"BABEŞ-BOLYAI" UNIVERSITATY CLUJ-NAPOCA FACULTY OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT OF ANCIENT HISTORY AND ARCHEOLOGY

ROMAN ARMY IN POSITION. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC PATTERNS ON THE RHINE AND DANUBE FRONTIER

2nd-3rd CENTURIES AD

SUMMARY

PhD COORDINATOR:

PROF. UNIV. DR. IOAN PISO

PhD STUDENT:

PETRU URECHE

KEYWORDS: Roman army, legion, auxiliary troops, ala, Cohors, numerus, military equipment, training, morale, discipline, logistics, archers, spearmen, slingers, limes, Roman Dacia.

CONTENT

INTRODUCTION

METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES

I. ORGANIZATION OF ROMAN ARMY

I.1. Infantry

- I.1.1. The infantry of the legion
- I.1.1.a. Recruiting soldiers for the legion
- I.1.1.b. Command of the Legion

I.1.2. Praetorian guards

I.1.3. Auxiliary infantry

I.2. Chivalry

- I.2.1. Ala
- I.2.2. Mounted Cohorts
- I.2.3. Equites legionis
- I.2.4. Equites singulares

I.3. Numeri

I.4. The name of troops

II. WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT

- II.1. Equipment of the soldiers from the legions
- II.2. Auxiliary infantry equipment
- II.3. Cavalry equipment
- II.4. Archers' equipment
- **III. ELEMENTS OF STRATEGY AND TACTICS**
- III.1. Training
- III.2. Morale
- III.3. Discipline
- III.4. Marching order
- III.5. Battle order
- III.6. Land
- III.7. Logistics
- III.8. Horses

IV. THE ROLE OF THE ROMAN ARMY

IV.1. The legion

IV.2. The auxiliary infantry

- IV.2.1. Archers
- IV.2.2. Spearmen

IV.2.3. Slingers

IV.3. The cavalry

- IV.3.1. The light cavalry
- IV.3.2. Mounted archers

IV.3.3. Spearmen

IV.3.4. The heavy cavalry

IV.4. Responsabilities in peace time

V. FRONTIERS

V.1. The Danube and the Rhine Limes

V.2. The Limes in Dacia

VI. CONCLUSIONS

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ABBREVIATIONS

LIST OF CAMPS AND TROOPS MENTIONED IN THE MAP

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

The present research aims, as stated in the title, the study of ensemble of Roman means and military forces, arranged according to a plan for a particular purpose.

For the research to reach its goal we set the starting point at the organization of the Roman army, which provides information on the type of conflict that is to be expected in the area where they are located. Thus, we studied the organization and manpower troops that have permanent or sporadic contact with the limes. They are the infantry troops (legions, praetorian cohorts and auxiliary infantry) and cavalry (*alae*, riders of mounted cohorts , *equites legionis*, *equites singulares* and *numeri*).

We continued with a brief look at the weapons and military equipment of Roman soldiers, which provides important information about the kind of tactics that can be implemented. For a better understanding of the Roman military system we introduced for research a chapter on some of the most important aspects of military life, the ones which made the Roman army to be unique in Europe at that time and which led to gaining so many victories and to maintaining such an extensive empire. They are training and discipline, supported by a high morale, a careful choice of the battlefield and an exemplary organization of supplying the troops. The Romans did not leave anything to chance, so the movement of troops was made in a well-organized way, the order of march being considered to be as important as the arrangement of troops during battle. To achieve the purpose of this paper it was necessary, of course, to study the role different types of troops play in the Roman army, both in peacetime and in military conflicts in their camps on the limes or in expeditionary military corps. Finally, we tried to establish some models followed in disposing troops in certain areas of the "Roman frontier."

We studied the northern continental Roman limes which is between the North Sea and the Black Sea. This area includes the Roman provinces Germania Inferior, Germania Superior, Raetia, Noricum, Pannonia Superior, Pannonia Inferior, Moesia Superior, Moesia Inferior and Dacia, and the limes aims mostly towards two major rivers, namely the Rhine and the Danube.