

Shameless & Impudent Lords

The Rout of Ludford Bridge, 1459

6th September 2026 (v5)

(c) Nick Luft

Scenario

There was conflict between the Yorkists and Lancastrians during the lacklustre reign of Henry VI. After the First Battle of St Albans in 1455, Richard, Duke of York, and the Nevilles, the Earls of Salisbury, and Warwick, gained influence at court. However, Queen Margaret of Anjou feared that York threatened her son's position (Prince Edward of Westminster) and worked to restore Lancastrian control.

Tensions increased in 1458 when Warwick, as Captain of Calais, attacked merchant ships. When summoned to London to explain his actions, violence broke out, and Warwick returned to Calais. Queen Margaret regarded this as defiance of Henry VI. York, Salisbury, and Warwick refused to attend a Royal Council at Coventry because they feared arrest and were subsequently declared rebels.

Yorkist forces gathered, and Salisbury defeated a Lancastrian army at Blore Heath. However, the Lancastrians greatly outnumbered the Yorkists and retreated to Ludford. The Yorkists prepared defensive positions at Ludford Bridge, but morale collapsed when Andrew Trollope, Lieutenant of the Calais "Crew", and other soldiers defected to the Lancastrians. York, Salisbury, March and Warwick fled during the night of 12 October 1459.

The Yorkists separated. York went to Ireland, where he was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, while Salisbury, Warwick, and March escaped to Calais. Meanwhile, King Henry VI and his supporters returned to Coventry in triumph. Parliament opened there on 20 November 1459, and was dominated by the Lancastrian supporters. York, Salisbury, Warwick and other Yorkist leaders were attainted for treason, causing their lands, titles and estates to be forfeited.

The Yorkist defeat appeared complete, but will their positions in Ireland and Calais allow them to return and challenge Henry VI again in 1460?

Game Resources

Game time

Each turn represents 2 weeks of real time.

Units

1 strength point of soldiers is equivalent to 20 actual soldiers.

Protagonists

Lancastrians

Played

Buckingham
Shrewsbury
Somerset
Bourchier (should be Rivers but no counter)
Grey
Herbert

Non-Played

King Henry VI
Queen Margaret of Anjou & Prince Edward (always together)

Yorkists

Played

Warwick
Salisbury
March
York

Order of Play

1. Parley

Players Communicate without restriction

- All players who are together in the **SAME** Region:
 - England and Wales / Calais (and France) / Ireland

Players Communicate via SMS, Whats App, Discord or Written Note

- Players **NOT** in the same Region.

2. Events

3. Player Actions

Each player writes down their action. All actions are revealed simultaneously and implemented by Control.

1. **Recruit Retainers** - Roll 2d6

- if **in** an area of your influence, **9 -12**, add a pawn to your Lord's card
- if **outside** your area of influence, **11-12**, add your counter to an area of influence, your choice. If you move to that area later and recruit in that area, re-roll to see if those counters convert to pawns, **8 - 12**.

Each pawn equals 10 strength points

2. **Move** - to a specific place

- **Land** - move 1d3+2 areas
- **Sea**
 - From a port to port / land, using as many sea areas as needed
 - 1 Ship can carry up to 50 strength points
 - Roll 2D6 for each sea area traversed
 - **2** blown by storms, must land but not at a port
 - **3- 4** changing winds, land at a port, dice if more than one

3. **Besiege** - a specific place

4. **Other action** (Specify e.g. being besieged)

4. Battles / Sieges

- Control will roll dice / wave hands

Buckingham — Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham

A leading Lancastrian and royal commander, Buckingham was committed to preserving Henry VI's authority and opposing the Yorkist challenge. He helped command the royal army at Ludford Bridge and was closely associated with the court. After The Coventry Parliament, he stood among the regime's principal supporters, benefiting politically from the Yorkists' defeat and attainders.

Starts: Somewhere in the Midlands, with Royal Family, Henry VI, Queen Margaret and Prince Edward

Area of Influence: Midlands

Shrewsbury — John Talbot, 2nd Earl of Shrewsbury

Shrewsbury was an experienced nobleman whose interests were closely tied to maintaining royal authority and stability. He supported Henry VI rather than the Yorkist lords. Following Ludford and the Coventry Parliament, he remained within the Lancastrian political establishment, helping reinforce the Crown's position.

Starts: Somewhere in the Midlands / NW England (can be with another player)

Area of Influence: NW England

Grey — Edmund Grey, 4th Baron Grey of Ruthin

Grey is motivated partly by family interests and his rivalry with neighbouring magnates. He supports Henry VI. He has now taken on the responsibilities of protecting the Scottish Borders, but has not been appointed officially to the Office of Warden of the Marches.

Starts: Somewhere on the Scottish Borders (not with another player)

Area of Influence: North Yorkshire

Bourchier - Bourchier was a royalist whose fortunes were closely connected to the Lancastrian court and Queen Margaret's circle. He opposed the Yorkist leadership and remained loyal to Henry VI after Ludford. By late 1459 he was helping the Lancastrian regime organise military support, positioning himself for greater influence if the Yorkists could be permanently suppressed. *(In reality was Lord Rivers, I just don't have a counter or card for him)*

Starts: in Sandwich, with a Ship

Area of Influence: Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire

Somerset — Henry Beaufort, Duke of Somerset

Somerset was one of the most committed opponents of York and a major figure in the Lancastrian leadership. He had already commanded forces against the Yorkists during the 1459 campaign. After The Coventry Parliament, he was rewarded with an important military role, including the attempt to recover Calais from Warwick, making him one of the principal commanders responsible for finishing the Yorkist threat.

Starts: In a Guines Castle, next to Calais. With a Ship

Area of Influence: Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire

Pembroke — William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke

Pembroke was a rising Welsh magnate whose interests centred on expanding his regional influence and maintaining royal favour. He supported the Lancastrian cause after the Yorkist collapse. His position after the Parliament of Coventry was therefore one of increasing prominence, especially in Wales, but he needs to obtain a power base and thus is besieging Denbigh Castle.

Starts: at Denbigh, besieging the castle

Area of Influence: South Wales, South Wales border

Warwick — Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick

Warwick's motivation was both political and dynastic: he opposed the influence of the Queen and her favourites and believed reform of royal government was necessary. After Ludford he fled with Salisbury and March to Calais. At the Parliament of Coventry attainted him for treason and threatened his estates, but Warwick retained control of Calais, giving him a powerful base from which to continue the struggle.

Starts: in Calais, with two ships

Area of Influence: Kent, Midlands, North Yorkshire

Salisbury — Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury

Salisbury was York's principal ally and Warwick's father. His opposition to the court had deepened through his support for York and his rivalry with Lancastrian opponents. After Ludford, he escaped with Warwick and March to Calais. The Coventry Parliament attainted him, stripping his legal standing and threatening his possessions, but he remained free and continued plotting the Yorkist return.

Starts: in Calais

Area of Influence: Wiltshire, Hampshire, Dorset

March — Edward, Earl of March

Edward was York's eldest son and increasingly an important Yorkist leader in his own right. His motivation was both loyalty to his father and the defence of his family's political position. After Ludford he escaped with Warwick and Salisbury to Calais. The Coventry Parliament attainted him alongside the other leading Yorkists, but he remained at liberty and became central to the Yorkist revival of 1460–61.

Starts: in Calais

Area of Influence: Mid-Wales Border

York — Richard, Duke of York

York's principal motivation was to reform what he regarded as corrupt royal government and remove the King's harmful advisers, although by 1459 the struggle had become a direct contest for political power. After Ludford, he fled to Ireland. The Coventry Parliament attainted him for treason and confiscated his position and estates in England, but York retained support in Ireland.

Starts: in Dublin, with a ship

Area of Influence: North Yorkshire, Ireland, Midlands