Tactics, Strategy, and Battlefield Formation During the Hundred Years War: The Role of the Longbow in the "Infantry Revolution"

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Abstract:
The English longbow was the driving force of tactical change during the Hundred Years War. The English army was introduced to the longbow by the Welsh and the weapon was used during the Scottish Wars of Independence where the English were exposed to new methods of strategy. The English did not adopt the use of the longbow on a large scale until the reign of Edward III. The longbow, in combination with men at arms, transformed the manner in which medieval warfare was conducted. This encouraged what is now known by historians as the "infantry revolution." The longbow was extremely effective and was considered by contemporary historians to be a deadly weapon. The introduction of plate armor caused some problems with arrow penetration which as a result diminished the lethality of the longbow, but it still continued to be a highly effective weapon.

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This infantry formation developed in the Italian Wars (1494–1559) as a response to counter cavalry forces. Developments in military technology and advances in battlefield tactics from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century in Europe led to what historians refer to as the "military revolution," which changed not only the nature of warfare itself but also diplomacy and statecraft. Moreover, the artillery revolution, which also grew out of the Hundred Years' War, was characterized by technological improvements in cannon barrels and more efficient use of gunpowder and contributed to changes in battlefield tactics, sieges, and the development of the state. They became pivotal to destroying strongholds and fortifications and could only be afforded by centralized states due to their expense. The Hundred Years War was the longest war in the medieval era, which began in the first half of 14th century, and over the middle of 15th century. The war. The Hundred Years War had an huge impact in medieval Europe, instigating the deterioration of feudalism, increased usage of longbows in fights, and important changes in people's everyday life. The conflict between England and France lasted more than three centuries. The war can be divided into several stages: first – 1337-1360, the second – 1362-1399, the third – 1402-1428, the fourth – 1429-1453. It all started with the formation of the Duchy of Normandy. It happened on the historical French territories (north-west) in the 10th century. Norman dukes conquered England and became kings of England 3.2 Infantry versus infantry. 3.3 The role of archery. 3.4 The role of infantry in sieges. 4 Notable infantry of the Middle Ages. 4.1 Swiss pikemen.