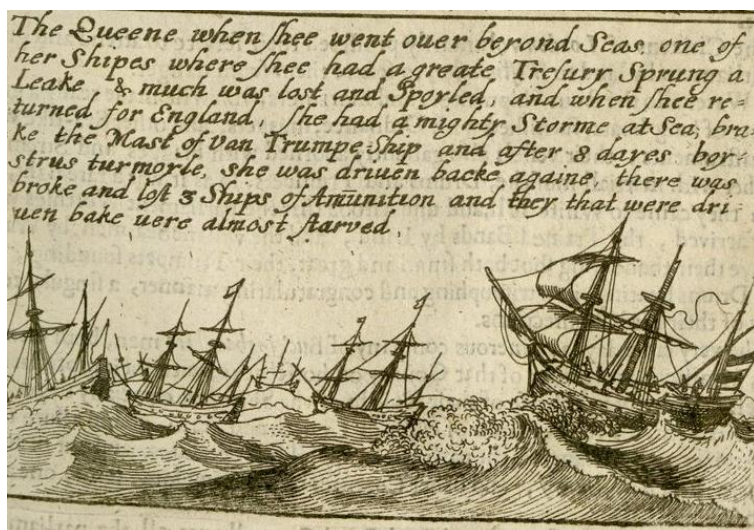


Key People in the British Civil Wars

Source-Based Activities

Activity 2: Queen Henrietta Maria



Source 3: An image from a book published in 1648.

It shows what happened to Queen Henrietta Maria's ships when she went to Holland in 1642.

**BRAD 942 062 TRU-4,
Bradshaw Collection,
Newcastle University Special
Collections, GB 186.**

Background

When Civil War broke out in 1642 Queen Henrietta Maria was in Holland, trying to raise money and support for her husband to help him in the Civil Wars.

The text above the illustration reads:

The Queene when shee went over beyond seas, one of her shipes where shee had a greate Tresury Sprung a Leake & much was lost and Spoyled, and when se returned for England, she had a mighty Storme at sea ; brake the Mast of Van Trumpe Ship and after 8 dayes boystrous turmolye, she was driven backe againe, there was broke and lost 3 Shipes of Ammunition and they that were driven bake were almost starved.

Questions:

1. What happened to one of Queen Henrietta Maria's ships on the way to Holland?
2. What happened on her return journey to England?
2. How long did the 'boystrous turmoyl' last?
3. What did she lose during the storm?

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Key People in the British Civil Wars

Source-Based Activities

Activity 2: Queen Henrietta Maria (continued)

Background information

When she wrote this letter, Henrietta Maria was staying in Newark with a 4500 strong mercenary army which she had brought with her from the continent. The letter was originally written in French and used a cipher (code) in which some words (names and places) were replaced with numbers. In the letter Henrietta Maria describes the journey she intends to make from Newark to Oxford.

Source 4: HL/PO/JO/10/1/183/5: Letter from the Queen to the King from Newark (27 June 1643), Transcribed by The National Civil War Centre from the original letter in the Parliamentary Archives

For the safety of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire I have left 2000 infantry and the where withall to arm 500 more along with 20 cavalry companies – all this under the command of Charles Cavendish whom the Gentry of the County did not want me to take with me even though he himself was extremely keen to do. The enemy has left within Nottingham a force of 1000. I have with me 3000 infantry, 30 cavalry and dragoon companies as well as 6 cannon and mortar pieces ... You should also know that she Major Generalissima is particularly diligent with a baggage train of 150 wagons to administer in case of battle. None of Essex's forces have troubled us to date and as for others I hope that we will be strong enough: At Nottingham we had some experience of such with one of our troops having beaten and put to flight some of theirs. I have received your proclamation or declaration which I wish had not been made as it is particularly damaging to you as you appear to show too much fear and have not done what you resolved to do. Farewell my dearest.

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Key People in the British Civil Wars

Source-Based Activities

Activity 2: Queen Henrietta Maria (continued)

Read the extract from Henrietta Maria's letter on the previous page (Source 4) then answer the following questions:

- 1) Who is this letter written by and who is it to? Who do you think the author is referring to when she says, '*she Major Generalissima*'?
- 2) How is the Queen trying to help her husband?
- 3) What impression does this source give you of Queen Henrietta Maria? Explain your answer with reference to the source.

Glossary

Mercenary - A professional (paid) soldier hired to fight in a foreign army

Infantry - Foot soldier

Cavalry - Horse soldier

Gentry - People of good social standing (just below the nobility)

Dragoon - Horse soldier

Generalissima - Feminine version of Generalissimo. An Italian word meaning leader of the armed forces or highest ranking general

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