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Cadell *ap* Rhodri

(d. 910)

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Cadell *ap* Rhodri (d. 910), king in Wales, was one of the sons of Rhodri Mawr and Angharad ferch Feurig of Ceredigion. Although he is described as 'king' on his death in 910 and possibly had held that status since the demise of his father in 878, the exact location and extent of his 'kingdom' is not apparent. Later medieval accounts of the division of political power following Rhodri's death invariably credit Cadell with Deheubarth (probably here meaning south Wales in general), and one version claims he outlived his brothers and ruled the whole of Wales. Most of this is patently incorrect. Rhodri Mawr's authority never even extended over Dyfed which remained independent until 903–4 when it may have passed to Cadell's son Hywel Dda. Cadell's longevity is incorrect also: the longest-surviving known brother was Anarawd ap Rhodri (d. 916) of Gwynedd. Cadell is often allotted Ceredigion, which Rhodri had probably acquired in 872 through his wife, Angharad. His sons probably controlled this kingdom in the mid-880s when (according to Asser in his *Life of King Alfred*) they were able to launch attacks against Dyfed and Brycheiniog, no doubt using Ceredigion as a base for such raids. However, in 895 Anarawd is said to have attacked Ceredigion and Ystrad Tywi with English help. Some have suggested that it had passed into Scandinavian control by this point whereas others, maintaining Cadell held the kingdom, would see Anarawd's action as an attack on his brother. Anarawd had entered into an alliance with Alfred a few years before this raid and it is possible that Cadell had rejected their alliance, thereby inviting a hostile response from both parties. Cadell lived for a further fifteen years, whether as king of Ceredigion or of some other region. His death in 910 was, as far as can be determined, from natural causes. His sons were called Hywel Dda, Clydog, and Meurig; Hywel succeeded Cadell in the kingship.

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