

Photocopy of a letter, 8 April 1812, from James McGrigor to Lieutenant Colonel Grant re his impressions at the storming of Badajoz during the Peninsular War

Publication/Creation

1812

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Cover.
(a).

Single.

AP 1812
27

AP 1812

(b).

Lt.Col. Grant
70th. Regt.
Stirling Castle
N.B.

Badajoz, 8th. April, 1812.

First sheet.

My Dear Colonel

Tho' as usual you owe me an epistolary debt, I take up the pen and under the circumstances I am in, in this horrible scene of carnage you stand a worse chance of getting a more legible scrawl than ever.

(c). -~~6e~~

(d).

The gazette will give you an account of our feats here - I know not whether John Bull is Delighted or not; (but I think he pays dearly for this war. Heavy as it is) but nothing could keep out our people - when Phillipon breakfasted with his Lordship the morning after, he confessed as much. He is a very able man the 2d. in command, the Commandant of Artillery and Chief Engineer still more so. The garrison young strong men - I saw about 3,000 of them march out and I know not that I ever saw as many of our own look better.

Second sheet

(e).

Being with his Lordship the whole time, the business went on, I saw every thing and heard every thing, and most entertaining it was. I would have been very ~~horri~~ frightened but ~~never before~~ was of the besieging party; at one time, and when the account came that our people had been repulsed from the two breaches, it was an awful moment. The number of my own friends killed and wounded is very great, you remember poor Monro 42d. who was Genl. Whetham's aid de camp. It is only 5 minutes ago that I have seen him and only in time to see him a corpse. He begged hard to see me and when he found I did not appear left a message and asked that I would see him put under ground and write his wife - no pleasant task.

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In preparing for this and in making arrangements, my duty has been extremely harrassing and I have got a little more genteel in my manner than I was. During the time ~~I was~~ the thing lasted about 5 hours Lord Wellington was extremely anxious to know the number of men that came wounded to the different posts and I went from the one to the other and occasionally informed him. When the thing was over and I told him what I believed the actual number he really cried.

Third sheet.

(sic)

I have every reason to be satisfied with him - my situation at headquarters, his family is of the most pleasant as well as first-rate. The Prince of Orange, Lord FitzRoy Somerset, Lord Clinton, Lord Clinton, Colonel Bouverie, Lord Russel.

e(f).

Of Colquhoun I hear frequently tho' I have not seen him as of the 3d. He was then in front of Ciudad Rhoderigo watching Marmont, well and in spirits.

(g).

Every thing is due to Genl. Kempt for the taking of this place: he is by far the best general officer with this army at present and but for him I doubt if you would have got Walker who I fear

(h)

is mortally wounded was much at one time and so was ~~one of the heroes~~. As I am unable to write more news at the present time you must communicate this to Mary and the family. I never was in better health.

(i).

Remember me to poor Mary. I hope that she and you with affection and regard carriage only - ever

most affectionately
to poor Mary

Edinburgh
P.M.

My Dear Colonel
Sincerely yours
J. McGrigor.

NOTES!

- (a). "Single" indicates the rate of postage payable.
- (b). Postal date stamp.
- (c). The part in parentheses is crossed out in the original.
- (d). General Armand Phillipon, Governor of Badajoz.
- (e). Lt. Gen. Arthur Whetham. Col. Comdt., 60th. (or Royal American) Regt. of Foot and Lieutenant-Governor of Portsmouth.
- f). "Colquhoun" is Captain (or major, or colonel) Colquhoun Grant, Captain, 11th. foot, 19 Nov 1801, McGrigor's brother-in-law, and Wellington's famous intelligence officer. See McGrigor's Autobiography, London, 1861, pp. 281-296 and Appendix, PP. 413-7, Napier's Peninsular War, vol. 4, Book 16, chapter 7, and Oman, vol. 5, pp. 292 and 313.
- (g). Maj.-Gen. J. Kempt, brigade commander, 3rd. Div.
- (h). Maj.-Gen. Walker, " " 5th. Div.
- (i). Mary may be McGrigor's wife and Colquhoun Grant's sister.

Additional note.

I have not yet been able to determine the relationship of Colquhoun Grant to the Lt. Col. Grant to whom the letter is addressed. The latter is shown in the "Army List" at this time as Lt. Col. Lewis Grantt. ~~(1801)~~

23.7.52.

J.B.N.

-2-

never was in better health. Remember me most affectionately to them
all and most particularly to poor Mary. I hope that she and you
Edinburgh carriage only - ever with affection
and regard

My Dear Colonel

Sincerely yours

J. McGRIGOR.

Dear

Here is the copy of the Clostridium
article. Looking to follow

Yours

W. Col. E. J. Bourne Mc Rone

M.R.S.

Portin

near Salisbury

Wills

(d) General Armand Phillipon
Gouverneur Zhadajoz

Vol. 5
(g) Kempf B. 3 bis

Arthur
(e) to Gen 4.6.11
Col Comdr to (Royal American)
Capt 9700 7.2.11

Vol. 8
L. Waecher B. 5 bis

Lt Gen P. M. P. P. P.

Lt Col (18.2.04)
Lewis Grantt (Act 1913)

(f) Col Grantt
Capt 11700 19 Nov 01

Li Janin: Autobiography. London 1861 Cl. XL
pp. 281-296
+ App. 412-417.

Napier Vol 4 pp. 464-472 Book 10
de 7
Oman Vol 5 pp. 292 - 319
with plates 1914 Oxford

Badoig 8th April 1857

My Dear Colonel

This as usual you are in
an epistolary debt. I take up the pen, & under
the circumstances I am in, in this hostile scene,
cannot you stand a worse chance of getting a
letter than now.

The gazette will give you an account of our
fight here - I know not whether Gen Bull will
be delighted or not. As I think he has done
for this time ~~very well~~ but not very well
kept out our people - when Shikhar Bahadur
with ^{his} Lakshmi the morning after he caught ^{as usual}
he is a very able man the 1st in command the
Commandant of Artillery & Chief Engineer here
so - The general saw how well I saw where
some of them march out. I know not that
you saw as many of our men both letters.

Being with Lakshmi the whole time, the general
did not see I saw very little I heard very little
of our men.

Yours truly

intentionally it was. I would have been brigaded, but he
knew was of the brigading party: at one time, & when
the account came that our people had been repulsed
from the 2 breaks. it was an awful moment.

The number of my own friends killed or wounded is very
great, you remember how many of who was sent
Mohlmann aid our camp. it is only 5 minutes
ago that I have seen him & only in time to see
him a corpse. he begged hard to see me. & when he
found I did not appear that left to suppose I was
that I was in the ground & sent her
wife - no pleasant task.

The purchase for this side in making arrangements
my duty has been extremely harassing & I have not
a little more grieved in my work than I was.
During the time the Hon. Col. about 5 hours. and
Wellington was extremely anxious to know the
number of men that came wanted to be allowed
that I went from the night the other & occasionally
informed him. When the Hon. Col. was won. I told
him what I believe the actual number to
really was.

I have every reason to be satisfied in the
result.

her - very situation at head quarters. her family
of the most pleasant in which are just rate had.
The family of brandy Ind John Roy Tomson. Lady Clinton
Lady Clinton, Colonel Bowman. Lady Russell

of Virginia I have frequently been I have not seen
him as usual as of the Ind he was then the
part of business handing working account. with
in short.

Every thing is done to the point for the better of the
State: he is by far the best General Officer with the best
interest. But for them I doubt if you would have
been able to obtain what I fear is probably wanted
was made decide at the time & to our view of
them - In the end of the matter then at the
present moment you must communicate them to
them to the family. I am well with in health.
Remain in the most affectionately to them all & near
with kindly to them all. I hope that you will soon
be able to visit me in the city with all the family

Yours
Very Dear Colonel
Sincerely yours
J. M. Gibson