

Notes

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wales>

-Wales is a country that is part of the United Kingdom and the island of Great Britain. It is bordered by England to the east, the Irish Sea to the north and west, and the Bristol Channel to the south.

-At the time of the Norman conquest of England in 1066, the dominant ruler in Wales was Bleddyn ap Cynfyn, who was king of Gwynedd and Powys.

-Wales had diverse people such as Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, Normans and Vikings in certain areas.

-Within 4 years of the Battle of Hastings where William the Conqueror defeated Harold the king of the Anglo-Saxons, England was entirely conquered by the Normans.

- Before the Battle of Hastings, Wales was ruled by four main groups: the Celtic Britons, the Northern Germanic Tribes, the Gaels, and the Picts.

- The Celtic Britons lived in most of Northern England and a large strip of land in the South. The Germanic tribes controlled the East and the North was controlled by the Gaels and the Picts.

Life of The Ancients Celts by Hazel Richardson

-The Celts were excellent metalworkers and used the finest metal they got from the mines. Swords, spears, and other weapons were made of bronze and iron. Iron swords were found with scabbards (cases for a dagger/sword's blade) were sometimes covered with a thin sheet of valuable metals such as gold.

- Celtic warriors rarely wore armour, but some tunics possibly made from leather, hide or metal. Helmets made of bronze and iron have also been found.

- Celtic groups had different strategies against different types of opponents. If it was against another Celtic clan the best warrior from each clan would fight to the death.

- Against other enemies, the Celts would first shout insults at the opponent to decrease their morale. Then they would charge screaming at the enemy with war chariots beside them.

- At first, war chariots were used to transport infantry into battle, but were later used to transport supplies into battle.

-Celtic defended towns on a wall made of wooden planks nailed together supported by earth and stone.

- The gateways were narrow to prevent large hordes of enemies from storming the gates. The defenders then could easily attack from their fortifications.

- Many Celtic communities were built on high hills with walls and ditches. The kings and queens would live in a house inside the village walls during an attack.

<https://nicoleevelina.com/2013/12/16/celtic-weapons-and-armor/>

- The Celts wore trousers, tunics and cloaks into battle. The early Celts did not wear armor, but later on armor was most likely a leather jerkin. As time went on, some fought protected by a type of bronze plate. But it is possible they also used a type of chain mail.
- As with armor, at first the Celts fought without helmets. When they did adopt them, the helmets seem to have been metal.
- They carried large shields made of wood, bronze or leather, which could have been rectangular in shape. The shields were tall enough to cover them from the shoulder to the knee.
- There were two kinds of spears the ancient Celts used: a light one that they could throw like a javelin, and a heavier version that was used in close contact battle for thrusting, more like a lance.
- The Celtic sword probably would have been smaller than the swords knights use we think of from the Middle Ages. It was likely more like the Roman short swords. As time went on, swords got longer and heavier.
- The Celts also fought with slings and bows and arrows, as well as axes and daggers.

<http://www.ancientmilitary.com/celtic-warriors.htm>

- Long range weapons included:javelins harpoons bows and slings. Ammo for the slings would be rocks taken out of rivers as the current would shape them
- Viewed as a barbarian to people of the mediterranean such as the Greeks and Romans.
- They were a foot taller than the people of mediterranean
- Spiked their hair and wore winged or horned helmets
- skilled deadly savage fearless wild
- Took romans 500 years until they achieved security from the threat of the celts
- Javelins weren't necessarily the primary weapon of the celts
- They also carried thrown weapons
- Young warriors usually fought with primitive javelins,slings and bows. But well crafted pila or harpoon type javelins were used the celtic champions
- Some are said to have used poison on their ranged weapons to maximize lethality.
- In late ancient times they used crossbows
- Close range weapons included: spears, two handed hammers, axes and swords

- Swords were short swords in the beginning but eventually they became long swords
- The Celtic, Celtiberian fashioned a short double-sided sword that was ideal for stabbing. This weapon became the model for the well-known gladius used by the Roman legions.
- The Celtic spear possessed relatively broad points and were a grand example the craftsmanship of the Celtic blacksmiths.
- Axes, two-handed hammers and two-hand swords were also used, but they were not used as often weapons. Stillt they belonged to the Celtic arsenal and worked well against well-protected opponents wearing metal armour.
- Early Celtic warriors did not wear armor,though nobles and kings wore chest plates and chain-mail, and type of armour made by combining little metal chains (hence the name) . Later, leather armor, light bronze breastplates, chain shirts and scale armor were employed, although they were typically worn by more experienced and skilled warriors.
- A special form of armor the Celts invented was called Ceannlann armor. It's a layer of metal scales sewn onto linen, which is, in turn, sewn on to chain armor, creating a light but effective multi-layer armor that could cover the entire body whereas other armors had left some parts exposed..
- Celtic warriors frequently employed shields in all ranges and time periods. Round shields were usually used by light infantryman or cavalry. Heavy infantrymen carried long shields, The warrior of a chariot crew probably carried an infantry shield.
- At first, horses were used only with chariots for either transporting supplies or bringing troops into battle Each chariot consisted of two crew members: a driver and a noble warrior.The chariot would drive into the battle where the warrior jumps out of the vehicle and fights as an infantry warrior. Once the warrior tired he would jump back on the chariot. The chariots would also drive up and down the battle lines throwing javelins.
- The normal Celtic sword fighter was probably a heavy infantryman. They typically fought unarmored in a battle line formation. The main piece of Celtic tactics was the mass charge. The wild frontal attack, was devastating and could quickly overpower opponents with the sheer power of the impact of the rushing Celtic warriors and their vicious, frenzied attacks.
- Fighters were admired like heroes and courage in the battleground was an important virtue. The Celtic elite fighters functioned as models, which should inspire other warriors by their courage and fighting skills.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celtic_warfare

- Tribal warfare appears to have been a regular feature of Celtic societies and was beneficial because the winner got land,political extent,economical advantages and

honour while the losing side had shame. It was usually fought by the best warrior in each tribe on one on one combat.

-At first, the Celtic army favored the long broad and heavy broadsword that could do a lot of damage but could be heavy. Later, it fell out of favour being replaced by a new a short and light sword like dagger.

- Even though the Celts had chainmail, it was rare suggesting it was a luxury only wore by high ranking troops. Ordinary troops sometimes wore leather tunics and helmets made of metal too.

-The chariot was used very effectively by the celts. Chariots were used to transport both troops and supplies to the front.

-While relatively little has been written about Celtic warfare at sea, the Gaulish Veneti, a tribe occupying the Brittany fiercely resisted the Romans both on land and at sea. They were said to have constructed ships of oak with tough leather sails, well adapted for sailing the rough Atlantic seas. -Large stores of sling stones aerodynamically shaped by adding clay have been found in the hillfort of Maiden Castle which indicates that slings must also have played a role in the conflicts between Celtic tribes there, probably in sieges.

-The Celtic circular wall of Otzenhausen is one of the biggest fortifications the Celts ever constructed. It was built by Celts of the Treveri tribe, who lived in the region north of the fort. The fort is located on top of a hill near Otzenhausen in Germany.. The only visible remains are two circular earth ramparts, covered with stones.

<https://www.celticcultureblog.tk/warriors-3/celtic-weapons.htm>

-large shields decorated to the liking of the warrior

-bronze helmets to give appearance of larger warriors

-some have iron chest plates wrought in chains

-some fight naked

-gold or silver plated belts

-spears named Lancaie

-some spears are straight others are twisted

-handles of shields made from Metal but shield is made from wood

-some shields would be locked together by one spear

-each shield was unique

-multiple planks of wood were used to make one shield

-multiple celts with brightly coloured shields wol'll frighten the enemy

-shapes changed over time

- sword was good for chopping but not stabbing
- edges easily blunted
- swordsmiths marked swords
- swords bent easily
- sword length changed by location and time
- two spears one for stabbing and one for throwing
- chain mail was used only by high-ranking warriors and was quite rare
- sacrificed men by shooting them off tall things with arrows
- They would shoot red hot clay from slings
- they used incendiary darts
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<http://skyelander.orgfree.com/menu10.html>

- Ancient Celtic warriors lived on "hillforts": forts with a wall made of stone or wooden planks with earth and rocks on the bottom to reinforce the base.
- Hillforts were sometimes built around a lake or near a ravine. The gates to the village were often narrow and complex to reduce the chances of enemies storming and destroying the gates.
- Celtic chiefs would have probably wore a leather or metal tunic, a bronze helmet that may have been decorated by feather or animal fur. He would definitely have a sword and it might have a scabbard.
- One potential area that the Celts wanted was the rich agricultural land beyond the Alps in northern Italy that was watered by the Po river, but this region was held by the Etruscans. The Etruscans themselves were a race who had expanded over much of Italy, attacking the Greek settlements in the south and adopting many aspects of Greek warfare.
- The reputation of the Celtic mercenaries extended as far as the Greek world and, following the collapse of Alexander the Great's empire, there were several Greek warlords ruling over kingdoms around the Mediterranean.
- Celtic warriors sometimes fought naked to imitate opponents.