**SSUNS 2016**

**First Scottish War of Independence**

**Walter Langton — Treasurer of England**

By Ben Barcados



# Walter Langton

I, Walter Langton, grew up serving our Lord in the Church. It is there that I met our liege, King Edward I. Edward and I took to each other right away and quickly formed a friendship, which was bonded through trust. Recently, the so-called noble men of England colluded to undermine the Crown’s power. As our King’s most trusted ally, I have been brought up through the ranks of service and governance as a support to His Majesty. Having been appointed the Keeper of the Wardrobe in the past, I have now been appointed our King’s Treasurer. I no longer manage our King’s personal possessions. Now I oversee the holdings of our realm for the King. Furthermore, of all these titles I hold, I wear most proudly the name “the King’s right-eye”. I have been brought to this position to aid our King and my friend so that our kingdom may prosper. We will reach our noble goal.

# Scotland’s Throne

The throne of Scotland must be occupied by a ruler who will lead Scotland to continue to act in the best interests of the English empire. We can support our Lord with a full display of our resources, which some Scots may find repellent. Or we can fund our prefered king behind closed doors. The man I propose from the English kingdom to support our claim is Robert de Brus, 5th Annandale. Robert de Brus has good relations with the king’s brother Edmund Crouchback, whilst respecting the Crown.Our Lord is a respected man with many followers such as Sir Neil Campbell, and Edward de Brus, Earl of Carrick. The King shares a strong bond with the 5th High Steward of Scotland already brings him closer to the throne. Finally, though, his most important supporter is his grandson Robert de Brus, 7th Annandale.

Robert de Brus is a young lord held in high regard by many noble men. Many of the 7th Annandale’s supporters are the younger lords and knights who wish for independence. Even with this wish for independence the 7th Annadele's followers respect and will follow what he agrees to. This is England’s greatest strength. While the 5th Annandale leads Scotland, he is mindful of England’s authority. Following this, the 7th Annadale as the successor to the Scottish throne will be awarded more land back in England. This will serve to anchor him to England. Using his newly attained title as the reason, the 7th Annadale will be brought down to England to conduct parliamentary, legislative, and judicial tasks. While he is in England, all possible efforts will be made to familiarize the 7th Annandale with English rule in an attempt to Anglicize the Lord, forming a reverence towards the English monarchy. Upon returning to Scotland and acquiring the throne, the 7th Annadale will conduct his actions with regard to England but still be trusted by his more fierce follows, whom he is capable of quelling.

# Domestic and International Considerations

## Civil Unrest

The subjects of England have grown resentful of their situation and the actions of the crown. Due to the annexation of Wales and Ireland and the Crusades, and other royal expenses, taxation has had a steep increase. This increase in taxation means it is preferable not to start any wars which would lead to even higher taxes. Current tax rates have lead to crime, hunger and they have infuriated citizens. The King understands now though that is it safer to be feared than be loved by your subjects. At this moment, King Edward is unable to appease his peasants. Knowing this, the King is prepared to force his subjects to into order. Until this occurs, our costly ventures will come to an end. The King will have to rely on the support of his earls and barons. These noble men are greedy and will not support Him without gaining anything in return.

The King should set up a system that rewards lords that maintain their land well. Firstly, by creating an office in Parliament that measures the legal and social order of a lord’s land. The crown would then compare and grade the scores of these lands. If a lord is able to keep his towns and cities law-abiding and peaceful, then he would receive a tax deduction. The Crown would recognize that the lord is spending his money in ways that benefit the kingdom. The magnitude of the deduction would be based off the score of the other lords and how the lord in question compares to them. This system would be nullified in times of war where the King and his army need all of the resources his vassals can spare. Through this pact will not only incentivize lords to discipline their domains but also cause them to dislike war. Reducing the amount of wars can stabilize the the nation’s wealth. A lack of wars would also cause the citizens to have lower tax rates in the end, pleasing them as well.

## France

The king has shared close relations with France. Now that he is busy in Scotland, we must keep those relations from becoming hostile. Currently, England and France could easily form a violent relationship if things are not handled with care. A war with France would add to our expenses greatly and with the our battle in the north, it is unknown whether or not it is a war we can win. The potential for war with France lies mainly in two directions. The first is a potential diplomatic breakdown resulting in hostility and eventually war. Following that is the possibility that we will appear weak to the French through failure to quell a Irish rebellion. Our two main focuses are the defeat of the Irish and better communication with the French. A quick end to the Irish rebellion would also rob them of the chance to ally with France to become a greater enemy. Due to King Edward’s expansion of *familia regis* into a standing army that then further adds to the English infantry, which in total is approximately 28,700 men strong. The standing army is first mobilized followed by a large portion of a that infantry to quickly strike down the Irish rebellion. At the same time the move our navy to the English channel not as a threat to France but an indication the military might we possess that dissuades them from war. Once the Irish rebels have dealt with England, we will outwardly appear stable and in command while more permanent solutions are made as the infantry withdraws.

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