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Pavises answers

Historians are unsure about how widespread the Pavise shield was in historical times. It's possible that non-crossbow wielding soldiers used shields similar to the Pavise, but there isn't enough evidence to confirm this. The Lochaber axe is another topic of debate; it might have been a two-handed weapon based on the fact that axemen carried swords as backup weapons. A single-handed axe with a small shield wouldn't make sense as a primary weapon set according to some historians. However, others argue that such combinations could be artistic license or depict situations where soldiers had lost their main weapons. Scotland's history of weapon adoption is also discussed; they didn't adopt the halberd in modern times and suffered defeats at the hands of English billmen. Some believe the Scots employed more modern pike tactics at Flodden, while others see this as a conservative approach compared to the English use of longbows and billhooks. The Highland-style targe is thought to have been introduced before the 16th century, but there's a debate about whether these early shields were actually pavises. References to large shields carried by Dutch rondassiers and Spanish forces provide insight into the use of such shields in different historical contexts. Given text here The use of large shields among medieval European armies is often misunderstood. The term "targe" was not exclusive to small circular shields and could refer to various types of oblong shields, such as the pavise used by infantrymen. Contrary to some claims, there is no definitive evidence that Scottish pikemen used targes, but they did use smaller shields in conjunction with their pikes. Pavises were oblong shields used by infantry, archers, and crossbowmen for protection during close combat. They came in various sizes, ranging from small enough to hang on a soldier's shoulder to large ones that could cover an entire crouching person. The 15th-century pavise depicted has a central ridge and features intricate paintings of foliage and a spear-wielding man. Historical records indicate that pavises were used by infantrymen accompanying hand weapons and by archers while reloading. There is limited information on their use by melee-focused infantry, but it is clear they played a significant role in medieval warfare. The pavise, a large shield originating from North Italy around the 13th century, is believed to have been named after the city of Pavia. Initially used by Italian mercenaries, it spread to other parts of Europe, particularly Bohemia, where it played a significant role in the Hussite revolutionary armies during the late 14th and early 15th centuries. The current example features a bold heraldic design that can be seen as a variation of the arms of Bohemia on a pavise with a similar design that sold at auction in 1994. Notably, this pavise is larger than most others of its kind and lacks a rear prop to stand upright; instead, it would have been supported by a specialist pavise-bearer who crouched down with the shield in front of the archer or crossbowman they were assigned to protect. The use of the pavise in this manner is depicted in an illuminated manuscript from the 15th century representing the capture of Duras town, preserved at the Bibliotheque National in Paris. In Bohemia, the role of the pavise-bearer was highly valued; by the second half of the 15th century, their pay had doubled that of the crossbowman. The form of this pavise can be compared to a series originating from the Town Hall of Erfurt in Saxony, with most examples now housed at the Anger-Museum or other institutions. Troops were thus equipped. The pavise's association with Bohemia is also highlighted by four lines of verse from the Emperor's Zeugbucherof 1519, which contrasts with the German fighting style, that of the Bohemians who used 'large pavises'.

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