

# Limerick Volunteers 1776-1793

## Introduction

**V**olunteer corps were formed in Ireland from early in the 18th century as local defence forces attached to the militia, formed in 1715 due to the threat of Stuart invasion. There is no precise information on the composition or organisation of these bodies, but what appears to have happened, at least in some areas, was that at a general muster when the commissioner of array had enrolled sufficient numbers into the militia, they organised their troops of horse and companies of foot into regiments. The units not regimented were known as independent companies or independent troops. The Independents were probably allowed as concessions to local feeling, recognising that men often served better under officers with whom they were personally acquainted, a link which could be lost in a regiment. There was an ethos of voluntary service about an independent company which was lacking in a regular militia unit. However, there was no question of independent companies being raised outside of the militia framework. Their officers were appointed by the usual militia commission, and there was even a feeling that it might be treasonable to raise a company without waiting for official authorisation<sup>1</sup>. In 1745, in 1757 and again in 1760 volunteer units were formed because of the Stuart invasion, the Seven Years War and because of the French landing at Carrickfergus in 1760. Throughout the 1760s and 1770s, units were embodied by local landlords in various parts of the country for the preservation of the peace and protection of property. The classic period of volunteering commenced with the outbreak of the American War of Independence and ended with the Militia Act of 1793.

Despite the augmentation of the standing army and the establishment of the militia in 1793, the government in Ireland thought these inadequate for the proper defence of the country against invasion or rebellion. From 1794 volunteer units were established in England, and these, rather than the old Irish Volunteers, as Grattan urged, formed the model for the new volunteer force instituted towards the end of 1796. The units were raised by local magnates, but armed by the government. When on active service they became a semi-permanent local police force and occasional military auxiliary. By November 1796 the force consisted of



Silver medals of Thomas Smyth's Limerick Union, 1776.

Limerick Museum.

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## by Kieran Kennedy

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37,000 men, increasing to about 50,000 as a result of the French threat at Bantry at the end of 1796. Continued alarms and widespread discontent saw the force grow to about 75,000 in September 1797, and be augmented by supplementary yeomen, serving without pay and generally without uniforms, throughout the 1798 Rising. Reduced to 52,000 in 1799, they were assembling for but one parade a month in 1800 and 1802. Peace having been declared with France, they were thanked for their services by parliament and allowed to serve on without pay. With the renewal of war with the French in 1803 and the Emmet Rising, their number was increased again to 83,000. In 1818 the arms of some of the units were collected and despite renewed activity, especially in Munster in the 1820 - 1823 period, numbers were reduced to 20,000 in 1828. Most units were disembodied in 1834, although scattered references occur until 1843<sup>2</sup>.

## The American War of Independence

The eastern part of North America was colonised mainly by English, Scottish and Irish (both Catholic and Protestant) settlers, who by 1770 had established thirteen colonies, with approximately two million inhabitants. Each colony had an

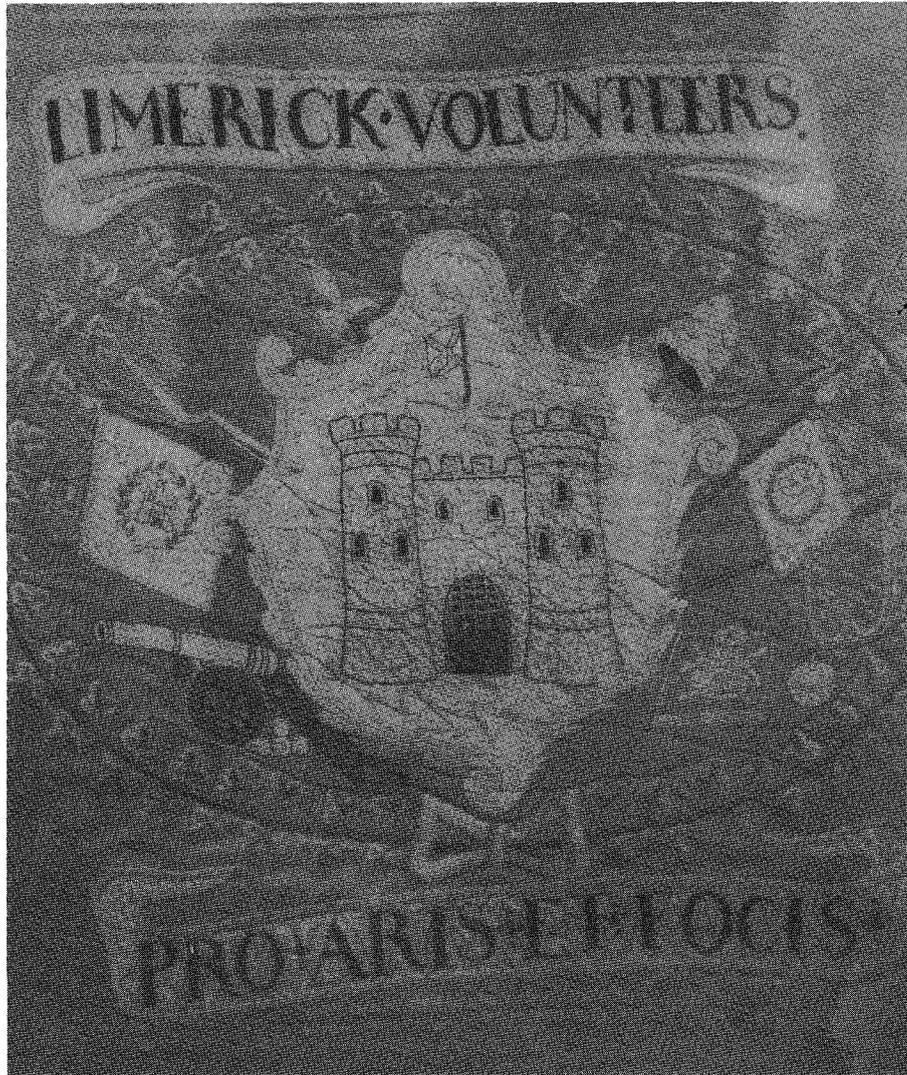
assembly, much like the Irish Parliament, elected by the colonists. As with Ireland, the English parliament claimed supreme power over the colonies and when, in 1763, parliament began to impose taxes on the American colonists, they objected, claiming that an English subject should not be taxed without consultation and representation, and eventually in 1775 declared their independence. When war broke out, the Irish Parliament gave its support to the British government, and despite bitter opposition from the Patriots, pledged 4,000 troops, and later still more, to fight in America. The Irish Parliament failed to make any provision to replace the departing troops, the Militia Act of 1755 having been allowed to expire in 1767. In the spring of 1778, a number of MPs, fearing a possible French expeditionary force assisted by Whiteboys, urged the formation of a Protestant Militia. The heads of a Militia Bill, modelled on English legislation, were passed, but when they were being considered by the Irish Privy Council, it was pointed out that it would be difficult to find recruits in the south, west and north, and that the rank and file would be unreliable if ordered to defend rents and tithes. Nevertheless, the heads were transmitted and before the end of the session, a Militia Bill was enacted, but due to lack of finance, was not implemented<sup>3</sup>. Thus with the departure of a large part of the army, the peace and stability of the country was endangered, and it was left mainly to the Protestant upper and middle classes to

take responsibility for the formation of a Volunteer force for the defence of the country<sup>4</sup>. There was sympathy among the upper classes for the American cause, they themselves having to pay heavy taxes to Britain and suffering slackness in trade due to a recent embargo on exports. In addition, many of the Irish Protestants had fellow countrymen, and even relatives, fighting on both sides in the conflict in America. For example, the American general, Richard Montgomery, killed before Quebec in the advance on Canada early in the war, was an Irishman closely related to two Ulster MPs. More fortunate was James McHenry, a Ballymena man educated in Dublin, who, after being Washington's secretary, became Secretary of War. He was one of four Irishmen who sat in the constitutional convention, and it may be added that two of the signatories of the declaration of independence were born in Ireland. Irishmen were also to be found in the loyalist ranks. Almost a quarter of the loyalist claimants for compensation who stated their country of origin were Irish, and amongst the American corps in the service of the crown, two were specifically Irish units<sup>5</sup>, the Loyal Irish Volunteers, a company formed at the close of 1775 by the Irish merchants of Boston, and the Volunteers of Ireland, a provincial corps raised in 1776 by Lord Rowdan.

### Limerick

With the depletion of the garrison, the principal citizens feared that local crime and disorder would increase, as, along with its other duties, the garrison had at times to suppress riots, escort prisoners and help to collect tithes and revenues. Thomas Smyth, who was twice Mayor of Limerick, formed an association composed of the principal citizens, which he called the Limerick Union. Smyth came from one of the leading political families in the city, whose members were 'found amongst the most active supporters of every measure which had for its object the advancement of trade, and the improvement of the town'<sup>6</sup>. His father, Charles, was mayor in 1714 and represented the city in Parliament for 45 years. Thomas was first elected mayor in 1764 'and he soon became a peculiar favourite with the people. He was urbane, generous, and public spirited, and was fond of encouraging those spectacles and productions which had a tendency to produce harmony among the citizens and serve the interests of trade'<sup>7</sup>.

On the retirement of his father in 1776, he was chosen as one of the two MPs for the city, and 'was elected Mayor (a second time) the same year, and also nominated chamberlain; and from that period the chief direction of the Corporation has continued in his family. He soon evinced considerable ability for the task, by the economy with which he managed the public money. The debts of the Corporation were punctually discharged, and their bonds which had fallen sixty per cent.



Flag of Limerick Volunteers, 1778.

Limerick Museum.

soon rose to par. He reduced the Mayor's salary from eight or nine hundred pounds a year to three hundred and sixty-five, and from the savings occasioned by this and other retrenchments, he commenced the re-building of the Exchange during his mayoralty. Mr. Smyth closed his year of office with a Jubilee in honour of the Prince of Wales's birth-day, which lasted a week, brought a great concourse of strangers to the city, and gave a considerable stimulus to trade which was then at the lowest ebb. The festivities consisted of fancy balls, operas, a Venetian breakfast, a regatta, boat races, &c. and concluded with riding the franchises in a style of peculiar splendour. All ladies and gentlemen were required upon these occasions to appear in Irish manufacture<sup>8</sup>.

The Limerick Union under Thomas Smyth 'consisted of a troop of horse and a company of foot, dressed in blue faced with buff and wearing a medal inscribed "*Amicta Juncta*". They were found extremely servicable to the magistrates on various occasions, and when the army marched out of Limerick in February 1776, the Union performed the duty of the main-guard<sup>9</sup>.

But it was not until the threat of invasion by the French, who had allied with the Americans in 1778, became a real

possibility that the Volunteer movement began to take on a national momentum. In March 1778 the first Belfast company was formed, and by June there was a Lisburn company and three corps in Derry. Units began to spring up in towns and villages all over the country. Some were formed by neighbours binding themselves together or by landlords enlisting their tenantry. The Volunteers were officered by the ascendancy, and most of the rank and file were Protestant. The Volunteers elected their generals at provincial reviews, and the Earl of Charlemont was elected commander-in-chief<sup>10</sup>.

The first corps of Volunteers in Limerick City was formed on 1 July 1778 by Thomas Smyth, when the Limerick Union and the Friendly Knot, of which his brother, John Prendergast Smyth, was president, united under the name of the Loyal Limerick Volunteers and elected their officers and chose for their uniform, scarlet faced with white. On 1 August the corps, consisting of several companies, appeared in their new uniforms and marched fully armed and accoutred to Charlotte Quay, where they fired three volleys in honour of the accession of the House of Hanover to the British throne<sup>11</sup>. Another corps, called the Limerick Independents, was formed some time

afterwards by John Prendergast Smyth. Similar associations sprang up in every part of the county and in a short time the county and city had raised 18 corps of horse and foot<sup>12</sup>.

### Uniforms

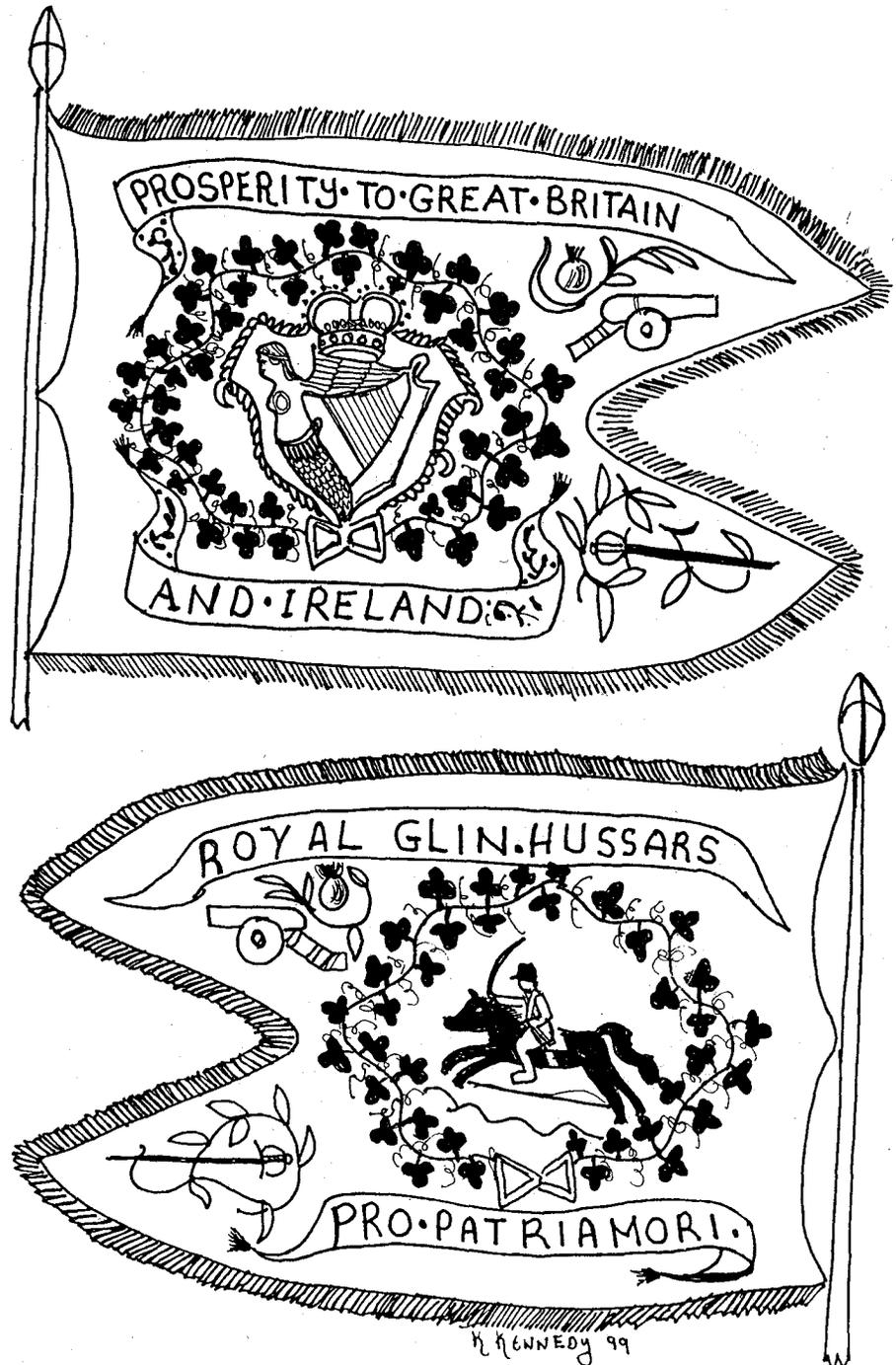
To support native industry, Volunteer members were obliged to parade in uniform of Irish manufacture. The majority of the Limerick units, horse and foot alike, wore red coats. The Limerick Independents wore scarlet lined with green, with silver lace and other silver appendages<sup>13</sup>. Some, if not all, of the artillery units wore blue, most likely because this was the colour worn by the Royal Irish Artillery, which was a regular corps<sup>14</sup>. Infantry and artillery wore the bicorn or tricorn hat, but the cavalry, such as the County Limerick Horse, wore a metal helmet 'crested with a feather or horse hair plume.' The badge of each corps was the metal belt plate, often oval in shape, on which was engraved the name of the corps. An important item of rank for officers was the gorget, worn at the base of the collar. These were usually of gold or silver and were engraved in the same manner as the belt plate<sup>15</sup>.

Another important piece of insignia was the flag - colours for infantry, standards and guidons for the cavalry. These beautiful and decorative items would have been made with great care by the officers' ladies<sup>16</sup>. We are fortunate that some have survived the ravages of time and hang in various churches where they were laid up over two hundred years ago. Others are on display in museums and country houses. The flag of Limerick Volunteers had, on the obverse, the castle of Limerick city arms on a shield, surrounded by shafted weapons, drums and flags, a grenade, the cup of liberty and a cannon, all in a wreath of shamrock, a scroll above inscribed 'Limerick Volunteers' and a scroll below inscribed 'Pro Aris et Focis' (For Faith and Home). The reverse has at the centre the Irish harp crowned, surrounded by shafted weapons, flags, drums and a cannon, all in a wreath of shamrock, with scrolls as on the obverse<sup>17</sup>.

Another flag which survives is the guidon of the Royal Glin Hussars, which can be seen at Glin Castle, Co. Limerick. Of green cloth, it has on the obverse a mounted Volunteer in the uniform, not of a Hussar, but of a typical Light Dragoon, wearing a helmet with a crest, scarlet coat and black boots, all in a spray of shamrocks, with scrolls above and below inscribed 'Royal Glin Hussars' and 'Pro Patria Mori' (To Die for the Homeland). The reverse has the Irish harp crowned on a shield in a spray of shamrocks, with scrolls above and below inscribed 'Prosperity to Great Britain and Ireland'<sup>18</sup>.

### Reviews and Parades

In 1779, there were two grand reviews at Lough Gur. On 17 August 1780, a meeting was held at the Tholsel, chaired by John



Guidon of Royal Glin Hussars, 1778.

Thomas Waller, at which a review of all the corps which had been formed up to then was planned. This was held at Loughmore, near Mungret, on 10 October 1780, when, surrounded by thousands of admirers, the following corps were reviewed by Lord Kingsborough, Reviewing General:

#### CORPS AND COMMANDERS CAVALRY

1. County Limerick Horse, John Croker, Esq.
2. Kilfinnan Horse, William Ryves, Esq.
3. Coonagh Rangers, Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Deane, Bart.
4. Small County Union, John Grady of Caher, Esq.
5. County Limerick Royal Horse, Hon. Hugh Massy.
6. Connello Horse, Thomas Odell, Esq.

7. County Clare Light Horse, Edward Fitzgerald, Esq.
8. Newport Horse, Rt. Hon. Lord Jocelyn.
9. True Blue Horse, William Thomas Monsell, Esq.

#### INFANTRY

1. Loyal Limerick Volunteers, Thomas Smyth, Esq.
2. Kilfinnan Volunteers, William Ryves, Esq.
3. County Limerick Fencibles, John Thomas Waller, Esq.
4. Castleconnell Volunteers, Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Deane, Bart.
5. Ennis Volunteers, Rt. Hon. Earl of Inchiquin.
6. Loyal German Fusiliers<sup>19</sup>, Henry Brown, Esq.
7. Adare Volunteers, Windham Quin, Esq.

8. Rathkeale Volunteers, George Leake, Esq.
9. Royal Glin Volunteers, the Knight of Glin.
10. Newport Volunteers, Colonel Waller<sup>20</sup>.

On 14 and 15 August 1781, Lord Muskerry reviewed the following corps at Loughmore:

#### CORPS AND COMMANDING COLONELS

1. Royal Glin Artillery, John Fitzgerald.
2. County Limerick Horse, John Croker
3. Coonagh Rangers, Lord Muskerry.
4. Small County Union, John Grady.
5. Connello Light Horse, Hon. Hugh Massy.
6. Connello Light Horse, Thomas Odell.
7. Riddlestown Hussars, Lord Muskerry.
8. Co. Tipperary Horse, Sir Cornwallis Maude.
9. Clanwilliam Union, Lord Clanwilliam.
10. Castleconnell Rangers, Lord Muskerry.
11. German Fusiliers, Henry Browne.
12. County Limerick Fencibles, John Thomas Waller.

On the occasion, Lord Muskerry was elected Colonel of four different corps by the Volunteers. He was accompanied by Lady Muskerry, who presented the Volunteers with several elegant stands of colours<sup>21</sup>, and he presented the sheriff with a considerable sum of money to release all poor persons confined for debt in the gaol of Limerick<sup>22</sup>.

On 20 and 21 August 1782, 26 corps were reviewed on the same ground by the Earl of Charlemont:

#### CORPS AND COMMANDERS

1. Glin Artillery, John Fitzgerald, Esq., Knight of Glin.

#### CAVALRY

1. County Limerick Horse, John Croker, Esq.
2. County Limerick Royal Horse, Hon. Hugh Massy.
3. Clanwilliam Union, Lord Clanwilliam
4. Kilfinnan Light Dragoons, William Ryves, Esq.
5. Small County Horse, John Grady of Cahir, Esq.
6. Coonagh Rangers, Lord Muskerry
7. True Blue Horse, William Thomas Monsell, Esq.
8. Connello Horse, Thomas Odell, Esq.
9. Riddlestown Hussars, Gerald Blennerhassett, Esq.
10. Tipperary Light Dragoons, Sir Cornwallis Maude.
11. County Clare Horse, Edward Fitzgerald, Esq.

#### INFANTRY

1. Limerick Loyal Volunteers, Thomas Smyth, Esq.
2. Limerick Independents, John P. Smyth, Esq.
3. Kilfinnan Volunteers, Rt. Hon. Silver Oliver.
4. County Limerick Feicibles, John Thomas Waller Esq.

5. Castleconnell and Killaloe Rangers, Lord Muskerry.
6. Adare Volunteers, Sir Richard Quin, Bart.
7. Rathkeale Volunteers, George Leake, Esq.
8. German Fusiliers, James Darcy, Esq.
9. True Blue Foot, William Thomas Maunsell, Esq.
10. Ormond Union, Henry Prittie, Esq.
11. Tipperary Light Infantry, Sir Coenwallis Maude.
12. Ennis Volunteers, Earl of Inchiquin.
13. Inchiquin Fusiliers, Earl of Inchiquin.
14. Cashel Volunteers, Richard Pennefeather, Esq<sup>23</sup>.

On 28 July 1783, fourteen corps assembled at Loughmore for the last time, and were reviewed by Col. Thomas Smyth MP, who came in from Roxboro in military state, escorted by Col. Pery's Regiment of Horse. His aides-de-camp on this occasion were Standish O'Grady, afterwards Chief Baron and Viscount Guillamore, and Henry Vereker, elder brother of the second Viscount Gort.

#### CORPS AND COMMANDERS CAVALRY

1. Clanwilliam Union, Lord Clanwilliam.
2. County Limerick Horse, John Croker, Esq.
3. Small County Union, John Grady of Cahir, Esq.
4. County Clare Horse, Edward Fitzgerald.
5. Riddlestown Hussars, Lord Muskerry.
6. Limerick Cavalry, Edmond Henry Pery, Esq.

#### INFANTRY

1. Loyal Limerick Volunteers, Thomas Smyth, Esq.
2. Ennis Volunteers, William Blood, Esq.
3. Castleconnell and Killaloe Rangers, Sir Richard de Burgho, Bart.
4. Rathkeale Volunteers.
5. German Fusiliers, James Darcy, Esq.
6. Inchiquin Fusiliers, Sir Hugh Dillon Massy, Bart.
7. Limerick Independents, John Prendergast Smyth, Esq.
8. Sixmilebridge Independents, Francis Macnamara, Esq<sup>24</sup>.

Even on more sombre occasions the Volunteers could make an impressive show. "All the Volunteers of Limerick," wrote Lady Roche, "made a most martial appearance when they attended the funeral of a brother Volunteer. The procession was closed by a corps commanded by the Speaker's son [Edmund Henry Pery] and it was with difficulty I could recognise amongst them some honest traders of my acquaintance and some good hack horses which I knew through the splendour of their dress and the richness of their furniture<sup>25</sup>."

#### Other Duties

The Volunteers also acted as a quasi-police force, operating for the magistrates as the Limerick Union had previously, and worked with the Volunteer corps of other

counties in the transfer of prisoners. On 26 June 1780, James Conway, who was accused of riot and assault, was transferred from Tralee to Limerick. He was brought from Tralee to Listowel by the Tralee Volunteers, from Listowel to Glin by the Gunsborough Union, from Glin to Rathkeale by the Royal Glin Volunteers, thence to Adare by Rathkeale Volunteers, who handed him over to the True Blue Pubblebrien Horse under William Monsell<sup>26</sup>.

Andrew Waters, charged with robbery at Galway, having been supplied with files by a soldier (who was later punished for this), it was decided to transfer him to Limerick on 20 July 1780. The Galway Volunteers brought him to Crusheen, where the Limerick Volunteers took over. This was accomplished without calling on the Gort, Ennis or Sixmilebridge associations and involved a journey of 100 miles, performed in 24 hours<sup>27</sup>.

In October 1780, two notorious offenders who had committed many depredations on the public were conveyed to Cork by Sheriff Parker and a party of the Limerick Light Horse to be put on board a man-of-war pursuant to their sentence at the assizes. In April 1782, five charged with plundering a Portuguese ship in the Shannon, together with some charged with petty larceny, were transferred to Ennis from Limerick in relay by the Loyal Limerick Volunteers, The County Clare Horse and the Ennis Volunteers<sup>28</sup>.

There is evidence that the Volunteers acted as recruiting agents for the navy. Lenihan relates that, in 1782, the Limerick Independents, under Major Caleb Powell of Clonshavoy, and the Loyal Limerick Volunteers, beat up for recruits for the navy, 20,000 men being sought, and were successful to a considerable extent<sup>29</sup>.

#### Roman Catholics

The admission of Catholics was always a controversial issue with the Volunteers, given the legislation at the time, but from the beginning, Catholics were admitted to units in Cork, Kerry and Armagh. A Volunteer convention at Dungannon on 15 February 1782 passed a resolution, amongst others, that 'as Irishmen, Christians and Protestants, we rejoice at the relaxation of the penal laws against our Roman Catholic subjects.' A meeting of the Loyal Limerick Volunteers on 1 March 1782, Capt. George Pitt in the chair, resolved in favour of the Dungannon resolutions, and on 6 March the Independents, under Major Powell, met and, with one dissenting voice, resolved similarly and expressed themselves as 'determined to adopt and support every constitutional measure that can promote and secure the rights and liberties of a free people'. On 22 March, all the corps were represented at a meeting chaired by Major Edward Croker at which similar resolutions were entered into<sup>30</sup>.

In April 1782 on the resolution of Major Caleb Powell, the Catholics of Limerick



Irish Volunteer in Light Infantry Uniform, from a decoration on a contemporary lottery ticket.

were invited to join the Limerick Independents.

The following resolution was passed by the Independents:

*"At a time when religious prejudices seem entirely laid aside, and a spirit of liberty and toleration breathes unanimously through all sects, we see with concern so loyal and respectable a part of our brethren; as the Roman Catholics, stand idle spectators of the glorious exertions of their countrymen in the Volunteer cause. Actuated by these principles, the Limerick Independents think themselves called upon to step forward, and invite their fellow-citizens of the Roman Catholic persuasion to unite in the common cause, and enrol themselves under their standard. By order, John Harrison, Secretary."*

*"Such gentlemen as wish to join the corps, are requested to send their names to any of the officers or committee, that they may be balloted for."*

The Roman Catholics replied:

*"The Roman Catholics of the city of Limerick, impressed with a just sense of the honour conferred upon them by the Limerick Independents, are happy in this public testimony of their*

*acknowledgement to the corps, for the very liberal invitation of associating themselves with so respectable a body of their fellow-subjects.- Whilst they feel a most grateful sense of the late removal of many of their restraints, and look forward with pleasure to the approaching period of emancipation, it is their most earnest wish to maintain those principles of virtue and loyalty, which are the glory of a free people, and have so eminently distinguished the character of the Irish Volunteers.*

*Limerick, April 10th, 1782. Martin Harold, Esq. in the Chair".*

On 30 June 1782 they marched to Clonmel under the command of John Prendergast Smyth and, with other corps, were reviewed by Col. Henry Prittie, Reviewing General<sup>31</sup>.

### Conclusion

The Volunteers were not an army in the conventional sense, and it is probably better to think of them as a national police force. They did preserve law and order in the community, they drilled and paraded in substantial numbers, and in the case of an emergency, they would undoubtedly have made a contribution to fending off or helping to contain the effects of an

invasion<sup>32</sup>. How effective they would have been as a fighting force we can never tell, but an article in the *Freeman's Journal* gives an insight to the feelings of the time towards the Volunteers as an army:

*"It cannot be forgotten that the former Volunteer Army, however competent to action in detached corps, was not well organised to act together as could have been wished. The regiments of different districts and counties wore different coloured uniforms and different arms. Scarcely any two regiments wore the same coloured uniforms or carried bayonets of the same height or musquets of the same calibre or used the same plan of discipline. Consequently, had the necessity occurred for actual service in the field, endless confusion must have been inevitable"*<sup>33</sup>.

The Volunteer movement reached its national peak strength of 60,000 in 1780. As well as being a military force, they became a political power which helped to achieve legislative independence for Ireland in 1782. After a national convention in the Dublin Rotunda in November 1783, the Volunteers were broken as a political force<sup>34</sup>. With legislative independence achieved, they were divided between reformers and conservatives, who thought that they had played out their part. With the end of the war in America and the consequent removal of pressure on the regular forces, and divided politically, Volunteer enthusiasm for drilling and parades was on the decline. Ten years later they were finally abolished by government decree, bringing to an end a colourful period in local and national history. Thomas Smyth, the leading member of the Volunteers in Limerick city, died in 1785. Fitzgerald and McGregor wrote of him "that a change took place this year by the death of Col. Smyth. This event was justly considered a public loss from the successful exertions he had already made for the benefit of Limerick and the further improvements which he had in contemplation". John Prendergast Smyth succeeded his brother as representative for the city in Parliament, and was created Baron Kiltarton in 1810, and Viscount Gort in 1816, and died the following year.<sup>35</sup>

### Description of the Corps and Uniforms, Limerick Volunteers<sup>36</sup>

'All Cavalry wear helmets, Infantry hats, except flank companies. The uniform waistcoat and breeches of every corps, except those mentioned buff, are white.

#### CAVALRY

1. Kilfinnan Light Dragoons. 1777. Col, Rt Hon Silver Oliver; Lieut-Col, William Ryves; Majors, Standish Grady, William Chapman; Capt, Charles Coote; Cornet, George Chapman. One troop. Uniform: Scarlet jackets, faced pomona green. Laced silver and epaulettes. Furniture: goatskin.

2. County Limerick Horse. 8 June 1779. Col, John Croker; Major, Edward Croker; Captains, Edward Nash, James Langton; Cornet, James Mahon; Chaplain, Richard Croker; Secretary, John Owens. Two troops. Uniform: Scarlet, faced black, yellow buttons, buff waistcoat and breeches, yellow helmets. Furniture: goatskin, edged black.
3. Coonagh Rangers. June 1779. Col, Robert, Lord Muskerry; Lieut-Col, William Percival; Major, Thomas Lloyd; Capt, Hugh Lloyd; Chaplain, Thomas Lloyd; Surgeon, J. Galluly; Secretary, John Lloyd. Uniform: Scarlet, faced black, yellow buttons. Furniture: goatskin.
4. County Limerick Royal Horse. 28 June 1779. Col, Hon. Hugh Massy; Major, James Fitzgerald Massy; Captains, Richard Taylor, Maurice Studdert; Adjutant, John McCormack; Chaplain, William Massy; Surgeon, John Brown; Secretary, John McCormack. Two troops. Uniform: Scarlet, faced blue. Furniture: goatskin.
5. Small County Union Light Dragoons. Col, John Grady. Uniform: Scarlet, faced green.
6. True Blue Horse. Col, William Thomas Monsell.
7. Connello Light Horse. Col, Thomas Odell; Major, William Odell; Captain, John Westropp; Cornet, Henry Westropp; Chaplain, William Odell. One troop. Uniform: Scarlet, faced goslin green, dark green jackets.
8. Riddlestown Hussars. Col, Gerard Blennerhassett; Major, John Bateman. One troop. Uniform: Scarlet, faced blue, silver epaulettes, white buttons, white jacket faced blue. Furniture: goatskin.
9. Limerick Cavalry. 1782. Col, Edmund Henry Pery.

#### LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY INFANTRY AND ARTILLERY

9. Royal Glin Artillery. June 1779. Col, John Fitzgerald, Knight of Glin; Lieut-Col, Thomas Burgess; Major, Henry Griffin; Capt, Anthony Raymond; 1st Lieut, Gerald Fitzgerald; 2nd Lieut, Daniel O'Brien; Adjutant, William Quin; Chaplain, Edward Day; Surgeon, James Dubertrand; Secretary, William Fitzgerald; 1 Sgt-Major, 1 Sergeant, 4 Bombardiers, 2 Corporals, 60 rank and file, besides a Band of 10; four metal 6-pounders, two small brass grasshoppers (1-pounders). Uniform: Blue, faced gold, gold epaulettes, scarlet cuffs and collar, yellow buttons, gold-laced hats.
10. Kilfinnan Foot. 1776. Col. Rt. Hon. Silver Oliver; Lieut-Col, William Ryves; Major, Standish Grady; Captains, William Chapman, Robert Holmes; Lieuts, Mathew Franks, Henry Touchstone; Ensigns, William Touchstone, John Clarke; Secretary, Westead Franks. Two companies. Uniform: Scarlet, faced pomona green.
11. County Limerick Fencible Volunteers.

1778. Col, John Thomas Waller; Captains, George Fosberry, T. Fosberry; Lieuts, George Evans, George Clancy. Two companies. Uniform: Scarlet, faced light blue.

12. Loyal Limerick Volunteers. 10 February 1778. Col, Thomas Smyth; Lieut-Col, Richard Harte; Major, Thomas Burgess; Capts, Thomas Vokes, Sexton Baylee, Thomas Bennis, George Pitt, Henry Erdwin Titchen; Lieuts, Arnold Eggars, Tobias Dillon, William End, Jacob Ringrose, Andrew Watson; Ensigns, Henry Bennis, Thomas Burgess; Adjutant, Tobias Dillon; Chaplain, Ephraim Monul; Surgeon, James Hill Phillips; Mate, Thomas Gloster, Secretary, Arnold Eggars. Five companies, one grenadier, three battalion, one light. Uniform: Scarlet, faced white, white buttons.

13. Castleconnell Rangers. 8 July 1778. Col, Robert, Lord Muskerry; Col. Com, Richard Bourke; Major, Thomas lloyd; Captains, George Gough, Simon Purdon, James Crawley, George Hastings; Ensigns, Francis Frewen, Cornelius Crawley; Adjutant, James Crawley; Chaplain, Hon James Murray; Surgeon, Francis Lloyd MD; Secretary, David Dwyer jun. Four companies, battalion and light infantry. Uniform: scarlet, faced black, edged white, silver wings.

14. Adare Volunteers. Col, Sir Valentine Richard Quin; Capt, John Quin; Lieut, - Quin. Uniform: Scarlet, faced green.

15. Rathkeale Volunteers. 1 July 1779. Col, George Leake; Major, Mat. Lane Scanlan; Captains, Robert Holmes, Francis Yielding; Lieuts, Samuel Leake, Edward Dartnell; Ensign, John George Leake; Adjutant, John Leader; Chaplain, Chanc. Maunsell; Surgeon, John Brown; Secretary, Michael Young. Two companies, one grenadier, one light. Uniform: Scarlet, faced black, silver wings; officers full laced.

16. German Fusiliers. Col, James Darcy; Capt, - Lloyd.

17. True Blue Foot. Col, William Thomas Monsell.

18. Limerick Independents. October 1781. Lt-Col Com, John Prendergast Smyth; Major, Caleb Powell; Captains, John Gabbett, Amos Vereker, Walter Widdenham; Lieuts, Joseph Sergeant, William Fosberry, Charles Bolton, - Roche; Adjutant, James Russell. Three companies, one grenadier, one battalion and one light. Two brass field pieces, 4 pounders. Uniform: Scarlet, faced pomona green, laced, silver epaulettes.

Every troop of Cavalry consists of at least 1 farrier, 1 trumpet, 1 sergeant and 40 rank and file, total 43 plus officers.

Where there are two troops in a corps, there are not more than 30 rank and file in each troop.

Infantry corps of more than one company consist, each company, of 2 sergeants, 2 corporals, 2 drums and fifes, 50 rank and file, total 56 plus officers.

Corps that consist of one company only are much stronger, being in general 60 to 100 rank and file. In the different corps, gentlemen of the first distinction are privates.'

#### NOTES AND SOURCES

1. Peter Smyth: 'Our Cloud-Cap't Grenadiers': The Volunteers as a Military Force, *Irish Sword*, Vol. 13, 1978-79.
2. Thanks to Lar Joye, National Museum, for his help with the introduction.
3. R.B. McDowell: *Ireland in the Age of Imperialism and Revolution 1760-1801*. Clarendon Press
4. *ibid.*, p. 255
5. *ibid.*, p. 239, 240
6. Rev P. Fitzgerald & J.J. McGregor: *History of Limerick*, 1827, Vol. 2, p. 471
7. *ibid.* p. 474
8. *ibid.* p. 475
9. *ibid.*
10. McDowell, *op. cit.* p. 256
11. Fitzgerald & McGregor, *op. cit.* p. 477
12. *ibid.* p. 478
13. Maurice Lenihan, *History of Limerick*, 1866, p. 385
14. F. Glenn Thompson: *Flags and Uniforms of the Irish Volunteers and Yeomanry*, Irish Georgian Society, 1990, p. 3
15. *ibid.* p. 3
16. G.A. Hayes McCoy: *History of Irish Flags from Earliest Times*, p.84
17. *ibid.* p. 94, photograph of flag and examination of actual flag
18. Thompson, *op. cit.* p. 15, and photograph of flag
19. Composed of the Palatine people, who been introduced from Germany some years before by Lord Southwell, who established a colony of them at Castlematress (Castlematrix), Co. Limerick (Lenihan, *op. cit.*, p. 383)
20. Lenihan, *op. cit.*, p. 384
21. *ibid.* p. 383
22. *ibid.* pp. 385, 386
23. Fitzgerald & McGregor, *op. cit.*, p. 479
24. Lenihan, *op. cit.*, p. 385-386
25. McDowell, *op. cit.* p. 260
26. Padraig O Snodaigh: Some Police and Military Aspects of the Irish Volunteers, *Irish Sword*, Vol. 13, 1978-79, p. 220
27. *ibid.*, p. 220
28. *ibid.*, p. 224
29. Lenihan, *op. cit.* p. 384
30. Oliver Snoddy: Notes on the Volunteers, Militia, Yeomanry, Orangemen and Fencibles of Co. Limerick, *Irish Sword*, Vol. 10, Winter 1971, p. 130
31. Lenihan, *op. cit.*, p. 385
32. McDowell, *op. cit.* p. 257
33. Thompson, *op. cit.*, p. 5
34. K. P. Ferguson: The Volunteer Movement and the Government 1778-1793, *Irish Sword*, Vol. 13, 1978-79
35. Fitzgerald & McGregor, *op. cit.*, p. 480-81
36. *The Munster Volunteer Registry*, Dublin, 1782, and R.G. Harris: *The Irish Regiments, A Pictorial History 1683-1987*, Nutshell Publishing Co., Tunbridge Wells, 1989, pp. 14-16.