

Crassus

Under the leadership of Marcus Licinius Crassus that destroyed the army of slaves in 71 BC. 30,000 killed by Gellius, 6,000 crucified by Crassus, 5,000 crucified by Pompey

While most of the rebel slaves were killed on the battlefield, some 6,000 survivors were captured by the legions of Crassus. All 6,000 were crucified along the Appian Way from Rome to Capua.

Cicero details that they were planted apart by 117 Roman paces. A pace is just short of 5', so every 585 feet a cross was raised. Records disagree to the length along the Appian Way from 120 miles (Pittsburgh to Erie, PA) or 350 miles.

A mile is 5280 feet, so 11 crosses per mile. Using 120 mile stretch = only 1320 crosses. Using Cicero's 350 miles = 3850. Dividing Cicero's account of 6000 slaves along 350 miles gives nearly 6 slaves per mile.

In its entirety it spanned **350 miles (563kms)**. The Appian Way stretched from the Roman Forum to modern day Brindisi. Large stones made up the bulk of its construction and a softer gravel that was compacted between the rocks cemented it. Roman roads and especially the Appian Way were extremely important to Rome.

The Appian Way or Via Appia Antica in Rome is one of the most famous ancient roads. It was built in 312 B.C. by *Appius Claudius Caecus*. In its entirety it spanned 350 miles(563kms). The Appian Way stretched from the Roman Forum to modern day Brindisi.

The Appian Way

The Appian Way is visible today and many significant tombs and architecture line its borders. It was this Via Appia Antica road that many events took place. It might be most famous for its role in the slave revolt led by Spartacus in 73 B.C. After the Roman army subdued the insurrection they crucified more than 6000 slaves and lined the Appian Way for 130 miles with their bodies.

The road averaged 20 feet (6 metres) in width and was slightly convex in surface in order to facilitate good drainage. The road's foundation was of heavy stone blocks cemented together with lime mortar; over these were laid polygonal blocks of lava that were smoothly and expertly fitted together. The lava blocks formed a good traveling surface, and one that proved to have extraordinary durability over the centuries. The first few miles of the Appian Way outside Rome are flanked by a striking series of monuments, and there are also milestones and other inscriptions along the remains of the road.

How Rich Was Crassus?

Crassus was in the top ten, wealthier than any of the Roman emperors, Egyptian pharaohs or European kings. Forbes estimated Crassus's wealth in terms of 2008 dollars at \$170 billion! Of course Crassus's wealth was built on the backs of slaves, and thus his motivation to crush Spartacus and the slave rebellion.