treas^y

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Copy

Correspondence
on the subject of
His Royal Highness
The Prince of Wales's
desire to hold
higher Rank in the
Army.

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