

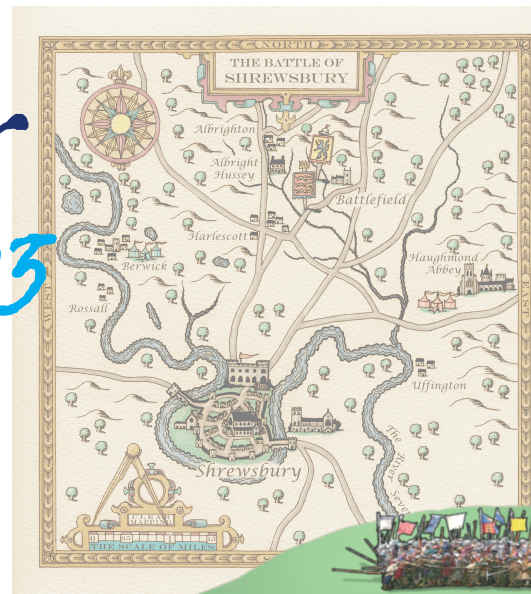
# Shrewsbury Battlefield 1403



1 8pm, Royalist Vanguard Advance - On 21 July 1403, the Royal vanguard under the Earl of Stafford advanced against the Rebel line and was met by a deluge of arrows from Hotspur's Cheshire archers. An archery duel followed which resulted in heavy casualties.

2 9pm, Hotspur's Cavalry Charge - As the King led his army forwards to relieve his vanguard, Hotspur simultaneously led a cavalry charge aimed at killing the King. Hotspur's Cavalry managed to bring down the Royal Standard and its bearer, Sir Walter Blount, was hacked down. However, the charge failed to find the King.

3 10pm, Rebel Army's Line is Broken & Death of Hotspur - The King is thought to have counter-attacked with an outflanking movement, led by his son Prince Henry, possibly using the depression of a small brook, now known as Battlefield Brook, to avoid detection. When Prince Henry's division reached the main body of the enemy, they broke their line and overthrew all opponents. During the confusion Hotspur was killed, apparently shot in the face when he opened his visor.



## Prior to the battle ...

On 20 July 1403, both armies arrived in the Shrewsbury area. King Henry IV reached Shrewsbury shortly before the rebels. With the River Sever and the King's army between Hotspur's army and reinforcements from Wales, Hotspur withdrew three miles to the north-west, to spend the night in the hamlet of Berwick. The King camped outside Haughmond Abbey and the following morning Hotspur headed towards Harlescott and chose a slight ridge to the west of the Shrewsbury to Chester road to position his troops and await the Kings army.



Left: Archers cause fatal blows. Above: Hotspur challenges the King

4 Aftermath - On 22 July 1403, in the confusion, the rebel knights hailed the death of Henry IV and acclaimed 'Henry Percy King!'. The King was not dead and he retaliated by shouting 'Henry Percy is dead!' The absence of a reply confirmed that Hotspur was indeed dead.

It is recorded that many did not know who had won. The King's forces sustained greater losses than the rebels and Henry IV very nearly lost both his life and his throne. Estimates placed the dead and wounded at well over 5,000 men with the majority probably being interred in a mass grave on the battlefield, where the Church of St Mary Magdalene now stands.



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