Hundred Years War

WAB FORUM SUPPLEMENT
HUNDRED YEARS WAR 1337 – 1453 AD

INTRODUCTION

SPECIAL RULES

ALLIES
Each army only can choose one ally with up to 25%, mixing of different ally contingents is not allowed. Subject alllies have Ld-1 and cost one point less per model, the subject ally-general 130 points with Ld7 only.

CHARACTERS EQUIPMENT
Characters may have the equipment of the unit they join at the start of the battle (free). Any additional equipment available for that unit can also be taken but the points are doubled which have to be paid for the character.

GERMAN WEDGE
- may count rank bonus up to +2.
- ignore Ferocious Charge when charged and have at least +1 rank bonus
- better armoured models have to be placed in front and flank

SUPERIOR BATTLE STANDARD
Some armies had a special army standard which can be fielded instead of the normal battle standard bearer for the same points if the size of the army is 3000 points or more. Such superior signs are based on a light chariot base (40x80mm), have a movement rate of 4" and cannot march or flee. Whenever they are attacked successfully they are automatically destroyed and the army has to make a panic test similar to the one in case of the generals death. As long as they are on the battlefield the radius of such battle standards is 18" and fleeing troops within 6" are rallying automatically.

UNITS
All units may have a leader, standard and musician for 5pts each.
All limits for units (like 0-1) are written for armies of 2000 points or less. If you play with armies that have more points simply take those units as 0-1 for each 2000 points e.g.. Always round down if you have an odd number. Exception is the wagon tabor which is 0-1 regardless of army size.

UNRULY
Onagers or asses were unreliable draft animals or mounts. Roll a d6 at the begin of each turn for an unruly unit. On a 1 the unit remains stationary that turn. Riders are too busy too shoot then too. On a 2-6 the unit move and act normally.

WAGON TABOR
See WAB Errata for details:
http://warhammer-historical.com/PDF/WAB2%20Errata.pdf

WAR WAGON
See WAB Errata for details
http://warhammer-historical.com/PDF/WAB2%20Errata.pdf
Some War Wagons may have two war machines with crew instead of 6 missle armed crew members (+80).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The **Hundred Years' War** was a series of wars waged from 1337 to 1453 by the House of Valois and the House of Plantagenet, also known as the House of Anjou, for the French throne, which had become vacant upon the extinction of the senior Capetian line of French kings. The House of Valois claimed the title of King of France, while the Plantagenets claimed the thrones of both France and England. The Plantagenet kings were the 12th-century rulers of the kingdom of England, and had their roots in the French regions of Anjou and Normandy.

The conflict lasted 116 years but was punctuated by several periods of peace, before it finally ended in the expulsion of the Plantagenets from France (except from the Pale of Calais). The final outcome was a victory for the house of Valois, which succeeded in recovering early gains made by the Plantagenets and expelling them from the majority of France by the 1450s. However, the war nearly ruined the Valois, while the Plantagenets enriched themselves with plunder. France suffered greatly from the war, since most of the conflict occurred in that country.

The "war" was in fact a series of conflicts and is commonly divided into three or four phases: the Edwardian War (1337–1360), the Caroline War (1369–1389), the Lancastrian War (1415–1429), and the slow decline of Plantagenet fortunes after the appearance of Joan of Arc (1412–1431). Several other contemporary European conflicts were directly related to this conflict: the Breton War of Succession, the Castilian Civil War, the War of the Two Peters, and the 1383-1385 Crisis. The term "Hundred Years' War" was a later term invented by historians to describe the series of events.

The war owes its historical significance to a number of factors. Though primarily a dynastic conflict, the war gave impetus to ideas of both French and English nationalism. Militarily, it saw the introduction of new weapons and tactics, which eroded the older system of feudal armies dominated by heavy cavalry in Western Europe. The first standing armies in Western Europe since the time of the Western Roman Empire were introduced for the war, thus changing the role of the peasantry. For all this, as well as for its long duration, it is often viewed as one of the most significant conflicts in the history of medieval warfare. In France, civil wars, deadly epidemics, famines and marauding mercenary armies (turned to banditry) reduced the population by about one-half.[1]

The background to the conflict is to be found in 1066, when William, Duke of Normandy, led an invasion of England. He defeated the English King Harold II at the Battle of Hastings, and had himself crowned King of England. As Duke of Normandy, he remained a vassal of the French King, and was required to swear fealty to the latter for his lands in France; for a king to swear fealty to another king was considered humiliating, and the Norman Kings of England generally attempted to avoid the service. On the French side, the Capetian monarchs resented a neighbouring king holding lands within their own realm, and sought to neutralise the threat England now posed to France.[2]

Following a period of civil wars and unrest in England known as The Anarchy (1135–1154), the Anglo-Norman dynasty was succeeded by the Angevin Kings. At the height of their power the Angevins controlled Normandy and England, along with Maine, Anjou, Touraine, Poitou, Gascony, Saintonge, and Aquitaine (this assemblage of lands is sometimes known as the Angevin Empire). The King of England directly ruled more territory on the continent than the King of France himself. This situation – in which the Angevin kings owed vassalage to a ruler who was *de facto* much weaker – was a cause of continual conflict. John of England inherited this great estate from King Richard I. However, Philip II of France acted decisively to exploit the weaknesses of King John, both legally and militarily, and by 1204 had succeeded in wresting control of most of the ancient territorial possessions. The subsequent Battle of Bouvines (1214), along with the Saintonge War (1242) and finally the War of Saint-Sardos (1324), reduced Angevin hold on the continent to a few small provinces in Gascony, and the complete loss of the crown jewel of Normandy.[3]

By the early 14th century, many people in the English aristocracy could still remember a time when their grandparents and great-grandparents had control over wealthy continental regions, such as Normandy, which they also considered their ancestral homeland. They were motivated to regain possession of these territories.[4]

Dynastic turmoil: 1314–1328

The specific events leading up to the war took place in France, where the unbroken line of the Direct Capetian firstborn sons had succeeded each other for centuries. It was the longest continuous dynasty in medieval Europe. In 1314, the Direct Capetian, King Philip IV, died, leaving three male heirs: Louis X, Philip V, and Charles IV. A fourth child of Phillip IV, Isabella, was married to Edward II of England, and in 1312 had produced a son, Edward of Windsor, who was a potential heir to the thrones of both England (through his father) and France (through his grandfather).

Philip IV's eldest son and heir, Louis X, died in 1316, leaving only his posthumous son John I, who was born and

died that same year, and a daughter Joan, whose paternity was suspect.

Upon the deaths of Louis X and John I, Philip IV's second-eldest son, Philip V, sought the throne for himself, using rumours that his niece Joan was a result of her mother's adultery (and thus barred from the succession). A by-product of this was the invocation in the 1350s of Salic law to assert that women could not inherit the French throne.[5] When Philip V himself died in 1322, his daughters, too, were put aside in favour of an uncle: Charles IV, the third son of Philip IV.

In 1324, Charles IV of France and his brother-in-law, Edward II of England fought the short War of Saint-Sardos in Gascony. The major event of the war was the brief siege of the English fortress of La Réole, on the Garonne. The English forces, led by Edmund of Woodstock, Earl of Kent, were forced to surrender after a month of bombardment from the French cannon, after promised reinforcements never arrived. The war was a complete failure for England, and only Bordeaux and a narrow coastal strip of the once great Duchy of Aquitaine remained outside French control.

The recovery of these lost lands became a major focus of English diplomacy. The war also galvanised opposition to Edward II among the English nobility and led to his being deposed from the throne in 1327, in favour of his young son, Edward of Windsor, who thus became Edward III. Charles IV died in 1328, leaving only a daughter, and an unborn infant who would prove to be a girl. The senior line of the Capetian dynasty thus ended, creating a crisis over the French succession.

Meanwhile in England, the young Edward of Windsor had become King Edward III of England in 1327. Being also the nephew of Charles IV of France, Edward was Charles' closest living male relative, and the only surviving male descendent of Philip IV. By the English interpretation of feudal law, this made Edward III the legitimate heir to the throne of France.
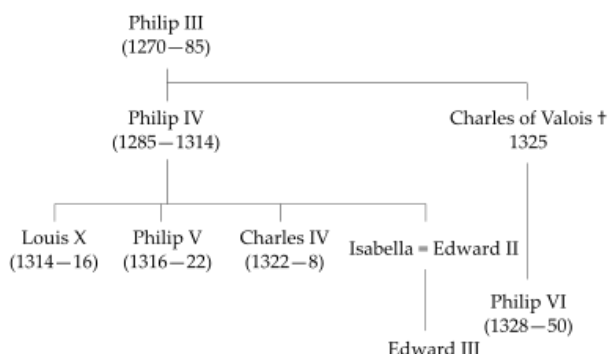
Family tree relating the French and English royal houses at the beginning of the war

The French nobility, however, balked at the prospect of a foreign king, particularly one who was also king of England. They asserted, based on their interpretation of the ancient Salic Law, that the royal inheritance could not pass to a woman or through her to her offspring. Therefore, the most senior man of the Capetian dynasty after Charles IV,

Philip of Valois, grandson of Philip III of France, was the legitimate heir in the eyes of the French. He had taken regency after Charles IV's death and was allowed to take the throne after Charles' widow gave birth to a daughter. Philip of Valois was crowned as Philip VI, the first of the House of Valois, a cadet branch of the Capetian dynasty.

Joan II of Navarre, the daughter of Louis X, also had a good legal claim to the French throne, but lacked the power to back it up. The Kingdom of Navarre had no precedent against female rulers (the House of Capet having inherited it through Joan's grandmother, Joan I of Navarre), and so by treaty she and her husband, Philip of Évreux, were permitted to inherit that Kingdom; however, the same treaty forced Joan and her husband to accept the accession of Philip VI in France, and to surrender her hereditary French domains of Champagne and Brie to the French crown in exchange for inferior estates. Joan and Philip of Évreux then produced a son, Charles II of Navarre. Born in 1332, Charles replaced Edward III as Philip IV's male heir in primogeniture, and in proximity to Louis X; although Edward remained the male heir in proximity to Saint Louis, Philip IV, and Charles IV (6th).

On the eve of war: 1328–1337

After Philip's accession, the English still controlled Gascony. Gascony produced vital shipments of salt and wine, and was very profitable. It was a separate fief, held of the French crown, rather than a territory of England. The Homage done for its possession was a bone of contention between the two kings. Philip VI demanded Edward's recognition as sovereign; Edward wanted the return of further lands lost by his father. A compromise "homage" in 1329 pleased neither side; but in 1331, facing serious problems at home, Edward accepted Philip as King of France and gave up his claims to the French throne. In effect, England kept Gascony, in return for Edward giving up his claims to be the rightful heir to the French throne.

In 1333, Edward III went to war against David II of Scotland, a French ally under the Auld Alliance, and began the Second War of Scottish Independence. Philip saw the opportunity to reclaim Gascony while England's attention was concentrated northwards. However, the war was, initially at least, a quick success for England, and David was forced to flee to France after being defeated by King Edward and Edward Balliol at the Battle of Halidon Hill in July. In 1336, Philip made plans for an expedition to restore David to the Scottish throne, and to also seize Gascony.

Beginning of the war: 1337–1360

Open hostilities broke out as French ships began scouting coastal settlements on the English Channel and in 1337 Philip reclaimed the Gascon fief, citing feudal law and saying that Edward had broken his oath (a felony) by not attending to the needs and demands of his lord. Edward III responded by saying he was in fact the rightful heir to the French throne, and on All Saints' Day, Henry Burghersh, Bishop of Lincoln, arrived in Paris with the defiance of the king of England. War had been declared.

Battle of Sluys from a manuscript of Froissart's Chronicles, Bruge, c.1470

In the early years of the war, Edward III allied with the nobles of the Low Countries and the burghers of Flanders, but after two campaigns where nothing was achieved, the alliance fell apart in 1340. The payments of subsidies to the German princes and the costs of maintaining an army abroad dragged the English government into bankruptcy, heavily damaging Edward's prestige. At sea, France enjoyed supremacy for some time, through the use of Genoese ships and crews. Several towns on the English coast were sacked, some repeatedly. This caused fear and disruption along the English coast. There was a constant fear during this part of the war that the French would invade. France's sea power led to economic disruptions in England as it cut down on the wool trade to Flanders and the wine trade from Gascony. However, in 1340, while attempting to hinder the English army from landing, the French fleet was almost completely destroyed in the Battle of Sluys. After this, England was able to dominate the English Channel for the rest of the war, preventing French invasions.

In 1341, conflict over the succession to the Duchy of Brittany began the Breton War of Succession, in which Edward backed John of Montfort and Philip backed Charles of Blois. Action for the next few years focused around a back and forth struggle in Brittany, with the city of Vannes changing hands several times, as well as further campaigns in Gascony with mixed success for both sides.

In July 1346, Edward mounted a major invasion across the Channel, landing in the Cotentin. The English army captured Caen in just one day, surprising the French who had expected the city to hold out much longer. Philip gathered a large army to oppose Edward, who chose to march northward toward the Low Countries, pillaging as he went, rather than attempting to take and hold territory. Finding himself unable to outmanoeuvre Philip, Edward positioned his forces for battle, and Philip's army attacked. The famous Battle of Crécy was a complete disaster for the French, largely credited to the English longbowmen and the French king, who allowed his army to attack before they were ready.[6] Edward proceeded north unopposed and besieged the city of Calais on the English Channel, capturing it in 1347. This became an important strategic asset for the English. It allowed them to keep troops in France safely. In the same year, an English victory against Scotland in the Battle of Neville's Cross led to the capture of David II and greatly reduced the threat from Scotland.

In 1348, the Black Death began to ravage Europe. In 1356, after it had passed and England was able to recover financially, Edward's son and namesake, the Prince of Wales, known as the Black Prince, invaded France from Gascony, winning a great victory in the Battle of Poitiers, where the English archers repeated the tactics used at Crécy. The new French king, John II, was captured (*See: Ransom of King John II of France*). John signed a truce with Edward, and in his absence, much of the government began to collapse. Later that year, the Second Treaty of London was signed, by which England gained possession of Aquitaine and John was freed.

The French countryside at this point began to fall into complete chaos. Brigandage, the actions of the professional soldiery when fighting was at low ebb, was rampant. In 1358, the peasants rose in rebellion in what was called the Jacquerie. Edward invaded France, for the third and last time, hoping to capitalise on the discontent and seize the throne, but although no French army stood against him in the field, he was unable to take Paris or Rheims from the Dauphin, later King Charles V. He negotiated the Treaty of Brétigny which was signed in 1360. The English came out of this phase of the war with half of Brittany, Aquitaine (about a quarter of France), Calais, Ponthieu, and about half of France's vassal states as their allies, representing the clear advantage of a united England against a generally disunified France.

First peace: 1360–1369
When John's son Louis I, Duc d'Anjou, sent to the English as a hostage on John's behalf, escaped in 1362, John II chivalrously gave himself up and returned to captivity in England. He died in honourable captivity in 1364 and Charles V succeeded him as king of France.

The Treaty of Brétigny had made Edward renounce his claim to the French crown. At the same time it greatly expanded his territory in Aquitaine and confirmed his conquest of Calais. In reality, Edward never renounced his claim to the French crown, and Charles made a point of retaking Edward's new territory as soon as he ascended to the throne. In 1369, on the pretext that Edward III had failed to observe the terms of the treaty of Brétigny, Charles declared war once again.

French ascendancy under Charles V: 1369–1389
The reign of Charles V saw the English steadily pushed back. Although the Breton war ended in favour of the English at the Battle of Auray, the dukes of Brittany eventually reconciled with the French throne. The Breton soldier Bertrand du Guesclin became one of the most successful French generals of the Hundred Years' War.

Statue of Du Guesclin in Dinan

Simultaneously, the Black Prince was occupied with war in the Iberian peninsula from 1366 and due to illness was relieved of command in 1371, whilst Edward III was too elderly to fight; providing France with even more advantages. Pedro of Castile, whose daughters Constance and Isabella were married to the Black Prince's brothers John of Gaunt and Edmund of Langley, was deposed by Henry of Trastámara in 1370 with the support of Du Guesclin and the French. War erupted between Castile and France on one side and Portugal and England on the other.

With the death of John Chandos, seneschal of Poitou, in the field and the capture of the Captal de Buch, the English were deprived of some of their best generals in France. Du Guesclin, in a series of careful Fabian campaigns, avoiding major English field armies, captured many towns, including Poitiers in 1372 and Bergerac in 1377. The English response to Du Guesclin was to launch a series of destructive *chevauchées*. But Du Guesclin refused to be drawn in by them.

With the death of the Black Prince in 1376 and Edward III in 1377, the prince's underaged son Richard of Bordeaux succeeded to the English throne. Then, with Du Guesclin's death in 1380, and the continued threat to England's northern borders from Scotland represented by the Battle of Otterburn, the war inevitably wound down with the Truce of Leulingham in 1389. The peace was extended many times before open war flared up again.

Second peace: 1389–1415

England too was plagued with internal strife during this period, as uprisings in Ireland and Wales were accompanied by renewed border war with Scotland and two separate civil wars. The Irish troubles embroiled much of the reign of Richard II, who had not resolved them by the time he lost his throne and life to his cousin Henry, who took power for himself in 1399.

Although Henry IV of England planned campaigns in France, he was unable to put them into effect during his short reign. In the meantime, though, the French King Charles VI was descending into madness, and an open conflict for power began between his cousin, John the Fearless, and his brother, Louis of Orléans. After Louis's assassination, the Armagnac family took political power in opposition to John. By 1410, both sides were bidding for the help of English forces in a civil war.

This was followed by the rebellion of Owain Glyndŵr in Wales which was not finally put down until 1415 and actually resulted in Welsh semi-independence for a number of years. In Scotland, the change in regime in England prompted a fresh series of border raids which were countered by an invasion in 1402 and the defeat of a Scottish army at the Battle of Homildon Hill. A dispute over the spoils of this action between Henry and the Earl of Northumberland resulted in a long and bloody struggle between the two for control of northern England, which was only resolved with the almost complete destruction of the Percy family by 1408. Throughout this period, England was also faced with repeated raids by French and Scandinavian pirates, which heavily damaged trade and the navy. These problems accordingly delayed any resurgence of the dispute with France until 1415.

Resumption of the war under Henry V: 1415–1429

The final phase of warmaking that engulfed France between 1415 and 1435 is the most famous phase of the Hundred Years' War. Plans had been laid for the declaration of war since the rise to the throne of Henry IV, in 1399. However, it was his son, Henry V, who was finally given the opportunity. In 1414, Henry turned down an Armagnac offer to restore the Brétigny frontiers in return for his support. Instead, he demanded a return to the territorial status during the reign of Henry II. In August 1415, he landed with an army at Harfleur and took it, although the city resisted for longer than expected. This meant that by the time he came to marching further, most of the campaign season was gone. Although tempted to march on Paris directly, he elected to make a raiding expedition across France toward English-occupied Calais. In a campaign reminiscent of Crécy, he found himself outmanoeuvred and low on supplies, and had to make a stand against a much larger French army at the Battle of Agincourt, north of the Somme. In spite of his disadvantages, his victory was near-total; the French defeat was catastrophic, with the loss of many of the Armagnac leaders. About 40% of the French nobility was lost at Agincourt.[1]

HUNDRED YEARS WAR 1337 – 1453 AD

Fifteenth-century miniature depicting the Battle of Agincourt

Henry took much of Normandy, including Caen in 1417 and Rouen on January 19, 1419, making Normandy English for the first time in two centuries. He made formal alliance with the Duchy of Burgundy, who had taken Paris, after the assassination of Duke John the Fearless in 1419. In 1420, Henry met with the mad king Charles VI, who signed the Treaty of Troyes, by which Henry would marry Charles' daughter Catherine and Henry's heirs would inherit the throne of France. The Dauphin, Charles VII, was declared illegitimate. Henry formally entered Paris later that year and the agreement was ratified by the Estates-General.

Henry's progress was now stopped by the arrival in France of a Scottish army of around 6,000 men. In 1421, a combined Franco-Scottish force led by John Stewart, Earl of Buchan crushed a larger English army at the Battle of Bauge, killing the English commander, Thomas, 1st Duke of Clarence, and killing or capturing most of the English leaders. The French were so grateful that Buchan was immediately promoted to the office of High Constable of France. Soon after the Battle of Bauge Henry V died at Meaux in 1422. Soon after that, Charles too had died. Henry's infant son, Henry VI, was immediately crowned king of England and France, but the Armagnacs remained loyal to Charles' son and the war continued in central France.

The English continued to attack France and in 1429 were besieging the important French city of Orleans. An attack on an English supply convoy led to the skirmish that is now known as Battle of the Herrings when John Fastolf circled his supply wagons (largely filled with herring) around his archers and repelled a few hundred attackers. Later that year, a French saviour appeared in the form of a peasant girl from Domremy named Joan of Arc.

Valoisian victory: 1429–1453

By 1424, the uncles of Henry VI had begun to quarrel over the infant's regency, and one, Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, married Jacqueline, Countess of Hainaut, and

invaded Holland to regain her former dominions, bringing him into direct conflict with Philip III, Duke of Burgundy. By 1428, the English were ready to pursue the war again, laying siege to Orléans. Their force was insufficient to fully invest the city, but larger French forces remained passive. In 1429, Joan of Arc convinced the Dauphin to send her to the siege, saying she had received visions from God telling her to drive out the English. She raised the morale of the local troops and they attacked the English Redoubts, forcing the English to lift the siege. Inspired by Joan, the French took several English strong points on the Loire. Shortly afterwards, a French army, some 8000 strong, broke through English archers at Patay with 1500 heavy cavalry, defeating a 3000 strong army commanded by John Fastolf and John Talbot, 1st Earl of Shrewsbury. This victory opened the way for the Dauphin to march to Reims for his coronation as Charles VII.

Hundred Years' War evolution. French territory: yellow; English: grey; Burgundian: dark grey.

After Joan was captured by the Burgundians in 1430 and later sold to the English, tried by an ecclesiastic court, and executed, the French advance stalled in negotiations. But, in 1435, the Burgundians under Philip III switched sides, signing the Treaty of Arras and returning Paris to the King of France. Burgundy's allegiance remained fickle, but their focus on expanding their domains into the Low Countries left them little energy to intervene in France. The long truces that marked the war also gave Charles time to reorganise his army and government, replacing his feudal levies with a more modern professional army that could put its superior numbers to good use, and centralising the French state.

The Battle of Formigny (1450)

A repetition of Du Guesclin's battle avoidance strategy paid dividends and the French were able to recover town after town.

By 1449, the French had retaken Rouen, and in 1450 the Count of Clermont and Arthur de Richemont, Earl of Richmond, of the Montfort family (the future Arthur III, Duke of Brittany) caught an English army attempting to relieve Caen at the Battle of Formigny and defeated it, the English army having been attacked from the flank and rear by Richemont's force just as they were on the verge of beating Clermont's army. The French proceeded to capture Caen on July 6 and Bordeaux and Bayonne in 1451. The attempt by Talbot to retake Gascony, though initially welcomed by the locals, was crushed by Jean Bureau and his cannon at the Battle of Castillon in 1453 where Talbot had led a small Anglo-Gascon force in a frontal attack on an entrenched camp. This is considered the last battle of the Hundred Years' War.

Significance

The Hundred Years' War was a time of military evolution. Weapons, tactics, army structure, and the societal meaning of war all changed, partly in response to the demands of the war, partly through advancement in technology, and partly through lessons that warfare taught.

England was what might be considered a more modern state than France. It had a centralised authority—Parliament—with the authority to tax. As the military writer Colonel Alfred Burne notes, England had revolutionised its recruitment system, substituting a paid army for one drawn from feudal obligation. Professional captains were appointed who recruited troops for a specified (theoretically short) period. To some extent, this was a necessity; many barons refused to go on a foreign campaign, as feudal service was supposed to be for protection of the realm.

Before the Hundred Years' War, heavy cavalry was considered the most powerful unit in an army. But by the war's end, this belief had shifted. The heavy horse was increasingly negated by the use of the longbow (and, later, another long-distance weapon: firearms) and fixed defensive positions of men-at-arms—tactics which helped lead to English victories at Crécy and Agincourt. Learning from the Scots, the English began using lightly armoured mounted troops—later called dragoons—who would dismount in order to fight battles. By the end of the Hundred Years' War, this meant a fading of the expensively outfitted, highly trained heavy cavalry, and the eventual end of the amoured knight as a military force and the nobility as a political one.[7]

Although they had a tactical advantage, "nevertheless the size of France prohibited lengthy, let alone permanent, occupation," as the military writer General Fuller noted. Covering a much larger area than England, and containing four times its population, France proved difficult for the English to occupy.

An insoluble problem for English commanders was that, in an age of siege warfare, the more territory that was occupied, the greater the requirements for garrisons. This lessened the striking power of English armies as time went on. Salisbury's army at Orleans consisted of only 5,000 men, insufficient not only to invest the city but also numerically inferior to French forces within and without the city. The French only needed to recover some part of their shattered confidence for the outcome to become inevitable. At Orleans they were assisted by the death of Salisbury through a fluke cannon shot and by the inspiration provided by Joan of Arc.

Furthermore, the ending of the Burgundian alliance spelled the end of English efforts in France, despite the campaigns of the aggressive John, Lord Talbot, and his forces to delay the inevitable.

The war also stimulated nationalistic sentiment. It devastated France as a land, but it also awakened French nationalism. The Hundred Years' War accelerated the process of transforming France from a feudal monarchy to a centralised state. The conflict became one of not just English and French kings but one between the English and French peoples. There were constant rumours in England that the French meant to invade and destroy the English language. National feeling emerged out of such rumours that unified both France and England further. The Hundred Years War basically confirmed the fall of the French language in England, which had served as the language of the ruling classes and commerce there from the time of the Norman conquest until 1362.[8]

The latter stages of the war saw the emergence of the dukes of Burgundy as important players on the political field, and it encouraged the English, in response to the seesawing alliance of the southern Netherlands (now Belgium, a rich centre of woollen production at the time) throughout the conflict, to develop their own woollen industry and foreign markets.

Weapons

The most lauded weapon was the English longbow of the yeoman archer: while not a new weapon at the time, it played a specialised role throughout the war, giving the English tactical advantage in several key battles - though the reliance on this specialised weapon and the lighter English armies would prove to be a decisive factor in the

end-result of the war. The French mainly relied on crossbows, often employed by Genoese mercenaries, highly skilled and well-trained men who made up for the weaknesses of the weapon with specialised equipment. The crossbow was used because it required little training, and so made it possible to quickly levy novice crossbowmen, and it had a tremendous firing power—at short range—against both plate armor and chain mail. However, it was slow to reload, heavy, and vulnerable to rain-damage. The longbow was a very difficult weapon to employ, and English archers had to have practiced from an early age to become proficient. It also required tremendous strength to use, with a draw force typically around 620–670 newtons (140–150 lbf) and possibly as high as 800 N (180 lbf). The longbow was fired in relatively inaccurate volleys, though this was typical of any bow. It was its widespread use in the British Isles that gave the English the ability to use it as a weapon. It was the strategic developments that brought it to prominence. The English, in their battles with the Welsh and Scots, had learned through defeat what dismounted bowmen in fixed positions could do to heavy cavalry from a distance. Since the arrows shot from a longbow could kill or incapacitate the un-armored horses, a charge could be dissipated before it ever reached an army's lines (an effect comparable to that of latter-day artillery). The longbow enabled the lighter and more mobile English army to pick battle locations, fortify them, and force the opposing side into a siege-style battle. As the Hundred Years' War came to a close, the number of capable longbowmen began to drop off. Given the training required to use such powerful bows, the casualties taken by the longbowmen at Verneuil (1424) and Patay (1429) were significant. The longbow became increasingly difficult to use without the men specialised in wielding them. In addition, improvements in armor-plating from the 15th century meant that while armor was practically arrow-proof, the longbow had remained a static and ineffective weapon. Only the most powerful longbows at close-range could stand a chance of penetrating.[9]

A number of new weapons were introduced during the Hundred Years' War as well. Gunpowder for gonnes (an early firearm) and cannon played significant roles as early as 1375. The last battle of the war, the Battle of Castillon, was the first battle in European history in which artillery was the deciding factor.

Self-yew English longbow, 2 m (6 ft 6 in) long, 470 N (105 lbf) draw force.

War and society
The consequences of these new weapons meant that the nobility was no longer the deciding factor in battle; peasants armed with longbows or firearms could gain access to the power, rewards, and prestige once reserved only for knights who bore arms. The composition of armies changed, from feudal lords who might or might not show up when called by their lord, to paid mercenaries. By the end of the war, both France and England were able to raise enough money through taxation to create standing armies, the first time since the fall of the Western Roman Empire that there were standing armies in Western or Central Europe (excluding the Eastern Roman Empire). Standing armies represented an entirely new form of power for kings. Not only could they defend their kingdoms from invaders, but standing armies could also protect the king from internal threats and also keep the population in check. It was a major step in the early developments towards centralised nation-states that eroded the medieval order.

It is a commonly believed myth that at the first major battle of the war, the Battle of Crécy, the "Age of Chivalry" came to an end in that heavy-cavalry charges no longer decided battles. At the same time, there was a revival of the mores of chivalry, and it was deemed to be of the highest importance to fight, and to die, in the most chivalrous way possible. The notion of chivalry was strongly influenced by the Romantic epics of the 12th century, and knights imagined themselves re-enacting those stories on the field of battle. Someone like Bertrand Du Guesclin was said *by whom?* to have gone into battle with one eye closed, declaring "I will not open my eye for the honour of my lady until I have killed three Englishmen." Knights often carried the colours of their ladies into battle.

In France, during the captivity of King John II, the Estates General attempted to arrogate power from the king. The Estates General was a body of representatives from the three groups who traditionally had consultative rights in France: the clergy, the nobles, and the townspeople. First called together under Philip IV "the Fair", the Estates had the right to confirm or disagree with the "levée", the principal tax by which the kings of France raised money. Under the leadership of a merchant named Etienne Marcel, the Estates General attempted to force the monarchy to accept a sort of agreement called the Great Ordinance. Like the English Magna Carta, the Great Ordinance held that the Estates should supervise the collection and spending of the levy, meet at regular intervals independent of the king's call, exercise certain judicial powers, and generally play a greater role in government. The nobles took this power to excess, however, causing in 1358 a peasant rebellion known as the Jacquerie. Swarms of peasants furious over the nobles' high taxes and forced-labour policies killed and burned in the north of France. One of their victims proved to be Etienne Marcel, and without his leadership the Estates General divided.

England and the Hundred Years' War
The effects of the Hundred Years' War in England also raised some questions about the extent of royal authority. The Peasants' Revolt, led by Wat Tyler in 1381, saw some 100,000 peasants march on London to protest the payment of a poll tax, which was the first tax not to take into account household income. It had been levied in 1379 and 1380 and the result was mass-avoidance, and attacks on

tax collectors. Whether this revolt was a direct challenge to royal authority, however, is questionable as Tyler and others often phrased their demands as petitions to the king to free himself from his "wicked councillors" rather than attacking the royal person or institution.

Initially the success of the campaigns brought much wealth to English monarchy and its nobility, and also to the ordinary soldiers who were paid 6d a day in Edward III's first campaign, which was at least a third more than a labourer's wages. As the war continued, the upkeep and maintenance of the region proved too burdensome and the English crown was essentially bankrupted, despite the wealth of France continuously being brought back by the nobles and their armies. As the English monarchy started a more reconciliatory approach toward France, many English subjects with claims and holdings in the continental territories that were being abandoned in the process were greatly disillusioned with the crowns. The conflict became one of the major contributing factors to the Wars of the Roses.

At the end of the war, England was left an island nation, except for Calais. Already on the fringe of Europe, it appeared destined for obscurity. However, the European discovery of the New World beyond the western boundary of the Atlantic Ocean in 1492 meant that seafaring nations like England were well-suited to take advantage of the new opportunities for trade, commerce and conquest it soon afforded.

edit Major battles

- 1337, November—Battle of Cadsand: initiates hostilities. The Flemish defenders of the island were thrown into disorder by the first use of the English longbow on Continental soil.
- 1340, June 24—Battle of Sluys: Edward III destroys the Franco-Genoese fleet of Philip VI of France off the coast of Flanders ensuring England will not be invaded and that the majority of the war will be fought in France.
- 1345, October 21—Battle of Auberoche: a longbow victory by Henry, Earl of Derby against a French army at Auberoche in Gascony.
- 1346, August 26—Battle of Crécy: English longbowmen soundly defeat French cavalry near the river Somme in Picardy. The dead included King John of Bohemia, Duke of Lorraine, the Count of Flanders, the Count of Alençon, the Count of Blois, the Viscount Rohan, the Lord of Laval, the Lord of Chateaubriant, the Lord of Dinan, the Lord of Redon, 1,542 knights, 2,300 Genoese and 10,000 infantry.
- 1346, September 4–1347, August 3—Siege of Calais: Calais falls under English control.
- 1350, August 29—Les Espagnols sur Mer: English fleet defeats Castilian fleet in a close fight.
- 1351, March 26—Combat of the Thirty: Thirty Breton knights from Chateau Josselin under Beaumanoir call out and defeat thirty English and pro-English Breton knights under Pembroke and

Sir Robert Bramborough, Bramborough was killed.

- French army under De Nesle defeated by English under Bentley at Mauron in Brittany, De Nesle killed.
- 1356, September 19—Battle of Poitiers: Edward the Black Prince captures King John II of France, France plunged into chaos. Casualties on the French side were 2,500 killed or wounded,[10] 2,000 captured, John II, 17 lords, 13 counts, 5 viscounts and over 100 knights.
- 1364, September 29—Battle of Auray: End of Breton War of Succession. Charles of Blois, Duke of Brittany was killed; the Count of Auxerre and Bertrand Du Guesclin were captured.
- 1367, April 3—Battle of Nájera: the Black Prince defeats a Castilian/French army at Nájera in Castile.
- 1370, December 3—Battle of Pontvallain: Bertrand du Guesclin routs an English raiding army, ending the English reputation for invincibility in open battle.
- 1372, June 22—Battle of La Rochelle: Castilian-French fleet defeats the English fleet, leading to loss of dominance at sea and French piracy and coastal raids. John of Hastings, Earl of Pembroke, was captured along with 400 knights and 8,000 soldiers.
- 1374-1380—Castilian fleet commanded by Fernando Sánchez de Tovar sacks and burns English Channel ports, and Gravesend on the Thames.
- 1385—Battle of Aljubarrota: Nuno Álvares Pereira, commanding a small Portuguese-English army, defeats the Castilian-French forces in Portugal.
- 1385—Jean de Vienne, having successfully strengthened the French naval situation, lands an army in Scotland, but is forced to retreat.
- 1415, October 25—Battle of Agincourt: English longbowmen under Henry V defeat the French under Charles d'Albret. Captured French nobles included Marshal of France Jean Le Maingre, Charles, Duke of Orléans, John I, Duke of Bourbon and Louis, Count of Vendôme. Killed on the French side were Antoine of Burgundy, Duke of Brabant and Limburg, Philip of Burgundy, Count of Nevers and Rethel, Charles I d'Albret, Count of Dreux, the Constable of France; John II, Count of Bethune, John I, Duke of Alençon, Frederick of Lorraine, Count of Vaudemont, Robert, Count of Marles and Soissons, Edward III of Bar (the Duchy of Bar lost its independence as a consequence of his death) and John VI, Count of Roucy, Jean I de Croÿ and two of his sons, Waleran III of Luxembourg, Count of Ligny, Jan I van Brederode, George Edward Stewart III, and the

(Scottish) Lord of Shetland. Other noble prisoners totalling about 1,500 were taken. Overall, between 7,000 and 10,000 French were killed. On the English side, Edward of Norwich, 2nd Duke of York and Michael de la Pole, 3rd Earl of Suffolk were killed, among at least 112 dead and an unknown number of wounded.

- 1416—English defeat numerically greater French army at Valmont near Harfleur.
- 1417—English naval victory in the River Seine under Bedford.
- 1418, July 31–1419, January 19—Siege of Rouen: Henry V of England gains a foothold in Normandy.
- 1419—Battle of La Rochelle: Franco-Castilian fleet defeats Anglo-Hanseatic fleet.
- 1421, March 22—Battle of Bauge: The French and Scottish forces of Charles VII, commanded by the Earl of Buchan, defeat an outmanoeuvred English force commanded by the Duke of Clarence. English nobles captured included John Beaufort, 3rd Earl of Somerset, Thomas Beaufort, Count of Perche, John Holland, 2nd Duke of Exeter and Lord Fitz Walter. Killed were Thomas of Lancaster, 1st Duke of Clarence, John Grey, 1st Earl of Tankerville, John de Ros, 8th Baron de Ros and Sir Gilbert de Umfraville.
- 1423, July 31—Battle of Cravant: The Franco-Scottish army is defeated at Cravant on the banks of the river Yonne. On the French/Scottish side, 6,000 were killed and 2,000 captured, including John Stewart, 2nd Earl of Buchan and Louis, Count of Vendôme.
- 1424, August 17—Battle of Vernuil: The Franco-Scottish forces are decisively defeated, losing 4,000 dead, including John Stewart, 2nd Earl of Buchan and Archibald Douglas, 4th Earl of Douglas
- 1426, March 6—French besieging army under Arthur de Richemont dispersed by a small force under Sir Thomas Rempstone in "The Rout of St James" in Brittany.
- 1428, October 12–1429, May 8—Siege of Orléans: English forces commanded by the Earl of Salisbury, the Earl of Suffolk, and Talbot (Earl of Shrewsbury) lay siege to Orleans, and are forced to withdraw after a relief army accompanied by Joan of Arc arrives at the city.
- 1429, February 12—Battle of the Herrings: English force under Sir John Fastolf defeats French and Scottish armies.
- 1429, July 17—Battle of Patay: In a reverse of Agincourt/Crécy, a French army under La Hire, Richemont, Joan of Arc, and other commanders break through English archers under Lord Talbot and then pursue and mop up the other sections of the English army, killing or capturing about half (2,200) of their troops. John Talbot, 1st Earl of

Shrewsbury and Walter, Lord Hungerford are captured.
- 1435—Battle of Gerbevoy: La Hire defeats an English force under Arundel.
- 1435 : French forces take Paris.
- 1450, April 15—Battle of Formigny: A French force under the Comte de Clermont defeats an English force under Thomas Kyriell.
- 1451: French forces conquer Gascony.
- 1453, July 17—Battle of Castillon: Jean Bureau defeats Talbot to end the Hundred Years' War. This was also the first battle in European history where the use of cannon was a major factor in determining the outcome. John Talbot, 1st Earl of Shrewsbury was killed in battle.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hundred_Years%27_War

ARMY LISTS

IV/16. SCOTS COMMON ARMY (1124-1500AD)

CHARACTERS: Up to 25%
CAVALRY: Up to 25%
INFANTRY: At least 50%
ALLIES: Up to 25%

CHARACTERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
General	4	5	5	4	4	3	5	2	9	150
Sub-Gen.	4	5	5	4	3	2	5	2	8	85
Ally-Gen.	4	5	5	4	4	2	5	2	8	140

Equipment: Hand weapon, shield, light armour
Special Rules: General is *Army General*. One sub-commander can be designated as *Army Standard Bearer* (+15) and one as *Army General* (+25) if no General is taken. The Ally-General acts as *Army General* but only for units from his allied contingent. May ride a horse (+8, M8).

CAVALRY

NORMAN-SCOTS KNIGHTS AND SERGEANTS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Horseman	8	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	22

Equipment: Hand weapon, light armour, thrusting spear
May have shield (+2) and heavy armour (+2)
Only after 1250AD: Upgrade to WS4 (+3). May have lance (+2) and barding (+3).
Special Rules: *Ferocious Charge*

FRENCH MEN-AT-ARMS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Horseman	8	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	8	28

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, lance
May have shield (+2), plate armour (+2) and warhorse (+3)
Special Rules: *Ferocious Charge*, Only in Scotland or England in 1385AD

INFANTRY

LOWLAND SCOTS YEOMEN SPEARMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Spearman	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	8

Equipment: Hand weapon, pike
May have light armour (+2). May have *Riding Ponies* (+1)

ETTRICK ARCHERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Archer	4	2	3	3	3	1	3	1	6	6

Equipment: Hand weapon, bow
Special Rules: *Light Infantry*

RIBAULDS AND CAMP FOLLOWERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Levy	4	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	6	4

Equipment: Hand weapon
May have shield (+1)
Special Rules: *Levies*

ISLESMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Swordsmen	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	7	9

Equipment: Hand weapon, shield
May have light armour (+2).
Special Rules: Only in Scotland or England

HIGHLAND WARRIORS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Archer	4	2	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	7

Equipment: Hand weapon, bow
May have light armour (+1)
Special Rules: Only in Scotland or England

HIGHLAND SCOUTS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Skirmisher	4	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	5	3

Equipment: Hand weapon, sling
May have bow instead of sling (+1)
Special Rules: *Skirmishers,* Only in Scotland or England

HIGHLAND LEVIES

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Levy	5	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	5	4

Equipment: Hand weapon
May have shield (+1)
Special Rules: *Levies,* Only in Scotland or England

FEUDAL ARCHERS ON PONIES

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Archer	4	3	4	3	3	1	3	1	7	11

Equipment: Hand weapon, bow
May have light armour (+1)
Special Rules: *Light Infantry, Riding Ponies,* Only in Scotland or England before 1162AD

GALWEGIAN WARRIORS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Warrior	5	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	5	6

Equipment: Hand weapon, shield
May have *Riding Ponies* (+1)
Special Rules: *Warband,* Only in Scotland or England before 1162AD

FRENCH CROSSBOWMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Crossbowmen	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	10

Equipment: Hand weapon, crossbow
May have light armour (+2) and pavise (+2)
Special Rules: Only in Scotland or England in 1385AD

0-2 WAR WAGONS
Special Rules: Only after 1456AD

ALLIES

Only on the continent from 1419-1429AD: French Allies, IV/64

HUNDRED YEARS WAR 1337 – 1453 AD

IV/62. 100 YEARS WAR ENGLISH (1322-1455AD)

CHARACTERS: Up to 25%
CAVALRY: Up to 25%
INFANTRY: At least 50%

CHARACTERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
General	4	5	5	4	4	3	5	2	9	150
Sub-Gen.	4	5	5	4	3	2	5	2	8	85

Equipment: Hand weapon, shield, light armour
Special Rules: General is *Army General and* may be upgraded to Ld10 (+50). One sub-commander can be designated as *Army Standard Bearer* (+15) and one as *Army General* (+25) if no General is taken. May ride a horse (+8, M8).

CAVALRY

ENGLISH MEN-AT-ARMS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Mounted	8	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	26
Dismounted	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	9

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, shield, lance
May have cloth (+2) or plate (+3) barding.
Dismounted - may take halberd or double-handed weapon (+2). May take partial or full plate armour (free if mounted, +2/+3 if dismounted)
Special Rules: *Ferocious Charge* and may have a +1 rank bonus if mounted

GASCON OR BRABANTER MEN-AT-ARMS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Mounted	8	4	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	28
Dismounted	4	4	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	11

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, shield, lance
May have cloth (+2) or plate (+3) barding.
Dismounted - may take halberd or double-handed weapon (+2). May take partial or full plate armour (free if mounted, +2/+3 if dismounted)
Special Rules: *Ferocious Charge* and may have a +1 rank bonus if mounted

HOBILARS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Horseman	8	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	6	20

Equipment: Hand weapon, light armour, thrusting spear
May have shield (+2)
Special Rules: Only before 1350AD

FALSE FRENCH MEN-AT-ARMS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Mounted	8	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	7	33
Dismounted	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	7	12

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, shield, lance, warhorse
May have cloth (+2) or plate (+3) barding. May be *Veterans* (+2)
Dismounted - may take halberd or double-handed weapon (+2). May take partial or full plate armour (free if mounted, +2/+3 if dismounted)
Special Rules: *Ferocious Charge* and may have a +1 rank bonus if mounted, *Stubborn* if dismounted, Only after 1350AD

IRISH HORSE

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Horseman	8	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	6	18

Equipment: Hand weapon, throwing spear
May have light armour (+2) and shield (+2)
Special Rules: *Skirmishers*, Only after 1415AD

INFANTRY

ENGLISH LONGBOWMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Longbowman	4	3	4	3	3	1	3	1	8	13

Equipment: Hand weapon, longbow. May have light armour (+1)
May be *Veterans* (+2). May have *Riding Horses* (+1)

WELSH ARCHERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Archer	4	3	4	3	3	1	3	1	7	10

Equipment: Hand weapon, bow
May have light armour (+1)
Only after 1350AD: May have Ld8 (+2) and be *Veterans* (+2)

WELSH "KNIFEMEN"

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Welsh	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	6	6

Equipment: Hand weapon, shield
May have light armour (+2).
Special Rules: *Light Infantry,* Only before 1350AD

GERMAN PAUNCENARS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Spearman	4	4	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	13

Equipment: Hand weapon, thrusting spear, light armour
May have shield (+1) and heavy armour (+2).
Special Rules: Only before 1350AD

IRISH FOOT

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Irish	4	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	5	4

Equipment: Hand weapon, bow.
May have javelins and BS3 (+1)
Special Rules: *Skirmishers*

GASCON CROSSBOWMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Crossbowman	4	2	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	9

Equipment: Hand weapon, crossbow.
May have light armour (+2) and pavise (+2).

GASCON BIDOWERS OR BRETONS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Skirmisher	4	2	3	3	3	1	3	1	6	5

Equipment: Hand weapon, sling
May have bow instead of sling (+1)
Special Rules: *Skirmishers*

0-1 LIGHT CANNON

0-1 WAGON TABOR

GASCON BRIGANS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Brigan	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	6	5

Equipment: Hand weapon, javelins
May have shield (+1).
Special Rules: *Light Infantry,* Only after 1350AD

GASCON OR FALSE-FRENCH TOWN MILITIA

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Militia	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	8

Equipment: Hand weapon, bow, light armour
May have shield (+2) and heavy armour (+2).
Only after 1415AD: May have WS4 instead of bow (+2) and then may
have *Riding Horses* (+1)
Special Rules: Only after 1350AD

ENGLISH BILLMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Billmen	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	8	11

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour
May have shield (+12, partial or full plate armour (+2/+3), halberd or
double-handed weapon (+2)
May be *Stubborn* (+2), *Drilled* (+2) and *Veterans* (+2)
Special Rules: Only after 1415AD

IV/64. MEDIEVAL FRENCH (1330-1445AD)

CHARACTERS: Up to 25%
CAVALRY: Up to 50%
INFANTRY: At least 25%
ALLIES: Up to 25%

CHARACTERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
General	4	5	5	4	4	3	5	2	9	150
Sub-Gen.	4	5	5	4	3	2	5	2	8	85
Ally-Gen.	4	5	5	4	4	2	5	2	8	140

Equipment: Hand weapon, shield, light armour
Special Rules: General is *Army General*. One sub-commander can be designated as *Army Standard Bearer* (+15) and one as *Army General* (+25) if no General is taken. The Ally-General acts as *Army General* but only for units from his allied contingent. May ride a horse (+8, M8).
Only after 1418AD: General may be upgraded to Ld10 (+50).

CAVALRY

NOBLES, KNIGHTS AND OTHER MEN-AT-ARMS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Mounted	8	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	7	31
Dismounted	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	7	12

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, shield, lance, warhorse
May have cloth (+2) or plate (+3) barding. May be *Veterans* (+2)
Dismounted - may take halberd or double-handed weapon (+2). May take partial or full plate armour (free if mounted, +2/+3 if dismounted)
Only after 1400AD: May be downgraded to WS3, I3, horse (-6 mounted/-3 dismounted)
Special Rules: *Ferocious Charge* and may have a +1 rank bonus if mounted, *Stubborn* if dismounted

INFANTRY

ARCHERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Archer	4	2	3	3	3	1	3	1	6	6

Equipment: Hand weapon, bow
May have light armour (+1).

FRENCH CROSSBOWMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Crossbowman	4	2	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	10

Equipment: Hand weapon, crossbow.
May have light armour (+2) and pavise (+2).
Special Rules: *Light Infantry*

GENOESE CROSSBOWMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Crossbowman	4	3	4	3	3	1	3	1	7	13

Equipment: Hand weapon, crossbow. May have light armour (+2) and pavise (+2).

SPANISH CROSSBOWMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Crossbowman	4	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	5	6

Equipment: Hand weapon, crossbow. May have light armour (+1).
Special Rules: *Skirmishers*

BRIGANS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Brigan	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	6	6

Equipment: Hand weapon, shield
Special Rules: *Light Infantry*

RIBAUDS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Levy	4	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	5	4

Equipment: Hand weapon, shield
Special Rules: *Levies*

PEASANT LEVY

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Levy	4	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	5	3

Equipment: Hand weapon
Special Rules: *Levies*

PAVISIERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Spearman	4	4	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	12

Equipment: Hand weapon, thrusting spear, light armour
May have shield (+2) or pavise (+2). May have *Riding Horses* (+1)
Special Rules: Only from 1350-1450AD

BIDETS OR BRETONS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Skirmisher	4	3	3	3	1	3	1	6	5	

Equipment: Hand weapon, shield
Special Rules: *Skirmishers,* Only from 1350-1450AD

DESPERATE PEASANTS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Levy	4	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	6	4

Equipment: Hand weapon
Special Rules: *Levies,* Only from 1356-1360AD

0-1 WAGON TABOR
Special Rules: Only from 1356-1360AD

HANDGUNNERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Handgunner	4	2	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	10

Equipment: Hand weapon, handgun. May have light armour (+1)
Special Rules: *Skirmishers,* Only after 1385AD

0-1 LIGHT CANNON
Special Rules: Only after 1385AD

VOULGIERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Voulgier	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	8	12

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour
May have shield (+2), partial or full plate armour (+2/+3), halberd or double-handed weapon (+2) . May have *Riding Horses* (+1)
May be *Stubborn* (+2), *Drilled* (+2) and *Veterans* (+2)
Special Rules: Only after 1400AD

SCOTS GUARD AND OTHER MOUNTED ARCHERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Longbowman	4	3	4	3	3	1	3	1	8	14

Equipment: Hand weapon, longbow. May have light armour (+2)
May be *Veterans* (+2).
Special Rules: *Riding Horses*, Only after 1400AD

ALLIES

Only after 1418AD: Scots Allies, IV/16

IV/74. FREE COMPANY OR ARMAGNAC (1357-1444AD)

CHARACTERS: Up to 25%
CAVALRY: Up to 50%
INFANTRY: At least 25%

CHARACTERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
General	4	5	5	4	4	3	5	2	9	150
Sub-Gen.	4	5	5	4	3	2	5	2	8	85
Ally-Gen.	4	5	5	4	4	2	5	2	8	140

Equipment: Hand weapon, shield, light armour
Special Rules: General is *Army General* and may be upgraded to Ld10 (+50). One sub-commander can be designated as *Army Standard Bearer* (+15) and one as *Army General* (+25) if no General is taken. The Ally-General acts as *Army General* but only for units from his allied contingent. May ride a horse (+8, M8).
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CAVALRY

GASCON, FRENCH, SPANISH OR NAVARRESE MEN-AT-ARMS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Mounted	8	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	26
Dismounted	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	9

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, shield, lance
May have cloth (+2) or plate (+3) barding.
Dismounted - may take halberd or double-handed weapon (+2). May take partial or full plate armour (free if mounted, +2/+3 if dismounted)
Every second unit may upgrade to WS4, I4 and Warhorse (+6) then may be *Veterans* (+2)
Special Rules: *Ferocious Charge* and may have a +1 rank bonus if mounted

ENGLISH GENTLEMEN AND LESSER MEN-AT-ARMS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Mounted	8	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	26
Dismounted	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	9

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, shield, lance
May have cloth (+2) or plate (+3) barding.
Dismounted - may take halberd or double-handed weapon (+2). May take partial or full plate armour (free if mounted, +2/+3 if dismounted)
Special Rules: *Ferocious Charge* and may have a +1 rank bonus if mounted

GERMAN MERCENARY MEN-AT-ARMS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Mounted	8	4	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	27
Dismounted	4	4	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	12

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, shield, lance
May have cloth (+2) or plate (+3) barding.
Dismounted - may take halberd or double-handed weapon (+2). May take partial or full plate armour (free if mounted, +2/+3 if dismounted)
Up to half may downgrade to WS3, light armour, thrusting spear (-3 mounted/-2 dismounted) placed in the rear ranks
Special Rules: *Ferocious Charge* and may have a +1 rank bonus if mounted, *Stubborn* if dismounted

INFANTRY

CROSSBOWMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Crossbowman	4	3	4	3	3	1	3	1	7	13

Equipment: Hand weapon, crossbow.
May have light armour (+2) and pavise (+2).

ENGLISH LONGBOWMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Longbowman	4	3	4	3	3	1	3	1	8	13

Equipment: Hand weapon, longbow. May have light armour (+1)
May be *Veterans* (+2). May have *Riding Horses* (+1)

BRETON JAVELINMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Javelinman	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	7

Equipment: Hand weapon, javelins
May have shield (+1).
Special Rules: *Skirmishers, Feigned Flight*

FRENCH BRIGANS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Brigan	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	6	5

Equipment: Hand weapon, javelins
May have shield (+1).
Special Rules: *Light Infantry,* Only in 1444AD

FRENCH RIBAUDS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Levy	4	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	5	4

Equipment: Hand weapon, shield
Special Rules: *Levies*

IV/76. EARLY BURGUNDIAN (1363-1471AD)

CHARACTERS: Up to 25%
CAVALRY: Up to 50%
INFANTRY: At least 25%

CHARACTERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
General	4	5	5	4	4	3	5	2	9	150
Sub-Gen.	4	5	5	4	3	2	5	2	8	85

Equipment: Hand weapon, shield, light armour
Special Rules: General is *Army General*. One sub-commander can be designated as *Army Standard Bearer* (+15) and one as *Army General* (+25) if no General is taken. May ride a horse (+8, M8).
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CAVALRY

BURGUNDIAN MEN-AT-ARMS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Mounted	8	4	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	28
Dismounted	4	4	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	11

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, shield, lance
May have cloth (+2) or plate (+3) barding.
Dismounted - may take halberd or double-handed weapon (+2). May take partial or full plate armour (free if mounted, +2/+3 if dismounted)
Only after 1419AD: Downgrade to WS3 (-2)
Special Rules: *Ferocious Charge* and may have a +1 rank bonus if mounted

VALETS D'ARMES

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Horseman	8	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	22

Equipment: Hand weapon, light armour, thrusting spear
May have shield (+2) and heavy armour (+2)

BURGUNDIAN OR MERCENARY MOUNTED CROSSBOWMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Horseman	8	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	20

Equipment: Hand weapon, light crossbow.
May have light armour (+2)

FRENCH OR ITALIAN MEN-AT-ARMS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Mounted	8	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	7	31
Dismounted	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	7	14

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, shield, lance, warhorse
May have cloth (+2) or plate (+3) barding. May be *Veterans* (+2)
Dismounted - may take halberd or double-handed weapon (+2). May take partial or full plate armour (free if mounted, +2/+3 if dismounted)
Special Rules: *Ferocious Charge* and may have a +1 rank bonus if mounted

ENGLISH MEN-AT-ARMS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Mounted	8	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	26
Dismounted	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	9

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, shield, lance
May have cloth (+2) or plate (+3) barding.
Dismounted - may take halberd or double-handed weapon (+2). May take partial or full plate armour (free if mounted, +2/+3 if dismounted)
Special Rules: *Ferocious Charge* and may have a +1 rank bonus if mounted

INFANTRY

LOW COUNTRUIES PIKEMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Pikeman	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	8

Equipment: Hand weapon, pike.
May have light armour (+1) or heavy armour (+3).

LOW COUNTRIES CROSSBOWMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Crossbowman	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	10

Equipment: Hand weapon, crossbow.
May have light armour (+2) and pavise (+2).

PICARD ARCHERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Archer	4	3	4	3	3	1	3	1	7	10

Equipment: Hand weapon, bow.
May have light armour (+1).

ENGLISH LONGBOWMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Longbowman	4	3	4	3	3	1	3	1	8	13

Equipment: Hand weapon, longbow. May have light armour (+1)
May be *Veterans* (+2)

VILLAGE LEVY

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Levy	4	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	5	4

Equipment: Hand weapon, shield
Special Rules: *Levies*

0-1 WAGON TABOR

ORGAN GUNS
Special Rules: Only after 1430AD

HANDGUNNERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Handgunner	4	2	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	10

Equipment: Hand weapon, handgun. May have light armour (+1)
Special Rules: *Skirmishers,* Only after 1430AD

SWISS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Pikeman	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	7	10

Equipment: Hand weapon, pike.
May have light armour (+1) or heavy armour (+3).
May be *Stubborn* (+2)
Special Rules: *Medieval Phalanx,* Only after 1464AD

WAB FORUM SUPPLEMENT
HUNDRED YEARS WAR 1337 – 1453 AD

IV/79. LATER SWISS (1400-1500AD)

CHARACTERS: Up to 25%
CAVALRY: Up to 25%
INFANTRY: At least 50%

CHARACTERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
General	4	5	5	4	4	3	5	2	9	150
Sub-Gen.	4	5	5	4	3	2	5	2	8	85

Equipment: Hand weapon, shield, light armour
Special Rules: General is *Army General and* may be upgraded to Ld10 (+50). One sub-commander can be designated as *Army Standard Bearer* (+15) and one as *Army General* (+25) if no General is taken. May ride a horse (+8, M8).

CAVALRY

MOUNTED CROSSBOWS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Horseman	8	2	3	3	3	1	3	1	6	16

Equipment: Hand weapon, light crossbow.
May have light armour (+2)

LORRAINER CAVALRY

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Mounted	8	4	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	28

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, shield, lance
May have cloth (+2) or plate (+3) barding.
May take full plate armour (free)
Up to half may downgrade to WS3, light armour, thrusting spear (-3 mounted/-2 dismounted) placed in the rear ranks
Special Rules: *Ferocious Charge* and may have a +1 rank bonus if mounted, Only from 1476-1477AD

INFANTRY

PIKEMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Pikeman	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	7	14

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, pike
May have plate armour (+3)
May be *Stubborn* (+2)
Special Rules: *Medieval Phalanx*

0-1 LIGHT CANNON

HANDGUNNERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Handgunner	4	2	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	10

Equipment: Hand weapon, handgun.
May have light (+1) or heavy armour (+3)
Special Rules: *Skirmishers*

CROSSBOWMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Crossbowman	4	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	6	6

Equipment: Hand weapon, crossbow. May have light armour (+1).
Special Rules: *Skirmishers*

HALBERDIERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Halberdier	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	8	13

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, halberd
May have plate armour (+3)
May be *Stubborn* (+2), *Drilled* (+2) and *Veterans* (+2)
Special Rules: Only before 1490AD

IV/82. FRENCH ORDONNANCE (1445-1500AD)

CHARACTERS: Up to 25%
CAVALRY: Up to 50%
INFANTRY: At least 25%
ALLIES: Up to 25%

CHARACTERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
General	4	5	5	4	4	3	5	2	9	150
Sub-Gen.	4	5	5	4	3	2	5	2	8	85
Ally-Gen.	4	5	5	4	4	2	5	2	8	140

Equipment: Hand weapon, shield, light armour
Special Rules: General is *Army General* and may be upgraded to Ld10 (+50). One sub-commander can be designated as *Army Standard Bearer* (+15) and one as *Army General* (+25) if no General is taken. The Ally-General acts as *Army General* but only for units from his allied contingent. May ride a horse (+8, M8).

CAVALRY

ORDONNANCE GENDARMES AND COUSTLLIERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Mounted	8	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	8	33
Dismounted	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	8	14

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, shield, lance, warhorse
May have cloth (+2) or plate (+3) barding. May be Veterans (+2)
Dismounted - may take halberd or double-handed weapon (+2). May take partial or full plate armour (free if mounted, +2/+3 if dismounted)
Special Rules: *Ferocious Charge* and may have a +1 rank bonus if mounted, *Stubborn* if dismounted

ORDONNANCE ARCHERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Horseman	8	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	20

Equipment: Hand weapon, bow.
May have light (+2) or heavy (+3) armour
Only after 1479AD: May have BS4 (+3)
Special Rules: *Light Cavalry*

MOUNTED HANDGUNNERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Horseman	8	3	4	3	3	1	3	1	7	22

Equipment: Hand weapon, handgun.
May have light (+2) or heavy (+3) armour
Special Rules: *Light Cavalry*

FEUDAL MEN-AT-ARMS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Mounted	8	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	7	31
Dismounted	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	7	12

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, shield, lance, warhorse
May have cloth (+2) or plate (+3). May be *Veterans* (+2)
Dismounted - may take halberd or double-handed weapon (+2). May take partial or full plate armour (free if mounted, +2/+3 if dismounted)
Special Rules: *Ferocious Charge* and may have a +1 rank bonus if mounted, *Stubborn* if dismounted, Only before 1465AD

SAVOYARD MEN-AT-ARMS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Mounted	8	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	7	31
Dismounted	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	7	12

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, shield, lance, warhorse
May have cloth (+2) or plate (+3) barding. May be *Veterans* (+2)
Dismounted - may take halberd or double-handed weapon (+2). May take partial or full plate armour (free if mounted, +2/+3 if dismounted)
Special Rules: *Ferocious Charge* and may have a +1 rank bonus if mounted, *Stubborn* if dismounted, Only before 1465AD

GENETAIRES

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Horseman	8	2	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	18

Equipment: Hand weapon, bow.
May have light (+2) and *Feigned Flight* (+2)
Special Rules: *Skirmishers,* Only in 1494AD

INFANTRY

FRENCH PARTISANMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Partisanman	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	7	10

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour
May have shield (+2), partial or full plate armour (+2/+3) and double-handed weapon (+2). May *Veterans* (+2)
Special Rules: Only until 1479AD

FOOT CROSSBOWMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Crossbowman	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	10

Equipment: Hand weapon, crossbow. May have light armour (+1).
May have BS4 (+3) and then may have *Riding Horses* (+1)
Special Rules: *Light Infantry*

FRANCS ARCHERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Archer	4	2	3	3	3	1	3	1	6	6

Equipment: Hand weapon, bow
May have light armour (+1).

GASCON CROSSBOWMEN AND SLINGERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Crossbowman	4	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	5	6

Equipment: Hand weapon, crossbow. May have light armour (+1).
May have sling instead of crossbow (-3)
Special Rules: *Skirmishers*

GASCON BIDETS OR BRETONS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Skirmisher	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	6	5

Equipment: Hand weapon, shield
Special Rules: *Skirmishers*

HANDGUNNERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Handgunner	4	2	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	10

Equipment: Hand weapon, handgun. May have light armour (+1)
Special Rules: *Skirmishers*

0-2 ORGAN GUNS

HUNDRED YEARS WAR 1337 – 1453 AD

FRENCH SPEARMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Spearman	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	6	6

Equipment: Hand weapon, thrusting spear
May have shield (+1) and light (+2) or heavy (+3) armour.
May have Ld7 (+1)
Special Rules: Only before 1465AD

HALBERDIERS AND PIKEMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Trooper	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	6	8

Equipment: Hand weapon, light armour, halberd
May have heavy armour (+2) and pike instead of halberd (+2) and then
have *Medieval Phalanx*.
Special Rules: Only after 1479AD

PIKEMEN

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Pikeman	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	7	13

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, pike
May have plate armour (+2). May be *Stubborn* (+2)
Special Rules: *Medieval Phalanx,* Only after 1479AD

SWISS SKIRMISHERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Handgunner	4	2	3	3	3	1	3	1	7	10

Equipment: Hand weapon, handgun.
May have light (+1) or heavy (+3) armour
May have crossbow instead of handgun (free)
Special Rules: *Skirmishers,* Only after 1479AD

SWISS HALBERDIERS

	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Pts
Halberdier	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	8	13

Equipment: Hand weapon, heavy armour, halberd
May have plate armour (+2)
May be *Stubborn* (+2), *Drilled* (+2) and *Veterans* (+2)
Special Rules: Only from 1480-1490AD

WAR WAGONS
Special Rules: Only from 1480-1482AD

ALLIES

Only before 1465AD: Milanese Allies, IV/61
Only rebels in 1469AD: Swiss Mercenary Allies, IV/79
Only after 1493AD: Italian Allies, IV/61

Battle of Agincourt

The **Battle of Agincourt**[a] was a major English victory against a numerically superior French army in the Hundred Years' War. The battle occurred on Friday 25 October 1415 (Saint Crispin's Day, November 3. NS), near modern day Azincourt, in northern France.[6b] Henry V's victory had a crippling effect on France and started a new period in the war, during which Henry married the French king's daughter and his son was made heir to the throne of France. However, his battlefield successes were not capitalised on by his heir, Henry VI.

Henry V led his troops into battle and participated in hand-to-hand fighting. The French king of the time, Charles VI, did not command the French army himself as he suffered from severe, repeating illnesses and moderate mental incapacitation. Instead, the French were commanded by Constable Charles d'Albret and various prominent French noblemen of the Armagnac party.

The battle is notable for the use of the English longbow, which Henry used in very large numbers, with English and Welsh archers forming most of his army. The battle is also the centrepiece of the play *Henry V*, by William Shakespeare.

Campaign

Henry V invaded France following the failure of negotiations with the French. He claimed the title of King of France through his great-grandfather Edward III, although in practice the English kings were generally prepared to renounce this claim if the French would acknowledge the English claim on Aquitaine and other French lands (the terms of the Treaty of Bretigny).[7] He initially called a great council in the spring of 1414 to discuss going to war with France, but the lords insisted that he should negotiate further and moderate his claims. In the following negotiations Henry said that he would give up his claim to the French throne if the French would pay the 1.6 million crowns outstanding from the ransom of John II (who had been captured at the Battle of Poitiers in 1356), and concede English ownership of the lands of Normandy, Touraine, Anjou, Brittany and Flanders, as well as Aquitaine. Henry would marry Princess Catherine,

the young daughter of Charles VI, and receive a dowry of 2 million crowns. The French responded with what they considered the generous terms of marriage with Princess Catherine, a dowry of 600,000 crowns, and an enlarged Aquitaine. By 1415 negotiations had ground to a halt, with the English claiming that the French had mocked their claims and ridiculed Henry himself.[8] In December 1414, the English parliament was persuaded to grant Henry a "double subsidy", a tax at twice the traditional rate, to recover his inheritance from the French. On 19 April 1415, Henry again asked the great council to sanction war with France, and this time they agreed.[9]

Henry's army landed in northern France on 13 August 1415 and besieged the port of Harfleur with an army of about 12,000. The siege took longer than expected. The town surrendered on 22 September, and the English army did not leave until 8 October. The campaign season was coming to an end, and the English army had suffered many casualties through disease. Rather than retire directly to England for the winter, with his costly expedition resulting in the capture of only one town, Henry decided to march most of his army (roughly 9,000) through Normandy to the port of Calais, the English stronghold in northern France, to demonstrate by his presence in the territory at the head of an army that his right to rule in the duchy was more than a mere abstract legal and historical claim.[10] He also intended the manoeuvre as a deliberate provocation to battle aimed at the dauphin, who had failed to respond to Henry's personal challenge to combat at Harfleur.[11]

The French had raised an army during the siege which assembled around Rouen. This was not strictly a feudal army, but an army paid through a system similar to the English. The French hoped to raise 9,000 troops, but the army was not ready in time to relieve Harfleur. After Henry V marched to the north the French moved to blockade them along the River Somme. They were successful for a time, forcing Henry to move south, away from Calais, to find a ford. The English finally crossed the Somme south of Péronne, at Béthencourt and Voyennes[1213] and resumed marching north. Without the river protection, the French were hesitant to force a battle. They shadowed Henry's army while calling a *semonce des nobles*, calling on local nobles to join the army. By 24 October both armies faced each other for battle, but the French declined, hoping for the arrival of more troops. The two armies spent the night of 24 October on open ground. The next day the French initiated negotiations as a delaying tactic, but Henry ordered his army to advance and to start a battle that, given the state of his army, he would have preferred to avoid, or to fight defensively: that was how Crécy and the other famous longbow victories had been won. The English had very little food, had marched 260 miles in two and a half weeks, were suffering from sickness such as dysentery, and faced much larger numbers of well equipped French men at arms. The French army blocked Henry's way to the safety of Calais however, and delaying battle would only further weaken his tired army and allow more French troops to arrive.
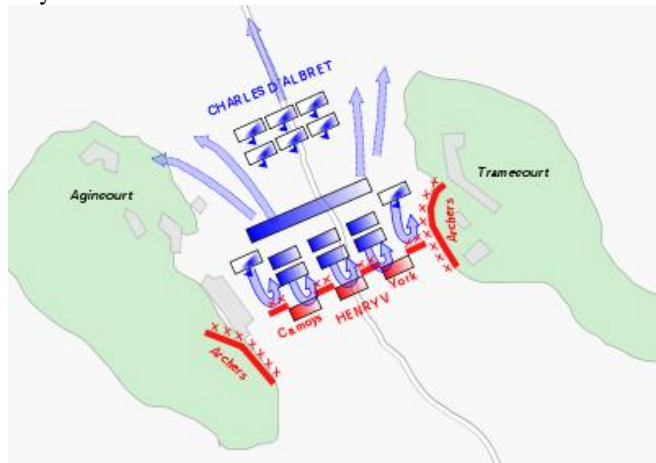
Battle
Preparation for battle

The battle was fought in the narrow strip of open land formed between the woods of Tramecourt and Agincourt (close to the modern village of Azincourt). The French army was positioned at the northern exit so as to bar the way to Calais.

The battle of Agincourt

English deployment

Early on the 25th, Henry deployed his army (approximately 1,500 men-at-arms and 7,000 longbowmen) across a 750-yard part of the defile. The army was organised into three "battles" or divisions, the vanguard led by the Duke of York, the main battle led by Henry himself and the rearguard, led by Lord Camoys. In addition, Sir Thomas Erpingham, one of Henry's most experienced household knights, had a role in marshalling the archers.[15] It is likely that the English adopted their usual battle line of longbowmen on either flank, men-at-arms and knights in the centre. They may also have deployed some archers in the centre of the line. The English men-at-arms in plate and mail were placed shoulder to shoulder four deep. The English and Welsh archers on the flanks drove pointed wooden stakes into the ground at an angle to force cavalry to veer off. This use of stakes may have been inspired by the Battle of Nicopolis of 1396, where forces of the Ottoman Empire used the tactic against French cavalry.

The English made their confessions before the battle, as was customary.[17] Henry, worried about the enemy launching surprise raids, and wanting his troops to remain focused, ordered all his men to spend the night before the battle in silence, with having an ear cut off the punishment for disobeying. He told his men that he would rather die in the coming battle than be captured and ransomed.

On the morning of the battle, Henry made a speech, emphasising the justness of his cause, and reminding his army of previous great defeats the kings of England had inflicted on the French. The Burgundian sources have him concluding the speech by telling his men that the French had boasted that they would cut off two fingers from the right hand of every archer, so that he could never draw a longbow again. (Whether this was true is open to question; death was the normal fate of any soldier who couldn't be ransomed.)

French deployment

By contrast, the French were confident that they would prevail and were eager to fight. The French believed they would triumph over the English not only because their force was larger, fresher, and better equipped, but also because the large number of noble men-at-arms would have considered themselves superior to the large number of archers in the English army, who the French (based on their experience in living memory of using and facing archers) considered relatively insignificant. The chronicler Edmond de Dyntner stated that there were "ten French nobles against one English", ignoring the archers completely.[20]

The French were arrayed in three lines or "battles". The first line was led by Constable D'Albret, Marshal Boucicault, and the Dukes of Orléans and Bourbon, with attached cavalry wings under the Count of Vendôme and Sir Clignet de Brebant. The second line was commanded by the Dukes of Bar and Alençon and the Count of Nevers. The third line was under the Counts of Dammartin and Fauconberg.[21] The Burgundian chronicler, Jehan de Waurin, writes that there were 8,000 men-at-arms, 4,000 archers and 1,500 crossbowmen in the vanguard, with two wings of 600 and 800 mounted men-at-arms, and the main battle having "as many knights, esquires and archers as in the vanguard", with the rearguard containing "all of the rest of the men-at-arms".[22] The Herald of Berry uses somewhat different figures of 4,800 men-at-arms in the first line, 3,000 men in the second line, with two "wings" containing 600 mounted men-at-arms each, and a total of "10,000 men-at-arms",[23] but does not mention a third line.

Approximately 8,000 of the heavily armoured French men-at-arms fought on foot, and needed to close the distance to the English army to engage them in hand-to-hand fighting. If they could close the distance, however, they outnumbered the English men-at-arms by more than 5-to-1, and the English longbowmen would not be able to shoot into a mêlée without risking hitting their own troops. Many of the French men-at-arms had fathers and grandfathers who had been humiliated in previous battles such as Crécy and Poitiers, and the French nobility were determined to get revenge. Several French accounts emphasise that the French leaders were so eager to defeat the English (and win the ransoms of the English men-at-arms) that they insisted on being in the first line. For example: "All the lords wanted to be in the vanguard, against the opinion of the constable and the experienced knights".

There appear to have been thousands of troops in the rearguard, containing servants and commoners whom the French were either unable or unwilling to deploy. De Waurin gives the total French army size as 50,000. He says: "They had plenty of archers and crossbowmen but nobody wanted to let them fire sic. The reason for this was that the site was so narrow that there was only enough room for the men-at-arms."[25] Most of the rearguard played little part in the battle, with English and French accounts

agreeing that many of the French army fled after seeing so many French nobles killed and captured in the fighting.

Terrain

The field of battle was arguably the most significant factor in deciding the outcome. The recently ploughed land hemmed in by dense woodland favoured the English, both because of its narrowness, and because of the thick mud through which the French knights had to walk.[2627] An analysis by *Battlefield Detectives* has looked at the crowd dynamics of the battlefield.[28] The 1,000–1,500 English men-at-arms are described as shoulder to shoulder and four deep, which implies a tight line about 250–300 men long (perhaps split in two by a central group of archers). The remainder of the field would have been filled with the longbowmen behind their palings. The French first line contained men-at-arms who had no way to outflank the English line. The French, divided into the three *battles*, one behind the other at their initial starting position, could not bring all their forces to bear: the initial engagement was between the English army and the first battle line of the French. When the second French battle line started their advance, the soldiers were pushed closer together and their effectiveness was reduced. Casualties in the front line from longbow arrows would also have increased the congestion, as the following men would have to walk around the fallen. The *Battlefield Detectives* episode states that when the density reached four men per square metre, soldiers would not even be able to take full steps forward, lowering the speed of the advance by 70%.[28] Accounts of the battle describe the French engaging the English men-at-arms before being rushed from the sides by the longbowmen as the mêlée developed. The English account in the *Gesta Henrici* says: "For when some of them, killed when battle was first joined, fall at the front, so great was the undisciplined violence and pressure of the mass of men behind them that the living fell on top of the dead, and others falling on top of the living were killed as well".[29] Although the French initially pushed the English back, they became so closely packed that they are described as having trouble using their weapons properly. The French monk of St. Denis says: "Their vanguard, composed of about 5,000 men, found itself at first so tightly packed that those who were in the third rank could scarcely use their swords",[30] and the Burgundian sources have a similar passage. In practice there was not enough room for all these men to fight, and they were unable to respond effectively when the English longbowmen joined the hand-to-hand fighting. By the time the second French line arrived, for a total of about eight thousand men (depending on the source), the crush would have been even worse. The press of men arriving from behind actually hindered those fighting at the front.

As the battle was fought on a recently ploughed field, and there had recently been heavy rain leaving it very muddy, it proved very tiring to walk through in full plate armour. The French monk of St. Denis describes the French troops as "marching through the middle of the mud where they sank up to their knees. So they were already overcome with fatigue even before they advanced against the enemy". The deep, soft mud particularly favoured the English force because, once knocked to the ground, the heavily armoured French knights had a hard time getting back up to fight in the mêlée. Barker states that some knights, encumbered by their armour, actually drowned in their helmets.[31] Their limited mobility made them easy targets for the volleys from the English archers. The mud also increased the ability of the much more lightly armoured English archers to join in hand-to-hand fighting against the French men-at-arms.

Fighting
Opening moves

Morning of the Battle of Agincourt, 25th October 1415, painted by Sir John Gilbert

On the morning of 25 October the French were still waiting for additional troops to arrive. The Duke of Brabant (about 2,000 men),[32] the Duke of Anjou (about 600 men),[32] and the Duke of Brittany (6,000 men, according to Montstrelet),[33] were all marching to join the army. This left the French with a question of whether or not to advance towards the English.

For three hours after sunrise there was no fighting. Military textbooks of the time stated "Everywhere and on all occasions that foot soldiers march against their enemy face to face, those who march lose and those who remain standing still and holding firm win".[34] On top of this, the French were expecting thousands of men to join them if they waited. They were blocking Henry's retreat, and were perfectly happy to wait for as long as it took. There had even been a suggestion that the English would run away rather than give battle when they saw that they would be fighting so many French princes.

Henry's men, on the other hand, were already very weary from hunger, illness and marching. Even though he knew as well as the French did that his army would perform better on the defensive, Henry was eventually forced to take a calculated risk, and move his army further forward to start the battle.[36] This entailed pulling out the long stakes pointed outwards toward the enemy which protected the longbowmen, and abandoning his chosen position. (The use of stakes was an innovation for the English: during the Battle of Crécy, for example, the archers were instead protected by pits and other obstacles.)[16] If the

French cavalry had charged before the stakes had been hammered back in, the result would probably have been disastrous for the English, as it was at the Battle of Patay. However, the French seem to have been caught off guard by the English advance. The tightness of the terrain also seems to have restricted the planned deployment of their forces.

The French had originally drawn up a battle plan that had archers and crossbowmen in front of the men-at-arms, with a cavalry force at the rear specifically designed to "fall upon the archers, and use their force to break them,"[37] but in the event, the archers and crossbowmen were deployed *behind* and to the sides of the men-at-arms (where they seem to have played almost no part, except possibly for an initial volley of arrows at the start of the battle). The cavalry force, which could have devastated the English line if it had attacked while they moved their position, seems to have charged only *after* the initial volley of arrows from the English. It is unclear whether this is because the French were hoping the English would launch a frontal assault (and were surprised when the English instead started shooting from their new defensive position), or whether the French mounted knights simply did not react fast enough to the English advance. French chroniclers agree that when the mounted charge did come, it did not contain as many men as it should have; Gilles le Bouvier states that some had wandered off to warm themselves and others were walking or feeding their horses.[38]

In any case, within extreme bowshot from the French line (approximately 300 yards), the longbowmen dug in their stakes and then opened the engagement with a barrage of arrows.

The French cavalry attack

The French cavalry, despite being somewhat disorganised and not at full numbers, charged the longbowmen, but it was a disaster, with the French knights unable to outflank the longbowmen (because of the encroaching woodland) and unable to charge through the palings that protected the archers. John Keegan argues that the longbows' main influence on the battle was at this point: armoured only on the head, many horses would have become dangerously out of control when struck in the back or flank from the high-elevation shots used as the charge started.[39] The effect of the mounted charge and then retreat was further to churn up the mud the French had to cross to reach the English. Juliet Barker quotes a contemporary account by a monk of St. Denis who reports how the panicking horses also galloped back through the advancing infantry, scattering them and trampling them down in their headlong flight.[40] The Burgundian sources similarly say that the mounted men-at-arms retreated back into the advancing French vanguard.

The main French assault

The constable himself led the attack of the dismounted French men-at-arms. French accounts describe their vanguard alone as containing about 5,000 men-at-arms, which would have outnumbered the English men-at-arms

by more than 3 to 1, but before they could engage in hand-to-hand fighting they had to cross the muddy field under a bombardment of arrows.

The plate armour of the French men-at-arms allowed them to close the 300 yards or so to the English lines while being under what the French monk of Saint Denis described as "a terrifying hail of arrow shot". However they had to lower their visors and bend their heads to avoid being shot in the face (the eye and airholes in their helmets were among the weakest points in the armour), which restricted both their breathing and their vision, and then they had to walk a few hundred yards through thick mud, wearing armour weighing 50–60 pounds.

King Henry V at the Battle of Agincourt, 1415, by Sir John Gilbert

The French men-at-arms reached the English line and actually pushed it back, with the longbowmen continuing to shoot until they ran out of arrows and then dropping their bows and joining the mêlée, implying that the French were able to walk through a hail of tens of thousands of arrows while taking comparatively few casualties. (Mortimer suggests "about a thousand arrows every second".[42] Henry brought in the region of 130,000 sheaves (i.e. about three million arrows) with him from England at the start of the campaign.)[43] However the physical pounding from thousands of non-penetrating arrows, combined with the slog in heavy armour through the mud, the heat and lack of oxygen in plate armour with the visor down, and the crush of their numbers meant they could "scarcely lift their weapons" when they finally engaged the English line.[44] When the English archers, using hatchets, swords and other weapons, attacked the now disordered and fatigued French, the French could not cope with their unarmoured assailants (who were much less hindered by the mud). The exhausted French men-at-arms are described as having been knocked to the ground and then unable to get back up. As the mêlée developed, the French second line also joined the attack, but they too were swallowed up, with the narrow terrain meaning the extra numbers could not be used effectively, and French men-at-arms were taken prisoner or killed in their thousands. The fighting lasted about three hours, but eventually the leaders of the second line were killed or captured, as those of the first line had been. The English *Gesta Henrici* describes three great heaps of the slain around the three main English standards.[45] According to contemporary English

accounts, Henry was directly involved in the hand-to-hand fighting. Upon hearing that his youngest brother Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester had been wounded in the groin, Henry took his household guard and stood over his brother, in the front rank of the fighting, until Humphrey could be dragged to safety; the king received an axe blow to the head which knocked off a piece of the crown that formed part of his helmet.

The attack on the English baggage train
The only French success was an attack on the lightly protected English baggage train, with Ysembart d'Azincourt (leading a small number of men-at-arms and varlets plus about 600 peasants) seizing some of Henry's personal treasures, including a crown.[47] Whether this was part of a deliberate French plan or an act of local brigandage is unclear from the sources. Certainly, d'Azincourt was a local knight but he may have been chosen to lead the attack because of his local knowledge and the lack of availability of a more senior soldier.[48] In some accounts the attack happened towards the end of the battle, and led the English to think they were being attacked from the rear. Barker, following the *Gesta Henrici*, believed to have been written by an English chaplain who was actually in the baggage train, concludes that the attack happened at the *start* of the battle.

Henry orders the killing of the prisoners
Regardless of when the baggage assault happened, there was a point after the initial English victory where Henry became alarmed that the French were regrouping for another attack. The *Gesta Henrici* puts this after the English had overcome the onslaught of the French men-at-arms, and the weary English troops were eyeing the French rearguard ("in incomparable number and still fresh"[49]). Le Fevre and Waurin similarly say that it was signs of the French rearguard regrouping and "marching forward in battle order" which made the English think they were still in danger.[50]

In any event, Henry ordered the slaughter of what was perhaps several thousand French prisoners, with only the most illustrious being spared. His fear was that they would rearm themselves with the weapons strewn upon the field, and the exhausted English would be overwhelmed. Though ruthless, it was arguably justifiable given the situation of the battle; perhaps surprisingly, even the French chroniclers do not criticise him for this.[51] This marked the end of the battle, as the French rearguard, having seen so many of the French nobility captured and killed, fled the battlefield.

Aftermath
Due to a lack of reliable sources it is impossible to give a precise figure for the French and English casualties. However, it is clear that though the English were outnumbered, their losses were far lower than those of the French. The French sources all give 4,000–10,000 French dead, with up to 1,600 English dead. The lowest ratio in these French sources has the French losing six times more men than the English. The English sources vary between about 1,500 and 11,000 for the French dead, with English dead put at no more than 100.[52]

Barker identifies from the available records "at least" 112 Englishmen who died in the fighting (including Edward of Norwich, 2nd Duke of York, a grandson of Edward III),[53] but this excludes the wounded. One widely used estimate puts the English casualties at 450, not an insignificant number in an army of about 8,500, but far fewer than the thousands the French lost, nearly all of whom were killed or captured. Using the lowest French estimate of their own dead of 4,000 would imply a ratio of nearly 9 to 1 in favour of the English, or over 10 to 1 if the prisoners are included.

The French suffered heavily. Three dukes, at least eight counts, a viscount and an archbishop died, along with numerous other nobles. Of the great royal office holders, France lost her Constable, Admiral, Master of the Crossbowmen and *prévôt* of the marshals.[54] The *baillis* of nine major northern towns were killed, often along with their sons, relatives and supporters. In the words of Juliet Barker, the battle "cut a great swath through the natural leaders of French society in Artois, Ponthieu, Normandy, Picardy." [55] Estimates of the number of prisoners vary between 700 and 2,200, amongst them the Duke of Orléans (the famous poet Charles d'Orléans) and Jean Le Maingre (known as Boucicault) Marshal of France.[56] Almost all these prisoners would have been nobles, as the less valuable prisoners were slaughtered.

Although the victory had been militarily decisive, its impact was complex. It did not lead to further English conquests immediately as Henry's priority was to return to England, which he did on 16 November, to be received in triumph in London on the 23rd.[57] Henry returned a conquering hero, in the eyes of his subjects and European powers outside of France, blessed by God. It established the legitimacy of the Lancastrian monarchy and the future campaigns of Henry to pursue his "rights and privileges" in France.[58] Other benefits to the English were longer term. Very quickly after the battle, the fragile truce between the Armagnac and Burgundian factions broke down. The brunt of the battle had fallen on the Armagnacs and it was they who suffered the majority of senior casualties and carried the blame for the defeat. The Burgundians seized on the opportunity and within 10 days of the battle had mustered their armies and marched on Paris.[59] This lack of unity in France would allow Henry eighteen months to prepare militarily and politically for a renewed campaign. When that campaign took place, it was made easier by the damage done to the political and military structures of Normandy by the battle.

It took several years' more campaigning, but Henry was eventually able to fulfil all his objectives. He was recognised by the French in the Treaty of Troyes (1420) as the regent and heir to the French throne. This was cemented by his marriage to Catherine of Valois, the daughter of King Charles VI.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Agincourt
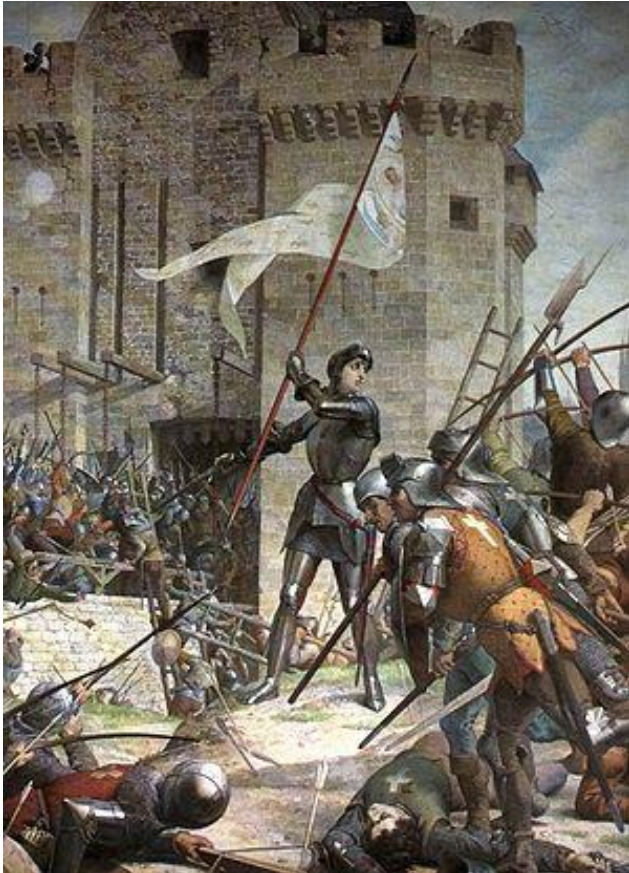
Siege of Orleans

The **Siege of Orléans** (1428–1429) marked a turning point in the Hundred Years' War between France and England. This was Joan of Arc's first major[1] military victory and the first major French success to follow the crushing defeat at Agincourt in 1415. The outset of this siege marked the pinnacle of English power during the later stages of the war. The city held strategic and symbolic significance to both sides of the conflict. The consensus among contemporaries was that the English regent, John Plantagenet, would succeed in realizing Henry V's dream of conquering all of France if Orléans fell. For half a year the English appeared to be winning, but the siege collapsed nine days after Joan's arrival.

Background
Hundred Years' War
The siege of Orléans occurred during the Hundred Years' War, contested between the ruling houses of France and England for supremacy over France. The conflict had begun in 1337 when England's Edward III decided to press his claim to the French throne, a claim based in part on ancient inheritance from William the Conqueror and augmented by inheritance from strategic marriages.

Following a decisive victory at Agincourt in 1415, the English gained the upper hand in the conflict, occupying much of northern France. Under the Treaty of Troyes of 1420, England's Henry V became regent of France. By this treaty, Henry married Catherine, the daughter of the current French king, Charles VI, and would then succeed to the French throne upon Charles's death. The dauphin Charles, the son of Charles VI and presumptive heir prior to the treaty, was then disinherited.

Geography
Orléans is located on the Loire River in north-central France. During the time of this siege it was the northernmost city that remained loyal to the French crown. The English and their allies the Burgundians controlled the rest of northern France, including Paris. Orléans's position on a major river made it the last obstacle to a campaign into central France. England already controlled France's southwestern coast.

Armagnac party
As the seat of the duke of Orléans, this city held symbolic significance in early fifteenth century politics. The dukes of Orléans were at the head of a political faction known as the Armagnacs who rejected the Treaty of Troyes and supported the claims of France's uncrowned king Charles VII. This faction had been active for two generations. As a result, the duke of Orléans was one of the very few combatants from Agincourt who remained a prisoner of the English fourteen years after the battle.

Under the customs of chivalry, a city that surrendered to an invading army without a struggle was entitled to lenient treatment from its new ruler. A city that resisted could expect a harsh occupation. Mass executions were not unknown in this type of situation. By late medieval reasoning, the city of Orléans had escalated the conflict and forced the use of violence upon the English, so a conquering lord would be just in exacting vengeance upon its citizens. The city's association with the Armagnac party made it unlikely to be spared if it fell.

Early stages of the siege

Siege of Orleans, 1429.

When the siege, under the direction of the Earl of Salisbury, began on 12 October 1428, English forces already controlled several towns in the Loire River valley. Orléans was the last major Armagnac stronghold.

Very early on in the siege, the English attacked the Augustins, a walled monastery, and beyond it, the Tourelles, a fortified gatehouse located at the southern end of a nearly ¼ mile (400 m) long bridge leading over the Loire River into the city (which was located on the northern side of the river). The Orléanais, for their part, soon made a decision to abandon the Tourelles and retreat behind the city walls to conduct their defense, tearing up a portion of the bridge behind them.

Soon after the English took possession of the Tourelles, in late October, the Earl of Salisbury was struck in the face by debris kicked up in cannon fire and, after lingering for about a week, died. About a month later, in early December 1428, after a series of temporary siege commanders, Sir William de la Pole, 1st Duke of Suffolk, 1st Marquess of Suffolk, 4th Earl of Suffolk assumed overall command of the siege, a post he would retain until the end of the siege in May of the following year.

Meanwhile, in the first few months of the siege, the English established a series of fortified positions around the city. Since they lacked a large enough force to fully invest the city, it was still possible for the defenders to move men and supplies in and out, though such movement could hardly be said to be unimpeded. This loose blockade was enforced with a series of forts to the west and north, while the Tourelles and a fortress immediately in front guarded the south. To the east, the fort of Saint Loup was located over 2 km distant from the city's eastern gate. Apart from Les Augustins, Tourelles and bridgehead on the south, the other forts were only lightly garrisoned.

Orléans in 1428-9, the time of the Siege

Battle of the Herrings

The most significant military action following the investment of the city prior to Joan's arrival in late April of 1429 took place to the north of the besieged city of Orléans outside a small French town by name of Rouvray. Here, on 12 February, several thousand French and Scottish soldiers attempted unsuccessfully to intercept and divert an English supply convoy in an action which has come to be known to history as the Battle of the Herrings, so named because the convoy was carrying a large supply of fish for the forthcoming Lenten season. The English were led by Sir John Fastolf (1380-1459) of Caister in Norfolk, who was later accused of 'flying the field' at the Battle of Patay.

It was on the very day of this battle that Joan was meeting with Robert de Baudricourt in Vaucouleurs for the last time before setting out, some time later and with his support, to see the Dauphin in Chinon. The story gained currency that at this meeting with Baudricourt, Joan had disclosed to him that the Dauphin's arms had that day suffered a great reversal near Orléans and that if she were not sent to him soon, there would be others. Again, according to this version, it is when news of the defeat at Rouvray reached Vaucouleurs that Baudricourt, now convinced of the girl's prescience, relented and agreed to give her an escort to Chinon. Whatever the truth of the story—and it is not accepted by all authorities—Joan left Vaucouleurs on February 23 for Chinon and, later, Orléans.

The English numbers were insufficient to truly invest and surround the city, and their cannon were incapable of breaking the thick stone city walls. Nevertheless, by spring of 1429, despite several supply runs by the French, the city's situation was growing desperate.

Joan's arrival at Orléans

For years, vague prophecies had been circulating in France concerning an armed maid who would rescue France. Many of these prophecies foretold that the armed maid would come from the region of Lorraine, where Domrémy, Joan's birthplace, is located. As a result, when word reached the besieged citizens of Orléans concerning Joan's journey to see the King, expectations and hopes were high. Joan arrived in Chinon in early March, at which time she met with the Dauphin. Following this, she was sent to Poitiers so that church officials and other dignitaries could examine her. Once she received ecclesiastical and royal approval, she joined the relief army which was being assembled in Blois.

It was from Blois that Joan sent the first of at least two letters addressed to the English forces besieging Orléans. In this letter, she called on the English to quit the siege, surrendering all the cities and territories in France which they then occupied, and return to England. If they refused, she promised that she would raise a "...war cry against them that would last forever." She then said, "I shall not write any further". It was a promise whose audacity was exceeded only by the accomplishment.

Joan of Arc arrived with the relief army on the outskirts of Orléans on April 28, 1429, and after spending the night at Checy entered the city, to much rejoicing, the next day.

Preparing to raise the siege

The *Journal du siege d'Orléans*, as quoted in Pernoud, reports several heated discussions over the next week concerning military tactics between Joan and Jean de Dunois, the Bastard of Orléans, who directed the city's defense. Dunois left the city on May 1 to return to Blois to gather reinforcements, returning on May 4.

Meanwhile, Joan went outside the city walls and scouted all of the English fortifications, at one point exchanging words with Glasdale himself.

On May 4, Joan rode out of the city, and lent aid to the French assault on the English-held fort of St. Loup. The fort was taken, the English defenders suffering over a hundred dead, with an additional 40 taken prisoner. The taking of the fort at St. Loup allowed for relatively

unimpeded communication and movement between the city and that portion of the French forces which had been stationed south of the Loire since their arrival from Blois the previous week. Following this action, Joan wrote once again to the English demanding that they quit the field or face dire consequences.

Two days later, following another of the almost daily disputes regarding battle tactics wherein Joan was urging attack against the recommendations of the more cautious French military leaders, a large force left the city, crossed over to the south side of the Loire and launched a direct frontal assault on the fortified English position at the Augustins on the south bank of the river in front of the Tourelles. After fighting which lasted from morning until the evening, the walled monastery compound finally fell, leaving the English garrison in the Tourelles isolated.

edit Attack on Les Tourelles

While the other military leaders met in council without Joan being present and decided to wait for reinforcements to arrive before attacking Les Tourelles itself, Joan, with the support of the troops, was preparing for battle the next morning.

On the morning of May 7, the assault on the fortified gateway called Les Tourelles began. It would be another direct, frontal assault. The French forces attempted to undermine the bridge arches which served in part as the foundation to the structure and burning barges were sent against it as well, though deVries is of the opinion that this tactic would not have had much effect.

In the midst of the fight, Joan was wounded by an archer (likely using bodkin arrows). The English (many of whom considered that any woman leading an army was a witch) began to dance about singing, 'The witch is dead! The witch is dead!' In his rehabilitation trial testimony, Jean Pasquerel, Joan's confessor, stated that Joan herself had some type of premonition or foreknowledge of this event, stating the day before the attack that "tomorrow blood will flow from my body above my breast." Joan pulled the arrow out of her own shoulder. After receiving a salve for the wound, Joan returned to the fight.

Later that day, towards evening, Dunois was prepared to order the engagement broken off, but Joan prevailed on him to delay this order. Then, after retiring into nearby woods to pray, she returned and the assault was renewed, this time successfully. Les Tourelles was taken with all its defenders either killed or captured. Sir William Glasdale himself, who led the defense of Les Tourelles, drowned in the Loire River.

The next day, in the morning, the English forces in the remaining forts assembled in battle formation. The French,

for their part, matched this with their own battle-ready formation. After facing each other like this for about an hour, with neither side initiating an attack (it being Sunday, Joan did not wish to initiate an attack), the English turned and marched off. The siege of Orléans was over.

Aftermath

Volunteers of men and supplies swelled the French army in the weeks that followed this victory. First clearing the Loire valley, then marching on Rheims to the north for the coronation of Charles VII, and finally attacking English-held Paris, the 1429 offensive made this one of the most important years of the Hundred Years' War.

Source :
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Orl%C3%A9ans

ARMY LIST SAMPLES

BATTLE REPORT

MANUFACTURERS

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SPECIAL THANKS

Many thanks to WAB Forum members for providing the template and their great support