

HOPLITES

By the 7th century BC, foot soldiers called hoplites were the elite corps of any Greek army. Hoplites all used similar clothing and weapons, but most armies did not have a special uniform.

EQUIPMENT

To protect his body, a hoplite wore a joined breast and back plate known as a cuirass. Early models were made from two bronze plates, attached with leather straps at the side.



This early cuirass is made of solid bronze.

Bronze spear - 2-3m (6-10ft) long

Each hoplite could choose the design on his own shield.

Short iron sword

Later, hoplites wore a more flexible cuirass, made of leather and bronze. To protect their lower legs, they had bronze leg guards, called greaves. Hoplites carried bronze and leather shields, and two weapons: a long spear (the height of a very tall man), which was the main weapon, and a short, iron sword.

Leather and bronze cuirass

Bronze greaves

