Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Hywel *ab* Edwin

(*d.* 1044)

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<https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/13970>

Published in print: 23 September 2004

Published online: 23 September 2004

Hywel *ab* Edwin (*d.* 1044), king of Deheubarth, was the son of Edwin *ab* Einion *ab* Owain *ap* Hywel Dda. In 1033, after the death of Rhydderch *ab* Iestyn, ruler of Deheubarth since 1023, Hywel and his brother Maredudd succeeded to the kingdom. The sons of Rhydderch seem to have contested Hywel's and his brother's claim, and the next year a battle was fought at Irathwy between the rival houses, but it is not known which was victorious. In 1035 Maredudd was slain by the sons of one Cynan, possibly Cynan *ap* Seisyll (*d.* 1027), but before the year was out the death of Caradog *ap* Rhydderch equalized the position of the combatants. After a few years of comparative peace Hywel's son Meurig was captured by the vikings in 1039. In the same year Gruffudd *ap* Llywelyn became king of north Wales, and after devastating Llanbadarn, drove Hywel out of his territory. In 1041 Hywel made an effort to win back his dominions, but was defeated by Gruffudd at Pencader. Hywel's wife became Gruffudd's captive, and subsequently his concubine.

In 1042 Hywel fought a battle at Pwllodyfach, where he defeated some vikings who had been raiding Dyfed. In the same year (though not necessarily in a connected event), Gruffudd was taken prisoner by the vikings of Dublin, but he soon escaped and reoccupied Hywel's territory. In 1044 Hywel collected a great fleet of his viking allies, and entered the mouth of the Tywi in another effort to win back his own. The final battle was fought at the mouth of the river. Gruffudd won a complete victory, and Hywel was slain.

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