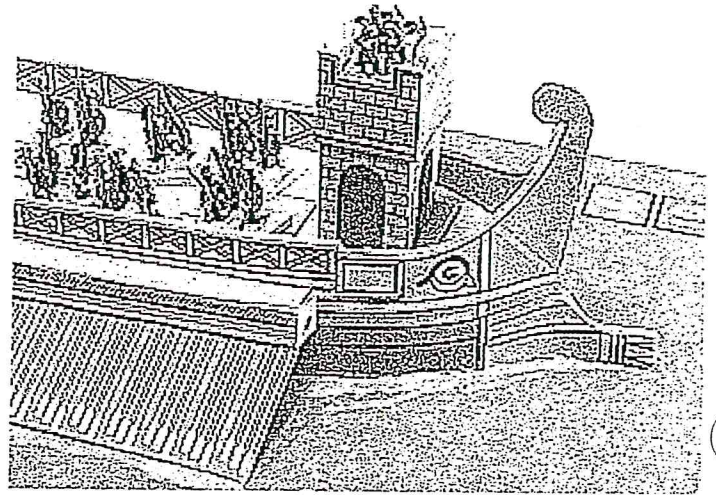


Rome as a dictator after a short civil war. As ruler of Rome, Julius Caesar did many things. He used his power to carry out much-needed reform, such as relieving debt and enlarging the senate to include representatives for more Roman citizens in other territories. Many senators disliked him and were jealous of him. Eventually, several senators led by Cassius and Brutus conspired against him and murdered him using daggers. After his death, two men rose to power, his grandson, Octavian, and a powerful general and politician named Mark Antony. Instead of warring, the two men agreed to share control of Rome.

### The Battle of Actium

During their shared rule over Rome, Mark Antony traveled to Egypt (part of the Roman Empire) and fell in love with the ruler of Egypt, a woman named Cleopatra. Together, Mark Antony and Cleopatra planned to invade Rome and seize control of the empire and rule it as king and queen. The Battle of Actium was an important turning point in the history of Egypt and Rome. When Octavian (later known as the Emperor Augustus) met the combined forces of Mark Antony and Queen Cleopatra of Egypt, Roman forces faced Roman forces, and they were pretty evenly matched. The majority of the fighting took place on the sea. The fighting continued throughout the day of September 2, 31 B.C., until, unexplainably, Cleopatra took her ships and left the naval battle. Mark Antony, left his troops behind and followed her. The result was that Octavian and his navy won the battle. Octavian became ruler of Rome and the Romans changed his name to Emperor Augustus.



### The Roman Legion

The Roman army was called the Roman Legion. Soldiers were called Legionnaires. Roman soldiers come from all over the empire of Rome. The Romans learned many things from the civilizations they conquered. They learned strategies and formations from the Greeks. They also borrowed many weapons from the armies they conquered. For example, they began using the swords, they had seen the Hispanian soldiers using. They changed the size and shape of their shields and even designed their own spear called the pilum. Other weapons the Romans developed and mastered are the scorpion and the ballista.

The Roman Soldier

