

= Battle of Glenmama =

The Battle of Glenn Máma (Irish : Cath Ghleann Máma , The Battle of " The Glen of the Gap ") or Glenmama was a battle that took place , most probably near Lyons Hill in Ardclough . County Kildare in AD 999 between Windmill Hill and Blackchurch . It was the decisive and only engagement of the brief Leinster revolt of 999 ? 1000 against the King of Munster , Brian Boru . In it , the combined forces of the Kingdoms of Munster and Meath , under King Brian Boru and the High King of Ireland , Máel Sechnaill II , inflicted a crushing defeat on the allied armies of Leinster and Dublin , led by King Máel Mórda of Leinster .

The two armies met in a narrow valley , causing a rout of Máel Mórda 's army in at least three directions . They were pursued , and the main body of the army was slaughtered when they rallied at several fording points along the River Liffey . The main commanders were either killed or captured .

The battle resulted in the occupation of Dublin by Brian 's Munster forces , and the submission of Máel Mórda and King Sigtrygg Silkbeard of Dublin to Brian Boru . The solution did not prove permanent , however , and eventually resulted in the second Leinster revolt against Brian and the Battle of Clontarf in 1014 .

= = Location = =

Although nineteenth century scholars , including John O ' Donovan and Todd , and especially the Dunlavin @-@ based clergyman John Francis Shearman (in 1830) were tempted to locate the battle @-@ site in the vicinity of Dunlavin , Co Wicklow , within their lifetime the theory was disputed by Goddard Orpen , and were disproved by Joseph Lloyd in 1914 and subsequently by Albha mac Gabhrain who located the battle site beside Ardclough on the Dublin @-@ Kildare border in 1914 (he Irish form of Dunlavin is in reality Dun Luadhain) . between Windmill Hill and Blackchurch .

Ailbhe Mac Shamhráin wrote :

Given the propensity for battles to take place in border regions , it seems reasonable to seek a location close to the perimeter of the Hiberno @-@ Norse kingdom of Dublin . On that account , the suggestion of Lloyd , which places the battle at a gap now crossed by the Naas Road on the section between Kill and Rathcoole , is still worthy of consideration . In any event , the engagement took place within an easy day ' s march of Dublin , as Brian pressed on immediately afterwards to reach the town on the following day .

= = Background = =

In 997 , at a royal meeting near Clonfert , Brian Boru , King of Munster , met with his long @-@ time rival Máel Sechnaill mac Domnaill , who was at the time High King of Ireland . Although the idea of the high @-@ kingship is considered mainly an anachronistic invention , it came into vogue in the 10th century to denote a king who had enforced his power over external territories . Máel Sechnaill assumed the Irish high @-@ kingship after the Battle of Tara in 980 .

The two kings made a truce , by which Brian was granted rule over the southern half of Ireland , while Máel Sechnaill retained the northern half and high kingship . In honour of this arrangement , Máel Sechnaill handed over to Brian the hostages he had taken from Dublin and Leinster ; and in 998 , Brian handed over to Máel Sechnaill the hostages of Connacht . In the same year , Brian and Máel Sechnaill began co @-@ operating against the Norse of Dublin for the first time .

Late in 999 , however , the Leinstermen , historically hostile to domination by either the Uí Néill overkings or the King of Munster , allied themselves with the Norse of Dublin and revolted against Brian . According to the 17th century Annals of the Four Masters , the following prophecy had predicted the Battle of Glenmama :

They shall come to Gleann @-@ Mama ,
It will not be water over hands ,
Persons shall drink a deadly draught

Around the stone at Claen @-@ Conghair .
From the victorious overthrow they shall retreat ,
Till they reach past the wood northwards ,
And Ath @-@ cliath the fair shall be burned ,
After the ravaging the Leinster plain .

= = Battle = =

The Annals of the Four Masters records that Brian and Máel Sechnaill united their forces , and according to the Annals of Ulster , they met the Leinster @-@ Dublin army at Glenmama on Thursday , 30 December 999 . Glenmama , near Lyons Hill in County Kildare , was the ancient stronghold of the Kings of Leinster .

The Munster @-@ Meath army defeated the Leinster @-@ Dublin army . Later historians have also seen the battle as decisive . The sources point to high mortality on both sides . According to the Annals of Innisfallen , which represents a Munster perspective , formna Gall herend (? the best part of the foreigners of Ireland ?) fell therein . The more partisan Cogad Gáedel re Gallaib indulges in hyperbole , claiming that ? since the Battle of Mag Roth to that time there had not taken place a greater slaughter . ? The fallen included Harald son of Amlaib (a brother of Sitriuc Silkbeard) and ? other nobles of the foreigners ? , amongst whom was one Cuilén son of Eitigén , who apparently belonged to the Gailenga ; he may have been a brother of Ruadacán son of Eitegén , king of Airthir Gaileng , who died in 953 .

On Brian ? s side , even the Cogadh acknowledges that ? there fell many multitudes of the Dál Cais , ? but no details are provided. the It says the battle was ' bloody , furious , red , valiant , heroic , manly ; rough , cruel and heartless ; ' and that there had been no greater slaughter since the seventh century Battle of Magh Rath .

Ó Corráin refers to it as a " crushing defeat " of Leinster and Dublin , while The dictionary of English history says the battle effectively " quelled " the " desperate revolt " of Leinster and Dublin . Tradition records that " the son of the King of the Danes " , Harold Olafsson , was killed in the retreat , and was interned at the now obscure cemetery of Cryhelpe . Brian took Máel Mórda of Leinster prisoner and held him until he received hostages from the Leinstermen . It was alleged that 7000 Norse fell in the battle . This was at a time when warfare was fought on a very limited scale , and raiding armies generally had between a hundred and two hundred men . Most importantly , the defeat left the road to Dublin " free and unimpeded for the victorious legions of Brian and Maelsechlainn " .

= = Sack of Dublin = =

The victory was followed up with an attack on the city of Dublin . Brian ? s forces marched quickly to Dublin (again confirming a Saggart @-@ Ardclough location for the battle) reaching the town on New Year ? s Eve 999 . They entered its defences without any great resistance and the Annals of Innisfallen say that , on New Year ? s Day (the Kalends of January) 1000 , they burned both the settlement itself and the nearby wood known as Caill Tomair which apparently stood on the north side of the Liffey . The plunder of the town , for the second time in ten years , is described in considerable detail in the Cogaidh . The 12th century Cogadh Gaedhil re Gallaibh gives two accounts of the occupation : that Brian remained in Dublin from Christmas Day until Epiphany (6 January) , or from Christmas Day until St. Brigid 's Day (1 February) . The later Annals of Ulster gives a date of 30 December for the Battle of Glenmama , while Annals of Inisfallen dates Brian 's capture of the city two days later , to 1 January 1000 . According to the much more reliable Annals of the Four Masters and the Chronicon Scotorum , Dublin was only occupied for a week by Munster forces . In any case , in 1000 Brian plundered the city , burned the Norse fortress and expelled its ruler , King Sigtrygg Silkbeard . Ailbhe Mac Shamhráin wrote :

Allowance must be made here for poetic license but , event itself , some picture can be obtained of the wealth of the trading centre that was Dublin According to the account Brian , having plundered the dún (fortress) , entered the margadh (market area) and here seized the greatest wealth .

Meanwhile , on the approach of the Munster forces , King Sitriuc had fled northward hoping to obtain asylum among the Ulstermen . His ally , Máel @-@ mórdá of Uí Faeláin , was captured , in ignominious circumstances according to Cogad Gáedel re Gallaib .

= = Aftermath = =

The kingship of Leinster was bestowed upon the Uí Dunchada candidate , Dunchad son of Domnail , who retained this status until he was deposed in 1003 . Sigtrygg Silkbeard returned having found no asylum in the north . The annal accounts concur that he , too , yielded hostages to Brian while the Annals of Innisfallen add that Brian in a suitable magnanimous gesture , ? gave the fort (dún) to the Foreigners . Ailbhe Mac Shamhráin wrote :

The implications here is that , from this time onwards , the Hiberno @-@ Scandinavian ruler would hold his kingship from his Munster overlord . Brian , at this stage , aspired to an even tighter dominance of Dublin than secured by his rival , Máel Sechnaill mac Domnaill , ten years earlier . There seems to be little doubt that the longer term beneficiary of Glenn Máma was Brian alone . With renewed confidence , he again moved against Máel Sechnaill | Máel Sechnaill mac Domnaill , even if his initiatives of 1000 @-@ 1001 resulted in setbacks , one expedition into Brega resulted in his advance cavalry being slaughtered by the Uí Néill , another foray was reversed in Míde (Co Westmeath) , and the Dál Cais river @-@ fleet was impeded by the King of Tara and his Connachta allies having constructed a barrier across the Shannon . Brian , however , found a way of circumventing hit and , early in 1002 , brought a large army through to Athlone and took the hostages of Connacht .

According to the Cogadh Gaedhil re Gallaibh , Sigtrygg 's flight from the city brought him north , first to the Ulaid and then to Áed of Cenél nEógain . Since Sigtrygg could find no refuge in Ireland , he eventually returned , submitted to Brian , gave hostages and was restored to Dublin . This was three months after Brian ended his occupation in February . In the meantime , Sigtrygg may have temporarily " turned pirate " and been responsible for a raid on St David 's in Wales .

Brian gave his own daughter by his first wife in marriage to Sigtrygg . Brian in turn took as his second wife Sigtrygg 's mother , the now thrice @-@ married Gormflaith . The cessation of revolt was followed by over a decade of peace in Dublin while Sigtrygg 's men served in the armies of Brian . However , Sigtrygg never forgot the insult of the Ulaid , and in 1002 he had his revenge when his soldiers served in Brian 's campaign against the Ulaid and ravaged their lands .

Máel Sechnaill found the support of the northern kings slipping away felt obliged to submit and a new political order was created . The capitulation of the king of Tara left Brian as the most powerful king in Ireland ? the first non Uí Néill king to achieve such prominence . Ailbhe Mac Shamhráin wrote :

Glenn Máma gave Brian a psychological advantage over the king of Tara and increased his readiness to break the Agreement of Clonfert . As a result of the battle , he had achieved domination , in a meaningful sense , of Leinster and Dublin . Through achieving effective dominance of Dublin , Brian acquired a military (aside from a psychological) advantage over Máel Sechnaill , which helped him in his endeavours to reach beyond the lordship of Leth Moga . His success in this regard was probably instrumental in tying Dublin into the sphere of Leth Moga for at least a century to follow .