

Chapter 1 : Roman Auxilia | Weapons and Warfare

Significant development of the Auxilia appears to have taken place during the rule of the emperor Claudius (AD).. A minimum term of service of 25 years was established, at the end of which the retiring auxiliary soldier, and all his children, were awarded Roman citizenship.

The Wall After the Romans During its time of occupation, the Antonine Wall was a highly militarised zone, with around 6, 000 7, troops stationed along the Wall. Once the Wall was completed it was garrisoned mainly by auxiliary troops, with small detachments from the legions. Auxiliaries were men drawn into the army from across the Roman empire, sometimes voluntarily, sometimes by force. They were not Roman citizens. We know of at least eight different auxiliary units who served on the Wall from countries as far off as Syria. Most of these men were foot soldiers, with only a small number of cavalry located at Castlehill and Mumrills. Most of our information on particular units comes from the carvings on distance slabs and altars which specifically mention the names of legions and auxiliary cohorts. Legions Roman legions contained about 5, 000 men, mostly foot soldiers who were organised into ten cohorts, each of about 480 soldiers. All were Roman citizens, who served in the army for twenty-five years. They were not supposed to marry, but many did, and their families often lived outside the fort in the vicus. On retirement, they had the choice of a land grant or a sum of money, and most stayed in the area where they had been stationed. Each legion was commanded by a Legate legatus legionis. He was a nobleman and member of the imperial Senate, with a second-in-command Tribune tribunus laticlavus. Five additional tribunes from lower noble families rounded out the primary officers. Third in command, however, was a former centurion serving as Camp Prefect praefectus castrorum , with fifty-nine centurions under him. Legionaries were equipped with short stabbing swords, daggers and javelins. They had helmets, rectangular shields and either segmental plate armour or chainmail for protection. Beneath this they wore a woollen tunic and, on their feet, leather boots which had hobnails hammered into the sole. Three legions were stationed in Britain during the Antonine period: The legion arrived in Britain in AD 43 and remained in the country into the 4th century, when records disappear. The symbols of the legion were the Capricorn half-goat, half-fish and Pegasus flying horse ; these can be seen on some of the slabs. Distance Slab of Second Legion, Duntocher. At Castlecary, soldiers of the Sixth and Second Legions dedicated an inscription to Fortuna within the fort bath-house. At Auchendavy fort a fragmentary building inscription has been found, along with four altars dedicated by a centurion from the Second Legion, Cocceius Firmus, and two legionary tombstones. The legion first arrived in Britain around AD 43, and remained into the 4th century, when records disappear. The Sixth Legion was involved in building work within the fort at Croy Hill, and further evidence of an altar and a legionary tombstone indicate that there was probably a legionary detachment living at the site. The Sixth Legion is also represented at Castlecary, where soldiers of both the Sixth and Second Legions dedicated an inscription to Fortuna within the fort bath-house. Two altars at the site were also dedicated by soldiers of the Sixth Legion, suggesting that there was probably a legionary detachment located at the fort. The legion was stationed in Spain, on the Danube, and in Germany before coming to Britain as part of an invasion force in AD 43. Inscriptions at Bar Hill and at Bearsden record building work within the forts.

Auxiliary Units The legions were supported by auxiliary troops, men drawn into the army from across the Roman empire sometimes voluntarily, sometimes by force. Auxiliary soldiers were not Roman citizens, but were granted citizenship once they retired. This also extended to any children they may have had 000 like legionaries they were not supposed to marry while in service, but they too may have had families living in the vicus. At least eight different auxiliary units served on the Antonine Wall from countries as far off as Syria. Units were usually formed in one region and then almost immediately moved far across the empire, perhaps in order to reduce the chances for a local rebellion. Auxiliary units were typically composed of troops with a shared ethnic identity, commanded by Roman citizen officers. Auxiliaries were equipped with long slashing swords, bows, spears and slings. They had helmets, oval shields, and chainmail or leather cuirasses to provide protection. Inscriptions provide a valuable way of tracking the movement of particular units and, from these, we know that many remained in their assigned provinces for centuries, with soldiers often retiring within the

province where they had served rather than in their original homeland. Over time these ethnically-formed units took on new recruits from their service area, creating situations where native Britons served alongside soldiers from far-flung regions. Auxiliary units provide a particularly fascinating view into cultural and social integration across and beyond the Empire:

First Cohort of Baetasians The First Cohort of Baetasians *cohors I Baetasiorum quingenaria peditata civium Romanorum ob virtutem et fidem* was an auxiliary infantry unit of men from the modern-day Netherlands. An early inscription from Manchester suggests that they were based there before moving north to the Antonine Wall. On the Wall, the unit is referred to in inscriptions from the forts at Bar Hill below and Old Kilpatrick. The unit may have been part of an invasion force in AD 43, and this is the only known unit of bowmen in Roman Britain. The inscription from Castlecary records building work within the fort, but it is unknown if the unit formed part of the garrison once the fort was completed; it is possible that the cohort was split between the forts at Castlecary and Cramond.

First Cohort of Vardullians The First Cohort of Vardullians *cohors I Vardullorum milliaria peditata* was an auxiliary infantry unit of about men from modern-day northern Spain *Hispania Terraconensis*. The unit is known from a number of forts across northern Britain, with the earliest known location at Castlecary fort on the Antonine Wall. The fort at Castlecary was too small to have held the full cohort, though, and it has been suggested that part of the unit was stationed elsewhere—possibly in north Africa. Pottery of North African style has been identified at several sites along the Antonine Wall, and it is possible that this originated with African recruits accompanying the First Cohort of Vardullians after their return from war in Mauretania. The unit is known from a tombstone at Mumrills on the Antonine Wall which commemorates the life and death of Nectovellius, son of Vindex, a Brigantian from modern-day northern England who died after nine years of service with the unit. This cohort is also known from multiple inscriptions from the Cumbrian Coast fort at Moresby. The altar inscription notes that for part of the time the unit was stationed at Rough Castle, it was commanded by a centurion from the Twentieth Legion named Gaius Flavius Betto.

Unknown Cohort of Baetasians or Batavians A fragmentary inscription on an altar at Castlecary fort has been interpreted as referring to a cohort of Baetasians or Batavians, both from the modern-day Netherlands.

Chapter 2 : ROMAN AUXILIARY CAVALRY ALAE IN BRITAIN

Drawn from a wide range of warlike peoples throughout the provinces, especially on the fringes of the empire, auxiliaries were generally not citizens of the Roman empire.

During the Principate era until AD 211, auxiliary regiments, called *auxilia* by the Romans, were formations kept separate from the legions, who were recruited from Roman citizens only. *Auxilia* were mostly recruited from the *peregrini*, i.e. non-citizens. There were three basic types of auxiliary regiment: *Alae*, *Cohortes*, and *Centuriae*. A number of regiments, of all three types, were designated *sagittariorum*, indicating that their members were equipped as archers. AD 80, a minority of regiments *ca.* Contents of tables Edit Table I below lists auxiliary regiments during the rule of the emperor Hadrian AD 117-138, for which there is the most comprehensive evidence. The table does not show regiments that were attested to in the 1st century but that, according to Holder, were dissolved by 100, nor those that were probably founded after 100. The precise number of regiments that existed at this time is disputed. This discrepancy is due to the existence of several units with the same serial number and name, but attested in various provinces: In addition, 14 units attested until *ca.* The regiments are listed by the Roman province where they were deployed in *ca.* Table II is a glossary of regimental names, the majority of which were ethnic, i.e. named after a tribe. In the earlier part of this period, regiments were raised from, and named after, individual tribes e.g. *Campagonum*, *Trevirorum* and *Bessorum*. Later, units were raised from and named after broad national groups e.g. *Flaviae*. There is very little evidence concerning the organisation and policies of auxiliary recruitment. The ethnic origins of auxiliary recruits are attested in only a tiny fraction of cases. For example, the *Cohors II Gallorum veterana equitata* must have recruited *ca.* But the origins of only 2 rankers are known. Conclusions about auxiliary recruitment drawn by scholars from the available evidence must therefore be regarded as tentative. This is because in the Flavian era, as a matter of deliberate policy, most regiments were deployed in provinces far from their original home and drew the majority of their recruits from local natives and the rest from all parts of the empire. A regiment deployed long-term in the same province would thus, over time, acquire the ethnic character of its host population. There are exceptions to this rule: A minority of regiments remained stationed in their original home province, e.g. *Legio VI Victrix*. Regiments founded a relatively short period before 100, e.g. *Legio VI Victrix*. Some specialised regiments e.g. *Legio VI Victrix*. Regiments attested in the reign of Hadrian Edit The Roman empire in AD, in the time of emperor Hadrian, showing the provinces and legions deployed To access the table of auxiliary regiments for the province of your interest, click on the relevant note.

Chapter 3 : Roman Cavalry - Imperial Romans New Zealand

This booklet is a solid introduction to the Roman Auxiliary Cavalryman, the one you see appearing in a number of historical novels, such as the ones from Manda Scott on the conquest of Britain for instance, or the ones that take place somewhere up North beyond or close to Hadrian's Wall.

Warrior auxiliary cohort of Batavia , the second half of the 1st century AD. These soldiers were mainly recruited from the peregrini, i. This was in contrast to the legions, which admitted Roman citizens only. Roman auxiliary units developed from the varied contingents of non-Italian troops, especially cavalry, that the Roman Republic used in increasing numbers to support its legions after BC. The Julio-Claudian period 30 BCâ€”68 AD saw the transformation of these motley temporary levies into a standing corps of regiments with standardised structure, equipment and conditions of service. By the end of this period, there were no significant differences between legionaries and most auxiliaries in terms of training, or thus combat capability. Judging by the names of attested auxiliary regiments, these parts of the Iberian peninsula soon became a major source of recruits. Then the Danubian regions were annexed: Their light cavalry equites Maurorum was highly prized and had alternately fought and assisted the Romans for well over two centuries: Additionally, independent auxiliary units were often the only Roman military force present in the inermes provinciae, or unarmed provinces, such as Mauretania. Recruitment was thus heavy throughout the Augustan period, with a steady increase in the number of units formed. By 23 AD, the Roman historian Tacitus records that there were roughly the same numbers of auxiliaries in service as there were legionaries. Since at this time there were 25 legions of 5,000 men each, the auxilia thus amounted to 125,000 men. Batavians The Batavi were accounted indisputably not merely as the best riders and swimmers of the army, but also as the model of true soldiers. In this case certainly the good pay of the bodyguard, as well as the privilege of the nobles to serve as officers, considerably confirmed their loyalty to the Empire. The Batavians, according to Tacitus, were the most noble and brave of all the Germans. The Chatti, of whom they formed a portion, were a pre-eminently warlike race. In times of war their young men cut neither hair nor beard till they had slain an enemy. On the field of battle, in the midst of carnage and plunder, they, for the first time, bared their faces. The cowardly and sluggish, only, remained unshorn. They wore an iron ring upon their necks until they had performed the same achievement, a symbol that they then threw away, as the emblem of sloth. The Batavians were always spoken of by the Romans with entire respect. They conquered the Belgians, they forced the free Frisians to pay tribute, but they called the Batavi their friends. The tax-gatherer never invaded their island. Honorable alliance united them with the Romans. Aulus Plautius, however, sent across some Celts who were practised in swimming with ease fully armed across even the fastest of rivers. The auxiliary troops who crossed the Menai Straits onto the Isle of Anglesey to destroy the Druid stronghold there were in all likelihood Batavian units. It is thought that in the army of Plautius there were eight Batavian units, each five hundred strong. The historian Cornelius Tacitus c. He built flat-bottomed vessels to cope with the shallows, and uncertain depths of the sea. Thus the infantry crossed, while the cavalry followed by fording, or, where the water was deep, swam by the side of their horses. Vegetius, *Epitoma rei militaris* 3. CIL 03, AE , From my bow I fired an arrow, and while it quivered still in the air and was falling back, with a second arrow I hit and broke it. No Roman or foreigner has ever managed to better this feat, no soldier with a javelin, no Parthian with a bow. Here I lie, here I have immortalised my deeds on an ever-mindful stone which will see if anyone after me will rival my deeds. The Batavians were a notable addition to the forces of the Roman army from the reign of Caesar, until the reign of Romulus Augustulus. They played an important role in the successes of â€” and supplementation to â€” the Legions of the Roman army. Our Batavian unit honours these men and perpetuates their fine tradition.

Chapter 4 : Legions & Auxiliary Units | Antonine Wall

Information about the Roman Cavalry and Roman Auxiliary - As Romans were never considered exceptionally good horsemen, and the role of the cavalry not as important in the Roman thought process, the Equitatus was generally made up of non-Roman horsemen.

The Cavalry Equitatus and Auxiliary Roman Cavalry Equitatus and Auxiliary As Romans were never considered exceptionally good horsemen, and the role of the cavalry not as important in the Roman thought process, the Equitatus was generally made up of non-Roman horsemen. While they would play an important part of Legionary tactics, the Roman Cavalry was considered secondary and would remain the weakest part of the Roman Army until the very late Imperial period. Generally, the cavalry was used as light skirmishing troops, and mounted archers whose job was to patrol, act as scouts and messengers and to provide a mobile defensive screen while the legion was massing in battle array. As in all armies throughout history, the mounted trooper was also very effective in chasing down and harassing a fleeing and panicked enemy force. The typical Auxillary cavalry unit was broken down as follows: The smallest basic unit of cavalry. One Turma consisted of 32 troopers or Eques Alaris. The Turmae were under the command of a Decurion. Meaning "wing" the basic alae was composed of men, a total of 16 turmae. A larger formed unit with the same structure. It was composed of up to 32 alae or roughly up to 1, troopers. These were the cavalry units attached directly to the Legion and were considered regular Legionaries of immunes rank. Originally they consisted of men but may have been upwards of 1, men like the Ala Milliariae. Generally this unit would fall under the command of a Centurion or an Optio. These units were composed of a mix of infantry and cavalry but were generally only organized when the need arose. Composed of infantry and cavalry. Both the Emperor and Provincial Governors could have cavalry contingents as bodyguards. Those protecting the Emperor were called Equites Singulares Augusti, and will be further explained in the Praetorian Guard section. Types of Roman Cavalry Lancearii or Antesignani: The Roman light cavalry, the Equites Legionis was generally this type of trooper. These troop types were created under the reign of Trajan probably to counter the cavalry of the Sarmatian people and carried the heavy lance contus. This heavy cavalry was developed in the east and probably first appeared in Roman service under Hadrian. They were completely armored from head to toe to counter archers. The following list indicates a general chain of command and various titles within the cavalry: Praefectus Alae or Praefectus Equitum: Cavalry commander, could be either Roman or a non-Roman. Commanded a single turmae. Second in command to the Decurion. Third in command to the Decurion. Eques or Eques Alaris: A cavalryman or auxiliary cavalryman. The cavalry also maintained several positions of the infantry like the principales. Some other titles in no particular order: Basic Organization of the Auxiliary Infantry While the Legion itself was essentially heavy infantry of Roman citizens the auxiliaries were non-citizens and apart from cavalry were used as light infantry and missile troops. The basic unit structure is explained above in the cavalry section. Auxiliary Infantry Ranks The Praefectus Alae of a 1,man strong cavalry unit was the highest rank attainable in the auxiliary followed by the same title of a man cavalry unit. A commander of a 1, man strong infantry or mixed unit. Commander of a typical man unit composed of mixed troops. The rank and file fell under the command of Centurions along with a similar command structure to that of the regular Legion. Under Caesar, legions did not have cavalry integrally assigned, as had been the case previously.

Chapter 5 : Roman cavalry - Wikipedia

Legionary cavalry was thus reduced to a fraction of a Roman army's overall cavalry complement: a consular army of two legions now contained about 20% cavalry (i.e. ca. 4, horse), of which, at most, only were Romans.

They can be distinguished by the oval shield *clipeus* they were equipped with, in contrast to the rectangular *scutum* carried by legionaries. Like their legionary counterparts, auxiliary recruits were mostly volunteers, not conscripts. The *Auxilia* were mainly recruited from the *peregrini*, free provincial subjects who did not hold Roman citizenship and constituted the vast majority of the population in the 1st and 2nd centuries c. In contrast to the legions, which only admitted Roman citizens, members of the *Auxilia* could be recruited from territories outside of Roman control. By the end of the period, there were no significant differences between legionaries and auxiliaries in terms of training, and thus, combat capability. Auxiliary regiments were often stationed in provinces other than that in which they were originally raised, for reasons of security and to foster the process of Romanisation in the provinces. The regimental names of many auxiliary units persisted into the 4th century, but by then the units in question were different in size, structure, and quality from their predecessors. Roman Republic to 30 BC Etruscan funerary urn crowned with the sculpture of a woman and a front-panel relief showing two warriors fighting, polychrome terracotta, c. In addition, the legion lacked missile forces such as slingers and archers. The Italian forces were organised into *alae* literally: An allied *ala*, commanded by 3 Roman *praefecti sociorum*, was similar or slightly larger in infantry size 4,000–5,000 men to a legion, but contained a more substantial cavalry contingent: The overall cavalry element, c. Numidian light cavalry and, later, Gallic heavy cavalry. In the early 1st century BC, Roman cavalry was phased out altogether. After the Social War, the *socii* were all granted Roman citizenship, the Latin *alae* abolished, and the *socii* recruited into the legions. During the late Republic, non-Italian units were led by their own native chiefs, and their internal organisation was left to their own commanders. The units varied widely in dress, equipment, and weapons. They were normally raised for specific campaigns and often disbanded soon afterwards, in a similar manner to the earlier *socii militia* legions. Some of the more experienced units were kept in existence to complement the legions, and became the core of the standing auxiliary forces that developed in the Julio-Claudian period. It was clearly inspired by the Latin forces of the pre-Social War Republic, as a corps of non-citizen troops parallel to the legions. But there were fundamental differences, the same as between Republican and Augustan legions. The Latin forces of the Republic were made up of part-time conscripts in units that would be raised and disbanded for and after particular campaigns. The Augustan *Auxilia* were mainly volunteer professionals serving in permanent units. However, Augustus organised the *Auxilia* into regiments the size of cohorts a tenth the size of legions, due to the much greater flexibility of the smaller unit size. Further, the regiments were of three types: *Cohortes* were likely modelled on legionary cohorts. Judging by the names of attested auxiliary regiments, these parts of the Iberian peninsula soon became a major source of recruits. Then the Danubian regions were annexed: Their light cavalry *equites Maurorum* was highly prized and had alternately fought and assisted the Romans for well over two centuries: By AD 23, the Roman historian Tacitus records that there were roughly the same numbers of auxiliaries in service as there were legionaries. This carried the obvious risk if their own tribe or ethnic group rebelled against Rome or attacked the Roman frontier from outside the Empire, auxiliary troops could be tempted to make common cause with them. The Romans would then be faced by an enemy that included units fully equipped and trained by themselves, thus losing their usual tactical advantages over tribal foes. This strategy was never revived by later emperors. The central Illyrian tribes were tough and spartan shepherds of the Bosnian mountains and excellent soldier-material. By the start of the Common Era, they were an important recruitment base for the *auxilia*. Instead, they mutinied at the assembly point, and defeated a Roman force sent against them. They gave battle to a second Roman force from Moesia. They lost, but inflicted heavy casualties. The *Dalmatae* attacked the port of Salona and overran the Adriatic coast, defeating a Roman force and exposing the Roman heartland of Italy to the fear of a rebel invasion. These were men whose status or background was regarded by Augustus as unsuitable for recruitment into the legions: These special units were

accorded the title *civium Romanorum* "of Roman citizens" , or *c.* After the Illyrian revolt, these cohorts remained in being and recruited non-citizens like other auxiliary units, but retained their prestigious *c.* AD , as the most difficult conflict faced by Rome since the Punic Wars over two centuries earlier. This was apparently lucky timing for the Romans: The Roman high command had no doubt that Arminius would have formed a grand alliance with the Illyrians. By the 2nd century, with roughly half the Roman army deployed on the Danube frontier, the *auxilia* and legions alike were dominated by Illyrian recruits. In the 3rd century, Illyrians largely replaced Italians in the senior officer echelons of *praefecti* of auxiliary regiments and *tribuni militum* of legions. These were members of a military aristocracy, outstanding soldiers who saved the empire from collapse in the turbulent late 3rd century. A minimum term of service of 25 years was established, at the end of which the retiring auxiliary soldier, and all his children, were awarded Roman citizenship. Indigenous chiefs continued to command some auxiliary regiments, and were probably granted equestrian rank for the purpose. It is also likely that auxiliary pay was standardised at this time, but we only have estimates for the Julio-Claudian period. Auxiliary equipment was broadly similar to that of the legions see Section 2. The main difference was that *auxilia* contained combat cavalry, both heavy and light, and other specialized units that legions lacked. The latter became as important as Illyria as a source of auxiliary recruits, especially cavalry and archers. Britain in mid-2nd century contained the largest number of auxiliary regiments in any single province: Roman territory is shaded dark. Their homeland was called the *Insula Batavorum* by the Romans and corresponded roughly with modern Gelderland province, Neth. Their chief town was *Noviomagus Nijmegen* , Neth. The name is of Celtic origin, meaning "new market", suggesting that the Germanic *Batavi* , a Germanic tribe, inhabited the region today known as Gelderland Netherlands , in the Rhine river delta , then known as the *Insula Batavorum* "Island of the *Batavi*", because surrounded by branches of the Rhine , part of the Roman province of *Germania Inferior*. In return for the unusual privilege of exemption from *tributum* direct taxes on land and heads normally exacted from *peregrini* , they supplied a disproportionate number of recruits to the Julio-Claudian *auxilia*: They were regarded by the Romans as the very best *fortissimi, validissimi* of their auxiliary, and indeed all, their forces. After the *Batavi* regiments were withdrawn from Britain to Italy in 66, *Civilis* and his brother also a *praefect* were arrested by the governor of *Germania Inferior* on a fabricated accusation of sedition. This alienated several hundred crack *Batavi* troops, and indeed the whole *Batavi* nation who regarded it as a grave insult. Their mutual hatred erupted in open fighting on at least two occasions. The governor of *Germania Inferior*, ordered to raise more troops, outraged the *Batavi* by attempting to conscript more *Batavi* than the maximum stipulated in their treaty. The brutality and corruption of the Roman recruiting-centurions including incidents of sexual assault on *Batavi* young men brought already deep discontent in the *Batavi* homeland to the boil. Initially, he claimed he was supporting the bid for power of *Vespasian* , the general in command of the legions in *Syria* , whom *Civilis* had probably befriended when both were involved in the Roman invasion of Britain 25 years earlier *Vespasian* was then commander of the legion II *Augusta*. In addition, the Roman commanders and their rank-and-file soldiers were divided by loyalty to rival emperors. First the rebel allies captured two Roman forts in their territory, and a cohort of *Tungri* defected to *Civilis*. A number of German tribes from beyond the Rhine joined his cause. Their civil war over, the Romans mustered a huge task force of eight legions five dispatched from Italy, two from Spain and one from Britain to deal with *Civilis*. But, in view of his former friendship with *Vespasian*, who had already offered him a pardon, and the fact that the Romans still needed the *Batavi* levies, it is likely that the terms were lenient by Roman standards. The names adopted would normally be those of the emperor ruling at the time of the citizenship award. In this case, they could refer to any of the 3 emperors of the Flavian dynasty ruled 69â€”96 , *Vespasian* and his two sons, *Titus* and *Domitian* , all of whom carried the same names. The revolt proved that in times of civil strife, when legions were far from their bases campaigning for rival claimants to the imperial throne, it was dangerous to leave provinces exclusively in the hands of auxiliary regiments recruited from the indigenous nation. During the Julio-Claudian period, auxiliary regiments had often been deployed away from their original home province. However, there is evidence that a few regiments at least continued to draw some recruits from their original home provinces in the 2nd century e. *Batavi* units stationed in Britain. Such units

remained a minority of the Auxilia: In Britain, there were Together, these two provinces contained about a quarter of the total auxiliary regiments. This is evident if one compares calculations by Spaul and Holder Estimates of Roman auxilia numbers units attested in the mid-2nd century Author.

The principle arm in most Roman forces is going to be composed of a solid core of legionaries and/or auxiliary infantry. That said the armies of the Principate were well served by a comparatively smaller but no less effective body of cavalry mainly composed of the auxiliary ala with many of the soldiers hailing from conquered tribes used to fighting in the saddle.

These are often assisted by a Unit of Hamian archers from the far-distant province of Syria. When people think of the Roman Army there is a tendency to think of the legions themselves and to forget the considerable contribution made to the Roman war machine by the numerous auxiliary cohorts that provided vital support in a number of areas. While the Roman legions were undeniably the most effective fighting force of their age the Romans themselves had never managed to successfully develop their military forces beyond the legionary formations. Accordingly the need for cavalry, archers, slingers and so on was made good by recruiting non-Roman peoples into cohorts of quingenaria and men milliaria. These tended to be one of three types; light infantry, cavalry and mixed units equitata made up of cavalry and infantry. Auxiliary troops were levied from the conquered provinces and were named after the locality of their origination. The period of service for an auxiliary soldier was roughly 25 years after which time he could be discharged with a small gratuity and, most precious of all, a diploma conferring Roman Citizenship on himself and his heirs. For acts of bravery it was more likely that Citizenship, either for individuals, or for the unit as a whole, was awarded. Auxiliary units lacked the specialised skills and equipment of the larger legions and were paid proportionately less. Moreover they tended not to be among the recipients of the large donatives handed out to the legions and the Praetorian Guard by successive emperors desperate to retain the loyalty of their troops. However, the Citizen cohorts *cohors voluntariorum civium Romanorum* thanks largely to the will of Augustus, were practically on the same pay level as the Legionaries, and in consequence their commanders bear the title of *Tribunus*. Stationed in small forts along the frontiers the auxiliaries were mainly used for garrison and policing duties. Like their comrades in the legions the auxiliary troops were divided into centuries of men commanded by a centurion. The centurions were as likely as not to be Roman citizens in the time-honored tradition of empire officers being placed in command of native troops. Such an appointment might represent a promotion from a one of the legions. It might be a direct appointment provided under the patronage of a provincial governor, or even the emperor himself. Certainly many of the centurions were drawn from the same native stock as the rank and file. Above the centurions was the commander of the quingenaria cohort - the *Praefectus* who was an equestrian officer. The rank of prefect was a senior one and commanded respect right across the army. The command of a *cohors milliaria* or *civium Romanorum* was usually in the form of a *Tribunus*. Command of an auxiliary cohort was often the reward conferred on outstanding legionary centurions who had proved deserving of independent command.

Chapter 7 : Roman Auxiliary Cavalryman: AD 14â€“ by Nic Fields

Roman Auxiliary Cavalryman has 7 ratings and 0 reviews. Drawn from a wide range of warlike peoples throughout the provinces, especially on the fringes of.

In addition the legion lacked missile forces such as slingers and archers. The Italian forces were organised into *alae* literally: An allied *ala*, commanded by 3 Roman *praefecti sociorum*, was similar or slightly larger in infantry size 4â€“5, men to a legion, but contained a more substantial cavalry contingent: The overall cavalry element, c. Numidian light cavalry and, later, Gallic heavy cavalry. In the early 1st century BC, Roman cavalry was phased out altogether. After the Social War, the *socii* were all granted Roman citizenship, the Latin *alae* abolished, and the *socii* recruited into the legions. During the late Republic, non-Italian units were led by their own native chiefs, and their internal organisation was left to their own commanders. The units varied widely in dress, equipment, and weapons. They were normally raised for specific campaigns and often disbanded soon afterwards, in a similar manner to the earlier *socii militia* legions. Some of the more experienced units were kept in being to complement the legions, and became the core of the standing auxiliary forces that developed in the Julio-Claudian period. It was clearly inspired by the Latin forces of the pre-Social War Republic, as a corps of non-citizen troops parallel to the legions. But there were fundamental differences, the same as between Republican and Augustan legions. The Latin forces of the Republic were made up of part-time conscripts in units that would be raised and disbanded for and after particular campaigns. The Augustan *auxilia* were mainly volunteer professionals serving in permanent units. Augustus however organised the *Auxilia* into regiments the size of cohorts a tenth the size of legions, due to the much greater flexibility of the smaller unit size. Further, the regiments were of three types: *Cohortes* were likely modelled on legionary cohorts i. Judging by the names of attested auxiliary regiments, these parts of the Iberian peninsula soon became a major source of recruits. Then the Danubian regions were annexed: Their light cavalry *equites Maurorum* was highly prized and had alternately fought and assisted the Romans for well over two centuries: Great Illyrian Revolt During the early Julio-Claudian period, many auxiliary regiments raised in frontier provinces were stationed in or near their home provinces, except during periods of major crises such as the Cantabrian Wars, when they were deployed temporarily in theatre. This carried the obvious risk if their own tribe or ethnic group rebelled against Rome or attacked the Roman frontier from outside the Empire, auxiliary troops could be tempted to make common cause with them. The Romans would then be faced by an enemy that included units fully equipped and trained by themselves, thus losing their usual tactical advantages over tribal foes. This strategy was never revived by later emperors. The central Illyrian tribes were tough and spartan shepherds of the Bosnian mountains and excellent soldier-material. By the start of the Common Era, they were an important recruitment base for the *auxilia*. Instead they mutinied at the assembly point, and defeated a Roman force sent against them. They gave battle to a second Roman force from Moesia. They lost, but inflicted heavy casualties. The *Dalmatae* attacked the port of Salona and overran the Adriatic coast, defeating a Roman force and exposing the Roman heartland of Italy to the fear of a rebel invasion. These were men whose status or background was regarded by Augustus as unsuitable for recruitment into the legions: These special units were accorded the title *civium Romanorum* "of Roman citizens", or c. After the Illyrian revolt, these cohorts remained in being and recruited non-citizens like other auxiliary units, but retained their prestigious c. AD, as the most difficult conflict faced by Rome since the Punic Wars over two centuries earlier. This was apparently lucky timing for the Romans: The Roman high command had no doubt that Arminius would have formed a grand alliance with the Illyrians. By the 2nd century, with roughly half the Roman army deployed on the Danube frontier, the *auxilia* and legions alike were dominated by Illyrian recruits. In the 3rd century, Illyrians largely replaced Italians in the senior officer echelons of *praefecti* of auxiliary regiments and *tribuni militum* of legions. These were members of a military aristocracy, outstanding soldiers who saved the empire from collapse in the turbulent late 3rd century. A minimum term of service of 25 years was established, at the end of which the retiring auxiliary soldier, and all his children, were awarded Roman citizenship. Indigenous chiefs continued to command some auxiliary regiments, and were probably

granted equestrian rank for the purpose. It is also likely that auxiliary pay was standardised at this time, but we only have estimates for the Julio-Claudian period. Auxiliary equipment was broadly similar to that of the legions see Section 2. The main difference was that auxilia contained combat cavalry, both heavy and light, and other specialized units that legions lacked. The latter became as important as Illyria as a source of auxiliary recruits, especially cavalry and archers. Britain in mid-2nd century contained the largest number of auxiliary regiments in any single province: Roman territory is shaded dark. Their homeland was called the *Insula Batavorum* by the Romans and corresponded roughly with modern Gelderland province, Neth. Their chief town was *Noviomagus Nijmegen*, Neth. The name is of Celtic origin, meaning "new market", suggesting that the Germanic *Batavi* either displaced or subjugated an indigenous Gallic tribe *The Batavi*, a Germanic tribe, inhabited the region today known as Gelderland Netherlands, in the Rhine river delta, then known as the *Insula Batavorum* "Island of the *Batavi*", because surrounded by branches of the Rhine, part of the Roman province of *Germania Inferior*. In return for the unusual privilege of exemption from *tributum* direct taxes on land and heads normally exacted from *peregrini*, they supplied a disproportionate number of recruits to the Julio-Claudian auxilia: They were regarded by the Romans as the very best *fortissimi, validissimi* of their auxiliary, and indeed all, their forces. After the *Batavi* regiments were withdrawn from Britain to Italy in 66, *Civilis* and his brother also a prefect were arrested by the governor of *Germania Inferior* on a fabricated accusation of sedition. This alienated several hundred crack *Batavi* troops, and indeed the whole *Batavi* nation who regarded it as a grave insult. Their mutual hatred erupted in open fighting on at least two occasions. The governor of *Germania Inferior*, ordered to raise more troops, outraged the *Batavi* by attempting to conscript more *Batavi* than the maximum stipulated in their treaty. The brutality and corruption of the Roman recruiting-centurions including incidents of sexual assault on *Batavi* young men brought already deep discontent in the *Batavi* homeland to the boil. Initially, he claimed he was supporting the bid for power of *Vespasian*, the general in command of the legions in Syria, whom *Civilis* had probably befriended when both were involved in the Roman invasion of Britain 25 years earlier *Vespasian* was then commander of the legion *II Augusta*. In addition, the Roman commanders and their rank-and-file soldiers were divided by loyalty to rival emperors. First the rebel allies captured two Roman forts in their territory, and a cohort of *Tungri* defected to *Civilis*. A number of German tribes from beyond the Rhine joined his cause. Their civil war over, the Romans mustered a huge task force of eight legions five dispatched from Italy, two from Spain and one from Britain to deal with *Civilis*. But in view of his former friendship with *Vespasian*, who had already offered him a pardon, and the fact that the Romans still needed the *Batavi* levies, it is likely that the terms were lenient by Roman standards. The names adopted would normally be those of the emperor ruling at the time of the citizenship award. In this case, they could refer to any of the 3 emperors of the Flavian dynasty ruled, *Vespasian* and his two sons, *Titus* and *Domitian*, all of whom carried the same names. The revolt proved that in times of civil strife, when legions were far from their bases campaigning for rival claimants to the imperial throne, it was dangerous to leave provinces exclusively in the hands of auxiliary regiments recruited from the indigenous nation. During the Julio-Claudian period, auxiliary regiments had often been deployed away from their original home province. However, there is evidence that a few regiments at least continued to draw some recruits from their original home provinces in the 2nd century e. *Batavi* units stationed in Britain. Such units remained a minority of the auxilia: In Britain there were Together these two provinces contained about a quarter of the total auxiliary regiments. This is evident if one compares calculations by Spaul and Holder Estimates of Roman auxilia numbers units attested in the mid-2nd century Author.

This article lists the Roman auxiliary regiments of the Imperial Roman army attested in the epigraphic record, by province of deployment in the reign of the emperor Hadrian (r.), the period with the most abundant evidence. For the history, organisation and equipment of these regiments, see.

Historical development[edit] Background: Roman Republic to 30 BC [edit] Etruscan funerary urn crowned with the sculpture of a woman and a front-panel relief showing two warriors fighting, polychrome terracotta , c. In addition, the legion lacked missile forces such as slingers and archers. The Italian forces were organised into alae literally: An allied ala, commanded by 3 Roman praefecti sociorum, was similar or slightly larger in infantry size 4â€”5, men to a legion, but contained a more substantial cavalry contingent: The overall cavalry element, c. Numidian light cavalry and, later, Gallic heavy cavalry. In the early 1st century BC, Roman cavalry was phased out altogether. After the Social War, the socii were all granted Roman citizenship, the Latin alae abolished, and the socii recruited into the legions. During the late Republic, non-Italian units were led by their own native chiefs, and their internal organisation was left to their own commanders. The units varied widely in dress, equipment, and weapons. They were normally raised for specific campaigns and often disbanded soon afterwards, in a similar manner to the earlier socii militia legions. Some of the more experienced units were kept in existence to complement the legions, and became the core of the standing auxiliary forces that developed in the Julio-Claudian period. It was clearly inspired by the Latin forces of the pre-Social War Republic, as a corps of non-citizen troops parallel to the legions. But there were fundamental differences, the same as between Republican and Augustan legions. The Latin forces of the Republic were made up of part-time conscripts in units that would be raised and disbanded for and after particular campaigns. The Augustan Auxilia were mainly volunteer professionals serving in permanent units. However, Augustus organised the Auxilia into regiments the size of cohorts a tenth the size of legions , due to the much greater flexibility of the smaller unit size. Further, the regiments were of three types: Cohortes were likely modelled on legionary cohorts i. Judging by the names of attested auxiliary regiments, these parts of the Iberian peninsula soon became a major source of recruits. Then the Danubian regions were annexed: Their light cavalry equites Maurorum was highly prized and had alternately fought and assisted the Romans for well over two centuries: By AD 23, the Roman historian Tacitus records that there were roughly the same numbers of auxiliaries in service as there were legionaries. Great Illyrian Revolt During the early Julio-Claudian period, many auxiliary regiments raised in frontier provinces were stationed in or near their home provinces, except during periods of major crises such as the Cantabrian Wars , when they were deployed temporarily in theatre. This carried the obvious risk if their own tribe or ethnic group rebelled against Rome or attacked the Roman frontier from outside the Empire , auxiliary troops could be tempted to make common cause with them. The Romans would then be faced by an enemy that included units fully equipped and trained by themselves, thus losing their usual tactical advantages over tribal foes. This strategy was never revived by later emperors. The central Illyrian tribes were tough and spartan shepherds of the Bosnian mountains and excellent soldier-material. By the start of the Common Era, they were an important recruitment base for the auxilia. Instead, they mutinied at the assembly point, and defeated a Roman force sent against them. They gave battle to a second Roman force from Moesia. They lost, but inflicted heavy casualties. The Dalmatae attacked the port of Salona and overran the Adriatic coast, defeating a Roman force and exposing the Roman heartland of Italy to the fear of a rebel invasion. These were men whose status or background was regarded by Augustus as unsuitable for recruitment into the legions: These special units were accorded the title civium Romanorum "of Roman citizens" , or c. After the Illyrian revolt, these cohorts remained in being and recruited non-citizens like other auxiliary units, but retained their prestigious c. AD , as the most difficult conflict faced by Rome since the Punic Wars over two centuries earlier. This was apparently lucky timing for the Romans: The Roman high command had no doubt that Arminius would have formed a grand alliance with the Illyrians. By the 2nd century, with roughly half the Roman army deployed on the Danube frontier, the auxilia and legions alike were dominated by Illyrian recruits. In the 3rd century, Illyrians largely replaced Italians in the senior officer

echelons of praefecti of auxiliary regiments and tribuni militum of legions. These were members of a military aristocracy, outstanding soldiers who saved the empire from collapse in the turbulent late 3rd century. A minimum term of service of 25 years was established, at the end of which the retiring auxiliary soldier, and all his children, were awarded Roman citizenship. Indigenous chiefs continued to command some auxiliary regiments, and were probably granted equestrian rank for the purpose. It is also likely that auxiliary pay was standardised at this time, but we only have estimates for the Julio-Claudian period. Auxiliary equipment was broadly similar to that of the legions see Section 2. The main difference was that auxilia contained combat cavalry, both heavy and light, and other specialized units that legions lacked. The latter became as important as Illyria as a source of auxiliary recruits, especially cavalry and archers. Britain in mid-2nd century contained the largest number of auxiliary regiments in any single province: Roman territory is shaded dark. Their homeland was called the Insula Batavorum by the Romans and corresponded roughly with modern Gelderland province, Neth. Their chief town was Noviomagus Nijmegen, Neth. The name is of Celtic origin, meaning "new market", suggesting that the Germanic Batavi either displaced or subjugated an indigenous Gallic tribe. The Batavi, a Germanic tribe, inhabited the region today known as Gelderland Netherlands, in the Rhine river delta, then known as the Insula Batavorum "Island of the Batavi", because surrounded by branches of the Rhine, part of the Roman province of Germania Inferior. In return for the unusual privilege of exemption from tributum direct taxes on land and heads normally exacted from peregrini, they supplied a disproportionate number of recruits to the Julio-Claudian auxilia: They were regarded by the Romans as the very best fortissimi, validissimi of their auxiliary, and indeed all, their forces. After the Batavi regiments were withdrawn from Britain to Italy in 66, Civilis and his brother also a prefect were arrested by the governor of Germania Inferior on a fabricated accusation of sedition. This alienated several hundred crack Batavi troops, and indeed the whole Batavi nation who regarded it as a grave insult. Their mutual hatred erupted in open fighting on at least two occasions. The governor of Germania Inferior, ordered to raise more troops, outraged the Batavi by attempting to conscript more Batavi than the maximum stipulated in their treaty. The brutality and corruption of the Roman recruiting-centurions including incidents of sexual assault on Batavi young men brought already deep discontent in the Batavi homeland to the boil. Initially, he claimed he was supporting the bid for power of Vespasian, the general in command of the legions in Syria, whom Civilis had probably befriended when both were involved in the Roman invasion of Britain 25 years earlier. Vespasian was then commander of the legion II Augusta. In addition, the Roman commanders and their rank-and-file soldiers were divided by loyalty to rival emperors. First the rebel allies captured two Roman forts in their territory, and a cohort of Tungri defected to Civilis. A number of German tribes from beyond the Rhine joined his cause. Their civil war over, the Romans mustered a huge task force of eight legions five dispatched from Italy, two from Spain and one from Britain to deal with Civilis. But, in view of his former friendship with Vespasian, who had already offered him a pardon, and the fact that the Romans still needed the Batavi levies, it is likely that the terms were lenient by Roman standards. The names adopted would normally be those of the emperor ruling at the time of the citizenship award. In this case, they could refer to any of the 3 emperors of the Flavian dynasty ruled 69-96, Vespasian and his two sons, Titus and Domitian, all of whom carried the same names. The revolt proved that in times of civil strife, when legions were far from their bases campaigning for rival claimants to the imperial throne, it was dangerous to leave provinces exclusively in the hands of auxiliary regiments recruited from the indigenous nation. During the Julio-Claudian period, auxiliary regiments had often been deployed away from their original home province. However, there is evidence that a few regiments at least continued to draw some recruits from their original home provinces in the 2nd century e. Batavi units stationed in Britain. Such units remained a minority of the Auxilia: In Britain, there were Together, these two provinces contained about a quarter of the total auxiliary regiments. This is evident if one compares calculations by Spaul and Holder Estimates of Roman auxilia numbers units attested in the mid-2nd century Author.

Chapter 9 : Auxiliary Persian Cavalry - Rome - Total War: Rome II - Royal Military Academy

Roman Infantry Cohortes in Britain Irregular Auxiliary Units in Britain The information on these pages owes a great deal to the superbly researched article by M.G. Jarrett Non-legionary troops in Roman Britain: Part One, The Units (Britannia Volume XXV, , pp), the definitive list of British auxiliary units.

The edge of the helmet has a cabled finish, there is a small neck-guard and the crest knob is forged in one piece with the skull and is decorated with a scale pattern. The method of closure is copied from head of King Pyrrhus from Naples Museum given in Robinson page Polybios states legionaries carried a plume of three purple or black feathers 1. The large scutum was adopted by all three classes of legionary during the Latin Wars of the 4th century B. This is based on the large curved plywood shield from Kasr al-Harit in the Egyptian Fayyum. Body armour at this time was linked to wealth and social status. Such embossed copper-alloy breastplates seem to have been backed in leather and suspended using leather straps. Relatively little is known about Republican belts and here a simple belt with bone buckle is used. Dateline 3rd century B. Probably a Montefortino was depicted, with a feathered crest, a short plate cuirass without pteruges, two greaves and a cloak. Although generals seem to have worn red cloaks officers would show considerable variation in equipment. Paullus fought without a cuirass at the Battle of Pydna. The metal belt with hook fastenings is typical of the Samnite hill peoples. The rider wears a simple twist torc and carries a circular shield slung over his shoulder although other shapes are possible. Dateline Mid 1st century BC. Based in part on the Altar of Domitius Ahenobarbus, a mail shirt with shoulder doubling is worn over a padded garment, tunic and scarf. A basic belt with bone buckle supports a commercially available Republican sword based on an example from Delos manufactured before 69 B. Over a padded subarmalis is worn a mail shirt with shoulder doubling. The spatha has a handle made from walnut with a bone grip. A Gaulish style tunic is worn, with cloak and Gaulish brooch. Short woollen trousers, braciae, are worn with socks, undones, and caligae. The circular shield is in its cover. The bag is based on find from the Comacchio shipwreck. Dateline late 1st century North British warriors Waiting for the Romans to arrive in Yorkshire, a southern refugee offers his Hod Hill sword in allegiance to two tough northerners. A mix of Port Agen helmets are worn, with simple toggle belt fastenings, including a Roman enamel toggle. The chieftain wears a sword with a typical east Yorkshire organic hilt, with scabbard decorated with period iconography. Spined shields, would be rather old fashioned by this time, as would be the Great Torc from Snettisham worn by the chieftain, made around 75 BC. The Claudian Invasion of Britain. A scarf, focale, is worn with padded subarmalis, under a mail shirt with shoulder doubling. Short woollen trousers are worn with leg wrappings and military boots. The soldier is armed with a spatha and a quiver of javelins. A large shield covers the riders left side. Dateline 61 A D. Legionary from the Boudican revolt. The cuirass is a Corbridge A, worn here without padding. The pugio is an Augustan example from Titelberg, worn belt plates from Rheingonheim. The scabbard worn on the right is based on example from Vindonissa dated AD , holding a broad Mainz-type gladius. Braciae are worn with leg wrappings and military boots. An early Principate heavy pilum is carried, alongside a curved scutum of shield. The helmet is a Robinson Italic C based on one found at Cremona, probably lost in 69AD during the battle where the Batavians were heavily involved. The spatha is based on a find from Hod Hill, an auxiliary sword from mid- 1st century. The belt or cingulum has decorations from Tekje and London, and is worn with a Batavian belt. A mail lorica hamata with shoulder doubling is worn with a boars tusk pendant as found in Newstead, and a manica based on the find from Carlisle with the addition of a sheepskin lining. For cold weather long braciae are worn with "puttees" as found at Vindolanda. The impedimenta of the second half of the 1st century. This classic legionary is in marching order, wearing his hooded cloak, the paenula, fastened down the front. His equipment is carried suspended on a pole, the furca. He carries a kit bag or loculus, leather water bottle, string ration bag, fire iron, cook pot or situla, mess tin or patera, clothes bag and basket. His entrenching tools can be seen lying on the ground behind him. The mail shirt on the left has a cape-like shoulder doubling, and wears a torc. Short trousers, braciae, are worn. Footwear is a mixture of caligae and military boots. The right-hand figure is wearing a Gallic style tunic with folded back cuffs, as well as leg

wraps. His spatha handle is based on an early 2nd century find from Dangstetten. Dateline mid 1st century Auxiliary cavalryman. Largely iron sheathed in yellow bronze, the original still retains a bronze cheek piece. Yellow crests are later associated with the Roman cavalry by Arrian. Here the mail shirt rather than being worn over a form of padding is instead worn over two tunics, and secured by a relatively plain belt. Bracae and leg wraps complete the equipment. Dateline late 1st century Northern Britain. Legionaries could be equipped with bows for hunting and for war. This soldier is using a helmet based on the example from Brigetio, Hungary, now currently displayed at the Roman Army Museum, Caerleon. It has a high mounted brow guard and eyebrow decoration. The legionary is using a recurve bow, stiffened at the ears and handle with horn plates. The arrows are made from cane with wooden knocks and piles. No metal heads are needed for hunting arrows such as these. Rather than a quiver of uncertain design the soldier carries spare arrows in their bow hand. Dateline early 2nd century. Cavalryman with contus Romans adopted the contus in the early 2nd century. The helmet is a copy of the 1st century find from Witcham Gravel, Ely, Cambridgeshire, worn with flexible scale armour. A rare photo of the contus used by an early Imperial Roman. The weapon is in a low position to the right of the horse's neck. It could be used to break up static infantry formations, as well as against other horsemen. Cavalryman from a Cohors equitatae. Perhaps the hardest period to reconstruct. The Theilenhofen helmet now on display in Munich fits into the Imperial Italic tradition, but with a shallow neck guard. Found on the site of the castrum of Cohors III Bracaraugustanorum, a mixed cohort of infantry and cavalry guarding the Raetian limes. The deposition date of the helmet is AD although the helmet could have seen a great deal of service prior to the deposition date. The shoulder doubling on the mail shirt would be becoming old fashioned by this date. The long spatha has an early second century cow's bone grip based on a find from Dangstetten, with walnut pommel and guard with recessed copper plate. The scabbard is based on finds from Scotland and Germany. Caligae have gone out of fashion and here an enclosed boot is worn. Legionary Legio II Adiutrix. A mail hamata is depicted, here still with shoulder doubling, along with a Robinson type Imperial Gallic type I, probably made at the end of the civil wars of A. A manica is worn with greaves to protect the limbs against the two-handed Dacian sword, the falx. An oval clipeus shield is carried as depicted on the grave stela of Gaius Castricius in the Aquincum Museum, Budapest. A type B pugio is worn based on the example from Melun in France. From a mixed infantry and cavalry unit. The mail shirt at this time is not shown with shoulder doubling. Underpants, subligariorum, are worn with a pair of undones. The spatha is still attached to a baldric using rings on the scabbard. A mail shirt is worn as are ocreae or greaves. The pugio is still worn, this example coming from the Kunzig iron hoard. The spatha, now worn on the left, is suspended from a broad baldric using a phalera. The belt runs through a scabbard slide. The waist belt is fastened by a simple ring and stud arrangement, common in the period. The legionary wears a long sleeved tunic and tight trousers over military boots with integral laces. The scutum or shield is made in the old tradition using in effect a version of plywood. At this time they were edged in leather or rawhide for structural stability.