Leigh House 11 February 1804

My Lord

Before I address you upon any other subject your Lordship must allow me to express my best thanks for the reception with which you honor’d me at Hackwood. I was vexed with myself for not asking your Lordship whether advertising to Mr Yorke’s Circular letter of the 14th of January relative to Adjutants and Serjeant Majors, these Officers are to be allowed any sort of compensation by way of Half Pay in case the Volunteers Corps in which they serve should at the end of the War be disbanded. I am told that there is an idea that Adjutants will be allowed three shillings per day as half pay. Should it be so it is not unlikely but Serjeant Majors upon the same principle for it is the only think that will induce a fit person to leave a Regiment to come into a Corps of Volunteers, the immediate pay being the same and the chance of full pay being of very precarious duration.

Confidential

My Friends at Portsmouth having sent me some papers, I have copied on and sent the original of another by their desire to prove to your Lordship that the assertion of a certain number of the Captains of the Island of Portsea in a letter to General Whitelocke which I hear was sent of be express to Hackwood last night, is not altogether correct, there never was a question about the Portsea Captains wishing for a Field Officer, not one of them being fit to command and their opinion of each other being such that they readily acquiesced in a measure that would put it beyond any wish of their being commanded by each other, besides which they are men so completely under the control of the Corporation and Men in such stations of life as not to create and wonder at their not having a will of their own, but of the Portsmouth Captains, your Lordship will find that there are so many who declare themselves ignorant of and averse to the measures, as there are that avow themselves satisfied, and which proves the propriety of your Lordship’s assertion “that the appointment of Field Officers was contrary to the general Wishes”; the intention of this declaration is for no other purposes than to oppose that of Messr Deacon, etc., who I think have in this instance imitated the conduct of another person (Mr Bingham) in going too far and proving too much by delicacy that the appointment of Field Officers has been attended with the most beneficial effects, when facts prove the very reverse and when in point of fact no Field Officer has ever been with them but twice when he put them into confusion and the very Private expressed dissatisfaction at him. Mr Martin White having asked my brother and the other three Gentlemen to sign the letter Mr Arnaud and Mr Williams were not asked, they thought it right to assign their reasons to the General, why, they did not, a copy of their Letter I send you, by which your Lordship will perceive that they have acted with respect and civility to him (General Whitelocke) up to this moment and that all they ask, all they wish, is to be allowed to continue as Independent Companies.

I know their sentiments to be anxiously desirous to give at this moment as little trouble as possible, the General thinks by getting to many names to this letter to acquit himself, and the Corporation I hear had a Meeting to confirm and support him, but Your Lordship knew as well as they what was intended at the Meeting at which you were present and there was no public Meeting afterwards. It marks strongly, I think, the violence and prejudice of Party that the Corporation should interfere on an occasion they are not called upon and for what? To bolster up and support illegal and indecorous conduct of a Man, who not six Months ago, they took every possible means of meeting with the most marked contempt and incivility and he them. At this particular crisis, this business is much lamented and for many reasons it were to be wished that it could be speedily and quietly settled. It would create uneasiness in the minds of our Friends and exultation and joy in our Enemies, Portsmouth being an important Sea Port. The wishes of Government, the Law of the Land, and your Lordship’s original plan confirmed by the General’s own letters and expressions on several subsequent occasions, authorize their remaining in Independent Companies (brigading together when required) if they cannot agree together to place themselves in a Regiment and this appears to me to be the decision most quiet, most agreeable to the parties aggrieved and consonant to the feelings of Volunteers in general and (for what to me is very intetesting) most worthy of your Lordship’s high Rank and Character. Here I feel I am intruding my opinion too far and perhaps taking too much advantage of the Intimacy your Lordship has condescended to honor me with. I shall be sensible of any correction if your opinion I deserve it.

I have the honor to be with the

Most sincere respect and esteem

My Lord your Lordship’s

Most obedient servant

William Garrett

Right Honorable Lord Bolton

My letters are written in much haste want much correction I fear that are not so intelligible as I could wish them to be and stand much more in need of your Lordship’s wanted indulgence and patience to make them out.

I do not find that our excursion to Hackwood is known to the General but he is continually exclaiming that some D\_ Scoundrels have been telling you falsehoods and is very unbecoming in his expression of anger.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

No. 1 Copy

Island of Portsea

Sir

In consequence of the communication you have been pleased to make to us this day on the subject of a letter you have received from Lord Bolton the Lord Lieutenant of the County wherein he states “He is of the opinion that the appointment of Field Officers form the Line over the Volunteers of this Island is contrary to the general Wishes and the original intention of the Volunteers” we feel it a duty, incumbent on us to declare to you that at the different Meetings which took place in these Towns on the subject of enrolling Volunteers it was fully understood that these Field Officers were to be from the Line and we further beg to assure you that we are fully of opinion that such appointment have to the best of our knowledge and belief given very great satisfaction and have been attended with the most beneficial effects to the Establishment.

We have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servants

Signed by:

James Deacon (Captain)

William Deacon (Captain)

R. Calloway (Captain)

James Carter (Captain)

John Adam Carter (Captain)

George Grant (Captain)

Of the Companies who were called the Portsmouth Companies and now called the Portsmouth Battalion

William Baker (Captain)

F. Woodman (Captain)

J. Poulden (Captain)

James White (Captain)

J. Buckland (Captain)

Matthew Napier for Captain Friend

Thomas Walcott (Captain)

S. Spier (Captain)

Charles Taber (Captain)

Of the Companies calle the Portsea COmpaneis and now called the Portsea Batallion

Remarks

The original of this letter I understand has been sent to your Lordship. I have transposed the Names who signed it to distinguish between the Portsmouth and Portsea Captain, for it is a little curious that a distinction of the Corps was made on their first enrolment and the Portsea Corps was always considered the Corporation Corps.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We the undersigned Captains of Companies of Volunteers in Portsmouth do declare upon our Honor, that we never were consulted upon the question, of having Field Officers from the Line to Command us, and that such appointments are contrary to the general wishes and Intentions of the Volunteers under our Command, as well as to ourselves and we consider any appointment of Strangers to Command us contrary to the general system and principles of Volunteering, and of our Institution, and peculiar only to this Place. As witness our Hand

This 10th day of February 1804

G. Garrett

M. Greetham

J. C. Mottley

J. A. Hickley

E. Arnaud

John Williams

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

No. 2 Copy of a letter to General Whitelocke

Portsmouth 10 February 1804

Written to explain why they did not sign letter No. 1

In all the communications we have had the honor of holding with you upon the subject of the Volunteer System, as adopted in Portsmouth, we have endeavor’d to observe towards you the most profound respect and marked civility, adhering to this principle, as well through inclination as duty, we beg leave to once more trouble you with a letter to express our Concern at not being able to sign the letter just sent to us for our signatures by Mr Martin White, declaring “that the appointment of Field Officer met with the general acquiescence of the Captain, that it gave general satisfaction and that the appointments has been attended with the most beneficial effects” We beg leave to assure you sir in the most solemn and sacred manner, that so far from our ever having been consulted upon the occasion or the subject ever communicated to us, that we were suprized at seeing in the Gazett the Appointment of Major Maxwell, conceiving that Colonel Mannooch was the Officer intended to replace Colonel Duke, the Gentleman who we understand was originally designed to superintend the Volunteers of this place.

We cannot but be anxious to remove those misrepresentations which we lament to see so much pains taken impress your mind with against us and we refer you to our letters for those sentiments of Loyalty, Cheerful Obedience to the Laws of our Country, and respect to our Superiors Civil as well as Military, which we now desire to renew and repeat and most respectfully to represent to you that we have no object or wish, but to be suffer’d to continue as Independent Companies in conformity to the plan, in the first instance, recommended by yourself and the Lord Lieutenant and subsequently confirmed by your own letter of the 16th November last.

We have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient humble servants

(signed)

G. Garrett

J. C. Mottley

M. Greetham

J. A. Hickley

To Major General Whitelocke