The longbow at the Battle of Agincourt

by Jake Comer

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The Battle of Agincourt

Was the longbow the decisive weapon?

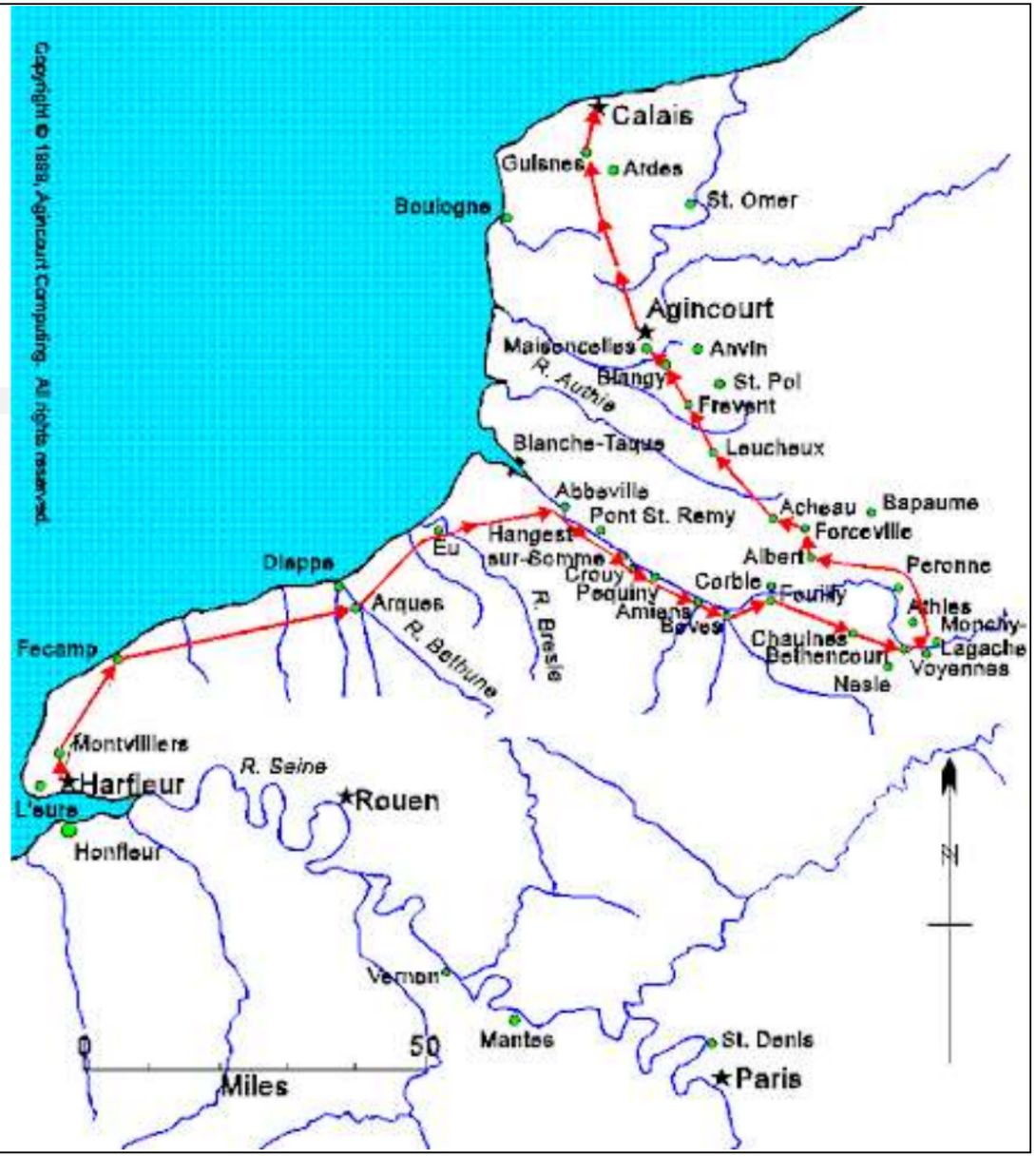


Content

- Build up to The Battle of Agincourt
- The Battle of Agincourt
- The Long Bow
- Main contributing factors
- Conclusion and other factors
- Questions

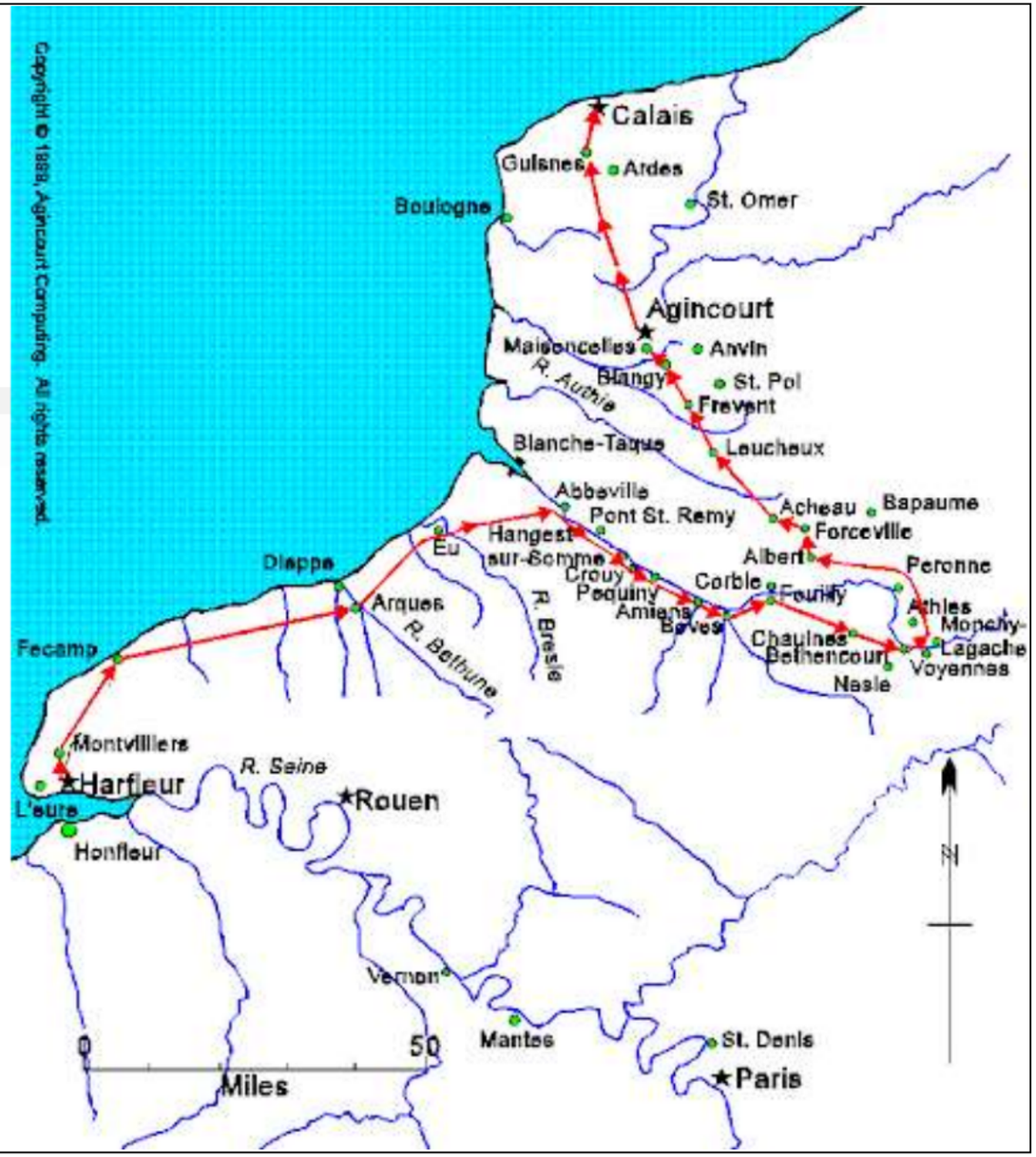
Build up To Agincourt

- King Henry V wanted the old English territories in France back under English control.
- Siege of Harfleur – Lost a third of the men
- English then set off for Calais



Build Up To Agincourt

- The French cut off the English by defending the Somme
- English ventured deeper into France than wanted – crossed unguarded ford
- The two armies met at Agincourt due to French being quicker



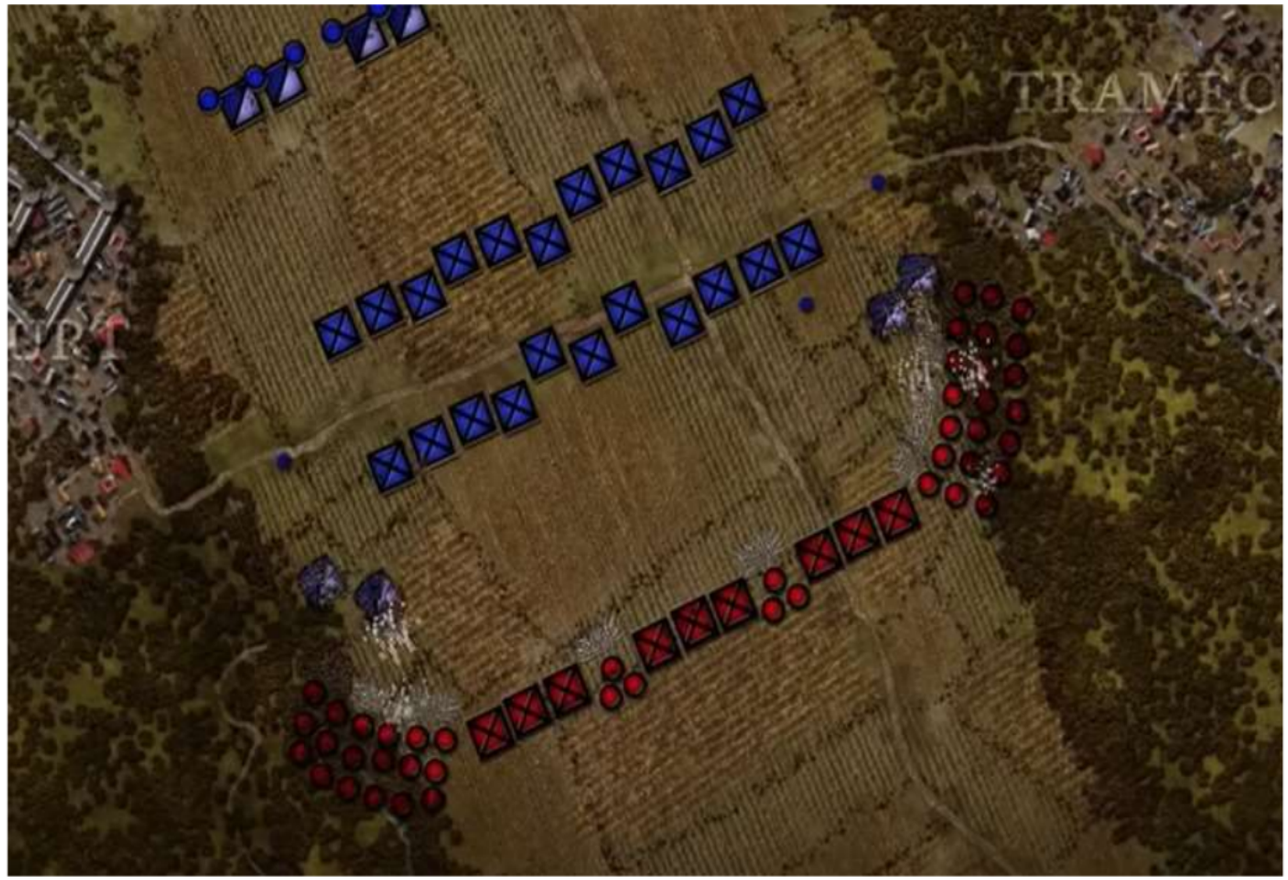
Battle of Agincourt – The Battlefield 25th October 1415



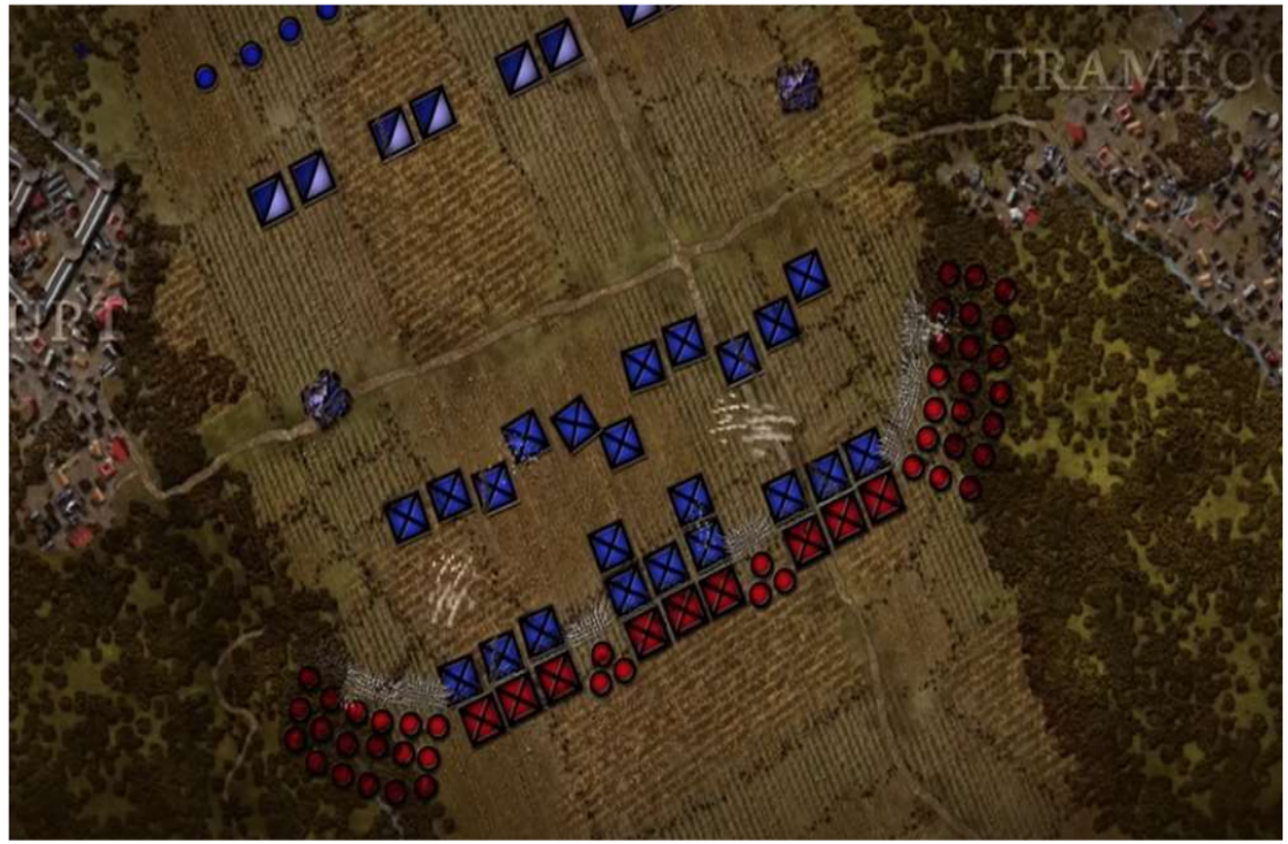
Battle of Agincourt – The Battlefield



Battle of Agincourt – The Battlefield



Battle of Agincourt – The Battlefield

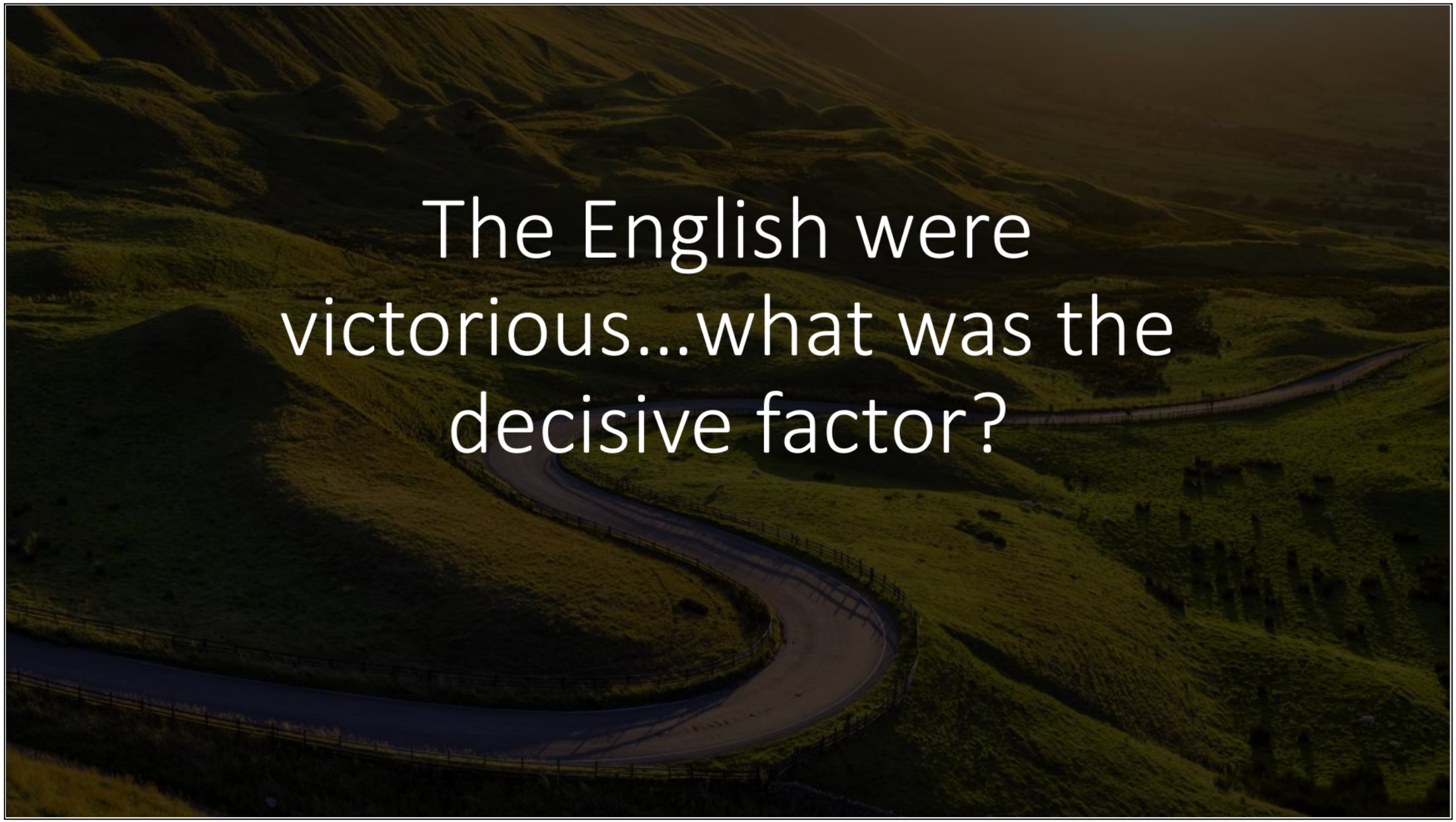


Battle of Agincourt – The Battlefield



Battle of Agincourt – The Battlefield



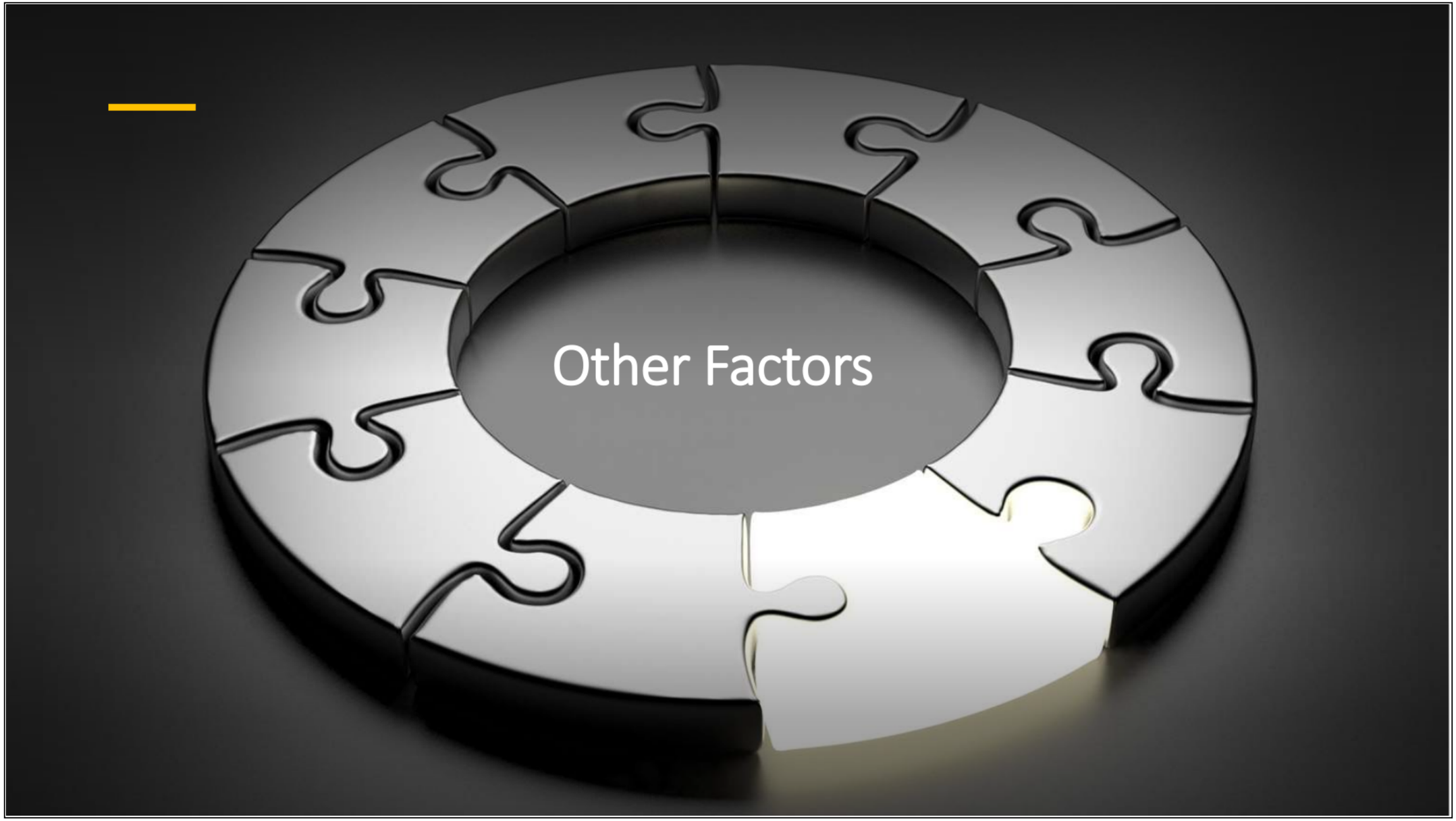

The English were victorious…what was the decisive factor?



The Longbow and the bodkin arrow

- Many believe the longbow to be the decisive factor for the Battle of Agincourt
- Pierces the armour
- Stopped the cavalry and the men-at-arms




Other Factors



Knights Armour

- Heavy Weight
- Poor visibility
- Difficult to manoeuvre at close quarter combat

Poor Terrain

- Rained the night before
- Field had recently been ploughed
- Mud retained liquid making it sticky



Archers Light Armour

- More agile and manoeuvrability
- Good visibility
- Easy for close quarter weapon use



The longbow and arrow isn't effective against the knight's plate armour

Soft arrow heads

Set up by a team of an arrow smith, medieval armour expert and an archer



The longbow and arrow isn't effective against the knight's plate armour

Hardened arrow heads



Conclusion and other factors

- Previous 4 factors
- Physics equations can be applied to back up claim of the arrow not being able to pierce the French armour
- French used the armour and English defended against it

Thank you for listening

Please ask any questions



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GRADEMARK REPORT

FINAL GRADE

33 /50

GENERAL COMMENTS

Was nervous initially but go into stride. Good introductory slide with excellent use of graphics throughout. Maintained eye contact with the audience and spoke without notes. Spatial use of slides was well thought out. Described each slide if there was no key and did not clutter with information. Of all the presentations, this one was the most neutral. It set the scene then introduced a number of criteria which could have come to play in favour of the English. For a biased audience, this did not upset, nor did it support their view. Introduced technical report where audience could learn more about the longbow and bodkin. Forgot to connect to internet but this did not detract for a video - so, attempted to use all forms of media. Good regain by describing the video during questions and that would forward relevant data and physics equations. Summarised factors well, favouring no particular contributing factor so was very professional about disagreeing with the general historical consensus.

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