

THE TREE OF BATTLES

SCENARIO 2 — MINI BOSWORTH 1485

Background

This scenario is for a small game using only a part of the forces available to Henry Tudor and King Richard III. It is based on the latest research on the battle, leaving out the contingents led by the Stanleys and Henry Percy.

It allows players to fight the initial clash of the front lines of the opposing armies at Bosworth with a relatively small number of miniatures, leaving out the interventions (or lack thereof) of the less reliable supporting contingents.

Scenario

It is 22 August 1485. The fate of England will be decided at Bosworth field, near Leicester.

Henry Tudor has deployed to the south of Fenn lane with his right flank protected by a marsh.

King Richard has deployed to the north of the road. The numbers of troops are fairly equal but Richard has more guns and more archers.

Henry is supported by a substantial contingent of French and Scots pikemen, both provided by the French king to advance his cause.



Tudor's French and Scots pikemen

Royalist Order of Battle

Vanward — John Howard, Duke of Norfolk. 3 CPs

Duke of Norfolk's retinue	1 dismounted Men at Arms, full harness, A Grade
Norfolk's retainers	1 bill & 2 bow, B Grade
Earl of Surrey	2 bill & 2 bow, B Grade
Sir Robert Brackenbury	2 bill & 2 handgunner skirmishers, B Grade, mercenaries
Shire levies	3 bill & 3 bow, C Grade

Mainward — Richard III, 4 CPs

Knights of the Body	2 mounted Men at Arms, full harness, chivalrous, A Grade*
Royal Retainers	2 billmen, B Grade
Scourers	2 light horse, C Grade
Artillery	2 guns

* May dismount as 1 dismounted men at arms

Royalist Brief

You have deployed to offer battle to Henry Tudor. Your scouts report that your forces are about equal but you have a clear archery and artillery superiority. Your advisers suggest using your missile superiority to force Henry to attack, taking casualties from your guns and archers as he closes. If Henry does not attack your position you may wish to consider a short advance to bring your archers into range.

Tudor Order of Battle

Left — Philbert de Chandée, 3 CPs.

French	4 pike, B Grade, Mercenaries
Scots	2 pike, B Grade, Mercenaries
Handgunners & crossbows	2 skirmishers, B Grade, Mercenaries
Artillery	1 gun

Right — Earl of Oxford, 4 CPs

Oxford's retinue	1 dismounted Men at Arms, full harness, A Grade
Oxford's retainers	1 bill, 2 bow, B Grade
Rhys Ap Thomas	2 Welsh heavy infantry, B Grade
Sir John Savage (left)	1 bill & 1 bow, B Grade
Sir Gilbert Talbot (right)	1 bill & 1 bow, B Grade

Reserve — Henry Tudor, 3 CPs

Henry's retinue	1 mounted Men at Arms, A Grade*
Henry's retainers	2 mounted longbowmen, B Grade**
Stanley's Scourers	2 light cavalry, C Grade

* *may dismount as 1 half-strength dismounted Men at Arms, full harness*

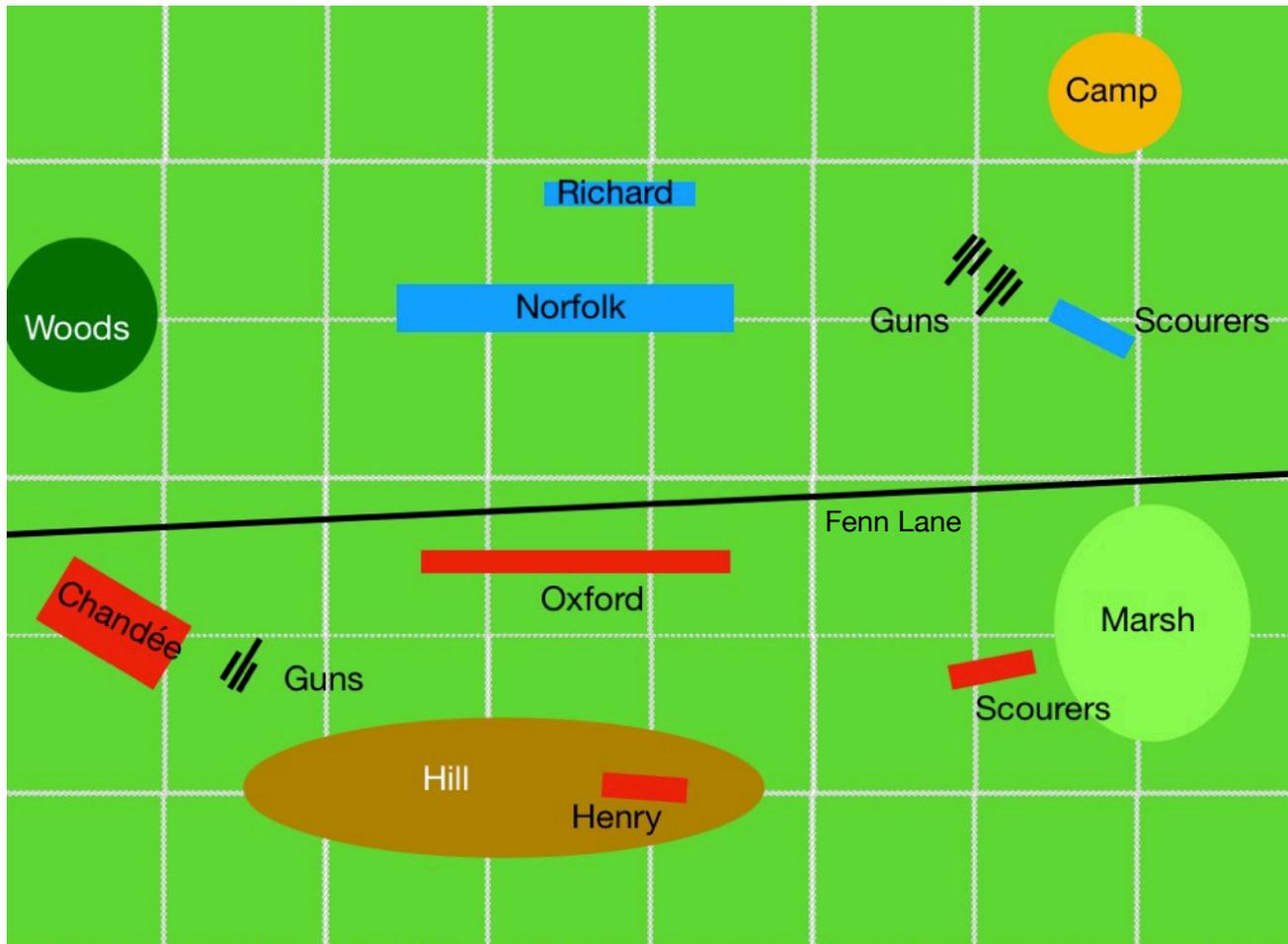
** *may dismount as 1 longbowmen*

Tudor Brief

You have marched from Wales towards Leicester to take the throne of England. Richard has deployed for battle blocking your advance. Your scouts report that your forces are about equal but Richard has more guns and more archers than you. Your advisers warn that Richard's missile superiority will make it difficult for you to take a defensive position. You may need to close quickly into hand to hand combat before you take too many casualties from the enemy guns and archers.



Tabletop set-up. 8x6 foot table with each segment 1 foot square for 28mm miniatures



Deployment

All troops deployed on table from the start.

Norfolk deployed with archers and skirmishers to the front, fighting troops behind. Nine stands wide, 2 deep.

Oxford deployed in a single line with his 2 archers in front. Talbot's and Strange's archers in a single rank beside their billmen. Eight stands wide, 1 deep (except for Oxford's 2 archers in front)

Chandée deployed 2 ranks deep.

All others one rank deep.

Objectives

To win, the Royalists need to either capture or kill Henry Tudor. If his army wins the field but he is eliminated the war is over and King Richard has won. If Richard wins the field but Henry is able to fight another day, he may still lose the throne so it would be a partial victory at best.

The Tudors need to drive Richard from the field of battle. If they succeed then his prestige will be destroyed and the throne will eventually be Henry's. If they manage to capture or kill Richard then the kingdom is immediately Henry's regardless of the battlefield outcome. Anything less than a decisive win or death of Richard will cause Henry's followers to desert him and probably end his chance of ever becoming king.