FIRST MAN IN ROME

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

FIRST MAN IN ROME - DRAMATIS PERSONAE V. 5

AVCTOR LVDI: FABRIZIO VIANELLO

ARTIFICES LVDI: FABRIZIO VIANELLO, ANTHONY MORPHET, LIONEL MARTINEZ , NICOLAS MICHON, NICOLAS BLANCHART

ARTIFICES IMAGINVM: FABRIZIO VIANELLO, JOSE RAMON FAVRA

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*The **DRAMATIS PERSONAE** booklet provides background on the historical figures who lived, fought, and died during the civil war and are represented in First Man in Rome.*

POPVLARES

CAIVS ANTONIVS, ? – 42 BC

The younger brother of the better-known Marcus Antonius, Caius Antonius was entrusted with two legions during the opening stages of the civil war and ordered to restore order in the Caesarian province of Illyricum, where several cities had fallen under the control of rebel and enemy forces.

While en route to Illyricum, he was intercepted by a Pompeian fleet. Most of his troops refused to fight and defected to Pompey.

Caius remained in Caesar's service until the latter's assassination. Brutus subsequently pardoned him and appointed him governor of Macedonia, only to discover shortly afterwards that Caius was attempting to persuade his troops to mutiny and change sides. Brutus then ordered his execution in 42 BC.

MARCVS ANTONIVS, 83? - 30 BC

Antonius was born around 83 BC into a prominent but financially precarious branch of the plebeian Antonii. His grandfather was the great orator and consul of 99 BC, and his mother, Iulia, was a relative of Iulius Caesar.

He spent his youth in debt and dissipation, then built a military reputation as a cavalry commander under Gabinius in Syria and Egypt (57-55 BC). In 54 he joined Caesar in Gaul as a legate and fought at Alesia in 52. Caesar's backing carried him into the quaestorship, and the tribunate of the plebs for 49 BC.

Antonius' tribunate gave Caesar's cause its constitutional pretext. When the Senate moved to strip Caesar of his command, Antony and his fellow tribune Cassius Longinus vetoed the measures. On 7 January 49 BC the Senate passed its emergency decree anyway, and the two tribunes fled Rome, reportedly disguised as slaves, to join Caesar. Caesar presented the violation of tribunician inviolability as one of his justification for crossing the Rubicon a few days later.

During the opening campaign, Antonius commanded a detachment at Arretium and secured Etruria. While Caesar fought Pompey's legates in Spain, Antony held Italy with delegated authority, keeping the peninsula quiet behind the army.

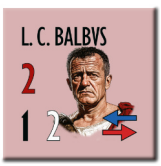
His finest moment came in the winter and spring of 48 BC. Caesar had crossed to Epirus with only part of his army, and Pompey's admiral Bibulus controlled the sea. Antonius brought the remaining legions across from Brundisium, slipped past the Optimate fleet, landed on the Illyrian coast, and marched to join Caesar. At Pharsalus on 9 August 48 BC, Caesar entrusted him with the left wing of his battle line, facing an enemy with a large numerical advantage in cavalry. The line held, and Pompey's army collapsed.

Caesar then made himself Dictator, naming Antonius Magister Equitum (Vice Dictator). Antonius governed Italy while Caesar went to Egypt, and he had to cope with unpaid, restless veterans and a debt-relief agitation led by Dolabella, which he put down with force. The episode damaged his reputation and cooled his relationship with Caesar. Antony took no part in the African and Spanish campaigns against the Optimate remnants in 46-45 BC, and he fell into disputes with Caesar over payment for Pompey's confiscated properties.

After the assassination on the Ides of March, he turned Caesar's funeral into a political event and set himself against the conspirators. His break with the young Octavian led to the war at Mutina (43 BC), followed by the Second Triumvirate with Octavian and Lepidus. Together the triumvirs crushed Brutus and Cassius at Philippi in 42 BC, and Antony proscribed Cicero, who had attacked him in his Philippics.

His alliance with Cleopatra and the eastern provinces led to final conflict with Octavian. He was defeated at Actium in 31 BC and died by suicide in Alexandria in August 30 BC.

LVCIVS CORNELIVS BALBVS, 100 - ? BC



A wealthy Roman politician and financier born in Gades, Balbus became one of Caesar's closest political advisers. He initially maintained close ties with both Pompey and Caesar, and served Caesar as praefectus fabrum (chief of staff) during his campaigns in Spain and Gaul, while managing his political and financial interests at Rome.

During the civil war of 49–45 BC, Balbus avoided direct military involvement but worked behind the scenes to advance Caesar's cause, managing his affairs in Rome and seeking to prevent Cicero from joining the Pompeian camp. After Caesar's assassination, he cautiously supported Octavian and was elected consul in 40 BC, becoming the first man born outside Italy to hold the office.

DECIMVS IVNIVS BRVTVS, 85? - 43 BC

Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus distinguished himself during the Gallic Wars, commanding the fleet that defeated the Veneti in 56 BC and participating in the campaign against Vercingetorix.

When civil war broke out in 49 BC, Brutus sided with Caesar and commanded his fleet during the siege of Massilia, defeating the city's naval forces and securing an important port for Caesar's campaign. He subsequently governed Transalpine Gaul, suppressing a rebellion of the Bellovaci in 46 BC.

Despite Caesar's favour, Brutus joined the conspiracy that assassinated the dictator on 15 March 44 BC. Appointed governor of Cisalpine Gaul, he refused to surrender his province to Mark Antony, whose attempts to take control of it triggered the Mutina campaign of 43 BC.

Supported by the Senate, Brutus was besieged by Antony at Mutina until the armies of the consuls Hirtius and Pansa, together with Octavian's forces, compelled Antony to withdraw. However, the deaths of both consuls and Octavian's refusal to submit to Brutus's command left him increasingly isolated. Abandoned by his remaining allies and troops, Brutus attempted to flee towards Macedonia but was captured and executed on Antony's orders in 43 BC

CAIVS IVLIVS CAESAR, 100 - 44 BC

Born in 100 BC into the prestigious Iulius tribe, Caius Iulius Caesar rose to prominence through political alliances, popular support, and military success. In 60 BC, he had formed an informal political alliance with Pompey the Great and Marcus Licinius Crassus, known as the First Triumvirate. As consul in 59 BC, he pursued legislation that brought him into conflict with the senatorial Optimates, the conservative faction that sought to preserve the Senate's traditional authority.

His subsequent conquest of Gaul (58–50 BC) brought him immense wealth, prestige, and the loyalty of a battle-hardened army, but also intensified his rivalry with Pompey, whose alliance with Caesar had weakened following the deaths of Crassus and Caesar's daughter Iulia.

When Caesar's command in Gaul approached its end, his opponents demanded that he disband his army and return to Rome as a private citizen, exposing himself to possible prosecution. Caesar sought to retain his command until he could stand for the consulship in absentia, while the Senate, increasingly aligned with Pompey, rejected compromise. In January 49 BC, after the tribunes Marcus Antonius and Quintus Cassius Longinus fled Rome following the Senate's measures against Caesar, he crossed the Rubicon with the 13th Legion, openly challenging senatorial authority and triggering civil war. Caesar rapidly occupied much of Italy, capturing Corfinium and winning over or releasing many of his opponents' troops. Pompey and the principal senatorial leaders withdrew across the Adriatic to Greece, where they could raise a larger army and draw on the resources of the eastern provinces. Caesar attempted to prevent Pompey's escape from Brundisium but failed, and instead turned west to eliminate Pompeian resistance in Spain. In the campaign of 49 BC, he forced the surrender of Pompey's legates at Ilerda, securing the Iberian provinces before returning to Italy.

In early 48 BC, Caesar crossed the Adriatic to confront Pompey, despite having fewer troops and facing considerable difficulties in supplying his army. He besieged Pompey's forces near Dyrrhachium, but suffered a serious reverse and was forced to retreat into Thessaly. Pompey pursued him, confident of his numerical superiority, and the two armies met at Pharsalus on 9 August 48 BC. Caesar's experienced veterans defeated the larger senatorial army, destroying Pompey's position in the eastern Mediterranean. Pompey fled to Egypt, where he was murdered on the orders of advisers to the young Ptolemy XIII. Caesar followed him to Alexandria and became embroiled in the Egyptian dynastic struggle, supporting Cleopatra VII against her brother. After surviving a prolonged siege, he defeated Ptolemy and secured Cleopatra's position.

Pompey's death did not end the war. Republican leaders regrouped in North Africa under Metellus Scipio and Cato the Younger, supported by King Iuba I of Numidia. In 46 BC, Caesar invaded Africa and defeated their armies at Thapsus. Cato subsequently committed suicide at Utica rather than submit to Caesar, becoming a symbol of Republican resistance.

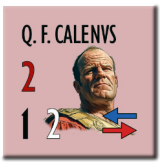
Yet the remaining Pompeians continued the struggle in Spain, where

Pompey's sons, Cnaeus and Sextus, rallied veterans and local support. Caesar returned to the peninsula and won a costly victory at Munda in March 45 BC, effectively ending organised military resistance. The prolonged conflict had demonstrated both his ability to recover from military setbacks and the difficulty of restoring peace through a single decisive victory.

Returning to Rome, Caesar embarked on sweeping political and administrative reforms, expanding the Senate, reorganising provincial government, settling veterans, and granting citizenship to selected communities. He also pursued a policy of clementia, or clemency, pardoning numerous defeated opponents in an effort to reconcile the Roman elite. Nevertheless, his accumulation of unprecedented powers, culminating in his appointment as dictator for life in 44 BC, alarmed senators who feared the destruction of the Republic and the establishment of a monarchy.

On 15 March 44 BC, Caesar was assassinated by a conspiracy led by Marcus Iunius Brutus and Caius Cassius Longinus. Rather than restoring the Republic, his death unleashed another round of civil wars, ultimately paving the way for the rise of his adopted heir, Octavian, and the establishment of the Roman Empire.

QVINTVS FVFIVS CALENVS, 80? - 40 BC



A Roman politician and military commander who served as Caesar's legate during the Gallic campaigns.

When civil war broke out in 49 BC, Calenus joined Caesar and served in the campaigns in Italy and Spain. In 48 BC, he was sent to Greece to reinforce Caesar's forces and secure key cities, including those in Boeotia and Attica. Although his attempt to transport additional troops across the Adriatic was disrupted by the Pompeian fleet, he helped consolidate Caesar's position in Greece following the victory at Pharsalus. In recognition of his services, Caesar appointed him consul for the final months of 47 BC, alongside Publius Vatinius.

After Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, Calenus supported Mark Antony in his struggle against the senatorial faction led by Cicero. Later, as governor of Transalpine Gaul, he commanded a substantial army of eleven legions on Antony's behalf. He died in 40 BC before he could lead his forces against Octavian, and his troops subsequently passed into Octavian's control.

CNAEVS DOMITIVS CALVINVS, 90? - 20? BC

A former consul, Calvinus commanded troops in Greece in 48 BC and led the centre of Caesar's army at the decisive Battle of Pharsalus. After Caesar's victory, he was appointed governor of Asia, but suffered a major defeat against King Pharnaces II of Pontus at Nicopolis.

He remained loyal to Caesar, who intended to appoint him magister equitum in 44 BC. Following Caesar's assassination, Calvinus supported Octavian and later served as consul again in 40 BC, before campaigning successfully in Spain.

QVINTVS CORNIFICIVS, ? - 42 BC

A Roman politician, military commander, orator, and poet, as well as a friend and correspondent of Cicero. He supported Caesar during the civil war against Pompey, serving as quaestor and governor of Illyricum in 48 BC, where he successfully recovered the province and helped secure Caesar's control of the Adriatic.

He later governed Cilicia and served in Syria. Following Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, Cornificius sided with the Senate against Mark Antony and the Second Triumvirate, retaining control of the province of Africa despite their demands that he surrender it. Declared an enemy by the triumvirs, he was defeated and killed by the forces of Titus Sextius near Utica in 42 BC.

CAIVS SCRIBONIVS CVRIO, C. 84 - 49 BC

Born around 84 BC into a distinguished Roman family, Caius Scribonius Curio initially opposed Caesar and the political alliance of Caesar, Pompey, and Crassus.

Elected tribune of the plebs in 50 BC, he emerged as a leading opponent of the Optimates faction determined to bring Caesar to heel. Curio proposed that both Caesar and Pompey relinquish their commands, a motion that won overwhelming support in the Senate but was ultimately rejected by the consuls. When the Senate demanded that Caesar surrender his command, Curio fled to join him, helping to precipitate the outbreak of civil war.

After Caesar crossed the Rubicon in January 49 BC, Curio helped recruit troops in Italy and took part in the campaign against Pompey's forces. Appointed to command in Sicily, he secured the island with little resistance, safeguarding an important source of grain for Caesar.

He then crossed into Africa to confront the Pompeian governor Publius Attius Varus, initially defeating his forces near Utica. However, advancing without adequate support, Curio was trapped by the combined forces of Varus and King Juba I of Numidia. His army was destroyed near the Bagradas River, and Curio died fighting in August 49 BC rather than surrender.

CAIVS SALLVSTIVS CRISPVS, 86 - 35 BC

More a politician and historian than a military commander, Crispus was elected tribune of the plebs in 52 BC, opposed the aristocratic faction, and was expelled from the Senate in 50 BC, allegedly for misconduct, possibly as a result of his political allegiance.

He joined Caesar during the civil war and served in military and political roles, narrowly escaping a mutiny among Caesar's troops in Campania in 47 BC. After Caesar's victory in Africa, Sallust was appointed governor of the newly established province of Africa Nova, where he amassed considerable wealth.

Following Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, he retired from public life and devoted himself to historical writing, producing works including *The Conspiracy of Catiline* and *The Jugurthine War*.

PVBLIVS CORNELIVS DOLABELLA, 70? - 43 BC

Dolabella was a patrician, a clever speaker and a notorious spendthrift. He was Cicero's son-in-law, but when war broke out in 49 BC he joined Caesar rather than Pompey.

Caesar gave him command of a fleet in the Adriatic, working with Caius Antonius. A Pompeian squadron under Octavius and Libo destroyed his ships, which isolated Antonius's army and led to its surrender at Curicta. Dolabella recovered and served at Pharsalus (48 BC), Thapsus (46) and Munda (45). In 47, as tribune, he agitated for the cancellation of debts, contributing to a wave of unrest and chaos in Rome.

He took the consulship of 44 BC after the Ides of March and sided with Antony, who secured him the province of Syria. In 43 BC he killed the conspirator Trebonius at Smyrna and was declared a public enemy. Cassius besieged him at Laodicea, where he died by suicide.

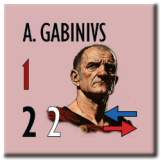
CAIVS FABIVS, ? - ? BC

One of Caesar's legates during the Gallic Wars, Caius commanded troops from at least 54 BC, participating in campaigns against the Menapii and during the siege of Alesia in 52 BC.

In early 49 BC, following the outbreak of civil war, Caesar sent Fabius into Spain with three legions to seize the Pyrenean passes and prevent Pompey's commanders from reinforcing their forces. Fabius swiftly occupied the passes and advanced against Lucius Afranius, helping prepare the way for Caesar's campaign against the Pompeian armies in Spain.

He is not securely attested in the historical record after these operations.

AVLVS GABINIVS, 101 - 47 BC



Initially a longtime supporter of Pompey, as tribune of the plebs in 67 BC he introduced the Lex Gabinia, granting Pompey extraordinary powers to suppress Mediterranean piracy.

After serving as consul in 58 BC, he governed Syria and restored Ptolemy XII to the Egyptian throne in 55 BC. Convicted of extortion and forced into exile in 54 BC, Gabinius was recalled by Iulius Caesar following the outbreak of civil war in 49 BC.

Despite his longstanding ties to Pompey, he joined Caesar's cause and was sent to Illyricum with reinforcements. There, he fought against Pompeian forces and Dalmatian tribes, eventually taking refuge in Salona, where he died of illness in 47 BC.

QVINTVS HORTENSIVS, ? - 42 BC

The son of the celebrated orator Quintus Hortensius Hortalus, he sided with Caesar in 49 BC and was reportedly the officer entrusted with leading troops across the Rubicon, marking the beginning of the conflict.

Following Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, Hortensius joined the Republican opposition to Mark Antony. After the defeat of the conspirators at Philippi in 42 BC, he was captured and executed on the orders of Lucius Antonius, in retribution for the killing of Caius Antonius, Mark Antony's brother.

MARCVS AEMILIVS LEPIDVS, 89? - 13 BC

One of Caesar's most important political allies during the civil war against the senatorial Optimates. A member of one of Rome's oldest patrician families, Lepidus served as praetor in 49 BC, when Caesar crossed the Rubicon.

Remaining in Rome as Pompey and the consuls withdrew to Greece, he helped secure Caesar's political control of the capital and arranged his appointment as dictator. Subsequently appointed governor of Hispania Citerior, Lepidus helped maintain Caesar's authority in Spain while the main armies fought in Greece and Africa. In 46 BC, he was elected consul alongside Caesar and later appointed magister equitum, serving as Caesar's deputy during his dictatorship.

Following Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, Lepidus mobilised troops to support Mark Antony and helped prevent an immediate escalation of hostilities between Caesar's supporters and the conspirators. In 43 BC, he joined Antony and Octavian to form the Second Triumvirate, which pursued the assassins and defeated the Republican forces at Philippi in 42 BC.

Although Lepidus initially shared power over the Roman world, he was gradually sidelined by his more powerful colleagues. After attempting to assert control over Sicily in 36 BC, he was stripped of his political and military authority by Octavian, though he retained his religious office until his death around 13 BC.

LVCIVS CASSIVS LONGINVS, 82 - ? BC

The brother of Caius Cassius Longinus, one of the leading conspirators in the assassination of Iulius Caesar, and probably the cousin of Quintus Cassius Longinus.

Unlike his brother, Lucius supported Caesar during the Civil War. In 48 BC, Caesar appointed him to command forces in Greece, where he occupied Thessaly before being forced to withdraw by the Pompeian commander Metellus Scipio. He subsequently joined the Caesarian forces in Aetolia.

Elected tribune of the plebs in 44 BC, he remained loyal to Caesar and took no part in the conspiracy that led to the dictator's assassination. After Caesar's death, Lucius supported Octavian against Mark Antony, but later reconciled with Antony and received his pardon in 41 BC.

QVINTVS CASSIVS LONGINVS, ? - 47 BC

Elected tribune of the plebs in 49 BC alongside Mark Antony, he vetoed the Senate's measures against Caesar and fled to Caesar's camp when the Senate declared the tribunes' actions invalid.

After Caesar's crossing of the Rubicon, he was rewarded with the governorship of Hispania Ulterior, where his oppressive administration provoked widespread resentment among the provincials and ultimately a military mutiny.

In 48 BC, while preparing an expedition against King Juba I of Numidia, he faced a revolt led by his own officers and was forced to negotiate his departure from the province. While sailing away with his accumulated wealth, he died when his ship was wrecked, bringing a turbulent career to an end.

QVINTVS FABIVS MAXIMVS, ? - 45 BC

After serving as one of Caesar's legates in Gaul, Quintus Fabius commanded troops in Spain alongside Quintus Pedius in 46 BC. Reinforced by Caesar, he took part in the campaign against Pompey's sons, Cnaeus and Sextus, culminating in the Battle of Munda in 45 BC, a decisive victory for Caesar.

Fabius subsequently besieged and captured Munda before returning to Rome. In recognition of his service, Caesar appointed him suffect consul alongside Gaius Trebonius in October 45 BC. He died on 31 December of that year, the final day of his consulship.

MITHRIDATES OF PERGAMVM, ? - 46 BC

A friend and ally of Caesar during the civil war, he was the illegitimate son of Mithridates VI Eupator, king of Pontus and one of Rome's most formidable eastern enemies.

In 48 BC, during the Alexandrian War, Caesar sent him to Syria and Cilicia to raise reinforcements while Caesar himself was besieged in Alexandria. Mithridates assembled a substantial army, captured the strategically important fortress of Pelusium, and marched into Egypt. His arrival in 47 BC proved decisive: joining Caesar's forces, he helped defeat the Egyptian army at the Battle of the Nile and relieve the siege of Alexandria.

In recognition of his services, Caesar later appointed him king of the Bosporan Kingdom and granted him additional territories in Galatia. Mithridates was eventually defeated by Asander, a rival claimant to the Bosporan throne, around 46 BC.

QVINTVS VALERIVS ORCA, ? - ? BC

Orca was praetor in 57 BC, helped secure Cicero's return from exile, and subsequently governed the province of Africa.

In early 49 BC, as one of Caesar's legates, he was sent to occupy Sardinia, a strategically important source of grain. The island submitted without significant fighting.

After Caesar established his dictatorship, Orca was entrusted with overseeing the confiscation and redistribution of land around Volaterrae in Etruria to benefit Caesar's veterans. He was still active in this role in 45 BC, when Cicero appealed to him to protect the interests of the local population.

QVINTVS PEDIVS, 92? - 43 BC

A relative of Caesar, Pedius served as Caesar's legate during the Gallic Wars and joined him when hostilities with Pompey began in 49 BC. Appointed praetor in 48 BC, he suppressed the revolt led by Titus Annius Milo in southern Italy. In 46–45 BC, he commanded Caesarian forces in Spain alongside Quintus Fabius Maximus, campaigning against the Pompeian forces and participating in the victory at Munda. He was subsequently awarded a triumph.

After Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, Pedius supported Octavian, renouncing his share of Caesar's inheritance in favour of his cousin. In August 43 BC, he became suffect consul alongside Octavian and passed the Lex Pedia, which established the prosecution of Caesar's assassins. Left in charge of Rome while Octavian negotiated with Antony and Lepidus, Pedius died late in 43 BC, shortly after the formation of the Second Triumvirate.

CAIVS CANINIVS REBILVS, ? - ? BC

Rebilus distinguished himself at the siege of Alesia in 52 BC, commanding two legions against a major Gallic assault. In 51 BC, he besieged the fortified town of Uxellodunum, helping bring the Gallic resistance to an end.

When civil war broke out in 49 BC, Caesar sent him to negotiate with Pompey at Brundisium before assigning him to serve under Caius Scribonius Curio in Africa. Rebilus survived the disastrous defeat of Curio's army by the forces of King Iuba I and returned to Africa with Caesar in 46 BC, participating in the campaign that culminated in the Battle of Thapsus.

In 45 BC, Rebilus accompanied Caesar to Spain and took part in the final campaign against the Pompeian forces, including the Battle of Munda. On 31 December 45 BC, following the sudden death of Quintus Fabius Maximus, Caesar appointed him suffect consul for the remaining hours of the year. His extraordinarily brief consulship became a subject of mockery for Cicero

PVBLIVS SVLPICIVS RVFVS, ? - ? BC

In 49 BC, Publius Sulpicius Rufus commanded a part of the Caesarian forces in Spain, where Caesar's army moved against Pompey's legates.

The following year, he was appointed praetor and commanded a fleet operating off Vibo in southern Italy. He subsequently became governor of Illyria, succeeding Quintus Cornificius, and was still serving in the province in 45 BC.

His later career is poorly documented.

LVCIVS DECIDIVS SAXA, ? - 40 BC

Probably of Samnite ancestry, Saxa served under Caesar in Spain in 49 BC, fighting against Pompey's forces. Caesar subsequently brought him to Rome, granted him Roman citizenship, and designated him tribune of the plebs for 44 BC.

After Caesar's assassination, Saxa sided with Antony and supported him during the conflict with the Senate in 43 BC.

In 42 BC, following the formation of the Second Triumvirate, Antony entrusted Saxa and Caius Norbanus Flaccus with an advance force of eight legions sent into Thrace ahead of the campaign against Brutus and Cassius.

After the victory at Philippi, Antony appointed Saxa governor of Syria in 41 BC. In 40 BC, however, a Parthian invasion led by Quintus Labienus overwhelmed his forces. Saxa fled towards Cilicia but was captured and executed. Several Roman legionary standards were lost in the defeat.

PVBLIVS CORNELIVS SVLLA, ? - 45 BC

Nephew of the dictator Lucius Cornelius Sulla and brother-in-law of Pompey, Sulla sided with Iulius Caesar in the Civil War despite his family connections to the senatorial elite.

In 62 BC, Sulla was prosecuted for alleged involvement in Catiline's conspiracy but was acquitted after being defended by Cicero and the renowned orator Quintus Hortensius.

When civil war broke out in 49 BC, he joined Caesar's campaign against Pompey. During the siege of Dyrrhachium in 48 BC, Caesar entrusted him with the defence of the fortified camp. Sulla successfully repelled a Pompeian assault, although Caesar later remarked that pursuing the retreating enemy might have brought the war to an earlier conclusion.

At the Battle of Pharsalus later that year, Sulla commanded the right wing of Caesar's army, contributing to the decisive victory over Pompey. He died in 45 BC, before Caesar's assassination.

CAIVS TREBONIVS, 92 - 43 BC

Elected tribune of the plebs in 55 BC, he proposed the Lex Trebonia, which assigned the provinces of Spain to Pompey and Syria to Crassus for five-year commands.

He later became one of Caesar's legates in Gaul and, in 49 BC, commanded the land forces during the siege of Massilia, while Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus led the fleet. Appointed praetor in 48 BC, he was subsequently sent to govern Hispania Ulterior, but a mutiny among his troops forced him to abandon the province. Despite this setback, Caesar appointed him suffect consul in October 45 BC and designated him governor of the province of Asia.

Despite his long service to Caesar, Trebonius joined the conspiracy against him in 44 BC. His role was to keep Mark Antony occupied outside the meeting place while the other conspirators assassinated Caesar.

After the assassination, Trebonius took up his governorship in Asia. In 43 BC, he was captured and executed at Smyrna by Publius Cornelius Dolabella, who had seized the city during the conflict following Caesar's death.

PVBLIVS VATINIVS, 95 - 41 BC

An *homo novus* (a man whose family had not previously reached the consulship), Vatinius rose through the Roman political system with Caesar's support.

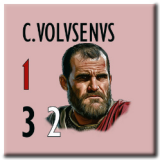
As tribune of the plebs in 59 BC, Vatinius introduced the law granting Caesar a five-year command in Cisalpine Gaul and Illyricum; Transalpine Gaul was subsequently added. He later served as Caesar's legate in Gaul. Elected praetor in 55 BC, he continued his military career and returned to Caesar's service in 51 BC.

During the Civil War, Vatinius remained loyal to Caesar. In 48 BC, he was entrusted with defending Brundisium against a Pompeian naval attack while Caesar campaigned in Greece. In 47 BC, he commanded Caesarian forces in Illyricum and defeated the Pompeian commander Marcus Octavius near the island of Tauris. Caesar rewarded him with the consulship for the remainder of that year.

After Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, Vatinius continued to command in Illyricum, but Marcus Iunius Brutus eventually compelled him to surrender his province and legions. Vatinius later celebrated a triumph for his victories in Illyricum on 31 July 42 BC.

His subsequent life is poorly documented.

CAIVS VOLVSENVS, ? - ? BC



Volusenus first distinguished himself in 57 BC while serving as a military tribune in the Twelfth Legion under Servius Sulpicius Galba. In 55 BC, Caesar sent him aboard a warship to reconnoitre the coast of Britain ahead of the first Roman expedition to the island.

He later became a cavalry commander and, in 53 BC, helped relieve Quintus Cicero's besieged camp during the revolt of Ambiorix. In 51 BC, serving under Mark Antony, he pursued the Atrebatian leader Commius, eventually defeating his forces after a series of engagements.

During the civil war, Volusenus remained loyal to Caesar. In 48 BC, two Gallic cavalry officers who defected to Pompey, Roscillus and Aegus, attempted to assassinate him to demonstrate their loyalty to the Pompeian cause, but the attempt failed. Volusenus survived and continued in Caesar's service.

His later career is uncertain, and claims that he became tribune of the plebs in 43 BC are disputed.

OPTIMATES

LVCIVS AFRANIVS, ? - 46 BC

One of Pompey's most trusted military subordinates. Of relatively humble origins in Picenum, he owed much of his political advancement to Pompey, who helped secure his election as consul in 60 BC.

Afranius served under Pompey in Spain during the Sertorian War and later in the eastern campaigns against Mithridates VI. After his consulship, he governed a province in Gaul and celebrated a triumph. Around 55 BC, Pompey entrusted him and Marcus Petreius with the administration and defence of Hispania Citerior.

When Caesar invaded Spain in 49 BC, Afranius and Petreius initially opposed him successfully, but Caesar outmanoeuvred their forces near Ilerda. Cut off from supplies and unable to secure a decisive advantage, they surrendered. Caesar pardoned Afranius and released his troops after they agreed not to resume hostilities. Afranius nevertheless rejoined Pompey in Greece, where he was responsible for the defence of Pompey's camp at the Battle of Pharsalus in 48 BC.

After Pompey's defeat, Afranius fled to Africa and joined the remaining Republican forces. He fought at the Battle of Thapsus in 46 BC, escaping the battlefield but being captured soon afterwards by forces under Publius Sittius. He was killed shortly thereafter, either by Caesar's soldiers in a mutiny or on Caesar's orders.

QVINTVS CAECILIVS BASSVS, ? - 42 BC

A Roman equestriana of obscure origins who served the Pompeian cause. No firm account of his service before Pharsalus has remained.

After Pompey's defeat at Pharsalus in 48 BC, Bassus fled to Syria, where he eventually emerged as one of the last commanders to continue armed resistance to Caesar.

In 46 BC, taking advantage of discontent among Caesarian troops in Syria, Bassus seized command of two mutinous legions. He then launched a revolt against Sextus Iulius Caesar, the provincial governor and a relative of the dictator, who was defeated and killed. Bassus established himself at Apamea, where he resisted successive Caesarian forces sent to suppress the rebellion. He negotiated with Deiotarus, king of Galatia, and secured support from the Parthians, enabling him to withstand a prolonged siege.

After Iulius Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, both Bassus's troops and the Caesarian forces besieging him eventually transferred their allegiance to Gaius Cassius Longinus, one of the leading conspirators. Cassius dismissed Bassus unharmed and took control of the forces in Syria. Bassus subsequently disappears from the historical record; he may have died at the Battle of Philippi in 42 BC, but this is uncertain.

MARCVS CALPVRNIVS BIBVLVS, 102 - 48 BC

Bibulus served alongside Caesar as curule aedile in 65 BC and praetor in 62 BC. In 59 BC, he became Caesar's colleague in the consulship, having been elected with the support of the conservative senatorial aristocracy.

He vigorously opposed Caesar's legislative programme, particularly his agrarian laws, but was unable to prevent their passage. After being physically attacked by Caesar's supporters, he withdrew from public life for much of the remainder of his consulship, attempting to obstruct legislation by declaring unfavourable omens. His ineffectual opposition became a source of political ridicule.

A committed supporter of Pompey, Bibulus governed Syria from 51 to 50 BC, where he helped organise the province's defences against the Parthians. When civil war broke out in 49 BC, Pompey entrusted him with command of the fleet tasked with preventing Caesar from crossing the Adriatic into Greece.

Although Bibulus was unable to stop Caesar's initial crossing, he subsequently imposed a naval blockade that hindered the transport of Caesarian reinforcements. Operating in difficult winter conditions, he fell ill and died in early 48 BC, before the Battle of Dyrrhachium.

MARCVS IVNIVS BRVTVS, 85 - 42 BC

A Roman senator, politician and philosopher, best known as one of the principal leaders of the conspiracy that assassinated Iulius Caesar. His mother, Servilia, was Caesar's longtime lover, while his uncle was Cato the Younger, a leading opponent of Caesar's political ascendancy. Brutus was also associated with the ancient gens Junia, which claimed descent from Lucius Junius Brutus, the legendary founder of the Roman Republic.

When the civil war broke out in 49 BC, Brutus sided with Pompey, despite Pompey's responsibility for the death of his father. He fought on the Pompeian side at Pharsalus in 48 BC. After Caesar's victory, however, Caesar pardoned him and welcomed him back into political life. Brutus subsequently governed Cisalpine Gaul and was appointed urban praetor for 44 BC.

Despite Caesar's clemency and favour, Brutus became convinced that Caesar's concentration of power threatened the Republic. He joined Gaius Cassius Longinus and other conspirators in planning Caesar's assassination, which took place on 15 March 44 BC.

Afterward, Brutus left Italy and established himself in Greece, raising troops and securing control of Macedonia. In 42 BC, he and Cassius commanded the Republican forces against Mark Antony and Octavian at Philippi. Following their defeat, Brutus committed suicide.

MARCVS PORCIVS CATO, 95 - 46 BC

A Roman senator, statesman and Stoic philosopher, and one of the most uncompromising opponents of Iulius Caesar. A great-grandson of Cato the Elder, he cultivated a reputation for austere living, personal incorruptibility and unwavering adherence to traditional Roman Republican principles.

He became a leading figure among the optimates, the conservative senators who sought to preserve the authority of the Senate against the growing power of individual commanders. His political convictions brought him into repeated conflict with Caesar, although he also opposed Pompey when he considered his actions detrimental to the Republic.

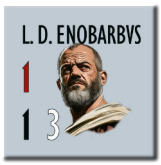
As quaestor in 64 BC, Cato earned respect for his rigorous administration of the public treasury and his efforts to combat corruption. He opposed Caesar's rise and the alliance between Caesar, Pompey and Crassus, resisting their political initiatives whenever possible. During the Catilinarian conspiracy, he advocated severe measures against the arrested conspirators, arguing that the security of the state took precedence over clemency. Elected praetor in 54 BC, he continued to campaign against electoral bribery and abuses of political power. Although initially distrustful of Pompey, Cato eventually regarded him as the most viable military and political counterweight to Caesar.

When civil war broke out in 49 BC, Cato was appointed to command in Sicily, responsible for securing the island and its grain supplies for the Pompeian cause. However, when Caesar's forces under Caius Scribonius Curio landed, Cato withdrew without offering battle and joined Pompey in Greece. After Pompey's defeat at Pharsalus in 48 BC, Cato refused to surrender and travelled to North Africa, where he joined the remaining Republican leaders. He helped organise their resistance, maintained control of Utica and supported the campaign led by Quintus Caecilius Metellus Pius Scipio against Caesar.

In April 46 BC, the Republican army suffered a decisive defeat at the Battle of Thapsus. Rather than submit to Caesar, Cato remained at Utica, where he organised the evacuation of surviving Republican supporters and made arrangements for those wishing to escape to safety. Caesar offered clemency to his opponents, but Cato refused to accept it, regarding submission to the victor as incompatible with his principles.

He took his own life in Utica, becoming a powerful symbol of resistance to Caesar's rule. His death was subsequently celebrated by Republican writers, most notably Cicero, whose work Cato praised his character and political ideals.

LVCIVS DOMITIVS ENOBARBVS, ? - 48 BC



One of Pompey's principal supporters during the civil war, known for his hostility to Caesar and his defence of senatorial authority.

Aedile in 61 BC and praetor in 58 BC, Domitius initially opposed both Caesar and Pompey, but eventually allied himself with Pompey against Caesar. Elected consul for 54 BC, he continued to resist Caesar's political influence.

In 49 BC, the Senate appointed him to succeed Caesar as governor of Transalpine Gaul. When Caesar crossed the Rubicon, Domitius gathered approximately thirty cohorts at Corfinium, expecting Pompey to come to his aid. Pompey failed to arrive, and after a siege of about a week, Domitius's troops compelled him to surrender. Caesar spared his life and released him, in keeping with his policy of clemency towards defeated opponents.

Rather than abandon the struggle, Domitius travelled to Massilia, where he organised resistance to Caesar and helped direct the city's defence. When Massilia surrendered after a prolonged siege, he escaped by sea and joined Pompey in Greece.

At the Battle of Pharsalus in 48 BC, he commanded part of the Pompeian army against Caesar's forces. Following the defeat, he attempted to flee but was killed.

CAIVS GALLONIVS, ? - ? BC

An equestrian and a friend of Lucius Domitius Enobarbus, Caius Gallonius travelled to Hispania Ulterior in 49 BC to recover an estate on Domitius's behalf. There, he became involved in the province's preparations for war against Caesar.

When the governor, Marcus Terentius Varro, organised the province's defences, he appointed Gallonius to command the strategically important port of Gades. Gallonius was entrusted with the town's garrison and with weapons collected from both public and private sources.

However, support for Caesar proved strong among the local population. As Caesar advanced through Hispania, the city's leading citizens moved against Gallonius and demanded that he leave. Facing the threat of expulsion by force, he abandoned Gades, which subsequently fell under Caesarian control. His later fate is unknown.

TITVS LABIENVS, 100? - 45 BC

Born into an equestrian family in Picenum, he served as tribune of the plebs in 63 BC, when he worked with Caesar on political measures that challenged senatorial authority. His earlier connections with Pompey may also have influenced his later decision to join the Pompeian cause.

From 58 BC, Labienus served as Caesar's principal legate in Gaul, frequently commanding independently when Caesar was elsewhere. He distinguished himself in campaigns against the Helvetii, the Treveri and the Belgae. In 54 BC, he defeated the Treveri under

Indutiomarus, while in 52 BC he led a separate campaign against the Gallic forces threatening Roman control of northern Gaul.

Near Lutetia, he outmanoeuvred and defeated an army commanded by Camulogenus, crossing the Seine to attack the enemy from an unexpected direction. His ability to command large forces independently made him indispensable to Caesar's conquest of Gaul.

When Caesar crossed the Rubicon in January 49 BC, Labienus abandoned him and joined Pompey. His precise motives remain uncertain, although personal ambition, political loyalties and disagreement over Caesar's actions have all been proposed.

He fought against his former commander at Dyrrhachium and Pharsalus in 48 BC, escaping after the Pompeian defeat and continuing the struggle in North Africa. In 46 BC, he commanded cavalry and light troops against Caesar at Ruspina, inflicting a setback on the Caesarian forces, but the Republican army was subsequently defeated at Thapsus.

Labienus then joined the sons of Pompey in Spain, where the remaining Republican forces made their final stand. At the Battle of Munda on 17 March 45 BC, he was killed fighting Caesar's army. His death marked the end of a military career that had taken him from being one of Caesar's most capable commanders to a determined opponent in the last major campaign of the civil war.

LVCIVS CORNELIVS LENTVLVS, 98? - 48 BC

A member of the aristocratic *gens Cornelia*, he was the brother of Publius Cornelius Lentulus.

Elected consul for 49 BC alongside Gaius Claudius Marcellus, Lentulus played a central role in the political crisis that preceded the civil war. He rejected Caesar's proposals for a negotiated settlement and urged the Senate to take a hard line against him.

When Caesar crossed the Rubicon in January 49 BC, Lentulus fled Rome and joined Pompey in Greece. He helped organise the Pompeian war effort, recruiting troops and bringing two legions from the province of Asia to reinforce Pompey's army.

At the Battle of Pharsalus in August 48 BC, Lentulus Crus commanded part of Pompey's army. Following the defeat, he escaped and attempted to find refuge in Rhodes, but was refused entry. He continued to Egypt, arriving at Pelusium shortly after Pompey's assassination. King Ptolemy XIII had him arrested and executed.

PVBLIVS CORNELIVS LENTVLVS, 100? - 47? BC

Elder brother of Lucius Cornelius Lentulus, Publius served as aedile curule in 63 BC, praetor in 60 BC, and consul in 57 BC. A political ally of Iulius Caesar earlier in his career, he helped secure the recall of Cicero from exile during his consulship. He later governed Cilicia and Cyprus, earning a triumph in 51 BC.

When civil war broke out in 49 BC, Publius sided with Pompey. Caesar's forces captured him at Corfinium, but Caesar spared him and allowed him to go free.

After briefly hesitating, Lentulus joined Pompey in Greece and fought at the Battle of Pharsalus in 48 BC. He escaped after the Pompeian defeat, but his subsequent fate is uncertain: ancient accounts suggest he may eventually have been captured and executed, though the details are disputed.

LVCIVS SCRIBONIVS LIBO, 90? - ? BC

Lucius Scribonius Libo was one of Pompey's most trusted supporters during the civil war.

Probably praetor in 50 BC, he was given command of the forces defending Etruria when Caesar crossed the Rubicon in 49 BC. Forced to withdraw by the advance of Caesar's army, Libo joined Pompey in southern Italy and subsequently accompanied him to Greece.

Libo played a significant role in the naval war. Operating alongside Marcus Octavius, he commanded part of the Pompeian fleet in the Adriatic, where he helped defeat Caesarian naval forces and captured Caius Antonius and his troops on the island of Curicta. He later attempted to blockade Brundisium, but Mark Antony outmanoeuvred him and broke the blockade. After Pompey's defeat at Pharsalus in 48 BC, Libo disappears from the historical record for several years.

Following Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, Libo reappeared in Spain alongside his son-in-law, Sextus Pompey. He subsequently became an important intermediary between Sextus and the Second Triumvirate.

In return for his support, Octavian promised him the consulship. Libo served as consul alongside Mark Antony in 34 BC, after which he is no longer securely attested.

QVINTVS LIGARIVS, ? - 43? BC

An officer from a Sabine family, in 50 BC Quintus served as a legate under the governor of Africa, Caius Considius Longus, and was left in charge of the province when his superior returned to Rome.

When the war broke out in 49 BC, Ligarius handed control of the province to the Pompeian commander Publius Attius Varus, helping him prevent the senatorial governor Lucius Aelius Tubero from taking office. Ligarius subsequently fought against Caesar's forces in Africa, including during the campaign that culminated in the Battle of Thapsus in 46 BC.

Captured at Hadrumetum after the Pompeian defeat, Ligarius was spared by Caesar but remained in exile. In 46 BC, Marcus Tullius Cicero defended him in the celebrated speech Pro Ligario, appealing to Caesar's clemency and securing his pardon and return to Rome.

Despite this reprieve, Ligarius later joined the conspiracy against Caesar and became associated with the assassins who killed the dictator on 15 March 44 BC. His ultimate fate is uncertain, although he may have died during the proscriptions of 43 BC.

CAIVS CASSIVS LONGINVS, 86? - 42 BC

Caius Cassius gained military distinction serving under Marcus Licinius Crassus in the campaign against Parthia. After the catastrophic Roman defeat at Carrhae in 53 BC, Cassius helped rally the surviving troops and organised the defence of Syria, successfully repelling a Parthian invasion in 51 BC.

Elected tribune of the plebs in 49 BC, Cassius sided with Pompey when Caesar crossed the Rubicon. He commanded part of the Pompeian fleet in the Mediterranean, attacking Caesarian shipping around Sicily.

Following Pompey's defeat at Pharsalus in 48 BC, Cassius abandoned the struggle and surrendered to Caesar, who pardoned him and subsequently employed him as a legate. He returned to political prominence in Rome and was elected praetor for 44 BC, receiving the promise of the governorship of Syria for the following year.

Despite Caesar's clemency, Cassius became the principal organiser of the conspiracy to assassinate the dictator. Working with Marcus Iunius Brutus, his brother-in-law, he helped coordinate the plot that culminated in Caesar's murder on 15 March 44 BC. After the assassination, Cassius left Rome and established himself in the eastern provinces, raising an army and defeating the Caesarian governor Publius Cornelius Dolabella in Syria in 43 BC.

In 42 BC, Cassius joined Brutus in leading the Republican forces against Mark Antony and Octavian. At the first Battle of Philippi in Macedonia, Antony's troops overran Cassius's camp. Believing the Republican cause lost, Cassius ordered a freedman to kill him, unaware that Brutus had won a separate engagement against Octavian.

CAIVS CONSIDIVS LONGVS, ? - 46 BC

Caius Considius governed the province of Africa as propraetor around 51–50 BC. When he returned to Rome to seek the consulship in 50 BC, he left his legate Quintus Ligarius in charge of the province. Following the outbreak of civil war, Considius returned to Africa and joined the Pompeian forces.

Considius established his headquarters at Hadrumetum. He cooperated with Publius Attius Varus and helped defeat the Caesarian commander Caius Scribonius Curio during the campaign of 49 BC, securing Africa for the Pompeian faction.

By the time Caesar invaded the province in 46 BC, Considius had expanded his forces to two legions and a cavalry contingent. He remained fiercely opposed to Caesar: when a messenger arrived carrying a letter from Caesar's legate, Considius refused even to read it, declaring that Scipio was the only legitimate Roman commander.

During Caesar's African campaign, Considius unsuccessfully attempted to capture the town of Acylla, and later withdrew to Thysdra, accompanied by troops, gladiators and Gaetulian warriors. After learning of the Pompeian defeat at the Battle of Thapsus, he fled towards Numidia. His own Gaetulian escorts killed him during the journey to seize the money he was carrying.

MARCVS CLAVDIVS MARCELLVS, 95? - 45 BC

Marcus Claudius Marcellus (c. 95–45 BC) was a leading opponent of Iulius Caesar in the years preceding the civil war. Elected consul for 51 BC alongside Servius Sulpicius Rufus, he sought to bring Caesar's command in Gaul to an end and opposed the extension of his political and military authority. In a particularly provocative act, Marcellus ordered the flogging of a citizen of Novum Comum, a settlement founded by Caesar, challenging the legal status of its inhabitants.

When civil war broke out in 49 BC, Marcellus sided with Pompey and left Italy. Following Pompey's defeat at Pharsalus in 48 BC, however, he withdrew from political and military affairs and settled in Mytilene, on the island of Lesbos. Unlike many of Caesar's opponents, he did not continue the armed struggle.

In 46 BC, Caesar granted him permission to return to Rome following appeals by the Senate and Cicero, who delivered the speech Pro Marcello.

Marcellus never reached Rome. In 45 BC, while travelling home, he was murdered at the Piraeus near Athens by one of his own attendants, Publius Magius Chilo. The precise motive remains uncertain, although the incident prompted suspicion that Caesar might have been involved.

TITVS ANNIVS MILO, 95? - 48 BC

A demagogue best known for his violent rivalry with Publius Clodius Pulcher, Milo was elected tribune of the plebs in 57 BC. He helped secure the recall of Cicero from exile and organised armed bands to oppose Clodius and his supporters. The resulting street violence became a prominent feature of Roman political life during the final years of the Republic.

In January 52 BC, Milo's followers clashed with Clodius and his entourage near Bovillae on the Appian Way. Clodius was wounded and killed, reportedly on Milo's orders. Milo was prosecuted for the murder and defended by Cicero, whose speech Pro Milone survives in a revised form. Despite Cicero's efforts, Milo was convicted and forced into exile at Massilia.

When Caesar began the civil war in 49 BC, Milo remained an implacable opponent. He was not included in Caesar's pardons and remained in exile. In 48 BC, he returned to Italy and joined Marcus Caelius Rufus in an uprising against Caesar's government. The rebellion failed, and Milo was killed during the fighting in southern Italy, reportedly by a stone thrown from the walls of Compsa.

QVINTVS NASIDIVS, ? - ? BC

Sometimes referred as Lucius Nasidius, the form used by Caesar in his account of the Civil War.

In 49 BC, Pompey sent Nasidius with a fleet of approximately sixteen warships to relieve Massilia, which was resisting Caesar's forces. Nasidius joined the Massilian fleet in a naval engagement, but his ships withdrew during the battle, leaving the Massilians to face the Caesarian fleet commanded by Decimus Iunius Brutus. Following the defeat, Nasidius sailed to Hispania to support the Pompeian forces there. He later operated in African waters during the campaigns of 48–46 BC.

Nasidius subsequently served Sextus Pompey in his naval war against the Second Triumvirate. After Sextus's defeat in 36 BC, Nasidius abandoned him and joined Mark Antony.

In 31 BC, during the preparations for the Battle of Actium, he commanded part of Antony's fleet at Patrae in Greece. He was defeated by Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa, weakening Antony's naval position before the decisive confrontation with Octavian. Nasidius disappears from the historical record thereafter.

MARCVS OCTAVIVS, ? - ? BC

The son of Cnaeus Octavius, consul in 76 BC, Marcus served as aedile curule in 50 BC. When war broke out, he joined the Pompeian cause and was entrusted with command of a fleet operating in the Adriatic and Ionian seas.

In 49 BC, Octavius and Lucius Scribonius Libo defeated the Caesarian fleet commanded by Publius Cornelius Dolabella off the Dalmatian coast. They then blockaded Caius Antonius and his troops on the island of Curicta, forcing their surrender. Octavius subsequently attempted to bring the coastal cities of Illyria under Pompeian control. Although the island of Issa joined him, his siege of Salona failed when the defenders launched a successful sortie and overran his camp.

After Pompey's defeat at Pharsalus in 48 BC, Octavius returned to Illyria and continued the struggle against Caesar's forces. He defeated Aulus Gabinius but was subsequently beaten at sea by Publius Vatinius near Tauris in 47 BC.

Wounded in the engagement, he escaped and eventually joined the remaining Republican forces in Africa. Following their defeat at Thapsus in 46 BC, his movements become uncertain. He may have survived to command part of Mark Antony's fleet at the Battle of Actium in 31 BC, but this identification is disputed.

MARCVS PETREIVS, 110 - 46 BC

Marcus Petreius had served in the Roman army for more than thirty years by 63 BC, when he commanded the government forces that defeated Lucius Sergius Catilina's rebellion at the Battle of Pistoria. A staunch opponent of Caesar's political ambitions, Petreius later became one of Pompey's principal representatives in Hispania.

When Caesar invaded Hispania in 49 BC, Petreius joined forces with Lucius Afranius, commanding Pompeian troops against the advancing Caesarian army. After initial successes, the two generals were outmanoeuvred and forced to surrender at Ilerda. Caesar allowed them to depart unharmed, but Petreius subsequently joined Pompey in Greece and continued the struggle after the defeat at Pharsalus in 48 BC.

Petreius then sailed to Africa, where he joined the Republican forces led by Metellus Scipio and Cato. Alongside Titus Labienus, he achieved some success against Caesar's army before the decisive defeat at Thapsus in 46 BC.

He escaped with King Iuba I of Numidia, but their attempt to find safety failed. Rather than fall into Caesar's hands, Petreius and Iuba agreed to die. According to ancient accounts, they fought each other in a final duel and, after Iuba was killed, Petreius took his own life.

CNEVS POMPEIVS MAGNVS, 106 - 48 BC

The son of the successful general Cnaeus Pompey Strabo, Pompey first distinguished himself during the civil wars of the 80s BC, raising troops in support of Lucius Cornelius Sulla. His early victories earned him the honorific Magnus, and he subsequently consolidated his reputation through campaigns in Sicily and Africa, the defeat of the remnants of Spartacus's army in 71 BC, and the suppression of the revolt led by Sertorius in Hispania.

In 67 BC, Pompey received an extraordinary command to eliminate piracy throughout the Mediterranean. Completing the campaign with remarkable speed, he was then entrusted with the war against Mithridates VI of Pontus. His eastern campaigns between 66 and 63 BC brought large territories under Roman control, including Syria, and extended Roman influence over Iudaea. Returning to Rome in 62 BC, he celebrated a triumph of exceptional scale. However, his attempts to secure Senate approval for his eastern settlements and land for his veterans met with resistance, prompting him to seek political allies.

In 60 BC, Pompey formed an informal political alliance with Iulius Caesar and Marcus Licinius Crassus, known as the First Triumvirate. Caesar's consulship in 59 BC helped secure Pompey's settlements and arrangements for his veterans. Pompey further strengthened the alliance by marrying Caesar's daughter Iulia. However, Iulia's death in 54 BC and Crassus's death in the campaign against Parthia in 53 BC weakened the political bond between the remaining leaders.

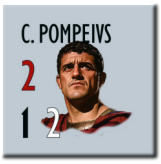
Pompey increasingly aligned himself with the senatorial establishment and became Caesar's principal rival. Elected sole consul in 52 BC amid severe political disorder, he helped restore a degree of stability in Rome while tensions over Caesar's command in Gaul continued to grow.

When Caesar crossed the Rubicon in January 49 BC, Pompey assumed command of the senatorial forces. Unable to assemble sufficient troops to defend Italy, he withdrew across the Adriatic to Greece, where he could draw on the resources of the eastern provinces and his powerful fleet.

Despite his numerical superiority, Pompey struggled to match Caesar's experienced veterans. He won a costly tactical victory at Dyrrachium in 48 BC, forcing Caesar to retreat, but failed to exploit the opportunity. The armies met again at Pharsalus on 9 August 48 BC, where Caesar's forces defeated the Pompeian army.

Pompey fled to Egypt, hoping to find refuge with the young King Ptolemy XIII, but was murdered on arrival by men acting under the king's orders. His death ended his personal struggle against Caesar, although the Republican cause continued under other commanders.

CNAEVS POMPEIVS, 75 - 45 BC



The elder son of Cnaeus Pompey Magnus, Cnaeus accompanied his father during the civil war and commanded part of the Pompeian fleet in the Adriatic. After the defeat at Pharsalus in 48 BC and Pompey's murder in Egypt, Cnaeus joined the surviving Republican forces in Africa, alongside Metellus Scipio and Cato the Younger.

After the Republican defeat at Thapsus in 46 BC, Cnaeus escaped to the Balearic Islands. He subsequently joined his younger brother, Sextus Pompey, and Titus Labienus in Hispania, where they assembled a new army from local recruits and Pompeian survivors. Cnaeus became one of the principal commanders of this final major campaign against Caesar, whose forces eventually confronted the Pompeians at Munda on 17 March 45 BC.

The battle ended in a costly defeat for the Pompeian army. Cnaeus escaped but was pursued by Caesarian forces and captured near Lauro. He was executed on 12 April 45 BC, effectively ending his attempt to restore his family's military power.

SEXTVS POMPEIVS, 67 - 35 BC

The younger son of Pompey the Great. Still young when the civil war began, he accompanied his father during the campaign in Greece and witnessed his murder in Egypt in 48 BC. After joining the surviving Pompeian forces in Africa, he went to Hispania following their defeat at Thapsus in 46 BC, where he reunited with his elder brother, Cnaeus Pompey.

During the final campaign against Caesar, Sextus commanded the garrison of Corduba while his brother led the Pompeian army. Following Caesar's victory at Munda in 45 BC and Cnaeus's subsequent execution, Sextus escaped capture and continued the resistance in Hispania.

He raised new forces and won several victories against Caesar's provincial governors before reaching a settlement with the Senate in 44 BC. Appointed commander of the Roman fleet in 43 BC, he was soon declared a public enemy by the Second Triumvirate and established his power base in Sicily.

From Sicily, Sextus used his powerful fleet to disrupt Rome's grain supply and shelter those fleeing the triumvirs' proscriptions. His naval successes made him a significant opponent of Octavian, who failed in several attempts to defeat him. The Pact of Misenum in 39 BC temporarily recognised Sextus's control of Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica and Achaia, but the agreement collapsed.

In 36 BC, Octavian renewed the war, and Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa defeated Sextus's fleet at the Battle of Naulochus. Sextus fled east, hoping to rebuild his power, but was captured in Asia Minor and executed in 35 BC by men serving Mark Antony. His defeat ended the last major armed challenge to the triumvirs from the Pompeian faction.

LVCIVS VIBVLLIVS RVFVS, ? - ? BC

A Roman equestrian, in 49 BC Pompey appointed Lucius as Praefectus Fabrum, an officer responsible for military engineering and logistical arrangements, and sent him to central Italy to recruit troops and secure the region for the Pompeian cause. As Caesar advanced, Rufus gathered troops from nearby communities and joined Lucius Domitius Enobarbus at Corfinium, where he was captured when the town surrendered. Caesar released him, as he did many of his prominent opponents.

Rufus remained loyal to Pompey and was captured a second time after the Pompeian forces surrendered in Hispania. Caesar again spared him, and in 48 BC, after landing in Greece, entrusted him with a mission to negotiate peace with Pompey. Rufus prioritised the loyalty to his commander over his obligation as an envoy: he warned Pompey of Caesar's rapid advance before delivering Caesar's peace proposals. The warning allowed Pompey to adjust his movements and avoid being caught unprepared.

CAECILIVS METELLVS SCIPIO, 100 - 46 BC

Born Publius Cornelius Scipio Nasica, he was adopted into the Caecilii Metelli family by Quintus Caecilius Metellus Pius. His political career advanced through his alliance with Pompey the Great, who married his daughter Cornelia in 52 BC. In the same year, Scipio became consul alongside Pompey and emerged as a prominent opponent of Caesar, helping drive the Senate towards confrontation with him.

When civil war broke out in 49 BC, Scipio took command of the province of Syria, where he raised troops and resources for the Pompeian cause. In 48 BC, he brought his forces to Greece and joined Pompey's main army.

At the Battle of Pharsalus, he commanded the centre of the Pompeian line. Following the defeat, he escaped to Africa, where he became the principal commander of the Republican forces, with the support of Cato the Younger. He gathered troops and allied himself with King Iuba I of Numidia, preparing to resist Caesar's invasion of the province.

In April 46 BC, Scipio commanded the Republican army at the Battle of Thapsus. Caesar's forces won a decisive victory, destroying the main Pompeian army in Africa. Scipio escaped by sea and attempted to reach Hispania to continue the war, but his vessel was intercepted near the coast of Africa by ships commanded by Publius Sittius, a Caesarian ally. Rather than surrender, Scipio took his own life.

PVBLIVS ATTIVS VARVS, ? - 45 BC

Varus served as praetor and subsequently as governor of Africa, and was stationed in Picenum when Caesar crossed the Rubicon in 49 BC. Unable to hold the region against Caesar's rapid advance, Varus withdrew and joined Pompey's forces in southern Italy before crossing to Africa, where he seized control of the province in defiance of its designated governor, Lucius Aelius Tubero. Drawing on his previous experience in Africa, he raised two legions and established himself as the principal Pompeian commander in the region.

In 49 BC, Varus faced the Caesarian expedition led by Caius Scribonius Curio. Initially successful, Curio pushed Varus back towards Utica, but Varus received reinforcements from King Iuba I of Numidia. The resulting campaign culminated in the Battle of the Bagradas River, where Curio's army was destroyed and Curio himself killed.

Varus thus secured Africa for the Pompeian faction and remained there until the arrival of Pompey's supporters after the defeat at Pharsalus in 48 BC. At that point, he yielded supreme command to Metellus Scipio, the senior consular commander, and continued to serve in the Pompeian army.

During Caesar's African campaign in 46 BC, Varus commanded part of the Pompeian fleet. After the Republican defeat at Thapsus, he escaped to Hispania, where he joined the forces of Pompey's sons and Titus Labienus. He subsequently took part in the naval fighting off Carteia, where Caesar's fleet defeated the Pompeian ships. Varus then joined the land army and fought at the Battle of Munda on 17 March 45 BC. The Pompeian defeat proved fatal: Varus was killed, and his head was reportedly presented to Caesar alongside that of Labienus.

CLIENTS AND POWERS

ACHILLAS, ? - 47 BC

An Egyptian general and one of the principal advisers of the Pharao Ptolemy XIII, who ruled jointly with his sister Cleopatra VII.

Achillas played a role in the political struggle that drove Cleopatra from Egypt. In September 48 BC, after Pompey's defeat at Pharsalus, Achillas helped arrange his assassination on the Egyptian coast, hoping to win favour with Iulius Caesar. The plan backfired when Caesar arrived in Alexandria and reacted with disgust to Pompey's murder.

Entrusted with the command of the Egyptian army, Achillas marched on Alexandria with approximately 20,000 infantry and 2,000 cavalry, beginning the Alexandrian War. His forces besieged Caesar and his troops in the city, but the campaign was disrupted by internal rivalries at the Egyptian court.

In 47 BC, Achillas was killed during the struggle for power, reportedly on the orders of Arsinoe IV, Cleopatra's younger sister, who sought control of the Egyptian forces.

ANTIOCHVS I, ? - ? BC

King of the small kingdom of Commagene in southeastern Anatolia. A descendant of both Persian and Seleucid royal dynasties, Antiochus pursued a cautious foreign policy to preserve his kingdom's independence amid the rivalry between Rome and Parthia. Pompey recognised his kingdom in 64 BC and granted him additional territories east of the Euphrates.

During the Roman Civil War, Antiochus nominally supported Pompey, but avoided committing himself fully to either side. He later established ties with the Parthians through the marriage of his daughter Laodice to

King Orodes II.

In 38 BC, after the Roman general Publius Ventidius Bassus defeated the Parthian prince Pacorus, Antiochus was besieged in his capital, Samosata, by Mark Antony. He eventually secured favourable terms and preserved his kingdom.

ANTIPATER I, ? - 43 BC

A powerful political figure in Iudaea and the father of Herod the Great. He rose to prominence as a close adviser to Hyrcanus II, the Hasmonean high priest and ruler. Antipater supported Hyrcanus during his struggle against his brother Aristobulus II and cultivated strong relations with Rome.

Initially aligned with Pompey, he switched his support to Iulius Caesar after Pompey's defeat and death in 48 BC. During Caesar's Alexandrian campaign in 48–47 BC, Antipater helped bring reinforcements to Caesar's forces, reportedly leading troops and securing support from local communities.

In recognition of his assistance, Caesar granted him Roman citizenship and appointed him procurator of Iudaea, while confirming Hyrcanus as high priest and ethnarch. In 43 BC, he was poisoned and killed by Malichus, a political rival, but his influence paved the way for the eventual rise of his son Herod to the throne of Judaea.

ARIARATHES, ? - ? BC

The younger brother of Ariobarzanes III of Cappadocia. After Iulius Caesar's victory over Pharnaces II in 47 BC, Caesar had granted Ariarathes a territory in Lesser Armenia, possibly intended to provide him with a subordinate kingdom under his brother's authority; the precise terms of this arrangement remain uncertain.

Following Ariobarzanes' murder in 42 BC, Ariarathes became king of Cappadocia. His reign was short and took place amid the power struggles that followed Caesar's assassination. In approximately 36 BC, Mark Antony deposed him and installed Archelaus, a ruler more closely aligned with Antony's interests.

ARIOBARZANES III, 72 - 42 BC

King of Cappadocia, known by the honorifics *Eusebes Philorhomaios* ("Pious and Friend of the Romans"), he succeeded his father, Ariobarzanes II, and relied heavily on Roman support to maintain his throne against domestic rivals. During his governorship of Cilicia in 51–50 BC, Cicero helped protect the king from a conspiracy led by powerful local figures.

During the civil war between Caesar and Pompey, Ariobarzanes supported Pompey and supplied him with cavalry. After Pompey's defeat at Pharsalus in 48 BC, however, he reached an accommodation with Caesar, who confirmed his rule and granted him additional territory in Lesser Armenia.

Following Caesar's assassination, Ariobarzanes refused to submit to the demands of the Republican leaders Brutus and Cassius. In 42 BC, Cassius invaded Cappadocia and had the king executed, replacing him with his brother.

ARISTARCHVS, ? - ? BC

A local ruler appointed by Pompey in 63 BC, in the aftermath of the Roman campaign against Mithridates VI of Pontus. His appointment formed part of Pompey's reorganisation of the eastern territories and the establishment of client rulers who would maintain stability and acknowledge Roman authority. Aristarchus is described in ancient sources as a vassal of Galatia rather than necessarily a king, although later accounts sometimes use the latter title.

ASANDER, 110 - 17 BC

A general under Pharnaces II, son of Mithridates VI of Pontus, Asander married Pharnaces' daughter Dynamis. In 47 BC, while Pharnaces was campaigning in Anatolia against Rome, Asander rebelled in an attempt to seize the kingdom and gain Roman favour. After Iulius Caesar defeated Pharnaces at Zela, Pharnaces returned to the Bosporus, where Asander defeated and killed him.

Caesar nevertheless supported Mithridates of Pergamon as a rival claimant, and Asander temporarily lost control of the kingdom before recovering it around 47–46 BC. He consolidated his position by strengthening the kingdom's defences, and resisted incursions by neighbouring peoples. Augustus eventually recognised him as king, and Asander ruled until 17 BC.

BARZAPHANES, ? - ? BC

A Parthian general, little is known about Barzaphanes during the Roman civil war, as ancient sources provide no information about his earlier career.

He emerges in the historical record in 40 BC as leading the invasion of Roman territories alongside Prince Pacorus I and the Roman renegade Quintus Labienus.

Barzaphanes advanced into Judaea, where he supported Antigonus II against Hyrcanus II and Herod. Following the capture of Jerusalem, he seized Hyrcanus and Phasael during negotiations. His subsequent fate is unknown.

BOCCHVS II, ? - 33 BC

King of eastern Mauretania, ruling from around 49 BC alongside his brother Bogud, who governed the western part of the kingdom.

During Caesar's Civil War, Bocchus supported Iulius Caesar against the Pompeians and their ally, Iuba I of Numidia. In 46 BC, he invaded Numidia, helping to overthrow Massinissa II and seize Cirta.

Following Caesar's victory in Africa, Bocchus received part of the conquered territory, extending his kingdom eastwards.

After Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, Bocchus supported Octavian, while Bogud aligned himself with Mark Antony. In 38 BC, taking advantage of his brother's absence on campaign in Hispania, Bocchus seized western Mauretania and became sole ruler, with Octavian's recognition. He died without an heir in 33 BC, leaving his kingdom to Octavian.

BOGVD II, ? - 31 BC

King of western Mauretania, ruling jointly with his brother Bocchus II, who controlled the eastern part of the kingdom. The two rulers were sons of Bocchus I and supported Iulius Caesar during the Civil War

Bogud provided military assistance to Caesar's forces in Hispania in 47 BC and played an important role in the campaign culminating in the Battle of Munda in 45 BC, helping Caesar defeat the remaining Pompeian forces.

After Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, Bogud supported Mark Antony in the ensuing struggle for power, while Bocchus allied himself with Octavian. In 38 BC, while Bogud was campaigning in Hispania on Antony's behalf, a revolt broke out in his kingdom. Bocchus seized his brother's territory, forcing Bogud to flee east and join Antony.

He remained loyal to Antony during the campaign against Octavian and was killed in 31 BC while defending Methone in Greece against forces commanded by Agrippa.

CASSIVELLAVNVS, ? - ? BC

A Britannic tribal ruler who led the resistance against Iulius Caesar's second expedition to Britain in 54 BC. Probably a leader of the Catuvellauni, a powerful people north of the Thames, he was chosen to command a coalition of Britannic tribes opposing the Roman invasion. Rather than risk a decisive battle, he relied on mobile chariot forces and cavalry to harass the Roman army and disrupt its movements.

Cassivellaunus then attempted to divert the Romans by ordering an attack on their coastal camp, but this failed. With his stronghold captured and several British tribes abandoning his alliance, he negotiated peace through the mediation of the Gallic leader Commius.

He agreed to provide hostages and pay annual tribute to Rome, while promising not to attack the Trinovantes, a neighbouring tribe allied with Caesar. Caesar withdrew to Gaul later that year, and Cassivellaunus' subsequent fate is unknown.

CIMBERIVS, ? - ? BC

A leader of the Suebi, a powerful Germanic people, Cimberius appears in Iulius Caesar's account of the Gallic campaigns. In 58 BC, he and his brother Nasua led a Suebi force that had entered Gaul under the leadership of Ariovistus. Their presence formed part of the wider Germanic challenge to the Aedui and their allies, prompting the latter to appeal to Caesar for

assistance.

Cimberius's subsequent fate is unknown. His historical significance rests on his role in the Suebi migration and the conflict that provided Caesar with a pretext for intervening against Ariovistus in Gaul.

CLEOPATRA VII, 69 - 30 BC

Cleopatra was the last ruler of the Ptolemaic Kingdom, a dynasty of Macedonian origin. She ascended the throne in 51 BC alongside her younger brother Ptolemy XIII, but a power struggle forced her into exile.

In 48 BC, she secured the support of Iulius Caesar, who had arrived in Egypt pursuing Pompey after the Battle of Pharsalus. During the ensuing Alexandrian War, Caesar defeated her brother's forces and restored Cleopatra to power. She later bore Caesar a son, Ptolemy XV Caesarion.

After Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, Cleopatra returned to Egypt and allied herself with Mark Antony, supporting his struggle against Octavian. Their forces were defeated at the Battle of Actium in 31 BC, and Octavian invaded Egypt the following year.

Following Antony's suicide and the fall of Alexandria in 30 BC, Cleopatra also died by suicide, bringing the Ptolemaic dynasty to an end and paving the way for Egypt's annexation by Rome.

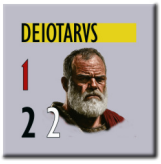
COMMIVS, C 90 - 30 BC

a Gallic nobleman and king of the Atrebates, a Belgic people. Initially an ally of Iulius Caesar, he was appointed king in 57 BC after the Roman conquest of the Belgic tribes. Valued for his diplomatic abilities and influence across the Channel, he served as Caesar's envoy during the invasions of Britain in 55 and 54 BC, helping persuade the British ruler Cassivellaunus to submit to Rome.

Commius eventually turned against Caesar and joined the great Gallic revolt led by Vercingetorix in 52 BC. He commanded Atrebatian cavalry and participated in the coalition's attempt to relieve the besieged Gallic forces at Alesia. After the revolt's defeat, he continued resisting Roman rule, surviving an assassination attempt reportedly organised by Caesar's officers. Following further fighting in 51 BC, he escaped to Britannia rather than submit fully to Roman authority.

In Britannia, Commius appears to have established himself as king of the Atrebates, founding a dynasty whose successors ruled parts of southern Britain. Coins bearing his name provide evidence of his authority there, although the precise circumstances of his arrival and the end of his life remain uncertain.

DEIOTARVS, 120 - 40 BC



A Galatian ruler in Asia Minor and a long-standing ally of the Roman Republic. Initially a tetrarch of the Tolistobogii, one of the three Galatian tribes, he supported Rome during the wars against Mithridates VI of Pontus. Pompey rewarded his loyalty by granting him additional territories and the title of king. Deiotarus developed a powerful army organised along Roman lines and became one of Rome's principal allies in Anatolia.

During the civil war, Deiotarus sided with Pompey and his forces fought at Pharsalus in 48 BC. After Pompey's defeat, he reconciled with Caesar and supplied troops for the campaign against Pharnaces II of Pontus.

Caesar allowed him to retain his royal title but reduced his territories. In 45 BC, Deiotarus was accused of plotting to assassinate Caesar; Cicero defended him in the surviving speech *Pro Rege Deiotaro*, but Caesar made no final ruling before his own assassination.

Deiotarus later supported Brutus and Cassius, then switched sides after Philippi, preserving his kingdom until his death.

GANYMEDES, ? - ? BC

An eunuch at the Ptolemaic court and tutor to Arsinoe IV, the younger sister of Cleopatra VII. During the Alexandrian War of 48–47 BC, he helped Arsinoe escape from the palace where Iulius Caesar was staying and join the Egyptian forces opposing him.

After Arsinoe was proclaimed queen by the army, Ganymedes took command of its forces following the execution of their previous commander, Achillas.

Ganymedes proved a determined opponent of Caesar, cutting off the Roman water supply to Alexandria and directing naval operations against his fleet. Although his forces prolonged the siege and inflicted serious difficulties on the Romans, Caesar eventually received reinforcements and defeated the Egyptian army.

Ganymedes disappears from the historical record during the final stages of the war; his precise fate is unknown.

IVBA I, 85? - 46 BC

King of Numidia, ruling from approximately 60 BC. The son of Hiempsal II and a descendant of the celebrated king Masinissa, he maintained close ties with Rome but became a determined opponent of Iulius Caesar, partly because of a personal dispute with Caesar and partly because Caesar's supporter Gaius Scribonius Curio had proposed annexing Numidia.

During the civil war, Iuba allied himself with Pompey and the Republican forces. In 49 BC, his army helped defeat Curio's expeditionary force in Africa, killing the Roman commander.

He later joined Metellus Scipio against Caesar, but their forces were defeated at the Battle of Thapsus in 46 BC. Unable to find refuge after the defeat, Iuba opted for a mortal duel against Marcus Petreius, who killed him before committing suicide. His kingdom was annexed by Rome, while his young son, Iuba II, was taken to Rome as a captive.

MALICHVS I, ? - 30 BC

King of the Nabataean kingdom from approximately 59/58 BC. Little is known of his early reign, but in 47 BC he supplied cavalry to Iulius Caesar during the Alexandrian War, helping the Roman commander defeat the forces of Ptolemy XIII.

During the Roman power struggles following Caesar's assassination, Malichus pursued an independent policy. In 40 BC, he refused to assist Herod, who was fleeing the Parthian invasion of Judaea. Later, he clashed with Mark Antony over Nabataean territory claimed by Cleopatra VII. He remained king until his death around 30 BC, when he was succeeded by Obodas III

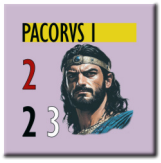
MASSINISSA II, ? - ? BC

Ruler of western Numidia from approximately 81 to 46 BC, with his capital at Cirta. A relative of Iuba I, Massinissa's kingdom was probably subject to the greater kingdom of Numidia. His position was established by Pompey, who intervened in Numidia in 81 BC and recognised separate rulers for its western and eastern territories.

During the Roman Civil War, Massinissa allied himself with Pompey and Iuba I against Iulius Caesar. In 46 BC, Caesar's campaign in Africa brought about his downfall: Bocchus II of Mauretania and his commander Publius Sittius invaded his kingdom from the west and captured Cirta. His territories were divided between them.

Massinissa's subsequent fate is unknown.

PACORVS I, ? - 38 BC



A Parthian prince and the son of King Orodes II. Appointed commander of Parthian forces operating west of the Euphrates, he led several campaigns against Roman territory in the years following the defeat of Crassus at Carrhae in 53 BC.

During the Roman civil wars, Pacorus supported Pompey's cause and later aided Quintus Caecilius Bassus, a rebel against Caesar, in Syria.

In 40 BC, allied with the Roman renegade Quintus Labienus, he invaded Syria and Asia Minor, defeating Roman forces and occupying much of the eastern Mediterranean territories, including Iudaea.

Rome's counteroffensive under Mark Antony's general Publius Ventidius Bassus reversed these gains. Pacorus was killed at the Battle of Mount Gindarus in 38 BC.

PHARNACES II, 97 - 47 BC

King of the Bosporan Kingdom and son of Mithridates VI of Pontus, Rome's long-standing adversary. After rebelling against his father in 63 BC, he received the Bosporan Kingdom from Pompey.

During the Roman civil war, he took advantage of the conflict between Caesar and Pompey to expand his territories, invading Colchis, Armenia Minor, Cappadocia and Pontus. In late 48 BC, he defeated the Roman forces of Cnaeus Domitius Calvinus at Nicopolis.

In 47 BC, Iulius Caesar marched against him after concluding his

campaign in Egypt. Caesar decisively defeated Pharnaces at the Battle of Zela, prompting his famous report to Rome: *Veni, vidi, vici*. Pharnaces fled to the Bosporus to recover his kingdom, but was defeated and killed by his former governor Asander, who had rebelled against him.

PTOLEMAEUS XIII, 62 - 47 BC

King of Egypt and the younger brother of Cleopatra VII, with whom he jointly inherited the throne after their father, Ptolemy XII, died in 51 BC. Still a child, he was guided by powerful court advisers, notably the eunuch Pothinus and the general Achillas. Their faction forced Cleopatra into exile in 48 BC, triggering a struggle for control of the kingdom.

After Pompey's defeat at Pharsalus, Ptolemy's advisers ordered the Roman general's assassination, hoping to gain favour with Iulius Caesar. Caesar instead supported Cleopatra's claim to the throne, and the ensuing Alexandrian War pitted Ptolemy's forces against the Roman army.

After months of fighting, Ptolemy's army was defeated in 47 BC. The young king drowned in the Nile while attempting to escape, leaving Cleopatra restored to power alongside their younger brother, Ptolemy XIV.

SABVRRA, ? - 46 BC

A Numidian general and prefect serving King Iuba I during the civil war. Little is known of his early life, but he emerged in 49 BC as commander of the Numidian forces opposing Caius Scribonius Curio, Caesar's legate in Africa.

At the Battle of the Bagradas River, Saburra used a tactical withdrawal to draw Curio's army into an ambush, where it was overwhelmed by Numidian cavalry and reinforcements sent by Iuba. Curio was killed and his army destroyed.

In 46 BC, Saburra fought against the Caesarian forces of Publius Sittius during the campaign that brought down Iuba's kingdom. He was defeated and killed in battle, shortly before Iuba's own defeat and suicide following the Battle of Thapsus.

PVBLIVS SITTIVS, 88 - 44 BC

A Roman equestrian, financier and mercenary commander from Campania. After financial and political difficulties in Italy, he established himself in North Africa, where he entered the service of Bocchus II, king of Mauretania. His activities before Caesar's Civil War are only partially documented.

During the African campaign of 46 BC, Sittius allied himself with Caesar and Bocchus II against Iuba I of Numidia and the Pompeian forces. He captured Cirta and defeated Iuba's commander Saburra, helping divert Numidian forces away from Caesar's main army.

After the Battle of Thapsus, he intercepted fleeing Pompeian leaders, including Lucius Afranius and Faustus Cornelius Sulla. Caesar rewarded him with territory around Cirta in western Numidia, where he settled his followers. In 44 BC, Sittius was killed by Arabion, son of the former Numidian king Massinissa II.

TESTIMVS, ? - ? BC

A Dalmataean military commander who fought against Octavian during the Roman campaigns in Illyria in 35–33 BC.

Little is known about his origins or earlier career, but he was one of the leaders of the Dalmataean alliance, commanding a separate army alongside the commander Verzo.

In 34 BC, Testimus attempted to relieve the besieged stronghold of Promona, but Octavian's forces drove him back into the mountains and captured the town. Testimus subsequently dispersed his army to prevent its destruction by the Romans.

His later fate is unknown.

VERZO, ? - 34 BC

A Dalmataean military commander who led the forces of the Dalmatae alliance against Octavian during the Roman campaigns in Illyria in 34 BC. According to Appian, he commanded an army of approximately 12,000 warriors and occupied and fortified Promona, a strategically important stronghold in Dalmatia, to resist the Roman advance.

Octavian besieged Promona and captured the surrounding heights, eventually taking the stronghold after fierce fighting. Verzo was killed during the battle, and the surviving Delmataean forces were ordered to disperse by his fellow commander Testimus, who continued the resistance against Rome.