



VALIANT

#1

ROBERT VENDITTI | CARY NORD | STEFANO GAUDIANO | MOOSE BAUMANN

X-O MANOWAR



X-O MANOWAR

WELCOME TO X-O MANOWAR #1. WELCOME TO 402 AD.

TIMELINE

▼ YOU ARE HERE

375 AD

Aric of Dacia is born

376 AD

The Huns invade Dacia.
The Visigoths migrate south.

395 AD

Alaric I becomes King
of the Visigoths

402 AD

The Battle of Pollentia:
The Visigoths vs The Romans
King Alaric I vs Flavius Stilicho

370 AD

380 AD

390 AD

400 AD

410 AD

VISIGOTHS

Traditionally nomadic, Visigoths lived in unwallled farming settlements positioned along major rivers on the Roman border.

Visigoth Wealth

Measured by the number of cattle owned.



Visigoth Idiom

"Happiness is a good horse."

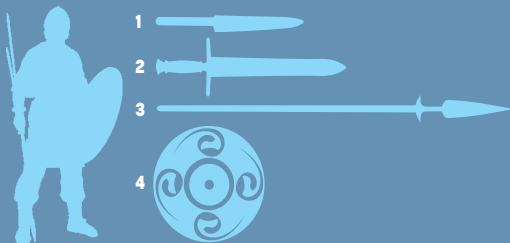


Horses were revered in Visigoth culture.

Visigoth warriors were often buried with the bodies of their horses.

Visigoth Warrior and Arms

- 1 Sahs (Knife)
- 2 Agja (Short Sword)
- 3 Gaizis (Wood Spear)
- 4 Skildus (Round Shield)



ROMANS

The most powerful ancient civilization on Earth, dominating Western Europe to Asia Minor. The sole superpower of the ancient world.

Roman Wealth

A wealthy man might own as many as 500 slaves.

An emperor might have more than 20,000.



Life Expectancy

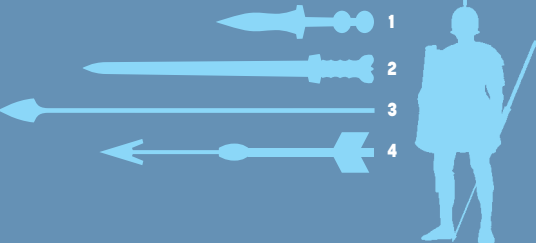
Average Life Expectancy for Roman at Birth: 28 years old

Average Life Expectancy for Roman at Age 15: 52 years old



Roman Legionnaire and Arms

- 1 Pugio (Dagger)
- 2 Spatha (Long Sword)
- 3 Hasta (Thrusting Spear)
- 4 Plumbata (Throwing Dart)



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--THEY
BROUGHT
ALL OF THE
WESTERN
EMPIRE!

POLLENTIA, NORTHERN ITALY.

402 A.D.

LOAD THE
ONAGERS.
TEACH THESE
BARBARIANS
THE MEANING
OF ROMAN
MIGHT.

Blades and Open Fields

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BROTHER, HOW LONG HAVE WE WANDERED THE LANDS OF THIS CURSED EMPIRE?

WHEN OUR ROMAN MASTERS HAVE USE FOR US, THEY SEND US TO DIE IN THEIR WARS. WHEN THEY HAVE NO USE FOR US, THEY SLAUGHTER US THEMSELVES.

MEANWHILE, OUR CHILDREN STARVE. OUR WOMEN ARE MADE SLAVES... OR WORSE.

NO MORE.

TODAY, WITH OUR FAMILIES AT OUR BACKS, WE DEFEND THESE FIELDS AS IF THEY WERE OUR OWN. WE RAISE OUR SWORDS, AND WE TELL THE ENEMY: NO MORE.

FOR YOUR FATHERS AND MOTHERS, **FIGHT**. FOR YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS, **FIGHT**. AND, FINALLY, FOR A LAND TO CALL HOME--

FIGHT!

YAH!









THE VISIGOTH CAMP.

SOMEWHERE IN NORTHERN ITALY.

FOLLOWING THE RETREAT.

"THE ROMANS
HAVE CALLED
OFF THEIR
PURSUIT--"



--WE HAVE
MADE CAMP FOR
THE NIGHT.

WHERE IS...
INGA? WHERE
IS YOUR
MOTHER?

THE
ROMANS TOOK
MANY PRISONERS
BEFORE WE COULD
RETREAT. MOTHER
WAS AMONG
THEM.

UNCLE ALARIC
BARGAINS FOR THEIR
RETURN...BUT THERE IS
TALK THEY ARE ALREADY
ON THE ROAD TO ROME.

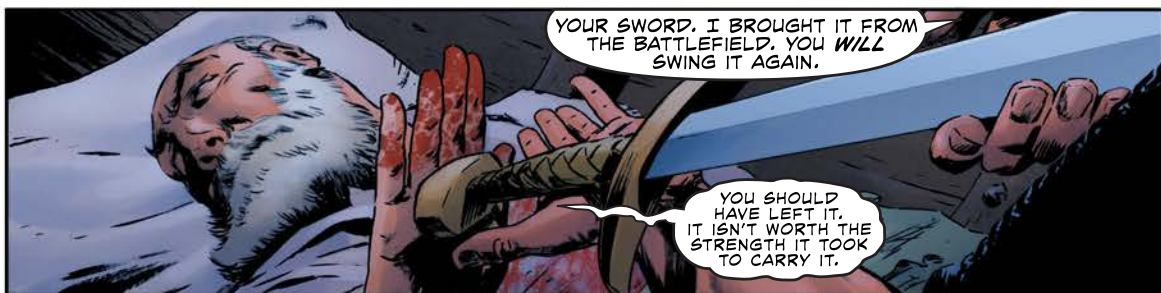


THEN
LEAVE ME
TO DIE, BOY.
GO...

BE
WITH YOUR
WIFE WHILE
YOU STILL
CAN.

DEIDRE
WAS TAKEN,
TOO.

BUT WE WILL
RIDE AFTER THEM
IF NEED BE AND CUT
DOWN ANY ROMAN
WHO STANDS IN
OUR PATH.



YOUR SWORD. I BROUGHT IT FROM
THE BATTLEFIELD. YOU **WILL**
SWING IT AGAIN.

YOU SHOULD
HAVE LEFT IT.
IT ISN'T WORTH THE
STRENGTH IT TOOK
TO CARRY IT.



I WATCHED YOU
FORGE THIS SWORD
YOURSELF! IT IS
THE **ENVY** OF THE
ENTIRE ARMY!



HMPH. THEN THE ARMY IS MADE OF FOOLS. SWORDS
DID NOT STOP THE HUNS FROM DRIVING US OUT OF OUR
LANDS IN DACIA...THEY WILL NOT HELP US GAIN A NEW
LAND OF OUR OWN.

THE ROMANS
HAVE BALLISTAE AND
ONAGERS. CITIES WITH
HIGH WALLS. WE HAVE
BLADES AND OPEN
FIELDS. IT IS NOT
ENOUGH.



"HAVE YOU EVER SEEN
SUCH A **MASSIVE**
TRANSPORT, ARIC?"



EVEN IF THAT IS WHERE
THE ROMANS HOLD OUR
FAMILIES, WE SHOULD
SEND WORD FOR
REINFORCEMENTS.

DEIPRE...

GAFTI
IS RIGHT.

THERE IS
NO TELLING HOW
MANY LEGIONNAIRES
HIDE INSIDE THAT
BEHEMOTH.

WE
SHOULD
EXERCISE
CAUTION.





ROMAN
SCUM.

CHKK...ε



SECURE THE AREA.
PREPARE TO STORM
THE TRANSPORT
AND FREE THE
CAPTIVES.

WHAT MANNER
OF LEGIONNAIRES
DRESS LIKE THIS...
AND CARRY SUCH
WEAPONS?



DEAR
GOD!

STILICHO HAS
NO CRITERIA WHEN
HIRING HIS *FOEDERATI*.
HE WILL CONSCRIPT ALL
MANNER OF MAN--AND
APPARENTLY *BEAST*--TO
DO HIS FIGHTING
FOR HIM.



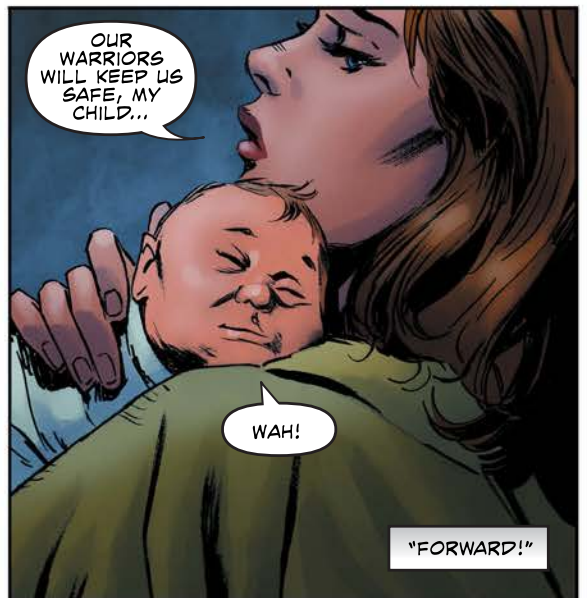
CHWHRRRRRR



CH-BOOM CH-BOOM

YOU WERE
SAYING?













DEEP SPACE.

**APPROACHING A
VINE COLONY SHIP.**

















<I FEEL IT...>
<...SHANHARA
SPEAKS TO ME...>



<...THE
POWER. IT IS...
MAGNIFICENT.>



≡CHUHN≡



SCREEE!



≡CHK-ARK≡



WHUMP





"<THE
DAY WILL
COME.>"



WHAT IS
HAPPENING,
ARIC?
WHAT
DID WE
SEE IN THAT
ROOM?

I DO NOT
KNOW, GAFTI. BUT
I HAVE SEEN LESS
CEREMONY AT THE
LAUNCHING OF A
SHIP OF WAR.



THESE
CREATURES...
THEY POSSESS
POWERFUL
WEAPONS
INDEED.

OUR
SWORDS
SPLINTERED
LIKE BRANCHES
AGAINST
THEM.



IF
WE ARE TO
DEFEAT THESE
ENEMIES, WE
WILL NEED NEW
WEAPONS.

WE MUST
GET BACK TO
THAT ROOM.

WE MUST
TAKE THESE
CREATURES'
WEAPONS.



THEN
WE WILL
ESCAPE.

AND WE
WILL CRUSH THE ROMAN
EMPIRE, BRICK BY BRICK.
FINALLY *THEY* WILL KNOW
HOW IT FEELS TO BE
OUTMATCHED.

STARTING
WITH THE BASTARD
WHO PUT MY WIFE
IN CHAINS.

TO BE CONTINUED!



VALIANT[®] 2012

Welcome to the Summer of Valiant!

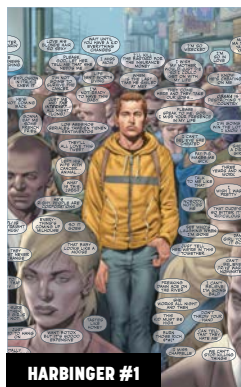
The brand new issue of *X-O Manowar* #1 that you've just read is the culmination of many years of hard work. In the coming months, you'll also see new #1 issues of *Harbinger*, *Bloodshot*, and *Archer & Armstrong*. These are the titles that will form the foundation of the new Valiant Universe.

Valiant has a rich tradition of visionary creators bringing extraordinary characters to life, starting when the company was built by Jim Shooter, Steve Massarsky, Bob Layton, and Barry Windsor-Smith. In fact, our Publisher, Fred Pierce, likes to call Valiant the third most popular comic book universe ever created.

Next month, *X-O Manowar* #2 goes on sale, and we'll see Robert Venditti and Cary Nord bring Aric of Dacia face-to-face with the X-O Manowar armor. On the same day, Valiant pushes the limits of what a super hero is when *Harbinger* #1 by Joshua Dysart and Khari Evans hits the stands.



X-O MANOWAR #2



HARBINGER #1

Then in July, every mission is a suicide mission as *Bloodshot* #1 by Duane Swierczynski, Manuel Garcia, and Arturo Lozzi arrives.

Come August, an immortal drunk and a teenage assassin draw the ire of a centuries old Sect in *Archer & Armstrong* #1 by Fred Van Lente and Clayton Henry.

The entire Valiant team couldn't be more excited for the summer of Valiant and all of our upcoming releases. Now we want to hear YOUR thoughts! Please send your correspondence to letters@valiantentertainment.com or by regular mail to:

Valiant Letters
Valiant Entertainment
424 West 33rd Street
New York, NY 10001

Make sure to include "Okay to Print."

See you next month!

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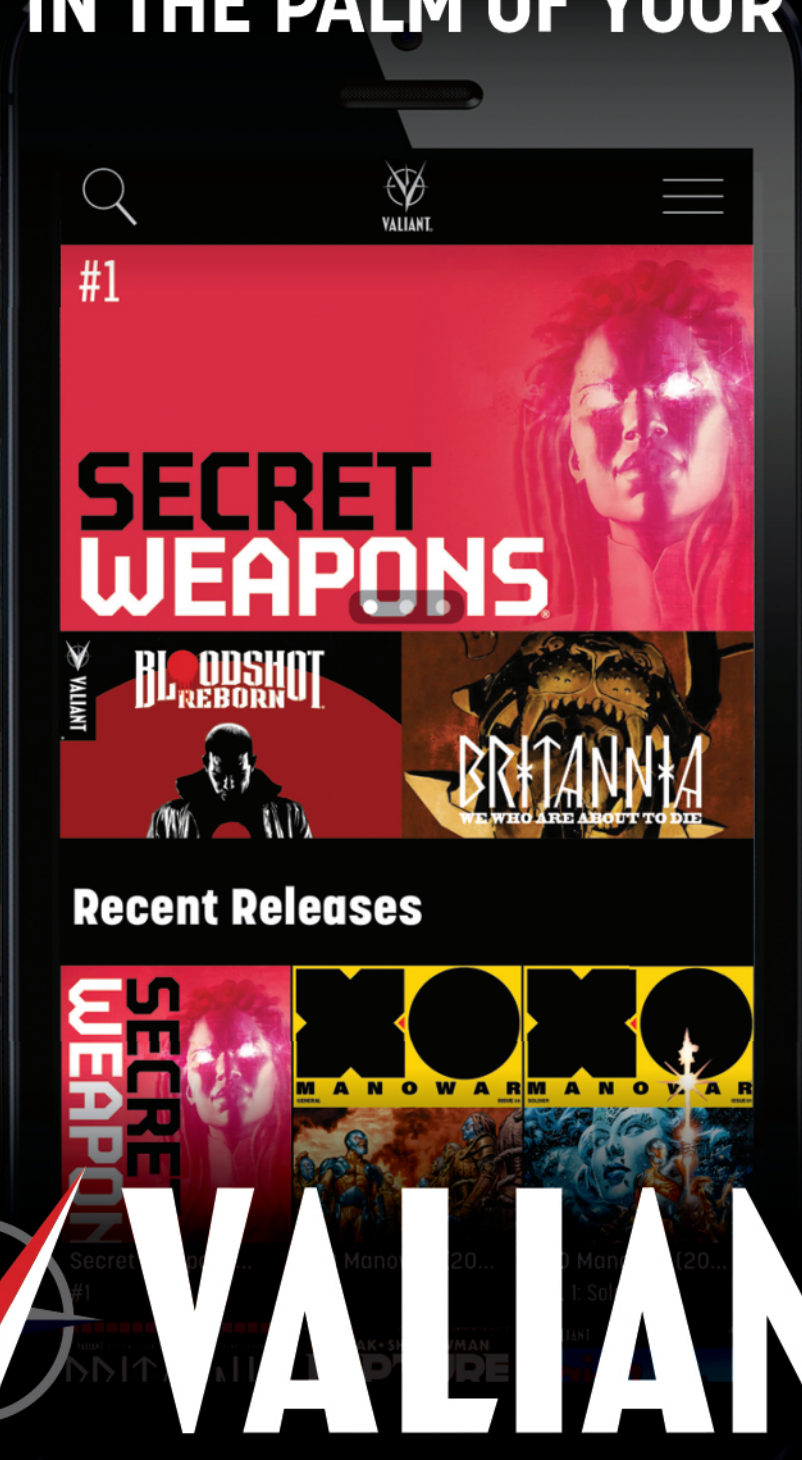
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RIGHT IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND



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