

Well-organised

Although any man could join the Roman army, they managed to stay well organised and worked together to defeat their enemies. So how did these men ensure that they all worked together?

Evidence has shown us that new recruits into the army had to start at the bottom, doing work with less responsibility and less pay.

Consequently, this meant that the more experienced soldiers could train them up and ensure that all soldiers knew what they were doing.

Written records tell us that the Roman army was organised into many different groups of men. They had 80 men in a group called a century, each century has one man in charge called a Centurion who would make sure the men knew what they were doing and that they were behaving. When 6 centuries were put together this was called a cohort. When 10 cohorts were together this was called a Legion and contained around 5000 men! For each Legion there was a Legatus who was a mature and well experienced soldier who was in charge of all of these 5000 men.

Historians have also discovered that there were many jobs in the Roman army that didn't involve fighting. There was a man called a Tesserarius whose job was to organise the guards and to share secret passwords. This ensured that all the guards had the same ideas.