

TAUROEÏS

THE
MASSALIOTES
THERMOPYLES



FRANCK
SOLÈZE

*There are more heroes in the shadows than in the light alan
makambo*

Index

[Preamble](#)

Chapters

[1](#)

[First Roman attack on the Greek fortress / the Ligurians attack the Roman positions](#)

[2](#)

[Arrival of Greek reinforcements](#)

[3](#)

[Caesar plans to solve the Ligurian problem](#)

[4](#)

[Foxtraon, the Strategos of the fortress prepares for battle](#)

[5](#)

[Caesar's investigation into the death of Itharicus](#)

[6](#)

[Roman attack on small boats passing under the protective chain in the bay](#)

[7](#)

[Suicide of the supposed Athenian](#)

[8](#)

[Attempted murder of Caesar](#)

[9](#)

[Despite the suicide victim's sacrifice, Strategos Foxtraon and his men stay to fight](#)

10

Roman landing at the port of Mouret, first establishment of the Roman camp on Mont Salva / attack by two cohorts

11

Attack from the eastern and western fronts of the Greek fortress

12

Foxtraon hit by the madness of war

13

Return of Caesar, renewed assault on the fortress/ Greek chemical weapons

14

First return of Roman efforts to eradicate the Ligurian problem

15

Foxtraon's Bandol blitz of Bandol and its best hoplites

16

Roman flashback, massive attack

17

Roman psychological warfare

18

Death of Foxtraon / election of a new Strategos

19

The arrival of Nasidius

20

The naval battle of Tauroentum

21

Caesar's wrath

22

Truce ends, fighting resumes

23

Suicide of the new strategos

24

Caesar's new strategy: catapult towers

25

Pourparler: Greeks try to buy time to prepare their defense

26

The burning of the towers

27

Roman law of defeat, Caesar's hidden abyss

28

The return of the towers/the unexpected Greek counter-attack/the Roman elite commando attack

29

Caesar ejected from operations / new general appointed and new strategy.

30

New Roman strategist fails

31

Back to Caesar's maneuver

32

New massive attack led by Caesar, using Ligurians from the decimation

33

Greek victory over the Ligurian attack

34

Intervention of the Evocati

35

Another massive Roman attack, a legion for Tauroeïs

36

Telonese help, Greek victory

37

Caesar pays for his own defeat according to an obscure Roman law

38

End of the fighting, Roman strategy of cunning during the negotiations relaxed

39

Winning strategy / the Roman breakthrough

40

The fall of the fortress of the elites after two months of siege

41

1st Greek attempt to retake the fortress

42

Greek recapture of the fortress and Massalia

43

Caesar flees dressed as a servant

44

The desolation of Massalia/attack of the massive Roman fleet that came to fight

45

New Roman capture of the fortress of the elites

46

Greek recapture of the fortress

47

Tauroeis sold, abandoned to the Romans

48

The genocide at Tauroeis

49

Roman dismantling of the fortress

Contemporary analogy / icing on the cake

Plans

East defensive wall

Fortress of Tauroeis

North bastion

Tower fort/ defensive ring

North gate

South gate

Naval battle of Tauroeis/Tauroentum

Preamble

If you have just read *Tauroeïs cité de Poséidon*, I think I can guess your intentions and I invite you to read the continuation of *Crépuscule des Massaliotes* directly on page 17. As for the others, the introduction will be difficult if you have not read the two previous volumes. What can I tell you? You're about to read the echoes of the year 49 BC, which I've been collecting on an almost daily basis this summer of 2024. But what is a time echo, you might ask? If you look it up in the dictionary, you'll find absolutely nothing, which may arouse a certain suspicion that will be heightened by reading this book if you don't have the right understanding to tackle this kind of story. However, you have bought this book, so if it's not pure chance, you should normally be warned about the type of content to expect.

So let's get straight to the point: a temporal echo is an energetic or emotional resurgence of a past event on its anniversary date in the year. How does this work, you may ask? I can't think of a better explanation than using the example of a murder.

Someone has been killed, the body is taken away and if you have a modicum of sensitivity you can feel the energetic and emotional imprint of what happened. Well, the temporal echo is the resurgence of these residual frequencies, as I call them, on the anniversary date of the event. I took the time to explain the phenomenon in *Tauroeïs* and not *Tauroentum*. What I can add today, which won't help you if you've just joined this temporal adventure, is that the best time to read distant temporal echoes (by placing yourself above them from a dominant point to observe a town or place) is between sunset and nightfall,

i.e. the moment when photons drop considerably but light is still present, i.e. twilight. Once night has fallen, it is much more difficult, and sometimes impossible, to pick up echoes from a distance: this is the energy curtain.

However, at night you can continue to read them if you're close to where they happened, so all my readings for this 2024 season were taken in this order, with priority given to the predominant ones (global readings, battle, festival, etc.) and to places to be read that can be seen from a distance, and secondly, all the precise readings, as I call them, i.e. practically on the spot. Then sometimes, one echo can erase another during the day, because it will be stronger in emotional intensity. There may be an event, a battle or something else that will partially erase an emotionally weaker event. This means that there may be gaps in the readings, but I've made sure to bring as many as possible back. I live in 2024, not 49 BC, and if I were to spend all day on the time echoes, I don't think it would be reasonable, or at least it's an undertaking, an effort of concentration that I certainly couldn't manage.

The few hours of daily readings have already been more than trying throughout this 2024 season. I can't see myself reading echoes all day long, but on a specific point or location it might be possible. This year I've done an initial roughing in, which means that I've taken readings at around ten locations: Tauroeis (the greater Toulon area, Bandol, Sanary, les Embiez, le Bruscat, Toulon, Six Fours, etc), Carcisis (Cassis), Massalia (Marseille), Cytharista (La Ciotat), Antipolis (Antibes), Nikaia (Nice), Athénopolis (Saint-Tropez), Hérakleia (Cavalaire), Olbia (Hyères), and that's not bad, you might say...

But there's nothing to stop me next season, because the time loop I'm studying starts all over again each year, from taking one event, one day and devoting myself to it completely in order to develop it even further and add even

more information to this first general picture that the temporal echo surveys of this 2024 season have drawn up.

You know what's in store for you now in possible future editions. In the 2025 season, I'd like to be able to cover the siege of Massalia much more accurately than I was able to this year, from a high vantage point overlooking Marseilles. I'll be able to see all the troop positions, the battles and the city limits, although I've already found some of them. For the siege of Massalia, I think that part of the Roman camp was in the Valentine district, hidden behind these small hills, as I explained in Tauroeïs cité de Poséidon. If you could see from where I recorded the siege of Massalia this year, you'd be surprised: from a height above Bandol. What luck we've had, because the time echo also has a spatial distortion phenomenon that I won't attempt to elucidate scientifically, as I have no means of doing so, but on a time echo recorded at a distance, depending on where you are, you can get additional information if you change location. It's a bit like photons being projected and if the light passes from the source zone where the echo is to you, it's possible to get other echoes by changing your angle of vision. It's just a phenomenon of distortion in space. Finally, all this will be for future generations who dare to study them.

Then there are persistence frequencies, for example the residual frequencies of the Ligurees are of this type and this is a disaster for reading echoes. The residual frequencies may still be present, but the Ligurees are well and truly gone. Fortunately, for the time being, this has only happened to them, the cannibals. Either their frequencies are still visible or, since the Ligurees have not been present for a few days, new frequencies have to erase them with new events. These Ligurees are definitely difficult to erase, even 2000 years later. Finally, when it comes to studying temporal echoes, it's preferable to have a mind free of any texts about the events you're working on. This is very important, just as if you were recording a magnetic tape, it's better if nothing

has ever been recorded on it before. Otherwise it can distort your research, because you're trying to find something, and that guides your mind, distorting your reading. There's nothing better than someone like me who has never read anything that a specialist in antiquity or the Roman or Greek eras would have read, because the brain tries to draw parallels to reassure itself or as a way of adapting, and there's nothing worse for reading temporal echoes. To begin with, you need to let go of the "I don't know anything" mentality. The reality of the echoes may be much harsher than you expected, and sometimes there could be residual frequencies that you can't recognise, because you're not a barbarian for example. So for me, I have to say, there are certain frequencies that I would never have recognised if I hadn't myself descended into the most abysmal darkness of the human being by reading a few letters from the worst serial killer of the last century. Otherwise I would not have recognised certain frequencies from Antiquity and we would have been deprived of their content. This has to do with understanding, what we hear, and as thoughts are sounds, the whole makes up your understanding. At the same time, these are frequencies that belong to the baseness of the human mind and we could have done without them, but that's the way it is, as if there had been a higher will for me to see everything that could be seen from this season of temporal echoes 2024 of the year 49 BC since I read these letters almost a month before the season began. Reading ancient time echoes is sometimes an exercise that is more than difficult, because like you I have a heart and when I read a residual frequency of cannibalism or something else, I take the emotional residual frequencies of the event head-on, in other words I am the first raw filter. Then I transcribe it and give it to you and you can get an idea, but I've been through the raw emotion and often it's quite difficult. After the siege of Massalia and the mass arrival of slaves, I couldn't pick up the echoes of Massilia any more, as you'll

see, it was too much, it was almost like the death camps, in its ancient version. I have my limits like everyone else, maybe someone who's suffered more than I have in their life could handle those frequencies, but I couldn't. So there will be gaps in the music. So there will be holes in the echoes, and for those it's all to the good, you'll tell me, and even next year I don't think I'll be doing these readings, or perhaps in the same way as this season, i.e. just once a week to give myself time to recover. I'm going to leave you now with your book, because even though I wrote it I'm still a slave to it too, but to temporal echoes, to history. This story is not the one I would have wanted, not wanting any in the first place, because it's always better to uncover elements that will be easily accepted, but that's anything but the case in the story that follows. This is the story as I read it in the time echoes of the year 49 BC at Massalian Thermopylae, i.e. the will of the defeated Greeks, having lost all their trading posts and their capital, to remain alone to fight Caesar's legions, in order to inflict as many losses as possible until death.

So that you don't get lost in the different locations I use each time, you can find the plans of the Massaliote elite fortress at Le Brusç/Embiez on page 290. So there's no need to refer to Tauroeïs rather than Tauroentum, where they originated.

Then I'd like to remind you that I'm taking the name of Greek, whereas for the Greeks of the Côte d'Azur, we generally say the Massaliotes.

Following my research and findings, I consider that Telon (Toulon) is still Tauroeïs. However I keep the name of Telon to designate as a district of Tauroeïs. Thus I also designate the hoplites who could come to the aid of the fortress, the Telonnais.

As far as the temporal echoes are concerned, to understand the chronology of the different places I'm quoting. I'll start with a predominantly remote reading of Les Embiez, Bandol, Massilia, Cytharista and Carcisis, then I'll move on to a more precise reading of La Cadière, then Le Castellet, and then Bandol and Le Brusç. So while it may sometimes seem like repetition, these are just a first approach, followed by a more in-depth one. Antipolis, Nikaïa, Athénopolis, Hérakleia, Olbia, port of Massilia are only done with webcams.

CHAPTER 1

Sunday 30 June

Embiez

There was an attack from the sea. The Rouveau was set on fire by Roman galleys armed with catapults. The population of the city in today's lagoon were terrified and rushed to the northern port of the fortress-city of Tauroeïs in a panic of fear. In fact, it was just a manoeuvre on the part of the Romans to impress. They then discreetly landed on the south coast of the Embiez inlet to spy on the fortress. Petit Rouveau was also bombarded. The fire burned out. Troops disembarked and rushed into the maze (situation on the map of the Embiez inlet), stopped by it. As with previous attacks, they had to retreat and some stayed hidden to spy or try to enter the town later. The great defensive wall, the entire perimeter of the fortress town, was ready for battle and awaiting the attack of its enemies. The landing to the south of the Embiez inlet to the right of the Pointe du Cougoussa was more successful, with the Roman troops at the foot of the walls. They tried to set up camp. A catapult response finally drove them away. The town's inhabitants were reassured and returned to their own walls.

Bandol

César is satisfied with the attack and the scouting that has been done. The information gathered was invaluable to him. New orders and directives were given to his headquarters (in the former reception room of the flats of the Greek chiefs, at the château in Bandol). The town was serene, and the inhabitants went about their business, apart from the attacks on the fortress-city of Tauroeïs. César takes a boat to

Massilia. It seems to be a commercial operation - is he going to sell Massilia?

Massilia

Indeed, Caesar is turning into a salesman to sell Massilia, but I don't know to whom. For the time being, he told them to leave the walls alone, given the experience of the Ligurian attack at Castellet. He arrived on the east side of the port and took them on a tour of the city along the coast, the seafront, in other words Massalia at its best. Result: no deal, no town sold. Those who had taken the tour spotted the defences and thought about taking the city by force. The city is still dead, with no activity whatsoever. On the walls of Massilia, some Romans mocked the defeat of the Greeks: "They were finally defeated, and where they are now they are no longer proud, etc."

A man shares a discovery, a hidden inner corridor, an underground aqueduct?

At La Cadière

The leader (his name is Itaricus Gaius Septentrion, which is the first name I've managed to extract from the echoes. Septentrion is his rank, which leads me to come up with a theory. Septentrion means north, and he is north of Bandol, which he guards. Does the rank of septentrion denote a military organisation? Army of the north, south, east, west, so in the event of a surprise attack, for example, in the north, everyone would already know what they had to do, and it would be the army or troops of the north that would have to react first to the attack to avoid global disorganisation, This is only a theory and I have found no trace of this rank in the texts) is in a black rage, certainly because of the attack by the Ligurians, even if there has been retaliation, he still has hatred and would like to attack other tribes again and put an end to the Ligurians, but these are not Caesar's orders at the moment. In the acropolis, the soldiers also have only one concern, to go and hunt down the Ligurians. (I'd call them the Ligures, but normally, given

their geographical location, from Massalia to the Maures massif, they are the Segobriges¹. In fact, the Greeks supposedly made peace with them on their arrival, marrying Gyptis, the daughter of Nannos, their king. A Greek version of their colonisation, in my opinion, a bit like the Romans hiding their genocide. Given their exacerbated cannibalism in 49 BC, I doubt that, I doubt that 550 years earlier, when the Phocaeans arrived, things had been different and that there had been a marriage with the daughter of a cannibal, but I have no evidence to support this thesis, at the same time as the myth of the taurophore of the birth of Tauroeis defined by Artemidorus of Ephesus which I criticised from the beginning, I finally found, I think, the small gulf where the initial grounding took place so now I agree with this version. To return to the Segobriges, on the death of Nannos, his son Comanus made an attack on Massalia worthy of that on Troy²)

Cytharista

On his way back to Bandol, this time by land, Caesar went through the town again to reiterate his orders to finish the job quickly, to clear everything away so that rich Roman villas could be built. He gave them an ultimatum, a deadline.

At Le Castellet, the Romans finished the new wooden wall, the typical Roman camp we all know. Le Castellet is now a military camp.

At the Col du Beausset, the Romans finally wiped out the Ligurian camp, the "black-souled" Ligurian leader was killed and the camp was razed to the ground. The Romans still found the remains of their people. Some Ligurians fled, but the soldiers were ordered not to pursue them into the forest.

Bandol

In a moment of anger, César sent his cards flying, perhaps because he hadn't been able to sell Massilia, or if a deal had been struck, it didn't suit him.

Embiez (on-site reading)

The inhabitants panicked towards the port and the walls. At the southern bastion, all the soldiers had climbed onto the ramparts to observe the attack. The battle was in full swing, with hoplites moving to the west of the fortress on the ramparts.

In the fortress tower, the leader, the Strategos, was surprised at first, afraid and at the same time pleased to have the opportunity to fight. On the way back, the soldiers realised that it had only been a small attack and were almost disappointed. As a result, they reviewed their defensive positions and moved more men to the Embiez side (Le Brusca was to the east, Les Embiez to the west), realising that the attack would not be made immediately by land, but from the east. The crowd moved towards the boat stowage area (20 on the map), and people forced their way into the galleys in terror, wanting to leave straight away.

¹ Segobriges

² Persée, The capture of Marseilles by the Segobriges: a failure

CHAPTER 2

Monday 1 July

Antipolis (Antibes)

The Ligurians settled en masse in the absence of a wall. The bastion where today's Fort Vauban stands was taken.

Nikaïa (Nice)

The Ligurians also attacked Nikaïa. They came up against the defensive ramparts.

Olbia (Hyères) is still Greco-Domitian (see Tauroeis cité de Poséidon)

Athénopolis (Saint Tropez)

The Romans hold the position and have orders not to leave the city.

Cavalaire (Hérakleia)

The city is teeming with Ligurians.

Brusc

Good news has reached the southern bastion, the training area. The town's inhabitants have also been touched and concerned by this news, and are equally delighted. People are collecting items from Persephone's temple. The Romans have left spies trying to infiltrate. They are waiting for the right time.

They were dropped at sea and swam here.

Bandol

Caesar receives a woman. The town is asked to make no noise.

Massilia (Marseille)

There are Roman priestesses who come to carry out purification rites in the streets of the city, incense, etc... Someone is going to be welcomed and celebrated, and

preparations are being made. Their boat has docked at the port and they have gone down to the quay (east quay), at least twenty priestesses, and they are starting the purification rites on the east side of Massalia, Massilia now that the city is Roman. Sometimes the priestesses are frightened by a simple noise and run back the way they came. In some places, the feeling they get is really very dark, perhaps the site of ancient fires where wandering souls in sorrow are to be found, which they detect, as they are sensitive. It frightens them. They throw little leaves too, I don't know from which trees or plants. Some return to the boats, afraid. The city has kept its shroud of black frequencies. They came back and said to themselves that there was something wrong with the city. Some of them were also singing, but they stopped their laments and returned to the boats. The cursed city, or still marked by the genocide that took place there.

The wall guards heard suspicious noises and felt they were being watched. It seems to be Ligurians scouting around. From time to time, hidden Ligures throw a stone against the wall to see how many guards come out and react.

Cytharista (I'm keeping the Greek name for the town, as I don't know the Roman name they gave it, and the same goes for the other annexed Greek towns) was again attacked by the Ligurians after the Romans dismantled the walls. Some of the Romans dived into the sea to escape the dismal fate the Ligurians had in store for them. After the attack, the cooking fires could be seen from afar.

At Carcisis, the Ligurians became entangled in the traps previously set by the Greeks in the corridor and were unable to make any headway. They then retreated to Cytharista, where they were outnumbered.

La Cadière

Itaricus, the leader, is saddened, because there were people he knew among the Ligurian victims in Cytharista.

The legionaries also have a heavy heart for the loss of Cytharista, and they have not been able to go and help them. They had to stay behind as Caesar's rearguard. They have seen the blaze in the distance and know what it means. A legion left the Roman camp from the siege of Massalia to fight it out and solve the problem definitively, it seems, on the known northern Ligurian positions.

Bandol

Caesar receives a woman, and a great ceremony is performed to welcome her. The town is still under orders not to make any noise, they are not to be disturbed under any circumstances. He receives her, then I don't know what relational code this could be, perhaps an invitation to go further, he sits down in front of her and takes off his sandals, or he receives her barefoot. Then they go up to the panoramic room, with no ulterior motive at first other than to see the show in full romance for the moment. She holds out her arm to him, then he kisses her hand, moving up to her neck. He kisses her neck and then they embrace. After making love, he drops something and she laughs. They get dressed and go to another part of the flats. Then he says I don't know what, she gets offended and leaves, he's got work or something.

Embiez (on-site reading)

Reinforcements have arrived and the town is reassured. The hoplites and the population mingle, some women make conquests thinking that this will ensure their safety, or at least it reassures them for a while. Reinforcements of hoplites are all over the walls and bastions, the men are delighted, they look like people who have been away on a long journey and have come back, some know each other, etc. A reception banquet is held in the fortress tower, a grand reunion with the chiefs. They've come to fight alongside them, they're great warriors.

Tuesday 2nd July

That day I went on strike following an obnoxious attack on Facebook, from someone in the industry no doubt, hiding under a pseudonym. So we lost that day and I'm sure he'll be proud of that interruption. It's an exhausting job of concentration and I don't need any low blows or shots in the foot, but everyone in the industry knows who it is, I think, and it's possible that he'll be reproached and that would only be fair.