

JULIUS CAESAR  
COMMENTARIES ON THE GALLIC WAR  
BOOKS 1–5 AND 6.11–24

C. IULII CAESARIS  
COMMENTARII RERUM GESTARUM  
DE BELLO GALLICO

TEXT, NOTES, COMPANION, AND VOCABULARY BY

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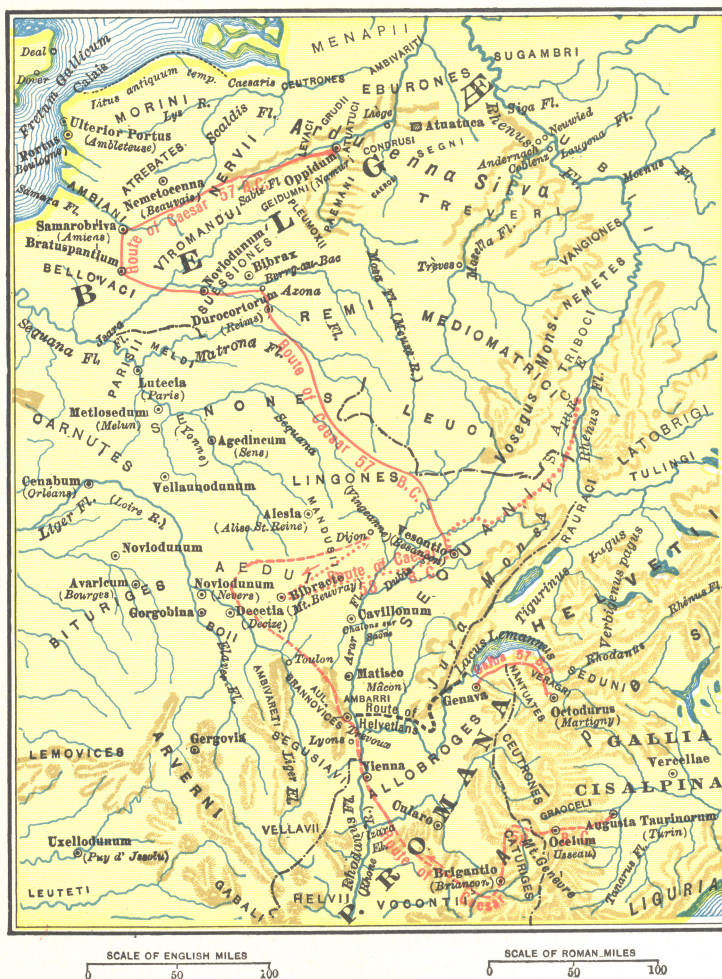








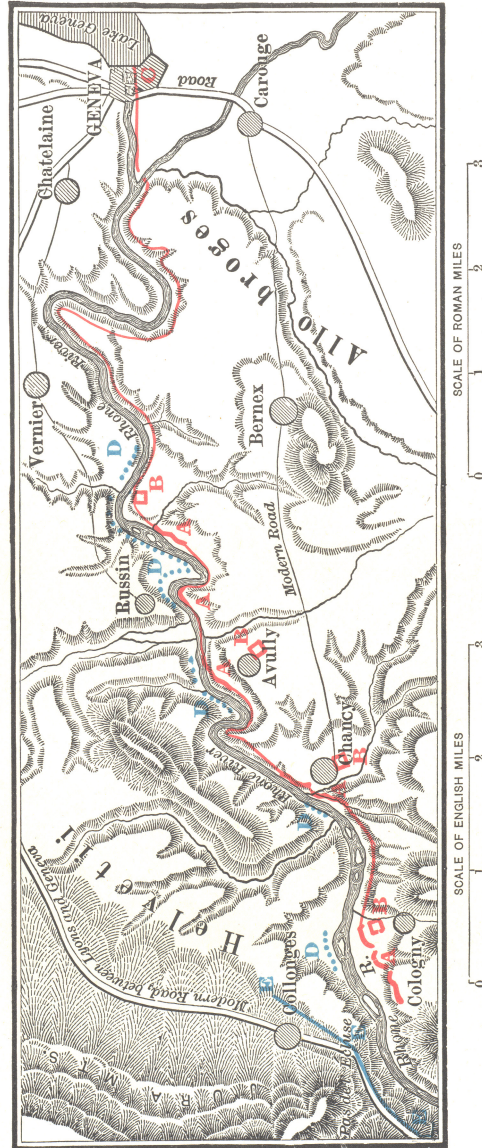
MAP I  
CAMPAIGNS OF 58 AND 57 B.C.  
Book I, 2-54; II, 1-33; III, 1-6



#### EXPLANATION

The route of the Helvetians to the Arar is indicated by a broken black line; thence their line of march and Caesar's coincide, to Toulon.

MAP 2  
CAESAR'S LINE OF WORKS ALONG THE RHONE FROM GENEVA TO MILL-RACE GORGE (PAS DE L'ÉCLUSE)  
Book I, 8

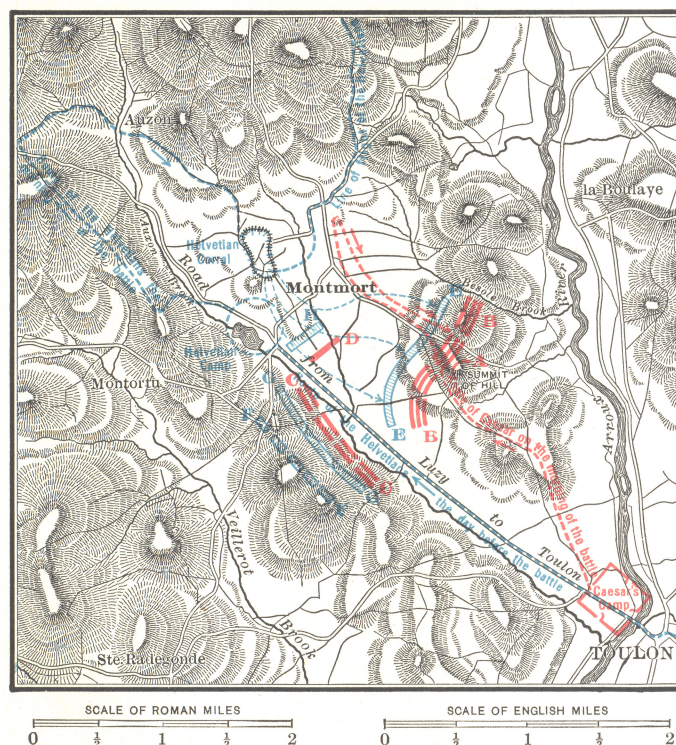


EXPLANATION

- A, A. Places where strong fortifications were needed, such as are shown in Figure 34. The lighter red line between these places indicates where less extensive fortifying was required.
- B, B. Redoubts, *castella* (chap. 8, l. 6).
- C. Site of ancient Geneva, on the south side of the Rhone. The modern city spreads out on both sides of the river.
- D, D. Places where the Helvetians probably gathered, in their attempts to force the crossing of the Rhone (chap. 8, ll. 12-16).
- E-E. Route of the Helvetian host entering Mill-race Gorge.



MAP 3  
THE BATTLE WITH THE HELVETIANS  
Book I, 24-26



#### EXPLANATION

On the day before the battle the Helvetians probably crossed the Arroux at Toulon and encamped near Montmort; a part of the site of the camp is now covered by a pond. Caesar, following, encamped near the Arroux.

**A.** Semicircular trench hastily dug by the XI<sup>th</sup> and XII<sup>th</sup> legions on the hill (chap. 24, ll. 5-10).

**B-B.** The four veteran legions in battle order, three lines, first position.

**C-C.** First and second Roman lines, second position (chap. 25, ll. 21-23).

**D.** Third Roman line, second position, facing the Boians and Tulingians.

**E-E.** First position of the Helvetians (chap. 24, ll. 12-14).

**F-F.** Second position of the Helvetians, on a height (chap. 25, ll. 12-15).

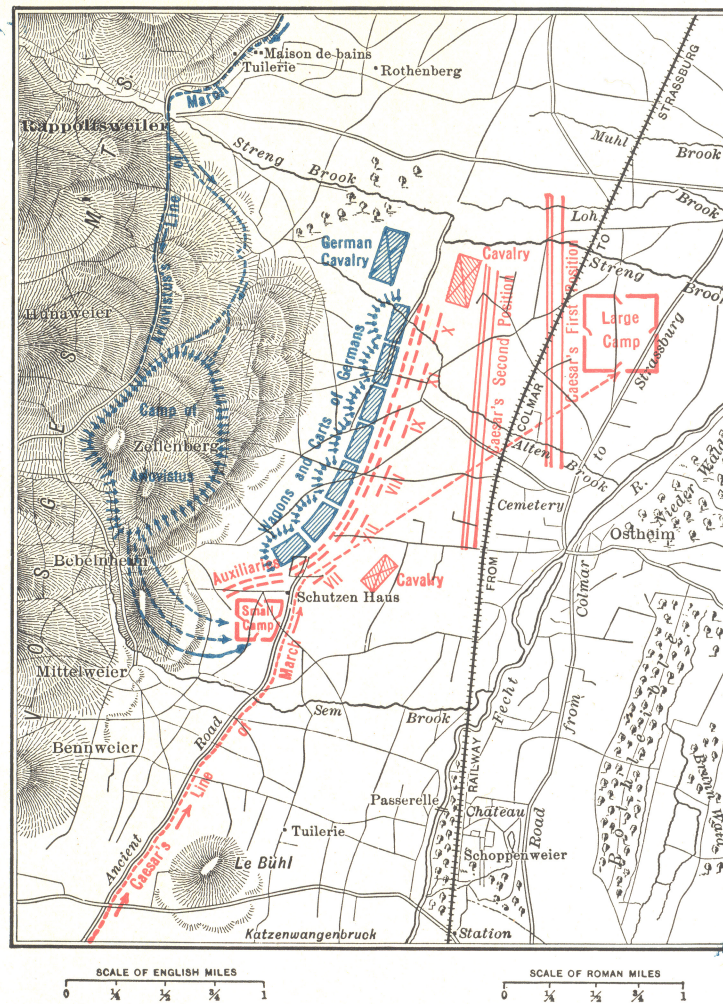
**G-G.** Third position of the Helvetians, resuming the attack (chap. 25, ll. 18-20).

**H.** Boians and Tulingians (chap. 25, ll. 15-18).

## MAP 4

## THE BATTLE WITH ARIOVISTUS

Book I, 49-53



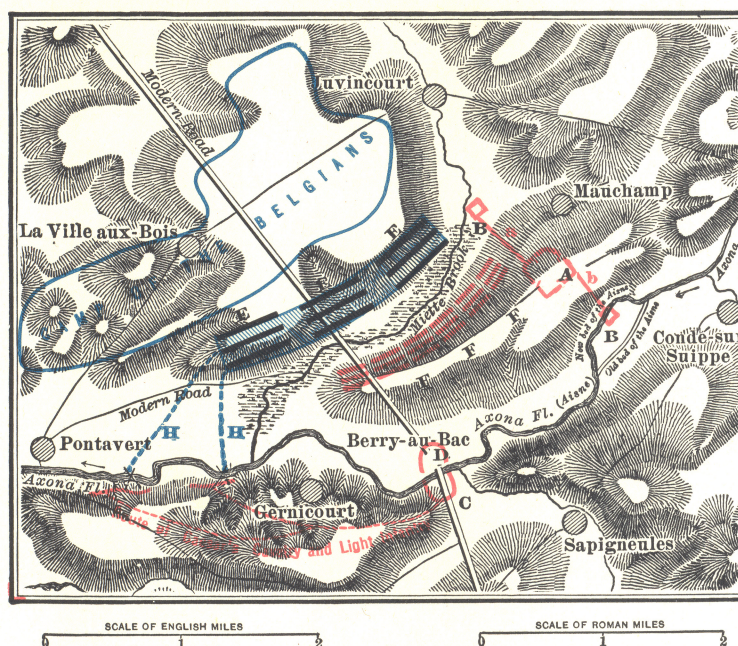
## EXPLANATION

Caesar, marching from the south, encamped north of Modern Ostheim (chap. 48, l. 2). Ariovistus, marching from the north, encamped on Zellenberg.



MAP 5  
THE BATTLE AT THE AISNE (AXONA)

Book II, 7-10



EXPLANATION

Caesar, marching from the South, encamped on the north or right bank of the Aisne, on a long hill. As the camp was well protected by the streams and the low ground on the west, in order to secure the east side, he ran intrenchments from the corners to both the Aisne and the Miette. The widely extended Belgian camp was on the opposite side of the Miette (chap. 7, ll. 11-12).

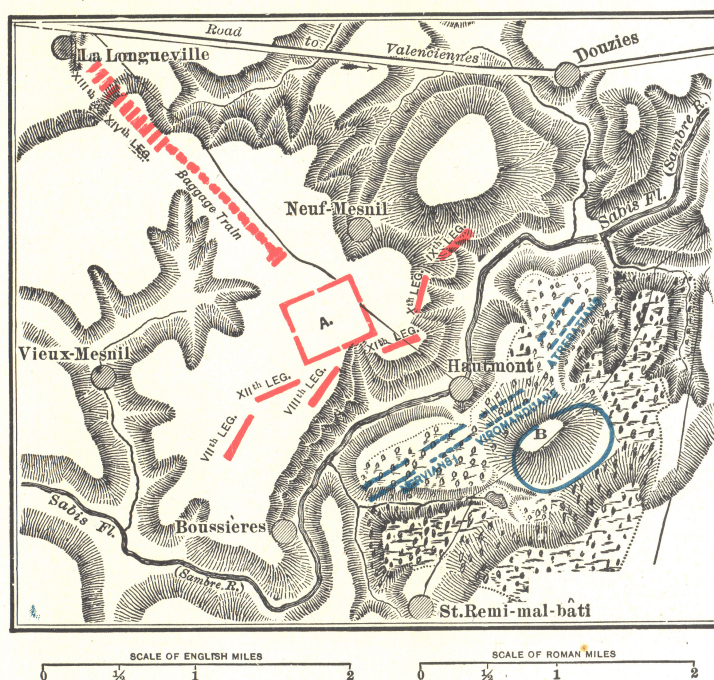
- A. Caesar's camp (chap. 5, l. 15; chap. 7, l. 9; chap. 8, l. 7).
- a, b. Trenches, *fossae* (chap. 8, ll. 11-13).
- B, B. Redoubts, *castella* (chap. 8, l. 13).
- C. Redoubt at the south end of the bridge, *castellum*, held by Q. Titurius Sabinus (chap. 5, ll. 20-22; chap. 9, l. 11).
- D. Guard at the north end of the bridge, *praesidium* (chap. 5, l. 20).
- E-E. The Belgians in battle order (chap. 8, l. 20).
- F-F. The six legions in battle order (chap. 8, l. 19).
- H-H. Probable routes taken by the Belgians to the fords at the Aisne, where they were met by Caesar's light-armed troops and cavalry (chap. 9, ll. 8-15).



## MAP 6

## THE BATTLE AT THE SAMBRE (SABIS): FIRST PHASE

Book II, 18-22



## EXPLANATION

Caesar's army, approaching the Sambre from the north, started to make a camp on a hill overlooking the river. The Belgian forces, comprising Nervians, Viro-manduan, and Atrebatians, were lying in wait on the south side.

Supposing that each legion would be followed by its baggage train, the Belgians had planned to attack the first legion and destroy it before the others could come to the rescue, and in like manner to destroy the others one by one. Caesar, however, had placed six legions in light marching order first, then all the baggage, and two legions last, the XIII<sup>th</sup> and XIV<sup>th</sup>; he sent cavalry, bowmen, and slingers in advance of the main column.

When the baggage train came into view, the Belgians hurled back the cavalry, bowmen, and slingers, rushed across the river and charged up the hill.

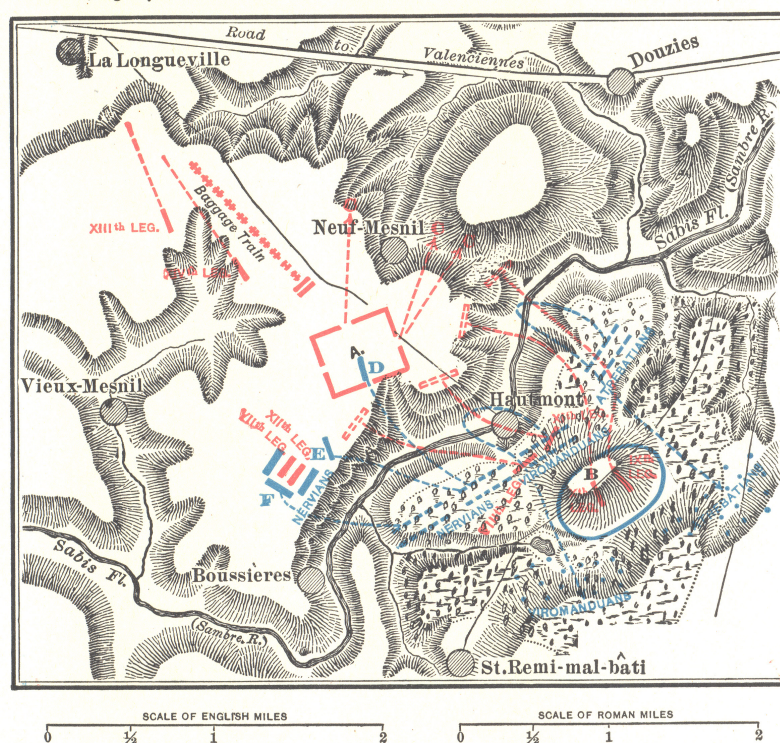
A. The Roman camp (chap. 18, ll. 1-7), with six legions forming in front.

B. The camp of the Belgians (chap. 26, ll. 10-12)

## MAP 7

## THE BATTLE AT THE SAMBRE (SABIS): SECOND PHASE

Book II, 23-27



## EXPLANATION

The Atrebatians, having crossed the river, were thrown back by the IX<sup>th</sup> and X<sup>th</sup> legions, and fled through the woods east of the Belgian camp. The IX<sup>th</sup> and X<sup>th</sup> legions entered the Belgian camp (B), which was on a hill.

In like manner the XI<sup>th</sup> and VIII<sup>th</sup> legions routed the Viromanduan and crossed to the south side of the river in pursuit.

Of the Nervians, one division (D) made for the Roman camp (A) and entered it; the cavalry, bowmen, and slingers that had taken refuge there fled precipitately (C). Other divisions (E, F) started to surround the VII<sup>th</sup> and XII<sup>th</sup> legions, which by Caesar's order took up a position rear to rear.

Hearing the noise of battle the baggage train halted, and the XIII<sup>th</sup> and XIV<sup>th</sup> legions hastened to the scene.

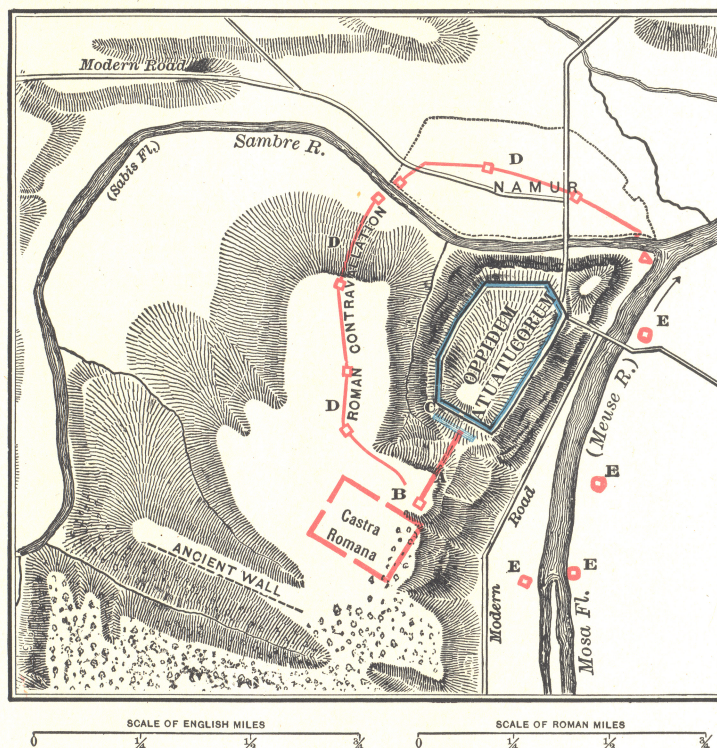
Caesar rushed into the front rank, and saved the day.



## MAP 8

## OPERATIONS AGAINST THE STRONGHOLD OF THE ATUATUCI

Book II, 29-33



## EXPLANATION

The Atuatici abandoned their towns and gathered in a stronghold protected by steep cliffs except on one side, where there was an easy approach not more than 200 Roman feet wide.

Caesar blockaded the stronghold with a rampart and redoubts. Afterwards he ran an embankment up the inclined approach, and made ready to attack.

A. Incline along which Caesar-constructed his siege embankment, *agger*.

B. General's gate, *porta praetoria*, of Caesar's camp.

C. Upper end of the inclined approach, fortified with a double wall (chap. 29, ll. 8-10) and moat (chap. 32, ll. 9, 10).

D-D. Rampart, *vallum* (chap. 30, l. 3).

E-E. Redoubts, *castella* (chap. 30, l. 4).

MAP 9.  
OPERATIONS OF THE YEAR 56 B.C.  
Book III, 7-27



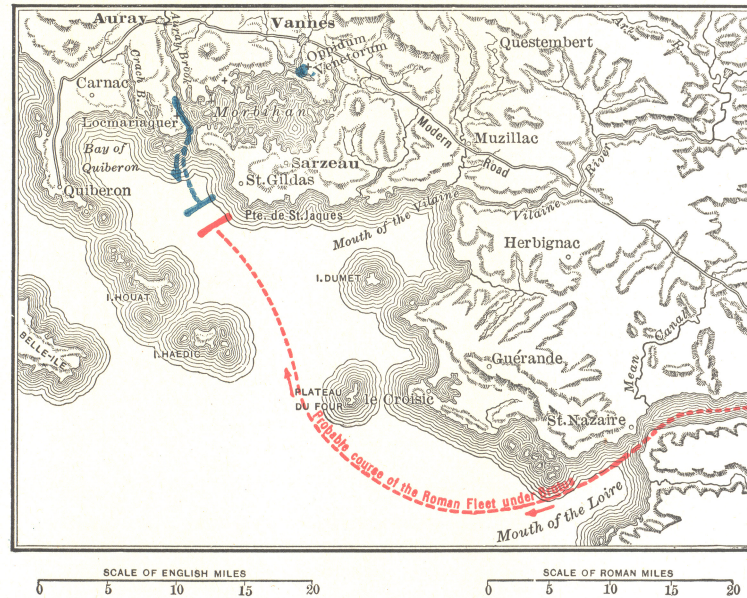
#### EXPLANATION

1. Base whence Caesar sent Sabinus north and Crassus south.
2. Sea-fight with the Venetans (chap. 13-15).
3. Battle of Sabinus (17-19).
4. Battle of Crassus with the Sotiates (20-22).
5. Final victory of Crassus (23-26).



MAP 10  
SEA-FIGHT WITH THE VENETANS

Book III, 7-16



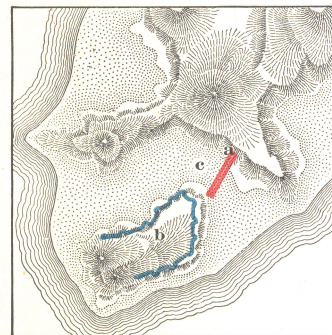
EXPLANATION

Caesar's fleet was built on the Loire (Liger, chap. 9, ll. 2-4), and placed in command of Brutus. From the mouth of the Loire it followed a northerly course till it met the Venetan fleet (chap. 14).

MAP 10, A

OPERATIONS AGAINST A VENETAN TOWN  
(III, 12)

- a. Mainland.
- b. Stronghold, *oppidum*, surrounded by water at high tide.
- c. Parallel dikes over land submerged except at low tide. The dikes, or embankments, were high enough to keep out the water at high tide.



SCALE OF MILES  
0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 1 1/2 1 3/4  
MAP 10, A

MAP II  
OPERATIONS OF 55 AND 54 B.C.  
Books IV, V.



#### EXPLANATION

##### MAP II

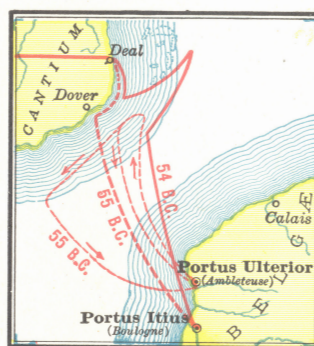
- 1, 2. Winter quarters, 56–55 B.C. (III.29).
3. Expedition into Germany, 55 B.C. (IV. 19).
4. March into Britain, 54 B.C. (V. 21).

##### MAP II, A

Heavy broken red line, route of main fleet in 55 B.C. (IV. 23).

Light broken red lines, route of transports with cavalry, part driven back, part driven down the channel (IV. 28).

Unbroken red line, route of fleet in 54 B.C. (V. 8).



##### MAP II, A

Detail of Caesar's crossings to Britain.



MAP 12  
 MAP OF BRITAIN AS CONCEIVED BY CAESAR  
 Book V, 13



#### EXPLANATION

In view of the meagerness of Caesar's information, his statement about the geography of Britain is surprisingly near the truth in essential particulars. In this respect it compares favorably with the statements of modern travelers and explorers in regard to regions of which they have seen only a small part.

He knew that the Island was triangular in shape, and in his two expeditions he had himself seen a portion of the coast facing Gaul (chap. 13, l. 1). He could easily believe that one corner (A) faced east, another (B) toward the south. His language implies that he had a vague idea of a projection eastward (C) at the northern extremity (l. 18). He knew the location, and approximately the size, of Ireland (l. 7).

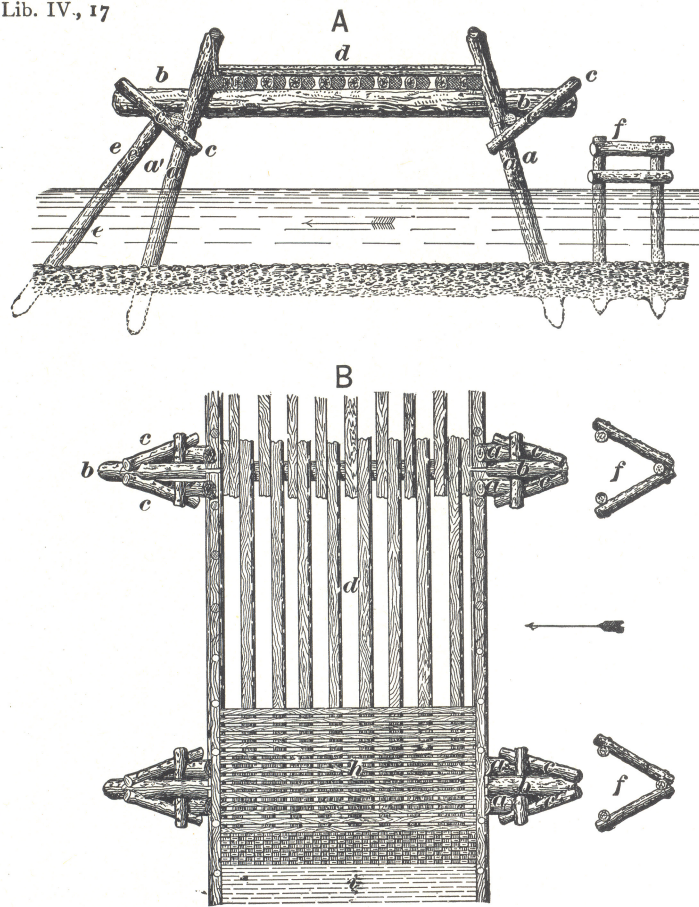
Caesar, as other ancients, found it more difficult to estimate distances north and south than east and west. He fell easily into the error of supposing that the northern end of Spain extended so far that it lay west of the southern part of Britain (l. 6); and his conception of the relative positions of the two Gauls, Italy and Illyricum, was probably very nearly as represented.

The strait between Italy and Sicily, now Strait of Messina, is called by Caesar *Fretum* (C. II, l. 3).

## Plate I

## CAESAR'S BRIDGE ACROSS THE RHINE, SECTIONS

Lib. IV., 17



A. Cross-section.

B. The Bridge seen from above.



## Plate II

