

Battle of Southam, 24th August 1642

In the very early days of the war both sides moved to secure territory and important positions. Lord Brooke was the parliamentarian commander in the Warwickshire area. On August 22nd the King raised his standard at Nottingham and declared war. The Earl of Northampton was the royalist commander of the same area and so he now moved to confront Lord Brooke's gathering forces. Two days after the official start of the war the two forces meet near the small town of Southam, Warwickshire.

Terrain

The walls in the village of Itchington provide hard cover to any units behind them. Units may not enter the buildings. The River Itchen is impassable except by the bridge. The hedges count as a linear obstacle. The wooded area counts as difficult terrain.



Deployment

The Parliamentarians deploy first within 24" of the right side of the battlefield. Historically the cavalry were split onto each wing and the infantry were in the center. The infantry were in two lines with Colonel John Hampden's Foot and the artillery in the first line. The players can use the historical deployment or agree to deploy as they wish. The Royalists deploy second along the river on the opposite bank of Itchington within 12" of the river. Historically the cavalry were split onto each wing and the infantry and artillery were in the centre. The cavalry were in two lines. Once again the players can be deployed historically or as they wish.

Victory Conditions

The battle is a straight forward fight and both sides want to see off the opposing army. However, a draw favors the Royalists and so they can count a morale victory if they are still on the field at the end of the game. The parliamentarians must rout the Royalist army to win a victory.

Royalist Order of Battle

Army Commander: Earl of Northampton

Infantry: Earl of Northampton's Foot (Trained), Sir William Saville's Dragoons (Raw)

Artillery: 1 medium gun

Cavalry: Wilmot's and Carnarvon's Horse (Raw/Galloper), Legge's and Clarke's Horse (Raw/Galloper), Compton's and Northampton's Horse (Trained/Galloper), Saville's and Middleton's Horse: (Raw/Galloper)

Parliamentarian Order of Battle

Army Commander: Lord Brooke

Infantry: Colonel John Hampden's Foot (Trained), Lord Brooke's Foot (Raw), Colonel Denzil Holles Foot (Raw)

Artillery: 1 medium gun

Cavalry: Right Wing Cavalry (Raw/Trotter), Left Wing Cavalry (Raw/Trotter)

This scenario was adapted from one produced by the Wyre Forest Gamers. The text providing historical context was taken directly from their scenario. You can find the original scenario and access their other great content here: <https://www.wfgamers.org.uk/WWAE/wwae-battle-of-southam>