

A Throne for Three



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Edward the Confessor

Harald Hardrada



Harold of Wessex



William Duke of Normandy



At first I meant to
designate my cousin
William, as heir.

But, right before dying
I granted the
succession to Harold,
Earl of Wessex

I led a monkish
life and died
heirless





Hence, I was undeniably
the rightful King of
England.

My election was
backed by the
Witanagemot (the
forerunner of your
Parliament)

I was crowned
King the day after
the death of
Edward



Harold of Wessex





My cousin Edward had
promised me the throne!

No way,
no way,
Harold!

Do I have to remind you ,
that you even swore to be
loyal to me?



I can't
remember
,actually!

William Duke of Normandy



I was the descendant
of King Canute

Hence, I could
rightfully claim
the throne of
England!

Even your brother
Tostig, Harold;
supported me!



Harald Hardrada



That is why
he had fled
England

The Battle of Fulford

- Harald Hardrada and Earl Tostig sailed up the River Ouse on 20 September 1066
- They had with them more than 10.000 men in 200 Viking ships
- The “Northern Earls”, Edwin and Morcar, who sided Harold, were defeated
- Harold quickly assembled an army , marched 180 miles and arrived at Stamford Bridge, on 25 September





C'mon bro! I'll give you
back your earldom, if you
come to my side!

No way! You must
be jocking! I want
to see you dead!



Earl Tostig



The Battle of Stamford Bridge

- An Englishman shot the only guardian of the strategic bridge of Stamford
- Once the bridge was under the control of the English, both Hardrada and Tostig fell to the assault of the Saxon army
- Harold won, but the battle let him exhausted and mauled



Duke William Lands in Sussex

- Three days after the Battle of Stamford Bridge, Duke William landed 700 ships with his troops, horses and armaments
- When William first stepped off his ship on to the English shore, he stumbled and fell to the ground
- His surrounding entourage immediately took this to be a terrible omen



King Harold Goes South to Hastings

- The king hurried South hoping to catch William by surprise
- By 12 October Harold was in London to recruit men
- Then, he set out for the Sussex coast
- Harold swiftly moved his army on to Caldbec Hill, near the coastal town of Hastings
- This ridge offered to Harold a good advantage
- William was forced to take up a less favourable position in marshy ground at the bottom of the ridge



The Battle of Hastings - Saxons on Top

- The Duke's archers let loose a deluge of arrows which was easily defended by the Saxon shield wall
- The archers being left very exposed suffered heavy fatalities in their ranks
- Next William sent in his foot soldiers and many were cut down by the English using their 2 handed battle-axes
- The Duke immediately deployed his cavalry, but charging uphill was almost impossible, so they turned back down the hill.
- The English chased after them and broke into the Norman line of defence.





Harold Loses Control

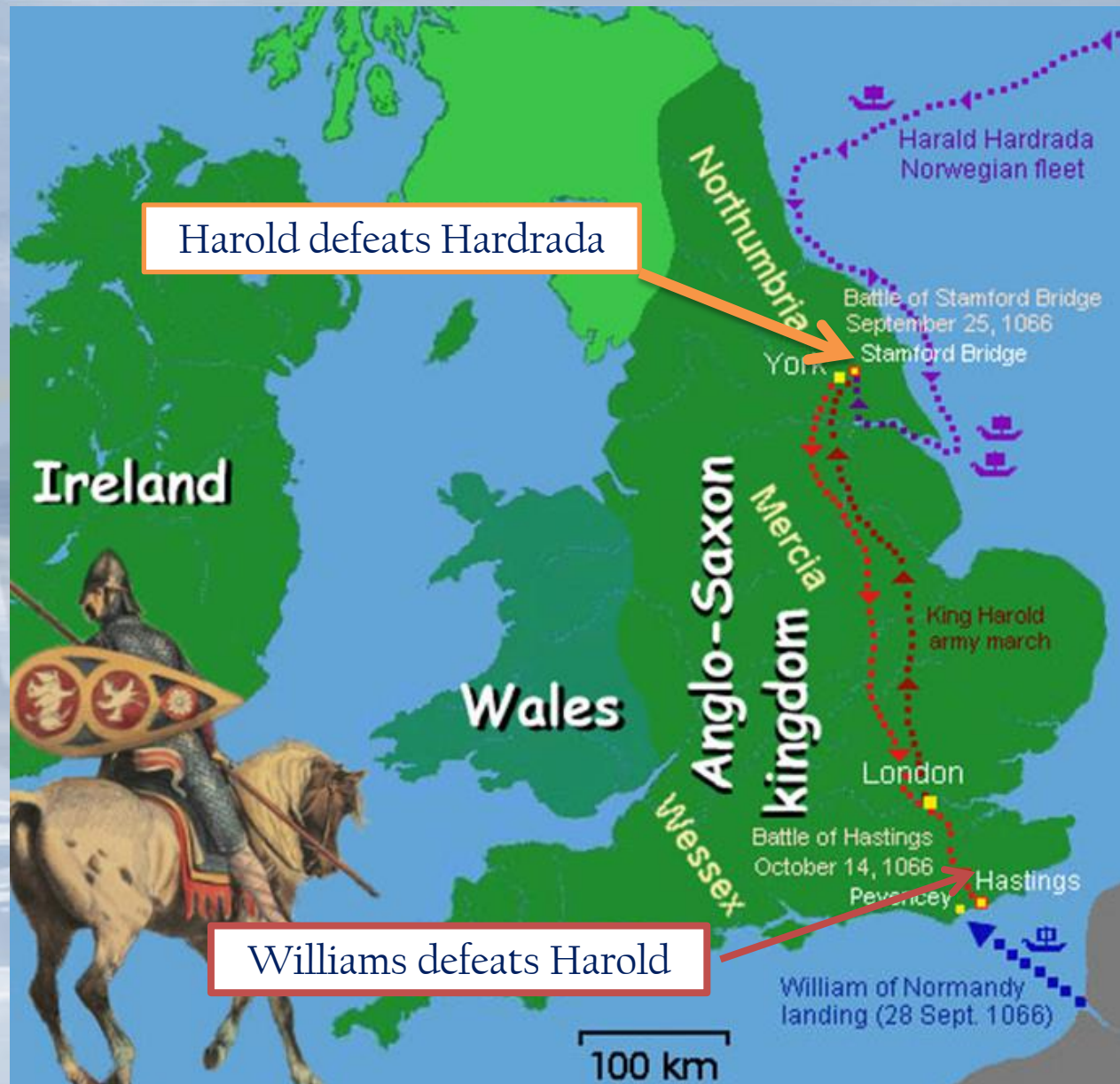
- Eventually the English right flank was cut off from the main body of Harold's army
- These men were left isolated and were easily picked off by the Breton troops, William's allies on his left flank
- This caused openings in Harold's defence and allowed William to use his archers
- He ordered them to fire their arrow higher into the air so that they could cascade down on the hapless English



William Gains a Victory and a Kingdom

- With the English lines thinning out the Normans were able to move up the hill on both flanks
- When they eventually broke through they found the king surrounded by a number of his loyal housecarls (bodyguards)
- They were cut down together with their king
- The dead king's corpse was beheaded and his limbs cut off.
- It was left to Edith Swan-neck, Harold's wife, to identify him from the artefacts adorning his body
- The carnage became known as "**The Battle of Hastings**",
14 October 1066





This is how I
became King of
England!

By CONQUEST!!!

I have been
remembered since
then as :William
the Conqueror!
KING!





The Bayeux Tapestry

