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Do you know?

The Battle of Hydaspes (326 BC) was one of the world's most fiercest battles ever fought.

The Battle of Hydaspes was fought between Alexander the Great of Macedonia and the great King Porus of Paurava.

On his campaign to conquer Asia, Alexander the Great had captured the Persian Empire. He then set his eyes upon India. His conquest of India, initially, went rather unchallenged. He gained several allies as well. The courageous King Porus, however, refused Alexander's alliance.



He challenged him to a battle that would, later on, become one of the world's most fiercest and deadly battles. King Porus ruled the territory lying in between the rivers of Jhelum and Chenab. It was important for Alexander to defeat Porus in order to continue with his conquest.



Indian King Ambhi, the ruler of Taxila sided with the Greek ruler to fight against Porus. The Battle of Hydaspes took place on the banks of the Hydaspes River (Jhelum) in Punjab, modern-day Pakistan.

Alexander set up his camp near a town on the right bank of the river.

As Alexander's men advanced towards their goal, King Porus's army confronted them at a fjord on the Hydaspes River. Numerically, both the forces were almost equal. However, while Alexander had an advantage in terms of cavalry, Porus had the strength of around 200 war elephants.

Both the mighty rulers would soon come face to face in one of the world's fiercest battles.

Alexander split his army into parts in order to confuse Porus. His General Craterus led a small force against Porus on the order of Alexander.



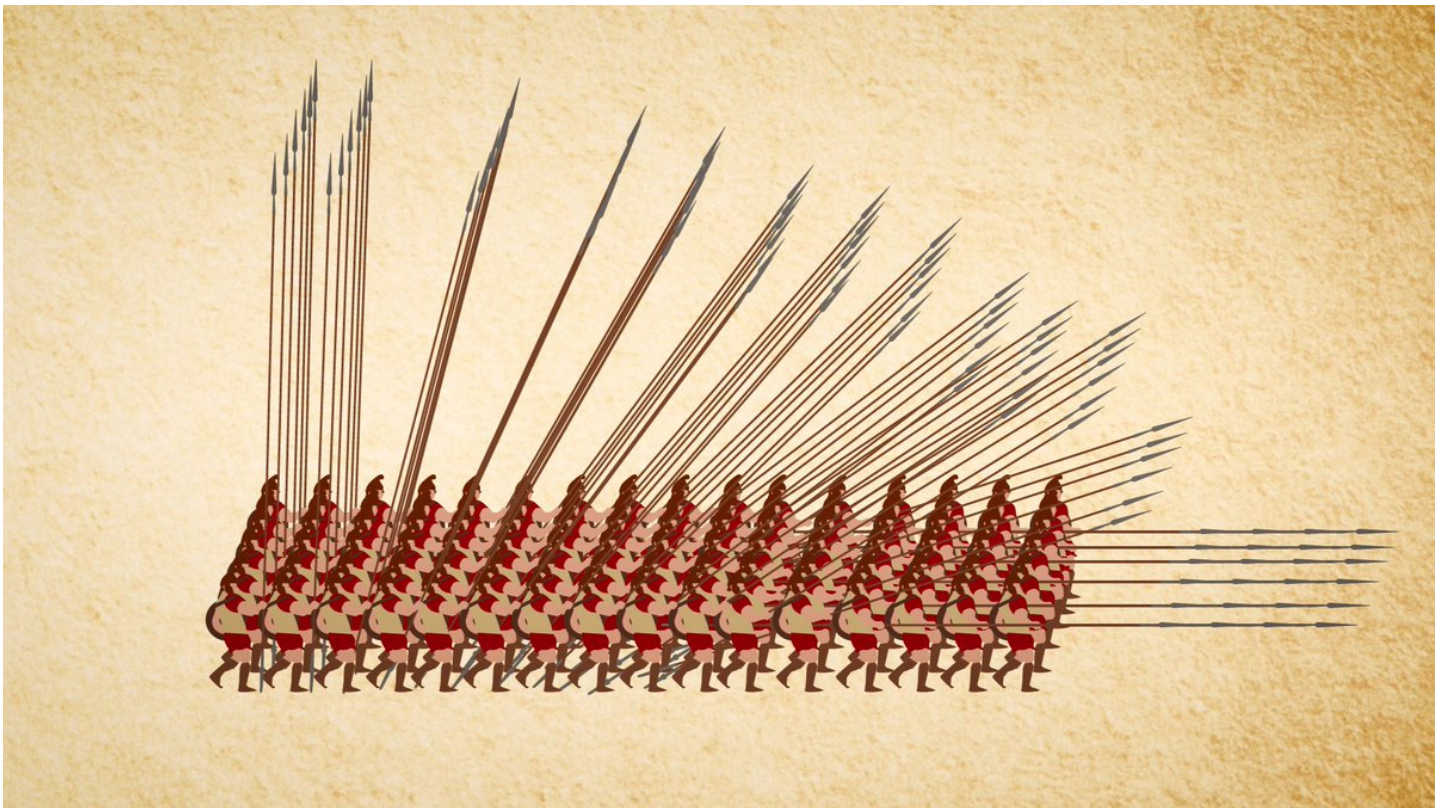
Alexander took the most of his Army to cross somewhere around 27 km away.

As soon as Porus learned about Alexander's advance across river, he launched attack. Porus arranged his cavalry on the flanks. His infantry took the central position while the war elephants took the front.

Alexander, on the other hand, led the right-wing cavalry himself. His heavy infantry took the center in a phalanx. His general Coenus led the left-wing cavalry behind a hill to outflank the enemy.



As one of the most fiercest battles of the world commenced, the heavily armored elephants with archers and javelin men on their backs charged the Macedonian phalanx. The phalanx had never faced war elephants before. The mighty animals caused great damage to the Macedonian men.



After engaging in fierce bloodshed the Macedonian troops eventually repulsed back the elephants.

The Macedonian forces then confronted the Indian infantry. Alexander and his cavalry launched an attack on the right. But they could not find a gap to execute the attack.



Coenus, then, returned to the battlefield at the back end of the Indian forces. It was then that Alexander finally defeated the Indian cavalry in this great battle. King Porus quickly ordered his infantry to take up a defensive position.

He offered to surrender to Alexander in return for favorable terms. Alexander agreed to this. He allowed Porus to remain the King of Paurava but imposed tribute as well.

At the end of one of the world's fiercest battles, Alexander lost 1,000 of his 41,000 men.

On the other hand, King Porus lost 12,000 of his 50,000 men. Apart from this 9,000 Indian men were captured. Porus also lost his two sons to the battle.

The valorous King Porus lost the Battle of Hydaspes. Yet he was the greatest opponent that Alexander ever faced.



This battle was also Alexander's last major victory. In fact, many scholars consider it to be one of the greatest conquests of the Macedonian ruler.

Although victorious, it was also the most costly battle fought by the Macedonians.

The fierce resistance put up by Porus and his men won the respect of Alexander who, after the battle, asked Porus to become one of his satraps.

The battle is historically significant because it resulted in the exposure of ancient Greek political and cultural influences..

..to the Indian subcontinent, yielding works such as Greco-Buddhist art, which continued to have an impact for many centuries.

Although Porus lost the battle, he became the most successful recorded opponent of Alexander.