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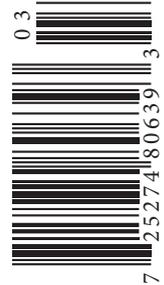
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THE YORKIST TRIUMPH

Tracing the long road to Towton

S. Pava 15

THEME - THE YOUNG EDWARD // THE BLOODY BATTLE OF TOWTON // NORTHAMPTON IN WRITING
SPECIALS - A HISTORY OF THE HASHASHIN // THE LATE MEDIEVAL POLEAXE // FREYDÍS' TALE

THE 2015 MEDIEVAL WARFARE SPECIAL

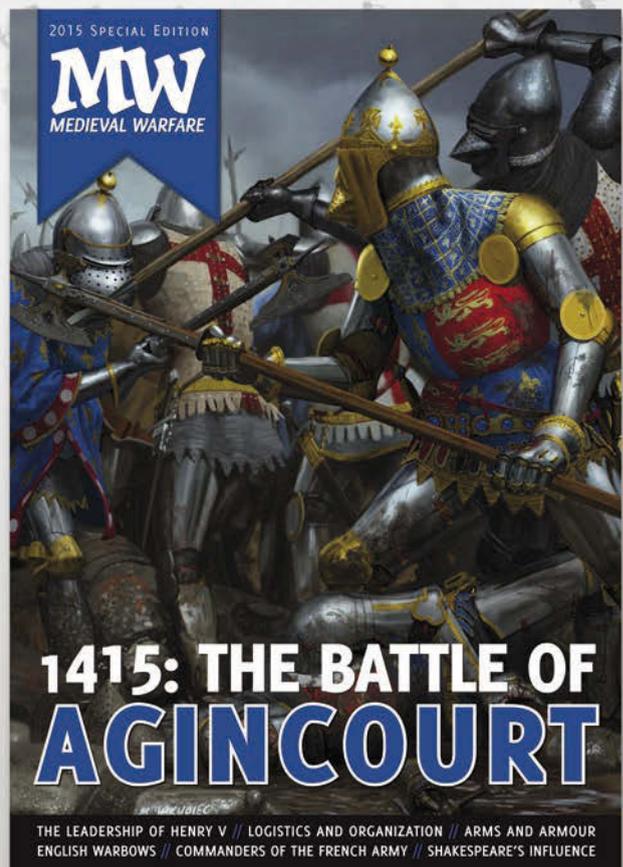
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This special 84-page edition of *Medieval Warfare* magazine contains articles exclusively focused on Henry V's campaigns in France, the famous battle itself and the lasting legacy it had in England and abroad. This issue, which is filled with beautiful original illustrations and maps and written by a host of Agincourt experts, is a perfect companion to the famous battle.

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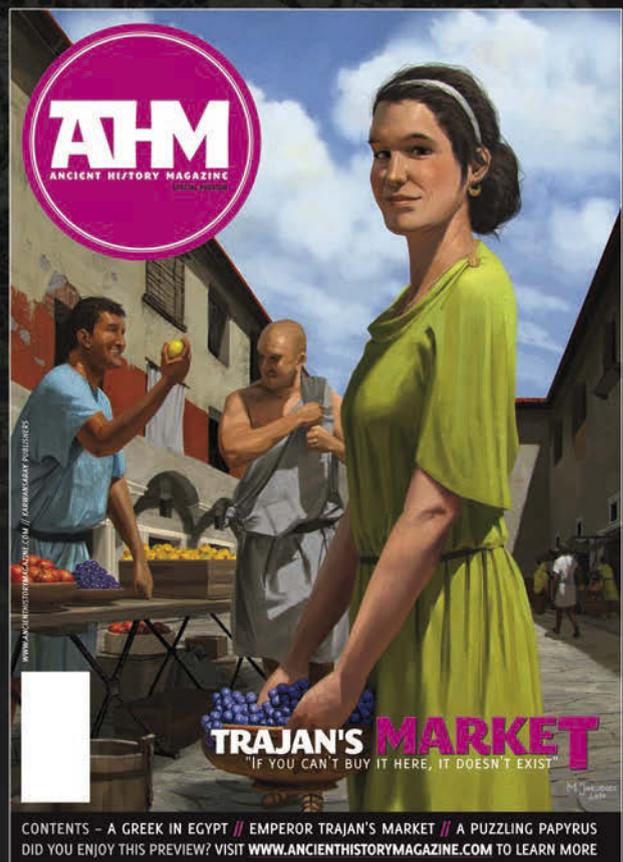
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THEME: *Triumph for the Yorkists*

Thanks to luck, superior leadership and a strong populist following, the House of York had much initial success in the Wars of the Roses.

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News & Letters

Editorial

I can only imagine that the theme of *Medieval Warfare* V-3, which focuses on the first phase of the Wars of the Roses, is one which many of our readers have been expecting since the beginning of *Medieval Warfare's* existence. I must admit that we have been saving this topic for some time, mostly because we wanted to focus on less well-trodden paths in medieval military history first. However, as one of the most popular episodes in medieval warfare, we could never ignore the Wars of the Roses completely. Rightfully so, as it is filled with grand campaigns, massed battles (fought between fully armoured knights and men-at-arms) and countless reversals and counter-strokes. It's hardly surprising that it has been an inspiration for so many books since, from non-fiction to fantasy.

Contrary to our usual practice, we have decided not to have a conventional historical introduction in this issue. As even the first phase of the Wars of the Roses includes too many battles to discuss in detail in just one issue, as well as several twists and reversals crucial to understanding the course of the war, we preferred to have one article that provided an overview of events up to the end of the period under discussion. This article combines a short narrative on the events leading up to the Wars of the Roses with the story of the rise and fall of Queen Margaret of Anjou, a task ably handled by Erich Anderson. After this article, our contributors take you through several of the main battles in the first phase of the war, including Northampton,

Mortimer's Cross (from the point of view of a young Edward), Towton, as well as the siege of Denbigh and the events in Wales at the time.

Though not theme-related, but certainly an article worth reading, is James Gilmer's piece on the *Hashashin*, the order of assassins that dominated politics in the Middle East for a considerable time, even resisting the armies of Saladin. Brian Price writes an equally fascinating, and very detailed article on the poleaxe. Last but not least, Nicholas Whaley closes this issue with a story about the adventures of Frey-dís, daughter of Erik the Red.

We hope that you'll again find this issue of *Medieval Warfare* to be a fascinating one, and hopefully worth the long wait, if only for the fantastic in-depth discussion of the brutal fight at Towton, one of the greatest battles ever fought on English soil. This issue covers the first phase of the Wars of the Roses; the end of the conflict is saved to fill another theme in the future.

As you may have already read, we have nearly finished our 2015 *Medieval Warfare* Special on the Battle of Agincourt. The cover is complete (and can be seen elsewhere in this issue), and the Special is now available for pre-order, which is by far the cheapest option if you'd like to get yourself a copy. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for news and updates, and if you have any questions, you can reach me at editor@medieval-warfare.com.

— Dirk van Gorp
Editor, *Medieval Warfare*

Cannonball from Wars of the Roses battle (re)discovered

The cannonball (see p. 20 in this issue) is about 60mm in diameter. The Battle of Northampton (10 July 1460) ended with the Yorkist forces led by Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, defeating the Lancastrians and capturing King Henry VI.

The ball was found several years ago by the late Stuart Allwork in a section of the battlefield known as Eagle Drive, but had been believed lost until last year. Since its rediscovery, the cannonball has been subjected to detailed analysis by Dr Glenn Foard from Huddersfield University, the Trust's archaeological advisor and one of the

UK's leading experts on medieval artillery and battlefield archaeology. Dr Foard also led the team that found the true site of the Battle of Bosworth. A programme of research and scientific testing of the ball is still ongoing, but Dr Foard has concluded that "It is highly likely that the projectile was fired during the battle in 1460".

The find shows that the whole area in which the cannon ball was found is of high archaeological importance. The Northampton Battlefield Society notes that "the Eagle Drive Cannon Ball itself has suffered massive impact damage from at least