

Enjoy The Fun And  
Excitement Of Past Times  
Relive and Fight The  
Desperate Time Of The  
English Civil Wars

The London Trayned Bands  
Needs You  
To Fight In The  
Parliamentarian Cause

**The Blew Regiment  
Of The Cittie Of London Trayned  
Bandes**



## The London Trained Bandes

The London Trained Bands were the militia of the city of London and the suburbs south of the river Thames and outside the walls. The militia boasted of its descent from the time of King Henry VIII but the origins of the regiments which marched and fought in the first Civil War lies in the re-organisation of the London militia, in 1616 into four regiments.

As the domestic situation in 1642 between the King and Parliament worsened, the Trained Bands were reformed into six regiments, the largest then known in England. Named simply as the Red, Blue, White, Yellow, Green and Orange regiments, after the colour of their flags, three additional regiments were to be raised later in the Civil War, along with nine auxiliary regiments. Membership within the regiments was the principal difference between them, at least at the start of the war. The Trained Band Regiments were recruited from the citizens of London, the merchants and shopkeepers, guildsmen and craftsmen who had good reason to defend the great City. The Auxiliary regiments in the meantime had their ranks made up of the infamous London apprentice boys, covenant servants and doubtful allegiance. Given time, and often-practice habit of wealthy merchants employing paid substitutes to serve in their place. This difference between the two styles of the regiments soon diminished.

The city regiments formed a useful strategic reserve for Parliament during the Civil war. The vast number of armed men that could be called upon, and the improvement in the City walls and ditch defences ensured London was considered impregnable. The King with his forces tried once, in the first year of the war, to take London. At Turnham Green the Trained Bands turned out in a great show of strength to bolster the Earl of Essex's army, and the King heavily outnumbered, could only retreat westwards. Never again in the first civil war would London be threatened. Throughout 1643 and 1644, neither the Earl of Essex nor Sir William Waller could ever take to the field without the support of a City Brigade made up of London Trained Bandes regiments and it



Our members represent a wide cross section of society and we have people of all ages taking part. Some come for a drink and a laugh and some because of the history. But many because there is nothing quite like escaping reality and having a good time with friends. There is such a mixture of personalities that we feel that anyone can fit in. If you would like to know more, or fill you would like to join us. **Please fill in form below and give to a member of the Regiment or Phone E-Mail Steve Rabbitts on 01375 405378, [Mr.Lapin@ukgateway.net](mailto:Mr.Lapin@ukgateway.net)**

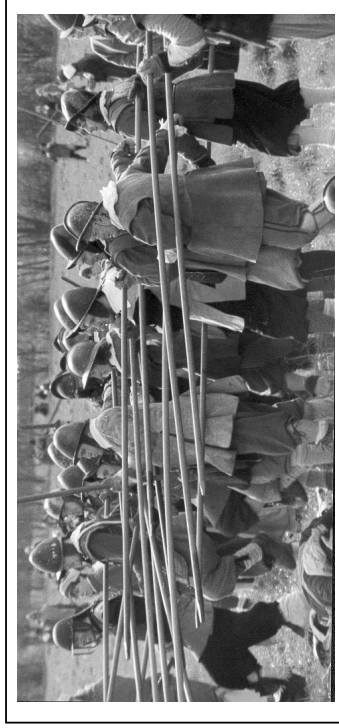
Name(s).....

Address.....

Post Code.....Phone Number.....

## The Regiment Today

The Blew Regiment L.T.B. is a member regiment of the Sealed Knot Society, which was formed to recreate the desperate times of the English Civil Wars. Our regiment is part of the Parliament Army as was its historical predecessor, and we are proud of our attempt to present as nearly as possible, something of the appearance of an actual Infantry Regiment of the period 1640 / 1650.



One of the main activities of the Sealed Knot Society is its “Musters” throughout the summer months. A muster is a weekend where all the Regiments, which make up the Society come together and form into their respective armies, Parliamentarian and Royalist with cavalry and artillery, refight the pitched battles of the era. Aside from the battles there are also living history camps, which aims to recreate as accurately as possible the every day life of the period.

London regiments marched to relieve Massey besieged in Gloucester by the Royalists, invested and sieged the great Basing House, fought with the Earl of Essex against the King, and with Waller against Hopton. Eventually, some of these amateurs-at-arms would transfer into the fledgling New Model Army.

The disadvantage of using these regiments was that their members were amateur soldiers and although superbly trained, they had their own employment back in the City, which suffered in their absence, and they heartily disliked the discomforts of campaigning. London was the mercantile of Western Europe but the City fathers knew that the wealth would suffer if its principal money-earners were away campaigning. Such was the dilemma that Parliament found itself. Thus, although they fought bravely at such battles as the first and second battles of Newbury, Cropredy Bridge, and Cheriton and some smaller actions such as the siege of Basing House and the storm of Alton, they would only serve for a particular objective. Once this objective had been obtained or if the campaigns were especially hard they would march home, with or without orders. It was these early departures from the campaigns which led Sir William Waller to write bitterly to Parliament in 1644, “ during these two days march I was extremely plagued by the mutinies of the City Brigade who are grown to that height of disorder that I have no help to retain them, being come to their old song of home, home” Brave soldiers in the field they had proven themselves, but hardy campaigners they were not.

Only with the defeat of the King’s Army under Newcastle and Rupert, in the north at Marston Moor and the re-organisation of the main Parliament forces into the New Model Army, could the war be fought without the support of the London Trained Bandes. The last battle they took part in during the Civil War, was the second battle of Newbury, and it was the New Model Army, which ended the war with its victories at Naseby, Langport and Stow-on-the-Wold.

## Training

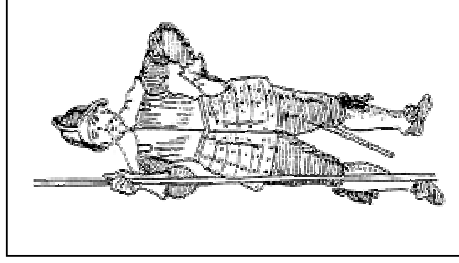
In their heyday under the Exact Militia Programme of Charles I, they carried with them much of Mercantile London's prestige and ceremonial processions and "guards" were an important part of their duties. Military training was not, however, neglected, the bandsmen being obliged to meet for drill once a month and to attend occasional Major field exercises and equipment inspections. Some companies trained more than others according to local levels of enthusiasm and the time of year; drills in winter or on days of foul weather being understandably unpopular.

## Weapons & Equipment

Weapons and equipment conformed to statute laid down by the Privy Council. The following description is from the 1638 issue of "Directions for Musters".

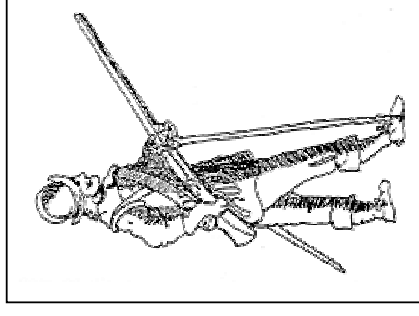
### The Pikeman

Must be armed with a pike seventeen feet long, head and all; the diameter of the staff to be one inch  $\frac{3}{4}$ , the head to be well steeled, 8 inches long, broad, strong and sword-pointed; the cheeks 2 foot long, well riveted; the butt end bound with a ring of iron, a gorget, back, breast, tassets and head piece, a good sword of 3 foot long, cutting and stiff pointed with girdle and hangers



## The Musketeer

Must be armed with a good musket, the barrel four foot long, the bore of 12 bullets in the pound rowling in, a rest, bandelier, head-piece, a good sword, girdle and hangers.



In practice, many pikes were cut down for ease of handling to around 13 or 14 feet. As cavalry had left off using lances in the early part of the 17th century, there was hardly the need for pikes to be full length. As for musketeers, the habit of wearing helmets on campaign had virtually died out by the time of the civil war, broad brimmed felt hats or more usually "Monmouth" or "Montero" caps being much preferred. Another development for musketeers was the gradual adoption of shorter, lighter muskets after 1643, which had the effect of lessening the use of forked, rests.

All these aspects considered, the trained band regiments would have had a very diverse appearance with city gentlemen, petty bourgeois and commoners cheek by jowl with each other and not a uniform in site; quite a contrast to their fellows in the "regular" armies raised after 1645.