

Latin Text, DĒ BELLŌ GALLICŌ 5.44.7–11, p. 139

Aut quem locum tuae probandae virtutis exspectās? Hic diēs
 dē nostris contrōversīs iūdicābit.” Haec cum dixisset, prōcēdit
 extrā mūnitiōnēs quaeque pars hostium cōfertissima est vīsa
 10 irrupit. Nē Vorēnus quidem tum sēsē vāllō continet, sed
 omnium veritus exīstimātiōnem subsequitur.

Literal Translation Molinarius

Or what place for showing off your bravery do you wait for? This day will judge concerning our arguments.” After he had said these [things], he advances beyond the fortifications and he breaks into whatever part of the enemies seemed most crowded. Not indeed does Vorenius then hold himself within the rampart, but, having feared the opinion of all [men], he follows after.

Literal Translation McDevitte

or what [better] opportunity of signaling your valor do you seek? This very day shall decide our disputes.” When he had uttered these words, he proceeds beyond the fortifications, and rushes on that part of the enemy which appeared the thickest. Nor does Vorenius remain within the rampart, but respecting the high opinion of all, follows close after.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the literary effect of Caesar’s sudden switch into direct speech? How does the action quicken? Why is it more dramatic? Why might Caesar have chosen to make the switch at this point in the narrative?
2. As this story progresses, ask yourself whether or not you lose sight of the general battle or whether you find yourself concentrating instead on the action of this rather minor interlude.