



THE TREE OF BATTLES

Medieval Warfare 1300-1500

Game Scenario

Stoke Field

16 June 1487

The Historical Battle



On 24 May 1487 the 10 year old Lambert Simnel (posing as Edward, Earl of Warwick) was proclaimed King Edward VI in Dublin with the support of the Earl of Lincoln, Viscount Lovell and the Irish nobility. Bolstered by a large Irish contingent and mercenaries provided by the Duchess of Burgundy, the Yorkists sailed to England to contest the throne with King Henry VII.

Battle was joined on 16 June, near East Stoke in Nottinghamshire. The Yorkists (around 8000 men) deployed on high ground of Burham Furlong to the north in a bow formed by the meander of the Trent river. The English under the Earl of Lincoln held the right, Swiss, German and Burgundian mercenaries under Martin Schwartz the centre, the Irish under Sir Thomas Fitzgerald were on the left.

They were attacked by the vanguard of the Tudor army led by the Earl of Oxford. This contained about 6000 men and a cavalry wing (or possibly two).

The mainward under Henry VII and rearward under Lord Strange were following on behind. Oxford's vanguard alone was enough to defeat the Yorkists. Many of the fleeing Yorkists were massacred at the re-entrant which came to be known as *red gutter* (see map). Lincoln and Fitzgerald were killed, Schwartz was never heard of again, and Lambert Simnel was put to work in King Henry VII's kitchen.

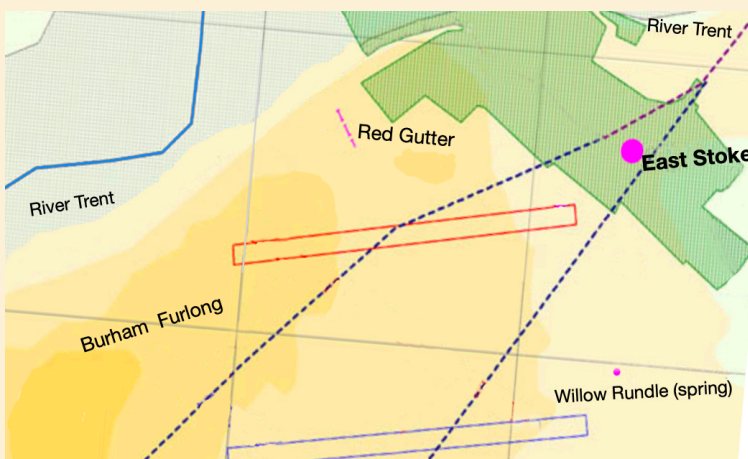
Game Scenario

I used an 8 x 5 foot table for 28mm figures at a rough scale of 1:50. This allowed for plenty of scenery on the flanks. Given the small number of troops it would be possible to play it on a 6 x 4 foot table.

The Yorkist army and Oxford's vanguard are deployed at the start up to 18" apart. Dice for arrival of King Henry on 3rd turn. They arrive on 5-6, their mounted units on 4-6, +1 each succeeding turn. Strange may dice to arrive once the King is on table. Arrive on 5-6, +1 each succeeding turn. The follow-on contingents may arrive on either of the two roads in column.

Oxford, Scales, Strange, Fitzgerald and Schwartz must test to interpret their orders. Once on table Strange must test for treachery if ordered to do other than hold (he is a Stanley after all).

I based my table layout on the [Battlefields Trust](#) map below. Yorkists red, Tudors blue.



Yorkist Brief

It is June 1487 and the Yorkist cause is alive and well. Ten year-old Edward, Earl of Warwick has been crowned King Edward VI in Dublin.

Supported by the Irish nobility and the Duchess of Burgundy, you have sailed to England to reclaim the throne for Edward from the usurper Henry Tudor. Having outmanoeuvred the Tudors and gaining victory in several skirmishes you have formed your army for battle on high ground near East Stoke in Nottinghamshire. Your left flank is protected by the enclosures of East Stoke, your right by the Trent river.

The Tudors are led by the veteran Earl of Oxford with a cavalry wing. You outnumber him. There is no sign of the Tudor usurper's banner amongst the enemy host.

Note: The numbers per unit in the following orders of battle are based on the figures I have. They may be freely adjusted as long as numbers and proportions are roughly similar.

Yorkist Order of Battle

Scale: 1 foot base = 300 men, 1 skirmisher base = 150 men, 1 gun = 4

Right: John de la Pole, Earl of Lincoln's English (Dice CPs)

Lincoln's Retinue	1 Men at Arms, Full Harness, B Grade
Viscount Lovell	1 bill, 2 archers, B Grade
Sir Richard Harleston	2 bill, 2 archers, C Grade
Scourers	2 light horse, C Grade

Centre: Martin Schwartz's Mercenaries (3 CPs)

Schwartz's Retinue	1 Men at Arms, Mercenary, B Grade, not full harness
Swiss	2 pike, 2 halberd, Mercenary, B Grade, 2 ranks deep, pikes in front
Germans	4 pike, Mercenary, B Grade, 2 ranks deep
Burgundians	2 handgun skirmishers, Mercenary, B Grade
Artillery	1 gun

Left: Sir Thomas Fitzgerald's Irish, (Dice CPs)

Fitzgerald's Retinue	1 Men at Arms, B Grade, not full harness
Irish Retainers	2 Heavy Infantry with axes, B Grade
Irish Gallowglass	2 Heavy Infantry with axes, C Grade
Irish Kerns	3 javelin skirmishers, C Grade
Irish Kerns	3 bow skirmishers, C Grade
Irish Kerns	4 bow skirmishers, C Grade

Notes: The Swiss could optionally be all pike armed instead of mixed pikes and halberds.

Irish Heavy Infantry axemen +1 combat die if charging.



Tudor Brief

You are advancing on the enemy position near East Stoke. The substantial vanguard led by the Earl of Oxford has deployed for battle, supported by Lord Scales' cavalry wing. These alone should be sufficient to deal with the motley force of Irish and mercenaries that oppose you.

Your mainward, commanded by the King is following up behind Oxford (initially off-table). The rearward, commanded by George Stanley, Lord Strange is following up behind the King (off-table). You can never be sure of a Stanley's loyalty! The follow on contingents may arrive on either or both of the two roads from the South.

Tudor Order of Battle

Scale: 1 foot base = 300 men, 1 mounted base = 150 men, 1 gun = 4

Vanguard: John de Vere Earl of Oxford (4 CPs)

Oxford's Retinue	1 Men at Arms, Full Harness, A Grade
Oxford's Retainers	1 bill, 2 bow, B Grade
Sir John Paston	2 bill, 2 bow, B Grade
Sir Gilbert Talbot	1 bill, 1 bow, B Grade
Sir John Savage	1 bill, 1 bow, B Grade
Sir Humphrey Audley	2 bill, 2 bow, B Grade
Sir Richard Neville	2 bill, 2 bow, B Grade

Mounted Wing: Lord Scales (Dice for CPs)

Scales' Retinue	3 mounted Men at Arms, A Grade
Scourers	2 light horse, C Grade

Mainward: King Henry VII (3 CPs)

King's Retinue	1 mounted Men at Arms, A Grade
Royal Archers	2 mounted archers, A Grade
Rhys Ap Thomas	2 bill, B Grade
Sir William Norreys	2 bill, 2 archers B Grade
Artillery	1 gun

Rearward: Sir George Stanley Lord Strange (dice for CPs)

Stanley's Retinue	1 Men at Arms, full harness, A Grade
Stanley's Retainers	1 bill, 1 bow, B Grade
Sir Edward Hastings	1 Men at Arms, 1 bill, 2 bow, B Grade

Notes:

The King's retinue may dismount as one understrength Men at Arms, full harness, counting 2 dice in combat rather than usual 3 for a full base.

The Royal Archers may dismount as one foot archer base.

In the historical battle Oxford had two mounted wings, one commanded by Lord Scales, the other by Sir John Savage.

To replicate this Savage's bill & bow unit from the vanguard may be replaced by one mounted men at arms (B Grade) to form a second cavalry wing. In this case the scourers should be with Savage rather than Lord Scales.

