

Arming Soldiers



Armour could be very expensive.

See if you can work out the costs of arming a soldier.

INVENTORY OF HENRY KEENE, LONDON ARMOURER, 1662	VALUE		
	Pounds	Shillings	Pence
4 old pistols and a carbine		8	
4 old swords		5	
7 head pieces for footmen	17	8	
8 pikes		24	
29 horsemen's breasts	4	16	8
One horseman's armour white and light		18	

1. If 8 pikes cost 24 shillings, how much would one pike cost?
2. Work out a rough price for one horseman's breastplate.
3. Is the footsoldier's or horseman's armour the more expensive?

Did you know..

There were 12 old pennies in a shilling, 12d. = 1s.

There were 20 shillings in a pound, 20s. = £1

The infantry raised by Parliament did not usually have buff coats. (Except those raised in London). Regiments of foot ideally had 1,000 soldiers divided into 10 companies. Each of these pikemen and musketeers would need to be armed.

These arms, below, were distributed to Colonel Belassis, Royalist leader in Leeds, in May 1643 by the Royalist Ordnance.

	Musketts	Bandoleres	Pikes
Colonel Belassis	30	30	70
To his own company	6	6	10
To his Lieutenant Colonel	3	3	4
To his Sergeant Major	3	3	9
To Captain Godfrey	3	3	9
To Captain Woolverston	2	2	6
To Captain Udal	3	3	9
To Captain Baynes	3	3	2
To Captain Pollack	3	3	7
To Captain Booth	3	3	9
To Captain Hilliard	2	2	7
TOTAL			

1. Count up the number of pikes, muskets and bandoliers that Colonel Belassis needed for his regiment.
2. Write the numbers in the TOTAL section of the table.
3. How much money would be spent on the pikes for the regiment?
4. Do you think that it would be possible for local gentlemen to equip a full army?