

Command & Colors: Ancients

EMPORIAE - 195 BC



Historical Background

In Spain after the 2nd Punic war, the Romans established the provinces of Hispania Ulterior and Citerior in 197BC. An uprising by the native Iberians began almost immediately due to the imposition of high taxes by the Romans. Various Roman Praetors in the region were defeated by the Iberians and so the Senate decided that one of the consuls for 195BC, Marcus Cato, would be sent to Spain with a consular army to put an end to the troubles. Cato landed at Emporiae, the main port of Hispania Citerior, to find the city under siege by an Iberian army located nearby in an ex-Roman Punic war fortified camp.

Cato began a series of skirmish encounters with his enemy to establish their capabilities, train his men and to deprive the Iberians of local resources. When he considered his men ready, he took his army on a night march around to the rear of the enemy camp. With his army concealed by a local hill he sent 1,000 troops to demonstrate in front of the Iberian camp. The Iberians took the bait and came streaming out of their camp in pursuit. Cato now revealed his deployed army and attacked. A bitter struggle ensued with Cato having to personally shore up his faltering right flank, but the commitment of Roman reserves along with a flanking attack from the Roman left caused the Iberians to retreat for the safety of their fortifications. However, meanwhile Cato had sent the fresh 2nd legion to enter the Iberian camp by a poorly guarded gate so that they appeared suddenly behind the Iberians inside their own camp. This was enough to cause a complete Iberian collapse with thousands killed or captured.

Cato's victory brought peace to the provinces and a triumph for himself, but the rebellious Iberians would not be suppressed for long and Rome was in for over two centuries of intermittent conflict before Spain was finally pacified.

(Scenario based on the article "The battle of Emporion: Cato's triumph" by Xavier Rubio).

War Council

Roman Army

Leader: Marcus Portius Cato

- Take 6 Command cards.
- Move first.

Iberian Army

Leader: Unknown

- Take 4 Command cards.

Victory

7 Banners.

Special Rules

The four Roman units and the attached Leader in hexes G1, H1, I1 and I2 are the "2nd Legion". The 2nd legion may not be ordered or attacked until the Roman 4th turn. On that turn the 2nd Legion is ordered as if a "Double Time" card had been played, although no actual card is played. On that turn the Roman player will still play a card as normal to order non 2nd Legion troops. From the following Iberian turn onwards the 2nd Legion is treated as part of the rest of the Roman army in the normal way.