

Roman Army

390 B. C.

- Gauls invaded and sacked Rome
- Refused to leave—ransom the city
- Senate decisions:
 - Develop army capable of defending Rome from attack by others
 - Required:
 1. manpower
 2. commitment--

390 B. C.

Manpower: fight or unite policy

Fight or Unite Policy

Enemies faced with decision:

- Fight---
 - Win: remain free
 - Lose: war, men killed, women/children turned into slaves, homeland ruined, Rome occupies homeland

Fight or Unite Policy

Enemies faced with decision:

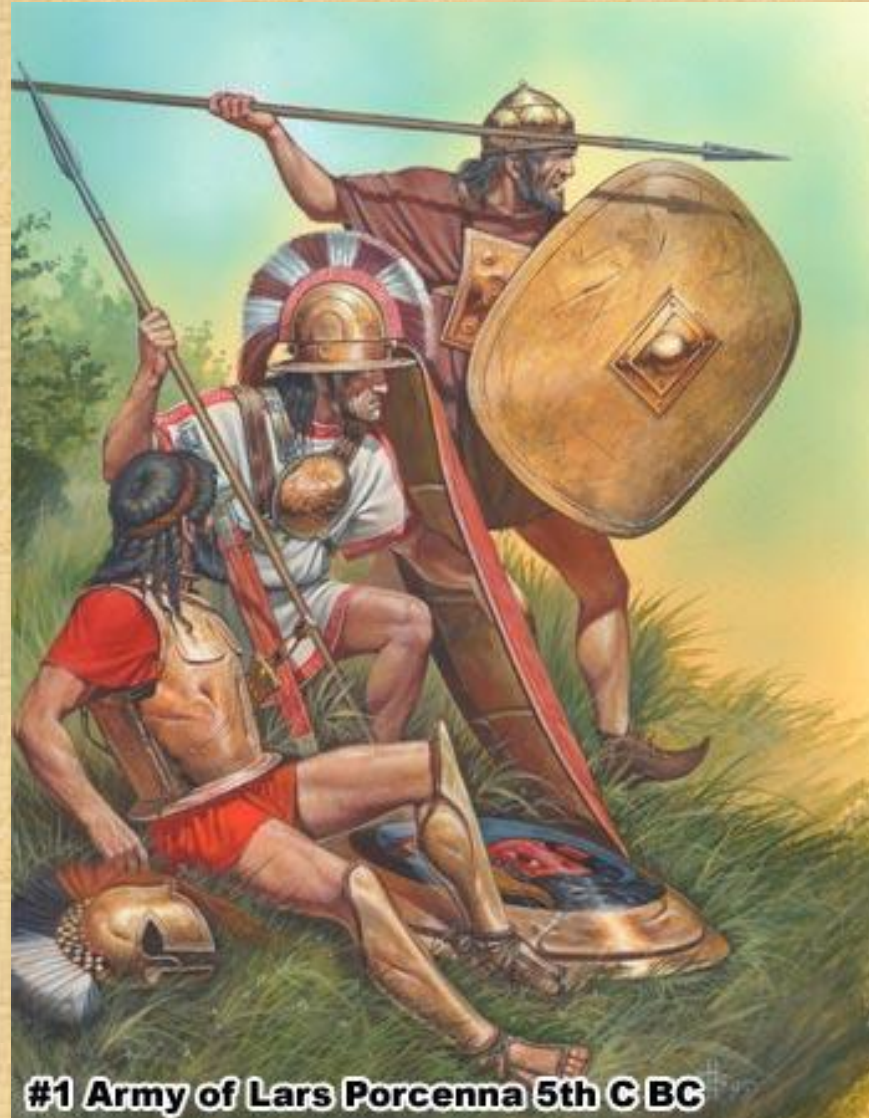
- Unite---
 - Roman ally
 - Required to go to war
 - Protected by Rome
 - Share in plunder and conquered land

Fight or Unite Policy

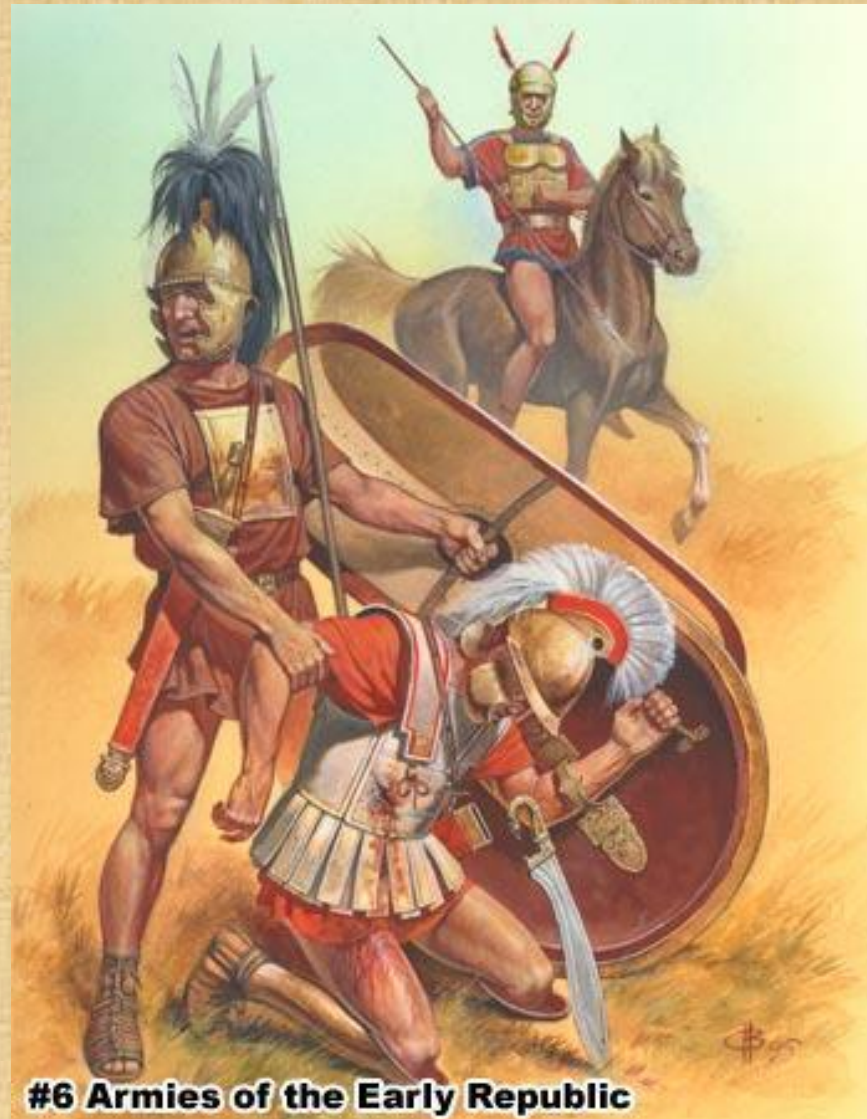
Results:

- Added 700,000 men
- Warfare pointed outward to foreign conquest-Carthage, Greece, Gaul
- No civil war from 500 to 100 B.C.

Roman Army



Roman Army



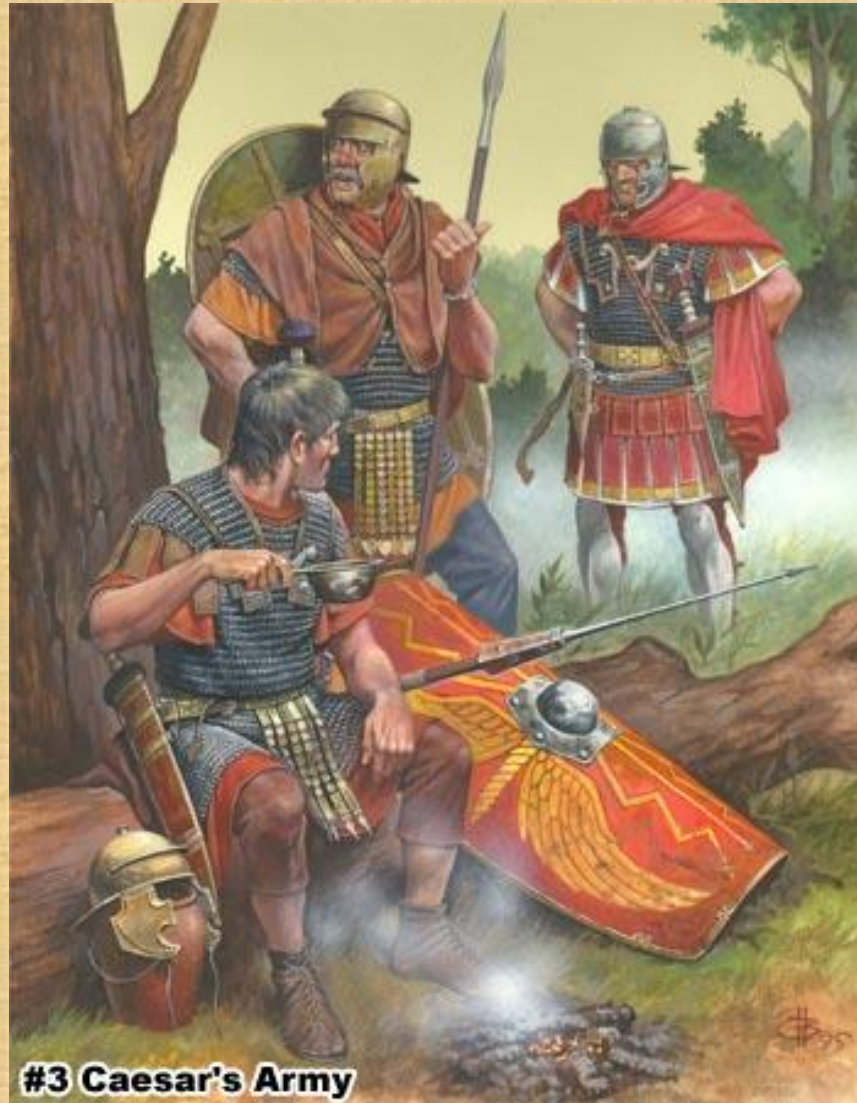
#6 Armies of the Early Republic

Roman Army



#2 Roman Army of the Punic Wars

Roman Army



#3 Caesar's Army

Roman Army



Army Organization



8 men = 1 **mess unit**
(contubernium) **8**



=



Army Organization



=



10 mess units=1 **century** (centuria) **80**

Army Organization



6 centuries = 1 cohort
(cohors) **480**

=



Army Organization



=



10 cohorts=1 legion (legio)

4800 + 480 + 120 = 5400

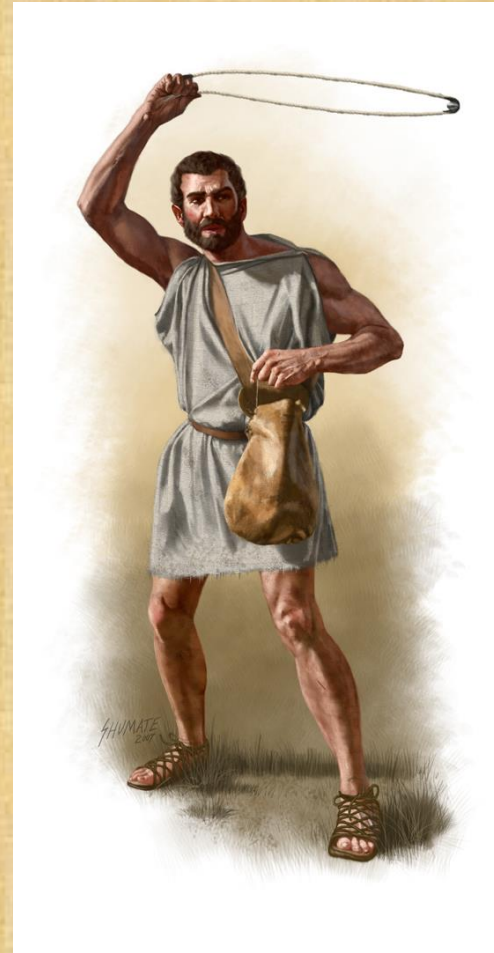
Roman Army

- 8 men=1 **mess unit** (contubernium), probably led by a file leader
- 10 mess units=1 **century** (centuria), commanded by the centurion
- 6 centuries=1 **cohort** (cohors), probably commanded by its senior centurion
- 10 cohorts=1 **legion** (legio), commanded by the legatus

Ranking of Soldiers:

- **auxiliary** – light armored soldier recruited from Roman colonies or provinces – infantry, archer, cavalry

Auxiliaries



Roman Army



#10 Roman Cavalry - Ala Noricum 90 AD

Roman Army

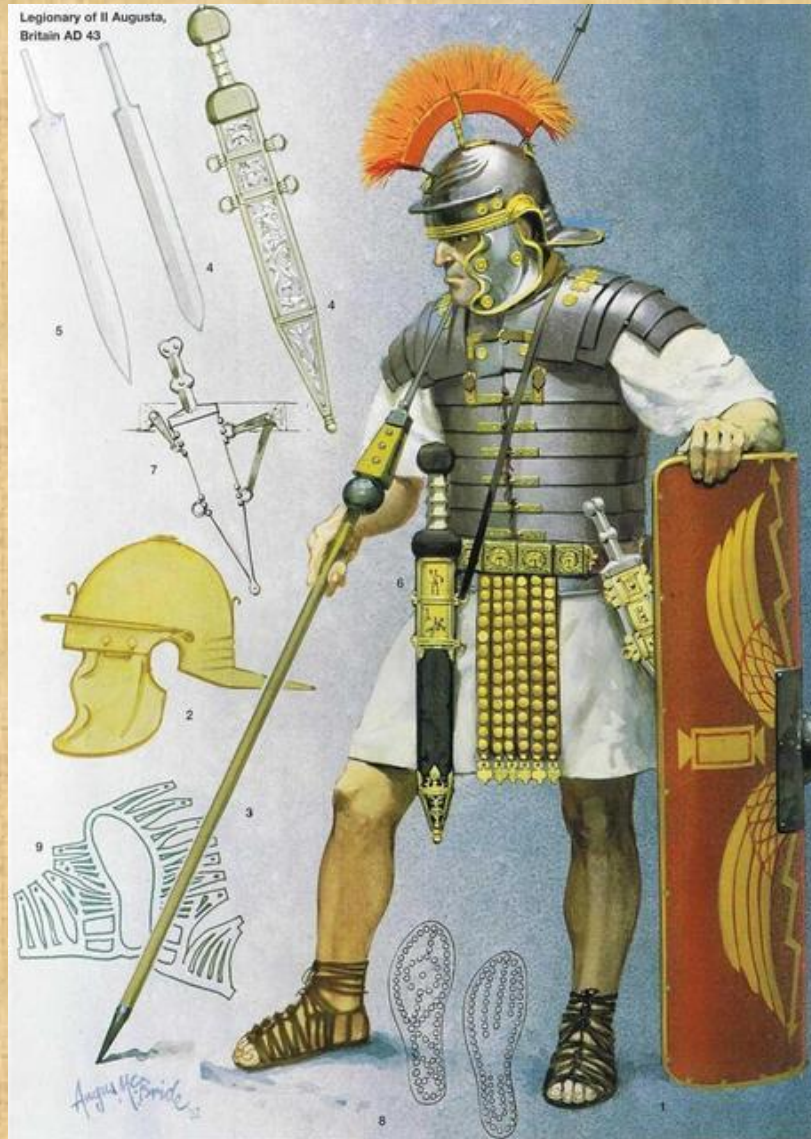


#5 An Army of Engineers

Ranking of Soldiers:

- **legionary** – heavy armored infantryman who was the backbone of the Roman army

Legionary



Ranking of Soldiers:

- **centurion** -- the lowest officer rank

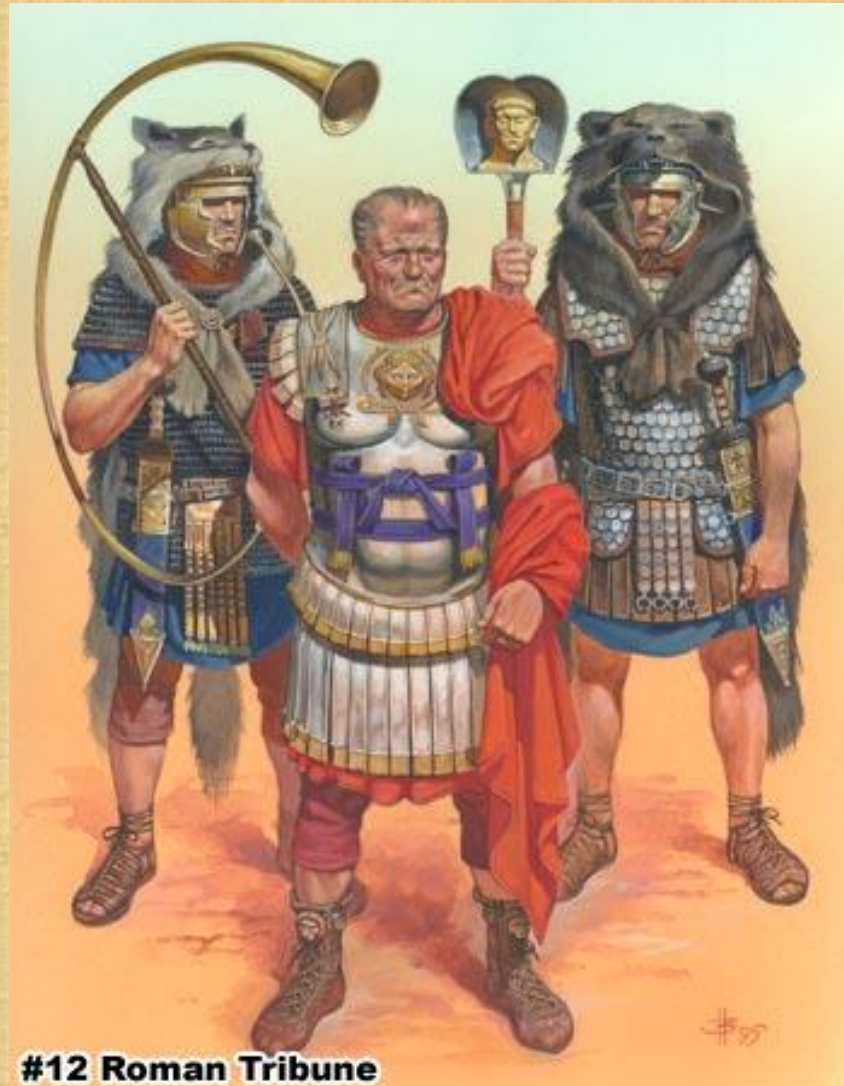
Centurion



Ranking of Soldiers:

- **tribune** -- generally a young aristocrat

Tribune



#12 Roman Tribune

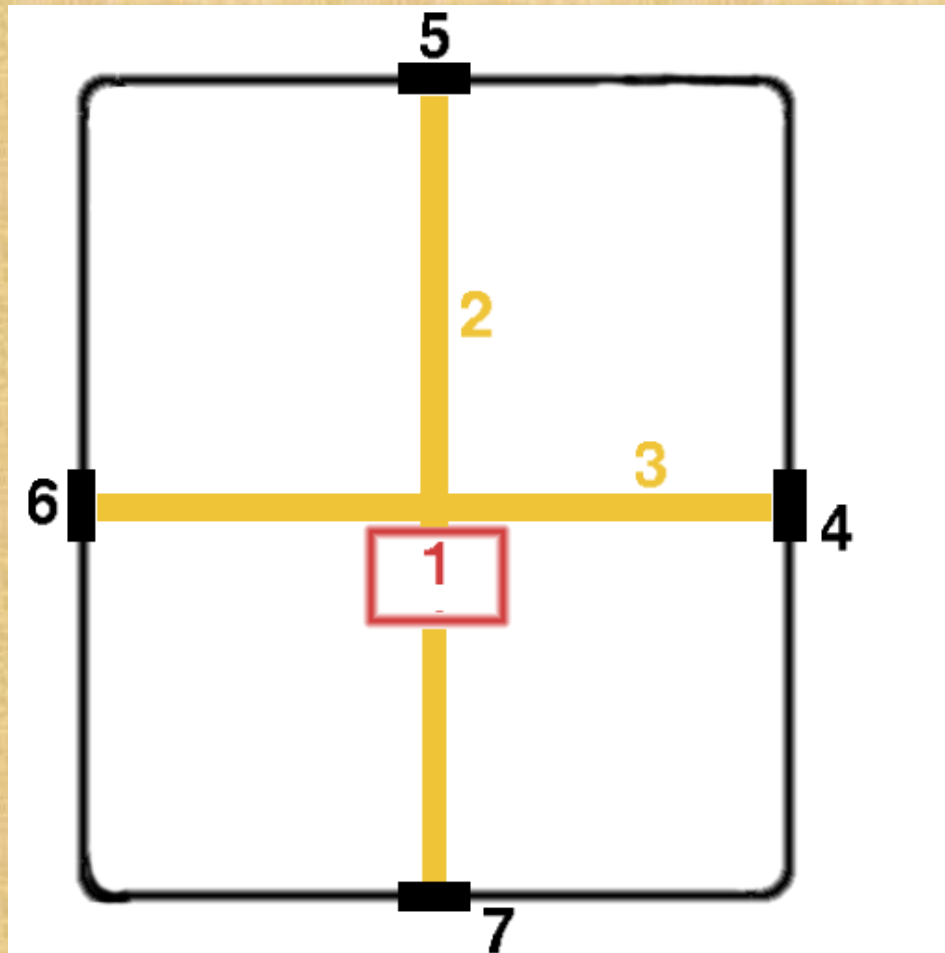
Ranking of Soldiers:

- **legatus** -- commander of a legion (general) who had 6 tribunes as subordinates; from the senatorial class

Legatus

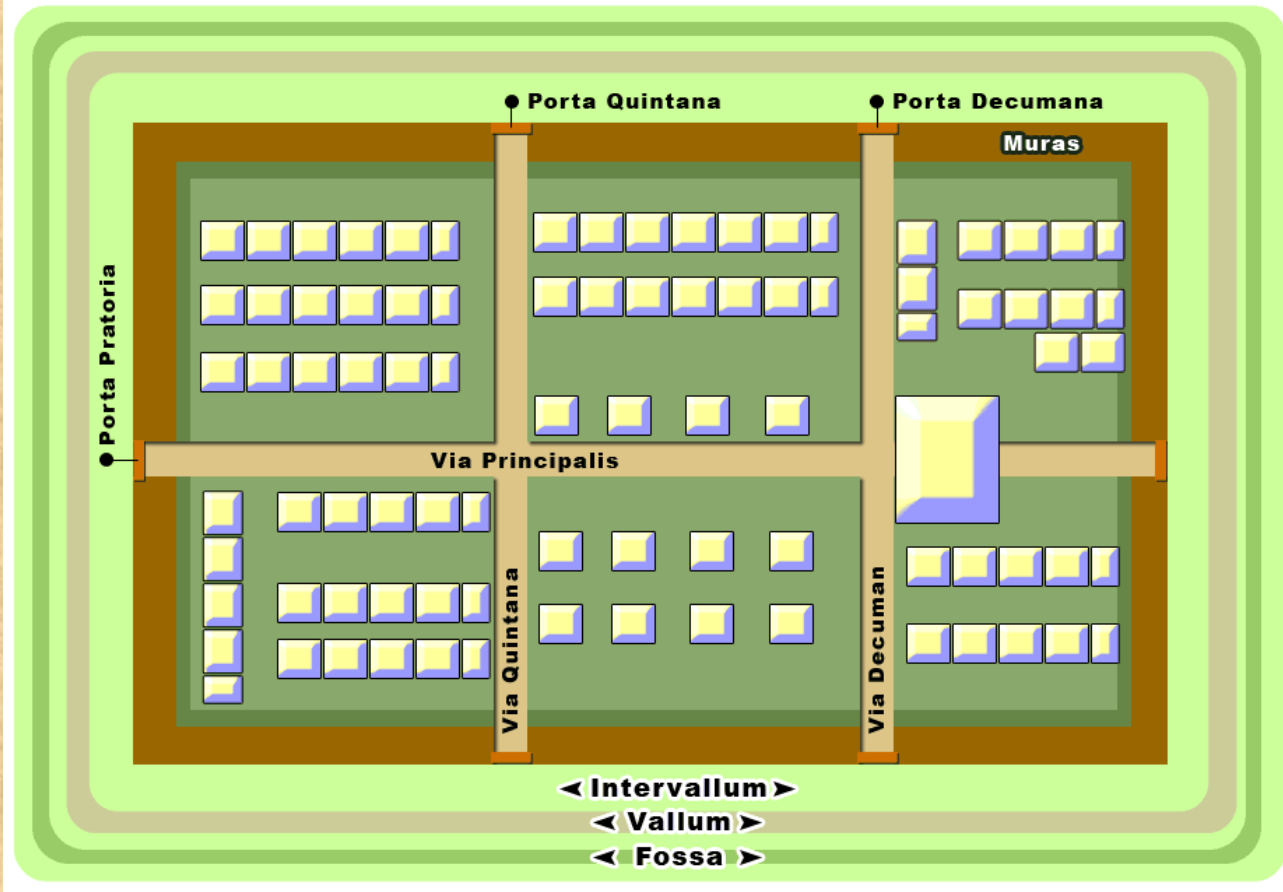


Roman Army

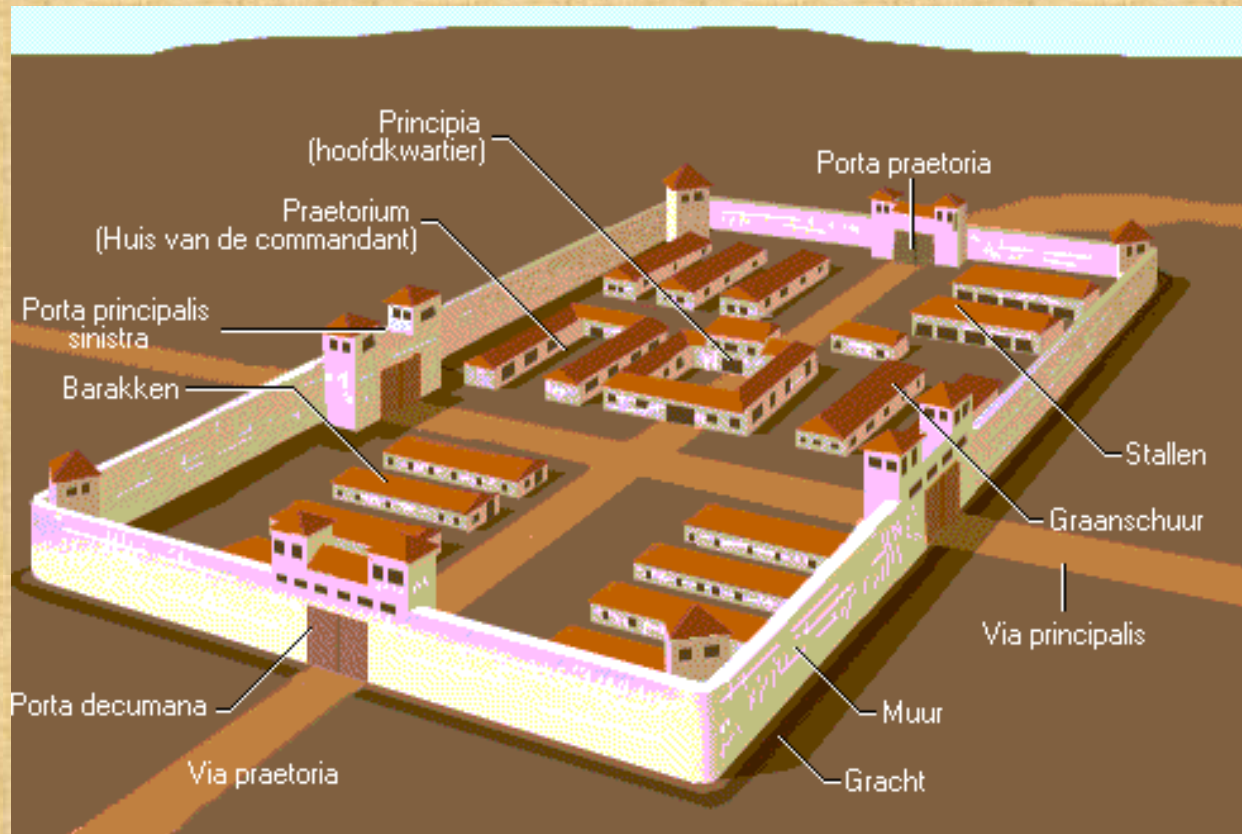


Roman Army

Castra Romana

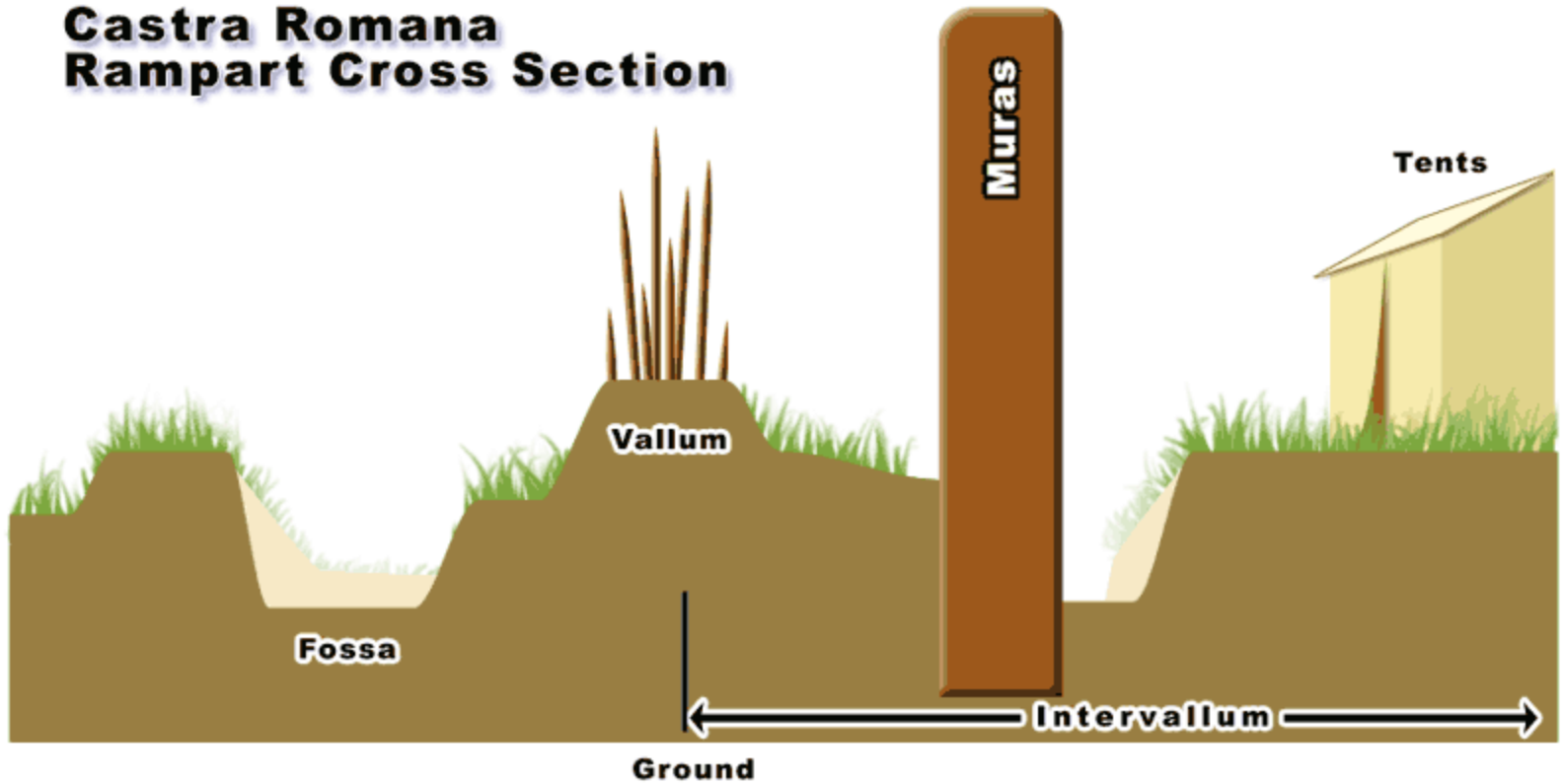


Roman Army



Roman Army

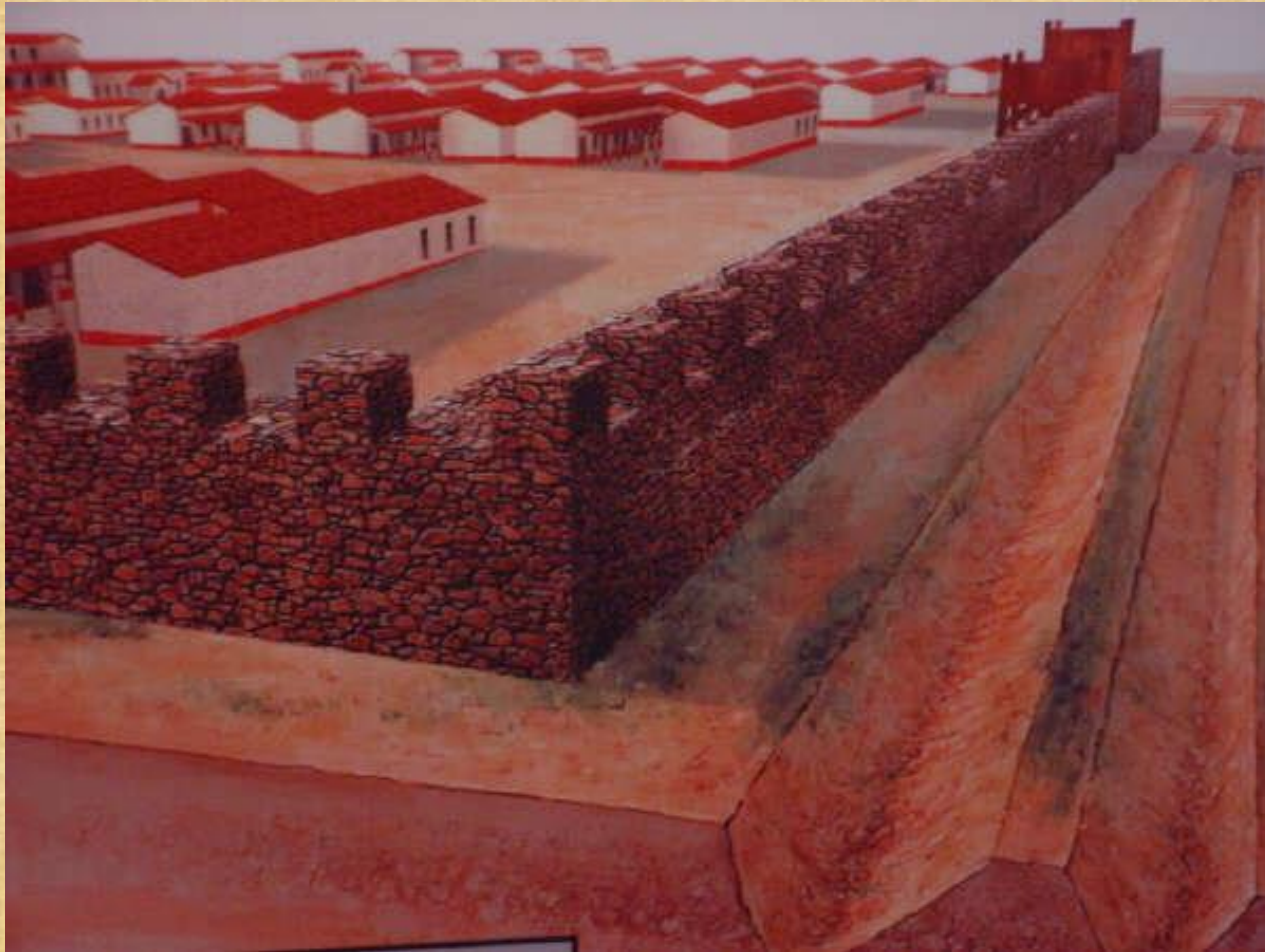
Castra Romana Rampart Cross Section



Roman Army

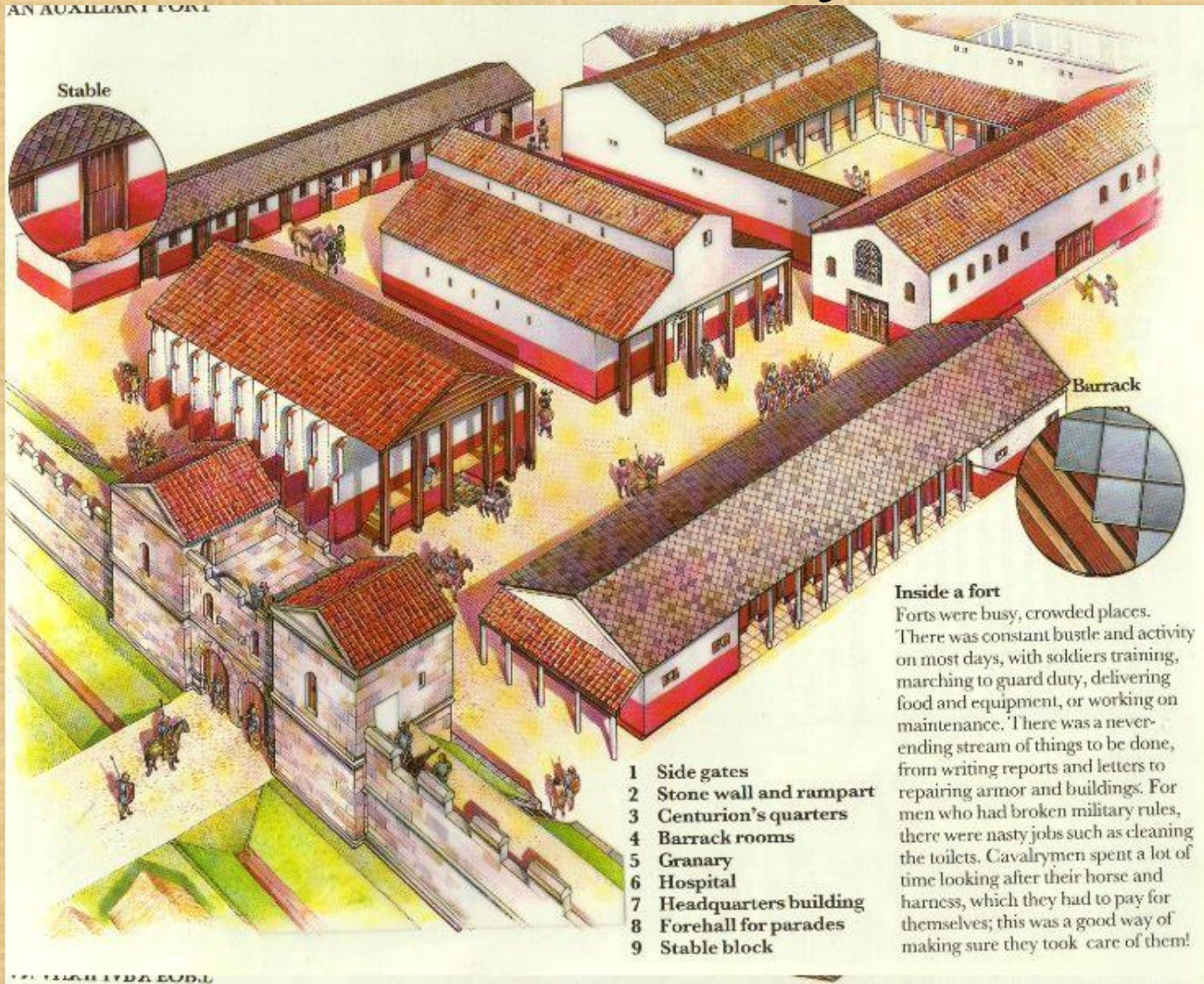


Roman Army



Roman Army

AN AUXILIARY FORT

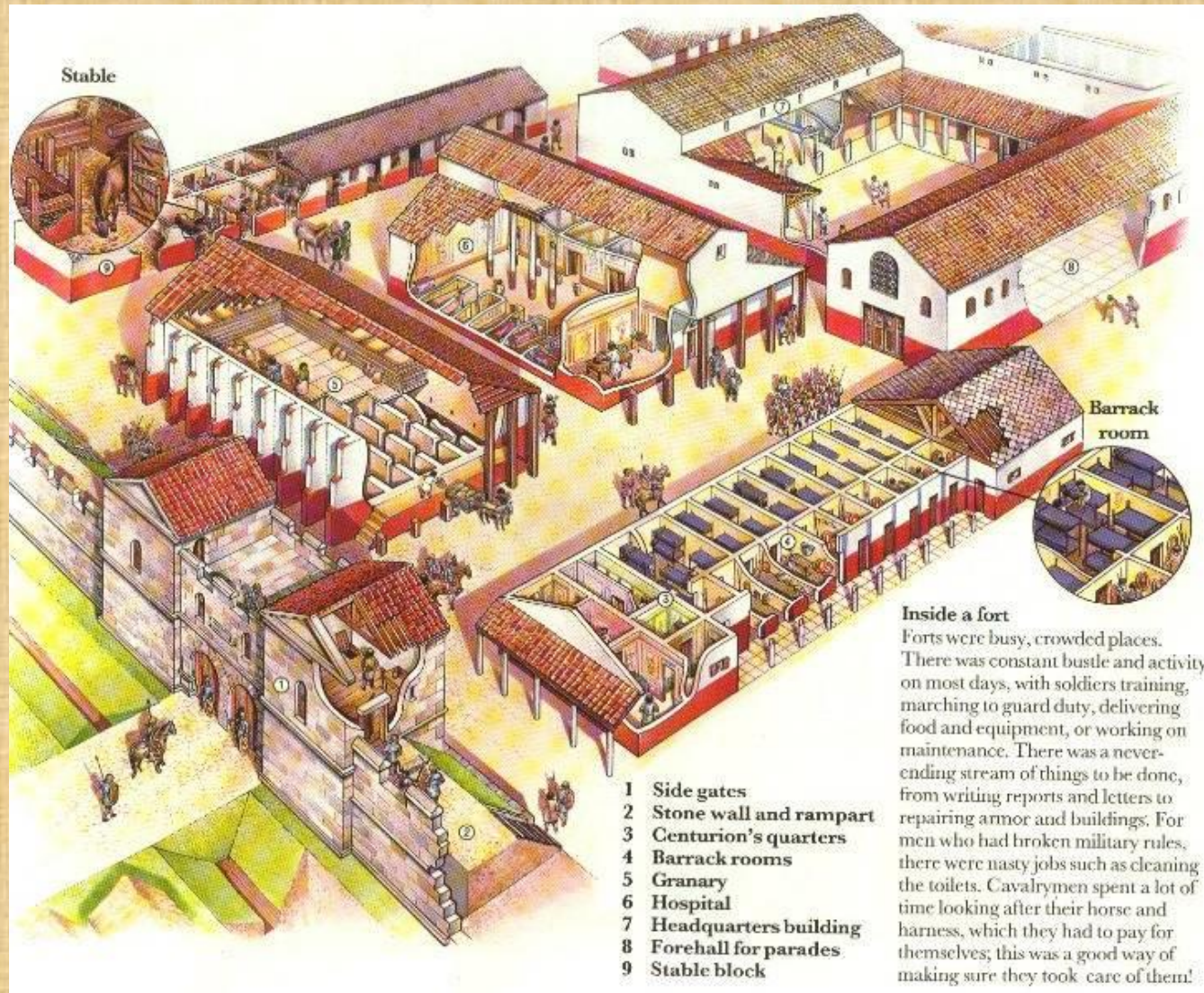


Inside a fort

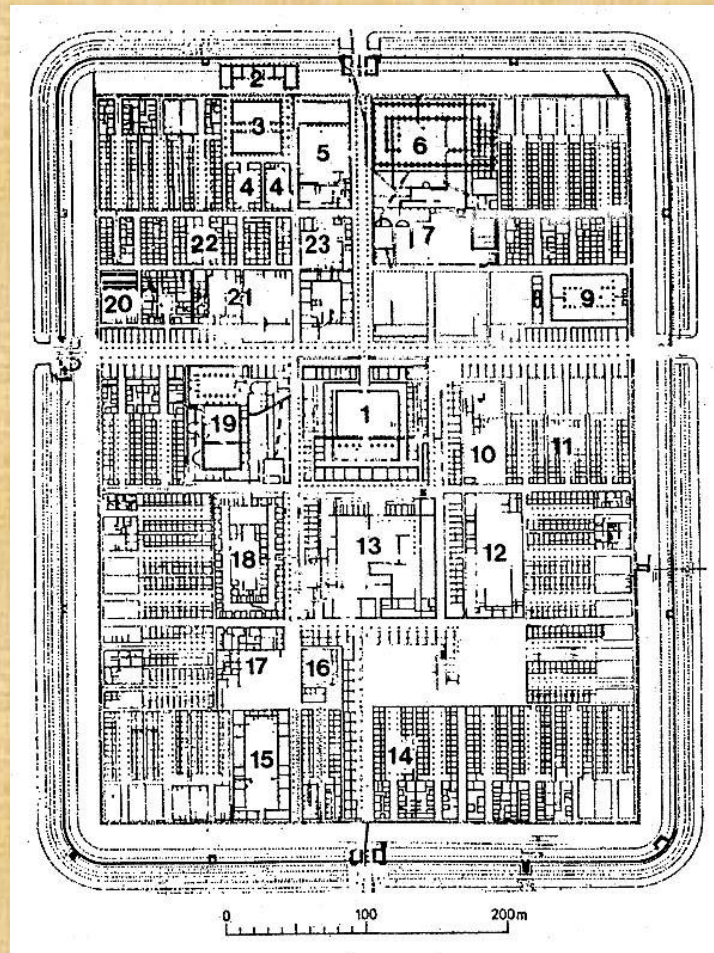
Forts were busy, crowded places. There was constant bustle and activity on most days, with soldiers training, marching to guard duty, delivering food and equipment, or working on maintenance. There was a never-ending stream of things to be done, from writing reports and letters to repairing armor and buildings. For men who had broken military rules, there were nasty jobs such as cleaning the toilets. Cavalrymen spent a lot of time looking after their horse and harness, which they had to pay for themselves; this was a good way of making sure they took care of them!

- 1 Side gates
- 2 Stone wall and rampart
- 3 Centurion's quarters
- 4 Barrack rooms
- 5 Granary
- 6 Hospital
- 7 Headquarters building
- 8 Forehall for parades
- 9 Stable block

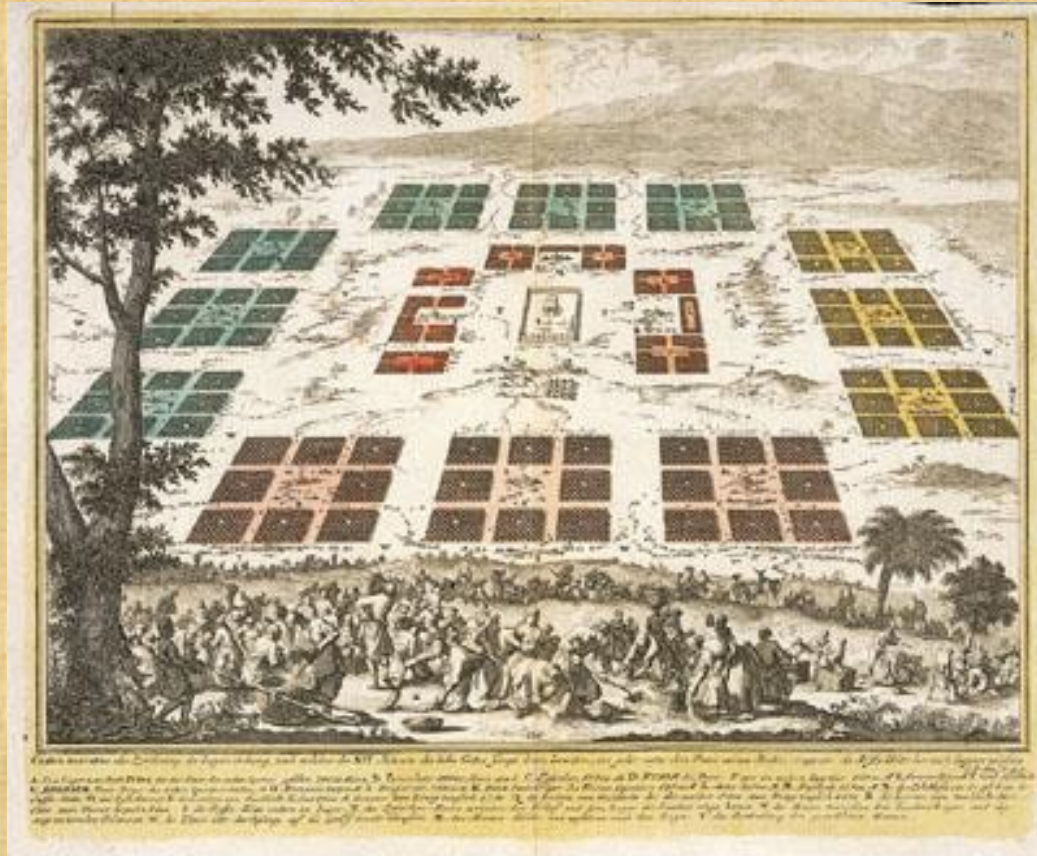
Roman Army



Roman Army



Roman Army

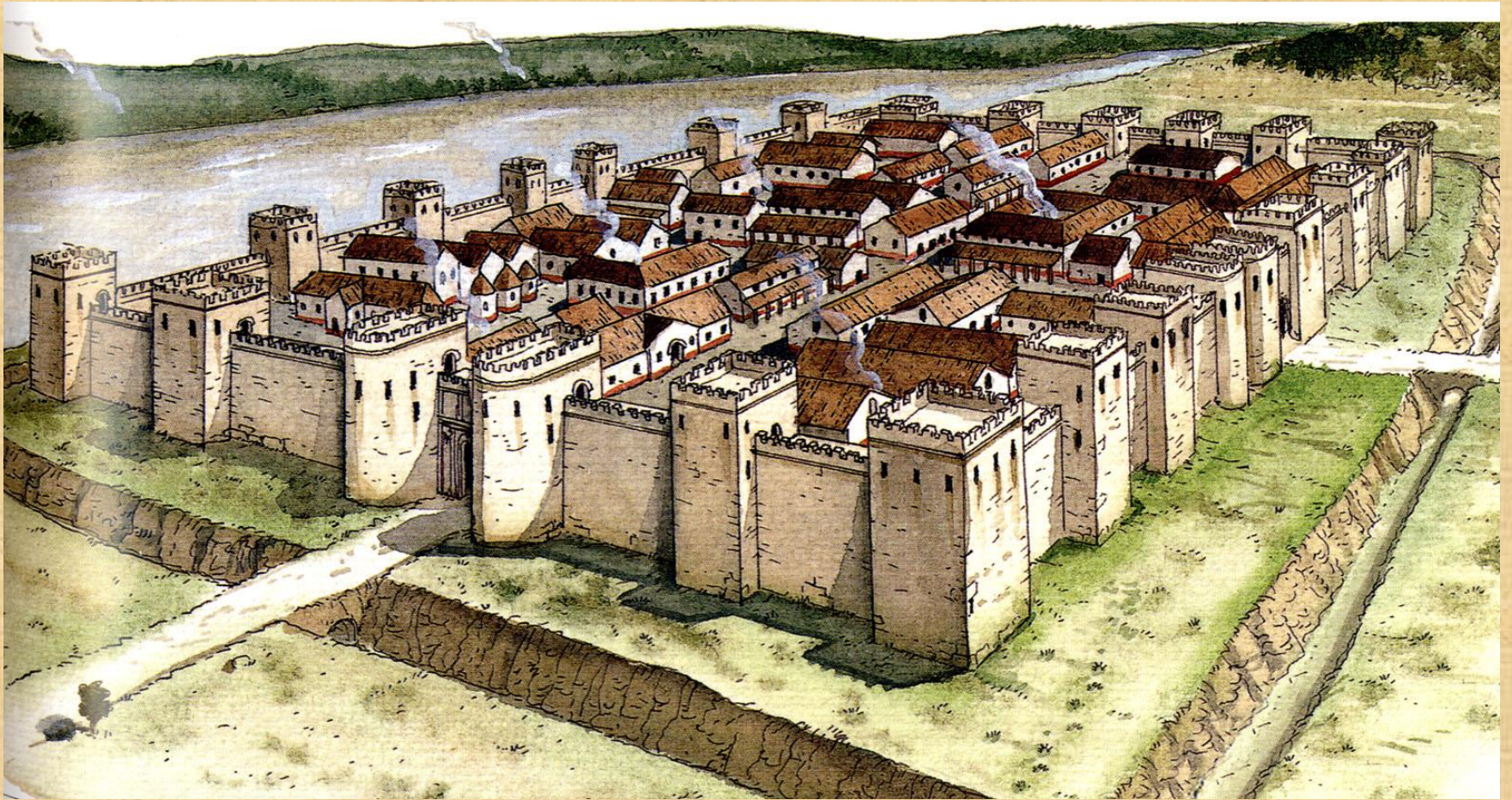


Plan d'un Camp de Légion Romaine, tel qu'il étoit au commencement de l'Empire. Le Camp est divisé en dix-huit Cohortes, dont six sont destinées à la garde du Camp, et les autres à la garde des Quartiers. Le Centre est occupé par le Praetorium, ou le Quartier du Général. Les Cohortes sont rangées en deux rangs, les unes devant les autres, et les Cohortes de la Garde du Camp sont placées à l'entrée du Camp. Les Cohortes de la Garde des Quartiers sont placées dans les Quartiers. Le Camp est entouré d'un fossé, et d'une muraille de bois. Les Cohortes sont rangées en deux rangs, les unes devant les autres, et les Cohortes de la Garde du Camp sont placées à l'entrée du Camp. Les Cohortes de la Garde des Quartiers sont placées dans les Quartiers. Le Camp est entouré d'un fossé, et d'une muraille de bois.

Roman Army



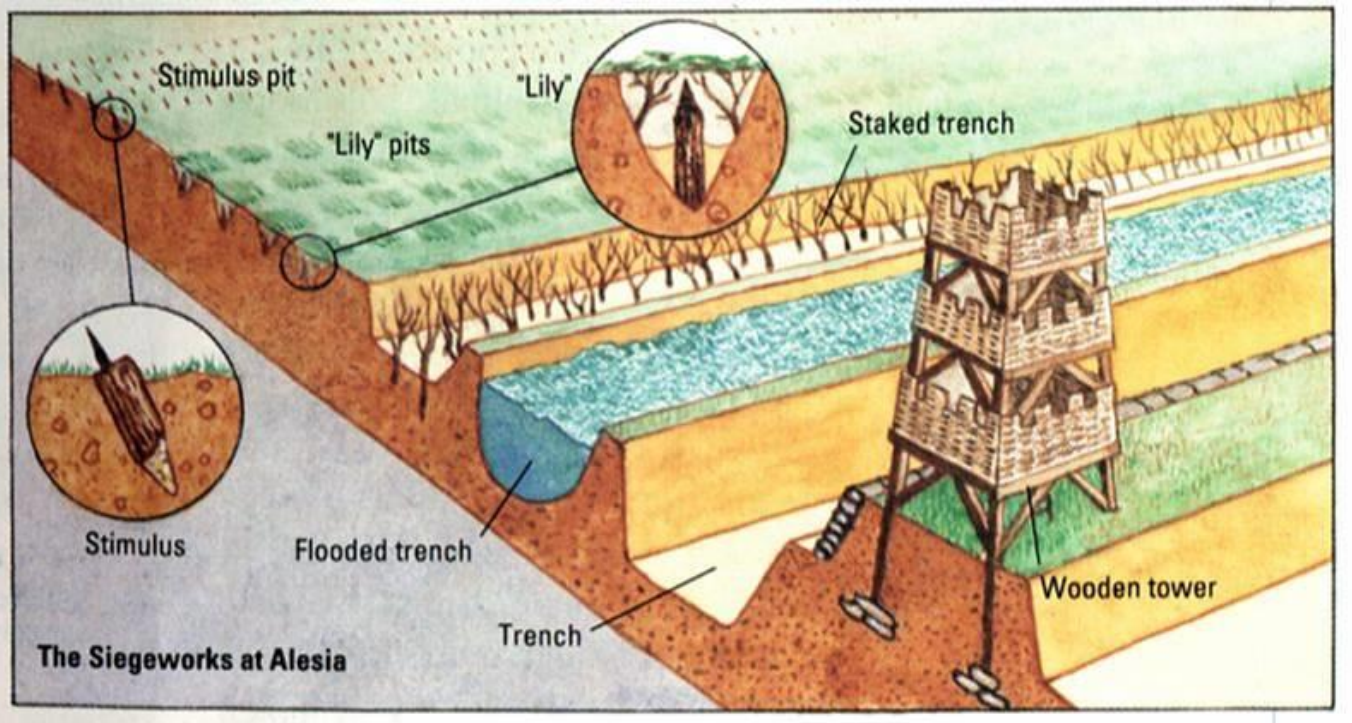
Roman Army



Roman Army



Roman Army

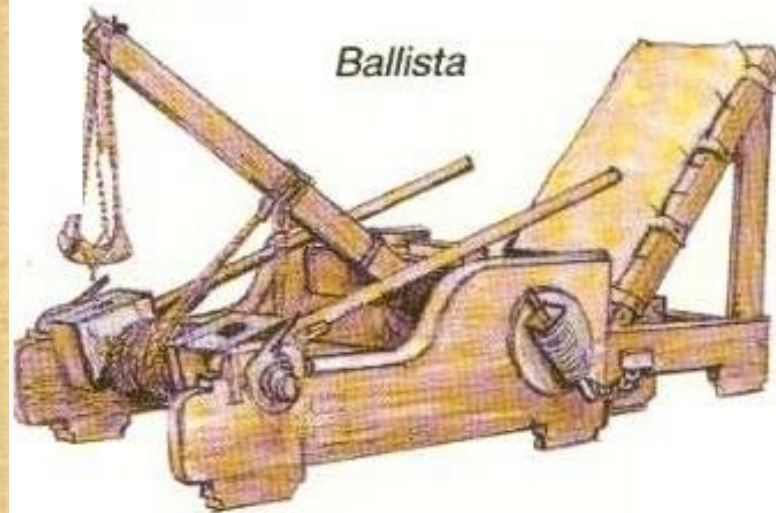


Roman Army



Roman Army

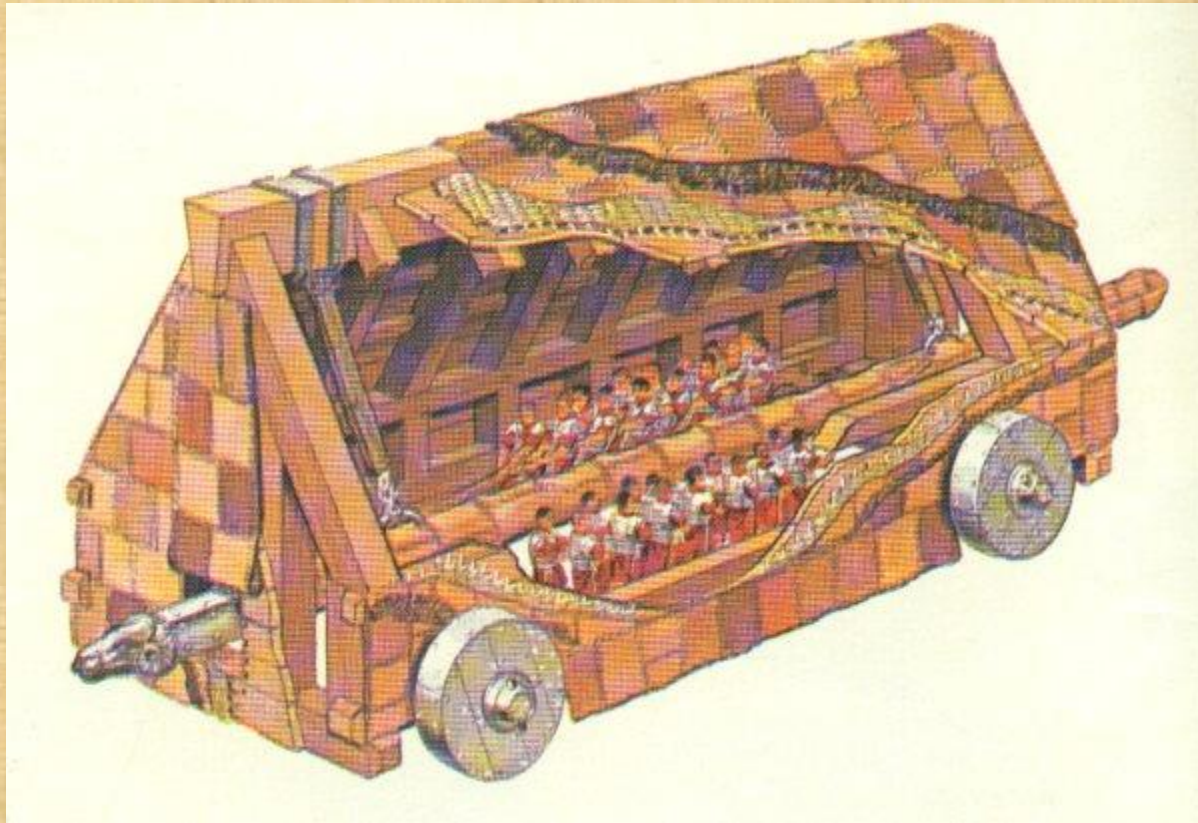
A giant catapult, the "ballista", could hurl huge stones for 300 meters, crushing the enemy or destroying the walls of an enemy fort. The most powerful catapult was the "onager", also called the "wild ass" because of its deadly kick.



Roman Army



Roman Army



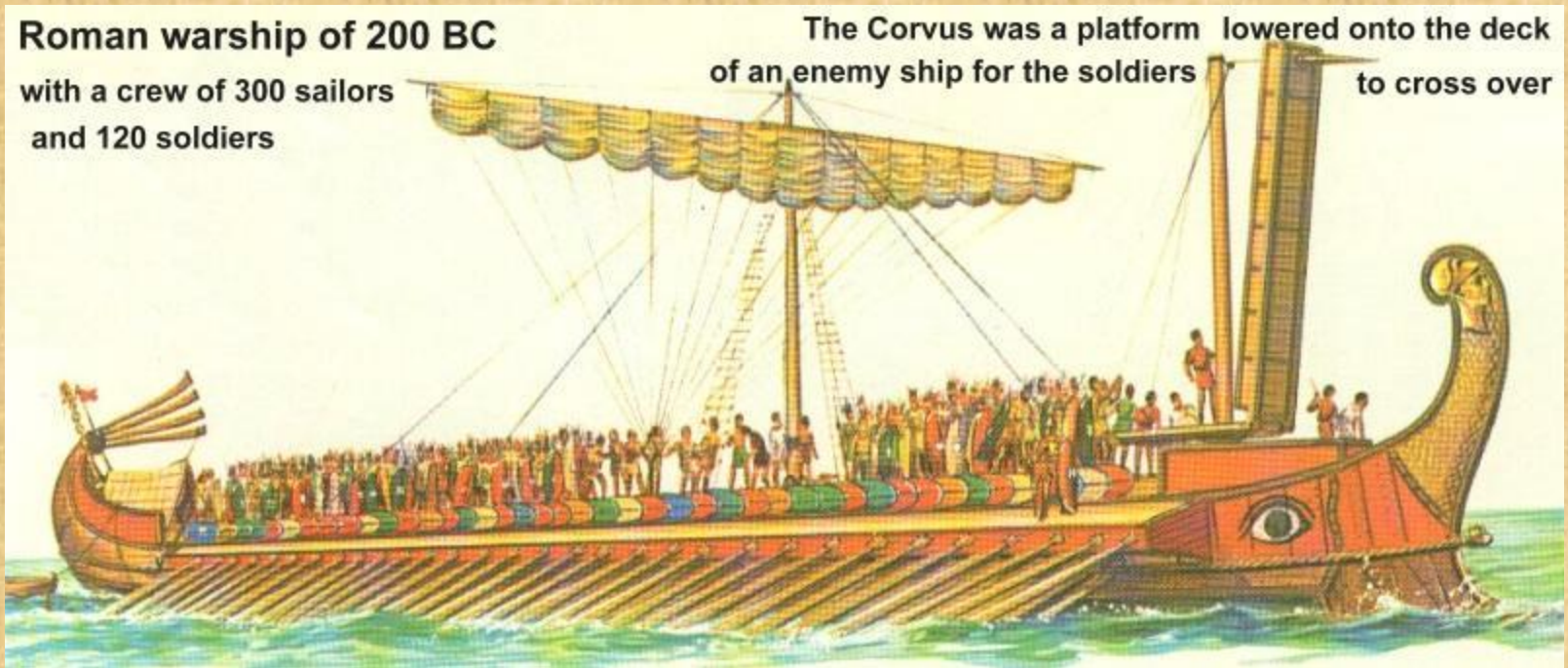
Roman Army



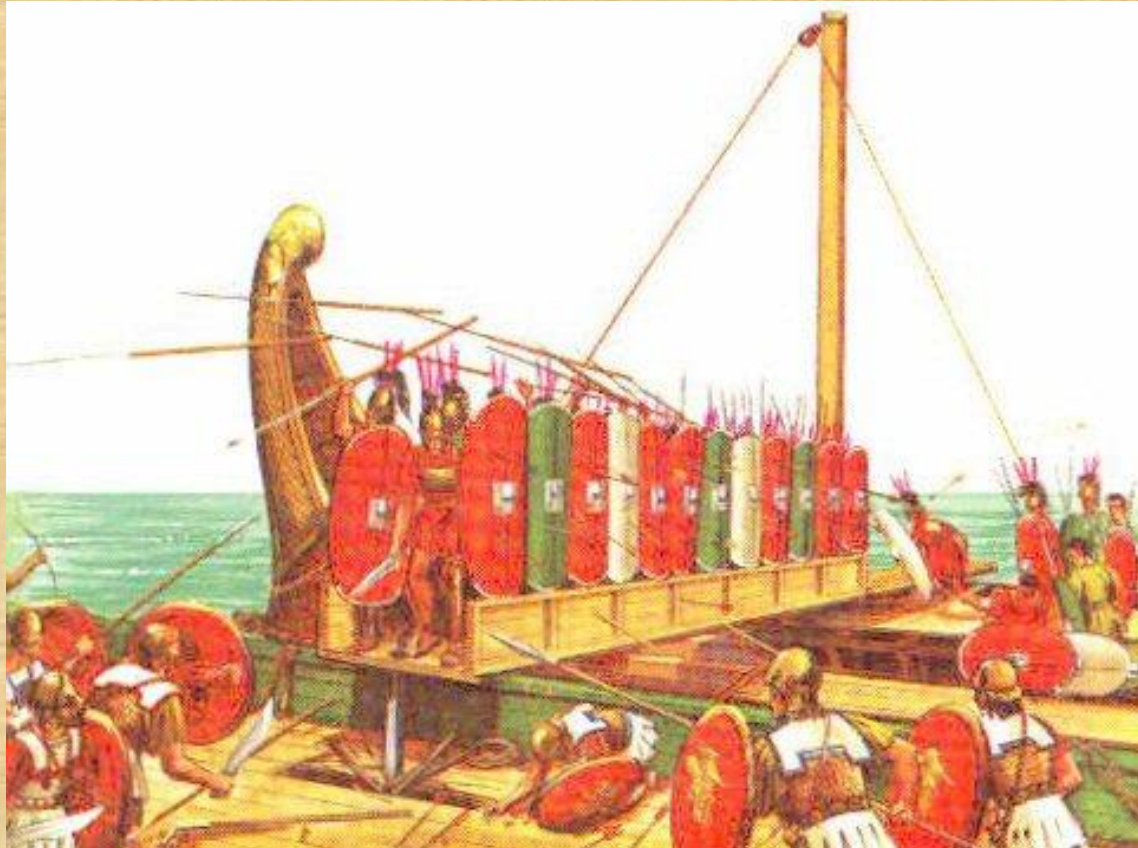
Roman Army

Roman warship of 200 BC
with a crew of 300 sailors
and 120 soldiers

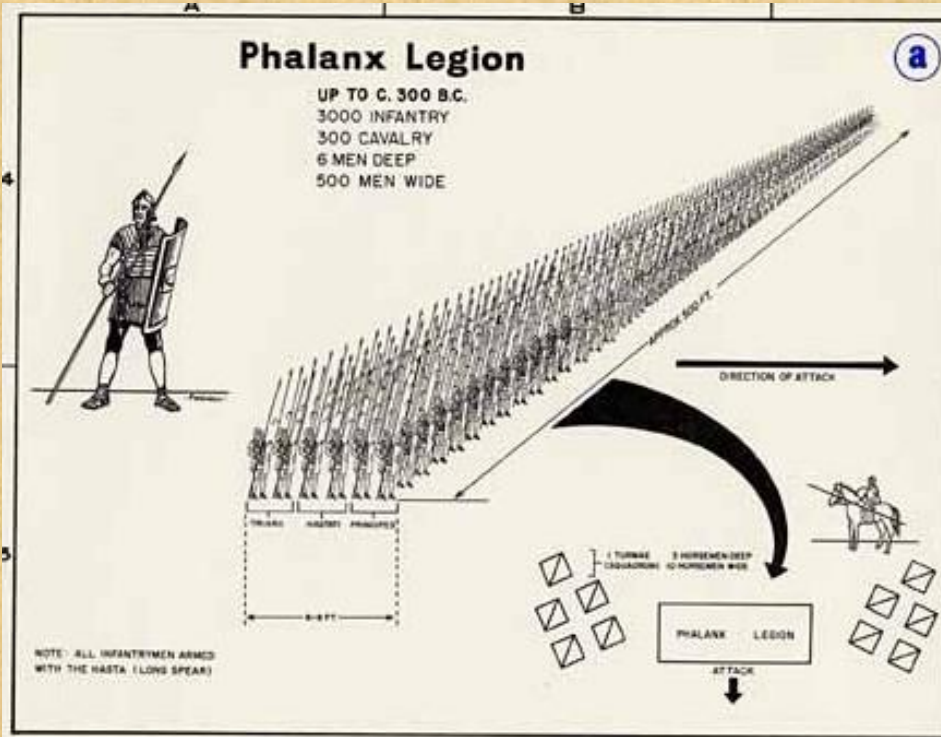
The Corvus was a platform lowered onto the deck
of an enemy ship for the soldiers
to cross over



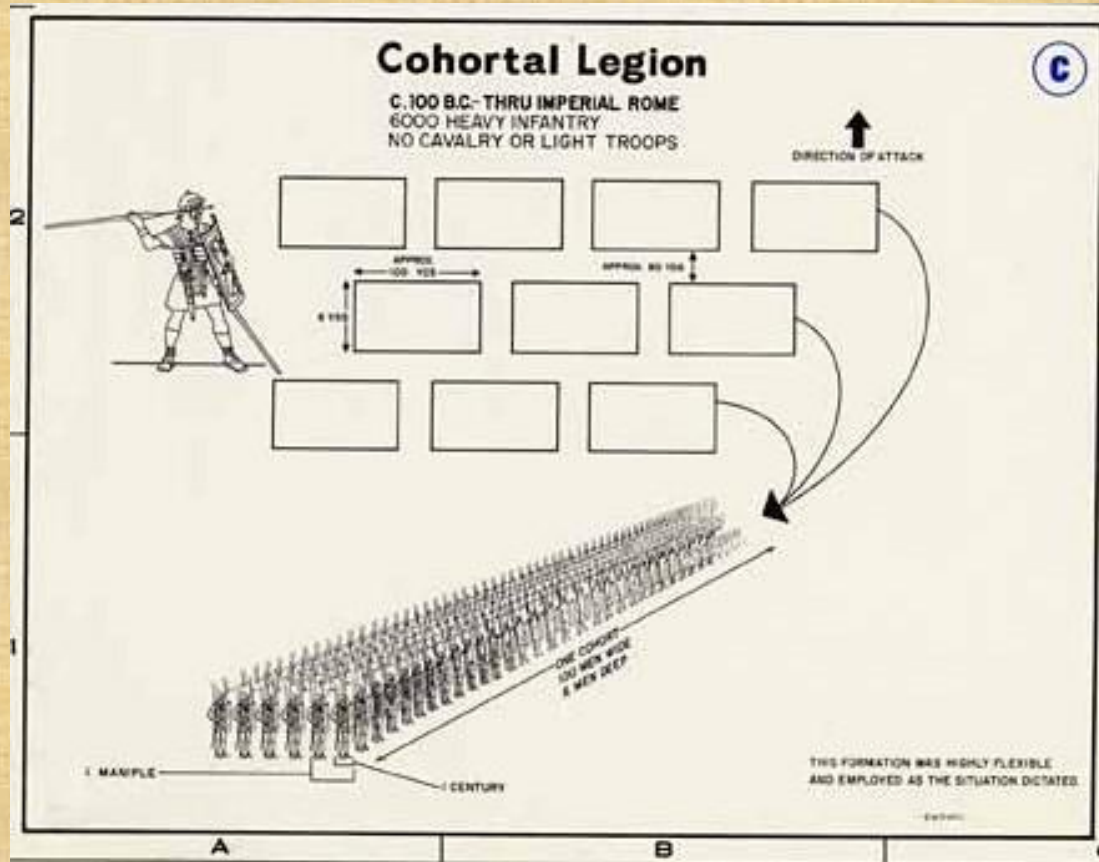
Roman Army



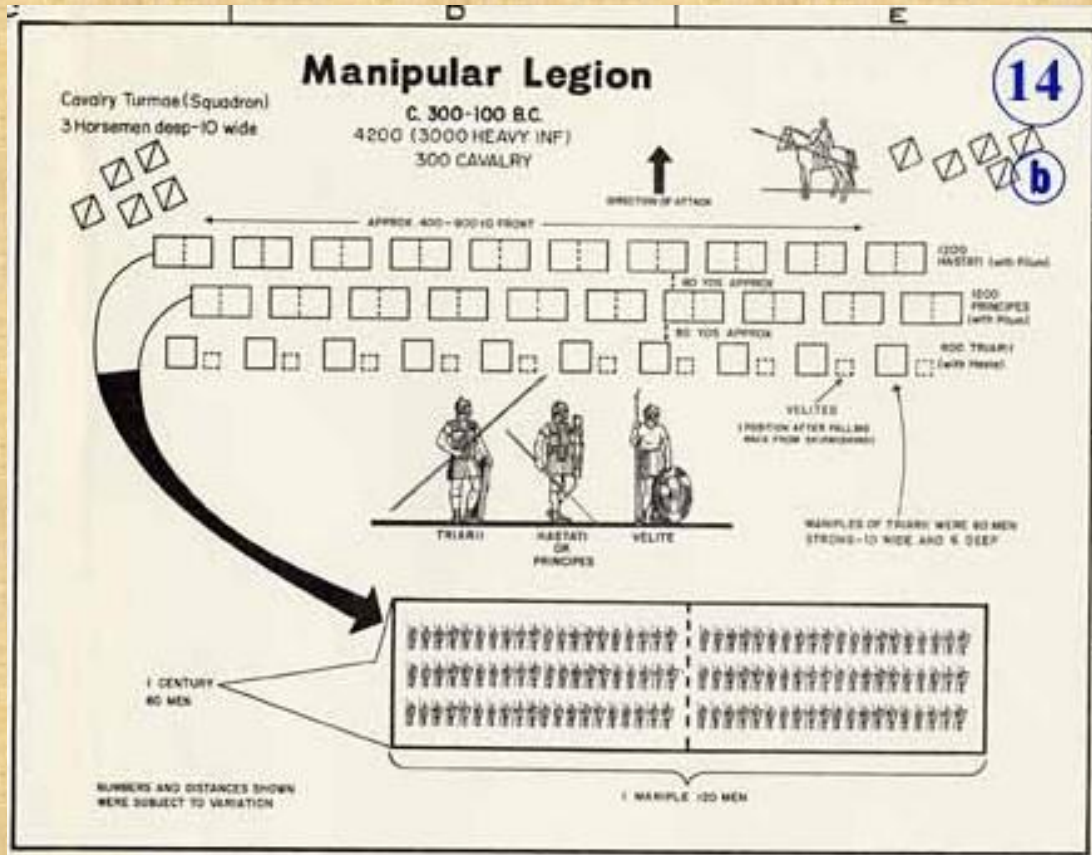
Roman Army



Roman Army

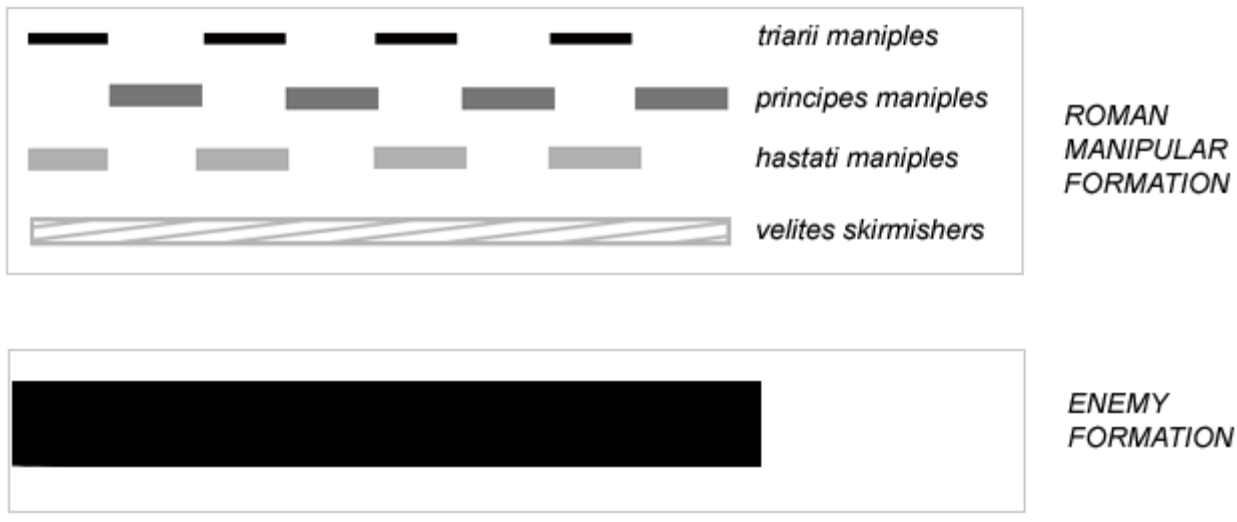


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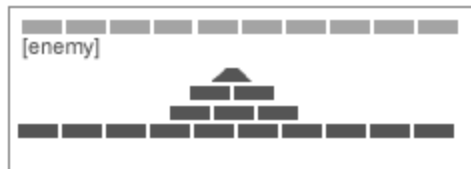
Roman Army

Roman manipular disposition after deployment but prior to engagement



Roman Army

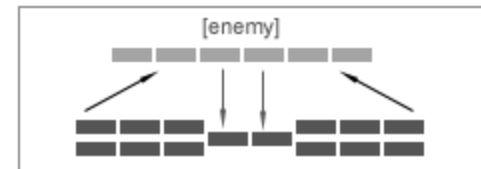
Alternative formations and variations in deployment



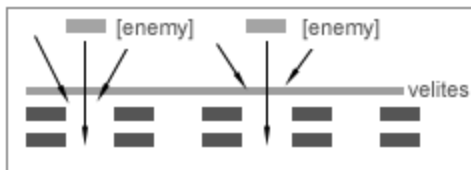
wedge formation - lines thinned to provide concentration in centre to smash through enemy lines



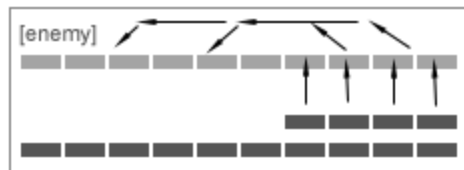
single line defence / extended line - maniples all deployed in a single line to overlap enemy flanks or meet wider enemy formation and protect own flanks



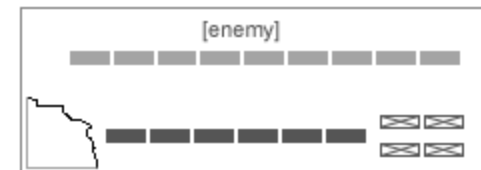
Cannae tactic (weak centre) - centre left weak deliberately to invite enemy centre attack and envelopment. Required tactical reserve behind apparently weak centre



maniple channels / Zama tactic - channels left between maniples for specific purpose of harassing and directing enemy war elephants away from heavy infantry. Tactically very dangerous since heavy infantry flanks vulnerable



strong right flank / rolling up the line - strength would be concentrated on the right flank, which would attempt to break the enem'y left flank, and then "roll up the line" attacking the enemy from the rear.



protected flank - one flank protected by a natural barrier such as hillside, lake, etc. Light infantry and cavalry all concentrated on the opposite flank

Tortoise Formation – Ad testudinem



Wedge Formation – Ad Cuneum



Repel Cavalry



Skirmish Formation



Orb Formation



Roman Army



Equipment:

- Camp
- Offensive
- Defensive

Legionnaire's Equipment



Camp and Tent



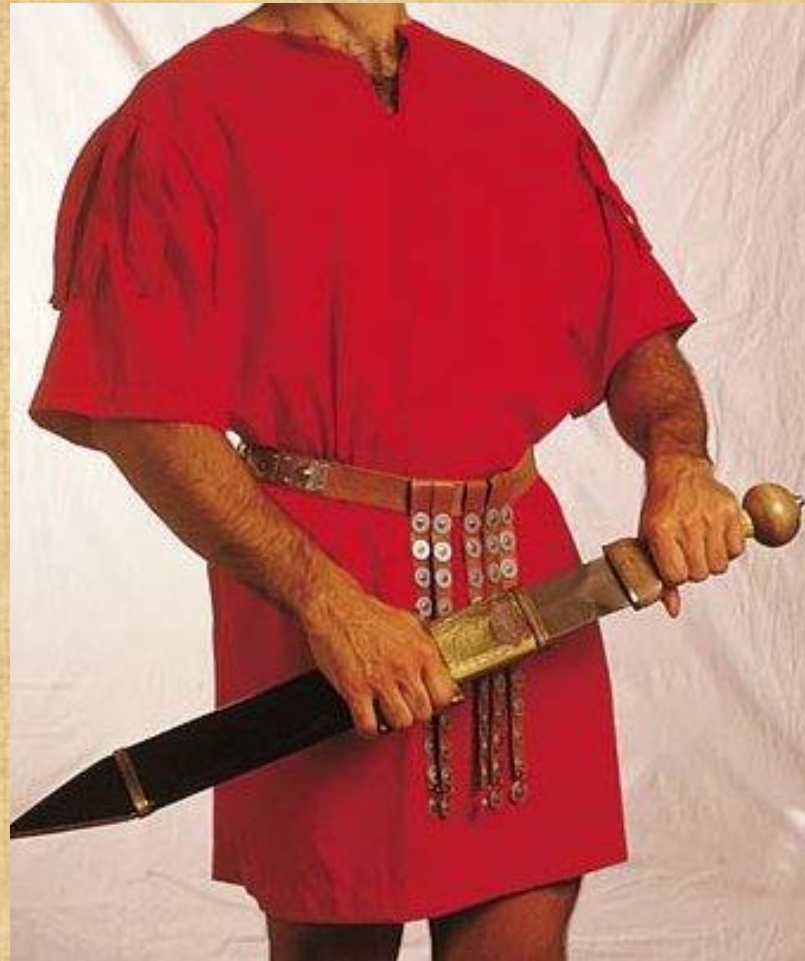
Mess Gear – Situla/Patera



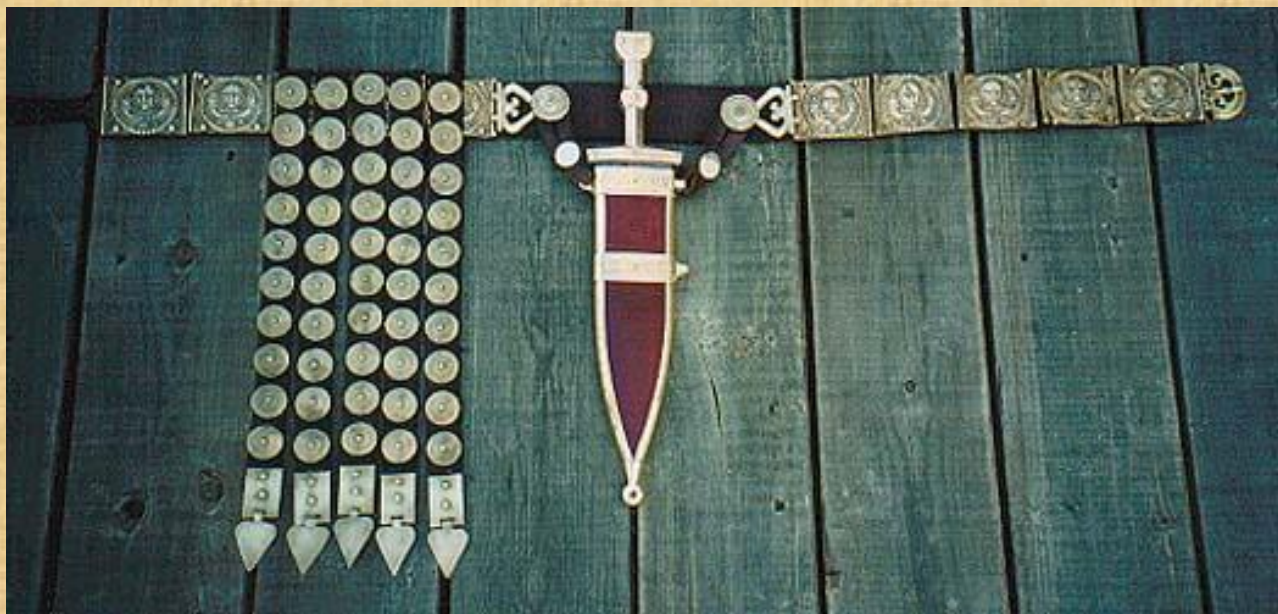
Tools



Tunic



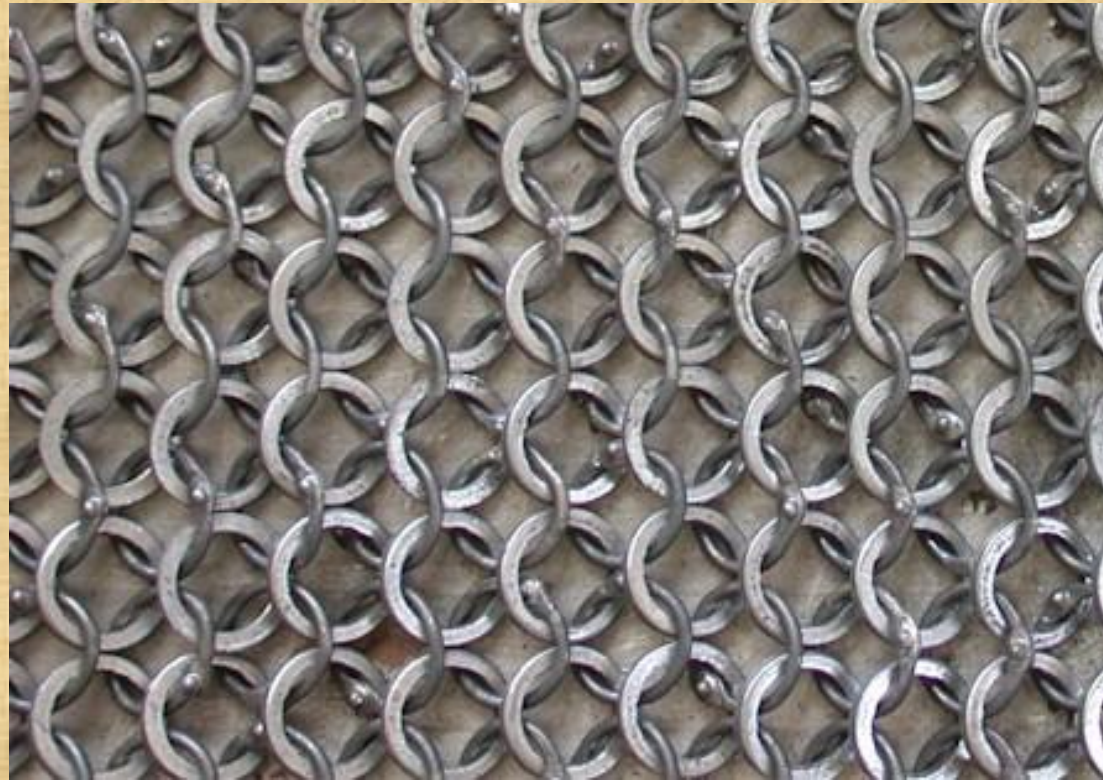
Equipment Belt – Cingulum/Balteus



Armor Padding - Subarmilis



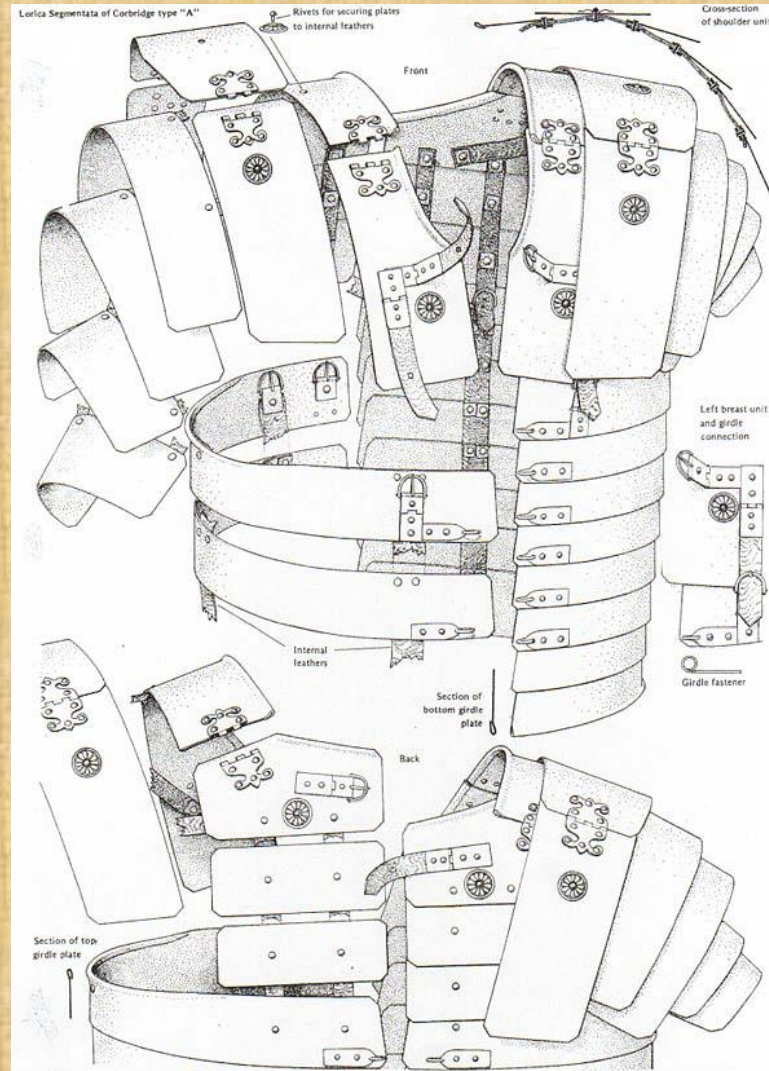
Chain Mail – Lorica Hamata



Chain mail Armor – Lorica Hamata



Cuirass – Lorica Segmentata



Cuirass – Lorica Segmentata



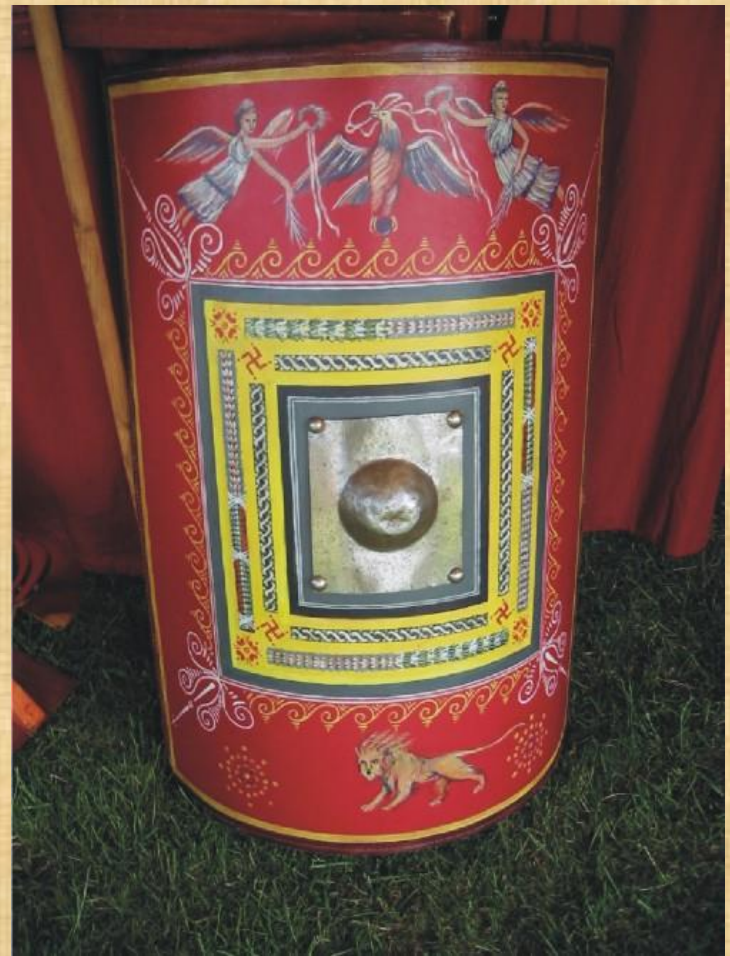
Cuirass – Lorica Segmentata



Sandal Boots - Caligae



Shield - Scutum



Javelin - Pilum



Dagger - Pugio



Sword - Gladius



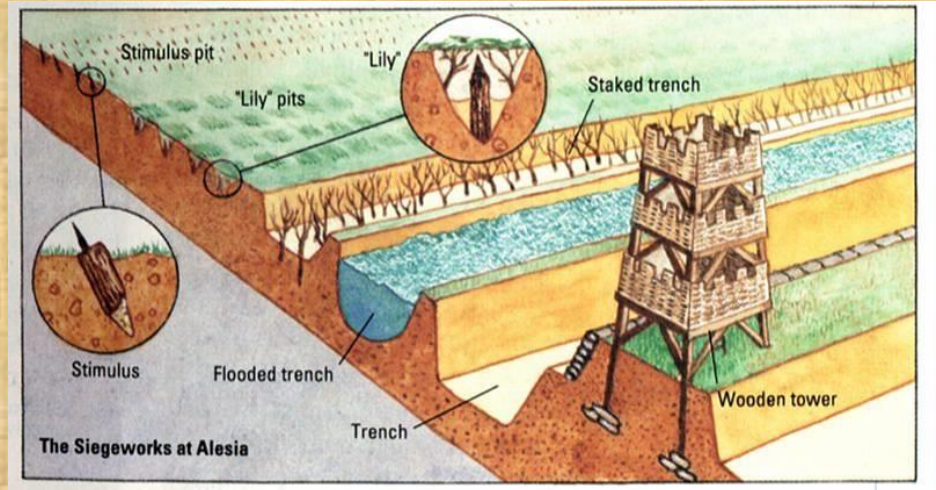
Helmet - Galea



Cloak - Paenula



Bobby Traps - Tribulus



Commands

- Ad signa
- Silentium
- Mandata captate
- Ordenem servate
- Dirige frontem
- Laxate
- Move
- Accelera
- Tarda
- Ad dextram/senestram depone
- Signo sequute
- Consiste (or State)
- Ad gladium, clina
- Ad scutum, clina
- Transforma
- Redi
- Mutalocum
- Langia (ad dextram/senestram/
ambas partes)
- Fall in
- Silence
- Observe the orders (Attention, etc.)
- Keep your position
- Dress the ranks
- Rest
- March
- Speed up
- Slow down
- Wheel to the right/left
- Follow the standard (or leader)
- Halt
- To the right, face
- To the left, face
- About face
- Return to the original front
- Countermarch
- Open ranks (to right/left/both sides)

Commands

- Exi
- Intra
- lunge
- Ad agmine
- Ad aciem
- Ad testudinem
- Ad cuneum
- Pila infige
- Pila pone
- Pila tolle
- Pila iace
- Gladium stringe
- Gladium reconde
- Parati!
- Porro!
- Dimitto
- Rear half-files move up
- Reverse of Exi
- Close ranks
- Form marching column
- Form battle-line
- Form testudo
- Form wedge
- Plant your pila (upright)
- Lay down your pila
- Pick up pila
- Throw pila
- Draw swords
- Sheath swords
- Ready (To charge, etc.)
- Charge!
- I dismiss you

Roman Army

- 1. able to copy and adapt the weapons and methods of its opponents more effectively**
- 2. organization was more flexible than those of many opponents**
- 3. discipline, organization and logistical systems sustained combat effectiveness over a longer period**

Roman Army

- 4. more persistent and more willing to absorb and replace losses over time than their opponents**
- 5. leadership was mixed, but over time it was often effective in securing Roman military success**
- 6. military and civic culture gave the Roman army consistent motivation and togetherness**

Roman Army