

Latin Text, DĒ BELLŌ GALLICŌ 5.33.7–12, p. 108

nūllā in rē commūnī salūtī deerat et in appellandīs cohortandisque militibus imperātōris et in pugnā militis officia praestābat. Cum propter longitūdinem agminis
 10 minus facile omnia per sē obīre et, quid quōque locō faciendum esset, prōvidēre possent, iussērunt prōnūntiāre, ut impedimenta relinquerent atque in orbem cōsisterent.

Literal Translation Molinarius

was lacking in no matter for the common safety, and in calling and encouraging the soldiers a general's [duties he was fulfilling] and in the battle a soldier's duties he was fulfilling. When on account of the length of the column less easily all things on their own [they, i.e., Titurius Sabinus and Aurunculeius Cotta, were able] to survey and, [less easily] what in each place was to be done, they could take care for, they ordered to announce, that they [the soldiers] abandon their baggage and settle into a circle.

Literal Translation McDevitte

was wanting to the common safety in no respect; both in addressing and encouraging the soldiers, he performed the duties of a general, and in the battle those of a soldier. And since they [Titurius and Cotta] could less easily perform every thing by themselves, and provide what was to be done in each place, by reason of the length of the line of march, they ordered [the officers] to give the command that they should leave the baggage and form themselves into an orb,

Discussion Questions

1. Caesar deploys chiasmus in summing up his description of Aurunculeius Cotta. How does this rhetorical figure lend additional force to Caesar's praise?
2. The Latin word for "baggage" is *impedimenta*. What is the literal meaning of the Latin word? How does the literal meaning help explain the challenge faced by the soldiers who tried to bring their possessions along?