

The Roman Cavalry

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the cavalry was a vital part of the army of rome and it played a significant role in the expansion and success of the roman empire karen r dixon and pat southern describe the origins of the mounted units of the roman army and trace their development from temporary allied troops to the regular alae and cohorts they have drawn together evidence from a wide variety of sources archaeological epigraphic and literary as well as comparing ancient testimony with more recent experience of the use of cavalry the book covers the subject from the perspective of both the men and the horses how were the horses selected and disposed of how were they trained stabled and fed how were the men recruited organized and equipped and what were the conditions of service for a roman cavalryman the cavalry had to be employed in peacetime and this is discussed as well as its role in war the image of the roman cavalry is often one of excitement and glory but the authors are aware that a true picture must not overlook the routine and the suffering this book provides a comprehensive account of the roman cavalry and the current state of knowledge concerning it the wide selection of illustrations includes original drawings by karen r dixon

a fully illustrated study of the roman cavalry's evolution this fascinating book chronicles tactics and composition from the time of the republic to the fall of the dominate

this volume spans over a thousand years as it offers a picture of one of the world's most noted fighting forces paying special attention to the life of the common soldier from publisher description

in this original and revealing work jeremiah b mccall challenges the generally accepted view of the roman cavalry and explores the fundamental connections between war and society in republican rome c 300 100 bc mccall describes the citizen cavalry's equipment tactics and motivation in battle and argues for its effectiveness in the field this success is proof that it cannot finally have been disbanded for purely military reasons he shows that victories in the law courts and lavish displays of wealth came to supersede cavalry service as a way of building the reputations of the roman elite the clear structure and fresh approach of the book combining insights from both roman military and social history will be useful to readers at all levels of study

this detailed examination of the way in which the roman army operated during a war and how it fought a battle breaks away from existing studies which mostly concentrate on the army in peacetime and attempts to understand the army as an institution whose ultimate purpose was to wage war adrian goldsworthy explores the influence to the roman army's organization on its behaviour

during a campaign emphasizing its great flexibility in comparison to most of its opponents he considers the factors determining the result of a conflict and proposes contrary to orthodox opinion that the roman army was able to adapt successfully to any type of warfare following the technique pioneered by john keegan in the face of battle 1976 dr goldsworthy builds up a precise picture of what happened during battle tactics employed weaponry leadership behaviour of individuals as well as groups of soldiers and of utmost importance morale

this companion provides an extensive account of the roman army exploring its role in roman politics and society as well as the reasons for its effectiveness as a fighting force an extensive account of the roman army from its beginnings to its transformation in the later roman empire examines the army as a military machine its recruitment training organization tactics and weaponry explores the relationship of the army to roman politics economics and society more broadly considers the geography and climate of the lands in which the romans fought each chapter is written by a leading expert in a particular subfield and takes account of the latest scholarly and archaeological research in that area

discusses the way of life training and equipment of the roman army and examines the duties of officers and soldiers of the legion

following roman heavy cavalry 1 on the earlier centuries this book explains and illustrates the armour weapons organization and deployment of elite armoured heavy cavalry units in the eastern roman byzantine empire

the roman army was an integral part of the society and life of the empire and exemplifies many aspects of roman government this sourcebook presents material which illustrates the life of the army in the field and in the community

an illustrated history of the roman army including information about its composition organization training methods weapons and campaigns

an extraordinary ebook over 800 pages 42 full color illustrations out of the text of tancredi scarpelli italian illustrator 30 full color illustrations out of the text of great painters various illustrations black and white in the text all the texts of this ebook are free available on the web why buy it because the book is a resource that provide to a considerable added value it coordinates in logical way to gather texts scattered on the web the images in full color and in black and white list of films set in ancient rome the most important movies all the arguments of the ebook the history of all roman legions organization equipment body armour tactics levy and conditions of service campaign record marching order and camps social impact of military service political history of the roman military roman kingdom roman republic from late republic to mid roman empire middle roman empire late roman empire other imperial cavalry privileges relations oligarchical rule composition of legions roman conquest of italy pattern of roman expansion benefits of roman hegemony military organisation of the roman alliance historical cohesion of the roman alliance samnite wars pyrrhic war 2nd punic war social war integration of socii causes of socii revolt outbreak of revolt roman unification of italy expansion of the roman republic imperial times conquest of the iberian peninsula 219 18 bc macedon the greek poleis and illyria 215 148 bc jugurthine war 112 105 bc resurgence of the celtic threat 121 bc new germanic threat 113 101 bc conflicts with mithridates 89 63 bc campaign against the cilician pirates 67 bc caesar s early campaigns 59 50 bc triumvirates caesarian ascension and revolt 53 30 bc empire imperial expansion 40 bc 117 ad year of the four emperors 69 ad jewish revolts 66 135 ad struggle with parthia 114 217 ad usurpers 193 394 ad struggle with the sassanid empire 230 363 ad collapse of the western empire 402 476 ad social war civil wars documents the battle of the metaurus b 207 the war with porsena the conquest of gaul the cimabri and teutones political quarrels the battle of chalons a d 451 the first punic war the praetorian influence the great enemies of rome pyrrhus relation of the augustan age to other literary epochs roman religion bibliography list of films set in ancient rome the most important movies source of the texts

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the author draws on a new translation of the military manual ars tactica commissioned by roman emperor hadrian written by arrian while governor of cappadocia ad 131 7 the cavalry section vividly describes the parade ground training exercises forming the only such complete treatise from the roman world byland analyzes in detail all the roman cavalry maneuvers from charges to mounted javelin throwing other topics such as the selection of mounts equipment used arrian s understanding of equine physiology psychology are also dealt with there are also examples of major cavalry actions photos drawings

the history of the armored heavy cavalry that was absorbed into roman service from the steppe peoples they defeated in the 2nd century ad and that came to provide half rome s cavalry during the late empire

an engaging work exploring in depth the organisation equipment weapons and armour of one of the most exciting periods in roman history

examines the armour tactics weaons and organization of the roman army during the macedonian campaign caesar s conquest of europe and the early years of empire in rome

throughout the middle republic the wealthiest roman citizens supplied a cavalry contingent to every field army cavalry service was a distinguished form of service socially superior to service in the infantry and an important mark of elite status nevertheless in the early first century b c e the citizen cavalry disappeared and foreign auxiliaries supplied all of rome s cavalry the romans had abandoned an institution that had lasted for centuries according to the traditional explanation for the end of citizen cavalry service the romans were simply poor ineffective cavalymen in contrast foreign peoples possessed cavalry forces categorically superior to the roman citizen cavalry therefore the romans completely replaced their poor quality romano italian cavalry with superior foreign cavalry this traditional argument lacks any systematic analysis of the roman cavalry s military effectiveness to support it we cannot accurately assess the military effectiveness of the roman cavalry however without systematically analyzing the available evidence furthermore supporters of the traditional argument have neglected to consider the social and cultural ramifications of citizen cavalry s disappearance because cavalry service was so essential to elite identity in the middle republic the members of the roman elite could not have relinquished cavalry service unless suitable alternative sources of prestige were available to them the present study offers what to date has been lacking a systematic analysis of the roman cavalry both as a military arm and as a source of social and political prestige for the roman elite my primary concerns are why the citizen cavalry disappeared after centuries of service and how the first century elite acquired prestige and a reputation without cavalry service the first part of this study demonstrates unequivocally that the roman cavalry was militarily effective therefore one cannot reasonably argue that the roman cavalry disappeared because of its poor quality the second part examines how alternative markers of elite status particularly skill in oratory and possession of great amounts of money became increasingly important in the late republic as a result of these alternative markers of elite status cavalry service became irrelevant to the roman elite

from the moment its last king was expelled traditionally in 753 the roman republic had to fight for its very survival centuries of almost continuous warfare saw romes armies evolve in response to a wide variety of threats which were met with mixed fortunes though always with ultimate success as defence of the homeland turned to territorial expansion roman forces also had to adapt to sustained campaigns in varied terrain and climates not to mention the changes in the roman republic itself michael sage traces the development of the republics army from its foundation having first set the context of their regal antecedents down to the time of its most famous leader julius caesar the transition from clan based forces through the servian levy and the development of the manipular and cohortal legion is examined along with the associated weapons tactics and operational capabilities we see how the legions shaped up against the challenges of successive enemies from the celts and samnites the carthaginians and the hitherto dominant hellenistic armies based on the macedonian style pike phalanx

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