



HIBERN ð NORS ð WIRRAL

brunanburh

In the year 937 a great battle was fought near a place called Brunanburh.

On one side there were vikings from Ireland and warriors from Scotland, Strathclyde and the north of Britain. The two main leaders of this army were Anlaf Guthfrithson the King of Dublin and Constantine the King of the Scots.

They faced an army made up of men from the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Mercia, Wessex & even Norse allies. Led by King Æthelstan with his brother Edmund and his cousins Æthelwine and Ælfwine.

The best description we have of the battle comes from poem in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles.

Æthelstan and his brother Edmund fought bravely and alongside spearmen from Mercia and forced back the fearsome vikings, Scots and northern warriors. The battle lasted all day but eventually the vikings and then the Scots began to retreat.

The Mercian spearmen charged forward and were joined by the men from Wessex who, from horseback, chased after Anlaf and Constantine's men. The defeated vikings and Scots were chased all the way back to their ships. Here, more were killed trying to escape across a place called Dingesmere.

Although Æthelstan won many important men had been killed. His cousins Ælfwine and Æthelwine both died. The vikings and Scots lost even more men, the poem tells us that Constantine's son was killed along with five kings and seven of Anlaf's earls.

