



Greek (Corinthian). Three Hoplites. Tera-cotta. c. 625-600 BC. Louvre.

In a detail from a terra-cotta vase made about 600 BC, opposing Greek infantrymen, or hoplites, battle at close quarters as a fallen warrior lies bleeding from a leg wound. The shield carried by the man on the left shows the arm brace and handgrip that enabled him to wield this all-important defensive weapon. When arrayed in a tight formation called a phalanx, Greek soldiers fought from behind a protective rampart of overlapping shields.