

Eat Drink and be Merry!

Post by “Cassius” of September 29, 2023 at 9:40 AM

I bet if we looked hard enough we could find evidence that Cicero spoke in terms of the military strategy of "divide and conquer." I can't find anything immediately but we know this [about Cicero's military career](#):

Besides his activity in ameliorating the hard pecuniary situation of the province, Cicero was also creditably active in the military sphere. Early in his governorship he received information that prince [Pacorus](#), son of [Orodes II](#) the king of the Parthians, had crossed the [Euphrates](#), and was ravaging the Syrian countryside and had even besieged [Cassius](#) (the interim Roman commander in Syria) in [Antioch](#).^[100] Cicero eventually marched with two understrength legions and a large contingent of auxiliary cavalry to Cassius's relief. Pacorus and his army had already given up on besieging Antioch and were heading south through Syria, ravaging the countryside again. Cassius and his legions followed them, harrying them wherever they went, eventually ambushing and defeating them near Antigonea.^[101]

Another large troop of Parthian horsemen was defeated by Cicero's cavalry who happened to run into them while scouting ahead of the main army. Cicero next defeated some robbers who were based on [Mount Amanus](#) and was hailed as [imperator](#) by his troops. Afterwards he led his army against the independent Cilician mountain tribes, besieging their fortress of [Pindenissum](#). It took him 47 days to reduce the place, which fell in December.^[102] On 30 July 50 BC Cicero left the province^[103] to his brother [Quintus](#), who had accompanied him on his governorship as his [legate](#).^[104] On his way back to Rome he stopped in [Rhodes](#) and then went to [Athens](#), where he caught up with his old friend [Titus Pomponius Atticus](#) and met men of great learning.^[105]