

(The defense of the House of Lathom by The Countess Charlotte de la Tremouille is an awesome testament to her strong character and is well documented as one of the most brave and heroic resistances in the history of the English Empire)

TEXT OR NARRATION: Lathom, England 1644 A.D.

EXT. LATHOM ENGLAND - LATHOM HOUSE MORNING

With only fifty musketeers and two hundred fifty pikemen to aid in her defense, the attacking Parliamentary forces looked upon the lady at Lathom as easy prey for their three thousand troops that surround the castle's moat on that fateful twenty seventh day of September, sixteen hundred and forty four.

The lay of the land was in the Lady's favor, with steep hills all around the castle compound, not unlike the palm of a hand. The perimeter walls surrounding the complex were six feet thick with nine towers placed equidistant apart.

The moat was twenty-four feet wide, six feet deep and filled with some sort of unknown flesh eating creatures. Two men push over the carcass of a dead cow into the moat to feed the aquarian predators.

In betwixt the moat and the walls were palisades staggered evenly about, four foot high and three apart. Some palisades were bound with torches and put directly in the few pathways where the attackers could lay siege by foot.

Inside the castle walls it was like a small city, with blacksmiths, masons and even a full marketplace.

There were also nine more inner-fortress towers, the tallest of which was called the Eagle's Tower.

"...from that tower there were six pieces of ordinance (cannons) three playing one way, and three the other..." Sharp shooters armed with long bows also occupied the towers with the singular job of targeting officers in the trenches.

Meanwhile Major Farmer, from the same perch, executes the lady's orders and directs the ground troops by showing colors.

CHARLOTTE DE LA TREMOUILLE
Major Farmer, ready the men, prepare
for attack! (to herself) Remember,
battles are won before they are
fought.

EXT. LATHOM HOUSE PARLIAMENTARY H.Q. TENT - MORNING

SIR GENERAL THOMAS FAIRFAX, and his three thousand Puritan-led Parliamentary soldiers surround the perimeter.

The General's trumpeter blusters a wicked yowl, signaling that a messenger has been sent into the castle.

The lowly messenger humbly brings in an offer for the lady of the house.

MESSENGER

A message for you M'lady.

CHARLOTTE DE LA TREMOUILLE

(after reading)

Surrender? I think not! The General will have his answer before you leave these doors!

EXT. LATHOM HOUSE PARLIAMENTARY EASTERN FRONT - LATER

She responds with a sally of a hundred and forty men with arms blowing through the east gate, surprising their foes.

The Countess not only defeats the enemy regiment on that side of the castle, but captures one enemy cannon and turns it on them.

She also extends her territorial perimeter around that section of land as well, in effect, capturing it.

In this engagement alone the enemy loses two hundred men, a cannon, a quantity of choice battleground and, I expect, a measure of arrogance.

EXT. LATHOM HOUSE - LATER

During the ensuing clashes, the Countess continues in these manners and with those methods to take more land, life and prisoners from her adversary.

EXT. LATHOM HOUSE MAIN GATES - DAY

At one point, with final frustration, she rips up the last surrender offer she is willing to read.

She sends the messenger back to General Fairfax stating that if another messenger approaches her walls, they will be strung up at the gates.

EXT. LATHOM HOUSE - DAY

During the six-week harassment, the lady was seen many times at the battle lines inspiring the troops and directing tactics.

(Meanwhile the enemy shot at the house "one hundred and nine cannon balls, thirty two - eighty pound catapulted stones,

and four grenades, at a cost of a hundred barrels of gunpowder")

EXT. LATHOM HOUSE WEST GATE - DAY

Upon the return of her Lord Stanley of the Manor, the attacking forces melted away fast, finally choosing instead to cut their many losses in retreat.

In the end, the Countess only lost six men total, against two thousand deaths (by their own admission) of the enemy's soldiers.

With the Lathom House secured and England seemingly safe at hand, Lord Stanley and Countess of the Isle of Mann return to protect and defend their home in the name of King and country...