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Late Summer 60AD

Dear Diary,

What a journey it’s been! To think, only a year ago I had a husband and a family. We were friends with the Romans. My husband, Prasutagus, used to pay them to leave our tribe alone. It worked for a while too, sometimes we even traded with them! Little did we know what monsters they really were!

When Prasutagus died, I tried to bargain with the Romans, to keep our Iceni lands intact. It turns out that the Romans don’t believe that a woman can lead a tribe! What a ridiculous way to think! We Britons all know that women are just as fierce and just as powerful as men! But oh no, the Romans couldn’t let a ‘little’ woman lead! That great oaf of a Roman governor, Suetonius Paulinus (what a silly name!) thought he’d come and take my lands away. He had his british metal soldiers come and whip me in front of all my people and hurt my daughters too! Beastly man! I’m sure he thought that would shut me up and keep me quiet! Ha! How wrong he was!

I didn’t keep my head down and stay quiet. Oh no! I am Queen of the Iceni! I am a warrior! Silly Suetonius can’t tell me what to do! I gathered all my Iceni together; men, women and children too. I knew that once we started fighting, the Romans would come to their homes and kill them or take them as slaves if they were undefended, so we all travelled together. We joined our allies from the Trinovantes and Catuvellauni tribes and we made the biggest army this island has ever seen!

At first, we took the Romans by surprise. Silly Suetonius had gone away to Mona with his powerful Fourteenth Legion. They were butchering Druids. While their backs were turned, we marched South and completely destroyed the Ninth Legion at Camulodunum. We didn’t stop there either! We stormed Londinium and Verulamium and burned them to the ground. We showed no mercy. We killed every man, woman and child we found. We left only ashes.

What we didn’t realise, was how fast the Roman army could move. Suetonius had finished murdering Druids while we were burning down cities. He turned his 10,000 men around and ambushed our army from the trees at Watling Street. We were no match for the full force of the Fourteenth Legion. They pulled their shields together like the shell of a tortoise and all our spears and arrows bounced right off the top. They killed almost everyone, but they didn’t catch me and a few of my Iceni men. They won’t catch me either.

If Suetonius catches me alive, he’ll drag me back to Rome. I’ll be marched through the streets in chains and made to be a slave to their vile Emperor, Caligula. I will never be the slave of any man! Let alone a Roman!

Goodbye diary. It’s been an amazing journey. For just a few months, we really showed those Romans what we Britons are made of. Not only that, but we showed them that they should never ever underestimate a woman!