**The Celts**

**Celtic Warrior Culture**
The Celts were a warrior culture. Fighters were admired like heroes and courage in the battleground was an important virtue. The Celtic elite fighters functioned as models, which should inspire other warriors by their courage.

The Celts cut off the heads of killed enemies and collected them. It was considered a spiritual gesture, which often also appears in other cultures. The head was valued by the Celts as the seat of life, emotions and the soul. He who had captured a head attained the strength of the fallen enemy. Such trophies were bound to their horse or fastened to their belts, a practice that also served to cause fear in their enemies. One of the main motivations of Celtic warriors was the pursuit of glory and to this end the Celts loved exhibition when in battle. Thus there are legends of a Celtic ruler who drove a silver chariot into battle. Warriors often painted themselves with woed, a blue die, or used war cries in order to intimidate their enemies. Celtic warriors would also wear horned helmets or helmets topped with horse tails into the battle to intimidate their enemies and make themselves appear taller.

**The Celtic Warriors’ Weapons**
Distance combat weapons were javelins, harpoons, bows and slings. The stones of the slings were usually taken out of rivers, since these were well formed by the current. In addition, one must say that javelins were not necessarily the primary weapons of a warrior; many close-in engagement troops additionally carried thrown weapons. Young warriors fought usually with primitive javelins, slings and bows, while well-crafted pila or harpoon-type javelins were carried by Celtic champions. The Gaesatae, a group of Celtic warriors from the Alps, are said to have used poison on their ranged weapons. In late ancient times, the Picts already used light crossbows. As close-range weapons, spears, two-hand hammers, axes and swords would be used. The swords were initially short swords, but they later became long swords. Celtic swords varied greatly in their quality. There were true masterpieces, but some ancient writers reported swords that, after the first impact of a warrior, bent or became blunt. The Celtic spear possessed relatively broad points and were a grand example of this weapon type. Axes, two-hand hammers and two-hand swords (Claymore) were also used, but they were rather rarer weapons. Nevertheless, they belonged to the Celtic arsenal and worked well against well-protected opponents. The force of such a heavy weapon was so great that they could cause fatal injuries through chain-mail armor.
**The Celtic Warriors’ Armor**
Early La-Tene-era Celtic warriors did not wear armor, although nobles occasionally wore chest plates and chain-mail, a Celtic invention, according to the Romans. Later, leather armor, light bronze breast plates, chain shirts and scale armor were employed, although they were typically beyond the means of common warriors. A special form of armor the Celts developed was called Ceannlann armor. It is a layer of metal scales sewn onto linen, which is, in turn, sewn on to chain armor, creating a very effective multi-layer armor that could cover the entire body. Helmets were also uncommon at first and were mostly worn by nobles. They also carried wooden shields.

**Celtic Cavalry**
At first, horses were used only in conjunction with chariots. Each chariot consisted of two crew members: a driver and a noble warrior or champion. The ancient writers described the Celtic chariots use as a mixture of cavalry and infantry tactics. The chariot would drive into the battle where the warrior jumps out of the vehicle and fights as an infantry warrior. Once the warrior tired he would jump back on the chariot. The chariots would also drive up and down the battle lines throwing javelins and intimidating opponents with the load noises they made. Caesar describes that the drivers as extremely agile on the chariot, they would even climb forward on the yoke in order to steer the horses better. Celtic chariots used a suspension system that allowed them to operate on rough ground and even on steep hillsides. Mounted cavalry arose only later, particularly in Britain where chariots were still used in battle much longer than anywhere else in the world. Celtic riders were usually rather light cavalry. They fought by first unleashing a hail of javelins on their opponents, then they followed up by attacking with lances and swords.

**Celtic Military Tactics**
The normal Celtic sword fighter was probably a heavy infantryman. They typically fought unarmored in a battle line formation. The center piece of Celtic tactics was the mass charge. The wild frontal attack, referred to by the Romans as “the Furor Celtica “, was devastating and could quickly overpower opponents with the sheer power of the impact of the rushing Celtic warriors and their vicious, frenzied attacks. However, the Romans tended to out endure the less well armored and disciplined Celts if they could with stand the initial ferocity of their rush and usually came out on the winning side of prolonged battles. The Celts also fought defensively at times. They could form a deadly and formidable shield wall. Caesar describes a Celtic Phalanx that formed to defend the Helvetia wagons. The Romans set launched their Pila in order to weight down or pin their overlapping shields to one another. The Galatians, who formed a warlike Celtic state in the highlands of central Anatolia in modern Turkey , also used a tight, phalanx like formation. It has been theorized that they developed this technique to deal with the open plains, mounted troops and Greek formations they encountered on their route to Asia Minor. In addition to these open combat methods the Celts also employed Guerilla tactics. They understood well that they could gain an advantage by attacking their opponents from forest or by disturb them with raids and ambushes. This enabled the more lightly armored Celts to take advantage of their speed and knowledge of terrain. At one point during Caesars Gaelic campaign an army of Celts surprised Caesars forces as they were setting up camp. It was only with a great amount of luck, by Caesars own admission, that he and his army were not annihilated.

**The Chinese**

**Shang Dynasty Military**
The warrior elites who made up the chariot core had become an aristocracy. The archer had become equipped with the new and deadly but expensive compound bow. Another innovation borrowed from the derided steppe nomads, now called the Horse Barbarians and actively campaigned against. The warrior used a dagger-axe, a long handled axe with a dagger blade mounted on it. Chariots served as mobile command centers, firing platforms and shock forces. Shang infantry were armed with an assortment of stone or bronze weapons, including spears, pole-axes, long handled dagger-axes and simple bows. For defense they used shields and occasionally bronze or leather helmets. The infantry fought in massed formations under the banner of their noble or the Shang king himself. A rudimentary military bureaucracy was established in order to organize and supply these troops. The Shang rulers demanded a lot of bronze weapons and ceremonial vessels, required a lot of labor and expertise. This in turn spurred the economy as vast efforts were required for mining, refining, and the transportation of copper, tin, and lead ores.

**The Military of Imperial China**

The Qin created China’s first professional army, replacing the unreliable peasants with career soldiers and replacing the aristocratic military leaders with proven professional generals. Under the Qin and following Han Dynasties, troops conquered territories in all directions and established China's frontiers near their locations today. China was now unified and entered the golden age for Chinese history.[

Infantry were first deployed as shock troops and skirmishers. They were followed by the main body of the army, consisting of heavy infantry. Cavalry and chariots are positioned behind the heavy infantry, but they were probably used for flanking or charging the weakened armies of the other warring states.

The Qin and Han militaries used the most advanced weapons of the time. The sword, first introduced during the chaos of the Warring States Period became a favorite weapon. The Qin began producing stronger iron swords. Crossbows were also improved, becoming more powerful and accurate then even the compound bow. Another Chinese innovation allowed a crossbow to be rendered useless simply by removing two pins, preventing enemies from capturing a working model. The stirrup was adopted at this time, a seemingly simple but very useful invention was also implemented. Stirrups gave cavalry men greater balance and crucially allowed them to leverage the weight of the horse in a charge, without being knocked off.

During the Qin Dynasty and the succeeding, Han Dynasty, an old threat returned with a vengeance. The “Horse Barbarians” to the North had formed new confederations, such as the Huns. The warriors grew up in the saddle and were unmatched in their skill with the powerful compound bow, able to consistently shoot a man in the eye at a full gallop. These nomadic warriors used their mobile mounted archers in large, quick raids into the settled lands of China. They would then retreat after creating much devastation and taking all to the loot they could carry back into the steppes before the infantry heavy Chinese military was unable to react. In order to counter the threat from the nomadic invaders the Qin began construction of the Great Wall.

The powerful cavalry units combined with the defensive capabilities of their heavy infantry and firepower of their crossbowmen resulted in the Chinese army dominating its opposition during this period. The professionalism of the military was also restored and China created its first military academies during this period. However, during the following Song Dynasty the military again weekend as the ruling dynasty felt threatened by the military establishment. Despite this military advancements continued and the Chinese pioneered the next generation of weapons, developing gunpowder weapons such as the fire-lance and grenades.

**The Greeks**

Some time before 650 BC, they developed the phalanx, and their warriors and warfare itself began to change as well. Warfare in Greece had always been dictated by the terrain; the rough ground was unsuitable for chariots. In earlier times when their contemporaries developed chariot warfare, Greek warriors concentrated on heavy infantry. Besides Thessaly, the Greeks also neglected the development of cavalry in their military. However, their concentration on heavy infantry would pay off in the power of their hoplite warriors and phalanx formation.

**Greek Hoplites and Phalanxes**
The Greek warriors were called hoplites, named after their shield, the hoplon. Hoplons were heavy, bronze-covered wooden shields about 3 to 3.5 feet in diameter. It spanned from chin to knee and was very heavy (17- 33 pounds). These shields had a revolutionary design; their rounded shape allowed them to be rested on the shoulder for additional support. They also featured a new grip and forearm straps that gave them great amounts of mobility and allowed them to be used offensively to bash opponents. The Greek warriors overlapped their shields, forming a shield wall. The left part of each warrior’s shield protected the right side of the hoplite to his left. A phalanx would consist of rows of spear-armed hoplites, all protecting each other and presenting a wall of shields and spear points towards their enemies. The first two rows of a phalanx were able to stab at opponents with their spears that protruded from between the shields. The first three rows, or ranks, of a phalanx could stab their opponents, while the back ranks would brace the front rows, prevent the front rows from retreating and support the all-important cohesion of the formation. Phalanxes could be 4, 8, 16 or more men deep, up to 50 rows in some extraordinary instances. This made the back rows relatively safe, giving them little reason to flee a battle, while the front rows were pressed between their own forces and an enemy bent on killing them. Yet, to the honor-driven Greek warriors, the front was where they wanted to be! In their martial culture, warriors sought glory in battle, and a general placed his best men in the front ranks.

**Greek Warriors Armor**
Greek warriors were required to arm and armor themselves. Hoplite armor was extremely expensive and would be passed down through families. The amount of armor a Greek warrior wore varied. Peasant hoplites may have only carried a shield and maybe a helmet or secondary weapon, while battle-hardened Spartan veterans would have been armored from head to toe. Innovations including cheek plates and visors were added for additional protection. Each city state had its one design on the crest of their helmets.

**Greek Warriors Weapons**
Hoplites were armed with long spears, called doru. Doru were that were around 7 – 9 feet in length, although this varied. Greek warriors carried their spears in their right hands and their shields strapped to their left. Doru often had curved leaf shaped spearheads and had a spiked point, called a sauroter, at the opposite end. The spear could be spun around if something happened to the spearhead in battle, but it was more commonly used to stand the spear up by planting it into the ground. Ancient Greek warriors also carried short swords, called xiphos, as a secondary weapon. They were used when spears snapped or were lost in combat. They may have also been used when a hoplite needed to discard his spear and shield in order to chase down routing enemies. The xiphos usually has about a 2 foot blade; however the Spartans blades were often only 1 – 1.5 feet long. This shorter xiphos would advantageous in the press that occurred in the front row when two phalanxes smashed together. In this crush of men there was no room to use a longer sword, however a short sword could be thrust through gaps in the enemy's shieldwall and into an unprotected groin, armpit or throat. Alternatively, Greek warriors could carry the curved kopis, a particularly vicious hacking weapon that earned it a reputation as a “bad guys” weapon in ancient Greece.

**The Indians**

**Maurya Empire and Military**

The Mauryan military reqruited people from all over the subcontinent and from all Castes creating a diverse army.
The core of the army was composed of warriors from Uttarapathian in central and western India. Uttarapatha had many warlike peoples, including the Kambojas, Yavanas, and Sakas. Other groups that provided levy troops in times of war were the Maghadas, Assamese, and Cheras. While the Tamil (Dravidian) kingdoms in the Southern tip only paid tribute. One interesting group that was requrited into the Mauryan armies was the Nagas, which translate to ‘serpents’, a mystical people from Eastern India that worshiped cobras.

Like the Vendic armies, Muaryan armies were formed out of four parts, the Chariot, Elephant, Infantry and Archers, the largest part of the force. At its height the Maurya Empire had 750,000 soldiers and made advances in the weapons and armor of their military. War elephants were even armored and fitted with sword like attachments on their trunks. Small forts were also put on their backs where soldiers would attack from with javelins and bows or long spears, tridents or other polearms at close range. The Mauryan military was reported to have over 9000 war elephants.

**The Military of the Gupta Empire**
The military of the Gupta Empire remained based on the traditional four part armies of the past; however the chariot had been replaced by mounted cavalry by this time. They modeled the dress (trousers) and armor of their cavalry after the well clad and equipped Kushans. However, despite the use of horse archers by their enemies such as the Scythian, Parthian, and Hepthalite (White Huns or Huna) they never developed their own. The Gupta favored armored cavalry forces that attacked with lances or swords.

The Gupta military continued to rely heavily on infantry archers, which was an effective counter to mounted archers. One advancement the Gupta military made they made in archery was creating the steel bow; this weapon could match the power of the composite bow while not being subject to the problem of warping do to humidity. This incredibly powerful bow was capable of excellent range and could penetrate thick armor. However, steel bows would have only been used by elite or noble class warriors while common archers continued to use the highly regarded bamboo longbow. Iron shafts were substituted for the long bamboo cane arrows when armor penetration was needed, particularly against armored elephants and cavalry. Fire arrows also were employed by the Gupta, their long bamboo cane arrows being particularly well suited for use in these operations.

Gupta archers were protected by infantry units equipped with shields, javelins, and swords. They had no particular uniforms and dressed in accordance to their indigenous customs. Some warriors wore a type of tunic spotted with black aloe wood paste, which could be a type of tie-dye (or bandhni) that may have functioned as an early type of camouflage. Indian Gupta era infantry rarely wore pants, instead going into battle with bare legs. Skullcaps (more common) or thickly wrapped turbans were worn around the head to give some protection. Shields were generally curved or rectangular and featured intricate designs, sometimes decorated with a dragon’s head. The swords could be long swords, curved swords or daggers.

Elite troops and nobles would have had access to armor, such as chainmail, although the hot Indian climate can make heavy armor unbearable. Use of a breast plate and simple helmet would have been more common. They had access to better steel weapons as well, such as broadswords, axes and the Khanda, a uniquely Indian sword with a broad double blade and blunt point. The Khanda was a slashing weapon and considered very prestigious. Steal was developed in the Tamil region of Southern India between 300 BC and the start of the common era

War elephants continued to be used and pacaderm armor was advanced throughout this a period. Elephants remained a component of the combined arms tactics employed by Gupta generals. The use of war elephants coordinated with armored cavalry and infantry supported foot archers is likely the reason for the Gupta Empires success in war against both Hindu kingdoms and foreign armies invading from the Northwest. Another reason may have been a higher level of discipline compared to their tribal rivals. At its height the Gupta Empire had ¾ million soldiers.

The Gupta empire also maintained a navy to control water ways and their coasts. They also had a high level of understanding of siege warfare, employing catapults and other sophisticated war machines.

**The Roman Empire**

This is the time that the classic roman weapons took root. Each soldier flung two heavy javelins at their enemy before closing ranks. The common Roman soldier was better armored than their opponents and after the devastating volley of heavy javelins (pila) they got down to the ugly business of killing men one on one. They defended themselves with body shields, like they learned from the Celtic Warriors, and even copied their chainmail and helmets, this enabled them to get in close and finish off their opponents their short swords. These short swords were another borrowed invention, this time from the Celts, Celtiberians and Iberians of what is now modern Spain. The Romans, ever the masters of borrowing whatever worked from their enemies did come up with an original idea however, they crafted excellent plated armor and the Romans being eternally practical fashioned their armor so it could be collapsed for transportation. However, the greater genius of the Roman military was its ability to borrow these weapons, armor and tactics and form them into the most efficient manner. The Romans were above all organized, at least militarily. It was at this time and with these weapons that Rome became the empire that we think of today, conquering Gual, Britain, Egypt, Greece, Macedonia, Pontus, Syria, Palestine and more.
**Late Roman Soldiers**
The Roman army once again was forced to adapt to new enemies during the third century AD. The once unstoppable Roman soldiers had met their match, been ground down or been internally weekend. It looked as though the Roman Empire would fall, but through momentum and resilience it was able to survive for at least three hundred more years (depending on the date you pick for its demise, the Eastern Roman Empire survived for another 1200 years!). Regardless, the late Roman soldiers were forced to adapt to new enemies and strategic situations, and once again they rose to the challenge.

Strategically the frontiers of the Roman Empire were made to be less static, with weaker border guards backed by large regional field armies. While these border guards can be considered just a step above local militia, the field armies were a different story. More money was put into professional soldiers, both highly skilled cavalry (the beginnings of European knights) and missile troops. These missile troops consisted of archers and some much more exciting soldiers who operated awesome ballista’s like the “scorpion”. These were essentially large, mounted crossbows capable of highly accurate, rapid fire and able to penetrate multiple people. Plus they were transportable enough to make it to the battlefield, making them an early example of battlefield artillery.

The heavy Roman soldier remained as deadly as ever during this period however, perhaps even more deadly. This is despite being from a more fractured political system and even being a smaller proportion of the military than during the imperial period. They continued to employ similar tactics although they developed larger round shields and longer swords, perhaps as a defense against cavalry threats or perhaps due to the influence of the ever increasing number of “barbarians” in the army. One exciting advancement in the area of Roman soldiers was the Plumbata, a weapon that enabled them to act as their own missle troops. This amazing weapon was what can be described as an oversized lawn-dart pushed through an oblong led ball. This weapon was attached to a leather cord and whipped around like a sling to gain range, ancient writers report it had the range of a bow (around 200 yards). The plumbata would then crash down into enemy formations killing the guy unlucky enough to be in its trajectory. Late Roman military expenditures greatly skewed towards cavalry than previously, due to horrible experiences with peoples like the Huns.

**Late Imperial Roman Armies**

The late imperial army, with so much territory to cover, began to focus on speed and cavalry. Mounted troops and archers took on greater importance. The heavy infantry obsessed Romans of the Republic and early empire would have shuddered, but times had changed. Roman infantry was once again armed with spears, a good defense against cavalry. They were also less armored and infantry began carrying an oval shield. Speed was now more highly valued then the brute force of the Marian legions. Physical fitness, aggressiveness and professionalism also declined as the legions were posted on garrison duties, protecting the multitude of fortifications strung across the imperial frontiers. Military expenditures had soared, up 40% in the later Empire, even though the heavy infantry was scaled back. The new cavalry units, forerunners to the medieval nights, where expensive, budget busters.

Since the early Republic the Romans used auxiliary troops, non-Romans who served with the legions in roles that the heavy infantry centric Roman military could not fill effectively. Light skirmish troops and heavy cavalry are two good examples. During the Empire these auxiliary troops steadily increased in numbers. By the late Empire they, along with foreign mercenaries, had became the core of Roman armies.

**The Huns**

The Huns were a nomadic people who left the steppes of Central Asia, traveled to Europe and threatened what was left of Rome's empire. Chinese documents, from the [Han](http://www.artsmia.org/art-of-asia/history/dynasty-han.cfm) [Dynasty](http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0402/feature1/index.html), refer to a warlike tribe called the "[Hsiung-nu](http://books.google.com/books?id=DguGWP0vGY8C&pg=PA227&lpg=PA227&dq=Hsiung-nu&source=bl&ots=y-23i-cdoX&sig=c7L0WxUIbcLQlD__SCSOIOAhsuk&hl=en&ei=ldpcSv7iMs2vsAaXp-CZDA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6" \t "_blank)" who may have been the Huns' [earliest ancestors](http://www.silk-road.com/artl/minyaev1.shtml). The first emperor of China began to build the [Great Wall](https://www.awesomestories.com/assets/great-wall-) to keep out such marauders.

People were [afraid of the Huns](https://www.awesomestories.com/assets/attila-the-hun-scourge-of-god). Literary texts indicate that every boy had his face slashed as an infant. That led to fearsome looks, but the point of the mutilation was to teach children to endure pain. Archaeological evidence confirms deformation of Hunnic children.[Expert horsemen](https://www.awesomestories.com/assets/attila-expert-horseman-roman-hostage), whose children learned to ride as soon as they could walk, the Huns were masters of the bow and arrow.

It was their cruelty, and their military prowess, which made the Huns a conquering people even before Attila became their king. On horseback, they could fire about 25 arrows in 45 seconds. A whole unit could fire 50,000 arrows in only 10 minutes!

With rested horses always in reserve, attacking Huns used surprise as a military tool. Messengers could not reach their towns to warn people faster than the Huns could descend en masse.  [Ammianus Marcellinus](http://odur.let.rug.nl/~drijvers/ammianus/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), writing in 395 A.D., says:

*They are very quick in their operations, of exceeding speed, and fond of surprising their enemies. With a view to this, they suddenly disperse, then reunite, and again, after having inflicted vast loss upon the enemy, scatter themselves over the whole plain in irregular formations: always avoiding the fort or an entrenchment.*

Using [reflex bows](https://www.awesomestories.com/assets/reflex-bows) which drew back twenty to thirty centimeters, the Huns had developed a powerfully [effective weapon](http://books.google.com/books?vid=1846030250). (A specimen [reflex bow](https://www.awesomestories.com/assets/hungarian-reflex-bow) can be seen at the Hungarian Military Museum in Budapest.) Their arrows could travel 300 meters (about 328 yards), killing a man at half that distance. Marcellinus describes the Hunnic warrior in action:

*And in one respect you may pronounce them the most formidable of all warriors, for when at a distance they use missiles of various kinds, tipped with sharpened bones instead of the usual points of javelins, and these bones are admirably fastened into the shaft of the javelin or arrow; but when they are at close quarters they fight with the sword, without any regard for their own safety; and often while their antagonists are warding off their blows they entangle them with twisted cords, so that, their hands being fettered, they lose all power of either riding or walking.*

Professor Sandor Bokonyi, the leading Hungarian authority on Hun animals, believes the Huns invented the stirrup. (Others credit the [Sarmatians](https://www.awesomestories.com/assets/sarmatians%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), who expected their young women to fight, with that invention.)

Even if they did not invent them, Huns used their stirrups to terrify enemies. Standing upright on a racing horse, they could fire their deadly arrows forward, backward and sideways. Unsuspecting townsfolk did not realize disaster was about to strike until they saw a cloud of dust, heard pounding hooves and experienced a rain of Hun arrows which turned the sky black.

So adept at horsemanship were the Huns that Marcellinus observes:

*There is not a person in the whole nation who cannot remain on his horse day and night. On horseback they buy and sell, they take their meat and drink, and there they recline on the narrow neck of their steed, and yield to sleep...And when any deliberation is to take place on any weighty matter, they all hold their common council on horseback. They are not under the authority of a king, but are contented with the irregular government of their nobles, and under their lead they force their way through all obstacles.*

Although they sustained setbacks in the third century A.D., the Huns soon resumed their [conquering ways](https://www.awesomestories.com/assets/map-depicting-hun-movements). They lived on plunder (from conquered towns and people) and tribute (garnered from those who preferred to pay instead of die).

**The Goths**

The Goth warriors were born of barbarian ancestry and were vicious warriors that could fight the most trained and skilled foe. The Goth warriors battle hardened skills, and their passion for the fight were more than a match for any fellow warrior on the battlefield. The Goth warriors came from the north, their old home, and they would travel, they would fight, they would travel more, and no man woman or child could stop the Goths and their warriors, from going exactly where they pleased. The Goth warriors were in fact the fighting force of the larger Goth tribe and they were Germanic people from the east of Europe. The Goths would eventually play a huge role in history with their battles and conflicts and alliances with the Romans, which is of great importance to how the world we live in currently is shaped.

The Goths after their first travels from Scandinavia consisted of two major groups, the Ostrogoths and the Visigoths. Both groups had their own individual traits and practises but sharing the same name in part. Both groups eventually settled in different parts of Europe but both experienced similar dominance and power, testament to the strength of the original Goth warriors and their tribe.

**Goth Weapons**
The weaponry of the Goth warriors was not quite as important in their success as their battle skills and barbaric fighting talent. The weapons they did use though were similar to many other Germanic warriors of the time, and due to the nature of their alliances with the Roman empire at various times, the Goth warriors would also often carry Roman weaponry. The Goth warriors were often mentioned as preferring the sword over the spear, which was traditionally a common weapon with Germanic warriors. The sword would typically be a broad sword with a double edged blade. They would also carry a lance, pike or javelin, basically a form of spear based weaponry, although even more varied weapons have been found to be owned by Goths, like maces and scythes.

**Armour of the Goth warriors**
Goth warriors would be armoured to a similar level of many of the Germanic tribes of a similar time, they typically wore tunics and trousers, with chain mail and simple helmets. Some Goth warriors would wear breastplates or Roman armour, although it was more common for them to keep Roman weapons but discard their armour, perhaps finding the heavier Roman body armour too limiting for their natural fighting style. The Goth warriors also carried a shield too, which was traditionally rounded and used for protection and offensive attacks alike.

**The Goth warriors and tribe in summary**
The Goth warriors were travelling people, conquerors and of course fighters. Their tribe grew in size, in skills and in belief. The Goth warriors were the first Germanic fighters to convert to Christianity, and fought in mighty battles with and against the Romans. Slave to no man, the free man belief of the Goths is probably what enabled them to become one of the most important Germanic tribes of all time. Fierce and barbaric on the battlefield, you would do well not to try and tell a Goth warrior what to do.

**The Persians**

The ancient Persian warriors were soldiers for the Persian Empire during the phases of its military life. The Immortals were the most renowned ancient Persian warriors, feared for their mass scale of attack and the fact that if you were to kill one Persian warrior another one would appear instantaneously giving the appearance of course, that they were indeed immortal. It was during two phases of the Persian Empire, that the immortals were called upon to strike fear into their foes.

The Persian army in the Achaemenid period was massive and this was what allowed them to rule over a large portion of the Greater Iran region. The army itself was reported to be up to 150,000 warriors strong, which of course included the legendary Immortals. The Persian army was divided up into to regiments of one thousand men, and these regiments were known as a hazarabam, and ten of these regiments formed a haivarabam of ten thousand Persian warriors. Of course the Immortal division was the most famed haivarabam and were told in history to be the King’s personal division.

**The Immortals**

The Persian Immortals were the heavy infantry for the Persian army, their name stemmed from the fact that if one of the Immortals was to fall in battle, they would be instantly replaced by another warrior. The name itself was coined by Herodotus, the Greek Historian and the Immortals themselves were considered to be ten thousand strong, and were also known as the Zhayedan. An elite fighting unit the Immortals would serve as part of the Sassanid army, and while both the from the Achaemenid and Sassinad empires would be armour and weaponed slightly differently due to the advance in armour and weaponry, their purpose would be essentially the same. “As we marched towards the fields of battle, there was an excitement in the air of our hazarabam, the haivarabam today had with it a company of Immortals. The last time this had happened our success was high, our losses were low and the fear the Immortals pushed into teh hearts of our enemy was worth two haivarabam. Even when closing to the battlefield our spirits were not dampened, the Immortals were not only our best fighers, but our best phychological weapon too.”

**Horsemen, Shield Beariers, and Archers**

The Acheamenid horsemen were an important part of the Persian army of the time, not as heavily armoured as the Sassanian Cataphract warriors, but still formidable, the cavalry would be able to launch shock attacks on their enemies at a moments notice. The Sparabara were the front line troops of the Persian army, and some of the bravest warriors, despite their limited armoury. Typically armed with a large wicker and animal hide shield, which the Sparabara would use to adsorb projectile attacks, for offensive work, the shield bearers would be armed with a two foot long spear. Typically well trained the shield bearers were capable and battle ready warriors. The Persian archers were one of the first lines of attack for the Persian army, they would line up and take cover behind the sheild bearers, raining volleys of arrows down on the opposing force. Lightly armoured to allow full movement to fire their bows, the archers would also carry a range of close combat weapons in case they were forced to engage in melee combat. Widely considered to be some of the best archers of the time, their attacks were considered key in many of the great battle the Persian warriors fought throughout history.

**Persian Weapons and Armour**

The primary weapons used in the Achaemenid empire were swords, short spears, daggers and bow and arrows. typically the weaponry was of a lower quality then the Greek armies of the time. In the Sassanid period more metal armour was introduced and in particular the cavalry would be much better equipped for prolonged melee and shock attacks.

**Battle Tactics**

In battle the Persian warriors would be an intimidating force, their sheer number could strike fear in the armies of their foes. With that mass came large scale assaults, and the Persians were fond of projectile attacks, typically bow and arrow barrages. The archers would lie behind a screen of sparabara, the shield bearing troops. From this position the archers could launch volumes of arrows on their enemy while being protected themselves from incoming projectile attacks.

Once the enemy had been scattered by the volley of arrow strikes, the Persian cavalry were now ready to launch a shock attack. The cavalry would use their pace to close the battle lines and bring an assault to the reeling troops.

In certain cases and in the later Persian empire periods, the Persians would also favour chariot attacks, a typical advancement of the cavalry troops, chariots would allow the Persians to not only launch fighters in close but also allow multiple arrow attacks while closing in on the enemy. The Persian foot soldiers would be able to slowly close the distance now, they were too heavily armoured and equipped to move with the cavalry, but their armour and range of weaponry allowed them to finish the job in close quarters and in melee attacks.