

WASC 1941

19-10-1787

Letter from Wm.

Congress to Duke of
Richmond re takeover
of Waltham Abbey from
Mr. Walton

WASC 1941

My Lord Duke
Honble Gentlemen, —

As there are now only 1,000 Barrels
of Gun Powder in store at Purfleet which has
not been to Sea, I beg leave to suggest the
necessity of seperating from the small all the
large Grains from the Old Powder which is
now in store in those Magazines for Proof, which
large Grains when Restored and Proved may do
very well for Channel Service.

In obedience to His Grace the Master
Generals Orders Yesterday I went to the Powder
Mills, at Waltham Abbey with M^r Walton, and
had the said Mills and appurtenances thereunto
belonging delivered to me for His Majestys Service.

It will not be in my power to Report the
Repairs that may be required to put the Works
in Order, untill they have been examined by your
Overseer of the Faversham Powder Mills.
But to forward the Stove Drying of Old Powder
(which from the inclosed Account of Ranges made
with Stoved and Unstoved Powder, You have a
confirmation of the former Proofs. I have had the

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honour to lay before you of the advantage of drying
Return'd Powder) They leave to recommend the
two Stoves at the Waltham Mills, to be put
into Repair immediately, and that your Storekeeper
should hire such a Barge as may be fit for carrying
Old Powder from Purfleet to Waltham, where
about 80 Barrels may be dried 1st Week untill
the Mills are ready to make new powder.

M^r. Walton forgot to give me an
Order for His Storekeeper to deliver up the Magazine
at Barking Creek, I am therefore to desire you
will please to get such an Order, that Unble
Powder may be brought from Minor Castle
to that Magazine, to be ready for Extracting
at Woolwich.

To excuse His Grace the Master General
further Orders relative to the business at Waltham
Abbey. I mean to go over to that Place again
as soon as I hear M^r. Bennett the Overseer is
arrived from Faversham.

Shave the Honour to be
Royal Laboratory with the greatest Respect
Woolwich 19th October 1787 My Lord Duke &c. &c.
M^r. Congreve
Dept^y Compt^y