

160 The Fall of Suffolk and Normandy

By 1445, William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk was clearly Henry's most trusted adviser. He faced a difficult task - to steer a bankrupt nation into the harbor of peace. Avoiding the ship of France trying to sink her on the way in. Would they make it?



Formigny

In this episode we are lucky enough to have another Weekly Word from Kevin Stroud, author of the History of English Podcast. If you like it, why not go the whole hog, and visit his website, The History of English Podcast.

Also you might want to look at the rather touching letter from William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk to his eight year old son, John. - It's on the website.

161 Captain of Kent

1450 was an eventful year. The fall of Suffolk, and now Kent was once again in flames, just as it had been in 1381. This time the leader that emerged was one Jack Cade.

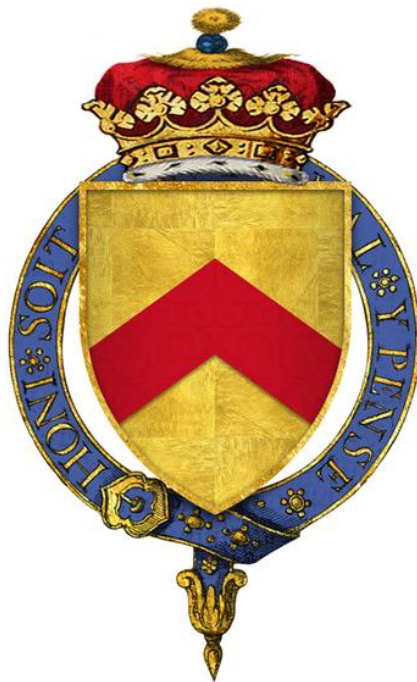
Dramatis Personae

This week, a few new names...

William Aiscough, Bishop of Salisbury: only a cameo appearance for this episode.

Jack Cade: Leader of the rebellion - again only a cameo appearance, leader of the rebellion of 1450.

James Fiennes, Lord of Saye and Sele: Treasurer of England, and a nasty piece of work. He came to a sticky end!



The Arms of Humphrey Stafford, 1st Duke of Buckingham, 1402-1460

The Stafford family that are the holders of the title of the Duke of Buckingham, are of the blood royal; they are descended from Edward III's youngest son, Thomas of Woodstock. Humphrey Stafford was a veteran of the Wars with France, and an elder statesman, and would basically remain loyal to the king and Queen, but be a voice of reason until he croaks, trying to bring the factions together.

162 The Return of York

It's still 1450...because it was something of an eventful year. Richard of York, sat in Ireland, was worried - his name had been bandied about by Jack Cade and his rebels. See what happens...

Some links

First of all, if you don't know the History of Byzantium, and would like to, hop along to Robin Pierson's website. It's a great series.

Secondly, I'm starting up a series of Wars of the Roses pages, just to help you all navigate through the mess of families that hop in and out of each others' beds. Look at the Left Hand Nav bar; or to read about a few of the major families in 1450, follow this link to Major Families...



Richard Duke of York, 1411-1460

Son of the disgraced Richard Earl of Cambridge, despite his long minority Richard was born to the fortunes of York and Mortimer, and descended from The Duke of Clarence, Edward III's son. There was no sign before 1450 that Richard was anything other than a loyal servant of the king - serving in France as Lieutenant General. Then he was ousted, and replaced by Edmund Beaufort. Historians disagree about how Richard took this - but being appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland may very well not have been the reward it sounds like - in Ireland he was safely far away from the king. Richard was alienated by a feeling that he was denied his birthright - being in the closest counsels of the king.

His return in 1450 was dramatic - he came without permission. Beaufort was now effectively the chief Minister of the king and Queen, and all 3 appeared to panic trying to prevent York's return.

By 1451, civil war was not inevitable; but a pattern of antipathy between Beaufort, Queen Margaret and York was becoming established, and York 's ambitions being thwarted.



Margaret of Anjou

What to make of Margaret? It's always worth bearing in mind that women like Margaret who stepped outside the mould will be unfairly judged by contemporary chroniclers. From the start of her relationship with Henry, it seems both got on well - spending more time together than was expected of a king and queen at the time. She was reasonably traditional in her role, supporting her husband; though she spent freely; and appears frequently in the minutes of the King's council as grants were made 'by the queen's counsel'; so it appears she became more involved, and the political situation sharpened, and her husband's lack of capability .became more evident.,

After 8 years of marriage, by 1452 the couple still showed no signs of producing a child.

Livery Badges, Bastard feudalism and the Wars of the Roses

The prevailing theory about why the Wars of the Roses happened was, at one point very much about 'bastard feudalism' and the 'overmighty subjects'. The story goes that by the 15th century, the relationship between a lord and his retinue had changed - no longer based on an honest knight and his patch of land, but now a money fee, based on an 'indenture' or contract. And that as a result, lords traipsed around the countryside with massive retinues of followers. Which is true - they did. A magnate gave out robes of particular colours, and livery badges by which they might be known; and there were a lot of them; and the 15th century was a violent time. The general feeling is that this wasn't the fault of bastard feudalism; in earlier centuries, a magnate's affinity was just as important. The reasons for the war had more to do with Henry VI's failure to control his magnates.

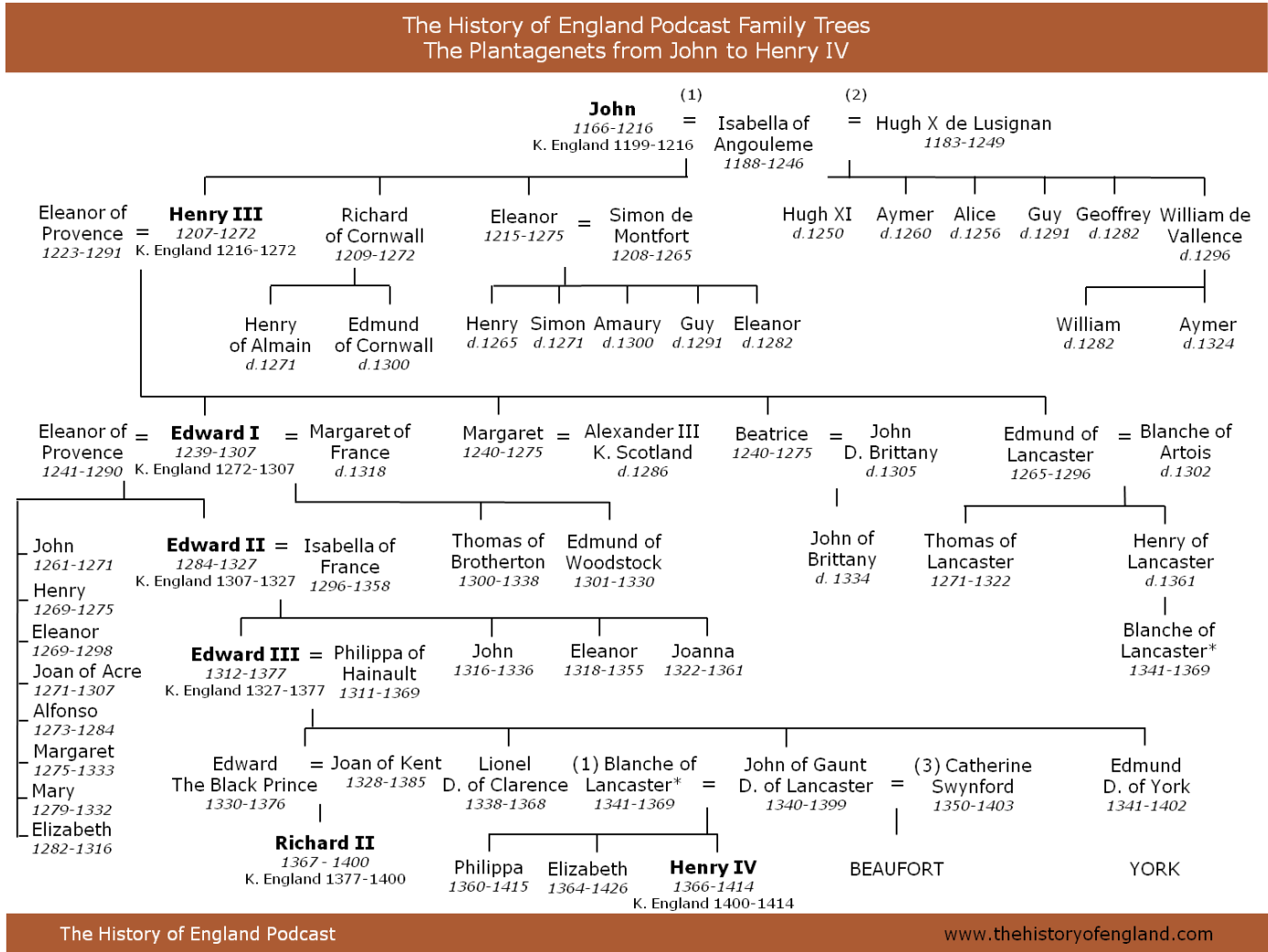
But back to livery badges; below is one example, one of Henry VI's badges. I've had a rootle around and tried to find the ones I could - guided, obviously, by that authoritative historical resource, the game Kingmaker...so you can find them all by clicking on this link to my page 'Livery Badges'.



Chained Antelope Badge

163 The Cousins' War

How did previous generations view the Wars of the Roses? What are the interpretations of the Wars of the Roses now? This, and an introduction to some key families, are what this week is all about.



Some Major Families in 1450

This is an attempt to give you a brief summary of the major families outside of the main antagonists, York and Lancaster, and where they stood at the start of the Wars of the Roses in 1450; and some links so that you can do a bit more digging if you'd like, and don't mind plot spoilers! Worth looking at the family tree of the royal houses to give you an overview. For some of these also you can see the kind of landholdings they possessed by going to 'Landholdings of the Barons'. And finally you can see family tree of the Neville and Percy families here.

It's getting quite long so here's a little index - i.e. a list in order of what you can find below! I can't do that clever linking within a page thing.

1. Beaufort
2. Tudor
3. Stafford
4. Neville
5. Holland
6. Mowbray
7. Pole
8. Courtenay
9. Woodville
10. de Vere
11. Clifford

The Beauforts, Dukes of Somerset



Margaret Beaufort

The Beauforts were descended from John of Gaunt and Katherine Swynford - at first illegitimate, then legitimised. The current Beaufort incumbent of the title, Edmund Beaufort. He does not get a good press from me. He started an affair with Catherine Valois, and then was put off by the consequences in a way that Owen Tudor was not. He insisted on compensation from the English crown of 10,000 marks to compensate for this lands in Maine when handed to France. As Lieutenant General of France he seemed to have more interest in saving his own neck at Rouen and Caen. He again has the political muscle or personal relationships to persuade a weak Henry VIth and a stiff necked Margaret appoint him as Constable of England on his return. The Beauforts have estates in the South West that reflects their traditional title of Dorset, and south of London.

Edmund's brother John, the first Duke of Somerset, had committed suicide; and he'd left one daughter, Margaret, born in 1443. Margaret seems to have had the blood of Henry Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester rather than her venal uncle, and will be someone to watch. Edmund had a son called Henry and a son called Edmund – born in 1436 and 1438 respectively to carry on the Beaufort fight.

The Tudors - Earls of Richmond, Pembroke and Bedford



Owen Tudor (1400 - 1461) and Catherine de Valois (Henry VI's wife) had three sons - Edmund Tudor, Jasper Tudor - and Owen who went to be a monk and had a quiet life. After Catherine's death in 1437, Owen was chased around but eventually joined the King's household. In November 1452, Henry VI, who was fond of the family, recognised Edmund and Jasper as his uterine brothers, and the rehabilitation was complete. Edmund Tudor (1430-1456) was created Earl of Richmond, and married Margaret Beaufort, with whom he had a son, Henry. Edmund and his brother Jasper Tudor, (1431-1495), Earl of Pembroke and Duke of Bedford, tried to remain balanced in the struggle between Somerset and York, but remain loyal to Henry VI, and use their lands in the west of Wales to support the Lancastrian cause.

The Staffords, Dukes of Buckingham



Humphrey Stafford, first Duke of Buckingham, (1402-1460) was descended from the youngest of Edward III's sons, Thomas of Woodstock. Buckingham did not struggle to make the grade as a Duke with lands in Wales, the West Midlands and Kent. His marriage to the Westmorland side of the Neville family, and the links to the Beauforts through his mother in law also helped his connections. Buckingham had immense resources; by and large he tried to deploy them to keep the peace, but when the chips were down it was to the king, Henry, that Buckingham was loyal. Buckingham appears to be a moderate; but he couldn't be considered a gentle sort of guy. Actually he had something of a vicious temper; he'd had a run in with John Holland – although having a run in with a Holland was hard a sign of bad temper; he'd apparently tried to stab Joan of Arc, and was to treat Cecily Neville very severely when she was under his control. His son and successor was Henry Stafford.

The Nevilles - Earls of Salisbury; and the rivalry with the Percies, Earls of Northumberland



The senior branch of the Neville family, the Earls of Westmoreland, were rather stitched up by Ralph Neville and his second wife Joan Beaufort, who displayed all the fair mindedness of the Beauforts in stitching up Ralph's heir as Earl of Westmoreland. Westmoreland (1404 - 1484) struggled all his life to recover from the evil/formidable stepmother's influence – but essentially failed.

Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury (1400 - 1460) , though, Joan's eldest son was a completely different story. He swept up the Montagu inheritance by marrying the sole heiress of the Salisbury clan that have been with us for so long, Alice Montagu. Traditionally, the Nevilles controlled the western Marches and the Percies the eastern, but by the close of the 1440s and into the early 1450's Richard Neville challenged and surpassed Percy power, and became kings of the North.



In 1450 the senior Percy, Henry Percy 2nd Earl of Northumberland (1394-1455), seemed content to live with Neville dominance. But Percy's son, Henry Percy, Lord Egremont and 3rd earl of Northumberland (1421-1461), (he in turn would also have a son called Henry Percy. Not good with names) was something of a firebrand and chafed at his father's patience. It needed a strong royal hand to keep the kings in the north under control; if that strong hand was not there, the result could be open warfare.

The Nevilles - Earls of Warwick ('The Kingmaker')

The Earl of Salisbury had a son, also called Richard Neville (1428-1471), who was 22 years old in 1450. By a couple of lucky deaths (!), the younger Neville inherited the massive Warwick estates of the Beauchamps, and became the 16th Earl of Warwick. Warwick isn't really engaged in taking part in national politics at this time; taking over a large set of estates was never as easy as it sounds. There were always some folks and pesky relatives trying to eat part of the pie – a cousin called George Neville for example was claiming estates in Wales. So for the moment Warwick continued to keep his distance from national politics. But from 1455, Warwick played a more active role, attracted the enmity of Margaret of Anjou. He would acquire the title of earl of Salisbury when he father died, and would then be the classic over mighty subject.

The Hollands, Dukes of Exeter



Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter and Earl of Huntingdon (1430 - 1473). seems to have had the Holland 'bad gene'. An ancestor, John, had run through a squire in an expedition with Richard II in Scotland because of his vicious temper, and his mother Joan had reportedly died of grief at the shenanigans of her children. Another ancestor had been beheaded by a mob for taking part in an uprising against Henry IVth. They appear to be an unbalanced lot, essentially. Henry Holland, was cruel and volatile. Unfortunately, the Hollands, estate-wise, were tiddlers. The rule of thumb for the day was that you needed at least £1,000 to be a baron or earl, and £2,000 to maintain your dignity as a Duke. Exeter's income was only £1002 a year. Exeter felt he should be at the right hand of the king, and despite his (disastrous) marriage to Anne of York he felt no desire to support the Yorkist cause. Anne managed to get away, get divorced, and marry a knight, Thomas St Ledger.

The Mowbrays, Dukes of Norfolk



John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk (1415-1461) was a bad lad in his salad days. A substantial family, the Mowbray lands were widely distributed in over 150 properties through 25 counties, which gave them an administrative problem. They were also relative newcomers to the world of East Anglian politics, where many of Norfolk's estates were centred, and the strength of his local power was not great; and certainly not in the face of the Pole's, the Dukes of Suffolk. Norfolk's priority was to build his power base in East Anglia. So his retinues wander around Norfolk making a nuisance of themselves, for all the world like some two-bit protection racket. But Norfolk had been largely excluded from national politics in the 1440s, and so never had the level of influence at court that he really needed to make his power stick – he was constantly swimming against the tide. Despite his support in the early 1450s for York, Norfolk was a trimmer; constantly trying to play the two sides off against each other, and doing his very best to avoid getting sucked in.

de la Pole, Dukes of Suffolk



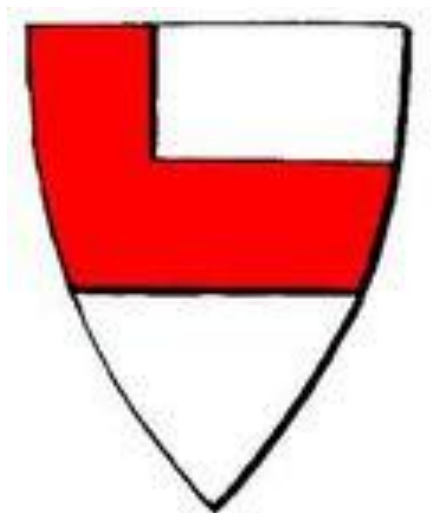
Rivals for power in East Anglia, the de la Pole family rose from the merchant class in Hull (William de la Pole, who died in 1336) to be one of the great families of the 14th and 15th centuries. William de la Pole, 1st Duke of Suffolk (1396-1450) had of course been the first man to try to compensate for Henry VIth's failures and paid the price of failure, with his head lying the Kent beach in a separate location to his body. He famously wrote to his son, John de la Pole, 2nd Duke of Suffolk (1442-1491) telling him to obey his mother and faithfully serve the king. John followed his own path - of self preservation and fence sitting, and as a result can't be called reliable, but *can* be called survivor.

The Courtenays (Earls of Devon) and rivalry with the Bonville family



The Courtenays were Earls of Devon, and it had always been clear who was boss in Devon – the Courtenays. And one of their most helpful partners were the Bonville family, who knew the side on which their bread was buttered and supported the top Dogs accordingly. But by the 1440s actually, the Bonvilles had done rather better than was comfortable. Now their income at £900 per year was pretty much the same as the Devons. Still they got along OK for a while, though with the odd growl from the Bonville dog who no longer thought of himself as quite so beta as he might once have done. But then in 1437, national politics make the mistake of blowing the whole thing up. The king appointed William Bonville (1392-1461) as Royal Steward of Cornwall. That had always been the preserve of the Courtenays. In a delightful example of incompetence, Henry VIth tried to sooth Thomas Courtenay, 5th earl of Devon, (1414-1458) by giving him a job too – sadly, the same one as the Bonville's had. So Bonville and Courtenay went to war, and were looking for allies at a national level with the clout to help them win their local struggle for power. The fight would be picked up by sons, such as Thomas Courtenay, 3rd earl of Devon (1431-1461).

Woodvilles, Earl Rivers



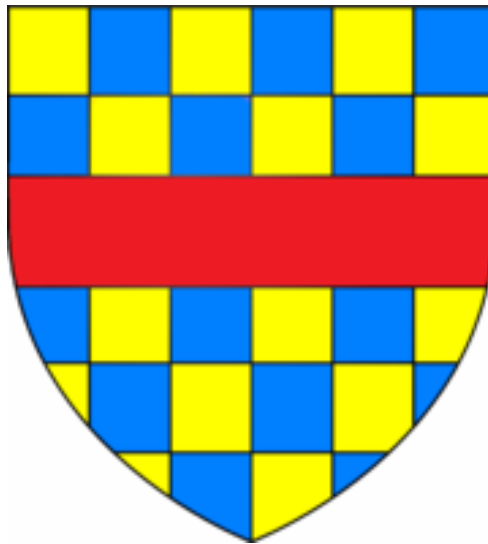
If in 1436 you'd have told some bloke that the Woodville family would be a major player in national politics, he'd have laughed in your face. Richard Woodville was made Baron Rivers in 1448 and Earl Rivers in 1460 (died in 1469; we don't know when he was born, but his father died in 1441) was not irrelevant, but as a family was down there in the 3rd division or so. His father had never been knighted, but had played a prominent role in the lives of the greatest men - the Duke of Bedford for example - and been involved in great events - such as denying Humphrey of Gloucester access to the Tower of London. Richard Woodville was a committed Lancastrian in the 1450's, and was Seneschal of Gascony in 1450, Lieutenant of Calais 1454-5 and so on. But his real rise to power came by scandalously marrying Jacquetta of Luxembourg (1416-1472), the widow of the Duke of Bedford in March 1437; Richard Woodville and his son and successor, Anthony Woodville (1440-1483) would fight for Henry at Towton. But really, it was the marriage of Richard's daughter, Elizabeth Woodville that would transform the family and cause all the fuss.

The de Veres, Earls of Oxford



The de Vere family came over with Billy the Conq, and Aubrey de Vere was a tenant in chief for the king. A long ancestry they might have, but a lot of money they did not - they were right down the bottom of the league, claiming in 1437 to have lands with annual income totalling only £500. Poor lambs. Vere lands were concentrated in Essex, and in the 1440s and 1450s John de Vere Earl of Oxford (1408-1462), became involved with Mowbrays in trying to work against the de la Pole's as Dukes of Suffolk - with minor success in the long run. Actually, John de Vere was one of the trimmers, trying to keep a low profile, arriving late for the battle of Northampton that sort of thing. (oops, sorry, must have got the date wrong...). But his eldest son, Aubrey de Vere was very thick with the Queen, and John's trimming strategy would fail dramatically in 1462.

The Cliffords



The Clifford had long been a power in the West Riding of Yorkshire and Cumbria, with a family loyalty to the Percy family and the Nevilles. Thomas Clifford (1414-1455) was determined to build Clifford strength and influence, rather than waste his time on foreign adventures; but the rise of the Earl of Salisbury's side of the Neville family and his rivalry with the Percies and the Neville earls of Westmoreland confused matters, but throughout Salisbury was his enemy and drove his actions. In 1454 Clifford was reported to have joined the alliance with Egremont and Exeter; though there's no sign of specific antipathy to York. His son and successor John Clifford (1435-1461), was then driven by desire for vengeance when his father died at St Albans.

164 Madness

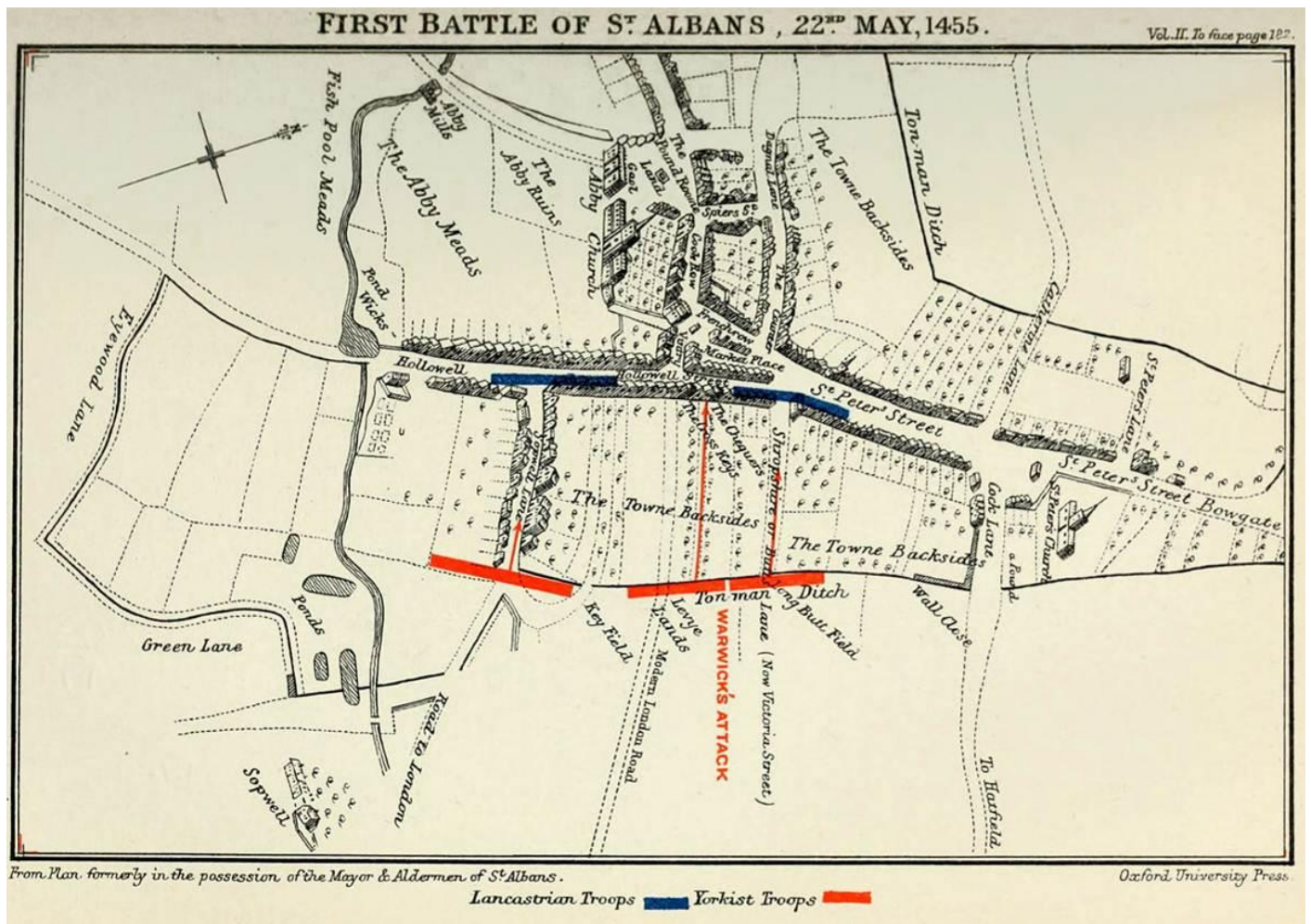
In 1452 and 1453 Henry enjoyed a brief spell where he was on top of his job after the events at Dartford. But fate had something in mind.



Richard of York

165 Bloodshed

In 1455, the quality and nature of the arguments and disputes about the king's fitness to reign and the need to reform the way England was governed changed very significantly. At St Albans, blood was spilled.

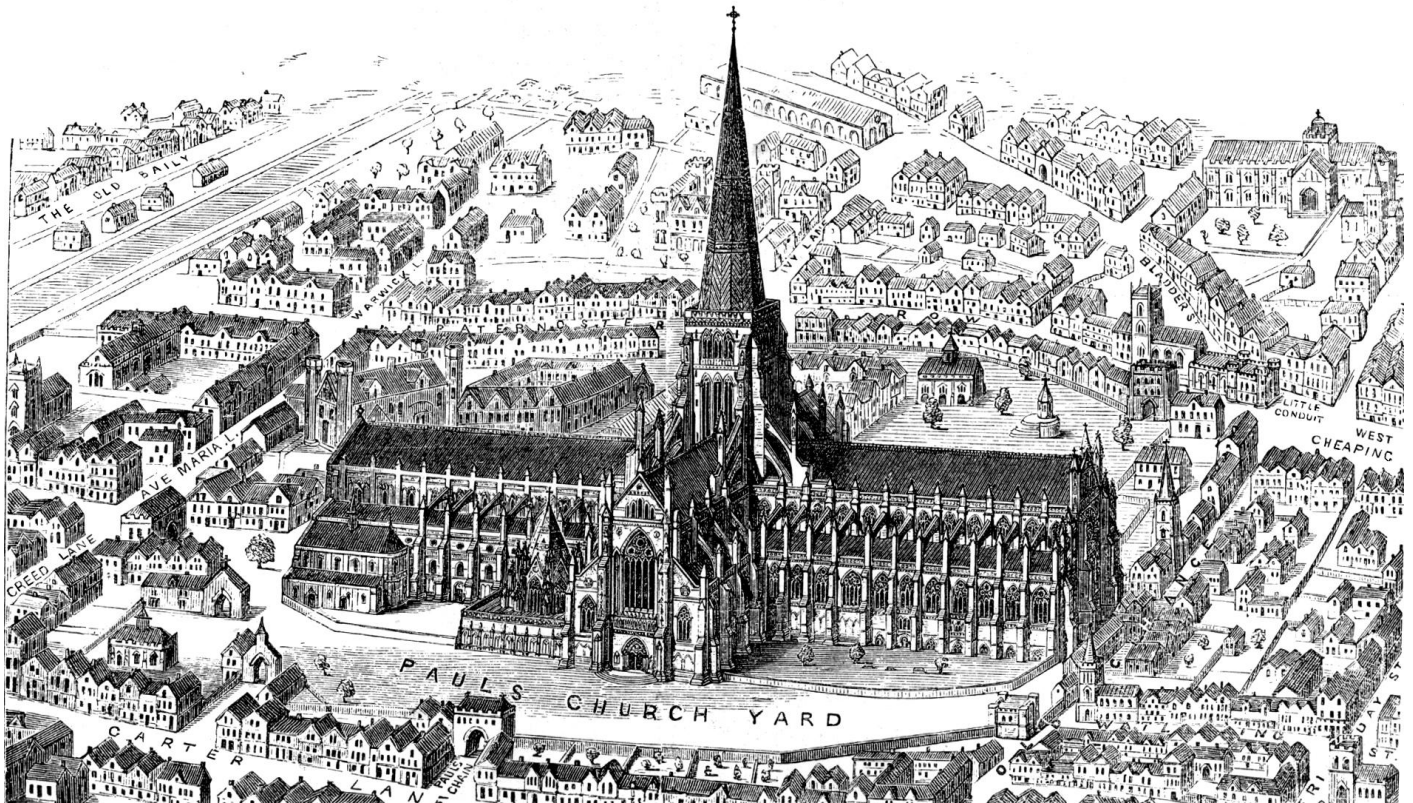


1455, Henry, newly restored to sanity, issued writs for an odd sounding parliament at Leicester. Salisbury, Warwick and York didn't buy it - here was another set up, just like Dartford. So they gathered an army, and marched, professing their loyalty as they went.

Somerset and the king seemed blind to the dangers, and set off from London none the less. At Albans, they suddenly realised they were in trouble, facing an army of 3,000, while the king had only 2,000 with him. Henry sacked Somerset in an attempt to appease York - but to no avail. The battle of St Albans was joined.

166 The Reign of Queen Margaret

In 1455 it briefly looked as though York had won; but in fact it solved nothing - the king remained the centre of power, and the king was weak. By 1457, he had lost his status as Protector, and the Queen was effectively the new ruler of England.



The Love Day of 1458

By 1458, Queen Margaret had remove the court to Coventry and Kenilworth, centres of Lancastrian power. There she gathered around her and the king, a court to her liking. Salisbury was never invited, York only twice - and then was humiliated.

But then a French fleet raided and burned Sandwich. Nothing could demonstrate how low England had fallen. The raid coincided with a return of the king's lucidity, and court returned to London. Henry, such as he was a force for anything, was a force for peace. His queen was ruling for the sake of a faction - the Beauforts - and king Henry could see that.

And so Henry ordered a Love Day. The idea was that all the nobility would walk together, arm in arm, through the streets of London to St Paul's Cathedral. There they would sing and pray together, and all would be well.

All happened as the King ordered. Young Somerset and Salisbury walk at the front; Warwick and Exeter walked arm in arm, the King walked in the middle and York and Margaret brought up the rear. All it achieved was to through the rivalries into clear and public relief - the Love Day solved nothing, because it could not address the basic problem of the king's weakness.

167 The Triumph of Lancaster

In 1459 the trigger point was finally reached; after a year of phony war, both sides preparing for war, the call for a great council in 1459 proving the trigger point. By the end of 1459 the fortune of one of the two sides would lie in ruins.



The swashbuckling Warwick



Spanish Caravel

Between 1457 and 1457 Warwick was in his element as Captain of Calais. He solved the problem of feeding and paying his men by frankly turning to piracy. But with his raids on Italian merchants at Tilbury docks, on a fleet of 28 Spanish ships, on a merchant of Lubeck, Warwick was playing to the xenophobia and patriotism of the London Gallery. And the gallery loved it.

"All the commons of this land had him in great praise and love...and so made his reputation as the greatest knight living"

The Battle of Blore Heath, 23rd September 1459

Through 1459 both sides spoke of peace and prepared for war. When the Queen ordered Warwick, Salisbury and York to a great council, it was the end - they knew the council would not be a happy time for them. Salisbury was at Middleham in Yorkshire; York was at Ludlow on the Welsh border; Warwick at Calais. The signal came from Warwick landing in Kent, and making his way towards Wales. Salisbury came south, while the Queen charged Audley to cut Salisbury off before he could reach Ludlow and York. In this he succeeded.



Ludlow Castle

The two armies faced each other on opposing ridges, with a stream between. Audley with 10,000 men and Salisbury with 5,000, neither keen to attack through the boggy ground and up the hill in the teeth of the inevitable arrow storm. Salisbury feigned a retreat - Audley fell for it and attacked. The result was a disaster for Lancaster, with Audley left dead on the field along with 2,000 others, and Salisbury free to continue to Ludlow.



Ludford Bridge

At Worcester cathedral, Warwick, Salisbury and York swore to fight together and protect each other to the end. On 10th October from Ludlow, with Cecily Neville and York's family the 3 wrote a letter to the King professing their loyalty. On 12th October the royal army appeared on the other side of the bridge that defended Ludlow - Ludford Bridge.

The royal army was enormous. on the night of 12th October, Andrew Trollope and 400 men of Calais deserted to the King's army. On the morning of the 13th, the Yorkist army found their leaders fled - York and his son Edmund of Rutland to Ireland, Warwick, Salisbury and York's eldest son and heir Edward Earl of March to North Devon, thence to Guernsey and finally to Calais. The Yorkist cause lay in ruins.

167a The Fall of Constantinople by Paul Vincent



The fall of Constantinople in 1453 is one of the most momentous events in world history. Sure, the power of the Roman Empire had long since faded; but here at last was the end of the story that had started with Romulus and Remus on the mountainside in Latium.

Paul Vincent is the author of two podcasts, and you can link to them to find out more at [Myths and history of Greece and Rome](#), and [Myths and Legends of Europe](#).

167b Hundred Years' War - Formigny and Castillon by Carl Rylett



The Battle of Castillon (1453).
Jean Chartier, *Grandes Chroniques de France*, c1475.
British Library MS Royal 20 C IX f. 283.

I found it rather difficult to cover the critical events and battles around Formigny and Castillon in quite the same depth as I covered Agincourt, Crecy and Poitiers. Obviously, I should be more objective.

But Carl Rylett of the [History of Europe - Key Battles](#) podcast is made of sterner stuff, so here he is. If you want to know more about Carl's podcast, check him out on iTunes or hop along to his website.

168 With Horns and Trumpets

Warwick swashed and buckled his way up and down the channel until the Yorkists were ready to invade England again. But on his return from Ireland with horns and trumpets blowing, Richard of York had a shock for his allies.

The Parliament of Devils, 1459

Here was revenge for the house of Lancaster. At the parliament, the Yorkist lords were attainted - that is they were guilty of treachery, and their lives were forfeit. But a Bill of Attainder was much worse than that, because it struck at what was really important to your 15th century magnate - his family. Because the Bill of Attainder also stripped all members of the family of their riches, including any heirs. It was in effect wiping the family from the face of history.



The Battle of Northampton

Warwick, Salisbury and the earl of March (the future king Edward) landed in Kent in June 1460, and quickly marched north to London - where they were welcomed. Warwick and March led the army as quickly as they could towards the royal court at Coventry. Buckingham and the Queen were caught hopping - but constructed strong defensive works on the banks of the river Nene at Northampton. The Lancastrians may have numbered 5,000, and the Yorkists 10,000.

The result was a complete rout for the Yorkists - because one of the Lancastrian commanders, Grey of Ruthin, deserted to the Yorkists. Buckingham, Egremont (one of the Percies!) and Shrewsbury all lost their lives and king Henry was captured - laughing and singing in his tent.

Richard of York claims the throne

Richard landed at Chester on 8th September - and grandly made his way south with a great fuss, his sword carried before him - like a king. Parliament was assembled. The Registrum Abbatiae Johannis Whethamstede records what happened:

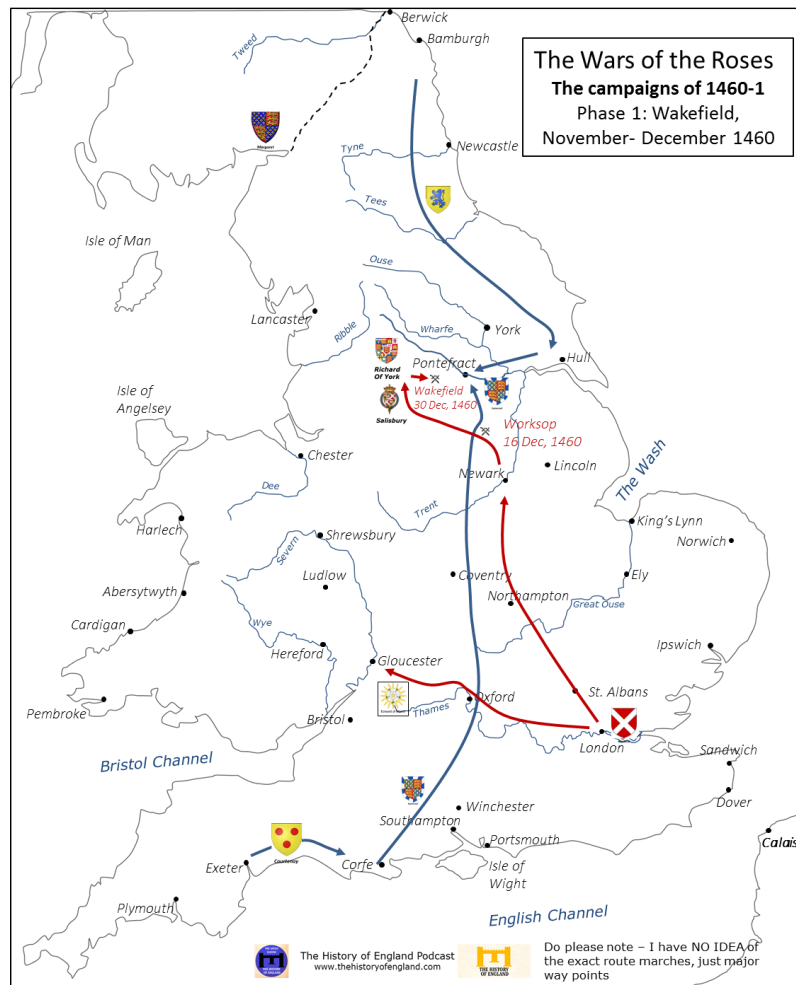
...the Duke of York, with the pomp of a great following, arrived in no small exultation of spirit; for he came with horns and trumpets and men at arms, and very many other servants. And entering the palace there, he marched straight through the great hall until he came to that solemn room where the king was accustomed to hold parliament with his commons. And when he arrived there, he advanced with determined step until he reached the royal throne, and there he laid his hand on the cushion...like a man about to take possession of his right, and kept his hand there for a short while. At last, drawing it back, he turned his face towards the people, and standing still under the cloth of state, he looked attentively at the gazing assembly.

In fact, Richard's actions shocked and horrified Lancastrians, neutrals and Warwick and Salisbury. But a deal was worked out - Henry would reign, but York and his heirs would succeed him. Whether or not Margaret of Anjou would agree was another matter.

169 King without Rule

After the victory at Northampton and the Act of Accord, it looked as though all Richard of York had to do was wait or the crown to be his. But in the north and west, the Lancastrian opposition was growing.

The Campaigns of 1460 and 1461



Wakefield, 30th December 1460

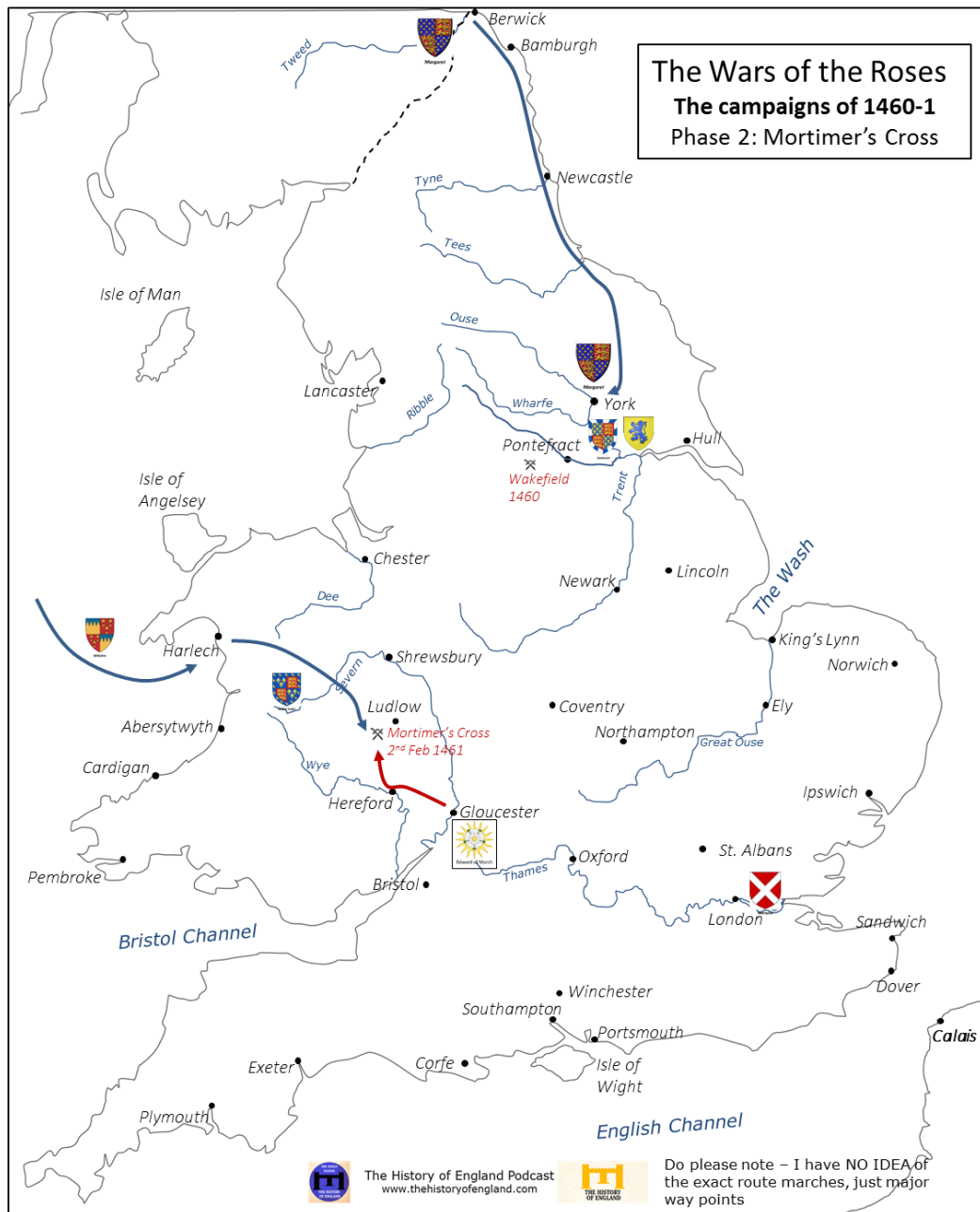
Just to help you follow all the wandering around, here are 3 maps which give you an idea of the what goes on in the fights and struggles of this episode.

While Queen Margaret fled to Scotland to arrange a deal with Mary of Guelders, Lancastrian supporters were ordered to gather at Hull. The Yorkists split up - Warwick stayed in London, Edward Earl of March was sent to the West to deal with Jasper Tudor, and Salisbury and York went to the north. On 30th December, York and Salisbury met Somerset in Battle outside their castle of Sandal, and the result was a crushing defeat. Reputedly, as York was captured the Lancastrians in the battle:

...stood him [York] on a little anthill and placed on his head, as if a crown, a vile garland made of reeds, just as the Jews did to the Lord, and bent the knee to him, saying in jest, 'Hail King, without rule. Hail King, without ancestry, Hail leader and prince, with almost no subjects or possessions'. And having said this and various other shameful and dishonourable things to him, at last they cut off his head.

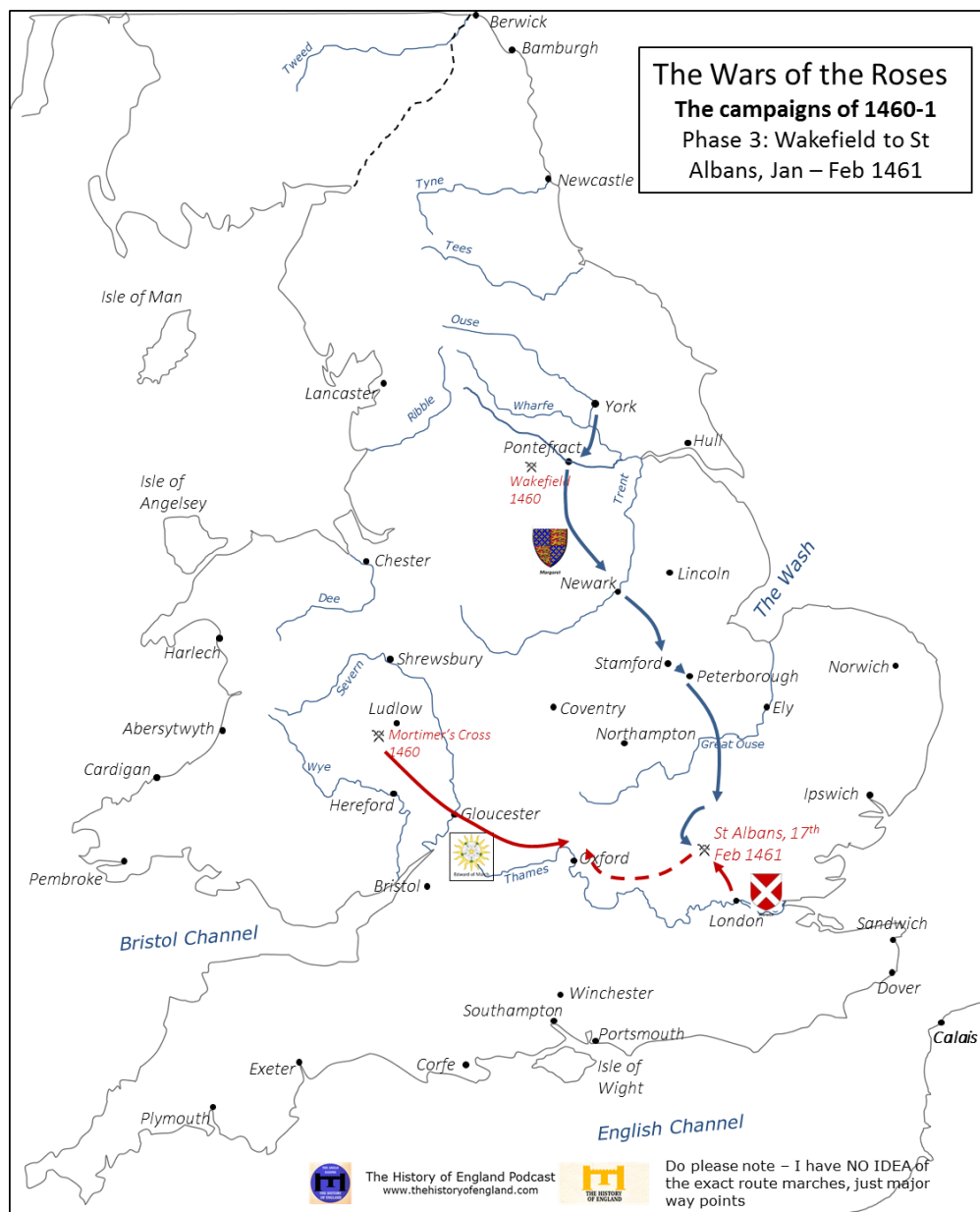
Certainly the heads of York and Salisbury found themselves pinned to Micklegate Bar in York when Queen Margaret arrived from Scotland, with Scottish troops and a treaty with Scotland - support at the price of the fortresses of Roxborough and Berwick.

Mortimer's Cross, 2nd February 1461



There was better news for the Yorkists in the West. The Earl of Wiltshire with troops from his Irish estates joined with Jasper

Tudor, and together they marched towards Hereford, intending to meet with the Queen as she marched south to London. Edward of March had started towards London to join with Warwick when he'd heard of the defeat at Wakefield; but instead turned north to head off Tudor and Wiltshire. His victory at Mortimer's Cross gave the Yorkists hope, and established Edward's reputation as a warrior and commander. Edward turned to march east to London.



Margaret, Somerset, the Lancastrian lords and the Scottish troops burned and ravaged their way south. Their reputation went before them, and the brutality of the army did the Lancastrian cause great damage. Warwick gathered a fresh army, with loans from the City of London, and Burgundian handgunners; Edward was far away, but with the Duke of Norfolk, Baron Montagu and Earl of Suffolk, Warwick's army took up a defensive, fortified position in St Albans, blocking the roads southwards.

Battle was joined late on the 17th February - Edward was still far away in the Cotswolds. During 16th and 17th, Somerset had swung his army westwards, and as he entered St Albans on Warwick's left flank. In the confusion of trying to adjust, Warwick's army was routed. Warwick managed to pull together a remnant of his army, and marched west to find Edward, who had reached the Cotswolds. Margaret and the Prince Edward found Henry sitting under a tree laughing and singing. Margaret prepared to march on London and reclaim the government of England