

behaviour shown by Somerset in this humiliating capitulation, seeing his actions as being in stark contrast to his own efforts as Lieutenant General to prevent losses in France in 1440-45. York had lost assets because of Somerset's actions leaving him to lose out financially. Yet it was Somerset who was paid the money owed to him for services to the Crown while York had been forced to sell manors to make ends meet as he awaited payment of the £38,000 he was owed by the King.

Source M A pro-Yorkist chronicler who was probably based in London describes an attack on the Duke of Somerset in 1450.

All the dukes, earls and barons came to Parliament with considerable bodies of well-armed men. They realised that neither the king nor his advisers were taking action to punish those who were accused of treason, particularly the Duke of Somerset who had so carelessly and humiliatingly lost Normandy. The lords' men called upon the king three times to 'provide justice against the traitors and punish them'; The following afternoon almost 1,000 well-armed men attacked the Duke of Somerset without warning and would have slain him had not the Earl of Devon pacified them and discreetly arrested Somerset.

Benet's Chronicle, written before 1462.

Source N In 1452, Richard of York, frustrated by Henry VI's reliance upon Somerset rather than himself, made a demonstration of force at Dartford in Kent with men from his estates in Wales. In this letter he explains his motives. The English nation has suffered loss of trade and damaging of honour through the loss of Normandy when the Duke of Somerset was in command there. This has encouraged the king's enemies to conquer his French lands in Gascony and Guienne. After I returned from Ireland, I put to the king some proposals concerning the peace of this realm. This advice was laid aside through the malice of the Duke of Somerset who works continually to ruin me in the king's eyes and wants to disinherit me and my heirs for no good reason. I am determined to proceed against him.

Richard of York, Letter to the Citizens of Shrewsbury, 3 February 1452.

Activity

1 Look back at the bullet points at the start of this section on page 19 showing the suggested signs of animosity between York and Somerset in the 1440s. Can you find support for any of them within Sources M and N? Use a table like the one below to write up your findings.

Signs of animosity	Evidence in M	Evidence in N
York resented being replaced by Somerset as Lieutenant General in France		

2 Use your knowledge of noble factions to assess how useful Source N is as evidence of the attitude of the Duke of York towards Somerset? AS