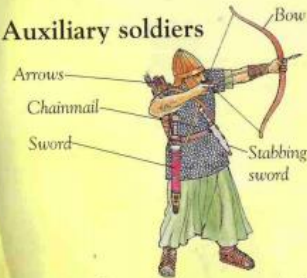


What you'll need

Your weapons and armour could save your life in battle, so get the best you can. The army will provide some of this equipment for legionaries but if you are an auxiliary, you must pay for your own clothes and weapons. If you are a cavalryman you must provide and equip your own horses. You can choose your battle armour – as long as you have the approval of your commanding officer.

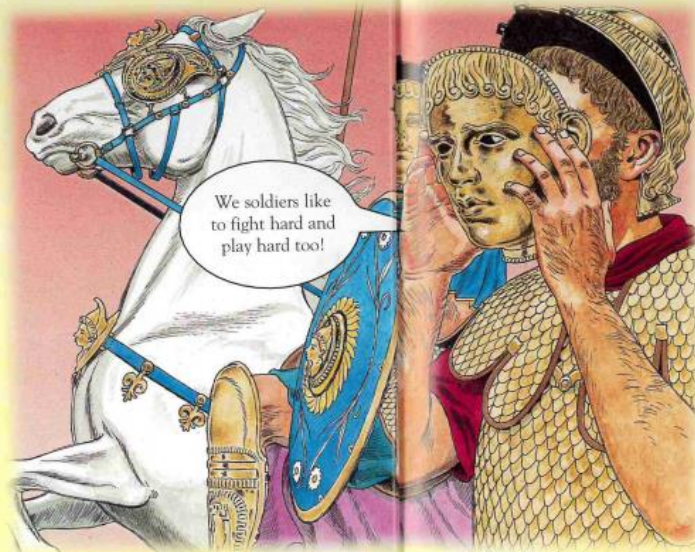
Auxiliary soldiers



▲ Auxiliary soldiers are recruited from different lands. This archer (above) is from the Middle East. Auxiliaries make use of their own weapons and armour.

Ceremonial armour

▼ For cavalry displays or festival parades, officers and their men wear beautiful ceremonial armour. They stage cavalry charges and mock battles, using weapons with wooden tips, instead of iron.



A soldier's shield

▲ Your shield (*scutum*) is made from wooden strips glued together and covered with leather or felt. It should be about one metre high to cover the most vulnerable parts of your body.

Horse armour

▼ For cavalry displays horses wear bronze eye shields and metal or leather masks as armour. Sometimes they have metal decorations on their bridles, reins and saddle straps.

The look of a legionary soldier

▼ This is how you'll look as a legionary soldier, fully dressed and ready for battle.



Packed and ready

You will carry your kit on a wooden pole over your shoulder. Take food, a water bottle, a pot and tools – a spade, a scythe, a mattock and an axe. Wear warm clothes under your tunic. Also try short pants or loose calf-length trousers and woollen socks.

Army discipline

Once you're sworn into the army you must behave like a soldier. Obey orders without any hesitation or question. Good discipline in battle is very important. Lives may be at risk if you disobey orders. Don't argue with officers or the centurion will punish you and all the others in your tent-group, too. The army will keep you very busy and very tired, so you won't have the energy to get into trouble! You'll be marching, battle training and doing 'fatigues' (all the dirty jobs).

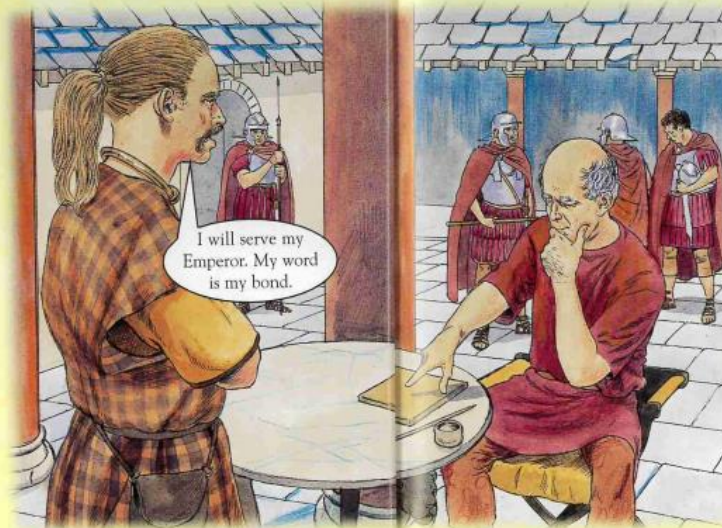
Swearing an oath

► New recruits swear a solemn oath that binds them for 25 years or until they die in battle. You must honour the emperor, obey your officers and never desert the army.



Officers in charge

Officers (centurions) are in charge of army discipline. They are tough, brave soldiers who began their career like you.



Viaticum

◄ Don't lose these three gold coins! That would get your army career off to a very bad start. They are called a *viaticum* and will be given to you after you have been sworn in, to pay for your journey to the training camp.

Rise and shine

► Every morning at daybreak you must report to the centurion in charge. He will give orders for jobs to be done today.



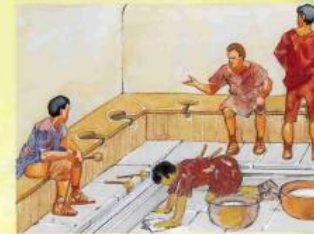
Things to do

► If you oversleep, check the duty rota. You will find your name written there with the tasks you have to do beside it.



Fatigues

▼ As a junior soldier, you'll do all the dirty jobs like cleaning the lavatories, clearing blocked drains or stoking the bath-house fires. You might join the other soldiers outside the camp felling timber, quarrying stone and building roads. Fatigues will harden your body and make you a stronger fighter, but will leave you exhausted at the end of every day.



Soldier doing fatigues

Punishments

▼ Soldiers who rebel or run away will be beaten to death by their comrades. If a whole century (group of 80 men) disobeys orders, it might be decimated (though this was very rare), which means one in every ten men will be killed.

