

EDITOR'S PREFACE

xvii

this letter, to make a proper Submission to Captain Knox and thereby prevent a further enquiry into this matter."¹

The troubles of the Captain crept on apace: on November 17, 1777, a further communication was addressed to him by Lord Barrington, and an inquiry was made into his conduct: "It having been represented to this Office that six Invalids in the Garrison of Berwick are exempted from Duty for six pence per week, for the supply of the Garrison Hospital, and that one man is allowed off the parade to the Paymaster Serjeant, I am to desire you will be pleased to make particular enquiry into this matter, and report to me whether there is any foundation for this representation, as a practice of this kind is highly injurious to the Service."²

Further recriminations appear to have followed, and, on December 22, 1777, the affairs of the Captain reached a crisis. On that day Lord Barrington wrote: "As several points have lately been agitated among the officers of the Garrison where you are stationed, which nothing but an enquiry on the spot can properly settle, I am to acquaint you, it is the King's intention that those matters should be enquired into & determined by a Reviewing General in the Spring. And His Majesty trusts that in the meanwhile the Officers will take pains to conduct themselves in such manner as may prevent any further complaint against each other."³

The threatened investigation preyed upon the mind of the author, and, in the opinion of his wife, hastened his end,⁴ which occurred six weeks later. The only reference to his death which we have found is the brief notice among the deaths chronicled in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1778: "Captain Knox, Captain of an Independent Company at Berwick, Feb. 8."

¹ Public Record Office, W.O., 4, vol. 101.

² *Ibid.*

³ Public Record Office, W.O., 1, vol. 101.

⁴ *Memorial of Jane Knox*. Public Record Office, W.O., 1, vol. 997.