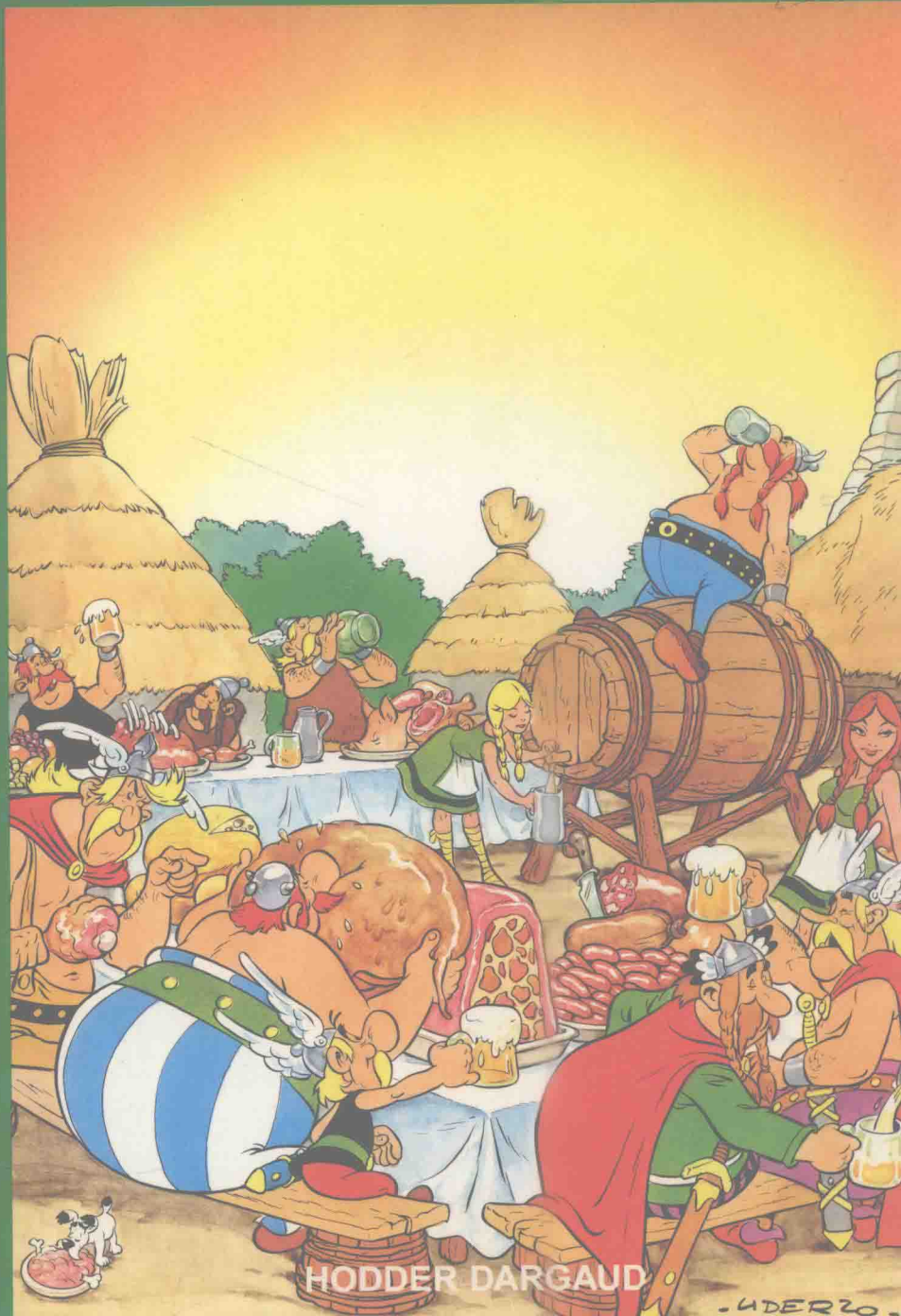


BOOK 25

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

# Asterix

## in Belgium



# ASTERIX IN BELGIUM

TEXT BY GOSCINNY

DRAWINGS BY UDERZO

TRANSLATED BY ANTHEA BELL AND DEREK HOCKRIDGE

*with apologies to:*

*George Gordon, Lord Byron, Mr Wm. Shakespeare, Mr John Milton*

*and*

*Pieter Breughel the Elder*



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Asterix in Belgium

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The year is 50 B.C. Gaul is entirely occupied by the Romans. Well, not entirely... One small village of indomitable Gauls still holds out against the invaders. And life is not easy for the Roman legionaries who garrison the fortified camps of Totorum, Aquarium, Laudanum and Compendium...





## a few of the Gauls

Asterix, the hero of these adventures. A shrewd, cunning little warrior; all perilous missions are immediately entrusted to him. Asterix gets his superhuman strength from the magic potion brewed by the druid Getafix...



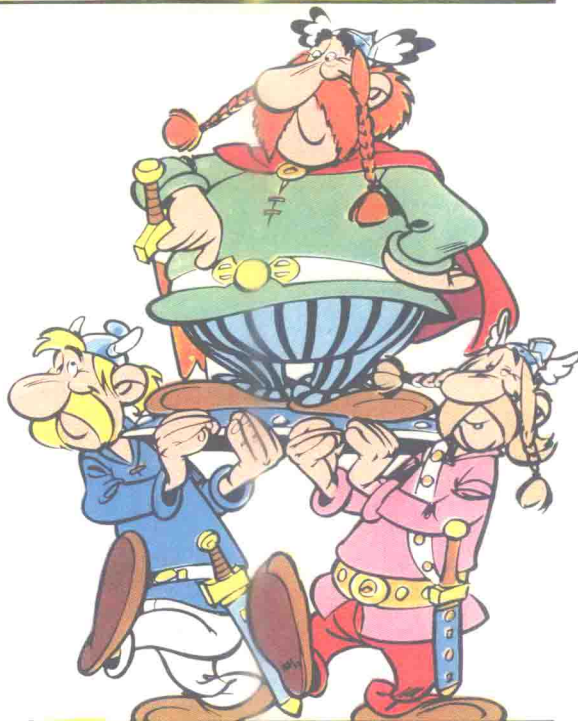
Obelix, Asterix's inseparable friend. A menhir delivery-man by trade; addicted to wild boar. Obelix is always ready to drop everything and go off on a new adventure with Asterix – so long as there's wild boar to eat, and plenty of fighting.



Getafix, the venerable village druid. Gathers mistletoe and brews magic potions. His speciality is the potion which gives the drinker superhuman strength. But Getafix also has other recipes up his sleeve...



Cacofonix, the bard. Opinion is divided as to his musical gifts. Cacofonix thinks he's a genius. Everyone else thinks he's unspeakable. But so long as he doesn't speak, let alone sing, everybody likes him...



Finally, Vitalstatistix, the chief of the tribe. Majestic, brave and hot-tempered, the old warrior is respected by his men and feared by his enemies. Vitalstatistix himself has only one fear; he is afraid the sky may fall on his head tomorrow. But as he always says, 'Tomorrow never comes.'



IT IS A FINE, SUNNY DAY, AND LIFE IS AS CALM AND TRANQUIL AS EVER IN THE PEACE-LOVING LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE...

AND YOU KNOW WHAT MY FISH HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THAT?

YES, I DO, AND I WISH THEY'D KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT! THEIR BEST FRIENDS OUGHT TO TELL THEM...

GERIATRIX, SWEETIEPIE, COME HOME AT ONCE! YOU'LL CATCH YOUR DEATH OF COLD!

HEY! YOU FORGOT TO UNTIE ME AFTER THE LAST BANQUET!

WHEN I TOLD THEM TO DROP EVERYTHING, I DIDN'T MEAN YOU TOO!

O CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX...

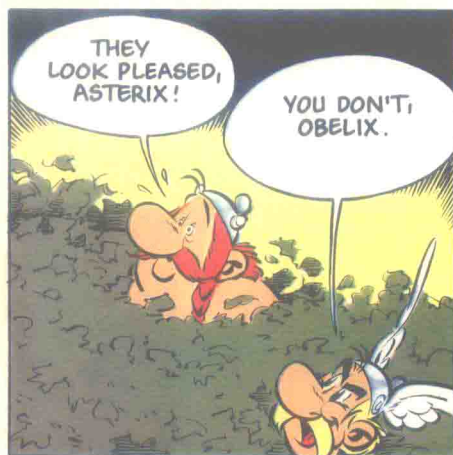
... THERE ARE SOME ROMAN TROOPS ON THE MOVE!

THAT'S RIGHT! LOTS AND LOTS OF LOVELY BRAND NEW ROMANS ARRIVING IN THESE PARTS!

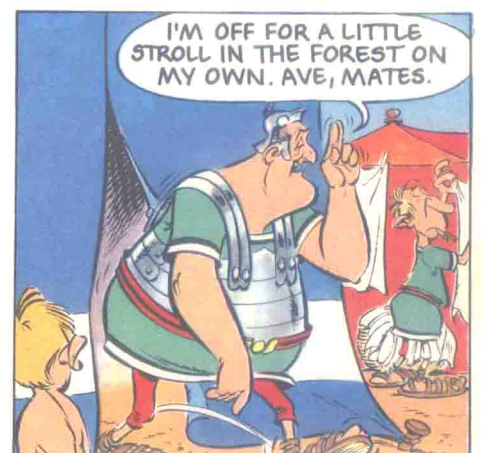
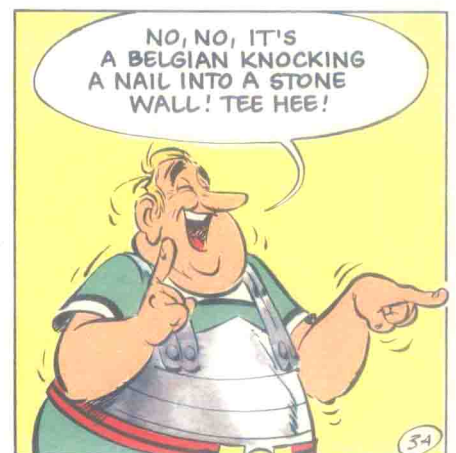
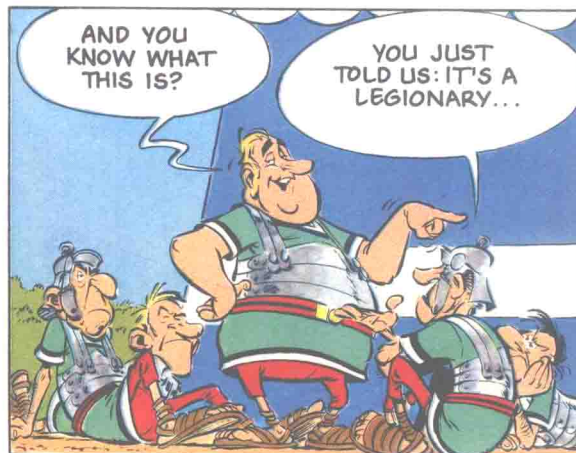
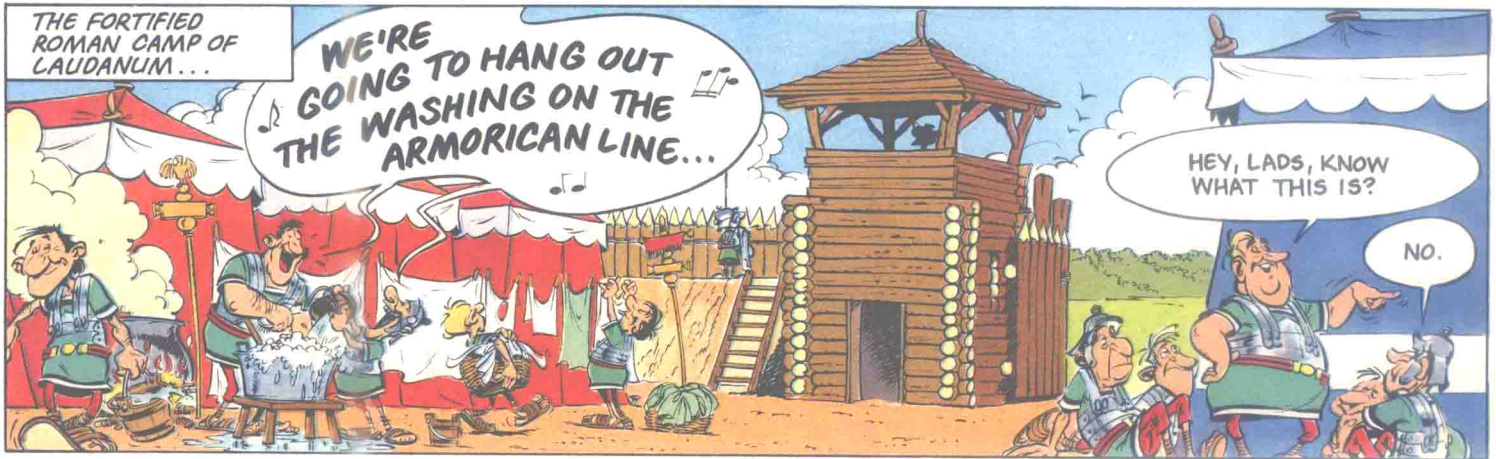
HM... THAT'S GOOD NEWS, REALLY. THE PEOPLE OF OUR VILLAGE ARE GETTING BORED... A LITTLE EXERCISE WILL DO THEM GOOD.

LET'S GO AND SEE WHAT THESE ROMANS ARE UP TO!

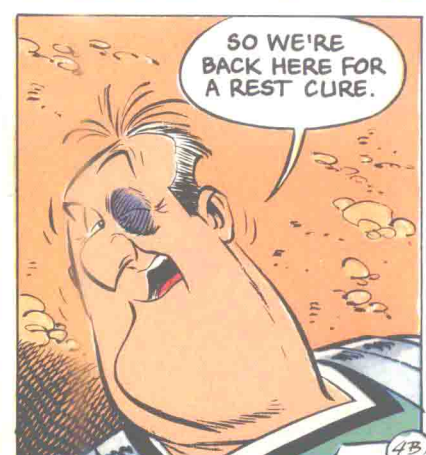
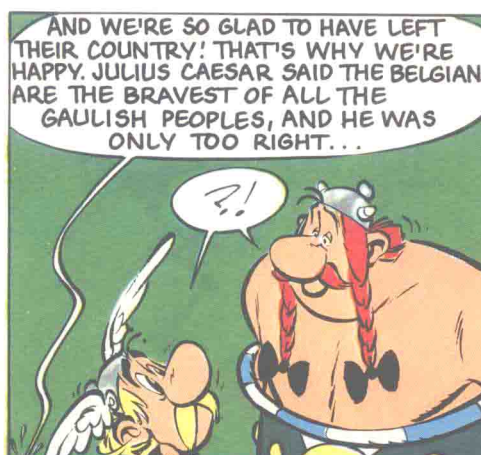
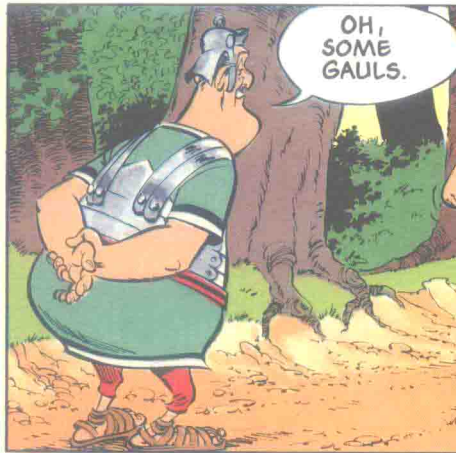














## A REST CURE?

THEY'RE SENDING ROMANS HERE FOR A REST CURE?

AND THE LEGIONARY TOLD US THAT AFTER THE BELGIANS, EVEN OBELIX THUMPING HIM WAS LOVELY.

AND THEY KEEP TELLING FUNNY STORIES ABOUT BELGIANS. THERE WAS ONE ABOUT KNOCKING NAILS INTO WALLS WITH THEIR HANDS, THE WAY I ALWAYS DO!

THERE'S NO NEED TO GET UPSET; I THINK IT'S RATHER PLEASING TO KNOW THE ROMANS COME HERE FOR A REST CURE.

RATHER PLEASING?

IF THIS SORT OF THING GOES ON, WE'LL HAVE EVERYONE COMING TO THE ARMORICAN COAST FOR THEIR HOLIDAYS TO ENJOY THE BRACING AIR, THE COUNTRYSIDE, THE FOOD...

WE'RE TURNING INTO A HOLIDAY CAMP FOR ROMANS, AND HE THINKS IT'S RATHER PLEASING! MAKES YOU WONDER IF IT WAS WORTH FIGHTING THE BATTLE OF GERGOVIA AT ALL!

DON'T GET SO UPSET, PIGGYWIGGY. IT WAS ONLY A COMMON LEGIONARY'S OPINION. JULIUS CAESAR VALUES YOU AT YOUR TRUE WORTH.

THE FACT IS...

THE FACT IS WHAT?

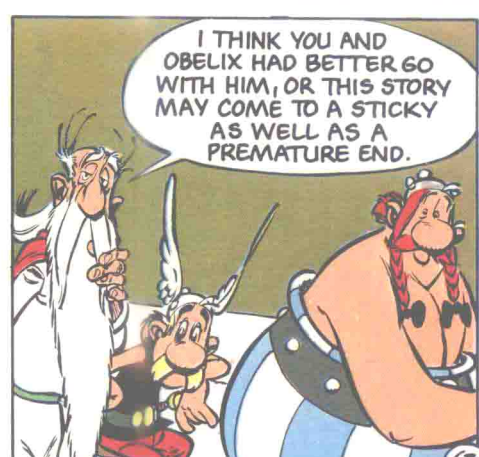
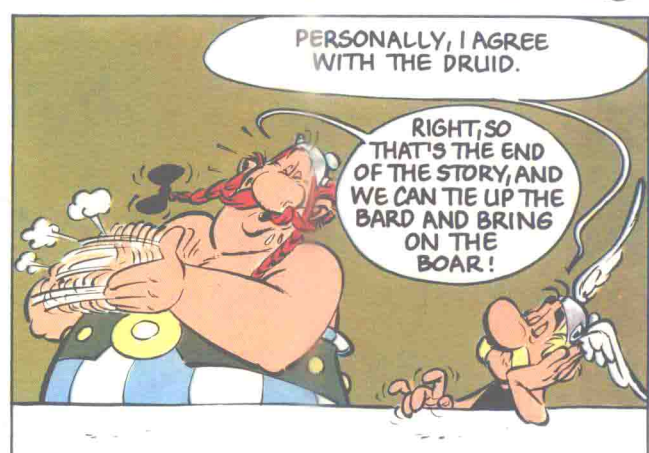
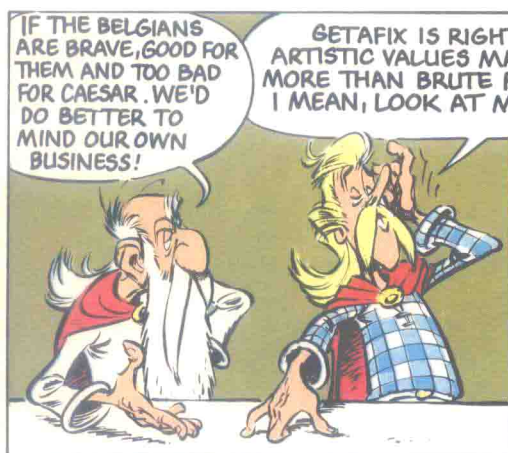
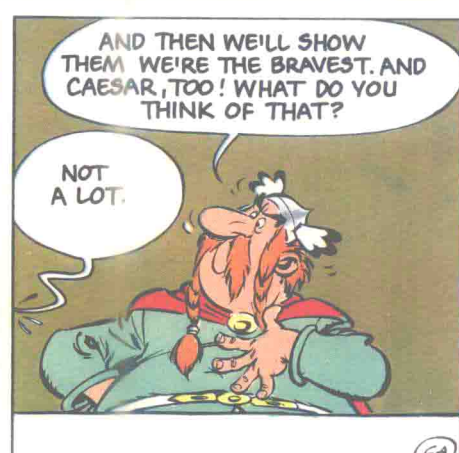
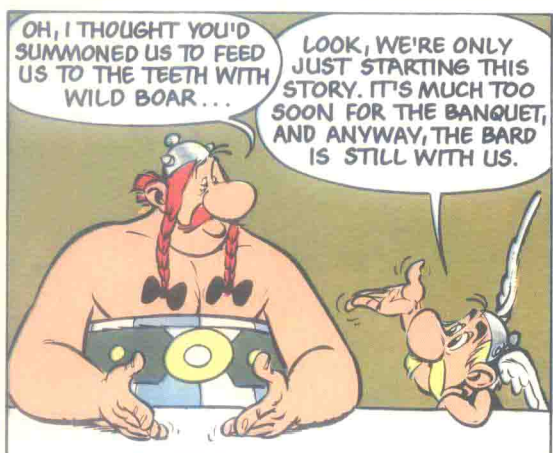
JULIUS CAESAR SAID THE BELGIANS WERE THE BRAVEST OF ALL THE GAULISH PEOPLES.

OH, SO THAT'S WHAT CAESAR SAID, IS IT? RIGHT, YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK OF CAESAR?

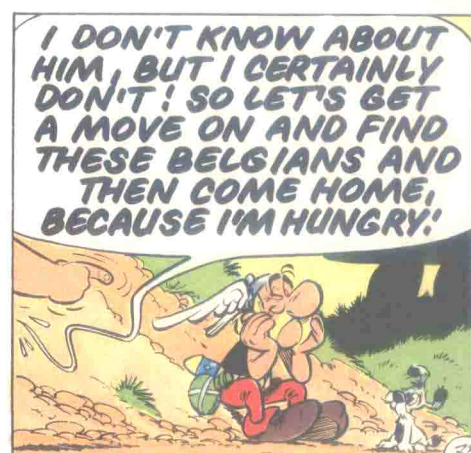
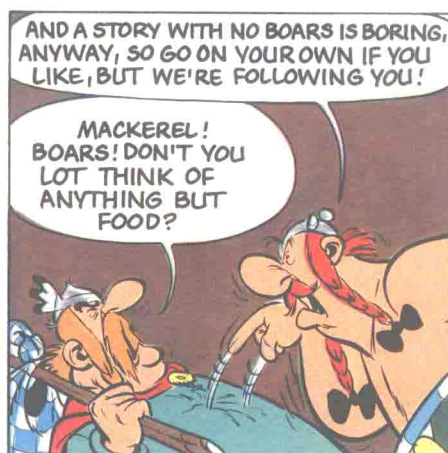
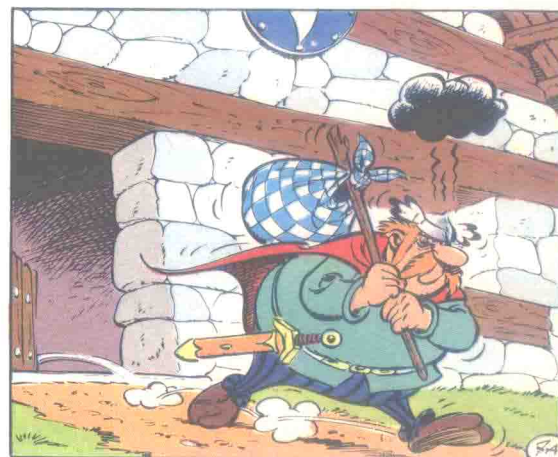
PIGGYWIGGY, IF YOU WANT TO BE COARSE, GO AND BE COARSE ELSEWHERE!

YOU BET I WILL! I'M CALLING A VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING STRAIGHT AWAY!

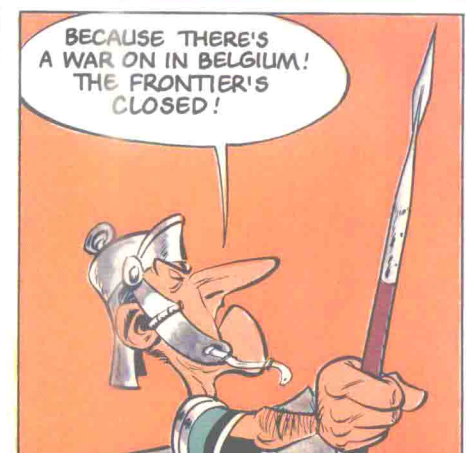
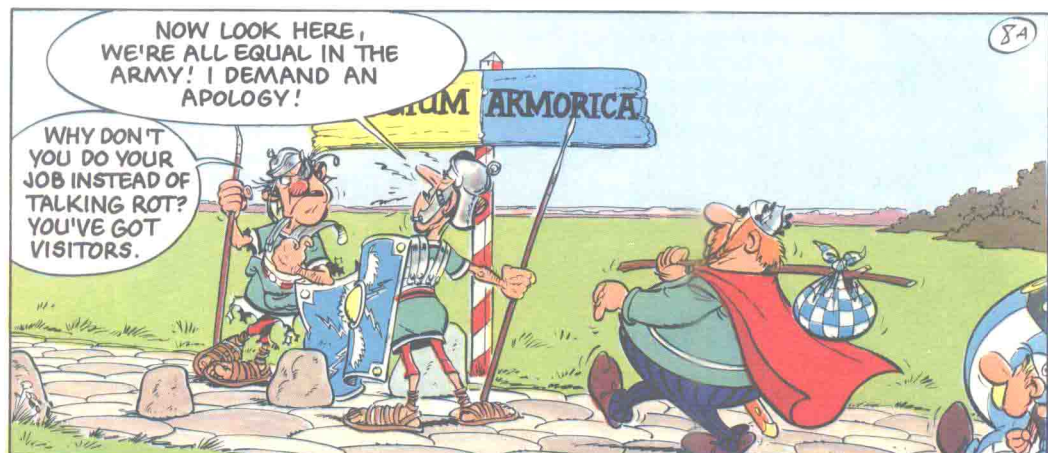
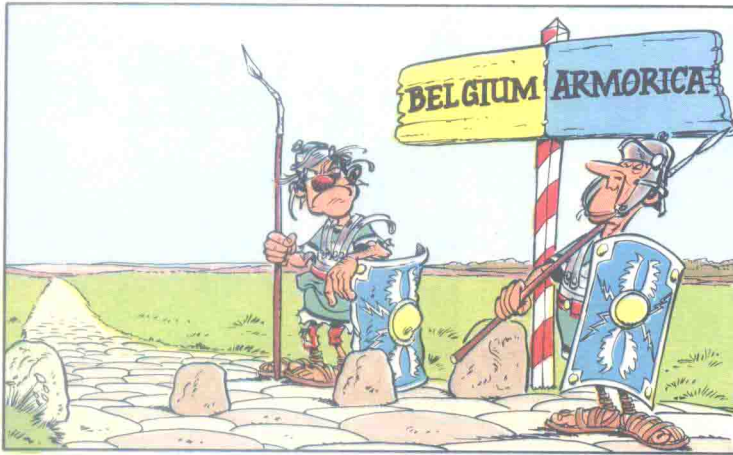








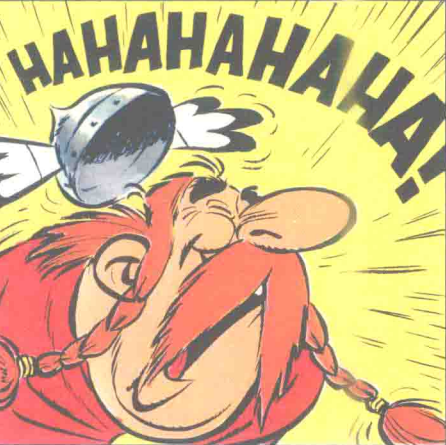
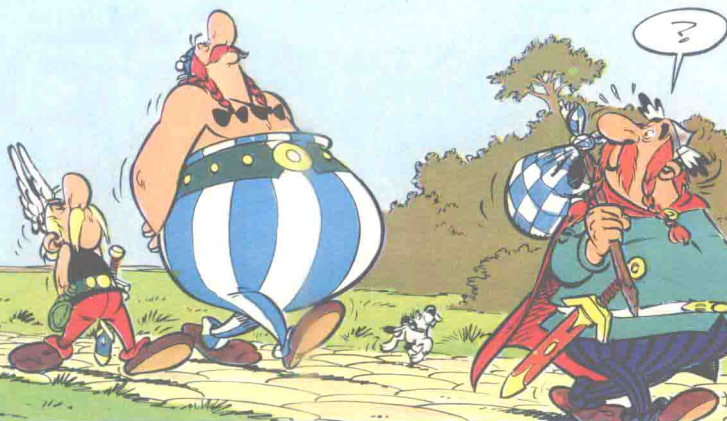






O VITALSTATISTIX,  
WHY DON'T YOU STOP  
SULKING NOW WE'RE  
IN THE BELGIANS'  
COUNTRY?

YOU  
KNOW WHAT WE'RE  
GOING TO DO? WE'RE  
GOING TO SULK  
TOO!



SEE THAT? HE CAN STILL LAUGH. I WAS  
BEGINNING TO WONDER... THAT'S THE  
FIRST TIME SINCE WE LEFT THE  
VILLAGE!

HE DIDN'T EVEN  
LAUGH WHEN I  
PUSHED THAT INN  
OVER AT \*SAM-  
AROBIVA...

HOHOHO!

OR WHEN THEY TRIED  
TO TELL US PEDES-  
TRIANS WEREN'T  
ALLOWED ON THE  
CHARIOTWAY!

IT'LL TAKE THEM  
CENTURIES TO THINK  
UP A DAFT IDEA  
LIKE THAT ONE  
AGAIN!

HOHOHO!  
STOP! THIS IS  
TOO MUCH FOR  
ME! HAHAHA!

\*Amiens

HAHAHAHAHA!

I HAVE TO  
ADMIT, TRAVELLING  
WITH YOU TWO IS  
NEVER BORING!

Teeheehee!

HEY,  
YOU!

NOT  
DISTURBING  
YOU, ARE  
WE?



