



# Legio VI

Ancient Battles  
for 6 mm figures

Game Scenario

**Magnesia**

189 BC

## Historical Background



Antiochus the Great, ruler of the Seleucid Empire, declared himself "champion of Greek freedom against Roman domination". Not all Greeks welcomed this. Many allied with Rome and by 190 BC Antiochus had been driven out of Europe.

Lucius Scipio crossed the Hellespont, linked up with Eumenes of Pergamon, and then advanced on Magnesia. There Antiochus had gathered a large army drawn from all over the Seleucid Empire to make a stand.

The Romans were heavily outnumbered, especially in cavalry. Lucius Scipio was, however, keen for a decisive battle before his consulship expired. Hannibal was at this time in the service of the Seleucids. A popular anecdote is that Antiochus asked Hannibal whether his vast army would be enough for the Romans, to which Hannibal tartly replied, "Quite enough for the Romans, however greedy they are."

In the historical battle Antiochus' cataphracts and Agyraspids (silver shields) broke the allied legions on the Roman left but pursuit was halted by the Roman reserve. On the other wing the Seleucid chariots panicked when harassed by missile troops and caused more damage to their own troops than the enemy. The Pergamenes then broke the Seleucid left. The centre was a stand-off between the legions and deep phalanxes. The latter formed hollow square and were assailed on all sides by missiles until they eventually gave way.





## Roman Brief

Although outnumbered your army is battle hardened whereas the enemy is a motley collection of dubious quality Asiatics. Their heavy cavalry and pike phalanxes are their most formidable troops. Their scythed chariots and elephants are also dangerous but vulnerable to missiles.

You are deployed as per the map below, your left anchored on the River Hermus which may only be crossed by light troops, taking 1 DP and 1 turn.

Your objective is to decisively defeat the Seleucids and force them to come to terms.

Anything less would be considered a defeat as Lucius Scipio will soon lose his consulship and will be replaced.

Eumenes, your Pergamene ally is both competent and has a hatred of Antiochus as the latter had recently ravaged his lands.



## Roman Order of Battle

**Scale.** One MI & LI base = 400 men, Cavalry = 300, elephant = 10, (28000 foot, 3600 cavalry, 10 elephants). The numbers below are bases (2cm square for Legio VI).

**Left Romans: Lucius Cornelius Scipio C-in-C, 2 actions.**

**Left wing: Gnaeus Domitius Ahenobarbus, subordinate commander 1 action**

2x4 allied velites, LI, B Grade *screen in front or to flank/rear*

2 allied legions, MI, B Grade

**Centre: Led by Scipio personally**

6 Roman velites, LI, A Grade *screen in front or to flank/rear*

2 Roman legions, MI, A Grade

**Reserve: Aemilius Lepidus, subordinate commander - 1 action**

2 Roman Equites A Grade

1 African Elephant

4 Thracian & Macedonian Camp Guard MI, C Grade *in camp*

**Right Pergamenes: Eumenes 2 actions, Ally General**

4 Achean Thureophoroi, MI, B Grade *left of cavalry*

3 Xystophoroi (lancers), HC, A Grade *in wedge*

3 Italian cavalry, MC, B Grade

4 Tarantine cavalry LC, B Grade

4 Trallian slingers, LI C Grade *screen in front or on flank*

3 Cretan archers, LI C Grade *screen in front or on flank*

*Notes: You may detach bases from your legions to form ad hoc independent units. If Triarii they will be ½ strength HI; Principes and Hastati as full strength MI. This may be done before battle commences, or during the game. If the latter it will count as a formation change.*

*The camp guard may not leave the camp unless either Lepidus or Scipio are attached.*



## Seleucid Brief

It is here at Magnesia that you will take your stand against Rome.

You are deployed as per the map below, weighting your right wing with your best close combat troops which you lead in person. The river Hemus on the right will prevent you outflanking the Romans on that wing. The river may only be crossed by light troops, taking 1 DP and 1 turn.



You have deployed deeply in the centre and placed your elephants in gaps between the infantry. This provides lanes for them to fall back through should they rampage. Your left is composed of mostly Asiatic troops of dubious quality bolstered by some good heavy cavalry.

Your objective is to drive the Romans out of Asia and then follow up to liberate Greece.

## Seleucid Order of Battle

**Scale:** 1 HI base = 500; MI, LI & Cataphracts = 400; other cavalry = 300; elephants & chariots = 10, (9600 Cavalry, 32,600 infantry, 40 Chariots, 40 Indian elephants)

### Right Wing (Right to Left): Antiochus — C-in-C 3 actions

Skirmish wing, far right. Mendes subordinate commander, 1 action

6 Dahae horse archers, LC, C Grade

4 Asiatic Sling & Bow, LI, D Grade

4 Cretan archers LI, C Grade

8 Argyraspids (silver shields) HI, pikemen B Grade\*

3 Agema HC, A Grade\*\* *in wedge*

2x3 Cataphracts HC, C Grade *in 2 wedges*

1 Elephant *in reserve*

### Centre (R-L): Phillipos 1 action

2x4 Galatian MI C Grade, 2 units deep

1 Elephant *on phalanx right*

2x8 Macedonian colonist phalangites HI pikemen, C Grade 2 units deep

1 Elephant *in gap between phalanx units*

2x8 Asiatic phalangites HI pikemen, C Grade 2 units deep

1 Elephant *on phalanx left*

6 Cappadocian, Cilician, Lycian MI, D Grade

### Left Wing (R-L): Seleucus 1 action.

4 Elymain archers MI Bowmen D Grade

3 Cataphracts HC, C Grade *in wedge*

3 Companions HC, B Grade\*\* *in wedge*

4 Arab camel riders MC, D Grade

4 Scythed chariots *in front of cavalry*

6 Asiatic skirmishers LI, D Grade

4 Persian cavalry, LC, D Grade

\* The elite Argyraspids would normally be A Grade. They had suffered losses and their ranks made up with raw recruits, hence the B Grade rating.

\*\* The Agema and Companions count as cataphracts if shot at (due to their partial horse armour). They count as HC in all other circumstances.



## Deployment

Given the length of the Seleucid line, an eight foot wide table is recommended for the orders of battle above. A four foot width will be sufficient.

Armies are deployed as per the sketch map below. In the historical battle the Roman left was driven back to their camp and the situation restored by the intervention of the camp guard. Therefore the camp should be on table behind the Roman left.

There were hills to the rear of both armies but the battlefield was otherwise featureless apart from the River Hermus which anchored the Roman left.

