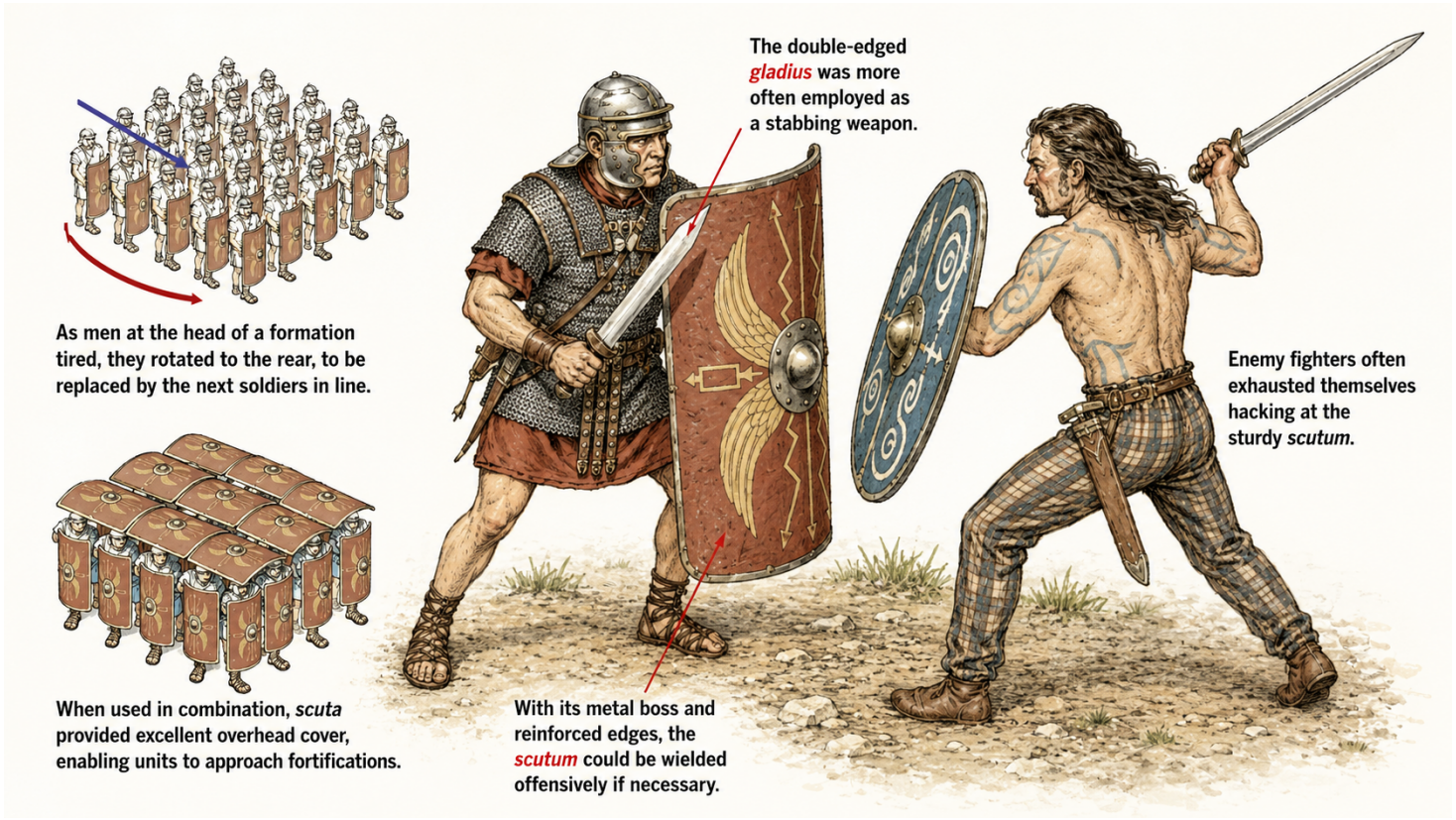

As men at the head of a formation tired, they rotated to the rear, to be replaced by the next soldiers in line.
When used in combination, *scuta* provided excellent overhead cover, enabling units to approach fortifications.
The double-edged *gladius* was more often employed as a stabbing weapon.
With its metal boss and reinforced edges, the *scutum* could be wielded offensively if necessary.
Enemy fighters often exhausted themselves hacking at the sturdy *scutum*.

CENTURION'S WRITTEN ORDER

The operations unit is to examine the fort and produce a full assessment of its layout. Each building is to be identified, its purpose recorded, and its position evaluated. When the assessment is complete, the unit is to identify any points of vulnerability - places where the fort's organisation might fail under pressure. The assessment is to be ready for command review.

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KEY BUILDINGS

These buildings and features helped a Roman fort to function, protect its soldiers, and support daily life.

1



Principia (*headquarters*)

Central, commanding.

The centre of administration and command. The standards of the unit were kept here.

2



Barracks blocks

Multiple, arranged in rows.

Housing for the soldiers, built in long blocks with rooms for each *contubernium* (tent group).

3



Granary (*horreum*)

Raised floor, protected position.

Stores grain and supplies above the ground to keep them dry and safe.

4



Commanding officer's house (*praetorium*)

Adjacent to the principia.

The home and office of the fort commander.

5



Workshop (*fabrica*)

For making, repairing and maintaining.

Used for metalwork, woodwork, leather work and other essential tasks.

6



Bathhouse

Usually outside the fort.

Furnaces, water supply and drainage were managed here.

7



Gates

North, south, east, west.

Main entrances to the fort, controlled and guarded.

8



Defensive towers

At corners and intervals.

Provided high points for watching and defending.

9



Via principalis and via praetoria

The two main roads crossing the fort.

Via principalis runs east–west. *Via praetoria* runs north–south.

10



The ditch (*fossa*)

Outside the walls, if included.

Added another obstacle to slow down attackers.

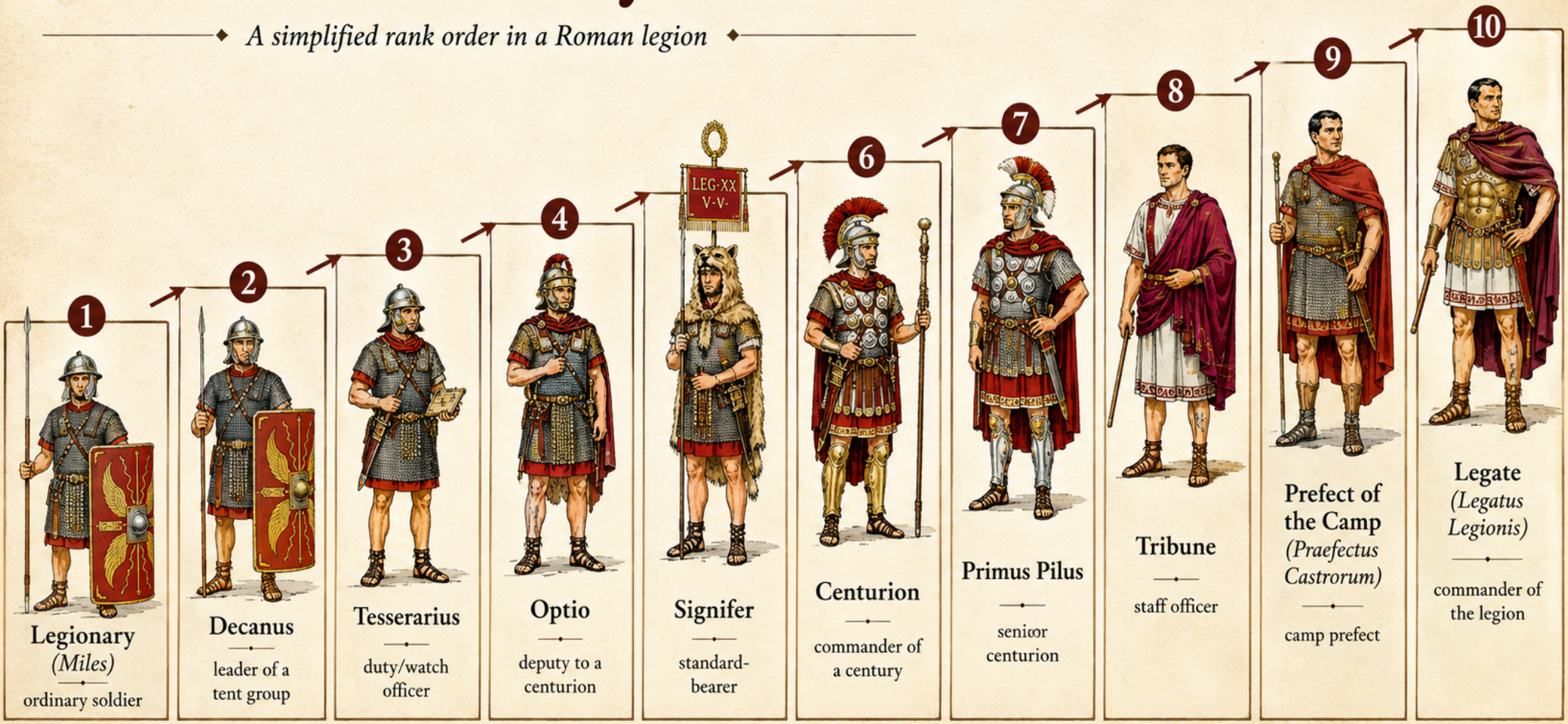


Remember: Not every fort had all of these buildings in the exact same way. Archaeologists find evidence and use it to work out how the fort might have looked.

SPQR

Roman Military Ranks

A simplified rank order in a Roman legion



LOWEST RANK → HIGHEST RANK

Hadrian's Wall at a Glance

AD 43


Emperor Claudius begins the conquest of Britain

AD 122

Emperor Hadrian orders the building of the Wall

AD 140s

The Roman frontier moves north to the Antonine Wall

AD 158

Repairs and rebuilding begin as Rome prepares to return to Hadrian's Wall

Soon after AD 180

A major war breaks out and tribes cross the Wall

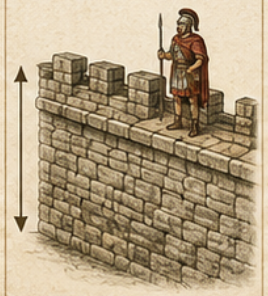
AD 410

Roman rule in Britain comes to an end

1987

Hadrian's Wall becomes a World Heritage Site

117 km
Length of the Wall


4.5 m
Original height of the Wall


16
Forts


80
Milecastles


156
Turrets


3
Wall bridges


2,352 tonnes
Stone and clay used in every 100 m


1,080 working days
Estimated labour to build 100 m of Wall


Figures are rounded headline facts based on current English Heritage guidance and archaeological interpretation.

Stages of Service in the Roman Army

1



Recruit
new to army life

Basic training begins.
Learning the routines,
discipline and drill.

2



Legionary
fully trained soldier

Fully equipped and drilled.
Takes part in building,
marching and guard duty.

3



Experienced soldier
many years of service

Seasoned and trusted.
Leads by example.
Skilled in battle and duties.

4



Optio
deputy to the centurion

Senior NCO.
Helps lead the century
when the centurion is absent.

5



Centurion
commander of a century

Leads about 80 men.
Responsible for training,
discipline and battle.

6



Veteran
service completed

After 25 years of service.
Returns home with skills,
experience and reward.

A simplified guide: experienced soldier and veteran describe stages of service rather than formal ranks.

PATROL NEGOTIATION OPTIONS

For the patrol returning from north of the Wall

1. Apologise for the patrol's actions
2. Explain Roman patrol policy and its purpose
3. Argue that the land falls within Roman jurisdiction
4. Offer payment in silver coin or grain
5. Propose that sacred sites be marked on Roman maps and avoided in future
6. Suggest shared rules for movement beyond the Wall
7. Propose a patrol boundary
8. Offer a trade agreement

Consider these options carefully before deciding what the patrol should offer.