

Britain's Soldiers

1750-1815



A two-day conference at the University of Leeds, 7 and 8 July 2011.

Britain had a complex relationship with its soldiers in the Eighteenth Century. Championed as heroes yet also decried as a danger to liberty, attitudes towards the military were further complicated by new forms of military service that were developed alongside the Regular Army, such as the Militia, Fencibles, Volunteers and Armed Associations. The expanding range of military organisations and recurrent wars in Europe and across the globe resulted in a larger proportion of Britain's men experiencing some aspects of life as a 'soldier' and also meant that the military had a more prominent part of British society and culture. All of which indicates that a re-evaluation of Britain as 'anti-military' in this period is long overdue.

The conference seeks to bring together scholars researching all aspects of men from the United Kingdom who served in the military and British attitudes towards them, from the identities and experience of the men themselves to the relationship between soldiers, culture and society. We hope to re-integrate the history of soldiers and soldiering into this crucial period of Britain's history.

Possible themes include:

- Social and cultural history of soldiers and units
- Military culture and the military in culture
- National and regional perspectives: England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales; coastal and inland; rural and urban; at 'home' and overseas
- Military masculinities; relationships, sexuality and family
- Comparisons between the different forms of service: regular army, militia, part-time soldiers; war time and peace time; 'professionals' and 'amateurs'
- The personal experience of soldiers: motivation, identity, respectability and criminality
- Contemporary attitudes towards military service and soldiers
- Representations of soldiers
- The legal, social, and cultural framework of a soldier's 'lifecycle': enlistment, training, service and duty, discharge, pensioners and former soldiers

We appreciate that in many cases presentations may be case studies that address multiple themes.

Confirmed speakers include Professor Stephen Conway, Dr Stephen Brumwell, Professor Philip Shaw, Dr Gavin Daly, and Professor Bruce Collins.

Please submit a 200 word abstract (maximum) for a 20 minutes paper to:

<http://redcoats.ning.com/page/conference-abstract-submission>, or e-mail your abstract and a short CV to k.b.linch@leeds.ac.uk. The deadline for submissions is **7 March 2011**.

The conference is supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and funds will be available to support the travel, accommodation, and conference registration costs of presenters.

Dr Kevin Linch, University of Leeds, Dr Matthew McCormack, University of Northampton



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Image: 'The light horse volunteers of London & Westminster, commanded by Col Herries, reviewed by His Majesty on Wimbledon Common 5th July, 1798' by Thomas Rowlandson © Trustees of the British Museum