

The Roman Army

Who was the Roman Army?

- made up of men from all over Empire
- no women allowed to join
- men were professional soldiers & only job was to fight and defend Rome
- soldiers enlisted in army for at least 25 years!

*If soldier was: Brave, Clever, & Fought Well > one became a **Centurion** (in charge of 80 soldiers (legionaries)).

*Each troop of 80 legionaries called a century

*59 Centuries in a legion & 30 legions in The Roman Army.

Differences in Rank

- Centurions carried a special stick to show who they were.
- used stick to beat any soldier who disobeyed an order.
- important centurions also wore: special armor (emphasized their rank).

How Did Romans Arm Themselves?

- Weapons consisted of: short sword for stabbing & throwing spear called a **pilum**.
- Armor consisted of : overlapping iron bands & metal helmet worn on head.
- Carried large rectangular shield (curved around body).

*Pilum made of sharp iron points & softer metal shafts behind.

-when spear hit enemy's shield it bent making it difficult to pull out.

Life in the Roman Army

- Soldiers had to be tough
- expected to march 20-30 miles a day wearing armor
- expected to carry their own shield, some food, & camping equipment.
- they were trained to fight together
- they marched into battle in a flexible line with their shields next to each other.

*For example: If enemy shot arrows, the soldiers in rows behind the front line would lift shields over their heads like a roof to protect them. This was called a **testudo**, which means tortoise.

**At its finest period the Roman Army was almost unconquerable. Three main reasons for this:

- 1. DISCIPLINE**
- 2. HARD AND EFFICIENT TRAINING**
- 3. SPEED AT WHICH THEY LEARNT NEW TACTICS**