MEMOIR OF ADMIRAL SIR GRAHAM MOORE, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649315307

Memoir of Admiral Sir Graham Moore, G.C.B., G.C.M.G. by Sir Robert Gardiner

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

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SIR ROBERT GARDINER

MEMOIR OF ADMIRAL SIR GRAHAM MOORE, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.





ADMIRAL SIR GRAHAM MOORE,

G.C.B. G.C.M.G.

BT

MAJOR-GENERAL

SIR ROBERT GARDINER, K.C.B.

LONDON: JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1844.

Br 6313,76.20



LONDON:
GEORGE WOODPALL AND SON,
AMORE COVET, SKINGER STREET.

TO

THE OFFICERS OF

HER MAJESTY'S NAVY AND ARMY,

THE FOLLOWING MEMOIR

OF

ADMIRAL SIR GRAHAM MOORE

IS RESPRCTIVLLY DEDICATED, BY

A BROTHER OFFICER.

MARGH, 1844.

MEMOIR.

THE writer of the following memoir, would have desired to have written the life of Sir Graham Moore, but circumstances prevent an undertaking of such length. With the authentic documents, however, which he possesses, he feels it to be a duty, both to the officers of the Navy and Army, to give some form of publicity, to a character so generally popular in both services. To those officers who knew him, the difficulty of doing any justice to the subject, will be well understood. To those who knew him only by reputation, the writer offers no apology for an attempt which he is aware is imperfect, for he knows it will be received by them, with feelings similar to his own; a desire to derive and impart benefit, from distinguished example, and of marking respect to the memory of an officer, whose professional career, and private life, equally contributed to uphold the name, and raise the character of her Majesty's service.

The naval actions of the last war, have long been recorded as matter of history. It is not, therefore, intended on this occasion, to enter into any narrative of events, beyond those in which Sir Graham Moore was personally concerned.

The disposition for a sailor's or a soldier's life shews itself in very early years. Sir Graham Moore entered the navy at the age of thirteen, in 1777, full of all the ardent feelings which belong to that noble service.

A war broke out with France in 1778, and he had first the honour of being under fire, on board the Trident, in Lord Byron's action in the West Indies. He remained employed in the West Indies and North America till 1780, when he returned to England, and joined the Channel fleet in the Champion. In the mean time, war had also been declared against Spain and Holland.

In March, 1782, he was promoted into the Crown, and joined the fleet under Lord Howe's command off Ireland.

Early in September of the same year, Lord Howe's fleet sailed from England with a convoy of transports laden with stores, ammunition, and provision, destined for the relief of Gibraltar, then, as it is known, besieged by a combined army of French and Spanish troops. They rounded Cape St. Vincent on the 9th of October, and entered the Straits on the 11th, but could not effect their object till the 15th and 18th; the whole of the convoy having been unfortunately blackstrapped on the 11th.

The following extract from Sir Graham Moore's journal will be found an interesting account of the movements of the enemy's combined fleets and our own on that occasion; and shews his observation and manner of viewing events, while yet a very young officer.

"October 10. The fleet making the best of their way towards the Straits. In the forenoon, the admiral made Captain Reeve's signal. He returned soon, and informed us, that the combined fleets, consisting of 49 sail of the line, were lying in the Bay of Gibraltar, determined to prevent our relieving that fortress. Orders for clearing ship, and getting every thing ready for action. Lay to all night, the wind blowing very fresh from the westward.

"October 11. This morning the wind abating, the admiral began to form the line of battle, which, as soon as he effected, he made the signal to bear away for the land, which, upon the weather clearing a little, we perceived to be Cape Spartel, on the Barbary shore. In the evening, the transports were sent ahead, I believe with orders to make the best of their way into Gibraltar Bay, under cover of a thick haze which then prevailed. The