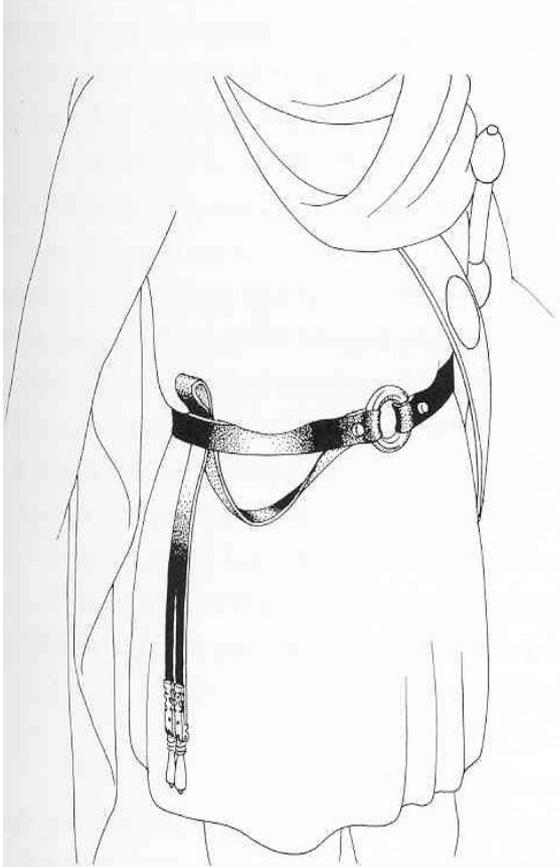


Belts

Several types of belts were used in the early and mid 3rd century. One of them was the so called ring buckle belt (*Ringschnallencingulum* or *Ringschließencingulum*). It is not totally clear how this type of belt worked and several reconstructions are possible.



(image from James, Dura-Europos)

The reconstruction shown here consists of a brass ring with a leather belt led through the ring from both sides. Two rivets worked into the belt and pushed through slits in its upper layer hold the belt in place. With a (theoretical) number of two slits per rivet the belt would have allowed for 3 different positions: wide (belt is worn over the armour – both rivets are stuck through the inner slits) – tight (without armour – both rivets are stuck through the outer slits) – medium (after the banquet – one rivet is stuck through an inner slit and the other through an outer slit). A higher number of slits would have allowed for a greater variety, but if the belt was tailored to the man this would not have been necessary.

Two end fittings made from brass (or sometimes from silver ?) are attached to the end of the belt. It has even been suggested they were spun around with the left hand in order to scare away any civilians (“make place for the army !”).



([worn out] belt tightened – both rivets sit in the outer slits with the inner slits at the ring)



(end fittings)