

# Extra Battles of the 1<sup>st</sup> Crusade

If there is any interest from any players in fighting these 14 extra one-off battles, let the Umpire know & they will be created as single games, in historical order, as we go through the 4 Campaign years of the 1<sup>st</sup> Crusade. These games need not necessarily be led by any of the Characters, but nominated men, whom the Character selects.

There were a few extra battles that were undertaken by the various groups involved in the Crusading movement from 1096AD, that can provide an interesting set of smaller scale games, should anyone wish to learn how to use their respective armies or generally enhance their knowledge & 'feel' for this Crusading period.

The Byzantine Empire waged a few campaigns to recapture some of its territory in Anatolia that it had lost to the Seljuk Turks & also clashed with the Latin Christian forces on occasion, due to either hatred of the Byzantines, whom many of the rank & file saw as treacherous & unholy.

The numerous Crusader groups clashed fairly regularly with a variety of peoples that lived in the Levant before they arrived, such as Armenians, Arabs, Coptic Christian, Jewish & other small groups of peoples, like the independent Bedouins.

There were also many military squabbles between the local Seljuk's & other Arab or Armenian Governors.

Shown below are the names of the battles & who was involved, by year, as once that year is past in the main Campaign calendar, the game can still be played, but it will have no impact for Booty or losses in men & horses etc.

## 1096AD

1. **Assault on Ma'arat** - The **Seljuk Emir Ridwan of Aleppo** & his **Atabeg Janah al-Dawla** took the small city of **Ma'arat al-Nu'man** from a **Seljuk Turcoman commander Yaghi Siyan of Antioch**, expelling its garrison
2. **Battle of Damascus** - **Janah al-Dawla** joined **Ridwan** & **Sokmen Ibn Artuk of Diyarbakir**, who with his brother **Il-Ghazi** also ruled **Jerusalem**, in an attack on Sokmen's overlord **Duqaq of Damascus**. However Janah withdrew his forces before the end of the campaign

## 1097AD

1. **Battle of Smyrna** - An army under the **Megas Dux John Doukas** disembarked at Abydos & marched down the coast & fought the battle to take the city from the rebel **Seljuk Emir Tzachas**. John's supporting fleet under **Admiral Caspax**, then retook the islands at the **Battle of Lesbos**, the **Battle of Chios** & the **Battle of Samos** by expelling the Turks
2. **Siege of Sardis** - The **Emperor Alexius** also led an army into Anatolia which retook Sardis following a short siege
3. **Battle of Philadelphia** - Following his success at Sardis, the **Emperor** led his army to victory at the Battle of Philadelphia & retook the city from the **Seljuk Turks**
4. **Siege of Laodicea** - The **Emperor's** final victory in 1097AD was at the siege of Laodicea, where his army retook the city, expelling the **Seljuk Turkish** garrison
5. **Battle of Qinnisrin** - Discord was spread between the **Seljuk Emir Ridwan of Aleppo** & his **Atabeg Janah al-Dawla** by the **Seljuk Turcoman commander Yaghi Siyan of Antioch** & when **Duqaq of Damascus** invaded Aleppo's territory, **Janah** left **Ridwan** & **Sokmen** to face him alone. **Ridwan** was victorious in the Battle at Qinnisrin, forcing **Janah** to flee with his wife, Ridwan's mother & establish himself as an independent ruler of **Hims**
6. **Assault on Shayzar** - Finally **Yaghi Siyan of Antioch** & **Ridwan** became allies, who then teamed up with **Sokmen Ibn Artuk of Diyarbakir** & enroute to **Hims**, to attack **Janah**, began to besiege **Izz ad-Dawla abu-l-Murhaf Nasr ibn Munqidh**, the Arab **Emir** who ruled the city of **Shayzar**, from the **Banu Munqidh dynasty**. However hearing of the Crusaders marching closer, all dispersed to their own territories to await events

## 1098AD

1. **Naval Battle off the Syrian Coast** - A Byzantine fleet under **Admiral Landulph**, was joined by **Tatikios**, with his marines & engaged a **Pisan fleet** that had attacked Byzantine shipping & defeated it. The Pisans made for the Syrian coast where they offered the fleet to Bohemund of Taranto
2. **Battle of the Lake of Antioch** - While the Crusading force was besieging the city of Antioch, **Bohemund** learned that a relief force of **Seljuk Turks** under **Radwan of Aleppo** was enroute to attempt to relieve the city. Bohemund led all the cavalry at night & ambushed the Turks, forcing Radwan to retire back to Aleppo
3. **Assault on Samosata** - Having become co-regent of Edessa, **Baldwin** decided to eliminate the **Emirate of Samosata** as a commercial & military rival of the Edessene State. Supported by his Armenian subjects under the Armenian **Princeling Constantine of Gargar**, he led his forces to the attack. However, the Armenians were inexperienced soldiers & the Turks of Samosata caught Baldwin in an Ambush. However, Baldwin did capture & garrison the village of St. John & thereafter this restricted the raids of his Turkish neighbour
4. **Siege of Ma'arra** – This siege occurred on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1098AD when **Raymond IV of Toulouse & Robert II Count of Flanders** launched an unsuccessful assault on the city. The city's deep ditch & strong walls defeated the attackers. **Bohemund** then joined the other leaders the following day. The defenders were made up of an urban militia & inexperienced citizens. A siege tower finally allowed the Crusaders access. Despite offering to surrender, Bohemund killed all the men & enslaved the women & children, but Raymond secured the city. Due to the poor supply of food & water for the Crusader armies during the siege, it was reported that the **Tafur Christians**, who all followed strict oaths of poverty, turned to cannibalism to satisfy their hunger needs. This shocked & frightened the Arab civilians as the Crusading army continued its march towards Jerusalem

## 1099AD

1. **Assault on Arqa** - While enroute to Jerusalem, **Raymond** planned to take **Tripoli** for himself, as **Bohemund** had taken **Antioch**. However, Raymond first besieged the **town of Arqa**. Bohemund left the army & returned to Antioch in order to consolidate his rule against the advancing Byzantines. **Tancred** also left Raymond's forces, as did a separate force under **Gaston IV of Beam**. Godfrey, Robert, Tancred, & Gaston arrived at Arqa in March, but the siege continued. **Pons of Balazun** died, struck by a stone missile. The situation was tense not only among the military leaders, but also among the clergy. Since **Legate Adhemar's** death there had been no real leader of the crusade, & ever since the discovery of the Holy Lance by **Peter Bartholomew in Antioch**, there had been accusations of fraud among the clerical factions. Finally, in **April**, **Arnulf of Chocques** challenged **Peter** to an ordeal by fire. Peter underwent the ordeal & died after days of agony from his wounds, which discredited the Holy Lance as a fake. This also undermined Raymond's authority over the Crusade, as he was the main proponent of its authenticity. The siege of Arqa lasted until 13 May, when the Crusaders left having captured nothing
2. **Assault on Arsuf** - Following the capture of Jerusalem, **Godfrey** reached an agreement with the citizens of **Arsuf** after it was known that he intended to stay in Jerusalem & was reconciled with Raymond of Toulouse. The treaty stated that Arsuf would pay tribute to Godfrey & included an exchange of hostages that included Godfrey's knight, **Gerard of Avesnes**. However, the Muslim hostages escaped, giving Arsuf no reason to pay their tribute. Godfrey subsequently besieged the city in October. Due to conflicts between Godfrey & Raymond, the siege was finally lifted