

## JOHN HAMPDEN'S REGIMENT

Read any decent history of the English Civil War and they will tell you that the ideal number for a Parliamentary regiment is 1200 men. Hampden's commission to raise a regiment of that number was issued on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1642. The common soldier was by and large inexperienced in the art military and would no doubt formed a rather motley crew in the early stages of the war. In a conversation with John Hampden shortly after Edgehill, Oliver Cromwell remarked, "Your troopers are mostly old decayed serving men, and tapsters". He felt that Hampden should be looking for a more godly sort of man. This was obviously well-intended but the likelihood of recruiting that sort of infantry was fairly low. The officers, however, were another matter. They appear to have been picked for their military expertise rather than any geographical, religious, or political reasons.

Hampden's Lieutenant Colonel was John Wagstaffe, a soldier who fought with distinction in Europe and had been a Major in the French service. A man of vast practical experience, but one who had no discernible political allegiance, as subsequent events would prove. His Major was William Barriff. It seems likely however that Barriff was known more by reputation than anything else. His book, *Military Discipline*, was now well into its second edition, and its importance was becoming increasingly obvious. To have the author of such a book in ones regiment, and for him to combine his knowledge of military strategy with Wagstaffe's practical experience was an undoubted bonus for Hampden.

His Captains were initially, Richard Ingoldsby, Herbert Arnett, Robert Stiles, John Raymond, Robert Farrington, Mr Morris, and Ralph Nicholls. Ingoldsby, who as Colonel was to take the regiment into Cromwell's New Model Army in 1645, was again chosen by Hampden for his military, rather than his religious attributes. Richard Cromwell, Oliver's son, said of Ingoldsby, "Here is Dick Ingoldsby who can neither pray nor preach, and yet I will trust him before ye all".

To compensate for this, the praying and preaching was delegated to the regiment's first chaplain, William Spurstowe. Spurstowe was an eminent puritan divine who had been appointed by Hampden to his parish church in 1638, and who, in 1641, was part author of a controversial anti-episcopal tract, *An Answer to a booke entitled, An Humble Remonstrance. In Which, the Original of Liturgy and Episcopacy is Discussed.*

Of these regiments' nominal 1.200 men, 200 were in the Colonel's company, 160 in the Lieutenant Colonel's, 140 in the Major's, and 100 in each of the Captain's. However, like many other regiments, Hampden's Greencoats never reached full strength, although it probably did better than most. According to the State Papers it achieved an average of 849 soldiers. After Hampden's untimely death in Chalgrove his Lieutenant Colonel received the princely sum of over £705 for 925 soldiers.

"These are to will and require you forthwith out of the Treasure remaining in your Custody to pay unto Lieutenant Colonel Barriffe for the pay of the Regiment late under the Command of Colonel John Hampden deceased for the Officers of the field and staffe, and of thirteene Captaines and their Officers, and of 925 Souldiers belonging to the said Regiment for five daies commencing 16 June and ending 21 June CCLXXIII L. VIII s. IIII d.

And for pay of the said Regiment, Officers and Souldiers: Except two Lieutenants, three Drummers, and one Corporal, for nine daies according to the last muster ended 29 June CCCCXXXI L. XV s.;

In all the sum of seven hundred and five pounds three shillings and four pence according to the under the hands of Mr Henry Broade and Mr Richard Wilcox Auditors for the payment whereof this shall be your warrant; Dated this 12th July 1643.

*Essex*

Received the 13 Julie 1643 by virtue of this	]	
warrant seven hundred and five pounds	]	705 . 3 . 4
iii s. iiiii d.	]	

*William Barriffe*

To Sir Gilbert Gerard Baronet  
Treasurer of the Army or his Deputy.  
*Jo. Baldwin*  
*R. Wilcox AuditHen. Broade Audit*

John Hampden's stature was confirmed by his speech to his men after the siege Reading in which he forestalled a mutiny over the issue of non payment of wages. According to the Scoutmaster General, Sir Samuel Luke, "Hampden came to them personally, and with good words and fair language, wrought so upon them that he made them ashamed of their actions, and they marched cheerfully to Caversham the next morning".

So all in all a credit to the Parliamentary army.

*Steve Barriff*