

Latin Text, DĒ BELLŌ GALLICŌ 5.40.11–17, p. 127

Quaecumque ad proximī diēi oppugnātiōnem opus sunt noctū comparantur; multae praeustae sudēs, magnus mūrālium pilōrum numerus instituitur; turrēs contabulantur, pinnae lōrīcaeque ex crātibus attexuntur. Ipse Cicerō, cum tenuissimā
 15 valētūdine esset, nē nocturnum quidem sibi tempus ad quiētem relinquerēbat, ut ultrō militum concursū ac vōcibus sibi parcere cōgerētur.

Literal Translation Molinarius

Whatever things are necessary for the next day's attack are prepared by night; many stakes are burned at the end, a large number of wall pikes is organized; the towers are covered with boards, pinnacles [i.e., the battlements] and defense works [i.e., parapets] are woven from wickerwork. Cicero himself, because he was of the most delicate health, not even the nighttime was leaving for himself for rest, with the result that spontaneously by the assembly and voices [i.e., pleas] of soldiers he was compelled to spare himself.

Literal Translation McDevitte

whatever things are required for resisting the assault of the next day are provided during the night: many stakes burned at the end, and a large number of mural pikes are procured: towers are built up, battlements and parapets are formed of interwoven hurdles. Cicero himself, though he was in very weak health, did not leave himself the nighttime for repose, so that he was forced to spare himself by the spontaneous movement and entreaties of the soldiers.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Caesar portray Cicero? Do you think Cicero was dedicated to the task of defending the camp? Why?
2. What sort of relationship do you think Cicero had with his soldiers? What evidence can you cite from the text in support of your characterization of the relationship?