

Latin Text, DĒ BELLŌ GALLICŌ 4.32.14–19, p. 70

- 15 *Nam quod omnī ex reliquīs partibus dēmessō frūmentō pars
ūna erat reliqua, suspicātī hostēs hūc nostrōs esse ventūrōs
noctū in silvīs dēlituerant; tum dispersōs dēpositīs armīs
in metendō occupātōs subitō adortī paucīs interfectīs reliquōs
incertīs ōrdinibus perturbāverant, simul equitātū atque essedis
circumdederant.*

Literal Translation Molinari

For, inasmuch as, all the grain having been harvested from all the other areas, one part was left, the enemies (having suspected our [men] would come to this place) had hidden at night in the woods; then suddenly, having attacked [our men who were] dispersed [and], their weapons having been put down, occupied in harvesting, [and] a few [of our men] having been killed, they [the enemies] disrupted the remaining [men] in [their] disorganized ranks, [and] at the same time they had surrounded [our men] with cavalry and chariots.

Literal Translation McDevitte

For as all the corn was reaped in every part with the exception of one, the enemy, suspecting that our men would repair to that, had concealed themselves in the woods during the night. Then attacking them suddenly, scattered as they were, and when they had laid aside their arms, and were engaged in reaping, they killed a small number, threw the rest into confusion, and surrounded them with their cavalry and chariots.

Discussion Questions

1. Why were Caesar's men caught off guard? Whose fault was this? Does Caesar take any blame?
2. As a reader, whose side are you on in this battle? Why?

AP Connections

1. As readers, very few people take the side of Turnus against Aeneas. Why? What techniques does Vergil use to persuade readers to take Aeneas's side rather than the side of any of his opponents?