

ALEXANDER III OF MACEDON

The Unbroken Line of Conquest



356 BC

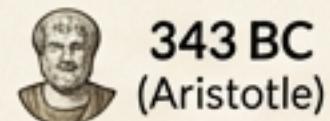
A chronological reconstruction of the life, tactics, and death of history's undefeated commander.

THE FOUNDATION: MYTH VS. MACHINE

The Divine Prophecy



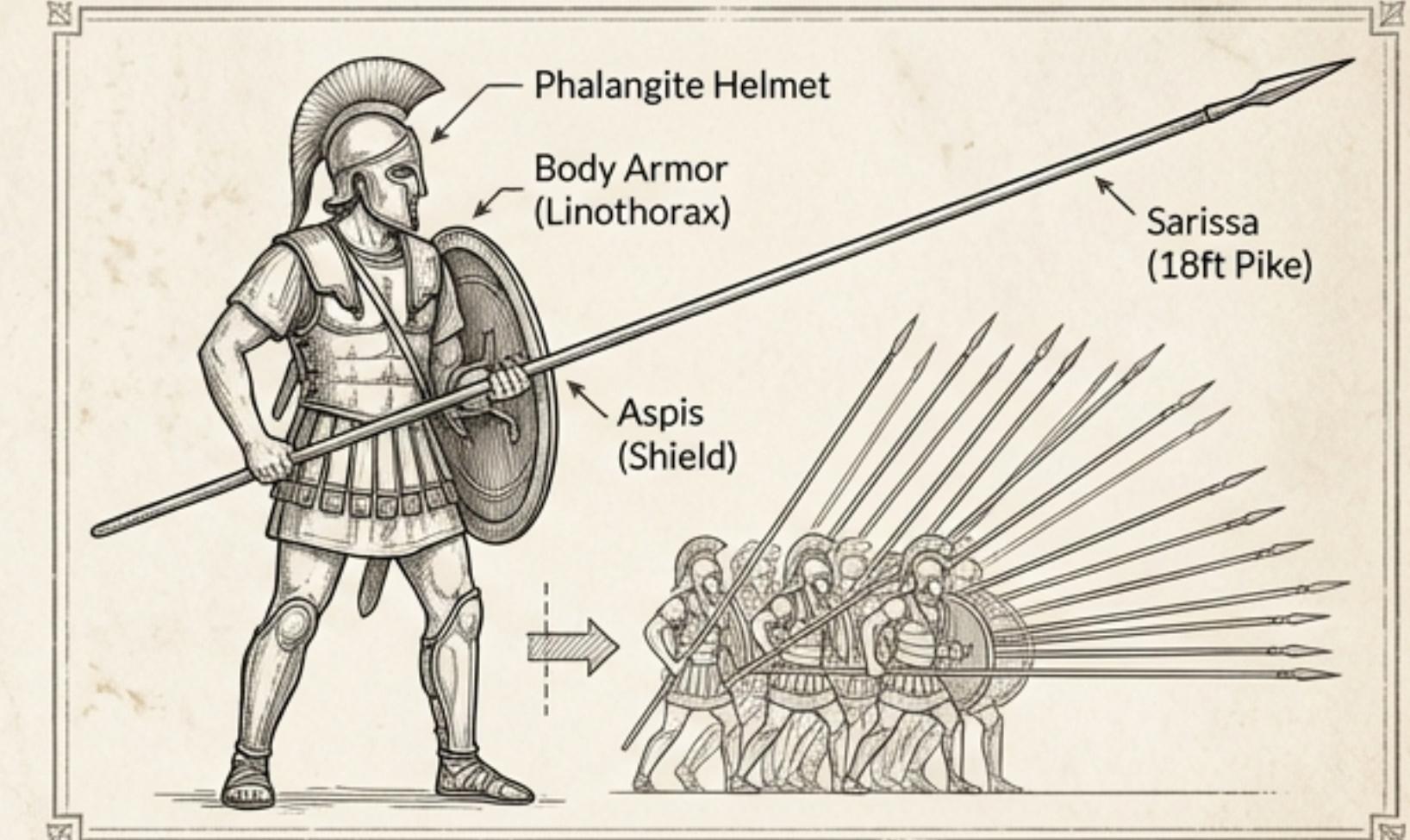
[356 BC: Born to Olympias. Dreams of lightning and lion seals.
343 BC: Tutored by Aristotle in *The Iliad* and Medicine]



343 BC
(Aristotle)

The Unbroken Line

The Military Reality



Philip II's Legacy: A professional army reformed from ruin into a superpower. 

356 BC

338 BC
(Battle of Chaeronea)

336 BC

"Macedon is too small for you." – King Philip II

CONSOLIDATION & RUTHLESSNESS (336-335 BC)

THE TRIBALLIAN MANEUVER

THE PURGE

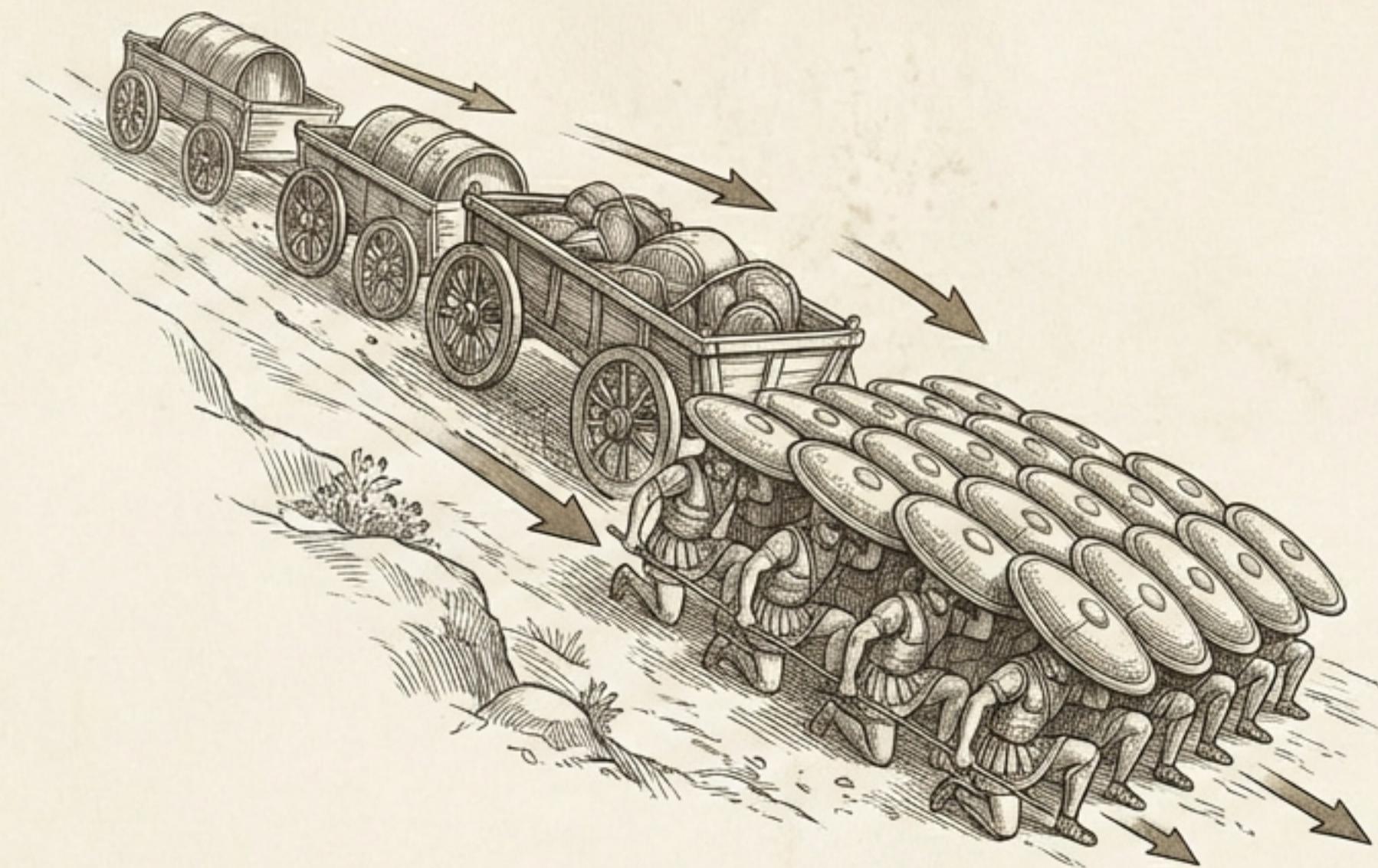
Following Philip II's assassination in 336 BC, Alexander executed all rivals, including his cousin Amyntas IV.

This was not diplomacy; it was a securement of the rear.

DESTRUCTION OF THEBES

335 BC: To silence Greek revolt, Thebes was razed. 6,000 killed, 30,000 enslaved.

A brutal message to Athens and Sparta.



336 BC
(Accession)

The Unbroken Line



335 BC
(Balkan Campaign)

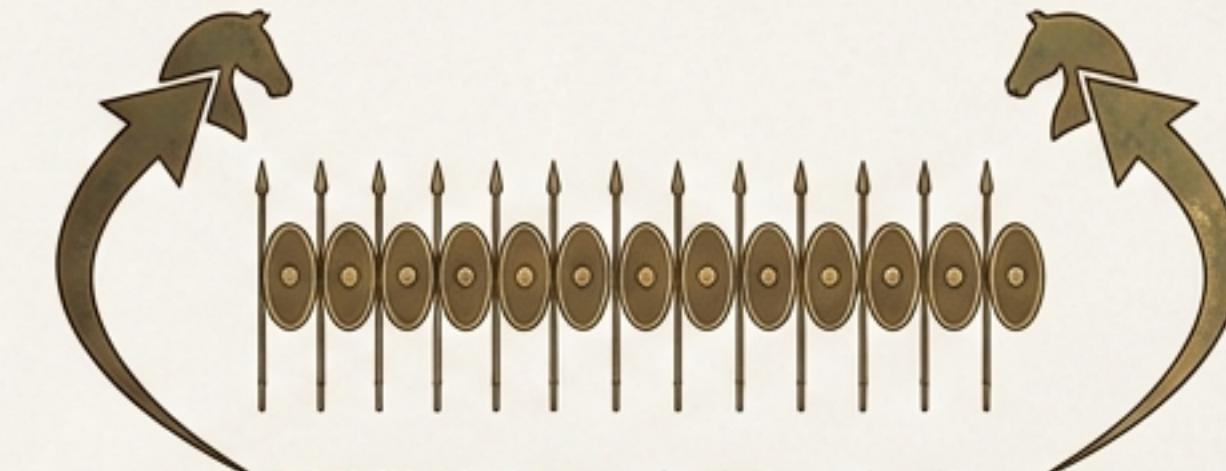


"Macedon is too small for you." – King Philip II

THE INVASION OF ASIA (334 BC)



Hammer and Anvil Tactic – Battle of Granicus



ANVIL: Infantry holding the line.

HAMMER: Heavy Cavalry striking the flank/center

The Gordian Knot: Legend states whoever untied the knot would rule Asia. Alexander slashed it with his sword. A metaphor for his problem-solving style.

The Unbroken Line

335 BC

(Balkan Campaign)



334 BC

Crossing the
Hellespont



Battle of
Granicus



333 BC

"Macedon is too small for you." – King Philip II

THE DUEL OF KINGS: ISSUS (333 BC)



Terrain Advantage: Narrow Pinarus River neutralized Persian numbers.

Psychological Shift: Alexander captures the Persian Royal Family.

“I am the
Lord of Asia.”

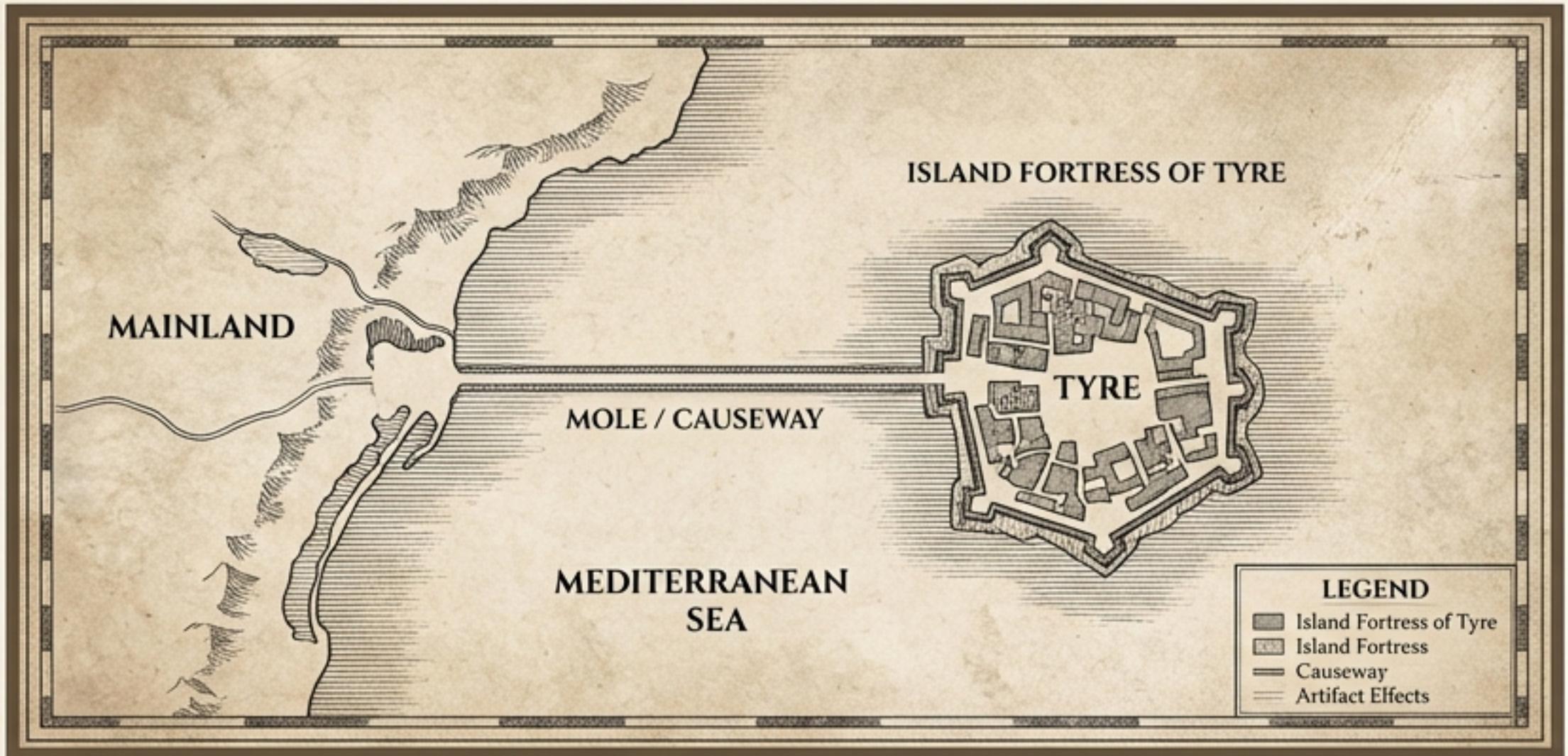
The Unbroken Line

334 BC - Crossing the Hellespont

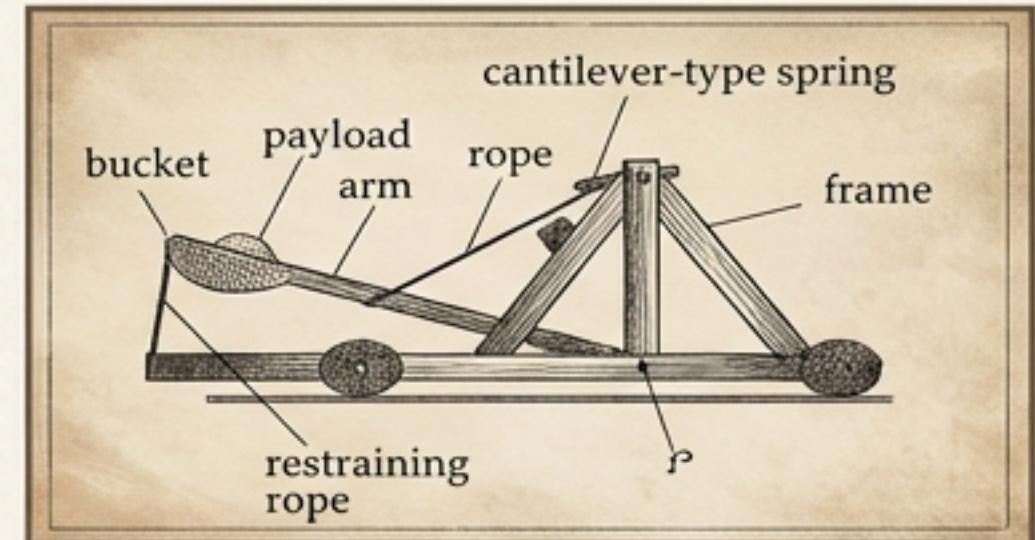
Battle of Granicus

333 BC - Battle of Issus

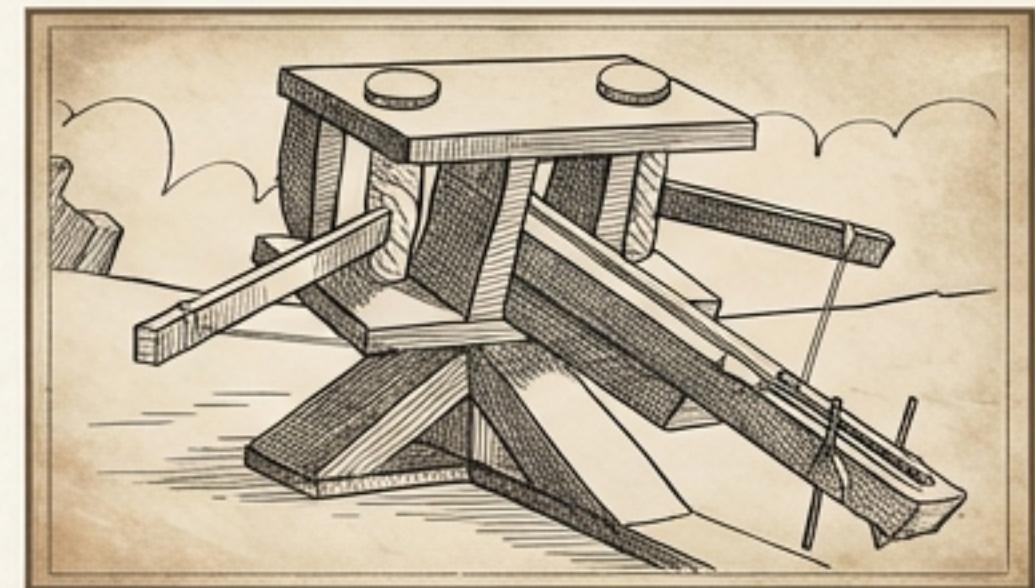
ENGINEERING MARVEL: THE SIEGE OF TYRE (332 BC)



- **Challenge:** Island fortress 1km from land.
- **Walls:** 150ft high.
- **Solution:** A 200ft wide causeway built from rubble.
- **Naval Blockade:** 220 ships assembled from Cyprus and Phoenicia.

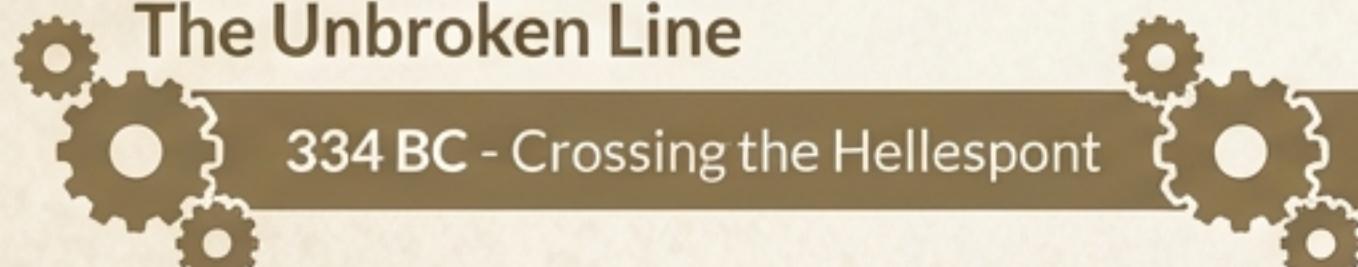


Catapult - Invented by Ancient Greeks or Romans.
Powered by Coiled rope spring mechanism.



Ballista - Based on Ballista of around 400 BCE. Invented by Ancient Greeks. Missiles- Stones and flaming Bolts.

The Unbroken Line



334 BC - Crossing the Hellespont

333 BC - Battle of Issus



Jan-July 332 BC

DIVINITY: SON OF AMMON (332–331 BC)



- ❖ Siege of Gaza: Alexander wounded.
- ❖ Egypt: Welcomed as Liberator and Pharaoh.
- ❖ Siwa Oasis: The Oracle confirms him as the Son of Zeus-Ammon.
- ❖ Founding of Alexandria: Establishing the future intellectual capital.

The Unbroken Line

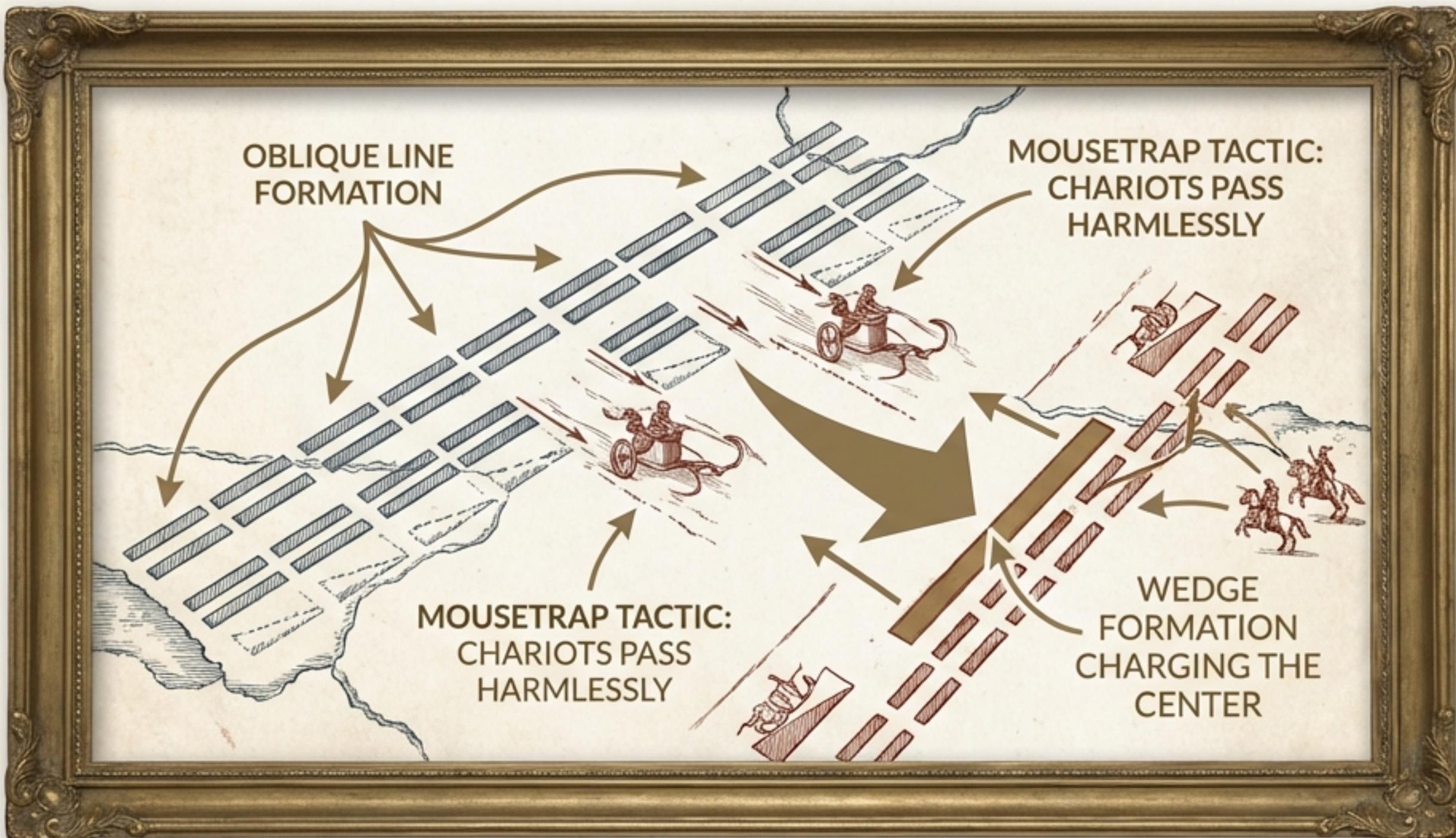
334 BC - Crossing the Hellespont

Jan–July 332 BC - Siege of Tyre

332 BC (Gaza/Egypt)

331 BC (Siwa)

THE MASTERPIECE: GAUGAMELA (OCT 331 BC)



THE EAGLE OMEN:
An eagle spotted over
the army before battle.

**FINAL DEFEAT OF THE
ACHAEMENID EMPIRE.
DARIUS FLEES.**

THE UNBROKEN LINE



334 BC - Crossing the Hellespont



Jan-July 332 BC - Siege of Tyre



332 BC (Gaza/Egypt)



October 1, 331 BC - Battle of Gaugamela

FALL OF CAPITALS & CULTURAL FRICTION (331-330 BC)



- ❖ **Babylon:** “I shall not enter your houses.” - Respect for citizens.
- ❖ **Persepolis:** The palace burned. Revenge for Athens (480 BC) or a drunken mistake?
- ❖ **Orientalism:** Alexander adopts the Persian diadem and sash, attempting to enforce “Proskynesis” (ritual bowing), alienating his Macedonian veterans.

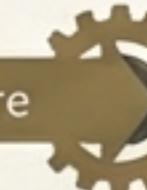


THE UNBROKEN LINE

334 BC - Crossing the Hellepont



Jan-July 332 BC - Siege of Tyre



332 BC (Gaza/Egypt)

331 BC (Babylon)

330 BC (Persepolis/Death of Darius)

INTO THE UNKNOWN: CENTRAL ASIA (329–327 BC)



Guerrilla warfare against Spitamenes. Marriage to Roxana.

PARANOIA & ALCOHOLISM

- ❖ **The Philotas Affair:** Execution of his general Parmenio.
- ❖ **Murder of Cleitus:** Alexander kills the man who saved him at Granicus in a drunken rage.



THE UNBROKEN LINE

334 BC - Crossing the Hellespont

Jan-July 332 BC - Siege of Tyre

332 BC
(Gaza/Egypt)

331 BC
(Gaugamela)

331 BC
(Babylon)

330 BC
(Persepolis/
Death of Darius)

329–327 BC
(Central Asia/
Sogdian Road)

THE EDGE OF THE WORLD: INDIA (326 BC)



Note: Death of Bucephalus.



Tactical Insight: Battle of the Hydaspes:
Crossing a swollen river in a
thunderstorm to surprise King Porus.



Key Event: The Mutiny at Hyphasis.
The army refuses to march further East
to the Ganges. Alexander is forced to
turn back.



THE UNBROKEN LINE

334 BC

334 BC

332 BC

331 BC
(Gaugamela)

331 BC
(Babylon)

330 BC

326 BC - India & Mutiny

329-327 BC



THE LONG MARCH HOME (326–324 BC)



Mallian Campaign: Alexander takes an arrow to the lung.

Gedrosian Desert: A logistical disaster.
1 in 4 soldiers return.

Susa Weddings (324 BC): Mass marriage
of 80 officers to Persian noblewomen
to attempt cultural unification.



THE UNBROKEN LINE

334 BC
(Crossing)

332 BC
(Tyre/Egypt)

331 BC
(Gaugamela/Babylon)

330 BC
(Persepolis/Darius)

329–327 BC
(Central Asia/Sogdian Rock)

325 BC
(Desert)

324 BC
(Susa)

DEATH OF A GOD: MEDICAL DETECTIVE (JUNE 323 BC)

SYMPTOMS REPORT

- Severe abdominal pain
- Rising fever (11 days)
- Delirium
- Dysarthria (inability to speak)

KEY OBSERVATIONS

- Rapid progression after a banquet
- Loss of speech
- Gradual incapacitation



THE UNBROKEN LINE

334 BC
(Crossing)

332 BC
(Tyre/Egypt)

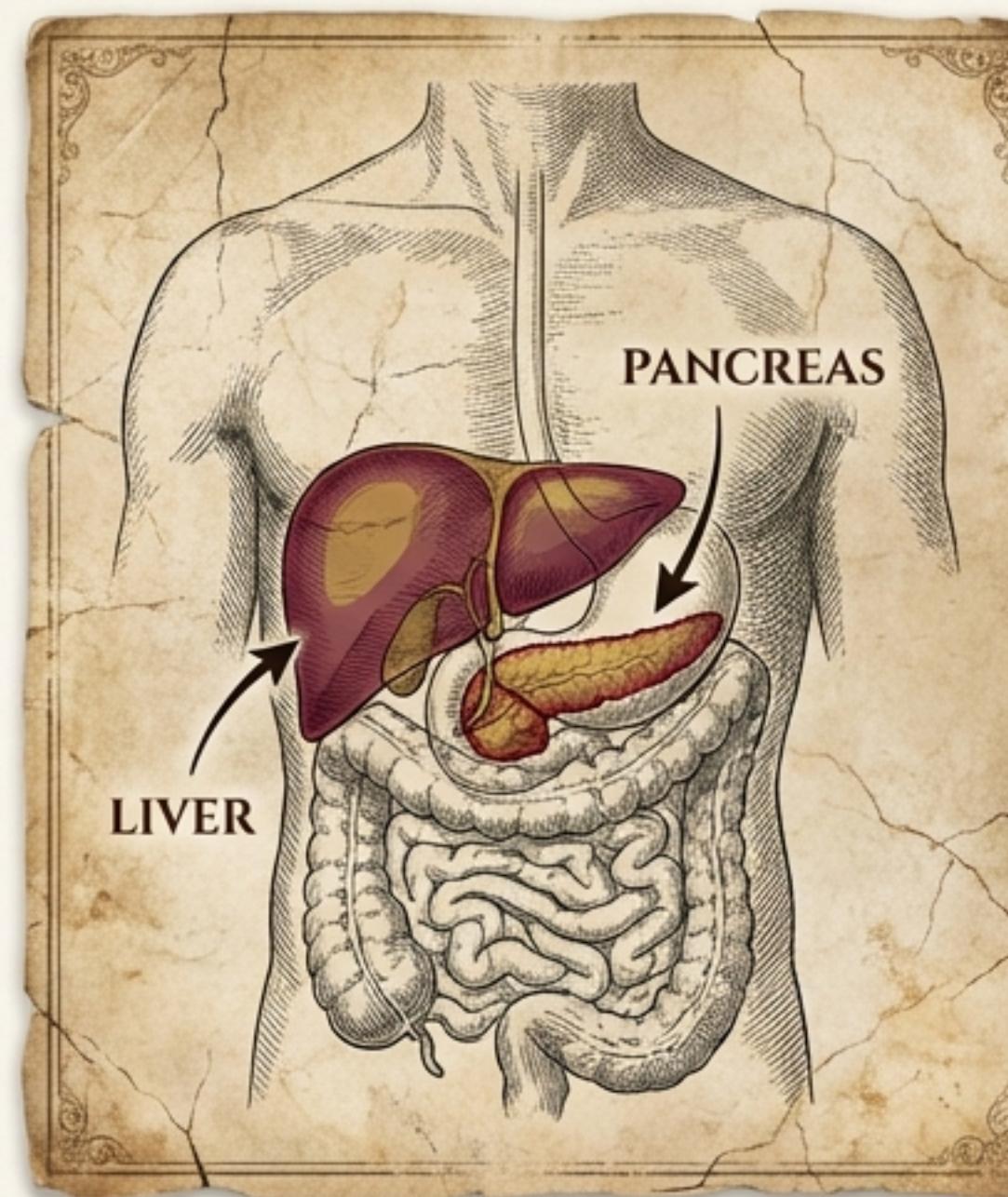
331 BC
(Gaugamela/Babylon) (Persepolis/Darius)

329–327 BC
(Central Asia/
Sogdian Rock)

325 BC
(Desert)

324 BC
(Susa)

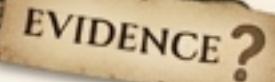
JUNE 323 BC – BABYLON
(DEATH OF ALEXANDER)



PROMINENT THEORIES (SOURCE: PMC)

THEORY A:

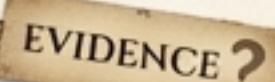
ACUTE NECROTIZING PANCREATITIS



(Triggered by alcohol/rich meal)

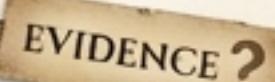
THEORY B:

TYPHOID FEVER
(Bowel perforation)



THEORY C: POISONING

(White Hellebore in wine)



THE LEGACY & THE DIADOCHI



"To the strongest."
(Alexander's last words).

Hellenism:
Spread of Greek
culture to India.



Coinage: Silver
tetradrachms become
global currency.



Persian Legend:
Evolution into the hero
of the 'Iskandarnamah'.



THE UNBROKEN LINE



JUNE 323 BC - BABYLON
(DEATH OF ALEXANDER)

PTOLEMAIC KINGDOM
SELEUCID EMPIRE
DIADOCHI
(EMPIRE FRACTURES)
ANTIGONID KINGDOM

SUMMARY: THE SCALE OF GREATNESS



The Unbroken Line

356 BC
(BIRTH)

334 BC
(CROSSING)

331 BC
(GAUGAMELA)

327 BC
(SOGDIAN ROCK)

325 BC
(DESERT)

JUNE 323 BC - BABYLON
(DEATH OF ALEXANDER)

