



Arquebusier

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The Allied Order of Battle at Julich, 1610

By David Trim

In 1610, a combined French and Dutch army found itself outside the city of Julich in what is now Germany, but what was then a duchy of the Holy Roman Empire. It was strategically placed on the borders of the United Provinces of the Netherlands, guarding the flanks of the nascent republic which had only just concluded the Twelve Years Truce with Spain, after forty four years of war. The succession to the Duchy was disputed between Protestant and Catholic claimants and this religious tension, combined with the city's strategic importance, ensured there would be no peaceful settlement. The city of Julich itself, was seized by the Catholic claimant, Archduke Leopold with Spanish help. The Protestant claimant, the Margrave of Brandenburg, then enlisted the aid of the Dutch (anxious to stop the Spanish stealing a march, even if they were theoretically at peace) in ejecting his rival. France, although ruled by a Catholic monarch under a Catholic regent, could not permit a Hapsburg to gain control of the Duchy, as this would strengthen the position of Spain *vis-a'-vis* France considerably. As a result, a strong combined Franco-Dutch, Brandenburg army undertook a successful siege of Julich in 1610.

Included in the Dutch army was a force of 5,500 English and Scottish troops, commanded by Sir Edward Cecil, grandson of Lord Burghley and nephew to the Earl of Salisbury, the chief ministers of Elizabeth I and James VI respectively. Despite these connections, however, and the presence of English noblemen in the Allied army (including Edward Herbert, later Lord Herbert of Cherbury, whose [Autobiography](#) gives a brief but interesting account of the siege), it was not a combined French, Dutch and British army, for James VI and I was *not* involved in the dispute and these troops were purely mercenaries, following in the traditions of the many thousands of English volunteers who served with the Dutch (and indeed French Protestants) from 1568-85, when Elizabeth entered the war against Spain officially; and from the 1604, when James ended hostilities with the Spanish by the Treaty of London, up to the recently concluded Truce. Many highly-placed English and Scotsmen approved of the campaign; and indeed, the flow of mercenaries across the North Sea was only maintained with official approval (and the active connivance of the Earl of Salisbury). It was, however, a Dutch army, not a British one and though the English and Scots forces served under the command of Cecil (later Viscount Wimbledon and commander of the land forces in the

disastrous Cadiz expedition of 1625), he was strictly subordinated to his Dutch superiors.

These background facts can be found in most detailed histories of the time, but such accounts lack actual detailed strengths for the army. The following army list comes from an eyewitness account in the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris. It is an abridged translation, not an actual transcription.

Regiments of Infantry.

French Regiment of de Chatillon -19 companies: Colonel's of 200 men, first captain's of 100 men and the remaining 17 of 80 men each = 1,660 strong.

French Regiment of de Bethune 19 companies; same as above = 1,660 strong.

German Regiment of Count Ernest [of Nassau], general of the infantry- 6 companies: Colonel's and three others of 200 men each, one of 150 men and one of 100 = 1,050 strong.

Walloon Regiment of Count Johann Ernest [of Nassau] -16 companies: Colonel's of 200 men, two of 100 men each, and thirteen of 70 men each = 1,310 strong.

'Les quatre gardes' ['The Four Guards', ie the Foot Guards of the three Nassau Counts and of Prince Maurice] - One of 250 men, two of 200 men each, and one of 150 men = 800 strong.

Frisian Regiment of Count William of Nassau -8 companies: Colonel's of 200 men, seven of 80 men each = 760 strong.

English:

[Horatio Vere's Regiment](#)¹ -15 companies: Colonel's of 200 men and fourteen of 80 men each = 1,320 strong.

Cecil's Regiment -10 companies: Colonel's of 200 men and nine of 80 men each = 920 strong.

'[Le Regiment de Hallas](#)'² -10 companies: one of 90 men, four of 80 men each and five of 70 men each = 760 strong.

Scottish:

'[Le Regiment de "Cheek"](#)'³ -10 companies: one of 100 men, three of 90 men each and six of 80 men each = 850 strong.

[Le Regiment de Hindershan](#)⁴ -19 companies - one of 100 men and eighteen of 70 men each = 1,460 strong.

[Regiments of Cavalry.](#)⁵

Count Henry of Nassau's regiment - three cornets: one of 250 horse, one of 150 and one of 70 [=470 strong].

Regiment de Marquette - four cornets: one of 100 horse. three of 70 each [=310 strong].

Regiment de Stakenbrouke - four cornets: one of 100 horse, one of 85 and two of 70 each [=325 strong].

Regiment de Waghemans - three cornets: each of 70 horse [=210 strong].

Regiment de Ryhoven - three cornets: each of 70 horse [=210 strong].

Regiment de Marcelis Bacx - four cornets: each of 70 horse [=280 strong].

Regiment a' la Salles - three cornets: each of 70 horse [=210 strong].

Regiment de Smettzing - three cornets. each of 70 horse [=210 strong].

[Uncertain] three cornets: each of 70 horse [=210 strong].

Count John [of Nassau's] Regiment - three cornets: each of 70 horse [=210 strong].

Regiment de Jean Baex - three cornets: each of 70 horse [=210 strong].

The Artillery.

4 whole cannon. 8 demi-cannon, 3 ['pieces de campagne.'](#)⁶ The whole cannon were drawn by 22 horses each, the demi-cannon by 18 horses each, and the filed pieces by 10 horses each. Thus, for a train of 15 guns. 490 horses were [required!](#)⁷

(The train itself numbered just over 560 men. most of whom were Dutch and none of whom seem to have been English).

Sum total = 16,000 men: 12,550 foot. 2,855 horse Dius train etc.

Infantry in eleven regiments (counting the 'quatre gardes' as one). average strength of 1140 men per regiment. Sub-divided into 136 companies: averaging 12 1/3 coys. per regiment, and just over 92 men per company. Cavalry in eleven regiments. Average strength of 259 1/5 men to each regiment. Which also averaged 3 1/3 cornets per regiment, with an average strength of 79 3/10 men per cornet. Wargamers thus have considerable license in creating field armies of this period. Many wargamers do what

they want anyway in terms of organising their on-table units, - in this period, [that is entirely realistic.](#)⁸

The train at Julich, intended to besiege a reasonably large and well-defended town, included six Engineer officers; a 'Master of Artificial Flames', with two conductors, a Petardier and two battery masters; a Master Carpenter with a staff of 21; two companies of Pioneers, each of a Captain and 50 men; a company of Miners (25 men under a Captain), and four companies of Pontooniers, each of a Captain and 60 men. (This seems very strong, but not only does Julich itself lie on a river, but it is between the Rhine and the Maas, so that it was always likely that rivers would have to be negotiated both in the build-up of forces and in the siege itself.) It is notable that the Train was also provided with its own Provost who had six sergeants to help him keep order.

In addition, there were twenty conductors under the Commissary, who had charge of 1,161 wagons and carts: 239 for the artillery, 108 for powder and shot, 129 for staff officers, 212 for the Infantry and 12 for the Cavalry, plus another 217 for miscellaneous haulage. Early-modern armies travelled slowly for a reason!

[Source: Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris, Manuscrits Francais, Ancien Fonds Francais vol.654, fols. 23V~44r.]

Some Further Reading:

Primary sources available in modern editions:

Edward Herbert, *Life of Edward Herbert Lord Cherbury*, ed. J. M. Shuttleworth (London: Oxford University Press, 1976)
[Return to text.](#)

Gervase Holles, *Memorials of the Holles Faindy 1493-1656*, ed. A. C. Wood, Camden 3rd ser., 55 (London: Royal Historical Society, 1937);

The Letters of John Holles, ed. Peter Seddon, vol.1, Thoroton Society vol.31 (Nottingham: Derry & Sons, 1975).

Secondary sources:

Simon Adams, 'The English Military Clientele 1542-1618,' in Charles Giry-DeLoison and Roger Mettain, eds., *Patronages et Clientelismes 1550-1750* (Lille: Charles de Gaulle University Press, 1995), 217-27;

Pauline Croft, 'Serving the Archduke: Robert Cecil's Management of the Parliamentary Session of 1606'.

Historical Research 64 (Oct.1991): 289-304; H. R. Knight,

Historical Records of the Buffs, vol. 1 (London: Gale & Polden, [1905]), 52-57;

Clements Markham, The Fighting Veres (London: Sampson Low, Marston, Searle & Rivington, 1888);

D. J. B. Trim, 'Sir Horace Vere in Holland and the Rhineland 1610-1612,' Historical Research 72 (Jun.1999, forthcoming).

Notes

- 1) Later Lord Vere of Tilbury, brother of the celebrated Sir Francis Vere who had recently died (for want of anything to do, as the Spanish general Spinola remarked).
- 2) George Holles (brother of John Holles, later Earl of Clare), who had a successful career as a soldier-of-fortune in Dutch service.
- 3) Though listed as Scottish, this is probably the regiment of Sir Hatton Cheke, actually an English officer in Dutch service.
- 4) Henderson.
- 5) i. The nationalities of the regiments of cavalry are not differentiated; commanders' names are Dutch.
ii. The MS totals the infantry regiments' strength, but not the cavalry's. Totals have been provided.
- 6) Light field guns.
- 7) The army was equipped for a siege, hence the large numbers of big guns.
- 8) Coat Colours are unknown, although previous English companies in Dutch service preferred red.