

ART. V.—*A Note on the Second Cohort of Tungrians.*  
By ERIC BIRLEY.

*Read at Carlisle on 19th June, 1934.*

IN *Transactions*, N.S. xxxi, 147 I suggested the possibility that in the third century Castlesteads may have been occupied by a portion only of the second cohort of Tungrians, under the command of the *decurio princeps*, since that officer appears in active charge of the regiment on three inscriptions of the period,\* and the recorded size of the fort was too small for it to have accommodated a full milliary cohort; the remainder of the cohort, it may be added, with the prefect† himself, was presumably stationed in another fort elsewhere in the district. It seems worth while to draw attention to the existence of evidence for the division of this very cohort in the second century.

Unlike those from legions, which are increasingly common as the second and third centuries progress, vexillations of auxiliary regiments are comparatively seldom recorded. Where they occur singly, they seem normally to represent working-parties on duty not far distant from the headquarters of their regiment; while in time of war a group of detachments from all or many of the regiments of one or more provinces might be combined in a single force for service in their own province (as Arrian brigaded together the mounted men from

\* C 879, 880, 882.

† It will be remembered that *coh. I* and *II Tungrorum* were commanded, unusually for *cohortes milliariae*, by prefects; on one of the Castlesteads altars (C 879) the commander of the regiment is styled *praef(ectus) Tung(rorum)*. Unfortunately, no extant *cursus honorum* includes the command of either regiment, so that we cannot tell whether their commanders were of higher rank (as one would naturally suppose) than the prefects of quingenary cohorts.

several *cohortes equitatae* of the Cappadocian command) or on an expedition elsewhere.\* In neither case do the vexillations seem to have been very large; the working-parties are commanded at times by centurions, but as often by lower officers such as the *custos armorum* on the altar from Hale in our own district;† and in the brigaded detachment the names of the individual regiments are seldom mentioned, while in the case of the *vexillatio equitum Illyricorum* a force of this type counted as a single *ala*.‡ But there is one instance of a larger vexillation, from a single regiment, serving outside its own province; and that is a vexillation of the second cohort of Tungrians.

In the diploma issued in A.D. 147 to the army of Raetia (it is a mere fragment, found at Eining, and first adequately published in Vollmer's valuable *Inscriptiones Baivarum Romanae*, no. 513), line 4 reads: ]GROR OO VEXI[ , which must be restored [*Tun*]gror(um *milliariae*) *vexi*[*llatio*—there is no other regimental name ending with these letters—and since in line 3 *coh. II Raetorum* has been mentioned, this regiment also must be *coh. II*.§ In 147, therefore, a vexillation of the second cohort of Tungrians was serving in Raetia, and had some men ready for discharge from its ranks on or after the completion of their term of twenty-five years; a comparison of the Raetian diplomata for 153 (in which the list of regiments is incomplete, but fourteen cohorts were specified) and c. 157 (in which there are only thirteen cohorts) suggests that the detachment was equivalent in strength and standing to a normal quingenary cohort, was still in

\* Cf. AA<sup>4</sup> IX 207-8.

† EE VII 968.

‡ Cf. the Lower Dacian diploma for 129, and Cheesman, *Auxilia*, p. 157.

§ Since the regiments are normally grouped by numbers in the diplomata, all those with the number I coming first, then those numbered II; though in the later diplomata space is often saved by grouping together differently numbered cohorts with the same name.

Raetia in 153, and within a few years thereafter had left the province, presumably to return to Britain.\*

The fact that such a vexillation could be sent oversea, within six or seven years of the re-conquest of Scotland by Lollius Urbicus, suggests that conditions in Britain must by then have become comparatively peaceful; a few years later, however, troubles of some sort broke out, and in A.D. 158 (in the governorship of Iulius Verus) we find the cohort once more at full strength, rebuilding or founding the milliary fort at Birrens.† The return of this vexillation to its parent regiment, no less than the draft sent from the legions of the Rhine that has left a record of its arrival in the slab found in the Tyne and now in the Black Gate museum,‡ deserves to be borne in mind as evidence for reinforcement of the army of Britain during that period of disturbance.

One further point requires notice. The inscriptions left by the cohort at Birrens include three set up by groups of its members. Of these, two are to outlandish goddesses, Viradecthis and Ricagambeda, and the dedicators are described as the *pagi Condrustis* and *Vellaus*;§ that is to say, men recruited in two of the *pagi* that normally formed sub-divisions of the tribal *civitas*||—apparently from Belgic Gaul or Lower Germany, though the precise whereabouts of these particular *pagi* are not certainly known. Here we have normal recruiting represented; there were close connections between the army of Britain and Lower Germany, as the frequent promotion of

\* Cf. E. Stein, *Die kaiserlichen Beamten und Truppenkörper im römischen Deutschland*, pp. 220-1, 284-5.

† EE IX 1230. It has been usual to ascribe this inscription to rebuilding, but a plausible case could be made out for supposing that it records the original erection of the fort. There is at least no evidence as yet that Birrens was occupied before 158; but further excavations are badly needed to supplement the results obtained by the pioneers of 1895.

‡ EE IX 1163.

§ C 1073, 1072.

|| Cf. C. E. Stevens in AA<sup>4</sup> XI 138-145.

governors from that province to the British command to some extent bears witness. But the third of the altars from Birrens was dedicated to the customary Roman pair, Mars and Victory, by *cives Raeti*,\* who are the only representatives of their province that we have found serving in a regiment of the British garrison.† We have

\* C 1068.

† But some regiments originally raised in Raetia were stationed in Britain:—

(1) *Raeti gaesati*: from Hannibal's time onwards good spearmen had been obtainable from Raetia, and in A.D. 69 the Raetian *iuventus* proved a useful auxiliary arm (cf. Tacitus, *Histories* I, 68) in the attack on the Helvetii. In the early empire, the Raetian levies seem to have been used only for local service, but in the second century they were drafted, like other local levies, into other provinces, such as Mauretania (ILS 5795). In Britain there are the following records of them:

(a) *Greatchesters* (EE IX, 1191) - VEXS G RETO QVORVM CVRAM AGIT TABELLIVS VICTOR 7 (undated).

(b) *Risingham* (C 1002) - RAETI GAESATI occur with *coh. I Vangionum* and *exploratores* (under Caracalla), while on two other Risingham inscriptions (C 987, 988) a VEXIL G R occurs; in the first case Q C A AEMIL AEMILIANVS TRIB COH I VANG, in the second Q C A IVL VICTOR TRIB COH I VANGIONVM.

(c) *Jedburgh* (EE VII 1092) - VE[XI]LLATIO RETORVM GAESA Q C A IVL SEVER TRIB (undated).

It will be noted that in each case an officer-in-charge is recorded, not a commander (for a regular commander the normal form is CVI PRAEST); we must reckon with the possibility that these bodies of *gaesati* served under their own officers on foreign service as they must have done in Raetia, but were under the general supervision of the nearest cohort-commander.

(2) A *vexil(latio) Raetor(um) et Noricor(um)* on an inscription from Manchester (C 212) presumably falls into the same category as the *Raeti gaesati*; the Norican *iuventus*, too, played its part in the events of A.D. 69 (*Histories* III 5), but there appears to be no other instance of Noricans in a unit of this class; the province was more thoroughly Romanized than Raetia, and provided the legions with many recruits, such as the *cives Norici* who with their Italian comrades in the sixth legion dedicated an altar to Mercury at Castlecary on the Scottish Wall (C 1095).

(3) There were also at least three cohorts of Raetians stationed in Britain:

(a) *coh. V Raetorum* occurs in the British diploma for A.D. 122. Subsequently it seems to have been transferred to the East, and in the *Notitia Dignitatum* it appears, converted into an *ala*, in the army of Egypt. It has left no records in Britain, and apart from the diploma it is only known from CIL VIII 8932=ILS 1400, which gives the *cursus honorum* of a man who commanded the cohort some years before Hadrian's Jewish war.

(b) *coh. VI Raetorum* was in Upper Germany in the first century (E. Stein, *op. cit.*, p. 208); like *coh. II Tungrorum*, it does not occur in any of the British diplomas, but its presence in Britain is attested by a lead seal from Brough-under-Stainmore (C 1269, 10 and *Transactions*, n.s. xxxi, p. 81 no. 4), and it is possible that in C 731, from Greatchesters, the title of the dedicating regiment

seen that the vexillation of *coh. II Tungrorum* had men discharged, during its term of duty in Raetia, in 147 and perhaps in 153 as well; that must have been the occasion for drafting Raetians into a cohort whose permanent quarters were so far removed from that recruiting-ground.

should be restored [COH V] I RAETORV [M]: the inscription dates from the joint principate of Marcus and Verus. It is uncertain whether this cohort is the same as the *coh. VI Valeria Raetorum* shown in the army of Raetia in the *Notitia*; Stein (*op. cit.*, p. 208) suggests that the latter regiment was raised by Diocletian.

(c) *Coh. VIII Raetorum* appears in the Pannonian diplomas for 80, 84 and 85; in the Dacian diploma for 110 it has the additional title *c(ivium) R(omanorum)*. Two lead seals from Brough, C 1269, 19 and 18, show that it was subsequently transferred to Britain: *cf.* AA<sup>4</sup> XII 199.