

# THE BATTLE OF PHARSALUS (PART II)

## Objectives

- to conclude Caesar's narrative of the battle of Pharsalus
- to complete the picture of Caesar as writer and soldier
- to present passive verbs used impersonally
- to present special verbs with the genitive and dative cases

## Background

1. For information about the context of the readings in this chapter, see the background section of the previous chapter on pages 34–35 of this guide. The three readings in this chapter conclude Caesar's six-part narrative of the battle of Pharsalus.
2. The teacher is reminded of the following terms, several of which appear in the chapter readings (see the background on page 77 and the plan of the *castra* on page 89, both in the student's book):
  - a. **fossa**: a 10' (3 meter) ditch or trench, 12–18' (4–6 meters) wide, dug around the camp
  - b. **agger**: an embankment, 10' high and 10' wide, and consisting of the earth excavated from the *fossa*, encircling the camp
  - c. **vāllum**: a rampart or defensive wall comprised of sturdy wooden stakes driven in at the outer edge of the *agger* (in the manner of the military forts of the early American West). See 62B:1.
  - d. **praetōrium**: the commanding general's headquarters
  - e. **tabernācula**: soldiers' tents, made of hide, and pitched by unit. Each *tabernāculum* held ten soldiers. See 62C:2.

For additional information on Roman camps, see "Camps," *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, pp. 199–200 and "Life in Camp," *The Roman Army*, pp. 21–35, which contains scenes from Trajan's column of soldiers constructing a fortification. See also the Loeb edition of Caesar's *De bello Gallico*, pp. 601–602.

## Teaching the Text

1. With the presumption that students will move quickly from the readings in Chapter 61 to those in Chapter 62, there is little need for extensive review. It is best that Reading 61C and Reading 62A be treated, as far as possible, as a continuous whole.

2. The text provides an opportunity for an appreciation of Caesar as general, man, and writer. After Caesar's narrative has been read and discussed, using the comprehension questions and the battle plan on page 83, the teacher may wish to use all six readings in the two chapters to make the following points about Caesar.

*Caesar as general*: Caesar's resourcefulness as general is demonstrated in 61C:1–7, where he anticipates and neutralizes Pompey's advantage in cavalry by adjusting his *aciēs triplex* to form a fourth line on his open flank.

*Caesar as man*: In describing the over-confidence of the Pompeian forces (62C:1–6), Caesar provides an example of his psychological insight in dealing with the enemy. The picture of the luxuries of Pompey's camp, coupled with his description of the arguments of Pompey's men over the anticipated spoils of victory (for which, see III.82–84, some of which is quoted in note C5 below), and Pompey's ignominious desertion of his camp (62C:7–13), seem a propagandistic attempt to illustrate the moral that "pride goeth before a fall." The question of the reasons for Caesar's bias should be discussed with students.

*Caesar as writer*: As students read, they should form a general impression of Caesar's style of writing, which, because of its lack of rhetorical ornament, Cicero compared to a simple and unadorned statue. Students may be asked to explain why such words as "direct," "terse," and "restrained" have been used to describe Caesar's style.

3. New and review grammar and syntax: The following examples of the relative clause of characteristic will be found (this use of the subjunctive will be presented in Chapter 65): C:3–4, 5, and 6. Examples of items introduced in recent chapters include the gerundive (A:5) and the ablative with special deponent verbs (B:2 and 10). The following may also be used for review: present participle (A:14 and 15, B:2, and C:11), past participle (A:10, B:4, 7, and 9, C:1–3, 7, and 9), ablative absolute (B:7, C:7–8, 8, 9–10, and 12), indirect statement (A:9–10, B:1–2, C:4 and 11), dative with special verbs (A:2, 9–10, B:4, and C:6), *ut* + indicative (A:5–6, 9, and C:11), and uses of the subjunctive: *cum* circumstantial (A:2–3 and 14 and C:7), purpose (A:12), indirect command (B:2–3), and result (C:4).

## THE BATTLE OF PHARSALUS ( PART II )

## A. Caesar's third line enters the action

Eodem tempore tertiam aciem Caesar, quae quieta fuerat et se ad id tempus loco tenuerat, praecurrere iussit. Ita cum recentes atque integri defessis successissent, alii autem a tergo adorirentur, sustinere Pompeiani non potuerunt atque universi terga vertuerunt. Neque vero Caesarem fefellit quin ab eis cohortibus, quae contra equitatum in quarta acie collocatae essent, initium victoriae oriretur, ut ipse in cohortandis militibus pronuntiaverat. Ab his enim primum equitatus est pulsus, ab eisdem factae caedes sagittariorum ac funditorum, ab eisdem acies Pompeiana a sinistra parte circumita atque initium fugae factum.

Sed Pompeius, ut equitatum suum pulsum vidit atque eam partem cui maxime confidebat perterritam animadvertit, aliis quoque diffusus acie excessit protinusque se in castra equo contulit et eis centurionibus quos in statione ad praetoriam portam posuerat, clare, ut milites exaudirent, "Tuemini," inquit, "castra et defendite diligenter, si quid durius acciderit. Ego reliquas portas circumeo et castrorum praesidia confirmo. Haec cum dixisset, se in praetorium contulit summae rei diffidens et tamen eventum expectans.

Vocabulary List 62A

1. recens, ( recentis ) fresh, new
2. sustineo, sustinere, sustinui, sustentus to hold out, withstand
3. fallo, fallere, fefelli, falsus to deceive, mislead ( fallacy, fallacious )
4. pronuntio, -are, -avi, -atus to declare, state
5. pello, pellere, pepuli, pulsus to drive away, dislodge
6. statio, stationis F. post, station, duty
7. tueor, tueri, tuitus sum to watch over, guard
8. memini, meminisse + gen. to remember cf. p. 93 and p. 6 XEROXED of this chapter
9. misereor, misereri, miseritus sum + gen. to pity, to feel sorry for



## Reading Notes

## A.

1. **tertiā aciem** (1): Students should be asked to note Caesar's tendency toward emphasizing words by placing them first in phrases or clauses, e.g., **impetum** (61B:9), **sinistrum cornū** (61C:6), **sustinere** (62:A:3), and **missis** (62B:7). Here, it is the **tertiā aciem** that Caesar wishes to emphasize. The point may now be made, or reiterated, that in Latin word order, the most emphatic place is first, next in importance is last, with the weakest point in the middle.
2. **recentēs atque integrī dēfessīs successissent** (2): These substantive adjectives serve as nouns: *fresh, intact (troops) had come to the aid of (the troops that were) exhausted.*
3. **terga vertērunt** (3–4): This military phrase may be rendered by the English idiom *they turned tail.* Other such phrases appear, e.g., **locō mōtus cessit** (61B:10), *gave ground*, (cf. **nēmō cōsisteret**, 61C:3, and **locō excēderent**, 61C:3), and **sē . . . locō tenuerat** (62A:1–2), *had held its ground.*
4. **Caesarem fefellit . . . orirētur** (4–5): Impersonal verbs may be followed by the subjunctive; see Chapter 64, pages 118–119, of the student's book.
5. **ut ipse in cohortandis militibus prōnūntiāverat** (5–6): This refers to Caesar's speech given in 61A:1–4.

## B. Caesar Attacks Pompey's Camp

Caesar Pompeianis ex fugā intrā vāllum compulsis nūllum spatium perterritis

dare oportere existimans, milites cohortatus est ut beneficio fortunae uterentur castraque oppugnarent. Qui, etsi magnō aestū (nam ad merīdiem res erat perducta), tamen ad omnem laborem animō paratī imperiō paruērunt.

Castra ā cohortibus quae ibi praesidiō erant relictāe industriē dēfendēbantur, multō etiam ācrius ā Thracibus barbarīque auxiliis. Nam quī aciē refūgerant milites, et animō perterriti et lassitudine cōfecti, missis plerīque armīs signisque militāribus, magis dē reliquā fugā quam dē castrōrum dēfensiōne cogitābant. Neque vērō diūtius quī in vallō cōstitērunt multitudinem telōrum sustinere potuērunt, sed cōfecti vulneribus locum reliquērunt, prōtinusque omnēs dūcibus usi centurionibus tribūnisque militum in altissimōs montēs, quī ad castra pertinēbant, cōfūgerunt.

6. **Ab his . . . ab eisdem . . . ab eisdem** (6–8): Note the use of anaphora for emphasis, and the ellipses **factae (sunt)**, **circumita (est)**, and **factum (est)**.
7. **equitatum suum pulsum vidit atque eam partem . . . perterritam animadvertit** (9–10): Supply **esse** to complete the infinitives (**pulsum esse** and **perterritam esse**) in indirect statement after **vidit** and **animadvertit**, respectively.
8. **cui . . . confidebat** (9–10), **aliis . . . diffusus** (10), and **summae rei diffidens** (14): Note the use of these "trust" verbs with the dative.
9. **acie excessit** (10): See the reading note B:9 for Chapter 61 on page 37 of this guide.
10. **se . . . contulit** (10–11): Cf. 60B:3 for this idiom, used again in line 14 of the text here.
11. **Tuēmini** (12): another opportunity to review the imperative of deponent verbs; cf. 61A:7.
12. **si quid . . . acciderit** (12–13): This use of the indefinite **si quid** will be explained in the next chapter. The future more vivid condition **si** + future (perfect) tense will be presented in Chapter 67, although examples have already occurred, beginning in Chapter 24 (e.g., Exercise 24d 1, 3, 4, and 8, preceded by the statement that the future perfect is often best translated by an English present).
13. **praesidia** (13): This word (**prae** + **sedeō**) can mean *garrison*, as here, or it can have a more generalized meaning of *defense* or *protection*, as in 61C:5.

Vocabulary List 62B

1. vallum, ī N. stockade around a camp
2. existimō. -āre, -āvī, -ātus to think
3. oppugnō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus to attack      syn: adior
4. plērīque, plēraeque, plēraque      very many, a large part
5. pertineō, pertinere, pertinui, pertentus ad to extend to, to reach
6. oblivīscor, oblivīscī, oblītus sum + gen. to forget (oblivious, obliterate)
7. potior, potīrī, potītus sum + gen. (or abl.) to get control of, get possession of

**B.**

1. **Pompeiānīs . . . compulsīs . . . perterrītīs** (1): Take as dative indirect objects of **dare** (1); the direct object is **nūllum spatium** (1).
2. **oportere existimāns** (2): Supply the reflexive pronoun **sē** (= Caesar) as subject of the infinitive in indirect statement.
3. **beneficiō . . . ūterentur** (2): Here is an opportunity for immediate followup to the grammar presented in the previous chapter (ablative with special verbs). See also **ducibus ūsī** (10).
4. **Quī . . . erat perducta** (3): Note the characteristic Caesarian features of linking **quī** and inverted perfect passive here.
5. **praesidiō** (5): This is dative of purpose, first seen in 49:2.
6. **ā Thrācibus barbarisque auxiliīs** (6): The Thracians were well-known in antiquity for their ferocity as warriors. For more on **auxilia** in the Roman army, see the reading note on 55C:3 in the student's book and "The Roman Army" on page 77 in the student's book.
7. **aciē refūgerant . . . et animō perterrītū et lassitūdine cōfectī** (6-7): These phrases provide opportunity for reviewing respectively ablative of separation, ablative of respect, and ablative of cause.
8. **missīs . . . armīs signisque militāribus** (7): This is another example of emphatic placement. In the case of **missīs**, it is the fact of the abandonment, rather than the weapons themselves, that is emphasized. See Reading note A:1 above.
9. Reading B provides an excellent opportunity for review of relative clauses: 3-4, 5, 6, 8, and 11.

**C.** Description of Pompey's Camp; Pompey Flees

In castrīs Pompeiī vidēre licuit trichilās strūctās, magnum argentī pondus expositum, recentibus caespitibus tabernācula cōstrāta. Lūcī etiam Lentulī et nōnnullōrum tabernācula prōtēcta hederā, multaue praetereā quae nimium lūxuriam et victōriae fidūciam dēsīgnārent, ut facile existimārī posset nihil eōs dē eventū eius diēi timuisse, quī nōn necessariās conquīrerent voluptātēs. At hī miserrimō ac patientissimō exercitui Caesaris lūxuriam obiciēbant, cui semper omnia ad necessariū ūsum dēfuissent.



## Vocabulary List 62C

1. argentum, ī N. silver
2. fidūcia, ae F. confidence in ( ( + gen. )
3. conquīrō, conquīrere, conquīsivī, conquīsītus to obtain, procure
4. voluptās, voluptātis F. pleasure, comfort ( voluptuous )
5. versor, versārī, versātus sum to move about, to operate
6. nancīscor, nancīscī, nactus sum to obtain, procure
7. īnsigne, īnsignis N. insignia, badge N. B. words ending in e, al, ar are neuter i-stem words and hence are declined like animal
8. contendō, contendere, contendī, contentus to strain, exert, hurry syn: mātūrō, festīnō
9. queror, querī, questus sum to complain, lament ( querulous )

## C.

1. **strūctās . . . expositum, . . . cōnstrāta . . . prōtēcta** (1-3): Note the repeated use of the perfect passive participle in the description of Pompey's camp.
2. **trichilās strūctās . . . recentibus caespitibus tabernācula cōnstrāta** (1-2): Given the heat in August on the plains of Macedonia (cf. **magnō aestū**, B:3), arbors for shade and fresh sod on the floors must, indeed, have been luxuries. The ivy might also have been used to provide shade, as well as a decorative appearance. The silver (eating utensils) were probably plunder.
3. **Lūcī . . . Lentulī** (2): Lucius Cornelius Lentulus Crus, praetor in 58 B.C. and consul of 49, was a determined anti-Caesarian. He had brought two legions to Dyrrachium for Pompey and fought at Pharsalus, but he fled to Egypt after the battle and lost his life one day after Pompey.
4. **quae . . . dēsīgnārent** (3-4): The relative clause of characteristic will be presented in Chapter 65. Cf. **quī . . . conquīrērent** (5), and **cui . . . dēfuisent** (6).
5. **victōriae fidūciam** (3-4): In an earlier chapter of Book III of *De bello civili*, Caesar wrote of the eve of the battle of Pharsalus, "They (Pompey's men) were already starting to squabble openly among themselves about rewards and priesthoods and were assigning the consulships for years to come, while some were claiming the houses and property of people in Caesar's camp" (Chapter 82).
6. **ut . . . posset** (4): This is a result clause after **nimiam**.
7. **exīstimārī posset** (4): *It could be thought*, an impersonal passive infinitive, for which, see page 92 of the student's book. **Exīstimārī** governs the indirect statement **eōs . . . timuisse** (4).
8. **miserrimō ac patientissimō** (5): This description may be exaggerated and somewhat propagandistic, although Caesar was, no doubt, short of supplies.
9. Note the use of the ablative absolute in the final paragraph: 7-8, 8, 9-10, and 12. Note also the use of words and phrases suggesting or stating the haste with which Pompey fled: **sē ex castrīs ēiēcit, prōtinus, citātō** (8), **contendit** and **celeritāte** (9), and **nocturnō . . . intermissō** (9-10), all emphasizing the magnitude of Caesar's victory and the humiliation of Pompey's defeat.
10. **Lārisam** (8): This town still exists; it is some 65 miles (40 kilometers) from Pharsalus (modern Farsala) and just a short distance from the sea.
11. **querēns tantum sē opiniōnem fefellisse, ut . . . prōditus (esse) vidērētur** (11-13): *Complaining that he had been so wrong that . . . he seemed to have been betrayed. Ut . . . vidērētur* is a result clause.

## Building the Meaning

1. Passive Verbs Used Impersonally: This usage was first presented in 48:18-19. Patience on the part of the teacher will help students gain confidence with this construction. The sentences in Exercise 62a may first be translated literally and then idiomatically, to develop the contrast between the Latin and the English. Impersonal verbs will be consolidated in Chapter 64. Previous appearances of the impersonal passive in *From Republic to Empire*, in addition to those provided as examples in the student's book, include **contrādic-tum est** (55B:4) and **pugnātum est** (55C:9). The worksheet entitled "Practice with Fear Clauses and Impersonal Passives" (page 117) may be used after completing the exercises in the text.

2. Exercise 62a: Suggested translations:

1. We are running to the Forum in order to see Caesar.
2. The top of the hill was soon reached.
3. All those who burned the Senate House will have to leave Rome.
4. Some people believed that a conspiracy had been made against Milo by Clodius.
5. The fighting with the Pompeians went on fiercely until nightfall.
6. Caesar wrote that all his men did not charge forward.
7. Pompey himself hurried to the sea.
8. With the centurions as leaders, they fled for refuge to the very high mountains.
9. Was there great grief after Pompey had been killed?

**meminī**

meminī, meminisse,

*remember*

(Note: Perfect in form, Present in meaning)

ACTIVE  
INDICATIVE

Pres.

Impf.

Fut.

Perf.	memint	meminimus	I remember
	meministi	meministis	
	meminit	meminērunt(-re)	
Plup.	memineram	meminerāmus	I remembered
	meminerās	meminerātis	
	meminerat	meminerant	
Fut.	meminerō	meminerimus	I will remember
Perf.	memineris	memineritis	
	meminerit	meminerint	

## SUBJUNCTIVE

Pres.

Impf.

Perf.	meminerim	meminerimus	I may remember
	memineris	memineritis	
	meminerit	meminerint	
Plup.	meminissē	meminissēmus	I might remember
	meminissēs	meminissētis	
	meminisset	meminissent	

## IMPERATIVE

Fut. mementō mementōte

## INFINITIVE

Pres. \_\_\_\_\_  
Perf. meminisse  
Fut. \_\_\_\_\_

## PARTICIPLE

Pres. \_\_\_\_\_  
Perf. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fut. \_\_\_\_\_

GERUND \_\_\_\_\_ SUPINE \_\_\_\_\_

N. B. Since *meminī* is a defective verb existing in only some tenses, to say such things as: I had remembered, one needs to use a different verb for remember such as:

recordātus eram  
I had remembered

from recordor, recordārī,  
recordātus sum