

SOME CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT BRAZDA LUI NOVAC, THE NORTHERN SECTION AND THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF SOME LOCALITIES IN OLT COUNTY

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Abstract: The present study aims to highlight the little-known archaeological potential of some areas in Olt County. The information is centred on the northern section of Brazda lui Novac that transits Olt County from west to east, through the localities of Voineasa, Dobrun, Șopârlița, Osica de Sus, Coteana, Lisa, Moșteni, Movileni (former village Tâmpeni), Osica, Buzești. Little researched, this objective, of which parts are still preserved on certain sectors, deserves more attention from researchers and must be properly protected.

Keywords: Brazda lui Novac (Novac's Furrow), Valul lui Traian (Trajan's vallum), vallum, fortification, Roman era.

There is no need to doubt that on the current territory of Olt County there have been, in all epochs of history, numerous human communities whose presence is indicated by identified and researched archaeological sites, or by artifacts discovered by chance or in various circumstances, unrelated to specialized research. Going back in time, in the 19th century, we can notice the interest of some leading personalities of the Romanian culture for antiquities in the former Romanați county and the current Olt County.

Although the existence of artifacts has been reported on the territory of certain localities, this has gone unnoticed or has not been explored enough, which is why there are currently urban and rural areas, on the territory of Olt County, whose archaeological potential has not been clarified. Therefore, further below, there is to be reviewed information that may become the subject of archaeological diagnostic campaigns that may, or may not, validate the data transmitted through various literary sources, yet still dormant.

Brazda lui Novac, the northern section, and Brazda lui Novac, the southern section, are two of the major objectives that have not benefited from proper research. In the case of Brazda lui Novac, the northern section, which transits the median area of Olt County from west to east, identified on the territory of the localities Voineasa, Dobrun, Șopârlița, Osica de Sus, Coteana, Lisa, Moșteni, Movileni (former village Tâmpeni), Osica, Buzești (jud. Olt), Urlueni (Argeș County), although parts of this objective are preserved on certain portions, it is not yet included in the National Archaeological Repertoire and has not benefited from field research, to bring additional information. In a volume dedicated to **Brazda lui Novac in Oltenia. The northern section**¹ we presented this objective on its entire route, starting from Drobeta Turnu Severin and

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intersecting at Urluieni, Argeş County, with Limes Transaluanus. For the sector in Olt County, those interested can find the traces of the “Furrow” marked on the army’s shooting master plans, as well as its visible footprint on satellite images. Obviously, where there was information from various historiographical sources, it was indicated.

Among the first records referring to this objective is Al. Odobescu’s account² from the 19th century, which reminds that Brazda lui Novac is still found on the territory of Osica de Sus, Brâncoveni, Dobrun, Viişoara and Popânzăleşti. When referring to technical details, Odobescu mentioned that it is “a ditch with a width of one and a half fathoms,” and “the height of the earth removed from it can be considered a fathom.” The wave is on the south side, with the author saying that “the earth is thrown southward.” Even at that time, the land structure had suffered, due to farming.

In order to find out information about the historical vestiges of Romanaţi County, Al. Odobescu sent, in 1870, a questionnaire to the authorities in each locality. Called *Chestionariu seu Isvodu la cari se cere a se da respunsuri in privinti a vechiloru asiediaminte ce se afla in deosebitele commune ale Romaniei*, it also includes a question related to Brazda lui Novac, formulated as follows:

– “Ori deco se afla ceva Siantiuri de cele betraneşti, cari pe unele locuri porta numire de Troianu, seu Brazda, seu Vallu” (Are there old trenches, which, in some places, are called **Troianu**, or **Brazda**, or **Vallu**)³. To question no. 4, Odobescu also demanded explanations: “Deco va fi siantiu, se va spune ca catu este adunculu, catu este latulu şi catu este lungulu lui, si incotro este indreptata urm a lui prin comunele vecine şi se va arata in ce parte este aruncatu pamentulu, adico spre resaritu, spre apusu, spre media-noapte ori spre media-di” (If there is a trench, it ought to be found the depth, the width, the length, and the direction it takes, through the neighbouring communes, in which part the earth is thrown, whether towards the east, or the west, the north, or the south)⁴.

Voineasa Sector⁵, Olt County

On the territory of this locality Brazda lui Novac is signalled through Piscupia Forest⁶. Roman pottery was discovered in the locality, and, at the “Cornet” point, it was found a Roman tomb with funerary inventory consisting of ceramics and silver earrings⁷. This place is east of the village, on Cornet Hill, and Brazda lui Novac passes south of this point.

An aspect not to be neglected, observed on the territory of Voineasa, is that Brazada lui Novac also defends Dealul Muierii, which is located south of Piscupia Forest. This hill is important because, here passed an old road that descended from Ocnele Mari and crossed Oltenia from north to south, reaching Corabia, Olt County, where the fortress of Sucidava is located. This road also passes south of Voineasa and may indicate that Brazda offered protection for one of the main communication arteries used by the Dacians and probably by the Daco-Romans as well. Following its route to Dobrun, Şopârliţa, Osica de Sus, Ostrov, Greci (ie to the east), Brazada lui Novac leaves to the south Dealul Muierii, and the road on this route that continues to Dobrosloveni, from where it then descends parallel to Olt to Corabia (Sucidava).

² Odobescu 1877, p. 228.

³ Odobescu 1877, V.

⁴ Odobescu 1877, VII.

⁵ Pătroi 2020, p. 78.

⁶ Tudor 1978, p. 232.

⁷ Rădoescu, Hortopan 2010, p. 73.

Dobrun Sector⁸, Olt County

“In the estate of the boyars Brătășanu, under a hill peak, on the outskirts of Olteț, in the vicinity of Dobruna commune, there are house walls... Brazda lui Novac is on a hillside above Dobruna commune, descending to the middle of the village and going east, towards Șopârlița”⁹. Another piece of information resumes the Odobescu source and shows that “Brazada lui Novac descends on a hillside, right in the middle of the commune, then goes up to Șopârlița”¹⁰. From the same source we find out that, at the edge of Olteț, under a hill peak, weapons, ornaments, etc. were found.

D. Tudor says that Brazada lui Novac “crosses the plateau called Dealul Popeștilor to the Olteț River, to then enter the middle of Șopârlița village”¹¹.

By consulting the maps of the area, one can identify the place through which Brazda lui Novac passed, and it is northeast of Dobrun, through Cernele Valley, Dobrun Meadow and heading towards Olteț River and Șopârlița village. It seems that, due to the overflows of the Olteț River, Brazda is no longer preserved on this section.

On the territory of Dobrun, at the point called “La Vii”, there is a rural Roman settlement from 2nd–3rd centuries¹².

Șopârlița Sector¹³, Olt County

“Within the commune, there are several hillocks, Brazda-lui-Novac, the ruins of Roman road, and, to the W, the ruins of a monastery”¹⁴.

A very useful piece of information about Brazda lui Novac, on the territory of this commune, is mentioned in the General Urban Plan of UAT Șopârlița (pages 14–15 of the General Memorandum) where it is shown that the locals had information about the fortification, being quoted a village priest, Ion Ionescu, who said that: *“within this commune, on the hill between Olt and Olteț, on a very beautiful plain, towards the northern part of the commune, there are several hillocks, one is right inside the commune, and the width of the circumference is 11–12 fathoms, height 3 fathoms, steep peak. These hillocks are said to have been made by the Dacians, when they had war with Trajan. ...it is also called Trajan’s furrow or wave, as four fathoms wide and 3 deep, the earth is drawn to the south and is drawn from east to west, the length could not be known even by the elders because it also passes over the water of Olteț (surely it is Brazda lui Novac). Also, in the vicinity of this commune, there is Trajan’s road, covered with earth, which passes from the south to the north, where the county road is nowadays”¹⁵.*

The name of the locality is closely related to a local legend that we find also recorded in the General Urban Plan of UAT Șopârlița (page 17). Thus, we find out that, in the locality, there is a place called “The Serpent’s Bed”.

Extras PUG *“It is said that, in the large pit that is located in the eastern part of the village, a huge snake laid its bed. It was so long that, when it reached down to drink water from Olteț, half of his body remained in the bed. Given the significance of the evil that was associated with the serpent, after this animal killed a young woman, a strongman called Novac, who came from the east, wanted to kill him. Claded in mail and armed with knives, Novac appeared to the serpent that swallowed*

⁸ Pătroi 2020, p. 79.

⁹ Odobescu 1877, p. 244; Lecca 1937, p.192.

¹⁰ Lahovari *et alii* 1901 p. 159.

¹¹ Tudor 1978, p. 247.

¹² Tudor 1978, p. 229.

¹³ Pătroi 2020, p. 80.

¹⁴ Lahovari *et alii* 1902, p. 526–527.

¹⁵ PUG, Commune of Șopârlița, Olt County, Information from Odobescu 1877, p. 241. http://www.anpm.ro/documents/25229/32950388/MEMORIU_PUG.SOPARLITA.pdf/80a7d813-4b2a-46bf-825e-5735b69d8ec0.

him on the spot. Inside, Novac pulled out his knives and cut the snake, then went outside and cut off its head. The serpent's head turned west, and Novac followed it. On the way, he dug a large ditch behind, to mark the road, so that his wife would find him if he was late. The serpent's head went to Mehedinți, hid in a cave from where, nowadays, a venomous fly called simulium or Iorgovan's fly emerges. This is considered to be the curse for the serpent's death. The killing of the serpent by a hero was for humans the symbol of the creation of the world and the establishment of social order. This explains the name of the settlement. Unfortunately, the triumph of the battle over the giant lizard (reptile) was not only favourable events for the community. The serpent's pit is still seen today and it is called "The Serpent's Mouth", and tradition combines events and names the ditch dug by the hero, "Brazda lui Novac".

In this locality, there are indicated¹⁶ numerous vestiges of Roman times, but also the "Trojan" or "Brazda lui Novac"¹⁷, which goes "towards the north of the locality, and is four fathoms wide and three fathoms deep"¹⁸.

After passing Șopârlița, Brazda lui Novac Furrow heads south from the village of Ostrov. The place through which it passes is Piscul Porcului, passing then through Cernele Valley and the former Border Valley, towards Greci-Atârnați. In Piscul Porcului there is a quadrilateral structure that should be checked because the Roman road passes through that area and, it is possible, to deal with traces of Roman civilization objectives.

At km 46 of the Caracal – Piatra Olt road, Brazda lui Novac Furrow descends from the plateau south of Ostrov village to Greci village and goes up to Olt River¹⁹.

Osica de Sus Sector²⁰, Olt County

The first record belongs to Alexandru Odobescu²¹. Brazada lui Novac is reported on the territory of the locality²² and, nearby, there is a Roman road, signaled at Vlădueni. This road is also mentioned at "west of Brâncoveni" and Brazda is later superposed by the Salt Road that descends from the salt mines of Vâlcea and is from "Trajan's Road" or "Lord's Road of Dew"²³. This transport route intersects with Brazda lui Novac, which passes south of Brâncoveni, through Șopârlița, Vlădueni and Greci.

To the north of Osica de Sus, there is a Trojan called Brazda lui Novac. This trojan is "truncated at the top, the earth being pulled to the south".

The Roman Road, identified near the village of Geci, "straddles the previous vallum, bearing the name of Brazda lui Novac", which makes Al. Odobescu consider this fortification from another period, prior to Trajan.²⁴ Brazada lui Novac could be seen at the beginning of the twentieth century in the hamlet of Atârnați near the village of Greci, Olt County²⁵. At that chronological time, the authors of the Great Geographical Dictionary of Romania considered that Brazda dates back to a pre-Roman period.

"Here is, over the Cernelele water, a bridge of the neighbouring road that connects Vădueni with the commune of Greci, and you can also see that wonderful vallum, that furrow from the pre-Roman era called Novac's that comes from sunset and ends at sunrise."

¹⁶ Gajewska 1973, p. 205.

¹⁷ Lecca 1937, p. 506.

¹⁸ Odobescu 1877, p. 241.

¹⁹ Vlădescu 1994, p. 205.

²⁰ Pătroi 2020, p. 83.

²¹ Odobescu 1877, pp. 228, 241.

²² Lecca 1937, p. 385.

²³ Odobescu 1877, p. 242.

²⁴ Odobescu 1877, p. 242.

²⁵ Lahovari et alii 1898, p.137.

At Osica de Sus, on the north hill of the village, Roman tombs and sarcophagi were discovered²⁶. We identified this hill as Dealul Viilor, Brazda lui Novac passing nearby, south of Ostrov, heading east, towards the Olt River. The section, on the bank of the Olt River, was destroyed by floods.

From Osica de Sus, come three Roman coins, which donated “C. S. N. Ploșor” Institute for Studies in Social Sciences and Humanities, from Craiova.²⁷ These are from Hadrian, Anthony Pius and Commodus. Osica de Sus is located at a distance of approx. 7–8km from Romula, and was part of Romula’s territory.

Coteana Sector²⁸, Olt County

The Great Geographical Dictionary of Romania gives us some information about Brazda lui Novac on the territory of Coteana commune.

“From the S-W, starting from Olt (to the S of the hamlet of Ipotești), starts Brazda lui Novac, which then passes through the N of Coteana and then takes the N-E direction”²⁹.

“Ash is a border between Coteana and Perieti commune, Siiul d.s. sector, Olt County. It is located in the W, on “*Vilceaua Zidului*”, at the start of Mr. Fîntîneanu’s estate”³⁰.

“Boia, a peak located on the territory of Coteana commune, Siiul d. s., Olt County, in the S.-W. part, on the banks of the Olt River. Strategic place and observation point. It is said that, in a Russo-Turkish war, the Turks had settled on this high place, and the Cossacks had strengthened themselves on the peak then called Cazaci (Cossacks), further north. The battle was then fought on the valley of Birzhov (Dirjov), on the hill, and was so fierce that they would have infected the valley with their corps (see Puturoasa and Cazaci)”³¹.

“Teișul, a hill that crosses the western side of the commune of Coteana, Siiul d. s. sector, Olt County. It stretches from N to W, between the Dirjov valley and the valleys of Ciocîrlia and Cotenîța. Near Ipotești, it forms Piscul Spînzurătoarei. Following the bank of the Olt River to the S, it also forms the Piscul Boia, near which Brazda lui Novac passes”³².

Here are a series of toponyms that relate to Brazda lui Novac and allow us to locate it in the field, where the fortification is not visible on satellite image. On the left bank of the Olt River, southwest of Coteana, Brazda lui Novac continues its road and can be located near Zăvoiu (Negoiasa Forest), goes southwest/northeast, where it cuts the Drăgănești-Olt – Slatina road³³.

Northeast of Coteana, Brazda lui Novac describes an arc between the Ciocîrlia and Miloveanu watercourses, crossing a lowland area between “La Islaz” and “La Călugărească” points. This information about the route of Brazda is completed with those of D. Tudor, who shows that “after leaving the Miloveanu valley” the fortification can be followed in the area of the northern end of the Valea Purcelului, and after cutting the road between the hermitage of Greci and Brebeni, it enters the village of Lisa³⁴. Thus, we find out that the toponym “La Călugărească” (approx., at the monks) had its origin in the existence of a place of worship in the area.

West of Coteana, Brazda descends down the Belunc Valley, towards the Olt River, from where it continues on the left bank, on the territory of Greci village to the west to the villages Ostrov and Șopârlița. At Coteana, on its way, Brazda passes close to Măgura Braniștei.

²⁶ Tudor 1978, p. 231.

²⁷ Rădulescu, Guțică-Florescu 2011, p. 108.

²⁸ Pătroi 2020, p. 84.

²⁹ Lahovari *et alii* 1899, p. 696.

³⁰ Lahovari *et alii* 1900, p. 415.

³¹ Lahovari *et alii* 1898, p. 507.

³² Lahovari *et alii* 1902, p. 577.

³³ Tudor 1978, p. 247.

³⁴ Tudor 1978, p. 247.

Lisa Sector³⁵, Commune of Schitu, Olt County

On the territory of this locality, southwest of the village, you can see how Brazda lui Novac comes from Coteana and enters the village, passing between Cioflisa and Vâlceaui lui Ciubuc. The fortification passes over several deep valleys around the village, more precisely over the Blomir Valley, the Moș Ion Valley, the Covei Valley and the Siminoaga Valley³⁶.

It seems that Brazda lui Novac does not enter the village of Lisa, but bypasses it to the northwest, passes over the Cleja stream, south of the Brânștoaia Forest, after which it changes its route in the west-east direction, in the area called “La Sonda”, and up to the north of the end of the Tereului Valley, after which it resumes the northwest-southeast orientation towards Moșteni.

Moșteni Sector³⁷, Olt County

In the north of the village, passes Brazda lui Novac. As the locality borders to the north with the villages of Măgura and Mierleștii de Sus, we identified that Brazda lui Novac passes between these localities. A record from the early twentieth century shows that this fortification passes south of Mierleștii de Sus³⁸ showing that, “*after a few kilometers – parallel to the road, between Moșteni and Tâmpeni, it enters Brazda forest – named after the vallum – descends into the valley of Căprareasa, from where it passes into the village of Bacea, through the places called Părul Uscat and Adâncata Valley, exit Bacea, cut the road to Potcoava...*”³⁹. For additional information on the geographical framework of the locality and the toponymy of the area, it can also be consulted the Perieti Monograph⁴⁰.

It seems that, on this sector, the vallum has a height of 3m in some places and the width at the base of approx. 30m. Its trench is 10m wide and 2m deep, and lies north of the vallum.

In response to Odobescu’s Questionnaire, addressed to teachers, teacher M. Măgureanu from Mierlești village said that the vallum, from Catane and Moșteni, passes to Tâmpeni at the back of Vâlceaui Cleja, through the Comoara place. Brazda forest stretches “*from Comoara, to Livada lui Corâie Orchard, the Cleja of Catane to Comoara and Teiușul of Valea Căpraresii*”⁴¹.

East of Moșteni, there is a forest called Brazda Forest. West of Moșteni and heading south towards Lisa village, Brazda lui Novac passes north of Pădurea Popii, and north of Tereu Valley.

Northeast of Moșteni, Brazda lui Novac is parallel to the road between Moșteni and Movileni for a distance of approx. 1.5km from the exit of Moșteni, after which it enters the Brazda Forest. The western part of the Brazda Forest is also an administrative-territorial boundary between the communes of Schitu and Movileni, in Olt County.

Near Măgura village, to the north, on the administrative territory of Periții de Mijloc (or de Jos) village, a Bronze Age site (Glina culture) was identified, on the “*Wall Hill*” (probably Brazda lui Novac or Trajan’s Vallum), at the point called “*Ciodar*”⁴².

Movileni Sector⁴³ (former village of Tâmpeni), Olt County

“On the territory of this commune, passes Brazda-lui-Novac with the N-E direction, to the N of Tâmpeni village, through Bacea hamlet, and through a forest called Brazda”⁴⁴.

³⁵ Pătroi 2020, p. 88.

³⁶ Tudor 1978, p. 247.

³⁷ Pătroi 2020, p. 89.

³⁸ Lahovari *et alii* 1900, p. 328.

³⁹ Optași 1969.

⁴⁰ <http://perietiol.ro/images/monografie.pdf>.

⁴¹ Truță, Barbu 2013. p. 13.

⁴² Butoi 2013, p. 19.

⁴³ Pătroi 2020, p. 92.

⁴⁴ Lahovari *et alii* 1902, p. 607.

“Tîmpeni de Jos, a hamlet of Tîmpeni commune. ... When making one of the roads, cleaving a river bank, a lot of human skeletons were dug up here, all life-sized and with the head facing W. There were found some silver rings with a kind of large chair, about three large bracelets, also made of silver, weighing 850 grams one, without any inscription, but beautifully ornated and in the shape of the letter C”⁴⁵.

Northeast of Moșteni, Brazda lui Novac is parallel to the road between Moșteni and Movileni for a distance of approx. 1.5km from the exit of Moșteni, after which it enters Brazda Forest. The western part of Brazda Forest is also an administrative-territorial boundary between the communes of Schitu and Movileni, in Olt County.

The first contact of Brazda lui Novac with the territory of Movileni commune is Brazda Forest, at the exit of it the fortification descends into the Căprăreasca Valley, passes over the Oblegul Valley and through the northwestern part of the Movileni reservoir, enters Bacea village, passing through Lanul Tufele, and Dorofei stream.

D. Tudor tells us that the entrance to the western part of Bacea village of Brazda is made through the places called “Părul Uscat” and “Valea Adâncată”.⁴⁶ The term obleg/i refers to “an unploughed place” and comes from the Slavic *oblegati*, being a toponym with Slavic origin⁴⁷.

On the territory of Movileni commune, it was discovered a bronze axe with a prolonged edge (isolated discovery). At the point called “La Izvor” in Islaz, ceramic fragments indicate an inhabitation from the First Iron Age (Hallstatt). Other isolated discoveries from the commune: a massive chisel of polished stone, a small chisel of white rock, found in front of the elementary school, a polished-stone axe with a curved edged mouth, a Hallstattian iron spear point on the land near the former Enterprise for Mechanization of Agriculture⁴⁸.

East of Bacea village, Brazda goes northeast to Sinești, crossing road 564B that goes to Potcoava, then Ivăneasa Valley, Florișorul Mic Valley, southern edge of Călugăreasca Forest and Plopcea Valley, going upwards to Sinești Hill⁴⁹.

Osica Sector⁵⁰, Commune of Sinești, Olt County

Brazda lui Novac is reported on the territory of the locality. Pitești-Slatina railway cuts Brazda at the milestones from km. 160.5–160.6 and goes to Corbu, through Corbu Forest and over the Valea Adâncată.⁵¹ From here the fortification climbs Tomeștilor Hill and crosses the Alamu Tail Valley, north of Alamu Fountain, towards Urluieni.

D. Tudor says that Brazda lui Novac is cleaved by the railway and, in Sinești Forest, in the area of railway cantons 115–116⁵².

On the territory of **Viișoara**⁵³ village (former district of Ocol), Olt County crosses Brazda lui Novac, comes from the west and goes to the east and has “two fathoms wide and one fathom high”⁵⁴.

⁴⁵ Lahovari *et alii* 1902, p. 607.

⁴⁶ Tudor 1978, p. 248.

⁴⁷ Ungueanu 2000, p. 191.

⁴⁸ Butoi 2013, p. 18.

⁴⁹ Tudor 1978, p. 248.

⁵⁰ Pătroi 2020, p. 95.

⁵¹ Vlădescu 1994, p. 205.

⁵² Tudor 1978, p. 248.

⁵³ Pătroi 2020, p. 96.

⁵⁴ Odobescu 1877, p. 244; Lecca 1937, p. 571.

Sinești Sector, city of Potcoava, Olt County

“In the south, on the outskirts of the village, *Brazda lui Novac* can be seen. It is limited to the west by *Valea Merilor*, east with *Buzești* and south with *Ursoaia*”.⁵⁵ Here are some historical and archaeological evidences that point to a strong archaeological potential of the area.

In the collection Potcoava High School, there were four whole axes of polished and perforated stone, found on: Bircii hill, Fălcoieni meadow, “*Vâlceaua Moșteni*” and “*La Ogradă*”, towards Trufinești village, two fragments of similar axes found in the points “*La Șoimu*” and “*La Florișoru*”, two fragments of polished stone bludgeon found in “*Valea Moștenilor*”. A massive polished stone chisel, found in the Plapcea valley was taken by archaeologist M. Butoi to the Museum of Slatina.

In the village of Sinești, the same author discovered, in the points “*La Birceană*” and Osica forest, in the upper basin of the Osica stream, two settlements with pottery characteristic for the Bronze Age (Glina culture) and for the free Dacians of the 3rd century (Chilia culture). In the elementary school collection, there was a polished and perforated stone axe and a gray, conical fusaiole.

On the edge of Osica forest, there is a Neolithic *Vădastra* settlement⁵⁶.

Buzești Sector, UAT Corbu, Olt County

A series of information about *Brazda lui Novac*, identified on the territory of this locality, can be discovered in the Great Geographical Dictionary of Romania.

“In the SW, in the middle of a small plateau, there is a locality called *Cetatea*. It has a high, beautiful and strategic position. Perhaps there must have been a city once”.

To the N, with the direction WE, cutting perpendicularly the road and the river *Vedea*, passes through the hamlet *Raven*, *Brazda lui Novac*⁵⁷.

“The fortress, an isolated place on a large plateau to the S. W. of *Buzești* commune, pl. Middleul, jud. Olt. It is said that here existed in ancient times a great fortress, on the right of the *Veda*, which would have been contemporary with the one from *Crîmpoiaia-Magazia*, and that it would have been part of the same fortification plan, both having high and strategic positions, on the right of the river *Vedea*”⁵⁸.

“*Corbul*, a hill situated on the territory of *Buzești* commune, *Mijlocul* district, Olt County, west of the hamlet *Corbul* from which it derives its name. It has the direction NS, following the bed of the *Veda*. It is cleaved by *Brazda lui Novac* and by the *Slatina-Pitești* railway. Under the foot of this hill, in the bank of the *Veda*, there is *Corbul* railway station”⁵⁹.

Southwest of **Buzesti**⁶⁰, **Corbu UAT**, there is a “*Citadel*”, located on a plateau, on the right side of *Vedea* River. “*Cetățuia*, the high peak, in *Ursoaia* hill, Olt County. It falls on the SW side of *Ursoaia* commune, *Plaiul Mijlocul*. The inhabitants also call it *Dealul Cetățuie-the Citadel Hill*. It is said that there was a fortress here.”⁶¹ To the South-West on the edge of *Ursoaia* Hill, near *Pițigoești* hamlet, there is an elevation of land, called by the inhabitants *Cetățuia* or *Cetăței Hill*⁶². This fortress is also spoken about by M. Butoi, who saw it on a hill on the outskirts of *Ursoaia* village and about which he says it is Daco-Roman.⁶³ *Ursoaia* village is neighbouring *Buzesti*. The site of *Crîmpoiaia*,

⁵⁵ Lahovari *et alii* 1902, p. 383.

⁵⁶ Butoi 2013, p. 20.

⁵⁷ Lahovari *et alii* 1899, p. 134.

⁵⁸ Lahovari *et alii* 1899, p. 343.

⁵⁹ Lahovari *et alii* 1899, p. 641.

⁶⁰ Pătroi 2020, p. 96.

⁶¹ Lahovari *et alii* 1899, p. 347.

⁶² Lahovari *et alii* 1902, p. 606.

⁶³ Barrel 1999; Barrel 2013, p. 16.

Olt County, from the point “Magazia” is thought to be one and the same as “Reduta Tătarilor” where a Roman earthen camp was identified, also located on the right side of the river Vedea⁶⁴.

Between the south-west plateau of Buzesti, where a fortress is recorded, and the “Reduta Tătarilor” from Crâmpoia, there are approx. 17.5km. The most important aspect is that this fortress from Buzesti is inside Brazda lui Novac, which passes nearby, north of Buzesti, through the localities of Stănilăvești, Osica and Burdulești.

Connected to the locality Icoana, at the point “La Târlă”, located on the valley of Florișorul stream, at approx. 2km north of the confluence with Vedea stream and 500m west of Petroleum Park nr. 8 of the Ciurești scaffolding and 300m northwest of Potcoava–Tufeni road, on a high terrace on the right side of Florișoru stream, there is a Bronze Age settlement spread over an area of approx. 4 hectares. Vestiges of Verbicioara and Tei have been identified⁶⁵. Therefore, Brazda passes through an area heavily populated in prehistory and still little known and researched by specialists.

North of the village of Buzesti, Olt County, through the hamlet of **Corbul**, with east-west direction “*perpendicular to the road and Vede river*”⁶⁶ crossed Brazda lui Novac. South of Corbu village. Brazda passes over the Coadă Alamului Valley, and climbs Tomeștilor Hill, between Vedea and Cotmeana, and enters the village of Urlueni⁶⁷.

At **Urlueni**⁶⁸ (former Afrimești), Argeș, there is a *castellum* of the Roman period⁶⁹. The point “*La Cetate*” that appears on military firing maps of the army is actually this site. The site file shows that this fortification is from the early Roman era (1st–3rd centuries). There is another hypothesis that places the end of the fortification from Urlueni in the 4th century⁷⁰.

*

Almost a century and a half has passed since Pamfil Polonic walked the northern section of Brazda lui Novac and gave us a picture of its monumentality. By studying the historiography of the Romanian history, we have learned that Brazda lui Novac/Trajan fascinated the first scholars as well. Dimitrie Cantemir left us the testimony of his historical genius through his numerous works, Brazda lui Novac not going unnoticed by this great scholarly ruler.

Regarding its dating, from the multitude of existing theories, only two emerge, indicating that it was erected and used in the 1st or 4th centuries. Brazda lui Novac has prehistoric origins, being a legacy of ancient megalithic civilizations, here is another theory regarding this objective. The promoter of this trend was N. Densușianu.⁷¹ The main element on which this hypothesis is based is that at Șopârlița, in Olt County, the Roman road passes over Brazda lui Novac, a fact also found and signalled by Al. Odobescu. Therefore, according to these authors, Brazda is older than the Roman vestiges, the identification of the period in which it was consecrated being sought in prehistoric times.

Without proper research, for many years to come, the problem of building Brazda lui Novac

⁶⁴ <http://ran.cimec.ro/sel.asp?descript=crampoia-crampoia-olt-castrul-roman-de-la-crampoia-reduta-tatarilor-cod-sit-ran-126415.01>.

⁶⁵ Neagoe, Neagoe 2006, p. 165.

⁶⁶ Lahovari *et alii* 1899, p. 134.

⁶⁷ Tudor 1978, p. 248.

⁶⁸ Pătroi 2020, p. 99.

⁶⁹ Bogdan-Cătănicu 2009, p.196–197. <http://ran.cimec.ro/sel.asp?descript=afrimesti-barla-arges-castellum-de-la-urlueni-afrimesti-cod-sit-ran-14478.01>.

⁷⁰ Bogdan-Cătănicu 1994, p. 345–347; Bogdan-Cătănicu 2009, p. 197. <http://cronica.cimec.ro/detaliiu.asp?k=2&d=Urlueni-Afrimesti-Barla-Argeș-Castellum-B-1994>), also see http://www.limes-transalutanus.ro/files/Materiale/3D/Urlueni_plan.pdf.

⁷¹ Densușianu 1913.

remains an enigma that will feed various theories, supported by more or less solid and historically unvalidated arguments.

Without clear knowledge of what remains of Brazda lui Novac, strategies for protecting and highlighting the monument cannot be developed. The resumption of Pamfil Polonic's journey on the route of Brazda lui Novac, with the technical support of the 21st century, is absolutely necessary.

Here are some landmarks about Brazda lui Novac/Vallum of Trajan and the still untapped archaeological potential of some localities in Olt County. There is, in the southern part of Romania, a major historical objective from which many segments are still preserved on certain sectors. Insufficiently researched and permanently exposed to agricultural works or infrastructure investments, Brazda lui Novac/ Vallum of Trajan must be saved, protected and researched. Its story is still unknown, but the ancient structure is part of the national heritage of Romania and Southeastern Europe, and deserves more attention from researchers and authorities.

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ANNEX 1. „Brazda lui Novac” on the territory of UAT Olt. *Apud* Croitoru 2000, p. 321.

Localities	Vallum	Fossa
Pădurea Episcopiei, Voineasa (Olt County)	Width: 13.40 m Height: 0.45 m	Width: 5 m Depth: 0.30 m
Dobrun (Olt County)	Width: 14 m Height: 0.80 m	Width: 0.50 m Depth: 0.26 m
Dobrun (Olt County)	Width: 20–23 m Height: 0.30-0.40 m	Width: 12.70 m Depth: 0.05-0.10 m
Șopârlița (Olt County)	Width: 12 m Height: 0.20 m	Width: 9.80 m Depth: 0.16 m
Cioroi (Olt County)	Width: 10 m Height: 0.50 m	Width: 10 m Depth: 0.20 m
Coteana (Olt County)	Width: 9.67 m Height: 0.32 m	Width: 6 m Depth: 0.25 m
Pădurea Terev (Olt County)	Width: 5 m Height: 0.15 m	Width: 5 m Depth: 0.15 m
Movilești (Olt County)	Width: 8 m Height: 0.20 m	Width: 7 m Depth: 0.10 m
Pădurea Breaza (Olt County)	Width: 13.50 m Height: 0.49 m	Width: 8 m Depth: 0.10 m
Potcoava (Olt County)	Width: 7.80 m Height: 0.40 m	Width: 3.25 m Depth: 0.30 m
Sinești (Olt County)	Width: 8.25 m Height: 0.20 m	Width: 6 m Depth: 0.10 m
Pădurea Sineștilor (Olt County)	Width: 9 m Height: 0.50 m	Width: 6 m Depth: 0.30 m
Pădurea Sineștilor (Olt County)	Width: 10 m Height: 0.30 m	Width: 7.50 m Depth: 0.30 m
Pădurea Corbu (Olt County)	Width: 7.50 m Height: 0.60 m	Width: 4.40 m Depth: 0.30 m
Urluieni (Olt County)	Width: 10 m Height: 1.40 m	Width: 5.30 m Depth: 0.45 m

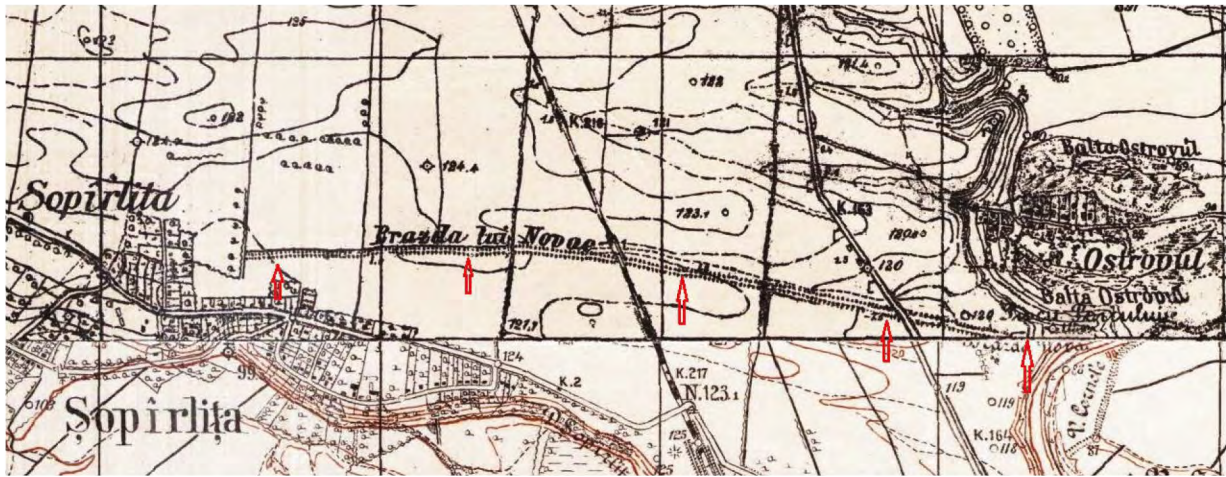


Fig. 1. Brazda lui Novac between Șopârlita and Ostrov, Olt County, identified on the army's firing master plans. Cartographic support <http://map.cimec.ro/Mapserver/#>.



Fig. 2. Localization of Brazda lui Novac on an administrative map of Șopârlita. Cartographic support http://geoportal.gov.ro/viewers/ro_RO/index.html.



Fig. 3. Brazda lui Novac captured on the territory of Șopârlita locality on satellite image. Source Google Earth.

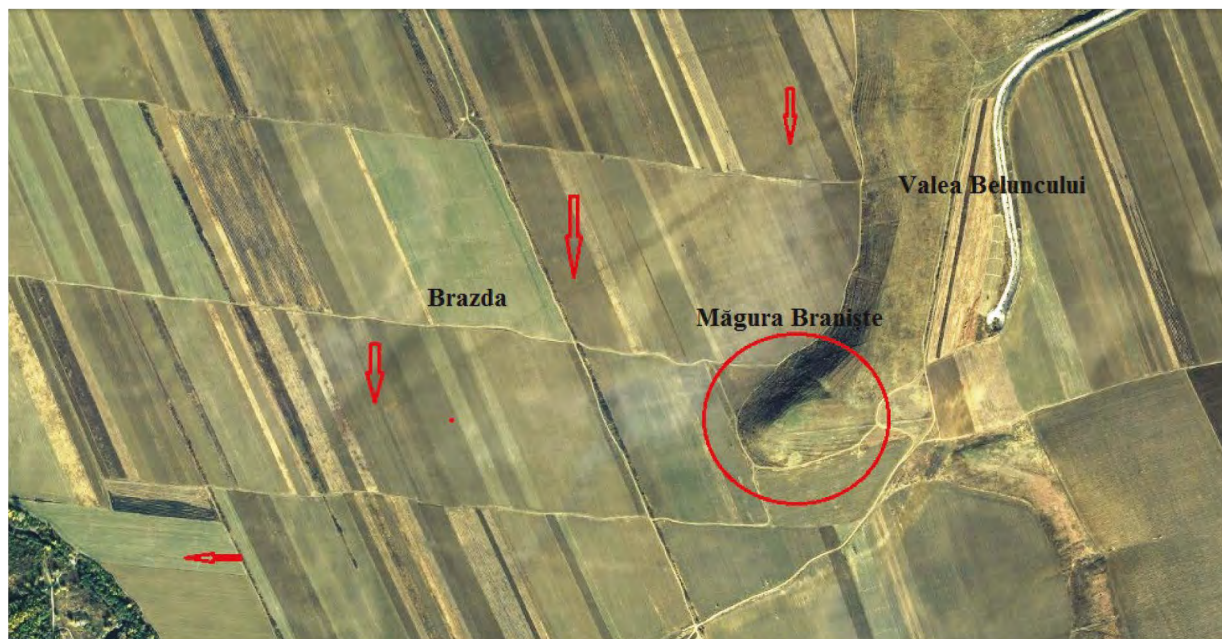


Fig. 4. Brazda lui Novac southwest of Coteana, Olt County, identified on satellite image.
Cartographic support <http://map.cimec.ro/Mapservers/#>.



Fig. 5. Brazda lui Novac southwest of Coteana, Olt County, identified the army's firing master plans. Cartographic support <http://map.cimec.ro/Mapservers/#>.

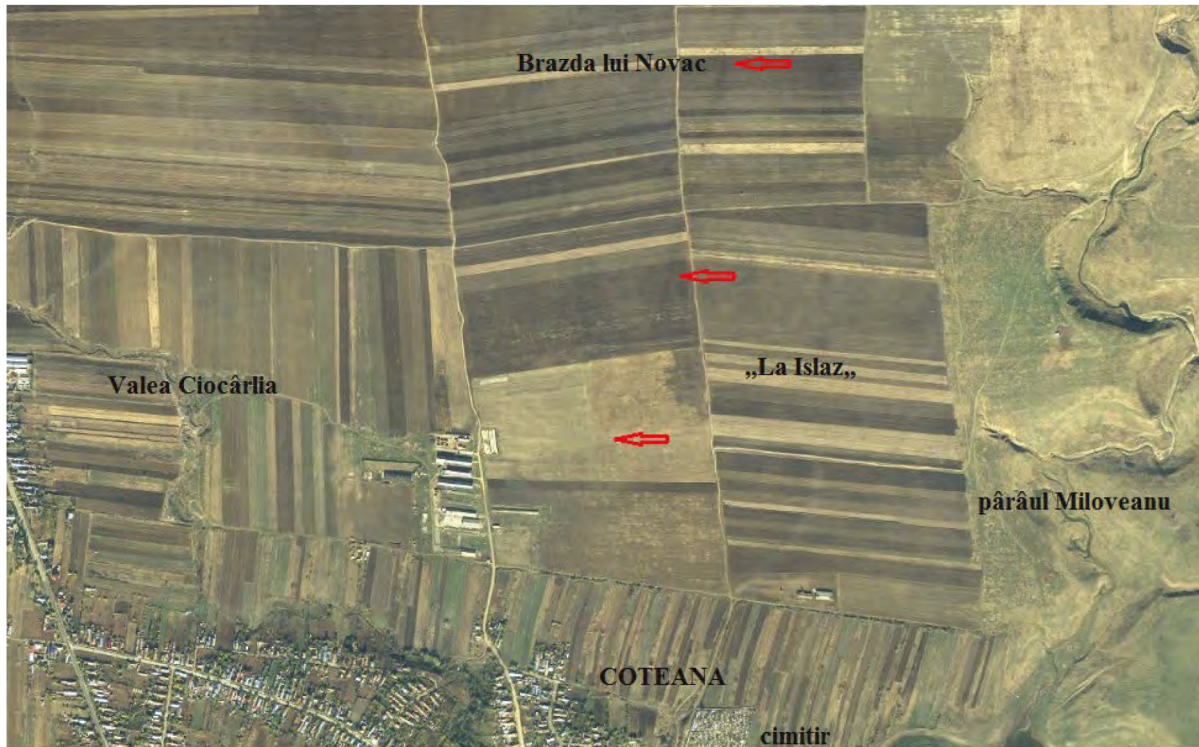


Fig. 6. Brazda lui Novac north-east of Coteana, Olt County, captured on satellite image. Cartographic support http://geoportal.gov.ro/viewers/ro_RO/index.html.

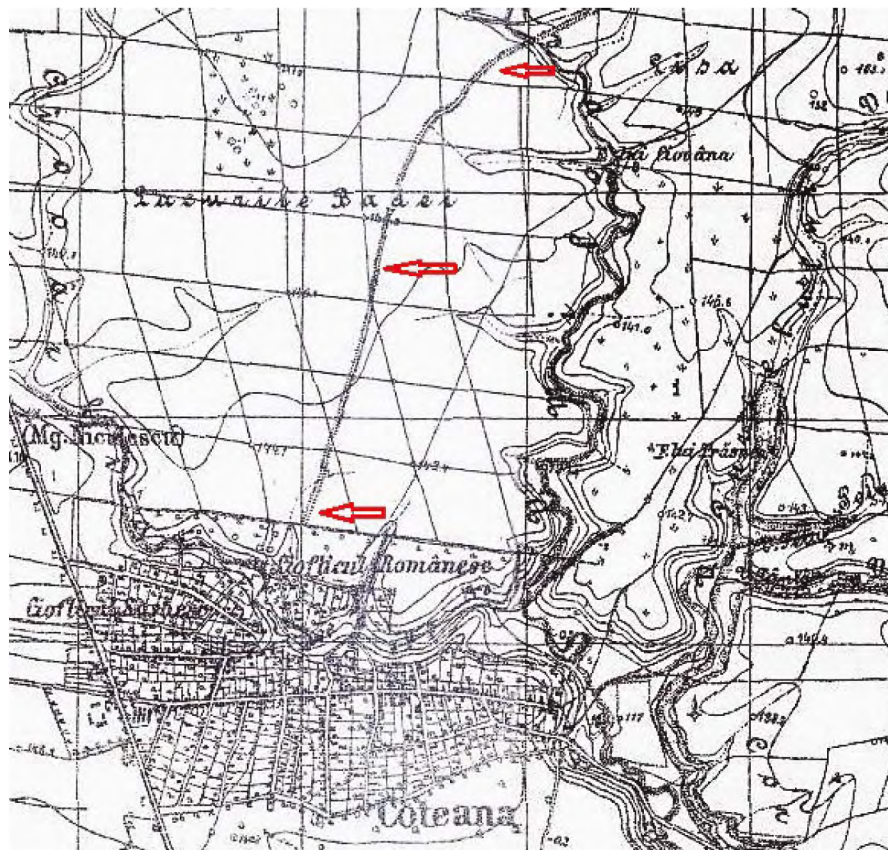


Fig. 7. Brazda lui Novac north-east of Coteana, Olt County, identified on the army's firing master plans. Cartographic support <http://map.cimec.ro/Mapserver/#>.

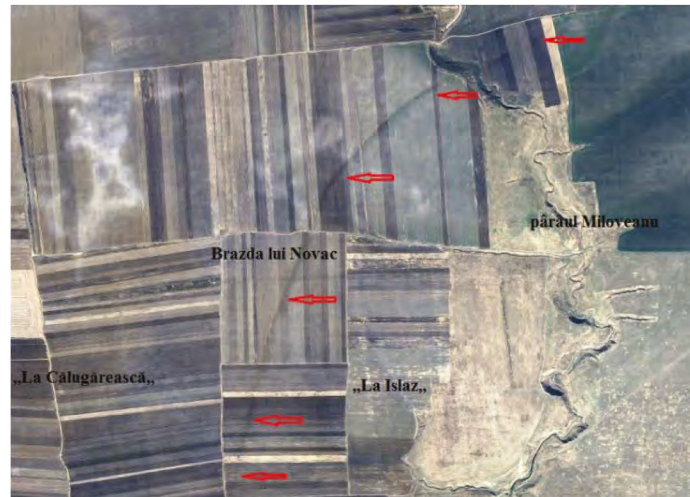


Fig. 8. Brazda lui Novac north-east of Coteana, Olt County, identified on satellite image. Cartographic support <http://map.cimec.ro/Mapserver/#>.

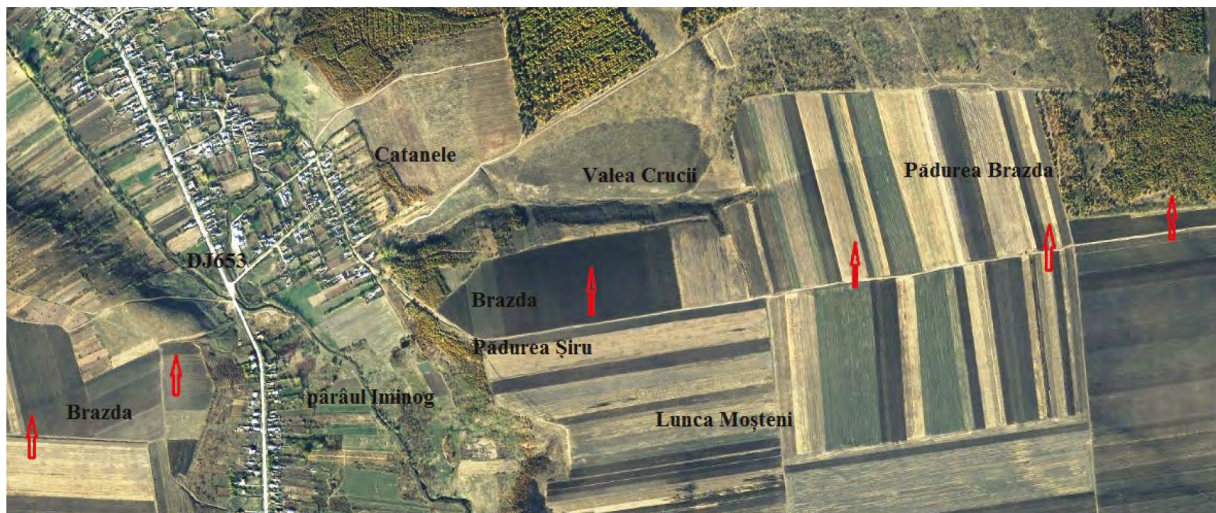


Fig. 9. Brazda lui Novac/Valul lui Traian, north-east of Moșteni, Commune of Schitu, Olt County, and east and west of Catanele, on satellite image. Cartographic support <http://map.cimec.ro/Mapserver/#>.



Fig. 10. Brazda Forest located east of Moșteni, Olt County. Cartographic support http://geoportal.gov.ro/viewers/ro_RO/index.html.

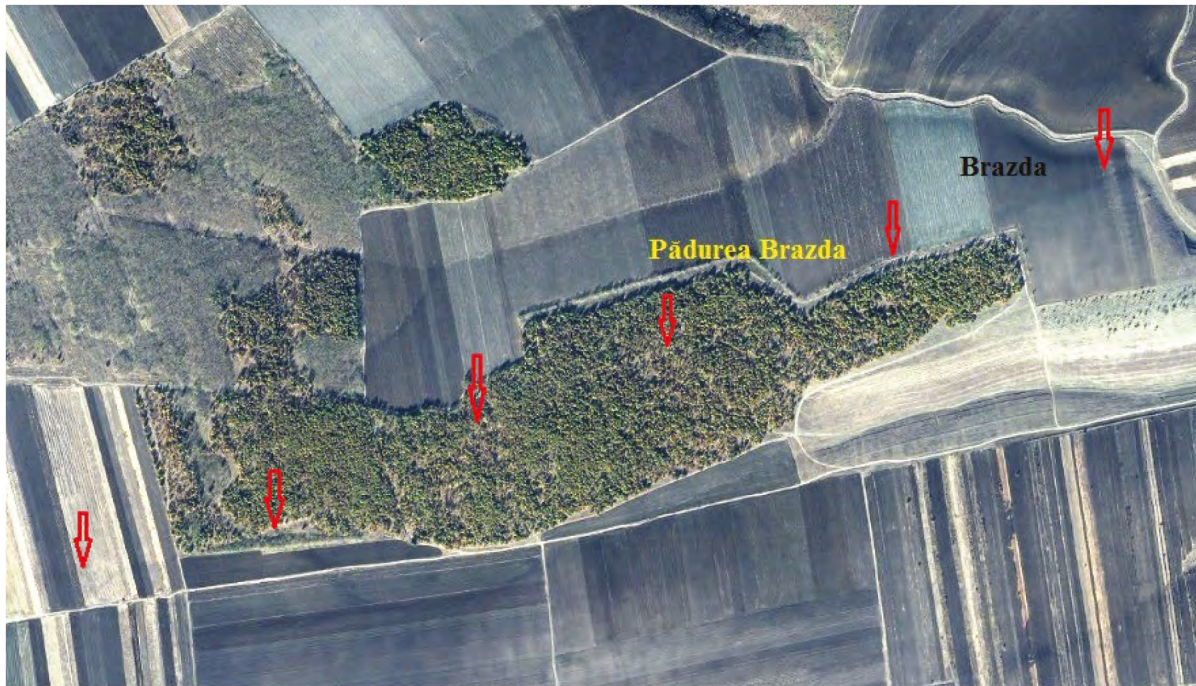


Fig. 11. Valul lui Traian at Movileni (former Tâmpeni), Olt County, on the army's firing master plans. Cartographic support <http://map.cimec.ro/Mapsriver/#>.

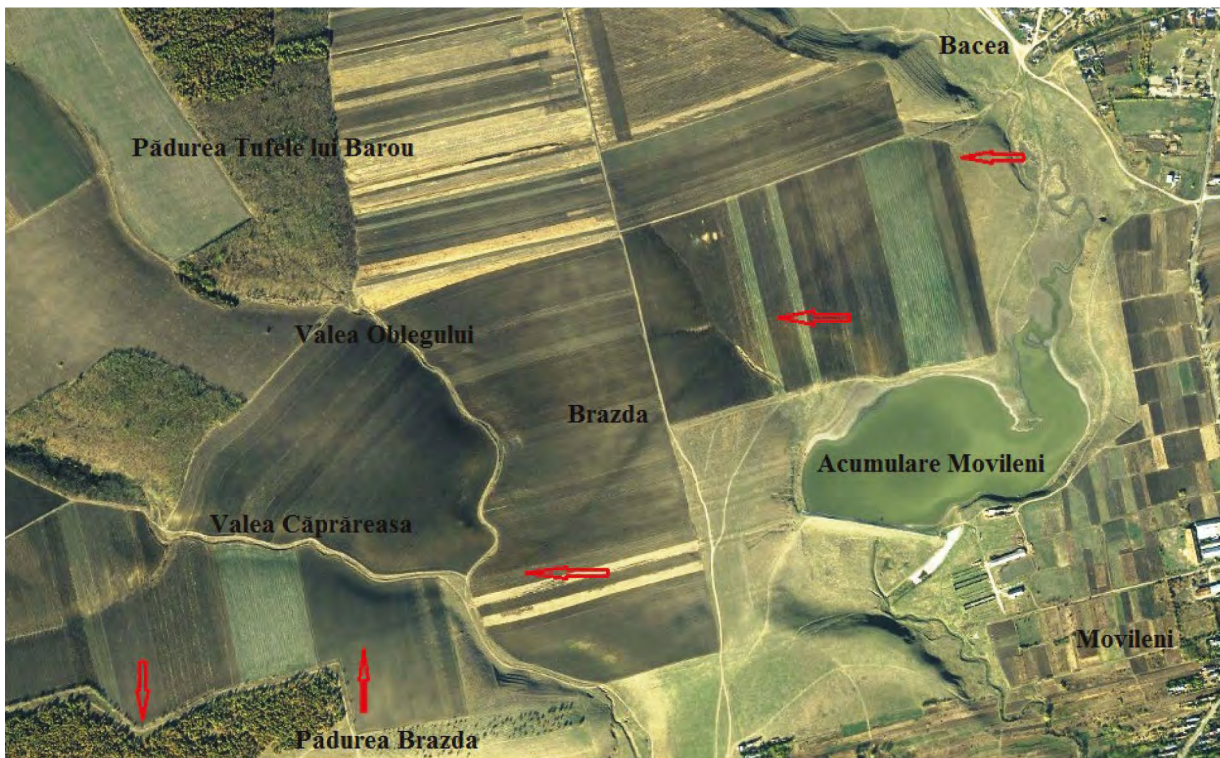


Fig. 12. Brazda lui Novac/Valul lui Traian northwest of Movileni (former Tâmpeni), Olt County, on satellite image. Cartographic support <http://map.cimec.ro/Mapsriver/#>.



Fig. 13. Brazda lui Novac/Valul lui Traian on the sector between Moșteni and Movileni (former Tâmpeni), Olt County, on the army's military firing plans. Cartographic support <http://map.cimec.ro/Mapserver/#>.

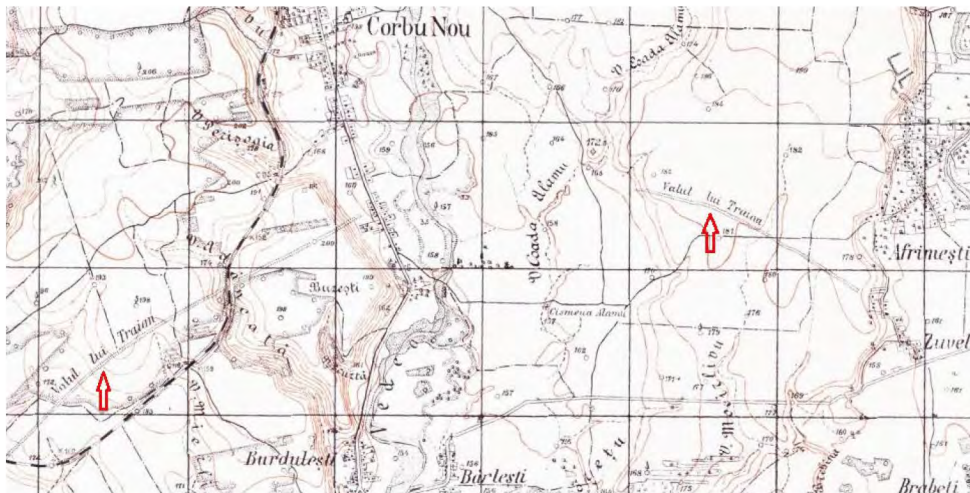


Fig. 14. Brazda lui Novac, sector Osica de Sus – Corbu – Afrimești, Commune of Buzești, Olt County, on the army's shooting master plans. Cartographic support <https://map.cimec.ro/Mapserver/#>.



Fig. 15. Brazda lui Novac, sector Corbu-Afrimești, commune of Buzești, Olt County. Orthophotoplan 2014–2016. Cartographic support <https://map.cimec.ro/Mapserver/#>.

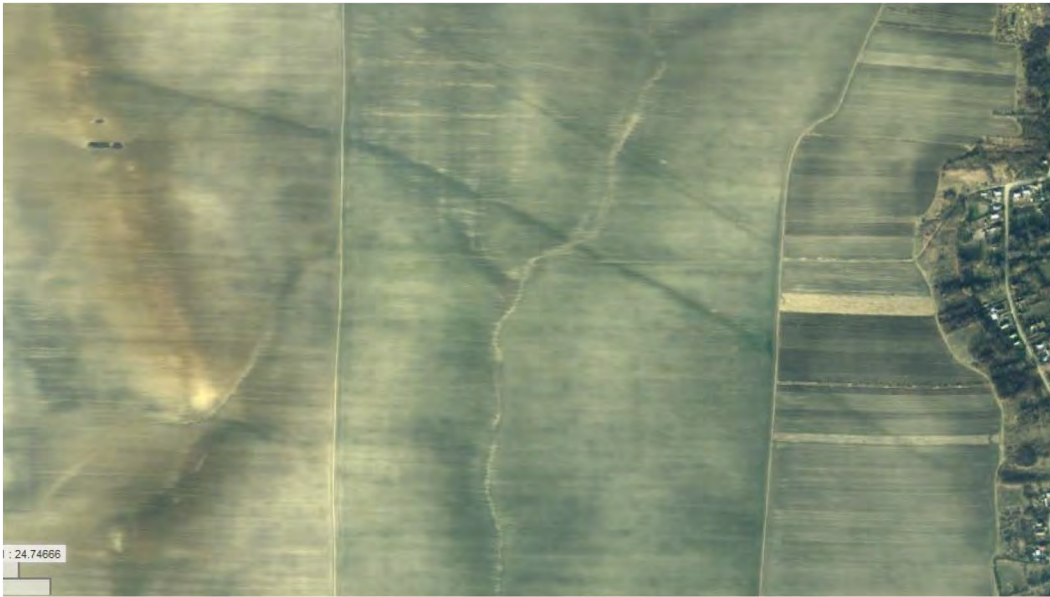


Fig. 16. Brazda lui Novac, sector Corbu-Afrimești, commune of Buzești, Olt County. Ortho-photoplan 2010–2012. Cartographic support <https://map.cimec.ro/Mapserver/#>.



Fig. 17. Brazda lui Novac, sector Corbu-Afrimești, commune of Buzești, Olt County. Ortho-photoplan 2010–2012. Cartographic support <https://map.cimec.ro/Mapserver/#>.

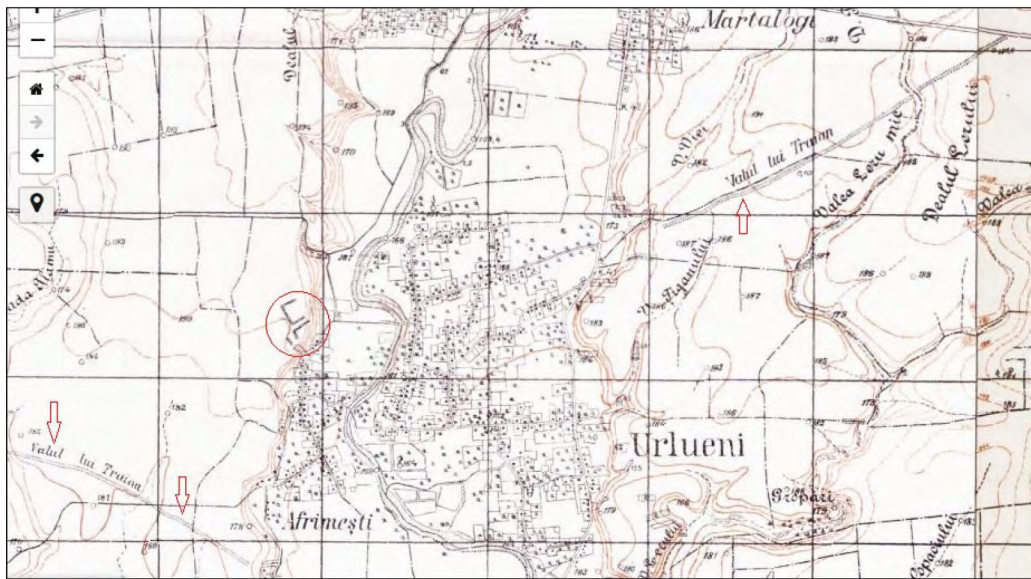


Fig. 18. Braza lui Novac, sector Afrimești, commune of Buzești, Olt County, and a Roman period *castellum* from Urlueni indicated on the army's shooting plans. Cartographic support <https://map.cimec.ro/Mapserver/#>.



Fig. 19. Braza lui Novac, sector Afrimești, Commune of Buzești, Olt County, and a *castellum* of the Roman period, indicated on satellite image. Cartographic support <https://map.cimec.ro/Mapserver/#>.