

Notes

A Roman *castellum* at Chott Chergui (Algeria)

Mustapha Ameur Djeradi

Department of Architecture, Faculty of Science and Technology, Abdelhamid Ibn Badis University, Mostaganem, Algeria

Abstract

Roman remains were discovered by chance at Saf-Saf Lakhdera in the Chott Chergui (Algeria). This article attempts to demonstrate that these ruins are part of a Roman fortification in the south of Caesarian Mauretania, far from the Severan *limes*, the course of which has been confirmed by numerous archaeologists. A historical-comparative study has been carried out to confirm that the ruins of Saf-Saf Lakhdera are those of a *castellum*. The corpus of graphic and photographic records and the 'Khmag 'Azzir' inscription, combined with theoretical sources on Roman defensive architecture, confirmed that the fortifications at Saf-Saf Lakhdar were part of a *castellum*. The 'Khmag 'Azzir' inscription revealed three main facts: it is dedicated to deities to commemorate the victory over the Berber tribes of the Saharan Atlas; it mentions Caius Octavius Pudens, who was procurator during the reign of the emperor Septimius Severus; and it mentions the conflicts between Rome and the Bavarians, a tribe from the ancient Maghreb. We urgently need to protect the site and carry out excavations in the hope of finding pottery or other objects that could shed light on and support this discovery.

قلعة رومانية في شط شرقي
ملخص

موضوع المقال يتعلق بالبقايا الرومانية المكتشفة بالصدفة في الصفصاف الأخضر، الواقعة في شط شرقي (الجزائر). إن المقال يحاول إثبات أن هذه الأثار هي جزء من حصن روماني جنوب موريتانيا القيصرية، بعيداً عن التحصينات الرومانية الذي تم توافق عليها من قبل العديد من علماء الآثار. للقيام بذلك، تم تحديث دراسة تاريخية مقارنة لتأكيد أن أنقاض الصفصاف الأخضر هي أطلال قلعة. أكدت المعطيات المكونة من تسجيلات رسمية وتصويرية والكتابة "خناق أزر"، في مواجهة المصادر النظرية للعمارة الدفاعية الرومانية، أن تحصينات الصفصاف الأخضر جزء من قلعة رومانية. كشفت الكتابة "خناق أزر" عن ثلاث معطيات رئيسية. تم تخصيص هذه الكتابة للالهة لإحياء ذكرى الانتصار على القبائل الأمازيغية في الأطلس الصحراوي. يذكر أيضاً كايوس اوكتافيوس بوندس، الذي كان الوكيل في عهد الإمبراطور سيبتيموس سيفيروس وأخير كشفت عن الصراعات بين روما والبارباريين، قبيلة من المغرب العربي القديم. لقد تبين من خلال هذا الاكتشاف، أنه أصبح من الضروري حماية الموقع وإجراء الحفريات على أمل العثور على الفخار أو غيرها من الأشياء التي من المحتمل أن تنير اكتشافنا وتعززه.

Keywords: fortification, frontier, road, military, epigraphy

A Roman *castellum* at Chott Chergui

Introduction

The subject of this archaeological note is the Roman *castellum* at the site of Saf-Saf Lakhdar. This note is divided into two parts, the first of which is devoted to the description of the *castellum* in its geographical and architectural dimensions. This fortification was separate from the Roman *limes*¹. It is completely covered by the soil and sand of the Sahara. The second part describes the inscription discovered in the place called 'Khmag 'Azzir', 30 km from Saf-Saf Lakhdar. This inscription provides conclusive epigraphic evidence of the Roman presence in the southern area of the Chott² Chergui and in the northern part of the Saharan Atlas, as well as evidence of the situation and the historical context. It also reveals the conflictual relations between the Romans and the local tribes (Bavares).

Without claiming to evaluate them, the works carried out on Algerian territory concerning the Roman presence have concentrated mainly on the provinces of Mauretania Sitifensis, Numidia Cirtea and Numidia Militare. As for Caesarian Mauretania, archaeological studies have concentrated mainly on

its northern part, on the border between the Oranian plateau and the coast (Yahiaoui 2003).

The site of Saf-Saf Lakhdar was discovered by chance during a truffle hunt in the Chott Chergui, at the foot of the Ksour mountains, in the western part of the Saharan Atlas (Algeria). My interest was then directed towards a Roman fortification. But the literature review and historiography of the region do not point to any evidence of Roman presence, although P. Salama's map of the road network mentions the possibility of tracks crossing beyond the Roman frontier road, on the southern borders of the province of Caesarian Mauretania (Salama 1951).

The hypothesis is that the remains discovered are those of a *castellum*, based on its location, which suggests a Roman military defence construction (Bardouille 2010). This is supported by the discovery of an inscription by Drici, not far from Saf-Saf Lakhdar and 5 km north of the town of El Bayadh, at a place called 'Knag Azzir', which opens up new historical perspectives on the Roman presence and its relations with the indigenous tribes. Indeed, this inscription reveals Roman penetration into the confines of the desert, far from the Severan *limes* (Drici 2015). If the hypothesis is confirmed, this fort would have belonged to a first defensive system that surrounded Caesarian Mauretania. The Romans were thus able to keep an eye on the western part of the Chott Chergui, which separates the Saharan Atlas and the Sahara from 'useful' Africa. They would have built it to protect themselves from looters and nomadic

Corresponding author: Mustapha Ameur Djeradi, email: mustapha.djerradi@univ-mosta.dz

Cite this article: Djeradi MA (2023). A Roman *castellum* at Chott Chergui (Algeria). *Libyan Studies* 54, 99–105. <https://doi.org/10.1017/lis.2023.15>

© The Author(s), 2023. Published by Cambridge University Press on behalf of the British Institute for Libyan & Northern African Studies. This is an Open Access article, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution licence (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted re-use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

tribes coming from the Saharan Atlas and the desert. The architectural aspects of the remains, at first sight, could be classified as Roman defensive architecture (Ginouvès *et al.* 1985).

State of the *castellum*

Roman military architecture in North Africa is unique. There, the Romans did not follow the patterns of construction designated from Rome (Toutain 1903). They did not build their camps and garrisons according to the single model that prevailed in the Roman Empire, both in the West and in the East (Troussat 1974). Lenoir has proposed a general re-reading of the full complexity of the empire's military systems and strategies in areas on the edge of the desert, in contact with nomadic populations, highlighting their originality in Roman tradition and as an expression of imperial power (Lenoir 2011). By means of a typological study, the author distinguishes six main classes of constructions and suggests a period of use for each of them. The development of the fortifications, particularly the towers protecting the gates, is less linear than is generally assumed. The *principia* (the administrative quarter at the centre of the camp) became increasingly important and its religious function, linked to the cult of the ensigns and the emperor, became predominant.

The *castellum* of Saf-Saf Lakhdar is located in the Chott Chergui in the western part of the Saharan Atlas (Algeria), and its name has both a botanical and a chromatic meaning. Saf-Saf refers to the willow, the only tree species present on the site, and Lakhdar means 'green', in reference to the green landscape of the place, in contrast to the ochre and yellow semi-desert of the surrounding environment.

This outpost, the southernmost of the fortifications of Caesarian Mauretania, is located 350 km southwest of Oran, in

the Algerian pre-desert, on one of the last southern ranges of the Saharan Atlas. It is strategically located on a natural axis of north–south communication, in an intermediate zone between the northern plains and the Ksour mountains (Saharan Atlas).

The site is marked by a hill that surrounds it to the north, west and south. This hill is called Rjal el Gara, which literally means 'the men of the cave'. On this hill are four mausoleums surmounted by ogival domes (local style) (Djeradi 2021), built in honour of the saints of the region. The ground is rocky and salty. It is covered by steppe vegetation dominated by alfa and halophytes. The substratum consists of limestone and a high density of layers of clay silt (Figure 1).

The water source of the Saf-Saf is still flowing. The nomads have built a basin and a well. Close to this water source, we discovered the remains of a circular tower (3.60 m in diameter). On the southwestern side of the wall, the foundations of another square tower (4.00 m x 4.00 m) are clearly visible. On the other side of the wall, at the edge of the flow of the Saf-Saf, there are clearly visible mounds of stones of uniform shape and size, similar to barrows. We can hypothesise that this is indeed a cemetery where the soldiers of the garrison were buried. Further south, there are nomadic dwellings built with the stones of the *castellum*.

The fort is rectangular in shape, built on a plateau that slopes slightly to the north. The rampart measures 110 m by 150 m and 1.35 m thick. It has a single gate and three towers. There are some traces of the interior of the fort. It was probably divided into dwellings, shops and stables, corresponding to a military post that would have been occupied by *limitanei* rather than *comitatenses* (elite troops) (Figure 2).

Other elements that we think we can identify are vaulted rooms, of which only a few sections remain. Some traces have been preserved of two towers, the foundations of which have a

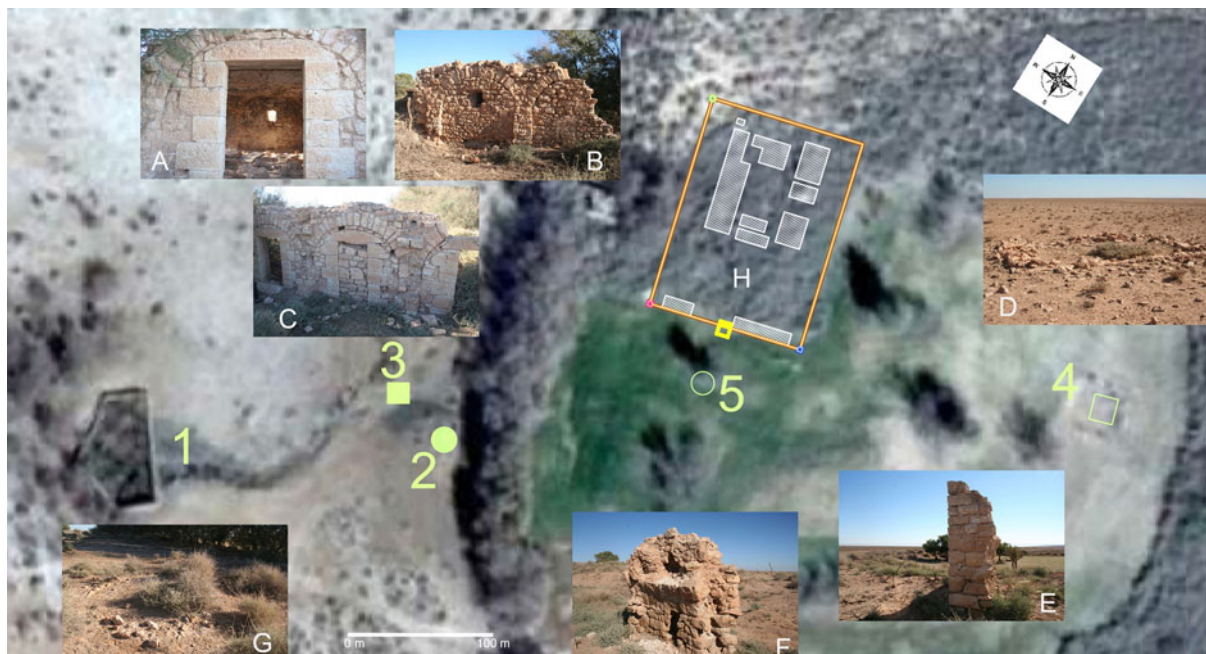


Figure 1. The physical, natural and human environment of Saf-Saf Lakhdar (Djeradi, July 2021).

- 1 Agricultural plot fenced with stones of fortification
- 2 Remains of a circular tower
- 3 Water source of Sfisifa
- 4 Foundations of square tower
- 5 Willow tree

ABC Remains of facades of soldiers' supposed homes

D Illustration of foundations of square tower

E Remains of surrounding wall

F Remains of front door

G Illustration of circular tower remains

H ground plan of *castellum* (top left: western watchtower; bottom right: southeast watchtower; centre bottom: entrance door; bottom left: southwestern watchtower)

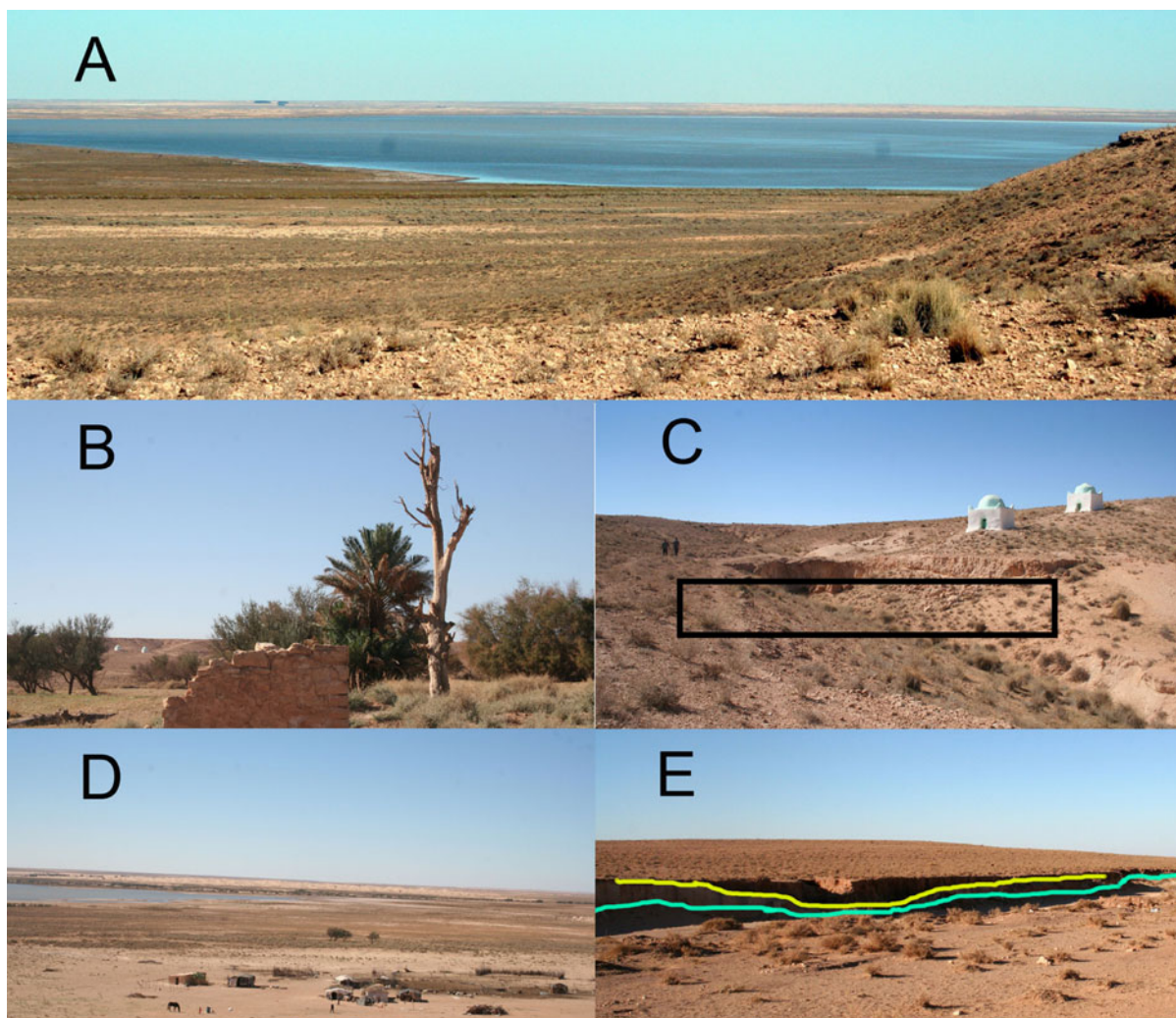


Figure 2. Ground plan of the Saf-Saf Lakhdar's *castellum* (Djeradi, July 2021).

- A Saf-Saf Lakhdar vegetation cover
 B Willow tree, toponymic reference
 C Limestone rock around remains (in rectangular box)
 D Chott Chergui settlement
 E Clay-loam layers (line above); limestone layers (line below)

rectangular bipartite plan 4 m x 3.5 m), located on the southwest and southeast façades. The walls are 1.60 m thick. The gate tower protrudes from the centre of the south wall. It is not on the line of the enclosure. Only the south side of the gate is partially preserved with an opening of 2.80 m on the east side. It is a staggered entrance with a depth of 3 m (Figure 3).

The inscription of 'Khnag 'Azzir', a major revelation

- Support: a limestone plaque.
- Description: An inscription in which the last five lines are entirely hammered out. It is laid out in eight lines of 8-cm-high letters (Figure 4).
- Text:

IOVI OPTIM MAX
 ET DIS FAUTORIB
 VOTUM
 C OCTAVIUS PUDENS
 PROC SEVERI
 AUG
 BAVARIB CAESIS
 CAPTIS QUE

Translation: To the god Jupiter most good and great and to the patron deities. This is an offering from Caius Octavius Pudens who is procurator of Augustus. In honour of the elimination and capture of the Bavares.

This inscription contains three extremely important revelations.

1. It is dedicated to the god Jupiter to commemorate a victory over the Bavarians.
2. The inscription reveals the existence of a person called Caius Octavius Pudens.
3. It sheds light on certain aspects of the main conflicts linked to the Roman invasion of the Saharan Atlas.

This inscription shows the Roman penetration of the desert confines far from the Severan *limes*, while at the same time revealing previously unpublished historical facts. According to Drici, this inscription contains three revelations (Drici 2015).

The revelation about the deities

The inscription is dedicated to deities to commemorate a victory over Berber tribes from the Saharan Atlas (Baquates, Bavares,

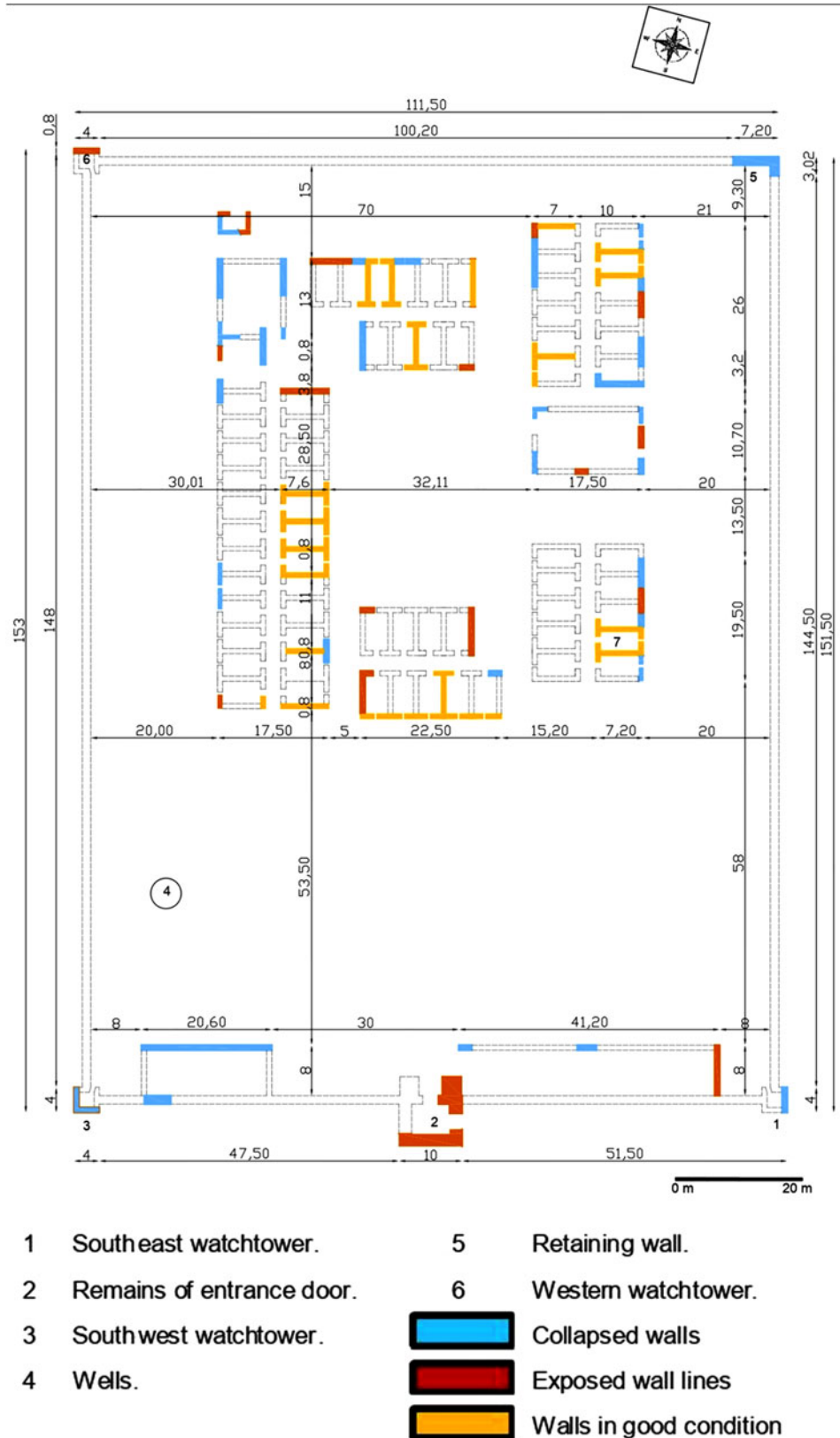


Figure 3. Development plan and environment of the supposed Saf-Saf Lakhdar's castellum (Djeradi, July 2021).

Fraxens or Quinquegentanii). It was traditional to honour the god Jupiter for the success and supremacy of the Romans over their enemies. Although the god Jupiter is attested on countless occasions, the 'Dis Fautores' are an exception. Drici raises the question of whether the inscription 'Dis Fautores' refers to partisan or protective deities. Didn't they, in this sense, lend a helping hand to the procurator Caius Octavius Pudens to defeat the Bavarians?

This inscription is not very common in the lists and indices of North-African inscriptions.

The revelation about Caius Octavius Pudens

The procurator Caius Octavius Pudens is a well-known figure from various sources (Pallu de Lessert 1969; Thomasson 1984; Christol 1992). It has been established that he served during the

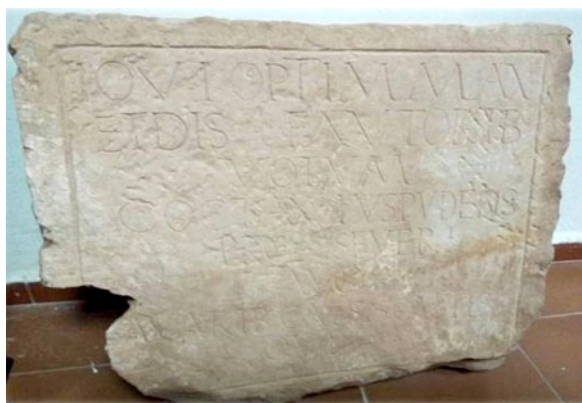


Figure 4. The inscription of 'Khmag 'Azzir' (Djeradi, January 2021).

reign of Emperor Septimius Severus – who, it is assumed, reigned between the years 198 and 211, based on his association with his correlatives, his sons Caracalla and Géta (Dupuis *et al.* 2021). Pallu de Lessert had established the entire reign of Septimius Severus to have lasted from 193 to 211, but a re-reading of the inscriptions and a comparison of historical events with the work of this procurator led M. Christol to settle on a revised start date of 198. On this point, he agrees with and supports the views of Salama (1951). Using the work of Benseddik (1991), Magioncalda (2006) places this procurator at 198–200. All these references have the merit of helping to date this inscription and, consequently, that of the Saf-Saf Lakhdar *castellum*.

According to Christol (1992), Caius Octavius Pudens was not known as a military leader, but was valued above all for his work on roads and public buildings. He probably confronted the Bavarians when he entered their territory to build a road linking the Dimmidi military camp to the Saf-Saf Lakhdar camp, thus forming a frontier in front of the Chott Chergui. This road provided a link with the Roman road further north, the Severan *limes* (Salama 1951).

The revelation about the Bavarians and the Romans

The inscription highlights the conflicts between Rome and the Bavarians and the designation of this tribe as a major player in the troubles of the ancient Maghreb. The epigraphic record reveals the presence of the Bavarians from the third to the fifth centuries as a major factor in the resistance against the Roman forces (Desanges 1962). And the fact that they were found in several places at once suggests that the Bavarians were a nomadic people, or that they were divided into several branches with the same ethnonym.

Camps (1991) affirmed that the Bavarians were part of the Moorish confederation. He divided them into two distinct entities: the Eastern Bavarians, whose area of occupation extended into Setifian Mauretania, and the Western Bavarians, whose territorial limits were located in the western part of Caesarian Mauretania, more precisely in the Traras, Dahra and Ouarsenis mountains. The inscription, because of its geographical location and the message it conveys, has led us to reconsider the territoriality of the Bavarians: the message of the inscription mentions that there was a battle between the Roman troops commanded by Caius Octavius Pudens and the Bavarians in a place that has not yet been determined. This place was probably in the region where the inscription was found. It seems that in this semi-desert area, south of the Chott Chergui and at the northern foot of the Saharan Atlas, the Bavarians fought the Romans between 198 and 200. This probably prompted the Romans to build the *castellum* of Saf-Saf Lakhdar.

Conclusion

The *limes* was reinforced with the establishment of the advanced posts of Aïoun Sbiba and *castellum* Dimmidi (Benseddik 1999). The *castellum* of Saf-Saf Lakhdar may have been erected to control the road linking Saf-Saf Lakhdar to the *castella* of Centuria (Aïn El Hadjar), Luccu (Timziouine), Ala Miliaria³ (Béniane) and Cohors Breucorum⁴ (Takhmaret). The main purpose of the roads in Caesarian Mauretania was to link the military posts responsible for defending the Roman provinces against the incursions of the nomads. During the reign of Emperor Septimius Severus, these military installations served as Roman stations and fortresses on a military route known as the 'Nova Praetentura', created to extend southwards the territories controlled by the Romans in Caesarian Mauretania.

The Saf-Saf Lakhdar outpost was probably designed to keep an eye on the nomadic tribes, controlling their transhumance corridors through the presence of fortifications, which made it impossible to cross areas that had been travelled for generations (Yahiaoui 2003). The Roman authorities confined the Berber tribes to the foothills of the Saharan Atlas mountains. The restriction of nomadic areas must have led to tribal uprisings within these borders, although the evidence for this is extremely tenuous. Indeed, the El Bayadh inscription reveals one of the first clashes between Roman authority and a tribe developing in its traditional environment.

The Romans pursued a policy of expansion and conquest in which the wars were neither successive nor continuous (Le Bohec 1989). They occupied the interior of North Africa and adopted a defensive strategy that mobilised a new defence system for both civil and military needs. In order to monitor and protect a strategically or economically important civilian area, the Romans built military posts in Africa (Christol 2015). These military buildings were laid out and divided into well-defined zones, designated by the term *limes*, which meant a long and narrow strip of land divided into several defensive systems. Under Hadrian or perhaps Trajan, the III Augusta Legion finally established its camp at Lambaesis;⁵ Nerva built defences in Numidia Militare; and his successor Trajan ordered the occupation of the Aures mountains. Rome then controlled a strip of territory of 50 to 100 km from the coast to the mountain ranges of the hinterland. Hadrian consolidated the defensive system of Africa by creating units of Palmyrene archers (Baroni 2020). Under the Severans, the *limes* was developed in Mauretania. They built a new 'Nova Praetentura' ring road linking Rapidum (Djouab) in Numidia with Altava⁶ and to Numerus Syrorum (Maghnia), extending the control of Caesarian Mauretania to the south. Advanced posts in the desert controlled the nomadic tribes (Baratte 2012) – we can cite: *castellum* Dimmidi (Messâad oasis); Cydamus (Ghadamès); and Bu Njem (modern Libya) (Figure 5).

Many indigenous populations were able to live on the fringes of the Roman system, especially the nomadic tribes, who were driven back to the desert areas, to the point where the existence of two Africas was attested, one Romanised (useful Africa) and the other inhabited by the tribes of the mountains and deserts. It is in this context that we must look at the *castella* built between the Roman plains of the steppe and the desert territories inhabited by the refractory Berbers (Frémeaux *et al.* 2007).

In conclusion, the location of the *castellum* of Saf-Saf Lakhdar was a matter of concern for Roman military defence strategies. This fort would have been part of a first-defence system surrounding Caesarian Mauretania. It allowed the Romans to monitor the western part of the Chott Chergui, which separated the Saharan Atlas and the Sahara from 'useful' Africa, and it would have been built to protect against raiders and nomadic tribes from the Saharan Atlas and the desert.



Figure 5. *Limes* and fortified places in the second century (Eric Gaba. Available at: https://fr.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Africa_Roman_map.svg, modified by the author, March 2022, for clarity, see online colour version).

Despois, author of an excellent work on the Djebel Amour, claimed that there were no traces of Roman occupation beyond the Oran plateau (Despois 1957). This paper refutes Despois's claims. In fact, after the discovery of the inscription of 'Khmag 'Azzir', the Roman presence was confirmed well beyond the plateau, at the very northern limit of the Saharan Atlas.

The ruins of Saf-Saf Lakhdar are probably a Roman *castellum*; only archaeological excavations can scientifically prove this. It is now imperative to protect the site, to reconsider the entire archaeological map of Algeria and to review the limits of the Roman Empire beyond the established borders. This discovery is likely to shed new light on the perception of the intermediate territory between the high plains of the north and the mountains of the Saharan Atlas. It could also give rise to renewed interest in the Chott Chergui region as a whole.

Finally, we hope that this article, with the help of young people's heritage associations, will raise awareness among the local and central authorities of the need to protect the site and carry out excavations in the hope of finding pottery or other objects that might shed light on the existence of this fortification.

Notes

- 1 A fortified line separating the useful Roman urbanised world from the rest.
- 2 A set of salt lakes.
- 3 The remains of the most important military camp in the region, after that of the legion at Lambaesis. This camp, named Ala Miliaria, was part of the Roman defensive system, under the reign of Emperor Septimius Severus (Harmand 1970).
- 4 Originally a *castellum*, it was given its name because it was under the control of a cohort of Breuci, a tribe from ancient Illyria.
- 5 Lambaesis was a military town in Roman Africa, located in the northeast of Algeria, in the Aurès region, on the road to Timgad and Khenchela.
- 6 Altava (Ouled Mimoun) is a commune in the northwest of Algeria, in the Wilaya of Tlemcen. This ancient city is located on the Roman road from Théveste (Tebessa) to Numerus Syrorum (Maghnia) (Héron De Villefosse 1887). During the reign of the Roman emperor Septimius Severus, the city had a Roman garrison that protected the new fortified line of the Roman Empire which had moved southwards from the Mediterranean shores and the Nova Praetentura road, connecting Rapidum (Djouab) in Numidia to Altava and Numerus Syrorum in Caesarian Mauretania (Antonietta Ruii 2012). After the Vandal invasion in 429, it became the capital of an independent Berber state, called the Kingdom of the Moors and Romans (Lawless 1969).

References

Antonietta Ruii, M. 2012. *La cohors II Sardorum ad Altava (Ouled-Mimoun, Algeria)*, Carocci, Sassari University, Sassari: 1415–35.

- Baratte, F. 2012. *L'Afrique romaine Tripolitaine et Tunisie*. Picard, Paris.
- Bardouille, J. 2010. L'importance du génie militaire dans l'armée romaine à l'époque impériale. *Revue historique des armées* 261: 79–87
- Baroni, A.F. 2020. Mobilité des unités et «dislocation» de la documentation : l'exemple des auxiliaires attestés en Numidie septentrionale au 1^{er} s. ap. J.-C. *Antiquités africaines* 56: 303–321.
- Benseddik, N. 1991. Usinaza (Saneg) : un nouveau témoignage de l'activité de P. Aelius Peregrinus sur la praetentura sévérienne, *L'Africa romana* 9: 425–438.
- Benseddik, N. 1999. Septime Sévère, P. Aelius Peregrinus Rogatus et le limes de Maurétanie Césarienne. In: X. Dupuis, C. Lepelley (eds), *Frontières et limites géographiques de l'Afrique du nord antique*, Publications de la Sorbonne, Paris: 89–110.
- Camps, G. 1991. Bavares. In: B. Ben Yasla (ed.) *Encyclopédie Berbère*. 9: 1394–1399.
- Christol, M. 1992. L'œuvre de C. Octavius Pudens Caesius Honoratus en Maurétanie Césarienne. *L'Africa romana* 10: 1141–52.
- Christol, M. 2015. L'Empire romain en Afrique : aspects et résonances d'un impérialisme. *Cahiers d'Histoire* 128: 19–35.
- Desanges, J. 1962. *Catalogue des tribus africaines de l'antiquité classique à l'ouest du Nil*. Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines, Dakar.
- Djeradi, M.A. 2021. Qubba of the Ksour Mountains, between material and immaterial. *A I Z ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture* 18(1): 217–234. Doi: 105505/ituif.2021.71602.
- Camps, G. 1991. Bavares. In: B. Ben Yasla (ed.) *Encyclopédie Berbère*. 9: 1394–1399.
- Drici, S. 2015. Inscription inédite des Bavares d'El Bayadh et les troubles au Maghreb ancien. Available at: https://www.academia.edu/16270060/Inscription_in%C3%A9dite_des_Bavares_dEl_Bayadh_et_les_troubles_au_Maghreb_ancien (accessed 15 August 2023).
- Dupuis, X. and Kasdi, Z. 2021. Remarques sur quelques gouverneurs de la Maurétanie césarienne de la période sévérienne. *Mélanges de l'École française de Rome – Antiquité*: 249–263.
- Frémeaux, J. and Le Bohec, Y. 2007. Histoire de l'Afrique romaine. 146 avant J.-C.–439 après J.-C. *Revue Historique des Armées* 246: 136.
- Ginouvé, R. and Martin, R. 1985. *Dictionnaire méthodique de l'architecture grecque et romaine Tome I. Matériaux, techniques de construction, techniques et formes de décor*. Publications de l'École Française de Rome, Rome.
- Harmand, L. 1970. *L'Occident romain, Gaule, Espagne, Bretagne, Afrique du Nord*. Payot, Paris.
- Héron De Villefosse, A. 1887. Inscriptions milliaires des environs de Tagremaret (Algérie). *Comptes rendus des séances de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres* 31(2): 258–262.
- Lawless, R.I. 1969. *Mauretania Casesartiensis : une étude archéologique et géographique* (Doctoral thesis). Durham University. United Kingdom. Available at: http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/9282/1/9282_6213-vol1.PDF?UKUDH: CyT (accessed on 10 July 2022).
- Le Bohec, Y. 1989. *La troisième légion auguste*. CNRS, Paris.
- Lenoir, M. 2011. *Le camp romain: Proche-Orient et Afrique du Nord*. École Française de Rome, Rome.

- Magioncalda, A. 2006. I procuratori-governatori delle due Mauretaniae : aggiornamenti (1989–2004) e nuove ipotesi. *L’Africa romana*, 16: 1737–57.
- Pallu De Lessert, A.C. 1969. *Fastes des provinces africaines sous la domination romaine*. T I. Ernest Lerous, Rome.
- Salama, P. 1951. *Les voies roumaines de l’Afrique du Nord*. Imprimerie officielle du Gouvernement Général, Algiers.
- Thomasson, B.E. 1984. *Laterculi praesidium*. Radius, Göteborg.
- Toutain, J. 1903. Notes et documents sur les voies stratégiques et sur l’occupation militaire du Sud Tunisien à l’époque romaine par MM les capitaines Donau et Le Bœuf, les lieutenants De Pontbriand, Goulon et Tardy. *Bulletin archéologique*, Algiers: 272–409.
- Trousset, P. 1974. *Recherches sur le limes tripolitanus du chott El-Djerid à la frontière tuniso-libyenne*. Editions du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris.
- Yahiaoui, N. 2003. Les Confins occidentaux de la Maurétanie Césarienne. (published doctoral dissertation). École pratique des hautes études, Paris. Available at: <https://tel.archives-ouvertes.fr/tel-00534329> (accessed on 05 January 2022).