

REBELLIOUS REGIONS

As the empire grew larger, it became harder to control, even with the mighty Roman army patrolling its frontiers. As early as AD9, Rome suffered a terrible shock when three whole legions were massacred by tribes deep in the forests of Germany. In AD60, the province of Britain was suddenly plunged into chaos when Boudicca, queen of the native Iceni tribe, led a daring and violent rebellion against the Romans occupying Britain. It took a year to crush the revolt.



A much later artist's view of Queen Boudicca, who poisoned herself after being defeated by the Romans

Another serious revolt broke out in AD66, in the Middle Eastern province of Judea. Thousands of Jews rebelled, so the Romans destroyed the Jewish capital city, Jerusalem. Then, in AD73, the legions surrounded the remote mountain-top fortress of Masada, the last stronghold of Jewish resistance. After a siege that lasted an entire year, the Romans stormed the fortress, but found that most of the rebels inside had committed suicide rather than surrender.

HADRIAN'S WALL

In AD117, Hadrian became emperor, and immediately decided that the empire had grown too vast to control. So he gave up some of the land that Trajan had conquered, and built large permanent fortresses along the new frontiers. To defend Roman Britain against tribes invading from the north, Hadrian built a great wall stretching 130km (80 miles) across the province. Some sections of Hadrian's Wall are still standing today.

INTERNET LINK

For links to websites where you watch a short movie about Trajan, take a virtual tour of a fort on Hadrian's wall, and find out more about Boudicca, go to www.usborne-quicklinks.com



Here you can see part of Hadrian's Wall, in northern England.

