



'ALALA!

Greek Hoplite Battles 5th-4th C BC

Game Scenario

Tanagra

457 BC

Historical Background

Sparta sent an army to relieve Doris from Phokian occupation. After defeating the Phokians the Spartans were intercepted by a larger Athenian army near Tanagra in Boeotia.

The Spartans had 11,000 men with a core of 1500 Spartiates supplemented by other Lacedaemonians and Boeotian allies. The Athenian army was 14,000 strong including Argives and other allies.

In a hard fought battle both sides took heavy casualties but the Spartans were able to claim victory.

This scenario is a relatively simple game suitable for 1-2 players on each side with a relatively small number of troops. Although the Athenians have more men the Spartans are superior troops and so this makes for a well-balanced game.



The Field of Battle

For 20-28mm figures you will need a 6'x4' flat open playing area without significant terrain features. To break up the table-top small patches of scrub could be scattered around for visual effect with no impact on movement. The camps of both armies could be placed at the rear.

Deployment

Deploy by drawing cards as per 'Alala! rules p.12

Spartan Order of Battle

Nikomedes (AvD for CPs re-roll 2 once only)

Spartiates (Spartan citizens), A Grade
Perioikoi (Spartan non-citizens), B Grade

Pleistoanax (AvD for CPs)

Thebans, B Grade
Other Allies, C Grade

Cavalry and light troops

Boeotian javelinmen (Psiloi)
Boeotian cavalry

Athenian Order of Battle

Myronides (AvD for CPs)

Athenian citizens, C Grade
Athenian citizens, C Grade
Athenian citizens, C Grade

Cimon (AvD for CPs, re-roll 5 once only)

Argives, B Grade
Other Allies, C Grade

Cavalry and light troops

Athenian archers (Psiloi)
Athenian cavalry
Thessalian cavalry

Notes

The Argives are graded higher than normal for citizen hoplites due to the fact that the Athenians constructed a monument to the Argives killed at Tanagra — a most unusual honour, probably due to their bravery in the battle.

Nikomedes and Myronides commanded the Spartans and Athenians respectively. Pleistoanax was an underage Spartan King under Nikomedes supervision. Cimon was an Athenian who offered help but was rebuffed because of his pro-Spartan leanings.



Additional God Card

Treachery!

Thessalian cavalry switch sides.

They move towards the Athenian base line to loot the camp. Then move off table
Play immediately

Historically the Thessalian cavalry did this.

Scenario adapted from Peter O'Toole's *War Against the Spartans*.