

Pattern on shields of Roman military units/Patronen op schilden van Romeinse militaire eenheden

from <http://www.ne.jp/asahi/luke/ueda-sarson/NotitiaPatterns.html>

- 5 Magister Equitum
42 units are listed as being under the overall command of the Master of the Horse:
10 Vexillationes palatinae:
Comites seniores
Equites promoti seniores
10 Equites brachiatii seniores
Equites brachiatii iuniores
Equites Batavi seniores
Equites cornuti seniores
Equites cornuti iuniores
15 Comites Alani
Equites Batavi iuniores
Equites constantes Valentinianenses seniores
32 Vexillationes comitatenses:
Equites armigeri
20 Equites primi Gallicani
Equites octavo Dalmatae
Equites Dalmatae Passerentiaci
Equites Mauri alites
Equites Honoriani Taifali iuniores
25 Equites Honoriani seniores
Equites Mauri feroces
Equites Constantiani felices
Equites scutarii
Equites stabliesiani Africani
30 Equites Marcomanni
Equites armigeri seniores
Equites sagittarii clibanarii
Equites sagittarii Parthi seniores
Equites primo sagittarii
35 Equites secundo sagittarii
Equites tertio sagittarii
Equites quarto sagittarii
Equites sagittarii Parthi iuniores
Equites cetrati seniores
40 Comites iuniores
Equites promoti iuniores
Equites sagittarii iuniores
Equites cetrati iuniores
Equites Honoriani iuniores
45 Equites armigeri iuniores
Equites secundi scutarii iuniores
Equites stabliesiani Italici
Equites sagittarii Corduani
Equites sagittarii seniores
50 Cuneus equitum promotorum

Comes Africae
12 infantry units are listed as being under the command of the Count of Africa, drawn
from those under the overall command of the Magister Peditum:
55 Celtae iuniores (an auxilia palatina unit)
Armigeri propugnatores seniores (a legiones palatinae unit)
Armigeri propugnatores iuniores (a legiones palatinae unit)
Secundani Italici (a legiones comitatenses unit)
Cimbriani (a legiones palatina unit)
60 Primani (ie. Prima Flavia Pacis, a legiones comitatenses unit)
Secundani (ie. Secunda Flavia Virtutis, a legiones comitatenses unit)
Tertiani (ie. Tertia Flavia Salutis, a legiones comitatenses unit)
Constantiniani (ie. Secunda Flavia Constantiniana, a legiones comitatenses unit)
Constantiaci (ie. a pseudocomitatenses unit)
65 Tertio Augustani (a legiones comitatenses unit)
Fortenses (a legiones comitatenses unit)

along with 19 cavalry units, drawn from those under the overall command of the magister Equitum:

Equites stablesiani Italiciani (a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites scutarii seniores (ie. Equites scutarii, a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites stablesiani seniores (ie. Equites stablesiani Africani, a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites Marcomanni (a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites armigeri seniores (a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites clibanarii (ie. Equites sagittarii clibanarii, a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites sagittarii Parthi seniores (a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites cetrati seniores (a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites primo sagittarii (a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites secundo sagittarii (a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites tertio sagittarii (a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites quarto sagittarii (a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites Parthi sagittarii iuniores (ie. Equites sagittarii Parthi iuniores, a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites cetrati iuniores (a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites promoti iuniores (a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites sagittarii iuniores (a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites Honoriani iuniores (a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites scutarii iuniores scolae secundae (ie. Equites secundi scutarii iuniores, a vexillationes comitatenses)

Equites armigeri iuniores (a vexillationes comitatenses)

Magister Militum per Orientem

32 units are listed as being under the command of the Master of the Soldiers in the East:

10 Vexillationes comitatenses:

Comites catafractarii Bucellarii iuniores

Equites armigeri seniores Orientales

Equites tertio Dalmatae

Equites primi scutarii Orientales

Equites secundi stablesiani

Equites tertii stablesiani

Equites promoti clibanarii

Equites quarti clibanarii Parthi

Equites primi sagittarii

Cuneus equitum secundorum clibanariorum Palmirenorum

2 Auxilia palatina:

Felices Arcadiani seniores

Felices Honoriani seniores

9 Legiones comitatenses:

Quinta Macedonica

Martenses seniores

Septima gemina

Decima gemina

Balistarii seniores

Prima Flavia Constantia

Secunda Flavia Constantia Thebaeorum

Secunda Felix Valentis Thebaeorum

Prima Flavia Theodosiana

11 pseudocomitatenses:

Prima Armeniaca

Secunda Armeniaca

Equites tertio Dalmatae

Fortenses auxiliarii

Funditores

Prima Italica

Quarta Italica

Sexta Parthica

Prima Isaura sagittaria

Balistarii Theodosiaci

Transtigritani

Comes limitis Aegypti

31 units or detachments of units are listed as being under the command of the Count of the Egyptian border:

Legio quinta Macadonica

Legio tertiadecima gemina

Equites stablesiani

Equites Saraceni Thamudeni

Legio tertia Diocletiana

Legio secunda Traiana

Ala Theodosiana nuper constituta (ie. recently constituted)

Ala Arcadiana nuper constituta (ie. recently constituted)

Ala secunda Armeniorum

Ala tertia Arabum

Ala octava Vandilorum

Ala septima Sarmatarum

Ala prima Aegyptiorum

Ala veterana Gallorum

Ala prima Herculia

Ala quinta Raetorum

Ala prima Tingitana

Ala Apriana

Ala secunda Assyriorum

Ala quinta Praelectorum

Cohors tertia Galatarum

Cohors secunda Astarum

Ala secunda Ulpia Afrorum

Ala secunda Aegyptiorum

Cohors prima sagittariorum

Cohors prima Augusta Pannoniorum

Cohors prima Epireorum

Cohors quarta Iuthungorum

Cohors secunda Ituraeorum

Cohors secunda Thracum

Cohors quarta Numidarum

Comes Britanniarum

3 infantry units are listed as being under the command of the Count of Britain, drawn from those under the overall command of the Magister Peditum:

Victores iuniores Britannici

Primani iuniores

Secundani iuniores

along with 6 cavalry units, said to be drawn from those under the overall command of the magister Equitum:

Equites catafractarii iuniores

Equites scutarii Aureliaci

Equites Honoriani seniores (ie. a vexillationes comitatenses unit)

Equites stablesiani

Equites Syri

Equites Taifali

Comes litoris Saxonici per Britanniam

9 commanders and tribunes along with their units are listed as being under the command of the Count of the Saxon Shore of Britain:

Praepositus numeri Fortensium

Praepositus militum Tungrecanorum

Praepositus numeri Turnacensium

Praepositus equitum Dalmatarum Branodunensium

Praepositus equitum stablesianorum Gariannonensium

Tribunus cohortis primae Baetasiorum

Praefectus legionis secundae Augustae

Praepositus numeri Abulcorum

Praepositus numeri exploratorum (ie. scouts?)

[...] while the men under the praepositus Equitum stablesianorum Gariannonensium would appear to be the Equites stablesiani listed under the Comes Britanniarum.

Dux Pannoniae primae et Norici ripensis

26 tribunes and prefects with their associated units are listed as being under the command of the Duke of first Pannonia and riverine Noricum (ie western Hungary and Danubian Austria):

Cuneus equitum Dalmatarum (no officer given)
Cuneus equitum stablesianorum (no officer given)
 Equites promoti (no officer given, split over 4 separate locations)
 Equites sagittarii (no officer given, split over 4 separate locations)
 Equites Dalmatae (no officer given, split over 5 separate locations)
 Equites Mauri (no officer given)
 Tribunus gentis Marcomannorum (no officer given)
 Praefectus legionis decimae geminae (2 prefects at separate locations)
 Praefectus legionis quartaedecimaegeminae militum liburnariorum (ie. naval units; 2 prefects at separate locations)
 Praefectus classis Histricae (ie. naval unit)
 Tribunus cohortis (5 tribunes at separate locations)
 Praefectus legionis secundae Italicae (3 prefects at separate locations)
 Praefectus legionis primae Noricorum (2 prefects at separate locations)
 Praefectus classis (ie. naval unit, 2 prefects at separate locations)

Dux Raetiae

21 tribunes and prefects along with their units are listed as being under the command of the Duke of Raetiae (ie. Switzerland):

Equites stablesiani seniores (no officer given)
Equites stablesiani iuniores (no officer given, recorded at two separate locations)
 Praefectus legionis tertiae Italicae (5 prefects at separate locations)
 Praefectus militum Ursariensium
 Praefectus alae primae Flaviae Raetorum
 Tribunus cohortis novae Batavorum
 Tribunus cohortis tertiae Brittorum
 Praefectus alae secundae Valeriae singularis
 Tribunus cohortis sextae Valeriae Raetorum
 Tribunus cohortis primae Herculeae Raetorum,
 Tribunus cohortis quintae Valeriae Frygum
 Tribunus cohortis tertiae Herculeae Pannoniorum
 Tribunus gentis per Raetias deputatae
 Praefectus numeri barbaricariorum
 Praefectus alae secundae Valeriae Sequanorum
 Tribunus cohortis Herculeae Pannoniorum

Further information on Constantine and military units/Verdere informatie over Constantijn en de leger-onderdelen

Samenvatting van de eenheden met de naam "stablesiani"

Magister Equitum
 Equites stablesiani Africani
 Equites stablesiani Italici
 Comes Africae
 Equites stablesiani Italici
 Equites stablesiani seniores
 Magister Militum per Orientem
 Equites secundi stablesiani
 Equites tertii stablesiani
 Comes limitis Aegypti
 Equites stablesiani
 Comes Britanniarum
 Equites stablesiani
 Comes litoris Saxonici per Britanniam
 Praepositus equitum stablesianorum Gariannonensium
 Dux Pannoniae primae et Norici ripensis
 Cuneus equitum stablesianorum
 Dux Raetiae
 Equites stablesiani seniores
 Equites stablesiani iuniores

Enige opmerkingen m.b.t. de Stablesiani/Some remarks on the Stablesiani

265 - About half the cavalry consisted of heavy cavalry (including the stablesiani). They were armed with spear or lance and sword and armored in mail. Some had bows, but they were meant for supporting the charge instead of independent skirmishing.

- The majority of Roman cavalry regiments in the comitatus remained of the traditional semi-armoured type, similar in equipment and tactical role to the alae of 270 the Principate and suitable for mêlée combat. These regiments carry a variety of titles: comites, equites scutarii, equites stablesiani or equites promoti. Again, these titles are probably purely traditional, and do not indicate different unit types or functions.

- There are two Equites stablesiani units listed under the Magister Equitum, both 275 listed as being stationed in Africa: the Equites stablesiani Italiciani and the Equites stablesiani seniores. This British Equites stablesiani unit is just possibly one of these two, but it is much more likely to be the men under the command of the Praepositus equitum stablesianorum Gariannonensium listed under the Comes litoris Saxonici per Britanniam and drafted into the field army of the Comes Britanniarum in 280 the same way as the Equites catafractarii iuniores.

- Wij vinden dus de benaming van de volgende legeronderdelen terug:
Equites stablesiani
Equites stablesiani Africani
285 Equites stablesiani Italiciani
Equites stablesiani seniores
Equites stablesiani iuniores
Equites secundi stablesiani
Equites tertii stablesiani
290 Praepositus equitum stablesianorum Gariannonensium
Cuneus equitum stablesianorum

- De cavalerie-onderdelen met de naam stablesiani erin hebben over het gehele Romeinse Rijk gediend. Het waren eenheden die te paard zwaar bewapend optraden.

- Evelein schrijft erover:
295 alleen aan de rechterkant, ter hoogte van het middenstuk b, wordt zij onderbroken door een ingekraste inscriptie, STABLESIA o VI o, waarover straks.

[...] Als tweede inscriptie op onze helm zagen wij rechts op den helmrand die van Stablesia VI. Zij duidt een afdeeling aan der equites Stablesiani, een ruitercorps, dat zooals uit de Notitia Dignitatum blijkt, tijdens het latere romeinse keizerrijk 300 uit twee inscripties, te Brescia en Sitifi (Africa) gevonden, waarvan op de eerste sprake is van een vexillatio van dit corps.

Is, zooals Prof. Bohn mij doet opmerken, naar analogie hiervan, alsmede door het feit, dat het woord vexillatio reeds op het einde der 3de eeuw een ruiter-afdeeling beteekent, onze inscriptie aldus aan te vullen: (Vexillatio) Stablesi(na) VI, des te 305 meer zijn wij daartoe geneigd, waar in de door ons ook genoemde Not. Dign. dit ruitercorps vermeld wordt onder de vexillationes comitatenses van Africa en Brittanië. Zoo behoorde dus de drager van onze helm tot de 6de afdeeling der equites Stablesiani en draagt onze helm iets bij tot de geschiedenis van dit corps, dat thans blijkt zich ook in onze streken eenmaal te hebben opgehouden.

310 Comitatuses and limitanei (284-395 AD)

A distinction between frontier guard troops and more mobile reserve forces had emerged with the use of certain troops to permanently man frontiers such as Hadrian's Wall in Britannia in the 2nd century AD, and may have extended as far back as the 315 late Republic's use of "provincial" and "emergency" legions. By the late Empire the competing demands of manned frontiers and strategic reserve forces had led to a division of the military into four types of troops. Border fortifications were manned by a "settled and hereditary" militia (Latin: limitanei or riparienses) that were "tied to their posts". In the rear lay more mobile troops in field armies known as 320 the comitatenses, which were held in strategic reserve. Somewhere between the two were more local provincial reserves known as cunei (cavalry) and auxilia (by this time, referring to infantry alone) that may have evolved from earlier auxiliary cavalry units. From the time of the emperor Constantine I there were also two small central reserves (Latin: scholae) held to the strategic rear even of the 325 comitatenses, one each in the presence of the emperors of West and East respectively. Created and expanded from the core troops of the Emperor's personal bodyguards, the central field armies by 295 AD seem to have been too large to be accounted for as simple bodyguard forces, but were still too small to be able to campaign independently of legionary or vexillation support.

330 Of the four troop types, the limitanei (border guards) are generally considered to

have been of the lowest quality, consisting largely of peasant-soldiers that were both "grossly inferior" to the earlier legions and inferior also to their counterparts in the mobile field armies.

While the limitanei were supposed to deal with policing actions and low-intensity incursions, the duty of responding to more serious incidents fell upon the provincial troops. The countering of the very largest scale incursions on a strategic scale was the task of the comitatenses or mobile field troops, possibly accompanied by the emperor's scholae. Both border and field armies consisted of a mix of infantry and cavalry units[although the weight of cavalry was, according to some authorities, greater in the mobile field armies. Overall, approximately one quarter of the army consisted of cavalry troops but their importance is uncertain. Older works such as the Eleventh Edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica (1911) state that the Roman military of the late Empire was "marked by that predominance of the horseman which characterised the earlier centuries of the Middle Ages," but many more recent authors believe that the infantry remained predominant.

There is some dispute about whether this new military structure was put into place under the Emperor Diocletian or Constantine since both reorganised the Roman Army in the late 3rd and early 4th centuries to some degree. Both Diocletian and even his predecessor of thirty years Gallienus may already have controlled mobile strategic reserves to assist the empire's border forces; either Diocletian or Constantine expanded this nascent force into permanent field armies.

Recruitment from amongst Roman citizens had become greatly curtailed as a consequence of a declining population, "cripplingly numerous" categories of those exempted from military service and the spread of Christianity with its pacifist message. Together, these factors culminated in "the withdrawal of the urban class from all forms of military activity." In their place, much of Rome's military were now recruited from non-Italian peoples living within the empire's borders. Many of these people were barbarians or semi-barbarians recently settled from lands beyond the empire, including several colonies of Carpi, Bastarnae and Sarmatians.

Although units described as legiones existed as late as the 5th century in both the border and field armies, the legionary system was very different from that of the principate and early empire. Since the term legion continued to be used, it is unclear exactly when the structure and role of the legions changed. In the third or 4th century, however, the legions' role as elite heavy infantry was substantially reduced and may have evaporated entirely. Instead, those "legions" that remained were no longer drawn exclusively (and perhaps hardly at all) from Roman citizens. Either Diocletian or Constantine reorganised the legions into smaller infantry units who, according to some sources, were more lightly armoured than their forebears. Their lighter armament may have been either because they "would not consent to wear the same weight of body armour as the legionaries of old" or, as in at least one documented instance, because they were prohibited from wearing heavy armour by their general in order to increase their mobility. 4th-century legions were at times only one sixth the size of early imperial legions, and they were armed with some combination of spears, bows, slings, darts and swords, reflecting a greater contemporary emphasis on ranged fighting. The auxilia and numeri had also largely disappeared. Constantine further increased the proportion of German troops in the regular army; their cultural impact was so great that even legionaries began wearing German dress. At the start of Diocletian's reign, the Roman army numbered about 390,000 men, but by the end of his reign he successfully increased the number to 581,000 men.

The army under Diocletian and Constantine

The Eastern Empire dates from the creation of the Tetrarchy ("Quadrumvirate") by the Emperor Diocletian in 293. His plans for succession did not outlive his lifetime, but his reorganization of the army did by centuries. Rather than maintain the traditional infantry-heavy legions, Diocletian reformed it into limitanei ("border") and comitatenses ("field") units. There was an expansion of the importance of the cavalry, though the infantry still remained the major component of the Roman armies, in contrast to common belief. For example, in 478, an Eastern field army consisted of 8,000 cavalry and 30,000 infantry and it can be calculated that in 357 Emperor Julian had 10,000 infantry and 3,000 cavalry at Strasbourg. But the importance of cavalry for the commanding officers, though not the numbers, did increase, and by the time of Justinian, the numbers had increased, too.

The limitanei and ripenses were to occupy the limes, the Roman border fortifications. The field units, by contrast, were to stay well behind the border and move quickly where they were needed, whether for offensive or defensive roles, as well as forming

an army against usurpers. The field units were held to high standards and took precedence over Limitanei in pay and provisions. Cavalry formed about one-third of the units, but as a result of smaller units, about one-quarter of the Roman armies consisted of cavalry. About half the cavalry consisted of heavy cavalry (including the stabilesiani). They were armed with spear or lance and sword and armored in mail. Some had bows, but they were meant for supporting the charge instead of independent skirmishing. In the field armies there was a component of some 15% of cataphractarii or clibanarii, heavily armoured cavalry who used shock tactics. The light cavalry (including the scutarii and promoti) featured high amongst the limitanei, being very useful troops on patrol. They included horse archers (Equites Sagittarii). The infantry of the comitatenses was organized in regiments (variously named legiones, auxilia or just numeri) of about 500-1,200 men. They were still the heavy infantry of old, with a spear or sword, shield, body armour and a helmet. But now each regiment was supported by a detachment of light infantry skirmishers. If needed, the infantry could take off (some of) their armour to act in a more flexible way as Modares did (according to Zosimus) during the Gothic War of the 370s. The regiments were commanded by a tribunus ("tribune") and brigaded in pairs (cavalry units did, too) under a comes. These brigades probably were tactical and strategic units only, as no traces survive of brigade staff corps. On the other hand, little is known of the limitanei. The old legions, cohorts and cavalry alae survived there, and newer units were created (the new legions, or auxilia and vexillationes, amongst the cavalry. The limitanei infantry may have been lighter-equipped than the comitatenses infantry, but there is no evidence whatsoever. They were paid less than the field troops and recruited locally. Consequently, they were of inferior quality. However, they were in the line of fire. They countered most incursions and raids. Thus, it can be assumed they did have superior field experience (except in periods of long campaigning for the comitatenses), though that experience did not extend to large battles and sieges.

The Scholae Palatinae units, which were more properly known as the Schola Protectores Domestici and the "Protective Association of the Royal Escort" (also called the Obsequium), were the personal guard of the Emperor, and were created to replace the Praetorian Guard disbanded by Constantine I.

The legions in the third and fourth century were not the legions of the Republic or earlier Roman empire, that they consisted largely or solely of equites troops, [citation needed] and that they tended to be far short of the Augustinian legion component of 5,000 men. [uit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_army]

Constantine I

After defeating Maxentius in 312, Constantine disbanded the Praetorian Guard, ending the latter's 300-year existence. Although the instant reason was the Guard's support for his rival Maxentius, a force based in Rome had also become obsolete since emperors now rarely resided there. The imperial escort role of the Guard's cavalry, the equites singulares Augusti, was now fulfilled by the scholae. These elite cavalry regiments existed by the time of Constantine and may have been founded by Diocletian. Constantine expanded his comitatus into a major and permanent force. This was achieved by the addition of units withdrawn from the frontier provinces and by creating new units: more cavalry vexillationes and new-style infantry units called auxilia. The expanded comitatus was now placed under the command of two new officers, a magister peditum to command the infantry and magister equitum for cavalry. Comitatus troops were now formally denoted comitatenses to distinguish them from the frontier forces (limitanei). The size of the Constantinian comitatus is uncertain. But Constantine mobilised 98,000 troops for his war against Maxentius, according to Zosimus. It is likely that most of these were retained for his comitatus. This represented about a quarter of the total regular forces, if one accepts that the Constantinian army numbered around 400,000. The rationale for such a large comitatus has been debated among scholars. A traditional view sees the comitatus as a strategic reserve which could be deployed against major barbarian invasions that succeeded in penetrating deep into the empire or as the core of large expeditionary forces sent across the borders. But more recent scholarship has viewed its primary function as insurance against potential usurpers.

Constantine I completed the separation of military commands from the administrative structure. The vicarii and praefecti praetorio lost their field commands and became purely administrative officials. However, they retained a central role in military affairs, as they remained responsible for military recruitment, pay and, above all, supply. It is unclear whether the duces on the border now reported direct to the emperor, or to one of the two magistri of the comitatus.

In addition, Constantine appears to have reorganised the border forces along the Danube, replacing the old-style alae and cohortes with new units of cunei (cavalry) and auxilia (infantry) respectively. It is unclear how the new-style units differed from the old-style ones, but those stationed on the border (as opposed to those in the comitatus) may have been smaller, perhaps half the size. In sectors other than the Danube, old-style auxiliary regiments survived.

The 5th-century historian Zosimus strongly criticised the establishment of the large comitatus, accusing Constantine of wrecking his predecessor Diocletian's work of strengthening the border defences: "By the foresight of Diocletian, the frontiers of the Roman empire were everywhere studded with cities and forts and towers... and the whole army was stationed along them, so it was impossible for the barbarians to break through... But Constantine ruined this defensive system by withdrawing the majority of the troops from the frontiers and stationing them in cities which did not require protection." Zosimus' critique is probably excessive, both because the comitatus already existed in Diocletian's time and because some new regiments were raised by Constantine for his expanded comitatus, as well as incorporating existing units. Nevertheless, the majority of his comitatus was drawn from existing frontier units. This drawdown of large numbers of the best units inevitably increased the risk of successful large-scale barbarian breaches of the frontier defences.

Gallia Belgica

During the 1st century AD (estimated date 90 AD), the provinces of Gaul were restructured. Emperor Domitian reorganized the provinces in order to separate the militarized zones of the Rhine from the civilian populations of the region. The northeastern part of Gallia Belgica was split off and renamed Germania Inferior, later to be reorganized and renamed as Germania Secunda. This included the eastern part of modern Belgium, the southernmost part of the modern Netherlands, and a part of modern Germany. The eastern part was split off to become Germania Superior (parts of western Germany and eastern France) and the southern border of Gallia Belgica was extended to the south. The newer Gallia Belgica included the cities of Camaracum (Cambrai), Nemetacum (Arras), Samarobriua (Amiens), Durocorter (Reims), Diuidorum (Metz) and Augusta Treverorum (Trier).

Emperor Diocletian restructured the provinces around 300, and split Belgica into two provinces: Belgica Prima and Belgica Secunda. Belgica Prima had Treveri (Trier) as its main city, and consisted of the eastern part. The border between Belgica Prima and Belgica Secunda was approximately along the River Maas.