

## *Why did people want the king back in 1646?*

### Case study 1: Effects of war, 1642-45 - Source 5

#### Warrant from the Lord Mayor of London to seize all horses in London, 12 August 1643

(Catalogue ref: SP 16/497/143)

#### What is this source?

This source is a warrant signed by the Mayor and the Parliamentary Committee for London. Committees ran areas controlled by Parliament.

A warrant was basically an order. This warrant gave the power to Captain Gheste and his troops to seize horses in London to use in Parliament's armies.

#### What's the background to this source?

By the time this source was written the war had been going on for about a year. Armies used huge numbers of horses for cavalry and for pulling wagons. There would have been many warrants like this throughout the war years, 1642-46.

Parliament and the king both relied on local supporters to raise troops, horses and money from their areas. London was by far the biggest and richest city in the country. Controlling London and the South East of England gave Parliament a big advantage in its war effort against the king.

#### It's worth knowing that ...

People would not have been able to refuse such a warrant. Parliament's County Committees controlled their areas very strictly. County Committees were made up of men loyal to Parliament. Their job was to control their area and also to help Parliament's war effort by supplying Parliament forces with food and equipment. The Royalist side used a similar approach.

As well as horses, armies also needed soldiers, food, equipment and money. Throughout the war both sides constantly brought in new laws and taxes that were designed to raise money and resources for the war. On top of the official taxation, there was also a lot of unofficial taxation.



Local bands of soldiers would often descend on a farm or village and demand food and shelter. As the armies got bigger during the war, so did the demands on the population to feed and pay for these armies.

## Your turn: What can we learn from this source?

1. What did this document allow Captain Gheste to do?
2. What were the horses for?
3. Would it have been possible to refuse to give up your horses?
4. How does this source help to explain why many people were supporting Charles in 1646?

## Source 5

256 143  
Excerpt of an Ordinance of Parliament, dated the 25<sup>th</sup> day of July last  
(the Copie whereof is annexed) you are to take and seize the charge or charges  
of any person within the Cities of London and the Liberties and in the  
of the Parishes mentioned in the woollie Bills of Mortalities, and  
to take one thousand of them that are most fitt for light  
horses to be grazed by the Commissioners and according to the Letter of  
the right hon<sup>ble</sup>. the Earle of Manchester dated the 20<sup>th</sup> day of  
this instant month of August (a Copie whereof is also annexed) to deliver  
them to Sir William Waller Knight to be disposed of as hee shall direct