

The Gunpowder Plot



Guy Fawkes, effigies of whom are still burned each November 5, tried with co-conspirators to blow up Parliament in 1605 because of the refusal by King James I to stop penalising Catholics

A soldier and explosives expert, he was caught red-handed beside the barrels of gunpowder, waiting to light the fuse once the king had arrived to open Parliament. He was executed the following January whereupon King James quickly declared the anniversary a public holiday