

**From The Times  
April 12, 2005**

## **France's heroine**

**From Professor Emeritus Edmond Cherbonnier**

**Sir, Charles Bremner's report (April 6) refers to Joan of Arc as "beaten by the British".**

**In the single year preceding her capture and execution Joan had inflicted upon the English a series of crushing defeats, first lifting the siege of Orleans in only a week and subsequently liberating well over a dozen cities and towns.**

**Her crowning exploit, the historic victory at Patay, was overwhelming. She failed to capture Paris only after the vacillating French King had withdrawn his support.**

**When she was finally taken, it was not the English, but a detachment of soldiers of Luxembourg who captured her while she was protecting her troops' safe withdrawal.**

**Only 23 years later the momentum of her successes had driven the English from all but Calais, thus ending the Hundred Years' War, which until Joan's appearance had seemed a lost cause for the French.**

**Yours faithfully,  
EDMOND CHERBONNIER,  
Flat 5,  
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April 6.**