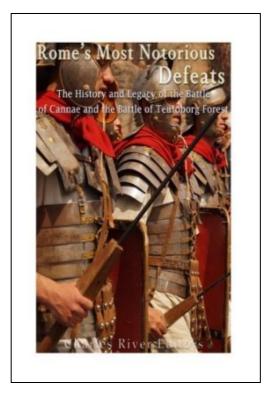
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(Elijah Kuphal)

ROME S MOST NOTORIOUS DEFEATS: THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF THE BATTLE OF CANNAE AND THE BATTLE OF THE TEUTOBURG FOREST (PAPERBACK)



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Print on Demand *****. *Includes pictures *Includes ancient accounts of the battles *Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading Although the Romans gained the upper hand over Carthage in the wake of the First Punic War, the legendary Carthaginian general Hannibal brought the Romans to their knees for over a decade during the Second Punic War. While military historians are still amazed that he was able to maintain his army in Italy near Rome for nearly 15 years, scholars are still puzzled over some of his decisions, including why he never attempted to march on Rome in the first place. Regardless, Hannibal was such a threat that the Romans responded in an unprecedented nature when the Carthaginians resumed the campaigning season in the spring of 216 BCE by capturing the city of Cannae, a crucial supply hub, and placing themselves along the line that convoys from the ports and warehouses of the south needed to travel to reach Rome. This was something the Romans could not and did not take lying down; Rome raised the largest army in their city s history, a force of between 80,000 and 100,000 men, and marched south with Consuls Varro and Paullus at the head of the army. Varro led the Roman legions straight at the center of Hannibal s formation, proceeding in characteristic bull-headed fashion and spearheading the assault himself. Hannibal s troops in the center yielded before the legions, as Hannibal had anticipated, sucking the bulk of the Roman force deep into the centre of Hannibal s formation. Meanwhile, the wings of Hannibal s infantry automatically swung against the flanks of the Roman force. The result was a massacre, one of the most...

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