

The Liberator

BASTILLE IS STORMED

By Suzanna Tischkowitz

Yesterday, on the 14th of July 1789 Bastille was stormed by a mob of the fearless lower classes, who were trying to prove to the government that the bourgeoisie are not people who can be looked over and not included by the nobility and clergy. The rebels broke into the famous royal prison in central Paris, The Bastille to try and obtain ammo for the 32,000 rifles they'd stolen from the Invalides prison. The prison, was rumoured to contain political prisoners that King Louis XVI had sent there without fair trial. The Bastille was also extremely well-guarded and many people had begun to question the King's motives for keeping prisoners hidden away from civilisation.

The prison, was formidably protected, the walls were 10 feet thick, the towers 90 feet high and it was guarded by cannons and numerous guards. However, the demonstrators were not daunted by the Bastille's mountainous walls. At the time, it was rumoured that one of the cannons was positioned directly at them by the guards managing the cannons, and undoubtedly, the bourgeoisie were enraged! The leaders of the demonstration courageously decided to put together a message demanding access to the rumoured ammunition stored within the prison's walls. They then waited for the cowardly governor to reply to their message.



Surprisingly to most, the fearless rebels then accepted an invitation to dine with the governor of Bastille himself; as they entered the prison, the crowds awaited anxiously for the governor to accept their proposition. Several hours after this time, the lunch meeting showed no signs of coming to an end, and crowds started to become angry with the long wait they had experienced. Eventually, the leaders of the rebellion emerged from the prison with the news that the governor was refusing to surrender to their wants.

A group of youths decided to climb onto a shop roof and then dropped into the Bastille's courtyard. They managed to open the drawbridge, whilst killing one unlucky member of the crowd. The 3rd estate then obtained access to some cannons and aimed them towards the prison gates. The Governor's soldiers urged their Governor to give up as the attacks on the prison were ferocious and unmerciful. When the Governor finally did surrender his head was cut off and paraded through the streets on a pole. The raid was successful although the prison was found to contain only 7 prisoners.