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next
follows
41063

41072-5

Observations from Lord Suffolk submitted to
his Royal Highness the Duke of York June 1808.

When I had the Honor
of stating to your Royal Highness my
Sentiments on Subjects that have ever
appeared to me material in the present
Situation of Great Britain and Ireland,
I begged your Permission to deliver those
Opinions in writing; and as some of the
Objects seemed to meet with the approbation
of your Royal Highness I will #
endeavour to make this Statement as
concise as the Subjects will admit.

1st Observation

I have always considered
a very strong interior Depot in nearly
the Center of England absolutely ##
necessary, where every Appendage to an
Army might be placed in safety from
an Invading Enemy successful in their
first military operations. - Such
a central Depot I have Authority to
state was in the Contemplation of his
Majesty's late Ministers, and the Danger
of Invasion has not lessened since their
Administration. - Their

Their Intention of forming such a Depot (which was to be a Close Work capable of sustaining a Siege) was intended to be constructed nearly in the Center of England, and near the great Water communications of the Country.

2nd Observation.

In Ireland, such a Depot more essentially necessary, and I have understood Athlone is now made a Place of Strength to answer the Purposes above pointed out.

But in Ireland more than one Work of this Nature may be essential.

A smaller Work may be necessary to cover Dublin, and another constructed on the black Water as a second Line of Defence; and as Londonderry once stood a remarkable Siege it might perhaps again be advisable to render it a Place of Strength, having in its Position one great Advantage in its near Communication with the Sea.

3^d Observation.

Lines if not constructed with Judgement, or made too extensive are generally forced, and if commanded not defensible, the latter I have been informed has been the Case of the Works constructed at Chatham, but not having

having seen them, only state the Circumstances
from the Information of others. —

4th Observation

Positions for intrenched Camps
ought to be immediately fixed upon and marked
out with all kind of intrenching Tools
placed in some small Depot near the
Ground; Engineers as soon as the
Ground has been marked out to draw
Plans for their Construction. — Such
Works or intrenched Camps might in
a few Days be made formidable even by
the Labour of the People of the
Country whilst our Armies are employed
in the Field, and there is no Necessity
for their Construction till the Enemy is
landed on the Coast. —

5th Observation

I do not recollect having stated
to your Royal Highness, in my humble
Opinion the imperious Necessity for the
Preservation of the Army that all
Barracks should be built in healthy
Situations particularly in our West India
Islands; and having had several Com-
munications on the Subject with his
Majesty's late Ministers will beg leave
to

to state them to your Royal Highness
as a Subject of the greatest National
Importance. —

The Barracks particularly in
our Islands in the West Indies have
most frequently been erected, to cover our
Harbours consequently to Leeward, when
they ought to have been placed to Windward
that Officers and Men might have the
Benefit of the Sea Breeze, and as the
Islands (Jamaica excepted) are small, the
Barracks being at no great distance from
our Shipping their Situation could be
productive of no bad Consequences, and
with Regard to the Health and
Strength of our Regiments their being
well Situated is a most important Consider-
ation. —

My Regiment at Antigua
lost Two hundred Men & seventeen
Officers in three Months from the
Barracks being situated near a Swamp
and to Leeward of the Island. —

As a Proof of the Necessity
of altering the Situation of Barracks in
the West Indies, and placing them on
high Ground, have been informed by Sir
Thomas Trigge, that at Trinidad he
found the Men dying in great numbers
from the Barracks being built in
an

an unhealthy spot. They were by him
 fixed in a healthier Situation, and in
 three Months after the Removal of
 a Regiment of Six hundred Men,
 there were at a Review only three
 absent from Sickness, a Circumstance
 that perhaps never occurred in any
 Part of Great Britain.

6th Observation

Another Subject I mentioned
 to Your Royal Highness, I more
 than once have had occasion to state
 in my Place in Parliament, and
 I was then given to understand from
 high Authority the Measure was to
 have been carried into Effect, but
 unfortunately for the suffering Officer
 has not hitherto been deemed expedient,
 but I feel confident a generous People
 never would object to the Expence
 which in Comparison to its Humanity
 could not be considerable. I allude
 to a certain Provision for Officers wounded
 and who from their Wounds have been
 obliged to give up their Profession:
 Such permanent Provision is I
 understand more attended to in the
 Naval Service.

To

To this Object I beg leave to
add another with Regard to Lunatic
Officers, having at this time an
unhappy Officer in my own Regiment
who in this Situation has been wandering
about Great Britain in consequence of
Fever in the West Indies which has
ended in Delirium.

7th Observation

I have always been of opinion
it might be extremely beneficial to the
Service if an Officer of Engineers was
permanently attached to every Brigade in
the Service in Order to instruct those
Officers who might be desirous of improving
themselves in a Science so very essential
on Service & which is not sufficiently
attended to by the Army in general.

8th Observation

As the great Increase in our
Army has rendered it necessary to
augment the Number of General Officers
I beg leave to state, that there are
many who have arrived at the Rank
of Lieutenant General after a Service
of Forty or Fifty Years, who only
receive the scanty Pay of Lieutenant
Colonel, a Pay so very inadequate to
their

their Situation and Rank in the Army
I am inform'd in the Navy #
Admirals not employ'd have Pay settl'd
on them in Proportion to their respective
Ranks, and in my humble Opinion #
General Officers in the Army deserve
to receive a Remuneration of the same
Nature and if even such Remuneration
was confin'd to Lieutenant Generals
without Regiments it is a Provision
after Forty or Fifty Years Service
their Rank and Situation might be
deem'd to merit, and the Expence to
Government would not be considerable

Observations from
the York submitted
to his R. Highness
the Duke of York
June 1808

Copy of these Observations
for his R. Highness the
Prince of Wales with
a Supplement by