

EWER (or Ewers, Ewre, Ewres, Hewer, Hewers, Eure), ISAAC (born circa 1612, died 1650), Civil War officer and regicide, was a close relation and possibly son of Richard Ewer of Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, and seems to have been related to the Ewer families of Pinner, Middlesex, and Cheshunt, Hertfordshire (the head of the later, William Ewer, having been Serjeant at Arms to Charles I). Noble's assumption (Noble, I, 202) of a relationship to Lord Eure remains unproved and would probably be distant. Richard Ewer's immediate family were fairly substantial householders at least; he himself was assessed for nine shillings ship money when still a young man (T/A 42, Essex Record Office); in 1636 he was one of 'two honest persons' in his parish to be named surveyor of the highways. Richard Ewer held this position in 1634 and provided his own team of labourers, horses, and carts (Q/SR 285/16 and 293/44, Essex Record Office). Isaac Ewer lived at Hatfield by at least 1633 (D/DBa A1, p. 128, Essex Record Office), and by that year had married an Essex girl, Joan Thurloe, sister of John Thurloe, later Cromwell's Secretary of State. Their son Thomas Ewer was baptized in August 1634 at Hatfield (D/DBa, August, 1634, Essex Record Office) and a daughter, Joanna, was under 16 years of age on 1 August 1649, when Ewer made his will (PCC Wills, Prob-11-215, p. 150). By that date, Ewer's wife (still alive in 1637) was dead. Ewer's relations with his brother-in-law were close, and Thurloe was named his sole executor in his will 'to whom I leave the care and tuition of my said two children in the Lord intreating him to have a tender care of them', and whose eldest son John was a residual heir in Ewer's will. Ewer had brothers John and William, the latter of whom had a son, Captain Isaac Ewer, who by 1655 was employed by Thurloe as under-clerk to John Milton (CSPD, 1653-4, 386). Thurloe warmly recommended him to Henry Cromwell in 1656 (Thurloe SP, V, 46-7), pointedly adding: 'he is the only person of my kindred, that I have ever moved for in a case', and emphasizing that the nephew had previously been dependent on his uncle the regicide 'who brought him into Ireland, and upon whom he did rely'. The recommendation was, surprisingly, unsuccessful, and so this nephew subsequently instead accompanied Sir Philip Meadows, a protégé of Thurloe's, on his diplomatic mission to Denmark in 1657, and afterwards to Sweden in 1658, becoming entirely privy to the diplomatic confidences (Thurloe, SP, VI, 508-9; VII, 651-2). After this the regicide's namesake was admitted to Lincolns Inn, became a barrister, and by 1692 Keeper of the Black Book, dying in 1694 (PCC Wills, Prob-11-422, pp. 41-2).

Ewer the regicide was Captain of a troop of horse as early as 1643 (Egerton MSS. 2647, f. 31). By 10 March 1645, he was Major of Dragoons under the Earl of Manchester and was ordered to march to the aid of Brereton (CSPD, 1644-5, 337), but on the same day he was appointed by Fairfax to be Lieutenant-Colonel of Colonel Robert Hammond's freshly created Fourth Regiment of Foot in the New Model Army (Peacock, *Army Lists*, 103; Robert Temple, 'The Original Officer List of the New Model Army', *Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research*, LIX, 139, 1986, p. 56). He succeeded Hammond as Colonel of the regiment 2 October 1647 (*Clarke Papers*, II, 57n). Hammond, short of men in his new post at the Isle of Wight, requested that Ewer reinforce him, which Fairfax then ordered 16 March 1647/8 (CSPD, XXII, 30). On April 27, the Common Council of the City sent a sheriff to address the House (CJ, V, 546a), who said that Ewer had been overheard on April 20 at Windsor plotting with Colonel Grosvenor and other officers the disarming of the City and the threatening of it with plunder in order to extract by force the sum of £1,000,000 (Gardiner, GCW, III, 361; Whitelocke, *Memorials*, 1735 edition, 302-3). The House

appointed a committee (including six future regicides) to look into these allegations. Less than a month later, Ewer's military importance was vividly demonstrated when on May 25 he addressed a letter to Speaker Lenthall reporting his successful taking of Chepstow Castle, which had been seized by royalists under Sir Nicholas Kemish (Tanner MSS. 57/1 preserves the original). Ewer's letter was read in the House on May 29 (CJ, V, 576b), and ordered to be printed (Ewer, *A Full and Particular Relation of the ... Taking of Chepstow Castle ...*, 1648). Colonel Edward Whalley the regicide wrote 11 June 1648 to Fairfax asking to be reinforced by Ewer's regiment at Witham, Essex (CSPD, XXII, 27), for, being latterly an Essex man himself, he would have realized that Ewer's home was only a few miles away and that Ewer would know the local terrain intimately. Cromwell had ordered Ewer to Coventry some days earlier (*Clarke Papers*, II, 101), but now Fairfax ordered Ewer to go immediately to Whalley's aid (CCSPD, XXII, 111, 113-4) against the 5000 men under Lucas and Goring. But the royalists by June 12 had made their way into Colchester and the famous siege was about to commence. At the siege, Ewer took up a position to the west of the town with two other regicide colonels, Ingoldsby and Scrope. At the surrender, with the regicides Ireton and Whalley, Ewer held the discussions with Norwich and Capel (Gardiner, GCW, III, 463). Ewer seems then to have been made military governor of Portsmouth (*Clarke Papers*, II, 54). Ewer now became active in politics, through the Council of Officers of the Army. He was prominent at the Council meeting of November 16 (*Ibid.*, II, 54, 274) and was then named to a committee of nine to put Ireton's Remonstrance of the Army into a proper draft for submission to Parliament. This committee's leading members were all future regicides: Ireton, Whalley, Constable, Scrope, and Ewer. Four days later, Ewer took the final draft of the Remonstrance to Parliament in person, addressed the House, and requested that they take the proposals into speedy consideration (CJ, VI, 81). The Remonstrance chiefly called for the King to be speedily brought to justice, with other radical measures (*A Remonstrance and Declaration of the Army Presented ... by Colonell Ewres ...*, 1648). The next day, Fairfax gave special orders to Ewer (*Clarke Papers*, II, 54-5) to go and sound out Colonel Hammond in the Isle of Wight, who had the King in custody. Ewer was the perfect choice, being Hammond's friend and former Lieutenant-Colonel. Ewer had still not arrived in the Isle of Wight by November 26 (Tanner MSS. 57/2, 429-30) but was there by the morning of November 28 (*Ibid.*, 435-6), and he persuaded Hammond by some extraordinary means despite 'his overriding trust to Parliament' (*Ibid.*) to leave with him for Windsor. However, on the road, Major Cromwell came along with a letter for Hammond from Parliament, which he then delivered to him. It enjoined him to remain in the Isle of Wight, and so Hammond wrote an immediate reply saying 'I shall yield immediate obedience by making my urgent return thither' (*Ibid.*, 433-4). At this point, Ewer was forced to put his old commander under arrest and even to forbid him sending his letter until the next day from Bagshot (*Ibid.*). Ewer's subordinate officers, left behind at the Isle of Wight, dealt with the far less challenging job of removing the King to Hurst Castle (*Clarke Papers*, II, 54-5, 59-61, 63-4; CJ, VI, 91b; Whitelocke, *Memorials*, 1753 edition, 357a-b, 358b, 359a). A description of Colonel Eyre, commander of Hurst Castle, by a royalist (Herbert, *Two Last Years of Charles I*, ed. 1702, 85-6) was for long mistakenly thought to be a description of Ewer (as in DNB; Gardiner, GCW, III, 526). Ewer was named to the High Court of Justice to try the King, attended with considerable regularity, and signed the Death Warrant. After the trial, his regiment was assigned by the Council of State 3 March 1649 to guard the region of Kent, and to be quartered in Dover, Sandwich, Rochester, and Queenborough Castle (CSPD

1649-50, p. 27). Then on April 20 occurred the drawing of lots for regimental service in Ireland, and Ewer drew one marked 'Ireland', and privately was very distressed, 'not knowing whether God may ever bring me back again to see my children whom I must leave behind me young and undisposed of' (Will, *op. cit.*). Ewer's martial exploits in Ireland were what one would expect from a soldier of his calibre (Whitelocke, *op. cit.*, 428b, 429a, 448b) and he is last heard of 31 October 1650 marching towards Kilkenny (Gilbert, *Aphorismical Discovery*, III, 224), not long after which he died, for his will was proved the following 25 February at London by John Thurloe, who became the guardian of Ewer's orphans (Will, *op. cit.*)