

# **WEAPONRY OF THE ELIZABETHAN ERA**

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# CROSS BOW



THE CROSSBOW WAS USED FOR TARGET SHOOTING AND HUNTING.

KING JAMES THE 1<sup>ST</sup> AND QUEEN ELIZABETH WERE EXPERT HUNTERS WITH THE CROSSBOW! THE CROSSBOW RANGE WAS 350 – 400 YARDS BUT COULD ONLY BE SHOT AT A RATE OF 2 BOLTS PER MINUTE.

## DEFINITION OF CROSSBOW:

A medieval bow of a kind that is fixed across a wooden support and has a groove for the bolt and a mechanism for drawing and releasing the string.

# Bow & Arrow



THE BOW AND ARROW WERE THE MOST COMMONLY USED WEAPON IN THE ELIZABETHAN ERA. THEY WERE VERY EASY TO USE AND CHEAP TO MAKE. THE BOWS WERE MADE IN TWO PARTS. ONE PART OF, WHICH IS A FLEXIBLE STRIP MADE UP OF WOOD, AND THE SECOND PART IS THE STRING THAT GOES BEHIND THAT LAUNCHES THE ARROW, AND OF COURSE THE ACTUAL ARROW.

## DEFINITION:

THE BOW AND ARROW IS A RANGED WEAPON SYSTEM CONSISTING OF AN ELASTIC LAUNCHING DEVICE AND LONG-SHAFTED PROJECTILES.

# Rapier



THE RAPIER WAS THE WEAPON OF CHOICE FOR NOBLES LIVING IN THE ELIZABETHAN ERA. IT WAS AN ELEGANT SWORD THAT SLOWLY REPLACED OLDER SWORDS. IT WAS A LONG, NARROW SWORD THAT COULD BE USED FOR BOTH FENCING AND FOR SWORD FIGHTS. THIS WEAPON WAS ALSO USED FOR CUTTING AND STABBING.

## DEFINITION:

A THIN, LIGHT SHARP-POINTED SWORD USED FOR THRUSTING.

# DAGGERS



DAGGERS WERE CALLED DAGGERS BECAUSE OF THE PAIR OF LOBES AT THE BASE OF THE HANDLE. THE BOLLOCK DAGGER WAS COMMONLY USED AS A BACKUP TO THE LANCE OR SWORD. ONLY GENTLEMEN WERE PERMITTED TO CARRY SWORDS IN SHAKESPEARE'S DAY BUT MANY MEN WOULD HAVE CARRIED DAGGERS LIKE THIS ONE. ---^

## DEFINITION:

A SHORT KNIFE WITH A POINTED AND EDGED BLADE, USED AS A WEAPON.

# AXES



THE MEDIEVAL BATTLE-AXE WAS A WEAPON MADE BY A BLACKSMITH. THE BATTLE-AXE WAS MADE OF IRON, STEEL, SOMETIMES BRONZE, AND ALSO WOOD (FOR ITS HANDLE). IT WAS ON A WOODEN SHAFT WITH A SHORT IRON SPIKE AT THE REAR.

## DEFINITION:

A TOOL NOWADAYS USED MOSTLY FOR CHOPPING WOOD, BUT IN THE ELIZABETHAN ERA IT WAS USED TO KILL AND STAB PEOPLE.

# MATCH-LOCK MUSKET



BY 1595 ALL BOWS WERE ORDERED TO BE EXCHANGED FOR MUSKETS. THE MOST POPULAR FIREARM WAS CALLED A MATCHLOCK (THIS NAME DERIVED AS IT WAS FIRED BY THE APPLICATION OF A BURNING MATCH). IT WAS INACCURATE, SLOW TO LOAD AND EXPENSIVE.

DEFINITION:

a musket equipped with a matchlock

# Broadswords



The broadswords were one of the deadliest, behind the rapier, it has two main components, the long steel swords, and the round bronze handle. It was not that sharp, but if you gave it the right angle it was sharp.

Definition:

A large heavy sword with a broad blade for cutting rather than thrusting.



# Pike



THE PIKE IS A LONG POLE WITH A SMALL BLADED HEAD. IT WAS 16- 18 FEET LONG AND WAS ONE OF THE MOST EFFICIENT WEAPON. THE PIKEMEN WHO WIELDED THE WEAPON HAD A SPECIAL ROLE IN PROTECTING THE MUSKETEERS WHILE THEY WERE RELOADING THEIR WEAPONS.

DEFINITION:

MEANS A SHARP POINT.