

Northampton

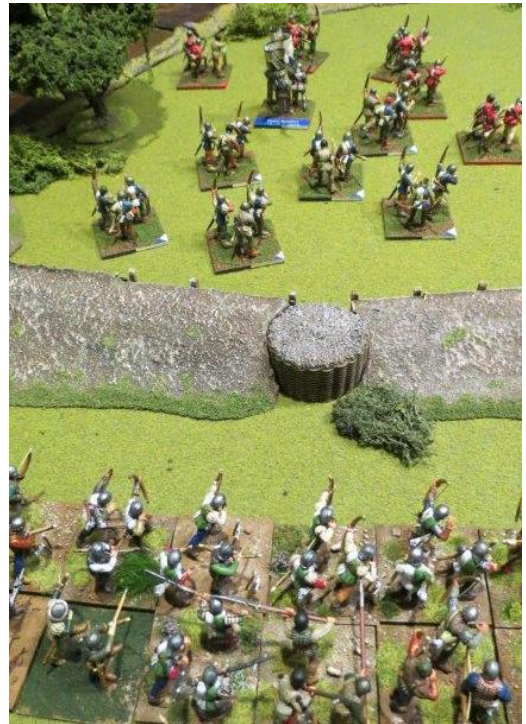
Battle Report 9 December 2016

The battle opened with an exchange of long-range flight arrows by both sides. This resulted in the loss of one base by Fauconberg and one courage by both Warwick and Bourchier. On the Lancastrian side Shrewsbury lost a base and Stafford and Beaumont both had their courage reduced by one. The Yorkists then advanced to close range during which time the Earl of March and Viscount Bourchier both lost a courage each from Lancastrian Sheaf fire.



At close range the exchange of arrows continued, at which point the Yorkist numbers began to tell with devastating effect. The Lancastrian centre suffered worst. Buckingham's company lost a base and two courage while Beaumont lost a base. On the left shrewsbury also suffered a base loss but his return fire caused Fauconberg's ward to falter. Once halted, and with their quivers empty, Fauconberg's men refused to act and they remained in place. Facing them Shrewsbury's men had also fired off the last of their arrows and the two sides faced each other motionless and effectively out of the fight. It was on the Lancastrian right that the battle was decided.

Lord Grey had been able to again inflict courage loses on the Earl of March's two companies as they advanced and attempted to align their front. It was when March had completed this manoeuvre and was able to bring all his bowmen to bear that their return fire took effect. The hail of Yorkist arrows convinced Grey that he had maintained the charade of loyalty long enough and he ordered his men back from the works and to lay down their arms. At this point the Yorkist rearward surged forward towards the entrenchments unopposed.



This betrayal by Grey and the loss of their Rearward greatly distressed the remaining Lancastrian host. In the centre both sides had exhausted their arrows. Stafford's men stood silent as Warwick led his men forward and up to the face of the works. The two sides clashed in hand to hand at the top of the wall but the melee was short lived. Warwick could make no impression on Stafford's line and his men fell back to the ditch. There Warwick rallied and went up the slope a second time. Once again Stafford's line held and the Yorkist Mainward tumbled back down into the water filled ditch.



At this point, on the Yorkist left, March's lead company had crossed the abandoned wall. Once inside the works his three deep line faced right and moved against Stafford right company. Stafford had seen Grey's men lay down their arms and could see the danger developing on his right. To counter this he had moved some of his second rank bases to the right and formed a short line. It availed him but little. As March's men closed from the right Warwick's tired companies once again scaled the slippery, muddy slopes of the works. Together they forced Stafford's company back off the walls and into the encampment. Once over the wall Warwick and March's number were decisive. Stafford's company was first pushed back and then routed. The survivors fled towards the bridge, the fugitives sweeping Stafford along with the rout.

Seeing Stafford's company break was too much for the remaining Lancastrians. They abandoned the walls and routed from the field; a decisive Yorkist victory.

