

**Photocopy of a petition (1802) from the managers of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh to the Duke of York, Commander-in-Chief of H.M. Forces, requesting the restoration of a salary to one of the surgeons at the Royal Infirmary, where soldiers were treated**

**Publication/Creation**

1802

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11. Sandringham Avenue,  
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28th September 1973

Major/General A. Mackennan, O.B.E., (Retd)

R.A.M.C Historical Museum.

Keogh Barracks

Ash Vale,

Aldershot, Hants.

Oct 3/10

G.

Dear General Mackennan,

Thank you for your letter of the 24th September in response to my enquiry regarding the Barronetcy of Cumming of Culter, Co Aberdeen. It certainly is a coincidence that your Parents resided in Culter for so many years and that one of your school chums was also named Cumming!

I will take your advice and ask the War Office Librarian if he will have a look through the Army lists of the period and see if Robert Stewart Cumming was in fact a combatant officer either in the Artillery or the 7th Hussars, it may be that I can get a lead on him by approaching it from this angle.

By the way you overlooked my second enquiry regarding a possible Army Surgeon named William Boon (or Boorn) who was extant in the latter half of the eighteenth century.

Boon who resided in Portsmouth in the 1770's. If you



can supply any information on him. I would be grateful

Please find enclosed the memorial from the Managers of Edinburgh's Royal Infirmary, asking that the stipend of one of their Physicians should be restored. There was no confirmation with the petition that any action was taken but I dare say that the archives of the Infirmary might reveal what happened in the matter.

Finally as an additional item of interest for your archives I am enclosing a Photo-copy of the sacramental certificate of Surgeon JAMES INGLIS of the 5th Regiment of Foot, who on Sunday 12th March 1758, in the Company of seven other officers of that Regiment took the Sacrament in the Parish Church of St Martin (now Leicester Cathedral).

After they had taken the Sacrament they each took the oath of allegiance, swearing to uphold the Crown and dignity of King George II, his heirs and successors, and abjured Pope and Pretender. After having accomplished this ceremony they all subscribed their names and rank, and the documents were then handed to the clerk of the Peace for safe keeping in the records of the local quarter sessions.

This declaration and certification of the Sacrament had to be undertaken by all public servants, both civil and military and usually by the gentry of the Protestant faith. Under the Penal acts no Roman Catholic could hold a commission.

in the Army or Navy, unless they recanted their faith.

The practice had waned very much towards the end of the eighteenth century but the laws were not finally repealed until the Catholic emancipation act of 1829, which ended all restrictions on Catholics in private and public life.

I would be interested to have any details you may have regarding the career of Surgeon Inglis. Later on in the same year the Regiment embarked at Cowes for France, and took part in the raid on St Malo and Cherbourg and Battle of St Leger. They returned to England and in 1759 embarked for Germany where they soldiered for the next three years, winning their first battle honours at WILHELMSTADT in 1762. Inglis may have been present at this battle if he was still with them, but by that time he may have shifted elsewhere.

Again thanking you for looking up the Commemories in your records if I find out anything further on them I will certainly let you know.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely  
Herbert Heather



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I ought to mention that the originals of the Sacramento Certificates and oath of Allegiance are in the archives of the Leicester City Museum who were kind enough to supply me with a copy.

Unfortunately the quarter session records are not as complete as they might have been due to the reforming zeal of a radical corporation way back in 1831 who destroyed quite a lot of the borough records and even flogged the Mayor's chain of office and the town silver at a public auction to celebrate the passing of the reform bill of that year, so we can consider it a piece of luck that this item of military interest survived the deluge.

To His Royal Highness Field  
 Marshal The Duke of York  
 Commander in Chief of His  
 Majesty's Forces &c &c

The Memorial of the Managers of the  
 Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

Humbly Sheweth.

That the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh was  
 in the year 1741 opened for the admission of poor Patients from every  
 quarter of the Kingdom, of whom the Soldiers of His Majesty's Army  
 quartered in Scotland formed a considerable part, and in the 1745  
 and 1746, during the distressing period of the Rebellion, the Infirmary  
 became a general Hospital for the sick and wounded Soldiers, whom  
 the Managers assisted to the utmost of their power. -

That in the year 1755 the Managers allotted two of



That in the year 1755 the Managers allotted two of the principal Wards in the Hospital for the sole reception of sick Soldiers, who have ever since that time been regularly attended by the two Physicians of the House. — In consequence of which the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury were pleased at that time to make a grant to the Charity of part of the Interest of the Inward fund of Scotland to enable the Managers to defray this additional expence for the accommodation of the Soldiers. —

That soon after, Government, as a recompense for the extraordinary trouble and attendance of the two Physicians on the sick Soldiers, were pleased to grant to each of them a salary of 5<sup>l</sup> a day, which was regularly continued till the year 1768, when, owing to some misunderstanding between the Commander in Chief in Scotland and the Managers of the Infirmary at that time, respecting the nomination of

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one of the Physicians — the Salary of one of these Gentlemen was withdrawn and has never since been restored. —

That for the last ten years about 400 sick Soldiers besides Invalids, upon an average, have been annually received into the House, one half of which number have been under the charge of each of the Physicians; by both of whom they have been most carefully attended, altho one of these Gentlemen has never received any pecuniary consideration for his trouble. —

That the Memorialists humbly presume to submit to Your Royal Highness's consideration the hardship that one of the Physicians of the Royal Infirmary should receive no salary, while equally responsible for his conduct, and equally using his best endeavours for the restoration of the Health of His Majesty's servants, and the Memorialists earnestly entreat of Your Royal Highness to take into consideration the circumstances of the case, and if it meet with Your Royal Highness's approbation, that you will be graciously pleased to recommend to His Majesty to restore the Salary formerly allowed to the other Physician

Signed, in name and by appointment of the Managers of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, at Edinburgh the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 1802. By

William Forbes.  
President. —



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From FRIDAY May 16, to FRIDAY May 23. 1755. [Price Two-

Small ADVERTISEMENTS for this Paper taken at 2 s 6 d. each; and continu'd Weekly at 2 s. To be pa

SATURDAY'S POST.

From the WHITEHALL and the GENERAL Evening Posts, &c. May 15.

Paris A-la-main, May 10.



Part of the Fleet is returned to Brest, and the other Part is gone to Sea; but its Destination remains a Secret. It is supposed, however, to be gone to reinforce the French Colonies. Actions 1740.

[Persons of the best Understanding in these Matters say, that in two Years Time the Designs of France against Britain and her Colonies may possibly be ripe for Execution. The Proposal itself shews that as yet they are not so; and if it should be accepted, will not the Zeal shewn by the People to support the Government in prosecuting a War against France, naturally die away, to revive no more; the Nation be burthened for two Years with an useless Expence, equal to that of carrying on a vigorous Sea-War; and at last be obliged to fight *pro aris & focis*, under accumulated Disadvantages? What our Commissioners have done at Paris, since the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, shews what may be expected from such another Negotiation. Indeed there is perhaps scarce an Instance of our obtaining any Thing by Treaty without an Army in the Field! Where God hath a Purpose to destroy (says the judicious Sir Walter Raleigh) the Charge of Things is committed unto such as either cannot see what is for their Good, or know not how to put in Execution any found Advice. But we hope this Observation will never be applicable to, nor verified by the Conduct of a British Ministry.]

Rams, (Italy) April 19. A Fire happened the Day before Yesterday in the Jews Quarter, which in less than an Hour and a half's time burnt down four Houses, when it was happily extinguished, just as it was upon the Point of communicating itself to a large Warehouse of Hemp, Flax, &c.

Berlin, April 26. Notwithstanding the Credit a Report of a Treaty already subsisting between this Court and that of London may have met with, we are here convinced that nothing but the most solemn Guaranty to the House of Brandenburg in the Possession of East Prussia and Silesia, will be the Price of his Prussian Majesty's concurring with the Emperor and the King of Great Britain in the Election of a King of the Romans, and the Security his Britannick Majesty requires for his German Dominions in case of a War in the Empire, which is far from being esteemed the most improbable Event in the present Circumstances of Europe. If an Accommodation of this Nature should soon take Place, and that Event follow, the French will have Reason to repent their late masterly Stroke of Policy in Scotland, which has

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh, May 6. Last Week came down to the Hon. the Barons of the Exchequer, his Majesty's Royal Warrant, granting to the Royal Infirmary of this Place the Sum of Eight Thousand One Hundred and Sixty Pounds, Ten Shillings, Six-pence Farthing Sterling, being the Balance of the Invalid Fund remaining in the Hands of the late Receiver-General of the Crown Rents and Casualties in Scotland, and ordaining the said Sum to be paid over to the Provost, Magistrates, and Council of Edinburgh, to remain in their Hands, at the Rate of Three and one Half per Cent. for the Benefit of the said Infirmary; with this express Condition, That the Managers of the said Infirmary be obliged to make up sixty Beds, and maintain as many sick Soldiers, to be certified as proper Objects by the Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Forces in Scotland, they receiving Four-pence per Day for every such Soldier, to be deducted from their Pay. This Fund, which commonly went by the Name of the Invalid Fund, was established before the Union of the two Kingdoms, by a Deduction out of the Pay of the Forces in Scotland, in order to create a Sum for giving Charity to such Subalterns and Soldiers as, through Age, and being disabled, were incapable of Service; and as, through Length of Time, the Invalids established on the said Fund are all dead, the Fund became thereby at his Majesty's Disposal.

His Majesty has been likewise pleased to give 2000 l. sterling, (500 l. to be paid yearly for four Years) towards carrying on the publick Buildings in this City.

Friday Morning between Twelve and One, a dreadful Fire broke out in the Row of Houses opposite the Foot of Marlin's Wynd, belonging to the Incorporation of Mary's Chapel, which entirely consumed the same, and threatened the Neighbourhood with general Destruction. The Fire had come so great a Length before it was discovered, that the Inhabitants with Difficulty saved their Lives, with the total Loss of their Effects of every Kind. The principal Sufferer is James Stirling, who, in Merchants Goods, &c. has lost about 1600 l. sterling, and the Loss sustained by other Families is also very considerable. A Collection is to be made from House to House in the City and Liberties for the Sufferers.

COUNTRY NEWS.

Bristol, May 10. At Two o'Clock Yesterday Morning the Press-Gangs boarded all the Vessels from the new Bridge to the old one; and, notwithstanding many of their Hands had Protections, they left only one Man aboard most of them. The whole Number impressed was about 170. The Consternation of the whole City was not less than that of the Sailors, at this unusual Proceeding. But, in the Afternoon it appeared that the Gang had taken all without Distinction, that they might pick out those who had no Protections, and had lodged on board the Vessels of such who had, in order to secrete themselves; and, after proper Examination, the latter were discharged.

Newcastle, May 10. Wednesday last returned to Shields his Majesty's Sloop, Capt. O'Brian, from Stockton, where he had been to press Seamen; in passing Sunderland Roads he brought to a Vessel in order to impress her Hands, but they had before got ashore: On searching the Hold he found a great Quantity of Brandy, &c. of which he made a Seizure, for the Disappointment of the

given to Capt. Hamar. to be put in Commission ev are getting ready; the A still working with unwe. Hawke and Admiral We head, remain as per last. failed this Day from Spi clean.

An India Ship from len's, had thirty-two of give an Account that the misses in the East-Indi were each time success begin to be very fick. The late Report in L tween two certain Admir far was it from Truth, substituted not only between

LONDON.

This Morning the Hon received Advice of the safe Montford, Capt. Vincent in nine Weeks and two D. he left the homeward-bo vice that Commodore Wat with all the Men of Was sent a twenty-gun Ship to his Arrival.

This Ship also brings an been agreed on between th for three Months, which last; that Colonel Scott is derfon coming home; th barked on his Way hon happened at Bengal in Dec Dutch Ships were drove af

This Week a Person w Square, for treasonable C

We hear from South-granted 40,000 l. their C the Province against the E

By a Ship arriv'd at To England we have Advice, raised 7000 Men, who a against the French.

Last Friday a Comman Artillery embarked at We Last Thursday the Ma house, in Nicholas-Lane, in a Chaise, was over-tur.

A Gentleman of Ely is taken to ride 1000 Mile upon the new Race-Gro Guineas to a 100, play o form it, and there are seve

On Saturday died, at he upwards of sixty Years of Lady Dowager Viscounte the fine Seat at Ashley-Pa with large personal and Ireland, come to her L. Heirss, the Right Hon.

Yesterday the Lord B the Governors of the Sm nefaction from the Earl of Inoculation; that the tions are continually incre vantage of that Operatio and beneficial to his Lorc We are well assured. t