**The Battle of Bosworth field**

Henry Tudor decided that his time had come. He had been taken to France – and safety – by his Uncle Jasper in 1471. He learned about warfare, treachery and betrayal, court politics – and how to gain and keep supporters. In August 1485 he landed, with around 2,000 soldiers, at Milford Haven in South Wales. He was going to claim the throne of England. Slowly he advanced through Wales to the Midlands. Steadily more and more supporters joined him. By the time he reached Bosworth Field, he had an army of about 5,000 men.

Richard had an army at least twice the size of Henry’s. However, one of his commanders, Sir William Stanley, had not decided on whose side he would fight. Together with his brother, Stanley had around 6,000 men under his command. The side on which he fought would win. Richard, of course, did not know Stanley was thinking of changing sides.

Richard’s troops took up their positions along a ridge above marshy ground. Henry’s foot soldiers advanced, and battle began. Suddenly, Sir William Stanley made up his mind. He began to fight on Henry’s side. Seeing this, Richard himself plunged into the thick of Henry’s troops. Richard’s horse galloped straight into the marsh and couldn’t struggle out. Richard leapt from the saddle. He was immediately surrounded by Henry’s men, who cut him down and killed him. It was all over. The battle had lasted less three hours. There is a legend that says William Stanley found Richard’s crown in a thorn bush and presented it to Henry Tudor, the new king Henry VII.