



The Norwegian Invasion of England in 1066 (Warfare in History)

By Kelly DeVries

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William the Conqueror's invasion in 1066 was not the only attack on England that year. On September 25, 1066, less than three weeks before William defeated King Harold II Godwinson at the battle of Hastings, that same Harold had been victorious over his other opponent of 1066, King Haraldr Hardrádi of Norway at the battle of Stamford Bridge. It was an impressive victory, driving an invading army of Norwegians from the earldom of Northumbria; but it was to cost Harold dear. In telling the story of this neglected battle, Kelly DeVries traces the rise and fall of a family of English warlords, the Godwins, as well as that of the equally impressive Norwegian warlord Hardrádi.

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Editorial Review

Review

This very accessible narrative...tells the story of 'the first two important battles of 1066', Fulford Gate and Stamford Bridge, and of the leaders of the opposing English and Norwegian factions. --Choice

The evidence of later 12th- and 13th-century Norse sagas, Snorri Sturlusson's *Heimskringla*, and the less well known Norwegian Kings Sagas...present far more detail about the invasion and its battles than the more widely accepted sources could possibly allow... He places the invasion in a broad context. He outlines the Anglo-Scandinavian nature of the English kingdom in the eleventh century, traces the careers of the major leaders, and devotes a chapter each to the English and Norwegian military systems. --Journal of Military History

One of the greatest victories won by an English host over a Viking army... In his account of the battle and the events leading up to it, Professor DeVries tells this exciting and absorbing story. --Speculum

About the Author

KELLY DEVRIES is Associate Professor, Department of History, Loyola College in Maryland.

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