

## LEGIO X FRETENSIS

Julius Caesar had made two sea invasions into the southern region of Britain in probing this distant island. The Emperor Claudius in 43 AD decided to return to Britain with the intention of conquering the island natives. Within 25 years this objective was basically accomplished. This expansion of the Empire brought the Roman Army into contact with the Caledonian tribes of Scotland. As a result of this confrontation, at the Battle of Mons Graupius, thousands of the Caledonians were slaughtered with only a minor number of Roman casualties. This campaign marked the peak of the Roman incursion north of the river Tay. Roman forts and outposts were constructed all over Scotland.

Over time the Roman did conduct a gradual withdrawal from Scotland as it proved to be of very little value to the Empire, plus it was becoming too costly to maintain Roman rule over the hostile natives there. In 122 AD, Emperor Hadrian decided to establish a border line between the Roman occupied region of Britain and the northern region of Scotland. A Wall was constructed dividing the two region. It was designed to control commerce and trade plus insure a protective barrier between the two cultures.

Periodic incursions north were conducted by the Roman Army for many years. Finally the Roman Legions were recalled back to the European continent and Britannia was left to its own defense around 410 AD. Thus as anyone can see, a significant portion of Scotland was occupied and influenced by the presence of the Imperial Roman Army and their culture for some three hundred and fifty years, more or less. It has proven to be a far longer time period than our own nation's history since 1776.

**Legio X Fretensis** is a part of that Roman Military Heritage. AVE ROMA IMMORTALIS!

