



THE TREE OF BATTLES

Medieval Warfare 1300-1500

Game Scenario

Newark

26 March 1471

Historical Background

Having landed in Yorkshire 5 days earlier, Edward IV marches south from York on 19 March 1471. His army is still relatively small, consisting of little more than his own retinue, that of Richard Duke of Gloucester and some Flemish mercenaries.

He reaches Nottingham on 25 March, where he is joined by Sir William Stanley's contingent and other reinforcements raised in the Midlands by William Hastings.

On the day that Edward moves from York, John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, sets out from Bury St Edmunds. He plans a rendezvous at King's Lynn with Henry Holland Duke of Exeter and William Viscount Beaumont on 22 March. Then they swing west towards Newark, to intercept Edward. In addition to their own retinues the Lancastrian force includes around 4,000 men from East Anglia.

At Nottingham Edward learns of Oxford and Exeter's arrival at Newark and decides to march out to meet them.

What happened next is not entirely clear but it appears that after a brief encounter with Edward's scouts the Lancastrians withdrew. This game presumes that they stood to hold their ground and that a full blown battle ensued.



Orders of Battle

Scale: 1 base = approximately 250 men on foot, 100 mounted or 4 guns.

Yorkists choose 25 bases from the list below and organise into 2 Battles under King Edward IV (4 command points) and Richard Duke of Gloucester (3 command points)

Retinues: 2-3 men-at-arms, full harness, A Grade

Retainers: 2-6 archers, B Grade

Retainers: 2-6 heavy infantry billmen, B Grade

Midlands Archers: 4-8 archers C Grade

Midlands Billmen: up to 6 heavy infantry billmen, C Grade

Flemish Mercenaries: 2 skirmishers, handgunners and/or crossbowmen, B Grade

Artillery: up to 1 gun

Lancastrians choose 20 bases from the list below and organise into 2 Battles under John de Vere, Earl of Oxford (4 command points) and Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter (3 command points).

Retinues: 2 men-at-arms, full harness, A grade

Retainers: 2-6 archers, B Grade

Retainers: 2-6 heavy infantry billmen, B Grade

East Anglian Archers: 4-8 archers, C Grade

East Anglian Billmen: 4-8 heavy infantry billmen, C Grade

Scourers: up to 2 light horse, B Grade

Artillery: up to 1 gun

Table set up and Deployment

This is an attack on a defended position with the Yorkists the attackers.

The Yorkist player sets up the terrain and the Lancastrian chooses sides. There must be at least four terrain items which may be any combination of hills, woods or marsh.

The Lancastrians then set up anywhere on their table side no closer than bow range from the centre. Once their troops are deployed the Yorkists may set up anywhere on their side of the table no closer than bow range from the centre.

The Yorkists have initiative on the first turn. Dice for initiative on succeeding turns.

Livery Colours

Notable Yorkist leaders likely to have been present and the livery colours worn by their retainers include:

Edward IV: murrey (dark red or crimson) and blue

Richard of Gloucester: murrey and blue

William Hastings: murrey and blue

William Stanley: red

Notable Lancastrian leaders likely to have been present and their livery colours include:

Earl of Oxford: tawney (orange-brown)

Duke of Exeter: white and red

William Beaumont: white

