

WASC 2079

Letter from
Wm. Congreve ~~to~~
re 1889 Barrels
of Gunpowder at
Purfleet
19-10-1787

MS. C. 2079
My Lord Duke
&
Honble Gentlemen, —

As there are now only 1000 Barrels
of Gun Powder in Store at Purfleet which has
not been to Sea, I beg leave to suggest the
necessity of separating 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 I yesterday 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~~

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 Unstale
 Powder may be brought from Upnor Castle
 to that Magazine, to be ready for Extracting
 at Woolwich.

To accite 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 Theat M^r. Bennett the Overseer is
 arrived from Faversham.

I have the Honour to be
 Royal Laboratory with the greatest Respect
 Woolwich 19th October 1787 My Lord Duke &c. &c.
 W^m Congreve
 Dept^y Compt^y

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