

TEXT AND TRANSLATION

The inscription has three parts:

- A. Dedication
- B. Legion (fields 1–16)
- C. Auxiliary units (fields 17–32).

A. DEDICATION

*Imp. Cae[s]ari Traiano
Hadriano Augusto
for[ti]ss[im]o
libera[lissimo]que,
5 [[[le]g[io III Augusta]]]

adprob[at]is campo et exe]rcitu.*

Translation²⁶:

To Emperor Caesar Trajan Hadrian Augustus, most gallant and most generous, the Third Augustan Legion, training field and army having been approved.

B. THE LEGION

Field 1: Introduction; the *pili*

*Imp(erator) Caesar Traianus
Hadrianus Augustus
[[[legionem I]II [Augustam]]]
exercitationibus inspectis adlocutus
5 est is quae infra scripta sunt
Torquat[o] II et [Lib]one[us] co(n)s(ulibus), K(alendis) Iulis.

At pi[l]os*

Translation:

Emperor Caesar Trajan Hadrian Augustus, having watched its maneuvers, addressed the Third Augustan Legion in the words written below, on the first of July when Torquatus for the second time and Libo were consuls.

To the *pili*

²⁶ The best English translation (and one from which I have adopted a good many phrases) is that by Birley 1997, 210–213.

Field 2: All is fine

[Catullinu]s leg[at]us pro causa ves[tra a]cer est, ve[rum, quae argu]-
[e]nda vobis apud me fuissent omnia mihi pro vobis ipse dixit, quod]
cohors abest, quod omnibus annis per vices in officium pr[oecon]-
sulis mittitur, quod ante annum tertium cohortem et qui [nos]
5 ex centuriis in supplementum comparum tertianorum dedis-
tis, quod multae, quod diversae stationes vos distinent, quod
nostra memoria bis non tantum mutastis castra sed et nova fecis-
tis. Ob haec excusatos vos habe[rem si] quid in exercitatione cessas-
set. Sed nihil aut cessavis[se] videtur aut est ulla causa cur]
10 vobis excusatione [apud me opus esset - - - ca. 25 - - -]
retis val[- - - ca. 48 - - -]

Translation:

Catullinus, my legate, is keen in your support; indeed, everything that you might have had to put to me he has himself told me on your behalf: that a cohort is away because, taking turns, one is sent every year to the staff of the Proconsul; that two years ago you gave a cohort and five men from each centuria to the fellow third legion, that many and far-flung outposts keep you scattered, that twice within our memory you have not only changed fortresses but built new ones. For this I would have forgiven you if something had come to a halt in your training. But nothing seems to have halted, nor is there any reason why you should need my forgiving. ... you would

Field 3: the value of training

- - -]stissim[- - -]
[- - -]mpellat d[- - - fe-]
runtur [- - -] vis barbar[orum - - -]
moti sua s[pon]te - - -]
5 [- - - ca. 55 - - -]
vos modo non faciat leni[ores - - - ca. 35 - - -]: sperate
[m]elius esse facturos qua[e - - - ca. 20 - - -]sim[i] omnium. Ord-
nem tam longae exercit[ationis - - - ca. 25 - - -]et stren[ue] multa fe-
cistis et satis speciose sp[lend]etis sub cura Catullini m[ei] clari[s]simi viri,
10 [le]gati qu[i - - - ca. 54 - - -]
mir[- - -]

Translation:

- - - most - - - let push - - - carried away - - - a force of barbarians - - - borne by their own willfulness
- - - does not make you softer - - -. Trust that you will do better whatever - - - toughest of all. Such
a long course of training - - -. You have keenly done much, and you shine brightly under the care of
my noble Catullinus, the legate who - -

Field 4 (lost)

Field 5 (lost)

Field 6: legionary foot and horse

[- - ca. 14 - - -]armorum [- - ca. 12 - - - sollicit]ite vide-
[antur attendi]sse vobis. Primi ordines et centuriones agiles
[et fortes mo]re suo fuerunt.

[[[At equites legionis]]]

5 [Exe]rcitationes militares quodam modo suas leges
[ha]bent quibus si quit adiciatur aut detrahatur aut minor
[exer]citatio fit aut difficilior. Quantum autem difficultatis
[additur, tan]tum gratiae demitur. Vos ex difficilibus difficil-
[limum feci]stis ut loricati iaculationem perageretis
10 [- - ca. 10 - - - c]um damno, quin immo et animum probo
[- -].

Translation:

... weapons ... seem to have carefully looked after you. The battle-line leaders and centurions were quick and keen as is their wont.

To the legionary horsemen

Military exercises somehow have their own laws by which, if anything is added or taken away, the exercise gets either lesser or harder. And the harder one makes it, the less graceful it becomes. You have made the hardest out of a hard task by throwing spears while wearing the cuirass, and thereby you lost in elegance. But I do approve the spirit in which you did this - - -

Field 7: legionary horse

[- - p]robo .a..[- -]
[- -]tis iuvat itaq[ue - - -]
[- -]IO[- -]

Translation:

- - - I approve - -
- - - hence it helps - - -

Field 8 (lost)

Field 9: principes

[[[- - -]i[- - -]]]

[- - -]u hesternu[- - -]
- - -
[- - - eleg]anter est[is - - -]
[- - - exerc]itabam et c[- - -]

Translation:

To the *principes*

- - - of yesterday - - - you did this elegantly - - - thus I would train - - -

Field 10: wall and ditch

*ta]tioneꝝ [- - - ca. 35 - - - quas] alii [..... per]
plurēs dies divis[is]sent, e]as uno die peregristis. Murum lo[n]gi
operis et qualis mansuris hibernaculis fieri solet non [mul]-
to diutius exstrucxistis quam caespite exstruitur qui m[o]-
5 dulo pari caesus et vehitur facile et tractatur et sine mo[les]-
tia struitur ut mollis et planus pro natura sua. Vos lapid[ibus]
grandibus, gravibus, inaequalibus, quos neque vehere n[e]-
que attollere, neque locare quis possit nisi ut inaequa[lita]-
tes inter se compareant. Fossam glaria duram scabram
10 recte percussistis et radendo levem reddidistis. Opere pr[o]-
bato introgressi castra raptim et cibum et arma cepistis
equitem emissum secuti magno clamore revertentem per*

Translation:

- - - work others would have spread out over several days, you took only one day to finish. You have built a lengthy wall, made as if for permanent winter-quarters, in nearly as short a time as if it were built from turf which is cut in even pieces, easily carried and handled, and laid without difficulty, being naturally smooth and flat. You built with big, heavy, uneven stones that no one can carry, lift, or lay without their unevenness becoming evident. You dug a straight ditch through hard and rough gravel and scraped it smooth. Your work approved, you quickly entered camp, took your food and weapons, and followed the horse who had been sent out, hailing them with a great shout as they came back.

Field 11: the fight at the ditch (lost)

Field 12: (lost)

Field 13: *hastati*

[[[At] ḥast[a]t[os]]]

[- - -] + dies poscit u[t - - -]

[- - -] + s + u[- - -]

Translation:

To the *hastati*

- - - the day - - - demands that - - -

Field 14: *bastati* (lost)

Field 15: *bastati* (lost)

Field 16: *bastati* end

[- -] *iaculari non potuit qu*[- -]
[- -] *ϕo Celer hastatus rect*[e - - -]
[- -] *vos exercuit.*
[- -]

Translation:

- - - could not throw spears, for - - -
- - - Celer, the *hastatus*, has rightly drilled you.

C. AUXILIA

Field 17 (lost)

Field 18 (lost)

Field 19: unit with horsemen

- - - *il*-
lic saltib[*us* - - - *in*]-
tellexi v[*os* - - - *fuis*]-
setis ne[- -] *habili*-
5 *ter iacu*[*la* - -] *as qui*-
dam bi[- -]
[.] *ic*[- -]

Translation:

- - - there with jumps - - - I understand that you - - - would have been - - - but not - - - spear-
throwing skillfully - - - some - - -

Field 20: horsemen alighted

[- -] *et ex equis per tot*[- -]
[- -] *am quoque celer*[- -]
[- -] *exercitatione c*[- -]

Translation:

- - - alighted from the horses over the whole - - - also, quickly - - - by training - - -

Field 21: cohors II Hamiorum

[- - -] *K(alendis) Iul(is). Coh(orti) II Ha[miorum]*

[*Cum cast*] *ra vobis refragata s[im]t* - - - ca. 30 - - -]

[- - -] *us in campo, iusto* [- - - ca. 26 - - -]

[- - -] *a]quis ipsis int[erclu]* - - - ca. 28 - - -]

5 [- - - ca. 55 - - -]

[- - - ca. 55 - - -]

[- - - ca. 55 - - -]

Translation:

June - - - . To cohors II Hamiorum

Since the fort worked against you - - - open field, set battle- - - even cut off from water (?) - - -

Field 22: Bowmen shooting often and sharp

[.....] *m[.....]cistis et manibus non languidis. Id-*
[*circo, cum*] *vos iam sagitt[as no]n ad signum miseritis quod iam hostis*
[*adest, impe*] *llit praefectus ad eu]m vos mittendi saepius et instantius*
[*studium ut*] *in freq[uentibus telis ho]stis ultra scutum non audeat caput*

5 [*tollere.* - - - ca. 31 - - -] *tarde iunxistis [..]*

[- - - ca. 42 - - -] *erumpetis veh[e-*

[*mentius* - - - ca. 36 - - -] *idit* [- - - ca. 9 - - -]

[- - - ca. 52 - - -] *tum*

[- - - ca. 40 - - -] *Catullinus meus lega-*

10 [*tus* - - - ca. 45 - - -] *dit prae-*

[*fectus* - - - ca. 49 - - -]

[- - -]

Translation:

- - - you did - - - and with hands not slack. Hence, as you do not shoot at a signal (the foe being already upon you) your prefect makes you try and shoot oftener and sharper, so that among the many missiles the foe dare not lift his head above the shield. - - - You were slow to close ranks - - - you will break out more briskly - - - my Catullinus, the legate - - - the prefect - - - .

Field 23: an unknown unit (lost)

Field 24: more of that unknown unit (lost)

Field 25: Ala - - - pa - - - - sin - - -

- - -]ate contos [- - -]sī . . . [- - -]
[- - -] scop[os - - -]rsent es[- - -]
[- - - praefectus vester] vobis[c]um agil[iter decucurrit].

[- - -] Ala [. . .]pā[.] sī[- - -]

- 5 [Cantabricum a]criter alacriter eff[ecistis ita ut hostis] non potuisset vos tu[r]bare]
[- - - vos red]egisset qua fui[sssetis]
[- - - Catullinum meum virum clarissimum, legatum]

Translation:

- - - thrusting lances - - - the targets - - your prefect, keenly rode with you in the maneuver.

To ala . . . pā. sī - - -

You rode the Cantabrus sharply and keenly, so that the foe could not thwart you, nor push you where - - - my noble Catullinus, the legate - - -

Field 26: How to charge

laudo quod convertuit vos ad hanc exercitat[ionem quae verae di]-
micationis imaginem accepit et sic exercet [vos - - - ca. 12 - - - ut lau]-
dare vos possim. Cornelianus praefectus ves[ter intre]pide [officio suo sa]-
tis fecit. Contrari discursus non placent mihi nec [div]o Tra[iano qui mihi]
5 est auctor. E tecto transcurrat eques et pe[- - - . Si non]
videt qua vadat aut, si voluerit, eum r[efr]en[are nequit, non potest
[qu]iñ sit obnoxius caliculis tectis a[ut fo]ss[is quas] non videt. S[i]
[vul]tis congregi, debetis concurre[re per me]dium campum. Ta[m]-
[q]uam adversus hosti facienda [umquam sunt u]lla quam caute.

10 [- - -]on(is) Iul(is), Zarai. Coh(orti) [- - -]

[- - - ca. 15 - - -] turbetis et di[- - -]
[- - -]

Translation:

I praise him for having brought you over to this maneuver that has taken on the looks of true fighting, and for training you so well - - - that I can praise you. Your prefect Cornelianus has done his duty undauntedly. I do not like counter-wheelings, nor did deified Trajan, my model. A horseman should ride out from cover and - - - . If he does not see where he is going, or cannot rein in his horse when he wishes, he may come to grief from hidden traps and trenches he does not see. If you want to attack, you must charge across the middle of the field -as when facing the foe, nothing must ever be done recklessly.

July - - -, Zarai. To cohort - - -

- - - you might break the formation and - - -

Field 27: the Zarai cohort (lost)

Field 28: lost

Field 29: ala I Pannoniorum

III Idus Iulias. Ala I Pannoniorum

*Omnia per ordinem egistis. Campum d[ec]ursionibus complestis, iaculati estis non ineleganter, hast[is] usi q[uam]quam brevis-
bus et duris; lanceas plures vestrum [scie]nter miserun[t]. Saluis-
5 tis et hic agiliter et heri velociter. Si q[ui]t defuisset, desid[e]rarem,
si quit eminuisset, designarem. Tota exercitatione perae[que] pla-
cuistis. Catullinus legatus meus v[ir] clarissimus in o[mni]-*

Translation:

July 13. Ala I Pannoniorum

You did everything according to the book: you filled the training ground with your wheelings, you threw spears not ungracefully, though with short and stiff shafts. Several of you hurled *lancea* spears with skill. Your jumping onto the horses here was lively and yesterday swift. Had anything been lacking, I would note it; had anything stood out, I would mention it. You pleased equally throughout the whole maneuver. Noble Catullinus, my deputy, gives the same care to all - - -

Field 30: ala I Pannoniorum and cohorts VI Commagenorum

*bus quibus praeest parem suam curam exhib[uit][prae]-
fectus vester sollicite videtur vobis attendere. Congiar[i]-
um accipite. Viator, iam in Commagenorum campo salietis[is].*

Eq(uites) coh(ortis) VI Commagenorum

5 *Difficile est cohortales equites etiam per se placere, difficilius post ala-
rem exercitationem non displicere: alia spatia campi, alius iacu-
lantium numerus, frequens dextrator, Cantabricus densus,
equorum forma, armorum cultus pro stipendi modo. Verum
vos fastidium calore vitastis, strenue faciendo quae fieri debe-
10 bant. Addidistis ut et lapides fundis mitteretis et missilibus con-
fligeretis; saluistis ubique expedite. Catullini leg(ati) mei c(larissimi) v(iri)
[insignis virtus] apparet, quod tales vos sub illo v[ir]o v[ir]i estis.*

Translation:

- - - he has charge of. Your prefect - - - seems to look after you conscientiously. Accept a largess! Viator, you will do your jumping on the Commageni training ground.

Horsemen of Cohors VI Commagenorum

It is hard for horsemen of a cohort to please, even as they are, and harder still not to displease after a show by horsemen of an ala: the training field differs in size, spear throwers are fewer, the right-wheelers are tight, the Cantabrian formation is crammed, the build of horses and shine of weapons in keeping with the pay level. But you have banished weariness by your eagerness, by doing briskly what had to be done. Moreover, you both shot stones from slings and fought with javelins; everywhere you jumped nimbly onto your horses. The outstanding manhood of noble Catullinus, my legate, shows itself in that under this man you are such men.

Field 31: praise for the prefect of cohorts VI Commagenorum etc. (lost)

Field 32: end (lost)

D. UNPLACED FRAGMENTS

Fragments 23 and 24

[- -] *a eruptio non* [- -] *m acriter nunc* [- -]
[- - r] *api[do c]ursu* [- -] *co]ncucurristi[s* [- -]
[- -] *Catullin* [- -]
[- -] *isi* [- -]

Translation:

- - - breakout did not - - - now you sharply - - - charged at a run - - - . Catullinus - - - .

The two fragments could belong to field 12.

Fragments 45 and 46

[- -] *i viri [cele]brat[ae virtutis* [- -]
[- -] *C(o)h]o(rti) II F[l(avia) A]fro[rum* [- -]

Translation:

- - - a man of far-famed manhood - - - .

- - - To cohorts II Flavia Afrorum - - - .

Fragment 47

---]us et
[---p]raefectum.

[--- Coh(orti)- --- eq]ui(atae)

Translation:

--- and --- the prefect.

--- To cohort --- part-mounted. ---

Fragment 48

--- dec]ucurrit v[obiscum].

[---]M PER [---

Translation:

--- rode on parade with you ---.

---]M PER[---

Fragment 49

---]IIL[---]

[--- coh(orti) I Ch]al[cidenorum ---

Translation:

--- to *cohors I Chalcidenorum* ---

Fragment 50

[---] quam ut possint, altera [manu ---]
[---]um altera manu [---

Translation:

--- as much as they can, with one hand ---, with the other ---

Fragments 51, 52, 53

- - -]istis vib[ra . . .] + + [- - -]da [. . .]
[- - -]scopos et redeunt[es - - -]f]uistiſ.

Translation:

- - - you have done - - - hurled - - - the targets, and returning - - - have been - - - .

Fragment 54

- - - mo]llosso[- - -]
[- - - e]xcubi[- - -]

Translation:

- - - Molossi dogs - - - the watch - - -

Fragment 55

- - -]ſa ordi[- - -]
- - - commu]nibus stud[uiis - - -]
- - -]urguere[- - -]

Translation:

- - - by joint effort - - - push - - - .

Fragment 56

- - -]mm[. . .]
[- - - ta]ntop[ere]
[- - - l]audo
[- - - m]ag-
5 [n - - -]

Translation:

- - - so much - - - . I praise - - - great - - -

Fragment 57

- - -]nus ag[. . .]us [- - -]
[- - -].it qua equ[- - -]

Translation:

- - - where the horse - - -

Fragment 58

--- *med]io campo c[- - -]*
[- - -] *CIFR*[- - -]

Translation:

--- in the middle of the training ground ---

Fragment 59

--- *o]bnox[ius* ---

Translation:

--- likely to be hurt ---

Fragments 60, 61, 62

---]
[- - -] *us circula*[- - -]

---] *sive ter*[- - -]
[- - -] *et redeu*[- - -]

---] + + + [- - -]
[- - -] *direct[e .]n*[- - -]
[- - -

Translation:

--- riding in a circle --- or three --- and on the way back (?) --- straight ---

Fragments 63, 64

---] *a manu derigi op*[portet ---]
[- - -

Translation:

--- need be hurled with firm(?) hand ---

Fragment 65

---e]xbibuer[unt.]

[[[---]usq[---]]]

Translation:

--- They have shown. ---

Fragment 66

*--- exercitatio]onum cu[ra---]
[---]num laudo [---*

Translation:

--- the care for training --- I praise -nus ---

Fragment 67

---] vobiscum de]cucurrit.

Translation:

--- he rode with you in the maneuver.

Fragment 68

---] disciplina ? ---

Translation:

-- discipline ---

Fragment 69

*---] armaturam [---]
[---].m.[---*

Translation:

--- highly trained fighter ---

Fragment 70

-- -] *fossam it su*[- - -

Translation:

- - - went to the ditch and - - -

Fragment 71

-- -] *excepistis* [- - -
-- -] *tis et sum*[*m* - - -

Translation:

- - - You received them - - - and with outmost - - -

Fragment 72

-- -] + + + [- - -
-- -] *exercit*] *abam et* [- - -
-- -] *m erum*[*p* - - -

Translation:

- - - I would train - - - break out - - -

Fragments 73–144 (below, pp. 77–87) are too broken to warrant translation.