Portsmouth

Saturday, August 20

The Inspection and Reviews at this town and neighbourhood, which we announced in our last, commenced at 7 o’clock on Sunday morning, at which time their Royal Highnesses the Commander in Chief, and the Duke of Cambridge, attended by General Whitelocke, and other General and Staff Officers of distinction, inspected the troops at Hilsea Barracks. They then proceeded to Fort Cumberland, the works and garrison of which they inspected. At ten, they arrived on the ground at South Sea Common, upon which a line was formed of the following troops, viz.- the Artillery and Artificers in the garrison; the 23rd (Welsh Fuzileers) 25th and 8th regiments of foot, the 26th (now 23rd) dragoons dismounted, and the Gloucester, Worcester, Carmarthen, Flint, and Merioneth militia regiments, the whole amounting to about 7000 men. The Sea Fencibles, in their boats, were formed in line close in shore; detachments of the 1st Royal Dragoons and Portsdown Cavalry kept the ground. His Highness the Commander in Chief expressed his entire satisfaction at the fine and military style in which the evolutions were performed. From the review, the Royal Dukes returned to General Whitelocke’s house, where they receive the Mayor and Corporation, who paid their respect to their Royal Highnesses, and presented the freedom of the Town to the Duke of Cambridge, which he received with manifest pleasure. About one o’clock the Royal Brothers entered the Admiral’s barge at the New Sally Port, and proceeded to the fleet, attended by the Admirals and Captains, in the respective barges, the guns on the Platform firing a salute. Being arrived at Spithead, they were saluted by all the ships of war there, and at St Helens they then visited Fort Monckton, off which the Sea Fencibles were again formed in a line; reviewed the Hereford, Monmouth, Brecon and Glamorgan militias, at Stoke’s Bay camp; and inspected the works at Gosport and Blockhouse Fort. On their return, their Royal Highnesses inspected the Volunteer Companies of the Island of Portsea, paraded on the Glacis, in the presence of an immense concourse of persons of all ranks. Their Royal Highnesses then dined with General Whitelocke, at his house. Early on Monday morning, the Royal Dukes visited the Dock Yard, at the entrance of which they were received by Commissioner Sir C. Saxton, who attended them thro’ every part of the yard. They were greeted with the most hearty cheers by the workmen as they passed along. From the Yard, their Royal Highnesses went on board the Britannia, of 100 guns, in the Harbour, commanded by Lord Northelk [?], by which they were saluted. They were afterwards conducted, by Sir Charles Saxton, on board one of the convict ships, at the cleanly state and excellent order of which their Highnesses expressed very peculiar satisfaction. The Royal Brothers then partook of a very elegant re-[?] at Sir C. Saxton’s house; from which they departed with their suites, in five carriages, for London. At the request of the Duke of York, Sir C. Saxton gave the workmen of the Yard a half days holiday.

Before leaving the garrison, his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, expressed in the following general orders, his admiration of the zeal and patriotic spirit of the volunteer corps:

“(copy) Portsmouth, August 20

The Commander in Chief has derived the most sincere satisfaction, from having had this day an opportunity of personally witnessed the effects of the spirit of unanimity and loyalty in the inhabitants of Portsmouth and its vicinity, of which he had previously received the most favourable report from Major General Whitelocke.

His Royal Highness desires the Major General will convey his best acknowledgements to the numerous and respectable companies of volunteers of the Island of Portsea, who have come forward and enrolled themselves for the defence of their King and Country at this important crisis, with that zeal and animation, which have, in all periods of difficulty and danger, been peculiarly characteristic of the nation, and have ever proved the surest bulwarks or our greatness, freedom, and prosperity.

By command of his Royal Highness

(signed) Harry Calvert, Adjutant”