

PHALANX SCENARIOS & HISTORICAL NOTES
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By Fritz A. Buckallew

#1 - MARATHON-490 BC

In 491, Darius' generals Artaphernes and Datis invaded Greece to punish Athens for supporting revolts within the Empire. Miltiades, the Athenian second-in-command, urged a quick attack before demoralized Athens surrendered in the face of a Persian amphibious landing. Miltiades thinned his center and extended his flanks as he advanced. The Greeks charged as they reached Persian bow range, forcing the archers back quickly. Although the Persians broke the Greek center, the flanks executed a classic double envelopment. The amphibious expedition ended after word of the battle was received.

#2 - PLATAEA-July 479 BC

Revolts in Egypt stopped Darius' revenge, but his successor, Xerxes, invaded, opposed only by Athens and Sparta. In 480 Athens was taken but the naval defeat at Salamis forced retreat. The next year as the Greeks attempted to leave their positions south of Thebes during the night, confusion broke out, and the next morning Mardonius, the Persian commander quickly began a cavalry charge. When victory seemed imminent, the infantry followed. The Spartans repulsed the charge and counter-attacked. They reached Plataea and then returned to aid the Athenian left wing, under attack by Persian-allied Greeks. Mardonius killed at this point and the Persians eventually fled.

#3 - TANAGRA-457 BC

During the First Peloponnesian War Athens invaded Boeotia. The Spartans won this battle, but then retreated back to the Peloponnesus.

ATHENIANS - 10 PH, 10 MH, 8 LT, CM-#3. DEPLOY-L-3, PV- 96, PL-32.

SPARTANS - 10 SH, 8 PH, 5 MH, 3 LC, CM-#2, #3. DEPLOY-K-2. PV-123, PL-51.

#4 - DELIUM-424 BC

In another Peloponnesian campaign, Athens again planned to overrun Boeotia, this time using pro-Athenian revolts supported by an Athenian amphibious landing. The plan was too complicated and broke down; when the Athenians landed at Delium they were forced to entrench. After a time the Boeotian commander, Pagondas, attacked. Both sides' right wings were successful. The Boeotian light troops, indifferently led and in difficult terrain, did not come up as planned. Pagondas sent his cavalry to support his left and drove off the Athenians. Although they retained the town, the main force was evacuated.

BOEOTIANS - 7 PH, 7 MH, 20 LT, 2 LC, 1 MC, CM-#3. DEPLOY -M-4, PV-117, PL 39

ATHENIANS - 14 PH, 1 LC CM-#3. DEPLOY -G-3. PV-58, PL-29.

#5 -PHILIUS-418 BC- (HYPOTHETICAL)

In another Peloponnesian War campaign, the main Allied army was surprised by the Spartan king Agis on the main road to Philius. He planned a giant envelopment to destroy the Argives, but mistiming resulted in the main body striking before the two flanking columns arrived, and only a minor rear-guard action was fought.

ARGIVES - 4 PH, 6 MH, CM-#3. DEPLOY E-2. PV-44 PL-22.

SPARTANS A) - 5 PH, 1 MC, 5 LT, 3 MH, CM-#3. DEPLOY O-2. PV-53, PL-26.

B) - 3 PH, 2 MH, 2 LT, DEPLOY F-1. PV-22, PL-7. (no CM listed – ed.)

C) - 5 SH, 3 MH, CM-#2. DEPLOY B-4. PV-44, PL-22.

SPECIAL RULE-ALL THREE SPARTAN FORCES MUST BE KEPT SEPARATE AND PANIC SEPARATELY.

#6 - CUNAXA-401 BC

After Artaxerxes, King of Persia, died, Cyrus of Lydia and Araxerxes Mnemon both claimed the throne. Cyrus raised an army of Greeks and attacked Artaxerxes as he was waiting for two relief columns which never arrived. At the battle, the Greek right was successful but charged onward into open country instead of attacking the remainder of the Persians. The Persians, meanwhile, opened a gap in Cyrus' line. Cyrus led a counter-attack and wounded Artaxerxes but was then himself killed. The left wing then ran away while the right continued their pointless pursuit.

GREEKS - 14 PH, 6 MH, 5 PL, 5 LT, 1 HC, 3 MC, CM-#2, #3.

ARMY-I. F-3. PV-137, PL-69.

PERSIANS - 8 LC, 4 OC, 12 MH, 12 LT, 6 SK, CM-#3.

ARMY-II. P-3. PV-118, PL-59.

#7 - THE ALLIA-390 BC

The Celts migrated from central Europe and overran Italy. A small Roman army was sent to the Allia, a creek 11 miles north of Rome. The Celts overran the Roman left and turned the flank. The Roman army disintegrated and the Celts captured Rome three days later.

CELTS - 30 BI CM-#3, K-2, PV-130, PL-49.

ROMANS - 8 SD, 1 LC, 1 SK, CM-#2, #3. PV-46, PL-23.

#8- THE NEMEA – 394 BC

Sparta went to war with the Lydian satrap to aid revolting Ionian cities and Athens, Thebes, Argos, and Corinth formed an alliance to try to utilize the opportunity to overturn the Spartan victory in the Peloponnesian War. At the battle itself the Boeotian allied troops made a heavily massed advance. Most of the Spartan allies fell apart, but while this was happening the Spartans outflanked the Athenians facing them. The Allied army was poorly organized and was unable to reform and aid the Athenians, who were routed.

SPARTANS - 6 SH, 7 PH, 10 MH, 1 MC, 1 CA, 1 SL, CM #2, #3. I-5. PV-117- PL-59.

ALLIES - 12 PH, 12 LT, 2 MC, 2 SK, CM-#3. F-2, PV-94, PL-31.

#9-CORINTH – 394 BC

After the Nemea the main Spartan army returned from Asia and arrived at Corinth. At the battle the Argives charged toward the Spartan right, but the charge fell apart before even making contact. The Thebans, on their right, did break through, but Agesilaus, the Spartan commander, forced them back after fierce fighting. The result of the campaign

#10 - LEUCTRA – July 371 – 379 Thebes and Athens revolted and forced Sparta out of central Greece. The peace settlement broke down and Spartan King Cleombrotus invaded Boeotia. At Leuctra the Spartans put their best troops on the right flank. Epaminondas, the Theban leader would not give battle on these terms, and formed a left wing of extreme depth whilst the rest of the army advanced without fighting. When the massive left attacked, the confused Spartan elite was crushed. The main body then turned down the Spartan line just as the holding troops attacked also. The battle marked the end of Spartan military prestige.

#11 – MANTINEA – June 362 – After Leuctra, Boeotia made a bid for Greek supremacy and Epaminondas interposed himself between Mantinea and Sparta, his two leading opponents. An attack on Sparta failed and he moved on Mantinea, where Athens, Elis, and Achaea joined his opponents. He attacked whilst his opponents were eating lunch in the woods. The Boeotian left came into action first whilst his Theban cavalry on the right fell on the Athenian cavalry and harassed the infantry. However,

as the Allied line was breaking up, Epaminondas was mortally wounded, and the army stopped. The elements which continued fighting were stopped by the Athenian rear-guard. The indecisive result of the battle paralyzed Greek politics for a generation.

BOEOTIANS – 10 LT, 10 MH., 10 PH, 3 LC, CM--#1. E-3. PV-106, PL-53

ALLIES – 7 SH, 8 PH, 5 MH, 2 LC, CM--#2, 3. B-3. PV-96, PL-48

#12 – PELIUM – 358- In 359 Philip became King of Macedon and he began expanding Macedonian power. The young king moved into Illyria and faced an army led by Bardylis. Bardylis formed his army into a huge square and Philip led his elite troops to punch a hole where his cavalry could go through. This movement was successful and the square fell apart.

MACEDONIANS – 15 PH, 5 MH, 1 MY. CM-#1, 3. K-2. PV-94, PL-47.

ILLYRIANS – 20 BI, 1 LC. CM--#3. L-3. PV-92, PL-31.

#13 – CHAERONEA – 338 – Philip took Thessaly and Thrace in the Third Sacred War from 355 to 346. In the next two years he took Epirus, and the Danube regions. In 339 Demosthenes led Athens and Thebes into the Fourth Sacred War. Philip led his army to victory with his son Alexander commanding the cavalry and annexed all of Greece.

#14 -PEUCE – 335. Alexander's first campaign after he became king was a move north to extend the frontier to the Danube. He defeated the Thracians first. He then defeated the Triballians, but they retreated to Peuce Island in the Danube. Alexander could not take the island and he decided to cross the river and attack the Getae, another tribe opposing him. Alexander surprised the Getae on the other bank and routed them.

MACEDONIANS – 2 HY, 6 MX, 3 MY, CM-#1, 3. L-3, PV-95, PL-48

CAV EX. USE ALEX RULE .

GETAE – 20 BI, 4 LC, 4 MC. CM-#3. H-2. PV-114, PL-38.

#15- THE GRANICUS – May 334 – When Darius III of Persia began trying to begin a Greek revolt, Alexander invaded Persia. He was met in western Asia Minor. The Persians set up behind the Granicus River which he crossed in a short, sharp battle. The victory gave Alexander control of the Anatolian coast.

#16 – ISSUS - November 333 – AS Alexander's rear was threatened by the Persian fleet, he attempted to seize Persia's Mediterranean coast. Darius moved into Alexander's rear as he went into Syria. Alexander turned and met the Persians at Issue. The Persians massed on a narrow coastal plain, and Alexander refused his right. The Persian center attacked the Macedonians as they were crossing a stream, but Alexander's cavalry has destroyed the Persian left, allowing him to join them. A weak cavalry counter-attack by the Persians was unsuccessful and the Persian army fell apart.

#17 - ARBELLA – 10/1/331 – After taking Egypt, Alexander marched into Mesopotamia. The armies met about 70 miles west of Arbela on the site of ancient Nineveh. Darius' infantry had been destroyed at Issus and he was forced to rely on chariots, cavalry and elephants. Darius had expected a night attack and had kept his troops in position all night. Alexander massed on his right and as the Persians clumsily shifted to the left, gaps opened. An attempted Persian envelopment was stopped by Macedonian light troops held in reserve for just such an exigency. Alexander executed the first recorded tactical reverse and led a wedge into the gaps in the Persian line. Darius fled out of the path of the onslaught and with this the Persian left and center panicked. Alexander had to stop to help his left beat back a Persian cavalry attack and could not pursue. Darius was killed after the battle by Persian nobles.

#18 – THE HYDASPERS – May 326 – After taking Bactria and Trans-Oxiana, Alexander moved into India. His opponents were led by Porus, leading ruler in the Punjab. Stopped at the unfordable Hydaspes river, Alexander tried a number of gambits to make the Indians relax. When he thought the Indians were off-guard he took half his army across the river upstream. Porus, confused, met him with elephants in front to keep off the Macedonian elephants. Alexander turned his cavalry around the Indian right, keeping the main army with its left on the river. His light infantry harassed the elephants and a number of the angry beasts turned and trampled their own lines, putting the Indians into confusion. Just as the Indians began to envelop the open Macedonian flank the cavalry arrived and swept down the Indian line, increasing the general tumult. The main body then attacked, and after a stiff fight, the Indians broke.

MACEDONIANS – 12 MY, 4 MX, 4 PL, 2 HY, CM-#1, #2, #3. F-3, PV-189, PL-95.

INDIANS – 15 MH, 10 PH, 10 SK, 5 LT, 5 OC, 4 EL. CM-#3 (P-3?) , PV-178, PL-89.

#19 – CRANNON – September 322 – Alexander had never been popular among the Greeks, and upon his death open revolt broke out. The Greeks won two quick victories by the summer of 322, but the Athenian fleet was then destroyed and blockade threatened. The Greek army dwindled from desertion and a new Macedonian army arrived under Antipater. At Crannon the Greeks thought that their cavalry superiority would bring them victory but Antipater struck first and drove the infantry back to rough ground where the cavalry could not help. The battle ended indecisively after a period of maneuver. The Greeks were trapped, but could not be attacked due to their strong position. Antipater besieged the army and captured the various Greek cities, forcing them to make peace.

MACEDONIANS – 1 HY, 6 MX, 10 PH, 4 MH, 2 LT, 2 MY CM-#2, #3. PV-136, PL-68 L-3.

GREEKS – 10 PH, 2 MH, 2 MC. CM-#3 PV-54, PL-36, K-2.

#20 – GAZA – 312 – Antigonus had gained control of much of Alexander's Asian empire from his Syrian base. He attempted to break with the other succession rulers. Cassander, the Macedonian ruler, led the coalition against Antigonus. Antigonus moved against Ptolemy, King of Egypt. He weakened Ptolemy, but could not conquer Egypt. After his failure, he moved against Cassander. While Antigonus was away, Ptolemy attacked his southern army, which had been left under a subordinate, Dametrius. Ptolemy won a complete victory.

EGYPTIAN – 12 MX, 4 HY, 10 PH, 5 PL, 5 MH, 4 MX, 4 MC, CM-#2, #3.

PV-238, PL-119. L-4. CAV EXEMPT.

SYRIAN – 4 MX, 8 MH, 8 LT, 4 BI, 2ML, 6 OC, 3 MC, CM-#2, #3. H-3

PV-156, PL-78. CAV. EXEMPT.

#21 – HERACLEA – 280 – Roman domination in Southern Italy alarmed Tarentum, which asked Pyrrhus, King of Epirus, for aid. Pyrrhus organized the Greek cities in southern Italy. At Heraclea, Pyrrhus used elephants (which Romans had never before seen) to rout the Roman cavalry. The Roman infantry then was driven back. It was after this battle that Pyrrhus made his famous remark, "One more such victory and I am lost."

#22 – ASCULUM – 279 – Again, the Roman consuls marched south and met Pyrrhus. The first day at Asculum was indecisive, but the second day saw the elephants again rout the Roman cavalry. This time, though, the Romans withdrew in good order.

#23 – BENEVENTUM – 275 – Pyrrhus spent three years in Sicily and then returned to Italy. Another close battle came about at Beneventum, and again the Epirote elephants turned the tide. This time, though, the Roman camp garrison managed to turn the elephants back into the Epirote phalanx, and disorder broke out. A Roman counterattack crushed the army. It was after this battle that Pyrrhus made his other famous remark, "What a fine field for battle I leave here for Roma and Carthage."

#24 TUNES – 255 – Near the end of the First Punic War, Rome had gained a great advantage over Carthage. Carthage continued only because of the strictness of the Roman peace terms. They hired the Spartan Xanthippus, who reorganized the army and led it against the Romans. Xanthippus' methods were vindicated at Tunes, where he used his cavalry and elephants to defeat the Romans. He captured about half the Romans, including commander Marcus Atilius Regalus. The Roman remnant dug in on some high ground and were later rescued by a Roman fleet.

CARTHAGINIANS – 15 PH, 10 MH, 4 MC, 4OC, 4 LC, 4 EL. CM#2, L-3. PV-172, PL-86.

ROMANS – 20 SD, 6 SK, 6 LC, CM-#2, #3. H-3. PV-124, PL-62.

#25 SELLASIA – July 222 – Antigonus III of Macedonia made a series of invasions of Greece to quell revolts and Cleomanes III of Sparta led the opposition. Cleomanes, short of money, was forced to attack. He had the dominant ground but was badly outnumbered. He feinted with his center and left while the Illyrians on his right tore into Antigonus' flank. A violent battle ensued, and Cleomanes sent in his Spartan reserves, driving the Macedonians back. Finally, though, these troops lost contact, giving Antigonus time to reform. He was eventually able to overcome the Greeks.

GREEKS – 9PH, 5 LT, 3 MH. CM-#1, #3. D-3. PV-75, PL-50.

MACEDONIANS – 1 LC, 3 HY, 4 MX, 8 PH, 5 MH. CM - #2, #3. PV-111, PL-73. B-3

#26 THE TREBIA – Dec 218 – In the opening campaign of the Second Punic War, Hannibal moved into the Po valley, Two Roman armies under Titus Sempronius and Gnaeus Cornelius Scipio were enticed into attack across the Trebia river. Hannibal counter-attacked, using a hidden force to cut off the Roman retreat. The Romans were routed with about 75% casualties.

ROMANS – 20 SD, 10 SK, 6 LC, CM-#2, #3. G-2. PV-132, PL-66.

**CARTHAGINIANS – 10 PH, 10 MH, 5 BI, 3 OC, 3 MC. CM-#1, 3. H-2 and /or K-2.
PV-137, PL-68**

#27 – LAKE TRASIMENE – April 217 – After Trebia, Hannibal executed the first recorded turning movement and interposed himself between Rome and the newly raised Roman army under Gaius Flaminius. Flaminius, hurrying south, was ambushed in a defile. Hannibal's infantry blocked the road end as the Roman army crowded in, light troops trapped their flanks. The Romans panicked and lost about 30,000 men.

ROMANS – 20 SD, 6 SK, 6 LC, CM-#3. PV-114, PL-28. I-5 on ROAD NORTH OF RIVER.

**CARTHAGINIANS – 15 PH, 8 SK, 8 LT, 6 OC, 6 LC. CM-#1, #3. PV-154, PL-51.
H-4 and/or L-4.**

#28 – RAPHIA – 6/22/217 – In 221 Ptolemy IV, and indolent ruler, acceded to the Egyptian throne and young Antiochus III of Syria attempted to overrun southern Syria and Palestine. By spring of 218 he had reduced most of the area's fortifications. Ptolemy and his wife/sister Arsinoe brought an army into the area. A battle resulted at Raphia. Ptolemy's right was successful, but the Syrians turned back his elephants on the other wing, allowing Antiochus to rout the Egyptians on that side. Antiochus began a reckless pursuit without breaking the Egyptian center, and Ptolemy charged with it into the Syrian center. The Syrian center crumbled, allowing Ptolemy to claim a credible victory, but his failure to exploit the victory allowed Antiochus to retain his previous conquests.

EGYPTIANS – 8 MX, 2 HY, 2 MC, 8 PH, 3 EL, CM-#2, #3. H-3. PV-165, PL-82.

SYRIANS – 7 MX, 2 HY, 2 LC, 5 MH, 5 LT, 4 EL, CM-#2, #3. L-5. PV-131, PL-65.

#29 CANNAE – 8/2/216 – The Roman command devolved upon Aemilius Paulus and his less capable, headstrong associate, Terentius Varro. Hannibal gave battle on a day when he knew Varro was in command. Varro knew that he could not envelop Hannibal's strong flanks and decided to crush his center.

Hannibal advanced his center into a salient position and charged with his cavalry, which destroyed the Roman cavalry and went into the Roman rear. Meanwhile Hannibal slowly withdrew in the center and then sent in his wings just as the cavalry hit. The romans panicked and the army was practically destroyed.

#30 ZAMA – 202 – Scipio Africanus invaded the African mainland and Hannibal was recalled to Africa to stop him. Hannibal’s cavalry was weak, although he did have a strong elephant arm. He charged his elephants at the outset, but they were controlled. The Roman cavalry then drove off the Carthaginian. Initial infantry combat favored the Romans. Hannibal was able to inspire his men and keep his line from breaking as they retreated, but the Roman cavalry hit the Carthaginian rear and broke the army.

#31 CYNOSCEPHALAE – 197 – Rome decided to oppose the increasing power of Philip V of Macedonia and the Second Macedonian War resulted. Rome won the first stage of the war and negotiations began, but Macedonia refused to evacuate Greece as demanded. War began again. Most of Greece deserted and joined Flaminius, the charismatic Roman commander and Hellenophile. When the two armies met on the ridge of Cynoscephalae, both right wings were successful, but a Roman flanking movement carried the day.

MACEDONIANS – 6 MX, 10 PH, 3 HY, 4 MH, 2 MY. CM-#2. F-2. PV-134, PL-67
ROMANS – 25 SD, 4 LC, 2 MC. CM-#2, #3. B-2. PV-136. PL-68.

#32 MAGNESIA – Dec 190 – Antiochus III of Syria invaded Greece and Scipio Africanus was sent with an army to oppose him. Antiochus was driven back to Asia, but Scipio became ill and command passed to Gnaeus Domitus. The battle itself was fought in the rain and began with the Romans advancing against the Syrian elephant line. Both sides were successful on their right flanks, but while Antiochus pursued the beaten Roman cavalry, the Roman cavalry commander, Eumenes II of Pergamum, turned on the open Syrian flank. The legions, having repulsed the elephants and sent them charging back into their own men, joined in and completed the defeat of the Syrians.

#33 PYDNA – 6/22/168 – Macedonia and Pergamum went to war and Rome supported Pergamum. The Macedonians quickly defeated three successive Roman armies. In the third year of the war, though, Lucius Aemilius Paulus took Roman command and made a few gains. The battle began by accident when two watering parties blundered into each other. The Macedonians took the initiative and attacked across a river. Aemilius tried to organize a defense, but the phalanx swept on relentlessly until slowed by some rough ground. The formations were loosened to allow march and Aemilius counter-attacked into the gaps. The phalanx fell apart and the Macedonian state collapsed. It was broken into four provinces and Greece and Anatolia became Roman protectorates.