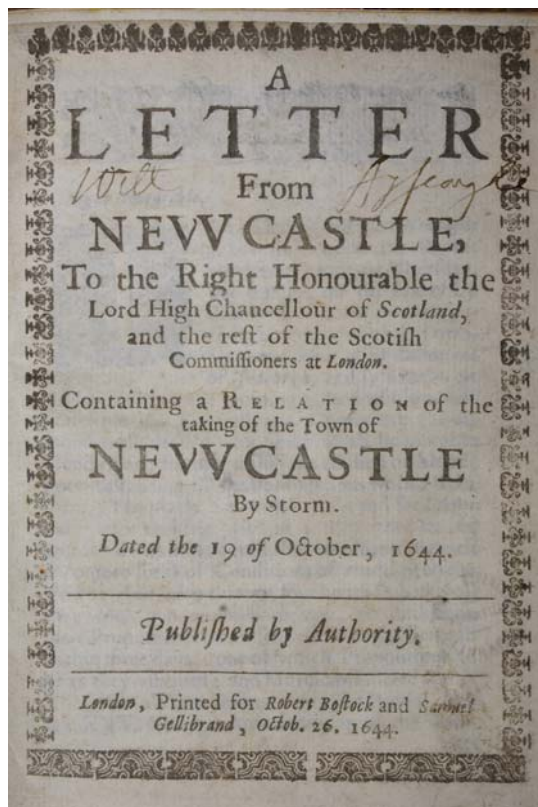


## The Taking of Newcastle, 1644

The Scottish army led by General Lesley invaded England in January 1644 to support Parliament against the King. After helping Lord Fairfax at the siege of York the Scots marched north again to deal with Newcastle.

From August 13<sup>th</sup> the city was closely besieged. Most of the bridge was soon captured and the city ringed with earth redoubts and batteries of cannon. Trenches pushed towards the city walls and mines were laid to breach them. The defenders launched desperate attacks against the Scottish lines and worked feverishly to discover and 'drown' the mines.

In this unit you are going to investigate a Scottish account of the siege and storming of Newcastle (Sources 1-6) held in the Mackie Collection.



### Activity 1

It was the custom in the 17<sup>th</sup> century to allow besieged towns to surrender on generous terms provided they did not drag the fighting out too long.

Give yourself the rank of General in the Scottish army and discuss in groups what terms you would offer to persuade the Mayor of Newcastle to give in. Think about incentives for the soldiers defending Newcastle, the citizens trapped inside the city and restrictions that might be placed on the new Scottish garrison.

Complete the surrender document below. Remember you are merciful and trying to save bloodshed.

<b>To the Mayor of Newcastle, Sir John Marley</b>	
<b>Terms offered by General</b>	<b>for the surrender of</b>
<b>the City of Newcastle</b>	
<b>Condition 1</b>	
<b>Condition 2</b>	
<b>Condition 3</b>	
<b>Condition 4</b>	
<b>Condition 5</b>	

### Activity 2

Now look at the real surrender conditions offered by the Scots, (Sources 3 & 4). Discuss how similar these are to your own terms.

What are the most generous? What advantages are there to the Scots in being so lenient?

### Activity 3

Read Source 5 carefully. The defenders did not accept the surrender terms, so the Scots decided the time for negotiation was over. Complete this letter from General Lesley to the Lord High Chancellor of Scotland explaining the reasons why you have finally decided to take Newcastle by storm.

*18<sup>th</sup> of October, 1644*

*Right Honourable Sir,*

*I have had my fill of the big words of the Mayor of Newcastle and the other miscreants who lead this sad city. My own problems grow daily, namely*

*Munitions and Ordnance...*

*The seasons turn...*

*The morale of our troops...*

*In short Sir, the time to act has come to act. We storm the city on the morrow.*

*Your Lordships Humble servant*

*Lesley*

Activity 4

Draw your own battle map of the assault on Newcastle as described in Sources 5 and 6. Use the Speed map (Source 7) to help you identify key features such as the walls, gates and castle.

