

# Siege of Halicarnassus | Notes

## Background

Memnon of Rhodes had made sure that the city was secured so it would be strong enough to fight Alex and the Macedonians.

"Any deficiencies in the means of assuring its safety had long before been supplied in person by Memnon". (Arrian)

## Terrain

The Persians had the strategic advantage.

"The lie of the land was greatly in favour since they could both shoot and move forward from high ground." (Arrian)

"The defenders had the advantage: their position on the higher ground was a commanding one."

## Account

- 1) Alex led a force up to the wall by the Mylasa gate.
  - Counter attack and missiles easily driven back by Macedonians.
- 2) Guards, companions, infantry, archers went round the wall to the side facing Myndus.

Reconnaitre the wall.

  - Hoped to capture Myndus to use as a base, failed to capture it despite attacking at night. Alex turned his attention back to Halicarnassus.

- 3) Hals built a moat "45 feet wide and 22 feet deep". (Arrian) Alex's men filled it in so he could bring siege engines closer to the wall.
  - Hals tried to burn them at night. 170 Hals died, 16 Macedonians and 300 injured.
- 4) 2 drunken Macedonians under Perdiccas attacked the gate as a joke by themselves.
  - Shot down by Hals, fired spears long range at other Macedonians.
  - Perdiccas' force rushed out as did Hal's. Violent struggle started by the wall.
  - City was nearly captured sue to towers and walls collapsing. Hal's quickly rebuilt.
- 5) Alex brought siege towers up to wall, but they were burnt down again.
- 6) Siege engines brought out again.
  - Full counter attack by Hals.
  - Threw fire and rams at the siege towers.
  - Alex's men reacted strongly and Hals retreated.
  - Many civilians died in hand to hand battle.
  - Bridge collapsed killing many of their own outside.
  - Hals shut the gates in panic, leaving their own outside to be slaughtered.
  - 1000 Hals died, 40 macedonians.
  - Alex gave Hals one more chance to surrender.

## Aftermath

- Persian officers met including Memnon of Rhodes.
- Decided on a scorched earth policy.
- Alex ordered anyone found burning the town to be killed.

- Alex razed the city to the ground.
- Buried his dead.

## Alex's tactics

- Siege engines bombarded the defender's wall.
- Artillery and battering rams for breaching defences.
- He filled in the moat in order to use siege engines.- *Character = determined*
- Use of catapults mounted on towers kept up a continuous pressure by hurling stones.
- Siege fought in darkness. (Arrian)
- Alex launches a surprise attack without being properly prepared at Myndus:  
"Nevertheless, ill equipped as he was, he ordered the infantry to advance." – *Character = brave/foolish.*