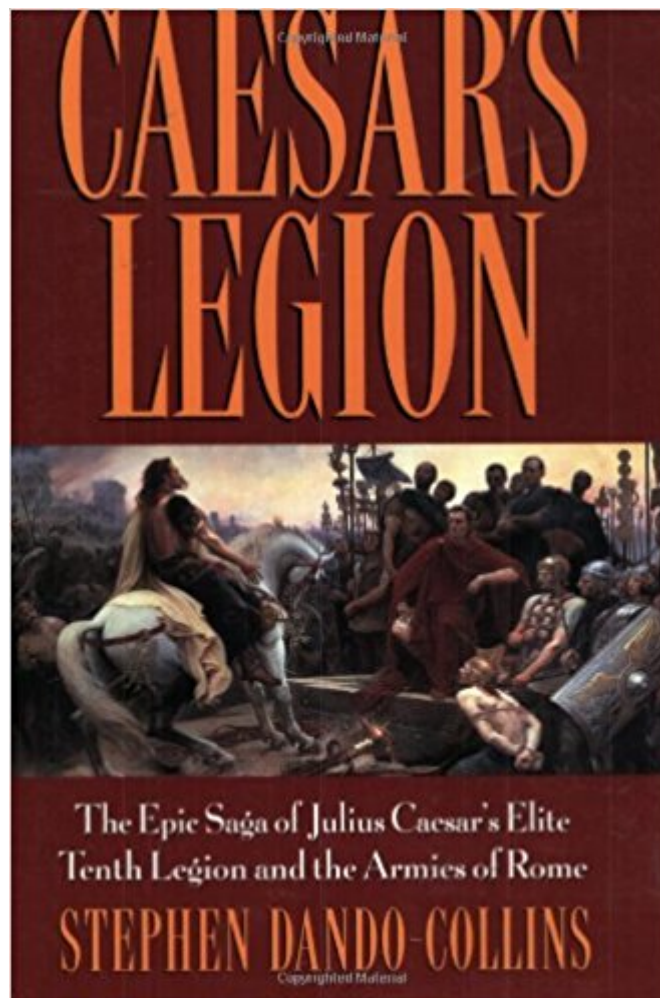




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Caesar's Legion: The Epic Saga Of Julius Caesar's Elite Tenth Legion And The Armies Of Rome



Synopsis

A unique and splendidly researched story, following the trials and triumphs of Julius Caesar's Legio X--arguably the most famous legion of its day--from its activation to the slogging battle of Munda and from Thapsus, Caesar's tactical masterpiece, to the grim siege of the Jewish fortress of Masada. More than a mere unit account, it incorporates the history of Rome and the Roman army at the height of their power and gory glory. Many military historians consider Caesar's legions the world's most efficient infantry before the arrival of gunpowder. This book shows why. Written in readable, popular style, *Caesar's Legion* is a must for military buffs and anyone interested in Roman history at a critical point in European civilization. T. R. Fehrenbach, author of *This Kind of War*, *Lone Star*, and *Comanches* Stephen Dando-Collins paints a vivid and definitive portrait of daily life in the Tenth Legion as he follows Caesar and his men along the blood-soaked fringes of the Empire. This unprecedented regimental history reveals countless previously unknown details about Roman military practices, Caesar's conduct as a commander and his relationships with officers and legionaries, and the daily routine and discipline of the Legion. From penetrating insights into the mind of history's greatest general to a grunt's-eye view of the gruesome realities of war in the Classical Age, this unique and riveting true account sets a new standard of excellence and detail to which all authors of ancient military history will now aspire.

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Customer Reviews

"A unique and splendidly researched story, following the trials and triumphs of Julius Caesar's Legio X--arguably the most famous legion of its day--from its activation to the slogging battle of Munda

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The ancient world was a brutal neighborhood. Emerging as the greatest military machine of the age were the mighty Romans. In this excellent book, well researched by Stephen Dando-Collins, we get a detailed examination of the 10th Legion. The legion was recruited in Spain having its birth in 61 BC. This is the most famous of all legions as they fought on the right side of the battlefield in all the battles which made Julius Caesar (100-44 BC) the dictator of Rome. The Xth Legion fought on the continents of Europe, Asia Minor and North Africa. The legion played important roles in Caesar's conquest of Gaul. The legion was instrumental in Caesar's victory over Pompey in the Roman Civil War. The victory over Pompey at Pharsalus in Greece was the most important victory of that bloody war. The legion was with Caesar in Egypt as he wiped out all the supporters of the Pompeian cause. Following the assassination of Caesar the 10th fought under Mark Antony and was on the losing side in his battle against Octavian at Actium in 31 BC. The legion served well under several emperors most notably in the bitterly fought Jewish revolt against Rome in both 66-73 AD and 132-135AD. Along with his vivid description of the battles we learn much about the daily life of a

Roman grunt from what he ate; how much he made; the intricacies of enlistment and how the Roman army was organized. A helpful glossary explains Latin terms. I will read more of Dando-Collins after this initial perusal of a fine military history. So often ancient history can be written in a dry way but Dando-Collins lively writing style makes it easy to digest. This book is recommended highly for both the neophyte historian as well as the more widely read devotees of Roman history.

Enjoyed it! Shed a lot of light on the Roman military. It was a period of history that I wanted to learn more about and it fit that desire. If you're a history buff and interested in that time frame I'd recommend it. The names of individuals are a little tough to pronounce and keep up with but other than that great read.

Absolutely great book that gives good descriptions of being a soldier in Caesar's army, and standing with the columns during battle. If you like Roman history or history about the 10th Legion this book is great and easy to read. Stephen did his research.

There once was a program on television called "You are There," a program 'made to alter and illuminate our times.' For those who love details of battle and movements, who revel in the ebb and flow of battle, and life and death by the legionary eagle standard, this book is for you. I also have the audiobook, and am able to bookmark either in the book or the 'tape' of my last page read. Love this feature, as well. If you want a global overview of Caesar's genius, then knock elsewhere, or go to Wiki.

I am avid military history reader. Dando-Collins always adds a little bit of flair with his Soldier profiles in his books. Are these profiles 100% accurate, probably not, but he does enough research on the topic to portray what a common Soldier or Centurion's life might have been like. As a Soldier myself, I enjoy those profiles. His books are enjoyable to read. I own three of his books and plan to buy more.

The good: This is inherently interesting subject matter, and the author seems to know it backward and forward. The bad: The writing is pretty stilted, and the structure is pointlessly disjointed, using hackneyed cliffhanger techniques to try and get you to the edge of your seat before veering off to another time and place to give back story. It's so bad that I originally thought the Kindle book was

broken. And while we're on that, the Kindle book IS broken. The transcription is lazy and full of errors, from fonts that somehow make words get cut off, to what were obviously end-of-line hyphens in the printed version appearing mid-sentence in the Kindle Version. Really sloppy, and the publishers should be ashamed to have presented this junky version as an e-book. How hard is it to properly format an ebook? I sent Word and HTML docs to all the time that come back properly formatted for a kindle.

When I started reading the book I was quite surprised the author decided to use modern-day military ranks instead of perhaps more established Tribunus, Legatus, Praetor etc... I'm not the big fan of 'tabloid' names of the books so I'm always bit reserved about such titles but I was very pleasantly surprised how good the book is for history fans. What's also quite interesting is the way how the historians are able to determine the legion movements and their rough numbers. I had no idea such feat is possible!!!

Accurate recounting of a major piece of Roman history. It comes from a lifetime of meticulous research.

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