

## Victory at Brynglas!

### Welsh rebels triumph over English and Mortimer

Celtic Life  
International



Image of Battle of Brynglas

#### The Welsh Revolt: How it all began

In the year 1400, tensions were high, people in Wales were brought under scrutiny and were sick and tired of being oppressed by the English who thought that they were all-powerful, superior humans. They had started to plan a rebellion, to break free of England's control. At the helm was Owain Glyndwr, self-proclaimed Prince of Wales. Following a quarrel with Lord Grey of Ruthin over land, in which King Henry the 4<sup>th</sup> had been claimed to have sided with the Englishman, Glyndwr cracked. Sources suggest that this was what started the Welsh Revolt.

#### What happened during the battle?

In 1402, following the Battle of Mynydd Hyddgen, in which neither side came out victorious, yet Glyndwr gained mass supporters from, the Welsh set up camp on a little hill known as Brynglas, near the village of Pilleth in Powys. Reporters said that through the Lugg valley marched an incredibly huge English force, led by Sir Edmund Mortimer, which made the Welsh forces look like an ant to a fox. However, even though Mortimer had the numbers and the backing of the King, journalists say he was trembling by looking at the fierceness and tenacity of the Welsh, unafraid in the face of death. Mortimer also worried about the burgeoning numbers of Glyndwr's supporters.

The battle started and Mortimer's English started to climb the slope, only to be met by a rainfall of arrows from the Welsh. This caused most of Mortimer's archers to turn against their leader and fight for the Welsh. During the hand-to-hand combat, swords and axes flying across the battlefield, the remainder of Owain's rebels who had hidden in the valley, pounced on the English forces from the right flank and the rear. The battle finished in a disorderly retreat from a defeated English army, dragging away what was left of the mass force that arrived at Brynglas. In the end, Lord Mortimer, head of the English troops, was captured in Dolbadarn Castle near Llanberis. Owain is asking for a ransom of 1500 gold bars for Mortimer's return to England.

#### After the battle: Interview with Owain Glyndwr

Our first question with the victor of yesterday's battle was "How do you feel about the events of yesterday?" Owain said that it was "a well-deserved victory. We fought hard, pushed through and our effort reaped its reward."

Next, we consulted about the wellbeing and feeling of his soldiers and generals. Owain reported that "Morale is high, and with each success in battle, we grow stronger, larger and more determined to fight to keep Wales in good hands."

Finally, Owain explained how "We shall not let success get to our heads. Now that we have conquered this land, we can focus on the strongholds, the castles. I must go now; we have sieges to plan."

