

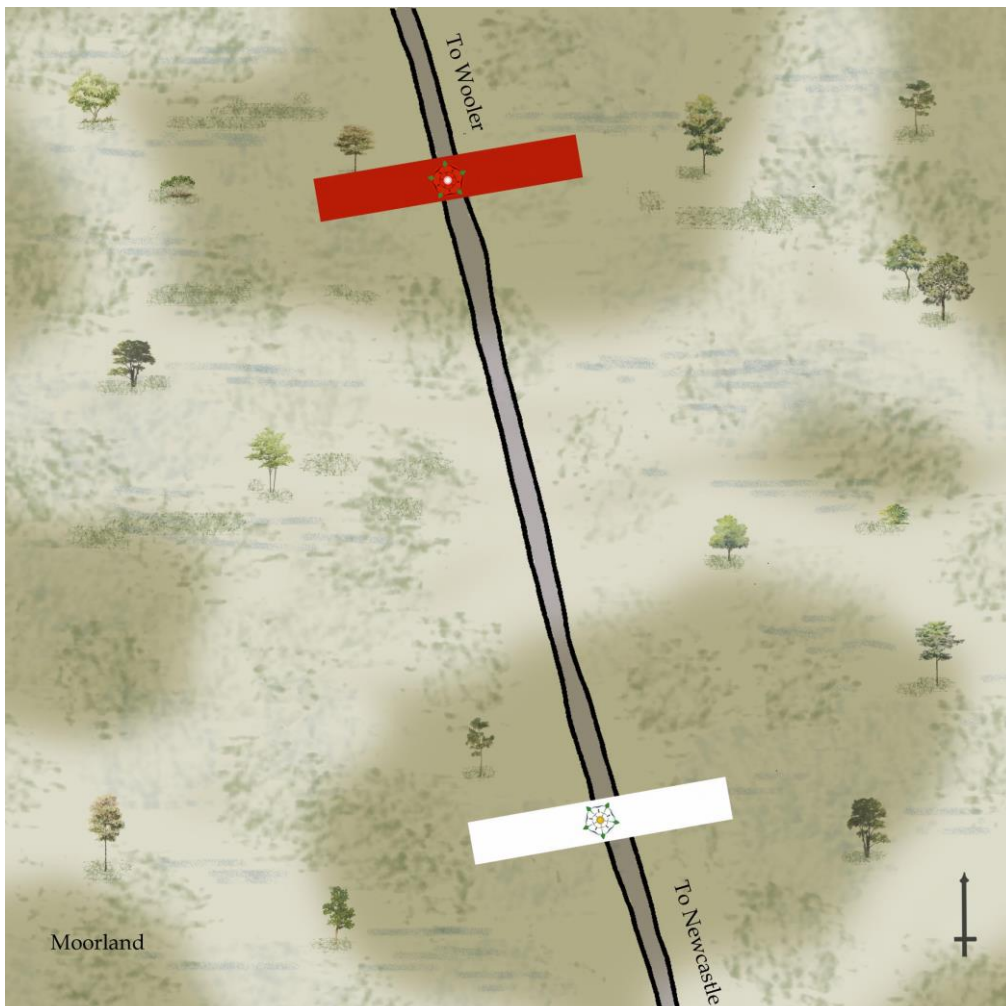
# The Battle of Hedgeley Moor

25<sup>th</sup> April 1464

St Mark's Day

After the Battle of Towton the Lancastrian survivors either fled overseas or withdrew with Margaret and King Henry to Scotland. The defeat at Towton did not extinguish all Lancastrian hopes. In the West Country and in Wales many remained loyal to Henry. In the north also there was still sympathy for the Lancastrian cause. From her bases in Scotland Margaret was able to gain control of a number of northern castles. Responding to this unrest in Northumberland the new king, Edward IV, made efforts to regain control in this region partly by force and partly by negotiations. He was able to regain Bamburgh from Henry Beaufort, the Duke of Somerset, by pardoning him and restoring his estates. This did not pacify the north and late in 1463 Margaret moves south in force. She regained control of a number of castles and seized several others. Somerset, with whom peace with Edward did not sit easily, went north to join her.

With the Lancastrian host now south of the border James of Scotland opened peace talks with the English Parliament. A meeting between the parties was arranged for late April in York and John Neville, Lord Montagu, was sent to Northumberland to escort the Scottish delegation to the negotiations. When the Lancastrians received word of Montagu's mission a force under Somerset was dispatched to intercept him. The two forces met on Hedgeley Moor.



## Lancastrians



### Mainward

Henry Beaufort, 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Somerset

(Anti-York, Committed, Audacious [3 stratagem], Peer,)

- 2 MAA
- 5 Retinue Bow
- 3 Levy Bow

Courage 4

Ralph Percy, of Leconfield

(Committed, Amateur, Trimmer,)

- 1 MAA
- 3 Retinue Bow
- 4 Levy Bow
- 3 Levy Spear

Courage 3

### Rearward

Robert Hungerford

(Committed, Practiced [1 stm], Impetuous)

- 1 MAA
- 3 Retinue Bow
- 2 Levy Bow
- 4 Levy Spear

Courage 3

## Yorkists



### Mainward

John Neville, Lord Montagu

(Anti-Percy, Committed, Old Soldier [2 stm],)

- 3 MAA
- 6 Retinue Bow
- 3 Levy Bow

Courage 4

Henry Neville

(Well-Wisher, Pro-Neville, Practiced,)

- 2 MAA
- 5 Retinue Bow
- 1 Levy Bow
- 2 Levy Spear

Courage 3

William Stanley

(Well-Wisher, Amateur, Trimmer,)

- 2 MAA
- 4 Retinue Bow
- 1 Levy Bow
- 2 Levy Spear

Courage 3

## Scenario Special Rules

1. William Stanley has been up-graded from Uncommitted to Well-Wisher.
2. Each turn one Lancastrian Treachery and one Action chit will be included in the chit draw.

If the Rearward chit is draw before the Action of the Treachery chit then the Rearward activates as normal.

If the Action chit is drawn before either the Rearward or the Treachery chits then, for that turn, the Treachery chit is ignored.

If the Treachery chit is draw before the Action or the Lancastrian Rearward chit that ward will withdraw from the field. When a Yorkist company contacts the Lancastrian Rearward, both the Treachery and the Action chits becomes void and are removed from play.

## Victory Conditions

The side that holds the field at the end of the game will be the victor.

## Historical Outcome

As with many battles from this period there is little information about what actually took place. Even the size of the engagement is uncertain and estimates of the two forces vary widely. Some put it as low as 500 on each side while others say as high as 5,000.

There are reports the Lancastrian Rearward, possibly under Lords Roos and Hungerford, withdrew from the action leaving the remaining Lancastrian host outnumbered. Despite this setback Somerset and most of the other Lancastrian lords were able to avoid total defeat and move back to Alnwick Castle. What is known is that Ralph Percy stood and died on the field.

With the defeat of the Lancastrians Montagu was able to continue north to the border, rendezvous with the Scottish envoys and escort them safely back to York.

## Battle Report

### 5 May 2016

John Neville, Lord Montague, took post in the centre with Henry Neville on his right and William Stanley his left. Henry Beaufort, the Duke of Somerset, drew up on a low rise bestride the Wooler road with Robert Hungerford's ward on his left. The battle opened with an exchange of Flight arrows. Initially Somerset fired on Montagu's own company, the largest of the Lancastrian companies, but he soon ordered his men to shift their fire to the two smaller companies on the flanks. This fire bore fruit and resulted in the loss of a courage and a base from William Stanley's company. The Lancastrian only had one round of Flight arrows to reply with but this fire was equally successful producing the loss of a base and a courage from Somerset's line.

Turn two saw the Yorkists endure another hail of Lancastrian Flight archery before they started to advance. Montagu's ward activated first on turn three and the Yorkist line drew even closer to the Lancastrian position. This advance seemed to unnerve Robert Hungerford and he ordered his men from the field, abandoning Somerset to his fate.

Somerset had by now exhausted all his Flight arrows and decided that the range was still too great for Sheaf. Montague had no such qualms and moreover threw down his Sharp archery tactic. This round of fire was punishing with the Lancastrian companies taking loses of both bases and courage. Somerset's return fire was not as effective. Montagu's line then advanced to the base of the hill while Somerset's men could only look on with growing concern.

The Lancastrians activated first on turn six and Somerset had a decision to make. His bowmen had emptied their quivers while Montagu's men still had Sheaf arrows to draw on. His up hill position had advantages but a charge would catch the Lancastrians on an Approach order with their bowmen in the front rank. Though the odds were against him, Somerset threw caution to the wind and ordered a Steady Attack.

His two companies exchanged ranks, closed up and set off down the slope. They initially contacted only Montagu's company due to their narrowed front but this changed when the Lancastrian ward activated. On the right Henry Neville changed ranks and reduced his frontage but this move drew his company off to the right and when they wheeled they fell short of contacting Somerset's flank. Not so on the Yorkist left. William Stanley's line was close by Montagu's company and after exchanging ranks his men wheeled and drove into Somerset's right.

With numbers against him and his line over lapped on one flank the canny Somerset's tactical skill came to the fore. He chose well, and with his men riding a Steady Attack vs a Tired Attack, they achieved a Repulsed result on Montagu's ward pushing both Stanley's and Montagu's own company back. This result inflicted few casualties on the Yorkists and it also drew Somerset further into the Yorkist maw.

In the next round of Handstrokes Somerset again drew well and despite all three Yorkist companies now being in contact the best result they could achieve was to halt Somerset's charge. In this exchange Somerset and Montagu met face to face and Montagu came away from the meeting the worse of the two. While not killed he was too badly incapacitated to further stand in the front rank but he did not leave the field.

**The Melee lasted a further three rounds with the Lancastrians slowly being cut down. Somerset himself felt the breath of the angle of death but was saved by the swift and, sadly, fatal intervention of a Stout Ensign. Still the end result was inevitable and by the end of the fifth round of Handstrokes both Lancastrian companies had been so badly reduced that they broke and fled the field. The ensuing slaughter was truly awful to witness.**

Lancastrians

Mainward,  
Henry Beaufort  
Rearward, Robert Hungerford

Wayne Hobbs  
Phil Rowe

Yorkist

Mainward,  
John Neville  
Henry Neville  
William Stanley

Andrew Toms

Umpire

John Savage