

The New Model Army

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The origin of the name

- The earliest use of the phrase "New Model Army" is dated to the works of the Scottish historian Thomas Carlyle in 1845, and the exact term does not appear in 17th or 18th century documents
- Records from February 1646 refer to the "New Modelled Army"—the idiom to refer to an army that was "new-modelled"

Foundation

- Parliamentarians were dissatisfied with their troops during the Civil war:
 - Their soldiers were highly undisciplined
 - They were recruited and they did not want to fight far from their homes
 - Despite the fact that Parliamentarians had advantage over Royalists, they were losing

- On 19 November 1644, the Parliamentarian *Eastern Association of counties* announced that they could no longer maintain their forces, which at the time provided about half the force of the Parliament.
- Parliament had a hard task – to reform the Army, but on 6 January 1645, the New Model Army was established

Commanders

- Sir Thomas Fairfax, 3rd Lord Fairfax of Cameron - Captain-General
 - led Parliament to many victories, notably the crucial Battle of Naseby
 - later became an opponent of Oliver Cromwell and had to resign after his refusal to take part in Charles's show trial
 - took an active role in the Restoration of the monarchy after Cromwell's death





- Sir Philip Skippon - Sergeant-Major General of the Foot
- led the centre at the Battle of Naseby, at which he refused to leave the field despite being dangerously wounded
- At the end of the war was selected for the command of the forthcoming Irish expedition

Cavaliers and Ironsides

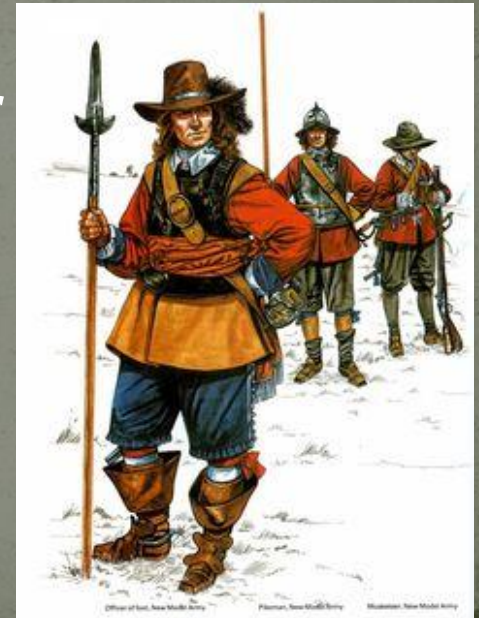
- Prince Rupert of the Rhine, the leader of cavaliers and a prominent general in the army of King Charles I, nicknamed the New Model troops "Ironsides". This referred to their ability to cut through opposing forces.
- They were also sometimes called "Roundheads" because of their hairstyles



What did the New Model Army consist from?



- The New Model Army consisted on paper of 22,000 soldiers, comprising eleven regiments of cavalry each of 600 men for a total of 6,600, twelve regiments of infantry (пехота) each of 1,200 men for a total of 14,400, and one regiment of 1,000 dragoons (драгунские полки).



Important features of the New Army

- was intended as an army liable for service anywhere in the country
- its soldiers became full-time professionals and even were paid 8 pence (for infantry) and 2 shillings (for cavalry)
- the army's leaders were prohibited from having seats in either the House of Lords or House of Commons

- was raised partly from among veteran soldiers who already had deeply held Puritan views
- their independence from Parliament led to the Army's willingness to contribute to the overthrow of both the Crown and Parliament's authority, and to establish a Commonwealth of England from 1649 to 1660. The leader of this period was Oliver Cromwell
- the internal discipline was based on soldiers' religious beliefs

Dress of cavalry

- Regiments of cavalry were elite troops
- They were armed and equipped in the style known at the time as harquebusiers:
 - a buff leather coat, which itself gave some protection against sword cuts
 - a "lobster-tailed pot" helmet with a movable three-barred visor



Dress and equipment of dragoons

- Dragoons were mounted infantry, and wore much the same uniform as musketeers
- were armed with flintlock "snaphaunces" rather than the matchlock muskets carried by the infantry.



Dress and equipment of infantry

- In infantry musketeers and pikemen were mixed
- The regiments of foot were provided with red coats. Red was chosen because Venetian red was the least expensive dye
- Various regiments could be distinguished by differently colored linings, which showed at the collar and ends of the sleeves



Artillery and Logistics

- The artillery was administered separately from the Horse and Foot
- Much of the artillery was captured from the Royalists in the aftermath of the Battle of Naseby
- The New Model did not use tents, instead being quartered in whatever buildings (houses, barns etc.) were available
- Soldiers' daily ration consisted exclusively of biscuit and cheese

Questions

- What were the nicknames of the soldiers of the New Model Army and why did they get them?
- What are the important features of the New Model Army?
- Why did infantry had red clothes?