Gosport 14 March 1803

My Lord,

The late sudden change in Politicks having given cause to expect the return of War allow me to have the honor or representing to your Lordship the many of those who served under my Command in the 1st Corps of Gosport Fusilier Volunteers in the Late War have requested me to signifiy their readiness to come forth as before, in defence of their King and Constitution should His Majesty deem it necessary to embody the Volunteer Corps. Sincerley anxious as I am for the preservation of Peace, yet should the arrogant ambition of our troublesome neighbour lead him into measure imnimical to the dignity and security of this Country. I trust there will not be found an Englishman that would not with person and Fortune aid His Majesty’s Government in the steps necessary to be taken to humble his pride and punish his audacity. That I am desirous of being among the foremost to prove my perfect devotion to those purposes I entreat your Lordship to believe; as well as that I am with the Greates respect my Lord, etc. etc. etc.

Thomas Whitcomb