



## 1455- The Castle Inn Lancastrian Situation Card

**Background:** Upon reaching the age of majority, Henry VI officially assumed control over the government of England in 1437. Unfortunately, his hand was unsteady at the helm of state; he leaned on the judgement of favourites, showering them with honours which depleted his own lands, and which often led to regional disputes as local strongmen came to resent courtiers interfering in their areas of influence. Holding sway in a region meant that you got to hand out your own honours, affect legal judgements, and increase your own following amongst the locals; a royal interloper chipped away at this. It led to greater unrest amongst the noble class across England, and helped fan a number of bitter feuds amongst the great lordly families.

Added to this, Henry found himself agreeing with the lords of the "Peace" party, in terms of his ongoing conflict with France (the latter part of the Hundred Year's War). His marriage to Margaret of Anjou bought a truce with France's Charles VII in 1444, but while English continental holdings languished, the French prepared for war. In 1450-53, English arms were routed, and Charles gobbled up all of Lancastrian France, except Calais. These losses caused a great furor at home, which had its initial outburst in Cade's revolt of 1450. Furthermore, it brought discredit to Henry's leading courtier, the Duke of Somerset, who many blamed for the fall of France. More ominously, the chief heir to the throne and Somerset's rival, the Duke of York, began to jockey for power, claiming concern for Henry's welfare against his "evil counsellors". York staged a minor revolt of his own in 1452, but found little support and was brought to heel, swearing never to raise a sword against the king's power again. The respite from trouble for Henry was short; in late 1453, after hearing of the fall of Bordeaux (Gascony had been England's since the 12th Century) he had a mental breakdown. Unable to move or speak for a year, the council saw that only York had the prestige to act as Regent. Somerset was imprisoned, and York seemed to govern effectively. But with an heir being born to Margaret soon after Henry took ill, and Henry's senses returning to him in 1454, Somerset was set loose, and York found himself dismissed and hemmed in once more. He could not sit for this; what's more, he had grown his faction of discontent during his regency, having brought the Nevilles and others into the government, who now found themselves also excluded by Somerset's coterie. They retreated north to plot. Somerset was again firmly in command of the King; it is not known how fully Henry's faculties had recovered, but whatever the case, he had little to say in despite of handlers for the rest of his life. The government had to take swift action, calling a great council to meet in Leicester in May of 1455. It was unclear exactly what business was to be discussed, but it certainly would have been to York's detriment. Henry and the court began their progress north, but at St. Albans they received news that York was unexpectedly nearby with a substantial armed following. They began to parley with him...

### Special Rules:

1. This situation is useful as an introduction to the basic mechanics of the game.
2. Royal Procession: Henry's march to Leicester was more of a Royal progress than a march. Therefore, his main host has only 2 Forwardness, regardless of who's in charge. No subsidiary host may be split off, and there may be no forced marching until an active Yorkist host is adjacent to the Royal Procession. After that, it may move as normal, using the forwardness of the Host Commander, and may call up Well-Wisher contingents. Also, no Lanc. inactives may be recruited on turn 1.
3. Parlay: Buckingham's Conciliatory roll is only 9+, due to the fact that no blood had yet been shed.
4. Peacetime: As England was supposed to be at peace, no CoA troops may be raised. Furthermore, no Lancastrian lord may raise Well Wisher contingents until a Yorkist Host has been adjacent to the Royal procession.
5. Great Council: If Henry reaches Leicester, he will call a Great Council, which will immediately end the campaign.

**Situation I-L**



## 1455- The Castle Inn Yorkist Situation Card

**Background:** Richard Plantagenet, the Duke of York, felt that his claim to the throne was as good, if not better than that of King Henry VI's. Unsurprisingly, his line was looked upon with great suspicion by his Lancastrian cousins- suspicions confirmed by Richard's father's treason against Henry V, which ended in his execution and the attainure of his line. In time, York's line and lands were restored, but he remained under a cloud, and his proper place as heir apparent to the childless Henry was not recognized. York dutifully served the Lancastrian regime in France and Ireland, and due to his being held at arm's length by the court, escaped the taint of bad government that begun to plague Henry's regime in the late 1440's. York's modest success in his offices stood out in the public's imagination in the light of the gross ineptitude of the king's other royal officers; he soon became identified by both the commons and a growing number of nobles with government reform. In 1452, York felt that it was time for him to make his move, and demanded a place on the Royal council, and the removal of Henry's hated favourite, The Duke of Somerset. Richard resorted to arraying whatever supporter's he could find in arms, but he had overplayed his hand, and had to submit to Henry, swearing to never again take arms against his King. It seemed that his chance at primacy had passed, but fate intervened in 1453, when Henry fell ill. York was chosen as Protector by the council, and Somerset was jailed. With his partisans in prominent posts in the government, York laboured to bring order to the realm, and his actions were seen by many as effective; it was a welcome change to the mismanagement of Henry's direct control. However, his rule came to an end when Henry recovered in late 1454; Somerset was freed from the Tower and restored to his position, and York's ministers were dismissed. What was worse, Henry's only son was born during his illness, stepping into York's place as the obvious heir to the throne. Margaret now came to the fore (it is unclear how much of Henry's senses had returned), and called the council to meet in Leicester do discuss what actions to take against York- who was summoned to appear, but with little explanation as to the purpose. That was enough- despite his oath of 1452, York called his supporters (who had their own feuds to settle as well) to arms with their retainers and marched to intercept their rivals at the town of St. Albans.

### Special Rules:

1. This situation is useful as an introduction to the basic mechanics of the game.
2. All Inactive Yorkists count as one level less of Commitment (Committed become Well Wishers, etc.). A roll may only be made once for each Magnate in the game. If failed, the player remains Inactive thereafter. The Yorkist player may add any applicable Influence modifiers from any Active Magnates in the same shire.
3. Yorkist Recruitment: they may recruit whatever Wellwisher contingents as they may as normal. The lords at start at Sandal count all their Yorkshire Wellwishers, of either riding, as present.
4. Yorkist Plotting: the Yorkist player gets a free and uncontested first nomination on the first turn.
5. Peacetime: As England was supposed to be at peace, no CoA troops may be raised.
6. Great Council: If Henry reaches Leicester, he will call a Great Council, which will immediately end the campaign.
7. Edward of March\*: Edward was only 13 at this battle. While he may bring troops and fight in a company, he may not command at any level in the campaign or on the tabletop.

**Situation I-Y**



# 1455- The Castle Inn Yorkist Situation Card

## Active Magnates at Start:

*At Sandal in the West Riding:*



★ Richard Plantagenet,  
Duke of York



Richard Neville,  
Earl of Salisbury



Edward Plantagenet,  
Earl of March\*



Richard Neville,  
Earl of Warwick



John Clinton,  
Baron Clinton

## Inactive Magnates:

*Anywhere in East Anglia:*



John Mowbray,  
Duke of Norfolk

*Anywhere in the South Midlands:*



Edward Brooke,  
Baron Cobham

*At Chirk, in the Welsh Marches:*



Richard Grey  
of Powis

*Anywhere in Essex:*



Henry Bourchier,  
Viscount Bourchier

## Duration:

This situation runs **3 turns** in **May**,  
**1455**.

## The Cause:

The Yorkist Cause is: “**Evil Councillors,  
Avaunt!**”

Their Campaign Confidence at start is **7**.

## Victory:

**Intermediate:** Kill either Northumberland,  
Clifford, Wiltshire or Somerset, and prevent  
the Royal party from reaching Leicester.

**Major:** Kill Northumberland, Clifford and  
Somerset, and capture the King.

**Automatic Loss:** If Somerset and the King  
reach Leicester.

**Situation I-Y**



# 1455- The Castle Inn Lancastrian Situation Card

## Active Magnates at Start:

*With King Henry at London:*



★ Edmund Beaufort,  
Earl of Somerset



Humphrey Stafford,  
Duke of Buckingham



Henry Percy,  
Earl of Northumberland (2)



Jasper Tudor,  
Earl of Pembroke



James Butler,  
Earl of Wiltshire



Thomas Courtenay,  
Earl of Devon (13)



Thomas Percy,  
Baron Egremont



Thomas Clifford,  
Baron Clifford

## Inactive Magnates:

*At Heddingham, in the Essex:*



John de Vere,  
Earl of Oxford (12)

*At Shrewsbury, in the Welsh Marches:*



John Talbot  
Earl of Shrewsbury

## Duration:

This situation runs for **3 turns** in **May**,  
**1455**.

## The Cause:

The Lancastrian Cause is: “**Presumptu-  
ous Peers**”

Campaign Confidence at start is at **7**.

## Victory:

**Minor:** Enter Leicester and begin the Concil  
Meeting.

**Intermediate:** Kill either Salisbury or  
Warwick, and force the Yorkist Heirs into exile.

**Major:** Kill Richard of York.

**Situation I-L**