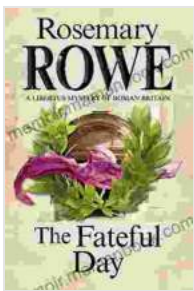


# Fateful Day: The Libertus Mystery of Roman Britain 15

In the heart of Roman Britain, amidst the rugged hills of northern England, lies a tale of mystery and intrigue that has captivated historians for centuries. It is the story of Libertus, a Roman soldier whose fateful day would forever etch his name into the annals of Roman history.



## Fateful Day, The (A Libertus Mystery of Roman Britain Book 15) by Rosemary Rowe

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1943 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 224 pages



## Unearthing the Enigma

The fate of Libertus was revealed through an extraordinary archaeological discovery made in 1973 at the Roman fort of Vindolanda. Amidst the ruins, a collection of wooden writing tablets came to light, preserved in the damp soil for nearly two millennia. These tablets, known as the Vindolanda Tablets, provided a rare and intimate glimpse into the lives of Roman soldiers stationed on the northern frontier.



One particular tablet, known as Tablet 291, contained a cryptic message that would forever haunt historians. Written by an unknown soldier, the tablet described a tragic incident involving Libertus. The text read:

“

***“To Octavius, from Candidus. I am writing this letter to you with my own hand, but it is full of tears. Gaius Julius Libertus has been killed in an ambush.” - Vindolanda Tablet 291***”

These few words ignited a firestorm of speculation and debate. Who was Libertus? How did he die? What was the significance of his death? The mystery of Libertus had been unearthed, and historians embarked on a quest to unravel its secrets.

## The Man Behind the Mystery

Gaius Julius Libertus was a Roman soldier of the Twentieth Legion, stationed at Vindolanda in the 1st century AD. He hailed from Turin in northern Italy, and his name suggests that he had once been a slave or freedman. Libertus's military career is shrouded in obscurity, but he appears to have been a skilled and respected soldier.



Gaius Julius Libertus, a Roman soldier stationed at Vindolanda.

The Vindolanda Tablets reveal that Libertus was involved in various tasks, including reconnaissance missions, scouting expeditions, and the construction of roads and fortifications. He also seems to have been a literate and educated man, as evidenced by his ability to compose grammatical and coherent letters.

### **The Fateful Day**

Libertus's fateful day came in the year 15 AD, during a skirmish with local tribesmen. According to Tablet 291, Libertus was killed in an ambush. The circumstances surrounding his death remain unclear, but it is believed that he was part of a reconnaissance patrol that was attacked by a superior force.

The news of Libertus's death sent shockwaves through the Twentieth Legion. His fellow soldiers mourned their fallen comrade and wrote letters of condolence to his family in Italy. Tablet 291 was one such letter, penned by Candidus, a friend and colleague of Libertus.



The discovery of Tablet 291 has provided historians with a rare and poignant insight into the life and death of a Roman soldier. It is a testament to the fragility of human life on the unforgiving frontier of the Roman Empire.

### **The Mystery Endures**

Over the centuries, the mystery of Libertus has continued to fascinate and inspire historians and writers. His name has become synonymous with the sacrifices made by countless Roman soldiers who served on the northern frontier.

While the exact circumstances surrounding Libertus's death may never be fully known, his story serves as a reminder of the courage, resilience, and camaraderie that characterized the Roman legions. His fateful day at Vindolanda in 15 AD is a testament to the human drama that unfolded on the edges of the Roman Empire.

## Legacy and Remembrance

The mystery of Libertus has left a lasting legacy in Roman history and beyond. His name has been immortalized in books, articles, and documentaries. The Vindolanda Tablets, where his story was first discovered, remain a priceless treasure that continues to captivate and inspire scholars and enthusiasts alike.

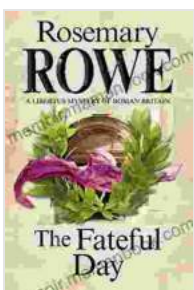


The Vindolanda Museum, where visitors can learn about Libertus and the Roman frontier.

Today, visitors to Vindolanda can walk in the footsteps of Libertus and his fellow soldiers. The site has been transformed into a museum and archaeological park, where visitors can explore the ruins of the Roman fort and learn about the lives of the people who lived and died there.

The mystery of Libertus, the Roman soldier killed in an ambush in 15 AD, is a tale that has resonated across time. It is a story of courage, tragedy, and the enduring power of history. The discovery of the Vindolanda Tablets has given us a glimpse into the life and death of this enigmatic figure, and his name will forever be etched in the annals of Roman history.

As we ponder the fate of Libertus and the countless other soldiers who served on the Roman frontier, we are reminded of the fragility of human life and the importance of remembering those who came before us. The mystery of Libertus may never be fully solved, but his story continues to inspire and captivate, ensuring that his legacy will endure for generations to come.



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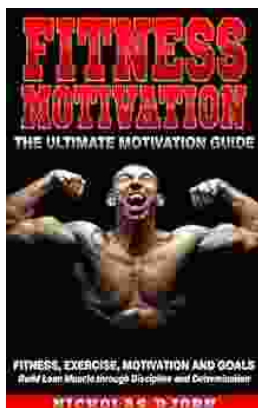
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