

Abú she cried!

Boudica, a Celtic queen of the Iceni tribe in Britain. Warrior leader of a revolt against Roman settlements and conquest in Britain. Her name said to have meant Victory. If so, what are its elements?

In Gaelic the word for to win is **Bua** i.e. to win, to victory. In Gaelic the words 'to win', 'to victory' are represented by the word **Abú** i.e. 'a bua' or 'for to win' meaning the wish to be the winner. It is a war cry! It is still heard annually when county hurling teams meet for an All Ireland match at Croke Park in Dublin e.g. *Corcaigh Abú!* It is still heard when local parish GAA teams clash.

In Latin (Vulgate) what did **Dica** mean? **Dicat** from **Dico**? Meaning 'she said', 'she cried out'?

Abú she cried her chariot thundering into a Roman township... and the wail of the **Bibe** (Celtic goddesses, crones of the battlefield aftermath) among the dead, their **Caoineadh** (pronounce as 'queena', their lamenting, their **Keens**) echoing through the mists of time to the pen of Thomas Crofton Croker.

...And a surviving inhabitant later reported '**Bua Dica !**' '**Abú Dica !**' ... urging her troops to victory...

In response Rome took action and eventually her forces were defeated. Her revolt took place in AD 60 or 61. Rome had completed its conquest of Britain by the mid 70s AD i.e. within a decade of the revolt. Some accepted its presence, some reject it. According to the 16th/17th century British antiquarian scholar William Camden it was in the 60s AD that many who would not accept Roman rule moved from Britain to Ireland i.e. the other island. If so what was the scale of this movement of people or tribes or clans, of displaced peoples? What impact did they have on the native Irish and how close culturally were

both islands in a Celtic sense? Where in the landscapes of Ireland did they settle and what impact did they have on agriculture, on industry e.g. iron working, built environment and local governance? How much of it was peaceful settlement among related peoples already present? How much of it resulted in conflicts and with what outcomes? Did they settle on the eastern side of the country rather than in the west? Was there any displacement of eastern natives to the western poorer lands of the island? Did they spread across the tapestry of clans already present, taking whatever productive lands where ever they could succeed in doing so? If so what legacy of memory in Irish folklore , legend or myth; if any? Is there an archaeology to support any of this? Why so few souterrains in the south east of Leinster?