

TNA: PRO SP 63/83/47*Grey to Walsingham, 10 June 1581*

This typical letter of recommendation, on behalf of a gentleman from the band of Captain William Cecil (and not on Cecil's behalf, as the endorsement suggests), is the more typical for its trust in Grey's special relationship with Sir Francis Walsingham. Little information survives of Cecil's career in Ireland: on 3 October 1580, he is recorded as leading footmen into Ireland (SP 63/77/7); on 18 November 1580, it is said that he has gone to Ross (perhaps the town of New Ross, *Ros Mhic Thriúin*, in County Wexford) with 100 men (SP 63/78/45); a letter of 10 June 1581 (SP 63/83/45, see above), the same date as this, refers to the depletion of his band by sickness, and its consequent discharge, which may explain the need for a letter of recommendation for this particular soldier at this time; and a note of September 1581 records a payment of 300 pounds to him (SP 63/85/70).

The text of the letter, including the address and subscription, is in Spenser's characteristic secretary hand; the signature is Grey's usual. The endorsement is the unremarkable mix of italic and secretary forms common to these letters, filed and re-filed over several years.

Address and Endorsement

To the Honorable
my very good
frend Sir Fraunces
Walsingham Knight
Chief Secretary
to her Maiesty.

10 Iune 1581
From the Lord Gray
on the behalfe of Cap
ten Cecill

Text

Sir, this gentleman the bearer hereof having served lately vnder Captein Cecill, and being presently to repaire into England hath requested my lettres of favour in his behalf; which I could not but reasonably doe, knowing him by his good service here to have well deserved the same. Wherefore I desire you to affoord him such favour and furtheraunce in his reasonable causes there, as he may perceive these my lettres to have bene effectuall in his behalf; for the which I will account my self behoulding vnto you, and will rest alwaies ready to requite the same. Wexford, the xth of Iune. 1581.

Yours most assured,

Arthur Grey

Annotations

beholding] I.e. beholden, obliged.