Legionary: The Roman Soldier’s Unofficial Manual

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10-draft and conscription goes all the way back to Roman legions: *Lecti, vicarii, voluntarii.* WWI, WWII

16-“Professionals are predictable. The world is full of dangerous amateurs.”

35- Military intelligence: *Exploratares*, cavalrymen who range far ahead of the army seeking the movements and other intel from the enemy.

*165- Because scouting is taken seriously in the Roman army, the general…*

61- defense over offense. Scipio noticed that a certain shield had been elegantly and ornately decorated, and said he was not surprised that it was so adorned because its owner evidently trusted it more than his sword.

63-terror of Roman army.

110-The enemy uncovered their armor, and were seen blazing in helmets and breastplates…steel glittering keen and bright, and their horses wearing bronze and steel plates. Plutarch, Life of Crassus. WWI: French cavalry; Red trousers = instill fear.

**For WWII Lessons**:

145-Importance of Logistics. “One major difference a camp and a permanent base is the lack of kitchen facilities. The logistical issue is something that has also occurred to those trying to stop the legions invading them. While the legion itself may be invincible, its supply lines are not, and no army operated at its best while its soldiers are starving.”

“He fought by stamping on the enemy’s stomach” ~ Plutarch, Lucullus.

“They did not dread the enemy, but feared the narrowness of the roads and the vastness of the forest and that the supplies could not be brought up readily enough.” ~ Caesar, Gallic War

“Nothing distressed our troops so much as the scarcity of supplies.” ~ Tacitus, Histories.

“A legion on the march needs about 18,000 pounds of grain per day, 12,000 gallons of water, and 40,000 pounds of forage (grass or hay, fodder) for horses, oxen, and pack animals.”

154- Latin *ballistae* = ballistic = ballistic missile. Romans used scorpion to catapult stones (size of a plum) at enemy. Compare to Paris gun.

164- “They exterminate every form of life they encounter, sparing nothing, but they do not start pillaging until they get the order. When the Romans have taken a city, you will see human corpses , dogs cut in half, and dismembered parts of other animals. ~ Polybius, Histories

173 - “Roman battles are just drills will extra blood” ~ Josephus, enemy general

180- “Emperor Hadrian encouraged others by the example of his own soldierly spirit and would visit the sick soldiers in their quarters.” ~ Historia Augusta, Life of Hadrian