

situated in the central zone, and the milecastles and turrets (placed every third Roman mile). A very useful table can be found here, containing information about how some events affected the structure. The discussion in this chapter ends with two possible scenarios of the Wall's fate in the 4th and 5th century, one focusing on the collapse of the structure, while the other one focuses on the survival and continuity of daily life near the Wall.

The third chapter, "*Per lineam valli*": *The Limitanei of the Northern Frontier* (pp. 36-74), is an abundant source of knowledge of the army forces that stationed near Hadrian's Wall. The discussion begins with the differences between the *comitatenses*, or the mobile roman army, and the *limitanei*, the frontier forces, because those two armies were separated in the 4th century. While the mobile army had a better pay and they were always called to action when needed, the boarder army had lower wages and had to fulfil tasks like intelligence gathering, countering ridings or patrolling the *limes*.

Moving on, in the chapter, the author specifies the *Notitia Dignitatum*, a disputed document of the late Roman Empire, where it is mentioned the rank of *dux Britanniarum*, the highest authority in the frontier zone of Britain. Furthermore, the *dux Britanniarum* had to report to the *magister peditum praesentalis*, the most powerful man in the Western Empire. The ones who had to answer the *dux* are the *protectores* and *domestici*, the unit commanders. *Notitia* also provides other information about the units *per lineam vali*, or the units along the line of Hadrian's Wall, but when it comes to archaeology versus recorded history, the author finds no match, and tries to figure out possible answers for this discrepancy. In a few words, this chapter can be described as an attempt to highlight a possible hierarchy of the roman military forces near the Wall, but also casts an eye on the economic life, like soldier wages or strategic resources like metal deposits in the frontier zone.

"*Interpreting military transformation*" (pp. 74-111) is the next part of this book, which records the changes of the structures near the Wall using archaeological data, maps, texts and plans. Those changes are meant to explain what had happened in, and after the 4th century. We are given many excavation results from different sites along Hadrian's Wall, making us think that there is indeed a model, a trend for the structural modification of the buildings. Such changes can be seen at the *praetoria*, *principia*, or other barracks, which are being demolished or refurbished in the 4th and 5th century. Gates like *portae principalis*, *porta decumana* or *porta quintana sinistra*, also suffer modifications, most of them having in common the blocking or narrowing the passageways, maybe to minimize the access into forts. Economic mutations can be found at the *horrea*, redesigned to occupy less space beginning with the 3rd century (or in some places they are destructed) but also at the *via principalis* and *via praetoria* where numerous small finds like pottery and coins could suggest a possible marketplace. Representative for what we have seen before in other chapters of this book, this part ends with 4 possible scenarios analysing the last century of Roman occupation of the frontier with the *limitanei* as leading actors, but as the author states here, none of those scenarios can really explain how it ended .

In the following chapter, *Britons and barbarians* (pp.

111-140), the author analyses the differences and similarities between communities (military and non-military) which settled along Hadrian's Wall in order to find out what had happened after the withdrawn of the Roman troops in those districts. Geophysical surveys at different sites, detailed building plans, results of C14 researches on pollen, numismatic findings and also data about the changes of the woodlands between different centuries can be seen in this part of the book. All of them are used to observe mutations for the settlements in *Barbaricum* or near the Wall, and most of the results prove that occupation along the frontier continued in the 4th and 6th centuries.

The chapter *Frontiers Far and Wide* (pp. 140-154) is a short review about the late Roman frontiers and fortifications, in places like the Saxon shores, the Rhine, North Africa and others. The author decided that he could explain, and also find a model for what was going on in the border regions at the end of the Empire, by comparing different sites and analysing archaeological data from them. The main task of this chapter is to give an answer related to how the frontiers are linked to the collapse of the Western empire.

In the final chapter, *The Frontier at the End of Empire: Decline, Collapse, or Transformation* (pp. 154-171), divided in two parts, Collins focuses on the history of the Wall between the 4th century and the Early Medieval ages, aiming to prove his following statement with archaeological findings and recorded history: "The Roman frontier of northern Britain did not collapse-it survived Britain's separation from the Roman empire. The frontier almost certainly fragmented through the course of the 5th and 6th centuries, but it only became redundant when new political units emerged" (p. 168). He also thinks that certain events such as the Barbarian Conspiracy of 367, or the usurpations of Magnus Maximus and Eugenius, could have created chaos and disorder along the Wall, resulting in a withdrawal of some soldier forces to the continent. For a possible continuity after the 4th and 5th centuries, the author explores several cases, and one of them is that a political and military authority like the *dux Britanniarum* would have been needed in order to maintain security and stability at the frontier. There are also illustrated the new political post-roman formations which could have been created after the relations between Britain and the empire have arrived to an end.

This chapter is followed up by three *Appendix*-es where the author presents a short history of the excavations at different sites, which are mentioned in the previous chapters, the sites where pollen dating was used, and some information about the drawings used in this book. The book ends with a considerable *Bibliography* (pp. 185-206) and the *Index*.

Hadrian's Wall and the End of Empire can be seen as a book for academic purposes, as it contains a large number of references and archaeological data, but can also serve as a casual reading. The language used by the author is both formal and informal and for a better understanding, the reader should have some knowledge about the roman history and archaeology field. In conclusion, this book serves its purpose, presenting a new research study that should be more investigated, and it is designed to raise questions about the evidence we have for a certain issues, or how can those problems be explained.