

The Parliamentary Army at  
The Siege of Colchester  
14 June - 28 August 1648

Commander: His Excellency The Lord General Thomas, 3rd Baron Fairfax of  
Cameron

The Army:

Horse:

The Lord General's Regiment of Horse

4 troops present, commanded by Major John Disbrowe

Colonel Edward Whalley's Regiment of Horse (6 troops)  
commanded by himself

Colonel Charles Fleetwood's Regiment of Horse

5 troops present, commanded by Major William Coleman

(Note: remaining troop at Lynn)

Commissary General Henry Ireton's Regiment of Horse

3 troops present, commanded by Captain William Cecil

(Note: Major Robert Gibbon with his own, and another troop,  
joined towards the end of July, the remaining troop was  
at Windsor Castle)

During part of the Siege, until the early part of July:

Colonel Adrian Scrope's Regiment of Horse

3 troops present, commanded by the Colonel

(Note: the other 3 troops were with Cromwell at Preston)

Dragoons:

Colonel John Okey's Regiment of Dragoons

2 companies present commanded by Captains Francis Freeman &  
Francis Barrington

Foot:

Colonel John Barkstead's Regiment of Foot (10 companies)  
commanded by himself

800 strong

Colonel Simon Needham's Regiment of Foot

7 companies present, commanded by himself

400 strong

(Note: known as The Tower Guards. The remaining 3 companies of  
this regt stayed in the Tower. Needham was killed on 13 June  
and succeeded by his Lt Colonel - William Shambrook. Shambrook  
was mortally wounded on 5 July and the Colonelcy then assed to  
Thomas Rainborowe)

Colonel Richard Ingolsby's Regiment of Foot

4 companies present, commanded by Captain John Grimes 320 strong

The Essex Forces (i.e. forces paid by the County, not by the State)

Horse:

Colonel Harlackden's Regiment of Horse

4 troops commanded by Major Robert Sparrow

Dragoons:

Captain Turner's company of Dragoons  
(Note: this 'troop' of Dragoons may have been part of  
Harlackden's regiment of Horse)

Foot:

Sir Thomas Hunniwood's Regiment of Foot  
Colonel Cook's Regiment of Foot  
(Note: one of these regts was the County Trained Bands, the  
other the County Auxiliaries)

At Chelmsford and Malden:

Colonel Henry Mildmay's Regiment of Horse "and two troops of  
Dragoons"  
Colonel Carew Mildmay's Regiment of Foot (part)  
commanded by Major Bard

The Suffolk Forces

Horse:

Colonel Brampton (?) Gurdon's Regiment of Horse

Foot:

Sir Thomas (?) Barnardiston's Regiment of Foot  
Colonel Fothergill's Regiment of Foot  
Colonel Edmund Harvey's's Regiment of Foot  
Colonel William Bloyse's Regiment of Foot

At Nailand, Stratford and Cadaway:

Captains: Fisher  
Bradling  
Sparow

(Note: there is no evidence as to whether these were troops of horse  
or companies of foot, but the latter seems the more likely)

A Diary of the Siege of Colchester, London 1650

Christian names have been added from other sources.