

Longbow presentation

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Was the Longbow the decisive weapon at the Battle of Agincourt?

Module:ACDA6015

Technical Authoring

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What was the battle of Agincourt

- **Was one of three battles in the hundred year war that actually lasted 116 years,**
- **Henry deployed his fighters across a 750-yard piece of land between the woods of Tramecourt and Agincourt**
- **On the battlefields of Agincourt, the French outnumbered the English**



Factors of the battle

The main components of the battle were as follows:

- **Heavily armoured knights**
- **Long bows**
- **Weather**
- **Strategy**



Heavy Armour

The French knights would have worn heavy plate armour during the battle. The French knights would have had other factors to deal with during the battle these are as follows:

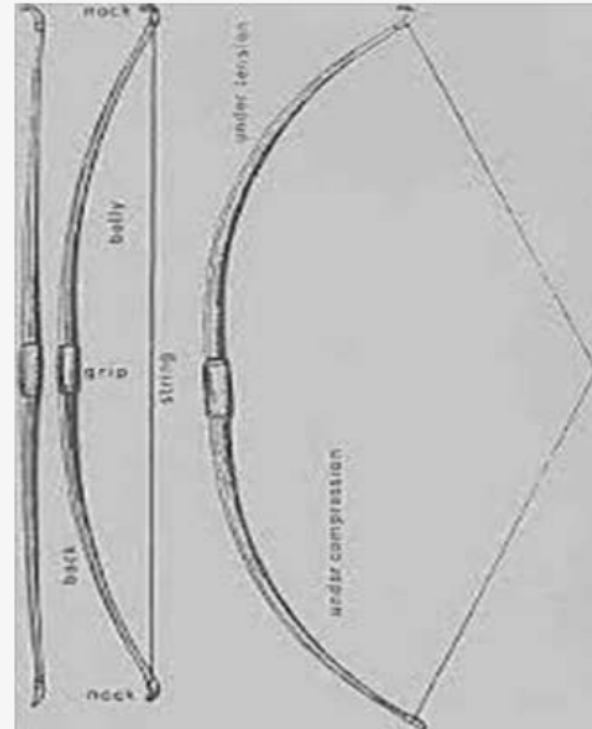
- **Fatigue wearing the heavy armour could cause the soldier to become exhausted and struggle in the battlefield conditions, If they did manage to get to the English line they would have struggled to lift their weapons due to exhaustion,**
- **Sticky mud led to the knights becoming bogged down which would cause them to fall and would make it difficult for them to get back to their feet,**
- **Sheer numbers of knights in the battlefield meant some may fall and the struggle to get back to their feet which would have led to them drowning or suffocating in the mud,**
- **The English would have been physically fresher due to having lighter armour.**



Longbow

The longbow was invented by the celts around 1180, however the English military didn't start using it until the 1300's. The Bow would approximately be around six foot in length and 5/8's of an inch wide

- **Draw weight of 140 pounds**
- **Penetrate armour at 100 yards**



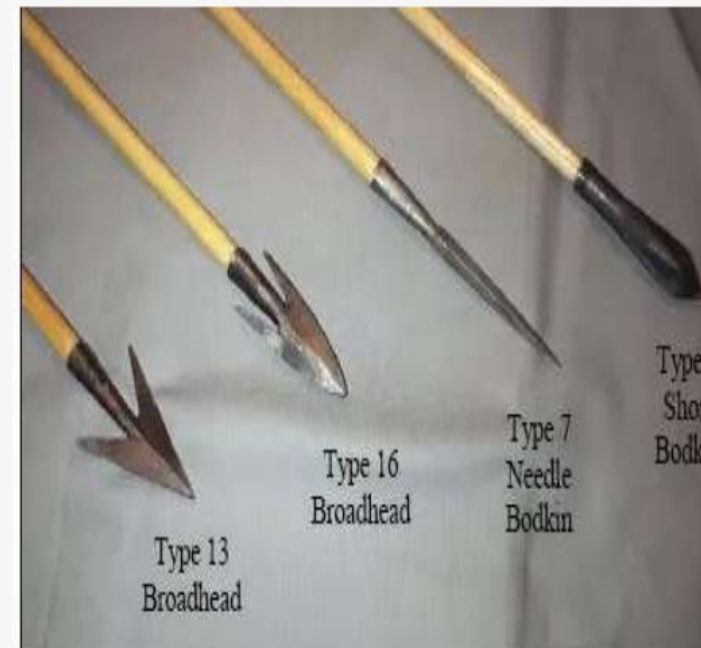
Bodkin Arrow

The Needle Bodkin arrow was a useful and common design of arrow head across a wide span of history when and where ever maille or non metal armours were prevalent. They fell out of use in the latter part of middle ages in Europe with the increasing use of plate armour.

- Approximately 11 cm in length.**

- Average weight in grains 275 – 330..**

- Wrought iron is reasonably ductile and can be rendered much harder by introducing carbon to create a steel**



Weather

The night before the battle the following weather conditions occurred:

- **Strong winds**
- **Torrential Down pours**

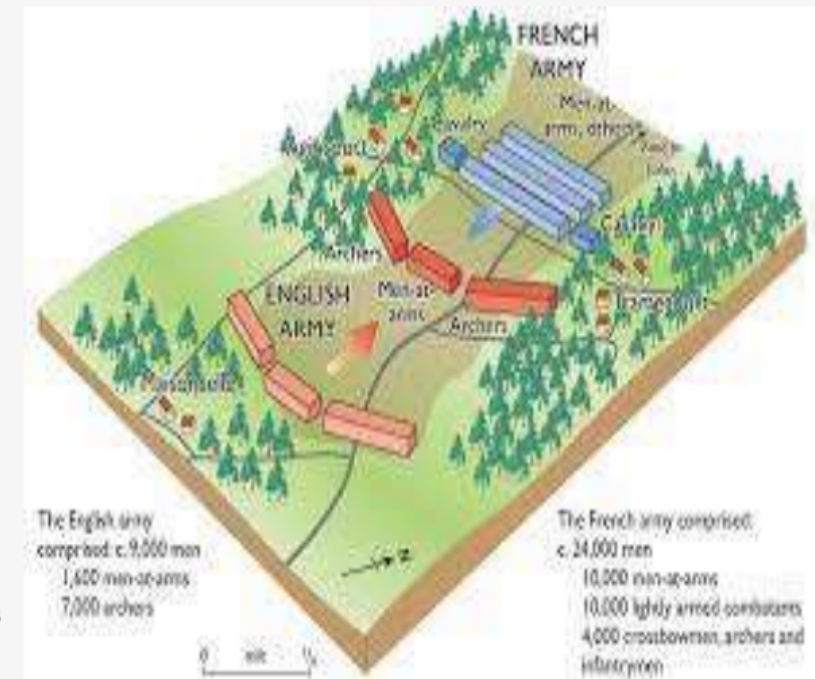
The morning of the battle the rain had stopped however this had in turn changed the field of battle into a quagmire



Strategy

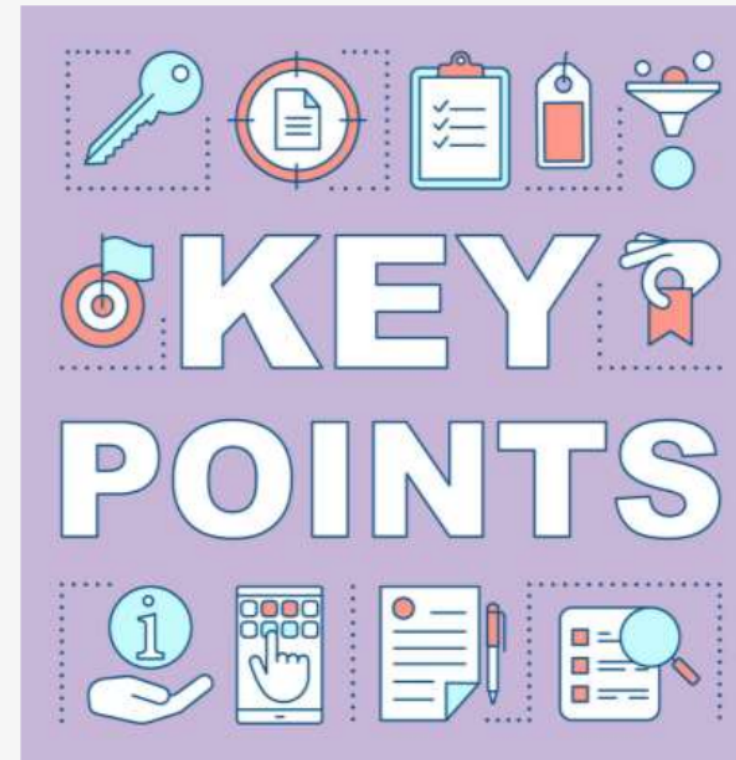
The English strategy for the battle is described as follows:

- **King Henry made the first move and sent his fighters into the field,**
- **Henry created long spikes to disable the French cavalry and protect his longbowmen who then launched their arrows,**
- **The French then retaliated by sending in mounted knights to the battle field,**
- **It is said that this charge was too late due to the lack in numbers and losing control of the horses due to the arrows disabling the horses,**
- **The horses also churned up the battlefield making the already poor conditions for the foot soldiers even worse.**



Key Findings Technical Report

- **The arrows would have been unlikely to have perforated the armour unless it found an imperfection within the plate. It is most likely to have bounced of the plate armour or penetrated.**
- **The manufacture of the bodkin arrow had an early annealing process where the arrow head was baked in a bone based solution to add more of a carbon property**



Conclusion

The following points are needed to be considered when deciding whether the longbow was the decisive weapon of the battle of Agincourt:

- **Terrain**
- **Weather conditions**
- **The energetic cost to the heavily armoured soldiers trudging through effectively a marsh.**
- **Yes the longbow was the decisive weapon of the battle however this was not the sole reason for the English winning the battle.**



Questions



Longbow presentation

GRADEMARK REPORT

FINAL GRADE

41 /50

GENERAL COMMENTS

Instructor

Nice slide design, which was very clear and made good use of Gestalt. Kept the facts really simple and was therefore the best at connecting technical information with the lay audience.

A naturally passive communicator so was completing an assignment out of comfort zone. However, did well in becoming an authoritative communicator when under pressure.

Good technical description of longbow and bodkin, including improving tip metallurgy using ground cow bone (increasing carbon content). Really passionate about subject once got into his stride and brought the audience along with him.

Consistent use of all the visual referencing taught within this module and used an excellent analogy of the knight's view of the bodkin arrow - "to the knights they appeared as a swarm of annoying wasps; not fatal but a huge distraction that unsettled". Exactly on 10 minutes.

Overall, Mr Ling met the requirements of the assignment and delivered technical information to a historian, thereby allowing him to improve further publications on the subject of the 100 Years War.

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