



**JURIST SAYS COLUMBUS WAS FIRST**

Justice Michael A. Musmanno of the Pennsylvania supreme court holds a copy of his book, "Columbus Was First," in which he disputes a Yale University theory that Vikings discovered America

long before the Genoa navigator ever set sail. Musmanno, son of an Italian immigrant, says he studied the "Vinland Map which was the basis for the Yale finding and found it full of holes — wormholes. He

says the wormholes were faked and don't match. The map, say the Yale men, was bound in a volume that predates Columbus' trip by 50 years. (AP Wirephoto)

**Today Is 900th Anniversary Of Famous Battle Of Hastings**

By PETER BUCKLEY  
HASTINGS, England (CP)—Fat cows graze sedately today over England's most famous battlefield.

But on a fine autumn afternoon, it's not difficult to imagine that Norman archers are forming ranks among the trees in the mist-shrouded valley below Senlac Hill, and that the Battle of Hastings is only now about to reach its historic climax.

Oct. 14 is the 900th anniversary of that renowned battle, when William the Conqueror and his invading troops from Normandy massacred the Saxon forces of King Harold, changing forever the face of England and the character of the English.

The day is being marked with modest but colorful pageants and dignified ceremony in every town and village associated with the Battle of Hastings. The Archbishop of Canterbury and dignitaries from France will attend and, later in the month, the Queen will visit the area.

Still, it is fair to say that in England the date is being commemorated rather than celebrated. And the commemorations have a pinch-penny air about them that can only partly be blamed on the current national austerity.

The historians may insist that hardly an Englishman alive does not have some Norman blood in him as a result of the Battle of Hastings. It remains a fact that some English still see little cause for joy in the victory of those Norman "foreigners" over the "native" arms of King Harold.

**DAY OF MOURNING?**

"All the monuments of the city should be draped in black crepe to celebrate this wicked defeat of the Saxons by this band of freebooters," Alderman Eric Neate of Winchester has said.

Organizers in Hastings speak occasionally of a lack of enthusiasm among the citizenry and the tightness of their commemoration budget. The British government has given only £12,000 to help organize the celebrations. Hastings estimates it will get 1,250,000 visitors this year. The figure looks impressive for a town of 67,000, but it represents only a 25-per-cent increase from previous years for this south-coast resort—an increase modest enough to indicate a general lack of enthusiasm for the anniversary.

The year 1066 is the one date in history every English schoolboy remembers, they say. It was a year crammed with drama and historic change, capped by the day-long battle on the soggy slopes of Senlac Hill, the richest and most cultured nation of Europe open to Norman conquest.

That far back, history tends to be blurred. It would be even hazier if not for the extraordinary Bayeux Tapestry, which painstakingly recorded the year's events with simple figures and Latin phrases, embroidered a few years after the battle on a strip of cloth 19 inches wide and more than 200 feet long. Commissioned by William's half-brother, Bishop Odo, it reposes now in Bayeux, France.

**LEFT NO HEIR**  
The year's history began

Jan. 4 with the death of the saintly King Edward the Confessor in London after a 24-year reign. He left no direct heir. Two days later, his chief adviser and soldier, Harold Godwin, Duke of Wessex, was crowned King of England.

The coronation was accomplished in haste because the succession was questionable. Harold had no royal blood. Several others in England felt their claims to the throne were equally valid and at least two men on the Continent had reason to be outraged—Harald Hardrada, Viking king of Norway, and William II, Duke of Normandy.

Hardrada, the mightiest warrior in northern Europe, claimed the throne on the basis of an old but forgotten treaty. William was a cousin of Edward the Confessor and contended he had been promised the English Crown, a promise he said Harold Godwin had once vowed to uphold. Pope Alexander in Rome supported William's claim, giving his later invasion the pious air of a crusade.

The Normans quickly began building a massive fleet to invade England and King Harold rallied his Saxon forces to resist.

But unfavorable winds kept the Norman fleet in harbor all summer. Much of Harold's army grew restless and scattered.

**VIKINGS DEFEATED**

In mid-September, the Norwegian Hardrada appeared off the northern coast and, helped by Harold's own outlaw brother Tostig and an army of 10,000 Vikings, captured and pillaged a series of English towns.

King Harold turned his attentions north. He force-marched his army to Yorkshire and, in a brilliant battle at Stamford Bridge, wiped out the Viking invaders, killing both Hardrada and Tostig.

Before his men could rest, however, he learned that the winds in the south had changed and William of Normandy had landed on the Sussex coast. He saw no alternative but another forced march to meet the new threat.

The clash which followed pitted two feared commanders and two evenly matched armies. Harold's men were tired from their earlier battle and marches, but many were canny Danish mercenaries armed with fearsome two-handed axes. William's forces were less professional, but they were backed by cavalry and long-bows that Harold didn't have. Neither army numbered more than 8,000 men.

Historians say the battle began at 9:30 a.m. on Senlac Hill, seven miles northwest of here Harold held the brow of the small hill, behind an almost solid wall of Saxon shields. William was left to attack up the slope, hindered on every side by marshy ground.

**HAROLD SLAIN**

Every Norman attack was pushed back during the day. Then in late afternoon the Normans tricked a body of Harold's men away from the main force and slaughtered them.

The Norman cavalry reached the crest of the hill and began to cut down the Saxon defenders, including Harold's brothers Gyth and Leofwin. The end for Harold

came when a volley of Norman arrows was shot high into the air, falling on the Saxons from above and allowing the Normans to complete their victory.

Harold was butchered on the spot. Tradition says his remains were recovered by his mistress, Edith Swan-neck, and transferred later to his beloved Waltham Abbey, north of London.

But there may be no more truth in that story than there is in the tradition that Harold died from an arrow through the eye. Historians now believe that idea came from a misinterpretation of a scene in the Bayeux Tapestry. "Harold Rex interfectus est," the tapestry says simply, over a typical scene of slaughter. "King Harold has been killed."

William the Conqueror and his small army went on to subdue the rest of southern England and the historic year closed with William's coronation on Christmas Day in Westminster Abbey.

Within a few years, an estimated 200,000 Normans flooded across to England to take advantage of William's victory. There were only 1,500,000 people in Britain at the time and the Normans made a permanent impression.

**NORMANS TOOK ESTATES**  
England's language was to be changed beyond description. The richest English lands, the most influential and profitable offices, the greatest estates all passed into Norman hands. The customs and society and architecture of the island took on the feudal stamp of the Continent.

The anniversary of 1066 has provoked a spate of books and articles in England about the Battle of Hastings. Viscount Montgomery of Alamein and other military experts have inevitably written that Harold could have won the battle, if only . . .

But despite the publicity, the scene of the battle gets only a smattering of visitors. A small town called Battle has sprung up since the 13th century around the abbey that William the Conqueror ordered built on the spot to commemorate his victory.

A posh girls' school and the abbey ruins now overlook part of the battle site—a quietly pastoral scene of sloping fields and hedges, ideal for visitors who want to gaze out and dream of long-ago wars.

But the rest of the battle line disappears beneath the Chequers Inn and the prosaic town of Battle.

Perhaps the most significant aspect today is that the whole battlefield is privately owned, scattered around a host of large and small landholders.

It was the scene of the last successful invasion of Britain. But none of the land belongs to the British nation.

**POLICE GET WIDE POWERS**

CAPE TOWN (Reuters)—Senior South African police officers will be empowered to arrest suspected terrorists and saboteurs without a warrant and to detain them for at least 14 days, under a bill published here Thursday. The commissioner of police is empowered to determine where and under what conditions such detainees will be held. Detention for longer than 14 days will require a judge's authorization.

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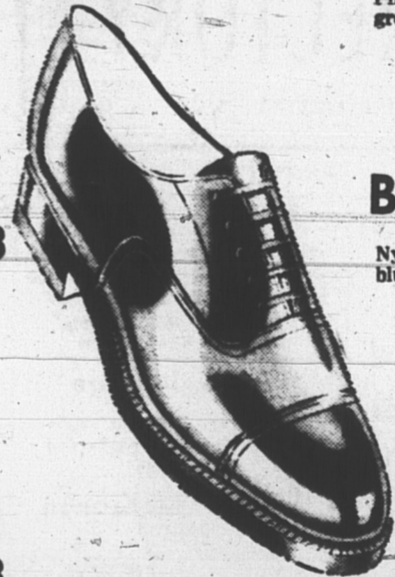
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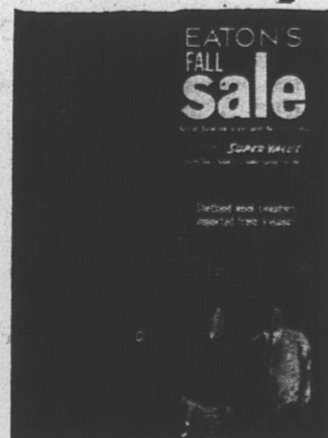


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