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***Musters of the
Everyshire
Militia***

WO 13/001 (PRO, Kew)

1781-82

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WO 13/001 - Musters of the Everyshire Militia, 1781-82

Introduction

The Militia Act of 1757 provided for men to serve in the militia at home in order to counter any threat arising when the majority of the regular army was stationed abroad. Lists of eligible men in each parish were known as militia ballot lists and from these, the men actually chosen appeared in the *militia lists* which are often to be found in county record offices. At the Public Record Office, however, are to be found the Muster and Pay Lists (class WO 13) and enrolment lists (WO 68). The initial lettercode of the PRO piece number relates to the department in which the document originated (here the War Office). The first number indicates the class, which is a collection of documents of the same type. After the oblique stroke (slash), the other number refers to the actual document within the class. The full reference is required if you wish to order this particular item to be seen at Kew.

The Pay Lists were kept when the Militia was embodied, ie at times of war. Thus, they can be found for 1781-82, the latter stages of the American War of Independence, when France and Spain declared war on Britain. The Militia was disembodied in 1783 and the Pay Lists were no longer maintained. The records start again during the French Wars, some from 1793 and others from as late as 1804.

The Militia was funded from the Land Tax so there are some references to it in PRO Class E 182. The men received Marching Money whilst embodied for the period 1780-83 and there were expenses paid for local meetings.

A sample has been taken of four counties from E 182 and the information found to be variable. Somerset lists the names of the men and where they enlisted. Cornwall only names the officers. Buckinghamshire names the officers and non-commissioned officers. Cambridgeshire has a mixture.

There were nine Companies of the Everyshire Militia commanded by the following:

Colonel Earl of SALISBURY
Lt Colonel Sir Richard CHASE
Major Jacob HOUBLON
Captain Lord FAIRFORD
Captain Charles Drake GARRARD
Captain William HEATH
Captain John HOUBLON
Captain Richard TAYLOR
Captain Hale Young WORTHAM

A few men transferred between Companies and this was clearly stated on the documents. A larger number of men seems to disappear from one Company then appear in the Muster of another. Most of these have been identified and the second entry eliminated. A small number of men disappeared from the Muster with no indication of their fate. In these cases, there is an X in the Muster column. A couple of men were discharged and possibly re-enlisted later but there is a gap of some months in their service. As they cannot be confirmed as the same men, both entries have been left in.

In this document there are the records of four Musters:

1) All Companies met at Danbury Camp on 14 August 1781 and recorded service from 25 December 1780 to 24 June 1781.

All Musters were signed by Theodore Maurice, Commissary Musters and J Godbalve Crosse of Essex.

<i>Muster 1</i>					
Officer	Place	Date	Service dates	Signed 1	Signed 2
Col Salisbury	Danbury Camp	14 Aug 1781	25 Dec 1780 to 24 Jun 1781	Theodore Maurice, Commissary Musters	J Godbalve Crosse, Essex
Lt Col Chase	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Maj Houblon	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Fairford	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Garrard	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Heath	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Houblon	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Taylor	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Wortham	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto

2) This Muster was held at Ware on 02 March 1782 and at Hertford on 19 April 1782 and recorded service from 25 June to 24 December 1781.

Colonel Salisbury's, Captain Fairford's, Captain Garrard's and Captain Houblon's Companies met at Hertford.

Lt Colonel Chase's, Major Houblon's, Captain Heath's, Captain Taylor's and Captain Wortham's Companies met at Ware.

All Musters were signed by Theodore Maurice, Commissary Musters and H Dunster JP at Hertford.

<i>Muster 2</i>					
Officer	Place	Date	Service dates	Signed 1	Signed 2
Col Salisbury	Hertford	19 Apr 1782	25 Jun 1781 to 24 Dec 1781	Theodore Maurice, Commissary Musters	H Dunster JP, Hertford
Lt Col Chase	Ware	2 Mar 1782	ditto	ditto	ditto
Maj Houblon	Ware	2 Mar 1782	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Fairford	Hertford	19 Apr 1782	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Garrard	Hertford	19 Apr 1782	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Heath	Ware	2 Mar 1782	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Houblon	Hertford	19 Apr 1782	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Taylor	Ware	2 Mar 1782	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Wortham	Ware	2 Mar 1782	ditto	ditto	ditto

3) All Companies met at Warley Camp on 15 August 1782 and recorded service from 25 December 1781 to 24 June 1782.

All Musters were signed by Theodore Maurice, Commissary Musters, Thomas Browne, Chief Constable then H Greene of Essex.

<i>Muster 3</i>					
Officer	Place	Date	Service dates	Signed 1	Signed 2
Col Salisbury	Warley Camp	15 Aug 1782	25 Dec 1781 to 24 Jun 1782	Theodore Maurice, Commissary Musters	Thos Browne, Ch Const; H Greene, Essex
Lt Col Chase	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Maj Houblon	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Fairford	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Garrard	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Heath	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Houblon	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Taylor	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Capt Wortham	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto

4) This Muster was held at a variety of places from 06 to 08 February 1783 and recorded service from 25 June to 24 December 1782.

Colonel Salisbury's, Lt Colonel Chase's, Captain Fairford's and Captain Heath's Companies met at Hertford on 07 February 1783.

Major Houblon's and Captain Houblon's Companies met at Bishop Stortford on 07 February 1783.

Captain Garrard's and Captain Wortham's Companies met at Hatfield on 06 February 1783.

Captain Taylor's Company met at Hoddison on 06 February 1783.

All Musters were signed by Theodore Maurice, Commissary Musters and H Dunster JP at Hertford.

In addition, Major Houblon's and Captain Houblon's Musters were signed by Matthew Law, Constable and Captain Taylor's Muster was signed by William Ashford, Constable.

<i>Muster 4</i>					
Officer	Place	Date	Service dates	Signed 1	Signed 2
Col Salisbury	Hertford	7 Feb 1783	25 Jun 1782 24 Dec 1782	Theodore Maurice, Commissary Musters	H Dunster JP, Hertford
Lt Col Chase	Hertford	7 Feb 1783	ditto	ditto	H Dunster JP, Hertford
Maj Houblon	Bishop Stortford	7 Feb 1783	ditto	ditto	H Dunster JP, Hertford; Matthew Law, Constable
Capt Fairford	Hertford	7 Feb 1783	ditto	ditto	H Dunster JP, Hertford
Capt Garrard	Hatfield	6 Feb 1783	ditto	ditto	H Dunster JP, Hertford
Capt Heath	Hertford	7 Feb 1783	ditto	ditto	H Dunster JP, Hertford
Capt Houblon	Bishop Stortford	7 Feb 1783	ditto	ditto	H Dunster JP, Hertford; Matthew Law, Constable
Capt Taylor	Hoddison	6 Feb 1783	ditto	ditto	H Dunster JP, Hertford; Wm Ashford, Constable
Capt Wortham	Hatfield	6 Feb 1783	ditto	ditto	H Dunster JP, Hertford

Content

Rank may be abbreviated to Pte (Private), Cpl (Corporal) or Sgt (Sergeant).

For each man, it is recorded in which of the three or four musters the man appears, with some indication of transfers, discharges and other reasons for non-appearance.

Some men have aliases. These are noted as "aka" under "remarks" and a separate entry is made, listed under the alias. A few are recorded with forenames differing between musters; these are noted under "remarks" but there is no extra entry.

Acknowledgments

Any extracts from or references to this publication should please make full reference to Liz Hore and Stuart Tamblin as compilers and indexers. Please quote the full PRO piece number with any extracts.

Further information may be found in W Spencer, *Records of the Militia and Volunteer Forces, 1757-1945* (PRO Readers' Guide No 3, 2nd Edition, 1997) and J S W Gibson & M Medlycott, *Militia Lists and Musters, 1757-1876* (FFHS, 4th Edition, 2000)

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Musters of the Militia, 1781-82

Indexes in this series, 23 June 2002

Anglesey	506 records
Bedfordshire	811 records
Berkshire	862 records
Brecknockshire	212 records
Buckinghamshire	998 records
Caernarvonshire	162 records
Cambridgeshire	945 records
Cardiganshire	299 records
Carmarthenshire	478 records
Cheshire	725 records
Cornwall	1,322 records
Cumberland	757 records
Denbighshire	593 records
Derbyshire	1,049 records
Devon East	1,260 records
Devon North	927 records
Devon South	856 records
Dorset	998 records
Durham	711 records
Essex East	935 records
Essex West	1,016 records
Flintshire	209 records
Glamorganshire	799 records
Gloucestershire North	845 records
Gloucestershire South	1,027 records
Hampshire North	894 records
Hampshire South & Isle of Wight	808 records
Herefordshire	912 records
Hertfordshire	938 records
Huntingdonshire	831 records
Kent East	692 records
Kent West	1,041 records

(continued)

Musters of the Militia, 1781-82

Indexes in this series, (continued)

Lancashire	1,705 records
Leicestershire	1,189 records
Lincolnshire North	806 records
Lincolnshire South	849 records
Merionethshire	99 records
Middlesex East	1,211 records
Middlesex West	1,207 records
Middlesex Westminster	932 records
Monmouthshire	519 records
Montgomeryshire	495 records
Norfolk East	788 records
Norfolk West	945 records
Northamptonshire & Rutland	1,534 records
Northumberland	995 records
Nottinghamshire	940 records
Oxfordshire	882 records
Pembrokeshire	418 records
Radnorshire	244 records
Shropshire	1,106 records
Somerset	1,337 records
Staffordshire	1,254 records
Suffolk East	804 records
Suffolk West	937 records
Surrey	1,651 records
Sussex	1,506 records
Warwickshire	1,206 records
Westmoreland	900 records
Wiltshire	1,386 records
Worcestershire	1,187 records
Yorkshire East	837 records
Yorkshire North 1	1,357 records
Yorkshire West 1	1,184 records
Yorkshire West 2	1,118 records

Sample

Surname	Forename	Rank	Company	Musters			
				1	2	3	4
Smith	Butcher	Pte	Capt Taylor	No	No	Yes	Yes
Smith	Edward	Pte	Capt Garrard	Yes	Disch 16 Oct 1781	No	No
Smith	John	Pte	Capt Houblon	Yes	Yes	Disch 05 Mar 1782	No
Smith	John	Pte	Capt Taylor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Smith	John	Pte	Col Salisbury	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Smith	Robert	Pte	Capt Wortham	Yes	Disch 12 Aug 1781	No	No
Smith	Thomas	Cpl	Lt Col Chase	Yes	Yes	Sgt	Sgt
Smith	Thomas	Pte	Capt Garrard	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes