

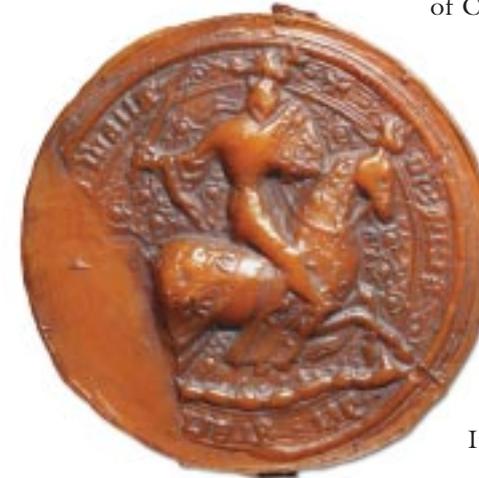


to play an active role defending his family's title to the Crown. The Principality was to dominate his attention for the next 10 years. It was during these formative years that the Prince acquired his education in the art of warfare.

The landscape of North Wales. It was in this rugged terrain that Glyndwr raised his rebellion against Henry IV and declared himself Prince of Wales. North Wales was ideally suited to Glyndwr's campaign of guerrilla warfare and it was not until 1409 that the English were able effectively to crush the rebellion.

It appears that unrest in Wales stemmed from a local dispute between Reginald, Lord Grey of Ruthin and one of his neighbours, Owain Glyndwr. It had rapidly escalated though on 16 September 1400 when Glyndwr, a descendant of Welsh princes, had declared himself Prince of Wales. In quick succession he attacked Ruthin, Denbigh and other places in Flintshire, before moving southwards to assault Oswestry and Welshpool. Although the rebels were halted by an English force led by Hugh, Lord Burnell, the rebellion quickly adopted a nationalist flavour which aimed at ending English rule in Wales.

Owain Glyndwr's Armorial Mount found at Harlech Castle in 1923. It shows the arms of the princes of Gwynedd which he adopted. Coming from a native Welsh family, Glyndwr could claim descent from all three of the major royal houses that had dominated Wales prior to the Edwardian conquest of 1282. The quartered shield bears lions rampant, corresponding to those of Glyndwr as Prince of Wales.



The Prince moved up to Chester soon after news of the rebellion reached him, along with his governor, Sir Hugh Despenser and his principal adviser, Henry Percy, son of the Earl of Northumberland, known as 'Hotspur'. To those at Court it looked as if the rebellion would end as quickly as it had begun. However, the daring capture of Conway Castle by Gwilym and Rhys ap Tudor on Good Friday, 1 April 1401, rekindled Welsh resistance to the English. Despite the Prince's attempt to recapture Conway, and campaigns by Percy in Merionethshire and Lord Powys in central Wales, the rebellion gained momentum.

It continued into 1402 with no indication that English efforts to crush it were having any success. Read about Prince Henry's activities in Wales: document 3, *Glyndwr's rebellion*.

The Prince gradually assumed control of operations against the Welsh. Whilst experienced commanders like the Earls of Arundel and Stafford, Lord Grey of Codnor and Lord Powys were given particular areas of responsibility in Wales and on the border with England, they were placed firmly under the Prince's command. In 1403 his authority was enhanced further when he was appointed Royal Lieutenant for the whole of Wales for a year, a significant step in his military and political education.

The Great Seal of Owain Glyndwr. It only survives in a single impression attached to his 1404 treaty with Charles VI of France. It is of very fine workmanship and was possibly commissioned in France. On the obverse, Owain is shown enthroned beneath a canopy of state, holding a sceptre, but with no crown. A lawyer by training, here he represents the role of a king as the giver of justice. As in French royal seals, angels hold up his cloth of majesty, which shows the lions rampant of Gwynedd. His feet rest on two more lions, and two wolf heads spring from the arms of his throne. On the reverse, Owain appears on horseback as the warrior and feudal leader he also was – this time with a crown on his helmet. The Welsh dragon appears on both his helmet, and on the warhorse's head. The legend is now incomplete, but by putting the two sides together probably read OWYNUS DEI GRATIA PRINCEPS WALLIAE – 'Owain, by the grace of God, Prince of Wales'.