

Timed Writing: The impact of the Roman Army & Its Auxiliary Forces

Using the examples below, as well as our class readings, discussions, and videos, explain THREE ways that the Roman army and its incorporation of auxiliary forces were engines for spreading Roman culture, identity, & citizenship across the Empire.

You are encouraged to consider the ways the army may have impacted the soldiers themselves (and how Genialis' tombstone or military diplomas might reflect that influence) or to consider how the Roman army may have impacted local communities (and how Philus' tombstone or the plan of London's fort + town might reflect that impact).



Sextus Valerius Genialis,
trooper of the Cavalry
Regiment of Thracians, a
Frisiavone tribesman, from the
troop of Genialis, aged 40, of
20 years' service, lies buried
here. His heir had this set up.



The Emperor Caesar Nerva Traianus Augustus...has granted to the cavalrymen and infantrymen who are ... stationed in Britain under Lucius Neratius Marcellus, who have served twenty-five or more years, whose names are written below, citizenship for themselves, their children and descendants, and the right of legal marriage with the wives they had when citizenship was granted to them...

To Reburus, son of Severus, from Spain, decurion of ala I Pannoniorum Tampiana, commanded by Gaius Valerius Celsus.



Plan on Roman London. Army fort is in back left corner of walled city



Philus, son of Cassavus, a
Sequanian, aged 45, lies buried
here.

The tombstone of Philus was likely to have been one such trader, he came from Sequanian (eastern France). His tombstone maybe simple in comparison to those of the cavalrymen, but it links the army to the traders who also travelled to Britain to work and make a profit alongside a multitude of people from all parts of the empire. It was these, rather overlooked people, who ensured the success of the Roman occupation of Britannia, and the conversion of Cirencester's early Roman fort into a successful town. (University of Kent)