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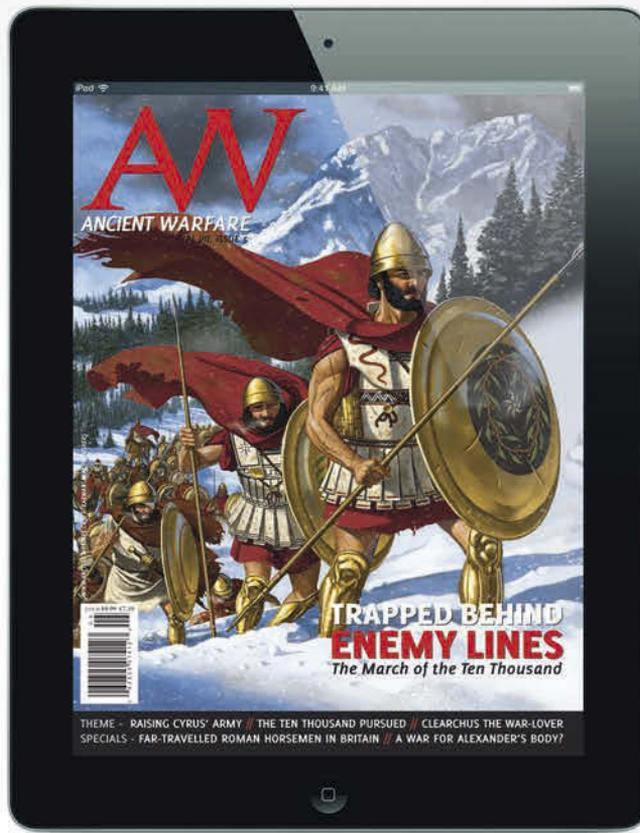
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## TRAPPED BEHIND **ENEMY LINES** *The March of the Ten Thousand*

THEME - RAISING CYRUS' ARMY // THE TEN THOUSAND PURSUED // CLEARCHUS THE WAR-LOVER  
SPECIALS - FAR-TRAVELLED ROMAN HORSEMEN IN BRITAIN // A WAR FOR ALEXANDER'S BODY?



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## Barracks of Legio VIII Augusta uncovered at Novae, Bulgaria

A barrack building, whose rooms of unusually large size are confounding experts, has been found by a team of Polish archaeologists at the site of the Roman legionary fortress of Novae at Svishtov on the Danube River. Founded between AD 44 and 69 on the left bank of the Danube River in the province of Moesia, Novae was the Roman military base of Legio VIII Augusta.

"The structure consisted of a series of segments of equal sizes," explained Prof. Piotr Dyczek from the Antiquity of Southeastern Europe Research Centre, University of Warsaw, and head of the expedition. "They consisted of one big and one small room, the dimensions of which underwent modifications in the subsequent phases of the settlement. The barrack was about 16 metres wide and 42 metres long."

"The dimensions of the larger rooms in the barracks we found are very large," said Dyczek. "A sleeping room should [normally] be about 3 by 3 metres, while in the case of our structure it is 3 by 4.5 metres. This may indicate that the legionaries of the unit were afforded more comfort," he suggested. The rooms may have had bunk beds in the corners and there were wooden shelves in the vestibules.

Inside the building, archaeologists found volute oil lamps and glass vessels, including pieces of bottles and wine cups. Some of the vessels were locally manufactured so-called 'Thracian' urns with decoration in the form of imprinted rope. The archaeologists also discovered fragments of bronze vessels and other objects, including buckles, pieces of armour, chandelier chains, and a folding bronze table base in the shape of a panther paw.

"One noteworthy group of objects are surgical instruments made of bronze," added Dyczek. Based on them he speculated that the archaeologists could have found the quarters of the legion's doctor or his staff.

The site has been regularly excavated by Bulgarian and Polish teams since the 1960s. Traces of the first-century Roman camp include ramparts of clay and wood, towers and dwellings. Among the preserved remains at the site are a headquarters, a peristyle building, military hospital, soldiers' houses and other religious and secular structures.

There is urgency to documenting the site. Today Novae is endangered by a variety of natural threats including vegetation, extreme heat, erosion, ground instability and flooding from the nearby river.

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## 'Shopping mall' found at Maryport, Hadrian's Wall, England

The 2013 season of digs at the Roman fort at Maryport and its civilian settlement at the far western end of Hadrian's Wall has revealed the remains of six buildings and a section of road. Geophysical surveys conducted by Oxford Archaeology North revealed lines of structures likely to be buildings either side of the main street running from the north-east gate of the fort. The dig near the Senhouse Roman Museum, overseen by the Hadrian's Wall Trust, has confirmed the survey results.

One of the buildings is believed to have been a shop at some point in its history. "The reason we think it may have been a shop is the fact there isn't a stone wall at the end facing the road," said Stephen Rowland, the project manager for Oxford Archaeology North. "Instead, there could have been a booth-like timber frontage, or perhaps double doors that have long since rotted away."

Archaeologists have not yet been able to determine what was sold there. However they did find a large sharpening stone and many smaller whet stones used for honing blades and tools. Other small finds uncovered from inside the building include glass beads, remains of *mortaria* (pots for processing food), shards of *amphorae* (which could have originally contained oil or wine), glass vessels and a spindle whorl.

A yard at the back of the building is surrounded by a ditch. Several pits have been found which archaeologists believe could be latrines or rubbish pits, together with three square wells or cisterns for holding water. Evidence at the site, which appears to date to the second and third centuries AD, indicated the site was abandoned around AD 250, like many settlements along the Roman frontier zone. Finds from the dig will be displayed at the Senhouse Roman Museum, Maryport beside its collection of altar stones dedicated by the Roman commanders of the fort.