Roman Battle Tactics 390-110BC

Osprey Elite series No. 172 (2010) Text by Nic Fields; illustrated by Gerry and Sam Embleton

Contents:

Introduction Chronology of Major Events Italy Before Rome The Age of Kings The Age of Conquests The Roman Way of War

Colour Plates:

From War Band to Phalanx
Manipulus in Battle Array
Battle Array with Velites
Cavalry Turma in Battle Array
Legio in Battle Array
Consular Army Entrenching
Consular Army Drawn Up For Battle

Comments:

The first half of this book is a history lesson of early Rome, its enemies and the evolution of its armed forces. This is very interesting and well-explained. The second half of the book then describes how each incarnation of the Roman army deployed and fought. There are plenty of schematics showing formations that accompany the (excellent) plates. I would think that any gamer interested in ancient warfare would get a lot from this book, especially the second half. The parts dealing with the transition from war bands to formed military structure are particularly fascinating.

You should also take a look at Elite 155 which looks at the period 109BC-AD313 ó together the two books make a great read.

--Paul Le Long

