

WICKHAM AND THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

Ref.2

During the English Civil War, Winchester city provided 400 men to guard the castle while its garrison joined The Tower Hamlets and the Southwark Auxiliaries who went forth to fight the Royalists at Cheriton in Hampshire.

The Battle of Cheriton, 29 March 1644, during which hundreds of soldiers lost their lives, was a decisive battle in the Civil war. The Parliamentary victory resulted in the defeat of a Royalist army, which put King Charles I onto the defensive for the remainder of the year. After the battle, and before they returned home, the men from London marched from Botley to Wickham village under the command of Major-General Browne.

When they arrived, they learned that Colonel Whitehead, M.P. for Southampton, with 200 men, including Wickham men, was



besieging an equal force of Royalists, under Colonel Bennet, at Bishop's Waltham, not far to the north of Wickham.

Colonel Whitehead called for their assistance, so Major-General Browne marched from Wickham. On arrival, he positioned his guns and bombarded Bishop's Waltham palace until the Royalists surrendered, which they did when they saw that an assault by the Parliamentarians was imminent.

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