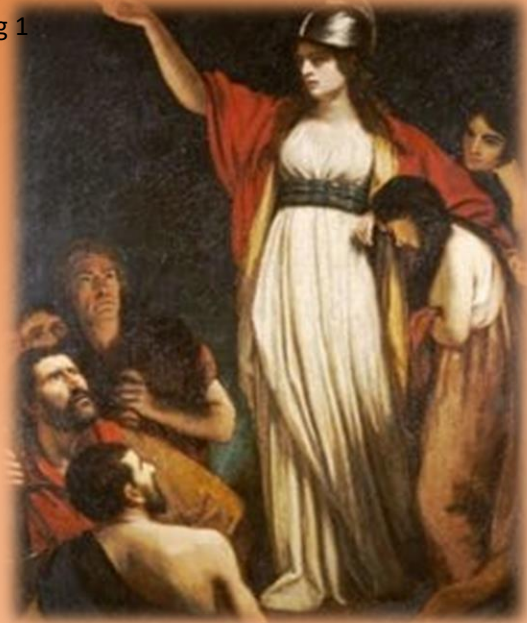


The Boudiccan Revolt (60-61 AD)

Fig 1



Historical Context

- No records from the Britons
- Paulinus- Governor (Stevens and Millett, 2012)
- Rome had previous engagement with Britain under Caesar
 - Makes alliance with the Trinovantes (Johnson, 2012, p.24)
- The Iceni
 - Boudicca's tribe
 - Allied with the Romans when they invaded (Frere and Millett, 2012)

Fig 3



The Celtic Tribes

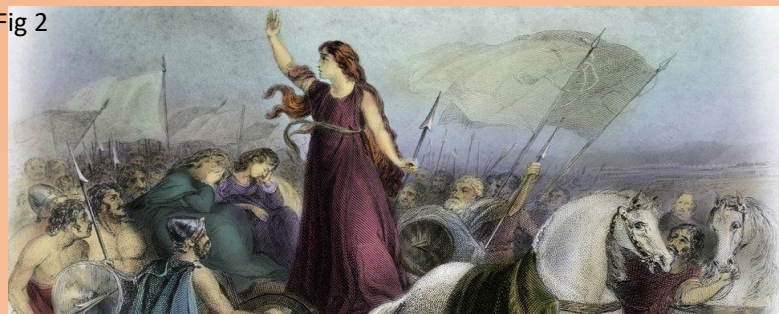
Advantages

- Higher numbers: 230,000 (Dio. 62.8)
- Revolt was sudden- surprise advantage (Bulst, 1961, p.498)
- Opportune time- Paulinus had departed for Mona (Tac. Ann. 14.29)

Disadvantages

- Lack of advanced equipment
- Celts were, despite shared enemy, individual- lack of cohesiveness (Todd, 2004, p.11)
 - Greed and Looting (Fields, 2011, p.56)
- Final battle site was highly favourable to the Romans (Fields, 2011, p.67)

Fig 2



The Build-Up

- Economic Pressures and Oppressive Rule
- “Protective Roman forts” (Tac. Agricola. 14)
- Hatred of any form of Servitude (Dio. 62.3)
- “Loan”
 - Catus Decianus claimed earlier money given to Britons was, in fact, a loan and had to be repaid
 - Seneca claimed 40,000,000 sesterces which he had given without them asking was a loan (Dio. 62.2)
- Boudicca
 - Very personal motives
 - Kingdom pillaged, her daughters raped and herself lashed (Alder, 2008, p.176)

“HOW MUCH BETTER IT WOULD BE TO
HAVE BEEN SOLD TO MASTERS ONCE
FOR ALL THAN, POSSESSING EMPTY TITLES
OF FREEDOM, TO HAVE TO RANSOM
OURSELVES EVERY YEAR!”

- (Dio, 62.3) -

The Romans

Advantages

- Trained soldiers who were used to conquest
- Rome had no lack of reinforcements (Fields, 2011, p.31)
- Early victories may have given the Britons a false sense of security

Disadvantages

- Lower Numbers: 10, 000 (Tac. Ann. 14.34)
- Heavy armour not conducive for opposing the Britons' fighting style (Johnson, 2012, p.23)

Conclusion + consequences

- Victory went to Rome and Boudicca was defeated
- Allegedly only 400 Romans died contrasted to 80,000 Britons (Tac. Ann. 14.37)

Aftermath?

- Boudicca died- no confirmed cause
 - Poison or sickness suggested (Dio 62.12.6; Tac. Ann. 14.37)
- Paulinus removed
 - No further conquests (Fields, 2011, p.85)

Why did it fail?

Likely due to a combination of Roman resources, location and in the wider scheme of things, the fact that Boudicca was fighting a losing battle. Reinforcements would not have run out, so Roman victory was almost certain even if the battle had been lost.

Fig 4



References

- [illegible]