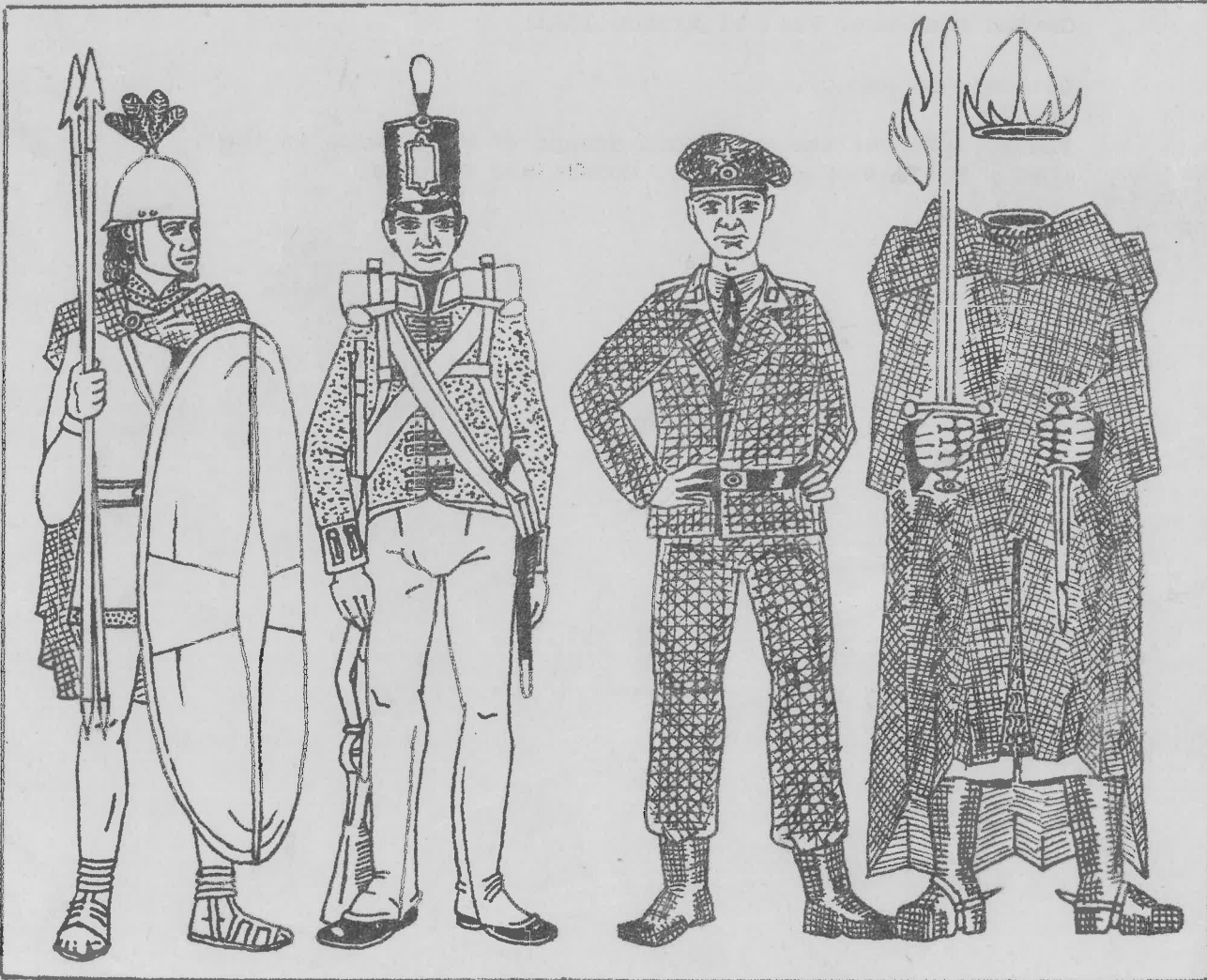


# UQWS

# NEWSLETTER

February 1979



Figures on the Cover (left to right)

A Spanish soldier in the Carthaginian service, Second Punic War 218-202 B.C.

A British private in a battalion company, 1800-1812 Napoleonic Wars.

German tank-man, Fall of France 1941.

Lord of the Nazgul.

These represent the four main groups of wargamers in the UQWS - Ancient, Napoleonic, Modern and Fantasy.

## EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first issue of the University of Queensland Wargame Society's newsletter. This will be sent free to all members of U.Q.W.S., and hopefully will have five issues a year - February, April, June, August, October. I don't know what sort of interest will be aroused, but it is the Society's newsletter and hopefully members will make good use of it.

I have conceived the general format of the newsletter to be in two parts : (1) a general club-news type section, and (2) a longish article of interest to members. By "of interest" I do not mean descriptions of a member's latest victories - unless they happen to illustrate a point of theoretical tactics. On the other hand, anything which genuinely increases the society's knowledge or makes a contribution to the aims of our constitution will gladly be considered. This issue's long article, for example, may seem a bit recondite; but it is the result of painstaking research and is of considerable value to fantasy wargamers. Also, John had it almost ready when I asked for contributions.

The general section will contain an editorial comment, news of society activities (if any), readers' letters and so on. We will also carry any advertisements (free of charge) for members wishing to sell or exchange figures, books, boardgames and suchlike. If any members have items for this section, send them along to the editor for inclusion in the next issue.

Remember that the newsletter is part of the Society and is intended to further its constitutional aims. So articles for publishing here should be informative and descriptive, whether they concern the best way to paint Byzantine cataphracts or the structure of Portuguese Napoleonic rifle battalions. Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or suggest topics: the idea is to help members enjoy their hobby, but even if only a minority will benefit directly - as with John Gerson's paper - we'll consider publishing it. Maps and illustrations can be included with articles, but please consult the editor first.

A final threat: if nobody else contributes, I'll write some long articles myself. No remarks about "Bugler's Ego Sheet" will be tolerated. If this threat brings in a rash of well-produced papers, I will happily consider putting out supplementary issues.

In case of doubt, budding authorship or general milk of human kindness, the editor is

David Bugler and he can be found in working hours at the Physics Library (377 3431), University of Queensland.

THE MILITARY DRESS OF MIDDLE-EARTH

John H.S. Gerson

(Text and illustrations copy right C 1979 John Gerson).

The arms and uniforms of ancient armies have in recent years received much attention in journals, popular publications and the like. The new enthusiasm for the study of ancient warfare covers all periods from Sumer to Imperial Rome. However, the soldiery of that curious period of proto-history, the Four Ages of Middle-earth, have not been studied so diligently. This article is intended to end this situation by presenting fifteen reconstruction drawings of warriors from that early time.

Anyone attempting this task quickly comes up against a number of difficulties. Firstly, we are dealing with a very large time period about 7000 years from the First Battle of Beleriand to the War of the Ring-- and a correspondingly large number of civilizations, nations and troop types. Secondly, no artifacts or monuments have survived, thereby depriving us of what is normally a powerful source.

The only possible solution is to stick exclusively to the single source on Middle-earth: the published translations of Professor J.R.R. Tolkien of Oxford. Tolkien translated, annotated and generally reorganised a collection of ancient manuscripts, eventually published under the titles The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings, and The Silmarillion. These histories contain valuable descriptions of the arms and armour of that time. In addition, Tolkien prepared dozens of drawings and paintings reconstructing the topography, architecture, dress and weapons of Middle-earth.

In the course of Middle-earth's history, mail--a defence consisting of interlocked metal rings--was more widely used than any other type of armour. Mail was invented by the Dwarves of Belegost in the west of Middle-earth, and was then borrowed by the Sindarin Klves, the Noldorin Elves, and Men (in that order). Dwarfish or Elvish mail did not consist of rings sewn to a tunic--this is made clear by expressions like "mail of linked rings" and "mail rings rang". Dwarf-mail was probably like that of Roman and Medieval times "with every little ring fitting into four others and all".

Scale armour, which is constructed by lacing small metal or horn plates to leather or fabric, was never as popular as mail. Scale armour of horn is attested to only once. There are some reference in Third Age poetry to fish scales as "fishes mail", but since the term mail strictly refers to linked rings, this is probably poetic licence.

Armour of large plates seems to have been practically unknown. Eol's suit of plate armour (c. FA 300) was exceptional. Even as late as TA 3019 the only plate armour mentioned is a vambrace (lower arm guard) worn with a mail coat (see figure 6).

The corslet of overlapping brazen plates worn by the Haradrim of that time probably consisted of scale armour rather than large plates. A damaged corslet is described as "rent and hewn" i.e. torn asunder, which suggests the cloth or leather backing of scale armour. A practical suit of plate does not have a backing.

### THE RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS

The following drawings illustrate the armour described above and the weapons and uniforms used in Middle-earth. The drawings and accompanying notes are intended to be supplementary to Tolkien's writings and no more. They are based solely on Tolkien's published translations and on his own drawings and paintings. Since the references are extremely numerous, I have dispensed with complete footnoting, though principal sources are listed at the end of each entry. Where a feature is uncertain I have either based it on a known trait of Middle-earth's equipment or failing that on the practice during our own Dark or Middle Ages.

One final note. I have not included drawings of such supernatural creatures as wargs, ents, dragons, balrogs or Ring-wraiths. Some of these beings are so nebulous that they require more imagination than scholarship to reconstruct. As for the spectral Ring-wraiths, I believe that under their ghostly wrappings, they wore the armour of the Numenorean Second Age.

### THE ELVISH ARIES

The Elves were the oldest people of Middle-earth and had the first armed soldiers. Since Elvish technology (especially metallurgy) was very advanced their soldiers had equipment and weapons of excellent quality. Elvish armies either fought as a phalanx or as open-order archers or as a combination of the two. After the end of the Second Age, the heavy-armed component became fewer: the armies of the Forest and Lothlorien in the late Third Age appear to have been mainly unarmoured bowmen. The nostalgic reference by Elrond to "Elves in armour of the Elder Days" also suggests that Third Age Elves were no longer as heavily armoured.

#### 1. ELVISH SPEARMAN, FIRST AGE

During the First Age of Middle-earth's history, the most powerful Elvish kingdoms, Gondolin and Doriath, used phalanxes of heavy-armed spearmen in battle. The armoured spearman of Doriath shown here is typical of early Elvish heavy infantry. He wears hose and pointed shoes, and a long-sleeved hauberk of silvered mail. His tall glittering helmet has a feather plume.

The Elvish shield was Kite-shaped (like the so-called Norman shield) and was gripped by a single handle behind the boss (unlike the Norman shield). The shield was about 1.35m long and was gilded, silvered or painted in a bright colour. The spearman is armed with a 2.7m thrusting spear and a long cut-and-thrust sword.

Quenta Silmarillion Chaps. 7,10,20; J.R.R. Tolkien Calendar 1979, Ja

## 2. WARRIOR, LATE FIRST AGE

The warrior shown here is based on Bilbo's description of the hero Earendil. Earendil's armour was lighter than the usual First Age panoply: this may be associated with the "lightening-up" of Elvish gear or with the fact that Earendil was a mariner, where light armour would be an advantage.

Earendil wears a long-sleeved shirt, dark breeches, stockings and pointed shoes. Above this is his silver habergeon (short-sleeved mail shirt). The emerald on his breast may be poetic licence on Bilbo's part (to please Aragorn). Earendil is armed with a short horn bow, black arrows and a long sword, shown leaning on his shield. The Elvish sword had a steel blade about 1m long and a hilt with a round pommel and slim quillions (cross bars). The scabbard had a long chape (end piece) and in Earendil's case a green sheath. Later Elvish sheaths were decorated with silver, gold and gems. Earendil's silver shield was traced with runes as a charm against injury.

The Elvish man-at-arms of the Third Age probably resembled this figure. A spear was carried instead of the bow. The conical helmet of steel covered with leather shown in detail (a) may have been worn in place of the tall metal helm. The Elves of Mirkwood and Rivendell wore silvered mail whilst those of Lothlorien used grey mail. The shields of Mirkwood were probably green.

Elvish knights -- only active during the First and Second Ages-- were probably dressed much like the footsoldiers (1 and 2). They were armed with a lance, long sword and dagger. Incidentally, the kite-shaped shield is a more convenient defence for a horseman than a round shield.

Source on Earendil: Lord of the Rings Book 11, Chap. 1.

Silmarillion Calendar 1978, Feb., Aug.

## 3. ELVISH ARCHER, THIRD AGE

Archers such as the one shown here made up a large proportion of the Elvish armies at the Battle of Five Armies (TA 2941) or the Three Assaults on Lothlorien (March TA 3019).

Some Elvish armies in the First Age either consisted solely of archers or used auxiliaries such as horsebowmen.

The archer is dressed in hose, a long-sleeved tunic and light shoes. He wears the characteristic Elvish pointed cap. Elves wore their dark hair long. The bowmen of Mirkwood wore green and brown, whilst those of Lothlorien preferred grey clothing and secured their silky grey cloaks with a leaf-shaped silver brooch. Note that the belt is done up with a clasp, rather than a buckle.

The bowmen of Mirkwood were armed with a long dagger (sometimes with a silver hilt) and a short bow, as illustrated. It comes as no surprise to learn that the bow's range was rather short. The Elves of Lothlorien used powerful longbows. The bowmen of the First Age used both short bows and yew longbows.

Lord of the Rings Book 11 Chaps. 2,3,8; Book 111, Vhsp. 6.

Hobbit Calendar 1976, Aug

#### THE DWARVISH ARMIES

The Dwarves of Middle-earth were short and not very numerous. Despite these apparent handicaps, the small Dwarvish armies were formidable. Their soldiers were very strong and, thanks to Dwarvish technology, were superbly equipped. Dwarvish soldiers fought as close-order heavy infantry. Since their homes were underground, cavalry and archers had no place in their armies. However, many Dwarves could ride or use a bow.

#### 4. DWARF OF THE IRON HILLS, TA 27799-TA 2941

The Dwarves of the Iron Hills were heavily armoured. They wore a knee-length steel hauberk and an iron cap. Since Nain at Azanulbizar (TA 2799) was saved from decapitation by his mail collar, it would appear that the hauberk had a mail hood (coif). The hose worn was made of a fine and flexible metal mesh, whose manufacture was a secret of the Iron Hills. The hose had hob-nailed soles. The soldier's round shield was slung on his back whilst he wielded the famous two-handed mattock. A short broad sword hung at his side. The armour and weapons were of excellent quality.

The Dwarves of the First Age may have resembled this figure. They wore long hauberks of bright rustproof mail. The warriors of Belegost were armed with great axes and daggers. A peculiarly ugly gilded mask was worn on the face to repel dragons.

Source on Iron Hills: Hobbit Chap. 17.

Lord of the Rings Appendix A. 111

5. DWARF OF EREBOR, TA 1999-TA 2770

Though Erebor (the "Lonely Mountain") was only 240km from the Iron Hills the military dress of the two colonies were different. The Dwarves of Erebor (and elsewhere) were not as heavily armoured as those of the Iron Hills. This figure wears a short shirt of steel mail (sometimes gilded or silvered) over his civilian dress of coloured stockings and boots. The silvered helmet is a conical cap forged from a single piece of metal and is secured by a leather chinstrap. The gilded shield is slightly convex: it was about 50cm in diameter. The boss was either conical or hemispherical. Another type of shield, equally common, was oval and of similar size (detail a). The traditional Dwarvish weapon, the axe, was carried in the inlaid belt, as shown. A long sword or a 1.5m spear was carried as well. Some used a horn bow.

There is some evidence that the Dwarves of Moria used weapons and armour similar to this figure's.

Hobbit Chaps. 1,13,15; Lord of the Rings Book 11, Chaps. 3,4; Hobbit Calendar 1976, Dec.; J.R.R. Tolkien Calendar 1979, June.

THE ARMIES OF MEN

At the time of the War of the Ring, the most numerous of the Free Peoples were Men. The military systems of the chief Mannish kingdoms are discussed below.

THE GONDORIAN ARMY

The Gondorian army consisted largely of spear-armed footsoldiers, who wore a round (?) metal helmet, a mail coat, and carried a shield and a long slashing sword. These were supported by superbly disciplined armoured cavalry, who unfortunately were not very numerous. As much as 20% of the Gondorian army may have been archers.

6. KNIGHT OF GONDOR, TA 3019

Though the kingdom of Gondor had a feudal system, The Lord of the Rings does not use the term "knight" in its strict social sense, but rather meaning "a fully armoured man". (Denethor called the rankless man-at-arms Beregon a Knight). The Gondorian knight wore a coat of bright mail and arm defences (vambrace). It is not certain what was worn on the legs but there are related references to long boots which may be applicable. If a shield was carried it was provably round. Knights were armed with a long and heavy thrusting spear, a long sword carried on the belt and a dagger.



The unusual helmet, whilst not being specifically attributed to the knights of Gondor, is in fact described in the Ring Epic. Eowyn in her role as Dernhelm wore a helmet which hid her long hair--this surely implies that it had a large neck-guard. In the foreground of Tolkiens painting "Conversation with Smaug" lies a golden helmet with a metal crest and a neck-guard (partially hidden in the picture). I have used this helm as a model for the knight's helmet--the knights were admittedly well-armoured.

Lord of the Rings Book 1, Chap. 11; Book V, Chap.1,4,6;  
Book VI, Chap. 4.

#### 7. GUARDSMAN OF THE CITADEL, THIRD AGE

The Guard was an elite unit formed to guard the citadel of Minas Tirith, the capital of Gondor. The Guards normally remained within the citadel as sentries, but special detachments sometimes operated on the battlefield.

A Guardsman, such as this figure, had a traditional livery. The high-crowned helmet had long cheek-guards, a small silver star set on the circlet and white wings of sea-birds fixed on the temples. The helm was made of the precious metal mithril, but replacements were made of silvered steel. Above the hauberk of black steel mail was a surcoat with the emblem of Elendil on the breast. The garments were a sombre black. A long slashing sword with a large hilt was carried in a black and silver scabbard. Shields and spears were not used by sentries but were carried in battle.

Gondorian men usually wore their dark hair shoulder-length.  
Lord of the Rings Book V, Chaps. 1,4,7,10; Book VI, Chap. 5.

#### 8. RANGER OF ITHILIEN, c.TA 2900-TA 3019

The Rangers of Ithilien were a commando force usually (but not always) operating in the disputed territory of Ithilien. The Ranger shown here is dressed in green and brown parti-coloured garments with a green hood and a green detachable mask. Green gauntlets cover his hands. He is armed with a longbow, green feathered arrows in a quiver and a long slashing sword. Some carried broad-bladed spears in place of the bow. It is likely that the Rangers wore a light helm and a mail shirt under their outer clothing.

Lord of the Rings Book IV, Chap. 4.

THE NUMENOREAN ARMY

The Empire of Numenor, which founded the kingdoms of Gondor and Arnor, had a very large and well equipped army. The dress of the Gondorian Guardsman (see 7) was in fact based on Numenorean uniform. Numenorean soldiers wore the high helm and black mail with silver borders and fought mainly with the long sword. The marines of the powerful Numenorean navy may have been armed like Earendil the Mariner (see 2).

THE ARMY OF ARNOR

It is interesting that in two places in Book V of The Lord of the Rings a sword made in ancient Arnor is described as work of Westernesse, that is Numenor. This seems to suggest that Arnor, like Gondor, continued to use Numenorean gear. However, the description of the barrow in Book I, Chap. 8 shows that short cutting swords were used as well as the usual long slashing sword. The leaf-shaped blades taken by the hobbits were apparently cut-and-thrust short swords.

The Rangers of the North -- knights of later Arnor -- were probably dressed much like figure 6. However, their helmets do not seem to have been as heavy and they almost certainly did not carry a shield. Over their armour they wore a dark grey hooded cloak, pinned upon the left shoulder by a silver brooch shaped like a star. Their equipment was sombre. They were armed with a thrusting spear, bow and sword.

THE ARMY OF ROHAN9. RIDER OF ROHAN, TA 3019

Cavalry made up the main part of the army of Rohan. However, the few footsoldiers were armed in a similar fashion. This horseman is wearing a light helm of iron and leather, though a high helm without a neck-guard and the heavy helm of figure 6 were also used. The white horse-tail crest indicates high rank. The soldier wears a knee-length coat of burnished mail, which might be gilded if he is very wealthy; poor soldiers wore a leather jerkin. He is armed with a long ash thrusting spear, a knife and a long slashing sword. The sword (not shown) had a point and was carried in a metal-clasped scabbard on his belt. The round shield slung on his back had a metal boss and was painted or gilded. The emblem of Rohan was a white horse upon a field of green.

Note on horse harness: The harness of Middle-earth was similar to that of Medieval Europe. Horses were shod, carried a saddle with a girth and stirrups and wore a bridle. Their riders used spurs and seem to have ridden with their legs slightly bent. Though Elves could ride bareback and without a bridle, Elven knights used a saddle and headstall (a bridle without a bit).

Elves seem to have shunned spurs. Elves preferred white horses, Riders of Rohan greys or whites, Gondorian knights grey, Rangers of the North shaggy dark beasts and the mounted troops of Mordor blacks.

Lord of the Rings Book III, Chap. 2,6; Book V, Chaps. 3,6,

#### THE NORTHMEN ARMIES

Related to the people of Rohan were the Northmen, the most powerful being the Men of Dale and Laketown (also called Esgaroth). A reference in chapter 15 of The Hobbit to "men of the Lake armed as if for war" suggests that Laketown had a militia. The soldiers of Dale and Esgaroth were probably armed like figure 9. Those warriors who could afford mail coats and swords of Dwarvish make used them. Esgaroth had a small but effective force of longbowmen.

#### THE MEN OF DARKNESS

The Men of Darkness were those peoples not related to the ancient Numenoreans i.e. the Men of the White Mountains, the Men of Dunland (see figure 14), the Woses, the Easterlings and the Haradrim (see below), the Hill-men and the Variags of Khand. Except for the palaeolithic Woses, the Men of Darkness appear to have been mainly spear-armed footsoldiers, but not much else is known about them. The Woses are fully described in The Lord of the Rings, Book V, Chaps. 3 and 5.

#### THE ARMIES OF THE HARADRIM

##### 10. SOUTHRON (MAN OF HARAD), TA 3019

The southern regions of Middle-earth were tropical and inhabited by people of Saracen or Negroid type. The footman of Harad shown here has brown skin and black hair. He is decorated with red cheek-paints and a gold collar and ear-rings. His armour consists of an iron cap and a short coat (corselet) of bronze scales. He is dressed in scarlet robes and a red cloak. His yellow and black shield has a spiked boss. The footman is armed with a red-tipped spear and an iron scimitar. Cavalry used bows and scimitars.

Lord of the Rings Book IV, Chaps. 3,4; Book V, Chap. 6.

### THE EASTERLING ARMIES

Though the Easterlings were relatives of the Haradrim, their equipment is rather obscure. It is not even known if the Easterlings described in the Quenta Silmarillion are the same race as those in The Lord of the Rings. The Silmarillion's Easterlings used Elvish equipment. It may be significant that Frodo in The Lord of the Rings mistook his first sight of Easterlings for an Elvish army on the march. These Easterlings were armed with a metal helmet, sword, spear or axe. Men in the Dark Lord's service wore black.

### THE HOBBIT ARMY

#### 11. SHIRRIFF, TA 3018-19

The Shirrifs were the Hobbits name for their police, or the nearest modern equivalent that they possessed. The Shirrifs ("shire-reeves"="shire officers") wore ordinary hobbit-garments without badges etc. only a feather in their caps. This figure wears woolen hose and a pair of short breeches, over which hangs his long-sleeved tunic. A jacket with metal buttons is worn over the tunic and leather belt. The tall hat has a narrow band in which the Shirrif's feather is stuck. The Shirrif carries a stave for driving stray animals.

Hobbits clothes were usually green and yellow. Their hair was curly, thick (but not long) and commonly brown. Hobbits were not bearded.

There are a number of possible variations on the dress of this figure. The breeches. The jacket might have plain cuffs. Well-to-do or elderly hobbits wore waistcoats of silk or wool, depending on their means. Some hobbits wore Dwarf-boots (see figure 5) but most went barefoot. Bilbo, Frodo and Sam were barefoot on their adventures. Curiously enough, Tolkien's paintings of Bilbo always show him with shoes or boots.

The above details of hobbit costume also apply to the dress of Men, who appear to have worn very similar clothing.

The equipment of the Hobbit military, the Hobbitry-in-Arms, is nowhere clearly described. Mail shirts, swords, axes and shields are mentioned, these weapons probably being scaled-down copies of those used by Men. For example, Thorin remarked that the unwarlike hobbits used their shields as cradles and dish-covers. This surely implies that the hobbit-shield was round and convex, which agrees perfectly with the shields shown in Tolkien's painting of Smaug's lair. Nevertheless, hobbits apparently did not use "formal" arms and armour even in major battles: at Greenfields (TA 2747) the hobbit leader "Bullroarer" Took was armed with a wooden club.

Agricultural implements--in particular axes--were popular weapons. Hobbits shot well with the bow (thanks to their keen sight), their border-guard being armed with this weapon.

The Hobbit Chaps. 1,2; The Lord of the Rings Prologue 1-3; Book 1, Chap. 8; Book 11, Chap. 3; Book VI, Chap. 8; Hobbit Calendar 1976, June, Sep., Dec.; J.R.R. Tolkien Calendar 1979, Feb.

### THE ORKISH ARMIES

#### 12. ORC OF MORDOR, THIRD AGE

The Orcs (goblins) of Mordor were well organised and even had serial numbers and a kind of uniform. This figure, though from the late Third Age, could be applicable to the early years of the Fourth Age: Orkish gear did not change much.

The creature illustrated is in the livery of the Tower of Cirith Ungol. His black helmet, which is one of several types in use, is made of iron and leather with the Lidless Eye in red above the beaklike nose-guard. He is wearing shaggy breeches, a leather tunic, black cloak and heavy shoes. His short shirt of mail is secured by a heavy leather belt. He is armed with a broad-bladed spear and a short-and-broad stabbing sword.

Mr. J.E.A. Tyler in A Tolkien Companion states that the Orkish shield was made of hide. I can find no evidence for this. In fact, the shield appears to have been of a light wooden construction. Its shape is completely unknown, but might have been round, or less probably square.

The lesser goblins of the Mountains seem to have resembled this figure. They wore iron helmets (some of which had cheek-guards), black clothing and heavy shoes without hobnails (compare figure 13). They were armed with heavy thrusting spears and iron or steel scimitars; these curved swords were the usual Goblin blade. Some goblins carried knives or axes in place of the sword. (In the army of Mordor only officers had knives and swords). Bows were not used by the goblins in The Hobbit: however, the Mountain orcs in The Lord of the Rings were armed with composite bows. (Tolkien sometimes calls their short arrows "darts"). Mountain goblins used Dwarvish armour and weapons when they could get them.

Lord of the Rings Book VI, Chap. 1,2; Hobbit Chap. 4,6,17.

13. HEAVY-ARMED GOBLIN-SOLDIER, FA-TA 3019

The term "armed" means "wearing a coat of mail" and Tolkien apparently uses the word in this sense. This warrior is typical of the heavy-armed uruks of Barad-dur or a well-equipped goblin in the army of Morgoth. The soldier is protected by an iron helmet and a complete suit of black mail, including a coif and mail hose with hob-nailed soles. His large black shield is very robust, either being reinforced by iron ribs or faced with iron sheet. He is armed with a long broad-bladed spear, a steel scimitar and a dagger. The dagger had a hideously carved handle.

Quenta Silmarillion Chap. 10; Lord of the Rings Book 11, Chap.5.

14. ISENGARDER URUK, TA 3019

The soldier illustrated here is an uruk ("great orc") in the service of Saruman of Isengard. Isengard's human auxiliaries, the Dunlendings, wore the same black livery. The orc wears a tall iron helmet with an S-rune (detail a) in white metal set on the front. His neck is protected by an iron collar (not always worn). He is clad in iron mail and heavy hob-nailed shoes. It is not certain whether these orcs wore breeches or were bare-legged. Isengarders were armed with a short broad-bladed cutting sword and a yew longbow, though some carried a barbed spear (detail b) in place of the bow. The soldier's shield is large and can be used to approach fortification in "tortoise" formation. It is possible that the big shield was a kind of mantlet used only in sieges and that a smaller shield was used on the battle-field. The shield design is a long White Hand on a black field.

Lord of the Rings Book 111, Chaps, 1,3,7.

15. TROLL, LATE THIRD AGE

There were at least four breeds of Troll but all seem to have been similar in overall appearance. The large example shown here is about three metres tall with a horny hide and powerful limbs. The creature is armed with a black buckler and a war hammer. In the troll's hands, such a hammer could smash through any defence: rumour of this dreadful weapon had reached even the sheltered Hobbits by TA 3018.

Though trolls were bred by Morgoth in the First Age, he rarely used them as above-ground fighters. The Olog-hai, the first breed able to face the Sun without petrifying, did not appear until the late Third Age.

Hobbit Chap. 2; Lord of the Rings Book 11, Chap. 5, Book V, Chap.10

Hobbit Calendar 1976, Feb; J.R.R. Tolkien Calendar 1979, June.

NOTES

1. That Tolkien's published drawings and paintings are reconstructions is apparent from the following facts:

(a) In many cases, different conceptions of the same scene exist (e.g. Nargothrond, Rivendell, the Doors of Moria). This suggests that Tolkien redrafted his drawings until they agreed with the literary sources.

(b) Weapons and armour illustrated are often identical with those of later times, especially the European Dark Ages (e.g. the swords, shields, helmets, axes and mail coats in Smaug's lair). Tolkien probably copied them. However, G.A. St Clair has since shown that the war-gear of Middle-earth was similar to the arms of early Medieval Europe.

2. J.R.R. Tolkien, Farmer Giles of Ham, George Allen and Unwin, 1949. p.36

3. The helmet shown here is based on the helm on the Doors of Moria. The tall Elvish helmet appears to have been conical: it may have been based on the Elves pointed cap. In Classical times helmets often evolved from civilian headgear.

4. The Elvish shield was invented by the Noldorin Elves before they came to Middle-earth. The big shield probably compensated for the fact that the early Noldorin Elves did not wear body armour. They did not adopt mail until their migration to Middle-earth.

5. The source for this figure, the "Earendil" poem, is very similar in style and content to the anonymous hobbit-poem "Errantry". The descriptions of the hero's arms and armour especially resemble each other: the Knight Errant's panoply is of Elvish type. However, the "Errantry" poem is heavily coloured by the Hobbit fondness for strage words. For instance, the Knight Errant's spear is "with silver tipped at plenilune" where plenilune means not a part of a weapon but "at the time of the full moon". Again, the Knight Errant's helmet is described as a morion, that is, a hat-shaped helmet without a face-guard. According to The Ocford English Dictionary, the word morion is sometimes used by bad poets as a simile for helmet. Tolkien poked fun at OED definitions in Farmer Giles of Ham: it seems that he is doing the same in "Errantry". After all, Bilbo was a poor poet. The fact that the Spanish morion of the 1600's AD was very similar in form to the Hobbit hat does not of course imply that hobbits used morions and that Bilbo was jokingly referring to this.

6. Armour of flexible mesh is not known from later periods. There is an unusual type of Roman mail made of meshed wire (lorica reticulata).

However, woven iron wire is too stiff to form a practical body armour. Nevertheless, Dwarves could produce exceptionally strong and flexible metal alloys. Such alloys would be ideal for the secret metal-mesh hose of the Iron Hills.

7. The famed Dragon-helm of Dor-lomin was probably a helmet with such a mask attached to the front. Robert Foster has suggested that the Dragon-helm was buried with Turin, its owner. However, the helm is not mentioned after Turin's capture by orc-soldiers in FA 487. It would seem that the orcs despoiled him of it. On his release Turin donned a gilded dwarf-mask, apparently as a replacement for the missing Dragon-helm.

8. Note that though Tolkien has translated Rohirric military terms into Old English, this does not imply that their soldiers dressed or fought like Anglo-Saxons. See The Lord of the Rings, Appendix F.11.

9. In Tolkien: Cult or Culture? J.S. Ryan has compared the Haradrim to "Carthaginians of Hannibal's day" because of their mutual use of war elephants. Frustrated Punic-wargamers should note that neither did the Carthaginians use Haradrim uniforms nor did their small elephants carry towers like the mumak of Harad.

10. This possibly a consequence of the fact that the goblins in The Hobbit lived in a humid northern region: composite bows do not work efficiently in damp climates.

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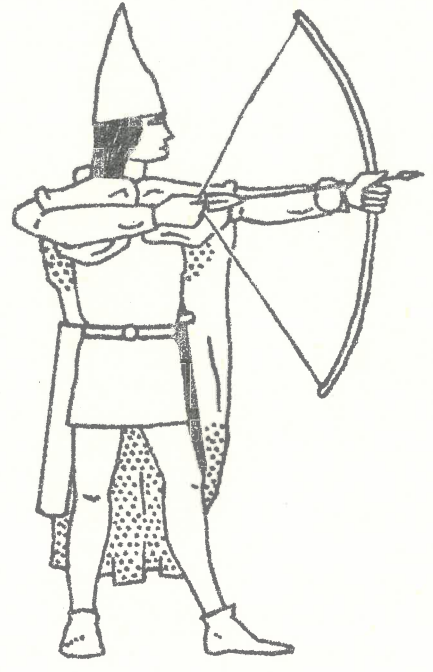
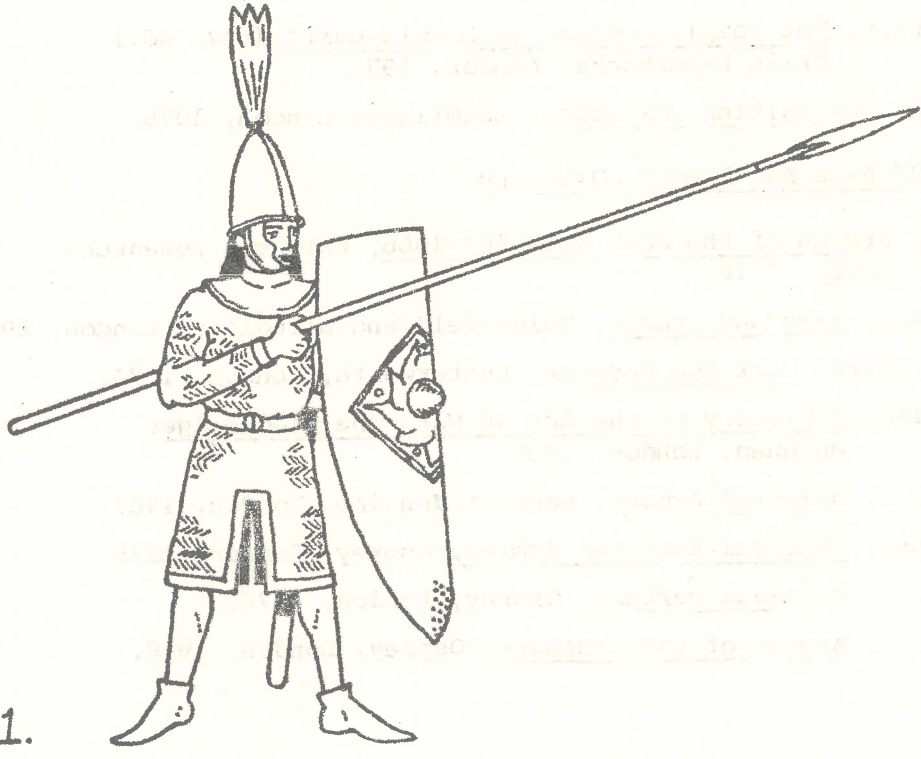
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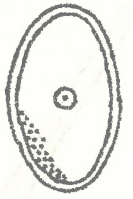




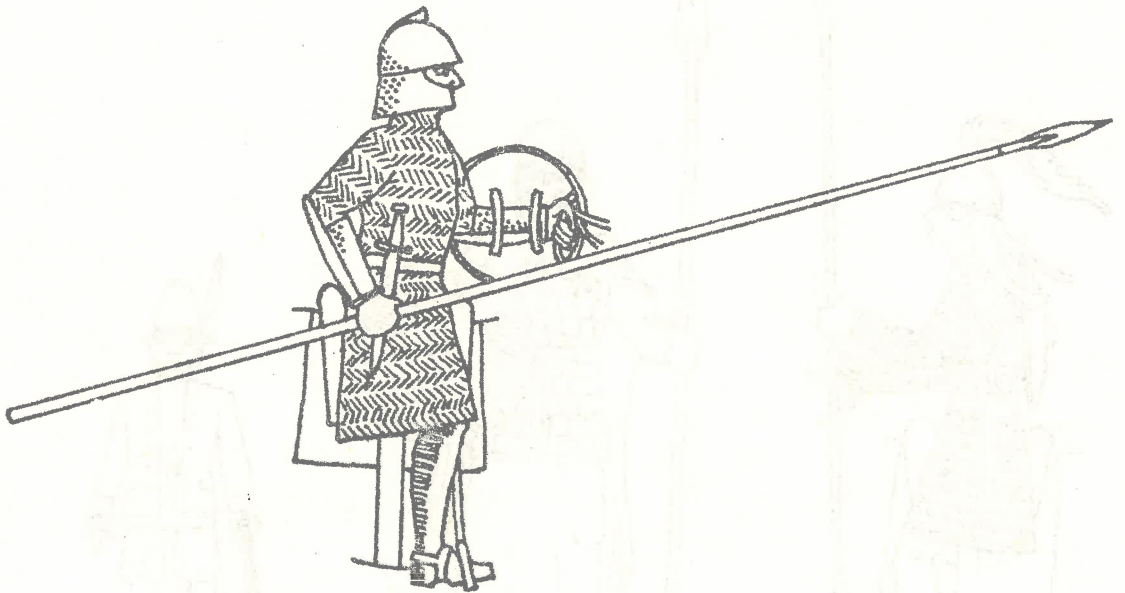
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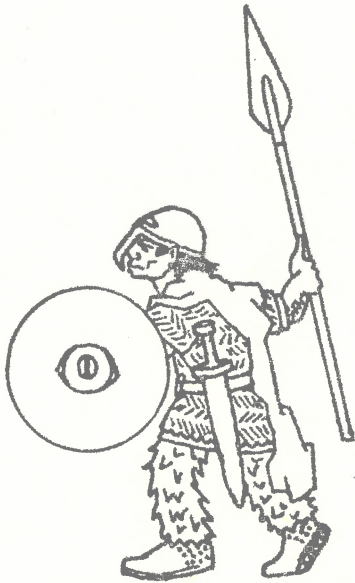


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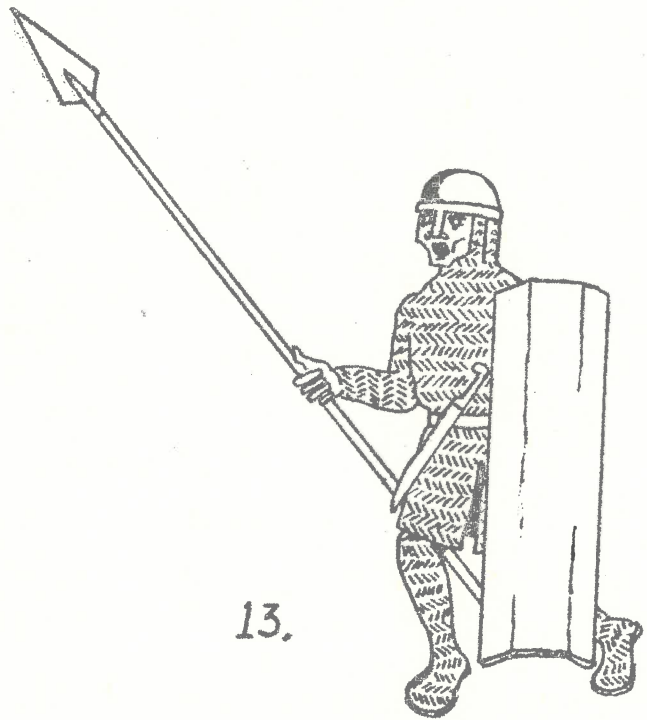


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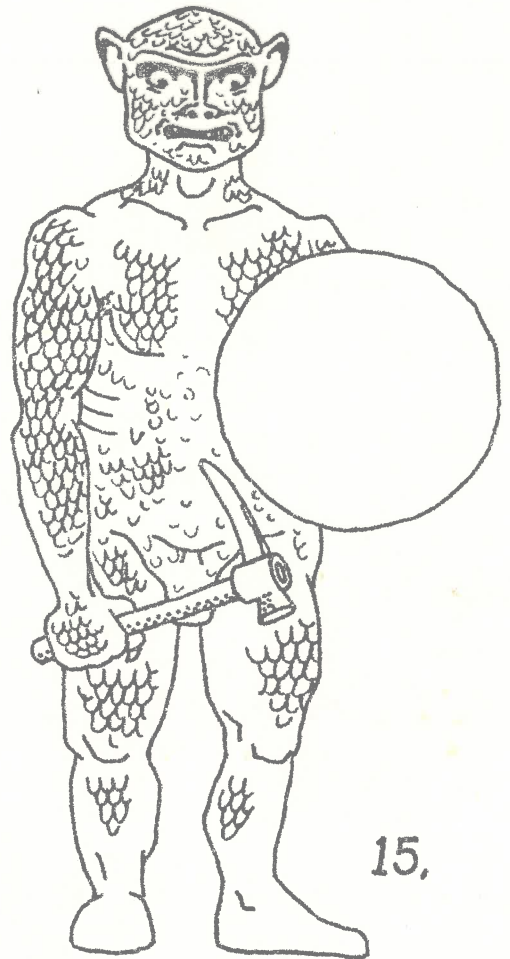
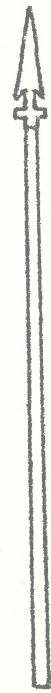
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