Rennes

Rennes (pronounced as "Ren") has long been a city of strategic importance in northwestern France.

The Celtic tribe that originally built the town fought against the Romans for many years before finally becoming part of the Roman Empire. The city was later given a red brick wall by the Romans to help protect it. Parts of this wall still exist.

Rennes was one of the last strongholds of Roman ideas in the west after the collapse of the Empire. The city held out against attacks by the Franks and the Visigoths, even though all the area around them was conquered.

The Bretons, immigrants from England, absorbed Rennes through peaceful means in 851. Rennes later became the only city to hold out against attacks from France, until the Bretons signed a peace treaty and joined France in 1491.

Rennes was the site of large prisoner of war camps during the Second World War, and suffered bombings from both the Nazis and the Allies.

Population: 206,604

486 kilometres to Paris!