



Claudius I know that I was there! Surely Minimus you have some news.

Minimus Yes your excellency. The Senate decided to name a month after the greatest Emperor of all time.

Claudius Oh! How wonderful Clauduary...

Minimus Er.. No your excellency not after you Claudius after Julius Caesar – July.

Claudius Oh! Him again! He died nearly 80 years ago haven't they stopped honouring him yet? I'm tired of all the statues, roads and offerings to the Gods for Caesar. After all he can't have been that great. The Senators murdered him!!

Minimus Yes your excellency. Well I am afraid there is no other news then.

Claudius Then we shall have to make some news of our own. I'm tired of hearing about Caesar. It's always Caesar did this or Caesar did that. Nothing about me. Everybody in Rome thinks I am dim witted and cowardly.

Ludicrus But you are a great ruler Claudius.

Glutimus A fine Emperor.

Minimus You're great, really great!!

Claudius Yes, well we will just have to show everyone HOW great won't we?

Ludicrus But how? You haven't really DONE anything except write a History book And I don't think generations of school children will thank you for that!

Glutimus Quite!

Minimus I suppose you could always conquer somebody.

Claudius Brilliant! But who?

Ludicrus What about Gaul?

Claudius Gaul's gone!

Glutimus What about Iberia?

Claudius Iberia's gone!

Ludicrus Asia Minor?

Claudius Asia Minor's gone!

Glutimus What about Egypt?

Claudius Egypt's gone – remember Cleopatra. Haven't you read my History book?

Minimus What about Britannia?

Claudius Britannia's gone you fool. Julius Caesar conquered it about 100 years ago.

Minimus Ah! No! He didn't. That is he only conquered some of it. In fact he only Managed to conquer a tiny bit of it in the South. It was said the inhabitants, Celts I think they are called , were too unruly and Great Caesar gave up!!

Claudius Minimus Decimus Meridius you are brilliant. Britannia it is then. Sent General Attackus to me .

Minimus Yes your excellency.

### **ENTER ATTACKUS**

Attackus You sent for me Mighty Claudius?

Claudius Yes. General prepare your army we march on Britannia in a months time.

Attackus But Emperor Claudius Britannia is full of mad Celts and Englishmen!

Claudius So what!

Attackus But they don't fight by the rules they are really nasty and shout rude names at you.

Claudius So get off with you and start training your army Attackus!!

Attackus But sir...

Claudius Off with you man. You are fighting for the glory of Rome.

## **Scene 2 – The Army Training Ground**

### **ENTER ATTACKUS SHOUTS ORDERS TO ARMY OFF STAGE AND THEY MARCH ON**

Attackus Roman Army Attention  
By the left forward march... Sinister, dexter, sinister dexter...

Roman Army Halt.

Left Turn.

### **ATTACKUS GOES ALONG RANKS TO INSPECT TROOPS**

Now men we are to attack Britannia in a month.

Soldiers Oh no! Not Britannia again.

Attackus Any complaints and I shall run you through with my sword. As I was saying  
In a months time we march on Britannia.

Soldiers Oh! Goody goody.

Attackus That's better. You should all be equipped with the following things. And  
remember it is up to you to buy your armour. It is a great honour to be in the  
Roman Army and you wouldn't want to let Rome and your family down by  
getting killed would you?

Soldiers No General Attackus.

Attackus Step forward soldier.  
First you need a cassius on your head because Roman soldiers use their brains  
and we want to make sure yours are in one piece.  
Second you need a lorica segmentata to protect your upper body.  
Third you must carry your scutum and use it to defend yourself or attack the  
enemy with the metal boss on the front. It can make a nasty mess of a Celts  
face.  
Finally keep your gladius in your hand at all times and don't go leaving it in  
anybody!!  
Back in line soldier.  
Roman Army left turn.  
By the left quick march. ...Sinister, dexter...

## MARCH UP AND DOWN A FEW TIMES

Attackus Now we will practise some battle formations.  
Shields up. We call this the tortoise formation and we use this when arrows or spears are raining down on us. By the left quick march. Sinister, dexter...

Soldiers form for attack. This is the wedge formation and we will use this to break up the Celts. By the left quick march. Sinister, dexter...

Roman Legions we are now ready to march to Britannia.

## SOLDIERS MARCH ON SPOT CHANTING

### Roman Army Chant

(Attackus says each line repeated by soldiers)

We are Roman soldiers.  
Marching North to Britain.  
We wear skirts and armour.  
We carry shields and weapons.  
We're highly trained and skilful.  
We're loyal and follow orders.  
We fight for our Emperor.  
To make our nation powerful.  
We invade and conquer.  
We're not scared of anyone.  
So when we get to Britain.  
We'll frighten all the Celts away.  
Yes we are Roman soldiers.  
Marching to Britannia.  
When we reach the Channel.  
We'll row our boats across it.  
We'll land upon the beaches.  
We'll shout to our enemy.  
**THE ROMANS HAVE LANDED!!**

## **Scene 3 – A Beach In Kent**

### **CELTS SITTING IN DECK CHAIRS**

- Edna Ethel, do you like my make up? It's wode you know.
- Ethel Yes very nice – the blue matches your eyes.
- Edna Lovely weather isn't it?
- Ethel Yes, better than yesterday. My Egbert is decorating our hut today.
- Edna Oh yes, what colour?
- Ethel Same as usual - mud coloured.
- Edna Lovely and peaceful here isn't it – I don't know why people go abroad for their holidays give me a beach in Britannia any day.

### **ROMAN ARMY PRETENDING TO GET OUT OF BOATS AND WALKING TOWARDS THEM.**

- Ethel Edna, look over there. What's that?
- Edna Oh! That'll be some of those Gauls from France for a day out.
- Ethel Are you sure Edna they look terribly smart.
- Edna They always were into fashion. I expect it's some new fad.
- Ethel Are you sure they seem to be waving swords!!
- Edna Oh! No! It's those Romans again I'd recognise their tanned legs anywhere!!
- Ethel I suppose we'd better go and tell the rest of the tribe. But that one at the front is mine!!

### **EDNA AND ETHEL RETURN TO CAMP**

- Ethel Egbert ! Egbert! Those rotten Roman's have just landed on the beach.
- Egbert Are you sure Ethel? Have you been at the mead again.

Ethel No ! Ask Edna she saw them too.

Edna Yes, that's right Bert come on put your wattle and daub down and put your war paint on.

Egbert OK. Come on lads grab your weapons there's a fight on the beach!!

**ACT OUT ROMAN ATTACK, ROMANS WIN.**

Attackus In the Year AD 42 I claim Britannia for the Emperor Claudius and Rome.

**ROMANS SETTLE DOWN IN CAMP.**

**BRITONS LIMPING BACK TO THEIR CAMP.**

Egbert Blimy those Romans are vicious. One of them pushed their shield in my face and then stabbed me while I was rubbing my nose.

Ethel You're right Bert they are ever so strong, especially that one on the front row!!

Rufus Well Bert some of them seem quite decent chaps I reckon we'd be better off if we just get along with them. No point in getting any more Celts killed.

Ethel Yes I am prepared to get along with them too.

Edna At least you can finish the decorating then Egbert.

Egbert OK, OK I'll have a chat with their leader.

**EGBERT GOES TO ROMAN CAMP.**

Egbert Listen mate . I've had a chat with the chaps and we reckon we can all get along OK. So if its alright with you we'd like to call a halt to all this fighting.

Attackus Fine by me. I think the lads will be pleased to settle here for a while. Right lads?

Soldiers Yes General!.

**SHAKE HANDS AND MINGLE.**

## Scene 4- Back In Rome

### **SOLDIERS READING LETTERS THEY HAVE WRITTEN HOME.**

Claudius Well what news from Britannia Minimus?

Minimus I have here some letters written home from the soldiers. It seems all is well and Britain is secured.

Claudius Let me read the letters.

Soldier1 Dear Mummy,

The attack on Britain was successful and we have now started to build a town at a place called Colchester. We have taken this to be our capital city The soldiers, as usual, have been building roads, bridges and helping to run the town.

I have married a lovely English girl called Edna. I am sorry mummy I know you wanted me to marry a nice Italian girl but I could be here for 25 years before I am given my pension.

Most of the Britons are OK but there are a few tribes in the North which are rather rough.

I'll see you in about AD 68!

Lots of Love.

Septimus

Soldier 2 Dear Wife

Britain is an awful place. The people live in huts with no central heating and no toilets. The women are big and loud and are allowed to rule their tribes when the men die. They have some dreadful habits such as painting themselves and dying their hair. I don't know what they use to dye their hair but it smells awful.

The weather is very changeable . In winter they have snow and rain for months and in the summer it rains as well. I wish I was back home with you in Rome as the wine here is pretty dreadful too. It is my turn for guard duty now so I must go.

Your Husband

Allius

Claudius Seems like everything is going well .I may visit later this year.

## **Scene 5 - 17 Years Later**

Attackus I am just sending my annual report back to Rome the year is AD 60. Claudius is now dead and his step son Nero is Emperor. Seutonius Paulinus is governor of Britain and we have built several Roman towns at Verulamium, Calleva and Londinium. As leader of the army I organise building forts and roads so that we can squash any rebellions quickly.

### **BOUDICCA'S CAMP**

Boudicca You are a real wimp Prasutagus. I don't know why I married you. You never stand up to these Romans why did you let them come in and take over. You are a spineless coward. If it was up to me I'd fight for what is ours. Are you listening to me husband?

1<sup>st</sup> Celt Your majesty I think he is dead.

Boudicca What do you mean dead!! Trust him to desert me when I needed him most. He never did have any bottle. Well take him away. I'm queen now so we will do things my way from now on. agreed??  
OK so here is the plan.

### **HUDDLE TOGETHER AND WHISPER.**

Soldier 3 General, General Boudicca is revolting!

Soldier 4 We know that, sit down and finish the game of cards.

Soldier3 No, no you don't understand she is leading the rebel alliance in an attack on the forces of the Emperor.

Soldier 4 You've been visiting the amphitheatre too much sit down.

Soldier 3 But she IS attacking.

Attackus OK ! OK! You 4 go and sort this out she's only a woman after all!

### **ATTACK ROMAN SOLDIERS AND WIN.SOLDIERS RETURN LOOKING BEDRAGGLED.**

Attackus What did Boudicca do to you chaps, have you stopped the revolt?

Soldier 4 No she won! She is the most frightening thing I've seen since Hannibal's elephants! She is marching on Colchester, Verulamium and Londinium

burning all the Roman buildings down..

Soldier 3 I told you she was revolting.

Attackus Right lads time to shape up.

### **BATTLE WITH CELTS AGAIN. ROMANS WIN.**

Boudicca I don't believe it! You useless lot couldn't win the lottery let alone a battle. I'm off. Anybody else want to join me?

Celt 1 What are you going to do Boud

Boudicca Poison myself of course, those Romans are not going to make a fool out of me!!

Celts Bye Boudicca!!

### **Postscript**

Claudius I was remembered as a great Emperor and Rome ruled Britain for another 350 years. They never did rule Scotland to the North and eventually Hadrian built a wall to keep the Picts out and that is as far North as the Roman Empire went.

