



The Scots Regiment of Horse



The actual composition of a regiment of horse was a bit of a moveable feast in the years of the English Civil Wars. In essence, a regiment was formed of Troops. The number of men in these troops could vary widely, as could the number of troops composing a regiment. For the purposes of modelling a Big Base unit, I am working from the numbers given by John Vernon for a Parliamentarian regiment in 1644. Each troop consists of 72 troopers, formed in 24 files and 3 ranks, giving a total of 432 soldiers.

When formed for battle, the regiment deploys in two lines of three troops, with intervals to each side of the troops and a gap of one hundred yards between the two lines. This is far from the 'curtains' of formed soldiers that most wargames present.

In battle, these troops could further be subdivided each into three squadrons which formed the basis of low level cavalry tactics.

The distinguishing feature of Scottish Horse regiments was the use of lancers. This was originally a measure forced upon the Scots because of their lack of funds to completely equip the unit with the requisite armour and weaponry required. However the lancers proved particularly effective and they became a permanent part of the Scots establishment.

The troops were commanded by various officers taking station to the front and rear of the troops.

Constructing the basic regiment

As with the Big Base Foot Battalia, we are aiming to give the impression of a contemporary formation, rather than a one to one recreation.

There are six troops, each fourteen figures strong, formed in two ranks, giving a fighting strength of 84 troopers.. The front line of troops consists of regular sword and pistol cavalry, the rear three troops of lancers.

Two of the troops are commanded by cornets.

Four of the troops are commanded by officers of various ranks

The trumpeters for each line of troops are stationed on the right of the formation.

This gives a total strength of 94 figures in the formation on a base measuring 20cm by 10 cm.

The Troopers

Each troop is seven figures wide by two in depth. Baccus strips come with three figures. You will need a total of 24 strips, which will need separating in to build the troops as shown.

Officers and musicians

There are four command strips included. These will need cutting and dividing to give you individual figures. Two cornets are placed ahead of the two centre troops. Four officers lead each of the remaining troops. The four trumpeters are placed in pairs on the right of each line

