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# **KENT RECORDS**

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## Early Kent Muster Rolls.

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The militia was a citizen army, like the Home Guard, which was liable to be called out on a temporary basis in an emergency. The men assembled from time to time for an inspection at a muster, when their details were written on rolls, some of which have survived and are the subject of our study.

The militia was traditionally county based, divided into the ancient hundreds and parishes or tithings. No one was required to muster except in the city, town or village where he had his principal residence, irrespective of where he owned or occupied land, or earned his living.

Service in the militia had been part of the duties of an Anglo Saxon freeman. The duty had remained in spite of the predominance of feudal armies in the Middle Ages made up from household or mercenary troops of one kind or another which were widely employed by the crown. According to the ancient laws the threefold obligation consisted of Bricgbote, (for keeping the bridges and highways in repair), Burhbote (for keeping the burghs, or fortresses, in an efficient state of defence) and Fyrd (a contribution for maintaining the military and naval force of the kingdom). The common burden was obligatory on all lands and had to be effected either by the personal labour of the landowners or by a general contribution from the whole body. In the case of fyrd, not only were the landed proprietors but also the freemen (except the ministers of religion) trained in the use of arms, but were required under severe penalties of either forfeiting their lands or paying heavy fines to train so that they might become expert in the use of their arms when called out into actual service. Beckett says "Victorian historians maintained that all able bodied freemen were liable under the *trimodia necessitas* (or threefold obligation). In reality the phrase *trimodia necessitas* appears only on a forged tenth-century charter but there is no doubt that there were 'common burdens' in Kent by the end of the seventh century."<sup>22</sup>

The freemen of each tithing, hundred, and county were appointed to meet at certain stated times and places for the exercise of arms. There was to be one general review of all arms and armed men in all the counties of England, upon one day in the month of May, so that there was no possibility of lending arms to each other. In the laws of King Ethelred in 1008, is the instruction "that the armaments also be diligently attended to, according to what is always prescribed, when there is need."<sup>23</sup> In 1181 a regulation called the Assize of Arms was issued for the fyrd or national militia which set down the weapons and equipment required of each knight, freeman and burgess according to wealth.

The thirteenth century saw a number of revisions to the divisions of assessment and to the developments in warfare, but it was clause 6 in the Statute of Westminster of 1285

<sup>21</sup> This introduction is based on *Faversham Tudor & Stuart Muster Rolls*, (2000) by the same authors.

<sup>22</sup> I. F. W. Beckett, *The Amateur Military Tradition 1558-1945*, (MUP, 1991), p. 9.

<sup>23</sup> Cap. xxvi.

that radically altered the militia by including an obligation for all able-bodied males, free and not, to bear arms. "It is likewise commanded that every man have in his house arms for keeping the peace in accordance with the ancient assize; namely that every man between fifteen years and sixty be assessed and sworn to arms according to the amount of his lands and of his chattels; that is to say, for fifteen pounds worth of land, and forty marks worth of chattels, a hauberk, a helmet of iron a sword, a knife and a horse; for ten pounds worth of land and twenty marks worth of chattels, a haubergeon, a helmet, a sword and a knife; for a hundred shillings worth of land, a doublet, a helmet of iron, a sword and a knife; for forty shillings worth of land and over, up to a hundred shillings worth, a sword, a bow, arrows and a knife; and he that has less than forty shillings worth of land shall be sworn to have scythes, gisarmes, knives and other small weapons. And all other who can do so shall have bows and arrows outside the forests and within them bows and bolts. And that the view of arms be made twice a year. And in each hundred and liberty let two constables be chosen to make the view of arms and the aforesaid constables shall, when the justices assigned to this come to the district, present before them the defaults they have found in arms, in watchkeeping ... etc."

McKisack says that whilst the nucleus of the forces accompanying commanders to wars at this period would be members of their households and life retainers the majority would have been enlisted under temporary contracts, "but for the rank and file of an expeditionary force it was still necessary to rely on the ancient obligation of the shires and boroughs to raise men for national defence." Commissioners of array, who were plain soldiers, surveyed the able bodied men between the ages of fifteen and sixty "in each hundred, township, and liberty within the shire and under the authorization of the Statute of Winchester of 1285, selected the best of them to serve at the king's wages, the cost of the initial equipment being borne by the localities."<sup>24</sup> The earliest listing that has survived from this period is said to be 1297 in which ninety Sussex gentlemen were summoned to be in London with horse and armour ready for military service.<sup>25</sup> Grimley reminds us that having such weaponry to hand often resulted in it being used for the wrong reasons. He quotes a report from a coroner's inquest at Oxford in 1297, "There died then one John Metescharp with a wound in his left side 'half a thumb in width and five thumbs in depth, in which was a small arrow'. The culprit was a certain Michael Manciple of the clerks, dwelling in St Aldate's, who with two companions went through the streets with swords and arrows and bows after curfew and molested all the passers-by."<sup>26</sup>

Bonhote says that it is not until the fourteenth century that we find the 'reserve forces' in the shape of the 'Posse Comitatus' summoned to assemble in arms for the defence of the realm against invasion.<sup>27</sup> Commissions of Array issued 6 August 1324 required that the coats and ports were to be placed in a state of defence and the commissioners were to see that all men in their respective districts were arrayed in arms for the protection of

<sup>24</sup> M. McKisack, *The Fourteenth Century 1307-1399*, Oxford History of England, (1959), pp. 236-37.

<sup>25</sup> J. Gibson & A. Dell, *Tudor and Stuart Muster Rolls*, (FFHS, 1989), p. 6.

<sup>26</sup> G. Grimley, *The Book of the Bow*, (1958), p. 65.

<sup>27</sup> Col. J. Bonhote, *Historical Records of the West Kent Militia*, (1909), p. 13.

the kingdom.<sup>28</sup> And on the 8 Februray 1326 when the kingdom was threatened by Queen Isabella, the Sheriff of Kent, with that of other counties, was instructed to prepare men at arms to repel the invaders.<sup>29</sup>

Bonhote says, "The Posse Comitatus' could only legally be called out in case of internal commotion or invasion, and although it was specially enacted that no one should be compelled to go out of the Kingdom under any circumstances, and only out of his county in case of urgent necessity,<sup>30</sup> yet we cannot wonder that these laws were not strictly adhered to in this reign."

Under a statute of 1344 it was laid down that all troops going out of England were to be at the king's wages at the port of embarkation, from the day that they left their county they received county pay enroute to the port.<sup>31</sup> With inducements of free pardons for criminals, the prospect of good wages and the share in incidental profits of war the volunteers often outweighed the requirement. Later on the militia was to suffer a lack of enthusiasm as those most suited to military life joined the colours and those remaining suffered from disinclination and poor leadership.

On 3 October 1359, Edward III just before his departure from Sandwich for a campaign in France appointed Roger de Northwode and others (named) to array the ablemen of Kent and to inspect their arms in accordance with the Statute of Winchester, so as to be ready for invaders and to ensure the safety of the realm, the returns to be made by St Andrew's day.<sup>32</sup>

In 1472 Edward IV issued a statute to require merchants to import bowstaves, then excessively priced, into the kingdom. Every merchant bringing goods in from any place where bowstaves had previously been purchased must also bring 'for every ton weight of merchandise four bowstaves' upon penalty of 6s 8d.<sup>33</sup> The Webbs mention that the act of 11 Henry VII c. 2 (1495), strengthened by 19 Henry VII c. 12 (1504) discouraged indoor games, which diverted the people from archery. Any two justices were authorised summarily to suppress useless alehouses in their neighbourhood.<sup>34</sup>

In discussing the fifteenth century Beckett says that much of the surviving evidence of forces derives from towns rather than the countryside, reflecting that the former had remained generally well armed despite the overall decline in military equipment maintained across the country as a whole. There is also the suspicion that the records of the towns have had a better survival rate with the result that we know more about them.

A comprehensive survey was made by the government in 1522 to establish the numbers of men available for military service as well as their defensive equipment and to assess the wealth of individuals so that they could be forced to lend money to the crown. Originally issued about 7 March 1522, the return was to be completed by 20 April.

<sup>28</sup> Rymer's *Foedera*, Record Commissioners, (1816-30), vol. II, pt. I, p. 565.

<sup>29</sup> *op. cit.*, p. 619.

<sup>30</sup> *Statutes* 1 Edward III, c. 5.

<sup>31</sup> *Statutes* 18 Edw. III, st. 2, c. 7.

<sup>32</sup> Rymer, *op. cit.*, vol. iii, pt. i, p. 337.

<sup>33</sup> R. Hardy, *Longbow*, (1976), p. 128.

<sup>34</sup> S. & B. Webb, *The History of Liquor Licensing in England*, (1963) p. 8.

Jurkowski says, "A muster of all laymen over the age of sixteen, arrayed for war, was to take place. Constables of every hamlet, parish and village were to produce certificates at the muster recording the names of all adult male inhabitants, and their lords or landlords. The certificates were also to provide the names of the lords of all towns and hamlets, and their stewards, the names of all parsons and the annual value of their benefices, and the names of all landowners in every town and the yearly value of their tenements. They were also to list all stock and goods in the town and the names of their owners, as well as the names of all aliens, together with their country of origin and their occupations. The 'value and substance' of all persons, both lay and clerical, aged sixteen or older, was to be provided, and details given of all pensions issuing from the town and paid to clerics."<sup>35</sup>

Further instructions were issued in July with the military surveys to be returned into the Star Chamber by late November. Unfortunately, no listings appear to survive for Kent. For a fuller discussion on this survey see Hoyle who says, "The military survey deserves especial attention as the boldest and most ambitious attempt in the sixteenth century to collect statistics on the wealth and military strength of England."<sup>36</sup>

Whilst in England the militia was raised for service, the troops in France and the Empire were now highly trained armies and veterans of wars. At the same time, through the king's own efforts, rather than that of his councillors, a strong fleet was being built not only for defence but also to take advantage of the economic developments of the period. Hyde & Zell point out that, "in Kent, naturally, channel defences were seen to be of crucial importance by governments in the 1530s and 1540s. They remembered well the landing of French forces on the Kent and Sussex beaches in the fifteenth century. Special attention was paid to the Downs, that section of the channel coast considered to be the most likely spot for foreign invasion."<sup>37</sup> Oppenheim says, "As early as 1535 the idea was in the air of fortifying the strategic points round the coast, for Cromwell then noted in his 'Remembrances' that a small tax, formerly paid to Rome, might well be diverted towards the defence of the realm to be employed in making fortresses."<sup>38</sup> Some of the money and materials raised from the dissolution of the monasteries found its way into ship-building and fortifications.

When King Henry VIII broke away from Rome and was excommunicated by Paul III, there was thought to be a very real threat from Europe, especially any alliance of France and Spain, forcing England to return to the true faith. As well as building up the navy, from 1534 onwards, Henry VIII revived the practice under the Statute of Winchester of appointing commissioners in each county to muster all the able men and to inspect their provision of weapons. The French ambassador, Marillac, reported in 1539 that when

<sup>35</sup> M. Jurkowski, C. L. Smith and D. Crook, *Lay Taxes in England and Wales 1188-1688*, PRO Handbook 31 (1998) p. 135. Instructions are printed in abstract in *Letters and Papers*, III (ii), no. 2428.

<sup>36</sup> R. W. Hoyle, *Tudor Taxation Records: A guide for users*, PRO Readers Guide 5 (1994), p.42. See also J. J. Goring, 'The general proscription of 1522', *English Historical Review* LXXXVI (1971), pp. 681-705, J. Cornwall, 'A Tudor Domesday. The musters of 1522', *Journal of the Society of Archivists*, III (1965-69), pp. 19-24.

<sup>37</sup> P. Hyde and M. Zell, *Governing the County*, chap 1 in *Early Modern Kent 1540-1640*, ed. M. Zell, Kent History Project Vol. 5, (Boydell & Brewer, 2000), p.23.

<sup>38</sup> VCH Kent Vol 2, p. 283.

passing through Dover he saw ramparts and bulwarks facing the sea, well equipped with all sizes of artillery. In Canterbury, and other towns upon the road, he found every English subject in arms who was capable of serving. Boys of seventeen and eighteen had been called out, without exemption of place or person. On the road he met a band of men. He was told there were six thousand of them, going as a garrison upon The Downs near Dover.<sup>39</sup>

The bulwarks at Dover were underway in the spring of 1539 and by the end of 1540 this was completed together with the coastal defences in Deal, Walmer, Sandown and Camber. These latter had a distinctive symmetrical plan.<sup>40</sup> Amongst the state papers at the Public Record Office show that thirty soldiers from the hundreds of Faversham and Boughton were sent to the Isle of Sheppey.<sup>41</sup>

Anno xxxvij Henry VIII Soudyours sent to the Yle of Sheppey to serve the Kynges Hyghnes there

Out of the hundreds of Boughton and Fevorsham  
xxv byllemen all lackyng colars and one a shworde; iij bowemen all lackyn colars; ij  
gunners lackyn matthe and powdour; in the hole number xxx

Out of the hundreds of Maydestone and Eyhorne  
xx billemen lackyng all colars and v shwords; in the hole number xx

Out of the half hundred of Longbrygge and Carte  
x billemen lackyng all colars and shwordes one salet & vij daggers; one archer  
furnyshed; in the hole nombre xj

Owt of the hundreds of Middelton and Tenham  
ix archers all furnyshed; xLj byllemen all furnyshed; in the hole number L;

Out of the hundred of Calehyll  
ij archers furnysshed ; iij billemen lackyng ij shwordes and ij daggers; in the hole  
nombre v;

Summe of the hole nombre Cxvj

Col. J. Bonhote has extracted from the state papers many of the certificates giving the numbers of the Kent militia during the Elizabethan period. In appendix B1 he has transcribed the whole of the 1541 muster return for Kent, which gives only the names of the captains and not of the soldiers.

An act passed in 1541 proves the value placed at this time on the long-bow.<sup>42</sup> It provided that everyone over seven and under sixty (except ecclesiastics or judges) should practise with the bow; that parents and masters should teach their children and servants to shoot, and should have for all males over seven and under seventeen a bow and two arrows, and for those above that age a bow and four arrows, under a penalty of 6s 8d.; all male servants, over seventeen and under sixty, who neglected to provide themselves with a bow and four arrows were to be fined 6s 8d; no one under twenty-four was allowed to shoot at a standing mark, except for rovers, and then they were to change places at each shot, under a penalty of fourpence per shot; while all above the age of twenty-four were forbidden to shoot at less than eleven score yards, under the penalty of 6s 8d. Butts were

<sup>39</sup> L. & P. Hen. VIII, XIV, (i), no. 670. Given as 'the Dune [OE down], a maritime county about Dover.'

<sup>40</sup> A. D. Saunders, *Deal and Walmer Castles*, (HMSO, London) 1963.

<sup>41</sup> PRO: SP1/204 folio 204. *Dorset*: Note of the nombre of souldwrs sent unto thisle of Sheppey.

<sup>42</sup> 33 Henry VIII c. 9. The detail here taken from C. J. Longman & Col. H. Walrond, *Archery*, (1894), p. 143.

to be put up and maintained in every parish, so that shooting might take place on holy days, and at other times. No one under seventeen was to use a yew bow, unless his father or mother possessed lands of the annual value of £10, or he himself had goods to the value of 40 marks.

In 1545 Roger Ascham wrote *Toxophilus: Schole of Shotting* which provided a complete instruction in archery, although discussing aspects of the construction, he preferred to leave making bows and arrows to the experts.<sup>43</sup> When talking about the fletching of arrows he thought that only goose feathers were suitable and remarked, "For the goose is man's comfort in war and peace, sleeping and waking."<sup>44</sup>

Whilst the sheriff still functioned as the royal representative we have seen that his militia duties were usually exercised by commissioners of array in any time of emergency. In times of war the justices were the backbone of the crown's system of raising troops and of organising coastal defence. Instead of plain soldiers as before, they made up the commissions of array, who compiled the muster rolls, which in turn showed the men available for service in each shire. From the heading to a surviving muster roll for 1545 covering North Kent we learn the format of the lists that were compiled at this period.<sup>45</sup> Ablemen were noted as A and AA denoted the ablest of the group, the forerunner of the select band found in the next reign. {See listings following this introduction.} The county of Kent was to raise 300 of these selected soldiers.

Boynton remarked that whilst the preparations seemed almost too good to be true, "the energetic preparation is confirmed by the care taken in 1545 when the government kept the enormous force of 120,000 men in the field throughout the summer".<sup>46</sup> In that year, the Duke of Suffolk was granted a commission of array in the counties of Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Middlesex, Buckinghamshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire, but such an experiment on a vast regional basis did not last. The preamble in the 1545 document is particularly useful in helping to decipher the short-hand code used by the muster clerks on a 1548 listing here transcribed.<sup>47</sup>

In 1551 in Kent the office of lord lieutenant was created to answer the needs of an unstable regency under Edward VI. To put the sheriff in charge of the militia when he was only appointed on an annual basis would not make for continuity. The value of the change, which originally arose from an emergency, soon became apparent. In practice, although not in theory, he took precedence over the sheriff. The problem was to decide who was to be answerable for raising and training the county militia and keeping them in a state of readiness to suppress rebellions or invasion. The post of sheriff was an annual royal appointment from a wide field of candidates. In 1549, troops intended by Protector Somerset to be used against the Scots were diverted to quell a rebellion in the south-west. Thus in the same year the Protectors, first Somerset and then Northumberland, appointed special officers to keep order and, if necessary, to use force.

<sup>43</sup> Reprinted from Rev. Dr. Giles's Edition of Ascham's whole works, The Simon Archery Foundation, (MUP), 1985.

<sup>44</sup> *op.cit.* p. 124

<sup>45</sup> PRO:E101/61/40 [25 November 1545].

<sup>46</sup> L. Boynton, *The Elizabethan Militia 1558-1638*, (London, 1967), p. 9.

<sup>47</sup> BL. Add MS 37668.

Sir Thomas Cheyne was chosen for Kent and Canterbury. Two years later, in 1551, Cheyne was appointed Lord Lieutenant, and again in 1552 and 1553.

Under Mary, the problem for the Crown of local gentry having control of military preparations became apparent. In March 1558, when she was fast losing the loyalty of her subjects, she appointed as lord lieutenant a friend, Sir Henry Jerningham, master of the horse, who had only a band of retainers and a few lands in North Kent to offer. His nomination provoked instant opposition, from the lord warden of the Cinque Ports, still Sir Thomas Cheyne, and from the boroughs of Rochester and Canterbury, both enraged by his infringement of their military privileges. The majority of county magistrates refused to co-operate with him at all. There was no way that Jerningham could force the gentry to support him, as he explained in plaintive letters to the Privy Council.<sup>48</sup> Thomson says, "The Tudors had a favourite and short method of dealing with such questions, and the disputants were curtly advised to settle their differences amiably if they could, but anyhow to settle them unless worse things should befall them."<sup>49</sup>

The English monarchy had never possessed a permanent, paid, professional force and only rarely had foreign mercenary soldiers been used on English soil. There was a long-standing national dislike of standing armies even before the formation of the New Model Army in the seventeenth century. Furthermore, there was a fear of public disorder if the civilian population were to be armed. In 1558, two very important acts, together now called the Arms Act, were passed, and from that date onwards there was a stream of orders about the conduct of the militia. The 1558 Act laid down a graduated scale of arms contributions from all temporal persons in ten bands, and provided the administration to enforce these provisions. The act said that those with a reputed income of £1,000 a year were to provide six horses for men-at-arms carrying the shorter lances used in battle, (demi-lance); ten geldings equipped with armour and weapons (light-horse); 40 corslets; 40 almain rivets; 40 pikes; 30 longbows each with a sheaf (24) arrows; 30 skulls or steep caps; 20 black bills; 20 hackbuts and 20 morions or sallets. At the other end of the scale were gentleman, knights and esquires, and substantial yeoman farmers who came within the landed income of £5 and £10 a year, the lowest band. They were required to supply one almain rivet, one bow with arrows, a steel cap and a bill. A similar tariff applied to those assessed on their moveable goods.

Hassell Smith quoting the Act says of clause v, "the inhabitants of every city, borough, town, parish and hamlet within this realm, other than such as are specifically charged before in this Act, shall ... find ... and maintain, at their common charges and expenses, such harness and weapon and as much thereof as shall be appointed by the commissioners for the musters,"<sup>50</sup>

When the orders came down from the Privy Council, commissioners were appointed. The musters were held on two days - one to show the equipment and the second to show

<sup>48</sup> P. Hyde & M. Zell, *op. cit.*, p.25.

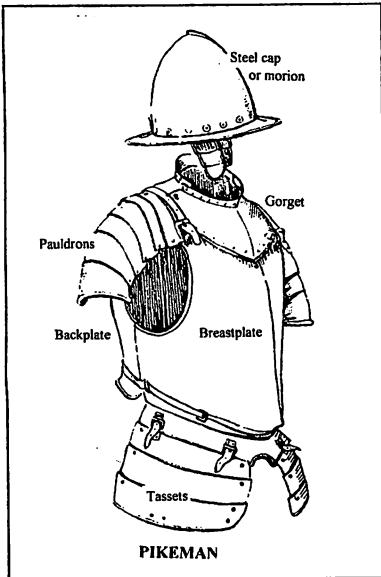
<sup>49</sup> G. Scott Thomson, *The Twysden Lieutenancy papers 1583-1668*, Kent Records Vol. X, (1926), p. 6 quoting *Acts of the Privy Council*, 31 March 1558.

<sup>50</sup> A. Hassell Smith, 'Militia Rates and militia statutes 1558-1663', *The English Commonwealth 1547-1640* Edt. P. Clark, A. G. R. Smith & N. Tyacke, (1979), p. 97.



that matters had been put right. The main difference between royal armies and the militia was who paid for them. In the case of the latter, expenses had to be met by the parishes whose constables levied a rate for the purpose on the more substantial householders. The men of the militia were paid 8<sup>d</sup> a day and were not expected to serve outside the county except in the event of an enemy landing or a serious civil disturbance. A man could suffer a fine of 40 shillings or ten days imprisonment for non-appearance. It took three days for a muster throughout the country - one day to go, one to muster and one to return. It was a great social event in the locality and the second week in July was considered a good choice because it was between hay-making and harvest. It is interesting that even in times of national emergency, the musters never quite lost the air of popular pageantry. Those that went abroad, voluntarily or as pressed men, had to be paid maintenance by the Crown.

In 1559 muster masters were appointed and Elizabeth issued commissions for a general muster throughout the kingdom. The musters of 1569 were taken against a background of the rising in the north otherwise known as the rising of the northern earls, and alarming developments in the Netherlands. Plowden says, "The most heartening conclusion which the government was able to draw from the events of 1569 was the manifest reluctance of the Queen's subjects to be misled. Out of a possible total of at least 60,000 men of fighting age in the northern counties, the rebels had never been able to raise more than 7,000 at most."<sup>51</sup>



Whilst many county returns for that year have survived, Kent is not amongst them.<sup>52</sup> The Duke of Alba's success in the Netherlands helped to persuade "the English government to indulge in a few well applied pin-pricks against Spanish and Catholic power - a little help for the Huguenots at La Rochelle; tacit approval for the seamen who joined the Dutch and French privateers in the Channel and then in November, the seizure of the payships."<sup>53</sup>

The 1569 muster lists amongst the state papers provide details of those assessed that year to provide horses, armour, and weapons as well as those able to serve in person. The lists categorize those serving as archers, billmen, pikemen and harquebusiers and later lists shows the pioneers, labourers able to wield a pick and shovel and carters to carry the equipment. It was in 1569 that we get details of the parish or town armouries.

<sup>51</sup> A. Plowden, *Danger to Elizabeth*, (1974), p. 91.

<sup>52</sup> J. Gibson & A. Dell, *Tudor & Stuart Muster Rolls*.

<sup>53</sup> J. H. Elliott, *Europe Divided 1559-1598*, (1971), p. 172.

Even by 1569 almost every parish had its small contingent of arquebusiers and their number crept up proportionally over the years, though rarely outnumbering the bowmen throughout the century.

As Boynton says, 'the vital development of Elizabeth's reign was the acceptance of the imperative need for a professional attitude, based on continental standards in military affairs.' The need for a select, fully trained, properly armed force, urged by men of affairs like Gresham, was probably influencing the government even in the 1560s. The government formally ordered in 1573 'a convenient and sufficient number of the most able to be chosen and collected' at musters, and then 'tried, armed and weaponed, and so consequently taught and trained.' The first detailed muster roll survives for Faversham for that same year, earlier ones being much shorter.<sup>54</sup>

By then, the government realized that the militia needed reform. As Hassell Smith says, the 1558 Arms Act created tensions and contradictions within militia administration 'once the Elizabethan Council began to organize the trained bands and to demand that they be equipped with modern weapons and regularly instructed in their use.' The Act 'had been carefully drawn up to ensure that a person provided private arms through lay subsidies or parish arms through rates, but it did not specify how this was to be done'. In other words, who was to pay for the weapons and training?

He goes on to say out that 'the failure to devise an equitable rating system produced a sense of grievance which undermined militia efficiency'. The act did not stipulate procedures for assessing and levying private arms contributions. Militia administrators therefore had to base their assessments upon the subsidy books, when the subsidies were declining, inflexible and out of date. This led to double rating for administrative simplicity. 'In short, a captain or his muster commissions, faced with a shortfall of private arms could recoup these losses by raising the contributions of parish arms. Hence the frequent complaints from the queen and her councillors that the poorer sort were overburdened while the rich avoided realistic contributions'. So, it is no surprise to hear that the parochial armour was frequently lost, sub standard and in a state of disrepair. By the 1590s constables were meeting with widespread refusal to pay these rates.<sup>55</sup>

The two chief methods of warfare were the longbow and the shot. An Act of Parliament in 1571 declared the longbow to be 'God's special gift to the English nation.' Besides requiring considerable strength, it also required practice. For rapidity of fire and reliability, especially in wet weather the bow was still more than a match for the gun, which required some dexterity to do more damage to the enemy than to the handler.<sup>56</sup>

Grimley tells us, "Butts were built up of earth banked and turfed. The target was a paper disc and to strike it was to 'hit the white' - usually from a distance of from 100 to 140 yards. Clout shooting or prick shooting stood the archer up to 200 yards from the target which was a straw disc a mere 18 inches in diameter, white painted with a wooden peg stuck in the centre. To 'cleave the pin' was to hit the peg, and such a feat was decidedly a

<sup>54</sup> Lindsay Boynton, *The Elizabethan Militia*, (1967), pp 90-91.

<sup>55</sup> Hassell Smith, pp. 94-100.

<sup>56</sup> *Love's Labour's Lost*, Act 4. Scene 1, line 126.

matter more in the hands of fortune than skill. The real object of clout shooting, however, was to train the archer to shoot to a length.”<sup>57</sup> In 1572 statutes for keeping butts in repair were enforced.

Grimley also quotes an Elizabethan manuscript but doesn't specify the source. “Captains and Officers should be skilful of that most noble weapon; and to see that their soldiers, according to their draught and strength, have good bows, well nocked, well stringed, every string whippe in their nock, and in the myddes rubbed with wax - braser<sup>58</sup> and shutting glove - some spare strynges trymed as aforesaid; every man one sheaf of arrows, with a case of leather, defensible against the rayne, and in the same fower and twentie arrows; whereof eight of them should be lighter than the residue, to gall or astoyne the enemy with hail-shot of light arrows, before they come within danger of the harquebus shot.”

There were other rapid developments in offensive weapons, methods of training and strategy and tactics. Besides an assortment of swords and daggers which many Tudor men carried for self-defence, all men were expected to be proficient in the use of a particular military weapon. It was at first reckoned that gentlemen fought with pikes, the humblest men with firearms, the clumsiest with bills, and blockheads with pick and shovel as pioneers. Nonetheless, providing the equipment must have been a heavy burden. For instance, a pikeman, who was the heaviest individual, had to fight at close quarters, so he needed body protection. He had an 12 to 18 foot pole made of ash tipped with metal and also a sword and dagger. He wore a corslet, which was a metal shell round the body, with pouldrons, vambraces and tassets (metal plates protecting the shoulders, arms and thighs) and gauntlets. His headpiece was a steel cap or morion well stuffed for comfort, which was tied with a scarf under the chin. All this had to be provided by individuals.

The halberd was shorter at 7-8ft and had a metal point like a pike but also the axe shape of a bill which was between 6-7 ft. Originating from agricultural and hedging implements (axes, scythes, bills) mounted on poles, pole-arms were used by the infantry throughout 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, becoming steadily longer and more elaborate. Most included a point for thrusting, a heavy blade for cutting and a rear spike or hook for dragging horsemen from their saddles, and long steel straps or langets from the head down the shaft to prevent the head being lopped off. The hackbut (hakenbüchse) was the first firearm that could be said to be aimed. The long tube was fitted to a wooden stock from which projected a hook or lug, which could be rested on a wall or other cover to absorb the recoil. After the invention of the slow match the addition of a simple device, an S-shaped lever on the side of the stock, to carry the lighted match to the touch hole, the serpentine, brought about the development of the matchlock musket.

The stock gradually developed a downward curve and by 1530 reached its characteristic form known as a (h)arquebus. “The barrel, up to forty inches long and weighing anything up to twenty pounds, was so heavy that it was impossible to hold the weapon steady enough to aim. The musketeer overcame this problem by means of an ash staff

<sup>57</sup> G. Grimley, *The Book of the Bow*, (London, 1958), p. 84.

<sup>58</sup> Bracer see glossary.

mounted by a U shaped holder. With this rest he could prop up the barrel and so take aim.”<sup>59</sup> The caliver was a smaller and lighter version of the harquebus.

Shakespeare must have seen the London trained bands at drill at Mile End. John Stow mentioned in his *Survey of London* that it was a popular pastime for the citizens to watch them. It is important to remember that the phrase ‘trained band’ meant a band that was to be trained, not a band that had been trained. In fact, the training was both infrequent and inadequate. It was the need to instruct the captains that was the basic and most frequent explanation of what was wrong with the militia system. As Hale put it, “Thinly scattered among the rustic manors of England were men who had fought the Scots at Solway Moss and Pinkie, had vainly defended Calais and won and lost Boulogne. But there were not enough of them to pass on their experience to the militia.”<sup>60</sup> Instructions about where to meet and how to train have survived at Faversham for 1584, 1585 & 1595.<sup>61</sup> In 1585 it was also laid down how much powder should be held in readiness by each town. We are particularly fortunate that a training manual for 1599, issued by Henry Cobham, has survived amongst the Faversham records.<sup>62</sup> The muster master was responsible for selecting not only the right men for the job, in the right proportion, but also to see that they were properly trained. Ideally they were advised to have equal proportions of armed pikemen and shot, the latter to have greater portion of harquebus to muskets. It was suggested that the strongest and best should be pikemen and the strongest and squarest fellow to carry muskets, and the fastest and nimblest should be trained in the harquebus. The instructions then proceed to show how the company was to be divided into squadrons and files and set forth the duties of the corporal and lance-corporal; lanspesadoe, as it was anciently written, or as it is given in the *Oxford English Dictionary* lancepesade or lanceprisado.<sup>63</sup>

Having divided the men into manageable units, the aim was then to teach them how to carry and use their arms, march in formation and change position in an orderly manner. This was to be achieved either by the sound of the drum or the voice of a commander.<sup>64</sup> In the case of the drum, not only was it used to help the soldiers keep pace but also to march slower or faster, and the commands were suggested as those “which we used in training and disciplining Her Majesty’s Army at Plymouth”. Ex-soldiers will be amused to see parallels between the modern ‘square bashing’ with the suggestions given in this manual. It not un-naturally suggests that it would be better that the same words of command were used throughout the kingdom rather than breed confusion. After dealing with the pike, the manual then turned to the shot. The sergeants of companies were responsible for training the soldiers in how to use the weapons and when to fire. The comments on giving volleys, condemning the ancient practice of giving a whole volley by battalion, makes it sound a very dangerous exercise - ‘for either the hindmost must

<sup>59</sup> F. Wilkinson, *Small Arms*, (1966), p. 15.

<sup>60</sup> J. R. Hale, *On a tudor parade ground the captain’s handbook of Henry Barrett 1562*, The Society for Renaissance Studies, Occasional papers No. 5, (London, 1978), p. 2.

<sup>61</sup> P. Hyde & D. Harrington, *Musters op. cit.*

<sup>62</sup> CKS:Fa/CPm 8, 17, 26, 27, 34

<sup>63</sup> A non-commissioned officer of the lowest grade; a lance corporal.

<sup>64</sup> J. Davies & G. Gush, *The English Companies of Foot in 1588*, The Pike & Shot Society (2000) gives some recent researches into Comman, Control and Training.

venture to shoot their fellows before, through their heads or else will overshoot'. As is pointed out, this single volley allowed the enemy to attack without risk whilst an orderly volley by ranks was much more effective. The captain was to be at the head of the troop and the lieutenant at the rear and in retreat they reversed position. Whilst the need for proper instruction handbooks was apparent to all those concerned in training it appeared not to be so for the government. The first practical manual to be licensed for the press came as late as 1600 and the first official drill-book was not issued until 1623.<sup>65</sup>

William Urry also quotes from material taken from a set of Elizabethan training instructions, found amongst the Canterbury city records, which sets out the form of training of shot with the least expense of powder, "First that you appoynte an holbard to be sett upon some playne and to cause the shott to passe by single [file] one after another a good distance from the holbard and every man as he passeth to present his pece as though he would shott thereat, and those that doe not, in holding their peces, in putting their matches unto their cockes, and frameing their bodyes, behave themselves orderly, maye receive by the Captayne or officer perticuler instruction for reformacion thereof."<sup>66</sup> Besides further sections about loading, charging and retirement, there is a section about constructing a butt forty foot broad and sixteen foot high not near a highway or other frequented place and to place on it a target of one and a half yards width. "With certyn blacke cirkles and a whyte in the midst against which the soldiari is to level his pece for his better ayme and readye discharginge." Urry says that, "Section four embodies the perennial expectation that the officer in charge of the firing practice is to produce some sort of prize for the best shot of the day", ... "That the soldiari be placed a 150 paces from the said butt and instructed whoe [how] .. to fynd his marke redealy through the sighte of his pece and to encorage them to shotte for some small tryfle which he is to wyne that shoteth nearest. For it is not the often dicharging which is comendable in a shott but the nere shotinge and they together are gretely to be comended.' Or, in modern army language: accuracy before a high rate of fire is to be aimed at.<sup>67</sup>

In 1585 Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, ordered that no horse or gelding was to be transported abroad without special licence. Owners and master of ships were to give a bond for good behaviour.<sup>68</sup> Two years later, the lord warden ordered two of the jurats in each town to watch in person every night.<sup>69</sup> In May 1586, Drake had given "a cooling" to King Philip by capturing 20 Spanish ships with 250 brass pieces.<sup>70</sup> Burghley wrote from Richmond to the deputy lieutenants of counties on 10 October 1586 directing that all the musters should be at full strength and prepared. In November they were to have

<sup>65</sup> J. R. Hale, *op. cit.*, p.8: citing Sir Clement Edmondson, *The maner of our moderne training, or tacticke practise*, and *The military discipline ... to be exercised in musters*, (1623) on the engraved title page and the printed title page, *The military art of training*, and is dated 1622.

<sup>66</sup> W. Urry, 'Home Guard for Canterbury, 1588' *Good Books*, (Summer 1947), pp. 2-5. He suggested 1588 but this is probably May 1584, *S. P. Dom. Eliz.* Vol. 170 no. 85 III 'An order for training of shot without any waste or great expense of powder.'

<sup>67</sup> F. Wilkinson, *Small Arms*, (1966), p.15.

<sup>68</sup> See Hyde, *Ships & Seamen*.

<sup>69</sup> CKS:Fa/CPm 28 & 29.

<sup>70</sup> S.P.Dom. 189 (23).

in readiness 20,000 footmen, 3,000 horsemen, and 1,000 pioneers. Thomas Churchyard, the poet, was muster master for the county of Kent.

Because it was expected that a landing would take place in Kent, 6,000 men were assembled in a camp at Sandwich<sup>71</sup> under Captain John Warde, a veteran who had served at the capture of Boulogne in the reign of Henry VIII.<sup>72</sup> The county also raised 2,000 men under Sir Thomas Cecil to form an army for the defence of Her Majesty's person,<sup>73</sup> and sent lances and light horse to London.<sup>74</sup> By June 27, Kent had contributed 4,000 foot under Colonels Sir Robert Sidney (brother of Sir Philip) and Sir Edward Moore, 64 lances, 330 light horse, 263 harquebuses, 84 petronels and 1,077 pioneers.<sup>75</sup> A further 4,824 foot remained in county defence reserves at Canterbury and Maidstone.<sup>76</sup>

A note survives of the captains' names in Kent in April 1588 when the Spanish invasion was hourly expected.<sup>77</sup> Other local preparations in Kent are recorded in *Archaeologia Cantiana*.<sup>78</sup> In 1588 a camp was formed at Northbourne to watch the coast and to prevent a landing of the Spaniards upon the flat shore between Deal and Ramsgate. To the camp flocked the several companies that formed the East Kent Battalion, Canterbury contributing two hundred men led by Alderman Brome, whose namesake commanded the band sent to reinforce Edward IV in 1470. The Canterbury contingent consisted chiefly of bowmen and billmen, the latter armed with weapons and corslets served out from the Guildhall; but besides these were twenty "trayned shott" or "calyver men" who in skill and appointments approached the soldier of the present day. The Walloon "Estrangers", who had settled in the city some twenty years before, took their places in the ranks with their English fellow-citizens, cheered by the rattle of their own Walloon "drumme". The Cinque Ports musters differed from most other places because the commissioners under the lord warden had centuries of experience in dealing with ship service and because mariners were included. In 1590, Thomas Fane, acting on behalf of the Lord Warden, William Cobham, sent strict instructions to the masters, subofficers, mariners and gunners of the Cinque Ports to muster and not to be out of the way on pain of death.

The duties of the lieutenant for Kent in the 16<sup>th</sup> century proved to be onerous. Lord Cobham as lieutenant and lord warden of the Cinque Ports was able to achieve the compromise so well understood by the Tudors.<sup>79</sup> From the Twisden papers we get a glimpse of Lord Cobham dealing with the details of raising the local militia in 1595, especially for the Queen's visit to Sandwich.<sup>80</sup> The lathe, and not the hundred, was the

<sup>71</sup> *Hist. Ms. Com. Rep.* xv App. v. 49; VHC Kent Vol. III p. 804.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.* Hatfield Mss. vi. 34.

<sup>73</sup> *Ibid.* Rep. xv App. v. 46

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.* 57.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.* 46.

<sup>76</sup> J. J. N. McGurk, 'Armada preparations in Kent and arrangements made after the defeat', *Arch. Cant.* LXXXV, (1970), pp. 71-93. See also Hyde & Harrington, *Counter Armada of 1596*, Kent Records New series Vol. 3, pp. 256-284 & the article forthcoming in *Archaeologia Cantiana* Vol. CXXII (2002).

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.* 37; VCH, Kent, III, p. 37.

<sup>78</sup> J. B. Sheppard, 'The Canterbury Marching Watch with its Pageant of St. Thomas,' *Arch. Cant.* Vol. XII p. 43-44.

<sup>79</sup> G. Scott Thomson: *Lord Lieutenants in the 16<sup>th</sup> century*, pp. 40-41.

<sup>80</sup> CKS: U49 O5/1

unit of administration used by both the sheriff and the lieutenant.<sup>81</sup> The justices and the local gentry played an ever increasing part in the organisation, many of them often acting as deputy lieutenants, though only three or four were actually named for each county.<sup>82</sup>

During the later part of the Elizabethan period, as Hassell Smith says, 'not the least of Burghley's and Walsingham's achievements was the fostering of a tolerably adequate corps of officers, under whom the bands were organised and to some extent trained. Towards 1588 the government attempted to eliminate the older weapons in favour of equal proportions of pikes and shot. Archers were never an important element in Faversham in spite of the butts that had been constructed in 1571. In 1589, for instance, Faversham was told by the lord warden to increase the number of its muskets.<sup>83</sup> Muskets became noticeably more prevalent by the end of the century. The militia was actively mustered in Kent and at the same time men were regularly raised for campaigns overseas. The less desirable elements of society were 'encouraged' to join such ventures, thus ensuring that the trained men were retained in the militia and the county armouries were not depleted. Increasingly, however, the Privy Council conscripted men from the trained bands and men from the Essex and Kent trained bands found themselves outside Rouen in 1592. In August 1599, the 'army of Kent, to be furnished by Kent and Sussex,' reached the respectable total of 10,000 foot and 680 horse,<sup>84</sup> of which Kent itself supplied 6,000.<sup>85</sup>

*Whilst it is hoped that transcription errors have been reduced to a minimum there has occasionally been room for doubt as it has often been difficult to distinguish between n, u, v and b. Did a surname have two t's or an l and a t? As such readers are cautioned to look under all possible variant spellings.*

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<sup>81</sup> CKS: U47/16 O2. In 1509 there were six lathes as the more modern lathe of St Augustine was divided by the existence of a lathe Hedlynge.

<sup>82</sup> *op. cit.* Thomson, Twysden, p.7.

<sup>83</sup> CKS:Fa/CPm 32.

<sup>84</sup> *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* III, App. 51.

<sup>85</sup> *ibid.* Rep. XV, App. V, 74.

## PRO: E101/61/40

rotulet 1. [25 November 1545]

...[lost].....[Bromley] and Bekenham  
 .....[Sir Percival Hart knight] shere<sup>86</sup> of Kent Sir Humpry Style knyght Sir Edward  
 [Boughton, William] Adley John Dyer and William Harman comissionioners ther for  
 the muster taken by virtue of the kynges majesties comysshion and letters to theym and  
 other in the seid lymitt and countye addressid for the wewing and musteryng of the  
 kynges people with all horses hernesses armours and weapons within the seid hundred  
 and lymytt upon which musters and vewes so had and taken / We the for named  
 comysshioners accordyng to the articles made and devysid upon the same do sertefyd  
 unto the right honerable Sir Thomas Cheyne knyght Lorde Warden of the fyve portes  
 and tresorer of the kynges most honerable household the xxv day of November in the  
 yere of the reign of our soverayne lord kyng Henry the viij<sup>th</sup> as well the names and  
 surnames of all chosen men for their personages notid with AA/ As of all ablemen  
 notyd with A/ And with their qualities/ And also the nombr of all horses hernesses  
 armoures and wepons/ And of all unmete and unable men above the age of xvj yers  
 within the seid villey and hundreds/ xxx<sup>tie</sup> of which chosen men here after notid with  
 AA As parcell of CCC men according to the kynges majesties letter to be set forthe out  
 of the seid countye/ Ratid and appoynted for the seid lymitt to serve his grace upon his  
 graces next letter within one oures warnyng / as here after more playnly ys declarid.

The Villey of Dertford with Wilmynton

	John Byer gentleman		Christopher Tweselton Gent.
A Byllman	William Cayser	A Bylman	John Assheley
A B	John Levynghon	A B	John Everest
A B	Christopher Brett	A B	John Brett
A B	John Strangman	A B	John Walker
A B	Robert Walter	A B	Thomas Pellan
A B	John Tompson	AA B	John Browne
A B	John Cowper alias Broke	A B	Robert Darbye
A B	John Brooke his son	A Ar	Alyxander Joneson
A B	Henry Byrmyngton	A B	John Cootman
AA B	Richard Frost	A B	Rychard Hawle
A B	Renolde Brett	A B	William Love
A B	Richard Stable	AA B	John Laurence
A B	William Clowdisley	A B	Thomas Merydithe
A B	Thomas Symson	A B	William Tylour
A B	William Dowse	AA B	Wulstane Squyer
A Ar[cher]	John Smythe	A B	Rychard Stearne
A B	Henry Leke	A B	Gylbert Smythe
A B	William Lycorase	AA Ar	John Mase

<sup>86</sup> He was appointed sheriff 22 November 1545 [Public Record Office *Lists and Indexes No 9*, (1898), p.69.] Also see under Lullingstone.



EARLY KENT MUSTER ROLLS

A B	William Hardyng	A B	Thomas Churchgate
A B	Roger Smyth	A B	John Hylles
A B	Thomas Jenkins	A B	Thomas Swetefyer
A B	Roger Taylour	A B	William Taylour
A Ar	William Fuller	A B	Edmonde Beneshefe
A B	Thomas Robenson	A B	Richard Tayler
A Ar	Richard Forest	A Ar	Thomas Parker
A Ar	William Banghan	A B	John Kenworthe
A B	John Colygate	A B	Richard Ifeld
A Ar	William Atterbery	A B	William Whetley
A B	William Jordene	A B	William Russell
A B	Richard Kelley	A B	William Tumber
A Ar	Thomas Edwardes	A B	Thomas Wattisson
A B	William Sunderland	AA B	John Walter
A B	Hunfrey Yerdisley	AA B	Nicholas Wylkyns
A Ar	John Wyn	A B	William Burton
Gonner	Harman Stronght'	A B	John Bulfynche
A B	Thomas Brooke	A B	Christopher L?arker
A B	Thomas Marshall	A B	William Covyld
A B	William Drakes	AA Gonner	Arnolde Wesseles
A B	Thomas Cobbe	AA Gonner	Robert Lambe
AA B	Peter Brightwell	AA B	John Kempe
A B	William Ap Thomas	AA B	Dennys Lambert
		A B	Lewes Ap Epham'
<i>rotulet 2.</i>			
A B	Henry Alyn	A B	Walter Jaratt
AA B	Nicholas Tidman	A B	Henry Kyne
A B	Peter Smythe	A B	John Hobbe
A Ar	William Monke	A B	Roger Wryght
A Ar	Robert Ebbis	A Ar	John Frende

The Hundred of Axton

Lullyngston

Sir Percyvall Hart, knight Shereyff of Kent

A Ar	James Waffer	A B	William Marshall
A B	Stephen Swanne	A B	Christopher Bullen
A B	Thomas Hutchin	A B	Robart Staple
A Ar	William Benett	A Ar	Richard Morrey
A Ar	Thomas Notte	A Ar	Nicholas Colgate

Sutton at Hone

Moresse Denes, gentleman

A Archer	Symon Smythe	AA Ar	William Warner
A Ar	Symon Gylis	AA Ar	Richard Rogers

## EARLY KENT MUSTER ROLLS

A Ar	John Gryne	AA Ar	Edward Tyler
AA B	Bryant Tomson	A Ar	Richard Gylys
AA Ar	Thomas Herres	AA B	Robert Wetton <sup>87</sup>
A Ar	Thomas Mayow	A B	Hewe Adderfeld
A Ar	William Goodborowe	A B	Robert Erle
AA B	Edward Kettelwell	A B	Richard Raullyng
A B	Vynsent Batt	A B	Thomas Kyllngworth
AA B	George Paresse	A B	Thomas Alyn
A Ar	John Armechefe	A B	Richard Higham
A Ar	John Not	A B	John Gamson
A B	John A Man	A B	Robert Schote
A Ar	Nicolas Baker	A Ar	Thomas Marten
A B	George Alyn	A B	Richard Rownney
A B	William Breygges	A Ar	Nycolas Dalley
A B	John Norton	AA B	Henry Ricarde
AA B	John Ricarde	A B	Nicolas Not
A B	William Mowge	A B	William Note
A B	William Wasse	A B	William Fyltica
A Ar	John Welles	AA Ar	Gabrell Welles
		A B	Stephen James

## Aynsforde

	Thomas Sibbell, gent.	A B	William servant to Mr Marten
A Billman	Symon Stede	A B	Artur Sybbynge
A B	John Sybbyng	AA B	John Mog'
A B	Thomas Mog'	A Ar	Awsten Fayreman
A Ar	Nycolas Locke	A Ar	John Aldregh
A B	Robert Smale	A B	John Newyngton
A Ar	William Grene	A Ar	Thomas Note
<i>rotulet 3</i>			
A B	Thomas Sibbyng	A Ar	John Rolfe
AA B	William Lewkas	A Ar	John Monke
A B	Thomas Sestet	AA Ar	Thomas Fysher
A B	John Mabsden	A Ar	Henry Clove
A Ar	Henry Botley	A Ar	John Note junior
A B	Richard Lefe	A B	John Jeture
A B	John Kyng	A B	Robert Kann dall
A Ar	John Alchin	AA B	Richard Blone
A B	Thomas Rosse	A B	Robert Fockes
AA B	Henry Rownde	A B	John Rownde
A B	William Bedell	A B	Thomas Mylgate

<sup>87</sup> There then follows a gap and a different hand.

## EARLY KENT MUSTER ROLLS

A B	William Stretour	A B	Thomas Bricheth
A B	Markes Brande		
<b>Kyngsdowne with Mapscombe</b>			
John Lovelas Esquyer			
A Billman	Robert Caryar	A B	Christofer Rompney
AA B	Richard Hylles	A B	John Jenyn
A B	Richard Cockoo	A B	John Rompney
A B	John Shortt	A B	Henry Steynysman
AA B	Marten Maye		
<b>Asshe</b>			
A A	James Launce	A B	John Esdon
AA B	John Browne	A B	John Fuller senior
A B	John Fuller junior	AA B	Thomas Bulleyn
A B	Richard Asshton	A B	Humfrey Kettell
A B	Thomas Kettell	A B	William Waren junior
A B	William Warren senior	A B	Thomas Taylour
A B	Thomas Grenewell		
<b>Redley</b>			
AA Billman	John Righte	A B	Thomas Averell
A B	John Maister		
<b>Longffelde</b>			
A Billman	John Myddelton senior	AA B	John Myddelton
A B	Richard Vynson	A B	John Shepe
<b>Fernyngham</b>			
A Billman	Lancelat Sybyll	A B	John Taylour
A B	George Redd	AA B	John Everest
AA Ar	Wylliam Geyll	A B	William Paysby
A Ar	William Cobbe	A Ar	John Jenyns
A B	Henry Sconos	A B	William Blaykman
A Ar	Nicolas Lewit	A B	John Shott
A Ar	Henry Harmewodd	A B	Henry Lewers
		AA Ar	John Jermyn
<b>Hartley</b>			
A Billman	John Quey	AA B	Richard Quey <sup>88</sup>
A B	James Crypse	A B	Rychard Smyth
A B	John Walter	A B	John Mann
AA B	Barnard Shyngilton		

<sup>88</sup> Possibly Quex.

*rotulet 4***Southflete**

William Sedley Esquyer	A Ar	Richard Staple
A Billman Edmonde Pyen	A B	Richard Elys
A B Henry Joneson	A B	John Godfrey
A B William Goodwyng	A B	John Pustwell
AA Ar Thomas Monke	A B	Henry Dawson
A Ar William Alcher	AA Ar	Robert Alcher
A B Robert Daley	A B	Nicolas Yoman
A B Robert Warde	A B	John Alcher
A B Robert Doffelde	A B	John Tomson
A B William Hopkynson	A B	Thomas Wombwell gent.
AA Ar John Yoell	A B	John Capell
A B Nicolas Jesope	A B	Hew Wilkenson
A Ar John Brome	A B	Raff Howne
A B John Jesope	A B	John Hudson
A Ar John Thorne	A B	John Payne
A B Robert Gens	AA B	Thomas Browne
A B William Mayeq	AA B	Henry Forde
A B Richard Pagell	A B	Robert Jesope
A B William Yonge	A B	Renolde Polle
A B William Polle	AA B	Thomas Polle
A B William Whyt	A B	Richard Whit
A B Roger Crismas	A B	Thomas Crismas

**Horton**

A Archer Edward Martyn	AA Ar	John Howse
A B Mathewe Jonson	A B	John Mocke
A B Robert Frenlyn	A B	Henry Clement
A B Andrewe Worme	A B	Thomas Baker
A B John Wyllet	A B	John Antell
A B Alyn Beste	A Ar	John Beste
A B Richard Palmer	A Ar	Richard Best
A Ar William Best	A B	John Rowhed
A Ar Robert Bocher	A B	John Stone
A B John Reve	A Ar	William Cressell
A B Henry Monke	A Ar	Richard Tomson
A B Robert Tayler	A Ar	Richard Maynerd
A B John Tayler	A B	William Kytell
A B John Skudder	A Ar	Edmond Barton
AA B William Adames	A B	John Plomme
A Ar Thomas Hobert	A B	John Hobert
A B William Kyttelwell	A B	William Richard

## EARLY KENT MUSTER ROLLS

A B	Thomas Gale	A B	William Wright
A Ar	John Jonson	A B	Thomas Seale
<b>Swanscom</b>			
A Billman	Richard Swane	AA Ar	John Bere junior
A B	Richard Turke	A B	John Postwell
A B	John Clement	AA B	Richard Donmowe
AA B	Henry Chett	A B	Robert Cleypole
A B	Raffe Monford	AA B	Richard Cheston
A B	William Webster	A B	William Ascheve
A B	Edward Knoldon	AA B	John Parkenson
AA B	John Webbe	A B	Richard Sheperde
AA B	Thomas Jonson		
<b>Stone</b>			
AA Billman	Thomas Lawnce	A Ar	Robert Smythe
A B	William Chesshire	AA Ar	William Baker
A B	Richard Blacwod	A B	John Scudder
AA B	John Storgen	A B	John Leke
A B	John Daynes	A B	John Selton
A B	Henry Skodder	A B	John Geblet
<i>rotulet 5</i>			
<b>Dernth and Saynt Margarett</b>			
A Billman	Christofer Draper, gent.	AA Ar	Donstone Uscher
A B	Richard Reve	A B	Thomas Monke
A Ar	Nicolas Frethe	A B	William Adgorre
AA Ar	Thomas Adgorre	A Ar	John Due
A B	John Mayonne	A B	Thomas Edward
A Ar	William Burton	AA B	Richard Walles
A B	John Ketyll	A Ar	Jenry Ketyllwell
A B	Thomas Umfrey	A Ar	Robert Umfrey
A B	William Pynden	A B	William Crephedge
A Ar	Jeffrey Neclyngham	A B	Richard Wallis junior
A Ar	John Crepehege	A B	John Warton
<b>Facam</b>			
A Billman	George Dewe	A B	Alexander Whithedd
A B	William Kettell	A B	William Penden
AA B	Thomas Lysney	AA B	Richard Walter
A Ar	Richard A Ware		
<i>rotulet 6</i>			

## The hundrede of Litle and Lesnes

## Crafforde

	John Lennarde gent.		
A Billman	John Goodwyn gent	A B	Robert Hastlyng
A B	Robert Lampart	A B	William Sewell
A B	Richard Edwardes	A B	John Stevens
A B	William Crocher	A B	Stephen Daysey
A B	Richard Speke	A B	William Hoode
A B	William Stronnge	A B	Henry Bowyn
A Ar	Robert Powill	A B	Richard Byrde
A B	William Dawton	A B	Christofer Barkelett
A B	Elys Elyott	AB	John Joneson
A B	Richard Gamon	A B	Robert Judde
AA B	Richard Mylles	A B	Robert Brett
AA B	John Foxe	A B	Richard Hychen
A B	John Hudson	A B	Robert Andrewe
A B	Henry Ase	A B	Richard Franke
A Ar	John Payne	A B	Thomas Wade
A B	William Roysse	A B	William Awn[er]ye
A B	Richard Kent	A B	William Bedyll
AA B	Henry Grey	A B	Robert Sketson
A B	Thomas Hervy	A B	Henry Clerke
A B	Richard Maydson	AA B	Thomas Nott
A B	John Corffe	A B	Phelippe Tylour

## Plumsted

A Billman	John Occley	A B	John Genynges
A Ar	John Stede	A Ar	John Hylton
A Ar	John A Deane	A Ar	Thomas Carpenter
A B	William Walton	A B	Gylbert Chapman
A B	William Nycolson	A B	Edmunde Litley
A B	William Tompson	AA B	William Lymbey
A Ar	William Wynbusse	AA B	Robert Sergeaunt
A B	Edwarde Genynges	A B	Robert Sympson
A Ar	John Whighte	A Ar	Marten Gryffen

## Estwykham

A Billman	Thomas Hynde	A B	Richard Dorys
A B	Robert Eryche	A Ar	John Pele
A B	Richard Cooke	A B	Edward Dunemowe
A B	William Halle	A B	John Godhelve
A B	Robert Lyst	A B	John James

**Eryght [Erith]**

A Archer	John Sutred	A Ar	John Taylour
A B	Robert Lyvyke	A B	Geffery Turner
A B	Thomas Wales	A B	Thomas Berde
A B	William Pa[r]kes	A B	James Tanner
AA B	Richard Gilford	A B	Adam Poukewell
AA B	William Fynche	A B	Henry Whittope
A B	William Toulkyn	AA B	Thomas Marshe
A B	Thomas Dalymer	A B	Davy Taylour
Gonner	Edward Manby	A Ar	Richard Forker
A Ar	John Stafford	A B	Martyn Dawsy
A Ar	Richard Cobyll	A B	William Wygnall
A B	Thomas Kyrton	A Ar	John Darkes
A B	John Garden	A B	John Barons
A B	Peter Genynges	A B	John Wilson
A B	Richard Toulkyn		

*rotulet 7***Lesonheth**

A Billman	John Abell	A B	Richard Swyft
A Ar	Thomas Lamboole	A B	John Holbourne
A B	John Sandder	AA B	Thomas Naysseborowe
A B	John Legett	A B	Richard Moyg[er]
AA B	Robert Blakkbery	AA Ar	John Hewys
A B	Stephyn Schosmyth	A B	Roger Weton
A B	John Dotton	A Ar	John Gambyn
A Ar	Richard Brynkeley		

*rotulet 8***The hundred of Blakheth****Grenwyche**

A Billman	Hugh Proves	A B	Mathew Davethe
A B	William Bower	A Ar	Thomas Welles
A B	Antony Dawson	A B	Robert Hede
A Ar	James Ratcleffe	A Ar	Myghell Wilson
A Ar	Hugh Hundrell	AA Ar	John Lybl[i]ne
A B	Thomas Mason	A B	William Anger
A B	Thomas Walker	A B	John Symons
A B	John Fyerne	A B	Cutberde Skelton
AA B	Fraunces Barber	A B	Renolde Pownesbey
A Ar	Peter Bane	A Ar	John Wheller
A B	John Sone	A B	Robert Fischer
A B	Thomas Hawle	A B	Olyver Couper
A B	James Blakewell	AA B	Thomas Lylylke

## EARLY KENT MUSTER ROLLS

A B	Robert Cottham	A B	Thomas Burbey
AA B	Peter Payne	A B	Alexander Pattynson
A B	James Randowlle	A B	Richard Heweth
AA Ar	James Richardson	A B	Thomas Whighte
A B	John Heywarde	AA B	Rafe Geynkes
A B	Henry Longboton	A B	John Thomas
A B	John Myllyr	A B	Thomas Warren
A Ar	Richard Rugge	A B	John Toley
A B	William Hole	A B	William Furken
A B	Richard Stokes	A B	Thomas Nyckson
A B	William Dryver	A B	William Kenett
A B	John Smythe	A B	William Pace
A B	John Enderbye	A B	Peter Pressyke
A B	Robert Wryght	A B	William Nores
A B	Thomas Wetherbey	A B	Thomas Sibbing

## Depforde

AA Archer	Davye Sampson	A B	William Myllis
A B	John Turke	A B	Christofer Garnett
A Ar	John Myllis	A B	James Batteler
A B	Richard Dawson	A B	William Dawby
A B	Stephen Foxxe	A B	Davy Cooke
A B	Richard Cooke	A B	William Fyscher
A B	John Torner	A B	Thomas Tompson
A B	Roger Bodles	A B	William Steve[n]s
A B	Edward Bryttes	A B	Robert Tasse
A B	John Asston	AA B	Robert Awsten
AA Ar	Robert Bla[ck]sell	A B	Stephen Parrat
A Ar	Lenarde Hawken	A Ar	Thomas Beste
A Ar	John Haynes	A Ar	John Monforde
A B	John Packe	A B	Robert Haulle
A B	George Tompson	AA B	Thomas Borowe
AA Ar	John Mower	AA Ar	Christofer Smythe
A Ar	Raffe Mondye	AA B	John Bryttn
A B	John Lanolson	A B	Edward Joneson
A B	William Horton	AA B	Robert Combe
A Ar	William Mase	AA Ar	Rychard Marwod
A B	John Smalle	A Ar	John Whytt
A B	John Bett	A Ar	Gylbard Pynyon
A B	Richard Wallsham	A Ar	Nicolas Waker
A B	William Byddle	A B	Hewe Walker



**Wolwiche**

	Sir Edwarde Boughton, knight	A B	Thomas Lynsse
A Billman	Henry Taplyn	AA Ar	John Sharpe
A Ar	John Butteler	A B	Robert Parker
A B	John haryson	A B	Robert Edyn
A B	John Clerke	A B	William Clerke
A B	Richard Lodlowe	A B	William Butsall
A B	Richard Crockett	A B	Henry Moorman
A B	Richard A Schelley	A B	William Grasse

*rotulet 9***Lewsham**

A Billman	Richard Grene	A B	William batt, senior
AA B	John Mergery	A B	Richard Batt
A B	John Batt, junior	A Ar	William Coker
A B	John Twyst	A B	William Baker
A B	Thomas Baukyn	A B	Robert Calloway
A B	Antonye Lysceny	A B	John Croften
A B	Walter Goodson	A B	William Gildowne
A B	Robert Batt	A B	Thomas Fontt
A Ar	Fraunces A Powell	A B	Roger Savyge
A Ar	Christofer Dokke	AA B	Henry Brounger
A B	John Goldesbery	A B	Robert Lowys
A Ar	Walter Dodesworth	A Ar	Thomas Ellery
A B	Robert Glover	A B	Richard Recles
A Ar	Richard Chaukeley	A B	Thomas Ward
A Ar	Robert Sharparowe	A B	George Lambkyn
A B	Robert Asten	A Ar	John Cooke
A B	Robert Clerke	A Ar	John Presbery
A B	Edward Isarde	A B	Symon Sycyley
A Ar	George Edmunde	A Ar	Thomas Dodsworthe
A B	Garrat Smythe	A B	Thomas Davye
A B	Richard Kychell	A B	Thomas Huntt
A B	James Jenkynson	Gonner	Nicolas Bereman
Gonner	Nicolas Hadfelde	A B	Richard Porter
A B	Thomas Heyley	A B	Thomas Knolles
A Ar	Richard Hewet	A Ar	Robert Russhferde
A B	John Brokhouse	A B	Edward Matkyn
Gonner	John Acton	A B	Thomas Bosworthe

**Leygh**

A Billman	Richard Erneton	A B	Webster
A B	Thomas Denys	A B	Richard Decarson

**Eltham and parte of Fotiscray**

A Archer	Hewe Tenche	A B	William Russell
A B	John A Leygh	A Ar	William Byley
Gonner	Nicolas Moyger	A Ar	William Sampson
A B	Robert Castylman	A Ar	John Haynger
A B	Thomas Beley	A B	Richard Geiter
A B	William Shortt	A B	Cristofer Clerke
A Ar	John Holden	A Ar	Roger Sylle
A Ar	Hewgh Jamys	A B	Robert Clarke
AA B	John Shorlocke	A B	John Humfrey
A Ar	Thomas Warren	A B	Henry Guston
A B	John Guston	A B	Robert Weley
A B	John Gyner	A Ar	Robert Garbett
A Ar	John Stubbes	A Ar	Henry Stubbes
A Ar	John Smythe	A Ar	Richard Hale
A B	William Dane	A B	Rober Barker

**Motyngham**

A Billman	William Londole	A B	William Grene
A B	William Monfelde		

**Charleton and Kydbrok**

AA Archer	Edward Wilkynson	A Ar	Richard Holden
A B	Thomas Newport	A Ar	John Byngham
A B	Mores Tether	AA B	John Yonge
A B	John Frensham	AA Ar	John Mores
AA Ar	Robert Dawboon	A B	Myghell Wystowe
A Ar	John Olyver	A B	James Landes
A B	William Richardson	A Ar	John Woddylsay
A B	John Combe		

*rotulet 10***The Hundred of Rokysley****Lynkhille**

A Billman	William Medderst	A Billman	John Hoggett
A B	Roger Clerke	A B	Henry Kyng
AA B	Robert Medderst	A B	Thomas Bemonde
AA B	Andrewe Walter	A B	Roger Crocher
AA Ar	George Woodgate	AA B	Homas Wodgate
A B	John Lowen	A B	William Snatt
A Ar	Gregory Napton	A B	John Couper
A B	Richard Stratfyld	AA B	Thomas Stratfyld
A B	John Awstyn		

**Bexley**

	James Goldwell gentleman	AA B	John Borne
AA Billman	Mr Scharlet	AA Ar	John Comes
A B	Richard Barber	AA B	Roger Fuller
AA Ar	Walter Bexley	A Ar	Alexander Cooke
A B	William Yselde	AA B	Richard Couper
A B	Richard Holden	AA Ar	William Payne
AA B	Thomas Sedcope	A B	Thomas Hall
A B	Richard Eton	A B	John Colyn
A Ar	Thomas Maynerde	A B	Henry Wallet
A Ar	Thomas Banester	A B	John Parrett

**Northcray**

A Billman Hewgh Clerke

**Farnborough**

AA Billman	Richard Harman	AA B	John Wren
A Ar	Richard Hobbes	AA Ar	Arnold Bedyll
A B	Phelipe Rumyn	A B	Thomas Castelforde
A B	John Barton	AA B	Richard Whytley
A B	Henry Thorneton	A B	Richard Beylye
A B	John Eyton		

**Nokkolt**

A Billman	John Tothe	A B	William Tothe
A B	Arnolde Rondell	A B	Thomas Sharman
A B	William Waller	A B	Richard Pysse
A B	Richard Stephen		

**West Wyckham**

A Billman	William Caustyn senior	A Ar	William Caustyn junior
A Ar	Henry Caustyn	A Ar	Robert Caustyn
A Ar	William Wodwarde	A B	William Ownstyd
A B	John Blancherd	A B	John Bankes
A B	William Bankes	A B	John Marden
A B	Henry Pace	A B	John Momforde

**Paulis Cray**

A Billman	William Skelton	A B	Richard Lane
A B	John Hayte	A B	Thomas Bugberd
A B	Symon Delver	A Ar	William Clerke
A B	Richard Spenser	A B	Thomas Sadler
A B	Nicolas Edward	A B	Henry Stowe

*rotulet 11***Chelesfelde**

A Billman	John Lendall	A B	John Cakett
A B	John Hetter	A B	John Brasyar
AA B	John Causten	A Ar	Richard Brasyar
AA B	John Mychill	AA Ar	Richard Colgatt
AA Ar	Thomas Brasyar	AA Ar	John Brasyar
A B	Nicolas Marcyall	A B	John Harman
AA B	John Letcott	A B	John Mace junior
AA Ar	Robert Colgate	AA Ar	William Wallyns
A B	John Jonson	A B	John Awode
A B	Nicolas Surtes	AA B	Thomas Harman

**Roxley**

A Billman	Richard Marchalle	A AR	William Richmonde
AA B	John Grant	A B	Thomas Delwer
A B	Richard Perkykson		

**Chesselherst**

A Billman	John Heryne gentleman	A Ar	John Comforde junior
A Ar	John Beferydge	A B	Edwarde Stake senior
A B	Thomas Stake junior	A Ar	John Meyr
A B	Richard Crocher senior	A Ar	Richard Crocher junior
A B	John Mylis	A B	Thomas Joyner
A B	Hugh Foster	A B	Thomas Jenyis
A B	Richard Roscell	A B	William Roscell
AA B	Richard Canbua'	AA Ar	Thomas Rapkyng
A B	Thomas Grene	A B	James Estebroke
A B	John Dowener	AA B	Richard Neweman
A B	John Goodynowych	A B	Peter Ydyn
A Ar	William Hen	AA B	Richard Harfeld
A B	William Mylles	A B	James Pratt
A B	William Man	A B	John Graunger

**Orpyngton**

A Billman	Andrewe Shott	A Ar	Walter Staple
AA B	Robert Whithed	AA B	William Netlyngham
AA Ar	Robert Rihley	AA B	John Staple
A B	Vynsent Iden	AA Ar	William Taylor
A Ar	Christopher Pope	A Ar	James Laske
A B	William Baker	A B	Edward Kechell
A B	John Broke	A B	John Bomer
A B	William Wryghte	A B	Relffe Alcocke
		A B	William Walker

## EARLY KENT MUSTER ROLLS

**Kestone**

A Billman	John Woddyn	AA B	Thomas Comfort
A Ar	Mychaell Staple	AA Ar	Thomas Lancradge
AA Ar	John Kyng		

**Codam**

	John Walles gentleman	AA Ar	John Comfort
A B	John Langryge	A B	John Andrew senior
AA Ar	John Andrewe junior	AA Ar	Robert Andrewe
AA B	William Grey	AA B	Henry Wodyn
AA Ar	Thomas Glove	A B	Thomas Stephen
A B	Thomas Wysen	A B	John Glover junior
AA B	William Bogyn	AA B	Thomas Watson
AA B	John Toller	A B	William Isake
<i>rotulet 12</i>			
AA B	John Derlyng	AA B	John Bedyll
AA B	William Bignore	A B	Walter Sexton
AA B	Richard Sexton	AA Ar	William Sexton
AA B	Thomas Sommer		

**Downe**

A Billman	George Mannyng	AA B	Gyles Couper
A B	John Couper	AA B	Thomas Frythe
A B	John Cotteman	AA Ar	John Coker
A B	John Farrance	AA Ar	William Andrewe
AA B	Richard Hochen	AA B	Thomas Stephen
AA B	William Stephen	A B	Austen Crocher
AA Ar	Nicolas Godman		

**Saynt Mary Cray**

A Archer	John Saythwayt <sup>89</sup>	A B	Thomas Mannyng
A Ar	William mannyng	AA B	Peter Taylour
AA B	John Holonde	A B	Richard Moger
A Ar	Thomas Hethe	AA B	Richard Bentley
A B	George Smythe	A Ar	Robert Wyborn
AA B	Thomas Moger	AA AR	John Wylliam
A B	Thomas Sucle	A Ar	Richard Mychaell
AA B	Nicolas Colgate	A B	Henry Horton
AA B	Thomas Stable	A B	John Lanam
A B	John Haselwod	A Ar	Olyver Saythwayt
		AA Ar	Henry Letcote

<sup>89</sup> The letter form for the initial S is different from his other S's and the same form is given lower down for the same name.

**Heyse**

A Billman	William Frenche	AA B	Thomas Adams
A B	James Smythe	AA B	William Shott
A B	Mychaell Shott	A B	Richard Earlonde
A Ar	William Rudloue	AA Ar	John Wood
AA B	Richard Broke	A B	John Harman
A B	John Adams	A B	Robert Ledyll
A Ar	Edmunde Wodward	A B	Robert Wodward

**Fottiscray**

A Billman	Richard Swetsyer	A B	John Worthyngton
A B	John Wodd	A B	William Kynse
A B	William Cooke		

*rotulet 13***The Hundred of Bromely and Bekenham****Bromley**

	Robert Knyght, gentleman	A B	William Draper gentleman
A Billman	Henry Batt	A B	Richard Syxewekes
A Ar	Richard Topley	A B	Walter Serde
A B	John Herd	A B	William Powdale
AA Ar	William Payce	A B	John Smyth
AA B	Thomas Longe	AA B	William Pynchester
A Ar	William Dampert	A B	William Parker
A B	John Longe	A B	John Pledge
A B	John Halpeny	A B	William Hudson
A B	Christopher Tanner	A B	John Saley
A Ar	Richard London	A B	Robert Monfeld junior
A B	William Sharlocke	A B	John Monfelde
A B	George Whelpley	A B	Henry Causten
A B	John Erlyche	A B	William Brifley
A B	Henry Alen	A Ar	John Brydde
A B	William Mudeforde	A Ar	Robert Shott
A B	John Wattes	A B	Robert Bowman
A B	William Moger	A Ar	Robert Woodstocke
A Ar	William Richell	A B	William Newman
A B	John Bedle	A B	Symon Bedle
A B	James Hobbis	A B	Thomas pope junior
A Ar	John Sander	A B	James Whight
A Ar	Richard Topsell	A Ar	James Cobe
A B	Andrew Beche	A B	Henry Burbage
		A B	Robert Mason

## Bekenham

	Sir Humfrey Style knyght	A B	Robert Legh gentleman
A Archer	James Anderton	A Ar	William Ryley
A B	John Robenson	A Ar	John Warren
AA Ar	James Pledge	AA Ar	Richard Herman
AA B	William Causten	A B	Robert Bothe
A Ar	Rondalle Snowe	AA Ar	Robert Violet
AA Ar	Robert Kyng	AA Ar	Henry Staynsmore
A B	John Dawe	A B	Thomas Adcocke
AA Ar	William Dawe	A Ar	Henry Muscrope
A B	Thomas Wodde senior	A Ar	John Kempshall junior
A B	Henry Lowyne	A B	Robert Waller
A B	John Lucas	A Ar	Roger Higson
A B	John Farthyng	A B	John Skelton
A Ar	Henry Kyng	A B	Richard Coyse
A B	Robert Bettis	A Ar	John Cooke

The nombre of all the chosen men notyd with all their qualities above expressed within the seid villey hundredes and lymytt C ij<sup>xx</sup> xj

The nombre of all the ablemen notyd with A, with their qualites above expressid within the seid villey hundredes and lymytt vij<sup>c</sup> iij<sup>xx</sup> ij

The number of all the unmete men not able to serve the kyng above the age of xvj yeres within the seid villey hundredes and lymytt vj<sup>c</sup> iij<sup>xx</sup> xij

The nombre of all horses hernesses armures and wepons within the seid villey hundredes and lymytt, that is to saye,

Horses	xxxix	Hernes furnessed	CCCCxxiiij
Splentes <sup>90</sup>	xL	Salettes <sup>91</sup>	Lvij
Bowes	Cx	Sheffe Arowes	iiij <sup>xx</sup> xvij
Billes	CCCij <sup>xx</sup> ij	Swerdes	xxxiiij
Daggers	xLvj		

By me Humffrey Style, per me Edward Boughton, by me John Dyer

<sup>90</sup> Splint, *O.E.D.* One of the plates or strips of overlapping metal of which certain portions of mediæval armour were sometimes composed; *esp.* one of a pair of pieces of this nature used for protecting the arms at the elbows.

<sup>91</sup> Sallet, *O.E.D.* In mediæval armour, a light globular headpiece, either with or without a vizor, and without a crest, the lower part curving outwards behind.

**PRO: E101/65/27***Membrane 1.*<sup>1</sup>

The rowle tripartite of a hundred footemen levyed within the lathe of Sainct Augustines  
Canterbury and parte of the seven hundredes delivered unto Capteine Wilsford  
the x<sup>th</sup> of January 1598.

**Pikemen**

John Hewes	Jeromy Gylaine
William Minchew	Edward Eythorne
Mathew Packman	James Lee
John Mason	Richard Whitton
Thomas Aynson	John Butcher
Thomas Clerke	Daniel Wilmerton runne away
John Charleton	William Knowler
Mathew Tanner	Robert Maye
Thomas Jorden	Raymont Fendlow
Thomas Willes	Thomas Terror
Bennett Masters	William Cloutinge
George Wentwoorthe	Richard Robertes
Thomas Mockett	Robert Sadocke
Davie Morgan	William Brice
Thomas Thomas	William Coxo
Christofer Thompson	William Bushe
Andrew Brodbridge	Robert Welles
James Rogers	William Parker
James Slaughter	Thomas Richardson
John Quayfe	Abraham Redland
Henry Northe	John Chittenden
Thomas Welles	John Bucke
John Johnson	John Watson
Thomas Nicholas	Thomas Amon
Stephen Chittenden	Robert Turner

**Muskittes**

James Larkine	Richard Pennell
Richard Pysinge	John Spaine
Richard Davie	Thomas Harris
Edmond Battie	William Denham
Leonard Faythe	George Turner
William Freeman	John Bensted
Thomas Williamson	Thomas Willard

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<sup>1</sup> This is parchment all the rest are on paper. The names are all in one column.



EARLY KENT MUSTER ROLLS

Edward Chantler  
 John Winter  
 Lawrence Roger  
*Membrane 2*  
 Thomas Harrison  
 Thomas Goddine  
 Edward Morline  
 George Doule  
 Isacke Adams

Luke Costen  
 William Bonser  
 Samuell Evans  
 Stephen Peene  
 William Davie  
 William Browninge  
 Richard Gaunte  
 Barnbie Marden

**Callivers**

Alexander Evernden  
 Edward Tylden  
 John Tomline  
 Stephen Tod  
 Thomas Ashedowne  
 Thomas Bockenden  
 Robert Lambert  
 John Kember  
 John Inman  
 Edmon Hewett  
 Henry Martine

Thomas Rey  
 Robert Frey  
 William Colen  
 Thomas Kinton runne away  
 John Weight  
 Robert Birtsoll  
~~Thomas Brett~~  
 Marke Smithe  
 Francis Jewett  
 Richard Drixker

100

*[signed]* Jhon Wylsforde Lieutenante to Cap<sup>ten</sup> Wilsford  
 Supplied in the roome of the runne awayes since the enrowlement  
 William Bennett  
 John Chappell  
 William Dudnam ij  
*[signed]* Th: Wylsford.

*Membrane 3* [names are in two columns]

Kent 8 January 1598

THIS INDENTURE made the viij<sup>th</sup> daie of Januarie in the one and fortieth yeare of the raigne of our soveraigne ladie Elizabeth by the grace of God Quene of England Fraunce and Ireland defendour of the faythe etc. Betwene Sir John Leveson and Sir Thomas Walsingham Knightes two of the deputie Lieuetenantes to the right honorable the Lord Cobham her majesties Lieutenante within the county of Kent of the one partie and Henry Lovell Captein on the other partie Witnesseth that whereas the number of 400 soldiers have by order from our said soveraigne ladie bin levyed and furnished within the said county for her majesties service, whereof 100 are allotted to the said Henry Lovell Captein to be conducted into the Lowe Countryes of which number 50 are pykemen and 50 are shott and of them half muskettors and halfe callyvers nowe he the said Henry Lovell captein doth by this presentes acknowledge that upon the daie of the date herof he hath had and received at Rochester in the said county of Kent by the deliverye of the

said Sir John Leveson and Sir Thomas Walsingham as well the said number of 100 hable and serviceable men as also 50 good and sufficient corselets, eche furnished with poldrons<sup>2</sup>, curaces<sup>3</sup>, gorget, head pece, pyke, rapyer or shorte sworde: 25 muskets eche furnished with murryan, rest, bullet, bag, bandroll, mowlde, rapyer and dager: 25 callyvers furnished eche of them with a spanishe murryan<sup>4</sup>, bullet, bag, bandroll, mowlde, rapyer and dager: And 100 new coates of brode clothe lyned for soldiers liveryes And 100 new suites of aparell for the same 100 soldiers liveryes And 100 new suites of aparell for the same 100 soldiers, eche suit having a dublet a paire of hose, a paire of stockinges, a paire of shoes, two shirts, two bands, and one monmorth cap<sup>5</sup> And for conducte of eche of this 100 soldiers after the rate of viij<sup>d</sup> per diem for [blank] daies to bring them to the porte of Margatt And there was geven to everye of thes 100 soldiers xij<sup>d</sup> the names of which soldiers here followe, viz

Leneham	Robert Okeley	West Malling	Thomas Gryffyn
Stockberie	Edward Bucke		John Webbe
	Richard Dudson		John Rowland
Frinsted	John Crudd		Thomas Wyngroe
Sutton Valence	Thomas Shawe		Mathew Fuller
	William Stydolph	Twyford	John Gyles
Boughton Mouch	John Lye		George Benson
Hedcorne	Thomas Maunde		Peeter Rogers
Leedes	William Kinge	Mylton iuxta	Richard Peacocke
	Thomas Goldinge	Syttingbourne	Henrye Jarret
Detlinge	George Hodges		Richard Farley
	Thomas Nott		<del>Henry Chapman</del>
Barminge	Peter Crookes		Richard Mead
Lynton	Edward Launce		Thomas Walters
Maidstone	William Sharpe		John Terrie
	Ralphe Hylton		John Everington
	Ralphe Wodcocke		John Lyle
	William Podmer	Syttingbourne	Richard Hemsley
	Thomas Howlet		Walter Brochard
	Josias Tanner	Tonge	Christofer Longe
Lowye of Tunbridge	Rowland Dixon	Stockberie	John Rychardes
	Martine		Roger Finclee
	Tapesfeilde		
	James Duninge	Hartlip	Alexander Cruxe
	David Salmon	Raineham	Daniell Burredge

<sup>2</sup> Pouldron, *O.E.D.*: A piece of armour covering the shoulder; a shoulder-plate.

<sup>3</sup> *O.E.D.* Cuirass: A piece of armour for the body (originally of leather); *spec.* a piece reaching down to the waist, and consisting of a breast-plate and a back-plate, buckled or otherwise fastened together; still worn by some European regiments of cavalry. The breastplate alone was sometimes called a cuirass, or the two pieces combined were called (*a pair of cuirasses*), and the breast-plate a *half-cuirass*. The word has also been used in a general sense for all kinds of ancient close-fitting defensive coverings for the body, made of leather, metal, or other material.

<sup>4</sup> Spanish murrion, flashe and tuchboxe.

<sup>5</sup> A Monmouth cap: *O.E.D.* a flat round cap formerly worn by soldiers and sailors.

EARLY KENT MUSTER ROLLS

Brenchley	Thomas Berrie Matthew Evaunce Thomas Nashe Richard Clarke Thomas Bee	Newington Bobbinge Borden	John Marble John Blimily Richard Garret Joseph Garret
Wrotham	Edward Crosse William Dunton		
<i>Membrane 4</i>			
West Barnfeild	Thomas Fox	Milton iuxta Sittingbourne Lynsted	John Davies John Borrell Robert Browne
Ailesford & Rugmer Hill	John Breminge Thomas Southernwood Thomas Smithe Robert Gaskin Robert Mugglet Thomas Greenwood	Doddington Asherst Tencham Sellinge	John Grenestreete John Laudin John Rogers Gilbert Stockwell
Larkfeilde	William Raye William Biddle John Gage John Lewgar John Balden	Ospringe Stone Prestone Estlinge Boughton	Daniel Bullocke William Evance John Buckland Robert Kitchine John Wardener
Wachlingstone	Waller Sommer Thomas Chowninge Edward Hunt William Wood John Lynsted	Selwich <sup>6</sup> Crambrooke Boughton	Nicholas Burche William Davie Roger Austine James Snowe Cherubime Brooke
Litlefeilde	Rychard Golde John Mossell William Phillips Henry Gryffyn	Hernehill Deale Stone Stalesfeild	John Skynner Robert Ralfe Thomas Skinner William Aleborowe

52

48

(signature) Henrie Lovell

*Membrane 5*

Kent 8 January 1598

THIS INDENTURE made the viij<sup>th</sup> daie of Januarie in the one and fortieth yeare of the raigne of our soveraigne ladie Elizabeth by the grace of God Quene of England Fraunce and Ireland defendour of the faythe etc. Betwene Sir John Leveson and Sir Thomas Walsingham Knightes two of the deputie Lieutenantes to the right honorable the Lord Cobham her majesties Lieutenante within the county of Kent of the one partie and Peregrine Wingfield gentleman Lieutenaunte to Captaine Richard Morison on the other

<sup>6</sup> Stalesfeild scored through.

partie Witnesseth that whereas the number of 400 soldiers have by order from our said soveraigne ladie bin levyed and furnished within the said county for her majesties service, whereof 100 are allotted to the said Peregrine Wingfield Captein to be conducted into the Lowe Countreyes of which number 50 are pykemen and fiftie are shott and of them half muskettiers and halfe callivers Nowe he the said Peregrine Wingfield captein doth by these presentes acknowledge, that upon the daie of the date herof he hath had and received at Rochester in the said county of Kent, by the deliverie of the said Sir John Leveson and Sir Thomas Walsingham, as well the said number of 100 hable and serviceable men as also 50 good and sufficient corselets, eche furnished with poldrons, curaces, gorgett, hedpeice, pyke, rapior or shorte sworde: 25 muskets eche furnished with moriane, rest, bullet bag, bandroll, mould, rapior, dagger: fyve and twentie calyvers furnished eche of them with a spanishe moriane, bullet bagge, bandroll, moule, rapior and dagger. And one hundred newe coates of broad clothe lynced for soldiours lyveries And 100 new suites of aparell for the same 100 soldiers liveryes And 100 new suites of appaile for the same 100 soldiers, eche suit having a dublet a payre of hose, a payre of stockinges, a payre of shoes, two shirtes, two bands, and one monmorte cappe And for conducte of eche of this 100 soldiers after the rate of viij<sup>d</sup> per diem for iiij daies to bring them to the porte of Margatt And there was geven to eche of those hundred soldiours xij<sup>d</sup> the names of which soldiers heere followe, viz

Deptford	John Joyner Edmond Myller Nicholas Bennett	Wilmington	Henry Becke William Cokes
Greenewich	Edward Mershe Zacharie Hill Richard Weston Anthonie Fuller	Sevenocke	<del>Christopher Coker</del> William Luckocke William Maie John Chapman William Platt
Lewsham	Walter Purse Robert Harryse Rowland Maddis Thomas Barnard	Lighe	Jasper Glover Robert Whetter James Dyne John Harrison
Eltham	Henry Kerbie	Shorrrham	John Broughton
Bromley	Richard Smithe Thomas Rychardes William Rause John Wrighte Peter Chyswicke	Otford	Thomas Goodale Richard Durraunt William Harpennye Thomas Shepsted
Becknam	Stephen Grove John Muscrape	Halsted	William Aleighe William Cobbe William Man
Bexley	Henrye Turret	Kemsinge	William Aleighe
Northcray	John Dykes Andrewe Smarte	Cheveninge	William Cobbe
Chyselhurst	Anthonie Dye James Burbage	Westram	William Man Brian Ford Tymothie Hubbard Josephe Merryam
St Marye Cray	John Jones	Edenbridge	John Streaton Michael Lyncolne Andrewe Walter

EARLY KENT MUSTER ROLLS

Orpington	Reignold Brockherst	Hever	Robert Stevinson
Haies	Samuell Frenebye		Nicholas Colebrooke
	Daniell Browne		Walter Sheparde
Cowdeane	Henry Guttridge	Cowden	Walter Saxebie
Dawne	John Mantle	Penshyrst	Christopher Redcrofte
Southflete	Thomas Lampard		Henrye Cocke
Swanscombe	Robert Elinge	Shorne	Thomas Shryme
Stone	John Milles		John Steward
			William Dyra
			?Gray Hache

*Membrane 6*

Sutton at Hone	Thomas Staple	Chalke	Thomas Smyth
Farningham	William Jones		Henry Browne
Horton	William Phillips	Frindsbery	Henry Leake
Longefeild	Richard Anthonie		William Banckes
Crayford	Thomas Reade	Shorne	William Dyve
Plomsted	Abraham Smithe	Cliffe	Walter Woollet
	John Cooke	St Maries	John Gysson
Earithe	Edward Thimble		Nicholas Barker
	John Knolles	Stoake	Richard Lullingstone
Dartford	John Platt	Halstoe	Henry Johnson
	Peter Sperlinge		Thomas Fysh
	Morris Garrowne	Chetham	Richard Foyle
	Richard Hall	Gillingham	Richard Marshall
	John Alingham	Gravesend	Thomas Roninson
	Thomas Wilkinson	and Mylton	Thomas Welles
	Thomas Greene		Richard Lake
	Edward Jones		John Androes
			William Parson
			Richard Richardson
			Robert Goodall

*[signature]* Peregrine Wingfeild.

*Membrane 7*

Kent 9 January [1598]

THIS INDENTURE made the nynthe daie of Januarie in the xl<sup>th</sup> yeare of the raigne of our soveraigne ladie Elizabeth by the grace of God Quene of England Fraunce and Ireland defendour of the faythe etc. Betweene Sir Thomas Wylforde and Sir Thomas Fane knightes two of the deputies to the right honorable the Lord Cobham Lord Lieutenante of the countie of Kente on the one partie and Edwarde Scotte Captayne on the other partie Witnesseth, that whereas the number of 400 soldiers have by order from our said soveraigne Ladye bene levyed and furnished within the said county for her majesties service, whereof 100 are allotted to the said ~~Captayne Scotte~~ Edwarde Scotte Captayne to be conducted into the Lowe Countreyes. Nowe he the said Edwarde Scotte doth by theis presentes acknowledge that uppon the daie of the date heereof he hath had and received at Margate in the said county of Kente by the deliverie of the said Sir

Thomas Wilforde and Sir Thomas Fane as well the said number of 100 able serviceable and well apparraied men as also 50 good and sufficient corslettes eache furnished with poldrons curaces gorgett headpeece pyke and rapyer or shorte sworde 29 muskettes eache furnished with murrion, rest, band roll, rapyer and dagger, 21 calyvers eache of them furnished with a spanish murrion, flaske and tuchboxe, rapyer and dagger And 100 newe coates for soldiers liveries And there was geven to everie of theis 100 soldiers xijd the names of which soldiers heere followe, that is to say

*Original in three columns*

### **Filborow**

John Packer  
Thomas Freeme  
William Brooke  
Jeames Hurst  
Thomas Moverlye  
Roger Eglin  
Gilbert Tromayne  
George Fuller  
George Harte  
Stephen Steede

### **Wye**

Walter Tommes  
Jeames Spice  
John Ellite  
Roberte Butcher<sup>7</sup>  
Alexander Horne  
Thomas Lancaster  
Thomas Dodde  
Pawle Terrye  
Steephen Homevill runne away  
Richarde Slawghter

### **Assheford**

John Jackeson  
Michaell Fordred  
Hughe Harris  
William Froome

### **Charte & Longbridge**

Benjamin Harryson  
John Collins  
Thomas Terrye  
Stephen Harrison  
William Sherlocke  
Humfrey Nicholson  
John Ambrose  
Jeames Hixe  
George Poyme  
Danyell Sherlye  
Robert Overington  
Roberte Gibson

### *Column 2*

**Calehill**  
Edward Midlemoore  
Christopher Ventyman  
Fraunces Jackeson  
Roberte Alfinder  
Richard Baylie  
Roberte Marden  
Edward Samson  
Richard Jones  
William Smyth  
Richard Turner  
Andrew Holcome  
Thomas Jenninges

### **Folkeston**

John Tysser  
George Richardes  
William Newham  
Thomas Maye  
Roberte Snelling  
Thomas Howell  
Edwarde Harrison

<sup>7</sup> After this entry says runne away but I think it relates to entry in the next column.

Isaake Cowper

**Oxney**

Nicholas Mason

**Alowesbridge**

William Baylye

**Loningborow**

John Johnson runne away

Roger Cowper

Edwarde Barnes

George Joye

Roberte Sewer

Lawrence Challice

Richard Dunston

Edwarde Whisker

**St Martynes and Longporte**

John Spence

**Heane**

Jeames Symmes

*Column 3*

**Bircholte Baronye**

John Mericke

Edward Bowle

**Stowting**

Thomas Smyth

John Dennis

William Browne

Henry Woollet

Abraham Wargar

Roberte Parker

**Ham and Newchurch**

Joseph Foster

**Streete**

Raynolde Davyes

Thomas Daye

**Parte of the 7 Hundrethes**

Jeames Adgar

Pawle Martyn

Roberte Goreham

Richard Burche

Edward Boddie

Thomas Turner

Humfrey Swyneherde

Roberte Marden

Richarde Browne

Henrye Rye

Thomas Woolsey

Symon Robinson

Henrye Crompton

Thomas Chapman

Thomas Woodwarde

Edwarde Powell

Roberte Arnolde

John Cowper

William Cooke

*[signatures]* Edward Scott

Th: Wylsford