

A serious case of burglary took place at Stephen Oxborrow's house in Bredfield, by two privates in the RHA. John Rose and James Jesup were committed to Ipswich Gaol, along with Sam Stain who was charged on the oath of the Sergeant Major with receiving some of the stolen goods. At Bury Assizes in August 1811 Stain was acquitted, but Rose and Jesup were sentenced to death, but afterwards reprieved. They were removed from Ipswich Gaol to Portsmouth for transportation.

Accidents

The most common accident was drowning in the River Deben during hot weather, although in February 1807 a farrier from the 11th Light Dragoons drowned 'in pursuit of wildfowl'. Some soldiers could swim, and in June 1804 a private in the Lancashire Militia plunged into the millpond to save a 5-year old boy who had fallen in. That same month this militia was responsible for saving the lives of two chicks! At the Barracks a hen was seen sitting on two eggs, but the hen went missing, so the soldier took the eggs and laid them under a cat with three kittens. Four days later the chicks hatched and the animals 'lived in harmony', the cat fetching back runaway chicks in her mouth! There was the occasional suicide; that of a private in the German Light Dragoons was attributed to 'disappointment in love'. Other accidents involved a mail coach, a kick from a horse in the stable of the Angel Inn, and even an 'assault' by a cow near the Crown.

In June 1805 Lieutenant Colonel Kay and Captains Higgins and Calder of the 21st Light Dragoons along with Mr. W. Martin and the mariner William Joyce embarked in a boat for an excursion on the Deben. Later two of the officers and Mr. Martin landed to walk back to Woodbridge. A short while afterwards the boat capsized and Captain James Calder and William Joyce were drowned. Both left a wife and three children. Officers of the regiment made a subscription for the mariner's dependants, and the Woodbridge Volunteers gave a day's pay. The remains of Captain Calder were interred in St. Mary's churchyard after a procession from the Barracks. The newspaper gives a description of the impressive ceremony watched by numerous spectators. A detachment of horse at the front and rear, a troop on foot with arms reversed, the Regimental band playing the Dead March and 104th Psalm, six officers as pall bearers, the clergy, followed by men from the regiment and the Woodbridge Volunteers. A firing party fired three volleys over the grave.

Miscellany

Officers attended regular horse racing events in Ipswich, and in 1804 Lord Charles Fitzroy distributed 60 guineas of his winnings among the wives of soldiers in his brigade, consisting of the North Yorkshire and West Suffolk Militias. The following year the wife of an officer at Woodbridge Barracks won one eighth of a Lottery ticket which won £20,000, her share being £2,500. Betting on foot races was reported, for example privates from the Glamorganshire Militia and the RHA ran four times around the Barrack square. The latter won by 150 yards and a considerable sum was bet by officers on the result. Bets were placed on a private in the RHA, perhaps the same man, not being able to run 8 miles around the Barracks in less than one hour. He succeeded by the space of five minutes. Officers themselves sometimes backed themselves in timed runs. At the mess at St. Helen's Barracks in Ipswich, Mr. Bampfeylde of the 7th Dragoons bet Mr. Annesley £30 to £20 that the latter could not run the 6½ miles to Woodbridge in less than one hour. He accepted, got up from dinner, put on light clothes and won the bet with 11 minutes to spare.

By 1810 Napoleon controlled most of continental Europe and one of his marshals was created Crown Prince of Sweden. King Gustavus fled his country, arriving at Yarmouth in November. He progressed to Woodbridge, staying one night at the Crown Inn before continuing through Ipswich to Colchester and probably London.

Peace Celebrations 1814

Napoleon abdicated on 11th April 1814, and the celebrations for the King's birthday were