

WASC 503.

On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 503

*Contract to be offered to each of
the several Powder Makers in England
1812 + 1813*

WASC 503

Money paid by the Treasurer
of his Majesty's Ordnance to the
undermentioned Contractors for
Gunpowder in the Year 1812.

John Butts - 1.	£ 20,029.
Pigon & Vicks 2.	- 24,347.
Wm. Bridges 3.	- 13,112.
W. Taylor - 4.	- 9,765.
John Hall - 5.	- 5,022.
Taylor & Co. - 6.	- 3,942.
Hitchner & Co. 7.	- 3,258.
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	£ 77,478.

Sum shown by
the Account of Ordnance
to the Comptroller
General in 9 years

1812
1813.

DC/3/42

Same account for 1813.

John Buller - 1 - £36,377:10.
Pigou & Milnes - 2 - 16,640:~
Mess^{rs}. Bridges - 3 - 14,697:~
John Hale - 4 - 10,708:~
Wm Taylor - 5 - 7,615:18.
Taylor, Esq. 6 - 3,587:10.
Hitchner Esq. 7 - 3,059:16.6
James Stanton 8 - 622:~

£93,807:14.6

Heads of a Contract to be offered to each of the several Powder
Makers in England.

The Powder Maker shall
agree to make for the use of His
Majesty Bannets of new Gun-
powder, each Bannet to contain ¹⁰⁰
Nett weight, & to deliver the same
within the respective times, at the
place, and in the manner & condi-
tions hereinafter mentioned.

The Principal Officers of the
Ordinance agree to deliver to the
Powder Maker

of Gough Salt-petre which
upon assay shall produce 105 Pounds
at the least of pure Salt-petre for each
Cwt or 112 lbs of Gough Salt-petre so
delivered by them, and the Powder
Maker shall on his part agree to
assign to the Treasurer of the Ordnance
the Sum of £ Capital

Stock in by way of
Deposit for the value of the Gough
Salt-petre & as a security for the due
performance of his part of the Contract.
The

The Powder maker shall at his own Charge make and within the space of Weeks to be computed from the Date of the Contract, by weekly deliveries of Bannets (or weekly deliveries of Bannets at his option) - deliver into H. M. Magazines at Perfect Bannets of new Gunpowder in the proportion of 89 Bannets of large & small Grain Powder equal in size of Grain. Strength quality & Goodness in all respects to the samples hereinafter mentioned to be marked No 1 & 2 L.G. & S.G. and 11 Bannets of fine Grain Powder equal in size of Grain. Strength. Quality & goodness in all respects to the other samples hereinafter mentioned to be marked No 3 & I.G. to each one Hundred Bannets of the Powder he delivers if not hindered by the blowing up of his Mills or some other unavoidable accident.

Every one Hundred pounds of Gunpowder so to be delivered shall contain

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contain 75 Pounds at least of pure
Salt petre (or such a relative proportion
of Saltpetre as hereinafter is mentioned)
and the remainder of the Compos-
ition shall consist of Sulphur -
thoroughly cleansed from impurities
& of the best Charcoal made from -
black Dogwood Alder or White -
Willow Wood properly Channed in
common Pits, Potts or Cylinders &
of no other ingredients, & all the said
ingredients shall be thoroughly
mixed and worked in a proper &
workman like manner, As there
are different sorts of Gunpowder
made at H. M. Mills two samples
shall be taken from 100 Barrels
of the respective sorts and qualities
viz. from 39 Barrels of H. M. large
and small grained Powder. N^o 1 & 2
I. G. & S. G. composed of 39 Barrels &
60 Pounds of the sort distinguished
by the mark N^o 1 & 2 & of 29 Barrels
& 30 Pounds of the sort distinguished
by the Mark I. G. & S. G. and from
11 Barrels of H. M. fine grained
Powder

Powder No 3 & 10 composed of 7
Barrels & 30 Pounds of the sort dis-
tinguished by the mark No 3 and of
3 Barrels & 60 pounds of the sort
distinguished by the mark FG.

The said 100 Barrels shall consist
of Gunpowder made of common pit-
Charcoal & not of Charcoal made
by distillation, & shall be set apart
as Gunpowder from which samples
shall be taken for the use of the
Contractors & to compare with their
Gunpowder on the new Survey.

The samples shall consist of
two pounds from each of the said
hundred Barrels, or any greater or
smaller quantity as may be
judged necessary, fairly taken in
the presence of the Powder
Maker or such person as he shall
appoint & the samples taken from
the 30 Barrels of Gunpowder No.
10 & FG & 10 shall be mixed to-
gether in one parcel, & those from the
10 Barrels of the Gunpowder No 3 &

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10 shall be mixed together in -
another parcel, & thence from each of
the said two parcels shall be divided
into equal half parts or moieties &
one moiety of each parcel shall be
put into separate Barrels and
delivered to the Powder maker as
samples of the different sorts of
Powder to be made by him in
pursuance of the Contract.

Previous to the said delivery the
Barrel containing the sample
taken from the 89 Barrels shall
be marked N^o 1 & 2 I G & S G & the
Barrel containing the sample
taken from the 11 Barrels shall
be marked N^o 3 & S G & the two
remaining moieties of the Barrels
abovementioned after being also
respectively marked & barreled in
the manner aforesaid shall be
put into the Kings Magazine &
there remain under the Lock of
the Powder Maker as Counter -
Samples of the Gunpowder to be
made

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made and delivered by him & to be
compared therewith upon the view
& Survey & also upon the first Proof &
Analysis of the same hereinafter
mentioned. The Comptroller
of H. M. Laboratory or other person
appointed by the Principal Officers
of the Ordnance shall in the first
place view and Survey the Gunpow-
der delivered by the Powder maker
within one Month after its delivery
& shall compare the two several
sorts thereof with the respective
Counter Samples remaining in
the Kings Magazines by all such
ways and means as have been
hitherto practised or as he shall think
proper & if upon such view & Survey
he shall report such Gunpowder
to be inferior in quality, less hard
& close, less free from dust & Lumps
or containing a larger quantity
of unconsumed parts upon being
fired upon clean Copper plates, it
shall be lawful for the Principal
Officers

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Officers of the Ordnance within
Days after receiving the said
Report to reject the whole of the Pow-
der delivered by the Powder-Maker.

If the said Gunpowder shall
be reported by the Comptroller of
the Laboratory, or other Person ap-
-pointed to examine it to be in all
-respects equal upon the view and
-survey to the Counter-Samples res-
-pectively, then a first proof of such
Gunpowder shall within one Month
after the Report has been received be
made in the following manner
viz^t— One Hundred Barrels of
the Kings Powder of an age
corresponding as nearly as may be
with the age of the Powder deliv-
-ered by the Powder-Maker, & com-
-posed of 89 Barrels of the sort of Powder
marked N^o 1 & 2 L.G. & S.G. similar
to the Counter Samples of such
powder already mentioned & of
11 Barrels of the sort marked N^o 3
& S.G. in like manner similar to
the corresponding Counter sample
shall be taken, & from each of these
Barrels

9 Barrels two pounds weight of Gun-
 powder or such larger or smaller
 quantity as may be thought neces-
 sary shall in the presence of the
 Powder-Maker or such Persons as
 he shall appoint be taken, and
 those from the 9 Barrels shall
 be mixed together in one heap &
 those from the 11 Barrels in another
 heap & wherefrom an equal quantity
 of Powder shall be also taken in
 like manner by equal portions
 from 100 Barrels of the Gunpow-
 der delivered by the Powder-
 Maker, and in like manner mixed
 together viz^t that of the kind mar-
 ked No 1 & 2, L G & S G in one heap
 and that of the kind marked No 3
 S G in another heap. So much of
 the abovesmentioned heaps or par-
 cels respectively as may be judged
 necessary for that purpose shall
 be seperately fired on the same
 day from the same Mortar or
 other piece of Ordnance in equal
 quantities

quantities with a Ball of the same
Gauge Weight & in all respects -
under similar circumstances of the
Powder of the Royal & of the Contract
Manufactory; & upon a Medium
Charge of three Rounds from each
respective heap or parcel of Gun-
powder, that supplied by the -
Powder-Maker shall not be less -
than 19 parts in 20 of the Charge
of the Kings powder then it shall
be deemed to have passed the first
proof - - If it shall be judged
necessary by the Principal Officers
of the Ordnance to ascertain by a
Chemical Analysis whether the
full and proper quantity of pure
Salt-petre is actually contained in
each hundred pounds of Powder
delivered by the Powder-Maker,
such portions of the above men-
tioned heaps or parcels as may
be necessary shall be analysed by
two Chemists appointed by the
respective parties to the Contract &
if the Gunpowder delivered by -
the

the Powder-Maker shall not be
 found to contain as much pure Salt-
 petre as the parcel of the like quantity
 of the Kings Powder with which it
 shall be compared or in the propor-
 tion of $\frac{75}{100}$ in each m^{ts} 100 or if it
 shall contain any Marine or earthy
 Salts or other impurities it shall
 be lawful for the principal Officers
 of the Ordnance to reject the whole
 of the Gunpowder delivered by the
 Powder-Maker. But if upon such
 Analysis the said Gunpowder
 shall be found to contain as much
 pure Saltpetre as the Kings Powder
 viz^t in the proportion of $\frac{75}{100}$ lbs to
 every 100 lbs v^z Marine or earthy
 Salts or other Impurities then it
 shall be deemed to have passed the
 Analysis. Immediately
 after the Gunpowder delivered by
 the Powder-Maker shall have
 passed the abovementioned First
 proof, the respective remainders of
 the heaps or Parcels before mentioned
 not employed in the said first proof

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If Analysis shall in order to ascertain
the durability of the Powder be di-
-vided into two equal parts, & one of
each of such parts of the Powder
delivered by the Powder-Maker, &
of each of such parts of the Kings
Powder shall be severally put into
close Barrels & the remaining
parts of each of these sorts of
Powder shall be severally put
into separate Chests each Chest
being previously pierced or other-
wise contrived so as to admit in
equal proportions the Damps of
the Atmosphere & each having
two Locks of different sorts or
constructions, the Key of one of
which Locks shall be delivered to
& kept by the Powder-Maker or
such Person as he shall appoint
& the Key of the other by the
Respective Officers of the Ordnance
at Portsmouth. And the Gunpowder
which shall have been so put
into separate Barrels shall from
thenceforth be kept in a dry
Magazine

Magazine, & that which shall have
been so put into pierced Chests shall
be kept either in a damp Magazine
or in some convenient place shel-
tered from the Rain but so exposed
to the Air that the Powder con-
tained in them may sufficiently
experience the various changes of
the weather. And at some subse-
quent period of time not less than
three nor more than 4. Months -
after the first proof before mentio-
ned, a second proof shall be in
like manner made from the said
Barrels of dry Gunpowder, and
Chests of damp Gunpowder so
kept under Lock as aforesaid, &
in case upon such second proof
in which the said dry & damp
Powder of the Powder-Maker
shall be respectively tried with
the said dry and damp Powder
of the Kings the Gunpowder of
the Powder-Maker shall not bear
a less proportion in its Ranges
upon a 12.

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upon an average of 3 Rounds to the
Kings Gunpowder than 19 Parts
in 20, as in the first proof al-
ready mentioned then the said
Gunpowder of the Powder-Maker
shall be thereupon received by the
Principal Officers of the Ordnance
or the Person authorised by them
to conduct the proofs, but in case
the ranges of the Powder of the
Contractors shall fall short by
more than one part in 20 of the
Kings Powder, then all the Pow-
der of the said Contractor delivered
at the time from which the samples
were or might have been taken
shall be rejected. If upon
any of the Proofs or Trials hereinbefore
mentioned the Gunpowder of the
Powder-Maker shall be found
deficient & shall be rejected, the
said Powder-Maker shall at his
own Cost remove such Gunpow-
der within days after he
shall be thereunto required with-

-out

=out any compensation being made
 to him for the same. Neither
 the view & Survey nor the proofs
 before mentioned shall be deemed
 sufficient evidence to ground a
 rejection of the Gunpowder deliv-
 ered by the Powder Maker unless
 notice in writing of the time & place
 of such view & Survey & Proofs res-
 pectively shall have been given
 to or left at the most usual place
 of abode of the said Powder Maker
 days at the least before the
 same shall respectively be made
 in order that if he shall think
 fit he may be present thereat.

Upon the Powder Makers per-
 forming his part of the Contract
 the Principal Officers of the Ord-
 nance shall cause to be paid to
 him for working up the said
 Tons of Grough Salt petre into Gun-
 powder & for the said Gunpowder
 when manufactured & delivered, proved
 & received into Store as aforesaid at
 the

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to the Powder-Maker & which -
shall not have been received from
him in Gunpowder / allowing for
the refraction of the said Saltpetre
after the rate hereinbefore men-
tioned & estimating the value -
thereof at the then highest Mar-
ket price in London of pure Salt-
-petre of equal quality and goodness)
& to sell transfer and dispose of -
the same Stock & Dividends for the
use of His Majesty.

The Powder-Maker shall
have liberty to take away, after
the Powder has been received as
aforesaid, all such Casks wherein
it has been contained & sent to
the Coopers employed by His -
Ordinance shall fix and preserve
the same in as good condition as
conveniently may be until they
shall be taken away by the
Powder-Maker - - -