

For this issue of the Herald I have been looking at our unit standards. We now have three standards, a signum, a vexillum and most recently the brass bull signum. Scenobarbus recently purchased a beautiful signum, and had a new vexillum made. (Thankyou Scen). I do have reservations as far as the unit designation on the new vexillum is depicted however. (Currently with a CR suffix). For our period, we could use any of the following designated suffixes;

- COH I BAT (avorvm) (British-based unit involved in the Claudian invasion, or as attested on diplomas dated to the emperors from Trajan to Marcus Aurelius).
- COH I BAT (avorvm) **M** (reformed after the Batavian revolt in 69AD) The 'M' suffix denotes the miliaria (one-thousand strong) unit detailed on diplomas dating from the reign of Trajan to Marcus Aurelius and took part in the Dacian Campaigns.
- COH I BAT (avorvm) **PF**. The 'PF' suffix denotes Pia Fidelis (loyal and faithful) as it appears on a two diplomas from the reign of Trajan.
- COH I BAT (avorvm) **MCRPF** (Miliaria Civium Romanorum Pia Fidelis). The same unit, but granted block citizenship during Trajan's Dacian campaigns. This means we can stop the legionaries going on about 'asylum seekers' as this unit are Citizen soldiers, the same as them!

Interestingly, when we pick up the unit again on diplomas issued under Marcus Aurelius, the unit is no longer listed as anything more than I Batavorvm and I Batavorvm Miliaria.



From the third century Cohors I Batavorum garrison at Carrawburgh, (Brocolitia) comes the tombstone of a signifier, which was found in 1873. (See tombstone at left on display at the Clayton Museum-Chesters). The carving clearly shows the standard bearer carrying a small, but very unusually shaped shield or 'parma'. No such shields have been found elsewhere on monuments or grave stelae. This could have something to do with the soldier's Germanic background. He also carries a zodiac signum of a bull. The bull standard was adopted by units that were raised or restored by Julius Caesar. It was sacred to the goddess Venus, the goddess mother of the gens Julia, and the period between the 17th April to the 18th May.

Julius Caesar founded and raised the 'Germani' horse guard from the relocated Batavian (Chatti) and Ubian peoples whilst campaigning in Gaul in the first century BC. This could possibly be the historical link between the Bull standard, the Batavian guard raised by Caesar, and the Carrawburgh standard bearer tombstone from Cohors I Batavorum. Other units that used the bull as their totem were Legio VII and Legio VIII Augusta, Legio X Gemina (Which served with Caesar in Gaul), and Legio III Gallica and Legio IIII Macedonica, which were probably units raised by Caesar in 48BC.

Our proud Batavians are now in possession of two wolf pelts that can be utilised in our own colour-party. This item was discussed at a recent Officers Meeting (Feb 05) and it was agreed that (auxilia numbers at events permitting) we could try this. I have obtained a faceless pelt from Iustus that I will be fitting to my early 2nd century Buch cavalry helmet, and Maximio has another which he says he will attach to a Coolus 'C' helmet. It's looking likely that I may have to paint another parma!

I have ordered from the US a new silver bull standard (See below) that should be with us sometime in the near future to replace the brass bull loaned by Afrinus and Pantera.



Peronis