

COPY OF THE
SEDITIONOUS HANDBILL

FOUND AT CHATHAM BARRACKS, 21ST MAY, 1797.

TO THE BRITISH ARMY.

COMRADES.

ARE we not men ? Is it not high time we should prove that we know ourselves to be such.

Are we anywhere respected as men, and why are we not ?

Have not wrong notions of discipline led us to our present despised condition ? Is there a man among us, who does not wish to defend his country and who would not willingly do it without being subject to the insolence and cruelty of effeminate puppies ?

Were not the sailors, like us mocked for want of thought, though not so much despised for poverty as we are ? Have they not proved that they can think and act for themselves and preserve every useful point of discipline, full as well, or better than when under, the tyranny of their officers ?

What makes this difference between a commissioned officer and a private or non-commissioned ?

Are they better men ? You must laugh at the thought ? Do they know discipline half so well as our Serjeants ? Don't they owe their promotions to their connections with placemen and pensioners and a mock parliament which pretends to represent the people ?

When we think of the people ought not each of us to think of a father, or a brother, as a part of them ? Can you think a parliament speaking like fathers and brothers, would treat us as we are treated ?

Would they mock us with a pretended addition to our pay, and then lock us up in barracks, to cheat us and keep us in ignorance ? Would they not rather consider the price of every thing wanting for our families at least double our pay ?

Why is every regiment harassed with long marches, from one end of the country to the other, but to keep them strangers to the people and to each other ?

Are we so well cloathed as soldiers used to be ? Ask the old pensioners Chelsea College, whether horse or foot ? Ask them too, if it was usual when there were fewer regiments, for colonels to make a profit out of soldiers cloathes ? Don't colonels now draw half their income from what we ought to have, but of which we are robbed ?

THESE COMRADES, are a few of our Grievances and but a few ; WHAT SHALL WE DO ? The tyranny of what is falsely called discipline, prevent us from acting like other men. We cannot even join in petition for that which common honesty would freely have given us long ago. WE HAVE ONLY TWO CHOICES, either to submit to the present impositions, or demand the treatment proper for men.

THE POWER IS ALL OUR OWN ! The regiments which send you this, are willing to do their part. They will shew their countrymen, they can be soldiers without being slaves, and will make their demands as soon as they know you will not draw the trigger against them. Of this we will judge, when we know you have distributed this Bill, not only among your comrades but to every soldier whom you know in any part of the country.

BE SOBER, BE READY.

COPY OF THE
ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS'
REPLY.

NEW SOUTHEND, NEAR THE NORE.

6th JUNE, 1797.

We the Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of His Majesty's 23rd (or Royal Welsh Fuzileer) Regiment of Foot, beg leave humbly to express our Gratitude to His Majesty for his Paternal Goodness, and to assure Him that our Love and Attachment to his Royal Person, as well as our Country and Constitution, stand firm and unshaken.

Figurative Language we disclaim ; We only desire to prove by our Actions and unremitted Zeal our Attachment; and the Duty we are now upon in the Face of the Mutineers and rebellious crews of His Majesty's Ships at the Nore, whose Disgrace we weep over in common with an offended Nation, shall best testify with what abhorrence we hold such Conduct, and how much we detest the infamous Attempts made on the Minds of the Army of late, in the Distribution of certain seditious Hand-bills ; we are happy to say that no atrocious villain has ever yet been daring enough to attempt by Artifice (or otherwise) to seduce the Royal Welch Fuzileers from their hitherto unerring Fidelity. And we humbly solicit Colonel Ellis (our Commanding Officer) to transmit these our Sentiments to Field Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of York.

HENRY HARDING,
Sergeant Major, 23rd Reg.

I certify that the above address
has been signed by the whole
Corps unanimously.

J. J. ELLIS
Lieut. Col.

The Mutiny at the Nore 1797, – Bibliography

This bibliography has been extracted from Rodger N.A.M., *The Command of the Ocean – A Naval History of Britain 1649–1815*, Allan Lane 2004 and Penguin Books 2005 (ISBN 0 140 28896 1). This book, on pages 447–8 and 449–51, gives a concise and readable account of the mutiny at the Nore. Rodger's book, which is the second volume of his naval history of Britain, has received outstanding reviews.

The comments after the details of some of the books listed below are those of the author of *The Command of the Ocean*.

None of the following references has been checked by the present editor. This needs to be done to check the precise page numbers of references to the mutiny at the Nore, which is not always clear in the endnotes to *The Command of the Ocean*.

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