

Edward Linn was a soldier with the Royal North British Fuziliers (which in 1751 became 21st Regiment of Foot, Royal North British Fuziliers), on the Government front line. We don't know anything about him, other than what he writes in this letter to his wife soon after the battle.

Inverness Camp. 20th Aprile, 1746.

Loving Spouse

I give you the trouble of these to acquaint you what great things God almighty hath done for us.

...

Upon Munday the 14th we came to Nairn and halted there one day; & upon Tuesdays night the 15th as we are informed by our Prisoners, the rebels were within a mile and a half of our camp in order to Alarm us & Cutt us all to pieces, but God that is Strongest would not allow them Such a Vile Action for they lost one of their Lines and one pair of their colours & did not agree amongst themselves, So that they returned. They told us they heard our Centries call out all is well.

And upon Wednesday the 16th instant we marched from Nairn pretty early & it was a very bad day both for Wind and Rain, But thank God it was straight upon our Backs. We marched 10 long miles before we came up with the enemy & upon a long Boggie Muir 2 miles from Inverness; the Enemie formed in 2 Lines against us & came up very boldly.

It was a little past 12 of the clock when we began & by one a Clock it was all over; they fired

2 pieces of Cannon first upon us; we Returned them 6, & so they came up very boldly & very fast all in a cloud together, Sword in hand; they fired their pieces & flung them away, but we gave them so warm a Reception that we kept a Continuall Closs ffiring upon them with our Small Arms; besides, 2 or 3 of our Cannon gave them a Closs with grape shott which galled them very much & so in ane instant they Retreated & our cannon & a few Royalls sent them a few small bomb Shells & Cannon balls to their farewell...

Immediately our horse that were upon our Right & left Wings pursued with Sword & Pistoll & Cutt a great many of them down So that I never saw a Small field thicker of Dead..

Our Small Arms Work lasted only about a quarter of ane hour & the Cannonading about $\frac{3}{4}$ of ane hour. We lost very few men of our army, only a few wounded; our loss is about 200 men Wounded & Killed. Thank God we lost not one man of our Regiment, only a few Wounded; we never had Such good Luck befor. There are killed of the enemy above 3000 men & a great many Wounded, & we took 13 pieces of Brass Cannon from them & we got in the field of battle above 4000 Stand of Arms;

...we took about 300 men prisoners a vast many of the French Officers came in next day & Surrendered themselves to the Duke & have the Liberty to Walk through the toun. & we send out every day Strong parties of foot & horse

& they bring in great heaps of prisoners every day.

Note there was only 3 or 4 Regiments of foot in the front Line that were engaged; our Center & Rear Lines were not engaged at all; the battle was only on the left of the front line; the Regiments that were engaged were barrels & Monroes & ours, & the Enemy Brake through Barrells and beat them a little Back, & Semples & Blyths came up from the Centre Line & Supplied their place. We have about 100 of our Deserters that Deserted from our Army in Flanders taken prisoners that fought against us in the Battle & they are all to be hanged & they are a hanging of them every day.

We expect to Stay here Some time until matters be settled in this Countrey & then go off by Detachments, Some one way, Some another. I hope by the Assistance of God almighty that the heart of the Rebellion is Broke & that they will not be able to Rally any more...

I desire the Minister to Remember me in his prayers to God for so great a delivery, for before we engaged it rained very sore as I ever seed, both hail & Rain & a Strong Wind, but just as the enemy began to fire their Cannon it grew a fine day, & the Wind was Strong on our back & the enemies face so, that we could hardly See them for our Smoke.

The Rebels sayeth they never seed the English fight in such a manner for they thought we were

all Mad men that fought so. They choosed that Bogie Moor to fight in by Reason they thought we could not bring up our Cannon through it, but, thank God, they were all mistaken, for though some of our Carriadges Boged sometimes, yet they got them still forward; & they thought it was such a bad day that our firelocks would not fire, but they were very much mistaken for Scarce one in a Regiment missed fireing, for we kept them dry with our Coat laps.

We waded to the Knees in Mud and Dirt through the Moor Severall times that day with a good will to be att them, & no Wonder, considering the fatigues we have undergone this Winter by hunger & cold & Marching night & day, after them.... The Duke Rode through our front Line just befor we began & desired us not to be Afraid, & after it was over he Rode along the Same Line & Returnd us a great many thanks for our good behaviour & he said he never Seed better ordered or better done....

*These with my Love & duty to you, my Dear,
& to all friends. I ever am*

Your Loving Husband,

Edward Linn.