

NORTH-WESTERN EUROPE DURING THE 3. CENTURY AD, THE ROMAN IRON AGE. THE ROMANS ARE KEEPING A GRIP ON THE GERMANIC TRIBES BY STIRRING THEM UP AGAINST EACH OTHER. THIS SAFEGUARDED ROMAN HEGEMONY AND WEALTH. THE TREASURES OF THE EMPIRE WAS LIKE A MAGNET TO THE PRIMITIVE GERMANIC TRIBAL SOCIETIES. THEY WERE KNOCKING ON THE LIMES WITH INCREASING FORCE. THE FORTIFIED BORDER OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

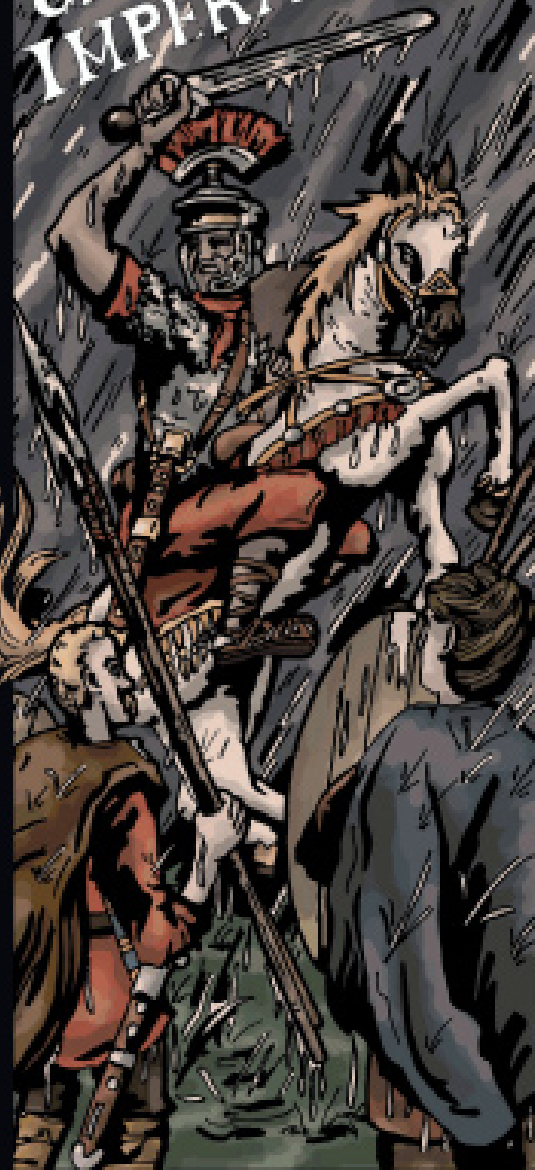





LOOTING ALEMANNIC WARRIORS.

IT'S THE YEAR 258 AD. THE GERMANIC TRIBAL ALLIANCE OF THE ALEMANNI HAS ATTACKED ROME'S NORTHERN LINE OF DEFENSE, THE LIMES, AND THEY ARE LOOTING THE NORTHERN PROVINCES. ROME IS SENDING AN EXPEDITION FORCE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF EMPEROR GALLIENUS.

# FOR GALLIENUS IMPERATOR



THE ALEMANNI KNOW THE ROMAN LEGIONS WELL ENOUGH TO BE AFRAID, AND THEY PREFER TO AVOID OPEN ENCOUNTERS, BUT THEY ARE OUTFLANKED, AND THE BATTLE OF THE UPPER RHINE HAS STARTED.



THE ROMANS ARE HEADING FOR A FULL-FRONTAL ASSAULT, WHICH KEEPS THE ALEMANNI IN A TIGHT GRIP.

THE ALEMANNI ARE WITHSTANDING IN SPITE OF HEAVY LOSSES. THEY SEE A CHANCE FOR VICTORY, AND KEEP TRUST IN THE FACT THAT THEY ARE NUMERICALLY SUPERIOR. EVERY WARRIOR DOES HIS BEST IN ORDER TO SHOW HIS BRAVERY, BUT ROME'S LEGIONARIES ARE PROFESSIONALS, AND THEIR WAR MACHINE IS DREADFUL.





WODEN \* THE GOD OF DEATH HAS A GOOD HARVEST.

HARDIMAS ATTACK WAS THE REASON WHY THE ALEMANNIC ARMY DISINTEGRATED.



YOU HAVE BEEN LOYAL AND BRAVE. I HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR MEN WILL LIVE IN PEACE.

WE HAVE BEATEN THE ALEMANNIC, BUT I WAS ALMOST INPAIRED BY ONE OF THEM. WIDIMHENDAR, KILLED HIM AT THE LAST MOMENT. BUT ROME HAS BECOME STRONG LATELY, YOU KNOW. YOU ARE RISKING YOUR LIFE AND LIMBS FOR FOOD, LODGING, AND SOME PATHETIC COPPER COINS.

SINCE WHEN DID IT PAY OFF TO BE A MERCENARY, LETHRO? JUST WAIT, UNTIL WE REACH COLONIA, THERE YOU WILL SEE MORE SILVER, THAN YOU HAVE EVER IMAGINED. AND IT WILL BE NICE TO GET SOME ROMAN QUALITY ENTERTAINMENT IN THE TAVERNS AFTER ALL THOSE MONTH IN THE SADDLE.

WIDIMHENDAR

HARDIMAS

LETHRO

HAGRADER

WIDIMHENDAR





COLONIA CLAUDIA ARA AGRIPPENSIS (COLOGNE)

HOW CAN I BE LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING HOME TO GIMMERLAND? AFTER ALL THESE MANY YEARS AT THE LOWES. REGARDLESS OF HOW MANY YEARS YOU HAVE BEEN ABROAD, YOU ARE LONGING FOR THE SON OF YOUR BIRTHPLACE.

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COLONGA IS LIVING WITH WINE, STRANGE GOODS, GAMES AND GOSSIP.

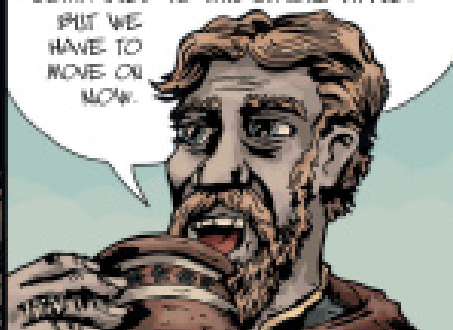


COLONGA'S FORUM IS THE POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER LIKE IN EVERY OTHER ROMAN CITY.



YES, OUR PREM AT HOME CAN'T BE COMPARED TO THIS STRONG STYLE.

BUT WE HAVE TO MOVE ON NOW.

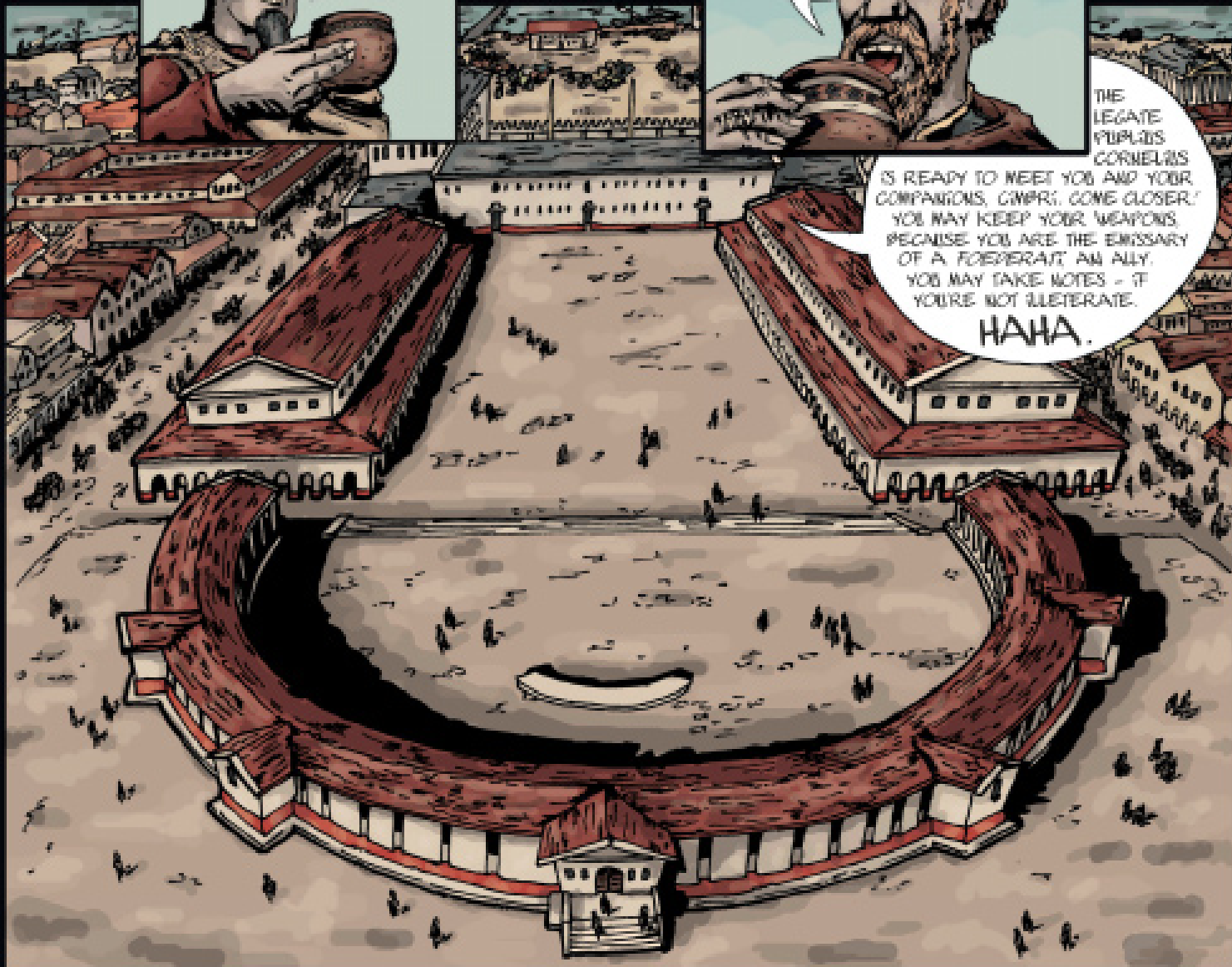


HARRINA HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH AN HIGH RANKING ROMAN OFFICIAL.

THE LEGATE PULPUS CORNELIUS

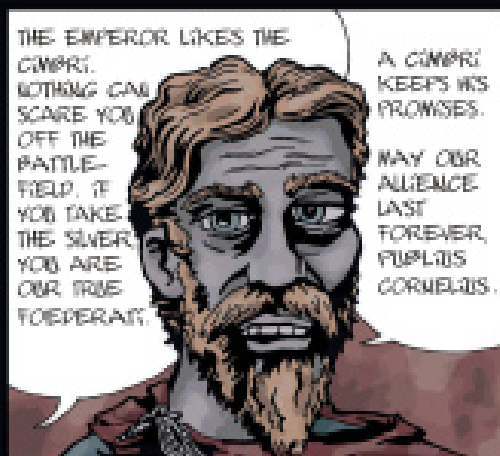
IS READY TO MEET YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS, CIMPS. COME CLOSER. YOU MAY KEEP YOUR WEAPONS, BECAUSE YOU ARE THE EMISSARY OF A FOEDERATI, AN ALLY. YOU MAY TAKE NOTES - IF YOU'RE NOT ILLITERATE.

**HAHA.**





IT'S GOOD TO SEE THAT YOU HAVE SURVIVED THE BATTLE, MARSIANA.



THE EMPEROR LIKES THE CIMBRI. NOTHING CAN SCARE YOU OFF THE BATTLEFIELD IF YOU TAKE THE SILVER. YOU ARE OUR TRUE FOEDERATI.

A CIMBRI KEEPS HIS PROMISES.

MAY OUR ALLIANCE LAST FOREVER, PUBLIUS CORNELIUS.



IF YOU ARE ATTACKING THE ANGLES YOU'LL GET MORE SILVER EACH AUTUMN AS LONG AS THE WAR RAGES.

WE ARE GIVING YOU A GOOD PRICE FOR SLAVES AS WELL. WHEN YOU ARE VICTORIOUS, WE WILL SEND YOU 20,000 GOLD AUREI, SO YOU CAN CELEBRATE YOUR TRIUMPH AND REWARD YOUR WARRIORS.



THE ESCORT IS WAITING FOR YOU AT DUSK. WE ARE PROUD OF THE FACT THAT WE CAN PROVIDE SAFE PASSAGE ON THE RHINE AFTER OUR GREAT VICTORY OVER THE ALEMANNI. BUT BEWARE THE LONG ARM OF THE EMPIRE, IF YOU WANT TO BETRAY US, WE HAVE ALLIES EVERYWHERE.

YES, I KNOW YOUR HERUL LAYPOGS FROM THE HOME OF THE GODS AND HINGLIGAGUE.

BUT WHY DO WE AS CIMBRI GET ACCESS TO ROME'S RICHES AS ROMAN ALLIES? WHAT DO THE HERULS DO?

OH, BUT NEVER MIND, WE WILL FIGURE IT OUT. AND SILVER IS SILVER.



SO NOW THE ANGLAS CAN'T BITE WITH THE SAXONS AND THREATEN THE BRITISH AND GAULIC COASTS. OUR BORDERS ARE STILL UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE.

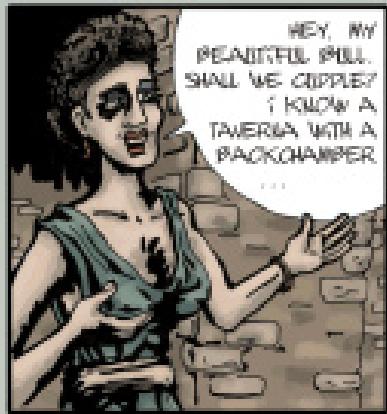
WELL DONE!

I'M STILL UPSET WITH THE FACT, THAT WE ARE DEPENDENT OF THE COMPTI. THEY HAVE BEEN OUR ENEMIES BEFORE AND LOOTED US.

YES, WE HAVE ALL HEARD OF THE CAMPAIGN OF THE COMPTI. THEY ARE NOT TO BE TRUSTED. AND THE HERULI ARE KEPT IN CHECK BY THE DANES. WE MUST HOLD TRACK OF THE DEVELOPEMENT.

THE EMPEROR WANTS, THAT WE HAVE ALL PRECAUTIONS IN MIND TO PREVENT FUTURE THREATS FROM THE NORTH. WE'VE ONLY BEATEN THE ALEMANNI, BECAUSE WE USED OUR LAST RESERVES. BARBARIANS ARE LACKING COMPREHENSION OF OUR COSTUMS AND CULTURE. EVEN IF THEY BECOME ROMAN CITIZENS BY FIGHTING FOR US FOR 25 YEARS, ONE DAY THEY MIGHT STILL OPEN THE GATES OF THE LONES FROM THE INSIDE.

BUT IF YOU THROW SILVER AMONG THE NORTHERN BARBARIANS, THEY'LL HACK EACHOTHER TO MINCEMEAT. AND THAT'S WHAT I HAD IN MIND ALL THE WAY ALONG. IT'S YOUR TASK TO ENSURE, THAT THE ANGLAS WILL BE WARNED PRIOR TO THE COMPTI ATTACK. FROM WHERE COULD WE GET THESE DAYS, 20.000 AUREI ANYWAY?



HEY, MY BEAUTIFUL BIRD. SHALL WE DIDDLE? I KNOW A TAVERNA WITH A BACKCHAMBER.



I CAN SPOIL YOU WITH THE ART OF VENUS. MY LITTLE BIRD CAN WARM YOUR HAND. CATS OFFERS YOU WINE AFTERWARDS.



AND QUIET FLOWS THE RHINE...