

GCSE Classical Civilisation

War & Warfare

4.3.The Roman Military in the Imperial Period

4.4 The Romans at War

4.3 The Roman Military in the Imperial Period

- How the Roman army and navy were paid for, recruited and trained in the imperial period
- The structure, organisation and command of the army and navy:
 - how a legion was organised
 - layout of a legionary fortress
- The equipment of the army and navy and how it was used in battle
- The tactics and formations used by the army and navy

TWO PRESCRIBED SOURCES (but can do more...)

E.g. Structure of a Legion

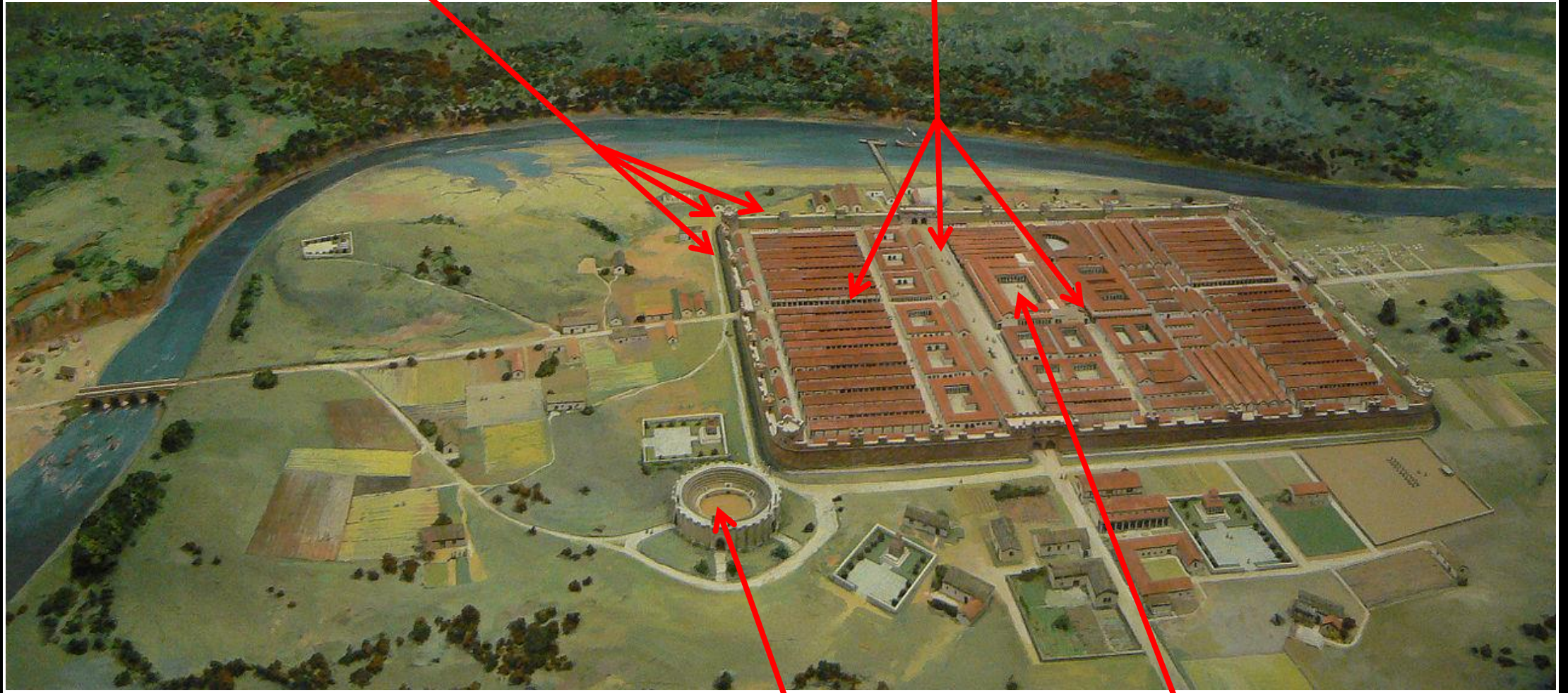
- contubernium – 8
- century – 80 [10 x contubernium]
- cohort – 480 [6 x century]
 - except first cohort – 800 [5 x 160 centuries]
- legion – c.5120 [first cohort + 9 x cohort]
- **BUT** these numbers are not representative
 - extras e.g. scouts etc
 - and in practice, numbers differed
- century has centurions
 - first cohort has 5 *primi ordines*
 - most senior is *primus pilus*
 - also *signifier*, *optio*, *tesserarius* & *cornicen*
- legion led by non-professionals
 - *legatus*
 - 6 *tribunes*
 - most senior = *tribunus laticlavus*
 - Other 5 *tribuni angusticlavi*
- camp prefect
- *aquilifer*

Tab. Vindol. 1 154

"18 May, net number of the First Cohort of
Tungrians, of which the commander is Iulius
Verecundus the prefect, 752, including centurions
6
of whom there are absent:
guards of the governor 46
at the office of Ferox
at Coria 337
including centurions 2 (?)
at London centurion 1 (?)
... 6
including centurion 1
... 9
including centurion 1
... 11
at (?) ... 1 (?)
45
total absentees 456
including centurions 5
remainder, present 296
including centurion 1
from these:
sick 15
wounded 6
suffering from inflammation of the eyes 10
total of these 31
remainder, fit for active service 265
including centurion 1."



E.g. Structure of a Fortress



(Roman fortress at Chester)

E.g. Legionary Equipment

Bronze statuette of a legionary
British Museum (1867,0510.4)

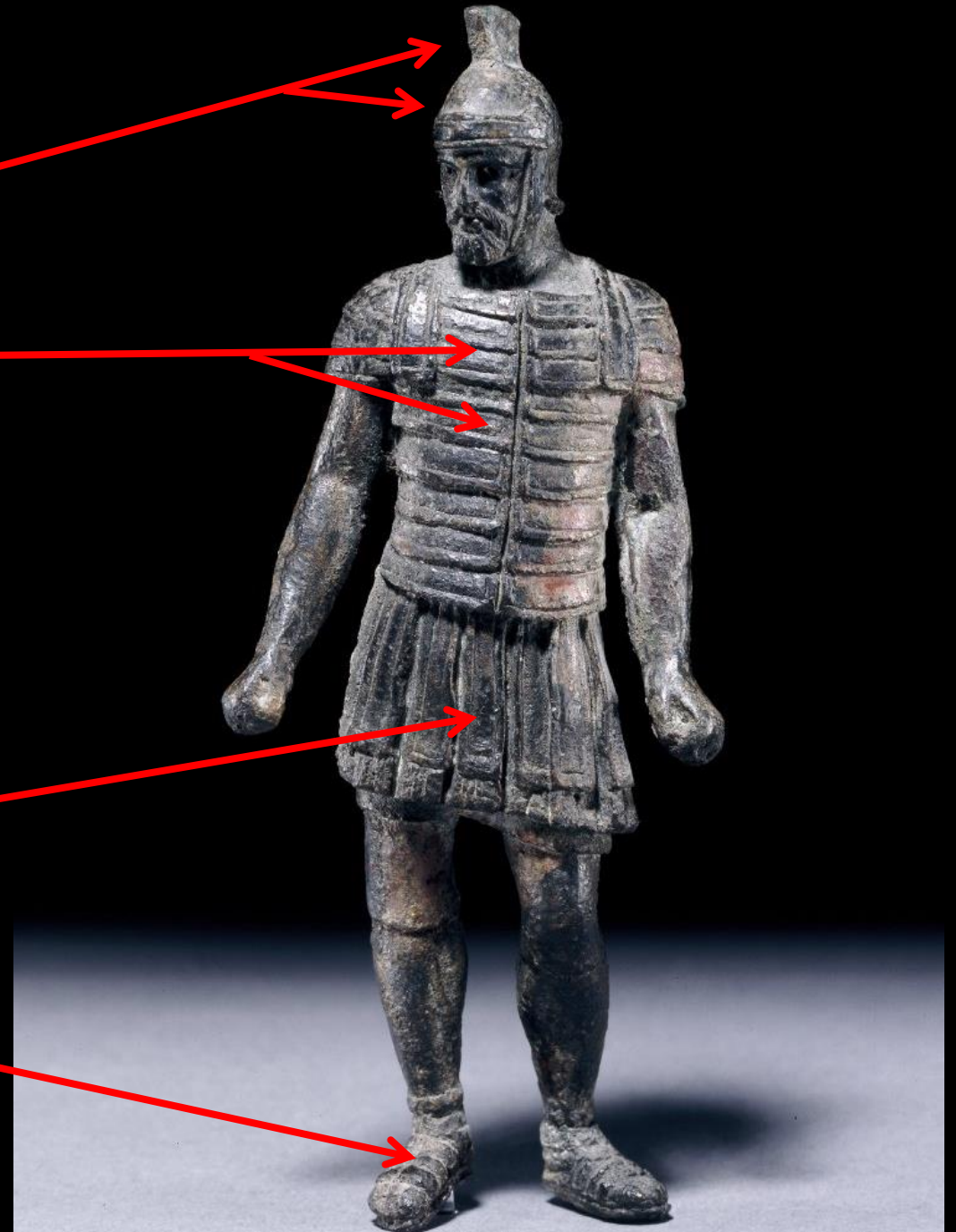
(& shield, sword, dagger & spear)

helmet

tunic & lorica segmentata

sporran

leather sandals



(**BUT** be aware of variety... and decoration)

“There has never been a regulation for dress and weapons in the Spanish infantry because that would remove the spirit which is necessary in a soldier. It is the finery, the plumes and the bright colours which give spirit and strength to a soldier so that he can with furious resolution overcome any difficulty or accomplish any valorousexploit.”

17th C officer, quoted in G. Parker, *The Army of Flanders and the Spanish Road 1567-1659* (Cambridge, 1972), 164



Tropaeum Traiani (Adamklissi)

4.4 The Romans at War

- The battle at Actium
 - key events & individuals (Octavian, Marcus Agrippa, Mark Antony, Cleopatra)
 - significance of the battle and how the Romans commemorated it
- Trajan's campaign against the Dacians
 - reasons for the war
 - presentation of warfare in the material sources
 - image of Trajan as emperor
 - pursuit of military glory
 - victims of warfare

FOUR PRESCRIBED SOURCES (but can do more...)

Background

- modules are both focused on the first and second centuries
- the early and high Empire
- Octavian/Augustus through to Trajan
- period of Rome's professional army (cf. Greece)
- Actium and Dacian war bookend that period
 - 31BC: end of civil war & “start” of the imperial period?
 - 101-102AD; 105-106AD: height of Empire & Rome's *optimus princeps*
- about place of war in society: how used? how seen?
- i.e. two battles actually tell us about wider politics & culture
- war is a window onto changing nature of Empire

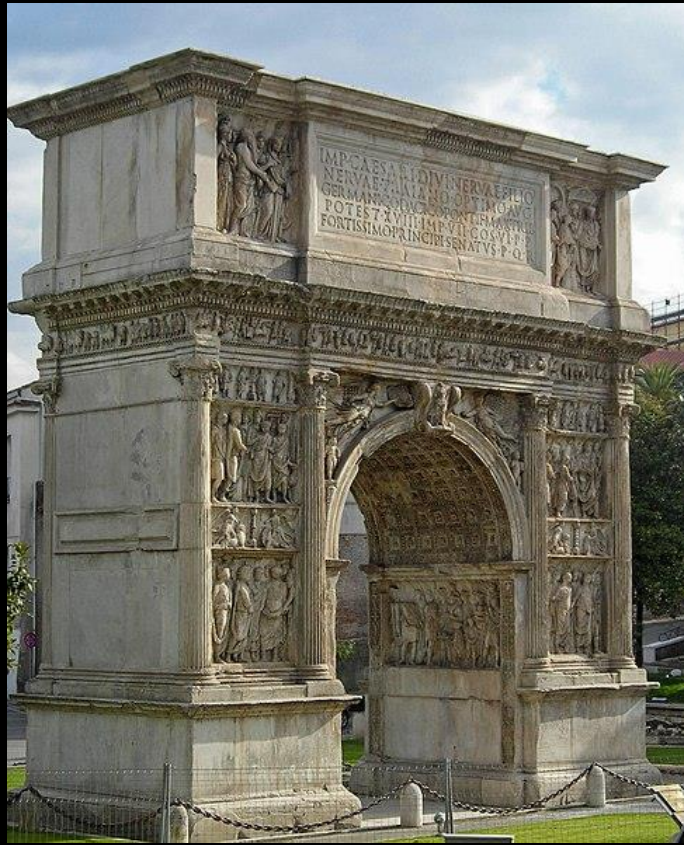
E.g. A Propaganda War



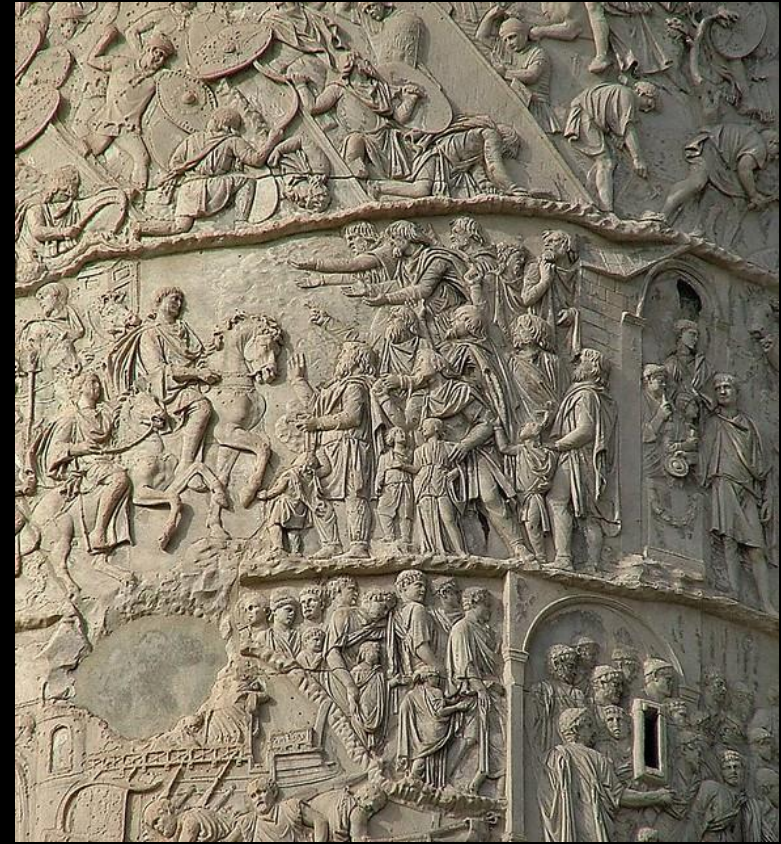
Mark Antony Legionary denarius, Obv: galley with banners; ANT AUG III VIR R P C (*triumvir rei publicae constituendae*), Rev: eagle between two standards, likely minted in Patrae 32 BC (example BMC 197, RSC 33, Sear 356)



Relief commemorating the battle of Actium, Vatican Museum
(originally in Praeneste)



The Arch of Trajan, Benevento



Trajan's Column

Case Study: Trajan's Column

- A rather odd monument:
 - why erect a war memorial?
 - why here?
 - why in this form?
 - traditional?
 - innovative?
 - who is it about?
 - who is it for?
 - who paid for it?