

# Battles and Sieges of the English Civil War

## Source-Based Activities

### Activity 2: The Second Siege of Newark

#### Background:

During the Civil War, both sides fought over Newark, as two important roads ran through the town – the Great North Way and Fosse Way. These roads were strategically important as it allowed each side to easily communicate with its forces.

Newark was on the side of the Royalists. It was besieged by the Parliamentarians three times, in 1643, 1644 and 1645-46.

**Source 2:** An extract from an eyewitness account of the truce negotiations (parlee) which took place after Prince Rupert (King Charles I's nephew and a Royalist general) ended the second siege of Newark, in March 1644, by launching a surprise attack at night.

*..For the Parlee, His Highness appointed Sir Richard Crane, Captain of his Life-Guards, with Sir William Neale Scout Master General: The Rebels sending Sir Miles Hobard, and Sir John Palgrave, into the Town. Now true though it be that the Enemies were distressed, yet might possibly be relieved. And to confess the truth, our Horses were so over matched, and our foot so beaten off Leggs, that we found ourselves less able for the present for them. In very truth too, the Rebels were more than we believed: for these reasons, ..His Highness (at length) condescended to these Articles, which besides they be both honourable and safe, were the same (for the general) as our side had before gone out upon, when the Rebels took Lincoln.*

**NEKMS 2008.13.171, HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE RUPERT Raising of the Siege at Newark upon Trent, National Civil War Centre**

Study Source 2 carefully.

- 1) Who do you think the author is referring to when he says 'His Highness'?  
(Clue: Make sure you read the background text)
- 2) Who do you think the author is referring to when he says 'The Rebels' (the Royalists or Parliamentarians)?
- 3) Why do you think Prince Rupert was ready to parlee (have truce negotiations) and agree terms (articles) with the Parliamentarians?
- 4) Which side do you think the person who wrote this source supported and why?

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