

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES ON THE ROMAN FORCES IN BRITAIN.

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It will be remembered that in 1872 I compiled a list of such of the Roman Forces as were known to have served in Britain during the period of its occupation by that people. This list was brought before the Society April 21st, 1873, and printed in the "Transactions at Evening Meetings" for that year.* Since then, fresh discoveries have given us much more information as to the various corps named in the list; and the object of these notes is to make the same public, in a compact form, instead of their having to be searched for, through a number of *Transactions* of various societies, and other archæological works. Particulars as to six other bodies of troops not recorded in the former list are also embraced in the present summary.

The chief sources of this information are in the first place my discovery of the late Mr. S. Lysons's drawing of the *Tabula Honestae Missionis* (or rather fragment of it) found at Walcot, near Bath, in 1815. I have treated of it in the *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxiii. pp. 250, 1, and vol. xxxiv. p. 318. Within the last year, however, I am glad to say, that through the handwriting attached to another rubbing of it—which Mr. Roach Smith favoured me with—I have been able to re-discover the fragment itself, which is now in the Huntingdon museum—or, to speak more correctly, the museum of the Literary and Philosophical Society of that town. But how many regiments were named in this we shall never know—the list is in the missing part; the name of the only corps we can gather from it is in the letters PROCULEIAN CVIP. which, as pointed out in the papers named, read (*Alae*) *Proculeian*(æ) *Cui P(ræ)est*), showing that it was in favour of a soldier of the *Ala Proculeiana* the special copy of the *tabula* was engraved. This cavalry regiment was new to the Britanno-Roman army list; which fact brings me to the second source from which the present paper is compiled. In June 1879, whilst excavating the southern gateway of the station at *Cilurnum* (Chesters) on the Roman Wall, Mr. John Clayton, the owner of the property,

* Pp. 126, 144.

came upon portions of two other *Tabulae Honestae Missionis*. Of one nothing remained but the name and titles of Antoninus Pius—of the other the greater portion remained. It was found also to be of Antoninus Pius, and of the date A.D. 146—being in favour of three *alae* and eleven cohorts. The names of all these were preserved with the exception of one of the *alae*. Of the other two *alae* one bore the title ALA. AVG. GALL. PROCVL. and was beyond doubt the same corps named in the Walcot fragment.

Various other minor discoveries have contributed towards the completion of the subjoined list, in which, as before, I treat first of the legions and afterwards of their auxiliaries.

Legio Secunda Augusta. (LEG. II. AVG.)

A tombstone, and also a tile, on which the name of this legion occurs, have been found at Usk (the Roman *Burrium*), Monmouthshire.

Legio Sexta Victrix Pia Fidelis. (LEG. VI. VIC. P. F.)

An altar, dedicated to *Neptune*, has been found in the bed of the river Tyne at Newcastle, erected by this legion. As altars to this deity were chiefly erected at the commencement or termination of a sea-voyage, it appears probable, from the discovery of this inscription, that the legion landed at the mouth of the Tyne, and erected this altar as a thank-offering for their safe arrival. This seems confirmed by the discovery of the shield of a soldier of the 8th Legion (a vexillation of which accompanied the 6th) at Tynemouth Bar, where he had probably been drowned in landing. The discovery makes it almost a certainty also that the Emperor Hadrian, who brought over these troops, landed at the same place. These views, which I first published in the *Newcastle Daily Journal*, July 31, 1875, have since been adopted by the author of the review of the *Lapidarium Septentrionale* in vol. xxxii. of the *Archæological Journal*.

An inscription by this legion has also been found in the ancient church at Escomb, co. Durham, and another at Northallerton, Yorkshire.

Legio Vicesima Valeria Victrix. (LEG. XX. V. V.)

A tile of this legion, found at Chester a few years ago, is stamped

LEG. XX. V. V. Æ.

The letters attached to the *formula*, which are evidently DE, probably stand for *Devensis*.

AUXILIARY TROOPS.

Ala I. Asturum.—With the prefix of *Hispanorum* the name of this *ala* (given in my list) has occurred again in the *Tabula* found at *Cilurnum*.

Cohors I. Asturum.—Though, as stated in my list, the *Notitia* is probably in error in placing this cohort at *Aesica*, yet it was, I think, in Britain, from an inscription found in Algeria (*Rénier, Inscriptions de l'Algérie*, No. 670), in which *Publius Furius Rusticus* is stated to have been *Praefectus* of the COH. P. ASTV(rum), PROV(inciae), BRITT(anniae), INFER(ioris). The letter P is evidently placed for *Primae*. The two T's in *Britanniae* are frequent in Roman inscriptions. This inscription is interesting in corroborating the fact of two divisions of our island existing, called *Britannia Superior* and *Britannia Inferior*. Two inscriptions naming the former have been found at Greta Bridge (Yorkshire), but of the latter the Algerian inscription is the only extant memorial.

Cohors II. Asturum.—In addition to what I have previously stated as to the traces of this cohort, I have recently brought to light its name as existing on an inscription found at the Roman station at Llanio, in Cardiganshire, and also on another in the neighbouring church of Llanddewi Brevi.

Cohors I. Br.—On a fragment of a tile, found at Ebchester (*Vindomora*), the letters HIBR. occur; evidently, when the tile was entire, being COH. I. BR. It is uncertain to what cohort these letters apply. Dr. Hübner suggests *Brittonum*. This corps was accidentally omitted from my original list.

Cohors III. Bracarum Augustanorum.—This cohort occurs again in the newly discovered *Cilurnum tabula*, but simply as COH. III. BRAC.

Cohors IIII. Br.—*Antoniniana*, named on an inscription found at Ebchester. By a typographical error, *Antoniana* was given as the title of this corps in my original paper, instead of *Antoniniana*.

Cohors I. Celtiberorum.—This cohort occurs also in the *Cilurnum tabula*. At the Roman station at Caersws (Montgomeryshire) some tiles occur, inscribed C. I. C. F., which, I think, may possibly refer to this cohort; the F., of course, being the abbreviation of *Fecit*.

Cohors Aelia Classica.—When writing my previous article, this cohort was known only from its occurring in the *Notitia*. Since then, its name has occurred in the newly found *tabula* from *Cilurnum*.

Ala Classiana, C. R.—I wrongly gave this in my list as a *cohort* instead of an *ala*. It is a singular circumstance that it should occur by that title. The old joke as to “horse marines” is, in this case, an accomplished fact.

Numerus Con.—At Binchester (*Vinovium*) a number of tiles, bearing the stamp N. CON., have been found. It is uncertain as to what the expansion should be. From damaged examples, Dr. Bruce read the inscription on these tiles as COH. VI. LINGON, under which head I placed them in my original list. Recent discoveries, however, have enabled us to give the true reading.

Equites Crispianorum.—In addition to what I have previously said as to this corps, I must state that Horsley considers it to have taken its name from *Crispiana*, a town in Pannonia.

Cohors I. Cugernorum.—Another trace of this cohort has lately been found at Carrawburgh (*Procolitia*), where it occurs upon an altar, as COH. I. CVBERNORVM.

Cohors I. Aelia Dacorum.—At the time of the compilation of my paper this corps was known only by inscriptions and the *Notitia*. It now occurs in the *tabula* found at *Cilurnum*.

Cohors I. Delmatarum.—Since my list was published, an altar (base only), dedicated by a præfect of this corps, has been found at Cross Canonby, Cumberland.

Numerus Fortensium.—In addition to previous remarks on this corps, I have to state that Pancirollus considers it to have derived its name from *Fortia*, a town of Asiatic Sarmatia.

Ala Augusta Gallorum Proculeiana.—This *ala* is an addition to the list of forces known to have been in Britain. At first our information was limited to the name of *Ala Proculeiana* from the fragment of the Walcot *tabula*. Subsequently, on the discovery of the *tabula* at *Cilurnum*, we had a little further information, the nationality and prefix of *Augusta* being given to it—(ALA. AVG. GALL. PROCVL.). Beyond what occurs in these *tabulae* nothing whatever is known concerning it. It adds another *Ala Augusta* to those previously known. Which of them is the one that garrisoned Old Carlisle?

Cohors II. Gallorum.—To the previous account of this cohort has

to be added its appearance in the *Cilurnum tabula*; the first in which it occurs.

Cohors IIII. Gallorum.—During the excavations made in 1877 at the great station at Templeborough, near Rotherham, Yorkshire, a number of tiles bearing the stamp of this cohort, c. IIII. G. were found, showing that it at one time garrisoned the station if it did not erect it. It is also named in the *tabula* found at *Cilurnum*, the first one in which its name occurs.

Cohors V. Gallorum.—During excavations made at the station at South Shields, in 1875-6, a number of tiles bearing the stamp coh. v. G. were found. This cohort, no doubt, formed the garrison of the station for a considerable period.

Cohors Germanorum.—An altar to the goddess *Coventina*, dedicated by an *optio* (or lieutenant), CH. GERMAN, was among the contents of the well sacred to that goddess, discovered in 1876 at Carrawburgh (*Procolitia*), on the Wall of Hadrian.

Ala Hispanorum Vettonum.—To the previous memorials of this corps there have to be added a tombstone of one of its soldiers found at Battle, near the large Roman station called the Gaer, in the vicinity of Brecon, and an altar and tablet found at Binchester (*Vinovium*). No dates can be gathered from these inscriptions.

Cohors I. Hispanorum.—The occurrence of this corps in the *tabula* found at *Cilurnum* has to be added to the other memorials of its presence in Britain.

Cohors X. Hispanorum.—In addition to what I have previously stated as to this cohort, it is to be noted that Mommsen, in his *Inscr. Neap.* No. 5024, records that P. Septimius Paterculus, who was Praefect of the 1st cohort of the Pannonians in Britain, was Praefect of the 10th cohort of the Spaniards when in Cappadocia.

Cohors IIII. Lingonum.—The addition of the occurrence of its name in the *tabula* found at *Cilurnum* has to be made.

Cohors VI. Lingonum.—The naming of this corps in my original list was an error (see *ante*, *Numerus Con.*)

Cohors II. Nerviorum.—An inscription has recently been found at *Procolitia* (Carrawburgh), erected by members of this cohort. No date can be gathered from it, however. This, and the occurrence of its name in the *tabula* found at *Cilurnum*, have to be added to my previous remarks upon the corps.

Cohors VI. Nerviorum.—To the previous traces of its presence,

which I recorded, has to be added the occurrence of its name in the *Cilurnum tabula*.

Numerus Pacensium.—To my previous remarks upon this corps I have to add that Pancirollus states it derived its name from a town in Lusitania.

Ala Picentiana.—In my original list this corps was named *Ala Picentina*.

Ala 1. qv. . . rv.—which in my original paper I suggested might be an *ala* of the *Quadi*. It is certain that both *Quadi* and *Marcomanni* were sent to this country in the reign of Marcus Aurelius, some forty years after the date of the Rivington *tabula*, in which the above occurs. Dion Cassius expressly states this. We have thus proof of a contingent of this people serving with the Roman forces, which heightens the probability that my suggestion of *Quadorum* is correct.

Numerus Equitum Stratonicianorum.—This is another addition to the list. The name of the corps I first discovered on an altar found at Brougham in 1874. Dr. Bruce and Professor Hübner have also concurred in the reading.

Cohors I. Fida Vardullorum.—To my previous remarks there has to be added the occurrence of the name of this corps in the *tabula* found at *Cilurnum*.

Numerus Vocontiorum.—A tile has been found in Cannon Street, London, since my list was published, inscribed D. N. VOC. which both Mr. Roach Smith and myself read as *D(ecuria) N(umeri) Voc(ontiorum)*. Dr. Hübner dissents from this reading. It was probably quite distinct from the *Ala Augusta Vocontiorum* mentioned in my list.*

Up to the present time the above appear to be the whole of the additions that can be made to the list, but the discoveries every day occurring will, doubtless, in a few years, necessitate a further supplement.

* It is only right to say that some antiquaries dispute the genuineness of this tile. Mr. John E. Price, F.S.A., informs me that it was probably taken with others from the Roman walls removed when excavating for the railway station in Cannon Street, but that the inscription upon it is a forgery. The letters, he says, have been *cut* on the tile and not impressed on the unbaked clay, as was the Roman practice. He also refers to other examples of the same character preserved in the Museum of the Corporation of London at Guildhall, upon one of which are the letters VNDINIC, and on another PVICNV.