Ayelet Peer, "Entry on: A Roman Soldier Handbook by Alison Hawes", peer-reviewed by Lisa Maurice and Susan Deacy. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2020). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/946. Entry version as of September 14, 2026.

Alison Hawes

A Roman Soldier Handbook

United Kingdom (2009)

TAGS: Roman Army Vindolanda

We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	A Roman Soldier Handbook
Country of the First Edition	United Kingdom
Country/countries of popularity	United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	2009
First Edition Details	Alison Hawes, *A Roman Soldier Handbook*. A &C Black (Bloomsbury), London, 2009, 24 pp.
ISBN	0778799743; 9780778799740
Genre	Handbooks and manuals
Target Audience	Young adults (Juvenile readers)
Author of the Entry	Ayelet Peer, Bar-Ilan University, ayelet.peer@gmail.com
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This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children's and Young Adults' Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of "Artes Liberales" of the University of Warsaw.

Creators

Alison Hawes (Author)

Alison Hawes has been a freelance children's writer since 1998. She writes fiction and non-fiction for children aged 4–14 years. She previously worked in education, including as an infant teacher, and a literacy tutor for teenagers.

Source:

Official website (accessed: February 3, 2020)

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Additional information

Summary

This handbook contains information and facts about Roman legionary life, from food to paychecks and to their everyday life in the Roman army. The text is accompanied by photos and illustrations.

The book also offers a short glossary and further reading, listing websites, books and places you can visit and learn about the Roman army in the UK, such as Vindolanda.

Analysis

The aim of this handbook is to provide young readers with relevant information about the life of a Roman legionary in a fun and lighthearted way. Together with the facts about the Roman army life are tips, such as how to ask for a letter of recommendation from someone important, and advice to wear a scar; there is even a garum recipe. Overall, this handbook gives the readers a glimpse to what it was like to serve in one of the strongest armies ever created. This guidebook makes the Roman army come to life. It is not just a collection of dry facts, but rather they are presented in an enticing and entertaining way, using anecdotes, tips and even a few Latin words and phrases. Things are presented in a way that can attract the curiosity and engagement of young readers, who should find much of interest in the information about the basic clothing for soldiers or their nourishment, facts which are not common knowledge.

In the end, while the guide offers fun and interesting facts, it mainly emphasizes that Roman soldiers had to work very hard under rough conditions in order to stay alive and earn their keep. This makes the readers value their sacrifices and toils.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts

Roman Army Vindolanda

Other Motifs, Figures,

Adventure Knowledge

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and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture

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