

## **Battle Information**

Information compiled from different places

### **The Earl of Northampton's Regiment of Foote**

Welcome to His Grace the Earl of Northampton's Regiment of Foote, one of the founding regiments of The Sealed Knot, which was formed in 1969 by Brigadier Peter Young, a highly renowned World War II army officer. The original Earl of Northampton's regiment was raised in Warwickshire and Oxfordshire in 1642 by the then Earl Spencer Compton. He commanded the horse troop of the regiment, which fought with the Oxford field army, until his death in action when he was succeeded by his son James. The horses are known to have fought in a number of the major battles of the Civil Wars including Hopton Heath, Newbury, Cropredy Bridge and Naseby. The foot part of the regiment was commanded by Spencer Compton's son William and was the Garrison at Banbury for most of the war. They also seem to have fought at the battle of Leicester and Middleton Cheney. Today the Earl of Northampton's regiment of the Sealed Knot has over 190 members and fights with Prince Palatines Tercio in the Royalist Army.

### **Banbury's New Museum Receives Priceless Treasures 8 January 2002**

A seventeenth century cannon and nineteenth century carriers cart are to be delivered to the new Banbury museum, operated by Cherwell District Council, on 16 January 2002.

These heavy artifacts will be lifted by crane to the first floor level and then through concealed doors into the main gallery space. The process will be monitored closely by conservation experts. Both items are directly associated with Banbury and neither has been displayed in the town before.

The cannon was found during excavations on the site of Banbury Castle in 1973, underneath what is now Castle Quay Shopping Centre. It was situated at the base of a tower and dates to an important moment in Banbury's history, the siege of Banbury Castle in 1644.

Sir William Compton held Banbury Castle for King Charles I. Only 19 years old in 1644, he successfully repelled the Roundheads almost until the end of the war. Why the cannon appears to have been thrown off the battlements is unknown. It may be that it was deliberately dropped on attackers below. The rear of the cannon is damaged, which may have happened as it was being fired. Repeated use would have weakened the cast iron, until it finally exploded, killing the unlucky soldier firing it. Its only use once damaged would then be as a missile.

### **Oxfordshire**

It had been the scene of several sanguinary conflicts between the Saxons and the retiring Britons, and became that of several others between the sovereigns of Wessex and Mercia.

In the year 778, this county, being ceded by Cynewulf, King of Wessex, to Offa, King of Mercia, the latter made a wide and deep trench, as a boundary between the two kingdoms, which may still be traced at Ardley, Middleton-Stoney, Northbrook, Heyford, and Kirtlington.

In 917, the Anglo-Saxons were defeated with great slaughter by the Danes, at Hook-Norton, who burned the town of Oxford three several times, in the years 979, 1003, and 1009, and plundered that of Thames, in 1010.

In the early progress of the Norman Conquest, Oxford was stormed and burned by the Conqueror. In 1142, the Empress Matilda was besieged in the castle of that place by King Stephen, for three months, until the river being frozen, and the ground covered with snow, she, accompanied by three knights, all dressed in white, passed the sentinels unobserved, crossed the river, and proceeded on foot to Abingdon, whence she took horse, and arrived safely at

Wallingford.

In 1264, Oxford was taken from the barons by Henry III.

In 1387, at Radford bridge, between this county and Berkshire, Thomas de Vere, Marquis of Dublin and Earl of Oxford, was defeated by Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, and Henry, Earl of Derby, afterwards Henry IV., when the marquis with difficulty saved his life by swimming across the Isis. In 1469, at Danesmoor, near Banbury, on July 26th, the Yorkists, under the Earl of Pembroke, were defeated by Sir John Conyers, when six thousand [p.495] five hundred men were slain, and the earl made prisoner.

One of the earliest transactions relating to the Great War occurred on Chalgrove Field, in this county, on the 15th of August, 1642, when the celebrated John Hampden appeared in arms, to enforce the ordinance of the militia. Such of the other events connected with that memorable contest as relate especially to this county may be thus briefly recounted.

On the 14th of September, 1642, Sir John Byron, having taken possession of Oxford for the king, was driven from it by Lord Say and Sele.

On the 27th of October, four days after the battle of Edge-Hill, Banbury castle, in which was a garrison of eight hundred foot and a troop of horse, and Broughton castle, surrendered to the king, who the next day entered Oxford, whence he marched to Brentford, and after the battle there, returned with his prisoners to Oxford, on the 28th of November.

At Oxford, in April 1643, the twelve commissioners from the parliament waited on the king with proposals of peace, which negotiation was broken off on the 15th of the same month; and on the 25th, at Caversham bridge, between this county and Berkshire, Ruthven, Earl of Forth, with the van of the king's army, was repulsed by Lord Roberts, in an attempt to relieve Reading, which surrendered on the following day to the Earl of Essex.

In the night of June 17th, detachments from the army under the Earl of Essex were attacked at Wycombe and Postcombe, by Prince Rupert, who, on his return, with many prisoners and much booty, was overtaken the following morning on Chalgrove Field, but after a smart skirmish, the parliamentarians were repulsed, Colonel John Hampden was mortally wounded, and the prince returned in triumph to Oxford.

On the 1st of August the king left Oxford for Bristol, but returned on the 16th; on the 18th he proceeded to the unsuccessful siege of Gloucester; and on September 23rd, three days after the battle of Newbury, he again returned to Oxford. That city having been now for some time the head-quarters of the royalists, to supply its garrison with provisions became a heavy burden up on the county.

on the 15th of April, 1644, a royal proclamation was issued to the inhabitants of the counties of Oxford and Berks, requiring them to bring in supplies for the garrison, on pain of being visited with fire and sword: this produced a declaration from both houses of parliament, dated the 22nd of the same month, expressing their horror at the proclamation, and their determination to hazard their lives and fortunes to prevent its being carried into effect. Vigorous operations were accordingly commenced, with a view to the reduction of Oxford, and that city being nearly surrounded by two numerous detachments of the parliamentary army, under the Earl of Essex and Sir William Waller, the king, in the night of June 3rd, effected his escape, and proceeded to Worcester, upon which the enemy relinquished their intention of besieging Oxford. At Cropredy Bridge, on the 30th of June, an indecisive action took place between the king and Sir William Waller. The garrison of Banbury, commanded by Sir William Compton, was besieged by the parliament's troops, under Colonel Fiennes, who, on October 25th, was compelled, by the Earl of Northampton, to raise the siege. November 27th, the king returned to Oxford.

On the 24th of April, 1645, near I Slip Bridge, four regiments of the royal horse were routed by Cromwell, who on the same day took Blechingdon house without resistance, for which surrender its governor, Colonel Windebank, was shot at Oxford on the 3rd of May.

The king left Oxford on May 7th, and Fairfax laid siege to it on the 22nd; but the siege was raised on the 7th of June, and the king again returned thither, on the 27th of August.

On the 30th he departed for Hereford, and on November 6th he once more came to Oxford, where he passed the winter.

April 26th, 1646, Woodstock manor-house, after a vigorous defense, surrendered to the parliamentary forces; and the next day the king left Oxford to surrender himself to the Scottish army besieging Newark.

May 8th, the garrison in Banbury castle, after a heroic defense for ten weeks, capitulated on honorable terms to Colonel Whalley; and on the 24th of June, Oxford, which had been besieged by Fairfax since May 2nd, surrendered at the king's command.

At the time of the rebellion of 1715, several partisans of the Stuart family were seized at Oxford.