

This sample sets the scene for the Battle of St. Albans and takes players through the quest objectives that lead to King Henry VI's capture and the Duke of Somerset's death. The Age of Empires cinematics will be narrated by Elizabeth of York, the York queen who ended the War of the Roses by marrying Henry VII.

FADE IN:

Cinematic begins. Sketched image of a newly dead king's ringed hand hanging off a throne.

ELIZABETH OF YORK

May 22, 1455. A great king has fallen. A mad king rules in his place.

Sketched image of HENRY VI awkwardly sitting at a table with advisors. Second fade-in image shows sneering nobles scheming and plotting behind HENRY VI's back.

ELIZABETH OF YORK

Henry VI, of House Lancaster, took his father's throne when he was barely tall enough to reach the seat cushion. The weak-willed king allowed both his court and his country to become a battleground for squabbling nobles.

Sketched image of HENRY VI slumped over in his throne and holding his head. Second fade-in image shows RICHARD OF YORK standing proud and tall, like a knight from legends.

ELIZABETH OF YORK

The feeble king grew mad under the weight of his crown. His illness demanded a strong leader take his place. Richard, Duke of York and cousin to the mad king, was named protector of the realm. Honorable and focused on restoring order, Richard spent years guiding the realm back toward stability.

Sketched image of MARGARET OF ANJOU glaring into the distance while the DUKE OF SOMERSET stands nearby, smirking.

ELIZABETH OF YORK

Not all were pleased with Richard's newfound role. Queen Margaret of Anjou, the vicious wife of the mad king, was not eager to see her power diminished under Richard's rule. Together with her scheming ally, the Duke of Somerset, they planned to see Richard executed when Henry VI recovered.

Sketched image of Richard riding north and away from London. An army lies in the distance.

ELIZABETH

But Richard of York had powerful allies of his own. And he would not cede his rule without a fight. Thus began the War of the Roses.

Gameplay: Skirmish starts. Player is commanding Richard of York and a small contingent of soldiers in the northern part of the map.

RICHARD OF YORK

The mad king and the Duke of Somerset will have my head if I show my face in St. Albans. I must gather my forces and...persuade them to change their minds.

OBJECTIVE

Meet up with the Earl of Salisbury.

Gameplay: A marker appears on the western part of the map. Player takes Richard of York and his forces toward the Earl of Salisbury.

They fight small groups of King Henry VI's units and bandits along the way.

The Earl of Salisbury (Gaia unit) rides out to greet Richard of York and offers him a group of knights (Gaia unit) and men-at-arms (Gaia unit).

EARL OF SALISBURY

Brother! We will gladly aid your cause. But we cannot storm the city without archers. My son awaits with a fine contingent of longbowmen. Let us be off.

OBJECTIVE: Find the Earl of Warwick and his Longbowmen.

Gameplay: The Player leads Richard of York further south. They must sneak around or fight spearmen and archers (Enemy - King Henry VI's forces) in one of Henry VI's outposts before they reach the Earl of Warwick.

The Earl of Warwick (Gaia unit) and his longbowmen (Gaia unit) approach Richard of York.

EARL OF WARWICK

We'll ride south with you, Uncle.
Every longbowman here is a veteran
of the Hundred Years' War. Bring
us to St. Albans, and we'll make
you into a king.

OBJECTIVE: Attack the city of St. Albans.

Gameplay: The Player guides Richard of York's forces to St. Albans in the south.

It is a small city surrounded by crossbowmen, scouts, spearmen, and knights (Enemy - King Henry VI's forces).

Palisade walls have been erected around the city.

RICHARD OF YORK

To arms, men! We must destroy the barriers and get inside the city!

OBJECTIVE: Destroy the palisade walls to enter St. Albans.

Gameplay: Player has Richard of York's forces make a hole in the palisade walls.

Once they enter the city, a trigger prompts the EARL OF WARWICK to speak.

EARL OF WARWICK

My spies tell me that King Henry
is hiding in the chapel. That
wretch, Somerset, will be near.
Let us take the king and skewer
Somerset's treacherous heart.

OBJECTIVE: Find and kill the Duke of Somerset.

Gameplay: A map marker appears in the city's monastery.

HENRY VI (Ally - Henry VI) and the DUKE OF SOMERSET (Enemy - Henry VI's Forces) await.

Player has Richard of York's forces fight through the city until they reach HENRY VI and DUKE OF SOMERSET.

HENRY VI
By God, this is treason! Somerset,
defend me!

DUKE OF SOMERSET
I will run a blade through
Richard of York's innards, your majesty!

OBJECTIVE: Kill the Duke of Somerset and capture Henry VI.

Gameplay: Richard of York's forces fight DUKE OF SOMERSET (Enemy - Henry VI's Forces), a cavalier unit.

HENRY VI (Ally - Henry VI) , a king unit, stays near the chapel.

When DUKE OF SOMERSET dies, RICHARD OF YORK speaks.

RICHARD OF YORK
The city is ours. Come, Henry, we
have much to discuss about the
state of the realm.

Gameplay: Victory screen appears. Ending cinematic plays.

Sketched image of RICHARD VI smiling as he rides through the streets of a defeated St. Albany.

ELIZABETH OF YORK
Arrows rained down on the city of
St. Albans that day. Within an
hour, the city fell. And Richard
of York marched victoriously
through the streets.

Sketched image of HENRY VI on his knees and pleading.
RICHARD OF YORK glares menacingly and holds the tip of his sword to HENRY VI's chin.

ELIZABETH OF YORK
King Henry was quick to trade his
inheritance for his life. A
compromise was struck where Henry
would continue to rule, but
Richard would be heir to the
throne.

Sketched image of MARGARET of ANJOU smiling wickedly at court as she places a hand on a young EDWARD, PRINCE OF WALES' shoulder. EDWARD, PRINCE OF WALES scowls viciously.

ELIZABETH OF YORK

An uneasy truce began. But Margaret of Anjou still lurked in the shadows of the Yorkish court. And through her son, Prince Edward, she would see the House of Lancaster on the throne once more.

FADE OUT.