Carisbrook Castle

16 August 1803

My Lord

I have this moment received the honor of your Lordship’s letter of yesterday’s date requiring information of the quantity of arms necessary, in addition to those now in possession, for arming the several Corps of Yeomanry and Volunteers already authorized by His Majesty in this County. I will seek to obey your Lordship’s instructions forthwith. But I do not know, whether in this call your Lordship means to include the several Companies or Corps raised or offering under the Defence Act, and which I cannot yet ascertain and indeed am at a loss how to arrange. With respect to the Corps under the regulations of June last there are in the County the Christchurch Infantry 280 and the New Forrest Rangers Infantry 240. I do not believe, that either of these Corps have got their arms. Arms will be wanting for two troops of the North Hampshire Gentleman and Yeomanry Cavalry. 2 troops of the North East Gentleman and Yeomanry Cavalry Lord Hewell’s and two troops of the South East Gentleman and Yeomanry Cavalry Lieutenant Colonel Hood.

These I believe, are all under that disposition. Of the others, I can say nothing till I receive your Lordships instructions about appointing or recommending officers, which are wanting to give commencement to any regular assembly for drill and exercise, etc. I will immediately obey any order with which I may be honoured.

I am exceedingly distressed indeed by your Lordships letter in the second paragraph, to find, that the whole number of Volunteers, intended to be armed, is not to exceed six times the Militia, exclusive of supplementary. The great object to which I have though my attention and exertion should be directed was, that they should not be less than that number. In this Quarter, I would beg leave to ask, if I am to include the Corps heretofore raised under the former regulations, because, in case they are so included, the means of gratifying the earnest applications of the zealous and loyal inhabitants, who have numerously come forward on the call for their personal aid in Military Service, will be still more limited. The apprehension of some check to the ardent spirit of voluntary enrolment had made me trouble your Lordship with several enquires upon the subject, before I would fully encourage the generality of offers, which however your Lordship’s circular letter of the 30th *ultimo mense* and 3rd *instante mense* seemed strongly to invite. My letter of this morning would shew the prodigality of zeal (if I may so say) which is exhibited every where in the County. How – in what places – and in what matter the limitation is now to be effected, I know not. But here I am to obtrude upon your Lordship the material question, whether – by the number intended to be armed (six time the Militia) is meant – the whole Volunteer Force intended to be accepted and allowed; or that proportion of the whole to who arms will be supplied by Government. I hope that the latter may be the right construction, because there will be some entire Corps and several Individuals in other Corps, who would probably be ready to supply by subscription or private liberality their own arms; and indeed I have received application for permission to do so. I am seriously at a loss to conceive, how I am now to draw the line for diminution of numbers already proposed, or to decline further acceptance of offers, as some parts of the County have not yet sent in their propositions.

I shall have an opportunity of consulting the Principle Gentleman of the County on Thursday at Winchester and I well then seek to arrange an adjournment to Saturday next in the hope of hearing in the interval from your Lordship by letter directed to me at Winchester.

In respect to place for Depot I can assuredly even now mention Winchester as upon the whole the best for Depot and for Distribution. The Corps however formed at Portsmouth and Gosport, and their immediate neighbourhood may be best supplied from Portsmouth, and I hope exclusively of general reckoning.

I have the honor to be, my Lord

Your Lordships most obedient humble servant

Bolton

[Enclosed]

Return of Volunteers arranged by Companies with Officers proposed, etc., for Portsmouth, Portse and Gosport.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of Places | No. of Men | No. of Companies | Names of Officers | Rank | Establishment | Remarks |
| 1 Portsmouth Artillery | 80 | 1 | Elias Bruce ArnaudWilliam HammondThomas HeatherElias Bruce Arnaud junior | CaptainLieutenantEnsign | 1 Captain2 Lieutenants1 Ensign4 sergeants4 corporals2 drummers70 privates | The whole of this list proposed to be under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Duke with the assistance of Captain Meredith |
| 20 Portsmouth Artillery | 80 | 1 | John WilliamsJ. G. NiscogkBenjamin Oakshot | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 2 Portsmouth Infantry | 80 | 1 | James DeaconJohn Sutton ShugarJohn CowcherJames Fowler | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 3 Portsmouth Infantry | 80 | 1 | James Charles MotleyThomas BelamWilliam EllisWilliam Wilkes | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 4 Portsmouth Infantry | 80 | 1 | George GarrettJohn DiaperRichard WilkesEdward Boyes | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 5 Portsmouth Infantry | 80 | 1 | Moses GreethamJohn RoodCharles Greetham | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 6 Portsmouth Infantry | 80 | 1 | William DeaconJohn MooneyWilliam CaseJames Deacone | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 7 Portsmouth Infantry | 80 | 1 | William BakerNathaniel BakerWilliam WoodwardWilliam Hobbs | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 8 Portsmouth Infantry | 80 | 1 | James WhiteThomas PrattMatthew SnookEdward Parker | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 9 Portsmouth Infantry | 80 | 1 | William FriendHenry PlowmanMatthew Napper | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 10 Portsmouth Infantry | 80 | 1 | John Allen HickleyHerbert AllenThomas Capel | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 11 Portsea Infantry | 80 | 1 | Roger CallowayWilliam SharpRichard WayArthur Calloway | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 12 Portsea Infantry | 80 | 1 | Francis WoodmanEdward FowlasWilliam GlendeneingJohn Feltham | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 13 Portsea Infantry | 80 | 1 | Thomas WalcottJames PinhornJ. M. ShenstoneWilliam Pratt | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 14 Portsmouth Infantry | 80 | 1 | James CarterRichard BurbyWilliam Crocker | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 15 Portsea Infantry | 80 | 1 | Alexander PouldenDaniel HowardHenry HillBenjamin Powell | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 16 Portsea Infantry | 80 | 1 | Samuel SpicerKempster LipscombDavid SpicerWilliam Stroud | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 17 Portsmouth Infantry | 80 | 1 | John Adam CarterWilliam AndrewsHenry SharpGeorge Augustus Calloway | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 18 Portsmouth Infantry | 80 | 1 | George GrantThomas EdgeymelerJohn WestmoreThomas Burbey | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 19 Portsea Infantry | 80 | 1 | Charles Taker juniorWilliam EllisJames GlavenorJohn Irimy junior | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 21 Kingston infantry | 80 | 1 | William HawardRobert DoceRichard LivesayWilliam Wildey | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 22 Kingston infantry | 80 | 1 | James BucklandJohn HollandJohn WitlowJohn Thomas | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 23 Kingston infantry | 80 | 1 | Charles MatthewsEdmund BaghurstJohn LewisJohn Greene | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| 24 Kingston infantry | 80 | 1 | John ReedHenry CollinsJohn Gillman | CaptainLieutenant |  |  |
| Gosport Volunteers |
| Infantry | 80 | 1 | Cornelius HayterJames NealeRichard White junior | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| Artillery | 80 | 1 | Robert Forbes | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| Infantry |  |  | Thomas WhitcombeMatthew CarterThomas DashThomas Whitcombe junior | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| Infantry | 80 | 1 | John WhitcombeMark Anthony WhitcombeCharles Whitcombe | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| Mechanics | 80 | 1 | William ColeThomas NorrishWilliam MidlamSamuel Rogers | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| Gosport Mechanics | 80 | 1 | John DevereuxJohn ShepherdJames Midlam | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
| Rifles Alverstoke | 60 | 1 | Matthias March juniorJames WestmoreWilliam Page junior | CaptainLieutenantEnsign |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Victualling Office | 123 |  | Captain Henry Deacon |  |  | Captain H. Deacon proposed a Naval Captain to command this corps who do not amount to half the number expected |

 Lieutenant colonel Duke regimental colonel upon half pay

Captain Missing to be adjutant to the whole

Captain Meredith Major in full pay as Captain of artillery.

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[Note on the back]

Lord Bolton to be informed that it is to be desired that he will concert with Major General Whitelocke upon the subject of forming the 19 companies of infantry at Portsmouth etc into 3 garrison [?] battalions, to be commanded if possible by old officer of the Line.