



of the High Rank I hold in it, by Making my Life in its
Defence! Death would be preferable to being mark'd as the
only Man that was not suffer'd to Come forth on such an
occasion.

Should it be my Fate to fall in so Glorious a Contest
no Injury could arise to the Line of Succession on Account
of the Number happily remaining of Your Majesty's
Children: at the same time that were there Fifty Princes,
or were I the single one, it would in my humble judgement,
be Equally incumbent on them, or me, to stand Foremost
in the Ranks of Danger at so Decisive a Period as the
present.

I am the more induc'd to Confide that Your
Majesty's Goodness, will comply with my humble Petition,
from the Conviction I feel that had similar Circumstances
prevail'd in the Reign of the Late King, when Your Majesty
was Prince of Wales, You would have panted, Sir, for the
Opportunity I now so earnestly Covet! I know Your Majesty
I am fix'd in this belief, and I should hold myself

Unworthy

Descent

If 39481

Of my ~~Birth~~ & Station ~~could~~ ^{could} a warmer impulse now
possess me: Still more to justify this Confidence. Allow
me to recall to your Majesty's recollection the Expressions
you were graciously pleased to use when I solicited
Foreign Service upon my first coming into the Army,
They were, Sir, "That your Majesty did not then see the
Opportunity for it, but that if anything was to arise
at Home I ought to be one of the First & Foremost."

My Character with the Nation, My Honour, My
future Fame & Prospects in Life are now all at stake.
I therefore supplicate your Majesty to afford me those
means for their preservation which Affection for my Country
& Devotion to my Sovereign would have prompted me to
solicit, even though my Birth & Station had not render'd
it my Duty to Claim them. I presume in no respect
to prescribe to your Majesty the mode of my being employ'd,
what I humbly but most earnestly solicit is the Certainty of
Active Service in such a Character as to your Majesty
shall seem fit. With the profoundest ~~sublime~~ humility I have the
Honour to subscribe myself, your Majesty's most Dutiful & most
Affectionate Son & Subject (Signed) George P.

The Prince of Wales
to
The King

April 23rd 1790.

His Roy al Highness's
Rank in the Army

366/4/52

If His Majesty should be induced to call forth
 at this particular period
 The Prince of Wales into Military Station. The
 only Rank which in the Opinion of several Officers
 in the Army
 of the highest Consideration, seems fitting to
 as being liable to no objection or embarrassment
 His Royal Highness, is that of bearing the command of

" Field-Marshal without a date to the

" Commission with.

" His Majesty's Letter of Service
 " This Commission would only enrole H. R. H. as a

" General upon the Staff, & leave H. R. H. in a similar
 situation with the D. of G. as to the Command: in

" Chief, to whom, of course, all Reports from the

" Generals Commanding Districts would as
 usual be made, And,

" To give efficiency to this Commission,

" His Majesty should be pleased to Grant " The
 Kings Letter of Service " empowering
 His

39483

such for instance as the Charge of the
largest body of Heavy & Light Cavalry acting
together, or of the Light Cavalry separately,
either on the Coast or elsewhere.

This "Commission of Field-Marshal
without a Date" & King's Letter of Service at
only place "H. R. H. an Executive General
upon the Staff: ~~It may~~ ^{To} be granted" during
H. R. H. "H. R. H." & whenever the Danger which
has called a forth shall be happily averted,
the functions to cease as it may be His
Majesty's Royal Will & Pleasure.

Mr. Royal Engineers
Mr. Prince of Wales

Upon Mr. Royal
Engineers' Rank
in the Army

date

H. M. S.

(Copy)

Carlton House, April 25. 1798

Sir,

I have from various Considerations of Duty, & Respect, delay'd to the latest hour obtruding myself, by a Direct Application, to Your Majesty. And it is now with an Earnestness that I never before ventured to Approach You, Sir, that I presume to throw myself at Your Feet, & to implore Your Gracious Attention to the humble Sentiments that I offer in this Letter.

The serious & awful Crisis in which this Country now stands, Calls for the United Efforts of every British Arm in the Defence of All that can be dear to Englishmen, And it is with glowing Pride that I behold the prevalence of this Sentiment through every part of Your Majesty's Kingdom.

Whatever may some time back have been Your Majesty's Objections to my being in the way of Actual Service, yet, at a Crisis like this, Unexampled in our History, when every Subject in the Realm is eagerly seeking for, & has his Post Assign'd him, those Objections I humbly trust will yield to the pressure of the Times, and that Your Majesty will be Graciously Pleased

to

to call me forth to A Station wherein I may prove
myself Worthy of the Confidence of my Country & the High
Rank I hold in it, by Staking My Life in its Defence!
Death would be preferable to being mark'd as the only
Man that was not suffer'd to come forth on such an
occasion.

Should it be my Fate to fall in so Glorious
A Contest, no Injury could arise to the Line of Succession,
on account of the number happily remaining of your
Majesty's Children: At the same time, that were
there Fifty Princes, or were I the single one, it would,
in my humble judgement, be equally incumbent on
them, or me, to stand Foremost in the Ranks of
Danger at so Decisive a Period as the present.

I am the more induc'd to Confide that
your Majesty's Goodness will Comply with my humble
Petition, from the Conviction I feel that had similar
Circumstances prevail'd in the Reign of the late King,
when your Majesty was Prince of Wales, you would
have pant'd, Sir, for the Opportunity, I now so
earnestly Covet: I know your Majesty's Hang'd

in this belief, & I should hold myself unworthy of my Descent & Station, if a tamer impulse could now possess me: Still more to justify this Confidence, Allow me to Recall to your Majesty's recollection the Expressions you were Graciously Pleas'd to use, when I solicited Foreign Service upon my first coming into the Army; they were, Sir, "That your Majesty did not then see the Opportunity for it, but, that if anything was to arise at Home I ought to be one of the first & foremost."

My Character with the Nation, My Honour, My future Fame & Prospects in Life, are now all at stake. I therefore supplicate your Majesty to Afford me those means for their preservation, which My Affection for My Country, and Devotion to My Sovereign, would have prompted me to solicit, even though My Birth & Station had not render'd it my Duty to Claim them.

I presume in no respect to prescribe to your Majesty the mode of my being Employed; What I humbly, but most earnestly solicit is, the

Certainty

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Certainty of Active Service in such a Character as
to your Majesty shall seem fit. -

I have the Honor

to be,

Mr Prince of Wales

To
Mr King

April 25. 1790.