



Haileybury MUN

HMUN17 Joint-Cabinet Crisis Committee The Wars of the Roses



Characters and Context

Context

This year's JCC will be set in the War of the Roses, however the war will begin in 1470 with the restoration of Henry VI to the throne (30th October 1470). With the origins of the conflict being over disputes to the heir to the English throne, this year's JCC will take the interesting route of altering the course of English succession with the two committees being formed by the Yorkists and Lancastrians.

This guide provides details on the roles available and a timeline up until the start point. Details of rules of procedure will be published nearer the time, and also these will also be explained on the Friday evening at the start of the conference.

Roles available

Committee 1, Lancaster:

- Henry VI
- Earl of Warwick
- Louis XI
- Henry Tudor
- George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence
- Margaret of Anjou
- Henry Holland 3rd Duke of Exeter
- Thomas Stanley, 1st Duke of Derby

Committee 2, York:

- Richard, Duke of Gloucester
- William Hastings, 1st Baron Hastings
- George Neville
- Anthony Neville, 2nd Earl Rivers
- John Neville, 1st Marquess of Montagu
- Charles the Bold
- Edmund Grey, 1st Earl of Kent
- Edward VI

Details on roles

These include events after 1470 for a greater understanding of character; these events are not to be considered as relevant in the JCC unless detailed otherwise (eg. the marriage of Thomas Stanley and Margret Beaufort).

Lancaster

Henry VI:

- Ineffective King, unable to make decision and uninterested in war and government, leading to poor results in the war in France.
- Reliant on nobles during his reign especially in assuming the throne at 9 months old
- Never led a battle in France and even agreed to give back Maine as a goodwill gesture when marrying Margret of Anjou.
- Known for his period of 'madness'

Earl of Warwick:

- Known as the 'King-maker'
- Changed allegiance and allied with enemy Margret of Anjou to restore Henry VI to the throne
- Allied with Edward's troublesome brother after being enraged by Edward's favourable actions towards the family of his new wife Elizabeth Woodville

Louis XI of France:

- Provided Margret with diplomatic/military aid, mainly to protect France from English attack
- Backed Warwick in the aim to destabilise Edward who looked like he was prepared to attack France
- Responsible for the alliance between Margret and Warwick

Henry Tudor:

- Spent most of his younger years exiled in France
- Social position at court pushed by his ambitious mother Margret Beaufort
- Shrewd and prudent character

George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence:

- Rebelled against his own brother (Edward IV) with Warwick
- Married Warwick's daughter in the hope that Warwick would make him king over his brother
- Quarrelsome and selfish

Margaret of Anjou:

- Despite not only being a woman but a French woman, she lobbied to be Regent during Henry's illness
- Portrayed as a warrior queen set on killing York but there is more evidence for her being a negotiator and mediator, seen at the Loveday ceremony attempting to reconcile Lancaster and York.
- Took military decisions along with nobles but did so under the name of Henry or her son Edward to avoid criticism.
- Had military success with the Lancastrians in defence of her son's claim to the throne

Henry Holland 3rd Duke of Exeter:

- Constable of the Tower of London, the rack was named after him
- Key Lancastrian commander
- Fled to Scotland with Henry and Margaret

Thomas Stanley, 1st Earl of Derby:

- Stepfather of Henry Tudor and husband of Margret Beaufort (the marriage occurred in 1472, but the alliance will be considered from the start of the JCC)
- Immensely powerful magnate in the North with power undisputed by many monarchs

York

Richard, Duke of Gloucester (Richard III):

- Involved in the politics of the War of the Roses from an early age
- Fled to Burgundy with Edward in 1470
- Played a crucial role in the battles of Barnet and Tewkesbury at the young age of 18
- Became Richard III in 1483 after the infamous assassination of the Princes in The Tower

William Hastings, 1st Baron Hastings:

- Closest friend of Edward IV
- Controlled Wales for Edward, a key role in suppressing rebellion

George Neville:

- Archbishop of York
- Fell out of favour with the king along with his brother Warwick and at one point even imprisoned the king
- Took a new oath of allegiance to the king in 1470

Antony Woodville, 2nd Earl Rivers:

- Knight of the Garter, assumed role in parliament due to his marriage
- Good sportsman, especially jousting
- Accompanied the king into exile (1470)

John Neville, 1st Marquess of Montagu:

- Brother of Warwick and very capable politician
- Great military success against powerful Lancastrians Sir Ralph Percy and Henry Beaufort, Duke of Somerset
- Kept his allegiance to Edward as his brother joined the Lancastrians

Charles the Bold:

- Used Edward for security in fighting against France despite family ties to the Lancastrians, his own claim to the English throne and privately wishing Edward dead.
- Hoped for Warwick's assistance and worried that Edward's presence in Burgundy would cause an issue, Warwick then allied with France causing Louis XI to declare war.

Edmund Grey, 1st Earl of Kent:

- Played a decisive role in the Battle of Northampton by switching his allegiance from the Lancastrian to the Yorkist cause
- Married his eldest son off to the sister-in-law of Edward VI
- Appointed Chief of Justice in Northern Wales

Edward IV:

- Avenged his father's death by claiming the throne in 1461, defeating Lancastrian forces
- Characteristically king-like, strong military man

Timeline of events up to 1470

1454: Richard, Duke of York, is appointed regent during Henry VI's insanity.

1455: Henry VI recovers his sanity. He fears Richard of York has grown too powerful, and he puts the Duke of Somerset in Richard of York's government position, and he excludes Richard from the Royal Council--at once limiting Richard's political power, but also alienating him from the king.

The First Battle of St. Albans: This is the opening battle in the Wars of the Roses. Richard of York leads a force of about 3,000 on a march toward London. Henry VI moves from London to intercept the Yorkist army. Henry halts his march in the town of Saint Albans and waits. Richard attacks and defeats Henry inflicting about 300 casualties. The Queen and her young son Edward flee into exile. The Yorkist faction also kills the Lancastrian ally Somerset, the primary supporter of Henry VI.

1459: Battle of Blore Heath: After four years of uneasy peace, combat flares up again at the battle of Blore Heath. Over the past three years, Margaret of Anjou has maintained pressure to end Yorkist claims to the throne. Finally, Richard, duke of York decides it is time to act before his forces lose their momentum. He centralizes his forces around Ludlow and then attacks the Lancastrian forces. During the march to the concentration point, a Lancastrian general (Lord Audley) intercepts him; Margaret ordered him to attack the Yorkist army. The Yorkists win a victory.

Battle of Ludford: After the losing the battle of Blore Heath, the Yorkist faction regroups at Ludford bridge at the town of Ludlow and starts to advance towards Worcester. They quickly fall back when they encounter a larger enemy force led by Henry VI. The Lancastrians take a position opposite the Yorkists across the Teme river. That night, a significant number of the Yorkist army deserts, leading to a full scale retreat the next morning. The catalyst of the defections is Andrew Trollope, captain of the Calais troops. Trollope switches sides after accepting the king's pardon. After the engagement, Richard returns to Ireland and the earl of Salisbury flees back to Calais in France.

1460: Battle of Northampton: In June 1460, Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, his father (Earl of Salisbury), and Edward, Earl of March (the future Edward IV) sail from Calais and land at Sandwich on their way to London. After waiting a few weeks to establish a siege force around a small Lancastrian army defending the Tower of London, Warwick marches north to attack the Lancastrian army that marches south from Coventry. The Lancastrian army learns of the Yorkist plans. They stop at the town of Northampton to build a defensive position. When Warwick arrives, he spends hours trying to contact the King and negotiate a settlement. Finally, around 2:00 p.m., the Yorkist force attacks. During the middle of the battle, Lord Grey, who commands a wing of the King's army, switches sides to the Yorkist cause. This is the deciding action; the Yorkist sweep away the Lancastrians. The king is now under Yorkist control, and in November he agrees that the Yorks are the rightful heirs to the crown. Many think this capitulation would end the civil

wars; however, the queen is busily assembling an army in Wales to continue the struggle. The Earl of Warwick (known as Warwick the Kingmaker) captures London and turns it over to the Yorkist faction.

1461: Battle of Mortimer's Cross: When Edward, Earl of March, hears of the disaster at Wakefield he decides to move east to link-up with Warwick in London. During his movement, he learns of a Lancastrian force located in central Wales. Edward decides to change direction and engage the enemy. His army of mostly Welshmen routes the Lancastrian army of mercenaries from France and Ireland and Wales. After the battle, Edward continues his march eastward to join Warwick near London; within two months he would be crowned king.

Second Battle of St. Albans: On February 17, 1461, Warrick "the Kingmaker" positions his army at St. Albans (about 20 miles northwest of London). Here he waits for Edward's army, victorious at Mortimer's Cross, to join him. Before the Yorkists can unite, the Lancastrians attack. Warrick flees and leaves his hostage, King Henry VI, under a tree.

Battle of Ferrybridge and Towton: On March 28, 1461, Ferrybridge is a small engagement before the larger battle of Towton. After proclaiming himself king, Edward IV gathers together a large force and marches north toward the Lancastrian position behind the Aire River. On March 28, the forces engage and the Yorkist army is pushed back; during the fight, their leader, Lord Fitzwalter, is killed. However, more Yorkist forces arrive later on in the day and beat back the Lancastrians. On March 29, 1461, the day after the battle of Ferrybridge, the Yorkist forces attack the Lancastrians in a driving snowstorm up a sloping hill at Towton. Using the snow and the wind direction as an aid, the Yorkist archers are able to shoot farther than their adversaries. The Lancastrians believe their best strategy is to charge like the knights of old. After many hours of intense fighting, the Yorkist line shows signs of strain. Fortunately, the Duke of Norfolk, John Mowbray, arrives with reinforcements and the Yorkist army defeats the Lancastrians. King Henry VI, the Queen, and their son flee to Scotland for nine years. Edward IV, Richard's son, marches into the city of York. On June 28, he is formally crowned king at Westminster.

1464: To offset the political power of the unhappy Lancastrians, Edward IV marries Elizabeth Woodville, whose wealth and family connections make a new powerful alliance--however, his connection to the moneygrubbing Woodvilles also upsets some of his other allies.

Battle of Hedgeley Moor (April 25, 1464) On his way to the border of Scotland to meet a group of envoys to discuss peace, John Neville (Lord Montague), brother of Warwick, clashes with a Lancastrian force of similar size. During the battle, the Lancastrian wings commanded by Lords Hungerford and Roos flee, leaving Sir Ralph Percy with the only holding force. Percy's troops are crushed miserably. Montague continues north and the Duke of Somerset leads the remaining Lancastrian army south to Hexham. Battle of Hexham: On May 15, after completing his mission at the border of Scotland, Lord Montague marches south and engages the Lancastrian forces at Hexham. His

army rapidly charges downhill and crushes the Lancastrian forces. The Lancastrian leaders are executed, ending most of the Lancastrian resistance.

1465: Edward IV imprisons Henry VI.

1466: The Earl of Warwick begins to quarrel with Edward IV. Warwick feels the king "owes him," especially since Warwick was pivotal in helping him to the throne. He basically wants a puppet king under his own control. When King Edward refuses to obey, Warwick forms a traitorous alliance with Louis XI of France.

1467: Charles the Bold becomes duke of Burgundy. He is the chief rival to Louis XI.

1468: Margaret of York marries Charles the Bold.

1469: Battle of Edgecote Moor: After eight years of rule, Edward IV alienates many of the nobles including Warwick because of his marriage to Elizabeth Woodville and his alliances with Burgundy. In 1469, Edward rallies an army to put down an uprising in Yorkshire. A Lancastrian force intercepts him and swiftly defeats his army on July 26 of 1469 on the plains of Edgecote. Meanwhile Warwick and Edward's brother, George duke of Clarence, have already landed from Calais and are on their way to join forces with Robin of Redesdale, the field leader of the Lancastrian force. After the battle, Warwick orders his brother, George Neville, the archbishop of York, to intercept and capture King Edward.

1470: Warwick switches his alliance again. He allies himself with the Lancastrian faction and wages war against the Yorkist faction. He defeats Edward IV, and he restores Henry VI to the throne. Edward IV retreats and begins rallying troops.