

TO THE STRONGEST!



Free Army Lists

Updated 30/6/2023.

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Introduction

This eBook contains a free sample of 30 of the army lists contained in the Ancient and Medieval Army List eBooks. It includes many of the most popular lists. I have included several matched pairs of historical opponents.

This book includes useful hyperlinks for navigation, so is best viewed electronically. If you click on the name of any list in the Contents, it will take you straight to the relevant army list. There is a link back to the Contents at the bottom of each page. I plan to include an Index at the back in a later release. Permission is granted to print any, or all of it, for personal use.

The army lists are designed to produce armies in the 100 to 160-point range for use on a table 12 boxes by 8 or 9 boxes deep. If you are using a larger or smaller table, then you may wish to increase or decrease the points, accordingly.

I am in the process of adding an historical background section to every army list.

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Version Control

I will add a brief note here of the major changes in each release.

Date	Changes
30/6/2023	Updates all the lists, capturing any changes made since the last release. Please note- these lists include changes that will not be reflected in the ancient and medieval lists until their next releases at the end of July and August respectively.
30/6/2021	Added historical background material to several lists.
30/11/2020	First release of the Free Army List eBook.

Cover Illustration

The photo on the cover is of the 2019 Mancetter display game that the author took to Salute 2019 and other wargames shows. This in-game image depicts Britons charging heroically uphill against the might of Rome. Improbably, the British won six out of the eight battles fought.

I Sample Ancient Army Lists

This chapter contains sixteen army lists drawn from the TtS! Ancient Army List eBook.

Dynastic Sumerian

This list covers the city states of Sumer from around 2700 BCE until the accession of Sargon to the throne of Akkad in 2334 BCE and for the Great Revolt of 2250 BCE.

Unit	Description	Number	Save	Cost
Generals	Attached general on foot	2-4	2+	4
	Upgrade to mounted	1-4	2+	5
	Upgrade to heroic	0-4	3+	-
	Upgrade to senior	0-1	-	+1
	Upgrade a heroic senior general to great leader**** as Gilgamesh**, Eannatum*** or Lugalzagesi***	0-1	-	+4
Heroes		2-4	-	1
Standard of the god of the city	1 VP standard	0-1	-	2
	3 VP standard		-	4
<i>Gish gigir</i> 4-wheeled battle cars	Battle car*, javelin	2-5**, 1-4***	7+	7
	Upgrade battle car, javelin to battle car, javelin, veteran	1-3	6+	9
2-wheeled straddle cars	Light chariot, javelin, raw	0-1**, 1-2***	8+	4
<i>Shub-Lugal</i> (royal retainers)	Spearmen, veteran	1	6+	9
	Billmen, veteran		6+	9
	Upgrade spearmen, veteran with extra pavise	0-1***	-	+1
<i>Aga-Ush</i> (full time soldiers)	Spearmen	2-3	7+	7
	Upgrade spearmen with extra pavise	Any***	-	+1
<i>Erin</i> (militia)	Spearmen, raw	4-8	8+	5
	Upgrade spearmen, raw with extra pavise	Any***	-	+1
	Downgrade spearmen, raw to mobs, deep	0-2	8+	7
Gutians, Lullubi or Amorites	Javelinmen, special^	0-2	7+	7
	Light infantry, javelin		7+	4
	Light infantry, javelin, raw		7+	3
<i>Nim</i> ("flies") skirmishers	Light infantry, javelin, raw	1-3	8+	3
	Light infantry other, bow or sling, raw	1-3	9+	3
Camp	Camp	1-3	-	1

* Battle cars are described in the Even Stronger supplement.

** Up to 2500.

*** After 2500.

**** Great Leaders are described in the Even Stronger supplement. Gilgamesh is the legendary hero. Eannatum was a King of Lagash ca. 2500-2400 BCE who conquered Sumer and who is depicted on the Stele of the Vultures. Lugalzagesi of Umma united Sumer and ruled between 2358-2334.

^ Gutians or Lullubi javelinmen replace one of their javelins with a shock missile.

Allies

Amorite, Guti or Lullubi.

Notes

Mounted generals should be depicted in battle cars. *Nim* skirmishing javelinmen may support battle cars using the supported mounted rule.

Historical Background

This army list represents any of the thirty or so city state dynastic forces from the First Dynasty of Kish and the epic of Gilgamesh to the rise of Akkadian influence under Sargon the Great. In addition, it is used to form independent forces of the Great Revolt of 2250 BCE such as those of the city of Kish or a combined rebel alliance made up of many city states like the one led by Amar-Girid.

This was the era of the great Sumerian city states such as Ur, Lagash, Uruk, Umma, Nippur, Eridu, Larsa and many others. Our period of interest starts with the first recorded struggle by Enmebaragesi, who waged war upon Elam. Following his reign, Agga of Kish fought Gilgamesh of Uruk. Then began a period of several dynastic rulers before the rise of Lagash under the great king Eannatum, who continued his father's war against Umma. He engaged in multiple campaigns against Elam, the Persian Gulf and north toward Mari as well as subduing numerous open revolts in Sumer itself. His brother Eannatum I, and son Entemena, continued Eannatum's wars with Umma and after Entemena's death a series of weak and corrupt priests ruled until the last, Urakagina, was overthrown by the coming of Umma's revenge, Lugalzagesi.

In his subsequent campaigns, Lugalzagesi took Ur as his capital and subdued many other city states, extending his influence from the Persian Gulf to the upper reaches of the Tigris and Euphrates all the way to the Mediterranean. Lugalzagesi lost his vast territories when he and a confederation of dynastic city states were defeated in battle by Sargon the Akkadian.



Sumerians from Happy Wanderer's collection

Many thanks to the Happy Wanderer of sumer2sargon.blogspot.com for his many useful suggestions regarding this list, and to Neil Grant for his help with revision (April 2022).

New Kingdom Egyptian

This list covers the New Kingdom Egyptian armies from 1570 to 1069 BCE.

Unit	Description	Number	Save	Cost
Generals	Attached, mounted general	2–4	2+	5
	Upgrade to heroic	2–4	3+	–
	Upgrade to senior	0–1	–	+1
	Upgrade a senior, heroic, attached, mounted general to great leader as Ramesses II (1279 –1213 BCE)	0–1	3+	10
Heroes		2–4	–	1
Egyptian chariots	Light chariots, bow	4–10	8+	5
	Upgrade light chariots, bow to light chariots, bow, veteran	Up to 1/2	7+	6
Egyptian Shardana Royal Guard	Auxiliaries	0–1*	6+	8
Egyptian line infantry	Spearmen	3–6	7+	7
	Replace spearmen with billmen (carrying <i>kehopeshes</i>)	0–2	7+	7
	Replace spearmen with shieldwall	All*	7+	7
	Upgrade shieldwall to shieldwall, veteran as guards	0–1	6+	9
	Downgrade shieldwall or spearmen to shieldwall, raw or spearmen, raw	Up to 1/3	8+	5
Egyptian marines	Javelinmen	0–1	7+	7
Egyptian, Nubian or Libyan archers	Bowmen	2–6	8+	7
	Downgrade bowmen to bowmen, raw	Up to 1/3	9+	5
Syrian or Canaanite allies	Spearmen, raw	0–2	8+	5
Sea Peoples mercenaries	Warriors, deep	0–1*	7+	10
Egyptian, Libyan, Canaanite or similar skirmishers	Light infantry, javelin, raw	0–4	8+	3
	Upgrade light infantry, javelin, raw to light infantry, javelin as chariot runners	Any	7+	4
Egyptian, Libyan, Nubian, Syrian or Canaanite archers	Light infantry other, bow	0–3	8+	4
	Downgrade light infantry other, bow to light infantry other, bow, raw	Up to 1/3	9+	3
Camp	Camp	1–3	–	1
Canp defences	Fortifications	0–5	–	1

* Only after 1278.

Allies

Nubian, Libyan, Early Nomad, Syrian and Canaanite, Mitanni (after 1400), Hittite Empire (after 1250)

Notes

Egyptian chariots appear to have emphasised speed and missile power over protection, and I have, therefore, classed them as light chariots and suggest grouping them using the massed lights rule in the Even Stronger supplement. Egyptian chariot runners may support Egyptian chariots using the “supported mounted” rule described in the "Even Stronger" supplement.

I have included the option to field Ramesses II as a great leader (at least until his old age). Although it is not clear that he won the battle of Kadesh, he is generally regarded as the greatest, most celebrated and most powerful of the pharaohs.

Historical Background

New Kingdom Egypt was established when Ahmose, the King of Thebes, overthrew the Hyksos and reunited Lower and Upper Egypt shortly before 1540 BCE. The New Kingdom list can also be used for the last of the wars against the Hyksos from the mid-16th century – Egyptian armies having learned the use of chariotry from their opponents.

The New Kingdom runs from Ahmose's 18th dynasty, through to the end of the 20th dynasty in 1069 BCE. A series of strong rulers initially extended Egyptian power into the Sinai, Canaan and Syria, and far to the south into Nubia before Egypt was pushed onto the defensive in the mid-13th century.

Ahmose ruled until 1525 and captured several cities in Canaan. Tutmose I (1504–1492) may have pushed further into Syria and conquered much of Nubia. Hatshepsut (1479–1458), ruled as Pharaoh in her own right during the infancy of Tutmose III. Tutmose (1458–1425) extended Egyptian conquests further into Syria, defeating the Canaanites and Mitanni at Megiddo, plundering along the Euphrates and added additional gains in Nubia.

Rivalry with Mitanni continued until the 1370s, when, perhaps concerned with the rising power of the Hittites, Egypt and Mitanni formed an alliance cemented by marriage ties. The Egyptians also constructed extensive fortifications in the Sinai and Canaan, which may reflect increasing trouble from semi-nomadic Sutu Arabs and troublesome "Habiru" – bands of roving outcasts and fugitives.

During the early years of the 19th dynasty, Ramses II 'The Great' (1279–1213) claimed victory in the battle of Kadesh against the Hittites, probably in 1275. However, the battle was followed by a withdrawal of Egypt from most of Syria with firmer control established in Canaan. A definite border and alliance were agreed with the Hittites by the 1250s. Ramses' son, Merneptah (1225–1215) faced new threats. Habiru, Aramaean invaders and the Sea Peoples, a collection of Aegean and Anatolian tribes, took control of swathes of Canaan. The Sea Peoples also attacked Egypt from the west allied with Libyan tribes. Merneptah stabilized the situation and regained part of Canaan, however Egyptian power was waning.

Ramses III (1183–1152), the second Pharaoh of the 20th dynasty, defeated a rebellion by Sea Peoples settled in the Delta and further invasions from Libya and by sea. Ramses repulsed all these attacks and may even have temporarily re-established a presence in Canaan. Egypt, though much weakened, had avoided the general collapse across the Near East at this time.

Ramses was murdered in 1152, and a series of weak rulers followed. After the 1150s, Assyrian control extended to the Levant. Nubia was lost around 1100. In 1069 Egypt was partitioned between the High Priests of Amun and a short-lived 21st Dynasty in lower Egypt, which would shortly fall to Libyan invaders.

In this era there is inevitably a fair amount of conjecture about what happened, when and why. Ascribing responsibility and dating events can be challenging, with competing dating sequences, which may differ by a generation or more.

Army Notes

The New Kingdom Egyptians adopted chariots from their Hyksos foes, adding them to the infantry of the Middle Kingdom. From the beginning of the reign of Ramesses II, the Egyptian infantry adopted larger shields and closer formation and are, therefore, treated as shieldwall instead of javelinmen. Sherden prisoners were incorporated into the army as Royal Guards.



Miniatures from the collection of Peter Ryding. Kevin Dallimore painted the Pharaoh.

Later Neo-Assyrian

This list covers the pre-Sargonid and Sargonid dynasties of Neo-Assyria, from the beginning of the reign of Tiglath-Pileser III in 745 BCE through to final defeat at the hands of the Babylonians and Medes in 609 BCE.

Unit	Description	Number	Save	Cost
Generals	Attached, mounted general	2–4	2+	5
	Upgrade to heroic	2–4	3+	–
	Upgrade to senior	0–1	–	+1
	Upgrade a mounted, senior, heroic general to great leader representing Ashurbanipal	Up to 1*	–	10
Heroes		3–5	–	1
Assyrian four-horse chariotry	Heavy chariots, lance, extra bow, veteran	1–3	5+	15
Assyrian <i>sha pitalli</i> cavalry	Cavalry, javelin	2–5	7+	9
	Upgrade cavalry, javelin to cavalry, javelin, veteran	Up to 1/2	6+	11
	Upgrade cavalry, javelin or cavalry, javelin, veteran with extra bow	Any	–	+2
Late Egyptian subjects in 4-horse chariots	Heavy chariots, lance, extra bow, veteran	0–1	5+	15
Arab allies or subjects	Light camelry, bow, raw	0–1	9+	4
Mede allies or subjects	Cavalry, javelin, extra bow	0–1	7+	11
Scythian allies or subjects	Light cavalry, bow	0–1	8+	5
Assyrian <i>qurubuti</i> guards	Shieldwall, veteran	0–1	6+	9
	Upgrade shieldwall, veteran to shieldwall, veteran extra bow	0–1	6+	11
	Mount in <i>kallapani</i> carts as mounted infantry	0–1	–	+1
Assyrian <i>kisir sharruti</i> large shield line infantry	Shieldwall, extra bow	2–4	7+	9
	Upgrade shieldwall, extra bow to shieldwall, extra bow, veteran	0–1	6+	11
	Downgrade shieldwall, extra bow to shieldwall, extra bow, raw as <i>sab sharri</i>	At least 1/2**	8+	7
	Mount in <i>kallapani</i> carts as mounted infantry	0–1	–	+1
Assyrian <i>kisir sharruti</i> small shield line infantry	Javelinmen	1–4	7+	7
	Upgrade javelinmen to javelinmen, veteran	0–1	6+	9
	Downgrade javelinmen to javelinmen, raw as <i>sab sharri</i>	At least 1/2**	8+	5
Assyrian <i>dikut mati</i> levies	Mobs, deep	1–4**	8+	7
Elamite or Egyptian allies or subjects	Bowmen	0–1	8+	7
Assyrian archers	Light infantry other, bow	1–2	8+	4
	Downgrade light infantry other, bow to light infantry other, bow, raw	At least 1/2**	9+	3
Tribal levy archers or slingers	Light infantry other, bow or sling, raw	0–4**	9+	3
Tribal levy javelinmen	Light infantry, javelin	0–1	7+	4
Camp	Camp	1–3	–	1
Canp defences	Fortifications	0–5	–	1

* From 669 to 631. Great leaders are described in the Even Stronger supplement.

** After the death of Ashurbanipal in 631.

Allies

Neo Hittite City States, Scythian or Cimmerian, Saitic Egyptian.

Historical Background

Kings of the Later Neo-Assyrian Empire:

- Tiglath-Pileser III 745–727 BCE
- Shalmaneser V 726–722 BCE
- Sargon II 721–705 BCE
- Sennacherib 704–681 BCE
- Esarhaddon 680 to 669 BCE
- Ashurbanipal 669–631 BCE
- Ashur-etil-ilani 631–627 BCE
- Sinsharishkun 627–612 BCE
- Ashur-uballit II 612–609 BCE

Tiglath-Pileser III seized Assyria, re-establishing central control of the Kingdom and ending a period of warlordism. Separatist magnates were removed, provinces reorganized and integrated more closely into the kingdom, whilst Assyrian overseers were sent to “monitor” vassal states too remote to be directly governed. Harsh rule, massacre and deportations of defeated peoples were features of Assyrian policy during this period. Though their armies proved nearly irresistible, the ongoing state of permanent war and rebellion seems to have exhausted the Kingdom.

Tiglath-Pileser and his son, Shalmaneser V, re-established Assyrian power in Syria, the Zagros mountains and Babylonia. Urartu and its Neo Hittite allies were defeated in Syria, and the Medes subjugated. Samaria, Judah, Damascus and Moab were conquered. As Assyrian influence extended into Anatolia, Midas, the King of Mushki (Phrygia) emerged as a significant regional opponent for the Assyrians and was subject to several rather unsuccessful punitive expeditions. Shalmaneser was assassinated on campaign in 722, possibly at the instigation of the usurper, Sargon II.

Sargon continued the subjugation of the Levant. Sargon’s son, Sennacherib, invaded Samaria and attacked the Philistines. Sargon himself seems to have been defeated by an alliance of Elamites and Babylonians in 720 but returned to Babylon in 713, replacing the Babylonian King with an Assyrian governor. From 715 to 710 a series of campaigns were waged against a coalition of Neo Hittite States, Urartu and Mushki. The Assyrians may have cooperated with Scythian and Cimmerian invaders that overran Urartu around 713. An Assyrian army also subjugated Cyprus.

Following Sargon’s death in 705, Sennacherib spent 15 years dealing with a series of significant rebellions. A major threat came from an alliance between Elam, Persia and rebellious Babylonia which was eventually defeated in 689. Sennacherib seems to have been an excessive despot even by Assyrian standards and was murdered by his sons in 681.

Esarhaddon (681–669) extended Assyrian rule to its greatest extent, defeating and occupying Kushite Egypt, reoccupying Phoenicia and temporarily suppressing the Cimmerians. His son, Ashurbanipal (669–626) faced rebellion in Egypt and sacked Thebes but found it increasingly difficult to hold onto such a remote province. Ashurbanipal installed the first of the Saitic Egyptian rulers. Although Assyrian garrisons were ejected in 654, trade continued, and relations remained largely cordial. From 641 onwards, the Assyrians mounted a series of campaigns which eventually destroyed Elam. The Cimmerians and Scythians remained a substantial threat, destroying Mushki and raiding and plundering into Anatolia.

Ashurbanipal’s sons went to war over the succession from 631–627. This proved fatal for Assyria. Much of the Levant was abandoned by 630, while Babylon became independent in 626. From 616 to 612 the resurgent Babylonians, allied with the Medes and the Scythians dismembered the Assyrian empire. Ashur was destroyed by the Medes in 614, and Nineveh by Babylon in 612. A smaller Assyrian realm based on Harran in Syria lasted until 609, when it surrendered to Babylonia.

As with all accounts of this era, there is inevitably a fair amount of speculation and conjecture about what happened and why. Ascribing responsibility and dating events can be challenging, with competing dating sequences, which may differ by a generation or more.



Assyrian qurubuti guards from the author's collection.

Army Notes

Around the time of this list, Assyrian chariots became heavier still, with four horses and four riders, and were used for shock action.

Assyrian cavalry was armed with javelins and sometimes bows. Sha pitalli cavalymen replaced most of the chariots and the earlier pethalle cavalymen. The option to upgrade Assyrian cavalry to veteran takes account of their discipline and the felt trappings of their horses.

Qurubuti are the King's personal bodyguard. Kisir Sharruti are the full-time troops of the King's standing army. Sab sharri were the equivalent of territorial army, and dikut-mati were a general levy, raised in emergencies. Troops carried in the small kallapani carts are treated as mounted infantry.