

Legio II Flavia Constantia

XXIV. Legio II Flavia Constantia. Col. 1467. Tr. Jeroen Pelgrom

[1467]

Legio II Flavia Constantia of Diocletian, probably created in the year 296 or 297, was formed together with I Maximiana the garrison of the newly created province Thebaidos (see also col.1356). There it had its headquarter in Cusas (Not. Or. XXXI) until the time of the Notitia Dignitatum. In the course of time, probably under Constantine, when the troops of the Egyptian provinces were united under the command of a dux (CIL II 12073), the legionary troops of the province were increased with units from both legions of Aegyptus Iovia, II Traiana and III Diocletiana, the latter gradually being divided into three garrisons (Not. or. XXXI 31. 33. 38). II Flavia Constantia Thebaeorum, which belonged at the time of the Notitia to the comitatenses of the magister militum per Orientum (Not. or. VII 10 = 45), was certainly split off from II Flavia Constantia, which was for more than a century established as border-legion. The impulse for this split was probably given by a measure of Theodosius I, to mix a part of the Barbarians, which were passed over to him, with the troops in Egypt. These (Barbarians) were added to the Egyptian troops and their accompanying commander in Macedon (Zosimus IV 30 and 31), who resided at that time in Thessalonica. A part of II Flavia Constantia belonged to these Aiguptioi (Egyptians). It is fitting that at this time the legion II Flavia Valentis Thebaeorum (Not or. VII 11 = 46), which accompanied the troops in the Notitia and was named after and probably raised by emperor Valens, was no longer mentioned with the garrison of Thebaidos (Not. or. XXXI), because of the short time it stayed in the province.