

Saxons Viking And Norman Men At Arms Series 85

When Norwegian Vikings first raided the European coast in the 8th century AD, their leaders were from the middle ranks of warriors known as hersirs. At this time the hersir was typically an independent landowner or local chieftain with equipment superior to that of his followers. By the end of the 10th century, the independence of the servant of the Norwegian king. This book investigates these brutal, mobile warriors, and examines their tactics and psychology in war, dispelling the idea of the Viking raider as simply a killing machine.

The second in Amberley Publishing's wargaming series covers the Dark Ages.

Drawing from recent archaeological and linguistic evidence, as well as more traditional literary and narrative sources, the author distinguishes between the initial phase of migrations in the ninth and tenth centuries, and the secondary period of settlement up to c. 1100 AD. He emphasizes, too, the differences in nature and intensity of the developing into the historic kingdoms of England and Scotland, and the more complex political structures of Wales and Ireland. Throughout the book, the effects of the Scandinavian invasions on Britain are set within the wider European context.

ENGLAND'S DEFINING MOMENT IN HISTORY ONE THOUSAND YEARS AGO ON ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DATES IN ENGLISH HISTORY A NORMAN DUKE LED THE LAST INVASION OF ENGLAND TO BECOME KING OF ENGLAND APPOINTED DUKE OF NORMANDYAT THE AGE OF EIGHT ON THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER HE SURVIVED ATTEMPTS ON HIS LIFE AND GREW UP IN A MEDIEVAL WORLD FULL OF INTRIGUE, TREACHERY AND VENGEANCE AFTER YEARS OF CONFLICT HE BECAME THE MOST POWERFUL FEUDAL WARLORD IN NORMANDY AND GAINED THE FRIENDSHIP OF HIS GREATEST RIVAL, HAROLD, THE SAXON EARL. UNTIL THE FINAL CONFRONTATION ON THE FIELD NEAR HASTINGS GAVE HIM THE CROWN THIS IS 1066, THE LEGEND OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

The Vikings in Britain

Viking Warrior vs Anglo-Saxon Warrior

England's Conqueror

1066 The Conquest

The Wargamer's Guide to Dark Age Britain

The Conqueror

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel Level: GCSE Subject: History First teaching: September 2016 First exams: June 2018 Endorsed for Edexcel Enable students to achieve their full potential while ensuring pace, enjoyment and motivation with this popular series from the leading History publisher for secondary schools. br

Blends in-depth coverage of topics with activities and strategies to help students to acquire, retain and revise core subject knowledge brbr Uses an exciting mix of clear narrative, visual stimulus materials and a rich collection of contemporary sources to capture students' interestbrbr Helps students to maximise their grade potential and develop their exam skills through structured guidance on answering every question type successfullybrbr Builds on our experience publishing popular GCSE History resources, providing you with accurate, authoritative content written by experienced teachers who understand the content and assessment requirementsbr

Money in the Middle Ages - Battle of Hastings - Vikings - Saxon initials - Heraldic symbols.

If there is one thing we can be sure of concerning the Saxons, Vikings and Normans who inhabited the medieval world, it is that they were a good deal more advanced than some writings would have us believe. This fascinating book by Terence Wise explores the history, organization, clothing, equipment and weapons of Saxon, Viking and Norman peoples, covering wide-ranging topics such as Anglo-Saxon shields, Viking raiding ships and the organization of Norman armies.The absorbing and readable text is enriched by numerous illustrations and museum photographs with commentaries, plus eight superbly drawn full page colour plates by renowned military artist Gerry Embleton.

Throughout the 11th and 12th centuries the Norman knight was possibly the most feared warrior in Western Europe. He was descended originally from the Vikings who had settled in Northern France under their leader Rollo in or around 911 at the behest of Charles the Simple and throughout the following centuries they remembered and built on their warlike reputation. This book shows how their military prowess was renowned throughout the known world and resulted in Normans conquering Sicily in 1060 and England in 1066, as well as participating in many important battles in Italy and playing a major part in the First Crusade.

A Story of the Norman Conquest

Precious Norman Honor

Hastings 1066

My Adventures in the World of Historical Reenactment

Saxon, Viking and Norman

The eruption of exciting, historically accurate fiction for young readers comes this tale of loyalty and courage in 11th-century Britain. Wulf and his best friend, Beorn, fight bravely for their Saxon king – capturing castles, rescuing shipwrecked survivors, repelling Viking invaders, and fighting the Battle of Hastings.

The Longman Anthology of Old English, Old Icelandic and Anglo-Norman Literatures provides a scholarly and accessible introduction to the literature which was the inspiration for many of the heroes of modern popular culture, from The Lord of the Rings to The Chronicles of Narnia, and which set the foundations of the English language and its literature as we know it today. Edited, translated and annotated by the editors of Beowulf and Other Stories, the anthology introduces readers to the rich and varied literature of Britain, Scandinavia and France of the period in and around the Viking Age. Ranging from the Old English epic Beowulf through to the Anglo-Norman texts which heralded the transition Middle English, thematically organised chapters present elegies, eulogies, laments and followed by material on the Viking Wars in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, Vikings gods and Icelandic sagas, and a final chapter on early chivalry introduces the new themes and forms which led to Middle English literature, including Arthurian Romances and Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. Laying out in parallel text format selections from the most important Old English, Old Icelandic and Anglo-Norman works, this anthology presents translated and annotated texts with useful bibliographic references, prefaced by a headnote providing useful background and explanation.

A new chapter in the epic Earls of Mercia saga. England: The Second Viking Age To gain what he wanted, what he felt he was owed, he would do anything, even if it meant breaking his oaths to a woman he loved and the mother of his son. Swain, King of Denmark, and briefly England, lies dead, his son ousted from England as King Aethelred returns from his exile in Normandy at the behest of his Witan and the bishops. Aethelred might have relinquished his kingdom to Swain, the Danish conqueror, but with Swain dead, the men have no interest in supporting an untried youth whose name resounds with the murder of one of England's greatest bishop's, a youth known only for his savagery and joy of battle, a true horse man who utilizes his weapons without thought. But Cnut wants a kingdom and he will do anything to gain one. As England is ravaged by a civil war between the sons of the former king, Edmund, son of King Aethelred, and Cnut, son of Swain, the men must make personal decisions in the heat of battle as they strive to reclaim their birchrights whilst doing all they can to stay alive. Cnut: the Conqueror, is an Earls of Mercia side story (full length novel) to mark the millennial anniversary of Cnut's accession to the English kingdom in 1016.

Saxon, Viking and NormanOsprey Publishing

From the Vikings to the High Middle Ages

Saxons, Vikings, and Celts: The Genetic Roots of Britain and Ireland

Anglo-Saxon Thegn AD 449-1066

Sources and Interpretations of Anglo-Saxon Warfare in the Viking Age

A History of the Beginnings of England: 400 - 1066

Saxons, Vikings, Normans

From the best-selling author of The Seven Daughters of Eve, a perfect book for anyone interested in the genetic history of Britain, Ireland, and America. One of the world's leading geneticists, Bryan Sykes has helped thousands find their ancestry in the British Isles. Saxons, Vikings, and Celts, which resulted from a systematic ten-year DNA survey of more than 10,000 volunteers, traces the true genetic makeup of the British Isles and its descendants, taking readers from the Picts and the Celts in North Wales to the red-haired and the tomb of King Arthur. This illuminating guide provides a much-needed introduction to the genetic history of the people of the British Isles and their descendants throughout the world.

In the time of the great Anglo-Saxon kings like Alfred and Athelstan, theled and Edmund Ironside, what was warfare really like how were the armies organized, how and why did they fight, how were the warriors armed and trained, and what was the Anglo-Saxon experience of war? As Paul Hill demonstrates in this compelling new study, documentary records and the growing body of archaeological evidence allows these questions to be answered with more accuracy than ever before. His broad, detailed and graphic account of the conduct of war in the Anglo-Saxon world in the unstable, violent centuries before the Norman Conquest will be illuminating reading for anyone who wants to learn about this key stage of medieval history.The role of violence and war in Anglo-Saxon society is explored, in particular the parts played by the king and the noblemen, and the means by which, in times of danger, the men of the fyrd were summoned to fight. The controversial subject of the Anglo-Saxon use of cavalry is also explored. Land and naval warfare are central sections of Paul Hills book, but he also covers the politics and diplomacy of warfare the conduct of negotiations, the taking of hostages and the use of treachery.The weapons and armor of the Anglo-Saxons are described the spears, the scramsaxes, axes, bows, swords, helmets, shields and mail that were employed in the close-quarter fighting of the day. Among the most valuable sections of the study are those dealing, in vivid detail, with actual experience of battle and siege with the brutal reality of combat as it is revealed by campaigns against the Danes, in the battles of Ashdown, Maldon and Stamford Bridge, and sieges at Reading and Rochester.

*How did the Danes finally conquer the Anglo-Saxons? This is the Saga of the great Viking Dynasty and their plan to counter the hegemony of Roman Christianity, by counter attacking, by counter attacking, first with Viking raids and later by conquest and settlement. Shows the web of marriages, alliances and the planning that went into the final push that culminated at the Battle of Hastings. *with detailed genealogies This edition of Michael Wood's groundbreaking first book explores the fascinating and mysterious centuries between the Romans and the Norman Conquest of 1066. In Search of the Dark Ages vividly conjures up some of the most famous names in British history, such as Queen Boadicea, leader of a terrible war of resistance against the Romans, and King Arthur, the 'once and future king', for whose riddle Wood proposes a new and surprising solution. Here too, wars and all, are the Saxon, Viking and Norman kings who laid the political foundations of England - Offa of Mercia, Alfred the Great, Athelstan, and William the Conqueror, whose victory at Hastings in 1066 marked the end of Anglo-Saxon England. Reflecting recent historical, textual and archaeological research, this revised edition of Michael Wood's classic book overturns preconceptions of the Dark Ages as a shadowy and brutal era, showing them to be a richly exciting and formative period in the history of Britain. 'With In Search of the Dark Ages, Michael Wood wrote the book for history on TV.' The Times 'Michael Wood is the maker of some of the best TV documentaries ever made on history and archaeology.' Times Literary Supplement*

The Fall of Saxon England

Lost Battlefields of Wales

Empires of the Normans

William I (Penguin Monarchs)

Wargame 1066

Examines the rise of this powerful warrior tribe of the Dark Ages that dominated vast lands of Europe from the Baltic Sea to Sicily, established their own kingdom, and eventually came to rule the British Isles in 1066 A.D. Original.

The Bayeux Tapestry is the world's most famous textile—an exquisite 230-foot-long embroidered panorama depicting the events surrounding the Norman Conquest of 1066. It is also one of history's most mysterious and compelling works of art. This haunting stitched account of the battle that redrew the map of medieval Europe has inspired dreams of theft, waves of nationalism, visions of limitless power, and esthetic rapture. In his fascinating new book, Yale professor R. Howard Bloch reveals the history, the hidden meaning, the deep beauty, and the enduring allure of this astonishing piece of cloth. Bloch opens with a gripping account of the event that inspired the Tapestry: the swift, bloody Battle of Hastings, in which the Norman bastard William defeated the Anglo-Saxon king, Harold, and laid claim to England under his new title, William the Conqueror. But to truly understand the connection between battle and embroidery, one must retrace the web of international intrigue and scandal that climaxed at Hastings. Bloch demonstrates how, with astonishing intimacy and immediacy, the artisans who fashioned this work of textile art brought to life a moment that changed the course of British culture and history. Every age has cherished the Tapestry for different reasons and read new meaning into its enigmatic words and images. French nationalists in the mid-nineteenth century, fired by Tapestry's evocation of military glory, unearthed the lost French epic “The Song of Roland,” which Norman troops sang as they marched to victory in 1066. As the Nazis tightened their grip on Europe, Hitler sent a team to France to study the Tapestry, decode its Nordic elements, and at the end of the war, with Paris under siege, bring the precious cloth to Berlin. The richest hoard of buried Anglo-Saxon treasure, the matchless beauty of Byzantine silk, Aesop's strange fable “The Swallow and the Linseed,” the colony that Anglo-Saxon nobles founded in the Middle East following their defeat at Hastings—all are brilliantly woven into Bloch's riveting narrative. Seamlessly integrating Norman, Anglo-Saxon, Viking, and Byzantine elements, the Bayeux Tapestry ranks with Chartres and the Tower of London as a crowning achievement of medieval Europe. And yet, more than a work of art, the Tapestry served as the suture that bound up the wounds of 1066. Enhanced by a stunning full-color insert that includes reproductions of the complete Tapestry, A Needle in the Right Hand of God will stand with The Professor and the Madman and How the Irish Saved Civilization as a triumph of popular history.

In these books, Peter Dennis sets the paper soldiers of the 19th century marching again across the war games tables of the 21st. All the troop types of the wars are represented in full color in a format designed to create stands of soldiers which can be used to re-fight these epic struggles for the control of Britain. Although the figures can be used with any of the commercial sets of war-game rules, an introduction to war-gaming and a simple set of rules by veteran war gamer Andy Callan is included, along with buildings, trees and even Viking ships to transport Harald Hardrada s men to meet their fate at Stamford Bridge.

The Arthurian Age: the Celtic Twilight of the Dark Ages; the Birth of England; these are the powerfully romantic names often given to one of the most confused yet vital periods in British history. It is an era upon which rival Celtic and English nationalisms frequently fought. It was also a period of settlement, and of the sword. This absorbing volume by David Nicolle transports us to an England shrouded in mystery and beset by savage conflict, a land which played host to one of the most enduring figures of our history – Arthur.

The God-Kings of England

The Anglo-Saxons

A Brief History of the Normans

Hodder GCSE History for Edexcel: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060-88

A Men-At-Arms Series

Man of War

The 80 Years' War (also known as the Dutch War of Independence) was the foundation of Dutch nationhood, and during the course of the conflict one of its main leaders – Maurice of Orange-Nassau – created an army and a tactical system that became a model throughout Europe. This study, the first of a two-part series, focuses on the Dutch infantry. It examines how Maurice of Orange-Nassau attracted volunteers and students from across Europe, introduced innovative new training methods such as common drill movements, and standardised the organisation and payment system of the army to make it more than a match for the surrounding Spanish. His successes inspired officers and generals across the continent to copy his methods, including many English officers who went on to fight in the English Civil Wars. Featuring full-colour artwork and rare period illustrations, this book examines how the Dutch infantry was transformed into a fighting force able to defeat the might of Imperial Spain.

On Christmas Day 1066, William, duke of Normandy was crowned in Westminster, the first Norman king of England. It was a disaster: soldiers outside, thinking shouts of acclamation were treachery, torched the surrounding buildings. To later chroniclers, it was an omen of the catastrophes to come. During the reign of William the Conqueror, England experienced greater and more seismic change than at any point before or since.

Marc Morris's concise and gripping biography sifts through the sources of the time to give a fresh view of the man who changed England more than any other, as old ruling elites were swept away, enemies at home and abroad (including those in his closest family) were crushed, swathes of the country were devastated and the map of the nation itself was redrawn, giving greater power than ever to the king. When, towards the end of his reign, William undertook a great survey of his new lands, his subjects compared it to the last judgement of God, the Domesday Book. England had been transformed forever.

A brilliant global history of the Normans, who – beyond the conquest of England – spread their empire to eventually dominate Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East. 14th October 1066. As Harold II, the last crowned Anglo-Saxon king of England, lay dying in Sussex, the Duke of Normandy was celebrating an unlikely victory. William “The Bastard” had emerged from interloper to successor of the Norman throne. He had survived the carnage of the Battle of Hastings and, two months later on Christmas day, he would be crowned king of England. No longer would Anglo-Saxons or Vikings rule England; this was now the age of the Normans. A momentous event in European history, the defeat of the Anglo-Saxons had the most dramatic effect of any defeat in the high Middle Ages. In a few short months, the leader of northern France became the dominant ruler of Britain. Over the coming decades, the Anglo-Saxon kingdom would be rebuilt around a new landowning class. During the next century, as the Norman kings laid the foundations of modern Britain, their power would spread irresistibly across Europe. From Scandinavia down to Sicily, Malta, and Seville, the Normans built magnificent castles and churches. They created a new Europe in the image of their own nobility, recording their power with unprecedented vision, including the Domesday Book. Empire of the Normans tells the extraordinary story of how the descendants of Viking marauders in northern France came to dominate Europe, Mediterranean, and Middle Eastern politics. It is a tale of ambitious adventures and fierce pirates, of fortunes made and fortunes lost. Across the generations, the Normans made their influence felt across Western Europe and the Mediterranean, from the British Isles to North Africa and even to the Holy Land, with a combination of military might, political savvy, deeply held religious beliefs, and a profound sense of their own destiny.

Traces the author's visits to reenactment sites throughout America where the author has participated in stagings of famous military battles, explaining the motivations behind such activities and the ways in which active participation taught him about historical events.

The Genetic Roots of Britain and Ireland

The Vikings

Everyday Life in Roman and Anglo-Saxon Times, Including Viking and Norman Times

Conquerors of Europe

Norman Knight AD 950-1204

Everyday Life in Anglo-Saxon, Viking and Norman Times

Fought on 14th October 1066 between Duke William of Normandy and Harold Godwinson, king of England, the Battle of Hastings irrevocably changed the course of English history. William's victory ensured his accession to the English throne. Hastings was also decisive in another way: the horrendous casualties suffered by the English nobility both there and at the two earlier battles of Fulford and Stamford Bridge resulted in there being very few men influential enough to lead an English resistance once William had been crowned. William would survive long enough to successfully found a Norman dynasty of English kings.

Takes us through the numerous battles in Wales.

A sweeping and original history of the Anglo-Saxons by national bestselling author Marc Morris. Sixteen hundred years ago Britain left the Roman Empire and swiftly fell into ruin. Grand cities and luxurious villas were deserted and left to crumble, and civil society collapsed into chaos. Into this violent and unstable world came foreign invaders from across the sea, and established themselves as its new masters. The Anglo-Saxons traces the turbulent history of these people across the next six centuries. It explains how their earliest rulers fought relentlessly against each other for glory and supremacy, and then were almost destroyed by the onslaught of the vikings. It explores how they abandoned their old gods for Christianity, established hundreds of churches and created dazzlingly intricate works of art. It charts the revival of towns and trade, and the origins of a familiar landscape of shires, boroughs and bishoprics. It is a tale of famous figures like King Offa, Alfred the Great and Edward the Confessor, but also features a host of lesser known characters - ambitious queens, revolutionary saints, intolerant monks and grasping nobles. Through their remarkable careers we see how a new society, a new culture and a single unified nation came into being. Drawing on a vast range of original evidence - chronicles, letters, archaeology and artefacts - renowned historian Marc Morris illuminates a period of history that is only dimly understood, separates the truth from the legend, and tells the extraordinary story of how the foundations of England were laid.

From the creator of exciting, historically accurate fiction for readers of all age groups comes this tale of loyalty and courage in 11th-century Britain. Wulf and his best friend, Beorn, fight bravely for their Saxon king-capturing castles, rescuing shipwrecked survivors, repelling Viking invaders, and fighting the Battle of Hastings.

Daily Life in Anglo-Saxon England

Wulf the Saxon

DANES SAXONS and NORMANS - Stories of our Ancestors

Medieval Military Medicine

In Search of the Dark Ages

Cnut

In the two centuries before the Norman invasion of England, Anglo-Saxon and Viking forces clashed repeatedly in bloody battles across the country. Repeated Viking victories in the 9th century led to their settlement in the north of the country, but the tide of war ebbed and flowed until the final Anglo-Saxon victory before the Norman Conquest. Using stunning artwork, this book examines in detail three battles between the two deadly foes: Ashdown in 871 which involved the future Alfred the Great; Maldon in 991 where an Anglo-Saxon army sought to counter a renewed Viking threat; and Stamford Bridge in 1066, in which King Harold Godwinsson abandoned his preparations to repel the expected Norman invasion in order to fight off Harald Hard-Counsel of Norway. Drawing upon historical accounts from both English and Scandinavian sources and from archaeological evidence, Gareth Williams presents a detailed comparison of the weaponry, tactics, strategies and underlying military organization of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, and considers the developments which took place on both sides in the two centuries of Viking incursions into Anglo-Saxon England.

No description available. The author has endeavoured to tell the events preceding the Norman Conquest in a popular manner, and to give an idea of the principal personages who figured in England at the period when that memorable event took place. He also endeavoured to treat the subject in a popular and picturesque style, without sacrificing the of historic truth. He has delivered a sweeping history of the major events in British history from the ninth century AD to the end of the Norman Conquest more than 200 years later, featuring the fascinating stories of the series of Vikings, Saxons, and Normans who blazed their way across England during that tumultuous time. Read of Rollo the Norman ("Rolfganger"), a Viking and first duke of Normandy, and his most famous descendant, William the Conqueror; and of the Danish invasion under Earl Godwin, the restoration of the Anglo-Saxon kings under Edward the Confessor, and many others, including the adventurers Siward the Dane, Harold Hardrada the Norwegian, Hereward the Saxon and others. ===== About the author: John George Edgar (1834-1864) was, despite his short life, a prolific English writer who produced fifteen books devoted to English and Scottish history, as well as being the first editor of Every Boy's Magazine. His life and work were tragically cut short by encephalemia at the young age of thirty. ===== KEYWORDS/TAGS: Danes Saxons and Normans, sweeping history, norman conquest, principal characters, ninth century, eleventh century, 9th C, 11th C, 10th C, Vikings, Rollo, Rolfganger, action, adventure, historical, fact, confessor, Ulif Uspakson, Alfred, Archbishop, army, assembly, Atheling, barons, Battle abbey, battle, Bayeux, Beaulcero, Bishop, Britain Briton blood, british history, English history, Canute, castle, cavalry, ceremony, Conqueror, Cospatrick, Count, country, crown, Danes, Denmark, duke, Durham, Earl, Edgar, Edward, Edwin, England, English, escape, Ethelred, exile, expedition, Fight Fitzosborne, Flanders, France, French, God, Godwin, gold, great, Hardicanute, Hardrada, Harold, Hastings, heart, Henry, Hereward, Holy, Hugh, Invade, Ivo, king, knights, Lanfranc, Leofric, London, Malcolm, Matilda, monks, Morkar, nobles, Norman, Normandy, north, Northumberland, Norwegians, oath, Odo, palace, Philip, Prince, Princess, Queen, Robert, Rolfganger, Rouen, royal, Rufus, Saxon, Scotland, Scotts, Scottish, Siward, soldiers, spirit, Swyn, sword, throne, Tostig, vanquish, Waltheof, war, warriors, Welsh, Westminster, William, Winchester, York

The collapse of Roman rule in Britain was not so much a sudden catastrophe as a long and drawn-out decline. The "Celtic" Britons retreated gradually to the highland areas of Wales, Cornwall and the south-west of Scotland. Control of the fertile eastern lowlands was lost to warriors of Germanic origin who migrated from the Continent. These Germanic conquerors have become known to history as the "Anglo-Saxons". They were to dominate the lowland zone of Britain until their final defeat at Hastings in 1066. This title gives an insight into the everyday life, equipment, dress, battle tactics and life on campaign of the typical Anglo-Saxon warrior of this period – the thegn.

Infantry

Arthur and the Anglo-Saxon Wars

The Anglo-Saxons at War, 800-1066

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

Dutch Armies of the 80 Years' War 1568-1648 (1)

A Needle in the Right Hand of God

An introduction to the daily life of men, women and children living in England from the end of Roman Britain in the 5th century AD to the Norman Conquest, based on documentary and archaeological evidence.

A study based on a decade-long DNA survey traces the genetic makeup of British islanders and their descendants, ranging from prehistoric times to the genetic heritage of Americans of British descent.

The history of the Vikings is bloody and eventful, and Viking warriors capture the popular imagination to this day. They made history, establishing the dukedom of Normandy, providing the Byzantine Emperors' bodyguard and landing on the shores of America 500 years before Columbus. Beautifully illustrated with colour photographs and original Osprey artwork, this book presents a new window into their way of life including detailed studies of the Hersir, the raiding warrior of the Viking world, and the legendary Viking longship.

Maud is trapped in a castle with her friends and their families. The castle is under siege by their own king. Will Maud survive? Will she learn why this siege happened? Can she stop it? Based on an actual siege in 12th century England, "Precious Norman Honor" is Maud's tale of conflicted loyalties, climbing attempts, and confinement.

As Told in the Great Hall

Saxons, Vikings, and Celts

The Norman Conquest of 1066 and the Making and Meaning of the Bayeux Tapestry

Viking Hersir 793-1066 AD

The Viking and Norman Dynasties and Their Conquest of England (983 -1066)

Alfred's Wars

Soldiers of the Middle Ages faced razor-sharp swords and axes that could slice through flesh with gruesome ease, while spears and arrows were made to puncture both armor and the wearer, and even more sinister means of causing harm produced burns and crush injuries. These casualties of war during the 500-year period between the ninth and thirteenth centuries in Northern and Western Europe are the focus of Brian Burfield's study, but they represent just a portion of the story – disease, disability, disfigurement, damaged minds all played their roles in this awful reality. Surgical methods are described in the book, as are the fixes for fractured skulls, broken bones and damaged teeth. Disfiguring scars and disabling injuries are examined alongside the contemporary attitudes towards them. Also investigated are illnesses like dysentery and St Anthony's Fire, plus infected wounds which were often more deadly than the weapons of the age. A final chapter on the psychological trauma caused by war is included and contains a significant focus on the world of the Vikings. Brian Burfield's account features many individual cases, extracting their stories of wounds, sickness and death from chronicles, miracle collections, surgeries, government records and other documents. The prose, poetry and literature of the period are also of great value in bringing these cases to life, as is the evidence provided by modern archaeological and historical scholarship.

Longman Anthology of Old English, Old Icelandic, and Anglo-Norman Literatures