

## Committee Introduction

Welcome to THAIMUN IX's HSOC. In this conference, you will no longer be a delegate from some countries but role play as a person that actually existed, and you will have an opportunity to alter the history by writing a directive!

HSOC is newly invented by previous THAIMUN HSOC chairs to adjust the HCC disorganised mechanism, so it is not surprising if you have never participated or heard of HSOC before. In HSOC, there will be two motions (two different historical scenarios) as well as a token system (chairs will submit to you later via email). For this committee, the motions are the Normand Conquest of England 1066 and the Liberators' Civil War of 42 BCE.

**Front Room chairs:** Passin Khankaew ([Nithan\\_kh@harrowschool.ac.th](mailto:Nithan_kh@harrowschool.ac.th)), Khaokhwan Srichai ([khaokhwan@gmail.com](mailto:khaokhwan@gmail.com))

**Backroom chairs:** Yaovaporn (Mok) Sawatthammakit, Raiwin Vongsakajornkit

**HISTORICAL SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**THAIMUN IX**



**The Norman Conquest of England 1066**

## Context

- **PLEASE BE NOTED THAT SINCE THIS IS A HISTORICAL SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, HISTORICAL DEVIATION MAY OCCUR DEPENDING ON DELEGATES' DIRECTIVES AND ACTIONS (Your directives will have implications on your timeline so act wisely!)**
- **The committee timeline will be set on 10th April 1066 when the war had just been declared, and each party had not launched an invasion yet (due to insufficient evidence and information, chairs have decided to set the war declaration date on 10th April 1066).**
- **Since there is King Edward in the allocation, we will suppose that King Edward is alive, however, so severely ill that he could not rule for the time being.**

The Norman Conquest of England in 1066 was a consequence of complicated domestic and international affairs caused by King Edward the Confessor. Because of his unstable political power, Edward exploited his childless marriage as a diplomatic tool by offering the right of succession to various parties: Harold Godwinson, Earl of Wessex and Edward's brother-in-law, and William, Duke of Normandy.

Initially, Edward had promised William succession to the throne; even so, because of Godwinson's political leverage, on his deathbed, he named Harold as his successor. When the news reached William, he was exasperated, demanding Harold to yield his throne. However, Harold refused, leading to the war that changed English culture and politics completely.

Simultaneously, Tostig Godwinson, his exiled brother, joined hands with Harald III Hardrada, the King of Norway, to annex England. This means Harold had to confront parties both from North and South.

On 20th September 1066, Tostig and Harald managed to defeat Edwin, Earl of Mercia, and Morca, Earl of Northumbria, in the Battle of Fulford because, at that time, supplies were depleted resulting from Harold deploying his army guarding the border throughout the summer against the invaders who had not yet arrived; hence, soldiers and peasants were withdrawn to harvest left the border undefended. Nevertheless, five days later, Harold's army rushed to the north, and successfully slaughtered Tostig and Harald in the Battle of Stamford.

As for William, he was impeded by an unfavourable wind in August 1066 and finally landed at Pevensey just a few days after the Battle of Hamford. Harold, once again, had to hasten all the way from North to Hastings. At first, Harold's wall of infantry was able to hold back William's army, but his subordinates: Alan Rufus, Leofwine Godwinson, and Gyrrh Godwinson, disobeyed his command and advanced their troops resulting in the whole army weakened formation, and lost an untold number of their infantry. William took this opportunity to act decisively. He tricked the inexperienced adversary, and eventually defeated the Anglo-Saxon.

# General Timeline

**5th January 1066** - Edward designated Harold as successor.

**6th January 1066** - Harold was crowned as the King of England.

**10th April 1066** - William declared war on England.

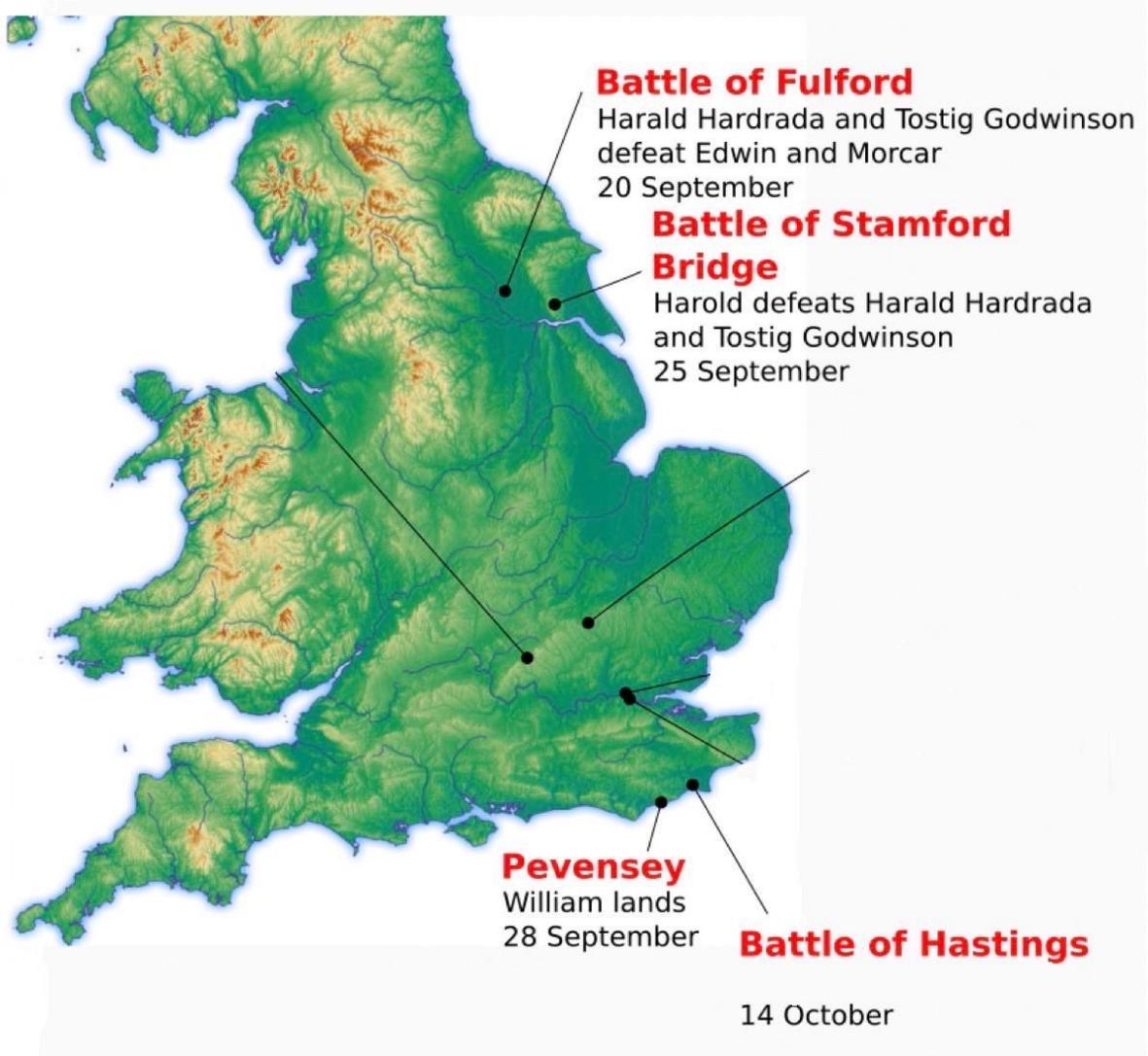
**August 1066** - William launched an invasion, but was delayed by the wind.

**20 September 1066** - Battle of Fulford

**25th September 1066** - Battle of Stamford Bridge

**28th September 1066** - William had arrived at the Pevensey and raided some villages.

**14 October 1066** - Battle of Hastings



## Troops (Battle of Hastings)

Anglo-Saxon: 8,000 infantry stationed on the top of the Senlac hill's ridge

- 6,500 fyrd
- 1,000 heavily-armed skilled contingents
- 500 knights from Kent and Sussex

Normand: 7,500

- 4,000 heavy infantry
- 1,500 markmen
- 2,000 Norman knights
- Supporting infantry led by Odo of Bayeux: 1,000\*

\*Despite the unspecific number of supporting infantry in historical records, we can presume that the supporting infantry comprised 1,000 men.

## Political Context

Despite King's absolute authority, during King Edward's reign, King's arbitrary political influence was crumbled by Godwin's, Earl of Wessex, existence. As Edward grew up in Normandy, he did not have aristocratic support. Accordingly, when he came back to British isle to ascend the throne, he was left no choice but to rely on Godwine's influence to consolidate his government. In return, Edward let Godwin's house sprawl its political leverage, naming its family number to several Earldom. Even after Goswin had perished, his family privilege was not diminished any bit, yet enhanced to the juncture that Harold Godwinson (Godwin's son) was acknowledged as the second king or co-king alongside Edward.

While the Anglo-Saxon court was going through challenging political counterbalance, William was facing opposition to his succession from civilians. William was called the bastard thanks to his origin, being an illegitimate child, which invoked people's wrath. They were apoplectic and were willing to go as far as hitting a tan (his mother was a tanner's daughter, so such a behaviour can be considered as an intolerable sarcasm, and directly defying his authority)

## Key Term & Background Information

### Anglo-Saxon

Anglo-Saxon was a cultural group which primarily settled in the British isle. They established the famous sovereign state "Kingdom of Great Britain" that was successively administered by

the Anglo-Saxon until the Norman conquest of England in 1066 which made King Harold the III the last Anglo-Saxon King.

## Normandy Dukedom

This is a result of the Vikings' invasions of France which ended in a compromise. King Charles the Simple of France ceded Normandy to the Vikings in exchange for the protection of France from other Vikings. In 1066, Normandy was under the reign of Duke William.

## The English Throne as a Diplomatic Tool

Although King Edward's skills to maintain his popularity are weak, his ability to utilise his position as England's head of state is second to none. He used his title and the throne as a diplomatic tool to repel against Godwine's influence in the country, and generate a political turmoil after his death. This is by maintaining his ties with both the Vikings in the North and the Normans and promising his position to various parties. This resulted in the Norman Conquest of 1066 and later the death of the Godwines.

## Norway and Harald Hardrada

Before this period, Norway was considered as a part of the Viking's North Sea Empire which was ruled by a great leader with exceptional abilities, Cnut the Great. Harald Hardrada, who fought a war with his half-brother to claim the Norwegian throne back for Cnut but was defeated, was once a skilled mercenary and military commander in Kyivan Rus' and of the Varangian Guard in the Byzantine Empire while he was in exile. He later came back to claim the Norwegian throne with the help of the pretender Sweyn II of Denmark and co-ruled Norway with King Magnus the Good for some time before becoming the sole ruler of Norway. His reign was rather relatively peaceful and stable with some killings of oppositions. Later, he decided to restore Cnut's "North Sea Empire" by claiming both the British and the Danish throne which led him to his inevitable death at the battle of Stamford Bridge in 1066

## Earl of Wessex

Undoubtedly, the most powerful title in England was only second to the King in the ninth century. Earl of Wessex is a title given to high ranking nobles of the kingdom to reign southwestern part of England's land in an area called Wessex. During King Edward the Confessor's reign, this title belonged to Godwine who for a very long time had an eye on the throne. He expanded his power by using his authority to further persuade King Edward to appoint more sons and relatives to various earldoms, such as Mercia and Northumbria. Edward even married Godwine's daughter, Edith.

Things took a sharp turn in 1051 when Edward outlawed the Godwine family and dismissed Edith. Later, Edward would lose more popularity by appointing foreigners, particularly

Normans, to high positions in the government. This gave the Godwines opportunity to gather large forces and popularity which were big enough to compel Edward to restore their lands and recall Edith as his wife. After that, they exiled many Norman officials against the King's wishes. This resulted in Edward's contempt towards Godwines, and the main reason why he decided to appoint William as his successor rather than Godwine's son, Harold Godwinson.

## Fyrd

Fyrd was an Anglo-Saxon militia mobilised from freemen who were obliged to fulfil military service. To put it in another way, they are peasants in a feudal system that the nobles can impose military service upon in order to protect their estates, in this case their country. Therefore, Fyrd were not well-trained infantry but merely farmers, their discipline and adeptness will never be comparable to knights. Fyrd were also usually required to arm and supply provisions by their own.

## Useful sources for your research

1. General Overview of the Norman Conquest and the Battle of Hastings by Oversimplify  
 [The War that Changed the English Language - Mini-Wars #3](#)
2. A Detailed History of the Norman Conquest of England and the Battle of Hastings' War Strategy  
- by HistoryMarche

 [Battle of Hastings, 1066 AD](#)  [Norman Conquest of England](#)  
- by Kings and Generals

 [Hastings 1066 - Normans vs. Anglo-Saxons DOCUMENTARY](#)

3. Military Equipment of the Anglo-Saxon and Viking by Invicta  
<https://youtu.be/eFZTqAOX2dg>
4. History of the Norman Conquest by Britannica  
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Norman-Conquest>
5. Useful Locations for Strategic Planning written in the Domesday book (1085)  
[Open Domesday](#) - Online Version and an Interactive Map  
[Domesday Book](#) - Background Information of the Domesday book
6. The Godwins Family Tree  
[Earl Godwin Of Wessex : Family tree by comrade28 - Geneanet](#)  
[House of Godwin - Wikipedia](#) - Refer only to the family tree

If you have any inquiries feel free to email [khaokhwan@gmail.com](mailto:khaokhwan@gmail.com), line id: kk.srichai, or instagram khaokhwansrichai

# The Liberators' Civil War of 42 BCE



## **Brief introduction:**

We will assume the conference starting point on October the 3rd, 42 BCE, where the two armies confront at Philippi, after which Marc Antony and the main army of the Triumvir arrive at Amphipolis, with the Liberators' on the defensive and thus fortified near Philippi.

## Brief Timeline:

- March 15th, 44BCE: Julius Caesar Assassinated
- October 3rd, 42 BCE: First battle of Philippi
- October 3rd, 42 BCE: Naval battle on the Ionian sea
- October 23rd, 42 BCE: The second battle of Philippi

**Historical/political context:**

After the victory of the Battle of Mutina, Caesar had secured his position as the most powerful person in Rome. His supremacy was further solidified when he was elected as dictator for 5 years, but later for life, meaning his position was seemingly beyond challenge. This perhaps led to motives for opposition against Caesar to form, be it to halt the growth of his power, prevent his rise to become King and destroy the republic, or simply out of personal vengeance.

Ultimately, Julius Caesar was stabbed 23 times by a group of senators during the senator meeting of March of 44 BCE. The two main conspirators, Marcus Junius Brutus and Gaius Cassius Longinus, were known as the Liberators who had left Italy after capturing control of the Eastern provinces and the allied Eastern Kingdoms.

The Caesarian supporters which made up the Second Triumvirate, consisting of three main leaders: Mark Antony, Octavian (Augustus) and Marcus Aemilius Lepidus, were dead set on seeking vengeance for Julius Caesar, as well as regaining control over the Roman empire.

**Leading up to the confrontation:**

Triumvirs decided to leave Lepidus in Italy, while Antony and Octavian moved to Northern Greece with their best troops of 28 legions. Gaius Norbanus Flaccus and Decidius Saxa were also sent by the triumvirs with an eight-legion advance guard into Macedonia against the murderers of Julius Caesar.

Norbanus and Saxa met the combined advancing troops of Cassius and Brutus at the neighborhood of Philippi. Although Brutus and Cassius managed to make Norbanus leave this position, Norbanus discovered the ruse in time to recover the dominating position near Philippi. Ultimately, Brutus and Cassius managed to outflank them, leading to Norbanus and Saxa retreating toward Amphipolis, where Norbanus would be left in command of the town until Marc Antony and the main army of the Triumvirs would arrive.

This was the position before the Battle of Philippi which consisted of two major engagements in plain areas

\*Note: Octavian is still delayed at Dyrrachium (west of Macedonia) due to health complications



### **Triumvirate troops:**

19 legions, with the notable ones being:

IV VI, VII, VIII, X *Equestris*, XII, III, XXVI, XXVIII, XXIX, and XXX,

\*Note: The legions were almost at full-ranks

### Calvalry force:

13,000 horsemen with Octavian and 20,000 with Antony

### Supporting/supply fleet:

2 legions, commanded by Gnaeus Domitius Calvinus

### **Liberatore's troops:**

19 legions, with the notable ones being:

XXVII, XXXVI, XXXVII, XXXI and XXXIII

On land: 8 with Brutus and 9 with Cassius

On fleet: 2

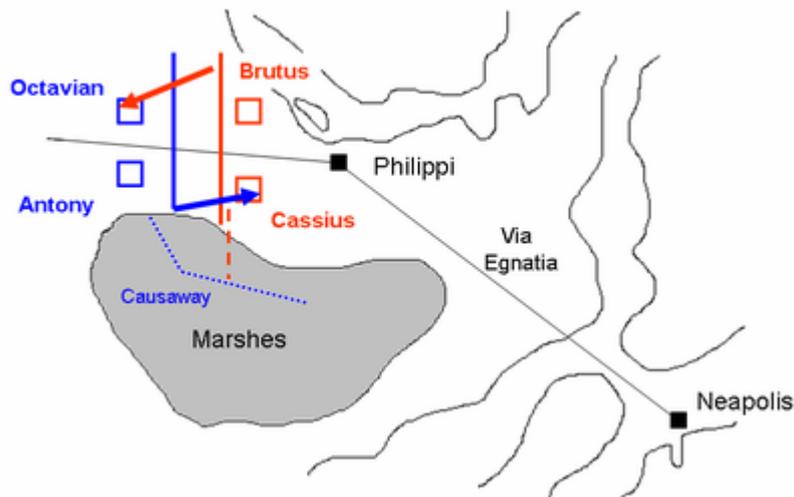
\*Note: Only 2 legions were at *full ranks*, much of the army was reinforced by levies from the Eastern Allied kingdoms. The soldiers were also former Caesarean veterans, which created *morale and loyalty issues*

### Cavalry force:

20,000 horsemen, including 5,000 bowmen mounted in the Eastern fashion

\*Note: Though ancient sources do not specify the amount of soldiers, we can assume that the triumvir legions would add up to 95,000 men and the 17 Liberators' legions to 85,000

### **The first battle of Philippi on the 3rd of October, 42 BC:**



The liberators are fortified near Philippi, refusing to attack in spite of Antony's offer for a battle. This led to Antony attempting to flank the position through a marsh and the construction of a transverse wall to protect Antony's flank as well.

### Key figures/terms:

**Second Triumvirate:** Political alliance between Caesarian supporters of Mark Antony, Octavian (Augustus) and Marcus Aemilius Lepidus.

**The Liberators:** The main conspirators in Julius Caesar's assassination, Marcus Junius Brutus and Gaius Cassius Longinus.

**Liberators War:** A civil war that was initiated by the Second triumvirate to avenge Julius Caesar's murder, with Octavian and Antony's forces engaging in battle with the Liberators' forces.

**Full rank Legion:** consisted of **circa 6,500 men**, of whom 5,300 to 5,500 were soldiers

**King:** The male ruler of the state which is not elected but rather inherits the position, ruling for life.

**Dictator (Roman definition) :** a magistrate with absolute powers, nominated by a consul on recommendation by the Senate and popular assembly

**Octavian (Augustus):** 1st Roman Emperor of the Roman empire, as well as Caesar's adopted son.

**Gaius Norbanus Flaccus:** A Roman politician and general that had pledged allegiance to Octavian.

Marcus Aemilius Lepidus: Roman politician who was an ally of Caesar, albeit the weakest in military strength.

Mark Antony: Support and military commander for Julius Caesar.

Marcus Junius Brutus: One of the main conspirators in the assassination of Julius Caesar.

Gaius Cassius Longinus: Brother in law of Brutus, the instigator in the plot to kill Caesar.

### **Useful sources for more context:**

#### Liberators' Civil War

[Why was Julius Caesar assassinated - DailyHistory.org](https://www.dailyhistory.org/why-was-julius-caesar-assassinated/)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second\\_Triumvirate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Triumvirate)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberators%27\\_civil\\_war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberators%27_civil_war)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Philippi#First\\_battle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Philippi#First_battle)

\*There are not many online data for this specific event, therefore research on strategic formations and the diplomatic standing of the Romans may be beneficial in winning this particular battle.

#### War strategy

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iz1\\_UwD2Fw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iz1_UwD2Fw)

<https://www.ancienthistorylists.com/rome-history/top-roman-military-tactics/>

<https://spartacus-educational.com/ROMmilitary.htm>

#### Roman history/diplomacy

<https://www2.classics.upenn.edu/myth/php/remyth/index.php?page=romanempire>

For any further queries, feel free to contact me through email at

[Nithan\\_kh@harrowschool.ac.th](mailto:Nithan_kh@harrowschool.ac.th).

