

THE LORD OF THE RINGS

THE TWO TOWERS

THE BATTLE OF HELM'S DEEP

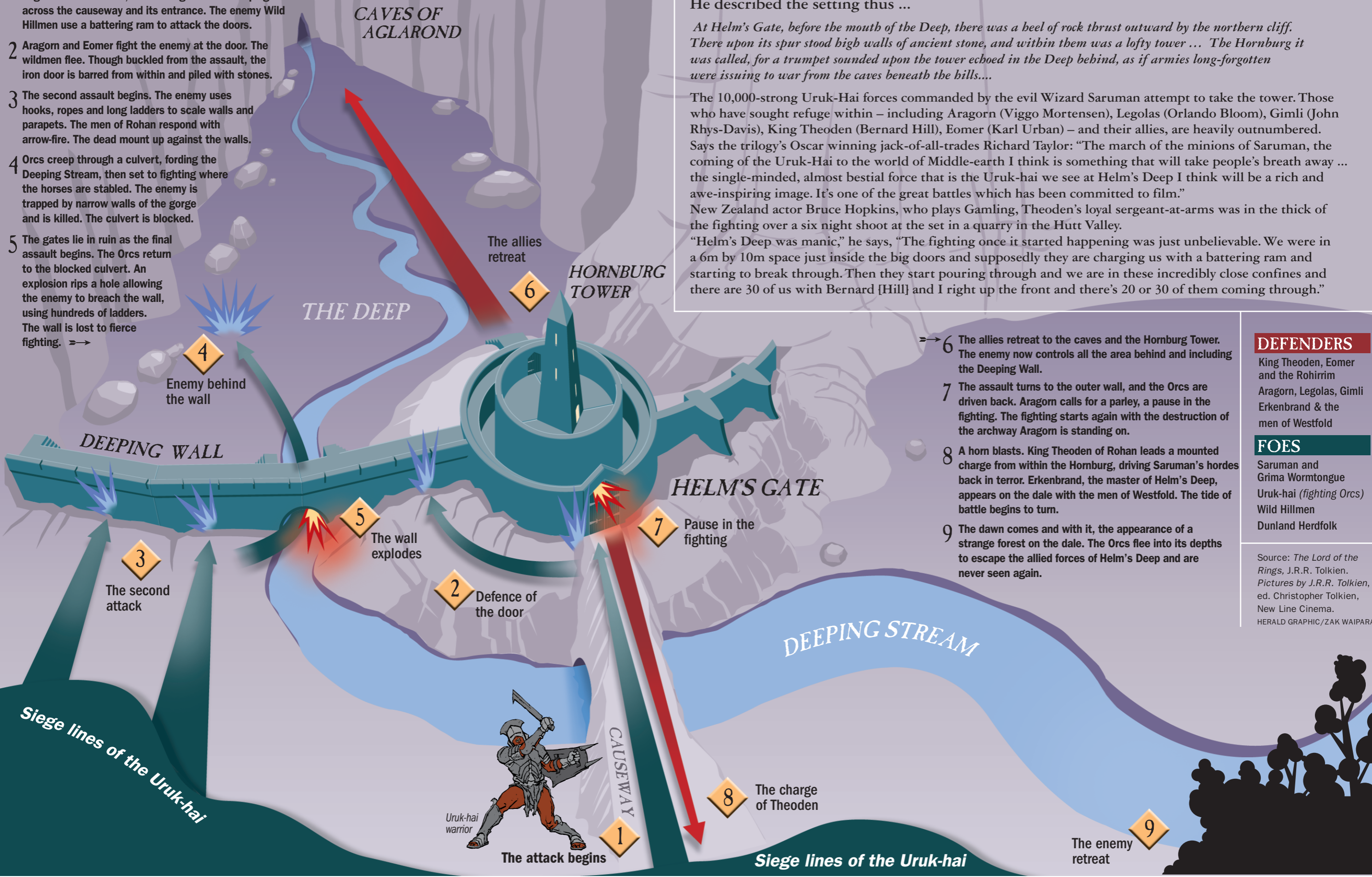
THE BATTLE SEQUENCE

- 1 After midnight, the sky is rent by lightning and the first assault begins with arrow fire, directed against the Deeping Wall and across the causeway and its entrance. The enemy Wild Hillmen use a battering ram to attack the doors.
- 2 Aragorn and Eomer fight the enemy at the door. The wildmen flee. Though buckled from the assault, the iron door is barred from within and piled with stones.
- 3 The second assault begins. The enemy uses hooks, ropes and long ladders to scale walls and parapets. The men of Rohan respond with arrow-fire. The dead mount up against the walls.
- 4 Orcs creep through a culvert, fording the Deeping Stream, then set to fighting where the horses are stabled. The enemy is trapped by narrow walls of the gorge and is killed. The culvert is blocked.
- 5 The gates lie in ruin as the final assault begins. The Orcs return to the blocked culvert. An explosion rips a hole allowing the enemy to breach the wall, using hundreds of ladders. The wall is lost to fierce fighting. =>

If you don't want to know the end of *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, look away now. But the film's grand finale – unlike the book – is the Battle of Helm's Deep. Here, we've interpreted the events of the epic siege of the lofty tower from the pages of J.R.R. Tolkien. He described the setting thus ...

At Helm's Gate, before the mouth of the Deep, there was a beel of rock thrust outward by the northern cliff. There upon its spur stood high walls of ancient stone, and within them was a lofty tower ... The Hornburg it was called, for a trumpet sounded upon the tower echoed in the Deep behind, as if armies long-forgotten were issuing to war from the caves beneath the hills....

The 10,000-strong Uruk-Hai forces commanded by the evil Wizard Saruman attempt to take the tower. Those who have sought refuge within – including Aragorn (Viggo Mortensen), Legolas (Orlando Bloom), Gimli (John Rhys-Davis), King Theoden (Bernard Hill), Eomer (Karl Urban) – and their allies, are heavily outnumbered. Says the trilogy's Oscar winning jack-of-all-trades Richard Taylor: "The march of the minions of Saruman, the coming of the Uruk-Hai to the world of Middle-earth I think is something that will take people's breath away ... the single-minded, almost bestial force that is the Uruk-hai we see at Helm's Deep I think will be a rich and awe-inspiring image. It's one of the great battles which has been committed to film." New Zealand actor Bruce Hopkins, who plays Gamling, Theoden's loyal sergeant-at-arms was in the thick of the fighting over a six night shoot at the set in a quarry in the Hutt Valley. "Helm's Deep was manic," he says, "The fighting once it started happening was just unbelievable. We were in a 6m by 10m space just inside the big doors and supposedly they are charging us with a battering ram and starting to break through. Then they start pouring through and we are in these incredibly close confines and there are 30 of us with Bernard [Hill] and I right up the front and there's 20 or 30 of them coming through."



- 6 The allies retreat to the caves and the Hornburg Tower. The enemy now controls all the area behind and including the Deeping Wall.
- 7 The assault turns to the outer wall, and the Orcs are driven back. Aragorn calls for a parley, a pause in the fighting. The fighting starts again with the destruction of the archway Aragorn is standing on.
- 8 A horn blasts. King Theoden of Rohan leads a mounted charge from within the Hornburg, driving Saruman's hordes back in terror. Erkenbrand, the master of Helm's Deep, appears on the dale with the men of Westfold. The tide of battle begins to turn.
- 9 The dawn comes and with it, the appearance of a strange forest on the dale. The Orcs flee into its depths to escape the allied forces of Helm's Deep and are never seen again.

DEFENDERS

King Theoden, Eomer and the Rohirrim
Aragorn, Legolas, Gimli
Erkenbrand & the men of Westfold

FOES

Saruman and Grima Wormtongue
Uruk-hai (fighting Orcs)
Wild Hillmen
Dunland Herdfolk

Source: *The Lord of the Rings*, J.R.R. Tolkien.
Pictures by J.R.R. Tolkien, ed. Christopher Tolkien, New Line Cinema.
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