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National Cipher Challenge Challenge 4 part A, 10/21/08 2:54

Lieut. General Viscount Wellington, K.B., to Commissary General Murray.

My dear sir,

The recent promotion of Scovell to the rank of Major, while bought largely by the most regrettable loss of so many of his comrades in the fifty seventh, is most richly deserved. The skill and independence of his Guides plays a vital role in our manoeuvres, and his daily post is a most remarkable engine of efficiency, facilitating communication between the two wings of our armies.

Major Scovell is to be appointed to superintend all the communications of the army. The postmaster sergeants at HQ and at Lisbon will place themselves under his orders, as likewise Senhor Oliviera, the Director of the Portuguese posts. The messengers likewise will continue to receive their orders from Major Scovell.

He will also take full responsibility for secure communications and the deciphering of enemy intercepts. The enemy are still close to us. You will have heard that Joseph has quitted Madrid: one consequence of this will be to increase the disposable force of the French, by the number of troops constantly kept at Madrid as guards to his person. This circumstance is worthy of attention. The Guides and our local friends are to focus their most special attention on the gathering of intelligence on these new French dispositions.

Believe me, etc., Wellington.

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National Cipher Challenge Challenge 4 part B, 10/21/08 2:54

To King Joseph from the hand of General Marmont, Duke of Ragusa

My Lord,

Our recent encounters with Wellington and his armies have been less than the glorious success that our brave troops deserve. Our superiority in numbers, tactics and supplies have yet to be rewarded with the decisive victory which could drive the British once more from the Peninsula.

Our greatest weakness is the frequent delivery into our enemies' hands of letters describing our intentions. We often see their observers flitting around us, and while our field ciphers have been used to some effect, the officers commanded by their postmaster Scovell have found it far too easy to break the more elementary ciphers in common use by our armies.

It is most urgent that we should adopt a more secure form of communication, and I urge you to petition Marshal Berthier for the introduction of a Grand Chiffre for use here in Spain and Portugal. For now I propose that we adopt a more sophisticated cipher than the one I have adapted here from the Dalmatian hieroglyphic petit chiffre.

Vive la France

Marmont