

13th July

Memory Verse:

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Genesis 1:1

Something to read from history¹

Julius Caesar was born today in the year 100 B.C. In 55 B.C. He led his legions across the channel and attacked Britain. Writing in the **third person** he left his own account of the invasion.

The build of the warships apparently sprung a surprise on the natives, and, as their greater **manoeuvrability** was obvious, Caesar ordered them away from the transports. He had them rowed up to a station on the enemy's exposed **flank** from which our barrage of slings, **artillery** and arrows might force their withdrawal. Our men reaped considerable benefit from these **tactics**. The build of the ships, the dash of the oars and the **novel** type of **barrage** **demoralized** the natives. They halted and actually beat a slight retreat. Our men had come to a standstill mainly because of the depth of the water; but the standard-bearer of the Tenth Legion prayed to the gods for a blessing on the legion.



“You must jump for it fellows,” he shouted, “unless you mean to let them get the **Eagle**. I for one shall do my duty to my country and my captain.”

He roared this out and plunged overboard to carry his Eagle towards the other side. At this, our men encouraged one another not to let a thing like that happen and leapt overboard to a man. Those on the ships within sight followed suit in a general advance.

Fighting was tough on both sides. My men could not keep in line, get a firm foothold, or keep to their own standards. Each man joined the nearest unit irrespective of his ship and chaos reigned. The enemy knew the line of the **shoals** and when they saw from the beach isolated groups disembarking they made a mounted charge and attacked them in their difficulties. These they outnumbered and surrounded, while their comrades **raked** the main party with an **enfilade**. Caesar assessed the situation and had both the boats of the warships and the **sloops** packed with soldiers to help wherever he saw need. Our men reached the land and were there reinforced by all those behind.

Then came the assault which **routed** the enemy. The enemy lost the day.

I have marked in **pink** some expressions and words which you need to be sure you understand. Use a dictionary to help you. You will realise that this is a rather one-sided account. What about the defending Britons? Do we know anything about how *they* saw things? Interestingly, we do.

Writers of the middle ages, (principally Gerald of Wales [c. 1146 – c. 1223] and a monk called Nennius [fl. c. 770–c. 810]) had access to records which are no longer **extant**. Their accounts of the early history of Britain are generally dismissed as fairy stories by historians, especially since they trace the **genealogies** they give back to Noah via his three sons Ham, Shem and Japheth. Historians who do not believe Noah *ever existed* are forced to reject such records and assume that they were

¹ Adapted from Owen, Evan, *What Happened Today?* Book 2 available on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com/>

made up after Christianity brought a knowledge of the Old Testament to Britain. Christians are able to entertain the possibility that they are genuine, at least in part, and have been pieced together from much older documents which in turn have been copied or summarised from older, pagan records. One very interesting attempt to **evaluate** rather than dismiss such sources of information can be found in *After the Flood* by Bill Cooper.² Using this information a bigger picture of what happened in 55B.C. can be put together – it may be more accurate than Caesar's! Follow the events on a map by looking up the places marked in **green**.

Caesar's troops landed, probably at **Pegwell Bay** in Kent, having first been put off landing at **Dover** by the sight of massed defenders on the cliffs. The British had been warned of Caesar's coming and local forces stoutly resisted his landing. As described in his own book, Caesar overcame them with catapults and slings and set off inland. Meanwhile the main British forces were uncertain whether the Caesar's landing forces would cross the **Medway** and move towards **London** or avoid crossing the Medway by moving along the coast and then travelling north to London. They therefore gathered at a Kentish fort called Durolevum, thought to be the village of **Ospringe**, between modern **Rochester** and Canterbury. Caesar did not get very far. Rough weather destroyed some of his transport ships and he gave orders for the remainder to be dragged out of the water and into his camp. The transport ships were heavy. The British had no idea that they could be moved in this way. When the British scouts could no longer see any Roman ships they reported that the Roman's had fled, not realising that the ships had only been moved. They were soon undeceived and a further attack on the Roman position was mounted. Caesar hurried back to Gaul lest he and his small army should be cut off.

Caesar returned the following year having made more thorough preparations and he brought with him a larger army. The main tribes in the south east of England joined forces against Caesar. They were led by Cassivelaunus, brother of the late British King, Lud. Caesar found the conquest of Britain much more difficult than he had expected. His progress was delayed by marshes and forests and if any of his soldiers strayed more than a few miles from the main party in search of food they quickly became cut off. Caesar pressed on in spite of the difficulties and crossed the Thames at **Brentford** in what is now Greater London. Not all the British resisted the Romans. Lud's eldest son Androgeus betrayed Cassivelaunus to Caesar after a quarrel. This led to Cassivelaunus's defeat in what is now Hertfordshire. The British chiefs submitted to Caesar but before he could carry his conquest further, he heard that the troops who had been left to guard his ships had been hard pressed by an attack. He hurried back to them and returned to Gaul before winter came on.

Caesar was definitely impressed by what he had seen and experienced. "The number of the people is countless," he wrote, "and their buildings exceedingly numerous." But he never came back to Britain. On returning to Gaul he had to deal with rebellions. Then he became locked in a struggle for power with his political rivals in Rome which ended in his assassination. Britain was left alone until A.D. 43.

Something to make

On **13th July** 1730 Josiah Wedgwood (1730-1795) was born.³ A potter and entrepreneur, he founded the Wedgwood pottery business that became a household name. His most instantly recognisable style was the Jasperware seen in the pictures on the right and on the next page. This uses two contrasting colours, usually (but not always) blue and white. The raised white decorations were produced using a mould; the clay being pushed into the mould and then tipped out gently onto a



² You can read it here: <https://www.creationism.org/books/CooperAfterFlood/index.htm>

³ Permission to use image granted by email via Ebay from knightheron 07/04/21

damp cloth. These decorations were then pressed onto the blue ware. The whole item was then fired.



This is something that you could experiment with using plasticine, playdough or salt dough. You could use dough cutters or even moulds if you have them to cut out the patterns which could then be pressed onto the surface of a contrasting colour. Wedgwood decorations often have a classical theme but you could produce some good effects using whatever moulds come to hand. If you are pleased with the results, stand them up on a shelf or bookcase like the plate in the picture on the previous page and take a photo. If you use salt dough this will harden if left in the air to dry or it can be baked in the oven.⁴ Plasticine and playdough cannot be hardened.

The Wedgwood family was a powerful, long enduring dynasty with many interconnections whose philosophical, moral and political influence is still felt today. Linked to the Darwins, the Gaultons and the Huxleys the combined family produced members of the Royal Society, economists, journalists, authors, academics of all types, poets, historians, diplomats, MPs and explorers. A major plank of the British elite, they have led the way in the promotion of anti-Christian values in the ruling classes and in politics. What a blessing it would be if Christian families could thrive and pass on wholesome Biblical ideas in such an influential way! We should pray for the increase of the influence of Christian families in our society.

4 Find out to do this here: <https://www.firstpalette.com/craft-recipe/salt-dough.html>