

Oxford Army List for 1642-1646

By F. J. VARLEY

THIS is an attempt to collect as many names as possible of the officers who are known to have served in Oxford with the regular garrison or the auxiliary regiments during the period of the Royalist occupation. No complete list is in existence, and any list must be compiled from such material as exists in burial-registers, monumental inscriptions, dispatches, orders, news-sheets, diaries, and miscellaneous references in printed or MS. authorities noted in my *The Siege of Oxford* and supplement.¹

I have excluded, as far as possible, officers of the various field armies who visited Oxford from time to time, but I have not attempted to ascertain whether any of the large number who died and were buried in Oxford may not have belonged to other armies, an almost impossible task, and have assumed that they all belonged to the regular garrison. There are many names in the list about which little, if anything, is known. I have attempted to give a brief account of those officers who figured in the siege or in the operations and skirmishes around Oxford, or in the various relief-expeditions which were dispatched from Oxford.

An asterisk is placed against the name of an officer who died, and the place of burial, where known, is added. For the sake of brevity I have not given the date of burial, etc., as these can be recovered from the registers.

Officers of the auxiliary regiments are indicated by the letter A before their names. These regiments consisted of the Lord Treasurer's (the Earl of Dover) and the Lord Keeper's (Lord Littleton), the latter being largely recruited from members of the Inns of Court, and the City regiment. Members of these auxiliary forces were only liable for service in the precincts of Oxford, and could not be called upon for service elsewhere except as volunteers.

COLONELS

1. ASTON, Sir Arthur. Governor of Oxford. Had a long military career in Russia and Poland, and in Sweden under Gustavus Adolphus. Returning home in 1640, he was knighted by Charles I on February 15,

¹ F. J. Varley, *The Siege of Oxford* (1932), and Supplement.

1641. On the outbreak of the Civil War the King with some hesitation, on the ground that he was a Catholic, accepted his services, and as Colonel of Dragoons he fought at Edgehill. On the King's retirement to Oxford, Aston was appointed Governor of Reading, but was incapacitated by a wound on the head caused by the falling of a tile. His duties devolved on Colonel Richard Fielding (q.v.). Among other rumours on the surrender of Reading was one that his incapacity had been exaggerated: his strict discipline made him unpopular and his religion rendered him suspect. He was appointed Governor of Oxford on the death of Sir W. Pennyman, an appointment which gave satisfaction to Queen Henrietta Maria, if not to the garrison, by whom he appears to have been generally detested. He was, nevertheless, a most energetic and efficient Governor and during his term of office much was done to clean up Oxford and strengthen its fortifications. On September 19, 1644, he had the misfortune to break his leg, and in the following December it had to be amputated. The King, perhaps somewhat hastily, assuming that he was unfit for further service, appointed Sir Henry Gage to succeed him on December 25. We know that this supersession was a bitter disappointment to him, but the eminence of his successor rendered any sort of protest unavailing. He does not seem to have nurtured any ill feeling, and remained faithful to the Royalist cause after the surrender of Oxford. In November, 1646, he was serving with the Marquis of Ormond in Ireland and was in command of the garrison at Drogheda in 1649 when Cromwell assaulted it. In the sack of the town he was killed, and Wood relates that his brains were dashed out with his wooden leg. (Clarendon: Wood: Walker: Dugdale's Diary: Slingsby's Diary; Lloyd).

2. *BRETT, Jerome. St. Mary.
3. D'ARCY. Commanded a regiment.
4. *FIELDING, Richard. St. Mary. Succeeded Sir A. Aston as Governor of Reading when he was incapacitated by a tile falling from a roof, during the siege by the Rebels in April, 1643. A relief column under the King in person coming from Oxford was repulsed by the besiegers, and the garrison urged a treaty, and terms were agreed by a Council of War, and approved by the King. Reading was surrendered on April 27th under Articles, and the garrison under Col. Fielding marched to Oxford. Feeling ran high, and at a court martial in Oxford Col. Fielding was condemned to death, but so many of the officers were in his favour that he was respited and deprived of his command, but not of his rank. (Lloyd: Clarendon).

CIVIL WAR ARMY LIST

5. *GAGE, Sir Henry. Governor of Oxford. Ch. Ch. Was, like Sir A. Aston, a Roman Catholic; he had seen service abroad from his earliest youth, and was an expert in the theory of war. He was in the Spanish service at Antwerp, and from 1630 served for twelve years in the Low Countries in an English regiment raised for the service of Spain. Returning to England in the spring of 1642, he went to Oxford to serve the King, and was at once appointed one of the Military Council, and was destined to lead nearly every relief and expeditionary force which set out from Oxford during 1644. On June 11, he recovered Boarstall House, and in September he led forces drawn from Oxford and Wallingford for the relief of Basing House, a difficult task which was successfully carried out. In October he joined in the relief of Banbury. When the King returned to Oxford on November 1, he recognised these services by knighting Colonel Gage, and at a grand review on November 6 on Bullingdon Green Colonel Sir Henry Gage commanded the Oxford troops which paraded before the King. On November 12 he was again sent to the relief of Basing House, but on this occasion, as the Rebels had raised the siege, the column met with no opposition. The King took up winter quarters at Oxford on November 23, and determined to supersede Sir A. Aston. As Sir Henry was also a Catholic the story that he demurred to the suggested appointment until reassured by the King that he could practice his religion in private, may be a true one. However, in spite of these difficulties and representations on behalf of Sir A. Aston, the King insisted on appointing Sir Henry Gage Governor of Oxford, the appointment, apparently, only becoming effective from Christmas Day.

There is little doubt that Sir Henry would have been a popular Governor, but his tenure of the office was a very brief one. Early in the New Year Prince Rupert, in the course of operations against Abingdon, set out on the night of January 10 from Oxford accompanied by the Governor, and a party of foot and horse to break down the bridge over the Thames at Culham, but the party met with a strong force of the Rebels and were obliged to retreat on the morning of the eleventh, and in the retreat the Governor was shot and mortally wounded. His body was followed to the grave by a sorrowing procession of all classes in Oxford, when he was buried in the Cathedral. The monument erected to him and that of Sir W. Pennyman were voted scandalous by Parliament on April 15, 1647, and were defaced. Numerous lines and elegies published after his death attest his popularity. [Madan, *Oxford Books*, vol. 11, 1794, 1814, 1890]. (Clarendon: Walker: Wood: Dugdale's Diary: Slingsby's Diary: Lloyd).

F. J. VARLEY

6. GERARD, Charles. Commanded a regiment of Blue Coats.
7. GOSWOLD. One of Sir Thomas Glemham's Commissioners for the surrender of Oxford, May, 1646.
8. *GREEN, Sir Anthony. Governor of Banbury. St. Mary. Was of the Earl of Northampton's regiment and was Governor of Banbury, while it remained a Royalist garrison. He was knighted at Oxford by Charles I on November 6, 1644, and on the same day William Campion, the Governor of Boarstall, was knighted. Sir A. Green resided at Hart Hall on this occasion and died there on December 23, being buried in St. Mary's the next day. (Dugdale's Diary).
9. HAWKINS. Commanded a regiment. He was put in charge of Greenland House in May, 1644, after it had been fortified by Sir John Doyley. He was heavily besieged by Major-General Browne, and in July was relieved by a force from Oxford which threw in two months' provisions, but on the very next day Browne attacked heavily from the opposite side of the river, and in three days, after a granado had burst their magazine, the garrison surrendered on honourable terms, and were allowed to march to Oxford. His regiment took part in the relief of Basing under Col. Gage in the following September. (Walker : Whitelocke).
10. HOLLYLAND. One of H.M.'s Council of Safety, 1644.
11. LEGGE, Robert. Brother of William Legge (q.v.). As Major, he had, through the influence of his brother with Prince Rupert, been appointed Governor of Evesham, contrary to the wishes of the Army Council, but was Governor only 14 days, being taken prisoner with all his garrison by Massey. He must have been exchanged and returned to Oxford, and promoted, for he took part with his brother, the Governor, in the attack on Thame in September, 1645, as Colonel of his own troop. (Walker : Wood).
12. LEGGE, William. Governor of Oxford. An experienced cavalry officer who had seen much service in the Low Countries and Sweden, including the siege of Breda. In August, 1642, he was caught by the Rebels, and imprisoned in the Gatehouse, in London, but escaped in October and joined the King. At the siege of Lichfield in April, 1643, he was taken prisoner, but subsequently released. He fought at Chalgrove and the first battle of Newbury. As Master of the Armoury in November, 1643, he erected a mill at Wolvercote for the manufacture of swords. He was a great friend of Prince Rupert, who may have influenced the King in appointing Legge Governor on the death of Sir Henry Gage. He was sworn Groom of the Bedchamber on April 16, 1645. In September he made an attack on Thame, accompanied by his

CIVIL WAR ARMY LIST

brother Robert and other officers of the Oxford garrison. Later in the same year he fell into disgrace about the time that the King deprived Prince Rupert of his commission. Legge was deposed in October and Sir Thos. Glemham appointed Governor. About the time of the King's reconciliation with Prince Rupert, Legge was restored to favour and again appointed Groom of the Bedchamber. (Clarendon : Wood : Walker).

13. LUNSFORD, Sir Thomas. Commanded a regiment of Grey Coats. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Edgehill, and was not exchanged until May 3, 1644, when he arrived in Oxford. In July he was sent with a party of foot and horse to relieve Greenland House which he effected on July 8, and put in two months' provisions, before retreating to Oxford. One of H.M.'s Council of Safety, 1644. (Dugdale's Diary : Walker : Whitelocke : Lloyd).
14. PALMER. Commanded a regiment of horse. Engaged at Islip with Cromwell's horse in April, 1645.
15. *PENDEBACK. St. Mary Magdalen. Killed at first battle of Newbury. (Lloyd).
16. *PENNYMAN, Sir William. Governor of Oxford. Ch. Ch. Matriculated at Ch. Ch., 1623, and became a Student of the Inner Temple. He was created a Baronet, May 6, 1628, and was made a Bencher of Gray's Inn in 1639. He sat as member for Richmond in Yorkshire, in both Parliaments in 1640. He refused to join in the attainder of Strafford although appearing as a witness at the trial, and failed to give satisfaction to the Rebels. He joined Charles I when he set up his standard at Nottingham, and was sequestered by the Westminster Parliament in August, 1642. He joined the King at Oxford with the rank of Colonel conferred on him at Nottingham. Sir Jacob Astley was the first Governor of Oxford, and appears to have retained the post until some time in March, 1643, when the King appointed Sir W. Pennyman, but his tenure was short, as he fell a victim to the 'Morbus campestris' on August 22, 1643, and was buried in the Cathedral. (Foster's Alumni : Wood : Lloyd).
17. *SCRIMGEOUR, David. St. Mary.
18. A.—SELWYN, Sir Nicholas. Was appointed by the King to command the City regiment, but the Mayor's Council objected to him, wanting someone of their own choice, and presented a petition to the Privy Council alleging that he was corrupt, and had assaulted the Mayor 'in his place and seat.' The petitioners were imprisoned for contumacy and only released on making submission. The Council compensated the

F. J. VARLEY

- members who had been in prison, and continued to disregard all reprimands for failing to enforce the weekly levy for the upkeep of the regiment. Finally on March 19, 1643, a warrant was issued to the Governor of Oxford to enforce the weekly levies. This obstructive attitude was kept up to the end, and it is apparent that the City regiment would have sided with the Rebels had the opportunity presented itself. (O.C. Acts).
19. SHIRLEY, Thomas. Commanded one of the 'Ports.' Royal Warrant. (*Siege of Oxford*, suppl.).
 20. *STRADLING, Sir Edward, Baronet. Jesus College Chapel. Matriculated at Brasenose in 1615, and gave 'one great standing bowl' to the College Plate. He was M.P. for Glamorgan in the Parliament of 1640. (O. H. S., B.N.C. Quatercentenary Monographs: Lloyd).
 21. TOOKER. Led a troop of horse at Col. W. Legge's attack on Thame, September, 1645.
 22. TYLLIER. One of Sir Thomas Glemham's Commissioners for the surrender of Oxford, May, 1646.
 23. URRY, Sir John. After seeing much foreign service, returned to Scotland, in 1641 and was made a Lt.-Colonel in the Scottish army. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War he joined the Rebels, and took part in the battle of Edgehill and was engaged at Brentford. He was appointed Major in Colonel Sir W. Balfour's Troop of Horse [Essex's Army List printed for B. Partridge, London, 1642]. With special knowledge of the disposition of the Rebel forces in Bucks. and Oxon. he went off to Oxford to better his fortunes, and was taken up by Prince Rupert, whose raid on Wycombe and the operations leading up to the action at Chalgrove were largely due to the inspiration of Urry. As a reward Prince Rupert prevailed upon the King to knight Urry on June 18, 1643, and he remained in the service of the Royalists and fought at Marston Moor, the result of which probably unsettled him, for on October 6, 1644, having obtained a pass from the Royalists to go abroad, he once more joined the Rebels, who required all the assurances of Sir W. Waller before employing him again. He was employed in the operations against Montrose, and once again changed sides, and, though taken prisoner at Preston managed to escape alive to the Continent, and was active in promoting the interests of Charles II. Returning to Scotland he joined Montrose, but was taken prisoner on April 27, 1650, and beheaded in Edinburgh on May 29. (Clarendon: Walker: Rushworth).
 24. *WALGRAVE. Sir Edward. St. Mary. Of Norfolk, was wounded at the first battle of Newbury. He lost two sons in the Civil Wars and £50,000 of his estate. (Lloyd).

CIVIL WAR ARMY LIST

25. WALTER, David. Second son of Sir John Walter, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer. He fortified Godstow House and held it with a small garrison. During the operations leading up to the second siege Sir Thos. Fairfax forced the passages of the Cherwell and fired the out-houses of Godstow House. Col. Walter evacuated the House and withdrew his men safely to Oxford on May 23, 1645, the Rebels occupying it the same day. In September he commanded a party of horse which took part in Col. William Legge's attack on Thame. He was High Sheriff for Oxfordshire. At the Restoration he was made Groom of the Bedchamber by Charles II, who also bestowed on him the office of Lieut.-General of the Ordnance in recognition of his services during the Civil War to his Father of glorious memory. He was buried in Wolvercote Church near the monument to his father. (Wood : Dugdale's Diary).
26. A.—WEB. Lord Treasurer's regiment. Led the right wing of the horse in Col. Gage's relief of Basing, September, 1644.
27. *WINDEBANK. St. Mary Magdalen. Son of Charles I's Secretary of State, who fled to France. Was in command of Bletchington House, with a garrison of 200. During Cromwell's sweep round Oxford in April, 1645, about 50 troopers fled to the House after the engagement with Cromwell at Islip, and were followed up by Cromwell, who summoned Windebank to surrender the garrison on April 24. No resistance was made and early on the morning of the 25th, the House was surrendered on terms, and the garrison went to Oxford. Windebank was immediately court-martialled for alleged pusillanimous conduct. The surrender has been much canvassed both at the time and subsequently. The influence of Prince Rupert may have prevented a reprieve, after the death sentence pronounced by the court martial on April 25. The interval between the sentence and execution suggests attempts at reprieve. The sentence was carried out on May 3 : there has long been a tradition that he was shot in Dead Man's Walk by Merton, but Dugdale makes it clear that it was in the garden of the Castle. (Dugdale's Diary : Symonds' Diary : Carlyle, Letter xxv).

LIEUTENANT-COLONELS

28. *AMERSHAW, James. Ch. Ch.
29. BUNCLE. Of Sir A. Aston's regiment. Appointed one of H.M.'s Council of Safety for Oxford in June, 1644. Led the left wing of the horse in the operations for the relief of Basing House under Col. Gage in September, 1644. (Walker).

F. J. VARLEY

- 30. *CONISTY, Robert. St. Martin.
- 31. LITTLETON. Taken prisoner at Bampton.
- 32. *POWELL, Roger. St. Mary.
- 33. *SWAYNE, Arthur. Ch. Ch. Accidentally killed by his boy with a musket, not known to be loaded, while drilling. (Dugdale's Diary).
- 34. A.—SMYTH, Thomas. Mayor of Oxford. City regiment.

MAJORS

- 35. *CROMPTON, John. St. Mary.
- 36. *DOUBLEDAY. Died of wounds received at Newbury.
- 37. *FARMER, Hatton. Ch. Ch. Prince Charles' regiment. Killed in retreat from Abingdon when Col. Gage was shot, January 11, 1643.
- 38. A.—HALL. City regiment. Promoted to high command by Rebels on surrender of Oxford, and received a civic testimonial. (O.C. Acts).
- 39. *MEDCALFE. Major to Col. Robt. Legge's troop. Distinguished himself in the attack on Thame by a party of the Oxford garrison in September, 1645. He was shot in the arm and died from his wounds a week later in the house of John Egerley against University College. (Wood).
- 40. *OSBALDESTONE, Jeffery. St. Mary.
- 41. TRIST. Led a troop of horse at the attack on Thame by Col. W. Legge in September, 1645. (Wood).
- 42. *VENTRIS, Henry. St. Cross.

CAPTAINS

- 43. *ATKYNS, W. St. Thomas.
- 44. *BELLINGHAM, Henry. St. Mary.
- 45. *BENNET. St. Clement.
- 46. *BEVERLEY. St. Thomas. Col. Pennyman's regiment.
- 47. *BLACKE. St. Mary.
- 48. *BLOMFIELD. Ch. Ch. Sir Thomas Hooper's dragoons.
- 49. A.—BOWMAN. City regiment. Alderman of Oxford.
- 50. *BROMFIELD, Augustin. St. Mary.
- 51. BURGH. Thame. Col. W. Legge's regiment.
- 52. *BYERS. St. Peter-in-the-East.
- 53. *CARRE. St. Cross.
- 54. *CROSSLAND. St. Peter-in-the-East.

CIVIL WAR ARMY LIST

55. *DUNNE. St. Mary.
56. *A.—ESCOTT. Lord Keeper's regiment.
57. *FLEMING. St. Mary.
58. *GARDINER, Henry. Ch. Ch. Younger brother of Sir Thomas (q. v.)
Was killed late in the operations during a charge when Col. W. Legge attacked Thame in September, 1645. He was taken to Oxford, and buried by his brother's side in the Cathedral. (Wood : Lloyd).
59. GARDINER, Sir Thomas. Ch. Ch. Elder son of Sir Thomas Gardiner, the King's Solicitor, whose manor-house at Cuddesdon was burnt by Col. W. Legge for military reasons in 1644. Was knighted by the King while he sat at dinner upon delivery of the news of Prince Rupert's relief of the Newark garrison in March, 1644. He was Captain of Horse in the King's body-guard. He was killed in a local skirmish outside Oxford in July, 1645, and on 25th, was buried in the Cathedral 'under Alexander Gerard's monument.' (Wood : Lloyd).
60. *GARNET, John. St. Peter-in-the-East.
61. *GRANT, Christopher. St. Thomas. Col. D'Arcy's regiment.
62. *GWYN, Rowland. St. Peter-le-Bailey.
63. *HARDYNG, Anthony. St. Peter-in-the-East.
64. *HARVEY, Clement. St. Mary.
65. *HAUGHTON, Hugh. St. Mary.
66. *HEARNE. All Saints.
67. *HETON, Richard. St. Michael.
68. *HURST. On December 5, 1643, Sir Thomas Byron was assaulted in the Street at Oxford by Captain Hurst and wounded. As he died on February 5 following, it is possible that the wounds received in this affray may have caused his death. He was buried in the Cathedral. Captain Hurst was court-martialled for his assault and sentenced to death. He was shot at 'Mr. Napper's barn,' which was situated in Holywell. Military executions were generally carried out in the garden of the Castle. The sentence was carried out on December 14. (Dugdale's Diary).
69. *LACEY, Richard. St. Martin.
70. *LAMBERT, Richard. St. Michael.
71. A.—LANGSTON. City regiment. Barrister-at-law.
72. *LAWSON. St. Mary.
73. A.—LLEWELLYN, Martin. Student of Ch. Ch. Was a Captain in the Lord Treasurer's regiment, and served during the siege in the Rewley sector of the defences. He may be called the Poet of the Siege, and his collection of poems, 'Men-Miracles' (Madan, 1884), contains items

F. J. VARLEY

like 'The Spy of the Buttery,' 'The Curse of Vulcan,' 'At the Holly Bush Guard,' full of local allusions, besides elegies, epitaphs and carols. He seems to have also presented plays before the Court. He subsequently became a doctor and was Physician to Charles II. At the time of the siege he was about 27 and he lived to the age of 66. He settled in High Wycombe, where he was buried; there is a well-preserved monumental inscription on a slab in the north aisle of the Church there. (Wood).

74. *LOWE, W. St. Mary.
75. *DE LYNE. Prince Charles' regiment. Killed in attack on Abingdon, May 29, 1644. (Walker).
76. *MORE, William. St. Peter-in-the-East.
77. *MORGAN, John. St. Peter-in-the-East.
78. MEAD, Robert. In attack on Abingdon in March, 1644. (Walker). One of Sir Thomas Glemham's Commissioners for the surrender of Oxford, May, 1646.
79. *NEWTON, Francis. St. Martin.
80. *POIM, Thomas. St. Peter-le-Bailey.
81. POORE. Basing.
82. *RICHARDSON, John. St. Mary. Killed in a sally from East Port during final siege. (Dugdale's Diary).
83. *SACVYLE (i.e. Sackville), John. Ch. Ch.
84. *SAUNDERS, Roger. St. Peter-in-the-East.
85. *SKIPWITH, Henry. St. Mary.
86. *SLADE. St. Clement. 'Shot to death'; court martial sentence probably executed in the Castle.
87. A.—STEPHENS. City regiment. Promoted to Wagon-Master-General in the King's Army.
88. *STURGES. Queen's Life Guards. Killed in relief of Basing, 1644. (Walker).
89. *STUTFIELD, George. St. Mary.
90. *TOOGOOD. St. Thomas.
91. *TRIGGE, William. St. Mary.
92. *TRIST. Killed in attack on Abingdon, 1644. (Walker).
93. *WILMOT. Captain Wilmot of the Earl of Northampton's regiment was killed at Islip with 20 others on April 23, 1645, in an engagement during Cromwell's sweep round Oxford with his force of horse and dragoons. (Dugdale's Diary).
94. *WRIGHT, Francis. St. Cross.
95. ? WYVELL. See *infra*, no. 105.

CIVIL WAR ARMY LIST

LIEUTENANTS, ENSIGNS, CORNETS

96. *BLOMER, Thomas. Ensign. St. Thomas.
97. *BRISE, Henry. St. Martin.
98. *BRISE, John. Cornet of horse. Brother of above. St. Martin.
99. A.—BROWN. City regiment. Lt. to Capt. Stephens.
100. *FIELD, Thomas. Lieutenant. St. Martin.
101. *MORE. Lieutenant. All Saints.
102. A.—PENIALL. Ensign. City regiment.
103. *PRINCEHENDA, R. Lieutenant. St. Peter-in-the-East.
104. *TERENT, George. Lieutenant. St. Martin.
105. *TOWERS. Lieutenant to Capt. Wyvell. St. Thomas.
106. *WINTER, Thomas. Lieutenant. St. Peter-in-the-East.
107. *WOLFE. Lieutenant. All Saints.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- CLARENDON=Edward, Earl of Clarendon, *The History of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in England* (Oxford, 1702-4, and various later editions).
- DUGDALE'S DIARY=*Life, Diary and Correspondence of Sir William Dugdale, Kt.*, ed. W. Hamper (London, 1827).
- LLOYD=David Lloyd, *Memoirs, etc.* (London, 1668).
- O.C. ACTS=*Oxford Council Acts, 1626-66*, ed. M. G. Hobson and H. E. Salter (O. H. S., xcv).
- RUSHWORTH=John Rushworth, *Historical Collections* (London, 1692, 1701).
- SLINGSBY'S DIARY=*The Diary of Sir Henry Slingsby*, ed. D. Parsons (London, 1836).
- SYMONDS' DIARY=*Diary of the marches of the Royal Army during the great Civil War, kept by Richard Symonds*, ed. C. E. Long (Camden Society, 1859).
- WALKER=Sir Edward Walker, Kt., *Historical Discourses upon several occasions* (London 1705).
- WHITELOCKE=Bulstrode Whitelocke, *Memorials of English Affairs* (London, 1682).
- WOOD=Wood, *Life and Times*, ed. A. Clark, I-III (O. H. S., XIX, XXX, XL) and *id.*, *City of Oxford*, ed. A. Clark, I-III (O. H. S., XV, XVII, XXXVII).