

**EXTRACT FROM A DIARY OF REAR-ADMIRAL
SIR GEORGE COCKBURN, WITH PARTICULAR
REFERENCE TO GEN. NAPOLEON
BUONAPARTE, ON PASSAGE FROM ENGLAND
TO ST. HELENA, IN 1815. ON BOARD H. M. S.
"NORTHUMBERLAND," BEARING THE REAR-
ADMIRAL'S FLAG**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649751846

Extract from a diary of Rear-Admiral Sir George Cockburn, with particular reference to Gen. Napoleon Buonaparte, on passage from England to St. Helena, in 1815. On board H. M. S. "Northumberland," bearing the Rear-Admiral's flag by Sir George Cockburn

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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SIR GEORGE COCKBURN

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Extract from a Diary

OF

REAR-ADMIRAL

SIR GEORGE COCKBURN,

WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO

GEN. NAPOLEON BUONAPARTE,

ON

PASSAGE FROM ENGLAND TO ST. HELENA, IN 1815.

ON BOARD

H.M.S. "NORTHUMBERLAND,"

Being the Rear-Admiral's Log.

PRICE TWO SHILLINGS.

London:—SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & Co.

1888.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

PREFACE.

The M.S. from which this "Extract" has been printed, was found, in his own handwriting, among the papers of my late father; attached to it being a note, also in his own handwriting, to the effect that it is a reproduction of a copy found at St. Helena, in 1824 or 25, among the effects of one who had held an official position as Admiral's Secretary or Captain's Clerk on board the "Northumberland" on her voyage to St. Helena, where he died, and who had no doubt made it as a matter of pardonable curiosity and satisfaction for himself; and it is now published in the belief that its intrinsic interest, as closing a gap in the later career of the great soldier, will be deemed sufficient excuse for its seeing the light.

THOS: SALKELD BORRADAILE.

Surbiton, 1888.

Extract from a Diary
OF
REAR-ADMIRAL SIR GEORGE COCKBURN.

ON the 6th August, being off the Start in the "Northumberland," I met Lord Keith in the "Tonnant," having with him the "Bellerophon" and some frigates in which were General Buonaparte and all his suite. As the removal of the General and his things was likely to occupy some time, and the doing of it with the ships under sail might be attended with inconvenience, Lord Keith agreed with me in the propriety of anchoring the whole off the Berry Head, which was accordingly done the same evening; and his lordship afterwards accompanied me on board the "Bellerophon" to make known to General Buonaparte that in pursuance of instructions under which I was acting, he, the General, was to be removed as quickly as convenient into the "Northumberland" for the purpose of being conveyed to St. Helena. The General protested very strongly against this proceeding and against the right of the British Government thus to

dispose of him. Very little other conversation passed between us; we did not think it necessary to enter into the merits of the question with him, but contented ourselves with observing that, as military officers, we must, of course, obey the instructions of our Government, and therefore that we hoped he would be ready to remove to the "Northumberland" the next morning.

On the *7th August*, after breakfast, I went again to the "Bellerophon" to examine the baggage, &c., of the General and of those who were to accompany him, at which he was extremely indignant. I, however, in conformity with my instructions, caused everything to be inspected previous to permitting it to be sent on board the "Northumberland;" all the arms of every description were delivered up by him and his suite, and I stopped 4,000 napoleons in gold, which I delivered to Captain Maitland to be by him transmitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury. Everything else belonging to them being transhipped and the necessary arrangements completed, about midday Buonaparte embarked on board the "Northumberland," with the persons undermentioned, viz.—

Grand Maréchal Comte de Bertrand.

Madame de Bertrand.

3 children of ditto.

1 female servant with her child.

1 man servant.

General Comte de Montholon.

Madame de Montholon.

1 child.

1 female servant.

Le Comte de Las Cases.

1 son (a boy about 13 years of age).

General Gourgaud.

3 valets de chambre.

3 ditto de pied.

1 maitre d'hotel.

1 chef d'office.

1 cook.

1 huissier.

1 lampiste.

Of which—

7 grown-up, to be at my table.

2 maid servants

1 young gentleman

5 children

12 domestics, with my servants.

27 in all.

} at a separate table.

On reaching the deck he said to me, "Here I am, Admiral, at your orders!" He then asked to be introduced to the Captain, then asked the names of the different officers and gentlemen upon deck, asked them in what countries they were born and other questions of such trifling import, and he then went into the cabin with Lord Keith and myself, followed by some of his own people. After I had shown him the cabin I had appropriated for his exclusive use and requested him to sit down in the great cabin, he begged me to cause the Lieutenant of the ship to be introduced to him; as, however, at this time his own followers came to take leave of him, I thought it best to leave him for a little while to himself, and I found soon afterwards advantage was taken of this for him to assume *exclusive* right to the after, or great cabin. When I therefore had finished my letters I went into it again with some of my officers and desired M. de Bertrand to explain to him that the after cabin must be considered as common to us all, and that the sleeping cabin I had appropriated to him could alone be considered as exclusively his. He received this intimation with submission and good humour and soon afterwards

went on deck, where he chatted loosely and good-naturedly with everybody.

At dinner he ate heartily of almost every dish, praised everything and seemed most perfectly contented and reconciled to his fate. He talked with me during dinner much on his Russian Campaign, said he meant only to have refreshed his troops at Moscow for four or five days and then to have marched for Petersburg, but the destruction of Moscow subverted all his projects, and he said nothing could have been more horrible than was that campaign; that for several days together it appeared to him as if he were marching through a sea of fire owing to the constant succession of villages in flames which arose in every direction as far as his eye could reach; that this had been by some attributed to his troops but that it was always done by the natives. Many of his soldiers however, he said, lost their lives by endeavouring to pillage in the midst of the flames. He spoke much of the cold during their disastrous retreat, and stated that one night, after he had quitted the army to return to Paris, an entire half of his Guard were frozen to death. He also told me in the course of this evening that previous to his