MILITARY LATIN AND ITS IMPACT ON MENTALITIES (III)

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Abstract

This article continues our concern with military Latin, used by most armies of the world today, in studies published in various conference proceedings or in scientific journals. As demonstrated in other parts of our study, the Latin language is very suggestive from the perspective of the military art in most NATO member states, whether they are countries of Romance origin or not.

The craft of weapons is best expressed in the language of Rome, with the strongest impact on mentalities. Military Latin is very concise, but useful in order to represent the motto of various military units around the world.

Military Latin is therefore universal, as we demonstrate in this part of the study.

Key words: Latin, mentality, military art, psychological impact, army

Résumé

Notre étude continue les préoccupations concernant le latin militaire, utilisé par la plupart des armées d'aujourd'hui, des études publiées dans les volumes de certaines conférences ou dans des revues scientifiques. Le latin est suggestif pour l'art militaire de la plupart des États membres de l'OTAN, de langues romanes ou non.

Seulement en latin l'art des armes est le mieux exprimé, ayant le plus fort impact mentalitaire. Le latin militaire est très concis et utile pour représenter les devises des unités militaires du monde entier.

Le latin militaire est donc universel, comme notre étude le démontre.

Mots-clés: latin, mentalité, art militaire, impact psychologique, armée

Introduction

We have selected several Latin maxims used by various NATO member armies¹, within the limit of public access. For a better understanding, we will render all this military Latin in our translation, ultimately insisting on the study of military Latin from the perspective of vocabulary in use, as well as on its impact on mentalities. As mentioned in the abstract, this is the third part of the study devoted to military Latin, in the first two² we approached military Latin in Italy, France, the United Kingdom and the

www.laurlucus.ro/acta-centri-lucusiensis/acl-nr-4a2016, p.65-74.

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of military unit mottoes by country.

²Strechie Mădălina, "Latina militară și impactul ei mentalitar (I)"/"Military Latin and its Impact on Mentalities (I)", in ***Globalization an National Identity. Studies on the strategies on Intercultural Dialogue. Language and Discourse, Iulian Boldea (Coordinator), Târgu Mureș, Editura Arhipelag XXI Press, 2016, Proceedings of the International Conference: Globalization, Intercultural Dialogue and National Identity, 3^{-rd} Edition, 2016, p. 156-167 and Strechie Mădălina, "Latina militară și impactul ei mentalitar (II)", in Acta Centri Lucusiensis, Nr. 4 A 2016, Revistă editată de Centrul der Studii DacoRomanistice Lucus din Timișoara, 2016, available at: http://www.laurlucus.ro, and

United States of America. We will present in alphabetical order the countries whose armies use Latin maxims, slogans, and mottoes, we will also translate them and comment on each of them.

At the end of the study, we will reach a conclusion in terms of statistics regarding the frequency of various categories of parts of speech in the Latin military maxims that we have selected. The selection was required by both the economy of the article and its structure.

Military Latin AUSTRALIA

INTER HASTAS ET HOSTES³ - Between spears and enemies – our transl. The use of this Latin maxim by the Australian army is highly suggestive in order to denote the danger surrounding the special engineer troops. There are no verbs in this maxim, but the verb sumus = we are is implied. Traditional Roman weapons of infantry troops such as hastae = spears are consistent with the noun hostes = enemies.

 $FORAS\ ADMONITIO^4$ - Warning from outside – our transl. In this case too, we have a maxim without a verb, for the verb sumus = we are is implied. Being a commando unit, it is certainly trained for external dangers, so for anything. This is actually the meaning of the maxim, training meant to face any external threat. We find here the verb foras and the noun admonitio = warning, a synonym of alarm, we might say.

QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT[§] - Where fate (predestination) and glory take us – our transl. The verb of this maxim is ducunt, but the subjects are fas, an indeclinable noun that we equalled to fate or predestination, and glory. We have an adverb again, quo = where. We will notice that adverbs are much present in military Latin. The mentality-related meaning of this maxim is that the unit is ready for any mission, whatever the conditions.

 $UBIQUE^6$ - In any place, (anywhere, all over) – our transl. In the case of this maxim, an adverb is predominant too, but it has a strong mentality-focused meaning, designating omnipresence, whatever the conditions. We have come across this adverb in relation to many armies using military Latin.

PER ARDUA AD ASTRA⁷ - Through hardships to the stars – our transl. It is a very suggestive maxim for the Australian aviation unit which faces danger to keep the sky clear, with stars. There are prepositions in the accusative, per and ad, common prepositions of military Latin all over the world.

AUSTRIA

 $NUMQUAM\ RETRO^8$ - Never back – our transl. Although we do not have a verb, we have adverbs in this case, the former is understood, $go/give\ up$, in other words the meaning of the maxim is $I\ never\ go\ back/give\ up$. It is an appropriate maxim for the military in any country.

CANADA

VIGILAMUS PRO TE⁹ - We watch for you - our transl. Again, we have a very suggestive Latin maxim which renders the mission of an army, namely to stand on guard

³https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special Operations Engineer Regiment (Australia).

⁴https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd Commando Regiment (Australia).

⁵https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal Australian Artillery.

⁶https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Australian_Engineers.

⁷https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal Australian Air Force.

⁸https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jagdkommando.

⁹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Army.

for its citizens and to keep them safe. The verb vigilo has a military meaning, if we think that in Rome there were even troops of $vigili = the \ police \ of \ Rome$. We have prepositions again and a personal pronoun to express addressability, te in the ablative, signifying both the people and the homeland.

 $\widehat{Q}UO$ FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT¹⁰ - Where fate and glory take us – our transl. We have already analyzed this Latin maxim used, as one can see, by several armies, regardless of the specialization of different military units.

*UBIQUE*¹¹- *Anywhere* – *our transl*. As mentioned above, this adverb is much used in military Latin, due to its very strong impact on mentalities.

SEMPER VIGILANS¹² - Always vigilant (awake) - our transl. In this motto we have again a verb related to the army, vigilo, as well as the adverb semper, a suggestive adverb of high frequency in military Latin.

AUDACIA ET FORTITUDO¹³ - Audacity and bravery – our transl. Two nouns full of mentality focused-meaning form alone a military motto. These two nouns which designate human features related to the craft of weapons, express universal qualities of soldiers of all times and all armies.

 $AUDAX\ ET\ CELER^{14}$ - Bold and fast – our transl. Here we have two adjectives, just as suggestive as the nouns in the previous maxim, actually audax belongs to the word family of the noun audacia. The two adjectives express both the combat capability and the reaction ability of the Canadian military unit.

*PRO PATRIA*¹⁵ - For the country/homeland – our transl. This is the oldest Latin military maxim and also a motto of the Roman army. The noun *patria* is crucial for the morale of any army. We have again the preposition *pro*, a very common preposition in military Latin.

 $ADSUM^{16}$ - I am present – our transl. The verb adsum, a compound of the verb sum reflects the military action of ensuring homeland security.

PRO ARIS ET FOCIS¹⁷ - For hearths and homes – our transl. The preposition pro occurs again with the nouns ara and focus. Both nouns signify the sacredness of homeland that the armies of all times have the duty, under oath, to defend. It is one of the most famous maxims of military Latin and also the most relevant for the military mentality of all times. Faith and hearth, as symbols of sovereignty, are defended by every soldier.

FORTES SOLI – FORTIORES UNA¹⁸ - Alone (we are) strong - one army (we are) stronger – our transl. The most suggestive in this motto are the adjectives, actually only one adjective with two degrees of comparison, positive and comparative, fortis, -e, and adjectives from indefinite pronouns such as solus and una. The mentality-related meaning of this maxim is that strength resides in unity, in teamwork. Moreover, it is a multiplied force.

 $^{^{10}} https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Regiment_of_Canadian_Artillery.$

¹¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery.

¹²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group.

¹³https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2_Canadian_Mechanized_Brigade_Group.

¹⁴https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The Royal Canadian Dragoons.

¹⁵https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The Royal Canadian Regiment.

¹⁶https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/12e R%C3%A9giment blind%C3%A9 du Canada.

¹⁷https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/31 Canadian Brigade Group.

¹⁸https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/33 Canadian Brigade Group.

PROGREDERE NE REGREDERE¹⁹ - Go forward and do not retreat – our transl. It is a maxim which uses two deponent verbs in the military domain, on the one hand 'to go forward', with the meaning 'to attack' and the verb 'to retreat' with a negation, i.e. not to retreat. A freer sense of the translation would be we attack, we do not retreat. The use of deponent verbs in military Latin is quite rare.

SPLENDOR SINE OCCASU 20 - Shine without sunset – our transl. This motto belongs to the astronomical domain, as only stars shine without going down. Two nouns are used, splendor and occasus, joined by the preposition sine, very frequent in military Latin.

SIC ITUR AD ASTRA²¹ - This is the way to stars - our transl. We are in the same astronomical register, it is all about the stars, especially since it is about an aviation unit whose battlefield is the sky.

 $UNANIMI\ CUM\ RATIONE^{22}$ - Inseparable and rational - our transl. The most suggestive in this Latin military maxim is the adjective unanimi, which reveals the solidarity and unity of the army.

VIAM INVENIEMUS²³ - We will discover the way - our transl. The verb invenio, in the indicative mood, future tense, is here the most suggestive, giving the meaning of the motto. In other words, whatever the conditions, the military unit will find the best solution. Via = way, path, is a noun which is more used in military Latin for engineer troops, not for special troops.

FERTE MANUS CERTAS²⁴ - Fight with confident hands - our transl. In this Latin maxim, the verb is in the imperative, being accompanied by the noun manus, one of the nouns that best reflect humanity. It also has many military meanings. This motto is very beautiful and representative of the military art.

NUNQUAM NON PARATI²⁵ - We are never unprepared - our transl. It is a motto used by many military units around the world. The adjective paratus has a very high frequency in military Latin.

AUDEAMUS²⁶ - Let us dare - our transl. In this case we deal with a semi-deponent verb in the conjunctive mood. Its meaning is very strong in the military field, belonging to the same word family as *audax*, *audacia*, etc. In our view, it is a very appropriate verb to express the military mentality anywhere, at any time.

FACTA NON VERBA²⁷ - Acts (actions), not words - our transl. This maxim rather belongs to the political domain, also suiting the military one, where the action is dominant. Two neutral, plural nouns are used, without a verb.

Conclusions

The military Latin analyzed in this article is used by three of the NATO armies, most maxims being used by the Canadian army. The most common are nouns, the 25 syntagms that we analyzed containing 22 nouns covering all genders, the neuter gender

¹⁹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/38 Canadian Brigade Group.

²⁰https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/39 Canadian_Brigade_Group.

²¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal Canadian Air Force.

²²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian Joint Operations Command.

²³https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian Special Operations Forces Command.

²⁴https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron.

²⁵https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian Joint Incident Response Unit.

²⁶https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian Special Operations Regiment.

²⁷https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Task_Force_2.

being preponderant. There are also 8 adjectives with no degree of comparison, except one. Pronouns are also present, either personal pronouns, or indefinite pronouns, their number amounting to 3. Verbs are diverse, from regular verbs to semi-deponent and deponent verbs, or irregular verbs. The mood is most often the indicative, but also the conjunctive and the imperative, the predominant tenses being the present and the future. There are 11 in the economy of the military Latin we studied, but there are also phrases in which verbs are implied. Adverbs are present, they are quite frequent in military Latin, namely 9 here. The prepositions of the Latin language give military mottoes greater expressiveness, in this case we have 7. Conjunctions stress coordination in 6 cases (et) and subordination in 3. Negation is equally used to boost the sense of the action, there are 2 such negations in the maxims above.

So the military Latin of these maxims is grammatically correct, very suggestive and full of determining, mentality-focused meanings even for the 21st century armies.

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