

Libby Jones Agincourt Presentation

by Libby Jones

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Battle of Agincourt

Was the Longbow the Decisive
Weapon?

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Libby Jones

2222538



Formalities



- Mobile Phones
- Toilets
- Fire Alarm

Agenda



Introduction

- Historical Context

Discussion

- Evaluation of the Needle Bodkin Arrow
- Evaluation of the Longbow
- Other Victory-contributing Factors

Summary



Historical Context

Who?

- King Henry V of England
- The French Dauphin, Louis



What?

- The Battle of Agincourt between England and France.



Where?

- Farmland near Agincourt Castle
- France



When?

- Occurred during the Hundred Years War (1337–1453)
- 25th October 1415



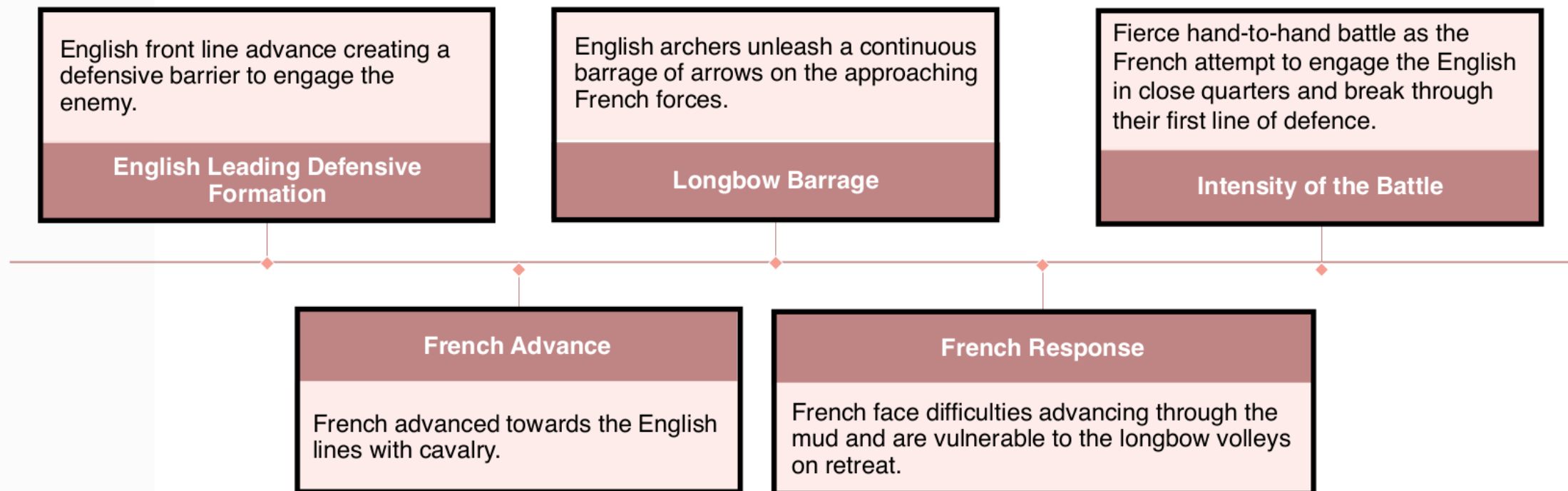
Why?

- King Henry V of England sought to strengthen his territorial claims in France



Historical Context

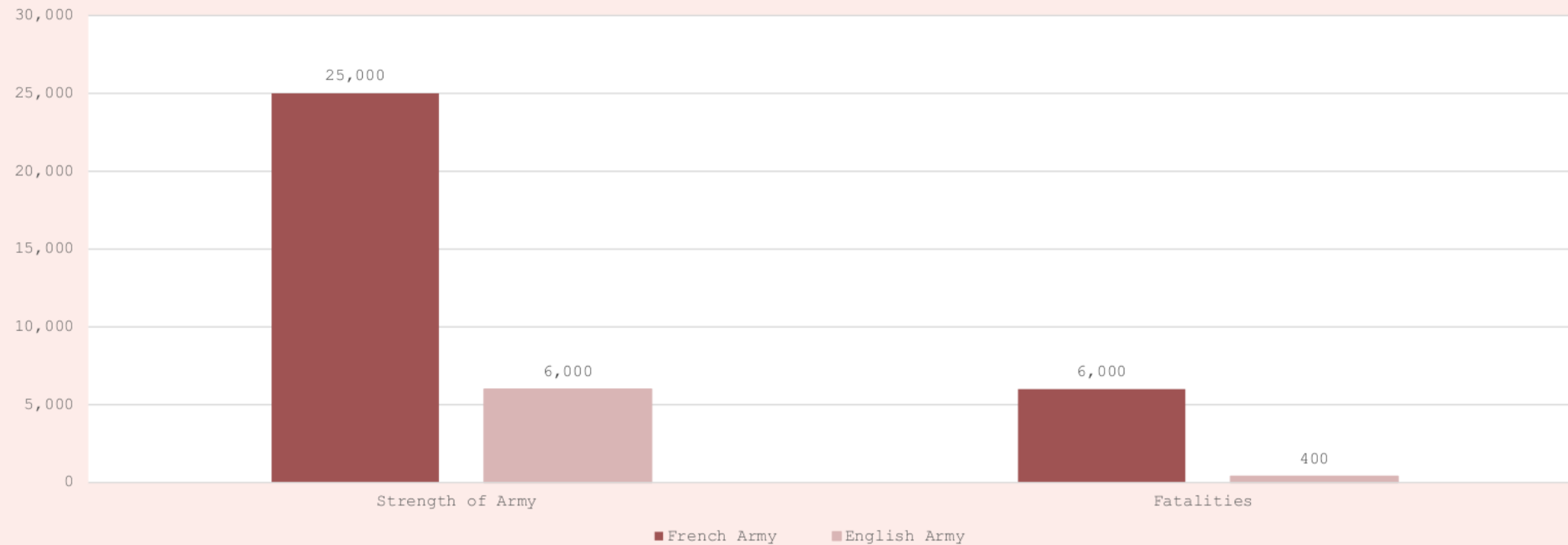
Exploration of Battle Significance



Historical Context

Exploration of Battle Significance

Battle Statistics



Armour



English Archers

- Primarily had light armour
- Some were reported naked due to dysentery

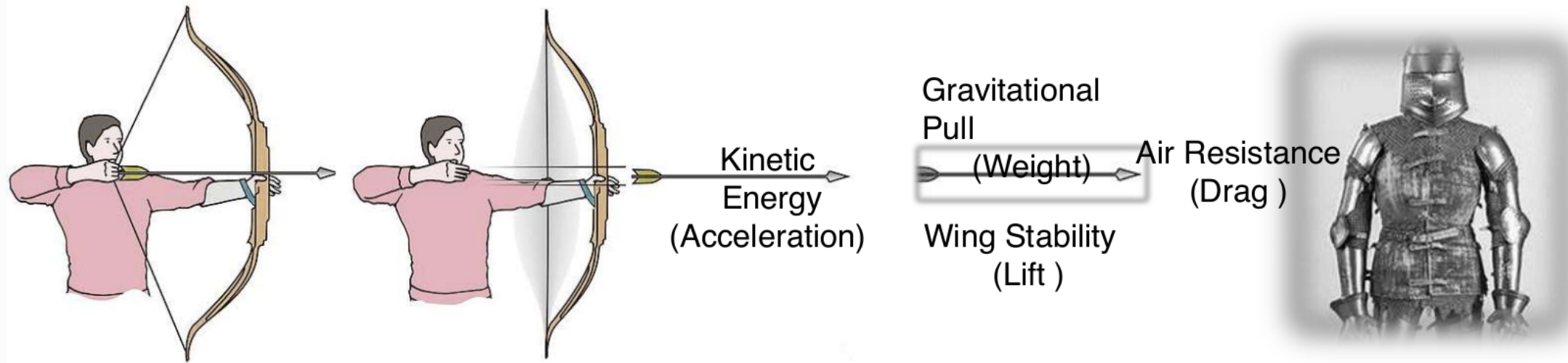
French & English Men-at-Arms

- Full heavy suit of plate armour
- Layered with chain mail & other padding



English Longbow & Arrow

Energy Transfer



Potential
Energy

Kinetic Energy

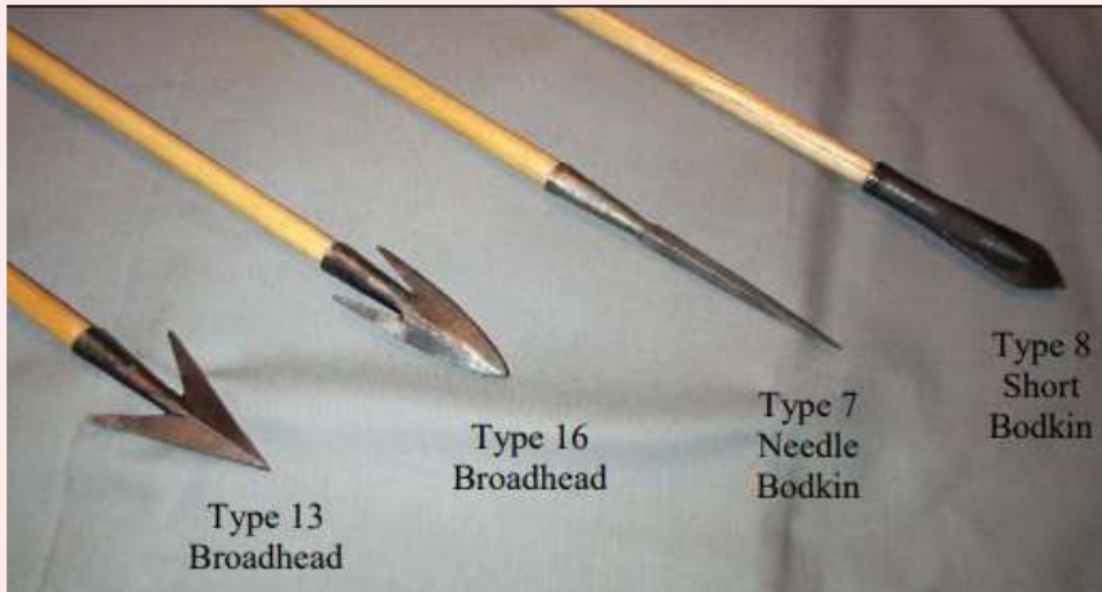
Gravitational
Potential
Energy

Impact Energy

Battle of
Densities

Bodkin Needle Arrowhead

Battle of Densities



- Small Diameter
- High Mass
- High Velocity
- Hardened Tips

Penetration & Perforation

Battle of Densities

75lb longbow was used at 10 yards to simulate a 110lb longbow at its maximum range 250 yards



Jack Coat

layered linen topped with deerskin.

Body Penetration
3.7"



Butted Maille

Iron round wire butted together.

Body Penetration
4.2"



Plate Armor

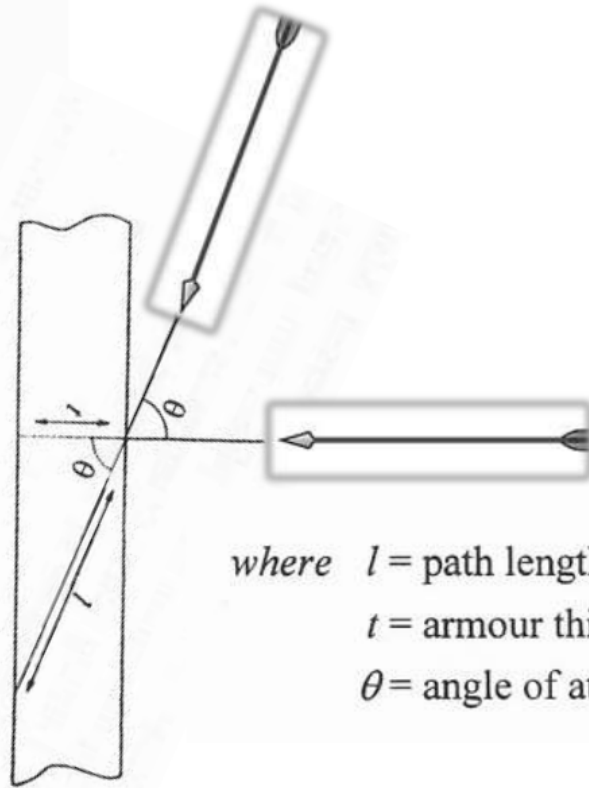
1.2 mm thick, the maximum would have 4.57 mm.

Body Penetration 1.5"

Probable death is indicated at 1.7" - based on National Institute of Justice body armour testing for certification.

English Longbow & Arrow

Battle of Densities



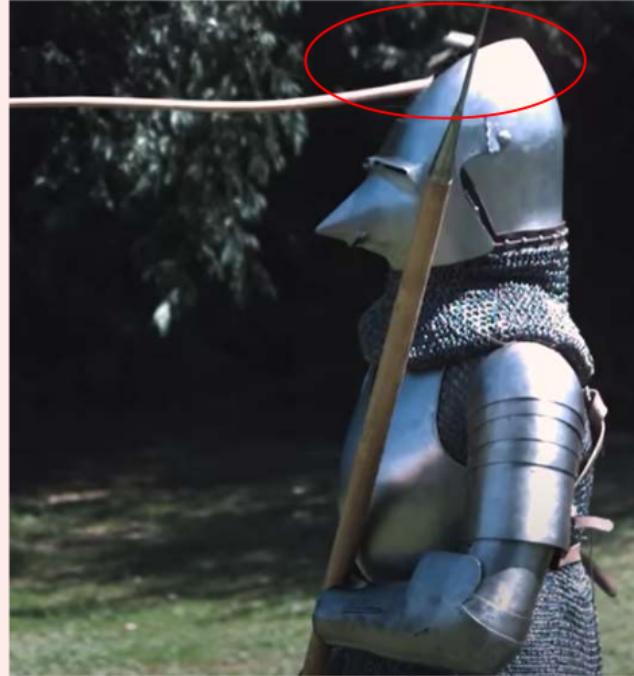
where l = path length through armour
 t = armour thickness
 θ = angle of attack

- Plate Armour from this time period was hammered and was not from rolled Steel, depending on rank.
- Weak spot/thick spots.
- Deflection

Deflection

Battle of Densities

12

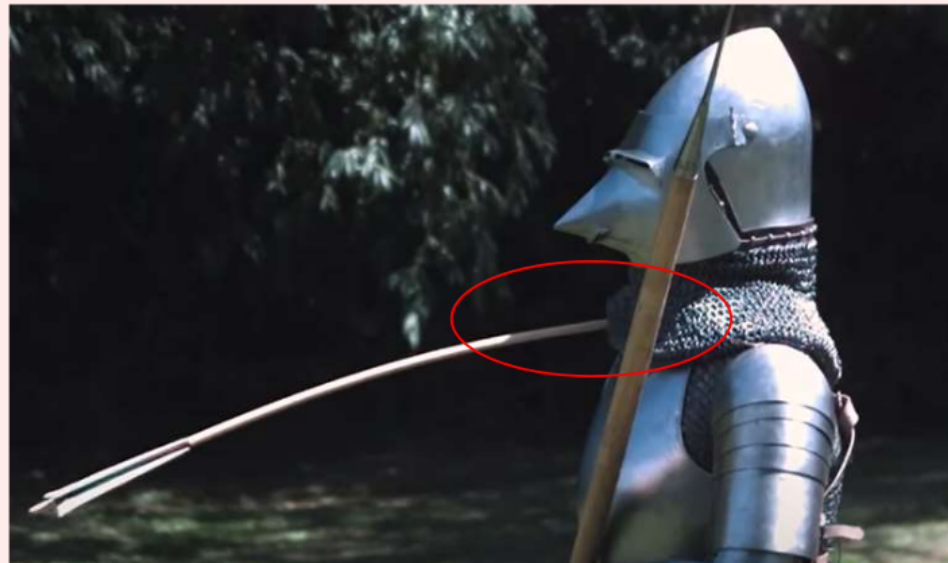


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Ductile Failure & Weak Spots

Battle of Densities

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Discussion

Evaluation of the Longbow

Why did 5,000 archers at Agincourt fire potentially 100,000+ arrows at the French if they could not expect to inflict damage to the charging knights?

Historic successes with the longbow

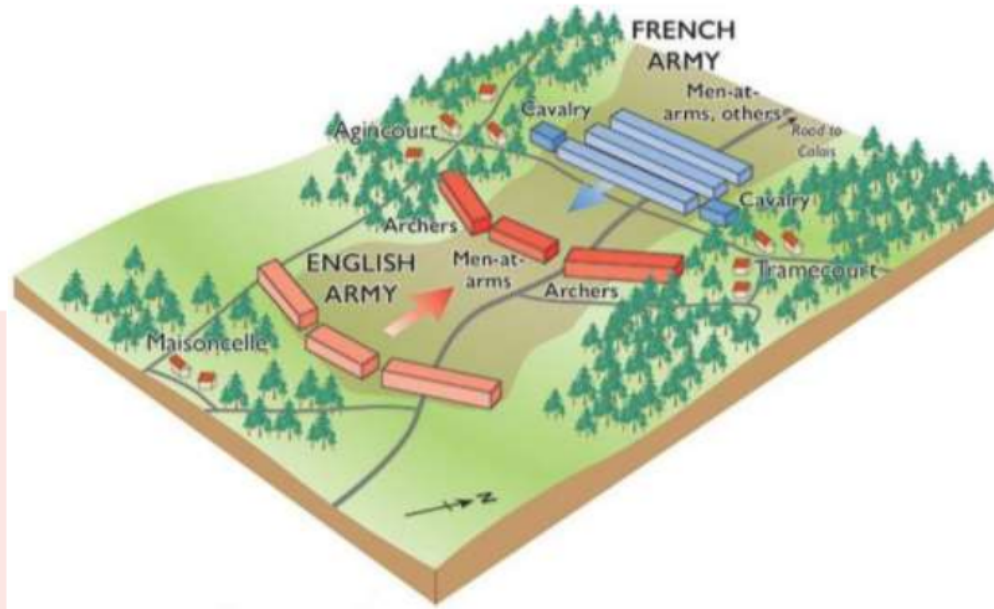
Hopeful hits on weak spots

Longbows effect on horses

Physical effects on the French



Terrain



- Farmland that had been ploughed.
- Bad weather caused a substantial amount of rain fall.
- The English had natural defences from the surrounding woodland.
- The French held the higher ground.

Tactics



- Archers left their lines to retrieve arrows. They had swords/daggers to kill any trapped French knights (under horses) or wounded.
- The French commanders had not closed their army right up to the woods on either side, but were to the North of its narrowest point. Leaving room for their cavalry to carry out a flanking sweep.
- Wooden stakes were placed in the ground to slow and disrupt the cavalry advancement.

French Disorganisation

18



- French commanders were not aware that of the 6000 English, over 5000 were longbow men.
- The French favoured simply starving the English rather than to engage them in a pitched battle.
- The flanking sweep by the French cavalry was so hard to execute that majority retreated, causing chaos.

Mindset of the English



- Henry V believed that God was on his side and that they would be victorious
- The English were hungry, sick, and tired.
- The English were fighting for their survival, kill or be killed.

Summary

Yes, the longbow was the decisive weapon, but could the longbow bring victory to the English alone?.... No.

In summary, longbows were used to harass enemies and prevent flanking manoeuvres, causing havoc to the opposition and their impact was legendary in battles like Crécy and Agincourt so much so they remain etched in history today.

However, its through the addition of many other contributing factors, they were successful on this day.

Thank You

Any Questions?



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GRADEMARK REPORT

FINAL GRADE

42/50

GENERAL COMMENTS

A presentation with humour and energy from the first slide. Has a pleasant and engaging presentation style. A good summary slide with detail or examples. Used notes but looked up and spoke with confidence. As confidence grew did not use notes. Good graphical representation of dispositions and casualties amongst opposing forces. The best visual representations of all, with clear discussion on energy transfer between bow and arrow. Useful technical terms used, such as battle of densities and material properties. Also walked around, pointing at slides with confidence and drawing eyes of audience to key points. Excellent use of referencing and imagery to support arguments for types of protection and perforation. Used Principles of OME equations to show depth of penetration based on obliquity. Knew difference between penetration, perforation and ductile failure. Evaluated the longbow with gusto, describing historic successes, effects on horses and psychological effects. Other factors discussed were terrain, tactics, disorganisation of French hand mindset of English. But watch what you have on the slide - cut out areas that focus on out-of-place things. Watch for "I've seen in sources....." Excellent summary.....well done. Audience remained captivated.

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