

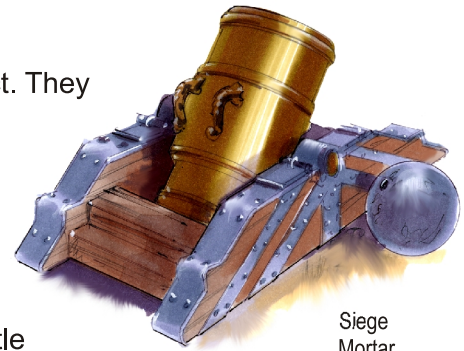


Weapons of the Civil War

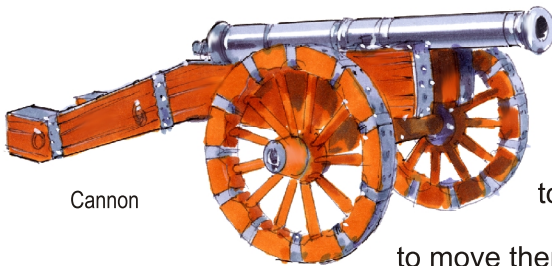


The Mortar

Mortars fired shells into the air that exploded on impact. They were difficult to aim accurately but they were the most destructive weapon available to the Civil War soldiers. During the Bolingbroke siege the Parliamentarians planned to use mortars to launch an attack on the castle from the nearby church tower.



Siege Mortar



Cannon

The Cannon

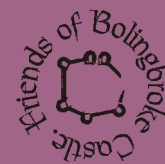
Cannons at this time were very heavy and difficult to move. The biggest needed a team of 16 horses to move them around. Even the smaller ones needed at least 4 men to move them. Cannons fired iron balls or stones. They had to be put into position before a battle and they needed a lot of preparation between firings. They too were difficult to aim. For these reasons they would only have been useful in planned battles. The Battle of Winceby was an unplanned encounter between the two sides and cannons would therefore not have been involved, but they would have been used during the Bolingbroke siege.



Cannon being loaded in battle



Weapons of the Civil War



The Musket

Muskets were about 5 feet (1.5 metres) long and had a firing range of up to 300 yards (275 metres). There were two types of musket; the



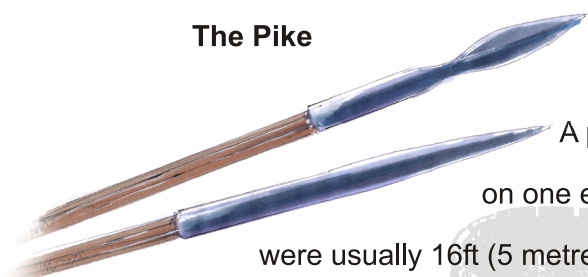
Flintlock
Musket

matchlock and the flintlock. Both of these used gunpowder. In the matchlock the gunpowder was ignited by putting a taper made of lighted flax into the trigger. In the flintlock, a spark was produced by a piece of flint in the trigger. Muskets would definitely have been used at the siege of Bolingbroke.



Infantry with muskets

The Pike



Pikes

A pike was a long wooden pole with a metal spike on one end. Pikes were used by foot soldiers. They were usually 16ft (5 metres) long but some soldiers found them difficult to carry and so sawed a piece off to shorten them. They were most effective when they were used in a group. In the front line of a battle they could be used to knock enemy cavalymen off their horses, or to make a protective cage around a group of soldiers. There would have been many pikemen involved in the Civil war in Lincolnshire and at Bolingbroke, although at the Battle of Winceby both sides fought on horseback.



Parliamentarian troops with pikes

