

Sack of Rome

The lansquenet mercenaries that Charles V had despatched to Italy to fight French troops had spent an extremely hard winter in the north of Italy and, by May 1527, were reduced to an undisciplined horde. This descended on Rome and took the city by storm, subjecting it to terrible pillage.

No house was safe from the violence and looting of the invaders, who showed no respect even for churches and monasteries and went so far as to take Pope Clement VII prisoner.