



QUEENSLAND WARGAMER is the journal of the University of Queensland
Wargaming Society, published five times a year. Editor - David
Bugler, c/- Physics Library, Uni. of Qld., St.Lucia 4067

Cover copyright © 1979 G. Turk
Contents copyright © 1979 UQWS

Editorial

Well, this is what you have all (hopefully) been waiting for - the second issue of our journal. From now on, I intend to produce an issue every two months, except that December and February will be combined into one bumper issue to coincide with Orientation Week.

This issue is merely a token of better things, to prove that we are still alive. I hope that future issues (starting with October) will be brim-full of fascinating articles and reports aimed at furthering the great hobby of wargaming in all its aspects; in other words, members had better give me plenty of good stuff to print! Otherwise I'll write it all myself, so don't say you haven't been warned.

Contributions can be sent to me care of the Physics Library. In general, I will consider any article dealing with aspects of wargaming or military history. Articles should be around 1,000 - 1,500 words, though "notes" of about 500 words are also acceptable. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS MUST BE TYPED. By the way, any worthwhile fictional material will be considered if it's relevant and of good quality.

Remember - the journal is only as good as its contributors!

DAVID BUGLER,
EDITOR.

NOTES ON THE UNIFORMS OF THE SECOND PUNIC WAR 218 TO 201 BC

John H.S. Gerson (A/Lieut., RAN)

Whilst there has been more than enough published on the tactics of the Second Punic War, until recently there were no publications dealing with the uniforms of this period. Nowadays, the wargamer and uniforms enthusiast can consult Phil Barker's useful Armies of the Macedonian and Punic Wars (1971) and Peter Connolly's excellent The Roman Army (1975) and Hannibal and the Enemies of Rome (1978). Together these books completely cover the military dress of Roman, Carthaginian, African and Andalusian troops. Unfortunately they contain little or no information on the other combatants of the Hanniballic War: the Western Greeks, Bruttians, Ligurians, Celtiberians and even the Roman cavalry. In this article I hope to give an idea of the dress and equipment of these troops. I have based my reconstruction drawings on ancient literary descriptions, monumental evidence and archaeological finds. Since I was breaking what to me is new ground, I have probably made many mistakes but I hope that these are not too serious.

THE RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS

1. EARLY ROMAN CAVALRY

At the beginning of the third century BC, the Roman cavalry were not heavily equipped. Their lack of armour meant that they could dismount nimbly to fight on foot. However, they were at a grave disadvantage compared to the Carthaginians cuirassiers.

The man illustrated wears only a tunic and a protective apron or perizoma, whose lower edge is just showing below his shield. The perizoma was a semicircular piece of leather or thick patterned material which hung from the belt. His only armour is an Attic helmet with a horsehair crest.

Early Roman cavalry were armed with a thrusting spear, a sword and probably some javelins as well. The spear was too thin and weak to be of much use. The cavalry shield was a flimsy affair made of leather. Its exact shape is not known. Polybius says that the shield looked like a round cake with a knob in the middle and then spoils his description by calling the shield a thureos, which is an oblong shield with a central rib. Perhaps the shield was round with a raised spine, like Celtic cavalry shields.

The horse furniture is based on Campanian and Etruscan art. The horse has a bridle with a snaffle bit and a studded neck-band but no saddle nor saddle cloth. The horse itself is small, being only 14 hands (140 cm) tall at the withers.

2. ROMAN ARMoured CAVALRY

The equipment of the early Roman cavalry was so slack, that the Romans swiftly changed to Greek equipment as soon as they recognised its superiority. Exactly when this occurred is not known, but it has been suggested that it was one of Scipio Africanus' many military reforms. The change certainly took place in or before 205 BC, since in that year Scipio outfitted 300 Roman cavalry with Greek arms supplied by the Sicilians.

The Roman cavalryman shown here is based on the Aemilius Paulus triumphal monument (168 BC), but is probably applicable to the late Second Punic War. He wears a short coat of iron mail like the byrnie worn by Roman infantry, save that the hem at the side has a short slit in it so that he can sit down. A sleeveless leather coat with another slit was worn beneath the mail. He wears an Attic helmet or a "witches hat" Boetian helmet (detail a).

The Roman cavalry now used the Greek cavalry shield. These were sturdy, round and large and carried on arm straps. The one metre shield shown here is based on a third century BC Sicilian sculpture. A second century BC Roman relief shows a smaller 60cm shield, but these may have been used only by officers. Roman cavalry were also armed with a robust Greek spear (note the butt spike), a sword and perhaps some javelins. The sword was hung from the belt on the right side.

What kind of sword did the Roman cavalry use? Livy calls the weapon a Spanish sword which is not as helpful as it sounds since there are two types of Spanish sword answering his description. These are the Celtiberian short sword used by Roman infantry and the Iberian sabre, better known as the kopis (detail b.). Both can be used from horseback, though the kopis was the most popular Greek cavalry sword. Now, Dionysius of Halicarnassus records that the early Roman cavalry used a long slashing sword. He must be referring to the Etruscan sabre, which had a 70-80cm slashing blade. Therefore, the reformed Roman cavalry probably used the Iberian Kopis, which was an elegant descendant of the old Etruscan

sabre. This agrees with other traditions.

The Iberian sabre had a short curved blade, suitable for cutting and thrusting. It could chop off an arm or head with ease. The Romans seem to have adopted it in the last decade of the third century BC.

The horse illustrated here has a simple saddle cloth, a breast strap and a crupper strap. Etruscan and Campanian cavalry used horse armour, but it is not possible to tell whether the Romans did. Nevertheless. I have shown this horse with a bronze chamfron (face guard).

3. TARENTINE FOOTSOLDIER

The south of Italy was ringed by Greek cities, the largest of which was Tarentum. The Tarentines hired Pyrrhus to invade Italy and later sided with Hannibal (from 212 to 209 BC).

Tarentine footsoldiers were no match for legionaries "being inferior to the Romans both in weapons and tactical skill" (Livy). The Tarentines, like other Western Greeks, were very lightly equipped. The man shown here wears a knee-length tunic and a conical bronze helmet called a pilos. His pilos has a sharper point than the usual Hellenistic type. Attic helmets (see 4) were worn as well. For protection the soldier relies on his large round hoplon shield, which was faced with bronze. He does not wear greaves (shin guards). He is armed with a heavy thrusting spear and a short Greek sword. All in all, he is very similar to a Spartan warrior, which is not surprising since the Tarentines were of Spartan ancestry and used Spartan mercenaries.

Tarentine officers probably wore a breastplate, strap-on greaves and an Attic helmet. A Thracian helmet (detail a) may have been worn instead. The "Etruscan" soldier in a Thracian helmet illustrated by Connolly (1978) page 28, was really painted by a Tarentine artist and may represent a Tarentine warrior. The Tarentines' neighbours, the Sicilians and Carthaginians, used Thracian helmets.

4. TARENTINE HORSEMAN

Even if the Tarentines were poor footsoldiers, they had excellent cavalry. The armoured rider shown here may be an officer. He wears an Attic helmet and a short bronze breastplate with hinged metal shoulder flaps. Fragments of such a cuirass have been found in Southern Italy. A skirt of fringed leather flaps (pteryges) shows below the breastplate. The man also wears a cloak and light shoes. He is armed with a spear and a sword like the infantry's.

The absence of a shield raises a question. Was it because Tarentine cavalry did not carry a shield or because of the early date (before 250 BC) of the sculptures used by me to prepare this reconstruction? Greek cavalry did not use a shield until after about 300 BC. However, Etruscan sculptures show that a shield was not always carried by Greco-Italian armoured cavalry.

The Tarentines had a famous force of light cavalry: "Tarantinoi" became a Hellenistic term for light-armed horsemen. The Tarantinoi were armed with several one metre javelins and dressed in a long tunic like the infantryman's (see 3), save that the tunic folds hid the belt. One Tarentine sculpture shows a light horseman wearing an Etrusco-Corinthian helmet (detail a). Such helmets were also worn by Etruscan heavy cavalry. The same sculpture does not show a shield.

The horse shown here has a bridle with a Greco-Persian bit, but no saddle nor saddle cloth. The knot in its tail could be a decoration or a repaired broken tail.

5. BRUTTIAN FOOTSOLDIER

The Bruttians lived on the toe of the Italian boot. They sided with Hannibal and upon being defeated were treated by Rome with great severity. They were forbidden to raise troops even as Roman allies (called socii) and the characteristic Bruttian panoply began to disappear. (Italian soldiers serving with Roman armies as socii wore their national dress).

I have not been able to find much on Bruttian dress and this reconstruction is based upon every possible inference from all the evidence

known to me. The footsoldier illustrated wears a short tunic of thick cloth and a bronze belt. He might wear instead a perizoma over a thinner tunic or even a perizoma by itself. He has a Samnite Attic helmet with feather plumes. Chieftains might wear a horned helmet.

The shield is the type known to the Greeks as a thureos and to the Romans as a scutum. The South Italian scutum was an oblong shield made of wickerwork covered with leather. It had a central raised rib.

The Bruttians appear to have been armed with throwing spears. This man has a leaf-bladed sword as well.

Pyrrhus used Bruttian troops as auxiliaries. Their equipment certainly resembled that of Hellenistic light infantry (helmet, thureos, sword and javelins). Hannibal's 10 000 Bruttians at Zama were probably equipped as heavy infantry with hoplon shield, spear and slashing sword.

6. LIGURIAN FOOTSOLDIER

The Ligurians were an ancient race who inhabited the north-west of Italy. They fought for Carthage at the Metaurus and Zama. It took the Romans a long and fierce struggle to subdue them. Ligurians served as Roman auxiliaries from the first half of the second century BC.

The Ligurians were small and dark-haired. They appear to have been under strong Celtic influence and the warrior illustrated is similar to the contemporary Celtic fighter. Unlike a Celt, who fought bare-chested, he wears a shirt gathered in at the waist by a belt and a coarse woollen cloak. He is armed with a spear, a Celtic scutum and a sword, which was intermediate in size between a Roman and Celtic sword (i.e. about 70cm long). By the time of Augustus, the Romans' Ligurian auxiliaries used Roman weapons, presumably a short sword and a pair of leaf-bladed spears.

The Ligurians also used slingers and light infantry armed with round shields faced with bronze.

7. GAUL WITH SOFT SWORD

The North Italian Gauls (Celts) who fought for Hannibal were armed with the long La T'ene slashing sword. This weapon was used in great chopping blows at head and shoulders. But sometimes surprising things

happened. At the Battle of Bergamo (223 BC) the Celts' long swords "could only give one downward cut with any effect, but that after this the edges so turned and the blade so bent, that unless they had time to straighten them with their foot against the ground, they could not deliver a second blow" (Polybius). This incident has caused a great deal of confusion. Some authorities, such as Delbruck or Walbank, have denied that it took place at all.

Swords have bent in battle throughout history. The usual causes are misuse of the weapon or poor quality metal in the blade or both. In the Hallstatt period (before 450 BC), weapons were made of wrought iron, which is a soft and weak metal. It is no surprise to find an Etruscan plaque of 550 BC showing a warrior bending his iron spearhead by ramming it into another's Corinthian helmet.

In the La T'ene period, sword blades were made by two different methods. The good quality blades were fashioned from iron and steel strips. The others were still made from soft wrought iron. It was probably swords of this type that bent at Bergamo: a Celtic soft sword has been found nearby.

Even a soft sword will not bend unless it is maltreated. Dionysius remarks that the Celts' sword often slipped in their damp sweaty hands and smote with the flat of the blade, rather than with the cutting edge. Since a Celtic sword was very thin, a blow on the flat of the blade could easily bend it. To restraighen the blade, one must strike the flat of the sword in the opposite direction: this is easiest done by placing the sword on the ground and stamping on it.

Not all Celtic swords were soft. Some blades are known to have been capable of being bent double in the hands and then springing back when released. However, not enough Celtic swords have been metallurgically examined to say how many were soft, of middling quality or tough and springy. Grave finds suggest that the springy swords were rare. The Celts used to bend a dead warrior's sword until it became hopelessly twisted and then bury it with him.

The Celt shown here is stamping on his bent sword-blade to restraighen it, whilst he makes a futile attempt to defend himself with his scutum.

Italian art shows that the North Italian scutum was under 50cm wide. This agrees with Polybius' statement that it was not broad enough to effectively cover the man.

8. CELTIBERIAN FOOTSOLDIER

In the third century BC, Spain was inhabited by two peoples. The original inhabitants of Spain, the Iberians, still dwelt in Andalusia and the east. These are the Spanish soldiers illustrated in Connolly (1978). The Spanish plateau had been taken over by Celtic invaders, who became known as Celtiberians. The Celtiberians fought for and against both Carthage and Rome.

Celtiberian armies were composed of light and heavy infantry and cavalry. The man shown here is a heavy infantryman armed with a long Celtic scutum. He wears a gold or silver neck-ring, padded "hair greaves" and a rough cloak coloured black (the colour, apparently, of most Spanish sheep at this time). He has a bronze Montefortino helmet captured from the Romans and fitted with a purple crest. He is armed with a spear, javelin, dagger and a sword. The sword was the La T'ene I cut-and-thrust short sword later adopted by Roman infantry. It had a 50cm blade and a forked antennae hilt. The dagger was a half-size version of the sword. The Iberian kopis was rarely used by the Celtiberians.

According to Diodorus Siculus, the Celtiberians prepared extra-hard steel for sword blades by burying ingots of iron in the ground and allowing corrosion to eat away the weaker parts of the metal. Whilst there is no metallurgical reason to doubt this story, procession steel in this way would be very slow!

The Celtiberian light infantry carried a 60 cm round shield similar to the Iberian shield shown in the next figure. This shield seems to have become more common at the expense of the scutum during the third century BC. This may indicate a progressive increase in the light infantry component of a Celtiberian army. At the end of the third century BC about half of a Celtiberian army was light infantry.

9. LUSITANIAN LIGHT INFANTRYMAN

The Lusitanians were a Celtiberian people living in what is now

Portugal. They were excellent fast-moving light infantry. They could reduce heavily armed and ponderous Roman troops to despair. However, in a straight fight they were no match for legionaries or even Celtiberians.

The man pictured here wears a cap made of woven sinew (tendon), which hides his long thick hair. He could also fight bareheaded in which case he would tie his hair down with a headband. He is clad in black and armed with a La T'ene dagger and several barbed iron javelins. He carries an Iberian shield 30cm across by a handle behind its boss. The shield was concave and made of wicker interwoven with sinew to toughen it. When not in use it could be slung on the back by a shoulder strap.

RECOMMENDED READING

1. ANCIENT AUTHORS

Diodorous Siculus

Dionysius of Halicarnassus: Roman Antiquities

Livy: The War with Hannibal

Rome and the Mediterranean

Polybius: The Histories

Strabo: Geography

2. MODERN WORKS

Arribas, Antonio. The Iberians 1963

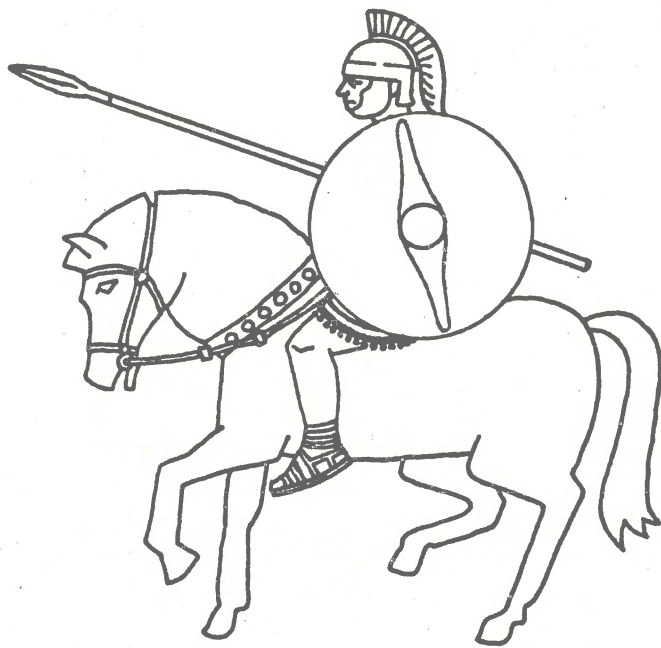
Barker, Phil. Armies of the Macedonian and Punic Wars 1971

Connolly, Peter. The Roman Army 1975

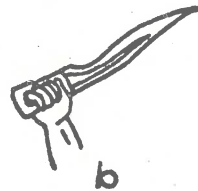
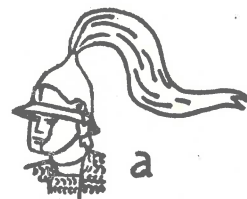
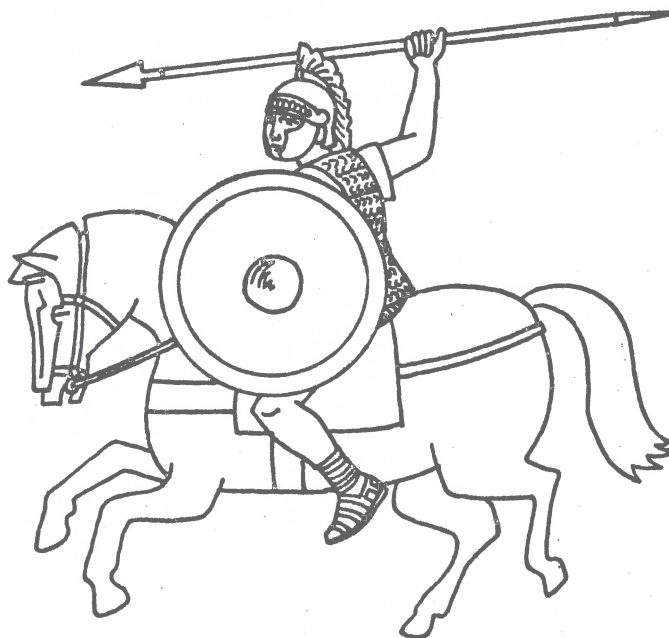
Hannibal and the Enemies of Rome 1978

Cottrell, Leonard. Enemy of Rome 1960

Scullard, H.H. A History of the Roman World 753 to 146 BC (3rd ed.) 1961

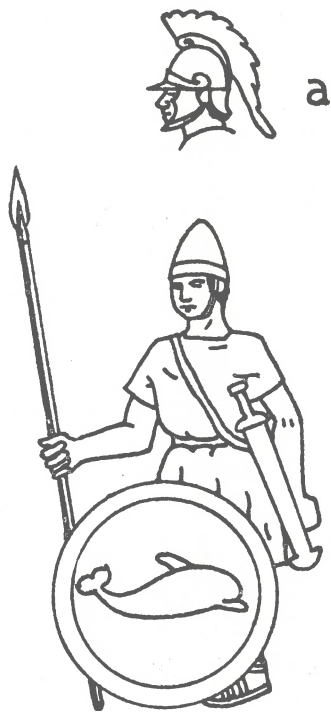


1. Early Roman Cavalry.

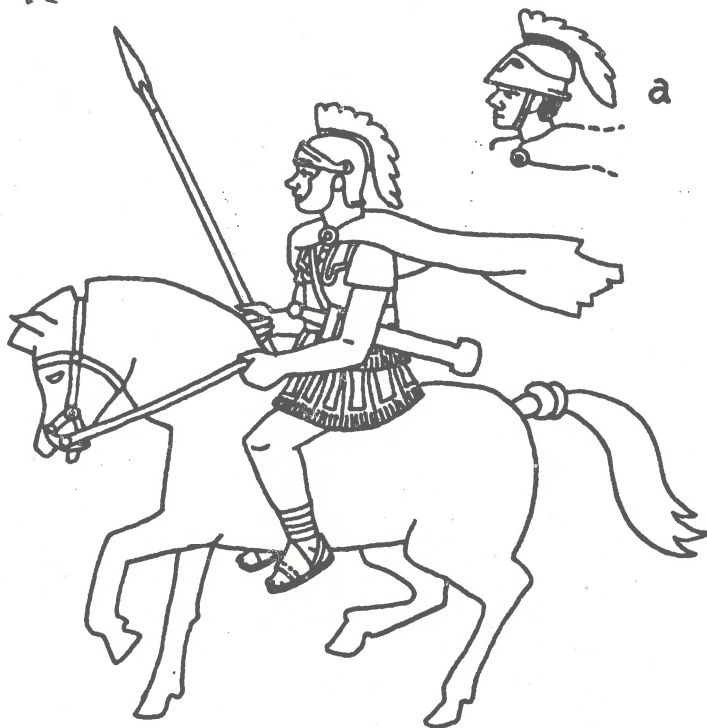


2. Roman Armoured Cavalry.

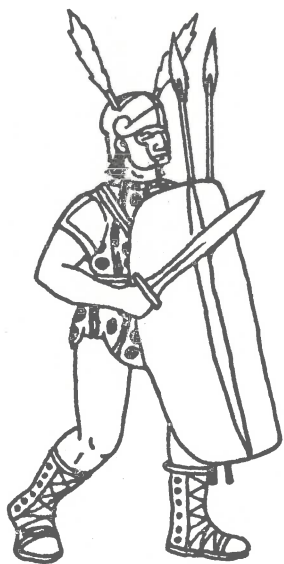




3. Tarentine Footsoldier



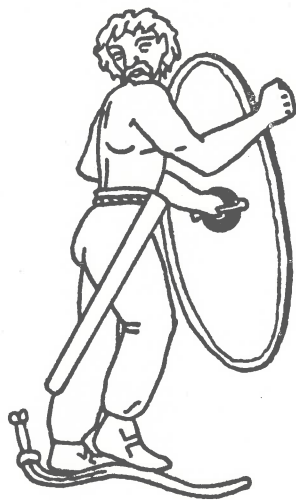
4. Tarentine Horseman



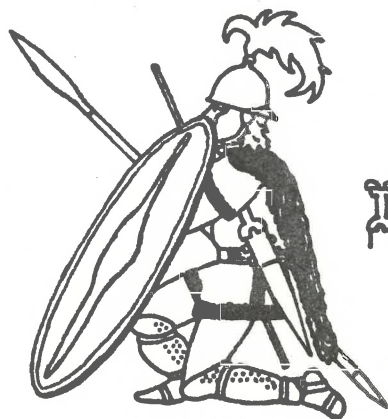
5. Bruttian Footsoldier



6. Ligurian Footsoldier



7. Gaul with Soft Sword



8. Celtiberian Footsoldier



9. Lusitanian Light Infantryman

The Presidents Page.

by K.Bugeia.

In this first all new revamped edition of Queensland Wargamer I would like to say several things about the club and what it represents for the benefit of members and other readers alike.

The club is made up of members predominantly drawn from the University Students Union and we are affiliated with that organisation. Our Executive comprises a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, all of whom must be Union members. From time to time several select committees will be set up to organise some activity or explore the possibility of some occurrence. One of these committees is the Film Committee.

The club meets on the second Sunday of each month in the Union College Conference room. I would like to thank the college administration for allowing us the use of college facilities. Meetings start at about 2.00 p.m.

The club also sponsors a club competition. The winner of this is called (amongst other things) Club Champion of ????????. The ???????? is filled by the section of which he is champion. viz Ancients, Napoleonics or D.&.D.

At the last general meeting of the Society it was decided to suspend the Napoleonics and D.&.D. competitions owing to various reasons. The Ancients competition will go ahead. I hope that all participants will enter into the spirit of that decision and organise their first matches as soon as possible (please be kind to the poor Pontics). The following is an up to date schedule of the Ancients competition:-

| <u>Player.</u> | <u>Army.</u> | <u>Games.</u> | <u>Points.</u> |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| K.Flynn | Alexandrian Macedonian. | 1 | 3 |
| N.Bugeia | Pontic. | 2 | 0 |
| G.Turk | Norman. | 1 | 3 |
| P.McKeller | Roman | 1 | 3 |
| J.Sendercock | Sassanid Persia. | 1 | 0 |
| A.Osborne | Caroligian Franks. | 0 | 0 |

The following games will be played this weekend:-

Macedonian v Roman.

Persian v Pontic.

A final note to all those who read this page. We as members of the Society are not Warmongers. Most of us are Pacifists who simply have a hobby which SIMULATES warfare. The only real violence that occurs at one of our battles is perhaps the early demise of a dice or certain unlucky figures. We feel that perhaps it would be a great deal less bloody if REAL wars were fought on a table where only your pride can be hurt (or perhaps your hand when you don't see Johns javelin figure).

At present the laws of this state prohibit the sale of lead based figures across the counter. More about that next issue.

Das Feurer.

