Time Travel Radio - Roman edition

**Tina:** Hello and welcome back to Time Travel Radio. I’m your host Tina the time traveler, and today I’ve found my way to a terrific travel destination! Oh yes, it is the year 122 AD and I am in the North of England. In fact, I am also at the North most point of the Roman Empire, where a massive construction project has been underway. But not by your traditional builders. Oh no, not for this project. Actual Roman soldiers- with armour and swords, have been drafted in by Emperor Hadrian himself to make sure this wall is built. It is 73 miles long, stretching from the east coast to the west coast! And I am lucky enough to have a guest with me here today. Big shout out to Tiberius Auralius who has taken time out of his busy schedule to chat with me today. Hi Tiberius. Can I call you Tye?

**Tiberius Auralius**: No

**Tina:** Okay Tye, This is a pretty impressive project. Such a huge wall. But why is it that you’ve been working on it?

**Tiberius:** Well Tina, there are a few reasons. Not all of the Caledonian tribes are behaving.

**Tina:** Caledonia- that’s Scotland now (Bad scottish accent) to us listeners. Hhahahaha. Did you like that? The accent. It was good wasn’t it. No. Okay. I hear that The Emperor might even be visiting himself to see the progress. Is that true.?

**Tiberius:** Umm, sure. Yes he is coming to inspect. The wall helps to keep out these northern Britonculi, these barbarians. Violent, gruesome people. The height of the wall means we can see for miles and spot any danger or disturbance from a distance.

**Tina:** Oh I see, so it is there just to keep people out? Is that right?

**Tiberius:** Well that isn’t all. It’s a symbol of Rome's power. A mighty display of military authority.

**Tina:** So it looks frightening to people. A wall?

**Tiberius:** Well it is a big wall. It also means we can control trade in and out of the gates. You know, monitor goods being sold.

**Tina:** Oh ummm fascinating. And these gates, are there many?

**Tiberius:** Well there’s one every mile, as instructed by Emperor Hadrian. Although some of them are a little weird. One opens onto a cliff face. Not overly useful.

**Tina:** Hmmm yes, yes. So you’ve been here in Britain for quite some time building this wall. It’s not like you’re just cutting and sticking is it? You can’t use a pair of Caesars’s for it! …. Caesars.. Like Julius Caesar. Right. Um, How are you finding it?

**Tiberius:** Well pfftt I suppose it has been nearly 5 years now. It’s wet. I can’t wait for my service to be over. I want to go back to Rome, to civilization. Away from this soggy cold mess. It’s rare I can even use this! (Sword Noise hitting table) All I wanted as a child was to be a loyal, noble soldier. And I’m doing what? Building a wall. I should be out there fighting!

**Tina:** Oh. oh. I see.ummmm,Why don’t you tell us about your equipment? You certainly look like a loyal and noble soldier.

**Tiberius:** Why thank you. Well this, gladius, my sword was my fathers. I am honoured to have it.

**Tina:** It is a bit short though isn’t it.

**Tiberius:** Perfect for stabbing.

**Tina:** Right yes, and the umm the armour?

**Tiberius:** Lorica segmentata actually. The lames, or sheets of metal, slide over each other easily. It means I have no problem moving around in it. Not that I really get to test it out.

**Tina:** *Speaking of weapons and armour, a message from our sponsor:*

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**Tina:** WELCOME BACK! I would have thought you’d be grateful for a peaceful life, Tye. The fort looks nice, you’ve got, look outs and well there's shops, a butchers, even a bath house. What’s it like living there, in the settlement?

**Tiberius:** Yes I suppose that’s something. I do like to go and wash this filth off of me. At least there, we have underfloor heating. You’re welcome for that by the way. Oh and the roads. You’re welcome for that too. Written language and sewage systems too. Please tell me you savages haven't gotten rid of the sewage systems.

**Tina:** No No, we still have sewers. And the written language, although we don’t use latin in this country any more. In fact, archaeologists have discovered and read some amazing messages written nearly 2000 years ago.

**Tiberius:** Wait, you’re reading our private communications?

**Tina:** Ummm, yes, but nothing really juicy don’t worry. In fact, lots are more like shopping receipts. Telling us what you buy, even the types of weapons you purchase.

**Tiberius:** That’s weird you know. Reading someone’s shopping lists.

**Tina:** Haven’t you ever wanted to do some snooping?

**Tiberius:** I suppose.

**Tina:** And really this settlement is truly astonishing. It’s sooo cosmopolitan. The bustling streets, people from all over the empire living in harmony together.

**Tiberius:** I suppose when you look at it like that, I did meet my wife here. And she’s okay I suppose.

**Tina:** Oh really, where did you meet her?

**Tiberius:** Well I was coming home from the pub.

**Tina:** OOOO OOOO Have you heard this one. A roman walks into a pub, he holds up two fingers and says “give me five drinks please.” Haahahahahaha. Do you get it. Because V is 5 in Roman Numerals. And when you hold up two fingers it makes a V shape. Right.

Or how about this… Why is algebra so easy for Romans….. Because X is always 10! HAHAHAHAHAHHAHA

**Tiberius:** I can’t do this. This woman is ridiculous.

**Tina:** Oh well. He is off for a Rome about. Oooooohhhh I’m on a roll. Well it looks like the show is coming to a close. It really has been a wonderful trip to Roman Britain but it seems my jokes have worn thin on Tiberius. In fact, I can see a bunch of angry looking soldiers coming this way. I best hop back in the time machine. I wonder where I shall end up. Tune in next time to find out!