

Legio II Armeniaca

XXI. Legio II Armeniaca. Columns 1456-1457. Tr. Jeroen Pelgrom

[1456]

The “legio pseudocomitatensis” leg. II Armeniaca is mentioned in the Not. Dign. Or. VII 14 = 50 as “sub positione” of the “magister militum per Orentum”. Its name, however, makes it likely that, together with her sister-legion I Armeniaca (see also col. 1356), she was originally created as a “legio ripensis” with a permanent camp in one of the Northern provinces of the Orient. The legion appears in CIL II 13630, as the builder of (probably) a military construction, perhaps a camp, … 1457]

in Satala, which, differing from the reading in the Corpus (CIL), was emended as: a l[egione s]ecunda [A]rme[niaca .… inst]antia Iustini [ducis viri perfectissimi]mi perfecta ca[stra.…].

The legion is furthermore mentioned in the year 360 as a part of the garrison of Bezabda at the upper Tigris, Ammian. XX 7, 1: ad cuius tutelam tres legiones sunt deputatae secunda Flavia secundaque Armeniaca et Parthica itidem secunda (in his care were counted the Legiones Secunda Flavia, Secunda Armeniaca and Parthica, also the second). The fortress was taken by the Persians and a terrible bloodbath was held under the inhabitants and garrison. Nevertheless the legion seems to have survived this catastrophe because it appears in the Notitia.