

Ammunition sufficient for our number of Arms. This State has no County in it which has manifested a more uniform & earnest Zeal in the present just & necessary opposition than Dorset, but Invasion without the power of Resistance, however strong the Inclination will and really has sap'd the Whigism of our common People: few even of the Vulgar are so ignorant as not to know that allegiance & Protection are reciprocal they have frequently in the Course of the summer been at the mercy of a cruel Enemy without any other weapons to defend themselves but those which nature gave them. When the Enemy landed at Vienna (a town not 20 miles distant from this place) with two Barges & 30 men there were not a dozen effective Arms in the Town.

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Letter 66

The Lieutenant of this County will inform your Excellency of the number of Arms & quantity of Ammunition necessary for his militia we flatter ourselves your Excellency will use every means in your Power to supply our Militia with 500 effective Muskets 2 field Peices & Powder and Ball sufficient for that number of Arms. And also that the Commissary of Purchases may be supplied with a sufficient sum of money to purchase Provisions for the use of the militia in Case they shou'd be ordered into actual service: as Provisions of no kind can be bought here on the Credit of the State & the Commissary has not one Shilling of public money in his Hands

[Henry Hooper, Dorchester County, to His Excellency, the Governor in Council.] January 16

I had the Honour of receiving your Excellency's Commands of the 11th Instant by Express. The necessary Orders shall be given to the militia of this County to hold themselves in readiness to march at a Minutes warning to such place as they may be directed, and shall endeavour to have every necessary prepared for that purpose as soon as possible. I must beg leave to inform your Honourable Board that we are at this Time in a most defenceless State with respect to Fire Arms the whole Amount of which both public and private doth not exceed two hundred effective ones, which bears a very small proportion to the Militia of this County amounting nearly to seventeen Hundred Men. Permit me to entreat your Excellency to give your Orders for sending over to Cambridge as soon as conveniently can be done Five Hundred Stand of Arms with Cartridge Boxes, Two Hundred Weight of Gun Powder, five Hundred Weight of Ball and Buck Shot one Thousand Gun Flints, some Cartridge Paper, and two small Field peices with Ball, Grape Shot &c.

As I would willingly provide some Beef and Pork for the Militia in Case of their being ordered upon Duty and there being none in the Hands of the County Commissary and probably he may have no money to purchase it with I should be glad your Excellency would be pleased to give some Order about procuring a Supply.