

Cohors I Pannoniorum Et Delmatarum: Brief Incursion Into The History Of An Ephemeral Auxiliary Unit

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Abstract. *This study focuses on the brief history of a mixed auxiliary unit within the Roman army: cohors I Pannoniorum et Delmatarum. Founded in the late first century AD, it had a short lifespan of around a century, and the prosopography of the soldiers within this unit mentioned only four persons. The cohort disappeared entirely from the sources after the year 197, in the civil war during the reign of Septimius Severus.*

Rezumat. *Acest studiu se va axa pe scurta istorie a unei unități auxiliare mixte a armatei romane: cohors I Pannoniorum et Delmatarum. Constituită la finele secolului I p.Chr., a avut o viață scurtă, de aproximativ un secol, iar prosopografia militarilor din această unitate a surprins doar patru persoane. Cohorta a dispărut definitiv din surse după anul 197, în războiul civil din vremea lui Septimius Severus.*

Keywords: *mixed auxiliary cohort; Pannonians; Dalmatians; mobility; prosopography.*

HISTORY

Cohors I Pannoniorum et Delmatarum (or *Dalmatarum*, as it is featured in the epigraphical sources) has a particular history given that it is a mixed unit comprising both infantry and cavalry and given its double ethnical composition (at least suggested by the name). In this respect, historians have provided two hypotheses: either, at a certain point, two units (or fragments within two units) under the same number but reduced staff merged – *cohors I Pannoniorum*² and *cohors I Delmatarum*³; or a *cohors I Pannoniorum* or a part of it welcomed recruits from among the Dalmatians, thus forming this unit. The Roman army included a multitude of auxiliary troops made of two populations of peregrines, among which the Pannonian units: *ala I Gallorum et Pannoniorum*⁴, *ala II Gallorum et Pannoniorum*⁵, *cohors V Gallorum et Pannoniorum*⁶, or *cohors I Latobiorum et Varcianorum*⁷.

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² For the history of the *I Pannoniorum* infantry units (historians have discovered several under this number and name), see CHEESMAN 1914, 177; HOLDER 1980, 320-321; SPAUL 2000, 333-335; ACRUDOAE 2022, 45-65.

³ *Cohors I Delmatarum* was stationed in the province of Britannia (CHEESMAN 1914, 148, 177; HOLDER 1982, 115; SPAUL 2000, 302-303), and it is attested in over 20 epigraphical sources.

⁴ SPAUL 1994, 82; MATEI-POPESCU 2010, 185; ACRUDOAE 2012, 261-277.

⁵ WAGNER 1938, 39; KRAFT 1951, 27; DAICOVICIU, PROTASE 1961, 66; SPAUL 1994, 82-84.

⁶ HOLDER 1980, 23.

John Spaul argues that this mixed unit was constituted before Hadrian's reign, based on an inscription dated approximately 122-150 AD⁸, which attests to a *Titus Pontius Sabinus – praefectus cohortis I Pannoniorum et Dalmatarum equitatae civium Romanorum*⁹. However, the *cursus honorum* of this equestrian is more peculiar (to be analysed later); he held the position of *praefectus cohortis I Pannoniorum et Dalmatarum* before Trajan's Parthian wars (114-117) when he is mentioned as a *tribunus militum legionis VI Ferratae* and he was decorated by *Optimus princeps* in the aforementioned conflict (*donis donatus expeditione Parthica și hasta pura vexillo corona murali*)¹⁰. The unit is attested in the written sources earlier, i.e., in 95-96, when it is featured in a military diploma (station in Germania Inferior)¹¹. The diploma also notes the epithet *civium Romanorum*¹², which means the granting of Roman citizenship *en masse* for merits on the battlefield or other reasons (not mentioned here). Hence, the formation of the mixed unit occurred in 95-96, but it is impossible to provide a narrower dating.

The next military diplomas note the presence of the cohort in the same province of Germania Inferior: from the year 98 (preserving the epithet *civium Romanorum*)¹³; two sources from 101 AD (also including *civium Romanorum*)¹⁴, three diplomas (or a diploma and a copy) from 127 (without *civium Romanorum*)¹⁵, a diploma from 150 discovered at modern-day County Durham, Britannia (without *civium Romanorum*)¹⁶; two diplomas (or a diploma and a copy) from 152¹⁷, from an uncertain province, but which also mentions it in the army of Germania Inferior; the last source of this type from 158 AD, which features a *praefectus* of the troop – *Numisius*, and an *Ahuconni Leub(asni?) fili* is mentioned as discharged¹⁸. The last diploma shows that the unit was also *equitata* (confirmed by the inscription below, which includes a *Titus Pontius Sabinus*¹⁹), thus a *cohors quingenaria equitata*²⁰, ranking the first in the *militia quarta*²¹. However, the few sources available fail to mention any *eqes* from this auxiliary unit.

⁷ HOLDER 1980, 313; SPAUL 2000, 328; CUFF 2010, 57, 64, 72, 79, 253, 267; ACRUDOAE 2017, 105-124.

⁸ According to other sources, it may date from 131-170 AD. (http://www.edr-edr.it/edr_programmi/res_complex_comune.php?do=book&id_nr=EDR155466&partId=1) [accessed on 03.07.2022], or around 130 (SPAUL 2000, 336).

⁹ CIL X, 5829 = ILS 2726 = IDRE I, 90; HOLDER 1980, 260-261; SPAUL 2000, 336.

¹⁰ CIL X, 5829 = ILS 2726 = IDRE I, 90.

¹¹ RMD V, 336 = AE 2003, 2055 = ZPE 143, 211; <https://edh-www.adw.uni-heidelberg.de/edh/inschrift/HD055719> [accessed on 03.07.2022].

¹² See also MAXFIELD 1981 for this title.

¹³ RMD IV, 216; MATEI-POPESCU, ȚENEA 2006a, 57.

¹⁴ 1. RMM 9 = ZPE 187, 280; 2. ZPE 187, 279 = AE 2013, 2192; MATEI-POPESCU, ȚENEA 2006a, 57.

¹⁵ 1. RMD IV, 239 = IDRE II, 472 = AE 1997, 1314; 2. RMM 24; 3. AE 2010, 1865 (<https://edh-www.adw.uni-heidelberg.de/edh/inschrift/HD055886> [accessed on 03.07.2022]).

¹⁶ ZPE 206, 207.

¹⁷ 1. RMM 35 = RMD V, p. 702 = AE 2006, 77; 2. AE 2004, 1911 = ZPE 148, 262 (<https://edh-www.adw.uni-heidelberg.de/edh/inschrift/HD056056> [accessed on 03.07.2022]).

¹⁸ RMD I, 52 = AE 1968, 400.

¹⁹ CIL X, 5829 = ILS 2726 = IDRE I, 90.

Only two stone inscriptions complete the information related to this cohort. The first is the one mentioned above, dated to the first half of the second century, which features *Titus Pontius Sabinus – praefectus cohortis I Pannoniorum et Dalmatarum equitatae civium Romanorum*²². The last epigraphical source attests both *Tiberius Claudius Pompeianus – (former) praefectus cohortis I Pannoniorum et Dalmatarum* and *tribunus militum legionis I Minerviae*, and the divinity of the unit – *Matribus Pannoniorum et Delmatarum*²³. The votive monument dates from 197 AD, little before the battle between Clodius Albinus and Septimius Severus in the civil war of 193–197. J. Spaul argues that the inscription was set up hoping for military success, while the absence of the unit from the epigraphical sources after this date suggests that shortly after setting up the inscription, the cohort was lured to the side of Clodius Albinus²⁴. Hence, whereas the monument is also dedicated to Septimius Severus (*pro salute domini nostri Imperatoris Luci Septimi Severi Augusti*), while sources and historians posit that Albinus failed to attract to his side the legions on the Rhine, the inscription of 197 was set up at *Lugdunum, Gallia Lugdunensis*²⁵, where Clodius Albinus' army was based and where the battle leading to the victory of Septimius Severus and the demise of Albinus took place²⁶. Consequently, the unit decided to join Clodius Albinus after the erection of the monument; subsequently, it was defeated in the battle and then dissolved, and its remains were included in other auxiliary units.

Cohors I Pannoniorum et Delmatarum was short-lived (it lasted for around a century), unlike most auxiliary troops of a Pannonian origin that had a history of two, three, or even four centuries²⁷. An exception in this respect is represented by another mixed Pannonian auxiliary unit, i.e., *ala II Gallorum et Pannoniorum*, attested in documents only 36 years: 128–164 AD²⁸. I

²⁰ It comprised around 600 soldiers, 480 of whom were infantry members, and 120 were equestrians (four *turmae* of 30 people) (SPEIDEL 1978, 31; COLOMBO 2009, 98).

²¹ DEVIJVER 1992, 67.

²² CIL X, 5829 = ILS 2726 = IDRE I, 90; HOLDER 1980, 260–261; SPAUL 2000, 336.

²³ CIL XIII, 1766 = ILS 4794 = CAG-69-2, p. 467 = AE 1961, 3 = AE 2005, +123; SPAUL 2000, 336.

²⁴ SPAUL 2000, 336.

²⁵ CIL XIII, 1766 = ILS 4794 = CAG-69-2, p. 467 = AE 1961, 3 = AE 2005, +123.

²⁶ SHA, Sev., 11.

²⁷ *Ala I Pannoniorum* (attested during the reign of Tiberius until at least the 2nd half of the third century); *ala I Pannoniorum Tampiana* (1st–3rd centuries); *ala I Pannoniorum Sabiniana* (1st–4th/5th centuries); *ala I Gallorum et Pannoniorum* (2nd–3rd centuries); *ala II Pannniorum* (from the reign of Tiberius to the second half of the 3rd century); *cohors I Pannoniorum* (from the reign of Tiberius to the mid-3rd century); *cohors I Ulpia Pannoniorum* (constituted by Trajan, attested to approximately 280 AD); *cohors I Latobicorum et Varcianorum* (1st century – early 3rd century); *cohors II Varcianorum* (1st century – mid-3rd century); *cohortes I–VIII Breucorum* (1st–3rd century AD).

²⁸ It was probably formed in the context of Trajan's Parthian war (114–117), but the first mentions date from 128: a military diploma from *Napoca, Dacia Porolissensis* (ZPE 170, 214). The last epigraphical sources are represented by several *constitutiones* in Dacia Porolissensis, from 164 (1. RMD I, 64 = AE 1957, 199 = IDR I, 18; 2. CIL XVI, 185 = IDR I, 19 = AE 1937, 113; 3. RMD I, 63 = IDR, 20 = AE 1959, 37; 4. RMD I, 65 = IDR I, 22 = RMD II, 115 = AE 1980, 761; 5. RMD II, 117).

assumed that – given its inclusion in the *exercitus Daciae Porolissensis* – it disappeared in the context of the Marcomannic Wars.

The mobility of this unit was equally reduced; military diplomas attest to it in Germania Inferior (95/96-158) and at *Lugdunum*, Gallia Lugdunensis (197 AD). I did not find the camp occupied by *cohors I Pannoniorum et Delmatarum*, as sources are scarce from this standpoint, too. If we consider the troops within it, one of the *cohors I Pannoniorum*²⁹ was stationed in Germania Inferior in 95-101, as it was mentioned in several military diplomas of the aforementioned province³⁰. After 109 AD when the new province of Dacia emerged³¹, the cohort I Pannoniorum was transferred to Moesia Superior³². *Cohors I Delmatarum* was also stationed in Germania (probably Inferior), from where it was transferred to Britannia during Hadrian's reign³³. Hence, the new unit, *cohors I Pannoniorum et Delmatarum*, may have remained in Germania Inferior instead of the two native units. Some historians have suggested that in the 2nd century, the unit occupied the camp of *Vetera* (modern-day Xanten)³⁴, a camp where several legions resided over time: *V Alaudae* (9-69), *XXI Rapax* (10-46), *XV Primigenia* (46-69), *XXII Primigenia* (70-102), *VI Victrix* (102-122), or *XXX Ulpia Victrix* (122-355)³⁵.

In what concerns the soldiers within this cohort, the few sources available have mentioned only four persons, the prosopography of whom shall be detailed as follows.

PROSOPOGRAPHY

1. **Ahucco**³⁶ *Leub(asni?)*³⁷ *filio – ex pedite cohortis I Pannoniorum et Delmatarum equitatae*, of Celtic³⁸ or Batavian origin³⁹.

RMD I, 52 = AE 1968, 400.

Localisation: *Colonia Ulpia Traiana* (Xanten), Germania Inferior.

Dating: 158 AD⁴⁰

Military diploma

[...]*coh(ortis) I Pannon(iorum) et [Dal(matarum) e(quitatae) c(ui) pr(aeest)] / Numisius [---] ex pediti[bus] / Ahucconi Leub[asni?] f(ilio) [...]*

²⁹ There were two units under this number (see ACRUDOAE 2022, 45-65), not three, as J. Spaul argued (SPAUL 2000, 333-335).

³⁰ RMD V, 336 = AE 2003, 2055 = ZPE 143, 211 (the years 95-96); RMD IV, 216 (98 AD); RMM 9 (the year 101).

³¹ RMD III, 148 = IDRE II, 307 = AE 1987, 854 = AE 1990, 860. This confirms that it took part in Trajan's Dacian Wars (for the units participating in the conflict mentioned above, see MATEI-POPESCU, ȚENȚEA 2006b, 127-140).

³² Confirmed by several military diplomas from this province (see ACRUDOAE 2022, 47).

³³ SPAUL 2000, 303.

³⁴ See the discussion in AE 1968, 400, p. 117 and in ROSELAAR 2016, 154.

³⁵ FARNUM 2005, 19-31.

³⁶ The editors of OPEL I, 60-62 did not discover this name.

³⁷ For the various forms of this name (*Leubas*, *Leubasnius*, *Leubasianus*), see OPEL III, 24.

³⁸ AE 1968, 400 (p. 117).

³⁹ ROSELAAR 2016, 154.

⁴⁰ <https://edh-www.adw.uni-heidelberg.de/edh/inschrift/HD014561> [accessed on 03.07.2022].

Commentaries: The military diploma dated from 158 and found at *Colonia Ulpia Traiana*, Germania Inferior (possibly the camp of this unit) features an *ex pedites cohortis I Pannoniorum et Dalmatarum equitatae* – *Ahucco*, the son of *Leubas*, both of Celtic origin⁴¹ or, according to certain opinions, of Batavian origin⁴². Some authors have reconstructed the name of this soldier as *Aiiucco*⁴³, but recent research has determined that he was called *Ahucco*⁴⁴. There is no mention of his position but, given that he was a peregrine, he must have been a mere *miles cohortis*. If he served 25 years (the statutory period for the auxiliary troops), then he was recruited around 133 or even sooner. Upon his discharge, *Ahucco* received Roman citizenship alongside his wife and children, not mentioned in this diploma. If this soldier had a Celtic (or Batavian) origin, it would stand to show that the unit of Pannonians and Dalmatians had recruited for some while from the province where it was stationed, i.e., Germania Inferior. The diploma also features the prefect of the cohort, a *Numisius (...)* whose prosopographical chart shall be detailed below.

The name *Ahucco* (spelled *Ahuconis*) is also attested in a votive monument from approximately 151-250 AD, discovered in *Ganventa* (modern-day Colijnsplaat), the province of Gallia Belgica⁴⁵. Given the uniqueness of the name born by this character, the dating after 150 AD, and the vicinity of the two Roman provinces (Germania Inferior – the headquarter of *cohors I Pannoniorum et Delmatarum* and Gallia Belgica, where the votive inscription was found and the province where *Ahucco* and his family settled after discharge), I assume it is the same person. The votive altar is dedicated to Goddess *Nehalennia* (a divinity of Celtic or Germanic origin⁴⁶) by *Varausius*⁴⁷, the son of *Ahucco*, most likely the son of the veteran analysed above. It means that three generations are featured which is a rare thing for epigraphical sources (*Leubas* → *Ahucco* → *Varausius*). Among the three, one was a peregrine, while his descendants were Roman citizens; however, only *Ahucco* definitely served in the Roman army.

2. Tiberius Claudius Pompeianus – *praefectus cohortis I Pannoniorum et Dalmatarum*, probably from the Italian Peninsula.

CIL XIII, 1766 = ILS 4794 = CAG-69-2, p. 467 = AE 1961, 3 = AE 2005, +123.

⁴¹ RMD I, 52 (p. 75).

⁴² ROSELAAR 2016, 154.

⁴³ AE 1968, 400 (p. 117).

⁴⁴ RMD I, 52 (p. 75); <https://edh-www.adw.uni-heidelberg.de/edh/inschrift/HD014561> [accessed on 03.07.2022].

⁴⁵ AE 1991, 1253. There are several votive altars found in Colijnsplaat dedicated to Goddess *Nehalennia*: AE 1973, 362-380; AE 1975, 641-656; AE 1980, 658; AE 1983, 720-722; AE 1985, 682 (see also the commentaries in AE, 1991, 1253, p. 332).

⁴⁶ <https://www.livius.org/articles/religion/nehalennia/> [accessed on 03.07.2022]. Goddess *Nehalennia* is attested in over 160 votive monuments of the 2nd-3rd centuries, most of them in Gallia Belgica.

⁴⁷ The editors of OPEL IV, 147-148 found only the forms *Varasius* (CIL V, 3710) and *Varusius* (CIL XIII, 4177).

Localisation: *Lugdunum* (Lyon), Gallia Lugdunensis.

Dating: 197 AD⁴⁸

Votive inscription

Pro salute dom(ini) / n(ostri) Imp(eratoris) L(uci) Sept(imi) Severi / Aug(usti) totiusq(ue) domus / eius Aufanis Ma/tronis et Matribus / Pannoniorum et / D<a=E>lmatarum / Ti(berius) Cl(audius) Pompeianus / trib(unus) mil(itum) leg(ionis) I Min(erviae) / loco exculito cum / discubitione et tabula / v(otum) s(olvit)

Commentaries: The votive was found at *Lugdunum*, Gallia Lugdunensis, and it dates from 197, the year of the battle between Clodius Albinus and Septimius Severus⁴⁹. It also features the unit's divinity, *Matribus Pannoniorum et Delmatarum*, and *Tiberius Claudius Pompeianus - tribunus legionis I Minerviae* (the legion was stationed at *Bonna*, Germania Inferior⁵⁰), the person who set up this votive monument. There is a discrepancy in the presence of the two units in this inscription: whereas legion I Minervia did not support Clodius Albinus, *cohors I Pannoniorum et Delmatarum* shifted to his side⁵¹. The auxiliary unit may have joined legion I Minervia and Septimius Severus (as proven by the dedication *Pro salute domini nostri Imperatoris Luci Septimi Severi Augusti*), but immediately after setting up the votive monument and for unknown reasons, it decided to serve Clodius Albinus⁵².

Claudius Pompeianus may have been the *praefectus cohortis I Pannoniorum et Delmatarum* before serving in legion I Minervia, though he is not mentioned here explicitly, because the position in this type of unit was the first in the *militia quarta: praefectus cohortis quingenariae*⁵³. This officer – probably pertaining to the equestrian rank and a native of the Italian Peninsula – covered the following *cursus honorum*: 1. *praefectus cohortis quingenariae (praefectus cohortis I Pannoniorum et Delmatarum)*; 2. *tribunus militum legionis augusticlavii (tribunus militum legionis I Minerviae)*. The officer seems to be attested also in a votive monument of *Legio* (modern-day Leon), Hispania Citerior⁵⁴, the headquarters of legion VII Gemina⁵⁵. Here, *Tiberius Claudius Pompeianus* is featured as a *tribunus*, most probably within the unit mentioned above. If he is the same as our character, we do not know the context where he became a tribune in another legion; maybe it occurred after the conflict between Clodius Albinus and Septimius Severus.

⁴⁸ Dating argued by SPAUL 2000, 336.

⁴⁹ SHA, Sev., 11.

⁵⁰ Dio Cass., LV, 24; WEBSTER 1985, 104; COSME 1994, 172; HOLDER 1999, 238; LE BOHEC 2000, 83-85; ECK 2000, 87-93; WILKES 2000, 106; FARNUM 2005, 15; HASSALL 2007, 322.

⁵¹ SPAUL 2000, 336.

⁵² A fact confirmed by SPAUL 2000, 336.

⁵³ DEVIJVER 1992, 67.

⁵⁴ IRPLeon 20 = CasLeon 145 = Meseta 91 = ERPLeon 38 = GeA 6 = AE 1971, 208 = AE 1974, 411.

⁵⁵ Tac., Hist., II, 86, III, 7, 21; WEBSTER 1985, 105; COSME 1994, 173; LE ROUX 2000, 383-396; WILKES 2000, 110; FARNUM 2005, 21; KEPPIE 2005, 184; HASSALL 2007, 321-322

However, he must have continued his career in the *militia quarta*, as the commander of an *ala quingenaria*⁵⁶.

The name *Claudius Pompeianus*, but without the *praenomen Tiberius*, is attested in two other epigraphical sources: one from Grosskrotzenburg, Germania Superior, dated from 221 (featuring a *Claudius Pompeianus – miles legionis VIII Antoniniana Augustae*)⁵⁷; the other dated from 131-170 and found in *Tibur, Latium et Campania, Regio I*⁵⁸. In this first source, it is impossible to identify him with the character analysed here, who was an officer, while *Claudius Pompeianus* was a mere *miles legionis VIII Augustae*. In the lack of additional information, one cannot identify even in the second epigraphical monument the character in this inscription.

3. **Numisius**⁵⁹ (...) – *praefectus cohortis I Pannoniorum et Dalmatarum equitatae*, probably a native of the Italian Peninsula.

RMD I, 52 = AE 1968, 400.

Localisation: *Colonia Ulpia Traiana* (Xanten), Germania Inferior.

Dating: 158 AD⁶⁰

Military diploma

[...] *coh(ortis) I Pannon(iorum) et [Dal(matarum) e(quitatae) c(ui) pr(aeest)] Numisius [---] [...]*

Commentaries: The *Constitutio* of 158 features a *praefectus cohortis I Pannoniorum et Dalmatarum equitatae*, a certain *Numisius* (...). Because the diploma is fragmentary, his full name is unknown. He was the prefect of this unit for three or four years⁶¹, but we do not know in which year of his service he was mentioned in the diploma. Given that the source did not preserve the full name of the officer, there is no way to know whether and when he continued his military career; he may have even obtained a position in the *militia secunda – tribunus cohortis milliariae* or as a *tribunus militum legionis augusticlavii*⁶².

4. **Titus Pontius**⁶³ *Titi filius Palatina (tribu) Sabinus*⁶⁴ – *praefectus cohortis I Pannoniorum et Dalmatarum equitatae civium Romanorum*, probably from *Ferentinum*, Latium et Campania, Regio I.

⁵⁶ DEVIJVER 1992, 67.

⁵⁷ AE 1978, 551. In the 3rd century, legion VIII Augusta was stationed at *Argentoratum*, Germania Superior (FARNUM 2005, 21). It is worth noting here the epithet *Antoniniana*, granted to the legion from the Emperor Caracalla (212-217) or, more recently, from Elagabalus (218-222).

⁵⁸ AE 1991, 591.

⁵⁹ OPEL III, 106-107.

⁶⁰ <https://edh-www.adw.uni-heidelberg.de/edh/inschrift/HD014561> [accessed on 03.07.2022].

⁶¹ See the discussion in KŁODZIŃSKI 2010, 2, concerning the period served in each position.

⁶² DEVIJVER 1992, 67.

⁶³ For this gentilicium, see OPEL III, 181.

⁶⁴ OPEL IV, 40-41.

CIL X, 5829 = ILS 2726 = IDRE I, 90.

Localisation: *Ferentinum* (Ferentino), Latium et Campania, Regio I.

Dating: approximately 140 AD⁶⁵

Honorary inscription

T(it)o Pontio T(iti) f(ilio) Pal(atina) / Sabino / p(rimo) p(ilo) II proc(uratori) provinc(iae) / Narb(onensis) IIIIvir(o) i(ure) d(icundo) quinq(uennali) / flamin(i) et patron(o) / municipi(i) / Valeria L(uci) f(ilia) Procula / uxor / l(ocus) d(atu)s d(ecreto) d(ecurionum) // T(itus) Pontius T(iti) f(ilius) Pal(atina) Sabinus / praefectus coh(ortis) I Pann(oniorum) et Dalmat(arum) / eq(uitatae) c(ivium) R(omanorum) trib(unus) mil(itum) leg(ionis) VI Ferrat(ae) / donis donatus expeditione Par(thica) a divo Traiano hasta pura / vexillo corona murali [(centurio) leg(ionis) XXII / Primig(eniae) [(centurio) leg(ionis) XIII Gemin(ae) primus pi(lus) leg(ionis) III Aug(ustae) praepositus vexilla/tionibus milliari(i)s tribus expedi(tione) Brittanica leg(ionis) VII Gemin(ae) / VIII Aug(ustae) XXII Primig(eniae) trib(unus) coh(ortis) III / vig(ilum) coh(ortis) XIII urb(anae) coh(ortis) II praet(oriae) / p(rimus) p(ilus) II proc(urator) provinc(iae) Narbonens(is) / IIIIvir i(ure) d(icundo) quinq(uennalis) flamen patron(us) / municipi(i)

Commentaries: This honorary monument features an officer of the equestrian order who held an entire array of positions in the Roman army, not all of them necessarily in the order established by the regular *cursus honorum* for his rank: 1. *praefectus cohortis quingenariae/tribunus cohortis voluntariorum civium Romanorum*; 2. *tribunus cohortis milliariae/tribunus militum legionis augusticlavius*; 3. *praefectus alae quingenariae*; 4. *praefectus alae milliariae*⁶⁶.

Initially, Pontius Sabinus occupied, in a normal order, the first two positions in the *militia quarta*, as he was the *praefectus cohortis I Pannoniorum et Delmatarum equitatae civium Romanorum*, and the *tribunus legionis VI Ferratae*, respectively⁶⁷. Within this legion, the officer participated in Trajan's Parthian expeditions of 114-117 AD, and this emperor even decorated him: *donis donatus expeditione Parthica a divo Traiano hasta pura vexillo corona murali*. However, following these positions, the cavalry member was not appointed (or declined to be) the *praefectus alae quingenariae*, instead becoming a centurion in two consecutive legions, *legio XXII Primigenia* and *legio XIII Gemina*, then the *primus pilus legionis III Augustae*, the commander of a vexillation of three legions in a military expedition in Britannia (*praepositus vexillationibus milliariis tribus expeditione Brittanica: legio VII Gemina, legio VIII Augusta, and legio XXII Primigenia*⁶⁸), a *tribunus* in three units of Rome, i.e., *tribunus cohortis III vigilum, tribunus cohortis*

⁶⁵ According to other sources, it may date to 122-150, 131-170 AD (http://www.edr-edr.it/edr_programmi/res_complex_comune.php?do=book&id_nr=EDR155466&partId=1 [accessed on 03.07.2022]) or around 130 (SPAUL 2000, 336).

⁶⁶ DEVIJVER 1992, 67.

⁶⁷ In the 2nd-3rd centuries, the legion was stationed in the provinces of Arabia and Syria-Palaestina (FARNUM 2005, 20).

⁶⁸ For the mobility of these legions, see FARNUM 2005.

XIII urbanae, and *tribunus cohortis II praetoriae*, subsequently *primus pilus II* and finally, given his status within the equestrian order (but also due to the positions previously occupied, proving his military value and more), he became the *procurator provinciae Narbonensis*. Some historians have suggested that he may have enjoyed being on the battlefield⁶⁹, but the military context may have also represented a decisive factor in this case.

Some authors have argued that *Pontius Sabinus* became the governor of the province of Gallia Narbonensis in 140⁷⁰, around the dating of this inscription. Hence, the career of the cavalry officer spanned three decades⁷¹, even before 110 AD when he became the *praefectus cohortis I Pannoniorum et Dalmatarum equitatae civium Romanorum*. The honorary monument of *Ferentinum*, Latium et Campania, Regio I was set up at a decurions' order and it also featured his wife, *Valeria Procula*, the sister of the cavalry officer *Lucius Valerius Proculus*. The last held several military and civilian positions in the 2nd century, attested in several epigraphical monuments⁷².

Name	Origin	Position	Dating	Sources
Ahucco	Celtic/Batavian	<i>Miles (ex pedite)</i>	158 AD	RMD I, 52 = AE 1968, 400
Tiberius Claudius Pompeianus	The Italian Peninsula	<i>Praefectus</i>	197 AD	CIL XIII, 1766 = ILS 4794 = CAG-69-2, p. 467 = AE 1961, 3 = AE 2005, +123
Numisius	The Italian Peninsula	<i>Praefectus</i>	158 AD	RMD I, 52 = AE 1968, 400
Titus Pontius Sabinus	Probably from <i>Ferentinum</i> , Latium et Campania, Regio I	<i>Praefectus</i>	Approximately 140 AD	CIL X, 5829 = ILS 2726 = IDRE I, 90

Table 1: The militaries in the *cohors I Pannoniorum et Delmatarum*

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⁶⁹ SPAUL 2000, 336.

⁷⁰ RIVET 1988, 89.

⁷¹ For the *cursus honorum* of this cavalry officer, see also PFLAUM 1950, 347.

⁷² 1. CIL II, 1970 (his entire career is featured here); 2. CIL II, 1971; 3. CIL VI, 1002.

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