

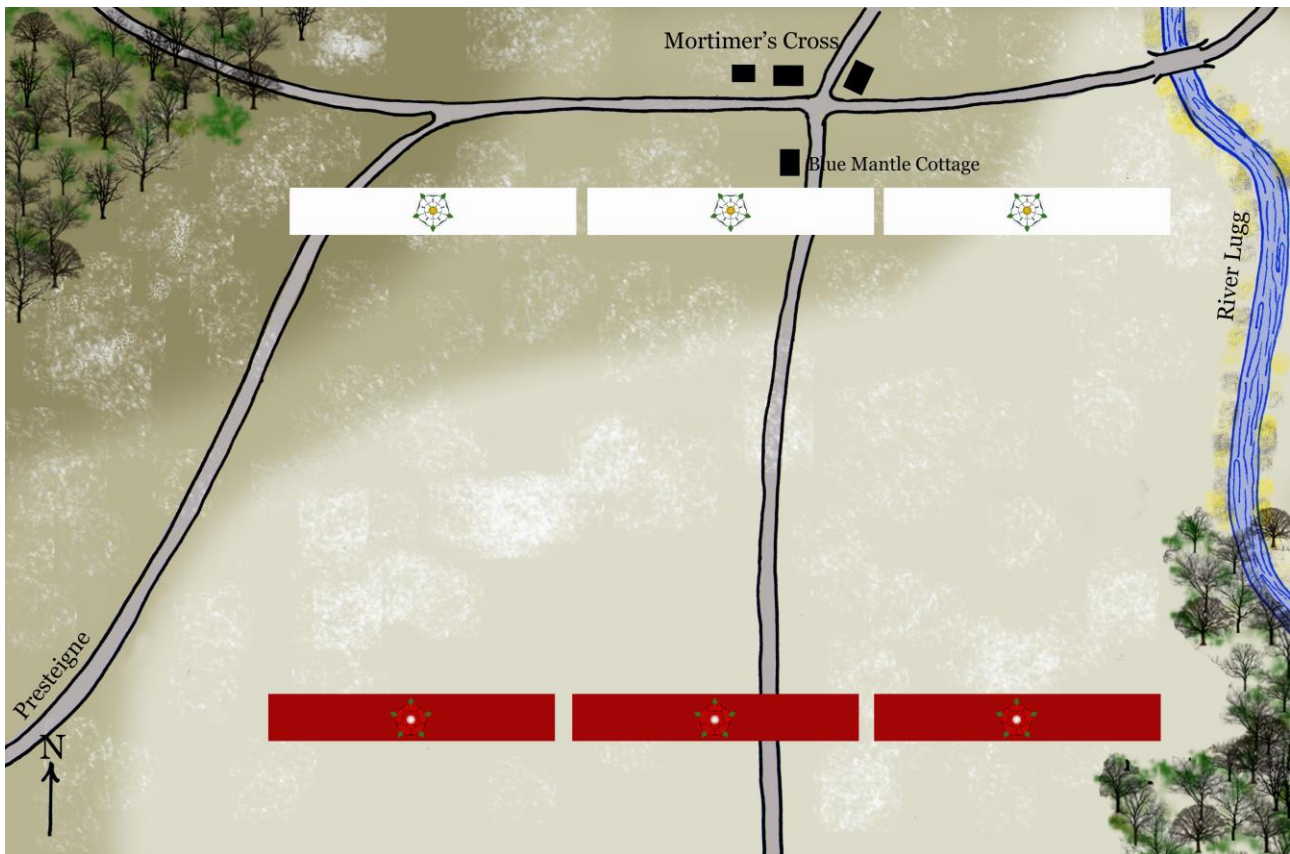
The Battle of Mortimer's Cross

3rd February 1461

St Blaise's Day

Before the Duke of York set off on his ill-fated journey to Wakefield he had directed his eldest son Edward, the Earl of March, to the West Country and Wales to deal with the fermenting of Lancastrian discontent there. When that had been achieved March was to join him in the north. Edward was at Shrewsbury when he received news of the death of his father and the destruction of the northern army. He was prevented from going north and seeking revenge by news that James Butler, the Earl of Wiltshire, had landed in Wales with a mixed force of French foot and Irish Kerns and joined Jasper Tudor, the Earl of Pembroke. When these two lords joined they had about 3-5,000 men and they set off northeastward across Wales to rendezvous with the gathering Lancastrian host in the north. Wales in February is not a hospitable place and the march was difficult and very wearing on the men.

The Earl of March was at Ludlow at this time. When he heard of the Lancastrian advance he moved his men first southwest to Wigmore and then south to Mortimer's Cross to block Jasper Tudor's progress. By making short moves and quartering his men in towns and villages he shielded his men from the harsh rigors of winter. On the 2nd or 3rd of February Jasper Tudor's force approached the village from the south.





Lancastrians

Vanward

Owen Tudor

(Anti-Herbert, Committed, Practiced, [1 stratagem],)

- 2 MAA
- 4 Retinue Bow
- 5 Levy bow
- 4 Levy spearman

Courage 3

James Skydmore

(Pro-Tudor, Committed, Amateur,)

- 3 MAA
- 3 Retinue Bow
- 5 Levy bow
- 5 Levy spearman

Courage 3

Mainward

Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke

(Anti-Herbert, Committed, Practiced, [1 stm], Loyalty, Peer,)

- 4 MAA
- 8 Retinue bow
- 2 Levy bow
- 2 Levy spearmen

Courage 4

Captain Owen ap Griffith

(Pro-Tudor, Well-Wisher, Amateur,)

- 3 MAA
- 7 Retinue bow
- 6 Levy spearmen

Courage 4

Rearward

James Butler, Earl of Wiltshire

(Anti-York, Committed, Amateur, Timorous, Peer,)

- 1 MAA
- 7 Retinue bow
- 2 Gallowglash
- 4 Kerns

Courage 4

Captain John Throckmorton

(Well-Wisher, Practiced,)

- 5 MAA
- 8 Crossbow

Courage 3

Yorkists



Vanward

William Herbert, Lord Herbert

(Anti-Tudor, Committed, Practiced, Impetuous,)

- 4 MAA
- 8 Retinue bow

Courage 4

Roger Vaughan

(Anti-Tudor, Committed, Practiced, Impetuous, Bushments,)

- 1 MAA
- 6 Retinue bow

Courage 4

Mainward

Edward Plantagenet, Duke of York

(Committed, Audacious, Heir)

- 6 MAA
- 8 Retinue bow

Courage 4

William Hastings, Lord Hastings

(Committed, Amateur, Loyalty,)

- 2 MAA
- 5 Retinue bow
- 2 Levy bow
- 4 Levy spearmen

Courage 4

Rearward

Walter Devereux, Lord Ferrers

(Committed, Anti-Tudor, Practiced,)

- 2 MAA
- 8 Retinue bow

Courage 4

John Touchet, Lord Audley

(Un-Committed, Amateur, Trimmer,)

- 4 MAA
- 7 Retinue bow

Courage 3

Scenario specific rules

1. The Yorkist receive the “Celestial Omen” Happenstance card at the start of the game.
2. The Lancastrian Host start with the “*Time hath worn us into Slovenry*” due to the fatigues they have experienced on their approach march.

Victory Conditions

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

Historical Outcome

It is believed by most sources that Jasper Tudor opened the battle by moving forward rapidly to reduce the effect of the Yorkist archery on his Irish and Welsh levies. The two sides clashed with the Yorkists benefiting from the rising ground on which they stood. The Irish on the Lancastrian left may have been the first to give way. They would have been tired from their hard march across an alien landscape in the depth of winter and would also have been galled by the Yorkist bowmen as they charged across the open fields. When the Irish cracked the Yorkist van swung onto the flank of the Lancastrian Mainward pushing them back towards the River Lugg. Sensing defeat the remainder of the Lancastrian host broke up and ran. The Jasper Tudor escaped, as did the every light-footed Earl of Wiltshire. Not so Owen Tudor, the grandfather of the Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond and future Henry VII. He was captured and beheaded.

Losses for both sides are unrecorded but given the sizes of the forces involved it would have been in the hundreds and not thousands with the Lancastrians suffering far worse due to the rout.