

A Letter Written from His Excellency Robert Earle of Essex

Unto the Speaker of the House of Commons

A Letter sent from his Excellency Robert Earl of Essex, directed to the Speaker of the House of Commons. Relating to the true state of the late Skirmish at *Chinner*, between a party of the Kings and Parliament Forces, on Sabbath day the 19th of June 1643.

Ordered by the Commons in Parliament, that this Letter bee forthwith printed and published
Hen. Elsynge
Cler.Parl.D.Com.



London

Printed by Richard Bishop for Lawrence Blaiklock at the Sugar Loafe near Temple Barre 1643.

Sir,

There being some of my Horse that had an Encounter with the Enemy yesterday being a Sunday, I thought fit to give the House an Account of the Particulars of it, knowing how apt many are to misreport things to our disadvantage. (...) About (...) of the clock on Sunday morning the Enemy with about 200 Horse and a great body of Dragoons fell into a Town called Porchain (? Postcome) where one Troop of Horse (being Coldnell Morlayers) (? Morleys) was quartered, of which they took the greatest part, and from thence went not farre to another Village called Chinner, where they beat up some of the new Bedfordshire Dragoons and took some of them Prisoners, and three of their Colours; and some of the Officers behaving themselves very well, and defending the houses wherein they were; they set fire on the Town; these being out Quarters, the Alarm came where Major Gunter lay with three Troops (viz) his own, Captain Sheffields and Captain Crosses, whom he presently drew out and marched toward the Enemy; Colonell Hampden being abroad with Sir Samuel Luke and onely one man, and seeing Major Gunters Forces, they did go along with them, Colonel (Dulbeir) the quarter-master Generall did likewise come to them: with these they drew neare the Enemy and finding them marching away kept still upon the Reare for almost five miles. In this time there joined with them Captaine Sanders Troop and Captain Buller, with fiftie commanded men, which were sent to Chinner by Sir Philip Stapleton, who had the watch here that night in Thame: when he discovered the fire there, to know the occasion of it he likewise sent one Troop of Dragoons under the command of Captain Dundaffe who came up to them. There were likewise some few of Colonell Melves that came to them: at length our men pressed them so near, that being in a large pasture Ground they drew up, and notwithstanding the inequality of the numbers, we having not above 300 Horse our men charged them very gallantly, and slew divers of them but while they were in flight, the

Enemy being so very strong kept a body of horse for his reserve and with that Body wheel'd about and charg'd our men in the Reare so that being encompassed and overborne with multitude they broke and fled, though it was not very farre. For when I heard that our men Marched in the Rear of the Enemy I sent to Sir Philip Stapleton, who presently Marched toward them with his Regiment; and though he came somewhat short of the skirmish, yet seeing our Men Retreat in that disorder he stoped them, caused them to draw into a Bodie with him, where they stood about an hour: Whereupon the Enemy marched away. In this skirmish there were slain fortie and five on both sides whereof the greater part were theirs.

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They carried off the Bodies of divers persons of qualitie. On our side Major Guther was killed, and some say he is a prisoner and so hurt; a man of much courage and fidelitie, his bravery engaging him and his small Partie too farre: Colonell Hamden put himself in Captain Grosse his Troop where he charged with much courage, and was unfortunately shott through the shoulder. Sir Samuel Luke thrice taken prisoner, and fortunately rescued. Captain Crosse had his Horse killed under him in the middest of the Enemy and was mounted by one of his own men, who quitted his own Horse to safe his Captain. Captain Buller was shot in the Neck who shewed very much resolution in this fight, taking one prisoner after he was shot. Mounseir Dulbein with Captain (Befa) and Captain Ennis did likewise carry themselves very well. We likewise lost two Colours, viz Major Gunther's and Captaine Sheffeild's; no Prisoners of quality were taken by the Enemy but Captaine Sheffeild's Brother. Prince Rupert was there in person, an the Runagado Hurry. We took prisoner one of the Ear of Berks sons, Captaine Gradiner, the late Records sonne of London, and Captaine Smith, with some others of qualitie, and divers prisoners.

Sir, this is the true Relation of what passed in this businesse. I rest.

Your assured Friend

Essex.

June 1643

Kindly transcribed by Andrea Kachellek