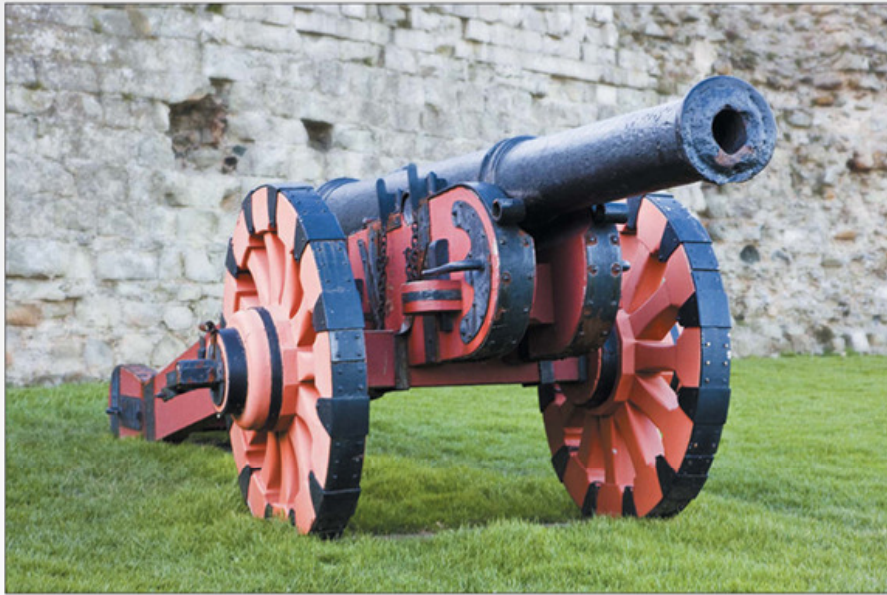


WEAPONS, MANPOWER AND TACTICS



Culverin and Demi Culverin cannons were capable of firing a 15lb and 9lb shot respectively 1½ miles and would have been sited on the garrison's bulwarks. The Cannon pub is reportedly named because a cannon was found at the rear of the site.



A Musketeer



Pikeman on Parade, Sealed Knot at Riverside Meadows, August 1980.



Camp Followers accompanied soldiers to the garrison and battlefield, their 'trayne' was often larger than that of the army.

The Garrison army was made up of Regiments of Foot (pikeman and musketeers), Troops of Horse (cavalry), Dragoons (mounted musketeers), a 'trayne' of artillery and an accompanying baggage of camp followers catering to soldiers needs. Cannon were sited on bulwarks along the ramparts, as well as being used alongside mortars as field artillery.

The Musketeer's main weapon was a matchlock musket, it had a heavy barrel 1220mm long and required a supporting wooden rest; these were soon replaced by guns with shorter barrels. The loading and priming of muskets required 30 separate movements so groups of armoured pikemen (pikes were up to 4.8m long) were used to fend off attacks, especially from cavalry. Soldiers were recruited from volunteers or by coercion (force was common place) and required little training for combat with a pike.

Governor, Sir Samuel Luke led many attacks himself, but he was also a brilliant Scoutmaster gathering intelligence through a network of agents. The town was a cauldron of spies and informers from both sides, but such was the accuracy of Luke's reports Cromwell gave a high priority to information he received from Newport Pagnell.

"This noble commander watches the enemy so industriously that they eat sleep, drink not, whisper not but that he can give us an account of their darkest proceedings"

Mercurius Britannicus

The legacy continued well after Luke's retirement with the appointment by Cromwell of John Thurloe as his commander-in-chief of intelligence in 1653, who at one-time lived locally in Astwood.

