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MILITIA, YEOMANRY  
AND  
VOLUNTEER FORCES  
OF THE  
EAST RIDING  
1689 - 1908

by  
R. W. S. NORFOLK,  
O.B.E., T.D., D.L.

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# Militia, Yeomanry and Volunteer Forces of the East Riding of Yorkshire 1689 - 1908

The activities of the militia and volunteer forces of the East Riding form an essential and interesting part of its history, extending over a period of 900 years, from the days of the Saxons to the present. Until the formation of the regular army in the 17th century, the principal, and often the only, force available for the defence of the country was made up of civilians called out, at short notice, for compulsory service when danger threatened. The force raised in this manner has been known over the centuries by a variety of titles, ranging from the "fyrd" of the Saxons to the "trained bands" of the Elizabethan and Civil War periods, while for two hundred years of its existence prior to 1908 it was called the "militia". The methods employed to recruit the force have also varied, but it has always been made up of civilian soldiers, most of whom served under compulsion and under the command of influential local men.

This citizen army saw much service, particularly against the Scots in the 13th and 14th centuries and during the Wars of the Roses and the Civil War; but it reached the peak of its efficiency and usefulness during the Napoleonic period, when it not only provided an efficient defence force for the British Isles, so releasing regular soldiers for service abroad, but also supplied over 100,000 trained reinforcements to the regular regiments of the line.

A volunteer element began to enter the militia about the middle of the 18th century, and at the same time completely independent volunteer units were formed in times of crisis, to reinforce the defences of the country. Large numbers of such units of all types were established in the Napoleonic era, and again forty-four years after Waterloo, as a result of the threatening attitude of the French. There can be little doubt that it was the popularity of the volunteer units of the Victorian period which caused the militia force to decline in numbers and efficiency, culminating in it ceasing to exist as an effective force for home defence in 1908, when its traditional role was taken over by the newly created Territorial Force. This was modelled on the regular army, and was originally intended for home defence purposes, but so many of the men volunteered for service abroad when war came that all of its formations were posted overseas, fighting with great distinction but heavy casualties in the 1914-18 war. The high traditions built up then were continued in the 1939-45 war by the Territorial Army formations.

In this work it is intended to trace the development of these forces from 1689 to 1908.

## 11th - 17th Centuries

The Anglo-Saxons organised an effective defence force known as the fyrd which was raised when required by means of a compulsory general levy of all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60, who reported for service with their own weapons. The fyrd is thought to have been mustered in groups based on the shire or county, which were sub-divided into smaller groups raised from the wapentakes in the shire. When Harold gathered his army, before Stamford Bridge, he had, in addition to his *élite* force of *huscarles*, the men levied from the three Ridings of Yorkshire and the adjacent counties. After the battle, when he started his march south to meet the Normans, it is unlikely that any of the Yorkshire levies accompanied him, and the bulk of his army at Senlac Hill was undoubtedly formed of men from Sussex and other southern counties.

The Normans retained the fyrd or general levy as a method of embodying a defence force, but in addition they introduced a feudal levy whereby all individuals who held land from the King had to give 40 days' military service in England each year, and two months overseas if called upon to do so. These periods often proved to be too short, particularly in the case of service abroad, and many individuals also found that they were unable to serve due to sickness or age; until eventually landholders were given the option of paying a fine, known as scutage, instead of performing the necessary military service. Large sums of money were raised by the payment of such fines, enabling the King to hire mercenaries to fight at home or abroad, for any length of time, limited only by the amount of money available.

In addition to the feudal levy, troops for the defence of England were recruited in exactly the same way as in the days of the Anglo-Saxons—by a general levy of all men between the ages of 16 and 60 who, in theory, could not be sent out of the country, although this rule seems to have been broken on a number of occasions. When men were levied, only a proportion of those eligible were called upon to serve, normally one out of every three, though in a dire emergency this would be substantially increased. These forces could also be called out to put down insurrections in the county for which they served, and for this reason, in the reign of Henry II, the control of the general levy was placed in the hands of the sheriffs, until more war-like activities at the end of the 13th century brought about the appointment of commissioners of array, to muster, command and control the levy. Much hard work fell upon these commissioners of array, who were appointed, as the need arose, to levy the required number of men and to organise them into fighting groups of thousands, hundreds and scores. East Riding troops fought in all the battles against the Scots, including those at Halidon Hill and Neville's Cross, in both of which the Scottish army was routed.

Heavy demands were made again during the Wars of the Roses, in which levies fought against levies, and Richard Hanson, Mayor of

Hull, was killed at the Battle of Wakefield, 1461, while leading three companies of infantry raised in the town. Later, when Richard of Gloucester ruled the north from Middleham Castle, he was loyally supported by most Yorkshiremen. He knighted Marmaduke Constable of Flamborough, Ralph Bygod and others from the Riding after the siege of Berwick at which they probably commanded East Riding detachments, and thought so highly of Constable that he appointed him to be governor of the town when it had been captured. The East Yorkshiremen faithfully upheld Richard in all his undertakings, and most of them were present at Bosworth.

Sir Marmaduke Constable in particular was a very experienced soldier, and there is an interesting record of his military career on a contemporary brass plate in Flamborough Church. It is worth noting that his sons, who no doubt erected the memorial, made no mention of the fact that he was one of Richard's household knights at Bosworth, having, presumably, no wish to offend the new dynasty. He lived long enough to do sterling service for the Tudors and in the emergency which arose in 1513, he, with his sons, relations, and the East Riding levies, marched into Hull and embarked in the fleet which landed them at Newcastle. At the Battle of Flodden which followed, Sir Marmaduke was a trusted member of the Earl of Surrey's council of war, and fought in the battle. This amazingly tough Yorkshireman was then seventy years old.

Many of the men from the northern counties who had served in battle against the Scots, followed their leaders in the great northern rising, the Pilgrimage of Grace. The army of 30,000 which faced the Duke of Norfolk at Doncaster was officered by men of great experience—Lord Darcy, Sir Robert Constable of Flamborough, Sir Thomas Percy and others who had joined the Pilgrimage; and in addition large forces of skilled archers and billmen, numbers of whom must have fought at Flodden, were in the muster. Many East Riding men marched with this army of the north, and the records show that not only were East Yorkshiremen the principal organisers and commanders, but also that the East Riding contingent was extremely well disciplined and reliable.

After the rising the whole of the north remained unsettled, ruled by the Council in the North which was strengthened and developed by Henry after the Pilgrimage. It should be noted that the Council complained that it had not been given the power to levy troops. Shortly afterwards, Lords Lieutenant with such powers were appointed in each of the English counties, although the President of the Council in the North was always the Lieutenant for the three Ridings of Yorkshire, a state of affairs which was continued until the reign of Charles II.

In 1556 private individuals were re-assessed, according to the size of their estates, as to the scale of weapons and equipment which they could be called upon to provide, and each township was ordered to supply gear for those of its levies who could not afford to find their own. Weapons or armour provided by a township were referred to by the muster masters as "common weapons", and the men so

equipped as "common soldiers". At the same period a proportion of those liable for service was called out for training once or twice a year, and grouped in companies or bands. Units exercising in this way were called the "trained bands": a title which remained in use in the East Riding until the end of the 17th century, and in London until as late as 1794.

A copy of a muster roll for part of the East Riding dated 1584 has survived, which shows the total number of men available for service, the proportion eventually earmarked (one in every three, producing a force of 1,400) and a great deal of useful information about their weapons. This roll has been efficiently analysed by Mr. F. W. Brooks, and is of particular interest to the military historian as having been made in a transitional period when the old weapons, the bow and the bill, were going out of use and the new firearms, with pikes, were coming into service.

In April, 1588, the year of the Spanish Armada, another muster took place in the East Riding. According to Poulson, who appears to have had access to the muster roll, the Riding raised an infantry force of 1,600 men, sub-divided into ten companies of varying size, and consisting of 640 calivermen, 560 pikemen, 240 billmen and 160 bowmen. This shows a considerable increase in the proportions of the newer type of weapons in the four years which had passed since the previous muster.

In the first year of the reign of Charles I a muster was ordered for part of the East Riding, and an infantry regiment was formed from the wapentakes of Buckrose, Harthill, Dickering and Holderness with a strength of 800 men under the command of Sir Matthew Boynton. A muster roll for one of its companies shows a strength of 120 footmen, under Sir John Buck, of whom 62 were "common" soldiers (33 musketeers and 29 pikemen) and the remainder (26 musketeers and 32 pikemen) were equipped by private individuals charged to do so. The company was clearly intended to be equipped with muskets and pikes in equal proportions.

In 1639 Charles I visited Hull, at which time the "trained bands were under arms and lined the street while the King passed", the men being newly clothed at the charge of the town and county. Some of the trained bands of the period undoubtedly had a uniform coat of grey, for in 1640 the records of the town of Beverley mention two companies from the trained bands, when "It is ordered that whereas the trayne band in Yorkshire are to attend his majestie in the service now intended, that everie common soldier for this town shall have a grey coat for the value of eight shillings or thereabouts at discretion of Mr. Maier." These two Beverley companies were commanded by Sir William Pennyman and Sir Thomas Danbie, and the money to pay the troops was "collected of everie able person within the several parishes of this town being not charged with arms."

The trained bands in a county could only be called out for service by the Lord Lieutenant or by the King himself, and control of them was one of the points in dispute between the King and



Parliament. The Earl of Strafford, President of the Council in the North, had been the Lieutenant for the three Ridings of Yorkshire, but the appointment had never been filled after his execution. In theory, therefore, the only person who could call out the trained bands in the East Riding was the King. Nevertheless Sir John Hotham, on instructions of Parliament, called out 800 men of the local trained bands and with them secured Hull and the important contents of its magazine for Parliament. Many of the men serving under Hotham had no wish to do so, and we learn from a petition sent to the King by the inhabitants of Holderness that many of those serving in Hull had been disarmed on Hotham's orders. For the townships providing the common arms for the use of these men this was a costly and serious matter, unless the weapons could be recovered. The senior trained band officer in Hull at this time appears to have been Lt.-Col. Legard, although he was undoubtedly subordinate to Hotham and Sir John Meldrum, a Scottish officer of great experience.

After being refused admission to Hull on 24th April, 1642, the King began to call out the remainder of the trained bands in the Riding, who were formed into a regiment under command of Sir Robert Strickland, at the same time sending instructions to the High Sheriff of Yorkshire to the effect that if the trained bands elsewhere in Yorkshire mustered illegally, he should order them to disperse. In case they did not do so, he was given the power, in the absence of a Lieutenant, to raise the force of the county and disband them forcibly. The trained bands in the Riding at this time therefore served both sides in equal numbers, while 200 Yorkshire gentlemen banded together to form a cavalry bodyguard for the King, under command of Sir Francis Worsley.

## *The Militia Force*

The return of the monarchy in 1660 brought many changes. The old feudal levy, which had been in abeyance for some time, was abolished and new Acts of Parliament placed the trained bands on a new footing. The title "trained bands" officially ceased to be used, except in London (where it continued in use until 1794), although it was certainly used on commissions and other official documents in the East Riding for at least another twenty-five years. The county militia force, as it was now designated, was placed under the complete control of the Lord Lieutenant, who could commission a number of deputy lieutenants and militia officers, although the Crown retained the right to displace any persons so appointed. In Yorkshire, a Lord Lieutenant was now appointed for each of the Ridings. The new militia force was made up of both cavalry and infantry, and was provided by the owners of property—not of land exclusively, as had been the case with the feudal levy. The general levy ceased to be used. Any person with an income of £50 per annum or an estate valued at £600 was charged with providing and

equipping an infantryman. Similarly, any person with an income of over £500 per annum or an estate valued at £6,000 had to provide and equip a cavalryman. In the event of the militia being called out into service, those charged with providing and equipping the men had to supply each one with a month's pay, but were not liable to provide a second month's pay until the first had been reimbursed by the Treasury. In this simple manner, Parliament, which controlled the Treasury, retained complete control over the length of time the militia could remain embodied.

The militia regiments now had to be called out for regimental training once a year and for company training four times a year, for not longer than four days at a time. At a later period Lords Lieutenant were empowered to call out regiments for any convenient period not exceeding 14 days. The pay of a cavalryman was fixed at 2/- a day, and that of an infantryman at 1/-. The ammunition, drums and colours were provided by means of a county rate, often referred to as "trophy money."

In 1689 the East Riding militia force consisted of one regiment of foot, commanded by the Marquis of Carmarthen and made up of eight companies, with a total strength of 679 men. In addition there were two troops of cavalry each of 64 troopers, one of which was commanded by Richard Gee of Bishop Burton, whose commission was "to command a troop of cavalry in the trained bands of the East Riding."

## *The Jacobite Risings*

At the beginning of the 18th century the militia force had become greatly neglected. No doubt the victories of the regular army under the Duke of Marlborough had made it appear that an efficient militia force was not really necessary, but the first Jacobite rising showed that this was unwise. In 1715 the militiamen were useful in that they freed regular soldiers for active service in the field, by taking over the garrison duties they normally performed, but apart from this the militia force was of little use and its record hardly bears examination. According to Raikes, one regiment took nine months to assemble, and the militiamen assembled for use as infantry bolted when confronted by the rebels. Much could not be expected from troops who mustered in country churchyards and went through such movements as could be performed by a handful of men without trained instructors or experienced officers. The Citadel at Hull, built in the reign of Charles II at a cost of £100,000, was hastily repaired, for the ramparts and stockades were in a state of decay, and suspected Jacobites, notably the Lord Dunbar and Marmaduke Constable, were confined on the orders of the Lord Lieutenant.

After the rising the government proved very inept, doing nothing to improve the efficiency of the militia force; and until 1739 very few deputy lieutenants or militia officers were appointed in the

East Riding. In August of that year the Lord Lieutenant reviewed the situation and appointed 28 deputy lieutenants, which meant that the Riding was rather better prepared to meet an emergency than some northern counties. He was under no illusions concerning the state of the militia in the East Riding for, when the Young Pretender began to raise the clans in 1745, he reported to the government that "to raise the militia in Yorkshire would be an expense to the county without good effect." This was a sweeping statement to make, particularly by one who was responsible for at least a third of the force, but there were two good reasons for it. Firstly, the force was under-officered, badly organised and sadly lacking in training; and secondly the lieutenants were severely handicapped by the fact that the Act of Parliament authorising the payment of subsistence money to the militia after it had been embodied one month had expired in 1735 and never been renewed. Despite efforts to remedy this deficiency the lieutenants were unable to raise the pay of the militiamen. The wording of the recommendation by the Lord Lieutenant of the East Riding certainly makes it appear that he was rather more worried over the state of efficiency of the militia than anything else. After informal discussions it was agreed that a loyal association and volunteer companies should be formed to provide an adequate defence force for the whole of the county. As panic measures were being taken in London, his suggestion was agreed to, and he and the Lords Lieutenant of the North and West Ridings were given wide powers to implement the proposals.

As a first step a public meeting was called in the Castle Yard at York, attended by over 800 of the nobility, clergy and gentry of the county, who listened to a forceful address by the militant Archbishop Herring, and then agreed to form an association in which each member pledged himself to the others to defend the established order. At the same time a subscription of £34,000 was raised. Another subscription was raised in Hull which amounted to £2,000, part of which was used to clean out the town moat and the adjoining waterways which had silted up during the hundred years since the Civil War. Palisades and artillery positions were constructed on the earth ramparts which stood outside the medieval brick town wall, so that the landward approaches to the town were covered.

The Lord Lieutenant lost no time in forming volunteer companies under the control of his deputies, although much work was delegated to others in order to save time, and authority was granted to the Mayor of Hull to sign commissions. In Hull and the East Riding, 23 volunteer companies were raised and Yorkshire as a whole provided one volunteer cavalry regiment, while the other two Ridings produced a number of infantry units.

Four volunteer artillery companies for the defence of Hull were formed by the Wardens and Brethren of Hull Trinity House. The men in these companies had no uniform dress, the only identifying device being a cockade, and initially they had no guns to deploy, but the Wardens were resourceful and persuasive men, and borrowed twenty nine-pounder cannon with full equipment, powder and shot

from a ship lying in the Hull roads. These four companies were the earliest volunteer artillery units to be formed in Yorkshire, although there may also have been others at Bridlington to man the cannon in the fort covering the harbour. Twelve of the leading burgesses of Hull also came forward and raised "independent companies of gentlemen volunteers." Each of the twelve companies so raised had an establishment of 60 men and although one muster roll has survived we have no record of the type of uniform worn. The influential gentlemen of the country districts were also busy, and formed seven volunteer infantry companies, each with a strength of 55 men. A letter to the adjutant of these companies from a cloth manufacturer in the West Riding details the cloth provided for the coats which were of "blue kersey" cloth, with red facings and linings, each having 24 buttons. The Lords Lieutenant had some difficulty in obtaining muskets for the volunteer infantrymen, but these were eventually issued at the beginning of October 1745. The sergeants, corporals and drummers of the companies were regular soldiers sent from Chelsea (possibly pensioners from the Hospital).

The seven companies outside Hull were deployed along the coast of the East Riding from November 1745 until February 1746 in order to counter any attempt at invasion. After Culloden the companies were all disbanded.

A certain John Hall Stevenson with "a number of fox-hunting gentlemen and yeomen of the county" formed themselves into a cavalry unit under the title of the Yorkshire Light Horse. They invited General Oglethorpe to become their colonel and he, in accepting, obtained the King's permission to change the title to that of "The Royal Regiment of Hunters." This cavalry unit of county fox-hunters was the first yeomanry unit to be formed in the country. It did some useful work patrolling, and later acted as an advance guard chasing the rebels northwards towards Shap. Stephen Thompson, writing to Admiral Meadley, has this to say about the unit: "The bucks such as Zach; Moore; Hall; G. Thompson; Boynton; Wood; Lascelles to the number of twenty or thirty have listed under a mad general—Oglethorpe—They are well mounted, with everyone a man and a horse, and some two, and they are to act as a flying column to harrass the enemy in their march, and to give intelligence. They make more noise here than they deserve, their numbers being much magnified." A government spy reporting from Manchester in October said that the regiment had a strength of "one thousand five hundred, all mounted on tip-top hunters" and that "at least five hundred of these were gentlemen of the best fortunes".

The rebellion of 1745 again demonstrated that the militia, as it was then organised, was inefficient and useless in an emergency. It also showed that an efficient volunteer force, whose lack of training was made up by the keenness of the individual members, could be raised and deployed in a comparatively short time. It is surprising to find that no effort was made to re-organise the militia force until 1757, and even more surprising that, apart from a few volunteer companies formed in some of the maritime counties in 1782, no

effort was made to realise the volunteer potential until 1794. This reluctance to make use of volunteers is difficult to understand, but was probably due to the constant fear of the governments of the period that weapons might fall into the hands of the wrong people.

## *Re-organization of the Militia 1757*

The Militia Act of 1757 was an important piece of legislation, worthy of the elder Pitt, for it gave the country a properly organised and efficient militia force for the first time, and an adequate defence force of 32,000 men. This new body was raised from the English counties on the basis of a fixed quota from each, the East Riding and Hull having to provide a regiment of infantry with a strength of 400. Since the last re-organisation, in the reign of Charles II, only property owners had been liable for militia service, but under the new Act each parish had to provide lists of all able-bodied men, from which the names of those liable for service were chosen by ballot. In 1757 there were 12,339 able-bodied men aged between 18 and 50 in the Riding, which means that one man in every thirty-one was eligible for service. In 1762 only men between 18 and 45 were balloted for, a total of 8,475 being involved, of whom one in every twenty-one was liable to serve. Although this was only a return to the idea of the general levy, with the addition of the ballot clause, it did not appeal to the labouring element of the population, which now found itself contributing equally with the rich. This resulted in serious rioting in some counties, including the East Riding, where a considerable amount of damage was done to property, and the High Sheriff was threatened with violence. Only after several rioters had been hanged was order restored.

The formation of the militia regiments proceeded very slowly, especially in the East Riding. The establishment of a volunteer company in Beverley took place at this time, possibly to guard against rioting, the Corporation deciding to advance five guineas "for arms for the use of gentlemen now associated for the defence of the Corporation and the circumjacent inhabitants." (Beverley Corporation Minute Book, 6 Feb. 1758).

In July 1758, the Lord Lieutenant appealed to the gentry to make application for appointments as officers, but few were keen to do so and the full list of names of the officers was not submitted for Royal approval until a year later. At this time, in order to qualify for appointment as a deputy lieutenant, or for a commission as a militia officer, a gentleman needed a property qualification, at least half of which property had to be in the county in which he would serve. The size of the estate required varied from rank to rank. Thus, to qualify for the rank of colonel, an estate producing £400 a year was needed; while an ensign had to own an estate of £50 annual value. Every endeavour was, of course, made to find gentlemen with military knowledge in addition to these qualifications. The property qualification was also applied to serving officers hoping for promotion,

for none could be promoted unless he held the necessary estate required for the higher rank. The values of the estate to be held varied from time to time, and were not finally abolished until 1869.

In May, 1759, Parliament presented a humble address to the King "that he will be pleased to direct the Lords Lieutenant to use their utmost diligence and attention to carry out the Militia Acts". As a result the Lieutenants received instructions pointing out the urgency of the matter in view of the possibility of the French invading England, and asking for progress reports. The report from the East Riding must have made rather depressing reading. Individuals whose names had been drawn in the ballot were endeavouring to find men agreeable to serve in their places, for the Act permitted service by substitute. Eventually on the 3rd December, 1759, the East Riding Lieutenancy applied for the issue of arms and accoutrements to equip the militia regiment, which, under the terms of the Militia Act, could not be done until it had an actual strength equivalent to three-fifths of its establishment. The establishment of the East York Regiment was a colonel commandant, a lieutenant-colonel, a major, (each of these three field officers commanded a company), seven captains, ten lieutenants, ten ensigns, an adjutant, a surgeon, a quarter-master, 20 sergeants, 20 corporals, 20 drummers, and 400 privates divided into ten companies of 40 privates each. The equipment probably only just arrived in time, for the East York Militia Regiment was embodied on 1st January, 1760.

The men in the new regiment were issued with the following articles of clothing: a hat with cockade, a shirt and black stock, a scarlet kersey coat with buff facings and white braid, white waistcoat, scarlet breeches, white leggings and shoes. The arms and accoutrements issued to sergeants were a leather waist belt, a hangar (a short double-edged sword) with scabbard, and a halbert. Drummers received a leather waist belt, a hangar and scabbard, and a drum; while privates were equipped with a leather belt, a leather shoulder belt or sling with cartouchebox, a musket, a hangar and scabbard, and a bayonet and scabbard. Sergeants were paid 1/- a day, drummers and corporals 8d., and privates 6d., to which was added a like amount for subsistence.

After embodiment in 1760 the regiment marched to Newcastle-on-Tyne, where it was given the nickname of "Yorkshire Buffs." It was disembodied in 1762, by which time most of the rank and file were due for discharge as the period of service was three years. An officer was expected to serve for four years or longer if a replacement could not be found. The rank and file were normally discharged at Michaelmas, and were permitted to retain their old uniform. In time of peace, the captain of each company was responsible for the safe custody of its weapons and equipment, and churchwardens had to provide chests to allow weapons to be stored in churches, but there is little evidence to show that any churches were so used in the East Riding.

When the militia was not embodied, training continued by companies or half-companies during each month from March to

October. These training periods must have presented many difficulties in a district as large and as sparsely inhabited as the East Riding, as no man could be called upon to go more than six miles from his home to the place of parade, and on arrival he could not be kept under arms for more than two hours at a time. Regimental training usually took place in Whit week when all the men were called together from Tuesday to Friday. During this period, troops were billeted on public houses and received "a diet and small beer" for which the publican was paid "For officers under the rank of captain—one shilling and for privates four pence per diem." From 1765 each regiment assembled for twenty-eight days each year.

Many of the men serving in the militia were substitutes serving on behalf of those whose names had been drawn in the ballot. These substitutes made a charge for taking over the duties, the amount of which was normally quite reasonable, but if the militia regiment was embodied and the country at war, a much higher figure was demanded and obtained. In 1761 Captain Grimston's Company of the East York Militia, with a strength of 63 men, had no fewer than 56 volunteer substitutes. There can be little doubt that many of these men rejoined the regiment as substitutes immediately on discharge after three years service. The regiment benefited by receiving experienced soldiers instead of raw recruits, and this may have accounted for the fact that "the volunteer substitutes were much preferred by the officers." The practice was encouraged and Acts were passed which made it lawful for parishes to send acceptable volunteers instead of an equivalent number from the parish quota. Another Act allowed any militia captain whose company had been ordered into actual service to augment it with men offering themselves as volunteers. Such men were probably volunteers in the true sense of the word, joining for patriotic reasons.

In March 1778, all the English militia regiments were embodied and in many of them complete companies of volunteers were formed. On 13th May the East York Regiment was inspected while at York, shortly before moving south, and the inspecting officer reported in glowing terms, "A remarkably fine corps of officers. Have all Fuzees, and salute very well. This is much the best appointed Regiment of Militia I have seen, great care and attention is shown by all the officers to every part of their duty. The men are remarkably steady and upright and in all respects are fit for immediate service." It is interesting to note that the regiment was commanded by Henry Maister, an appointment he held until 1802. He had been commissioned into the regiment on the re-organisation of 1757.

The vulnerable coast line of the East Riding became virtually unprotected with the departure of the militia. There were seven gunners at the Citadel in Hull, and although there were several cannons at the Fort at Bridlington Quay they had no mountings or regular gunners to man them. In 1779 the appearance of John Paul Jones and his French allies on the north-east coast caused great concern. The engagement between H.M.S. *Serapis* and her small

consort the *Countess of Scarborough* and the more numerous ships of Jones' squadron saved a very important Baltic convoy, and stopped further interference by Jones with shipping. Nevertheless hasty defence measures were taken. The Northumberland Militia arrived in Bridlington and stood to arms every night while Jones was known to be operating in the vicinity, and in Hull a committee was formed, and efforts made to raise a defence force, apparently with some success, for in 1782 the corporation voted its thanks to "the associated voluntary independent company for their spirited endeavours to raise a corps for the defence of the town and neighbourhood against the Enemy."

## *The War of the French Revolution*

On Friday, 28th December, 1792, the East York Militia was reviewed by the Lord Lieutenant, and the Parade was reported in the *Hull Packet*:—"His Grace the Duke of Leeds, accompanied by his son the Marquis of Carmarthen, arrived at Beverley on Thursday last and on Friday His Grace reviewed the militia of the East Riding in the Minster (being the usual place of parade in the winter season) after which the regimental band accompanied the organ when playing God Save the King. The Duke expressed his satisfaction at the appearance of the men in the highest terms of approbation at their behaviour."

On the 31st December, 1792, the militia regiments were again embodied and the East York Regiment mustered at Beverley. Certain items of clothing were not issued by the Government, and to overcome the deficiencies an advertisement appeared in the local paper:—"The Militia of the Riding, Town and County having been suddenly called out from their Homes and Families in the midst of winter on Public service, and having obeyed that call with great readiness and spirit, the gentlemen of the said Riding, have thought it a proper Attention to their good Conduct, to assist them in such Articles of Clothing as are not provided by Government, and will contribute to their comfort during the winter season. Subscriptions for this purpose will be received at the East Riding Bank in Beverley." The subscription raised £560 which was sufficient to provide each man with the necessary clothing.

Colonel Maister, commanding the regiment, received orders to march and on the 13th and 14th February, 1793, the regiment crossed the Humber en route for King's Lynn. On arrival the companies were deployed along the coast to prevent an enemy landing. This departure of the local militiamen left the East Riding coast devoid of troops, other than a few men of the Invalid Company manning the guns at the Citadel in Kingston upon Hull. The Corps of Invalids was made up of regular officers and men who had been badly wounded, but who were considered to be capable of performing



garrison duties in the United Kingdom. Under these circumstances the inhabitants were somewhat nervous, and rumours spread rapidly. There was great consternation when a horseman galloped into Hull with urgent and grave news for the Mayor. The local newspaper reported the incident:—"Last Monday afternoon, information was brought by express to the Mayor of this town that a number of men landed near Patrington from a privateer said to be within the Humber. Part of the Corps of Invalids stationed at the Citadel at this place and several volunteer seamen, who had just entered to serve in His Majesty's Navy, all armed as Hamlet says cap-a-peé were immediately dispatched to meet the enemy, but were prevented giving signal proof of their prowess by a second messenger who met them on the road near Hedon, and informed them that instead of French enemies, those who had landed were the crews of several colliers, who had quitted their ships to avoid being impressed by His Majesty's Sloop of War, *The Queen*, then lying at anchor in the Humber."

Rumours continued to circulate, and some French families living in the district were accused of being spies. M. de Travaux, who had a brother who was known to be a secretary to one of the committees of the National Convention in Paris, suffered badly, and wrote an impassioned letter to the newspaper protesting against such calumnies. Nevertheless, there was great unrest until the Cheshire Militia arrived to defend the port.

The price of many commodities rose towards the end of 1793, and the recruiting sergeant of the Prince of Wales' Irish Regiment, who was operating in Hull, must have been upset when the Hull brewers decided to increase the price of beer to one shilling a gallon.

In March, 1794, a new Militia Act was passed, empowering the Lords Lieutenant to raise volunteer companies to augment the county militia regiments, and another Act followed to encourage the establishment of independent volunteer companies, as a result of which the Lord Lieutenant of the East Riding (the Duke of Leeds) called meetings of the Lieutenancy at Beverley. Subscription lists were opened all over the Riding to raise money to pay for the formation of proposed volunteer companies, and the response was very good, newspapers of the period giving long lists of subscribers. A great deal of time and energy was expended in raising these purely volunteer companies; and no effort was made to augment the militia until they had formed and become well established, the reason being that volunteer companies could not be marched out of the Riding, but those set up to augment the militia could be and, as events proved, eventually were.

Meetings were also held at Beverley, on 30th April, and Hull, on 24th May, 1794, to make plans for the formation of companies. The meeting at Beverley was reported as follows:—"At a General Meeting of the Noblemen, Gentlemen, Clergy, Freeholders, and Yeomen of the Riding, Town and County held at the Common Hall in Beverley on Wednesday, 30th day of April, 1794 pursuant to public advertisement for taking into consideration measures

necessary to be adopted for the Internal Defence of the Riding, Town and County of the Town of Hull.

The Revd. Francis Best in the Chair.

It was resolved:—That we are ready and willing at all times to stand forward in support of our King and Glorious Constitution and that in the present crisis it is expedient to provide for the Internal Defence of This Riding, Town and County of the Town.

That a voluntary subscription is a proper means of providing such defence, that the same shall be immediately proceeded in, and applied as the Committee to be appointed shall direct and that subscription books be opened, and kept at the office of Mr. Lockwood, the Deputy Clerk of the Peace in Beverley etc. etc.

That the Fort at Bridlington Quay be put into repair out of the subscription and that the Government be applied to, for the supply of Ordnance and Ammunition, and also such Naval Force to be stationed on the coast as shall be thought necessary.

That a company of infantry be raised for manning the fort before-mentioned, and for the defence of the coast in that neighbourhood.

That so many companies of infantry be raised of not less than sixty men each as the Committee may think necessary for the Defence of this Riding, Town and County.

That one Corps of Cavalry be raised not exceeding fifty to convey intelligence and also to defend the coast of Holderness, as being that kind of force most readily collected to repel an enemy.

That the said Infantry and Cavalry when so raised shall not be liable to be marched or sent out of the said Riding, Town or County nor the said Infantry more than ten miles from the coast without their consent, and that the northern bank of the River Humber shall be deemed part of the said coast."

Twenty-one persons were appointed to form a committee although any five had power to act.

At the Hull meeting it was resolved that:—

"Three companies of infantry consisting each of 70 men at least, and one company of artillery men consisting of 60 at least, with proper officers be raised within the Town and The County of the Town of Kingston upon Hull and in the villages in the East Riding of the County of York not more than five miles distant from the Town of Hull.

That the Men be assembled and exercised two days in each week for the space of two or three hours in each day: That the Non-commissioned officers and Privates be paid one shilling per day for the days they are to be exercised: To have clothing given by the Government that they may be uniform: That they may not be removed out of the said Town and County of the Town of Hull except into the East Riding of the County of York and within the distance of 25 miles from Hull, unless ordered by His Majesty on appearance of an invasion."

The places at which the volunteer companies were to be raised were chosen by the Lord Lieutenant, who wrote to the Reverend

Francis Best on 13th May, 1794:—"I think it might be expedient to begin immediately to raise two companies at nearly the extremities of our Coast, namely Bridlington and Patrington. The former of which might serve to protect not only Bridlington itself but the adjacent Country, particularly Filey Bay, and the latter might serve to protect the southern part of Holderness being stationed between the Sea Coast and the Humber. It might likewise be desirable to have a third company stationed in a more central situation for instance at Hornsey".

In the north Humphrey Osbaldeston of Hunmanby raised a company of infantry to defend Filey Bay, and at Bridlington John Pitts assembled a detachment of volunteer gunners to man the guns at the fort and a company of infantry to secure the adjacent coast line. Digby Legard was given the task of mustering a company at Hornsea, but unfortunately only two recruits were forthcoming so the project was abandoned. In south Holderness, William Raines formed a volunteer infantry company based on Patrington, and the gap in the defences at the centre of the coast line caused by the inability of Hornsea to provide a volunteer unit was partially filled by Thomas Grimston's troop of yeomanry cavalry from Holderness. The county town of Beverley raised a strong infantry corps; and there was great activity in Hull where several units were formed, a public-spirited townsman, William Hall, raising a troop of yeomanry cavalry and Trinity House forming an artillery company to assist the detachment of the Invalid company in manning the guns of the Citadel and South End battery. Three infantry companies were also raised in the town and united with one from Cottingham to form a battalion for the defence of Hull and environs.

The voluntary subscription realised a large sum of money, but the gentlemen raising the volunteer companies found it to be a costly matter while, in addition, they were beset with administrative problems.

Thomas Grimston, of Kilnwick and Grimston, offered to raise a cavalry force in Holderness and he set about his task with characteristic thoroughness. He issued the articles of enrolment, based on those of the Northamptonshire Yeomanry, and then travelled round the Holderness villages explaining his plans to the farmers. The response was very poor, and he followed up his visits with letters to the Clergy suggesting that parish meetings be called so that the importance and purpose of the proposed corps could be explained to all the parishioners. Once more the results were disappointing. A letter received from the Vicar of Sproatley partly explains why this was so. "The sentiments of the People here are not changed, I apprehend, since you conversed with them. What they object to is the smallness of the pay, from which circumstances one may I think infer two things, First they are aware of the Necessity of the Measure and Secondly in return for their Services they expect a valuable consideration adequate at least to the Profits arising from Labour".

Several letters were written in similar terms and some also pointed out that volunteers were unlikely to come forward during

harvest time. A letter from Grimston himself to the Lord Lieutenant, dated 8th July, 1794, gives another reason why the men of Holderness were reluctant to join his troops. He wrote:—"Though I doubt not if necessary they will go beyond the limits of the Riding, yet I found them particularly desirous that they should not bind themselves to do it, and to please them I was obliged to change the name of the corps from East York Yeomanry Cavalry, which I wished to have called it, to the East Riding Yeomanry Cavalry".

Once the clause in the articles of enrolment, binding the members to serve outside the Riding, had been deleted, and the name of the unit changed, he was soon able to recruit up to establishment both with men and horses.

Grimston instructed his agents to find a suitable ex-cavalryman who could be enlisted as a troop sergeant to train his raw recruits; and wrote to contractors in London and the West Riding about the supply of uniforms, weapons and accoutrements, a great deal of which was finally purchased in London and delivered to Hull by ship. As most of the contractors' letters have survived, we know the details of the uniform worn. The helmet was of the normal yeomanry type made of leather, with a bear-skin crest over the centre and a buff 'turban' round the bottom. It was also decorated with four small chains on each side, which were intended to prevent sabre cuts penetrating, and a hackle of buff feathers on the left-hand side. The short scarlet jacket was of hussar style with buff facings and silver braid, over which was worn a whitened leather crossbelt with a plate engraved with the letters E.R.Y.C. surrounded by a scroll bearing the motto *Pro aris et focis* and topped by a crown. The officers' jackets were rather more ornate, and Grimston himself wore a blue tunic with buff facings and silver braid. The officers' sashes were crimson, and those of the sergeants buff with crimson edging. The yeomen wore white breeches and black riding boots; and each trooper was equipped with a sabre and a pistol, while twelve of the men also had carbines. A jacket can be seen at the Castle Museum, York.

The cost of various items of equipment is given in a letter from D. Egg to Grimston dated 3 September, 1794:—

"Sir,

I received the favour of yours and the one before wherein you order 42 sabres and 42 pistols and understand you would wish to have some sent as soon as possible which I shall do in a few days and the swords I do furnish are exactly like those used in Elliotts Light Horse and yours shall be the same—The price 19/-s—Pistols 36/-s the pair—Carbines £2:2:0 each, which is as near as can be what Government pays and everyone else I furnish—Sabres for the Officers with Blue and Gilt Blades £3:13:6 if something Extra more in proportion—for Do good plain Steel mounts Pistols with double Stop Locks £8:18:6 and if the very best workmanship from £14:14:0 to £25:4:0—Shoulder Belts for Officers of the best Buff 18/6d, Gilt and Engraved Plate for Do. 10/6, Silver and Engraved Plate for Do. 15/- Shoulder Belt for Privates 7/- Brass Plate for Do. 1/-.

I am Sir etc."

The muster rolls of the unit show that at this time it had a strength of about fifty-eight men.

Grimston had great difficulty in obtaining a trumpet. This was forwarded in April 1795 by his brother-in-law, Richard Legard, with a letter: “. . . have been blasting all my neighbours this hour past . . . the cord is crimson and buff, very neat and accompanys it . . . the price is 3½ guineas, ½ guinea the string, together 4 guineas. Gads Niggars he beats me at blowing. What a tremendous sound they produce. It puts me in mind of what we are to expect at our latter end”.

After a year had elapsed the Defence Committee met to agree the steps to be taken to augment the militia. It was decided to make a grant from the funds of £1,800, which was sufficient to form two companies of volunteers raised and commanded by Captains Richard Bethell and Digby Legard, to strengthen the East York Regiment of Militia. Both companies marched south and joined the Regiment.

In November, 1794, recruiting for the volunteer companies in the East Riding met with some opposition, for in that month advertisements appeared in the *Hull Packet* offering a bounty of ten guineas to any man who would join Captain Mortimer's company of the Loyal York Fencibles. The worthy Captain Mortimer was somewhat limited in his choice, as the last line of his advertisement added, “It is particularly requested by the Captain that none will attend, but those that are sober”. Despite these limitations he recruited his company in three weeks. It formed part of a fencible regiment raised by the Hon. Chetwynd Staypleton from all three Ridings of Yorkshire, and was sent to Ireland immediately after its formation, remaining there until 1802 when it returned to Yorkshire and was disembodied.

The attempted landing by the French at Bantry Bay in 1796, followed by their badly organised invasion of South Wales, forced the Government to raise additional defence forces. Acts were passed which doubled the size of the militia, the additional men being levied in the usual manner and formed into second line battalions under the title of “Supplementary Militia,” the local regiment being known as The East York Supplementary Militia Regiment. It was also decided to form a new corps of cavalrymen, and an Act was passed to regulate the way in which this was raised. Owners of horses were grouped in tens and by the use of the ballot box it was decided which of the ten had to provide the trooper, horse and accoutrements. The force was given the title of the Provisional Cavalry, and the East York Provisional Cavalry was formed in November 1796 consisting of five troops based on Hull, Beverley, Driffild, Bridlington and Hunmanby. The whole regiment was under the command of the Lord Lieutenant of the Riding. The provisional cavalry proved to be extremely unpopular and was extremely difficult to administer and train. It was never embodied, although called out occasionally for training; and it had a very short life, the whole of the force being disbanded in March 1799.

Men joining the volunteers in 1796 were exempt from the ballot for the militia and supplementary militia, and also from the hair-powder duty, while those providing a horse for the yeomanry were exempt from the horse tax. An advertisement in the *Hull Packet* provides an insight into the methods employed to keep discipline among them:—

“HULL TROOP

OF

GENTLEMEN AND YEOMANRY CAVALRY

On Wednesday the 23 November, the Hull Troop of Gentlemen and Yeomanry being assembled for the purpose of exercising, John Taylor jnr., one of the said corps, was unanimously expelled and voted to Coventry in consequence of improper conduct.

WILLIAM HALL,  
Captain.”

At the beginning of the war the beacon system had been organised to give warning of any enemy landing, so that defensive plans could be put into operation. The sites of the beacons on the Holderness coast are recorded in letters from the indefatigable Thomas Grimston who was the Deputy Lieutenant for the district. He reported that beacons had been re-erected at Hornsea, Cowden, Withernsea, Dimlington, Kilnsea, Welwick, Patrington, Keyingham and Paull. He had moved a beacon formerly at Marfleet and erected new ones at Arwick and Tunstall. Writing to the Lord Lieutenant, on 9 June 1794, Grimston said, “I enclose you a rough sketch of the kind of double beacon that was ordered to be erected on the Holderness coast, and which I believe Mr. Osbaldeston likewise ordered to be erected upon the remainder of the East Riding Coast”.

The sketch shows a beacon with two barrels supported by arms on a single post. In 1796 the beacon system was reinforced by the erection of signal stations at Spurn Point and Flamborough Head which, by flying simple two-flag signals, could warn shipping of the presence of French privateers or warships.

Early in 1797 the threat of invasion increased, and in the maritime counties likely to be affected steps were taken to obtain essential information so that plans could be evolved to resist the enemy. In the East Riding the Deputy Lieutenants were required to provide a vast amount of data for the military. Returns were called for showing the whereabouts and quantities of grain, in stacks and threshed, and the numbers of cattle, horses and carts. The inhabitants of the coastal regions were listed so that the exact numbers of women and children and of infirm and aged were known; while the men were classified as pioneers, guides, drovers, drivers or labourers.

In April that year the Commander of the Yorkshire district issued his orders for the defence of the East Riding. In the event of the enemy effecting a landing it was planned to put a ‘scorched earth’ policy into operation. All stocks of grain or foodstuffs in the coastal regions had to be sent inland or destroyed; and cattle driven by

given routes to inland compounds for the use of the military authorities. Horses and carts were allocated to evacuate the women and children, the infirm and the aged, and during the months when invasion was possible they had to be held ready to move by pre-arranged routes to the interior. The military were to march forward to the beaches by specially reserved routes using the foodstuffs evacuated from the coast. The men available to act as pioneers and labourers were instructed how and where to construct field works, fortifications and road blocks. Drivers were allocated for driving cattle, and men with a very good knowledge of the area were earmarked as guides to lead the troops across country. Captains were appointed for each district who were responsible for the initial allocation of tasks and for ensuring that they were performed should the worst happen.

A great sense of urgency becomes apparent in letters and orders issued after 1797, and instructions were issued to make battalions and companies mobile. The amount of baggage which could be carried in the event of trouble was now strictly limited, and officers were ordered to put all unnecessary kit into store, being permitted to take only one small portmanteau each. Regimental baggage and equipment, which included one tent for every fifteen men, had to be carried on five waggons. On the march, officers were ordered to remain with their divisions and never leave them. The rate of march had to be three miles every one-and-a-quarter hours.

A military report of 1798 on likely invasion points in the East Riding lists them as being Bridlington, Hornsea, Sand-le-Mere and Spurn. The most probable was thought to be at Spurn, which would afford safe anchorage for transports, and from where there was a good road along which an invasion force could march to attack Hull. As a result of this report, military camps were established every summer at Dimlington, Ridgmont and other sites from which a covering force could be marched quickly to any invasion point. These troops were for the most part militia regiments, with regular regiments when they were available.

By an Order in Council dated 14 May, 1798, the Royal Navy raised a force of volunteer seamen, under the title "Sea Fencibles", to operate in coastal waters round Britain. The formation of the Sea Fencibles on the Humber and along the coast of the Riding was carried out by Captain Edwards, R.N., who recruited his force from sailors, fishermen, pilots and bargees. Its members were exempt from the activities of the press gang, so that recruiting was brisk and a sizeable force was soon available to man a sloop with eight guns, and eight smaller craft, each equipped with two long 9-pounder guns and one 32-pounder carronade.

While all these plans were being put into operation the whole country received a severe shock by the news of the mutinies in the Royal Navy. The poor conditions on board many of the ships had helped the work of the agitators and many crews had locked up their officers or put them ashore, hoisting red flags on their ships. In these circumstances only the most reliable troops available could be sent

to the ports to assist the naval authorities. It is pleasing to Yorkshiremen to find that the militia regiments of both the East and West Ridings were sent to Sheerness on this critical assignment, surely a clear indication of the reliance placed on them by the Commander in Chief?

Agitators had not confined their activities to the Navy alone, for efforts had been made though without success, to stir up trouble in the militia regiments and volunteer corps. But they found a more fertile sphere of operations among the poorly paid artisans who at this time were suffering badly, for the price of food had soared with the continuation of the war while many of the necessities of life were difficult to obtain. The Government was afraid of trouble among the poor in the event of invasion; a fear which had been confirmed in Europe, where some of the poorer classes of the invaded countries had initially greeted the French as liberators and assisted their operations. To prevent similar occurrences here, should the enemy succeed in landing, steps were taken to raise security forces throughout the country. Efforts were made to form more volunteer companies, but in addition reliable citizens were recruited into Armed Associations in which they were trained in the use of arms. Personnel in these units were only liable to serve in their own parishes, which they patrolled to keep down mobs and to prevent looting. Associations of this type came into being in Hull, Beverley, Driffield, Bridlington and Cave. Additional volunteer units were formed in the Riding by Sir Christopher Sykes who raised a yeomanry unit from the tenantry in the Wolds villages adjacent to Sledmere; and at the southern end of the county by Captain J. Scholfield who formed two companies of infantry at Howden. The members of the Hull Armed Association provided their own uniforms and appear to have taken their duties rather seriously, for one of their rules stated, "There shall be no meeting of the Association for any convivial purpose".

Early in 1799 steps had to be taken to improve the rate of recruiting into the regular army, for the intake was not keeping pace with the wastages of war. Up to this time it had been illegal for a regular recruiting sergeant to enlist a militiaman, but now an Act was passed which permitted such men to volunteer into the regular regiments. These regiments produced every inducement for them to do so, but the Act provoked storms of protest from the Lords Lieutenant and commanding officers of the militia. At a meeting held by the latter it was unanimously decided that "the system of recruiting from the militia when embodied is destructive to the militia system and degrading to all persons engaged in that service". Although the passage of time was to prove this statement true, it is also certain that the Army could not have fought on to eventual victory without the aid of the hundreds of thousands of trained militia men who joined the regular forces in the years which followed. But the immediate effect on the militia units must have been serious. In August, no fewer than 300 men from the East York Regiment of Militia volunteered into the 20th Foot (Lancashire Fusiliers), whilst the 15th Foot (East Yorkshire Regiment) sent recruiting



parties into the East Riding and obtained large numbers of recruits from the 4th and 5th West York Militia Regiments then stationed in the area and, later, enlisted 360 men from the 4th Royal Lancashire Militia Regiment at Sunderland.

From this time onwards the volunteer corps were encouraged to go into camp along the coast during the invasion months in summer, thus reinforcing the militia regiments waiting in encampments in Holderness. Each year the units were inspected and reported on by officers appointed by the General commanding the Yorkshire district.

The Volunteer Act laid down that every member of a volunteer unit should undergo at least twenty days training a year, and when this had been achieved there was occasionally a celebration. In 1801 the Hull Yeomanry completed their training by August and this note appeared in a local paper. "The Hull troop of Yeomanry Cavalry finished their twentieth day of exercise appointed by the Lord Lieutenant pursuant to the Act of Parliament, and in the afternoon partook of an excellent dinner provided by their Captain, William Hall, at the Cross Keys in the Market Place, where they spent the evening in great harmony"!

In August 1801 there were great fears of an invasion, and the supplementary militia regiment which had been disembodied in October 1799, was again embodied, the men being sent to join the East York Militia Regiment at Whitby, Scarborough and Bridlington. At this time the Royal Navy disposed three ships in the Humber so that early warning could be given of any invasion attempt near Spurn Point. *H.M.S. Nonesuch* was anchored in Whitebooth Roads, another was at the Hawke, and a third was moored midway between them so that signals could be passed rapidly up the river.

All the precautions taken against a surprise landing by the enemy were superfluous, for very unexpectedly the preliminaries of Peace were signed, on the 1st October 1801. The government immediately set about reducing the armed forces with all speed, and by the 20th October ships were being paid off and laid up, infantry regiments were being reduced to strengths of 500 men and cavalry regiments to 200 troopers. The militia regiments were marched back into their own counties preparatory to being disembodied while the new clothing for the men, which was to have been issued at Christmas, was retained in store. The yeomanry and volunteer corps were ordered to suspend all activities and to hand in their weapons.

The volunteers had done a great deal during the seven years they had served, and had provided much needed assistance to the regular and militia forces. A large majority of them had joined the volunteer corps for patriotic reasons, feeling that the safety of the country was being threatened, but there can be no doubt that a small number had done so to avoid more arduous service in the militia or elsewhere. At one time the Lieutenancies were warned that persons were joining the volunteer corps shortly before a militia ballot was to be held, thus obtaining exemption from it, and resigning from the corps once the ballot was over. The Deputy Lieutenants were

ordered to be "vigilant in repressing this and other abuses of the institution".

The volunteer sailors making up the Sea Fencibles often joined to obtain exemption from the activities of the press gangs. Many officers in the Royal Navy disapproved of the Sea Fencibles because they felt that the Navy lost more by being unable to press the men into service than was gained from the force operating in coastal waters. The Sea Fencibles too were disbanded in 1802.

## *The Napoleonic War, 1803—1815*

By the end of the year however, the war-like activities of the French made it apparent that the peace was in fact nothing more than an uneasy truce, and the government took certain precautionary measures. In March 1803, the 69th Regiment of Foot arrived in Hull and was quartered in the Citadel and on the 21st day of that month all English militia regiments were embodied, the East York Regiment assembling at the Common Hall, Beverley. Signal stations were established at Paull, Spurn, Dimlington, Hornsea and Flamborough and steps taken to reform the encampments in all the maritime counties. *H.M.S. La Fortunee*, a 36 gun frigate, was sent into the Humber and began pressing men for the fleet from ships leaving and entering the river. In March also the government authorised the formation of volunteer corps, and issued the conditions of service for them to the Lords Lieutenant. These conditions were much more stringent than had been the case in the period from 1794—1802. Corps were now restricted in the type and colour of uniforms they wore, for cavalry and infantry corps were now ordered to wear scarlet tunics but were allowed to choose the colour of the facings, and blue tunics were to be worn by all volunteer artillerymen. Companies were to have a strength of not less than three officers, two sergeants, two corporals, a drummer and fifty privates; and not more than four officers, two sergeants, two corporals, a drummer and 95 privates. Any corps which had a strength of more than 300 was allowed an adjutant and a sergeant-major. Volunteer units began to form under these and other new conditions.

In May war was declared, and this brought about the usual movement of militia regiments, the 2nd West York Militia Regiment arriving in Hull on 30th May, while the East York Militia Regiment marched from its quarters at Whitby, Scarborough and Bridlington for Chelmsford.

In July 1803 a body known as the Army of Reserve was raised by ballot for service in the United Kingdom and the Channel Islands for a period of five years, a total of sixteen battalions being mustered in this way. The men from the three Ridings of Yorkshire were gathered together at Sunderland and formed into the 15th (York) Battalion, under the command of Colonel the Hon. G. C. Stapleton, which formed part of the garrison of Durham from November 1803 to January 1804, when it moved to Berwick. These

battalions were disbanded in 1805, but the personnel were used to form three garrison battalions, the men from the 15th (York) Battalion forming part of the 1st garrison battalion which served in Ireland from 1807 to 1814.

Another Act passed in July was known as the Levy en Masse Act by which all men between the ages of 17 and 50 were registered in four classes, any or all of which could be called out for the defence of the country.

Personnel were classified as follows:—

*First Class*—Men aged 17-30, unmarried and having no children under the age of ten years.

*Second Class*:—Men aged 30-50, having no children as aforesaid.

*Third Class*:—Men aged 30-50, who were or had been married, having no more than two children living under the age of ten years.

*Fourth Class*:—All men not included in the other three classes.

One Section of this Act ordered parishes to hold arms and accoutrements so that all men could be given weapon training. The arms had to be kept in safe custody and the Act even advised that the parish church might be found to be a suitable place. Its most important Section provided for the suspension of the terms of the Act in any parish which provided not less than three quarters of the men in the first class as volunteers for service in a volunteer corps. Men so enrolled could not be recruited into any military unit, regular, militia or fencible. So many volunteers then came forward that the Act had to be suspended within a month of being passed, and firm measures taken to limit the number of volunteer units forming. It was decided to restrict the number of paid volunteers in each county to a total equivalent to six times the number serving in the old militia force. The authorised strength of volunteers in Yorkshire thus became:—

East Riding	....	3,384
North Riding	....	5,466
West Riding	....	14,574
		<hr/>
Total	....	23,424
		<hr/>

Additional volunteer units could be formed if approved by the Lord Lieutenant, provided the government was not called upon to pay for their arms, accoutrements and clothing, and that the men served without pay, but such additional volunteers could not claim exemption from militia service.

After taking steps to ensure that the maximum number of civilians joined the auxiliary forces in the shortest possible time, the government was soon embarrassed by the lack of arms to equip them; but as the priority of issue seems to have been given to the maritime counties, the East Riding had not long to wait before it received its weapons. The volunteer units in other counties were not so fortunate, many being equipped with fowling pieces instead of muskets.

As in 1794, there was great hustle and excitement throughout the East Riding, and there were many recruits keen to join the

volunteer forces. These were formed on the strong cadres of trained personnel from the units disbanded in 1802, although many changed their titles, some their size, and one or two, for reasons which will be shown were not re-constituted. On the plain of Holderness the indefatigable Thomas Grimston reformed his yeomanry under the title of the Grimston Yeomanry, doubled in size to two troops; and on the Yorkshire Wolds Sir Mark Masterman Sykes mustered 300 men into the Yorkshire Wolds Yeomanry. In Hull Captain William Hall offered to re-form the Hull Yeomanry Cavalry, but receiving no acknowledgment to his offer from the Lord Lieutenant he withdrew it. No cavalry unit was raised in Hull for the rest of the war, but this loss was partially made good by the formation of a troop of cavalry by Mr. Constable-Maxwell under the title of the Everingham Yeomanry Cavalry.

The Wardens and Elder Brethren of Hull Trinity House decided to arm and equip the Trinity House yacht for use in defending the Humber. The artillery unit formed by them in 1794 was therefore not re-established although the House, as always, made many generous donations to the defence funds during the war. The defences of Hull at this time consisted of five 24-pounder guns, thirteen 18-pounder guns and four 9-pounder guns all sited in the Citadel; and in addition the South End battery (just to the south of the present junction of Humber Street and Queen Street) had two 24-pounder guns and two 18-pounder guns.

As the war progressed a battery of six 24-pounder guns was erected at Paull and another at Spurn Point. The lack of gunners presented a problem to the defence committee but after representations had been made, Captain Cuthbert permitted the Sea Fencibles to man the guns. This task was later taken over by regular gunners who eventually trained militiamen from regiments stationed in the area in the "great gun exercises". The volunteer artillerymen at Bridlington Quay again came forward and manned the guns in the fort there for the next twelve years.

All the former infantry companies re-formed, although many changed their titles and several new units also came into being. In Hull, Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Machell formed a battalion under the title of "Hull and County Volunteers". Prior to 1802 this battalion had included a company from Cottingham, but now, in addition to seven companies raised in Hull, there were three companies which were formed in Sculcoates. In Cottingham two independent companies were formed under the title of the "Cottingham Grange Volunteer Infantry". The Beverley Volunteers recruited briskly and soon had 130 men under arms, although difficulty was experienced in finding a commanding officer, the position being offered to Christopher Machell, Henry Ellison and William Beverley before being accepted by Peter Coates, Esq. At Driffild two companies were raised by Major John Grimston of Neswick, which were known as the Bainton Beacon Volunteer Infantry. The Bainton Beacon Pioneers, two companies strong, were formed by Captain John Hall of Scarborough.

There was great activity in Holderness where Major H. W. Maister re-formed the old Patrington Volunteer Unit under the title of "Middle and South Holderness Volunteer Infantry". The North Holderness Volunteer Infantry, made up of two companies, was commanded by Captain Richard Bethell and Captain Robert Stubbings raised an independent infantry company in Hedon. The Howden Volunteer Infantry re-formed with a strength of two companies while two large new infantry units were established at the western side of the Riding. At Pocklington Major Robert Dennison raised six infantry companies, and at Escrick Park Lieutenant Colonel Richard Thompson commanded a large unit known as the "Ouse and Derwent Volunteer Infantry". A small infantry unit was also established under the title of "Welton and Elloughton Volunteer Infantry" with an establishment of one company, but muster rolls show that the strength was low.

While the Army of Reserve and Volunteer forces were forming, the Royal Navy began to re-form the Sea Fencibles. Captain Cuthbert, R.N. controlled the coast from the River Ouse to Flamborough Head with assistance from Captains J. Waller and T. Miles, R.N., who were based at Bridlington and Patrington. By the middle of July no fewer than 3,000 men had been enrolled in the Sea Fencibles in East Yorkshire, exercising each Sunday and receiving 1/- a day if called out for duty. In Hull several vessels were converted for use as gun boats on the Humber, principally the Trinity House yacht and six pilot boats which ranged in size from 20 to 42 tons, and also a number of sloops armed with 24-pounder guns.

Although the vulnerable coast line of the East Riding was a considerable distance from the main body of the French army assembled at Boulogne, there was a decided possibility that the enemy might attempt a landing in Yorkshire. The Holderness coast was suitable for the landing of troops and the general commanding the Yorkshire district planned against this eventuality. The danger area was considered to be the low-lying land just inside Spurn Point where a landing could be carried out without great difficulty and there was safe anchorage for the transports of an invading fleet. During the summer months encampments were again formed in Holderness to hold the regular and militia regiments so that they could move quickly to deal with the enemy once he was ashore. Strongpoints were built at Hilston, Hornsea and Dimlington and a very large camp was constructed at Ridgmont.

The beacon system remained much the same as it was prior to 1802. Each beacon was now given a top mast so that flag signals could be given in daylight. At a later date each beacon was given twelve rockets for signalling purposes and a system for giving the alarm by day by means of smoke was also evolved. These beacon posts were initially manned by civilians who were eventually relieved by army personnel, usually militiamen, and each had a crew of a non-commissioned officer and three privates armed with pikes. A posting to a beacon was considered to be a great privilege for, in addition to the pay and allowances, the men carried out no drills,

and had a great amount of spare time in which to carry out profitable work such as cobbling. A test-firing of the Riding's beacons was made on the night of 7th October 1803 when they were fired at 8 o'clock in the evening. Watchers in Hull reported that many of the Holderness beacons could be seen, as well as that at Bainton; while from Aldbrough it was reported "Cowden beacon appeared very fair to the north and Tunstall and Withernsea to the south, others could be observed but could not be named with certainty".

Lieutenant-General Lord Mulgrave was appointed as Commander of the Yorkshire district with his headquarters at Beverley, and soon issued his plans for the defence of the Yorkshire coast. The beacons were re-established but the liaison between his head-quarter's staff and the Lieutenancy was so poor that a report was sent to the Commander in Chief which read, "As there have been no beacons on the coast in the last two wars, it will take some delay before the exact points can be ascertained".

Lieutenant-General Lord Mulgrave suggested that Corps of Guides and Pioneers should be formed, and as a result guides were appointed on the scale of one captain and twelve men for each Division of Holderness, Buckrose and Dickering, while Corps of Pioneers were also raised on the basis of 75 men from each division. These men were allocated for the construction of the defence works to be set up as soon as the beacons were fired. The perimeters of these positions were marked out on the ground and all men detailed to work on them when the alarm was given were instructed on how the task was to be carried out.

The military plan in the event of invasion was similar to that evolved in 1796. In Holderness, full use was to be made of the waterways, and plans were made to flood the district by fitting back-water doors to all the main sluices. Defence works had to be constructed at Dimlington, Burstwick, Burton Pidsea, Sproatley, White Cross and Hull Bridge, to cover the main roads. The state of the minor roads was so bad that a report written in 1798 read, "All bye and cross roads are in poor condition and not suitable for an Enemy not knowing the district". Another written in 1803 stated that Dragoons stationed at Wainfleet and Saltfleet could not communicate with each other as the roads were impassable.

There were to be withdrawal routes for the infirm, sick, women and children running westward out of Holderness and crossing the River Hull at Frodingham. When John Nicholson wrote his booklet on the East Yorkshire beacons in 1887, he talked to people who could remember the rows of waggons which stood for weeks on end in the main streets of Patrington, Hornsea and other villages, each numbered to prevent confusion and having four horses allocated to it. It was in these that the women and children were to be evacuated. The plans for the evacuation of civilians from the coastal regions of the Riding were in an advanced state by 5th October, 1803, for on that date the Lord Lieutenant had rendered his return on guides, pioneers, drovers and others, but none had been received from the North and West Ridings.

Holdernefs, Ticket of Removal.

Township of *Hornsea*.

You and *6*

Children belong to Waggon Letter *B* to which you are to repair as soon as possible, with a Change of Linen, and one Blanket for each Person, wrapped up in the Coverlid of your Bed, and bring with you all the Food in your possession.

*W<sup>m</sup> Jones* Overfeer.

Ticket (original size 5½" x 3½") for the evacuation of a family from Hornsea in the event of a French invasion, c. 1798. The details may have been filled in as examples only. (East Riding County Record Office DDX/16/56).

In the event of the enemy landing he was to be engaged by the nearest regular or militia troops and also by the volunteer troops in the area, for whom general assembly points were arranged. One of these agreed upon by Thomas Grimston and John Raines was "The close at Burton Constable as soon as you enter the gateway from Sproatley". Reinforcements were to be sent into the East Riding from the West Riding, and the West Riding Corps had similar assembly points at which waggons were stationed to carry them forward as fast as possible. West Riding troops were to gather at York, Howden and Barlby, and to move by two routes to Hull and thence eastward over the River Hull. On the night of 14th August, 1805 a beacon was accidentally fired in the West Riding and the alarm raised over a wide area. The plan worked perfectly and at dawn on the 15th August all the volunteer units from Rotherham, Sheffield, Staincross, Wathwood, Doncaster, Ecclesfield and Thorne were marching for their assembly areas. Not without some difficulty were these eager Yorkshiremen turned back, and there is still a tradition in one of the areas concerning the length of time it took those doughty warriors to return and the sorry state that some of them were in when they eventually did so, having drowned their disappointment en route!

The large number of troops stationed in the East Riding, particularly in the vicinity of Hull, produced administrative problems. The keepers of the inns and public houses in Hull complained "that they will have to shut their houses if they are not relieved of the extraordinary number of artillery horses quartered upon them. The most opulent of them have suffered heavy loss from the impossibility of accommodating travellers who come with their horses".

In 1803, Lieutenant-General Lord Mulgrave was given another Army appointment, and his place as Commander of the Yorkshire district was taken by Lieutenant-General Howard Vyse. General offices were also stationed at Hull (Major-General Morrison commanding the garrison) and in charge of the East Riding Volunteer Brigade (Brigadier-General Hodgson).

Due to the large number of troops in the area it was decided to build an armoury in the Citadel at Hull to hold arms and equipment for 3,000 cavalry and 20,000 infantry and with stabling for 260 horses and sheds for three brigades of guns. The work commenced in 1804, when the Royal Engineers started to drive a road from the village of Drypool through the north curtain wall of the Citadel, and was completed in 1807. Troops in Hull lived in barracks, 400 of them being accommodated in the North Block House near the Citadel, which had been converted in 1797. Additional barracks were built or converted in 1803 in the Ropery (800 men) and Lime Street (900 men) while an Army bakehouse operated in Broadley Street. The Army isolation hospital was established in a house on the Beverley Road, well away from the town, and on occasions must have been full. "It has been reported that there are cases of smallpox not only in the hospital but also in the barracks at Hull". In the summer months many of the men lived under canvas or in huts at the Holderness camps, but in winter they were called back into quarters. The matter of accommodation was then very troublesome, and in places like Beverley the troops were billeted out in inns, although this type of billeting often proved to be insufficient: "Publicans at Beverley complain that they have several of the Army of Reserve quartered there, which obliged me to remove another company of the Cumberland Militia to Bridlington in addition to those which were sent to Scarborough and Whitby". At this time troops in Hull had no parade ground, although a field adjacent to George Street was used at a later date. The senior army officer in the area thought little about the town's streets, "The troops at Hull have, for the greatest part of the year, no ground at all for drill or exercise, and they are constantly obliged to parade in streets, very confined, and for the most part extremely filthy".

The troops permanently under arms in the East Riding were militiamen, and in January, 1805, the Garrison of Hull was made up of five militia battalions with some regular artillery.

Royal Cheshire Militia	....	1,205
3rd Royal Lincolnshire Militia		557
Westmorland Militia	....	551
2nd Warwickshire Militia	....	441
East Suffolk Militia	....	715

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3,469

with, in addition, the

Royal Cumberland Militia		819
(in the Beverley area)		

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4,288

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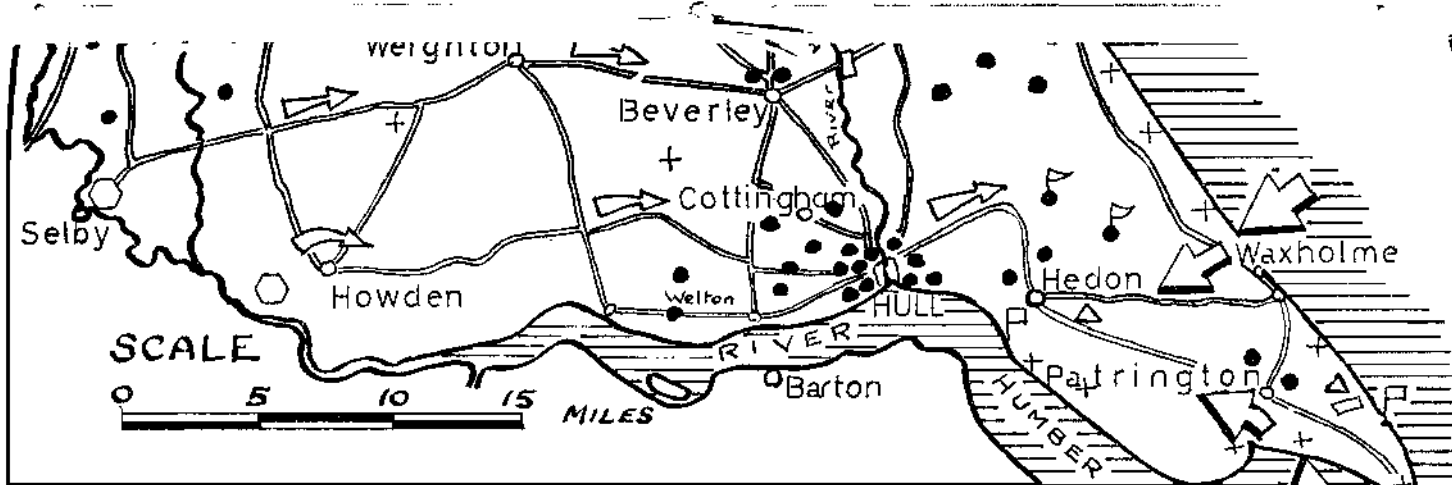


The state of efficiency of these units varied considerably. A report, on the 3rd Royal Lincoln Militia, reads: "In one of the battalions there is much to lament and much to be corrected. The men are in general good and no men can be better disposed, but the unhappy differences which have taken place among the officers, which still, I am afraid exist . . . must, if not put an end to by some strong measures, for ever obstruct its improvement"; and another, "The Royal Cumberland Militia deserves every commendation, not only for its steadiness, and appearance under Arms, but likewise for its uniform regularity and good Conduct in its Quarters".

The six battalions at Hull in 1805 were deficient of no less than 48 officers; and some who were officially on the strength of the battalions never reported, as this extract from a letter shows: "H.R.H. (The Duke of York) will doubtless be surprised to read that one officer, Ensign Barlow, of the 3rd Lincoln Militia, has never joined that regiment, and what may perhaps appear still more extraordinary to him, that neither the Colonel, Agent, Paymaster or Adjutant of that Regiment know anything at all about him".

The duties of the militia regiments were not confined to anti-invasion measures. They were also employed in preventing the local inhabitants from smuggling. In December, 1807, General Howard Vyse reported that he had visited "all parts of the coast listed as being bad areas notably Boston, Grimsby, Hull, Bridlington, Flamborough, Scarborough, Robin Hood's Bay (and particularly the alum works in the cheek of the bay), Whitby, Staithes, Runswick, Saltburn and the flat coast between Huntley Foot and the mouth of the Tees. At Staithes, Robin Hood's Bay, Filey Bay, and any other such place of general Rendezvous for larger vessels such as cutters and luggers, there are Agents established who direct all the different branches of this illegal traffic and who on the arrival of any of the Smuggling vessels off the coast, send immediate but secret notice around the Country to all the different description of persons concerned in carrying on the Smuggling business, who assemble at the Landing Places pointed out to them . . . As soon as the Smuggling vessel arrives at the rendezvous the cargo is either brought on shore by his own boats, assisted by the fishing cobles of the place or is taken away along the coast by those cobles to some more private and more convenient landing place, from whence a large proportion of the smuggled goods is carried immediately to the interior of the country through some of the numerous and little frequented paths . . . The remainder of the smuggled goods which cannot, on first being landed, be thus disposed of is secreted till an opportunity offers of dispersing it in small quantities, to the Inhabitants of the Towns and Villages upon the coast, and I am well assured that every facility is given to the Smugglers, not only by almost all the lower classes of people but likewise (I am sorry to add), by many whose fortune and rank in life cannot allow them to plead either necessity or want as an excuse for subverting the Law or defrauding the Revenue of their Country". The militiamen were

# MAP OF THE EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE SHOWING VOLUNTEER CORPS DISPOSITIONS AND DETAILS OF DEFENCE PLAN 1805



- |   |       |   |
|---|-------|---|
| Yeomanry Troop                            | ----- | ▲ |
| Volunteer artillery unit                  | ----- | ⦿ |
| Volunteer Infantry Company                | ----- | ● |
| Beacons                                   | ----- | + |
| Militia Camps                             | ----- | △ |
| Assembly Areas for West Riding Volunteers | ----- | ○ |
| Military Routes in event of invasion      | ----- | → |
| Predicted invasion points                 | ----- | ➔ |
|   |       | □ |
|   |       | ⊠ |

disposed at points where smugglers carrying goods inland could be intercepted, but no man was allowed to remain in one district longer than three days. General Howard Vyse was taking no chances of his troops being tempted by the local inhabitants!

Following an address by him, a great deal of work was done in Hull. The town was divided into districts, in each of which the inhabitants were listed, together with descriptions of all carriages and carts; and the daily amount of provisions consumed in each was ascertained, a depot being allocated for storing emergency supplies. Arrangements were made for evacuating the women and children; and all available men were to be trained to use pikes, which were to be held in store in each district.

This idea was not well received in Hull as an extract from one of General Howard Vyse's letters shows: "The civilians do not feel much confidence in the advantage they may derive from the use of a pike against an enemy with firearms, perhaps a proportion of pistols carried in the girdle by Pikemen might tend to give them some additional confidence".

Each year the volunteer units in the Riding turned out for fourteen days' permanent service, which usually took place in summer, when they garrisoned coastal towns. In July, 1804, the Beverley Volunteers went to Bridlington. The warning drum beat at 3-45 in the morning and the men commenced marching at 4-30, having been ordered to be punctual on parade as "If there should be any delay the tide will not serve at Barmston for marching on the sands which will make a considerable saving in fatigue".

In June that year, the Grimston Yeomanry had also been on service at Bridlington and Mr. Dunn of Patrington visited the unit. The hospitality he received in the officers' mess was apparently very good as his diary entries show, "5 June (1804) walked to Hull (from Patrington), Took Chaise for Bridlington to see Grimston troop. 6 June. Went to see the troops at exercise. Came on rain. Dined with the Officers in the Mess. 7 June. Very ill until noon. Got Dinner. Set off for Hedon. Stayed all night with Mr. Iveson" (his brother-in-law).

When a volunteer corps had been on permanent duty twice, the men became eligible for a marching grant: "The sum of 14/-s marching money being allowed for the sole purpose of providing necessaries previous to the march the Captains of companies are desired to see that the men are provided according to the regulations viz: A complete change of linen, two pairs of shoes and two shoe brushes etc. for which purpose 10/-s. marching money will be advanced on Saturday . . . and the remainder will be paid on Monday morning previous to marching". The amount of the grant was increased to a guinea a few years later, when it became known as the marching guinea.

The news of the Battle of Trafalgar did not arrive in Hull until November 14th, but it did enable the military plans to be relaxed somewhat, though the need for recruits in the regular army became even more pressing. A drive was made to encourage militiamen to

volunteer into the regular service and was very successful, for over 40,000 did so in one year commencing July 1807. In October that year it is recorded that 396 men from militia regiments stationed in Hull joined the regular army, as well as three members of the Hull Volunteer Infantry. It was noted at the time that the majority of militiamen in the East Riding wished to volunteer for service in the Marines. The terms of service of most of the militiamen being nearly over, a fresh ballot was taken on 30 October, 1807, one man in every 21 being taken. The amount which had to be paid as bounty to ensure obtaining a substitute immediately rose considerably, and in the Riding £30:7:0 was paid at that time.

Most of the East Riding Volunteer Units went on permanent duty for fourteen days during the summer months in addition to carrying out their normal training, and were considered to be reliable troops; but apparently this was not the case all over the country, for Lord Castlereagh, when he re-assumed office in 1807, drafted a Bill which virtually abolished the volunteer corps, and formed an additional militia force.

### *The Local Militia*

The Local Militia Act was designed to raise a permanent local militia in England from the male population between the ages of 18 and 40. No substitutes to be permitted and a number of persons who had previously been exempted from the militia ballots were now liable. Service in the new regiments was for four years, but thereafter each man was free from the chance of being balloted for the old militia for two years. The local militia differed from the militia in that the training commitment was similar to that of the old volunteer units, while the units were intended to serve in their own counties and were only embodied for short periods each year even in time of war. As would be expected, provision was made for those wishing to avoid military service, for a scale of fees payable to obtain exemption was incorporated in the Act. For one with a yearly income over £200 a fee of £30 was payable; between £100 and £200 a year it was £20; and under £100 a year, £10. The Act affected the volunteer corps very harshly and most of them went out of existence as a result. One section of it laid down that any man producing a certificate to show that he was an effective member of a volunteer or yeomanry corps, and that he would engage to serve therein at his own expense without pay or allowances, had to pay half the fines paid by those wishing to avoid service altogether. Many men would serve without recompense and pay for their own uniforms and weapons, but very few could afford a fine in addition in order to remain in a volunteer unit. Nevertheless some volunteer corps in the Riding kept going until 1814, notably the Grimston and Everingham Yeomanry Cavalry, the Bridlington Artillery Volunteers and the Hedon Volunteer Infantry. Some others attempted to do so, and the Pocklington Volunteer corps survived until 1809, despite the fact

that any volunteer transferring to the local militia was paid a bounty of two guineas, and all volunteer officers transferring were permitted to retain their rank. It is significant that the opposition to transferring to the local militia regiments came from the ranks, for most officers paraded their units and addressed the troops in order to persuade them to transfer.

The local militiamen in the Riding were organised into four battalions with a total strength of 3,400 men, based on Pocklington, Bridlington, Beverley and Hull. From 1808 until the end of the war these battalions were embodied for 28 days training each year, but in 1816 the government decided to spend no more money on a force no longer a necessity and ordered that training should cease. The local militia remained in being until 1836 when it was abolished.

### *The Victorian Period*

Most of the English militia regiments were disembodied in 1814 only to be recalled when Napoleon escaped from Elba, the East York Militia Regiment being called out for service on 16th June, 1815 and remaining under arms until the beginning of 1816. Once the threat to the country's security ceased the militia regiments were allowed to fall into a state of neglect and were rarely mustered for annual training. Between 1817 and 1851 the East Riding's militia regiment was only so called out on four occasions—in 1820, 1821, 1825 and 1831. Not until 1852 was anything done to remedy the position, but in that year sweeping changes were made in the laws relating to the militia, and troops were then raised by voluntary enlistment for a period of five years, although the ballot could still be employed if any battalion failed to recruit up to strength. In addition certain alterations were made to the establishments of the militia regiments and for the first time artillery units were formed. The East Yorkshire Militia Regiment had an establishment of 750 men; while a new militia artillery unit was formed in Yorkshire as a whole, the East Riding providing 257 men, the North Riding 256 and the West Riding 26.

At this time the statutory period of annual training was reduced from 28 days to 21 days, and to fall into line with procedure in the regular army, the rank held by commanding officers of militia regiments was restricted to Lieutenant Colonel, a new appointment being instituted—that of honorary colonel. The honorary colonels appointed were usually landed proprietors, with or without military knowledge, who were able to use their influence and position to assist the commanding officer of the regiment should the need arise; but they could not take actual command of the unit. The position remains much the same today as it did then.

After this re-organisation the militia were called out each year for training and from May 1854 until 1856 the regiments were embodied. During the Crimean campaign the men in them were permitted to volunteer for overseas service, and many did useful

work in garrisons abroad, relieving regular soldiers for active service in the Crimea.

It would appear that a number of those recruited into the militia at this period were of dubious character and not very reliable (a local newspaper report in 1859 stated that out of 900 men due to report for annual training in the Riding only 250 had done so), and there was also an acute shortage of young officers. Under these circumstances and in the face of an increasingly threatening attitude by the French, it is not surprising to find that protest meetings were held in London, while the national press advocated the formation of volunteer companies to strengthen the country's defence force. Somewhat reluctantly the government agreed to this being done, and raised a volunteer force under a section of the Yeomanry and Volunteer Consolidation Act of 1804 which had made it "lawful for the Crown to continue the services of all volunteer corps accepted before the Act, and to accept the services of all corps of volunteers formed after the passing thereof".

## *The Victorian Volunteer Force*

An effort was made to form a volunteer corps in Hull in February 1859, which was defeated by an active minority on political grounds, but on 21st May, 1859, another public meeting was held, at which it was decided to raise a volunteer rifle corps. This unit was given the title of the East Yorkshire Rifle Volunteers, and the following companies were rapidly formed in the East Riding:

- 1st Company (Hull) Capt. Cooke.
- 2nd Company (Hull) Capt. A. Bannister.
- 3rd Company (Howden) Capt. Saltmarsh.
- 4th Company (Hull) Capt. Norwood.
- 5th Company (Bridlington) Capt. Prickett.
- 6th Company (Beverley) Capt. Barkworth.
- 7th Company (Hedon) Capt. White.
- 8th Company (Driffield) Capt. Conyers.
- 9th Company (Market Weighton) Capt. Clarke.
- 10th Company (Hull) Capt. Thorney.
- 11th Company (Hull) Capt. C. H. Bannister.

In 1859 three companies of artillery volunteers were also formed:

- 1st Company (Bridlington) Capt. B. Haworth.
- 2nd Company (Hunmanby and Filey) Capt. Cortis.
- 3rd Company (Hull) Capt. W. H. Moss.

The 3rd Company was made up of personnel from the Hull Dock Company of which Capt. Moss was the solicitor.

The speed with which these volunteer companies formed was not peculiar to the East Riding, for all over the country the same thing happened and before the end of 1859 no fewer than 60,000 volunteers had been enrolled in the various corps. The government had sadly under-estimated the vast potential of the volunteer force

and seems to have allowed corps to form in order to allay the public alarm at the state of the defences. Nothing was done to assist the new units at a time when assistance was most needed. The volunteer corps which formed in Hull and elsewhere were largely recruited from the middle class, for a poor man could not afford to join. Every man joining the force had to pay for his own uniform, equipment, weapons and ammunition; and an entrance fee and an annual subscription were also levied. From the formation of the units the commanding officers and committees always had the greatest difficulty in raising the funds necessary to run the corps, and even when the government started to pay small efficiency grants for each efficient soldier on the strength, the problem still remained.

At the first meeting held by the rifle volunteers in Hull it was decided that a dark green uniform would be worn. Unfortunately the Vice-Lieutenant would not agree, and wrote in the strongest terms recommending the choice of grey uniforms, which would be harder to detect at shorter distances than would green. He quoted the initial Russian success at the Battle of Inkerman to prove his point. Reluctantly, the rifle volunteers agreed to have grey uniforms with black braid and red facings. Examples can be seen today at the Museum of the 3rd Battalion, P.W.O. Regiment of Yorkshire, Londesborough Street, Hull.

Early in 1860, the East Yorkshire Rifle Volunteers were divided into two battalions, one, including all the Hull companies, being designated the 1st (Consolidated) Battalion, and the other, made up of all the companies outside Hull, the 2nd (Administrative) Battalion. The formation of these battalions meant that many of the companies were renumbered. The Hull battalion had an establishment of six companies and the 2nd Battalion one of five companies. Not unnaturally, the East Yorkshire Rifle Volunteers disapproved of the formation of other Volunteer units in Hull, which at that time had a population of 97,000. When an effort was made to form a corps of engineers, Lieutenant Colonel Pease, commanding the Hull Rifle Battalion, wrote to the Vice Lieutenant,

"This morning Captain Ayre of the Second Rifle Company informs me that he has seen Mr. Codd, Solicitor, late of the Rifles who is engaged with Mr. Pettingell, Wine and Spirit merchant and retailer, late sergeant major in the Rifles, in endeavouring to get up a Corps of engineers, who states that he has got the names of some thirty or forty of the best men in the Rifles, a considerable number of them being in the 1st and 2nd companies; that they propose to be armed precisely as the 1st and 2nd companies, but that the uniform would be scarlet with busby, that they would drill as Rifles, but that the scientific part would be in mapping, and that they would have nothing to do with the spade. He also stated that he had received two letters from you, the first disapproving the movement but the second approving and giving him authority to enrol members and they would be attached to the artillery . . . I need scarcely say how impossible it will be to keep up any

Corps if such rivalry is allowed as Hull is not large enough to supply either men or money to keep three competing Corps. I take this opportunity of stating the serious loss the Rifles have sustained from the artillery appointing the majority of their Officers both commissioned and none commissioned from the ranks of the Rifles, and this is going on day by day: One of my buglers being taken two or three days ago for a Lieutenant".

Although this corps of engineers was not formed, the artillery volunteer corps grew rapidly, its units being combined into a battalion of ten companies under the title of 4th East Yorkshire Artillery Volunteers and the command of Lieutenant Colonel M. Samuelson, an engineer and shipbuilder.

The artillery volunteers were somewhat more fortunate than the infantrymen, for the government provided them with guns, ammunition and instructors without charge, while the Lancaster rifles first used by the infantry were purchased by the men themselves. Late in 1860 the government began to provide a percentage of weapons for the infantry. The artillery companies manned 32-pounder muzzle-loading guns which had arrived in Hull in June 1860, and of which eight were used for drill purposes at the Citadel and four were placed in a battery built on the Humber Bank adjacent to Earle's Shipyard.

Both volunteer corps in Hull had to overcome great administrative difficulties. Accommodation problems arose from the time of formation and for the first few years were overcome by using whatever temporary provision was available. Thus we find mention of parades at the Corn Exchange, the Cyclops Factory in Alfred Street and the old Hull pottery at Belle Vue. Lt. Colonel Pease and an active committee set about raising funds to enable the battalion to build its own drill hall. Lists of patrons were prepared and a bazaar, at which each company ran a stall, was organised, running for three days in April 1863 and raising over £1,200. A site was obtained, plans were drawn up by an officer of the unit and a drill hall built—the present Londesborough Barracks. The artillery battalion managed to take over a hall which had been built for a working men's exhibition adjacent to the Corporation Field in Park Street; and leased its site from the Corporation.

The local press was of great assistance to both Volunteer Corps, particularly in the early days, although sometimes a little unconscious humour crept into reports: "The drills of the Rifle Corps continue with marked success, the companies having acquired great steadiness and precision, which is most surprising".

Discipline was maintained by fining offenders:

(i) Non-attendance at a Company Parade	....	6d.
(ii) Non-attendance at a Battalion Parade	....	1/-s.
(iii) Loading a Rifle contrary to orders	....	2/-s. to 5/-s.
(iv) Discharging a Rifle accidentally	....	5/-s. to 10/-s.
(v) Pointing a Rifle, loaded or unloaded, at any person without orders	....	.... 10/-s.
(vi) Misconduct in uniform	....	.... 10/-s.



The rifle battalions had trouble with a number of rifle ranges, for as the years passed improved models of weapons came into use, which often caused a range to be condemned as unsafe and necessitated the erection of a new one at the battalion's expense. A great deal of musketry practice was carried out, and personnel competed in the national competitions at Wimbledon and later at Bisley. The artillerymen also took part in national gunnery competitions, and greatly distinguished themselves by winning the much coveted Queen's Prize on several occasions.

As time passed all the battalions continued to prosper and increased in strength and enthusiasm. Greater variety was introduced into the training carried out and the infantry battalion formed signalling and first aid detachments. In 1893 a cycle section was formed, which proved to be so popular that it was enlarged into a cycle company.

Volunteers attended annual camps from the 1870's onwards. Both infantry battalions usually organised their own at Bridlington until the 1890's, when they began to go to Brigade camps organised by the War Office. The artillerymen always held their annual camp at Paull, where there were batteries for training purposes.

In 1883, the East Yorkshire Rifle Volunteer battalions were designated the 1st and 2nd Volunteer Battalions of the East Yorkshire Regiment, and the right to wear the same badge as the regular battalion was granted in 1885. In 1878 the artillery corps in Hull increased its establishment from eight batteries to twelve with a total of 965 men, and was soon up to strength, one battery being formed by employees of Messrs. Rose, Downs and Thompson and another by members of the Hull Gymnastic Society. In 1881 the corps was re-designated the 2nd East Yorkshire Artillery Volunteers, the other artillery batteries in the Riding becoming the 1st East Yorkshire Artillery Volunteers.

As early as 1870 a government defence committee recommended that coastal artillery batteries should be supplemented by minefields, but nothing was done locally to implement this until 1886, when a meeting held at the instigation of Sir A. K. Rollit decided to form a volunteer corps of submarine miners in Hull, under the title of Humber Volunteer Division of Submarine Miners R.E. Initially it was decided to form a company of 60 men, including many highly-skilled tradesmen, and this was soon recruited—probably because the pay was considerably higher than that offered to other types of volunteers when training. Good accommodation was available in Hull adjacent to the artillery barracks, while High Paul House was altered and added to in order to house the technical equipment of the Corps. The duties of the Submarine Mining companies R.E. were to lay mines in coastal waters which could be exploded electrically from the shore. The mines had to be laid so that they were protected by the fire from the coastal batteries, and it was work which called for great care and precision and also for a knowledge of the fast tides of the Humber. The local submarine miners soon increased in strength from one to three companies but in December

1892 they were rather unexpectedly converted into a militia unit. Many of the volunteers resigned when this happened, but a proportion rejoined as militiamen and continued to serve.

## *South African War*

At the time of the South African war most volunteer units in the country offered their services to the government, which eventually decided that one company with a strength of 110 men could be raised from the volunteer battalions of any regiment of the line which had a regular battalion serving in Africa. The two volunteer battalions of the East Yorkshire Regiment formed such a company, under the command of Major Mortimer of Driffield, which went to South Africa and joined the regular battalion.

The South African war demonstrated the usefulness of mounted infantry and cavalry so that the government encouraged the formation of yeomanry units. For many years East Riding men who wished to serve in a yeomanry unit had done so by joining the Yorkshire Hussars which had troops established in some East Riding towns. In 1902, Lord Wenlock formed a new yeomanry unit in the Riding with the title first used by Thomas Grimston in 1794 "The East Riding Yeomanry". Squadrons were soon formed at Hull (under Capt. Stanley Wilson), Beverley (under Major B. B. Haworth Booth), York and Bridlington; and when the first camp was held on 1st June, 1903, the unit had a strength of 400. This yeomanry unit was the last of the old volunteer units to be established in the East Riding, for in 1907 the auxiliary forces were re-organised.

In that year the Secretary of State for War, Mr. Haldane, having re-organised the regular army, turned his attention to the volunteers and the militia, and introduced the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act. This abolished the old volunteer organisation and brought into being a new Territorial Force modelled on the regular army and with units administered by newly formed Territorial Associations in each County or Riding under the presidency of the Lord Lieutenant. This force was intended for home defence against an invasion, but in the event of war territorial units were to be permitted to volunteer for overseas service in colonial garrisons.

When introducing his Bill to Parliament, Mr. Haldane made a most interesting statement, "We propose that if a great war were to break out, and the strength of the nation were called upon, measured by the necessity of calling out all the Regular Reserve, that the second line should be mobilized for training for say six months. And our belief is that at the end of that time, and in this we are confirmed by the highest military authority, not only would they be enormously more efficient than the Yeomanry or Volunteer Force is at the present time, but they would be ready, finding themselves in their units to say—We wish to go abroad, and take our part in the theatre of war, to fight in the interests of the nation, and for the defence

of the Empire. It might be that they would not only go in their battalions but in their brigades and even in their divisions. If given the occasion I do not know that there is any limit to the spirit of our people when the necessity is upon them". Seven years later the men of the Territorial Force moved into France, as he had prophesied, in their divisions, where they proved that they were no less capable than their ancestors who had fought in the levies of the 14th century and as militiamen-turned-regulars against the France of Napoleon.

Haldane's Act was one of the greatest achievements of army reform in history, and the change retained much that was good in the old volunteer force while not interfering with local traditions. The militia force was not so fortunate under the Act, for it was relegated to the role of a special reserve charged with the duty of raising and training drafts for the regular battalions.

Despite considerable opposition from certain sections of the regular army which maintained that an efficient field gunner could only be produced by the regular army, the Territorial Force was established in 1908. The date chosen was the rather unsuitable one of 1st April, on which day there came into being 14 infantry divisions, certain yeomanry brigades and a number of home defence units. Most of them were destined during the course of two world wars to play a not unimportant part in the history of the country, but the story of their achievements and sacrifices is outside the scope of this work.

## APPENDIX I

### MILITIA IN 1715

Lord Lieutenant of the East Riding  
Richard, 5th Viscount Irwin

East Yorkshire Regiment of Militia:

Lt. Col. Robert Hildyard  
Strength about 670 men.

### VOLUNTEERS IN 1745

Lord Lieutenant of the East Riding  
Henry, 7th Viscount Irwin

#### (1) VOLUNTEER CAVALRY

<i>Title</i>	Royal Regiment of Hunters
<i>Commander</i>	General James Edward Oglethorpe
<i>Strength</i>	Reports vary up to 1,500
<i>Uniform</i>	—

#### (2) VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY

	Four Volunteer Artillery Companies Raised by Hull Trinity House.
<i>Strength</i>	Not known.
<i>Officers</i>	Captains John Wilkinson and W. Purver (Wardens of Trinity House). Capt. Thomas Haworth, Lieutenants Jopson and Draper. (All Elder Brethren of the Trinity House). Lieutenants Cottam and Richard Hill (Assistants to the Trinity House).
<i>Uniform</i>	None—Civilian clothes with a cockade for identification purposes.
<i>Guns</i>	Borrowed from a ship laid at Hull. 20 x 9-pdr. sited on the earth bastions and ramparts surrounding the town.

### (3) VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

#### (a) IN HULL

##### TWELVE INFANTRY COMPANIES

*Raised by* the following gentlemen:

Richard Sykes, N. Maister, H. Blades,  
J. Buttery, I. Cill, L. Collings, T. Bridges,  
C. Pool, J. Barry, W. Turner, R. Pease,  
I. Collings.

In Capt. Robert Pease's company he had the following officers: Lieut. John Watson, Ensign John Shields, Surgeon Isaac Thompson.

*Strength* A muster roll for this company shows: 2 sergeants, 2 corporals, a drummer and 62 men (11 of which are marked "dead").

*Uniform* Not known but probably the same as the East Riding companies (see below).

#### (b) IN THE RIDING

##### SEVEN INFANTRY COMPANIES

*Raised by* Capt. Darley. Sgt. Murray.  
Capt. Grimston. Lieut. R. Legard.  
Capt. St. Quentin.  
Capt. Thompson.  
Capt. Boynton.  
Capt. Hassall. Sgt. Duncan Campbell.  
Capt. J. Storr. Sgt. Bushill.

Adjutant for the seven companies—Robert Hampton.

*Strength* 2 sergeants, 2 corporals, a drummer and 50 privates.

*Equipment* Corporals and privates were equipped with muskets.

*Uniform* Blue kersey tunics with red facings and red bay linings, each tunic having 24 buttons.

## APPENDIX II

### MILITIA AFTER RE-ORGANISATION IN 1757

<i>Title</i>	East York Regiment of Militia
<i>Commander</i>	Col. Sir Digby Legard, Bart.
<i>Establishment</i>	33 officers and 460 other ranks. Organised into ten companies.
<i>Uniform</i>	Hat with cockade; shirt and black stock; scarlet kersey coat with buff facings and white braid; white waistcoat; scarlet breeches, white leggings and shoes.
<i>Embodied</i>	1 Jan., 1760—? 3 Mar. 1778—Mar. 1783.
<i>Period of Service</i>	Personnel selected by ballot for three years service. Officers for four years or until replace- ment was found.
<i>Colours</i>	Regimental colour was buff with union flag in canton and the coat of arms of the Lord Lieutenant (Henry, 7th Viscount Irwin) in the centre.

## APPENDIX III

### FORCES RAISED IN THE EAST RIDING 1792—1801

#### MILITIA

(1) EAST YORK REGIMENT OF MILITIA

<i>Commander</i>	Henry Maister.
<i>Establishment</i>	600 in 10 companies. Augmented by two companies in 1795.
<i>Uniform</i>	Scarlet kersey tunic, buff facings, white braid; white breeches.
<i>Embodied</i>	13 Dec. 1792—1801.
<i>Period of Service</i>	As before.

(2) EAST YORK SUPPLEMENTARY MILITIA REGIMENT

	First raised in 1796.
<i>Commander</i>	
<i>Strength</i>	861.
<i>Uniform</i>	As for the old militia.
<i>Embodied</i>	1796—1799
<i>Disbanded</i>	7 September 1801 when the unit was incorporated into the militia regiment.

(3) EAST YORK PROVISIONAL CAVALRY

	First formed in 1796.
<i>Commander</i>	Duke of Leeds.
<i>Strength</i>	Five troops (about 250) based on Hull, Beverley, Driffield, Bridlington and Hunmanby.
<i>Uniform</i>	Green with red facings.
<i>Embodied</i>	Never.
<i>Period of Service</i>	Men chosen by ballot for three years service.
<i>Disbanded</i>	1799.

#### FENCIBLE INFANTRY

(1) THE LOYAL YORK FENCIBLES

<i>Commander</i>	Col. The Hon. Cherwynd Stapleton.
<i>Establishment</i>	10 companies.
<i>Uniform</i>	—
<i>Recruited</i>	From the whole of Yorkshire in 1794 by the payment of a bounty.
<i>Service</i>	In Ireland until 1801.
<i>Disbanded</i>	1802.

## VOLUNTEER CAVALRY

### (1) EAST RIDING GENTLEMEN AND YEOMANRY CAVALRY

<i>Formed</i>	1794.
<i>Commander</i>	Capt. Thomas Grimston.
<i>Officers</i>	Lieutenant Tatton Sykes, Cornet James Shutt.
<i>Establishment</i>	One troop (60).
<i>Uniform</i>	Scarlet Hussar style tunic with buff facings. Yeomanry helmet with bear skin crest.
<i>Personnel</i>	Volunteers mostly from Holderness who were paid for drills.
<i>Disbanded</i>	1801.

### (2) HULL GENTLEMEN AND YEOMANRY CAVALRY

<i>Formed</i>	1794.
<i>Commander</i>	Capt. William Hall.
<i>Establishment</i>	One troop (60).
<i>Uniform</i>	Green with green facings. Yeomanry helmet with bear skin crest.
<i>Personnel</i>	Volunteers mostly from Hull who were paid for drills.
<i>Disbanded</i>	1801.

### (3) YORKSHIRE WOLD GENTLEMEN AND YEOMANRY CAVALRY

<i>Formed</i>	February 1798.
<i>Commander</i>	Capt. Sir Christopher Sykes.
<i>Strength</i>	One troop of 45.
<i>Uniform</i>	Green (facing believed green).
<i>Personnel</i>	Volunteers from 16 parishes adjacent to Sledmere.
<i>Disbanded</i>	1801.

## VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY

### (1) HULL TRINITY HOUSE VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY COMPANY

<i>Formed</i>	1794.
<i>Commander</i>	Capt. Benjamin Metcalfe.
<i>Strength</i>	One company (50—60).
<i>Uniform</i>	Blue with red facings.
<i>Personnel</i>	Volunteers raised by the Wardens of Hull Trinity House.
<i>Disbanded</i>	1801.



- (2) BRIDLINGTON VOLUNTEERS (Artillery and Infantry).  
*Formed* 1794.  
*Commander* Capt. John Pitt.  
*Strength* Initially 20 increasing to 50 Artillery.  
 One weak company—Infantry.  
*Uniform* Blue.  
*Personnel* Volunteers who manned guns in fort covering  
 the harbour.  
*Disbanded* 1801.

#### VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

- (1) ROYAL HULL VOLUNTEERS  
*Formed* 1794.  
*Commander* Lt. Col. Christopher Machell.  
*Strength* 4 companies including one from Cottingham.  
 In 1797 a fifth company was added.  
*Uniform* Blue with red facings; round hat with black  
 feathers; Nankeen breeches; black gaiters.  
*Personnel* Volunteers, some paid.  
*Disbanded* 1801.
- (2) COTTINGHAM VOLUNTEERS  
*Formed* 1794.  
*Commander* Capt. George Marshall.  
*Strength* One company.  
*Uniform* As for Hull.  
*Personnel* Volunteers from Cottingham and adjacent  
 villages.  
 This company formed part of the Hull battalion (as above)
- (3) BEVERLEY VOLUNTEER CORPS  
*Formed* 1794.  
*Commander* Col. Cruger.  
*Strength* One strong company.  
*Uniform* Red with blue facings and gold epaulets.  
*Personnel* Volunteers paid for drills.  
*Disbanded* 1801.
- (4) DICKERING VOLUNTEER CORPS  
 (Originally known as Filey Bay Volunteers)  
*Formed* 1794.  
*Commander* Capt. Humphrey Osbaldeston.  
*Strength* One company.  
*Uniform* —  
*Personnel* —  
*Disbanded* 1801.

(5) DRIFFIELD VOLUNTEERS

<i>Formed</i>	1799. (apparently from the Driffield Armed Association).
<i>Commander</i>	Capt. Henry Grimston.
<i>Strength</i>	One company.
<i>Uniform</i>	—
<i>Personnel</i>	—
<i>Disbanded</i>	1801.

(6) HOWDEN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

<i>Formed</i>	1798.
<i>Commander</i>	Capt. J. Scholfield.
<i>Strength</i>	2 companies.
<i>Uniform</i>	—
<i>Personnel</i>	—
<i>Disbanded</i>	1801.

(7) PATRINGTON VOLUNTEER COMPANY

<i>Formed</i>	1794.
<i>Commander</i>	Capt. William Raines.
<i>Strength</i>	One company (60).
<i>Uniform</i>	—
<i>Personnel</i>	Volunteers from South Holderness.
<i>Disbanded</i>	1801.

ARMED ASSOCIATIONS (All formed in 1798).

(1) HULL

<i>Strength</i>	3 companies.
<i>Uniform</i>	Dark blue with black facings.

(2) BEVERLEY. One company

(3) DRIFFIELD One company.

(4) BRIDLINGTON One company (46 men)

(5) CAVE One company.

NAVAL UNITS

(1) SEA FENCIBLES

*Formed in Hull* 1798.

*Commander* Capt. Edwards, R.N.  
(Promoted Rear Admiral in 1799).

*Disbanded* 1801.

## APPENDIX IV

### FORCES RAISED IN THE EAST RIDING 1802—1815

#### MILITIA

(1) EAST YORK REGIMENT OF MILITIA

<i>Commander</i>	Col. Charles Hotham (until 1808).
<i>Establishment</i>	600.
<i>Uniform</i>	As before.
<i>Embodied</i>	21 March 1803—?
<i>Period of Service</i>	Five years. Men selected by ballot.

(2) EAST RIDING LOCAL MILITIA—formed 1808.

Training ceased 1816. Abolished 1836.

(a) 1ST BATTALION EAST RIDING LOCAL MILITIA

<i>Commander</i>	Lt. Col. Robert Dennison.
<i>Establishment</i>	800.
<i>Uniform</i>	As for militia with minor alterations to badges.
<i>Based on</i>	Pocklington.

(b) 2ND BATTALION EAST RIDING LOCAL MILITIA

<i>Commander</i>	Lt. Col. Sir Mark Masterman Sykes.
<i>Establishment</i>	800.
<i>Uniform</i>	As above.
<i>Based on</i>	Bridlington.

(c) 3RD BATTALION EAST RIDING LOCAL MILITIA

<i>Commander</i>	Lt. Col. Richard Bethell.
<i>Establishment</i>	800.
<i>Uniform</i>	As above.
<i>Based on</i>	Beverley.

(d) 4TH BATTALION EAST RIDING LOCAL MILITIA

<i>Commander</i>	Lt. Col. John Wray.
<i>Establishment</i>	1,000.
<i>Uniform</i>	As above.
<i>Based on</i>	Hull.

Personnel called out by the Defence Act for service in the Local  
Militia from the East Riding Districts:

Bainton Beacon	178	Holme Beacon	....	246
Beverley cum Membris	171	Holderness:		
Buckrose	.... 300	Middle	....	243
Dickering	.... 386	North	....	217
Hull and County	569	South	....	178
Hunsley Beacon	.... 399	Ouse & Derwent	....	188
		Wilton Beacon	....	141

## VOLUNTEER CAVALRY

### (1) GRIMSTON YEOMANRY CAVALRY

Re-formed 1803.

<i>Commander</i>	Capt. Thomas Grimston.
<i>Officers</i>	Capt. I. Broadley; Lieuts. J. Iveson; John Raines; Cornets G. H. Sherwood, Thomas Champney.
<i>Establishment</i>	2 Troops.
<i>Uniform</i>	Scarlet with buff facings and silver braid; scarlet pantaloons.
<i>Personnel</i>	Volunteers from Holderness.
<i>Disbanded</i>	7th January 1814.
<i>Standard</i>	Buff with union flag and crowned crest "G.Y." with garter inscribed " <i>Pro Aris et Focis</i> "; below is a scroll inscribed "Actions prove the Man". In the possession of Colonel R. Grimston D.S.O., T.D.

### (2) EVERINGHAM YEOMANRY CAVALRY

Formed 1803.

<i>Commander</i>	Capt. Constable-Maxwell.
<i>Establishment</i>	1 troop (46).
<i>Uniform</i>	Scarlet with yellow facings; white pantaloons.
<i>Disbanded</i>	1814.

### (3) YORKSHIRE WOLD YEOMANRY CAVALRY

Re-formed 1803.

<i>Commander</i>	Lt. Col. Sir Mørk Masterman Sykes, Bart.
<i>Establishment</i>	300. <i>Strength</i> (1804) 252.
<i>Uniform</i>	Scarlet with green facings.
<i>Disbanded</i>	1808 (to Local Militia).
<i>Standards</i>	Two at Sledmere—Green, "Our God, Our Our Country and Our King" and "The Yorkshire Wold Yeomanry".

## VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY

### (1) BRIDLINGTON VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY

Re-formed 1803.

<i>Commander</i>	Major David Taylor
<i>Establishment</i>	100. <i>Strength</i> (1811) 50.
<i>Uniform</i>	Blue with red facings.
<i>Disbanded</i>	1814?

## VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

### (1) HULL AND COUNTY VOLUNTEERS

Re-formed 1803.

<i>Commander</i>	Lt. Col. Christopher Machell, later Lt. Col. John Wray.
<i>Establishment</i>	10 companies (7 from Hull and 3 from Sculcoates) increased to 12 and 1 rifle company (900).
<i>Uniform</i>	Red with buff facings; white pantaloons. Rifle company, green with green facings and green pantaloons.
<i>Disbanded</i>	1808 (to Local Militia).
<i>Colours</i>	Buff with united arms of Hull and Sculcoates with " <i>Pro Aris et Focis</i> ". <sup>1</sup>

### (2) BEVERLEY VOLUNTEERS

Re-formed 1803.

<i>Commander</i>	Major Peter Coates
<i>Establishment</i>	219. <i>Strength</i> (1804) 150.
<i>Uniform</i>	Scarlet, faced blue.
<i>Disbanded</i>	1808 (to Local Militia).
<i>Colours</i>	In Beverley Minster: Buff with union flag, Town arms, scroll with " <i>Pro Rege et Patria</i> " and another scroll with the inscription unreadable.

### (3) BAINTON BEACON VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

Re-formed 1803 (previously Driffield).

<i>Commander</i>	Major John Grimston.
<i>Establishment</i>	<i>Strength</i> (1804) 165.
<i>Uniform</i>	Scarlet, faced black.
<i>Disbanded</i>	1808 (to Local Militia).

<sup>1</sup>Hull Advertiser 9/10/1807

- (4) **BRIDLINGTON VOLUNTEER INFANTRY**  
 Re-formed 1803.  
*Commander* Lt. Col. John Pitts.  
*Establishment* Strength 258.  
*Uniform* Scarlet, faced yellow; white breeches.  
*Disbanded* 1808 (to Local Militia).
- (5) **COTTINGHAM GRANGE VOLUNTEER INFANTRY**  
 Re-formed as an independent unit 1803.  
*Commander* Captain George Knowsley.  
*Establishment* 2 companies.  
*Uniform* —  
*Disbanded* 1808 (to Local Militia).
- (6) **MIDDLE AND SOUTH HOLDERNESS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY**  
 Formed 1803.  
*Commander* Major H. W. Maister.  
*Establishment* Strength 148.  
*Uniform* Scarlet, faced yellow; white pantaloons.  
*Disbanded* 1808 (to Local Militia).
- (7) **NORTH HOLDERNESS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY**  
 Formed 1803.  
*Commander* Captain Richard Bethell.  
*Establishment* 150.  
*Uniform* Scarlet, faced yellow; white pantaloons.  
*Disbanded* 1808 (to Local Militia).
- (8) **HEDON VOLUNTEER INFANTRY**  
 Formed 1803.  
*Commander* Capt. Robert Stubbins.  
*Establishment* 1 company. Strength (1811) 78.  
*Uniform* Scarlet, faced black; white pantaloons.  
*Disbanded* After 1811 (1814?).
- (9) **OUSE AND DERWENT VOLUNTEER INFANTRY**  
 Formed 1803.  
*Commander* Lt. Col. Richard Thompson.  
*Establishment* Strength (1804) 408.  
*Uniform* —  
*Disbanded* 1808 (to Local Militia).

(10) **POCKLINGTON CORPS OF VOLUNTEERS**

Formed 1803.

<i>Commander</i>	Major Robert Dennison.
<i>Establishment</i>	6 companies, strength 384.
<i>Uniform</i>	Scarlet, faced yellow.
<i>Disbanded</i>	1808 (to Local Militia).

(11) **WELTON AND ELLOUGHTON VOLUNTEER INFANTRY**

Formed 1803.

<i>Commander</i>	Captain Joseph Thompson.
<i>Establishment</i>	1 company, strength (1803) 34.
<i>Uniform</i>	Scarlet, faced yellow.
<i>Disbanded</i>	Probably 1808.

**ARMY OF RESERVE**

**15TH (YORK) BATTALION**

was formed from the men called up from all three Ridings of Yorkshire.

Re-formed in 1805 as

**1ST GARRISON BATTALION**

which served in Ireland 1807—1814.

**NAVAL UNITS**

**SEA FENCIBLES re-formed 1803.**

<i>Commander</i>	Capt. Cuthbert, R.N.
<i>Strength</i>	In the East Riding about 650 men.
<i>Craft on Humber</i>	{ Hull Trinity House Yacht. 6 Armed Pilot Boats. 20 Sloops (armed).

Organisation when re-formed in 1803:

<b>HULL</b>	....	....	Captain Cuthbert, R.N. Captain Thomas Marshall, R.N. Lieutenant G. Mercer, R.N. Lieutenant J. W. Shaw, R.N. 385 men. 20 Sloops, each fitted with two 18-pdr. Carronades and a long 6-pdr. Gun.
<b>BRIDLINGTON QUAY</b>	....	....	Captain T. Miles, R.N. Lieutenant T. Lane. 41 men.

FLAMBOROUGH	....	78 men.
PATRINGTON	....	24 men.
WHITBY	....	Captain Preston, R.N. 133 men.
REDCAR	....	36 men.
STAITHES AND RUNSWICK		186 men.
ROBIN HOOD'S BAY	....	Lieutenant Blandford, R.N. 94 men.
SCARBOROUGH	....	Captain Crawford, R.N. 288 men.
FILEY	....	Lieutenant Orton, R.N. 109 men.



## APPENDIX V

### FORCES RAISED IN THE EAST RIDING 1852—1907

#### MILITIA

- (1) EAST YORKSHIRE MILITIA REGIMENT  
Re-organised 1852.  
*Strength* 900.
- (2) EAST AND NORTH RIDINGS OF YORKSHIRE (MILITIA) ARTILLERY  
Formed 1852.  
*Strength*           From East Riding   257  
                                  West Riding       26  
                                  North Riding   256
- (3) HUMBER MILITIA DIVISION OF SUBMARINE MINERS  
                                  ROYAL ENGINEERS  
Formed from Volunteer Submarine Miners in 1893.  
*Strength*           2 companies.

#### VOLUNTEER CAVALRY

- (1) YORKSHIRE HUSSARS  
There were detachments of Yorkshire Hussars in Beverley and elsewhere in the second half of the 19th Century.
- (2) EAST RIDING YEOMANRY  
Formed 1902.  
*Commander*   Col. The Lord Wenlock.  
*Establishment* 4 Squadrons (400).  
                  A Squadron — Hull  
                  B Squadron — Beverley  
                  C Squadron — York.  
                  D Squadron — ? Bridlington.
- Uniform*
- (a) *Drill Order*       Staff caps; serge khaki tunic; pantaloons; field service boots; spurs; with brown straps and leather bandoliers.
- (b) *Walking out Dress*   Slouch hat; serge tunic with blue plastrons and blue shoulder straps; blue waist belt; overalls; wellington boots and black spurs; brown dog-skin gloves and whip or cane.
- First camp, Escrick Park, June 1903.  
£5 being granted to every yeoman providing his own horse.

#### VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY

- (i) 1ST COMPANY EAST YORKSHIRE ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS.  
Formed 1859 at Bridlington by Capt. B. Haworth.
- (ii) 2ND COMPANY EAST YORKSHIRE ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS  
Formed 1859 at Hunmanby by Capt. Cortis.

- (iii) 3RD COMPANY EAST YORKSHIRE ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS  
Formed 1859 at Hull by Capt. W. H. Moss.

The 3rd Company was formed from personnel of the Hull Dock Company, but did not prosper due to the formation of an artillery battalion in Hull, and apparently ceased to exist in 1860. The 1st and 2nd companies combined to become:

- (iv) 1ST EAST YORKSHIRE ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS later  
THE 1ST (YORKSHIRE EAST RIDING) ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS  
Under the command of Major Haworth, with batteries at Filey, Flamborough, Bridlington, Withernsea and Hornsea.  
*Uniform* A small pill-box hat with white edging and badges of rank; blue tunic; blue trousers and white belt.

This unit had a number of changes in title similar to those shown below except that it always retained the "1st".

- (v) 4TH COMPANY EAST YORKSHIRE ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS—Hull  
formed 1860—Capt. M. Samuelson.  
5TH COMPANY EAST YORKSHIRE ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS—Hull  
formed 1860—Capt. Zach. Pearson.  
6TH COMPANY EAST YORKSHIRE ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS—Hull  
formed 1860—Capt. A. Samuelson.  
7TH COMPANY EAST YORKSHIRE ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS—Hull  
formed 1860—Capt. J. T. Dobson.  
8TH COMPANY EAST YORKSHIRE ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS—Hull  
formed 1860—Captain Brooshoft.  
9TH COMPANY EAST YORKSHIRE ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS—Hull  
formed 1860—Capt. Maxsted.

These companies were formed into a battalion in 1860 under the command of Lt.-Col. M. Samuelson and designated:—

4TH (YORKSHIRE EAST RIDING) ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS

Subsequent changes in its title were:

- 1881—2ND EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE ARTILLERY VOLUNTEER  
CORPS  
Strength 12 batteries.  
1889—2ND EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS  
(WESTERN DIVISION) R.A.  
Strength 10 batteries.  
1892—2ND EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY  
(WESTERN DIVISION) R.A.  
Strength 10 batteries.  
1899—2ND EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE (WESTERN DIVISION)  
ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS  
Strength 10 companies.  
1902—2ND EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE ROYAL GARRISON  
ARTILLERY (VOLUNTEERS)  
Strength 10 companies.  
*Uniform* As for 1st East Yorkshire Artillery Volunteers.

## VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

In 1859 independent East Yorkshire Rifle Volunteer companies commenced to form in Hull and the East Riding:

- (i) 1ST COMPANY (HULL)—Capt. Cook.
- 2ND COMPANY (HULL)—Capt. A. Bannister.
- 3RD COMPANY (HOWDEN)—Capt. Saltmarsh.
- 4TH COMPANY (HULL)—Capt. Norwood.
- 5TH COMPANY (BRIDLINGTON)—Capt. Prickett.
- 6TH COMPANY (BEVERLEY)—Capt. Barkworth.
- 7TH COMPANY (HEDON)—Capt. White.
- 8TH COMPANY (DRIFFIELD)—Capt. Convers.
- 9TH COMPANY (MARKET WEIGHTON)—Capt. Clarke.
- 10TH COMPANY (HULL)—Capt. J. Thorney.
- 11TH COMPANY (HULL)—Capt. C. H. Bannister.

In 1860 these companies were formed into two battalions:

- (ii) 1ST (CONSOLIDATED) BATTALION EAST YORKSHIRE RIFLE VOLUNTEERS based on Hull and incorporating companies numbered 1, 2, 4, 7, 10, 11 which were re-numbered 1—6.

*Commander* Lt. Col. Pease.

*Establishment* 6 companies.

Subsequent changes in title:

1883—1ST (VOLUNTEER) BATTALION THE EAST YORKSHIRE REGT.

- (iii) 2ND (ADMINISTRATIVE) BATTALION EAST YORKSHIRE RIFLE VOLUNTEERS incorporating independent companies previously numbered 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9.

*Commander* Major (later Lt. Col.) Saltmarsh.

*Establishment* 5 independent companies.

Subsequent change in title:

1883—2ND (VOLUNTEER) BATTALION THE EAST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT.

The uniform of both these battalions were the same:

- (a) 1859—1880 Shako, grey with black leather peak and top; grey tunic with black braid and red collar and cuffs; grey trousers with red stripe; black leather shoulder-belt and belt with pouch; buttons and belt, plate bronze for other ranks, and silver for officers.
- (b) 1880—1906 Glengarry cap (helmet for officers); scarlet tunic with white braiding; title on shoulder strap; blue trousers with red stripe and white belts.
- (c) 1906—1908 Khaki, service pattern; metal titles on shoulder straps; white belts and haversacks. (N.B. Khaki service pattern was worn with a slouch hat by the Cyclist Company from 1903).

## VOLUNTEER ENGINEERS

- (i) HUMBER VOLUNTEER DIVISION OF SUBMARINE MINERS R.E.  
1886—1893.

*Commander* Major Wellstead.

*Establishment* 1 company increased to 2.

*Disbanded* 1893 when it became a militia unit of the same type.

### *Uniform*

*Full Dress:* Helmet; scarlet tunic with blue facings edged with white cord; blue trousers with broad red stripe; white belt.

*Undress:* As above, with forage cap in place of helmet. (For illustrations see "Cornwall's Royal Engineers" by Lt. Col. C. J. H. Mead).

## SOURCES CONSULTED

- (1) EAST RIDING COUNTY RECORD OFFICE at Beverley.  
A large quantity of original documents are available for inspection including muster rolls of militia and volunteer units, minute books, letters, army orders, Grimston family Mss. A microfilm copy of part of the Howard Vyse Mss. (From the Buckinghamshire Record Office) is also available. General Howard Vyse commanded the Yorkshire district in 1805.
- (2) CITY OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL MUSEUMS.  
Wildridge Mss.; Pease family Mss.
- (3) CITY OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL LIBRARY.  
Letter Book of Officer Commanding Volunteer Corps in the Hull district, circa 1805.
- (4) R. H. Q. PRINCE OF WALES'S OWN REGIMENT OF YORKSHIRE,  
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