

# Henry Hastings and the Flying Army of Ashby de la Zouch

by *Martyn Bennett*

Henry Hastings was the second son of the Fifth Earl of Huntingdon, the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, whose political position was under increasing attack from the gentry of the shire headed by the Grey family. The Earl was insular in his outlook and ill-equipped personally to uphold the family name — crippled as he was by the debts left by the third Earl.<sup>1</sup> 1642 saw the county polarized on the wider issues of the national crisis, with the Grey family staunchly upholding the Parliamentary cause, whilst, due to the inactivity of the Earl of Huntingdon and the Parliamentary inclinations of his heir, it befell Henry Hastings to uphold the Royalist cause. Henry had shown that he was of a different ilk to his father as early as the 1620s when the Earl had felt fit to rebuke his son for his evident enjoyment of the court life which the earl himself avoided strenuously.<sup>2</sup> By the 1640s Henry was, as Deputy Lieutenant, responsible for the raising of troops for the King's wars with Scotland.<sup>3</sup> In Spring 1642 it seems that Henry saw his natural place as being with the King, and joined His Majesty in York.

In March 1642 Parliament replaced all the Lords Lieutenants with men of its own choice. In Leicestershire Henry's father and brother were replaced by the Earl of Stamford. In the same piece of legislation<sup>4</sup> Parliament had finally taken control of the Militia out of the King's hand, and empowered its Lord Lieutenants to undertake this function. In accordance, the Earl of Stamford named his son, Lord Grey of Groby, along with Lord Ruthin and Sir Arthur Hazelrigg as being responsible for ministering and training the forces of Leicestershire<sup>5</sup> In Leicester, Parliament's representatives were supported by the populace which, on 4th June 1642, had driven one of the King's recruiting officers from the city.<sup>6</sup> However, in the Shire, the Earl's efforts to raise Militia were hampered by Royalist sympathisers who prevented men from attending the musters, with a combination of coercion and threats.<sup>7</sup>

In reply to this 'mere arbitrary government which by God's grace we shall never permit'<sup>8</sup> the King issued his own warrant for raising the Militia, the Commission of Array, by which he appointed commissioners to raise the Trained Bands.<sup>9</sup> On 12th June 1642 the first of these commissions were sent to Leicestershire; it placed the responsibility for raising the Trained Bands in the hands of the Earls of Huntingdon and Devonshire and Henry Hastings.<sup>10</sup> However, the Earl of Devonshire had absented himself from the country, and the Earl of Huntingdon showed no inclination to serve His Majesty (his heir firmly supported Parliament). Thereby the onus fell on Henry alone to undertake the commission.

Upon returning to the county from York, with the commission, Henry appointed 22nd June as the day for mustering the Trained Bands at the Rawdykes, Leicester. This caused confusion in the local Administration. The Mayor and Aldermen of the city passed a compromise resolution which effectively put their weight behind whichever of the two warrants appeared first.<sup>11</sup> The High Sheriff, though a Parliamentarian, but without orders to the contrary, issued the necessary warrants to the constables;<sup>12</sup> even the Earl of Stamford wrote to Parliament requesting instructions. Parliament replied on 18th June declaring the commissions illegal and summoned Henry Hastings as a delinquent.<sup>13</sup>

On 21st June Hastings arrived at Loughborough to find that no warrants had been distributed due to the arrest of the Under Sheriff. Having therefore to muster the army himself he conscripted the miners from the family coalfields in Derbyshire. On the following day he marched to Leicester at the head of a small army, consisting of one hundred horse, one hundred and twenty musketeers and eighty pikemen.<sup>14</sup> The confrontation on the Horsefair Leas with the Parliamentary party, in which the High Sheriff attempted to arrest Hastings, ended in a shower of rain which, by dampening their matches, prevented Hastings' small army from opening fire on the opposition. However, during the night, Hastings' men were dis-armed in their drunken slumber at the Angel Inn by agents of the High Sheriff. Hastings himself fled to York where he was appointed High Sheriff of Leicestershire by the King.

Leicester still remained distinctly Parliamentary in inclination. When the King visited the city in July he was received coolly, the gentry of the city expressed sorrow at the 'estrangement' between Parliament and King and expressed their concern over the persecution of the Earl of Stamford, the ex-High Sheriff and Sir Arthur Hazelrigg whilst Henry Hastings, a proclaimed delinquent, was still at liberty.

Within a month the King had raised his standard at Nottingham and the covert hostilities of the past months were transformed into open Civil War. Immediately Prince Rupert, recently appointed Commander of the King's cavalry, began a systematic seizure of arms and ammunition, in order to supply the King's army. The first of these attacks he undertook with the help of Henry Hastings' newly raised Horse,<sup>15</sup> upon Bradgate, the home of the Earl of Stamford. On 6th September the Prince demanded £2,000 from Leicester, and by the 9th £500 had been collected. However, the King repudiated the demand on the 8th, even so he neglected to return the money already received. Rupert's attempts to raise troops in the East Midlands received a serious set-back on 10th September, when the Leicestershire Trained Bands at Loughborough, refused his command to move north, out of the county. Their example was quickly followed by the Trained Bands of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

During late September the local leaders from the county joined their relative armies. Hastings joined the King at Shrewsbury. Although the whereabouts of his troops at Edgehill are not known, he is reputed to have been wounded during the battle. Likewise, though his brother Ferdinando appears on the roll of Parliamentary troop commanders, his location at the battle is uncertain; though, it may be surmised that he was on the left wing which was routed by Prince Rupert early in the fight, as he himself arrived in London soon after the battle proclaiming a Parliamentary defeat. The chief Parliamentarians from Leicestershire, Lord Grey and Sir Arthur Hazelrigg both fought on the Earl of Essex's right wing, whilst the Earl of Stamford was on garrison duty in Hereford.

When the King arrived in Oxford Henry Hastings was made a Doctor of Civil Law,<sup>16</sup> and given command of a dragoon regiment.<sup>17</sup> On the 26th November he was supplied with three hundredweight of powder, three of bullets and one of match cord, from the King's arsenal,<sup>18</sup> and dispatched to his family castle at Ashby de la Zouch, to establish a Royalist garrison.

The castle at Ashby de la Zouch was ideally situated for a royal army. It stood on the southern edge of the Parliamentary controlled isthmus, that stretched from Northamptonshire, through Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire, to Cheshire, thus cutting off the Royalist west from the Royalist north. Also from its dominant position on a spur, the garrison at Ashby could initiate, or support, any campaign in the valleys of the Trent and Severn, or the Avon. The line of the River Trent was of great importance. Being a navigable river, supplies could be sent along it from the west to the north or vice versa. In acknowledgement of this, Hastings established satellite garrisons at Swarkestone, Kings Mills near Donington, and Wilne Ferry near Shardlow.

The Derbyshire section of the Parliamentary isthmus was controlled by Sir John Gell who

had taken over the county after the Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Devonshire, also a commissioner for Leicestershire, had absented himself from the country. Gell was the nearest Parliamentary commander to the satellite Royalist garrisons and it fell upon him to deal with them. In January 1642-3 he attacked the three hundred-strong garrison at Swarkestone, after two days fighting, he dislodged Hastings' men from the bridge and from the house of Sir John Harper, one of Hastings' commanders.

Inspired with this success, Sir John Gell and the Cheshire Parliamentarian, Sir William Brereton, joined with Lord Grey of Groby, now Governor of Leicester, and attacked Ashby de la Zouch castle in the same month. However, Hastings was considered a valuable asset to the Crown, and Prince Rupert was dispatched from Oxford with a force of five regiments of foot, horse, and dragoons on 21st January to relieve the castle.<sup>19</sup> The Parliamentary allies had by this time driven the garrison out of the town, into the castle itself. Prince Rupert's arrival at Banbury, on his way to Ashby, was communicated to the leaguer by the Northamptonshire committee, and Gell's subsequent council of war decided that each of the three commanders should return to their own district, and abandon the siege.

In late 1642 Parliament, in order to pursue the war more efficiently, had organised its territory into associations. Leicestershire, along with Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Rutland, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, and Huntingdonshire, was to be commanded by Lord Grey of Groby. The King emulated this policy, and on 5th February 1642-3 the Secretary of State, Edward Nicholas, informed Henry Hastings that the King had amalgamated Leicestershire, Rutland, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Lincolnshire, and 'intends to make you commander in chief of them all, under the title of Colonel General'.<sup>20</sup>

Supplied with ammunition in late February<sup>21</sup> General Hastings went on the offensive and defeated a Parliamentary force at Burton on Trent. In the west, Parliament was planning to strengthen its control of Staffordshire, which would in effect, strengthen their wedge between the Royalist west and north. For this purpose, Lord Brooke, commander of the West Midlands Association, attacked the Royal garrison of Lichfield on 17th March and after the arrival of Sir John Gell, the Parliamentary army forced the garrison to capitulate, though at the loss of Lord Brooke. Gell then pushed on to attack Stafford. On 19th March he was to meet Sir William Brereton's army at Hopton Heath and undertake a combined attack on the county town, two miles away. The garrison of Stafford, under the Earl of Northampton, allied with Henry Hastings, sallied from the town and attacked Gell's army as it stood waiting on the Heath. The Royalists beat both Gell's force, and Brereton's as it arrived on the Heath, capturing all their artillery.

On 21st April, Prince Rupert with General Hastings recaptured Lichfield, and Parliament's attempt to control Staffordshire was ended. The possession of the county would have been a great advantage to them for, coupled with Gell's control of Derbyshire, it would have completely cut off the western channel of communications between the King at Oxford and the Marquis of Newcastle at York.

In February 1642-3 the Queen had landed at Bridlington Bay, with ammunition, and weapons, which she had purchased in Holland, after selling part of the Crown jewels. From there she had gone to York to join the Marquis of Newcastle, and by May had gathered an army large enough to escort her south to Oxford. In the Midlands, Sir John Gell and Oliver Cromwell realised that, in order to prevent her reaching the King, they had to attack and seize Newark through which the Queen had to pass. For this enterprise they would need the support of Lord Grey's Leicestershire troops. Lord Grey was, however, an unwilling partner; worried by Hastings unchecked presence he refused to leave Leicester. It was not until Hastings was beaten in a small engagement at Burleigh House in late May, that he eventually joined Cromwell and Gell in Nottingham.

The Queen had requested that Hastings should escort her from Newark to Oxford,<sup>22</sup> and it is probable that some of the thirty-eight troops of cavalry assembled at Newark were supplied by the army at Ashby. Parliament believed that Hastings was, with Lord Dover, escorting Her Majesty south.<sup>23</sup> Hastings himself, was silent for a whole week; the King interpreted this lack of communication as implying that Hastings was with the Queen.<sup>24</sup> Apart from this, there is no evidence that Henry was with Her Majesty.

The coalition at Nottingham was, however, both surprised by the Queen's sudden arrival in Newark, with four thousand five hundred troops, and, diverted from its task by the attempted plot, of the Hothams, father and son, to hand over Hull, to the Marquis of Newcastle. The result being, that each of the three commanders turned back to his own county, Cromwell to prevent Newcastle moving south from Hull, and Gell and Grey to protect their counties from the Queen's army; thus, allowing Her Majesty to proceed southwards. She and her ammunition reached Oxford on 19th July.<sup>25</sup>

1643 was grave for the Parliaments' war effort. The Earl of Stamford was defeated at Statton, and then forced to surrender Exeter to Prince Rupert, and Waller was beaten at Roundway Down. The Midlands saw the extension of Newcastle's power, he had cleared Lincolnshire and much of Nottinghamshire of Parliamentary forces. Hastings, despite both failing to stop Gell seizing control of more of Derbyshire and failing to check Manchester's renewed advances in Lincolnshire, was able to gain some advantage from Parliament's straightened circumstances. Lord Grey of Groby had been ordered to join the Earl of Essex in relieving Gloucester thus leaving General Hastings free to course the East Midlands for ammunitions and food.

On 23rd October 1643 in recognition of his services, General Hastings was by Letters Patent, created Henry, Baron Loughborough. Six days later an award of more practical value was sent to the new Lord of the realm, six barrels each, of gunpowder and match.<sup>26</sup>

In January 1643-4 the Marquis of Newcastle established a garrison at Wingfield Manor; only nine miles north of Derby. This made the garrisons at Wilne Ferry and King's Mills of double importance, as they were the nearest points to Wingfield that Hastings and, thereby, the King had. This fact was not lost on Parliament, and on 5th February Sir John Gell attacked and captured the crossing at King's Mills.

In order to sever the Royalist line of communication on the eastern route, Sir John Meldrum, on 29th February besieged Newark. The town was of great importance, as it stood at the juncture of the North road and the Fosse Way, and was the key to the only route from the Royal west to the Royal north, since the capture of Wilne Ferry; also it was the route by which the Marquis of Newcastle could enter Eastern Association territory. The town had housed the 'flying army' of General, Lord Cavendish, which had been successful, until its defeat by the Earl of Manchester's army at Winceby and Gainsborough.

Attempts to raise the siege were made by both the garrison of Ashby, and by that of Belvoir, but these had failed despite the support of the Newark Horse, which had escaped Meldrum's net and marched to Ashby. In March, Prince Rupert was dispatched from Chester to relieve the garrison. Warned of this move, Sir John Meldrum, on 15th March, sent Sir Edward Hartopp and the Nottinghamshire Horse to intercept the Prince. Lord Loughborough, and the governor of Belvoir, Sir Gervase Lucas, combined forces at Loughborough. There they fortified Burleigh House as this overlooked the route from Leicester to Newark, by which Lord Grey could supply or support Meldrum. The 'flying army' then made an attack on Leicester in order to frighten the garrison into complacency. However, the attack was not pressed home and the army retired to Mountsorrel followed, at some distance, by Lord Grey. The following day, Saturday 16th March, the army was surprised by Sir Edward Hartopp's troops on their way to prevent Prince Rupert's relief force reaching Newark.

Hartopp attacked with one regiment, Thornhaugh's. As a result of this meagre effort Hartopp

lost the opportunity to cut the Ashby army off from its base, and the Royalists were able to withdraw to the bridges at Cotes. Because of Lord Grey's unco-operative nature, it was not until the 18th that Hartopp was fully supported by the Leicester garrison.

Loughborough's men had fortified themselves on the chain of bridges along a raised causeway, that spanned the six channels of the River Soar. The Nottinghamshire troops attacked from the north side of the river, whilst Lord Grey's two cannon fired on the defenders. In the battle the Royalist Horse were defeated and chased through Loughborough to Burleigh House and the foot driven off the bridges into the great meadow, where they stood until night fell.<sup>27</sup>

Once again Hartopp did not press his advantage, claiming later that he was not authorised to conduct such an action. Also by nightfall, he heard of Prince Rupert's arrival at Ashby and withdrew from Cotes leaving Lord Grey to retire unsupported to Leicester. The small battle at Cotes was of great significance, for the result was that Lord Loughborough's army, virtually undamaged, was able to contribute two thousand seven hundred men to the army of 6,420 men, with which Rupert was to attack Meldrum. Hartopp's action became the subject of both a county committee enquiry and a Parliamentary investigation, following complaints made by Captain Palmer.<sup>28</sup> The enquiry was a bitter one, stirring up local rivalries, the Earl of Stamford, anxious to protect his son's name, threatened one of Palmer's witnesses with his stick,<sup>29</sup> and one of Hartopp's lieutenants physically attacked another of the Captain's witnesses.<sup>30</sup> However, the enquiry was eventually dropped in order to re-establish unity amongst the local Parliamentarians. Hartopp's retreat, on the 18th is justified by the presence of a large army in the vicinity and by the fact that a force from Lincolnshire was threatening to cut his communications with the Newark leaguer, but his failure to destroy an enemy army which was, to all intents and purposes, at his mercy on the 16th is inexcusable.

Once Loughborough and Rupert joined forces they marched on Newark, via Rempstone and Bingham on 21st March, they attacked Meldrum's army from Beacon Hill, and drove him back onto his fortifications which were chiefly on a small island in the Trent. When the governor of Newark and the garrison sallied out and captured Muskham Bridge, Meldrum surrendered, handing over to Rupert three thousand muskets, nine pieces of ordnance and two mortars. This was Parliament's most complete defeat of the war, and Rupert's greatest victory, a masterpiece of guile and strategy that he only achieved once more, at Poppleton just prior to his relief of York.

The Newark campaign was also the zenith of the 'flying army' which contributed one thousand five hundred horse and one thousand two hundred foot, to the relief of the town. Much of the army was raised in Derbyshire; of the horse, Colonel Rowland Eyre's and Sir John Harper's regiments of horse were from that county. Lord Loughborough's blue coats were mainly raised from the mining areas, owned by the Earl of Huntingdon, in Derbyshire. The core of this regiment would have been the troop with which, the then Colonel Hastings had returned to Ashby from Oxford. Other cavalry regiments in the army were Sir Richard Astley's regiment, raised in Staffordshire, who fought in blue coats, under the cinquefoil of the Astley family, and Sir John Freschville's regiment of horse.

Lord Loughborough, Colonel Eyre and Sir John Freschville had foot regiments in addition to their horse. Lord Loughborough's was provided with powder and match in November 1643 (see above) and wore blue coats, as did his horse. His foot would include a proportion of both pikes and muskets. It is possible that, due to the shortage of muskets which Loughborough suffered, his foot regiment would have a ratio of one pike to one musket, a common ratio in the Royal armies. Like most under-strength Royal regiments, it may be safe to assume that Lord Loughborough's Foot would be under five hundred strong.<sup>31</sup>

As artillery was in short supply in the Royal army, the only guns Henry was supplied with

were on loan, he was loaned three in March 1642-3<sup>32</sup> He would, of course, keep any he captured, presumably he would get a share of those taken at Hopton Heath, and possibly some of those taken at Newark. It is reasonable to suppose that any guns he had would be small guns, such as drakes or sakers.

It must be remembered that, as well as the regiments at the relief of Newark, there were also garrisons at Belvoir, Tutbury, Ashby, Lichfield and Burleigh House.

However, it was to be a short lived zenith, for lack of ammunition and supplies were to end the cohesion in the army. On 17th April the King asked Lord Loughborough to aid Rupert in his advance through Lancashire, by joining Goring in the West Riding, and to prevent the Scots joining the Earl of Manchester and Fairfax outside York.<sup>33</sup> However, the Lichfield garrison could not join Loughborough, due to a lack of horses.<sup>34</sup> Though he had been supplied with ammunition throughout February, Loughborough's regiments were by now short of ammunition despite promises of supply. Only Sir John Freschville and Rowland Eyre took their regiments of foot and horse north to join Goring around Sheffield. Both fought in the front line of Goring's wing at Marston Moor which severely mauled Sir Thomas Fairfax's command.<sup>35</sup> The Leicestershire historian, E.W. Hensman,<sup>36</sup> thought that Loughborough himself was present at the battle, but did not speculate as to which flank he fought on, in the Royalist defeat. However, it was not until 6th July that Loughborough heard of the battle, in a letter from Sir Richard Byron at Newark, who requested aid, as the rebels were moving south, unchecked after Rupert's withdrawal westward.<sup>37</sup>

By July, Loughborough had his own problems, on the day he received Byron's letter, Wilne Ferry was captured, thus severing completely Loughborough's links with the garrison at Wingfield. Also, despite his efforts, supplies were reaching the leaguer at an alarming rate. In order to rescue the garrison, and re-open communications, a combined attack by the 'flying army' and the garrisons of Lichfield and Tutbury was planned. However, on 16th July, the day appointed for the rendezvous of the three forces, Colonel Eyre's regiment of horse was captured in its entirety at Boyleston Church by Sir John Gell, and Colonel Bagot and the Lichfield garrison were defeated at Burton on Trent. A month later aid from the Earl of Manchester enabled Wingfield Manor to be captured.

The final battle that the 'flying army' was to fight, as a complete unit, came within a month of the fall of Wingfield. A party of Royalist horse, having fought its way from the north became blockaded at Crowland in East Anglia. The 'flying army' met with the Newark and Belvoir garrisons near Belvoir to rescue the trapped cavaliers. Shortly afterwards they were intercepted by a combined force of Sir John Gell, Lord Grey, Colonel Hutchinson from Nottingham, and Sir Thomas Fairfax, and completely defeated.

The Royal East Midlands Association was finished as a fighting force and confined to garrisoning its bases in the county. By November 1644 Tutbury was guarded from Burton on Trent, and cut off from Ashby by a garrison at Brisincourt House, Belvoir Castle was watched by a Parliamentary garrison at Stonesby, and the core of the 'flying army' was contained at Ashby, by a garrison at Coleorton. The area which Lord Loughborough had kept open for the King was now firmly controlled by Parliament, with garrisons at Tamworth, Burton on Trent, and Burleigh House, as well as the three mentioned above.

Lord Loughborough's failing career was given a brief respite when, in May 1645 the King left Oxford to relieve Chester, besieged as it was by Sir William Brereton. Upon hearing that the siege was lifted the King turned eastward in order to strike a blow upon a Parliamentary garrison, in order to relieve Oxford from the pressure of Sir Thomas Fairfax, who had advanced to that city, after the King's departure. Parliament was not sure of the King's intentions and suspected that he was heading for York, but as a precautionary measure, warned the garrison of Leicester of the King's march.<sup>38</sup>

On 25th May the King's army reached Leicestershire, and on the following day he reached Ashby de la Zouch where Lord Loughborough joined him with his regiment of horse, now only one hundred strong,<sup>39</sup> and Colonel Bagot's regiment of two hundred. On 28th May Sir Marmaduke Langdale and the Royal cavalry arrived outside Leicester; the King had chosen this city for his show of strength. During the following day, the main part of the royal army arrived, and on the 30th Prince Rupert set up a battery opposite the rectangular defence work known as the Newarke, which was the most in disrepair. Inside the city was a garrison of two thousand, only a thousand of which were regular troops and two hundred of those had been bribed to stay.

After the failure of the committee, (which included Sir Arthur Hazelrigg and his brother; Archdale Palmer and Sir Edward Hartopp) to give any firm answer to Prince Rupert's offer of pardon for the mayor and safe conduct for Mayor Innes and his bribed dragoons, Rupert's guns commenced firing at approximately two-fifteen in the afternoon. Within three hours there was a breach in the Newarke wall. At midnight a three-pronged attack, on the Newarke, the Gartree Gate and the Belgrave Gate was launched. By one-thirty in the morning the walls were stormed, and an hour later all fighting was over, save for small pockets of resistance around the market place.

Lord Loughborough was appointed Governor of the city with a garrison of twelve hundred, to which he added four hundred new recruits. He was given the task of making Leicester more defensible by knocking down two parts of the city to make the third strong.<sup>40</sup>

The King, anxious to save Oxford, marched south; Fairfax had, unbeknown to Charles left the siege and moved north. The two armies clashed at Naseby. The King's veteran infantry, though inferior in number, were, man for man, more than a match for the conscripts of the New Model Army, but his outnumbered cavalry, with all the flair, dash and stupidity for which it was known, charged off the field after plunder, having first beaten Ireton's cavalry on Parliament's left wing. On the opposite flank, Cromwell's disciplined, ex-Eastern Association cavalry decimated Langdale's outnumbered cavaliers, and was able to turn on the already all but overwhelmed Royal infantry.

The remains of the Royal army and its master fled to Leicester and beyond, the King stayed the night at Ashby, and then proceeded to Lichfield. On 16th July Fairfax and the New Model army began the siege of Leicester. Using the very guns, captured at Naseby, which Rupert had used, he battered down the Newarke wall. Loughborough, despite his defiant first reply, understood the hopelessness of fighting once the breach in the wall became practical. The terms of surrender, concluded with Colonels Rainsborough and Pickering, allowed the garrison to march out with its colours and staves toward Lichfield, leaving behind valuable ammunition and five hundred horses. Upon joining the King at Lichfield, Loughborough was, albeit temporarily, arrested by his ungrateful master.

For the remainder of the first Civil War, the Ashby garrison was closely confined by the enemy garrison at Coleorton; by late summer 1645 the sixty men left in the castle were stricken by plague which forced them out of the castle buildings.<sup>41</sup> Six hundred reinforcements arrived in November, and by December the garrison undertook small, offensive activities. On 16th January 1645-6, an attack was successfully undertaken on a convoy escorting a mortar to the army besieging Newark, and five days later a force of three hundred was dispatched to help relieve Chester. The last great success of the 'flying army' was the destruction of the enemy garrison's quarters at Coleorton.

However, events elsewhere were shaping the Ashby garrison's future. Belvoir Castle surrendered on the 2nd February 1645-6, followed a day later by Chester. Ashby's position became untenable, terms for surrender were entered into with Colonel John Needham, Governor of Leicester. Lord Loughborough, not concerned with his own sequestration 'his estate being little or nothing of worth'<sup>42</sup> would not submit, unless his brother Ferdinando and

Ashby's governor Colonel Perkins' estates were to be freed from sequestration. The terms were submitted to Parliament on 28th February 1645-6. The garrison was to 'slight' the castle's new works itself within three months and then either to march to Bridgenorth or Worcester, or to lay down arms and submit to the laws of Parliament.<sup>43</sup>

This notable army had, during its short life, achieved a great deal of important success. It had for many valuable months protected the existing communications between the King at Oxford and the Earl of Newcastle and only failed to maintain its hold when the north itself had fallen; and it had been instrumental in making attempts to forge a western link between the two spheres of Royal influence. The 'flying army' had tied down many Parliamentary forces and made any united action by such forces in the area of the East Midlands impossible for more than short periods. This army and its active commander achieved far more than it has been given credit for despite severe shortages of ammunition.<sup>44</sup>

Henry Hastings, Lord Loughborough, was in charge of the commissary during the siege of Colchester, in the second Civil War. In 1648 he was sentenced to be exiled only to have the sentence revoked by the House of Lords. He escaped from captivity at Windsor and fled to Holland.<sup>45</sup>

#### Notes

- 1 The family estate was mortgaged to the Crown to the value of £4,537. Calendar of State Papers — Domestic (C.S.P.-D.) *Charles I*, No.1 (Lichtenstein, 1967) 30
- 2 Historical Manuscripts Commission, *Report on the Manuscripts of the late Reginald Rawdon-Hastings* (1930) 70-71
- 3 J.E. Stocks (ed.), *Records of the Borough of Leicester*, 1603-1689 (Cambridge, 1923) 300
- 4 *The Militia Ordinance* in S.R. Gardiner, *Constitutional Documents of the Puritan Revolution* (Oxford, 1979) 245-247
- 5 J. Nichols, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicestershire* (London, 1804) III, Part 2, Appendix 4, 19
- 6 *Ibid.*, III, Part 2, Appendix 4, 19
- 7 *Ibid.*, Part 2, Appendix 4, 19
- 8 Gardiner, *Constitutional Documents*, 259
- 9 *Ibid.*, 260
- 10 *Ibid.*, 260
- 11 Stocks, *Records*, 313
- 12 Nichols, *Leicestershire*, 21-22
- 13 W. Kelly, *Royal Visits and Progresses to Leicester* (Leicester, 1884), 398
- 14 'A true relation of the transactions of the commands of both Houses of Parliament in the execution of the "Militia Ordinance". By the Earl of Stamford, Lord Ruthin and Sir Arthur Hazelrigg,' in Nichols, *Leicestershire*, III, Part 2, Appendix 4, 86
- 15 The commission to raise the Horse is dated 1 August. HMC *Hastings*, II, 86
- 16 Nichols, *Leicestershire*, III, Part 2, 603
- 17 I. Roy, *Royal Ordnance Papers* (Oxford, 1964), II, 264n
- 18 *Ibid.*, 169-70
- 19 *Ibid.*, 470n
- 20 HMC., *Hastings*, II, 94
- 21 Roy, *Papers*, I, 169
- 22 HMC., *Hastings*, II, 102



- 23 'A continuation of certain Special and Remarkable Passages of Parliament', cited by E.W. Hensman, *Henry Hastings, Lord Loughborough and The Great Civil War*; in A. Dryden (ed.), *Memorials of Ancient Leicestershire* (Leicester, 1911), 210
- 24 HMC, *Hastings*, II, 104
- 25 Roy, *Papers*, I, 107
- 26 *Ibid.*, II, 303
- 27 'Testimony of Geoffrey Palmer', in Hensman, *Mountsorrel*; in Dryden, *Memorials*, 126-7
- 28 *C.S.P.-D.*, *Charles I*, No.19, 82
- 29 *Ibid.*, 158
- 30 *Ibid.*, 158
- 31 A normal Foot regiment had 1,300 men, that is; ten companies, the Colonel's two hundred strong, the Lieutenant Colonel's 160, the Major's 140, and seven Captains' each of a hundred men. However, during the war, due to desertion and casualties and general undermanning regiments were usually about five hundred strong and often less. Cavalry regiments were anything between one hundred and five hundred strong.
- 32 HMC., *Hastings*, II, 95
- 33 *Ibid.*, II, 126
- 34 *Ibid.*, II, 126
- 35 *C.S.P.-D.*, *Charles I*, No.19, 181
- 36 E. Hensman, *Loughborough during the Civil War*' (Loughborough, 1923), 26
- 37 HMC., *Hastings*, II, 129-130
- 38 *C.S.P.-D.*, *Charles I*, No.20, 120
- 39 Symonds, *Diary of the Marches of the Royal Army*', cited Nichols, *Leicestershire*, III, Part 2, Appendix 4, 45
- 40 'The Exchange Intelligence', 13 June 1645, *Ibid.*, III, Part 2, Appendix 4, 65
- 41 'The Parliamentary Post' 19 August 1645, in *Ibid.*, III, Part 2, Appendix 4, 65
- 42 *C.S.P.-D.*, *Charles I*, No.21, 325
- 43 *Ibid.*, 356-357
- 44 It appears that Lord Loughborough, was often passed over in favour of the Oxford generals when ammunition was allocated, for example, see Arthur Gorges letter of 14 May 1643 in HMC., *Hastings*, II, 101
- 45 'Heaths Chronicle', Nichols, *Leicestershire*, III, Part 2, Appendix 4, 67