

**HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS
COMMISSION. FIFTEENTH REPORT,
APPENDIX, PART V. THE MANUSCRIPTS
OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE F. J.
SAVILE FOLJAMBE, OF OSBERTON**

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F. J. SAVILE FOLJAMBE

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U. Brit. HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPT COMMISSION.

FIFTEENTH REPORT, APPENDIX, PART V. CR

THE
M A N U S C R I P T S
OF
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
F. J. SAVILE FOLJAMBE,
OF
OSBERTON.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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INTRODUCTION.

These manuscripts consist of (1.) A manuscript entitled "Book of Musters, 1588;" (2.) A collection of letters from James, Duke of York, to William, Prince of Orange, in 1678 and 1679; and (3.) A number of miscellaneous letters and papers between 1636 and 1789.

(1.) The general contents of the so-called "Book of Musters" are fully described at the commencement of the Report. It will be seen that while it comprises much that may be found in other collections, on the other hand it furnishes a quantity of important materials which do not appear to exist in the public archives. It is proposed here to call attention to the fresh information now made available for the first time.

The designs of the French on Calais and the neighbouring territory were well known to Philip and Mary, and the final loss of the English possessions in France was not due to any want of foresight and preparation. This is evident from their commission to William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, dated 3rd July 1557, in which they announce the declaration of war with France, and their intention to levy "an army or power" of their subjects, which should be sufficient not only to defend Calais against the anticipated invasion, but even to carry the war into the French King's dominions. Of this army the Earl was appointed their Lieutenant and Captain-General, with ample powers both for defence and offence, and for the administration of martial law.

In another commission to William Wightman, as Treasurer of the Army, dated 2nd July 1557, King Philip announces his intention to "pass the seas" and invade France in person, saying nothing about the preservation of Calais, the latter object being no doubt considered to be included in the former. A number of warrants and schedules relate to the payment of the Captain-General and the officers under him. Some of these warrants are dated at "the English] camp before Hawne," 15th September 1557. But the English troops were employed in assisting Philip in Flanders instead of being employed to

garrison Calais, and consequently the town and territory fell an easy prey to the French.

In 1571 an army was sent "into Scotland" under the Earl of Sussex, and a paper copied in this manuscript gives the names of the gentlemen serving under him, and the amounts of their "entertainments."

A comparative table of the numbers of foot and horse attending "the general musters" in 1574 and 1577, shows that the forces of the realm in the former year were a little under 300,000, and in the latter year considerably exceeded that number. The Isle of Wight and the coast of Hampshire were then supposed to be most liable to invasion, and an elaborate scheme was prepared for the concentration of the forces of that county wherever an attack might be made.

Between 1583 and 1587 there are copies of numerous Council letters, and a few of Queen Elizabeth, with instructions, certificates, and other papers relating to musters, training, ordnance, and ammunition. Many of these are also to be found among the State Papers. Some attention was paid to the defence of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Sheppey. Schedules on p. 107 show the total numbers of ships, masters, and mariners throughout England in 1583. Other schedules give many details of the composition of the Royal Navy, apparently in 1587.

The preparations of the King of Spain for the invasion of this country were known to the Council early in 1587, and orders were given for putting both the inland and the maritime counties in a posture of defence. The instructions sent to Devon, Cornwall, and Wales for opposing the landing of the enemy are to be found here, but not among the State Papers. A special warrant was issued to the Master of the Ordnance to supply certain counties with various kinds of guns and ammunition out of the Queen's "Store" in the Tower of London. In August, the barons of the Cinque Ports were reprimanded for their remissness in not defending the coast of Kent against the spoil of the Dunkirkers, and in not making reprisals.

From this point the manuscript is professedly devoted to recording the measures taken by the English Government to encounter the Spanish invasion. Directions were from time to time sent to the Lords Lieutenants in every county; and

though in some cases there were several counties under one Lord Lieutenant, every county on the south coast had a separate head. The Earl of Leicester was "Lieutenant-General" in Essex and Hertford, and Sir Walter Raleigh was "the Lieutenant" in Cornwall, while he was also one of the Deputies in Devon. The instructions given by the Queen and Council to the Lords Lieutenants are minute, and vary according to the needs of each district. No detail was considered too small for the attention of the central authorities. The actual mustering and training of the troops, however, devolved chiefly upon the Deputy-Lieutenants in each county.

As early as 5th October 1587, the Council announced to the Vice-Admirals that the Queen had "ordered that her own Navy should be forthwith made ready to pass the seas," and that it should be reinforced by the ships and mariners of her subjects. The Vice-Admirals were therefore to lay an embargo on such ships, and to charge the owners not to quit their respective ports till they should receive directions from the Council or the Lord Admiral. As, however, it is stated that the Vice-Admirals made no return to this order, it was probably countermanded.

The official date of Lord Howard of Effingham's commission as "Lord High Admiral, being appointed to go to the seas," is 21st December 1587, but his instructions are here dated the 15th (p. 109). The Queen states therein that she had been "sundry ways most credibly given to understand of the great and extraordinary preparations made by sea, as well in Spain by the King there, as in the Low Countries by the Duke of Parma, and that it is also meant that the said forces shall be employed in some enterprize to be attempted either in our dominions of England and Ireland, or in the realm of Scotland." To "impeach any descent" on Ireland or on the south-west parts of the realm, Sir Francis Drake was to be instructed by Lord Howard to "ply up and down" between the Irish coast and the Scilly Isles or Ushant; and if any forces were sent by the enemy in that direction against Scotland, Drake was to "intercept and distress" them. To withstand any attempt which might be made from the Low Countries, Lord Howard himself was to "ply up and down, sometimes

"towards the north, and sometimes towards the south;" and he likewise was to be on the watch for any forces that might be sent to Scotland by way of the East coast.

If Drake's ships should prove to be inadequate to face the navy expected from Spain, Howard was directed either to recall him and "join both their forces together," or to send him as many ships as could be spared for his reinforcement. No similar direction was given for Drake to join or to aid Howard, because the forces of the Duke of Parma were not considered likely to give much trouble. From this it is evident that Drake's squadron was to bear the brunt of the invasion. His commission does not appear to have been issued till 15th March 1588, but in this volume he is said to have been sent to the seas in December 1587 (p. 109).

The names of the ships under the commands of Howard and Drake, with the tonnage of each, are given on pp. 114, 115. Drake had the larger number of ships, but Howard the greater tonnage.

Howard's instructions direct that all foreign ships bound from the East for Spain were to be stopped "in some courteous and favourable manner," and sent to England, there to be searched for any victuals or munition that might be intended for the enemy. Howard was further to take under his command the Dutch ships which were to be furnished by the States, and to see to the defence of Brill, Flushing, Ostend, and Bergen-op-Zoom, which were garrisoned by the Queen's subjects.

It might be thought that these arrangements were much too premature, considering that the winter was then close at hand, but this was not the opinion of the Queen and her councillors. Equal forwardness is observable in the military preparations on land. General musters and training by muster-masters, and instruction in camp-duties by expert "martial men," were ordered in the same month of December, to which month, and not to "September," the Queen's letter to the Earl of Pembroke is, no doubt, referable (p. 28). Some time "before November" an engineer was sent to Portsmouth to plan new works for its protection.

It may, therefore, be assumed that these defensive measures were being carried out as far as possible during the winter,

and although the invasion did not occur till the following summer, there can be no doubt that the Government was able to bring them to greater perfection than if they had been left to the last moment. It was even anticipated that they would be sufficient to deter King Philip from the invasion of England by alarming him for the safety of Portugal and the Indies.

In March 1588, the Queen announced to the Corporation of London that the whole of the realm had been fully provided for, with the exception of the City, which she commanded to furnish ten thousand able men, with suitable armour and weapons.

On 1st April the Council, including Howard, required "the Ports" to supplement the Queen's "navies" by sending serviceable ships and "handsome" pinnaces, furnished with mariners and with victuals and munition for two months from the 25th of April. Some were to be sent to Drake, others to Howard. As some justification for this demand, the merchants of the ports are alleged to have "received no small gain and benefit" from reprisals effected by their ships of war.

On 12th April, special instructions were given to Sir John Norris and "other martial men" to confer with the Lords Lieutenants of the maritime counties for the prevention of the enemy's landing, and, in case a descent should be effected, to choose places where the best stand might be made against him, and his advance impeded. Great secrecy was to be observed with regard to the dangerous and weak points on the coast; and in each county some naturally strong situation was to be rendered still stronger with the aid of "the pioneer" for the reception of a defending force, able to occupy the invader's attention till the neighbouring counties should come to the rescue, according to the scheme of mutual aid which had already been prescribed. The pioneers and their implements were to be provided and kept in readiness by the Lord Lieutenants, who were also to employ the "horsemen" (cavalry) of their respective counties in the open country for offence as well as for defence. Cattle and victuals were to be removed inland, where any landing might be effected.

Returns were sent up to the Council from all parts of the numbers of "able men," trained and untrained, "furnished"

and unfurnished, some of the men being distinguished under the heads of "shots, corslets, bows, and bills," and the "shot" being further subdivided into "calivers and muskets." The cavalry consisted of "lances, light horsemen, and petronels." In London the total number of able men between the ages of seventeen and sixty was returned at 17,083. Out of these were selected four regiments, each of 1,500 trained men. The names of the captains in every ward of the City are stated. In the country the principal noblemen and certain gentlemen were summoned "to attend upon her Majesty's person," and offered to bring 3,058 horse and foot, while the clergy contributed 4,444.

On 13th May the Queen sent fresh instructions to Lord Howard, cancelling the former orders for his remaining in the Narrow Seas. She now commands him to repair to "the West parts" of the realm, and to dispose of the navy under him between those parts and the coast of Spain, so as to protect not only England and Ireland, but "also the realm of Scotland." An undated note on p. 28 probably refers to this countermand, and states that Howard was to "join with the forces under Sir Francis Drake's leading;" but a royal letter to Lord Henry Seymour shows that the former was in command of the whole, and explains that some ships were still to be left for defence of the Narrow Seas.

Of these ships, as well as of the 36 ships furnished by the States according to "the contract," Seymour was to have charge, under the direction of the Lord Admiral. Howard's instructions to Seymour are also contained in this volume, and make special provision against any invasion of Scotland by the Duke of Parma in that direction. Some "enterprise" upon the City of London was also suspected, and two ships had been stationed at the mouth of the Thames to guard against this, but were to be under Seymour's orders. Howard recommended Seymour to maintain a supply of six weeks' victuals on board his ships, or at least sufficient for a month; and if he required more, her Majesty was to be urged to grant it.

All things were thus in readiness when, on 15th June, the Council announced to the Lords Lieutenants that the Spanish navy was "abroad upon the seas, and gone to the coast of Biscay," and that an invasion was to be feared, though no