



# DESPATCHES

the magazine of the International Guild of Battlefield Guides



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Anglia Tours Marks  
25 Years

Sophie's Great War  
Tours

A Cornish Battlefield

## PLUS

Nursing Guide

Tewkesbury Revisited

## AND

Flexible Guiding - UK

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Photos of Field Guides

Events in 2023

# FIELDguides

Cover image: Royalists Sir, thousands of them! Tom Dormer bringing the battle of Naseby to life for a Company of Royal Anglian soldiers on a windswept and rainy afternoon in January. (Picture: Mike Peters)



Above: Back in the day - Tom Dormer comparing the life of the infantry soldier at Naseby in 1645, with that of the 21st century infantryman.

Left: Royalist or soldier for Parliament? Tim Dormer and Mike Peters enjoying a great day of Battlefield Study with C (Northamptonshire) Company, 2 Royal Anglian at Naseby.

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Material for publication in the Spring edition of 'Despatches' must be with the Editor no later than 15 March 2023. This is a deadline and submissions should be sent as far in advance as possible.

All material should be sent via Guild Secretary Tim Stoneman at: [secretary@gbg-international.com](mailto:secretary@gbg-international.com)

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## EDITOR'Sguidelines:

Hello and welcome to this Annual Conference edition of 'Despatches'. As is traditional we are printing the conference magazine as a hard copy. Hopefully the postal strikes in the UK did not delay receipt of your copy too much. The content

and spread of subjects through the magazine reflect the relatively quiet winter across the battlefield tour sector, and the impact of the current economic downturn on the travel industry. I have heard from a number of guides who report an upturn in bookings for the coming year - let's hope that we can have a corresponding rise in the number of article submissions.

I am already on the hunt for articles and pictures for the next issue of 'Despatches', so if you are thinking of sharing your knowledge, or you have some battlefield related information to share, I would be very happy to receive it. Photographs are of course always welcome for the Field Guides feature, it's good to see what fellow members are getting up to around the world. If you have an idea for a feature or an article, please do get in touch, alternatively, if you are at the conference, please come and talk it through with me.



Mike Peters  
Editor



# OPENINGshot:

## A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Dear fellow members and Guild Partners, welcome to this issue of 'Despatches'. In line with our current thinking, this issue of 'Despatches' will be available in both hard and soft copy. Contained within are all the battlefield specific articles of the preceding year as well as some new.

2022 saw a return to the battlefields after two years of COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns. It was a tough period for us all; those in the UK and those 'international' members in Europe and further afield were all significantly affected by the measures taken by our various governments and the restrictions placed, not only on us but those of our traditional overseas customers. In the UK, the final lockdown ended in July 2021, but the resumption of an unrestricted return to the battlefields was still nearly a year away. Indeed, for visitors from the USA, the need for a PCR test two days prior to their return to the US did not end until 12 June 2022. This led some to delay their tours and it was not until the latter half of the year that many of our customers began to visit the battlefields again.

Since that time, we have had to face many new barriers, challenges, and obstacles in getting to the battlefields. For those of us based in the UK these have been exaggerated by the added restrictions of BREXIT. For all of us, however, whether UK based or an 'International' member, things have certainly been more complicated than they were pre-pandemic. But we should not fear for the future, but rather seize the opportunities that these changing times present. As John Adams once said, 'every problem is an opportunity in disguise', and this is the theme that the Management Board has chosen for our 2023 Annual Conference:

**Battlefield Guiding Today  
Barriers, Challenges, and Obstacles  
(Every problem is an opportunity in disguise)**

As we head into 2023, there will be more opportunities arising and it is my hope that the IGBG can help its members seize these with both hands and add value to their guiding activities.

I am pleased to report that Mike Scott has been co-opted onto the Management Board and assigned the role of Vice-Chair. This is no longer a succession role, but a supporting role to the Chair. His primary duties

are to assist the Chair by taking the lead on projects and specific tasks and deputising for the Chair in his absence. It is my hope that you will confirm his appointment at the AGM.

The 2023 Annual Conference has a packed programme and I look forward to seeing you in person at the Conference for the first time in three years. It will be great for us to be able to get together again to network and socialize.

The optional Friday afternoon visit will be to Bletchley Park and the evening will have the usual 'Bring and Buy' sale and 'Quiz Night'.

The Saturday morning will see the re-start of live validations after three years of accreditation virtually. We are effectively having to kick-start the Programme from scratch and the Annual Conference will be the first opportunity for many to see a live validation. The afternoon will begin with the Patron's and President's Addresses before we get down to the business of the AGM. In the evening we will hold our Awards Dinner, please remember your Black Tie, or equivalent for ladies.

The Sunday morning will begin with three presentations that the Management Board hopes will highlight several of the opportunities open to its members. The first will be made by Garry Stewart from Black Heritage Walks Network who will be talking about 'Black Remembrance', highlighting the contribution of black, Asian, and other ethnic groups within the Allied Forces of both World Wars. The second will be by Lt Col Robin Davies, SO1 Land Warfare Centre, who will be talking about opportunities for our members to act as SMEs for British Army Battlefield Studies. The third will be by Julian Humphrys of the Battlefields Trust.

The Annual Conference will conclude with a Panel discussion answering questions related to the conference theme.

I wish all the Guild's members a happy and prosperous 2023

**Ian Gumm  
Chairman**



# ANGLIA TOURS AT 25

Alison Biegel - Head of Anglia

**We care about our customers, our staff, the places we visit, the organisations with which we work and the stories we tell.**



In November 2022 we celebrated being in business for 25 years. This gave us both the opportunity to celebrate but also to reflect. These days it's all about 'the journey' and we have certainly come a very long way – we've made a few mistakes but have learned from them and always held firm to the founding principle that an Anglia tour, first and foremost, should be an outstanding educational experience. In its 25 years, Anglia Tours has taken thousands of students of history on tours in the UK and overseas driven by passion and a desire to put our customers, young and old, in touch with history in a real-life setting,

**Anglia was founded by Alain Chissel and Ed Church as Anglia Battlefield Tours in 1997. It all came about after a visit to the Somme – here is Alain's side of the story:**



*"Anglia came about as a concept from a tour I took to the Somme with a group of friends from Stansted Airport in December 1996. We stayed at an old farmhouse owned by a friend of mine in the little village of Bucquoy. I had visited the Somme before on a few occasions as my wonderful Grandfather had fought there and*

*had some experience of the area - enough to take friends who thankfully at the time knew even less than I did. The tour was a great success and at the car park at the airport on our return I was presented with a bottle of malt whisky!*

*A couple of days later Ed Church contacted me and asked if I had ever considered doing this professionally. I confessed that I had and that I wanted to take schools. There were reasons for this, firstly there were plenty of adult companies running tours and schools of course had a new year group every year - in other words, if it was done properly then the school would probably re-book with a new set of students. The next thing was to decide on the name and we both settled on Anglia Battlefield Tours. I had commanded a TA Royal Anglian Battalion and we lived in East Anglia so*

*it made sense. We were going to be a 'start up' in a fiercely competitive industry, and the travel business for schools had its own intricate set of requirements. We were to experience a steep learning curve.*

*The next thing was the 'concept'. We carried out a considerable amount of research and discovered that there were numerous companies running tours to 'the battlefields' but virtually none were guided and most seemed to be focused on visits to museums and obvious sites and the driving force appeared to be the bottom line! I even heard an executive from one of these companies describe these tours and the schools they took as 'muck on trucks'. Ed and I both felt that schools deserved much better. It became clear as we went along that whilst many schools were getting a fulfilling experience on these tours, due mainly to the dedication and experience of their teachers, most were not. We then set out on a series of visits to the Somme to see what we could put together beyond visiting museums.*

*To create a new company from scratch in what was already a crowded market might seem incredibly tough. In fact, it was remarkably easy! It sounds arrogant to say, but it's true. Our focus was that the customer and the product must always come first and before profit. Other companies said the same thing, and even had 'Investors in People' badges to prove it, but whilst many did have good relationships with their customers, the driving force was still the bottom line. Also, we were to find out later, that most of the staff dealing with enquiries from schools had little or no knowledge of the sites the customers were going to visit or their historical importance.*

**The burgeoning Anglia was to have three USPs:**

1. Every school was to be visited by me (initially).
2. Every school would be given a pre-tour evening presentation for parents, students and staff.
3. Every tour would be guided, and every coach with more than 42 students was to have two guides!

*Well, that was the concept - the next thing on the agenda was where our team of guides was to come from and, perhaps more importantly, where our*

customers were going to come from? This was going to be the hard part as, like us, our competitors had worked out years before that schools re-book with a new set of students every year!

Firstly, the guides. I had several contacts with whom I had served in the military and some of my friends from Stansted Airport, Ian Coyne and Emrys Jones had expressed a keen interest. I then put out feelers among my military circle and arranged for a meeting to be held at the Headquarters of 6 Royal Anglian in Bury St. Edmunds in spring 1997. Among those attending were Guild members: Ed Church, David Winn and the sadly missed, Will Townend. (Also at that meeting was Ian Coyne, now Product Development Manager at Next Generation Travel.)



Guide Training – the early relaxed approach!

I gave a presentation (this was before power point!), explaining our itinerary for the Somme and laying out our plans to obtain and retain customers. We were not going to be talking about tactics,

Divisions or Fire Plans as our audiences were going to be 13-15 years old. We would be talking to them about the experiences of the ordinary man on the ground - what was it like waiting to go over the top, what went through their minds, the boredom of trench life. In other words - to stand in their boots and to walk where they walked. This was new as far as school history travel was concerned. I had met with the wonderful Tonie and Valmai Holt earlier and explained our concept to them. They were impressed and both encouraged us, saying that our approach was the same as the approach they took at the beginning for their adult groups. - I knew then we were on the right track.

Secondly, the customers. Marketing for schools was relatively simple – we sent out a tri-fold ‘brochure’ addressed to ‘Head of History’. Unlike most advertising which can be pot luck, we were at least targeting the person who made the decisions. It worked and in the first few months we had five customers, three of which Anglia still takes 25 years later. We learnt early on that it was not just a matter of getting customers, but we needed insurance and licenses, accountants, H&S and all the paraphernalia required to run a business. Luckily Anita, my wife, had run businesses in the past and so we relied on her experience. It would take time and a lot of mistakes, but we were eventually to get it right, but it was as a steep learning curve!”

With the fundamental building blocks in place, Alain and Ed realised that if they were going to have possibly two or more guides out with the same school it was imperative that the guides all ‘sang off the same hymn sheet’, or groups would not be getting the same experience. Guide training was therefore going to be a priority. Alain again:

“Our first guide training took place in early 1998 and we based ourselves at Talbot House. We visited all



The Anglia office – Lest we Forget

the sites we would be using and set out objectives and educational aims for each one. We knew what was to be covered and what the focus was to be, ensuring that schools got the same information imparted to their students. Nothing was done by ‘rote’ and I used the Army principle of Mission Command - knowing what your commander wants you to achieve, but how you achieve it is up to you. This gave guides leeway to adapt their delivery to the school they were presenting to. Also, deeply conscious of attention span, I insisted that where possible groups would move every ten minutes even if it was only a few metres. This set the standard for all guide training going forward. I was insistent that Anglia guides must be



Guide Training – the later, more purposeful approach!



Ed Church discussing treatment of the wounded

able to communicate to groups and inform, educate and entertain! The last thing I looked for in a guide was knowledge, in the belief that knowledge is a trainable quality. Guide training would be ongoing as the company grew, and at least two weekends were devoted to this throughout the year as well as constant updates via email. In addition, guides would be validated by me on an annual basis.”

This has now developed into the Anglia Tours Guide Assurance Programme and forms part of the company’s wider programme of Continuing Professional Development alongside the Guide Induction Programme, new tour familiarisation, annual training, etc.

This is all well and good but without sound administration and back-up when out on tour the guide team would not have been able to deliver and that’s where I come in!

“Our original office was our back bedroom in our house in Great Dunmow and as things started to take off we moved to the front bedroom (much bigger). Our written material improved and we produced some glossy brochures, working on the principle that



Alain Chissel guiding at Essex Farm

it looked (and was) highly professional and belied the fact that we were operating from a bedroom. As we started to get more enquiries we needed to take on some help. Alison Biegel was our first ‘employee’ and she worked during term time only and in November she would say farewell until late January! We also only had one computer – which we took turns on.” (All office staff now have a minimum of two screens – things have improved!)

In 2000 we moved from our house to our first office at Brick House Farm in Margaret Roding, along with a growing collection of full and part time staff. Alison found that she no longer had long breaks in between coming into the office. It was also around this time that other tour operators began to notice us and tried to undercut us. Our growing customer base was mostly as a result of 'word of mouth' recommendations and our competitors found they could not match our most important USP – our guides. The guide team had by now expanded considerably and many of them knew each other from service in the military. We took on a range of people including teachers, police officers, actors -providing us with a very eclectic team. We treated them well and morale was always high. In addition, they acted as our salesforce on the ground. Spending three days on tour with a school was an ideal opportunity to sell them a Berlin or Poland tour."

It would be doing Alain and Ed a disservice if I did not also mention another key component in the company's success and that is a combination of USPs 1 and 2. In the early days Alain visited every school, twice, first to discuss what they wanted to achieve from the tour and secondly to give an evening presentation prior to travel. This gave us a chance to see the students and staff and allowed the parents to ask questions and gave them an opportunity to meet us. Nobody else was offering this service. It was hugely successful and further marked us out from our competitors. It has also proved invaluable during times of heightened concern from terrorism or disruption to travel from migrant activity – customers are hugely reassured to know that we will be on the coach with them.

The introduction of Zoom into our lives means that we can now do much of this remotely, but it does allow us to discuss itineraries with the International Schools' community without getting on an aeroplane.

The final piece in the jigsaw has been the excellent working relationships we have cultivated with all our suppliers who provide support well beyond normal service levels when we require it. It is important to treat suppliers fairly as their service reflects on our reputation for delivering quality.

By the time we had moved to our current offices at Charles House in Kelvedon, we were the UK's largest employer of battlefield guides, a team whose reputation is second to

none. It is this success that attracted the attentions of Next Generation Travel (NGT) who bought Anglia in January 2017 and have provided us with invaluable support over the last two turbulent years.

Alain again:

"I have now retired, well almost, as I still guide for the company when I'm requested (which is quite often). Anglia has 'grown up' over the years and I look back with immense pride at what it has achieved in the 25 years since its inception. It is now in good professional hands. Covid appears to be less threatening and the future is looking good."

**This wouldn't be an Anglia article without a testimonial; our customers are still front and centre of all we do and always let us know what they think:**

The thing is about Anglia, the trips were always so fascinating. I learn something new every time and I still regale the stories to classes today! My older ex-students (now 28-30 but also younger ones too) still talk about what an amazing time they had, the fun, the food...but most of all, the Guides and the History they learnt that has stuck with them throughout their life so far. Many of them went on to read history at top universities, inspired by what they had seen in Ypres, the Somme, Auschwitz and Nuremberg. Being able to see the Berlin Wall first hand always made it so much easier to teach too! And visiting Wannsee...wow. The atmosphere there is so critical to an understanding of what was facilitated and allowed to happen.

I could go on and on. I have made friends for life through Anglia, and we reminisce often about the laughs and fun we shared. The rapport between the guides, staff and crucially students is what makes Anglia stand apart and makes you so special. The learning takes place because of this ethos and the atmosphere you so successfully create; students feel at ease to ask and answer questions and the silence they hold, when discussions are taking place, shows how fully absorbed they truly are.

Honestly, your trips were some of the best experiences I have had as a teacher. And I have been doing it for almost 20 years! Terrifying!

*Emma Carney, St Augustine's High School, formerly Thomas Telford School, King's School, Warwick and North London Collegiate School, Dubai.*

# 1644 - THE BATTLE OF LOSTWITHIEL, CORNWALL

Tony Smith



Charles by the grace of God, Kinge of England, Scotland France and Ireland, defendor of the faith, etc.

Courtesy of BritishBattles.com

Lostwithiel is one of those much-overlooked British battlefields. It was King Charles I's last major victory in the First English Civil War and Parliament's greatest defeat. It, along with the failure to defeat King Charles at the Second Battle of Newbury, ultimately led to the creation of the New Model Army.

At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1642, Cornwall MPs and the major landowners were divided. Some for the Crown through the institution of the Duchy of Cornwall, others for Parliament. The lesser gentry and yeomen farmers – the bulk of the Cornish – were firmly for the King. In the first year of the war, Cornwall and much of the west of England and Wales were Royalist strongholds. Plymouth was one exception, remaining in Parliamentary hands throughout the conflict.

In 1642 the Cornish-Royalist Army was formed by Ralph

**In August 1644 Lostwithiel found itself at the centre of a bitter and bloody siege. Within six weeks this small town would be reduced almost to rubble, its main buildings in flames and its population starving and disease ridden. Hundreds lay dead and dying in the streets and surrounding countryside and thousands more were to die before a defeated army reached relative safety.**

Hopton, 1st Baron Hopton. This army's attempts to invade Devon took place in late 1642 but ended in failure. It did, however, manage to secure the Cornish side of Plymouth Sound which posed a serious problem for Parliamentarian forces.

At the start of 1643, the Royalist position in Cornwall was threatened by the advance from Devon of two parliamentary armies under Henry Grey, 1st Earl of Stamford and Colonel Ruthin the Parliamentarian Governor of Plymouth. Before the two armies could join forces, Hopton attacked Ruthin's Parliamentarians on the 19th January 1643. at Braddock Down, midway between Lostwithiel and Liskeard. In the ensuing battle between 1,250 and 1,500 Parliamentarians were captured and as many as 200 were killed. Cornwall was once more firmly in the hands of the Royalists.

Later that year, Stamford moved into North Cornwall and took up positions at Stratton near Bude. On 16 May 1643, the Battle of Stratton took place and knowledge of the terrain enabled Hopton to mount a surprise dawn attack on Stamford's position. The Royalists defeated the Parliamentarians, leaving 300 dead on the field, and taking 1700 prisoners.

In early 1644 Lyme (now Lyme Regis) was acting as a base for Parliamentary operations against the Royalists in the South West. Prince Maurice, the King's nephew, was instructed to besiege the town which he duly did in April. Lyme, however, proved resilient to his efforts and he was still there in mid-June.

Parliament revised its strategy and now combined two of its armies against the Royalists, one under the command of Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex and the other under the command of Sir William Waller. They were tasked against the Royalists surrounding Oxford. Initial success forced the King to withdraw his forces from both Reading and Abingdon. However, when Waller pursued the King towards Worcester, Essex did not follow. On 6th June 1644, he abandoned his Oxford campaign and moved to the South West to relieve Lyme.

By 15 June 1644 he was at Blandford, prompting Prince Maurice to lift the siege and pull back to Exeter. Essex followed, forcing Maurice to retreat further west. Maurice hoped Essex would pause his advance and besiege Exeter but instead the Parliamentary force continued in pursuit. Essex had been

persuaded, somewhat against his better judgement, by one of his senior officers, Lord Robartes of Lanhydrock, that if he took his army into Cornwall, he could expect recruits to come forward in considerable numbers in support of Parliament, enabling him to take the whole south-west of English from the Royalists.

The Royalist cause in the southwest was now in chaos. Essex's advance forced the local Royalist Commander, Sir Richard Grenville, to abandon his siege of Plymouth, taking up a position on the Tamar River at Horsebridge. Essex attacked, forcing Grenville to withdraw to Truro.

Essex entered Cornwall on 26 July, arriving in Bodmin a few days later. However, a significant Royalist force, having defeated Sir William Waller's army at the Battle of Cropredy Bridge, had already been sent from Evesham to supplement Maurice's forces. This new force was commanded by King Charles himself. The King and his army arrived in Exeter on the 26 July, the same day that Essex entered Cornwall, and so effectively cut off the Parliamentarian's landward line of withdrawal.

On 2 August, Essex established his headquarters in Lostwithiel and sent a force further south to secure the port of Fowey to ensure communication with the Parliamentarian fleet under the Earl of Warwick. He resides at Lanhydrock House, the home of Lord Robartes, a few miles to the north of Lostwithiel.

On the 3rd, King Charles ordered Grenville to move up eastwards from Penryn to Tregony to disrupt Essex's forging parties to the west thus depriving his army of much needed supplies.

On the 4th, Essex, finding that far from welcoming the forces of Parliament the country folk of Cornwall were actively hostile and that in addition to the King's army, Prince Maurice's, Sir Ralph Hopton's and Sir Richard Grenville forces were converging on him. He informed the Committee of both Kingdoms in London of his situation and that he expected to be attacked on both sides. He hoped to hold Lostwithiel until enough provisions could be sent from Plymouth to enable him to move

On the 9th the King established his headquarters at Boconnoc House on the east side of the River Fowey. This remained the Royal HQ for the rest of the campaign. Now having combined his forces with those of Grenville, the forces opposing the Earl of Essex's Parliamentarians now consisted of around 12,000 foot and 7,000 horse

On the 10th August Grenville arrived at Bodmin and drove out the Parliamentarian horse there. The line of Royalist outposts now ran from Grampond to Bodmin then southward to Boconnoc and on to Liskeard.

By the 11 August, the Parliamentarian army was pretty much boxed in a two-mile by five-mile area

from Lostwithiel in the north to the port of Fowey in the south. Now, Essex was in a difficult position. Cut off from other Parliamentary forces with a significantly larger Royalist force blocking his retreat east and other Royalist forces to the west, he was now entirely reliant on resupply or evacuation by sea to the south.

He established a defensive line covering Lostwithiel, the ruined Restormel Castle garrisoned by Colonel John Weare's Devonshire Regiment and outposts of foot posted on either side of the town, particularly to the north and east at Druids Hill and Beacon Hill. His front line army comprised some 7000 foot with 2500 horse under Sir William Balfour quartered in Lostwithiel. 1000 foot were sent south to Fowey to secure the port.

Following the capture of Bodmin, Grenville then continued his advance south to secure Respryn Bridge near Lanhydrock. Taking this bridge now enabled the Royalists to operate on both sides of the River Fowey. The following day, he occupied Lanhydrock House, tightening the Royalist's hold on the northern end of the battlefield. The house remained his HQ for the rest of the campaign.

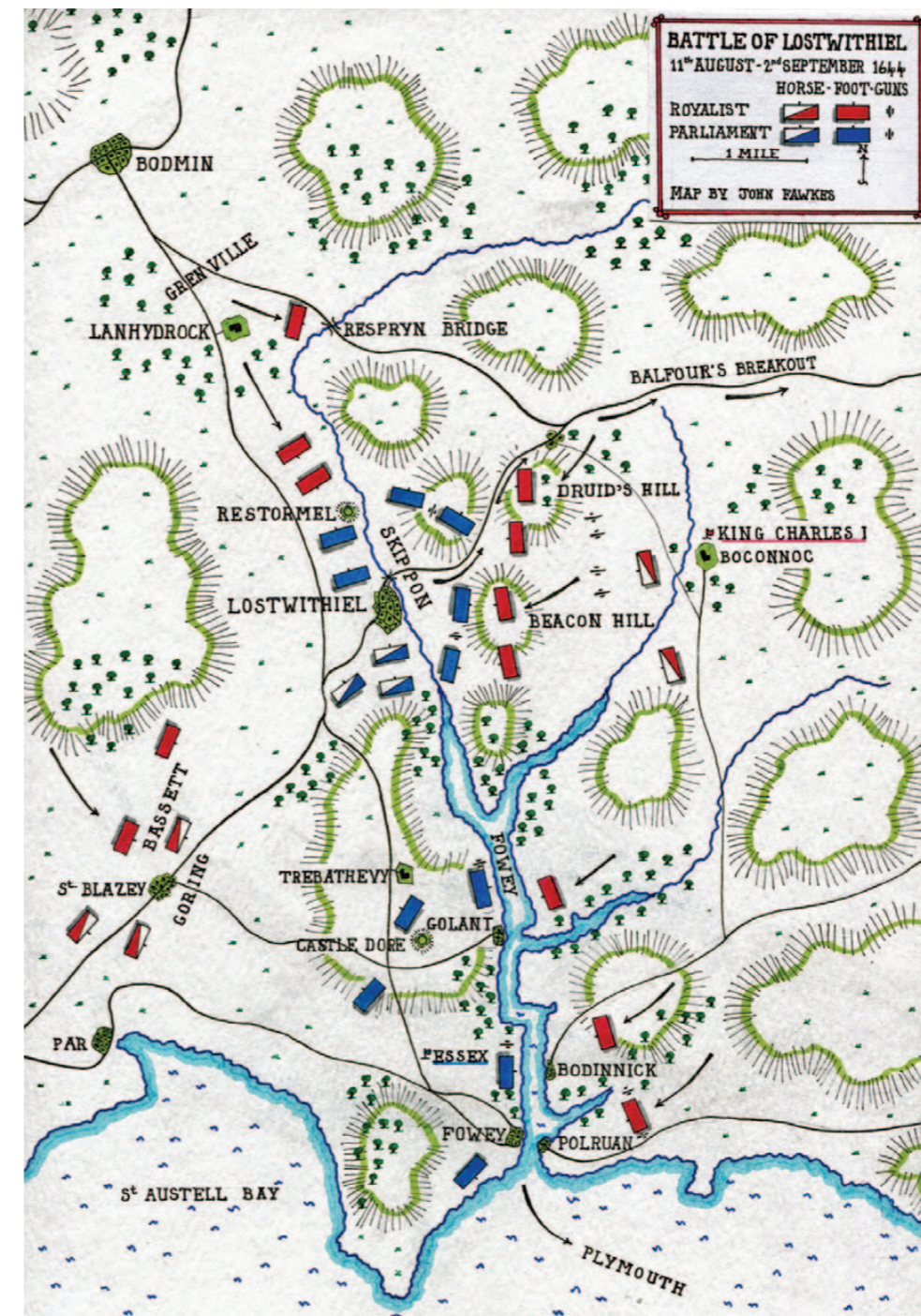
On 13 August, the Royalist horse seized the ford at Penpoll Creek, St Veep to the south. They then took possession of the fort at Polruan on the east side of the river, which they garrisoned with 200 foot and three guns. They now commanded the entrance to Fowey harbour, preventing its use by the Parliamentarian Navy and preventing Essex from resupply or escape.

On 21 August reinforcements in the shape of Sir John Middleton's Parliamentarian column was turned back by the Royalists at Bridgwater in Somerset. That same day, the King began his attack against Essex's forces at Lostwithiel.

At about 7 a.m. Grenville with 700 men attacked Restormel Castle. The garrison of just 30 men put up scant resistance and abandoned their position. The Royalists also took the nearby ford giving them yet another crossing point over the River Fowey. Restormel was the anchor of the left wing of the Parliamentarian line. Its loss punched a major hole in the line of defence.

Later in the day Essex's forces attempted to recapture the castle and there was heavy fighting which pushed back the Royalist lines. Positions were stabilised when charges from bodies of Royalist horse under Lt Colonel Sir Robert Walsh and Major James Smith of Colonel Sir George Vaughan's Regiment of Horse threw Essex's men back.

King Charles's army and Prince Maurice's force then also attacked. The Earl of Brentford's 'Oxford Foot' captured Beacon Hill to the east of Lostwithiel, the Parliamentarians offering little resistance and



Map courtesy of BritishBattles.com

withdrawing back towards Lostwithiel. Prince Maurice's Royalist force also occupied neighbouring Druid's Hill with similar ease and cleared the high ground north of the Liskeard road. Casualties were relatively few and by nightfall the fighting ended with the Royalists now holding the high ground to the north and east of Lostwithiel. That night they set up a twenty-yard square redoubt on Beacon Hill placing guns there to bombard the town.

The bombardment from Beacon Hill reduced movement in the town and the town was severely damaged. In the fighting that followed, the Great Hall of the Stannary Palace, also known as the Dutchy Palace, was sacked and burnt, destroying valuable records of the Shire and stannaries.

On 26 August, the King sent 2000 horse and Major General Sir Thomas Bassett along with 1000 foot around the Parliamentarian lines in the direction of St Blazey to the west to prevent the Parliamentarians using the port of Par for their withdrawal. The Royalists were receiving regular

supplies, but Essex's force was beginning to seriously run out of food confined as it was in a narrow corridor to the west of the River Fowey.

On 30 August, two deserters revealed that Essex planned to retire south to the coast with the infantry and guns whilst Balfour was intending to break out eastwards with the cavalry. The King reacted promptly, warnings were sent to Goring at St Blazey and to the Royalist detachments at St Veep and Polruan. A courier was sent to Col Sir William Waldegrave at Saltash ordering him to break down bridges over the Tamar. Fifty musketeers were posted to a house on the Lostwithiel to Liskeard road to try and halt the escape.

Despite these precautions the Parliamentarian cavalry escaped. At about 3.00 a.m. Balfour's column rode passed the musketeers without being engaged. Lord Cleveland managed to get 250 horse together but this was too small a force to stop Balfour. At dawn Cleveland – now with 500 men pursued the parliamentarians over Braddock Down and Caradon Down. Balfour shrugged off an attack by Waldegrave in Saltash and ferried his men over the Tamar, reaching Plymouth with a loss of only 100 men.

Essex's main body then began leaving Lostwithiel on the 31st August. They attempted to destroy the bridge over the Fowey leading into the town to delay the pursuit, but the demolition party sent to carry out the task was clearly visible to the Royalists on Beacon Hill. At 7.00 a.m. on 31 August 1000 foot

advanced into the town, before the demolition party had completed their task and drove them off. The bridge remained standing, and the Royalists crossed.

Major General Philip Skippon, commanding the Parliamentary rear guard in person, tried to hold high ground to the south of the town to buy time. The King then brought up two guns and bombarded his position. Under this fire Skippon retreated southwards.

The King himself rode from Beacon Hill at 8 a.m. and crossed the Fowey by a ford just south of the town. By this stage it was obvious that the Parliamentary army was falling apart. The Royalists followed keeping their opponents under unrelenting pressure.

Essex's army set off down the narrow road heading towards Fowey. Their column included their guns and a small body of infantry formed a rearguard. An account of this withdrawal records that: *"The ways were so extreme foul with excessive rain, and the harness for the draught horses so rotten as that in the marching off we lost three demi-culverins and a brass piece, and yet the Major General fought in the rear all day, he being loth to loose these pieces, thirty horses were put to each of them, but could not move them, the night was so foul and the soldiers so tired that they could hardly be kept to their colours"*

Pushed back hedge by hedge, the Parliamentarians reached higher ground centring on Castle Dore, an iron age fort near Golant. They then threw out a defensive line between Tywardreath and the River Fowey.

Between 11.00 and 12.00 Grenville's men fell back under fire from these positions but rallied on the Kings Lifeguard of Foot under the command of Lt Col William Leighton. The Lifeguard of Horse then charged the Parliamentary infantry, driving them from some of the hedges they held despite them putting up fierce fire.

The main body of the Royalist foot came up at around 2 p.m. and Col Matthew Appleyard took the vanguard straight into the hedges. At the same time Major General Bassett, coming up from St Blazey hit the Parliamentary left flank.

There was still some life left in the Parliamentary army – Captain Reynolds with three troops of horse which had not left with Balfour, counterattacked supported by Essex's own regiment of foot. The Royalists were driven back several fields, but the Parliamentarians withdrew as the King's Lifeguard approached. There was another parliamentary counterattack at 6 p.m. but the arrival of the Earl of Northampton's cavalry helped turn it back.

By early evening Castle Dore formed the centre of the Parliamentary defence line with Essex's artillery in position on its ramparts. To the west of the ramparts stood Essex's own regiment and Col Butlers musketeers. To the east stood Weare's, Barlett's and

Robartes' regiments. There were too few men to hold a line south to the coast and so the flanks must inevitably have been turned. Weare's regiment disintegrated at nightfall and utter defeat was only hours away.

Essex himself saw that the end was coming at Castle Dore and left the conduct of the retreat to Skippon. When Skippon asked for orders on the night of 31 August / 1 September he was told to try and bring the army to Menabilly and Polkerris to the west and escape by sea that way. Failing that he was to threaten to blow up his artillery train to try to secure the best possible surrender terms.

Accompanied by Lord Robartes and Sir John Merrick, Essex escaped by fishing boat to Plymouth just after dawn on the 1st.

On 2nd September, what was left of the Parliamentary army surrendered to the King at Fowey. Officers above the rank of corporal were allowed to keep their arms and a convoy was provided for the able bodied to retreat through Lostwithiel towards Poole and Wareham. The sick and wounded were to be transported by sea from Fowey to Plymouth.

When they reached Lostwithiel infuriated Cornish Peasantry deprived them of rations, clothes, and boots. Many were naked and barefoot, now exposed to the Autumn rains. For three days they marched without food or shelter until they reached Oakhampton where the townsfolk were forced to sell them food but at exorbitant rates. Of the 6000 that left Fowey, only 1000 lived to make it to Poole.

Today there are several traces of the battle to be found and there is a good day long tour to be had starting at Lanhydrock then to Respryn Bridge and working down both sides of the river to Fowey. Castle Dore, Restormel castle and the fort at Polruan can be visited. In Lostwithiel the bridge over the Fowey is still much as it was. St Bartholomew's church used to house the Parliamentary horse and Royalist prisoners and the scene of the baptism of a Parliamentary horse is also open to visitors!

Further down the river near Bodinnick, a plaque marks the spot where a Parliamentary on the other side of the river took a shot at the King, missed but killed a fisherman standing close by! Boconnoc House, now somewhat changed since Charles's day, can also be viewed from the outside by appointment. So next time you are down in Cornwall on holiday....!

## MEET the guide

Sophie Shrubsole

Owner - Sophie's Great War Tours



A poppy field in full bloom in Normandy

**There isn't one defining moment where I remember falling in love with military history; rather, it was a collection of events.**

These include watching an enthusiastic Thora Hird take pot shots at German invaders in 'Went the Day Well', hearing the booming theme tune of 'Where Eagles Dare' or being shocked at the little old lady being gunned down in 'A Bridge Too Far'. These classic films had a young girl hooked and I wanted to know more.

My growing up in Kent allowed me to explore the many historical sites of the South East. The secret wartime tunnels in Dover were always a great favourite but what I also loved was being able to stand where moments in history had unfolded. With the help of a great audio guide at Battle Abbey, the site of King Harold's demise was really brought to life.

It wasn't until I was 15 that I made it out to the Western Front. Spending a week on the Somme walking the landscape, finding trench lines, and discovering the Iron Harvest cemented my love for this period of history.

Fast forward several years and I headed off to Birmingham University to study history: 1000 years of it in my first year as it turned out! You can probably guess where I focused my attention thereafter. My dissertation looked at the British Army's learning curve on the Somme in three specific locations, being Delville Wood, Thiepval and the Schwaben Redoubt.

While I loved the subject matter, I wasn't intending to do anything with interest except read. On a family trip back to the Somme in 2013, I was

earwigging another guide with whom I was less than impressed and that was the moment I realised I wanted to set up my own guiding business. With the ringing in of the New Year, Sophie's Great War Tours turns ten years old.



A well earned beer with happy guests after a hot day on the Somme

Our specialism is in researching people's family military history and taking the relatives on a tour that follows in their ancestors' footsteps. It is such a privilege to be able to delve into someone's past and help their relatives understand both the context of conflict and the detail of their ancestor's contribution.

We travel across the First and Second World War battlefields of France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

One tour that will forever live with me was with the granddaughter of James Powell. She had grown up listening to his war stories but they were incomplete, confused and often rather graphic. She wanted to know more and so she sent to me his

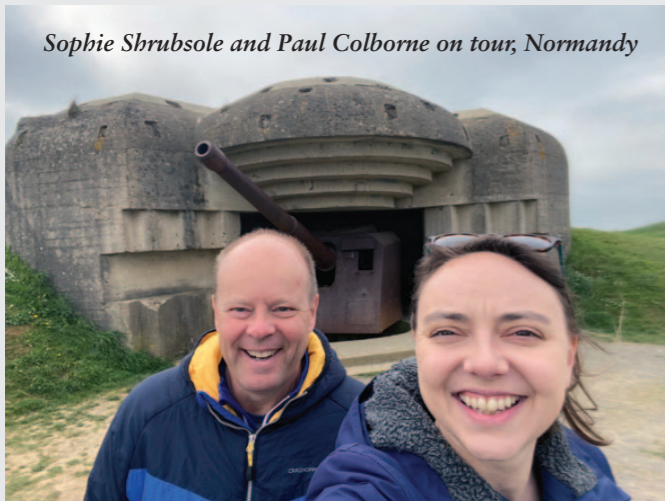
*A windy but fascinating day for Sophie's group in Normandy*



details and a photograph of him marching down a road in France in April 1918. It was her big wish to find that road and go to spot where the photograph was taken exactly 100 years on. I spent a week or so poring over the battalion war diaries, which allowed me to build a timeline and trace the route that James would have taken around France and Belgium. It materialised that James had fought a rear-guard action in the German Spring Offensive of 1918 and had found himself in a number of the Western Front's toughest spots. With this in mind, I put together the battlefield tour for James's granddaughter and on 8th April 2018, we arrived at the exact spot where James had his photograph snapped 100 years earlier to the very day. I know that this was a hugely special moment for her, and it was a privilege for me to be a part of it and to help bring it to life for her.

Just last year I was able to take two families to the locations where I believed their relatives had gone missing in action and ultimately still lay. The

*Sophie Shrubsole and Paul Colborne on tour, Normandy*



opportunity to lay a wreath by the side of the land was a profoundly moving experience for all involved.

Over the past ten years, the team has grown to include other fabulous guides including Jo Hook, Paul Colbourne and Edwin Popken. Each of these individuals brings their own specialism, be that a particular battlefield or knowledge of a certain military unit, but they all have something in common which is pivotal for Sophie's Great War Tours.

All of our guides have a natural understanding that the customer comes first and is at the heart of everything we do. Our guides are brilliant at looking after our guests from the moment they are met to the minute we wave goodbye, and our testimonials reflect that perfectly.

This year the company will take guests further afield and as a licensed tour operator and soon-to-be travel agent, we are able to bring even more unique travel products to guests that wish to enjoy history and our famous hospitality.

In short, it is the greatest pleasure to run this business with the support of brilliant guides. If we can inspire a new generation of young historians and guides along the way too, I think we'll all be very happy!

*A special opportunity to lower the flag at Normandy American Cemetery*



# A BATTLEFIELD near you

## THE BATTLE OF CLYST ST MARY 1549

Tim Stoneman

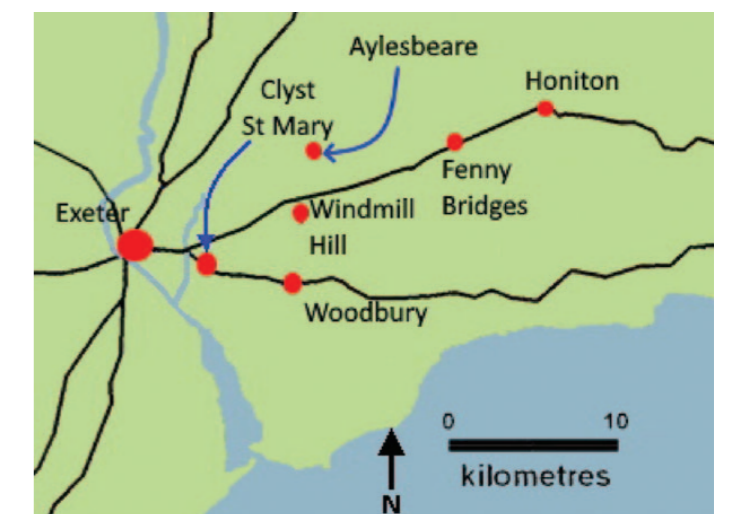
**It is evening of the fourth of August 1549, and the sun is setting on a desolate heath some two and a half miles from the centre of the city of Exeter. You are held prisoner by soldiers of the King's army, who speak a language which you can't understand – your mother tongue is Cornish, and you're familiar with church services in Latin (and you know, but can't understand, the words), but English is something alien to you – and as for the Germanic yells of the man rushing towards you wielding a fearsome dagger, you haven't a clue what he's on about. You are deafened by the screams of agony of your comrades in arms as they are sent to meet their maker, the same fate which your assailant is determined to inflict on you – and everything goes black ...**

How did it come to this? How did an illiterate Cornish tin miner, who, until a few weeks before, had never set foot more than 15 miles from Penzance, come to eke his life away on Devon soil, miles from his native county? (Incidentally 'illiterate' doesn't mean 'unintelligent' – just 'unable to read or write'.) To find out, we need to backtrack to earlier in the year, and briefly recount the momentous events which took place in the Westcountry in what was to become known to future historians as the **Prayer-Book Rebellion**, before moving forward, both geographically and chronologically, from Clyst Heath to Clyst St Mary to look at the battlefield as it is in 2021. (A 'Government Health Warning' – contemporary sources are few and far between, mostly (obviously) biased and contradictory in many aspects – the following, drawing on a variety of secondary sources, is but a brief and potentially inaccurate summary! As far as I know, there has been no serious battlefield archaeology of the battlefield, so there's one avenue currently closed.)

### The Rebellion Starts

It's soon after the young Edward has succeeded Henry VIII on the throne in London as King Edward VI. As he's still only eleven years of age, the real power in the land lies with the Privy Council, led by the Lord Protector, Lord Somerset, who was instrumental in enacting the Act of Uniformity. This established the Book of Common Prayer as the sole legal form of worship, forbidding services in Latin,

and banning symbols of the Catholic faith – the systematic destruction of what had been well-understood religion, particularly in the western reaches of the realm (where many spoke only the Cornish language). This, coupled with social unrest fed by taxation and land reform, had led to rebellion, starting in the far west of Cornwall and in mid Devon, and spreading eastwards under slogans like "Kill all the gentlemen and we will have the Six Articles [put in place in 1539 under the reign of Henry VIII] up again, and ceremonies as they were in King Henry's time." The insurrection gathered support as it moved through Devon, until the rebels laid siege to the city of Exeter, the sixth largest in



Map 1: East Devon



England, in July of 1549. The King (or, more accurately, his Privy Council) was now faced with simultaneous crises across the kingdom – for what was to become known as Kett's rebellion had begun in East Anglia in early July! He (they) responded by despatching a force under the Lord Privy Seal, Lord Russell, to suppress the Westcountry Rebellion – Russell knew the area well, owning much land and several houses in the region. Initially he had some four thousand English soldiers, to be reinforced by mercenaries – about three hundred German Landsknecht and a hundred and sixty Italian arquebusiers (the arquebus was an early form of musket), with a thousand Welsh soldiers to follow in a few days. Russell's task was to lift the siege, and impose a military solution to the insurrection since negotiations had failed.

The rebels fought an action to block Russell's approach at Fenny Bridges, west of Honiton (see *Map 1*), on the twenty-eighth of July, after which Russell's forces withdrew to Honiton itself, and the rebels made their way westward again; another inconclusive encounter two days later, said to have taken place on Woodbury Common (although other sources place this further north, on Aylesbeare Common, and yet others at Windmill Hill, about halfway between these two), resulted in the capture of significant numbers of the rebels.

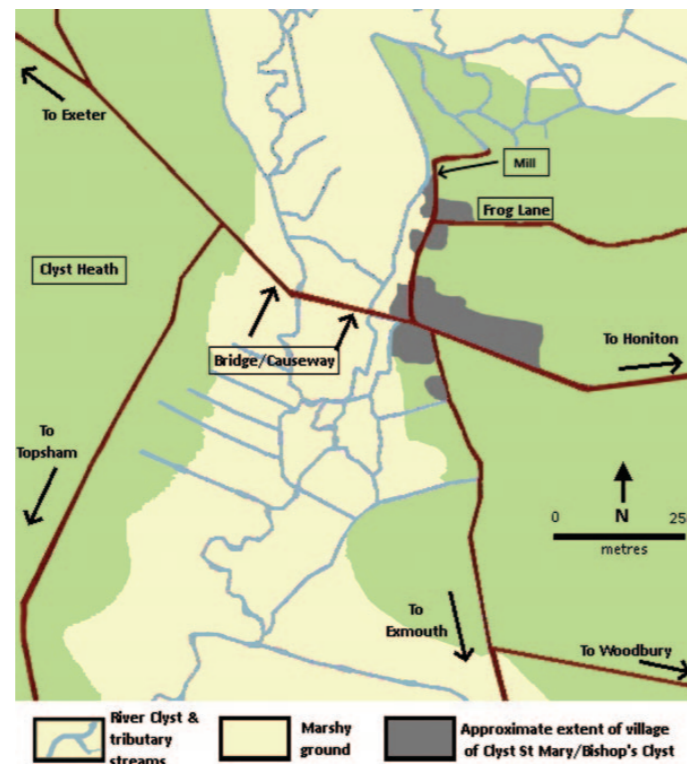
### Clyst St Mary – the First Attack

Lord Russell now moved towards from the high ground of the Common down towards the rebel stronghold of Clyst St Mary (a village wherein he, as Lord of the Manor, owned much of the property), some three miles from the city walls of Exeter, on the east bank of what was then the wide marshy valley of the River Clyst (see *Map 2*). The village seems to have been the rebels' headquarters, and had been fortified; fieldworks had been hurriedly thrown up to protect the approaches along the highway from London, which ran into the village from the east, with flanking defences to the southeast and northeast. Although the marsh was passable via occasional fords some way up and down the Clyst, there was but one bridge across the river; this bridge was barricaded with timber, cut-down trees and other obstacles, and defended by a gun which had been dragged some mile and a half from a ship berthed in the nearby port of Topsham; John Hammond, the gunner, is reported to have been an experienced artilleryman.

His forces split into three battles<sup>1</sup>, Russell sent the forward battle on a frontal assault on the village down the main road from Honiton, sending cavalry to harass the opponents defending the road south from the village. The frontal attack met resistance, and fell victim to a ruse perpetrated by Sir Thomas Pomeroy, who had sneaked through the Royalist's

troops with a trumpeter and drummer and, once behind them, "... commanded the trumpeter to sound, and the drummer to beat a march ..."2. Fearing a new rebel force behind him, Russell ordered a retreat, which became a panicked flight back to his camp of the previous night; the rebels took advantage, and captured artillery, ammunition and supplies left behind by the fleeing troops to add to the defences.

Realising that there was no enemy to his rear, and that the rebels had not sallied forth very far, Russell renewed the assault down the main road with the main battle in mid afternoon, ordering a diversionary attack by the rearward battle against the rebels' right flank, and sent the forward battle on a further thrust from the northeast to outflank the defences along a sunken lane (Frog Lane), a route which he appears not to have been aware of before the morning's attack.

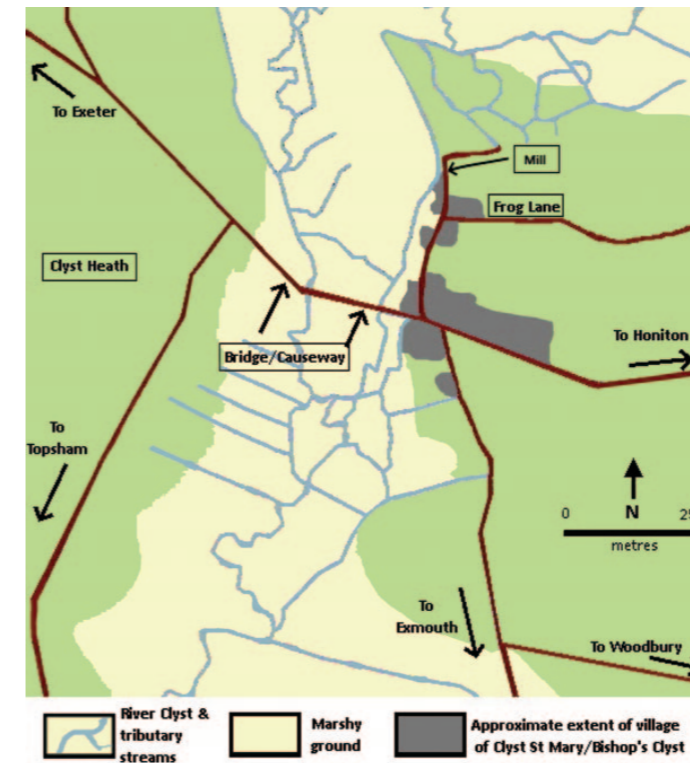


Map 2: The Clyst Valley

### The Reattack – Royalist Success

The forward battle was ambushed as it headed down the lane, with defenders unleashing a storm of arrows, boulders and sundry debris from the high banks onto the soldiers below; a rock landed on the head of the battle's commander, stoving in his helmet and inflicting a mortal wound. The attack, not surprisingly, faltered and, simultaneously, the main battle's attack on the ramparts barring the main road was checked.

Fortunately for Russell, his rearward battle managed to cross the rampart on the southern approach, and entered Bishop's Clyst (as the western part of the village was then known). The defenders



Map 3: The village defences (estimated positions – the actual positions have been lost)

on the main road, seeing this, withdrew into the village's (heavily fortified) houses, thus allowing the Royalists into the streets – but the attackers then came under a hail of arrows (and probably arquebus shot). To counter this, Russell (despite being the Lord of the Manor) ordered the village to be torched.

Forced out of the village, the defenders regrouped in the meadows on the flood plain to its west, with the cannon on the barricaded bridge in support. A local man in the Royalist force, John Yarde, knew of a ford further upstream to the west of the village mill, and led a few of his comrades across it to outflank the bridge, and one of those soldiers came up behind the gunner, whilst the latter was reloading, and hacked him down. This allowed Russell's troops to breach the barricade; cavalry and infantry enveloped the rebels, and "A very fierce, cruel and bloody Fight" resulted in which the defenders were "slaine like beasts". Sources vary in describing the casualty lists – it seems that a figure of between nine hundred and a thousand rebel fighters were killed, and a similar number captured – Russell's losses are reported as only about fifteen or twenty, although this contradicts other (higher) estimates.

### The Massacre

Russell ordered his men to march westwards to the high ground of Clyst Heath, overlooking the river valley, with a good view of the surrounding terrain. Fearful of possible counter-attack from the rebels who had escaped (which he thought might number several thousand), or fresh forces from the besiegers of Exeter, Russell paused. Lord Grey, who had commanded the

main battle, is said to have seen "... a great company assembled, and marching forward ..." on the slopes of Woodbury Common, to his rear. There is no evidence to confirm who this company might have been, or even whether it existed. Suffice it to say that Russell, knowing that he and his troops were exhausted by two days of heavy fighting, held a council of war, which considered this such a threat that, encumbered by significant numbers of prisoners, he would be hard put to defend against a renewed enemy assault. On that basis, he gave the order to execute the captives – which is where this story started. A tale reminiscent of Shakespeare's Henry V in which the King orders "Then every soldier kill his prisoners. Give the word through" – no Geneva Convention in those days!

### The Aftermath

The following day, rebel reinforcements drawn from the besiegers of Exeter moved south from the city, and launched an attack against Russell's forces on Clyst Heath. A further pitched battle ensued, ending with the Royalist army victorious, and able to raise the siege – but not without cost. Reports, inevitably estimates with doubtful accuracy, put rebel casualties at about 2,000, perhaps 1,000 of them at Clyst Heath, whilst indicating Russell lost some 1,000 men, killed or wounded, in the two days of fighting.

Although the rebel forces had failed to take their objective of Exeter, they were still a force to be reckoned with; they withdrew westwards, until, nearly a fortnight later, a final battle at Sampford Courtenay saw another defeat for the rebels, which was to herald the eventual end of the rebellion. Then followed the retribution – and bloody and vicious it proved to be. This ranged from widespread plunder by the victorious soldiers of Russell's army through to the pursuit, capture and execution or murder of not just the ringleaders, but also many of those who had merely supported the cause – gentry, clergy and commoners alike. But that's another story – as are the other battles described above.

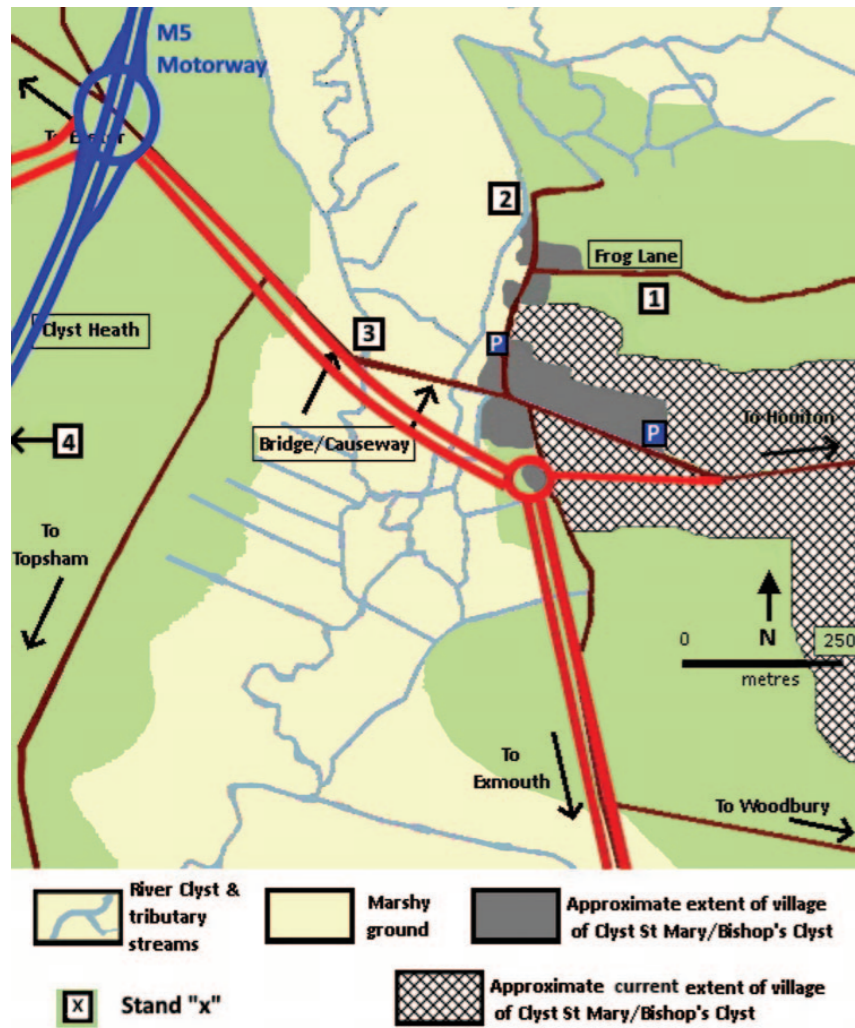
### The Battlefield Today

Now let's turn to the battle site as it exists in 2021 (see *Map 4*). Clyst St Mary was burnt down during the fighting, so there are no contemporary structures left. There is a small carpark in the village, just north of the junction in its centre, and a slightly larger one to the east, where the old road through the centre of the village meets the new alignment of the road up from the roundabout (these are shown as P on *Map 4*). Stands 1 to 3 are all within easy walking distance of either carpark, but there are few pavements, so care walking on the carriageway is called for!

Further to the East, down Church Lane, is the parish church (*Photo 1*), said by some to have been

<sup>1</sup> At this period, tactics usually led to the deployment of an attacking force in three groups, entitled "battles", named forward, main and rearward.

<sup>2</sup> Quotations come from James Hooker (or Hoker) Description of the Citie of Excester; he had been in Exeter during the Rebellion, but had not been at the scene of the Battle.



Map 4: Clyst Valley overlaid with modern roads and buildings

within the perimeter (although other sources discount this, indicating that the defences were not that far out). However, it's likely that the tower would have been a rebel lookout point. Dating from the thirteenth century, it's been much altered over the intervening time, although the nave and tower are original. The church can be reached by walking along the A3052 to the east (using a footbridge or a pedestrian crossing),



Photo 1: the parish church of Saint Mary

then through a modern housing estate to Church Lane, which runs south from the A road.

The first stand is some 200 metres along Frog Lane from the village centre (Point 1 on Map 4). This is approximately where the forward battle was ambushed in the afternoon attack – Photo 2 shows the view looking downhill (westwards), my wife kindly standing in a suitable position to give an idea of scale. Here, defenders on the high bank to her right would have easy targets for arrows, boulders or other missiles!

Moving back towards the village, turn right along a short lane and then left down a (muddy) path to a modern footbridge over the leat, which used to run the mill. At Stand 2 (Point 2 on Map 4) we can see across the marshy floodplain of the Clyst (Photo 3). This is probably where Yarde led his party across the valley. From the west end of the footbridge we can glimpse the causeway and roadbridge (of which more later – Photo 4).

Head back for the staggered junction in the village, and turn right past the Half Moon pub (worth a visit if in need of refreshment during or after the walk – COVID permitting!) and the bridge and causeway can be clearly seen.

No longer used by vehicles, it is not the bridge of 1549, but, even though rebuilt 150 years later, it is on the same alignment, and about the same width, as its predecessor. Proceed to the far end of the long, straight walk (Point 3 on Map 4), and look back towards Clyst St Mary (Photo 5). Just visible on the far left of the photo is a modern brick-built house. This is Mill House, whose location adjacent to Stand 2 matches



Photo 2: Stand 1 – Frog Lane – the ambush site



Photo 3: Stand 2 – the mill leat and floodplain

the site of the village mill on old maps.

The bridge was blocked by a barricade of trees and other obstacles, backed up by a cannon firing down the length of the structure – although where along the 200 metre length John Hammond, the gunner, was positioned is not clear (Photo 6).

That completes the tour of the village sites. The positions where the rebels raised their defensive earthworks are not known exactly; likely spots are lost under housing and roads, depriving us of the chance to see the defences as rebels and Royalists would have seen them.

The massacre site, and that of the Battle of Clyst Heath, are somewhere on the higher ground to the west of the Clyst, an area now covered in developments during the latter half of the twentieth century, ranging from a motorway through housing to a retail park. Whilst it's not likely to have been the actual location, the platform at Newcourt railway station

(Point 4 off Map 4, accessible by car, but parking is limited) gives a good view (ignoring the railway and M5 motorway!) of the valley and high ground beyond to the east (Photo 7).



Photo 4: Stand 2 – the bridge and causeway (the cars visible are on the modern dual carriageway, higher than, and behind, the medieval structure)



Photo 5: Stand 3 – the village



Photo 6 Stand 3 – Hammonds view

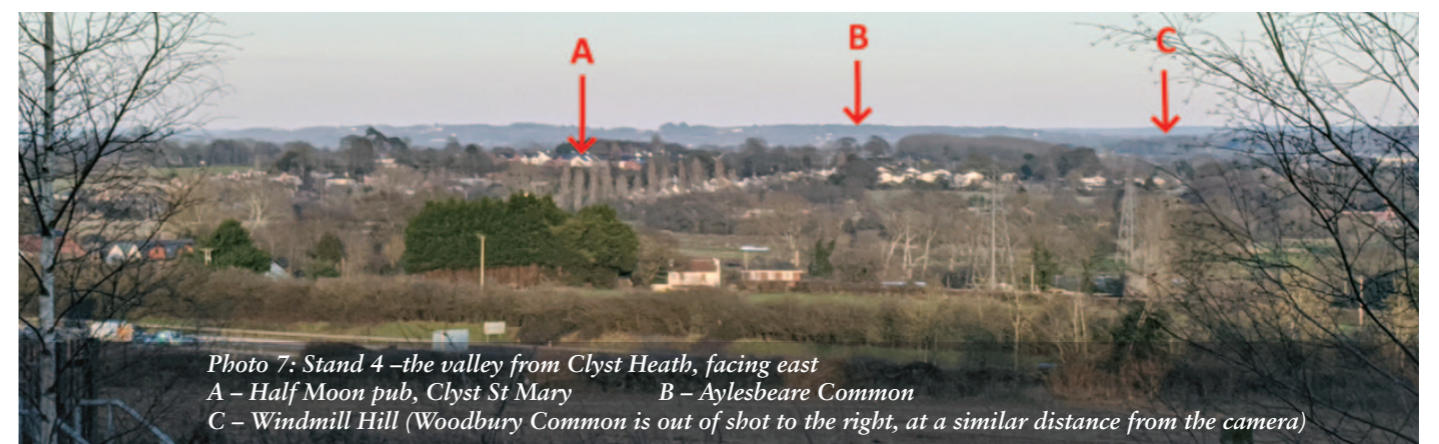


Photo 7: Stand 4 – the valley from Clyst Heath, facing east  
A – Half Moon pub, Clyst St Mary      B – Aylesbeare Common  
C – Windmill Hill (Woodbury Common is out of shot to the right, at a similar distance from the camera)

# NURSE MUGGRIDGE

Eugenie Brooks

In company with some other battlefield guides I know, I also have interests outside of the guiding world. For me that interest is being part of the Sea Cadet Corps. I am a Petty Officer in the Sea Cadets and thoroughly enjoy this role. I'm based at Twickenham Unit and recently we received a large amount of property from the estate of a past CO of the Unit, Eddie Muggeridge. Whilst going through this property I came across a small metal cross medal with red and blue ribbon still in its original box. Inside was a small black and white picture of a nurse sitting at a desk writing with the word 'Brighowgate 1917' written on the reverse.

I decided to make further enquiries about both the medal and the Nurse. Using the wonders of the internet and twitter I found out from a friend who works at the D Day Museum that the medal was a Royal Red Cross Medal 1st Class. The name inscribed on the back of the clasp was 'L Muggridge' and a quick search of the medal index cards online revealed a L L Muggridge had been a member of the Queens Alexandria Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve (QAIMNSR) during the Great War. The Nurses' full name was Miss Louisa Lillian Muggridge. She was Eddie's Great Aunt (even though her surname is spelt slightly differently).

The Royal Red Cross Medal was established on 27th April 1883 by Queen Victoria. It is a military decoration awarded in the UK and Commonwealth for exceptional services in military nursing. It is awarded to fully trained nurse of an officially recognised nursing service, military or civilian, who has shown exceptional devotion and competency in the performance of actual nursing duties over a continuous and long period or had performed some very exceptional act of bravery and devotion at her post of duty. It was only conferred to females until 1976.

Further research discovered the story of Louisa. She was born on the 14th June 1875 at 24 Queens Place, Shoreham, Sussex. According to the census



records her father was described variously as 'invalid for many years', 'previously in retail trade' and 'tram driver'. She was educated at Glenmore House School, Southwick, Sussex and trained for 4 years at Southwark Infirmary. Leaving in 1904, she went as a Staff Nurse to Victoria Park in Watford District Hospital. In 1911 she was living at 25 Madely Road in Ealing with a William and Mary Betts.

On the 24 December 1914 Louisa was accepted into the QAIMNS Reserve. At that time she was living at 144 Uxbridge Road, West Ealing and her mother was cited as her next of kin. Although born and brought up in Shoreham West Sussex, her nursing career before the war had mostly been in London, where she had trained. Although nurses records from the First World War have been digitised and are easily accessible from the National Archives, Louisa's early wartime experience is not recorded. A lot of the content of records were culled in the 1930s and sadly there are gaps in most nurses records. Thus between 1914 and 1915 we have no idea where she served.

However, we do know that she was in Imbros from July to October 1915. In the Gallipoli campaign Imbros played an important role as a HQ and staging post for General Sir Ian Hamilton's Mediterranean

Campaign: 1914-15 Star				(A) Where decoration was earned	
Name	Corps	Rank	Reg No.	Medal	Roll
(A) MUGGRIDGE	QAIMNSR	Matron	300110	1914-15 Star	do
(B)					
1914-15 Star awarded 1.V. 300110 d.8.6.20. E.F.11/1391.					
Action: Lakeu					
2. Burren 1.V. 52401W d.15.6.21. E.F.11/1391.					
Theatre of war					
Embros 19.7.15 to 6.10.15.					
Alexandria 26.10.15.					
H.S. Massilia - Stavros Salonica 28.2.16.					
Qualifying date					
				E.F. 11/1391	
				E.F. 11/485	

Medal card and portrait of Louisa

Expeditionary Force. There was a field hospital there as well as an airfield and administrative and stores buildings.

From her medal card we know she was in the Middle East for a while spending time in Alexandria in October 1915, on HM Hospital Ship 'Massilia' sailing between Suez and India, at Stavros and in Salonika in 1916.

She returned from the Middle East in March 1916 and went to York Military Hospital for instruction on Matrons duties under Miss Cameron. This was all in preparation for the post of Matron at Brighowgate Military Hospital, Grimsby where she served until 1917. That solved the mystery of that word on the rear of her photograph! This Military Hospital was built by the War Office in the northern part of the town and opened in March 1916. It had accommodation for 120 men and a large staff number including the RAMC, 4 Military Doctors and 6 VAD nurses. During her time there, she and her staff had to deal with severe casualties resulting from a zeppelin raid. It was here that she was awarded the Royal Red Cross (Class One) in 1917. She attended Buckingham Palace to have it presented to her by King George 5th on the 21st November 1917. She was a skilled experienced nurse and superb administrator and in January 1918 she was transferred from Brighowgate Military Hospital to Caterham Military Hospital as Matron, arriving on the 8th February 1918.

In January 1919 she was on the move again – this time it was a transfer to a hospital/troop ship, the St Andrew. This ship travelled back and forth between Dover and Boulogne during early 1919 transporting sick and injured troops



back from France. This was one of the first ships commissioned as a Hospital Ship during the Great War. Its staff consisted of 4 Officers, 4 nurses and 144 'Others'. Its capacity was 'officers cots – 16; other cots – 23; berths – 155'.

It was from

this Troop Ship that Matron Muggridge was finally demobilised on the 6th June 1919. As well as the Royal Red Cross Medal she was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the War Medal and the Victory Medal.

I made contact with the Museum of Military Medicine at Keogh Barracks, Aldershot and asked if they would be interested in receiving this medal and various photos of Louisa. They were absolutely delighted to accept the donation and so a group from Twickenham Sea Cadets attended the Museum along with two close family friends of Eddie. We were given a guided tour of the museum and supplied with tea and cake! We were made to feel very welcome by the staff who were delighted to receive into their safekeeping Louisa's medal and pictures which will be put on display for all to see.



Petty Officer Eugenie, Sea Cadets (left) with the staff and volunteers of the Museum of Military Medicine

# FIELDguides



At the Air Forces Memorial Runnymede guiding a group of Asian Ladies from the Black Poppy Rose group. I focused on the Black and Asian Casualties on the Memorial but mentioned one Canadian pilot casualty who was my Dad's roommate - hence Im showing them the picture of my Dad along with his medals. Im a VERY proud daughter! - Eugenie Brooks



Above: A very fierce Lewis MG at the latest Anglia Guide Conference and the demo of the 'battle in the bag' event that we run for junior soldiers. He even made 'Lewis machine gun noises' as he attacked the German trenches! - Eugenie Brooks



Left: Eugenie Brooks enthralling(!) the Harrogate Junior Soldiers of the story of the D Day Merville Battery Attack by 9th Bn Parachute Regiment after I'd walked them up from the final RV in nearby Gonneville en Auge.

Below: IGBG members at the Guild weekend in Tewkesbury. Photo: Ian R Gumm



# THE BATTLE OF TEWKESBURY

Ian R Gumm

Members of the Guild recently visited Tewkesbury for a Guild weekend, and David Harvey and I took them on a tour of the 1471 battlefield. This article tells the story behind that battle, and I hope that it proves useful, not only to those that joined us, but to all Guild members.

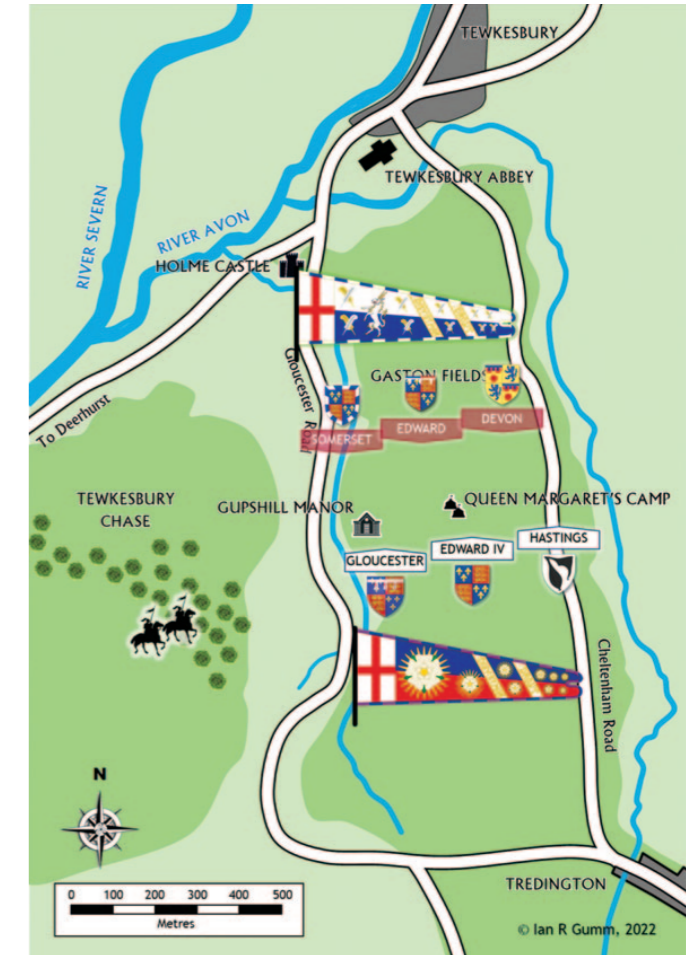
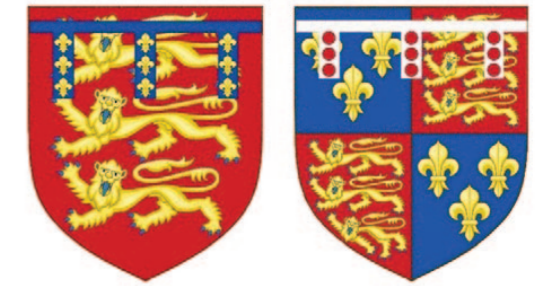
## Introduction

Although Edward IV had defeated the Lancastrian forces led by the Earl of Warwick at Barnet, his hold on the throne of England was still far from secure. Queen Margaret and her son, the 17-year-old Edward Prince of Wales, had landed at Weymouth on Easter Sunday, 14 April 1471, the same day that the Battle of Barnet was fought, with an invasion force of 17 ships. Her intent was not to free her imprisoned husband King Henry VI from the Tower of London but to secure the crown for her son by linking up with Jasper Tudor, the Earl of Pembroke and his Welsh forces that were on route to England.

King Edward learnt of Queen Margaret's landing two-days later, on Tuesday, 16 April 1471. He had given many of his supporters and troops leave after the victory at Barnet but was nonetheless able to quickly muster a substantial force at Windsor. King Edward initially found it difficult to determine what Queen Margaret intended, as the Lancastrians had sent out several feints that suggested they might be making directly for London. However, after a delay of a few days King Edward's Yorkist army had set out for the West Country intent on intercepting the Lancastrians before they could join up with Jasper Tudor's Welsh.

By Friday, 3 May 1471, after a forced march from Dorset to Gloucestershire, the 6000 strong Lancastrian army halted in the vicinity of Tewkesbury. By now the Lancastrians were well aware that Edward IV's 5000 strong Yorkist army was gaining upon them, and their leaders met to decide what to do. They realised that the possibility of crossing the River Avon and River Severn before the Yorkists arrived was unlikely and they decided to make a stand.

King Edward IV's Yorkist army had advanced in the blistering heat of Friday, 3 May 1471, across the treeless Cotswolds intent on preventing Queen Margaret's army

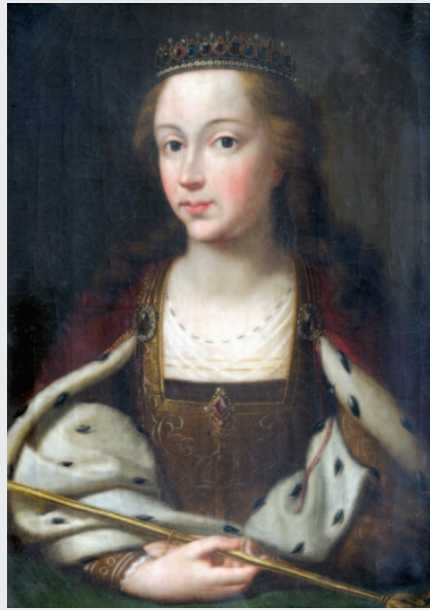


Sketch map of the Battle of Tewkesbury 4 May 1471. © Ian R Gumm, 2022

from joining up with Jasper Tudor's Welsh. It had been a hard forced march and they had nothing to eat, little to drink and did not rest until they arrived at Cheltenham. At Cheltenham, King Edward got news that the Lancastrian army was at Tewkesbury and wanting to close the gap between them pushed onwards.

## The History of the arrival of Edward IV in England and the final recovery of his Kingdoms from Henry VI records:

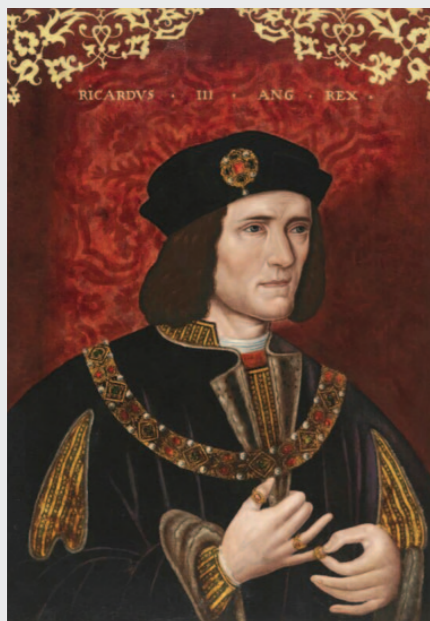
*"The King, the same morning, the Friday, early, advanced his banners and divided his whole host in three battles, and sent afore him his foreriders, and scourers, on every side him, and so, in fayre array and ordinance, he took his way through the champion country, called Cotteswold, travelling all his people, whereof were more*



Margaret of Anjou. (Queens' College collection)



Edward IV (NPG 4980(10) – National Portrait Gallery)



Richard, Duke of Gloucester (later Richard III) (NPG 148 National Portrait Gallery)

than 3000 footmen, that Friday, which was right-an-hot day, 30 miles and more ; which his people might not find, in all the way, horse-meat (food), ne mans-meat, ne so much as drink for their horses, save in one little brook, where was full little relief, it was so soon troubled with the carriages that had passed it. And all that day was evermore the Kings host within 5 or 6 miles of his enemies; he in plain country and they amongst woods; having always good espials upon them. So, continuing that journey to he came, with all his host, to a village called Cheltenham, but five miles from Tewkesbury, where the King had certain knowledge that, but little afore his coming thither, his enemies were come to Tewkesbury, and there were taking a field, wherein they purposed to abide, and deliver him battle. Whereupon the King made no longer tarrying, but a little comforted himself, and his people, with such meat and drink as he had done to be carried with him, for victualing of his host; and, incontinent, set forth towards his enemies, and took the field, and lodged himself, and all his host, within three miles of them.”

Traditionally, King Edward's army is thought to have camped at Tredington, within a few miles from Tewkesbury, close enough for both parties to be aware of the other's presence.

Early on the morning of Saturday, 4 May 1471 the Lancastrian army deployed. To their rear were Tewkesbury Abbey, the River Avon, and the River Severn and in the lower ground close to the centre of the Lancastrian position was a farmhouse; then known as Gobes Hall but now the location of Gupshill Manor.

Their precise dispositions are today uncertain, but the ground would suggest that it is likely to have been along the slight rise of higher ground immediately to the south of the Abbey and just to the north of Gupshill Manor. Today, this area is bisected by the current Gloucester Road; the western side of the battlefield was to the west of Gloucester Road just in front of the modern houses to the south of the Tewkesbury Borough Council's Offices and Leisure Centre, while the centre and eastern side of the battlefield is now under a housing estate to the east of Gloucester Road. In 1471, these houses were not there, and the ground was covered by fields with deep dykes and hedges. This terrain provided a far from natural defensive position and accounts of the battle describe the ground as: “fowle lanes and depe dikes, and many hedges, with hylls, and valleys, a right evil place to approached, as cowlde well have been devised.”

Edmund Beaufort, 4th Duke of Somerset, assumed overall command of the Lancastrian army in the field as, in 1471 England, it was unthinkable for a Lady, no matter how strong-willed she may have been, to lead an army in battle. Queen Margaret is likely to have remained close by, possibly in Holme Castle. The Duke of Somerset took control of the Lancastrian right flank, which was deployed on the ground to the west of the Gloucester Road. The 17-year-old Prince Edward, with John Wenlock, 1st Baron Wenlock and Sir John Langstrother, the Prior of the Order of Saint John in support, commanded the centre. They were deployed in the vicinity of Gloucester Road and Abbot's Road. John Courtenay, 15th Earl of Devonshire, commanded the Lancastrian left and was deployed in the vicinity of Queens Road further to the east.

On Saturday, 4 May 1471 King Edward IV marched his army from Tredington towards Tewkesbury following the River Swilgate. With his army outnumbered and tired, King Edward advanced cautiously but fully prepared to fight. The History of the arrival of Edward IV in England and the final recovery of his Kingdoms from Henry VI records:

“Upon the morrow following, Saturday, the iiij. day of May, (the King) apparelled himself, and all his host set in good array; ordained three wards; displayed his banners; did blow up the trumpets; committed his cause and quarrel to Almighty God, to our most blessed lady his mother, Virgin Mary, the glorious martyr Saint George, and all the saints; and advanced, directly upon his enemies; approaching to their field, which was strongly in a marvellous strong ground pyght, full difficult to be assailed.”

Following his success at Barnet, King Edward's brother, the 18-year-old Richard Duke of Gloucester, led the Vanguard and on arriving opposite the deployed Lancastrians he halted on the opposite side of the shallow valley to the south of Gupshill Manor.

The remainder of the Yorkist army came forward and took up positions about 360 metres (400 yards) opposite the Lancastrian host. To protect his left flank, King Edward deployed 200 mounted Spearman into the trees on the higher ground of Tewkesbury Chase. The Yorkist army was arrayed with Richard Duke of Gloucester's Vanguard on the left of the Yorkist line, King Edward commanded the centre, and Sir William Hastings, 1st Baron Hastings, commanded the right flank.

In the spring sunshine the banners of the two armies flew above the opposing forces. It wasn't long before the sky became dark with a flight of arrows let loose by both sides. Those of the Yorkist army had an extra bite as King Edward had the advantage of artillery within his column. He was determined to soften up the Lancastrians before launching an assault and his Gunners laboured in the heat of the day to lay down a ferocious barrage of stone cannonballs which screeched into the enemy's line. The cannonballs flew across the battlefield shredding hedges and into the Lancastrians smashing their way through armour, flesh, and bone.

Initially, the Lancastrian army stood firm in the face of this overwhelming deluge of stone cannonballs. Eventually, however, the Duke of Somerset decided to attack. Concealed by the terrain, he led the mounted men of his own Battle forward towards Richard of Gloucester's Vanguard holding the Yorkist left flank. His plan called for Prince Edward's Lancastrian centre to mount an attack simultaneously against King Edward's Battle in the Yorkist centre. However, the Lancastrian centre did not move and, apart from some desultory skirmishing, they did not play any part in the fighting.

The Duke of Somerset's men smashed into the Duke of Gloucester's Vanguard. King Edward, unopposed by the Lancastrian centre, turned his Battle to their left to show support to those of his brother. The 200 Yorkist Spearman charged down from their vantage point in the woods on Tewkesbury Chase to smash into Somerset's rear, and together the Yorkist brothers drove the Lancastrians back. The Duke of Somerset's men suddenly broke and fled through what is now the appropriately named 'Bloody Meadow'.

The Duke of Somerset managed to gain some temporary respite in the main Lancastrian line where he is reported to have declared Lord Wenlock a traitor and crushed his skull with his battle axe. Lord Wenlock's demise is unlikely to have been at the hands of the Duke of Somerset but nonetheless he was certainly killed in the fighting.

King Edward left the pursuit of the Lancastrian right to his brother Richard Duke of Gloucester and turned his own Battle towards the Lancastrian centre. Despite their inferior numbers, the Yorkists made rapid progress against the Lancastrians who were by now in disarray. After a short but bloody mêlée, the Lancastrian resistance disintegrated, and they began to flee the battlefield. It is estimated that some 2000 Lancastrians fell during the battle and the pursuit, among them was the 17-year-old Lancastrian Prince of Wales, Queen Margaret's son Prince Edward.

Some of the Lancastrians sought sanctuary in Tewkesbury Abbey, among them was Edmund Beaufort, the Duke of Somerset. He was subsequently dragged out of the Abbey and executed in the marketplace along with many of his Knights.

When it was clear that the battle was lost, Margaret of Anjou and her ladies fled to a religious house on the far side of the River Severn, possibly Little Malvern Priory. There, she was apprehended and taken prisoner. She was to remain in captivity for the next four years until ransomed by her cousin the King of France.

The final and perhaps most pathetic casualty was Queen Margaret's husband, King Henry IV. He had been held in the Tower of London solely to weaken his sons claim, but with Prince Edward dead, King Henry served no further purpose, and he too was subsequently put to death.

Apart from a brief and bloodless advance against rebels in Kent, King

Edward IV would never again have to fight for his crown. The leading claimant to the throne from the Lancastrian line was now Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond. He and his uncle Jasper Tudor were forced to flee into exile and seemed to pose little threat to the victorious House of York.



The beheading of Edmund Beaufort, 4th Duke of Somerset (Histoire de la rentrée victorieuse du roi Edouard IV en son royaume d'Angleterre, 1471)

# FLEXIBLE BATTLEFIELD GUIDING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM – ONE EXAMPLE

Mike Scott

Two words, the ‘B’ word and the ‘C’ word, have had a significant impact on our ability to guide in the last three years and one of them, looks to be making some aspects of our trade more difficult in the future. One of those impacts may be the issue of only being able to guide/manage tours that originate in the UK. But, I am not going to waffle on about the limitations placed upon us in Europe. As I have often said, beware what you wish for.



*Semaphore at Portsmouth - Courtesy Royal Museums Greenwich*

Hence, I have tried to make the most of the sites in the UK although the term ‘battlefield’ has needed to be rather more liberally interpreted. While many places in the UK can be considered to have been a battlefield in the past, the resources available to interpret the battlefield are rather more available. The key is to think flexibly.

So, as an example, I am going to discuss one ‘battlefield’ close to me and the resources available to interpret the battlefield. In this case I am talking about Portsmouth.

The resources may jump to mind including the Dockyard and the D-Day Museum. But what battlefield(s) are we talking about? So, we can

identify three types of conflict to address in the city. First, battles that took place here. Second, battles elsewhere for which we have resources in Portsmouth to help us tell the story of the conflict. And third, battles for which preparation was made.

First, battles that took place in Portsmouth and the evidence to help us ply our craft. The most obvious is the participation of Portsmouth in WW2. This is directly in the form of the Portsmouth Blitz. The city, with one of the main naval bases in the United Kingdom, and major industries to service the war effort was an obvious target. During the four years of air raids on Portsmouth there were three major raids on 24 August 1940, 10 January 1941 and 10 March 1941. On 10 January 1941, approximately 300 German aircraft attacked Portsmouth causing 171 deaths, 430 injuries and making 3000 people homeless. Major damage was caused throughout the city and the Guildhall was virtually destroyed by fire. The water mains were damaged making firefighting impossible. Stand outside the Cathedral in Old Portsmouth, not the Catholic Cathedral next to the Unicorn entrance to the Naval Base, and you will find a memorial to the victims killed in local streets during the blitz. The streets are a good resource for comparing pre-war maps with redevelopment as almost 10% of the city’s homes were destroyed. Enter the Cathedral to find the memorials to individual vessels based in the city which will help tell the wider story. Another memorial can be found in Kingston Cemetery. These specific examples can be used as a premise to tell the wider story of the Blitz and Battle of Britain.

And, naturally, as we would on the Western Front or other more obvious battlefields, the local cemeteries have burials that help us tell the stories of the blitz, notably where you can find a service personnel with a CWGC headstone on the same grave as his/her family who died in the same air raid. To give an example, Leading Aircraftman Henry William Foster Hayman, Royal Air Force died in a German air raid on 22 April 1941 aged 45 years and is buried in Kingston Cemetery. His wife, Joanna Mary Hayman was killed at the same time possibly in the Somerset Road Air Shelter which was hit by German bombs killing several people.

Another example of the effects of the Blitz is represented by Chief Petty Officer Reginald Vincent Ellingworth, GC, HMS Vernon, Royal Navy died on 21 September 1940 aged 42 years who is buried in Milton Cemetery. Having served in WW1, on the outbreak of WW2, he was posted to HMS Vernon in the field of bomb

disposal, and soon became a Chief Petty Officer. He was awarded the George Cross with Lieutenant Commander Richard John Hammersley Ryan, who is buried in Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery, for their work on an unexploded bomb in Dagenham. The citation on 17 December 1940 reads ‘Chief Petty Officer Reginald Vincent Ellingworth worked as an assistant to Lieutenant Commander R. J. H. Ryan in rendering safe magnetic mines. They worked together on many assignments sharing equally the dangers involved. The principal hazard of these mines was the fact that the clock of the bomb fuse was normally timed to explode the mine about 22 seconds after it had landed. If the fuse failed to explode, the clock could be restarted by the slightest movement, even a footfall. The amount that the clock fuse had already run could never be known, and once it had re-started the time to escape could not be more than a few seconds. At Dagenham Essex the two officers tackled such a mine hanging by a parachute in a warehouse and were both killed by its explosion. Chief Petty Officer Ellingworth had previously been commended by the Captain of HMS Vernon for his work on mine disposal’.

While the Blitz and WW2 may be an obvious example of Portsmouth as a battlefield, less well remembered is Portsmouth as a battlefield during the English Civil War and the resources available to tell the story. The city was under siege by the Parliamentarians in August 1642. The garrison was small but held out, though retreating from the north of the island through the Hilsea lines to Southsea Castle, until early September before surrender. It was one of the first garrisons captured by Parliament forces in the war. The fortifications along the seafront from Spice Island, including the Castle, Sally Port, Square and Round Towers, Lumps Fort, the Spur Redoubt and



*Southsea Castle*



Above: HMS Victory

Right: 1773 Map of Portsmouth showing the town and dock defences



King's Bastion are all evidence of the battle and the defence of the city. They are excellent examples of Tudor defence works, though some sections near Spice Island have been redeveloped in the time since the Civil War.

It is also worth considering including a visit to the Garrison Church. Originally called Domus Dei (Hospital of Saint Nicholas and Saint John the Baptist), it was an almshouse and hospice now also known as the Royal Garrison Church. It was the military governor's home at the start of the Civil War and was captured by Parliamentary forces as they closed in on Southsea Castle. However, it was also bombed in the blitz on 10 January 1941 and partially destroyed. To provide some context the home of the Governor was used in 1662 for the wedding of King Charles II and Princess Catherine of Braganza. You could think of the Time Team program of 2009 as an extra resource.

Similarly, the Cathedral played a role during the Civil War as the Royalist garrison used the church tower to observe the Parliamentary forces. Parliamentary artillery in Gosport fired on the tower and damaged the church destroying the medieval tower and nave. With the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 Charles II authorised a collection in churches across the country to raise the £9000 required to rebuild the tower and nave, which took place from 1683-93.

So, there are good locations for a 'battlefield' tour in Portsmouth with good resources to support your tour and cover the first category.

Turning to the second category, battles elsewhere

for which we have resources in Portsmouth to help us tell the story of the 'conflict'.

Much of what we can do is focussed on the dockyard. There are several exhibitions and interactive displays that help tell the story of the Royal Navy in WW2, though the dockyard was also important in WW1. This may not be quite what we use as battlefield guides, but to be in the dockyard, visiting St George's Church and the dockside, as much as the exhibitions can all help set the scene for telling the story of naval involvement in wars. It is also important to mention HMS Dolphin submarine base, Priddy's Hard and munitions centre in Gosport, as well as the many other establishments such as the airfield HMS Daedalus that played a role in the story of Portsmouth during WW2.

The other significant resource is the D-Day Museum to help telling the story of that one event of WW2. Again, good exhibitions, but all the usual facilities and importantly coach parking makes this an important location for guiding. It is important to also talk about Southwick House, later HMS Dryad, that served as Eisenhower's headquarters in the lead up to, and during the initial stage of, the Normandy landings in June 1944. The map room is the location in which he made his gamble to go ahead with the landings despite the bad weather.

Possibly the most 'normal' resource on the sea front for battlefield guides is the Portsmouth Naval

Memorial. At the end of WW1 several Naval Memorials were created in the United Kingdom in each of the towns that had been home to large naval dockyards – Plymouth, Chatham and here in Portsmouth. The memorials would be distinctively naval in design in the form of an obelisk, visible from ships entering the harbour but would also be identical. After WW2 it was decided that the naval memorials should be extended to provide space for commemorating the naval dead without graves of that war. The Memorial bears 24660 names and helps tell the story of WW1 from the Falklands battle in 1914, through Jutland to the end of the conflict. In WW2 the memorials has names of men who died on HMS Hood, HMS Barham and many submariners. Just one of the significant names recorded on the memorial is that of Captain Frederick Thornton 'Fritz' Peters, VC, DSO, DSC & Bar, MiD, HMS Excellent, Royal Navy died on 13 November 1942 aged 53 years. Peters, a Canadian, entered the Royal Navy as Midshipman in 1905 and began WW1 as a Lieutenant having retired in 1909 and rejoined in 1914. He retired again in 1919 as a Commander. He rejoined the navy in 1939 and was made the commander of an anti-submarine flotilla. He became Canada's most decorated Naval Officer. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for leading HMS Walney and HMS Hartland, full of special forces, to capture Oran harbour in Algeria from the Vichy French in November 1942.

The attack failed and he lost every man on the bridge of his vessel as it sank. He and the survivors of both ships were taken prisoner. The survivors were released on 10 November 1942 when the French garrison surrendered. However, Peters was killed in an air crash three days after his release as was returning to Britain in a Sunderland seaplane which crash landed in thick fog, at the entrance to Devonport Dockyard. Peters also posthumously received the US Distinguished Service Cross, the highest honour the Americans bestowed on foreigners. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order while serving as a Lieutenant on the destroyer HMS Meteor in the Battle of Dogger Bank in January 1915 for his actions that saved the lives of two ratings when the ship's engine room was hit by a shell from the German cruiser Blucher. He was the first Canadian in WW1 to receive the Distinguished Service Order. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in 1918 when he was in command of a destroyer flotilla. He was awarded a Bar to the Distinguished Service Cross in July 1940. His brother Private John Franklyn Peters, 7th (British Columbia) Canadian Infantry died on 24 April 1915 aged 21 years and is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial. Another brother, Lieutenant Gerald Hamilton Peters, 7th (British Columbia) Canadian Infantry died on 3 June 1916 and is also commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial.

You could also use the dockyard for the story of the Falklands Conflict in 1982 as the fleet left from Portsmouth to undertake recapture of the islands.

Finally, in this category, HMS Victory, still flagship of the Royal Navy, is an excellent location for talking about the Napoleonic Wars. You can also find a statue of Nelson on the seafront near the Garrison Church and Cathedral. I often use this to talk about the nature of evidence. Nelson had a history of involvement with the slave trade due to his position in the navy. How do we represent this part of his story within our view of his role in the Napoleonic Wars? In other words, what should we do about uncomfortable history?

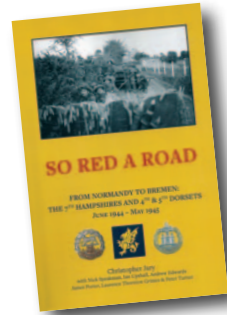
While still talking about the nature of the history of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth. I always share with guests where 'Pompey' comes from and why Spice Island is such a significant part of naval history and from where the name comes. I will let you research that.

And, finally the third category, battles for which preparation was made. This refers to Palmerston's Follies. The forts were built in the 1860s-1870s due to fear of the strength of French forces and are closely associated with the Prime Minister of the day until 1865. A series of forts were built around the United Kingdom, but those at Portsmouth seem to have become those that are best remembered. Forts were built surrounding Portsmouth Naval Base facing inland to protect the navy from attack by the French from inland. The Spithead forts were built in the Solent to protect from the French navy. The Tudor defences in Southsea were updated, so these can be used to tell the story. Most notably, Fort Nelson, on top of Portsdown Hill and on the military road built to serve the forts on top of the hill, is now part of the Royal Armouries. This can be used to tell several stories including WW2 defences, as much as the story of defence of the city against an 'enemy' that did not exist.

**So, without wanting to teach you to suck eggs, nor characterise you as my grannie, I do believe that, given flexibility, there are excellent opportunities to use locations in the United Kingdom to do battlefield tours.**



# GUIDEbooks:



## SO RED A ROAD From Normandy to Bremen: The 7th Hampshires and 4th & 5th Dorsets June 1944 - May 1945

By Christopher Jary with Nick Speakman, Ian Upshall, Andrew Edwards, James Porter, Laurence Thornton Grimes & Peter Turner

This is the latest in the excellent series of formation histories to emerge from the Keep in Dorchester. The author and his supporting team of researchers and historians have really excelled themselves – the standard remains high. As with the earlier books, a compelling and detailed narrative is amply illustrated with relevant maps, photographs, unit Orbat and sketches. These very reasonably priced books are ideal source material for the Battlefield Guide. The book focuses on 130 Brigade, 43rd Wessex Division, tracking the brigade from Normandy, through the bocage, to Op Market Garden, The Island and Driel, over the Rhine and beyond. The chapters are absorbing, the reader follows what were mainly pre-war territorials into battle against the ruthless Waffen SS units around Hill 112, and then into months of some of the hardest fighting faced by any British Infantry Brigade. The casualty rate is horrendous hence the books title. I unreservedly recommend this to any Guide looking at this period of the war – a worthwhile investment!

Review by Mike Peters

Published by Semper Fidelis Publications  
RRP £15.00  
paperback, pp231

## MEN OF ARMOR The History of B Company, 756th Tank Battalion in World War II

By Jeff Danby

Unit histories often vary dramatically in quality, a good example can be invaluable to the Battlefield Guide searching for detail and a feel for the battle. This new American history is certainly at the higher end of the quality scale. It really does position the reader inside the turret of a Sherman fighting its way across North Africa, into Salerno, and on to Monte Cassino. The vivid accounts of day to day life in a tank, the chaos of battle and the stagnant pauses between actions, make for an in-depth narrative of campaigns fought over terrain and battlefields that many GBG members will know well.

Review by Mike Peters

Published by Casemate  
RRP £27.50  
hardback, pp392

## THE ROAD TO WAR A Trip of a Lifetime

By John R Dunlavy

As the title of this bumper book suggests, it is essentially a comprehensive travel guide for the would-be US Battlefield Tourist heading for Europe. That said, the level of detail makes it equally useful as a planning reference for a battlefield guide. The contents encompass the major conflicts in Western Europe, the narrative and maps cover Roman, Carolingian, Crusader, 100 Years War, Napoleonic, and both World Wars. Historical information, maps, and photographs are well presented, pitched at the curious novice, the interested hanger-on, and/or the serious War Nerd. The supporting information on hotels, restaurants and museums is useful, as are the detailed tips on mobile phones, insurance, European fuel grades and a plethora of other potential pitfalls for the American tourist to avoid. Particularly useful are the reference notes on uniforms, weapons, campaign maps and battle schematics in the appendix. This Travel Guide for the Battlefields is ideal for the first time tourist, and the old Guide heading for a new battlefield.

Review by Mike Peters

Published by Amazon  
RRP \$49.99 (USD)  
paperback, pp462

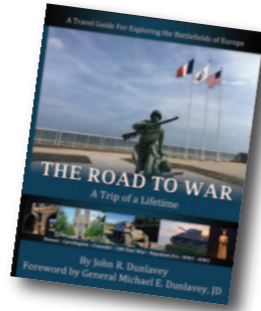
## GAVIN AT WAR The World War II Diary of Lieutenant General James M Gavin

Edited And Annotated by Lewis Sorley

Jim Gavin is surely one of the most renowned Allied commanders of WW2, not least due to Ryan O'Neal's portrayal of 'Jumpin Jim' in the film 'A Bridge Too Far'. The publication of this edited personal journal goes some way to highlighting Gavin's career before and after Market Garden. Gavin kept this private diary throughout the war years, and it was only found after his death. Diaries are of course a mine of information, even if they do usually come with caveats on author bias and self-censorship. Nevertheless, this is a revealing read that can only add to the readers understanding of one the war's youngest, outspoken, and capable airborne commanders. The editing and sidenotes do not detract from the authenticity of the narrative – certainly worth adding to your WW2 shelves.

Review by Mike Peters

Published by Casemate  
RRP £29.95  
hardback, pp240, 20 Photographs



## BOMB GROUP The Eight Air Force's 381st and The Allied Air Defensive Over Europe

By Paul Bingley and Mike Peters

This book tells the story of one US Army Air Force Bomb Group, of 4 Heavy Bomber Squadrons who were based at Ridgewell, on the Essex-Suffolk border in World War Two.

From Rattlesnake infested Texas to the Countryside idyll of East Anglia and the vast contrail armadas above Germany the book takes you inside a B-17 Flying Fortress and puts you first in the armoured Pilot's seat struggling with an engine fire over Berlin, just as 24 year old Missouri born Lt Ed Haushalter did before ordering his 10-man crew to bail out, to the Bombardier perched, exposed in the forward plexiglass dome peering into your Norden Bomb Sight on final approach to the ball bearing factory at Schweinfurt as Flak burst so close "it hits you in the face like a brick" and then straps you in to the ball turret hanging beneath the belly of the Fort, firing twin .50 cal machine guns at streams of enemy

FW190 bearing in on you raking your beloved Fortress with 20mm cannon shells.

Bomb Group's aptly named 'Intermission' chapters provide the reader with a break from the deeply researched and rich in personal stories, chronological diary of deadly missions and delve into the ancillary of surrounding subjects such as Ground Crew, weather, the tactics of the 'Combat Box' and the Sky Generals of the 8th AF. Each one contributing to your depth of understanding around the life of a Bomb Group. "The fun has gone out of flying. This was war, this was death." Such quotes from the 381st Bomb Group Chaplain James Good Brown in 1944 left me with no uncertainty about the courage, horror and palpable despair of the combat experience of these Bomber Crews. It had me immersed ankle deep and slipping on empty .50 Cal shell casings, freezing, at 25,000 feet above occupied Europe, and thankful that many men actually did it while I only read about it, just as you should.

Review by Julian Whippy

Published by Casemate Publishers  
RRP £27.50  
hardback, pp338

## EVENTguide 2023

- 27-29 Jan - IGBG Annual Conference and AGM 2023 - For further information see the Guild website or contact the Secretary ([secretary@gbg-international.com](mailto:secretary@gbg-international.com))
- 2-9 Mar - Wellington's Spain Recce - 2nd March 2023 for 5 or 7 days. Members wishing to attend please e-mail Graeme Cooper: [graeme@corporatebattlefields.com](mailto:graeme@corporatebattlefields.com)
- 19-21 May - Guild Event – Jersey Weekend - For further information see Guild website or contact Marc Yates on: [governance@gbg-international.com](mailto:governance@gbg-international.com)
- 11 Aug - Guild Golf Championships - For further information please e-mail Graeme Cooper: [graeme@corporatebattlefields.com](mailto:graeme@corporatebattlefields.com)
- 18 Aug - Badged Guides Dinner - For further information please e-mail Graeme Cooper: [graeme@corporatebattlefields.com](mailto:graeme@corporatebattlefields.com)
- 13-17 Sep - Berlin Cold War Recce - For further information please e-mail Bob Shaw: [rtshaw@hotmail.com](mailto:rtshaw@hotmail.com)
- 3-5 Nov - Normandy Recce - For further information please contact Simon Burgess: [sfb22@hotmail.com](mailto:sfb22@hotmail.com)

Whilst there is a full programme of events planned for next year, we are still encouraging members to organise localised events. Help in planning any event is available from  
David Harvey [events@gbg-international.com](mailto:events@gbg-international.com)



# GUILDawards 2023



## The Old Bill Award - \_\_\_\_\_

Award Ethos The Old Bill Award goes to the Guild Member who habitually displays, to the benefit of the Guild, Old Bill's qualities of steadfastness and good humour, both in adversity and in times of good fortune. The trophy was donated by Tonie and Valmai Holt; the Award winner is chosen by the membership.



## The Nathaniel Wade Award - \_\_\_\_\_

The Nathaniel Wade Award allows the Guild to publicly recognise the contribution of an individual, group or organisation associated with the Guild, who through their efforts has made a significant contribution to the craft of battlefield guiding and the wider Military History community. The Award winner is chosen by the Management Board.



## The Richard Holmes Award - \_\_\_\_\_

The Award is given to Guild members who deserve recognition for their personal contribution to the improvement and further development of the Guild. The Award winner is chosen by the Chair of the Guild.



## The Will Townend Award - \_\_\_\_\_

The award honours the memory of the late Will Townend, in particular his willingness to share his extensive technical knowledge of Artillery and his wider knowledge of battlefields in general with his fellow Battlefield Guides. Those nominated for the award are recognised as selfless members of the Guild share their knowledge with their peers. The Award winner is chosen by the members of the Guild.



## The David Chandler Award - \_\_\_\_\_

The award honours the memory of the late David Chandler the historian – in particular his research into military history and his academic contribution to a wider understanding of Napoleonic warfare. The Award winner is chosen by the Accreditation Director.



## The Last Stand - \_\_\_\_\_

This is not a trophy, but forms part of the Guild's traditions: at the Annual Dinner, we remember, in silence those former members who are no longer with us, and are gathered 'at the Last Stand;' the tablepiece reflects this.



## Honorary Membership - *Dr Scott's Decanter* - \_\_\_\_\_

The award of Honorary membership of the Guild entitles the recipient to life-long membership of the Guild at no cost to the individual. This level of membership is recognised in the Guild's Constitution.

## NEWmembers:

New members who have been welcomed to the Guild between Spring 2022 and the date of publication.

William Anderson  
David Barker  
Paul Bowen  
Adrian Evans  
Marcus Evans

Ben Godfrey  
Lee Goldsmith  
Roger Grafton  
Sharon Hill-Boulton  
Robert Laplander

Desmond Latham  
Graham Roberts  
Colin Ross  
Tom Smith  
Damien Stewart

David Stohs  
Alexander Summer  
Paul Tynan