

his (this, dat. pl.) rebus (thing, dat. pl.) ita (so/thus; in such a way) actis (having been done, perf. part. pass.), constituta (having been decided, perf. part. pass.) nocte (night, dat./abl. fem.) qua (where, adv.) proficiscerentur (depart, impf. subj. 3rd p. pl.) Allobroges (subject in nom.), Cicero, a (by, +abl.) legatis (ambassador, abl. pl. masc.) cuncta (the whole, acc. pl. neut.) edoctus (inform, perf. pass. part.), praetoribus (praetor, dat. pl. masc.) imperat (order, pres. act. ind. [historic present]) ut (+ sub.) in (in, on, at, +abl.) ponte (bridge, abl. sing. masc.) Muluio (abl.) per (through, by, +acc.) insidias (ambush, acc. pl. fem.) Allobrogum (gen. pl. masc.) comitatus (retinue, acc. pl. masc.) deprehendant (catch, pres. act. subj. 3rd p. pl.). sine (without, +abl.) mora (delay, abl.) ad (to, +acc.) pontem (bridge, acc.) itum est (they went). praetores (praetors, nom. pl. masc.), homines (men, [in apposition] nom. pl. masc.) militares (military, adj. nom. pl. masc.), sine (without, +abl.) tumultu (noise, abl.) praesidiis (guard, abl. pl. neut.) collocatis (put in place, perf. pass. part. abl. (ablative absolute--), sicuti (just as, adv.) eis (they, dat. pl.) praeceptum erat (order, plup. ind. pass. neut), occulte (secretly, adv.) pontem (bridge, acc.) obsident (besiege, pres. act. ind. 3rd p. pl. [historic present]). postquam (after) ad (to, +acc.) id (that, acc.) loci (place, gen.) legati (nom. pl. masc.) cum (with, +abl.) Volturcio (abl.) perueneunt (arrived at, pres. act. ind. 3rd p. pl. [hist. pres.]) et (and) simul (at the same time, adv.) utrimque (from both side, adv.) clamor (an outcry, nom. sing.) exortus est (arise, plup. ind. pass.), Galli (the Gauls), cito (quickly, adv.) cognito (recognise, perf. pass. part. abl.) consilio (abl. [ablative absolute]), sine (without) mora (delay) praetoribus (abl.) se (themselves) tradunt (hand over, pres. act. ind. [hist. pres.]): Volturcius (nom.) primo (at first, adv.), cohortatus (perf. pass. part. dep.) ceteros (the others, acc.), gladio (sword, abl./dat.) se (himself) a (+ abl. from?) multitudine (the rabble, abl.) defendit (defend, pres. act. ind. [hist. pres.]), deinde (then), ubi (when) a (by) legatis (the ambassadors) desertus est (desert, perf. ind. pass.), timidus (frightened) ac (and) uitae (life, gen.) diffidens (despair of, pres. act. part.), uelut (just as/as if, adv.) hostibus (enemy. dat. pl. masc.) sese (himself?) praetoribus (dat. pl.) dedit (give, perf. act. ind. [hist. pres.])

I used the notes on the ablative absolute (p. 183 GE) for various translations of the abl. abs. So it seems to me that 'praetores...praesidiis collocatis, sicuti eis praeceptum erat, occulte pontem obsident.' *praesidiis collocatis* in the absolute ablative can be rendered as 'the praetors put the guards in place.' But then this really upsets the syntax and so I reverted to what you find below.

These things having been done in such a way, with the night having been decided where they (the Allobroges) would be departing, Cicero having been informed of everything by the ambassadors ordered (orders) the praetors to capture (that they should capture) the retinue of the Allobroges at the Mulvian bridge by an ambush. Without delay the praetors, military men, went to the bridge without commotion just as they had been ordered and the guards having been put in place secretly besieged the bridge. After the ambassadors arrived (arrive) there (to that place) at the same time from both sides an outcry had arisen. The Gauls, quickly having recognised the plan, handed themselves over to the praetors without delay: Volturcius, at first having encouraged the others, with a sword defended himself from the rabble. Then when he was deserted by the ambassadors, frightened and despairing of his life, he gave himself to the praetors just as if to the enemy.



Translation into Latin for submission:

News having been brought (abl. abs.) of Caesar's approach (acc. + inf.), the Arverni (nom.), fearing (timeo, impf. act. ind.) that (ne) he would invade (impf. subj.) their territory (acc.), resolved (perf. act. ind.) to break down (inf.) all the bridges over the river (used gen.). Caesar, however, wanted (perf.) to cross (inf.) as soon as possible, for he was afraid (impf. act. ind.) of being hindered (used ne + impf. subj.) all summer (rendered as 'for the whole summer' in dat.) by this river (rendered as next to + acc.). He accomplished (used hist. pres.) this by the following trick (using gerund). He sent forward the greater part (acc.) of his forces (gen. fem. sing.), and the enemy (nom. pl. masc.) followed (perf. ind. dep.) these (acc. fem. sing.), thinking (gerund) that the whole army (acc.) had set out (perf. act. dep.). Thereupon Caesar, who had remained (plup. acc. ind.) with a few men, (abl.) ordered (perf. ind.) them to repair (ut + impf. subj.) one of the bridges with all speed (abl).

nuntiis acceptis Caesarem agredi, Arverni, timebant ne inuaderet terram suam, constituerunt delere omnes pontes fulminae. Caesar tamen uoluit transire quam primum nam metuebat ne prohiberet tota aestati iuxta hoc fulmin. ut illis tali dolo huius perficitur misit maximam partem suae copiae et hostes has (copiae) sequi sunt, opinati omnem exercitem profectus est. deinde Caesar, qui ad uis militibus manserat, eos imperauit ut reficerent unum de ponte omni celeritate

Really confused about gerund/gerundive (gerundival attraction) amongst other things.