

- 0. A BARBAROUS SENTENCE Story Preface
- 1. THE MAKINGS OF A HERO
- 2. WHO SHOULD BE KING?
- 3. A HERO EMERGES
- 4. A TWO-HANDED SWORD GETS BUSY
- 5. WALLACE THE LEADER
- 6. VICTORY AT STIRLING BRIDGE
- 7. WALLACE THE OUTLAW
- 8. DEFEAT AT FALKIRK
- 9. WALLACE BETRAYED
- **10. A TRIAL WITHOUT JUSTICE**

11. A BARBAROUS SENTENCE

- 12. EXECUTION
- 13. ROBERT THE BRUCE ACHIEVES THE DREAM
- 14. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS?
- 15. MORE LINKS ABOUT THE STORY

This illustration depicts "Smithfield," a place outside the city walls of London where people were executed. William Wallace was one of those individuals. The image, entitled "Place of Execution in Old Smithfield," is circa 1872. It depicts, among other things, piles of wood bundles being assembled for an execution by burning at the stake. From Old and New London, Vol. II: A Narrative of Its History, Its People, and Its Places, by Walter Thornbury.

Wallace was found guilty, but what is most remarkable is the intentional cruelty of the sentence. Death was not enough to satisfy Edward's anger at this Scottish patriot. The manner of death, imposed by the court, was almost beyond belief.

...he be there hanged, and afterwards taken down from the gallows. And that, inasmuch as he was an outlaw, and was not afterwards restored to the peace of the Lord King, he be decollated and decapitated...that the heart, the liver and lungs as well as all the other intestines of the said William, from which such perverted thoughts proceeded, be cast into the fire and burnt.

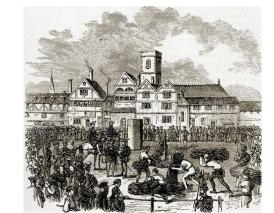
Torture was not enough, though. After death, William's body would be

...cut up and divided into 4 parts, and that the head, so cut off, be set up on London Bridge, in the sight of such as pass by, whether by land or by water; and that one quarter be hung on a gibbet at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, another quarter at Berwick, a third quarter at Stirling, and the 4th at St. Johnston [Perth], as a warning and a deterrent to all that pass by and behold them.(Quoted in Brave Heart, by James Mackay, at page 263.)

A contemporary chronicler from the monastery of <u>Lanercost</u> summed up how the English people viewed the cruel sentence:

Buthcher of thousands, Threefold death be thine, So shall the English From thee gain relief. Scotland, be wise, And choose a nobler chief.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/A-BARBAROUS-SENTENCE-Braveheart



A BARBAROUS SENTENCE

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/A-BARBAROUS-SENTENCE-Braveheart

Media Stream



Monastery of Lanercost

This photo was taken by Shermozle. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY-SA 3.0. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Monastery-of-Lanercost-