

WAR

What major weapons of war are available?

Long-range artillery consists of huge mangonels and cannons that launch exploding bombs—imaginatively called fireballs. They are effective as long-range artillery, but the range is difficult to maintain, so they are not as lethal as they might be.

Another variation of the fireballs is the star bomb, which is released into the sky (hydrogen-propelled). Once the star has blown over the proper target, a carabineer shoots it out of the sky to explode in the enemy's midst.

Personal firearms are deadly but not that great for close-range fighting due to lengthy reload times. Rifles are long-barrelled affairs, reminiscent of 18th-century long rifles. They shoot a conglomeration of ammo, including razors and flames. Pistols are heavy, blocky affairs with their magazines horizontal to and beneath the barrel.

Are there professional soldiers/mercenaries? Is a career in the king's army possible, or would you have to be a mercenary in order to make a living as a soldier? Does the army accept volunteers?

Lael maintains a standing army at all times, and a career in the army is always an option, although never a forced decision. Any male over the age of twenty is accepted. Mercenaries are almost exclusively used by those with shady motives, including the warlords in Koraud, who make good use of the brigands who shelter in their territory.

What percentage of the soldiers in an army will be trained and what percent will be untrained recruits?

All men over twenty are expected to train with the army twice a year, so few men are entirely without experience. The warlords make up their ranks primarily of savvy veterans and mercenaries, so their boys know their way around a fight too.

How does the presence of non-humans affect strategy, tactics, and battles generally?

Any army that employs a sizable number of Cherazii is an army with an advantage. The Cherazii are both skilled and savvy. They fight with the strength of giants and the blind determination of berserkers. They feel no pain in battle, and they fight to the death. Courage is a tremendous part of their society, and they often seem to be without fear. No one wants to fight a Cherazim (which is, in large part, why they have been hunted down by the Koraudian—with their numbers diminished, they are far less a threat to any standing army).

Are particular non-human races traditionally better with certain weapons?

The Cherazii are better with everything. Period. They aren't very fond of firearms, however; they much prefer to do their fighting face to face.