

The principal weapon is a lance formed of a small flexible shaft of tough wood, a natural stem often, with the bark trimmed off, to the thicker end of which is attached a heavy head of obsidian or volcanic glass, which, in size, appears out of proportion with the light shaft. The obsidian lance-head is usually of a conical form, but some of the weapons have a knife-edge in front, and some are irregular. They are shaped by bold wide flaking. The points and edges are often slightly re-chipped in order to sharpen them, but the original faces and angles are never worked up for the sake of symmetry or balance, but remain rough. Many lances have their edges and points sharp and perfect, though formed entirely by the original flaking. The hinder borders of the lance-heads are simply rounded. They are secured in a socket of wood attached to the end of the shaft by means of a cement,* and by being bound round with fine twine.

Many of the lance-heads are of most irregular forms, remaining just as they happened to flake out in manufacture.

The heads of the lances are kept covered with a conical sheath of dried plantain leaf made to fit. The natives possess an enormous store of these weapons. They have piles of them lying on the outriggers of the canoes. On shore the men commonly carried two or three in their hands. In a dispute alongside the ship one of the lances was instantly snatched up and made ready. They are used for hunting wild pigs as well as for fighting. The natives pointed to the mountains of the Main Island as the source of the obsidian. They parted with the lances readily, and the material must be abundant. The lances are thrown in the usual manner, grasped by the naked hand, being first made to quiver by a shaking motion of the hand for some seconds.

Though there is an enormous abundance of Wild Pigeons at the islands, the natives have invented no means of shooting them. They can only climb the trees and catch them at roost, or knock them off the nest.

The natives are extremely expert in wood carving, and show most remarkable taste in their designs. The lance-heads are often carved, the carving taking the form mostly of incised patterns, the effect being heightened and beautified by the use of black, white, and red pigments.

The white pigment is made of coral lime, the red of burnt clay, the black possibly of charcoal of some kind. The guardian deities carved on the door-posts of the temples and posts

* Made from the pounded fruit of *Parinariu laurinum*. The same cement is used for caulking the seams of the canoes. It is excessively hard and firm when set. It is in use also in various parts of Polynesia.