

Joan of Arc

Joan of Arc had a great faith in God. She believed she had been chosen to lead the army of France in battles with England. She carried a banner onto the battlefield, but no weapon. She didn't want to hurt anyone. The English soldiers were afraid of her because they felt she had supernatural power.

Her father wanted her to get married, but she said she wanted to follow God's calling. She didn't want to marry - and she didn't.

During the battle at Orleans, she was struck by an arrow. She pulled the arrow out and continued to lead.

News of her courage began to be told, and sometimes people would just give up rather than face her in battle.

She dressed in men's clothing and cut her hair short so she would not be recognized on the open roads.

One time she threw herself out of a prison tower. She fell 70 feet to the ground, but she didn't die. They put her back in prison and then in a few months she was put on trial. They said she was guilty of witchcraft and of wearing men's clothes.

She died as a martyr . She was burned to death.

Later there was another trial and they said she was not guilty, but that she was innocent . She has even been declared a saint by the Roman Catholic church.

There is disagreement about her education. Some people say she never did learn to read nor write, but you can look at copies of letters that others say were written by her.

<http://gardenofpraise.com/ibdjoan.htm>