

8416 - 8420

*follows 5180*



End of Jan. 1783. Jan 26 was  
Sunday 5 of 5180 & 5181-2

Upon receiving Orders to march for Portsmouth when Canton'd in Hampshire, all the Soldiers of the 77<sup>th</sup> Regiment, express'd the greatest satisfaction and cheerfulness on being inform'd by their Officers of their Destination.

The first appearance of Mutiny was perceivable among the Men, the Day after the Notification of Peace in the Papers, being the second subsequent on their arrival here.

This Disposition increas'd considerably on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>, which may in a great measure be attributed to the advice given them by the lower class of Inhabitants to resist all attempts made by their Officer to put them on board Ship, contrary to their engagement which was to serve for three Years or during the American War. — In the Evening a Number of the Soldiers, were Drunk and riotous in the Streets, looking for their Officers to obtain Money, some under Pretreat of sending their Wives home, others to purchase Necessaries for the Voyage, but as it has since too plainly appeared

appeared all with a View to get Signor, altho' they cloak'd their Pretensions, under the Specious demand of the several Ballances due to them which were paid to the greater Number.

The Officers were therefore under a necessity of advancing Money in a certain proportion to every one, it being impossible to make distinctions, at the same time giving those who had any little claim left, the most solemn assurances that every Parting due would be paid, the Moment they set Foot on board Ship. This seem'd to give present satisfaction, as the greater Number promised to embark cheerfully in the Morning, altho' it was merely to deceive, the Ringleaders, having certainty at that time form'd the resolution of murdering Colonel Gordon reserving the completion of their Scheme, until the Morning of the supposed Embarkation. - The reason for this Spirit of Mutiny being so general, evidently proceeded from the conviction that the time of their Service was expired; their resentment at the Colonel from an opinion that he had in concert with General Murray, sold them to the East India Company. - As this was not a Secret, either to the Colonel or to the rest of the Officers, it was previously determin'd  
provided

provided any opposition took place, not to insist farther on Embarkation, as it could not be accomplished by fair means, but to wait the determination of Government on the business. But tho' this was agreed on, it never was imagined by any one Officer, that the Soldiers instead of asserting their Claim should Murder their Officers who had all along treated them with the greatest attention and Humanity. - At Ten o'clock on Monday, the Parade was put off until Twelve, on account of the Weather, and at that time the Grenadiers with other Two Battalion Companies fell in on the publick Parade to be inspected, none of the others having as yet arrived from the different private Parades. - In this situation Colonel Gordon, the four Grenadier Officers, the Adjutant, Captain Murray, Lieut. Macquharison Senr. and several other Officers were present. - In about Two Minutes, after the Ranks of the Grenadier Company were dressed by the Adjutant, the Riot commenced. - It began with a Shout on the right by the Grenadier Company who immediately closed in about the Colonel, Adjutant, and Captain Murray - One Robison presented his loaded Piece to the Colonels Breast which flash'd in the Pan. -

This

this failing, The Colonel was instantly knock'd  
down, and would have been dispatch'd in a  
Moment, had their Bayonets been fixed or had  
he not been protected by several of the Men who  
wished to save him. In this critical Moment  
Lieut. Varguharson Sen.<sup>r</sup> run in to assist him  
which immediately drew off the attention of the  
greater part from the Colonel, who at last with  
difficulty got to the Guard House saving the  
Parade. - When he got in, the Men attacked  
the Door defended by a few Soldiers, and as he  
expected every instant to be put to Death by their  
breaking in, he had the presence of Mind to  
desire a Soldier to go out and acquaint the  
Grenadiers not to molest him any farther as he  
was breathing his last. - This had the desired  
effect, as it gain'd a little time, which he made  
the most of by exchanging cloaths with a Soldier  
and escaping a few seconds before they entered  
with fixt Bayonets to dispatch him. After getting  
into the Street, he took Shelter in a Room near to  
the Coffee House, where he disguised himself so  
completely as a Sailor, that without any fear  
he came out, pass'd by several of the Ringleaders,  
caulking very much in his supposed Death, and  
embark'd at the Point for Gosport, and from thence  
to

to Haslar Hospital. Lieut Garquharson sent<sup>to</sup>  
was attack'd and defend'd nearly by an equal  
Number, despairing of his Life he retreated to  
a Shop at the Corner of the Street, where He was  
refused admittance. - His Friends instantly broke  
the Door in pieces, and He got in, after withstanding  
a very dreadful contest, and receiving many severe  
Blows and cuts on the Head and Body. From this  
place He got out at a Back Door, and in a Disguise  
was lucky enough to reach the Point and embark  
for Gosport - Captain Murray and the Adjutant  
were both knock'd down, and carried off by some  
of their Friends, none of them much hurt - The  
rest of the Officers on the left were glad to make  
the best of their way as several of them were fired  
at in going off - The Soldiers now grew perfectly  
outrageous, searching every publick House for  
their Officers to put them to Death, and parading  
by Hundreds in the Streets, beating to Arms  
and carrying the Colouels Bonnet upon a Bayonet  
as a Trophy of their Victory. - They now broke  
open the Regimental Store, took out all the  
Ammunition and Broadswords, and at first  
fired indiscriminately thro' the Streets, which  
luckily did no Injury except in killing one  
Invalid - - Major Sir Robert Stewart who had

been

been sent some time before by Colonel Gordon, on  
a Message to General Smyth, was stopped in  
coming back by several of the Officers who had  
left Town, and acquainted with the particulars  
which he communicated to the General - He very  
properly did not attempt immediate Force  
against Men in so distracted a State, but advised  
Sir Robert to go to Town, as soon as he prudently  
could to inform himself of the exact Situation of  
the Rioters. - This Sir Robert did, about 4 o'clock  
and met several of them who behaved civilly  
upon his informing them from Admiral Byre  
that He would not permit them to be embarked  
contrary to their inclination. - Sir Robert reported  
this to the General, when He came back matters  
remaining much in the same State the remainder  
of the Evening, the Soldiers gradually dispersing  
more and more, and retiring into the publick  
Houses, where they continued drinking while  
their Money lasted. - On Tuesday Morning a  
Number of them were seen drunk in the Streets,  
but the greater Part attended a Parade at 12 o'  
Clock where only Sir Robert Stewart - Capt Murray  
and Captain Menzies were present. - They were  
not outrageous, tho' still insolent when spoke to,  
and not at all sorry for what they had done,  
threatning

threatening a repetition provided any Steps were  
 taken to embark them. - They all received that  
 Days Subsistence, and were dismissed, but towards  
 Evening a Number of them got very much in  
 Liquor, stopped several of their Officers in the  
 Street whom they obliged to give Money, and  
 were Searching for their Pay Sergeants for more,  
 which made it absolutely necessary for every  
 Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer not concerned  
 to keep out of the Way for fear of being insulted.  
 On Wednesday Morning the greater part of the  
 Rioters were sober, and attended the Parade  
 without shewing any Marks of Insolence, or  
 Mutiny, except in coming with their Arms loaded,  
 with which they have ever appeared, since the  
 Commencement of the affray - Sir Robert Stewart  
 went along all the Ranks and spoke to the Men,  
 informing them, that their General was in Town  
 and that he never would consent to any Steps  
 being taken to put them on board Ships contrary  
 to their inclination - Their Answer was, that  
 they were glad, He did not make his appearance,  
 as they would by no means say what they would  
 do in such an event - After receiving as usual  
 their Days Pay, they were dismissed, none of the  
 Officers being present with Sir Robert, except  
 Captain Menzies and another.

Upon

Upon the whole, there is the greatest reason to believe, that the same Insolent and Mutinous Spirit still exists, among the Privates of the Regiment as they continue to exult in their late behaviour and give out, that they would be happy to put their Colonel & Lieut Colonel to Death.

The Ringleaders are many and well known by their Officers, and so soon as the Regiment can be disarmed, there is little doubt that very severe Examples being made, will have the good effect of bringing back the rest to that Discipline, and sense of their Duty, which as Soldiers, they have ever been taught to observe, altho upon this unfortunate occasion they have in so conspicuous a manner laid aside.

Government must see the best Judges what are the proper Steps to be pursued to bring about this desirable Issue - As the Spirit they are possess'd with seems to be general, their removal from Portsmouth, if possible, would have the good effect of taking off all dread of Embarkation, and by being divided in Squadrons, their strength in their own Eyes will be diminished,

And

and it will be very easy to put in effectual  
Execution, any future Scheme which may be  
planned, as a Chastisement for the Guilty,  
and a warning to the Multitude. —





*Summary of the  
Behaviour of the 74th  
Regiment at Portsmouth*

*Narrative of the*

