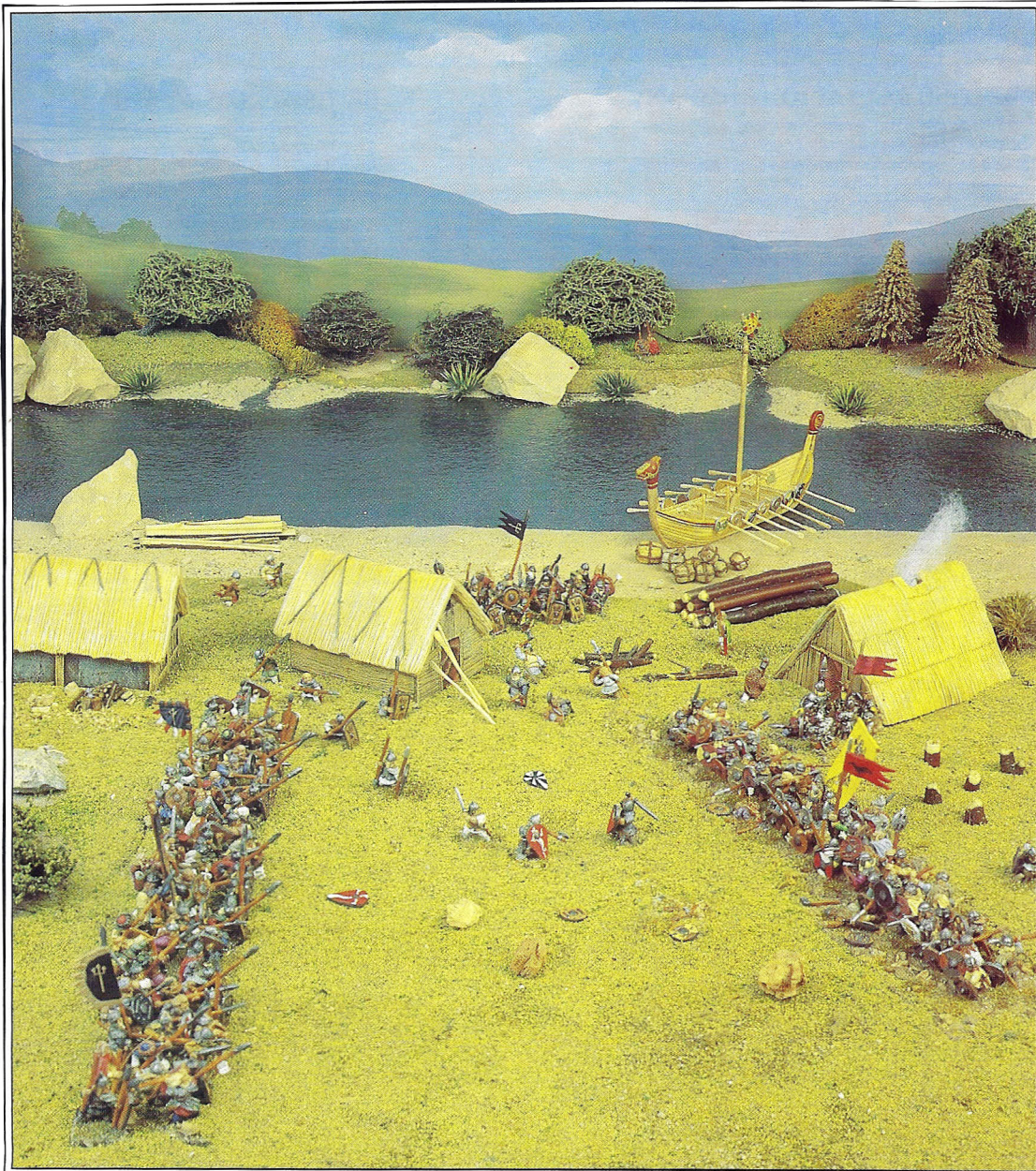


# THE HORRIBLE RAID OF LUNDEWICK BY ERIC BLOODAXE

or  
Just another Viking "Strandhögg"





Anno 954 A.D. Spring has come to Jorvik and it seems time again for Eric Bloodaxe and his gruesome vikings to man the longship and set out for a "Strandhögg" to the South. This word means nothing else but a raid on peaceful villages and farms to plunder, loot and take as many prisoners as possible, to be sold as slaves in Jorvik.

Eric's longship sets for sea on an early May morning. His crew consists of his son Sven Forkbeard, his veteran companion Harald Boldhead, two "Ulfhednars" ("Wizards" wearing the fur of a wolf and known for their invincibility in combat), six beserks (Eric's bodyguard renown for their strength and inhumane brutality - They swallow a mixture of oxen blood and toxic mushrooms before the raid to turn in to wild beasts when facing the enemy. Another 38 vikings, eager for plunder after a long and boring winter, man the rudders. They are all keen and enthusiastic for the coming "Strandhögg" as they know the longship is sailing for Lundewick, which had already provided them with plenty of loot and slaves last summer...

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Lundewick has been rebuilt after the desasterous viking raid last summer, during which the manor had been burnt down, half of the inhabitants slain or taken as slaves, and worst of all Lord Morgan, close friend to the Anglo-Saxon king Aethlred, beheaded by Eric Bloodaxe. However, Morgan's son survived and fervent with hate for the vikings swears to take revenge for his father's death and is prepared for this year's "Strandhögg"

King Aethlered promised to support his old friend's son and provided him with weapons, training and even men-at-arms. Morgan's defensive force now amounts to 33 men. Besides him and his 10 armed peasants, Aethlered sent one sergeant and 5 men-at-arms from his personal body guard. and in addition provided silver for hiring 11 mercenaries from abroad. These are Frankish, Swiss and Welsh knights, wearing "invulnerable" armour, as told in rumours. No opponent ever survived a combat with these warriors.

Not to be forgotten is monk Eadred from the local parish, eager with revenge, as the church was burnt down by the heathens and still lies in ruins. The Bishop sent him two armed men, expert fighters with the pike. Last but not least two travellers from Nottingham joined the defenders. A certain Borin (marksman with bow and arrow) and his companion LJ (powerful as a bear).

Lundewick Manor has been fortified and is awaiting the vikings...

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