

# The Nereus Commentary Series (2019)

## DE BELLO GALLICO BOOK V.B

### *Let the Bodies Hit the Floor*

Inspired by Epic Thrash Songs



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# DBG V.29<sup>A</sup>

## 99 Luft Balloons

### V.29.1. **contrā** ea Titūrius sērō

(15) factūrōs **clāmitābat**, cum māiōrēs manūs hostium **adiūctīs** Germānīs

convēnissent aut cum aliquid **calamitātis** in proximīs **hībernīs** esset

acceptum. **2. brevem cōsulendī** esse **occāsiōnem**. **3.** Caesarem arbitrārī

profectum in **Ītaliā**; neque **aliter** Carnūtēs interficiendī **Tasgētī** cōnsilium

fuisse captūrōs, neque Ebūrōnēs, sī ille **adesset**, tantā **contemptiōne** nostrī

ad castra ventūrōs esse.

**contrā** *against* (+ACC)

**sēra/us/um** *late*

**clāmītō** (1) *scream*

**adiungō, adiūctus** *join to*

**cālāmītas, -ātis** f. *disaster*

**brevis/e** *short*

**cōsulō** (3) *consult*

**hīberna, -orūm** n. *winter quarters*

**occāsiō, -ōnis** f. *opportunity*

**aliter** *otherwise* ADV

**adsum, -esse** *be present* (+DAT)

**contemptiō, -ōnis** f. *contempt*

## **Sabinus takes a grimmer view**

**V.29.1. **contrā** ea:** 'against these things.' **Titurius:** Quintus Titurius Sabinus, one of Caesar's legates in Gaul. Caesar refers to him by his nomen here. Elsewhere he uses his cognomen, Sabinus. **sero factūrōs (esse), cum:** 'that they (the Romans) would act too late, when' they did act. Ind. St't with F-Inf Av, add ACC Subj. Sabinus is here arguing that the legions under his joint command must act and act now. **clāmitābat:** 'kept shouting repeatedly,' the not impressive frequentative Imp-I Av is Caesar as author undercutting the arguments of Sabinus. The indirect statement governed by clāmitābat continues through the whole paragraph. **cum...convēnissent:** 'after... have come together,' Plup-Sj Av in cum Causal clause. **māiōrēs:** Comp. ADJ of magnus with manūs **manūs:** 'bands,' i.e. groups of troops. P NOM. **adiūctīs** **Germānīs:** 'with the Germans having joined in...' ABL ABS. **cum...esset acceptum:** Plup-Sj Pv; after... **aliquid calamitātis:** 'something of calamity,' NEU NOM Subject. **calamitātis:** a Partitive GEN. **in proximīs hībernīs:** 'in the nearest

*camps,* 'Their camp was farthest off from the main body, closest to the Rhine and the Germans and, hence, if the nearest camps should be taken, the Roman forces as a whole would withdraw from their outpost of a camp and they would be stranded. Sabinus is also arguing that, though they easily fought off the Eburones, the nearest camp might not be so lucky and that they should come to their aid (as according to the original plan of Caesar). Note, however, that the other camp had sent no messenger and Titurius was only relying upon the words of Ambiorix.

**29.2. brevem... occāsiōnem:** *'the opportunity was short,'* ACC Subj of Ind. St't but the predicate brevem is placed first in the clause for emphasis. **cōnsulendī:** *'of deliberating,'* S GEN of Description of the Gerund.

**29.3. arbitrari [se]:** *'that he (Titūrius) thought,'* Sabinus now bolsters his argument against waiting for the orders of Caesar with his belief that Caesar was out of Gaul and back in Revenna, his winter political base of operations near the Roman border. **Caesarem... profectum (esse):** *'that Caesar had set out,'* an Ind. St't governed by the Ind. St't arbitrārī. It seems strange that Caesar's officers should not have known where he was. Rather, this argument of Caesar's departure comes from the fears of Sabinus, as he argues from the knowledge that **neque...fuisse capturos:** *'that otherwise the Carnutes would not have adopted,'* The direct discourse would have cepissent (contrapositive) and for venturos esse, venirent. Apodosis of a condition contrary to fact (unreal), the protasis of which is contained in the adverb aliter. **aliter:** *'otherwise,'* except on the supposition that Caesar was no longer in Gaul. The Carnutes were a Celtic tribe living between the Loire and the Seine. **interficiendī Tasgetī:** *'of Tasgetius-killing,'* S GEN Gerundive modifying Tasgetius. They began the revolt by killing their king, Tasgetius, a client of Caesar's. **cōnsilium... captūrōs:** *'to adopt an argument,'* idiom. **nostri:** *'of us,'* Descriptive GEN with contemptione. **neque Eburones venturos esse:** *'nor would the Eburones have come,'* ACC Subj. with ventūrōs esse in Ind. St't. **ille:** i.e., Caesar. ille is often used to refer to the most important person in a situation. **sī... adesset:** *'if that one were present...'* i.e. Caesar, Imp-Sj adsum, in direct disc. a protasis in a mixed contrary-to-fact condition with fuisse captūrōs and ventūrōs esse. Sabinus is now speculating, based on what he knew about the revolt of the Carnutes (V.3) and the moving Lucius Plancus' castra from Belgium (V.5), coupled with the recent attack of the Eburones, points in Sabinus' mind that Caesar must have departed and they would wait for his orders in vain. Caesar, in the narrative of his own actions, has repeatedly shown that a general makes conclusions through observations. The only trouble is that sometimes your conclusions are invalid.

# DBG V.29<sup>B</sup> 99 Luft Balloons

V.29.4. nōn hostem **auctōrem**, sed rem **spectāre**: subesse

(21) Rhēnum; māgnō esse Germānīs **dolōrī** Ariovistī mortem et superiōrēs

nostrās vīctōriās; **ārdēre** Galliam tot **contumēliīs** acceptīs sub populī

Rōmānī imperium **redāctam**, superiōre **glōriā** reī mīlitāris **exstinctā**.

5. **postrēmō** quis hōc sibi **persuādēret**, sine certā rē Ambiorīgem ad  
**ēiusmodī**

(25) cōnsilium **dēscendisse**?

**auctor**, -ōris m. *agent*  
**spectō** (1) *watch*  
**subsum**, -esse *be near*  
**dolor**, -ōris m. *grief, anger*  
**ardeō** (2) *burn*

**contumēlia**, -ae f. *insult*  
**rēdigō**, **redactum** *reduce*  
**glōria**, -ae, f. *glory, fame*  
**exstinguo**, **exstinctum** *extinguish*

**postrēmō** *finally* ADV  
**persuādēō** (2) *persuade*  
**ēiusmodī** *of this kind*  
**dēscendō** (3) *descend*

**29.4. nōn hostem... spectāre**: 'that (he) saw not the enemy but the situation (as the authority,' add **sē** as ACC Subj. **hostem auctorem** alludes to the **auctore hoste** (28) argued by Cotta. **Rhēnum subesse**: 'the Rhine was closeby,' ACC+INF of Ind. St't. Sabinus argues now for their very vulnerable position nearest the Germans. **māgnō.... dolōrī**: 'was for great grief [for the Germans],' DAT of Purpose. **Germānīs**: DAT of Reference. **Ariovistī mortem... vīctōriās**: subject of **esse**; Ariovistus was the leader of a German tribe that had invaded Gaul in 71. Caesar drove him out of Gaul in 58 and he died or was killed soon afterwards. The closest Caesar came to a mutiny was the fear of the **legati** (of whom Sabinus was one) on the march to meet the Germans in Book I. It is interesting that Sabinus runs back to that boogey man. **superiores**: here, 'earlier' **ārdēre**: 'that Gaul is on fire,' Fire is a common metaphor for passion, in this case,





feelings of anger and indignation; 'is in a blaze' or 'was ablaze'. Sabinus' arguments are that *Gaul, brought under the sway of the Roman people, her former military glory extinguished, was ablaze at all the indignities she had received*. True (as Caesar will see in later in this book and Book VII with the revolt of Vercingetorix. But a truth that was not directly applicable to the situation of Cotta and Sabinus. **tot contumeliis acceptis redactam:** 'because it had been reduced after such a series of disasters, and after losing all their former military reputation' One could argue that contumeliis acceptis is an ABL ABS, but it seems to be an ABL of Specification, explaining how Gaul was subjected. **sub... imperium:** 'underneath the power,' sub governs an ABL place where or as here ACC place to which. **redactam:** Pf-Pt Pv of redigō, modifying Galliam. **superiōre... exstinctā:** ABL ABS. **reī mīlitāris:** of military affairs; with glōria.

**29.5. quis... persuādēret:** 'who would persuade himself this' in Direct Discourse a



Deliberative P-Sj, but in Ind. St't, the secondary sequence it is Imp-Sj. **hoc:** object of persuaderet. We would say, 'who would persuade himself of this?' **sine certā... dēscendisse:** '(namely) that...' Ind. St't in apposition to S NEU ACC hoc above. **sine certā rē:** 'without a reliable reason.' **dēscendisse:** 'had lowered himself,' Pf-Inf;; Ambiorix (that good friend of the Roman people) is acting

unbecoming of his status in attacking the Roman camp.

# DBG V.29<sup>C</sup> 99 Luft Balloons

(25) 6. suam sententiam in utramque partem esse

tūtam: sī nihil esset **dūrius**, nūllō cum periculō ad proximam legiōnem

perventūrōs: sī Gallia omnis cum Germānīs **cōsentīret**, ūnam esse in

celeritāte positam salūtem. 7. Cottae quidem atque eōrum quī **dissentīrent**,

cōnsilium quem habēre **exitum**, in quō sī **praesēns** periculum nōn, at certē

(30) **longīnquā obsidiōne famēs** esset timenda?

**dūra/us/um** *harsh, hard*

**consentiō** (4) *share in feeling*

**dissentiō** (4) *dissent, disagree*

**exitus**, -ūs m. *exit, outcome*

**praesēns**, -ntis *present*

**longinqua/us/um** *protracted*

**obsidiō**, -ōnis f. *blockade*

**famēs**, -is f. *hunger*

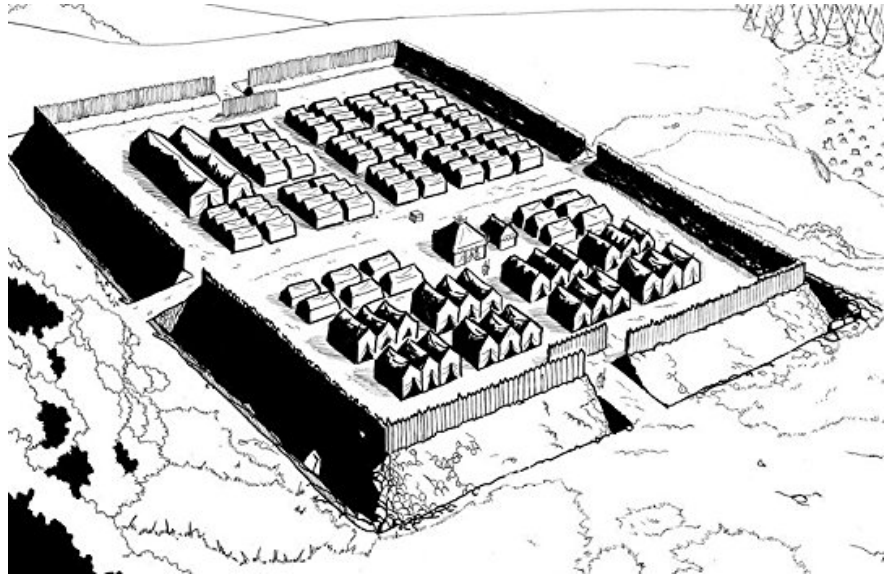
**timeō** (2) *be afraid*

**29.6. suam sententiam...:** 'that his opinion...' i.e. Ambiorix's opinion; Sabinus is still employing Ambiorix as subject. **in utramque partem:** 'on each side,' No matter the truth of what Ambiorix has said, Sabinus' plan of departure works either way **si nihil esset durius:** 'If no greater difficulty came in their way,' i.e. if no attack were made by the Gauls. **si nihil esset durius:** 'if it were nothing more serious,' S NEU Comp. ADJ, NOM predicate. **perventurōs [Romanōs]:** 'The [Romans] would arrive' to the nearest camp with no danger and just a slight walk. **sī... cōsentīret, esse positam:** 'if...agreed, had been placed...' in Dir. Disc., mixed simple. condition (sī cōsentit, posita est); in Ind. St't. in secondary sequence the subordinate verb becomes Imp-Sj and the main verb Pf-Inf Pv. **ūnam... salūtem:** a single (means of) safety. As such, Sabinus is arguing that they should leave for the nearest camp. If nothing more serious from the Gallic Revolt would arise, the legions just get a march. If



things would fall part and the Gauls would unite with the Germans, there is only safety in a concentrated numbers.

**29.7. Cottae atque eōrum:** GEN modifying cōnsilium, the ACC Subj. of Ind. St't clause with habēre as the predicate. **quī dissentīrent:** *'those who disagree [with Titūrius],'* Relative of Characteristic or Imp-Sj subordinate to Ind. St't. **quem... exitium:** *'what outcome does the plan have?'* Interrog. ADJ and noun introducing a question; ACC Dir. Obj. of habēre in Ind. St't. **in quō:** *'in which...'* the cōnsilium of Cotta and others opposing Titūrius is the antecedent. **perīculum [esset]:** *'(there was)... a danger.'* **longinquā obsidiōne:** *'by a long seige,'* ABL of cause. **fames esset timenda:** *'famine had to be feared'* or *'was needing to be feared,'* Gerundive of Obligation. Cotta and the centurions had earlier argued that they are not being pressed by the need of grain. Sabinus counters that, though there is no current concern, there will be a concern once they face a long seige of Gauls and Germans. Hence the need to decamp.





# DBG V.30

## Thriller

V.30.1. hāc in utramque partem **disputātiōne** habitā, cum ā Cottā prīmīisque  
 ōrdinibus **ācritēr resisterētur**, 2. 'Vincite,' inquit, 'sī ita vultis,' Sabīnus, et  
 id **clārīōre vōce**, ut māgna pars mīlitum **exaudīret**; 3. 'neque is sum,' inquit,  
 'quī gravissimē ex vōbis mortis perīculō **terrear**: hī **sapient**; 4. sī gravius  
<sup>(5)</sup> quid acciderit, abs tē ratiōnem **repōscent** 5. quī, sī per tē liceat, **perendinō**  
 diē cum proximīs **hībernīs coniūctī** commūnem cum reliquīs bellī  
 cāsum sustineant, 6. nōn **rēiectī et relēgātī** longē ab **cēterīs** aut **ferrō** aut  
**famē intereant.**'

**disputātiō**, -ōnis f. *debate*  
**ācritēr** *fiercely* ADV  
**resistō** (3) *resist*  
**vincō** (3) *conquer*  
**inquō** *say*  
**clāra/us/um** *clear*  
**vōx**, vōcis f. *voice*

**exaudiō** (4) *hear clearly*  
**terreō** (2) *terrify*  
**sapiō** (4) *know*  
**rēposcō** (3) *demand*  
**pērendīna/us/um** *after tomorrow*  
**hīberna**, -ōrum n. *winter quarters*  
**coniungō**, iungēre, iunxi: *join*

**rēiciō**, reiectum *reject*  
**rēlēgō**, relēgātum *remove, banish*  
**cēterae/ī/a** *others*  
**ferrum**, -ī n. *iron, sword*  
**famēs**, -is f. *hunger*  
**intērēō**, -īre *perish*

**V.30.1 hac... disputātiōne habita**: 'with this argument held,' ABL ABS. **in utramque partem**: 'on both sides,' on each side; as we say pro and con. **cum... resisterētur**: 'since... there was a resisting,' likely cum Causal + Imp-Sj Pv in sense. **resisteretur**: either '(Sabinus) was resisted' or the impersonal passive of 'a resistance was being put up.' **ā... primisque ordinibus**: 'by [Cotta] and the first ranks,' i.e. the chief centurions. Many of the military tribunes seem to have sided with Sabinus; these chief centurions had the bulk of the military experience.

**30.2. vincite**: 'have your way,' i.e. win the dispute. Sabinus in dealing with the continued pressure, seems to give up. But only for rhetorical effect. **sī ita vultis**: 'if you will,' 2P P-I Av volo. **id clariore voce**: 'and (he said) it with a rather loud voice,' supply inquit, ABL of Specification loses cum when there is an ADJ, here a comp ADJ. **ut...exaudirent**: 'so that...'

*the could hear,' a Purpose Clause with Imp-Sj Av, secondary sequence. Sabinus, like a demagogue, is now drawing in the surrounding soldiers outside the tent into the argument that he cannot win on his own merits.*

**30.3. is... qui ... terrear:** *'I am not the man to be more seriously alarmed than the rest of you by the risk of death,'* Pred. NOM of a Relative Clause of Characteristic with P-Sj. **gravissime:** super ADV. **ex vobis:** *'the danger (heard) from you,'* ABL Separation instead of Partitive GEN after **gravissime**. **hi:** *'these (soldiers),'* the common soldiers outside the tent and council, i.e. the magna pars militum who were listening. **sapient:** *'will know,'* F-I Av.

**30.4. gravius quid:** *'if something (more) serious,'* quid is Indefinite ADJ after si. **si... acciderit, poscent:** *'is something happens... they will demand,'* future more vivid (si Pluf/F). **abs te rationem reposcent:** *'they will demand an accounting from you.'*

**30.5. qui:** *'(and these) who.'* **si per te liceat:** lit. *'if it should be allowed by you,'* i.e., if Cotta would allow the legion's destruction through inaction. Introduces a future-less-vivid condition. **si... liceat, sustineat... non... intereant:** *'should be allowed... would endure...would not perish,'* future less vivid (si + P-Sj) **sustineant:** &c., *'would certainly bear only their share along with their comrades of the impending danger, and certainly would not die like outcast and banished men, far away from their friends.'* **per te:** *'through you.'* **perendino die:** *'on the following day,'* ABL of Time When i.e. on the day after tomorrow or in two-days' time. **hibernis:** *'winter-quarters,'* throughout this episode hiberna denotes a winter camp. **communem...belli casum:** *'the shared disaster of war,'* belli is a GEN of description, modifying casum.



**30.6. non...intereant:** *'and would not perish' or 'instead of perishing.'* **rēiectī et relēgātī:** *'rejected and exiled,'* the ALLITERATION here emphasizes the pathos of Sabinus' demagoguic argument. **ferrō aut famē:** *'by iron or famine,'* ABL of Cause with continued ALLITERATION and METONYMY of ferrō for gladiō. A powerful conclusion for Sabinus' argument that draws in the fears of the soldiers outside the tent and plays on the responsibility of those within it for those without.



# DBG V.31<sup>A</sup>

## *Should I Stay or Should I Go?*

V.31.1. cōnsurgitur ex cōnsiliō; comprehendunt utrumque

et ōrant nē suā dissēnsiōne et pertināciā rem in summum perīculum

<sup>(10)</sup> dēdūcant: 2. facilem esse rem, seu maneant, seu proficiācantur, sī modo

ūnum omnēs sentiant āc probent; contrā in dissēnsiōne nūllam sē salūtem

perspicere. 3. rēs disputātiōne ad mediam noctem perdūcitur. 4. tandem

dat

Cotta permōtus manūs: superat sententia Sabīnī. 5. prōnūntiātur prīmā

lūce itūrōs. 6. cōnsūmitur vigiliīs reliqua pars noctis, cum sua quisque

<sup>(15)</sup> mīles circumspiceret, quid sēcum portāre posset, quid ex īnstrūmentō

hībernōrum relinquere cōgerētur.

consurgō (3) *rise together*  
consilium, -ī n. *council*  
comprehendō (3) *grab*  
ōrō (1) *plead for, entreat*  
dissensīō, -ōnis f. *dissension*  
pertināciā, -ae f. *obstinacy*  
dēdūcō (3) *lead away*  
maneō (2) *remain, await*  
modō *only, merely* ADV  
sentiō (4) *feel*

contrā *on the contrary* ADV  
perspiciō (3i) *see*  
disputātiō, -ōnis f. *debate*  
media/us/um *middle*  
perdūcō (3) *bring to*  
tandem *finally, at last* ADV  
permovēō, permōtum *stir up*  
*thoroughly*  
sententia, -ae f. *opinion, purpose*  
prōnuntiō (1) *declare*

lūx, lūcis, f. *light*  
eō, īre, īvī, ītum *go*  
consumō (3) *use up, spend*  
vigilia, ae f. *sleeplessness*  
circumspiciō (3i) *look around*  
portō (1) *carry*  
īnstrūmentum, -ī n. *implement, tool*  
hīberna, -ōrum n. *winter quarters*

***The commanders agree to accept Ambiorix' proposal.***



**V.31.1. cōnsurgitur ex cōnsiliō:** 'there is a rising (by them) from the council,' impersonal passive governs a DAT of agent, here missing and is often translated in the active. **comprehendunt utrumque:** 'they detain each other,' both Sabinus and Cotta in the recess grasp each other's arms or shoulders and argue for unity. **ōrant nē:** 'they please that... not,' negative Ind. Command governs P-Sj in primary seq.

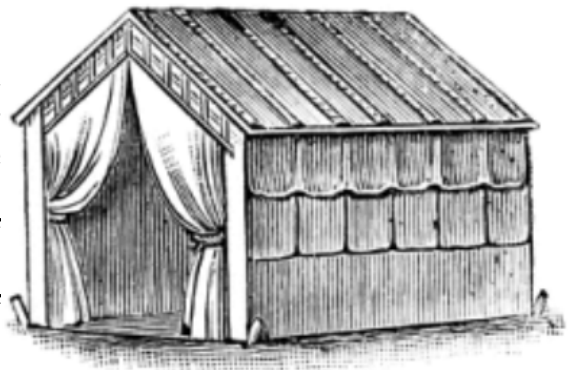
**31.2. facilem esse rem:** '(and) that the matter is easy,' Ind. St't governed by ōrant, ASYNDETON, add et. **seu... seu:** *whether...or*; sīve...sīve, introduces an Indirect Wuestion with P-Sj. **sī modo:** 'if only,' a proviso clause governs a P-Sj. "if only all agree in approving the same course". **contrā:** 'on the other hand.' **nūllam sē salūtem perspicere:** 'that they see no safety.' **sē:** ACC Subj of Ind. St't [Sabinus and Cotta]. **nūllam salūtem:** ACC Dir. Obj. in indirect discourse governed by ōrant and parallel to "facilem esse rem" above.

**31.3. rēs:** 'the matter,' i.e. the discussions. **ad mediam noctem:** 'to midnight,' the debate was heated and protracted.

**31.4. dat manūs:** 'gives his hands,' i.e. a formal sign of surrender. Possible that Cotta had been directed by Caesar, in the event of a difference, to yield to Sabinus? Doubtful, since the debate had lasted long. Why does Cotta give in? Perhaps due to Sabinus' more extensive military experience, perhaps due to his developed arguments toward the common fear all men felt, perhaps due to the direct appeal of Sabinus to the common men and their safety. A mutiny in the Roman army is a common fear. **sententia:** 'the opinion.'

**31.5. prōnūtiātur:** 'the announcement is made,' impersonal passive. **primā lūce:** ABL of Time When. **(eōs) itūrōs (esse):** 'that they...' F-Inf Av of eō, ire; supply eos as subject of the Ind. St't, governed by prōnūtiātur.

**31.6. vigiliīs:** 'with night-watches,' though the Roman army always had night-watches of guards on duty, here the meaning might be wakefulness of all the soldiers as they start to pack up camp at midnight for a hasty departure at morning. **sua... circumspiceret:** 'looks over his own things,' i.e. inspects equipment, gear, and property that every soldier collects, based on the archeologic remains. **sua:** 'his own things,' P ACC NEU We could translate this clause as "each soldier gazing around at his belongings." Clearly, the legionaires are not in the mode of soldier, but of a distressed child having to leave home in the middle of the night. **quisque:** 'each,' an ADJ modifying mīles. **quid... posset:** 'what he was able...' Imp-Sj of possum in Ind. Question; with sua, this construction is an example of PROLEPSIS (anticipation): "his things what he was able..." is equivalent to "what things he was able". **quid... cōgerētur:** '(and) what he was forced' to leave behind. Ind. Question parallel to the one above. **ex instrūmentō:** 'from the store, from the stock,' i.e. from the inventory of a winter camp. Though Caesar's armies traveled light, every soldier always collects items. From the full uniform to his weapons, a soldier was responsible to replace anything broken or missing from his own pay.





# DBG V.31<sup>B</sup>      *Should I Stay or Should I Go?*

(16) V.31.7. omnia excōgitantur, quārē nec sine

perīculō maneātur et languōre mīlitum et vigiliīs perīculum augeātur

8. prīmā lūce sic ex castrīs proficīscuntur ut quibus esset persuāsum nōn ab

hoste sed ab homine amīcissimō Ambiorige cōnsilium datum, longissimō

(20) āgmine māximīsque impedīmentīs

excōgītō (1) *think thoroughly*

quārē *why, wherefore ADV*

mānēō (2) *remain*

languor, -ōris m. *exhaustion*

augeō (2) *increase*

sic: *thus, in this way*

persuādēō, persuāsum *persuade*

amīca/us/um *friendly*

agmen, agminis n. *marching*

*column*

impedīmentum, -i n. *baggage*

**31.7. quārē... maneātur... augeātur:** *'for what reason they would remain not without danger and danger would be increased both by the fatigue and night-watches of the soldiers,'* Ind. Question in apposition to omnia, the P-Sj. is Potential Subjunctive. **quare... augeatur:** *'why they could not remain without peril, and the peril would be increased,'* etc. **omnia... augeatur:** the sense seems to be that *everything is thought of to prove that staying is not unaccompanied by danger, and that the danger is further increased by the labour and watching of the troops.* The danger that is said to be increased by the fatigue of the soldiers is undoubtedly the danger of staying and not the danger of going, as some understand. Clearly, for Caesar, the soldiers have been put into the morally wrong position by their weak commanders of having to do the one thing they don't do well: think. Caesar's approach toward his soldiers is one of a parent toward children. Those *in loco parentis* failed in their responsibility to keep their plans to themselves.

**31.8. prīmā lūce:** *'at first light,'* ABL of Time When. **ex castrīs:** *'out of the camp,'* castra is PL in form but SING in translation, as a castra is made up of multiple numbers of castrum, or watch towers in the wall. **sic... ut quibus esset persuasum:** *'as men who had been convinced,'* The Sj. is a Relative Clause of Characteristic; *'since they had been convinced';* governs indirect statement. **ut... cōnsilium datum (esse):** *'as (if men) who had been persuaded that the plan had been given (to them) not by an enemy but by a man most friendly (Ambiorix).'* **ut:** here is equivalent to ut sī, which

introduces a conditional sentence of comparison with the Sj. (apodosis is missing); Plup-Sj Pv of persuādeō is used impersonally, common in verbs governing a DAT). **quibus:** DAT Obj. of Special Verb may be translated as subject. **non ab hoste...consilium datum:** *'that Ambiorix who had given the advice was not an enemy, but their very near and dear friend.'* **dātum (esse):** Pf-Inf Pv in an ACC + INF construction that is subject of persuāsūm esset. An alternative translation is as if (men) who had been persuaded by Ambiorix not as an enemy but as a man most friendly (to them). **longissimō agmine maximīs impedimentīs:** *'with the line of march [being] very long and the baggage very large,'* ABL ABS. Clearly, the soldiers, as a result of the rapidness of the plan and their night of foolish thinking, had packed haphazardly. Certain not as a legion marching through hostile territory (the Eburones had, after all, attacked the day before) and certainly not moving lightly as the situation demanded. This line of march and baggage will become the downfall for this legion in the next few chapters.





# DBG V.32

## Run to the Hills

(20) V.32.1. at hostēs, posteāquam ex

nocturnō fremitū vigiliisque dē profectiōne eōrum sēnsērunt, collocātis insidiis bipertitō in silvīs opportūnō atque occultō locō ā mīlibus passuum circiter duōbus Rōmānōrum adventum expectābant et, 2. cum sē māior pars āgminis in māgnam convallem dēmīisset, ex utrāque parte ēius vallis

(25) subitō sē ostendērunt, novīssimōsque premere et prīmōs prohibēre ascēnsū atque inīquissimō nostrīs locō proelium committere coepērunt.

posteāquam afterwards ADV  
nocturna/us/um night-time  
frēmītus, -ūs m. din, noise  
vigilia, -ae f. sleeplessness  
prōfectiō, -ōnis f. departure  
sentiō (4) realize  
collōcō, collōcātum station  
insidiae, -ārum f. ambush  
bipertitō in two parts ADV

silva, -ae f. forest  
opportūna/us/um suitable  
occulta/us/um hidden, concealed  
passus, ūs m. pace  
circiter round about ADV  
expectō (1) wait for  
agmen, -inis n. marching column  
convallis, -is f. steep valley  
dēmīttō (3) send down

valls, -is f. valley  
ostendō (3) show  
nova/us/um recent  
ascensus, -ūs m. ascent  
inīqua/us/um unfavorable,  
committō (3) commence  
coepī (3) begin

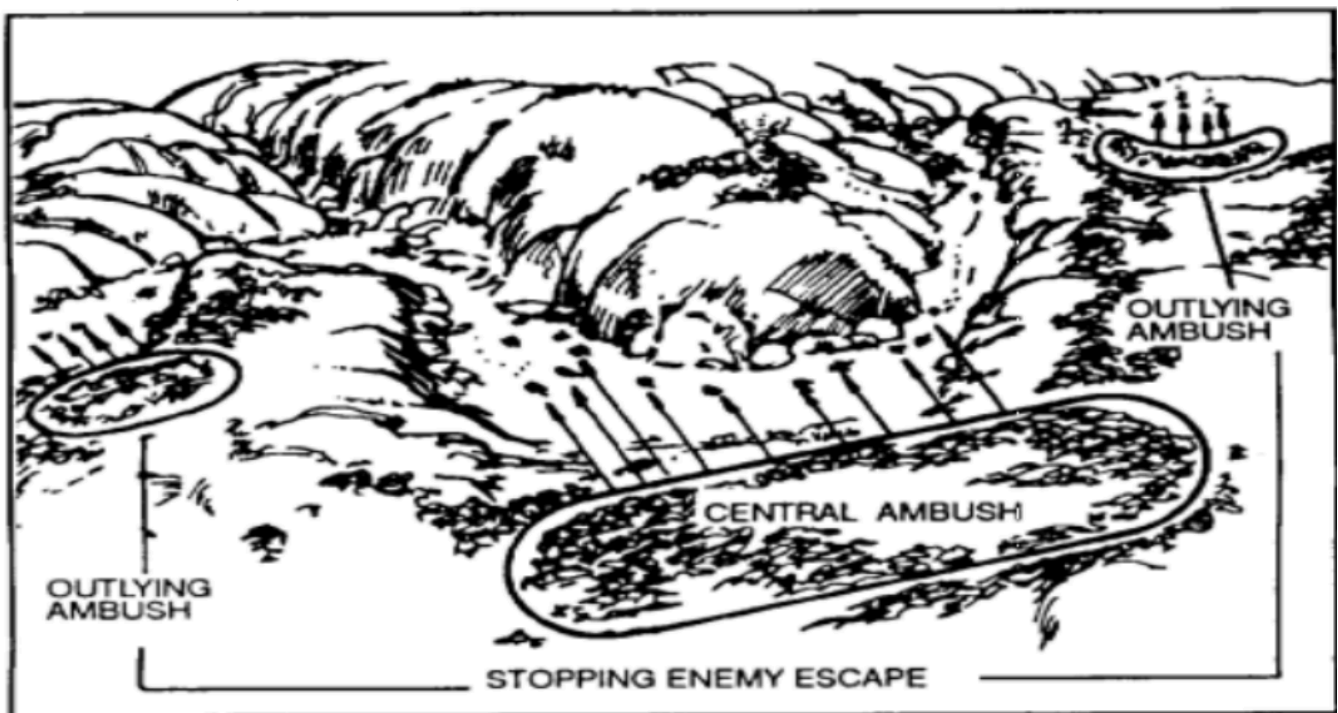
## Ambiorix' forces attack the column in a valley

*We take up the narrative with Cotta and Sabinus leading their nearly 9,000 men through the woods at dawn to the nearest Roman camp. With the mistaken belief that Ambiorix is their loyal friend and the Eburones having promised safe passage, the quite long line of march and baggage train is stretching nearly 10 miles to the rear as they march over the uneven territory through the woods.*

**V.32.1. ex nocturnō fremitū vigiliisque:** 'from the roar at night and the night-watches,' the Roman soldiers had not settled down before their march, but instead stayed awake, preparing to decamp, making much noise. **sēnsērunt:** 'they realized.' **collocātis insidiis:** 'with ambushes having been located,' ABL ABS. **bipertitō:** 'in two parts,' ADV or, in two divisions at the top of the valley coming in and the top of the valley going out.' **[in] opportūnō... occultō locō:** in a proper and hidden place, ABL of Place in addition to the detail of in silvīs. **ā mīlibus passuum circiter duōbus:** 'from about two thousand of paces,' Partitive GEN. "About two miles off" from where? From the camp? From each other? If two miles from the camp, it seems incredibly odd that the Romans could not hear and see

the ambush being prepared. If two miles off from each other, this means that the Roman march would not be in the normal marching column of 6-men abreast. By that computation, the battle line would be nearly 10 miles long. Especially with the mention of a very long battle line and the most amount of baggage (V.31). **se:** object of demisisset: '[the Roman column] had let itself down,' had descended into the marge valley. **maior pars agminis:** the Romans.

**32.2. cum...dēmīssisset:** 'when... had dropped,' Plup-Sj cum Circumstantial clause. **in magnam convallem:** 'into a large valley,' not elsewhere in Caesar. But the situation is perfect for the Eburones -- gravity strengthening their charge and weakening that of the Romans. **ex utrāque parte:** 'from each side,' the marching column is now surrounded on each side and is, therefore, most vulnerable. The Finns, at the start of WW II, were fond of attacking the food supplies of the invading Russian army while also on the march. A soldier can only fight in one direction and the Roman cohort was designed to always supply a fresh batch of troops on its leading edge; the cohort is a military machine of depth. To fight in a line gives no advantage to the Romans. **eius vallis:** of this valley; eius is demonstrative. **nōvissimōs:** 'most recent [soldiers],' or, the rear of the marching column. The soldiers are the "last" or "rear" soldiers in a column of soldiers; therefore, just as they have started their descent into the valley, the way behind is blocked by the attacking Eburones. Retreat is impossible. **premere, prohibēre, committere:** all of the infinitives are governed by coepērunt. **prīmōs:** 'the first (soldiers),' or the vanguard at the front of the column. **ascensū:** from ascending, the other end of the valley, ABL of Separation from the verb prohibēre. **inīquissimō nostrīs locō:** '(in) a place most unfair to our (men),' ABL of Place, noting the superlative. **nostris:** DAT of Reference with iniquissimo. Caesar had always prided himself of choosing the proper place for battle. The Eburones had turned his own strategem on his own lieutenants with devastating results. **proelium committere:** 'to commence battle,' idiom.







# DBG V.33<sup>A</sup>

## Welcome to the Jungle

V.33.1. tum **dēmum** Titūrius, quī nihil ante **prōvīdisset**, **trepidāre** et **conkursāre** cohortēsque **dispōnere**, haec tamen ipsa **timidē** atque ut eum omnia **dēficere** vidērentur; quod plērumque eīs accidere **cōnsuēvit** quī in ipsō **negōtiō** cōnsilium capere cōguntur. 2. at Cotta, quī **cōgitāset** haec <sup>(5)</sup>posse in itinere accidere atque ob eam causam **profectiōnis auctor** nōn fuisset, nūllā in rē commūnī salūtī deerat et in appellandīs **cohortandīs**que mīlitibus **imperātōris** et in pūgnā mīlitis **officia** praestābat.

**dēmum** not till then ADV  
**prōvīdēō** (2) make provision for  
**trēpidō** (1) be in a flutter  
**conkursō** (1) run to and fro  
**dispōnō** (3) place at intervals

**timida/us/um** fearful, timid  
**dēficiō** (3i) fail, give out  
**negōtium**, -ī n. business, affair  
**cogitō** (1) think, ponder  
**prōfectiō**, -ōnis f. departure

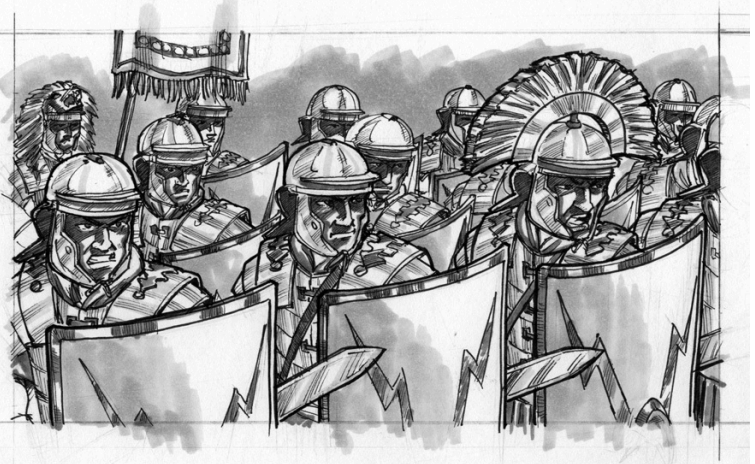
**auctor**, -oris m. agent, cause  
**cōhortor** (1) cheer on, urge  
**imperātor**, -oris m. commander  
**officium**, -ī n. duty, obligation

V.33.1. **tum dēmum Titūrius**: 'then, at last, [Quintus] Titūrius [Sabinus],' note the prominent position the leader has. **quī nihil ante prōvīdisset**: 'who [because he] had foreseen nothing beforehand,' a powerful condemnation. **quī** + Plup-Sj is a Relative Clause that is Causal in sense, equivalent to a **cum** Circumstantial clause. This condemnation will be paralleled in Caesar's later praise of Cotta. **trepidāre... concursare... dispōnere**: "he fluttered about... he ran higgledy-piggledy... he lined up," Historical infinitives with Nom. **Titūrius** as subject, translated as simple past tense. The Historical Infinitive is used, at times, to give a rapid sequence of events, to press the action in an excited or fast-paced narrative. **haec ipsa**: '(he did) these very things,' NEU P ACC, an apposition to the historical infinitives, that give a stronger verdict against the works of Sabinus. **eum**: 'him,' i.e. Titūrius, the object of **dēficere**. **ut... omnia... vidērentur**: 'so that all (his wits) seemed,'



a Result Clause, with omnia as the subject and vidērentur as the Imp-Sj verb. Freely, so that it was plain he had lost all presence of mind' videor is frequently translated as “seem;” the word omnia pertains to his internal turmoil and external state of frustrated frenzy. In this instance, Sabinus is not showing the grace under pressure which is the sine qua non of a real Roman commander. **ut=ita ut quod:** 'and this,' The antecedent is the general confusion described in the previous sentence'. **quod... cōsuēvit:** 'which was accustomed,' Caesar is taking time out in the middle of battle to moralize, similar to the Greek Gnostic Aorist, the past tense is employed when discussing general truisms. **eīs:** 'to those,' DAT of Reference with accidere. **in ipso negotio:** 'in the midst of action,' beautifully rendered in Greek ἐν αὐτῷ τῷ ἔργῳ 'in the work itself'. negotio has any number of meanings, here clearly, 'crisis.' **cōsilium capere:** to adopt a plan; idiom.

**33.2. at Cotta:** 'but Cotta,' a clear contrast in placement with Titurius of the previous sentence. **quī cōgitā(vi)sset... fuisset:** 'since he had realized... and had been,' just as above quī + Plup-Sj in a Relative Clause Causal in sense, equivalent to a cum clause Causal in sense. **haec posse:** 'that these things,'; NEU P ACC Subj of INF of possum in an Ind. St't, governed by. cōgitāssset. **ob eam causam:** 'on account of this reason,' hence, why Cotta is able to be freed quickly from misconceptions regarding the Eburones and act was that he was not the **auctor:** 'originator.' **fuisset:** Plup-Sj of sum still in this Causal Relative Clause.. **nūllā in rē:** 'in no matter,' the ANASTROPHE (over-turned word order with the preposition not coming before) emphasizes the ADJ and puts yet another spotlight on Cotta exemplifying proper Roman values. **commūnī salūtī:** 'for the common safety,' DAT Object of Compound Verb dēsum. **in appellandīs cohortandisque mīlitibus:** 'in soldiers-calling and soldier-encouraging,' both are Gerundives modifying mīlitibus. **et... et:** 'both.. .and,' qualifies imperatoris and militis: 'of both a commander and a soldier.' **(officia) imperātōris:** depends upon officia; there is a contrast between the officia imperātōris and officia mīlitis. One orders, the other fights. Cotta, while fighting for his life, is still commanding the troops. **praestābat:** 'was outstanding.'



# DBG V.33<sup>B</sup>

## Welcome to the Jungle

V.33.3. cum propter

**longitudinem** āgminis minus facile omnia per sē **obīre** et quid quōque locō faciendum esset **providēre** possent, iussērunt **prōnūntiāre** ut **impedīmenta** <sup>(10)</sup> relinquerent atque in **orbem** cōsisterent. **4.** quod cōnsilium **etsī** in **ēiusmodī** cāsū **reprehendendum** nōn est, tamen **incommodē** accidit: **5.** nam et nostrīs mīlitibus spem **minuit** et hostēs ad pūgnam **alācriōrēs** effēcit, quod nōn sine summō **timōre** et **dēspērātiōne** id factum vidēbātur. **6.** **praetereā** accidit, quod **fieri** **necesse** erat, ut **vulgō** mīlitēs ab sīgnīs discēderent, quae <sup>(15)</sup> quisque eōrum **cārissima** habēret ab impedīmentīs petere atque **arripere** **properāret**, **clāmōre** et **flētū** omnia **complērentur**.

**longitudō, -inis** f. length

**ōbēō, -īre** attend to

**prōvidēō (2)** see forward

**prōnūntiō (1)** give out orders

**impedīmentum, -ī** n. baggage

**orbis, -is** m. circle

**etsi** although CONJ

**ēiusmodi** of this kind

**rēprēhendō (3)** blame

**incommōdē** disadvantageously ADV

**mīnūō (3)** diminish

**ālācris/e** eager, brisk

**timor, -oris** m. fear, dread

**dēspērātiō, -ōnis** f. hopelessness

**praetereā** besides ADV

**fiō, fieri** become

**neccesis/e** necessary

**vulgō** commonly ADV

**cāra/us/um** dear, precious

**arripīō (3i)** take up hurriedly

**properō (1):** hasten

**clāmōr, -oris** m. shout, cry

**flētus, -ūs** m. weeping, wailing

**complēō (3)** fill

**33.3. propter longitudinem āgminis:** 'on account of the length of the column of march,' remember, in dealing with nearly 9,000 men, there is some impossible distance involved. Remember, too, these men are in a marching column, their shields behind them, their armor on a pole for easy marching. **minus:** 'less,' Comparative ADV modifies **facile**. **facile:** 'easily,' Irreg. ADV of **facilis/e**. **omnia...obīre:** 'to perform every duty,' for Cotta, he must be organizing the battle for his emergency **quōque:** 'in each,' ABL of Place from **quisque**. **quid... faciendum esset:** 'what had to be done,' Gerundive of Obligation and Subjunctive in an Ind. Question, governed by **providēre**. **possent, iusserunt:** 'they have orders that the word should be passed,' 3P since both Cotta and Titurius and are acting as joint commanders. **prōnūntiāre:** 'that [the centurions] command,' Indirect Command with an Infinitive. **ut... cōsisterent:** 'that [the men] be stationed,' Ind. Command with Imp-Sj. **in orbem:** 'in a circle,' so that all soldiers have their backs to one another and fight forward. Today, under such circumstances, the forming of a hollow square is the usual maneuver. This same formation was ordered by Caesar for the Roman



soldiers who were attacked by the Morini (IV. 27). It is a standard tactic but one, as Caesar will recount, with unfortunate side-effects when the men cannot be relieved by an outside force.

**33.4. Quod:** *'which [plan],* translate the Rel. Adj. as a demonstrative adj. with cōnsilium. **reprehendendum nōn est:** *'must not be criticized,'* Gerundive of Obligation. Caesar is providing for the arm-chair quarterbacks in Rome who will see this action as one of cowardice or short-sightedness. Caesar, the experienced general, not so much. **incommodē:** *'disadvantageously'* or *'disastrously.'*



**33.5. nostrīs militibus:** *'for our soldiers,'* DAT of Reference. **alacriōrēs:** *'more swift,'* Comp. ADJ. **effēcit:** *'made (x) (y),'* double ACC, alacriōrēs is in the predicative position, hostēs as the ACC object. **quod:** *'because.'* **non sine:** *'not without,'* the emphatic cum by the figure of LITOTES. **factum (esse):** *'it was done,'* Pf-Inf Pv of Ind. St't governed by **vidēbātur:** *'it seemed,'* deponent usage of Imp-I Pv.

**33.6. accidit...ut:** etc., the Result Clause are divided into three parts with the verbs discederent, properaret, and complerentur, the first two being connected by -que (quaeque). *'and[the things] which,'* the -que connects discederent and properaret, together form one member of the sentences, the second member having for its verb complerentur. **accidit:** *'it happened,* governs the following series of Result Clauses. **quod fierī necesse erat:** *'[a thing] which was inevitable,'* a not "necessary" but more unavoidable. A parenthetical usage of the P-Inf fiō from the experienced Caesar to his inexperienced audience. **ut... discēderent:** *'that they depart,'* Result Clause. **vulgō:** *'commonly,'* ABL of Specification describing the departing. **ab signīs:** *'from the standards,'* the military standards for each cohort that marked the proper location for battle and by which a soldier positioned himself. **quaeque:** *'and [the things] which,'* the -que connects the Result Clauses of discederent and properaret. These are the items, the souvenirs or mementos in the baggage abandoned outside the circle. **habēret:** *'held,'* Imp-Sj. in a Relative Clause of Characteristic, governs a double ACC. **properaret:** *'would hasten,'* for the subject refer back to quisque. **clāmōre et fletu:** *'with clamor and weeping,'* ABL of Cause with complērentur. Not a sign of cowardice; the Romans expressed their feelings much more freely than we do. The soldiers on this occasion fought heroically. Caesar's audience read often of Achilles and Odysseus weeping. Vergil, writing a generation later, would easily put tears in Aeneas' eyes and not think twice about making him look like a sissy. The tendency of modern education and habits of thought is to check all outward expression of strong feeling, whether in the way of joy or grief. For the ancients, not so. But it is a useful description to show the hopelessness of the Roman army at this point. **omnia complērentur:** *'that every thing is being filled,'* Result Clause.

# DBG V.34<sup>A</sup>

## *Ace of Spades*

V.34.1. at barbaris consilium

non **defuit**. 2. nam **duces** eorum tota **acie** **pronuntiare** iusserunt, ne quis ab

loco discederet, illorum esse **praedam** atque illis **reservari quaecumque**

Romani reliquissent: 3. **proinde** omnia in victoria posita existimarent. 4. erant

<sup>(20)</sup> et virtute et **studio** pugnandi **pares**. 5. nostri, tametsi ab duce et a fortuna

**deserebantur**, tamen omnem spem salutis in virtute ponebant,

**dēsum** *be absent, lacking*

**dux, ducis** m. *leader*

**aciēs, -ēī** f. *battle line*

**prōnuntiō** (1) *declare*

**praeda, -am** f. *booty, spoils of war*

**rēservō** (1) *keep back*

**quae-/quī/quodcumque** *whatsoever*

**prōindē** *therefore* CONJ

**studium, -ī** n. *enthusiasm*

**pār, paris** *equal*

**tāmetsi** *although* CONJ

**fortūna, -ae** f. *fortune*

**dēserō** (3) *desert*

**V.34.1. at:** 'but,' a strong contrast in this and the previous chapter. In the previous chapter, used to contrast Cotta with Titurius. Here, used to contrast the Eburones with the Romans. **consilium:** 'a plan' or 'presence of mind', sharply contrasted with the demoralization of the Roman force. **barbaris... dēfuit:** 'was lacking to the barbarians,' DAT with the Compound Verb. Note the use of the perjorative and dehumanizing barbaris to further the pathos of the Romans now being slaughtered.

**34.2 tōtā aciē:** 'on the entire battle line,' ABL of Place **pronuntiare iusserunt:** 'they ordered that they announce,' a contrasting repetition with the orders of the Romans to form a circle (v.33) **dūcēs:** 'the leaders,' ACC Subj of the INF, governing the Ind. Command **nē quis... discederet:** 'that anyone not depart,' and Ind. Command. aliquis/ aliquid is a common indefinite pronoun (*anyone, anything*), but quis/ quid is commonly used after **sī, nisi, num,** and **nē**. The mnemonic for this construction is the jingle "After sī, nisi, num, and nē, all the ali's go away." **illōrum esse praedam:** '(and) that the loot was theirs,' i.e. the Gauls. The Ind. St't is parallel to the Ind. Command and likewise governed by **prōnūntiāre. illis:** 'for them,' DAT of Reference. **quaecumque Romani reliquissent:** 'whatsoever the Romans had left,' behind in the castra, one could assume, or in the fated baggage piles. The Plup-Sj is due to this relative clause being subordinate to the missing antecedent subject [ea,

or 'those things'] of the Ind. St't clause of **reservārī**: 'it is reserved.' A startling contrast to the Romans, darting out of safety to retrieve their trinkets into the middle of a battle -- the Eburones are encouraged to keep fighting and gain their reward at the successful end of the battle.

**34.3 proinde**: 'wherefore,' frequently used in exhortation. **omnia**: 'all things,' ACC Subj. of Ind. St't., governed by the verb existimarent. **posita (esse)**: 'have been put aside,' i.e. the loot from the Romans is waiting for the Gauls to take it; Ind. St't. **existimarent**: '[with the purpose that] they consider,' a Purpose Clause loose in construction and governed by the prior announcement that the Eburones not depart from battle to win the booty. Now, everything was riding on victoria.

**34.4 et virtūte et studiō**: 'both in strength and eagerness,' ABL of Description, qualifying **parēs**. **pugnandī**: 'of fighting,' S GEN of Description. **erant...nostri**] I have given the MSS reading of this very difficult passage; the only variation is that two MSS join **nostri** with the following sentence. **parēs**: 'equal,' Caesar is neither diminishing the Eburones or the Romans, but pointing out their parity.

**34.5 nostri**: 'our (soldiers),' NOM Subj. of ponebant. A parallel to the Eburones placing all things (literally) in victory. In contrast, the Romans were placing all hope (spem salutis), not in victory, but in their own strength (virtute). The reason for this is the concessive **tametsi**: 'although,' that underlines the hopelessness of their plight. After all, they have been deserted **ab duce**: 'by their leader,' clearly, not Cotta but Sabinus is characterized here, as Caesar had just praised Cotta's officium as an imperator. Could it be that Sabinus is the more senior of the two legates? **ā Fortūnā**: not just 'by Fortune,' but 'by the Goddess Fortūnā,' the personification of the outcome of the battle. We cannot read Caesar from a purely secularized point of view, as there was a Temple to Fortuna dedicated nearly 500 years before Caesar. The Goddess Fortuna is depicted as turning the original Wheel of Future. Caesar is here painting, in vivid tones, the abandoned plight of the soldiers -- abandoned by the men in command and abandoned by the gods. But, remember, Caesar is pointing out that it is not his fault.





# DBG V.34<sup>B</sup> *Ace of Spades*

## 6. et quotiens

quaeque cohors **procurrerat**, ab ea parte magnus numerus hostium **cadebat**.

7. qua re **animadversa**, Ambiorix **pronuntiari** iubet ut **procul** tela **coniciant**  
**neu propius** accedant et quam in partem Romani **impetum** fecerint **cedant**:

(25) 8. **levitate** armorum et **cotidiana** exercitatione nihil his **noceri** posse: 9.

**rursus** se ad signa recipientes **insequantur**.

**quotiens** *as often as* ADV

**quae-/quī-/quodcumque** *whosoever*

**prōcurrō (3)** *run*

**cādō (3)** *fall*

**ānimadvertō (3)** *notice*

**procul** *from afar* ADV

**cōnīciō (3i)** *hurl*

**neu** *and not* CONJ

**prōprius** *nearer* ADV

**impetus, -us** *m. an attack*

**cēdō (3)** *withdraw*

**levitās, -tātis** *f. lightness*

**cōtīdiāna/us/um** *daily*

**exercitātīō, -ōnis** *f. training*

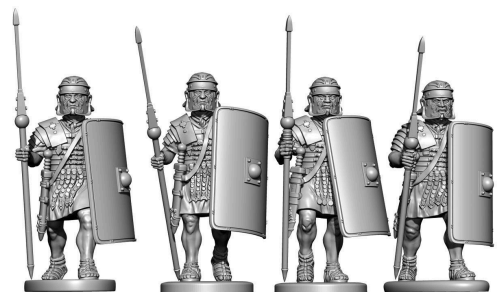
**noceō, -ēre (2)** *harm (+DAT)*

**rursus** *back again* ADV

**recipiō (3i)** *receive*

**insēquor (3)** *follow up, pursue*

**34.6 quotiens... procurrerat... cadebat:** a general condition referring to past time. **quaeque cohors procurrerat:** 'Some cohort had rushed forward,' apparently the Romans had, in some way, formed up on their cohorts and were attempting to give battle **ab eā parte:** 'from that side,' namely where the Romans had charged. **magnus numerus hostium cadebat:** 'a great number of the enemy were falling,' though equal in strength and in zeal of fighting, the Eburones were no match to the Roman war machine of the cohort.



**34.7 quā rē animadversā:** 'with which matter having been noticed,' ABL ABS. Namely, the Romans reforming and counter-attacking. **Ambiorix... iubet:** 'Ambiorix orders,' the vivid historical present. Ambiorix is very much playing the role of leader in this passion play of which he has been the successful architect. **prōnūntiārī...ut:** 'it to be commanded that...' P-Inf Pv governs Ind. Command of **ut procul tela coniciant:** 'that they throw their spears far off,' obviously to avoid the deadly Roman short-game. **neu:** 'and not.' **propius:** 'closer,' i.e. too close to the Romans to let those short swords and wall of shields of a formed cohort to come into action. **quam in partem... cedant:** 'that they yeild in whatever direction...' a continuation of the Indirect Command, with the **impetum fecerint:** 'they [the Romans] made an attack,' The Pf-Sj is because this Relative Clause is subordinate to the Subjunctive of ceant. **cēdant:** 'that they [the Eburones] withdraw (from this direction),' in order to pull

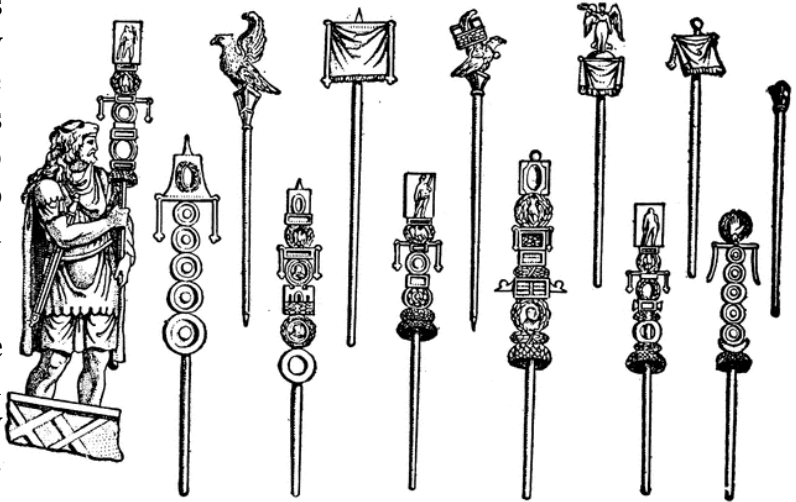
the Roman cohorts out of the orbis and pull them deeper into the surrounding Eburones. A cohort, cut-off from support of the rest of the line, is unable to be an effective fighting tool.

**34.8 levitate armorum:** 'by reason of the lightness of their [the Eburones'] arms,' ABL of Description. The Eburones, as were most Gauls, not as well-armed as the Roman legionaires. **his:** 'these,' the Eburones. DAT with special verb, noceri. **nihil:** 'not at all,' ACC Subj. of the noceri Complementary Infinitive.

**34.9 rursus...insequantur:** 'and that they should follow them when they again fell back (se recipientis) to their standards,' P-Sbj, part of the Ind. Command introduced by ut (23)

Ambiroix's plan for the Eburones was that, when the Romans advance, they should withdraw and pull out the Romans. Then, when the Romans realize they are in too deep with no reinforcements and start returning to their fellows, the Eburones should then attack them. **sē... recipientēs:** '(the Romans) while retreating to their standards,' i.e. attack the Romans as they try to realign themselves with the fixed military standards for each unit. ACC Dir. Obj.. of insequantur. **ad signa**

**recipientes:** the standards were fixed in the ground, thus indicating the alignment of the circle.





# DBG V.35<sup>A</sup>

## *Rainbow in the Dark*

35.1. quō praeceptō ab eīs dīligentissimē observātō, cum quaepiam cohors ex orbe excesserat atque impetum fēcerat, hostēs vēlōcissimē refugiēbant.

2. interim eam partem nūdārī necesse erat et ab latere apertō tēla recipī.

3. rūrsus cum in eum locum unde erant ēgressī revertī coeperant, et ab

<sup>(5)</sup> eīs quī cesserant et ab eīs quī proximī steterant circumveniēbantur.

4. sīn autem locum tenēre vellent, nec virtūtī locus relinquēbātur neque ab tantā multitūdine coniecta tēla cōnfertī vītāre poterant.

praecipīō, praeceptum *order*  
dīlīgens, -ntis *diligent*  
observō, -ātum *heed*  
quaepīam *to any place ADV*  
orbis, -is *m. circle*  
excēdō (3) *go forth*  
impetus, -ūs *m. attack*  
vēlox (vēlōcis) *speedy, swift*

rēfūgiō (3i) *flee back*  
nūdō (1) *make bare*  
necassis/e *necessary*  
latus, -eris *n. side, flank*  
aperiō, apertus *open*  
rursus *back again*  
coepī (3) *begin*

cēdō, cessī (3) *withdraw*  
stō, steti (1) *stand*  
circumvēniō (4) *surround*  
sīn *but if CONJ*  
cōniciō (3i) *throw together*  
conferta/us/um *compact, crowded*  
vītō (1) *avoid*

## *The Tide of Battle Turns Against the Romans*

V.35.1. **quo praecepto...observātō:** 'with which instruction having been very diligently observed,' ABL ABS at the head and setting up the sentence. **ab eis:** 'by these,' ie. the Eburones. ABL of Agent. **diligentissime:** Super ADV. **cum... excesserat] cum** 'whenever any cohort': cum Temporal clause. **velocissime:** Super ADV. Notice the repeated superlatives describing the actions of the Eburones to undergird Caesar's account of their zeal in following their leader's plan. **hostes... refugiebant:** 'the enemies would rush back in flight.'





**35.2. eam partem:** *'that part,'* of the circle from which the cohort had gone forward was left open and exposed to attack until it returned; as the cohort left the circle its own flanks were exposed to the enemy's darts (ab aperto latere). **necesse erat:** not so much *'it was necessary,'* but in the sense that *'it was inevitable.'* Again, Caesar is providing commentary to his readership unfamiliar with ear. **recipi:** *'be received,'* P-Inf Pv of the Predicate Infinitive, **tela:** *'the spears [of the enemy],'* is NEU ACC Subj of the Infinitive. **ab latere aperto:** *'from their*

*open flank,'* the right side, as soldiers were trained to hold the sword in their right hand and their shield in their left. Consequently, they relied on the shield of the man next to them to cover their right side. When there was no soldier there, even in masses of men this large as a cohort (around 480 men), the gap left by their departure in the orbis was significant.

**35.3. cum:** *'whenever,'* with the Plup-I Av of the cum Temporal clause indicating repeated action. **in eum locum:** *'into that place,'* in the circle of the Roman troops. **unde erant ēgressī:** *'from whence they had left,'* Plup-I Pv dep. ēgredior. **revertī:** *'to return,'* a Complementary deponent P-Inf Pv dependent on coeperant. **cesserant:** *'they [the Eburones] had withdrawn.'* As some of the Romans made attacks from the circle (orbis), the opposing enemy withdrew temporarily and the flanks of the Eburones (quī proximī steterant) attacked. When the Romans returned to the circle, the opposing enemy would advance once again. **proximi:** *'next,'* to either flank of the moving cohort.

**35.4. locum tenēre:** *'to hold ground,'* i.e. if the Romans did not advance in groups but instead remained together in the circle. **sin... vellent:** *'if instead they wished'* contrasted with cum reverti coeperant, an Imp-Subj of a Potential Mood. **nec...neque:** *'neither... nor,'* linking the APODOSIS of the Conditional Clause. **locus:** *'an opportunity.'* **virtūtī:** *'for valor,'* DAT of Purpose. This repetition of locus in a different sense from the preceding shows that the Romans were holding their ground and making the enemy pay for it in blood. **confertī:** *'having been packed.'* The circle of the orbis does present a defensive position; but one that also packed the Romans together so that any thrown spear would find a target.

# DBG V.35<sup>B</sup> *Rainbow in the Dark*

## 5. tamen tot incommodis

**cōflictātī**, multīs **vulneribus** acceptīs **resistēbant** et māgnā parte diēi

**cōnsūptā**, cum ā prīmā **lūce** ad **hōram octāvam** pūgnārētur, nihil **quod**

<sup>(10)</sup> ipsīs esset **indīgnum** **committēbant**. 6. tum T. Balventiō, quī superiōre

annō primum **pīlum** dūxerat, virō **fortī** et māgnae **auctōritātis**, utrumque

**femur trāgulā** trāicitur; 7. Q. Lūcānius ēiusdem ōrdinis, fortissimē

pūgnāns,

dum circumventō filiō **subvenit**, interficitur; 8. L. Cotta lēgātus omnēs

**cohortēs** ōrdinēsque **adhortāns** in **adversum** ōs **fundā** **vulnerātur**.

**tōt** *so many*

**incommodum**, -ī n. *disadvantage*

**conflictō** (1) *harass*

**resistō** (3) *resist*

**consumō** (3) *use up*

**lūx**, **lūcis** f. *light*

**hora**, -ae f. *hour*

**octāva/us/um** *the eighth*

**indigna/us/um** *unworthy*

**committō** (3) *commence, commit*

**pīlum**, -ī n. *javelin*

**fortis/e** *brave, valiant*

**auctōritās**, -tātis f. *authority*

**fēmur**, -īnis n. *thigh*

**trāgūla**, -ae f. *Gallic javelin*

**trāciō** (3i) *pierce*

**subvēniō** (4) *come up to aid*

**adhortor** (1) *urge on*

**adversa/us/um** *facing*

**ōs**, **ōris** n. *face, mouth*

**funda**, -ae f. *sling*

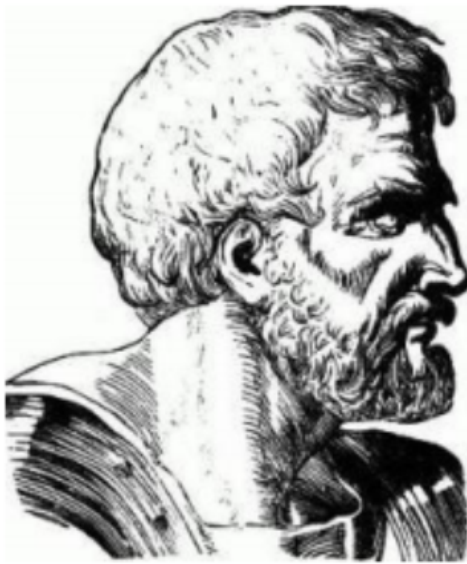
**vulnerō** (1) *wound, injure*

**35.5. conflictati**: 'though [the Romans] overwhelmed.' **multis... acceptis**: 'with a greater number of wounds having been received,' ABL ABS. Such a contrast from the battle the day before with a solid Roman castra at their backs! **resistēbant**: 'they kept on fighting,' the Iterative Imperfect. **magnā...** **cōnsūptā**: 'with a great part of the day having been consumed,' ABL ABS. Remember, that most battles would only last a few hours at the most, due to the physical exertion required to thrust the sword and parry with the shield. The Romans had started at first light, had only gone a few miles



from camp, and now the greater part of the day was already consumed in the blood bath. **cum... pugnārētur:** 'although there was a fighting,' cum probably signals a Concessive clause, with the negative contrast of nihil found in the superordinate clause. **ad horam octavam:** 'until the eight hour,' or until between 2 and 3 p.m. The Romans divided the period of daylight into 12 hours, which varied in length depending on the time of year. The first hour was always dawn. **quod ipsīs...indignum:** 'which was unworthy to the Romans themselves,' a special distinction for Caesar. This legion of raw recruits and the five cohorts of veterans had gone down nobly. **indignus:** 'unworthy of,' governs an ABL, here the intensive ipsīs.

**35.6. Titō Balventiō:** 'for Titus Balventius,' DAT of Reference **superiōre annō:** 'in the earlier year,' ABL of Time When. **primum pilum duxerat:** 'Had been chief centurion,' the highest rank for a Centurion. The first spear, the officer known as Primus Pilus was the highly



ranked centurion who threw the first pīlum in battle; Titus held this rank during the previous year. Each ordo or "century" of the triarii was called pilus: hence Balventius had been centurion of the first century and consequently of the first cohort of the triarii. Before the introduction by Marius of the cohort system, the army was arranged in order of battle in three lines, the first being called hastati, the second principes, the third triarii: these last, consisting of the bravest and most experienced troops, would not be called into action unless the two first lines were broken through, hence arose the proverbial expression res ad triarios redit. Caesar says that Balventius had held his command of the first cohort the previous year; by this it may be implied that he was now emeritus though continuing to serve with the legion as an evocatus, or veteran. Perhaps, though, the position of First Spear rotated in an annual fashion. **virō**

**fortī:** 'a strong man,' Apposition to Titō Balventiō. **magnae authōritātis:** 'of great clout,' GEN of Description parallel with DAT fortī. **utrumque femur:** 'each thigh,' NEU Subj.

**35.7. eiusdem ordinis:** of the same rank; GEN of Description. Quintus Lucanius had also held the rank of a primus pilus. Hence, the case for an annual rotation of this position. **fortissimē:** Super ADB. **pugnāns:** S NOM P-Pt Av pugnō. **circumventō filiō:** 'his son, having been surrounded,' DAT Object of Compound Verb subvenit. Romans are not to marry while in military service; yet oftentimes their illegitimate children would join the army. This detail of paternal affection at the cost of his own life cements the pathos for which Caesar is aiming in his account of the slaughter. **dum... subvenit:** 'while.. he is approaching to help.'

**35.8. in adversum ōs:** 'right in the face,' Cotta, while encouraging (adhortāns) is struck full on the mouth; ACC Place To Which; another meaning for ōs, ōris is "face." **funda:** '(a missile sent by) a sling,' ABL of Cause. Clearly, Cotta has a broken jaw and is not unable to exhort his troops. That responsibility will devolve upon Sabinus.



