

ART. II. – *Unpublished Excavations on the Line of the Roman Wall in Hadrian's Camp, Carlisle.* By IAN CARUANA and COL. P. F. FANE GLADWIN.

### **Introduction**

(NY/4158). Hadrian's Wall runs through Hadrian's Camp and Milecastle 64 (Drawdykes) has been found in its grounds about two miles east of Carlisle. This article was written by the first named author with the full co-operation of Col. Fane Gladwin who conducted the excavations of 1961/2. Copies of all the records of the excavation are in Carlisle Museum and Art Gallery.

At two periods excavations have taken place in the camp. In 1941 part of the Wall and ditch were exposed. No records have survived except a letter describing the excavation. In 1961 a stretch of the Wall further east was opened up. A typescript report built around a series of photographs was made at the time. Copies exist in the Dept. of the Environment and in Carlisle Museum. The following year the milecastle was found. No report was written but annotated photographs and field notes are extant.

### **The Site (FIG. 1)**

The area enclosed by the camp straddled Brunstock Beck which runs from north to south meeting the River Eden at Rickerby. Although the countryside is fairly flat the Wall follows a line which takes advantage of some low eminences, and on one just west of the camp the Wall makes a change of direction. Mr Robert Hogg recorded Milecastle 64 114 yards (104.25 m) west of Brunstock Beck, measuring from the outside face of its east wall. The stream was canalised when the M6 was made but the present channel in the camp appears to be the same as the one shown on pre-motorway maps and the location of the Milecastle is based on this assumption.

### **The Excavations: 1. The Wall and Ditch**

The plans in this report are reconstructions based on rough sketches and whatever measurements are available. Wherever possible the dimensions are quoted in the text. These limitations must be noted when using the figures. F. G. Simpson who observed the excavations by the military in 1941 wrote: "The stones proved to be the footing flag course of the Wall and the remains of core above it. Working a few feet east quickly disclosed the first course of masonry facing in position on *both* faces. This find greatly pleased Col. S(trover) and Major L(oade)-Mousley). They next tested the ditch (hereabouts of large size, and found bottom at 13 ft. and 1 ft. contractor's levelling)."

"The next objective was, of course, the nearest turret. The original trench was not far from a position measured from Tarraby farmhouse, the traditional position of the next milecastle (though I have found no remains there at my first try 6 or 7 years ago). That search is proceeding. A fortnight ago a very significant bit of Samian, from a *small* 27, appeared (while I was present fortunately)." (Letter to J. Charlton in DOE file 18966/39. 7 August 1941).

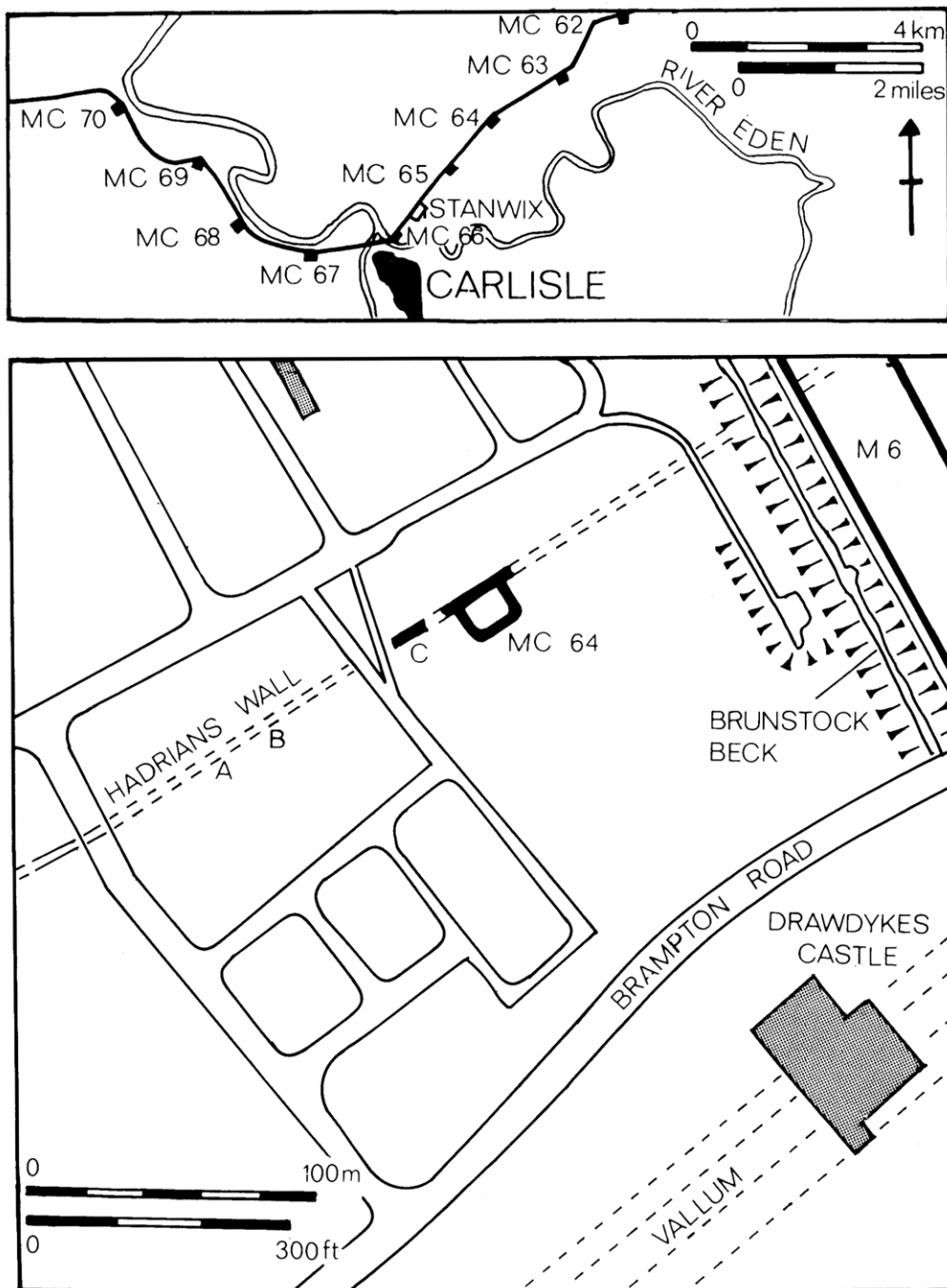


FIG. 1. - Location plan for excavations in Hadrian's Camp, Carlisle.

No further discoveries are recorded in Simpson's correspondence. I have not been able to trace the fate of the exposed length of Wall or any finds. The position of the trench is not precisely recorded, but it can be pinpointed approximately from the indications given by Simpson. He expected a turret (T64a) to be found, 1080 yards east of Tarraby farmhouse (point B on FIG. 1). The trench may, therefore, have been in the vicinity of point A. Recent work has shown that MC65 is much further to the west of Tarraby farmhouse than Simpson thought. (*Britannia* ix, 35). In this position it is most unlikely that a turret was found in 1941, the trench being between MC64 and T64a.

In 1961 Col. Fane Gladwin began work on a stretch of the curtain to the west of MC64. Again, precise indication of the position of the excavation is lacking. Several details combine to fix it at point C on FIG. 1. The milestone from the site was found 25 yards west of the west wall of the milecastle. The culvert which was the focus of the excavation was recorded as being 19 yards west of the milecastle. This is confirmed by the position of trees and paths inside the camp which appear on photographs of the excavation.

The typescript report on the curtain wall excavation concludes with the statement that the Stone Wall foundations were built over remains of the Turf Wall. Robert Hogg is said to have identified the turf at the time.

At a depth of about 9 in. (0.25 m) (estimated from the photographs) below the modern turf the flagged foundation of the Wall was found over a distance of about 15 ft. (c. 5.00 m). The core of mortared rubble was bounded by one course of flagstones. Part of the first masonry course of red sandstone also survived, offset from the flagging on both faces. A culvert passed through the Wall and its foundation 19 yards (c. 17.50 m) west of the west wall of the milecastle. The channel, bounded by at least two courses of good facing stones, was 11 inches (0.29 m) wide and 1 ft. 6 ins. (0.45 m) deep. The northern 3 feet (c. 1.00 m) had a paved bottom and the rest was based on puddled clay. At the south end the culvert seemed to be recessed about 1 ft. 8 ins. (0.50 m) into the Wall, but it is possible that the first pair of stones had been robbed. The corner stones on the south were of "hard yellow stone of fine grain". The implication seems to be that a different type of stone was used for this position, which argues against the robbing of those stones that might have brought the entrance to the culvert flush with the south face of the Wall. Equally the stones in the Wall either side of the culvert entrance were unrobbed, which also points to the recess being intentional. East of the culvert on the north side of the Wall the stones seem to have been of rather crude workmanship. When found the culvert was filled entirely with silt which contained "six fragments of glass believed to be Roman" and two nails.

North of the culvert, blocking its outlet, was what the report called a buttress, a mass of carefully laid and mortared facing stones 4½ ft. (1.50 m) (E-W) by 5½ ft. (1.80 m) (N-S). The "buttress" should be regarded as almost certainly post-Roman.

Immediately south of the Wall was an area "of pebbles rammed into a bottoming of larger stones". These occurred at a depth of 11 ins. (0.29 m) below the modern surface and spread at least 30 ft. (9.00 m) south of the Wall, and were thought to be part of a road, possibly medieval.

## 2. Milecastle 64 (Drawdykes) (FIG. 2)

In 1962 the milecastle was found 114 yards west of Brunstock Beck. Its overall internal dimensions were approximately 48 ft.-50 ft. (N-S) by 58½ ft. (E-W). The walls were extensively robbed. As only rubble survived, measurement was difficult. Test trenches

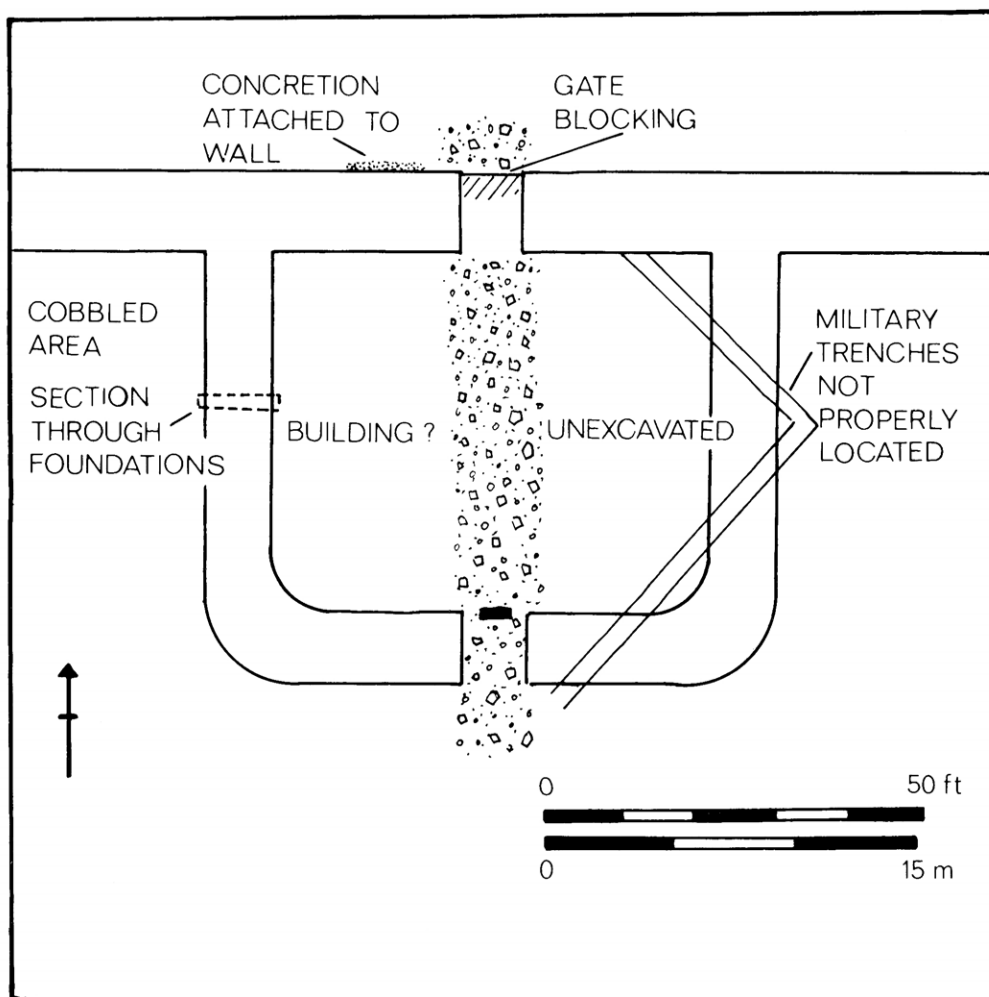


FIG. 2. – Plan of Milecastle 64 (Drawdykes).

found rubble remains  $8\frac{1}{2}$  ft. wide, which seem to have been the true foundations. It is possible that the stone spread over  $9\frac{1}{2}$  ft. width could, in fact, have been part of robber trenches for the walls.

The north wall produced some interesting constructional details. On the north face the first course of faced stone was intact and showed that the north gate had at some stage been blocked. Below the facing stones was a flagged course, with a slight camber, extending across the width of the wall. The flags were generally  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ins. (0.06 m) thick but those on the north edge were  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ins. to 4 ins. (0.09 m) thick. The layout of the gate was not established. However, at the point where the respond foundations for the north arch of the gate should have appeared, the flagstones were of double length. Only one occurred on the east side but there were two side by side on the west. The double length flagstones may have been designed to support the arch of a portal 9 ft. 10 ins. (3.00 m) wide. There is no confirmation of this reconstruction of the gateway in the provision of larger flagging at the back of the

gateway. Across the passageway was a series of six inferior facing stones resting on a deposit of mortared rubble which brought them up to the height of the original first course of facing stones in the curtain wall.

One feature was noticed on all except the double flags. This was a line 6 ins. to 8 ins. from the outer face of each wall. It was found even under the blocking stones in the gate. The face of the wall actually lay *outside* this line. A similar line has been found elsewhere in the western sector of Hadrian's Wall and interpreted as either the mark of the front of the wall or as a setting-out line (CW2 lii, 13, 19; xxx 19). Col. Fane Gladwin thinks that the crack was due to differential settling of the foundations under the weight of the walls.

Running through the centre of the milecastle from north to south was a cobble road 16 ft. (5.00 m) wide. Passing through the south gate it narrowed to 9 ft. Roughly in the centre, in line with the north face of the south wall, was a series of low stone blocks forming a sort of threshold. No information is recorded, if any survived, of the structure of the gate.

No certain remains of internal buildings were discovered. The eastern half of the milecastle was not opened up (except for the exterior wall foundations). In the western half an examination of the rubble spread did not produce any more than the most tenuous traces of a building foundation.

Outside the west side of the milecastle was a cobbled area which was considered to be a possible picketing area for horses, partly on the basis of a large iron spike found there. This cobbling is presumably related to the cobbled road found south of the 1961 excavation (p. 19).

On the north face of the north wall of the milecastle, just to the west of its central axis, were traces of mortar adhering to the facing stones. Col. Fane Gladwin's tentative explanation that this was the position of a late added stairway seems unlikely, but no explanation can be offered for a structure at this point. It was presumably post-Roman.

## Conclusion

The milecastle is thus short axis while MC 65 (Tarraby) is probably long axis. The change occurs at the expected point in the provisional scheme for legionary working on the Turf Wall (Breeze & Dobson 1976 75). No evidence survives about the length of occupation in the milecastle and no attempt was ever made to date the conversion from turf to stone. Problems obviously remain with respect to the form of the gates and more work needs to be done to establish their exact structure.

## The Finds

There is no trace of the pottery and glass from the excavations. A photograph exists showing the finds on display in the library of Hadrian's Camp but no detail can be established from it. One feature which may be significant is the fairly large amount of tile found in 1961-62. This included possible imbrices and box tiles.

## Acknowledgements

My debts in the preparation of this article are numerous. I must single out for particular thanks Dennis Perriam who suggested the need for this report, Alan Strogon for drawing the plans, Ian Stuart who made DOE files available to me for consultation, Robert Hogg who discussed various aspects of the excavations, and Colin Richardson who searched the

Carlisle Museum collections for missing finds on my behalf. My thanks are also due to Prof. E. B. Birley, Miss Charlesworth, Mr John Charlton, Col. S. B. Rogers of H.Q. Cumbria Garrison, Capt. D. B. Richards of the Army Apprentices College, Arborfield, Lt. Col. J. Macleod of the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, Dr G. Simpson, Major D. W. Williams and D. R. Wilson who have patiently helped in my search for information on the site. Finally, my biggest debt is to Col. Fane Gladwin who conducted the excavations and who has made available all his notes on the work and discussed with me on various occasions the interpretation of the results.