Horse Guards

3 September 1803

Sir

By Direction of the Commander in Chief I have the honor to transmit here with Extract of a Letter from Major General Whitelocke, commanding at Portsmouth, soliciting permission to arm the Volunteers of that Place, from the Ordnance store there, where he states that great number of arms are intendend purposely for Volunteers. And I am to desire that you will be please to lay the same before Mr Secretary Yorke, with His Royal Highness’s request that the necessary authority may been given to Major General Whitelock to arm the Volunteers accordinly.

I have the honour to be

Sir, your most obedient humble servant

W[illiam] H[enry] Clinton

John King, Esq.

Extract of a Letter from Major General Whitelocke to Colonel Clinton dated Portsmouth 18 August 1803

His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief having so lately seen the Volunteers of this place it is unnecessary for me now to explain the essential service that may be here after expected from them if proper steps are take to keep them in good humour and at the same time to render them respectable in point of Discipline. At present their most earnest wish is to be provided with arms, and as the Lord Lieutenant of the County, I imagine before this time has made the necessary representation to cause them being issued I think it will be attended with the best consequences if His Royal Highness will be pleased to urge a speedy order from the Secretary of State to that effect. There being in the Ordnance stores here a great quantity of both arms and accoutrements intended purposely for Volunteers.