

# A Roman Battle



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- The army would be up at dawn
- At headquarters, the legates, military tribunes and senior centurions would wait for the emperor at headquarters
- There he would listen to their advice
- Each contubernium would wait together for orders from their centurion, then they would march off to join their cohort and legion

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- Prayers were said at the camp altar as the Emperor sacrificed to Jupiter
- Oil and perfume were poured on the sacred fire and an ox would be sacrificed
- Its guts would then be examined for signs and omens
- The Emperor would then make an encouraging speech and then the trumpets would ring out three times as they were all asked if they were ready for war

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- As they marched out for battle they formed a line for battle
- In the front line are the auxiliaries to slow the enemy down
- As the enemy approaches, they are fired at by Syrian archers and Balearic slingers
- Once they break through the auxiliaries the enemy must face the lines of legionaries, who first fire their javelins at the same time as the carroballistae arrows are fired

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- Next, the legionaries draw their swords and run forwards following the standards calling on Jupiter
- As men are wounded they are brought out by medical orderlies and treated
- As each line of legionaries gives way, another is in place behind it
- Meanwhile at each side the alae or cavalry wings are engaging with the enemy cavalry

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- They can also be sent to chase enemy soldiers who are running away in realisation that the Roman lines will not give in
- After the battle, awards are given to the men who distinguished themselves – corona civica or medals and promotions
- A triumph could be held for a great victory