

A large, stylized, 3D 'W' logo is centered in the background. The left side of the 'W' is a lighter blue, while the right side is a darker blue. The letters 'HIDDEN CUP' are superimposed over the center of the 'W' in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

HIDDEN CUP

Hidden Cup IV: The Heroes

by Tarsiz & andae23

Warwolf

During the Siege of Stirling Castle in 1304, King Edward I of England (Edward Longshanks) used thirteen siege weapons to break the Scots' stand. The largest of these siege weapons was known as Warwolf.

During Edward Longshanks' campaign to conquer Scotland, one of his targets became Stirling Castle, which had been recaptured by the Scots a couple years earlier. He ordered the construction of twelve massive siege weapons.

After several months, the trebuchets were ready and the English started firing at Stirling Castle. However, the castle remained standing and the Scots refused to surrender. Edward Longshanks ordered the construction of a thirteenth trebuchet, larger than all others: Warwolf.

Construction again took several months, and the Scots, observing the enormous projectiles being prepared for Warwolf, could see the writing on the wall. They offered to surrender, but King Edward I did not accept it before Warwolf had fired - after all, many noblemen had been invited to see the trebuchet in action.

Warwolf laid waste to Stirling Castle. Edward Longshanks accepted the surrender of the thirty remaining Scots. Around one year later, Edward Longshanks had successfully conquered most of Scotland.



Warwolf was introduced as the second unique technology for the Britons in the Forgotten. It gives trebuchets blast damage and increases accuracy to 100%. The trebuchet also appears as a unique unit in the final Edward Longshanks mission Hammer of the Scots, which is based on the Siege of Stirling Castle. The unit has 300 hp, 300 attack and a whopping 20 range.

- To the English soldiers, the trebuchet was known as "Ludgar". The French-speaking Edward Longshanks had named the trebuchet Loup de Guerre ("Wolf of War"), which was apparently quite tough for the English to pronounce.
- Warwolf could launch projectiles of up to 300 pounds (135 kg) over a distance of 600 feet (200 metres).

Jacqueline of Hainaut

Jacqueline, Countess of Hainaut, was a Burgundian noble who lived in the 15th century and ruled over Holland, Zeeland and Hainaut in the Low Countries from 1417 to 1433.

As a young girl, she was married to the Dauphin (prince and heir to the crown) of France and would have been the queen of France. That was not meant to be however and she found herself widowed at the age of just 16 when the Dauphin was poisoned.

Her father died shortly after, making her the Countess of Hainaut, where, at the time, female succession was fully recognised. She had to fight for her rights as John the Fearless of Burgundy coveted her lands. This feud culminated in the civil war known as the "Hooks and Cods wars". She was eventually defeated and fled to the court of Henry V of England.

In England, she married the Duke Humphrey of Gloucester, mustering the support of the English to fight for her claims in Holland. The intervention of Duke Humphrey, however, had fatal consequences for the fate of the English-Burgundian alliance in the Hundred Years War against the French. Jacqueline and Humphrey were defeated again, and she had to give all her lands and titles to Philip the Good. Jacqueline of Hainaut died of tuberculosis a few years later, at the age of 35.



Jacqueline of Hainaut appears as the main antagonist in the “Grand Dukes” Burgundian campaign introduced in the Lords of the West DLC. Her hero unit is a reskinned Queen. Jacqueline has no attack, has 100 HP (more than a King!) but is also slower.

- Jacqueline married four times in the span of 20 years.
- During renovation works, many jugs were found in a canal near the castle where Jacqueline used to live. According to legend, these belonged to Jacqueline, who became an alcoholic after losing her land. In the Netherlands, these types of jugs are now known as “Jacqueline jugs” (Jacobakannetjes).

Admiral Yi Sun-Shin

Yi Sun-Shin was a Korean admiral famed for defending the Koreans in naval battles against the Japanese between 1592 and 1598. He is credited for improving the turtle ship design and using them effectively against the Japanese navy.

Yi Sun-Shin had slowly been climbing the military ranks when he was appointed Commander of a naval district in southern Korea. With the threat of a Japanese invasion looming, Yi decided to prepare and strengthen his naval force.

An addition to the fleet was the turtle ship: a heavily armoured ship that hadn't been seen in decades. Yi's turtle ships were fitted with large metal spikes and a signature dragon's head made of wood. For weaponry, they carried at least 20 cannons (compared to 4 cannons on a typical Japanese war ship).

In 1592, the Japanese predictably attacked. Despite his lack of experience in naval warfare, Yi Sun-Shin's fleet won every battle they engaged. The Japanese resorted to different tactics: a Japanese double-agent manipulated the Koreans to send Yi on a suicidal mission. Yi refused the orders and was arrested.

This tactic heavily swung the war in Japan's favour. The Koreans reinstated Yi as Admiral and soon started pushing the Japanese back. While retreating through Noryang Strait in 1598, Yi's fleet destroyed most of the Japanese ships, but Yi himself was fatally wounded by an arquebus shot.



Admiral Yi Sun-Shin features as a turtle ship in the mission Noryang Point (Battle of the Conquerors), which is based on the Battle of Noryang. The Japanese fleet starts out attacking the Korean wonder and continues to harass the player's starting economy. When the player 'finds' Yi in the northern part of the map, the player gets control of Admiral Yi Sun-Shin, two elite turtle ships and three castles and is tasked to destroy the Japanese docks.

- Admiral Yi Sun-Shin engaged 23 naval battles against the Japanese. Despite being outnumbered in most of these (for example 333 ships to 13), he never lost a single battle.
- In the Battle of Noryang, Yi's famous last words were "The war is at its height – wear my armour and beat my war drums. Do not announce my death". His wish was honoured: the flag ship continued to beat the war drums, while Yi Sun-Shin's nephew Yi Wan wore his uncle's armour.

Master Of The Templar

The Knights Templar were a Christian order that existed between 1119 and 1312. Their mission was to protect European pilgrims and crusaders visiting the Holy Land (modern-day Israel). The leader was known as the Grand Master of the Knights Templar.

The Knights Templar originated from an alliance of French knights in 1119. They operated from the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and were endorsed by the pope, lending them many privileges.

Templars swore an oath of poverty, chastity, piety, and obedience, and lived a sober life under a strict code of conduct. Over time the templars became known as highly-skilled warriors and gradually became more and more influential in the region.

After Muslim armies reconquered Jerusalem, the Knights Templar were forced to retreat to Paris. By then, the Templars had become a highly influential order, but rumours about criminal activity were doing the rounds. King Philip IV of France took advantage of this situation: in 1307 he arrested, tortured and executed many knights, including the current (and last) Master of the Templar.

The Master of the Templar appears in the fourth Saladin mission "The Siege of Jerusalem", in which the player tries to occupy Jerusalem. The city is guarded by their own troops, the Hospitaliers and the Knights Templar led by the cavalry hero unit Master of the Templar.



- The Knights Templar wore a white robe with a red cross in battle, symbolising their martyrdom.
- When the Master of the Templar dies in the Saladin mission, he paraphrases Obi-Wan Kenobi: "If you strike me down, I will grow more powerful than you can possibly imagine".
- The Master of the Templar was not killed in the Siege of Jerusalem. Instead he was imprisoned for a year, released under conditions, recaptured during the Siege of Acre and eventually beheaded by Saladin.
- Nowadays, the Knights Templars are associated with mysteries and legends, such as the Holy Grail and the Ark of the Covenant. There are many books and films claiming the Knights Templars still exist today, including National Treasure and The Da Vinci Code.

Harald Hardrada

Harald Hardrada was the King of Norway from 1046 until his death in 1066. He invaded England to claim the throne, but was killed in battle, which indirectly led to William the Conqueror becoming King of England.

At a young age, Harald Sigurdsson fought on behalf of his brother Olaf II to reclaim the throne of Norway. However, they were defeated by Cnut the Great of Denmark: Olaf II was killed and Harald was forced into exile.

He made a name for himself fighting in Byzantine service and became a rich and powerful man. Harald returned to Scandinavia to claim the title King of Norway.

When King Edward the Confessor died in 1066 without an heir, Harald Hardrada made a claim for the throne of England based on an old agreement. The coronation of Harold Godwinson prompted Harald to invade England with 10,000 men and 300 longboats.

Initially Harald's invasion was successful, but the Vikings were defeated at the Battle of Stamford Bridge by King Harold Godwinson's army. Harald Hardrada himself was killed in battle.

However, the battle also weakened King Harold's forces. It may have contributed to his defeat at the Battle of Hastings, which ultimately saw William the Conqueror ascend to the English throne.



In AoE2, Harald Hardrada is a berserk hero unit with a ranged melee attack. He features in the Hastings scenario in the Battles of the Conquerors.

Harald's troops (a few berserks and pikemen) are killed by Harold the Saxon in the Battle of Stamford Bridge. The player (William the Conqueror) then has the option to pick up Harald and his remaining berserks and longboats. In reality, William the Conqueror and Harald Hardrada were never allied.

- The nickname "Hardrada" roughly translates as "hard ruler", and refers to the many disputes Harald had with both allies and enemies.
- Harald's death marked the end of the period in Scandinavian history that is known as the Viking Age.

Sundjata

Sundjata Keita was the first emperor of the Mali Empire in the 13th century. The empire was established after defeating the Sosso (Ghanese) ruler Sumanguru at the Battle of Kirina.

According to the Epic of Sundjata, the king of the Mandika people received a prophecy: if he married an ugly woman, their son would become the greatest leader the Mandika had ever seen.

Sure enough an ugly woman turned up on his doorstep. The king married her as his second wife and they had a son: Sundjata. When the king passed away, the king's first-born son (Sundjata's half brother) inherited the throne. With the prophecy in mind, the new king of Mandika forced Sundjata and his mother into exile.

They found asylum in Mema, where over time Sundjata was given a senior position for his courage and tenacity. When the Mandika Kingdom was conquered by the Sosso Empire, the Mandika people reached out to Sundjata to fulfil the prophecy and liberate them. With the help of the King of Mema, he formed a pact with other Malian warlords against the Sosso sorcerer-king Sumanguru.

At the Battle of Kirina, Sundjata and his allies defeated Sumanguru. According to legend, Sundjata killed Sumanguru himself with an arrow tipped by a white rooster's spur, which was allegedly the sorcerer-king's weakness. Sundjata conquered the rest of the Sosso Empire and established the Mali Empire.



The Sundjata campaign was introduced in the African Kingdoms expansion and consists of five missions. In the first two missions Sundjata gathers support to take on Sumanguru. In the third and fourth mission Sundjata starts gaining ground on Sumanguru, while the fifth mission is based on the Battle of Kirina.

Sundjata himself is controlled by the player as well. He used to have the appearance of a light cavalry, but in the Definitive Edition he received a unique skin.

- Sundjata was crippled from birth. A blacksmith in Mema forged an iron rod for him, but it broke as he tried to lean on it. Only when he used a branch from the sacred baobab tree did Sundjata manage to walk upright.
- Sundjata was nicknamed the "Lion of Mali".

Pope Leo I

Pope Leo the Great was a Bishop of Rome in the 5th century. Aside from being regarded as one of the best administrative popes, he is famous for persuading Attila the Hun to stop the invasion of Italy.

Leo I succeeded pope Sixtus III after his death in 440. He was a conservative pope, known for his eloquent sermons. During his papacy, he strengthened the pope's authority and prestige.

In 452, Attila the Hun invaded northern Italy. The Roman Emperor sent an envoy that included pope Leo I to negotiate with Attila. The exact details of these negotiations are unknown, but Attila decided to cease his march towards Rome and withdraw from Italy.

Pope Leo's persuasion is often cited as the main reason why Attila decided to cease the attack. In reality, Attila's horde was weakened by famine and disease, an attack on the Huns by the Byzantines was looming and the envoy may have bribed Attila with gold.

Three years later, Rome was pillaged by the Vandals of Northern Africa. On Pope Leo's request, the Vandals did not slaughter the Roman citizens and spared the heart of the city. In the final years of his life, Leo I aided in rebuilding the city.

After his death, the suffix "The Great" was added to his name, being the first of three popes to receive this title. He also received the title "Doctor of the Church", signifying his contributions to theology.



Pope Leo I is a hero monk and appears at the end of the final Attila the Hun mission, "The Fall of Rome". After the player has defeated the cities of Milan, Padua, Verona and Aquileia, the player is asked to meet with Pope Leo I in Rome. Historically, this meeting took place near Verona, as the Huns never crossed the river Po.

Despite the mission title, the Hunnic invasion of Italy is not considered to be part of the Fall of the Western Roman Empire.

- Born around 400 AD, Pope Leo I is by far the oldest hero in Hidden Cup IV. He is roughly 600 years older than the second oldest hero, Harald Hardrada.
- Leo I has been honoured with two rare additional titles: "The Great", which he shares with pope Gregory I and pope Nicholas I, and "Doctor of the Church"

Gonzalo Pizarro

Gonzalo Pizarro was a Spanish conquistador who participated in Francisco de Orellana's famous expedition to find La Canela ("The Land of Cinnamon") in the 16th century. He is known as a vile leader who was ruthless towards the natives and the Inca.

Gonzalo was one of four Pizarro brothers who travelled to Peru in 1530. Together they conquered and ruled parts of Peru by brutally subjugating the Inca. The natives who rebelled against the Spanish rulers were tortured and executed.

As Governor of Quito, Gonzalo Pizarro learned of a mythical rich kingdom deep inside the rainforest. Together with Francisco de Orellana, 220 Spaniards and 4000 natives they set about finding it.

One year after they set off, many expeditioners had died. Pizarro considered the mission a failure and returned to Quito. Orellana decided to continue the mission and unintentionally became the first person to navigate the full length of the Amazon river.

The King of Spain introduced new laws to protect the Inca from being exploited. Most of the conquistadors disagreed with the new laws and rebelled against the king under Pizarro's command. In response, the king sent a diplomat to restore peace in Peru. Many of Pizarro's allies deserted him and Pizarro was forced to surrender. He was executed together with his most loyal followers.



Gonzalo Pizarro appears as a hero conquistador in the first two El Dorado missions, which were introduced in the Forgotten Empires but removed in the Definitive Edition.

In the first mission, the player (Francisco de Orellana) meets up with Gonzalo Pizarro in Quito to prepare for their expedition. In the second mission, the player is forced to leave Pizarro behind in order to find food for the others downstream.

- Pizarro and Orellana set out to find La Canela, "The Land of Cinnamon". This is often confused with El Dorado, which refers to a mythical king in Colombia who covered himself in gold. Over time, the meaning of El Dorado changed to an undiscovered empire made out of gold.

King Bela IV

From 1235 until 1270, Bela IV ruled as the King of Hungary. He is credited for rebuilding Hungary after the Mongol invasion, earning him the posthumous nickname the “Second Founder of the State”.

Bela IV ascended to the throne when his father Andrew II died in 1235. A couple years into his reign, Bela IV decided to grant asylum to Kotyan Khan's horde of 40,000 Cumans, who were fleeing from the Mongol hordes.

The Hungarian noblemen grew suspicious of the Cumans and decided to murder their leader Kotyan Khan. In response, the Cuman hordes pillaged a large part of Hungary. When the Mongols arrived, Hungary's defences were quickly overrun and King Bela IV was forced to flee to Dalmatia (Croatia). At the same time, the Great Khan of Mongolia passed away, which triggered the Mongol leader to suddenly retreat all forces from Hungary.

When Bela IV returned to Hungary, the country was destroyed. In the decades that followed, Bela began rebuilding Hungary from the ground up, encouraging the growth of towns, reviving commercial life and restructuring the country's government. He set up alliances with other nations to prevent a second Mongol invasion, and even conquered new areas to the south of his Kingdom. Bela also dealt with a civil war led by his son and later successor Stephen.



King Bela IV is a hero unit with the appearance of a king. Although the unit only features in the scenario editor, Bela IV shows up in the third, fourth and fifth Kotyan Khan missions.

The third mission revolves around the Cumans seeking asylum from King Bela IV in Hungary. Halfway through the fourth mission, Kotyan Khan is murdered. In the fifth mission, the player can choose to remain loyal to Bela and fight alongside him against Frederick II of Austria and the treacherous Hungarian noblemen.

Historically, a number of Cumans indeed decided to stay in Hungary permanently, after King Bela IV regained their trust by arranging his son to marry Kotyan Khan's daughter. Cumans still live in Hungary to this day, mostly in a region known as Kunsag (“Cumania”).

Ivaylo

In the 13th century, Ivaylo was the leader of a rebellion against the Tsar of Bulgaria. He successfully became emperor after killing Tsar Constantine I, but was forced into exile just one year later.

Ivaylo was a peasant who lived in the North-East of Bulgaria. The region bordered the Mongol Empire and was constantly raided by the Golden Horde under Nogai Khan. Tsar Constantine I of Bulgaria could not be bothered dealing with the raids.

By 1277, Ivaylo had had enough and inspired the Bulgarians to fight against the Mongols themselves. Having driven the Mongols back, they continued to revolt against Tsar Constantine I, who sent out an army to deal with the peasant uprising. However, this backfired completely and Constantine I was killed in battle by Ivaylo himself.

Ivaylo married Constantine's widow and became Emperor (Tsar) of Bulgaria. While fighting against the Mongols in the North, the capital of Bulgaria surrendered to the Byzantines on their own accord. When Ivaylo returned, he was unable to reclaim the capital despite winning two major battles against the Byzantines.

Ivaylo's cause started to lose support, and recognising he could not reclaim the capital on his own, he sought refuge with the Mongols. Initially Nogai Khan welcomed him, but after receiving a better alliance offer from the Byzantines (not unimportantly, the Byzantine emperor was Nogai Khan's father in law), Nogai Khan ordered Ivaylo to be executed.



The Ivaylo campaign was introduced in the Last Khans expansion and is inspired by Ivaylo's uprising. It starts with Ivaylo building up an army and killing Tsar Konstantin I in his chariot. Ivaylo becomes Tsar of Bulgaria and defends the land against the Golden Horde and the Byzantines. In the final mission, Ivaylo is exiled to the Mongols and the outro tells that Ivaylo was killed by Nogai Khan. In all five missions, Ivaylo features as a cavalry hero unit.

- Ivaylo was nicknamed "Bardokva" or "Lakhanas" which both mean "lettuce" and refer to his humble origins.
- According to legend, Nogai Khan invited Ivaylo and the Byzantine ruler over for dinner, when he suddenly pointed at Ivaylo and said "He is an enemy of my father and does not deserve to live." Ivaylo was murdered on the spot.
- Similar to the Konnik, when the Ivaylo hero unit dies, he stands up again as an infantry hero unit.

Cobra Car

The Cobra Car is one of the most famous cheat units in Age of Empires II. It is based on the AC Shelby Cobra, a British-American sports car that was first produced in 1962.

The AC Shelby Cobra came to be when American automotive legend Carroll Shelby was inspired to combine a lightweight British roadster chassis with a powerful American-based V8 engine. He asked British car manufacturer AC Cars to design a roadster that could be fitted with a Ford V8 engine.

The resulting car was an absolute monster: it was by far the most powerful production car of its time. Unsurprisingly, the Shelby Cobra was dominant in the American Road Racing Championship. Internationally the car was less successful, since its outdated aerodynamics resulted in a comparatively low top speed. After a redesign, the Shelby Coupe became successful in international GT racing as well.

Traditionally, racing cars competing in international events were painted in the national racing colours of the car's manufacturer or driver. Cars from the US were either white with blue stripes, or blue with white stripes. The iconic Shelby Cobra livery uses the latter format: the car is painted Imperial blue, with two lengthwise stripes.

AC Cars seized production of the original AC Shelby Cobra in 1967. From 1980 onwards, many replicas have been produced.



When you open up the chat dialog and type “how do you turn this on”, a Cobra Car will spawn at your town centre. The unit appears to be a rapidly-firing hand cannoneer, however unlike the HC a Cobra Car can do damage to the player's own units.

- The speed limit of 70mph was introduced in the UK after an AC Cobra was recorded doing 186mph on the motorway.
- With 478 brake horsepower, the Shelby Cobra Mk.3 was the most powerful production car in the world for over 25 years.
- Obviously, the Cobra Car's 1962 birthdate makes it the 'youngest' hero competing in Hidden Cup 4.
- The Cobra Car is classified as a siege unit, and therefore benefits from upgrades like Siege Engineers, but also unique techs such as Torsion Engines, Furor Celtica, Drill and Ironclad. A damaged Cobra can also be repaired by villagers without spending resources
- In The Age of Kings, the Cobra Car was always blue and the unit icon was that of a mangonel.

Edward Longshanks

Edward I of England ruled over England from 1272 till his death in 1307. Under his reign, England conquered Wales and parts of Scotland. Nicknamed “The Hammer of the Scots”, he is regarded as one of England’s greatest kings.

Prior to his coronation, Edward had already gained respect as a man of action. He successfully put an end to an uprising against the English crown known as the Second Barons’ War, and also participated in the 8th and 9th Crusade in the Holy Land.

Edward was crowned King Edward I when his father Henry III died in 1272. Like his father, Edward attempted to conquer Wales, and after defeating Llywelyn ap Gruffydd he successfully annexed Wales as a province.

After Edward’s claims that he had legally inherited the throne of Scotland were refuted, he invaded the land. Parts of Scotland were conquered, but after Edward’s death in 1307 the Scots led by Robert the Bruce managed to reclaim Scotland.

The Edward Longshanks campaign is inspired by four episodes in Edward’s life. The first two missions tell the tale of the Second Barons’ Wars in England and the crusades in the Holy Land. The third mission is about the conquest of Wales, while the fourth and fifth missions tell the story of Edward’s attempt to conquer Scotland. In these campaigns, Edward Longshanks makes his appearance as a cavalry hero unit.



Edward Longshanks is also the antagonist in the Williams Wallace learning campaign. In the final mission “The Battle of Falkirk”, the player conquers the English fort, but historically Edward defeated the Scottish forces at Falkirk, eventually leading to Wallace’s resignation as Guardian of Scotland.

- At 6 ft 2 (1.88 metres), Edward I was remarkably tall for his time. This earned him the nickname “Longshanks”, which literally means “long shins”.
- Edward suffered from ptosis, which made his left eyelid droop over his eye.
- During the Siege of Stirling Castle, Edward ordered his engineers to build an army of trebuchets. The largest one was christened “Warwolf” and forced the Scots to surrender. This victory earned Edward Longshanks the nickname “The Hammer of the Scots”.

Le Loi

Lê Lợi was a Vietnamese rebel leader who restored the kingdom of Đại Việt after its conquest and occupation by the Ming dynasty. He is one of the greatest heroes of Vietnamese history.

In the late 14th century, the Chinese Ming dynasty took advantage of a period of chaos and civil war within the kingdom of Đại Việt to launch a military invasion of the country, seizing power and setting up a colonial administration. They forbade local customs and attempted to force Chinese culture upon occupied Vietnam.

Lê Lợi, born in a noble family, witnessed the invasion of the Ming as young adult. Supported by the Trinh and Nguyen families, he attempted a first revolt between 1418 and 1423. Ultimately, his army of rebels was crushed by a combined force of Ming and Laotian troops. A year later, he revolted again, taking advantage of a lapse in Ming leadership after the death of the emperor. The revolt was successful after four years and a six-month siege of the citadel of Xương Giang - later deemed the greatest disaster in the history of the early Ming Empire.

After the victory, Lê Lợi restored the kingdom of Đại Việt and was crowned the first king of the Lê dynasty, that would endure until 1789. As a king, he made sure to rebuild the infrastructure of the country: roads, bridges and canals. Soldiers that had fought in the wars against the Ming were rewarded with lands, which contributed to the expansion of the population.



Le Loi is the main protagonist of the Vietnamese campaign in Rise of the Rajas, which centres around the liberation of Dai Viet from the Ming occupation. He appears as an infantry unit wielding a two-handed sword.

- Le Loi was rumored to own a magic sword, that was lent to him by the Dragon King, a demi-god of the local people. After the victory against the Ming, he returned the sword to a lake in modern-day Hanoi.
- Perhaps due to his magical sword, Le Loi has a base attack of 22 - the third highest of the Hidden Cup 4 roster after Warwolf and Admiral Yi.

John The Fearless

John the Fearless was the Duke of Burgundy from 1404 and 1419. A ruthless politician, he murdered the King of France's brother to serve his interests, leading to the civil war of the Armagnacs and the Burgundians and the final phase of the Hundred Years War.

In the early 15th century, the court of the King of France was divided in internal struggles for influence over the mentally ill King Charles VI. John the Fearless, Duke of Burgundy, sought to secure the regency over the realm for himself as it became apparent the King would not last. He had the prince, Dauphin Louis, brutally murdered in broad daylight in the streets of Paris, fueling the quarrel known as the Armagnac-Burgundian civil war.

Overt quarrel soon devolved into open fighting between the two factions before a brief reconciliation in the light of the English invasion. After the disaster of Agincourt, Burgundians and Armagnacs waged open war on each other, with John capturing Paris and openly acting as an ally for the English.

In 1419, with the whole of northern France under English occupation, the Dauphin and John the Fearless met to come to a truce. However, this encounter proved fatal for John, who was assassinated with the same ruthlessness he had shown Louis years earlier.



John the Fearless appears as the protagonist in the first part of the "Grand Dukes" Burgundian campaign introduced with the Lords of the West. He is a cavalry unit with his own appearance and fights against the Armagnac faction, portrayed as the Franks.

- His bravery in battle, fighting with the Hungarians against the Turks, at the age of 25 earned him his nickname of Fearless. Maybe too reckless, he was captured and liberated after a hefty ransom was paid.
- John the Fearless is the father of Philip the Good.

Philip The Good

Philip the Good was the Duke of Burgundy from 1419 to 1467. A cunning politician, he played both the French and the English to increase the power of his dynasty. During his reign, the Burgundian state reached the apex of its power.

Philip became duke of Burgundy after the assassination of his father, John the Fearless. He allied with the English, capturing Joan of Arc at Compiègne. He sold her to the English which led to her trial for heresy and eventual execution. The alliance did not last however, as he eventually revoked the previous Treaty of Troyes and recognized Charles VII as King of France. Philip then expanded his territories in the Low Countries where he fought and defeated Jacqueline of Hainaut in the Hook and Cod wars.

Philip the Good was a major political influence in the Low Countries. He created an Estates-General for the Netherlands based on the French model and led multiple administrative reforms. He earned the suffix "The Good" for establishing peace after many years of constantly being at war.

Philip was a patron of the arts and the lavishness of his court led to Flemish luxury products becoming particularly sought after in the rest of Europe.



Philip the Good appears as the main protagonist for the second half of the "Grand Dukes" Burgundian campaign in the Lords of the West DLC. He is a cavalry unit with his own unit skin. The campaign lets you play as the "other side" and is a counterpart to the original game's Joan of Arc campaign.

- John the Fearless is the father of Philip the Good.
- Philip the Good lived a lavish lifestyle. He organised grand parties at the many palaces he built in his lifetime, and had dozens of mistresses. He was a fashion icon in his time: allegedly he changed clothes up to four times a day, and after his father's assassination he only started dressing in black. Because of this lifestyle, Philip the Good was known as the "Grand Duke of the West".

Little John

In English folklore, Little John was the second-in-command of Robin Hood's Merry Men, a group of outlaws living in Sherwood Forest.

The tales of Robin Hood and his Merry Men were very popular in England in the late Middle Ages. They were a group of outlaws who lived in Sherwood Forest, with Robin Hood as their leader. They dressed in green and violently robbed the rich travellers they encountered. In later centuries this story was romanticised to “stealing from the rich and giving to the poor”.

The name “Little John” is ironic: in folklore, he is often described as a giant, being at least 7 feet (2 metres) tall. When Robin Hood and his men try to cross a narrow bridge, Little John prevents them from crossing. To settle the argument, Robin Hood and Little John decide to fight with quarterstaves (a type of spear). Robin Hood loses the fight and invites Little John to join his group of Merry Men.

One of the tales in which Little John makes a grand appearance is “Robin Hood and the Monk”, which dates back to 1450. Robin Hood is recognised by a monk he once robbed and is arrested. To rescue Robin, Little John kills the monk who was on his way to announce the arrest to the king. In an attempt to trick the king, Little John takes the monk's place and announces the arrest himself. The king is overjoyed by the news and requests the impostor to bring Robin Hood to him. By the king's request, Little John visits Robin in jail, where he kills the guard and helps Robin Hood to escape.



Little John was introduced as a hero unit in The African Kingdoms. He has the appearance of a spearman, which is a reference to his fight against Robin Hood with quarterstaves. His stats are much stronger than those of a normal spearman, but he shares the +15 attack bonus versus cavalry.

Like Robin Hood, Friar Tuck and the Sheriff of Nottingham (hero units that are all featured in the tales of Robin Hood), Little John is only available in the scenario editor.

- Little John is (most likely) the only hero in Hidden Cup 4 who is entirely fictional.
- To a modern audience, Little John is perhaps best known as Robin Hood's best friend in Disney's animated film “Robin Hood”. Little John has the appearance of a bear.