

## Helmet (cont'd)

? Homer's close description of the boar's-tusk helmet must be due to an epic tradition rather than to post-Mycenaean survival of an actual helmet (p.516)

## The Sword

Three words are used for sword in Homer. One of these continues to be used throughout antiquity to denote in verse and prose alike an object which in essentials remained the same (quoting Lorimer) p.517

+ ? Decipherment of Linear B tablets has shown that another of the three words was current in Mycenaean times. It is never found in classical prose, and its survival in poetry was presumably due entirely to the influence of an epic tradition that had begun while it was still an everyday word.

## The Spear

The two words used for spear in Homer are used interchangeably for close quarters or for distance throwing. Still hints of an original difference can be detected.

+ ? A heavy thrusting spear was common in early Mycenaean times, and lighter spears for throwing were in use at least in Attica in the Geometric period. We do not know how widespread the throwing-spear was and when it came into fashion. It was presumably familiar to the poet of the Iliad . . . p.518

## The Bow

+ Bow plays comparatively small part in the Iliad. More of a foreign weapon than a Greek one. Where the bow is used it seems to preserve an earlier tradition. Those heroes who use the bow belong usually to an older generation than that of the Trojan War. It looks as though Homer's historical perspective in regard to the bow was correct. (p. p.520)

## The Chariot

? The Iliad knows no chariot-borne archers. These tactics could not have been unknown in the Aegean area at the time of the Trojan War. There are no representations of chariot-fighting in Mycenaean art later than the period of the Shaft Graves nor can we learn from the Knossos and Pylos tablets how chariots were used. (p.521) The carvings from the Shaft Graves provide no evidence for (or against) the massed use of chariots in battle (p.521)

The presence of chariots in the epic may be due not only to poetical imagination but also to traditions of Mycenaean originals. (p.522)