Information about the British staff maps available is given in Wellington’s Headquarters by SGP Ward, pages 103-110:

The atlas of López’s maps (printed by Faden) which Sir John Moore carried with him is still in existence.

Both Moore and Sir John Hope had copies of the Mentelle map [described above].

Stockdale’s version of López did not find its way to the Peninsular until December 1808, after Moore had left Lisbon.

Henry Bence1 was a very junior Lieutenant in the 16th, or Queen’s, Light Dragoons, with his commission dating from 20th October 1808. He appears to have been a conscientious young man since he had handwritten the regimental Standing Orders of 16th Light Dragoons on 122 pages of a leather-bound booklet. In early 1809 the regiment was posted for Portugal and he equipped himself with a map: Map of Spain & Portugal by Don Tomás López, published by Faden in 1808 that was 57x47cm, and had 16 panels mounted on linen.

The regiment arrived in Portugal on 13 April 1809 and would see continuous service throughout the Peninsular War.

Once Bence had tried using his López, one suspects that he discovered its inaccuracies, since his collection of papers includes another, somewhat better map: Mappa corografico dos reinos de Portugal e Algarves, copiado do Inglez de W. Faden. This is now a very rare Portuguese copy of a Faden, published 1809, that was 75x53 cm, with 12 panels mounted on linen.2

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1 Diary of a Cavalry Officer 1809-15, by Tomkinson, Appendix, p332-7. Lt Henry Bence Bence. 1811 - to 60th Foot by purchase. 1846 - Capt Henry Bence Bence, 0th Foot, awarded the MGSM.
2 These items together form ‘The Bence Papers’.
Comparison of this map with no. 4 Masséna’s shows a completely different series of routes between Pinhel and Vizeu, but there is one between Almeida and Celorico.

At the other end of seniority scale is Lieutenant General Sir John Cradock\(^3\) who commanded in Portugal from 14 December 1808 until Wellesly returned on 22 April 1809. He owned a copy of: *Mappa ou Carta Geographica dos Reinos de Portugale e Algarve*, by T Jefferys. This was a second edition published in 1790 by his successor Wm. Faden.\(^4\) It was 92x170 cm, 36 panels 23x19 cm, and mounted on linen. Notes in English & Portuguese.

\(^3\) General John Francis Cradock, 1st Baron Howden GCB (11 August 1759 – 26 July 1839)

\(^4\) This map has his signature of ownership.
Again, comparison of this map with no. 4 Masséna’s shows a completely different series of routes between Pinhel and Vizeu, but one between Almeida and Celorico.

Jasper Nantiat’s *A New Map of Spain and Portugal*, published by Faden on 1 January 1810, must have been in the hands of the Army early that spring, as one of Beresford’s ADC’s, Warre, was asking his family for a copy in that March.⁵

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⁵ Warre to his father, Coimbra, 21 Mar 1810 (Letters from the Peninsula 1808-1812, p.116. Major William Warre was first ADC to Field Marshal Beresford of the Portuguese Army.
This map, although having several improvements over those previously, now shows the main road as being from Almeida, via Pinhel to Celorico and nothing between Trancoso and Vizeu. This is the map of which General Graham remarked that it ‘deserves to be burned by the public hangman’.

Not surprisingly, Sir George Murray, the Quartermaster General, had a complete set of López, a Mentelle, a Carta Militar and a Nantiat/Faden. He also possessed a fairly complete set of Cassini, which, as a matter of fact, he ordered up too late from Lisbon for it to be of use to him in the advance from the Nive in the spring of 1814.

A graduate of the new Staff College, Murray was a keen geographer and, after his appointment to serve under Wellington in 1809, his first care was to set in motion a systematic survey of Portugal. Every road, every bridge, every ford, every possible defensive position the army might need, was reconnoitred and its particulars noted for future reference. This was achieved by sending out sketching officers who amassed the details needed according to his most comprehensive instructions.

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6 List of the Papers, Books and Maps in the Quartermaster-General's Office, Lisbon, 15 Aug and Dec 1810 (Murray Papers, 28, fos. 249-56; 31, fos. 134-41); Reynett to Mackenzie, Alverca, 24 July 1810 (ibid. 103, p. 94).
Lt. William Swabey RHA entered in his diary for 4th May 1812, *I pasted one of Faden’s maps, which my idleness has long neglected.* Therefore most of these ‘campaign maps’ could be purchased in the plain printed form and it was up to the owner to cut it into panels and mount it on linen.

Even a cursory study of these maps, all showing precisely the same area, will make one aware of their differences. This is not only with the roads themselves, but also in the relative positioning of Vizeu from Almeida. This inaccuracy made it very difficult for Masséna’s northern column of the reserve artillery, the baggage train, and General Louis Montbrun’s cavalry, attempting to find their way forward on compass bearings.
Of course, all these maps had been produced by publishers who had never actually been ‘into the field’ - even López described himself as a ‘desk cartographer’.

Extract from Wellington’s Headquarters by SGP Ward, page 110

“When the war was over Murray obtained permission from the Treasury for an officer to reside in Spain and Portugal for four years to complete the sketches of the battlefields which had been begun during the war for the Military Depot. The task was entrusted to a draughtsman of outstanding ability, Captain Mitchell, whose finished drawings were published, after many vicissitudes, by the London geographer James Wyld, in 1841. It was described as ‘an elaborate and monumental work of almost unimpeachable accuracy’. If it is evidence of the intense activity of the topographers of Wellington’s Army, it can also be looked upon as the last manifestation of the old QMG Department’s preoccupation with military topography, military science and military history.”

Vizeu  
Celorico  
Almeida

Wyld’s Atlas containing the principle battles, sieges and affairs of the Peninsular War

Being made by those who were ‘in the field’ the maps in Wyld’s Atlas are probably the most accurate of that time.8

Placed on the Napoleon Series: January 2019

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7 Afterwards Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell (1792-1855), the famous explorer of Australia.
8 Whilst the majority of the maps are by Mitchell, there are several which we were ‘surveyed & drawn’ by others and ‘Finished by Major Sir TL Mitchell’ besides others that were done completely by other QMG or Staff Corps officers.