

## Armour

### *Lorica segmentata*

The legionaries were equipped with a version of the Newstead type *lorica segmentata* based on a plan drawn by Michael Bishop in 2001. This version already had the huge lobate hinges on the shoulder plates, but instead of a series of slots it still relied on copper-alloy tie-loops and leather laces for tying together the girth hoops.



The Newstead type was probably introduced in the Antonine period (mid- to second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century). According to finds from Carlisle (GB) and Eining (G), versions of this type of armour were in use at least until the middle of the third century. No finds are known from Castra Regina/Regensburg, but given the short distance to the fort at Eining (about two days of marching), the legionaries from III ITALICA were certainly equipped with it.

The Newsteads turned out to be very reliable. One of them suffered from a ripped internal leather strap due to the weight of the shield, but this specific cuirass had been a prototype with rather weak leather straps.



(the damaged 'prototype')



(the 'prototype' after field-repair)

Two other cuirasses suffered from a similar accident (a rivet was pulled out of a leather strap), but this happened only in the final week and was caused by the same unorthodox way of carrying the shield with a leather strap running over the left shoulder.

Due to a misunderstanding, the cuirass for the centurion was not completed in time. Luckily, he still had a Corbridge cuirass in reserve. The Corbridge was already outdated around 200 AD, but a few examples may still have seen service. It was also possible to compare both types of *lorica segmentata* under roughly authentic conditions. The Corbridge turned out to be somehow more comfortable.



*lorica hamata*

Archers and scouts were equipped with mail (although the scouts usually marched without armour). The coats of chain mail were either short-sleeved (tee-shirt style) or long-sleeved, although it is unclear in which period the latter form was introduced.



At the Roman fortress of Dura-Europos (Syria), which was captured by the Persians in the 250s, a skeleton (a Roman or a Persian ?) with a probably long-sleeved coat of mail was discovered in a collapsed countermine. Wall paintings from the same fortress show soldiers in long-sleeved pieces of either scale or mail armour. Long-sleeved coats of mail are therefore likely to have been introduced by the Roman army somewhere in the first half of the 3rd century AD.