**Edward of Woodstock (“the Black Prince”) (1330–76)**, eldest son of King Edward III, was the chief commander of the English forces during campaigns in Gascony and Poitiers during the Hundred Years’ War against France. It was alleged by the French chronicler Jean Froissart that, in September 1370, Edward brutally killed 3,000 inhabitants of the city of Limoges. However, recent research by Dr Guilhem Pepin has exonerated Edward of this atrocity. Edward died in 1376, survived by his wife, Joan of Kent, and his son, the future Richard II.

The reason why Edward was dubbed “Black Prince” is unclear; it does not appear as a nickname for him in historical records until nearly two hundred years after his death. It may stem either from the fact that he used a black shield when jousting, or from his reputation in France after the alleged massacre at Limoges.

Edward’s statue was commissioned by Lord Mayor Thomas Walter Harding who personally financed the sculpture to commemorate the award of city status to Leeds in 1893. The sculptor Thomas Brock was commissioned to construct it, and it took seven years to complete. Fittingly cast in Belgium—for as a result of his friendship with Flemish ruler Jacob van Artevelde, Edward encouraged the immigration of Flemish weavers, cloth-dyers, and fullers into Norfolk and the West Riding—the statue was finally unveiled at a public ceremony in 1903. The statue is currently located on City Square.