

The Composition and Structure of the Roman Army in
Northern Wallachia in A. D. 101-117

Mihail Zahariade, Dan Lichiardopol

- abstract -

The investigations carried out in the hilly region of Wallachia at the Roman forts identified so far, yielded a considerable quantity of epigraphic material consisting exclusively of stamped tiles and bricks. At Drajna de Sus, Târgșor, Mălăiești, Voinești and Pietroasele the discovered epigraphic material belongs to three Lower Moesian legions and an auxiliary regiment: *legio I Italica*, *legio V Macedonica*, *legio XI Claudia* and *cohors I Flavia Commagenorum*.

The mapping of the different stamped tiles and bricks pertaining to the units involved in the analysis indicates a significant concentration of forces at Durostorum, which served as one of the main Lower Moesian basis for the offensive against the Dacian kingdom.

Legio I Italica seems to have released the greatest part of the war effectives, followed by *legio V Macedonica* and *legio XI Claudia*, although the latter was at that time in a process of being garrisoned at *Durostorum*. It is a proof that this legion split in different detachments after its departure from *Vindo-nissa*, in Upper Germany, and was not re-united to its full strength at *Durostorum* until 106.

Each variant of the stamps of the above mentioned units under scrutiny seem to have belonged to a *centuria*. The analysis of a significant number of pieces opens a new perspective in attributing variants of different types to specific legionary or auxiliary small units, an example that could be applied to many other cases.

The stamped material allows even the disentanglement of the complicated issue of the size of the expeditionary force in Wallachia, along the Teleajen valley, during the first and the second Dacian wars, and also raises the problem of how many effectives were added between the two wars. With roughly 80 men for a *centuria* and its comparison with the number of the variants of the stamps, the result goes towards app. 1520 men (without NCOs) assignable to the size of the expeditionary force between 101 and 105 that stationed in the forts in discussion. Following the same pattern of calculation, one can consider that after the end of the Dacian wars, the size of the garrison in northern Wallachia raised to 1840 men.