

- 14 A. Birley, *Life in Roman Britain*, London—New York, 1964, 36—37.  
 15 G. Webster, o. c. 145.  
 16 G. Webster, o. c. 206—214.  
 17 A. Mócsy, *Pannonia 617—624*.  
 18 A. Birley, o. c. 38.  
 19 H. Cohen III 226 i dalje.  
 20 G. Webster, o. c. 101.  
 21 J. C. Bruce, *Handbook 1966*, 198.  
 22 A. Mócsy, *Die Bevölkerung von Pannonien bis zu den Markomannenkriegen*, Budapest 1959, 143—146.  
 23 R. Cagnat, o. c. 59—62.  
 24 L. Barkóczi, *The Population of Pannonia from Marcus Aurelius to Diocletian*, *Acta archaeologica*, Budapest 1964, 280, 284, 294.  
 25 A. Mócsy, o. c. 179; L. Barkóczi, o. c. 316.  
 26 J. Brunšmid, o. c. 23—24.  
 27 G. Webster, o. c. 146—147.  
 28 G. Webster, o. c. 205—220.

#### A CAVALRY OFFICER FROM MURSA IN BRITAIN

The well known Croatian scholar M. P. Katančić quoted in his first work »Dissertatio«<sup>1</sup> an altar inscription that was found at Old Carlisle (the Roman Luguvalium?). Astonishingly he did not give the complete inscription but only one part of it, perhaps the part he was most interested in, see page... Although Katančić was praised by Mommsen, in *CIL III* page 414, for his exactness in reading and rendering Roman inscriptions, we are puzzled that in this case he omitted to give the complete inscription and not even mentioned that he did so.

He cited his sources as: 1) *Thes.* p. 1007 n. 3 and 2) *L. II Britan. Rom.* p. 192, n. 48. The first source could have been Gruter's *Inscriptiones antiquae totius orbis Romanorum*, Amsterdam 1707, in which Camden's inscriptions were taken over. The second source must have been Horsley's *Britannia Romana*, London 1732. The pagination given by Katančić matches with these two sources.

Judging by the remarks which followed Katančić's inscription, one must assume he did not even see the whole of it. Perhaps somebody copied and sent him the lines only that contained the name of P. Ael. Magnus. In *CIL VII* no. 341 we find the entire inscription followed by citations from the older literature in which this inscription was previously published, i. e. Camden, Horsley, Hodgson, Hutchinson and Bruce. Their difference in reading and rendering it, in spite of some damages and many ligatures, are so slight that the sense of each line is clear enough and cannot alter the meaning of the whole (see figure, page. 124.).

We consider the inscription as being of interest for the history of Mursa and of Pannonia Inferior and give it here as it is published in *R. I. B. I* No. 894, page 296. It is reproduced here by leave of the Clarendon Press and Mr R. P. Wright, to whom I am sincerely indebted.

The translation is given as follows: »To Jupiter, Best and Greatest, the Cavalry Regiment styled Augusta for valour, commanded by Publius Aelius Magnus, son of Publius, of the Sergian voting-tribe, from Mursa in Lower Pannonia, the prefect, (set this up) in the consulship of Apronianus and Bradua« (A. D. 191).

The altar was found in the end-wall of a stable at Drumbrugh castle, as Horsley has it, but Camden himself says expressly that it was dug up at Old Carlisle. The fort at Old Carlisle was built in Agricola's time on the Stanegate at the crossing of the road leading north beyond the Wall and beyond the Solway in direction to Netherby fort in Caledonia. The *ala Augusta*, whose nationality is not mentioned, might have earned its epithet Augusta in 185<sup>18</sup> or

earlier, perhaps in connection with some aggressive but successful actions against the northern tribes. This reminded us of another altar inscription found at Kirksteads not far away from Old Carlisle which was dedicated by Lucius Iunius Victorinus, commander of the Sixth Legion — *ob res trans Vallum prospere gestas*.<sup>21</sup>

The first two names of Publius Aelius Magnus indicate that in his family somebody obtained the Roman citizenship in 133 when Mursa was given the status of a Roman colony by Hadrian;<sup>26</sup> his cognomen Magnus apparently shows his native origin as this name may be derived from the Celtic name Mag —.<sup>25</sup> Because our inscription is dated with the year 191 and because Mursa was very probably created colony in 133, we may assume the grandfather of our prefect might have been a soldier in some Pannonian auxiliary unit and became a Roman citizen at the end of his military service. Hadrian, under whose rule a great period of urbanisation and romanisation in Pannonia developed, created mostly municipia such as Carnuntum, Aquincum, Mogentiana, Cibalae and Mursella (in Pannonia Superior!) with one exception only — he made Mursa a colony. It cannot be proved but it is very probable that veterans of leg II Ad and also of auxiliary units then settled at Mursa (see A. Mócsy, Pannonia, RE Suppl. IX 598).

The main aim in republishing and discussing our inscription is to try to reconstruct the social rise in one family and the military career of an officer who ranked as prefect of an ala. In our case it can easily be imagined that the grandfather was some native, either of Celtic or Pannonian origin, who served as soldier in an auxiliary unit, and that he at the end of his service became a Roman citizen with Hadrian's praenomen and gentilicium and that he settled at the newly created colony, Aelia Mursa. His son, a Roman citizen too, might have become a legionary or even a centurio, or else he might have obtained some status in the municipal establishments. Under favourable economic conditions such romanised family could have progressed towards the equestrian class and the children could have risen to higher ranks in the army or in civil service. — If Publius Aelius Magnus was a grandson of a Pannonian soldier who obtained the citizenship by Hadrian, he really very quickly rose to the rank of a *praefectus alae*, if we consider that only equestrians could attain this rank. The military steps in the cursus of the commander of one ala were normally: *praefectus cohortis*, *tribunus legionis*, and then *praefectus alae*.<sup>27</sup>

In order to help the imagination in penetrating into the corresponding frame of time and place, some explanations are given in this article: a) concerning the rule of Commodus and his actions in Britain; b) the significance of Old Carlisle, which was connected with Corbridge in the East of the Wall by the Stanegate; c) the history of the Roman Wall in Britain and the military organisation connected with it;<sup>13</sup> d) about the size and shape of forts where the cavalry were garrisoned; e) about the praetorium, the commander's house, which had a certain degree of accommodation and conveniences.<sup>28</sup>

We also see a hint of some pride the ala Augusta took in the origin of its commander when giving at large the three names, the filiation, domicile and country. It seems as though soldiers and officers from Pannonia even at that early time were in high esteem with the Roman Army. This esteem had been deserved when Marcus Aurelius commanded and operated against the Marcomanns with a well trained and highly skilled army, and this esteem will very soon be justified when Septimius Severus, after Commodus was murdered, won his decisive victory over his opponents with the Pannonian legions at his command.