

HELMETS

Helmets were made of bronze and often had horsehair crests on top. Designs changed over the years: here are just a few of them.

The most basic kinds were the Kegel and the Corinthian, both worn in the 7th century BC. Different types evolved from these, one of which was the Illyrian helmet.

The basic Corinthian helmet developed into one with ear holes, so that soldiers could hear better in battle. The Chalcidian helmet left both the ears and the mouth uncovered.

Between the 5th and the 2nd centuries BC, the Thracian helmet became popular. It had a peak at the front and long cheek pieces.



Kegel



Illyrian



Corinthian



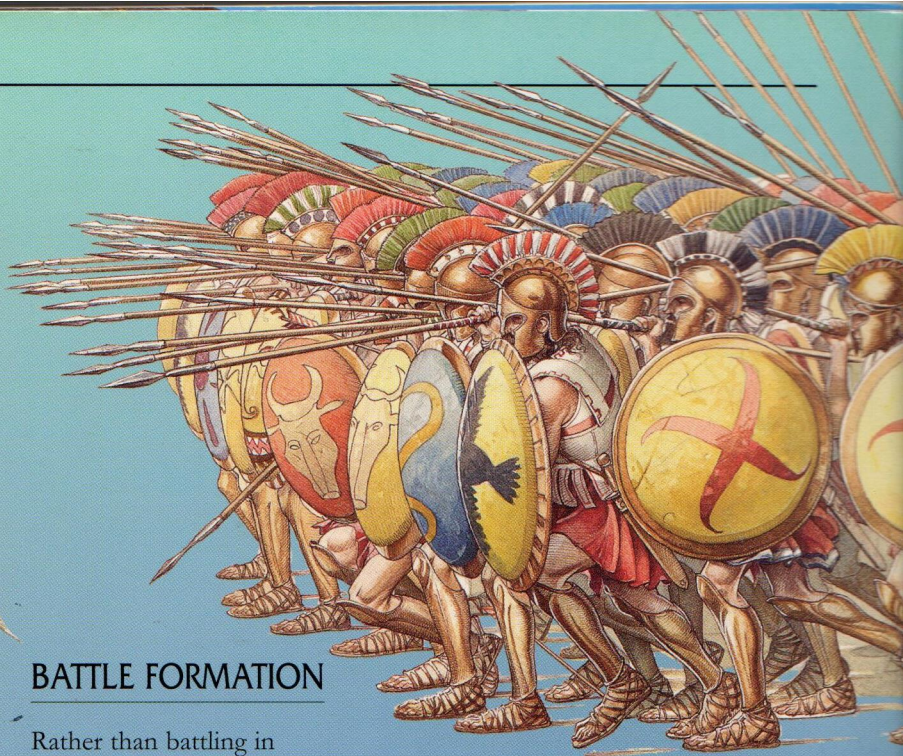
Later Corinthian



Chalcidian



Thracian



BATTLE FORMATION

Rather than battling in one-to-one combat, as warriors had done in earlier times, hoplites fought in an organized formation called a phalanx. The phalanx was a long block of soldiers, usually eight ranks deep. Each man was protected partly by his own shield and partly by the shield of the soldier on his right hand side.

The man on the far right was left partly exposed. Because of this, the right wing of a phalanx was vulnerable. In battle, a general would often try to attack the enemy on this weak side.

A phalanx charging forward in battle

ATTACK

In attack, a phalanx charged forward so that the full weight of men and shields smashed into the enemy. The two opposing phalanxes would then push against each other until one gave way.

This hoplite soldier was painted on a Greek plate, dated around 560BC.



INTERNET LINK

For a link to a website where you can find out lots about the weapons of the Greek hoplite, go to www.usborne-quicklinks.com

