



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1797.

Whitehall, February 25.

A LETTER this Day received by the Duke of Portland from Lord Milford, Lord Lieutenant for the County of Pembroke, dated Haverfordwest, February 23, Five P. M. contains Information that Two Frigates, a Corvette and a Lugger, appeared off the Coast of Pembrokeshire the 22d Instant; and on the Evening of that Day disembarked some Troops, reported by Deserters to be about 1200, but without Field Pieces.

It appears that the most active Exertions were made by the Lord Lieutenant and Gentlemen of the County, and it's Neighbourhood, in taking proper Measures on this Occasion; and that the greatest Zeal and Loyalty were manifested by all Ranks of People, who crowded to offer their Services against the Enemy.

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Orchard, commanding the North Devon Volunteers, to the Duke of Portland, dated Hartland Abbey, February 23, 1797.

I Think it my Duty to state to your Grace, that I Yesterday received an Express from Ilfracombe, mentioning that there were * Three French Frigates off that Place; that they had scuttled several Merchantmen, and were attempting to destroy the Shipping in the Harbour.

* These are the same Vessels mentioned in the above Letter of Lord Milford.

They begged that I would immediately order the North Devon Regiment of Volunteers under my Command to march to their Assistance. In consequence of this Representation, I ordered the Men to get ready to march as soon as possible. I have great Satisfaction in saying, that in Four Hours I found every Officer and Man that was ordered on the Parade at Bideford (Fifteen Miles from Home) ready and willing to march to any Place they should be commanded to go to. I cannot express the Satisfaction I felt on seeing the Men so willing to defend their King and Country, at the same Time as silent, orderly and sober as might be expected at a Morning Parade of an old Regiment. The greatest Exertions were made by *all* Descriptions of People to assist, and to render every Service in their Power. As I was preparing to march, I received an Account from Ilfracombe, that the French Ships were gone from the Coast, and that Tranquillity was restored again to the Town. How far the Report was well founded I cannot possibly say; but as this Affair may be misrepresented and exaggerated, I trust your Grace will excuse my troubling you with this Letter; and I flatter myself it must give you Pleasure to hear of the Loyalty of this Neighbourhood, and that the Behaviour of the Volunteers and Inhabitants will meet the Approbation of His Majesty.

Printed by EDWARD JOHNSTON, in Warwick-Lane.