

CADELL ap GRUFFYDD (died 1175).

Name: Cadell ap Gruffydd
Date of death: 1175
Parent: Gruffydd ap Rhys ap Tewdwr
Gender: Male
Area of activity: Royalty and Society; Politics, Government and Political Movements; Military
Author: John Edward Lloyd

The son of **Gruffydd ap Rhys** (died 1137). He is first heard of in 1138, when, with his brother **Anarawd** and **Owain** and **Cadwaladr** of Gwynedd, he brought a Viking fleet of fifteen ships, no doubt from Dublin, to the mouth of the Teify, in a vain endeavour to capture Cardigan, the last foothold left to the Normans in Ceredigion.

During the next few years he was overshadowed by his elder brother, but the treacherous murder of **Anarawd** in 1143 by **Cadwaladr**'s men gave him a leadership in Deheubarth which he exercised with vigour. In 1146 he won the castle of 'Dinwileir,' probably situated in the commote of Mabudrud, which **earl Gilbert of Pembroke** had fortified in the previous year. A more resounding success in the same year was the capture of Carmarthen and Llanstephan. The year 1147 saw an unusual combination of forces.

Cadell and his young brothers joined the Fitzgeralds of Pembroke in an attack upon Wiston, the castle of Walter Fitzwiz, in which success was achieved with the help of **Hywel ab Owain**. Having in 1150 put Carmarthen in a state of defence and protected it by a raid upon the region of Kidwelly, he was emboldened to attack the northern hold upon Ceredigion, and it was not long ere Cadell and his brothers had driven **Hywel** beyond the Ayrn. Further gains were in prospect, when in 1151 the victorious leader's career was cut short; while hunting (very probably in the forest of Coed Rhath) he was set upon by knights and archers from Tenby and left for dead. He survived for many years, but his days as a warrior were ended.

In 1153 he went on pilgrimage to Rome, leaving his conquests to the care of his brothers; after this, he is not heard of until 1175, when he is recorded to have entered, after a long illness, the abbey of Strata Florida, there to find burial.

Author

Sir **John Edward Lloyd**, (1861 - 1947)

Sources

J. E. Lloyd, *A History of Wales from the Earliest Times to the Edwardian Conquest*(London 1911), 475-6, 501-4

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Cadell ap Gruffydd](#)

Additional Links

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Published date: 1959

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