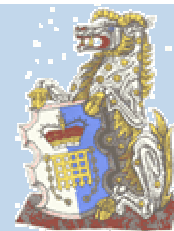




Beaufort Herald



Beaufort Company Newsletter

June 2009

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Badges , badges get your steeeenkin badges



Portcullis badge for liveries

Phil has done a brilliant job and managed to find a great source of Portcullis Livery badges for the very reasonable price of £5.

They are sewn onto blue wool so can be stitched straight onto your livery, sash, or anywhere else you wish!

A number have already got them and were busy at Avoncroft sewing -they are another touch that sets our group

Avoncroft was fantastic! For those of you who couldn't make it I'm sorry you missed a classic.

But when you look ahead just into June and July you realise how good our event mix really is. With Rievaulx Abbey—monks and plots, Newark castle—Beaufort plots

Tewkesbury—how many in blue& white this year Plus "Arabian Nights" Ask Mark H

Then Kelmarsh—which will be something special . Can't wait!



as something to aspire too.

Next is the Yale badge for watch coats, because of the detail the price on such a badge is likely to be £25 to £30 + But a possible version is shown below please let us know what you think of them and if you wish to have one

JAYNE E ..



The YALE badge



William Tailboys

Was born into a prominent Lincolnshire family and by 1441 was one of Henry VI's household retainers. He inherited his father's land in 1444 and the following year he was elected as Knight of the Shire for Lincolnshire and appointed to the Northumberland and Lincolnshire "Commissions of the Peace" under the patronage of William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. At this point he became involved in a series of disputes with Lord Cromwell which led to a great deal of violence and in 1448 he and his followers were accused of involvement in three murders. When writs of exigent were issued against him in 1449, Suffolk persuaded the Sheriff of Lincolnshire, Mauncer Marmyon, not to execute them, promising Marmyon a pardon-incidents that formed part of the charges against Suffolk in his subsequent impeachment in 1450.

At the beginning of the Parliament of November 1449, Tailboys and his band of 'slaughterladdes' assaulted and allegedly tried to kill Lord Cromwell at a meeting of the King's Council. The Commons, brought an impeachment against Tailboys demanding that he be 'named and noysed for a comon murderer, mansleer, riotour and contynuell breker of your peas', fined £2000 and placed in the Tower. Despite his imprisonment Tailboys was able to distribute a series of critical verses throughout England linking Cromwell with the Duke of Somerset and the recent losses in France.

After the Yorkist victory of St Albans in 1455 he received a general pardon and was briefly restored to the Peace Commission in Kesteven. However he soon fell back into his old ways and in the Coventry Parliament of 1459 the Commons petitioned that Tailboys, who was resident at Enfield, be imprisoned again for violent conduct which he appears to have avoided as the country descended into civil war his influence in Lincolnshire became increasingly important to Henry VI. In 1461 he fought on the Lancastrian side at St Albans, where he was knighted, and at Towton. Fleeing north with the survivors he defended, then surrendered Alnwick, and was finally arrested after the Battle of Hexham in 1464; hiding in a coalmine near Newcastle with some 3000 marks intended for the Duke of Somerset.

He was executed on 20 July 1464 at Newcastle and buried at the Greyfriars in Newcastle. .



The Battle of Dixmude,

13th June 1489

In honour of the illustrious German contingent within the Beauforts, here is an account of the English-Habsburg victory of Dixmude, in the reign of his glorious, half Beaufort majesty Henry VII.

In 1488 Francis Duke of Brittany died. Nominally Brittany was part of France, but in reality it was ruled as a separate country, something that Charles VII of France was determined to change. This placed Henry VII in a quandary, he had spent most of his years in exile in Brittany, but was also at peace with French who had supported and funded him in his attempts to gain the throne. However a strong France was clearly not in England's interest and Henry allied with Maximilian, King of the Romans and Duke of Burgundy, promoting him as a potential husband for Anne of Brittany, (Francis's 12 yr old daughter and heir). He also provided defensive assistance, to Brittany, initially unofficially in 1488 under Sir Edward Woodville and then openly in 1489 with a force of 6,000 men.²

Maximilian, however, was a liability as an ally, he had seriously alienated his Flemish subjects in 1488, who briefly imprisoned him and under duress extorted significant concessions from him. On his release Maximilian reneged on the deal and consequently the majority of Flanders rose in revolt, save for some of the border towns with France, which contained small garrisons of Maximilian's German mercenaries.⁴

The Flemish rebels attacked the remaining towns loyal to Maximilian and also invited the French, Governor of Picardy, Lord Esquardes, to assist them. Lord "Cordes" as he is described by the English just 'happened' to have a large force conveniently at hand an army estimated at about 10,000 men.¹ The combined Franco-Rebel force took Ypres and Sluys and in May 1489 a force of between 4,000-6,000 men settled down to besiege the town of Dixmude, the garrison in desperate straits appealed to Giles, Lord Daubeny, Captain of Calais for help, who forwarded their request to Henry VII.

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Henry alarmed at the French intervention and the possible collapse of his ally, which would leave Calais surrounded by French territory, acted decisively, despatching an expeditionary force of a 1,000 men under the command of Henry Lovell, Lord Morley and a fleet under Lord Willoughby de Broke ostensibly to reinforce the Calais garrison, but gave secret instructions for Daubeny to relieve Dixmude. Daubeny hastily gathered a further force of 1,000 men from the Garrisons' of Calais, Guines and Hammes, including Sir Gilbert Talbot (Marshal of Calais), Sir Humphrey Talbot, Sir James Tyrrell (Captain of Guines) and 8 ships. Travelling up the coast to Nieuport, they persuaded the garrison of the town a force of 600 German mercenaries to assist them.²

The French camp which appears to have been on the southern side of the town, could only be approached from the west by a causeway, Dixmude being surrounded by marshy ground to the west and north.^{1,2} The Anglo-German army making a night march, was able to infiltrate the blockade and enter the town and by dawn the Anglo-German force of 2,000 archers and 1,000 pikes and men-at-arms, sallied out to assault the French camp.¹

The fighting was heavy, as at Castillon the French camp "was a strong felde, doble diked and pavest and strongly gonned". The English and Germans advanced into a hail of shot, Lord Morley, who had unwisely decided to remain mounted was struck by a cannon ball and killed,¹ Sir James Tyrrell was wounded by a crossbow bolt and the first "wild rushes of the English were repulsed"⁵. However the Anglo-Germans doggedly pressed the attack, an English Archer, one John Pearson of Coventry continuing to shoot even though his leg had been shattered by a cannon shot.⁶ The battle seemed dangerously like it was becoming a second Castillon.

Then the French fire began to slacken, partly due English archers, but more probably due to a diversionary attack on the French rear led by Daubeny himself. On their arrival in Dixmude the English had interrupted the execution of a Flemish spy, who recognising Sir James Tyrrell, agreed to lead the English forces to a weak spot in the rear of the French defences,² which Daubeny and a picked English force were to exploit whilst the main English force made a frontal attack on the northern part of the defences,

"and there my lorde lept downe of his horse and went afoote....and there my lorde waded through diches unto the arme pittes and all his ffelyshype wt him. In somoche that my lord lakked dyvers of his men warre the whiche were drowned in the diches....and wt those that he had, he sette upon the fflemmynges and ffrenche and discomfited them"⁷

Whatever the cause the French Cannon were partially silenced and the highly disciplined Germans, in a determined assault carried the wall⁵ under the covering fire of the English archers³, losing all their officers in the process.² The French and rebels then broke, pursued by the English archers, "and when the Frenchmen fledde, he (John Pearson) cried to one of his felowes, have thow these six arrowes that I have left and follow thow the chase, for I may not"⁶ The English then learned of the death of Morley and already incensed by the massacre of the English troops at St Aubin du Cormier the year before, ran amok,

slaughtering the prisoners and shooting down the hapless Flemings as they floundered through the marshland and were only restrained from looting Dixmude by the Germans contingent.^{2,5}

English losses are described as being light less than 100¹, but the severity of the fighting suggests they were higher and this figure does not appear to include the losses of the Germans/Burgundians who clearly also lost heavily. It appears likely that the Anglo-German contingent lost at least 300 men and an equivalent number wounded. Losses on the French/Rebel side were also heavy over 8,000¹ if some English accounts are to be believed, the lower figure of 3,900⁷ would seem more realistic. Casualties were particularly high amongst the contingent from Bruges, of 1,800 men only 100 are said to have returned.² The booty was immense; including all of the French artillery "may Riall gonnes",¹ and Daubeny's force hurried back to Calais with the loot, reinforcing the garrisons of Dixmude, Ostend and Furnes en route, but leaving his wounded (including John Pearson) in Nieuport, with the remnants of the German contingent.

1. The Reign of Henry VII, Francis Bacon, 1622
2. The Earlier Tudors 1485-1558, John Duncan Mackie
3. Chronicle of England, Edward Hall, 1543
4. Margaret of York, Christine Weightman
5. Chroniques, Molinet
6. The Itinerary of John Leland, ed Thomas Burton & Thomas Hearne, Oxford
7. The Chronicle of London, Anonymous

M Hinsley

The Medieval Apprentice;

by Adam “Nev” Potter

Typically a young man (and in some instances young women) would begin his apprenticeship between the age of 10 and at the very latest 13/14. Usually, those at the lower end of this age spectrum would begin their training under their fathers tutelage and then move to another master when they reached 12-14. The apprentice, or more usually the boy’s father would sign an indenture with the master under whom the apprentice would serve. A number of such contracts still survive and generally deal with the terms of employment for both master and apprentice. Although there are many regional differences certain terms seem to have been standard, these include

The apprentice undertaking to obey the master and learn his trade, to refrain from frequenting alehouses and not to get married without the permission of the master. The contract could also contain penalties (financial or corporal) for frequenting alehouses, brothels or “immoral behaviour”

The master undertook a parental role, agreeing to feed, clothe and house the apprentice, who would often live under the master's roof or sleep in the workshop. Sometimes a small wage was agreed, although this seems to have been rare from the surviving examples. In other cases the family of the apprentice would pay a fee to the master against the apprentice's completion of his training.

Those entering an apprenticeship under a guild master were required to serve (according to the guild statutes in London) an apprenticeship of no less than 7 years. Although in the case of Lorimers (makers of the metal parts of horse harnesses and other speciality small metal items) the guild required an apprenticeship of no less than 14 years.



The cooks tent at Avoncroft

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As a general rule an apprentice would not serve his apprenticeship under his father but would serve his time under another master of the guild. Some guilds specifically required that the son of a master must follow in his father’s trade. This system of fostering children amongst masters of the guilds was in many ways similar to the policies used by the nobility; sons sent to serve in the households of other nobles to learn their knightly trade and form connections to serve them later in life. In both examples this often led to marriage between powerful families and dynasties being created.



Hello ladies—are the towels extra?

Upon completion of his apprenticeship, a master would sometimes pay a stipend to the apprentice as detailed in the indenture, or more often supply him with a set of tools of the trade. In the later middle ages upon completion of his training an apprentice would either become a journeymen or if his father was a master of the trade he would return to work for his father, continuing to learn his trade and how to run the family business.

Adam

Combined unit tactics

This is based on the belief that archers, spears (bill men) and men-at-arms (knights) fight as a single, cohesive group, mutually supporting each other, rather than separately as is normal on a re-enactment battlefield.

So, some ideas and options from what we've learned so far:

The Archers need to be highly mobile. They should remain just a couple of yards behind the Staves (bills). This means that they need a way to move their arrows with them at all time, possibly that each Archer should carry some arrows (6 or so) in their belt and refresh this supply from a communal bag or basket (possibly several such) that one person is responsible for bringing up. The Staves will form up in line as normal in one or two rays, with Seasoned troops at the ends. The Archers will form up in one or two ranks either behind them, or to the fore. If the Archers are in two ranks (or in a harrow) , then the fighting archers should be to the front.



Inside the "Spred Eagle Inn" at Avoncroft—its really hard to get served

Both Staves and Archers need separate commanders at one end of the block with an under-officer at the other. Their job is to coordinate their respective group and their deputy echoes the commands of the officer. An alternative formation is a large block of Archers 2 or 3 rows deep, with small blocks of Spears (billmen), again several deep, on each flank. Another possibility to consider is a large block of Spears in the middle, with Archers on each flank.

·If we accept this premise we need to practice the two following basic approaches.:

One is for the Spears to take a knee so that the Archers can loose over them : Alternatively for the Spears to split to either side, so the Archers can loose down the centre.

Face about is an issue; The commands are " Prepare to About Face " , the spears MUST double space, then " About Face " . On " About Face " , the Spears raise their bills to the Advance or Carry position. The Archers step up close behind them. The Spears then turn about their weapon (always about their weapon) and the Archers move through their line. Finally, once the Archers are through, officer command "close array" the Spears return their weapon to their previous position and close up, while the Archers position themselves again behind the line. We need to try " Retray " , with combined formation.

Attacking, first. The commander shouts " Archers Ready, Staves Take Knee " . The Archer ' s commander prepare s his men, the Staves their kneel. The Spears, ground their bills and wait. The Archers loose over the heads of the Spears . When the commander decides to stop (or sees the enemy approaching), he orders " Archers Hold, Staves Rise " . The Archers stop and the Staves rise and prepare to engage. Similarly for the ' split front attack ' . The commander calls " Archers Ready, Staves Split and Fall Back " indicating where the split is to take place. The Archers prepare to loose, the Staves pull back and to the sides to open a ' corridor (similar to Warwick with KIB's). The Staves should fall back to roughly in line with the Archers, depending on the terrain and opposition. The Archers loose down the opening. When the commander decides to stop (or sees the enemy approaching), he orders " Archers Hold," then "Staves reform battle array " once archers have stopped.

On a related note, when Archers go forward to collect arrows, it is important that they are supported otherwise they may be captured or killed. Similarly the enemy arrow collectors should be harassed by lightly armed men

So, what do people think? Can we offer any better ideas on this? Can we improve on it? Awaiting your responses - ALLAN

Long Bodkins

Were these really Fire Arrows?

This a further article based on a talk from Mark Stretton of the Society of Archer Antiquaries, presented at Ashby Museum on the 27th Jan 2007.

Fire arrows have typically been assumed to be caged arrows

For a fire arrow to be effective it needs to

1. Be flammable and remain lit during flight.
2. Penetrate and adhere to the target long enough for the target to catch fire and keeps burning during this period.

Mark Stretton's theory is that very long bodkins 4-6" long were probably fire arrows. This was prompted by the discovery of large number of relatively long thin Bodkins within castle sites.

From his tests shooting arrows at various armour and target types very long thin bodkins are:

- Very effective against jack and mail, but not significantly more so than shorter 1.5" and 2" bodkins.
- However they are poor against plate, the bodkin curling on impact or breaking, this occurs for all but the shortest of bodkins.
- Very good at penetrating into wood, within the talk he passed around a section of an 8" oak fencepost with a 2" bodkin buried in it to a depth of 2". The bodkin showed no signs of distortion.

The latter feature was particular useful for a fire arrow as it would anchor the arrow firmly against the target and this prompted him to experiment with a number of different fire-arrow designs using such long bodkins.

It consists of a small thin sausage shaped linen bag filled with saltpetre rich gunpowder. The bodkins pierces the sausage penetrating approx 0.5" at the point end and the whole is covered with rosin (pine tree resin). The rosin fulfils two purposes as well as being flammable, it is waterproof, vital if the arrow is stored for any length of time as gunpowder is hygroscopic i.e. it will absorb water from the atmosphere, rendering it useless.

When the fire arrow is shot the end of the sausage is lit in flight the saltpetre fanned by the arrows travel becomes very hot.

On hitting the target the hot arrowhead embeds itself deeply in the wood and the sticky, burning, molten rosin, splodges over the target, with the burning powder pressed against the wood. *M Hinsley*



English in Burgundian service.—Marcus Woodhouse (Woodville's)

Henry Colpin "a very valiant man though from humble stock" Part of the Calais Garrison. Entered Burgundian service about 1472, rose from being a household archer to the Condectuer of an entirely English company in the service of the Grand Bastard of Burgundy, Antoine (some 300 men) killed when a cannon blew up at the Battle of Nancy, 1477.

Sir John Middleton (**well he claimed he was a knight**), fought under the Earl of Oxford at Barnet and at Mont St. Michael. pardoned and entered the service of Charles the Bold. Commanded the Household Archers of the Duke (some 980 men) was killed covering the retreat from Morat in 1476.

John Turnball, also served the earl of Oxford and then the earl of Norfolk. Fled England some time after 1474. raised a company of English archers, mainly from men who had taken part in the 1475 Invasion of France, took part in Battles of Morat and Nancy before being invalided out of the ducal service. All but 34 of the 96 men in his company died at Nancy.



The siege at “Sprede Eagle Inn Avoncroft—some of the defenders

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KNOW YOUR BEAUFORTS Wedding—Jon and Trish
Congratulations from all of us, wishing you the best for
the future



Tina at Avoncroft—wearing the
right livery



Ralph—
showing his
true col-
ours, no
surprise
here



Caption Competition:— No the
Balrog I fought was this big!

Replier to: captioncomp@jayandal.plus.com



Sian & Rupert (Just Married)

Cookery Corner, Part 10

Bryndons (CAKES)

PERIOD: England, 15thC | SOURCE: *Harleian MS 279* Authentic

Difficulty **Medium**

Take wine, & put in a pot, and clarified honey, sandalwood, pepper, saffron, cloves, mace, & cubeb, & minced dates, pine nuts and currants, & a little vinegar, & boil it on the fire; and boil figs in wine, & grind them, & pass through a strainer & add, and boil all together; then take flour, saffron, sugar, & water, and make cakes, and make sure they're thin; then cut them in thin slices, and put in oil, and fry a little while; then take them out of the pan, and place in a dish with the syrup, and so serve it, the Bryndons and the syrup, in a dish; & make sure the syrup is runny, & not too stiff.

MODERN RECIPE: 4 1/2 cups flour, 2 cups sugar, 1/2 cup (or more) cold water, few drops yellow food-colouring, 1/4 tsp. salt, vegetable oil, 1 bottle (750 ml) of an inexpensive sweet red wine, 1 1/2 cups honey, 1/2 cup red wine vinegar, few drops red food colouring, 1 tsp. each

pepper, cloves, & mace, 1/2 cup each chopped dates, currants, & pine nuts (or slivered almonds), & 1 cup figs, diced

Simmer the figs in a little wine; set aside. Bring the wine & honey to a boil; reduce heat and skim off the scum until clean. Add the vinegar, red colouring, pepper, cloves, mace, fruits, figs, & nuts, return to a boil, then reduce heat to a low simmer. In a separate bowl, mix together the flour, sugar, & salt. Dye the water yellow with a few drops of colouring, then slowly work into the flour enough of the water to make a smooth dough, similar to pie pastry. Roll out on a floured board, then cut in strips about 1 inch wide and 4 inches long. In a deep skillet or pan, fry the strips in oil until lightly browned and very crisp. Drain. Place the cakes on a serving platter, then spoon on the fruits & nuts, being generous with the syrup. The yellow cakes and the red topping make an interesting contrast in colours, and the wine will soften the cakes.