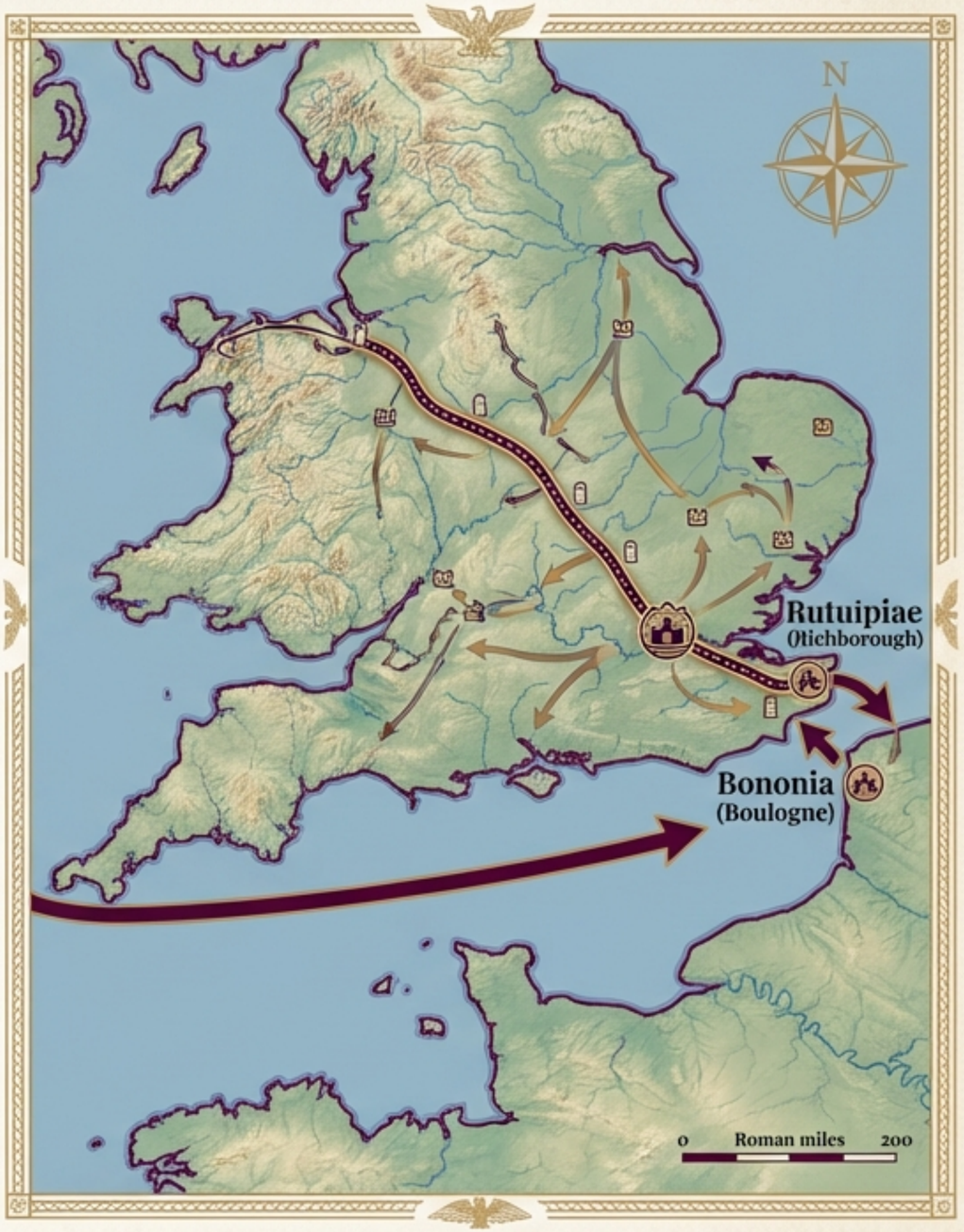
# The Great Restoration

## Count Theodosius and the British Campaign of A.D. 368

A Strategic Analysis of the “Barbarian Conspiracy” and Roman Counter-Insurgency Operations.




* Based on the primary accounts of Ammianus Marcellinus (Books XXVII & XXVIII).

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# THE EMPIRE UNDER SIEGE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT A.D. 367–368




Historical Cartography & Data Compilation: [Historical Research Institute/Museum Exhibition Catalogue]

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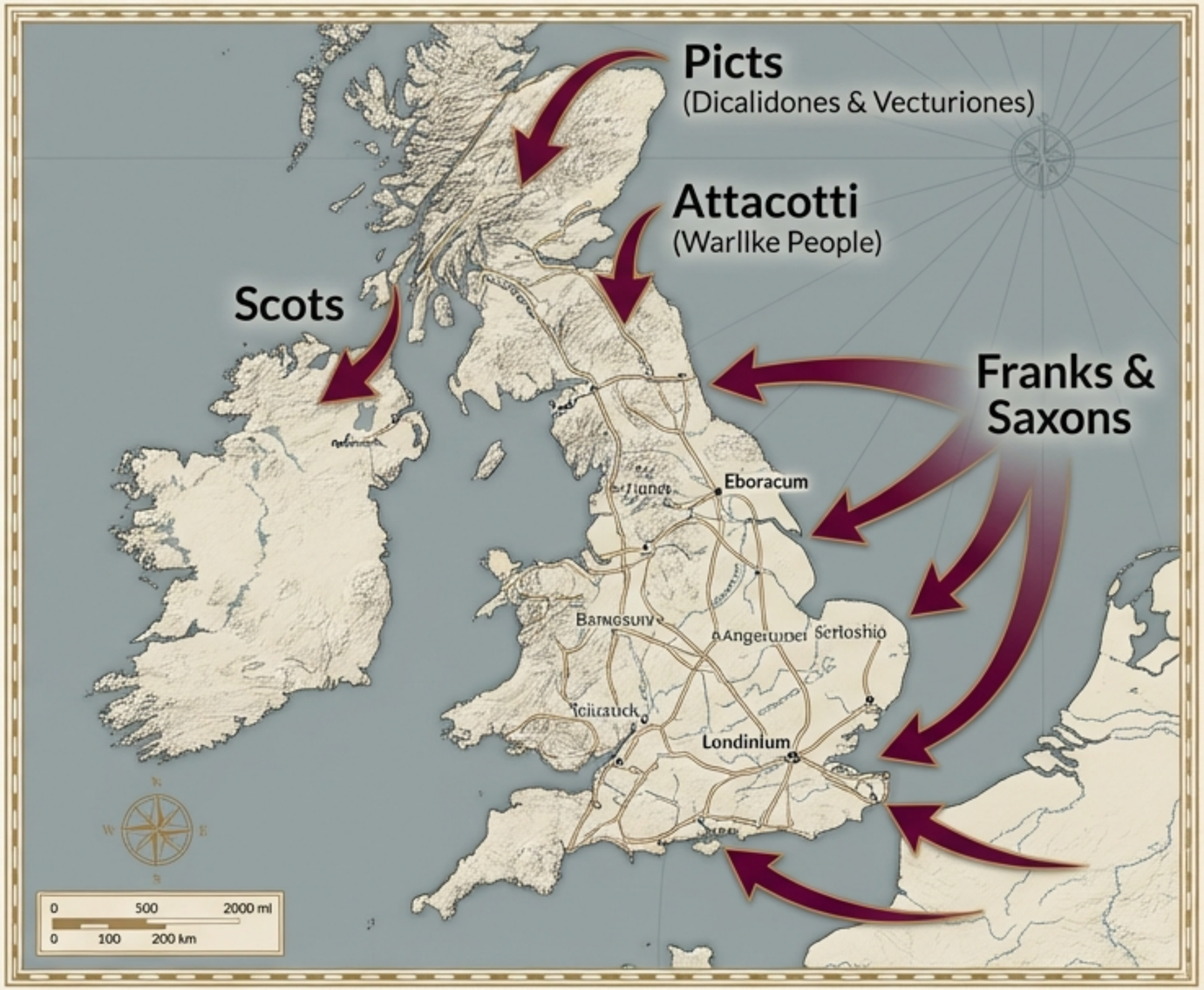
# ANATOMY OF THE BARBARIAN CONSPIRACY

## The Northern Front:

- **Picts:** Divided into Dicalidones and Vecturiones.
- **Attacotti:** A warlike people.
- **Scots:** Roving irregulars.

## The Maritime Front:

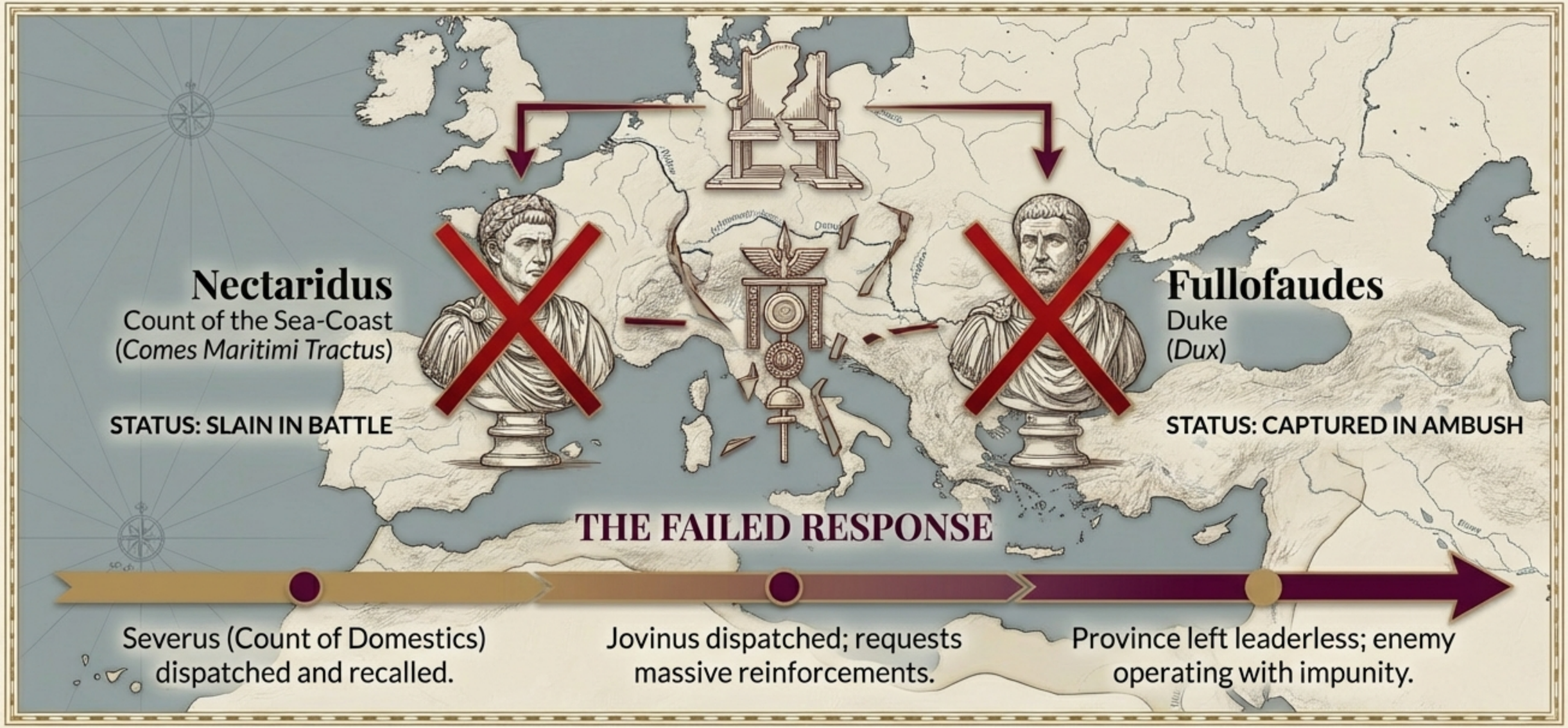
- **Franks and Saxons:** Ravaging Gallic frontiers and British coasts wherever they could effect entrance.




Source: Ammianus XXVII.VIII.4-5

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# DECAPITATION OF THE ROMAN COMMAND STRUCTURE




Source: Ammianus XXVII.VIII.1-2

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# The Operator: Count Theodosius and the Order of Battle



General of “famous reputation,” compared to Domitius Corbulo.

## The task force

- The Batavi (Palatine Auxiliary)
- The Heruli (Palatine Auxiliary)
- The Jovian Legion
- The Victorian Legion

**Strategy:** Rapid deployment of elite heavy infantry to stiffen local defenses, rather than than relying on demoralized garrisons.

Source: Ammianus XXVII.VIII.3 & 7

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# Phase I: Deployment and the Channel Crossing




Source: Ammianus XXVII.VIII.6-7

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# Phase II: Asymmetric Counter-Offensive



## Tactical Shift:

Division of forces into detachments to match enemy dispersion.

## Civil Affairs:

- Loot recovered from straggling bands.
- Restored to the “miserable tributaries” (Roman citizens).
- Small portion retained for soldier compensation.

Source: Ammianus XXVII.VIII.8

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# Phase III: Operational Pause and Intelligence.




## The Assessment:

- Theodosius enters Londinium “joyful and triumphant.”
- Intelligence from prisoners and deserters confirms the enemy multitude is too vast for pitched battle.
- Strategy shifts to ‘secret stratagems’ and ambuscades.

Source: Ammianus XXVII.VIII.9-10

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# The Internal Threat: The Valentine Conspiracy




## The Conspirator:

Valentine, a Pannonian exile of ‘proud spirit.’

## The Plot:

Subverting soldiers to launch a revolution while Theodosius was occupied.

## The Counter-Measure:

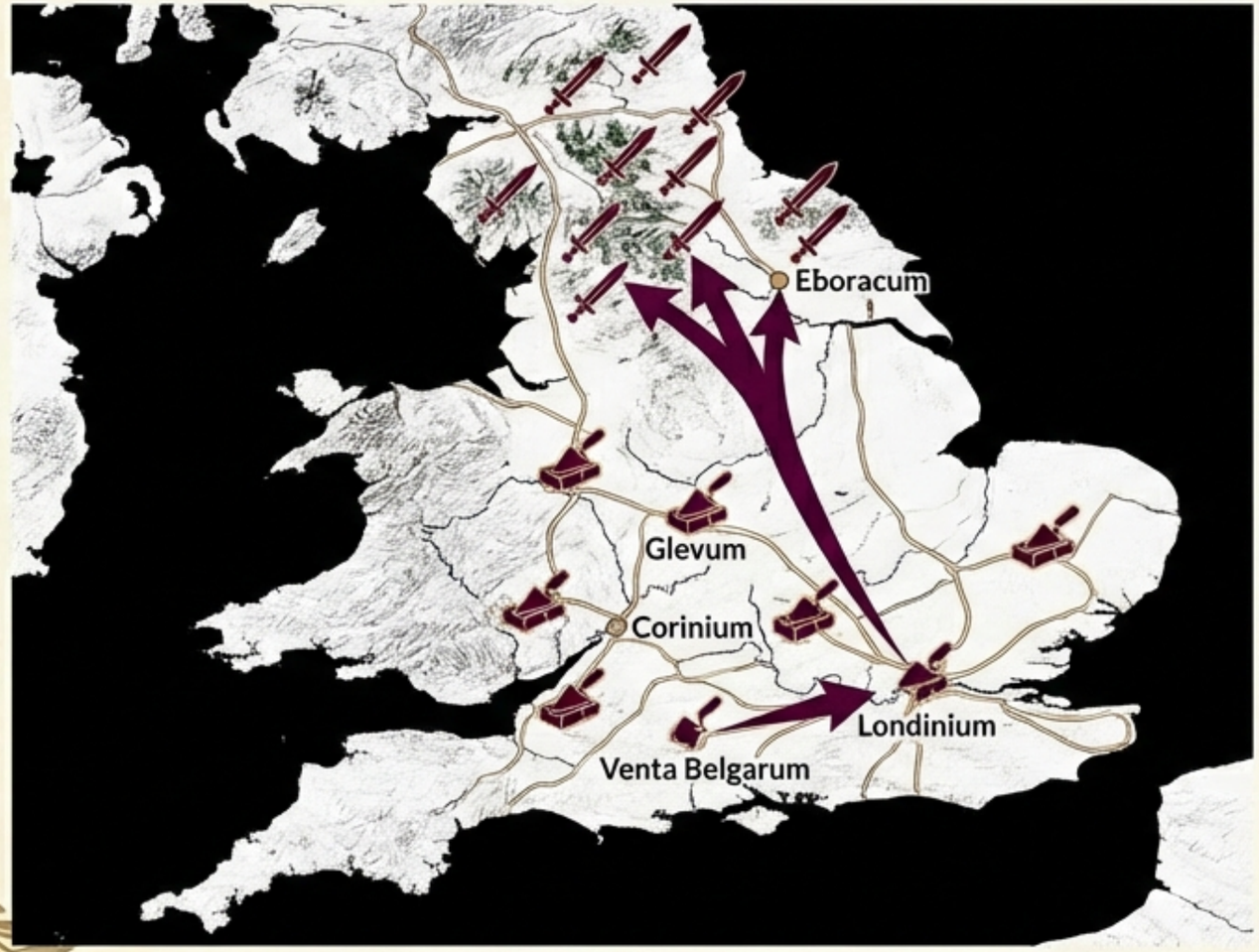
Plot discovered before maturity. Valentine and ringleaders executed by General Dulcitius.

**CALCULATED MERCY:** Further inquisition forbidden to prevent panic and fear from reigniting rebellion.

Source: Ammianus XXVIII.III.3-6

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# Phase IV: Clearing the North




**Tactics:** Theodosius leaves London with “mighty aid,” personally laying ambushes.

**Leadership:** Imposed no duties on troops he did not perform himself.

**Result:**

- Insolent tribes routed.
- Cities and fortresses restored.
- The lost province recovered.

Source: Ammianus XXVIII.III.1-2

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# Separation of Powers: Civil and Military Reform

## CIVIL ADMINISTRATION



**Appointee:** Civilis (Pro-prefect)

**Description:** “Man of quick temper, but just and upright.”

## MILITARY COMMAND



**Appointee:** Dulcitius (General)

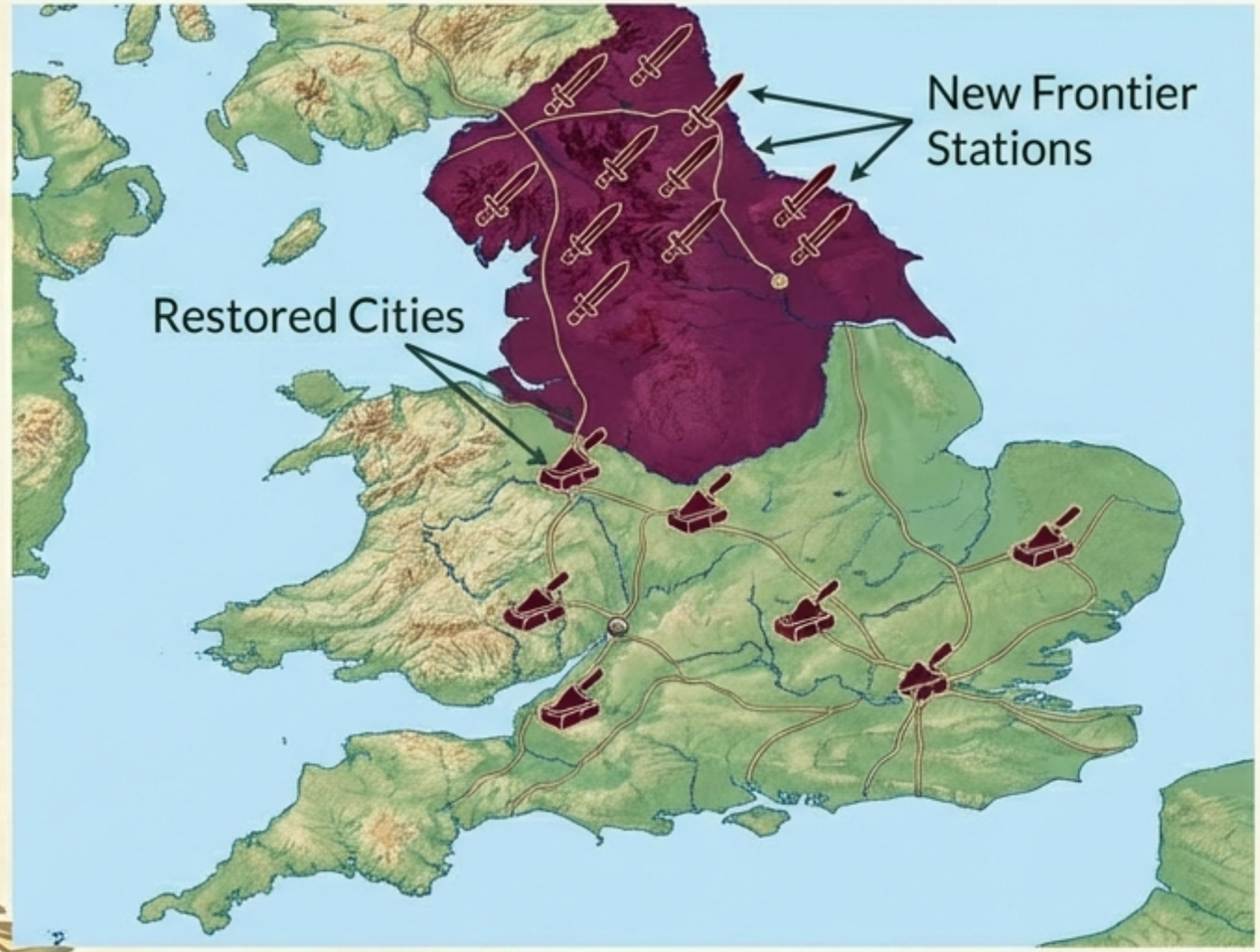
**Description:** “Eminent for military skill.”

Theodosius requests these appointments to relieve himself of “anxious cares” and ensure long-term stability.

Source: Ammianus XXVII.VIII.10

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# The New Province: ‘Valentia’




**The Achievement:** Territory formerly subject to the enemy completely recovered.

**The Name:** Constituted as the province “VALENTIA” by desire of Emperor Valentinian as a memorial of success.

**Infrastructure:** Full restoration of cities and construction of defensive outposts.

Source: Ammianus XXVIII.III.7

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# Pacification of the Tribes

## Counter-Intelligence.



**Dissolution** of the **Areani** (Arcani).

Corrupt scouts who betrayed Roman movements to the barbarians.

## Integration.



**Fraomarius** (King of Allemanni) sent to Britain as Tribune to command a division of Allemanni troops.

Source: Ammianus XXVIII.III.8 & XXIX.IV.7

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# Source Criticism: Ammianus Marcellinus



**The Author:** Soldier (Protector Domesticus) and contemporary.

**Credibility:** High military literacy. Focuses on logistics, morale, and command decisions.

**Methodology:** Relies on “confession of prisoners” and “information given by deserters,” mirroring Theodosius’s own methods.

**Bias:** Admiring of Theodosius (father of the future Emperor), but critical of previous Roman incompetence.

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# Strategic Conclusions

**Divide & Conquer**
(Attacking stragglers).

**Psychological Warfare**
(Amnesty for deserters).




**Political Stabilization**
(Civil/Military separation).

**Intelligence Led**
(Interrogation guiding strategy).

The campaign serves as a masterclass in restoring order to a failed state through a blend of military ruthlessness, administrative reform, and calculated mercy.

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