Portsmouth 29 March 1804

My Lord

The Intimation given you by Mr Greetham last Night, will lead your Lordship to expect a letter upon the subject to day. This letter we now take the liberty of troubling you with, and at the same time of expressing our sincere and unfeigned concern, that Circumstances have arisen, that render it necessary, we should once more make an earnest but humble, and respectful appeal, to you, as our Protector, in the Character of Volunteers, and we presume to flatter ourselves as our Friend, in our private Character also, your Lordship left us after your kind mediation, pledged, and determined, to adhere implicitly, to the arrangement you made. General Whitelocke told us that if the other Gentlemen did not go on quietly and accede to that arrangement, all the odium and disgrace would be theirs, For what we knew all was going on pleasantly, till in consequence of a letter marked No. 1 annexed, we enquired into the cause of such letter, when we found it was occasioned by the other six Captains, having made a Declaration, that they would never join in Battalion with us, until they had fully accomplished all their Points against us, suprized as we naturally felt at the General’s threat of Disbanding, but not conceiving it aimed at us, we went out on Sunday last, expecting to be drilled as usual, under Major Pritzler, but were much suprized at being informed that not only the General had forbid Major Pritzler to take any more the Command of us but that the other Six Captains had peremptorily refused to come out. Messrs Garrett and Hickley thought it right to wait upon the General as soon as they returned home to express their Regret at the Renewal of this Confusion, when he declined entering into any conversation with them, but said he should issue certain orders next Day, but which did not appear till Tuesday. On the Monday he met Mr George Garrett accidentally when he gave vent to a Torrent of violent abuse against us, our conduct, our Principles, and our Characters, ascribing (as it seemed) all the recent confusion to us, when nothing can (we do most solemnly assure you) be more unjust and unfounded, from the moment your Lordship’s departure up to the present moment, we have not by word or by deed irritated or provoked these Six Captains to the un accountable Conduct they have adopted, much less the General to whom we have been uniformly respectful.

The Order issues on Tuesday are those in the paper marked No. 2 by which it will appear to your Lordship that contrary to those he issued some time since, in which he threatened us at our Peril, to Drill two together, he now orders that we should be classed two and two, and from the concluding sentence of his General orders will not pass unnoticed by your Lordship. We are confident that no good is likely to be derived from our Men under all these circumstances they were, almost the greatest part of them, accustomed to be together, and are dissatisfied at being separated, and with Respect to ourselves, we are rendered perfectly miserable. We are in Constant apprehension that our feelings will be hurt or our Characters injured, General Whitelocke openly threatens us, that our Conduct shall be the subject of Cobbet’s animadvertions, that verses shall be written against us, that he will post us and talk of us in every society he goes into. We cannot but be alive to this, we are aware what will be said of us, where we to resent this Conduct as Men would be prone to, the Tide of Popular opinion would at this Crisis be against us, when opposed to his Public Character as a Lieutenant Governor of a Garrison: but my Lord will you not advise us under all these circumstances, knowing him as you do, and not unacquainted with us, our Principles, and our Characters, to resign, and put ourselves beyond the reach of his Intemperance towards us. There is nothing we would not do to manifest our Loyalty, which he holds in such contempt, if we cannot be Officers, we will be content to carry a Halberd or even a Firelock, in some other Corps, that we may show that it is not the nearer approach of the Enemy that induces us to leave the Post we now occupy. We are more and more convinced that neither Harmony or Efficiency can follow, while under the influence of General Whitelocke. Every thing desirable might have been expected, had we been placed on the footing of other Corps in every other District and Place in the Kingdom. Grant us but this my Lord, keep us, if you please, in distinct and Independent Companies, or put us under the Command of an Officer of your Lordship’s own Nomination, all this, and more than this, we are ready and willing to submit to, but take us from under General Whitelocke’s exclusive Influence and Interference, until the Enemy has invaded the Country. Our minds (which are now unfitted even for our Business and Concerns and the Rationale Enjoyment of Life) would then be at ease.

Assert your authority my Lord in this instance and establish a reasonable and just Independence for us, or suffer us to resign, before the Intemperance of the One, or the animosity of the Others, may so involve us by false Representations and ungrounded insinuations, with the Government, as to induce them to mark the Volunteers of Portsmouth with a Disgrace which would be cruel and hard upon us to incur, without deserving it. We confidently refer your Lordship to every part of our conduct for years back, which if not in your Recollection, ample Testimonies may be obtained, whether there has been aught in it, that can warrant those aspersions which so much Pains are taking to charge us with, and even in the present instance or Earnestness to withdraw ourselves proceeds from a wish to prevent Mischief, than to create it, The state of things is such that we intreat your Lordship’s early attention to our application. And have the honor to subscribe ourselves with the highest sentiments of respect.

My Lord, your Lordship’s

Most obliged and very humble servants

George Garrett

M. Greetham junior

J. A. Hickley

J. C. Mottley

No. 1

(Copy)

Portsmouth 22 March 1804

Sir

I find it again necessary to call upon you to use all the means in your power to reconcile idle Differences that have too long tarnished the good Name of the Volunteers of this Place and to urge my sanguine Wish that on the Days appointed for exercise the Meetings may be as strong as possible, and the whole unanimous in the great cause which has brought them together. Should the Event unfortunately prove otherwise, and the Service of the Country continue to suffer from the Prejudice of Individuals, I shall feel it my indispensable Duty to offer my humble recommendation that the several Independent Companies may be disbanded under the hope that the Majority of them may render service to their Country on other Situations, as in a Crisis like the present they are assuredly bound to do either as Volunteers or by lot which will call them into Service of another Description.

I have the honor to be

Sir yours etc

John Whitelocke, Major General and Lieutenant Governor of Portsmouth

Lieutenant Colonel Mannoch

Portsmouth 23rd March 1804

Sir

I have the honor to transmit you the foregoing Copy of a letter to me from Major General Whitelock the Lieutenant Governor of this Place, and I have to request you will make the same known without delay to the Volunteers of Portsmouth.

I have the honor to be

Yours, etc

F. F. Mannooch

Lieutenant Colonel and Inspecting Field Officer

Adjutant White

No. 2

Portsmouth 27th March 1804

Sir,

The following Copy of a letter and General Orders of this Date I request you will make known to the Ten Companies of Portsmouth Volunteer Infantry without delay, to which it is my Duty to call the attention of the respective Captains.

In Consequence of Major General Whitelocke’s Commands, I have to hope that Captains J and W. Deacon will take their Companies out as one Division on Monday

Captains Mottley and Greetham theirs on Tuesday

Captains Garrett and Hickley theirs on Wendesday

Captains James and J. A. Carter theirs on Thursdays and

Captains Calloway and Grant theirs on Fridays.

You will be pleased to report to me weekly the Number of Men each company may being to the Field and the Days fixed for their Drilling.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your very faithful humble servant

F. F. Manooch, Lieutenant colonel and Inspecting Field Officer

Adjutant White, Portsmouth Volunteers

(Copy)

Headquarters Portsmouth

March 27th 1804

Sir

I am directed by Major General Whitelocke to forward to you the enclosed General Order, and to request that you will call the attention of the Captains to cause their Men to be very particular in stepping the regulated Length of Pace, both in ordinary and Quick Time as likewise to practice the Divisions to increase and diminish the Front of the Column on a March.

I am likewise directed that the Companies may be formed into Divisions as follows.

1. James Deacon’s and William Deacon’s
2. Mottley’s, Greetham’s
3. Garrett’s Hickley’s
4. J. Carter’s, J. A. Carter’s

I have the honor to be, sir

Your most obedient humble servant

Theo. Pritzler, Major of Brigade

Lieutenant Colonel Mannooch

(Copy)

Head Quarters Portsmouth

March 27th 1804

General Order

The Ten Companies of Portsmouth Volunteers will till further orders be divided into five Divisions, for the Purpose of Exercise or Drill, each Division taking a separate Day in the week, as will be arranged by Lieutenant Colonel Mannooch, who will likewise fix the Companies that are to Drill together, and furnish the Captains with such Instructions as may be judged necessary.

Lieutenant Colonel Mannooch will be pleased to report once every Week to Major General Whitelocke the number of Men each Company brings to the Field, and the days on which they drill.

Whenever it may be necessary the respective Independent Companies shall be formed in Battalion, Major General Whitelocke will give directions to that effect, reserving to himself the sole Power of disposing of Persons in Arms, in a situation like this where the Responsibility rests on his shoulders, both with respect to Subordination and Security.

(Signed) Theo. Pritzler, Major of Brigade

The respective Captains will be pleased to acquaint me at what hour they intend to Parade on the Days mentioned in the within order that I may be punctual in attending them.

Martin White

27th March 1804