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success in the British conquest

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Introduction

Name of my topic is William the Conqueror and reason of his success in conquering Britain. I have chosen this topic because my favourite themes to investigate is wars and this war is very interesting for me. William the conqueror had won while Harold had more people and better position and I want to Examine the reasons of this. This topic is actual and important because it is necessary to know about the war that changed the future of Britain. I will try to investigate this topic and reveal some main reasons of Williams victory.

1. In the 1st chapter I wrote about life of William the conqueror his childhood, his route to power and finally his British conquest.
2. In the 2nd I wrote about army of William the conqueror structure of his army, and about army of Harold II the English king, his opponent.
3. In the 3rd chapter I wrote about the most famous and important battle of this war – battle of Hastings. Tactics which both side used and strategic maneuvers.

Chapter 1. Life of William the Conqueror and his British conquest

The exact date of birth of William is not known. Most often, states that he was born in 1027 or 1028, but there are also references to the fact that William could have been born in the autumn 1029.

William was born in the Norman town of Falaise - in Falezskom Castle (French Château de Falaise), one of the residences of the Dukes of Normandy. He was a bastard, but the only son of the ruler of Normandy - Duke Robert II the Magnificent (later known as the nickname Devil). William's mother was Gerleva, Robert became his mistress at a time when he was a count Jemuel. XI century chroniclers do not mention the origin of Gerlevy, but later sources indicate that her father was Fulbert, he was a prosperous city dweller from Falaise may tanner (furrier). It is possible that from this link was born a daughter Adelaide, but there are doubts about this, given the direct testimony of Robert de Torino, that Adelaide was not the daughter Gerlevy.

Norman know at the time preferred to avoid marriages of Christian burial, preferring to marry Norman type. This union did not have the blessing of the church and can be canceled at any time - if there was a need for the state to enter into a Christian marriage. Many Norman dukes and members of their families had official mistresses, and with the church in terms of the legitimacy of many of the genus in doubt. However, the French know the nickname given to William Bastard.

Norman duchy inherited William, was, on the one hand, it is a centralized system of governance based on a well-developed military-feudal system and the vast ducal domain, and on the other hand, the vast mass of small knights, descendants of Scandinavian Vikings who settled in Normandy in the IX century whose energy splashed in conquests in southern Italy. Normandy was a vassal of the King of France, but the relationship was largely a formality as the first kings of France from the Capetian dynasty actually ruled only in his domain. Normandy formally considered by county, but the power of its rulers is not inferior to the royal, so XI century rulers of Normandy appropriate a dukedom. Guillaume Jumièges in the "Acts of Duke William," written in 1073/1074, respectively, then the graph is called William (Latin comes), then Duke (Latin dux), then Princeps (Latin princeps). Orderik Vitaly written around 1141 "Church History" often refers to the title of William Marquis (Latin marchio). Many chroniclers also called William the Duke of the Normans (Latin dux Normannorum).

To the north of Normandy and Flanders settled county of Ponthieu, in the east - Ile-de-France, a member of the domain of King of France, in the south - county Chartres, belonged to the counts of Blois, and Maine, for which the Duke of Normandy, constantly arguing with the Counts of Anjou, and the south-west - Duchy of Brittany, to which the Dukes of Normandy, claims more than once in the face with the graphs of Anjou, also claim to influence in Brittany.

On the territory of the Normandy at the time of possession existed as secular barons, constantly at war with each other and with the Dukes and church ownership. The main church hierarch was archbishop of Rouen, in addition there were six dioceses centered in Evreux, Lisieux, Bayeux, Coutances and Avranches Seeze. Besides Seezskoy diocese, which depended on the seniors Belleme, others reported directly to the Duke, who is appointed by the Department of the relatives. Also in Normandy, there are many monasteries.

In 1042 at the age of 15 years, William was knighted by his overlord, the King of France, Henry I, after which he became more involved in the management of the Duchy. Difficult childhood greatly influenced his character. According to the chroniclers, he could not read, was suspicious and secretive man, hated strife and despotic different in every area of life. Also illegitimacy and related taunts led to what William hated promiscuity.

Battle of Val-es-Dunes

The first period was devoted to the reign of William the strengthening ducal power and defense of the borders. Initially, his influence was negligible, management duchy it depended on the strength of its supporting elite. But getting older, Wilhelm became increasingly intervene in the management of the duchy, and, finally, in 1046 tried to take the power into their own hands. This decision angered the nobility, which resulted in a rebellion in Upper Normandy, led by Guy of Burgundy, Count Vernon and Brion. A close relative and childhood friend of William, he was one of the contenders for the title of Duke of Normandy in 1035, but then he had no possessions in Normandy. And now in the possession of the land was rich in Vernon and Brion. Rebellion supported wealthy landowners from Western Normandy - Viscount Cotentin Nigel II de Saint-Sauveur, Viscount Bayeux Ranulf I, as well as several other smaller seniors.

Wilhelm nothing could oppose the rebels and was forced to flee from Normandy, enlisted the help of the French king Henry I. King, concerned the plight of his vassal, he decided to help him. He assembled an army, and in 1047 invaded the area Imua, where he joined with a few troops, recruited by William of Normandy. In the Valley of the Dunes (south-east of Caen) army met the rebels, who managed to cross the river Ornu. At the outbreak of the Battle of Val-es-Dunes Duke William distinguished himself as a brave warrior. In this case, the rebels were disorganized that William went to the side of one of the barons - Ralph Tesson II. As a result of the Battle of the rebel army was defeated, the remnants fled across the river Ornu, many drowned while crossing. The victory was a turning point for William.

However, despite the victory over the rebels, the position of William was still fragile. King Henry I after winning back in their possession, and Wilhelm continued persecution barons, many of whom were able to escape. The further fate of Ranulph, Viscount Bayeux, is unknown, but it has retained ownership. Nigel Kontantensky II was exiled to Brittany, but was later able to return to their possessions. Guy of Burgundy, though he was wounded, was able to lead fairly large contingent from the field and locked himself in the castle Brion. Take the castle immediately Wilhelm failed siege lasted nearly three years, and during this time Brion was a threat to the duchy. Only in late 1049 or early 1050 Guy gave up. He was saved lives, but he lost his possessions in Normandy, and was forced to leave the Normandy.

All the time the siege was conducted Brion power Wilhelm actually extends to the lower Normandy, probably, that he did not submit even Rouen. Their place of residence chosen William Kahn, who eventually became one of the main residences of the Duke. Thanks to Kahn quickly turned into a big city.

In 1052 William had to suppress another major uprising, led by his uncle, William de Tula Arkeza Earl, who was supported by his brother, the Archbishop of Rouen Mozher. They were the most powerful feudal lords in Upper Normandy. Possessed great personal ambition, William de Talu, realizing that the ducal crown he will not be able to get, I decided to try to become independent of his nephew. However, he was married to the sister of the Count of Ponthieu Enguerrand II, which increased its influence in Upper Normandy. At the same time William de Tula turned for help to the king of France Henry I, at this time to conclude an alliance with the Count of Anjou Geoffrey II Martel, William enemy.

Upon learning of the rebellion, in 1053 William besieged Arkez what helped him experience the siege Brion. Leaving to lead the siege of Gautier Giffard, he himself went to gather more troops to confront the French army of Henry I, joined by Enguerrand II de Ponthieu. Their army in autumn 1053 invasion of Normandy. The King tried to get through to Arkezu to deliver food besieged, he tried to counteract this Duke William, who gathered a large army, but in open conflict he did not dare to enter. However, one of the commanders Wilhelm October 26 ventured to attack at St Aubin on a large group of French army, almost completely destroying it, and the battle was mortally wounded Enguerrand II de Ponthieu. Although King Henry I still had enough troops, he chose to return to their possessions. At the end of 1053 Arkez surrendered. But Wilhelm de Talu got off relatively easy. His possessions were confiscated and became part of the

county of Rouen, and he went to Boulogne, no longer bringing problems Wilhelm. In 1054 or 1055 William has also made the deposition Mozhera, who was exiled to the island of Guernsey. It was the last major uprising nobility in Normandy during the reign of William.

William later managed to get rid of a number of other enemies of his family. In 1056 he was accused of sedition Gerlana Wilhelm, Count of Mortain, exiled him, passing Morten his half brother Robert. He also drove Byusaka William, the second son of William I, Count D.

As a result, William restored order in his own duchy. Barons were destroyed castles built during his minority, imposed penalties for violation of the "Duke's of the world", a branched structure of the local administration, reporting directly to the Duke. The most important officials were viscounts, and the position became hereditary. In this respect, William follows kings of France. He also paid special attention to matters of church and supported efforts to reform the church institutions in the spirit of Cluny movement. Not abuse its ability to influence the appointment of bishops and abbots, William secured the support of a local religious leaders and the Pope of Rome.

William also tried to establish diplomatic relations with its neighbors and to defend the borders of Normandy assault neighboring rulers. Around 1049 William began negotiations with the Count of Flanders Baudouin V, asking for the hand of his daughter Matilda. However, the news of the possibility of such a marriage angered the Holy Roman Emperor Henry III, uncomfortable with Baudouin becomes allies outside the empire. As a result, in October 1049 at the Reims Cathedral ally of the Emperor, the Pope Leo IX forbade the marriage on the grounds of consanguinity. Despite this, in 1053, William married Matilda. From this marriage were born four sons and six daughters. Angered Pope immediately excommunicated William from the Church. The punishment was removed only after 6 years (1059), when the new Pope Nicholas II Normandy relations with Rome have improved Duke undertook to atone for the sin of disobedience to build 4 almshouses and 2 monasteries.

Wilhelm also extended its influence on its neighbors through marriage of his sister Adelaide, issued in 1052 married Enguerrand II, Count of Ponthieu. After the death of Enguerrand in 1053 Duke William confiscated Omalsh county, were vassals of Normandy, and gave it to Adelaide, and it has given itself over Lambert II, Count of Lance's younger brother Eustace II, Count of Boulogne. Perhaps this marriage was designed to strengthen allied relations between Normandy and Flanders, as Lambert was one of the trustees of Count Baudouin. However, already in 1054, Lambert was killed at the siege of Lille troops of Emperor Genirha III. Adelaide was later married to Ed III of Blois, Count of Troyes and Meaux, who lost their possessions in the Champagne region. Ed, the husband of Adele, made friends with William and later took an active part in the conquest of England.

It is believed that at this time include contacts with William King Edward the Confessor. Paternal great-nephew William was Emma, wife of King Ethelred II and mother of Edward. After her husband's death, she married the new King of England, Canute the Great. In 1042 Edward, who spent 25 years in exile at the court of the Duke of Normandy, became King of England. Unfortunately only sources which show a Norman version of events preserved. According to Guillaume de Poitiers, William Edward loved as a brother or son, so he just appointed him as his successor. But no other evidence of this post is not as obvious as the fact that the main purpose of the biography of William, written by Guillaume de Poitiers, an excuse conquest of England, to all his Izvestia should be treated with caution.

After becoming king, Edward began to involve the Norman nobles to their service, seeking to create a foothold against the mighty Anglo-Danish aristocracy controlled the levers of Anglo-Saxon state. Many Norman knights and priests received high office and estates in England. King Edward's sister was married to Drogo, Count Vexin, one of the companions of his father William. According to Guillaume de Poitiers, Edward, who had no children, William announced his successor, which was endorsed by the English parliament. Likely source for this news was composed in 1066 for formal notification document European rulers of the conquest of England.

According to one of the English chroniclers of this William was in England in 1051-1052 year, but according to modern historians, it could happen in the years 1050-1051, as in 1051/1052 was occupied by William's siege Donfrona. The reason for the decision of King Edward could serve as an alliance between Normandy and Flanders, directed against the Emperor Henry III, an ally of England. And if such an event did occur, it could be a necessary measure to protect England from Flanders. However, this could well be just a diplomatic game. Danish konung Sven Estridsen asserted that he was also declared heir. Edward tried to return later Etelinga Edward, son of his brother, Knut ousted from England and lived in Hungary. However, before William came from gaining the English Crown. In 1052, under pressure from the leader of the Anglo-Danish aristocracy Earl Godwin, Edward the Confessor, was forced to drive the Normans out of the country, but the parties comply with the signed agreement, the former safeguards against piracy in the English Channel.

January 5, 1066 Edward the Confessor died, leaving no direct heirs. Events that preceded his death, and that led to the conquest of England, depicted on the famous carpet of Bayeux and represent Norman version of events. Also reflected in the number of incident chronicles, especially in the "Acts of Duke William" William de Poitiers. In this version, in 1064, Edward, feeling the approach of death, sent his most powerful vassal of Harold Godwinson to William that he had sworn allegiance to William as heir to the English throne. However, on the way Harold was captured by Count Guy I de Ponthieu, where he was released Wilhelm.

After that, Harold voluntarily swore on holy relics in the presence of witnesses, recognizing heir William English crown and pledged to take all necessary measures to support it. However, later British historians strongly doubted the veracity of these reports, considering the fact that Harold came to William, unfortunate accident, as well as pointing to the highly dubious as the conditions of the contract and allegedly brought Harold homage. Unfortunately no other description of this event is unknown. But this oath in the future to justify the actions of William.

Be that as it may, after the death of Edward English vitenagemot the day after his death, chose the new King Harold. According to the English chroniclers of the reason for this was that Edward before his death bequeathed his throne to Harold, the brother of his wife. Harold was crowned and anointed king, having received the blessing of the church. Coronation of the archbishop of Canterbury, Stigand, who, however, has not yet received the pallium from the Pope, that is still not officially recognized by the papal curia. That facts gave an additional trump opponents Harold.

William Harold refused to recognize the king and declared their own claims to the English throne. European wide publicity has been given the oath of Harold, perfect for holy relics during a trip to Normandy, and it was announced that Edward was recognized as his heir William.

Perjury has become a convenient excuse for the Pope to stand on the side of William of Normandy, who began preparing for the invasion of England. He enlisted the support of the barons of his duchy, and the reputation of William ensured inflow of a large number of his army of knights North French neighboring principalities. The Normans were not more than a third army of William, the other soldiers arrived from Maine, Aquitaine, France and Flanders. As a result, in August 1066 in the possession of the Duke was a large and well-equipped army, numbering about 7,000, the core of which was highly Norman cavalry and infantry, but was. To transport people across the Channel at once commandeered William, hired and built so many ships as possible.

Norman conquest of England in 1066

Anglo-Saxons and the rebellion 1067-1070

September 27, 1066 the army of William the ship sank to the mouth of the Somme and, after crossing the English Channel, the next morning landed on the English coast near the town of

Pevensey. Duke then moved his troops to Hastings, where he built a wooden castle (motte-and-bailey) and waited for the approach the British Army. King Harold was at this time in the north of the country, reflecting the Norse invasion. Upon learning of the landing of the Normans, he hurried to the south without waiting for reinforcements, which were collected in the counties. Covering a distance from York to Hastings for 9 days, the Anglo-Saxon army by October 13 came to the positions Wilhelm. Early in the morning on October 14 Norman troops attacked the Anglo-Saxons and in a fierce battle defeated them. King Harold was killed.

Battle of Hastings was a turning point in the Norman conquest of England. The country was open to troops Wilhelm. Only in London retains the resistance of the national party, which proclaimed the new king Edgar Eteling, the last of the ancient Anglo-Saxon royal dynasty. London has been the key to England, and immediately after William Hastings tried to attack him, but was rebuffed. Then the Norman army was surrounding the city, at the same time ruining its suburbs.

The leaders of the Anglo-Saxon nobility were forced to surrender. In Wallingford, where at that time was located William, went Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury, and offered him the oath of allegiance. Soon, his example was followed by others in Berkhamsted national party leaders (earls Morcar and Edwin, Edgar Eteling). William was recognized as king of England. Soon after the Norman army came to London, and December 25, 1066 at Westminster Abbey (which by this time was not yet built) held the coronation of William the English crown.

Although from the beginning Wilhelm emphasized the legitimacy of his right to the throne, he had no blood relationship with Anglo-Saxon kings, and the power of the Normans at first relied exclusively on military force. Across the country were built castles that controlled the surrounding area. Earth Saxon nobility were confiscated and handed north French knights and barons. Senior positions in the administration office of the king and the church hierarchy were replaced Normans.

At the end of March 1067 the king went to Normandy, where he remained until December, and in his absence in England ruled by his close associates, William Fitz Osbern and Bishop Odo. On his return to England, William suppressed a revolt in the Anglo-Saxon Exeter, and in 1068 made the first of his trips to northern England, where he built a castle in York and took an oath of allegiance north English nobility. Nevertheless, it is in the north of the resistance of the Norman power was especially strong. In 1069 there twice uprisings Anglo-Saxons, who personally supervised the suppression Wilhelm. The situation was complicated by the arrival of the Danish fleet that supported the rebels, and the unrest in West Mercia and Staffordshire.

Winter 1069 campaign began the famous "The devastation of the North", in which the summer of 1070, and other Yorkshire north English counties was completely destroyed troops of William, and their population has decreased dramatically due to the murders and fled to other parts of England. Systematic destruction of the population and economy of the North of England, the effects of which were felt even decades after the campaigns of William, was designed to eliminate the very possibility of a repetition of uprisings against the power of the king.

In 1070, William made leaving England the Danes, and the following year put down last center of resistance to the Anglo-Saxon or the island. This completed the conquest of England, but clashes continued on the Scottish border: in Scotland at the court of King Malcolm III took refuge Edgar Eteling and some other Anglo-Saxon magnates. To eliminate this threat in August 1072 William invaded Scotland and quickly came to Thay. Malcolm III contract in Abernathy was forced to admit William King of England, to bring him homage and pledge not to grant asylum to the King's enemies. In hostage William was handed the Scottish monarch's youngest son David.

Chapter 2. Armies of William the Conqueror and Harold. Battle of Hastings

2.1. Army of William the Conqueror

In Normandy, there was a huge mass of small knights, over which the Dukes to William had no effective government and whose militancy found a way in the campaigns in Italy, where he had already formed the Norman county of Aversa and the Duchy of Apulia. William was able to collect and bring to his service of the Knights. In addition, he was well acquainted with all aspects of the modern art of war and the excellent reputation of the knight and the captain, that attracted his army human resources across northern France.

A plan of invasion, Wilhelm secured the support of the barons of his duchy, and his fame has provided inflow to a large number of his army of knights north French neighboring principalities. The Normans had a solid background of military operations with small detachments of cavalry of castles, which were built on the captured quickly territory as bases, in order to further its control. War with the kings of France and counts of Anjou allowed Normans improved tactics against large formations of enemy and establish a strong relationship between the armed services.

Norman Duke managed to form a large army, numbering more than 7000 people, which is mainly a feudal knight forces them ready by the military-feudal system, providing professional and well-armed soldiers. The core of the army was highly Norman cavalry, its structure also included archers and light-armed infantry. To transport people across the Channel William was organized massive ship construction, in addition to the one time he had requisitioned and hired as many ships as possible.

Norman invasion of Britain was also supported by Pope Alexander II, sought to extend to England Cluny reform and shift the Archbishop Stiganda. The blessing of the Pope to provide inflow to William Knights of small European states, counting on estates in England.

The Normans were not more than a third army of William, the other soldiers came from different French regions - Maine, Aquitaine, Flanders, Brittany, Picardy, Artois, and mercenaries from other European countries.

Chief commander was William himself. However, chronicles very poorly known actors. Based on the study of sources, primarily "Bayeux Tapestry", the historians were able to establish a number of names:

- Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, half-brother of William the Conqueror. He was involved in the formation of the fleet. Before the battle the bishop admonished the army.
- Robert, Count of Mortain, half-brother of William the Conqueror, one of the closest associates of the Duke.
- Hugh de Granmesnil, Norman Knight, one of the commanders of the Norman cavalry.
- William de Warenne, Norman Knight, one of the advisers of William the Conqueror
- Gauthier (Walter) Giffard, a Norman knight, cousin and one of the advisers of William the Conqueror
- Eustace II, Count of Boulogne. He was wounded in battle.
- William, Count of Evreux, a second cousin of William the Conqueror.
- Raul de TOSNO II, brother of William Paladin.
- Hugh de Montfort, a Norman knight
- Henry de Ferrers, a Norman knight

- William Fitz Osbern, a relative of William the Conqueror, Seneschal of Normandy
 - Tusten Fitz Rowe, the standard-bearer of William the Conqueror
 - Ralph de Mortimer, a Norman knight, a relative of William the Conqueror
 - Emery IV de Thouars, Viscount
 - Robert de Beaumont, a Norman knight who commanded a detachment of infantry on the right flank of the Norman troops
 - Ginger Allen, Breton knight, commanded one of the armies of William the Conqueror
- Later most of them have significant land holdings confiscated from the Anglo-Saxon nobility.

2.2. Army of Harold

Military resources of the Anglo-Saxon states were quite large, but poorly organized. At the end of 1066 at the disposal of King Harold was not even a permanent fleet, except for a small number of ships provided ports south-eastern coast. Although it was possible to collect a large number of vessels by requisitions and counties collect the tradition, but to organize a large fleet in the short term and maintain it in a state of readiness was not possible. The core of the Army were huskerly king and earls. By the middle of XI century, there were about 3000 royal huskerlov, Earl was a large retinue of 400-500 soldiers. Besides them Harold disposal squads servile military nobility (heaters) and national militia of peasants - firdom. The full composition of the Anglo-Saxon army was probably the biggest army in Western Europe. The main problems of the armed forces of Britain had difficulty concentrating soldiers in the correct location, the inability to maintain long-term army in combat readiness, poor locking system as the basic unit of defensive structures, poor knowledge of modern methods of war in Europe, and the lack of attention to these sorts of troops, and the cavalry archers.

In the encounter with the Normans Harold could only count on the army of their county of Wessex, as most thanes refused to support him. The chronicler John of Worcester says Harold managed to collect about 8000 people. English army in numbers corresponded approximately Norman, but qualitatively different in composition and combat characteristics. In other chronicles found comments about the numerical superiority of the British.

In the Anglo-Saxon army as a cavalry arm of the service did not exist at the Anglo-Saxons moved in campaigns on horseback, to participate in the battle, they dismounted. Well-armed and had only huskars heating elements, which had two-handed swords, battle axes Vikings, spears and armor, while firda militia were armed only with clubs, pitchforks, axes and "stones tied to sticks," that is the fact that there was a hand. The British have almost no archers, who were an important part of the combat power of the Norman army. The recent battle with the Norwegians and the rapid march across the country are also strongly depleted British.

By the images on the tapestry of Bayeux warring knights were practically identical in appearance. It also confirms the observation chronicler: "All have distinctive badges, which recognized her, so that Norman could not hit Norman, Frank - Frank".

Chapter 3. Battle of Hastings

The British Army has taken a position on a hill, 11 km north-west of Hastings, but the terrain does not allow to deploy troops in battle array. The Normans were just below the English - near the foot of a hill at an altitude of about 70 meters above sea level. The distance between the fronts of armies was about 200 meters.

Reportedly chroniclers, William divided his army into three parts. The right wing, which is located in the north-east, were the French and Flemish, commanded by William Fitz Osbern, Eustace of Boulogne and the young Robert de Beaumont. In the center of the army settled Normandy, commanded by William himself, and helped him to two half-brother - Count Robert de Mortain and Bishop Odo of Bayeux. The left wing, is located in the south-west, the Bretons were commanded by Allen Golden, son of Ed I de Pentevra. Before each of the three armies Wilhelm put archers (mostly - mercenaries) and crossbowmen. In the second line is the foot soldiers in mail, armed with spears and darts. The third line were the knights. Historians estimate the number of Knights 2 - 2.5 thousand Marines - in 4000, archers and crossbowmen - about a thousand. William himself is nestled on a hillside directly behind their troops.

Anglo-Saxon army is traditionally lined up as follows: the front foot heavy-huskerls were armed with large axes and swords. Before the battle, they are tightly overlapped Concatenates shields, forming a so-called "wall of shields." Their number is estimated at 2000. For serried shields are positioned lightly armed infantry of about 6000. The English archers were practically no.

According to the "Song of the Battle of Hastings» (The Carmen de Hastingae Proelio) battle began Tayerfer Norman knight, who fight song of Roland summoned to fight a knight from the ranks of Harold, killed him and cut off his head as a trophy. Later XII century chronicles report that the British system Tayerfer attacked and killed several knights before he heroically fell.

Norman Archer. Reconstruction

Apparently, Norman attack was unexpected for Anglo-Saxons. This is evidenced by Florence Worcester. Later, the authors report that Harold had to build palisade in front of their positions. General battle began shelling the British series Norman archers and crossbowmen, but the Anglo-Saxons felt safe enough for a solid wall of large shields. Furthermore, the purpose of archers was higher. Archers shoot arrows are almost vertical, then "many English people were wounded in the head and face, lost an eye, so that all were afraid to raise their faces and leave open".

Overall, however, of the archers were not very effective, the British battle lines have suffered enough. And when the supply of arrows was over, went on the attack heavy infantry. Thrown weapons also proved ineffective. In this case, the infantrymen had to climb up the hill, which went down to the south-west. Because of this, the first of the enemy reached the Bretons, Normans left behind, because of what Breton was stripped flank. The British tried to take advantage of this by trying to surround the enemy. Fearing encirclement, the Bretons were forced to retreat under a hail of missile weapons, and the retreat was in flight. Because flank exposed, were forced to retreat and the Normans, and for them - and the French with the Flemings.

Anglo Normans attacking infantry. "Tapestry of Bayeux», XI century.

In an effort to restore order among the Normans, William, along with several colleagues, including Odo of Bayeux and Eustace of Boulogne left the bet. According to the chronicler of Amiens by William Guy killed a horse. Those who saw the fall of the Duke shouted that William

was killed. But Duke got up and found another horse. On the "Bayeux Tapestry" depicts the moment when William, refuting the news of his death, removed his helmet, and Eustace Boulogne points to his face. On this episode also reports chronicler William of Poitiers. Thus it was possible to avoid a stampede of infantry.

In the attack went Norman knight cavalry, but fatal to horses under a hail of darts and arrows, which produced the English, to achieve tight formation of huskerls failed. In addition, according to contemporaries, "Danish ax" (heavy blade to handle up to 1.5 m) cut a knight and his horse with one blow. Attackers Normans shouted: «Dex aïe!» (God willing), the British responded with shouts: «Olicrosse!» (Holy Cross) and «Ut, ut!» (Out, out). Several attacks have failed. As a result, the Knights were forced to retreat.

For retreating Norman cavalry rushed Saxons, leaving a position that was previously inaccessible. Historians argue whether this attack manifestation of indiscipline English, or an order for it gave the King Harold, hoping to win. Unprepared counterattack own ranks upset the British and became for them fatal, since the squad pursuers, leaving elevation, was surrounded by enemy attacks. Chroniclers William of Poitiers and Guy of Amiens, and after them, and several generations of English historians believed retreat false. In their view, Wilhelm is trying to lure the enemy. However, modern historians believe this version is unlikely. In any case, William took the wrong enemy, deploying his knights and killing most of the pursuers.

In the future, the tactics of "false retreat" has already been consciously applied Wilhelm: Norman troops, attacking the British position, represented a retreat, "pulling" of the Anglo-Saxon serried rows of small units, and then turned and smashed them on the plain. By the time Harold's army has lost two major generals - brothers Harold and Geert Leofvina. According to the history depicted in "Bayeux Tapestry", they were killed in the morning.

Successive attacks Normans weakened British, but their resistance continued. By the end of the day center of the Anglo-Saxon army kept fighting positions and defend. William of Malmesbury describes what is happening

"They fought fiercely most of the day, and none of the parties does not agree. Convinced of this, William gave the signal to an imaginary escape from the field of battle. As a result of this trick fighting ranks Angles upset, trying to destroy the enemy retreating in disorder, and was accelerated by the death of their own, for the Normans, turning sharply attacked separated enemies, and put them to flight. So deceived by cunning, they took a glorious death, in revenge for his homeland. Still, they took revenge for himself with a vengeance, and stubbornly resisting, left from his pursuers piles of dead. Taking possession of the hill, they were thrown into the valley the Normans, when those flames, persistently climbed the height, and killed every one, easily blowing in approaching the bottom boom and sliding them with stones. "

The arrow hit the eyes of the British soldier. "Tapestry of Bayeux."

The ultimate fate of the battle decided the death of King Harold. There are two versions of his death.

Version, which modern historians consider the most plausible, given in written shortly after the battle of the source - "Song of the Battle of Hastings" Guy of Amiens. According to her at the end of the day the Normans reached rates of Harold, who defended her huskerly departed. Seeing that there is a fierce battle, accompanied by William Eustace of Boulogne, Guy de Ponthieu and one of the sons Gautier Giffard rode to the rescue. Blow lance one of Norman knights shield Harold broke and struck him in the chest, the other knight cut off the king's head, the third thrust a spear into his belly, and the fourth cut the thigh.

On account of the poem Baudry de Burgeya (written after more than 30 years after the battle) Harold was killed by a random arrow in the eye. This version is reported and William of Malmesbury, "... he fell from an arrow pierced his brain." It is likely that this version goes back to the scene depicted in the tapestry of Bayeux, where the English foot soldier with a spear and a sword allegedly trying to pull the arrow out of his eyes. Shown next to a Norman knight who

kills another with a sword warrior, armed with a large ax. Above them is an inscription in Latin: "Here King Harold was killed." Baudry de Burgh was familiar with the "tapestry of Bayeux" and, perhaps wrongly interpreted this scene as the death of King Harold of arrows.

Chronicle «Roman de Rou» combines both versions. She reports that King Harold was wounded by an arrow in the eye, but pulled out the arrow and continued to fight until he fell to the Norman knights.

The news of the death of the king spread quickly. Left without leaders, the Anglo-Saxon army burst into flight, although the squad continued to fight the king around the body of his lord to the last. William's victory was complete. Several thousand Anglo-Saxons left lying on the battlefield. Harold found next to the body and his brothers. According to William of Malmesbury, cut by the body of King Harold William later gave to his mother Geeta for burial.

Conclusion

In conclusion I would like to sum up some reasons of victory:

- Military resources of the Anglo-Saxon states were quite large, but poorly organized.
- Normans had Cavalry and archers as a part of army but Anglo-Saxons had only huscarls who were military.
- William was just a good leader and had good reputation which helped him to gather such a big army.
- Tactical maneuver in battle of Hastings helped to distract forces of enemy.
- Harold died in battle

I think these are main reasons of Williams success.

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