

Julius Caesar

From the "greatest Roman," unique leadership lessons for the battlefield and the boardroom.

Gaius Julius Caesar, one of the ancient world's greatest military and political leaders, led Rome's armies to military conquests that seldom have been equaled. Caesar's thoughts on battle, leadership and statesmanship are well documented and provide numerous lessons that remain applicable today.



Find Your Place in the Organization

Undoubtedly, many managers strive to fill the top position in the organization. Yet Caesar understood that the "top" could be relative. He wrote, "I had rather be first in a village than second in Rome." If too focused on the "top spot," managers may miss the opportunity to provide the best service to the organization by excelling through the leadership of a workgroup or division.

Patience is Critical

Too often, managers become restless and move on if



the company does not reward them in what they consider a "timely" manner. Recognizing how impatience can affect an organization, Caesar remarked, "It is easier to find men who will volunteer to die than to find those who are willing to endure pain with patience."

Be Watchful of the Little Things

"In war," Caesar once said, "events of importance are the result of trivial causes."



Likewise, the little things in a company, if ignored, can grow into major points of contention. Keeping an eye on the entire picture – regardless of how insignificant something may seem – will help an organization maintain proper balance.

Stand up for Your Beliefs

Companies rarely benefit from yes-men, especially individuals who lack the moral courage to stand up for what they know is right. While learning to take orders is vital, bosses are ill served by subordinates who are fearful of speaking the



sometimes unpleasant truth. Caesar's leadership of his legions and of Rome often depended as much on his moral courage as it did on his personal bravery.

With Power Comes Responsibility

Successful leadership requires competence combined with conscience. Great leaders understand the power of their words and actions, and they take care of their subordi-



nates. Caesar stressed the need for a responsible attitude when he said, "The abuse of greatness is when it disjoins remorse from power."

Leave a Legacy

"Veni, vidi, vici" (I came, I saw, I conquered), said Caesar in one of the most quoted lines in history. He knew that his actions would live in history, and he was certain that he would leave behind a lasting legacy. Likewise, business leaders must think about what they are doing each day to make the company a better place. Just as important, they must take the time to consider what they will have accomplished over the years of their career. *

What will be your legacy? **Brian Sobel**, president of Sobel Communications, is a frequent contributor to magazines, an on-air political and military analyst, and author of "The Fighting Patterns."