

1066 The Battle of Hastings

We should have won! An examination of the battle that sealed England's fate and ended 600 years of Anglo-Saxon rule.

William, Duke of Normandy and his Council of War are delighted by the intelligence received from their spies.

There is a belief that in Harold's haste, some of the army may have been left behind to recover from the long march from York and will follow on later.

By contrast, William's army seem well rested in their long established safe haven, at Hastings, and are ready for a fight. They had been dreading a long, drawn-out campaign and believe a swift engagement will be to their advantage.

This talk will try to make sense of a battle that lasted eight hours and identify the key moments that led to Norman success and the end of the Anglo-Saxon dynasty that began in the middle of the 5th century.

It will identify the most reasonable and strategic location, the tactics used and whether the battle should have been fought at all.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing.