Hackwood Park

5 December 1803

Sir

I have the honor to send to you a letter, which I have this morning received from Colonel Walcot, who is now upon permament duty and will be succeded by the New Forest Rangers.

I am not yet entitled to communicate reguarly to you the offer made by Lieutenant Colonel Cressigny in the name of his battalion to take a route of permanent duty, because I am not sufficiently well acquainted with the plan of service he proposes. I shall not fail immediatley upon of receipt of information to make know to you the particulars for consideration and submission to His Majesty’s Pleasure.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter with approbation of the union of one Company at Fareham with 2 at Ticthfield under Captain John Missing with the rank of Major. In regard to the augmentation of the force of the Companies I shall lose no time in enabling myself to transmit to you an exact return in the form desired.

I have also to acknowledge your letter upon the subject of Major Deacon’s allowance. I trust, that in some way or other he will be properly considered, as the expectation was assuredly held out to him.

I observe in the public papers the appointment Major Maxwell of the 48th Regiment to be Major of a Brigade of Volunteers upon Permanent Duty at Portsmouth and its Dependencies. I never heard of this Battalion and must suppose that there is some mistake. I wish however, to be informed, that I may not proceed in total ignorance of such a measure. I hear frequently from General Whitelocke, but he has never given a hint of any such thing being in contemplation or desire.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient humble servant

Bolton