

June 11 1803

39897 - 8

The present Crisis of the Hanoverian Corps d'Armee, after the Convention of the 3<sup>d</sup> ins<sup>t</sup>. not been and never will be ratified by His Britannick Majesty - their actual Position, after having retired to the limits of the Duchedom of Lauenburgh, affords still a favourable Prospect to withdraw every Soldier, with the remainder of Artillery - Horses, Stores, Arms, Baggage and Fieldchest - by adopting the following Plan, for the purpose, as serving a Safe Guard - until His Majesty's Electoral Pleasure is known, which of course cannot be expected to arrive before the 24<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup>, the Duke of Cambridge having sailed on the 8<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup>. and presuming a long six Days Passage, His Royal Highness, may not reach London, before the 14<sup>th</sup>. when His Majesty's Royal Determination, will be decided by a Cabinet Council - both Houses of Parliament sitting, what is to become of this Military body of men - to be employed in Ireland or else where - since they are unprotected in Germany - their vast and most useful Train of heavy Guns, having been ceded to the Enemy, by the unparalleled Convention, never heard of, in the records of former Military Establishments, on the 3<sup>d</sup> ins<sup>t</sup>.

28888  
3  
I submit the following considerations to be seriously discussed. The Enemy is neither strong enough or can find sufficient provisions, to move with an adequate Force, upon the heels of the retreating Hanoverian Corps, without impunity. General Mordaunt cannot advance in quick steps - he must wait for an Ultimatum from the First Consul, this is a notorious fact, of which I am informed, and pay great attention too - this Interval of time proves favourable, to place the Electoral Corps d'Armée, in a secured *Cul de Sac* - never to loose, the immediate Intercourse with England, to receive His Majesty's Orders - the Lords of the Hanoverian Regency, have no Interference, nor Power, to agitate further, the mind, of His Majesty's Electoral faithful Military Subjects. It is for their actual Commander and themselves, to judge for the preservation of their Honour and reputation, so dearly bought by their Ancestors, at Dettingen, Creveld, Minden, Warburgh, Vellinghusem and Grovenstein. They shared also since the Laurels obtained, by Lord Heathfield, in the Garrison of Gibraltar, where for nine years, in the limits of the Lines.

June 11 1803

39898

their Countenance and steady Conduct, Deserved the admiration of that great and exemplary Commander. Should my Proposal meet the Concurrence of a Military Council - I can ascertain an adequate number of Neutral Vessels in the Port of Hamburg and Inchoe from Altona to serve as Transports in the Elb River, without the smallest Impediment. those stout Vessels, will be agreed for, without delay - and we are neither in want of money nor sufficient credit.

A Supply of Seventy Two large Vessels from Hamburg and Twelve from Altona - amounts to Eighty Four - of which Eighty, at an Average of 120. men each 9600. Four Vessels for Bagage Stores Saddles &c. &c. &c.

those 9600. men, form the Corps under Field-Marshal Count Walmoden Gumborn. and the Detachment under General Hammerstein still at and near Lauenburgh & Harburgh, to be completed to . . . 4000.

Total . 13,600.

The Order of Marching to be in the following Line of direction.

Field-Marshal Walmoden to move from Headquarters Lauenburgh towards Eschburg on the Elb Side to embark the Infantry in Boats -

finding between Hamburg and Haaburgh the Transports in  
readiness to receive the Troops. The Cavalry dismounts at  
Lauenburgh - and to each 12 Horses a Dragoon dressed in his  
Stable Jacket and a round hat is to be ordered to attend -  
with direction to lead the horses in the usual way as Horse  
dealers to a Market Town - in their road to Syderstedt in  
Holstein, where they will find an excellent Crop of Grass,  
and previous Contracts to be settled, and by such proceedings  
the Danish Government cannot be compromised - and all  
Horses will be secured - Four Vessels as mentioned before  
will be sent to take in freight - Canons - Baggage - Saddles  
and all remaining Stores - General Hammerstein moves  
from Lauenburgh to Haaburgh the first day - which is by the  
road of Einkhoff. 5 small German miles - the first Column  
of General Wallmoden, sails under Convoy of the Stader  
Guard Ship of 12 Guns now at Lauenburgh - with the first  
tide to Stade to force the french Garrison to retreat without  
delay - and by this manoeuvre a Line of Communication  
is kept up with Haaburgh and Stade - From thence they  
move by degrees and General Hammerstein will find the  
Transports of the 1<sup>st</sup> Column moved to Stade next day, at his  
Disposal, before the Port of Haaburgh, returning from the  
mouth of the Schwinge River - in order to embark and to  
lessen the fatigues of the first Day's march -

39899

The Queens and Prince of Wales's Light Dragoons are to cover the Embarkation and to withdraw from Haarburch by the road of Buxtehude to clear their Passage - they are to meet there, a Detachment of four Hundred Grenadiers which move early from Stade by the arrival of the 1<sup>st</sup> Column - to secure the River Side - No more but 36 hours is required to lay in a stock of Provisions on board the Transports - which of course may last for Two Months - The Pioneers to be forwarded to Neuhaus under a strong escorting party and several Engineers, to begin forthwith a Coupée, to form a junction with the Elb and Post River and this position between Neuhaus and Pritzpuctel, a circumference of two German miles, will afford plenty of fresh provisions - and such a redoubtable Cul de sac, that no Enemy will run the risk to approach. This Position to be left under the immediate Command of M<sup>ty</sup> General Hammerstein - with all the remaining Artillery and Ammunition. His Excellency the Field Marshall to place himself with the Transports and the small Frigate from Stade near Seward - and the Pontoons placed over the Watten will keep up the Communication with General Hammerstein's Corps - which may be relieved every 24 hours,

that all the Troops share in the fatigues, in a glorious  
and most necessary Defence - untill His Majesty's  
further Orders decide their fate.

Shou'd the Senate of Hambourgh, make the smallest  
opposition to the Requisition of the Neutral  
Vessels - a Trumpeter is to be forwarded to inform  
them of the Determination to take possession of  
the City of Hambourgh - and as such proceedings can  
only be the Interference of the French Republican  
Spinister - it becomes of course a matter of imperious  
necessity, to put Mr. Preinhard & the French Commissary  
General - under Confinement at their respective  
Houses - and to keep them as hostages - untill the  
King's Electoral Pleasure has reached the Commander  
in Chief.

Hambourgh 11<sup>th</sup> June 1803.