



THE TREE OF BATTLES

Medieval Warfare 1300-1500

Game Scenario

Bosworth

22 August 1485

Historical Background

This last major battle of the Wars of the Roses saw King Richard III defeated and killed by Henry Tudor, who then became King Henry VII.

Much of what was thought to be known about has been overturned by recent archeological discoveries.

This scenario is based on the up to date evidence including the site of the battle, the significant role played by Tudor's French mercenaries, and the role of the Stanleys — on Tudor's side from the start, if perhaps still hedging their bets.



Richard III's Briefing

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 immediately attack your position you may wish to consider a short advance to bring your archers into range.

Northumberland cannot be entirely trusted.

Deployment

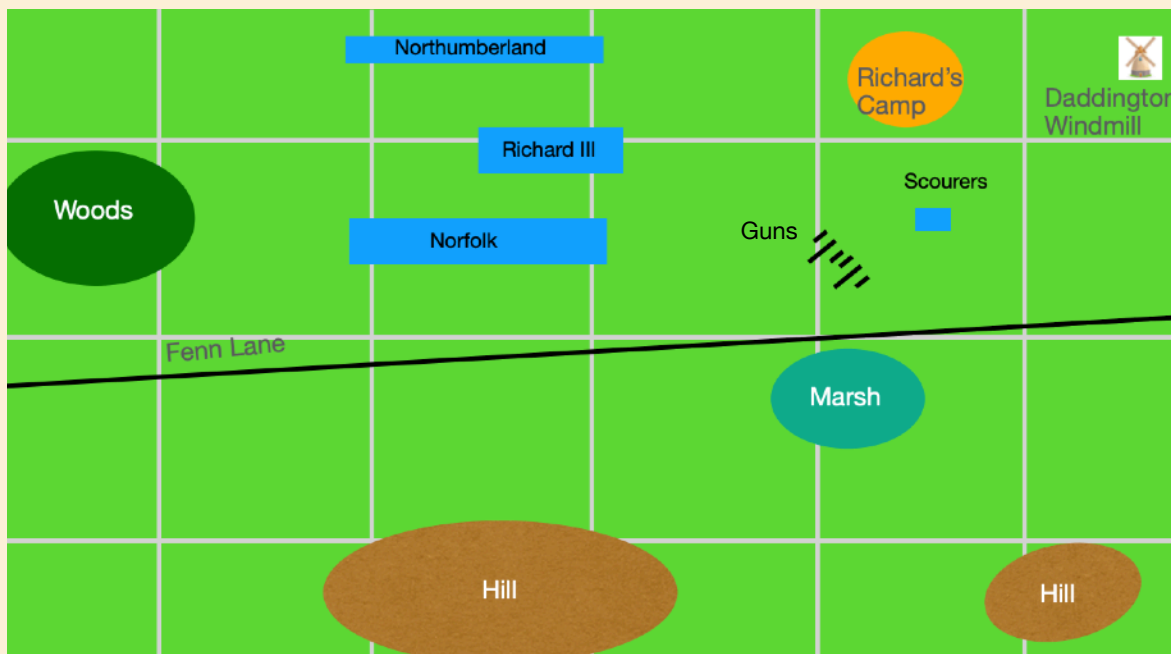
You are arrayed in three battles: **Vanward** — John Howard, Duke of Norfolk; **Mainward** — King Richard III; **Rearward** — Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland. Full order of battle on the next page.

Your battles are deployed on table as per the map below except for Northumberland's battle which is initially hidden from enemy view. It will be deployed in the command phase of the 3rd turn, or if it moves, whichever comes first.

Objective

To win you need to either achieve a complete victory, or capture or kill Henry Tudor.

If his army wins the field but he is eliminated the war is over and you have won. If you win the field but Henry is able to fight another day, you may still lose the throne so it would be a partial victory unless you manage to pull off a convincing enough victory to cause Tudor's followers to desert him.



The table is 9x5 feet for 28mm scale.

Two foot grid squares in central area, 1 ft on outer edges.

Richard III's Order of Battle

Note: Numbers are Tree of Battles bases of 5-7 foot, 4 skirmishers, 2-3 mounted, 1 gun.

Vanward — John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, 3 Command Points (CPs).

Burgundian Handgunners	2 skirmishers, mercenaries, B Grade
Sir Robert Brackenbury	2 bill, full harness, B Grade
Norfolk's retainers	1 bill & 2 bow, B Grade (2 ranks with archers in front of bills)
Norfolk's retinue	1 dismounted men at arms, full harness, A Grade
Earl of Surrey	2 bill & 2 bow, B Grade (2 ranks with archers in front of bills)
Leicestershire shire levy	3 bow & 3 bill, C Grade (2 ranks with archers in front of bills)

Mainward — King Richard III, 4 CPs.

Royal retainers	3 bill & 3 bow, B Grade (2 ranks with archers in front of bills)
Knights of the Body	2 mounted Men at Arms, full harness, chivalrous, A Grade
<i>Note: The Knights may dismount as 1 men at arms on foot (full harness).</i>	
Scourers	2 light cavalry, C Grade
Artillery	2 guns

Rearward — Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, 3 CPs, *potentially treacherous.*

Northumberland's retinue	1 dismounted Men at Arms, full harness, A Grade
Northumberland's retainers	2 bill & 2 bow, B Grade (archers in front or beside the billmen)
Northumberland shire levy	4 bill, C Grade



Henry Tudor's Briefing

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 posture.

You may need to close quickly into hand to hand combat before you take too many casualties from the enemy guns and archers.

The Stanleys cannot entirely be trusted.



Deployment

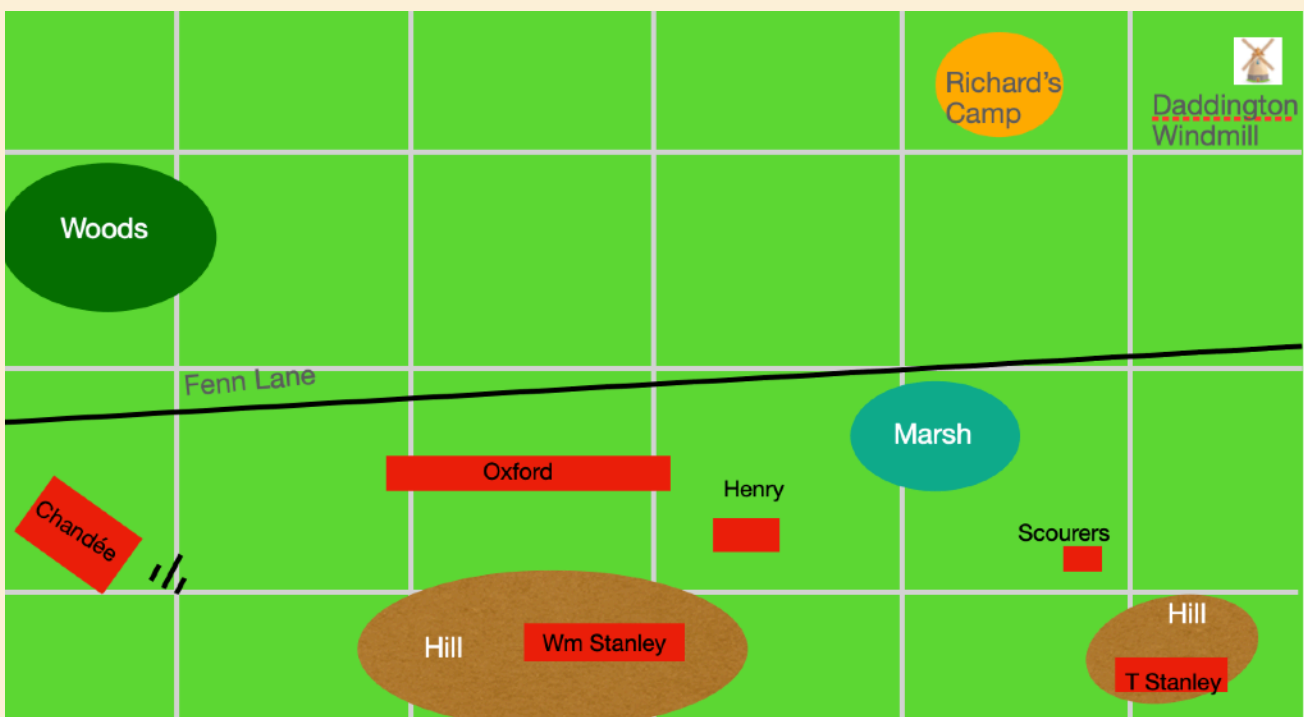
You are deployed in four battles: **Vanward (left)** — Philbert de Chandée's French; **Mainward (front centre)** — John de Vere, Earl of Oxford; **Rearward** — Sir William Stanley; **Right Wing** — Thomas Lord Stanley. You personally command a small reserve. Full order of battle on the next page.

All troops are deployed on table as per the map below except for Chandée's battle which is initially hidden from enemy view. His guns will be deployed from the start. The rest of Chandée's battle will be deployed either in the command phase of the 3rd turn, or when they move, whichever comes first.

Objective.

You need to drive Richard from the field of battle. If you succeed then his prestige will be destroyed and the throne will eventually be yours. If you manage to capture or kill him then the kingdom is immediately yours regardless of the battlefield outcome.

Anything less than a decisive win or death of Richard will cause your followers to desert you and probably end your chance of ever becoming king.



The table is 9x5 feet for 28mm scale. Two foot grid squares in central area, 1 ft on outer edges.

Henry Tudor's Order of Battle

Vanward (left) — Philbert de Chandée, 3 CPs.

French	4 pike, mercenaries, B Grade
Scots in French pay	2 pike, mercenaries, B Grade
French skirmishers	1 crossbow & 1 handgun, mercenaries, B Grade
Artillery	1 gun

Mainward (centre) — Earl of Oxford, 4 CPs.

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

Rearward — Sir William Stanley, 3 CPs, *potentially treacherous*

Stanley's retinue	1 mounted men at arms, A Grade
	<i>Note: may dismount as ½ strength men at arms on foot in full harness</i>
Stanley's retainers	2 bill & 2 bow, B Grade
Cheshire shire levy	4 bill, C Grade

Reserve — Henry Tudor, 3 CPs

Henry's retainers	2 mounted archers, B Grade
	<i>Note: may dismount as 1 foot archer base</i>
Henry's retinue	1 mounted Men at Arms, A Grade
	<i>Note: may dismount as ½ strength men at arms on foot in full harness</i>

Right Wing — Thomas Lord Stanley, 3 CPs *potentially treacherous*

Thomas Stanley's retinue	1 dismounted Men at Arms, full harness, A Grade
Stanley's retainers	1 bill & 1 bow, B Grade
Scourers	2 light cavalry, C Grade

