

THE BATTLE OF AUGHRIM VISITOR CENTRE
AUGHRIM, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY



COLOURING & ACTIVITY BOOK



INTRODUCTION TO THE BATTLE OF AUGHRIM

The Battle of Aughrim was fought on July 12th 1691 (old style, 23rd July new style). It was the decisive battle in the Jacobite-Williamite War in Ireland which was fought between supporters of the Catholic King James II and Protestant King William III. Although fought in Ireland, the Battle of Aughrim was an English civil war, a European war and a world war. King Louis XIV of France supported King James to defend his own interests against King William who had the support of many countries in Europe. In charge of King James's Jacobite Army at Aughrim was the Marquis De St. Ruth; and in charge of King William's Williamite Army was Goddard Von Ginkel.

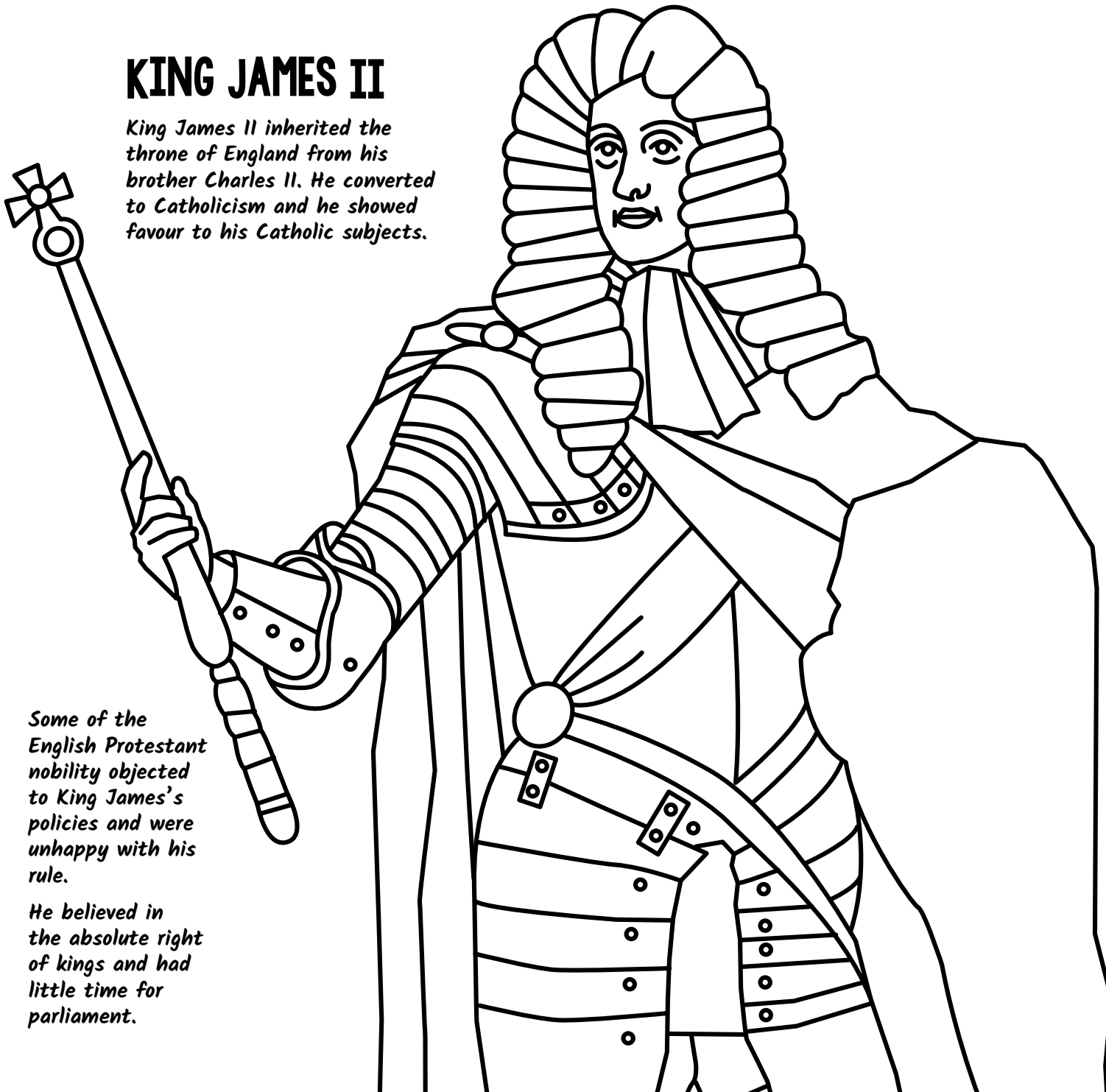
The previous year, the Williamites had forced the Jacobites back behind the river Shannon after the Battle of the Boyne. Following the fall of Athlone in 1691, the Jacobite commander decided to make a stand in Aughrim in a move that came to be the blow that ended the war in the Williamites' favour. The armies of the rival kings, which numbered between them more than 37,000 men, fought what was to be the last pitched battle on Irish Soil.

KING JAMES II

King James II inherited the throne of England from his brother Charles II. He converted to Catholicism and he showed favour to his Catholic subjects.

Some of the English Protestant nobility objected to King James's policies and were unhappy with his rule.

He believed in the absolute right of kings and had little time for parliament.

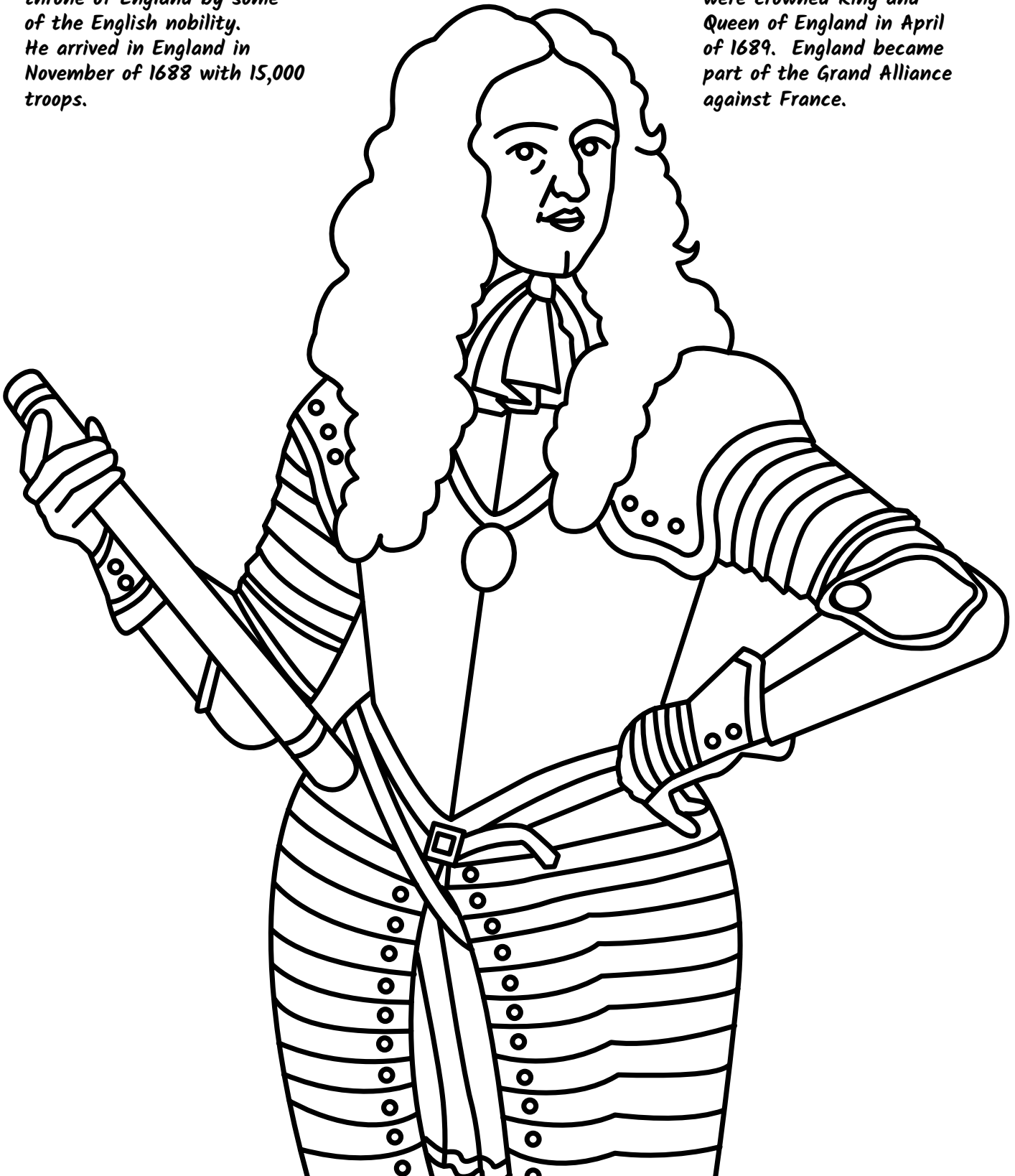


KING WILLIAM III

King William III was the Stadholder of the Dutch Republic and Prince of Orange.

He was invited to take the throne of England by some of the English nobility. He arrived in England in November of 1688 with 15,000 troops.

He and his wife Mary were crowned King and Queen of England in April of 1689. England became part of the Grand Alliance against France.





THE MARQUIS DE ST. RUTH

The Marquis De St. Ruth took command of the Jacobite Army in early spring of 1691 after landing at Limerick. After losing Athlone he decided to justify his loss and make a stand at Aughrim. During the Battle he held the Jacobite position well until a cannonball decapitated him. He is supposedly buried in Loughrea.



GENERAL GODDARD VON GINKEL

Von Ginkel took command in Ireland in the spring of 1691, and after Aughrim he negotiated the Treaty of Limerick with Patrick Sarsfield. He was made the 1st Earl of Athlone, and Baron of Aughrim.



PATRICK SARSFIELD EARL OF LUCAN

It was not until after the Battle of Aughrim that Sarsfield became a prominent leader. Sarsfield negotiated the Treaty of Limerick and sailed to France late in 1691 in what became known as the 'Flight of the Wild Geese'.



GENERAL HUGH MACKAY

He was second in command to General Ginkel. At the Battle of Aughrim he assisted the Williamite cavalry cross an almost impassable causeway, turning the flank of the Jacobite Army and was instrumental in turning the tide of the battle.

THE ARMIES

JACOBITE ARMY

Commander: Marquis De St. Ruth

Number of Troops: 18,000 approx.

Numbers Killed: 4,000-7,000 approx.

WILLIAMITE ARMY

Commander: Goddard Von Ginkel

Number of Troops: 20,000 approx.

Numbers Killed: 2,000-3,000 approx.

THE TROOPS

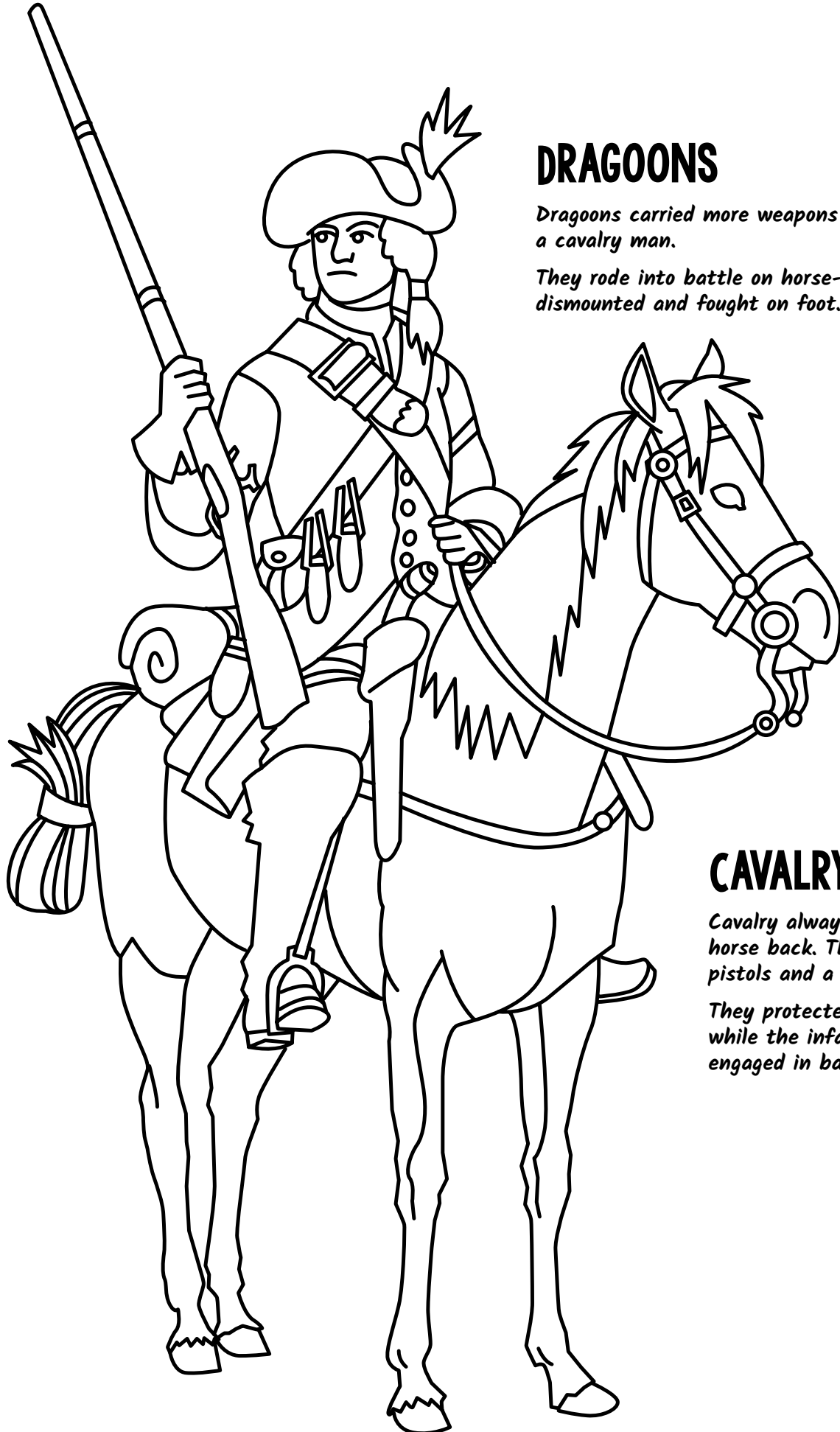
INFANTRY

Soldiers that fight on foot.

They made up the main part of both armies.

They travelled from place to place by marching and carried their musket and personal belongings.





DRAGOONS

Dragoons carried more weapons than a cavalry man.

They rode into battle on horse-back, dismounted and fought on foot.

CAVALRY

Cavalry always fought on horse back. They carried two pistols and a sword.

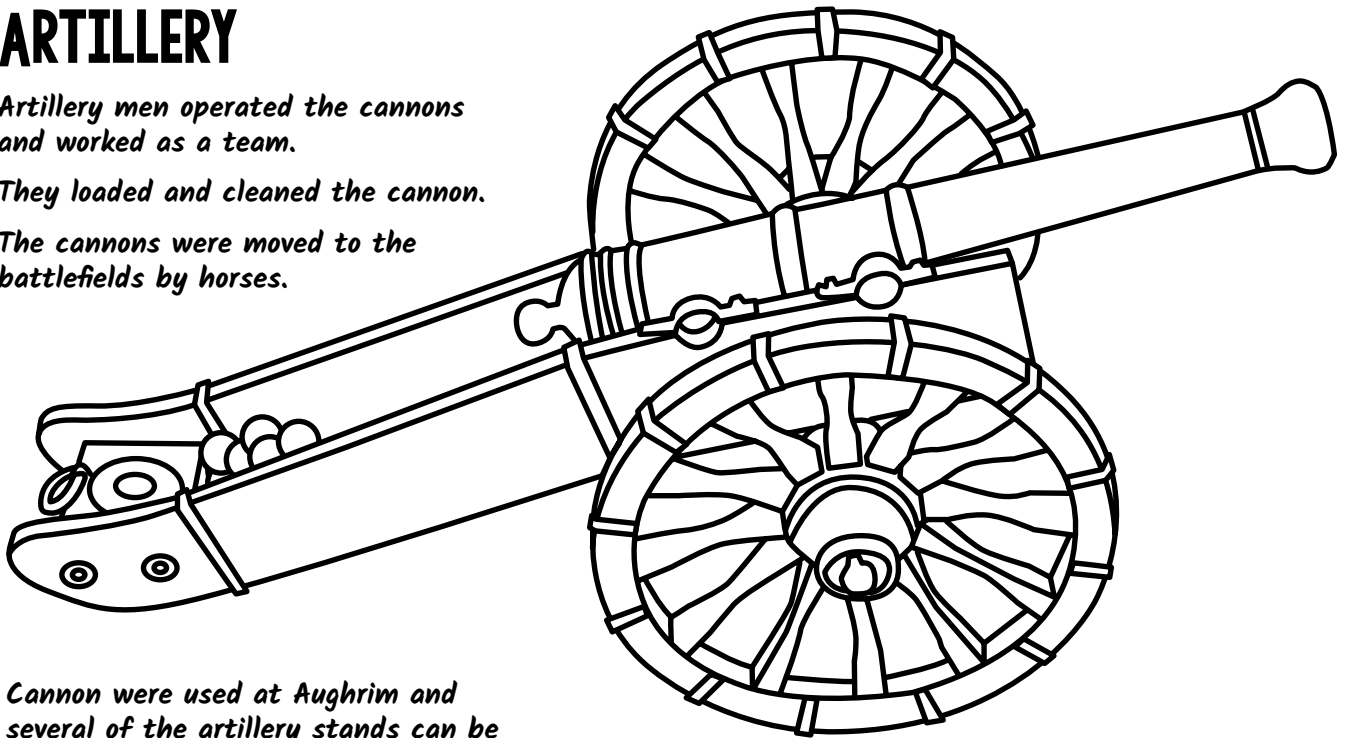
They protected the ranks while the infantry fought and engaged in battle as needed.

ARTILLERY

Artillery men operated the cannons and worked as a team.

They loaded and cleaned the cannon.

The cannons were moved to the battlefields by horses.

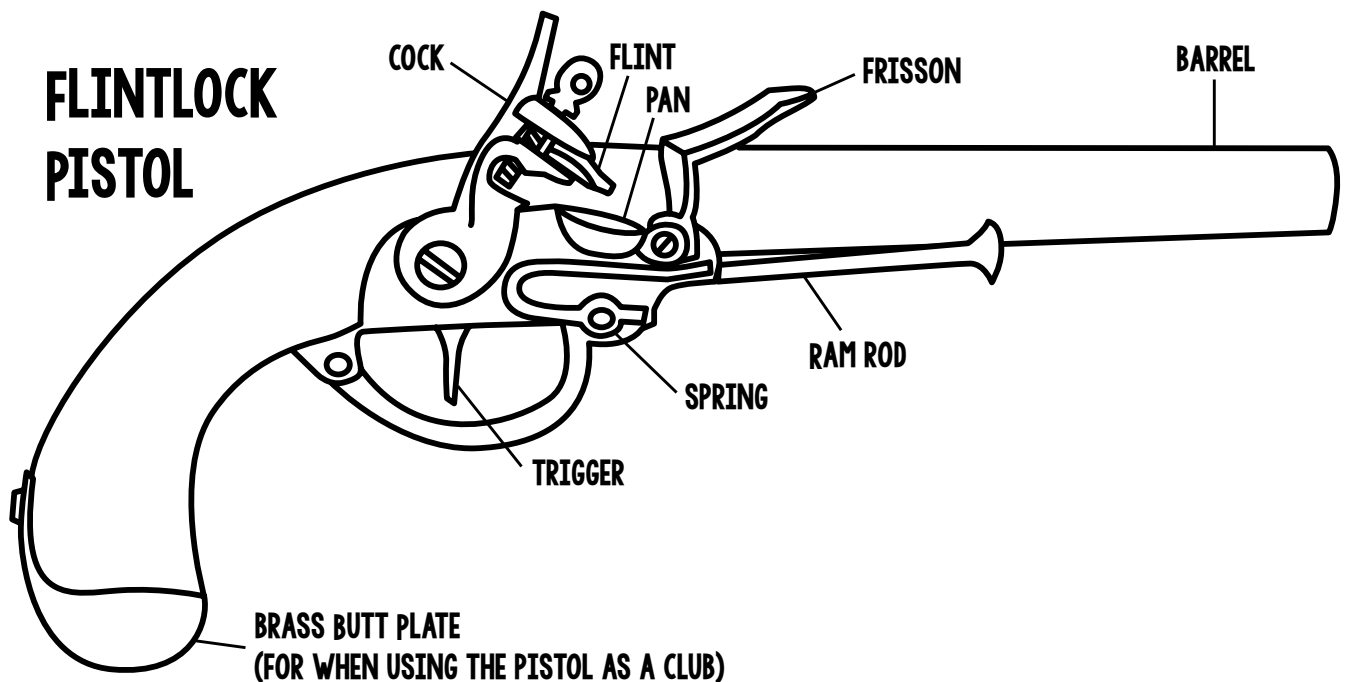


Cannons were used at Aughrim and several of the artillery stands can be seen on the battlefield.

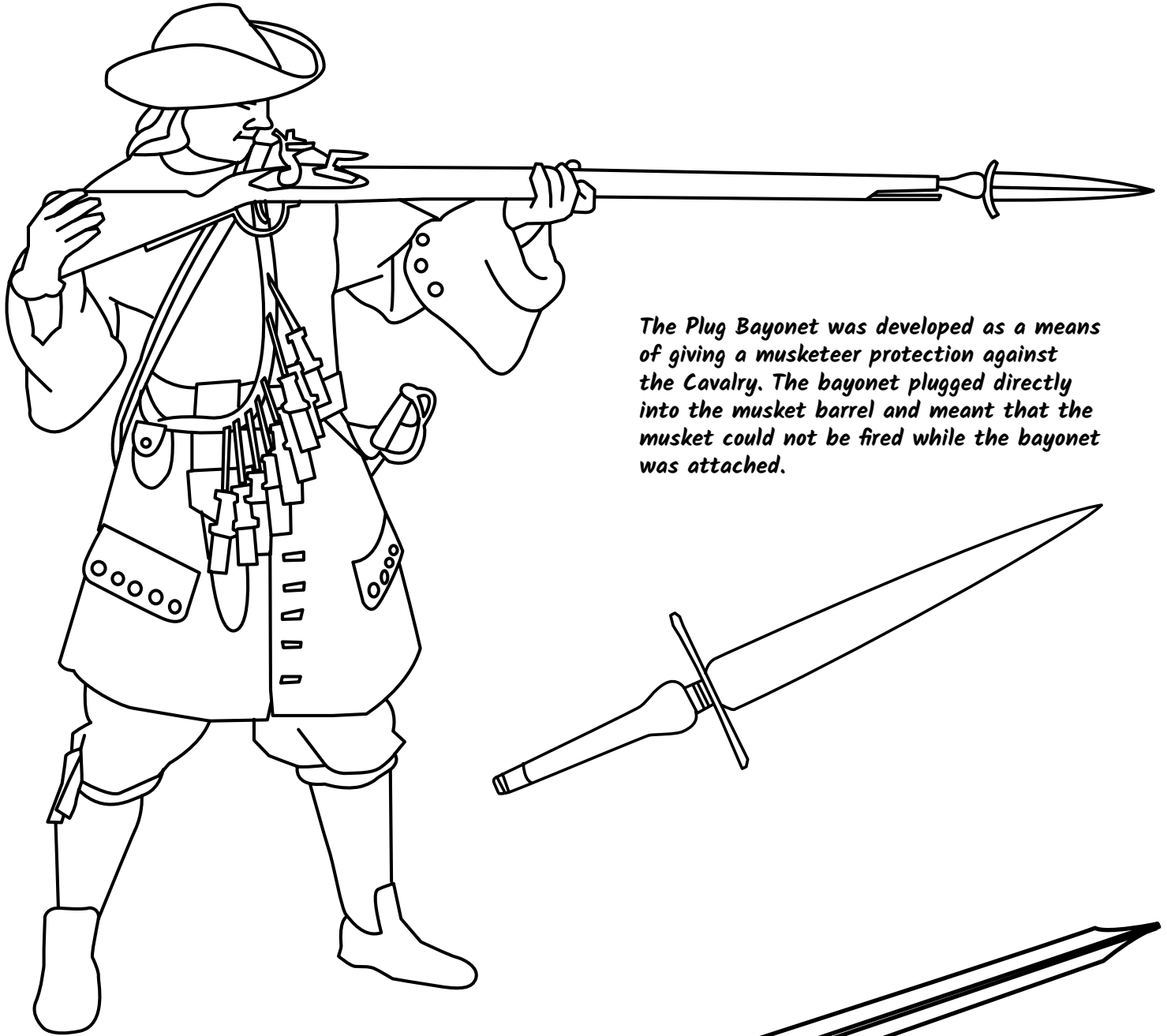
It was a cannon ball that took the head of the Jacobite Commander St. Ruth.

The Matchlock Musket used a lighted match cord to ignite the priming charge in the pan, which then ignited the main charge in the barrel and fired the musket ball. The disadvantage was the cord was expensive and difficult to keep lit in bad weather. A number of musket balls can be seen in the Visitor Centre.

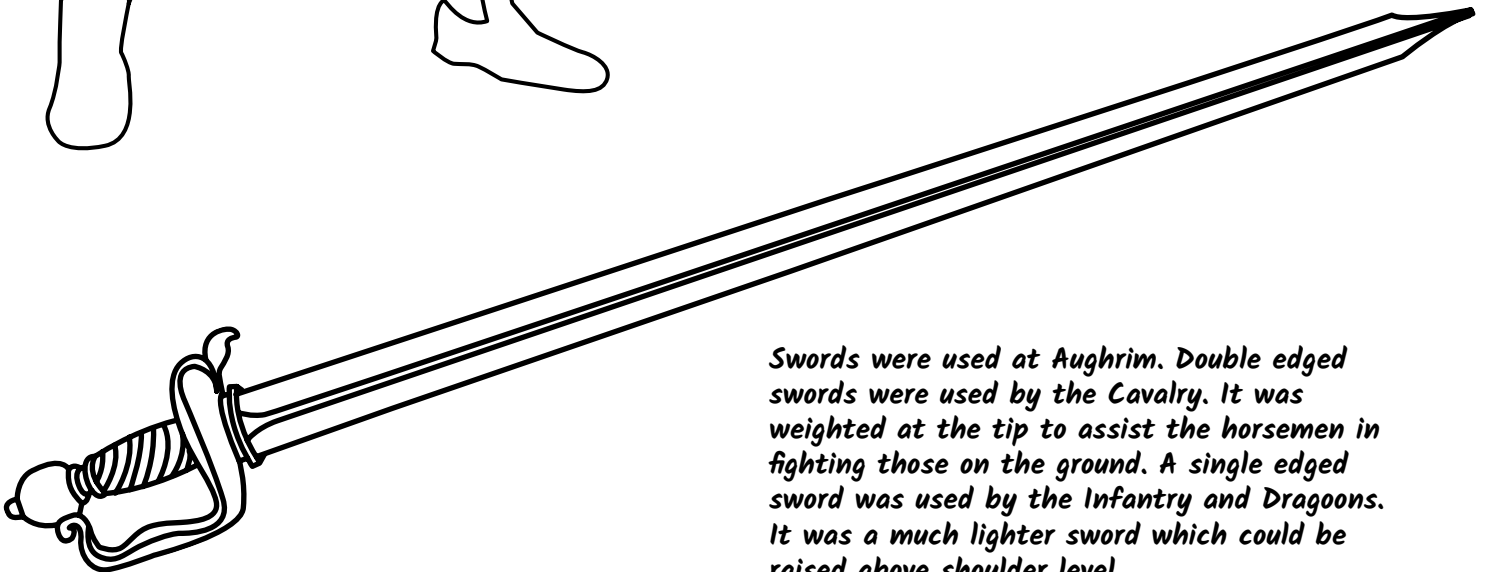
FLINTLOCK PISTOL



The Flintlock Musket was the more up to date musket. A piece of flint replaced the lighted cord. When the trigger is pulled the flint strikes a piece of metal called the frisson causing a shower of sparks. These sparks then ignite the powder in the pan and fire the musket ball.



The Plug Bayonet was developed as a means of giving a musketeer protection against the Cavalry. The bayonet plugged directly into the musket barrel and meant that the musket could not be fired while the bayonet was attached.



Swords were used at Aughrim. Double edged swords were used by the Cavalry. It was weighted at the tip to assist the horsemen in fighting those on the ground. A single edged sword was used by the Infantry and Dragoons. It was a much lighter sword which could be raised above shoulder level.

WORD SEARCH (EASY)

Battle of Aughrim

E	Q	L	V	G	N	P	C	M	W
P	T	V	F	O	E	T	N	I	W
M	I	I	N	Q	L	B	L	R	V
R	R	N	B	S	I	L	C	H	D
H	A	Y	N	O	I	E	Q	G	N
C	Z	N	M	A	C	R	V	U	K
W	S	J	M	X	H	A	Q	A	C
P	C	I	E	C	D	U	J	G	T
S	T	R	U	H	E	S	W	X	L
E	L	E	K	N	I	G	N	O	V

AUGHRIM

CANNON

JACOBITE

STRUHE

VONGINKEL

WILLIAMITE

WORD SEARCH (HARD)

Battle of Aughrim

W	M	A	T	A	Q	T	A	M	E	Z	Y	U	A	E
B	L	L	R	H	P	S	A	D	U	R	Z	H	I	I
E	T	I	B	O	C	A	J	V	L	S	F	F	B	V
Y	T	V	U	J	I	U	O	A	Z	U	K	L	L	G
L	R	G	F	Y	S	N	V	M	N	I	S	E	Z	E
C	M	T	V	R	G	A	L	I	W	Q	W	G	T	S
Y	S	O	N	I	C	O	M	R	K	C	I	H	U	T
I	B	L	N	A	U	P	L	H	H	K	L	Z	R	R
T	W	K	E	I	F	H	K	G	O	P	L	G	G	U
X	E	V	S	T	Q	N	S	U	D	Y	I	O	D	H
L	C	A	N	N	O	N	I	A	D	I	A	V	U	E
N	Q	P	I	J	W	B	Z	K	R	S	M	W	V	X
D	N	X	M	F	G	J	H	B	Y	U	I	Y	W	S
A	R	M	Q	I	Y	L	O	I	W	H	T	L	N	Z
C	T	V	N	C	D	R	N	Y	J	V	E	O	S	T

AUGHRIM

CANNON

CAVALRY

INFANTRY

JACOBITE

LOUIS

MUSKET

STRUHE

VONGINKEL

WILLIAMITE



TELL US WHAT YOU KNOW...

1. Supporters of King James II were known as:

.....

2. Supporters of King William III were known as:

.....

3. Name the General who led the Williamite Army:

.....

4. Where was that General from?

.....

5. Name the General who lead the Jacobite army:

.....

6. Where was that General from?

.....

7. The Battle of Aughrim took place on what date?

.....

8. Approximately how many soldiers fought in the battle?

.....

9. Name the two main hills on the battlefield:

.....

10. Why are there so few weapons left after the battle?

.....



ADVANCED WORK SHEET

1. What did the conflict between King William III and King Louis XIV become known as?

2. In what year did James II become King of England?

3. What was Mary's relationship to a) James and b) William?

4. Name the largest naval battle to be fought in Irish waters.

5. Name the place where William landed on 14th June 1690.

6. Where and when did William and James pitch their first battle?

7. What date was the Battle of Aughrim fought on?

8. What were a) the advantages of the location and b) the disadvantages of the location?

9. How was the weather on the morning of the battle?

10. How long did the battle last?

11. Approximately how many Jacobites fought?

12. Approximately how many Williamites fought?

13. Approximately how many Jacobites died?

14. Approximately how many Williamites died?

15. What was the Jacobite leader's full name?

16. What was the Williamite leader's full name?

17. What were the two turning points in the battle?

18. List some weaponry used by both armies in the battle.



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THIS BOOKLET WAS DESIGNED BY DAMIEN GOODFELLOW BASED ON TEXT PROVIDED BY ABBIE MCGOWAN,
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Galway County Council



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