

NOTE ON LIEUT.-COLONEL R. BRUNTON'S ALLEGED
RIGHT TO THE PORTUGUESE COMMANDER'S STAR.

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PINIONS vary as regards the genuineness of Lieut.-Colonel Richard Brunton's Portuguese Commander's Star, described in Doctor Payne's Paper, *vide* pp. 235-40 of the *British Numismatic Journal* of 1916 (vol. xii).

I have often discussed the point with Doctor Payne, and agree that Officers who may have been in command of a regiment, even temporarily, during a battle were entitled to the Star (Clause 5 of Art. II of the Decree of 28th June, 1816), but no one has even been able to show that Brunton had *command* of any body of troops, *at any time*. He may have been *present* at the eight battles, etc., which are named on the leaves of this Star, but, as the names of *three* battles (Arroyo de Molinos, Almaraz, and Maya) are on it which were not authorized by Article I of the Decree instituting it, the Star stands self-condemned as a fake.

The Star in Colonel Murray's collection (mentioned by Doctor Payne) bears an unauthorized battle name—"Gariz"—on one of the leaves, but even that cannot make Brunton's three battle names valid. This, too, must be a "fake." "Gariz" was only a combat (February, 1814).

The 2nd clause of Article II of the Decree granting the Star is very clear—"Only battles and sieges above mentioned can be presented as a claim for collars or medals. No other fights or services can be advanced for the distinctions afforded by this Decree." Arroyo de Molinos, Almaraz, Maya and Gariz are *not* mentioned.

If Brunton had been entitled to the Portuguese Star, *a fortiori* he could have received the English Gold Medal (or Cross). 143 Officers (British and Portuguese) of the Portuguese Army received this, including three Officers of the 6th Caçadores (for Fuentes d' Onoro, Vittoria, and Pyrenees)—Brunton's regiment, but Brunton did not receive it.

The case is on all fours with that of a man who wears medals or clasps to which he is not entitled. He has no *right* to wear them. Brunton had no *right*.