

## Legio XXX Ulpia Victrix

LXXXVI. leg. XXX Ulpia Victrix. Column 1821-1829. Tr. Marcus Fichtinger

[1821]

(literature see above, column 1213), was as its name reveals, a creation of Trajan (Dio LV 24, 4 &ldquo;Trajan [established] the Thirtieth Germanica&rdquo;). It received its number as an expression for the total number of the legions that existed during that time &ndash; including itself -

[1822]

to honour all legions of the empire in this way. There were some arguments about the exact date of its founding: Schiller (Römische Kaisergeschichte I 555 appendix p. 938) placed it in the time between the Dacian and the Parthian wars, Von Domaszewski (Westdeutsche Zeitschrift XIV 25) named the year 107, which was just after the Dacian war, while Pfitzner (272 (compare 82, 83)) thought its establishment was a part of the preparation for this war and Schilling (De leg. I M. et XXX Ulp. 31ff.) wanted to trace back its roots to 98/99. A lot can be said for the probability of an army-reinforcement before 101 or 104 at the latest, even if Schilling&rsquo;s arguments are not really convincing. Also the fact that XXX Ulpia had already fought with distinction in Dacia was proven by the cognomen v(ictrix) on the monuments from Trajan&rsquo;s period.

It remains unclear, in which way the gods that belonged to XXX Ulpia &ndash; Neptune after coins of Gallienus (Roth: Wien. Numism. Zeitschrift V 1873, 86f. table. V 23) and Carausius (Cohen: VII<sup>2</sup> 17 nr. 146. 149), Jupiter with Capricorn after coins of Victorinus (Cohen: VI 76 nr. 69-73) &ndash; are related to the founding, its time or meaning. There could be also a connection to its imperial founder (see under II Trajana, column 1485).

We don&rsquo;t know where and in which army group Leg. XXX took part in the Dacian wars. It was probably a part of the western army that started its operations from Moesia superior.

When this conflict was over and the modalities of occupation in the Danubian provinces were arranged, our legion most likely became part of Pannonia superior&rsquo;s Army; its permanent camp must have been located in Brigetio, which was left by XI Claudia some years before (Schilling: 38 f. 51f. 127f.). Not only some bricks with the stamps LEG XXX &bull; VV (CIL III 4663c. 11370 a-c), but also a little altar (CIL III 10974) was found at this site and seem to belong to the members of the XXX legion, and not to the XXth (von Domaszewski: Westdeutsche Zeitschrift XIV 24, 98). Brick-relicts of the XXX were also found in Carnutum and Vindobona (CIL III 4663a. b. 11370d-g. RLÖ e.g. I table VI 18 and table VII 25. II table IX 25. III table XII 15-17. Arch.-epigr. Mitt. V 110. Kenner: Archäologische Funde in Wien 1897 S. 27 Fig. 38) tell us that there was much building-work in all legion-camps of the Pannonian province, when our legion stayed there. That wasn&rsquo;t unusual at all in the years after the enormous efforts during the Dacian wars.

It&rsquo;s dubious, whether Leg. XXX left its camp at Brigetio to follow the emperor, when he started the Oriental wars in 114, as Dierauer believes (Traian 159, 5). A participation in the form of a special commando, called &ldquo;vexillatio&rdquo;, is more likely &ndash; that means that only a section would have been involved. The other legions of this province did the same to accompany leg. XV Apoll on its march towards the Orient.

[1823]

All western troops returned to their garrisons after the end of the Parthian wars and Marcius Turbo was probably still holding the supreme command over leg. XXX in his hands, as he was provided with a greater command of the provinces Dacia and Pannonia in the year 118 (Weber: Hadrian 71f. Premerstein: Das Attentat der Konsulare auf Hadrian 16ff). When the hostile peoples near the border were finally defeated, Turbo had to carry through the new ideas of emperor Hadrian, his long-standing friend. These reforms concerned the border police and the whole organisation of the two regions.

However in the following year a breach in the line of the Lower Germanic army had to be filled out. It was clear that it now had to be a legion of the closest army from the Danubian provinces (Upper Pannonia), since the Rhineland-troops were ordered to do the same under Traian&rsquo;s rule. And so Legio XXX was sent to Vetera, the former winter-camp of VI Victrix, and it stayed there for more than two centuries.

It was explicitly mentioned as a part of the Lower Germanic vexillations in the time of Septimus Severus (CIL III 10471 &ndash; 10473) on the inscriptions from two of their officers, trib. mil. leg. XXX Ulp(iae) Germ(aniae) infer(ioris), CIL III 15188<sup>2</sup>, and ... trib.] la[ti]clavio .... item Germ[aniae] infer(ioris) leg.] XXX V. V., (CIL XIV 4178b). Ptolemaeus (II 9, 8: Oueterra&hellip;legioon L'ouppia (instead of oulpia)) names its garrison. The name of the town is replaced by the legion&rsquo;s name in (Itin. Anton. p. 241, 1): ... per ripam Pannonia a Tauruno in Gallias ad leg(ionem) XXX usque, compare p. 241, 6: ad leg(ionem) XXX.

We still don&rsquo;t know where the camp of XXX Ulpia and its predecessors since the reign of Vespasian was actually situated. We should look for it in the neighbourhood of the pre-Flavian double-camp on a hill called Fürstenberg &ndash; either situated on a different part of this elevation or somewhere inside a town called Xanten. The brick-kilns of the legion functioned at almost the same place like their forerunners, which can be traced back to the time of Claudius. The exposure of a part of the brickyard at the so called &ldquo;Hoher Steg&rdquo;, in the south of today&rsquo;s Xanten-Birten is mentioned in J. Steiner, Bonner Jahrb. CX 70ff., (compare P. Steiner Katalog des Xant. Altert. Mus. 1911, 44ff.; where you are also able to see pictures of all brick-stamps that were found in Vetera (table 24 nr. 142-156. 25, 157-245, and belonging to it: p. 61-68).

Besides this multitude of bricks, relicts from other monuments at the site of the camp are rather small in number but not very important, too. They all have, apart from CIL XIII 8607 (from the year 223) and 8620 (from the year 243), a non-public status (CIL XIII 8609. 8616. 8619. 8622. 8625. 8626. 8629. 8631. 8632. 8634. 8638. 8639. 8610 [from the year 189]. 8641. 8654).

[1824]

But we should mention a little Hercules-statue from the brickyard (CIL XIII 8610) that was donated to the legion by an imun(is). There&rsquo;s a picture of it in Bonner Jahrb. CX Table V Fig. 8.

The provincial capital Colonia Ara Agrippinensium (Cologne) is the most important site in Germania inferior for relicts of leg. XXX. There could be various reasons for the devotion of L. Aemilius Carus, leg(atus) Aug(usti) (that means of the Leg. XXX Ulpia after CIL VI 1333), to the god Jupiter (CIL XIII 8197). He must have commanded the legion in 138, since he was already the governor of Arabia in 142 (See note on prosopography) (AE 1909 nr. 236, compare CIL III 14149-1). His altar is the oldest monument of Leg. XXX Ulpia in Lower Germania, which we can date almost exactly. The names of centurions from the staff of the governor are named by inscriptions of Cologne (CIL XIII 8203) from the year 164: (centurio) leg. XXX Ulp(iae) curam agens stratorum et peditum singularium co(n)s(ularium); XIII 8201 from the year 211 (the restoration of a Dolichenus-sanctuary through the governor, carried out by a centurio of the thirtieth legion); XIII 8219 and 8233 (two consecrations to Matres Paternae and Mercurius, built by the same centurio), XIII 8291 (a tomb of a centurio from leg. XXX, erected by his brother &ndash; somewhere before the middle of the third century). The victimarius miles leg. XXX U. v. (XIII 8292) and the veteranus ex bf. cos. (8293 and probably 8294) also belonged to the officium of the governor. Pieces of two silver-plated bronze-plates with a list of names from soldiers of various Lower German squads (CIL XIII 8053) were presumably found in Bonn (Bonna), but it&rsquo;s more likely that they belong to Cologne. That list was probably a register of squads, including three men of Leg. XXX (v.1.2.7), that were ordered to the officium of the governor. However there is no proof for a participation of Leg. XXX Ulpia at the construction work in Cologne, when you consider the bricks that were found at this place (compare Brambach: 436e. Bonner Jahrb. XCVIII 60. CXIV 318).

But it is certified that there was a vexillation of the thirtieth legion and some assistance for the building work in Bonn at the camp of its sister-legion of the province, Leg. I Minervia. The existence of a big square hewn stone (Lehner: Steindenkmal 1184) tells us by the inscription LEG I &bull; ET XXX (CIL XIII 8078) that both legions worked together. Another inscription VEX L TR (CIL XIII 8082 a) on a square hewn stone, consisting of tuff from Brohl (Lehner: Steindenkmal 1185), also proves that. That was interpreted correctly at the first time by Lehner: Bonner Jahrb. CVII 220 as vex(illatio) l(egionis) tr(icesimae).

[1825]

And there was also a rather big number of brick-stamps VEX TRI = vexillatio tricesimanorum (Brambach: 516 d. Bonner Jahrb. CVII 213 Fig. 5, compiled just there, p. 219f.), found only at the site of the camp in Bonn. Its explanation is fully confirmed by a stamp [VEX &bull; L &bull; TRIE] (Bonner Jahrb. CX 1903 page 172), that was found at the very same place. We cannot certify yet, when this vexillation of Leg. XXX at Bonn took place. The exact date of the construction

work of both legions in the Netherlands &ndash; as we can see it on a square hewn stone (CIL XIII 8832 LEG T &bull; M &bull; P &bull; F &bull; ET LEG XXX V &bull; V &bull;) &ndash; is also unclear. That was probably happening in the second century, maybe at the end of it or during the second half.

There had to be two smaller units of the thirtieth legion in Remagen (Rigomagus) (CIL XIII 7789) and at the Upper Germanic border-station near the small river Vinxtbach (XIII 7732). Other traces of Leg. XXX Ulpia belong to: a centurio in Erkelenz (XIII 7896), a be(ene)f(icarius) co(n)s(ularis) from Bonn (XIII 7997) and maybe Pesch (Lehner, Steindenkmal 1439), two &ldquo;signiferi&rdquo; (XIII 8156 and 8719) in Merten und Nijmegen (Noviomagus), diverse veterans (XIII 8567, 8591, 8601 = Bonner Jahrb. CXVI 36. 8666) and also two other members of the legion, who couldn&rsquo;t be identified (XIII 8703, 8723, 8730). Sites that contain bricks of the legion (compiled at: Steiner, Katalog der Xant. Altert. Mus. p. 62) were discovered particularly often in the Netherlands &ndash; especially in the northern part of the province Lower Germania &ndash;; but of course also in the provincial capital and its bridgehead Deutz (Divitia) (Bonner Jahrb. LXXXI 208).

Monuments of the four Rhine-legions that tell us something about vexillations at the garrison of the Tres Galliae - capital (see column 1314, 44ff.) name numerous members of Leg. XXX: those examples, besides the devotion of Fl(avius) Super scaenicus of the XXX U(lpia) V(ictrix) p(ia) f(idelis) from the year 207 (Dessau: 9493), concern almost entirely inscriptions from tombs: the tribunus militum Marius Martialis erected a monument for his wife (CIL CIII 1871) and there&rsquo;s a centurio from the time of Severus Alexander (XIII 1890), some soldiers (XIII 1828. 1839. 1847. 1904. AE 1904 nr. 177) and veterans (XIII 1831. 1841. 1842. 1858. 1866. 1873. 1879. 1883. 1884. 1888. 1891. 1901). A veteran of the Leg. XXX Ulpia &ndash; buried in Cabillonum &ndash; was probably also connected to these vexillations in Lugudunum (III 2614). The circumstances of another member of our legion in Paris (Lutetia) should be different from that. But the gravestone (XIII 1196), an active soldier of leg. XXX has erected in Avaricum, could refer to the presence of a vexillation at this place. In the case of centurio Aurelius Tertinus there was probably a bellicose reason at the end of the third century &ndash; maybe a civil war &ndash; that let him go to Aquitania, where the Ausci lived (CIL XIII 442).

[1826]

A lead seal (CIL XIII 10029, 52: P&hellip;l(egionis) XXX that was found in the river Saône near Lugudunum (Lyon) doesn&rsquo;t play any role in this story, even if its connection to leg. XXX is verified.

The broken piece of a bronze-plate (CIL V 6890) was dedicated by a member of leg. XXX Ulpia, when he passed Mons Poeninus, where a street betwixt the mountains was the most common connection in the Alps between the Rhineland-troops and Italy.

There was presumably not much need for the use of Leg. XXX outside their province during the first decades of their presence in their new camp at the Lower Rhine. We can&rsquo;t exclude the possibility that it took part in the form of a vexillation at Hadrian&rsquo;s war in Britain, but there&rsquo;s no evidence for that. Only since the period of Antoninus Pius had there been proof for such things by a tomb-inscription of one of its legionaries in Caesarea that mentions the fight against rebellious Moors (CIL VIII 21053, compare paragraph column. 1295). A vexillation of Leg. XXX was presumably joining Leg. I Minerva in its march to the Western Orient to fight in the Parthian war of L. Verus in the year 162 (column 1297f. and B at Leg. I Min. column 1427, 42ff.). It could be that this weakening of the frontier-defence had provoked the Germanics of the other side to invade the Roman territory at the Lower Rhine and that during this raid some of the coin treasures were buried in the Dutch and Belgian ground (Schilling, Diss. 61, 3); but we can hardly identify the exact date of the digging, so that it could be also related to the invasion of the Chauci around 173 or 174. The war against the Marcomanni was another case that weakened the Lower Rhine troops by urgent vexillations at the Danube.

That Leg. XXX and the other Rhine-legions were taking up the cause of Septimus Severus was proven by coins that were minted in 193 (Cohen: IV<sup>2</sup> p. 32 nr. 278); and it fought on his side against Clodius Albinus in 196/197, too. The honorary name pia fidelis was given to it for their attitude during these years (see column 1314) and the monuments of Legio XXX from the third century preserve this name, though not on a regular basis (see designation of the legion 1829). The vexillations of Rhine-legions, including Leg. XXX Ulpia, under Iulius Castinus (CIL III 10471-10473) were used to fight against troublemakers in Gallia and Spain around the years 206 to 208 (see paragraph column 1315 and B at Leg. I Minerva col 1429) and not &ndash; as Weichert (Westdeutsche Zeitschrift XXII 134) believed &ndash; in the year 194

against Pescennius Niger in Africa. There shouldn't be any doubts that Leg XXX had participated in Severus's Britannic battles since 208, but the fact that a relief-ornamented Sigillata-plate – mentioning the legion by illustrating some arena-fights against animals (LEGIONIS XXX CIL VII 1335, 3) – came to Camulodunum, should neither be connected with this inducement nor with others that played a role in the history of Leg. XXX.

[1827]

The assumption that Leg. XXX took part at the Parthian war of Severus Alexander is supported by the gravestone of a signifer in Ancyra (CIL III 6764), who belonged to this era. A similar opportunity during the third century probably made the centurio leg(ionis) XXX of the inscription from Zela near Cappadocia (Cagnat: IGR III 1441) go to the Orient. It is not possible to find out in which one of the numerous battles at the Danube-region the tribunus militum Aelius Carus died in Pannonia (CIL III 15188<sup>2</sup>) – maybe in a fight against foreign enemies, but it could have also been one of those battles between pretenders to the throne. The meaning of a fragment with the inscription mil. I. XXX V [something that looks vaguely like U is printed here, JO] (CIL XIII 10017, 1091). One may conclude the presence of units from our legion at this place from that fragment, if one doesn't want to believe in the Lower Rhine-origin of a brick with the stamp LEG XXX from Basel (Mommsen Inscr. Helv. 346, 3). Some coins under the reign of Gallienus that referred to Leg. XXX were also minted with the cognomina 'VI' and VII pia fidelis (Wien. Num. Zeitschrift V 1873, 86f. Taf. V 23. Cohen: V.2 394 nr. 552-557). The same happened in the time of the anti-emperor Victorinus (Cohen: VI.2 p. 76 nr. 69-73). Whether this concerns the original legion from Vetera or a new legion that was detached from it, is the question. The latest mention of this kind – at the late third century – is represented by coins of the anti-emperor Carausius (Cohen: VII<sup>2</sup> 17 nr. 146ff.). But we can assume that Leg. XXX was still present in Vetera, its old permanent camp, at the beginning of the fourth century and that it only vanished, when The Romans lost this whole region at the Lower Rhine. From the units that were detached earlier from Leg. XXX in favour of the field troops there was one that had later been separated from the sister-legion (I Minerva). This unit was mentioned at the siege of Amida in Mesopotamia in 359 (Ammianus XVIII 9, 3) and it was most likely extinguished in this battle. The presence of trucesimani yet in the time of the Notitia (occ. VII 108) as pseudocomitatensis intra Gallias leads to the conclusion that during the time, the concerned paragraph in the Notitia was written down, a remnant of the old border-troops from the Lower Rhine was at least noted as still existent in the chancelleries of the army.

Frumentarii of leg. XXX, partly together with those of leg. I Minerva, are mentioned on late-Roman inscriptions (CIL VI 3334. 3360. 3361. 3362). X 6095 from the Via Appia might be added to that. The marble board from Rome (CIL VI 2400 = 32900) has a register of soldiers of Leg. I Minerva and XXX that seems to refer to those frumentarii that were ordered to castra peregrinorum (col.1429, 39ff.).

#### Legati legionis

- L. Aemilius L. f. Cam(ilia) Karus, legate at the end of Hadrian's era, CIL VI 1333. XIII 8197 (he's not identical with the governor of the tres Daciae, but maybe his father), (see column 1824 footnote).
- Canutius Modestus, in the year 223, (CIL XIII 8607).
- C. Iulius C. f. Fabia Severus, (CIG 4029. Prosopography II p. 214 nr. 372).
- C. Iulius CN. f. Verus, under Antoninus Pius around the year 148, (CIL III 2732 + 8714. Ritterling: Korr.-BL d. Westdeutschen Zeitschrift 1903, 214ff).
- Iunius Faustinus ..... Postumianus, third century, (CIL VIII 597. 11763); the preserved relicts say: [leg. Aug. leg]ionis &hellip;. M....e vi[ctri]cis piae fidelis may probably be filled out to [&lsquo;XXX&rsquo;] (or &lsquo;tricesimae&rsquo;) Ulpia]e victricis piae fidelis, since this gap is too big for another L.-name (VI or [Sexta]e victricis &hellip;) that would fit.

[1828]

- Q. Marcius Gallianus, (CIL XIII 8810).
- Q. Petronius Melior, around the time of Severus Alexander, (CIL XI 3367).
- unknown [...presbeuten legeoon]os tria[k]ostes oulpias veikeforon... from the second century, but before Marc Aurel's era, (Groag: o. Bd. VI S. 1744 nr. 14 ?).

### Tribuni militum

- Aelius Carus, third century, (CIL III 15188<sup>2</sup>).
- T. Caesarnius Quinctius Macedo Quinctianus (lati.), Hadrian's era, (CIL V 865).
- [· Cre[scens], (CIL VII 1868), where either [leg. XX va]l(eriae) victricis or leg. XX[X U] (pia) may be emended.
- T. Marius Martialis, third century, (CIL XIII 1871).
- C. Sagurus C. f. Clu(stumina) Priscus, (XI 5959).
- M. Rossius M. f. Pupinia Vitulus e(gregius) v(ir) (Cagnat: Compt. Rend. 1914, 133. (Ritterling: Röm.-German. Korr.-Bl. 1917, 132f).
- T. Varius T. f. Clemens Cl(audia) Celia, in the time of Antoninus Pius, (CIL III 5211, 5212, 5214, 5215).
- unknown (lati.), (CIL XIV 4178b) should be emended to: trib.] la[ti. Mil. leg. XXII p]rimig. Germ[an(iae) super(ioris) p(iae) f(idelis) item Germ[an(iae) infer(ioris) legio XXX U. V. qua[estori] for the expression compare to (CIL II 1262) trib. lati. Syriae leg. XVI Fl. trib. lati. Britanniae leg. XX

### Praefecti

- T. Statilius · f. Pollia ·, in the year 129/130. (Bull.hell. IX 1885, 341).

### Primi ordines

- L. Petronius Taurus Volusianus, p. p., (CIL XI 1836)
- T. Pontius M. f. Sept(imia?) Marcianus Carnunto, primipil(us), in the year 243, (XIII 8620).

### Centuriones

- M. Annius M. f. Quir. Martialis, under Traian, (CIL VIII 2354).
- Aur(elius) Tertins, third century, (XIII 442).
- C. Caesius C. f. Ouf(entina) Silvester, in the time of Hadrian, (XI 5696).
- [T. Fl(avius) Constans, (centurio) protec(tor) (XIII 8291).]
- T. Flavius Super, (XIII 8291).
- T. Flavius Victorinus, (XIII 8219. 8233).
- Q. Iulius C. f. Quir. Aquila, in the time of Hadrian or Antoninus Pius, (VIII 15872).
- M. Iulius Martius, in the year 189, (XIII 8640).
- C. Iulius Fab(ia) Procolus, (XIII 7896).
- · Priscus, in the year 211, (XIII 8201).
- M. Petronius Fortunatus, (VIII 217, Suppl. p. 2353 = Dessau : 2658 add. P. CLXXIX).
- L. Septimius L. f. Pannonius, d(omo) Ulp(ia) Papir(ia) Petavione Marcellinus, in the time of Severus Alexander, (CIL XIII 1890).

- M. Verecundinius Simplex, in the year 164, (XIII 8203).
- Ulpus Charistus, third century, (Cagnat: IGR III 1441).
- unknown, (CIL V 7009).

#### Soldier's origins

- Italia: Italicus(?), (CIL VIII 21053); the veterans of the legion (V 2391. 3105. 5010). we can find in North-Italian towns, were most likely also born there.

[1829]

- Germania inferior: matribus Frisavis paternis (CIL XIII 8633). Ara Agrippinensium (CIL VI 3360. XIII 8292), Batavus (XIII 1847).
- Gallia Belgica: matribus Treveris (CIL XIII 8634), civis Trever (XIII 1883. 2614).
- Britannia: matribus Britannis (XIII 8631. 8632).
- [Dalmatia: Aequum?] (XIII 6952).
- Thracia: four men came from Thracia according to their Thracian names (CIL XIII 8607; Philippopolis (XIII 1891)).

#### Cognomen

(Most with the double name XXX Ulpia victrix or at least XXX Ulpia. The legion-number alone is only rarely mentioned):

- XXX e.g. Cagnat: IGR III 1441. CIL VI 2409 = 32900. 3636. VII 1335, 3. XIII 442. 1831. 1841. 1847. 1904. 3032. 8053. 8078. 8291. 8622. 8654. I(egio) Tr(icensima), (XIII 8082a); more often on bricks from the Lower Rhine, eg. Steiner: Katalog von Xanten, S. 67 nr. 224-245.
- Without a number, only as legio Ulpia, (CIL V 7009).
- Extremely rarely by a suppression of the main name, only as: XXX victrix, (CIL XIII 1884).

(With the cognomen pia fidelis since the time of Septimus Severus):

- XXX U(lpia) v(ictrix) p(ia) f(idelis), (CIL XII 683, XIII 1196. 1828. 1891. 8201. 8607. 8620. 8626). Dessau: 9493 (from the year 207). on coins of Victorinus (Cohen: VI<sup>2</sup> p. 76 nr. 69/70).
- VI pia VI fidelis and VII pia VII fidelis on coins of Gallienus.

(By adding the name of an emperor):

- XXX U. V. Alexandriana, (CIL XIII 1883).
- XXX U. V. S(everiana) A(lexandriana), (XIII 1839. 1890. 8619. 8639. III 6764).
- XXX U. V. Severiana Alexandriana p. f. (XIII 8616).
- XXX U. V. p. f. S. A., (XIII 8629).

\* Prosopography (I 27 nr. 219) &ndash; the study of people's careers &ndash; identified this man with the governor III Daciarum, but it should be rather the son of the former one, and he probably didn't work as an administrator of

Dacia until the later period of Marcus Aurelius's reign or under Commodus. His father must have been consul around the year 145. The false identification of the father and his son can be found in Jung: Fasten von Dacien 20f. Liebenam: Legaten 44, von Premerstein: Wiener Eranos 1909, 266ff and others. The latter had therefore constructed some clearly impossible dates for the diverse governships of the older one.