

Chapter 1 : Roman Military Diploma Museum

ROMAN MILITARY DIPLOMAS by Margaret M. Roxan TO ERIC BIRLEY Occasional Publication No. 2 Published by the Institute of Archaeology.

Institute of Classical Studies, Reviewed by Ross H. Diplomas have long been used as evidence for movements of auxiliary units and the garrisons of provinces, battle honours, the social history of the Roman army, the privileges and settlement patterns of veterans, the titles and acclamations of emperors, and as a sometimes unique source for equestrian officers and provincial governors. Just over half of these diplomas have been previously published elsewhere, but in gathering the documents together RMD performs an essential function. One cannot hope to comment on every diploma, so I will concentrate on a selection of interesting examples. RMD IV is the now the earliest diploma known to have been issued by Vespasian 26 February AD 70 , recording a special grant of privileges to serving beneficiarii of the Ravenna fleet. The defection of this fleet to Vespasian in October AD 69 played a prominent part in the collapse of the Vitellians, and from its personnel was drawn legio II Adiutrix Tac. The desire to maintain the loyalty of this fleet to the Flavian cause is again demonstrated by RMD IV 5 April AD 71 , a special grant to navarchs, trierarchs and remiges before they had completed their usual term of service. The recipient of the diploma, Velagenus, was a centurion; presumably we should then count fleet centurions among the remiges? The commentary does not make this connection, perhaps wisely: Indeed, the commentary is a little contradictory on the matter of command on a warship. The commentary unwittingly gives the impression that Velagenus was in command of a ship or at least on a par with the trierarch in seniority, which certainly was not the case. The diploma records that the recipient, the veteran centurion Liccaius, was settled at Paestum, but the findspot demonstrates that this extra reward from a new emperor grateful for the support of the fleets in civil war was not appreciated. Celer was left behind as a remansor, as was usual with City troops approaching the end of their service cf. The diploma records the earliest appearance in Moesia Inferior of cohorts I Flavia Numidarum equitata. The effect of the dilectus is also evident on this document. The diploma also records the previously unattested equestrian officer C. Vibius M[us], presumably a praefectus. RMD IV AD is of importance for the battle honours of cohorts II Batavorum, the title civium Romanorum demonstrating that its men had won a block grant of citizenship for their courage in the Dacian wars. From these epithets we can infer acts of extreme courage such rewards and titles were not granted lightly and battles lost to the literary record. It is suggested that the Ulpus of RMD IV gained his imperial gentilicium and citizenship for valour demonstrated during the Parthian war. Effectively mercenaries, these sagittarii had been recruited from the semi-independent kingdom of Palmyra in c. By way of reward they were granted citizenship after only six years. If Passar enlisted in AD or he would not have completed 16 or 20 full stipendia, and other epigraphic evidence suggests that Severan praetoriani served a minimum of 18 years before missio honesta was granted, be this combined legionary and praetorian service or praetorian service alone direct recruits re-appear in the Severan cohortes praetoriae within a few years of the reformation. It is concluded that after the Constitutio Antoniniana diplomas served only to identify men honourably discharged from the praetorians, urban cohorts, equites singulares Augusti and the praetorian fleets; simple at least in formula, otherwise very similar to contemporary diplomas discharge certificates were issued to auxiliary veterans, who required a less grandiosely worded document to ensure their privileges, presuming that they were to settle close to their old forts. It is the first legionary example of such a certificate in bronze: Despite the occasional quibbles noted above, there is little to find fault with in this excellent catalogue. The indices are thorough and the revised chronology and notes on all the diplomas published in RMD vols. Sadly, Margaret Roxan died in He is to be commended on an excellent job. It is a fitting tribute to Roxan, whose research demonstrated the extraordinary amount of information that can be drawn from these humble bronze plaques. The formula of the diploma highlights that all classarii were considered fighting men: The Ravenna veterans were similarly granted land in Pannonia. Keppie, Legions and Veterans: Roman Army Papers , Mavors 12 Stuttgart , , with addenda on f. Importantly, this diploma shows that Trajan had received 13 acclamations by 16 August AD , indicating that Ctesiphon had been captured by

this date, with the Mesopotamian campaign ending soon after. Presumably the year claim is made with CJ 5. After AD all legionaries served for 26 years and discharges were made annually, cf. For example, 18 years combined legionary and praetorian service: ILS discharged AD ; 18 years direct praetorian service: For more examples and discussion see R. Obituary in The Guardian.

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The latter were also attested in the mountain regions of Phoenicia and in southern Syria², a territory yielded by Augustus in favour of the family of Herodes. The recruiting of Ituraean archers was attested since the first civil war. Caesar frequently used mounted and infantry archers, describing them as: Pompey preferred archers from Crete, Lacedaemonia and Pont⁵. The extremely difficult problems that Roman administration encountered with the belligerent Ituraeans, during the rule of Augustus, were mentioned by both literary⁶ and epigraphic sources. Two colonies of veterans were established around the same time, namely Berytus and Heliopolis; B. Isaac considers that these colonies played a strategic role, since the Roman administration encountered banditry in the mountain regions, a fact which represented a real danger as far as commercial routes were concerned⁸. The first Roman auxiliary units recruited from among these populations were most likely constituted during the rule of Augustus. An argument in this respect is a mention of a *cohors Ituraeorum* without number in Syrene, in 39 AD⁹. Many of the client kings of Rome, who had their own hired army, provided troops for the Roman auxiliary units during the 1st century AD, a fact which indicates that these auxiliary units were constituted in a different manner than those from the western part of the Empire. Ituraeans and even Arabs have supplied thus the Roman *auxilia*. The status of the units at issue varied with the status of the client kingdoms of the Empire. Agrippa II regularly assisted the Roman army in the East; if some units of his army were incorporated in the Roman *auxilia*, these regiments probably received the etnonym of *Ituraeorum* after his death¹⁰. It is rather difficult to outline the history of *Cohors I Ituraeorum sagittariorum* based on the inscriptions, given that the unit is mentioned under different denominations: *I Ituraeorum* or *coh.* In order to establish the beginnings of *cohors I Ituraeorum sagittariorum* it is important to bring into discussion a *cursus honorum* of an anonymous equestrian officer mentioned in an inscription from 1. Regarding the political situation in Syria in the 1st century AD, see Will , , Arab population inhabiting the region of the Lebanon and Antilebanon mountains and in the hilly region south of the Jordan riverhead. Ituraeans were a belligerent people, and it is a known fact that Alexander the Great was forced to abandon the siege of Tyre to lead a punitive expedition against them. The Ituraean kingdom considerably extended its territory in the 1st century BC. It might have captured Damascus if the city had not sought protection with the rival power, Aretass III, the Nabataean king; facing the same danger, Antiochia demanded help from Armenia. II 44, , apud. Saddington , note 1: Strabo had a low opinion about Ituraeans, describing them as good archers from a mountain region inhabited by Ituraean and Arab robbers. Dussand , sqq; Altheim , , ; Rey-Coquais , 47 note 31; Isaac , See also Millar , *Cohors II Ituraeorum*, which was constantly attested in this region of Nubia until Fayum, Pselchis, Talmis, Philae, Hieria Sykamnios ; see Speidel , with inscription texts; Dabrowa , for a brief history of this unit. The inscription dates from the first years of the rule of Claudius, which indicates that the unnamed horseman held the prefecture of the Ituraean cohort during the rule of Tiberius. The document represents one of the earliest epigraphic mentions of the unit at issue. The earliest epigraphic mentions of *cohors I Ituraeorum* are those from Germania Superior. Inscriptions belonging to soldiers of this cohort were found in Mongotiacum and in the region. The inscriptions at issue indicate that the unit remained in Germania during the first years of the rule of Tiberius, and it was most likely constituted during the rule of his predecessor. Given the fact that Ituraean archers took part in the civil wars, it is possible that this unit remained in Syria during the first period of its existence. Under these conditions, Augustus might have decided that the unit was appropriate for the military situation in Germania. An interesting fact that should be pointed out in this context is that some of the soldiers had Semitic antroponyms. Thus, the unit remained in Germania Superior during the pre-Flavian period; the exact moment of its arrival in the province cannot be accurately established. Epigraphic sources indicate the presence of a *sagittari* unit in Germania as early as the rule of Augustus. The date when the Ituraean unit left Germania Superior can be established only in relation to the events that took place in the Orient during the same period. Tacitus mentioned that legionary and auxiliary

units from Germania were transferred to Armenia in 58 AD to fight against the Partians The Ituraean unit was believed to have accompanied the Legion IV Scythica on the Eastern front, based on the argument that in 88 AD it was mentioned in a diploma in Syria This was the moment when this unit might have been brought into the region, which would also explain its absence from the diploma dated 62 AD. The Ituraean archers unit might have joined the legion. There are 11 AE , The career is presented as follows: According to the facts established by the above-mentioned author with regard to the regularity in the exercitation of mounted militia, we could attempt to elucidate the matter. An equestrian officer that was granted the rank of military tribune exercised his function in a province other than that where he had been praefectus cohortis Devijver , The person was tribunus militum in the legion IV Scythica, which was halting in Moesia. In this province there are mentions of cohorts I Tyrriorum, a fact which made E. Dabrowa choose the version that identifies in his inscription cohors I Ityraeorum. Matei Popescu includes the inscription in the category of those belonging to cohors I Tyrriorum, considering that the document might attest an early transfer of the Tyrian unit to Moesia Inferior Matei Popescu , no. We would like to use this opportunity to thank our colleague for kindly providing this material, which is in the course of being published. These Semitic names can also be encountered in the Western provinces of the Empire cf. Nomenclator , yet rather scarce in number. An inscription from Pessinunt, dedicated to Ti. Claudius Heras, proves that the Ituraean unit at issue took part in wars in Judaea during the rule of Vespasian It was mentioned here in diplomas dated October 14th and February 17th It was considered at that time to be an error from the part of the scribe. Not related to the se assertions, D. Dabrowa, analysing certain facts concerning the cohortes milliariae, and the Ituraean cohortes of the Empire, respectively, placed the unit in Dacia during the first years of the new province Gudea reconsidered the issue, assuming that two Ituraean cohorts belonged to the Roman army in Dacia during the rule of Trajan In time, these inscriptions have been completed in several different manners. Gudea, cohors I Ityraeorum sagittariorum arrived in Porolissum in AD; the argument supporting this theory is identifying the stamps of this unit as belonging to the first stage of the castrum on the Pomet hill. Accordingly, the unit left Porolissum not before the arrival of numerus Palmyrenorum The above-mentioned author considers that the unit was also attested Porolissum between the end of the 2nd century and the beginning of the 3rd century³⁶, which would indicate that it remained in Porolissum throughout the entire period of the Roman rule in Dacia Mentioned also by Flavius Josephus in reference to the same period “ see note Claudius Heras, prefect of the Ituraean cohort and tribune of legions XII Fulminata and III Cyrenaica, probably participated in the Judaeian war, as it is a known fact that the above-mentioned legions were involved in the campaign Saddington , It would have been garrisoned in Syria, then transferred in order to take part in the Dacian wars, and subsequently attested in Dacia Inferior?! Macrea Macrea et alii , ill. Russu Russu , A similar interpretation was advanced by M. Zahariade Zahariade , ; one year later, he reconsidered his point of view and chose the version containing the name of the Ituraean unit Zahariade , The stratigraphic position of the brick found in the castrum would indicate that Cohors I Ityraeorum was garrisoned there during the wood stage of the Romita castrum, together with Cohors VI Thracum This situation would be similar to that of the cohort I Augusta Ityraeorum, attested in this period simultaneously in Porolissum and Buciumi. This might indicate either vexillations of these units that took part in building the castra on the porolissens limes without excluding the possibility of a brief stay in these castra. Stamps belonging to these units are scarce both in Romita-Certiae and in Buciumi; therefore our interpretations should be cautious, as additional elements might appear and put the matter in an entirely new light Kennedy believes that the unit was named milliaria as early as the rule of Nero⁴⁵, it being one of the units that took part in the wars against the Judaeans during the rule of Vespasian. The unit was also mentioned by Josephus Flavius as belonging to the auxiliary units of infantrymen that participated in the campaigns at issue However, following the interpretation advanced by E. Dabrowa considers that, once transferred to Dacia, the unit was reorganised and strengthened, a fact that would be accounted for by the name of milliaria. In his opinion, this change of status proves the special importance of this unit within the porolissens setup Spaul held that the remains of this unit, affected by the conflicts in which it was involved during the rule of Antoninus Pius, were integrated after AD to the cohort I Augusta Ityraeorum According to the general opinion, the funerary inscription from Serdica is dedicated to a prefect, possibly [Se]cundus Corn[utus], meaning that the

Ituraean cohort had been transferred to Thrace at some point during the second half of the 2nd century. The reference might also have been to a former veteran 39 Matei, Bajusz , 91, pl. A bow end fastener found in the castrum reveals the presence of a sagittari troop Matei, Bajusz , pl. Unfortunately, the item was published without any data regarding its stratigraphic position. Identical types of stamps found in different castra could be thus compared: His attempt is based chiefly on the mentions from the Orient. The unit is listed third in the diploma and fifth one year later – however, the fact that the next listed unit is cohors I Flavia Ulpia Hispanorum 8! Still, we cannot exclude the possibility that the unit was in Thrace between the end of the 2nd century and the beginning of the 3rd century. The unit was identified as cohors I Ituraeorum sagittariorum, mentioned in the inscription from Pessinunt We believe that an identification as Cohors II Ituraeorum equitata is also possible; the name of this cohort is mentioned in inscriptions found in Egypt, where the unit remained for a long period of time However, the hypothesis according to which the unit remained in Moesia between the end of the 2nd century AD and the beginning of the 3rd century AD cannot be excluded The name of a cohors Ituraeorum is known from inscriptions found in Egypt, which in fact mention cohors II Ituraeorum Therefore, the unit at issue should not be mistaken for Cohors I Ituraeorum civium Romanorum from Mauretania Tingitana Margaret Roxan placed the period which the unit spent in the African province between the military diploma attesting it in and the mention in Notitia Dignitatum, during which time the unit remained permanently in the mentioned province An inscription from Chiusi⁵⁸ is attesting troops of a Ituraeorum sagittariorum unit. However, this epigraphic material might refer to another Ituraean unit, affected by a military conflict The mentions of cohors I Ituraeorum sagittariorum in Dacia provide no information regarding its composition. We have knowledge of three prefecti of this unit, not including the uncertain mention in the Chiusi inscription The fact that there are no known explicit mentions of officers with the rank of tribuni leading these cohorts does not contradict our hypothesis, according to which cohors I Ituraeorum sagittariorum held the status of milliaria, given that the name of praefectus may cover, in the wider sense, the term tribunus. The specific attribute of Oriental archers in the Roman auxilia was mounted combat, a detail frequently encountered in epigraphic mentions of the sagittari cohorts.

Chapter 3 : Roman military diploma - Wikipedia

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Diplomas were not normally issued to discharged legionaries, as the legions recruited Roman citizens only. As an emergency measure, 2 new legions, the I and II Classica later reconstituted and renamed as I and II Adiutrix, respectively were formed mainly from naval marines, many of whom did not hold citizenship. At the end of the crisis, these were all awarded Roman citizenship. This made military diplomas largely redundant, and indeed the last known auxiliary diplomas date from AD 200. But diplomas for service in the navy, Praetorian Guard cavalry and the cohortes urbanae continued to be issued until the late 3rd century. This might be explained by the fact that barbari foreigners from outside the Roman empire were still recruited for those units.

Rights granted[edit] The veteran was granted Roman citizenship, which carried important legal and fiscal advantages, including exemption from the poll tax *tributum capitis* payable by all non-citizen subjects of the empire. This seemingly retrogressive step has been doubted by some historians, and it is possible that the available evidence is garbled. Until the time of emperor Septimius Severus r. In practice, many formed stable relationships with local women and brought up families. Diplomas retrospectively regularised such unions by granting the discharged veteran, in addition to citizenship, the right of *connubium* "inter-marriage", which was necessary as Roman citizens were not legally permitted to marry non-citizens unless the latter possessed "Latin Rights". An exceptional *constitutio* of emperor Hadrian r. **Description**[edit] The diploma consisted of two bronze tablets hinged together. Inscriptions would be engraved on each side of both plates. The full text of a diploma was engraved on the outer side of the so-called *tabula 1*, while the outer side of *tabula 2* displayed the names of 7 witnesses, their seals covered and protected by metal strips such seals have rarely survived, being of organic material. The text of *tabula 1* was reproduced exactly on the two inner sides. The plates would then be folded shut and sealed together, so that the external inscription would be legible without breaking the seals. The internal inscription was the official notarised copy of the text on the *constitutio* published in Rome. The double-inscription and seals were presumably to prevent forgery or alteration. The archivist could break the seals and check that the data on the internal inscription matched the external one.

Research significance[edit] Over 1000 diplomas from the Principate have been found and over 500 published although the majority have survived in only fragmentary form. This constitutes a rare corpus of Roman documentary material, whose survival is due to their being made of metal, rather than degradable material such as papyrus, wood or wax. A particular advantage of diplomas for historians is that they are dated. In addition, diplomas usually record the names of several auxiliary units which served in the same province at the same time, as they were normally issued in batches. Thus a single diploma may yield the names of as many as 25 units included in the same *constitutio*, critical data on the deployment of auxiliary units in the various provinces of the empire at different times. *Constitutiones* are also known just for individual units, even individual veterans. The following information on the beneficiary was usually recorded in the diploma:

Chapter 4 : Talk:Longinus (Roman governor) - Wikipedia

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Only that today you can win citizenship in a lottery. In contrast the Roman legions up to ca. This distinction is thought to have lost its importance when Caracalla granted Roman citizenship in the early third century to all living in the Roman empire except to the slaves of course, known as the Constitutio Antoniniana of AD. But there is no clear rule, a diploma could be found anywhere in the Roman empire, regardless of place of origin or service. The massive barbaric invasions in the third century AD destroyed many Roman settlements, some never to be inhabited again, thus conserving diplomas that would otherwise have been melted down eventually for their metal value. What is a Constitution? A constitution is a legal document issued by the Emperor in Rome. The legal process is thought to have been But mostly we are talking of veterans from anywhere between ca. Sometimes more than one constitution was issued for the same province at the same date split by units for logistical reasons? Thus potentially hundreds of soldiers at a time. Same for a praetorian fleet. How many diplomas would have been issued for a given unit on a single date? Let us take a regular cohort, men, each serving 25 years. That would be 20 veterans each year assuming yearly recruitment not always the case, see below and no deaths depends on circumstances. Or 40 in a milliaria unit of men. In similar circumstances we know of 10 or more diplomas surviving of the same constitution indicating such a massive "bolus" of discharge. A constitution could have covered thus between one and several hundred soldiers. Not a single of the large bronze plates from Rome survived. Below image shows a possible fragment of a constitutional tabula from Rome listing all the soldiers of a province that received Roman citizenship. It was re-used as a military diploma later on. The "new" side with the diploma text not shown Possibly the only surviving fragment of a constitutional tabula re-used on the other side as a military diploma later on, Weissenburg Museum, Germany How many constitutions do we know? More than Constitutions have been identified to date, with more than surviving individual military diplomas, some complete, but most in small fragments. Which Units Received Citizenship Constitutions? How many do we know? Constitutions cover mainly auxiliary forces and provincial fleets for non-citizen troops based along the the frontier. Survival of diplomas is more likely in provinces with many units - we only see a small fraction of what has been issued back then, maybe as little as 0. For example we know more constitutions for Moesia inferior and superior, Pannonia inferior and superior, Dacia, Raetia, Germania, Britannia, and Mauretania Tingitana than for provinces with only small military presence such Thracia or Sardinia. The graphs below are from and have not been updated, but the relative survival rates have not changed dramatically despite the new material published, what was common then is still common, what was rare then is still rare. Most common are those of Antoninus Pius, also Traianus, and Hadrianus see below graph. Bronze diplomas were found for almost every year between the middle of the 1st century and mid 3rd century AD. We know however of two periods, one during the Germanic invasions under Marcus Aurelius and the other during the crisis after Gallienus to the Tetrarchy, where not a single bronze diploma survived. Werner Eck, David Macdonald, and I have speculated in a recent article that this could be due to bronze having been too costly in these periods of crisis, possibly combined with less discharges due to a high number of casualties in war and disease like the plague epidemic reported in that period. Thus the practice of issuing constitutions and diplomas would have continued, but less being issued and on other perishable materials. We know of certain privileges to soldiers found in Egypt written on wood or papyrus. But if these were official documents like a bronze diploma remains unclear. Still the hypothesis that the issue of diplomas was a regular process, for all provinces, every year as needed, and for all veterans, is making a lot of sense. A complete diploma consists of 2 bronze plates of rectangular shape, between 10x12 and 21x16 cm depending on the period, with text on both sides, bound together by bronze wire and sealed with witness seals. The seals were covered by three bronze strips to protect them from mechanical wear. Below a typical diploma, unwired and opened up, with preserved witness seals and their protecting metal cover closed and opened. This particularly well preserved example was found in Slavonski Brod and had been issued under

Vespasianus. The outer side of the so called tabula 1 holds a copy of the complete text. The outer side of tabula 2 right lists the seven witnesses and holds the seals. The images below are from the Slavonski Brod Website. Below image shows the seals exposed. The two inner sides of the two tabulae together reflect the outer text of tabula I, sometimes abbreviated and often the text is written less carefully than on the outer sides. There is the hypothesis that the actual copy of the Constitution in Rome is the inner - protected and sealed - text, while the outer text was for daily use. The outer side was for daily use. If there was any suspicion of fraud, Roman provincial officials could break the seals and compare the outer with the inner text, compare for manipulations without having to wait for confirmation from far away Rome. Suetonius describes this practice for important documents in the Nero text of his 12 Caesars Book. The thickness and weight of diplomas differs considerably, as does their size. Early and late pieces are usually thicker and heavier, and more carefully written. Under Antoninus Pius, with the quantity of known diploma reaching a peak, the quality seems to have deteriorated. Late diplomas are occasionally made from pre-used bronze plates, the original text still being visible in traces. Diplomas were handed out to the veteran in his province as proof of his honorable service, his newly granted Roman citizenship for himself and his children. One cannot rule out that the veteran had to pay for his bronze diploma, and that not all veterans were willing or able to do so. But there is no indication at all that this may have been the case. And considering the central importance of the army and the fact that this privilege was given after a lifetime of honorable service, I personally see no reason not to believe the emperor took care of the cost for bronze. Still the fact that we find more diplomas for horse soldiers - presumably better paid - could be indicative for this hypothesis. But maybe horse soldiers simply had a better chance for survival? What is the Legal Text? All diplomas follow the same scheme, with sectors of standard legal text and sectors with individualized text. Structure of the text: Imperial titles defining the Emperor and the year of his reign - The imperial title are though to reflect the moment of the imperial decree: PP " Title of Emperor Name, ancestors, titles incl. The list of the units covered by this constitution: Legal standard text over several lines describing the reason for The date day and month and the year are defined by the two consules - though to reflect the day of issue of the diploma: And we still use the same names for the months today. In addition the years were defined by the consuls. Ordinary consuls are the consuls elected for the first months of a year, followed by several pairs of suffect consules. All consul pairs were listed in the list of consuls and thus defined a given year. Recipient part of the diploma: Name of the unit the soldier had last served in one of those units listed in the text above. Similiar to above, just that there is obviously no list of units, but only the name of the fleet. The commander of the fleet replaces the governor, sometimes the name of the captain of the ship is mentioned as commander of the unit. Similiar to above, just that the single unit named is one of the the pretorian cohorts or another Italian based unit. Auxiliary diplomas from Claudius to the early s also name the veterans wives and kids if they had any and the legal text covers not only the veteran, getting Roman citizenship, but also his family. Legal constraints need to be considered here: Roman soldiers legionaries and auxiliaries could not get married during their military service, and mostly they were too young when enlisted to already be married. From Septimius Severus onwards marriage during the service seems to have been allowed. Major recruiting grounds for the legions seem to have been Italy, Spain, and also Gaul from which we find very few auxiliaries mentioned on diplomas. Roman citizens could not legally marry non-citizen women foreigners, slaves, Iunian status women , creating issues once an auxiliary got Roman citizenship at the end of his 25 year service. Equally for a legionary who partnered with a non-citizenship woman. Children from such an illegal relationship were not Roman citizens and could not fully inherit from their father The Veteran received however in the diploma the right to marry officially conubium a foreign woman without Roman citizenship but only one and only once. For unknown reasons very few wives are specifically mentioned on auxiliary diplomas after the early s, maybe because more and more veterans were able to marry Roman citizens even in the provinces, offspring from other veteran families. After their service they then got the privileges and the kids were named on the diploma. There is strong evidence that this privilege was not always restricted to officers, but also offered to common soldiers. Not many cases though, most common soldiers will have been too young anyway when enlisting to have qualifying families. Why were children no longer included after AD? To question 1 we can assume that the number of such children may have increased

substantially, and maybe Antoninus Pius simply wanted to clarify situation unfair to the Roman legions, citizen soldiers for whom we are not aware they got the same privilege of legalizing their unofficial mistresses and offspring see question 3. If they married a Roman citizen girl, they certainly had no need for a diploma. During the 1st and 2nd centuries - before the wider impact of citizenship grants to veterans created a sufficient supply of women with Roman citizenship even in the remotest limes areas - a soldier was likely to marry a non-citizen woman, a foreigner or a freed slave woman. And as we learned above Roman citizens could not have a formal marriage with non-citizens, and their children did not enjoy the full status of a Roman born. Thus as long as there are non-citizen women to marry, a diploma would make sense, at least for some. The termination of auxiliary diplomas around makes somewhat sense in this context. Soldiers could marry during Septimius Severus, and all free inhabitants of the Empire became Roman citizens anyway during Caracalla. All men were Roman citizen anyway, and there were no more foreign women to marry. So far so good. But auxiliary diplomas became already increasingly rare already much earlier - after Antoninus Pius see graph above.

Chapter 5 : Roman Military Diplomas

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A Roman military diploma was a document inscribed in bronze certifying that the holder was honourably discharged from the Roman armed forces and/or had received the grant of Roman citizenship from the emperor as reward for service.