

Latin Text, DĒ BELLŌ GALLICŌ 4.34.1–6, p. 73

- [4.34] *Quibus rēbus perturbātis nostrīs, novitāte pugnae, tempore opportūnissimō Caesar auxilium tulit: namque eius adventū hostēs cōstitērunt, nostrī sē ex timōre recēpērunt. Quō factō, ad lacessendum hostem et ad committendum proelium*
 5 *aliēnum esse tempus arbitrātus suō sē locō continuit et brevī tempore intermissō in castra legiōnēs redūxit.*

Literal Translation Molinarius

By which [i.e., and by these] things, because our men had been disturbed, [namely] by the novelty of the fight, Caesar brought help at a most opportune time: for at his arrival the enemies stopped, [and] our [men] recovered themselves from fear. And after this thing had been accomplished [literally, “with which thing having been done”], having judged that the time was inopportune for the purpose of harrassing the enemy and for the purpose of engaging in battle, he [Caesar] kept himself in his place and, a short time having been inserted [i.e., having paused for a short time], into camp he led back the legions.

Literal Translation McDevitte

Under these circumstances, our men being dismayed by the novelty of this mode of battle, Caesar most seasonably brought assistance; for upon his arrival the enemy paused, and our men recovered from their fear; upon which thinking the time unfavorable for provoking the enemy and coming to an action, he kept himself in his own quarter, and, a short time having intervened, drew back the legions into the camp.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the asyndeton of line 3 help underscore the effectiveness of Caesar’s appearance in turning the tide of the battle?
2. Why did Caesar decide not to pursue the battle after the enemy fell back?
3. Please assess Caesar’s description of his own leadership’s effectiveness.