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# Byzantine Naval Forces 1261–1461: The Roman Empire's Last Marines (Men-at-Arms)

By Raffaele D'Amato



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After the recapture of Constantinople, Emperor Michael VIII Palaiologos was determined to bring glory back to the Byzantine Empire. To achieve this, he established an Imperial Fleet and raised new regiments of elite marine troops. This work provides a comprehensive, illustrated guide to the unit history and appearance of these men, who were at the cutting edge of the last great height of Byzantine naval power. They won victory after victory in campaigns throughout the 1260s–70s, and though successive periods of decline and partial resurrection followed, these marine units survived until the very last flickers of Byzantine resistance were extinguished. Drawing upon early literary sources, the rich evidence of period illuminated manuscripts, frescoes, and other iconography, Raffaele D'Amato details the lasting legacy of the swansong of Byzantine naval power.



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#### About the Author

**Raffaele D'Amato** is a Turin-based researcher of ancient and medieval military. After achieving his first PhD in Romano-Byzantine Law, he gained a second doctorate in Roman military archaeology. He is the vice-head of the Laboratory of the Danubian Provinces at the University of Ferrara.

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**Peter Dennis** was born in 1950. Inspired by educational magazines such as *Look and Learn*, he studied illustration at Liverpool Art College. Peter has since contributed to hundreds of books, predominantly on historical subjects, including many Osprey titles. A keen wargamer and model-maker, he is based in Nottinghamshire, UK.

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