

A striking feature of the HBO series “Rome” was the appearance of real soldiers such as Pullo and Vorenus (...*alter alteri inimicus*...Caesar *BG* 5.44), real legions such as the Legio XIII and real events such as the crossing of the Rubicon (*conclamant legionis XIII quae aderat milites*... Caesar *BC* 1.7.8). Usually such minor characters are fictionalized and outfitted with anachronistic motivations and equipment. That is not absent in this case: the “real” Pullo was a senior centurion, the “real” Vorenus’ subsequent career is unknown and neither can be placed with the Thirteenth Legion with any confidence. This paper will examine Roman warfare and the Roman soldier as portrayed in the first season of the HBO series “Rome”. It will examine the accuracy of several military elements of the story, including the “Face of Battle” sequences, standards, unit loyalty, equipment, triumphs and more. This will be illustrated by comparisons to the depiction of legionary warfare in other films such as *Spartacus* and *Gladiator*. The relatively few glaring errors in “Rome” appear to be related to the requirements of the narrative. Aside from the antiquarian interests in military accuracy, the paper will deal with the dramatic and thematic functions of the deliberate anachronisms, especially those which reflect British regimental traditions and Pullo’s plot function as a Zelig or Forrest Gump like accidental tourist and change agent.