

Ed. C. Somerset to the Duke of Beaufort

Enclosure -

Copy/ 41088-9

Ornton Street May 12th

1808

Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of yesterday's date - The contents of which have afforded me no small degree of surprise - with regard to the Duke of Beaufort's application (which you are pleased to term from Grosvenor Square)

I have to inform you that it was made personally by him to Genl. Mordaunt at Horsham - Genl. Mordaunt inadvertently acceded to it - but when the Duke had left Horsham - Genl. Mordaunt wrote to say that upon consideration he had found it was necessary to apply to the Commandant of the District before Major Davis could obtain an Extension of his leave of absence, and it was this, that occasion'd the Duke's letter being dated from Grosvenor Square when the application itself was in fact made at Horsham - So much for the circumstances itself - I shall now say Sir that I certainly did conceive that my expressing a wish

upon any subject (but certainly on so
trivial an one as an extension of Leave of
Absence for 14 days to a Militia Officer) w^d.
have been sufficient for you to have complied
with it - in that supposition however I am dis-
-appointed, & I cannot therefore, Sir, offer you my
thanks for the desire you express in the latter
part of your letter to attend to my wishes.
You mention in y^r Letter that you found
yourself obliged to resist the application - consistent
with the regulations you had formed & the orders
you had found necessary to issue. What those
orders are I am totally ignorant as you have not
done me the Honor to submit them to me - but
you certainly seem, Sir, not to be aware that it
is the Commander in Chief's Edict that no
changes in the Quarters of the Troops nor in the
System of Discipline establish'd in a District
shall be made but by the Commander of that
district - All that I know of the Commander

Ld. C. Somerset to H. C. on the 11th

Enclosure -

41089

in Chief's intentions respecting leave of absence is contained in a letter from the Adjutant General to me dated March 8 last - that expresses that H. P. Bigby trusts I shall resist all applications for leave except in cases of the most urgent necessity - when that necessity is made out manifest - I conceive it tends to the injury of the service if the application is resisted -

It has always been my wish to carry on discipline whenever I have had the honor of a command in a manner the most pleasant and accommodating to those who have been placed under me - and in return I have expected (I am happy to say I have always met with) a reciprocal desire on the part of those under me to meet my wishes in the mode of performing the duty allotted to their charge - This was the mode in which Genl Hayonni always carried on the duties of the district during my absence - and I am quite sure it contributed

as much to the welfare of the district as it did
to his comfort & mine. — I am sorry to find that
a different system is now to be pursued & that
unless I am absolutely on the spot my wishes
are not to be considered —

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient Servant

C. H. Somerset

[Signature]

(Signed)

To

Mr. Genl. M'Kenzie

17.4