3-29-2017

The Battle of Tours

Nicholas Miller

Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne

Follow this and additional works at: http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp2017

Part of the History Commons

Recommended Citation

http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp2017/22
The Battle of Tours: 732 CE
Nicholas R. Miller – milln01@students.ipfw.edu – Medieval Studies

Background

The Muslim encroachment into the European Continent was approaching its climax, although this was not the first battle regarding the Muslim conquest. It would be one of the most remembered in the annals of history. The Muslims have recently explored into Provincal Spain and have roughly conquered two-thirds of the country. This advancement of Islam was starting to spread throughout Europe, through the doorway which is Spain; and the people under Charles Martel were lucky to be able to stop this.

Location

In the independent region of Aquitaine and the border of the Frankish realm, a battle fomented. Between the city of Tours and through Spain, the other of Frankish fury funneled from the north.

Conclusion

The Battle of Tours (Poitiers) was ultimately won by the Europeans and was believed to be one of the decisive battles of history, stopping the perpetual spread of Islam across the known world, however, according to recent scholars, it is believed to not be as important as it was once thought to be. Previous battles have been fought before this that have been just as important (Leo the Isaurian's defense at Constantinople circa 717-718 AD for example) to the slowing of Islam. Furthermore, Muslim raids would persist until the 790s when Charles's grandson Charlemagne would put an end to them.

Arabs

Muslims under the command of Abd al-Rahman were on an onward march towards Northern Europe, burning and destroying everything in their path. Musa, emir who conquered Spain, boldly stated that "Never has a company from my army been beaten." This confidence in themselves and their underestimation of their enemy probably brought the downfall of this military campaign. According to an Anon Arab Chronicler, the Muslims desire for spoils and greed would cause their defeat. He states that someone deceptively cried out, that the adversary was plundering their spoils. This false bellowing began a disarray in the defenses of the men and caused pandemonium in the ranks and inevitable destruction upon themselves.

Franks

Charles, the Hammer Martel is the grandfather of Charlemagne and leader of the Frankish Kingdom in Europe. Although, the Arabs were able to defeat Duke Eudes and "put him to flight" surely they could not defeat the "lord of Austrasia". The Sideroe of Alku's Chronicle describes Charles as a "mighty warrior from the youth, and trained in all occasions of arms." According to The Chronicle of St. Denis, Charles' forces killed a Muslim host of 300,000 men and the army only lost a fraction of that: 1,500 men (highly unlikely). Throughout these chronicles the Franks are considered superior to their Muslim enemy.

References