

JULIUS CAESAR

13 complete passages read in Latin and English translation by MOSES HADAS, with commentaries by Prof. Hadas.

CONTENTS:

1 LP
1 text (6 p.)

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JULIUS CAESAR

SIDE I

Introduction

"Gallia est omnis divisa. . . ."

"Gaul, taken as a whole, is divided. . . ."

"At barbari, consilio Romanorum cognito. . . ."

"The natives knew what the Romans intended. . . ."

"Quod ubi Caesar animadvertit. . . ."

"When Caesar noticed this. . . ."

"Pugnatum est ab utrisque acriter."

"Both sides fought with spirit."

Commentary

"Quanto erat in dies. . . ."

"Day by day the defense. . . ."

"Caesar acceptis litteris. . . ."

"Caesar received the message. . . ."

Commentary

"Caesar consilio eius probato. . . ."

"Caesar approved his decision. . . ."

Commentary

"Caesar his de causis. . . ."

SIDE II

"Caesar was now. . . ."

Commentary

"In omni Gallia eorum hominum. . . ."

"Throughout Gaul only two classes. . . ."

Commentary

"Erat iniqua condicio postulare. . . ."

"It was unfair of Pompey to demand. . . ."

Commentary

"Quorum discessu liberam nacti milites colloquiorum"

"The absence of the Pompeian generals. . . ."

Commentary

"Erat nova et inusitata belli ratio. . . ."

"The large number of redoubts. . . ."

Commentary

"Exercitum cum militari more. . . ."

"Following established custom. . . ."

Conclusion

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CAESAR

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INTRODUCTION, WITH READINGS IN LATIN AND IN
ENGLISH TRANSLATION

by
MOSES HADAS

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implicit in the whole work.

I shall read first the opening of the Gallic Wars, which is one of the most familiar passages in all literature:

Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres, quarum unam incolunt Belgae, aliam Aquitani, tertiam, qui ipsorum lingua Celtae, nostra Galli appellantur. Hi omnes lingua, institutis, legibus inter se differunt. Gallos ab Aquitanis Garunna flumen, a Belgis Matrona et Sequana dividit. Horum omnium fortissimi sunt Belgae, propterea quod a cultu atque humanitate provinciae longissime absunt, minimeque ad eos mercatores saepe commeant atque ea, quae ad effeminandos animos pertinent, important, proximique sunt Germanis, qui trans Rhenum incolunt, quibuscum continenter bellum gerunt.
BG 1.1

Gaul, taken as a whole, is divided into three parts, one of which is inhabited by the Belgae, another by the Aquitani, and the third by a people who call themselves Celts but whom we call Gauls. These peoples differ from one another in language, institutions, and laws. The Gauls are separated from the Aquitani by the river Garonne, from the Belgae by the Marne and the Seine. Of all these peoples the bravest are the Belgae; for they are farthest removed from the civilization and refinements of our Province and least often visited by traders introducing the commodities that make for effeminacy, and also because they are nearest to the Germans who live on the other side of the Rhine and

with whom they are constantly at war.

One enduring result of the Gallic campaigns was the spread of the ancient Mediterranean civilization to the under countries of the north. European languages, not only French and Spanish but even English and German, still testify to the effect of Caesar's victories. His most adventurous enterprise was the landing in England. Here is part of an account of it:

At barbari, consilio Romanorum cognito, praemisso equitatu et essedariis, quo plerumque genere in proeliis uti consueverunt, reliquis copiis subsecuti nostros navibus egredi prohibebant. Erat ob has causas summa difficultas, quod naves propter magnitudinem nisi in alto constitui non poterant, militibus autem ignotis locis, impeditis manibus magno et gravi onere armorum oppressis simul et de navibus desiliendum et in fluctibus consistendum et cum hostibus erat pugnandum, cum illi aut ex arido aut paulum in aquam progressi omnibus membris expeditis, notissimis locis audacter tela conicerent et eos insuefactos incitarent. Quibus rebus nostri perterriti atque huius omnino generis pugnae imperiti non eadem alacritate ac studio, quo in pedestribus uti proeliis consueverant, utebantur.
4.24

The natives knew what the Romans intended. So they sent forward their cavalry and charioteers-- a kind of warriors whom they habitually employ in action-- and following up with

CAESAR

By Moses Hadas

No list of heroes, however short, no history of western civilization, however concise, can omit the name of Julius Caesar. The juncture of history which he dominated is as meaningful and dramatic as any in the annals of Europe, and of particular relevance to our own times. We may abhor the ruthlessness by which strong individuals attain sole power, but so demoralized had Rome become during the last century of the republic under the selfish sway of an oligarchy that centralization of authority in the hands of a man willing and able to grasp it was inevitable. It was as leader of the popular party that Caesar rose to eminence, and when he was secure in his authority he did at least take steps to initiate reforms that were sorely needed.

Caesar was born in 102 B.C. By 60 B.C. he was important enough to enter into an informal triumvirate with Pompey and Crassus, the leading general and the leading millionaire of the day, to control Roman politics. His participation in this triumvirate gave Caesar the command in Gaul for two five-year periods, 59-54 and 54-49 B.C. This appointment enabled him to amass wealth and a military reputation and at the same time to keep in touch with political developments in the capital. By the end of the period Crassus had died and Pompey grown hostile. To ensure his safety Caesar needed the consulship for 49,

the rest of their force, they attempted to prevent our men from disembarking. Landing was difficult for the reasons following. The size of the ships made it impossible for them to ground except in deep water; the soldiers did not know the ground, and with their hands burdened and themselves weighed down by their cumbersome armor they had to jump down from their vessels, keep their foothold in the surf, and fight the enemy all at once; while the enemy had their hands free, knew the ground perfectly, and standing on dry land or advancing a little into the water, they threw their missiles boldly, and spurred their horses into the sea, to which they were trained. Our men were unnerved by these circumstances, and being inexperienced in this kind of warfare, they did not show the dash and energy they generally did in land battles. Here is how Caesar managed the landing:

Quod ubi Caesar animadvertit, naves longas, quarum et species erat barbaris inusitata et motus ad usum expeditior, paulum removeri ab onerariis navibus et remis incitari et ad latus apertum hostium constitui atque infundis, sagittis, tormentis hostes propelli ac summo veru iussit; quae res magno usui nostris fuit. Nam et navium figura et remorum motu et inusitato genere tormentorum permoti barbari constiterunt ac paulum modo pedem rettulerunt. Atque nostris militibus cunctantibus, maxime propter altitudinem maris, qui decimae legionis aquilam ferebat, contestatus deos, ut eares legioni feliciter eveniret, Desilite, inquit, milites, nisi

and when permission to stand for the office in *absentia* was refused him he took the revolutionary step of crossing the Rubicon, that is, of appearing under arms in territory where he had no official authority to do so. Pompey withdrew the senatorial forces to Greece, and Caesar followed him and defeated him in the Battle of Pharsalus, 48 B.C. Other hard campaigns awaited Caesar in Egypt (where he formed an attachment to Cleopatra) and against the remnants of the senatorial forces in North Africa and Spain. He had had only a few months of peace at Rome when he was assassinated, on the Ides of March of 44 B.C.

Aside from his towering political importance Caesar has legitimate claims as a writer. His poetry and his treatises on astronomy, grammar, politics, and the like have perished; what we have extant are the famous Commentaries on the Gallic and the Civil Wars, which have served generations of students as their first Latin reading book. Caesar was the most competent conceivable authority to set forth the details of his own campaigns, but he was also the most nearly concerned to put his actions in the best possible light. The Commentaries, then, have something of the motivation of political pamphlets, but they are as admirably objective as they are terse. The author speaks of himself in the third person-- "Caesar", not "I" did this or that-- and he never raises his voice in recrimination or self-justification. The conviction of the author's prowess and patriotism grows not out of explicit avowals, but out of the total impression of what is

vultis aquilam hostibus prodere: ego certe meum rei publicae atque imperatori officium praestitero. Hoc cum voce magna dixisset, se ex navi protiecit atque in hostes aquilam ferre coepit. Tum nostri cohortati inter se, ne tantum dedecus admitteretur, universi ex navi desiluerunt. Hos item ex proximis navibus cum conspexissent, subsecuti hostibus appropinquarunt.
4.25

When Caesar noticed this he ordered the galleys, with the look of which the natives were not familiar and which were easier to handle, to sheer off a little from the transports, row hard and range along the enemy's flanks, and thence to dislodge them and clear them away with slings, arrows, and artillery. This tactic proved of great service to our troops. The natives were alarmed by the shape of the ships, the motion of the oars, and the novelty of the artillery; they halted and then retired a little space. Then, while our soldiers were hesitating, chiefly because of the depth of the water, the standard-bearer of the Tenth Legion, praying that his act might redound to the success of the legion, cried: "Leap down, men, unless you want to betray your eagle to the enemy; I, at least, shall have done my duty to my country and my general." When he had said this in a loud voice he threw himself overboard and began to advance against the enemy with the eagle. Then our men called upon one another not to suffer such a disgrace, and with one accord leapt down from the ship. Seeing this, their

comrades in the nearest ships followed them and advanced close to the enemy.

And here is the battle that followed:

Pugnatum est ab utrisque acriter. Nostrum tamen, quod neque ordines servare neque firmiter insistere neque signa subsequi poterant, atque alius alia ex navi, quibuscumque signis occurrerat, se aggregabat, magno opere perturbabantur; hostes vero, notis omnibus vadis, ubi ex litore aliquos singulares ex navi egredientes conspexerant, incitatis equis impeditos adoriebantur, plures paucos circumstebant, alii ab latere aperto in universos tela coniciebant. Quod cum animadvertisset Caesar, scaphas longarum navium, item speculatoria navigia militibus compleri iussit et, quos laborantes conspexerat, his subsidia submittebat. Nostrum, simul in arido constiterunt, suis omnibus consecutis in hostes impetum fecerunt atque eos in fugam dederunt, neque longius prosequi potuerunt, quod equites cursum tenere atque insulam capere non potuerant. Hoc unum ad pristinam fortunam Caesari defuit.

4.26

Both sides fought with spirit. But our troops became greatly confused; they could not keep rank nor stand firm nor follow their respective standards, but, as they came from one ship or another, attached themselves to whatever standard they came upon. The enemy, on the other hand, knew all the shallows; and when, standing on shore, they observed a few men disembarking one by one, they spurred

their horses on, many surrounding few, and attacked them before they were ready. Others got on the exposed flank of an entire company and discharged their missiles at them. When Caesar noticed this he ordered the warships' boats and the scout-boats to be manned and sent them to support any parties he saw in difficulties. As soon as they got upon dry land our men with their comrades close behind charged the enemy and routed them; but they could not pursue them far because the cavalry had not been able to keep their course and make the island. This was the only drawback to Caesar's wonted success.

Our next passage tells how Quintus Cicero, brother of the orator and one of Caesar's officers, was besieged by the Nervii near Brussels. If Caesar had not succeeded in relieving him Gaul would have been lost; but Caesar's matter-of-fact narrative avoids heroics, however critical the situation.

Quanto erat in dies gravior atque asperior oppugnatio, et maxime, quod magna parte militum confecta vulneribus res ad paucitatem defensorum pervenerat, tanto crebriores litterae nuntiique ad Caesarem mittebantur; quorum pars deprehensa in conspectu nostrorum militum cum cruciatu necabatur. Erat unus intus Nervius nomine Vertico, loco natus honesto, qui a prima obsidione ad Ciceronem perfugerat, summamque ei fidem praestiterat. Hic servo spe libertatis magnisque persuadeat praemiis, ut litteras ad Caesarem deferat. Has ille in iaculo illigatas effert et Gallus

inter Gallos sine ulla suspicione versatus ad Caesarem pervenit. Ab eo de periculis Ciceronis legionisque cognoscitur.

5.45

Day by day the defense became more difficult and hazardous, chiefly because so many were killed or wounded that few were left to fight, and Cicero sent despatches to Caesar with increasing frequency. Some of the messengers were caught and tortured to death in sight of our soldiers. There was a solitary Nervian in camp, Vertico by name, a man of good birth who at the beginning of the siege had taken refuge with Cicero and had done him loyal service. By the promise of liberty and large rewards Vertico persuaded a slave of his to carry a letter to Caesar. The man attached the message to his pike, and being himself a Gaul moved among the Gauls without arousing suspicion and so made his way to Caesar. Thus was information of the danger to Cicero and his legion brought.

This is how Caesar reacted to the situation:

Caesar acceptis litteris hora circiter undecima diei statim nuntium in Bellovacos ad M. Crassum quaestorem mittit, cuius hiberna aberant ab eo milia passuum xxv; iubet media nocte legionem proficisci celeriterque ad se venire. Exit cum nuntio Crassus. Alterum ad Gaium Fabium legatum mittit, ut in Atrebatum fines legionem adducat, qua sibi sit iter faciendum. Scribit Labieno, si rei publicae commodo facere

posset, cum legione ad fines Nerviorum veniat. Reliquam partem exercitus, quod paulo aberat longius, non putat expectandam; equites circiter quadringentos ex proximis hibernis colligit.

5.46

It was about five in the afternoon when Caesar received the message. At once he sent a messenger into the country of the Bellovaci, to Marcus Crassus, the quartermaster general, who was encamped at a distance of twenty-five miles; Crassus was to march at midnight and join him at once. Crassus started upon receipt of the order. Caesar sent another representative to Gaius Fabius, the lieutenant general, to bid him march his legion into the country of the Atrebatas, through which he knew he would himself have to march. Labienus he ordered to bring his legion to the country of the Nervii, if he could do so consistently with the public interest. As the rest of the army was somewhat too far away he did not think it wise to wait for it. From the nearest winter quarters he did collect about four hundred horsemen.

Caesar was ready to march on the arrival of Crassus, and was joined by Fabius and his legion. Labienus' situation did not permit him to move.

This is how Caesar got word to Cicero:

Caesar consilio eius probato, etsi opinionem trium legionum deiectus ad duas redierat, tamen unum communis salutis auxilium in celeritate ponebat. Venit magnis itineribus

in Nerviorum fines. Ibi ex captivis cognoscit, quae apud Ciceronem gerantur quantoque in periculo res sit. Tum cuidam ex equitibus Gallis magnis praemiis persuadet, uti ad Ciceronem epistulam deferat. Hanc Graecis conscriptam litteris mittit, ne intercepta epistula nostra ab hostibus consilia cognoscantur. Si adire non possit, monet, ut tragulam cum epistula ad anmentum deligata intra munitionem castrorum abiciat. In litteris scribit, se cum legionibus profectum celeriter affore; hortatur, ut pristinam virtutem retineat. Gallus periculum veritus, ut erat praecipuum, tragulam mittit. Haec casu ad turrim adhaesit neque ab nostris biduo animadversa tertio die a quodam milite conspicitur, dempta ad Ciceronem defertur. Ille perlectam in conventu militum recitat maximaque omnes laetitia afficit. Tum fumi incendiorum procul videbantur, quae res omnem dubitationem adventus legionum expulit.

5.48

Caesar approved his decision; and although he had only two legions instead of the three he expected, he saw that success was just possible with speed. He advanced into the Nervian territory by forced marches, and from prisoners he learned what was going on in Cicero's camp and what great danger he was in. By a large bounty he induced one of his Gallic horsemen to carry a letter to Cicero; this he wrote in Greek characters so that his plans should not become known to the enemy if it were intercepted; and he instructed the man, if he could not get into the camp, to

tie the letter to the thong of a spear and throw it inside the entrenchment. He wrote that he had started with the legions and would soon arrive, and he exhorted Cicero to keep up his proven courage. The Gaul was apprehensive and threw the spear as had been directed, but it chanced to catch in a tower and was not noticed by our troops for two days. On the third day a soldier sighted it, took it down, and brought it to Cicero. Cicero read it over, and then read it out to a parade of the troops, to their great joy. Soon the smoke of beacons was seen in the distance, and all doubt about the coming of the legions was dispelled.

The success of Caesar's armies was due not only to their organization and mobility but to the efficiency and speed of their engineering operations. Here is how Caesar bridged the Rhine:

Caesar his de causis, quas commemoravi, Rhenum transire decreverat; sed navibus transire neque satis tutum esse arbitratur, neque suae neque populi Romani dignitatis esse statuebat. Itaque, etsi summa difficultas faciendi pontis proponebatur propter latitudinem, rapiditatem altitudinemque fluminis, tamen id sibi contendendum aut aliter non traducendum exercitum existimabat. Rationem pontis hanc instituit. Tigna bina sesquipedalia paulum ab imo praeacuta dimensa ad altitudinem fluminis intervallo pedum duorum inter se iungebat. Haec cum machinationibus immissa in flumen defixerat

fistucisque adegerat, non sublicae modo directe ad perpendicularum, sed primum ac fastigate, ut secundum naturam fluminis procumberent, his item contraria duo ad eundem modum iuncta intervallo pedum quadragenum ab inferiore parte contra vim atque impetum fluminis conversa statuebat. Haec utraque insuper bipedalibus trabibus immissis, quantum eorum tignorum iunctura distabat, binis utrimque fibulis ab extrema parte distinebantur; quibus disclusis atque in contrariam partem revinctis tanta erat operis firmitudo atque ea rerum natura, ut quo maior vis aquae se incitavisset, hoc artius illigata tenerentur. Diebus decem, quibus materia coepta erat comportari, omni opere effecto exercitus traducitur.

4.17, 18

Caesar was now determined to cross the Rhine, but he thought it hardly safe to cross in boats and deemed it unworthy of his own or his country's dignity to do so. And so, though the construction of a bridge presented great difficulties by reason of the depth, rapidity, and height of the river, he nevertheless resolved to make the attempt or else not to cross at all. The type of bridge he finally adopted was as follows. Wooden piles a foot and a half thick, sharpened a little from the end and adapted to the varying depth of the stream, were coupled in pairs at intervals of two feet. These were lowered into the river by floats and driven home with rams, not vertically like ordinary piles but tilted at an angle in the direction of the current.

Next a similar set of piles parallel to the first but sloping against the force and rush of the current, was carried across the stream forty feet farther down. Beams two feet wide, fitting into the interval between the piles of each couple, were laid across, the whole framework being kept in position by a pair of under-braces running from either side. Since they were thus held apart and contrariwise clamped together, the stability of the structure was so great and its principle so ordered that, the greater the force of the current, the more closely were the piles locked together. These trestles were interconnected by boards running in the direction of the bridge, and these were overlaid with poles and wattle-work. Finally, to break the impact of the stream, piles were driven diagonally from either shore, and at the center formed a sort of buttress which was connected with the main fabric of the bridge. A similar structure was erected a little above the bridge, so that if the natives should launch treetrunks or barges to demolish it, these fenders might lessen their force and prevent them from damaging the bridge. Within ten days after the collection of timber began, the whole work was finished and the army was taken across.

Caesar not only records military operations but also includes social and anthropological information useful to an imperial power. Here is his section on the Druids:

In omni Gallia eorum hominum, qui aliquo sunt numero atque honore, genera sunt duo. Nam plebes paene servorum habetur loco, quae nihil audet per se, nullo adhibetur consilio. Plerique, cum aut aere alieno aut magnitudine tributorum aut iniuria potentiorum premuntur, sese in servitutem dicant nobilibus, quibus in hos eadem omnia sunt iura, quae dominis in servos. Sed de his duobus generibus alterum est druidum, alterum equitum. Illi rebus divinis intersunt, sacrificia publica ac privata procurant, religiones interpretantur: ad eos magnus adolescentium numerus disciplinae causa concurrunt, magnoque hi sunt apud eos honore. Nam fere de omnibus controversiis publicis privatisque constituunt, et si quod est admissum facinus, si caedes facta, si de hereditate, si de finibus controversia est, idem decernunt, praemia poenasque constituunt; si qui aut privatus aut populus eorum decreto non stetit, sacrificiis interdicunt. Haec poena apud eos est gravissima. Quibus ita est interdictum, hi numero impiorum ac sceleratorum habentur, his omnes decedunt, aditum sermonemque defugiunt, ne quid ex contagione incommodi accipiant, neque his petentibus ius redditur neque honos ullus communicatur. His autem omnibus druidibus praest unus, qui summam inter eos habet auctoritatem. Hoc mortuo aut, si qui ex reliquis excellit dignitate, succedit, aut si sunt plures pares, suffragio druidum, non nunquam etiam armis de principatu contendunt. Hi certo anni tempore in finibus Carnutum, quae regio totius Galliae media habetur, considunt in loco consecrato. Huc omnes undique, qui controversias habent, conveniunt

eorumque decretis iudiciisque parent. disciplina in Britannia reperta atque inde in Galliam translata esse existimatur, et nunc, qui diligentius eam rem cognoscere volunt, plerumque illo discendi causa proficiscuntur. 6.13

Throughout Gaul only two classes are of any account or enjoy any distinction; the masses are treated almost as slaves, exercise no initiative, and are never taken into counsel. The greater part, when crushed by debt or heavy taxation or oppressed by powerful individuals, bind themselves in slavery to the nobles, who exercise over them all the rights masters have over slaves. One of the two classes consists of the Druids, the other of the Knights. The former officiate at divine worship, regulate sacrifices public and private, and expound questions of ritual. Numbers of young men resort to them for study and hold them in high respect. They are judges in nearly all disputes, whether public or private, and in cases of crimes or murders or disputes about inheritances or boundaries, they settle the matter and fix awards and penalties. Any who do not abide by their decision, whether an individual or a tribe, they excommunicate, and this is their severest penalty. People under the interdict are regarded as impious monsters: everybody avoids them and shuns their approach and conversation for fear of incurring pollution; they cannot appear as plaintiffs or share in any distinction. The Druids are all under one head, who possesses the highest authority

among them. At his death either the most eminent of his fellows succeeds, or if there are several on an equality, the headship is decided by a vote of the Druids, or sometimes actually by force of arms. At a certain season the Druids meet in a sacred spot in the country of the Carnutes, the reputed center of all Gaul. Here litigants assemble from all parts and abide by their decisions and sentences. It is believed that their doctrine was discovered in Britain and thence imported into Gaul; and today most people who wish to study the subject thoroughly go there to learn it.

As a rule the Druids keep aloof from war and do not pay taxes with the rest. They are exempt from military service and all obligations. Attracted by these great privileges many young men voluntarily foregather to receive their doctrine and many are sent by parents and relatives. It is said that they learn a great many verses by heart, and accordingly many remain as students for twenty years. It is against the principles of the Druids to commit their doctrines to writing, though for other business, public or private, they use Greek characters. I suppose their motive is twofold: they do not wish their doctrine to become common property, or their disciples to trust writing rather than memory. It is true that reliance upon documents tends to relax diligence in memorization. The doctrine they most strive to inculcate is that souls do not die, but pass from one body to another. This they regard as the greatest incentive to courage,

for fear of death is then cast aside. They also hold long discussions about the heavenly bodies and their movement, the size of the universe and of the earth, the order of nature, the power and capacities of the immortal gods, and this lore they pass on to their disciples.

The Civil War, to which we now turn, is Caesar's account of his defeat of the senatorial armies under Pompey, which marked the end of the republic and initiated the one-man rule of the empire. By crossing the Rubicon Caesar had in fact made himself a rebel; this is part of his justification:

Erat iniqua condicio postulare, ut Caesar Arimino excederet atque in provinciam reverteretur, ipsum et provincias et legiones alienas tenere; exercitum Caesaris velle dimitti, dilectus habere; polliceri, se in provinciam iturum, neque, ante quem diem iturus sit, definire, ut, si peracto consulatu Caesaris non profectus esset, nulla tamen mendacii religione obstrictus videretur; tempus vero colloquio non dare neque accessurum polliceri magnam pacis desperationem afferebat. Itaque ab Arimino M. Antonium cum cohortibus v Arretium mittit; ipse Arimini cum duabus subsistit ibique dilectum habere instituit; Pisaurum, Fanum Anconam singulis cohortibus occupat.

BC 1.11

It was unfair of Pompey to demand that Caesar evacuate Rimini and retire to his province while he himself retained both his provinces and legions to which he was not entitled, to call upon Caesar to disband his army while he himself continued to mobilize, to promise that he would proceed to his province, without specifying a date, so that if he waited until Caesar's consulship was finished he would not be chargeable with overt deception. By refusing to negotiate at his own headquarters or Caesar's he generated general despair of peace. Accordingly Caesar with two legions remained at Rimini, and arranged to raise a levy there. He despatched Mark Antony to Arezzo with five cohorts and secured Pesaro, Fano, and Ancona with one each.

Caesar's unexpectedly rapid progress forced the Pompeians to retire to Greece. Before pursuing them Caesar decided to safeguard Italy and the west by dealing first with the strong Pompeian forces in Spain. In a brilliant campaign he forced his adversaries into an untenable position but withheld his attack in the hope of winning a bloodless victory and the loyalty of new legions:

Quorum discessu liberam nacti milites colloquiorum facultatem vulgo procedunt, et quem quisque in castris notum aut municipem habebat, conquirunt atque evocant. Primum agunt gratias omnes omnibus, quod sibi perterritis pridie peperissent: eorum se beneficio vivere. Deinde de imperatoris fide quaerunt,

rectene se illi sint commissuri, et, quod non ab initio fecerint armaque cum hominibus necessariis et consanguineis contulerint, quaerunt. His provocati sermonibus fidem ab imperatore de Petrei atque Afranii vita petunt, ne quod in se scelus concepissemus neque suos prodidisse videantur. Quibus confirmatis rebus se statim signa translatores confirmant legatosque de pace primorum ordinum centuriones ad Caesarem mittunt. Interim alii suos in castra invitandi causa adducunt, alii ab suis abducuntur, adeo ut una castra iam facta ex binis viderentur; compluresque tribuni militum et centuriones ad Caesarem veniunt seque ei commendant. Idem hoc fit a principibus Hispaniae, quos evocaverant et secum in castris habebant obsidum loco. Hi suos notos hospitesque quaerebant, per quem quisque eorum aditum commendationis haberet ad Caesarem. Erant plena laetitia et gratulatione omnia, eorum, qui tanta pericula vitasse, et eorum, qui sine vulnere tantas res confecisse videbantur, magnumque fructum suae pristinae lenitatis omnium iudicio Caesar ferebat, consiliumque eius a cunctis probabatur.

1.74

The absence of the Pompeian generals afforded their soldiers an opportunity to stroll about and talk with our men; any that had friends or fellow-townsmen asked after them and called them out. First they thanked all hands for having spared them the day before when they were in panic, and said they owed them their lives. Then they asked whether the general

was an honorable man to whom they could entrust their lives, and said they regretted they had not done so at the start instead of taking arms against kith and kin. So far had fraternization gone that they solicited the general's word of honor to guarantee the lives of their own commanders, so that it should not seem that they had conspired to betray them. Reassured on this point, they agreed to transfer their standards at once and sent their first centurions to treat with Caesar. Meanwhile some in our camp were entertaining their acquaintances, and some went to theirs to visit, so that the two camps seem fused into one. A number of their officers called on Caesar to win his good opinion, and so did a number of Spanish chiefs whom the Pompeians had drafted and were keeping in camp as hostages. These looked for acquaintances who might introduce them to Caesar and say a good word for them. Joy and felicitations were general: among the Pompeians because they thought they had escaped a critical predicament, and among our men because they thought they had won a decisive victory without scathe. Caesar, all agreed, reaped the harvest of his traditional leniency, and his policy was universally applauded.

The joy was premature, for the Pompeian generals put a stop to the fraternization and killed all the Caesarians they caught. But Caesar defeated the Pompeians in Spain, and then went to attack Pompey himself in Greece. Near Durazzo he tried to hem in an

army larger and better equipped than his own by 17 miles of circumvallation:

Erat nova et inusitata belli ratio cum tot castellorum numero tantoque spatio et tantis munitionibus et toto obsidionis genere, tum etiam reliquis rebus. Nam quicumque alterum obsidere conati sunt, percussos atque infirmos hostes adorti aut proelio superatos aut aliqua offensione permotos continuerunt, cum ipsi numero equitum militumque praestarent; causa autem obsidionis haec fere esse consuevit, ut frumento hostes prohiberent. At tum integras atque incolumes copias Caesar inferiore militum numero continebat, cum illi omnium rerum copia abundarent: cotidie enim magnus undique navium numerus conveniebat, quae comeatum supportarent, neque ullus flare ventus poterat, quin aliqua ex parte secundum cursum haberent. Ipse autem consumptis omnibus longe lateque frumentis summis erat in angustiis. Sed tamen haec singulari patientia milites ferebant. Recordabantur enim, eadem se superiore anno in Hispania perpressos labore et patientia maximum bellum confecisse; Est etiam genus radices inventum ab iis, qui vacabant ab operibus, quod appellatur chara, quod admixtum lacte multum inopiam levabat. Id ad similitudinem panis efficiebant. Eius erat magna copia. Ex hoc effectos panes, cum in colloquiis Pompeiani famem nostris obiectarent, vulgo in eos iaciebant, ut spem eorum minuerent.

3.47, 48

The large number of redoubts, the extent of space covered, the scope of the engineering works, the system of blockade, and other factors, made this a novel and unprecedented type of warfare. Blockades have normally been attempted only against a dispirited and weak enemy, vanquished in battle or otherwise demoralized, and when the blockader has superior numbers of both foot and horse; and the normal objective of a blockade is to interdict the enemy from his supplies. But here Caesar with inferior numbers was blockading fresh and unbeaten forces who were being abundantly supplied. Daily they were receiving large convoys; any wind that blew must prove favorable for some of their shipping. But Caesar was in straits, for all the grain available over a large area had been used up. Yet the soldiers bore their hardships with exemplary patience. They remembered that a similar hardship and patience had won them a great victory in Spain the year before.... Some of the men not working a shift found a root called *chara* which grew in abundance and could be used, with milk added, to make a kind of bread. When the Pompeians taunted our men as starvelings they pitched loaves of this kind over to them and so damped their hopes.

Pompey eventually broke out of this blockade, and both armies moved north. The final confrontation, and crowning mercy, came at Pharsalia.

Exercitum cum militari more ad pugnam cohortaretur suaque in eum perpetui temporis officia praedicaret, imprimis commemoravit, testibus se militibus uti posse, quanto studio pacem petisset, Neque se umquam abuti militum sanguine neque rempublicam alterutro exercitu privare voluisse. Hac habita oratione exposcentibus militibus et studio pugnae ardentibus tuba signum dedit.

3.90

Following established custom Caesar harangued his men before the battle. He mentioned his consistent concern for their safety and welfare and reminded them that they could themselves testify to his repeated and strenuous attempts to arrange a peaceful settlement.... Never had he squandered soldiers' blood or willingly lost the state an army, even an opponent's. The speech done, the troops were fired with enthusiasm and clamored for action, and the trumpet sounded the charge.

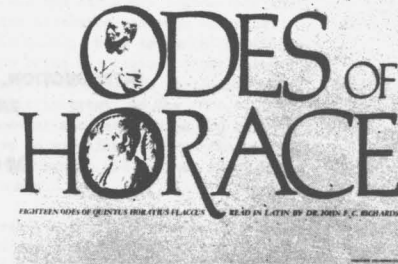
The Pompeians broke, and Pompey himself fled, eventually to Spain, where he was killed. Caesar was master of the world.

Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world
Like a Colossus, and we petty men
Walk under his huge legs, and peep about,
To find ourselves dishonorable graves,

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A Teacher's Guide To Caesar

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By
Stanley Solomon

You will find this recording of Caesar, as interpreted and read by Moses Hadas, suitable for many different purposes in the classroom. Provided you keep your own particular aim in mind--whether you teach history, English or Latin--your students will gain new insight into and appreciation of Caesar and his times.

Introduce the tape or record: Sell your students on the idea that they are about to listen to the words of one of history's heroes. For the first time they will be privileged to hear his own words.

Many of your students, of course, will already know something about the man. To channel this knowledge, ask such questions as these: Of what importance is a military career to a statesman? What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a military man as head of a government?

Assign different students to give thumbnail sketches to your class of the following cast of characters: Pompey, Crassus, Quintus Cicero, Gaius Fabius, Labienus, Mark Antony--and Caesar. Tell them that many of these men are the "Eisenhowers" and "George Pattons" and "Mark Clarks" of the exciting battle scenes to follow.

Ask someone else to lay the scene by drawing a map of Gaul on the board. Either you or a student--after research--can indicate where the Belgae, Aquitani and Gauls lived. Who are the descendants of these peoples?

Finally, you may want to discuss reasons for Caesar's conquest, or "liberation," of Gaul.

One more word. Whatever passage you choose to play, whether the introduction by Prof. Hadas or parts of the text, be sure your students know the vocabulary ahead of time. For instance, these words in the introduction are likely to cause trouble unless explained ahead of time: concise, junction, annals, relevance, abhor, ruthlessness, demoralized, oligarchy, eminence, sorely, triumvirate, amass, in absentia, treatises, extant, terse, recrimination, prohess.

More particularly, following are points you will want to consider depending on your special interest:

History: How did Caesar's conquest of Gaul help spread Roman culture to what is now Europe and England? Ask an advanced student to report on similarity among English, Spanish, French and German. Assign your class to list ten English words that have Latin roots.

Play passages 2, 3, 4,* on the invasion of England. What were the effects of Caesar's invasion? How do your students think World War II might have turned out if Hitler had invaded England? Assign a student to report on the Allied invasion of France in World War II. What are problems faced by any invading force?

Replay passage 3. How did Caesar overcome enemy resistance to the landing? What is "the eagle"? Ask for example of other symbols of state.

Play passage 9. How are classes divided in Gaul? What are some beliefs of the Druids? Is there any similarity between these beliefs and organized religion of today?

Play passages 5, 6, 7. Point up the exciting rescue of one of Caesar's officers, Quintus Cicero: How did Cicero get word to Caesar? What did Caesar do? How did Caesar get word to the beleaguered Cicero without enemy knowledge?

One measure of an army's efficiency is its mobility. What happens in passages 5, 6, 7 that proves Caesar's army had much mobility? What part did mobility play in World War II?

Caesar's ingenuity and engineering feats are well known. Let your students listen to the crossing of the Rhine (8) and then draw diagrams of the bridge. How would a modern army bridge a river?

Before your students listen to the passages on the civil war (10ff) discuss reasons why Caesar attacked Pompey, his one-time partner in the triumvirate. What happened to the third member of the triumvirate, Crassus? After playing the passages: Why didn't Caesar knock out Pompey's forces in Spain? What reasons does Caesar give for not beating Pompey at Durazzo? What did Caesar say to "fire up" his men at Pharsalia?

Assign your students to write a biography in the style of "This Is Your Life, Julius Caesar," mentioning high points of his war campaigns.

English: Caesar deals with events before the time of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. As you play the introduction and all English translations, ask your students to be ready to point out evidence for Caesar's ingenuity; knowledge of government; ambition; reputation in the eyes of others. You might wish to divide your class into small discussion groups to talk about the answers after listening to the recording.

Have your students consider Caesar's writings as literature. What examples can they give of Caesar's objectivity? What impression does the 3rd person point of view give? To what other forms of writing may the Commentaries be compared?

A great deal may be done with word origins and vocabulary. Play almost any of the Latin passages and have students jot down English words that resemble any of the Latin words they hear. You may wish to write the Latin words on the board first. For example, from passage 1: omnis, divisa, partes, aliam, lingua, appellantur, differunt. As your students listen to the passage they will jot down English words like omnipotent, divide, parts, alias, language, appellation, different. Explain the influence of Latin on English.

This is also a good place to say a word on one important difference between Latin and English: the former depends more on word endings (inflections) and English more on word placement.

*Unless otherwise indicated, these numbers refer to respective passages in English in the accompanying text.

lay in English any one episode--the invasion of England (2,3,4); Caesar's relief of Quintus Cicero (5,6,7); bridging the Rhine (8); the attack on Pompey's forces in Spain (11), or on Pompey himself in Greece (12) --and ask your students to write a newspaper story of the action as if they were war correspondents.

Latin: Play all the English translations and Prof. Hadas' comments together as a full picture of what the campaigns are all about. Then return to the Latin version in your textbook for your own purposes.

Have students translate, orally, from the Latin passages, line by line. (Prof. Hadas' controlled reading makes this feasible since he clearly indicates each sentence.)

For pronunciation drill, play Latin passages and have your students read the same passage from your text. Re-play as often as needed. You might wish students to translate at the same time.

Related Teaching Tools

Books: Any good encyclopaedia will serve for independent reports. There are also many other worthwhile books on Caesar and his time, among which are the following:

Caesar and Christ. Will Durant. Simon & Schuster. Especially Ch. IX, "Caesar."

Caesar's Conquest of Gaul. E. Rice Homes. Oxford, Clarendon.

Seven Roman Statesmen of the Later Republic: The Gracchi. Charles Oman. London, E. Arnold. For material about Crassus, Pompey and Caesar.

The Story of Rome From the Earliest Times to the Death of Augustus. Mary Macgregor. London, Jack Ltd.

Interesting fiction your youngsters will enjoy:

Freedom, Farewell! Phyllis Eleanor Bentley. Macmillan.

Ides of March. Thornton Wilder. Harper.

On Land and Sea With Caesar; or Following the Eagles. R. F. Wells. Boston, Lothrop.

Julius Caesar. Manuel Komroff. Messner.

Swords in the North. P. L. Anderson. Appleton.

With Caesar's Legions; the Adventures of Two Roman Youths in the Conquest of Gaul. R. F. Wells.

And books you can use with your opaque projector:

Augustus Caesar's World. A Story of Ideas and Events from B. C. 44 to 14 A. D. Genevieve Foster. Scribner's. Superb drawings to show on the opaque.

News of the World. A History of the World in Newspaper Style. Prentice-Hall, Inc. You will want to show Page 40, especially the story headlined "Divide and Conquer Policy Brings Downfall of Gaul," plus other interesting material about Caesar and Roman life and customs.

The Roman Soldier. Some Illustrations Representative of Roman Military Life. Amedee Forestier. London, Black Ltd.

Films

Ancient World Inheritance. Coronet Films, Coronet Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

Bellum Punicum Secundum. Audio-Visual Center, Indiana University. Bloomington, Indiana. Either Latin or English dialogue.

Builders of the Broad Highway. Part II, Indiana University. Bridge building today.

English History: Earliest Times to 1066. Coronet.

The English Language: Story of Its Development. Coronet.

Julius Caesar. Films, Inc., 1150 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, Ill. Newest Hollywood version.

Julius Caesar. Parts I and II. Young America Films, Inc., 18 East 41st St., NYC. A filmstrip based upon the nationally released film above.

Major Religions of the World. Encyclopaedia Britannica Films, Inc., 1150 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, Ill.

Times and People Change Words. Society for Visual Education, Inc., 1345 W. Diversey Pkwy., Chicago 14, Ill.

Words Derived from Latin and Greek. Young America.

Why Study Latin? Coronet.

Records

Julius Caesar. MGM Records, 701 Seventh Ave., NYC. Dramatic highlights from the film.

Turning Point for Rome. Audio Classroom Services, 323 So. Franklin St., Chicago 6, Ill.

A Note on the Use of the Recording

1. Choose selections from the recording; rarely is it effective to play the entire recording at once.
2. If you have the record, it's a good idea to tape those portions you wish to present to your class. Even with the tape, it will be much easier to re-record parts you want to play (for example, all the English translations and comments, omitting Latin passages).
3. If you have a counter on your tape recorder, note where each English or Latin passage begins. In this way you will quickly find any particular selection.
4. Before playing indicate what you want your students to listen for.
5. Follow up playing with additional assignments, time permitting. At least leave time within the class period for discussion.
6. Re-play passages freely, depending on difficulty or multiple purposes you have in mind.
7. Use related teaching tools to supplement the recording. Whether you use film or another record before or after the recording depends on time you have available; how much you want your students to get out of the lesson; and how relevant the material is.