Asterix and the Chieftain's Shield
VERCINGETORIX, DEFEATED AT THE SIEGE OF ALESIA, THROWS HIS ARMS AT CAESAR'S FEET... AND OFFICIALLY, ALL GAUL IS CONQUERED...

OUCH!

CLANG!

AND THE ARMS OF THE AVERNIAN CHIEFTAIN LIE WHERE THEY HAVE FALLEN. NO ONE DARES TOUCH THEM...

...UNTIL SUNSET, WHEN A ROMAN ARCHER, SUCCUMBS TO TEMPTATION AND MAKES OFF WITH A MAGNIFICENT SHIELD...

HEY, HOW ABOUT A GAME OF RUBI ET NIGER?

...AND THE SHOEMAKER SUBSEQUENTLY AGREES TO HAND IT OVER TO A GAULISH WARRIOR WHO HAS ESCAPED FROM ALESIA...

...AND IS TRYING TO DROWN HIS SORROWS IN DRINK...

THE CENTURION, HAVING SPENT ALL HIS PAY, SWAPS THE PRECIOUS SHIELD FOR AN AMPHORA OF WINE AT A WINE AND CHARCOAL MERCHANTS...

DIEM PERDIDI!

YOU CAN QUOTE ME ON THAT TOO!

HEY, YOU THERE! QUO VADIS, LADDER?

O TEMPORA! O MORES!

AND IN AN IMPERATIVE MOOD, WHO CONFRONTS THE SHIELD IN RETURN FOR HIS SILENCE.
GOOOW! OOOOOOH! OH! OH! OH!

IS SOMEONE SLAUGHTERING A WILD BOAR?

NO, IT’S OUR BARD SINGING A LULLABY!

MAKE WAY FOR THE DRUID! CHIEF VITALSTATIX IS ILL!

IT’S THE SAME OLD STORY: THE DAY AFTER HE’S BEEN EATING AND DRINKING AND MAKING MERRY WITH THOSE BARBARIANS HE FEELS AS IF A SKY HAD FALLEN ON HIS HEAD!

IT ISN’T MY HEAD THAT HURTS!

DOES IT HURT THERE, THEN?

AH, YES, HE’S GOT LIVER TROUBLE. I NEVER KNEW ANYONE COULD GET LIVER TROUBLE...

I WISH I WAS DEAD!

YOUR WIFE IMPEDIMENTA IS RIGHT, O CHIEF. I’M AFRAID YOU ATE AND DRANK RATHER TOO MUCH AT OUR LAST BANQUET.

I NEVER KNEW ANYONE COULD EAT TOO MUCH.

OUUCH!
O Druid Getafix, make me one of your secret potions to cure me.

What did I tell you?

My potions won't do the trick on their own. You'll have to go on a diet... take a course of treatment at a health farm or a hydro.

Diet? Health farm? Never! Anyway, I'm feeling better now.

Doesn't it hurt there any more?

Ouuuuuch!

Can I have a go too?

Obeaux! Don't touch! Don't touch what?

That! Ooowww!

Ouuuuuch!

Go easy, boys; the poor man's liver isn't a Roman road...

No by Toutatis! I don't want anyone else to...

Ouuuuuch!

Come to my arms, Dogmatix!

All right, by Belenos, I give in. I'll take a course of treatment.

Good, I think the best thing would be for you to go and drink the waters at Aquae Calidae near the Averrian country.

*Vichy*
I wouldn't mind a holiday in those parts...

Right. I'm going to send you to see the druid Diagnostix, who runs the famous Hydro at Aquae Calidae.

And we'll go with you, O Vital Statistix! A chief ought to have an escort!

Yes, and Dogmatix can come too! A slimming cure might do him good; he's getting fat.

The chief's liver is soon soothed by some infusions brewed by Getafix preparations for the journey are going ahead; Asterix has been given his gourd of magic potion and Obelix is walking slightly...

I know, I know, I don't get any because Shank... Shank...

I'm a bit sorry to leave the village, but we can have a great banquet to celebrate our departure and...

Banquet? I'm sick and tired of sacrificing myself for a great fat barbarian without the gumption of a wild boar piglet...

... who doesn't show me the least consideration after I've given him the best years of my life...

Come on, boys, let's go.

They're... they're going without telling anyone!

Cacophonix! Cacophonix!

The chief's off with Asterix and Obelix!

Ahmph? What?

Quack! I will now give them a song of...

Oh no, you won't! Oh no, you won't!
Got the itinerary? Yes, Asterix, and this slab lists all the best inns along our way.
But aren't you supposed to be on a diet?
Well if I'm going to have a course of treatment I might as well make it worth while. Anyway, that's all rot. I feel fine. I was suffering from a spell of mental fatigue, that's all.
There! I always knew eating couldn't make anyone ill!

And the journey became a gastronomic tour, with banquet following banquet...
Good food never hurt anyone, my lads...

Punctuated by the wise and morally elevating maxims of vital statistic...
So long as you don't go too heavy on the sauces.

Many of them still current today among people on a strict diet.
Use a little wine for thy stomach's sake!

And so in due course...
Let good digestion wait on appetite...

Our friends arrive at the gates of aquae calidae, the end of their journey.

...and cheese is an aid to digestion.

I'll just have a little nap under that tree, boys. My head feels a bit heavy...

Ooowooouch!
AND SO OUR FRIENDS ENTER THE TOWN OF AQUAE CAUDAE, FAMOUS AMONG BOTH GAULS AND ROMANS FOR ITS HOT SPRINGS AND MINERAL WATERS.

OOOOOOH! I WISH I WAS DEAD!

DIAGNOSY, THE DRUID? THAT WAY, TELL HIM ABOUT YOUR CONDITION: WHATEVER SPRINGS TO MIND, I'VE GOT TO MIND THE SPRINGS.

SOON AFTERWARDS...

OUR DRUID GETAFIX HAS SENT US. IT'S ABOUT YOUR COURSE OF TREATMENT.

AH, EXCELLENT! AND WHICH OF YOU IS THE INVALID?

FOR THE ANSWER, PRESS HERE...

NO!

EXCELLENT, VERY GOOD! I WILL EXAMINE THE PATIENT.

NOOOOOO! DON'T TOUCH ME! DON'T LOOK AT ME! IT HURTS!

HA! ... A VERY SEVERE CASE. DIET N.P.1.

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I'M FINE.

YOUR FAT FRIEND HERE, OBVIOUSLY OVERRATES. I DOUBT IF HIS LIVER IS IN A HEALTHY STATE.

HE IS FAT, AND WE'LL SOON SEE ABOUT THE STATE OF HIS LIVER!

WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

OOOOOOH!

DRUID, QUICK! OUR CHIEF HAS FAINTED!

???
VITALSTATIX STARTS HIS TREATMENT. HE DRINKS THE WATER OF THE SPRINGS AT REGULAR INTERVALS...

USING THE SOPHISTICATED MODERN SHOWER SYSTEM...

... AND STICKS TO A STRICT DIET BASED ON BOILED VEGETABLES.

AND THIS IS WHERE THE TROUBLE BEGINS, SINCE ASTERIX AND OBELIX, AS THE CHIEF'S ESCORT, HAVE PERMISSION TO SHARE HIS TABLE AT MEAL TIMES.

HEY THERE! ANOTHER BOAR! SNAP!

AND MORE BEER!

AND MORE BEER!

Some of the other patients begin to crack up...

BOO... BOOHOOHOOHOO!

AND SERIOUS INCIDENTS ARE ONLY JUST AVERTED.

IF YOU GO TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIM TO STEAL HIS BONE BECAUSE HE'S SO SMALL... I SHALL STRIKE YOU IN THE LIVER WITH MY FINGER!

RRRRA!

The treatment includes bathing in water from the hot springs.

HAPPY!

IS IT NICE?

Hey, Asterix, I'd like to take a dive!

Obelix, NOOOO!

Splosh!

Splosh!
By Jupiter, this won’t do! This is the end! We’re going to complain to the Druid!

They’ve got a point, boys, you’re beginning to get me down too.

By Mercury, those barbarians must go!

By Juno, if I see them eat one more boar I shall do myself in!

Water, water, everywhere except where we need it!

Vitalstatistix! What have your Gauls been doing?

They’ve got to go. For the good of the establishment, you can rejoin them after your treatments over.

He’s right, boys. Why not have an Arverian holiday & see the beautiful countryside...

Take a trip to Gergovia, scene of our immortal victory...

What do you mean, Alesia? I don’t even know where Alesia is! Nobody knows where Alesia is!
WE'VE COME TO SAY GOODBYE, CHIEF. VITAL STATISTCS.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A NICE HOLIDAY!

WELL, WE'RE OFF, CHIEF. LOOK AFTER YOURSELF!
WE'LL SEE YOU IN GREGONIA WHEN YOUR TREATMENT'S OVER.

AND DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT US. WE'RE GOING TO EXPLORE THE COUNTRYSIDE. I HEAR THE AVERNIANS HAVE SOME GOOD LOCAL SPECIALITIES... WILD BOAR IN WINE...

AND VEGETABLE SOUP!
AND SAUSAGES!

GET OUT!
AND THERE'S AVERNIAN BLUE CHEESE...
COME ON, OBELIX, I THINK WE'D BETTER GET GOING!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN THE KITCHENS OF THE HYDRO...
FANNY... THE PATIENTS SEEM RATHER QUIET!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S COME OVER THEM! WHEN I TOOK THE BOILED VEGETABLES IN THEY STARTED ACTING LIKE MADMEN! TWO OR THREE OF THEM EVEN BIT ME!

MEANWHILE OUR FRIENDS ARE STROLLING THROUGH THE BEAUTIFUL AVERNIAN COUNTRYSIDE...

MARVELLOUS AIR UP HERE, OBELIX!

YES, BUT THERE'S ONE THING MISSING... WE HAVEN'T SEEN MANY ROMAN LEGIONAIRES LATELY.

MOVE ASIDE THERE, GAULS! MAKE WAY FOR TRIBUNE NOXIOUS VAPAS, SPECIAL ENVOY OF JULIUS CAESAR!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME, GAULS? MAKE WAY FOR TRIBUNE NOXUS VAPYS, SPECIAL ENVOY OF JULIUS CAESAR!

OH, GOODY! I LIKE THIS PLACE. ASTERIX, THEY'VE GOT EVERYTHING Laid ON! DO WE MAKE WAY?

WAIT A MOMENT... I'LL JUST TAKE A SPOT OF MAGIC POTION...

NO, WE DO NOT MAKE WAY! THEY DIDN'T ASK NICELY. SO WHY SHOULD WE?

YOU MOVE ASIDE, ROMANS! MAKE WAY FOR OBELEX, ASTERIX...

WOOF!

AND DOGMATIX, SPECIAL ENVOYS OF VITALSTATISTIX!

SLAUGHTER THOSE THREE IDIOTS, BY JUPITER, AND LET'S GET ON WITH OUR JOURNEY!

WHAT ARE THE OTHERS WAITING FOR?

YOU STARTED TOO SOON. THAT WAS THE HEAD OF THE SQUAD. PEOPLE WHO LOSE THEIR HEADS DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

OH, WELL. ONCE MORE, INTO THE BREACH... COME ON, MEN!

CHARGE!

GOOD IDEA...

CHARGE!

CHARGE!

CHARGE!

YOU KNOW, OBELEX, IF ONLY EVERYONE ACTED LIKE THIS IT WOULD INCREASE INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING NO END.
SOON

AFTERWARDS...

ANYONE FOR SECONDS?

HOLD ON, I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR REINFORCEMENTS.

HEY, YOU IN THERE! WHY DON'T YOU COME TO THE AID OF YOUR MEN?

YOU JUST WAIT, YOU BANDIT! YOU BLACKGUARD! YOU BARBARIAN! YOU'LL SEE WHAT COMES OF ATTACHING NONUS VAPAS, SPECIAL ENVOY OF JULIUS CAESAR!

VADE RETRO! AUDACES FORTUNA JUVAT!

DEAR, DEAR, WHAT LANGUAGE! NOW IT'S NO GOOD GETTING ALL WORKED UP. IS IT? CALM DOWN, LIKE A GOOD BOY!

PAPATAPA!

OBELIX, LEAVE THE MAN ALONE. I DON'T THINK HE SEE THE JOKE. HE LOOKS CRACKED TO ME... A BIT OF A NUT-CASE.

RIGHT.

SPLATCH!

WELL, WELL! THEY'VE GOT VAPUS!

WHO'S GOT THE VAPOURS?

NO'ONE: THAT'S HIS NAME. YOU'VE BEEN HITTING NONUS VAPAS, A SPECIAL ENVOY FROM ROME. DON'T LET'S HANG AROUND HERE; THERE'LL BE TROUBLE.
SO YOUR NAME'S WINESANSPRIK?

THAT'S RIGHT. I'M TAKING YOU TO MY PLACE IN GERVIGNA. VAPUS IS A VERY IMPORTANT MAN. HE'S BEEN SENT TO MAKE SURE NONE OF OUR VERNIANS REBEL... HE COULD MAKE A LOT OF TROUBLE. HE'S A NASTY CHARACTER... A ROAD-HOG, TOO.

I KEEP A LITTLE SHOP JUST INSIDE THE GATES OF GERVIGNA. HERE WE ARE.

DID HE SAY HOG? I'M HUH.

OH, HOGWASH, OBLIX!

ER... ISN'T THE COMPETITION BAD FOR TRADE?

OH NO, IT'S A CLOSED SHOP. WE BUY WINE AND CHARCOAL FROM EACH OTHER, AND WE CAN ALWAYS HAVE A NICE CHAT ABOUT THE OLD DAYS IN LUTETIA.

AND WHAT DID YOU DO IN LUTETIA?

WE SOLD WINE AND CHARCOAL.

COME IN!

TAP! TAP! TAP!

 THESE ARE TWO FRIENDS OF MINE, DEAR; THEY'VE JUST TAUGHT NAPOLI A GOOD LESSON! GO AND TELL THE OTHERS, AND WE'LL CELEBRATE!

SOUP'S UP!

AND WHAT DID YOU DO IN LUTETIA?

IT'S VERY GOOD SOUP, HOW DO YOU MAKE IT?

WELL, FIRST YOU TAKE A POT...

AT A BOAR?

ADD CABBAGE, CARROTS, BEANS, BOIL IT ALL UP AND TAKE POT LUCK.

YOU BORE!
"I bet you Arverniens would like to see the Romans in the soup!"

"Yes, the whole boiling of them! They're driving us potty!"

"They levy money on every wine vat."

"It's very taxing... hard on us shopkeepers and what do we get in return? Not a sausage!"

"Hi! Sausages for afters, everyone!"

"Why did he slam the door so loud?"

"We Arverniens are very fond of bangers."

"What sort are these?"

"Wild boar sausages."

"But while our friends are enjoying the start of their Arverian holiday, Tribune Neminus Vapius, exchanging his litter for a fast chariot, takes one of the many roads that lead to Rome..."

"Quick! I want an audience of Caesar!"

"O Caesar, I've come to report on my mission. The Arverniens are as rebellious as ever. I was attacked and beaten up by Jupiter!"

"Where, by Minerva?"

"At Gergovia. This is getting to be a habit, by Saturn!"
I'LL SHOW THOSE WRETCHED GAULS! VENI, VIDI, VICI, AND ALL THEY DO IS LAUGH! I'LL SHOW THEM WHO'S BOSS.

SHALL GIVE THEM A DAZZLING DEMONSTRATION OF MY POWER! I'LL HAVE A TRIUMPH AT GERMONIA ITSELF, THE PLACE THAT'S THE PRIDE OF ALL GAUL. A GENUINE GAULISH TRIUMPH?

GENUINE-GAULISH TRIUMPH?

YES! I SHALL MAKE THE ARVERNIANS APPLAUD ME AS I AM CARRIED PAST THEM ON A SHIELD, THEIR OWN CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD. THE SHIELD OF VERCINGETORIX!

BRAVO, CAESAR, ABIMOPECTORE!

OFF YOU GO AND FETCH ME THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD!

THIS IS WHERE THEY KEEP THE LOOT FROM J.C.'S CAMPAIGNS!

NO, I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE IT... I'VE GOT A HELVETIAN WATER-CLOCK WHICH GIVES CHICKOO, AN AMPHORA OF WARM BEER FROM BRITAIN, AN AMPHORA OF CHILLED BEER FROM BELGICA, A FEW LITTLE SOUVENIRS FROM EGYPT, AND GERMANY, BUT NO ARVERNIAN CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD...

VERCINGETORIX MUST HAVE LEFT HIS ARMS IN GAUL. FINDING THEM COULD BE QUITE A FEAT.

THE FACT IS, O CAESAR, WE DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY LITTLE MEMORIES OF YOUR GALIC WARS.

NO COMMENTARY.
Well, my dear Vulpis, you’ll just have to go back to Gaul and look for the shield Vercingetorix threw at my feet.

Er... Caesar... it might save time to use some other shield... a nice new one. I happen to know a little armourer who...

Vade retro, Vulpis! I shall have my triumph on that Avernián shield and none other! And don’t you try to deceive me! To deceive Caesar is to deceive the gods, and the anger of the gods would be terrible!

And as the sun sets on the horizon, the heroes are enjoying their holiday... they visit the famous Guy de Gascogne (here seen looking south, to see it looking north, turn round.)

...and the Temple of Lug, god of business and industry...

Our very own God!

...and the town of Nemesis, Aeronaus, Bruvin & Calentes Valia...

And what about Alesia?

What do you mean, Alesia, Eh?? Why bring Alesia into it?

We don’t even know where Alesia is, so there!

Our friends return to Hercogia. Everyone knows where Hercogia is.

You’ll stay at our place again won’t you?

With pleasure, but we’ll do the shopping today, how about some boars?

Good idea, we’ll bring home the bacon.

Don’t be rather than you must.

We’re never ham-handed.

I hope that’s not just gammon!

Tatata Tatata!
I WONDER IF BOAR WOULD TASTE NICE IN THAT SOUP?

IF SO, WE'VE HAD A CRACK AT HIM BEFORE.

WANT TO GO AND SEE?

WHY NOT? AFTER ALL, WE'RE ON HOLIDAY.

SOON AFTERWARDS...

YES, THAT WAS HIM ALL RIGHT.

IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO MEET AN OLD FRIEND ON HOLIDAY.

WAISN'T THAT THE NAME OF THAT ROMAN NUT-CASE, ASTERIX?

MOST ROMANS COME TO THESE PARTS TO TAKE THE WATERS... I SEEM TO BE THE ONLY ONE WHO COMES HERE TO TAKE PUNISHMENT!

NICE LITTLE PLACE YOU'VE GOT HERE... AND EVERYTHING LAYED ON IN THESE FORESTS: BOARS, NUTS, THE LOT.

AND SPEAKING OF NUTS, WE RAN INTO THAT ROMAN FRIEND OF YOURS, BY LUG AND TOUTATIS.

WINESANSPIRIX

VAPUS? VAPUS IS BACK? I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT... WE MUST KEEP OUR WIGHOLES TO THE GROUND!
VAPIS IS NOTORIOUS IN THESE PARTS. CAESAR SENDS HIM TO KEEP US DOWN. IF HE'S BACK, WE'RE IN FOR A BAD TIME!

OH, DON'T LET'S BOTHER ABOUT A LITTLE THING LIKE THAT!

IT'S A REAL PLEASURE TO COOK FOR A MAN WHO ENJOYS HIS FOOD!

OH, I SAY!

MEANWHILE, TRIBUNE NOXIVS VAPIS ARRIVES AT THE PREFECT'S PALACE...

AVE, NOXIVS VAPIS! I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU BACK SO SOON... ER... DID YOU HAVE A GOOD JOURNEY?

SUMMON ALL THE COMMANDING OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL GARRISONS AT ONCE. ALL LEAVE IS CANCELLED!

HEAR THAT? THEY SAID IT'S A MAN'S LIFE THEY SAID...

SOON AFTERWARDS...

WELL, THOSE ARE YOUR ORDERS: FIND THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD SO THAT CAESAR CAN HOLD HIS TRIUMPH IN GEGOVIA!

A LOT OF ALESIANS CAME TO LIVE IN GEGOVIA AFTER THEIR DEFEAT. THAT GIVES US A GOOD OPENING. SEARCH EVERY HOUSE! AND GET MOVING, BY JUPITER!
OPEN UP, IN THE NAME OF CAESAR!

BONG! BONG! BONG!

WE'VE GOT A WARRANT TO BREAK AND ENTER.
BY ORDER OF TRIBUNE NOXIUS VAPIS!
RIGHT, BUT PUT THE BRAKES ON!
DON'T WANT ANY BREAKAGES.

AND JUST WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND IN THERE?

WELL... A DROP OF SOUP... MIGHT MAKE AN INTERMISSION FROM MY USUAL DIET.

YOU, AVERNIAN! WHAT'S BEHIND THAT DOOR?

MY STOCK OF CHARCOAL. I SELL IT.
YOU CAN LOOK, BUT MIND YOU DON'T MAKE ANY MESS.

COME ON, MEN! SEARCH THE WHOLE PLACE!

SOON AFTERWARDS...
A little later in the prefect's palace...

One, nothin' vapas, patrol leaders reporting, to make a clean breast of it...

They didn't find anything. Talk about dirty looks!

HAHAHA! HAHAHA!

I may not have found anything, but I've got my eye on you!

HAHAHA! HAHAHA!

Dirty looks! Shall we black his eye?

No, better not; you never know with these barbarian blackguards. He looks harmless, but he could be a dark horse.

As for you, you skivver, you're confined to barracks!

I wonder who can have told on me?

Well? We got a dusty answer.
IF YOU REFUSE TO VOLUNTEER I’LL HAVE YOU SWEEPING EVERY HALF FLAGSTONE FROM HERE TO THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS!

THAT’S RATHER A LOT OF HALF FLAGSTONES... NOW, RIGHT YOU ARE! NO, WE SHALL DISGUISE YOU AS AN ARVERNIAN. YOU’RE TO TRY AND GET INFORMATION FROM THE LOCAL INHABITANTS AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF VERNIGETORIX’S SHIELD!

OH, WELL...

FOR JUPITER’S SAKE PUT THAT BROOM DOWN!

ONE THING, HE LOOKS SUCH A FOOL THE ARVERNIANS WILL NEVER SUSPECT HIM.

NO, BUT I DO WONDER WHETHER WE CAN RELY ON HIM...

HE’S NOT ALL THAT BRIGHT; FIFTEEN YEARS IN THE ARMY AND NEVER GOT PROMOTION. ALL HE’S INTERESTED IN IS WINE.

SEE THAT? IT’S CAUS!

I WOULDN’T MIND A DROP MORE WINE. CAREFUL, OBELIX, YOU KNOW YOU AREN’T USED TO IT.

OH, LET HIM, ASTERIX! A LITTLE WINE WON’T DO HIM ANY HARM.

THIS SOUNDS AN EXCELLENT SPOT TO START MY ENQUIRIES BY JUPITER!
EVENING, ALL! ANY CHANCE OF A DRINK?
OF COURSE! SIT DOWN!
STOP! SCRUNCH!
WHERE ARE YOU FROM? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND BEFORE!
I'M FROM ANCIUM. *
* ANCIUM: LE PAY

GLUG GLUG GLUG!
THAT'S QUITE A LONG WAY FROM ALESIA? WERE YOU AT ALESIA?
ALESIA WAS REALLY SOMETHING, EH?
SCRUNCH! SCRUNCH!! SCRUNCH!
GLUG GLUG GLUG GLUG!

HIC! PARDON ME. HAEC! YOU SEE, I WASH AT ALESIA, I WASH!
MORE WINE! I'M NOT HALF FLAGGING YET! HOC! THAT SH A GOOD ONE! YOU DON'T GET IT, THOUGH! HOMO!

NO, NOT AT ALL. GIVE HIM SOME MORE. OUR FRIEND IS STILL THIRSTY. HE FEELS LIKE TALKING.
YOU'RE A PAL! I'M SHONE, COOL SHOBER. SHOL, LUCET, OMM BUSH, AND ALL THAT, RIGHT?

THASH RIGHT, ALESIA! THE TROUBLE WE HAD WITH THOSE GAULISH MIND YOU. I REPORTED SHICK...

AND WHEN I GOT THERE, ALL OVER, NOTHING LEFT, JUHST THE CHIEFTAIN'S WEAPON ON THE GROUND, AND THAT FELL... CIRCUM BENDIS...
AN ARCHER, THASH RIGHT MAKING WHEELS AT NEMESSA. NOWADAYS, WENT OFF WITH THIS FINE SHIELD FOR A KEEPSAKE. THASH THE SHIELD WE'RE AFTER...

BECUSE! CAESAR WANTSH... WANTSH TRIUMPH AT SERADOVA... WANTSH TO BE CARRIED ON THE SHIELD OF... HAEC! WHERESH THAT... O2 MOS TACHSH? ??
Evening, all! Any chance of a drink? Haec! Hic!

Did you hear that spy? The Romans are looking for the shield of Vercingetorix! They must not find it!

Oh, don’t worry. That idiot was absolutely stoned...

It’s up to us to find it! The triumph will be ours, by Toutatis!

Asterix, that’s all ancient history! We’re at peace now...

But I haven’t finished eating!

Back from his secret mission. Legionary Caesar Pubblianus makes his report:

A report which lands him straight in clink...

No good being keen in the army. What’s the use of flag-waving? Best keep your mouth shut. Mater ‘sh the word!

Evening all!
Meanwhile, our friends have arrived at the large Arverian town of Nemesis ... *Clermont-Ferrand*

But how do we set about finding Circumbendibus, Asterix?

He makes wheels ... it should be easy to spot a wheel factory ...

There, look! The other side of that square with the statue of Julius Caesar.

Come along!

Can I help you? We want to see Circumbendibus.

The boss? What about?

It's like this ... we're looking for the sh...

Private business. Our names are Asterix and Obelix.

And Dogmatix.

Asterix and Obelix would like to see the boss on private business.

That's our intercom system ... now, if you'd like to go into the waiting atrium ...

Bonk!
COME ON, BÉLIX! COME ON, DOGMATIX! BUT YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!!!

HMMPH? WHAT...? WHAT DO YOU WANT, BY JUPITER?

VERY SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR MEETING, BUT WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT ALESIA AND A CERTAIN SHIELD...

CALL THE GUARD!

I'VE PICKED UP THE MESSAGE, ASTÉRIX!

WELL DONE! NOW GO OUTSIDE THE DOOR AND STOP ANYONE COMING IN.

LUCIUS CIRCUMBENDIBUS! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

YOU CAN'T COME IN...

CIRCUMBENDIBUS IS IN A MEETING.
IF YOU'RE AFTER MY GOLD, IT'S IN A CHARCOAL CELLAR IN HELVETIA.

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR GOLD.

I'VE TOLD YOU WHAT I WANT, BY TUTATIS! THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD YOU GOT AT ALESIA!

I'M A BIG WHEEL, YOU KNOW; IN MY LINE TIMES I'M BESTER, SO LET'S COME TO THE ELB OF THE MATTER. ARE YOU THREATENING ME?

YES.

I THOUGHT SO, I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING. I HAVEN'T GOT THE SHIELD ANYMORE...

YOU'RE RIGHT. I DID GET HOLD OF IT AFTER THE DEFEAT OF VERCINGETORIX.

...BUT IN MY YOUTH I WAS CONSUMED BY THE URGE TO GAMBLE (I JOINED THE LEGION AS THE RESULT OF A SILLY BET).

DIEM PERDIDI!

YOU CAN QUOTE ME ON THAT TOO!

I LOST THE SHIELD TO A LEGIONARY CALLED MARCAS CARNIVERUS IN A GAME OF CHANCE.

WHEN I WAS DEMOBBED I STAYED IN THESE PARTS AND MADE MY PILE. THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE TURNED MY WAY...

WHERE'S THIS CARNIVERUS NOW?

I THINK HE'S A BATH ATTENDANT AT THE HYDRO IN BORVO.

SHE CALLED THESE PEOPLE, AND THEY WOULDN'T BELIEVE CIRCUMSENTICLES WAS IN A MEETING, SO I HAD TO DEAL WITH THEM, LOOK, NO HANDS.
Now then, don't forget to look ill.
All right, all right, don't go on about it! I get the idea.
Good morning, gentlemen.
Good morning, O Druid.
Ouch.

What seems to be the trouble?
He's ill. I'm ill. Even our dog is ill. We want the full treatment!
Let's see... does it hurt there?
Ouch.
And there?
Ouch.

Well, that's clear! Let's say baths and showers, massage and saunas...
Ouch.
...and of course a strict diet.
Ouch!

Right, the full treatment for both of you. Not the dog, though. The science of hydrotherapy is still in its infancy, and we don't know if it's good for animals.

And so, in the course of treatment, our friends are able to make discreet enquiries...
What's your name?
Applejus.
Carrotjus.
Prunejus.
Tomatojus.
The treatment is particularly painful at mealtimes...
HERES YOUR GRAPE FOR AFTERS.

ASTERIX, I DON'T WANT HIS GRAPE!
I CAN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER,
ASTERIX! I CAN'T STAND IT ANY
LONGER! TAKE AWAY THAT GRAPE!

DON'T GRIP, OBELEX! TAKE IT
EASY, I'VE HAD A BELLYFUL TOO!
LET'S TRY A DIRECT
QUESTION.

YES, HE WAS HERE
FOR YEARS. HE SAW
UP AND OPENED HIS
OWN RESTAURANT, NOT FAR
OFF. YOU CAN FIND IT
EASILY...

... IT'S CALLED:
THE BOAR IN WINE.

WELL, I WASN'T TO
KNOW, OBELEX, WAS I?
THE TREATMENT MUST
HAVE BEEN GOOD
FOR YOU, AND...

OH, MISTER ASTERIX KNOWS
BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE!
MISTER ASTERIX IS ALWAYS RIGHT!
IF MISTER ASTERIX HADN'T BEEN SO
CLEVER WE COULD HAVE MADE OUR
ENQUIRIES EATING BOAR
IN WINE!

COME ALONG,
DOGMATIN! WE'RE NOT
SPEAKING TO
HIM!

AND I'VE HAD JUST ABOUT
ENOUGH OF YOUR TEMPER,
YOU'RE ALWAYS PUTTING YOUR
STOMACH FIRST! BEARS,
ROMANS TO BASH, THAT'S ALL
YOU EVER THINK OF! BREAD
AND CIRCUSES! I DON'T
KNOW WHAT ANCIENT
GAUL IS COMING TO!

THE GAUL IN THE
STREET-HAH! A FINE
SPECIMEN I MUST
SAY!

HEAR THAT
DOGMATIN? HE'S
STARTED PREACHING
SERMONS NOW!
Dogmatix, tell your master that in my opinion he's an obstinate pig!

Well... I was hungry, wasn't I?

Dogmatix, tell that little spur! I'm not interested in his opinion!

Ha! Ha! Grumph!

???

Come along, before we carry on with our enquiries let's go and have some boar in wine!

Oh, never mind the boring wine...
YOU'LL BE MARCUS CARNIVERUS, RIGHT?

ER... ER... YES.

WELL, FIRST OF ALL, TWO BOARS IN WINE!

AND TWO FOR ME TOO! Y... VERY WELL.

I ARREST YOU IN THE NAME OF TRIBUNE NOXIVUS VAPUS, SPECIAL ENVOY OF JULIUS CAESAR.

WHAT A PITY... IT WAS SUCH A PRETTY RESTAURANT.

AFTER WE'VE HAD THESE FOR STARTERS, CARNIVERUS, YOU CAN SERVE THE BOARS.

WHAT A ROW! THEY SEEM TO BE HAVING QUITE A FLING!

YES... DANCING THE GALLOIS FLING TOO, BY THE SOUND OF IT. A FULL HOUSE I'D THINK.

NOW, WHERE ARE THOSE BOARS?

YEAH, THERE YOU ARE... THEY'RE TURNING PEOPLE AWAY.
LATER, AFTER BORROWING A ROMAN CHARIOT WHICH WAS JUST PASSING...

WE MUST GET TO GORGONA BEFORE CRAPULLUS, TO STOP HIM GIVING THE SHIELD TO THE ROMANS...

IF HE GETS THERE FIRST WE'VE HAD IT. WE CAN'T FIGHT THE WHOLE GARRISON.

WHY NOT? IS IT OUT OF BOUNDS?

LATE THAT NIGHT...

WHO... WHO'S THERE?

IT'S US! OBELIX, ASTERIX...

AND DOGMATIX...

COME IN QUICK! THE SKY HAS FALLEN ON OUR HEADS!

?!

AND THERE'S A PRICE ON YOURS, BY THE WAY... THE ROMANS HAVE GONE CRAZY! THEY'RE SEARCHING EVERYWHERE, AND THE WORST OF IT IS...

MY WINESANSPIRX HAS DISAPPEARED! NOXUS VAPUS MUST HAVE TAKEN HIM PRISONER! BOO HOO HOO!

NEVER MIND THE SHIELD! WE'LL FIND YOUR WINESANSPIRX, TOUTATIS!

YOU CAN BE BOUND WE WILL, EVEN IF THE GARRISON IS OUT OF BOUNDS, BY BELENSOS!

AND THE OUTF-LAWED ASTERIX, OBELIX (AND DOGMATIX) SPEND THE NIGHT HIDDEN IN A HEAP OF CHARCOAL...

GOOD NIGHT, OBELIX. YOU'RE A WHITE MAN, ASTERY!
WHO ARE YOU???

WE'RE LOOKING FOR WINESANSPRIX.

WINESANSPRIX!
THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE NAME OF THE WINE MERCHANT WHO HAD THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD FROM ME!

WINESANSPRIX!
I WANT THIS WINESANSPRIX!

NO, WE WANT WINESANSPRIX!

WINESANSPRIX!
YOOHHOO! WINESANSPRIX!

I WAS THE ONE WHO REMEMBERED THE NAME!
DON'T FORGET MY PROMOTION!

COME ON, OBELIX.
WINESANSPRIX DOESN'T SEEM TO BE IN HERE. LET'S GO AND LOOK FOR HIM SOMEWHERE ELSE.

ALL RIGHT, ASTERIX.

OBELIX? ASTERIX? THEN YOU'RE THE TWO GAULS WHO ARE AFTER THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD?...

CALL OUT THE GUARD...

SURE ENOUGH, CRAPULUS DOES SEE TO IT...

THAT'S FUNNY. THE SENTRIES ARE LEAVING THEIR POSTS...

THAT SUITS US!

HEY, WHAT ABOUT MY PROMOTION, THEN?

THOSE MEN... STOP THOSE MEN!

LEAVE IT TO ME! I'LL SEE TO IT! I'LL FALL EVERYONE IN!

TANTANARA-TARAA
HA! I'll show this special envoy how an old NCO can drill his men...

ATTEN-SHUN! STAND AT-EASE! COMPANEE SHUN! PAY ATTENTION, YOU LOT! AVE!

RIGHT! Two strangers may try to break out of these barracks accompanied by an animal of canine breed. The order of the day is: STOP THEM AT ANY COST...

THEY WENT THATAWAY!

WELL? HAVE YOU FOUND THEM?

AVE! Certain indications seem to show clearly that the aforementioned individuals and the animal...

... WENT THATAWAY...

QUICK! EVERYONE AFTER THEM!
I don't know what the army's coming to! No discipline! No sense of tradition.

Hey, legionario! Anywhere around here a man can drown his sorrows?

It could be arranged... I've just finished half a flagstone.

Meanwhile...

Thank lug you're safe! Winesanspirix is back!

I have something to confess...

Not now, the whole garrison's on our heels... and yours, we must hide!

Not in the charcoal. That's where they always look... go down here!

A few seconds later...

We're looking for Winesanspirix and those two crazy Gauls! Don't you move!

I've no intention of moving.

Search the charcoal!

Soon afterwards

Look at them, Passilanius... beyond the pale? Hic! probably filthy drunk too. Hae!

Slotho on the landscape... hic!
You can come out now the romans think you've left Sperguria. They're searching the forest.

Later, after a quick wash and brush up...

Now then, what's all this about winesanspirix?

Well, it's like this... I was selling wine in Alesia...

...and the night after Alesia was taken a centurion came to my place... a real old soak...

I swapped him an amphora of wine for the chieftain's shield...

...and then a gaulish warrior who was about to leave for home saw the shield...

Let's have a look at that shield!

...and he begged me to let him have it for safe keeping.

Well, if it gives you any satisfaction...

So in a weak moment I gave that glorious shield to a stranger who didn't even come from these parts!

Cheer up, winesanspirix. Far better from us to cast the first mehrik.

And when I saw how important the shield is to you I was ashamed of myself, and I ran away. Then I was overcome with remorse and came back to confess....

Can you remember the warrior's name? No, he was rather thin and rather unhappy. That's all I...

That's him!!!
O Chief Vitalstatistix!

Hallô, boys. They said I’d find you here. I’ve finished my treatment. I’m well and truly cured.

That’s him! That’s him! That’s the warrior I gave the shield to!

I recognise him straight away! He hasn’t put on much weight since I last saw him!

Don’t you remember? Alesia? The chieftain’s shield?

Is... is he often like this?

Alesia? The chieftain’s shield? Why, of course!

The night after the battle, I found the shield at a wine merchant’s. The man kindly gave it to me...

Hic!

And that wine merchant was you?

It was me!

And have you still got the shield, o’chief?

Of course!

I never move without it. In fact, I usually move on it!

The Romans are looking for it everywhere!

That explains why I saw so many Romans on my way here... but why are they all black?

Amazing, by Toutatis, isn’t it, obeux?

Yes, by Belenos. I didn’t know anyone could get that thin!
I'VE GOT AN IDEA, WINEUS ANSPRITEX. SUMMON ALL THE INHABITANTS OF GREGOVIA!

MEANWHILE, AFTER SEVERAL FRUITLESS SEARCHES...

LET'S GET BACK TO GREGOVIA! WE MAY HAVE TO BACK THE TOWN, BUT WE'LL FIND THEM, BY JUPITER, IF IT'S THE LAST THING WE DO!

O ROMANS!

HERE WE ARE... WAITING FOR YOU!

THAT'S ONE OF THEM! CHARGE!

JUST A MOMENT, TRIBUNE!

AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE TO STOP NERUS VADUS, SENT HERE SPECIALLY BY JULIUS CAESAR?

THE MAN WHO SENT YOU! I'VE COME INCognito, TO SEE HOW THINGS ARE GOing.

ER... WELL... WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO ATTACK GREGOVIA AND...

OH NO! BIS REPETITA DON'T ALWAYS PLEASANT! ONCE WAS QUITE ENOUGH!
O ROMANS!
WHAT'S UP?
OH, NOTHING... DON'T TAKE ANY NOTICE...

THE TRIUMPH OF CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX ON THE SHIELD OF VERCINGETORIX!

TAKE A GOOD LOOK! AND YOU, BRAVE PEOPLE OF GERGOVIA, COME AND WATCH OUR TRIUMPH!

RIGHT. VENI, VIDI, AND I GET THE IDEA, NO ONE MUST EVER KNOW I SAW THIS... AND AS I CANNOT CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE CURIOUS APPEARANCE OF YOUR TROOPS...

AND SO AS TO MAKE SURE MY SECRETS REMAIN A SECRET, I'M SENDING YOU AND YOUR MEN TO A GARRISON IN NUNIOIA...

AH! AT LAST! TWO CLEAN SOLDIERS!

HIC! HIC!

CENTURION! I PROMOTE YOU TO OFFICER COMMANDING THE GARRISON OF GERGOVIA! LEGIONARY, I PROMOTE YOU TO CENTURION! AND INDEED, WANT TO HEAR THE NAME OF THIS TOWN AGAIN! AVE!

AVE! DON'T YOU WORRY, WE'LL KEEP ON THE BEST OF TERMS WITH THE WING MERCHANTS IN THESE PARTS, ME AND TUSILLANUS.

CENTURION
PASILLAN - HIC! - MUS!
OUR FRIENDS ARE QUITE SORRY TO LEAVE BERGONIA AFTER THEIR MEMORABLE TRIUMPH...

ON THE WAY HOME THE CHIEF'S STATISTICS REVITALIZED AS HE VISITS ALL THE INNS PATRONIZED ON THE OUTWARD JOURNEY.

OUR VILLAGE!

AND ONCE AGAIN OUR STORY ENDS WITH A BANQUET... EVERYONE IS THERE. EVERYONE? NO, SOMEONE IS MISSING... WHO CAN IT BE?

NOT HIM? HE'S THERE ALL RIGHT. SO WHO CAN IT BE, THEN?

...WHO?

BUT, IMPEDIMENTA, I HAVE TO SIT AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE! I HAVE TO GO! I'M CURSED, MY LOVE.

IMPEDIMENTA! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HIT ME OVER THE HEAD WITH THAT SHIELD, ARE YOU?!!!