Portsmouth 4 June 1804

My Lord,

Having since the Month of April last, been suffered to drill our Companies separate from the other six companies of Volunteers of this Town, pursuant to the communication, which your Lordship, had the goodness to make to us, that Major General Whitelocke agreed with you, that it would be best for us to so to do, we hoped we should have been able to proceed with pleasure to ourselves and satisfaction to the Men of our Companies: but the inclosed papers marked no. 1 to 9 will unhappily show your Lordship, that the General's mind has still seemed to retain a prejudice to our disadvantage and to conceive, that on the occasion of His Majesty's Birth day our reluctance to be placed again in a situation altogether unpleasant to us after the repulses and the incivilities we had received had arisen from a disposition to resist arrangements desired by him and it form conditions, etc, which never occurred to us. We allude to the terms in which his letter No. 8 couched and which seems to impose upon us unnecessary and uncomfortable conditions not usually insisted upon with Volunteers.

We were, my Lord, yesterday somewhat surprized to hear some whispers going about the Town, that some of our Men had expressed a wish to go out without us, and therefore suspected that some means were afloat to produce a difference in opinion between the Men of our Companies (from whom we have always most carefully kept any disagreement with the General) and us; but our astonishment was completed when we saw the authorized Invitation No. 10 seeming publically to avow a design of separating our Men from us, or inducing them to act against our resolution. Upon this appearance we immediately summoned the whole, to meet this Morning resolving in honor of the day, to submit to any order that should be issued, however distressing it might be to our Feelings, to prevent even the semblance of dissention on such an occasion. Having therefore fulfilled this duty and we hope every other Measure that we were bound to do, we have now my Lord to claim your Lordship's promise to submit to our earnest wish, to accept the Resignation of our Commissions as we before requested.

We have the honor to be

My Lord, your Lordship’s most obedient humble servants

G. Garrett

M. Greetham junior

J. A. Hickley

P.S. 5 o'clock P.M. We had written the above, early in the Morning, before we marched to Portsdown Hill, to celebrate the Birthday and after we were on the March about a Mile, Mr White, the Adjutant delivered to Captain Garratt a Message from the General "that he would be very glad to see the Men but he did not wish to see the above named officers in the Field, as they had trifled with him too long." We however thought it proper to proceed and to complete the grateful duties of the day, as we did not consider this message an order, and as we dreaded the consequences of disunion and disturbance on such an occasion.

No. 1 (Copy) T. Pritzler (Brigade Major) to Officers Commanding the Portsmouth Battalion of Volunteers, 17 May 1804

Head Quarters, Portsmouth May 17th 1804

Sir

Major General Whitelock having determined to celebrate His Majesty’s birthday, by assembling the whole troops under his command, on Portsdown Hill, and not doubting but the Corps under your Command will be desirous of participating in that mark of respect so justly due to our most gracious Sovereign, has directed me to request that you will March so as to arrive on Portsdown Hill, near the Telegraph, precisely at ½ past 10 o’clock on that day, previous to which a Copy of the Orders for the formation of the troops, shall be forwarded to you.

I have the honor to be

Sir, yours, etc, etc

(Signed) T. Pritzler, Major of Brigade

To the Officers Commanding Portsmouth Battalion of Volunteers

P.S. I will thank you to inform me as soon as possible what Number of Men you calculate to bring into the Field, and how the Corps ranks in point of Seniority with the Corps in the County.

­­­­­­­­­­­­­No. 2 (Copy) T. Pritzler to Adjutant White, 31 May 1804

Head Quarters, May 31st 1840

Sir,

I am directed by Major General Whitelocke to request that you will inform the Captains of the Portsmouth Battalion of Volunteers, that he has ordered Major Noel of the Worcester Militia to take the command of that Battalion on the 4th June, which will assemble on the Grand Parade at 8 o’clock in the Morning.

I have the honor to be

Sir, etc, etc

(Signed) T. Pritzler

To Adjutant White, Portsmouth Volunteers

No. 3 (Copy) M. White to Captains of Companies, 31 May 1804

Portsmouth 31st May 1804

Gentleman,

I am directed by Major Noel who is appointed to Command the Portsmouth Battalion on the King’s Birthday, to request the favour of the Captains of Companies to Parade on Sunday, in order to have a previous Drill, or should this be found inconvenient to meet on Monday an hour Earlier than that given out in the order, and I shall feel much obliged, if the Officers will signify there wishes as early as possible.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant

(Signed) M. White

To the Captains of Companies

No. 4 (Copy) George Garrett, M. Greetham, J. A. Hickley to Major Pritzler

Sir

Your letter conveying Major General Whitelock's request that the Portsmouth Battalion of Volunteers, should march to Portsdown Hill for the purpose of joining in the celebrations of His Majesty's Birthday having been communicated to us, and as the Companies under our Command have for some time been completely separate from the Battalion and have since acted together by permissions, and are not therefore included in the General's directions of Yesterday's date, we beg you will have the goodness to state to him that we feel most particularly anxious to testify our ardent Loyalty and attachment to our beloved Sovereign on the occasion, and that we shall be ready to march to the Hill at the time appointed to any station, and there put ourselves under the command of Major Neal or any other Officer he may be pleased to direct.

We have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient servants

(Signed) George Garrett, M. Greetham, J. A. Hickley

To Major Pritzler

­No. 5 (Copy) T. Pritzler to G. Garrett, G. Greetham and J. A. Hickley, 1 June 1804

Head quarters Portsmouth 1st June 1804

Gentlemen

I am directed by Major General Whitelocke to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date and to forward to you the enclosed order.

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Your most obedient servant

(Signed) T. Pritzler, Major of Brigade

To Captains G. Garrett, M. Greetham, J. A. Hickley

No. 6 (Inclosed General Order)

Notwithstanding the former orders the Independent Companies of Portsea Island Volunteers, commanded by the Captains mentioned in the Margin, will parade on the Glacis on Monday Morning at 8 o’clock, and follow such orders as they may arise from Major Noel of the Worcester Militia.

Captains:

J. Deacon

Mottley

Garrett

Greetham

Deacon

Hickley

Calloway

J. Carter

John Carter

Grant

(Signed) T. Pritzler, Major of Brigade

No. 7 G. Garett, M. Greetham, and J. A. Hickley to Pritzler 1 June 1804

Portsmouth 1st June 1804

Sir

We bed leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter inclosing a Copy of Major General Whitelocke’s orders and request you will have the goodness to state to the General that we have not the smallest objection to take any station together, and follow any orders we may receive from Major Noel on Portsdown Hill, on Monday next, but this We feel it impossible, after the conduct adopted by the other Companies to fall in on the Glacis, in the manner specified in your letter of this Day's date nor can we consent for many reasons to be intermixed with them, or to act with them, but as a separate body, but whether we are placed to the right or the left of them, or in any situation in the Line, is a matter totally immaterial to us.

We trust the General will consent to our wish.

And have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

(Signed)

G. Garrett

M. Greetham

J. A. Hickley

To Brigade Major Pritzler

No. 8 (Copy) Captain S. Brown, A.D.C. to Garrett, Greetham, and Hickley, 2 June 1804

Portsmouth, 2nd June 1804

Gentlemen,

I am directed by Major General Whitelocke to acquaint you in reply to your letter of yesterday, addressed to Major Pritzler, that he cannot enter into conditions as to the post to be assigned to the Independent Companies under your Command - nor is he desirous of seeing in the Field any person disposed to disobey, or debate upon the Orders he may judge it expedient to issue.

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Your most obedient servant

S. Brown, Captain and A. D. C.

To Captains G. Garrett, M. Greetham, J. A. Hickley

No. 9 (Copy) G. Garrett, M. Greetham, and J. A. Hickley to Captain Brown, 2 June 1804

Portsmouth, June 2nd 1804

Sir

We have received your letter of this day’s date, and deeply lament, that its contents preclude our Companies from attending to testify their Loyalty to our most Gracious Sovereign on the 4th Instant, which every Individual belonging to them, is most earnestly desirous of doing, at the same time we feel it a justice indispensably due to ourselves and to our Characters as loyal Men, to deny in the most solemn manner, that the least disposition to adopt any improper conduct, has even been manifested by us.

We have the honor to be

Sir, you most obedient servants

(Signed) G. Garrett, M. Greetham, J. A. Hickley

To Captain Brown

No. 10 (Copy) M. White, 3 June 1804

Understanding it is the wish of the Non Commissioned Officers and Men of the three Companies under the Command of Captain Garrett, Greetham, and Hickley to go to Portsdown to morrow.

I have received Major General Whitelocke’s directions to say they have his permission, and he hopes they will be strong enough to form Companies, otherwise they must fall in to strengthen others. Parade to be on the Glacis at 8 o’clock.

(Signed) M. White, adjutant