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Henry III (1216-1272) Events leading to The Second Baron's War

CE:- War and Rebellion B1/B2 or Crown and Parliament B3/B4 **Red Topic**

1. The Regency 1216-1227

Henry was only 9 years old when he became king. He inherited a kingdom on the verge of civil war and with Louis having accepted the barons offer to be king of England, things did not look good.



As a nine year old, Henry was unable to govern the country until he was older. A regency was set up with William Marshall as Regent, a position he was to hold until his death in 1219. **Hubert de Burgh** took over as Regent from 1219 - 1227.

- ❖ Marshall's re-issued Magna Carta encouraging the barons to withdraw their support of Louis.
- ❖ In 1217, Louis attacked Lincoln Castle. William Marshall massacred Louis' army at what came to be called 'The Fair of Lincoln' because after the victory the English army looted Lincoln.
- ❖ Louis sent for reinforcements from France, but the English navy under the command of Hubert de Burgh attacked the fleet bringing them to England. The whole French fleet was either captured or sunk!
- ❖ At the **Treaty of Lambeth** in 1217, Louis decided to give up his claim and returned to France, leaving the throne to Henry III.
- ❖ Marshall then exiled King John's hated advisors Peter de Roches and Falkes de Breauté.
- ❖ When Henry came of age in 1227, the country was in reasonable order and the barons under control.



Henry III

Question 1

Why was a regency set up in 1216 and who was Regent?

Question 2

Why was Magna Carta re-issued in 1216?

2. What events led to civil war (the 2nd Barons' War) Why Did Henry III become unpopular?

During the Regency the government was stable and the barons satisfied. When Henry III came of age, the situation gradually changed. Understandably, Henry wanted to take control his country and rule in his own way.

Personality

1. He was **weak and lacked the ability** to tackle difficult problems and personalities. He was very religious, charitable, kind but weak. He never could say "No" to anybody.

Poor decisions

2. He recalled the unpopular **Peter de Roches**. (John's hated advisor)
3. He **sacked Hubert de Burgh** as his advisor. De Burgh was very popular. (wife's influence)
4. He **refused to listen to the advice** of the barons, taking the advice of his wife, friends and relatives.
5. Henry allowed the Pope to elect over **300 foreign churchmen (clergy)** to English churches.
6. Henry gave in to the Pope's demands that the English Church paid a tenth of its income to the Pope.

Marriage to Eleanor of Provence

7. In 1236, Henry married **Eleanor of Provence**. With her she brought **friends and relations**, many of whom were given **important posts** in government or church and lots of **gifts**. (Boniface, Eleanor's cousin was elected Archbishop of Canterbury). This **nepotism** caused annoyance amongst the barons. In fact she was so unpopular that there was an attempt to sink her barge in the River Thames!



An attempt to sink Eleanor's barge

Money and taxation

8. Henry had inherited an **empty treasury**. The barons said that he used high **taxes, ignoring Magna Carta** and yet seemed prepared to fight expensive and unsuccessful wars in France and Sicily.
9. Henry was a **lover of architecture** and ordered the rebuilding of Westminster Abbey and construction of other buildings including Salisbury Cathedral. At the time many barons were less than impressed with what they saw as a waste of money.

War and Foreign Policy

10. Henry wanted to win back the French lands lost by his father. In 1242 he was **defeated in the Battle of Tallenbourg** (in fact, the only English king personally defeated in battle by a French king.)
11. At the **Treaty of Paris in 1259**, Henry gave up all claims to land in France.
12. Henry wanted to make his youngest son Edmund, King of Sicily. In 1255 Henry agreed to pay Pope Alexander IV 135,000 marks for Sicily. This would still mean having to raise an army and fight other rivals, but in 1258, the barons refused to support him and Henry was forced to cancel his agreement with the Pope. This was known as the **"Sicilian Adventure"**.

All answers to the questions below will be found on page 2

Question 3 Fill in the blank spaces with the correct word

Henry recalled the unpopular _____ and gave him back power and position. He sacked _____ as his advisor. De Burgh was very _____. Henry refused to listen to the advice of the _____ taking the advice of his _____, friends and _____. Henry allowed the _____ to elect over _____ foreign churchmen to English churches. Henry gave in to the Pope's demands that the English Church paid a _____ of its _____ to the Pope.

Question 4

Who did Henry III marry? _____

Question 5

Why were the barons unhappy with Henry's marriage?

Question 6

How else do we know that Henry's wife was unpopular?

Question 7 Fill in the black spaces with the correct word

Henry had inherited an _____ _____. The barons said that he used high _____, ignoring _____ and yet seemed prepared to fight expensive and unsuccessful wars in _____ and _____. Henry III was very fond of _____ and ordered the rebuilding of _____ and construction of other buildings including _____.

Question 8

What was significant about the Battle of Tallenbourg?

Question 9

What happened at the Treat of Paris and in which year did this happen?

Question 10

What was the "Sicilian Adventure"?

This chain of events and Henry's bad Kingship was leading to growing anger amongst the barons. But at first there was no obvious leader amongst the barons who was prepared to take the huge risk and stand up against the king! (treason)

3. Opposition - The move towards 'The Second Barons' War.'

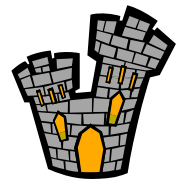
Eventually, the opposition against Henry was led by **Simon de Montfort**, who was married to Henry's sister. At Oxford, in 1258, Henry III met a group of barons led by Simon de Montfort. Here the **Provisions of Oxford** were drawn up and presented to Henry III. These were meant to control the King's government.



Simon de Montfort

PROVISIONS OF OXFORD 1258 – The main terms

1. A **committee (council) of 24 barons** was to look into the complaints against Henry's kingship.
2. **15 barons** were to be elected to **advise the King**. (Kings' Council)
3. **Parliament** was to be summoned **three times a year** (15 of the king's council and 12 to be elected by the "community of the realm"). This was to be at Michaelmas (September 29th), Candlemass (2nd February), and June 1st.
4. All **foreign favourites** were to be **expelled**. (Eleanor's relatives and friends).
5. **Castles** were to be placed in the hands of English constables.



However, the barons started to quarrel amongst each other, with some saying that they hadn't made enough demands of Henry III. Seeing the disunity of the barons, Henry asked advice from Louis, King of France and the Pope. Following their advice, Henry refused to agree to the Provisions of Oxford. (repeat of John and Magna Carta)

Over the next few years neither side knew what to do next. Nobody wanted to go to war. In 1263, Henry III sent de Montfort to Gascony to deal with a rebellion. The rebellion was dealt with very effectively. However, there were complaints made about how de Montfort dealt with the rebels. Henry still annoyed at what had happened at Oxford in 1258, and getting his own back, refused to support de Montfort. De Montfort felt let down. Enough was enough. War was inevitable. The Second Barons' War broke out. In 1264, Simon de Montfort met Henry at the **Battle of Lewes**.

Question 11

Who led the barons at the Provisions of Oxford and in what year?

Question 12 Fill in the blanks with the correct word

A _____ of _____ barons was to look into the complaints against Henry's kingship. _____ barons were to be elected to advise the King. _____ was to be summoned _____ times a year. This was to be at _____, _____, and _____. All _____ favourites were to be expelled. _____ were to be placed in the hands of _____ constables.

4. Battle of Lewes 14th May 1264

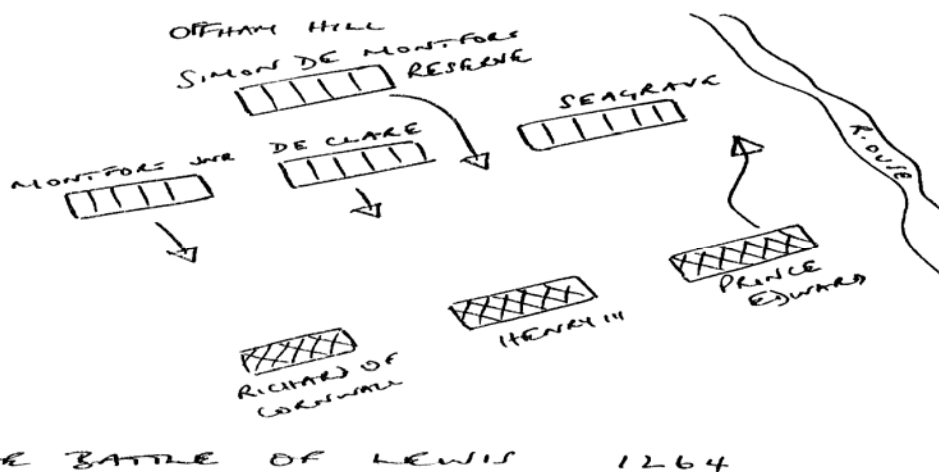
The bishops of Chichester, London and Worcester, who were all supporters of Simon de Montfort, attempted to negotiate a truce before the battle started. However Henry, who had a much larger army was confident of victory and refused to do a deal.

Both sides prepare for battle

1. Simon de Montfort was one of the best military tacticians of the day. (A good tactician is skilled at placing his troops in the best position, by using the advantage of land and cover, whereas a good strategist is skilled at using and moving his troops well.) De Montfort had broken his leg and commanded from a hay cart! - Inspirational
2. Although outnumbered, he placed his men (4500 infantry and 500 cavalry) on top of a hill called Offam Hill, north-west of Lewes. The royalist (King's) army numbered over 10,000.
3. There was no rush and Henry III had plenty of time to arrange his forces into three divisions.
4. Simon de Montfort held back one of his four divisions in reserve and placed his weakest division, on his left. This consisted (was made up) of inexperienced London **militia** commanded by Nicholas de Seagrave. Their left flank was protected by the river Ouse and their right flank by the centre division. They could not be outflanked but would face a charge from Prince Edward and Henry's best cavalry.
5. His sons, Simon, Henry and Guy commanded the left flank. The Earl of Gloucester, Gilbert De Clare, (Gilbert the Red) commanded the centre.

The Battle begins

- Both sides advanced and almost immediately Prince Edward attacked the Londoners who fled. (possibly deliberate – feign retreat like at Hastings) Edward chased after them leaving the battlefield and returning two hours later when the battle was virtually over. This youthful, hotheadedness was to cost his father the battle. However, Edward would learn from his mistake.
- With Edward away, the rest of Simon de Montfort's men now outnumbered the King's. The King and his brother Earl Richard of Cornwall attacked but very quickly the royalist centre under the command of Earl Richard gave way, with the Earl having to seek a hiding place in a nearby windmill.
- De Montfort now led his reserve division against the King. Henry III had two horses killed under him and it wasn't long before the King was captured.
- Prince Edward returned to the battlefield after the battle had been lost and was captured, but not before most of his men had been killed.



Summary of the battle

Simon de Montfort had kept his position on the high ground, and used his forces to defeat his enemy piece by piece with an experienced reserve as a final shattering blow. Henry III, his brother Richard and his son Prince Edward were all captured.

6. Events leading to the Battle of Evesham

De Montfort needed to strengthen his position and wanted to make an alliance with Llewellyn of Wales. Gilbert the Red was furious, disagreeing with de Montfort's plans. He changed sides. With Gilbert went much of Simon de Montfort's support. Many barons thought he was haughty and power seeking. In a desperate search for support, De Montfort marched into Wales to make the alliance with Llewellyn. From this moment on nothing went right for De Montfort.

1. Llewellyn decided against an alliance,
2. De Montfort's fleet was attacked and destroyed by the King's navy. His army therefore could not be re-supplied with food and weapons.
3. On 1st August 1265, Prince Edward surprised De Montfort's son, (also called Simon) and defeated him at Kenilworth.
4. Edward destroyed many of the bridges over the River Severn. This made it difficult for De Montfort to find a crossing point back into England. In trying to find somewhere to cross his army became tired, demoralised and short of food.

7. The Battle of Evesham.

a) Before the battle

- De Montfort's plan, once in England, was to march to **Kenilworth to join his son**, Simon. De Montfort (Senior) did not know about his son's defeat.
- Edward in a masterly and decisive stroke, decided to block De Montfort's route to Kenilworth at Evesham, Worcestershire.
- Both **armies were exhausted from marching**. **Edward** split his army into **three divisions (battles)**. He commanded one and was to approach Evesham from the north, Gilbert the Red was to approach with his battle from the north-west, whilst Mortimer was to approach from the west.
- De Montfort had no idea where Edward would come from.
- When his lookouts spied an army approaching from the north, **De Montfort thought it was his son Simon**, particularly as they could see the De Montfort banners. Unfortunately, for De Montfort, these were the banners that had been captured at Kenilworth, and they were in the possession of Prince Edward!
- At the same time Gloucester's and Mortimer's banners could be seen approaching Evesham. Edward's army stopped on Green Hill.
- Immediately, De Montfort realised he was doomed. He urged his supporters to leave but they refused to do so. **De Montfort** himself was **offered a fast horse** to escape, but he **declined** the offer, saying " Now God have mercy on our souls, for our bodies are theirs"

b) The Battle begins 4th August 1265

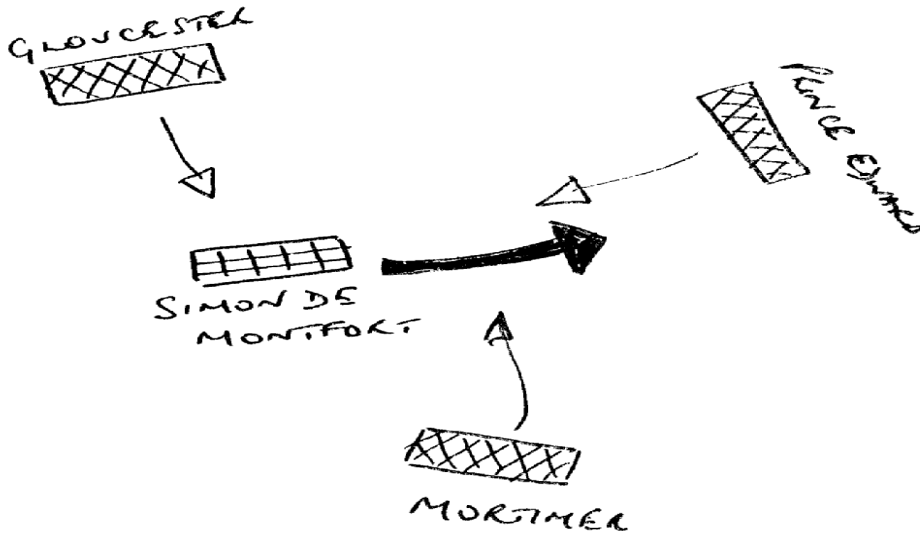
- A **thunderstorm** greeted the start of the battle, and it was difficult for friend or **foe** to distinguish (identify) themselves from each other.
- De Montfort's only chance lay in **killing Prince Edward**, causing the royalists to panic. De Montfort arranged his army in a tight group, the Welsh footsoldiers at the rear, English footsoldiers in the middle and knights in the front. The idea was for his men to act like a spear with its point, the group of knights about 100 men wide.
- **Outnumbered three to one**, (15,000, to 5000) De Montfort's charge, although it startled Edward's army, was suicidal, many of his Welsh footsoldiers deserted and the battle degenerated into a slaughter after Gloucester's and Mortimer's army surrounded them.



c) The end of the Battle



- A chronicler called it" the "**Murder of Evesham**, for battle it was not."
- King Henry himself was almost killed when he was mistaken for a De Montfort supporter, he only was saved, when he shouted out" Do not kill me, I am Henry of Winchester, your king"
- De Montfort was killed and his body mutilated, his head being stuck on a pole. His testicles were dangled from his ears!
- The battle is said to have lasted less than two hours, but the hunting and killing of fugitives went on all day.



Question 17 Look at section 7a
How did Edward trick Simon de Montfort?

Question 18 Look at section 7a
What evidence do we have to show that Simon de Montfort was not a coward?

Question 19 Look at section 7b
What greeted the battle at the start? _____

Fact file and Glossary of words

Henry III	
Life	1st Oct 1207 - 16 th Nov 1272
Reign	1216-1272
Family name	Plantagenet
Father and mother	King John and Isabella of Angoulême
Wives	Eleanor of Provence
Children	Edward (1239-1307) , Margaret (1240-75) , Beatrice (1242-75), Edmund (1245-96), Richard (circa 1247 - 56), John (circa 1250 -56), Katherine (1253-57) , William (b. & d. 1256) , Henry (circa 1256 - 1257)
Nicknames	None
Cause of death	Old age

Word	Explanation
civil war	A war fought between people from the same country
commoners	Members of Parliament (MP) who belonged to neither the nobility (ruling class) nor the church. Often rich merchants from towns
legacy	What a person hands down when they have died This can be property, possessions or ideas. A historical legacy can be a positive thing or a negative thing
militia	Townsmen responsible for protecting their town when attacked. Poorly trained and armed.
monarch	A king or queen
nepotism	Unfair favouritism shown to someone because they are your relative or friend
regency	A council of men set up to rule on behalf of a young king.
regent	Man who rules on behalf of a young king. Leader of the regency
treason	When a person acts against his country or King. For example, somebody might help another country fight a war against his country by telling secrets.