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Letters of Richard Greenhalgh, 1793-1802

A collection of 40 letters from ordinary seaman Richard Greenhalgh of Bury, Lancashire to his parents 21.3.1793-29.8.1802, and sent from the following ships; **HMS Illustrious** (74 gun), **HMS Caesar** (80), **HMS Powerful** (74), **HMS Zealand** (64), **HMS Volcano** bomb ship (8), **HMS Raccoon** brig-sloop (16). The letters trace his service from first joining the navy in 1793 until shortly after his desertion off Naples for a merchant ship bound for St. Johns, Newfoundland. Letters principally concern the conditions in the fleet, pay and prize money, the sending of money to and from home and contacts with mutual Lancashire friends in the fleet. There are few operational details, though Greenhalgh was present at the **Battle of Camperdown** 11.10.1797. A few are written in his own hand, but great majority are written for him in a number of hands and styles. Sent mainly from home ports or from ports in the Western Mediterranean. More detailed individual catalogue entries and transcripts are available, museum reference **Document: 84/546 (1-40)**.

'We have plenty of Lancashire ... on Board from Bury and Bolton and all Round which makes it like home'

Contact:

Curator of Documents and Manuscripts

LISTING OF DOCUMENT FILE FOR DATABASE DOCUMENT

Record No. 1232

AC 84/546

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letters (40) addressed by richard greenhalgh rn to his parents , mr and mrs william greenhalgh of greenhalghs moss , nr bury , lancashire during his service and dated from 21.3.1793 to 29.8.1802 . a few letters are written in richards own hand the rest were written for him

Record No. 1233

AC 84/546

CD 1

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated plymouth 21.3.1793 , hms illustrious (1789) and addressed "honoured father and mother" commenting on his first experience of life at sea

Record No. 1234

AC 84/546

CD 2

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated portsmouth 13.5.1793 and addressed "honoured father and mother" describes the capture of a spanish galleon by hms ganges 1782 on 14.4.1793

Record No. 1235

AC 84/546

CD 3

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated plymouth 9.10.1793 and addressed "honoured father and mother" a personal letter and evidence that "tars had not always mony"

Record No. 1236

AC 84/546

CD 3

KA 2.2

Record No. 1236

CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated ceasar (1793)
24.7.1794 and addressed "honoured parents" a personal letter
written in a far more formal and literary style than the
previous

Record No. 1237

AC 84/546
CO 5
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated torbay 23.9.1794
and addressed "honoured father and mother" written on his
behalf
by thomas brown an irishman. describes the capture off
france of a french cutter by his ship in early september

Record No. 1238

AC 84/546
CO 6
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated caesar (1793)
7.3.1795 , spithead and addressed "honoured parents".
describes
convoy duty from plymouth to cape ortagal and the capture
of the french brig (18) and contains the comment
"notwithstanding
tho happy my situation i would not recommend '

Record No. 1239

AC 84/546
CO 7
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated spithead
28.3.1795 and addressed "honoured father" informs his father
that eight
guineas has been sent for collection at the post office ,
rochdale

Record No. 1240

AC 84/546
CO 8
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

Record No. 1240

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated caesar (1793) 3.7.1795 , spithead and addressed "loving parents". expresses his

belief that the caesar will be ordered to join lord bridports channel fleet , relates news of bridports action at groix island on 23.6.1795 and anticipates a visit to the caesar by hrh duke of york

Record No. 1241

AC 84/546

CD 9

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated powerful 29.9.1795 at , spithead and addressed "honoured parents". relates news

of the blockade of quiberon bay cover countersigned by 1st lieut. n. gray hms powerful 1783

Record No. 1242

AC 84/546

CD 10

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh post stamped 15.6.1796 and addressed "dear parents". describes the unpleasantness of a

cruise in the north seas and the capture of a dutch frigate and two brigs of war . cover countersigned by ed.? grey 1st lieut. hms powerful 1783

Record No. 1243

AC 84/546

CD 11

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated powerful (1783) , portsmouth 30.8.1796 and addressed "honoured parents". relates that the ship has been in dock . cover countersigned by jn. fyffe , lieut.

Record No. 1244

AC 84/546

CD 12

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

Record No. 1244

CR 9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated powerful (1783) ,
plymouth 20.1.1797 and addressed "honoured
parents".describes

action against the french at bantry bay under lord
bridport , a postscript dated 14.2.1997 relates that the
powerful is

docking at hamoaze , cover countersigned by john fyffe , 1st
lieut,

Record No. 1245

AC 84/546

CO 13

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated zealand (1796)
laying in hamoaze march 1797 and addressed "honoured parents"

comments on the dangers of indulging in rum and requests
the loan of 20 pounds . cover countersigned by edward williams
,lieut

hms powerful (1783)

Record No. 1246

AC 84/546

CO 14

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

6.10.3

9.6.0

DE manuscript letter dated hms powerful 1783 at torbay 5.7.1797
and addressed to his " loving parents " by richard greenhalgh
. some small account of the mutinies at the nore and spithead
. cover countersigned by lieutenant h. m. jennings rn

Record No. 1247

AC 84/546

CO 15

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated powerful (1783) ,
spithead , 30.8.1797 and addressed "honoured parents"
informing

them of his arrival at spithead . cover countersigned by
mr fyffe , 1st lieutenant

Record No. 1248

AC 84/546

CO 16

Record No. 1248

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated powerful (1783) 27.9.1797 and addressed to "honoured parents" concerning the payment of half his wages monthly to his mother . cover countersigned by lieut. fyffe

Record No. 1249

AC 84/546

CO 17

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated nore 17.10.1797 and addressed to " honoured parents ". contains brief mention of the action at camperdown . cover countersigned by an officer of hms powerful 1783

Record No. 1250

AC 84/546

CO 18

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated spithead 2.11.1797 and addressed "honoured parents", a personal letter. cover countersigned by lieut. harris , hms powerful (1783)

Record No. 1251

AC 84/546

CO 19

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated portsmouth harbour , 29.11.1797 , hms powerful (1783) and addressed "loving parents". mentions the re-fitting and rigging of the powerful after the late engagement (camperdown) and requests the loan of 1 guinea. cover countersigned by lieut. fyffe

Record No. 1252

AC 84/546

CO 20

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated powerful (1783) portsmouth harbour 1.1.1798 and addressed "dear parents". written

Record No. 1252

DE on the fifth anniversary of his "coming to my floating imprisonment" but remaining confident and optimistic that "we are a dreadful scourge by sea". cover countersigned by lieut. harris , hms powerful

Record No. 1253

AC 84/546
CO 21
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated bear [sic] haven 4.5.1798 and addressed "honoured parents".reporting that rumours in england of disturbance in this area are unwarranted and requesting news of home (having recieved no letter for 4 months

Record No. 1254

AC 84/546
CO 22
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated hms powerful(1783) off cadiz 12.8.1798 and addressed "honoured parents".lists the squadron under the command of sir roger curtis deployed for the blockade of cadiz from 24.5.1798 and expresses an optimists hope of escaping all dangers since 11.10.1797 . no cover presumably a second page is missing

Record No. 1255

AC 84/546
CO 23
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated gibraltar 1.1.1799 and addressed "dear father and mother".expresses some disillusionment with the war. presumably written on board hms powerful (1783)

Record No. 1256

AC 84/546
CO 24
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

Record No. 1256

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated port mahon (island of minorca) 4.8.1799 and addressed "honoured parents" .a

detailed account of deployment from 19.3.1799 - escort of merchant convoy from gibraltar to minorca ; cruising with st.vincent's

fleet including firing of enemy "small sail" at toulon
dispatch to join nelson's fleet in palermo and subsequent participation

in the action in sicily , presumably written on board hms powerful (1783)

Record No. 1257

AC 84/546

CO 25

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated spithead 23.1.1800 and addressed "honoured parents" an account of the ships

return from cape finisterre , "in distress" for refit.
cover countersigned lieut,thomas harris , hms powerful

Record No. 1258

AC 84/546

CO 26

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated hms volcano , bomb (1797) 3.4.1800 and addressed "honoured father". reports that

he has been drafted and "god knows when i shall get a ship as i am only supernumary in this" and requests the loan of 2 pounds for "i cannot say how long it will be before i get my wages"

Record No. 1259

AC 84/546

CO 27

KA 2.2

CR 4.5

9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated volcano (1797) , sheerness , 11.4.1800 and addressed "honoured parents".a letter

of nostalgia for home

Record No. 1260

AC 84/546

Record No. 1260

CO 28
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated hms racoon (1795)
, the downs 20.5.1800 and addressed "honoured parents" written
in his own hand

Record No. 1261

AC 84/546
CO 29
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated hms racoon (1795)
, dover road 1.9. 1800 and addressed "honoured parents . advice
to his brother james who is thinking of going to sea ,
cover signed by a lieut.

Record No. 1262

AC 84/546
CO 30
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated hms racoon (1795)
, the downs 6.12.1800 and addressed "honoured parents". report
of the taking of a west indiaman from a french privateer.
cover countersigned by lieut. wm jones hms racoon 1795

Record No. 1263

AC 84/546
CO 31
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated hms racoon (1795)
, the downs 4.1 .1801 and addressed "honoured parents". first
hint of his decision to jump ship if the opportunity
arises , probably written from hms racoon (1795)

Record No. 1264

AC 84/546
CO 32
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated hms racoon
(1795), portsmouth 20.5.1801 and addressed "honoured parents". a
personal letter

Record No. 1265

AC 84/546
CO 33
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated hms racoon (1795), weymouth 20.6.1801 and addressed "honoured parents". a request for 2 pounds for "nescersays"

Record No. 1266

AC 84/546
CO 34
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated hms racoon (1795), torbay, 17.7.1801 and addressed "honoured parents". mentions

his intention to see home "this summer" cover countersigned by a lieut, of hms racoon

Record No. 1267

AC 84/546
CO 35
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated hms racoon (1795) spithead 9.10.1801 and addressed "honoured parents". reports redeployment either to the mediterranean othe west ies cover countersigned by a lieut, of hms racoon

Record No. 1268

AC 84/546
CO 36
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated hms racoon (1795) gibraltar 17.10.1801 and addressed "honoured parents". postponing once again his proposed visit to home .cover countersigned by a lieut,wm jones of hms racoon

Record No. 1269

AC 84/546
CO 37
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

Record No. 1269

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated hms racoon (1795) malta 23.12.1801 and addressed "honoured parents". i am in expectations of coming home to england in the spring .cover countersigned by a lieut,wm jones of hms racoon

Record No. 1270

AC 84/546
CO 38
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh dated cato , st johns , 29.8.1802 and addressed "honoured parents" , informing his parents that he has left his old ship at naples and has worked his way in a merchant ship via boston to st johns ,newfoundland and hopes to be in the ships home port of greenock by the spring. he and 4 other seaman deserted from racoon as she lay off
naples 12.1.1802

Record No. 1271

AC 84/546
CO 39
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh undated and addressed "honoured parents". an unusually philosophical letter for greenhalgh , no naval references

Record No. 1272

AC 84/546
CO 40
KA 2.2
CR 4.5
9.6.0

DE holograph letter by richard greenhalgh undated and addressed "honoured parents" commenting on his writer an irishman and enclosing 10 guineas

Record No. 1273

AC 84/546
CO 41
KA 6.4.1
CR 2.2
9.6.0

DE letter cover printed "pursuant act of parliament 35th george iii" and nway pay office" addressed to mrs ann greenhalf , greenhalghs moss nr bury lancaster annotated "free j. davis"

Record No. 1273

Record No. 1274

AC 84/546

CO 42

KA 2.2

CR 9.6.0

DE folder containing typed transcriptions of the manuscript
greenhalgh letters 84/546 (1 - 40)