

You  
**Wouldn't  
Want to...**

**BE**

# **A ROMAN SOLDIER**

Bathe,  
battle and  
build like  
a Roman!



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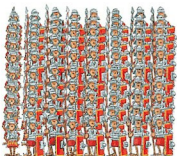


# Training to be a legionary

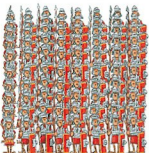
## A Roman legion is made up of...



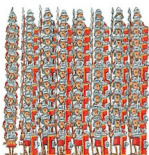
8 men = 1 contubernium



10 contubernia = 1 century

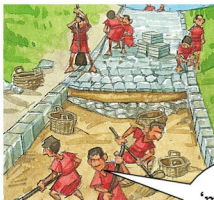


2 centuries = 1 maniples



6 centuries = 1 cohort

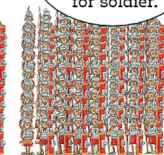
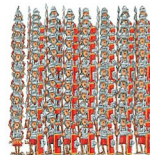
The Imperial Roman army has about 150,000 soldiers, called legionaries. Each one signs on for 25 years service. Your army life begins with training in Rome. You are taught how to march, how to build a camp and you must drill twice a day. Your main training is in the use of weapons and you are taught how to fight. You are in a group of 8 men called a contubernium (a tent group). A century (80 men) is made up of ten such groups with a leader called a centurion.



### ROAD BUILDING

Roman roads are built by ordinary soldiers. They form a vital network across the Roman Empire.

The word 'military' comes from the Latin for soldier.



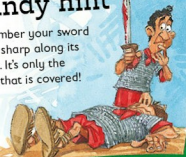
HORSE RIDING!



WRESTLING!

### Handy hint

Remember your sword is still sharp along its edges. It's only the point that is covered!



### LEGIONARIES

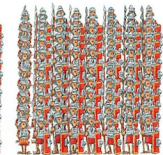
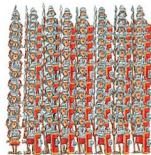
are taught to ride, wrestle and to swim. Training battles are always dangerous and bloody. It's hard work, but you survive... just about!

### RUNNING!



They said stab and thrust, not slice and dice!

He thinks he's chopping firewood!



10 cohorts = 1 legion (too many to fit on this page!)

# Your first battle

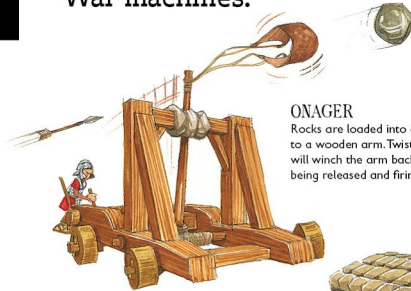
You and the other recruits are sent to the Danube – your first post abroad. Emperor Trajan has decided to enlarge the frontiers (borders) of the Empire. These areas have not changed since the time of Emperor Augustus, 94 years ago, and Trajan thinks the time is right for another advance. He plans to declare war against the Dacians. Drobeta is a wealthy Dacian city (in modern day Romania) on the Danube. If captured, it will provide the Imperial Treasury with a large profit. That'll show anyone who thinks the Roman Empire's lack of expansion is anything to laugh at!

## BALLISTA

Like a giant crossbow, the ballista fired huge arrows or stone balls.



## War machines:



## ONAGER

Rocks are loaded into a sling fixed to a wooden arm. Twisting a rope will winch the arm back before being released and firing the rocks.

## Handy hint

Keep well clear when the onager is being fired – you could go with it!



## BATTERING RAM

These were built for knocking holes in the enemy walls. Soldiers inside are well protected by the strongly made sides and roof.



## TESTUDO (TORTOISE)

Soldiers make a 'tortoise' formation by overlapping their shields to form a strong defensive shell.





# Return to Rome

You have survived your first real battle, and have been lucky to return from the Danube with some Dacian prisoners and the treasures you captured. Every Roman loves a good show. One of their favourite shows is when a winning army returns to Rome and puts on a triumph, or victory parade. The Roman Emperor rides in a gilded chariot while the procession winds through the streets, through the Forum and towards the Capitol. Here, animals are then sacrificed to the Roman gods Venus, Mars and Victory, and the chief prisoner (usually the enemy leader) may be executed.

## Victory parade:

The streets of Rome are packed with crowds. Senators lead the parade, followed by row upon row of troops. Treasures captured in battle are carried shoulder high and soldiers lead white oxen to be sacrificed at the Temple of Jupiter. The crowds cheer as enemy leaders are displayed in chains.



### PRISONERS

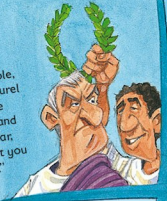
Prisoners are sold in the slave market. Throughout the Roman empire, there are millions of slaves who have no rights at all. Families are split up and sold separately. Strong, fit men are sold to be trained as gladiators.



Gladiator

### Handy hint

To keep him humble, a slave holds a laurel wreath above the emperor's head and whispers in his ear, "Remember that you are only a man."



"To triumphe!"  
(Behold the triumph!)

# All at sea

Time passes, but there is no rest for the soldiers. You have fought in many campaigns, and as an experienced soldier you are sent to Britannia (Britain). The Roman Empire has a new emperor now, Emperor Hadrian. It is his policy not to expand the empire but to strengthen its existing frontiers. He wants his army to be highly efficient and is introducing reforms to make auxiliary troops serve far away from their country of origin.



## The Imperial navy



Are we nearly there yet?

### THE ROMAN NAVY

The Roman navy plays its part in wars. Ships are used to carry men and horses to fight in distant lands. Julius Caesar had 600 special landing crafts and 28 warships built to help with his invasion of Britannia in 54 BCE. But sea travel is difficult and has to be done during the summer.

### Handy hint

Try to catch some local food when you arrive. You won't march far on your rations of bread, lard and vinegar!

