

Latin Text, *DĒ BELLŌ GALLICŌ* 5.35.13–18, p. 115

15 *Tum Titō Balventiō, quī superiōre annō primum pīlum dūxerat, virō fortī et magnae auctōritātis, utrumque femur trāgulā trāicitur; Quīntus Lūcānius, eiusdem ordinis, fortissimē pugnāns, dum circumventō filiō subvenit, interficitur; Lūcius Cotta lēgātus omnēs cohortēs ordinēsque adhortāns in adversum ōs fundā vulnerātur.*

Literal Translation Molinarius

Then each thigh of Titus Balventius, who had during the previous year led the first pike [i.e., served as chief centurion], a brave man and of the greatest authority, is struck through by a spear; Quintus Lucanius, of the same rank, fighting most bravely, while he comes to the aid of his surrounded son, is killed; Lucius [Aurunculeius] Cotta the legate, exhorting cohorts and ranks, is wounded in midface [mouth] by a slingshot.

Literal Translation McDevitte

At length, each thigh of T. Balventius, who the year before had been chief centurion, a brave man and one of great authority, is pierced with a javelin; Q. Lucanius, of the same rank, fighting most valiantly, is slain while he assists his son when surrounded by the enemy; L. Cotta, the lieutenant, when encouraging all the cohorts and companies, is wounded full in the mouth by a sling.

Discussion Questions

1. How do concrete examples of bravery help readers visualize the action?
2. Why does Caesar highlight Aurunculeius Cotta's wound in the midst of battle? Does this corroborate his earlier praise of Cotta?

AP Connections

1. How do Vergil's descriptions of individuals in battle compare to Caesar's? Are they similar? How do they differ? Please cite specific examples.