

## = Battle of Posada =

The Battle of Posada ( November 9 , 1330 ? November 12 , 1330 ) was fought between Basarab I of Wallachia and Charles I Robert of Hungary .

The small Wallachian army led by Basarab , formed of cavalry and foot archers , as well as local peasants , managed to ambush and defeat the 30 @,@ 000 @-@ strong Hungarian army , in a mountainous region near the border between Oltenia and Severin .

The battle resulted in a major Wallachian victory and disaster for Charles Robert , becoming a turning point in the politics of Hungary , which had to abandon its hopes of extending the kingdom to the Black Sea . For Wallachia , the victory meant an increase in morale and the further evolution of the independent state .

## = = Background = =

Some historians claim that the Cumans aided the Wallachians in the battle . In 1324 , Wallachia was a vassal of Hungary , and Robert referred to Basarab as " our Transalpine Voivode " .

The war started with encouragement from the Voivode of Transylvania and a certain Dionisie , who later bore the title Ban of Severin . In 1330 , Robert captured the long disputed Wallachian citadel of Severin and handed it to the Transylvanian Voivode .

Basarab sent envoys who asked for the hostilities to cease , and in return offered to pay 7 @,@ 000 marks in silver , submit the fortress of Severin to Robert , and send his own son as hostage . According to the Viennese Illuminated Chronicle , a contemporary account , Robert said about Basarab : " He is the shepherd of my sheep , and I will take him out of his mountains , dragging him by his beard . " Another account writes that Robert said that : " ... he will drag the Voivode from his cottage , as would any driver his oxen or shepherd his sheep . "

The King 's councillors begged him to accept the offer or give a milder reply , but he refused and led his 30 @,@ 000 @-@ strong army deeper into Wallachia " without proper supplies or adequate reconnaissance " . Basarab was unable to stand a battle in the open field against a large army , due to the poor state of his troops , and he decided to retreat somewhere into the Transylvanian Alps .

Robert entered Curtea de Arge? , the main city of the Wallachian state . He realised that Basarab had fled into the mountains and decided to give chase .

## = = Battle = =

The location of the battle is still debated among historians . One theory gives the location of the battle at Lovi?tea , in some mountain gorges , in the valley of Olt , Transylvania . However , Romanian historian Neagu Djuvara denies this and states that the location of the battle was somewhere at the border between Oltenia and Severin .

The Wallachian army , led by Basarab himself , probably numbered less than 10 @,@ 000 men and consisted of cavalry , infantry archers , and some locally recruited peasants . When Robert saw his best knights being killed , without being able to fight back , while the escape routes were blocked by the Wallachian cavalry , he gave his royal robes and insignia to one of his captains ? " who dies under a hail of arrows and stones " ? and , with a few loyal subjects , made a difficult escape to Visegrád " clad in dirty civilian clothes " .

Robert later recounted in detail , in a charter of December 13 , 1335 , how one " Nicholas , son of " Radoslav " , saved his life by defending him from the swords of five Wallachian warriors , giving him enough time to escape . Most of the Hungarian army ? which included many nobles ? was destroyed ; among the casualties were the Voivode of Transylvania and the priest who accompanied the king .

## = = Aftermath = =

The victory represented the survival of the Wallachian state , as well as the beginning of a period of

tense relations between Basarab and the Kingdom of Hungary , which lasted until 1344 , when Basarab sent his son Alexandru in order to re @@ establish a relationship between the two states .

Because of its large financial power , the Kingdom of Hungary quickly rebuilt its army and found itself in conflict with the Holy Roman Empire in 1337 . However , the Hungarian king maintained a de jure suzerainty over Wallachia until the diplomatic disputes had been resolved .