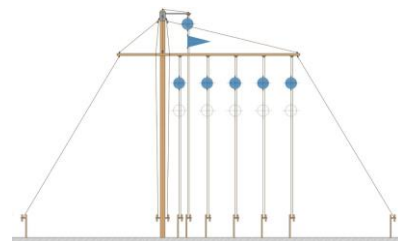


The Friends of the Lines of Torres Vedras



THE FRIENDS OF THE LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS INVITE YOU TO LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS DAY COMMEMORATIONS 2015 AT APSLEY HOUSE ON TUESDAY THE 20th OF OCTOBER

A guided tour of Apsley House followed by a lecture & drinks reception finished off by a meal at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Total numbers will be limited to 40 on a first-come first-served basis. The event will start at 4pm at Apsley House with tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival, the tour will start at 4.30pm. Events at Apsley House will conclude by 7.30pm and dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club will be served at 8pm.

Lecture by Prof Malyn Newitt – ‘Beresford and post-Peninsular War Portugal’

When the Napoleonic Wars ended with the battle of Waterloo, Lord Beresford was still commander-in-chief of the Portuguese army. He was to continue to play a leading part in the affairs of Portugal for the next five years, though this has often been misunderstood by historians. Beresford was never one of the Regents and was frequently at loggerheads with that body. He retained his position because Dom João VI, who remained in Brazil, wanted someone he could trust to counter the intrigues of the Regents which threatened the stability of royal government. Beresford commanded a very large peace-time army which, he claimed, was necessary to meet threats from Spain and which enabled him to operate a kind of parallel government with his own intelligence network. He also controlled military hospitals and supplies, carried out recruitment drives to keep up the army's numbers and maintained direct contact with Dom João over the heads of the Regents, travelling to Brazil himself on two occasions. Beresford's army was employed by Dom João to pursue his ambition to take over the Banda Oriental of the Río de la Plata (modern Uruguay). Beresford's opportunity to check the activities of the Regents occurred when his spies uncovered the so-called Gomes Freire Conspiracy in 1817. This led to a series of show trials and to the execution of General Gomes Freire himself. In the short-term this strengthened Beresford's hand as the king's unofficial representative in Portugal, but in the longer term led to the liberal uprising of 1820 and to Beresford himself having to surrender his position as head of the army.

Professor Malyn Newitt

Malyn Newitt was Charles Boxer Professor of History at King's College London until he retired in 2005. As well as a number of books on Portuguese colonial history, he edited, with Martin Robson, a volume of essays entitled *Lord Beresford and British Intervention in Portugal 1807-1820*. In this volume he contributed chapters on Beresford in Madeira, on the Gomes Freire conspiracy and on Beresford's relation with the Regents.

To: The Secretary, The Friends of the Lines of Torres Vedras, 43 Bondgate Green Lane, Ripon, NORTH YORKSHIRE, HG41QQ (See <http://fltv.weebly.com/> if you want to contact by email)

I/We wish to attend Lines of Torres Vedras Day Commemorations at Apsley House on Tuesday 20th October 2016 followed by dinner at The Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London W1J 7PX.

Name(s) _____

Daytime Tel: _____

- Members @ £25 Guests @ £30 Students @ £20 for the Apsley House event only
- Members @ £65 Guests @ £75 Students @ £55 for the Apsley House and dinner events

Payment: I enclose a cheque for £_____ to *The Friends of the Lines of Torres Vedras*.

I have paid by Bank Transfer to Barclays Bank, Banbury Branch. Sort: 20 - 03 - 84 Account: 83004392