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The Longbow (Weapon)



Synopsis

An iconic medieval missile weapon, the deadly longbow made possible the English victories at Crecy and Poitiers at the height of the Hundred Years' War. The longbow was the weapon at the heart of the English military ascendancy in the century after 1340. Capable of subjecting the enemy to a hail of deadly projectiles, the longbow in the hands of massed archers made possible the extraordinary victories enjoyed by English forces over superior numbers at CrÃ©cy and Poitiers, and remained a key battlefield weapon throughout the Wars of the Roses and beyond. It also played a leading role in raiding, siege and naval warfare. Its influence and use spread to the armies of Burgundy, Scotland and other powers, and its reputation as a cost-effective and easily produced weapon led to calls for its widespread adoption among the nascent armies of the American Republic as late as the 1770s.

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Customer Reviews

I have lots of books on weapons and warfare, a few on Archery, and 2 or 3 on the Longbow itself. This is a very competent, book it takes into consideration many things and tips its hat to variable's and unknowable's in the compendium of research on Longbows (the truth is there is just not a lot of

concrete evidence that's incontrovertible and there are a lot of exceptions to any hard fast rules about Longbows and Longbowmen that make definite pronouncements at best nebulous). I have not finished reading all of it as yet, but my first impression is that it is full of more information than I usually get in just one Osprey book and its well treated. I have about 300 Osprey titles and I have been reading them for over 30 years so I do like them but I don't rely just on the rather abbreviated nature of this line of books usually, this book is less abbreviated than usual. The photos and artwork are very good as well (not as good as the late Angus McBride's were- but still excellent and closer to that style than some recent Osprey work has been so I do like them a lot and hope the illustrator see's a lot of employment in this type of work). I am not hugely familiar with the author, I think I saw him on a documentary once years ago. No real axe to grind with anything I have seen or read yet. When it comes to Longbows everyone always brings up armor penetration, I think that's well covered here but its also sort of irrelevant...no armor is impervious to all forms of attack and the random chaotic nature of CQB is unpredictable. The usual argument is that it cant penetrate plate/mail/brigandine/quilted armor or whatever at this range (the tests always seem to be at so short a range anyway), meh hardly matters academically the battles are already decided long ago.

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