

The Battle of Hastings

In 1066, three men _____(to be) fighting to be King of England: William of Normandy, Harold Godwinson and Harald Hardrada.

Harold Godwinson _____(to be) crowned king on 6th January 1066. William and Harald _____(not to be) happy. They both _____(to prepare) to invade England in order to kill King Harold and become king themselves.

Harald Hardrada _____(to attack) from the north of England on 25th September. However, he _____(to be) killed in battle and his army _____(to be) defeated by King Harold's army.

Two days later, William of Normandy _____(to land) in the south and _____(to begin) to attack the surrounding countryside.

King Harold _____(to march) his tired troops 300 kilometres to meet them. Eight days later, Harold and his men _____(to reach) London. William _____(to send) a messenger to London. The message _____(to try) to get Harold to accept William as the true King of England. Harold _____(not to accept) it, and was angered by William's request.

Harold's troops _____(to be) very tired and they _____(not to have) time to prepare for the battle.

However, Harold and his men _____(to arrive) in Hastings ready to fight. They _____(to capture) a hill (now known as Battle Hill) and set up a fortress surrounded with sharp stakes.

On 14th October, the battle _____(to begin). William's troops _____(to race) up the hill on foot to attack Harold's army. It _____(to be) hard running up hill and they _____(not can) break Harold's shield wall. The battle _____(to last) for around thirty minutes and William's forces _____(to suffer) heavy losses.

Next, William _____(to order) his troops to race up the hill on horses. They too _____(to be) unsuccessful and _____(not to break) Harold's wall.

Many hours later, William's troops _____(can) break through Harold's shield wall. The two sides _____(to fight) hand to hand and William _____(to win).

After the battle, William _____(to become) the new King of England.