

tants, from the Age of Seventeen to Sixty, to embody and take Arms. The Cheerfulness and Alacrity with which it was universally complied, exceeded all Expectation; and, in the Space of Seven Days after the Proclamation, we had the Pleasure to see Forty Companies, from the Six Wards of the City, enrolled, officered, and under Arms, to the Number of 2660, many of the most respectable Citizens serving in the Ranks of each Company. Above 900 purchased Arms at their own Expence, and the Whole were desirous of doing the same, if there had been a sufficient Number of Firelocks in Town for Sale; but that not being the Case, it was necessary to supply the Deficiency from the King's Stores. I ordered them however to be issued only as a Loan, and upon Condition of each Captain's becoming responsible, under his Hand, to the Storekeeper, for returning to him, when called upon, the Number he received, or to pay Thirty-six Shillings for each Stand of Arms, if required. The Officers appointed to these Companies are all Persons of known well-affected Principles.

The laudable Spirit and Ardor being happily raised, quickly diffused itself amongst all Orders of Men. The several Publick Departments vied with each other who should be most forward in offering me their Services as Volunteers. I readily accepted their Offers, and formed them into Companies accordingly. The Old Volunteer Companies likewise augmented their Numbers, and in a very few Days I reviewed them all together under Arms, most of them clothed in Uniform at their own Expence. General Knyphausen, General Tryon, and all the General Officers, were present, and expressed the highest Satisfaction at so respectable a Body of Men. The Return, which I have the Honor to enclose, will shew your Lordship the Number of these new-associated Companies, with the Effectives of each. I have besides received a Memorial from Fifty Gentlemen of the City, offering to form themselves into a Troop of Cavalry, to mount, clothe, and arm themselves at their own Expence, and to serve, if called upon, either on York or Long Island.

The very meritorious and distinguished Zeal, which the Officers of the Royal Navy have testified upon this singular Occasion, demands my most grateful Acknowledgments. The several Captains Edgar, Breaton, Osborne, Ardesoif, and Aplin, whose Ships were fast locked up, personally offered me their Services, to act with all their Seamen on Shore; and Captain Howe of the Thames, as commanding the Whole, signified to me officially by Letter the Desire of all the Officers to serve under my Orders, as Commandant, in any Manner they could be most useful. These handsome Offers were most gratefully embraced, and a Circular Redoubt near the East River, with 8 Twelve-Pounders, and 1 Nine-Pounder, was made over to their Charge; and, as a Compliment due, it was immediately called the Royal Navy Redoubt. The Number of Seamen, about 350, were divided into Ten Companies, each commanded by a Lieutenant of a Man of War. Two of them have mounted daily in this Redoubt, and were to be reinforced by Five more, in case of an Alarm. The other Three Companies were then to repair to a Post, the most suitable for them, upon a Height covering the King's Dock-Yard, which was also to be defended by the Company formed from the Artificers of the Yard, under the Command of the Naval Storekeeper, as Captain.

The Sailors belonging to the Victuallers, Transports, small Craft and private Trade, armed with Pikes, and under the Direction of Captain Laird, the Agent, were destined to guard and protect the whole Chain of Wharfs and Shipping, from the

Ship-Yard to the lower Battery at the other Extremity of the Town.

The several Captains of Militia, desirous of making it permanent, and as useful as possible, have readily agreed to, and subscribed many Regulations for the good Government of it, for fining Delinquents, Absentees from any Parade, or from their Tour of Duty on the City Watch; for keeping in Repair and in good Condition their Arms and Ammunition, &c. They are likewise out every Saturday, and the Volunteer Companies every Sunday, in order to be trained and instructed in the Use of Arms. I have appointed Mr. Amiel, who served for Twelve Years as an Officer in the 60th Regiment, to act as Major of Brigade to this Corps of Militia, with an Assistant under him; both of whom are to be paid out of the City Funds.

The Rigour of the Frost is now happily abated, and we are flattered with the Prospect of a complete Thaw; so that all Ideas of an Attack are now at an End. Indeed it was much to have been wished they had made one, as we were so well prepared to repel it to their Cost. We already learn, that the recent Display of Loyalty here, with the great Acquisition of Force it produced, has had its Effects upon the Friends of Government without the Lines, as well as upon the Enemy, who have been apprehensive of an Attack being intended upon their main Force at Morris Town. It has probably too contributed to the great Desertion, which has lately prevailed amongst their Troops in the Jerseys, upwards of 160 having come over within these few Weeks, and enlisted here with the Recruiting Parties of our Provincial Corps.

Present Strength of the Armed Force in New York, exclusive of the King's Troops of the Garrison, the 19th of February, 1780.

OLD COMPANIES.

- New York Rangers (cloathed) 1 Company. 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 4 Non-commissioned Officers, 100 Privates. Total 107.*
- New York Highlanders (cloathed) 1 Company. 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 4 Non-commissioned Officers, 100 Privates. Total 107.*
- New York Volunteers (cloathed) 7 Companies. 7 Captains, 15 Lieutenants, 28 Non-commissioned Officers, 405 Privates. Total 455.*

NEW ASSOCIATED COMPANIES.

- New York Marine Artillery (cloathed) 1 Company. 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Non-commissioned Officer, 95 Privates. Total 98.*
- Commissariat Loyal Volunteers (cloathed) 2 Companies. 2 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, 6 Non-commissioned Officers, 195 Privates. Total 207.*
- Ordnance Volunteers, Artificers (cloathed) 1 Company. 1 Captain, 3 Lieutenants, 4 Non-commissioned Officers, 63 Privates. Total 71.*
- Ordnance Volunteers, Seamen, 3 Companies. 3 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 8 Non-commissioned Officers, 149 Privates. Total 166.*
- Engineer Volunteers (cloathed) 1 Company. 1 Captain, 6 Lieutenants, 9 Non-commissioned Officers, 118 Privates. Total 134.*
- Quarter Master General's Volunteers, 1 Company. 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 3 Non-commissioned Officers, 50 Privates. Total 56.*
- Barrack Master General's Volunteers, 1 Company. 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 4 Non-commissioned Officers, 84 Privates. Total 91.*
- King's Dock Yard Volunteers, 3 Companies. 3 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, 6 Non-commissioned Officers, 148 Privates. Total 161.*