

THE BATTLE OF WORCESTER

Robert Stapleton (–1675)

3 September 1651

This has been a glorious day. This day twelve months was glorious at Dunbar. This day has been glorious before Worcester. The word was then the Lord of Hosts, and so it was now, and indeed the Lord of Hosts was wonderfully with us. The same signal we had then as now, which was to have no white about us and indeed the Lord has clothed us with white garments, though to the enemy they have been bloody.

In the morning, 3 September, Lieutenant-General Fleetwood¹ had orders to advance with his brigade on the other side Severn, and all things being prepared for the making of a bridge and having cleared our passage with a forlorn, we laid a bridge over Severn and another over Teme. Our foot disputed the hedges with much courage and resolution.

The fight began on the other side Severn, and our foot from this side began it, they clearing the way for the rest to come over after them. The right wing of Lieutenant-General Fleetwood's force came over the bridge of Teme, while the left wing disputed the bridge at Powick, which dispute lasted a long time and was very hot. But the Lord gave our men to gain ground of the enemy till we had beaten them out of the ground.

While this was doing, the enemy rallying made a very bold sally out on this side of the town, and came with great bodies of horse and foot. Supposing most of our army had been drawn out on the other side, they gave our men a very hot salute and put them to a little retreat and dis-order. But in a short while the Lord gave us victory on this side also; our foot did very noble and gallant service, and they disputed with them not only the hedges, but followed them boldly to the very mouth of the cannon, which was planted on the mountain works.

At length we gained their works and planted their guns against them in the town, and we hear that some of our horse and foot are in the north and east end of the town. The night came on so fast that we could not pursue further. Most of the horse escaped, but my Lord General dispatched Major-General Harrison's² brigade after them.

We cannot yet give an account who are taken or slain, but we conceive the number of the slain far exceeds the number of the prisoners, but I guess the number of the killed and taken to be about 8.000 or 10.000. Tomorrow we shall be able to give you fuller relation. Our Quartermaster-General and Captain Jones is slain, and Mr. Howard, captain of the Life Guard, is wounded, and Major-General Lambert's horse was shot under him.

J. Willis Bund, *The Civil War in Worcestershire, 1642–1646* (Birmingham: Midland Educational Company, 1905):249. *[modernized]*

¹ Lieutenant-General Charles Fleetwood (c. 1618–1692)

² Major-General Thomas Harrison (1606–1660)