



Longbow: A Social and Military History

Robert Hardy

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With drama, vigor and enthusiasm, Robert Hardy chronicles the arrival of the longbow in Britain and its gradual adoption as the most important weapon in the English military arsenal, and its coming of age at the battles of Crecy, Poitiers and Agincourt. Also examined is the longbow as a sporting and hunting weapon, and its status in Britain today.

Longbow: A Social and Military History Details

Date : Published October 2nd 2006 by Sutton Publishing (first published January 1st 1976)

ISBN : 9780750943918

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Format : Paperback 224 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, Military, Military History, War, Historical

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From Reader Review Longbow: A Social and Military History for online ebook

Bill Stevens says

Excellent reference for Target Archers.

Jaye Sudar says

This book is a wonderful source of history and practicality. The Longbow should be a 'must read' for archers.

John says

This book was first published in the 1970s and updated a couple of times since. The role of the longbow in both hunting/gathering and in war. Parts are quite technical and those I just browsed. The recovery of Henry VIII's favorite ship, the Mary Rose, in the early 1980s produced a vast store of unused longbows which has had a big impact on research in this field (they usually rot away, become firewood, etc.). The author added a major chapter at the end of the book as a result. It's out of print in the US right now -- this is the English version ordered from London via Amazon. Did I mention I was a geek?

Frank says

This book, while more of a textbook and manual than anything, was absolutely helpful in my research of the Hundred Years War in which longbow men were highly sought after and greatly and effectively utilized to soundly defeat the French on many occasions. It begins with the basic history of archery all the way to the most recent uses of longbows and their wooden descendants. There are even some sections that describe how to make long bows with modern tools. Great and informative read.

Doug says

Written by a true amateur, this is a wonderful history of archery. Its primary focus is English archery, which flowered fully at the battles of Crecy and Agincourt. It does deal a fair bit with the history of bows leading up to those pivotal battles, but its overall focus is the English longbow. There is passing mention of other peoples and their bows, but for this author, everything crescendos at Agincourt with a relatively fast decline after that as the world moves on to gunpowder and guns. But even with all that, this is a wonderful book, filled to overflowing with one man's love of bows and arrows and gifted bowyers, fletchers and bowman.

Robert says

Probably pretty boring stuff, if you're not a history junkie or particularly interested in the military and social history of England up through the middle ages. The writing is quite dry, but the book is packed solid with information including accounts of the pivotal battles of Crecy, Poitiers, and Agincourt. Much like the Spartan phalanx formation of locked shields with protruding lances, the disciplined formations of the Roman legions, and the swift mounted archery of the Mongols, it seems that certain societies were able to advance and prevail over their contemporaries largely due to unique advances in military science in the form of weaponry or tactics. The longbow provided this advantage to Norman English armies through the middle ages.
