

The Centurion Chronicles Book Five "The Brits"

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he Centurion rides north from Rome where he meets Marcus near Caesar's villa & together they head for Gaul. Quintus joins Caesar at his villa where he has been planning his summer campaign. The Centurion & Marcus are attacked by deserters before they reach the Roman camp in the land of the Treveri. A Treveri chieftain, Cingetorix meets with Caesar & swears loyalty. Decimus Brutus informs Caesar his invasion fleet is ready. The Centurion is sent to take Dumnorix, an Aeduian chief hostage. Dumnorix refuses & is killed. Titus Labienus is left in charge of Portus Itius in Aquatania with the 8th, 9th & 11th Legions while Caesar invades Britain & establishes a camp near the previous summer's beachhead. The Centurion, Marcus & Scout Lutatius Livia are sent to capture a prisoner. Quintus Atrius & 10 cohorts guard the fleet while Caesar, leading the 10th Legion & Fifus Calenus leading the 7th & 12th Legions march inland to confront the Briton leader Cassivellaunus. The following morning there is a battle. After Briton chariots are defeated by Roman cavalry the infantry charges & takes a heavily defended redoubt. A storm wrecks half the beached Roman fleet. The ships are repaired. Titus Labienus is ordered to send new ships from Gaul. Cassivellaunus attacks the Romans as they march inland. Caesar receives word from Pompey his daughter has died in childbirth. The Centurion & his century are attacked while on a wood gathering detail. Caesar sends the Centurion & his century to forage & bait the Britons into attacking again. The Centurion is rescued to Roman cavalry as they retreat back to camp. There is a day-long battle. The Centurion & Lutatius cross the Thames followed by the Roman army that defeats the Britons in a battle followed by another battle at a hill fort. Other Britons attack & burn the Roman fleet. Caesar arrives & defeats the Britons who sue for peace. Caesar returns to Gaul where he garrisons 7 legions among the tribes that revolt. After they are attacked by Nervi scouts the Centurion & Lutatius go to the 8th Legion led by Lucius Cotta & Quintus Sabinus & inform them of the revolt. The Roman fort is attacked by numerically superior Gauls. The legions are led into a trap set by Ambiorix. Sabinus is killed first, then Cotta and their entire legions. The Centurion & Lutatius infiltrate Bagacum, a Nervi town where Ambiorix calls for a mass revolt against the Romans. The Centurion & Lutatius ride to Cicero's camp to warn him of an impending attack. The following battle lasts 3 days. The Nervi erect siege towers. Ambiorix unsuccessfully tries to lure Cicero into a trap. Cicero orders the Centurion & Lutatius to ride to Caesar & inform him what is happening. Caesar orders General Marcus Crassus (3rd Legion) to join him on the march. General Favius (7th Legion) is sent to the Nervi frontier. The 10th & 1st Legion led by Gaius Favius rendezvous. Enemy strength is estimated at 60,000. Caesar constructs a smaller than usual fort on one side of a valley. A stream is in the middle & the Nervi are on the other side. The Centurion & Lutatius can't find a suitable crossing place in the stream & on their return to camp are attacked by Nervi cavalry. Roman cavalry distracts the Nervi but doesn't engage with them. Caesar slowly sets a trap. The next day Roman cavalry goes out & retreats at the first sign of Nervi cavalry. The emboldened Nervi surround the Roman camp. Ambiorix offers the Romans safe passage out of Gaul. The Romans unexpectedly charge out of all 4 gates simultaneously taking the Nervi by surprise. Caesar followed by the Centurion & Marcus lead the charge, slaughtering the Nervi. The Centurion & his century are ordered to proceed halfway to Cicero's camp to seek & destroy enemy remnants. They are ambushed in a forest by a large force. Marcus is gravely wounded. The Centurion cauterizes his wound before making camp on a mesa land where they await the arrival of Caesar's army. The Centurion wonders if Marcus will survive.

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