# A V A R I C V M

## Caesar's *Gallic War* **VII 1–28**

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with Running Vocabulary and Commentary

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# ABOUT THIS EDITION

This book is the culmination of student work in the advanced Latin course at Stanford Online High School in the academic year 2022-2023. It is the first of three planned books covering Caesar's *dē bellō Gallicō* VII. The content of Pixelia volumes is generated primarily by the students and is meant to aid intermediate Latin learners in reading texts without the need to constantly consult separate dictionaries and commentaries. John Lanier taught the course and devised the division of Book VII into three parts, such that each part was of the appropriate length for the students to complete in one academic year and roughly equivalent in content. AVARICVM includes chapters 1-28, roughly 3,700 words, covering the events of Book VII up to the fall of Avaricum. The second volume (GERGOVIA; chapters 29-62, ca. 4,400 words) and third volume (ALESIA: chapters 63-90, ca. 3,600 words) will follow in subsequent years.

The student editors of AVARICVM were Elizabeth Cross, Katherine Cross, Lian E, Zachary Shepherd Haarz, Fiona Lee, Peter Olmeda, Clara Grey Peters, and Marilia Chiu Serôdio. We subdivided the text of Chapters 1-28 such that each student was the editor of their own section of ca. 400 words. As a first task, the students developed working translations of their sections in order to get a sense of the Latin and the basic narrative; they next developed the on-page vocabulary glosses; they then added and revised macrons[1] for all Latin text and vocabulary; and, finally, each student wrote explanatory commentary. The students

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[1] The macrons were added through a web app (alatius.com/macronizer), which is highly accurate but does require occasional corrections.

were peer reviewers for each other at each step of the process, with Lanier as supervisor, final revisor, cartographer, and Introduction author.

Caesar has been a staple of Latin classrooms for centuries. His language is relatively straight-forward for beginners, and even in his own day it was a model for good Latin style (see, e.g., Cicero *Brutus* 262). Yet we should not take canonical status for granted, and in Caesar's case re-examination is particularly warranted. The *Gallic War*, for all its good style, was written as a justification for imperialism; or at least, the book was written about an imperial conquest, by the general carrying out that conquest, who presumably wrote it in a way that he thought would resonate with his audience back home. As for the book's traditional place in Latin classrooms over the last few centuries: it might well have had a certain appeal in early modern nations, like Britain and France, which had their own ambitions of imperial expansion. These same reasons might make Caesar less appealing today. And yet, *Gallic War* is an interesting and important text for students not despite this history but because of it.

*Gallic War* is a valuable witness to imperial expansion and its justification. In the space of a few hundred years, Rome grew from a village in central Italy to an empire encompassing nearly the whole Mediterranean world. What did Romans think of this expansion? How did Roman leaders justify it? Caesar's *Gallic War* provides a glimpse. Interestingly, it is not a text that downplays the violence of empire, nor does it show conquest to be an unalloyed good. It is Caesar himself who writes that at the sack of Avaricum, his troops massacred 40,000 inhabitants, sparing "not the elderly, nor women, nor children" (7.28.4). Though Caesar's commentaries are sometimes dismissed as self-aggrandizing propaganda, he often presents a Gallic perspective which is sympathetic and complex:

Book VII is filled with Caesar's observations about his opponents' motivations, and he frequently presents Gallic speech, or at least what he supposes Gallic speeches to contain: the Gauls are cunning, creative, brave, tenacious, patriotic, but also self-serving, greedy, fractious, and impetuous—in other words, very much like Caesar's peers back in Rome.

This complexity is particularly evident in Book VII, which narrates the final attempt of the Gauls to fight for their freedom under the leadership of the Gallic chieftain Vercingetorix. He is, for Caesar, the Gallic Hannibal or Mithridates, a brilliant and charismatic leader who is able, for perhaps the first time, to fully marshal the latent strength of a united Gaul and oppose Caesar on something like equal footing. He rallies the Gauls with impassioned calls for *lībertās*, a value which Romans held dearly (7.4.4). *Gallic War* Book VII is an ideal text for students because it allows them to experience, in Latin, a pivotal moment in history from the complex perspective of one of its chief actors.

The current book was born out of Lanier's wish to read Caesar's *Gallic War* VII selections with students in the advanced Latin course several years ago. At that time, options for a modern edition of *BG* VII with running commentary (in English) were quite limited, the most notable being Whiteley's "blue" Bristol edition. This book is sometimes difficult to acquire new, and the price of secondary copies is often prohibitive. In addition, Lanier felt the commentary to be somewhat sparse for Latin readers at the advanced high school level and wanted same-page vocabulary and commentary (on the model of Pharr's *Aeneid* or Geoffrey Steadman's excellent Greek and Latin editions, to which paradigm previous Pixelia editions have also adhered). Steadman has put out an edition of *BG* I and an edition of selections of Caesar in his *College Caesar* (though the latter does not draw from *BG* VII). It is our hope that this

book, along with the two subsequent volumes, will serve as an accessible and useful guide in reading the lengthy and often difficult seventh book of Caesar's *Gallic War*.

The Latin text in this volume comes from the Loeb edition of 1919, in consultation with the Oxford Classical Text and its *apparatus criticus*. We have made no substantial changes to the text and encountered no major textual difficulties in these first 28 chapters of *BG* VII.

# INTRODUCTION

### *BG* VII in context

In the winter of 53 BCE, Caesar crossed the Alps back into northern Italy
with a sense that Gaul was finally *quiēta,* if not *pācāta*. He had been
waging war there for over five years already. The conflict had begun as a
swift preventative action against the Helvetii as they attempted to move
their entire tribe through the territory of the Roman province of *Gallia
Trānsalpīna*. Caesar's defensive action, at the very beginning of his tenure
in *Gallia Trānsalpīna*, steadily transformed into a campaign of conquest
and subjugation which stretched far beyond the boundaries of his
province. During those five years his force had grown to ten legions,
some 50,000 soldiers all told. They had battled across Gaul numerous
times on land and sea, ventured to Britain, bridged the Rhine twice, and
withstood several serious challenges to the incremental establishment of
Roman domination.

A year earlier, in 54 BCE, the most recent of these "rebellions," a surprise
attack by the Gallic champion Ambiorix, had killed thousands of Roman
soldiers and two of Caesar's most trusted lieutenants. He responded
swiftly and severely with the widespread devastation of the lands of those
he held responsible, as well as the summary execution of the Gallic leader
Acco (*BG* 6.44; 7.1). He hoped that these harsh measures would finally
end Gallic resistance to what must have seemed to him to be inevitable:
the organization of the vast Gallic territory he had seized into Roman
provincial possessions. As he returned to northern Italy to attend to his
gubernatorial tasks at the end of 53, his attention was surely already
turning to the details of this process, and also to the simmering political

turmoil back in Rome, about which he makes brief mention in the opening chapter of Book VII. He had no way of knowing, as the new year began and as the miles grew between himself and his legions back in winter camps in central Gaul, that the Gallic tribes were not *quiētī* by any means and would soon explode with their final and most desperate bid for *lībertās*.

Book VII of *Gallic War* chronicles this final struggle of the Gauls against Roman domination. It begins, as was typical for these Gallic uprisings, with the leaders of the tribes holding a secret meeting. In past years, many had instigated uprisings and had been cast down by Caesar's reprisal: the Belgae in 57, the Veneti in 56, the Morini in 55, Ambiorix and his Eburones and then Indutiomarus and his Treveri in 54, Acco and the Senones in 53. This time, the instigator is the Carnutes tribe, and the epicenter is their chief town, Cenabum, where they slaughter a number of unsuspecting Roman businessmen. These *negōtiātōrēs* had no doubt been busy with the various tasks of converting Gaul into a productive Roman possession: organizing slave routes, assessing mining potential, surveying arable land. Now their slaying became Caesar's justification for the wrathful campaign which follows. Cenabum's inhabitants will experience Roman retribution (see Appendix C), but not before the uprising begun by the Carnutes had spread to a powerful coalition of tribes led by the Arverni and their electric and effective new leader, Vercingetorix, who promises *lībertās commūnis* from Roman *servitūs* for all the Gauls (7.4.4).

For a detailed introduction to Gaul, Caesar, and *Gallic War*, consult the excellent open-access Web Essays[2] provided as part of the *Landmark Julius Caesar*, edited and translated by Kurt A. Raaflaub (New York: Pantheon Books, 2017). In particular, students new to *Gallic War* will find useful: *Gaul in Caesar's Time* by O. Büchsenschütz; *Oppida: Towns in Caesar's World* by I. Ralston; *Late Republican Provincial Administration* by N. Rosenstein; *The Roman Army Camp* by D.B. Campbell; *Military Engineering and Sieges* by D.B. Campbell; *Military Logistics* by N. Rosenstein; *Caesar the General and Leader* by L. De Blois; and *The Roman* Commentarius *and Caesar's Commentaries* by K.A. Raaflaub.

**Timeline of events for *Gallic War* I–VI** (all dates are BCE)

### BOOK I

**1.1–5** (61-Spring 58): The Helvetii are persuaded by Orgetorix, an ambitious Helvetian leader, to migrate from their country. They burn their homes and prepare for a long journey.

**1.6–9** (Mar-April 58): The Helvetii try to pass through the Roman Province on their migration, but Caesar prevents them. They instead pass through the territory of the Sequani.

**1.10–15** (April-June 58): Caesar grows concerned about the Helvetian migration and decides to intervene, pursuing the Helvetii on their march. The Helvetii harass the Romans.

**1.16–20** (June 58): Caesar learns from Liscus, the chief official of the Aedui, that Dumnorix has been building an opposing faction within the Aedui to undermine Roman influence. Caesar places him under guard.

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[2] Visit thelandmarkcaesar.com

**1.21–29** (June-July 58): Caesar launches an attack against the Helvetii. After a difficult battle, the Helvetii surrender, and Caesar pursues and captures a group of Helvetian runaways.

**1.30–36** (July-Aug 58): Gallic emissaries come to thank Caesar and hold a Gallic council, led by the druid Diviciacus. He informs Caesar that the German king, Ariovistus, has settled in Sequani territory, and the Gauls need Roman assistance. Caesar promises his help and exchanges messages with the hostile Ariovistus, who does not respond to his warnings.

**1.37–45** (Aug-Sep 58): The Romans advance towards Ariovistus. Caesar and Ariovistus meet, each with a group of cavalry; Caesar reiterates his demands, which Ariovistus again refuses.

**1.46–50** (Sep 58): After the German horsemen attack Caesar during the parley, hostilities ensue. Caesar leaves his forces in battle formation, but Ariovistus declines to fight a decisive battle.

**1.51–54** (Sep-Oct 58): Caesar forces the Germans to react by closely approaching their camp. The two armies clash, and the Germans flee to the Rhine; Ariovistus escapes. Caesar leads his army to winter quarters among the Sequani.


## BOOK II

**2.1–4** (Winter 58-July 57): Caesar learns that the Belgae are plotting against the Romans and joins his army at Vesontio, an *oppidum* of the Sequani. The Remi, one of the Belgae tribes, surrender to Caesar.

**2.5–11** (July-Aug 57): Caesar saves the Remi *oppidum* of Bibrax from an attack by the Belgae and they make a camp nearby. The Romans and Belgae do battle, and after suffering heavy losses, the Belgae decide to return home; the Romans pursue and slaughter them.

**2.12–14** (Aug 57): Caesar leads his army to Noviodunum, the capital of the Suessiones. The Suessiones surrender, followed by the Bellovaci and the Ambiani.

**2.15–18** (Aug 57): The Nervii, neighbors of the Ambiani, resent the other Belgae for surrendering, and lie in wait for the Romans across the Sabis River.

**2.19–28** (Aug-Sep 57): Caesar leads a difficult battle against the courageous Nervii. Following a decisive Roman victory, the Nervii women and elders surrender, and Caesar treats them with mercy.

**2.29–33** (Sep-Oct 57): The Atuatuci, who were on their way to assist the Nervii, move everything to a single fortified town, where they are besieged by the Romans. Caesar agrees to spare them if they give up their weapons; they agree, but only give up two-thirds of their weapons. After a failed sortie, they are defeated and sold into slavery.

**2.34–35** (Oct-Nov 57): Caesar learns that the maritime Gauls have surrendered to his legate, Crassus. He declares that all of Gaul has been pacified and sends his legions to winter quarters; the Roman Senate decrees a fifteen-day public thanksgiving.

## BOOK III

**3.1–6** (Sep-Nov 57): After the legate Galba opens a safe route through the Alps, the Gauls attack at Octodorus. The Romans kill a third of the 30,000 Gauls with a final charge.

**3.7–16** (Dec 57-Sep 56): The maritime Veneti tribe takes Roman officials hostage; other tribes follow suit. After a meeting with the other triumvirs Pompey and Crassus in northern Italy, Caesar hurries to the western

Gallic coast. He orders a fleet to be built and sends legates with forces to stop the troubles from spreading. He then defeats the Veneti on the sea and punishes them.

**3.17–19** (July–Sep 56 BC): Caesar sends the legate Sabinus against the Venelli. He defeats them after baiting them to attack by feigning cowardice. The entire region surrenders.

**3.20–22** (Aug–Sep 56 BC): The Sotiates attack the legate Crassus, but quickly surrender. The enemy commander Adiatunnus attacks separately but he soon surrenders as well.

**3.23–27** (Sep 56 BC): Crassus then sets out against the Vocates and Tarusates, and after storming their camp kills many. Most of Aquitania surrenders to Crassus.

**3.28–29** (Oct–Nov 56 BC): Caesar is unsuccessful in catching the last remaining tribes, the Morini and Menapii. He burns their crops and buildings before sending the legions to their winter camps.

## BOOK IV

**4.1–11** (Dec–Jun 55 BC): Caesar responds to German incursions into Gaul; he attempts negotiations.

**4.12–15** (May–Jun 55 BC): The Germans attack Caesar's unsuspecting army. Caesar leads the legions to the enemy camp and slaughters them.

**4.16–19** (Jun–Jul 55 BC): Caesar builds a bridge across the Rhine, then crosses into Germania to destroy Sugambri territory and help the Ubii. After eighteen days he returns and dismantles the bridge.

**4.20–27** (Jul–Sep 55 BC): Caesar decides to cross to Britain and gives his reasons. He assembles two legions and cavalry, but the cavalry get separated and do not arrive in Britain. The Romans force a landing against the resistance of the Britons on a beach overlooked by cliffs;

though they struggle in the deep water at first, the legions quickly defeat the Britons once they are able to assemble on the beach.

**4.28–36** (Sep-Oct 55 BC): The Roman ships are destroyed in a storm. Seeing this, the Britons violate their surrender terms and launch a surprise attack. Caesar is prepared and defeats them again. His soldiers manage to salvage some of the wrecked ships and the Romans limp back to Gaul.

**4.37–38** (Oct 55 BC): Roman cavalry saves some errant legionnaires from the Morini, then the legate Labienus defeats the Morini and ravages their territory. The legions go into winter camps and the Roman Senate decrees a twenty-day thanksgiving for the exploits of the year.

## BOOK V

**5.1–7** (Jan-July 54): Caesar resolves to return to Britain in force. He deals with Gallic factional strife while his legions build ships at his instruction. The fleet's departure from Portus Itius is delayed by bad weather; meanwhile he orders many of the Gallic *principēs* to accompany him to Britain. Dumnorix the Aeduan refuses, flees, and is killed.

**5.8–11** (July-Aug 54): The fleet lands in Britain and again a storm wrecks the ships. They are rebuilt and the Romans fortify a camp.

**5.12–14** (July-Aug 54): Caesar provides a brief ethnography of the Britons.

**5.15–22** (Aug-Sep 54): Caesar leads the Romans across the Thames into the territories of the British king Cassivellaunus, who launches sporadic attacks against the incoming armies. Caesar locates and seizes the stronghold of Cassivellaunus, who then fails to storm the Roman camp; he surrenders.

**5.23–25** (Sep-Oct 54): The Romans return to Gaul. Caesar explains that due to a poor harvest the previous year, he is required to divide up his legions into more scattered winter camps than usual.

**5.26–31** (Nov 54): The legates Sabinus and Cotta command a winter camp of fifteen cohorts among the Eburones. Ambiorix, their king, gives them warning of a coming pan-Gallic attack. In a debate, Sabinus suggests they evacuate the camp before the attack arrives, while Cotta advises that they remain and wait for Caesar's commands. Sabinus prevails, and the army leaves the camp at dawn.

**5.32–39** (Nov 54): The departing Romans are ambushed by Ambiorix and are destroyed, despite their pleas for mercy. Emboldened by this success, the Nervii join the Eburones and they attack the legate Q. Cicero's camp of one legion in their territory.

**5.40–48** (Nov 54): Q. Cicero rejects the Gauls' invitations to negotiate; in response, they surround the Roman camp and set it on fire. Refusing to submit, the Romans' numbers dwindle until word of the attack finally reaches Caesar, who quickly sends reinforcements.

**5.49–53** (Dec 54): The Gauls move to face the approaching reinforcements. The Romans pretend to be afraid and unprepared; the Gauls fall for the trap and are chased away. Caesar joins Cicero and offers praise for his level-headed conduct. Word of this victory spreads, delighting the Romans and discouraging the Gauls.

**5.54–58** (Winter 54-53): Hearing word of rebellions, Caesar subdues the Gauls with threats and entreaties. Indutiomarus of the Treveri gathers troops and attacks the legate Labienus, who feigns fear until his cavalry is dispatched. Indutiomarus is killed and peace returns to Gaul.

# BOOK VI

**6.1–8** (Mar-June 53): Continued signs of trouble in Gaul and from beyond the Rhine compel Caesar to launch a campaign early in the year. He begins with the Nervii, quickly subdues them, and calls all the leaders of Gaul to him. Those that do not show up are assumed to be hostile. The Gallic chief Acco begins an uprising among the Senones. Caesar plans to isolate Ambiorix by denying him support from other Gallic tribes, and defeats the Senones, Carnutes, and Menapii in swift succession. The Romans ravage the territory of the Menapii. The Treveri are then subdued.

**6.9–10** (July-Aug 53): Caesar bridges the Rhine for a second time and discovers that the Suebi have mobilized, but will not face the Romans in battle.

**6.11–28** (Summer 53): Caesar provides a lengthy ethnographic description of the Gauls and Germans.

**6.30–34** (Sep 53): Caesar returns to Gaul, destroys the bridge, and attempts to apprehend Ambiorix in the Ardennes with cavalry. Ambiorix eludes capture and instructs the Eburones to scatter and hide. Caesar splits the legions into three forces and leaves their baggage train with the legate Q. Cicero at Atuatuca, an *oppidum* of the Eburones. The legions devastate the lands of the absent Eburones and invite the neighboring Gallic tribes to do likewise.

**6.35–42** (Sep-Oct 53): The Germanic Sugambri cross the Rhine to join in the plunder, but are enticed by the prospect of looting the Roman baggage stored at Q. Cicero's camp. Unaware, Cicero sends out foraging parties which are ambushed, resulting in many casualties. Despite this, the camp manages to fend off the attack and the Sugambri return to Germania empty-handed. Caesar returns to the camp and criticizes Q. Cicero for not following his instructions.

**6.43–44** (Oct–Dec 53): Frustrated by his inability to apprehend Ambiorix, Caesar orders the legions to continue their campaign of scorched earth. At the close of the year he returns to Durocortum, an *oppidum* of the Remi, and orders Acco to be executed. He then sends the legions into their winter camps and returns to Cisalpine Gaul.

The major tribes and towns of Gaul in the mid-1st century BCE

# ABBREVIATIONS

abl: ablative

abs.: absolute

acc: accusative

*BG*: *dē bellō Gallicō*

*BC*: *bellum cīvile*

Caes.: Caesar

cl.: clause

dat: dative

e.g.: for example

fut.: future

gen: genitive

impers.: impersonal

impf.: imperfect

ind.: indirect

infin.: infinitive

lit.: literally

nom: nominative

part.: participle

pass.: passive

perf.: perfect

pl.: plural

PPP: perf. pass. part.

prep: preposition

pres.: present

rel.: relative

sc.: supply

sing.: singular

st.: statement

Verc.: Vercingetorix

# AVARICVM

*dē bellō Gallicō* VII 1–28

with Running Vocabulary and Commentary

## [1] *The Gauls plan a new uprising*

1 Quiētā Galliā Caesar, ut cōnstituerat, in Ītaliam ad conventūs agendōs proficīscitur. Ibi cognōscit dē Clōdiī caede senātūsque cōnsultō certior factus, ut omnēs iūniōrēs Ītaliae coniūrārent, dēlēctum tōtā prōvinciā habēre īnstituit. 2 Eae rēs in Galliam Trānsalpīnam celeriter perferuntur. Addunt ipsī et adfingunt rūmōribus Gallī, quod rēs poscere vidēbātur,

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**addō, –ere, –idī, –itus**: add, insert, attach to, say in addition; increase

**adfingō, –ere, –īnxī, –ictus**: embellish; add to, attach; aggravate

**caedis, –is f.**: murder, assassination

**cōnsultum, –ī n.**: decision, resolution, plan; decree

**conventus, –ūs m.**: meeting, congregation, judicial assembly

**dēlēctus, –ūs m.**: levy, draft, conscription

**īnstituō, –ere, –ī, –ūtus**: establish; begin; determine, decide, resolve

**poscō, –ere, poposcī, —**: ask, demand

**quiētus, a, um**: inactive, calm

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**Galliā**: for a brief introduction of the situation, see Introduction; for "Gauls" and other proper names in the text, see Appendix B

**ut cōnstituerat**: *as he had decided, determined*

**in Ītaliam ad conventūs**: Cisalpine Gaul. Roman provincial governors held judicial assemblies in their territories

**senātūsque cōnsultō...coniūrārent**: *and became better informed about the Senate's decree that all the young men of military age in Italy take the oath for military service*; this was a cautionary move by the Senate, and Caesar obeys the directive in the Italian (Cisalpine) portion of his province

**quod rēs poscere vidēbātur**: *which the situation seemed to demand/make inevitable*

retinērī urbānō mōtū Caesarem neque in tantīs
dissēnsiōnibus ad exercitum venīre posse. 3 Hāc impulsī
occāsiōne, quī iam ante sē populī Rōmānī imperiō subiectōs
dolērent līberius atque audācius dē bellō cōnsilia inīre
incipiunt. 4 Indictīs inter sē principēs Galliae conciliīs
silvestribus ac remōtīs locīs queruntur dē Accōnis morte;

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**audācter**: boldly, audaciously,
  confidently, fearlessly; impudently

**concilium, –ī n.**: public gathering,
  meeting; popular assembly,
  council

**dissēnsiō, –ōnis f.**: disagreement,
  quarrel; dissension, conflict

**impellō, –ere, impulī, impulsus**:
  drive, impel; urge on, incite

**indicō (1)**: declare publicly;
  proclaim, announce; appoint

**inēo, inīre, iniī, initus**: enter;
  enter into; begin

**līber, lībera, līberum**: free,
  unrestricted

**mors, mortis f.**: death

**occāsiō, –ōnis f.**: opportunity;
  chance; pretext, occasion

**queror, querī, questus**: complain;
  protest, grumble, gripe

**remōtus, –a, –um**: remote; distant,
  far off; removed, withdrawn

**retineō, –ēre, –uī, retentus**: hold
  back, restrain; uphold; delay

**silvestris, –e**: wooded

**subiciō, –ere, subiēcī, subiectus**:
  throw under, place under; subdue;
  subject, submit

---

**retinērī, posse**: infinitive main verbs in ind. statement with subject *Caesarem*

**urbānō mōtū**: *by the urban commotion*; i.e. the unrest in the Roman capital

**impulsī**: *having been impelled*; PPP modifying *quī*

**subiectōs**: sc. *esse*; main verb of indirect statement introduced by *dolērent*

**dē Accōnis morte**: Acco had instigated a rebellion against Caesar among the
  Senones (*BG* 6.4.1), and was later harshly punished by Caesar: he was stripped,
  flogged to death, and then the corpse's head was removed (*BG* 6.44.2)

5 posse hunc cāsum ad ipsōs recidere dēmōnstrant;
miserantur commūnem Galliae fortūnam; omnibus
pollicitātiōnibus ac praemiīs dēposcunt quī bellī initium
faciant et suī capitis perīculō Galliam in lībertātem vindicent.
6 In prīmīs ratiōnem esse habendam dīcunt, priusquam
eōrum clandēstīna cōnsilia efferantur, ut Caesar ab exercitū
interclūdātur.

---

**cāsus, -ūs m.**: incident; misfortune, calamity, plight

**clandēstīnus, -a, -um**: secret, hidden, concealed, clandestine

**commūnis, -e**: common, joint, public; general, universal

**dēposcō, -scere, -poscī, —**: demand; ask for earnestly; require

**efferō, efferre, extulī, ēlātus**: carry out; bring out; carry out for burial

**interclūdō, -ere, -ūsī, -ūsus**: cut off; blockade; hinder, block up

**miseror, -ārī, -ātus**: pity, feel sorry for; lament, bemoan

**pollicitātiō, -ōnis f.**: promise

**priusquam**: before; until; sooner than

**recidō, -ere, -ī, recāsus**: fall back, relapse, revert; fall upon, happen to

---

**quī:** relative clause of characteristic; they seek a tribe who have the right mindset to instigate the rebellion

**in lībertātem vindicent:** *set free* (idiom)

**capitis perīculō:** *from danger to their lives* (idiom)

**in prīmīs ratiōnem…dīcunt:** *they say that first of all, [the following] plan…*; the *ratiō* is specified by the upcoming *ut* clause

Id esse facile, 7 quod neque legiōnēs audeant absente imperātōre ex hībernīs ēgredī, neque imperātor sine praesidiō ad legiōnēs pervenīre possit. 8 Postrēmō in aciē praestāre interficī quam nōn veterem bellī glōriam lībertātemque quam ā maiōribus accēperint recuperāre.

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**audeō, –ēre, ausī, ausus:** dare, act boldly, venture, risk

**hīberna, –ōrum n.pl.:** winter camp, winter quarters

**interficiō, –ere, –fēcī, –fectus:** kill; destroy

**maiōrēs, –um m. pl.:** ancestors

**postrēmō:** at last, finally

**praestō (1):** excel, surpass, be preferable to

**recuperō (1):** regain, restore, restore to health; refresh, recuperate

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**Id esse facile:** infin. in indirect statement continuing from the previous sentence

**audeant…possit:** *will not dare…will not be able*; verbs in subordinate clauses within indirect statement are typically subjunctive

**praestāre, interficī, recuperāre:** *[they say that] it is preferable*; *praestāre* continues the ind. statement; *interficī* and *recuperāre* are compl. infinitives with *praestare*

**lībertātem:** The Gauls in *BG* consistently invoke the concept, both from the domination of each other (*BG* 1.17.3–4) and in the face of servitude to the Romans (*in eā lībertāte quam ā maiōribus accēperint permanēre quam Rōmānōrum servitūtem perferre mālint, BG* 3.8.4). Caesar suggests that all Gauls yearn for freedom inherently and are therefore easily incited to rebellion (*BG* 3.10.3). He further sees *lībertās* as the absence of *officium* and *disciplīna* (*BG* 4.1.9, in ref. to the Germans). Here, Verc. reiterates that *lībertās* is an ancient privilege common to all Gauls (cf. *BG* 5.27.6; 7.4.4 below; 7.37.2–4; 7.64.3; 7.71.3) and a prime motivator in their past and present uprisings (*BG* 7.76.2; 7.89.1–2; cf. 7.77.9–16). See Robin Seager in *Caesar against Liberty?*, ed. Cairns and Fantham (2003), 22–26

**quam:** *rather than*, with the implicit comparison of *praestāre*; the second *quam* is relative pronoun

## [2] *The Carnutes offer to begin the war, and ask for pledges*

1 Hīs rēbus agitātīs profitentur Carnūtēs sē nūllum perīculum commūnis salūtis causā recūsāre principēsque ex omnibus bellum factūrōs pollicentur et, 2 quoniam in praesentiā obsidibus cavēre inter sē nōn possint nē rēs efferātur, ut iūreiūrandō ac fidē sanciātur petunt, collātīs mīlitāribus signīs (quō mōre eōrum gravissima caerimōnia continētur), nē factō initiō bellī ab reliquīs dēserantur.

---

**agitō (1)**: drive; set in motion

**caerimōnia, –ae f.**: sacred rite

**caveō, –ēre, –ī, cautus**: avoid; take precautions

**contineō, –ēre, –uī, –entus**: hold together; secure

**dēserō, –ere, –uī, –tus**: desert

**fidēs, –eī f.**: faith

**gravis, –e**: heavy; serious; severe

**iūsiūrandum, –ī n.**: oath

**mīlitāris, –e**: of the military

**mōs, mōris m.**: habit, custom

**polliceor, –ērī, –itus**: promise

**praesentia, –ae f.**: present (time)

**profiteor, –ērī, –fessus**: declare

**recūsō (1):** refuse, reject

**sanciō, –īre, sānxī, –ctus**: make sacred; confirm

---

**1–2**: see Appendix A for a basic diagram of this sentence

**causā:** *for the sake of*

**factūrōs:** sc. *esse*

**obsidibus:** ablative of means

**ut…sanciātur:** *that it be solemnly assured by oath-swearing and trust*; this *ut*, with the subjunctive verb *sanciātur*, introduces an indirect command that functions as the object of main verb *petunt*

**petunt:** main verb introducing indirect command; subject is the Carnutes

**nē…dēserantur:** this noun clause serves as the subject of passive verb *sanciātur*, and explains the contents of the Gauls' oath

3 Tum, collaudātīs Carnūtibus, datō iūreiūrandō ab omnibus quī aderant, tempore eius reī cōnstitūtō ab conciliō discēditur.

---

**adsum, –esse, adfuī, –futūrus**: be in attendance
**collaudō (1)**: commend
**concilium, –ī n.**: council

**cōnstituō, –ere, –uī, –ūtus**: set, station; draw up; halt; decide
**iūsiūrandum, –ī n.**: oath

---

**tempore eius reī cōnstitūtō**: *with the time of their deed being arranged*; abl. abs.
**cōnstitūtō**: the basic meaning of this verb is to place or establish, to halt, or to build something; in Caesar, it very often means to decide or resolve, except in the context of armies, when it usually means "draw up, muster, put in place"
**ab conciliō**: In addition to the fact that the Carnutes were the instigators of this most recent initiative, the territory of the Carnutes was a natural place for meetings between the various Gallic tribes, given the central location (see Introduction map). Caesar says that all the druids of Gaul assemble at a sacred place in the territory of the Carnutes (*in locō cōnsecrātō*, *BG* 6.13.10). Though he does not mention druids here, or in fact anywhere in *BG* VII, we can probably assume that these enigmatic priest-politicians were present at these important discussions. The Gauls in general seemed to have met *in conciliō* frequently, regardless of the tribes' varying political arrangements. For instance, in 58 BCE the assembled *principēs* of the Gauls had shown deference to Caesar (after the recent victory over the Helvetii) by asking his permission to have their council (*BG* 1.30-31). For war councils similar to the one here, see e.g. *BG* 2.10.4 and 3.18.3-6
**discēditur**: *they depart*; lit. "it is departed" (impers. pass.)

## [3] *The Carnutes kill the Roman traders at Cenabum*

1 Ubi ea diēs vēnit, Carnūtēs Cotuātō et Conconnetodumnō
ducibus, dēspērātīs hominibus, Cenabum signō datō
concurrunt cīvēsque Rōmānōs, quī negōtiandī causā ibi
cōnstiterant, in hīs Gāium Fūfium Citam, honestum equitem
Rōmānum, quī reī frūmentāriae iussū Caesaris praeerat,
interficiunt bonaque eōrum dīripiunt.

---

**concurrō, –ere, –ī, –sus**: assemble
  together; make haste; engage
**cōnsisto, –ere, –stitī, –stitus**: stop;
  settle
**dīripio, –ere, –uī, direptus**:
  plunder

**negōtior, –ārī, –ātus**: engage in
  business
**praesum, –esse, –fuī, –futūrus**: be
  in charge (of)

---

**Cenabum**: a town (*oppidum*) of the Carnutes, modern Orléans; it was a
  prosperous grain emporium controlling a key bridge over the Loire river
**Cotuātō et Conconnetodumnō ducibus, dēspērātīs hominibus**: *with nothing
  to lose*, *without hope,* or perhaps *reckless*; Caesar lists these two leaders the same
  way Romans would list the consuls of a given year. This same Cotuātus is
  mentioned again in *BG* book VIII under the alternate spelling "Gutuater"
**negōtiandī**: Roman citizens could be found well beyond the borders of the
  provinces; these were likely engaged in all manner of business, such as banking,
  money-lending, procuring slaves and supplies, arranging mining ventures, etc.
**in hīs**: *among whom*
**reī frūmentāriae**: *the grain supply*; dative indirect object of *praeerat*
**bona…dīripiunt**: *plundered their (the Romans') possessions*; the subject is the
  Carnutes

2 Celeriter ad omnēs Galliae cīvitātēs fāma perfertur. Nam ubicumque maior atque illūstrior incidit rēs, clāmōre per agrōs regiōnēsque significant; hunc aliī deinceps excipiunt et proximīs trādunt, ut tum accidit. 3 Nam quae Cenabī oriente sōle gesta essent, ante prīmam cōnfectam vigiliam in fīnibus Arvernōrum audīta sunt, quod spatium est mīlium passuum circiter centum LX.

---

**accidō, –ere, –ī**: occur; be heard

**clāmor, –is m.**: shout

**cōnficiō, –ere, -fēcī, -fectus**: make; prepare; complete

**deinceps**: in order; successively

**excipiō, –ere, -cēpī, -ceptus**: take up, receive; exempt; succeed

**illūstris, –tre**: noteworthy; clear, prominent; famous; bright

**incidō, –ere, –ī, —**: happen, visit

**perferō, –ferre, –tulī, –lātus**: carry through; announce

**proximus, –a, –um.**: nearest; adjoining

**significō (1)**: show, indicate

**sōl, sōlis m.**: the sun

**ubicumque**: wherever, in whatever place; in any place

**vigilia, –ae f.**: one shift of guard duty in the Roman system; there were four *vigiliae* per night

---

**significant:** the subject is the Gauls

**ut tum accidit**: *as happened at this time*

**quae…gesta essent**: *for although the deeds had been done at Cenabum at dawn;* indirect question – the *quae* here is equivalent to the adversative phrase *cum ea*, and has thus adopted an adversative force

**oriente sōle**: ablative of time when, with pres. part. from *orior*

**mīlium passuum circiter centum LX**: *about one hundred and sixty miles*; literally "a hundred and sixty thousands of paces," a Roman mile being (roughly) one thousand soldier's paces (including a step with left and right foot) or about 1480m

[4] *The entrance of Vercingetorix*

1 Similī ratiōne ibi Vercingetorīx, Celtillī fīlius, Arvernus, summae potentiae adulēscēns, cuius pater principātum Galliae tōtīus obtinuerat et ob eam causam, quod rēgnum appetēbat, ab cīvitāte erat interfectus, convocātīs suīs clientibus facile incendit.

---

**adulēscēns, –centis m./f.:** a youth
**appetō, –ere, –īvī, –ītus:** seek, desire; long for
**cōnvocō (1):** assemble, summon
**incendō, –ere, –dī, –census:** set fire to, inflame; rouse, incite
**obtineō, –ēre, –uī, –tentus:** get hold of; maintain; obtain

**potentia, –ae f.:** power; ability; virtue
**principātus, –ūs m.:** rule, dominion
**rēgnum, –ī n.:** kingship, rule; domain, a kingdom

---

**similī ratiōne:** *in like manner*; that is, Verc. attempts a similar agitation of the Arverni as had occurred among the Carnutes
**summae potentiae:** genitive of description; *potentia* can mean physical might, ability, or even virtue
**clientibus:** in Roman terms, *clientēs* were those in a position of obligation to a more powerful *patrōnus*; here and elsewhere Caesar employs the Roman concept to describe similar relationships among the Gauls. The Gallic *clientes*, as labeled by Caesar, were of lower status than other dependent members of Gallic society like *ambactī* (see *BG* 6.15.2) or *soldūriī* (*BG* 3.2.12)
**incendit:** Caesar's word choice here is noteworthy, as *incendit* translates literally as "set on fire," showing Verc.'s extraordinary ability to excite the crowds

2 Cōgnitō eius cōnsiliō ad arma concurritur. Prohibētur ab Gobannitīōne, patruō suō, reliquīsque principibus, quī hanc temptandam fortūnam nōn exīstimābant; expellitur ex oppidō Gergoviā; 3 nōn dēstitit tamen atque in agrīs habet dīlēctum egentium ac perditōrum. Hāc coāctā manū, quōscumque adit ex cīvitāte ad suam sententiam perdūcit;

---

**concurrō, –ere, –ī, –sus**: assemble together; make haste; engage

**dēsistō, –ere, –stitī, –stitus**: stop, cease, desist, leave off

**dīlēctus, –ūs m.**: draft, conscription, recruitment

**egēns, egentis**: poor, destitute

**perditus, –a, –um**: lost, desperate; corrupt, incorrigible

**perdūcō, –ere, –ūxī, –uctus**: lead, guide; prolong; induce, conduct

**quī–, quae–, quodcumque**: whoever, whatever

**temptō (1)**: test, try

---

**Gobannitīōne, patruō suō:** Verc.'s uncle

**principibus:** the most important individuals of the tribe or town

**hanc temptandam fortūnam:** *that this outcome must be attempted*

**nōn dēstitit tamen:** *nevertheless, he did not desist; tamen* is post-positive

**in agrīs habet dīlēctum egentium ac perditōrum:** Verc. is rejected by the elites in the urban areas, but finds support among the peasants in rural areas and those who are presumably fed up with the leadership

**Hāc coāctā manū:** *once he had gathered this band;* in military contexts, *manus* often translates as "[armed] group" or "band"

4 hortātur ut commūnis lībertātis causā arma capiant, magnīsque coāctīs cōpiīs adversāriōs suōs, ā quibus paulō ante erat ēiectus, expellit ex cīvitāte. 5 Rēx ab suīs appellātur. Dīmittit quōque versus lēgātiōnēs; obtestātur ut in fide maneant.

---

**appello (1)**: label as, apply to; call upon; address

**communis, –e**: common, joint, public; general, universal

**dīmittō, –ere, –mīsī, –missus**: send forth, distribute; scatter

**ēiciō, –ere, –iēcī, –iectus**: cast out, expel, discharge, exile

**expellō, –ere, –pulī, –pulsus**: drive out, expel, banish

**obtestor, –ārī, –ātus**: call as witness, swear; entreat, implore

**quis–, quae–, quodque**: each

**versus**: toward, in the direction of

---

**ā quibus paulō ante**: *by whom, a little while before*

**Rēx ab suīs appellātur:** Verc. has essentially engineered a rural popular uprising against the status quo leadership of the Arverni, promising "freedom for all Gauls." Such intra-tribal factional maneuvering is not uncommon (cf. *BG* 1.3-4, e.g.). The title of *rēx* is significant, as Verc.'s father had been executed by the Arverni for seeking that distinction (7.4.1). The Arverni were a powerful force in Gallic politics and enjoyed a long history of dominating other tribes (see Appendix B). In the coming conflict there will be a certain tension among the Gauls between suspicion of the hegemony of one tribe or leader and pursuit of freedom from Roman domination (see note on *lībertās* 7.1.8 above)

**quōque versus:** *towards each direction*, i.e. "in every direction;" *versus* is an adverb which tends to follow the word it modifies, and *quōque* here is not the adverb, but from *quisque* "each" (*quōque* [*locō*])

6 Celeriter sibi Sēnōnēs, Parīsiōs, Pictonēs, Cadurcōs, Turonōs, Aulercōs, Lemovīcēs, Andōs reliquōsque omnēs quī Ōceanum attingunt adiungit: omnium cōnsēnsū ad eum dēfertur imperium. 7 Quā oblātā potestāte omnibus hīs cīvitātibus obsidēs imperāt, certum numerum mīlitum ad sē celeriter addūcī iubet; 8 armōrum quantum quaeque cīvitās domī quodque ante tempus efficiat cōnstituit; in prīmīs equitātuī studet.

---

**adiungō, –ere, –xī, –ctus**: add, attach, support; apply to; harness

**attingō, –ere, –ī, attāctus**: touch, touch/border on; reach, arrive at

**cōnsēnsus, –ūs m.**: agreement, concord; plot, conspiracy

**dēferō, –ferre, –tulī, –lātus**: grant, confer; carry off, convey

**offerō, –ferre, –tulī, –lātus**: show, present; cause; confer; inflict

**studeō, –ēre, –uī, —**: (+ dat) be eager for, apply effort to

---

**reliquōsque omnēs:** there is an implied "tribes" here

**Quā oblātā potestāte omnibus:** ablative absolute

**quodque ante tempus**: *and before what time*

**Sēnōnēs…Andōs:** all of these peoples were north and west of the Arverni except the Cardurcī, who were to the south and west. Except for the Senones (see Appendix B), these were all relatively small tribes. See Introduction map

**obsidēs:** a common method for ensuring compliance in agreements was the exchange of hostages, among both Gauls and Romans; Caesar had also taken hostages numerous times while fighting in Gaul and Britain; see Moscovich, "*Obsidibus Traditis*: Hostages in Caesar's *De Bello Gallico*," *Classical Journal* 75.2 (1979): 122–28

**in prīmīs equitātuī studet**: *in particular he is interested in cavalry*. Verc.'s strategy will focus on his forces being more mobile than Roman legions

9 Summae dīligentiae summam imperī sevēritātem addit; magnitūdine supplicī dubitāntēs cōgit. 10 Nam maiōre commissō dēlīctō igne atque omnibus tormentīs necat, leviōre dē causā auribus dēsectīs aut singulīs effossīs oculīs domum remittit, ut sint reliquīs documentō et magnitūdine poenae perterreant aliōs.

---

**addō, –ere, –didī, –itus**: place upon; attach; increase, join

**auris, –is f.**: ear

**dēlīctum, –ī n.**: fault, offense

**dēsecō, –āre, –cuī, –ctus**: sever; cut off (as a limb)

**documentum, –ī n.**: lesson, warning, example

**dubitō (1)**: hesitate, waver; delay

**effodiō, –ere, –ī, –fossus**: dig out, excavate; gouge out

**levis, –e**: light, slight; trivial, petty

**magnitūdō, –inis f.**: size; extent

**necō, –āre, –uī, –ctus**: kill, murder

**oculus, –ī m.**: eye

**poena, –ae f.**: punishment

**supplicium, –ī n.**: punishment, suffering; torture

---

**dīligentiae…sevēritātem**: Verc. exhibits two of the virtues typical of a Roman aristocrat; others included *honestās, gravitās, dignitās, auctōritās, pietās,* and *vēritās*

**igne atque omnibus tormentīs necat**: *he killed with fire and all kinds of tortures*

**auribus dēsectīs aut singulīs effossīs oculīs**: abl. abs.; we cannot know the truth of Caesar's claims here, but it is certainly the case that Verc. was able to compel the Gauls more effectively than anyone else in the previous seven years of war

**ut sint reliquīs documentō**: *that they might be a warning for the others;* a double dative construction

## [5] *The Bituriges and the Aedui consider their options*

1 Hīs suppliciīs celeriter coāctō exercitū Luctērium Cadurcum, summae hominem audāciae, cum parte cōpiārum in Rutēnōs mittit; ipse in Biturigēs proficīscitur. Eius adventū Biturigēs ad Aeduōs, 2 quōrum erant in fide, lēgātōs mittunt subsidium rogātum, quō facilius hostium cōpiās sustinēre possint.

---

**audācia, –ae f.**: boldness, courage, confidence; recklessness, audacity
**fidēs, –eī f.**: trust, faith, confidence
**proficīscor, –ficīscī, –fectus**: depart, set out; proceed
**rogō (1)**: ask, invite; introduce
**subsidium, –iī n.**: help, relief; reinforcement

**supplicium, –iī n.**: punishment; petition
**sustineō, –ēre, –uī, –entus**: (here) bear; endure; hold back (elsewhere) support; nourish

---

**coāctō exercitū**: *with the army having been collected;* ablative absolute; *suppliciīs* is abl. of means
**Lucterius**: a leader among the Cadurcī and a lieutenant of Verc.; his role in Caesar's account here is minimal, but he would play a major role in the fighting of the following year, as described in *BG* VIII
**summae hominem audāciae**: *person of greatest boldness;* the hyperbaton of *hominem* here emphasizes this quality of Lucterius
**ipse**: Vercingetorix
**Aeduōs**: for the Aedui, see Appendix B
**rogātum**: *to ask for, to seek*; a supine
**quō…possint**: *by which (subsidium) they might be able to endure/hold back the forces of the enemy more easily*; a rel. clause of purpose

₃ Aeduī dē cōnsiliō lēgātōrum, quōs Caesar ad exercitum relīquerat, cōpiās equitātūs peditātūsque subsidiō Biturigibus mittunt. ₄ Quī cum ad flūmen Ligerim vēnissent quod Biturigēs ab Aeduīs dīvidit, paucōs diēs ibi morātī neque flūmen trānsīre ₅ ausī domum revertuntur lēgātīsque nostrīs renūntiant sē Biturigum perfidiam veritōs revertisse,

---

**audeō, –ēre, –sus**: dare, venture, risk

**dīvidō, –ere, –vīsi, –vīsus**: divide, separate; share, distribute; distinguish

**moror, –ārī, –ātus**: delay

**perfidia, –ae f.**: faithlessness, treachery

**renūntiō (1)**: report, announce; reject

**revertor, –tī, –sus**: turn back, go back, return; recur

**subsidium, –iī n.**: help; reserve of soldiers

**vereor, –ērī, –itus**: to fear, revere, respect

---

**lēgātōrum**: these are Roman military advisers which Caesar had left with the Aedui; not to be confused with the messengers sent by the Gauls above, or with Caesar's direct lieutenants (like Labienus), who are also called *lēgātī*

**subsidiō Biturigibus**: *as a source of aid for the Bituriges*; double dative constr.

**flūmen Ligerim**: the modern Loire. See Appendix B

**sē Birturigum perfidiam veritōs revertisse**: *that they [themselves] returned having feared treachery of the Bituriges;* ind. statement with *perfidiam* as the direct object and *veritōs* as a deponent perfect passive participle modifying *sē*

quibus id consilī fuisse cognōverint ut, sī flūmen trānsīssent,
ūnā ex parte ipsī, alterā Arvernī sē circumsisterent. 6 Id eāne
dē causā quam lēgātīs prōnūntiārunt, an perfidiā adductī
fēcerint, quod nihil nōbīs cōnstat, nōn vidētur prō certō esse
prōpōnendum. 7 Biturigēs eōrum discessū statim cum
Arvernīs iunguntur.

---

**circumsistō, –ere, –tetī, —:** stand,
 gather, crowd; surround,
**cōnstō, –āre, –itī, —:** is certain,
 fixed, agreed upon
**iungō, –ere, –ūnxī, –ūnctus:** join,
 unite; bring together, harness
**nihil:** (as noun) nothing; (as
 adverb) not at all, in no way

**perfidia, –ae f.:** treachery
**prōnūntiō (1):** announce;
 proclaim; relate
**prōpōnō, –ere, –suī, –situs:**
 display; proclaim; propose; relate

---

**quibus id consilī fuisse cognōverint:** *for whom they had ascertained there to be the*
 *following plan*
**trānsīssent:** the Aedui forces, that is, and **ipsī** being the Bituriges
**Id eāne dē causā…an:** *whether…or*; the *–ne* indicates a double question, and the
 second question is introduced by *an*
**quod…prōpōnendum:** *because it is in no way certain to me, it does not seem proper*
 *that [this opinion] be put forth as a certainty; nihil* is adverbial, and *vidētur* is used
 not only in its passive mode as "it seems," but also the more rare "it seems
 proper" or "is seemly." See Appendix A for a basic diagram. Caes. does not trust
 the Aedui's account of these events, and what he writes here is nearly a
 *praeteritiō*. He will continue in this mistrust as he attempts to rejoin his legions
 via Aedui territory. The Aedui had been loyal "friends and allies" of the Romans
 in Gaul for years, but Caesar's doubt of them here will prove to be warranted in
 the coming weeks (see *BG* VII 32–43)

## [6] *Caesar ponders how to reach his forces*

1 Hīs rēbus in Ītaliam Caesarī nūntiātīs, cum iam ille urbānās rēs virtūte Cn. Pompēī commodiōrem in statum pervēnisse intellegeret, in Trānsalpīnam Galliam profectus est. 2 Eō cum vēnisset, magnā difficultāte adficiēbātur quā ratiōne ad exercitum pervenīre posset. 3 Nam sī legiōnēs in prōvinciam arcesseret, sē absente in itinere proeliō dīmicātūrās intellegēbat; 4 sī ipse ad exercitum contenderet, nē eīs quidem eō tempore quī quiētī vidērentur suam salūtem rēctē committī vidēbat.

---

**adficiō, –ere, adfēcī, adfectus:** affect; move, influence; afflict

**arcessō, –ere, –īvī, –ītus:** send for, summon, invite; fetch

**commodus, –a, –um:** suitable, convenient, obliging; favorable

**contendō, –ere, –dī, –tus:** strain; hurry

**dīmicō (1):** struggle, be in peril

**eō:** to/toward that place

**quiēscō, –ere, –ēvī, –ētus:** rest, be at peace, be still/inactive

**rēctē:** rightly, correctly, properly

**status, –ūs m.:** position, situation, condition; rank; standing

---

**urbānās rēs:** i.e., the tumultuous events of the recent past back in Rome

**quā ratiōne…posset:** *as to the means by which he might be able to reach his army*; indirect question; the legions were scattered around Gaul in their winter camps

**sē absente:** ablative absolute; *sē* is ablative singular referring to Caesar

**dīmicātūrās:** *[the legions] would be in peril*; future infinitive; Caesar had regularly trusted his *lēgātī* to lead the legions independently in the past, but now inexplicably considers the soldiers helpless without him. It would seem more prudent to call them south rather than travel alone in secret to join them

**nē eīs quidem…quī:** *not even to those [Gauls] who*

## [7] *Caesar organizes a defense of the province*

1 Interim Luctērius Cadurcus in Rutēnōs missus eam cīvitātem Arvernīs conciliat. 2 Prōgressus in Nitiobrīgēs et Gabalōs ab utrīsque obsidēs accipit et magnā coāctā manū in prōvinciam Narbōnem versus ēruptiōnem facere contendit.

---

**conciliō (1)**: win over, procure; reconcile; commend

**contendō, –ere, –dī, –tus**: strain; hurry

**ēruptiō, –iōnis f.**: sudden rush of troops from a position; a sortie

**manus, –ūs m.**: hand; (here) band, group

**prōgredior, –ī, –gressus**: go/march forward, march forward

**uter–, utra–, utrumque**: each (of two)

**versus**: toward, in the direction of

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**Rutēnōs**: a small tribe directly south of the Arverni and traditionally subject to them. Their *oppidum* was Segodunum, modern Rodez. The southern part of their territory had been seized by the Romans after the defeat of the Arverni coalition in 121 BCE; Caesar calls the tribesmen of this southern portion *Rutēnī prōvinciālēs* (see 7.7.4 below)

**missus**: *having been dispatched;* perfect passive participle

**Arvernīs**: dative with *conciliat* "win over to/for, acquire for"

**Nitiobrīgēs et Gabalōs**: two small tribes on the southwestern and southern borders of the Arverni, respectively

**magnā coāctū manū:** *with a large band having been collected;* in military contexts, *manus* often translates as "[armed] group" or "band"

**Narbōnem**: modern Narbonne, a major Roman port city in Transalpine Gaul ("the Province") situated on the Via Domitia and Via Aquitania between Spain and Italy

3 Quā rē nūntiātā Caesar omnibus cōnsiliīs antevertendum exīstimāvit ut Narbōnem proficīscerētur. 4 Eō cum vēnisset, timentēs cōnfirmat, praesidia in Rutēnīs prōvinciālibus, Volcīs Arecomīcīs, Tolōsātibus circumque Narbōnem, quae loca hostibus erant fīnitima, cōnstituit; 5 partem cōpiārum ex prōvinciā supplēmentumque, quod ex Ītaliā addūxerat, in Helviōs, quī fīnēs Arvernōrum contingunt, convenīre iubet.

---

**antevertō, –ere, –ī, —:** prefer, place before; precede; anticipate (+ dat)
**cōnfirmō (1):** secure; reassure
**fīnitimus, –a, –um:** neighboring, bordering, adjoining

**locō (1):** place, station; arrange; contract (for)
**prōvinciālis, –e:** pertaining to a province (here, to *Trānsalpīna*)
**supplēmentum, –ī n.:** supplies, reinforcements

---

**antevertendum:** sc. *esse*; passive periphrastic infinitive of an indirect statement introduced by *exīstimāvit*
**ut Narbōnem proficīscerētur:** substantive noun clause acting as the accusative singular subject of *antevertendum*
**eō:** *to that place*
**Volcīs Arecomīcīs, Tolōsātibus:** two small Gallic tribes living in the Roman province near Narbo; here, Caes. intends to protect Narbo and places garrisons in four strategic places
**in:** *among, within the borders of*; common shorthand in Caes.
**Helviōs:** see Appendix B

## [8] *Caesar suddenly attacks the Arverni*

1 Hīs rēbus comparātīs, repressō iam Luctēriō et remōtō, quod intrāre intrā praesidia perīculōsum putābat, in Helviōs proficīscitur. 2 Etsī mōns Cevenna, quī Arvernōs ab Helviīs disclūdit, dūrissimō tempore annī altissimā nive iter impediēbat, tamen discussā nive sex in altitūdinem pedum

---

**altus, –a, –um**: high; deep

**comparō (1)**: prepare; provide

**disclūdō, –ere, –lūsī, –lūsus**: divide, separate, keep apart

**discutiō, –ere, –cussī, –cussus**: shatter; dissipate, remove

**dūrus, –a, –um**: harsh, severe

**impediō, –īre, –īvī, –ītus**: hinder, hamper, obstruct

**intrō (1)**: enter; go into, penetrate; reach

**mōns, montis m.**: mountain

**nix, nivis f.**: snow

**removeō, –ēre, –ī, –tus**: withdraw, move back, take away, set aside

**reprimō, –ere, –pressī, –pressus**: press back; check, prevent, restrain

---

**comparātīs; repressō; remōtō**: all three are abl. abs.

**intrāre…perīculōsum**: sc. *esse*; the infinitive is the subject of the indirect statement after *putābat*; note that Lucterius is the subject of *putābat*, not Caesar, though an understood *Caesar* is the subject of *proficīscitur*

**mōns Cevenna**: now called the Cevennes mountains, in southwestern France

**discussā nīve**: abl. abs.; Roman soldiers carried shovels as part of their kit, but presumably not snow shovels

**sex in altitūdinem pedum**: *to a depth of six feet; sex* modifies *pedum,* translate *in* as "to"

atque ita viīs patefactīs summō mīlitum sūdōre ad fīnēs
Arvernōrum pervēnit. 3 Quibus oppressīs inopīnantibus,
quod sē Cevennā ut mūrō mūnītōs exīstimābant, ac nē
singulārī quidem umquam hominī eō tempore annī sēmitae
patuerant, equitibus imperat ut quam lātissimē possint
vagentur et quam maximum hostibus terrōrem īnferant.

---

**īnferō, –ferre, –tulī, –lātus**: bring
 in, import; inflict; obtain

**inopīnāns, –antis**: unaware, off
 guard; unexpected

**lātus, –a, –um**: wide; extensive

**mūnītus, –a, –um**: defended,
 fortified; protected, secured, safe

**opprimō, –ere, –pressī, –pressus**:
 press down; suppress; overthrow

**patefacio, –ere, –fēcī, –factus**:
 open up; reveal, disclose, expose

**patēo, –ēre, –uī, —**: stand open, be
 open; extend

**sēmita, –ae f.**: path

**sūdor, –is m.**: sweat; hard labor

**umquam**: ever, at any time

**vagor, –ārī, –ātus**: wander, roam

---

**Quibus oppressīs inopīnantibus**: abl. abs; the Arverni are caught off-guard

**sē Cevennā…mūnītōs exīstimābant**: *they were thinking that they were protected
 by [Mount] Cevenna*; *mūnītōs* with an implied *esse* in ind. statement

**ut murō**: *as if by a wall*; not used here to introduce a result or purpose clause

**nē singulārī quidem…hominī**: *not even for lone individual [travelers]*

**quam lātissimē possint**: *as widely as possible*; lit. "as widely as they could"

**quam maximum…terrōrem**: *as much terror as possible*; superlative
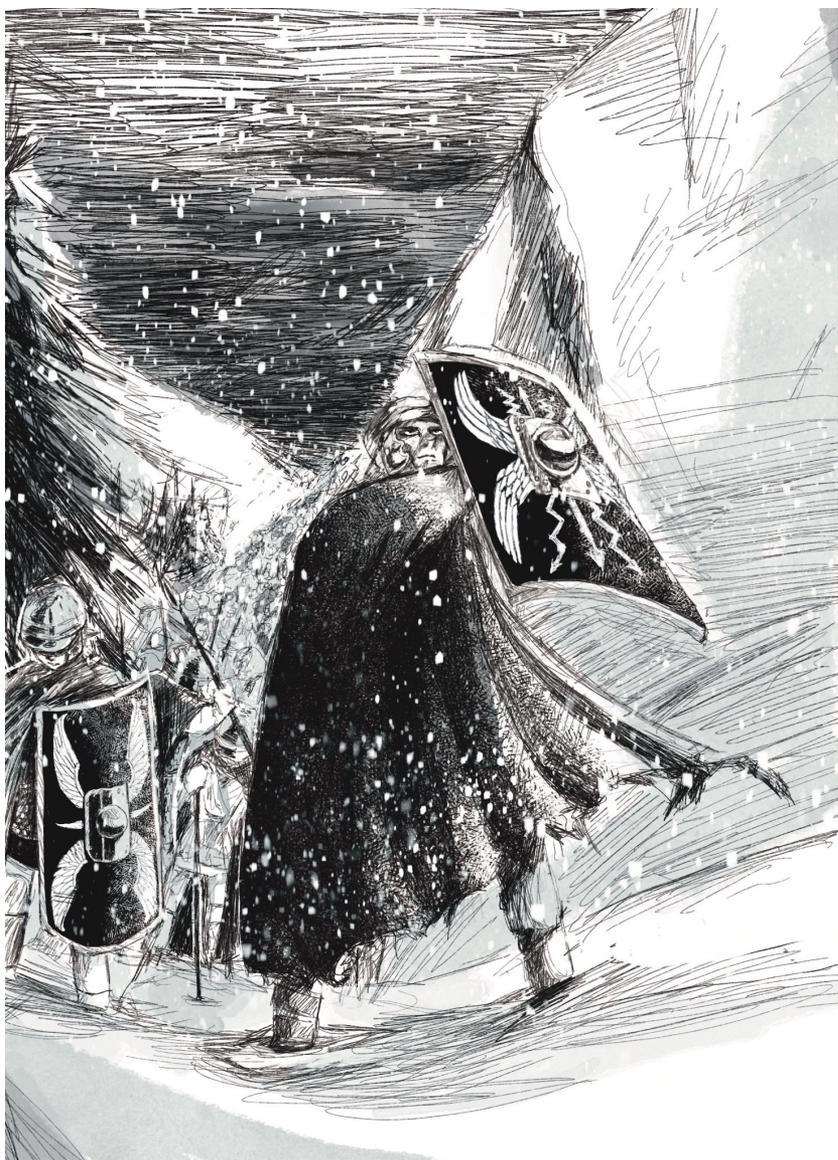
4 Celeriter haec fāmā ac nūntiīs ad Vercingetorīgem perferuntur; quem perterritī omnēs Arvernī circumsistunt atque obsecrant ut suīs fortūnīs cōnsulat, nēve ab hostibus dīripiantur, praesertim cum videat omne ad sē bellum trānslātum. 5 Quōrum ille precibus permōtus castra ex Biturigibus movet in Arvernōs versus.

---

**ad**: about (with numerals)

**circumsistō, –ere, –stetī,**: stand, gather, crowd; surround, beset

**cōnsulō, –ere, –uī, –tus**: (+ acc): consult; (+ dat): consider, have a care for

**dīripiō, –ere, –uī, –reptus**: tear apart; lay waste, plunder, pillage

**nūntius, –iī m.**: messenger; report

**obsecrō (1)**: entreat, beseech, implore, pray

**perferō, –ferre, –tulī, –lātus**: carry through; announce

**permoveō, –ēre, –ī, –tus**: move deeply; influence

**praesertim**: especially; particularly

**prex, precis f.**: prayer, request

---

**quem**: refers to Vercingetorix

**perterritī**: *having been thoroughly terrified;* PPP modifying *omnēs Arvernī*

**ut suīs fortūnīs cōnsulat**: indirect command

**ad sē**: *to their lands, onto their heads*

**trānslatūm**: sc. *esse;* from *trānsferre*

**Quōrum…precibus permōtus**: *deeply moved by their prayers*

## [9] *Caesar goes to Vienna, then gathers his legions*

1 At Caesar bīduum in hīs locīs morātus, quod haec dē Vercingetorīge ūsū ventūra opīniōne praecēperat, per causam supplēmentī equitātūsque cōgendī ab exercitū discēdit; Brūtum adulēscentem hīs cōpiīs praeficit; 2 hunc monet ut in omnēs partēs equitēs quam lātissimē pervagentur; datūrum sē operam nē longius trīduō ab castrīs absit.

---

**bīduum, bīduuī n.:** two days

**lātē:** broadly, widely, extensively

**moror, –ārī, –ātus:** delay; remain

**pervagor, –vagārī, –vagātus:** wander, range about; spread out

**praecipiō, –cipere, –cēpī, –ceptus:** take in advance, anticipate

**praeficiō, –ficere, –fēcī, –fectus:** place in command (+ acc & dat)

**trīduum, trīduī n.:** three days

---

**quod haec…praecēperat:** a difficult section; *because he* [Caes.] *had anticipated by conjecture that these things would in fact come about regarding Verc.* (that is, that Verc. would move towards him); *ūsū venīre* is an idiom for "occur, actually happen, befall"

**per causam:** *on the pretext of*; this phrase is rare in Caes., appearing only here in *BG*. It appears in Caes. *BC* three times, e.g. at 3.24.1, when M. Antonius sends two ships out into the Brundisium harbor on the pretext of rowing practice (*per causam exercendōrum rēmigum*) in order to lure in Libo's blockading ships. Livy also uses *per causam* with this meaning, e.g. 2.32.1

**cōgendī:** *of gathering;* gerundive with the genitive nouns

**Brutum:** Decimus Iunius Brutus Albinus, not to be confused with Marcus Iunius, though Decimus would also be one of Caesar's assassins in 44. As Caesar's *lēgātus* he had defeated the Veneti in a sea battle in 56 and would again command a fleet in the siege of Massalia in 49 BCE during the Civil War

**datūrum sē operam:** [Caes. tells Brutus that] *he will make an effort that*

3 Hīs cōnstitūtīs rēbus, suīs inopīnantibus quam māximīs potest itineribus Viennam pervēnit. 4 Ibi nactus recentem equitātum, quem multīs ante diēbus eō praemīserat, neque diurnō neque nocturnō itinere intermissō per fīnēs Aeduōrum in Lingonēs contendit, ubi duae legiōnēs hiemābant, ut, sī quid etiam dē suā salūte ab Aeduīs inīrētur cōnsilī, celeritāte praecurreret.

---

**contendō, –ere, –dī, –tus**: strain;
  hurry
**diurnus, –a, –um**: daytime
**fīnis, –is f.**: boundary; (pl.) territory
**hiemō (1)**: pass the winter
**inopīnāns, inopīnantis**: unaware;
  unexpecting, surprised

**intermittō, –ere, –mīsī, –missus**:
  leave off, omit; interrupt; let pass
**iter, itineris n.**: route, journey
**nancīscor, –cīscī, nactus**: obtain
**nocturnus, –a, –um**: nighttime
**praecurrō, –ere, –cucurrī, —** : run
  before; precede; anticipate
**recēns, –entis**: (here) fresh

---

**suīs inopīnantibus**: *his own [soldiers] being unaware*; abl. abs.; Caes. moved so
  quickly that not even his own forces realized what was happening
**quam māximīs potest itineribus**: *with greatest possible marches*; Caes. was known
  for rapid marches, but these efforts were apparently extraordinary even for him
**Viennam**: not the Austrian city, but an *oppidum* of the Allobroges 35km south of
  Lyon, at the confluence of the Gère and the Rhône. Under Augustus it would
  become *Colonia Julia Augusta Florentia Viennensium*, and today is known for its
  well-preserved Roman ruins
**hiemābant**: the legions spent the winter in fortified *castra* throughout Gaul
**si quid…inīrētur cōnsiliī**: *if any plan was being devised*; the Aedui had been solid
  allies of the Romans for years, but here Caes. reminds us just how powerful, and
  therefore dangerous, they could be. For their role in the present crisis, see *BG*
  7.32-43

5 Eō cum pervēnisset, ad reliquās legiōnēs mittit priusque omnēs in ūnum locum cōgit quam dē eius adventū Arvernīs nūntiārī posset. 6 Hāc rē cognitā Vercingetorīx rūrsus in Biturigēs exercitum redūcit atque inde profectus Gorgobinam, Boiōrum oppidum, quōs ibi Helvēticō proeliō vīctōs Caesar collocāverat Aeduīsque attribuerat, oppūgnāre īnstituit.

---

**attribuō, –ere, –buī, –būtus:**
  assign, allot to; put under
  jurisdiction of (+ dat)
**collocō (1):** place, arrange; station
**inde:** from there; thereafter

**īnstituō, –ere, –uī, –tūtus:** prepare;
  draw up; build, construct
**rūrsus:** backward; on the contrary,
  in return; in turn, again

---

**Eō:** *to that place*, i.e. the *castra* among the Lingones
**mittit:** *sends word to*
**reliquās legiōnēs:** In the previous book (6.44.3), Caes. describes the distribution
  of his winter camps: six legions at Agendincum among the Senones, two legions
  to the east among the Lingones, and two legions to the north on the borders of
  the Treveri
**prius…quam…posset:** *earlier than it might be possible to be reported to the Arverni*
  *about his arrival*
**Hāc rē cognitā:** abl. abs.
**Gorgobinam:** the *oppidum* of a Boii enclave in the territory of the Aedui and
  subject to them. As he explains here, Caes. had "permitted" the Aedui to give the
  town to Boii refugees after the defeat of the Helvetii coalition in 58 (*BG* 1.28.5)

## [10] *Caesar decides to help the Boii, despite supply problems*

1 Magnam haec rēs Caesarī difficultātem ad cōnsilium capiendum adferēbat: sī reliquam partem hiemis ūnō locō legiōnēs continēret, nē stīpendiāriīs Aeduōrum expugnātīs cūncta Gallia dēficeret, quod nūllum amīcīs in eō praesidium vidērētur positum esse; sī mātūrius ex hībernīs ēdūceret, nē ab rē frūmentāriā dūrīs subvectiōnibus labōrāret.

---

**adferō, –ferre, –tulī, –lātus:**
  convey; allege, announce; cause
**contineō, –ēre, –uī, –tentus:**
  secure, maintain, sustain
**dēficiō, –ere, –fēcī, –fectus:** (here)
  move away, withdraw, revolt
**dūrus, –a, –um:** harsh, severe
**ēdūcō, –ere, –ūxī, –uctus:** lead out;
  draw up; bring up

**hīberna, –ōrum n.pl.:** winter
  camp, winter quarters
**hiems, –is f.:** winter
**mātūrus, –a, –um:** early, speedy
**stīpendiārius, –a, –um:** tributary,
  liable to another; mercenary
**subvectiō, –iōnis f.:** transporting
  (of supplies) to a center

---

**ad cōnsilium capiendum:** *as far as making a plan*; this *ad* + gerundive does not
  have the typical translation "for the purpose of"
**nē…nē:** these both introduce fear clauses, introduced and implied by Caesar's
  *magna difficultās* in the first sentence; see Appendix A
**stīpendiāriīs Aeduōrum expugnātīs:** *with the tribes subordinate to the Aedui
  having been overcome*; abl. abs.
**quod…vidērētur:** *because it would appear that* + ind. statement
**nūllum amīcīs in eō praesidium:** *no protection for friends by him* (Caes.)
**ab rē frūmentāriā:** *in regards to the supply of provisions*; this usage of *ab* is common
  with *laborāre, dolēre,* and *valēre*
**dūrīs subvectiōnibus:** ablative of cause, also frequent with *labōrāre*

2 Praestāre vīsum est tamen omnēs difficultātēs perpetī quam tantā contumēliā acceptā omnium suōrum voluntātēs aliēnāre. 3 Itaque cohortātus Aeduōs dē supportandō commeātū praemittit ad Boiōs quī dē suō adventū doceant hortenturque ut in fidē maneant atque hostium impetum magnō animō sustineant. 4 Duābus Agedincī legiōnibus atque impedīmentīs tōtīus exercitūs relictīs ad Boiōs proficīscitur.

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**aliēnō (1)**: alienate, give up, lose possession, estrange

**commeātus, –ūs m.**: supplies, food

**contumēlia, –ae f.**: indignity, affront, insult; assault, violence

**perpetior, –petī, –pessus**: endure to the full

**praemittō, –ere, –mīsī, –missus**: send ahead or forward

**praestō (1)**: excel, surpass, be superior (to)

**supportō (1)**: carry up, transport

**sustineō, –ēre, –uī, –entus**: support; check; put off

**voluntās, –ātis f.**: will, desire; purpose; good will

---

**praestāre vīsum est tamen**: *it seemed nevertheless better*

**quam**: *rather than;* with *praestāre*

**praemittit…quī…doceant hortenturque**: rel. clause of purpose after a verb of sending; there is an understood "messengers" with *praemittit* which is the antecedent of the *quī*

**ut in fide maneant**: (*urge*) *that they remain in good faith*; ind. command

**Agedincī**: the chief *oppidum* of the Senones, in the vicinity of modern Sens on the river Yonne. It was a convenient Roman base of operations because it was fortified, centrally located, and in the territory of a recently subdued tribe. Leaving two legions and the *impedimenta* here, Caes. will employ the remaining eight legions for the subsequent events of this volume, 40,000+ men

## [11] *Caesar takes Vellaunodunum and Cenabum*

1 Alterō diē cum ad oppidum Sēnōnum Vellaunodūnum vēnisset, nē quem post sē hostem relinqueret, quō expedītiōre rē frūmentāriā ūterētur, oppugnāre īnstituit idque bīduō circumvāllāvit; 2 tertiō diē missīs ex oppidō lēgātīs dē dēditiōne arma cōnferrī, iūmenta prōdūcī, sēscentōs obsidēs darī iubet. 3 Ea quī cōnficeret Gāium Trebōnium lēgātum relinquit.

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**bīduum, –uī n.**: two-day period
**circumvāllō (1)**: surround with
  siegeworks; blockade
**cōnferō, –ferre, –tulī, –lātus**: bring
  together; gather; unite
**cōnficiō, –ere, –fēcī, –fectus**:
  make; prepare; complete
**dēditiō, –is f.**: surrender
**expedītus, –a, –um**: free,
  unencumbered; convenient

**iūmentum, –ī n.**: mule, horse, or
  other beast of burden
**lēgātus, –ī m.**:
  (in sentence 2) ambassador;
  (in sentence 3) lieutenant, legate
**prōdūcō, –ere, –dūxī, –ductus**:
  lead forward, bring out, reveal
**sescentī, –ae, –a**: 600
**ūtor, ūtī, ūsus**: use, employ; enjoy
  (+ abl)

---

**Vellaunodūnum**: a smaller *oppidum* of the Senones, otherwise unknown
**quem**: *aliquem* becomes *quem* after *nē*
**quō**: *so that*; the abl. *quō* (= *ut eō*) is freq. the subordinating conjunction in final
  purpose clauses containing a comp. adj.; see A&G §531a
**bīduō**: abl. of time within which
**ea quī cōnficeret**: *so that he might complete these arrangements*; rel. cl. of purpose
  after *relinquit*
**Trebōnium**: see Appendix B

Ipse, ut quam prīmum iter faceret, Cenabum Carnūtum proficīscitur; 4 quī tum prīmum allātō nūntiō dē oppugnātiōne Vellaunodūnī, cum longius eam rem ductum īrī exīstimārent, praesidium Cenabī tuendī causā quod eō mitterent comparābant. Hūc bīduō pervēnit.

---

**afferō, –ferre, attulī, allātus:**
 report, allege, announce
**comparō (1):** prepare; provide
**hūc:** to this place

**nūntius, –iī m.:** missive, messenger
**tueor, tuērī, tūtus:** to defend,
 guard
**ūsus, –ūs m.:** use, practice, exercise

---

**ut…iter faceret:** *in order that he make the journey*; purpose clause

**quam primum:** *as soon as possible*; *quam* + superlative

**quī:** he means the Carnutes

**tum prīmum:** *then for the first time; at that very moment*

**cum:** *because*; causal *cum* clause

**ductum īrī:** *would be drawn out*; a rare fut. pass. infin. in ind. statement

**praesidium…quod eō mitterent:** *a troop of reinforcements which they might send there*

**tuendī causā:** *for the sake of defending*; gerundive

**Ipse…pervēnit:** in this section Caes. is keen to emphasize the rapidity and decisiveness of his assault on Cenabum, where the killing of the Roman *negōtiātōrēs* had taken place back in 3.1. Note his use of temporal expressions here (*quam prīmum*; *tum prīmum*; *longius*; *bīduō*). The Carnutes suddenly found themselves under attack at two of their major *oppida* in succession; Vellaunodūnum capitulates so rapidly that word has barely reached the tribe's leaders elsewhere before the legions have arrived at Cenabum. The *praesidium* the Carnutes are attempting to prepare and dispatch will not be fast enough

5 Castrīs ante oppidum positīs diēī tempore exclūsus in posterum oppugnātiōnem differt quaeque ad eam rem ūsuī sint mīlitibus imperat 6 et, quod oppidum Cenabum pōns flūminis Ligeris contingēbat, veritus nē noctū ex oppidō profugerent, duās legiōnēs in armīs excubāre iubet.

---

**differō, –ferre, distulī, dīlātus:** postpone; disturb; vary

**exclūdō, –ere, –ūsī, –ūsus:** shut out, shut off; exclude

**excubō (1):** be watchful, keep vigil

**Liger, Ligeris m.:** the Loire

**pōns, –tis m.:** bridge

**posterus, –a, –um:** coming after, following, next

**profugiō, fugere, fūgī, —:** flee

**vereor, –ērī, –itus:** fear, dread; respect

---

**castrīs:** The construction of a *castra* every time the legions stopped was standard practice. With eight legions and an unknown number of cavalry and auxiliaries, Caesar's *castra* in this campaign were nearly as large as the *oppida* against which they were constructed. Even if very cramped, a *castra* for eight legions would have been hundreds of meters on a side

**diēī tempore exclūsus:** Caesar deemed it too late in the day to begin an assault; he postpones it *in posterum [diem]*

**quaeque ad eam rem ūsuī sint mīlitibus imperat:** *and he orders [to be prepared] the sorts of things which might be of use for the soldiers for this undertaking*; a double dative construction within a rel. clause of characteristic

**vertitus nē:** [*Caes.*] *having feared that*; *nē* introduces fear clause, with the inhabitants of the town as the implied subject

**excubāre:** The soldiers of the two chosen legions are ordered to remain fully armed and keep ready through the night as a rapid response force; the other legions can then take their rest in relative comfort. At 7.24.5 below, Caesar specifies that *duae legiōnēs prō castrīs excubābant*, clearly outside the walls of the *castra*, but in that instance the two legions are protecting ongoing work on the siege mound at the enemy's wall

7 Cenabensēs paulō ante mediam noctem silentiō ex oppidō ēgressī flūmen trānsīre coepērunt. Quā rē per explōrātōrēs nūntiātā Caesar legiōnēs 8 quās expedītās esse iusserat portīs incēnsīs intrōmittit atque oppidō potītur, perpaucīs ex hostium numerō dēsīderātīs quīn cūnctī caperentur, quod pontis atque itinerum angustiae multitūdinis fugam interclūserant. 9 Oppidum dīripit atque incendit, praedam mīlitibus dōnat, exercitum Ligerem trādūcit atque in Biturigum fīnēs pervēnit.

---

**angustiae, –ārum f.pl.**: narrowness
**cūnctus, –a, um**: all, every
**dēsīderō (1)**: miss, lack; lose
**dīripiō, –ere, –uī, –tus**: tear apart; lay waste, plunder, pillage
**dōnō (1)**: bestow, confer
**ēgredior, –gredī, –gressus**: go out
**expedītus, –a, –um**: ready, unencumbered; at hand
**explōrātor, –ōris m.**: scout, spy

**interclūdō, –ere, –ūsī, –ūsus**: cut off; blockade; hinder, block up
**intrōmittō, –ere, –mīsī, –missus**: send in; admit
**perpaucus, –a, –um**: very few
**porta, –ae f.**: gate
**potior, –īrī, –ītus**: get possession of, become master of (+ gen/abl)
**praeda, –ae f.**: loot, plunder

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**Cenabensēs**: *the Cenabians*; *-ensis, -ense* is a typical Latin adjectival suffix
**perpaucīs…dēsīderātis quīn cūnctī caperentur**: in other words, with only a few stragglers getting away, the rest being captured alive (or killed); lit. "with only a few from the number of the enemy lacking from [a result that] every one of them be captured alive;" *quīn* can be used after verbs of lacking, resisting, refusing, delaying, and doubting, with a sense of "a result that"
**pontis atque itinerum angustiae**: the narrowness of the bridges and paths

[12] *Caesar and Vercingetorix approach near Noviodunum*

1 Vercingetorīx, ubi dē Caesaris adventū cognōvit, oppugnātiōne dēstitit atque obviam Caesarī proficīscitur. 2 Ille Noviodūnum oppugnāre īnstituerat. 3 Quō ex oppidō cum lēgātī ad eum vēnissent ōrātum ut sibi ignōsceret suaeque vītae cōnsuleret, ut celeritāte reliquās rēs cōnficeret quā plēraque erat cōnsecūtus, arma cōnferrī, equōs prōdūcī, obsidēs darī iubet.

---

**celeritās, –tātis f.:** speed, quickness

**cōnsequor, –quī, –cūtus:** follow, go/come after; attend on; pursue

**cōnficiō, –ere, –fēcī, –fectus:** make; prepare; complete

**cōnsulō, –ere, –uī, –tus:** (+ dat) consider, take care; ask advice

**dēsistō, –ere, destitī, destitus:** cease, desist (from) (+ abl); give up

**ignōscō, –ere, ignōvī, ignōtus:** pardon, forgive (+ dat)

**lēgātus, –ī m.:** (here) envoy, rep.

**obviam:** against; towards

**plērus, –a, –um:** (strengthened w/ –*que*) the majority, very many

**prōdūcō, –ere, –dūxī, –ductus:** lead forward, bring out; reveal

---

**Ille:** Caesar

**Noviodūnum:** Celtic "new fort" and the name of several *oppida*; this one was of the Bituriges, at modern Neung-sur-Beuvron

**sibi:** dative plur. masc. reflexive pronoun, *the townsfolk*

**ōrātum:** *to plead*; supine expressing purpose

**ut celeritāte reliquās rēs cōnficeret, quā plēraque erat cōnsecūtus:** *so that he might complete the remaining things with (the) speed with which he had pursued the majority [of his affairs]*; by heeding their pleas, Caesar could pursue his next goal with his characteristic *celeritās*

4 Parte iam obsidum trādita, cum reliqua administrārentur, centuriōnibus et paucīs mīlitibus intrōmissīs quī arma iūmentaque conquīrerent, equitātus hostium procul vīsus est quī agmen Vercingetorīgis antecesserat. 5 Quem simul atque oppidānī cōnspexērunt atque in spem auxilī vēnērunt, clāmōre sublātō arma capere, portās claudere, mūrum complēre coepērunt.

---

**administrō (1):**, manage, handle, see to; assist;, conduct

**agmen, –minis n.:** (in Caes.) marching army, column, battle line; (elsewhere) herd, flock, crowd

**claudō, –ere, clausī, clausus:** close, shut, block up; conclude; blockade

**compleō, –ēre, –ēvī, –ētus:** fill (up); occupy, crowd

**conquīrō, –ere, –quīsīvī, –quīsītus:** seek out; investigate

**intrōmittō, –ere, –mīsī, –missus:** send in; admit

**iūmentum, –ī n.:** beast of burden

**oppidānus, –ī m.:** town inhabitant

**procul:** at distance, far off

**spēs, –eī, f.:** hope

**tollō, tollere, sustulī, sublātus:** lift, raise; destroy; remove, steal

---

**centuriōnibus … intrōmissīs quī … conquīrerent:** abl. absolute followed by relative clause of purpose

**simul atque:** *as soon as*; when *simul* precedes coordinate terms connected by *et, ac, atque*, or *et…et*, the sense is that the terms occur simultaneously

**in spem auxilī vēnērunt:** *entered into hope of aid;* render as "became hopeful for," a figurative use of *veniō* + *in* for metaphorical (emotional) movement

₆ Centuriōnēs in oppidō, cum ex significātiōne Gallōrum novī aliquid ab eīs inīrī cōnsilī intellēxissent, gladiīs dēstrictīs portās occupāvērunt suōsque omnēs incolumēs recēpērunt.

---

**dēstringō, –ere, –inxī, –ictus:**
  unsheathe, draw; strip off
**gladius, –iī m.:** sword
**incolumis, –e:** unharmed,
  uninjured; alive, safe; unimpaired

**novus, –a, –um:** new, strange
**porta, –ae f.:** gate
**significātiō, –iōnis f.:** signal,
  outward sign; indication, meaning

---

**novī aliquid ab eīs inīrī cōnsilī:** *(that) something of a new plan was being undertaken by them;* ind. statement after *intellēxissent*
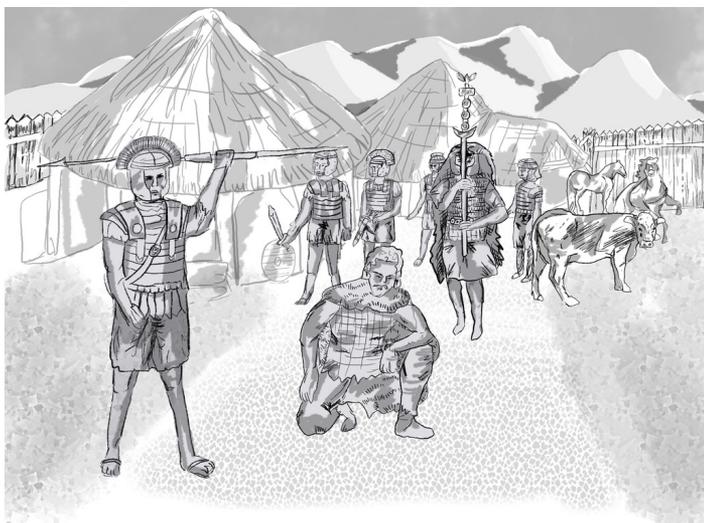
[13] *Caesar skirmishes with Vercingetorix and takes the town*

1 Caesar ex castrīs equitātum ēdūcī iubet, proelium equestre committit; labōrantibus iam suīs Germānōs equitēs circiter CCCC summittit quōs ab initiō habēre sēcum īnstituerat. 2 Eōrum impetum Gallī sustinēre nōn potuērunt atque in fugam coniectī multīs āmissīs sē ad agmen recēpērunt.

---

**āmittō, –ere, –mīsī, –missus**: lose; lose by death; send away, dismiss

**circiter**: about, approximately

**coniciō, –ere, –iēcī, –iectus**: cast, drive; throw together; conclude

**ēdūcō, –ere, –dūxī, –ductus**: lead out; draw up; bring up

**equester, –tris, –tre**: of cavalry

**labōrō (1)**: labor, strive; struggle

**summittō, –ere, –mīsī, –missus** (= submittō): (here) send in support

**sustineō, –ēre, –uī, –entus**: endure, tolerate; support

---

**labōrantibus iam suīs**: *his men now struggling;* the *iam* indicates that time has moved forward from when the battle began, the narrative is now at his next action

**Germānōs**: By the middle of the 1st century BCE, Roman armies deployed very few Roman cavalry units, but instead relied on non-Roman auxiliary squadrons; during his military career Caesar regularly employed Gallic or Spanish cavalry supplied by Roman allies, or, as here, Germanic mercenaries, whose prowess on horseback was legendary. He had retained these 400 as a reserve and personal guard

**summittit**: *send up, send in*; *sub-* often connotes support or aid, e.g. *subsidium* (aid, reinforcement) or the sup- in Engl. "support" itself; c.f *BG* 4.26.4 (*quōs labōrantēs cōnspēxerat hīs subsidia submittēbat*) and *BG* 5.58.5 (*summittit cohortēs equitibus subsidiō*)

**in fugam coniectī multīs āmissīs**: *having been driven to flight with many lost*

Quibus prōflīgātīs rūrsus oppidānī perterritī comprehensōs eōs, quōrum operā plēbem concitātam exīstimābant, ad Caesarem perdūxērunt sēsēque eī dēdidērunt. 3 Quibus rēbus cōnfectīs, Caesar ad oppidum Avaricum quod erat maximum mūnītissimumque in fīnibus Biturigum atque agrī fertilissimā regiōne profectus est, quod eō oppidō receptō cīvitātem Biturigum sē in potestātem redāctūrum cōnfīdēbat.

---

**comprehendō, –ere, –ī, –hensus:** arrest, catch, seize, grasp firmly

**concitō (1):** rouse, incite, stir

**cōnficiō, –ere, –fēcī, –fectus:** make; prepare; complete

**dēdō, –ere, –idī, –itus:** give up, surrender; abandon (to); yield

**mūnītus, –a, –um:** defended, fortified; protected, secured, safe

**oppidānus, –ī m.:** townsperson

**perdūcō, –ere, –ūxī, –uctus:** lead, guide; prolong; induce, conduct

**plēbs, plēbis, f.:** the common folk, multitude, populace

**potestās, –ātis f.:** control, power, rule; strength, ability; chance

**prōflīgō (1):** overthrow, rout

**redigō, –ere, redēgī, redāctus:** reduce; render; lead back, bring

**rūrsus:** again; turned back; on the contrary, in return, in turn

---

**quōrum operā:** *by whose work;* with an implied *esse* connecting it to *plēbem concitātam*

**perdūxērunt sēsēque eī dēdidērunt:** the two verbs are parallel; the former controls the rest of the sentence. See Appendix A for a diagram of this passage

**ad oppidum Avaricum…profectus est:** Caesar plans the next phase of war: by capturing Avaricum, he thinks the Bituriges *sē in potestātem redāctūr*[*ōs*]

**agrī:** *of [their] country/land*

## [14] *Vercingetorix calls a council of the Gauls*

1 Vercingetorīx tot continuīs incommodīs Vellaunodūnī, Cenabī, Noviodūnī acceptīs suōs ad concilium convocat. 2 Docet longē aliā ratiōne esse bellum gerendum atque anteā gestum sit. Omnibus modīs huic reī studendum ut pābulātiōne et commeātū Rōmānī prohibeantur. 3 Id esse facile quod equitātū ipsī abundent et quod annī tempore subleventur.

---

**abundō (1)**: abound (in), have in large measure; overflow with

**commeātus, –ūs m.**: supplies

**continuus, –a, –um**: incessant, continuous, recurring; successive

**incommodum, –ī n.**: setback, detriment; defeat, disaster

**pābulātiō, –iōnis f.**: foraging

**studeō, –ēre, –uī, —**: (+ dat) be eager for, apply effort to

**sublevō (1)**: lift up; support; assist

**tot**: so many

---

**Vellaunodūnī, Cenabī, Noviodūnī**: locatives

**esse…gerendum**: *must be waged;* passive periphrastic infinitive; begins an extended indirect statement, used throughout [14]

**longē**: *very much, entirely*

**atque…gestum sit**: *than [the war which] was waged in the past*; a rare use of *atque* (or its equivalent *ac*, *et*, or even more rarely *nisi* or *quam*) following *alius* in formal prose; in colloquial prose or in poetry, it is typically followed by an ablative of comparison instead. See A&G §407d

**studendum**: *[he says that] there must be a striving for the following circumstance* (huic res) *by all means available*; impersonal passive periphrastic infinitive; the following *ut* explains the circumstance

41

4 Pābulum secārī nōn posse; necessāriō dispersōs hostēs ex aedificiīs petere; hōs omnēs cotīdiē ab equitibus dēligī posse. 5 Praetereā salūtis causā reī familiāris commoda neglegenda: vīcōs atque aedificia incendī oportēre hōc spatiō ab viā quōque versus quō pābulandī causā adīre posse videantur.

---

**aedificium, –iī n.:** a building

**commodum, –ī n.:** interest, profits; convenience, advantage, benefit

**cotīdiē:** daily, every day

**dēligō, –ere, –lēgī, –lēctus:** single out; separate, remove

**dīspergō, –ere, –ī, –sus:** scatter, disperse

**incendō, –ere, –ī, –sus:** burn

**necessāriō:** inevitably, unavoidably

**oportet, –ēre, –uit:** (impersonal) require (to be done); ought

**pābulor, –ārī, –ātus:** forage, gather

**pābulum, –ī n.:** fodder, food

**praetereā:** in addition, further

**salūs, –ūtis f.:** health; prosperity

**secō, –āre, –uī, sectus:** cut off

**versus:** toward, in the direction of

**vīcus, –ī m.:** village, hamlet

---

**pābulum…petere:** given the time of year, the Romans will need to seek fodder from structures (barns, villages, etc.) scattered throughout the countryside

**commoda:** *the interests of private property;* neut. pl. nominative subject of *neglenda*

**neglegenda:** with implied *esse*; passive periphrastic

**oportēre:** *ought to, it is fitting to;* infin. as part of the extended indirect statement

**hōc…quō:** a correlative construction; Verc. is saying that the buildings and farms in range of Roman foraging parties must be burned

**quōque versus:** see note at 7.4.5

Hārum ipsīs rērum cōpiam suppetere, ₆ quod quōrum in fīnibus bellum gerātur eōrum opibus subleventur. ₇ Rōmānōs aut inopiam nōn lātūrōs aut māgnō perīculō longius ab castrīs prōcessūrōs, ₈ neque interesse ipsōsne interficiant impedīmentīsne exuant, quibus āmissīs bellum gerī nōn possit.

---

**āmittō, –ere, –mīsī, –missus**: lose; lose by death; send away, dismiss

**exuō, –ere, –ī, –tus**: strip, deprive

**impedīmentum, –ī n.**: supplies

**intersum, –esse, –fuī**: make a difference; be of interest to

**ops, –is f.**: resources, aid

**prōcēdō, –ere, –cessī, –cessus**: go forward; advance, progress

**sublevō (1)**: lift up; support; assist

**suppetō, –ere, –īvī, –ītus**: be at hand; be sufficient for

---

**Hārum ipsīs rērum cōpiam**: *an abundance of such resources for [the Gauls]*

**eōrum opibus**: *by the resources of whom*

**lātūrōs, prōcessūrōs**: sc. *esse*; future active infinitives continuing the extended ind. statement; *lātūrus* is fut. act. partic. from *ferre*, "will not endure"

**māgnō perīculō**: *with great danger / very perilously*; abl. of manner

**neque interesse**: *nor does it make a difference [to the Gauls] whether…or*; a double question presented with the rare double enclitic *-ne…-ne*; more common is *utrum…an* or *-ne…an*; see A&G §334–35

**ipsōs**: the Romans, direct object of *interficiant / exuant*

**quibus āmissīs**: *with which (supplies) having been lost*; abl. abs.

9 Praetereā oppida incendī oportēre quae nōn mūnītiōne et
locī nātūrā ab omnī sint perīculō tūta, neu suīs sint ad
dētractandam mīlitiam receptācula neu Rōmānīs prōposita ad
cōpiam commeātūs praedamque tollendam.

---

**commeātus, –ūs m.**: supplies
**dētractō (1)**: evade; reduce
**mīlitia, –ae f.**: military service
**mūnītiō, –is f.**: fortification
**necesse**: necessary;, inevitable
**praeda, –ae f.**: loot, spoils
**praetereā**: in addition, further

**prōpōnō, –ere, –posuī, –positus**:
  offer; display; propose
**receptāculum, –ī n.**: refuge
**tollō, –ere, sustulī, sublātus**:
  (here) make off with, take away;
  (generally) raise up, build; destroy
**tueor, –ī, tūtus**: guard, protect;
  look at, behold, examine; regard

---

**oppida**: Caes. has used several words to refer to the structures of the Gauls which
  must be burned, from the *aedificia* and *vīcī* of 7.14.5 to the *oppida* here—any place
  which might contain supplies or harbor Gauls dodging conscription, from the
  humble farms and small hamlets to the largest towns
**neu…neu**: *so that…not…nor*; an *apocope* of *nēve* (the elision of a word-final
  vowel)*;* each *neu* clause lists a purpose for burning the *oppida quae nōn sint tūta*
**receptācula sint…Rōmānīs prōposita [sint]**: *that [the* oppida*] not become
  refuges…and not be offered up to the Romans*
**suīs**: *for our men*, i.e. Gauls attempting to avoid Verc.'s conscription efforts
**ad dētractandam, ad tollendam**: *for the purpose of*; gerundives

10 Haec sī gravia aut acerba videantur, multō illa gravius
aestimāre: līberōs coniugēs in servitūtem abstrahī, ipsōs
interficī, quae sit necesse accidere victīs.

---

**abstrahō, –ere, –āxī, –actus**: drag
  away, remove forcibly
**acerbus, –a, –um**: harsh; grievous
**aestimō (1)**: value, assess; reckon
**coniūnx, –iugis m./f.**: spouse

**gravis, –e**: heavy; serious; severe
**līberī, –ōrum m.**: children
**necesse**: necessary;, inevitable
**servitūs, –tūtis f.**: slavery

---

**multō**: ablative of degree of difference with the comparative *gravius*

**illa**: *these following things*; accusative plural neuter

**aestimāre**: apodosis, translated as a present subjunctive; still an infinitive because
  of the extended indirect statement

**līberōs coniugēs**: subjects of *abstrahī* in the ind. statement with asyndeton; in the
  ancient world, slavery was a common fate for defeated peoples, especially in the
  Roman era. Though he seldom mentions it, Caesar's campaigns in Gaul resulted
  in the taking of tens of thousands of Gallic slaves, and there must have been
  robust logistics networks in place to transport them back to Italy and beyond

**quae sit necesse accidere victīs**: *which things [just listed] it is necessary to befall the
  defeated*

## [15] *The Gauls debate the fate of Avaricum*

1 Omnium cōnsēnsū hāc sententiā probātā ūnō diē amplius XX urbēs Biturigum incenduntur. 2 Hoc idem fit in reliquīs cīvitātibus; in omnibus partibus incendia cōnspiciuntur, quae etsī magnō cum dolōre omnēs ferēbant, tamen hoc sibi sōlācī prōpōnēbant, quod sē prope explōrātā victōriā celeriter āmissa reciperātūrōs cōnfīdēbant.

---

**āmittō, –ere, –īsī, –issus**: lose; lose by death

**cōnfīdō, –ere, –īsus**: be assured, believe; rely on, trust (to)

**cōnspiciō, –ere, –ēxī, –ectus**: observe; notice; watch

**dolor, –ōris m.**: pain, grief

**explōrō (1)**: bring forth, search out; investigate; prove, test

**probō (1)**: to approve, commend

**prope**: nearly, almost

**prōpōnō, –ere, –posuī, –positus**: display, propose; declare, relate

**reciperō (1)**: restore, recover

**sōlācium, –iī n.**: comfort, solace

---

**cōnsēnsū…sententiā probātā…diē**: three different ablative uses in succession—means, abl. absolute, and abl. of time within which

**amplius XX urbēs**: *more than 20 cities*; the use of *urbs* to refer to Gallic towns is unusual; this is the first occurrence in the *BG*. There will be a few more uses to come in *BG* VII

**quae etsī…ferēbant**: *which [burnings], although all were enduring [them]*

**tamen hoc sibi sōlācī prōpōnēbant**: *nevertheless they were relating to themselves this comfort*; *sōlāci* is a partitive gen., literally "this of a comfort"

**prope explōrātā victōriā**: *with victory nearly searched out*; abl. abs.

**reciperātūrōs:** *that they would restore*; fut. act. infinitive with implied *esse*

3 Dēlīberātur dē Avāricō in commūnī conciliō, incendī placēret an dēfendī. 4 Prōcumbunt omnibus Gallīs ad pedēs Biturigēs nē pulcherrimam prope tōtīus Galliae urbem, quae praesidiō et ōrnāmentō sit cīvitātī, suīs manibus succendere cōgerentur; 5 facile sē locī nātūrā dēfēnsūrōs dīcunt quod prope ex omnibus partibus flūmine et palūde circumdatā ūnum habeat et perangustum aditum.

---

**aditus, –ūs, m.**: approach, entrance
**circumdō, –are, –dedī, –datus**: surround; envelop, enclose
**commūnis, –e**: public
**concilium, –ī, n.**: council, meeting
**dēlīberō (1)**: consider, ponder
**palūs, –ūdis f.**: swamp, marsh

**perangustus, –a, –um**: very narrow
**placeō, –ēre, –uī, –itus**: please, satisfy, give pleasure to (with dat)
**prōcumbō, –ere, –cubuī, –cubitus**: fall prostrate; sink, lie down
**succendō, –ere, –ī, –cēnsus**: set on fire, burn to the ground

---

**dēlīberātur**: *they ponder;* impersonal passive, lit. "there is a pondering"
**incendī placēret an dēfendī**: *whether it would be pleasing that [Avaricum] be burned or defended*; the *an* presents a double question
**omnibus Gallīs ad pedēs**: *at the feet of all the Gauls*; Latin shows possession with the dative here whereas English prefers the genitive
**nē…cōgerentur**: *begging that…*; the clause has the force of an indirect command after the implied pleading of the previous phrase; see Appendix A
**quae praesidiō et ōrnāmentō sit cīvitātī**: *which was both a guard and an ornament for the tribe*; double dative construction; verbs in subordinate clauses frequently (but not always) become subjunctive within extended indirect statements

6 Datur petentibus venia dissuādente prīmō Vercingetorīge, post concēdente et precibus ipsōrum et misericordiā vulgī. Dēfēnsōrēs oppidō idōneī dēliguntur.

---

**dēfēnsor, –ōris m.**: defender
**dissuādeō, –ēre, –suāsī, –suāsus**:
  dissuade, advise against
**idōneus, –a, –um**: suitable, fit
**misericordia, –ae f.**: pity,
  sympathy; compassion, mercy

**prex, precis f.**: prayer, request
**venia, –ae f.**: permission; favor,
  kindness; pardon
**vulgus, –ī m.**: the people, masses

---

**petentibus**: present act. participle, dative indirect object with *datur*
**dissuādente prīmō…post concēdente**: a double abl. abs. with *Vercingetorīge* as
  subject of both; note the contrasting *prīmō* and *post* to establish the sequence
**precibus**: abl. of cause
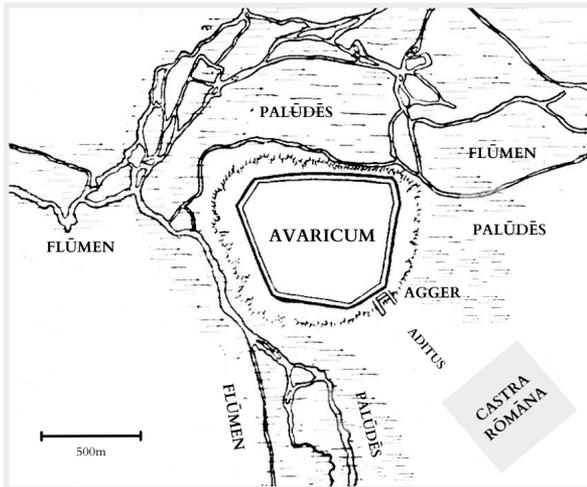


*Gallī facile sē locī nātūrā dēfēnsūrōs dīcunt quod prope ex omnibus partibus
flūmine et palūde circumdatā ūnum habeat et perangustum aditum* (7.15.5)

## [16] *Vercingetorix interferes with Roman foraging*

1 Vercingetorīx minōribus Caesarem itineribus subsequitur et locum castrīs dēligit palūdibus silvīsque mūnītum ab Avāricō longē mīlia passuum XVI. 2 Ibi per certōs explōrātōrēs in singula diēī tempora quae ad Avāricum agerentur cognōscēbat et quid fierī vellet imperābat.

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**certus, –a, –um**: certain, reliable
**dēligō, –ere, –lēgī, –lēctus**: pick; choose, select, enroll
**explōrātor, –ōris m.**: scout
**mūniō, –īre, –īvī, –ītus**: fortify

**prīmō**: at first; in the first place
**post**: afterwards
**silva, –ae f.**: forest
**subsequor, –ī, –secūtus**: follow close after; pursue; support

---

**in singula diēī tempora**: *every hour of the day*
**quid fierī vellet:** *what he wished to be done;* ind. question introduced by *imperābat*

3 Omnēs nostrās pābulātiōnēs frūmentātiōnēsque observābat dispersōsque, cum longius necessāriō prōcēderent, adoriēbātur magnōque incommodō adficiēbat, etsī quantum ratiōne prōvidērī poterat, ab nostrīs occurrēbātur, ut incertīs temporibus dīversīsque itineribus īrētur.

---

**adficiō, –ere, –fēcī, –fectus**: affect, impair; influence; handle

**adorior, –īrī, –ītus**: assault, attack

**dispergō, –ere, –sī, –sus**: scatter

**dīversus, –a, –um**: different, unlike

**frūmentātiō, –iōnis f.**: foraging

**incertus, –a, –um**: uncertain; inconstant; variable

**incommodum, –ī n.**: harm, defeat; inconvenience; detriment

**necessāriō**: necessarily, inevitably

**observō (1)**: watch, observe; heed

**occurrō, –ere, –ī, –cursus**: oppose, resist; come to mind

**pābulātiō, –iōnis f.**: fodder

**prōcēdō, –ere, –cessī, –cessus**: go forward; advance, progress

**prōvideō, –ēre, –vīdī, –vīsus**: foresee; provide for, make provision

---

**pābulātiōnēs frūmentātiōnēsque**: *foraging efforts [for fodder and for grain]*; men, horses, and draft animals all required a constant supply of food on the march

**dispersōsque**: sc. *nostrōs*; sc. *nostrī* for the following *prōcēderent*

**cum**: causal; Caes. is explaining why the Roman soldiers are *dispersōs*

**etsī…īrētur**: *although [this adversity] was being resisted by our men, as far as it was possible to be provided for by [the following] plan: that there was a departing at irregular times and by different routes*

## [17] *The Romans build a camp, but struggle with lack of supplies*

1 Castrīs ad eam partem oppidī positīs Caesar quae intermissa
ā flūmine et ā palūdibus aditum, ut suprā dīximus, angustum
habēbat, aggerem apparāre, vīneās agere, turrēs duās
cōnstituere coepit: nam circumvāllāre locī nātūra prohibēbat.
2 Dē rē frūmentāriā Boiōs atque Aeduōs adhortārī nōn
dēstitit; quōrum alterī, quod nūllō studiō agēbant, nōn
multum adiuvābant,

---

**aditus, –ūs m.:** approach, entrance

**adiuvō (1):** help, be of use

**angustum, –ī n.:** narrow place;
 passage, channel

**apparō (1):** prepare, make, equip

**circumvāllō (1):** blockade, invest

**intermittō, –ere, –mīsī, –missus:**
 neglect, leave off, leave
 unoccupied

**studium, –iī n.:** zeal, exertion

**vīnea, –ae f.:** covering, shelter,
 makeshift roof

---

**intermissa**: loosely, *having been left untouched by*; nom. sing. fem. modifying *quae*;
 Caes. explains that he put his *castra* at the spot which was not occluded by the
 river or by marshes

**ut suprā dīximus**: *as we mentioned above*; Caesar refers to himself in the 1st person
 here, a rarity. He described the physical setting of Avaricum back at 15.5

**aggerem, vīneās, turrēs**: typical structures created by a Roman army in a siege.
 The *agger* is a large ramp of dirt piled up adjacent to the defensive wall to lessen
 its height. The *vīneae* are temporary structures which protect the soldiers from
 projectiles while they work. The *turrēs* are tall movable wooden scaffolding
 towers on wheels, rollers, or sleds; when positioned next to a defensive wall,
 they permit soldiers to ascend and pass over the top. See also *BG* 3.21 for these
 methods

**alterī…alterī**: the Aedui and the Boii; see Appendix A

alterī nōn magnīs facultātibus, quod cīvitās erat exigua et īnfirma, celeriter quod habuērunt cōnsūmpsērunt. 3 Summā difficultāte reī frumentāriae adfectō exercitū tenuitāte Boiōrum, indīligentiā Aeduōrum, incendiīs aedificiōrum, ūsque eō ut complūrēs diēs frūmentō mīlitēs caruerint et pecore ex longinquiōribus vīcīs adāctō extrēmam famem sustentārent, nūlla tamen vōx est ab eīs audīta populī Rōmānī maiestāte et superiōribus victōriīs indigna.

---

**adficiō, –ere, –fēcī, –fectus:** affect, impair; influence; handle

**adigō, –ere, –ēgī, –actus:** drive, urge, force, compel; thrust

**careō, –ēre, –uī, –itus:** lack, be without (+ abl of separation)

**(com)plūs, –plūris:** very many

**exiguus, –a, –um:** small, paltry

**facultās, –tātis f.:** means; ability

**famēs, –is f.:** hunger

**indignus, –a, –um:** unworthy

**indīligentia, –ae f.:** negligence

**īnfirmus, –a, –um:** weak, fickle

**longinquus, –a, –um:** distant

**maiestās, –tātis f.:** dignity

**pecus, pecoris n.:** cattle, flock

**sustineō, –ēre, –uī, –tentus:** bear, withstand; keep back; uphold

**tenuitās, –tātis f.:** poverty, thinness

**vīcus, vīci m.:** village, quarter

---

**adfectō exercitū:** see Appendix A; the abl. abs. has adversative force ("although") answered eventually by *tamen*

**ūsque eō ut:** *[affected by difficulty] to such an extent that*, followed by result clause

**complūrēs diēs:** *for many days*; accus. of duration of time

**pecore…adāctō:** *with cattle having been driven in*; abl. abs.

**populī Rōmānī maiestāte et superiōribus victōriīs:** abl. of respect
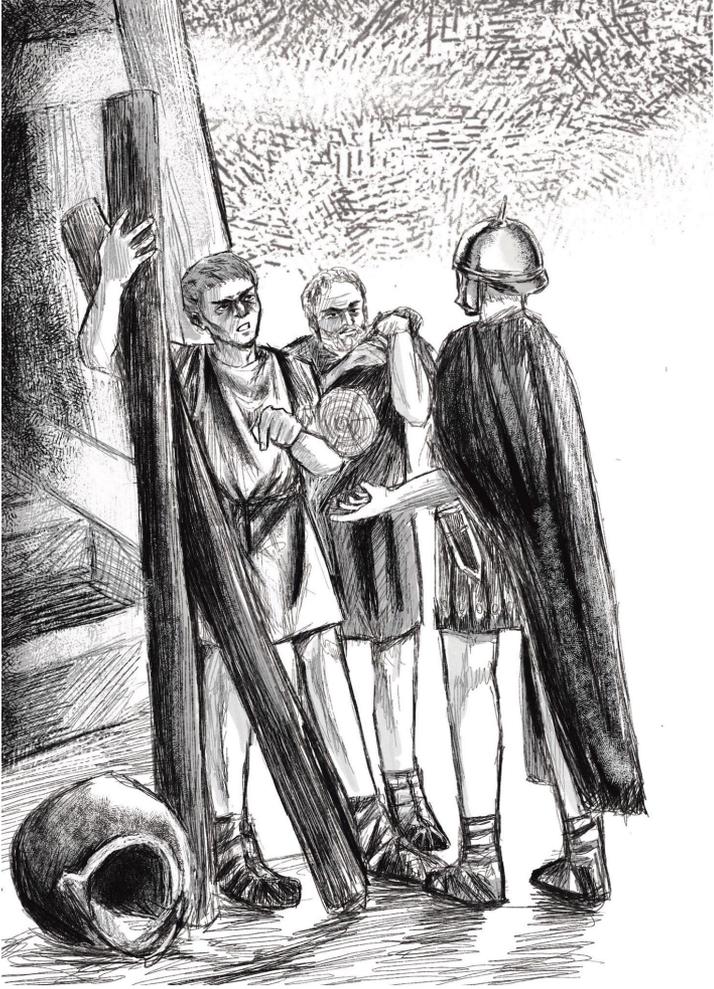
4 Quīn etiam Caesar cum in opere singulās legiōnēs appellāret et, sī acerbius inopiam ferrent, sē dīmissūrum oppugnātiōnem dīceret, ūniversī ab eō nē id faceret petēbant: 5 sīc sē complūrēs annōs illō imperante meruisse ut nūllam ignōminiam acciperent, nusquam īnfectā rē discēderent;

---

**acerbus, –a, –um**: harsh, grievous
**appellō** (1): call upon; address
**dīmittō, –ere, –mīsī, –missus**: dismiss, end; send away
**ignōminia, –ae f.**: dishonor

**īnfectus, –a, –um**: unfinished
**mereō, –ēre, –uī, –itus**: serve as soldier, render service; merit; incur
**nusquam**: (here) on no occasion
**ūniversus, –a, –um**: all together

---

**Quīn etiam**: *indeed; but…even*
**acerbius**: *too grievously*; comp. adverb
**sē dīmissūrum…dīceret**: *he kept saying that he would end the siege*; sc. *esse*
**nē id faceret**: ind. command introduced by *petēbant*
**sē…meruisse**: an ind. statement explaining the contents of their plea
**illō imperante**: *with him [Caes.] commanding*, i.e. *under his command*
**sīc…ut**: *in such a manner…that*; introducing a result clause

6 hoc sē ignōminiae lātūrōs locō sī inceptam oppugnātiōnem relīquissent; 7 praestāre omnēs perferre acerbitātēs quam nōn cīvibus Rōmānīs quī Cenabī perfidiā Gallōrum interīssent parentārent. 8 Haec eadem centuriōnibus tribūnīsque mīlitum mandābant ut per eōs ad Caesarem dēferrentur.

---

**acerbitās, –tātis f.:** harshness, severity; bitterness; hardship

**īdem, eadem, idem:** the same

**incipiō, –ere, –cēpī, –ceptus:** begin, take in hand

**intereō, –īre, –iī, itus:** die; cease

**mandō (1):** entrust, pass word to; give order, command

**parentō (1):** propitiate (+ dat)

**perferō, –ferre, –tulī, –lātus:** suffer, endure to the end

**perfidia, –ae f.:** treachery

**praestō, –āre, –stitī, –stitus:** it is preferable, is better; stand out, be superior; show, manifest

---

**hoc sē ignōminiae lātūrōs locō:** *[they plead that they] would place/consider this in a position of dishonor*; the *hoc* seems to refer to the following *sī* clause

**praestāre…quam:** *they say that it is better…rather than*

**parentārent:** this word appears only here in Caesar. It is related to the *Parentalia* festival, when Romans made offerings to their ancestors. Caes.'s soldiers here wish to propitiate or honor the Roman citizens slain at Cenabum (*BG* 7.3.1) by not giving in; it can also mean "avenge the death of a parent"

**Cenabī:** *at Cenabum* (locative); see *BG* 7.3.1

**haec eadem:** *these same words*

**centuriōnibus…dēferrentur:** The normal line of communication was regular soldier to centurion/tribune to commander. Caesar is emphasizing here that he, like Alexander or Hannibal, is not above mingling with the rank and file and hearing their opinions. Thus he hears the same sentiment directly from the soldiers that he hears from the centurions and tribunes

## [18] *The Gauls ambush Roman foragers*

1 Cum iam mūrō turrēs appropinquāssent, ex captīvīs Caesar cognōvit Vercingetorīgem cōnsūmptō pābulō castra mōvisse propius Avāricum atque ipsum cum equitātū expedītīsque, quī inter equitēs proeliārī cōnsuēssent, īnsidiārum causā eō profectum quō nostrōs posterō diē pābulātum ventūrōs arbitrārētur.

---

**appropinquō (1)**: approach (+ dat)
**cōnsuēscō, –ere, –suēvī, –suētus**: be accustomed to, do by habit
**expedītus, expedītī m.**: scout, lightly-armed soldier
**īnsidiae, –ārum f.**: plot, ambush

**pābulor, –ārī, –ātus**: forage for food or fodder
**pābulum, –ī n.**: food, fodder
**posterus, –a, –um**: next, following
**proelior, –ārī, ātus**: fight, battle

---

**1**: for a basic diagram of this sentence, see Appendix A

**appropinquāssent:** *–quavissent*, syncopation

**cōnsūmptō pābulō**: abl. abs.; Verc. has destroyed all the foragable material in keeping with his plan to deny it to Roman forces

**ipsum…prōfectum [esse]**: *that he (Verc.) had departed*, continuing the ind. statement after *cognōvit*

**profectum:** *had set out; sc.* esse

**causā**: *for the purpose of, for the sake of*; usually with a gen. gerund(ive), but frequently only implied, as here

**eō…quō**: *to that place…where*

**cōnsuēssent**: *–suēvissent*, syncopation

**ventūrōs:** sc. *esse*

**pābulātum**: *to forage for food*; supine expressing purpose

2 Quibus rēbus cognitīs mediā nocte silentiō profectus ad hostium castra māne pervēnit. 3 Illī celeriter per explōrātōrēs adventū Caesaris cognitō carrōs impedīmentaque sua in artiōrēs silvās abdidērunt, cōpiās omnēs in locō ēditō atque apertō īnstrūxērunt. 4 Quā rē nūntiātā Caesar celeriter sarcinās cōnferrī, arma expedīrī iussit.

---

**abdō, –ere, –didī, –ditus**: conceal; remove; go away

**apertus, –a, –um**: open, uncovered

**artus, –a, –um**: dense, narrow

**carrus, –ī m.**: wagon

**ēditus, –a, –um**: high, rising

**expediō, –īre, –īvī, –ītus**: procure, make ready; loosen; disengage

**explōrātor, –ōris m.**: scout, spy

**impedīmentum, –ī n.**: baggage

**īnstruō, –ere, –strūxī, –strūctus**: draw up; construct; prepare; fit out

**māne**: early in the morning

**sarcina, –ae f.**: soldier's kit; baggage, belongings

**silva, –ae f.**: forest

---

**profectus:** the subject is Caesar

**silentiō:** *in silence;* with adverbial force

**illī:** *the Gauls*

**celeriter per explōrātōrēs adventū Caesaris cognitō:** abl. abs.

**carrōs impedīmentaque:** both the Romans and the Gauls marched with supply trains that needed to be protected from opportunistic attack

**sarcinās:** Roman soldiers carried a huge variety of non-fighting items, including shovels, picks, axes, saws, stakes, tents, rope, chains, sacks, buckets, cooking pots, grinding mills, and food. These were in addition to fighting implements: *gladius* (sword), *pūgiō* (dagger), *scūtum* (shield), *pīla* (javelins), *galea* (helmet), *lorica* (armor), etc. In addition all these items were all the personal belongings and plunder (*sarcinae/impedimenta*), which might be left in a safe place if a more rapid marching pace was required

## [19] *Caesar decides not to engage and explains why*

1 Collis erat lēniter ab īnfimō acclīvis. Hunc ex omnibus ferē partibus palūs difficilis atque impedīta cingēbat nōn lātior pedibus quīnquāgintā. 2 Hōc sē colle, interruptīs pontibus, Gallī fidūciā locī continēbant, generātimque distribūtī in cīvitātēs, omnia vada ac saltūs eius palūdis obtinēbant, 3 sīc animō parātī, ut, sī eam palūdem Rōmānī perrumpere cōnārentur, haesitantēs premerent ex locō superiōre,

---

**acclīvis, –e**: rising, sloping; steep
**cingō, –ere, cīnxī, cinctus:** encircled, enclosed
**collis, –is m.**: hill
**contineō, –ēre, –uī, –tentus**: keep
**fidūcia, –ae f.**: trust, confidence
**generātim**: by tribes, by kinds
**haesitō (1)**: be stuck; hesitate
**impedītus, –a, –um**: inaccessible, difficult to pass
**īnfimus, –a, –um**: lowest
**interrumpō, –ere, –ī, –ruptus:** break up, break apart; interrupt

**lātus, –a, –um**: wide; spacious
**lēniter**: mildly, slightly
**obtineō, –ēre, –uī, obtentus**: hold, maintain, preserve; acquire
**palūs, –ūdis f.**: swamp, marsh
**perrumpō, –ere, –rūpī, –ruptus:** break through, force through
**pōns, –tis m.**: bridge
**quīnquāgintā**: fifty
**saltus, –ūs m.**: narrow passage
**vadum, vadī n.**: shallows, ford

---

**lēniter ab īnfimō acclīvis**: i.e, with a gentle rise, not steep; *īnfimō* is a substantive adjective for "the bottom"
**2–3**: for a basic diagram of this complicated sentence, see Appendix A
**haesitantēs**: *[the Romans] constantly getting stuck*; *haesitāre* is an iterative verb construction of *haerēre* "cling, adhere, hold fast; be fixed, firm; be at a loss;" the subject of *premerent* is the Gauls

ut quī propinquitātem locī vidēret parātōs prope aequō Mārte
ad dīmicandum exīstimāret, quī inīquitātem condiciōnis
perspiceret inānī simulātiōne sēsē ostentāre cognōsceret.
4 Indignantēs mīlitēs Caesar, quod cōnspectum suum hostēs
perferre possent tantulō spatiō interiectō, et signum proelī
exposcentēs ēdocet,

---

**aequus, –a, –um**: even, equal
**condiciō, –iōnis f.**: situation;
  manner; stipulation
**cōnspectus, –ūs m.**: view, sight
**dīmicō (1)**: struggle, be in peril
**ēdoceō, –ēre, –cuī, –tus**: inform
  (thoroughly), apprise, prove
**exposcō, –ere, –poposcī**: request;
  demand

**inānis, –e**: empty, hollow
**intericiō,–ere, –iēcī, –iectus**: set
  between; intersperse
**Mārs, Mārtis m.**: Mars (Roman
  god of war); fighting, battle
**propinquitās, –tātis f.**: nearness
**simulātiō, –iōnis f.**: imitation,
  pretense, deceit; assumption
**tantulus, –a, –um**: so small

---

**ut quī…quī**: *with the result that anyone who…[but] anyone who…*
**parātōs prope aequō Mārte ad dīmicandum**: *prepared for fighting in almost equal
  battle*; Mārte here is metonymy for the general act of fighting
**exīstimāret**: the object is the Gauls and the Romans
**inānī simulātiōne sēsē ostentāre**: *that they were displaying an empty imitation*;
  Caesar means that an observer would think that the Gauls are positioned such
  that any battles will occur on equal terms (even though close observation will
  reveal the Gauls' upper hand). From the perspective of the Roman soldier, this
  situation seems acceptable, but Caesar here indicates his superior evaluative skills
**exposcentēs**: parallel with *indignantēs*, both modifying *mīlitēs [Rōmānōs]*
**4–5**: see Appendix A for a basic diagram of this sentence

quantō dētrīmentō et quot virōrum fortium morte necesse sit
cōnstāre victōriam; quōs cum sīc animō parātōs videat 5 ut
nūllum prō suā laude perīculum recūsent, summae sē
inīquitātis condemnārī dēbēre nisi eōrum vītam suā salūte
habeat cāriōrem. 6 Sīc mīlitēs cōnsōlātus eōdem diē redūcit in
castra reliquaque quae ad oppugnātiōnem pertinēbant oppidī
administrāre īnstituit.

---

**condemnō (1)**: find guilty
**cōnsōlor, –ārī, –ātus**: encourage,
 comfort; alleviate, soothe
**cōnstō, –āre, –itī, –ātus**: cost
 (+ abl); be certain; be determined;
 be extant, consist of

**inīquitās, –tātis f.**: unfairness
**mors, mortis f.**: death
**pertineō, –ēre, –uī**: reach;
 relate/pertain to
**recūsō (1)**: decline, reject, refuse

---

**quantō dētrīmentō…quot morte…necesse sit cōnstāre victōriam**: *how much
 damage…the death of how many…it would be necessary that victory cost*
**quōs cum**: introduces a circumstantial clause; the antecedent of *quos* is the
 Roman soldiers
**sē…dēbēre**: sc. *ēdocet* from above
**nisi eōrum vītam suā salūte habeat cāriōrem**: *if he did not consider their life more
 precious than his own safety*; the verbs *habēre* and *ducere* can often have this
 meaning "consider" with a predicate

## [20] *Vercingetorix replies to his detractors*

1 Vercingetorīx, cum ad suōs redīsset, prōditiōnis īnsimulātus, quod castra propius Rōmānōs mōvisset, quod cum omnī equitātū discessisset, quod sine imperiō tantās cōpiās relīquisset, quod eius discessū Rōmānī tantā opportūnitāte et celeritāte vēnissent; 2 nōn haec omnia fortuitō aut sine cōnsiliō accidere potuisse; rēgnum illum Galliae mālle Caesaris concessū quam ipsōrum habēre beneficiō.

---

**beneficium, –iī n.**: favor; honor, distinction
**concessus, –ūs m.**: permission
**fortuitō**: accidentally, by chance
**īnsimulō (1)**: accuse, charge; allege
**mālō, mālle, māluī**: prefer

**opportūnitās, –tātis f.**: convenience, advantage
**prōditiō, –ōnis f.**: treason, betrayal
**prope**: near, nearly; close by; almost
**rēgnum, –ī n.**: kingship, rule; domain, a kingdom

---

**īnsimulātus:** sc. *est* to form a perfect passive indicative; see Appendix A
**quod:** *[due to] the fact that;* this is a difficult passage: the subjunctives are of "alleged reason" and convey the stated grounds for an assertion ("on the grounds that he had…"); the actuality of the actions (moving the camp, departing with the cavalry, etc) are not in question
**sine imperiō:** *without a leader;* it seems that Verc. failed to delegate authority
**discessū:** *due to his [Verc.'s] departure*, or perhaps *during his departure*
**opportūnitāte…fortuitō:** the Gauls allege that Verc.'s departure was a little *too* conveniently timed with the Roman attack on their camp
**potuisse, mālle:** infinitives in an implied indirect statement; sc. "*the accusing Gauls say that*;" for *mālle*, sc. *Vercingetorīgem* as subject
**concessū:** *through the permission of*

3 Tālī modō accūsātus ad haec respondit: quod castra mōvisset, factum inopiā pābulī etiam ipsīs hortantibus; quod propius Rōmānōs accessisset, persuāsum locī opportūnitāte, quī sē ipsum mūnītiōne dēfenderet; 4 equitum vērō operam neque in locō palūstrī dēsīderārī dēbuisse et illīc fuisse ūtilem quō sint profectī; 5 summam imperiī sē cōnsultō nūllī discēdentem trādidisse nē is multitūdinis studiō ad dīmicandum impellerētur, cui reī propter animī mollitiem studēre omnēs vidēret, quod diūtius labōrem ferre nōn possent;

---

**cōnsultō**: deliberately, intentionally
**dēsīderō (1)**: want, wish for,
 require; (in pass.) miss, lack
**dīmicō (1)**: struggle, be in peril
**diūtius**: longer, for a longer time
**illīc**: in that place, yonder
**impellō, –ere, –pulī, –pulsus**:
 drive, push on; urge on; induce
**inopia, –ae f.**: lack, need, dearth
**mollitiēs, –ieī f.**: softness, weakness
**mūnītiō, –iōnis f.**: fortification

**opportūnitās, –tātis f.**:
 convenience, advantage
**pābulum, –ī n.**: food; fodder
**palūster, –stris, –stre**: swampy
**persuadeō, –ēre, –suāsī, –suāsus**:
 (here) induce, prompt
**quō**: (to) where
**studium, –iī n.**: zeal, exertion
**tālis, –e**: such, of such a sort
**ūtilis, –e**: useful

---

**quod…factum**: *with regard to the fact that…[he says that] it was done*
**factum, persuāsum**: sc. *esse* in extended ind. statement
**etiam ipsīs hortantibus**: the Gauls themselves had even urged this move
**5**: see Appendix A for a short diagram of this section
**summam imperiī**: that is, the command of the Gauls in his absence
**is**: that is, the person to whom he might have delegated command

6 Rōmānī sī cāsū intervēnerint, fortūnae, sī alicuius indiciō
vocātī, huic habendam grātiam, quod et paucitātem eōrum
ex locō superiōre cognōscere et virtūtem dēspicere potuerint
quī dīmicāre nōn ausī turpiter sē in castra recēperint.
7 Imperium sē ab Caesare per prōditiōnem nūllum dēsīderāre,
quod habēre victōriā posset quae iam esset sibi atque
omnibus Gallīs explōrāta: quīn etiam ipsīs remittere, sī sibi
magis honōrem tribuere quam ab sē salūtem accipere
videantur.

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**audeō, –ēre, ausus**: dare
**casus, casūs m.**: chance; accident;
  calamity, fall
 **dēspiciō, –ere, –spēxī, –spectus**:
  look down on; disdain, despise
**dēsīderō (1)**: want, wish for,
  require; (in pass.) miss, lack
**explōrō (1)**: bring/search out;
  investigate, test
**grātia, –ae f.**: gratitude; favor

**indicium, –iī n.**: information,
  disclosure; evidence, proof
**interveniō, –īre, –vēnī, –ventus**:
  come between; occur, pop up
**paucitās, –tātis f.**: scarcity, fewness
**prōditiō, –ōnis f.**: betrayal, treason
**tribuō, –ere, –uī, –ūtus**: grant, allot
**turpiter**: repulsively, disgracefully,
  shamelessly

---

**sī…sī…habendam grātiam**: see Appendix A for a diagram of this tricky
  passage. Instead of being a problem, the arrival of the Romans in his absence is
  fortuitous, which is then explained further (*quod*)
**alicuius indiciō**: *by the disclosure of some [spy/traitor]*
**turpiter**: Caesar's characterization of his actions, here in Verc.'s words, contrasts
  with his own analysis of the event in the previous chapter
**quīn…videantur**: *[he says that] in fact he would even hand back [his leadership], if
  [the Gauls] seemed to bestow honor **on** him rather than take safety **from** him*

8 "Haec ut intellegātis" inquit "ā mē sincērē prōnūntiārī, audītē Rōmānōs mīlitēs." 9 Prōdūcit servōs quōs in pābulātiōne paucīs ante diēbus excēperat et fame vinculīsque excruciāverat. Hī iam ante ēdoctī quae interrogātī prōnūntiārent, 10 mīlitēs sē esse legiōnāriōs dīcunt; fame et inopiā adductōs clam ex castrīs exīsse sī quid frūmentī aut pecoris in agrīs reperīre possent;

---

**clam**: secretly; covertly
**ēdoceō, –ēre, –uī, –tus**: instruct
**excruciō (1)**: torture; torment
**famēs, –is f.**: hunger, want
**pābulātiō, –iōnis f.**: foraging
**pecus, pecoris n.**: herd; flock

**prōdūcō, –ere, –dūxī, –ductus**: lead forward, bring out, reveal
**reperiō, –īre, –ī, –pertus**: discover, obtain; learn
**salūs, salūtis f.**: health; prosperity
**sincērē**: candidly; honestly
**vinculum, –ī n.**: chain, prison

---

**servōs**: Caesar clearly terms them slaves, suggesting they were not in fact soldiers. These slaves would have accompanied the Roman soldiers in their foraging. Caesar might also be deliberately downplaying the status of these captives if they were in fact legionnaires

**iam ante ēdoctī**: *having been instructed before now*; Verc. has carefully coached these "witnesses" to ensure they say what he wishes

**sī quid...possent**: *[to determine] if they might be able to discover anything*

11 similī omnem exercitum inopiā premī, nec iam vīrēs sufficere cuiusquam nec ferre operis labōrem posse: itaque statuisse imperātōrem, sī nihil in oppugnātiōne oppidī prōfēcissent, trīduō exercitum dēdūcere. "Haec," inquit, "ā mē," Vercingetorīx, "beneficia habētis, 12 quem prōditiōnis īnsimulātis; cuius operā sine vestrō sanguine tantum exercitum victōrem fame cōnsūmptum vidētis; quem turpiter sē ex fugā recipientem nē quā cīvitās suīs fīnibus recipiat ā mē prōvīsum est."

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**īnsimulō** (1): accuse, charge; allege

**nihil**: nothing; in no way; not at all

**prōditiō, –ōnis f.**: betrayal, treason

**prōficiō, –ere, –fēcī, –fectus**: make progress, advance; have success

**prōvideō, –ēre, –vīdī, –vīsus**: discern; foresee; see to; avert

**quisquam, quidquam**: anyone

**statuō, –ere, –uī, –tūtus**: set up, establish, set; decide, think

**sufficiō, –ere, –fēcī, –fectus**: be sufficient, adequate

**trīduum, trīduī n.**: three days

**turpiter**: disgracefully, shamelessly

**vīs, vīs f.**: violence, potency; (in pl.) physical strength

---

**statuisse imperātōrem**: *[they say that] their commander [Caes.] had decided that*

**inquit**: *orātiō rēcta is relatively rare in the commentāriī, but most prevalent in book VII; for speeches in Caes., see Grillo's discussion in The Cambridge Companion to the Writings of Julius Caesar (2017)*

**quem…cuius…quem**: *the first two pronouns refer to himself (Verc.), while the final quem has exercitum as its antecedent*

**cuius operā**: *because of the work/efforts of whom*

**ā mē prōvīsum est**: *it has been seen to/arranged by me [that]*

**nē quā…recipiat**: *that no [Gallic] tribe receive which [army] within its borders*

## [21] *The Gauls approve of Vercingetorix and send support*

1 Conclāmat omnis multitūdō et suō mōre armīs concrepat, quod facere in eō cōnsuērunt cuius ōrātiōnem approbant. Summum esse Vercingetorīgem ducem, nec dē eius fide dubitandum, nec maiōre ratiōne bellum administrārī posse. 2 Statuunt ut X mīlia hominum dēlēcta ex omnibus cōpiīs in oppidum mittantur, 3 nec sōlīs Biturigibus commūnem salūtem committendam cēnsent, quod paene in eō, sī id oppidum retinuissent, summam victōriae cōnstāre intellegēbant.

---

**approbō (1)**: approve, favor
**conclāmō (1)**: shout together
**concrepō, –āre, –uī, –itus**: clash, creak, rattle, make noise
**cēnseō, –ēre, –uī, –sus**: judge, determine, be of the opinion
**committō, –ere, –mīsī, –missus**: entrust to; enter on, engage in
**cōnstō, –āre, –itī, –ātus**: (here) consist of, rest/stand on

**cōnsuēsco, –ere, –suēvī, –suētus**: be accustomed to, have habit of
**dēligō, –ere, –ēgī, –lēctus**: select
**mōs, mōris m.**: habit, custom
**retineō, –ēre, –uī, –tentus**: hold fast, preserve; restrain
**sōlus, –a, –um**: only, alone
**statuō, –ere, –uī, –ūtus**: decide, determine; erect; support

---

**nec dē eius fide dubitandum:** *nor must there be doubt of his honor*
**in eō:** *in the following*; that is, that they keep possession of the town
**summam victoriae:** in the past, this section has been interpreted to mean that the Gauls did not wish the Bit. alone to receive all the glory of the defense. It seems more accurate, however, to read it as the Gauls' unwillingness to *rely* on the Bit. alone for the defense, since it was such a key element in their strategy

## [22] *Caesar describes Gallic battlefield technology*

1 Singulārī mīlitum nostrōrum virtūtī cōnsilia cuiusque modī
Gallōrum occurrēbant, ut est summae genus sollertiae atque
ad omnia imitanda et efficienda quae ab quōque trāduntur
aptissimum.

---

**aptus, –a, –um**: suitable; adapted; comfortable

**efficiō, –ere, –fēcī, –fectus**: cause, bring about; accomplish

**genus, generis n.**: type, kind, race

**imitor, –ārī, –ātus**: copy, mimic

**occurrō, –ere, –ī, –rsus**: (+ dat) meet, oppose, resist; clash with

**quisque, quidque**: each, every

**singulāris, –e**: unique; remarkable

**sollertia, –ae f.**: skill, cleverness; resourcefulness

---

**singulārī…occurrēbant**: the subject *cōnsilia* is delayed, and the verb takes a
dative object; Caes. contrasts the *virtūs* of the Romans with the technological
response of the Gaul, a reversal of the typical attributes of the two sides in *BG*

**cuiusque modī**: *of every kind*

**genus…aptissimum**: *a type (of society) very suited to/for* or *very comfortable with*
(+*ad* and gerundive); Caesar typically uses the term *genus* to denote broad
category types. At *BG* 4.20.1 he seeks to know what *genus* of men dwell in
Britain; at *BG* 6.28 he uses the word to indicate socio-economic types among
Gauls; elsewhere he uses it for types of fighting (employed by Germans, *BG*
1.48.5; of Britons fighting from chariots, *BG* 4.33.1; of types of *cunīculī*, *BG*
7.22.2 below)

**ab quōque**: *by anyone*

2 Nam et laqueīs falcēs āvertēbant quās cum dēstināverant tormentīs intrōrsus redūcēbant, et aggerem cunīculīs subtrahēbant, eō scientius quod apud eōs magnae sunt ferrāriae atque omne genus cunīculōrum nōtum atque ūsitātum est.

---

**cunīculus, –ī m.:** hole, mineshaft

**destinō (1):** fasten down; mark out; fix in mind; aim

**ferrāria, –ae f.:** iron mine

**intrōrsus:** (to) within, inwards

**pariō, –ere, peperī, partus:** bear; give birth to; beget, bring forth

**sciēns, scientis:** knowing, skilled

**subtrahō, –ere, –trāxī, –tractus:** remove from below, carry off; take away; undermine

**ūsitātus, –a, –um:** familiar, everyday; customary, usual

---

**laqueīs falcēs āvertēbant:** *they turn away the hooks with snares*; the *laqueus* is simply a loop on a rope, and a *falx* is a hook on a long pole used by Roman soldiers to pull away parts of a wall or the men stationed upon it; see *BG* 3.14.5; Tacitus *Hist.* 3.27

**quās…tormentīs intrōrsus redūcēbant:** *which…they were bringing back within the walls by machines*; the term *tormentum* is applied in Latin to a variety of torsion-based devices, including projectile-hurlers (typical in Roman armies), torture racks, and even clothes-presses. Here Caes. seems to mean that the Gauls have devised a winch of some sort to lasso and then pull away the *falcēs*

**cunīculīs:** a *cunīculus* is a rabbit, from the Greek κύνικλος, but by extension means, as result of their burrowing, "underground passage, hole, cavity." Here they are the tunnels created by soldiers digging under fortifications in an attempt to compromise them; see *BG* 3.21.2-3 and 7.24.2 below, and Livy 5.19.10; 31.17.2; 38.7.6

**aggerem:** a siege mound; see the note at *BG* 7.17.1 above

**eō scientius quod:** *the more skillfully [they employ the tunnels] because*; ablative of degree of difference with comparative adverb

3 Tōtum autem mūrum ex omnī parte turribus contabulāverant atque hās coriīs intēxerant. 4 Tum crēbrīs diurnīs nocturnīsque ēruptiōnibus aut aggerī ignem īnferēbant aut mīlitēs occupātōs in opere adoriēbantur, et nostrārum turrium altitūdinem, quantum hās cotīdiānus agger expresserat,

---

**adorior, –īrī, –ītus**: assault, attack
**contabulō (1)**: build in tiers/stories
**corium, coriī n.**: skin, hide
**cotīdiānus, –a, –um**: daily
**crēber, –bra, –brum**: thick, pressed together; frequent; abundant
**diurnus, –a, –um**: by day
**ēruptiō, –iōnis f.**: sudden rush of troops from a position; a sally

**exprimō, –ere, –pressī, –pressus**: squeeze/press/thrust out
**īnferō, –ferre, –tulī, –lātus**: (w/ fire) throw upon, set
**integō, –ere, –tēxī, –tēctus**: cover
**nocturnus, –a, –um**: at night
**turris, –is f.**: tower, turret, siege machine

---

**murum…turribus contabulāverant**: the verb *contabulāre* has multiple meanings, but here seems to mean that the Gauls had created tiers or stories on the defensive walls of the town by means of elevated turrets; elsewhere the verb means to furnish or cover with boards (*BG* 5.40; Livy 24.37.7; cf. Suet. *Calig.* 19)

**coriīs intēxerant**: the *coria* were hide coverings for the *turrēs* which helped protect them from flaming projectiles, and were generally used both on walls and on siege machinery

**mīlitēs occupātōs**: [*Rōmānōs*]

**quantum hās cotīdiānus agger expresserat**: *as much as the ramp/mound had daily thrust out* (perhaps *inched forward*) *these (siege towers)*; the primary purpose of the ramp was to provide a method to raise the siege towers to the height of the wall

5 commissīs suārum turrium mālīs adaequābant, et apertōs cunīculōs praeustā et praeacūtā māteriā et pice fervefactā et maximī ponderis saxīs morābantur moenibusque appropinquāre prohibēbant.

---

**adaequō (1)**: make equal in height, come up to level; compare (to)

**apertus, –a, –um**: open; uncovered, exposed; manifest

**appropinquō (1)**: (+ dat) approach, come near to; draw nigh

**cunīculus, –ī m.**: hole, mineshaft

**fervefactus, –a, –um**: hot; melted

**mālus, –ī m.**: beam; tall pole

**māteria, –ae f.**: wood, timber

**moenia, –ium n.**: town walls

**moror, –ārī, ātus**: delay; stay

**pix, picis f.**: pitch, tar

**pondus, –eris n.**: weight, mass

**praeacūtus, –a, –um**: sharpened

**praeustus, –a, –um**: burnt at the end; hardened by burning

---

**commissīs suārum turrium mālīs**: *wooden beams having been joined to their own towers*; the Gauls continually increase the height of their own *turrēs* in response

**apertōs cunīculōs**: it is not known what Caes. means here. These could be Roman tunnels very similar to those attempted by the Gauls, in which case *apertōs* would be the perfect passive participle of *aperīre* "laid bare, rendered accessible, discovered," presumably by their own counter-tunneling efforts and then assailed with *māteriā et saxīs*; or these *cunīculī* could be open trenches (adj. *apertī*, favored here), involved in some way with the construction of the *agger*, or perhaps less literal "passageways" atop the *agger* which were covered by *vīneae*. In either case, it is not clear what use the *māteriae* would be—the burning pitch and stones are more obvious in their usage and effectiveness

**fervefactā**: a relatively rare term in Latin, found only twice in *BG*, once each in culinary contexts in Columella and Apicus, but frequently in Pliny *NH*

**morābantur**, **prohibēbant**: conative imperfects: *were attempting to delay, prevent*

## [23] *Caesar describes the method of Gallic wall construction*

1 Mūrī autem omnēs Gallicī hāc ferē fōrmā sunt. Trabēs dērēctae perpetuae in longitūdinem paribus intervāllīs, dīstantēs inter sē bīnōs pedēs, in solō collocantur. 2 Hae revinciuntur intrōrsus et multō aggere vestiuntur;

---

**agger, aggeris m.**: (here) dirt

**bīnī, –ae, –a**: two by two; two to each; two at a time

**collocō (1)**: arrange, place together, set up, erect

**dērēctus, –a, –um**: straight

**dīstāns, –ntis**: distant; separate

**intervāllum, –ī n.**: an intermediate space; (of time) an interval

**intrōrsus**: (to) within, inwards

**longitūdō, –dinis f.**: length

**mūrus, –ī m.**: wall

**par, paris**: equal

**perpetuus, –a, –um**: continuous

**solum, solī n.**: bottom, ground

**revinciō, –īre, –xī, -ctus**: fasten

**trabs, trabis f.**: beam, timber; log

**vestiō, –īre, –īvī, –ītus**: cover

---

**hāc ferē fōrmā**: This chapter is highly technical Latin and, like Caesar's attempt to describe his bridge across the Rhine (*BG* 4.17.3–9), sometimes difficult to follow

**mūrus**: Caes. uses *mūrus* and *moenia* interchangeably; *moenia*, almost always plural, might be translated as "fortifications; ramparts," while the *mūrus* is the wall itself

**in longitūdinem**: *lengthwise / end-to-end*

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ea autem, quae dīximus, inter vālla grandibus in fronte saxīs effarciuntur. 3 Hīs collocātis et coagmentātis alius īnsuper ōrdō additur, ut idem illud intervāllum servētur neque inter sē contingant trabēs, sed paribus intermissae spatiīs singulae singulīs saxīs interiectīs arte contineantur.

---

**addō, –ere, –didī, –ditus**: add, place in addition, attach to
**ars, artis f.**: skill
**coagmentō (1)**: join, connect
**effarciō, –īre, –fertus**: fill out; cram
**frōns, –ontis f.**: front, façade; exterior; (elsewhere) brow, face
**grandis, –e**: large, great, grand

**īnsuper**: above, on top; in addition
**intericiō, –ere, –iēcī, –iectus**: intersperse, insert; throw between
**intermittō, –ere, –mīsī, –missus**: leave off, omit, interrupt; let pass
**ōrdō, –inis m.**: line, row, series
**vāllum, –ī n.**: rampart; entrenchment

---

**alius īnsuper ōrdō**: *another row [of* trabēs*] above*
**paribus…spatiīs**: from the outside and the inside, the facing of the wall would show the regularly-spaced ends of the beams, placed perpendicular to the course of the wall and seeming to float in regular intervals among a smooth facing of stones (see illustration on p.75 below). Between the two wall facings, the unseen interior structure of these perpendicular beams is reinforced by long beams placed at right angles (parallel with the course of the wall), attached to the perpendicular beams by morticed joints, and the whole interior is filled with soil and/or rubble. This type of construction is termed *murus Gallicus* and is typical of Iron Age *oppida* in western Europe during the *La Tène* period. Several examples of the technique have been excavated, mostly in France, and some site curators have created partial constructions (as at Bibracte, *oppidum* of the Aedui, near modern Autun)

4 Sīc deinceps omne opus contexitur dum iūsta mūrī altitūdō expleātur. 5 Hoc cum in speciem varietātemque opus dēfōrme nōn est alternīs trabibus ac saxīs, quae rēctīs līneīs suōs ōrdinēs servant, tum ad ūtilitātem et dēfēnsiōnem urbium summam habet opportūnitātem, quod et ab incendiō lapis et ab ariete māteria dēfendit, quae perpetuīs trabibus pedēs quadrāgēnōs plērumque intrōrsus revincta neque perrumpī neque distrahī potest.

---

**ariēs, –etis m.:** (here) battering ram
**contexō, –ere, –uī, –tus:** join, bind, weave; construct, put together
**dēfōrmis, –e:** ugly, deformed
**deinceps:** in order, successively
**distrahō, –ere, –trāxī, –tractus:** draw apart, rend, separate
**expleō, –ēre, –plēvī, –plētus:** fill out; complete, finish
**incendium, –iī n.:** fire
**intrōrsus:** (to) within, inwards
**lapis, lapidis m.:** stone
**līnea, –ae f.:** line, mark; string

**māteria, –ae f.:** wood, timber
**ōrdō, –inis m.:** line, row, series
**perrumpō, –ere, –rūpī, –ruptus:** break through
**quadrāgēnus, –a, –um:** forty each
**rēctus, –a, –um:** straight
**revinciō, –īre, –xī, –ctus:** fasten
**speciēs, –iēī f.:** sight, appearance
**trabs, trabis f.:** beam, timber; log
**ūtilitās, –tātis f.:** usefulness
**varietās, –tātis f.:** difference; varied appearance

---

**omne opus:** *the whole work, the whole wall*
**dum iūsta mūrī altitūdō expleātur:** *until the proper height of the wall be finished*
**cum…tum:** *not only…but also*
**revincta:** as described in the note of the previous section, the *trabēs* are reinforced on the interior of the wall with further beams set at right angles, which joins the whole length together

## [24] *The Gauls attack the Roman siege machines*

1 Hīs tot rēbus impedītā oppūgnātiōne mīlitēs, cum tōtō tempore frīgore et assiduīs imbribus tardārentur, tamen continentī labōre omnia haec superāvērunt et diēbus XXV aggerem lātum pedēs CCCXXX, altum pedēs LXXX exstrūxērunt.

---

**assiduus, –a, –um**: constant

**continēns, –entis**: continual, uninterrupted; limiting

**exstruō, –ere, –ūxī, –ctus**: build up, raise, build, construct

**frīgus, –oris n.**: cold; winter

**imber, imbris m.**: rain

**impediō, –īre, –īvī, –ītus**: hinder, impede, obstruct, prevent from

**tardō (1)**: slow, delay, impede

---

**tōtō tempore**: *the entire time*; abl. of duration of time, instead of the accusative; cf *BC* 1.46: *hōc cum esset modō pugnātum continenter horīs quinque*

**aggerem lātum pedēs CCCXXX, altum pedēs LXXX**: *they built the ramp to be 330 feet wide, 80 feet tall*. The great width was perhaps due to the necessity to support two massive siege towers (*turrēs*) next to each other, though some doubt these numbers. Such a height would be necessary if the walls of the town were fronted by a deep moat. Caes. utilized an *agger* a total of five times in the Gallic Wars: the first at Noviodunum, *oppidum* of the Suessiones (*BG* 2.12.1-5) and second against the Atuatuci (*BG* 2.30-33), both in 57 BCE; the third, via his legate P. Crassus, against the stronghold of the Sotiates in 56 (*BG* 3.21-22); the fourth here at Avaricum in 52; and the fifth at Uxellodunum, which has the most detailed description (*BG* 8.41-44). There are surviving Roman examples of *aggerēs* at Dura-Europos on the Euphrates and at Masada in the Judaean Desert. See S. Krausz, "Julius Caesar's assault ramp at the *Oppidum* of *Avaricum* in 52 BC" in *Enclosing Space, Opening New Ground - Iron Age Studies from Scotland to Mainland Europe*, ed. Romankiewicz, Fernández-Götz, Lock, and Buchsenschütz (Oxbow 2019), 23-31
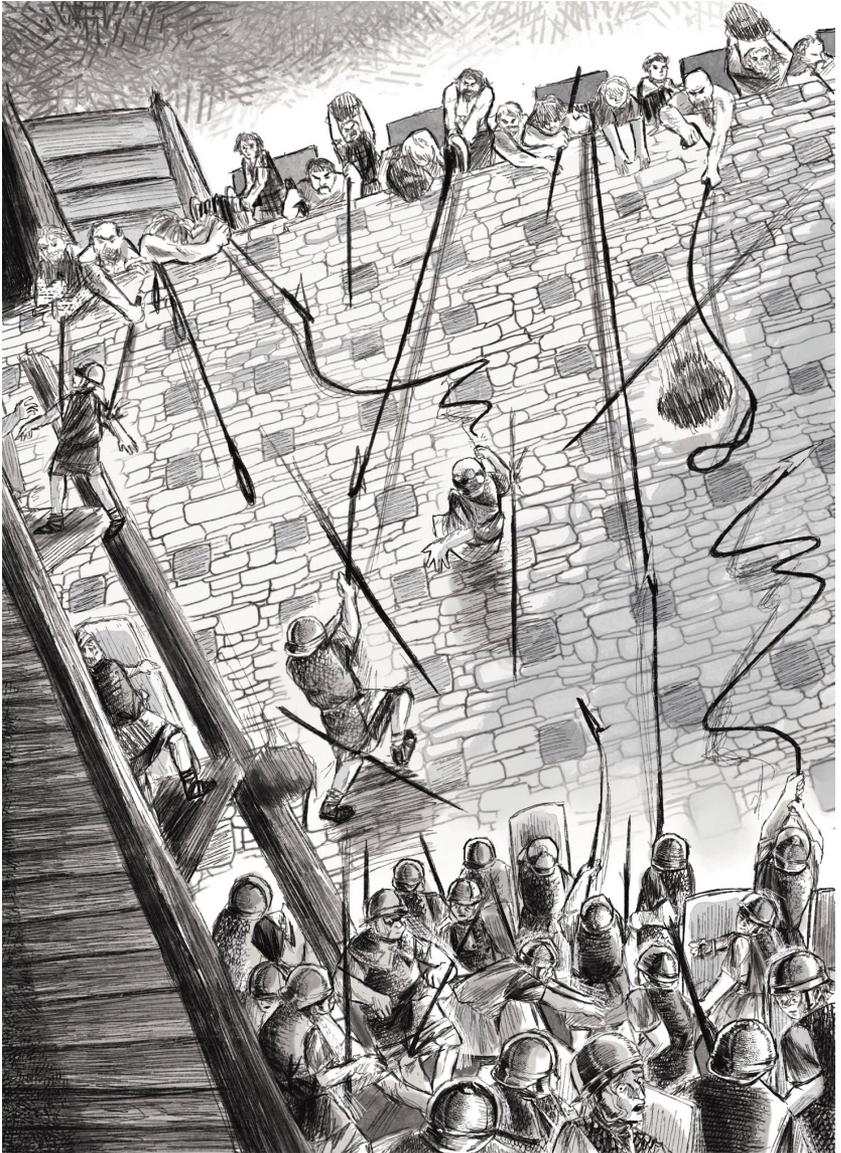
2 Cum is mūrum hostium paene contingeret et Caesar ad opus cōnsuētūdine excubāret mīlitēsque hortārētur nē quod omnīnō tempus ab opere intermitterētur, paulō ante tertiam vigiliam est animadversum fūmāre aggerem quem cunīculō hostēs succenderant. 3 Eōdemque tempore tōtō mūrō clāmōre sublātō duābus portīs ab utrōque latere turrium ēruptiō fīebat.

---

**cōnsuētūdō, –dinis f.**: habit, custom; tradition, precedent

**cunīculus, –ī m.**: hole, mineshaft

**ēruptiō, –iōnis f.**: sudden rush of troops from a position; a sally

**excubō (1)**: keep watch, be vigilant; camp out

**fūmō (1)**: smoke

**intermittō, –ere, –mīsī, –missus**: leave off, omit, interrupt; let pass

**latus, lateris n.**: side, flank

**omnīnō**: at all

**paene**: nearly, almost

**succendō, –ere, –ī, –cēnsus**: set on fire from below

**uter–, utra–, utrumque**: each (of two)

---

**ad opus cōnsuētūdine excubāret**: *was watching over the work as usual*

**nē quod…tempus**: *that not any time*; indirect command after *hortārētur*; remember: "after *si, nisi, num* or *nē,* all the *ali-* drop away"

**paulō ante tertiam vigiliam**: *a little while before the third watch;* the third watch was from midnight to 3 AM, so this incident took place a little before midnight

**cunīculō**: ablative of means; see the note at 22.2

**ēruptiō fīebat**: *a sally happened/arose*; a sally is a sudden attack from within the defenses of a besieged place

4 Aliī facēs atque āridam māteriem dē mūrō in aggerem ēminus iaciēbant, picem reliquāsque rēs quibus ignis excitārī potest fundēbant ut quō prīmum currerētur aut cui reī ferrētur auxilium vix ratiō inīrī posset.

---

**āridus, –a, –um**: dry, parched
**ēminus**: from a distance
**excitō (1)**: (here) kindle, light
**fax, facis f.**: torch, firebrand
**fundō, –ere, fūdī, fūsus**: pour
**iaciō, –ere, iēcī, iactus**: throw
**ignis, –is m.**: fire

**ineō, inīre**: (here) begin, undertake
**māteriēs, –ieī f.**: = *māteria, –ae*, material; wood
**pix, picis f.**: pitch, tar
**quō**: (to) where
**vix**: hardly, scarcely, barely

---

**Aliī…iaciēbant…[aliī] fundēbant**: *some men were throwing…some men were pouring*; typically a second *aliī* would be expected here, as in the next sentence

**ut…vix ratiō inīrī posset**: *with the result that a plan/method* (ratiō) *was hardly able to be undertaken* (inīrī)

**quō…currerētur aut cui…ferrētur**: *as to where one might run first or to what situation help might be brought*; indirect questions with *ratiō inīrī*

5 Tamen, quod īnstitūtō Caesaris semper duae legiōnēs prō castrīs excubābant plūrēsque partītīs temporibus erant in opere, celeriter factum est ut aliī ēruptiōnibus resisterent, aliī turrēs redūcerent aggeremque interscinderent, omnis vērō ex castrīs multitūdō ad restinguendum concurreret.

---

**ēruptiō, –iōnis f.**: sudden rush of troops from a position; a sally

**excubō (1)**: keep watch

**īnstitūtum, īnstitūtī n.**: design, plan, order; intention

**interscindō, –ere, –ī, scissus**: tear asunder, split

**partiō, –īre, –īvī, –ītus**: distribute

**plūrēs, plūria**: many

**redūcō, –ere**: (here) move back

**resistō, –ere, –restitī**: oppose, withstand (+ dat)

**restinguō, –ere, –stinxī, –stinctus**: extinguish, mitigate; exterminate

**vērō**: in fact; even; but indeed

---

**5**: see Appendix A for a basic diagram of this sentence; Caesar lists three outcomes, singling out two distinct groups and their tasks (*aliī…aliī*) and then the gaggle of soldiers in general (*omnis multitūdō*)

**plūrēsque partītīs temporibus erant in opere**: two legions kept watch at the ready (*excubāre*) while many others were busy with the construction

**factum est ut**: *it was quickly accomplished that*; *it was quickly seen to that*; impers.

**turrēs redūcerent aggeremque interscinderent**: some of the Roman soldiers are pulling back the siege towers to get them away from the hurled firebrands and the Gallic *cunīculī*, and are also digging in the *agger* to locate or destroy the *cunīculī*. *interscinderent* is a bit troublesome here: it would make no sense for the Romans to "tear asunder" their *agger* at this point. Caes. uses *interscindere* only one other time, of Gauls attempting to tear up a bridge (*BG* 2.9)

**ad restinguendum**: gerund construction expressing purpose

## [25] *The Gauls continue to attack Roman constructions*

1 Cum in omnibus locīs cōnsūmptā iam relīquā parte noctis pugnārētur semperque hostibus spēs victōriae redintegrārētur, eō magis quod deustōs pluteōs turrium vidēbant nec facile adīre apertōs ad auxiliandum animadvertēbant, semperque ipsī recentēs dēfessīs succēderent omnemque Galliae salūtem in illō vestīgiō temporis positam arbitrārentur,

---

aperiō, –īre, –uī, –pertus: uncover, expose; explain, recount; reveal

arbitror, –ārī, –ātus: observe, consider; decide, judge

auxilior, –ārī, –ātus:: aid, assist

dēfessus, –a, –um: exhausted, tired

deūrō, –ere, –ussī, –ustus: burn down, consume

pluteus, –eī m.: covering, shed

recēns, –tis: recent, fresh, young

redintegrō (1): renew; revive

salūs, –tis f.: health; prosperity

spēs, –eī f.: hope

succēdō, –ere, –cessī, –cessus: follow, take the place of (+ dat)

vestigium, –ī n.: (of time) point, moment, instant; (elsewhere) a footprint, trace

---

**Cum**: an extended circumstantial clause which will not end until *arbitrārentur*; see Appendix A for a diagram of this sentence

**eō magis quod**: *the more so because*

**nec facile adīre apertōs**: *and that [our men], exposed, could not easily approach*

**ipsī**: the Gauls

**in illō vestīgiō temporis positam**: *rested on this very moment in time*

accidit īnspectantibus nōbīs quod, dignum memoriā vīsum, praetereundum nōn exīstimāvimus. 2 Quīdam ante portam oppidī Gallus per manūs sēbī ac picis trāditās glaebās in ignem ē regiōne turris prōiciēbat; scorpiōne ab latere dextrō trāiectus exanimātusque concidit.

---

**concidō, –ere, –dī, —:** fall, die

**dexter, –tra, –trum:** right-hand; skillful; favorable, fortunate

**exanimō (1):** kill; scare; exhaust

**glaeba, –ae f.:** lump, clod, glob

**latus, lateris n.:** side, flank

**pix, picis f.:** pitch, tar

**praetereō, –īre, –īvī, –itus:** pass by, disregard, omit, miss

**prōiciō, –ere, –iēcī, –iectus:** hurl, throw forth

**quī–, quae–, quoddam:** a certain, a certain one

**sēbum, –ī n.:** grease, tallow

**trāiciō, –ere, –ēcī, –ectus:** pierce, pierce; transport; break through

---

**accidit…quod**: *there happened… [something] which*

**dignum memoriā vīsum**: *having seemed [to Caes.] worthy of memory*

**praetereundum nōn**: sc. *esse* for the passive periphrastic infin. in ind. statement

**per manūs…trāditās**: *passed [to him] by hand*

**scorpiōne**: The *scorpiō* was a large torsion-powered projectile weapon which fired a bolt at extreme velocity. It was very accurate, could pierce armor and shields, and inflicted terrible carnage. Caesar sometimes refers to these weapons as *tormenta* (cf. *BG* 2.8.4; 4.25.1–2), which is a more general term for any device which is powered by twisting (*torquendō*) fibers, used also of cranes (7.22.2 above) and torture racks (*BG* 6.19.3). Though Caesar mentions the legionnaires' use of *pīla* (javelins) regularly, he rarely mentions other types of missile weapons in the legions, even though they must have been present; cf. *BG* 4.25.1, when he orders the Britons to be driven back by slings, arrows, and artillery: *fundīs, sagittīs, tormentīs hostēs propellī ac submovērī iussit*

3 Hunc ex proximīs ūnus iacentem trānsgressus eōdem illō mūnere fungēbātur; 4 eādem ratiōne ictū scorpiōnis exanimātō alterī successit tertius, et tertiō quārtus, nec prius ille est ā prōpugnātōribus vacuus relictus locus quam restinctō aggere atque omnī ex parte summōtīs hostibus fīnis est pugnandī factus.

---

**fīnis, –is m.** end, conclusion; boundary, territory

**fungor, –ī, fūnctus:** engage in, discharge, perform (+ abl)

**iaceō, –ēre, –uī, —:** lie, lie dead

**ictus, –ūs m.:** blow, stroke, wound

**mūnus, –eris n.:** duty, service; gift

**prōpugnātor, –ōris m.:** defender

**restinguō, –ere, –stīnxī, –stinctus:** extinguish; destroy; mitigate

**succēdō, –ere, –cessī, –cessus:** follow, take the place of (+ dat)

**summoveō, –ēre, –mōvī, –mōtus:** remove; drive off, dislodge; expel

**trānsgredior, –ī, –gressus:** cross, climb over, step over; desert

**vacuus, –a, –um:** empty, unoccupied, unmanned

---

**ex proximīs ūnus:** *one from the nearby [Gauls]*

**mūnere:** *duty;* abl. singular object of *fungēbātur*

**exanimātō alterī:** dative with *successit*

**īctū:** ablative of means

**ille…locus:** *this position*

**prius…quam:** *earlier…than, until*

**fīnis est pugnandī factus:** *an end was made of the fighting*; gerund

## [26] *Women of the town take matters into their own hands*

1 Omnia expertī Gallī, quod rēs nūlla successerat, posterō diē cōnsilium cēpērunt ex oppidō profugere hortante et iubente Vercingetorīge. 2 Id silentiō noctis cōnātī nōn magnā iactūrā suōrum sēsē effectūrōs spērābant, proptereā quod nēque longē ab oppidō castra Vercingetorīgis aberant, et palūs quae perpetua intercēdēbat Rōmānōs ad īnsequendum tardābat.

---

**absum, –esse**: be away/far from
**cōnor, –ārī, –ātus**: attempt, make an effort; exert oneself
**efficiō, –ere, –fēcī, –fectus**: cause, bring about; accomplish
**experior, –īrī, –pertus**: test, attempt; try
**īnsequor, –ī, –cūtus**: follow; attack
**intercēdō, –ere, –cessī, –cessus**: lie between; intervene
**iactūra, –ae f.**: loss, cost, damage

**perpetuus, –a, –um**: continuous
**posterus, a, um**: next, following
**profūgiō, –ere, –gī, –gitus**: escape, escape from; run away from
**proptereā**: (with *quod*) because, with the view that
**spērō (1)**: hope for; look forward to
**succēdō, –ere, –cessī, –cessus**: (here) turn out, succeed
**tardō (1)**: check; hinder, slow

---

**quod rēs nūlla successerat**: *because no attempt [of theirs] had succeeded*
**cōnsilium cēpērunt**: *made a plan*
**hortante et iubente Vercingetorīge**: abl. abs.; the order perhaps suggests that Verc. at first suggested, and then ultimately ordered them to withdraw
**cōnātī**: *having attempted*

3 Iamque hoc facere noctū apparābant cum mātrēs familiae
repente in pūblicum prōcurrērunt flentēsque prōiectae ad
pedēs suōrum omnibus precibus petiērunt nē sē et
commūnēs līberōs hostibus ad supplicium dēderent quōs ad
capiendam fugam nātūrae et vīrium īnfirmitās impedīret.

---

**apparō (1)**: prepare, equip, provide; attempt; organize

**commūnis, –e**: in common, shared

**dēdō, –ere, –didī, –ditus**: give up, surrender; abandon; hand over

**fleō, –ēre, –ēvī, –ētus**: cry, weep

**īnfirmitās, –tātis f.**: weakness

**līberī, –ōrum m.**: children

**prex, precis f.**: prayer, request

**prōcurrō, –ere, –currī, –cursus**: run out, rush forward, charge

**prōiciō, –ere, –iēcī, –iectus**: hurl, throw forth; cast out; abandon

**repente**: suddenly; unexpectedly

**supplicium, –iī n.**: punishment

---

**hoc facere:** *to do this* (depart from the town)

**mātrēs familiae:** Caesar infrequently mentions women in *Gallic Wars* and even more infrequently do they have any agency; he will again note the actions of women during a siege at *BG* 7.47.4-6. Typically the terms Caesar uses are *mulierēs, uxōrēs,* or *mātrēs familiae,* as here. For women in the *Gallic Wars* see Jane Bellemore, "Caesar's Gallic Women under Siege," *Latomus* 2016: 888-902

**ad supplicium dēderent:** *abandon to punishment/torture/suffering*

**quōs…īnfirmitās impedīret:** *whom weakness was hindering from* (+ *ad*)

**vīrium:** gen. pl. of irregular noun *vīs,* in the plural meaning "physical strength"

4 Ubi eōs in sententiā perstāre vīdērunt, quod plērumque in summō perīculō timor misericordiam nōn recipit, conclāmāre et significāre dē fugā Rōmānīs coepērunt. 5 Quō timōre perterritī Gallī, nē ab equitātū Rōmānōrum viae praeoccupārentur, cōnsiliō dēstitērunt.

---

**conclāmō (1)**: cry, shout aloud; signal

**dēsistō, –ere, –stitī, –titus**: cease, leave off, give over

**misericordia, –ae f.**: pity, mercy

**perstō, –āre, –titī, –stātus**: persist, stand firmly, remain unmoved

**plērumque**: mostly, generally

**praeoccupō (1)**: seize; anticipate

**sententia, –ae, f.**: way of thinking, judgment, opinion; decision, intent

**significō (1)**: indicate, show

---

**eōs in sententiā perstāre**: *that [the men] stood firmly in their opinion*

**nē…viae…praeoccupārentur**: *[fearing] that the routes be seized*
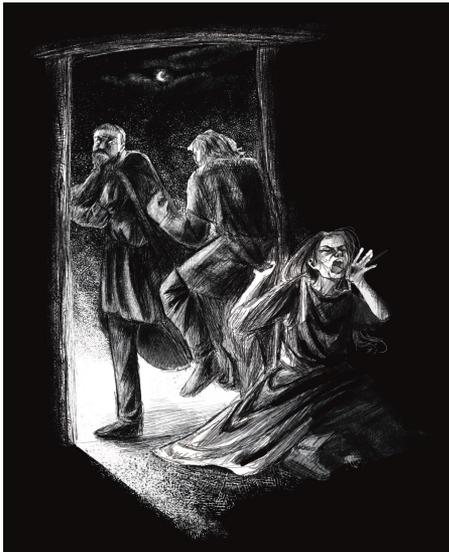
## [27] *Caesar's forces take the wall*

1 Posterō diē Caesar prōmōtā turrī perfectīsque operibus quae facere īnstituerat, magnō coortō imbre nōn inūtilem hanc ad capiendum cōnsilium tempestātem arbitrātus est, quod paulō incautius cūstōdiās in mūrō dispositās vidēbat, suōsque languidius in opere versārī iussit et quid fierī vellet ostendit.

---

**coorior, –īrī, –ortus**: appear,
  originate; arise, break out; be born
**cūstōdia, –ae f.**: guard; protection
**dispōnō, –ere, –posuī, –positus**:
  place, distribute; arrange, lay out
**imber, imbris m.**: rain, storm
**incautus, –a, –um**: careless
**inūtilis, –e**: useless, unprofitable,
  inexpedient, disadvantageous
**languidē**: lazily, slowly; listlessly

**perficiō, –ere, –fēcī, –fectus**:
  finish, accomplish
**posterus, a, um**: next, following
**prōmoveō, –ēre, –mōvī, –mōtus**:
  move forward, advance; increase
**tempestās, –tātis f.**: weather,
  storm; season, time
**versō (1)**: (in pass.) be occupied
  with, situated in; remain in;
  (in act.) turn, upturn, revolve

---

**1**: see Appendix A for a diagram of this sentence
**turrī**: abl. sing. fem. (i-stem) with *prōmōtā* in abl. abs.
**operibus perfectīs**: abl. abs.; *operibus* is antecedent of the following relative clause
**inutilem**: sc. *esse;* pred. adj. after *arbitrātus est*
**ad capiendum cōnsilium**: *for the execution of a plan*; gerundive
**suōsque**: the *–que* connects the two main clauses *arbitrātus est* and *iussit
  et…ostendit*;
**quid fierī vellet**: *what he wished to be done*

2 Legiōnibusque intrā vīneās in occultō expedītīs, cohortātus ut aliquandō prō tantīs labōribus frūctum victōriae perciperent; eīs quī prīmī mūrum ascendissent praemia prōposuit mīlitibusque signum dedit. 3 Illī subitō ex omnibus partibus ēvolāvērunt mūrumque celeriter complēvērunt.

---

**aliquandō**: for once, now; at last

**ascendō, –ere, –ī, –cēnsus**: climb; mount, scale

**compleō, –ēre, –ēvī, –ētus**: fill up; occupy, crowd

**ēvolō (1)**: rush out, forth; fly

**expediō, –īre, –īvī, –ītus**: settle, arrange; let loose; bring forward

**frūctus, –ūs m.**: produce, fruit

**occultus, –a, –um**: hidden, secret

**percipiō, –ere, –cēpī, –ceptus**: seize wholly, take; harvest

**praemium, –iī n.**: reward

**prīmus, –a, –um**: first, early

**prōpōnō, –ere, –posuī, –positus**: lay out; declare; offer

**subitō**: suddenly, unexpectedly

**vīnea, –ae f.**: covering, shelter, makeshift roof

---

**intrā vīneās**: the text here is disputed, with some manuscripts showing *extrā vīneās* or even *extrā castra intrā vīneās*; the sense seems clear: that the legionnaires are somehow using the Roman siege "sheds" to move forward in sufficient numbers to make a difference, and without the Gauls noticing in the rainy weather

**ut aliquandō…frūctum**: Here Caesar indulges in a rare moment of literary playfulness by making a pun on the *vīneae* as protective structures (see 7.17.1) and the more common meaning of humble grape trellises, for which the defensive contraptions were no doubt named. He thus asks the soldiers to pluck the *frūctum victōriae* owed to them *prō tantīs labōribus*. *aliquandō* is also colloquial, perhaps a joke on their lack of success in this siege until this point

**quī prīmī…ascendissent**: *who will have been first to climb*; in ind. st., the fut. pf. indic. becomes plupf. subj. after a a past main verb (*Bradley's Arnold* §524 n.2)

## [28] *The Roman soldiers massacre the inhabitants of Avaricum*

1 Hostēs rē novā perterritī mūrō turribusque dēiectī in forō ac locīs patentiōribus cuneātim cōnstitērunt, hōc animō ut sī quā ex parte contrā venīrētur aciē īnstrūctā dēpugnārent.

---

**aciēs, –eī, f.**: battle line, formation

**cōnstō (1)**: stand together; stand firm; agree, fit; be based upon; exist

**cuneātim**: in a closely packed wedge; wedge-shaped

**dēiciō, –ere, –iēcī, –iectus**: throw, toss down from; cause to fall

**dēpugnō (1)**: fight hard, do battle

**īnstruō, –ere, –strūxī, –strūctus**: draw up; construct; prepare; fit out

**novus, –a, um**: new; strange

**patēns, –entis**: open, accessible

---

**rē novā perterritī mūrō turribusque dēiectī**: *having been terrified by this new circumstance and having been thrown from the wall and towers*; the Gauls flee the walls at the sight of the siege towers, uncharacteristically timid behavior perhaps justified by the storm or the feats of Roman engineering; cf. 2.12, 2.30, 3.21

**cuneātim**: the adverb appears only here and once in Apuleius *Met.* (8.15.35); the root *\*cunea-* pertains to a wedge shape, with an adjective (*cuneatus* "pointed like a wedge"), a verb (*cuneāre* "secure with wedges") and a noun (*cuneus* "wedge shape")

**hōc animō ut**: *with the following intention, that…*

**venīrētur**: *if [an attack] were to come*, lit. "if there were an arrival"

**aciē īnstrūctā**: rather than panicking, the Gauls have chosen a relatively open area within the walls to make a desperate last stand in an ordered defensive formation
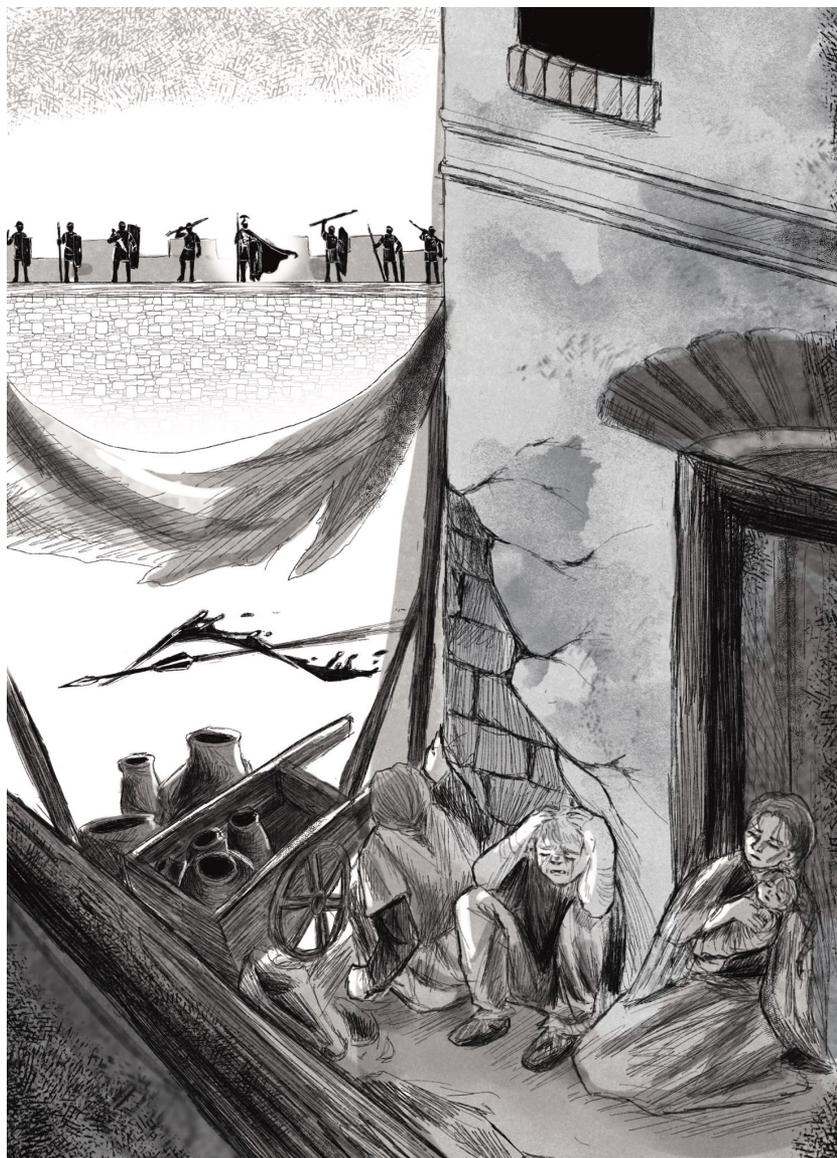
2 Ubi nēminem in aequum locum sēsē dēmittere, sed tōtō undique mūrō circumfundī vīdērunt, veritī nē omnīnō spēs fugae tollerētur, abiectīs armīs ultimās oppidī partēs continentī impetū petīvērunt, 3 parsque ibi cum angustō exitū portārum sē ipsī premerent ā mīlitibus, pars iam ēgressa portīs ab equitibus est interfecta; 4 nec fuit quisquam quī praedae studēret.

---

**abiciō, –ere, –iēci, –iēctus**: throw away, cast aside; abandon
**aequus, –a, –um**: level; favorable
**angustus, –a, –um**: narrow, close
**circumfundō, –ere, -fūdī, -fūsus**: pour/crowd around; surround
**continēns, –ntis**: continual
**dēmittō, –ere, dēmīsī, demissus**: drop, let fall; sink; send/cast down
**impetus, –ūs m.**: attack; (here) rush

**nēmō, nullīus m./f.**: no one
**omnīnō**: entirely, altogether
**praeda, –ae f.**: booty, loot, spoils
**spēs, –eī, f.**: hope
**tollō, –ere, sustulī, sublātus**: raise up, elevate; remove, abolish, ruin
**undique**: from every direction, place, source; on both sides
**vereor, –ērī, –itus**: fear; respect

---

**2–4**: see Appendix A for a diagram of this sentence
**nēminem**: anticipates a corresponding [*omnēs*] as subject of *circumfundī*
**in aequum locum sēsē dēmittere**: the Romans have poured onto the top of the wall from their *turrēs*, and now the Gauls expect them to descend the inner side into the inner area (*aequum locum*) of the town
**veritī nē…tollerētur**: fear clause
**quisquam**: sc. *Rōmānus*; the perspective shifts from Gauls to Romans here
**studēret**: *was focusing attention to;* + dat; the Roman soldiers are in no mood to be distracted by plundering or taking slaves, but instead are focused on killing. See Appendix C for a brief discussion of Roman sacking of cities

Sīc et Cenabī caede et labōre operis incitātī nōn aetāte
cōnfectīs, nōn mulieribus, nōn īnfantibus pepercērunt.
5 Dēnique ex omnī numerō quī fuit circiter mīlium XL, vix
DCCC, quī prīmō clāmōre audītō sē ex oppidō ēiēcērunt,
incolumēs ad Vercingetorīgem pervēnērunt, quōs ille multā
iam nocte silentiō ex fugā excēpit.

---

**aetās, –tātis f.**: age, lifetime

**caedis, –is f.**: murder, massacre

**circiter**: approximately, about

**confectus, –a, –um**: impaired,
 reduced, weakened

**dēnique**: finally, in the end

**ēiciō, –ere, ēiēcī, ēiectus**: cast out,
 fling up expel; discharge, vomit

**excipiō, –ere, excēpī, exceptus**:
 take out; remove; follow

**incitō (1)**: hasten, arouse, agitate

**incolumis, –e**: unharmed,
 uninjured; alive, safe; unimpaired

**īnfāns, –antis m./f.**: infant; child

**parcō, –ere, pepercī, parsus**: spare,
 show consideration to (+ dat)

**vix**: hardly, scarcely, barely

---

**Cenabī**: *of/at Cenabum,* the place where Roman merchants had been massacred
 early in the crisis (see *BG* 7.3.1)

**aetāte cōnfectīs**: *(those) having been impaired by age*; the PPP of the verb *cōnficere,*
 which can sometimes mean "weaken, reduce, destroy"

**ad Vercingetorīgem**: to his *castra* and/or forces

**multā iam nocte**: *late at night;* idiomatic, abl. of time when

**silentiō ex fugā excēpit**: *removed from their flight in silence*; the subject is Verc.

6 Veritus nē qua in castrīs ex eōrum concursū et misericordiā vulgī sēditiō orerētur, ut procul in viā dispositīs familiāribus suīs principibusque cīvitātum disparandōs dēdūcendōsque ad suōs cūrāret quae cuique cīvitātī pars castrōrum ab initiō obvēnerat.

---

**concursus, –ūs m.**: tumult, confusion; collision; crowd
**dēdūcō, –ere, –dūxī, –ductus**: lead away, divert; conduct; withdraw
**disparō (1)**: separate, divide
**dispōnō, –ere, –posuī, –positus**: dispose, distribute; manage; appoint, post, station
**familiāris, –e.**: familiar, intimate, friendly

**misericordia, –ae f.**: pity, sympathy; compassion, mercy
**obveniō, –īre, –ī, –tus**: be allotted; meet, come before, come against
**orior, –īrī/–ī, –tus**: rise; emerge
**procul**: at a distance
**sēditiō, –iōnis f.**: discord, strife
**vereor, –ērī, –itus**: fear; respect
**vulgus, –ī m.**: the people, masses

---

**Veritus**: s.c *est*; the subject is Vercingetorix; introduces a fear clause. See Appendix A for a diagram of this complicated final sentence

**qua…concursū et misericordiā…sēditiō**: *some strife…from the tumult and the sympathy…*; the two causes of potential *sēditiō*, arranged in *hendiadys*

**procul**: specifically, far away in advance of the camp

**dispositīs**: *having been placed* (stationed by Vercingetorix); abl. absolute

**disparandōs dēdūcendōsque**: *(he made sure) that (those [refugees]) must be separated and led away;* passive periphrastic infinitives in ind. st. after *cūrāret*

**quae cuique cīvitātī pars**: rewrite the sentence as if: *[eōs] disparandōs…in eam partem castrōrum quae obvēnerat cuique cīvitātī ab initiō*; i.e., "[the refugees] must be diverted into that part of the camp which had been allotted to each faction/tribe from the outset"

# APPENDIX A
## Supplemental Sentence Diagrams

**7.2.1–2**

Hīs rēbus agitātīs profitentur Carnūtēs sē nūllum perīculum commūnis salūtis causā recūsāre prīncipēsque ex omnibus bellum factūrōs pollicentur et, quoniam in praesentiā obsidibus cavēre inter sē nōn possint nē rēs efferātur, ut iūreiūrandō ac fidē sanciātur petunt, collātīs mīlitāribus signīs (quō mōre eōrum gravissima caerimōnia continētur), nē factō initiō bellī ab reliquīs dēserantur.

Carnūtēs

   profitentur (that) sē nūllum perīculum recūsāre

   pollicentur (that) [sē prīncipēs] bellum factūrōs [esse]

   petunt ut iūreiūrandō ac fidē sanciātur

        nē ab reliquīs dēserantur

     quoniam nōn possint cavēre obsidibus inter sē

          nē rēs efferātur

---

**7.5.6**

Id eāne dē causā quam lēgātīs prōnūntiārunt, an perfidiā adductī fēcerint, quod nihil nōbīs cōnstat, nōn vidētur prō certō esse prōpōnendum.

    nōn vidētur (that) [my judgment] prō certō esse prōpōnendum

   quod nihil nōbis cōnstat

    (whether): [fēcerint] id dē causā (quam lēgātīs prōnūntiā[vē]runt)

    (or): fēcerint adductī perfidiā

### 7.10.1

…sī reliquam partem hiemis ūnō locō legiōnēs continēret, nē
stīpendiāriīs Aeduōrum expugnātīs cūncta Gallia dēficeret, quod nūllum
amīcīs in eō praesidium vidērētur positum esse; sī mātūrius ex hībernīs
ēdūceret, nē ab rē frūmentāriā dūrīs subvectiōnibus labōrāret.

> sī [Caesar] continēret legiōnēs ūnō locō
>
>> [there was a fear] nē cūncta Gallia dēficeret (stīpendiāriīs expugnātīs)
>>
>>> quod vidērētur (that) nūllum praesidium positum esse
>
> sī ēdūceret [legiōnēs] ex hībernīs mātūrius
>
>> [there was a fear] nē labōrāret (dūrīs subvectiōnibus)

---

### 7.13.2

Eōrum impetum Gallī sustinēre nōn potuērunt atque in fugam coniectī
multīs āmissīs sē ad agmen recēpērunt. Quibus prōflīgātīs rūrsus oppidānī
perterritī comprehensōs eōs, quōrum operā plēbem concitātam
exīstimābant, ad Caesarem perdūxērunt sēsēque eī dēdidērunt.

> Gallī nōn potuērunt sustinēre impetum
>
>> atque [Gallī] recēpērunt sē ad agmen.
>>
>>> coniectī in fugam (multīs āmissīs)
>
> Oppidānī perterritī
>
>> perdūxērunt eōs comprehensōs ad Caesarem
>>
>>> quōrum operā exīstimābant (that) plēbem concitātam [esse]
>
> (and) dēdidērunt sēsē (to Caesar)

7.15.4–5

Prōcumbunt omnibus Gallīs ad pedēs Biturigēs nē pulcherrimam prope tōtīus Galliae urbem, quae praesidiō et ōrnāmentō sit cīvitātī, suīs manibus succendere cōgerentur; facile sē locī nātūrā dēfēnsūrōs dīcunt quod prope ex omnibus partibus flūmine et palūde circumdatā ūnum habeat et perangustum aditum.

Biturigēs (1) prōcumbunt

[begging] nē urbem suīs manibus succendere cōgerentur

quae sit praesidiō et ōrnāmentō (for) cīvitātī;

(2) dīcunt (that) sē facile dēfēnsūrōs [esse] [urbem]

quod [urbs] habeat ūnum et perangustum aditum

(flūmine et palūde circumdatā)

---

7.17.2

Dē rē frūmentāriā Boiōs atque Aeduōs adhortārī nōn dēstitit; quōrum alterī, quod nūllō studiō agēbant, nōn multum adiuvābant, alterī nōn magnīs facultātibus, quod cīvitās erat exigua et īnfirma, celeriter quod habuērunt cōnsūmpsērunt.

nōn dēstitit adhortārī Boiōs atque Aeduōs dē rē frūmentāriā;

alterī quōrum (the Aedui) nōn multum adiuvābant

quod nūllō studiō agēbant

alterī [quōrum](the Boii) celeriter [the food] cōnsūmpsērunt

quod habuērunt

quod cīvitās erat exigua et īnfirma

(nōn magnīs facultātibus)

## 7.17.3

Summā difficultāte reī frumentāriae adfectō exercitū tenuitāte Boiōrum,
indīligentiā Aeduōrum, incendiīs aedificiōrum, usque eō ut complūrēs
diēs frūmentō mīlitēs caruerint et pecore ex longinquiōribus vīcīs adāctō
extrēmam famem sustentārent, nūlla tamen vōx est ab eīs audīta populī
Rōmānī maiestāte et superiōribus victōriīs indigna.

    (although) exercitū adfectō (by the) summā difficultāte

            (due to) (a) tenuitāte Boiōrum

                (b) indīligentiā Aeduōrum

                (c) incendiīs aedificiōrum

          usque eō ut mīlitēs

              caruerint frūmento

              sustentārent extrēmam famem (pecore adāctō)

  tamen nūlla vox audīta [est] ab eis [mīlitibus]

        [quae sit] indigna maiestāte et victōriīs

**7.18.1**

Cum iam mūrō turrēs appropinquāssent, ex captīvīs Caesar cognōvit Vercingetorīgem cōnsūmptō pābulō castra mōvisse propius Avāricum atque ipsum cum equitātū expedītīsque, quī inter equitēs proeliārī cōnsuēssent, īnsidiārum causā eō prōfectum quō nostrōs posterō diē pābulātum ventūrōs arbitrārētur.

    Caesar cognōvit (that) (cōnsūmptō pābulō)

             cum iam mūrō turrēs appropinquā[vi]ssent

             (a) Vercingetorīgem mōvisse castra

             (b) (Verc.) ipsum prōfectum [esse]

                        cum equitātū expedītīsque

                                quī cōnsuē[vi]ssent proeliārī

                        eō → quō arbitrārētur (that) nostrōs ventūrōs [esse]

## 7.19.2–3

Hōc sē colle, interruptīs pontibus, Gallī fidūciā locī continēbant, generātimque distribūtī in cīvitātēs, omnia vada ac saltūs eius palūdīs obtinēbant, sīc animō parātī, ut, sī eam palūdem Rōmānī perrumpere cōnārentur, haesitantēs premerent ex locō superiōre, ut quī propinquitātem locī vidēret parātōs prope aequō Mārte ad dīmicandum exīstimāret, quī inīquitātem condiciōnis perspiceret inānī simulātiōne sēsē ostentāre cognōsceret.

  (interruptīs pontibus)

  Gallī  (a) continēbant sē [in] hōc colle fidūciā locī

       (b) obtinēbant omnia vada ac saltūs eius palūdis

    distribūtī generātim in cīvitātēs

    parātī sīc animō

        ut[1] (sī Rōmānī perrumpere cōnārentur), premerent [eōs] haesitantēs

        ut[2] [a person] existimāret (quī vidēret propinquitātem locī)

            (that) [eōs] parātōs [esse] ad dīmicandum

         [a person] cognōsceret (quī perspiceret inīquitātem condiciōnis)

            (that) sēsē ostentāre inānī simulātiōne

---

[1] "so prepared in their hearts that…" (result)
[2] "with the general result that" (result)

**7.19.4–5**

Indignantēs mīlitēs Caesar, quod cōnspectum suum hostēs perferre possent tantulō spatiō interiectō, et signum proelī exposcentēs ēdocet, quantō dētrīmentō et quot virōrum fortium morte necesse sit cōnstāre victōriam; quōs cum sīc animō parātōs videat ut nūllum prō suā laude perīculum recūsent, summae sē inīquitātis condemnārī dēbēre nisi eōrum vītam suā salūte habeat cāriōrem.

Caesar ēdocet mīlites
          indignantēs (quod hostēs possent perferre cōnspectum suum)
          exposcentēs signum proelī
      (that) necesse sit (that) victoriam cōnstāre
                    (a) quantō dētrīmentō
                    (b) quot virōrum fortium morte;

     (and that) sē dēbēre condemnārī summae inīquitātis
          cum videat (that) quōs sīc parātos [esse]
                    ut recūsent nūllum perīculum
          nisi habeat vītam eōrum [esse] cāriōrem suā salūte

## 7.20.1–2

Vercingetorīx, cum ad suōs redīsset, prōditiōnis īnsimulātus, quod castra propius Rōmānōs mōvisset, quod cum omnī equitātū discessisset, quod sine imperiō tantās cōpiās relīquisset, quod eius discessū Rōmānī tantā opportūnitāte et celeritāte vēnissent; nōn haec omnia fortuitō aut sine cōnsiliō accidere potuisse; rēgnum illum Galliae mālle Caesaris concessū quam ipsōrum habēre beneficiō.

Verc. īnsimulātus [est] prōditiōnis (cum ad suōs redisset)

    (a) quod mōvisset castra propius Rōmānōs

    (b) quod discessissest cum omnī equitātū

    (c) quod relīquisset tantās cōpiās sine imperiō

    (d) quod (by means of his) discessū Rōmānī vēnissent

[the Gauls further add that]

    (a) haec omnia nōn potuisse accidere fortuitō aut sine cōnsiliō

    (b) illum (Verc.) mālle habēre rēgnum Galliae concessū Caesaris

                     quam (rather than) beneficiō [Gallōrum] ipsōrum

---

## 7.20.5

summam imperiī sē cōnsultō nūllī discēdentem trādidisse nē is multitūdinis studiō ad dīmicandum impellerētur, cui reī propter animī mollitiem studēre omnēs vidēret, quod diūtius labōrem ferre nōn possent[.]

[Verc.] respondit (that) sē cōnsultō trādidisse summam imperiī nūllī

         nē is impellerētur ad dīmicandum studiō multitūdinis

             cuī reī[3] [Verc.] vidēret (that) omnēs studēre

                 (quod [mīlitēs Gallicī] nōn possent ferre labōrem diūtius)

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[3] to which end (i.e., the *studium* of the Gauls *ad dīmicandum*)

**7.20.6**

Rōmānī sī cāsū intervēnerint, fortūnae, sī alicuius indiciō vocātī, huic
habendam grātiam, quod et paucitātem eōrum ex locō superiōre
cognōscere et virtūtem dēspicere potuerint quī dīmicāre nōn ausī turpiter
sē in castra recēperint.

> [Verc. says that] grātiam fortūnae habendam [esse]
> > sī Rōmānī cāsū intervēnerint
> > [gratiam] huic [habendam esse]
> > > sī [Rōmānī] indiciō alicuius vocātī sint
> quod [Gallī] potuerint
> > et cognōscere paucitātem eōrum
> > et dēspicere virtūtem [eōrum]
> > > > quī sē in castra recēperint
> > > > nōn ausī dīmicāre turpiter

---

**7.24.5**

Tamen, quod īnstitūtō Caesaris semper duae legiōnēs prō castrīs
excubābant plūrēsque partītīs temporibus erant in opere, celeriter factum
est ut aliī ēruptiōnibus resisterent, aliī turrēs redūcerent aggeremque
interscinderent, omnis vērō ex castrīs multitūdō ad restinguendum
concurreret.

> Tamen, quod semper (īnstitūtō Caesaris) (a) duae legiōnēs excubābant
> > (b) plūrēs erant in opere
> celeriter factum est ut:
> > > (a) aliī ēruptiōnibus resisterent
> > > (b) aliī redūcerent turrēs [et] aggerem interscinderent
> > > (c) omnis multitūdō concurreret ad restinguendum

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**7.25.1**

Cum in omnibus locīs cōnsūmptā iam relīquā parte noctis pugnārētur
semperque hostibus spēs victōriae redintegrārētur, eō magis quod deustōs
pluteōs turrium vidēbant nec facile adīre apertōs ad auxiliandum
animadvertēbant, semperque ipsī recentēs dēfessīs succēderent
omnemque Galliae salūtem in illō vestīgiō temporis positam
arbitrārentur, accidit īnspectantibus nōbīs quod, dignum memoriā vīsum,
praetereundum nōn exīstimāvimus.

    Cum (iam relīquā parte noctis cōnsūmptā)
       (a) pugnārētur in omnibus locīs
       (b) spēs victōriae semper redintegrārētur hostibus
            eō magis quod
          (a) vidēbant (that) pluteōs turrium deustōs [esse]
          (b) animadvertēbant (that) nec facile [nostrōs] adīre
          (c) semperque ipsī [Gallī] succēderent recentēs dēfessīs
          (d) arbitrārentur (that) salutem Galliae positam [esse]
   accidit īnspectantibus nōbīs [an event] dignum memoriā vīsum
                     quod praetereundum [esse] nōn exīstimāvimus

7.27.1

Posterō diē Caesar prōmōtā turrī perfectīsque operibus quae facere
īnstituerat, magnō coortō imbre nōn inūtilem hanc ad capiendum
cōnsilium tempestātem arbitrātus est, quod paulō incautius cūstōdiās in
mūrō dispositās vidēbat, suōsque languidius in opere versārī iussit et quid
fierī vellet ostendit.

    (posterō diē)(turrī prōmōta)(operibus perfectīs)

                          quae facere īnstituerat

    (magnō imbre coortō)

  Caesar (a) arbitrātus est (that) hanc tempestātem [esse] nōn inūtilem

               quod vidēbat (that) cūstōdiās dispositās [esse] paulō incautius

      (b) iussit suōs [mīlitēs] versārī in opere languidius

      (c) ostendit quid vellet fierī

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**7.28.2–4**

Ubi nēminem in aequum locum sēsē dēmittere, sed tōtō undique mūrō
circumfundī vīdērunt, veritī nē omnīnō spēs fugae tollerētur, abiectīs
armīs ultimās oppidī partēs continentī impetū petīvērunt, parsque ibi cum
angustō exitū portārum sē ipsī premerent ā mīlitibus, pars iam ēgressa
portīs ab equitibus est interfecta;

    Ubi [hostēs] vīdērunt (that) nēminem [Rōmānōrum] dēmittere sēsē

                 sed (that) [omnēs Rōmānōs] circumfundī mūrō tōtō

  [hostēs] (armīs abiectīs) petīvērunt partēs ultimās oppidī

  parsque interfecta [est] ā mīlitibus

        cum ipsī premerent sē angustō exitū portārum

  [et] pars [interfecta est] ab equitibus

    ēgressa iam portīs

7.28.6

Veritus nē qua in castrīs ex eōrum concursū et misericordiā vulgī sēditiō
orerētur, ut procul in viā dispositīs familiāribus suīs prīncipibusque
cīvitātum disparandōs dēdūcendōsque ad suōs cūrāret, quae cuique
cīvitātī pars castrōrum ab initiō obvēnerat.

  [Verc.] veritus [est]

        nē qua sēditiō orerētur ex eōrum concursū et misericordiā vulgī

        ut [Verc.] cūrāret (that) [eōs (fugientēs)]

                disparandōs dēdūcendōsque [esse]

            [in] par[tem castrōrum]

                quae obvēnerat cuique cīvitātī

# APPENDIX B
## Proper Nouns in the Text

**Aedui** (5, 9, 10, 17)(also Haedui): A powerful tribe situated in modern Burgundy, between the Saône and Loire rivers. They were reluctant allies of the Romans throughout the first six years of the war. Caesar sometimes used their chief *oppidum* (Bibracte, at Mont Beuvray) as a central depot and fortress.

**Arverni** (4, 5, 7, 8): A powerful tribe situated in the modern Auvergne region. In the 3rd and 2nd centuries BCE they had enjoyed a general hegemony over Gaul from the Atlantic to the Rhine, but were defeated by the Romans in 121 BCE, after which their influence was reduced. By the time of the events of *Gallic War*, there were two main *factiōnēs* in Gaul: the Aedui were the unofficial leaders of one, and the Arverni the other (*BG* 1.31). Their chief *oppidum* was Gergovia, near modern Clermont-Ferrand.

**Avaricum** (12, 15, 16): The chief *oppidum* of the Bituriges, near Bourges.

**Boii** (9, 10, 17): The tribe mentioned by Caesar here in Book VII are a mere fraction of a much larger group of Gauls under the name, first seen in history in 390 BCE when they took part in the Gallic invasion of Italy. Caesar had defeated the sub-group mentioned here along with the Helvetii back in 58, and had installed the survivors as dependents of the Aedui at the *oppidum* Gergobinna (location unknown).

**Bituriges** (5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 21): A tribe of central Gaul. Their chief *oppidum* was Avaricum.

**Carnutes** (2, 11): A tribe which inhabited a large territory between the Seine and the Loire. Their chief *oppida* were at Cenabum (Orléans) and Autricum (Chartres).

**Cenabum** (3, 4, 11, 14, 17, 28): The chief *oppidum* of the Carnutes, modern Orléans.

**Gauls**: A group of Celtic-speaking peoples of western and central Europe. The Gauls of Caesar's time were in their *La Tène* cultural epoch, which began about 450 BCE and stretched over what is now France, Belgium, and Switzerland. The boundaries of the territory were approximately defined by the Roman province of *Gallia Trānsalpīna* in the south (modern Provence) and the Rhine river in the northeast. The *La Tène* Gallic tribes were increasingly urbanized by the middle of the 1st century BCE, and many had established one or more *oppida* within their territories. The Gauls had a long history of contact with the Romans. In the 4th century BCE Gallic tribes crossed the Alps and settled the rich farmlands of the Po river in northern Italy, and in 390 BCE they famously sacked Rome (see *Senones*). Gallic forces fought with the Carthiginians against Rome in the Punic Wars, most notably with Hannibal's army at Cannae. Roman intervention in Gallic territory intensified in the mid to late 2nd century BCE, resulting in the successive defeats of the Arverni and the Allobroges and the creation of the Roman province stretching from the maritime Alps to the Pyrannees via the city of Narbo. Caesar's arrival in 58 and the events of his subsequent campaigns led to the ultimate incorporation of Gaul as a Roman province.

**Gergovia** (4): The chief *oppidum* of the Arverni, near modern Clermont-Ferrand.

**Helvii** (7, 8): A smaller tribe dwelling around the source of the Loire river, to the west of the Rhône. Their territory had been reduced by Pompey due to their support of Sertorius, but by the time of the *Gallic War* they were friendly to the Romans and, though outside the boundaries of Roman *Gallia Trānsalpīna*, were under Roman protection.

**Lemovices** (4): A smaller tribe dwelling around the modern district of Limousin. Their territory was rich in iron, tin, and gold. Their chief *oppidum* in Caesar's time was Durotincum (probably modern Villejoubert), but after their incorporation into Roman Aquitania the major town became Augustoritum (Limoges).

**Liger** (5, 11): The modern Loire river, originating in the mountains of the Massif Central in the territory of the Helvii. It flows north into Central Gaul between the lands of the Arverni and Aedui, then turns west through the territory of the Carnutes and Andes, reaching the Atlantic at Condevincum (modern Nantes), an *oppidum* of the Namnetes.

**Lucterius** (5, 7, 8): a leader of the Cadurci, a tribe of southwestern Gaul. He was a lieutenant of Vercingetorix and would continue to resist the Romans after Alesia. He was eventually captured by the Romans (*BG* 8.44).

**Senones** (4, 11): A tribe of central Gaul. A group bearing the same name, probably related, had led the invasion of Italy and defeated the Romans at the battle of the Allia in 390 BCE, after which they sacked Rome. They then settled in northern Italy and remained there until ousted by the Romans in 283. It is not known what became of them in the centuries after this. By the time of Caesar's *Gallic War*, the tribe he calls the Senones are dwelling in the Seine basin south and east of modern Paris.

These Senones had a long history of resistance to Caesar, and had most recently incurred his wrath back in the spring of 53. After defeating them Caesar stationed six legions in their winter camps within Senones territory (see 7.10). Their chief *oppida* were Agedincum (modern Sens) and Vellaunodunum (location unknown).

**Trebonius, Gaius** (11): quaestor in 60, tribune of the plebs in 55, by which time he was a supporter of the triumvirs. His *lex Trebonia* of that year secured five-year commands for Pompey in the two Spains and Crassus in Syria. As reward, Caesar took him as legate to Gaul. He led three legions in the second invasion of Britain in 54, and while wintering with one legion among the Belgae, he joined Caesar in aiding the besieged Q. Cicero. He besieged Massilia for Caesar during the Civil War, but would be a participant in his assassination in 44.

**Vellaunodunum** (11, 14): One of the *oppida* of the Senones. Its modern location is unknown.

**Volcae Arecomici** (7): A Gallic tribe which, by the time of *Gallic War*, was dwelling within the confines of the Roman province *Gallia Trānsalpīna*. Their chief *oppidum* was a very ancient site atop which the Romans would later found the veteran colony Nemausus (Nîmes).

# APPENDIX C

# The Roman Sacking of Cities

The standard verb used to refer to the Roman destruction of a city by the Augustan era was *dīripere*, "lay waste, plunder, pillage; snatch away," an event common enough that authors such as Livy felt little need to elaborate beyond providing that one word. Caesar's description of the sack of Avaricum is quite unusual in that regard, as he not only dedicates roughly half a chapter to its minutiae, but chooses not once to describe it as a *dīreptiō*, or indeed any related term. This would seem to be a conscious choice. But if not a *dīreptiō*, then how, exactly, does Caesar wish us to interpret his narrative of events at Avaricum, where Roman soldiers purportedly massacred some 40,000 Gallic men, women, and children?[1]

The archetypical Roman plundering described by Roman historians such as Livy or Tacitus[2] was predicated on a Roman commander turning their soldiers loose, giving the town's inhabitants and treasures to them, or in some other way refusing to assert form and authority over their army. Setting aside the much earlier, and less corroborated, "Polybian" model investigated by Ziolkowski,[3] the sacking of a town by Romans involved the army dissolving into individual soldiers and the city

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[1] The massacre at Avaricum is just one piece of evidence in a larger discussion: did Caesar commit genocide in Gaul? See Raaflaub, "Caesar and Genocide: Confronting the Dark Side of Caesar's *Gallic Wars*," *New England Classical Journal* 48:1 (2021): 54–80; doi.org/10.52284/NECJ/48.1/article/raaflaub

[2] See, e.g., Tacitus *Histories* 3.33.1–3

[3] Adam Ziolkowski, "*Urbs direpta,* or how the Romans sacked cities" in *War and Society in the Roman World,* ed. J. Rich and G. Shipley (London/New York: Routledge, 1993/2002), 69–91

dissolving into countless individual objects of plunder. The first major break with this model made by Caesar's account of Avaricum, then, is "*parsque ibi cum angustō exitū portārum sē ipsī premerent ā mīlitibus, pars iam ēgressa portīs ab equitibus est interfecta*" ("some [of the Gauls], when they were pressing themselves there in the narrow opening of the gates, were killed by the [Roman] soldiers; others, now having emerged from the gates, were killed by the cavalry" 7.28.3). The use of synchysis[4] serves to reinforce the order with which the massacre was carried out by the coordinated maneuvers of infantry and cavalry: the massacre does not seem to be the work of a mob of uncontrolled marauders, but instead a precise military deployment designed to ensure the death of as many Gallic citizens as possible. Caesar seems to report this fact with pride as its orchestrator: he maintained control over his army in a situation where many other generals had not, and channeled them into as efficient an instrument of revenge as possible. Caesar describes a similarly vengeful act at *BG* 1.12.3-7, when his legions fall upon a group of Helvetii who, he explains, had humiliated a Roman army decades earlier.

The theme of systematic, focused destruction is reiterated in the other key difference between the sack of Avaricum and the typical Roman pillaging which Ziolkowski highlights in contemporary sources. The key phrase is "*nec fuit quisquam quī praedae studēret.*" ("nor was there any [Roman soldier] who focused their attention on looting" 7.28.4), with the hyperbole of *quisquam* and the relative clause of characteristic reiterating Caesar's pride in the accomplishment. The verb *studēret* carries weight, because here Caesar's forces are attentive in their violence. Soldiers who leave a city *dīrepta* metaphorically snatch it away, removing its valuables and inhabitants. By contrast, Caesar's soldiers neither took Avaricum with them nor left any of it behind. By implication, the fervor of vengeance for Cenabum seems to be so intense that plundering the city is

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[4] a pattern of interlocking or deliberately confused word order

considered too kind a fate, because the goods and people associated with it would survive and so the legacy of the city would remain. Avaricum should not be considered unusual for its savagery or destruction, but for the focus and control which Caesar claims he and the army exercised over the carnage. The soldiers of his legions, he seems to suggest, possess exemplary *studium*.

Avaricum is elsewhere described as the jewel of the Bituriges (7.15.3-5), a strategic stronghold in central Gaul but not directly connected to the slaying of Romans by the Carnutes at Cenabum. Thus it is curious that Caesar describes the destruction of Avaricum as such a symbolically loaded act. Avaricum is the fourth town Caesar attacks in the nascent campaign against the coalition of Vercingetorix, following the very rapid capture of Vellaunodunum (7.11.1-2), Cenabum itself (7.11.7-9), and Noviodunum (7.13.2). Vellaunodunum fell in just three days and suffered very little except the confiscation of *matériel* and hostages. Caesar admits (7.11.3) he is in a rush to move on to Cenabum, where the killing of Romans had begun the recent trouble. And yet, having captured the *oppidum* with little trouble, Caesar rushes through the aftermath and says nothing about taking revenge. The violence, as often in Caesar, is markedly succinct: *Oppidum dīripit atque incendit, praedam mīlitibus dōnat*" ("he sacks and burns the town, gifts the plunder to the soldiers" 7.11.9). An overt reference to revenge for the slain Romans at Cenabum, who were themselves the victims of a sort of Gallic *dīreptiō*, is wholly absent. Instead, that lust for vengeance is carried forward, beyond the troublesome but rapid conquest of Noviodunum (7.13.2) and onto the set-piece siege of Avaricum.

The critical phrase in Caesar's account which reveals the cause behind this seemingly misplaced violence is "*et Cenabī caede et labōre operis*

*incitātī*" ([the soldiers] spurred on due to the slaughter at Cenabum and the suffering of the siege work" 7.28.4). The murders at Cenabum could not be the sole justification for the massacre at Avaricum because Cenabum itself was subjected to a much more common, and much less organized, destruction. Rather, at Avaricum the fervor for vengeance mixes with Roman *labor operis*, the fever pitch brought on by the burden of their suffering. At this point in the campaign, the scorched-earth tactics of Vercingetorix have crippled Roman foraging, their allies have struggled to provide supplies, and the legions are starving. The siege of Avaricum has dragged on far longer than the quick capturing of Vellaunodunum, Cenabum, and Noviodunum: the war at Avaricum has literally bogged down, and it seems plausible that Caesar's response was overwhelming brutality. Violent and wrathful responses to a long or difficult siege are found elsewhere in Roman history: the wholesale slaughter at Masada during the Judaean revolt, for example.[5] Caesar utilizes the lengthy and elaborate struggle at Avaricum to exemplify the singular focus and endurance of his soldiers, his own mastery over violence in the face of adversity or the enticements of *dīreptiō*, and the Roman guarantee of ultimate (if misplaced) revenge.

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[5] Josephus, *War of the Jews* 7.8–9

# GLOSSARY

This list contains: (1) the 250 most commonly occurring words in Latin, drawn from the Dickinson College Commentaries Latin Core Vocabulary, which also appear in the text of this book; (2) other words which appear frequently in the text

**ab/ā**: away from; by (prep. + abl)

**absum, abesse, āfuī, āfutūrus**: be away, be absent

**ac**: and, and also, and besides

**accidō, accidere, accidī**: happen, occur, take place (frequently impersonal)

**accipiō, accipere, accēpī, acceptus**: receive, get; take

**addūcō, addūcere, addūxī, adductus**: bring/lead to; prompt, induce, persuade, incite

**adeō, adīre, adiī, aditus**: go to, approach

**adventus, adventūs m.**: arrival, approach

**ager, agrī m.**: farm; field; land

**agger, aggeris m.**: siege ramp, siege mound

**agō, agere, ēgī, āctus**: drive, lead; do; act

**aliquis, aliquid**: someone, something

**alius, alia, aliud**: some, other; another

**alter, altera, alterum**: the other (of two)

**altus, –a, –um**: high; deep

**amīcus, amīcī m.**: friend

**animadvertō, –vertere, –vertī, –versus**: notice, observe; discern

**animus, animī m.**: soul, spirit, mind; (in pl.) high spirits, courage

**annus, annī m.**: year

**anteā**: before, earlier, formerly

**antecēdō, –cēdere, antecessī**: go before, precede; excel, surpass

**apud** (prep. + acc): among, in the presence of

**arma, armōrum n.**: weapons, military equipment

**artus, arta, artum**: narrow

**at**: but; but indeed

**audiō, audīre, audīvī, audītus**: hear, listen to

**aut**: or; either...or

**autem**: however; moreover; also**bellum, bellī n.**: war

**beneficium, beneficiī n.**: kindness, favor, benefit, service

**cadō, cadere, cecidī, cāsūrus**: fall; die

**capiō, capere, cēpī, captus**: take, capture, seize, get

**caput, capitis n.**: head; leader; life

**castra, castrōrum n.**: soldiers' camp; fort

**causa, causae f.**: cause, reason; case, situation; (+ gen) on account of, for the sake of

**cēdō, cēdere, cessī, cessus**: go, move (typically with a prefix in Caes.)

**celeriter**: swiftly, rapidly

**centuriō, centuriōnis m.**: a commander of a *centuria*, about 80 men in the time of *Gallic War*

**certus, certa, certum**: definite, sure, reliable

**cīvitās, cīvitātis f.**: (in Caes.) a tribe, community; (elsewhere) state, citizenship

**clāmor, clāmōris m.**: loud shout; noise, uproar

**coepī, coepisse, coeptus** (only perf.): began, undertook

**cognōscō, cognōscere, cognōvī, cognitus**: learn, recognize; (in perf.) know

**cōgo, cōgere, coēgī, coāctus**: drive together, bring together; force, compel

**comittō, comittere, –mīsī, –missus**: bring together, join; engage; entrust

**commūnis, commūne**: common, general, of/for the community

**concēdō, concēdere, concessī, concessus**: yield, grant

**concilium, conciliī n.**: council, discussion

**cōnferō, cōnferre, cōntulī, cōllātus**: bring together, compare; bestow; (with *sē*) take oneself to, go

**cōnsilium, cōnsiliī n.**: counsel, advice, judgment; plan, purpose

**cōnstituō, –ere, cōnstituī, cōnstitūtus**: place, station; arrange; decide; halt

**cōnsūmō, –sūmere, –sūmpsī, –sūmptus**: use up, spend; destroy

**contineō, continēre, continuī, contentus**: hold together, bound, restrain

**contingō, contingere, contigī, contāctus**: touch, adjoin, border on

**cōpia, cōpiae f.**: ample supply, plenty; (in pl.) troops, forces

**cunīculus, cunīculī m.**: tunnel, hole, mineshaft

**dēbeō, dēbēre, dēbuī, dēbitus**: ought, must, should

**dēdūcō, dēdūcere, dēdūxī, dēductus**: lead down/away; win over; withdraw

**dēfendō, dēfendere, dēfendī, dēfensus**: guard, protect, cover; support

**dēsistō, dēsistere, dēstitī, dēstitus**: leave off, cease, desist from

**dīcō, dīcere, dīxī, dictus**: say, name, designate

**diēs, diēī m./f.**: day

**difficultās, difficultātis f.**: difficulty, trouble, distress

**discēdō, –cēdere, –cessī, –cessus**: depart, withdraw; scatter; abandon

**dō, dare, dedī, datus**: give

**domus, domūs f.**: home

**doceō, docēre, docuī, doctus**: make aware, teach, inform

**dūcō, dūcere, dūxī, ductus**: lead, command; consider

**dum**: while, as long as, until; provided that

**duo, duae, duo**: two

**ēdūcō, ēdūcere, ēdūxī, ēductus**: lead out; draw up

**eō**: to there, to that place

**eō, īre, iī / īvī, itus**: go

**eques, equitis, m.**: horseman, cavalryman, rider

**equitātus, equitātūs m.**: calvary

**equus, equī m.**: horse

**et**: and

**ex/ē**: out of (prep. + abl)

**exercitus, exercitūs m.**: army

**exīstimō, –āre, –āvī, –ātus**: think, consider; judge

**facilis, facile**: easy, simple

**faciō, facere, fēcī, factus**: do, make

**fāma, fāmae**: report, rumor; public opinion; reputation, fame

**ferē**: nearly, almost

**ferō, ferre, tulī, lātus**: carry, bear; endure; report

**fidēs, fideī f.**: faith, loyalty; pledged word; protection

**fīnis, fīnis m./f.**: boundary, end, limit, goal; (pl.) country, territory

**fīō, fierī, factus**: occur, happen; become, be made, be done

**flūmen, flūminis n.**: river

**fortūna, fortūnae f.**: chance, fate; prosperity; condition, wealth

**frūmentārius, –a, –um**: relating to provisions or supplies, esp. grain

**frūmentum, frūmentī n.**: grain; crop

**fuga, fugae f.**: flight, escape

**gerō, gerere, gessī, gestus**: carry; manage, conduct, perform; wage

**genus, generis n.**: type; kind

**habeō, habēre, habuī, habitus**: have, hold; consider

**hic, haec, hoc**: this; these

**homō, hominis m.**: man, human being, person

**hortor, hortārī, hortātus**: urge, incite, cheer, exhort

**hostis, hostis m.**: enemy

**iam**: now, already, soon

**ibi:** there; in that place or time

**īdem, eadem, idem**: the same

**ignis, ignis m.**: fire

**ille, illa, illud**: that; those

**imperium, imperiī n.**: command; authority

**imperō, –āre, –āvī, –ātus**: give a command, order; rule, control

**incendō, –ere, –ī, –sus**: set on fire, burn; incite

**initium, initiī n.**: beginning

**inopia, –ae f.**: lack, need; poverty

**īnstituō, –ere, –ī, –tus**: begin; arrange, set up, prepare; decide, determine

**intellegō, –ere, intellēxī, intellēctus**: know, discern; understand

**inter** (prep. + acc): between, among

**interficiō, interficere, interfēcī, interfectus**: kill, destroy

**interim**: meanwhile, in the meantime; however, nevertheless

**ipse, ipsa, ipsum**: himself/herself/itself (intensive pronoun)

**ita**: thus, so; therefore

**itaque**: and so, therefore

**iter, itineris n.**: journey; road; passage, path

**iubeō, iubēre, iussī, iussus**: order, command

**labor, labōris m.**: effort, exertion, work; suffering, distress, hardship

**labōrō (1)**: labor; suffer

**lēgātus, lēgātī m.**: (of Romans) lieutenant, legate; commander;
  (of others) ambassador, messenger, representative

**legiō, legiōnis f.**: legion, army

**levis, leve**: light, thin, trivial, trifling, slight; gentle; fickle, capricious

**lībertās, lībertātis f.**: freedom

**locus, locī m.**: place, location (plural is neuter)

**magis**: more, to a greater extent; rather

**magnus, –a, –um**: large, great

**malus, –a, –um**: bad

**manus, manūs f.**: hand; team, gang, band of soldiers

**medius, media, medium**: middle, middle of

**mīles, mīlitis m.**: soldier

**mīlle, mīlia**: thousand

**mittō, mittere, mīsī, missus**: send

**moveō, movēre, mōvī, mōtus**: move, stir, set in motion; disturb

**multitūdō, multitūdinis f.**: crowd, mob; large amount

**multus, –a, –um**: much, many

**mūrus, mūrī m.**: wall

**nam (conj.)**: for

**nātūra, nātūrae f.**: nature, the natural word; quality, property

**neglegō, neglegere, neglēxī, neglēctus**: disregard, neglect; despise

**nec (conj.)**: nor; and not

**neque**: nor; and not; neither…nor

**nisi**: if not; except, unless

**noster, nostra, nostrum**: our; (in pl.) our men, i.e. Roman soldiers

**nox, noctis f.**: night

**nūllus, nūlla, nūllum (gen *nullīus*)**: no, none, not any

**nūntiō, –āre, –āvī, –ātus**: announce, report

**obses, obsidis m./f.**: hostage

**omnis, omne**: every, all

**opera, operae f.**: work, effort; trouble (cf. *opus*)

**oppidum, oppidī n.**: town; stronghold, fortified place

**oppugnātiō, oppugnātiōnis f.**: attack, assault; siege

**opus, operis n.**: work, task; construction, defense (cf. *opera*)

**palūs, palūdis f.**: swamp, marsh

**parō, –āre, –āvī, –ātus**: prepare; furnish, supply

**pars, partis f.**: a part, share, portion

**pater, patris m.**: father

**paulō**: a small amount, a little; somewhat

**per** (prep. + acc): through; during; by means of; on the pretext of

**perīculum, perīculī n.**: danger

**perterreō, –ēre, —, –itus**: terrify thoroughly

**perveniō, –īre, –vēnī, perventus**: come to, arrive at, reach; approach

**pēs, pedis m.**: foot

**petō, petere, petīvī, petītus**: seek; ask for, beg for; attack

**pōnō, pōnere, posuī, positus**: put, place, set; station

**porta, portae f.**: gate (of a town)

**possum, posse, potuī**: be able

**post** (prep + acc): behind; after

**post**: afterwards, after

**praesidium, praesidiī n.**: protection; help; guard

**premō, premere, pressī, pressus**: press, press hard; pursue; overwhelm

**prīmus, prīma, prīmum**: first, chief, best; nearest/next

**princeps, principis**: foremost, leading; (as subst.) influential individual

**prō** (prep. + abl): in front of, before; on behalf of; in return for; instead of

**prope** (prep. + acc): near

**prōdūcō, –ere, –dūxī, –ductus**: lead forward, bring out, reveal

**proelium, proeliī n.**: battle

**profectus**: see *proficiscor*

**proficīscor, proficīscī, profectus**: set out, depart, commence, march

**prohibeō, –ēre, –uī, –itus**: hinder, restrain; forbid, prevent

**prōvincia, prōvinciae f.**: a territory outside of Italy, governed by a Roman official; in *Gallic War* it typically refers to *Gallia Trānsalpīna*, later called *Gallia Narbōnensis*, the narrow coastal strip of southern Gaul which connected Italy to the Spains (see Introduction map)

**putō, –āre, –āvī, –ātus**: think, suppose; reckon

**quidem**: indeed (postpositive), certainly, even, at least; (*ne…quidem*) not…even

**quisque quaeque, quidque**: each

**quō**: (to) where

**ratiō, ratiōnis f.**: account, report, statement; matter

**recipiō, recipere, recēpī, receptus**: take back, regain; receive, admit

**redūcō, redūcere, redūxī, reductus**: lead back; withdraw; restore

**relinquō, relinquere, relīquī, relictus**: leave behind, abandon

**reliquus, reliqua, reliquum**: remaining, left over

**rēs, reī f.**: thing; event, business, affair

**saxum, saxī n.**: a stone

**sed**: but

**semper**: always

**sīc**: thus, so

**signum, signī n.**: signal, sign; military standard, banner

**silentium, silentiī n.**: silence

**sine** (prep. + abl): without

**singulī, singulae, singula**: single, separate, one at a time, individual

**soleō, solēre, solitus**: be in the habit of; be accustomed to

**spatium, spatiī n.**: space, distance; extent

**stō, stāre, stetī, status**: stand, stand firm

**sum, esse, fuī, futūrus**: be, exist

**summus, summa, summum**: uppermost, highest, topmost; (partitive) top of

**tamen**: yet, nevertheless, still

**tantus, tanta, tantum**: such, of such size; so great

**tempus, temporis n.**: time

**tertius, tertia, tertium**: the third

**timēns, timentis**: fearful, afraid

**tōtus, tōta, tōtum**: the whole, entire, total

**trabs, trabis f.**: a wooden beam; timber

**trādō, trādere, trādidī, trāditus**: hand over, deliver; surrender; betray

**trānseō, trānsīre, trānsiī, trānsitus**: go across; pass by, pass through

**tum**: then, next; at that time

**turris, turris f.**: tower; a moveable siege machine

**ubi**: when; where

**ūnus, ūna, ūnum**: one

**urbs, urbis f.**: city

**veniō, veīre, vēnī, ventus**: come

**versus**: turned in the direction of, towards, facing

**via, viae f.**: road, path, route

**victōria, victōriae f.**: victory

**videō, vidēre, vīdī, vīsus**: see, look at; (in pass.) seem, appear; seem good

**vincō, vincere, vīcī, victus**: conquer, defeat

**vir, virī m.**: man

**virtūs, virtūtis f.**: strength, vigor, bravery, courage, excellence

**vīta, vītae f.**: life

**volō, velle, voluī**: wish, want

**vōx, vōcis f.**: voice; utterance