

ART. II.—*The Roman fort at Ravenglass.* By ERIC BIRLEY, F.S.A., President of the Society.

Read at Carlisle, July 17th, 1958.

THE Roman fort at Ravenglass was for long overlooked and forgotten, so Chancellor Ferguson observed,¹ because a passage in Denton's "History of Cumberland" led to it being sought for on the left bank of the Esk, instead of the right. As it stands, that sounds a rather odd explanation; it will serve, I hope, to justify a survey of the antiquarian history of the site, before I turn to discuss the Roman remains themselves.

I. THE ANTIQUARIES' ACCOUNTS.

Camden's early editions make no mention of Ravenglass, but in that of 1600 (published the year after his visit to Cumberland) it earns a sentence as "a station conveniently girt by two rivers where Roman inscriptions, as I have been informed, exist."² In his last edition, published in 1607, the tense is changed to read "existed" and the place-name is spelt *Ravenglas*, to introduce a fanciful etymology, and a tantalising reference to a local tradition follows it:³

"Some will have it formerly call'd *Aven-glas*, as if one should say, *an azure sky-colour'd river*; and tell you abundance of stories about one King *Eveling*, who had his Palace here."

There follows the first traceable reference to Hardknott Castle, no doubt from the same informant — presumably

¹ *A History of Cumberland* (1890), 38 f.

² P. 690: *Ravenglasse* stationem ubi & Romanae extant, ut accipi, inscriptiones, duo rivi commode circumcingunt.

³ P. 630: I quote Hugh Todd's translation from Camden's Latin, in the 1695 edition (Gibson's first) of the *Britannia*, col. 820; Gough nods in his translation (1806 ed., iii 421), reading "where, I was told, were once two Roman inscriptions."

a local man who had sent Camden a correction and supplementary details about the district after the appearance of the 1600 edition; there is nothing to show that Camden himself had ever visited the place. The etymology was soon to be faced by a rival, as we shall be seeing; as to king Eveling, it will be sufficient for me to refer to the paper in which W. G. Collingwood showed reason to suppose that he was somehow linked in folk-memory with Arthurian legend.⁴

The first traceable reference to Walls Castle, the external bath-house of the fort, is in John Denton's *Accompt* (as he himself styled it), written *circa* 1610 and used in MS. by several of the county historians but only printed, as no. 2 in our Tract Series, in 1887; it comes under "Mulcaster" (p. 17):

"The place is now corruptly named Moncaster, howbeit the right name is Mulcastre or Meol-castre, of an old castle there towards the water side near unto Eskmeal, which was the antient dwelling place of the Penningtons, and is yet visible in the ruins, they call it the Old Walls . . ."

There follow some observations on the spelling and significance of the place-name, "meal" being taken to mean "a plain low dry ground"; Ravenglass itself is only mentioned a couple of pages later, with another attempted etymology ("corruptly called of two Irish words Rainigh ferns and Glass green") but no word of any antiquities found there. Eskmeals is the name of the tract of dunes on the far side of the river (fig. 1), Muncaster the name of the ancient parish in which the Roman remains are, but Ravenglass is the town and was once the port which inherited the functions of the neighbouring Roman site, and that is now the name by which it is known; and if the traditionalist should wish to use Muncaster, following William Jackson (who first wrote about the Roman site), let him be content with a quotation from Edmund Sandford's *Cursory Relation*, written

⁴ CW2 xxiv 256-259.

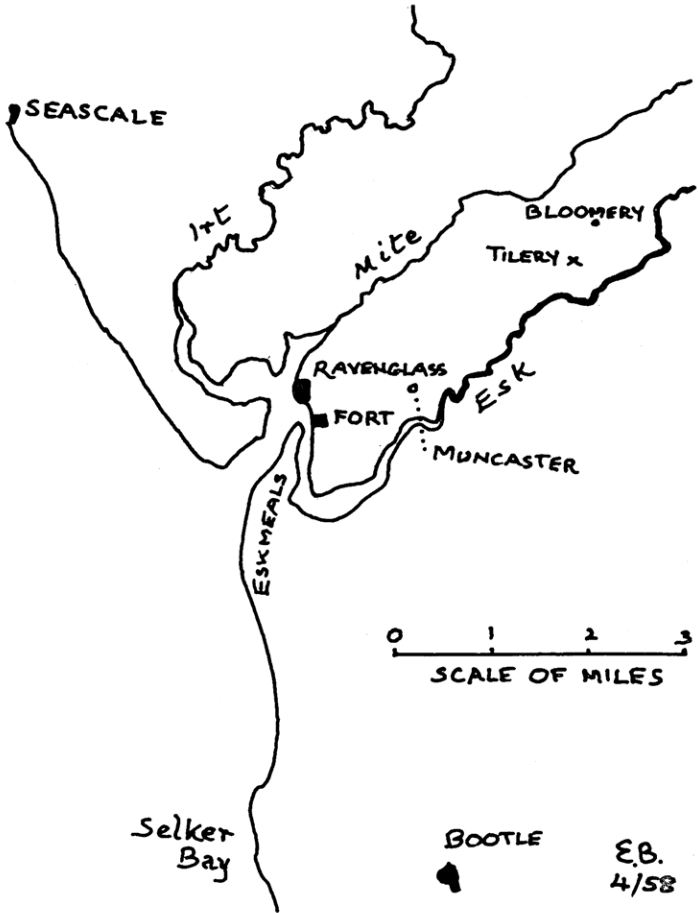


FIG. 1.—Sketch-map of Ravenglass and the surrounding district.

circa 1675: "this Towne belongs to Moncastre Castle."⁵

Horsley's *Britannia Romana* (1732) shows no knowledge of anything Roman in south-west Cumberland, nor were Nicolson and Burn (1777) interested in the archaeology of the district, and the first fresh contribution came in Hutchinson's *Cumberland* (1794). On Walls Castle it notes the tradition that the Penningtons had once lived there, and continues (i 571):

"the building is strongly cemented with run lime. This has been a place of great consequence in distant antiquity; broken battle axes of flint, arrow heads, and coins of different people have been found, many of them Roman, and some Saxon."

This surely comes from a well-informed source, and should have been taken into account by later writers; but they had been taken off the scent by a more spectacular account, offered ten pages earlier under a different parish (and no doubt from a different contributor):

"A little from Bootle, to the west, is a small inlet of the sea, called Selkers Bay, where the neighbouring people say, at about a mile distant from the shore, in calm weather, they can perceive the remains of several vessels, or gallies, which tradition says, and not improbably, were sunk and left there, on some great invasion of the northern parts of this island, by the Romans; and to corroborate this account, there are still to be seen, the remains of an encampment on the adjoining common, called Esk-meals, where Roman coins have frequently been found, and some broken altars, with imperfect inscriptions. Several of the coins are said to be in Lord Muncaster's collection."

This is evidently the passage which in fact led enquirers to the wrong side of the river: Denton's "near unto Eskmeal" is impeccable. But the Lysons brothers, in their *Cumberland* (1816), though they took from him the spellings of Muncaster's original name, confused the issue by assigning it to "a castle which was the ancient residence of the lords of the manor at Esk-meal" (*op. cit.*,

⁵ Tract Series, no. 4 (1890), 10: Sandford, too, has an etymology to offer for the place-name: "so called of a broode or airye of Ravens there: and I have seen a white Raven ther much made on and very Tame for a marvaile and traind like a hauke to kill partridge and other fowles" (*op. cit.*, 5).

139); and their Roman section, contributed by the bishop of Cloyne, omitting all reference to the legend of the sunken galleys, adapted the corroborative detail supplied by Hutchinson's contributor, mentioning (p. cxlviii)

"an entrenchment certainly Roman, as coins and broken altars have been found in it, and it was doubtless one of the smaller stations constructed for the defence of the coast in that remote corner."

Finally, their section on "Miscellaneous Antiquities" contains a detailed description of one of two small brass kettles, each with two handles and standing on three legs, found "at the Roman station on Eskmeals, in the parish of Ravenglass" (!) and then in the possession of E. L. Irton, Esq.⁶

Jefferson's *Allerdale Ward* (1842) is entirely derivative, and it was left to William Jackson, one of the early pillars of our Society, acting on information from the Rev. Thomas Lees, as late as 1876 to identify the Roman "camp at Muncaster" and to give an account of the discoveries made there when the Furness Railway was being built across the site.⁷ A brief reference had been made to them, he notes, in Linton's *Handbook to the Whitehaven and Furness Railway*, "a work whose value has scarcely been sufficiently appreciated", but his own source was John Tomlinson of Whitehaven, who had visited the site when the work was in progress, in the summer of 1850, and furnished him with a detailed account; he also told Jackson of a gold coin of Vespasian, in his own collection, which had come from the same cutting.⁸ Jackson added the acute observation that though, apart from Walls Castle,

"there are now no other visible remnants of the old dwellers, the names of many of the fields sufficiently indicate the extent

* *Op. cit.*, p. ccviii, noting that the vessel described "does not exhibit any thing the least like Roman workmanship, but it has the appearance of great antiquity"; it is undoubtedly medieval.

⁷ CW1 iii 17-22.

* Tomlinson's account is quoted in full, and its significance discussed, by R. G. Collingwood, CW2 xxviii 356 f.

of land once occupied by them: Castle Meadow, Castle Field, Stone Warron, Stone Acre, Broad Walls, Walls Field, Walls Close, Black Stones, &c.”⁹

Jackson began his paper by giving a brief description of the fort itself, as then visible, noting that its west side was “where a steep descent of fifty feet dips sharply down to the river Esk, flowing into the Ravenglass estuary at this point”, and that there were traces of “round towers” at the two eastern angles, but had nothing to say about finds made in it; his main attention had evidently been devoted to Walls Castle, on which he and Canon Knowles read a joint paper to the Society, illustrated by a good plan and two splendid half-tones — one a general view, showing it covered by a profusion of ivy, the other a close-up of the niche photographed by Miss Fair in 1927, when it had suffered little further damage.¹⁰

II. EXCAVATION AND RECORDING.

In 1881, Jackson and Ferguson, assisted by Joseph Robinson of Maryport, did some excavation at Walls Castle which Jackson reported on to our Society and elsewhere,¹¹ and a postscript was added by Ferguson five years later:¹²

“During the excavations at Walls Castle in 1881 an inscribed stone was found, unluckily no responsible person was present: the labourer who found it, set off to carry the stone to his lodgings, but the way was long, the evening hot, and he sat down to rest, and meanwhile he examined the stone: seeing the letters to be English in shape, he forthwith concluded the stone was valueless, and chucked it into the sea. Diligent search was afterwards made for its recovery, but in vain.”

In 1885 and again in 1886 Lord Muncaster, the owner of the land, put men to work at excavating in the fort itself.

⁹ These field-names are sufficient to put out of court W. G. Collingwood's clever suggestion (*The Lake Counties*, 2nd ed., 1932, p. 72) that Walls Castle might represent Wallis, i.e. Welsh.

¹⁰ Cf. Knowles and Jackson, “Walls Castle, Ravenglass” (CW1 iii 23-26); Miss Fair's photograph is reproduced in CW2 xxviii, facing p. 361.

¹¹ CW1 vi 216-224; PSAL2 ix 61 f.; *The Antiquarian Magazine & Bibliographer*, October 1882 (reprinted in his *Papers & Pedigrees* ii, 1892, 66-69).

¹² CW1 ix 297.

Ferguson contributed a brief account to our *Transactions* (CW1 ix 296 f.), from which the following details have been taken:

In 1885, "a short length of the western wall showing a bold set-off was uncovered, but in every other place the stones had been carried away down to the foundations, and neither the angles nor the gateways could be found. As the autumn storms filled the trenches with water they were covered up, after an accurate plan had been taken." The plan cannot be traced.

In 1886, "several trenches were cut in the interior of the camp" but only the "trails" of walls were found: "in most cases the very foundations of the walls had been carried away" by stone-robbers, so that Ferguson and Collingwood Bruce (who had been invited to advise Lord Muncaster as to further excavations) gave it as their opinion that it was no use digging any more.¹³ All that Ferguson had to add was that "much broken Roman pottery, and bits of Andernach ware were found, but only one coin, that we know of, a much corroded and detrited legionary one."

The next record of discovery brought the first description of archaeological material from the site. At our meeting on 11 June 1902 Dr Parker, the Gosforth antiquary, exhibited several fragments of pottery "found in and since 1899 at the camp at Ravenglass, by Mr F. Reynolds of that place", and read a short paper on them which was embedded in small type in the *Proceedings* of the meeting (CW2 iii 396 f.); the most interesting specimen was a figured samian bowl with the stamp AVSTRI-OF amongst its decoration, described in meticulous detail: this (with other pottery from the site) was ultimately presented to Tullie House by the finder's daughter, Mrs Vassilli, through the good offices of Miss Fair, and part of the bowl has now been illustrated in Stanfield & Simpson, *Central Gaulish Potters* (1958), pl. 94, 5; after comparison of Mr Dodds' drawing of it with Dr Parker's description, I am filled with admiration for his acute

¹³ PSAN2 ii 322 gives Bruce's version, as reported to the Newcastle Antiquaries; R. G. Collingwood's account, CW2 xxviii 357, is based only on Ferguson's version in PSAL2 xi 210 and his *Cumberland* (1890), p. 64.

observation — one could almost have made the drawing from his printed text instead of from my rubbing.

In 1915, Haverfield put forward somewhat diffidently the suggestion that Ravenglass was the starting-point of the Tenth Iter,¹⁴ adding the opinion that the fort's main function was as the southernmost link in the chain of defences on the Cumberland coast. R. G. Collingwood accepted the suggestion but preferred to offer a different explanation of the site's importance, as we shall see; incidentally, he reported finding a fragment of a 1st century mortarium on the beach at Ravenglass (CW2 xxi 42), using that as evidence for Agricolan foundation of that fort and Hardknott Castle also — but the passing reference is a poor substitute for a proper description or a drawing.

Miss Fair's attention to the fort-site seems to have begun in 1925, when she reported on material from a recent landslide on the seaward face of the fort and from the area to north of it (CW2 xxv 374 f.):

There she found "shattered slates, bricks, floor tesserae, tegulae scored to hold plaster, box-flue tiles and heavy floor-tiles, all as made at Park House" (of which, more presently). These suggested to her the presence of "some building with a good floor, and heated by a hypocaust"; Walls Castle is evidently the external bath-house, so that the present building seems more likely to have been a *mansio*, the accommodation provided for official travellers at staging-points on main roads.

It was with her help that R. G. Collingwood produced the paper on "Roman Ravenglass", communicated in September 1927 (CW2 xxviii 353-366), which has hitherto been the fullest study of the subject: it describes the remains visible in that year (since then, planting has obscured much of the area, and there has been further erosion), summarizes what Jackson had recorded of the discoveries made in 1850, refers briefly to the digging of 1886 (but not to that of 1885), and gives a careful account

¹⁴ *Arch. Journ.* lxxii 77-84: "The Romano-British names of Ravenglass and Borrans (Muncaster and Ambleside)"; for the spelling and significance of the ancient name, cf. p. 27 f., below.

of Walls Castle, with a plan based on that in CW1 iii and illustrated by several of Miss Fair's photographs; the last section of his paper is devoted to a speculative discussion of the history of the site (pp. 360-366), which he wished to identify as Agricola's naval base for operations against Ireland.

From 1927 onwards Miss Fair kept a careful watch on Ravenglass, as on so many ancient sites in south-west Cumberland, recording casual finds and personal observations:

In 1927, erosion on the cliff-face yielded a complete lamp, with the stamp CAPITO F (CW2 xxx 223, with plate); other examples of it have been found in Holland and Germany (CIL XIII 10001, 82), but as far as I can see it is not closely datable.

In 1931 she reported, in a letter to me, further finds from the erosion area, including the pottery illustrated and discussed below, and added particulars of four coins found on the site many years previously, at one time in the collection of the Rev. W. S. Calverley (and now at Tullie House): (1) A *sestertius* of Hadrian. (2) AE, obv. D N CONSTANTIN IVN N C, bust draped and wreathed; rev. BEATA TRANQVILLITAS, altar inscribed VOTIS XX, mint-mark PLG (Lugdunum): A.D. 317-337. (3) AE, obv. CONSTANTINOPOLIS; rev. Victory l., placing foot on prow of vessel, mint-mark TR P (Trier, first *officina*): c. A.D. 330. (4) AE, obv. FL IVL CONSTANTIVS NOB C, bust in cuirass and diadem r.; rev. GLORIA EXERCITVS, mint-mark TR S* (Trier, second *officina*): A.D. 324-337.

In 1943 (JRS xxxiv 79) she reported observing, west of the railway, "a substantial footing-course *in situ* on an angle curve at the NW corner 30 ft. below the height on which the west rampart, now eroded, once stood", and suggested that it might be "an external retaining wall of the rampart at this corner, to provide support at the point where the ditch would meet the Esk estuary." She also noted that in 1939 she had seen the clay and cobble foundation of the north wall of the fort exposed in a drainage ditch, and that "the two gaps in the north and south ramparts made by an old track represent gates set, not in the middle, but towards the east side of the fort." Roman material, she added, had been found up to 500 yards north of the fort, and traces of roads running east from the area of the extensive *vicus* thus attested.

In 1949 she summarized the results of her observations over

a number of years (CW2 xlvi 219): "eroded material on the seaward face of the Roman fort includes very massive construction beams, and freestone blocks which have been burnt very heavily, giving further evidence for its destruction by fire at a period which remains to be determined." She added a note of a gold coin of Theodosius I (A.D. 379-395), found *c.* 1800 in the foundation of the 14th century pele-tower at Muncaster — at present the latest datable Roman find from the vicinity of the fort.

Lastly, in the autumn of 1954, shortly before her death, when we were contemplating some further investigation of the site, Miss Fair sent me a number of notes on it, including a suggestion that there are two structural periods in Walls Castle, the mention that "in bygone days an ancient farmer told me that the outer N. ditch enclosed the bath-house", and a reminder that a certain amount of Roman pottery from Ravenglass had been presented to Tullie House, partly by Mrs Vassilli, partly from her own gleanings.

Miss Fair herself had seen no pottery from the site to which she was able to assign a 1st-century date, nor had she come across any of the types which characterize the period IV levels on Hadrian's Wall; but the gold coin of Theodosius I is sufficient to demonstrate that Roman Ravenglass remained in occupation at least until the closing years of the 4th century, and no doubt pottery of that period will turn up sooner or later. Meanwhile, I get the impression from her letters that in the western portion of the fort, at least, the upper Roman levels have been denuded long ago, and the burnt stratum which she recorded in 1949 seems likeliest to represent the destruction which ended the first Wall period, in A.D. 197.

Two pieces, submitted to me by Miss Fair many years ago, deserve to be considered here (fig. 2):

1. Flanged bowl in black fumed ware, with intersecting arcs lightly scored on the outside, below the flange. This is Mr Gillam's type 228 (AA4 xxxv 180-251, re-paginated 1-72 in the overprint), assigned to the period A.D. 310-370: it is the characteristic flanged bowl of Wall period III.

2. Carinated bowl, with boldly inswept upper half and a scored line just below the rim, in buff to reddish fabric (perhaps the result of fire upon an original grey or black). It is not unlike

Mr Gillam's type 213, described as a "campanulate bowl" and assigned to the period A.D. 160-200; to judge by Miss Fair's account, it comes from the destruction-level inside the fort, which would accord well with the dating of the type; it should be noted that a smooth blue-grey fabric is what Mr Gillam records of all examples that he has seen of this and the related types 211 and 212.

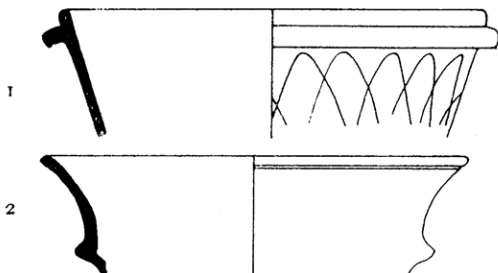


FIG. 2.—Pottery recovered by Miss Fair. (½).

Reference has already been made to the bowl by AVSTRVS, a potter whose period of production (first at Lezoux, where this bowl was made, and later at Blickweiler) is estimated to have covered the second quarter of the 2nd century; some of the Ravenglass pottery now at Tullie House looks as if it might be a little earlier, but as yet there is none to prove pre-Hadrianic occupation of the site.

III. THE SITE AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE.

The whole of the fort's platform east of the railway is now covered by a dense plantation, which makes it virtually impossible to get access to it (Plate II, facing p. 25, from one of Dr St. Joseph's low-level air-photographs); but from R. G. Collingwood's careful description of 1927, CW2 xxviii 353 ff., together with Miss Fair's observations as given above, it seems most likely that relatively little, apart from the west rampart and *intervallum*, has been lost by erosion, and that the

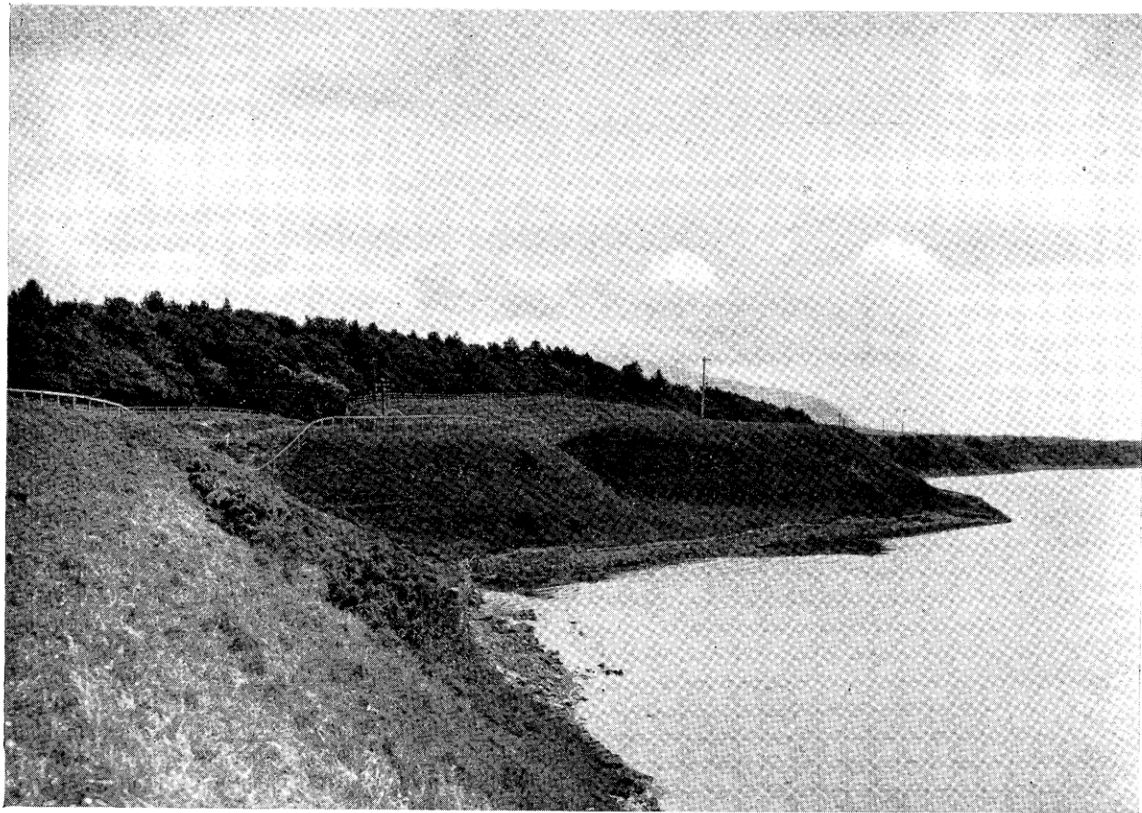


PLATE I.—The fort-site from the N., showing the erosion-face.

facing p. 24

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Photo: Mary C. Fair.



PLATE II.—The fort-site from the air: Walls Castle shows above the white ribbon of the drive to Walls House.
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Photo: K. St. Joseph.

fort was originally about 140 yards square, giving it an area of some 4 acres, somewhat less than the visible fort at Maryport, which Collingwood estimated (CW2 xxxvi 86) to be about 160 yards square. But whereas Maryport, like the other forts in the coastal series between Bowness-on-Solway and St. Bees Head,¹⁵ faced seawards — as the position of its side-gates shows —, if Miss Fair's inference is correct, the side-gates at Ravenglass "towards the east side of the fort" indicate that it turned its back on the sea and faced eastwards, up Eskdale towards Hardknott and the road over the pass to Ambleside. On reflection, that does not seem unreasonable: Ravenglass is too far down the coast to be regarded as a link in the coastwise extension of Hadrian's frontier, and (in spite of Collingwood's suggestion that its main purpose was to serve Agricola as a base for his projected sea-borne invasion of Ireland) it was surely intended primarily to guard a staging-point for coastwise shipping — and the beginning of a branch-road inland. The fact that the Tenth Iter *starts* at Ravenglass, instead of ending there, may not be irrelevant in this connection — though I have pointed out elsewhere in this volume (p. 47 f., below), that I cannot accept the view that the Antonine Itinerary has any bearing on the routine service of the Imperial Post:¹⁶ on D. van Berchem's interpretation of its contents, the Tenth Iter is more likely to preserve the record of a cumulative vexillation drawn off, at some time in the 3rd century, from Ravenglass, Ambleside, Watercrock and forts further south on that route.

Stone-robbing and, more recently, planting have combined to make the fort itself virtually inaccessible and its anatomy untraceable in the foreseeable future; but that need hardly worry us, for its type is a standard one, and we may be confident that its history matched

¹⁵ Beckfoot: CW2 xxxvi 76-84; Burrow Walls: CW2 lv 30-45; Moresby: CW2 xlvi 42-72.

¹⁶ Cf. I. A. Richmond, *Roman Britain* (Pelican History of England i, 1955), 91.

that of the other Roman forts in our area. But Walls Castle, the external bath-house (showing on the east side of the drive to Walls House on Plate II, facing p. 25, above), deserves further examination and, I hope, will receive it before long; and something should be done, if possible, to study the very extensive civilian settlement to north and east of the fort, to which Jackson's observations as well as Miss Fair's testify: it would be particularly interesting to learn if the field-names that Jackson listed could be plotted on the 25-in. plan, and whether they would match Miss Fair's account of the area which has yielded Roman material. It has been noted above that her discoveries recorded in 1925 seem easiest to explain as coming from a *mansio*, some distance north of the fort. In that position it would presumably be fronting not on the eastward road into Eskdale, but on the road north, past Egremont and ultimately to Carlisle, on which in recent years Mr Bellhouse has been carrying out useful investigations;¹⁷ Ferguson and his contemporaries were confident that the road continued southwards along the coast, leading through Furness and Cartmel towards Lancaster, and from the evidence which they noted there is at least a strong case for further investigation of the probable line: even though it was not a closely controlled military road, it seems reasonably certain that the route was used in Roman times, perhaps for civilian and economic rather than for essential military purposes. Recent study by Colonel Jean Baradez in the Batna region, he tells me, has shown a most interesting series of roads — some, shown on the Peutinger Map, evidently military; others, in the Antonine Itinerary, more readily explicable as the main routes for corn-collection; others readily identifiable as local links with one or other of the two main networks. In the military districts of Roman Britain, most of the roads marked on the Ordnance Survey map belong, of course, to the military category; but

¹⁷ Cf. CW2 lvi 37-61.

we should not ignore the possibility that others were constructed and maintained for other purposes, and such would seem to be the best explanation of the Furness route.

Ferguson's explanation of the size of Roman Raven-glass (taking Jackson's field-name evidence, plus a good slice of historical imagination) was that it was a busy port, the main entrepot for Roman trade with Ireland: but that, as Haverfield remarked with characteristic caution, is an activity for which the positive evidence is hardly sufficient to justify us in following Ferguson. But it looks as if the *vicus* here was in fact a rather more extensive one than every battalion 500 strong (such as *coh. I Morinorum*, the unit assigned to the fort in the *Notitia*¹⁸ could hope to attract to its station; and it may be that the advantages of the site's position were in part responsible, however unimportant the Irish trade may have been. Only excavation can bring positive information; but it may be noted that the Roman kilns at Park House, a few miles up the dale towards Eskdale Green, and an ancient bloomery which in W. G. Collingwood's opinion may well have been Roman,¹⁹ indicate industrial activity in the district — though it was not necessarily under civilian control.

The precise spelling and thence the meaning of the Roman place-name are uncertain, as Professor Kenneth Jackson has pointed out (*JRS* xxxviii 54 ff.): it was either *Glanoventa*, "Clean Town", or *Glannaventa*, "Town on the Bank"; to the modern topographer, the second explanation seems by far the more likely. Whether it be viewed from the sea or from the modern village — from the position of Miss Fair's photograph, reproduced on Plate I, facing p. 24, above — the fort stands on a bluff dominating the harbour formed by the

¹⁸ Apart from the *Notitia*, *coh. I Morinorum* is only attested by the British diplomas for A.D. 103 and 122 (*CIL* XVI 48 and 69), and by an inscription from Salona, the capital of the Roman province of Dalmatia, recording an aedile of that town, Q. Servilius Pacuvianus, who became its prefect.

¹⁹ Cf. *CW*2 xix 168 and xxii 92 f.

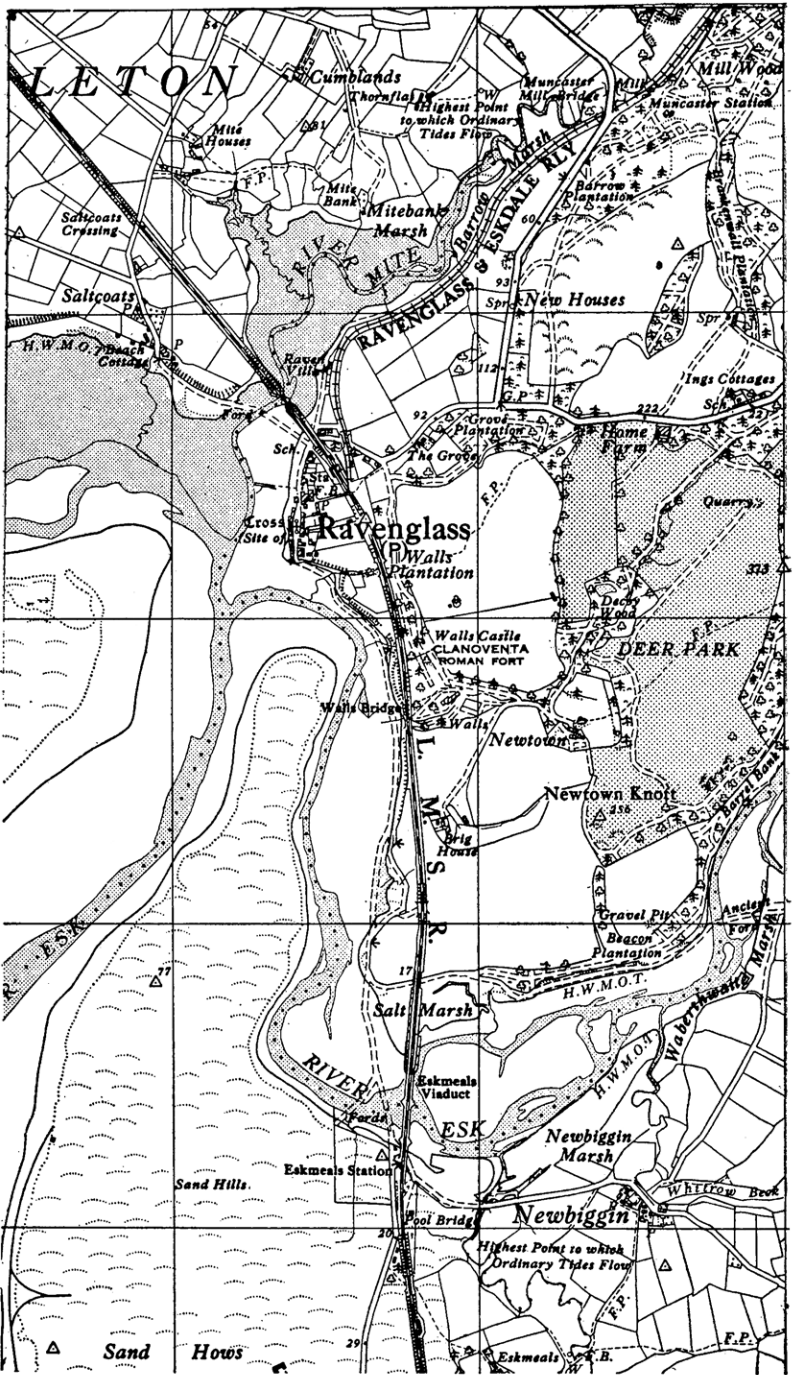


FIG. 3.—The site and its setting: reproduced, by permission, from the 1:25,000 map, sheet, SD 09 (34/09). Crown copyright reserved.

confluence of the rivers Mite, Irt and Esk. But in any case the terminal *-venta*, which we meet with (for example) in the capitals of three British cantons (Belgae, Icenii and Silures), seems to suggest a pre-Roman commercial centre of some kind at Ravenglass; and that may serve to remind us that the prehistory of the district and its native sites, of whatever character and period, will need to be investigated further before we can hope to have a really satisfactory knowledge of its significance in the Roman system. The function of the fort and its garrison was to guard the harbour, to keep the roads open and, if need be, to put down any trouble in the surrounding area; the settlement outside its walls, perhaps expanded from a pre-Roman trading nucleus, may have been of more than merely local importance: but a great deal more investigation is needed, including the study of old field-plans, much fieldwork and some excavation, before we can feel satisfied with our knowledge of Roman Ravenglass.

APPENDIX: *Roman finds in the neighbourhood.*

It will be convenient to refer briefly to two neighbouring sites which are known to have yielded Roman material:

(a) The 6-in. O.S. map (SD 09 SE.) marks "Roman Coins found A.D. 1837" south of the Esk, 300 yds. NW. of Eskmeals house. Mr C. W. Phillips, F.S.A., has kindly looked up the basic entry in the records of the Ordnance Survey, which show that the information was collected by W. H. Gregg in December 1897 — sixty years after the event — his record reading as follows: "Silver and bronze Roman coins found here, about 1837. The bronze coin is in possession of Miss A. Falcon, Eskmeals, and the silver coins are in possession of Mrs Postlethwaite, Hall Waberthwaite. The bronze coin is in excellent preservation, but the silver coins are much defaced. They were found by the late Mr Falcon." It is hoped that publication of the record may lead to the present whereabouts of the coins being ascertained, and their dates established; at present, all that can be said is that they provide posthumous confirmation of one item, at least, in the list given by Hutchinson's contributor under Bootle, cited above (p. 17).

(b) The Park House kiln-site deserves a separate paper — which I hope that it may receive before long; meanwhile, a brief bibliographical note may be of help to students. Its discovery, and the Society's first visit to the site, are recorded in the *Proceedings* of 25 September 1884 (CW1 viii 67); in 1923 Miss Fair recorded the discovery at Hardknott of "coarse pottery of the 2nd century, some of local manufacture" (JRS xii 245), and at the Society's spring meeting in April 1924 R. G. Collingwood "exhibited pottery of the Trajanic period found by Miss M. C. Fair at the Roman 'tilery', Muncaster, which seems by this find to have been also a factory of potters' wares" (CW2 xxiv 366): it should be noted that the dating suggested, matching Collingwood's contemporary ideas about the date of Hardknott Castle's occupation, is by no means certain — but the pottery is not at present identifiable. References to the range of types of pottery and "bricks, floor tesserae, tegulae scored to hold plaster, box-flue tiles and heavy floor-tiles, all as made at Park House", in Miss Fair's report of April 1925 on finds made at Ravenglass (CW2 xxv 374 f.), show that she must have been able to examine a considerable range of material from the kiln-site. In 1946 she contributed a note of a new discovery there to the *Journal of Roman Studies*: "three of these kilns forming a plant planned like a shamrock with stokehole and flue in the stalk. They were fully loaded with box-tiles, roof- and floor-tiles, and fire bricks, and had been deserted after being partly fired."²⁰

Finally, in 1949 Miss Fair contributed a note, CW2 xlvi 219, giving an exact map-reference (131986), recording the examination of what she took to have been "a potters' workshed or perhaps the supervisor's house", yielding "sherds dried and hardened but not kiln-fired." A year or two ago yet another kiln was discovered by chance, close by; Mr Bellhouse kindly paid a visit to Eskdale to examine it, and I hope that, before long, he may be able to organise a detailed study of the site, in conjunction with members of the active Seascale Group.

²⁰ JRS xxxvii 169.