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SUMMARY

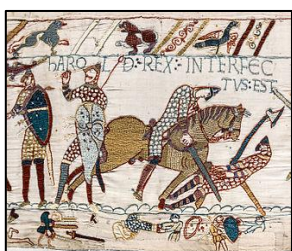
The background to the battle was the death of the childless King Edward ‘The Confessor’ in January 1066, which set up a succession struggle between several claimants to his throne.

The **Battle of Hastings** was fought on 14 October 1066 between the Norman-French army of William Duke of Normandy and an English army under the Anglo-Saxon King Harold Godwinson. It was a major turning point in British history and the beginning of the Norman Conquest.

The battle took place approximately 7 mi (11 km) northwest of Hastings close to the present-day town of Battle in East Sussex. It was a very close struggle but after long hours of fighting it became a decisive Norman victory. Duke William was then able to be crowned William I King of England at Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066.

SALES POINTS

- In-depth information is presented in an engaging and highly accessible way
- Superb illustrations throughout of the battle
- Maps, a time-line and glossary provide essential quick references.



The Bayeux Tapestry will be on loan to the British Museum from September 2026 to July 2027



BATTLE OF HASTINGS 1066	BATTLE OF HASTINGS 1066
<p>THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS</p> <p>At about 9 o'clock on the morning of Saturday 14th October 1066, trumpets sounded and the Battle of Hastings began. Harold's army was in position along a ridge about 11 kilometres from Hastings.</p> <p>The English called the ridge Santlache ('Sandy Stream'), but later it was given a Norman name - Senlac, which was French for 'Blood Lake'.</p> <p>Harold's troops were crowded together on the ridge, but were in the better tactical position, as the Normans were forced to attack uphill.</p>	<p>William attacked first. His archers fired waves of arrows towards Harold's men, who held their long shields close together to form a 'shield-wall'. Many arrows fell short and others stuck in the English shields.</p> <p>The arrow attack lasted a few minutes, then faded away as the Norman archers ran out of ammunition. Harold's troops stood firm on the ridge.</p> <p>William then ordered his foot-soldiers to charge up the hill. As they did, they were struck down by English arrows, spears and slingstones. But many Normans survived the barrage of missiles thrown at them and soon they were upon the English, fighting hand-to-hand with swords.</p> <p>It was an evenly balanced fight and, when William realised that his troops were not gaining any ground, he sent in his cavalry in support of the foot-soldiers.</p> <p>The men on horseback charged bravely up the slope of the hill, but they too were fought back by King Harold's troops.</p> <p>By midday the Norman army was tiring.</p>

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