The Viking invasion of Otter Ferry

Length: 6 minutes 56 seconds

Long, long ago at the times when the Vikings were invading Scotland, there was a king in Argyll called Constantine, and he was a very wily, strong warrior. He had set all along the coast spies to watch out for an attack coming from Ireland or the Isle of Man, where the Vikings have their strongholds.

One day he was informed that a spy had seen hundreds of ships in a fleet coming over from Ireland. Quickly Constantine rallied his army, and he marched north to where he was certain the Vikings would choose to land. And this is a site on Loch Fyne called Otter Ferry. The name 'otter' not meaning the soft silky creature that lives between the water and the shore. But otter in Gallic translated means 'a promontory of land jutting out into the sea'. And there at otter there is a long sand bank that goes out for a mile into Loch Fyne and at low tide. It is a sand bank as wide as a small country lane.

When Constantine and his army arrived at Glenda rule, above otter, the hid amongst the trees waiting, Constantine thought, what a very clever place it was to land. Such an excellent breakwater, where the Vikings could moor all of their ships on the east side, where they could disembark and be ready for battle. As he stood watching the boats coming up Loch Fyne, he realised by looking at the signs painted on the sails, that it was King Ragnhild that was in charge of this onslaught, and that his brother Godfrey, was in charge of the Vanguard.

There are two of the divisions one of the blood thirsty chieftains and one of the isles and the boats came up the loch to Otter Fairy, but whether or not Ragnhild suddenly had seen this huge host of an army in amongst the trees or not, Constantine saw that they turned about and went back down the loch, and turned around Ardlamont point and went up the loch on the other side Loch Ruel. Quickly, Constantine called the most clever and stealthy members of his army, and sent them down to Glendaruel, to watch out for Ragnhild and to prepare for an ambush. Ragnar disembarked from the boats and walked up the Glen. And ever since then, that area has been known as the valley of the Danes.

Constantine watched the boats as they landed on Otter Ferry, and the warriors disembarked. He saw that the three divisions were now two divisions. They were sent north of Otter and south of Otter, and he realised that the plan was for the Vikings to cut him off from the main body of his army. But he was prepared and the annuls of Ulster record that the Albans and men from Northern Saxon were very well prepared for the battle. And it's true that north of Glendaruel, Constantine's army met with both divisions of the Vikings and a terrible battle continue to follow.

There were swords and axes on shields the shouts of cries of war and battle resounded through the forest, and the shouts and cries of men dying, and it is said that every one of the Vikings were slaughtered and their bodies cast into the river till the river was boiling with blood, and since that day has been called the river of red blood. Following that battle, Constantine and his army turned around and travelled north to the top of Glenda rule, where they knew they would meet Ragnhild's army.

Ragnhild had thought he would be able to attack Constantine from the rear, but just as he saw the army coming to view, Constantine's other army that had been hiding out in the forest descended, and he was attacked from the rear, and a terrible battle continued at a Fjord known to this day as the Fjord of Skulls. Many men fell men from Scotland men from Viking Island, and the Fjord from this days called the Fjord of Skulls, for there were so many dead and slain and left in the fields.

Ragnhild realised that he was unable to win this battle, and he pulled called the horn from his pocket, and he blew the horn and called the remain of his army. And they went down towards the top of the loch, and they raced down the Glen chased by Constantine and his army. Those that were able to got into the boats, and they set sail to Ireland, and Constantine and his men, they raced down cheering as far as they could, and they stopped at a rock called the rock of resting.

As they watch the boats, leave the land of Scotland and return back to the stronghold in Ireland. It said that, Ragnhild when he returned to Ireland defeated, didn't last for very many years and was killed by his own men. But Constantine, and the men of Otter Ferry, and Glendaruel celebrated for many days of the great victory. And there are songs and stories about Constantine and the battle that are still sung and told today.