

THE INCIDENT AT LARBERT BRIDGE AND THE SIEGE OF CALLENDAR HOUSE: 1651.

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In 1643 the English Civil War erupted between Charles I and the English Parliament. The latter received the support of the Scottish Covenanting armies who were afraid that Charles might try to impose episcopacy on Scotland. In return the Scots obtained a promise from the English Parliament to introduce a unified Presbyterian Church in the two kingdoms, as well as money and supplies for their armies. Then in 1645 the king surrendered to the Scots at Newark and was subsequently handed over to the English and the matter seemed settled.

However, the Parliamentary generals who attained this victory were no longer interested in the religious aspirations of the Scots. Charles I saw his opportunity and offered the disappointed Scots a deal whereby he would establish Presbyterianism into both kingdoms for a trial period of three years if they now assisted him. The limited period of this so-called "Engagement" was not approved of by the Kirk who at this time more or less controlled the Scottish Parliament. James Livingstone, the First Earl of Callendar and a veteran of war, together with a large detachment from Falkirk, was amongst those who now invaded England in the new army raised to help the captive king. Although James Livingstone held a senior post in the army he found himself constantly at odds with the leadership of the Duke of Hamilton. That leadership soon led the Scots to disaster in August 1648 near Warrington in Lancashire. Hamilton surrendered (and was later executed), whilst Callendar at the head of the Falkirk contingent succeeded in cutting his way through the encircling Parliamentary army (Livingstone 1920) - the pass to the north at Winwick being held open for several hours by Lieutenant General William Baillie of Letham (Gibson 1908, 148). The Falkirk contingent, which included members of the Livingstone family such as Sir William Livingstone of Westquarter, returned to Falkirk to the heavy censure of the kirk. The Earl of Callendar travelled straight to Holland where he joined the Prince of Wales in Exile. In his absence he was banned from re-entering his home country by the Scottish Parliament.



Illus: James Livingston, Earl of Callendar.

A few months later Charles I was executed. The Scottish Parliament and Kirk were shocked, partly because they had not been consulted on the fate of their king. They now accepted Charles I's son, also Charles, as their covenanted king and he left Holland for Scotland in June 1650. The Earl of Callendar had gone ahead of Charles, arriving in Edinburgh on 24th May, only to find that he was not to be accepted along with Charles and that the Scottish Parliament

had issued a new Act of Exclusion against him just six days earlier. He was immediately ordered to leave the country, thus depriving Scotland of one of its most experienced soldiers. Indeed, few of those men who had fought during the "Engagement" for Charles I were allowed to serve in the Scottish army.

News of the arrival of Charles in Scotland immediately caused Oliver Cromwell to march north at the head of the New Model Army in an attempt to nip this rebellion in the bud. Matters did not proceed well for Cromwell until on 3 September 1650 he defeated the Scottish forces under David Leslie at Dunbar. The Scots retreated to Stirling and Cromwell was able to enter Edinburgh unopposed. He wasted no time in securing the port of Leith in order to bring supplies in by sea for his army.

Then,

"the Army marched towards Falkirk, and being informed by the way that there was a garrison kept, a Trumpet was sent to summon it: Answer was returned, that they were all Gentlemen in the house, and were resolved all to die rather than yield it: but if Stirling were taken or yielded that should be given up; that they would offer no violence to any of our army in their passing to and again, but such as carried themselves disorderly."

("The Lord Cromwell his March to Sterling", an official bulletin; see also Whitelock 1853, 246).

The scene of this parley on 16 September was evidently [Callendar House](#), presumably defended by those who had returned in such disgrace from the late Engagement. Finding themselves alone they would not have retreated with the main body of the Scots' army to Stirling, nor could they have troubled Cromwell's forces as they passed by.

Shortly afterwards Cromwell reached Stirling but, being unable to engage Leslie's army on beneficial terms and refusing to be drawn any further north before having secured the south, he returned to Linlithgow and fortified it. At the same time he took possession of the fortified houses of [Kinneil](#) and [Haining](#), but [Blackness Castle](#) remained in Scottish hands.

Having thus secured the land immediately west of Edinburgh, Cromwell marched to Glasgow by way of Falkirk and Kilsyth in order to deal with the independent Western Army of the Scots. At this time the Scots were divided into three main factions - the covenanters, who wanted no dealings with Prince Charles, held the west; the cavaliers (known as "Malignants"), who supported the Prince and saw no role for the church, held the north; and the kirk faction, which controlled the Prince, was stationed at Stirling, its army led by Leslie. However, Cromwell was unable to pick off the Western Army as they would not be drawn into open battle and he returned to Edinburgh by way of Livingstone. Whilst the Scots vacillated the English Parliamentary forces mopped up the pockets of resistance in the Borders and the Lothians.

The Western Army was soon defeated at Hamilton and in December 1650 Edinburgh Castle surrendered. Only now, in their darkest hour, did the Scottish Parliament receive the Earl of Callendar's petition to help his country in a favourable light and on 14 December a vote was passed allowing him to return from exile (Livingstone 1920, 168).

On 11 January 1651 a strong Scottish attack on Linlithgow failed to dislodge the English garrison, and on the 5th February Cromwell's army again passed through Falkirk to Kilsyth to reconnoitre a passage to the west of Stirling. Severe

weather, lack of supplies and Cromwell's failing health meant that the English were unable to benefit from such a manoeuvre at that time and the troops returned to Edinburgh. They did, however, continue to strengthen their grip upon Scotland south of the Forth-Clyde isthmus and in March they entered Callendar House unopposed (Whitelock 1853, 294). The Scots were now concentrating their forces along the shores of the Forth, as long as they held Stirling and the northern shore of the Forth they could stop English progress northwards and keep their own supplies of food and reinforcements safe ready for a summer campaign. They also held the important ports of [Airth](#) and Blackness on the southern shore which had the double benefit of depriving the English of supply bases and of giving the Scots a foothold from which to launch their counter-offensive. By contrast, the English were patrolling as far as Stirling and so held most of the south shore, but had failed to gain a footing on the north shore near Burntisland.

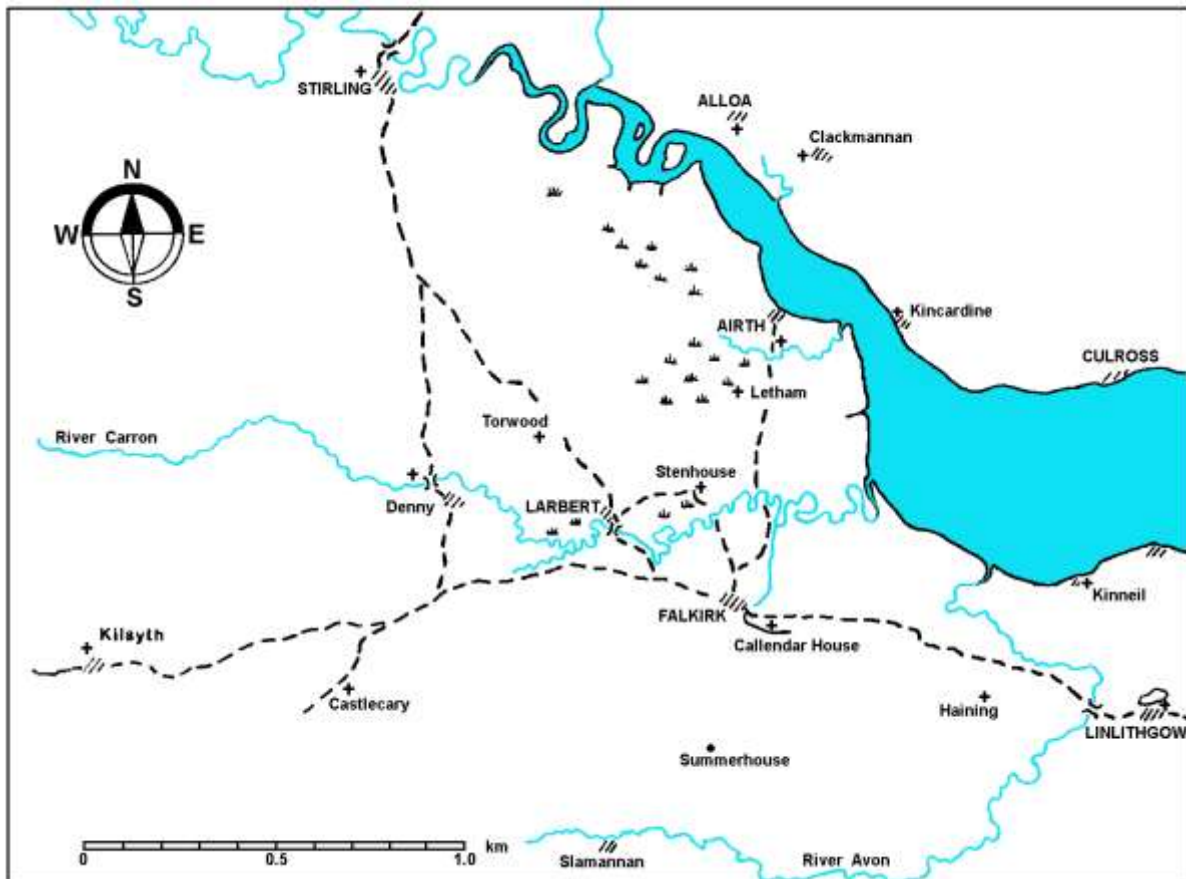
The Scots' garrison at Blackness Castle was too close to Linlithgow for the comfort of the English and so attention next turned to it. In the last days of March Admiral Deane arrived with a large fleet. Whilst he bombarded the castle from the Forth General Monck overran the garrison on 1 April. Such was the perceived importance of the stronghold that the Scots sent a large relief force from Stirling to help, but this was blocked by Cromwell's army within sight of Linlithgow, Cromwell having received prior intelligence of the rescue attempt.

On 6th May the Earl of Callendar was turned down for high office in the Scottish army at a meeting of the Committee of Estates still riven by internal politics. He subsequently seems to have played no role in the war. Summer was approaching and events started to move more quickly. Towards the end of May the Scots in Stirling received the reinforcements from the north that they had been expecting. The military balance had now decidedly tipped to their advantage; they were numerically stronger than the English whose supplies after a long winter were very low.

The English received intelligence that the enlarged Scottish army might march south by Carlisle to start an uprising in the north of England. Yet again Cromwell and his army marched to Glasgow, this time to block the way south. Such were the difficulties that he now faced that he had to return almost immediately upon news that fresh supplies had landed at Leith. It was now necessary for the English to brigade all their troops together to avoid having their individual garrisons picked off at random. The men stationed at Hamilton and the other western garrisons were withdrawn leaving the way south-west open to the Scots. It was now too, one assumes, that after an occupation of three months Callendar House was evacuated.

Full of renewed confidence, in the last days of June, the Scottish army moved south from Stirling to occupy the area on the north side of the River Carron. Around Torwood they entrenched themselves with redoubts on the hill near the castle and towards the house at Letham which they also garrisoned and fortified with a number of cannon (Douglas 1899, 263). The left wing was securely anchored on the fortifications at the burgh of Airth. They also dug a line or trench about the foot of Torwood which was pronounced to be "*almost as regular as most I ever saw*" ([appendix no. 15](#)) and which stretched for a mile and a half east of the Torwood camp. As well as a ditch these defences evidently bristled with wooden spikes. The Engager Lieutenant General William Baillie, who had fought with the Earl of Callendar in Lancashire, was the owner of [Torwood Castle](#) and Letham Place and his knowledge of the lay of the land must have been invaluable.

Once securely installed on the Torwood, detachments of the Scots crossed the river and occupied Falkirk, at the same time replacing the English garrison at Callendar House. They reconnoitred as far east as Linlithgow and Kinneil House, the latter place being used to store English biscuit and cheese (Mercurius Politicus no. 57).



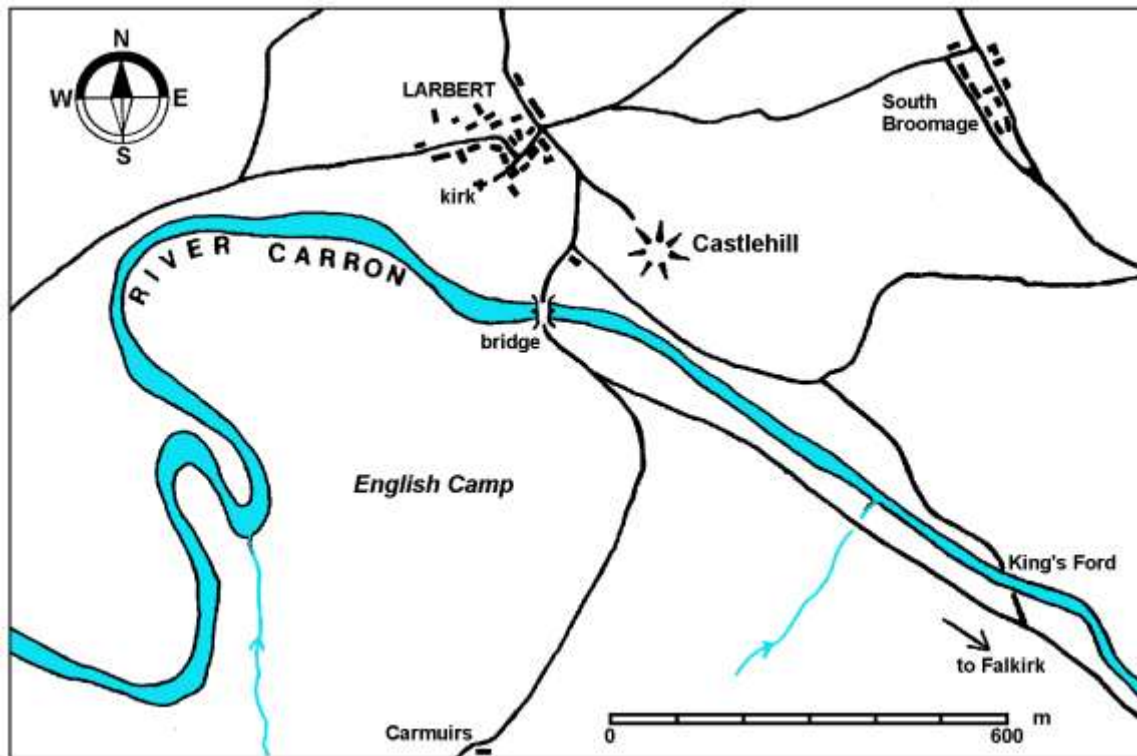
Illus: Map showing the locations mentioned in the text.

News of this advance brought the English army scurrying from Edinburgh in the hope of an open battle. They had 14 regiments of horse, 12 of foot and 16 ordnance pieces - a total of about 19,000 men, as against a Scottish army of around 24,000 (Weekly Intelligencer no. 2, 222). The English quartered at Linlithgow on the evening of Tuesday 1 July and the Scots withdrew to the safety of the north bank of the River Carron leaving only the garrison at Callendar House. On the following day the two armies faced each other across the river.

Cromwell's scouts quickly reported the natural strength of the Scots' positions "*they could not be attempted with less danger than storming a garrison*" ([appendix no. 4](#)). The only direct access was by the bridge at [Larbert](#) (then at the foot of the Low Town, west of the present viaduct) which, like the fords, was strongly guarded. For the next three or four days small skirmishes broke out as Cromwell's troops tested and probed the Scots' defences, each sortie proving inconclusive. Some English soldiers did manage to cross the river on Wednesday 2 July, and some ground on the lower slopes on the north side was gained for a while (Mercurius Politicus no. 58, July), but was quickly retaken by the

defenders. The ground concerned seems to have been that on the north side of Larbert Bridge ([appendix no 10](#)).

In the small hours of Thursday morning the Scots placed their artillery on Castlehill, just north-east of Larbert Bridge (Johnston 1723, 331), and pitched round shot and shell into the English camp at Carmuir (appendix nos. [2](#), [4](#), [5](#), [10](#)) on the far side of the "Larber Water" where the Roman army had camped some 1,500 years before. The Scots reported that: *"After some few were shot they retired with a great slaughter of their men, and left behind some of their baggage"* ([appendix no. 5](#)). Even Cornet John Baynes of the English army wrote in a private letter that *"We then took an alarm, and drew a little back"* ([appendix no. 2](#)). That the incident was serious and the artillery effective is suggested by Thomson's collection about Colonel Wemyss' patents for inventions in artillery which schedules "mortar pieces" and says *"sufficient experience whairof was seen at Gogar feicht, Lerberbridge and elswer"* (Thomson's Acts Vol. vii, 47). The Scottish claim that the English deliberately concealed the true casualty figures from their own troops by burning the bodies of the dead soldiers is quite unusual!



Illus: The Larbert area in 1651.

First getting a couple of guns into position within range of the Scots, Cromwell's army withdrew to "Kalender Heath" (Weekly Intelligencer no. 21, 168). The sight of this withdrawal was a great temptation to the Scots, but Leslie fortunately was able to hold them back from attacking an apparently retreating enemy. For some hours Cromwell awaited their follow up, hoping to entice them from their fortifications, but in this he was disappointed and so fell back to Linlithgow for the night. The next day, Friday 4 July, was spent provisioning his troops whilst patrols perhaps carried out some surveillance of the Carronshore area. However, on the Saturday the English moved to Glasgow to obstruct a threatened Scottish move on that city.

Whilst he remained at Glasgow part of Cromwell's army under General Lambert made a rapid march up Strathblane to the Lake of Monteith and the fords across the Forth at Newbridge which were crossed around midnight on Tuesday 8 July. Cromwell now knew that it was possible to pass beyond the west flank of the Scots, but it was a dangerous route. He still preferred the idea of crossing the Forth estuary and landing in Fife to outflank the main Scots army on the other side. Alternatively, it might still be possible to precipitate a battle near to Falkirk.

Meanwhile the Scots were getting still bolder. They had raided within ten miles of Edinburgh (Weekly Intelligencer no. 29, 240) and the main army had advanced to Kilsyth. Cromwell's scouts reported that like the Scots' main position at Torwood the castle there was "*so fenced with bogs and so rugged by the rocky ascent of hills*" as to be "*almost inaccessible*" (ibid). Added to this were the worrying rumours that the Earl of Callendar had at last been given the commission of Commander-in-Chief (Cromwelliana, 104), which could only indicate a more aggressive stance. Once again Cromwell's army tramped across the isthmus, taking the more cautious route by Monklands, and established itself in Slamannan. The rumours about the Earl were never to find reality.

Cromwell advanced in person on the Monday 14 July to within sight of the Scots' tents beyond "Larber Water", driving out as he went a small scouting party of theirs that had occupied the town of Falkirk. On returning in the evening towards his Linlithgow quarters his party was shot at from Callendar House ([appendix no. 11](#)). Cornet Baynes' letter of 5 July ([appendix no. 2](#)) shows that a move against the house had been contemplated for sometime, possibly in the hope of drawing the main Scots' army out of their entrenchments, and this shooting simply added to the vexation that the garrison there had been causing. Rapid sorties from the house seem to have been common and one English soldier complained that the house "*hath devoured many of our men*" (Appendix no. 9).

At all events two battery pieces were brought from Linlithgow and the bombardment of the house with these great guns started that Monday evening ([appendix no. 11](#)). The outer yard of the fortified house was large enough to hold 40 horses and some cattle and was protected by a ditch or moat and a barbican wall (the ditch was still partly visible in 1780 according to Kier who mentions the large area involved). Despite these defences, it was not strong enough to survive such an onslaught. Nor did its location lend itself to defence as it was overlooked on most sides. The next day the garrison under the command of Governor Lieutenant Galbraith (the Earl of Callendar was not present) twice refused to surrender. Still the Scots' army did not come to their aid although they knew about the siege and would have heard the distant rumbling of heavy artillery. Indeed such help would have been futile as the English army lay encamped in readiness between the house and the River Carron at Falkirk. Finally, about sunset on 15 July the house was stormed by a party of "*10 files out of every regiment*" ([appendix no. 12](#)), about 260 men, led by Colonel Monck and his own unit which became known as the Coldstream Guards. The garrison died fighting with the result that 62 were killed and only 13 injured soldiers as well as 17 countrymen and women were taken prisoner. The governor was amongst the dead. After the excitement and smoke of battle had died down the captured civilians were released and a list of the soldiers sent to the Scots' army just two miles away in order to facilitate an exchange of prisoners with them.



The dead it would seem were buried by Cromwell's troops near to where they had fallen. 150 years later, during major landscape work which involved the levelling of the last vestiges of the barbican gateway and the uprooting of its foundations, a large number of human bones was discovered (Kier 1827, 209; Meikle 1879, 40).

Illus: The mound at Callendar Park where the dead were reburied in the 1780s.

The following day, Wednesday, Cromwell himself stayed in the ruins of Callendar House ([appendix no. 12](#)) and his army continued the stand-off with the Scottish Forces. The small-scale skirmishes of earlier days increased in size and vigour as the Scots tried to revenge Galbraith, but they too were beaten back ([appendix no 12](#)).

Whilst the two armies were thus engaged an English force of some 2,000 men under Colonel Overton sailed from Blackness and Leith and just after daybreak on the morning of Thursday 17 July 17 they successfully landed at North Queensferry. The back door to Fife was ajar. Cromwell fully expected the Scots to take their forces from the Torwood to slam it closed again, accordingly he marched up again to Larbert Bridge on that Thursday forenoon only to find the entrenchments still held against him. The vast majority of the Scottish forces were still there. Both armies now started to send reinforcements to Fife. On 20 July Cromwell disengaged the enemy along the River Carron and withdrew to Linlithgow. On the afternoon of that same day the Scots were heavily defeated at Inverkeithing and Fife lay wide open.

The Scots evacuated the Torwood and retreated in haste to Stirling and Cromwell took his forces across the Queensferry. He was at Perth in the first week of August where he heard that Charles and the Scottish army had made off for England. Only six weeks after the Battle of Inverkeithing he caught up with them at Worcester where he won his victory, the "Crowning Mercy" as he termed it. That battle took place on 3 September 1651, a year to the day since the Battle of Dunbar.

Falkirk's inhabitants made the most of the relative calm that followed and lost no time in plundering the ruins of Callendar House of its iron and lead fixtures ([appendix nos. 20, 22, 23, 24](#)). They were afterwards dealt with by the Earl's own court in his absence. The estate was placed in the hands of Trustees by the English as part of a general sequestration of the properties of those who had been involved in the Engagement and the recent events. All this time the Earl of Callendar had been side-tracked and, having played no real role in the events, he submitted to the English late in 1651 (Dow 1979, 18) and was issued with a pass of safe conduct from General Monck who had been left in command of Scotland. In February 1654 he was arrested on suspicion of plotting to take up arms again and imprisoned in Burntisland Castle before being transferred to Edinburgh Castle. After six months he was liberated on parole by General Monck and the following year he went to London where he had a private meeting with Oliver Cromwell (Livingstone 1920, 172). Although the Earl's estate was discharged

late in 1655 he may never have spent much time at his ruinous house and probably stayed in his new town-house in Earl's Land just off Vicar Street whenever he visited the town. The estate was in considerable debt by this time.

The town too had suffered much from the uncertainties of the war. Damage to, and loss of, property are themes which recur throughout the Session Records at this time. Both armies were guilty of this and of the need to forage for food for man and beast. Even the church was used by the parliamentary soldiers as on 23 September 1655 the kirk session *"Ordains those whose seats were broken down in the kirk of Falkirk in the tyme of the troubles, should come and own thaim"*. With the "Crowning Mercy" the townspeople might have expected easier times but the republican forces were to remain in the area for another eight years and troops were quartered at Falkirk from time to time. These soldiers would have been responsible for local law and order (although the barony court continued to meet) as well as searching out "Malignants". They also formed part of a communications network between Edinburgh and Glasgow. They did not, however, have everything their own way as is shown by the kidnapping of two of them from a Falkirk house in 1653 ([see appendix no. 25](#)).

In 1654 Monck and the Coldstream Guards were back in Callendar House. In August 1659 the Earl of Callendar was once more in custody for not giving assurity of his good conduct. Only with the restoration of Charles II in 1660 did the Earl of Callendar, now an old man of 65 years, return to his ancestral home to begin the work of reconstruction.

APPENDIX: SOME CONTEMPORARY SOURCES.

1. "The King and the airmy, being now lying at Sterling, eftir lang deliberatioun, marched to Torwood, and incamped thair the 28 of Junij. Many fair occasiounes wer than presentit to the Scottis airmy for overthrowing the Englisches, lyand thane in a body about Callendar and Falkirk; bot the politik enymie withdrew his airmy from these places to the sea syde unknown to us, leving his tentis and huttis unremoved, as gif thai haid bene thair in persone. Our airmy not knowing thair removing, lay still secure at Torwood; till at lenth report come to the King and the Scottis airmy, that upone Thursday, Fryday, and Settirday, the 17, 18, and 19 dayis of Julij, Generall Cromwell and his airmy haid croced the sea at Innerkething." (Nicoll's Diary, p53).
2. "On Wednesday last the Army marched from Lithgow towards the enemy, and had hopes to engage them, but it seems their inclinations are not yet to it. We encamped all the night near to their camp, having little more than a little water betwixt us. In the night, they drew up their Army, and brought four guns out of their trenches to a hill side near the river; and about 3 of clock in the morning begun to play them, and made many shots in our camp but did very little harm, killed not above 3 or 4 men. We then took an alarum, and drew a little back, thinking they had a mind to fight, but they would not take our ground; so that, after we had played one or two of our guns awhile at them, seeing without much advantage we could not force them to engage, we drew off our

army, and came back to Lithgow upon Thursday night; and so quiet and calm were they that they would not once appear in our rear, but let us very honestly go off. I think we shall go against Kallendar House this day..." Letter from John Baynes from the Camp, dated July 5th 1651 (Roundhead Officers, p32).

3. "Upon Wednesday last, we marched with our whole Army from Lithgoe, beyond Falkirk 1 mile and a half, and faced the Enemy that night and part of the next day, but drew off in regard of a river which run betwixt them and us, so that we could not possibly engage them without great and unnecessary hazard. Some bickering there was, but with little gallantry on their side, and several great shot was exchanged. They lay entrencht in and about Torwood. This day the Council sits, consulting what will be fitt'st to be done, and I hope we shall not draw any further back till we have done something" Letter from W. Walker from the Camp near Lithgoe dated 14th July 1651 (Roundhead Officers, p33).

4. "That the general marched towards the Scots army lying at Torwood, and there was pickering between both parties; the English took twelve of the Scots, and killed divers; they killed none of the English but one man; and all the Scots, as they passed by him, either pistoled him, or cut him, or pricked him with their rapiers in a barbarous manner:

That the king was in the field to encourage them; that the first rank of their troops were armed complete: they give out their army to be twenty-nine thousand, but it is supposed they are twenty thousand; that they had intrenched themselves, and planted great guns, so that they could not be attempted with less danger than storming a garrison:

That some of the English pickeering without order were endangered by the enemy, but relieved by colonel Okey, who beat the Scots from a hill they had for advantage; that both armies drew to their quarters about a mile from each other:

That in the night the enemy drew some great guns to the top of a hill, from whence they made about forty shot early in the morning, and killed two or three of the English:

That general Cromwell planted two cannons, and played upon them, and did some Execution; and seeing the Scots would not engage but upon their great advantage, the general called a council of war in the field, and by their advice drew off to the vale, to see if the Scots would follow them, and forsake their hills; which they did not, and so the English army returned back to their former quarters at Linlithgow.

A list of the several regiments of the English army with their colonels sent up, being fourteen regiments of horse, twelve regiments of foot, and six troops of dragoons.

Four days' provision more was delivered out to the army for a new march and design.

Letters that Cromwell marched up again to the Scots, but their foot were intrenched, and their horse lay so that the English could not engage them, there being a river and bogs between them; and though Cromwell came up to the teeth of them, and viewed all their bodies, yet they would not come forth:

That the English took eight Scots prisoners, and killed divers in pickeering, and beat them up to their works, and waited for them about eight hours, but they kept in; and so the English went to their quarters; and the Scots followed them with a small party, who were quickly beaten back....

That the English again marched up to the Scots army, but they would not stir out, but kept within their bogs and advantages, places inaccessible....

Of the army in Scotland marching up to the enemy, who would not come forth to engage with them, and thereupon of the general's resolution to land a considerable party in Fife, and to divide his army, to see if that would bring them to engage. [a successful landing at Queen's Ferry]Whilst this was doing, my lord general marched close up to the enemy with his whole army, that in case they should have marched this way, he might have engaged their rear before they could reach Stirling.

The enemy received the alarm the same day about ten of the clock, and sent a considerable party of horse and foot to beat ours back, upon which my lord had some thoughts of attempting the enemy where they lay, which was not thought fit, but resolved to the contrary; and, in order to the preservation of the forces, his lordship commanded me to march hither with two regiments of horse and two of foot....

Other letters, that the Scots' retreat to Stirling was in very great haste, for they left several of their sick men in their huts, and a pretty quantity of powder and match...." (Whitelock, B. 1853 p318-323).

5. "On Wednesday the 2d of July they advanced within a mile of Larber Bridge, the Scots army lying in the Torwood. A small party of the Scots army went out to view the English army, and were persued by a party of English horse. The Scots fearing the weakness of their party, sent forth another to bring them Off, which they did with the slaughter of two English men, and one taken. Upon this the Scots drew in their out guards, which made the English think they were marched to Sterling, and resolved next morning to march to the Scots leagure, when they wer saluted with the Scots guns which played in the midst of their camp from a hill near Larber water. It was long before the English guns wer ready, so that after some few wer shott they retired with a great slaughter of their men, and left behind them some of their baggage, whereupon the Scots army advanced; Major General Midltoun being in the fields, sent word to Gen. David Lesly, that he would fall on, desyring him to second him, but D. Lesly sent him expresse command not to do it, saying it was not convenient, so that the English returned to Linlithgow quietly; and least the number of their dead should be known brought them to some cottage houses and burnt them over them." (Maidment, J. 1833, p35).
6. "Since our Army's return from Glasgow we advanced again to Fawkirke near to Torwood. We have been here four nights. Upon Tuesday last, about sunset, after we had made a breach upon Kallender House, even in the face of the Enemy, we stormed it and lost a captain of foot, our Mr Gunner, Robt Hargreave of your Troops and 2 or 3 private soldiers more were slain in the storm. We slew of the enemy about 50 persons, and such as had quarter given them were most of them wounded. Little were taken in the house except horses and cattle of the country peoples." Letter from Cornet John Baynes from the Camp near Kallendar House dated 19th July 1651 (in Roundhead Officers, p34).
7. "The ancient Towre, which was by the English storm'd,
And by them suffer'd an unbribed death;
Behov'd by levelling, to be reform'd,
And to be purg'd from the Usurper's breath."

("This fell on the 15th of July 1651. Sixty two persons were kill'd in the Garison nobly resisting.")

(Stanza 134 from the poem "Patronus Redux" by Michael Livingston of Bantaskine published in 1682.)

8. "We now lye close to the Enemy, who hath so intrenched himself, that it doth not appear to us yet how to attempt him... we took Callendar house in the view of their whole Army by storme, without the losse of above five men," (Letter in "A Great Victory GOD Hath Vouchsafed by the Lord Generall Cromwels Forces against the SCOTS" 1651.)
9. "Being returned to our old Quarters neare Falkirke, on the fourteenth day of July we battered, and then stormed Calander House, within two miles of the Enemies whole Camp, which was at Torwood five miles from Sterling, we twice offered them that kept it, mercy to surrender it, but they refused; they killed us a Captaine who was only a looker on, and likewise our Master Gunner; we tooke it the same day we began to batter it by storme, and our Men put sixty in the House to the Sword, some others dyed of Wounds, and about sixteen being wounded had their lives; the House is very strong, with a Moate about it, and a great Wood by it.

It hath devoured many of our men, and God hath now requited them, their great Army never offered to send man to their releise; such stout men are the Scotch Boasters....

July 19 from the Camp neare Falkirk W.G.

We lye within a mile and a halfe of the Enemy, and view one another every day, but can neither come at them, nor come betwixt Sterling, and them, but I hope now we have a back doore in Fife." (Letter in "A Great Victory GOD Hath Vouchsafed by the Lord Generall Cromwels Forces against the SCOTS".)

10. "On Wednesday the 2d. of this instant July, his Excellency with the army marched from Linlithgow and the parts adjacent towards the enemy, whose horse quartered before at Falkirk, five miles from thence, but upon our approach they drew to their whole body which were quartered upon an hill about Lieutenant General Bayles' house, in, and near Torwood, the greatest part of the day was spent in pickering between several parties of ours and theirs, we took about 12 prisoners and killed divers, they took none of ours; we had one killed, with whose death they were not satisfied, but every man as he went by him either pistoled him, cut him, or pricked him with their rapiers after a most barbarous manner. In the afternoon, a party of ours which pickered without order, were endangered by the enemy, but relieved by Col. Okey, who led up a forlorn of his regiment for that purpose, and beat off the enemy from an hill which they held for a place of advantage: this done, both armies drew to quarters about a mile from each other, his Excellency's head quarters at Moorcar, a poor inconsiderable town, those in Calander house shot a trooper this day as the Army passed by. That afternoon one of the trumpeters to the King's life guard came to his Excellency; the enemy had their handkerchiefs or some white cloth in their hats, or upon their arms for a sign. Thursday in the morning, about 3 o' Clock, the enemy (having in the night drawn 4 or 6 great guns to a hill where some of ours and theirs were engaged the day before) played hard with their cannon upon our army, and gave us at least forty shot, but killed only two or three of our men, and wounded two: about an hour after, we had planted two pieces of ordnance, with which we played against their body, and did some execution. All this while the enemy drew down the hill within the command of

their cannon, and sent out only small parties to picket, instead of engaging with us as we expected they would: about ten that morning, a council of war was held in the field, at which it was resolved, that in regard of the want of horse meat, and seeing we could not engage the enemy to come from their advantages (which were the hills, bogs, and a brook which was fordable, but in so few places, that no considerable parties could get over to them) to draw off as far as Calendar, to the end they might come down from their hills, but coming as far as Calendar, where the Army was drawn up upon a convenient ground, after three hours stay in sight of the enemy, and they not so much as sending any party to fall upon our rear. His Excellency marched to Lithgo, near which place the Army quartered, but no enemy appeared." (Perfect Account, July 9 to 16, in Cromwelliana, p105).

11. "July 13. The Army marched from Monkesland to St. Laurence parish, four miles from Linlithgoe, and three miles from Falkirke, a very boggy and almost unpassable way. His Excellency quartered in a little cottage called Somerhouse. All this march we neither saw nor heard any thing from the enemy. On the 14th we marched within two miles of Linlithgoe; his Excellency lay himself in town. A while before the march we heard some noise as though the enemy were near, but sending forth a party for discovery (with which his Excellency and the Major General went) we found they were near their old Quarters, near Kilsith and some about Torwood by some of their tents which we discovered. A party of 30 of theirs being in Falkirke, a party of ours were sent to fall upon them, but the enemy perceiving their march down the hill, posted away, ours pursued and took two prisoners. In our return, those from Calendar house shot at the General and the rest of our men, who got by and had no harm. - 15. The army marched towards Calendar house, two battering pieces were sent from Lithgoe to be planted against that garrison, in the planting whereof we lost Cap. Rose, and had Mr Gutteridge, master gunner, hurt." (Sev. Proc. in Parl. July 17 to 24, in Cromwelliana, p105).
12. "Our guns being planted on Tuesday last about 11 of the clock, against Callendar House, a party was drawn out, consisting of 10 files out of every regiment, and sent out in several parties to be before it, and about 7 of the clock, our guns having plaid all the time before but slowly, orders were given for the carrying of faggots, and preparations made for a storme, but before they fell on, his Excellency sent in a drum, desiring there might be a conference betweene the Governour and one of his Captains, Captain Mosse, by whom he would send things to offer, in order to the rendition of the house. Upon this they gave leave, and a captaine was sent to let them know, that if they did deliver up the house with all things in it, they should have their lives; if they would not they should have no quarter, which the Governour being acquainted with slighted, and said, if my Lord would give him till 8 of the clock next morning, if he were not relieved it should be delivered up, and desired to know my Lord's answer concerning the same. After Captaine Mosse had made report of this, he was presently sent back to let them know that if they did not render it up presently they should not expect any mercy; which message being declared and he returned, the ordinance and the musqueteers plaid, and the party appointed fell on storming upon the breach and entered, and in lesse than halfe an houre got possession of the house. They had no quarter that resisted. There was 62 killed, and 13 souldiers and 17 country-men and women who came in for shelter (as they said) were taken prisoners, but afterwards all, except the souldiers, released, and a list of the souldiers sent to the enemy for exchange. The Governour Lieut. Gebath, was killed. There was in the house 40 horse and some oxen, no great store of provisions of goods. It was very strong being moted

round. We are making up the breaches, and that which we found most feasible to enter we shall make most tenable. This place was taken in sight of the enemies army, who did not so much as stirre or alarum us all the while. We lost only two men in the storm The enemy were all mounted that night (without sounding to horse) but moved not to us. - Wednesday, July 16. the army still continued in their quarters about Callender (his Excellency quartering about Sir James Leviston's house) both armies lying in the perfect view of each other, yet the ground so full of ditches and boggs that there could be no engagement of theirs. About noon a strong party of theirs beat up our out guards, who retreating lost six men and 3 or 4 wounded; afterwards a party being sent to assist them repulst the enemy, and drive them near their body, killed two of them and took two prisoners." (Perfect Account July 21 to 28, in Cromwelliana p104-6).

13. "Quhairupone the King and the airmy lifted fra Torwood on Sunday at nycht, the 20 of Julij, and marched neir to Dumfermling. Bot eftir thai haid hard that the enymie was returnand with sevin thowsand hors toward Torwod, to tak up thair quarteris thair, the King and his airmy returned to Sterling and Torwod, airtie on Monday the 21 of Julij, quhair thai remanit that day and the day following. Thaireftir, the King and his airmy went bak agane neir to Dunferling" (Nicoll's Diary, p54).
14. "The rest of their army is much humbled with this business, so that they dare not be seen of us. Upon Sunday, as we drew from Faw Kirk they drew out of Torwood to Sterling, and went in such haste, that they left divers sick men in their huts and some dead unburied. Yesterday we went to their ground, and some of our men went within a mile of Sterling, but none durst appear hostilely against us. This day we came back and are on our march to Queensferry" Letter from Cornet John Baynes from the Camp near Lithgoe dated July 22nd 1651 (in Roundhead officers, p35).
15. "we march through both their leaguers, the one in the Torwood, and the other about a mile and a half farther east, where we find that besides the advantage of a river, very unpassable where an army stands to defend, they had environed themselves with a line, almost as regular as most I ever saw." (Perfect Account July 28-Aug 4, in Cromwelliana p106-7).
16. "Compeared Elizabeth Provand, deponed yt ye child she was with was to John Scott, and of ye sojors in ye garrison of Callander quha was killed yr." (Session Records Feb 22, 1652).
17. John Freeland, John Wingat, and Claud Hardie, were cited to tell what they knew of John Cowan. They all agreed that they saw him go in upon "the last service" at the battle of Inverkeithing, but did not see him come off again, and he was not among the prisoners. They saw him after "he was lyand with his head cloven through, and Frieland cuist ane plaid over him". (Session Records Nov 222 - Dec 20, 1657).
18. "The forsaid dey the bailzies did nominat and ordaine the persones efterspecifeit to quarter souldoyors with in the towne of Falkirk Viz. James Levingstoune and James Book for the southesyde of the said Toune and Patrick Muirheide and Andrew Hodge and in his absence George Williamesone And they with assystance of the bailzies to quarter the saidis souldoyors equallie amongst the Induellers with in the said Toune and to quarter the hors with those quha hes stabillis And the saids quartermaisteris to caus the rest of the Induelleris to contribute for the releiffe of

these that hes the saids stabillis sua that they beir no more burthing Bot thair awne proportionall pairts thairof" (Barony Court Book, p246 dated November 1651).

19. "Ordanes the said James Book James Suord and James Johnstoune for the southe syde of the Towne On [written over? and] the South [illeg] quarter James Levingstowne and Alexr Watt elder and younger for the Southeist quarter Andrew Hodge James Burne and George Williamsone for the northeist quarter And Patrick Murheide John Gairdner and John Murrey for the northwest quarter To goe through the toune and tak tryell and examinatioune quhat ilk persone hes peyit for outputting of souldeyors [for?] dragounes and to compaire the sameine with the rollis gevine up be these quha was resseaveris thairof" (Barony Court Book, p246 dated Nov 1651).
20. "Compeirit John Bowie mertchand in Falkirk and declairit That he brocht away from the place of Callender at Several tymeis Patrick Guidlett being with him Sevine steane [?] of Irone being glasebandis window bandis sneckis and uther small irone And ane chimney breace And that he got the said sevine steane of irone and Patrick Guidlett gat the chimney And that he first sold [blank] to John Guidlett and weychtit in his awne hous and then tuik it to Johne Guidlettis hous quhair it steyit tua nightis thairintill And becaus he could not get money for it he tuik it bak again and sold it to Patrick Dick in Airthe And declairit that he and the said Patrick Guidlett did cutt ane mykill sow of Leide in four peices and caryit the sameine to the Woode and did hyde the sameine thair and befour he come bak to cary it awe thairfra it was takine away sua that he could not get it againe And that he and Patrick blameit ilk ane of thame the uther for the sameine As also declairit that he brocht away from Callander Aught peices of Caike Leide quhilk was four steane weyght quhilk he sold to ane Boateman for tua merk the steane" (Barony Court Book, p250 dated 2nd Dec 1651).
21. "Decernes Alexr Muirheide in Boogtoune upone his awne propper confessioun To content and pey to Helen Reynnie thair The sowme of tuentie merkis money as for the pryce of ane Cow bocht and ressaveit be him from hir and sent to the garisone at Callender As for the principall Togidder with tuentie schillingis money for expenssss of play with in terme of Law" (Barony Court Book, p250 dated 2nd Dec 1651).
22. "Compeirit Alexr Johnestowne in Beincroce Hendrie Beyge at Mumbrell mylne John Mitschell in Mumbellis Thomas Bryssone thair and John Jack in Redding and Being suorne deponeit That they did not tak away noe irone graithe nor uther geir from the place of Callendar and that they knew nane [that had' crossed out] takine away thairfra be na uther persones" (Barony Court Book, p252 dated 9th Dec 1651).
23. "Compeirit Rot Jonstowne smithe in Mumbrellis and being suorne deponeit that he had takeine away na irone graithe from the said place of Callender nor knew nane takine away thairfra nor wrocht be him Bot that John Hart in Ridding brocht ane staincher and ane halfe staincher of irone to him to work and that he wrocht ane peice of ane band of ane doore to Alexr Jonstowne tennent to Hendrie Mykill and that George Mitschell in Mumbrellis brocht to him staincheris of ane warpit [?] window and that he and [blank] Jonstoune thair had ane irone breace Bot declairit that he knew not quhair they got the sameine" (Barony Court Book, p252, dated 9th Dec 1651).

24. "Compeiris James Strutheris [?] in Falkirk And on his othe declairis that he tuik nor knowis nothing takine from the Callender Except onlie the busches and bandis of the waine wheillis quhilk he had alreddie delyverit bak againe" (Barony Court Book, p252, dated 9th Dec 1651).
25. "Three Captains of Col. Overton's, and some other officers with their wives, lay on Saturday night at Faulkirke, and about 10 or 11 of the clock in the night were sett upon, and 2 of them taken, viz, Townsend and Scrope, but much feare being upon the party they ventured onely upon that one house, and tooke those prisoners" Letter from Colonel Lilburne to the Lord General Cromwell dated 15th November 1653 (in Scotland and the Commonwealth, p270).
According to the "Mercurius Politicus" p2889, Captain Dennis and Lieutenant Waller who lay in the house opposite escaped the notice of this raiding party.
26. Short extracts from the Kirk Session Records:
- i. "Those twelve months bypast the brethren could not meet by reasone of the garisones of the enemie within everie corner of the boundis of the Presbyterie and thair dailie motions to and from all these parts, besides the verie frequent marchings and leagoring of thair whole army yrin" (dated August 1651 in Murray, G. 1887, p179).
 - ii. On August 3rd 1652 John Muirhead reported that Henry Forsyth had got destroyed "the sawing of 4 aickers land in anno 1650 and 1651, at 8 lib ilk aicker. He deponed yt he lost 25 sheip at 5 merk ye piece. He deponed he lost two ky at 50 merk." Another man lost two "ky" and a "quoy"; whilst another "lost the increas of 4 aickers of land as is above-mentioned, that he lost about 30 sheip, 2 ky, and quoy, and ane stirk, and and hors". Again in April 1653 John Hardie deponed "that Jean Rae had hir whole crops eatin and destroyed in anno 1650 and 1651, her whole hous spoyled, and goods taken away". (ibid, p185).
 - iii. The weather in the years 1650 and 1651 was remarkably severe and this largely contributed to the poor harvests, compounded by the troop movements and foraging. As a consequence, provisions had to be shipped in on a number of occasions were reported of people unloading food on a Sunday! The following year the local crops were quite fruitful. (ibid, p189).
 - iv. In 1656 a man confessed to having, on a Sunday, "pluck sum apples in the Callendar yaird", presumably he too was taking advantage of the Earl of Callendar's absence. In any case the kirk considered that the Sabbath desecration was the more heinous of the two offences. (ibid, p195).

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