

Joan of Arc, also known as Jeanne d'Arc, was a French military leader during the Hundred Years' War. Her military career was short but incredibly influential, as she helped lead the French army to several victories against the English. Joan of Arc was born in 1412 in Domrémy, France, and grew up in a time of war and conflict. The Hundred Years' War, a long-standing conflict between England and France, had been raging on for over 80 years when Joan was born. In 1429, at the age of just 17, Joan of Arc began her military career, which would ultimately change the course of the war and cement her place in history.

Joan's military career began when she heard the voices of Saint Michael the Archangel, Saint Catherine, and Saint Margaret, who told her that she had been chosen by God to lead the French army to victory against the English. Joan was initially met with skepticism and disbelief, but eventually, she was able to convince the Dauphin of France, Charles VII, to allow her to lead a French army to the city of Orléans, which was under siege by the English.

Joan of Arc arrived at Orléans in April of 1429, and within a week, the French army had won a decisive victory over the English, breaking the siege and driving the English back. This victory was followed by several more, as Joan led the French army to victories at other key cities, including Jargeau, Meung-sur-Loire, and Beaugency. These victories were instrumental in turning the tide of the war in favor of the French.

One of the most significant moments of Joan of Arc's military career was the coronation of Charles VII at Reims in July of 1429. This was a pivotal moment in the Hundred Years' War, as it solidified Charles VII's claim to the French throne and helped legitimize the French resistance against the English. Joan of Arc played a crucial role in this event, as she personally led the French army to victory against the English at the Battle of Patay, which allowed Charles VII to make his way to Reims for his coronation. Joan was present at the ceremony and is said to

have wept tears of joy when Charles VII was crowned king. This event helped to cement Joan of Arc's place in history as a national hero and symbol of French patriotism.

Joan of Arc's military career came to an end in 1430 when she was captured by the English at the siege of Compiègne. She was put on trial for heresy and cross-dressing, as she had been known to wear men's clothing during battle. Joan was ultimately found guilty and sentenced to death by burning at the stake in May of 1431. However, her legacy lived on, as she became a symbol of French resistance and patriotism.

Joan of Arc is often depicted as a lone warrior who led the French army to victory against the English in a series of heroic battles. However, some historians argue that Joan was not actually a military genius, but rather a figurehead who was used by the French monarchy to inspire the troops. In fact, some accounts suggest that Joan never actually participated in battle and instead spent much of her time praying and performing religious rituals. Despite these claims, there is no doubt that Joan of Arc's impact on the Hundred Years' War was significant, and her legacy as a national hero and symbol of French resistance has endured for centuries.

Joan of Arc's military career may have been brief, but it was incredibly influential. She helped lead the French army to several key victories during the Hundred Years' War, and her bravery and determination inspired countless others to fight for their beliefs. Her legacy as a symbol of French resistance and patriotism has endured for centuries, and she remains one of the most iconic figures in history.