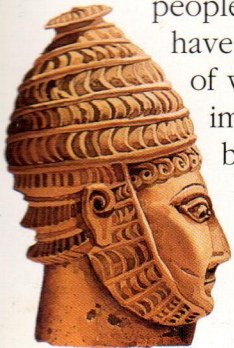


WARRIORS AND TRADERS

Judging from what they left behind, the Mycenaeans seem to have been a very warlike people. Archaeologists have dug up masses of weapons and images of war and battle scenes.



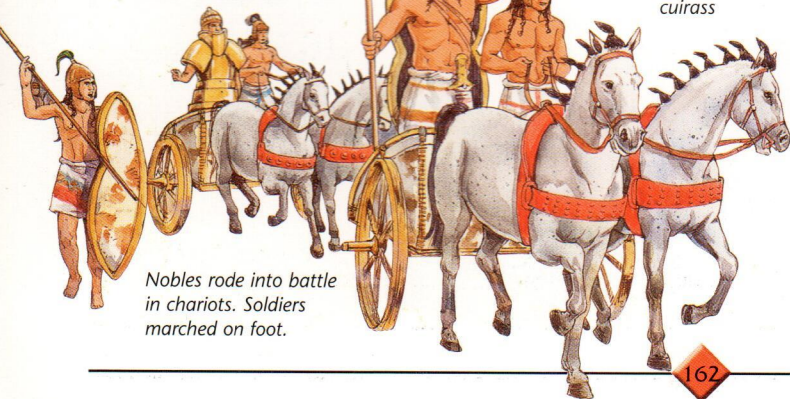
This carved head from Mycenae shows a soldier in a helmet made from boars' tusks.

WARRIOR KINGS

The king of a Mycenaean city was expected to be a warrior too. He had to look after his soldiers, and to supply them with food, housing, land and slaves. This was arranged by officials in the palace, where many of the soldiers lived.

In battle, kings and nobles wore helmets and protective clothing made of bronze. Ordinary soldiers just wore leather tunics.

The king leading his soldiers into battle



Nobles rode into battle in chariots. Soldiers marched on foot.

WHAT SOLDIERS WORE

Most of what we know about what the soldiers wore comes from contemporary pictures - although one nearly complete bronze suit was found in a tomb in a place called Dendra (see the map on page 158).

The suit is made of bronze plates. With it was a boars' tusk helmet, some bronze greaves (leg guards), two swords, and the remains of a wooden-framed shield. The whole find dates back to around 1400BC.



INTERNET LINK

For links to websites where you can see Mycenaean metalwork, weapons and goods from a shipwreck, go to www.usborne-quicklinks.com

This soldier's suit was found in a tholos tomb.

Bronze protective clothing, called a cuirass



Boar's tusk helmet

Bronze high neck guard

Shoulder pieces

Bands to protect the stomach and lower body