

Shropshire – Severn Valley, July 1643
Fictional Historical Perspective:



Earl of Essex

King Charles I of England is at war with Parliament. His garrison at Bridgnorth on the River Severn in southern Shropshire has been ordered south to procure valuable powder and shot that is entrain from the Royal City of Worcester.



King Charles I of England

Time is of the essence as Lord Davenport, commander of the King's garrison, has received intelligence that the Parliamentary forces in Birmingham have marched west with the intent of cutting off his approach to Kidderminster. The Worcester ordnance train has reached Kidderminster, fourteen miles south of Bridgnorth, but has halted, on orders from Lord Davenport, to await the outcome of his imminent action with the forces of the Honorable Sir Peter Berghane, commander of Parliamentary forces.

Sir Peter, has been commanded by the Earl of Essex to cut the road between Bridgnorth and Kidderminster at the hamlet of Alveley on the left bank of the River Severn. The main road runs parallel to the Daddlebrook, and a small farm situated to the west of the road. Two long, low ridgelines cross east west, one closer to Bridgnorth, and the other closer to Kidderminster. Areas of open woodland, part of the Wyre Forest are closest to the farm complex in the northwestern portion of the field. The hedgerows mark part of the parish boundary of the hamlet of Alveley.

After Action Report:

The Hon. Sir Peter Berghane defeats Lord Jonathan Davenport

Lord Davenport was familiar with the ground in the vicinity of Alveley and upon sighting the Parliamentarian forces approaching from Enville to the west, immediately deployed one brigade of horse in the common land in advance of and to the right of the farm. Immediately in rear of this horse was deployed a brigade of foot, with two regiments forward and one in rear. His second brigade of horse dismounted its dragoons who took up defensive positions behind the hedgerows of the parish boundary, to the immediate left of the farm. The remaining regiments of horse lead the second brigade of foot, which remained in march column on the road from Bridgnorth, ready to deploy in line of battle to the left of the road.

The Hon. Sir Peter Berghane determined to protect his infantry deployment by advancing with both brigades of horse, in an attempt to engage the enemy horse as rapidly as possible. One brigade of foot deployed in line of battle to the west of the main road, whilst the other maneuvered quickly to cut the road leading towards Kidderminster, as it passed through a valley between a small hill, known as the southern hill, and the extended spur of the northern ridge, which ran parallel to the road and Daddlebrook stream.

Lord Davenport felt the most important strategic objective was to dominate the northern ridge, which would enable him free passage along the road to Kidderminster where he could link-up with the ammunition train from Worcester.

The engagement opened with a clash of horse in the common land between the two rival bodies of foot. The Royalist horse had a clear advantage against the Parliamentarian horse that met the aggressive Royalists at the trot. The Parliamentarians discharged their pistols at 25 paces, inflicting only minor casualties before being hit by the Royalists. The demoralized Parliamentarian horse turned about and retired upon their foot, St. John's Regiment of Horse losing a standard in the process. Lord Davenport was in two minds, tactically pursue the defeated Parliamentarian horse vigorously, driving them from the field, or make a more strategic choice and move towards

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English Civil War Battle After Action Report

Kidderminster, along the still open road. This was to be a fateful decision and the choice was made to move on Kidderminster. Effectively this removed half of the available Royalist horse from the field of battle, placing the remaining Royalist horse at a disadvantage. Unthreatened, the previously defeated Parliamentarian regiments of horse were now able to regroup, and return to the fight. The Parliamentarian horse might not be able to overthrow the Royalist horse in direct one on one engagement, but they now outnumbered them two to one and the odds were moving decidedly in favor of the Parliamentarians. They could at least engage and tire or pin down the remaining Royalist horse and dragoons.

The Royalist ordnance, three Sakers deployed in front of the farm, had ineffectively targeted the Parliamentarian horse and foot to their front, and as a result was charged by an enemy regiment of horse. The gunners abandoned their guns, running for cover within the cart barn and other farm buildings, but not before sixteen of their strength had been shot or cut down by the horsemen.

The Royalist infantry were now fully deployed for battle leading with their left who had occupied the northern ridge spur as it overlooked the road to Kidderminster. The Parliamentarians were about to deploy four regiments of foot against this advanced brigade, and three Parliamentarian Sakers that had deployed on the road immediately below this northern ridge spur inflicted serious damage. This fire combined with the fire of one of the regiments of foot, led to the speedy retirement of one of the Royalist Regiments, however, the Royalist supporting regiment quickly moved into the retired regiments former position. Meanwhile a regiment of Parliamentarian horse, Waller's Regiment of Horse, had maneuvered through the opening between the two Royalist brigades of foot, and swung menacingly into the rear of the Royalist infantry on the northern ridge. Small respite resulted for the Royalist foot as these horse were too blown to charge immediately, but fifteen minutes later charged simultaneously in front by two regiments of foot, and in rear by the regiment of horse, the Royalist brigade was completely overwhelmed. Colonel Henry Warren was severely wounded, and four standards were lost within a few short minutes as more than 1,700 Royalist infantry were killed, wounded or forced to throw down their weapons.

Lord Davenport had no recourse other than to call a retreat with the remnants of his remaining brigade of foot and horse back towards the safety of Bridgnorth and it's castle. Sir Peter rested in Alveley for one day in order to bury his dead [the Royalist dead being thrown unceremoniously into a pit outside the church graveyard] before dispatching his cavalry south towards Kidderminster in pursuit of the Royalist horse and ammunition train from Worcester. Concerned that Prince Rupert might reinforce Lord Davenport in Bridgnorth from Shrewsbury he elected not to pursue the defeated Lord, but instead he marched first upon Enville and then to Birmingham with his, now veteran, brigades of foot.

Legend:

Units and Officers that are grayed out indicate that they are off table in reserve or left the action voluntarily.

Units and Officers that are in red indicate that they have a compulsory movement restriction, or in the case of an officer, wounded or otherwise incapacitated [captured].

[W] denotes No Advance

[R] denotes Halt or Retire

[Y] denoted Routing

[D] denoted Dispersed or removed form the field

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Army Lord Davenport

[101] Commissary General Lord Davenport - Active B [1400 paces]

Brigade Lord Byron

[102] Lieutenant General Lord Byron - Active B [500 paces]

[101] Usher's Regiment of Dragoons	0/ 186	C	[Left Action]
[102] The King's Lifeguard of Horse	0/ 181	B Full	[Left Action]
[103] Lord Wilmot's Regt of Horse	0/ 188	B- Lthr	[Left Action]

Brigade Lord Wilmot

[103] Sergeant Major General Lord Wilmot - Active B [500 paces]

[104] Grandison's Regt of Horse	0/ 185	B- Lthr	
[D] [105] Carnarvon's Regt of Horse	54/ 120	B- Lthr	[lost 1 flag]
Honors [106] Prince Maurice's Regt of Horse	28/ 150	B- Lthr	[lost 2 flags]

Brigade Sir Jacob Astley

[104] Sergeant Major General Sir Jacob Astley - Active B [500 paces]

[107] Shrewsbury Ordnance	16/ 53	C+	[lost 3 guns]
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Brigade Henry Warren

[106] Colonel Henry Warren - Severely wounded B [500 paces]

[Y] [111] Dutton's Foot	483/ 223	C+	[lost 2 flags]
[R] [112] Appleyard's Foot	681/ 59	C+	
[D] [113] Henry Tilliers Foot	605/ 85	C+	[lost 2 flags]

Brigade Richard Fielding

[105] Colonel Richard Fielding - Active B [500 paces]

[108] Lunsford's Foot	0/ 751	C+	
[109] Richard Gibson's Foot	0/ 744	C+	
[110] Apsley's Foot	9/ 683	C+	

Strengths:

losses/active		
1778/	2545	Foot
82/	1010	Horse
16/	53	Gunners
1876/	3608	Total of all arms
	70	Standards present
	7	Standards lost

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Army Hon. Peter Berghane

[501] Sergeant Major General Hon. Peter Berghane - Active A- [1400 paces]

Regiment John Lambert

[502] Sergeant Major General John Lambert - Active B [250 paces]

	[501] John Browne's Regt of Dragoons	0/ 180	C+
Honors	[502] Waller's Regt of Horse	4/ 178	C+ Full
	[W] [503] Goodwin's Regt of Horse	22/ 161	C Lthr

Brigade Sir James Ramsey

[503] Commissary General Sir James Ramsey - Active B [500 paces]

	[504] Lord St.John's Regt of Horse	8/ 177	C Lthr [lost 1 flag]
	[D] [505] Bedford's Regt of Horse	50/ 134	C Lthr
	[506] Balfour's Regt of Horse	0/ 189	C Lthr

Brigade Sir John Meldrum

[504] Sergeant Major General Sir John Meldrum - Active B [500 paces]

[507] London Artillery Company 0/ 76 [3] B

Brigade Lionel Copley

[505] Colonel Lionel Copley - Active B [500 paces]

	[508] Lord Robarte's Regt of Foot	0/ 685	C- Lthr
	[509] Constable's Regt of Foot	0/ 716	C- Lthr
	[R] [510] Meldrum's Regt of Foot	98/ 657	C- Lthr

Brigade George Dodding

[506] Colonel George Dodding - Active B [500 paces]

	[R] [511] William Fairfax's Regt of Foot	160/ 564	C- Lthr
	[512] Charles Fairfax's Regt of Foot	15/ 688	C- Lthr
	[513] Doddington's Regt of Foot	0/ 690	C- Lthr

Strengths:

losses/active		
273/	4000	Foot
84/	1019	Horse
0/	76	Gunners
0/	3	Cannon
357/	5095	Total of all arms
	76	Standards present
	1	Standards lost

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English Civil War Battle After Action Report

Major victory for the Parliamentarian Army

The Royalist Army has suffered losses of:

[42%] 2304 men of all arms
incl.[26%] 1449 prisoners of all arms

[48%] 2086 Foot
[18%] 202 Horse
[23%] 16 Gunners
3 cannon[s] lost

Honors: [106] Prince Maurice's Regt of Horse

Losses include 7 standard[s]:

[105] Carnarvon's Regt of Horse [1]
[106] Prince Maurice's Regt of Horse [2]
[111] Dutton's Foot [2]
[113] Henry Tilliers Foot [2]

Losses include 1 General[s]:

[106] Henry Warren - Severely wounded

The Parliamentarian Army has suffered losses of:

[9%] 491 men of all arms
incl.[2%] 136 prisoners of all arms

[6%] 273 Foot
[19%] 218 Horse
[0%] 0 Gunners

Honors: [502] Waller's Regt of Horse

Losses include 1 standard[s]:

[504] Lord St.John's Regt of Horse [1]