

Latin Text, DĒ BELLŌ GALLICŌ 5.34.9–13, p. 112

- 10 *Quā rē animadversā Ambiorīx prōnūntiārī iubet, ut procul tēla conciant neu propius accēdant et, quam in partem Rōmānī impetum fēcerint, cēdant (levitāte armōrum et cotīdiānā exercitātiōne nihil hīs nocērī posse), rūsus sē ad signa recipientēs īnsequantur.*

Literal Translation Molinarius

Which [i.e., and this] thing having been noticed, Ambiorix orders to be announced that from a distance they should throw missiles and that they should not approach too closely and, into whatever area the Romans will have made an attack, they [i.e., the enemies] should yield ([adding that] because of the lightness of the [their] weapons and because of [their] daily exercise not at all could harm be done to them), [but that] they should pursue [the Romans] betaking themselves back again to [their] standards.

Literal Translation McDevitte

Ambiorix, when he observed this, orders the command to be issued that they throw their weapons from a distance and do not approach too near, and in whatever direction the Romans should make an attack, there give way (from the lightness of their appointments and from their daily practice no damage could be done them); [but] pursue them when betaking themselves to their standards again.

Discussion Questions

1. When the Romans seemed to achieve some success, Ambiorix changed his tactics. Does Caesar portray Ambiorix as a skilled leader?
2. What admirable qualities of leadership does Caesar attribute to Ambiorix in this description? Why might Caesar have chosen to highlight these qualities? To whose leadership does Ambiorix's leadership compare favorably? Unfavorably? Please explain.

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