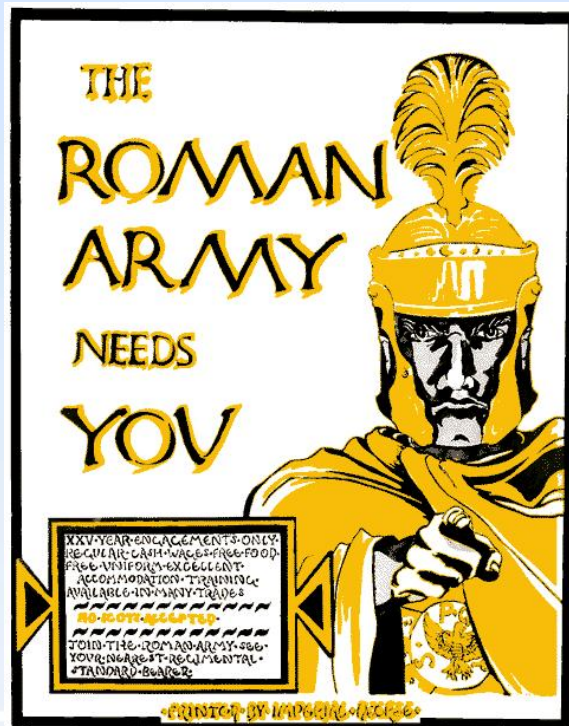


# The Gladiator's Present:

# The Roman Legion and the soldiers within



# Here are the Troop Types in the Roman legion



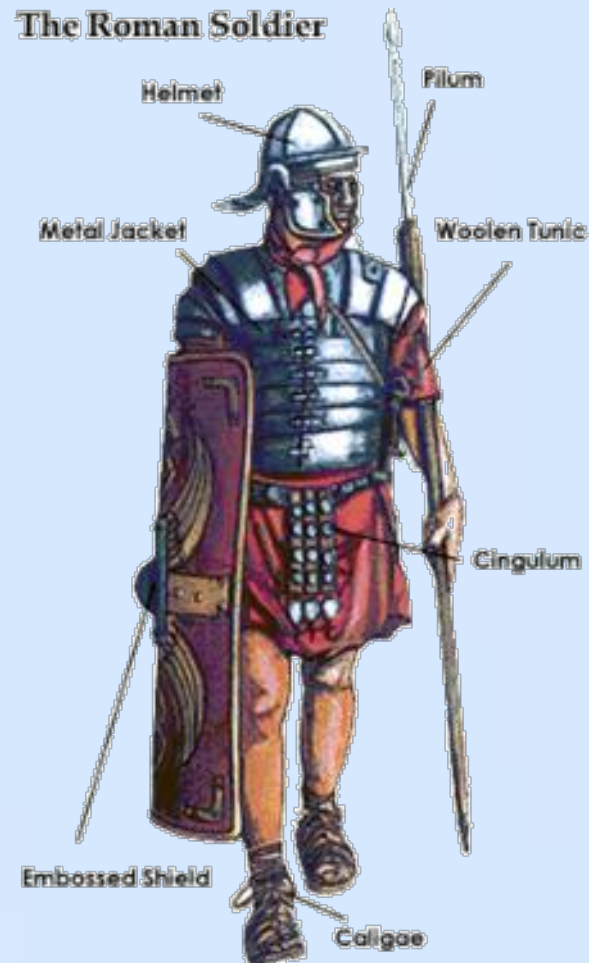
# The Roman Legionnaire



- Only Roman citizens could sign up for the army.
- They had to be fit and able to fight.
- These lower soldiers were not allowed to marry.
- Their armour gave them excellent protection.
- They carried a curved shield and they could punch the enemy with the metal boss in the centre.
- In battle they would first throw their special spear, called a pilum.
- Then they would draw their swords and stab from behind the safety of their shields.
- They were very disciplined obeying every order.
- A centurion was in charge of eighty of these men.
- They could march twenty miles a day carrying heavy equipment, and then build a camp for the night.



# Legionnaire's Sword and Equipment



# The Roman Centurion



- A centurion was in charge of a century made up of 80 legionary soldiers.
- His equipment was very different so his men could quickly find him in battle.
- He carried a vine stick as a badge of rank, which he would use this to punish his men.
- The horsehair crest on his helmet went from side to side.
- He wore medals on his chest, these were awarded for bravery in battle.
- Centurions could marry, and their wives lived in the barracks with them.
- They did not march, they rode on horseback.
- A centurion chose his second in command, this soldier was called an optio.
- Optios carried wax tablets on which they could write passwords and orders of the day.
- Only the very best legionaries could hope to become optios and then centurions, this would take 15 years or more.

# The Roman Auxiliaries



These were non-Roman citizens. They were recruited from tribes that had been conquered by Rome or were allied to Rome. They also served for 25 years like the Roman troops. At the end of their service they gained Roman citizenship as a reward.

The auxiliaries included archers, recruited from Syria, Scythia (the Black Sea) and Crete. The Hamian archer from Syria was deadly over a range of 400 meters.

# The Roman Cavalry



Cavalry were recruited from tribes which had a good tradition of horsemanship. They fought with an oval shield and a spear which was often used to stab downwards. They carried short, sharp javelins in quivers attached to their saddles. Their swords were longer and narrower than the infantry swords to give a better reach.

They did not have stirrups but the saddles, which were made of wood covered with padding and leather, had four pommels one in each corner. These allowed the rider to get a good grip with his thighs. Spurs were worn on their boots.





# Roman Standards

- Each different unit and legion had its own standard to distinguish itself between the other units.
- Each Century had a standard called a signum.
- When a detachment went out to capture areas they took a vexillum with them to tell everyone their legion.
- A musical instrument called a cornicen was used to give commands to the troops.
- Each legion carried a portrait of the emperor called a imago to remind troops to whom they owed their loyalty.
- And the aquila, a golden eagle was the standard for the legion. This only left camp when the whole legion set out.



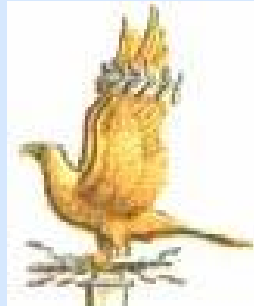
# Examples of Standards



signum



vexillum



aquila



cornicen



imago

What a Legion  
might have looked  
like on the march.



# The Roman Effect



With all these different troops the Romans were able to not only outfight but also outsmart their opponents. With a large population to draw from the Roman army was a very great force to be reckoned with. The Roman army was one of the best army systems ever established.



The Gladiators thank you, for  
your attention



Now, let  
the  
festivities  
begin!