

Lord George Murray and the *Battle of Falkirk*

Following the Battle of Falkirk, Lord George was strongly criticized by O'Sullivan and Sir John MacDonald for stopping the Highlanders from pursuing and completely destroying the routed royal army. This one letter to his wife explains volumes; not only about the reason for not doing so but about the character of Lord George Murray as well.

The letter also refers to the tragic loss of Colonel Angus Og Macdonell, Glengarry's son, who was killed by an errant bullet, fired through an upstairs window, from a soldier who was cleaning his gun.

When I have a moment of time I can never employ it so agreeably to myself as writing to my Dear Friend.

We hear from Edinburgh by severals come from it this day that our enemies are in the greatest confusion, and quarelling amongst themselves, holding court martials to try their officers to throw the blame off the commanders. ...

A most unfortunate accident happened here two days after the action; Colonel Angus Macdonell, Glengarry's son, who was a modest, brave, and advisable lad, was mortally wounded by an accidental shot of a miserable fellow of Planranald Regiment out of a window upon the street, of which he died this day, vastly regretted. It is more of a loss to us than all we suffered at the battle.

The accounts sent to France put me quite out of countenance. My name is almost in every paragraph. The French Minister and the Irish officers make true French compliments.

One thing I can say. There was not a moment lost. No time for consultation, but the disposition made without hesitation, and the attack in the same

manner. To tell the truth I had little assistance, for the time would not allow it. I can say another thing that since I joined I never disoblged any person except by telling my mind too frankly and sometimes with some warmth, but that only when the service required it. I believe my opinion was mostly found right in the long run, and always approved of by the officers that are regarded and of the most weight. ...

If I be in love with life it is only owing to my love of my dear Amilie, and nothing else. Otherways I should not wish to survive a defeat. Adieu. My blessing to your young folk.

After reading over my letter I'm displeas'd to have said so much upon my own subject, and I would have burnt it but had not time to write another. Farewell.