

# Second St Albans

## Battle Report

Play Test of Scenario: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017

The Lancastrian Vanward, led by Andrew Trollope's company, was duly ambushed by the Yorkist Reserve Ward when they reached the clock tower. The Sheaf archery result was "Galling" and Trollope's company suffered the loss of one base, a courage, and were driven back up Cock Lane in confusion. On turn two the Yorkist activated first but with no target in arch they held their fire. When his ward activated Trollope rallied his men and moved back down the lane. At the same time he asked Baron Greystoke to take his company up Spires St and along Dagnal Lane with the intentions of flanking the Yorkist archers.

The Yorkist archery on turn three was ineffective and Trollope's company closed and the two forces exchanged Handstrokes. The result was inconclusive but on the following turn Trollope's men smashed their way into the buildings and over the barricades whereupon the Yorkist survivors surrendered. The end for the Reserve Ward came so quickly that Greystoke's company did not have time to become engaged.

Events then moved apace. The Lancastrian Mainward, under Henry Beaufort, appeared on Folly Lane and advanced toward St Peter's Street. The Lancastrian Rearward, led by John Clifford, followed them with scarcely a pause. Meanwhile in the town the Lancastrian Vanward made short work of collecting the Yorkist prisoners and regrouped. By turn six they had reformed in column on Hollowell Street with Greystoke's company leading.

As the Lancastrian Mainward moved south along Folly Lane and then on to Catherine Lane the Yorkist Rearward under Henry Bouchiers on Bernard's Heath formed up and adopted an "Await the Foe" order. By the time the Lancastrian Mainward was fully deployed Bouchiers's men had collected the four allocated Tactic chits and were ready to take on the massing Lancastrians.

Beaufort did not wait for Clifford's ward to fully enter the field. Once the head of his ward had reached St Peter's St they faced left and moved directly toward Bouchiers's men under a Rapid Approach Tactic. Not pausing to engage in an archery exchange, when his men had closed to within a few yards of the Yorkists, Beaufort changed his ward's order to a Rapid Attack.

Behind Beaufort's left Clifford's Rearward, upon entering Folly Lane, wheeled to the left and moved through the wooded terrain east of the lane in column of march. Clifford's progress was slowed by the wood but he realized that once he exited the wood he would be on the flank of Bouchiers's line. Back in St Albans the Lancastrian Vanward advanced from the intersection of Shropshire Street and St Peter's Street to Cock Lane. There it halted in column and waited to seek how the action on the heath developed.

Bouchiers's long range archery had little effect on Beaufort's advance but as the range dropped and Beaufort's men broke into a charge the Sheaf archery cut into them. Thomas Courtney's and Henry Beaufort's companies took casualties, lost courage and the whole ward faltered. This allowed Bouchiers's men to fire again in the following turn further weakening Beaufort's line. Beaufort responded recklessly by ordering his ward to ignore the falter, take a courage loss, and press the attack. Thomas Courtney's company made contact with Henry Bouchiers's men while Beaufort contacted John Bouchiers's company. Henry Holland's company had no one to their front and so started to wheel on to Henry Bouchiers's company's flank.

In the center Beaufort's company pushed Henry Bouchiers's back. While this was a positive outcome for the Lancastrians it made Holland's task of contacting the Yorkist flank more difficult. On Beaufort's left Thomas Courtney fared less well. Yorkist archery fire, Beaufort's insistence on pressing the attack through the falter and a poor Handstokes result did for Courtney's company. They broke and streamed away from the contest.

John Bouchiers's men pursued the fleeing Lancastrians and while they easily ran down the slow moving men-at-arms they failed to catch the light-footed archers. This pursuit was brought to an abrupt halt when the Lancastrian Rearward intervened. While the Lancastrian Mainward and the Yorkist Rearward were exchanging blows Clifford's men had exited the wood and moved up in column of march onto the flank of the Yorkist Rearward. When Thomas Courtney's men broke and John Bouchiers's men followed their path led right across the front of Henry Percy's company, the second company in the column, of the Lancastrian Rearward.

Percy brought his men to face and charged into the end of John Bouchiers's line. John Bouchiers's men were flank but he chose wisely in the Handstrokes exchange and his line held. In the subsequent turn he was longer flanked. Having no other force in contact to his, his men were able to turn to face the new threat and to increase the company's frontage. In the next Handstokes he again chose well and was able to break contact with Percy's company much to the chagrin of its commander.

Despite this momentary success, given the disparity in number, the fate of the Yorkist Rearward was inevitable. Back in the main fight Henry Holland's company finally enveloped Henry Bouchiers's left as the lead company of the Lancastrian Rearward, John Clifford's company, charged into his right. Henry Bouchiers's company collapsed. Their failure triggered a falter check that John Bouchiers's men failed and the whole Yorkist Rearward fled the field.

When Bouchiers's fugitives encountered the Yorkist Mainward and Vanward (both off table) Warwick and Fauconberg tested their resolve by each taking a falter check. Warwick was for pressing on but Fauconberg advised prudence and the two wards moved away to the north leaving the battered, but triumphant, Lancastrians alone on the field.

#### Lancastrians

Vanward, Andrew Trollope

Mainward, Henry Beaufort, Duke of Somerset

Rearward, John Clifford,

Les Hunt

Mark Cook

Wayne Hobbs

#### Yorkist

Vanward, William Neville, Baron Fauconberg

Mainward, Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick

Rearward, Henry Bouchiers

Reserve Ward

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Phil Rowe

Andrew Toms

#### Umpire

John Savage