

Addescombe Place,  
10. December 1700

Dear Sir,

The conversation I had with Colonel Williamson related to the very small Success which the Additional Companies have lately had in Recruiting.

It appears by the Weekly Returns that the Numbers now obtained are not much more than a third of what they used to be when these Companies were first raised: though the number of Companies now employed in this Service, is I believe, considerably greater than it was then. And I am the more struck with this deficiency, as the present Season of the Year is the best of any for Recruiting; and as there is no pretence to say that their want of success is owing to new Levies, of which there are now raising at present.

In conversation with Colonel Townsend, He stated among many other difficulties that occur'd the four following which may perhaps be capable of some Remedy:

First, the numbers that



were taken by the Volunteer Companies added to the Militia, which might otherwise enlist in the Army.

To this a remedy is already provided. At my recommendation a Bill has been brought into the House of Commons, for repealing the Law by which these Companies were first established; so that no more of them can be raised.

Secondly, the Draughting of the Additional Companies, by which the Colonels of Regiments and their Officers felt themselves no longer interested in obtaining a number of men for the purpose of completing their own Reg<sup>ts</sup>; as their Recruits might very likely be immediately taken from them and sent to other Corps: this consideration destroys all Zeal and prevents them from exerting themselves as they otherwise might. So, and if I mistake not, Colonel Townsend informed me that this method of draughting had been carefully avoided when these Companies were first raised, and had not been practised to any extent untill within the two or



Three last Years.

I earnestly wish that you and Lord Amherst would take this point into your serious consideration, and see whether it may not be better for the Service in general to come to some Regulation on this head, and by making it known to induce the Colonels and Recruiting Officers of the respective Regiments to exert themselves as much as possible to compleat their own Corps.

Thirdly, the Non Commissioned Officers sent home on this Service are very bad men and particularly unfit for this business — I submit to your consideration whether this should not be looked into very minutely; whether those who are very bad should not be dismissed, and those unqualified for this particular duty, be returned to their Regiments, and others appointed in their room.

Fourthly; that the Officers employed on the Recruiting



Service were neglected by  
the commanders in chief abroad  
and had not justice done  
them in their promotion.

If this is so, I am sure  
it ought to be remedied, &  
it appears to me a subject  
very worthy of Lord Ambassadors  
attention.

I thought it right to state  
these circumstances to you,  
though I am not sure  
that any thing effectual  
can be done to remedy  
these evils - I can only  
say that if the Recruiting  
Service goes on declining  
as it has done of late, the  
numbers of the old Regiments  
will gradually diminish,  
so that there will not be  
one of them properly complete  
for Service.

After having made the  
best inquiries I am able, I am  
not clear that there is at  
present in this Country any  
great want of men: if  
this were the case, the evil  
would certainly be without  
remedy, but in a conversation  
I had with Colonel Fullarton



who is the last that has raised a new corps, He told me honestly that he had much less difficulty in raising the last 500 men than his first number, & that they cost him much less; He thought the charge of them upon the whole might be about 9. a man.

If any measures can be taken in consequence of what is above suggested, no time should certainly be lost: Besides the consideration arising from the immediate want of men, such a measure should precede the establishment of the new companies; and it should be observed that the best season for Recruiting wears away apace.

I have the honour to be  
with very great regard,  
Dear Sir,

Your most obedient  
humble servant

Lt. General Amherst.  
 &c. &c. &c.



General Bunker

December 18, 1776

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*[Faint signature]*