

HISTORY BIOGS FIGURES FROM HISTORY

QUEEN BOUDICA

A wronged Queen, who very nearly defeated the might of Imperial Rome

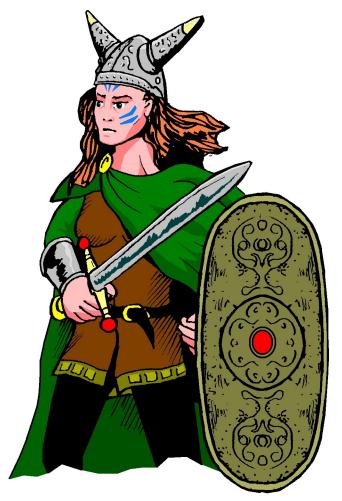
Boudica (also written as Boadicea) was a Celtic queen who led a revolt against Roman rule in ancient Britain in A.D. 60/61.

What we know of her comes from Roman scholars such as Tacitus and Cassius Dio.

Little is known about her early life, but it's believed she was born into a wealthy family in Camulodunum (now Colchester) around A.D. 30.

Boudica married King Prasutagas at the age of 18, he was king of the Iceni tribe of modern-day East Anglia.

When the Romans conquered southern England in A.D. 43, most Celtic tribes were forced to submit, but the Romans let Prasutagas continue in power as a forced ally of the Empire.



However, when he died without a male heir in A.D. 60, he left his kingdom jointly to his daughters and to the Roman Empower Nero in his will. This was ignored by the Romans who immediately annexed his kingdom and confiscated his family's land and property.

When Boudica and her daughters expressed their outrage at this, Boudica herself was publically flogged and her daughters attacked by Roman Soldiers.

The flames of revolt had been lit!

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In the year 60/61, Boudica led the Iceni and other British tribes who had grievances against the Roman invaders in revolt.

They attacked and destroyed Camulodunum, a colonia for discharged Roman soldiers.Upon hearing of the revolt, the Roman governor Gaius Suetonius Paulinius hurried from the island of Mona (modern Anglesey) to Londinium, the 20-year-old commercial settlement that was the rebels' next target. Unable to defend the settlement, he had it evacuated and abandoned it.

Boudica's army defeated a detachment of the Legio IX Hispana, and burnt both Londinium and Verulamium. In all, an estimated 70,000–80,000 Romans and Britons were killed by Boudica's followers. Suetonius, meanwhile, regrouped his forces, possibly in the West Midlands, and despite being heavily outnumbered, he decisively defeated the Britons.

Boudica died, by suicide or illness, shortly afterwards.

The crisis of 60/61 caused Nero to consider withdrawing all his imperial forces from Britain, but Suetonius's victory over Boudica convinced the Romans that they could control the province.

Interest in these events was revived in the English Renaissance and led to Boudica's fame in the Victorian era, and as a cultural symbol in Britain to this day.

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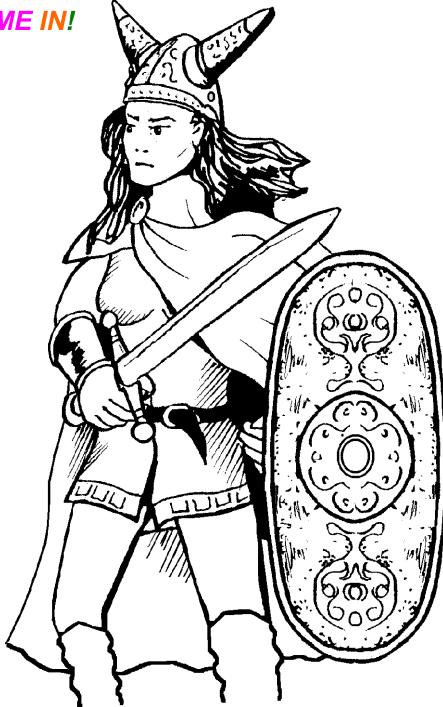


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