

The Second Punic War, 218 BC to 202 BC

By P.Chadford

Introduction

The Second Punic War must rank as Ancient version of a World War. From the straits of Gibraltar to the coast of Asia the armies and fleets of the two mighty alliances fought each other. History was to prove that the victor of this war would become the master of the known world.

The sizes of the forces involved was immense. Rome at one stage mobilized twenty five legions, supported by an equal number of Latin allies, over 200 quinqueremes, and with an unknown number of mercenaries and other allies. Add to this the forces of Carthage and Macedonia and we have over one million soldiers fighting for one side or the other. This war probably was the largest war of the ancient world to date.

The length of the war was also impressive. From 218 BC to 202 BC the two powers fought each other. An impressive total of sixteen years. Yet even though this was a war of massive numbers and great length one man stands out from the multitude, Hannibal. Hannibal started the war, fought in one of the two major theatres for the length of the war, and ended the war. For the bulk of his military career during the second Punic war he was outnumbered and had inferior troops, yet he managed to hold off the forces of Rome with seeming ease. If anyone was forced to think of a new name to the second Punic war the only possible answer would be "The Hannibalic War".

Forces of the two Republics

218 BC was the year Hannibal launched his invasion of Italy. His army consisted of 90,000 foot, 12,000 cavalry, and 37 elephants. Well before he reached northern Italy he dropped off about 10,000 foot and 1,000 cavalry to hold Northern Spain under Hanno and sent 10,000 foot and 1,000 cavalry home. In addition to this he lost to battle and/or desertion about 20,000 foot and 1,000 cavalry by the time he reached the Rhone. (It is possible that many of these were actually sent back to reinforce Hanno, as when Hanno met the Romans later that year he had a force capable of meeting two Roman legions) This leaves him with a force of 40,000 foot, 9,000 cavalry, and 37 elephants. These were the best troops he had in Spain, the army his father and brother formed and trained and which he perfected. However he suffered even more losses crossing into Italy, so when he met the Romans at the Ticinus he had only 20,000 infantry, 6,000 cavalry and 10 elephants.

In Africa the Carthaginians had 13,850 foot (from the Spanish tribes of Turboletas, Mastieni, Iberians, Oretani, and Olcades), 1,200 cavalry, and 870 Balearic slingers. In addition Carthage was garrisoned with 4,000 picked men from the cities of **Metagonium**. The fleet consisted of 50 quinqueremes.

In Spain Hasdrubal had 11,850 African infantry, 300 Ligurians, 500 Balearic slingers, 450 Libyo-Phoenician cavalry, 1,800 Numidian/Moor cavalry, 200 Spanish Cavalry from the Ilergete tribe, and 21 Elephants. In addition to this he had a fleet of 50 quinqueremes, 2 quadriremes, and 5 triremes. As earlier noted Hanno was stationed in Northern Spain with an army of about 20,000 men.

The Romans fielded two armies of two Legions each. The first under the command of Sempronius was based in Sicily. This army consisted of two legions totaling 8,600 Roman foot, 16,000 Italian allied troops, 1,800 allied cavalry, and 160 quinqueremes.

The second under the command of Scipio was ordered North into the Po Valley. This force consisted of two legions totaling 8,000 Roman foot, 14,000 Italian allied troops, 1,600 allied cavalry, 600 Roman cavalry, and sixty quinqueremes.

This force was held up in Gallia Cisalpina due to a revolt and Scipio raised a third army of similar size which went to Spain.

The Course of the War

218 BC

Sicily

The Carthaginians sent a fleet of 20 quinqueremes to Sicily, but a storm split it into two parts. One part consisting of 3 quinqueremes was captured by 12 Syracusan ships close by to Syracuse. The other part consisted of 17 quinqueremes which sailed to Italy and began to raid the coast. The Carthaginians had a second fleet of 35 quinqueremes which was to sail to Lilybaeum, in Sicily, and try and take it by surprise. However it was delayed by the same storm which split the first fleet and by the time it arrived a Roman fleet under Marcus Aemilius was waiting. A battle was fought which resulted in a decisive defeat for the Carthaginians, who then sailed home.

Soon after this Tuditanus Sempronius Longus arrived in Sicily with his army and some additional ships. He sailed to Malta where the Carthaginian commander Hamilcar Gisgo surrendered with 2,000 men. At this point he was ordered north to help his fellow Consul, Scipio. He left 50 quinqueremes with Aemilius to defend Sicily and 25 with Pomponius to defend Italy. Sempronius then took the remaining fleet and his army and went North to join Scipio.

Italy

Hannibal started his crusade from New Carthage at the end of April. He crossed the Ebro in early June and arrived at the Rhone in the middle of August. After Hannibal crossed the Italian Alps he had an army of 20,000 foot, 6,000 cavalry and 10 elephants. Out of an army of 50,000 men Hannibal was down to 26,000 men. He must of lost many men in the crossing as he had to fight countless skirmishes and mother nature.

In Gallia Cisalpina the Boii and Insubres had revolted against the Romans, probably under Hannibal's urging. They threatened Placentia and Cremona and Scipio had to send his two legions under the praetors Gaius Atellus and Lucius Manlius Acidinus to help defend them. He then raised two new legions and then sailed to the Rhone to try and meet Hannibal, but just missed him. These two legions then continued to Spain under Gnaeus Scipio and Publius Cornelius Scipio went back to Gallia Cisalpina to take command of his original two legions.

When Hannibal arrived in the Po he found that two Gallic tribes, the Insubres and Taurini, were at war with each other. Hannibal took the side of the Insubres and stormed Taurasia, taking the city. While this was occurring Scipio marched his two legions out to meet Hannibal. Scipio had just crossed the Ticinus when light troops of both armies met each other. Scipio then led out a large force of 2,000 cavalry and 1,600 light foot which met Hannibal

with his entire cavalry force of 6,000. Hannibal won this engagement decisively and Scipio only just escaped with his life. Scipio then retreated over the Ticinus towards the Trebia where he found a good defensive position and fortified it. Hannibal followed Scipio and camped near his army. In an attempt to solve his supply problems Hannibal took **Claustidium**, a Roman supply depot by treachery.

Soon the second consul, Sempronius arrived and joined Scipio's army. Sempronius led an attack against some of Hannibal's foragers and managed to force them back to their camp. This made Sempronius very confident and Hannibal was easily able to lure his army of 37,400 foot and 3,800 cavalry into a trap at Trebia. Here Hannibal defeated the Romans with an army of 28,000 foot and 10,000 cavalry, killing 30,000 Romans. Only 10,000 Roman foot escaped by breaking Hannibal's Gallic center and withdrawing into Placentia.

Spain

After failing to catch Hannibal on the Rhone River Publius Cornelius Scipio left his two legions under the command of his brother Gnaeus Scipio. Gnaeus Scipio went to Upper Spain and landed at Emporiae. He then marched to Cissa where he defeated a Carthaginian army of 10,000 foot and 1,000 cavalry which was supported by an unknown number of unwilling allies (probably 10,000) under the command of Hanno. Gnaeus Scipio then took Cissa and advanced his fleet to Tarraco.

Hasdrubal in Southern Spain marched up to help Hanno with an army of 8,000 foot and 1,000 cavalry but failed to arrive before Hanno's defeat. Once he learned Hanno was defeated he launched a surprise attack at Tarraco, where the Romans stationed their fleet but failed to dislodge the Romans and withdrew.

217 BC

Italy

As soon as winter ended Hannibal marched south towards Etruria. By marching early and through an unlikely and difficult route he managed to bypass the Roman armies and enter Etruria, where he began to ravage the countryside. This forced Gaius Flaminius with one of the two Consular armies to march after Hannibal before the other consular army could arrive. While following Hannibal Flaminius fell into a trap at Lake Trasimene where he lost his entire army of 25,000 men.

While Flaminius was following Hannibal a force of 4,000 cavalry under Gaius Centannius was sent to the aid of Flaminius. Hannibal sent a force of cavalry to intercept and destroy this force, which it did.

Hannibal then marched through Umbria to Spoletium which he tried to take but failed. He then marched into Picenum and ravaged that area. After a few days he marched through **Praetutia**, towards Hadria. Hannibal then marched into Marrucini, Paeligni and then into the area on the Apulian border around Arpi and Luceria.

After the disaster at Trasimene the other consular army under Servilius marched back to Rome where the newly appointed dictator Fabius took command. Fabius then marched the army into Sabine territory to Tibur, where he took on new reinforcements. He then marched to Praeneste and then out to Arpi close to Hannibal's current position. Once there he avoided battle and kept to the easily defended high ground, preferring to pick off foragers and stragglers.

Hannibal then marched from the area of Hirpini to Central Samnium and devastated the territory around Beneventum and captured Telesia. He then marched into Campania where he continued to ravage the country side. During this Fabius managed to follow Hannibal and trap him near Casilinum. Hannibal managed to escape this trap with the use of trickery. Hannibal then marched into the area of Paeligni and then back into Apulia where he prepared a permanent camp near the town of Geruneum. Fabius, who was following Hannibal camped near Larinum and then went back to Rome leaving Marcus Minucius Rufus in charge of his army.

Minucius left the safety of the high ground and camped on the plain close to Hannibal's camp. While there he managed to defeat a small foraging force which increased his standing in Rome. When Fabius came back he was forced to split the Roman army into two parts of two legions each, one under himself and the other under Minucius. Hannibal managed to lure Minucius to battle at Geruneum and almost destroyed him, only the quick arrival of Fabius saved the day. After this the Roman army was reunited under Fabius.

Spain

After the defeat the previous year Hasdrubal recruited more troop and prepared a fleet of 40 quinqueremes for battle. Hasdrubal was to command the army while the command of the fleet was given to Himilco. Himilco sailed his fleet and Hasdrubal marched his army to the mouth of the Ebro. While camped there the combined Roman fleet of 35 quinqueremes and 20 ships from Massilia launched a surprise attack which almost totally destroyed the Carthaginian fleet.

Soon after this Gnaeus Scipio's brother Publius Scipio joined him with 20 Quinqueremes and 6,000 reinforcements. The Roman army then marched South to the gates of Saguntum, but failed to take it. On the way back the towns of Intibili and Iiturgi were taken.

Africa

The ex-consul Gnaeus Servilius Geminus sailed with 120 quinqueremes to Sardinia and Corsica. He then set sail for Africa and made a landing of the undefended coast. While plundering the countryside a Carthaginian army appeared and attacked the Romans. The Romans were quickly routed by this surprise attack and retreated to their fleet where they embarked on their ships and departed. Once back in Sicily the combined force was put under the control of Crassus Titus Otacilius.

216 BC

Italy

The Romans elected Varro as consul, who believed that Rome should make a massive effort to destroy Hannibal. He assembled an army of eight legions, most of which was made up of raw troops. Hannibal had marched to the area around Cannae where he waited for the Roman army to arrive. The resulting battle was a total victory for Hannibal, out of 80,000 Romans only 10,000 managed to escape.

After this massive victory Hannibal left Apulia and moved into the territory of the Hirpini in Samnium towards Compsa, which revolted and joined Hannibal. At this point Hannibal split his army into two, the smaller part was commanded by Mago and the rest by Hannibal. Mago was ordered to take over any towns which revolted from Rome and to garrison them.

Hannibal then proceeded through Campania to Naples. At Naples Hannibal defeated the local

militia but failed to take the city. Hannibal then marched to Capua and accepted that powerful city into his alliance. Hannibal then marched back to Naples and made another attempt on that city, but failed. He then attempted to take Nola, but failed again due to the only remaining Roman army under Marcellus. Hannibal then marched to Acerrae and took that city, then to Casilinum but failed to take that city. Hannibal then marched back to Capua where he wintered.

During this year towns in Samnium and Apulia and almost all of Lucania and Bruttium joined Hannibal. After some negotiation Capua joined Hannibal later that year along with many other Campanian cities including Atella and Calatini. Hannibal had finally created the base of operations he so desperately desired.

Spain

Carthage sent 4,000 men and 800 cavalry to Hasdrubal. With his reinforced army and his rebuilt fleet he planned to attack the Romans. However two things stopped him, his ship captains deserted and a former ally revolted, the Tartesii. Hasdrubal invaded the Tartesii where he found a Tartesii army under the command of Chalus. After an initial success he was forced back to a hill position which he fortified. Waiting for the correct moment he attacked the Tartesii army, surrounding and destroying it.

The Romans didn't do too much this year as they were consolidating their position North of the Ebro.

215 BC

Italy

The Romans suffered a disaster in Gallia Cisalpina where a Roman army of two legions under Postumius Albinus was ambushed and destroyed by the Boii in the **Litana forest**. About 25,000 Romans and allies died, as well as the consul Postumius Albinus. The Romans were unable to send a new army to Gallia Cisalpina this year.

In Bruttium the pro-roman town of Petelia fell to a combined Carthaginian and Bruttium army under the command of Himilco. This force then marched to Consentia which surrendered after two days. About the same time a Bruttium army of 15,000 men laid siege to Croton and took it. Locri fell soon after to a combined Bruttium and Carthaginian army. Only Rhegium stayed loyal and under the control of Rome in Bruttium.

The Romans sent an army under Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus to Liternum where he established a well fortified camp. At the same time a Campanian army of 14,000 men was marching to Cumae in an attempt to take that city. Gracchus managed to intercept this force at **Hamae**, and launched a surprise night attack against the Campanian camp which scattered the army. Gracchus then marched towards Cumae where he made his base.

When Hannibal discovered about the defeat of the Campanian army he rushed up to Hamae in an attempt to catch Gracchus, but he failed. He then marched onto Cumae and began to besiege it. In a surprise attack Gracchus managed to break the siege, but he refused to fight Hannibal. Hannibal then withdrew to Tifata.

Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus marched into Lucania where he fought and defeated a Bruttium and Carthaginian army under the command of Hanno near Grumentum. Hanno then withdrew the survivors to Bruttium.

A Roman army under the command of Valerius stormed and retook **Vercellium**, **Viscellium**, and **Sicilinum**. These were three towns of the Hirpini. Further North the two consular armies moved to the area around Capua and took **Compuateria**, **Trebula**, and **Austicula**. While this was occurring a Carthaginian fleet under Bomilcar arrived in Locri bring with it 4,000 Numidians and some elephants. When it sailed back home Mago went with in so he could raise reinforcements to send to Hannibal.

When Hannibal learned the major Roman armies were around Capua he marched to Nola. He left the bulk of his army at Tifata and marched to Nola where he met up with Hanno's army. Before he could arrive in Nola Marcellus marched back to Nola to prevent it being taken by Hannibal. Hannibal failed to take the city and sent Hanno back to Bruttium and marched his force to Arpi in Apulia.

Sicily

The king of Syracuse Hiero died and his son Hieronymus become the new leader. He began to negotiate with Hannibal, which worried the Romans.

Spain

Carthage sent an army and a fleet under the command of Himilco to hold Southern Spain while Hasdrubal attempted to break through to Italy. The Romans intercepted Hasdrubal at Ibera on the Ebro. The Romans would of had a force of about 20,000 to 25,000 Romans and Italians and a unknown force of Spanish allies. Hasdrubal had a force of about equal size. Hasdrubal tried the same tactic that Hannibal used at Cannae, but his center of Spanish troops broke before his flanks had turned around to surround the Romans. Hasdrubal Barca was forced to retire suffering heavy losses among his excellent African troops.

Africa

The Romans sent a fleet under Titus Otacilius to Africa to raid the coast. After a successful raid he sailed to Sardinia where he defeated a Carthaginian fleet, the same one which brought Hasdrubal the Bald to Sardinia.

Greece

The Romans, not trusting Macedonia, assembled a fleet of 50 quinqueremes at Tarentum under the command of Marcus Valerius Laevinus to protect the coast between Tarentum and Brundisium.

Sardinia

Carthage sent Hasdrubal the Bald to Sardinia with 12,000 foot, 1,500 cavalry, and 60 quinqueremes to help a rebellion which was occurring there. The rebellion was probably only included the Carthaginian colonists and did not include too many indigenous natives. In response to the rebellion Rome sent a Legion of 5,000 foot and 400 cavalry to Sardinia to join the Legion already there. The total army of 22,000 foot and 1,500 cavalry was commanded by Titus Manlius Torquatus.

The Carthaginian force was delayed due to a storm giving the Romans a chance to defeat the rebel army at Caralis. This was helped by the fact the Sardinian commander, Hampsicora, left his army in an attempt to recruit more men from the native Sardinian hillmen, or Goatskins. He left his army in the command of Hostus, his son, who stupidly led his army into battle against the Romans. Ill led, prepared and outnumbered the army was defeated with the loss of 3,000 Sardinians killed and 800 captured.

When Hasdrubal arrived he found the remnants of a rebel army at **Cornus** being besieged by the Romans. Upon the arrival of Hasdrubal, Titus

manlius Torquatus withdrew his army to Carales, allowing Hasdrubal to join up with Hampsicora. The combined army now marched out to devastating the country side in order to fan another general rebellion. However before this could cause a second general rebellion the Romans marched out to meet Hasdrubal somewhere between the two towns and defeated him in battle. The combined Carthaginian and Sardinian army lost 12,000 men killed and 3,700 men taken prisoner.

214 BC

Italy

Hannibal started the year by marched from Arpi to Mt Tifata near Capua. This was in order to defend Capua from the expected Roman attack. He left his Numidian and Spanish troops to guard the town and marched with the rest of his army to Puteoli to attack it. The town had a garrison of 6,000 men and Hannibal assaulted it for three days before giving up.

Hannibal then marched to Naples and ravaged the countryside. While Hannibal was in this area the people of Nola attempted to revolt and join Hannibal. In order to stop this Marcellus marched with his two legions from Cales to Suessula, and from there he marched with 6,000 men to Nola.

While this was occurring another Roman army of two legions under Fabius marched to Casilinum in order to besiege it. Another army of two slave legions under Gracchus marched to Beneventum. Once Gracchus arrived at Beneventum a Carthaginian army of 17,000 foot and 1,200 cavalry under the command of Hanno arrived and began to ravage the country. Gracchus marched out to give battle to Hanno and won a smashing victory. Hanno's army was composed of Bruttium and Lucanian foot and Numidian and Moorish cavalry. After the battle Hanno retreated into Bruttium with only 2,000 men, mostly cavalry.

Up North Hannibal advanced to Nola with his army and Marcellus moved the rest of his army to Nola to defend it. Both armies fought a battle outside the gates of Nola which resulted in a draw. After this failure Hannibal marched his army to Tarentum.

At Casilinum Fabius, which was besieging the town, was threatened by a Campanian army under Staius Metius. In order to safeguard himself he ordered Marcellus from Nola to join him. Marcellus left 2,000 men in Nola and marched with his two legions to Fabius. With four legions at his disposal Fabius continued the siege and took Casilinum. Casilinum was held by 2,000 Campanians and 700 Carthaginians.

After this victory Marcellus sent a force of Lucanian cohorts to raid Bruttium. Hanno caught this force and destroyed it in battle paying back the Romans his earlier defeat. With the remaining part of his army Marcellus marched back to Nola and with his two legions Fabius marched to Samnium territory in order to ravage the countryside. Fabius managed to take **Compulteria**, Telesia, Compsa, **Fugifulae** and **Orbitanium** while in Samnium territory. He then marched into Lucania where he took **Blandae**, and then marched into Apulia where he took **Aecae**. Fabius then returned to Lucania and took **Aecuca** before establishing a permanent camp at **Ardoneae** in Lucania.

Further South Hannibal attempted to take the city of Tarentum by treachery but failed. He then marched to Salapia and established his winter camp.

Sicily

Hieronimus was murdered by pro-republicans and a republic was proclaimed. The republic appointed

two pro Carthaginians, Hippocrates and Epicydes, as the leaders of the military forces of Syracuse. The Romans sent Marcus Claudius Marcellus with a Legion to Sicily. In Sicily he joined up with the two legions there, the two legions were the survivors of Cannae, and raised a fleet of 100 quinqueremes. Near the end of the year the 1st legion arrived.

Spain

Due to the loss of Hasdrubal Barca during the previous year Carthage sent Mago to Spain with an army of 12,000 foot, 1,500 cavalry, 20 elephants, and 60 quinqueremes, which was originally destined for Italy. Hasdrubal took over the Southern army under Himilco, Hamilcar Bomilcar recruited Spanish allies and the three combined armies engaged the Romans at Iiturgi where the Carthaginians were defeated. They met again at Intibili where the Carthaginians were defeated again. In addition to this Carthage assembled another army under Hasdrubal son of Gisco and sent that to Spain later that year.

Greece

Philip of Macedonia made an alliance with Carthage and launched an attack against Apollonia with a fleet of 120 light triremes and a large army. He failed to take it by storm and marched to Oricus where he managed to take that city. Leaving a small garrison he marched back to Apollonia and began to besiege it.

The Romans sent Valerius with a fleet of 50 quinqueremes and one legion to Oricum leaving 2,000 men in Brundisium under Publius Valerius. Valerius retook Oricum easily and then sent 2,000 picked men to help Apollonia under Quintus Naevius Crista. This force sneaked past Philip into Apollonia and Naevius began to reorganize the Apollonian force.

He then launched a surprise night attack against Philip's army and managed to kill 3,000 men and capture 3,000 men while putting the rest to flight. Once this occurred Valerius sent his fleet to Apollonia to block Philip's fleet in. Philip then burned his fleet and escaped overland.

213 BC

Italy

Fabius marched with his two legions from Suessula to Arpi. Arpi was garrisoned by 5,000 Carthaginians and 3,000 local troops. Fabius managed to get into the city by treachery and a vicious battle began. First the local troops deserted and finally the Spanish contingent of 1,000 men deserted on condition that the rest of the Carthaginians be allowed to leave the town. Fabius accepted the condition and the remaining garrison left and joined Hannibal at Salapia. While this was occurring another Roman army of two legions under the command of Sempronius Tuditanus took **Atrinum** by storm.

While these two disasters were occurring Hannibal stayed in the area around Tarentum, hoping the city might be betrayed into his hands. While there he captured some Calabrian towns. In Bruttium two of the twelve communities, Consentia and **Taurianum**, rejoined the Romans. Soon after this occurred a ill organized Roman force under the command of Titus Pomponius Veientanus engaged Hanno in Bruttium and was defeated.

Near the end of the year Hannibal managed to enter Tarentum by treachery with 10,000 men. The Romans managed to keep control of the citadel in the harbor and Hannibal left instructions to besiege it. He then marched to his winter quarters.

Sicily

Hippocrates and Epicydes attacked a Roman frontier post which started the war between Syracuse and Rome. Marcellus stormed and sacked Leontini and then marched to Syracuse where he prepared to besiege it.

Carthage sent an army of 25,000 foot, 3,000 cavalry, and 12 elephants under Himilco and a fleet of 55 quinqueremes under Bomilcar to Sicily. Himilco managed to capture Agrigentum and Heraclea, but got no further. Bomilcar attempted to relieve the siege of Syracuse by sea, but failed and went back to Carthage. Marcellus managed to defeat a Syracusan army of 10,000 foot and 500 cavalry, under Hippocrates which was trying to sneak out to join Himilco's army. The survivors managed to reach the Carthaginian army. Marcellus then captured a few small towns which belonged to Syracuse.

Africa

Syphax, the major leader of the Numidian tribes revolted and joined the Romans. The Romans sent men to help Syphax train his infantry, and with this force he managed to defeat a Carthaginian army. As a result Carthage recalled Hasdrubal from Spain to suppress the revolt. By backing Syphax's opponent, Gala, Hasdrubal was able to amass a large army of Numidians commanded by Masinissa together with his smaller Carthaginian force. This combined army met Syphax and defeated him. It was said 30,000 men died in this battle. Syphax retreated to the far Western part of Africa and amassed another army but Masinissa followed him and finally forced Syphax to come to terms with Carthage. Hasdrubal sailed back to Spain soon after.

Spain

The Romans planned to cross the Ebro and join up with a large Spanish allied army in the South, however Hasdrubal and Mago managed to intercept the Spanish army and defeat it before the Romans could get there. In order to salvage something from this disaster Publius Scipio sent a flying column to help the survivors of the Spanish allied army. He met up with Hasdrubal and Mago who harassed him and surrounded him. Scipio was only saved by the arrival of his brother Gnaeus Scipio and the rest of the Roman army.

One Carthaginian army then marched to Iiturgi, a Roman ally, in an attempt to take it but Publius Scipio managed to save it by sneaking into the town with his one legion. The combined Spanish and Roman force sallied out and defeated the Carthaginian army. At the same time the other Carthaginian army marched to Bigerra, but this town was saved by the other Roman legion under Gnaeus Scipio.

The Carthaginians joined their two armies at Munda and the Romans did the same. Both armies fought each other at Munda and the Romans were defeated and forced back into their camp. The Carthaginians then marched to Aurinx and fought another battle where they were defeated. The Carthaginians then retreated due to Hasdrubal being recalled to Africa making it possible for the Roman army to besiege and take Saguntum.

Greece

Philip managed to capture Lissus on the Illyrian coast after being forced off the coast the year before by the Romans.

212 BC

Italy

The Capuans crops were being ravaged by the Roman's so Hannibal ordered Hanno with about 15,000 men to Capua in order to supply the city. He camped about 3 miles from the city and went out ravaging Roman territory to supply Capua. While Hanno was on a raiding expedition at "**Cominium Oeritum**", Fulvius attacked the camp, took it and killed 6,000 men and captured 7,000 men. Hanno then withdrew back to Bruttium. After hearing of this disaster Hannibal sent 2,000 cavalry under Mago to Capua to help protect the crops.

At Tarentum the Romans sent the Metapontines garrison to the citadel at Tarentum. Soon after this Metapontum and Thurii joined Hannibal when two Carthaginian forces under Hanno and Mago marched up to their gates.

At Capua two Roman armies under the command of the two consuls marched from Beneventum to Capua. They ordered Tiberius Gracchus to march up to Beneventum with his cavalry and light troops, leaving the heavy troops in Lucania. While marching to Beneventum Mago ambushed Gracchus force in Lucania and killed Gracchus, but the force continued up to Beneventum.

At Capua a Capuans army supported by Mago's cavalry made a surprise attack on the Romans, causing some confusion. The Romans managed to rally and the Capuans had to retire into the city. Soon after this skirmish Hannibal arrived with his army and gave battle to the four legions besieging the city. The course of the battle is a bit confusing but it appeared Hannibal was winning when Gracchus light troops and cavalry arrived. Hannibal withdrew fearing that the new force was very large. The Romans decided for what ever reason to withdraw, probably because Hannibal scared them.

The Romans withdrew in two directions and Hannibal followed one of them. Hannibal managed to catch this Roman force under the command of Appius Claudius in Lucania and defeated it killing over 8,000 men. About the same time Gracchus two slave legions deserted when they discovered Gracchus was dead.

After his victory Hannibal marched into Apulia and attacked a Roman army of two legions under Fulvius at Herdonea. Hannibal won a decisive victory killing 16,000 men out of the Roman army of 18,000 men.

While Hannibal was in Apulia the two consuls marched back to Capua and began to build a double wall around the city in order to continue the siege. Instead of coming to the aid of Capua Hannibal marched to Tarentum and attacked the Roman controlled citadel in the Harbor. HE failed in this assault and then marched to Brundisium where he attempted to take that city but once again he failed.

Sicily

Marcellus managed to take part of Syracuse, the suburb of Epipolae. After this occurred Bomilcar left Syracuse with 35 quinqueremes, leaving 55 behind for the defense of Syracuse. He sailed to Carthage and soon returned with 100 quinqueremes. The Carthaginians launched a counter attack by land from Achradina, by Himilco and Hippocrates, and by sea, by Bomilcar. Both these attempts failed and the Carthaginian army settled back in its camp where a plague almost destroyed it during the next few weeks. Bomilcar sailed to Carthage before the plague could affect his force and returned soon after with 130 quinqueremes. After maneuvering around in an attempt to destroy the Roman fleet he lost heart and left Sicily to its fate. The destruction of the Carthaginian army and the desertion of the Carthaginian fleet sealed the fate of the last two suburbs of Syracuse, Achradina and Ortigia.

Africa

The Romans sent a fleet to Africa to raid under Titus Otacilius with 80 quinqueremes.

Spain

Now that the Scipio brother controlled Saguntum they had a good base to strike deep into Carthage held Spain. Even though they were outnumbered by the three Carthaginian armies they decided to adopt an offensive policy. They recruited 20,000 Celtiberians mercenaries and allies. They split their army into two parts of one legion each. Each of the brothers took an army. These two armies then marched South to meet the Carthaginians.

Publius Scipio advanced his army of one Legion and 14,000 Celtiberians to the upper course of the Baetis River where he met Hasdrubal Barca's army. Publius Scipio's Spanish allies first deserted him and while he tried to withdraw his army he was destroyed by Hasdrubal Barca.

Gnaeus Scipio advanced his army of one legion and 7,000 Celtiberians to the hinterlands of New Carthage when he heard of the destruction of his brother's army. His Spanish allies also deserted him and like his brother his army was destroyed as he tried to withdraw. About 9,000 survivors did manage to get back to the Ebro where they reformed electing Lucius Marcus Septimus as commander.

The Carthaginian for some reason did not follow up their victory and did not advance.

211 BC

ITALY

The Romans at Capua maintained the siege of the city. In several skirmish battles around the city the campanian cavalry proved superior to the Roman cavalry, but the campanian infantry could not stand up to the Roman foot.

In response to the siege Hannibal assembled his army, including 33 elephants, and marched to Capua. Once near Capua Hannibal arranged to launch a combined attack against the Romans. The Romans had built a double wall around the city. Hannibal was to attack the Roman outer wall and the Carthaginian garrison and the campanian army under Bostar and Hanno was to attack the inner wall. The Romans had six legions in these fortifications under the command of Appius Claudius, Fulvius, and Gaius Nero. When the attack was launched the Romans easily held back the forces coming out of the city but the forces facing Hannibal had a hard time. Hannibal managed to force back the 6th legion and at one stage a cohort of Spanish and 3 elephants managed to break through the ramparts. Hannibal was unable to reinforce this break and the Romans managed to reinforce this sector plugging the gap. Soon after the Hannibal withdrew.

Realizing a further attack on Capua was too risky Hannibal attempted to force the Romans to abandon their siege by threatening Rome itself. Hannibal marched to Rome ravaging the territories of Suessula, Allifae, Casinum, and Fregellae on the way. He finally camped at Pupinia only eight miles from Rome.

Livy claims Fulvius took 15,000 men and 1,000 cavalry from the besieging Roman armies at Capua and marched to Rome. It is quiet possible that Rome had a more than adequate garrison and probably no troops were withdrawn from Capua. Details are not too important, the most important fact is that Rome did not abandon the siege of Capua.

After a small unimportant cavalry skirmish 3 miles from Rome Hannibal crossed the River Anio with

his entire army and assembled it for battle. Events are a bit confused here as Livy says the Romans marched out to give battle and only a heavy down pour of rain prevented battle. Whatever the result Hannibal withdrew from Rome and marched back into Campania. Once in Campania he decided to abandon Capua and continued through Samnium, Apulia, Lucania and finally onto to Bruttium where he made a surprise attack on Rhegium. This failed.

Seeing Hannibal abandon Capua the citizens of that town lost the will to fight and soon after surrendered. Soon after the fall of Capua the towns of Atella and Calatia surrendered and Campania was once again fully Roman controlled.

At Tarentum a Carthaginian fleet from Sicily arrived to blockade the Roman citadel. The blockade failed to achieve anything quickly enough and the fleet withdrew.

Sicily

The year started with the remaining suburbs of Syracuse surrendering to Marcellus. Marcellus now directed his attentions towards the remaining Carthaginians in the island. The Carthaginians had three armies in the field, Epycydes commanded the Sicilians, Mago the Carthaginians, and Muttines of Hippacra commanded the Numidians. The armies under Epycydes and Mago were based in Agrigentum, while Muttines conducted an effective guerrilla war against the Romans. So effective was this guerrilla war that the the other two Carthaginian armies decided to risk a battle. The three Carthaginian armies combined at Agrigentum and marched to the River Himeras where they met the combined Roman armies under Marcellus. On the first day the Romans lost and was forced back into their camp. During the night 300 Numidians deserted and Muttines left in pursuit of them. The other two Carthaginian commanders risked another battle, against Muttines advice. During this battle the Numidians did little fighting and the Carthaginians lost. The remaining Carthaginians retreated for Agrigentum.

After this victory Marcellus sailed for Rome leaving his legions behind. Soon after this occurred Carthage sent a fleet and an army of 8,000 men and 3,000 Numidians to Sicily. As a result **Murgantia**, **Ergetium**, **Hybla**, and **Macella** joined the Carthaginians. With these new forces the Carthaginians began a low key campaign against the Romans in the island.

Spain

After the disaster the previous year Rome sent a small army of 6,000 Roman foot, 300 Roman cavalry, 6,000 allied foot, and 800 allied cavalry under Claudius Nero to Spain to hold the Ebro line.

Greece

Laevinus took the island of Zacynthos and the Acarnanian cities of Oeniadae and Nassus. These two cities he gave to the Aetolians. Philip's first move was against the Illyrians and Thracians. He invaded Oricus and Apollonia and after defeating the local army began to devastate the territory of Illyricum. He then marched into Pelagonia and took the Dardanian town of Sintia. He then sent an army of 4,000 men under Perseus to hold off the Aetolians and then he invaded the **Maedi** in Thrace, where he besieged the capital city of **Iamphorynna**.

While Philip was in Thrace the Aetolians assembled an army under the command of Scopas to invade Acarnania. The numerically inferior Acarnanians managed to hold off this army until help from Philip could arrive. Soon after this **Iamphorynna** fell and Philip marched against the Aetolian army, which

decided to withdraw to the safety of their cities. Philip then withdrew to Pella after devastating some Aetolian territory.

210 BC

Italy

Marcellus marched his army of two legions to Salapia and took the city by treachery, along with its garrison of 500 Numidian cavalry. The loss of this cavalry hurt Hannibal greatly.

At Rhegium the Romans assembled a fleet of twenty quinqueremes and many transport ships under the command of Decimus Quinctius. This fleet then proceeded to sail to Tarentum to supply the Roman citadel. Just before reaching Tarentum a fleet of 20 Tarentum quinqueremes under the command of Democrates met the Romans and in the ensuing battle decisively defeated the Romans.

In Tarentum the garrison sent a force of 4,000 Tarentum soldiers to forage in the countryside. The Roman's in the citadel sent a force of 2,500 men and attacked the scattered Tarentum troops. The result was the defeat of the Tarentum soldiers.

Up North Marcellus with his two legions stormed the towns of **Marmoreae** and **Meles** in the Samnium lands. About 3,000 of Hannibal's men were killed or captured.

At Herdonea a Roman army of two legions under Gnaeus Fulvius was preparing to take the town. He was camped near Herdonea waiting for his opportunity. Hannibal, who was in Bruttium, decided to march to Herdonea with a lightened army at maximum speed. Here he surprised Fulvius and offered battle. Fulvius had with him the 5th and 6th legion which promptly deployed for battle. Hannibal won a decisive victory killing 13,000 men and scattering the rest of the Romans.

When Marcellus heard of the destruction of Fulvius army he marched from Samnium to Lucania and camped near **Numistro**, close to Hannibal's position. He then marched out and offered battle with his 1st and 3rd legion. Hannibal accepted the challenge and marched his army out also. The resulting battle probably ended in a draw or a minor victory for Hannibal. Since Hannibal only had part of his army with him, and mostly his light weight troops he didn't want to fight again and withdrew into Apulia. Marcellus gave chase and fought a few skirmish battle around Venusia.

Sicily

The Carthaginians had two armies at Agrigentum, one under the command of Muttines who commanded the Numidians, and one under Hanno who commanded the rest. Hanno replaced Muttines with his son and as a result Muttines revolted with his Numidians. He then delivered Agrigentum to Laevinus late that year. After this occurred twenty towns were betrayed, six taken by force, and forty surrendered. This effectively ended the Carthaginian attempt to retake Sicily.

Spain

Rome sent further forces of 10,000 foot, 1,000 cavalry and 30 quinqueremes to Spain and placed the entire Spanish army under the control of Publius Cornelius Scipio, the son of Publius Cornelius Scipio. The army totaled about 35,000 men, not including Spanish allies. Scipio used this year to train his army.

Greece

Laevinus had been wintering in Corcyra. He sailed to **Anticyra** in Locris where he met the Aetolian

army under the command of Scopas. The Combined Roman and Aetolian force managed to take **Anticyra** after a siege. Laevinus went back to Rome after this as he had been replaced.

Africa

Rome sent a fleet of 50 quinqueremes to Africa under the command of Marcus Valerius Messalla. This force raided the coast and returned to Lilybaeum 15 days after leaving Sicily.

Sardinia

Carthage sent a fleet of 40 quinqueremes to Sardinia under the command of Hamilcar. This force first went to Olbia and raided the coast until a Roman army under Publius Manlius arrived. Hamilcar then sailed around the island to Carales where he continued his raiding before returning to Africa.

209 BC

Italy

The Romans were determined to retake Tarentum and prepared a combined attack. At Rhegium a force of 8,000 soldiers were ordered to break out of the city and ravage Bruttium, which they did.

At the same time Marcellus left his winter quarters and marched to Canusium, which Hannibal had been attempting to take. Hannibal withdrew from the town looking for a suitable battlefield to stage an ambush, but Marcellus proved too cautious to fall into any trap. Hannibal finally camped near Asculum, in Apulia where he fought two set piece battles with Marcellus. In the 1st battle of Asculum he decisively defeated Marcellus, but failed to destroy the Roman army as its camp was close by. In the 2nd battle of Asculum the result was probably a bloody draw. Marcellus army had lost about 6,000 men in both battles and the remaining men were exhausted or wounded. Hannibal then marched into Bruttium to deal with the Rhegium force leaving Marcellus behind.

Another Roman army of two legions under the command of the consul Fulvius had accepted the surrender of the Hirpini, the Lucanians, and the people of Volceii after they had handed over the Carthaginian garrison.

The other consul Fabius took by storm **Manduria**, a town in **Sallentini** territory. He then marched his army to Tarentum and prepared to assault the town.

In Bruttium the 8,000 Romans from Rhegium were besieging Caulontia when Hannibal arrived. The Romans withdrew to a fortified position on top of a hill and Hannibal surrounded it. After a few days the force realized it was trapped surrendered. Hannibal then marched with all haste to Tarentum.

At Tarentum Fabius managed to get into the city by treachery and after a vicious fight in the city took the city. Soon after this Hannibal arrived at the gates of Tarentum but couldn't do anything so he withdrew to Metapontum a few days later.

Sicily

Rome had a force of two legions, divided into two armies supported by many allies, including the Numidians. In addition they had a fleet of 70 quinqueremes defending the coast.

Spain

The Carthaginians had three armies in Spain, all of which were in separate locations. Hasdrubal Barca had an army in central Spain, Hasdrubal Gisgo had an army near the source of the Tagus, and Mago Barca had an army near Carteia. All three armies were over ten days march from New Carthage.

Using this faulty deployment to his advantage Scipio sent an army of 25,000 foot and 2,500 cavalry in a lightning campaign towards New Carthage, which was guarded by 3,000 foot under Mago, and took it by storm. He left an army of 3,000 foot and 300 cavalry under the command of Marcus Junius Silanus north of the Ebro. This was a massive disaster for Carthage as this was the main Carthaginian city in Spain.

208 BC

Italy

In Etruria the Etruscans revolted. The revolt began in Arretum and spread. Marcellus was quickly sent up and he ended the revolt without fighting by threatening the Etruscans with war.

The Romans sent an army of two legions under the command of Titus Quinctius Crispinus the take Locri. Crispinus abandoned the attempt when he heard Hannibal was coming to the aid of the city. Crispinus then marched to join another Roman army of two legions under the command of Marcellus, which was camped between Venusia and **Bantia**. Once Locri was safe Hannibal marched up to Venusia to meet the combined Roman force.

Once Hannibal reached the combined Roman armies at Venusia and camped the Romans sent another army of two legions from Tarentum to Locri supported by the fleet from Sicily under the command of Lucius Cincius Alimentus. In an attempt to prevent the legions from Tarentum from reaching Locri he sent 2,000 foot and 3,000 cavalry to ambush this force on the road to Locri. During the ambush the Romans suffered 2,000 men killed and 1,500 men captured. The rest of this force retreated back to Tarentum. The fleet from Sicily managed to reach Locri and began to besiege it.

In Apulia Hannibal managed to kill Marcellus and badly wound Crispinus in an ambush. Crispinus withdrew the four legions to a defensive position closely followed by Hannibal. Hannibal attempted to force a battle by encircling the Roman army but failed. He then marched his army to Salapia and attempted to take the town by trickery, but failed and lost 600 men in the process. Hannibal then marched down to Locri to save the city from the Romans. When his lead troops got within sight of Locri the Carthaginian commander, Mago, sallied out and attacked the Romans. When the Numidians arrived the Roman force under the command of Lucius Cincius Alimentus withdrew to their ships and sailed off.

While Hannibal was occupied elsewhere Crispinus ordered the two legions formally commanded by Marcellus to Venusia under the command of the younger Marcellus. Crispinus then marched his two legions to Capua. While this was occurring Rome raised a fleet of 50 quinqueremes for the defense of Rome.

Spain

After taking New Carthage Scipio launched an attack into Baetica, where he was met by Hasdrubal Barca. Both armies fought a battle at Baecula where Scipio defeated Hasdrubal Barca. Hasdrubal managed to extract the bulk of his army from the battle and sneaked past Scipio towards the North. Hasdrubal was to continue his march towards Italy in an attempt to join his Brother Hannibal. Scipio sent a fleet of 50 quinqueremes to Sardinia leaving him with a fleet of 30 quinqueremes.

Sardinia

Gaius Aurunculeius received 50 quinqueremes from Spain.

Sicily

Laevinus was sent 30 quinqueremes from Tarentum giving him a fleet of 100 quinqueremes.

Greece

A Lacedaemon army under Machanidas invaded the Achaeans. Philip marched his army down to help the Achaeans and forced the Lacedaemonians back. He then left an army of 4,000 men to help the Achaeans.

While this was occurring the Aetolians amassed another army under the command of Pyrrhios. He received aid from King Attalus of Pergamum and 1,000 men from Sulpicius. Philip quickly marched into Aetolia and met this army. He fought two battles, each of which he won, and then devastated their territory.

Carthage had sent a fleet of quinqueremes to help Philip. In addition to this Philip received 4 warships from the Achaeans and was waiting for more from King Prusias of Bithynia.

Soon after the Aetolian defeat Sulpicius sailed to an area between Corinth and Sicyon and ravaged that territory. Philip quickly marched up to meet this force where he surprised the Romans and forced them back to their ships with some losses. Sulpicius then sent his army to help the Aetolians at Elis, where the Aetolians had amassed another army. Philip quickly marched down to meet this new threat and was defeated at Elis. Philip withdrew but gained revenge by defeating an Aetolian detachment which was raiding.

Philip soon heard of a revolt up north and marched up leaving a force of 2,500 men under Menippus and Polyhantas to help the Achaeans.

After this victory Sulpicius sailed his force to Aegina to meet up with King Attalus. While this was occurring the Aetolians and Achaeans fought a battle and the Achaeans won.

Africa

The Romans sent Marcus Valerius with 100 quinqueremes to Africa to raid. After causing widespread damage the Carthaginians sent a fleet of 83 quinqueremes against him, which was defeated. Marcus Valerius Messalla then sailed back to Lilybaeum.

207 BC

Italy

Hasdrubal had managed to slip past Scipio the previous year. His army marched through the Alps and into Gallia Cisalpina where he was joined by his Gallic allies. With an army of 30,000 men he began to besiege Placentia.

In **Sallentini** Hannibal's army suffered a minor defeat. Hannibal's vanguard were ambushed by some Roman troops under the command of Gaius Hostilius Tubulus. A Roman army of two legions under the command of Quintus Claudius marched down to join Tubulus forcing Hannibal to withdraw into Bruttium.

Leaving Quintus Claudius in Sallentini Tubulus marched to Venusia where he met Nero's two legions. Nero kept an army of 40,000 foot and 2,500 cavalry and sent Tubulus towards Capua with the rest.

Hannibal amassed his entire army in Bruttium and then marched towards Grumentum in Lucania. He attempted to take the town but was frustrated when Nero's army arrived. Both armies skirmished for several days, and Livy claims Hannibal lost a battle. More likely Hannibal saw he was getting nowhere,

inflicted a minor defeat on Nero and slipped away. Hannibal then marched for Apulia where he met Nero again at Venusia and some minor fighting occurred. Hannibal then marched for Metapontum where he ordered Hanno to raise fresh troops. With an enlarged army he marched back to Venusia and then to Canusium. During this time Nero was following, or trying to follow Hannibal.

While Nero was following Hannibal around a army of two legions under the command of Quintus Fulvius Flaccus marched from Capua to Lucania.

What occurs next is a bit confusing but it appears Nero was given the slip by Hannibal. He then decided to leave the bulk of his army at Canusium under the command of Quintus Cadius and marched North with his best 6000 men. He met up with two Roman armies under the command of Marcus Livius Salinator and Lucius Porcius Licinus at Sena.

In Gallia Cisalpina Hasdrubal gave up besieging Placentia and marched South. He met up with the combined Roman armies at Sena and prepared for battle. Soon after the force under Nero arrived and Hasdrubal decided he was not strong enough to fight this force. He attempted to withdraw in the night but got caught at the River Metaurus. Here he fought the Romans and suffered a decisive defeat, being killed in the process. The Carthaginians lost 10,000 men killed and 3000 men captured with the remaining troops scattering in all directions.

Nero then marched back to his army in Apulia and threw Hasdrubals preserved head into Hannibal's camp. Hannibal then withdrew all the peoples under his control into Bruttium to prepare for the final stand.

Africa

The Romans sent Laevinus to Africa with a fleet to raid the coast. There he met a Carthaginian fleet of 70 quinqueremes, which he defeated. He then returned to Sicily.

Spain

After Hasdrubal Barca's departure from Spain Carthage sent reinforcements to Spain, under Hanno. He joined Mago's army and the bulk of these joined Hasdrubal Gisgo. Mago and Hanno then went deep into Celtiberi to recruit more troops where they were defeated by a Roman army of 10,000 foot and 500 cavalry under the command of Silanus. During the battle Silanus captured Hanno. Mago managed to escape to join Hasdrubal Gisgo near Gades. Hasdrubal Gisgo adopted a defensive policy and Scipio did little this year, apart from capturing Orongis.

Greece

The combined Roman fleet and army under the command of Sulpicius and the Pergamum army and fleet under King Attalus sailed from Aegina to Lemnos. The Roman fleet was 25 quinqueremes strong and the Pergamum fleet was 35 ships strong.

Philip assembled his army at Larissa and sent a small force to the Peperethos Islands to garrison the chief town of that island. He also sent an army under the command of Polyhantas to Boeotia and another army of 1,000 peltasts and 500 Argivians to Euboea under the command of Menippus. Philip then moved his main army from Larissa to Scotussa, then to Heraclea where he ravaged the land, and then back to Scotussa.

The Combined Roman/Pergamum force moved from Peperethos to Nicaea and then to Oreus. Here the Romans attacked the city by sea and the Pergamum force by land and took the city. The Romans then sailed to Chalices which they tried to

take, but failed. They then retired to **Cynus** in Locris.

Philip first made sure Chalices was safe and then marched his army from Demetrias to Scotussa and then to Thermopylae where he defeated an Aetolian army guarding the pass. He then marched to Heraclea and then to Elataea in Phocis, ravaging as he went. While this occurred the Pergamum army took Oropus and sacked it. As soon as Philip heard this he marched quickly to Oropus where he caught the army of Pergamum ravaging the country and defeated them. The Pergamum army retreated to their ships and sailed to Oreus and Philip retook Oropus. When King Attalus reached Oreus he discovered that the King of Bithynia was invading his country and he quickly sailed back to ASia.

Philip then marched to **Thronium** and took it by storm. He then marched on the Dorian towns of **Tithronium** and **Drumiae** and took them also. He then marched to Elataea, then to Megara, Corinth, **Phlius**, and finally Pheneus where he met the Lacedaemon army under the command of Machanidas. Machanidas quickly withdrew back to Lacedaemon.

The Carthaginians sent a fleet to help Philip. It had sailed to the **Oxaea islands** and then made for the ports of Acarnania when they heard king Attalus and the Romans had left Oreus. Philip then amassed 3 quadremes, 3 biremes from Achaeans, 7 quinqueremes and 20 light ships from **Anticyra** and sailed to join the Carthaginian fleet. He then marched back to Macedonia to deal with a Dardanian invasion.

206 BC

Italy

The Romans sent two consular armies under Quintus Caecilius Metellus and Lucius Veturius Philo to Consentia in Bruttium. While in Bruttium they were ambushed by a force of Bruttium and Numidian spearmen. The Roman armies then marched to Lucania and took the last pro-carthaginian cities in that region.

Spain

Once Hasdrubal Gisgo heard that Hasdrubal Barca had been defeated in Italy he decided to meet Scipio in open battle. He met Publius Scipio at Ilipa with 50,000 foot and 4,500 cavalry. Scipio had an army of about 45,000 men with 3,000 foot and 500 cavalry from the Spanish tribe of **Culchas**. During the battle he decisively defeated Hasdrubal Gisgo. Hasdrubal Gisgo and Mago escaped to Gades, but the bulk of the Carthaginian army was destroyed.

Scipio then went to Africa to meet Syphax and Masinissa and to negotiate. He then went back to Spain and stormed Iliturgi, **Castax**, and Astapa. The princes Mandonius and Indibilis, of the Ilergetes tribe had revolted during his absence and they assembled an army of 20,000 foot and 2,500 cavalry. Scipio marched against them and defeated them in a battle.

While this was occurring Hanno was sent by Mago from Gades to raise some troops. He raised a force of 4,000 Spaniards but was defeated by Marcus. Hanno managed to escape with a few survivors to Gades while Marcus returned to New Carthage. Scipio then turned his attention to Gades, where Mago had rallied the last Carthaginian resistance. While Scipio was marching down Mago sent a fleet to New Carthage in an attempt to take it, but failed. He then sailed back to Gades to find Scipio almost

their. Mago then escaped to the Balearic Islands just before Gades fell.

Greece

Aetolia made peace with Philip thus ending the Hellenic Wars.

205 BC

Italy

The Carthaginians decided to send Mago to Italy with 30 quinqueremes, 12,000 foot and 2,000 cavalry in an attempt to stop the invasion of Africa and to help Hannibal. At the time Mago had only just escaped from Gades in Spain and was in the Balearic islands. From there he sailed to Genua where he took the city and used it as his base. He received reinforcements from Carthage of 6,000 foot, 800 cavalry, and 25 quinqueremes and recruited many Gauls.

Down in Bruttium Rome sent a force of 3,000 foot to Locri where they managed to enter and take one of the citadels by trickery. The Carthaginians managed to hold the other citadel and a skirmish war began between the two points. The Romans were commanded by Quintus Pleminius and the Carthaginians by Hamilcar.

Once Scipio heard Locri was almost taken he set sail from Sicily to Locri. At the same time Hannibal marched an army to Locri. Hannibal arrived first and he launched an assault from the outside while Hamilcar attacked from the inside. The Romans almost fell and only the late arrival of Scipio saved the day for them. The next day the greatly reinforced Romans sallied out against Hannibal and forced him back. Seeing the situation as hopeless Hannibal withdrew and Hamilcar successfully escaped from the city and joined Hannibal with his force of well over 3,000 men.

Soon after this the two Roman armies in Bruttium under the command of Livius and Metellus were struck down by disease. The two legions under Metellus had to be disbanded and the army under Livius had to be greatly reinforced. Hannibal also suffered from this sickness, but not as badly as the Romans.

Sicily

After returning from Spain Publius Scipio wanted to launch an attack on Africa. He received the two Legions in Sicily, the survivors of Cannae, and gathered 7,000 volunteers. With these he formed the nucleus of his invasion army.

Spain

The Ilergetes and Ausetani revolted and assembled an army of 30,000 foot and 4,000 cavalry under the command of Indibilis. The Roman army under the command of Lucius Cornelius Lentulus and Lucius Manlius Acidinus met them in the territory of the Ausetani. In the resulting battle the Romans won a decisive victory.

Greece

In order to reconstruct the Greek alliance Rome sent Publius Sempronius Tuditanus to Illyria with 10,000 foot, 1,000 cavalry, and 35 quinqueremes. The previous year Philip had forced the Aetolians to make peace. In order to start up the war again Sempronius sailed to Dimale. Philip quickly marched to Apollonia on the track of Sempronius where he offered battle. Sempronius refused battle and both sides began to negotiate a peace. The war in Greece had ended.

Africa

The Romans sent a fleet of 100 quinqueremes to raid Africa under Gaius Laelius.

204 BC

Italy

Hannibal proved once again he wasn't yet cowed by defeating a Roman army under the command of Sempronius at Croton. During the night Licinius met up with Sempronius and next day the Roman army of four legions sallied out. Hannibal at first met this force but upon discovering how large the Roman army was he retreated. The Romans then managed to retake Clamptia, Consentia, and **Pandosia** in **Bruttium**.

Africa

Publius Scipio set sail for Africa with an army of two legions of 6,200 foot, 300 cavalry each, and 16,000 allied foot and 800 allied cavalry, and 40 quinqueremes. He landed at Porto Farina, near the town of Utica. Here he was joined by Masinissa with about 2,000 Numidian Cavalry. He then won a minor cavalry skirmish at the tower of Agathocles against Hanno Hamilcar who had 4,000 cavalry, of which 200 were Carthaginian nobles. After this success Scipio marched on to Utica.

The Carthaginians called on Hasdrubal to form a new Carthaginian army of 30,000 foot and 3,000 cavalry, and Syphax to bring his Numidian army of 50,000 foot and 10,000 cavalry up to join Hasdrubal. This combined army then marched on Scipio. Scipio withdrew from Utica to a strongly fortified camp near the coast. He then entered into negotiation with the Carthaginians.

203 BC

Italy

Mago in Northern Italy with a force of about 30,000 men advanced into the Po valley. At the same time the Boii were making trouble which the Romans contained by sending two legions. The Romans also sent one legion to Genua which the Romans retook. In the Po valley Mago met a Roman force of 4 legions which then defeated him, he managed to retire to the coast with about 6,000 loyal troops. Once back on the coast he received orders to sail at once to Carthage, which he did with his 6,000 men. On the way back to Africa Mago died. Hannibal also received these orders and withdrew back to Africa with 15,000 men.

Africa

After negotiations with the Carthaginians failed Publius Scipio marched his army to Utica. There he began to besiege the city again. Hasdrubal and Syphax, thinking Scipio was not interested in attacking them let security go lax. Scipio took advantage of this by launching a night attack against the two camps, destroying both Numidian and Carthaginian army.

Hasdrubal and Syphax, who had escaped, began to form a new army at the Great Plains. Hasdrubal used 4,000 mercenary Celtiberians as the nucleus of his army. Scipio decided to deal with this new army and splitting his army in two sent 12,000 men to the Great Plains, while maintaining his siege of Utica. Hasdrubal met Scipio in battle and was defeated. Scipio sent Masinissa and his brother Livius to pursue Syphax to his home country. Syphax made his last stand near Cirta where he was defeated and captured. The son of Syphax then fled into the desert where he continued the fight. Masinissa soon after took Cirta.

After this disaster Carthage recalled Mago and Hannibal. Soon after this the peace party took control of Carthage and began to negotiate for peace.

202 BC

Africa

Hannibal landed near Hadrumetum and was soon joined by Mago's army. His arrival caused Carthage to continue the war against Rome and Scipio was forced to recall Masinissa from his fighting with Syphax son.

In an attempt to prevent Scipio from joining with the army of Masinissa Hannibal marched to Zama, but Scipio was able to meet Masinissa by marching deep inland. The Roman army met the Carthaginian army at Zama, where Scipio was victorious, thus ending the 2nd Punic War.