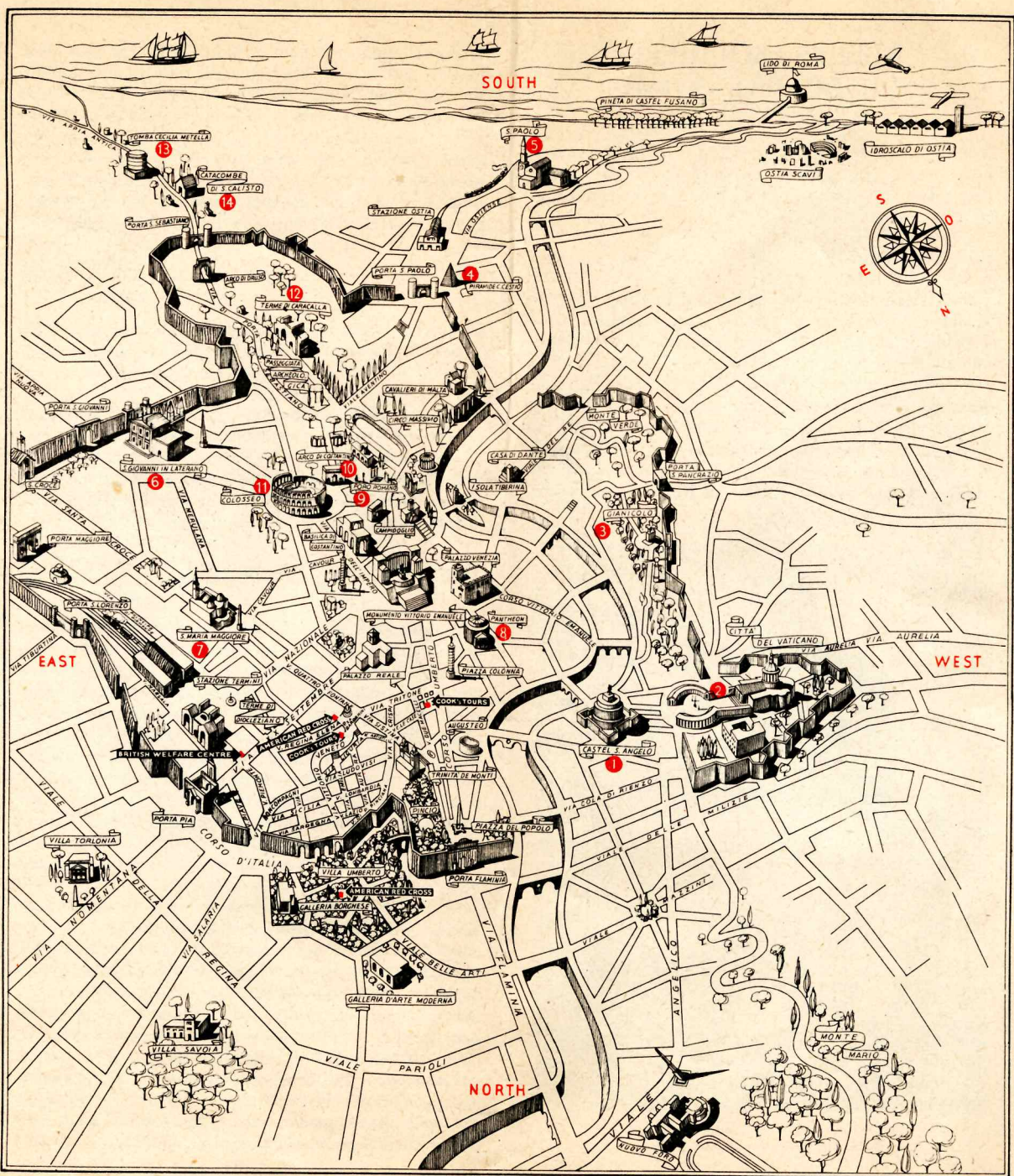




R O M E

ALLIED SOLDIERS' SOUVENIR GUIDE

prepared by
BRITISH ARMY EDUCATION
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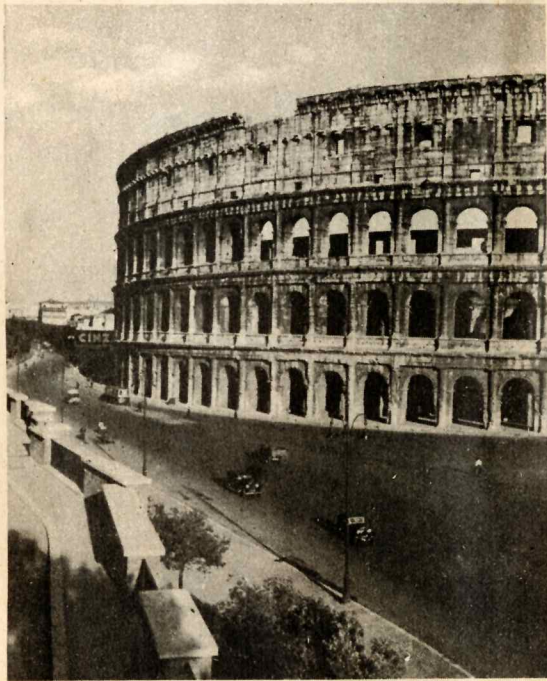


ALLIED SOLDIERS' GUIDE TO ROME

The object of this Soldiers' Guide to Rome is to provide Allied Troops with an outline of the Eternal City's history and the briefest possible description of its chief artistic treasures.

I — HISTORICAL SKETCH. - ANCIENT ROME

Rome is said to have been founded by Romulus and Remus, the nephews of a King who, jealous of their legitimate succession to the throne which he usurped, abandoned them on the banks of the Tiber. Legend relates that they were suckled by a wolf and that Romulus later traced a square furrow on the Palatine Hill in 753 B.C. to represent the foundation of the city which he hoped would become great and eternal. A few years ago a very old tomb covered with a black stone and said to be the tomb of Romulus was found



COLOSSEUM

in the old Roman Forum. Romulus's city soon grew in size and spread itself over its seven hills, and it was not long before its legionaries marched to the conquest of the world. These legionaries of Rome carried with them to the people whom they subjugated, not only their own culture but also the civilisation of Greece. To the lands they conquered they took Roman Law, Roman customs, Roman Architecture and Engineering, and Roman citizenship.

THE PERIOD of the KINGS. (700 B.C. - 500 B.C.) approx

Originally Rome was governed by a king, who combined the functions of ruler, general, judge and High Priest. The names of seven have come down to us, the last being Tarquin the Proud. Among the monuments that commemorate the earliest or « Royal Period » of Roman history are the remains of the Servian Walls, the Circus Maximus where the first games and chariot races were held, and the ruins of the Temple of Jupiter on the Capitol which later became the stronghold of the City.

THE REPUBLICAN PERIOD. (500 B.C. - 80 B.C.) approx

The traditional date of the foundation of the Roman Republic is 509 B.C. The chief functions of the king were given to two magistrates called consuls, elected annually. Later, other magistrates were appointed for other state business, such as the praetors for legal affairs and quaestors to look after the city's finances. The earlier part of the Republican period was marked both by wars against various neighbouring Italian peoples, and by political strife within the State between the Patricians (nobles) and the Plebeians (those of lower birth). Eventually the principle of equality of all citizens was established in a constitutional manner.

The growing city also had to meet enemies from abroad. At the beginning of the fourth century B.C. it was sacked by the Gauls. The most serious threat came in the Punic Wars against Carthage, and specially in the Second Punic War, when the Carthaginian general Hannibal came near to defeating Rome completely. After the collapse of Hannibal's armies (202 B.C.) Rome, in a series of foreign wars, acquired most of the Mediterranean countries. She already possessed Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica. In the next 150 years she added Greece, North Africa and Asia Minor, and began the conquest of Spain and Gaul.

The economic effects of long foreign wars and of a bad agricultural policy, together with changes in the social structure of the Republic, brought on a period of violent political factions. During the first century B.C. the Republican government through corruption, became incapable of governing the Empire. This period saw the gradual failure of the old political system shown in the transition to autocracy with the temporary dictatorship of Sulla (81-79 B.C.), and the struggle for power between Caesar and Pompey.

THE IMPERIAL PERIOD. (31 B.C. - 400 AD) approx

Republican Rome ended in chaos with the Civil War between Pompey and Julius Caesar who defeated his rival and became dictator. In the existing circumstances the Romans then tried the experiment of a centralised autocracy. Caesar's murder was the prelude to nearly twenty years' civil war between Mark Antony and Augustus, the great-nephew and adopted son of Julius Caesar. The forces of Antony and Cleopatra were defeated at Actium in 31 B.C. and Augustus became the first Roman Emperor.

Imperial Rome was not merely the centre of government of the Mediterranean World for four centuries; it was also a cultural and artistic centre, each emperor making his own contribution towards the city's glories. Augustus boasted that he found Rome built of brick and left it built of marble. In this way Rome became a city of beautiful temples and public buildings, and also of places of amusement, such as baths and theatres. Within the Roman Empire the people enjoyed peace and good government. Roman citizenship, which carried with it many privileges and rights (as St. Paul knew), was bestowed on an increasingly wide scale to individuals as a reward for services rendered to Rome and to communities in recognition of their rising standard of civilisation. Provincial governors were subject to very strict control and there were safeguards against exploitation of subject peoples. Some of the conquered countries assimilated Roman ideas and manners very quickly. By the end of the first century A.D. Spain gave Rome the Emperor Trajan, who added a new province (the modern Rumania) to the Empire. The column commemorating his victories can still be seen in the City. The first two centuries after the birth of Christ saw the Roman Empire at its highest stage of development. In was



TEMPLE OF CASTOR & POLLUX

at this time that Christianity began to spread until it reached Rome and extended throughout the Empire. Finally, with the decline of the empire as a political system, it was the Christian Church, with the Bishop of Rome at its head, which passed on the gift of Roman civilisation to later generations.

WHAT WE OWE TO ANCIENT ROME:

- 1) Rome passed on the civilisation of Greece and Israel.
- 2) She was the means of the spread of Christianity — the one unifying force in later European History.
- 3) She was the first Empire to formulate the theory of government as a trust held by the imperial power to be used for the benefit of subject peoples.



ST PETER'S AND THE VATICAN

- 4) A collection of laws which forms the basis of several modern codes.
- 5) Beautiful examples of wall decoration and sculpture (especially portraits in bronze).
- 6) Developments in Architecture and military engineering (roads, aqueducts. etc.).
- 7) From Latin are derived several modern European languages. Latin literature has inspired many later writers, especially Dante and Milton.

LIFE IN ANCIENT ROME.

As today, most of a Roman's day was spent out of his home, but not necessarily out of doors. Hence the many fine public buildings which sheltered the busy population from the Mediterranean sun. The Forum (originally market place) was the centre of Rome, the focus of the political and religious life

of the State. It was surrounded by fine temples, basilicas (Halls of Justice) and other public buildings. The presence of the temples is accounted for by the fact that Roman religion was bound up with the outward forms and ceremonies of government. Apart from buildings already mentioned there were two very important classes of building for recreational purposes — the baths, and the theatres. The Roman bath was very much more than an elaborate Turkish bath. Its part in the life of the people can only be compared to that of a club or an inn in England. It was to the baths that a Roman went to meet and talk with his friends, to gossip with all and sundry about the news, or to hear a reading from a new book.

The theatre at Rome was not used for the presentation of serious drama. The chief entertainments were crude farces and « variety shows », and gladiatorial exhibitions. The most notable buildings for these performances were the Theatre of Marcellus (II B.C) and the Flavian Amphitheatre or Colosseum (82 A.D.) These shows were put on by the Emperors to keep the populace (who had no part in the government under the Imperial System), in a contented

mood. They were a mental counterpart to the cheap bread also provided by the rulers. Emperors vied with their predecessors in the lavishness and cruelty of their displays.

MEDIAEVAL AND MODERN ROME

In the third century A.D. the Empire split into two halves, the Western, ruled from Rome, and the Eastern from its capital at Constantinople. The Western Empire fell to the Goths in 476 A.D., the eastern half continued until 1453, when the Turks sacked Constantinople. Thus from the end of the fifth century A.D. the story of Rome is that of a city and no longer that of an empire. The chief interest of Rome in later times are religious and artistic. The Rome of the Middle Ages and Renaissance was a centre to which the most brilliant Italian sculptors and painters flocked. The Popes and Roman aristocrats were great patrons of culture and employed many famous artists such as Michelangelo and Raphael. These men were obviously inspired by the art of Ancient Rome. Greece and Rome.

The wall paintings found in the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum, are alone sufficient to prove that the art of painting reached as high a standard in ancient Roman times as the art of sculpture. Figures and portraits were rendered with obvious knowledge of anatomy and with a keen enjoyment of colour and character.

But this remarkable period was followed by several hundred years of apparent unproductiveness when little was done in the way of pictorial work other than the « illumination » or illustration of manuscripts. It was not until the 12th and 13th Centuries that the genius of the Latins once again made itself apparent in the works of so-called « Primitive Painters » such as Cimabue and Giotto.

The spark that was kindled by them suddenly leapt into flame, and in the course of the next two hundred years towns such as Florence, Siena, Venice and Rome produced men such as Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael, whose creative genius has ever since been the admiration and inspiration of the world.

After the 15th and 16th centuries Italian painting seemed to lose its early austerity and grandeur, and

entered upon a long period of mediocrity and uninspired talent which still bears little relationship to its former glory.

II. PLACES OF INTEREST.

ITINERARY I - MORNING.

Via Vittorio Veneto, Piazza Barberini, Piazza Quirinale (Royal Palace), Markets of Trajan, Ponte Vittorio Emanuele.

1 CASTEL S. ANGELO, one of the most historic monuments in Rome. Originally Hadrian's tomb; then the mediaval « Crescenzo Tower », later The Popes' Fortress and Prison and now a museum.

2 ST. PETER'S & THE VATICAN MUSEUM. The basilica is the largest Christian church in the world. The beautifully proportioned interior, contains art treasures of astonishing variety and incomparable value. The semi-circular colonnade around St. Peter's square was designed by Bernini under Popes Alexander VII (1580) and Clement IX (1610); the Egyptian obelisk standing in the centre was brought by Caligula to Rome and erected in the Circus of Nero. Sixtus V in 1586 moved it to where it now stands. The two fountains which adorn the square are the work of Maderno and Bernini.

3 JANICULUM. The Sabine Mountains rise in front about 40 miles away. The Alban Hills, where Alba Longa — the old Latin Capital — stood, are on the right. The river Tiber divides the city into two unequal parts and winds its way across the countryside towards the Mediterranean. The Equestrian monument to Garibaldi is erected here. The view over the city from the Janiculum is unrivalled in Rome.

4 ENGLISH PROTESTANT CEMETERY. Situated near St. Paul's Gate and the Pyramid of Caius Cestius, contains tombs of many Englishmen and Americans, poets, writers and artists (Shelley, Keats, etc.).

5 BASILICA OF ST. PAUL. This imposing modern church is next in size to St. Peter's. Its Mediaeval cloisters are very beautiful.

6 BASILICA OF ST. JOHN LATERAN. This « Cathedral of Rome and the World » was rebuilt about 1650 and ranks first among the churches in Rome and in the World. The Popes proceed to this basilica after their election. The name of Lateran comes from the ground upon which it stands, belonging formerly to the Roman Senator Plautius Lateranus. Visit to the historic Lateran Palace, the papal residence of old days, which was forsaken after the Popes had returned from Avignon to take up residence in the Vatican. It was converted into a museum by Gregory XVI about 1843.

7 BASILICA * OF SANTA MARIA MAGGIORE. Founded by Pope Liberius in 352 on the Esquiline Hill. It is the largest church in Rome dedicated to the Virgin, hence the name of St. Mary the Greater. The roof is elaborately carved and was regilded with the first gold that Columbus sent to Ferdinand of Spain from the American Islands he had discovered. Trinità dei Monti; Villa Medici; the Pincio (panorama of the city); Villa Umberto I; Porta Pinciana; via Vittorio Veneto.

ITINERARY 2 AFTERNOON.

Via Vittorio Veneto, Piazza Barberini, Tritone, Piazza Colonna, Piazza di Pietra.

8 PANTHEON: the great pagan temple, now mausoleum of the Kings of Italy; Tomb of Raphael; Largo Argentina (excavation of the Republican era); Piazza Venezia; Monument King Victor Emanuel II; Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

9 ROMAN FORUM. The centre of civic life in Ancient Rome where the Romans met to transact their political, judicial and commercial affairs.

10 PALATINE. This historic hill was the first centre of Rome. It is here that tradition says Romulus ploughed the boundaries of « Roma Quadrata » in 753 B.C. The ruins around the hill are the most ancient in all Rome.

11 COLOSSEUM (or Flavian Amphitheatre), the most majestic monument of Ancient Rome, commenced in 72 A.D. by Vespasian of the Flavian Family close

to Nero's Golden House. It was opened by Titus on the 21st April 80 A.D. with games and contests that lasted a hundred days, during which thousands of men and beasts lost their lives. The Temple of Venus erected by Hadrian; Arch of Constantine erected on the Triumphal Way by the people and Senate of Rome in 313 to record his victories over Maxentius and Licinius; Via dei Trionfi; CIRCUS MAXIMUS, which was the largest circus in Rome and could accommodate about five hundred thousand people assembled to view the horse and chariot races. The fire of Rome broke out in this circus in 64 A.D.

12 BATHS OF CARACALLA, begun by Septimus Severus (188-217). This building covering 34 acres could accommodate over sixteen hundred people.

13 APPIAN WAY: the most important of the ancient Roman Roads, « Regina Viarum »: Arch of Drusus; Porta San Sebastiano; Quo Vadis Church. Here according to legend Christ appeared to St. Peter, who was preparing to return east after the burning of Rome.

14 CATACOMBS OF ST. CALIXTUS, the vast necropolis of martyrs and persecuted early Christians; the latter often came from the oldest and most aristocratic families of ancient Rome. The catacombs were used as a place of refuge, for the celebration of rites, and for the burial of the dead. Tomb of Romulus, Tomb of Caecilia Metella, Tomb of Seneca, New Appian Way, Porta S. Giovanni, Via Merulana, Piazza S. Maria Maggiore, Piazza Barberini.



THE PANTHEON

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