

# A SOLDIER'S LIFE



Once a thriving market town, Newport Pagnell and the whole area soon saw shortages of crops, livestock, provisions and horses once the troops and camp followers arrived. Many families uprooted and trailed the army when their men enlisted, living in temporary tented homes.

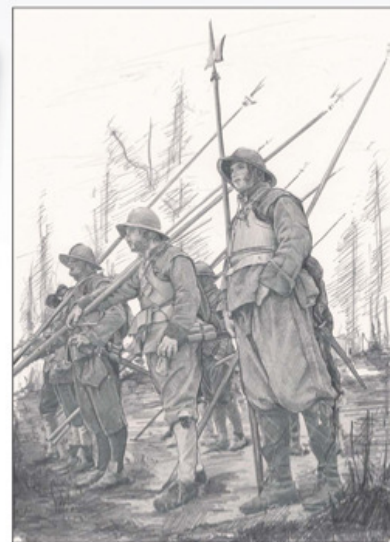
## A Soldier's Daily Ration

Bread & Biscuit 10.5oz  
 Peas 3oz dried (6oz cooked)  
 Meat and Dairy products 5oz  
 Salt 1/17th pint  
 Beer (weak) 1/2 pint

## A Parliamentarian Soldier's Daily Wage

Colonel	45 shillings	(£2.25)
Captain	15 shillings	(75p)
Surgeon	8 shillings	(40p)
Lieutenant	4 shillings	(20p)
Ensign	3 shillings	(15p)
Gunner	2 shillings	(10p)
Corporal	1 shilling	(5p)
Soldier	8 pence	(3.5p)

Commanders who distinguished themselves in Service were rewarded with honours, and often voted lands and estates.



Called to 'muster and maneuver' (drill) every day from 6 a.m. to noon, except Sunday, it was a hard life followed by many idle hours waiting for action.

There was a constant shortage of military supplies and food. Soldiers were paid little and rarely and had no faith in the IOUs issued by Parliament, which could be bought for eight pence in the pound. On his retirement in 1645, Sir Samuel Luke himself was owed back-pay of £4,500 that Parliament took two years to finally settle. Desertion was a hanging offence, consequently the plundering of property and supplies, the 'relieving' of Prisoners of War and the dead of their money and clothes was deemed acceptable, a 'lawful reward' that Officers turned a blind-eye to.

*"There were two in my company who had but one pair of breeches between them so that when one was up the other must of necessity be in bed."*

Women on both sides dressed as men to enlist and fight in order to be with their husbands. Troops were supported by hoards of camp followers often larger than the army itself - made up of families, dependents, widows, sultors (sellers of victuals and supplies) none of whom were allocated garrison provisions. To survive they foraged from the land and undertook menial tasks for the army such as laundry, sewing, cooking, basic medical-care and prostitution to earn a meagre living.

With the prospect of even more men on route to the town Sir Samuel Luke wrote to the Earl of Manchester

*"How their common soldiers will do for beds I know not. All mine that belongs in the garrison lie 3 and 3 in a bed and although I have huddled my officers together, which being gentlemen all bear it..., yet I shall not discontent my soldiers"*

