

Queen Boudicca

Biography

Queen Boudicca is famous for being a warrior queen of the Iceni people. The Iceni people lived in a part of England known today as East Anglia. In 60 – 61 CE, she led her people in a fight against the Romans because they were trying to claim her land. Queen Boudicca's name comes from the word 'bouda', which means 'victory'.



Due to Boudicca living such a long time ago, there is not much known about her and her life. The knowledge we have today came from artefacts found by archaeologists. The main source historians learned from was writing by two people called Tacitus and Dio. Nobody really knows what Boudicca looked like but writings by Tacitus stated that she had long, red hair that hung below her waist.

Boudicca was married to Prasutagus, the King of Iceni. During this time, the Romans ruled parts of Britain. They had made an agreement with the king that half of the land would be theirs and half would be left to Boudicca. However, when Prasutagus died, the Romans took everything. They treated Boudicca and her daughters unfairly.

In the year 60 CE, Boudicca fought to take back the land that was rightfully hers. The fight started well for Boudicca and her people because the Roman army was fighting in North Wales. This meant they could not protect the Roman towns that Boudicca's army attacked. Boudicca's army painted themselves blue to appear more frightening. They destroyed many towns, including those known today as St Albans, Colchester and London. Thousands of people also died.

Awards

Unfortunately, when the Roman army returned, Boudicca's army were beaten. In a battle known as 'the Battle of Walting Street', the Romans trapped Boudicca's army in a narrow valley. The Romans won the battle and went on to rule the majority of Britain for the next 350 years.

It is unknown how Boudicca died but there is a statue of her outside the Houses of Parliament in London. The statue reminds us that Boudicca was a brave, fierce woman who refused to be ruled by the Romans.

Statue of Boudicca and her daughters in London

