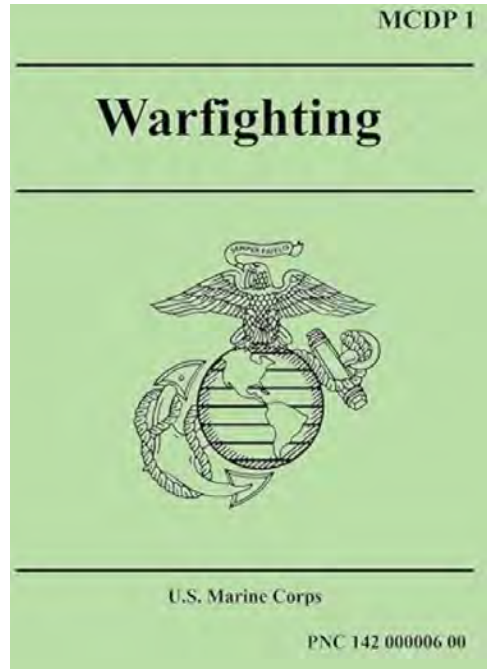


# Military resilience

Lessons from war about crashing & bouncing back



Dr. Eric Haseltine



# Topics

- Negative examples (crash)
- Positive examples (bounce back)
- What differentiates crashers from bouncers
- What it means for you

# Traditional approaches to military resilience



# Training (Tactical, technical, physical, emotional, cognitive)



# Planning (Focus on Friction, Plan B, Plan C, Plan X)



# Leadership selection and development (who can take a hit)



# Unit cohesion and teamwork





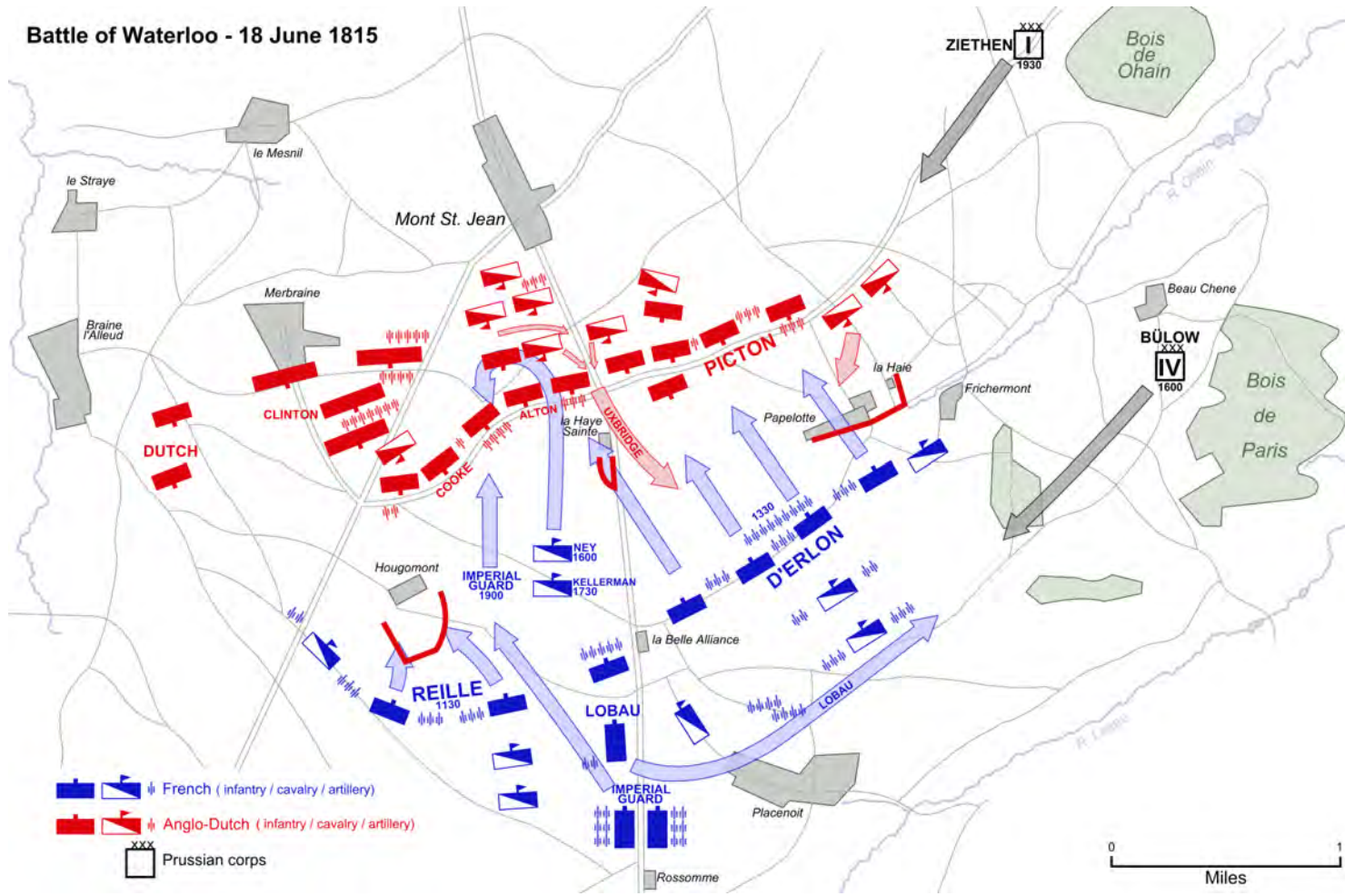
# Authority where information is richest (Non-Coms)



# Encourage flexibility, adaptability, initiative (Commander's intent)



# Smart use of reserves, redundancy



# Family, Faith, Community



# Decisiveness



# Logistics, logistics, logistics



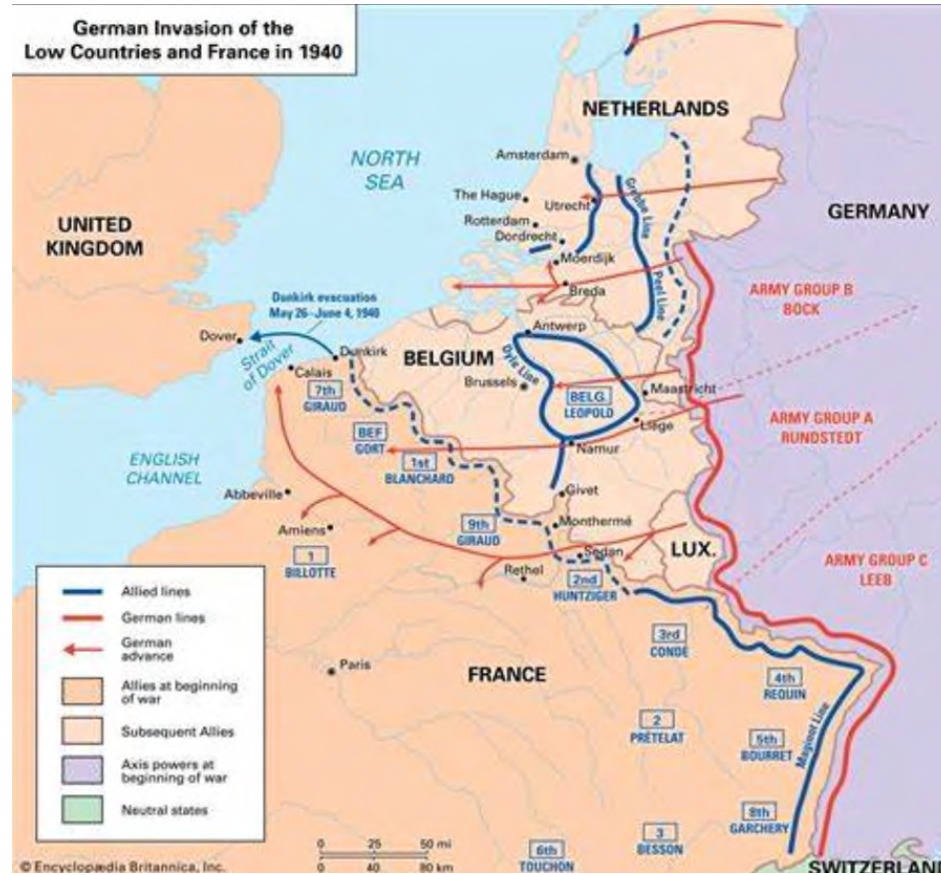
# Lessons of military history

# Crashes



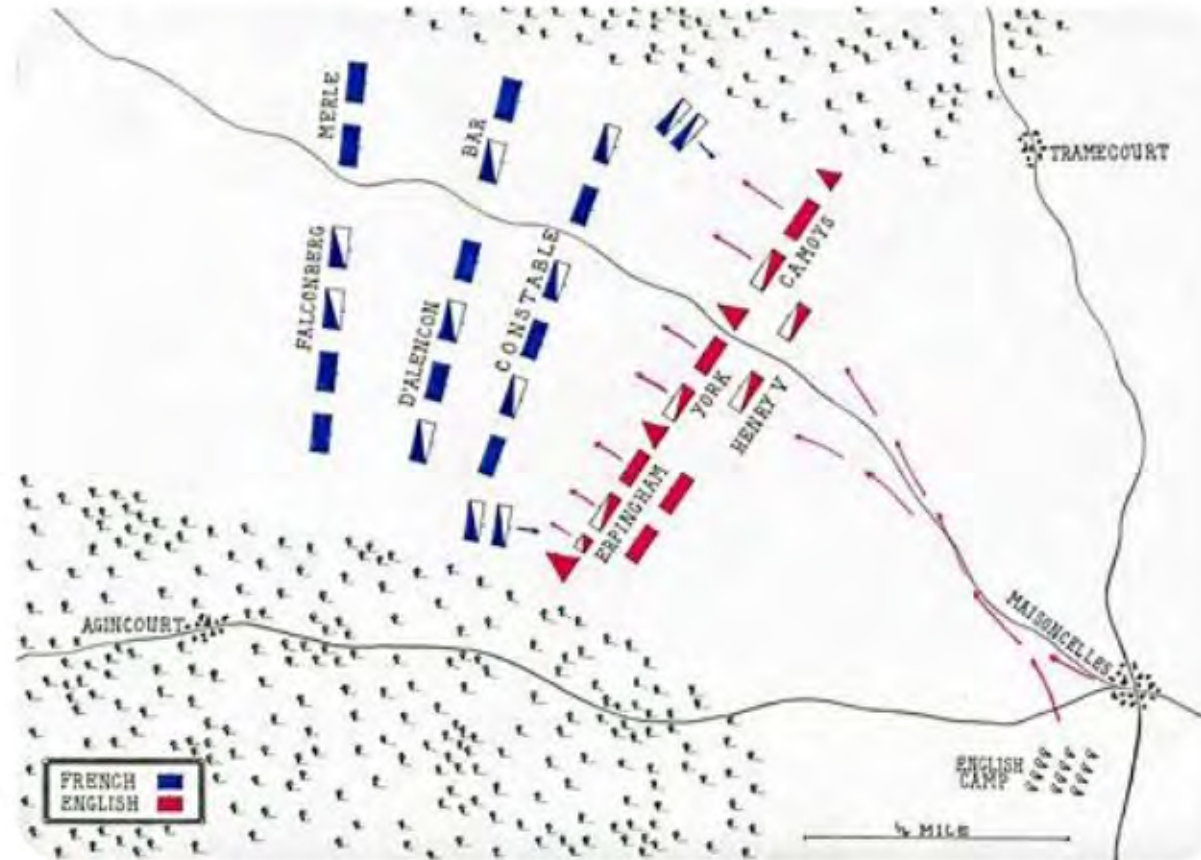
# Allied collapse against Germans in WWII (1940)

Germans outnumbered ~ 4.3M to 3M



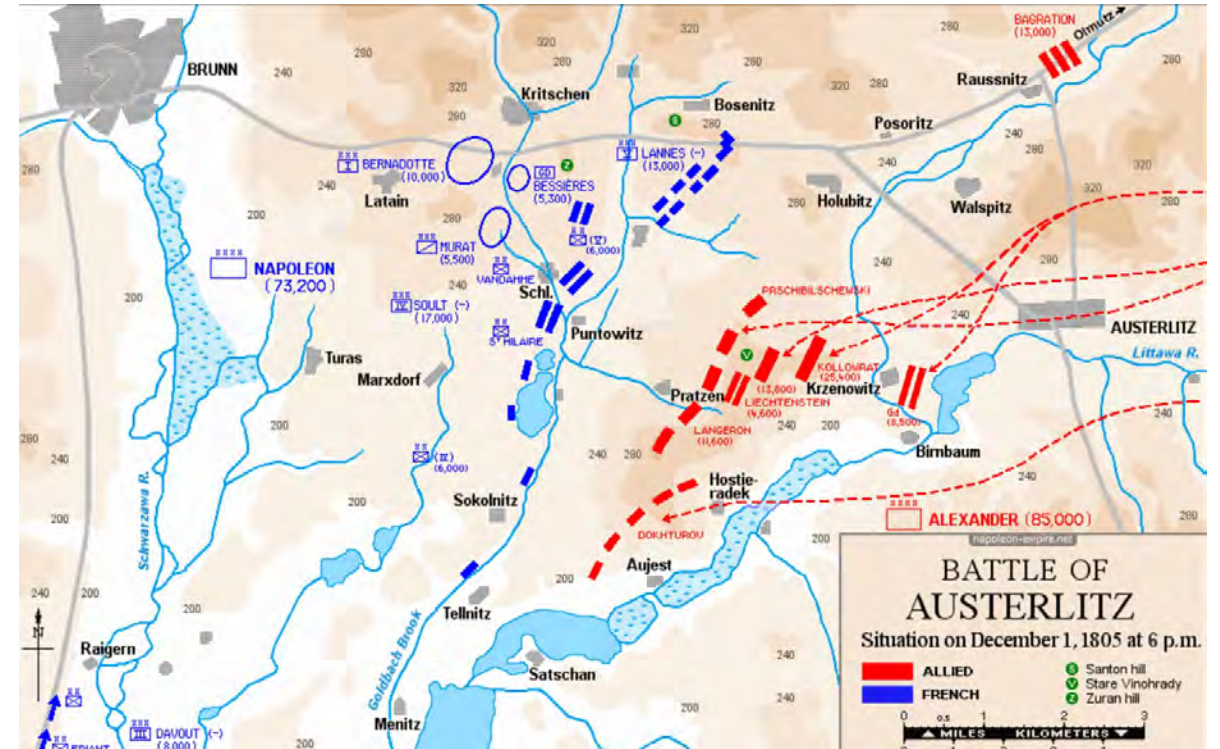
# French against the English at Agincourt

English outnumbered 2:1



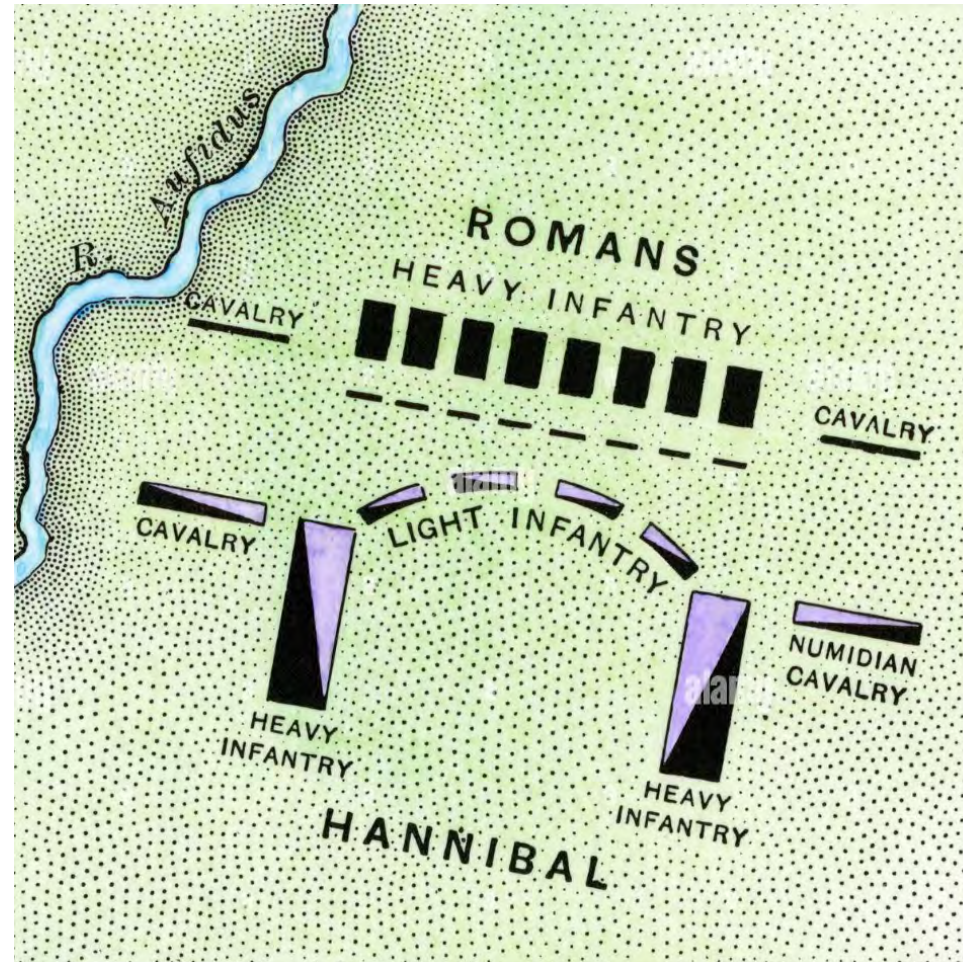
# Russia/Austria against Napoleon: 1805

Russia/Austria outnumbered Napoleon 90,000 to 75,000



# Romans against Carthage in 2<sup>nd</sup> Punic War

Carthaginians outnumbered  
80,000 to 45,000



**Bounce-backs**

# Soviet Union against Nazi invasion

Soviets lost > 3million troops at start



# Israeli-Arab wars 1948-1973

Israel outnumbered~ 2:1



# Vietnamese Communists against US

Vietnamese prevailed with 1/500 GDP of US





# Mujahideen vs. Soviets

Mujahideen outnumbered 4:1



# Taliban against western coalition

Taliban won despite 1:4 disadvantage in troops



# Confederates at Gettysburg

Preserved army with orderly retreat



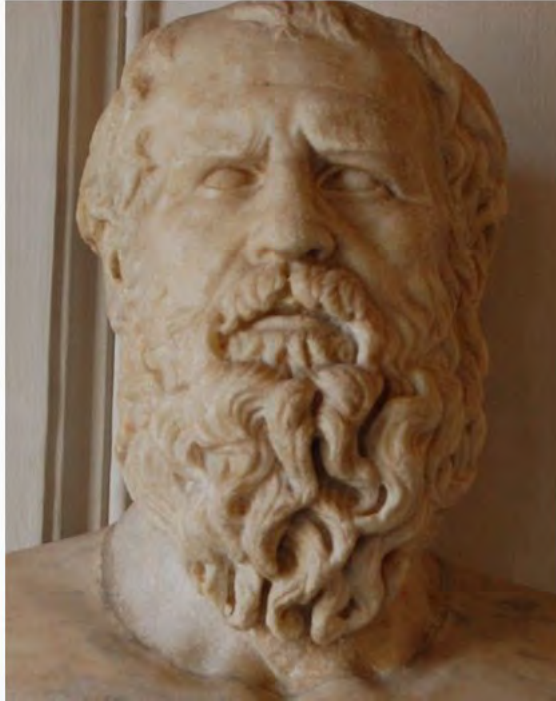
# Key differentiators

	Losers	Winners
Battle of France 1940	Old Tactics, slow	New Tactics, fast
Battle of Agincourt 1415	Old Tactics, weapons	New Tactics, new weapons
Battle of Cannae 215 CE	Old Tactics	New Tactics
Battle of Austerlitz 1805	Slow	Fast
War on Eastern Front WWII 1944/45	Maneuver strategy	Attrition strategy
Viet Nam War 1955-1975	High Tech/Big Numbers, unmotivated	Low Tech, agile, motivated
Russia vs Afghan Mujahadeen 1979-1989	High Tech/Big Numbers, unmotivated	Low Tech, agile, motivated
Coalition against Taliban 2001-2021	High Tech/Big Numbers, unmotivated	Low Tech, mobile, motivated
Israel vs Arabs 1948, 1967, 1973	Cumbersome	Agile, preemptive, motivated
Confederate Army Gettysburg, 1863	Didn't pursue after win	Retreated intelligently after loss

# Conclusion

- Your biggest strength carries seeds of your biggest weakness
- Your biggest weakness carries seeds of your biggest strengths
- Embracing these counterintuitive truths is the key to resilience

Heraclitus



***“ο χαρακτήρας είναι το πεπρωμένο”***

***“Character is destiny”***