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Letters from Jaffa

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/9/76/145
Date(s)	Dec 1800 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (4 folios)
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About this record

This item contains copies of two letters:

1. A report by John Barker, Proconsul in Aleppo, forwarding intelligence received from an informant in Jaffa in December 1800. The report concerns preparations for an expedition against the French occupation forces in Egypt.

2. A letter from Brigadier-General George Koehler to John Barker, sent from the headquarters of the Vizier [Yūsuf Z̤īa al-Dīn Pāshā, Grand Vizier to the Ottoman Sulṭān] at Jaffa and dated 2 December 1800. The letter reports on the state of affairs in the camp of the Vizier, including desertion, plague, shortages, and a false report of a French attack. It also states that a large body of reinforcements are heading to join the Vizier and asks Barker to forward this news to India and the Red Sea.

Letters from Jaffa [1v] (2/8)

means of engaging Gezzar Pasha of Acri to allow a fair-market
at the Ports of Sidon, Beirut, &c. in his Territory for the purchase
with money of such things as the British Ships may be in want
of; and it was proposed, that Colonel Murray and M^r. Keith should
on their return to Rhodes with the Vizir's answers to the Letters
of Lord Keith and Sir Sidney Smith pay a visit to Gezzar Pasha
to negotiate that Business, and endeavour to discover the real
disposition of Gezzar towards us, and the resolution he is likely to
take under the new and disagreeable Circumstances in which
he must now find himself.

Sir Sidney Smith likewise wrote a friendly
Letter addressed to all the Beys now with the army of the Vizir,
announcing to them the Forces expected, and demanding their
Council and assistance in procuring Gallies, and other small
craft proper for landing Troops on the Coast of Egypt; where
the water is too shallow to allow of our Ships to approach,
and particularly, that they would seek to provide experienced &
faithful Arab Pilots that were well acquainted with the Bogsas
of Damietta, and Rosetta. Sir Sidney also further represented
to them the need the expedition would be in for Horses, Mules, and
Camels, and consulted with them about the means of procuring
them.

P. S. The Continuation of the interesting
details

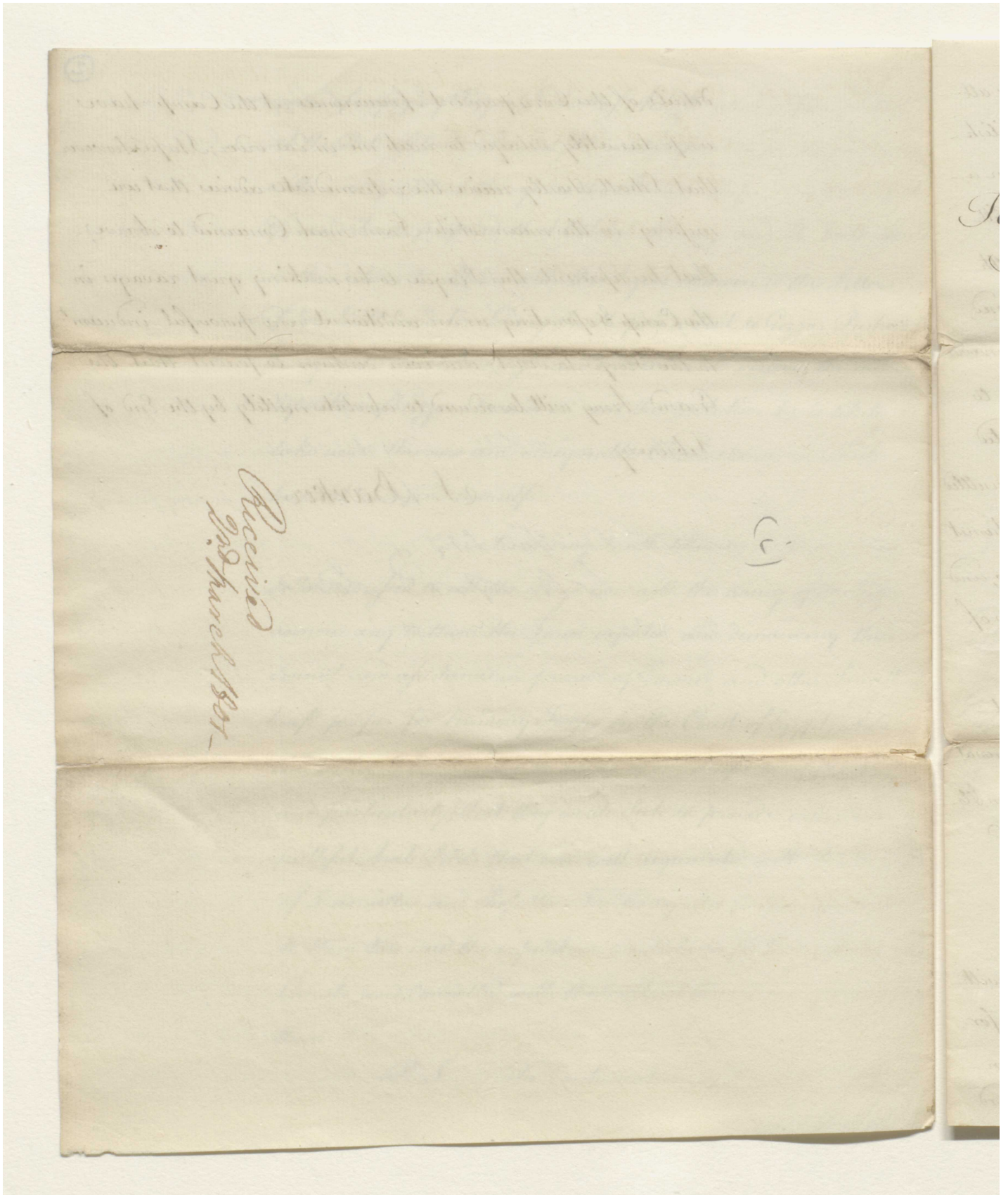
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details of this Correspondent of occurrences at the Camp, have
unfortunately delayed to reach me in due order; I hope however
that I shall shortly receive the intermediate advices that are
missing; in the mean while, I am much Concerned to observe,
that he represents the Plague to be making great ravages in
the Camp Operating as an additional and powerful inducement
to the Troops to desert; and even ventures to predict, that the
Grand Army will be reduced to absolute nullity by the End of
February

J. Barker

True Libs
M. A. D. Jones

Letters from Jaffa [2v] (4/8)



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To
John Barker Esq.

Pro Consul at Aleppo

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your of the 6. and
of the 22. Ultimo N. 4 & 5. and return you many thanks for
the Communication therein. I am happy you have received mine
of 23. October and that you have forwarded the purport of it
in the Manner you have mentioned. Every day Confirms me
the more in what I had there written.

The Pizar's Army every day diminishes in
number by desertion and Plague. In every other military quality
or requisite it is reduced to the lowest State of Inefficiency, and our
whole hopes rest now upon the speedy arrival of an sufficient
European reinforcement, without which no interruption can possibly
be given to the Enemy's Views of establishing themselves perma-
nently in Egypt. We have had a serious Alarm of the
approach

approach of a body of french Troops to attack the Vizier; all was in Consternation in the Turkish Camp - I sent a British Officer forward when the whole Alarm proved to proceed from a Patrol of three or four hundred frenchmen - to catch to fill up some wells &c. our British detachment is in good Health and Spirits, neither an Officer nor Soldier seriously indisposed but displeas'd at the stupid Inactivity in which they are unavoidably detained, the Turkish Magazines have begun already to fail, and so soon as the Communication by Sea is interrupted by the Stormy Season, we apprehend great Scarcity - The unsettled State of the Country around us, the discontents against Mehmet Pasha, the actions which have taken place in Consequence, and between Gazdar Pasha & the Emirs of the mountain &c. are of Course much better known to you than to me.

I shall not fail to give you the earliest notice of any material Occurrence, particularly of the arrival of any British Ships or Troops - or other interesting News. I am &c.

Head Quarters
of the Grand Vizier
Jaffa 2. December 1800

Signed / Geo. Fred. Koehler
Brig. General Koehler

P. S. The Carrackon Schoop has just arrived with Lieut. Colonel Murray from Sir Ralph Abercrombie with information that an Army of 20,000 Men are on their way on board

Letters from Jaffa [4r] (7/8)

on board a fleet of 90 Ships and Vessels &c. to Co-operate (4)
with the Army of the Vizier, this is thus beyond doubt, and by
Christmas, we may expect to see them, I have only time to
add this before the departure of the express. I beg you to take
every means to make the necessary Communication to India
& the Red Sea.

True Copy
J. Barker.

True Copy
Murdock Jones

Letters from Jaffa [4v] (8/8)

