

# HILLESDEN AND STONY



All Saints Church, (The Cathedral in the Fields) Hillesden which still bears musket shot holes in the main door from the attack on the House and Church during the Civil War.

Courtesy of Cheryl Baker

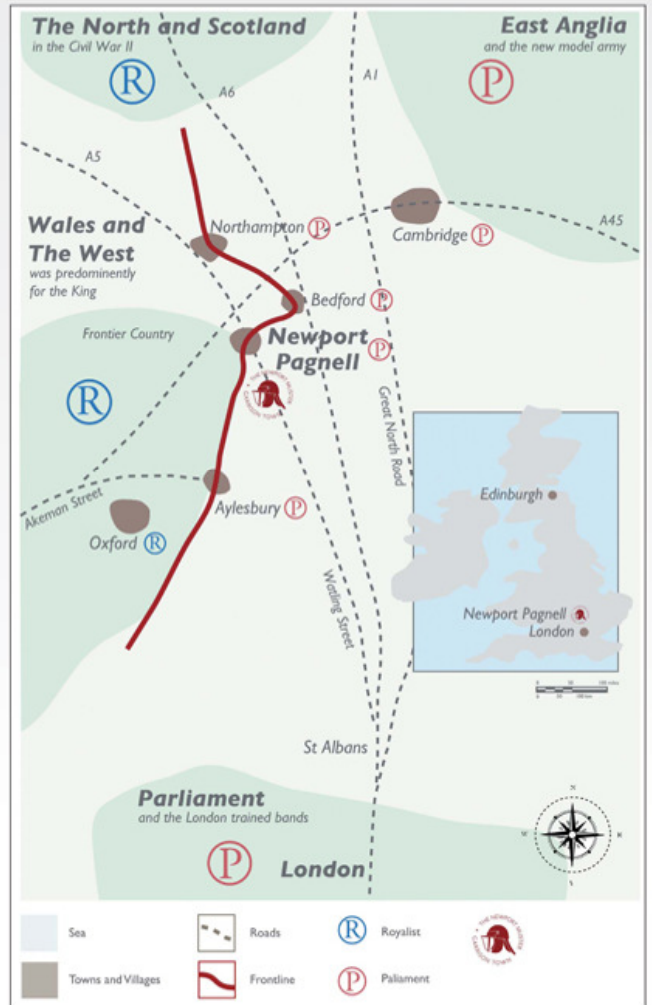


The Sealed Knot re-enactors at the Stony Stratford 350 year anniversary Civil War celebrations, featured in the Sunday Express, 24th April, 1994.



Roundhead Dragon

Chris T.E. White Roman Photos



The 'frontline' defences stretching from London to the South Midlands dividing the strongholds of the Parliamentarians in the east from the Royalists in the west.

## The Sacking of Hillesden House, 1644

The fortified mansion and church on the estate of Sir Alexander Denton, a staunch royalist, at Hillesden near Buckingham, first came under attack from Aylesbury troops in February but to no avail.

Oliver Cromwell and Sir Samuel Luke led a combined attack in March of troops from the Newport garrison in a second more successful assault. Despite the Royalists surrendering some men were put to death after capitulating, but the rest were taken prisoner amongst them Denton who was later sent to the Tower of London. The house was pillaged and burnt to the ground.

## Stony Stratford, the last conflict, 1644

Stony Stratford had been a Royalist enclave since 1642 and of strategic importance located on Watling Street and the River Ouse crossing. Occupied by Prince Rupert's troop of some 400 men, they experienced a series of minor skirmishes in and around the town, but a strong attack was launched in May from the Newport garrison. Thirty raiders crept into town, cut the sentries' throats, caused mayhem in hand-to-hand fighting in the town's streets and alleyways. This final skirmish routed the Royalists, securing the 'Front Line' between East Anglia and Oxfordshire for the Parliamentarians.

