

Colonel Nicholas Devereux's Regiment of Foot

In 1643, the English Civil War was already well underway - events that took place during this time, particularly in the South West, saw the birth of Devereux's Regiment of Foot.

The regiment's founder, Nicholas Devereux, was awarded his commission by his relative, the Earl of Essex, in September 1643. Using the company that he had commanded in Thomas Essex's regiment, Devereux recruited initially in Gloucestershire and subsequently in Wiltshire.

This was a modern regiment. Armed with pikes and muskets, the newly raised musketeers were apparently issued with Swedish Feathers, or half pikes, to be used as a defence against cavalry. The new regiment's initial posting was as part of the garrison of Gloucester. It was here that Devereux's had their first taste of action as they took part in the epic month-long siege of the city.

Royalist strongholds such as Forest of Dean, Cotswolds and Wiltshire, were all stormed; the walled town of Malmesbury was captured in May 1644. The regiment was to garrison the town for the rest of the war, and Colonel Devereux became the governor. During its time in Malmesbury the regiment also raised a troop of dragoons (horse mounted infantry) with Gravner as their Captain. Devereux's was now responsible for the city of Malmesbury and its surrounding villages.

In July 1644, the regiment was recorded as having a strength of over 500 men

Saturday 24th May

- Merchant House will be occupied by the domestic household including cooking
- Windmill Field will have a small soldiers tented encampment
- Filming day in Windmill Field and around the Merchant House area
- Small skirmish under supervision in the Windmill Field
- There will be live firing of muskets and small cannons

Sunday 25th May

- Merchant House will be occupied by the domestic household including cooking
- Use of the Windmill Field for training
- Participants will be happy to engage with visitors