



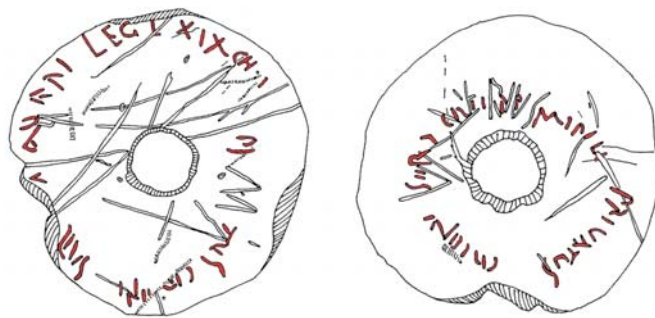
IMPERIUM KONFLIKT MYTHOS
2000 JAHRE | VARUSSCHLACHT®

Press Information

Conquest of the Alpine Region LWL-Römermuseum Also Covers Varus' First Engagement North of the Alps

Haltern am See (LWL)

Under Emperor Augustus the Roman Empire 2000 years ago was at the height of its power. The rise of Rome to a power which dominated the whole Mediterranean area is shown by the LWL-Römermuseum in Haltern am See in its new exhibition "IMPERIUM" (16.5.-11.10.). The exhibition organised by the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe



(LWL) is part of the exhibition project „IMPERIUM CONFLICT MYTH. 2000 Years Varus Battle“. It spotlights Augustus' political achievements and the cultural riches of his "Golden Age". The exhibition presents a picture of the man who was defeated in the Battle in the Teutoburg Forest that does away with the widespread image of Publius Quinctilius Varus as a failure

Transcription of a lead disc from Dangstetten, which names Varus as the commander of the 19th legion.

© Archäologische Landesmuseum Baden-Württemberg. Außenstelle Konstanz.

The LWL is presenting some of the more than 300 world-class exhibits in a series:

Commander in the Alpine Campaign

When Varus came to Germania in 6 or 7 AD as a governor, he assumed command over several military units, amongst others the 19th legion, which at this time was stationed at the army camp of Haltern. New research has shown that two decades before this Varus had commanded the 19th legion and had taken part with it in a victorious campaign in the Alps.

www.imperium-konflikt-mythos.de

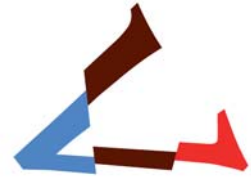
„IMPERIUM KONFLIKT MYTHOS. 2000 Jahre Varusschlacht“ ist ein Ausstellungsprojekt im Jahre 2009 getragen von:

LWL

Für die Menschen.
Für Westfalen-Lippe.

**VARUS
SCHLACHT** IM OSNABRÜCKER LAND
MUSEUM UND PARK
KALKRIESE

**LANDES
VERBAND
LIPPE**  **Lippe service**
Kreis Lippe



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*Bent fragment of a Celtic sword from the Crap Ses gorge.
©Amt für Kultur Kanton Graubünden, Archäologischer
Dienst Chur. Photograph: Christina Luzzi*

An unprepossessing lead disc from the Roman legionary camp of Danstetten (southern Baden) provides the clue. During the preparations for the exhibition “Imperium” the barely legible inscription on the object were interpreted anew. “Privatus, baggage servant from the 1st cohort and slave of Publius Quinctilius Varus, legate of the 19th legion“, is written on

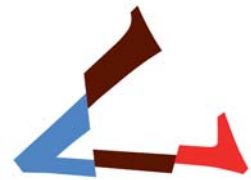
the front of the disc. Probably the lead disc served as a tag on an object belonging to Varus’ or his slave Privatus’ luggage.

A Protective Zone in the North

2000 years ago Celtic tribes settled in today’s northwest Switzerland and southern Germany. They raided northern Italy and the Gaulish provinces. Augustus sent his stepsons, Tiberius and Drusus, in 15 BC on a campaign to stop this threat on the northern borders of the Empire. However, the military operation was not only a punitive expedition against the indigenous population. From the beginning Augustus planned to occupy the whole Alpine area and the area north of the Alps for Rome, to create a protective zone for Italy.



*Tip of a projectile with the stamp of the 19th legion
from the sanctuary of Döttenbichl.
© Archäologische Staatssammlung München.
Photograph: Manfred Eberlein*



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In addition, Augustus had plans for the upper reaches of the Rhine and the Danube, which would enable him to link the western and eastern parts of the empire and to move troops quickly between them.



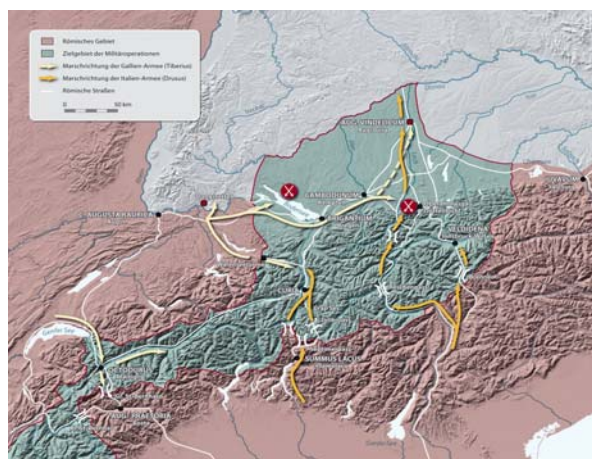
Denarius with representation of branches being offered. Numismatic collection, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Photograph: Reinhard Saczewski

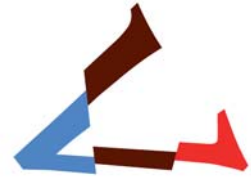
Advances from Two Directions

Tiberius and Drusus advanced in two armies: Tiberius from Gaul and Drusus from northern Italy. First Drusus had to fight his way over the Alpine passes. Evidence of this are the numerous weapons which archaeologists have found in the area of the Crap Ses-Gorge in today's Switzerland.

The 19th century, which had its headquarters at Dangstetten, was part of Tiberius' troops. Their commander, Varus, led them from their camp to the foothills of the Alps. At the lake of Constance he fought a victorious battle, advanced further to the source of the Danube and probably met up in upper Bavaria with Drusus' army. There the Roman troops won a decisive victory on 1st August 15 BC.

Map: The Alpine campaign of 15 BC. Processing: Dirk Fabian/ingraphis, Basic material: Provinzialrömische Archäologie, Universität Freiburg





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Possibly this battle took place near Oberammergau. At least numerous indigenous and Roman military finds have been made in sanctuary on the nearby hill of Döttenbiehl, amongst others the tip of a catapult projectile with the stamp of the 19th legion. After the Roman troops withdrew the defeated Celtic warriors probably collected the weapons left behind and made an offering of them to their gods.

Victory and Disaster

In its well planned and tactically intelligent Alpine campaign, the Roman Imperium was able to conquer the whole area between the Rhine, the Inn and the Danube in one summer. New silver coins symbolised their victory. Their reverse sides show Tiberius and Drusus handing laurel branches to Augustus as a sign of their triumph. Varus was a guarantor of victory. However, 24 years later, this success on the Upper Rhine was followed by the defeat east of the Rhine. In 9 AD together with the 19th and two further legions he walked into a deadly trap in Germania.

Ausstellung IMPERIUM

Seestadthalle
Lippspieker 25
45721 Haltern am See

Opening hours

Tuesday to Friday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Admission charges

Adults: 9 Euro
Families: 20 Euro
Students: 2 Euro
Reduced rate: 6 Euro
Groups with more than 16 persons: 7 Euro per person (plus charges for guided tour)



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Press Information

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For the attention of the press

The pictures are available for downloading at www.lwl.org. We should also be glad to send you the pictures and the texts by e-mail. Please phone us if you prefer this. If you enter your name into our subscription list ("Press", "Abo Press-Infos"), we will send you our press releases and pictures to you automatically by e-mail.