

# THE HUNDRED YEARS WAR

## (Overview)

The war began in 1337 and lasted, intermittently, to the fall of Bordeaux (Gascony) to the French in 1453. (Legally the war did not end until 1492, when a peace treaty between England and France was finally signed, but there was no further threat to France from the English after 1453.) Between 1337 and 1453 there were only nine years of ratified peace (1360-1369). There was, however, an extended period from 1380 to 1417 in which there was little or no military activity. To complicate matters, the Hundred Years War also included side conflicts: Scotland (as an ally of the French) vs England, Flanders (as an ally of the English) vs France, the Burgundians vs the Armagnacs (a civil war between noble factions within France, 1407 to 1435), a civil war in Spain over succession to the throne and in Brittany over succession to the duchy in which the English and French supported different claimants.

The war can be divided into **five phases**:

1. **1337-1360**: the early phase of the war was dominated by a series of English *chevauchées* (mounted raids designed to devastate regions economically, destroy the morale of the enemy, and provide plunder for the raiders), two of which culminated in battles won by the English, **Crecy in 1346** and **Poitiers in 1356**. The latter battle resulted in the capture of King John II of France, which led a revolt of the Parisian bourgeois under Etienne Marcel, a feudal revolt by Charles the Bad of Navaree, and a peasant revolt known as the Jacquerie. All of this, tempered by a few French victories, led to the **peace of Bretigny in 1360**. **Bretigny** restored an enlarged Duchy of Aquitaine to Edward III and set John II's ransom at 3 million gold crowns. An omitted clause would have granted Edward III sovereignty over Aquitaine in return

for giving up his claim to the French throne. This period also witnessed innovations in taxation by dauphin Charles (the future Charles V)—the creation of the *taille*—as a mechanism for paying his father's ransom.

**Note:** The Black Death struck England and France in 1348. By 1351 it had killed one third of the population of both nations. It did not impede the war. Black Death reappeared in 1361-2 and then every 10-20 years until 1665-6 (in England).

2. **1364-1380: reign of Charles V.** This phase of the war was characterized by the French adopting **Fabian tactics** under the constable **Bertrand du Guesclin**. The result was that Charles V recovered everything his father had lost. During this period the French and the English fought a proxy war in Spain, as each side supported a different claimant to the Spanish throne.
3. **1380-1413:** England and France both suffered internal political turmoil. 1392 Charles VI went mad, which led to civil war. In 1399 Richard II of England was deposed by John of Gaunt's son Henry Bolingbroke, who secured the throne as Henry IV (1399-1413).
4. **1413-1429:** high point for English under Henry V (1413-1422). 1415: Henry V's victory at **Agincourt**. 1417-1419: Henry V conquers Normandy by besieging towns with artillery and through diplomacy. 1419: Burgundians ally with English. 1420: **Treaty of Troyes** names Henry V as heir to French throne.
5. **1429-1453:** French win the war. 1429: **Joan of Arc** lifts the siege of Orleans, leading to Charles VI being crowned king of France. 1430: Joan of Arc captured and burnt as a witch. 1435: Burgundians abandon allegiance with English. 1436: Charles VII recaptures Paris. 1449-1450: Charles VII retakes Normandy through the use of artillery. 1449-1450: Charles VII retakes Normandy through the use of artillery. The French reconquest of Normandy in 1449-1450 provides a

dramatic example of the effectiveness of the new French military system. Four French armies operated in tandem to reduce Normandy into submission. In the space of 1 year and four days, the armies of Charles VII conducted 60 successful sieges. In dramatic contrast, French forces had spent six months in 1346 besieging the town of Aiguillon, and King Henry V of England besieged Rouen for almost the same length of time (31 July 1418-19 Jan 1419). Before 1420 lack of supplies was the critical factor in the surrender of town/castle. After 1420 guns became decisive, rendering the defenses useless. 1451-1453: English lose Guyenne. 1453 Battle of Chatillon victory of French (demonstrated effectiveness of gunpowder in battle).

## **CAUSES OF WAR:**

**1. Territorial and political causes: the question of Guyenne (aka Gascony) and the status of Flanders.** The French possessions of the kings of England, which went back to William the Conqueror, 1066, and King Henry II, 1154, created lasting tensions between the English kings and their theoretical feudal overlords, the kings of France. By 1272 the only part of France that still remained under English control was Guyenne), a portion of what had been the duchy of Aquitaine in the southwest of France. Edward I (1272-1307), who strengthened the power of the English monarchy by monopolizing justice and asserting the lordship of the Crown over all subjects, regardless of rank, wanted to rule Guyenne as part of his English realm. King Philip IV the Fair (1285-1314) was equally intent on asserting his sovereignty within the realm of France, including Guyenne. Added to this were tensions over France's alliance with Scotland (1295 and 1326) and English support of Flemish burghers hostile to the French Crown.

There were both constitutional and practical aspects to the dispute over Gueynne/Gascony. The constitutional issue was Philip IV's claim to sovereignty over all French lands. He claimed the

right to hear appeals from ducal courts of justice in the Parlement of Paris (the highest royal court) and to make judicial inquiries throughout France, regardless of the wishes of the dukes and counts. Edward I acknowledged that Philip was his feudal lord for the county of Gascony, but claimed to possess sovereign rights to justice, taxation, coinage, etc., within the borders of Gascony. A private maritime war between Norman sailors and sailors from the English Cinque ports and Gascony War in 1292-3 gave King Philip IV an excuse to exert his sovereignty over Gascony. In 1293 Gascon sailors from Bayonne, angered by Norman plundering of their merchant fleets, sacked the Norman port of La Rochelle. Ignoring the piracy of his subjects, King Philip responded by summoning Edward I as count of Guyenne to answer in the Parlement of Paris for the actions of his Gascon subjects. Edward, citing his status as king, refused the summons, and Philip responded by confiscating the county of Guyenne. Edward I answered by renouncing his feudal ties. Edward I upped the ante by supporting Count Guy of Flanders in his dispute with Philip IV, and Count Guy's support of Edward I led King Philip to confiscate Flanders and imprison its count, which led to a popular uprising against the French. From 1294 until 1303 there was sporadic conflict as both kings geared for a major war. That major war was avoided in by a peace treaty that restored the status quo *ante bellum*. The 'friendship' between the two kings was ratified in 1303 by the marriage of Philip's daughter Isabella to Edward I's heir, Edward, Prince of Wales, who was to become Edward II in 1307. The status of Guyenne remained a sore point. The Hundred Years War formally began on 24 May 1337 when King Philip VI (1328-1350) declared Guyenne to be forfeited by King Edward III of England (1327-1377), "because of the many excesses, rebellious and disobedient acts committed by the king of England against us and our royal majesty." Edward III's response in October was a formal defiance to "Philip of Valois who calls himself King of France.

**2. Economic and strategic causes.** At the outset of the war English economic interests in France lay in customs levied on Bordeaux wines and in the English wool sold to Flanders, where it was worked into textiles. The customs taxes on Bordeaux wines produced an enormous amount of money for the kings of England. In 1307-1308 these taxes even surpassed the ordinary revenues of the English Crown. Guyenne, in return, was an important market for English grain, fish, wool, and cloth. Because of the wool trade (which the English kings profited from through export taxes), the English needed to keep Flemish ports open to English ships. Good relations with Flanders and access to its ports was also important for protecting the English wine trade with Guyenne and imports of salt from the Bay of Bourgneaf. Friendship with Brittany and access to Breton ports were similarly needed to maintain trade with Portugal.

**3. Dynastic claims.** The dispute over English claims to the French Crown was less a 'cause' of the war than a discovered justification for it. The death of Philip the Fair's third son King Charles IV without issue in 1328 left a confused succession to the French throne. The young Edward III, the nephew of the late king and grandson to King Philip IV, was the nearest male claimant, but his claim was through his mother Isabella. Edward's older cousin, Philip of Valois, the nephew of Philip the Fair, was the nearest claimant through the male line. For reasons that probably had as much to do with personality and preference as constitutional considerations, the French barons decided to exclude women from succession, citing the ancient Frankish Salic Law. This eliminated the succession of the daughters of the three previous kings. It also eliminated the young King Edward of England. Philip of Valois as a native French count was 'one of the club.' Edward III was king of England and a minor under the control of his obnoxious and despised mother Isabella, who was reputed to have murdered her husband Edward II.

Edward III initially accepted Philip VI's accession and in 1329 went to Amiens to pay homage to his cousin and swearing to

be his man for the Duchy of Guyenne and the small County of Ponthieu which lay just across the Channel. Two years later, under threat of military action, Edward III acknowledged Philip VI as his “liege lord.” Edward III, in fact, did not raise a claim to the French throne until 1340, three years into the war. By doing so, he could legally wage war against a “usurper” rather than as a rebel vassal. Edward III was willing to relinquish his claim to the French throne in return for full sovereignty over Guyenne. The Treaty of Bretigny in 1360 had in it an unconfirmed but agreed upon clause that had Edward do just this.

**4. Defense of the realm.** Edward III in 1335-1336 was concerned about a French-Scottish plan to attack England simultaneously from north and south. Philip VI had given refuge to King David II of Scotland after he had been driven out by Edward III in 1334 and had made the restoration of David to the throne of Scotland a precondition for the settlement of the Guyenne question. Edward III responded by giving refuge to the exiled Robert of Artois, who was “a prince of the blood” and a possible claimant to the French throne. Philip VI was also concerned by Edward III’s stirring up problems in Flanders. Edward III used the ties that his wife Philippa had as daughter of the Count of Hainault to win over the Flemish burghers to his side. When Count Louis of Flanders chose to remain loyal to Philip VI, Edward III responded with an embargo on the export of wool to Flanders, which crippled the Flemish textile industry. The result was an uprising in 1339 of the Flemish burghers against Louis, who was forced to flee. Edward responded by lifting the embargo.

## **RESOURCES OF COMBATANTS AT BEGINNING OF WAR**

Population:

England	around 6 million
France	around 12.25 million (records of hearth tax levied in 1328)

Finances:

England	royal lands brought in 5 tons of pure silver a year
France	royal lands brought in 26 tons of pure silver a year

## **COSTS OF WAR AND ROYAL REVENUES (England)**

### **Costs under Edward III (first part of Hundred Years War)**

1338-40 Edward III's unsuccessful campaigns in the Low Countries cost £400,000. (Gascony paid for its own defense.)

1359-60 Wages for soldiers £133,000

1369-75 Cost of war: £670,000

### **English Crown supplied archers with their longbows and**

**arrows.** Armory records at the Tower of London:

**1353-1360** the armory added to its stores: 15,300 bows and 24,000 sheaves of arrows [each sheaf contained 24 arrows=576,000 arrows]

**March 1345:** 15 sheriffs issued orders to supply the armory with 3,000 bows; 8,400 sheaves [201,000 arrows] and 20,000

bowstrings.

Each archer was allotted 60 arrows for battle. For the expedition of 1346, 7,500 archers were supplied with 500,000 arrows weighing 55 tons.

**1417:** Henry V ordered every sheriff in England to collect 6 wing feathers from every goose in their shire at a low price set by the Crown

## **English royal revenues:**

**1. “Ordinary revenues”** from England (from ‘farms’ of royal demesne lands, “feudal” revenues, payments from towns, revenues from admin and justice) remained fairly constant between 1240 and 1400: varying between £30,000-£50,000 per year

(note: the term ‘farm’ means annual payments made for the use of royal lands or royal rights; ‘feudal’ revenues include relief [=inheritance payment by vassal to lord], wardship and marriage [right of lord to appoint guardians for minors and approve marriage of royal heiresses], and escheat [royal of lord to take back lands if fief-holder dies without heirs])

## **2. Extraordinary revenues:**

### **a. Direct taxes**

1337-40: £100,000

1428-36: £27,003 average per year

**Attempts to introduce poll taxes in 1370s failed and led to Peasants Revolt in 1381**

### **b. Clerical income taxes (“voluntary” grants by bishops to Crown):**

1337-40: £40,000

1428-36: £83,450

### **c. Indirect taxes (customs taxes: wool subsidies, tannage**

**on wine)**

**1350s:** £90,000 p.a.

**d. Loans:**

Edward I borrowed £392,000 from Riccardi of Lucca (bankrupted in 1294)

Edward III borrowed £103,000 from Bardi and £71,000 from Peruzzi families of Florence. Bankrupted both in 1340s when EdIII defaulted on loans.

Dutch bankers lend 1337-40: £400,000. Cf. costs of war: £410,000

## **RECRUITMENT OF ARMIES**

### **A. England**

The changes in military recruitment over the course of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries were a consequence of changes in elite society and the way war was fought. England and Western Europe in general witnessed a number of dramatic economic and political changes in the fourteenth century. The early fourteenth century was a time of economic hardship, marked by bad harvests and famine, culminating in plague. The result of the plague and depopulation, paradoxically, was to better the economic condition of the higher end of the peasantry, as land became cheaper and labor more valuable. This increased the size of the yeoman class, the wealthier commoners, who were the archers of late medieval England. The fourteenth and fifteenth centuries were an age of commercialization and monetarization that witnessed the growth of great international merchant and banking families, the creation of new techniques and instruments of commerce, and the creation of new systems of taxation.

By 1300 in England most land held as fiefs in return for knight service had been transformed into simple property. The ties of loyalty between the fief-holder and the lord from whom he held

his land had been severed. These old feudo-vassalic ties gave way to bonds based on the payment of wages (money fees) to retainers, who held no lands from their lords. This is called **bastard feudalism**. English magnates built up large affinities consisting of household retainers and local landowners, to whom the magnate paid wages and gave clothing (livery) marking them as his men. He not only paid his men but took their part in legal proceedings. In return, they served him in peace and war.

The emergence of the long bow, a commoner's weapon, as the key weapon for English armies in the late thirteenth century, meant that kings and nobles needed to recruit from all levels of society. The offensive and expansionist military policies of Edward I (1272-1307) and his successors meant that foreign war became endemic for the English in the fourteenth century, with armies fighting in Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and France. Foreign war and the need for garrison troops to occupy foreign territory meant that English soldiers might be waging war away from their homes for six months to several years. The increase in the size of armies and the replacement of obligatory and voluntary service with wages resulted in the growing cost of warfare, which in turn led to the need to develop new forms of taxation to pay for the cost of war.

## **English armies in the 14<sup>th</sup> century**

### **General developments:**

1. Emergence of wholly paid armies.
2. Contract armies recruited via indenture system: short term, written contracts between the king and his captains. End of feudal obligatory service and voluntary aristocratic service. As Bernard Guenee observed: "between the age of the feudal army and that of the standing army, the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries were the **era of the contract army**."
3. Restructuring of armies around wholly mounted retinues of men at arms and archers

Underpinning these changes: exploitation of the kingdom's economic resources through national taxation: direct taxation of the laity and clergy and customs duties on exported wool.

Pay included not only wages but letter of protection, giving security from legal actions for the duration of the period of service. Benefits landowners. Pardons. Bonus payments. Replacement of war horses (appraised before campaign). Division of spoils of war.

### **Types of troops:**

1. Knights/men-at-arms become less important because of secondary significance of battles and rising cost of armor.
2. Hobelars, light horsemen, used in early 14<sup>th</sup> century in Scottish-English border warfare and during the Hundred Years War to harass enemy forces.
3. English longbowmen
  - a. Knowledge of longbow from those preserved in the Mary Rose wreck (1545). Draw-weights from about 100 lbs to 180 lbs (at 30 inches draw). Bows made out of yew wood. Effective bow range: about 300 yards
  - b. Mounted archers by second half 14<sup>th</sup> century.
  - c. Changes in ratio of men at arms to archers from 1:3 in 14<sup>th</sup> and early 15<sup>th</sup> centuries to 1:6 or more in middle of 15<sup>th</sup> century.
  - d. Combination of archers and men at arms: archers could break up those massed in defensive formations or disperse cavalry as it began to charge. Most often English men-at-arms dismounted to fight.

### **Mechanisms for recruitment in the fourteenth century**

At the beginning of Edward III's reign (1327-1377), the king could recruit troops through several mechanisms:

1. **Feudal service**, with its limitation of 40 days of service, had been declining in importance throughout the thirteenth century. By 1272 bishops and abbots owed 132.5 knights and lay nobles 300-500 knights. (This was a reduction of 90% of *servitia debita* from the time of Henry II, 1166.) 1277: Edward I mustered for the Welsh war 228 knights and 294 sergeants serving without pay for 40 days. 1303: 15 knights and 267 sergeants. The only feudal summons in Edward III's reign was at its very beginning, 1327. It persisted into the late 14<sup>th</sup> century in Ireland because there warfare remained territorial and local.
2. **Commissions of array**: levies of national militia (from 1277 on). **Commissions of array** were to recruitment what the **prise system** was to logistics. In short, it was a form of **conscription**. Royal commissioners were ordered by the king to raise a specified number of soldiers from the localities to which they were sent. These recruits were to be "the best and most able" men in the villages and towns; in actuality they got what local officials were willing to give them. The commissioners would arm and pay the men their wages and then lead them to a place of assembly. This system produced numbers but not quality.
3. **Volunteers**. The old feudal writ summoning the nobles to "come with the quota of knights owed to the king" was replaced with one that ordered them to "come with as many men as you can bring." This latter was a summons "out of love and loyalty" to the king rather than out of a specific obligation rooted in land holding.
4. **Contracts in the form of "indentures of service"**: This was a new form of recruitment that arose in the late thirteenth century and became the dominant form of recruitment by the third quarter of the fourteenth century. The system was based on **bastard feudalism**, the system in which retainers were

bound to their lords through the acceptance of wages. An **indenture** was a specific form of document in which a contract was written in duplicate and the copies were then divided with a scraggle-toothed cut, one copy being retained by the contractor and the other by the



retainer.

**Indentures** served two functions. 1. They created relationships of loyalty and service between a magnate and a noble retainer. 2. They were the mechanism by which kings and magnates raised military forces. A good example of both is the **indenture drawn up in 1369 between John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, and Sir John de Neville, lord of Raby**, whereby Neville promised to serve the duke “before all others in the world” except for the king wherever it pleased the duke, in war and in peace, except for express royal prohibition. In return Neville was to receive for life wages of 50 marks and *bouche in court* (that is food and drink when visiting the duke’s court) for Neville and his retinue (one knight bachelor, two esquires, and two chamberlains), with their pages and grooms receiving wages and liveries (clothing). In wartime Neville was to serve the duke with 20 men-at-arms (five of whom were to be knights) and 20 mounted archers. In return he would receive 500 marks in addition to his usual wages. His horses were to be valued and he would receive reimbursement for their loss and compensation for his travel expenses to and from the front. The indenture also specified the division of reward money between the duke and Neville for any prisoners taken by the latter and the division of loot.

- Through indentures the Crown made contracts with magnates to supply the king with a specified number of soldiers of specified types, for specified wages, for a set period of time. Most of these indentures represented voluntary service by the magnate, though the king paid the wages of the soldiers specified in the indenture. In turn the magnates entered into contracts of indenture with lesser nobles (such as John of Gaunt's indenture with Neville, above), who often would enter into contracts of indenture with knights.
5. **Free companies/mercenaries/ "routiers/ "ecorcheurs**• (15th century). Free Companies is the generic name for contingents of mercenaries led by captains (most usually from the lower nobility or bastard sons of higher nobility, though a number of commoners also rose to command them. Very professional: companies had established command structure as well as butiniers to share out the loot and secretaries to record loot and to write out the captain's demands. Some even had uniforms (e.g. bandes blanches of the Archpriest Arnaud de Cervole).
  6. **Pardoned criminals.** The Crown granted charters of pardon in return for serving a tour in the king's army. Several thousand such charters were issued during and after the Crecy-Calais campaign of 1346-7.

## **France**

The recruitment systems of France were not dissimilar to the English system, although there feudal obligation remained important for a longer time, possibly because France remained on the defensive throughout the Hundred Years War. As in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, French kings in 1337 at the beginning of the Hundred Years War raised heavy cavalry through feudal summonses and infantry through the military quotas owed by towns. They also could call upon a national militia, the so-called

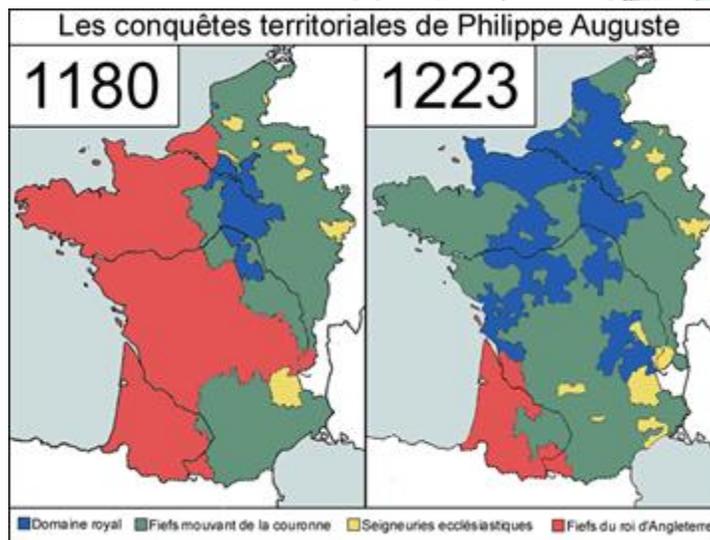
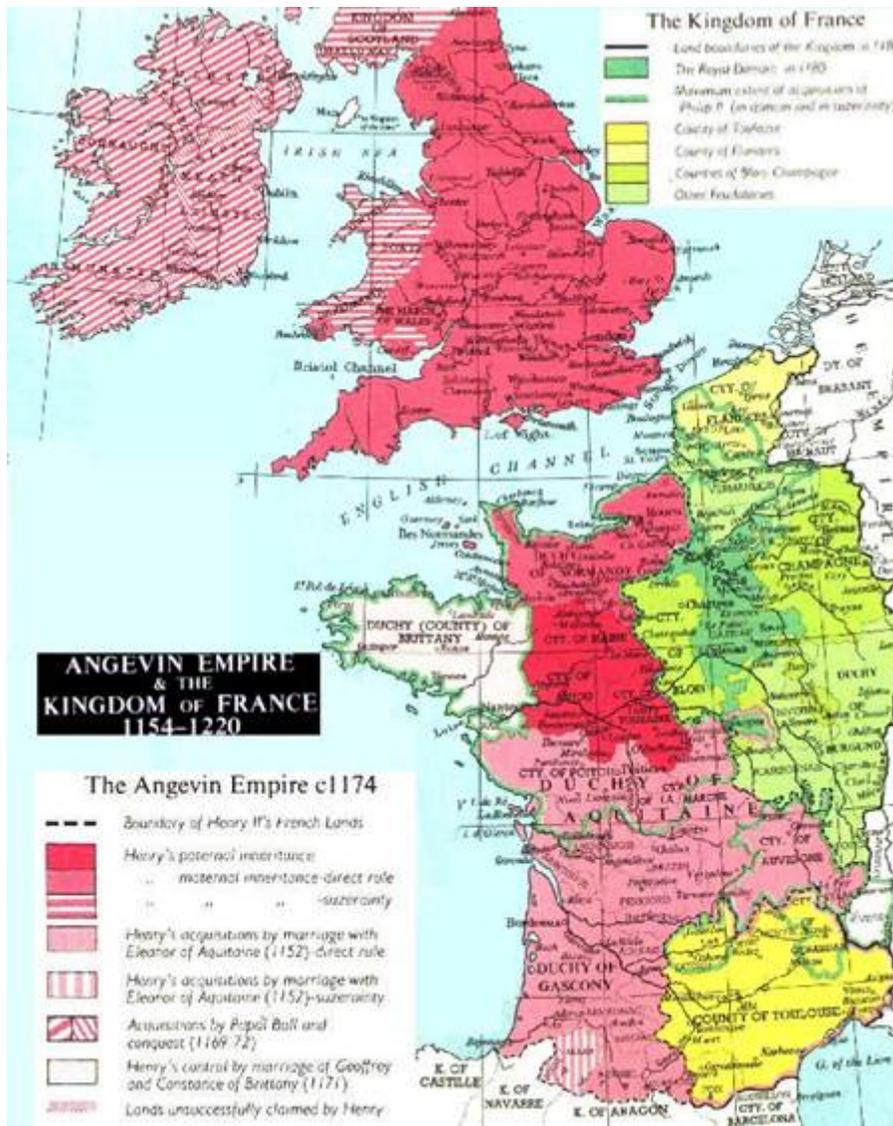
*arriere-ban*. The name is a corruption of the Carolingian heriban, the fine for a free man failing to answer the king's summons to go on expedition. The earliest appearance of the *arriere-ban*, however, was in the twelfth century and it was not generalized to all French subjects until Philip the Fair in 1302 following defeat at Courtrai, and then mainly as a tax mechanism.

This system proved cumbersome and ineffective. As in England, the French royal authorities over the course of the fourteenth century moved away from obligatory services to paid military service. **Charles V** (1364-1380) responded to the disaster of the battle of Poitiers in 1356 by creating a moderate size army of volunteers bound to the king by contract, as a *lettre de retenue*. With the collapse of royal authority after the death of Charles V during the reign of his weak and, at times, insane son Charles VI, the French system of recruitment returned to one based on feudal obligations and the *arriere-ban*, both of which emphasized the authority and power of the French magnates

## **Timeline for the Hundred Years War**

(adapted from xenophongroup.com, supplemented with material from [http://www.jeanne-darc.dk/p\\_references/p\\_timelines/1100\\_1320.html](http://www.jeanne-darc.dk/p_references/p_timelines/1100_1320.html) , my with maps and pictures added)

### **Prelude**



**1154** Accession of Henry II count of Anjou, Maine and Touraine, to the English throne. Henry II began the Plantagenet dynasty in England. By inheritance (from his mother's side and sustained by force of arms) Henry II held ducal claim to Normandy. In 1152, he had become duke of Aquitaine by marriage to the heiress, Eleanor. King Henry II of England, as a duke, held far more French land in direct vassalage than did the French king.

**1194-99** War over the Norman Vexin. Richard 'The Lionheart,' having returned from crusade and after a two year imprisonment in Germany, managed to protect most of it from seizure by the French king Philip II Augustus.



Chateau Gaillard, built by Richard on the Seine on the border of Normandy and France, 1197-1198

**1214** King Philip Augustus of France defeated English-German coalition armies in the 'War of Bouvines', essentially confirming his confiscation/conquest of Normandy, Anjou, and Maine from the English duke-king John I 'Lackland' in 1204

**1242** King Louis IX (Saint Louis) defeated the English king Henry III and a rebel force of French nobles in the Santonge War of 1242. The result was confiscation by the French crown of large portions of the former 'Aquitaine'. What remained was the territory known as Guyenne in the southwest, an area that included Gascony.



**1259** Treaty of Paris: Henry III of England acknowledged surrender of Plantagenet claims to lands in France conquered by Philip Augustus (Normandy, Anjou, Maine, Touraine and Poitou). In addition, he accepted to hold the remaining Plantagenet fiefs in southwest France (partially increased from the 1242 losses, but still 'Guyenne', a lesser Aquitaine) by liege homage to the king of France. However, this region remained a significant source of disputes and confiscation initiatives by later French monarchs.

**1294** Philip IV “the Fair” confiscates the county of Guyenne from King Edward I of England because of the latter’s refusal to acknowledge the authority of French royal justice within the county. Philip IV was looking for an excuse to do this and found it when sailors from English held Gascony engaged sailors from French controlled Normandy in a private maritime war that led to Normans being lynched in the Gascon city of Bordeaux. When Philip IV demanded that Edward I turn over the malefactors to him for justice, Edward refused. The context for all this was expanding trade. Sailors from Gascony carried the wines of Guyenne (e.g. Bordeaux) to England, where they were better liked by the upper classes than the native wines and beers.

They also carried the salt (essential to the English fishermen for their salting) of the Poitevin marshes and the bay of Bourgneuf to English ports. For all of this, the Gascon ships, which rarely ventured far out to sea, needed a favorable reception in the Breton

ports where they sheltered. Finally, English sheep-farming and the English treasury, which taxed the export of wool, depended on the Flemish market, where the raw wool was sold. Both Philip IV and Edward I prepared for war by raising war revenues and by seeking allies, the French with the Scots and the English with the Flemish.

**1303** War between France and England was averted through a marriage treaty. The heir to the English throne Prince Edward (II) married Philip IV's daughter Isabelle. There were several reasons for this peacemaking. Both kings were strapped for money; Philip IV was at war with Pope Boniface VIII; Edward I feared an uprising of the Scots; and the victory of the Flemish burghers at **Courtrai** in **1302** had dealt a major blow to Philip's prestige and war preparations.

**1325** King Edward II refuses to pay homage to Charles IV of France for Guyenne, resulting in the 'small war' of Saint-Sardos.

**1327** Accession of Edward III (1327-77) to the English throne. His mother, Isabelle, was the daughter of King Philip IV and sister to three French kings, none of whom left a direct male heir to the Capetian throne.

**1328** Death of the last [direct] Capetian king of France, Charles IV. Edward III's claim to succeed him as the closest male relative to Charles IV was rejected by the French nobility (who disliked his mother), and Philip of Valois, a cousin by direct male line, acceded to the French throne as Philip VI (1328-1350). This began the royal Valois dynasty in France. In 1329, Edward III went to Amiens and paid homage to King Philip IV of France for the duchy of Guyenne. He also paid homage for the small county of Ponthieu in northwest France (directly opposite the coast of Sussex in southeastern England).

**1334** King Philip VI gave refuge to the young King David II of Scotland after he was driven from the throne by Edward III.

**1335-1336** Philip VI threatened an invasion in support of the restoration of David II. In late summer of 1336, French ships raided Orford and the Isle of Wight.

## Initial Period.



**1337** King Philip VI of France declared the duchy of Guyenne forfeited by Edward III for the latter's harboring Robert d'Artois - a troublesome criminal in the eyes of the French crown. Edward III sent letter of defiance to 'Philip [sic] of Valois, who calls himself king of France'. These incidents are usually cited as the Beginning of the Hundred Years' War.

**1338** Edward III's ambitions were supported by the newly appointed leader of the Flemish townsmen seeking independence from France. Jacob van Artevelde formed a commercial treaty with Edward III and encouraged Edward to claim the French crown.

**1339** Edward III's first personally led campaign in France (launched from Flanders into Thiérache) proved ineffective, as well as financially costly. He returned to England to better prepare

for a future invasion.

**1340 Edward III assumed the title of "king of England and France" (26 January), and concluded a military alliance with the Flemish. Edward III's fleet defeated the French fleet at Sluys [l'Écluse] (24 June).**



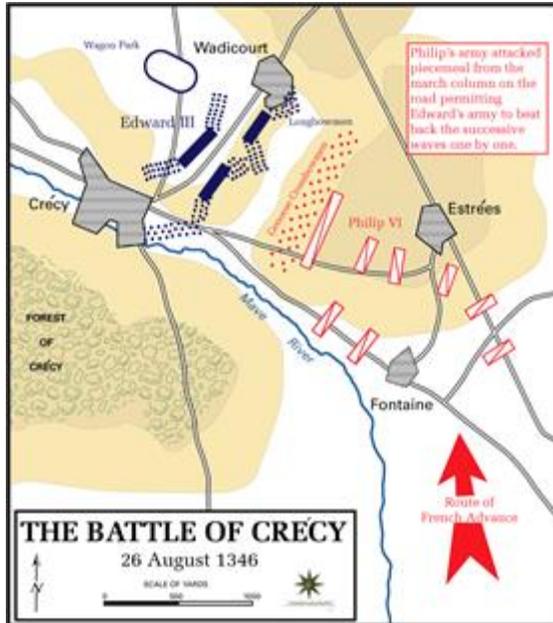
Naval battle from a psalter, ca 1330, showing two cogs. Note the incorporation of the aftercastles into the design of the hull. Upward protruding knees on the gunnels may serve as snatches for the anchors. The archers provide an important advantage. By permission of the British Library. MS. Roy. 10 E. IV, f. 19.

Battle of Sluys from a late fifteenth-century ms of Froissart's *Chronicles*

**1341** Death of the Jean III, duke of Brittany, led to a war of succession (1341-64) for the duchy between Charles de Blois (supported by the French king) and Jean de Montfort (supported by the English king).

**1345** English campaigns in Normandy, Brittany and Aquitaine.

**1346 battle of Crécy** (26 August 1346). This battle proved the effectiveness in battle of the English longbow. The great length of this yew self-bow made it possible to draw long arrows (the longer the draw, the more energy stored), and the bows were so thick and stiff that they often had draw-weights of well over 100 pounds, and sometimes (it seems) as much as 180 pounds. A 150-pound bow could drive a heavy 60-gram arrow 320 yards, and a light target arrow 350. Henry VIII, a statute set 220 yards as the *minimum* allowable distance for target-shooting—they were also extremely powerful.





**1347** capture of **Calais** (4 August 1347).

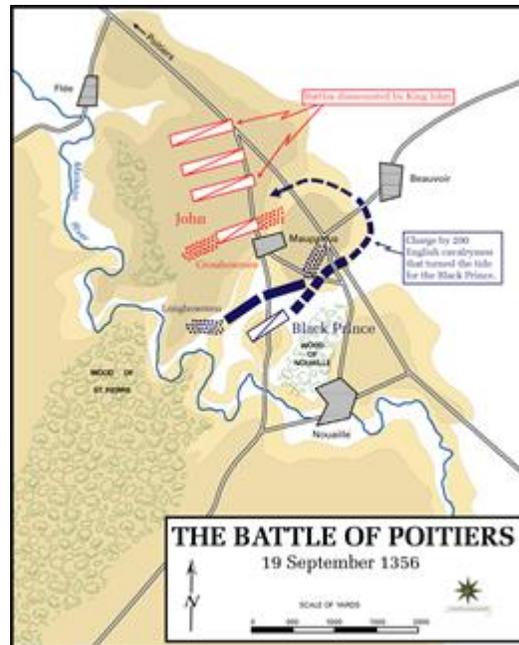
**1348-49** The 'Black Death' (bubonic plague) spread in France and England. Winchelsea (August). Death of Philip VI (22 Aug) and accession of John II (the Good (1350-64).

**1350** English defeated a Castilian fleet in battle of *Les-Espagnols-sur-Mer*, off coast of Spain.



Effigy of Edward the Black Prince

**1355-1356** English campaigns in northern and southern France. Very destructive and profitable *chevauchées* led by **Edward the Black Prince**, eldest son of King Edward III, in Languedoc in 1355 and in Poitou in 1356, culminating in the **battle of Poitiers** (19 September 1356), in which John II of France was made prisoner of the English.



From Anne Curry, *Essential Histories: The Hundred Years War 1337-1453* (Osprey Publ, 2002)

**13  
55**

Midsumme  
rs Day

Scots defeat English at Nesbit.

The Black Prince sails to Bordeaux and leads a destructive 700 mile raid in Languedoc starting at Bordeaux and ending at Narbonne .

Size of Prince Edward's army: 1000 men-at-arms, 1000 mounted archers and 300-400 footsoldiers (300-400 of whom were archers).

Army consisted of retinues of the prince and six magnates (all veterans of the campaign of 1346) that Edward III and his council chose for the campaign. The prince's retinue was the largest: 433 men-at-arms, 400 mounted archers. The smallest of the retinues consisted of 59 men-at-arms and 100 archers.

Oct.-Nov.

Plaisance, Mont Giscar, Carcassone and Narbonne are pillaged by the Prince.

Nov.

2 Duke Henry and King Edward Land in Calais, raid in Pas de Calais, Arras.

Nov.

5 French Royal host is in Amiens.

**13**  
**56**

- 7
- Nov. 1 French Royal host is in St. Omer. Between Amiens and there King  
2 carried off provisions, leaving the English without supplies.
- Nov. 1 Facing a threat of Scottish invasion, and not wanting to spend the w  
5 Henry and Edward return to England.  
Estates of Langued'oil (Northern France) meet in Paris, agree to supp  
at arms, at a cost of 5,000,000 livres despite the grave misgivings c  
expressed by Etienne Marcel.
- Sep. 3 Prince Edward reaches the Loire but, finding the bridges burnt turn  
Tours, where he has reports of a large French Army.  
French army gathers at Chartres.
- First Week  
Sep.  
Sep. 8 French army crosses the Loire at Orleans, Blois and other points. -  
- disaffected about taxes, withdraw, though according to Froissart King  
1 them.  
3
- Sep. 1 Prince Edward is in Montbazon, receives Cardinal Tallyrand, on a miss  
2 a truce, which Edward refuses.
- Sep. 1 At a farm called La Chavoterie a French force led by Raoul de Couc  
7 English scouting party. They engage and, though outnumbered, th  
Raoul is taken captive.
- Morning, 1 King John and the French army block the line of march of Prince E  
Sep. 8 draws up his forces for battle.
- mid 1 In response to pleas by Cardinal Tallyrand to maintain the Truce of  
morning, 8 fact that it was Sunday, King Jean agrees to delay battle until the ne  
Sep. 8 entrench their position.
- Sep. 1 [Battle of Poitiers](#): Capture of King Jean II and son Phillipe, 1 Archbisho  
9 Viscounts, 21 Barons and Bannerets and Ap 2,000 knights, squires an  
Most were released on their promise to bring their ransom to B  
Christmas.

**1358** In February, Parisian bourgeoisie rebels, led by Etienne Marcel, murdered the Marshals of Champagne and Normandy; and threatened the life of the dauphin, Charles, who was forced to flee the city. In May, a peasants' rebellion, known as the *jacquerie*, began, but was put down near Meaux by Charles "the Bad," King of Navarre.

**1359** King John signs the Treaty of London, surrendering most of western France and agreeing to pay 4,000,000 gold ecus ransom. Hoping to gain from the dauphin's difficulties, Edward III launched his last great campaign in France.

**1360** Black Monday - While camped on the approach to Chartres

the English army is devastated by a storm of immense hail and freezing rain. Yielding to the wrath of heaven (and the advice of the Duke of Lancaster) Edward agrees to negotiate a peace. Having failed to get himself crowned 'king of France' at Reims and being unable to take Paris, King Edward agreed to the preliminaries of the **Treaty of Brétigny** near Chartres (8 May 1360). A modified version of the treaty was ratified at Calais (24 Oct 1360). The terms were: Jean's ransom is reduced to 3,000,000 ecus, and Edward renounces the crown of France, and any territories not covered by the treaty. Edward is granted Guienne and Calais free of homage, and large grants of land were made between the Loire and the Pyrenees, amounting to approximately a third of France. Forty hostages are to be sent to England to ensure compliance.



**1360-1369** relative peace in terms of direct combat between English and French armies until 1369 as the dauphin Charles gathered money to pay the ransom of his father. The French king, John II was released from English captivity in December, 1360.

**1362** The Grand Companies ravaged the French countryside. John attempted to deal with the brigand companies. He hired the Archpriest Arnaut de Cervole and dispatched him with a small royal army led by the Comte de Tancarville and the Comte de la Marche. Against the advice of de Cervole de Tancarville and de la

Marche stormed the height at **Brignais**, near Lyon. They are thoroughly defeated by the brigands. Edward III announced the creation of the sovereign principality of Aquitaine [a region of ancient designation that was more extensive than Guyenne, which it included] to be ruled by his son, the 'Black Prince', Edward of Woodstock.

**1364** King John II returned to London in 1364 (and died there in the same year) when his son, the duke of Anjou, refused to remain a hostage until the full ransom was paid. **Charles V**, the Wise became king of France (1364-80). In supporting his brother, Philip the Bold, as duke of Burgundy (since 1364), Charles V incited Charles 'the Bad' of Navarre (who believed that he had a better claim to the dukedom) to lead an uprising. Charles of Navarre's forces were defeated in the battle of **Chocherel** (May 1364) by the French king's army, led by a low-ranking, unheroic, and ugly Breton knight, **Bertrand du Guesclin**, who had made his reputation by leading *routiers*.



Effigy of Bertrand du Guesclin

Du Guesclin was later captured by the English at the battle of Auray (29 September), in which Charles de Blois was killed. Montfort's son, became Jean IV, duke of Brittany, but paid homage to the French king, Charles V.

**1366-1369** Charles deployed du Guesclin to lead a force of *routiers* to aid Enrique [Henry] of Trastámara against Pedro 'the Cruel', king of Castile, who was supported by an English force under the Black Prince. Against the advice of Bertrand du

Guesclin and Marshal d'Audrehem, King Enrique gives battle to Don Pedro and Prince Edward. The result is the the **battle of Nájera** (2 April 1367) in Castile, an overwhelming defeat for Enrique, who is forced to flee. Don Pedro is restored to the throne, and du Guesclin is taken prisoner and ransomed by Charles V. On the positive side, the brigand companies are devastated, and France has some relief, until Prince Edward releases his English-Gascon troops. Later, the English withdrew support of Pedro, and Enrique (with du Guesclin's help) defeated Pedro at Montiel (14 March 1369). The new king of Castile, Enrique II, rewarded the French for their support by sending the formidable Castilian navy to assist the French in the struggle against England.

**1369-73** Renewed warfare between France and England began in June. Charles V announced that he was confiscating Aquitaine (Guyenne) and launched an invasion which took several towns. The Black Prince, experienced revolts in his domain and sacked Limoges (19 September 1370). The Prince returned to England in 1371, leaving his French dominion to his brother, John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster. Charles V had prepared his treasury for war, financed a new fleet, *Clos des Galées* at Rouen, and recruited commanders with proven battlefield experience: Oliver de Clisson, Boucicault, Amaury de Craon, the Bègue de Vilaines, the Admiral Jean de Vienne. In particular, Charles made du Guesclin constable (2 October 1370). In that same year the new constable and Oliver de Clisson routed an English force at Pontvallain, near Le Mans. This latter part of the first period (the final phase) of the Hundred Years' War receives little attention in most military histories, though it was the decisive part of the period. By mostly avoiding open-field battles, where the English longbow tactical system dominated, **the French followed Fabian methods** of raids, ambushes, night attacks, and harassment. Du Guesclin led most of the main French operations and reconquered several towns in Guyenne in 1372. In June of the same year, a Castilian fleet destroyed the English fleet off La Rochelle. The trend was

repeated in Brittany and Normandy, as the French reclaimed, by force or bribery, most all of the territories that had been ceded to Edward III at Brétigny.

**1373** John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster (younger son of Edward III), landed in Calais with 3,000 men at arms and 8,000 archers. Though theoretically seeking a decisive battle, John of Gaunt conducted a *chevauchée* from Calais through Picardy, Champagne, and Burgundy. All the way, he was shadowed by du Guesclin and the French army, who refused to engage in a battle. Unable to pillage freely or to bring the French to battle, John of Gaunt arrived in Bordeaux at Christmas with 6000 starving troops, having lost most of the rest and virtually all of his horses to cold and hunger. John had covered 600 miles in five months without having captured a single town or finding anyone to fight him—a tribute to the effectiveness of Fabian tactics.

[Return to Directory.](#)

### **Interim Period.**

**1377** Death of Edward III (21 June) and accession of Richard II (1377-99) of England at age eleven. Jean de Vienne directed French naval raids on English coast. Battle of Eymet (1 September), French defeated Anglo-Gascon army.

**1378** Beginning of the Great Schism (1378-1417) in the western Church. Charles V confiscated the duchy of Brittany.

**1380** Death of du Guesclin (13 July) and of Charles V (16 September), and accession of Charles VI (1380-1422) at age eleven.

**1382** Battle of Roosebeke (November). French knights defeated Flemish uprising led by Philippe van Artevelde.

**1383** Upon the death of the count of Flanders, Louis de Mâle, his son-in-law, Philippe, duke of Burgundy (and brother to king Charles V, of France) became the count of Flanders.

**1389** Truce of Leulinghen, renewed repeatedly, prevented any major campaign until 1404.

**1392** King Charles VI of France went mad, killing four of his entourage. From this point on, the king would periodically lapse into insanity. When he was sane, the country was ruled by Charles's brother Louis, Duke of Orleans; when he was insane, by the Duke of Burgundy (a cadet line of the Valois family). Duke John the Fearless of Burgundy arranged for Duke Louis to be assassinated in 1407. The result was armed conflict between the followers of Louis's son Charles, called the 'Armagnacs,' named after Charles father-in-law the Count of Armagnac, and the Burgundy.

**1396** Marriage of Richard II to Isabella of France, daughter of King Charles VI. A twenty-eight year truce was agreed to, but the two monarchs were unable to conclude a peace. Many of the English nobility resent no longer having an opportunity to plunder the natural richness of France.

**1399** Richard II was deposed by John of Gaunt's son Henry Bolingbroke, who secured the throne as Henry IV (1399-1413), beginning the Lancastrian dynasty.

**1402** French troops (primarily Orléanist) assisted a Scottish invasion of England.

**1403** Charles VII was born (22 February) in Paris. He was the third son of Charles VI and his queen, Isabeau. There was low

expectancy of him becoming dauphin, as he was preceded by his two brothers: Louis, duc de Guyenne (b.1397) and Jean, duc de Touraine (b.1398). French raided the English coast while Henry IV was preoccupied with scattered revolts.

**1405** French sent an expedition to England to assist Owen Glendower's revolt in Wales, against king Henry IV, but withdrew as the rebellion faltered.

**1406** French attacked English possessions in France, in Vienne, and Calais.

**1407** Assassination of Charles VI's brother, Louis, duke Orléans, by Jean 'the Fearless', duke of Burgundy (since 1404) initiated a dramatic eruption in the ongoing friction between the two powerful houses. This resulted in open civil war in France between partisans of the duke of Burgundy (Burgundians) and those of the duke of Orléans, called 'Armagnacs'. (In 1410 Charles, son of Louis d'Orléans, married the daughter of Bernard VII, count of Armagnac. Bernard assumed leadership of the faction.)

**1411** Both the Orléanists ['Armagnacs'] and the Burgundians sought aid from the English king, Henry IV.

**1413** Henry V became king of England upon the death of his



father.

The *cabochienne* uprisings (April and May) in Paris. The Armagnacs gained control of Paris in September, and ruthlessly expelled factions loyal to Burgundy. Charles [VII] was betrothed

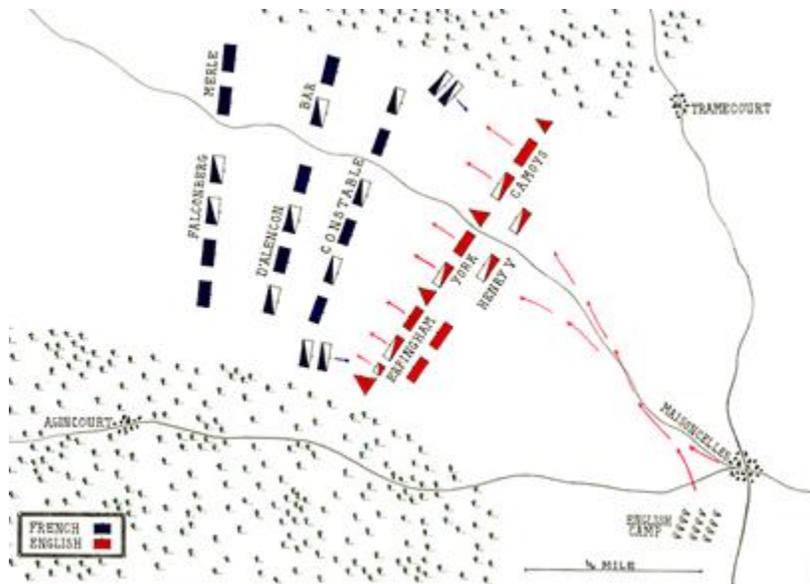
to Marie d'Anjou, daughter of duc d'Anjou and Yolande of Aragón. The House of Anjou allied itself with the Orleanist-Armagnac faction. In May, Jean 'the Fearless' allied Burgundy with the new English king, Henry V.

**Return to Directory.**

### **Final Period.**



**1415** As the powerful duke of Burgundy remained neutral, **Henry V** of England invaded France, captured Harfleur (23 September) and defeated the French army at **Agincourt (25 October)**.



At Agincourt, King Henry had about 5,000 archers and 1,000 men-at-arms. The French army was composed of about 10,000 men-at-arms, 10,000 *gros valets*, and perhaps 4,000 archers, crossbowmen, and other communal militiamen. This would make the ratio of French to English combatants 4 to 1. The French advance was hindered by a muddy battlefield and the longbow again proved effective against men-at-arms. But, as Clifford Rogers points out, the battle was “far more lost by the French than won by the English.” The French used a flawed deployment and chose a battlefield better suited to defense than an attack. The French cavalry charge of 500 men-at-arms on the wings were supposed to ride down the archers, but the English longbowmen were able to loose approximately 17 volleys against the French as they covered the 400 yards, destroying the cavalry. This was followed by the charge of the first line of dismounted men-at-arms, which had been deployed in a far too compressed formation that allowed them to be enveloped by the fewer English. To make matters worse—turning defeat into disaster—the second French line advanced prematurely, which created havoc when the first line was beaten back and retreated into the advance. By the end of the day, at least 45% of the French forces lay dead, including about 2000 French nobles. The English lost a duke, an earl, a couple of knights, and

perhaps a few hundred archers (at most). The English victory was total.

The defeat resulted in the deaths or capture of many of the leading French nobles that supported the Orléanist-Armagnac faction, and, thereby, strengthen the Burgundian position. In December, Bernard d'Armagnac became constable of France.

**1416** Comte d'Armagnac, constable of France was defeated by English force at Valmont (11-13 March). English fleet defeated French-Genoese fleet in a naval engagement on the Seine (15 August). Henry V signed an alliance with Emperor Sigismond de Luxembourg, for the latter to remain neutral in the English-French conflict.

**1417** As Henry V began a **conquest of Normandy** (1417-19), save Mont-Saint-Michel, France was divided. The Armagnacs maintain themselves in the French capital. The duke of Burgundy, with close alliance with Isabeau of Bavaria, Charles VI's queen, set up a rival government at Troyes. The two eldest sons of Charles VI died while 'under the portection' of the duc de Burgundy (Louis, d.December 1415; and Jean, d.5 April 1417). This left the third son of the French king, Charles, as the dauphin.

**1418** Jean the Fearless secured control of Paris and Armagnacs were massacred. The constable, Bernard, was killed. The dauphin Charles escaped to south of the Loire, to Melun (29 May). With the help of the Angevins, Charles established a rival government at Bourges. Dauphin Charles assumed (29 June) the position of lieutenant-general from his father. Charles retained a bodyguard of Scots archers. In July he led a force that siezed the Burgundian-held castle of Azay-le-Rideau. Henry V besieged Rouen in July.

**1419** Rouen surrendered in January, and Henry V completed his conquest of Normandy. Jean the Fearless, while meeting (10

September) with the dauphin Charles at Montereau, was assassinated in revenge for the murder of the duc d'Orleans. Philippe the Good succeeded his father as duke of Burgundy, and continued the alliance with Henry V of England in December.

**1420** French-Scottish army was defeated by English at Fresnay (3 March). The **Treaty of Troyes** (21 May) was the result of the English-Burgundian alliance and the mental illness of the French king, Charles VI. The treaty called for Henry V to marry Catherine, daughter of Charles VI, and to become king of France on the death of his father-in-law.



**1421** The dauphin Charles' Scots allies and French (under Marshal Gilbert Lafayette) defeated an English force at Baugé (22 March 1421), in which Henry V's brother, duke of Clarence, was killed. A Burgundian force defeated French at Mons-en-Vimeu (31 August 1421), in which Jean Ponton de Xaintrailles and Etienne de Vignolles, le Bourg de la Hire, were captured.

**1422** Henry V died (31 August) before Charles VI (21 October). Henry V's brother, duke John of Bedford, became the English regent in France and tried to establish Henry V's ten-month old son on the French throne.

**1422** Bedford launched a campaign that gradually expanded English holdings in France, and Maine was added to Normandy as an English possession. With few reverses, the campaign continued until 1429.

**1423** English forces defeated the dauphin's forces at Cravant (31 July).

**1424** English forces defeated the dauphin's forces and at Verneuil (17 August), where the constable, the Scot Earl of Buchan, was killed and duc d'Alençon and Marshal Lafayette were captured.

**1425** Charles VII awarded the Breton, Arthur de Richemont, the position of constable (7 March).

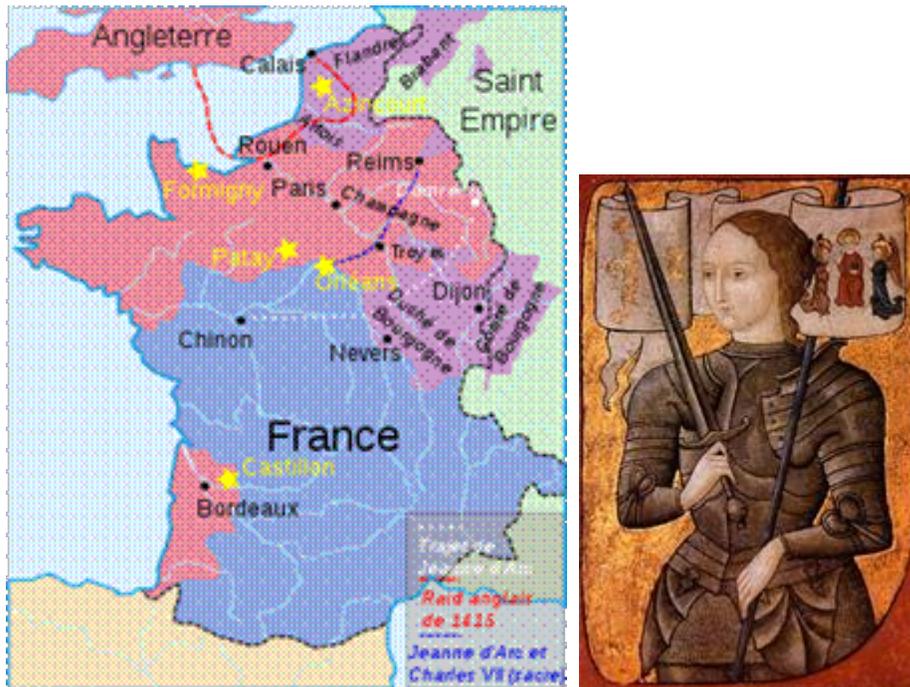
**1426** Bedford defeated an army led by Arthur de Richemont at St-Jacques, near Avranches (6 March), which forced Richemont's brother, Jean V, duc de Brittany, to sign a treaty with Henry V; this led to Richemont's banishment from the French court (1427).

**1427** Dunois and La Hire defeated an English army under Warwick at Montargis (September).

**1428** The English invested Orléans (12 February).

**1429** English food convoy (en route to besiegers at Orléans) repulsed an attack by a larger French force in the 'Battle of the Herrings' (12 February 1429) near Rouvray-Saint-Denis. Duke of Burgundy withdrew his forces supporting the siege of Orléans in April. French forces under the titular command of **Jeanne d'Arc** relieved Orléans (8 May) and continued their campaign with a series of small tactical victories: seized Jargeau (11/12 June) and Beaugency (16/17 June). At Patay (18 June), the forces of Jeanne d'Arc and the constable de Richemont defeated English in open battle, and captured Talbot. Charles VII was crowned and anointed king of France at Rheims (17 July). Jeanne d'Arc was wounded

leading a failed attack on Paris (16 August).



**1430** Jeanne was captured by Burgundians at Compiègne (23 May).

**1431** Jeanne was burnt at the stake in Rouen (30 May). René d'Anjou, duc de Bar and Lorraine, was captured by Antoine de Vaudement in a local territorial dispute, as battle of Bulgnéville.

**1432** The duke of Brittany and the Angevins made a treaty of alliance (February). Richemont was reconciled with Charles VII (5 March). La Trémoëlle, the scheming advisor to Charles VII, was overthrown and Charles [IV] d'Anjou (son of Yolande of Aragón, and held the title of comte de Maine) assumed the position. In August, Dunois's army defeated Bedford's English force besieging Lagny-sur-Marne, the latter abandoning their artillery.

**1434** Jean Bureau joined the service of Charles VII. Louis III, duc d'Anjou died in Italy while campaigning for the crown of Naples. His brother, René d'Anjou, while still a prisoner of the duke of

Burgundy, inherited Louis III's claim to Naples, as well as the duchy of Anjou.

**1435** Duke of Bedford died (14 September). Treaty of Arras (10 December) established peace between Duke Philip 'the Good' of Burgundy and Charles VII.

**1436** Richemont recovered Paris (13 April), and allowed English to evacuate. The highly successful merchant, Jacques Coeur, was appointed Director of the Paris Mint. In July, the duke of Burgundy besieged the English at Calais. In August, an English force, under Humphry of Gloucester, counter attacked and drove the Burgundians back into Flanders in a campaign that lasted until 1438. Released from captivity, the English Lord Talbot [later made earl of Shrewsbury in 1442], aggressively subdued French communities in Normandy and Maine.

**1437** Charles VII entered Paris (12 November). Talbot continued to counter French attacks in Normandy, repulsing a Burgundian attack on Le Crotoy, and recovering other towns.

**1438** Jacques Coeur was appointed Argentier (personal treasurer) to Charles VII. Charles VII issued the Pragmatic Sanction of Bourges. French forces secured the upper Seine by capturing Montereau.

**1440** Charles duc d'Orléans [a prisoner since Agincourt (1415)] was released from English captivity. Charles I, duc de Bourbon, led other nobles in the *Praguerie* revolt (15 February- 17 July) against Charles VII. The dauphin, Louis, and Jean II, duc d'Alençon, were associated with the rebels. The revolt was put down by Constable Richemont. Talbot continued to defend English-held towns and managed to recapture Harfleur (July).

**1441** The French army captured Creil and Conflans. French besieged Pontoise in June, and took the town (25 October) after a

long campaign and an artillery siege directed by Jean Bureau.

**1442** Charles VII launched a major campaign into Guyenne and captured St.-Sever, Dax, and La Réole. Yolande d'Aragon died (14 November).

**1443** Jean Bureau was made treasurer of France.

**1444** Truce of Tours suspended hostilities between England and France (lasted until 1449). As part of a two-year truce, English surrendered Maine and the English king, Henry VI married [in 1445] Margaret d'Anjou [daughter of the brother-in-law to Charles VII of France]. Agnès Sorel was admitted to the court of Charles VII. Charles VII sent his son, the dauphin Louis, to lead an expedition against the Swiss in Alsace and Lorraine (summer and autumn, 1444). The expedition resulted in a costly French victory over the Swiss at Saint Jacob-en-Birs (24 August). The campaign had nothing to do with the Hundred Years' War, but did manage to divert the *écorcheurs* from marauding French territory. In the same year, Charles VII personally led a limited campaign into Lorraine.

**1445** Charles VII issued ordonnances (January-March) that created a 'standing army' from the men-at-arms. Jean Bureau was known to be a close advisor of Charles VII by this time. Guillaume Jouvenel des Ursins was appointed chancellor of the Grand Conseil.

**1446-1447** Charles VII's court was plagued by schemes to support Charles d'Orléans and Charles d'Anjou in efforts to re-establish dynastic claims in Italy, and by intrigues instigated by the dauphin, Louis.

**1448** The *francs-archers* were formed in April.

**1449** The truce was broken by English attacks on the Breton fortress of Fougères (March). Charles VII ordered his army to invade Normandy (31 July). The English duke Somerset

surrendered Rouen (10 November).

**1450** Agnès Sorel died at Jumièges (9 February). The French besieged Caen in March. The decisive battle of Formigny (15 April) perhaps demonstrated the first effective use of gunpowder weapons on the battlefield in the Hundred Years' War and saw the defeat of English longbow tactics. Caen captured (24 June) and Cherbourg was taken (12 August). Charles VII completed the reconquest of Normandy.

**1451** First campaign to reconquer Guyenne (6 May - 21 August). Comte de Dunois, accompanied by Bureau's artillery, quickly siezed English held towns in Guyenne; Bordeaux surrendered 30 June. Dauphin Louis married Charlotte of Savoy (9 March) without the consent of Charles VII.

**1452** A pro-English faction in Bordeaux sought help from England. John Talbot, earl of Shrewsbury, arrived in France, and was welcomed into Bordeaux.

**1453** Jacques Coeur was charged with various, questionable crimes and imprisoned. He was condemned (29 May 1453). His wealth was effectively confiscated by the French crown. Charles VII deployed an army to reconquer Guyenne (1453). Jean Bureau directed the French force that invested Castillon. An English relief force advanced on the French fortified encampment. The French cannon and handguns which cut down many of the attackers before a heavy cavalry of Breton men-at-arms made a flank attack and routed the English, killing their commander, Talbot, outside of Castillon (17 July 1453). Bordeaux's final submission to Charles VII (19 October).

