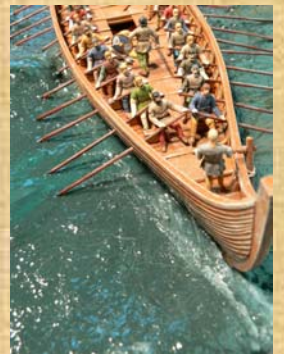


# THE SAXONS ARE HERE!

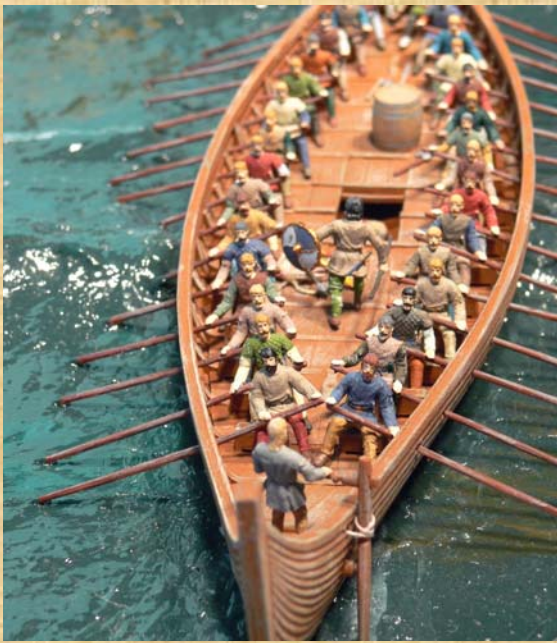
## STEPHAN BERRY



Saxon raids on the coasts of Roman Britain and Gaul are recorded for the first time in 286 AD; they intensified during the course of the 4th century and made a new organization of coastal defense necessary, the special military command of the *litus Saxonicum* or "Saxon shore". We see here a Roman cavalry patrol (white metal figures from Fine Scale Factory AR 26), who have just noticed the arrival of a band of Saxons.

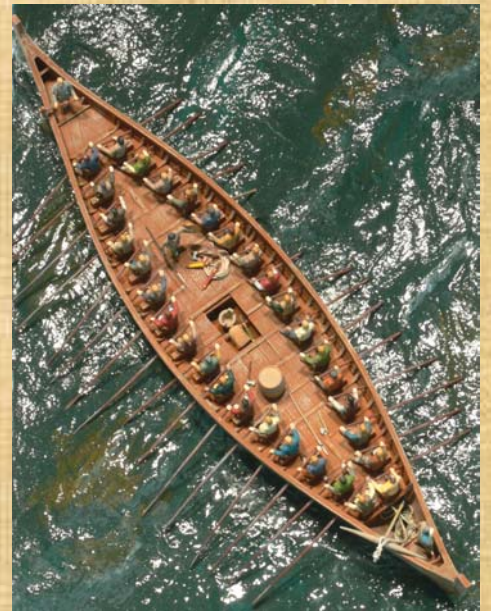




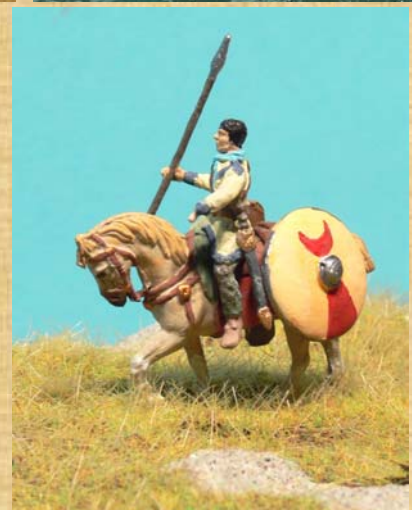
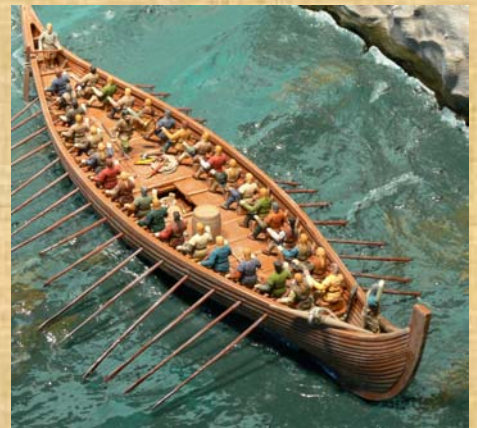
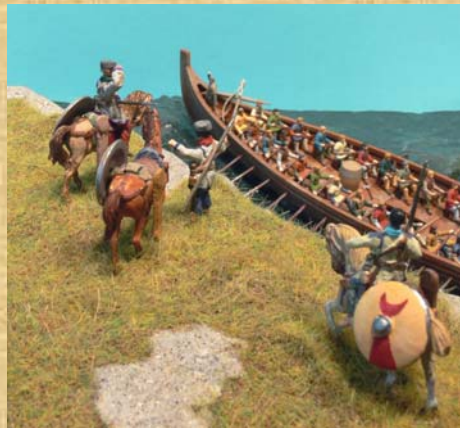


The Saxons are here!

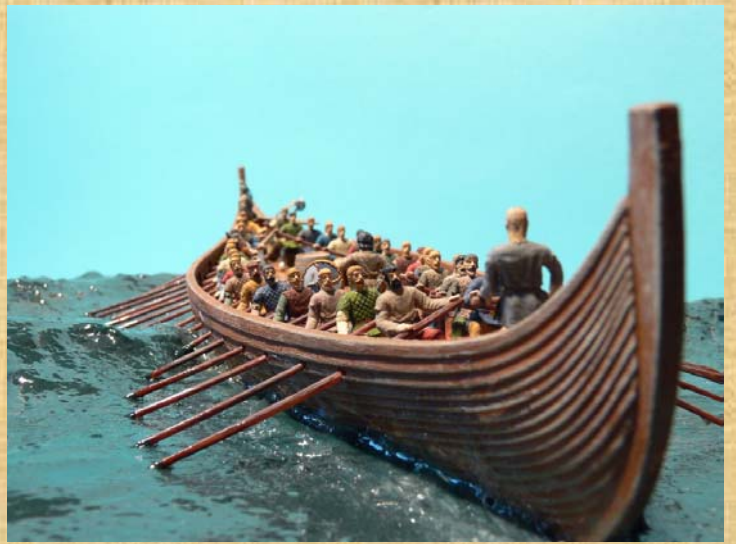
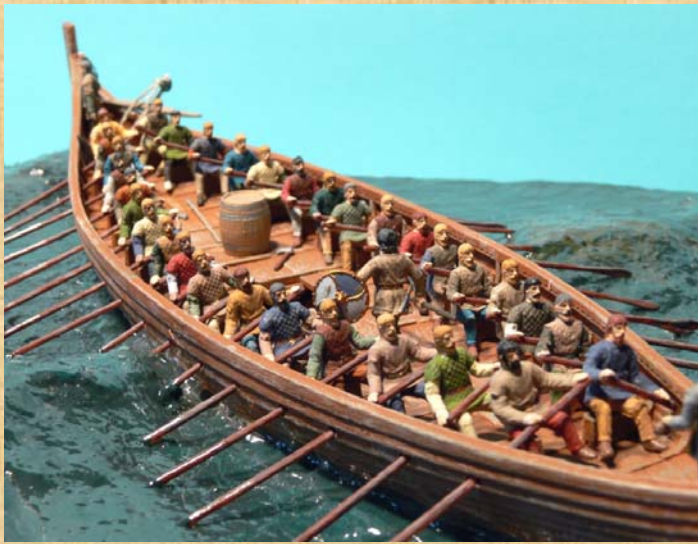




The ship model used is the Gokstad Ship from Emhar (EM 9001) with its crew (EM 7218) – it is quite rare that a model company offers a ship and a corresponding crew together, so one really has to appreciate this! The real Gokstad Ship was built around 850 AD and had a sail. However, at the time of the Saxon raids the longboats of northern Europe still lacked sails, and thus some minor conversions of the Emhar model were made, i.e. removal of the mast and rigging.

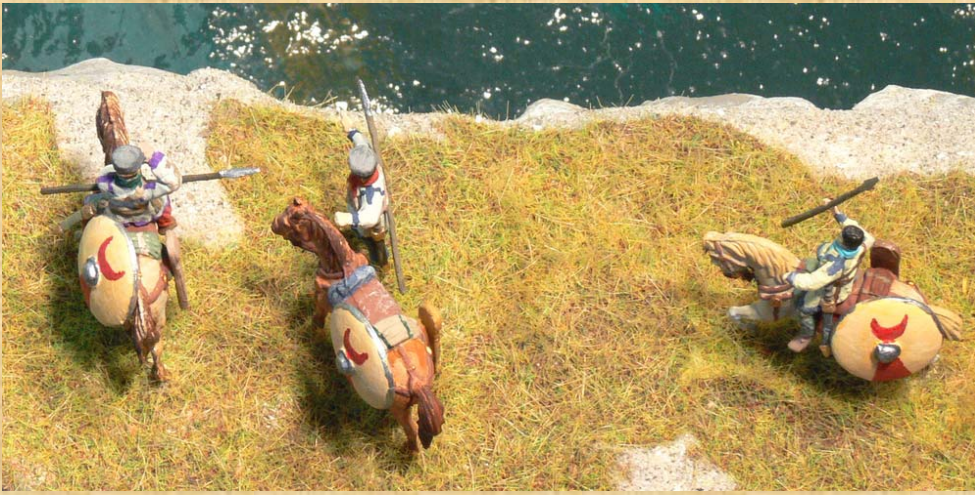






The Saxons are here!





An idea how the Saxon boats looked like is provided by the Nydam Ship from Southern Jutland: it was built in 320 AD and thus comes just from the time and the homeland of the Saxon bands. With a beam of about 3.50 meters, it was narrower than the Gokstad ship (5.25 meters), but the overall length of about 23 meters and the number of about 30 oarsmen are remarkably similar for these two ships separated by half a millennium.





The Emhar model is not intended for easy conversion into a waterline model, and cutting off the keel seemed an awkward solution. So I inserted it into a polystyrene layer with an oval hole, and then modeled the waves onto the polystyrene using papier-mâché.



Further reading:

MacDowall S. und Hook C. (1995) *Late Roman Cavalryman AD 236 - 565 (Warrior 15)*. Osprey Publishing, Oxford.

MacDowall S. und McBride A. (1996) *Germanic Warrior AD 236 - 568 (Warrior 17)*. Osprey Publishing, Oxford.

Johnson S. (1982) *Later Roman Britain*. Paladin Grafton Books, London.

Elton H. (1996) *Warfare in Roman Europe AD 350 - 425*. Clarendon Press, Oxford.

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