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of the chapter called "The Army in Action") to its contribution to Egyptian civil society. He explores the political roles of the military (more, he concludes, to assist Roman authority than to provide security), patterns of veteran recruitment, settlement, legal status, the economic role of the army, and the activities of soldiers. In the two useful appendices, the second offers a handy collection of site plans of forts in Egypt. Alden argues forcefully against many erroneous views, particularly those that see soldiers as locally recruited and veterans as local "big men." Altogether a useful volume for anyone interested in the social role of the army, though the absence of fighting and its environment sometimes casts a pall of unreality over the whole.

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