



# The Provisions



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The Ordinance set up to rule the land called for a body of three electors to choose a council of nine to assist and advise the king in governing the realm, with parliament summoned to deal with important matters of state. While reviving the conciliar control of the Provisions, the Ordinance was meant as a stop-gap measure until a more permanent peace could be established. The royalists were having none of that and the Mortimer gang was no sooner safely esconced in the marches than they were flouting the terms of their release. A bigger danger to the new government, however, was the news from the continent. Louis was not only refusing an active part in the peace plan, but allowed the money he still owed under the Treaty of Paris to go to Queen Eleanor for the purpose of assembling an invasion force. Henry made it clear in his letters to Louis that these provocations were putting Edward's life in danger, but he seems to have been the only one to believe that. (One of the more remarkable achievements of Henry's reign, in fact, is the absence of political executions, something that would change under Edward.) On 7 July 1264 a proclamation went out calling on the community of the realm to repel 'a great horde of aliens...impious men thirsting for your blood'. The typically overwrought medieval style rallied thousands in what was actually the second such repudiation of the queen. The first occurred ten years earlier when she barely found 40 knights to accompany her in aid of Henry's last overseas campaign.



'Let no one plead the harvest'

The unveiling of the Lewes Tapestry, the 750th anniversary of sealing the Ordinance and summoning the feudal host got next to no notice compared to remembrances for that other invasion, D-Day, and now the centennial of World



War I. An [article](#) was written to keep everything in perspective and sent off to the leading newspapers in London. Their response was complete silence, which is strange given that these same media services continue to bemoan the arrival of a great horde of aliens to the shores of England.

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