

CHAIRMANS INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first edition of the 'HOBILAR' the journal of the Lance & Longbow Society.

The aim of the society is to promote an historical and wargaming interest in the Late Middle Ages.

The decision as to the historical time span was mine. It had to fit in between the periods covered by the Society of Ancients and the Pike and Shot Society. The time span ends in 1487 with Henry VII consolidating his hold on the crown and the future of the Tudor dynasty at the Battle of Stoke Field.

The beginning was not so easy. However, after much deliberation I decided on 1272, as in November of that year Edward I ascended the throne. Thus it overlaps the Pike and Shot Society by about 100 years and the Society of Ancients by 200 years.

But what's a hundred years or so between friends!. These two societies have been sounded out and I have heard of no objections to us encroaching on their territory.

As with all new societies, the original groundwork is undertaken by those who conceived the idea. Therefore, the posts of Chairman, Editor, Secretary etc have been farmed out until through the due democratic process these posts can be filled with elected candidates.

But first of all we must have a membership. This will be based on the Society producing 4 issues of the 'HOBILAR' a year. For obvious reasons the more members, the cheaper the membership. The first issue was produced with the intended format in mind. Do you want a coloured page and a glossy cover? I am inclined to think that you do! We need to know your views on this. We aim to give value for money. The Society aims to please the amateur historian, the wargamer and re-enactment member alike.

We need your articles, letters and ideas. Although the time span is somewhat English, we would like to hear about the Poles, Turks, French, Burgundians, Spanish etc. The list is endless. However, please try to be original. I know from experience that it is hard not to plagiarize other peoples work. An idea of what we want to see are the two articles by Pat McGill and David Whyman. This type of article stimulates debate, whether you agree with them or not.

We would like to hear from the re-enacters. When is your next 'Big Bash' and where? Is there a central organisation of all the re-enactment societies? If not, perhaps we can get you all organised to recreate a big battle somewhere. Why not invade France again! That's an idea. I can just imagine French customs at Calais asking if you have anything to declare? Only a longbow, hose, jack, sallet and 24 Frenchmen under my belt. So there we are, the journal will only be as good as you want it to be. Use it to communicate with others and voice your opinions.

If you wish to join the Society, fill out the form provided and send it along with any articles, letters etc to: David Lanchester
11 Westmeade Close
Cheshunt
Herts.

Cover illustration courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum Library. This illustration comes from 'The Pageants of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. B.M.MS. Cott. Julius E.IV (Art 6), f20v. Flemish late 15th century. This manuscript consists of 53 pencil drawings depicting various episodes in the life of the 2nd Earl (1382-1439). It was probably executed about 1493 by a Flemish artist working for Anne, Countess of Warwick, youngest daughter of the Earl. The drawings are of great delicacy and the picture reproduced is a spirited illustration of men and horses in action.

THE BATTLE OF TEWKESBURY
MAY 4th 1471

With the feeble King Henry VI ensconced in the Tower of London and the Lancastrian cause stewing in exile in France, the Yorkist King Edward IV should have enjoyed a relatively peaceful reign, but for his alienation of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, known to history as the 'Kingmaker'. This along with Edward's marriage to Elizabeth Woodville and the absorption at court of her somewhat large family, to the detriment of the also large Neville clan, did not help matters. This led to the Neville backed rebellions which Edward failed to control.

Edward's Welsh allies, the Herberts and Humphrey Stafford, Earl of Devon, were soundly beaten at the Battle of Edgecote on July 26th 1469. Edward, with insufficient forces to back his rule surrendered to the Earl of Warwick. However, it soon became obvious to Warwick that without a royal figurehead as a puppet for him to control, the country was sliding into anarchy. Better a Yorkist king than a Lancastrian one, so Edward was released.

Throwing off his shackles, Edward again took a firm control of the country. However, it was not long before another rebellion, backed by Warwick, started in the north. Edward marched north and put the rebels to rout at the Battle of Losecoat Field on March 12th 1470. Warwick and Edward's brother George, Duke of Clarence, who had sided with the Neville faction fled to France.

In exile Warwick and Clarence were persuaded by the French King Louis XI, to back Henry's Queen Margaret and her son Edward Prince of Wales and take up the Lancastrian cause in order to put Henry back on the throne.

In mid September Warwick and Clarence landed in the West Country. Heading inland they rapidly gained local support and were joined by Warwick's brother John Neville, Marquis of Montague with 6,000 men.

Together they forced Edward and his brother Richard Duke of Gloucester into exile. Edward escaping by sea to his brother in law and ally, Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy. On 6th October, Henry VI was reinstated on the throne by Warwick.

The following March, Edward and the Duke of Gloucester were back in the country with an invasion force underwritten by the Burgundians. Reconciled with the vacillating Clarence, the three brothers occupied London on 12th April 1471, placing Henry back in the Tower.

Two days later, Edward defeated the Lancastrians at the Battle of Barnet, just north of the capital, where Warwick and Montague were killed. As fate would have it on the very day of this Lancastrian disaster, Queen Margaret and the Prince of Wales landed near Weymouth with a large body of French troops. Here they met up with the forces of the Duke of Somerset and the Earl of Devon, where she was told of the grim news of Barnet. However, encouraged by Somerset's confidence, Margaret decided to continue on.

Edward who was now showing the old urgency and flair that gained him the crown 10 years earlier, anticipated that the Lancastrians would move north and would thus attempt to cross the River Severn. On April 24th Edward set out from Windsor to intercept them. He also sent on orders to Sir Richard Beauchamp to hold Gloucester at all costs. Edward nearly caught up with the Lancastrians at Bath and Sodbury, but was given the slip. The Lancastrian army reached Gloucester but were refused entry, forcing them to march further up river in order to cross the Severn into Wales, where they hoped to join Jasper Tudor. They reached Tewkesbury on May 3rd with Edward only some 3 miles away. Knowing that they were cornered they stood to give battle the following day.

On May 4th with the Queen watching from the town, the Lancastrians, some 6,000 strong were arrayed

on the high ground to the south of Tewkesbury Abbey, known as the Vineyards. They formed themselves into the customary three battles. The right under the command of Edmund, Duke of Somerset. The centre under the nominal command of Edward Prince of Wales, aided by Lord Wenlock and Sir John Langstrother, Grand Prior of the Knights of St. John. The left was commanded by John Courtenay, Earl of Devon.

It was a good defensive position protected by a river and a marsh on the flanks. To their front the ground was crossed by streams, hedges, dykes and muddy lanes. (A right evil place to approach as could well be devised. As one chronicler wrote at the time). The Yorkists seeing the Lancastrian position knew they had a fight on their hands.

Edward, taking this into account deployed his army as follows; first he sent a small body of cavalry (to employ themselves in the best ways they could) to a low hill on his left known as the park. He then arrayed his main strength of about 5,000 men in three battles to conform with the Lancastrian positions. On his left was the battle of Richard Duke of Gloucester, to his right the battle of William Lord Hastings. Edward took command of the centre, keeping his brother George Duke of Clarence close by him.

The battle commenced when Edward sent forward the archers supported by his superior artillery in an attempt to goad the Lancastrians from the hill. With Somerset's battle bearing the brunt of this fire the ploy seemed to have worked. Whether his battle was in danger of breaking or he had a pre-arranged plan to turn Edward with a flank attack, Somerset charged down the slope and hit Edward's battle, possibly in a bid to put an end to him and the battle there and then. However, Edward held Somerset who was himself attacked in the flank by Richard's battle. It is possible that Somerset may not have seen Richard because of the nature of the terrain.

What were the rest of the Lancastrians doing? In a word nothing! Either they were not privy to Somerset's plan or they were taken by surprise by his sudden departure down the hill.

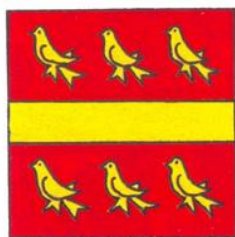
With Somerset's attack unsupported he was soon overwhelmed by the Yorkists and his battle routed back up the hill towards their original position pursued by Edward's cavalry who had emerged from the park. The whole Yorkist army now moved in to attack the remaining Lancastrian forces. It was at this point that Somerset returning from the fight, allegedly rode up to Lord Wenlock and accusing him of treason, dashed out his brains with his mace.

Edward's army now made a ferocious attack on the battles of the Prince of Wales and Earl of Devon. After a short melee the Lancastrians were swept away, the Prince of Wales and the Earl of Devon both being killed on the battlefield. The rest of the Lancastrians attempted to escape and many were slaughtered in a place now called Bloody Meadow. Somerset and Langstrother along with some other knights and esquires sought sanctuary in Tewkesbury Abbey. Two days later they were dragged out of the Abbey by force and were tried and executed in the market place.

Queen Margaret was captured a few days later by Sir William Stanley and remained a prisoner until she was ransomed by Louis XI. She died in her native France in 1482. Edward on returning to London had Henry VI murdered, although the Yorkists tried to spread a rumour that Henry had died of melancholy, but blood was seen dripping out of the coffin when his body was removed for burial to Chertsey Abbey!

With all of Edward's enemies dead his reign was now secure.

The battle site today is still overlooked by Tewkesbury Abbey. The Vineyards are still relatively untouched, but much of the Gastons has been built over. A plaque marks the site of Bloody Meadow. In the town the museum has a large diarama of the battle using 25mm figures.



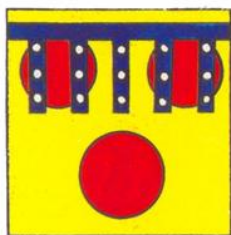
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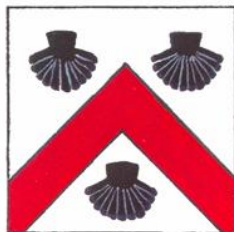
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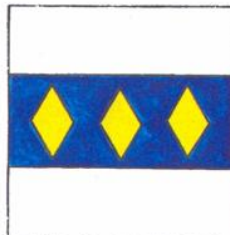
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For details see pages 5 and 6.

HERALDIC BANNERS AT THE BATTLE OF TEWKESBURY

1. Sir Richard Beauchamp (Y) born 1434, died 1503. Married Elizabeth Stafford. Constable of Gloucester Castle 1471. Fought at Barnet and Tewkesbury 1471. Arms: Gules, a fess between 6 martlets or.
2. Sir Thomas Strickland (Y) born ? died 1494. Married Agnes daughter of Sir Thomas Parr. Fought at Barnet and Tewkesbury for Edward IV, also fought at Bosworth for Richard III. Arms: Sable 3 escallops argent.
3. Sir Thomas Cornewall (Y) born 1444, died 1500. Married Elynor Mole. Fought at Barnet and Tewkesbury. Arms: Argent a lion rampant gules ducally crowned or, a border sable bezantee.
4. Sir Philip Courtenay of Powderham, Devon (Y) born 1430, died 1489. Sheriff of Devon. He and his brother Sir John Courtenay born 1445, died 1500, fought at Towton, Barnet and Tewkesbury. Sir John also fought at Stoke Field for Henry VII. Sir Philip and Sir John were both retainers of the Duke of Clarence. This branch of the Courtenay family related to the Earl of Devon supported the House of York. Arms: (Sir Philip) Or, 3 torteaux, a label of 5 points azure charged with 3 plates on each point. Sir John may have differenced with annulets argent on each point.
5. Sir John Clay of Cheshunt, Herts (Y) born 1445, died ? Did not marry. Fought at Barnet and Tewkesbury. His father Sir John Clay was a retainer of the Duke of York, he fought at Northampton, 2nd St Albans and Towton. Arms: Argent, 3 wolves sable, 2 combatant and 1 passant. Father and Son bore the same arms.

6. Sir John Harley of Brampton (Y) married Joan daughter of Sir John Hackluyt of Eyton. Fought at Barnet and Tewkesbury.
Arms: Or, a bend cotised sable.
7. Sir John Langstrother (L) born 1416, Grand Prior of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem. Fought at Tewkesbury and was executed after the battle
Arms: Argent, a chevron gules between 3 escallops sable.
8. Sir Seintclere Pomeroy (L) born ?, died 1471. Married Catherine daughter of Sir Philip Courtenay of Powderham. Killed at Tewkesbury.
Arms: Or, a lion rampant within a border engrailed gules.
9. Sir Edmund Hampden (L) born ?, died 1471. Queen Margaret's Carver and Chamberlain to the Prince of Wales. Fought at 2nd St Albans, Towton and was killed at Tewkesbury. His son Edmund fought at Bosworth for Henry VII. Both bore the same arms.
Arms: Argent, a salitire gules, 4 eagles displayed azure beak and legged gules.
10. John Gower Esq. (L) born ?, executed 1471. Sword Bearer to the Prince of Wales. Fought Tewkesbury.
Arms: Barry of 8 argent and gules overall a cross flory sable.
11. Sir William Fielding (L) born 1415, died 1471. Fought at Wakefield, 2nd St Albans, Towton and was killed at Tewkesbury.
Arms: Argent, a fess azure charged with 3 lozenges or.
12. Sir William Newburgh (L) born 1435, executed 1471. Fought at Wakefield, 2nd St Albans, Towton and was executed after Tewkesbury.
Arms: Or, 3 bends azure a border engrailed gules.