

## THE CENTURIONS' PROMOTION SYSTEM. THE EXAMPLE OF DACIA

Epigraphic sources are quite generous, as far as the centurions connected to Dacia are concerned. The presence of the army here left numerous epigraphic traces, allowing us to approach the issue of the promotion system and transfers of legionary centurions in the troops present in the province.

During the Principate, the legion was made of 59 centuriae, led, of course, by just as many centurions<sup>1</sup>. In order to understand the way in which the promotion system was organized inside the legion and, from this perspective, the transfers within the army in general, the position of every centurion in the legion's organization chart must be known.

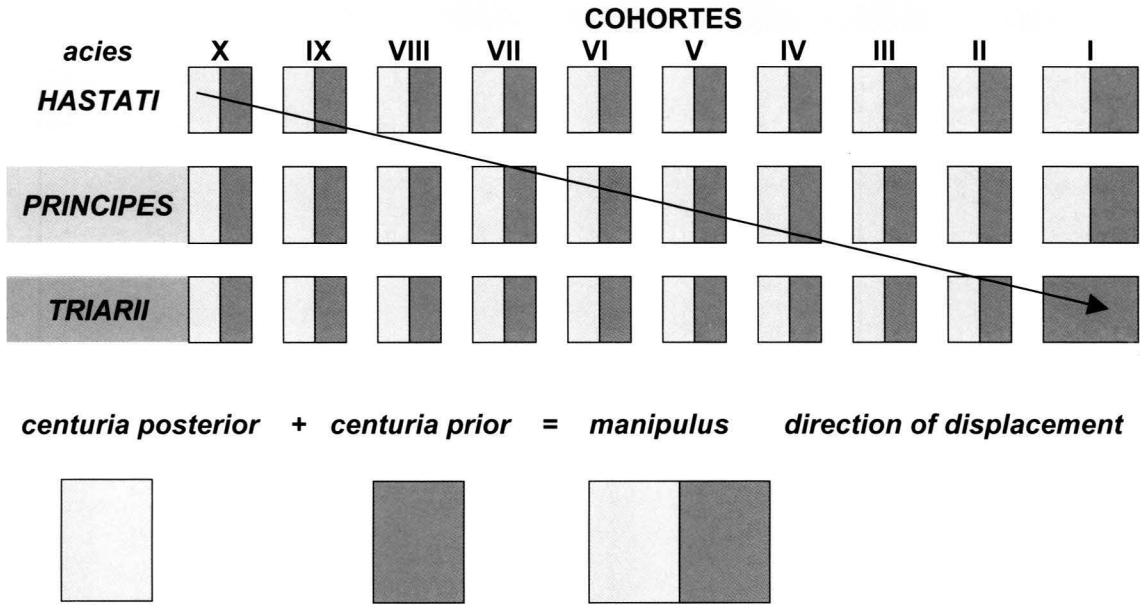


Fig. 1. The legion's organization chart.

Within a legion, the centuriae are split into ten cohorts, which are increasingly more important from the tenth to the first cohort. According to their position on the battlefield, they are positioned on three lines of battle (*acies*): *hastati*, *principes* and *triarii*, reflecting the age and experience, which are increasing from the first line (*hastati*) to the last (*triarii*)<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, a cohort is made of six centuriae, grouped in three pairs (*maniples*), which correspond to the lines of battle. According to their position on the

<sup>1</sup> The real number of centurions in a legion is 60, and the sixtieth centurion in the legion can be considered *primus pilus iterum*. Initially, in the times of the Republic, there were two *pimi pili*, each leading his own centuria; subsequently, the two units of the *triarii* maniple in the first cohort will merge under the single rule of a *primus pilus* (Domaszewski, Rangordnung<sup>2</sup>, p. 91-93; Junkelman 1986, p. 110-111), the legion being practically ruled by 59 centurions.

<sup>2</sup> Luttwak 1979, p. 40; Speidel 2005, p. 286, 292.

battlefield, the two *centuriae* that form a maniple are called *centuria prior* (the right flank of the maniple) and *centuria posterior* (the left flank)<sup>3</sup>. The situation is a bit different the case of the first cohort – the most important of the legion – which has a double number of effectives grouped in only five *centuriae*, as a consequence of the merge of the units in the *triarii* maniple under the rule of a single person (*primus pilus*)<sup>4</sup>.

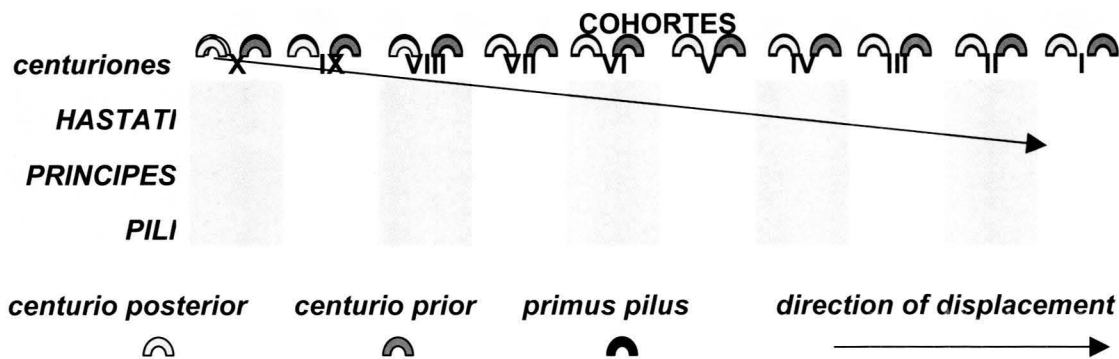


Fig 2. Position of centurions within the legion.

The hierarchy of centurions respects the legion's strict organization. The centurions receive, within the hierarchy, the position and importance of the *centuria* that they are leading. The cohorts II – X have six centurions each: *hastatus posterior*, *hastatus prior*, *princeps posterior*, *princeps prior*, *pilus posterior*, *pilus prior*<sup>5</sup>. The 5 centurions in the first cohort are called *primi ordines*, and they take the most important ranking positions in hierarchy<sup>6</sup>. The *primus pilus* is at the top of the centurions' hierarchy. As far as the rank is concerned, only the *praefectus legionis castrorum* and the *primus pilus iterum* are his superiors<sup>7</sup>.

The promotion<sup>8</sup> occurs within the line of battle, along the reserved corridor (*prior* or *posterior*), from the Xth cohort towards the first cohort: from the *centurio hastatus decimus posterior* or *prior* to the *centurio hastatus primus posterior* or *prior*. The same situation is encountered in the case of centurions *principes* and *pili*. Likewise, a centurion with a certain amount of experience could be transferred from the position of *centurio posterior* into that of *centurio prior*, while the promotion from an inferior line of battle to another that was right above it – from *hastati* to *principes* and from *principes* to *pili* – took place together with the entire *centuria*<sup>9</sup>, once the person got older and more experienced,

<sup>3</sup> Speidel 2005, p. 286, 290, 292.

<sup>4</sup> Breeze 1993, p. 65; Dobson 1993, p. 162-164.

<sup>5</sup> See the analysis that Speidel makes of the two inscriptions bearing centurion marks: CIL VIII 2568 from Lambaesis and CIL XIII 6801 from Mainz (Speidel 2005, p. 287-290).

<sup>6</sup> Dobson, Breeze 1993, p. 93; Dobson 1993, p. 154-158; Speidel 2005, p. 292.

<sup>7</sup> These are promoted in such positions from the centurions' rank, without exceptions, even though their position is recorded within equestrian careers, at some point (Domaszewski, Rangordnung<sup>2</sup>, p. 92-93, 112, 113-115, 119-120; B. Dobson, p. XXIX, XXXI-XXXII, in Domaszewski, Rangordnung<sup>2</sup>; Dobson 1993, p. 162-166, 171-172).

<sup>8</sup> A. von Domaszewski uses as an example to support this advancement plan the text of the inscription CIL VI 3584. Thus, Tib. Claudius Vitalis serves in eight legions; in the case of the last one (*VII Claudia*) even the position he occupied is mentioned: *centurio in (cohorte) II pr(inceps) post(erior)*. Each transfer into a new legion was accompanied by the term „*successione promot(us) ex legionem... in legionem...*”, emphasizing also the advancement on a superior position within the hierarchy, once the transfer was made (Domaszewski, Rangordnung<sup>2</sup>, p. 94-96).

<sup>9</sup> Domaszewski, Rangordnung<sup>2</sup>, p. 93-94.

at the moment when such higher positions were vacant due to various reasons (discharge, transfer, promotion, death on the battlefield etc.).

In Dacia, research confirmed over 110 legionary centurions who had various connections to the province. We have identified 29 of them who had centurionates attested in more than one unit (in legions, auxiliary troops or the cohorts from Rome)<sup>10</sup>, according to the epigraphic information. Here are, in brief, the careers of the 29 centurions:

**1. M. Aebutius Victorinus**<sup>11</sup>, originating from Pannonia (col. Ulpia Traiana Poetovio), serves in eight legions at some point during the times of Trajan: *X Gemina*<sup>12</sup> (Noviomagus, Germania Inferior / Aquincum, from 102 AD, Pannonia<sup>13</sup>), *XI Claudia* (Vindonissa, Germania Superior / Brigetio or Aquincum, Pannonia, on the occasion of the Dacian wars / Durostorum, from 105-106 AD, Moesia Inferior)<sup>14</sup>, *XIII Gemina* (Vindobona or Carnuntum, Pannonia Superior / Dacia, with one vexillation at war / Orient, also with one vexillation)<sup>15</sup>, *I Minervia* (Bonna, Germania Inferior / Dacia, in the conquest wars, under the leading of the future emperor Hadrian)<sup>16</sup>, *XXII Primigenia* (Mogontiacum, Germania Superior)<sup>17</sup>, *XIII Gemina* (Apulum, Dacia)<sup>18</sup>, *VII Claudia* (Viminacium, Moesia Superior / Dacia, with one vexillation)<sup>19</sup> and *XV Apollinaris* (Carnuntum, Pannonia Superior / Orient, after 114 AD)<sup>20</sup>. In the 14 years as a centurion<sup>21</sup> he is promoted eight times, according to the number of transfers, but he does not reach the primipilate and maybe he also fails to be among the *primi ordines*. He probably ends up in a centurionate *ex caliga*<sup>22</sup>.

**2. L. Aemilius Paternus**<sup>23</sup> seems to come from the equestrian order (see the *praefectus fabrum* position from Rome). His centurionates carry him over to various corners of the Empire, including Rome, within urban and praetorian cohorts: *VII Gemina* (Leon, Hispania Citerior), *I Minervia* (Bonna, Germania Inferior), *VII Claudia* and *XIII*

<sup>10</sup> In the case of the centurions whose legions changed garrison by transfer at a moment when they could still have been a member, we mentioned between brackets all the possible variants for the localization of the respective units in the period we are dealing with.

<sup>11</sup> CIL III 260 = 6761; Ritterling, Legio, 1627, 1744; IDRE, II, 399.

<sup>12</sup> Ritterling, Legio, 1680-1685; Gómez-Pantoja 2000, p. 184-187

<sup>13</sup> From 107 (Ritterling, Legio, 1683) or more certainly from 117 (Gómez-Pantoja 2000, p.187) the legion was at Vindobona; one of its vexillations seemed to have been sent to Dacia, at Sucidava, during the conquest wars (Piso 2000, p. 220), but it is not likely for Victorinus to have been with them; he is most certainly present in the province a bit later, in the legion from Apulum.

<sup>14</sup> Ritterling, Legio, 1694-1699; Fellmann 2000, p. 127-130.

<sup>15</sup> Ritterling, Legio, 1736-1741; Franke 2000 a, p. 198-199.

<sup>16</sup> Ritterling, Legio, 1421-1422, 1426; Le Bohec 2000, p. 83-85.

<sup>17</sup> Ritterling, Legio, 1804-1813; Franke 2000, p. 97-99.

<sup>18</sup> Ritterling, Legio, 1716-1718; Piso 2000, p. 220-224.

<sup>19</sup> Ritterling, Legio, 1620-1622; Piso 2000, p. 218.

<sup>20</sup> Ritterling, Legio, 1752-1755; Wheeler 2000, p. 281-288.

<sup>21</sup> The 14 (XIV) years of military service are "corrected" to 45 (X<L>V) by Fitz, who quotes Birley. They consider this variant to be more logical, taking into account the age and career of Victorinus (Fitz 1993, p. 899, no. 565), even though XIV is mentioned clearly in the inscription (see CIL III 260 = 6761), while Petolescu supports the variant arguing for 14 years, which would refer only to the centurionate years (IDRE II, p. 415, no. 399). However, taking into account the fact that he lives 63 years and 2 months, it is possible for the number of years spent under military service to be over 45, just like Birley suggests, and the recruitment to have taken place when Victorinus was only 18 years old. That means that his career as a centurion would stretch along 20-25 years.

<sup>22</sup> Piso, Băluță 1998, p. 148; IDRE II 399.

<sup>23</sup> CIL II 4461= ILS 2661; Ritterling, Legio, 1627; Dobson, Die Primipilares, 111; Moga 1985, p. 150, no. 4; IDRE I 170, 171.

*Gemina* (when these were involved in the wars against the Dacians, carried out in the times of Trajan, as proven by the decorations he received)<sup>24</sup>, in Rome in the cohorts *X urbana* and *III praetoria* (with the latter, he appears to have fought in the Parthian war alongside Trajan, being thus decorated the third time)<sup>25</sup>. He comes back to service within the legion, first as a centurion and then as *primus pilus* of the legion *II Augusta* (Isca, Britannia).

**3. - - - Amblasius Secundus**<sup>26</sup>, originating from Pelagonia (Macedonia), begins his career in Rome, as an ordinary soldier (*miles*). He first becomes a centurion in the cohorts in the capital city (*I vigiles, XIII urbana, ? praetoria*); then in the following legions: *V Macedonica* (Potaissa, Dacia), *? Parthica*<sup>27</sup> and *I Adiutrix* (Brigetio, Pannonia), in the last one possibly as a *primus pilus*<sup>28</sup>. The dating suggested by Dobson points to the reign of Severus<sup>29</sup>.

**4. L. Artorius Castus**<sup>30</sup> serves as a centurion in several legions, but also in the fleet: *III Gallica* (Raphane, Syria), *VI Ferrata* (Caparcotna, Syria-Palaestina), *II Adiutrix* (Aquincum, Pannonia Inferior), *V Macedonica* (Potaissa, Dacia) and is promoted *primus pilus* also in the legion *V Macedonica*; then he receives a leading position in the fleet (*praepositus classis Misensis*)<sup>31</sup>, and subsequently, he is the *praefectus legionis castrorum* of the *legio VI Victrix* (Eburacum, Britannia). After that, we can find him commanding a big vexillation, made of detachments from the legions and auxiliary troops in Britannia, against Armoricans, in north-western Gallia: *dux legionum, cohortium, alarum Britannianarum adversus Armoricanos*. Subsequently, he is appointed procurator of centenarian rank in Liburnia (Dalmatia). His career is dated in the second half of the II<sup>nd</sup> century AD, during the reign of Marcus Aurelius and the reign of Commodus, for the most part of it<sup>32</sup>.

**5. M. Aurelius Claudianus**<sup>33</sup>, military career comprises 11 centurionates in 10 legions: *II Adiutrix* (Aquincum, Pannonia Inferior) in which he probably serves as *hastatus posterior* of the X<sup>th</sup><sup>34</sup> cohort, *I Italica* (Novae, Moesia Inferior) with two consecutive centurionates<sup>35</sup>, *III Flavia* (Singidunum, Moesia Superior), *XIII Gemina* (Apulum, Dacia), *III Gallica* (Raphanae, Syria Phoenice), *VII Claudia* (Viminacium, Moesia Superior), *I Minervia* (Bonna, Germania Inferior), *XV Apollinaris* (Satala, Cappadocia), *XXII Primi-*

<sup>24</sup> Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 231; IDRE I, p. 172; Maxfield 1981, p. 187, 267.

<sup>25</sup> Thanks to the centurionates in the cohorts in the capital he also received the title *trecentarius* (CCC) – see Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 231; IDRE I, p. 172; Maxfield 1981, p. 187, 267.

<sup>26</sup> CIL XI 710; Ritterling, *Legio*, 1403, 1584; Domaszewski, *Rangordnung* <sup>2</sup>, p. 263; Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 243; Bărbulescu 1987, p. 68; IDRE I 133; Fitz 1993, p. 626.

<sup>27</sup> Either near Rome, on the Mons Albanus, in the case of *legio II*, or in Mesopotamia, at Rhesaina or Singara, in the case of the other two Parthian legions.

<sup>28</sup> Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 326.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>30</sup> CIL III 1919, 12224 (= 12791); ILS 2770; Ritterling, *Legio*, 1584; Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 151; IDRE II, 303, 304.

<sup>31</sup> Both Dobson (*Die Primipilares*, p. 267-268) and Petolescu (IDRE II, p. 307) see in this a possible command of a vexillation of the fleet at Misenum on the Danube, on the occasion of the Marcomanic wars.

<sup>32</sup> Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 267; IDRE II, p. 307.

<sup>33</sup> AE 1981, p. 158; Fitz 1993, p. 633; IDRE I 98.

<sup>34</sup> IDRE I, p. 109.

<sup>35</sup> It is possible for his promotion from *centurio hastatus* to *centurio princeps* or from *centurio posterior* to *centurio prior* to date from this period.

*genia* (Mogontiacum, Germania Superior)<sup>36</sup> and *XVI Flavia* (Samosata, Syria Coele). The last centurionate, right before his death, finds him *princeps prior* of the II<sup>nd</sup> cohort of the legion and very close to be promoted among the *primi ordines*. His career was dated to the second half of the II<sup>nd</sup> and the beginning of the III<sup>rd</sup> century AD<sup>37</sup>.

**6. C. Caesius Silvester**<sup>38</sup>, originating from Italy (Tuficum), begins his military career as a soldier in the praetorian cohorts. His participation to the wars for the conquest of Dacia is rewarded with decorations<sup>39</sup>. After having been promoted centurion, he serves in six legions<sup>40</sup>: *II Augusta* (Isca, Britannia), *IIII Flavia* (Sarmizegetusa Regia, col. Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa or Berzobis, Dacia)<sup>41</sup>, *III Gallica* (Raphanae, Syria Phoenice), *VI Ferrata* (Caparcotna, Syria Palaestina), *XXX Ulpia Victrix* (Vetera, Germania Inferior) and again in the *IIII Flavia* (Singidunum, Moesia Superior), in this last legion as *primus pilus* and subsequently, as *praefectus castrorum*. What is certain is that his discharge occurs before 142 AD, when he is mentioned as *curator viarum et pontium Umbriae et Piceni*<sup>42</sup>.

**7. Tib. Claudius Valerianus**<sup>43</sup> reaches the centurionate twice, and both of them seem to have occurred in Dacia, right after the conquest: in *XIII Gemina* and *I Adiutrix*<sup>44</sup>. The dating goes up to 114 AD, when *I Adiutrix* is transferred in the Orient<sup>45</sup>, moment until which the transfer from one legion to another could have occurred on the territory of Dacia.

**8. Tib. Claudius Vibianus**<sup>46</sup> is a centurion in *legio XIII Gemina* from Apulum at some point around the II<sup>nd</sup> – III<sup>rd</sup> century AD. The epithet *p(ia) f(idelis)* could be giving us a clue, referring to the reign of Commodus<sup>47</sup>. Vibianus is also a *centurio frumentarius*, meaning that he belongs to the body of centurions in *castra peregrina* in Rome, having attributions of a secret police<sup>48</sup>.

**9. M. Herennius Valens**<sup>49</sup> is originating from Salonic (Macedonia). He begins his military career in inferior ranks in cohorts in Rome, and then he reaches another inferior position in *legio XI Claudia* (Vindonissa, Germania Superior). Here he is promoted centurion, position from which he is promoted successively into six legions: *XI Claudia*

<sup>36</sup> J. Fitz argues, by dating his career to the end of the II<sup>nd</sup> century – beginning of the III<sup>rd</sup> century, that it is possible, on the basis of the moments when Claudianus changes the legions in the East with those in the West, that no transfer should have taken place at a distance, but that it should have meant the participation to the civil war and the Parthian war (Fitz 1993, p. 931-932, no. 633). If we take into account the fact that a vexillation of the legion XXII<sup>th</sup> Primigenia takes part into Severus' second Parthian war, as part of the army body made of effectives of the four Rhenan legions (Franke 2000, p. 100), then the above-mentioned theory is covered, although it is not necessarily compulsory, even though the legions in which he serves before and after this moment are in the Orient, as well.

<sup>37</sup> IDRE I, p. 109.

<sup>38</sup> CIL XI 5696; Ritterling, *Legio*, 1548; Domaszewski, *Rangordnung*<sup>2</sup>, p. 276; Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 128; Benea 1983, p. 203, 207; IDRE I 126.

<sup>39</sup> Maxfield 1981, p. 217, 268.

<sup>40</sup> In the six legions, he is promoted seven times.

<sup>41</sup> Piso 2000, p. 208-213.

<sup>42</sup> Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 249; IDRE I 126.

<sup>43</sup> CIL III 981; Ritterling, *Legio*, 1403, 1726; Moga 1985, p. 100, 104; Fitz 1993., 568; IDR III/5 11.

<sup>44</sup> IDR III/5 11, p. 10; Piso 2000, p. 205.

<sup>45</sup> Ritterling, *Legio*, 1390-1391; Lörincz 2000, p. 155.

<sup>46</sup> CIL III 7041; Ritterling, *Legio*, 1307, 1726; IDRE II 385.

<sup>47</sup> Ritterling, *Legio*, 1371-1372.

<sup>48</sup> Domaszewski, *Rangordnung*<sup>2</sup>, p. 104-105.

<sup>49</sup> CIL III 13360; Ritterling, *Legio*, 1403, 1455, 1757; Fitz 1993, 236.

(still located in Germany)<sup>50</sup>, *I Adiutrix* (Mogontiacum, Germania Superior / somewhere on the Danube, in Moesia Superior, on the occasion of Domitian's Dacian wars in 85-86 AD)<sup>51</sup>, *II Adiutrix* (Aquincum, Pannonia / Sirmium, Moesia Superior)<sup>52</sup>, *XV Apollinaris* (Carnuntum, Pannonia / Orient, after 114 AD)<sup>53</sup>, *I Adiutrix* (Apulum, Dacia)<sup>54</sup>, *IIII Flavia* (Berzobis, Ulpia Traiana or Sarmizegetusa Regia, Dacia)<sup>55</sup>. At the moment of his discharge, he was, most naturally, (*centurio*) *hast(atus) post(erior) coh(ortis) V*. His long military career (55 years)<sup>56</sup> is dated sometime between 60 and 125 AD<sup>57</sup>, thus comprising the reigns of Domitian and Trajan. It is therefore possible that Valens take part in the campaigns of both Roman emperors against the Dacians<sup>58</sup>, but he most certainly should have had to be in Dacia throughout the events in 101-106 and immediately afterwards.

**10. Iulius Bassus Suplicianus**<sup>59</sup> seems to be originating from northern Africa. He has five centurionates recorded in his 37 years of military career, in the following legions: *II Traiana* (Nicopolis ad Alexandriam, Aegyptus), *XXII Primigenia* (Mogontiacum, Germania Superior), *XIII Gemina* (Apulum, Dacia), *III Augusta p. f.* (Lambaesis, Numidia) and *III Parthica Severiana* (Rhesaina, Mesopotamia). His career is dated in the times of the Severi, in the first third of the III<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

**11. C. Iulius Celer**<sup>60</sup> is mentioned in a votive inscription with three centurionates in legions *IIII Scythica* (Zeugma, Syria)<sup>61</sup>, *XVI Flavia Firma* (Samosata, Syria) and *XIII Gemina* (Apulum, Dacia). His oriental origin – not from an ethnic viewpoint, but most likely as a birthplace – is emphasized by the short form *ISA* (referring to the *domus* or the *origo*)<sup>62</sup> and further strengthened by two centurionates at the beginning of his career, carried out in the legions in the Orient. The inscription is dated somewhere at the end of the II<sup>nd</sup> century AD.<sup>63</sup>

**12. C. Iulius Lepidus**<sup>64</sup> serves in the various stages of the centurionate in five legions: *XIII Gemina p. f.* (Apulum, Dacia), *I Adiutrix* (Brigetio, Pannonia Superior), *X Gemina* (Vindobona, Pannonia Superior), *XX Valeria Victrix* (Deva, Britannia) and *VII Gemina p. f.* (Leon, Hispania Citerior). It is possible for him to have started his career precisely in this last legion, because he is originating from Ieso (Hispania Citerior), and also to have exercised the primipilate there, at some point in the II<sup>nd</sup> century AD. Legion VII-a Gemina receives the epithet *p(ia) f(elix)* in 197 AD under Severus<sup>65</sup>, and

<sup>50</sup> Ritterling, *Legio*, 1694-1696; Fellmann 2000, p. 127-129.

<sup>51</sup> Ritterling, *Legio*, 1387-1389; Lörincz 2000, p. 153.

<sup>52</sup> Ritterling, *Legio*, 1441-1444; Lörincz 2000 a, p. 161-162.

<sup>53</sup> Wheeler 2000, p. 281-288.

<sup>54</sup> Vexillations of this legion were also reported at Sarmizegetusa Regia (Piso 2000, p. 205-206, 212-213). It is not very likely for the old centurion to have followed his legion to the Orient; he is more likely to have stayed in Dacia, as this is where his next transfer is coming from (Fitz 1993, p. 231-232).

<sup>55</sup> Piso 2000, p. 210, 212-213.

<sup>56</sup> Besides, Valens dies at 85 years of age.

<sup>57</sup> Fitz 1993, p. 232.

<sup>58</sup> Some of the legions in which he serves as centurion are involved in these events.

<sup>59</sup> CIL VIII 2891; IDRE II 455; Piso, Băluță 1998, p. 148.

<sup>60</sup> CIL III 1044; Piso 1981, p. 446 sqq; IDR III/5 148.

<sup>61</sup> Speidel 2000, p. 334-335.

<sup>62</sup> *ISA* can refer both to the region Isauria in Asia Minor, and to the city of Isaura (Piso 1981, p. 447; IDR III/5 148, p. 116).

<sup>63</sup> Piso 1981, p. 447.

<sup>64</sup> CIL II 4463; Ritterling, *Legio*, 1403; Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 330-331; Moga 1985, p. 150, no. 5, and p. 152, no. 11; IDRE I 174.

<sup>65</sup> Ritterling, *Legio*, 1371.

beforehand, legion XIII Gemina receives the epithet *p(ia) f(idelis)* probably from Commodus<sup>66</sup>, therefore for the dating of his career the last two decades of the II<sup>nd</sup> century, and even the beginning of the III<sup>rd</sup> century AD can be taken into consideration

**13. M. Iulius Quadratus**<sup>67</sup> comes from the equestrian order and, after service in a function specific to his rank, he does not follow an equestrian career, but becomes a legionary centurion. He carries out his first centurionate right here, in Dacia, at Apulum in *legio XIII Gemina*. Then follow his transfers to Numidia, at Lambaesis in legion *III Augusta* and in Britannia, at Isca, in *II Augusta*. He ultimately dies during a campaign with the latter, at only 38 years of age. His career is dated sometime in the II<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

**14. Sex. Pilonius Modestus**<sup>68</sup>, originating from Italy (Beneventum) and also a member of the equestrian order, starts his military career directly with the centurionate. In 19 years of military service – that is how long his career was at the moment of his death – he appears to have served in five legions: *I Minervia p. f.* (Bonna, Germania Inferior or on the Danube, taking part into the Dacian wars, under Trajan)<sup>69</sup>, *XI Claudia p. f.* (Vindonissa, Germania Superior / Pannonia, from 101 / Durostorum, Moesia Inferior, from 105-106)<sup>70</sup>, *VIII Augusta* (Argentorate, Germania Superior), *VII Claudia* (Viminacium, Moesia Superior)<sup>71</sup> and *IIII Flavia Felix* (Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa, Dacia, where his funerary epigraph comes from)<sup>72</sup>. At the moment in which his career ended abruptly, he was *centurio hastatus posterior cohortis III*. It is possible for all of his first three centurionates to have taken place in Germania, and that he should have come on the Danube once legion VII Claudia was transferred to Viminacium. The dating of his career is made in the decades between the end of the I<sup>st</sup> century and the beginning of the II<sup>nd</sup> century AD<sup>73</sup>.

**15. Cn. Pompeius Proculus**<sup>74</sup>. His inscription in Rome does not allow us to see more than two positions compatible with the centurionate: the command of several legions together (probably a vexillation made of detachments coming from several legions) and the primipilate of legion *IIII Flavia Felix* (if this is in Dacia)<sup>75</sup>. Subsequently, he held several equestrian positions: he was a tribune in *coh. I urbana* (in Rome) and a financial procurator of the province Bithynia et Pontus<sup>76</sup>. However, the dating of his career is very broad: ~ 70-118 AD.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>67</sup> AE 1957, 249; IDRE II 443; Piso, Băluță 1998, p. 148.

<sup>68</sup> CIL III 1480; ILS 1645; Domaszewski, Rangordnung<sup>2</sup>, p. 205; Ritterling, Legio, 1544; IDR III/2 437; Benea 1983, p. 128, 156, 207, no. 51; Piso 2000, p. 210.

<sup>69</sup> Ritterling, Legio, 1421, 1426.

<sup>70</sup> Ritterling, Legio, 1694-1699; Fellmann 2000, p. 127, 129-130.

<sup>71</sup> *Legio VII Claudia* has a fruitful activity in Dacia as well, on the occasion of the conquest wars, its presence being attested archaeologically both in Drobeta, and in other locations in southern Banat region. (Piso 2000, p. 218).

<sup>72</sup> IDR III/2 437, Piso 2000, p. 210.

<sup>73</sup> It is certain that he is in Dacia at the beginning of the II<sup>nd</sup> century.

<sup>74</sup> CIL VI 1672; Ritterling, Legio, 1548, 1549; Dobson, Die Primipilares, 102; Benea 1983, p. 205, no. 39.

<sup>75</sup> The primipilate should have been no earlier than the year 101 AD in order for it to be carried out in Dacia.

<sup>76</sup> At Pflaum, the interval in which Sabinus could have been procurator in Bithynia is very broad: 80-138 AD (Pflaum, Les carrières, p. 967, 1013, 1076, no. 91).

**16. T. Pontius Sabinus**<sup>77</sup> occupies, in the beginning of his career, the first two stages in the equestrian militia, as a Roman knight: *praef. coh. I Pannoniorum et Dalmatarum eq. c. R.* (Germania Inferior) and *trib. mil. leg. VI Ferratae* (Caparcotna, Syria Palaestina), and is decorated by Trajan in the Parthian war<sup>78</sup>. He interrupts his equestrian career for a career as centurion<sup>79</sup>, serving in legions *XXII Primigenia* (Mogontiacum, Germania Superior), *XIII Gemina* (Apulum, Dacia) and, subsequently, as *primus pilus* in *III Augusta* (Lambaesis, Numidia). His experience and the trust he enjoyed propel him to lead a vexillation made of three legions (*VII Gemina*, *VIII Augusta*, *XXII Primigenia*) sent in an *expeditio Britannica*. That is the moment when his career as centurion ends, and he comes back to his equestrian career as tribune in cohorts *III vigilum*, *XIII urbana* and *II praetoria* from Rome. The second primipilate is an exceptional promotion, a proof of the trust that the emperor has in him. The climax in his career is the procuratorship of Gallia Narbonensis, in the times of Antoninus Pius<sup>80</sup>.

**17. Q. Raecius Rufus**<sup>81</sup>. The positions compatible with the centurionate mentioned by his funerary epigraph are those of *trecenarius* in the cohorts in the capital and that of *primus pilus*, in *legio XII Fulminata* (Melitene, Cappadocia)<sup>82</sup>. The decorations received on the occasion of the Judaic (70 AD) and Dacian (101-106 AD) wars<sup>83</sup> stretch his career over three decades, especially since the primipilate seems to follow the Dacian war<sup>84</sup>. He seems to be present in Dacia as centurion in one of the praetorian cohorts stationed here because of the conquest wars. At some point in his career, he holds the position of *princeps praetorii*, probably in the general staff of the governor of Dalmatia<sup>85</sup>.

**18. M. Sabidius Maximus**<sup>86</sup> is one of the centurions promoted *ex caliga*. His progress from an ordinary *miles* to *centurio* occurs within the same legion: *XI Claudia* (Durostorum, Moesia Inferior). Out of 40 years of military service, he spends 20 as centurion, therefore he reaches his first centurionate around the age of 38-40, in the times of Hadrian. He is transferred to legion *III Gallica* (Raphanae, Syria), his participation to the Judaic war being rewarded with decorations<sup>87</sup>. Then follow other promotions in the times of the emperors Hadrian and Antoninus Pius. Due to epigraphic gaps, we only know the names of two of the five legions mentioned: *IIII Scythica* (Zeugma, Syria) and *XIII Gemina* (Apulum, Dacia). To all appearances, he was originating from Scampa (locality in the land of Dyrhachium)<sup>88</sup>. His career is dated approximately between 117 and 161 AD.

<sup>77</sup> CIL X 5829; ILS 2726; Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 117; Piso, Băluță 1998, p. 148; IDRE I 90.

<sup>78</sup> Maxfield 1981, p. 267.

<sup>79</sup> C. C. Petolescu states that it is possible for him to enter directly among the *primi ordines* (IDRE I, p. 105).

<sup>80</sup> IDRE I, p. 104-105.

<sup>81</sup> CIL III 9985 (= 2917); ILS 2647; Ritterling, *Legio*, 1709; Domaszewski, *Rangordnung*<sup>2</sup>, p. 99, 100; Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 106; IDRE II 291.

<sup>82</sup> Ritterling, *Legio*, 1706-1708; Bertrand, *Rémy* 2000, p. 254-255.

<sup>83</sup> Maxfield 1981, p. 269.

<sup>84</sup> Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 225-226; IDRE II, p. 300.

<sup>85</sup> Dobson brings into discussion the order in which the career stages appear in the inscription and a possible error in their succession (Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 225-226); IDRE II, p. 300; for *princeps praetorii* see Domaszewski, *Rangordnung*<sup>2</sup>, p. 98 and B. Dobson, p. XXV-XXIV, in Domaszewski, *Rangordnung*<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>86</sup> AE 1937, 101; Piso, Băluță 1998, p. 148; IDRE II 364.

<sup>87</sup> Maxfield 1981, p. 187, 169.

<sup>88</sup> IDRE II p. 369.



**19. C. Sulgius Caecilianus**<sup>89</sup> begins his military career in Rome, in the *castra peregrina*, where he is mentioned as *optio*. He then accedes to the rank of *navarchus*<sup>90</sup> in the fleet at Misenum. Then follow the centurionates in legion *XIII Gemina* (Apulum, Dacia), legion *XVI Flavia Firma* (Samosata, Syria), legion *I Parthica* (Singara, Mesopotamia), legion *VII Gemina* (Leon, Hispania Citerior) and legion *III Augusta* (Lambaesis, Numidia). The rank of centurion allows him to fulfill the role of *praepositus* of the fleet squadron from Misenum that was responsible for the transportation by sea of provisions and troops required in the Parthian war (in 231 AD)<sup>91</sup>. He is subsequently promoted to primipilate in legion *XX Valeria Victrix* (Deva, Britannia) and finally, he is appointed *praefectus* of legion *III Cyrenaica* (Bostra, Arabia). His career is dated sometime between the reigns of Elagabal and Gordian III (218-238 AD)<sup>92</sup>.

**20. L. Terentius Rufus**<sup>93</sup> begins his career as a knight, in the first equestrian militia in *coh. VI Brittonum* (Germania Inferior). He then becomes a centurion and takes part at the Dacian wars in the times of Trajan, with legion *I Minervia*, led by the future emperor Hadrian, for which he actually receives a decoration<sup>94</sup>. The next centurionate finds him with *legio XV Apollinaris*, as *primus pilus*, when the legion was possibly still in Pannonia.<sup>95</sup> He rushes to return to the equestrian career in the second militia in *coh. II vigilum*, in Rome. The dating of his career coincides partially with the reign of Trajan.

**21. Trajanus Mucianus**<sup>96</sup> has a career that is hard to decipher, due to epigraphic gaps. He is originating from Thracia (Augusta Traiana)<sup>97</sup> and his career is unfolded around the times when Gallienus reigned (253-268 AD)<sup>98</sup>. He starts as an ordinary soldier, first in a *coh. I Concordia*, then in *legio II Parthica* near Rome and subsequently, even in the capital city, in *coh. VI praetoria*, as *evocatus*. His next positions are linked to the rank of centurion: *centurio protector* of legion *XIII Gemina*<sup>99</sup>, fictitious positions within two cohorts in Rome (one of *vigiles* and one *urbana*)<sup>100</sup>, *coh. V / VI praetoria* (as an escort to the emperor), *centurio princeps* (but we do not know in which legion) and the primipilate, possibly fictitious, as the legion is not mentioned (see footnote 94). We do know that he becomes *στρατοπεδάρχος* (*praefectus legionis*) of *leg. IIII Flavia* (Singidunum, Moesia Superior) and he also has a commanding position, possibly compatible with the rank of centurion, at the head of legions *VII Claudia* and *IIII Flavia* reunited (or of some vexillations of these legions)<sup>101</sup>. His next position is connected to his equestrian career: *στρατηγός* at the head of three legions (*II Traiana*, a second legion whose name was not preserved and legion *IIII Flavia*).

<sup>89</sup> CIL VIII 1322 (= 14854); CIL X 3342; ILS 2764; Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 205; IDRE II 431.

<sup>90</sup> The equivalent of the centurion in the case of the fleet (Domaszewski, *Rangordnung*<sup>2</sup>, p. 105-106).

<sup>91</sup> Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 301; IDRE II, p. 449-450.

<sup>92</sup> IDRE II, p. 450.

<sup>93</sup> CIL II 2424; Ritterling, *Legio*, 1420; Domaszewski, *Rangordnung*<sup>2</sup>, p. 199; Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 110.

<sup>94</sup> Maxfield 1981, p. 269.

<sup>95</sup> Ritterling, *Legio*, 1752-1755; Wheeler 2000, p. 281-288.

<sup>96</sup> IGR I 1496; ILS 9479; AE 1908, p. 259; AE 1946, 139; Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 223; Moga 1985, p. 29, 80, 89, 144, no. 5; IDRE II 352.

<sup>97</sup> Domaszewski, *Rangordnung*<sup>2</sup>, p. 186; IDRE II 352, p. 357.

<sup>98</sup> Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 316.

<sup>99</sup> The place where the detachment Mucianus belongs to was stationing is unknown (Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 314); C. C. Petolescu argues that the detachment of legion XIII Gemina, in which Mucianus serves, belongs to Gallienus' mobile army, which was present in Thracia in 267 to fight against the Goths (IDRE II, p. 358).

<sup>100</sup> His centurionate in these two cohorts in the capital is fictitious; it was not really exercised, as the number of the units mentioned in the inscription is missing (IDRE II, p. 358).

<sup>101</sup> Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 315.

**22. M. Ulpius Caius**<sup>102</sup> has an interesting career. We have information about him being a centurion in *legio III Italica Antoniniana* (Castra Regina, Raetia). From there, he went with one vexillation to Dacia, where he is mentioned in an honorary inscription of the province's governor, L. Marius Perpetuus<sup>103</sup>. Due to epigraphic gaps, we do not know how many transfers there were, or in how many legions Ulpius Caius could have served, or which stages of the centurionate he reached (including the primipilate) until he became the prefect of legion *XIII Gemina* from Apulum. What we do know for sure is that we find him in this position both in Dacia, at Apulum, and in Moesia Superior, at Singidunum (in *legio IIII Flavia*). His career is dated in the first third of the III<sup>rd</sup> century AD.<sup>104</sup>

**23. M. Ulpius Titus**<sup>105</sup>, originating from Sirmium (Pannonia Inferior), serves in at least six legions<sup>106</sup>: *II Adiutrix* (Aquincum, Pannonia Inferior), *I Adiutrix* (Brigetio, Pannonia Superior), *XIII Gemina* (Apulum, Dacia), *V Macedonica* (Troesmis, Moesia Inferior / Orient / Potaissa, Dacia)<sup>107</sup>, *XIII Gemina* (Carnuntum, Pannonia Superior) and subsequently, again in *II Adiutrix* (Pannonia Inferior), at some point in the II<sup>nd</sup> century – beginning of the III<sup>rd</sup> century, at the latest.

**24. Sex. Vibius Gallus**<sup>108</sup> is mentioned as centurion in a cohort of Rome (*trecentarius*)<sup>109</sup>. His career is continued with a primipilate and the prefectship of the legion, both in *legio XIII Gemina* (Apulum, Dacia). The decorations he received during the wars are the object of controversy and interpretation regarding the dating of his career. The times of Domitian – Trajan (81-117 AD) or the times of M. Aurelius – L. Verus (161-169 AD) are mentioned in this respect. Dobson argues for the first variant<sup>110</sup>.

**25. Cu - - - Campanus**<sup>111</sup> is mentioned as centurion in two legions: *XIII Gemina* (Apulum, Dacia) and most probably *III Augusta* (Lambaesis, Numidia), at some point in the II<sup>nd</sup> century or the first third of the III<sup>rd</sup> century AD (ante Gordian, 238 AD)<sup>112</sup>.

**26. Anonymus**<sup>113</sup>. The incomplete epigraph of this centurion mentions four legions, among which three have their full names preserved: *I Adiutrix* (Brigetio, Pannonia), *XIII Gemina* (Apulum, Dacia) and *XV Apollinaris* (Satala, Cappadocia). For the fourth legion, the number XXX can refer to *legio XXX Ulpia Victrix* (Vetera, Germania Inferior)<sup>114</sup>.

<sup>102</sup> CIL III 1178; ILS 1165; CIL III 1201; Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 194 ; Piso 1993, p.169, 177, no. 7; IDR III/5 436, 448.

<sup>103</sup> IDR III/5, p. 336.

<sup>104</sup> Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 296; IDR III/5, p. 336, 349.

<sup>105</sup> CIL III 3259; IDRE II 290.

<sup>106</sup> The last part of the inscription is missing.

<sup>107</sup> Ritterling, *Legio*, 1576-1580; Piso 2000, p. 213-216.

<sup>108</sup> CIL III 13648 (= 6984 = 454); CIL III 14187, 4; CIL III 14187, 5; AE 1903, 258; Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 104; IDRE II 389, 390, 391, 392.

<sup>109</sup> Dobson does not exclude the variant in which Gallus is a Roman knight who chooses a career as a centurion (Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 223).

<sup>110</sup> Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 223-224.

<sup>111</sup> AE 1916, 39; Ritterling, *Legio*, c. 1501; IDRE II 428.

<sup>112</sup> IDRE II, p. 447.

<sup>113</sup> CIL III 14178; Moga 1985, p. 151, no.13.

<sup>114</sup> We do not believe that a fifth legion is mentioned for sure in the inscription; the number VII that appears in the text cannot refer to a legion, since it is followed by the name of a person– *Trophim[us]* – and not by the name of a legion, as it was assumed (see CIL III 14178).

**27. Anonymus**<sup>115</sup>. This centurion serves in at least three legions: *XI Claudia* (Durostorum, Moesia Inferior), *XIII Gemina* (Apulum, Dacia) and *IIII Scythica* (Zeugma, Syria); it is possible however for the number of the legions to have been bigger. The mention of the *[has]tat(us) prior* is connected to his position in the centurions' hierarchy.

**28. Anonymus**<sup>116</sup>. This centurion whose name was not preserved is promoted *ex caliga*, one of his positions before the centurionate being that of *aquilifer*. After his promotion, he serves in three legions: *XIIII Gemina* (Carnuntum, Pannonia Superior), *XIII Gemina* (Apulum, Dacia) and *XXII Primigenia* (Mogontiacum, Germania Superior). The career of this old centurion stretches over 45 years, sometime in the II<sup>nd</sup> – III<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

**29. Anonymus**<sup>117</sup>. This time, a centurion whose name was lost provides us with an exceptional career. He begins his military service in Rome, in the praetorian cohorts, having inferior ranks (*cornicularius praefectorum praetorio*). Then he is promoted to centurionate in a legion whose name was not preserved, then he probably leads, as a *dux*, a vexillation made of detachments of the legions in Dacia (*XIII Gemina* and *V Macedonia*), in the times of Gordian III (238-244 AD) and subsequently, it is worth mentioning his primipilate, also in one of the legions in Dacia, as Dobson believes<sup>118</sup>. Promoted member of the equestrian order, he is tribune of one of the praetorian cohorts, then he is procurator of Lusitania and of the gladiator fortress in Rome (*procurator ludi magni*), followed by the centenarian prefectship of the imperial postal service (*praefectus vehiculorum*). The progress in the last part of his career occurs under Phillip the Arabian<sup>119</sup>, therefore his entire career must be dated around 250 AD.

The number of legions in which a centurion serves throughout his career varies greatly, without respecting a specific rule. In our case, out of the 29 centurions, 10 are mentioned with two, three centurionates at the most, the other 19 serving in four legions or more. The table below shows the situation of the 29 centurions, according to the number of troops in which they serve along their career:

| CENTURIONS                 | LEGIONS + OTHER TROOPS |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| no. 7, 8, 15, 20           | 2                      |
| no. 11, 13, 25, 27, 28, 29 | 3                      |
| no. 17, 22, 24, 26         | 4                      |
| no. 10, 12, 14, 16         | 5                      |
| no. 3, 6, 9, 23            | 6                      |
| no. 2, 18                  | 7                      |
| no. 1, 4, 21               | 8                      |
| no. 19                     | 9                      |
| no. 5                      | 10                     |

As for the reduced number of promotions (only two or three troops mentioned) we must specify that, in most of the cases, the information comes from votive inscriptions (no. 7, 8, 11, 25) and honorary inscriptions (no. 15), the text unveiling the careers from the moment when the inscription was raised, and this allowed for further improvements. There are also situations in which the reduced number of centurionates is explained by

<sup>115</sup> CIL III 1859; Moga 1985, p. 151, no. 13.

<sup>116</sup> CIL III 6952; Moga 1985, p. 151, no. 13.

<sup>117</sup> CIL VI 1645; ILS 2773; Ritterling, *Legio*, 1579; Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 212; IDRE I 19.

<sup>118</sup> Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 304-305.

<sup>119</sup> *Ibidem*.

the fact that the holder was promoted very fast and moved on from one stage of the equestrian career to the next (no. 20, L. Terentius Rufus and no. 29, Anonymus), or he died prematurely in some military campaign (no. 13, M. Iulius Quadratus), or even more plainly, in 45 years of military service, a centurion promoted *ex caliga* only managed to be promoted three times (no. 28, Anonymus).

The position held within the hierarchy is mentioned in 18 cases. We know exactly in the case of three centurions what position they hold at a certain moment and the one they were promoted to: M. Aurelius Claudianus (*princeps prior coh. II* – no. 5), M. Herennius Valens (*hastatus posterior coh. V* – no. 9) and Sex. Pilonius Modestus (*hastatus posterior coh. III* – no. 14). In the case of other two centurions, the positions they had were mentioned only partially: Trajanus Mucianus (*centurio princeps*, with no further details – no. 21) and an anonymous (*hastatus prior*, the cohort is not mentioned due to epigraphic gaps – no. 27). In 14 cases, higher positions confirm the promotion in the hierarchy: eight centurions reach the primipilate (no. 2, 3, 12, 15, 16, 17, 20, 29), while the other six receive the prefectship of the legion or of the fortress (no. 4, 6, 19, 21, 22, 24).

The tenor of the military career does not provide extra information regarding the promotion of the centurions. Maybe it gives indications about the rhythm in which these promotions occurred, which was different from one case to another. The inscriptions of six centurions mention the number of years spent in the army; in the case of three of them the years spent as centurions are mentioned: Sex. Pilonius Modestus (no. 14) in 19 years of military service exercise the centurionate in five legions and dies at only 37 years of age, probably before he was discharged; M. Sabidius Maximus (no. 18) spends 20 of his 40 years of career as centurion in seven legions, and M. Aebutius Victorinus (no. 1) spends 14 out of 63 years of his life under arms, as centurion serving in eight legions<sup>120</sup>. For the other three centurions, we can only assume the period spent in this position out of the total number of years of their military career. Thus, M. Herennius Valens (no. 9) spends 55 years in the army out of which, according to J. Fitz<sup>121</sup>, for 39 years he is centurion in the six legions. Iulius Bassus Suplicianus (no. 10) has 37 years of military service, and if he spends at least 20 of them in an inferior rank, he is left with 17 years of centurionate, in five legions. No. 28 (Anonymus) is promoted *ex caliga* and serves about 20-25 out of a total of 45 years in the army as centurion, in three legions<sup>122</sup>.

The directions from which the promotions are made or from where people can accede to centurionates are, on the one hand, the inferior ranks of the legions and the cohorts in the capital, and on the other hand, the equestrian order. Therefore, out of the 29 centurions, five are *ex equite Romano* (no. 2, 13, 14, 16, 20), eight come from the troops in Rome (no. 3, 6, 9, 17, 19, 21, 24, 29) and 16 from legionary soldiers (some exceptions are not excluded, due to information gaps). Generally, the knights promoted to centurions accede to higher-placed centurionates (especially the primipilate – no. 2, 16, 20), exceptions occur only in fortuitous situations, such as premature death (no. 13, 14). In the context of the professional and social advancement, it is worth mentioning that other 11 centurions have access to the equestrian order from the moment they reached the primipilate (no. 3, 4, 6, 12, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 29). From all those who

<sup>120</sup> The 14 *stipendium* years probably refer exclusively to the centurionate period, without mentioning the previous years of military service (at least six more in which he must have gone through the inferior stages of his career, but probably much more than that, going up to 20; see also the comments on footnote 21).

<sup>121</sup> Without knowing how many of the 55 years he spent as centurion, J. Fitz approximates that he spent around 16 years of his career in various inferior ranks, the other 39 years being spent in the six centurionates (Fitz 1993, p. 331-332, no. 236). Valens has a very long career; the venerable centurion was discharged at 73 years of age.

<sup>122</sup> He dies after being discharged, at the age of 70.

accede to the rank of knights, seven will occupy equestrian positions after the centurionate: from military tribunship to procuratorships and higher prefectships (no. 4, 6, 15, 16, 20, 21, 29).

By examining the map of the empire, we notice that the direction of transfers follows the provinces and regions strongly militarized on the Rhine and the Danube, in Britannia or the Orient. The promotions and transfers could occur within the same province and even within the same legion (if we only refer to the promotions), but often implied the change of the province or even of the region in the empire<sup>123</sup>. There is a list below containing the provinces in which are transferred the centurions coming or going in or out of Dacia per number of transfers:

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Troops from Rome.....       | 6  |
| Hispania.....               | 3  |
| Britannia.....              | 7  |
| Germania.....               | 12 |
| Raetia.....                 | 1  |
| Pannonia.....               | 13 |
| Moesia.....                 | 10 |
| Cappadocia.....             | 4  |
| Syria.....                  | 9  |
| Mesopotamia.....            | 3  |
| Arabia.....                 | 1  |
| Aegyptus.....               | 1  |
| Oreint (not mentioned)..... | 3  |
| Numidia.....                | 5  |
| Fleet.....                  | 2  |

Thus, 56 transfers are on the Danube (50 %, counting in the legions in Dacia, as well), 12 transfers on the Rhine (10.7 %), 21 transfers in the Orient on the whole (18.7 %), 7 transfers in Britannia (6.36 %), 5 transfers in northern Africa (especially in Numidia) (4.46 %), only 3 transfers in Hispania (2.67 %), and no more than 6 transfers to Rome (5.35 %)<sup>124</sup>. For the centurions in Dacia, most of the transfers occur, obviously in or from the troops in the neighboring provinces (Pannonia and Moesia) and the provinces nearby (Germania), followed by remote provinces (Syria, Britannia, Numidia). We must also mention in this context the transfers related to the troops in Rome.

Record must be made in Dacia of the presence of centurions in the following legions: *I Minervia* (1 case), *I Adiutrix* (2), *IIII Flavia* (4), *V Macedonica* (4), *VII Claudia* (1), *XIII Gemina* (20) and *XVIII Gemina* (1 ?). Only one centurion – Q. Raecius Rufus (no. 17) – is present in Dacia with one of the praetorian cohorts<sup>125</sup>. Most of the centurions come, most naturally, from legions *XIII Gemina* (20) and *V Macedonica* (4), which were garrisoned for a longer time in Dacia, but also from legion *IIII Flavia* (4), which was stationed here from the very beginning of the province. It is worth mentioning that, with the exception of the centurions from legions *V Macedonica* and *XIII Gemina* (partially), the carriers of the rest of them are dated, with no exception, in the times of Trajan, at least for the moment when they are present in Dacia. Besides, all of these legions are involved in Trajan's efforts to fight against Dacia and almost a third – 9 of the 29 centurions – are present in the province or around it on this occasion.

<sup>123</sup> See the journeys of M. Aurelius Claudianus (no.5) following the evolution of his career: Danube – Orient – Danube – Rhine – Orient.

<sup>124</sup> No. 2, 3, 8, 17, 21, 24.

<sup>125</sup> On the occasion of the conquest wars, C. Caesius Silvester (no. 6) was also present in Dacia with one of the praetorian cohorts, as an ordinary soldier, and was decorated after the Dacian wars; he comes back to this province as centurion, as well (see above, the comments to no. 6).

The localization in time and space of the stages in the career of a centurion is much facilitated in the case of those who were already decorated on the occasion of the different military campaigns. In Dacia, there are seven cases of this kind and if even Sex. Vibius Gallus (no. 24) received the decorations, like Dobson<sup>126</sup> argues, in the times of the emperors Domitian or Trajan, then we are referring to wars in the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century and the first four decades of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. Thus, we have centurions who fought in the Dacian wars (no. 2, 6, 17 and 20) and in the Partian wars (no. 2 and 16) led by Trajan, in Judaic wars in the times of Vespasian and Titus (no. 17) or Hadrian (no. 18) or in the campaigns of emperors Domitian (on the Rhine or on the Danube) and Trajan, and with no particular specification (no. 24)<sup>127</sup>.

An eventual chronological order of the careers of the 29 centurions reveals the fact that more than one third of them (11 careers) are centered in the time span beginning with the conquest wars and until the end of Trajan's reign, even up to the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century, for a couple of cases. Other seven careers are dated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century (especially the second half of it) and the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. In four cases, the chronological dating cannot be specified more exactly than the entire context of the Roman rule in Dacia (2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> century). There are five careers dated in the times of the Severi, and two careers in the time span after the year 235 AD. In Dacia – just like in the rest of the Empire, including the 1<sup>st</sup> century, as well – the promotion phenomenon and that of transfers abides by the same rules both in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, and stays the same for a long time, not only in the times of the Severi, but also in the "military anarchy" period (see no. 21 and 29)<sup>128</sup>.

The promotion and transfer of centurions as components of the same process abide by rules that respect criteria of competency, experience, age, social belonging<sup>129</sup> or personal and professional relationships and, last but not least, are made according to the needs. The fact that, in the times of the strongest military territorial expansion of the Principality, centurions like those that pass through Dacia serve into a bigger or smaller number of legions all over the Empire, gives us an idea of the importance of the transfer system, whose main purpose was to maintain the tactical unity of the army, the troops' cohesion and discipline in broad spaces, therefore the experience of career officers was essential.

### Abbreviation list and bibliography

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| Bărbulescu 1987     | = M. Bărbulescu, <i>Din istoria militară a Daciei Romane. Legiunea a V-a Macedonica și castrul de la Potaiasa</i> , Cluj-Napoca 1987.                               |
| Benea 1983          | = D. Benea, <i>Din istoria militară a Moesiei Superior și a Daciei. Legiunea a VII-a Claudia și Legiunea a IIII-a Flavia</i> , Cluj-Napoca 1983.                    |
| Bertrand, Rémy 2000 | = F. Bertrand, B. Rémy, <i>Legio XII Fulminata</i> , in <i>Légions</i> , p. 253-256.  |
| Breeze 1993         | = D. Breeze, <i>The Organization of the Legion: the First Cohort and the equites legionis</i> , in <i>Roman Officers and Frontiers</i> , Stuttgart, 1993, p. 65-70. |

<sup>126</sup> See footnote 110 and the comments to Sex. Vibius Gallus (no. 24).

<sup>127</sup> There is the possibility for this Gallus (no. 24) to have acquired the decorations in the times of Marcus Aurelius (Dobson, *Die Primipilares*, p. 223-224, no. 104; IDRE II, p. 408-409).

<sup>128</sup> It is true that after 235 AD, their number drops significantly, at least for Dacia.

<sup>129</sup> The centurionate was open for knights. The centurions promoted *ex caliga* could also aspire to the access to the equestrian order, once they had got to the primipilate.

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