

## THE CAPTURE OF CARLISLE CASTLE AND TOWN by the Hanoverian Army.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> (*December 1745*) in the morning the rebels pursued their march Northwards from Carlisle, having stayed there but one night, to change the garrison. They left all their canon there excepting three pieces. Sixteen carts laden with their tents were taken by Major General Bland.

At four in the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> the army (*Hanoverian*) marched from Penrith in three columns towards Carlisle; the Duke with the infantry, making the centre along the post-road, and the horse and dragoons on two columns, one on his right by Armathwate, (*Armathwaite*) and the other on his left by Hutton-hall. Upon the march his Royal Highness received the news of the rebels having quitted Carlisle, and left in it only 3 or 400 men; who according to best intelligence, consisted chiefly of English recruits, and Gordon of Glenbucket's men, commanded by one Hamilton. The Duke's army joined on Carlton muir. About noon they came in sight of Carlisle; and Major General Bland and invested it on the Scots side with St. George's dragoons and 300 men of Blights regiment, with orders to prevent any passage over the bridge upon the Eden, which leads directly to the Scots gate. Major Adams was posted with 200 foot in the suburbs of the English gate (*gate to the town*), to prevent any of the garrison's escaping that way; Major Meriac at the Irish gate (*town gate near the castle*) with the same orders, and Sir Andrew Agnew at the sally-port with 300. All the horse, and foot-guards, were cantoned round the town, a mile or two distance. The garrison made a show of intending to defend the place, firing their cannon upon everybody who appeared in sight of it.

The Duke sent for a train of battering cannon from Whitehaven, and it had orders to move with the whole *posse committatus*, which had to assemble at Wigton on the 21<sup>st</sup>. This train was expected at the army in a day or two; and it was proposed to have a battery erected by the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup>, by which it was not doubtful but the Duke would be master of the town in twenty four hours. The four pieces of cannon, however, having arrived by the 24<sup>th</sup>, the erecting of the battery was deferred. Next day six more pieces of cannon arrived. Mean time the garrison fired almost incessantly. But on the 28<sup>th</sup> at noon, the besiegers began to batter the four-gun battery of the town with six eighteen pounders. On the 29<sup>th</sup> it was found necessary to abate firing for want of shot, till towards the evening; when a fresh supply arriving, it was renewed very briskly for two hours, which shook the walls very much.

That evening a fellow attempting to get out of the town, was taken by one of the advance parties, and brought to the Duke. He delivered two letters; one for His Royal Highness; the other for the commander of the Dutch troops, supposed to be with the army. They were from a person titling himself *Commander of the French artillery, and of the French garrison that was at, or might come to Carlisle, for the defence of the town and citadel*, and who subscribed his name *De Geoghegan*. The contents of them were, to summon the commander of the Dutch to retire with his troops from the English army, under the pretence of the capitulation of Tournay.

The night of the 29<sup>th</sup> was spent in raising a new battery of three 18 pounders; which was completed by the morning. But, on the first platoon of the old battery firing, the rebels hung out the white flag; whereupon the battery ceased; and they called over the walls, that they had two hostages ready to be delivered up at the English gate, which is on the opposite side of the town. His Royal Highness then ordered Colonel Conway and Lord Bury to go and deliver the two following messages in writing, to be signed by Colonel Conway; the second message being designed as an answer to the person's letter who called himself a Frenchman.

1. His Royal Highness will make no exchange of hostages with the rebels, and desires they will let him know by me, what they mean by hanging out the white flag.

2. To let the French officer know, if there be one in the town, that there are no Dutch troops here, but enough of the King's to chastise the rebels, and those who date to give them assistance.

*Signed, COL. CONWAY,  
'Aid de Camp to his R. Highness the Duke.*

In about two hours they returned, and brought a paper written as follows.

In answer to the short notes sent by his Royal Highness Prince William Duke of Cumberland, the Governor, in the name of himself, and all the officers and soldiers, desire to know what terms his Royal Highness will be pleased to give them, upon surrender of the city and castle of Carlisle; and which known, his Royal Highness shall be duly acquainted with the Governor and garrison's last and ultimate resolution; the white flag being hung out on the purpose to obtain a cessation of arms for concluding such a capitulation. This is to be given to his Royal Highness's Aid de Camp.

Signed, JOHN HAMILTON.

Whereupon they were sent back with the terms, signed by the Duke of Richmond, by order of his Royal Highness, as contained in the following declaration.

All the terms his Royal Highness will or can grant to the rebel garrison of Carlisle, are, That they shall not be put to the sword, but be reserved for the King's pleasure.

If they consent to these conditions, the Governor and principal officers are to deliver themselves immediately, and the castle, citadel, and all the gates of the town, are to be taken possession of forthwith by the King's troops. All the small arms are to be lodged in the town guard-room; where a guard is to be placed over them. No damage is to be done to the artillery, arms, or ammunition. *Head-quarters at Blackhall, December 30, half an hour past two in the afternoon.*

By his Royal Highness's command,

Signed, RICHMOND, LENOX, and AUBIGNY, *Lieutenant-General of his Majesty's forces.*

About four they brought the following paper, signed also by *John Hamilton*.

The Governor of Carlisle, and hail (*Scots for whole*) officers composing the garrison, agree to the terms of the capitulation given in the subscribed, by order of his Royal Highness, by his Grace the Duke of *Richmond, Lenox and Aubigny*, Lieutenant-General of his Majesty's forces; recommending themselves to his Royal Highness's clemency, and that his Royal Highness will be pleased to interpose for them with his Majesty; and that officers cloaths and baggage may be safe, with competent time to be allowed to the citizens of Carlisle to remove their beds, bed-cloaths, and other household-furniture impressed from them for the use of the garrison in the castle. *The 30<sup>th</sup> December 1745, at three o'clock in the afternoon.*

On which Brigadier Bligh was ordered immediately to take possession of the town, and to have there that night 400 foot-guards, and 700 marching foot, with 120 horses to patrol in the streets. The Duke was to enter the next day.

*(There then follows a list of rebel officers, soldiers and artillery taken from Carlisle. The above text was typed from the original book with the original spellings retained. The only alteration made is that the text has been amended into a style that can be understood. In the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century publishers used an f in words in place of an s as well as a correct f which leads to confusion at times for eg. fafe means safe.)*

**Source: The History of the Rebellion in 1745 and 1746, extracted from the Scots Magazine with an Appendix containing an Account of the Trials of the Rebels; the Pretender and his Son's Declarations etc. Printed in Aberdeen, 1755, pages 73 - 77**

*(The following text is like the above except it mentions how the prisoners were sent from Carlisle).*

On January 10<sup>th</sup> (1746) the wretched prisoners, disarmed and fettered, were dragged from their places of incarnation in the city; the officers were placed on horseback, and their legs tied under the horses' bellies, their arms being so tightly bound with ropes that they could only manage to hold the reins with difficulty; each horse was fastened to the tail of the one in front. The common men were made to walk two abreast, with arms pinioned, a long rope passing between them, to which every man was attached, the end being held by a mounted dragoon. In this miserable manner, driven like a herd of cattle; goaded by every species of abuse which their captors could event; cursed and ill-used if they fainted.

**Source: The Life and Adventures of: Prince Charles Edward Stuart by W. Drummond Norie, volume III pages 2 to 5**

#### **Other sources:**

Part of the last speech of Thomas Sydall, Adjutant to the Manchester Regiment, relating to the surrender of Carlisle.

I heartily forgive all who had any hand in the scandalous surrender of Carlisle: for as it was the opinion of everyone in the garrison who had been in foreign service that the place was tenable many days, and as the Elector's troops then lying before the town were in a bad condition, it is highly probable that a gallant defence (which I strenuously insisted upon) would have procured us such terms as to have prevented the fate we are now consin'd. I also forgive the pretended Duke of Cumberland for his dishonourable and unsoldierly proceedings in putting us to death in violation of the laws of nations after a written capitulation to the contrary, and after the garrison, upon the faith of the capitulation, had surrendered the place and faithfully preformed all the conditions required of them.

**Source: The Lyon in Mourning by the Rev. Robert Forbes, A.M. Edited from his manuscript by Henry Paton, M.A. The Scottish History Society, 1895, volume 1 page 29**

Prisoner numbers from Carlisle Castle.

English, 120 officers and 1 chaplain – of these 9 officers and the chaplain were executed.

Scots, 17 officers and 1 surgeon – of these 5 were executed.

French, 3 officers who were treated as prisoners of war.

In addition, 93 English, 256 Scots, 5 French non-commissioned officers and men were taken prisoner.

**Source: Origins of the Forty-Five 1737–1746, And Other Papers Relating to that Rising. Edited by Walter Bigger Blaikie, LL.D, printed for the Scottish History Society, 1916, note on page 187**

Another account of the surrender of Carlisle Castle and town.

There was no need for haste, for Cumberland was close at hand, and in fact on 21 December (1745) arrived at Carlisle and surrounded the city. Fresh from the battlefields of the continent, where he had become familiar with the fortifications of up-to-date and formidable complexity, he did not need long to appreciate the deficiencies of Carlisle. With scant respect for its historic character, he is said to have described the castle as 'An old hen-coop, which he would speedily bring down about their ears, when he should have got artillery'. He sent for guns from Whitehaven, and in the meantime had batteries made up for them on Primrose Bank, some five hundred yards to the north west of the castle, which as the centre of resistance was from the first intended to come under attack. This was a mercy for the citizens, who must have been longing for the attack to succeed, not only because of their own Hanoverian sympathies but also because they were suffering from a severe shortage of food: the rebels had taken into the castle all supplies they could find, and now the besiegers would not permit the townsmen to obtain more from outside the walls, knowing that if they did, it too would be taken from them to victual the castle. Indeed, matters were made even worse when Cumberland had the city mills stopped by cutting off their water supply. On 27 December, however, the guns arrived, six eighteen-pounders – much larger, probably, than anything ever seen at Carlisle before – and in the following day they opened fire, Cumberland himself setting the match to the first gun. Dutch troops stationed at Stanwix also shelled the castle, but it was the guns on Primrose Bank which did the damage, as they concentrated their fire on the four-gun battery on the turret near the sally port, half way along the west curtain, and on the battery at the north-west angle, where seven guns were placed. The former lacked a rampart, and an earth-work was placed on it to shelter the gunners, but this was soon swept away and one of its guns was dismantled. Unable to retaliate, the Jacobites moved to the relative safety of the east curtain of the inner ward, and used the ten guns positioned there to fire upon the Dutch soldiers at Stanwix, but since all their shots that day killed only one man this seems to have done little except, perhaps, support their morale.

During the night Cumberland brought up a mortar and fired shells from it into the castle and town. Even so, the rebels used the hours of darkness to rebuild the rampart on the sally port battery, and in the morning, that od Sunday 29 December, were able to fire from it once more. Their hopes may have been raised when the English response became less fierce than it had been on Saturday, but this was only because of a shortage of ball (Cumberland's guns were reckoned to have fired over 1100 shot on the previous day) and when a fresh supply was brought up the eighteen-pounders 'continu'd battering very briskly for two Hours, and rent the Walls very much'. By evening the sally port was 'observed to totter'. During the following night Cumberland had a new battery of three eighteen-pounders set up fifty yards north of that already in place, but it never had to fire. No sooner than the old battery opened up again than the garrison, recognised the hopelessness of their situation, hung out the white flag. There were already two substantial breaches in the west curtain, one just below the north-west angle and the other at the sally port, and the Jacobites were in no position to prevent more, with the storming of the castle to follow. Sixteen of them had been killed or wounded during the brief siege. A short exchange of messages followed, and then Townley surrendered, the only terms that he had been able to obtain being that he and his men 'shall not be put to the sword, but be reserved for the King's pleasure'. The governor and officers were to surrender at once, and the rest of the defenders ordered to move into St. Mary's church, the name given to the cathedral nave. Between 7 and 8 p.m. English soldiers moved into the city where they were said to have 'Plundered the Castle', while Cumberland himself arrived the following day. He did not stay long, however, quickly setting off in pursuit of the retreating Jacobites, and left Carlisle under the command of General Charles Howard.

**Source: Carlisle Castle. A survey and documentary history by M.R. McCarthy, H.R.T. Summerson and R.G. Ammis. Printed for Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, 1990, page 218**

The above source also includes some interesting maps of Carlisle town and castle.