

Auxiliary units from Moesia Superior and Moesia Inferior
at the conquest of Dacia

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- abstract -

The main conclusions that can be drawn after reviewing the present state of knowledge regarding the participation of the auxiliary units from Moesia Superior and Inferior at the Dacian wars are as follows:

It can not be sustained anymore a strong enforcement of Moesia Superior's garrison with the occasion of Trajan's first *expeditio Dacica*, the garrison being established during Domitian's reign, situation similar to that of Moesia Inferior.

Only two cohorts are brought in Moesia Superior from Germania Inferior, both of them being *miliaria* (*I Vindelicorum miliaria c.R.p.f.*; *II Brittonum miliaria c.R.p.f.*).

After the first campaign or may be after the first year of the campaign, it may be observed the necessity of supplementing the effectives, therefore from Germania Inferior were brought *I Hispanorum p.f.* and *I Pannoniorum veterana* cohorts, as well as several cohorts from Pannonia (*I Brittonum milliaria*, *I Britannica milliaria c.R.*, *VIII Raetorum*); an irregular formation from Britannia (*pedites singulares Britannici*); and probably from Bithynia *cohors IIII Cypria c.R.* and *cohors IV Campestris*; situation similar to that from Moesia Inferior where two *milliariae* cohorts are brought (*I et II Augustae Nervianae Pacenses milliariae Brittonum*).

It is difficult to establish the exact moment of the intervention of the auxiliary units from Moesia Inferior at the north of the Danube; nevertheless, all the actions of military power enforcement of this province seem to have taken place during or after 101 (bringing the above mentioned cohorts, the transfer of *XI Claudia p.f.* legion from *Vindonissa*; bringing of *I Minervia* legion from *Bonna*; the enforcement of the so-called Dobrudgean limes).

It may be observed a parallel attempt to enforce the Pannonian limes, destabilized by the participation of several units to the Dacian expeditions, by bringing *I Thracum c.R. f.* and *III Lusitanorum c.R. p.f.* cohorts from Germania Inferior after 101.

Except for the *I civium Romanorum*, *I Augusta Ituraeorum*, *I Britannica c.R.*, *I Pannoniorum?* alae and *I Augusta Ituraeorum sagittariorum*, *I Ituraeorum sagittariorum*, *II Gallorum Pannonica*, *V Lingonum* cohorts, all the other units which appear in the diplomas of the new province had been dislodged from the army of Moesia Superior.

All the auxiliary units of Dacia Inferior province, except for *vexillatio equitum Illyricorum*, come from Moesia Inferior.

The extremely great number of units which take part at *expeditio Parthica* is surprisingly, this being possible due to the new realities on the Danube frontier. Nevertheless, their including on the list of units from Moesia Superior determine us to suppose that not all of the effectives took part at the expedition, but have probably formed vexillations, as we have mentioned the vexillation put under the command of the prefect of *I Cilicum* cohort or as indicates a well-known inscription from Rome: *L. Paconius Proculus*, who, as a tribune of *XI Claudia* legion, became *praefectus vexillationis equitum Moesiae inferioris et Daciae euntium in expeditionem Parthicam* (CIL VI 32 933 = ILS 2723 = IDRE I 21).

An interesting fact is represented by the deployment of several cohorts from Moesia Superior, participating at the Parthic expedition (*I Cilicum* – first in Thracia – and *I Thracum Syriaca*), on the territory of Moesia Inferior, starting with Hadrian's reign. The deployment of ala *Gallorum Flavianna* from Moesia Inferior to Moesia Superior represents a consequence of ala *II Pannoniorum* transfer to Dacia and the remaining of ala *Praetoria singularium* on the territory of Syria, after Trajan's Parthic expedition.

Quotable are the evidences of the cohorts unknown up to the present, namely the enigmatic *III AVG NERV*, possibly a *III Augusta Nerviana Pacensis milliaria Brittonum* (?) cohort, after the type of the two known up to now, and *cohors II Dacorum*, attested in a diploma dated in 125/ 126, positioned separately of the tropes mentioned as stationing in Moesia Superior.

It is difficult to trace the garrisons of the troops during Trajan's reign, due to the fact that on the basis of the tegular stamps it seems that none of the presented cases can confirm for certain that these belong to an archaeological context datable during the first two decades of the IInd century A.D.

The identification of several tegular materials having the stamp of certain auxiliary units it is not a sufficient argument to stress its implication in the Dacian wars. Therefore, it must be retained as well the simple tegular material transports used, for example, for the construction of the bridge from *Drobeta*. The tegular material marked with the stamps of certain legionary or auxiliary units has a different relevance in interpreting the disalignment of certain troops. This is due to the significance of attesting this kind of artifact in certain sites, as well as to the discovery conditions. The debates regarding their place of production and circulation must be subjected, in each case, to a multitude of possibilities.