

NEWPORT PAGNELL A GARRISON TOWN



Oliver Cromwell, 1599-1658

A country gentleman and MP for Huntingdon, he became a soldier, statesman and finally Lord Protector of Great Britain. Cromwell visited the Newport Garrison on several occasions during the First War.



King Charles I, 1600-1649

Crowned in 1625, he believed he ruled by the Divine Right of Kings which drew him into conflict with Parliament that led to his eventual downfall. Charles I was executed (beheaded) in 1649.

The Civil War 1642 – 1651

The Civil War was a series of three separate wars, armed conflicts between the Parliamentarians (Roundheads) led by Oliver Cromwell and the Royalist army of King Charles I (Cavaliers), a war that divided families, Protestants and Catholics and the whole nation.

It led to the trial and execution of King Charles I and the replacement of the monarchy with the First Commonwealth of England (1649-1653) and then with the Protectorate (1653 – 1659) under Oliver Cromwell's rule. The war established the concept that an English Monarch cannot govern without Parliament's consent.



Pamphlet announcing Parliamentarian military successes

The First War 1642 – 1646

Following the Battle of Edgehill in 1642, the First War was a significant episode in Newport Pagnell's history. The town's location at the confluence of two rivers and the bridging and fording points that crossed them became strategically vital to both sides. Having taken Bedford the Royalists led by Prince Rupert marched on to Newport Pagnell capturing the town in 1643 and put Sir Lewis Dyve in charge of building entrenchments.

"We heare from Newport Pagnell in Buckinghamshire, that the cavaliers make creat fortifications to keep awle her cood cattles and Welsh runts and other provisions from coming to London and by keeping out the fat beasts, was make her have a verie leane citie..."

Welch Mercury, 1643

The Parliamentarians struck back three weeks later, a poor military decision by the Royalists left the town unguarded and troops led by the Earl of Essex moved in and never lost control again.

