

**The
Poleaxed Source Book**

Armies, Battles & Commanders
of the
Wars of the Roses

Volume I
St Albans 1455 to Towton 1461

By
Martin Stephenson,
Dave Lanchester, & Pat McGill.
Artwork & Maps by Derek Stone

First Published 2002
Revised October 2003

**Copyright
Freezywater Publications
2002 & 2003**

Contents

1.	Introduction	5
2.	Introduction to the Poleaxed Orders of Battle	6
3.	Kings, Commanders and Key Personalities	7
4.	First Battle of St Albans, 22 nd May 1455	10
5.	Battle of Blore Heath, 23 rd September 1459	13
6.	Battle of Northampton, 10 th July 1460	16
7.	Battle of Wakefield, 30 th December 1460	19
8.	Battle of Mortimer's Cross, 3 rd February 1461	23
9.	Second Battle of St Albans, 17 th February 1461	26
10.	Battle of Towton, 29 th March 1461	31
11.	Personality Index	39

1. Introduction

This is the first of two booklets that came about at the instigation of Martin Stephenson, a long-standing member of the Lance and Longbow Society and medieval enthusiast. Wargamers - those who play games with model soldiers - need a surprising amount of information to recreate battles from the past. The aim of the booklets is to provide all the information wargamers need to recreate the battles of that famous English 15th century dynastic struggle known as the Wars of the Roses.

This volume covers the period 1455 to 1461, from the brawl in the streets of St Albans to the bloodletting at possibly the largest battle in Britain, Towton. The next volume will cover the period 1464 to 1487, from the 'skirmish' at Hedgeley Moor to Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond securing his tenancy of the throne at Stoke Field.

This volume contains biographies and heraldic details of the major personalities of the period. Each battle has a description complemented by high quality maps drawn by Derek Stone. In addition, each battle has its own comprehensive roll of honour taken from Freezywater Publications' renowned three-volume set of Heraldic Banners compiled by Thomas Coveney. An index allows you to identify whether families fought together, where they fought and what side they fought on.

For the wargamer detailed orders of battle are suggested, based on the Poleaxed 2 rule set, including named commanders and special scenario rules for each battle. For those not familiar with the Poleaxed rules there is an introduction to the various troop types and definitions. A conversion for the popular DBA and DBM rules sets is under construction.

If you want to take your interest in the Wars of the Roses further, why not contact **The Lance and Longbow Society**, the World's premier medieval interest society. Formed in 1991, the society publishes a quarterly journal **HOBILAR** packed with articles on the medieval period and the Wars of the Roses in particular. The journal is published in conjunction with the society newsletter **Scourer**. To find out more write to me or visit our web site.

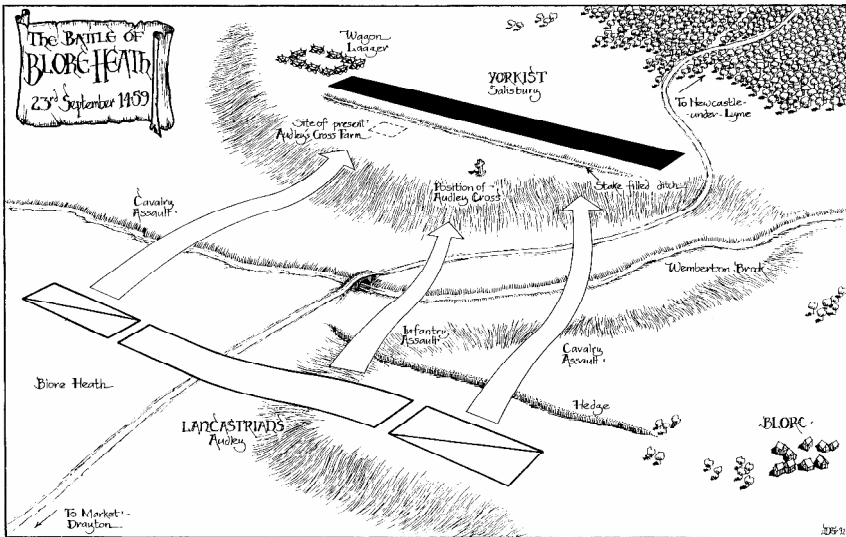
For those interested in further reading, Freezywater do a range of specialist books on the Wars of the Roses. For the background to most of the battles in this book we recommend "The Battle of Towton" by Pat McGill. Those "clever people" at Freezywater also produce a huge range of Wars of the Roses' flag-sheets for wargamers in both 15 and 25mm scale. These colourful visual aids will provide further aesthetic appeal to your recreation of these battles. At the moment the range of 43 sheets contains over 350 banners and standards and covers many of the personalities listed in this volume.

David Lanchester
11 Westmeade Close
Cheshunt, Hertfordshire
United Kingdom, EN7 6JP
E-mail: LandSOC@aol.com
Web site: www.lanceandlongbow.com

October 2003

5. Battle of Blore Heath, 23rd September 1459

The Earl of Salisbury and a Yorkist army of about 6,000 men were marching towards Ludlow to rendezvous with the Duke of York's army. At Blore Heath, near Market Drayton, they found their way blocked by a Lancastrian army of 8,000 or more men led by the Lords Audley and Dudley. Salisbury arrayed his army behind a stream with a marsh to his front, a wood protecting his left flank, and his right resting on a laager made from his baggage train. The Lancastrians launched three frontal assaults against the Yorkist defences, one of which was a cavalry charge. All three were repulsed and the Lancastrian army routed after Audley was killed and Dudley was captured. In all the Lancastrians lost around 2,000 killed compared to only a handful of Yorkist casualties. For further information see Hobilars 6 & 14.



Lancastrian Order of Battle

AC BC Audley B

CC Dudley B 8 FHI HMW N 8 AI HMW R 16 AI L/Bow LMW L

CC Calveley D 8 PHI HMW R 8 AI HMW R 16 AI L/Bow LMW L

CC Dawne D 16 AI HMW L 16 UI L/Bow OMW L

BC Venables D

CC Hesketh D 8 PHI HMW R 8 AI HMW R 16 AI L/Bow LMW L

CC Molyneux D 16 AI HMW L 16 UI L/Bow OMW L

BC Exeter D

CC Berners D 6 FHC LA MMW G 6 AC Sp R

CC Troutbeck D 6 FHC LA MMW G 6 AC Sp R

CC Legh D 6 FHC LA MMW G 6 AC Sp R

Yorkist Order of Battle

AC BC Salisbury B

CC Montague B 8 FHI HMW N 8 AI HMW R 16 AI L/Bow LMW R

CC Ogle B 8 PHI HMW R 8 AI HMW R 16 AI L/Bow LMW R

Artillery Lt/Bomb, crew UI R or M

BC Stanley D

CC Harrington B 16 AI HMW R 16 AI L/Bow LMW R

CC Lumley B 16 AI HMW L 16 UI L/Bow OMW L

Baggage Guard

CC Conyers B 16 AI L/Bow LMW R

Notes & Special Rules

Figure scale is 1 to 40. The Baggage guard is a single contingent with stand orders. It may not voluntarily leave the wagon laager. It is separate from any other Battle and is not disarrayed by not being in contact with another contingent, however it is disarrayed when it leaves the security of the laager which counts as soft cover. The Yorkist archers may have stakes and a protective ditch could protect the front and left flank of the army. All UI archer units may be fielded as 12 figure units if your figures are based in loose order (for example DBA/M three to a base). Depending how your figures are based the cavalry may have a 5 figure frontage and thus forming a contingent of 10 figures. This is explained further in the rules. Gun crews are not classed as in hard cover so they do not stand and will evade if charged.

Roll of Honour

Sir Adam Bostock of Bostock	d 1459	(L)
Sir John Bouchier of West Horsley, 1st Lord Berners	d 1474	(L)
Sir Hugh Calveley of the Lea	d 1459	(L)
Sir William Catesby of Ashby St Legers	d 1479	(L)
Sir John Dawne		(L)
Sir Robert del Bothe of Wilmslow	d 1459	(L)
Sir Jenkin Done of Wickington	d 1459	(L)
Sir Thomas Dutton of Dutton	d 1459	(L)
Sir Nicholas Eyton of Eyton		(L)
Sir Richard Fitton of Gawsworth	d 1459	(L)
Sir Edmund Hampden of Hampden	d 1461	(L)
Sir Thomas Hesketh of Rufford, Lord Hesketh of Rufford	d 1459	(L)
Sir Henry Holland of Darlington, 3rd Duke of Exeter	1430 – 1475	(L)
Sir John Legh	d 1459	(L)
Sir John Lovell of Minster Lovell, 12th Lord Lovell of Titchmarsh	d 1465	(L)
Sir Philip Maunsell of Scurlage	d 1461	(L)
Sir Richard Molyneux of Sefton, Lord Molyneux of Sefton	d 1459	(L)
Sir John Neville of Raby, Lord Neville	1410 – 1461	(L)
Sir Ralph Shirley of Shirley		(L)
Sir John Skidmore of Mockas	d 1461	(L)
Sir John Stanley of Pipe	d 1476	(L)
Sir Edmund Sutton of Dudley		(L)
Sir John Sutton of Dudley, 5th Lord Dudley	1400 – 1487	(L)
Sir James Touchet, 6th Baron Audley of Heleigh Castle	1398 – 1459	(L)
Sir William Troutbeck of Prynes	d 1459	(L)
Sir Hugh Venables of Kinderton, Baron of Kinderton	d 1459	(L)

Sir Lionel Welles of Welles, 6th Lord Welles	1406 – 1461	(L)
Sir Christopher Conyers of Sokebourne		(Y)
Sir John Conyers of Hornby	d 1490	(Y)
Sir Walter Devereux of Weobley	d 1459	(Y)
Sir Richard Grey of Powis, Lord Grey of Powis		(Y)
Sir Richard Hamerton of Hamerton		(Y)
Sir Thomas Harrington of Hornby	d 1460	(Y)
Sir Roger Kynaston of Hordley	d 1496	(Y)
Sir Thomas Lumley of Lumley, 3rd Baron Lumley		(Y)
Sir James Metcalfe of Nappa		(Y)
Sir John Middleton of Belsay Castle	d 1477	(Y)
Sir Thomas Mountford of Hackforth		(Y)
Sir John Neville, Marquis of Montague	1431 – 1471	(Y)
Sir Richard Neville of Middleham, 1st Earl of Salisbury	1400 – 1460	(Y)
Sir Thomas Neville of Thornton Bridge	d 1460	(Y)
Sir Robert Ogle of Ogle, Lord Ogle	1406 – 1469	(Y)
Sir Thomas Parr of Kendall	d 1464	(Y)
Sir John Savile of Thornhill	d 1482	(Y)
Sir William Stanley of Holt	1435 – 1495	(Y)
Sir James Strangeways of Whorlton	d 1480	(Y)
Sir Walter Strickland of Sizergth		(Y)
Sir John Wandesford of Kirklington	d 1503	(Y)
Sir John Wenlock of Wenlock, Lord Wenlock	1400 – 1471	(Y)
Sir Walter Wrottesley of Wrottesley		(Y)

Personality Index

A

Aldborough

- Sir Richard Aldborough of
Aldborough, Lord Aldborough
Second St Albans (L) 27
- Towton (L) 34
- Wakefield (L) 21

Astley

- Sir John Astley of Nailstone
Mortimer's Cross (Y) 25
- Towton (Y) 36

B

Babthorpe

- Sir Ralph Babthorpe of Babthorpe
First St Albans (L) 12
- Sir Thomas Babthorpe of Babthorpe
Second St Albans (L) 27
- Wakefield (L) 21

Barre

- Sir John Barre of Barre's Court
Northampton (L) 18

Baskerville

- Sir James Baskerville of Eardisley
First St Albans (Y) 12
- Mortimer's Cross (Y) 25
- Northampton (Y) 18
- Towton (Y) 36

Beaufort

- Sir Edmund Beaufort, 2nd Duke of
Somerset
First St Albans (L) 12
- Pedigree and Arms 7
- Sir Edmund Beaufort, 4th Duke of
Somerset
Towton (L) 34
- Wakefield (L) 21
- Sir Henry Beaufort, 3rd Duke of
Somerset
First St Albans (L) 12
- Pedigree and Arms 7
- Second St Albans (L) 27
- Towton (L) 34
- Wakefield (L) 21

Beaufoy

- Sir William Beaufoy of Up Hall
Second St Albans (L) 27
- Towton (L) 34
- Wakefield (L) 21

Beaumont

- Sir John Beaumont of Coleorton
Towton (L) 34
- Sir John Beaumont of Folkingham, 1st
Viscount Beaumont
Northampton (L) 18
- Sir William Beaumont of Stowe
Bardolf, 2nd Viscount Beaumont
Second St Albans (L) 27
- Towton (L) 34
- Wakefield (L) 21

Bellingham

- Sir Henry Bellingham of Burnside
Second St Albans (L) 27
- Towton (L) 34
- Wakefield (L) 21

Bertram

- Sir William Bertram
Second St Albans (L) 27
- Towton (L) 34
- Wakefield (L) 21

Bigod

- Sir John Bigod of Settington
Second St Albans (L) 27
- Towton (L) 34
- Wakefield (L) 21
- Sir Ralph Bigod of Mulgrave, Lord
Mauley of Musgrave
Towton (L) 34

Blount

- Sir Humphrey Blount of Kynlet
Towton (Y) 36
- Sir Thomas Blount of Elton
Towton (Y) 36
- Sir Walter Blount of Elton, Lord
Mountjoy of Thurveston
Mortimer's Cross (Y) 25
- Northampton (Y) 18
- Second St Albans (Y) 30
- Towton (Y) 36

Bokeham

- Sir Henry Bokeham
Towton (L) 34

Bonville