

David Tindall of Nether Pitforthly.

"April 26 1728 Patrick Morgan farmer in Carnegie in the Parish of Carmylie and Isobel Tindall lawful daughter to David Tindall in Nether Pitforthly were matrimonially contracted and married July 20 that day".

With only the above O.P.R. entry to go on, finding any further information about David Tindall seemed unlikely. A chance look at "The Jacobites of Angus" by David Dobson, however, started a fruitful line of enquiry. The entry found was:

Tindal, David, (71). farmer, Nether Pitforthly. Taken Prisoner. Died?

The sources from which this information had been derived are given in the bibliography below.

David, a seventy-year-old tenant farmer, became a private in Lord Ogilvy's regiment, in 1745. He may have been a tenant of the Earl of Airlie (Lord Ogilvy's father) and therefore had no option about joining the regiment or he may have volunteered. His exact movements with the regiment are not known until after the battle of Falkirk, when he was arrested "On Suspicion" and taken first to Montrose then to Inverness, a town of around 3000 inhabitants. David arrived here shortly after the battle of Culloden on 16 April 1746. Inverness at this time found itself turned into a prison camp and makeshift hospital for some 250 wounded English soldiers and 1200 Jacobite prisoners, some of whom were desperately in need of medical care.

Since the Act of Habeus Corpus had been suspended, there was no urgent need to proceed with trials. The prisoners were treated not as prisoners of war but as persons already proved guilty of high treason. Eventually, a transfer began of some of the prisoners to London. It later emerged that there was little or no evidence against those left behind so it must be assumed that the "Suspicious" upon which David had been arrested were well grounded. David was put on board the *Dolphin* which carried a total of 101 prisoners out of the total of 564 in the convoy of seven ships. The nominal rolls of the prisoners are preserved in *State Papers, Domestic, 84*. The convoy sailed on 3rd June putting into Newcastle, where they picked up an escort from H.M.S. *Winchilsea* and sailed again for London on the 9th of the month. On the 13th, instructions were given to prepare the Savoy barracks to receive the prisoners. This, however, had not been done by the 18th June and further instructions were given that 300 of the prisoners were to be landed at Tilbury Fort while the remainder were to remain on board. Tilbury could accommodate no more and sickness was now making such inroads among those still on board that the Duke of Newcastle addressed the Admiralty:

'the rebel prisoners now on board a transport at Woolwich, are so straitened for room as to be very sickly, which may make it unsafe to land them.

One or more empty transports to be sent to receive some of the said prisoners; the transports are to drop down to Tilbury, where the prisoners may be daily landed for air, and may be attended by the Apothecary.'

There is no evidence that the prisoners were, in fact, ever allowed to land or to be attended by the Apothecary. On the contrary, they were left, uncared for, to face

overcrowding and complete lack of sanitary measures of any kind, with an epidemic of Typhus carrying them off in large numbers.

There is no record of David ever coming to trial or being transported to the Caribbean or the American colonies. Indeed there is no further record of him at all so it must be assumed that he was among those who perished.



Tilbury Fort 2003.

The late 17th century Tilbury Fort is now a tourist attraction on the Essex shore of the Thames. The photo shows the arrowhead shaped bastions. Henry VIII had the first fort built here to guard the river approaches from possible attacks by the French. Charles II adapted it to deal with the threat of attack by Dutch warships. Standing out is the fine 17th century Water Gate, with its classical columns and frieze of chariots, spears and other weaponry. David was not in a position to appreciate it!

Bibliography:

The Muster Roll of the Forfarshire or Lord Ogilvie's Regiment, A McIntosh [Forfar 1914].

Prisoners of the '45, Sir Bruce Gordon-Seaton and Jean Gordon Arnot [Edinburgh 1928].

No Quarter Given, The Muster Roll of Prince Charles Edward Stewart's Army 1745-46, Ed. Livingstone, Aikman and Hart [Glasgow 2001].

List of Persons concerned in the Rebellion Earl of Rosebery, Scots History Society [Edinburgh 1890].

Prisoners of the '45 relies largely on State Papers, Domestic, Geo II Bundle 86 folio18, bundle 88 folio 60 and bundle 84 folio 2. These are in P.R.O.