The history of the Roman presence in the Iberian Peninsula, from its first arrival in the North-East in 218 to Numantia’s fall in 133 and further beyond, is closely connected to the long-term history of its armed forces, their actions, and collateral damage. According to our historical record, periods of intense warfare were followed by others of lesser violence, depending on the irregular outcomes of a war which was never expected to last that long. For decades the Republic made extraordinary efforts to keep its armies fully functional, disregarding strains on internal composition and logistical needs, and pressured by a war economy, which considered natives to be only spoils of war, and objects of auxiliary recruitment when necessary. Throughout this period, the early pacified regions of Hispania Citerior, and particularly the North-East coast and its hinterland, were garrisoned, primarily as a response to logistical and defensive strategies, but also in order to integrate local populations into the ‘new Roman order’, as allies and subjects.

As recently stated, such garrisons were not just controlling the defeated natives; they were also very important for the security of Roman supply lines. As a matter of fact, the Roman bases in the North-East did this very efficiently, and, furthermore, played a key role in organising the occasional wintering of the regular armies, as well as channelling new recruits and supplies towards the inland fronts, particularly during major military operations. Then, from Numantia’s fall to the beginning of the Sertorian Wars in 82, a gap in the literary evidence clouds our view on the actual Roman military policy in Hispania, except for isolated reports on fights against first Lusitanians and then Celtiberians. This paper intends to

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* ICREA and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; toni.naco@icrea.cat.
1 See recently: Morillo (ed.) (2003); Morillo et al. (eds.) (2003); Morillo et al. (eds.) (2009, esp. vol. 1, 239–561 and vol. 2, 563–692); Cadiou (2008); Cadiou et al. (eds.) (2008).
shed new light on this little-known period, using a much broader historical approach and the analysis of two North-East sites. It may come as no surprise that it constituted a historical crossroads, not only for Roman military intervention in the Far West, but also in the history of the Late Republican expansion over the Mediterranean.4

2. Military Archaeology: Two Case Studies from North-Eastern Hispania

We present two study cases: El Camp de les Lloses (Tona, Barcelona), apparently a Roman Republican vicus, and Monteró (Camarasa, Lleida), a Roman Republican castellum. Both of these were located in North-Eastern Citerior, present-day Catalonia (fig. 1).

According to the preliminary research accounts, resulting from several archaeological campaigns and a new interpretation of the remaining historical sources for this period, both sites might have been used as outposts of the Roman army, with logistical, defensive, and, perhaps, recruitment functions. Their morphology, limited chronological lifetime, and varied material culture all offer interesting insights into the integration of Romans, Italians, and natives in the military context of Hispania Citerior for the last years of the second century and the first decade of the following one.

2.1. El Camp de les Lloses

The site is situated in the municipality of Tona (Barcelona province) on the Southern Vic Plain, on a natural and strategic crossroads that controls the communications from inner Catalonia to the coast. It consists of a cluster of three different buildings (buildings A, B, and C), dated 125–75, which follow the typical Italian architectural pattern for atrium houses,5 clearly an atrium testudinatum type in our case (fig. 2).

From a functional point of view, building B would appear to be domestic in purpose, whilst building A seems to combine both domestic and manufacturing activities, a conclusion based on the definite identification of a metalworking area in the front part of the house. As for building D,

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4 Ñaco (2006, 149–67); Arrayás Morales (2007, 49–50); Belarte, Olmos & Principal (2010).
5 Robertson (1943, 302–6); Gros (2001, 30–8, 82–4).