

The Estaminet Times

Issue No 12 Winter 2025/26




HALIFAX
MILITARY HISTORY
SOCIETY

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The Magazine of the Halifax Military History Society

Editor's Notes

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Estaminet Times. It is, in reality, the last edition of 2025, but has slipped its moorings somewhat and drifted into 2026. Hence, it will have to be the winter 2025/26 edition. I hope it makes up for its wayward behaviour by being bigger than usual and having a particularly wide spread of subjects. Let's hope this edition brings you some brightness to relieve the rather wet and drab days which is our lot at the moment.

Ian Richardson brings us up to date with the unveiling of David Moffatt's memorial. This you may recall was one of the locations on the 'Art and About' trail and is itself something which had suffered from schedule drift. Nevertheless, well worth the wait.

Peter Liddle has selected another transcript from the vast archive of interviews lodged in the Brotherton Library at Leeds University. This time George Ives, who was the oldest surviving combatant soldier of the Boer War from either side.

We then have an editor's article on the oft overlooked battlefield of Adwalton Moor near Bradford. Fought in 1643 in the early stages of the English Civil War, it is only just outside the eastern end of Calderdale and is surely worthy of more attention than has been the case in the past, if only because local Calderdale men were drawn into in.

And then for something completely different, our auction spotter, Alan Rhodes, has come up with a nostalgic blast from the past in the Lion Comic. Much of the focus is on the artwork but you can't overlook how educational it all was, or wonder what our current comic reading generation would make of it in our post-colonial age.

Editor's Notes

Finally, Rob Hamilton dishes up a lesser known (medieval) civil war which, to give you some idea of just how bad it was, went down in history as 'The Anarchy'. See how kings (and queens) came and went and (spoiler alert!) discover where England's most infamous dynasty came from.

Many thanks to our regular contributors to the Estaminet Times. Without you there would, of course, be no Estaminet Times. However, it is worth mentioning again that this e-magazine is for everyone. If you have anything which you have researched or something which is a particular speciality of yours related to military/naval history then please contact either myself (millichope42@gmail.com) or Alan Rhodes (alan.rhodes@talktalk.net) and let's get it published in this magazine. I hope you will have seen from this edition, articles can come from all over the place.

David Millichope millichope42@gmail.com

Cockleshell Heroes: David Moffatt Memorial

Ian Richardson

This article follows on from three previous *Estaminet Times* articles in No. 2 the Winter 2022, No. 3 Summer 2023, and No. 4 Winter 2023/24. Written by Graham Bradshaw, they cover Operation Frankton and David Gabriel Moffatt's part in it. You can read them on our society's website: <https://halifax-military-history.net/the-estaminet-times>

It brings the story up to date, with an account of David's belated recognition as a hero in his hometown, and the small but significant contribution of the Halifax Military History Society to this.



The Magazine of the Halifax Military History Society

Cockleshell Heroes:

David Moffatt Memorial

Graham Bradshaw described the daring plan (Operation Frankton) to attack ships in German-occupied Bordeaux docks, in order to disrupt war supplies, undertaken by twelve volunteer Royal Marine Boom Patrol Detachment canoeists one of whom was David Moffatt, a young man from Halifax.

Two local men, Jude Garland and Kris Whitworth, who were formerly in the Royal Marines, knew this story well, and had participated in the Cockleshell 22 Expedition in December 2022. This was a partial recreation of Operation Frankton by ten serving and former military personnel, which involved paddling up the Gironde estuary and a march along the escape route of the two 1942 survivors.



Birkenhead Memorial



Stockport memorial

The aims included promoting awareness of the original operation and raising funds for services charities. Kris and Jude were saddened that David Moffatt's name was virtually unknown in Halifax. He appeared in the Roll of Honour kept at Halifax Town Hall, and in the war memorial at St. Bernard's church, Halifax, but his valour was not recognised in his own town, and they felt that a lasting memorial should be provided, as had been the case elsewhere. In Stockport an imaginative piece of sculpture was commissioned in 2017 to commemorate Marine James Conway's bravery, and in 2012 Lord Paddy Ashdown unveiled an impressive monument on Woodside Promenade, Birkenhead, paying tribute to all the participants, including local lad Cpl. Albert Laver. Press coverage of the Cockleshell 22 Expedition in the Halifax and Bradford newspapers certainly helped raise local awareness.

Cockleshell Heroes:

David Moffatt Memorial

Kris was keen to make contact with David Moffatt's family, and a member of the Halifax Military History Society was able to assist; contact was made with his nephew in South Yorkshire through the priest and a member of St. Bernard's parish. David MoffattJnr. was delighted to be in touch and was also strongly of the opinion that his late uncle should be commemorated in Halifax. He gave a moving talk to the Military History Society in April 2023, which helped spread the word, and along with his sister Helen Grady (who is a Calderdale resident) the family kept up the pressure for recognition.

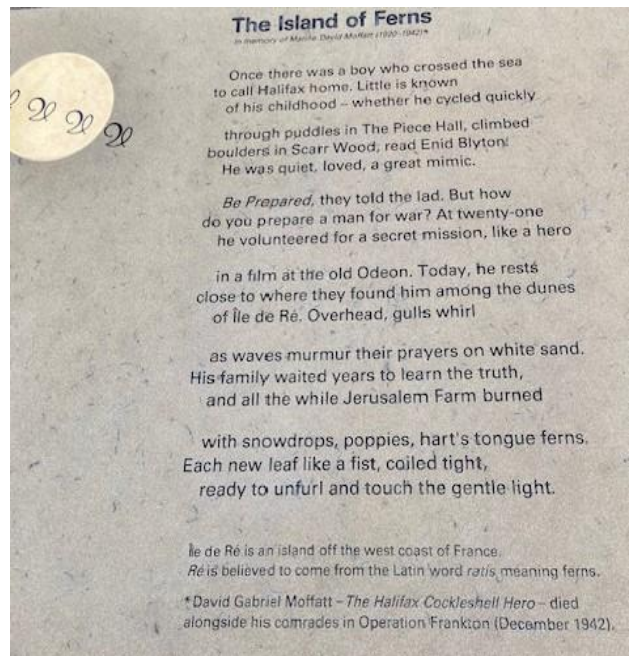
The family had attended commemorative events in the U.K. and France since 2005 and were in Bordeaux for the Cockleshell 22 event.



Cockleshell Heroes:

David Moffatt Memorial

In April 2024 a presentation was given at the Military History Society by Jude Garland, assisted by his colleague Kris Whitworth, describing their re-creation of Operation Frankton, which was well received, and successfully promoted the cause. A local Councillor (Joe Thompson) took up the campaign and was able to persuade Calderdale Council to agree that a memorial should be erected. Calderdale decided that the memorial would be part of the Art and About Trail - a series of twenty artistic installations showcasing the local heritage and culture, funded by H.M. Government and delivered by Calderdale Council. It was created in partnership with a local arts organisation, Everybody Arts, who consulted with the Moffatt family, and the end-product was a commissioned poem, inscribed on a plinth at the foot of the steps between the Central Library and the Calderdale Industrial Museum.



Cockleshell Heroes: David Moffatt Memorial

The unveiling took place at Halifax Central Library on 18th November 2025, when the Mayor of Calderdale presided as the poem was read by its Hebden Bridge-based author Ian Humphreys, along with other poetry commemorating the casualties of war. The poem was titled *Island of Ferns*, a translation of *Île de Ré*, the place where Marine Moffatt's body was found and buried. The library had purchased an extensive range of books on Operation Frankton, and it staged a temporary display in the Central Library's foyer for the ceremony.

The Local History section of the library will be able to make information and resources available to any enquirers.



Cockleshell Heroes:

David Moffatt Memorial

Other memorials commemorating Operation Frankton are to be found at Southsea, on the site of a training base used by the Royal Marine Boom Patrol Detachment, a sculpture of a cockleshell and plaque which was unveiled by Frankton survivor Bill Sparks in 1992; Poole – at the Special Boat Service base, unveiled by Major “Blondie” Hasler and Bill Sparks in 1983, Devonport, and La Pointe de Graves, near Bordeaux, dedicated in Spring 2011.



Left to right, Jude Garland meets with Ian Richardson, David Millichope, Graham Bradshaw and Alan Rhodes for early discussions for a memorial.

As far as is known, the Halifax memorial is only the third “local” memorial, dedicated particularly to the individual in his hometown, and huge credit must go to David Moffatt Jnr. for his efforts in driving this to a successful conclusion. Kris Whitworth and Jude Garland, the two local men who as former Royal Marines took part in Cockleshell 22, were instrumental in kickstarting the local initiative, which was taken up by Calderdale Council with valuable support from Cllr. Joe Thompson. Halifax Military History Society is pleased to have been able to give some assistance, principally by means of promoting the cause through its two talks, and we wonder if there are any other unknown Halifax or Calderdale heroes whose efforts are worthy of recognition?

George Ives: Boer War Trooper and Canadian colonist

Peter Liddle

Peter Liddle's thoughts on the interview

In 1992 I was teaching at a Summer School in Vancouver at the University of British Columbia when I read in a local newspaper of a man of one hundred and ten living close by in Aldergrove. I rang up the "sheltered accommodation" where George Ives was resident, learned that Mr Ives would be pleased to see me and I bussed out to Aldergrove



George Ives aged 110; Wiki Commons

At that stage there was only the remarkable age to give me any indication that I was near to recording memories which took me into life experiences which had been hitherto but scantily recorded . When George Ives swung his legs off his day-bed to stand, shake hands and greet me, clear-eyed and soon with evidence of being alert, quick on the uptake and without problems of defective hearing, I was sensing the excitement of what was to follow.

My diary reports that Mr Ives "answered everything well." It does not record that if I were to have been more familiar with campaigning details of the Boer War, I had an awareness at the time, and reaffirm today, that George's tape would have moved still higher up the scale of excellence.

Mr Ives was born in Brighton, Sussex, in November 1881, the son of a Coachman. His father's responsibility with horses led to George himself becoming involved even while still at a National or Church of England school in Cheltenham where his father was then engaged in work. Through an acquaintance with a chimney sweep who worked for gentry-folk in and around Cheltenham, the Ives family had come to the notice of wealthy people named Morrison who had two daughters.

The Magazine of the Halifax Military History Society

George Ives: Boer War Trooper and Canadian colonist

George Ives' interview transcript

My Mother was employed as a sort of children's maid to look after them. Now both my parents conversed in French. They had done more work in France than they had done in England and they preferred to converse even together always in the French language but they understood English perfectly too.

Through the Morrisons, I became a jockey for a man racing his horses in the West Country and in France. I rode for him more in France than in England. An Englishman was in charge of six young riders and I was regularly given some of the best horses winning numbers of races in the St Malo area.



Imperial Yeomanry Trooper:
Wiki commons

On occasion I was instructed not to bring the best out of a good horse because of betting considerations. Unfortunately, I began to put on weight and could not keep my weight down, rising from 97 to 128 pounds despite being put on a diet of lettuce and vinegar. This particular losing battle coincided with the outbreak of the Boer War in 1899 and I decided to enlist. Of course, I had to go back to England to do this and I enlisted as a Trooper in the 1st Wiltshire Imperial Yeomanry whose Colonel was Sir Thomas Fowler whom we were soon all to call "Tommy".

George Ives: Boer War Trooper and Canadian colonist

HWY 36,000 15-02 Form B. 111. 6 23 47

Army Form B. 111.

SHORT SERVICE.

(One year with the Colours.)

ATTESTATION OF

No. 21193 Name George Ives Corps Imperial Tunnelling

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name? George Ives
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? St. John's, Newfoundland
3. Are you a British Subject? Yes
4. What is your Age? 111
5. What is your Trade or Calling? None
6. Have you resided out of your Father's house for three years continuously in the same place, or obtained a home or land of the yearly value of £10 for one year, and paid rates for the same, and, in either case, if so, state where? Yes

You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any of the following seven questions, you will be liable to a punishment of two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

7. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where? No
8. Are you Married? No
9. Have you ever been sentenced to Imprisonment by the Civil Power? No
10. Do you now belong to Her Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserves, the Royal Navy, the Volunteers, the Yeomanry, the Army Reserve, or the Royal Naval Reserve? If so, to what Corps? 2. V.P. British Engineers
11. Have you ever served in Her Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserves, or the Royal Navy? If so, state which and name of discharge. No
12. Have you truly stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for Her Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? No
14. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? Yes
15. For what Corps are you willing to be enlisted, or are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? Imperial Tunnelling
16. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? Yes
17. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided Her Majesty should so long require your service? Yes

(c) For a term of one year, unless the War in South Africa lasts longer than one year, in which case you will be detained until the War is over. If, however, the war is over in less than one year, you may either be discharged at once or remain until you have completed a year's service, at your option.

I, George Ives do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

George Ives SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.

Imperial Tunnelling Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, George Ives do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at Chilveston on this 10 day of Jan 1901.

Signature of the Justice W. H. S. S. S. S.

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, a Justice of the Peace should be requested to make it and initial the alteration under Section 59 (5), Army Act.

The Recruit should, if he requires it, receive a copy of the Declaration on Army Form B. 112.

Editor:

George Ives was the oldest surviving combatant soldier of the Boer War from either side. He died on 12 April 1993 aged 111 years. Like Harry Patch later he became something of a celebrity for his longevity.

George Ives attestation papers: Wiki Commons

George Ives: Boer War Trooper and Canadian colonist

So, I suppose I must have felt I wanted to fight for my Country. The war had been on for some time. Such training as we did was carried out at Aldershot where we were all gathered. They had goodness knows how many thousands of new troops all picked out. They were able to ride and in most cases to shoot but they had to ride a horse, that was the main thing. Now I didn't know anything about marksmanship but, before this was put right, off we went to South Africa and we did a bit of training with our carbines on the boat. Our Transport was a Canadian cattle boat. We looked after our own horses and I remembered what I had learned from my father when I was only ten, rubbing a bottle of lubrication on the fetlocks of any which seemed to have injured themselves.

As for my first time in action after we got to South Africa, I couldn't tell you where this took place but I know we were on a railroad and we were going from Durban to the fighting area and while we were on the train we could hear rifle shots somewhere and sometimes a small gun. Every four companies had a 2 pounder, they used to call it. That was when they were catching Boers. A very poor way of going about it but I suppose that was all there was. The first task we had to undertake was to take all the Boer wives and children. They were mostly country people. We put them in wired compounds. We would search for a farm and any men, but they had always gone, find the women and children and take them to a camp.



Women and children in concentration camps

George Ives: Boer War Trooper and Canadian colonist

We would take everything useful to us and perhaps have to make a second trip for the cattle. Some of them had a lot of sheep and these sheep were taken from them of course. On one particular occasion when it was estimated that there were about 3,000 of them, they were in the charge of native people and they drove them up into a coil of a wire fence one night and light rain came along. All the sheep used to like keeping very close together actually touching each other when they were asleep. After the initial light rain, a great big storm came along and lightning striking the wire killed them all. You couldn't go near the place for three months on account of the smell.

Our job was to shoot Boers and they were to do the same with us. That was our job. If they captured any of us, they had no place to keep us and nothing to feed us with. So they used to take all your clothes off in the morning when the sun was up and send you off to your camp bare-footed and stripped, and the sun would burn you to pieces. Exactly that happened to one of my mates.



Boer War British troopers
National Army Museum

George Ives: Boer War Trooper and Canadian colonist

You have to appreciate it is a pretty big country and there was the room for men from the opposing sides to plan ambushes to capture the unwary. On one occasion we were ambushed by forty four Boers for whom we were searching. In the action which followed I was wounded by a ricochet but we captured them. That is a long time ago and I have been carrying a Queen Victoria Medal for 88 years. One thing I remember is that we went out there with helmets on our head but it soon changed from a helmet to what was called a slouch hat. It came from South Australia.

Good hats, nice to fan your breakfast fire up with in the morning to make your tea. Never any coffee, it was always tea. I remember too that when the war was nearly ended our Commanding officer, Sir Thomas Fowler, was shot in the head and it killed him at once. We rather missed him. He used to treat us as if we were all his equals. He was always "Tommy" and he had an estate in Wiltshire and he promised that when the war was over, we could go out there and he would put us in tents for two weeks and of course, it never happened.



Slouch hat

With the war over I returned to England and left the Army. A year later I was in Canada. I read in a weekly paper, I think printed in Sheffield by a clergyman, that he was going to take out to Canada fifty men and put them to work with farmers. I read it and wrote to him. He agreed to take me out and the conditions I had to agree to. I had to have fifty sovereigns and good clothes.

George Ives: Boer War Trooper and Canadian colonist

We were to leave Liverpool for Nova Scotia and were to join up with some other colonists. We were the I M Barr Colony. I M Barr had made a big thing out of the whole enterprise. Altogether he brought out to Canada 1,700 people and he took over anything he could steal. He promised us that that we were going to have a Co-operative Store to supply us with all our needs. I put 50 Canadian dollars into it and my father put 100 Canadian dollars in. He took it all away. He robbed everybody and went to Australia. However, with this money lost, my father and I were still in favour of the venture. We sold to the other colonists what my father had accumulated for the running of a grocery store and I myself was set on a new life in Canada.

(The transatlantic crossing, perhaps surprisingly, did not give rise to special memories. From Halifax, Nova Scotia, the Canadian Pacific Railroad took the adventurers West –five trains in all, one, with “settlers effects.” They went up via Winnipeg to Saskatoon but George and his father went on further West with some of the party towards, but not as far as, Edmonton.)



Parade in Nova Scotia: Notman Studio Nova Scotia Archives 1983-310 number 100029

George Ives: Boer War Trooper and Canadian colonist

I found some people we could stay with and the Reverend Royd sent a tent down to a lot of the freighters. Some had horses and some had oxen. It was a very good place to feed the cattle and there was a nice stream there for the water which they all thought was a better place to drink fresh water than what they called slew water because the slew water was full of mosquitoes. There wasn't anything in the way of a settlement there. There were a few bushes in some places and a few trees. South of us there were hardly any trees at all but the north side was pretty good. There was a lot of wood there to build log shacks with sod roofs. You put poles on the roof and put slew grass on top of the poles and then cut piles of sod and put it on the top.

Of course there was no church. We had to wait for a church to be built but that was a peculiar thing: pretty well every nationality wanted to start their own district up with a small church. It is rather strange anyway because some people pay no attention to religion but here nearly every nationality wanted a church before they wanted a school.



*Colonists detraining in Saskatoon.
Saskatoon Public Library, General Photographs Collection, item PH-2014-13.
Saskatoon Public Library.*

George Ives: Boer War Trooper and Canadian colonist

Well, my Father kept the store and I was on the freighting. First of all I went to Saskatoon to get groceries from The Hudson Bay Company and I took them up to where we were beginning to build. Then I began to think about it. No more Saskatoon trips for me. The reason was I had the load behind the horses twice as long as I needed it to be because half of it was for another settlement further along the road. I could make twenty five miles a day and I was on the road four days at a stretch, sleeping and eating on my own. I liked to be with people and this was no life for me. I became a carpenter, helped to build schools."

Peter concludes

The settlement which George Ives helped to build is today the big city of Lloydminster with well over a hundred thousand citizens. It can be given to few men to see in their lifetime such urban development from playing a part in its earliest days. But George had another more personal distinction too, seventy six happy years of marriage to the girl he met at a dance on board the ship which took him to Canada, something which wasn't mentioned until the end of the interview.



Modern Day Lloydminster

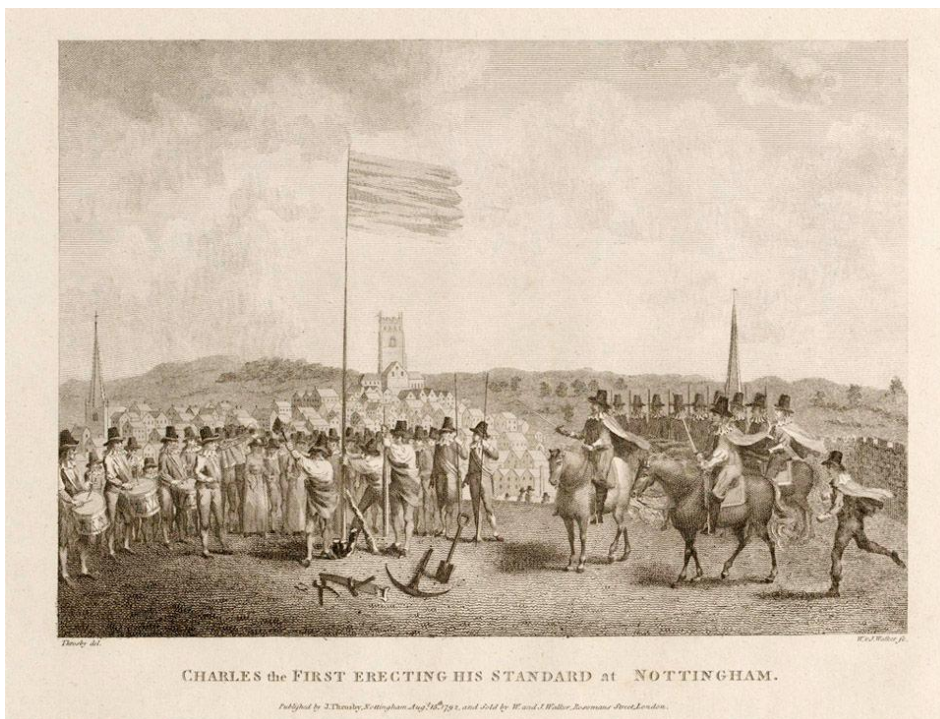


Battle of Adwalton and the struggle for the North

David Millichope

On **22 August 1642** King Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham signalling a call to arms in defence of the monarch. It came after a prolonged period of political manoeuvring between the King and Parliament over issues such as taxation, religion and the extent of royal authority. Historians usually take this as the point where the political struggle became armed conflict in what we now label as the English Civil War.

However, what Charles faced in 1642 was a country patchwork of divided loyalties. In the North, the royalists were strongest in Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland, North and East Riding of Yorkshire, West and North Lancashire. On the other hand, parliamentary support tended to be strongest in the cloth towns where there were commercial interests and a leaning towards Puritan ideals: places such as South and East Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire.

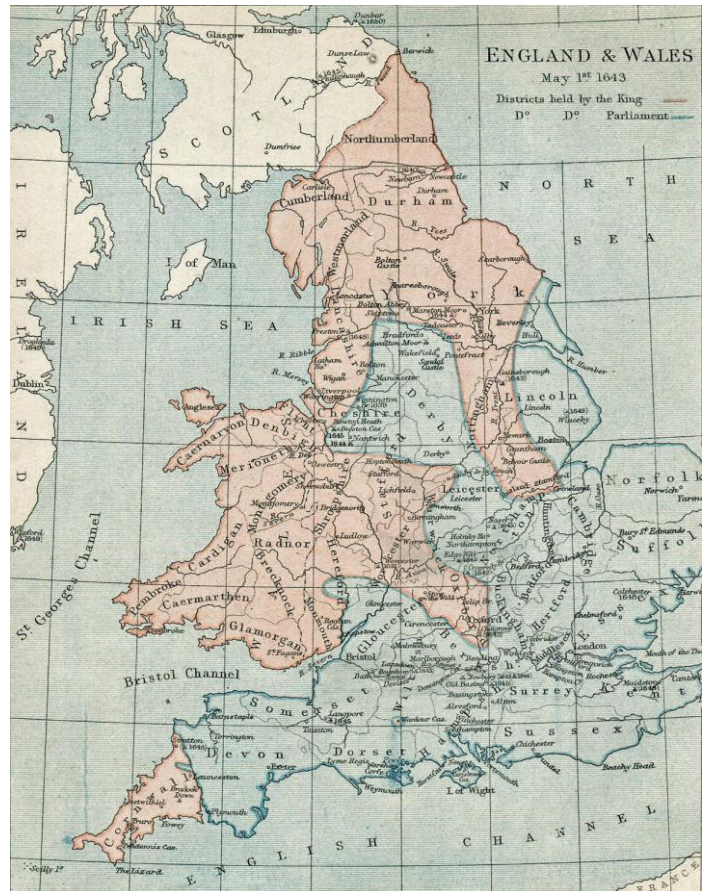


Charles I raises the Royal Standard at Nottingham

Battle of Adwalton and the struggle for the North

1. The Strategic Situation in Early 1643

At the start of 1643, the royalist commander, the Earl of Newcastle, anchored his position at York with royalist controlled North and East Yorkshire behind him. Before him was the West Riding. In 1643 this was not a region neatly divided between King and Parliament. Loyalties were far from uniform in what was generally a parliamentarian region. It was a mosaic of overlapping allegiances, often family based, and intensely local. The West Riding's geography encouraged fragmentation. Its steep valleys, moorland plateaus, and scattered market towns created pockets of influence rather than a single dominant centre.



Areas of control. Royalist (pink) Parliament (blue) Britishbattles.com

Leeds, with its burgeoning cloth trade and strong Puritan presence, leaned parliamentarian. Its merchants feared the King's taxation and favoured the commercial freedoms Parliament promised. **Wakefield**, by contrast, had long-standing ties to the royalist Earl of Newcastle and a more conservative civic elite. **Halifax** and the Calder Valley were notoriously divided. Some townships were staunchly parliamentarian, others quietly royalist, and many simply tried to avoid choosing at all. Its countryside gentry were a patchwork of loyalties. **Bradford** was a parliamentarian stronghold, but similarly, many of its surrounding country houses had royalist leanings.

Battle of Adwalton and the struggle for the North

2. The Road to Adwalton Moor

Parliament's northern commander, **Lord Ferdinando Fairfax**, held the urban cloth towns of Yorkshire but lacked cavalry and money. Newcastle, by contrast, commanded a large, well-equipped army with good cavalry. Between the two positions lay contested territory - a landscape of moors, lanes, and market towns. The West Riding had become the hinge. If Newcastle succeeded in crushing Lord Fairfax, he could occupy the urban cloth towns, isolate Hull and destroy Parliament's position in Yorkshire. He could then move on over the Pennines to threaten Manchester and East Lancashire. Soon the King would have control of the North.



Lord Ferdinando Fairfax: Wiki Commons

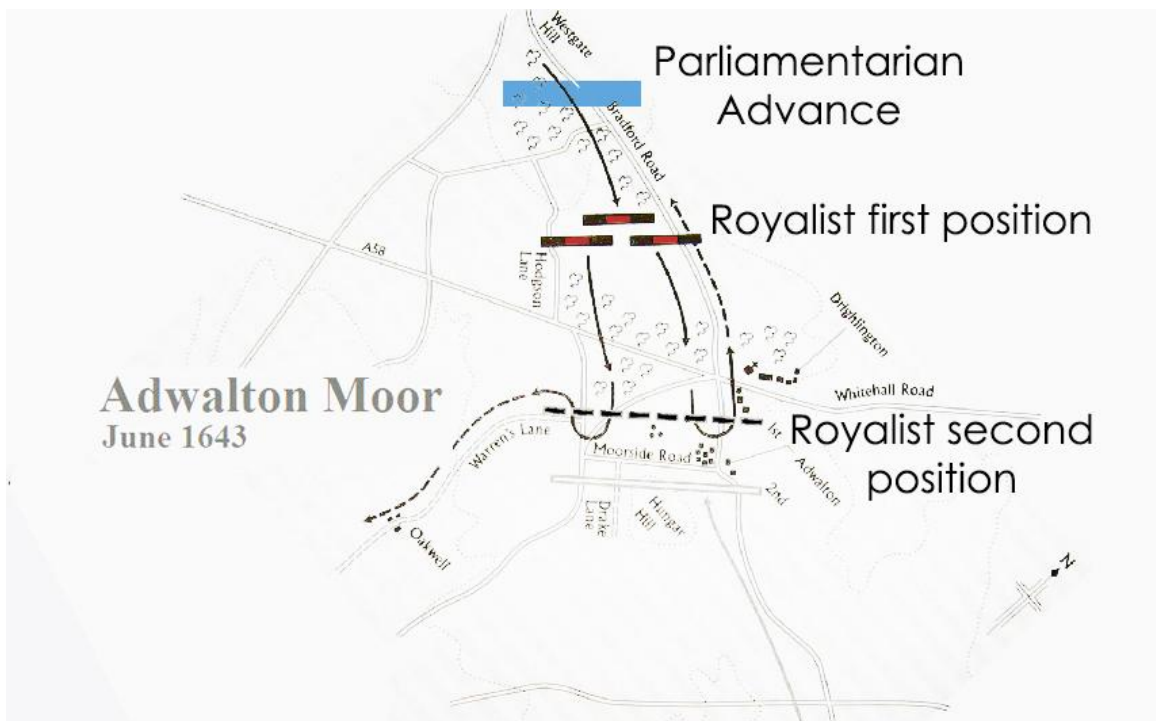
Newcastle's strategy relied on exploiting the region's divisions: he received intelligence from royalist sympathisers in the West Riding and used local gentry networks to secure supplies.

In spring 1643, he captured an important communication node at Howley Hall, near Morley, a blow that exposed the parliamentary positions around Bradford where Lord Fairfax was concentrated. His position was weakened by a lack of food and the reluctance of some West Riding communities to commit fully to the parliamentary cause. When he called for reinforcements, several townships sent only token numbers or none at all, fearing royalist reprisals.

Battle of Adwalton and the struggle for the North

The city lay within a bowl, vulnerable to attack, not fortified and, as Lord Fairfax reasoned correctly, not in a position to withstand a siege. He resolved to move out and mount a surprise attack on Newcastle's army at Howley Hall. Newcastle too had judged the moment right to move forward and strike at Bradford. The two armies knew the enemy was somewhere before them but neither knew the other's intentions or that they were moving towards each other.

Eventually the two armies blundered into contact on the old Roman road near Drighlington by **Adwalton Moor**, on 30 June 1643.



Battle of Adwalton and the struggle for the North

3. The Battle of Adwalton Moor (30 June 1643)

It was a classic encounter battle, with neither side enjoying the advantage of pre-selected ground. The parliamentarians under Lord Fairfax, first met royalist skirmishers around Wisket Hill (Westgate Hill) . His men pushed these back into a landscape of enclosed fields, hedges, and old coal pits, creating a patchwork of independent small positions rather than a clean line of battle. The royalists, under the Earl of Newcastle, had to deploy under pressure, with their cavalry constrained by hedges and their infantry funnelling through narrow gaps. The result for both armies was fragmented, piecemeal deployment, making command and control difficult and magnifying local successes and failures.

Initially, the parliamentary musketeers were highly effective, largely because they occupied enclosed fields, giving them cover and stable firing positions. They also enjoyed an early advantage in numbers. Their fire drove back royalist musketeers and disrupted the royalist attempt to form a coherent line. This early dominance created the impression that Fairfax might win the day. His infantry exploited this early momentum by advancing aggressively from enclosure to enclosure, compressing the royalist line, and forcing them backwards toward the open moor.

Newcastle himself later admitted he considered retreat.



Musketeer: www.Earloffmanchesters.co.uk

Battle of Adwalton and the struggle for the North



Pikeman

Pike: made of ash and tipped with a steel spike. Made up to 18 feet long, but soldiers would sometimes cut them shorter.

Morion: a steel helmet, tied under the chin. Its brim was intended to deflect sword blows away from the shoulders.

Snapsack: a long leather or linen bag, tied at both ends, in which a soldier would keep his possessions - including spare shoes and tinder box - and, if he had any, his own food - dried meat, dried peas and cheese.

Armour: well-equipped pikemen would wear steel 'back and breast' armour. Heavy and cumbersome, as the wars went on it fell increasingly out of use.

Soldier's Coat: a woollen coat lined with linen issued by the regiment, the rest of a soldier's clothes would usually be their own. A soldier's regiment was signalled by the colour of his coat and cuffs. Manchester's men were initially issued with green coats lined with red, then red lined with green.

Sword: soldiers were sometimes issued with short, basic swords called 'hangers', or 'tucks', to use when the enemy got close enough. Generally poorly made, they were as likely to have been used to cut firewood as drawn in combat.

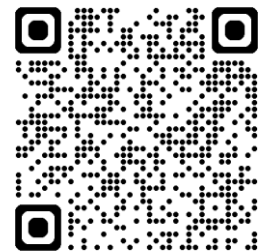
Breeches: baggy woollen half trousers, sometimes lined with linen, gathered and buttoned at the knee or left open.

Hose: long stockings made of linen or wool. Leg ties hold them close to the calf and they would sometimes be tied to the bottom of the shirt.

Start-ups: long leather boots tied down the front, worn more often by country folk. Most pikemen would have worn simple leather shoes, sometimes square-toed, called 'latchets'.



Many of the images used here come from the website of the **Earl of Manchesters Regiment of Foote** living history group. It's full of background information and well worth a visit. **Scan the QR code below**



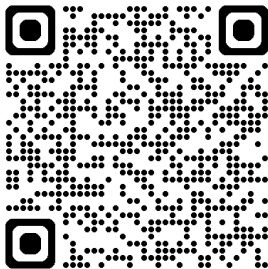
Pikemen : www.foxes.wordpress.com/battle-re-enactments/

Battle of Adwalton and the struggle for the North

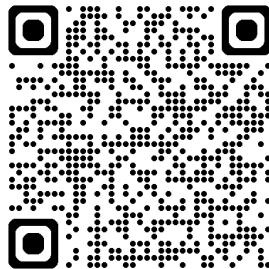
Once the fighting spilled out onto the more open ground of the moor, the royalists were able to bring two heavy pieces of artillery into play (Gog and Magog) blasting some gaps in the parliamentary formations. However, more critical damage was done by a contingent of royalist pikemen led by 'one Colonel Skirton, a wild and desperate man'. They created gaps in the parliamentary left allowing the royalist cavalry to pour through.

Lord Fairfax faced a grim realisation. Enemy cavalry was making significant progress on his left flank and getting behind his forward infantry who had done so well pushing forward in the early stages of the battle. Though brave, they were outnumbered, running short of powder and increasingly exposed. The enclosures that had protected them previously had now become obstacles to manoeuvre and hindered their retreat. Panic spread and a rout began.

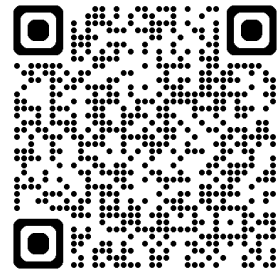
Lord Fairfax had to concede that the battle was now lost and Bradford, his base, lay undefended and vulnerable behind him. Some fled back to Bradford, while others, including Lord Fairfax's son, Sir Thomas Fairfax, retreated down Warren lane passed Oakwell Hall towards Halifax.



Musketeer



Pikeman



Cavalry

For further information on how troops operated in the English Civil War scan these into your phone / tablet. They are all produced by the Cromwell Museum

Battle of Adwalton and the struggle for the North

4. The Retreat Toward Halifax

Many Halifax men simply ran for their own valleys, using their knowledge of lanes and moor paths to escape. Thomas Fairfax, commanding the cavalry on the right wing of his father's army retreated with his troops towards Halifax where he hoped to regroup. Here he judged the town indefensible and, consequently, made his way to Bradford and eventually eastwards and to the safety of Hull. Halifax lay undefended and open to occupation.

5. The Fall of Bradford

Bradford, already battered by a siege the year before and short of powder, lay wide open and Newcastle's forces entered the town on 2 July. The sack of Bradford became infamous, partly for the genuine violence that did occur, although this was greatly exaggerated later for propaganda purposes. For the West Riding cloth towns, it was a psychological blow: the industrial heart of parliamentary Yorkshire had fallen.

6. The Occupation of Halifax

With Bradford subdued, royalist detachments moved into Halifax which submitted without a fight. Royalist garrisons were installed in key houses and halls. Local elites with royalist leanings regained influence, while parliamentary sympathisers kept their heads down.

Its strategic value lay in its position on the Pennine approaches which lay in the path to Manchester and East Lancashire.

Battle of Adwalton and the struggle for the North

7. The Strategic Situation After the Campaign

Adwalton Moor transformed the war in Yorkshire. Parliament's northern resistance had collapsed, surviving only in Hull and in the Lancashire border towns. Halifax and the Calder valley were effectively neutralised, their manpower suppressed.

For the people of Halifax and the Calder valley, 1643 marked the moment when the war ceased to be distant politics and came home to them. For the first and only time in its history, the area effectively became a war zone with assaults and skirmishing occurring in many places. Reminders of this have been found in many places including the fortification on Snow Hill at Rishworth, Slaughter Gap in Mixenden and the 'Bloody Field' near Godley Lane Bridge.



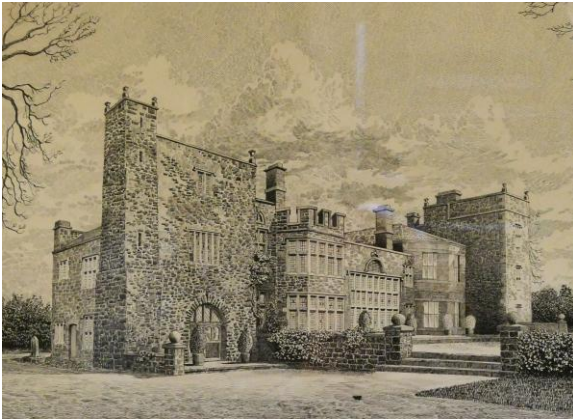
Bloody Field near Godley Lane Bridge marked on 1850 OS six inch map



Snow Hill fortification, Rishworth. The object marked 'cave' next to a rectangle are the remains of the fortification thought to have been constructed by the Dutch/German engineer Jan Rosworm. A report on an archeological dig at this site featured in the no. 6 issue of the Estaminet Times (Summer 2024)

Battle of Adwalton and the struggle for the North

Worth a visit: Bolling Hall near Bradford. This royalist house was where the Earl of Newcastle quartered in 1643 before entering Bradford. There is a story attached that he was visited by a ghost imploring him to 'Pity poor Bradford.' There is a Civil War display within the house including a diorama of the Battle of Adwalton



Elaine Beach examines the battlefield plaque on Adwalton Moor

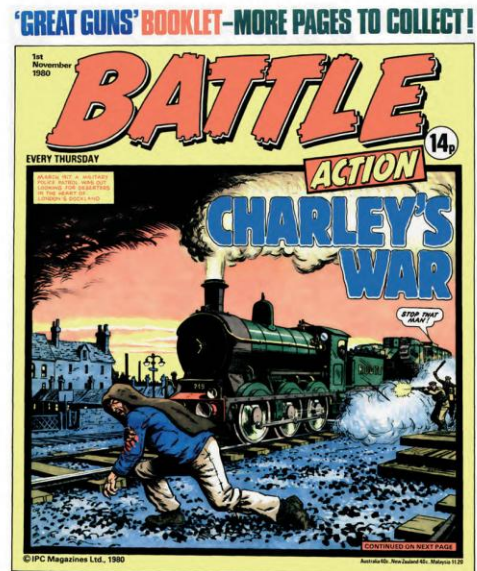
My thanks to Elaine for doing the groundwork research on the Civil War for HMHS, for which this article is an extension.

The Lion Comic

Alan Rhodes

As a post-war “baby boom” child, I grew up in a home without a telephone, a fridge or a TV. In the early 1950s, home entertainment was the radio, a weekly Saturday night family trip to the local cinema, jigsaws, board games, and reading. Leeds had two evening papers then – the Yorkshire Evening Post and the Evening News. After work and tea, my parents sat in a pair of easy chairs, one with the News, the other with the Post and they would then swap newspapers. I had my four weekly comics or rather boys' story papers - Wizard, Hotspur, Rover and Adventure. I read the Lion and the Eagle occasionally but they were more expensive and my pocket money had to extend to include sweets!

Recently, my auction searches turned up two original 1964 artworks from the Lion comic. I would have been in the 6th Form then and long outgrown my comic phase (except possibly for Mad Magazine but that is another story).



Acknowledgements: The Lion front page is from Fleetway Publications - Grand Comics Database. The Battle front page is from IPC Media. The artwork was photographed by Comic Book Auctions Ltd. Wikipedia provided the other source material.

The Lion Comic

The auctioneer had placed an estimate of £200 and his description read: Lion/Badges of the Brave: 2 original artworks by Joe Colquhoun for Lion Comics 4 & 25 April 1964 charting the wartime history of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers being awarded the first V.C.s of WWI at the Battle of Mons. And 'The Dukes' named after the Duke of Wellington, defeating the tyrant Tipu Sultan at Seringapatam in 1799 to Burma and Dunkirk in WWII and a V.C. for Private Burton at Monte Ceco in Italy. Pen and ink highlighted with white on card. 21 x 16 inches.

Lion was published by Amalgamated Press (later Fleetway Publications and IPC Magazines) from 23 February 1952 to 18 May 1974. A boys' adventure comic, Lion was originally designed to compete with Eagle, the popular weekly comic published by Hulton Press that had introduced Dan Dare. Lion lasted for 1,156 issues before being merged with stable-mate Valiant.

In 1952, Amalgamated Press (AP) editor Reg Eves ran an internal competition to come up with a competitor for the wildly successful Eagle. Bernard Smith, who had been with the company since 1922, won with the suggestion of Lion, and was rewarded with both a £5 prize and the role of editor of the new title. Lion would mimic Eagle by switching to comic strips featuring speech bubbles rather than text captions. By using cheaper paper stock and fewer colour pages, AP hoped to undercut Eagle with Lion, which would be priced at 3d - a full penny cheaper than the Hulton title while matching its 24 pages.

The Lion Comic

Lion 25 April 64

2 scale

Reportage

The Dukes

THEY TOOK THE IRON DUKE'S NAME FOR A TITLE IN 1855, AND HIS CREST FOR A BADGE. THEIR NICKNAME OF "THE HAVERCAKE LADS" WAS EARNED DURING THE BAD HARVEST YEAR OF 1782 WHEN THE RECRUITING SERGEANTS TEMPTED THE YORKSHIRE LADS WITH HAVERCAKES!



THE SERINGAPATAM PRIZE MONEY AMOUNTED TO £1,100,000, OF WHICH THE GENERAL GOT £125,000 AND THE PRIVATES £18 EACH!



EIGHTEEN QUID, WONDER HE CAN SPARE IT!

THEY WERE AT SERINGAPATAM IN 1799, WHERE THE TYRANT TIPPOO SULTAN WHO USED ROCKETS TO DEFEND HIS CAPITAL, WAS DEFEATED AND KILLED...



AT WATERLOO IN 1815, ENSIGN HOWARD OF THE REGIMENT GOT A MUSKET-BALL THROUGH HIS SHAKO, MISSING HIS HEAD BY AN EIGHTH OF AN INCH! THAT SAME SHAKO IS NOW ON PROUD DISPLAY AT SANDHURST...



WOW!

THE 33rd, AMALGAMATED WITH THE 76th, REGIMENT IN 1881. THAT REGIMENT HAD EARNED THE NAME OF "THE OLD IMMORTALS" DURING THE MAHRATTA WAR OF 1803-4 FROM THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE WOUNDED RETURNED TO THE FIELD OF BATTLE...



PETE O'LYNN: I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!

ONLY MY LEFT EAR EXPIRED! AN' THEY'VE BURIED THAT WITH MILITARY HONOURS!



GAS! GAS! FOR PITY'S SAKE...GET BACK!

"THE DUKES" PUT TWENTY-ONE BATTALIONS INTO THE FIRST WORLD WAR, GAINING MANY HONOURS. IT WAS THEIR 2nd. BATTALION ON HILL 60 WHICH BECAME A VICTIM OF AN EARLY GERMAN GAS ATTACK...



THE LAST WAR ADDED TWENTY-THREE BATTLE-HONOURS TO THEIR FAMOUS NAME. FROM "DUNKIRK" TO "BURMA", BUT IT WAS AT MONTE CASSO IN ITALY WHERE PRIVATE BURTON OF 'A' COMPANY WON A V.C.



SPANDAUS! ON THE CREST! WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!

HERE! HAND ME THAT BREN GUN!

PRIVATE BURTON WALKED STRAIGHT FOR THE GERMAN POSITIONS...

AAAAH!



GREAT SPORTSMEN. THE DUKES ARE AS HARD TO BEAT IN PEACETIME AS THEY ARE IN WAR, WHICH IS NOT SURPRISING... THEY ARE YORKSHIREMEN!

BUT THEIR FAMOUS HORSE "THE CAMEL" SURVIVED OVER FOUR YEARS IN THE BATTLE AREAS, CARRYING 14 C.O.s. DURING THAT TIME, HE CARRIED HIS HONOURS ON HIS BROW-BAND... THREE WAR RIBBONS, FIVE SERVICE STRIPES AND FOUR WOUND STRIPES!



PART LOT ILLUSTRATED

The Lion Comic

LION

4 APR 66

1/5 scale

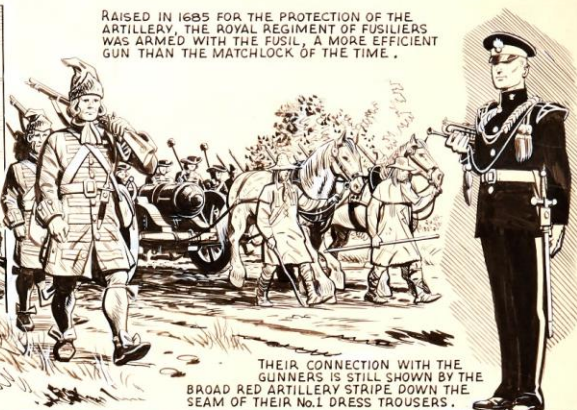
London 1966

Keep as one

7169

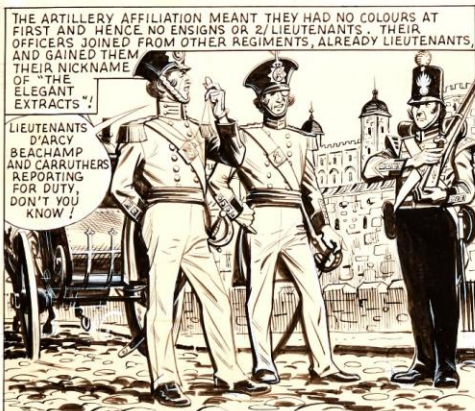


THEIR SUPREME EFFORT TO REGAIN THE HEIGHTS OF ALBUHERRA IN 1811, AFTER A NIGHT MARCH OF TWENTY MILES, REMAINS AN UNSURPASSED FEAT OF ARMS...



RAISED IN 1685 FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ARTILLERY, THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS WAS ARMED WITH THE FUSIL, A MORE EFFICIENT GUN THAN THE MATCHLOCK OF THE TIME.

THEIR CONNECTION WITH THE GUNNERS IS STILL SHOWN BY THE BROAD RED ARTILLERY STRIPE DOWN THE SEAM OF THEIR NO.1 DRESS TROUSERS.



THE ARTILLERY AFFILIATION MEANT THEY HAD NO COLOURS AT FIRST AND HENCE NO ENSIGNS OR 2/LIEUTENANTS. THEIR OFFICERS JOINED FROM OTHER REGIMENTS, ALREADY LIEUTENANTS, AND GAINED THEM THEIR NICKNAME OF "THE ELEGANT EXTRACTS".

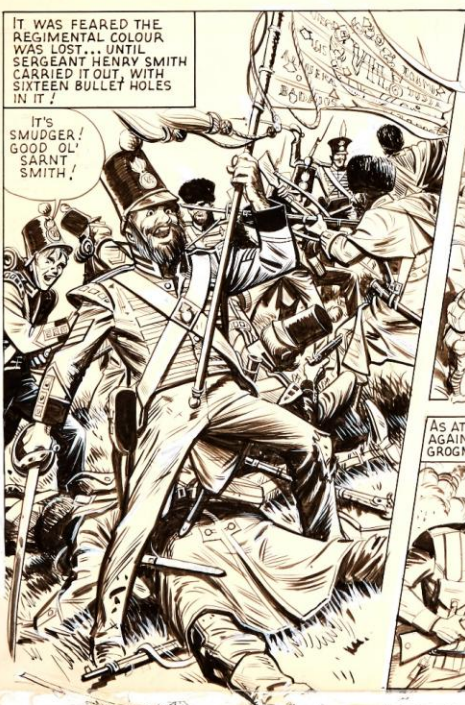
LIEUTENANTS D'ARCY BEACHAMP AND CARRUTHERS REPORTING FOR DUTY, DON'T YOU KNOW!

THE 7th. WERE THE FIRST TROOPS TO LAND IN THE CRIMEA ON 14th. SEPTEMBER, 1854. AT THE BATTLE OF THE ALMA THEY WERE AGAIN AT THEIR BEST WITH HEIGHTS TO SCALE.

NEVER MIND FORMING, MEN! COME ON!



BOTH COLOURS, NOW CARRIED, WERE GROUNDED AND BOTH ENSIGNS KILLED...



IT WAS FEARED THE REGIMENTAL COLOUR WAS LOST... UNTIL SERGEANT HENRY SMITH CARRIED IT OUT, WITH SIXTEEN BULLET HOLES IN IT!

IT'S SMUGGER! GOOD OL' SART SMITH!

THEY WERE THE ONLY BRITISH TROOPS IN THE EXPEDITION TO TIBET IN 1904, WHERE THEY SCALED THE "ROOF OF THE WORLD".

FIGHTING UPHILL AGAIN CHARLIE!

UPHILL'S UP MOUNTAINS THIS TIME, TOSH!

AS AT CASSINO, SO THE FUSILIERS TEAMED UP AGAIN WITH THE GURKHAS AT MOZZA GROGNA IN ITALY, SO CEMENTING A LONG, CLOSE FRIENDSHIP...

HIYA, JOHNNY GURKHA! STILL BASHING IN AT 'EM?

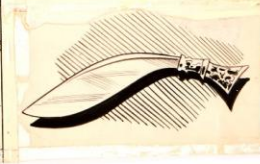
IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR, THEY HAD THE HONOUR OF RECEIVING THE FIRST V.C.S AWARDED. ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE BATTLE OF MONS, LIEUT. M.J. DEASE AND FUSILIER S.F. GODLEY OF THE 4th. BATTALION, KEPT A MAXIM FIRING TO SLOW UP THE GERMAN ADVANCE...



MISTER DEASE! YOU CAN'T GO ON!

I CAN'T EVEN MOVE, GODLEY! BUT KEEP THE MAXIM FIRING!

BECAUSE OF THIS FRIENDSHIP, THE 1/5th. GURKHAS PRESENTED A MAGNIFICENT SILVER KUKRI TO THE FIRST BATTALION IN 1945. IT CAN BE SEEN IN THE ROYAL FUSILIERS' MUSEUM IN THE TOWER OF LONDON...



PART LOT ILLUSTRATED

The Lion Comic

The first issue sold 900,000 copies before circulation settled to around 750,000. While failing to match Eagle's sales - which were typically around one million an issue - this was nevertheless a good figure for AP, and the comic would remain a strong seller for the rest of the decade. As the comic evolved strips came and went, though it retained a general mix of war, frontier era and science fiction strips. 1957 also saw the debut of Paddy Payne, a World War II RAF pilot; drawn by Joe Colquhoun, Payne displaced Captain Condor from the cover for the first time and would remain a staple until 1969.

The artist, Joe Colquhoun, served in the Royal Navy during World War II, and won a place at Kingston School of Art on his return to civvy street. His career in comics began in 1951 in Jungle Trails, and he went on to work for IPC Media on titles such as Lion, and later Tiger, where he drew Roy of the Rovers for six years, from 1954 to 1960, despite having no interest in football.

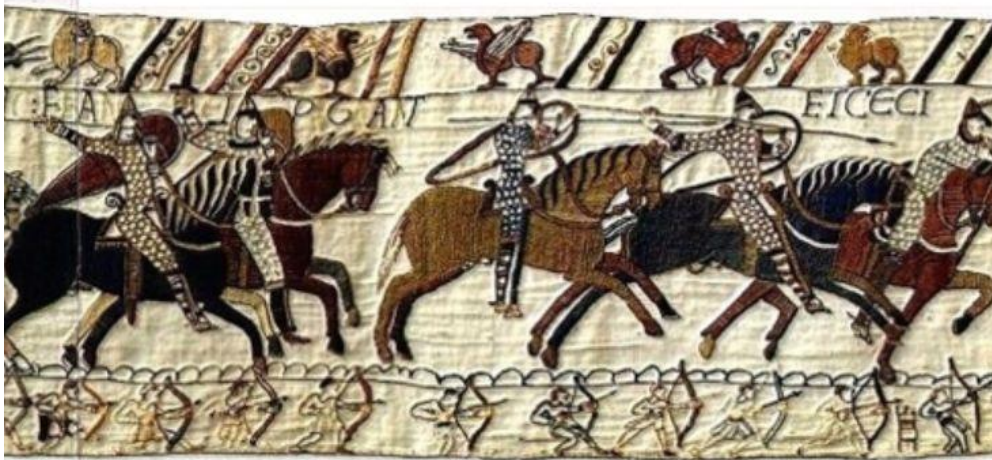
He is best known for his work on Charley's War a British comic strip set in World War I, written by Pat Mills and drawn by Joe Colquhoun. It was originally published in Battle Picture Weekly from January 1979 to October 1986. Charley's War tells the story of an underage British soldier called Charley Bourne. Charley joins the British Army during World War I at the age of 16, having lied about his age and told the recruiting officers that he was 18 (they conveniently overlook the fact that Charley gives his date of birth on his application form as 1900), and is quickly thrust into the Battle of the Somme.

Joe Colquhoun died from a heart attack in 1987 aged 60,

The Anarchy

Rob Hamilton

There have been two well-known instances of civil war in England. The first was the Civil War (1642-1651) and the other the War of the Roses (1455-1487). There have however been numerous times when the monarch has had to fight to either claim or hold on to his crown. This article is about one such time which is almost completely unknown to the general public, known as The Anarchy when the chroniclers of the time said that 'Christ and his Saints Slept'.

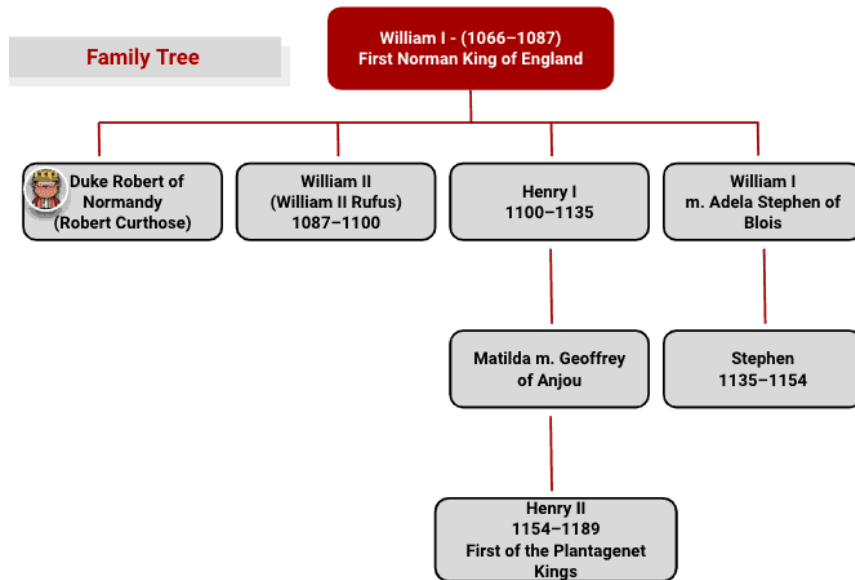


The famous Bayeux Tapestry depicting William's invasion of England

It all started when William the Conqueror seized the throne from the Anglo-Saxon King Harold in 1066. When he died in 1087, as was the custom at the time, the crown passed to his eldest son, another William, known as William Rufus. He died in a hunting accident in 1100, by the rules of succession as William Rufus did not have a son the Crown should have passed to the next eldest brother, Robert Curthose. Unfortunately for him he was on a crusade in the Holy Land and in his absence the next eldest brother, Henry, seized the opportunity to secure the royal treasury at Winchester and by a combination of persuasion, cajolery and intimidation persuaded the remainder of the nobility and the church to crown him King on 5th August 1100.

The Anarchy

Robert was not prepared to take this lying down and later that same month landed at Portsmouth with an army in an early example of a common trait in our Royal family, sibling rivalry. Surprisingly Robert agreed to renounce his claim to the English throne in return for an annual pension and the right to rule Normandy. The peace between the two brothers did not last long and Henry defeated Robert at the Battle of Tinchebray in Normandy in 1106. Robert was imprisoned by Henry for the rest of his life (Harry and Meghan beware) firstly at Devizes Castle and later at Cardiff Castle.



Henry's reign in England was relatively peaceful although he was forced to mount several campaigns in France to retain his hold on Normandy. He also seems to have spent an inordinate time sowing his wild oats as testified by the 20+ illegitimate children he fathered (Randy Andy wasn't the first royal to play the field). Fortunately he also found time to sire two legitimate children to his wife, Matilda of Scotland, one of which was a son, William, who was his heir to the Crown. His daughter, Matilda, married the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and became an Empress in her own right.

The Anarchy



The white ship disaster

Disaster, however, struck in 1120 when William drowned in the Channel in the White Ship disaster. As his other sons were barred from taking the crown due to their illegitimacy and, in spite of all his efforts, he was unable to father any further children with his wife he was forced to take a drastic decision. He once again resorted to persuasion, cajolery and downright intimidation and forced the Nobles to swear an oath to accept his daughter, Matilda who by this time had been widowed and remarried to the Count of Anjou, as his successor.

Henry died on 1st December 1135 but many of the Nobles who had sworn the oath were reluctant to accept a woman as regent and encouraged by this the Conqueror's grandson, Stephen of Blois took a leaf out of his dead uncle's book and rushed to England to secure the Treasury, and with the backing of the Church and the disaffected Nobles seized the Crown. Stephen moved quickly to establish his authority, securing the support of many leading nobles but his hold on power weakened in the years that followed, largely due to his lenient temperament and political missteps. Barons began constructing unauthorized castles, and several powerful families drifted toward open defiance.

The Anarchy



Henry declares for Matilda

In 1139, Matilda and her supporters launched a direct challenge by landing on the English coast. Matilda travelled to Arundel Castle, residence of Adeliza of Louvain, while her half-brother Robert Earl of Gloucester moved to marshal forces in the west. Stephen responded rapidly, surrounding Arundel and initiating a siege that appeared to place Matilda in an inescapable trap. Yet in a decision that has puzzled contemporaries and historians alike, Stephen allowed Matilda to leave the castle unharmed under royal escort. His precise motives remain debated, perhaps it was a gesture of misplaced chivalry but the consequences were clear: Matilda quickly regrouped with Robert in the west, transforming what might have been a short, decisive confrontation into a prolonged national struggle. This display of magnanimity—or miscalculation—set the stage for a far more serious conflict.

With Matilda now established in the western strongholds centred on Bristol and Gloucester, England split into zones of loyalty. Royalist forces controlled much of the southeast and midlands, while Matilda's supporters dominated the southwest. Many nobles wavered, switching sides as fortunes shifted.

Throughout the late 1130s and early 1140s, both sides fortified their positions, constructed new strongholds, and engaged in raids, sieges, and shifting alliances. Stephen travelled ceaselessly to assert his rule, yet resistance stiffened. Meanwhile, Robert's military experience and Matilda's legitimacy among her followers ensured that the rebellion did not collapse.

The Anarchy

The conflict reached a decisive turning point in February 1141 at the Battle of Lincoln, one of the most dramatic engagements of the war. Stephen had marched to relieve the besieged royalist supporters inside Lincoln Castle. But as he approached, Robert of Gloucester and the rebellious northern magnates converged with a formidable mounted force. The battle began with cavalry charges by Robert's forces, who swiftly overcame Stephen's allies, including the powerful earls of Chester and Lincoln. Stephen, known for personal courage, refused to retreat even as the tide turned. Chroniclers describe him fighting "like a lion," wielding a battle-axe until it shattered.



Matilda in battle

Surrounded and exhausted, he was finally overpowered and taken prisoner. Stephen's capture represented the lowest point of his reign. With the king confined in Bristol, Matilda entered London and was proclaimed "Lady of the English," seemingly poised to take the crown.

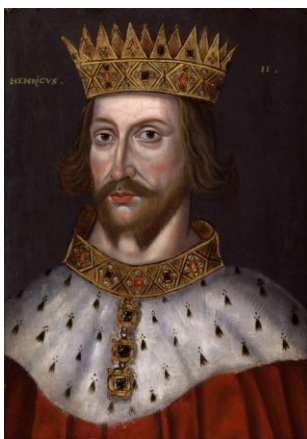
Despite this advantage, Matilda faced a hostile political environment. Her assertive approach alienated many Londoners and nobles. Resistance soon coalesced, particularly among those who feared losing influence or favour under a new regime. In June 1141, Londoners rose against her, forcing a hasty withdrawal. The precarious balance of power shifted again when royalist forces captured Robert of Gloucester later that year during the Rout of Winchester. Matilda had been besieging Winchester, attempting to secure control of the powerful bishopric held by Henry of Blois, Stephen's brother. When royalist reinforcements arrived, they cut off Matilda's escape routes and harassed her forces relentlessly. The retreat from Winchester became a chaotic rout, during which many of her supporters were killed or captured. To recover Robert—her chief military leader—Matilda agreed to exchange him for Stephen. This restored both factions' leaders and returned the war to its previous stalemate.

The Anarchy

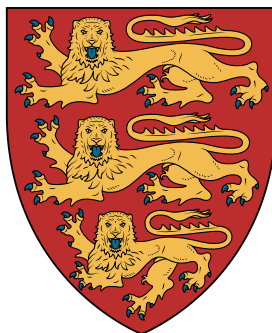
One of the most famous episodes of the conflict occurred during a winter siege at Oxford Castle, a crucial fortress loyal to Matilda. Surrounded by royalist forces and facing near-certain capture, Matilda executed a remarkable nighttime escape. According to chroniclers, she slipped out of the castle in freezing weather, disguised and accompanied by only a handful of loyal followers, and crossed the snow-covered countryside undetected. This bold evasion preserved her leadership and upheld her faction's morale during the darkest phase of the war.

By the mid-1140s, neither side could deliver a decisive blow. The war devolved into localised struggles, marked by sieges, shifting allegiances, and widespread suffering among the populace. Chroniclers recorded harrowing stories of barons imprisoning villagers, extorting ransoms, and building unauthorized castles from which they terrorised the countryside. Despite intermittent successes, Matilda gradually lost ground as political fatigue spread. By 1148 she withdrew to Normandy, leaving the struggle to her son, Henry FitzEmpress, whose growing reputation and continental support made him a formidable new contender.

Henry's campaigns in the early 1150s revived the conflict, but both factions were increasingly eager for stability. Stephen had suffered personal losses, including the death of his son Eustace, and many nobles were weary of war.



Henry II, first monarch of the Plantagenet dynasty



In 1153, the opposing sides reached the Treaty of Wallingford, which allowed Stephen to remain king but recognized Henry as his heir. When Stephen died in 1154, Henry succeeded peacefully as Henry II, inaugurating the Plantagenet dynasty and bringing the long years of conflict to a close.