

manufacturers was used to offset the rates. Was there a change of policy, so that upon discharge prisoners would not be destitute, which might lead to further crime?

Soldiers' punishments took place at the Barracks for military offences, and these could involve especially demanding drills or parades and in serious cases, flogging. There were two guard houses, almost certainly with cells, so it is surprising that, from August 1812 for the next two years, soldiers were sent by their commanding officers to the House of Correction for incarceration, charged with breaches of the Articles of War. Solitary confinement was required for between seven days and two months for 27 different soldiers. Flogging was routine for keeping discipline on active service, but the punishment was ameliorated by an order from the Duke of York in March 1812. Perhaps, on home service, the use of flogging was abolished, or much reduced from this date and solitary confinement substituted, leaving too little room on Barracks premises for all the offenders.



**Uniform of G Troop  
Royal Horse Artillery**

It can be seen from the House of Correction registers and especially from the Banns of Marriage and Burials in the registers of St. Mary's Church that more than 60 different regiments were at the Barracks between 1803 and 1814. They comprised the Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Foot Artillery, 8 regiments of Dragoons, 26 Foot regiments, 3 German Legion regiments, and 22 Militias. These colourful additions to the local scene attracted girls and women of marriageable age. As many as 300 Woodbridge women were married to men from the Barracks. In some years this represented between 50% and 65% of all the marriages at St. Mary's. Eighteen were marriages with men from the German Legion. Some 30 women from elsewhere were also married to soldiers, especially from Bredfield and Martlesham, but others were from the home counties of militiamen. The local swains must have been delighted to see the back of the military.

Soldiers from the Barracks were at the forefront of the celebrations in October 1809 for the Jubilee of George III, who had reigned for 50 years. The Ipswich Journal reported that, before noon, the Royal Horse Artillery, the 2nd Light Dragoons of the King's German Legion, the 92nd Highlanders and the Berwickshire Militia, attended by the Woodbridge Volunteers, paraded with their bands in the Market Place. They attended divine service in St. Mary's, and heard a discourse by the Reverend Thomas Carthew. Afterwards, at the Garrison, they fired a 'feu de joye' (sic). Sixty or more officers enjoyed dinner at the Crown Inn, and boys from the grammar school let off fireworks.

The newspapers didn't report any troops being present at the Peace celebrations in June and July 1814, although they referred to bands playing. The last marriages of soldiers took place in September and October, all artillerymen, so the Barracks were being emptied at the time of the celebrations. The town was decorated with flowers and foliage, along with emblematic devices and transparencies, including, at the House of Correction one proclaiming 'Ready furnished Lodgings for Buonaparte and his Friends'. At the Proclamation of General Thanksgiving, there were rural sports, a bonfire and fireworks in the evening, preceded by a dinner for the 1500 poorer inhabitants of the town. They sat at tables arranged on the Market Hill. Those held in the House of Correction were given plum pudding, roast beef and ale by the Magistrates of the Division, for which they were 'humbly thankful'. Peace was celebrated more spectacularly in Saxmundham where they blew up an effigy of Bonaparte!