

Britain under attack – a timeline of main events through the ages.

55 B.C – Julius Caesar triumphs in southern Britain but does not conquer.

43 A.D – 40 000 Roman troops under the rule of Claudius land in Kent. British commander, Caratacus, rebels but is captured in 52 A.D.

60 – 61 A.D – Boudicca's revolt.

84 A.D. – Romans defeat Scottish tribes

Britain remains Roman for almost 400 years.

406 onwards – Britain's Roman garrison recalled. Rome unable to defend its huge empire so outlying territories left to defend themselves. British Celtic tribes hire mercenaries – Saxon warriors turn on their Celtic paymasters. By the end of the 6th century only Wales and Cornwall remain British. Southern Britain becomes England, the land of Angles and Saxons.

789 – first recorded Viking attack, in Dorset.

793 – Vikings attack Lindisfarne

851 – Vikings sack London and overrun Mercia, Northumbria and East Anglia.

866 – Vikings capture Eoforwic (York). It becomes Jorvik, the Viking centre for trading.

876 – King Alfred the Great defeats the Danes at the Battle of Edington. England is shared between the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings under the Danelaw.

Alfred's successors slowly win back territory but the Viking lore and language become part of British culture.

1016 – 1035 – reign of the Danish king, Cnut.

Saxon England continues until the mid 11th century when power shifts. King Edward 'the Confessor' is more interested in church building than

combat. He dies in 1065 and the throne is empty. Harold is the Saxon nobles choice, Duke William of Normandy claims that the throne has been promised to him and Norway also has a claimant, Harald Hardrada.

25th September 1066 - Harold beats Harald at the Battle of Stamford Bridge. Harald dies.

28th September 1066 - William of Normandy lands in Sussex.

14th October 1066 - The Battle of Hastings. William defeats Harold. Harold is killed.

Christmas Day 1066 - William crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey.

William sets about building the defence of Britain in the form of Norman castles,

1509 - 1547 - Henry VIII embarks upon a naval and fortification programme to protect the north from Scottish incursion and the coast from France.

Henry VIII's daughter, Elizabeth I, was protestant. Phillip II of Spain plotted to get rid of her and return England to the Catholic faith.

1586 - Phillip orders an Armada to invade England.

1587 - Francis Drake attacks Cadiz, delaying the Armada's departure.

1588- Armada sails for England. The invasion plans are abandoned due to adverse weather and the skilful tactics of the English captains.

Various attempted invasions of England by France, the most viable by Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte.

1804 - French invasion barges augmented by the Spanish fleet planned to land 150 000 troops with guns and horses and capture London within 5 days. British warships mounted a blockade of French ports.

1805 - Nelson tracks an attempted breakout of the Franco-Spanish fleet and brings it to battle at Cape Trafalgar. Victory for Britain but Nelson was shot on the deck of H.M.S. Victory.

1939 - German air force and army overrun Poland, Norway and France.

May 1940 - British evacuate troops from Dunkirk. Britain prepares for invasion

August 1940 - Battle of Britain begins. Germany fails to destroy fighter bases and radar stations. Luftwaffe lose 1882 aircraft as opposed to the R.A.F.'s 1017.

7th September 1940 - Luftwaffe bomb London. The Blitz begins.

12th October 1940 - Hitler cancels attempted invasion.