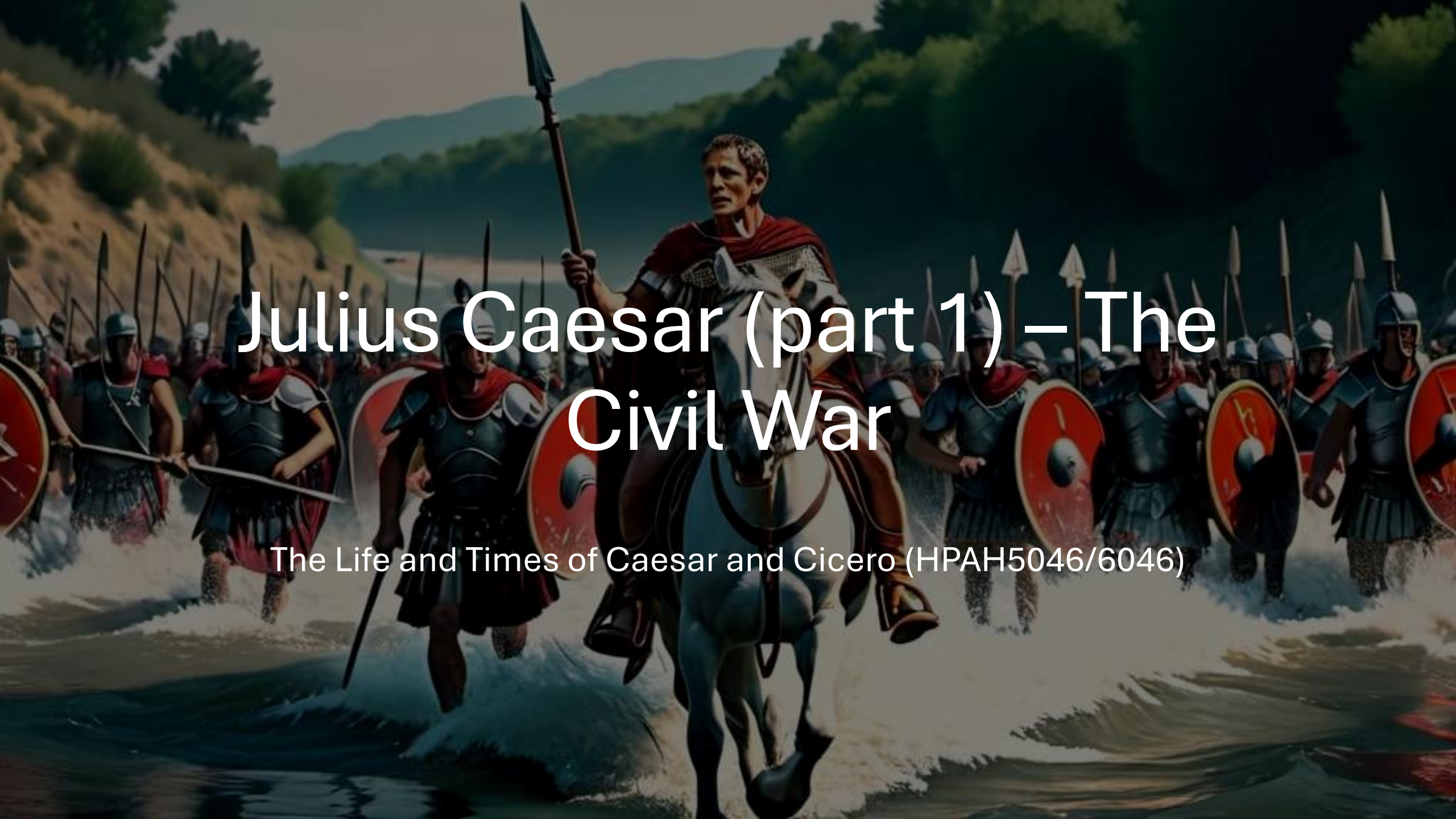


A dramatic illustration of Julius Caesar leading his army across a river. Caesar is mounted on a white horse in the center, wearing a red cape and holding a spear. He is surrounded by Roman legionaries in full armor, carrying shields and spears, wading through the water. The background shows a hilly landscape with trees and mountains under a clear sky.

Julius Caesar (part 1) – The Civil War

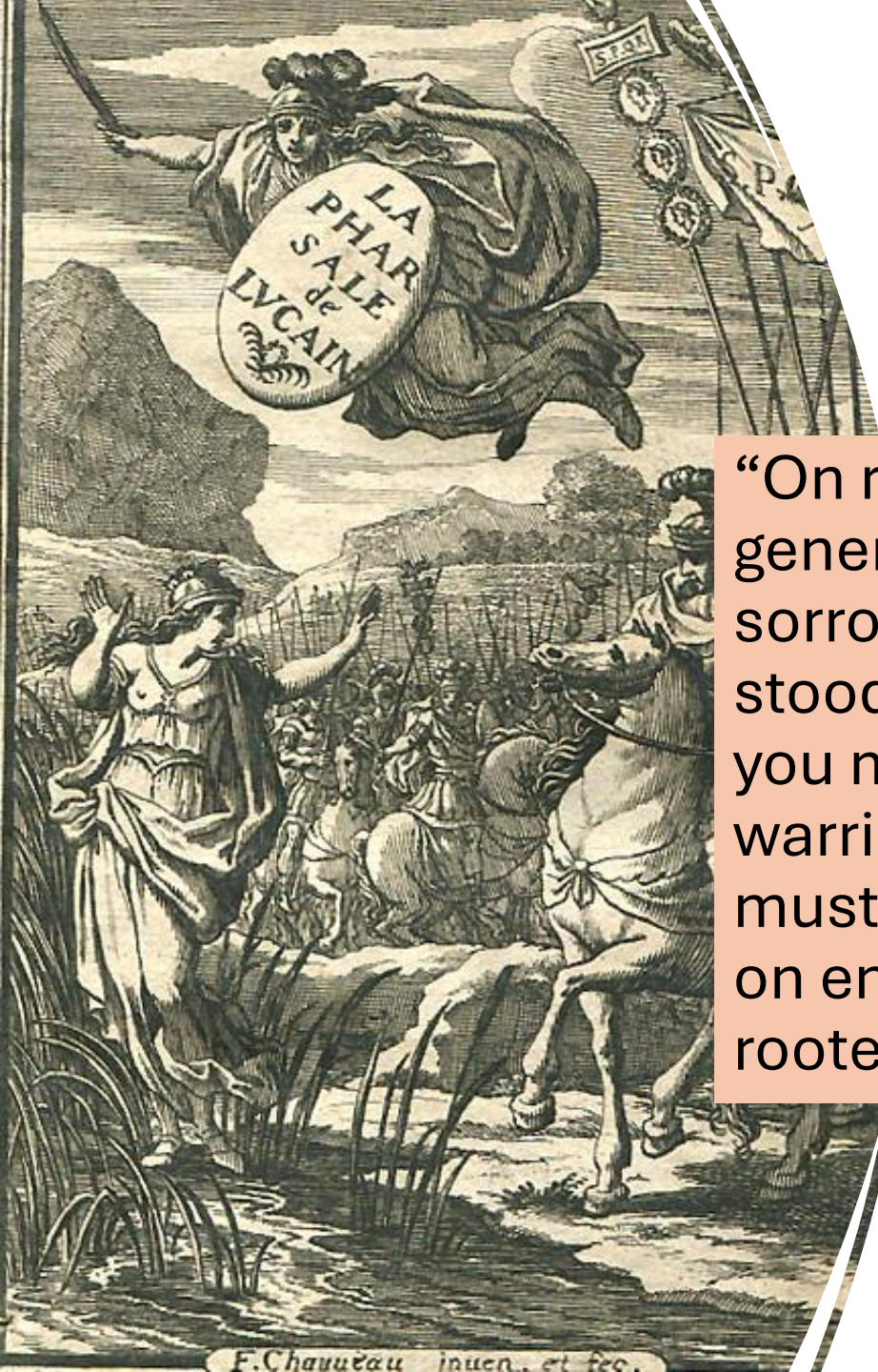
The Life and Times of Caesar and Cicero (HPAH5046/6046)

Crossing the Rubicon

- Crossing took place on night of 10-11th January – attack an act of treason.
- Pompey persuades much of the Senate to leave Rome for Greece.
- Attempts by Caesar to engage in talks and offers of mutual disarmament.



“...uttering the phrase with which men usually prelude their plunge into desperate and daring fortunes, "Let the die be cast," he hastened to cross the river...” – **Plut. *Caes.* 32.8.**



The Rubicon in later the Classical imagination

“On reaching the banks of the Rubicon’s narrow flow that general saw a vision of his motherland in distress, her sorrowful face showing clear in nocturnal darkness... she stood before him her speech broken by sobbing: ‘Where are you marching, whither do you bear those standards, my warriors? If you come as law-abiding citizens, here you must halt.’ Then the general’s limbs quaked, his hair stood on end, faintness overcame him and he halted, his feet rooted to the river-bank” (**Lucan *Phars.* Bk. 1**).

“Shortly before his death, as he was told, the **herds of horses** which he had dedicated to the river Rubicon when he crossed it, and had let loose without a keeper, **stubbornly refused to graze and wept copiously.**” (81)



The Civil War unfolds

Caesar's Clemency

- Key messages of *BC* – restoration of *dignitas* and offering of *clementia*.
- Sparing of elite and people of Corfinium - Lucius Domitius, Publius Lentulus Spinther, Lucius Vibullius Rufus, Sextus Quintilius Varus and Lucius Rubrius (*BC* 1.23).

“However, he was afraid that the entry of his troops into the town [Corfinium]... by night, might lead to looting... therefore, he [gave] orders that careful guard was to be kept on the walls and gates.” – **Caesar *BC* 1.21.**



Dictatorship vs. Consulship

- Seizure of *aerarium sanctius* in temple of Saturn.
- Caesar not able to have himself elected consul for 48 – thus the praetor M. Lepidus had to nominate a dictator.
 - Nomination for dictatorship and consulship at various points between 48 to 44 BC).
- Powers of dictator not necessarily absolute?
 - e.g. deposing of tribunes Caesetius and Marullus by another tribune C. Helvius Cinna (44 BC).
- Value of “Master of the Horse” due to Caesar’s absence (most of 49-45 BC).



So he made an expedition into Spain, having resolved first to drive out from there Afranius and Varro, Pompey's legates... [so as to leave no] enemy in his rear... The leaders, however, made their escape to Pompey.” – **Plutarch *Caesar* 36.**

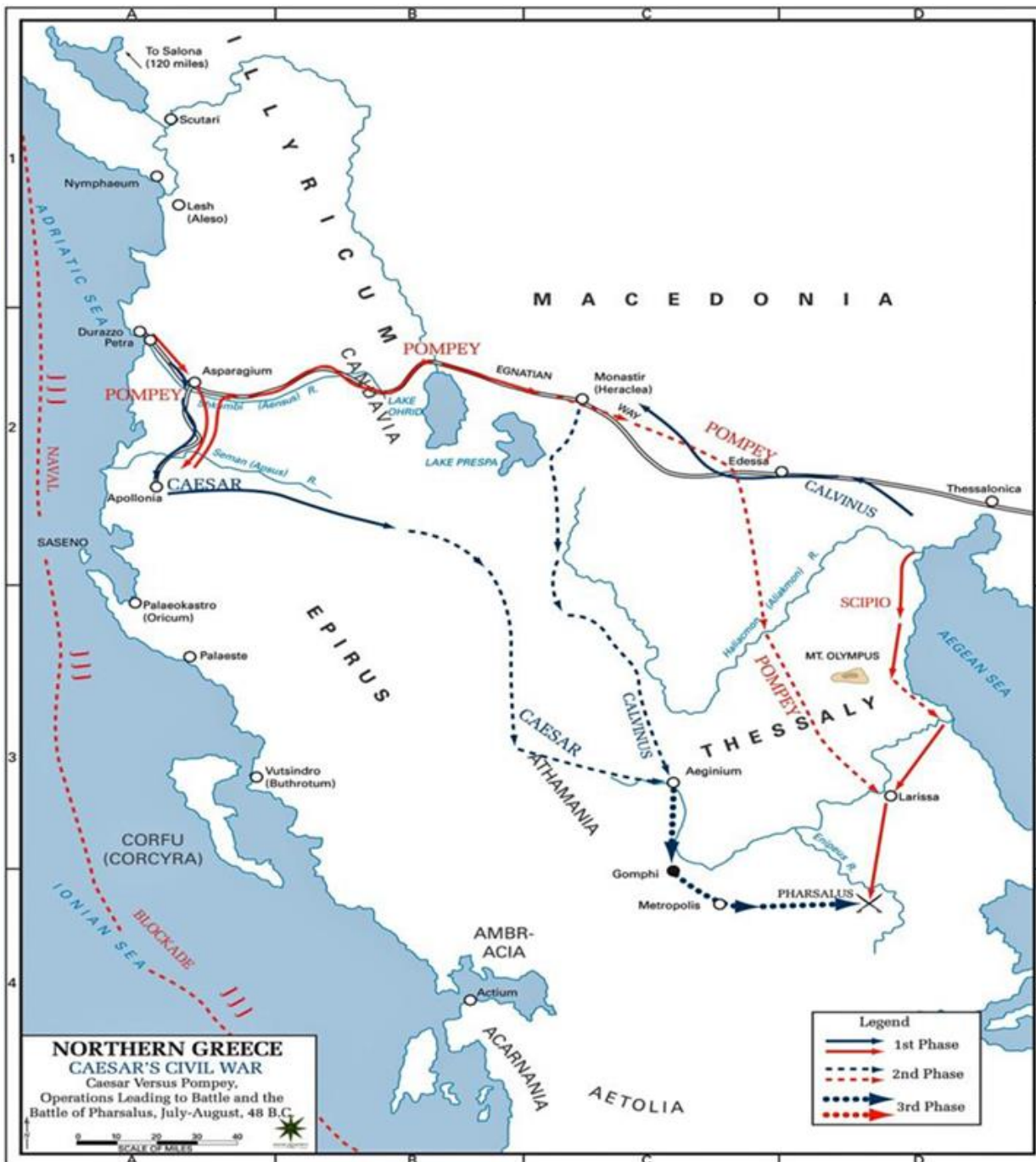
The Campaign in Spain

- In about 40 days the legions of Afranius, Petreius and Varro defeated by Caesar.
- Quintus Cassius left as governor of the province, with four legions.” – Caesar *BC* 2.21.



Caesar crosses into Greece

- Attempt by Pompeian fleet to prevent Caesar's forces from landing.
- Failed siege of Dyrrachium (48 BC).
- Pompey compelled by his senatorial allies to offer battle at Pharsalus (August 48 BC).



Size of the Forces

CAESAR'S ARMY

Caesar states that he had 22,000 men from 80 cohorts.

Each cohort must have been roughly 275 men (out of a notional 500).

2,750 men per legion – issues of attrition from many campaigns.

C. 1,000 cavalry.

POMPEY'S ARMY

Pompey's army is reported to have consisted of 110 cohorts (equivalent to 11 legions).

A paper army strength of 45,000, plus an additional 2,000 *beneficarii* (recalled veterans).

Pompey left 22 cohorts on detached garrison duty.

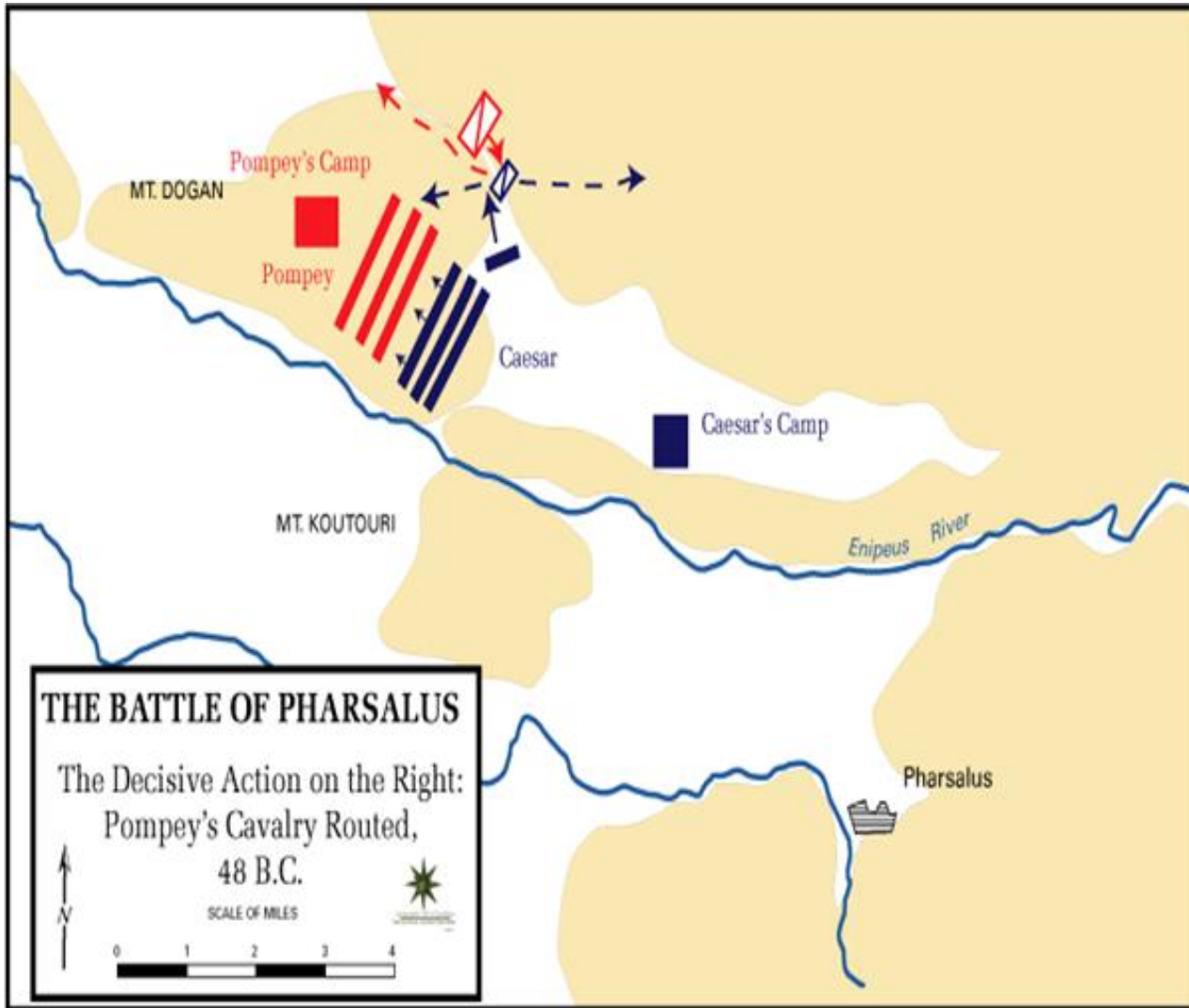
7,000 cavalry.

15,000 men lost on Pompey's side, only 200 men lost to Caesar (according to him).

Another 24,000 troops surrender and are incorporated into Caesar's army.

Caesar's Tactics

- *Triplex acies* formations.
- Pompey's cohorts ten ranks deep – awaits the enemy charge.
- Caesar's cohorts between four to six ranks deep.
 - Caesar takes one cohort from the third line of six of his legions and formed a fourth line to protect his right flank; concealed behind his cavalry.



- Pompey killed in Egypt (instigated by Ptolemy XIII's advisors).
- Alexandrian War – Caesar is besieged in Alexandria (47 BC).
- War against Pharnaces II of Pontus – battle at Zela.
- Mutiny in Campania – *quirites* (47 BC).
- Campaign in North Africa against Met. Scipio and Cato the Younger – Battle of Thapsus (46 BC).
- Second campaign in Spain – battle of Munda (45 BC).



Do you think intervening in the internal dynastic dispute in Egypt was a strategic mistake or necessary in the circumstances?

Caesar's characterisations

- Links between episodes and characters across the *BC*.
- No direct characterisations, instead Caesar reports (supposed) words and deeds; events also not “labelled”.
- Selection, omission and arrangement of events to achieve an overall picture.

Oath-taking (beyond the regular *sacramentum*) as an aid to loyalty seen as a Pompeian trait, not mention in relation to Caesar's side.

No reference to such oaths in Dio, Appian, Plutarch or Suetonius.

Recurrent themes - refusal to send aid when one's own supporters in difficulty – arming of slaves – boastful reports – cruelty to captives – plundering temples – contrasts with Caesar's actions.

Pompey as an “Eastern Monarch”?