

The Provisions

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You have to admire all the volunteers at the re-enactment of Tewkesbury last month. The heat was searing that day, certainly no place to be packed up in armour from head to toe. Indeed, when the artillery duel began, there were barely a dozen combatants on both sides, so you think most of them have chosen to forgo this madness, and you can't blame them. Then suddenly the smoke clears and off in the distance the sun's rays reflect off hundreds of helmets and pikes as the companies of Yorkists and Lancastrians, men and women alike, arrive and the melee commences. It was only a re-enactment, so if anyone hit the ground during the clash, it was likely from heat exhaustion.



The volunteers for medieval societies also deserve praise for their commitment, stuck as they were in a sweltering tent throughout the festival. The Simon de Montfort Society was represented by the ever faithful Sue Campbell. I dropped by to report on the progress of the battle, which she was glad to hear, but next time I might remember to bring along some ice cream.

The gathering on London Bridge in July to recall the demonstration against Queen Eleanor saw an interesting development take place. A commercial barge was approaching from the Tower when I threw a symbolic scrap of bread in its direction. Suddenly, the boat reversed engines and came to an all stop. Did the captain get the idea there were some madmen on the bridge and decided it was better to call river security before proceeding any further? We wisely didn't wait to find out.



In September 1213, Simon de Montfort's father defeated the allied forces of Peter II of Aragon at Muret during the Albigensian Crusade. It was a victory that smacked of divine judgement, much like Lewes fifty years later. Stay tuned for a closer look.

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