

Col. Charles Palmer to Col. McCabow

18563-4

Brighton Norwich. 10<sup>th</sup> April.

My dear Sir

At the desire of Col Denton I reply to the enclosed letter by assuring you that the fact therein stated is untrue, & at the same time cannot help expressing my surprise & regret that the writer, shewing on such slight grounds, takes upon himself to decide against the Regiment in a case which he conceives to be so discreditable to its character, but which of course, would in my humble opinion be rendered much more so by adopting the mode of compromise he recommends — The fact is this, the man Wilson whom he alludes to, was certainly sentenced to, & did receive 200 lashes, but only 200, of which, the Adjutant of the Regiment who (as usual) took down the number, on Paper

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& whose authority from those circumstances, & the  
being in the habit of it, is most to be relied on,  
& who could have no motive but his duty to  
actuate him, will make Oath — fortunately  
too, the Surgeon of the Regiment Mr Thomson  
from the attention he paid at the time is  
enabled to make Oath of the same, nor  
am I aware of any one who can contradict  
it, altho I know that a report to that  
effect was circulated at the time, & which  
originated entirely with the Tories of  
the Regt who flog by turns but who on  
this occasion by accident or design & I  
strongly suspect the latter shifted their places  
in their ranks, & thereby occasioned the deaths of  
those who calculated the punishment by the number  
of Tories & the turns which came to each.  
With respect to the Writers apprehensions

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from enquiring in the House of Commons, I can  
only say for the sake of the service that  
I should not have the least objection to it,  
or I am sure nothing could be easier to prove  
than the absurdity & danger of the system  
of a total abolition of corporal punishment.  
For instance in our own regiment, previous  
to the punishment of this Wilson, none had  
taken place since the discipline alluded to  
in the House of Commons, & had it not again  
been resorted to, I believe a mutiny must  
have been the consequence, but from that period  
the general conduct of the men has  
been as orderly & credible as before  
was & fully justifies the propriety  
of the step taken — at the same time  
I am not wanting those who are in

all other regiments, one anxious to create  
discontent, of which we had another instance  
yesterday which Col Denton will explain  
Whi Royal Highness is generally - I trust  
you will forgive me if I have expressed  
regret more warmly than the occasion  
warrants believe me ever faithfully yours

Col MacArthur -  
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Charles Palmer -

18 Sep 1811  
Col Palmer

respecting a private  
man 10 St Brig  
punished

18 Sep 1811