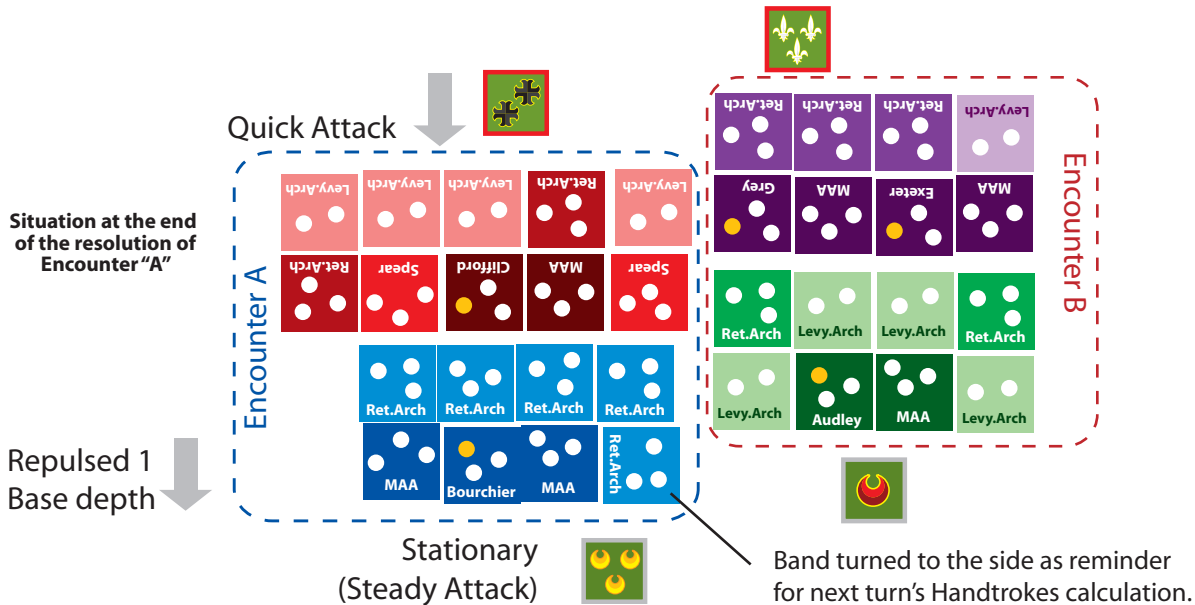


Combat Example- Part 4: Handstrokes I



A. On Turn 5 there are a number of choices and pitfalls for both sides to consider. If Exeter goes first, he will play his Quick Attack, striking the Yorkists while they have their archers in the front rank. If Bouchier is first, he has a few choices: he may shoot another round of Sheaf; he may merely exchange ranks, and await the Lancastrian Charge (and still shoot Sheaf, but with less bands), or he may play his own Steady Attack, striking his foe while they are on Rapid Approach, which will force them to fight as Tired. The Ward cup decides- Exeter moves first.

B. Exeter puts his Quick Attack into play, moving his companies to within a half base depth from the foe. Two fairly cut and dried encounters will result from this- Clifford/Bouchier and Exeter/Audley.

C. In the Handstrokes phase the mutually players decide to resolve Encounter A first. The Yorkist player realizes he has a number of disadvantages; for this first round his archers are taking the brunt of the attack; his commander is in the second rank, disqualifying him from using "I'll Not Shrink Back!" (along with "Daggers Drawn" and "Stand Off, Apace" which are always disallowed on the first turn). Also, his foe is bigger than he is, and therefore can take casualties easier. If anything, he wants as many of his men to fight, and hopefully, a positive modifier for his archer. He chooses the "Pluck up your Courage" Stance, risking a point of Courage (of which he has some to spare). The Lancastrian player, seeing his advantage in strength, is hoping for a quick overthrow of Bouchier's company- he desires a Belabour result- so he chooses the "I'll not Shrink Back!" stance- it has 4 possible Belaboured "Hazards"- plus, it uses Clifford's Puisseance of 5 in the calculation.

Bouchier's Stance: Pluck Up Your Courage		
Enemy	Bonus	Hazard to Enemy
	• Melee +0 • All Fight	Repulsed
	• Melee +1 • Contact, 1/2 Rest	Belaboured; Casualties- Greater Differ. (Weaker) 1st
	• Melee +0 • All Fight	Stuck In; Casualties- Lightest 1st

Clifford's Stance: I'll Not Shrink Back		
Enemy	Bonus	Hazard to Enemy
	• Melee +0 • Contact, 1/2 Rest	Belaboured Casualties- In Contact Only
	• Melee -1 • Contact, 1/2 Rest	Repulsed
	• Melee -1 • Contact, 1/2 Rest	Belaboured; Casualties- Greater Differ. (Weaker) 1st

D. They both reveal their cards and calculate their strength. Bouchier must first take a Courage Check (if he fails, he won't get the extra card draw that his stance confers, and lose 1C)... which he passes ("Fight On!" result). He then sees that on his stance card, against the symbol for "I'll Not Shrink Back" , he sees that he gets a +1 for his Melee Troops, and counts those in contact and half the rest. Counting them up, he has in contact 4 Archers- their strength shown on the Strengths per band table (in a Steady Attack) under Handstrokes Resolution on the Quick Reference sheet is 2 per band= 8. Added to that, his rear rank has 3 MAA (5 +1 strength= 6) and one Archer for 2, which equals 20, halved to 10, for a grand total of 18 strength. Clifford's Melee troops have a -1 strength against "Pluck Up Your Courage" ; so his 2 Spear and 2 MAA count as only 16 strength. One half of the rest (6 Archers +12) is another 6. Added to this is Clifford's puisseance of 5 for a total of 27 strength.

E. Both sides now are eligible for a Resolution card draw, adding the number in the center Black Shield (TBS) to their totals. Bouchier gets an extra draw for his "Pluck Up Your Courage" stance. Clifford draws merely a "1", and Bouchier draws a "3" and a "4"- so the final totals are 28 for Clifford to 25 for Bouchier- Clifford wins. However, checking the Hazard to the enemy on his Stance card shows only that Bouchier is Repulsed- his company is moved back one base depth, with Clifford following up. A single band in Bouchier's company is turned to the side as a visual shorthand reminder that he was repulsed, as next turn he will get no card draw because of it. Another effect from the Repulse result (shown on the Hazard Effects table on the QRS) is that Bouchier also has to take a Courage Check. he does this, but he receives a -1C. His 3-point Courage marker is replaced with a 2-point one.

As there were no casualties, neither side has to draw for Commander casualties. The Yorkist is sorry to see Clifford avoid a hard draw (8+ to kill for choosing "I'll Not Shrink Back").

This resolves the Clifford/Bouchier encounter for this turn. Play will continue with the Exeter/Audley encounter.