



General trooper



'Green-faced' kneeling archer



Soldier in armour



Warrior from central Shaanxi plain



Soldier with handlebar moustache



Soldier with lance



Soldier in armour



Soldier in battle dress



Officer with halberd



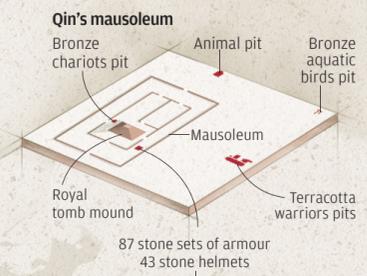
Soldier with hat



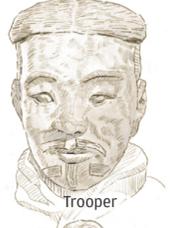
Qin Shi Huang ended the Warring States period and completed the conquest of China in 221BC, unifying it under one name. He had built his shrine near Xianyang, the capital of his kingdom

Dead in life, alive in death

On March 29, 1974, farmers drilling a well 25 kilometres from Xian unearthed fragments of pottery. They had stumbled across the Terracotta Army, thousands of sculptures depicting the armies of Qin Shi Huang, China's first emperor. Their purpose was to protect the emperor in the afterlife and they were buried with him between 210 and 209BC. Here we take an in-depth look at this incredible archaeological discovery



Qin's mausoleum
Bronze chariots pit
Animal pit
Bronze aquatic birds pit
Mausoleum
Royal tomb mound
Terracotta warriors pits
87 stone sets of armour
43 stone helmets



Trooper



Mid-ranking officer

TERRACOTTA WARRIORS PITS
After the fall of the Qin dynasty (206BC), the tomb was looted, many of the figures were destroyed and their weapons stolen. Three pits contain 8,000 life-size terracotta figures known as the Eighth Wonder of the World

Actual appearance
Archaeologists have been able to rebuild many of the statues but the colour has been lost, flaked off by contact with air

Initial appearance
The figures were originally painted in bright colours obtained from various ground materials such as azurite, cinnabar, charcoal or iron oxide



The solid head was inserted into the hollow torso statue

Hollow torso, solid head, arms and legs
1.80m
160kg (Average size)

Armour without pauldrons on a charioteer
This is made up of 197 plates. Armour with pauldrons has 327 plates

Left warrior on chariot
Each chariot is equipped with a charioteer and a warrior on each side. The warriors hold crossbow, spears or *ge* (dagger-axes)



High-ranking officers
The armour is lined with exquisite geometrical patterns and is of two types: those with pauldrons over the shoulders and those without



Painting process
Terracotta
1st layer of lacquer
2nd layer of lacquer
Egg-based paint

Standing archers
With their hair in buns and in light battle robes, they are posing as if about to shoot

Kneeling archers
Kneeling made it easier for warriors to aim at targets and less likely for them to be spotted by enemies, making this posture perfect for both defence and attack



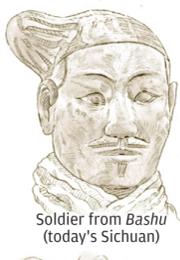
General soldier



Cavalryman



General soldier



Soldier from Bashu (today's Sichuan)



High-ranking officer



Soldier with sword



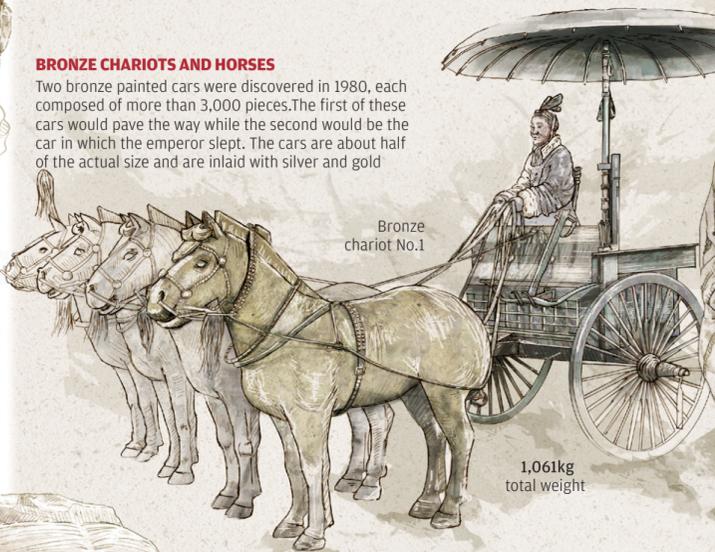
Low-ranking officer

Estimated according to excavation so far:
7,000 warrior figures
116 cavalry horses
560 chariot horses
140 wooden chariots

Only 40% of pit No.1 has been excavated. This is to wait for superior excavation techniques that will allow the preservation of colours

BRONZE CHARIOTS AND HORSES

Two bronze painted cars were discovered in 1980, each composed of more than 3,000 pieces. The first of these cars would pave the way while the second would be the car in which the emperor slept. The cars are about half of the actual size and are inlaid with silver and gold

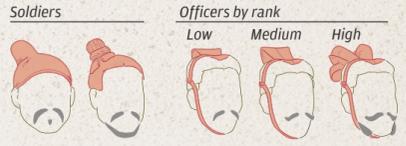


Bronze chariot No.1

1,061kg total weight

Military ranks

Headgear reflected the army's hierarchy



Beard styles were also elements of distinction. All ordinary male adults grew a beard, except criminals who were forced to shave. In 2009 beardless young warriors were discovered estimated to be 17 years of age

NOT ONLY WARRIORS

The emperor also wanted to represent a place of leisure and relaxation. 46 bronze aquatic birds and 8 rowing statues were found in another pit



Bronze wild goose

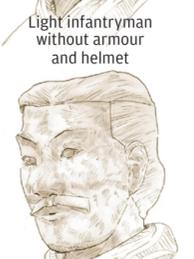
Figure of Zuozhou (rowing). When first discovered the thinking was that he was playing an instrument



Charioteer with armour with pauldrons



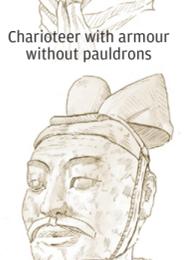
Light infantryman without armour and helmet



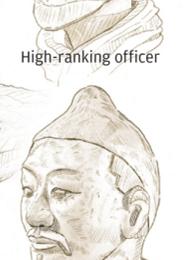
Trooper



Charioteer with armour without pauldrons



High-ranking officer



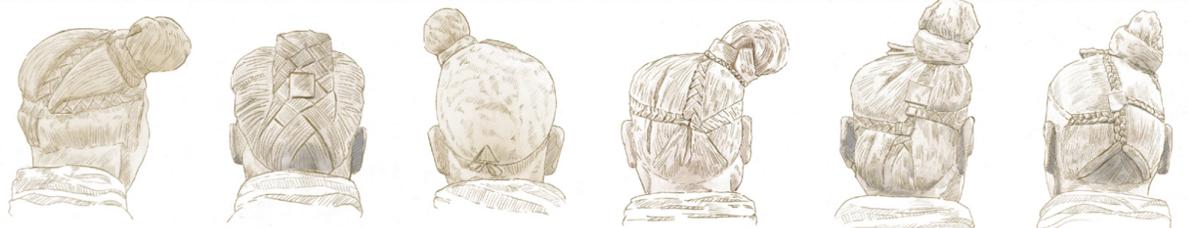
Soldier in armour



Kneeling archer

ONE THOUSAND FACES FOR ONE THOUSAND FIGURES

Analysis of facial features shows that Qin people's faces were in eight basic shapes, resembling eight Chinese characters *mu* (目), *guo* (国), *yong* (用), *ji* (甲), *tian* (田), *you* (由), *shen* (申), and *feng* (风). Also, ancient Chinese hairstyles were used as a symbol of status



The striking feature is the realistic depicting of both body and spirit

Sources: Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor Museum, "Treasures of the Mausoleum of the first Qin Emperor", National Geographic, own notes on the excavations
SCMP Graphic: Alberto Lucas López