

*The Military and Administrative Elites of Batioua (Portus Magnus)
and Their Role in Serving the Individual and Society
through Latin Inscriptions*

Selwa bouchareb*, University of May 8, 1945, Guelma, (Algeria)

Bouchareb.selwa@univ-guelma.dz

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Abstract: This study examines the military and administrative elites of the city of Batioua and their contributions to individual and societal welfare as reflected in Latin inscription texts. The primary objective is to identify key figures among Batioua's military and administrative elites, who were integral to the strategic and social fabric of the city, located in a crucial geographical region. Employing statistical and analytical methods, this research delves into the content of various Latin inscriptions unearthed within the studied area. The findings allow for the identification and assessment of the elites' standing within Batioua society and the city's broader influence, both internally and externally, during the Roman period.

The main findings include a comprehensive catalog of the military and administrative elites in Batioua's society, along with a detailed account of their diverse roles—especially in social, religious, and cultural spheres. The research also highlights the prominent status the city attained on both the national and international stage in the ancient Maghreb during the Roman era, as previously noted.

Keywords: Military Roles; elites; military; Batioua; military divisions.

**- Correspondent author*

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ملخص:

تناولت موضوع النخب العسكرية و الإدارية لمدينة بطيوة و دورها في خدمة الفرد والمجتمع من خلال نصوص النقوش اللاتينية بهدف التعرف على شخصيات أهم النخب العسكرية و الإدارية المكونة لمجتمع مدينة بطيوة ذات الموقع الجغرافي الاستراتيجي ودور الذي أدته خدمة لمجتمعها في جميع المجالات متبعة في ذلك المنهج الاحصائي والتحليلي لمختلف مضامين نصوص النقوش اللاتينية المكتشفة بالمنطقة المدروسة التي مكنتني من جمع و تحديد مكانة تلك النخب في مجتمع مدينة بطيوة من جهة و مكانة هذه الاخيرة داخليا و خارجيا من جهة ثانية خلال الفترة الرومانية.

أما بالنسبة لأهم النتائج المتوصل إليها فقد تم احصاء كل النخب الادارية والعسكرية في مجتمع مدينة بطيوة مع ذكر معظم الادوار التي أدتها في جميع المجالات خاصة الاجتماعية، الدينية والثقافية، دون اهمال المكانة الهامة التي تبوؤها المدينة على الصعيدين داخل المغرب القديم وخارجه خلال الفترة الرومانية كما سبق وأشارت أعلاه.

كلمات مفتاحية: الرتب العسكرية، النخب، العسكرية ، بطيوة ، الفرق العسكرية.

- Introduction: (Times New Roman) (14)(Bold)

The Roman army, with its diverse units, detachments, and divisions, represented a significant aspiration for various social groups. either through voluntary enlistment or forced conscription. This military structure was a cornerstone of social, political, and economic stability within society. In any Roman city, those in military and administrative positions directly influenced local councils, as they were responsible for the city's security and stability.

The discovery of numerous Latin inscriptions related to soldiers and administrators in the city of Batioua prompted me to question the role of this city's military and administrative elite in ensuring regional security and stability. The goal was to understand the status and role of these elites within their society by examining the various military and civilian roles they fulfilled, along with their contributions to the development of service-oriented facilities in their city.

To achieve the objectives of this study, I collected and analyzed a selection of Latin inscriptions discovered in Batioua. By examining these inscriptions, I gathered essential information that informed the framework of this study.

1- First Title: The Military Elite of Batioua.

Due to the limited number of Latin inscriptions concerning military personnel discovered in Batioua—fifteen inscriptions in total—I compiled and used them to create the following table (see Figure 1).

names of the military elites	Military Roles and Ranks	Military Divisions	Bibliography
Sextus Cornelius Honoratus	governor in the province of Mesopotamia (equestribus exornato procuratori sexagenario provinciae		CIL 08, 09759

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	Mesopotamiae		
	eques Roman knight	alae Ulpiae I contariorum turma Martini stipendiorumXIX	CIL 08, 21620 = RHP 00099
Iulius Vales	soldier (miles) stipendiorum XVIII vixit annos XXXVI	legionis IIII Flaviae	CIL 08, 09762 (p 2046)
Publio Crescentinio Flavio Saturnino Sisciae	soldier stipendiorum XVI vixit annos XXXVII Flavia Ianuaria filia faciendumcuravit	legionis XI Claudiae centuria Ulpi Victoris	CIL 08, 09761 (p 2046)
Licinio Iuliano	Roman knight (eques)officio vixit annis XXVI mensibusVIII diesXI	singulariorum	CIL 08, 09763 (p 2046)
M(arcus) Ulpus	soldier	[le]g(ionis) /	CIL 08,

/ Silmius /	mil(es)	stip(endiorum) XVII	09765 (p 2046)
	soldier mil(es)		CIL 08, 09766
Cornelius M(arci) fil(ius) Quir(ina)	legati		CIL 08, 09767 = MEFR- 2012-227
Lurius Rogatus	Roman knight (eques) provinciae Mauretaniae Caesariensis	alae miliariae	CIL8, 21617
Nonius Iulianus	Roman knight (eques) vixit annos XXV fratres piissimi fecerunt	alae miliariae	CIL 08, 21618 = AE 1894, 00070 = AE 2014, +01466
Titus Octavius Longus	Aram Iovi Optimo Maximovi tempestatibus		AE 2008 01704 = AE 2017, +01668

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	delapsam trierarchus Augusti restituit		
Alexand D / CVLOCONVID DIT / EIITA / D clodius Largus	centurio praepositus limitis? B et D AS Vialiabus Callimorphus Liberalis Augus<ti=RL dispensatoris vi<c X arius(?)		CIL 08, 09755
Marcus Silicius Catus	miles annos II vixit annos XXIII Marcus et Valeria filio piissimo	alae Parthorum	CIL 08, 21619 = AE 2014, +01467

Figure 1: Table featuring the names, roles, and ranks of the military and administrative elite of Batioua(Source: Compiled by the researcher, based on collected Latin inscriptions).

Based on the data presented in Table 1, which outlines the various military ranks and roles held by individuals in Batioua, I have

divided the analysis into two sections. The first section discusses military roles and ranks, while the second focuses on the divisions they served in.

1.1- First Subtitle Military Roles and Ranks

My analysis of the Latin inscriptions, as shown in the table above, revealed several names of military elites who held different positions of varying importance, based on their rank. Among these ranks, I identified six individuals who held the honorary title of Roman knight (eques), including one whose name remains unknown due to an incomplete inscription. Additionally, five individuals held the rank of soldier (miles), and one person held the rank of centurion supervisor (centurio praepositus).

The naval rank of **trierarch**¹ [1], which denotes a Roman fleet commander, was held by only one individual. To facilitate the interpretation of these findings, I organized the data into **Figure 2**.

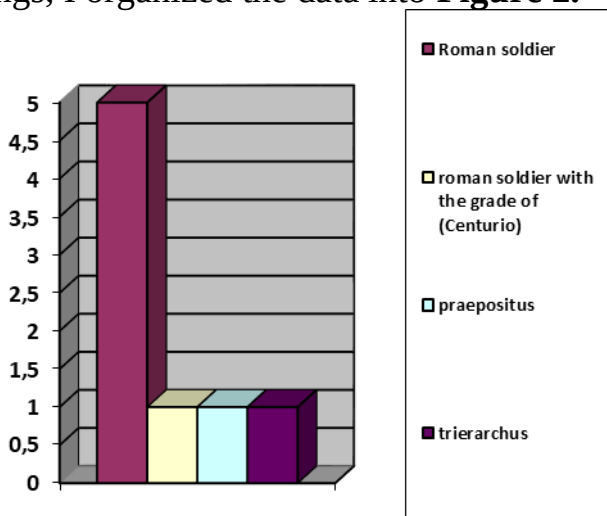


Figure 2: Graph showing the number and proportion of land and naval military elites in Batioua by their roles and ranks.

After studying the data in Figures 1 and 2, several observations emerged, leading me to the following conclusions.

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Most of the inscription texts reference a notable number of military figures who held the honorary rank of Roman knight (*Eques Romanus*), followed by a significant percentage who served as soldiers in both standard and specialized roles, namely those bearing the title of soldier (*miles*) and those designated as centurions (*centurio*). The third-most common ranks are *praepositus* and *trierarchus Augusti*.

The absence of a significant number of individuals in high-ranking positions within the Roman army and its various divisions suggests that Batioua mainly housed ordinary military elites, with the exception of Sextus Cornelius Honoratus (*Sexto Cornelio Sexti filio Quirina Honorato*), a member of the Quirina tribe. Honoratus served as both commander and governor of the Mesopotamian province, outside ancient Maghreb (*equestribus exornato procuratori sexagenario provinciae Mesopotamiae*) and belonged to the equestrian class.

The series of administrative and military roles held by most of these individuals indicates that attaining the highest ranks was likely linked to the social class to which the candidates belonged. It is noticeable that many prominent military figures were members of the equestrian class. For example, Licinius Julianus (*Licinio Iuliano*) held the rank of non-commissioned officer (*equiti ex officio*) in the *Singulariorum* division and lived for 26 years, 8 months, and 11 days (*Corpus of Latin inscription ((Gustavvs)09763 p 2046)* days).

Many of the city's prominent military figures also took on administrative duties in addition to their military roles. For example, Marcus Ulpus Faustianus (*Marcus Ulpus Faustianus*) served as a clerk in the *alae Brittonum miliariae* division.

-Based on the previous information, I conclude that most of those who joined the Roman army's detachments were soldiers, while those who served in the divisions and cohorts were members of the equestrian

class, suggesting a likely distinction in importance between detachments and divisions within the Roman military.

-Regarding the position of trierarchus Augusti (warship commander), some historians suggest that trierarchs occasionally advanced to the ranks of nauarchus or nauarchus princeps and enjoyed social promotions due to the importance of their role (Bashari,2022, p. 630). The presence of an inscription for such a commander in Batioua may indicate that the city was originally a Roman port.

1-2- Second Subtitle: Military Divisions

The inscription texts mentioned in Figure 1 list the names of several military divisions and cohorts in which the prominent figures of Batioua served. Among them:

1. Alae Ulpiae I contariorum: According to some researchers, this cohort was formed during the reign of Emperor Trajan. Although its original home was in Upper Pannonia (Pannonie supérieure), it was later transferred (Bouslimani, H. 2015- 2016, p264) to the province of Mauretania Caesariensis, where two inscriptions were found—one in the studied area and another in the Tipasa site, also mentioning this cohort or cavalry unit, as some archaeologists refer to it (Chellal, p 163).

1-2-2. Alae Brittonum Miliariae:

This cavalry division participated in the Danube War and later moved to Upper Pannonia (Pannonie supérieure), specifically to Vindobona (Vienna). It then returned to Lower Pannonia (Pannonie inférieure) around 114 AD. The division also participated in the Parthian War. As for its arrival in North Africa, specifically in Mauretania Caesariensis, it was around 150 AD with the purpose of suppressing Mauritanian revolts. Two inscriptions from members of this cavalry were discovered, one in Tipasa and another in Batioua, attributed to Marcus Ulpius Faustianus (Marcus Ulpius Faustianus),

who lived for 32 years and served 12 of those years as a clerk in this division (Gustavvs, p 9764)

1-2-3. Alae Parthorum:

This wing was formed during Emperor Augustus's reign by the Parthians and relocated to Mauretania Caesariensis between the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD (Bouslimani, H., 2015- 2016, p 267, (Chellal, p 163.) . Several Latin inscriptions were found for soldiers who served in this division in locations such as Hadjar ben Youb (Gustavvs, p9827).

Ouled Maimoun (Gustavvs, p 9838) , Tlemcen (Gustavvs, p 21779), Agbal (Gustavvs, p 21629), and in the Cherchell diploma (Gustavvs, p 21064). In Batioua, the studied area, an inscription mentions a soldier, Marcus Silicius Catous (Marcus Silicius Catous), who served for two years out of his 24-year lifespan (Gustavvs, p 21619).

1-2-4. Alae Miliariae:

According to researcher Bouslimani Hayat, citing researcher Ben Sedik, this wing was among the first military divisions formed during the Flavian period, likely present as early as 81 AD. This date corresponds to an inscription found in the city. The division settled in Mauretania Caesariensis after 107 ADS, with inscriptions discovered in Cherchell (Gustavvs, p 9389), Tipasa (Gustavvs, p 9750.), Ciga (Gustavvs, p 9750), and Benian (Gustavvs, 21568) . Two inscriptions were also found in the studied area: one concerning the Roman knight Lurius Rogatus (Lurius Rogatus), who lived 34 years and served eight of those years in this cavalry (Gustavvs, p 21617) , and another for the knight Nonius Iulianus (Nonius Iulianus), who lived 24 years (Gustavvs, p 21618) .

1-2-5. Legion XI Claudia, Centuria Ulpi Victoris:

This battalion was founded by Caesar to fight in the Gallic War and initially settled in Dalmatia , with its early headquarters in Burnum. It also had detachments in various locations, such as Atun and Germania. During the Dacian Wars, the legion was sent to the Danube and later transferred to Bregitio , Carnuntum, and Aquincum. Eventually, it settled in Upper Moesia (Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania) during Emperor Antoninus Pius's reign, who later transferred it to Mauretania Caesariensis. Some inscriptions were discovered at various sites, including Batioua. One inscription mentions that Flavia Januaria dedicated a tribute to her father, Publius Crescentinus Flavius Saturninus of Siscia (Publio Crescentinio Flavio Saturnino Sisciae), who served for 16 years in Legion XI Claudia, Centuria Ulpi Victoris, out of his 37 years of age (Gustavvs, p 6791).

2- Second Title: Key Administrative Positions

Based on Latin inscription texts (refer to Figure 1), significant information emerged regarding various administrative roles held by Batioua's elite military figures, both within the city and in the province or outside North Africa. It was essential to explore the main administrative positions held by these figures alongside their military duties.

Several administrative positions were held by the elite military class in Batioua's municipal judicial body , as detailed in the inscriptions.

2.1- First Subtitle Municipal Judiciary (Magistrature municipale)

The municipal judiciary acted as the executive body of the decurion council, which was responsible for appointing its various members. Roman law granted executive authority to its members of the judiciary (duumvir, aedile, quaestor, curator), each according to their assigned tasks (Mohamed El-Arabi Aqqoun, p 104). An inscription for the Roman knight Sextus Cornelius Honoratus (Sexto Cornelio Sexti filio Quirina Honorato), who served as governor in the province of Mesopotamia (equestribus exornato procuratori

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sexagenario provinciae Mesopotamiae), is mentioned in the texte (Gustavvs, p 9759).

4-Conclusion:

After studying the various roles and military ranks of the elite members of the city of Batioua, through the collection and analysis of the Latin inscription texts discovered in the studied city, I arrived at several conclusions, some of which were discussed within the study, while the rest are reserved for the conclusion to avoid repetition:

The diversity of roles and military ranks, as well as the names of the studied military units, demonstrates that the Roman army was well-organized and structured. This is further evidenced by the progression of certain significant figures up the military hierarchy, from the lowest to the highest ranks.

The fact that many elite members held both civil (administrative) and military positions indicates that the Roman army was not separated from civil life. Instead, it played a major role in promoting social life in the cities and provinces.

The repetition of various military roles and ranks mentioned in the inscriptions discovered in the city of Batioua also reflects the presence of a military elite, especially among influential members of society

who, alongside their military duties, held important administrative positions, enabling them to contribute to serving their community.

¹ Trierarch is a Greek term used by Athenians to denote citizens required to equip a warship, typically individuals who owned at least ten talents (a unit of currency). Under Athenian law, these citizens were responsible for leading and commanding warships during times of conflict, with the term of this obligation lasting one full year. This responsibility, re-imposed after a one- or two-year interval, was more a civic duty than a military rank in Athenian tax law. Some historians believe the Romans adopted this role during the Republic, compelling Greek cities to provide naval support for southern Italy under alliance agreements. However, other historians argue that it only became common during the Imperial period.

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