

Ld. Hertford

Aug. 31 1778

3068

Sir

Your Majesty permits me now  
of them to trouble you upon paper,  
instead of diverting you by a  
personal application from more  
important business.

May I then presume to lay myself  
at your Majesty's feet in this  
manner, & to supplicate and  
intercede a favor from you which  
I am more anxious to obtain than  
I can easily express.

It is the removal of a Company  
of the Norfolk militia from the  
little town of Osford. and that  
your Majesty may be acquainted  
with the exact state & circumstances  
of the request I make, I will beg  
leave to lay before your Majesty

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The situation & condition of the place, with the peculiar manner in which I am affected by it.

The Town of Oxford as I said before is an extremely small place tho' the Church & a ruin in it may give it an air of grandeur upon a Map, or at a distant view of it. It is situated near the Coast, not upon the main Sea, but upon a river which is navigable for very small ships & such only, there being no depth of water in it. The mouth of it communicates with the Sea in the most dangerous part of a very dangerous Coast, & the little port of Oxford though, have ~~never~~ ~~heard~~ it called by so

<sup>3068(2)</sup> distinguished a name any where but by the Inhabitants themselves, is dependent upon the port of Aldborough which is upon the main Sea. It is likewise land locked, & the River is on both sides surrounded with Marshes; It is therefore a place where an Enemy cannot come nor has it in itself any defence.

It must therefore be included in the disposition of the Troops merely as a relief to other Towns.

In regard to myself, & my own interests & convenience, it is very differently circumstanced from any other Town in the neighbourhood of which there are many & some few of very considerable

extent; the town of Oxford is so  
near & so much connected with her  
in all respects that it is in a  
manner by her power, & every  
trouble difficulty or inconvenience  
arising there must sensibly and  
immediately affect her ease &  
comfort in the country; This is  
peculiar to the town of Oxford &  
myself for it is not the case of  
any other of the towns or  
propieties, there being no  
gentleman of fortune living near  
any other of the places I could  
enumerate in that district.

The town as small as it is, is  
composed of houses belonging to  
very poor labourers, or to the  
Burgesses of the place who occasionally  
reside in them & they belong almost

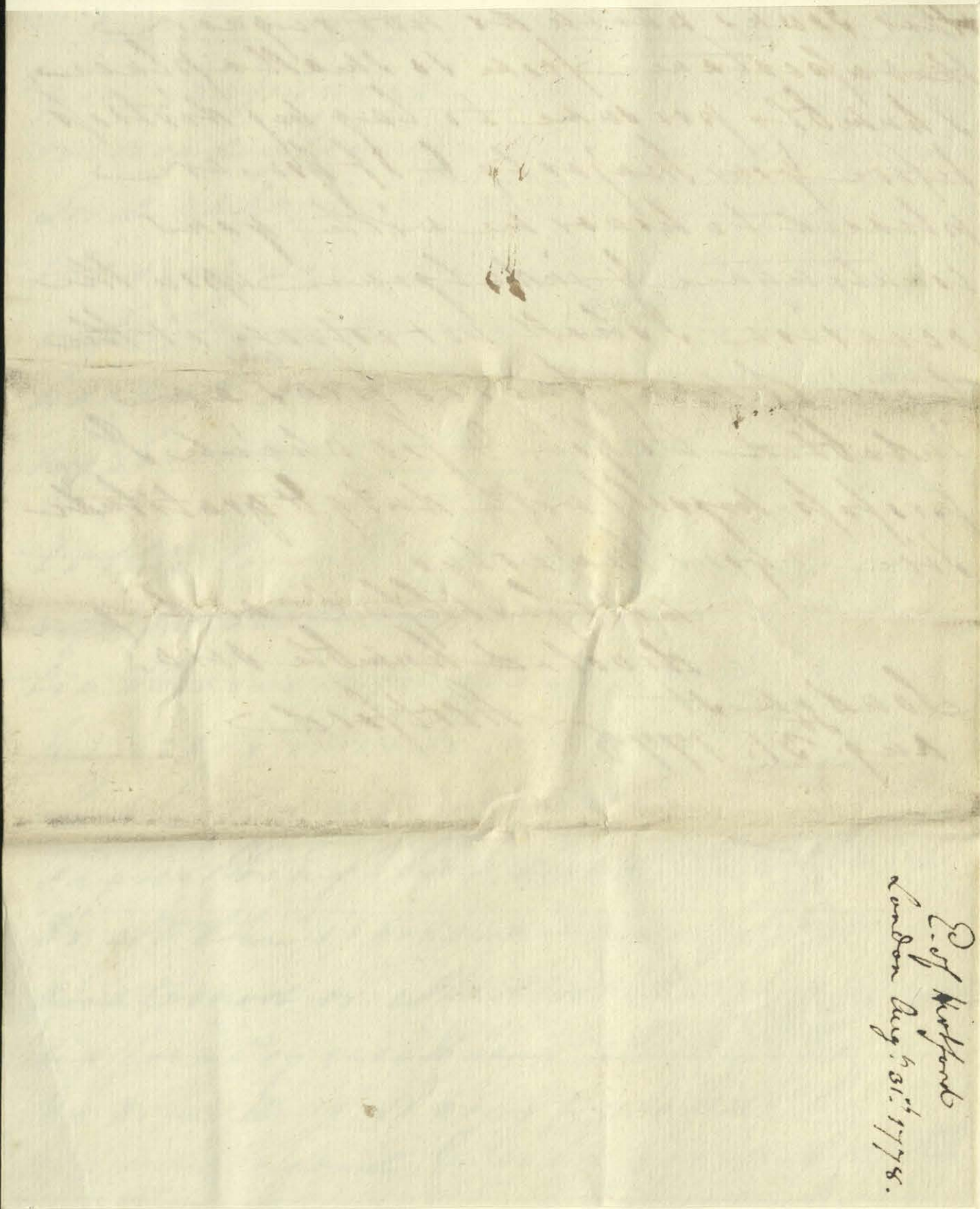
entirely to my knowledge that I  
 know of or have heard ever a soldier in  
 it which may have been owing to the  
 situation of the place or to the  
 circumstances of it, as a Borough  
 town, being such, as I have had the  
 honor of stating them to your  
 Majesty. It being a militia  
 Company that is sent there is by  
 no means an alleviating circumstance  
 for the Officers of those troops being  
 Country Gentlemen used to command  
 at home & not subject to martial  
 law more difficult than those in the  
 regular service, & as one proof of  
 it being a great in Suffolk writes me  
 word that the Gentlemen who are  
 come to service with this Company  
 are arrived with Dogges of all  
 sorts as if the Masters were their own.

I presume herewith to inclose to  
your Majesty these answers I have  
received from Lord Barrington  
Lord ambassador & Colonel Bray upon  
the occasion that you may be in  
possession of every thing which  
has passed upon the subject to  
my knowledge. And I will only add  
to this long & I fear tedious  
representation for which I ask  
ten thousand pardons, that if your  
Majesty's service was really and  
essentially interested in it I would  
say nothing but submit  
to all the inconveniences I have  
mentioned or alluded to, or quit  
my country residence there; but  
as a case is so very peculiarly  
circumstanced & only connected with

3069 (2)  
these laws which do not require  
that assistance from so small a place,  
I humbly presume to lay my distress  
before your Majesty & if you are  
pleas'd to hear me with your  
countenance & indulgence upon the  
occasion I shall not esteem it the  
least of many favours for I am  
indebted to you & for which I  
profess myself with duty & gratitude  
Sir your Majesty's

most faithful and  
devoted humble ser<sup>vt</sup>.

Loudon St Hertford  
Aug. 31. 1778



2 of Norfolk  
London Aug 5<sup>th</sup> 1778.