



Harold's ship is driven across the channel. From the mast a lookout spies land. It is Ponthieu, north of Normandy, the territory of the fierce Count Guy. Harold is shown twice. At the left he stands on the ship, ready to land. As soon as he climbs down, he is seized by the soldiers of Count Guy who directs operations from horseback.



Harold, now a prisoner, is treated with respect; he rides in front, with his hawk, towards Beaurain, Guy's capital town. Guy sits on his throne and speaks with Harold.

The next three segments continue the story in reverse order. Here, two messengers arrive from Count Guy's overlord Duke William of Normandy to demand Harold's release. Turolde may be the very short figure, or one of the two messengers. On the right, the messengers ride furiously, with their hair flying in the wind, to take a message from William to Guy.

This is really the first of the three scenes: news is brought to William that Guy has seized Harold. Guy obeys William's order and takes Harold to meet him. Guy points to Harold; both men carry their hawks.

William and Harold ride with soldiers to Williams's palace at Rouen (Now William has the hawk!). William sits while Harold talk to him. The mysterious incident on the far right seems to have nothing to do with the main story, but it may have been well known in the 11th century. It might refer to a sexual scandal - the man in the lower border is naked in the original tapestry, but he has been provided with shorts by the Victorian embroiderers who made this copy.



Harold accompanies William and the Norman soldiers as they set off to fight Duke Conan of Brittany. They pass Mont St. Michel, which is on the border between Normandy and Brittany. To get into Brittany they have to cross the river. They hold their shields above their heads to keep them out of the water. Some soldiers sink into quicksand and Harold rescues them - two at a time!



The Norman soldiers attack the Dol and Duke Conan escapes down a rope from the castle. Chasing Conan, the Normans pass Rennes, the capital of Brittany.



The Normans catch up with Conan at Dinan. During the battle soldiers on horseback throw lances, and others try to set fire to the defences. Conan surrenders. He passes the keys of Dinan to William on the point of a lance. As a reward for his services, William honours Harold with the gift of arms. This ceremony would have been seen as making William Harold's overlord - an important event from the Norman point of view.



William and Harold return to Normandy and reach the town of Bayeux. In the climax of the story so far Harold swears a solemn oath on holy relics. Was Harold promising to support William? Harold is at last set free, and sails back to England.

Harold talks to King Edward. The King is shown as frail and ill, although he was in fact perfectly healthy at this time.

The Normans seem to be getting the upper hand as the battle continues. Many more soldiers die, one appears to be having his head cut off. On the right is the best known scene in the Tapestry: the Normans killing King Harold. But how is Harold killed? He seems to be shown twice: first plucking an arrow from his eye, and then being hacked down by a Norman knight. The tapestry is difficult to interpret here, but the second figure is probably Harold being killed.



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