

**Roman Battle Tactics 109BC-AD313**  
Osprey Elite series No. 155 (2007)  
Text by Ross Cown ; illustrated by Adam Hook

**Contents:**

Introduction  
Legionary Battle Lines and Manoeuvres  
Offensive and Defensive Formations  
Epilogue

**Colour Plates:**

Legionary Centuries in Close and Open Order  
The Testudo  
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Battle Array (2 plates)  
Legionary Century Charging  
Lanciarrii Attacking Parthian Cataphracts  
Cavalry Wedge and Testudo

**Comments:**

This is an excellent book which really looks in-depth at Roman battle formations and tactics. Its companion volume (Elite 172) covers 500 years, some of which is relatively obscure, so has to take up space providing background and context (which it does very well). This volume covers about 400 years but of a period very familiar to most gamers and military enthusiasts; therefore the author can dispense with much of the context and concentrate on the tactics.

The author takes a particular tactic or situation ó charging up or downhill for instance, and then describes it with reference to actual battles ó in this particular example, he uses six battles to demonstrate his points.

The reader really understands how to handle a Roman army on the tabletop after reading this ó excellent. I would however read it in conjunction with its sister volume.

**--Paul Le Long**

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