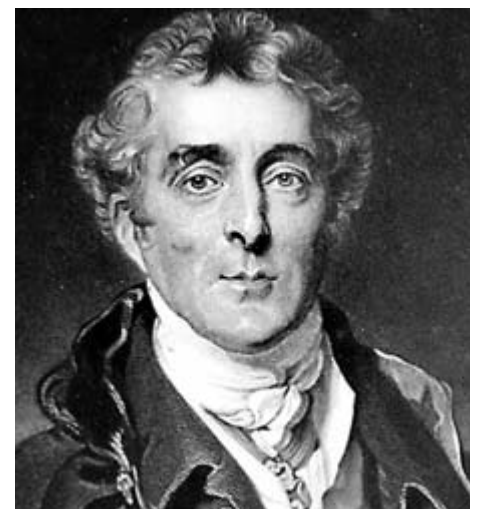


Tourist guide blunder says Wellington was at the Battle of Hastings



HERO: Wellington won battle of Waterloo



ONE IN THE EYE: Bayeux Tapestry tells it like it was – and Wellington wasn't there

THE Duke of Wellington was a marvellous chap but he didn't do much for us at the Battle of Hastings – because he was born 700 years after the event.

He certainly would have looked out of place on the Bayeux Tapestry.

But one tourist guide to the town of Battle seems to have him down as a bit of a Time Lord, travelling back to 1066 to vanquish King Harold.

The Battle Town Map And Guide tells visitors to the East Sussex town how the Duke of Wellington crossed the Channel to confront Harold's army there.

That would certainly have given Napoleon a fighting chance when he faced the Duke at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

But it would have left William the Conqueror scratching his head somewhat.

Proud residents of the historic town were amused by the error. Fred Carver, of the Battle Museum of Local History, said: "I'm obviously living in the wrong place or time. Or have we been rather misguided in thinking William the Conqueror ever came here?"

Shopkeeper Shelagh Duffill added: "My initial reaction was 'oh dear!' It's a good idea – but what a shame they did not get it proof-read first."

Cityscape Maps was forced to ditch the guide after the historical howler was spotted when it

By **Martyn Brown**

was distributed to advertisers and the town council.

Shop worker Emma Jewett said: "I think it's quite funny. It's quite a big mess-up. Obviously someone didn't proof-read it properly."

But not everyone found it funny.

Julie Cowpland, who owns the Powdermills Hotel where the Duke of Wellington stayed when the site was still a gunpowder works, said: "It is ridiculous saying he was here in 1066."

The town council was not

'Was William the Conqueror never really here?'

offered the chance to proof-read the guide before it made it into print, and only came across the mistake when it received its copy on Monday.

Town clerk Peter Mills said: "The town council is supportive of this initiative and worked closely with Cityscape Maps, but it's a shame we did not get chance to proof-read this map before it went to print and pick up this blunder."

"Once we sort out this unfortunate error we are looking forward to this new attraction to pro-

mote the town." Bosses at Cityscape Maps have apologised for the mistake and are hastily arranging for new guides to be printed – this time crediting William of Normandy for the Norman Conquest.

Managing director Les Ball said: "We are aware there is an error on the Battle map and guide. We will be going to press shortly, with any errors rectified accordingly."

The corrected guide, which will be available in the town for £1 later in the year, includes a map and comprehensive details of the Battle Town Trail.

The guide, however, is not alone in putting forward a rather unorthodox version of the events of 1066.

A new play now claims that, far from being killed by an arrow in the eye, King Harold was merely injured in the fight.

Allan Glassbrook's *To Meet My Death* claims Harold underwent battlefield surgery to cure a gangrenous leg.

He, his wife and two children then retired to live out their lives peacefully in France.

Viking expert Mr Glassbrook says the famous death was a fabrication of Norman spin doctors.

He says the Bayeux Tapestry actually shows a common soldier getting an arrow in his eye, with King Harold pictured nearby – having his leg cut off to avoid gangrene from an earlier battle injury.

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£20m fine for water bills scam

CUSTOMERS of Southern Water are to get a refund of £10 each after it was fined a record £20.3 million for fiddling its performance figures, it emerged last night.

Staff lied to watchdog Ofwat about service and the time taken to deal with complaints. As a result the company was allowed to raise charges.

Southern is refunding increases of £18million to all its two million customers. Two members of staff have been sacked.

Ofwat chief executive Regina Finn said: "Southern Water behaved unacceptably in deliberately misreporting customer service performance."

Southern Water chief executive Les Dawson referred to "a shameful period" before the current management took over.

"This will never happen again and once again we apologise to our customers," he said.

The company will keep its price increase below the amount permitted by Ofwat to April 2009, amounting to an average refund of £10 per customer, it said.



BENAZIR: Killed by explosion

Yard ruling on Bhutto

PAKISTANI opposition leader Benazir Bhutto was killed by a bomb blast head injury, not by a gun shot, Scotland Yard experts have concluded.

Their report backs an official government version of the politician's murder in Rawalpindi in December.

The British anti-terrorist experts found she was probably killed by a lone assassin, who also fired shots, and not by two as many had speculated.

She died when she was thrown against the roof of her armoured vehicle.

Coroner: 14 suicides not linked

A TEENAGER who became the 14th youngster in a year to take her own life in a town blighted by suicide was drinking heavily on the day she died, an inquest heard yesterday.

Coroner Philip Walters spoke of his concerns about young suicides and called for a national strategy to deal with the problem. But he ruled out a "commonality between these deaths".

Shop worker Angie Fuller, 18, was drinking with her fiancé Joel Williams and friends on the day she died at her home in Bridgend, South Wales.

Her death reignited fears that the borough was in the grip of a copycat suicide epidemic.

The hearing was told Miss Fuller was drinking with Joel and two friends for "several hours".

Joel fell asleep and when he woke up he found her body hanging on the landing. Her blood alcohol level was twice the drink-drive limit.

Mr Walters adjourned the inquest for more investigations.