

The Battle of Hastings

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The Battle of Hastings was fought for the _____ of England between _____, Duke of Normandy and the recently enthroned Harold Godwinson (Harold II).

The English _____, led by King Harold, took _____ their position on Senlac Hill near Hastings on the morning of the 14th of October 1066.

Harold's exhausted and depleted Saxon troops _____ been forced to march southwards following the bitter, bloody _____ to capture Stamford Bridge in Yorkshire only _____ earlier.

William attacked _____ cavalry as well _____ infantry; in the classic English manner, Harold's well-trained troops all fought on _____ behind their mighty shield wall.

The fighting continued _____ most of the day with the shield _____ unbroken. It is said that it was the sight of retreating Normans _____ finally lured the English away from their defensive positions as they broke ranks in pursuit of the _____.

Once their carefully organised formation _____ broken, the English were vulnerable to cavalry attack. King Harold was struck in the _____ by a chance Norman _____ and was killed, but the battle raged on _____ all of Harold's loyal bodyguard were slain.

This battle _____ the entire course of not just English, but European history. England would henceforth be ruled _____ an oppressive foreign aristocracy, which in turn would _____ the entire ecclesiastical and political institutions of Christendom.

Four years _____ the Battle of Hastings, Pope Alexander II ordered William the Conqueror to make penance for his _____. As a consequence, William commissioned an abbey to be _____ on the site of the battle, and the remains of Battle Abbey (as it would later be known) _____ proudly to this day. The site is now operated by English Heritage, and also _____ a

gatehouse exhibition as well as wooden sculptures of Norman and _____ troops scattered across the landscape.

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