

THE MILITIES LINARI

The Milities Linari are the standard freeman medium-footman in the Thardic Republican army. Comprised of field fife and volunteers, their ranks include both freedmen and citizens. Each Milities Linari is responsible for the purchase and care of his weapons, armor and equipment. Most volunteers can not afford to purchase the minimum required and thus go into debt.

All members who join from the ages of 16 to 21 who are freemen or citizens become Milities Linari for their first four years when they join the legion - either as part of the field fife or as volunteers.

NUMBERS

Landowners must provide the legion with a certain type of legionnaire, dependant on the amount of land they own. This soldier must be replaced should the one currently in service be killed, maimed or required for duty (like tending his own land) by the landowner.

The draft assessment for the year 720TR states that 1 Milities Linari / Primus must be provided per two Carucates and two Bovates within the estate (approximately 270 acres). The Thardic Republic should generate approximately 2456 Milities Linari due to field fife, only 2320 will be required. This does not include the 5-10% each year that volunteer for service.

TRAINING

The Milities Linari goes through three types of training before finally loosing the name "Recruit". Each training period is 3 months long.

BOOT CAMP

A Milities Linari gains the following skills upon their first week of Boot Camp:

Rank	Initiative	Lance	Sword	Dagger	Shield	Javelin	Sickle	Bow	Axe	Sling	Pike	Riding	Unarmed	Foraging	Survival	Heraldry	Physician	Masonry	Woodworking	Craft	Engineering	Mathematics	Tactics	Law	Military Organization	Awareness	Intrigue	Script	
Milities Linari	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4					3	3	2	1	1								1				

In the first trimester of training the majority of the time is spent in one-on-one practice, with lectures and instruction given by veteran legionnaires. The drills are practiced until they become automatic. Basic tactics are taught without explanation of their use, or development. It is sufficient that the legionnaire know how to parry with sword or shield, to counter strike, to shield strike and to hit exposed areas with his short sword or javelin. The whys are taught through real-world experience later.

Boot Camp is difficult, with only about 3/4 of the applicants being injury free after the first three months, and able to continue. Most who fail, or wash out, may try again the following year, although few do. The camp is often the first time away from friends

But...What about...

The Milities Linari gains all the training, equipment, armour and tactics mentioned in the Tenacus article. Only those things unique to this rank are mentioned here.

Calling a Milities...

When addressing a Milities Linari, civilians are suppose to use their full title, although many shorten it to "Milities". Clan names are not suppose to be used by the Milities when introducing themselves, but many do.

Showing Rank

Ranks are denoted not only by the type of armor worn, but by the colors on the cloak. Milities Linari have a black cloak with a red stripe down its center.



and family for most. This plus the strain of rigorous duties, training and discipline forge a legionnaire. As an incentive often tenacious veterans are brought in to teach lessons and speak to the new legionnaires. These talks help the new legionnaires overcome fears and seem to make the training easier.

Boot Camps are located near, if not within, the provincial capital. Usually the trip to the Boot Camp is considered the first test of the metal of an aspiring Militias Linari. Since all applicants receive this three months of training, it has become standardized.

LEGION FORTIFICATION (2ND TRIMESTER)

In the second trimester the legionnaires work with experienced legionnaires, learning more on the job than in one-on-one practice. Their improvement is slower, but each legionnaire has a chance to learn real-life situations, as opposed to dry drill and practice. Their days are as regimented as bandits, raiders and other legion problems will allow. The legionnaire is exposed to punishment parade; where the guilty are brought before the assembly so that all can witness the punishment. This is supposed to harden the legionnaire against crime, but often it just sickens most of them.

Legionnaires are welcome to partake in any money-making scheme they can, so long as it does not break the law. Door duty, performing extra labours on their day off and adventuring all provide a small source of income. Smuggling goods and being tipped for good service are the two most common sources. Neither are considered evil, so long as one is not caught. Any monies made must be divided three ways. One part to each person who made the money, one part to their commanding officer and one part to the legion. The Commanding Officer receives this money or goods to assure his silence and so that he will give each group of legionnaires as much time as they need for their next adventure, within reason. The legion's part goes towards the widows and orphans fund. It is from this money that a dead legionnaire's debt is paid and his funeral is paid for.

In this phase of training, legionnaires are permitted to question their instructors as to why things are done the way they are. Tactics take on a less surreal nature when your life is on the line. Legionnaires fresh out of training are also given the worst jobs and the longest hours. Age does have its privileges after all.

LEGION OUTPOST (3RD TRIMESTER)

Each year after training development rolls are determined based on experience, instruction and practice. The exact amounts differ greatly from outpost to outpost - depending on the commanding officer, and how much he works his troops.

DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS

The Duties and Obligations of a Militias Linari are limited only to whatever their commanding officer orders. To protect them from corrupt, sadistic or evil commanding officers the legion holds each man responsible for their own actions as well as the actions of those under their command. So, should a Militias Linari die due to an officer's incompetence, at least his relatives will have the satisfaction of seeing that officer punished.

Daily Life

Life for a Militias Linari revolves around a strict schedule interrupted only by the rare raid on their fortification or outpost. The traditional day breaks into three duties:

- **Labours:** These include repairing and building roads, fortifications, outposts, bridges as well as harvesting and planting.
- **Patrols:** These range from standing guard duty, to wandering through towns as the night watch to longer patrols taking up to 3 days.
- **Chores:** This includes care and maintenance of arms, armour and equipment as well as cleaning the fortification or outpost.

Additional Tours

Any Militias Linari may sign up for another tour. They must first serve four years and not be mustered out due to injury or misbehavior (crime, treason, murder, etc.). A legionnaire may serve up to 6 tours before they must retire. To sign up for the next tour, the Militias need only talk to the paymaster. He is then issued new boots, a new cloak and welcomed back into the legion.

WHEN ALONE

A Militias Linari is only a Legionnaire when he is dressed either in his linens or full kit. If he is dressed as a civilian, then he is treated as a civilian of his own birth rank and clan. A Militias Linari may only wear the uniform of the Legion when on official Legion business.

A Militias Linari is expected to help keep the peace at all costs when on duty. They may never start a fight, but are always expected to finish any around them. This allows them to question, torture and hold for indefinite periods of time any slave or freeman in the Republic. Equestrians and Citizens cannot be tortured, and Equestrians expect to be treated according to their rank.

IN FOREIGN LANDS

A Militias Linari in foreign lands and in full uniform is either lost, scouting or part of a legally dispatched delegation or invasion force. They are expected to be on their best behavior, and return home alive. Brooking no insults and other such feudal finery is a foreign concept lost on most practical Thardians.

WHEN OFF DUTY

A Militias Linari when off duty is out of uniform (no weapons other than a dagger, and not wearing the armour, cloak, belt or boots of a legionnaire). Any crime committed while off duty is committed as a republican of their natural birth rank. Officially no legion equipment, personnel or monies may be used by the Militias Linari when they are off duty.

MUSTERING OUT

A tour of duty is four years long. Each legionnaire receives one day off each calendar month whenever possible. Leave time, like pay, can be accumulated by the legion for up to three months before any trouble can, officially, begin. A Militias Linari takes his leave the same time as his tenacus. Individual leave is rare and offered only in the rarest of cases.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

There are several awards and achievements. The most popular are:

- **The Brass Crown:** This cloak pin has a crown engraved deeply on a circular piece of brass. In the center of the circle, the legion's unit number is marked in Runic. It is awarded for bravery. Most refer to this as "the coin" - and as with the saying, the reception of this achievement is most often posthumous.
- **The Sword:** This silver ring is worn on the left hand. It is an award for obedience and discipline. To gain the sword one must have never carried demerits over a pay day, nor committed a crime in the legion. Swords are given by the highest ranking officer to all eligible regulars after serving their tour of duty. A legionnaire rarely gains more than one or two swords in a lifetime.
- **The Mantle:** This is a leather cloak with special markings of rank and resilient trim colors. It is presented to Militias Linari who best represented the ideal legionnaire during their term. Only one mantle is presented to each Legion each year. The cloak is of superior quality (+2) and said to be very lucky to own.

Life in the Legion

It is very easy for a Militias Linari to live beyond their means. They are paid 12d each ten-day, but the cost of the arms, armour and other equipment can easily cost far more. Each Militias Linari has four years to crawl out of the debt that the legion imposes.

If the Militias can supply their own armour or weapons the legion will only charge the soldier for the repair and upkeep. Even with free room and board, life can get expensive. A night of drinking with friends or a few nights in an inn with...company... can easily wipe out most, if not all the pay.

Some Militias rely on the Peoni Express. This is the local slang to refer to the wandering Peonian priests. These priests are trusted with money and letters home. Usually, if money is being transported, the legion provides an escort, or at least a fast horse for the priest. For, while the priest may be respected and protected, the bandits on the road are willing to risk eternal damnation for the money the priest may be carrying.

For the frugal, each quartermaster is willing to keep the Militias money, making an account of all the money by soldier. So that, when the Militias returns home, he can "cash out" and take all his savings with him. There is no interest earned by the money but neither is there a charge for the service as it is part of the quartermaster's legion duty. Not many 16 year-olds are frugal.

The Militias Linari usually intend to become reservists after their first four years of service. Those who wish to become lifers are often considered to be touched. Regardless, the cloak, sword and boots of a Militias Linari provide a standing and respect within society that no other career can provide.

BECOMING A RESERVIST

Any Militias Linari, after a full tour of duty, may opt to become a reservist, serving 9 ten-days a year. To become a reservist, one only has to request it from the local legati or ones commanding officer. Exactly when the reserves are called up differs from fort to fort and outpost to outpost.

Any Militias Linari too injured to remain on duty can be temporarily placed on Reservist pay. This allows them to return home and recuperate until their unit is called. Usually they are called up after the longest amount of delay possible (9 months) and thus may end up serving with people from other manors and villages. This form of reservist service is temporary and after one reservist term of service, they are welcomed back as regular soldiers.

If the Militias Linari still cannot server, he is either mustered out, becomes part of the support personnel, or is forced to pay scutage. If he is popular, he is often transferred to a less-rigorous posting, if possible.

BECOMING A REGULAR AGAIN

While it is rare, occasionally, a Militias Linari Reservists will want to become a Regular. To do this he or she must petition the local Triberties and once again pass the entrance examination.

Unfortunately, the Militias Linari then has to serve a number of years equal to his time as a Reservist, beyond the age of 40, to gain the right to retire with a land grant and citizenship. This is only possible during times of war for, currently, all legionnaires at the age of 40 are forced into retirement.

PROMOTION

On the rare occasion that a Militias Linari is promoted, it is either to the position of a Militias Fabrica, or a Militias Primus. By tradition, on the night before accepting the honors of rank, a Militias Linari must treat his old Tenacus to a night of entertainment (drinks, girls/boys, games, etc.) at the legion's favorite tavern or any gathering place. Such parties cost around 100d on average.

RETIREMENT

A Militias Linari may retire at the age of 20. Retirees become reservists in the legion. Reservists serve 9 ten-days out of the year in an outpost, or fortification in the vicinity of their home. They are paid 9d for each 10day that they serve. Their pay can be fined in a similar fashion to that of the regular Militias Linari.

If a Militias Linari remains in the legion for a full 20 years (5 terms of four years each), he is eligible for Senatorial Dispensation. This includes an undisclosed parcel of land and a rise in social rank to that of citizen. Often the Militias Linari will receive his parcel of land on an officer's estate, or in some frontier manor.

Social Ranks and the Legion

Social Ranking (Freeman, Citizen, Equestrian) still has merit amongst the legionnaires. When a Militias Linari must bring in an Equestrian or a Citizen, the only rights that those ranks have is the right not to be tortured. Cautious Legionnaires will not even rough-up an Equestrian or a Citizen for fear of their litigants bringing up the charge of torture during their trial.

Arresting the wrong person, if that wrong person has powerful social contacts, is as dangerous to the legionnaire as a charge of treason. Fortunately there are very few with such contacts, and those few tend to be well known.

Treating an Equestrian...

When arrested, an equestrian expects to be treated according to their rank. This means the following:

- They are not tortured or beaten.
- They are placed in house arrest rather than in the dungeon.
- They may send a legion runner to fetch belongings, documentation proving their identity and/or a litigant of their choice.

Treating a Citizen...

When arrested, a citizen may ask to be treated according to their rank. This means:

- They cannot be tortured or beaten without senatorial dispensation.
- They are not housed with freemen or slaves (but still may be housed within a dungeon).
- They may send for a relative or litigant at their own expense.