

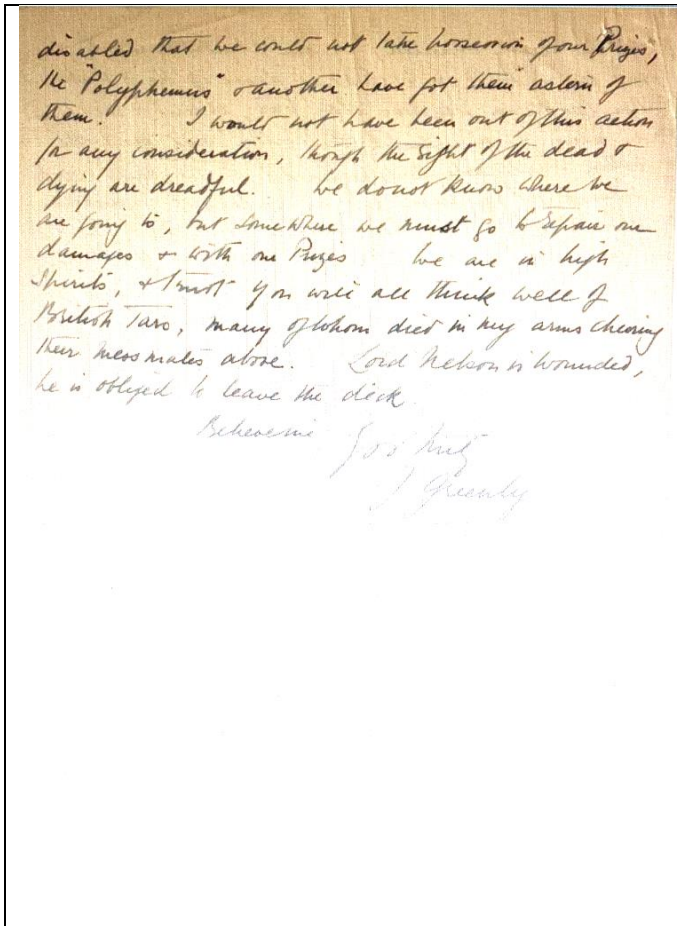
Rev John Greenly (1778 - 1862), Battle of Trafalgar and Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson (1805) A letter from John, to his father William Greenly in Hereford, immediately after the battle Oct 21 1805

"England expects everything from this day's action, and trusts every man will do his duty" Admiral Lord Nelson.

Letter no.1 was written immediately following the battle. John Greenly describes Nelson's famous signal "England expects ..." and tells that Nelson is wounded but does not yet know of his death. Note: the specs of blood on page 1.

<p style="text-align: right;">off Cadiz Oct 21st 1805.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"A glorious day for England"</p> <p>Dear Father.</p> <p>I have this day witnessed a scene, which I suppose you have seen described in the papers, yet I shall not lose the opportunity of a cutter's going to England from Lord Nelson; such news has not been heard since the Spanish Armada. We discovered the enemy (which I am glad I first saw) at 4 oc. in the morning. 41 large ships; we had 26 sail of the line with light breezes. Lord N. made the signal to engage the centre of the enemy, which Admiral Collingwood did in a most gallant manner and cut off 12 of the enemy, which 3 of ours engaged, the Revenge led them, & I am glad to say has immortalized our good Captain. I will tell you the result of this glorious action. We have 16 in tow, and one 4 decker rather an unusual ship, one blown up, & one sunk by the 'Victory', Lord Nelson's ship, which you may be sure, behaved as he always does. The last signal he made by telegraph was: "England expects every thing from this day's action, and trusts every man will do his duty." Our Captain told his men, he would act as Lord Nelson had always done, lay his ship alongside the largest he came near & would leave the rest to his men, they gave him 3 cheers, & they fought like lions. The Revenge, a fine 74, had 4 74's & a 3 decker at one time upon her ..</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">off Cadiz Oct 21st</p> <p>1805 "A glorious day for England"</p> <p>Dear Father</p> <p>I have this day witnessed a scene, which I suppose you have seen described in the papers, yet I shall not lose the opportunity of a cutter's going to England from Lord Nelson; such news has not been heard since the Spanish Armada. We discovered the enemy (which I am glad I first saw) at 4. oc. in the morning. 41 large ships; e had 26 sail of the line with light breezes. Lord N. made the signal to engage the centre of the enemy, which Admiral Collingwood did in a most gallant manner and cut off 12 of the enemy, which 3 of ours engaged, the Revenge led them, & I am glad to say has immortalized our good Captain. I will tell you the result of this glorious action. We have 16 in tow, and one 4 decker rather an unusual ship, one blown up, & one sunk by the 'Victory', Lord Nelsons' ship, which you may be sure, behaved as he always does. The last signal he made by telegraph was:- "England expects everything from this day's action, and trusts every man will do his duty". Our Captain told his men, we would act as Lord Nelson had always done, lay his ship alongside the largest he came near & would leave the rest to his men. They gave him 3 cheers, & they fought like lions. The Revenge, a fine 74, had 4 74's & a 3 decker at one time upon her ..</p>
<p>.. we are terribly mauled, we are almost a wreck, but we made 2 74's strike & drove off the 3 decker; then Lord Nelson who was close to us, cheered & we cheered in return & immediately the 'Victory' sent one to the bottom & every soul perished. The ships on both sides fought very hard but the coolness of Englishmen showed them what they had to trust to. The enemy had 11 sail of the line more than we had, 3 frigates & a brig. Admiral Louis with 7 sail of the line left us about a week ago to water at Tetuan; but the fewer in number the more honour & profit.</p> <p>I had a very narrow escape, a 42 pounder came within 6 inches of me, & entirely shattered a beam: the Captain ordered me off twice, but I went up when I could from the wounded. We had a dreadful carnage: Capt. Moorsom (very slightly wounded in the cheek, but would not quit the deck) fought his ship as coolly as if at dinner, never less than 2 on us from 1 oc midday till half past six. We have 27 killed & 45 wounded very badly, some of them the Centurion's late crew, one Master is wounded, two Midshipmen killed, 2 wounded, all our yards were shot away & topmasts & lower masts terribly mauled. The killed on board the enemy must have been dreadful, as one of the ships which struck to us, was employed all the morning in throwing their dead bodies over board: we were so ..</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- 824 -</p>	<p>.. we are terribly mauled, we are almost a wreck, but we made 2 74's strike & drove off the 3 decker, then Lord Nelson who was close to us, cheered & we cheered in return & immediately the 'Victory' sent one to the bottom & every soul perished. The ships on both sides fought very hard but the coolness of Englishmen showed them what they had to trust to. The enemy had 11 sail of the line more than we had, 3 frigates & a brig. Admiral Louis with 7 sail of the line left us about a week ago to water at Tetuan; but the fewer in number the more honour & profit.</p> <p>I had a very narrow escape, a 42 pounder came within 6 inches of me, & entirely shattered a beam: the Captain ordered me off twice, but I went up when I could from the wounded. We had a dreadful carnage: Capt. Moorsom (very slightly wounded in the cheek, but would not quit the deck) fought as coolly as if at dinner, never less than 2 on us from 1 oc midday till half past six. We have 27 killed & 45 wounded very badly, some of the "Centurion's" late crew, our Master is wounded, two Midshipmen killed, 2 wounded, all our yards were shot away & topmasts & lower masts terribly mauled. The killed on board the enemy must have been dreadful, as one of the ships which struck to us, was employed all the morning in throwing their dead bodies over board : we were so ..</p>

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disabled that we could not take possession of our Prizes, the "Polyphemus" & another have got them astern of them. I would not have been out of this action for any consideration, though the sight of the dead & dying are dreadful. We do not know where we are going to, but somewhere we must go to repair our damages & with our Prizes we are in high spirits, & trust you will all think well of British tars, many of whom died in my arms cheering their mess mates above. Lord Nelson is wounded, he is obliged to leave the deck.

Believe me
Yours truly
J. Greenly

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