

# BOUDICCA - Episode 2

by John Tuckey

- BOUDICCA** You're breaking an agreement with your Emperor!
- ROMAN SOLDIER** The whip, sir.
- NARRATOR** After her mistreatment by the Romans, Boudicca got together a huge army of the British tribes, including her own, the Iceni, and their neighbours the Trinovantes.
- Boudicca's first target was the Roman capital in Britain, Camulodunum. She and her army marched towards the city, attacked it and, in a very short time, captured it. Boudicca stood before her army in the burning city while, next to her, stood the leader of the Trinovantes...
- BOUDICCA** Addedo, we're going to completely destroy this town, knock down and burn everything.
- ADDEDO** Boudicca, please show mercy.
- BOUDICCA** What? Addedo, why would you, of all people, want me to show mercy? You hate the people of this city.
- ADDEDO** I do hate them, but, if we don't show mercy, we can't expect any mercy from the Romans.
- BOUDICCA** Why should we need mercy from the Romans? I plan to win - so we'll never have to beg the Romans for mercy again.
- ADDEDO** If you destroy this city the Romans will want a terrible revenge and fight much harder for it.



BOUDICCA

I still have the scars on my back, I still feel the pain. And what reason did they have for whipping me? None. It's just savage cruelty. Now, it's the turn of the Romans to learn what cruelty is. They've mistreated my people and your people for far too long. We are simply righting that wrong. It's what anyone would do. Go on my army, destroy this town, flatten every building. Burn the Roman temple to the ground! Don't leave a trace of the hated Roman occupiers! Destroy everything and everyone you find.

NARRATOR

The Roman governor of Britain, Suetonius, was still away fighting when he heard the news of what had happened. He sent a message to the Ninth Legion, a big army of Roman soldiers, ordering them to find, fight and defeat Boudicca and her army.

BOUDICCA

I pray you give me strength. Perhaps we should not go into battle at all. Many lives would be saved if we didn't. Andraste, give me the strength to overcome these doubts. I must not show doubt in front of my army. If I do that, we will certainly lose. I pray you, give me strength to overcome my fear. Give us victory.

NARRATOR

On the day of the battle, Boudicca stood proudly before her army as she prepared to lead it into battle against the Romans...

BOUDICCA

Soldiers of the British tribes, are you cowards? No! Use your swords and charge these pathetic Romans. Yes, they're from the Ninth Legion, but who cares? Charge them with your courage and your swords, and these Roman cowards will run. Charge them!

NARRATOR

Very few people anywhere in the world had ever beaten a Roman legion in battle, but Boudicca's army won again. The Roman governor of Britain, Suetonius, hurried back to Londinium – modern day London - but only arrived a short time before Boudicca's own army, which was also marching on the city. Without the Ninth Legion, Suetonius did not have enough men to defend Londinium, and so he decided to take his soldiers out of the city and leave it undefended. When the people of Londinium heard this, they were terrified.



- LONDONER 1            Governor Suetonius, you must stay and protect this great city.
- LONDONER 2            You can't leave us to be killed!
- SUETONIUS              If I keep my soldiers here, they and Londinium will be destroyed. I need to take my men to somewhere we can fight Boudicca's army and win.
- LONDONER 2            Governor Suetonius, you are a coward. You're running away from an army led by a woman!
- SUETONIUS              It doesn't matter who's leading the enemy! I am leading my soldiers out of Londinium in one hour to somewhere they can defend themselves and where they can defeat Boudicca and her army. There is nothing more to be said.
- NARRATOR              Suetonius did exactly what he said he would do. He led his soldiers out of the city, leaving it undefended against Boudicca's army. Just as they had done in Camulodunum, Boudicca and her army completely destroyed Londinium. And then, they went on to another city, Verulamium – modern day St Albans - and destroyed that, too.
- ADDEDO                 Boudicca, you have performed miracles! We are in the third Roman city you have captured.
- BOUDICCA                Addedo, you and your Trinovantes have played your part. You've fought like wolves.
- ADDEDO                 Surely now, Boudicca, it's time to talk to the Romans?
- BOUDICCA                You're asking me to stop now?
- ADDEDO                 You're in a position of great strength. Even Governor Suetonius has run away rather than standing to fight you. You can demand anything you want from the Romans and they'll have to give it to you.



## History Clips: The Romans

- BOUDICCA                      Can they take the scars from my back?
- ADDEDO                        Well, no...
- BOUDICCA                      Can they bring your people back to life?
- ADDEDO                        Of course not.
- BOUDICCA                      Our revenge has to be complete. We can't trust the Romans. Whatever they agree now they'll break their word...just the way they broke their word to me and my people.
- ADDEDO                        So, what do you intend to do?
- BOUDICCA                      The only way to have justice once again...and freedom...to be safe and to live in peace...is to drive the Romans out our lands altogether. That's what we're going to do.
- NARRATOR                      After her run of victories over the Romans Boudicca was full of confidence. She was determined to face Suetonius and the Roman army again in a final, decisive battle. If she could win the Iceni and other Britons would be free...and the Romans would be forced to leave. Their invasion of Britain ould be over.

