

King George's birthday was honoured every year in June, and normally it took place on Rushmere Heath attended by soldiers from both garrisons. The troops manoeuvred in front of crowds of spectators, but in 1805 every movement threw up huge amounts of dust, which, thanks to a brisk wind, obscured the soldiers. In 1809 the newspaper set out the deployment of the parade, with the Cavalry Brigade, the right, centre and left brigades of infantry, the former regular soldiers and the other two being militia. The Foot Artillery with their pieces in front of the line and Pioneers in the rear. The arrival of the General, Baron Linsingen signalled the discharge of 21 pieces of cannon.

In 1810 the Woodbridge garrison attended by the Woodbridge Volunteers assembled at noon on the parade ground, where the usual salutes were fired. In the evening the German Legion held a grand dance in the barracks. Perhaps it was this event that led to eight marriages between Woodbridge females and Legionnaires within the next six months. Marriages of officers were recorded in the *Ipswich Journal*, and among them were the marriages of two of the daughters of James Lynn esquire. His second daughter married Surgeon Sharp of the Durham Militia in January 1808. Sadly she died a year later. Later in 1809 Augustus Frazer, Captain Commandant of the RHA, married James Lynn's youngest daughter at a ceremony at Great Bealings.

Troop Reviews

Reviews took place at irregular intervals, initially at Martlesham but later on Rushmere Heath, of troops stationed at Ipswich and Woodbridge. In October 1806 the Duke of York reviewed the troops and later, with his brother the Duke of Cambridge joined a shooting party at Lord Rendlesham's estate.

The following year, in September, the Duke of Cumberland, 'with his regiment at Woodbridge', paid a visit to the commander Lieutenant-General Lord Charles Fitzroy. Next he dined with the officers of his brigade of cavalry, consisting of the 7th, 10th and 15th Light Dragoons. These, along with two troops of RHA had recently been formed into the first Hussar brigade under the command of Major-General Lord Paget. In early October the Duke gave 'a grand entertainment' to officers from Ipswich and Woodbridge at Gooding's Coffee House in Ipswich. The band of 7th Light Dragoons, with the drums of the West Kent Militia and the fifes of the Derby Militia, played. The Hussar brigade paraded on the King's birthday in June 1808, but left England in October for Spain. The campaign was unsuccessful and the British Army was evacuated from Corunna the following January, its commander Sir John Moore dying in action there.

Baron Linsingen reviewed the Woodbridge garrison, consisting of the RHA, Light Dragoons of the German Legion and militias from five counties, in March 1809. It was a fine day and a large number of spectators watched. A few days later some 2,000 militiamen from Woodbridge and Ipswich volunteered to join one of six line regiments. Militias comprised volunteers or 'ballotted men'. Parishes were required to find a certain number of men, and if they fell short a ballot had to be held to make up the number. Even then men chosen in this way could avoid military service by paying a substitute.

In September 1811, the Prince Regent, with the Dukes of York and Cumberland arrived in Ipswich in two carriages on their way to Sudbourne Hall, the seat of the Marquis of Hertford. The next day the two garrisons were reviewed on Rushmere Heath, and the RHA and cavalry skirmished, but like on a previous occasion dust obscured the view for those watching. After taking part in shoots on the Sudbourne estate, the Prince came to Woodbridge. Bells were rung and the Volunteers, commanded by Major Purcell, lined the streets and presented arms, with bands playing. Colours were displayed from the tops of houses. The birthdays of both the King and the Prince, in effect ruling because of his father's intermittent porphyria, were celebrated in 1812 by the two garrisons.