

When Alexander III ascended the Macedonian throne, he inherited a wealthy kingdom with hegemony over nearly all of Greece, commanding the finest military machine of the day. That nation was the creation of King Philip II of Macedon, who in his 23-year reign took a weak and impoverished kingdom and elevated it to the status of a superpower. Had Philip not been assassinated on the eve of his long cherished invasion of Persia, he might have conquered that empire and gone down in history as Philip the Great.

In geo-political terms, ancient Macedon was similar to Scotland, in that there was a lowland Macedonia—which was mainly Greek oriented and "civilized"—and a highland Macedonia, which shared more with the tribal peoples of the interior and was considered barbarian country by the Greeks. Prior to Philip II, the Macedonian army was composed of the nobility as cavalry and inexperienced peasant levies as infantry. This sufficed for the most part to defend the country from other similar "civilized" armies. The king ruled with the consent of the nobility, who weren't above removing a king who failed to ensure prosperity for the nobles. Macedonian nobles had close ties with their brethren in the Greek city states. In his early life, Philip was sent to Thebes as a hostage to ensure the good behavior of Macedon. He stayed at the house of the father of Epaminondas, where he was no doubt in regular contact with that military genius who had grown up there.

Philip's older brother Perdiccas III was king of Macedon in 359 BC. Perdiccas led the army against Illyria to recover portions of highland Macedonia and to halt the payment of tribute to King Bardylis of Illyria. In a battle along the Axios River, Perdiccas and 4,000 Macedonians were

slain. Philip proclaimed himself Regent for Perdiccas' infant son, but he was beset by several rival claimants, an advancing Illyrian army, threats of war from Athens and raids from the Paeonian tribes to the North.

Philip displayed a whirlwind of activity in his first year, at the age of 22 or 23. He renewed tribute to Illyria and married Bardylis' daughter, bringing about Illyrian withdrawal from lowland Macedonia. He defeated the rival claimants for the throne in pitched battle or by assassination, turned over the port of Amphipolis to Athens in return for peace, and drove back the Paeonians with a devastating series of cavalry raids on their homelands. Finally, he became King of Macedon in his own right by setting aside the infant Amyntas, who nonetheless remained fiercely loyal to Philip (and was eventually executed by Alexander).

During this year, he used only his cavalry. The infantry were being trained in a new theory of warfare. Instead of relying on peasant levies, Philip created a standing army. One problem with this was the tremendous expense of the hoplite panoply. Philip responded by fielding infantry with lighter armor, and weaponry with a longer reach. The Macedonian phalanx was born. Philip's warriors were armed with long sarissas, possibly designed by Philip himself. The new pikes were made of cornel wood and consisted of two pieces that fitted together with a socket joint, over which an iron sleeve was fitted to hold the pieces firmly together. On the march, the sarissa was carried disassembled.

Philip "the Great"

Scenarios for *Great Battles of Alexander*

By Stephen Jackson

Philip realized that Macedon could not grow while paying a heavy tribute in addition to having most of highland Macedonia in Illyrian hands. As a result, he led his fledgeling army against the Illyrian King who had humbled Macedon three times in three decades.

THE ILLYRIAN EMPIRE

Bardylis was a dynamic leader. As chieftan of the the largest Illyrian tribe, the Dardanoi, he united the Illyrian tribes under his kingship, calling his nation the Illyrian Empire. In 393 BC he defeated Philip's father, Amyntas III, and occupied most of Macedonia. Amyntas was later restored to his throne with the assistance of Thessaly, but Illyria retained possession of some Macedonian territory and received annual tribute from Macedon. Around 387 BC Bardylis led the Illyrians south and conquered Epirus. He was in turn driven out by Sparta in 385 BC, but from his brief tenure as Lord of Epirus he gained appreciation of hoplite tactics, and more importantly, thousands of sets of hoplite armor, which he began training his tribesmen to use. Around 370 BC, Philip's uncle, King Ptolemy of Macedon attempted to throw off tribute once again. This resulted in another Macedonian defeat at Bardylis' hands. Finally, there was the defeat in 359 BC which resulted in the death of Perdiccas and Philip's elevation to the throne.

As Philip marched Northwest, Bardylis moved to meet him. The armies met on the Lyncestrian Plain in the **Erigon Valley**. The numbers on each side were equal, each side having about 10,000

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infantry and 500 cavalry.

Bardylis deployed with his hoplites in the center, flanked by the tribal warriors on either side. Philip deployed on the right with his striking arm, hoping that the hypaspists and cavalry could break the Illyrian left while the new sarissa-armed phalanx held the center. Parmenion, who may have planned the battle, commanded the center. Light troops held the Macedonian left, somewhat behind the main force to refuse that flank.

This is precisely what happened. The Illyrian light cavalry harassed the Macedonians while the phalanx pinned the Illyrian hoplites.

The Companion cavalry attacked the flank, forcing Bardylis to form square. At that point the hypaspists punched a hole and penetrated the square, quickly followed by the Companions. The Illyrian army collapsed with 7,000 killed. Philip regained control of the Macedonian highlands, plus an Illyrian buffer zone.

The collapse of the Illyrians caused most of Greece to take notice of the young King. He spent the next years consolidating the kingdom, securing the gold mines of Crenidas, and expanding the army. He allied with the Chalcidian League and moved to evict Athenian presence from the area. He quickly took Amphipolis, Potidea, Pydna and Methone, the last of which cost him his right eye during the siege when an arrow struck him in the cheek. These actions gained Macedon a coast and ports, but earned Philip the undying enmity of the orator



Philip of Macedon saw an opportunity to cast himself as "The Champion of Apollo" and intervene in the Sacred War. In 353 BC he marched into Thessaly in support of the "East Thessalians" and defeated a Phocian/Thessalian force under Phayllus and Lycophron, Tyrant of Pherae.

Onomarchus, the War Archon of Phocis, marched north with the main army of 20,000 infantry and 500 cavalry. He linked up with his brother Phayllus and his remnants. He fought a skirmish with Philip, then withdrew before Philip's superior cavalry could be decisive. Philip's army at this point consisted of 20,000 Macedonian, Thessalian and Theban infantry with 3,000 Macedonian and Thessalian cavalry.

Demosthenes.

THE THIRD SACRED WAR

In 355 BC, the Phocians were in imminent danger of being defeated by Thebes. In desperation they seized the treasures of the Temple precinct at Delphi and were able to raise a considerable mercenary army by offering double the normal pay for the times. Thebes and the Amphictyonic Council gleefully declared a "Sacred War" to punish the Phocians for offenses against the gods. Athens and Sparta supported the Phocians but did not get actively involved; their motive was to oppose Theban domination.

In a series of maneuvers and battles, the Phocians defeated the Boeotians to their south and fomented a civil war in Thessaly.

Onomarchus was a clever and effective general. He knew he was outclassed in cavalry, so he staged an ambush for Philip. He deployed his army in a crescent in a valley with hidden stone-throwing artillery on the valley heights covering his flanks. As Philip's army advanced, Onomarchus feigned a withdrawal. The Macedonians pushed forward and the phalanx came under heavy fire from the artillery concealed on the heights. Rocks tore massive holes in the phalanx as Onomarchus reversed and charged. For the first (and last) time in Philip's reign, the Macedonian army broke and ran.

Philip's losses are unknown, but politically the battle was a disaster. Sensing weakness, Athens sent a force under Chares to the Chalcidice, where he sacked several cities in which the citizens were massacred or sold into

slavery. Nearly the entire region repudiated the Macedonian treaty and allied with Athens to end the terror. Philip's remaining allies began to waiver but he reassured them with a vow to "return like a ram to butt all the harder." In the meantime, Onomarchus moved south and defeated the Boeotians at Coronea.

In 352 BC Philip again pushed south. His army again had 20,000 infantry and 3,000 cavalry and was a mixture of Macedonians, Thessalians and several contingents from the smaller cities and leagues of the North. Thebes and the Boeotians were out of the war at this point.

CROCUS FIELDS

Onomarchus planned to combine his army with those of Pherae and Athens to defeat Philip with numerical superiority. Philip conducted a lightning march on the port of Pagasae and seized it before the Athenian fleet could dock and unload 5,000 hoplites and 500 cavalry. Leaving a

rearguard he marched on Onomarchus, while the Athenians were forced to watch the battle from their triremes anchored offshore (there being no beaches nearby where they could unload the troops).

Onomarchus fielded 20,000 infantry and less than a thousand cavalry. Philip decked his army in laurel wreaths to signify that they fought on behalf of Apollo against the sacriligious Phocians. The hoplites of Onomarchus' mixed army fought with surprising resilience, holding off the Macedonian phalanx and hoplites of Philip's allies, until the Macedonian superiority in cavalry began to tell. The Phocian lines sagged, and contingents began to withdraw, at first in good order, and then with increasing panic. Onomarchus and 6,000 of his men were killed, with more drowning as they attempted to swim to the Athenian triremes offshore. 3,000 more were captured.

The Phocians appointed Phayllus their leader and withdrew southwards, pursued by Philip. Chares and the remnants fortified Thermopylae, causing Philip to withdraw rather than storm the fortifications. The Sacred War wound down over several years, with Athens, Thebes, Corinth and Sparta all getting involved. Finally, with the wealth of their temples exhausted, the Phocians collapsed.

Under the urging of Demosthenes, Athens repeatedly tried to form an alliance against Macedonian expansion. Philip skillfully thwarted these attempts through a mixture of bribery, military threats, diplomacy and cultivation of a pro-Macedonian party in Athens.

FINAL YEARS

Over the next decade, Philip secured control of all Greece from Thessaly north through Thrace to Byzantium, until he finally marched south in 339 *en route* to Chaeronea. After that victory he

BATTLE OF THE ERIGON VALLEY, 358 BC (aka Heraclea Lyncestis)

Map: Use the **Gaugamela Extension** map, but ignore all terrain. xx21 is north.

Deployment: Macedonians use blue counters and Illyrians use red and brown counters. The note after each indicates the game or module in which the unit may be found.

Initial Deployment

Illyrian Army of King Bardylis— All units face SE

Unit(s):	Hex(es):
Bardylis [OC] ^(b)	2312
Grabos ^(b)	3407
Cleitus ^(c)	1914
Greek Ally HO/HI 1-3 ^(a)	2014-2511
Gaul MI 1-2 ^(p)	1914, 2611
Tribal MI 1-4 ^(a)	2710-3009
Illyria LI 1-3 ^(p)	3108-3307
Illyria SK ^(a)	1417
Illyria MI 1-4 ^(p)	1516-1815
Arachosia LC ^(d)	3407
Paeonia LC 1 ^(a)	3506

Macedonian Army of Philip II— All units face NW

Unit(s):	Hex(es):
Philip II [OC] ^(a/b)	1511
Parmenion ^(a/e)	2407
Mixed PH 1-5 ^(d)	1611-2506
GrkMrc HO/HI 1-2 ^(a)	1412, 1511
GrkMrc LP 1-2 ^(a)	2606, 2605
Merc LI 1-4 ^(p)	2704, 2703, 2803, 2802
Uxia Slinger 1-2 ^(a)	1213, 2901
Companion HC 1 ^(d)	1312

Counter Source Notes:

- a** = From *Deluxe GBoA*.
- b** = From *C3 Nr. 13* insert.
- c** = Use Clitus from *Deluxe GBoA*.
- d** = From *Diodochoi*.
- e** = From *C3i Nr.10* insert.
- p** = From *Phalanx*.

Special Rules

- 1) The Illyrians were confident at confronting this army that had been defeated by them so many times previously. Subtract two from all Illyrian pre-shock TQ rolls, unless the Illyrian unit is being attacked by a Hypaspist (GrkMrc HO/HI) or the Companion cavalry unit. This remains in effect until an Illyrian hoplite unit routs or Bardylis is killed or wounded.
- 2) All MI and single counter HI have a movement allowance of 5. All MI have javelin capability.
- 3) MCCs. The Macedonian Command system has not been developed at this point. There are no MCCs.

Retreat Edge: Illyrians retreat to the north edge, Macedonians to the south edge.

Victory: The Macedonian army withdraws when it has accumulated 41 RPs. The Illyrians withdraw when they have accumulated 35 RPs.

Army Size and TQ Levels

Army	Size	TQ Pts	Rout Ratio	Quality Ratio
Macedonian	93	117	35%	5.57
Illyrian	101	115	35%	5.23

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marched to the Peloponnese, and in the chambers of the Corinthian League, declared a pan-Hellenic Congress with the intent for a sacred war against the Persians. For the first time since the invasions of Darius and Xerxes,

Greece was united and ready to strike at the Empire in the East.

Shortly afterward, Philip was stabbed to death. In his 23-year reign, he had raised Macedon from peril and poverty to control

of all of Greece and nearby areas (with the notable exception of Sparta). His military campaigns are not as well documented, nor as dramatic as Alexander's, but he built the army that Alexander would use. He also showed more diplomatic ability and patience, and was more generous to the vanquished than his successor. One wonders what he might have accomplished had he not been struck down in his 46th year.

BATTLE OF THE CROCUS FIELDS, 352 BC (aka Crocian Plains)

Map: Use the **Gaugamela** map. 42xx is North.

Deployment: Philip uses red counters from *Deluxe Great Battles of Alexander*. Onomarchus uses blue and blue-green counters; the note after each Phocian indicates the game or module in which the unit may be found.

Initial Deployment

Phocian Mercenary Army of Onomarchus— Set up first, all units south of 23xx

Onomarchus [OC] ^(b)
Phayllus ^(b)
Lycophron (Wing) ^(b)
Mnaseas ^(b)
Greek HO/HI 1-8 ^(d)
Argos HO/HI 1-3 ^(d)
GrkMrc HO/HI 1-2 ^(a)
GrkMrc LP 1-2 ^(a)
Merc MI 1-5 ^(p)
Merc LI 1-8 ^(a)
Susian Archer 1-4 ^(a)
Rhodes Slinger 1-3 ^(a)
Mercenary LN ^(d)
AllGrk LN ^(d)

Special Rules

- Philip II has a Contingent Command Capability rating of 2 for this (and all other) battles.
- MCCs. The Macedonian may deploy the following contingent commanders:
 - Attalus (Agrianians)
 - Nicanor (Hypaspists)
 - Sitalces (Thracian Peltasts)

Retreat Edge: Phocians retreat to the south edge, while Macedonians retreat to the north edge.

Victory: The Phocian army withdraws when it has accumulated 86 rout points. The Macedonian army withdraws when it has accumulated 83 rout points.

Variant: Philip's seizure of the port of Pagasae prevented Athens from linking forces with Onomarchus. To reflect what might have happened had the Athenians been able to land their force, add the following to Onomarchus' forces: Athens HO/HI 1-5 ^(d), Athens LC 1 ^(d) and Chares ^(b). Allow each side to freely deploy their forces so long as none are further forward than the above setup. Chares is a Wing Commander and is the only one that may command the Athenian units. He may not command other Phocian units. Onomarchus' rout total is now 106.

Macedonian Army of Philip II— All units set up north of 29xx

Philip II [OC] ^(a/b)
Parmenion (Wing) ^(a/e)
Antipater (Wing) ^(b)
Macedon PH 1-12
Hypaspists 1-2
Greek Ally HO/HI 1-3
Thrace LP 1-6
Agrianian SK* 1-2
Crete Archer
Illyria SK
Companion HC 1-2
Thessaly HC 1-3
Thrace LC 2
Grk Ally LC 3

Counter Source Notes:

- a = From *Deluxe GBoA*.
- b = From *C3 Nr. 13* insert.
- c = Use Clitus from *Deluxe GBoA*.
- d = From *Diodochoi*.
- e = From *C3I Nr. 10* insert.
- p = From *Phalanx*.

Army Size and TQ Levels

Army	Size	TQ Pts	Rout Ratio	Quality Ratio
Macedonian	225	276	30%	5.63
Phocian (Athenians)	202 (+55)	288 (+65)	30%	6.00

"The Athenians are a fine people. They elect ten new generals every year. In all my life, I have only known one, and that is Parmenion."

—Philip II

SOURCES

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Philip the Great against Persia

(A *Deluxe Alexander* variant)

Assume that Philip II was not assassinated, and therefore led the invasion of Persia instead of Alexander. Make the following changes to the scenarios (which should actually help to balance them):

Chaeronea: No changes.

Lyginus: This represents Philip's campaign of 340 BC against the Triballians. Replace Alexander with Philip II, and replace Philotas with Parmenion.

Pelium: This represents Parmenion's suppression of an Illyrian uprising under Grabos in 356 BC. Replace Alexander with Parmenion, and Syrmus with Grabos.

Granicus: Replace Alexander with Philip II, and Philotas with Alexander (CH counter).

Issus: Replace Alexander with Philip II, and Craterus with Alexander (CH).

Gaugamela: Replace Alexander with Philip II, and Craterus with Alexander (CH).

Jaxartes: Replace Alexander with Philip II.

Samarkand: No changes.

Arigaeum: Replace Alexander with Philip II and Leonatus with Alexander (CH).

Hydaspes: Replace Alexander with Philip II and Antigenes with Alexander (CH).