

Imperium Ferrum

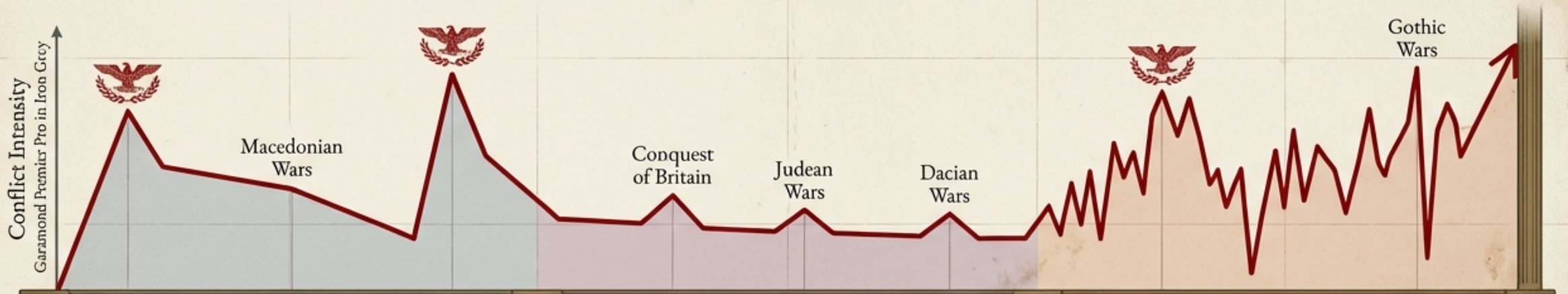
A Strategic Catalogue of Roman Imperial Wars

Cartography, Tactics, and the Evolution of the Legions (264 BC – 553 AD)

For the Romans it supplied the ideals of purity, devotion and self-control... [they] submitted themselves to a severe moral discipline. — Hymn To King Helios

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The Timeline of Conflict



Republic (264–27 BC)

Punic Wars
Macedonian Wars
Civil Wars

Principate (27 BC–284 AD)

Conquest of Britain
Judean Wars
Dacian Wars
Germanic Frontiers

Dominate (284–553 AD)

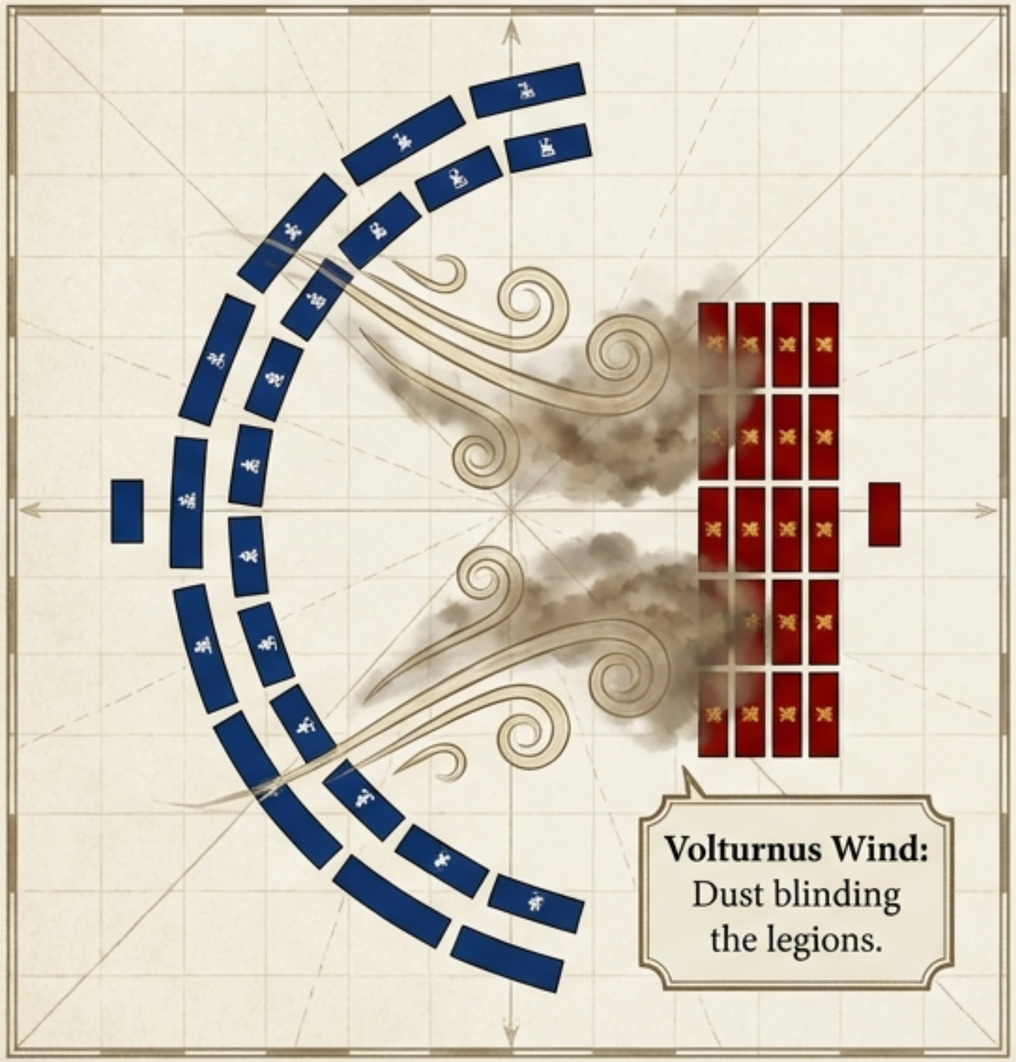
Crisis of 3rd Century
Julian's Persian War
Gothic Wars

> "From the forging of the Republic to the defense of Byzantium, the Roman state existed in a condition of perpetual mobilization."

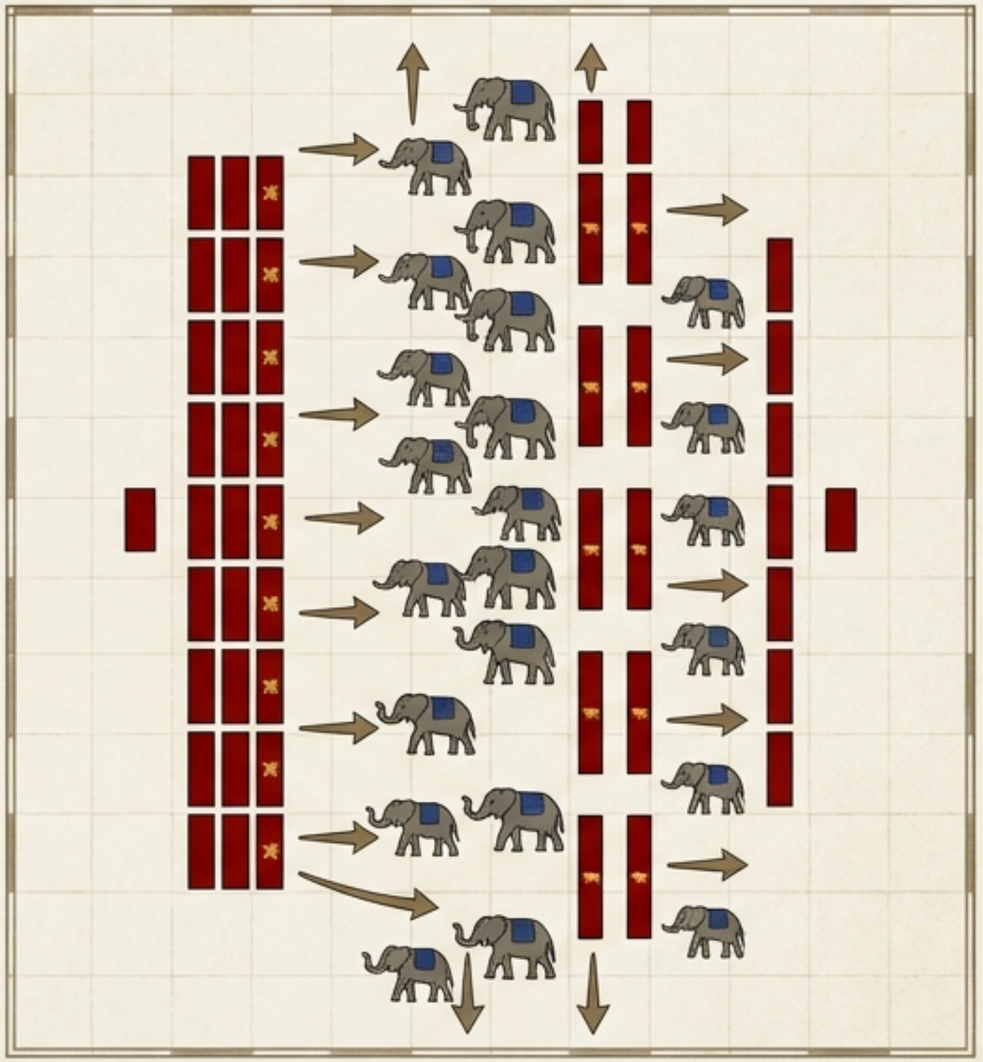
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The Forging of Strategy: Punic Wars

CANNAE (216 BC)



ZAMA (202 BC)



BELLIGERENTS:
Rome vs.
Carthage

INNOVATION:
The Maniple
System

CASUALTIES:
~50,000 Romans
(Cannae)

SOURCE:
Livy, Books
21-30

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Engineering Conquest: Alesia (52 BC)

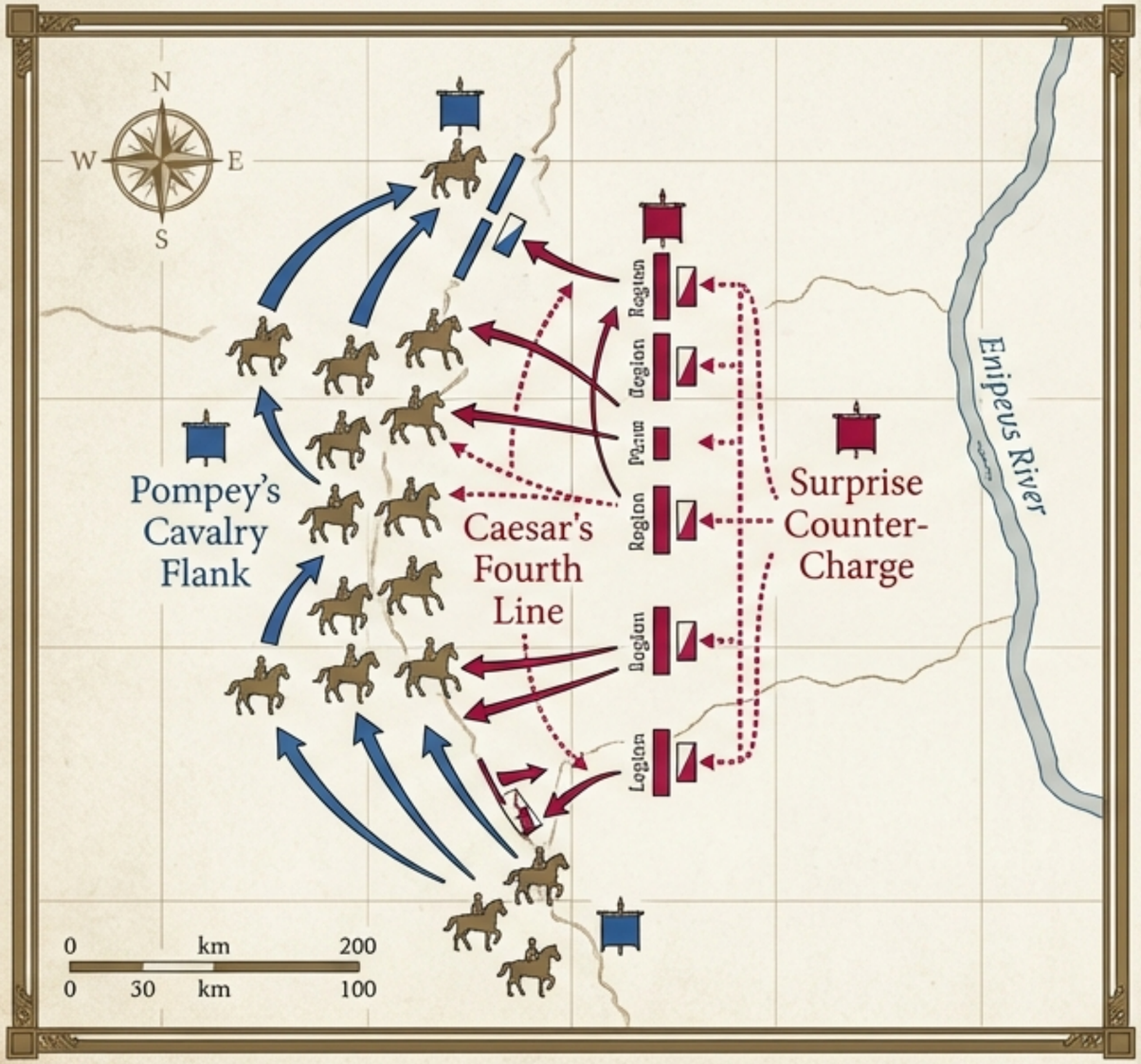


ANALYSIS: The Legionary carries his house. Caesar's victory was achieved not by the sword, but by the spade, constructing 25 miles of fortifications in weeks.

RESULT: Surrender of Vercingetorix.

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Civil Wars: Pharsalus (48 BC)



"They threw no spears, but crashed swords and axes through helmets and breastplates. They could recognize one another... fighting to decide the issue of the whole war."

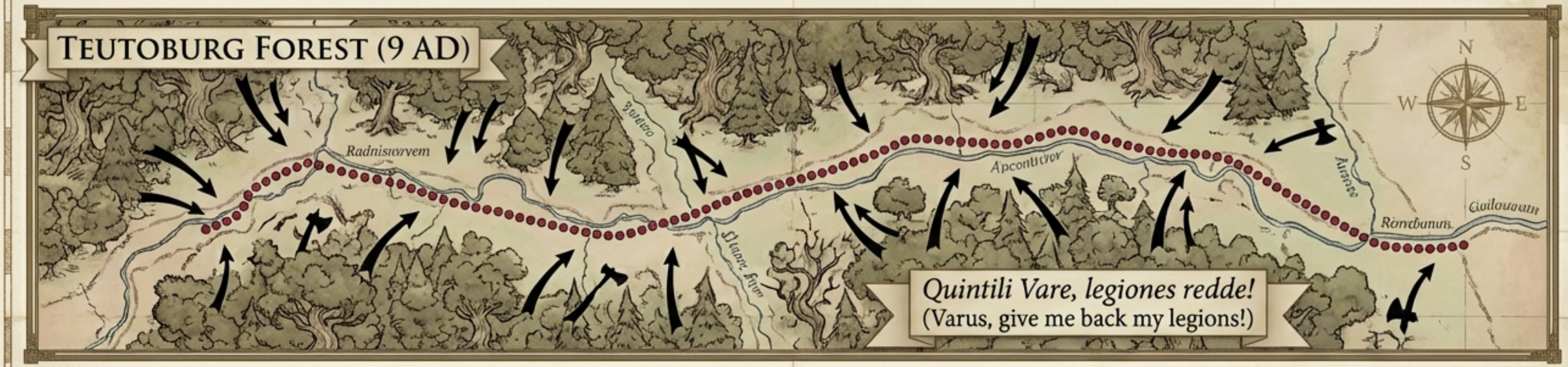
— Tacitus

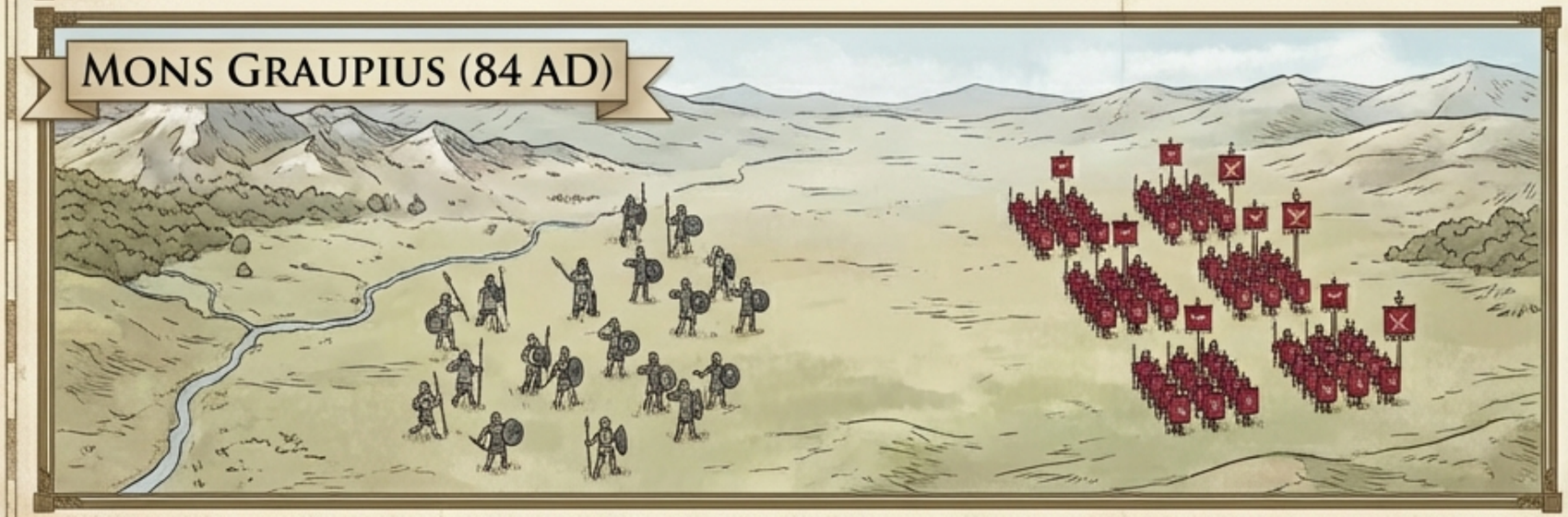
The Face Command:

Caesar ordered his troops to aim their pila at the faces of the enemy cavalry, banking on the vanity of the young aristocrats who feared facial scarring more than death.

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Limits of Empire: Britain & Germania





Comparative Campaign Analysis:

GERMANIA:	Asymmetric Ambush. Terrain Hostile. Outcome: Retreat.
BRITAIN:	Conventional Conquest. Open Field. Outcome: Victory.

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Total Siege: Jerusalem (70 AD)

"The Temple of Jerusalem is burned against Titus's orders."
— Josephus



Technique: Circumvallation combined with aggressive ramp construction to negate elevation advantages.

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The Eastern Rival: Julian's Persian War (363 AD)

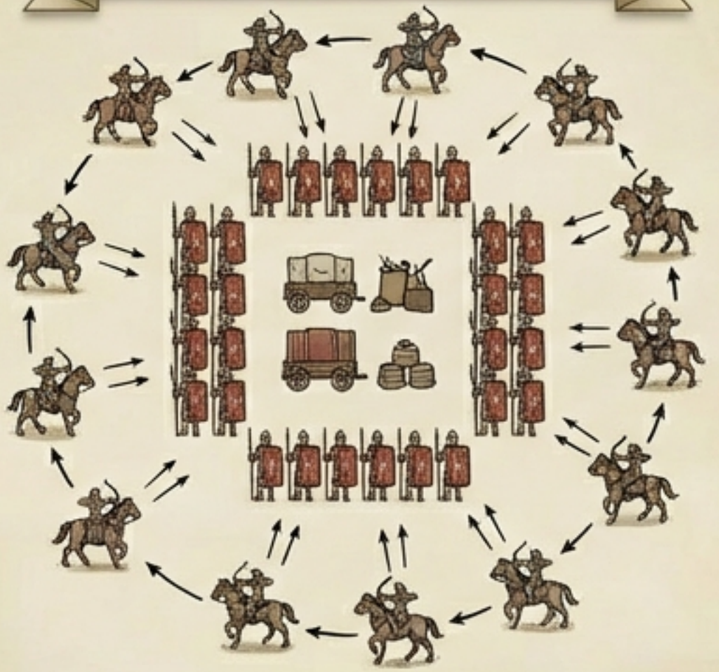
Tigris River

Euphrates River

Euphrates River

Ctesiphon

The Hollow Square



TACTICAL PROBLEM:
Heavy Infantry vs. Mobile Cavalry.

JULIAN THE APOSTATE.
Died in the retreat, marking the end of major offensive ambitions in the East.



"In the scorching sands of Persia, he encouraged his men by fighting in the front ranks." — Ammianus Marcellinus

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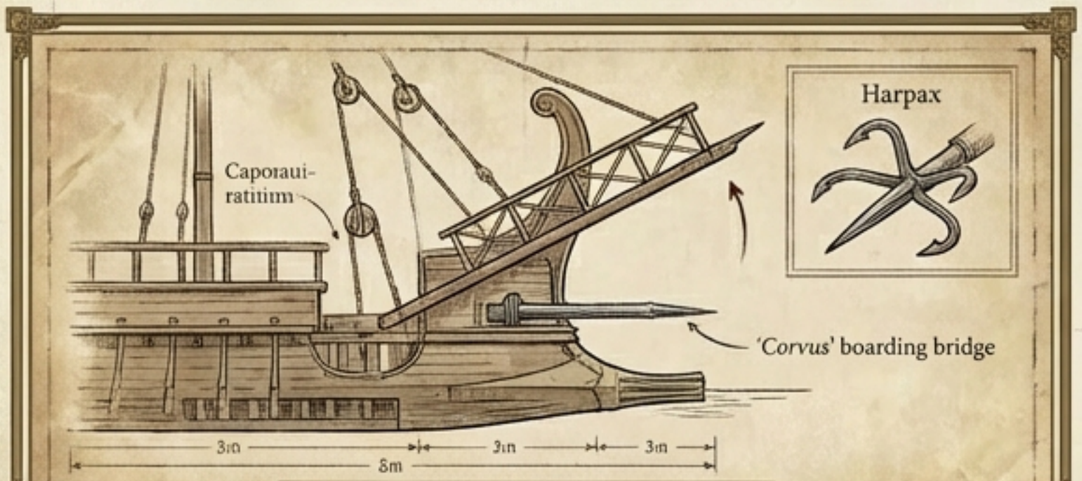
Catalogue of Stratagems (Frontinus)



HANNIBAL'S OXEN (diversion).



CAMOUFLAGED SCOUTS.



NAVAL INNOVATION.



FALSE RETREAT.

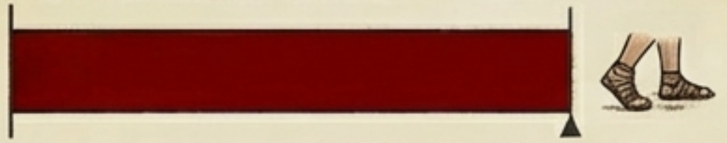
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The Sinews of War: Logistics & Kit



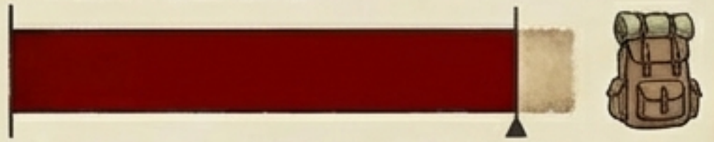
Legionary Metrics

Marching Pace:



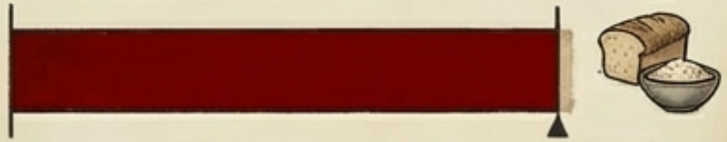
20 Roman Miles / Day

Pack Weight:



~45 lbs

Caloric Needs:



~3,000 kCal

"It is a fair day's work for one labourer to cut an acre of grass… hayfield should be irrigated again." — Pliny

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The Crisis of the Third Century

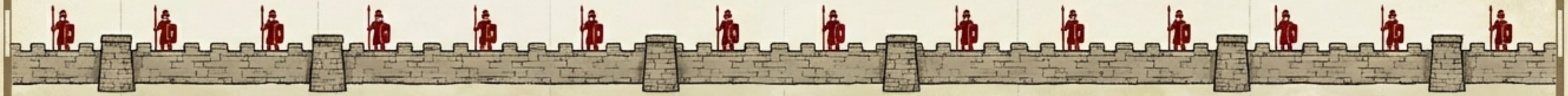
Maximinus Thrax
Gordian I
Gordian II
Balbinus
Pupienus
Gordian III
Philip
Decius
Gallus
Valerian
Gallienus



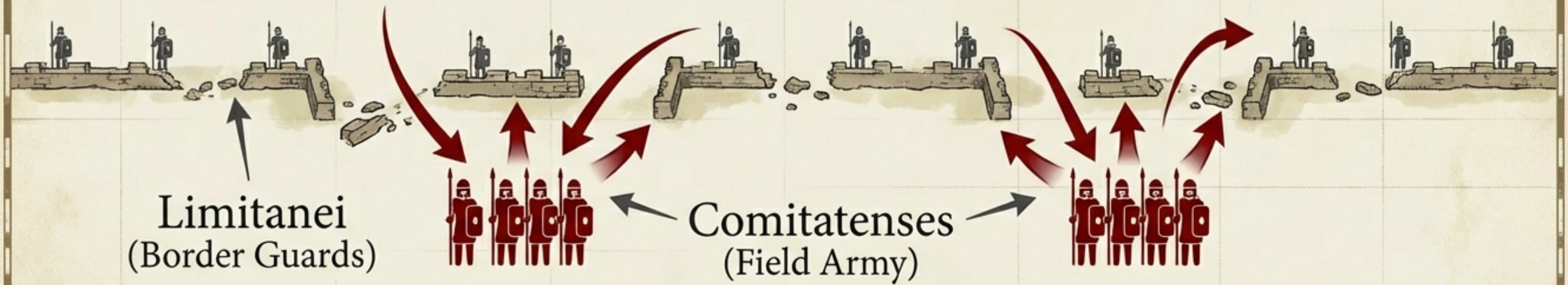
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Late Defensive Doctrine

Early Empire: Forward Defense



Late Empire: Defense in Depth



"The wailing of the infinite." — Ammianus Marcellinus

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THE LAST STAND: GOTHIC WARS (535-554 AD)



The port of Rome, take… eracure toraned in the port of Rome in us a noqu… oarthey field proving costiad; time a roted cal ant… athemity and horibies wait compornes and, anali… the bedeurs fiterwhin that conomic, where … devent between the port of Rome. In both… ort city and openwrport, in detrminutals… in under the arcitectures french o…

DEFENSE OF ROME (537 AD)

Belisarius's Ghost War.



Mounted Roman archers top atlop and immediately retreat.

Note: "Wolf Pits" used outside the gates.

Justinian's reconquest destroyed the very thing it sought to save.
Rome was retaken, but left in ruins.

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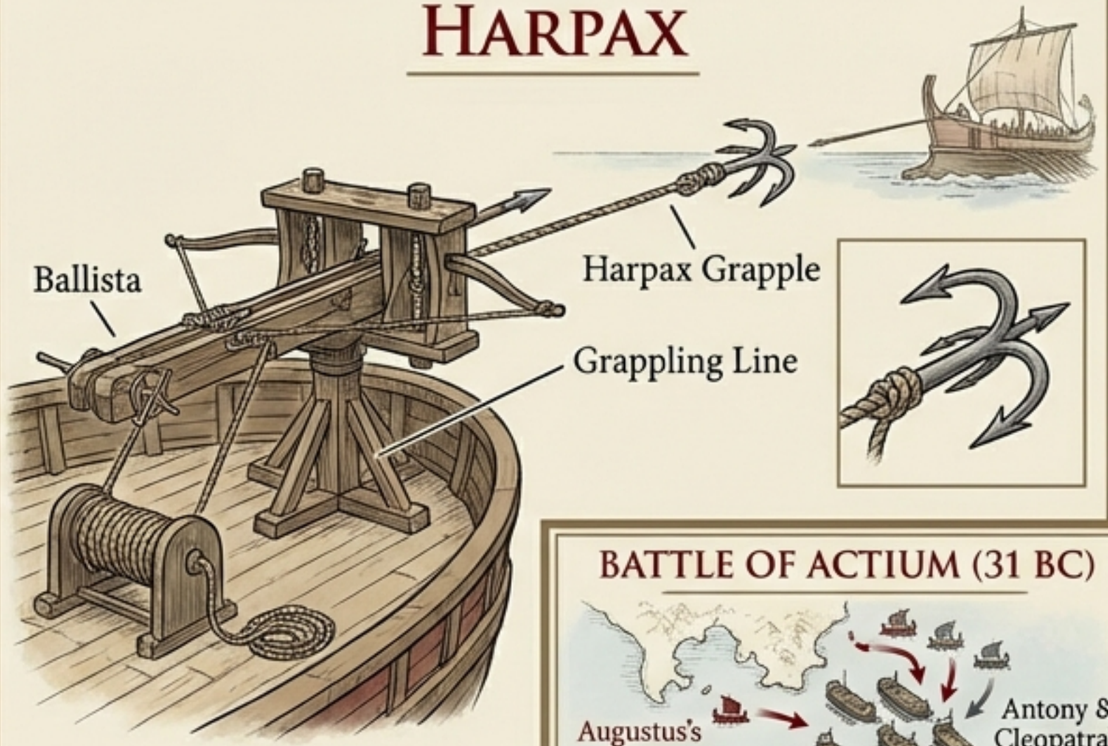
Naval Dominance & Innovation

Corvus



A boarding bridge with a spike, allowing Romans to engage in hand-to-hand combat, effectively turning sea battles into land battles.

Harpax



A ballista-fired grappling hook used to ensnare enemy ships at a distance, enabling boarding or capsizing.

BATTLE OF ACTIUM (31 BC)

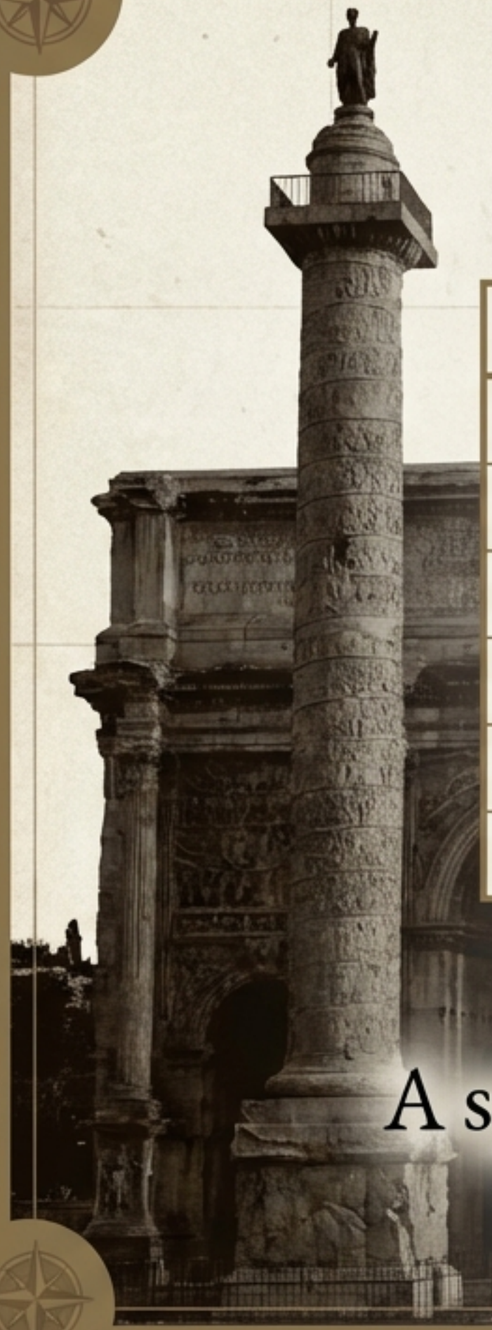


"Pliny notes dolphins carrying dead comrades, a sombre reflection on the sea's nature."

Source citation: Appian / Frontinus

Garamond Premier Pro, Iron Grey

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THE LEGACY OF MARS

Catalogue of Triumphs (selected)		
General	Year	Conflict
SCIPIO AFRICANUS	(201 BC)	- Zama
POMPEY THE GREAT	(61 BC)	- Mithridatic Wars
TITUS	(71 AD)	- Jewish War
TRAJAN	(106 AD)	- Dacian Wars
AURELIAN	(274 AD)	- Restitutor Orbis

A book... one the rain cannot close.
A spiral of scenes... men will read it with their feet.

TRANSITION: Republic > Empire > Byzantium > Europe.

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