

Egyptian Military Units



Catapult

Class: Siege Weapon

Information: Masters of all forms of ranged combat, the Egyptians delight in bombarding enemy structures and formations with catapult fire. After softening the enemy ranks, the Infantry moves in and finishes off any survivors.

Weaknesses: Infantry and Cavalry Units

History: Though the Ancient Egyptians did possess the technology to build catapults they are never mentioned in any Egyptian military account.



Chariot Archer

Class: Archer

Information: Equipped with the best Archers in the Egyptian army, the Chariot Archer is a force to be reckoned with. It lays down a destructive barrage of arrow fire that destroys enemy Spearmen and then moves on before the enemy can counter-attack.

Weaknesses: Cavalry

History: The chariot was a vehicle of travel for high-ranking officials in Ancient Egypt, and it was also a weapon used by archers in the Egyptian Army. Unlike the chariots built by the Hittites, Egyptian chariots were light and fast moving. In the Ancient Egyptian Army the Chariot Archers main role was to protect the infantry. At range chariot archer would make use of arrows to dispense of their enemies, in close corridors they pull out their auxiliary weapon, most often an axe to deal with enemies.



Healer/priest/Scribe/Magician

Class: Miscellaneous

Information: The Egyptian healer is a religious figure that can heal units in close proximity to it.

Weaknesses: All Military Units

History: Religion was very important to the Ancient Egyptians. As a result armies would always have some sort of religious advisor who would attempt to predict the outcome of battles through their knowledge of the Gods will.



Ladder Team

Class: Miscellaneous

Information: The Ladder Team can construct ladders that can be used by other units to assault walls or other elevated defensive positions.

Weaknesses: All Military Units

History: Ladders would normally be constructed by carpenters then brought to a siege by regular military units. Ladders were the favored device of Ancient Egyptian armies for assaulting fortified positions.



Siege Ram

Class: Siege Weapon

Information: When forced to contend with staunch enemy defenses, the Egyptian army would send in the Siege Ram. Not only does it smash through enemy gates, it's also more than capable of destroying key structures.

Special Ability: Rams can only attack structures.

Weaknesses: Infantry and Cavalry Units

History: The Ancient Egyptians used Siege Rams infrequently. Ladders were the favored devices against fortified positions. The few references to Siege Rams in ancient sources describe nothing more complex than a large log used as a battering ram.



Slave

Class: Miscellaneous

Information: The lowest rung on the social ladder, Slaves are the essential backbone to your Civilization. They collect resources and construct and repair all of your structures.

Weaknesses: All Military Units

History: The life of a slave in ancient Egypt depended largely upon whom you were a slave to. Slaves to high officials would often live lives that had more freedom than those on the lowest rungs of the social level that were not slaves. However, slaves used for physical labour could expect a short grueling life. Slaves in Ancient Egypt were mostly composed of conquered peoples.



Bowman

Class: Archer

Information: Only the most accomplished Archers in the Egyptian empire are allowed to become a Temple Bowman. They are extremely effective at softening up enemy Spear Infantry. However, attacks by enemy cavalry is always a risk.

Weaknesses: Cavalry

History: The bow and arrow was the most important weapon in Ancient Egypt. During the Old Kingdom the simple bow was utilized for military and hunting purposes. In the New Kingdom the

simple bow was replaced with the superior composite bow design for its greater tension that thus range abilities. However, the difficulty in manufacturing and maintaining the composite bow made the simple bow the choice for foot archers and the bow was easier to maintain and repair.



Cavalry

Class: Cavalry

Information: It takes more than mastery of a horse to join the elite ranks of the Temple Cavalry; it also takes cunning and absolute skill with a blade. Cavalry are relied upon to break through enemy ranks and annihilate their Archers.

Weaknesses: Spearmen

History: Despite the modern conceptions of camels and the Egyptian military, camels never played a large role in the Ancient Egyptian military.



Guard

Class: Infantry

Information: The most elite swordsmen in your empire fill the ranks of the Temple Guard. They are especially adept at conquering Outposts, which will expand your reach and give you crucial recruiting bonuses.

Weaknesses: Archers

History: Ancient Egypt's incredibly long history saw the evolution of weaponry from the Copper Age through to the Iron Age. Until the New Kingdom the Egyptian Army never composed of anything more than a rag-tag group of civilians hastily brought into the army. The invasion of the Hyksos in the Second Intermediate period taught Egypt the necessity of creating more professional armies; it also brought bronze weapons to Egypt and the knowledge necessary to make new Bronze Weapons. The importance of mercenaries cannot be overstated. Throughout the centuries the Egyptian Empire heavily relied on foreign mercenaries.

The most prominent weapons used by ordinary foot soldiers were axes. Swords were not introduced to Ancient Egypt as primary weapons until the Second Intermediate Period. The initial swords used in the New Kingdom were based on an Asiatic form that more strongly resembled a scimitar.



spearman

Class: Infantry

Information: Specially trained to combat enemy Cavalry, the Temple Spearmen form an extremely disciplined defensive wall that will provide important protection to your Archers.

Weaknesses: Archers

History: Spears were first used as weapons in Ancient Egypt in the Old Kingdom, however the tips of these weapons were composed of copper. It was not until the Egyptians discovered bronze working that they were able to make more effective spears. The first spears used in Ancient Egypt were mostly used for hunting rather than military purposes. The Egyptians never really adopted the spear as a primary weapon.



Trireme

Class: Boat

Information: This massive ship is the largest in the Egyptian fleet and often transports the Pharaoh to the front lines. An essential part of any distant extended military campaign, it pulls double duty as both a heavy siege weapon (when outfitted with a Naval Onager) and as a floating Barracks.

Special Ability: Can construct Naval Onagers.

Weaknesses: Other naval vessels

History: The Egyptians were not well known naval combat skills in the Ancient World during the Old and Middle Kingdoms. This changed during the New Kingdom when Egypt developed an extensive navy, however by the time the Trireme became the model of the naval weapon of the Ancient World, the Persians already dominated Egypt.



War Elephant

Class: Cavalry

Information: Captured from the depths of Africa, the War Elephant is a terrifying melee weapon that can decimate enemy Infantry. Only the most powerful of Pharaohs could control these mighty beasts.

Weaknesses: Spearmen

History: The Egyptians brought elephants back from the depths of Africa and turned them into powerful weapons. War elephants became excellent war machines when properly trained in ancient times. Several recorded battles account for the use of war elephants including Guagamela (331 BC), Gaza (312 BC), Heraclea (280 BC), Zama (202 BC), and Hydaspes River (326 BC). They seemed to have been introduced by Asian armies who were masters at controlling these ferocious beasts. Usually 1-3 armed men were mounted on top. Egyptian, and then later Western armies such as Persian, Macedonian, Carthaginian, and even Roman began to make use of the psychological terror these beasts would inflict upon the enemy.

Command Structure

- The Egyptian pharaoh served as commander in chief of the armed forces. Under him were generals and senior lieutenants, followed by frontier commanders, then commanders of progressively smaller infantry units.

Chariots

- The Hyksos brought the chariot to Egyptian warfare. While most cultures used chariots as an offensive weapon, the Egyptians used them primarily to defend infantry from enemy chariots. Egyptian chariots were lighter and nimbler than those of other nations.

Infantry

- Despite the glamour of the chariots, the ancient Egyptian army was an infantry-based force. As time progressed, foreign mercenaries played an increasingly large role in filling the ranks.

Weapons

- Infantry weapons such as clubs, daggers and axes were supplemented by longer-range weapons such as bows and spears. Egypt had no natural iron deposits (weapons were made of copper and bronze), which proved a major disadvantage in later conflicts against nations using iron-based weapons.

Navy

- Egypt did develop a navy, though it functioned primarily as transportation and support for infantry rather than as a true naval battle fleet