

# Roman Britain in Flats

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As we all know, Britain came into contact with the "number one" world power of that time when Caesar's legions made their landings in the 1st Century BC in order to deter the Britons from supporting insurrections of their Continental cousins, the Belgae. This was a completely military affair that did not lead to any permanent impact on Britain.

If you want to depict these events which Caesar describes in: his *De Bello Gallico* (Book IV,3 and V,1) you can use most legionaries for the Carthaginian Wars as long as they are equipped with mail loricas and pilum. The only thing you have got to do, is cut away their crests (which were no longer worn in battle) and scratch off the greaves on their left legs.

Figures can be found with the following producers: Cortum (77,78), Kästner (Legionär, Tribun), Lampert (RP 3, 4, 9-11; RC 1-3), Lecke (R 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, b, 7, 8a, 9a, 10, 11a, 12a, 18a, 19a, 20-22, 25), Mignot (708/a-c, 709/a-c, 715/a-b, 717/a-c, 718/a), Mutzbauer (RH 2; R 1-5, 7, 8/8a, 9-12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 24-32, 40-45, 67, 68, 70-85), Ochel (Ar 2c, 3c, 97b, 62b, 76b; 2036a, b, 2063c; VC 2-6, 12, 14; VR 1-3, 6, 7, 9; VS 4), Scholtz (978a, 974a), and Wagner (W 2101/1, 3, 4, 9,10, 12; W 2102/1, 3-9; W 2103/3-8, 10-12; 2104/4, 5, 7-9, 12-14; 2105/1-4; 2106/4; W 2107/1,2); Cortum and Lampert offer figures which are specially designed for Caesarean times. Caesar himself is to be found among the figures of Krog (No. 1 of *Porträtfiguren* series), Mignot (2291b) and Ochel (Ar 47a).

Britain's Roman period really began with the invasion of 43 AD and lasted until about 400 AD, when Roman troops were withdrawn to defend Italy. After the Boudiccan revolt (60-61 AD) had been quelled, Romanization quickly took place: obviously the ancient Britons were a pragmatic people and realised the advantages of Roman civilisation and rule as fast as their Continental kinsmen in Gaul. Soon there was nothing to differentiate them in clothes and customs from the other inhabitants of the north-western provinces of the Roman empire.

Until quite recently I might have ended here as there were no flats available to illustrate the events of the conquest or of Roman provincial life - at least none that would come up to the standards of historical truth. But meanwhile things have changed - partly at least.

Let us begin with the army, as the Romanization of Britain began as a Military affair. For the time of the conquest there are the figures of marching legion and auxiliaries by von Droste (Roe 1-84), a few halting legionaries by Hohrath (R 15, 20, 21), and a number of fighting men by Tylinski in East Berlin (HT 35-49, 70-77a). Additional auxiliary horsemen can be found with Golberg (GO 1005-1009, GO 1527-1530) and Hafer (RP 5, RP 11-15). All these figures can be used for the first half of the 1st century AD, the auxiliary horsemen until about 90 AD.

At about the middle of the century a re-equipment of Roman troops began: which changed their outlook. Soldiers for the second half of the century can be obtained from Dangelmaier (LU 1-6), Hohrath (RL 1-5-, 10-15), Lecke (RG 1-11), Mutzbauer (RL 1-16), Nadebor (R 6, 7, 9-16, 19, 20), and Rheinland-Verlag (C 1-5, L 1-31), (Some of these figures can also be used for the first half of the century).

For the next three centuries of Roman occupation no flats are available yet, with the exception of a centurion and four soldiers of the 3rd century - working a one-armed catapult (onager); they were produced by Dangelmaier (LO 1-5).

As there are no figures of Britons, Picts or Scots in existence yet that are historically correct, there is a wide field left for British flats producers.

And we get the chance to turn to the civilian aspect of Roman Britain (most of the above mentioned military figures are also better suited to be integrated into civilian life in Rome or Pompeii as well as Londinium or Cologne). Only later did I find out that "Roman" costume in the provinces was completely different from that in Italy. Working on the project of; a diorama for the Rheinisches Landesmuseum in Bonn, I came across a paper by John Peter Wild on "Clothing in the North-West Provinces of the Roman Empire" (published in *Bonner Jahrbücher*, vol. 168, 1968 pp. 166-240), to which I owe most of my information. According to J. P. Wild, the clothing in the north-western provinces (including Britain) was fundamentally the same from the 1st to the 4th centuries and differed considerably from what we normally regard or know as Roman. Only state officials on duty or formal occasions would wear the Roman tunica and toga, which actually was a rather cumbersome garment only suited for orators and members of the leisure class. The Romanized population of Britain (and the other north-west provinces) wore Gallic coats (for all sexes and age groups, cf. Figs. 9, 43, 68 and others) with or without hoods (cf. Fig. 36). Men used to wear Gallic capes (cf. Figs. 27, 42), scarves, shoulder-capes (cf. Figs. 35, 94) and leggings (cf. Figs. 35, 60, 94) according to weather and job. Women wore cloaks arrayed in different ways over their coats when they left the house (cf. Fig. 34) and bonnets of different types if they were married (cf. Figs. 41, 56, 90).

Since 1989 quite a number of flats have been engraved that show the correct clothes and can be used for illustrating everyday scenes in Roman Britain. Most of them can be used for the period from the middle of the 1st century to the middle of the 4th century, unless they hold items of pottery in their hands that any archaeologist will easily recognise as

being definitely Rhenanian and dating to about 80 AD (because most of the flats were produced for the above mentioned diorama of the Rheinisches Landesmuseum, which was intended to show the camp village (cannabae) of Novaesium on the Rhine at that time.

First, there are a number of men, women and children just standing around, chatting, or walking the street. They were published by Dangelmaier and bear the following numbers: RP 1-3, 7,8 10, 12, 14-18, 26, 28, 34-38 (cf. Figs. 20,21, 26-31, 34-37, 45, 53,54, 58, 59). Dangelmaier has also had some special figures engraved, e.g. a woman baking bread (RP 4, 5, 31; cf. Figs. 55-57), a woman weaving (RP 20, 21; cf. Fig. 52), a man carrying an amphora (RP 9, 11; cf. Figs. 24-25), a man selling devotional articles (RP 6, 30; cf. Figs. 32, 33), and a bee-keeper with utensils and bee-hives (RP 13, 29a, 32).

Some other figures of correct Roman Britons can be found among the figures of Golberg (GO 807, 813, 815), von Droste (Roe 54, 59-61, 63-65), Gerteis (Trev 1) and Pohl (P 8: a man leading a horse), and Lecke has begun a series of playing children (RB 1-4).

Social life is represented by figures for a snack bar (taberna, cf. Figs. 1-11), produced for Rheinland-Verlag (T 1-21b). There are also figures for a hostel (mansio, cf. Figs. 38-44, 46) and a funeral procession by the same editor (M 1-10, TZ 13-17), and the scene of a landlord of a big estate returning from a hare hunt, by Gerteis (Trev 2-5).

Other figures show different crafts and trades: there is a stone-cutter's shop (Rheinland-Verlag ST 1-11; cf. Figs. 60-68), a pottery (Lecke RH 4-10, cf. Figs. 75-82), a shoemaker (Lecke RH 1-3), a smithy (Hafer RP 1-6, cf. Figs. 47-51), and a carpenter's or cartwrights shop (Rheinland-Verlag H 1-22; cf. Figs. 69-74).

There are also figures to show farming and gardening (Gerteis A 1-10, G 1-22 and V 1-17; cf. Figs. 83-96) and two three-dimensional vehicles, a farmer's cart (PLAISTRUM) and a mule-drawn wagon (CLABULARE), which I made myself.

If you want to turn to the-last one-and-a-half centuries of the Roman occupation of Britain, the same difficulty occurs as with military figures: there are almost none, In those centuries civilian clothing had changed completely and people looked more like they did in the early Middle Ages. As there are not many figures for that period either, we lack figures we could adopt for late Roman times, There are just a few figures in the "Byzantium" series of Vollrath (VB 3,5,10-16b), which are now obtainable from Ochel and which can be used for the period in question. So there is another wide field for producers!

(If you should have any further questions, please contact me at the address given below).

The addresses of the above mentioned producers are:

Georg **Cortum**, figures now available through Christian Carl, Auf dem Kluschenberg 5, D-2410 Mölln.

Wilfried **Dangelmaier**, Waiblinger Str,81, D-7056 Weinstadt.

Melitta van **Droste**, Postfach 176, D-7142 Marbach/Neckar.

Klaus **Gerteis**, Auf der Wiese 5, D-5901 Aach/b. Trier,

Friedrich **Giesler**, Kardinal-Galen-Weg 10, D-5300 Bonn 2.

Claus Peter & Hannelore **Goldberg**, Krauser Baum 52, D-2358 Kaltenkirchen.

Wofgang H. **Hafer**, Schlangenberg 14, D-3500 Kassel.

Daniel **Hohrath**, Berheimerstr. 50, D-7300-Esslingen.

Erich **Kästner**, Eichenhain 6a, D-8501 Schwaig/b. Nürnberg,

Paul **Krog**, (Zinnoffizin zum Ritter), Spiegelgasse 5, CH 8001 Zürich.

Helga **Lampert**, Quellenweg 7, D-6390 Usingen-2.

Hans-Georg **Lecke**, Finckenstr. 19, D-5056 Rehburg-Loccun.

Rainer **Mutzbauer**, Herbartstr. 35, D-8500 Nürnberg,

**Mignot** (Au Plat d'Etain), 1 Rue du Vieux-Colombier, F-75006 Paris,

Gerald **Nadebor**, Heidestr, 227, DDR-9500 Dessau,

Alois **Ochel** (E, Kroschewski), Feldstr. 24b, D-2300 Kiel.

Heinz **Pohl**, Favoritenstr. 133/3, A-1106 Wien.

**Rheinland-Verlag** Köln GmbH, Abtei Brauweiler, D-5024 Pulheim 2.

Horst **Tylinski**, Achtermannstr. 53, DDR-1100 Berlin,

Siegbert **Wagner**, Limmerstr, 65, D-3000 Hannover

## List of Figures in the Illustrations (on pages 6 and 7)

1 Man in Gallic coat	RV T 3	49 Bucket	RV T15
2 Man in Gallic coat	RV T 4	50 Forge	Ha RP4
3 Table with jug	RV T 13	51 Young man with bellows	Ha RP3
4 Man in Gallic coat	RV T 4	52 Loom	Da RP21
5 maid in Gallic coat	RV T 1	53 young woman in Gallic coat	Da RP28
6 Man in Gallic coat	RV T 5	54 Girl in Gallic coat	Da RP35
7 Table	RV T 14	55 Oven	Da RP4
8 Old man in Gallic coat	RV T 8	56 Woman in coat & bonnet	Da RP 5
9 Prostitute and customer	RV T 10	57 Table	Da RP 31
10 Stool	RV T 15	58 Boy in Gallic coat	Da RP 34
11 Bucket	RV T 15	59 Girl in Gallic coat	Da RP 26
12 Sauce amphora	RV T 20a	60 Stone cutter in coat & leggings	RV ST 1
13: Kettle	RV T 16b	61 Alter he is working on	RV ST 2
14 Racket with sausages, garlic, etc.	RV T19	62 Stone cutter chiselling letters	RV ST 3
15 Barmaid in girded Gallic coat	RV T 7	63 Grave stela	RV ST 4
16 Bar	RV T 16a	64 Two Men working a stone saw	RV ST 11
17 Jug	RV T 20d	65 Boy wetting the saw	RV ST 10
18 Man in Gallic coat	RV T 8	66 Grave stela of a legionary	RV ST 8
19 Man in Gallic coat	RV T 9	67 Pots with colours	RV ST 9
20 Man in Gallic coat	Da RP 16	68 Painter in Gallic coat	RV ST 7
21 Man in Gallic coat	Da RP 12	69 Carpenter with saw	RV H 19
22 Table with bread	RV T 17	70 Carpenter with chisel & mallet	RV H 20
23 Wine amphora	RV T 20b	71 Bench with various tools	RV H 18
24 Wine amphora in straw cover	Da RP 9	72 Carpenter with plane	RV H 5
25 Worker with amphora	Da RP 11	73 Carpenter or smith	RV H 1
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27 Man in Gallic cape	Da RP 8	75 Potter treading clay	Le RH 8
28 Man in coat	Da RP 2	76 Potter & helper finishing a big pot	Le RH 4
29 Man in Gallic coat	Da RP 3	77 Stool	Le RH 5
30 Man in Gallic coat	Da RP 1	78 Potter on the wheel	Le RH 5
31 Boy in Gallic coat	Da RP 37	79 Firewood	Le RH 6
32 Table with devotional articles	Da RP 30	80 Man firing kiln	Le RH 6
33 Dealer in devotional articles	Da RP 6	81 Firewood	Le RH 7
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35 Farmer in Gallic coat, shoulder-cape & leggings	Da RP 7	83 Fox	Ge A 11
36 Tenant farmer in Gallic coat with hood	Da RP18	84 Spelt	Ge A 4
37 Boy in Gallic coat	Da RP36	85 Man with sickle	Ge A 5
38 Carriage	RV M 10	86 Swathe	Ge A 7
39 Travelling basket-	RV M5	87 Woman binding straw	Ge A 8
40 Servant with baggage	RV M4	88 Straw bale	Ge A 6
41 Woman in Ubian dress (traveller from Continent)	RV M3	89 Woman gathering straw	Ge A 10
42 Traveller in Gallic coat and Gallic cape	RV M2	90 Woman with rake	Ge A 9
43 landlord in Gallic coat	RV M1	91 Pig	Ge V 3
44 Carriage horse	RV M8	92 Pig	Ge V 4
45 Man in Gallic coat	Da RP 14	93 Cow	Ge V 8
46 Servant in Gallic coat	RV M6	94 Herdsman	Ge V 1
47 Smithy „boss“, Gallic coat	Ha RP 1	95 Dog	Ge V 2
48 Smith in coat, cap & apron	Ha RP2	96 Goat	Ge V 13

Note: The abbreviations used above are as follows:

Rheinland-Verlag - **RV**; Dangelmaier - **Da**; Hafer - **Ha**; Lecke - **Le**; Gerteis - **Ge**

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