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Age 11  
School 16

### Commix

It is the seventh year in the reign of the Roman emperor Claudius-50 A.D. It is also the seventh year since the armies of Rome have waged war against the tribes of the Celts in Britannia.

I am Commix, son of Cassivelaunus. I am a member of one of the Celtic tribes called the Silures. I live in the market town of the Silures in western Britannia near the sea. The area of the Silures is very hilly. I am a scout in the Silure Army. I left my hometown two years ago; I miss my mother and wish I could see her. I am only twelve years old but I still have many responsibilities and am thought to be mature. I am tall for my age, strong and fast. Since I am agile and sneaky they put me as a scout for the army of my tribe.

We have heard that Romans had already taken over a few Celtic tribes from King Caratacus who fled the tribe Catavellauni. Our new war leader (Caratacus) is leading our army and sent me and a few other scouts to see where the Romans were. We were all sent in different directions. I was sent into the woods. I climbed up on a tree so I could see farther around me. I saw a brook with a tiny sparkling object next to it. I was curious so I went towards the shiny object. I picked up the leaf that it was on and discovered that it was a Roman coin. The shining was the reflection of the sun. I knew that this was a coin from a Roman because no one that was Celt would travel through these woods with money.

It is a Cistophoric tetradrachm. It reads, "TI CLAVD CAES AVG and shows the head of the Emperor Claudius on it. On the other side of the coin the words "COM ASI" appear and there is a picture of a temple with two columns with the inscription ROM ET AVG on its front. Inside the temple are a man and a woman. The man is holding a spear and the woman is placing a crown on his head with one hand and holding a horn filled with fruit in the other. Because I found this coin I believe we can hold off the Roman armies, at least for the time being.

I met up with the other scouts and they said they saw footprints. We went back to the town and told Caratacus about what we found out. I gave my father the coin and he showed it to Caratacus and then kept it. Finding the coin proved that these were Romans and not just settlers or wanderers. The Roman army was upon us.

Caratacus moved our army from our land to the land of the Ordovices which is north of our land. He then had a hill fort built there, picking a spot where the battle would be fought. He had it built there so it would be easy to attack and retreat. I was really scared to face the Romans but I was also proud to be part of the army and of the Silures. I know that it will be a big battle so I am kind of anxious. I will make sure to be in the back and let the big men to fight a bit more.

Caratacus and some other people that were high in rank saw the Roman army, the Legion XX led by their general Ostorius Scapula. We had no idea when the battle would start so we were getting ready. I went to the armory and got suited up and got myself a short sword but did not get armor. I was practicing with my brother, when we heard a horn blow. We knew exactly what was about to happen.

I was glad that I was strong and quick because when I saw the Roman army I got kind of nervous. It wasn't that big, but telling by their arrangement, they were overwhelming. We were about to attack; not everyone was ready. We were building a stone rampart, and we had a river blocking us too. When we were done with that Caratacus ran back and forth in front of us, shouting that this would be the beginning of the recovery of our freedom or everlasting slavery. I felt a bit better knowing that my father was here. When the Romans began charging us they crossed the river easily.

We threw rock and spears at them over the ramparts and killed many of the Romans. They got into a testudo formation, with shields in front and on top of their heads. Since they did that, the missiles didn't affect them and they had time to tear down the ramparts.

We went into hand-to-hand combat and fought brutally. I killed 16 men when we were facing them. I fought bravely with my short sword of death. When I was fighting one of my victims I blocked his spear and cut off his arm and then his head. In another case I picked up a spear from the ground and stabbed it into his shoulder blade. He was caught unaware so I stabbed him in the chest. He fell to the ground dead.

I didn't know where my father was, but I was fighting next to my brother. Next thing I knew they were sounding the retreat horn. We all ran back to higher ground.

It was very hard for us because we didn't wear armor or helmets and they did. We had a major disadvantage. We were losing, slowly but surely. The swords and javelins of the Roman legionaries were slaughtering our soldiers. Somehow I still managed. My brother and I were searching for our father. We were dodging through corpses and soldiers and we saw Caratacus' whole family get captured.

We found our father's body lying on the ground with a spear in his chest and blood all over him. I was so sad but I didn't give up. I saw a silver Roman coin on his palm. This coin was my coin. I took the coin and fled the battle with my brother. When we were fleeing I killed as many Romans as I could out of my anger.

When we were in the woods I saw Caratacus in the distance running away. We hiked for three miles and I knew it was safe. I started crying. I was crying for my father, the Silures and for the cruelty of Rome. After four days my brother and I got back home to our village. My mother was there waiting for us. She asked where my father was and we told her about what happened. She started crying too.

Even though we lost the battle we will not give up. We will never stop fighting. We are the glorious Silures of the Celts. We will get our great revenge and will beat the Romans! I swear by my father's memory to avenge him and to teach the Romans a lesson. We will get our freedom like Caratacus said we would. My coin holds my father's spirit.