



The Provisions



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With the legate out of the picture, nothing was keeping Queen Eleanor from launching her invasion force...except there was no more force to speak of. The army of mercenaries she put together in Flanders, idle for the better part of four months, had melted away for a lack of funds. She had nothing to show for all the money she'd spent, some of it coming from her controversial sale of Henry's rights in three continental bishoprics to Louis for £5,000. Not until November 1264 did Henry learn of the transaction and then he wasn't amused. Anticipating his displeasure, she had a buyback option inserted with a stiff penalty of fifty percent. He wasn't amused by that either, and had to wonder what the saintly Louis was doing taking advantage of him like this. He eventually got the bishoprics back for the full £7,500 due, but made sure to figure the amount into the fine he slapped on London after Evesham. Where the queen almost succeeded in her endeavors also occurred at this time and didn't cost her or the king a thing. She had been urging a group of Edward's former household knights to rescue him from Wallingford castle, assuring them the place was lightly guarded. It's unclear how she knew this, but the knights did manage to get close enough for the wardens to warn them that if they didn't desist from their attack, Edward would be joining them just as soon as they shot him from a magonel.



Queen Eleanor won praise for 'sweating' on her family's behalf

It would take more than seven centuries for a queen of England to finally make peace with Montfort and the occasion for it was the anniversary of his 1265 parliament. An official address from Elizabeth II was read out loud in the



Commons and a stamp issued picturing her next to Montfort's seal. Apparently that was enough, for no commemorative issue is being planned for 2015. Not much room with Waterloo and World War I to celebrate, not to mention Magna Carta 800. A stamp honouring next spring's state funeral for the relics of Richard III was actually considered, but

rejected in the end. Maybe the Royal Mail was worried it might end up looking like the Daily Mail if it signed on to this bit of absurd theatre.

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