

Diary of a Roman Soldier

4th of February, 112 AD

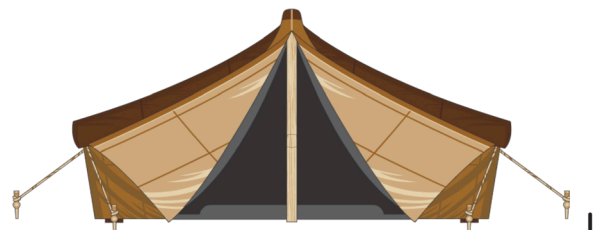
Dear Diary,

I am exhausted! It's been a long day of work and I just want to go to sleep. It is difficult living in a small tent with seven other soldiers. It gets very cramped, but at least it keeps the tent warm on these cold winter nights in Britannia.

Today, I spent the morning collecting taxes from the locals. These taxes will pay for the giant wall that we are building to protect the Empire grounds. The locals of Britannia weren't too happy that I took their money. One man even spat on his coins before handing them over. Naturally, I had to show this man who was in charge around here. I brought him to the general to have his head chopped off. Tomorrow, I will return with his skull and place it on the walls of the fort. That will teach the rest of the barbarian locals to respect us mighty Roman soldiers.

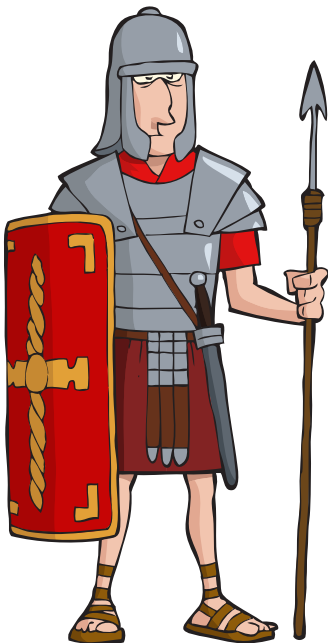
After collecting taxes, the general called all the soldiers to begin battle training. We marched for 25 miles in total. We carried all of our equipment on our backs. This equipment included swords, shields and even our tents. It was very heavy but, like most Roman soldiers, I am big and strong. After marching, we practised attacking and I learned lots of new sword fighting skills. I also learned a famous Roman method called the testudo. This is when my fellow soldiers and I use our shields and come close together. The shields protect us like a turtle's shell.

Although my days are long and hard, I must continue to fight and support my family back in Rome. If I serve fifteen more years as a Roman soldier, I will receive my pension. This will make sure that my family and



are never poor again. As much as I complain, I know that I am a lucky man. The pay I receive is very good compared to most people around here. It is difficult being so far away from my family though. I hope that my beautiful wife Cornelia is in good health. I will write her a letter tomorrow and ask her to send me some more socks. My leather sandals do not keep my feet very warm and it is always cold here in Britannia.

I've got to go now, as the general is calling us for dinner. We are eating pork tonight. If I am lucky, I might even get some biscuits afterwards.



Questions

03

- 1 How many other soldiers is he sharing the tent with?

- 2 Why was the man's head chopped off? (tick)

- ☐ The man stole some money.
- ☐ The man disrespected the soldier.
- ☐ The man was a barbarian.
- ☐ The man disrespected the general.

- 3 Which adjective is used in paragraph 2 to show that the Roman soldiers are strong and powerful?

- 4 Which word can be used to describe the soldier? (tick)

- ☐ lonely
- ☐ kind
- ☐ brutal
- ☐ mad

- 5 How far did the soldier have to march?

- 6 Which of these things did the soldier **NOT** have to carry on his back? (tick)

- ☐ a spear
☐ a sword
☐ a shield
☐ a tent

- 7 The soldier compares his shield to a turtle's shell.
'The shields protect us like a turtle's shell.'
What is this an example of? (tick)

- ☐ a metaphor
☐ a simile
☐ personification
☐ alliteration

- 8 The soldier mentions that if he serves fifteen more years as a Roman soldier, he will receive his pension.

What is a pension? (tick)

- ☐ permission to leave the army and get another job
☐ a special sword that is only given to the most experienced soldiers
☐ a reward from the king or queen
☐ money that you get for the rest of your life once you have finished working

- 9 What is the name of the soldier's wife?
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- 10 What does the soldier want his wife to send him? (tick)

- ☐ more money
☐ a blanket
☐ socks
☐ biscuits

Score:

Answers

A

- 1 How many other soldiers is he sharing the tent with? seven
- 2 Why was the man's head chopped off? ☒ The man disrespected the soldier.
- 3 Which adjective is used in paragraph 2 to show that the Roman soldiers are strong and powerful? mighty
- 4 Which word can be used to describe the soldier? ☒ brutal
- 5 How far did the soldier have to march? 25 miles
- 6 Which of these things did the soldier NOT have to carry on his back? ☒ a spear
- 7 The soldier compares his shield to a turtle's shell.
'The shields protect us like a turtle's shell.'
What is this an example of? (tick) ☒ a simile
- 8 The soldier mentions that if he serves fifteen more years as a Roman soldier, he will receive his pension.

What is a pension? ☒ money that you get for the rest of your life once you have finished working
- 9 What is the name of the soldier's wife? Cornelia
- 10 What does the soldier want his wife to send him? ☒ socks