

April 1647

Sir William Clarke, [The Clarke Papers. Selections from the Papers of William Clarke, vol. 1](#) > [\[A Declaration from the Agitation of eight regiments of Horse.\]](#) > **paragraph 667**

Whereas some few Officers of this Army (dissenting from the Army) have not only declared their owne dissent, but pretended also to declare the dissent of a parte of the Souldiers under their command, and thereby have done as much as in them lieth to render the Army in a divided condition. Wee, whome our severall Regiments of Horse have made choice of to act in their behalves, doe in their names attest to your Honours from our owne certaine knowledge, that whatever dissent there may be by any particular Officers, that there is not any the least appearance of any difference or dissent among the Souldiers from the greivances presented by our Officers to your Honours; and this wee will undertake to make more fully appeare, when wee shall be called to an accompt by your Honours, or any other having authoritie to doe it, and in the meane time protest against that action of those dissenting Officers.

a Should be probably Sam. Whiting.

a Should be **Thomas Shepherd**, I believe.

Of the sixteen names appended to this, nine, or if the corrections suggested be accepted, eleven are also attached to the letter of April 28.

The subsequent history of some of the men signing this document is of interest.

John Brayman (or Breman) became a lieutenant in Colonel Rich's regiment and was cashiered in February 1655, on the charge of complicity in the plot for raising a rebellion amongst the army in Scotland, in which Major-General Overton was implicated (*Mercurius Politicus*, pp. 5052, 5165). In June 1659, he was restored to his place in the army with the rank of Captain, became major of Rich's regiment, and was arrested on April 13, 1660, for endeavouring to raise his soldiers in support Lambert's intended insurrection (Cal. State Papers, Dom. 1658-9, p. 289; *ibid.* 1660, pp. 202, 573). He was again arrested in May, 1662, and confined in the Tower and in Windsor Castle (Cal. State Papers, Dom. 1661-2, pp. 376, 456). He was imprisoned in 1682 on account of suspected complicity in the Rye House plot (*Luttrell's Diary*, i., 269, 286, 556).

William Prior's career was less distinguished. He was, however, arrested in January, 1655, for taking part in the plots of the levelling party against the Protector (*Mercurius Politicus*, p. 5050; Thurloe, iii., 35).

Edward Sexby }

of the Generall's Regiment.

Wm. Taylor }

Wm. Allen }

of the Lievtenant Generall's Regiment.

Sam. Whitea }

Thomas Sheffeilda }(Shepherd)

of Commissary Generall Ireton's.

Anthony Nickson }

William Prior }

of Colonel Fleetwood's Regiment.

John Caseby }	
Thomas Kendall }	of Collonel Whalley's Regiment.
Wm. Young }	
Tobias Box }	of Colonel Butler's Regiment.
John Willoughby }	
John Brayman }	of Colonel Riche's Regiment.
Nicholas Lockyer }	
Henry Gethings }	of Colonel Sheffeld's Regiment.
Thomas Diggell }	

▶▶ CITATION

Found in: Sir William Clarke, [The Clarke Papers. Selections from the Papers of William Clarke, vol. 1](#) > [APPENDIX B.: The examination of the three troopers who delivered the letter of the soldiers to Major General Skippon, April 30, 1647.](#) > **paragraph 1888**

[Tanner MSS. Bodleian Library, vol. Iviii., f. 84.]

The Gentlemen that delivered the letter were call'd in, vizt.

- Mr. Edw. Sexby.
- Mr. Wm. Allin.
- Mr. Tho. *Shepherd*.

They brought and delivered a letter to Major Generall Skippon, the like to the Lieutenant Generall, and the like to His Excellencie.

By what authoritie

The joynt and unanimous consent of the Eight Regiments of Horse, they having attested it by two of every Regiment. They mett at severall places.

They had noe Rendevous but what wee had by our Officers.

Brought by our Officers [sic] each Regiment to a Rendezvous.

The Proposicions for the service of Ireland read.

They did know the contents of the letter else they would not have subscribed it. It was read in each Regiment and each Troope and subscribed. The originall is with the Regiments. This but a faire copie. There was an originall with each Troupe.

Ordered,

That the Sergeant doe keepe these persons asunder upon their Examinacions and after they are

examined.

Mr. Allen,

How long hee had been in the Armie, a twelve moneth. Bore noe Office. Warwickshire man, served in Lieutenant Generall Cromwell's Troupe. Hee heard it read and subscribed it. Severall t[imes?] read, cannot recollect the names of those persons that read it.

Demanded his opinion touching a Clause in the letter concerninge some that had tasted of soveraigne ie and had degenerated into Tyrants.

Answered that

As it was the joynt Act of the Eight Regiments to contrive it, they will joyntly answer it.

That hee shall give in his answer with the rest as it was the joynt act of the rest with him.

Hee did not saye, that it was read in any of the Regiments or Troupes when they were brought to a Rendezvous, but that it was read in many places which hee cannot recollect.

Mr. Allen againe.

Neere a twelve moneth since hee came to this Army.

In the Lord General Essex's Army served under Collonel Holles in his Regiment till hee was a prisoner at Brentford and served afterwards in Gen. Major Skippon's Regiment.

A prisoner in the Kinges Armie seaven dayes, condemned among seaventene others to bee hanged, by judgment of a Councell of Warre, then every tenth man drawen out to bee hanged, at last an oath putt to them and dismissed. Wounded at first Newberry fight. Tooke the oath at Oatlands.

After hee had taken the Oath hee listed himselfe in Major Generall Skippon's Regiment, served under Captain Beton.

A felt maker by trade in Southw. Wounded againe at Henly, where hee received five shillings of Major Generall Skippon.

Mr. Sixby.

Suffolk man, trouper in the Generall's owne troupe, serv'd fower yeares, before hee serv'd the Generall hee serv'd the Lieutenant Generall in that troupe which is now the Generall's.

Ask't what hee mean[t] thaire?

Being the generall act of all hee can give noe answer being but one particular man.

Mr. Tho. *Shepherd*. Shropshire.

Served first under the Earl of Essex in the Earl of Bedford's Troupe of Cuirasseers.

Taken prisoner at Oxington coming from the relief of Gloucester. Prisoner 5 weekes, tooke noe oath, not exchanged, made his escape. Hee did heare it read, did subscribe it. Cannot remember whether hee read itt himselfe, about a weeke since hee heard it first read. Where? One of the Eight Regiments.

At what place. Hee does not remember. Demanded clause.

If it pleased this Honourable House to putt the Queries in writing the Eight Regiments whereof I am a Member whose joynt act it was will give an answer to them.

Endorsed:—