

# Legionary soldiers

To be a Legionary soldier you had to be a Roman Citizen. Legionaries were expected to fight, but they also built essential facilities such as forts, bridges, and roads.

Legionary soldiers were at Segedunum only while they built the Wall and fort (perhaps two or three years). Legionary soldiers therefore had very little to do with life in the fort, apart from the original construction.

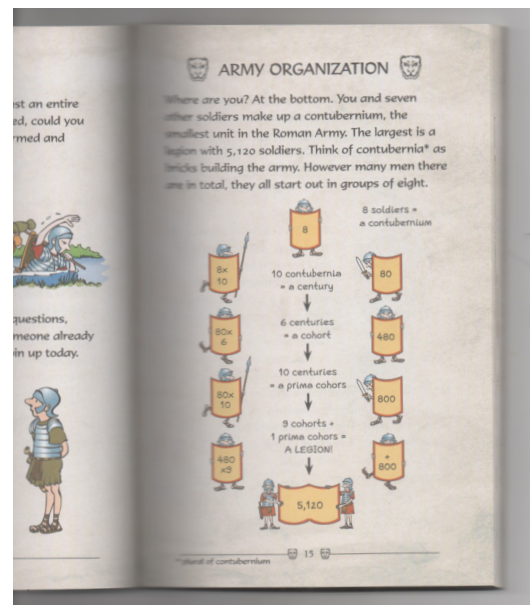
## How was the legionary army organised?

Each legion was given a number and as several bore the same number an epithet e.g. Second Legion Augusta, meaning 'of Augustus'. They often used an animal as a unit symbol. That of Second Legion was a Capricorn (half goat, half fish)

Legionaries join an Infantry unit as part of a group of eight men (**a contubernium**) who share living quarters together.

10 contubernium (80 men) form a **century** with their own standard bearer (signifier) and have a centurion to lead them all.

Six centuries (480 men and their centurions) make up a **cohort**.



10 cohorts plus a very small calvary unit (called the equites legionis - 20 men) make up a **legion.**

Cohorts in a legion are numbered 1 to 10.

Cohort 1 is extra-large with 5 double centuries (800 men). Its centurions are the senior ranking Primi Ordines and the most senior of all is Primus Pilus (Senior centurion).

The Primus Pilus can be promoted to be Praefectus Castrorum (Camp Prefect) who is in charge of the daily running of the legion.

Above the centurions are six tribunes, although these are not all professional soldiers like the centurions, and mainly dealt with administration. In overall charge is the Legatus Legionis (Legionary Legate).

Legions were so much larger than auxiliary units (4,000 - 6,000 compared to 600 - 1000).

A legionary centurion was not exactly the same as an auxiliary centurion. A legionary centurion was sometimes put in charge of an auxiliary unit. Iulius Honoratus, a centurion of the Second Legion Augusta, set up an altar at Segedunum while acting as the Commanding Officer of the Fourth Cohort of Lingonians.



*Replica of the altar set up by Iulius Honoratus*