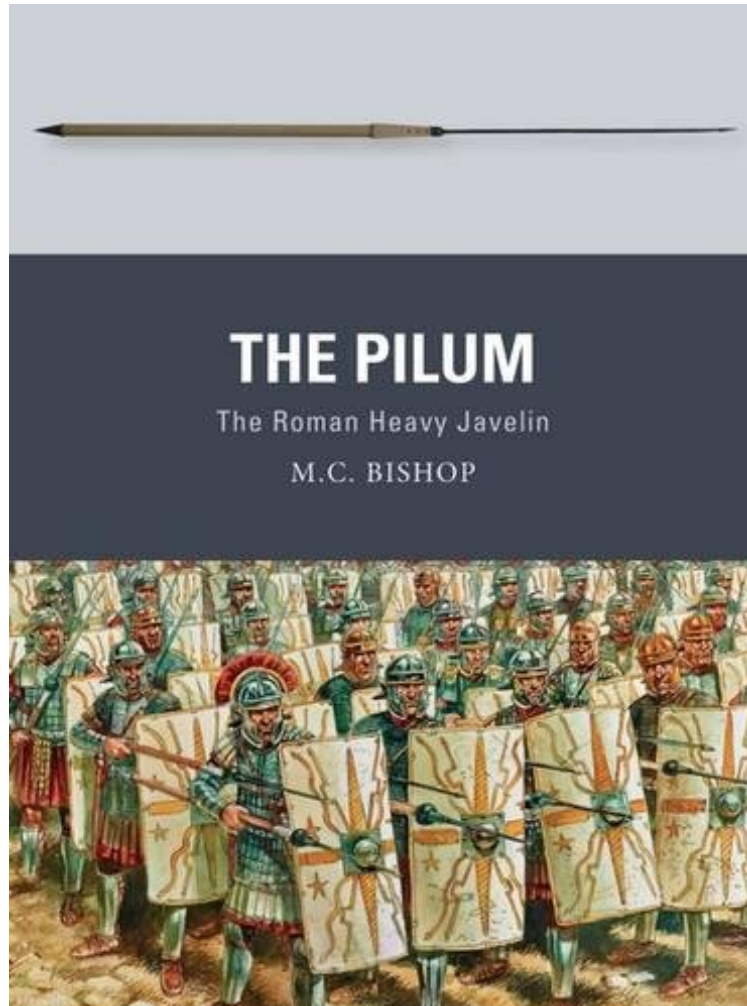


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The Pilum: The Roman Heavy Javelin (Weapon)

M.C. Bishop

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M.C. Bishop : The Pilum: The Roman Heavy Javelin (Weapon) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pilum: The Roman Heavy Javelin (Weapon):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A fairly familiar weapon about which little specific information was available. Until now.By octagonSwords, guns, bows and even exotic pole-arms have been prominently featured in books and other audio-visual depictions of weaponry. But the lowly "spear" has gotten very little air time. This fine book analyzes the history, development and use of a truly hi-tech javelin designed for extreme penetration. The meticulously researched text and extensive bibliography are most informative for those knowledgeable about the subject, and the highly readable writing style and first class illustrations make it interesting for the general reader as well. There was no other weapon quite like it in the ancient world and it richly deserves a book of its own. Especially one as good as this. Highly recommended.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Roman heavy

javelin...By HMS Warspite M.C. Bishop has provided a detailed account of the Pilum, the heavy javelin of the Roman Legions, useful as a throwing and thrusting weapon. The narrative explains the weapon, its probable origins, and its uses, based on a veritable ransacking of the available surviving material, both written and physical. The text is supported by a variety of illustrations and diagrams. Of particular interest are the photographs of re-enactors demonstrating the use of the pilum. Highly recommended to students of the Roman Legions as a concise introduction to one of its primary weapons, along with the gladius, covered in another recent Osprey Weapon Series book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Pilum By Joe T. A welcome addition to the study of Roman military equipment. Good illustrations and well written text. A concise work on a little known subject.

A heavy javelin, normally used as a shock weapon immediately before contact, the pilum was designed with a particular specialty: it could penetrate a shield and carry on into the individual behind it. Relying on mass rather than velocity, at short range a volley of pila had much the same effect on a charging enemy as musketry would in later periods. The design was not uniform, with a wide diversity of types throughout the developmental history of the weapon, but for more than four centuries it remained a vital part of the arsenal of weapons at the disposal of the Roman legionary. Drawing upon recent major finds in the Iberian Peninsula and the Balkans, as well as written records and rigorous scientific analysis, this enthralling study lifts the veil on the evolving nature of the pilum, the Roman heavy javelin that helped to conquer the known world.

About the Author Writer, publisher and archaeologist M.C. Bishop is an authority of all aspects of Ancient Rome at war, with particular emphasis on arms and armor of the era. He has written, co-written, or edited dozens of books and articles on the subject, and leads tours of Hadrian's Wall and other Roman sites. Peter Dennis was born in 1950. Inspired by contemporary magazines such as Look and Learn he studied illustration at Liverpool Art College. Peter has since contributed to hundreds of books, predominantly on historical subjects, including many Osprey titles. A keen wargamer and modelmaker, he is based in Nottinghamshire, UK.