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 armies[1], 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 two[2] we approached military Latin in Italy, France, the United Kingdom and the

[1]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_military_unit_mottoes_by_country.

[2]Strechie Mădălina, „Latina militară şi 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 Mureş, 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 şi impactul ei mentalitar (II)", in *Acta Centri Lucusiensis*, Nr. 4 A 2016, Revistă editată de Centrul der Studii DacoRomanistice Lucus din Timişoara, 2016, available at: http://www.laurlucus.ro, and www.laurlucus.ro/acta-centri-lucusiensis/acl-nr-4a2016, p.65-74.

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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 HOSTES[3] *- 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[5] *- 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 ASTRA[7] *- 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 TE[9] *- 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

[3]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Operations_Engineer_Regiment_(Australia).
[4]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_Commando_Regiment_(Australia).
[5]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Australian_Artillery.
[6]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Australian_Engineers.
[7]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Australian_Air_Force.
[8]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jagdkommando.
[9]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Army.

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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.

QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT[10] *- 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 VIGILANS[12] *- 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 FORTITUDO[13] *- 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 FOCIS[17] *- 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 UNA[18] *- 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.
[11]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Regiment_of_Canadian_Artillery.
[12]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1_Canadian_Mechanized_Brigade_Group.
[13]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2_Canadian_Mechanized_Brigade_Group.
[14]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Royal_Canadian_Dragoons.
[15]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Royal_Canadian_Regiment.
[16]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/12e_R%C3%A9giment_blind%C3%A9_du_Canada.
[17]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/31_Canadian_Brigade_Group.
[18]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/33_Canadian_Brigade_Group.

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PROGREDERE NE REGREDERE[19] *- 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 ASTRA[21] *- 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 INVENIEMUS[23] *- 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 CERTAS[24] *- 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 PARATI[25] *- 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.

AUDEAMUS[26] *- 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 VERBA[27] *- 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

[19]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/38_Canadian_Brigade_Group.
[20]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/39_Canadian_Brigade_Group.
[21]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Canadian_Air_Force.
[22]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Joint_Operations_Command.
[23]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Special_Operations_Forces_Command.
[24]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/427_Special_Operations_Aviation_Squadron.
[25]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Joint_Incident_Response_Unit.
[26]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Special_Operations_Regiment.
[27]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Task_Force_2.

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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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