

THE

NATIONAL

ARCHIVES

# What methods did the Suffragettes use to gain the vote?

Political reform in 20th century Britain

Key Stages 3-5 | Early 20th century 1901-1918

Lesson

OF MANY PARLIAMENTARIANS, SUFFRAGETTES "PICKETTING" ENT  
MEMBERS TO VOTE IN FAVOUR OF WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE.

y the Suffragettes in their endeavours to gain the vote—the peaceful picketing o  
ade it their business to persuade as many Members as possible to vote for their

# Introduction

Throughout the nineteenth century, women played a prominent role in the fight for political rights. In the second half of the century, three major acts were passed extending political rights – but not to women. Women made only limited progress towards being able to control their own affairs and they did not have the right to vote.

At the end of the century, Millicent Fawcett formed the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and supporters became known as Suffragists. The campaign gained a higher profile through the actions of the Women's Social and Political Union, formed in 1903 by mother and daughter Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst.

Use the original documents in this lesson to discover the methods that the Suffragettes used to gain the vote in the twentieth century.

## Suitable for:

KS 3-5

## Time period:

Early 20th century 1901-1918

## Connections to curriculum:

### Key Stage Three

- Challenges for Britain, Europe and the wider world 1901 to the present day: Women's suffrage

### Key Stage Four

- AQA GCSE History: Britain: Power and the people: c1170 to the present day. Equality and rights
- OCR GCSE History: Power: Monarchy and Democracy in Britain c.1000 to 2014: the struggle for the vote for women and the reasons why it was won for some women in 1918.

### Key Stage Five

- AQA GCE History: Challenge and transformation: Britain, c1851–1964: Challenges to the status quo, c1886–1914
- Edexcel GCE History: Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928: The Women's Social and Political Union, 1903–14
- OCR GCE History: Liberals, Conservatives and the Rise of Labour 1846–1918: the role of women in the war, and the extension of the franchise in 1918.

# Contents

Introduction	2
Contents	3
Teacher's notes	4
Background	7
Tasks	8
Source 1a	11
Source 1b	14
Source 2a	16
Source 2b	17
Source 3a	19
Source 3b	21
Source 3c	23
Source 4	25
Source 5a	27
Source 5b	29
External links	31
Connections to curriculum	32

## Teacher's notes

Students use sources from The National Archives to explore the case of Suffragette Emily Davison and find out how the movement campaigned for the vote in Britain.

### Starter Activity

Teachers could use the photograph of the Suffragettes outside Parliament as a starter document to introduce the lesson. Show the photograph without the caption first of all.

- What does this photograph reveal?
- What is the significance of the caption provided with the photograph?
- Who do you think was the audience for this photograph?
- Why do you think this photograph was taken?
- What does it infer about the Suffragette movement?
- What is the value of photographs as opposed to written documents?

The first source in this lesson examines a leaflet from the Women's Social and Political Union describing the force-feeding of Suffragettes at Walton Gaol in Liverpool, December, 1909. Students explore what happened and can consider the nature, tone and purpose of the leaflet. It gives a lot of detail on the brutal treatment of Suffragettes in prison and infers they were not given the rights of political prisoners. Suffrage supporters petitioned the Secretary of State for the Home Office, Reginald McKenna, asking him to give suffrage prisoners the status of political prisoners and put an end to the practice of forcible feeding. The source infers a lot of additional information about the WSPU structure and organisation. We can deduce how they managed funds, created publicity and communicated their demands. Students could discuss what other sources might provide evidence about the Suffragette campaign.

The second source is a photograph taken outside Parliament on 18 November 1910. The man in the top hat is Dr Herbert Mills, the husband of the woman on the ground, Ernestine Mills. Students examine the photograph and its significance. They can consider how this photograph was later used to criticise the government. Teachers could show students the [Spotlight On video](#) about The National Archives' Copyright Office collection, which provides further information on the photograph. A Suffragette leaflet publicising a later

## Teacher's notes

demonstration at Parliament on 22 November 1910 is provided for students to explore how they publicised their activities but also conducted a war of words.

The third source consists of extracts from an article called 'Sensational Derby' in The Morning Post, 5 June 1913. 'The Morning Post' was a conservative paper published in London from 1772 to 1937. The article appears to be hostile to the Suffragette cause in terms of language and tone. It provides useful detail on the career of Emily Davison which reflects various activities carried out by campaigners. Teachers can discuss the meaning of the catalogue code 'HO', meaning Home Office. The document is a Home Office record. These records often concern threats to law and order, which explains why this newspaper exists in the collection.

The fourth source is an account by Mary Raleigh Richardson entitled 'Laugh a Defiance: an autobiography'. Mary Richardson was a prominent Suffragette who was present at the Derby and witnessed the actions of Emily Davison. This is an opportunity for students to explore the value of autobiographical sources for understanding the past. How does Richardson's version of events differ from the newspaper account given in source 3?

The final source is a police report on the incident at the Derby, 1913. Students assess the reliability of this source and can discover new information about the events of the 1913 Derby. Discuss with the class what they think Emily Davison was trying to do. It is worth pointing out that her possessions included a return ticket. Did she intend to become a martyr to the cause?

By way of conclusion, ask the students: which document in this collection is the most useful for understanding the tactics used to fight for the vote? How did the government respond to their campaign? What are the limitations of looking at this evidence to evaluate any understanding of the Suffragettes? Teachers could also create further tasks and lessons using our collection of original documents called [Suffragettes on File](#).

You may want to split the lesson for students working individually or use the document sources in paired/group work. All sources are transcribed and difficult language defined in square brackets.

## Teacher's notes

Please note that content in this lesson has been redeveloped from content in our [Power, Politics & Protest](#) focussed topic website, which has been archived as the interactive parts no longer work.

### Sources

Illustration image: Photograph from 'The Illustrated London News' showing three Suffragettes standing outside the House of Commons with the caption: 'When patience did not seem a virtue in the eyes of many Parliamentarians, Suffragettes 'Picketing' entrances to the House of Commons to persuade members to vote in favour of Women's Suffrage.'

Our photograph illustrates some of the less strenuous methods adopted by the Suffragettes in their endeavours to gain the vote- the peaceful picketing of the House of Commons by ladies of the white, green and purple, who made it their business to persuade as many Members as possible to vote for their cause.' 1 February, 1913, Catalogue ref: ZPER 34/142.

Source 1. A leaflet from the Women's Social and Political Union describing the force-feeding of Suffragettes at Walton Gaol, Liverpool, December 1909, Catalogue ref: HO 144/1052/187234)

Source 2a. A photograph taken outside Parliament on 18 November and a handbill publicising a demonstration at Parliament on 22 November 1910, Catalogue ref: COPY 1/551

Source 2b. A handbill publicising a demonstration at Parliament on 22 November 1910, Catalogue ref: HO 144/1106/200455

Source 3. Three extracts from an article called "Sensational Derby" in the Morning Post, 5 June 1913, Catalogue ref: HO 144/1150/210696

Source 4. Two extracts from an account by Mary Raleigh Richardson entitled 'Laugh a Defiance: an autobiography'. Published by George Weidenfeld & Nicolson: an imprint of The Orion Publishing Group, London, 1953.

Source 5. A police report on the incident at the Derby, 1913, Catalogue ref: MEPO 2/155

## Background

Following the [1832 Reform Act](#), demands for the extension of the right to vote continued. The Reform Acts of 1867 and 1884 extended these rights. In 1867, adult male householders and male lodgers paying £10 for unfurnished rooms could vote and in 1884, men living in the countryside could vote under the same terms.

Important rights for women were also fought for. Campaigners were generally the middle-class women who benefited from various acts improving the legal status of women, such as the Married Women's Property Acts of 1870, 1874 and 1882. The 1869 Municipal Franchise Act gave the vote to some women rate-payers in local elections and also enabled women to serve as Poor Law Guardians. The 1888 County Council Act also gave women the vote at county and borough council elections, but they could not serve as members. This right was not granted until 1907.

However, in 1897 Millicent Fawcett formed the moderate National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) to secure votes for women. The NUWSS was based on a network of local suffrage groups, many of which had been created since the 1860s, when they had attempted to get women included in the terms of the 1867 Reform Act. They lobbied politicians, staged demonstrations, marches and petitions and campaigned to get the support of the public for the cause.

In 1903, Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst formed the Women's Social and Political Union. The WSPU disrupted public meetings and boycotted the census. They smashed windows, set post boxes and buildings on fire and staged protests. When they were arrested or imprisoned, they went on hunger strikes. These actions gained much publicity and attention for the cause but the WSPU's campaign possibly alienated some potential sympathisers.

The protesters often clashed with police and with the public. For example, at demonstrations outside the Houses of Parliament on 18 and 23 November 1910, there was violence and arrests. The police were accused of behaving with unnecessary brutality and 18 November became known as Black Friday. In 1913, the campaign stepped up. Emmeline Pankhurst was imprisoned many times and went on hunger strike and was force fed. On 4 June, Emily Davison was killed at the Epsom Derby.

However, protests were put aside as the women joined in the war effort from 1914-18. In 1918, women were able to vote in general elections for the first time. The Representation of the People Act 1918 widened suffrage by abolishing practically all property qualifications for men and enfranchised women over 30 who met minimum property qualifications.

# Tasks

## Task 1

**Sources 1a-b:** A leaflet from the Women's Social and Political Union describing the force-feeding of Suffragettes at Walton Gaol, Liverpool, December 1909, Catalogue ref: HO 144/1052/187234)

Mother and daughter Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst were founders of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). Forcibly feeding someone who refused to eat meant forcing a feeding tube up the nose, causing great pain. Suffrage supporters petitioned the Secretary of State for the Home Office, Reginald McKenna, asking him to give suffrage prisoners the status of political prisoners and put an end to the practice of forcible feeding.

- What type of source is this?
- What do the following details found at the top of the document reveal about the organisation of the WSPU? – 'Telegraphic Address'; 'Head Office'; 'Banker'; 'Publishing Office'; 'Treasurer'; 'Newspaper'; 'Colours'.
- What do you think is the purpose of this leaflet?
- What happened to the Suffragettes mentioned when they were imprisoned in Walton gaol?
- How does the author of the leaflet show anger at the treatment of these Suffragettes? [Comment on headlines; print style; tone and language.]
- Why are electors (voters) being encouraged to vote against the Liberal candidate in the next election?
- What other sources might be used to explain the actions of the Suffragettes?

## Task 2

### Source 2a

A photograph taken outside the Houses of Parliament on 18 November, Catalogue ref: a. COPY 1/551

The man in the top hat is Dr Herbert Mills, the husband of the woman on the ground, Ernestine Mills.

# Tasks

- What do you think had happened just before the photograph was taken?
- Can you describe the scene in the photograph?
- What type of photograph is this?
- Why has this photograph been taken do you think?
- How could this photograph be used to criticise the government?
- How is this photograph useful for understanding the Suffragette movement?
- What is the value of photographs as opposed to written documents?

### Source 2b

A handbill publicising a demonstration at Parliament on 22 November 1910. Catalogue ref: HO 144/1106/200455

- Why does the leaflet include the expression 'Lovers of fair play' do you think?
- What does it mean by inviting people to "come and umpire" in the contest of "women versus the government"?
- Who produced this leaflet?
- How does this leaflet show the importance of publicity for the WSPU?
- What does the leaflet reveal about the activities of the Suffragette campaign?
- Does the information in the leaflet relate to the photograph in anyway?

## Task 3

**Sources 3a-c:** Three extracts from an article called 'Sensational Derby' in The Morning Post, 5 June 1913, Catalogue ref: HO 144/1150/210696

The Derby is a horse race held each year at Epsom. Suffragist is a term used to describe someone who wants political voting rights given to more people, in this case to women.

- What happened on Derby day according this newspaper?
- What is the attitude of the newspaper towards Emily Davison? [Consider the headline, language and tone.]
- How did spectators of the race, as reported by the newspaper, explain events in Source 3b?

## Tasks

- In what ways had Emily Davison supported the Suffragette movement according to 'Women's Who's Who' extract in the article in Source 3c?

### Task 4

**Source 4:** Two extracts from an account by Mary Raleigh Richardson entitled 'Laugh a Defiance: an autobiography'. Published by George Weidenfeld & Nicolson: an imprint of The Orion Publishing Group, London, 1953.

Mary Richardson was a prominent Suffragette present at the Derby who observed what happened to Emily Davison.

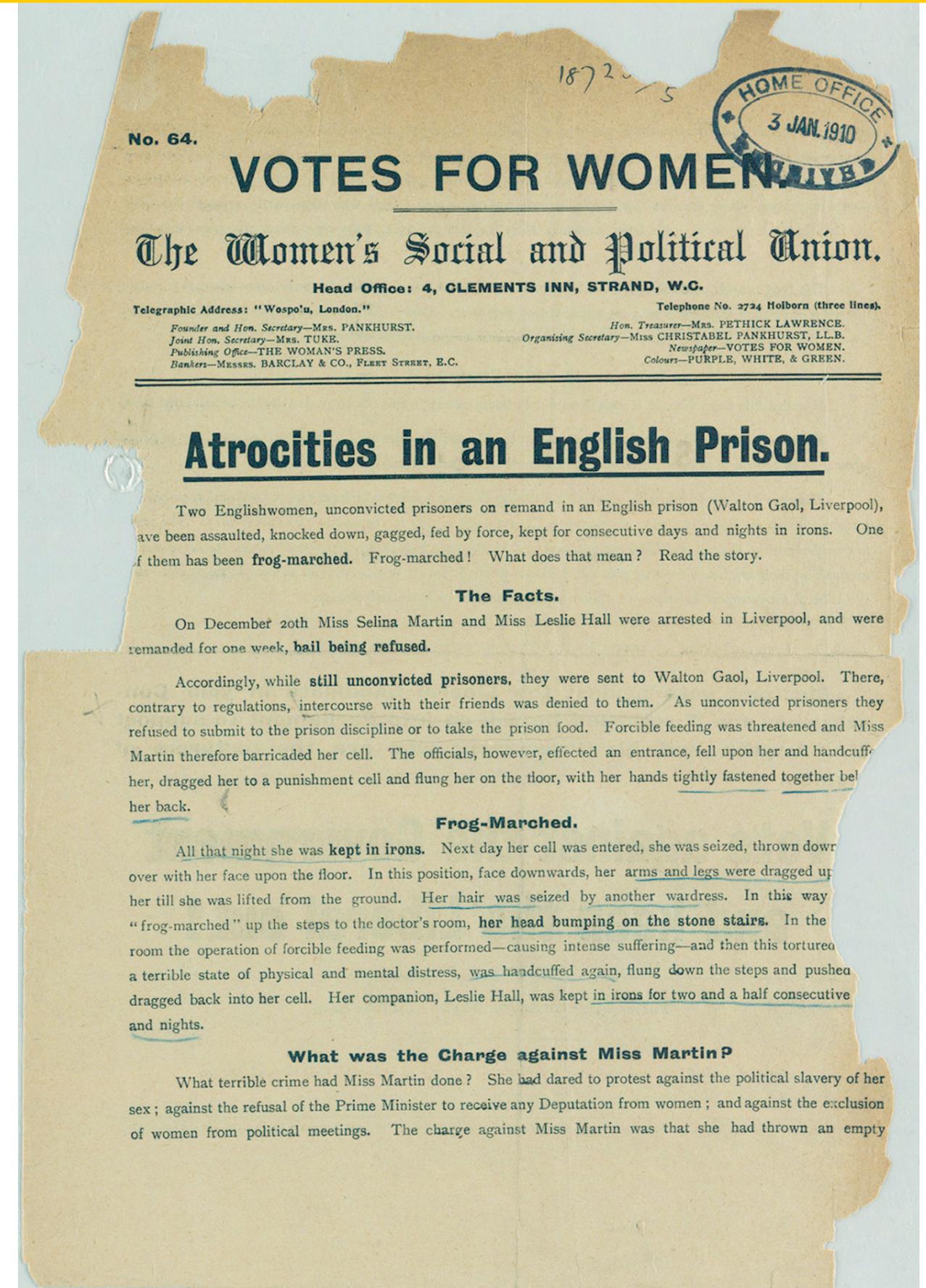
- What was the author, Mary Richardson, doing at Derby day?
- Why was she surprised to see Emily Davison there?
- How does this version of events differ from the newspaper account given in source 3?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of this autobiographical evidence when trying to find out what happened?
- Research the history of Mary Richardson.

### Task 5

**Sources 5a-b:** A police report on the incident at the Derby, 1913. Catalogue ref: MEPO 2/1551

- How reliable or unreliable do you think this source is as evidence?
- What new information about the events of the 1913 Derby does this source provide?
- Does this confirm or challenge the views in sources 3 and 4?
- What do you think Emily Davison was trying to do?

Source 1a: Page 1 of 2. A leaflet from the Women's Social and Political Union, December 1909. Catalogue ref: 144/1052/187234



## Transcript: Source 1a

### VOTES FOR WOMEN

#### The Women's Social and Political Union

Head Office: 4, Clements Inn, Strand, W.C.

Telegraphic Address: "Wopolu, London."	Telephone No. 2724 Holborn (three lines).
Founder and Hon. Secretary – Mrs. Pankhurst.	Hon. Treasurer – Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.
Joint Hon. Secretary – Mrs. Tuke.	Organising Secretary – Miss Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B.
Publishing Office – The Woman's Press.	Newspaper – Votes For Women.
Bankers – Messrs. Barclay & Co., Fleet Street, E.C.	Colours – Purple, White & Green.

### ATROCITIES IN AN ENGLISH PRISON.

Two Englishwomen, un-convicted prisoners on remand [sent back into custody by court order to wait for a trial] in an English prison (Walton Gaol, Liverpool), have been assaulted, knocked down, gagged, fed by force, kept for consecutive days and nights in irons. One of them has been **frog-marched**. [held by the arms and forced to walk] Frog-marched! What does that mean? Read the story.

#### The Facts.

On December 20th Miss Selina Martin and Miss Leslie Hall were arrested in Liverpool, and were remanded for one week, **bail being refused**. [Bail: release of arrested person in exchange for a sum of money, to ensure return for their trial]

Accordingly, while **still un-convicted prisoners**, they were sent to Walton Gaol, Liverpool. There, contrary to regulations, intercourse [communication] with their friends was denied to them. As un-convicted prisoners they refused to submit to the prison discipline or to take the prison food. Forcible feeding was threatened and Miss Martin therefore barricaded [blocked access to] her cell. The officials, however, effected [made] an entrance, fell upon her and handcuffed her, dragged her to a punishment cell and flung her on the floor, with her hands tightly fastened together behind her back.

#### Frog-Marched.

## Transcript (cont.): Source 1a

All that night she was **kept in irons**. Next day her cell was entered, she was seized, thrown down, rolled over with her face upon the floor. In this position, face downwards, her arms and legs were dragged up behind her till she was lifted from the ground. Her hair was seized by another wardress [female prison guard]. In this way she was "frog-marched" up the steps to the doctor's room, **her head bumping on the stone stairs**. In the doctor's room the operation of forcible feeding was performed – causing intense suffering – and then this tortured girl, in a terrible state of physical and mental distress, was handcuffed again, and flung down the steps and pushed and dragged back into her cell. Her companion, Leslie Hall, was kept in irons for two and a half consecutive days and nights.

#### What was the Charge against Miss Martin?

What terrible crime had Miss Martin done? She had dared to protest against the political slavery of her sex; against the refusal of the Prime Minister to receive any Deputation [representative group] from women; and against the exclusion of women from political meetings. The charge against Miss Martin was that she had thrown an empty

ginger-beer bottle at an empty motor-car—the car that had taken Mr. Asquith to the meeting. But when she was treated in this terribly cruel way these charges had not been proved, she was “on remand,” and by the theory of English law presumed innocent. Bail had been offered, she was ready to give an undertaking that no disturbance should take place during the week for which the case was remanded. **Bail was arbitrarily refused** in spite of the fact that though there have been hundreds of Suffragette prisoners, they have never attempted to escheat their bail.

**The frog march**, and the other assaults and cruelties, the brutal feeding by force, were resorted to during this week of remand, **while she was an unconvicted prisoner**. Prison officials, encouraged by the Government, have cast aside both law and humanity in dealing with women political prisoners.

#### Is this England?

If such deeds were done in Russia there would be an outcry in this country. Are they to be tolerated here?

**Electors!** You and you only can put a stop to this terrible injustice. These two women are in prison **now**. Miss Martin is sentenced to two months' hard labour and Miss Hall to one month.

**Electors!** assert your will. Secure the release of these women who have already suffered such horrible torture. It can be done by voting against the Government which is responsible for this cruelty. The prison authorities are the tools of the Government, and act as they are bidden by the Home Office. Because women are making their cry heard for that political freedom which Liberals profess to hold so dear in the case of ... the Liberal Government is persecuting them with unheard of violence and cruelty.

**Electors, vote against the Liberal Candidate in your Constituency, for if returned he will go into Parliament to support Mr. Asquith and his Government, who are the torturers of women.**

# Vote against the Government and keep the Liberal out!

*Read our paper, "VOTES FOR WOMEN," One Penny Weekly.*

*Copies of this leaflet can be obtained from The Woman's Press, price 9d. a hundred, 6/- a thousand, post free.*

Published by THE WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNION, 4, Clements Inn, Strand, W.C., and Printed by ST. CLEMENTS PRESS, LTD., Portugal Street, W.C.

40 144/1052

## Transcript: Source 1b

ginger-beer bottle at an empty motor car that had taken Mr. Asquith to the meeting. But when she was treated in this terribly cruel way these charges had not been proved, she was “on remand,” and by the theory of English law presumed innocent. Bail had been offered, she was ready to give an undertaking that no disturbance should take place during the week for which the case was remanded. **Bail was arbitrarily** [decided for no reason] **refused** in spite of the fact that though there have been hundreds of Suffragette prisoners, they have never attempted to escheat [forfeit/lose] their bail.

**The frog march**, and the other assaults and cruelties, the brutal feeding by force, were resorted to during this week of remand, **while she was an unconvicted prisoner**. Prison officials, encouraged by the Government, have cast aside both law and humanity in dealing with women political prisoners.

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**Electors, vote against the Liberal Candidate in your Constituency, for if returned he will go into Parliament to support Mr. Asquith and his Government, who are the torturers of women.**

**Vote against the Government and keep the Liberal out!**

Source 2a: Photograph taken outside the Houses of Parliament on 18 November. Catalogue ref: a. COPY 1/551



Source 2b: Handbill publicising a demonstration at Parliament on 22 November 1910. Catalogue Ref: HO 144/1106/200455

**VOTES FOR WOMEN**

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WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNION,  
4, CLEMENT'S INN.

---

A

**DEPUTATION OF WOMEN**

WILL ARRIVE IN

**PARLIAMENT SQUARE**

At 8 o'clock,

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22.**

---

TO LOVERS OF FAIR PLAY!  
**WOMEN VERSUS THE GOVERNMENT!**  
**Will you come and Umpire?**

---

Read "VOTES FOR WOMEN," Weekly, One Penny, from all  
Newsagents and Bookstalls.

Transcript: Source 2b

**VOTES FOR WOMEN**

WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNION,  
4, CLEMENT'S INN.

A

**DEPUTATION OF WOMEN**

WILL ARRIVE IN

**PARLIAMENT SQUARE**

At 8 o'clock,

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22.**

**TO LOVERS OF FAIR PLAY!**

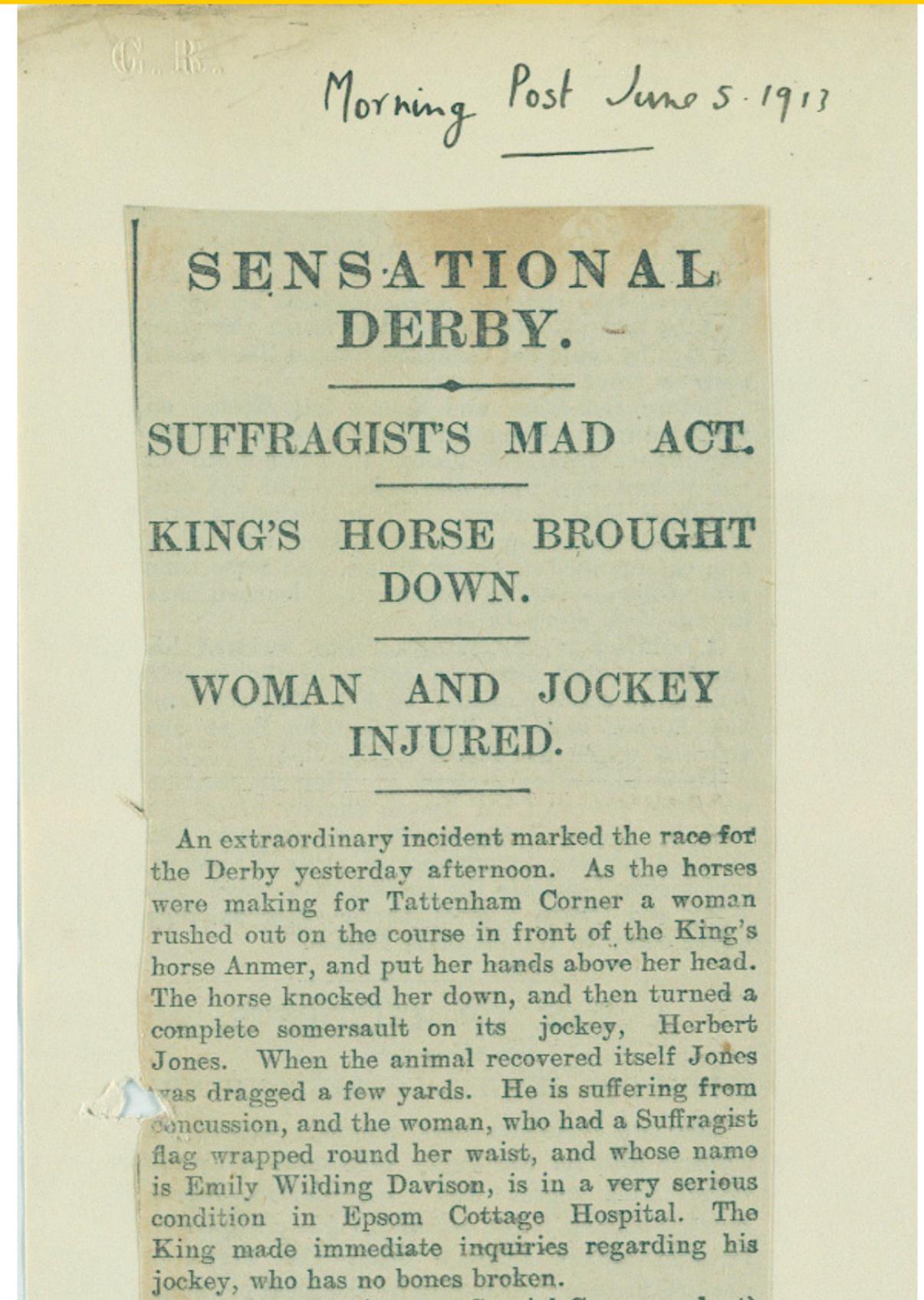
**WOMEN VERSUS THE GOVERNMENT!**

**Will you come and Umpire?**

Read "VOTES FOR WOMEN," Weekly, One Penny, from all  
Newsagents and Bookstalls.

Source 3a: Extract 1 out of 3. Three extracts from an article called  
'Sensational Derby' in The Morning Post, 5 June 1913.

Catalogue Ref: HO 144/1150/210696



## Transcript: Source 3a

SENSATIONAL DERBY.

SUFFRAGIST'S MAD ACT.

KING'S HORSE BROUGHT DOWN.

WOMAN AND JOCKEY INJURED.

An extraordinary incident marked the race for the Derby yesterday afternoon. As the horses were making for Tattenham Corner a woman rushed out on the course in front of the King's horse Anmer, and put her hands above her head. The horse knocked her down, and then turned a complete somersault on its jockey, Herbert Jones. When the animal recovered itself Jones was dragged a few yards. He is suffering from concussion, and the woman, who had a Suffragist flag wrapped round her waist, and whose name is Emily Wilding Davison, is in a very serious condition in Epsom Cottage Hospital. The King made immediate inquiries regarding his jockey, who has no bones broken.

...

## Source 3b: Extract 2 out of 3. Three extracts from an article called 'Sensational Derby' in The Morning Post, 5 June 1913.

Catalogue Ref: HO 144/1150/210696

3

There was great consternation among those on the Grand Stand when they saw Herbert Jones, obviously unconscious, being brought on an ambulance into the weighing enclosure. His Majesty left the Royal Box and came down to the Jockey Club terraces to inquire as to the condition of his jockey. Jones was for a little time unconscious from concussion, and his face and arms were injured. But it is gratifying to learn that he is recovering from the shock and the fall. The King commanded Superintendent McCarthy to bring him details of the affair. These have been briefly set out as officially furnished. When the cause of the injury to Jones became known a feeling of resentment against the Suffragists was only natural. And yet outside the Epsom Downs Station about five o'clock when the return to town was in full swing, a woman in the Suffragist colours was to be seen endeavouring to sell the papers of the cause.

### THE INJURED WOMAN: QUEEN'S INQUIRIES.

The woman knocked down by Anmer was Miss Emily Wilding Davison, a well-known Suffragist, who has been sentenced on several occasions for acts of militancy. The fact that a Women's Social and Political Union card was found on her, and that she had the Suffragist colours tied around her waist, suggested that her action in placing herself in the way of the horses was a deliberate one, but (says the Press Association) people who were close by her at the rails expressed the view that she rushed on the course in the belief that all the horses had passed. Some of the spectators gave it as their opinion that she was crossing the course in order to get to a friend on the opposite side, and fainted when she saw the horses galloping on her. On the other hand, an eyewitness regarded it as a deliberate act. "We were," he said, "all intent on the finish of the race, and were straining forward to see which of the leaders had won. Just at that moment there was a scream, and I saw a woman leaping forward and making a grab at the bridle of Anmer, the King's horse. The horse reared and fell, bringing down its jockey. Jones seemed to be stunned and was taken away by ambulance men. The woman was lying on the ground, and when the crowd rushed on to the course the police surrounded her. She was removed on a stretcher."

## Transcript: Source 3b

...

There was great consternation among those on the Grand Stand when they saw Herbert Jones, obviously unconscious, being brought on an ambulance into the weighing enclosure. His Majesty left the Royal Box and came down to the Jockey Club terraces to inquire as to the condition of his jockey. Jones was for a little time unconscious from concussion, and his face and arms were injured. But it is gratifying [pleasing] to learn that he is recovering from the shock and the fall. The King commanded Superintendent McCarthy to bring him details of the affair. These have been briefly set out as officially furnished. When the cause of the injury to Jones became known a feeling of resentment against the Suffragists was only natural. And yet outside the Epsom Downs Station about five o'clock when the return to town was in full swing, a woman in the Suffragist colours was to be seen endeavouring to sell the papers of the cause.

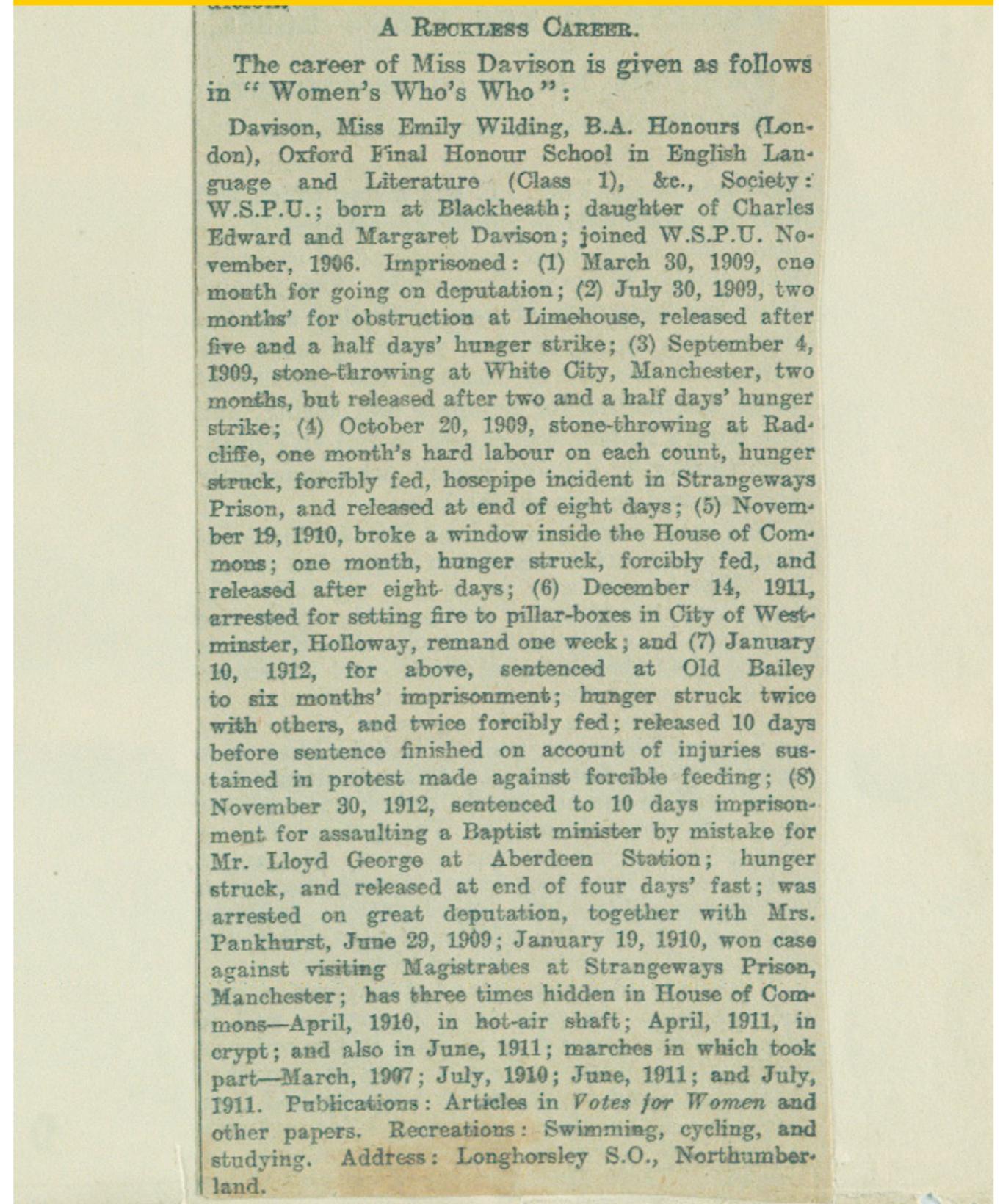
### THE INJURED WOMAN: QUEEN'S INQUIRIES

The woman knocked down by Anmer was Miss Emily Wilding Davison, a well-known Suffragist, who has been sentenced on several occasions for acts of militancy [acts involving fighting or being aggressive.] The fact that a Women's Social and Political Union card was found on her, and that she had the Suffragist colours tied around her waist, suggested that her action in placing herself in the way of the horses was a deliberate one, but (says the Press Association) people who were close by her at the rails expressed the view that she rushed on the course in the belief that all the horses had passed. Some of the spectators gave it as their opinion that she was crossing the course in order to get to a friend on the opposite side, and fainted when she saw the horses galloping on her. On the other hand, an eyewitness regarded it as a deliberate act. "We were," he said, "all intent on the finish of the race, and were straining forward to see which of the leaders had won. Just at that moment there was a scream, and I saw a woman leaping forward and making a grab at the bridle of Anmer, the King's horse. The horse reared and fell, bringing down its jockey. Jones seemed to be stunned and was taken away by ambulance men. The woman was lying on the ground, and when the crowd rushed on to the course the police surrounded her. She was removed on a stretcher."

...

## Source 3c: Extract 3 out of 3. Three extracts from an article called 'Sensational Derby' in The Morning Post, 5 June 1913.

Catalogue Ref: HO 144/1150/210696



## Transcript: Source 3c

### A RECKLESS CAREER

The career of Miss Davison is given as follows in "Women's Who's Who"

Davison, Miss Emily Wilding, BA Honours (London), Oxford Final Honour School in English Language and Literature (Class I), &c., Society: W.S.P.U.; born at Blackheath; daughter of Charles Edward and Margaret Davison; joined W.S.P.U. November 1906.

- Imprisoned: (1) March 30, 1909, one month for going on deputation;  
(2) July 30, 1909, two months' for obstruction [blocking] at Limehouse, released after five and a half days' hunger strike;  
(3) September 4, 1909, stone-throwing at White City, Manchester, two months, but released after two and a half days' hunger strike;  
(4) October 20, 1909, stone-throwing at Radcliffe, one month's hard labour on each count, hunger struck, forcibly fed, hose-pipe incident in Strangeways prison and released at end of eight days;  
(5) November 19, 1910, broke a window inside the House of Commons; one month, hunger struck, forcibly fed, and released after eight days;  
(6) December 14, 1911, arrested for setting fire to pillar-boxes in City of Westminster; Holloway, remand one week; and  
(7) January 10, 1912, for above, sentenced at Old Bailey to six months' imprisonment; hunger struck twice with others, and twice forcibly fed; released 10 days before sentence finished on account of injuries sustained in protest made against forcible feeding;  
(8) November 30, 1912, sentenced to 10 days imprisonment for assaulting a Baptist Minister by mistake for Mr. Lloyd George at Aberdeen Station; hunger struck, and released at end of 4 days' fast; was arrested on great deputation, together with Mrs. Pankhurst, June 29, 1909; January 19, 1910, won case against visiting Magistrates at Strangeways Prison, Manchester; has three times hidden in House of Commons - April, 1910, in hot-air shaft; April, 1911, in crypt; and also in June, 1911; marches in which took part - March, 1907; July, 1910; June, 1911; and July, 1911.

Publications: Articles in 'Votes for Women' and other papers.

Recreations: Swimming, cycling and studying. Address: Longhorsley S.O., Northumberland.

## Source 4: Account by Mary Raleigh Richardson entitled 'Laugh a Defiance: an autobiography'. Published by George Weidenfeld & Nicolson: an imprint of The Orion Publishing Group, London, 1953.

From where I stood it was impossible to see the Royal Box; but I knew by the cheering and the excited faces of the people near me that Their Majesties had arrived. Just as the first race began I summoned up all my courage and took out a copy of *The Suffragette* from my bag and waved it in the air. I had judged correctly: except for the scornful glances cast in my direction I was not molested.

It was not until the end of the third race that I saw Emily

2

19

### LAUGH A DEFIANCE

Davison. We had met several times and from the talks we had had I had formed the opinion that she was a very serious-minded person. That was why I felt so surprised to see her. She was not the sort of woman to spend an afternoon at the races. I smiled to her; and from the distance she seemed to be smiling faintly back at me. She stood alone there, close to the white-painted rails where the course bends round at Tattenham Corner; she looked absorbed and yet far away from everybody else and seemed to have no interest in what was going on round her. I felt a sudden premonition about her and found my heart was beating excitedly. I shall always remember how beautifully calm her face was. But at that very moment—as I was told afterwards by her closest friend—she knew she was about to give her life for the cause.

It is impossible to explain feelings like that; one can only accept them and wonder. The evening before the Derby Emily had told a few friends, quite calmly, that she would be the only casualty. No one else would be injured, not even the jockey.

I was unable to keep my eyes off her as I stood holding *The Suffragette* up in my clenched hand. A minute before the race started she raised a paper of her own or some kind of card before her eyes. I was watching her hand. It did not shake. Even when I heard the pounding of the horses' hooves moving closer I saw she was still smiling. And suddenly she slipped under the rail and ran out into the middle of the racecourse. It was all over so quickly. Emily was under the hooves of one of the horses and seemed to be hurled for some distance across the grass. The horse stumbled sideways and its jockey was thrown from its back. She lay very still.

There was an awful silence that seemed to go on for minutes; then, suddenly, angry shouts and cries arose and people swarmed out on to the racecourse. I was rooted to the earth with horror until a man snatched the paper I was still holding in my hand and beat it across my face. That warned me of my own danger. I pushed a way through the crowd and my

20

## Transcript: Source 4

From where I stood it was impossible to see the Royal Box; but I knew by the cheering and excited faces of the people near me that Their Majesties had arrived. Just as the first race began I summoned up all my courage and took out a copy of 'The Suffragette' from my bag and waved it in the air. I had judged correctly: except for the scornful glances cast in my direction I was not molested.

It was not until the end of the third race that I saw Emily Davison.

We had met several times and from the talks we had had I had formed the opinion that she was a very serious-minded person. That was why I felt so surprised to see her. She was not the sort of woman to spend an afternoon at the races. I smiled to her; and from the distance she seemed to be smiling faintly back at me. She stood alone there, close to the white-painted rails where the course bends round at Tattenham Corner; she looked absorbed and yet far away from everybody else and seemed to have no interest in what was going on round her. I felt a sudden premonition about her and found my heart was beating excitedly. I shall always remember how beautifully calm her face was. But at that very moment - as I was told afterwards by her closest friend - she knew she was about to give her life for the cause.

It is impossible to explain feelings like that; one can only accept them and wonder. The evening before the Derby Emily had told a few friends, quite calmly, that she would be the only casualty. No one else would be injured, not even the jockey.

I was unable to keep my eyes off her as I stood holding 'The Suffragette' up in my clenched hand. A minute before the race started she raised a paper of her own or some kind of card before her eyes. I was watching her hand. It did not shake. Even when I heard the pounding of the horses' hooves moving closer I saw she was still smiling. And suddenly she slipped under the rail and ran out into the middle of the racecourse. It was all over so quickly. Emily was under the hooves of one of the horses and seemed to be hurled for some distance across the grass. The horse stumbled sideways and its jockey was thrown from its back. She lay very still.

There was an awful silence that seemed to go on for minutes; then, suddenly, angry shouts and cries arose and people swarmed out on to the racecourse. I was rooted to the earth with horror until a man snatched the paper I was still holding in my hand and beat it across my face. That warned me of my own danger.

## Source 5a: Extract 1 out of 2. A police report on the incident at the Derby, 1913. Catalogue Ref: MEPO 2/1551

New No. 728.  
Old No. 6.

Metropolitan Police. 14

Epsom STATION. "V" DIVISION.

Reference to Papers. 4<sup>th</sup> June 1913

I beg to report that at 3.10 pm  
4<sup>th</sup> inst I was on duty at Tattenham  
Corner near the Gun Path whilst the  
race for the Derby Cup was being  
run several horses passed by when  
a woman supposed Emily Davison  
ran out from under the fence and  
held her hands up in front of  
H. M. The King's horse, whereby  
she was knocked down and  
rendered unconscious. Dr Lane of  
Banstead attended to the woman  
and directed her removal to the  
Cottage Hospital, Epsom where  
she was taken in a private  
motor No. L.A. 4959. owned by  
J. B. T. Galer Esq. Manor House  
Ewell who kindly placed same  
at disposal of Police. Mrs. Warburg  
of 2 Grosvenor Hill, Paddington, W.  
rendered great assistance to the  
injured woman and accompanied  
her in motor-car to Hospital  
the lady having formerly been  
a nurse. She was seen by the  
House Surgeon Dr Peacock and  
detained. The doctor stated she  
was suffering from concussion  
and was unconscious. On her  
jacket being removed I found

300000-10-09. M.P.

Transcript: Source 5a

Metropolitan Police.

Epsom Station.

"V" Division.  
4th June 1913

I beg to report that at 3.10 pm 4th [instance] I was on duty at Tattenham Corner near the [?] Path whilst the race for the Derby Cup was being run several horses passed by when a woman supposed Emily Davison ran out from under the fence and held her hands up in front of H. M. The King's horse, whereby she was knocked down and rendered unconscious. Dr V Lane of Banstead attended to the woman and directed her removal to the Cottage Hospital, Epsom where she was taken in a private motor No. L. A. 7959 owned by J. B. V. Faber Esq. Manor House, Ewell who kindly placed same at disposal of Police. Mrs. Warburg of 2 Craven Hill, Paddington. W. rendered great assistance to the injured woman and accompanied her in motor-car to Hospital the lady having formerly been a nurse. She was seen by the House Surgeon Dr Peacock and detained, the Doctor stated she was suffering from concussion and was unconscious. On her jacket being removed I found

...

Source 5b: Extract 2 out of 2. A police report on the incident at the Derby, 1913. Catalogue Ref: MEPO 2/1551

No. 6a.

found two suffragette flags<sup>15</sup>  
1 1/2 yards long by 3/4 yard wide  
each consisting of green, white  
and purple stripes. folded up  
and pinned to the back of her  
jacket on the inside. On person  
1 purse containing 3/8 3/4. 1 return  
half railway ticket from Epsom  
Race Course to Victoria No 0315  
2 Postal Orders counterfoils No.  
49 435592. for 2/6. "crossed" written  
in ink thereon. one for 4/6. E. Gore  
1 4/10. written in ink thereon  
one insurance ticket dated  
May 10<sup>th</sup> 1913 on G. E. Railway.  
to and from New Oxford Street.  
eight 1/2 stamps. 1 key. 1 helpers  
pass for the Suffragette Festival  
Empress Rooms. High Street.  
Tensington for 4<sup>th</sup> June 1913.  
1 memo book. 1 Race Card  
some envelopes and writing paper  
1 handkerchief Emily Davison  
E. W. D. 8.88. in corner.

## Transcript: Source 5b

...

found two Suffragette flags 1½ yards long by ¾ yard wide each consisting of green, white and purple stripes folded up and pinned to the back of her jacket on the inside. On person 1 purse containing 3s 8d ¾. 1 return half railway ticket from Epsom Race Course to Victoria No 0315, 2 Postal Orders Counterfoils [ticket stubs for a postal order payment] No 79/c 435592 for 2/6 [two shillings and six pence] "crossed" written in ink thereon, one for 7/6 [seven shillings and six pence], E. Gore, 1 4/13 written in ink thereon one insurance ticket dated May 10th 1913 on. G. E. [Great Eastern] Railway to and from New Oxford Street. [Return ticket]. Eight ½ [penny] stamps. 1 key. 1 Helpers' pass for the Suffragette Festival Empress Rooms, High Street, Kensington for 4th June 1913. 1 Memo Book. 1 Race Card some envelopes and writing paper. 1 handkerchief Emily Davison [initials] E. W. D. 8.88 [shillings and pennies] in coins.

## External links

- [Royal Holloway, University of London](#): Video with showing how visual propaganda sources were used for and against the Suffragette movement.<sup>1</sup>
- [More information from Parliament](#) on the history of the Suffragettes.<sup>2</sup>
- [Museum of London](#): More information on the history of the Suffragettes plus an online exhibition called 'Votes for Women' with original documents and objects.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6ZjUgDMQh4>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/electionsvoting/womenvote/overview/startssuffragette/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london/explore/who-were-suffragettes>

## Connections to curriculum

### Key stage 3

Challenges for Britain, Europe and the wider world 1901 to the present day: Women's suffrage

### Key stage 4

#### AQA GCSE History:

Britain: Power and the people: c1170 to the present day. Equality and rights

#### OCR GCSE History:

Power: Monarchy and Democracy in Britain c.1000 to 2014: the struggle for the vote for women and the reasons why it was won for some women in 1918.

### Key stage 5

#### AQA GCE History:

Challenge and transformation: Britain, c1851–1964: Challenges to the status quo, c1886–1914

#### Edexcel GCE History:

Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928: The Women's Social and Political Union, 1903–14

#### OCR GCE History:

Liberals, Conservatives and the Rise of Labour 1846–1918: the role of women in the war, and the extension of the franchise in 1918.



### Why do our hyperlinks come with footnotes?

Our resources are designed to be printed and used in classrooms, which means hyperlinks aren't always accessible digitally. We include the full link at the bottom of the page so that you can type in the address without distracting from the main text of the lesson materials.

### Did you know?

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Our [Online Workshops](#) allow our Education Officers to teach through your projector, leading discussions and guiding students through activities based around original documents. All you need is a computer with a projector, webcam and microphone. We'll arrange a test call before your session to check the tech is working.

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