

II/11 Macedonian 600 – 250 BC

a) Archaic (before 415 BC); all Irr Co; Hilly				
Macedonian noble cavalry (retinue)	Cv	1-3	2-4	3-7
Macedonian cavalry	Cv	1-3	2-5	4-10
Macedonian light cavalry	LH	2-6	4-12	12-20
Macedonian infantry	Hd	3-9	6-18	10-30
Upgrade the above to experienced levy (e)			any	
Skirmishers	Sk	0-4	0-8	0-14
b) Early reforms (415-350 BC); all Irr Co; Hilly or Plains				
Macedonian noble bodyguard cavalry	Cv	1-2	2-4	3-7
Macedonian cavalry	Cv	1-3	2-5	4-10
Macedonian light cavalry	LH	1-5	2-10	4-18
Proto-hoplites	Ax	2-4	4-8	6-14
Upgrade the above to (e)			0 to ½	
Peltasts	LI	4-8	8-16	12-30
Levy infantry	Hd	0-3	0-6	0-9
Slingers, Macedonian and Cretan archers	Sk	0-2	0-4	0-7
c) Later reforms (from 350 BC) all Reg Co; Hilly or Plains; sea				
<i>Hetairoi</i> cavalry bodyguard	Cv	1-2	2-4	3-7
Upgrade to (e)			any	
Cavalry (Macedonia, ally Greek)	Cv	3-6	6-15	12-30
<i>Prodromoi</i> (Thracia, Paionian, Mercenary)	LH	0-1	1-3	2-5
Thessalian cavalry	Cv(e)	0-2	0-3	0-5
<i>Sōmatophilakes</i> (bodyguard)	Sp//Pk all (e)	0-1	0-2	0-3
<i>Pezhetairoi</i> hoplites	Pk	6-10	12-20	20-38
Upgrade to <i>asthetairoi</i> (e)			0 to ⅓	
One <i>hypaspistes</i> can be purchased for each 3 <i>pezhetairoi</i> or fraction:*				
<i>Hypaspistes</i> *	Sp//Ax//LI	1-3	2-5	4-8
Upgrade to <i>agēma</i> (e)			0 to ½	
Greek Hoplites (Corinth League, mercenary)	Sp	0-2	0-4	0-6
<i>Akontistai</i> and peltasts (Greece, Thrace, Illyria, Odrysia)	Ax	0-6	0-12	2-20
Agrianian <i>psiloi</i>	Ax(e)	0-1	0-2	0-4
<i>Toxotai psiloi</i> (Macedonia, Crete)	Bw	0-1	0-2	0-3
Cretan <i>psiloi</i>	LI or Sk	0-2	0-3	0-5
Other <i>psiloi</i> (lighter bowmen and slingers)	Sk	0-3	0-5	0-9
Ballistae	WE	0-1	0-2	0-3
Only after 324 BC and if Alexander is not in command:				
Indian elephants	El	0	0-1	0-1

Archaic armies were known by their cavalry, the few infantry consisting of little more than peasant levies. By the end of the 5th cent there are records of major army reforms concerning mostly the cavalry (Thucydides 2.100.2) while information on the early Macedonian hoplites is very scarce.

The constant disputes among the Greek city-states during the 4th century allowed for a sustained rise of the Macedonian power. Yet by the time Philip II ascended to the throne (359) Macedonia itself was under heavy pressure from wild barbarian tribes to the north and by wily Greek cities to the south. The development of the new army was therefore driven by the basic necessity of survival.

The highest ranks of the army were held by the seven *sōmatophilax basilikos* (Royal Guards) or by appointed *stratēgoi* (Generals).

The peltasts were light infantry basically armed with javelins, whose name derives from their small shields, the *peltai*.

The Macedonian hoplites showed the inevitable influence of the Greek military organization, especially after the local campaigns of the general Iphicrates of Athens. Both Philip and Alexander were strongly influenced by the tactics of the Theban general Epaminondas, famous for his thorough victory over the Spartans at Leuctra (371). Philip took advantage of the Macedonian local military tradition and created a spearhead force of cavalrymen, the *hetairoi* (Companion). Initially there were but 600 *hetairoi*, but over time their numbers would increase. The cavalry used a long spear (*xyston*) that could shatter on impact, so it was fitted with a second spearhead at the butt, to allow its use after the foremost section of the shaft had been lost.

Contemporary sources indicate that the best cavalry in the army was the Thessalian, but the most important places on deployment were invariably warranted to the Macedonian *hetairoi*.

With the mobility on the battlefield taken over by the cavalry, the infantry could become heavier, returning to the use of the bronze cuirasses, the Phrygian helmet and round shields. The resulting combined-arms force would obtain a decisive victory over the Greeks at Chaeronea in 338.

The core of the infantry arm were the 9000 *pezhetairoi* (foot Companions) organized into six *taxeis* (battalions). They fought in a 16 men deep close order phalanx with the *sarissa*, a short pike measuring from about 4.1m, with a small iron point appropriate to pierce armour.

Hypaspistes means shield-bearer and they were often referred to as the lighter phalanx or hoplites, sometimes operating in close cooperation with the *hetairoi*.

Agēma was a common designation for the best troops placed in the vanguard ranks.

Psiloi was the generic designation for the lighter infantry and could include archers, slingers, shieldless javelinmen and peltasts. There might have been two types of *toxotai* (corps of archers) some armed with bronze *peltai* (mostly Cretan) and a lighter type mentioned by Arrian (3.18.5).

Alexander became King of Macedonia in 336 and inherited a renewed army withdrawn from Asia on the demise of Philip II. During Alexander rule the Boeotian helmet was introduced, which provided improved protection to the face and shoulders, plus there were somewhat unpopular orders to shave the traditional curly beards. With his army the young King would sally east to conquer the vast Persian Empire, stopping only by the Indus river in India. The army size would swollen considerably as conquests progressed, but its the basic organization was still traceable back to Philip's reforms.

Alexander collected over 200 elephants for his army during the campaigns but it is unlikely that he had used them under his direct command. Yet elephants might have been used in war by the *stratēgoi* Kraterus or Hephaestion during his lifetime.

The Macedonian heritage would outlast the Alexandrian rule through the Successor States and the former 'un-Greek' northern neighbors would become a crucial vehicle for the spread of the Greek culture beyond the Hellespont.

Jerboa; Filipe Martins

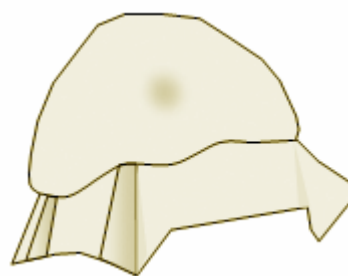
Special Rules:

All or none *Hetairoi* and *Sōmatophylakes* may be Stubborn.

El may only be used with the opponent's or referee permission.



The Macedonian Phrygian helmet.



Accordingly to some authors the Boeotian helmet worn by the infantry was just a protective felt cap. The *hetairoi* most probably wore bronze helmets.

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