



# THE TREE OF BATTLES

Medieval Warfare 1300-1500

Game Scenario

Barnet

14 April 1471

## The Historical Battle



King Edward IV returned to England from exile in March 1471. The Earl of Warwick had switched allegiance from Edward to restore King Henry VI to the throne. He marched to meet Edward in battle at Barnet north of London.

Under cover of darkness King Edward moved his men close to the Lancastrian lines. He attacked shortly after dawn when a thick mist descended on the battlefield. In the dark and mist Edward inadvertently misaligned his deployment so that his right outflanked Warwick's and his left was equally outflanked.

Both right wings were successful. Oxford, on the Lancastrian right routed Hastings but lost control of his men who went off in pursuit. Gloucester on the Yorkist right drove off Exeter then closed in to support Edward in the centre. Warwick was killed and the Yorkists were victorious

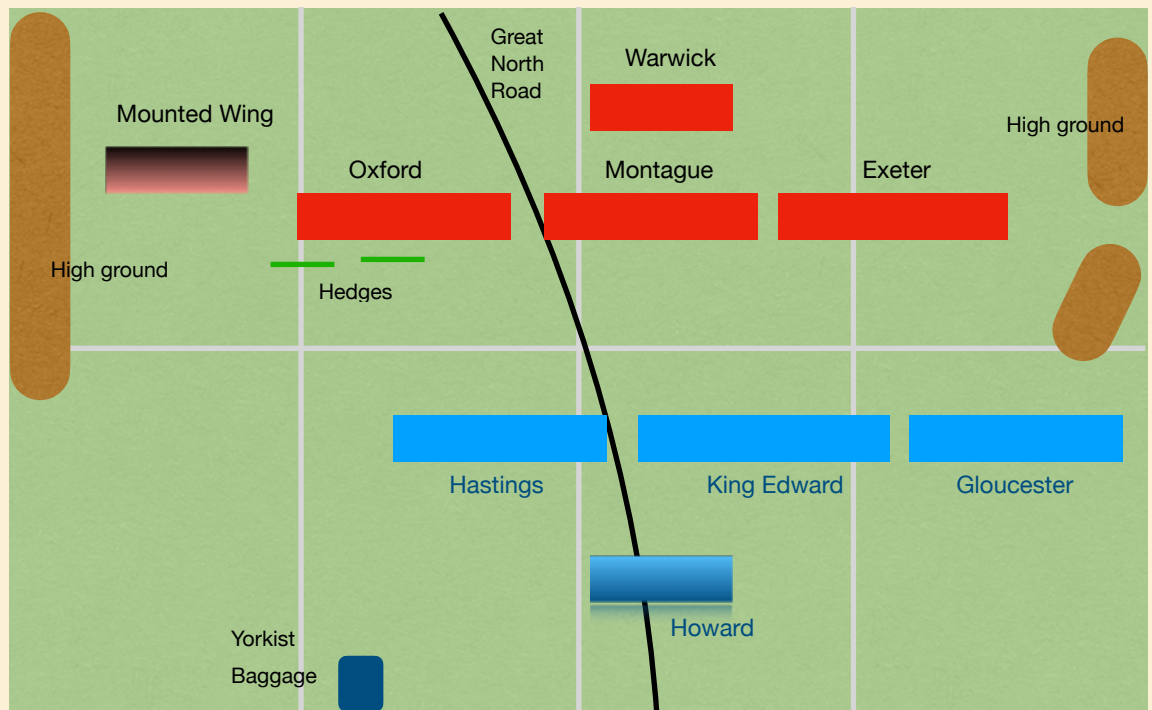
## Game Scenario

The game requires a table 8 foot wide table (for 28mm figures). The two sides deploy 15" apart but the Lancastrians are initially unaware how close the Yorkists are to their position (see deployment map below).

Players do not know that their armies are misaligned with both right wings outflanking their opponent. This can be replicated by initially deploying the Yorkists further back and then moving them forward just before the first move of the game. When moving them forward, shift the Yorkist line to the right. Alternatively use a scatter die to determine the direction of offset to prevent historical hindsight by players that have knowledge of the battle.

On the opening move the mist reduces visibility to just 6" at the start of the game. Roll an AvD to determine number of turns before mist starts to clear. Then visibility increases by 4" each turn. The mist will also cause the Yorkists to be unaware of the hedges in front of Oxford's position until they come within visible range.

When moving in the mist roll a scatter die on all moves over 6". Shift 1" in the direction of the arrow unless prevented by other units, terrain or table edge being in the way.



The actual deployment map for an 8 x 6 foot table.

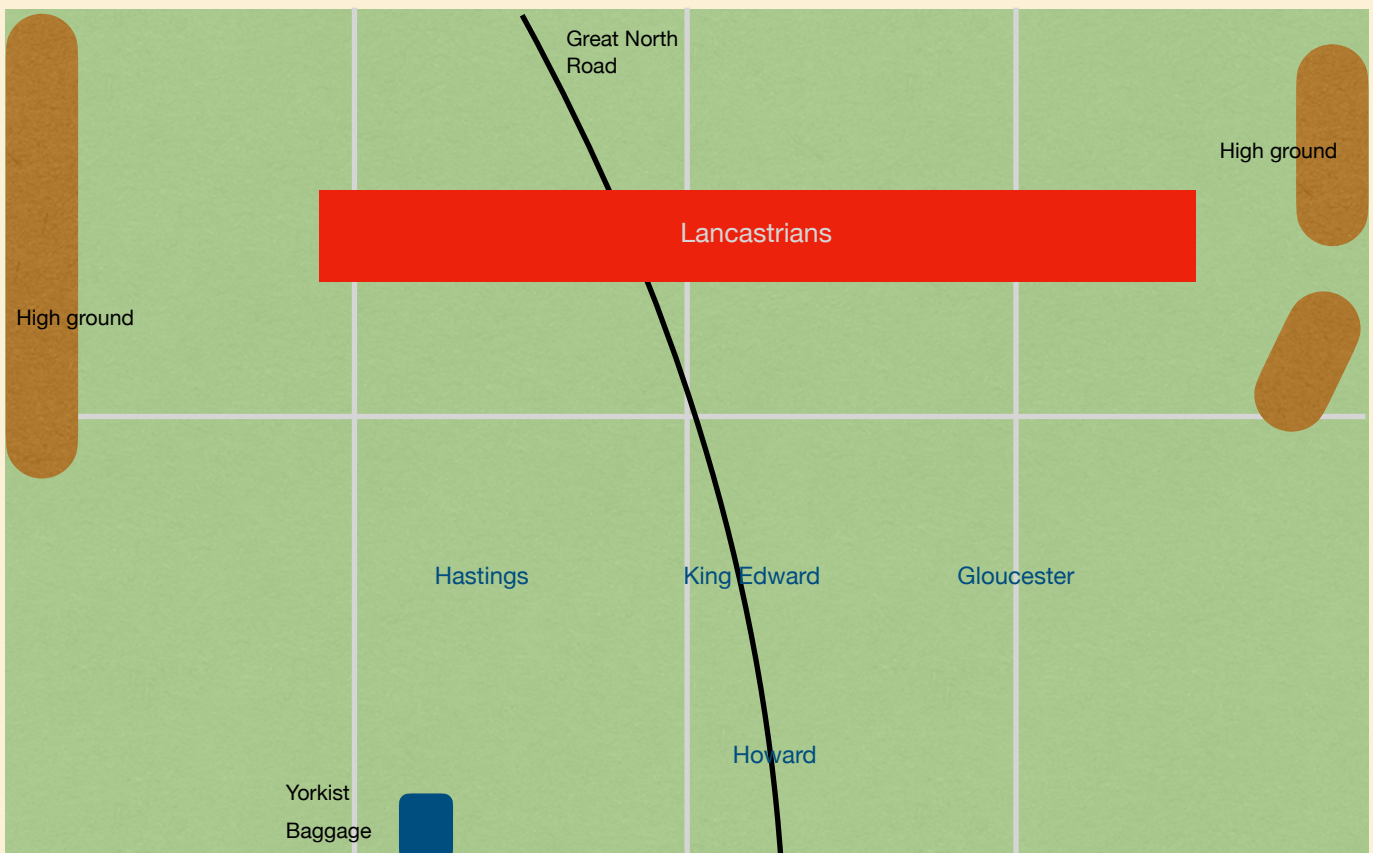
Vertical grid lines at 2' intervals. Horizontal line at 3"

## Yorkist Brief

Overnight you moved your army very close to the Lancastrian lines (just beyond bow range) with the intent of launching a surprise dawn attack. Your men moved quietly and no fires were lit. Throughout the night the enemy fired artillery on where they expected your position to be (back alongside the baggage park). The fact that their shot is falling well beyond your current position indicates that they are unaware you are so close.

At 4 am you begin to deploy your army (under cover of darkness) as indicated on the map. By 5 am the army is deployed and a thick mist has descended severely limiting visibility. As far as you can tell the enemy still do not realise you are so close but you can hear that they are also deploying for battle. At sunrise (6am) Their artillery opens fire again, their shot still falling well behind you — an indication that they are still unaware how close you are to their position.

Your army is slightly outnumbered especially when it comes to archers and artillery. However, the thick mist has reduced visibility to 6". This will severely reduce the enemy's shooting advantage, allowing you to close quickly with your higher quality men at arms and billmen. No doubt the mist will lift as the morning wears on.



*The map given to the Yorkists as part of their brief. Note that they are not made aware of the hedges. They map also does not reveal the fact that they are deployed further to the right of the Lancastrians (see actual deployment map above).*



## Yorkist Order of Battle

**Scale:** 1 foot base = 300 men, 1 mounted and hand gunner base = 150 men, 1 gun = 4

### **Right: Richard Duke of Gloucester, 4 CPs. (3900 men)**

Gloucester's Retinue	1 Men at Arms, full harness, A Grade
Gloucester's Retainers	2 Archers + 2 Billmen, B Grade
John Duke of Norfolk	1 Men at Arms, full harness, B Grade
Norfolk's retainers	2 Archers + 1 Billmen, B Grade
Flemish Mercenaries	2 Handgunners, mercenaries, B Grade
Lord Cromwell	2 Billmen, B Grade

### **Centre: King Edward IV Marshal of the Host, 4CPs. (4500 men)**

The King's Retinue;	2 Men at Arms, full harness, A Grade
The King's Retainers	3 Archers + 2 Billmen, B Grade
Henry Wingfield of Orford	2 Archers + 2 Billmen, B Grade
Gilbert Debenham	2 Archers + 2 Billmen, B Grade
Artillery	1 gun

### **Left: William Lord Hastings, 3 CPs. (3600 men)**

Hastings' Retinue	1 Men at Arms, full harness, A Grade
Hastings' Retainers	2 Archers + 1 Billmen B Grade
William Stanley	2 Archers + 2 Billmen, B Grade
William Norreys	2 Archers + 2 Billmen (Midlands levy) C Grade,

### **Mounted Reserve: Sir Thomas Howard, 3 CPs. (600 men)**

Thomas Howard's Retinue	2 Mounted Men at Arms, A Grade
Maurice Berkeley	2 light horse, C Grade





## Lancastrian Brief



You have deployed for battle on a flat area between high ground on both flanks as indicated on the map. You have a good defensive position and outnumber the enemy, especially with archers and artillery. Throughout the night your gunners fired on the Yorkist position, giving them little chance of a good night's rest.

Just before sunrise (6 am) you rouse your men to take their positions. A thick mist has descended severely limiting visibility. Your gunners open fire again on the Yorkist position although they cannot see their targets.



*The map given to the Lancastrians as part of their brief. Note that they think that the Yorkists are further away than they actually are. The map also does not reveal the fact that the Yorkists are deployed*



## Lancastrian Order of Battle

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

### Left. Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter, 3 CPs (4200 men).

Exeter's Retinue	1 Men at Arms, full harness, A Grade
Exeter's Retainers	2 Archers + 1 Billmen, B Grade
John Paston	2 Archers + 2 Billmen, B Grade
William Tyrell	3 Archers, C Grade
John Audley	3 Billmen, C Grade

### Centre, John Neville, Marquis of Montague, 2 CPs (3600 men)

Montague's Retinue	1 Men at Arms, full harness, A Grade
Montague's Retainers	2 Archers, 1 Billmen, B Grade
Northern levy	4 Archers + 4 Billmen, C Grade

### Right. John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, 4 CPs (4050 men)

Oxford's Retinue	1 Men at Arms, full harness, A Grade
Oxford's Retainers	2 Archers + 1 Billmen, B Grade
Viscount Beaumont	2 Archers + 2 Billmen, B Grade
John Lord Scrope	2 Archers + 2 Billmen C Grade

#### Wing

Thomas de Vere	3 Mounted Men at Arms, A Grade
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### Reserve. Earl of Warwick, 3 CPs, Marshal of the Host (1800 men)

Warwick's Retinue	2 Men at Arms, full harness, A Grade
Warwick's Retainers	2 Billmen & 2 Archers, B Grade
Artillery	2 guns





## Nobles and Livery Colours

The nobles leading each Battle in the orders of battle above are those that commanded historically. The other nobles listed were all present at Barnet. My selection of which ones to represent was based on those I had painted. Not every contingent present at the actual battle is listed in the orders of battle so others could be substituted. A more complete (but not comprehensive) list of those nobles present follows together with their livery colours.

### Yorkists

Edward IV - blue and murrey (dark crimson)  
Duke of Gloucester - blue & murrey  
Lord Hastings - murrey & blue  
Duke of Clarence - blue & murrey  
Duke of Norfolk - red  
Thomas Howard - red & white  
Henry Wingfield - unknown  
Gilbert Debenham - unknown  
William Stanley - red  
William Norreys - white  
Maurice Berkeley - red  
Lord Cromwell - white & red ?  
Lord Bouchier - yellow & green  
Lord Scales - green  
Lord Audley - yellow & red  
Lord Codnor - red & green  
Earl of Arundel - red & white  
Lord Abergavenny - green & white

### Lancastrians

Earl of Warwick - red  
Earl of Oxford - tawney (brownish orange)  
Marquis Montague - red & black  
Duke of Exeter - red & white  
John Paston - red  
William Tyrell - unknown  
John Audley - unknown  
George de Vere - tawney ?  
Thomas de Vere - tawney ?  
Viscount Beaumont - white  
Lord Scrope - white  
John Conyers - white  
Thomas Green - unknown  
Martin de la See - unknown  
Thomas Russell - unknown  
Robert Booth - unknown  
Robert Harleston - unknown

**Notes:** Where I have put '?' I am not entirely sure this is correct but it is to the best of my knowledge. Where I have said 'unknown' it is unknown to me but others may have better knowledge. If so please contact me at [smacdownall@hotmail.com](mailto:smacdownall@hotmail.com) and I shall amend. Any other additions would be most welcome.

