

The same winter Brasidas, with his allies in Thrace, marched against Amphipolis, the Athenian colony on the river Strymon.^{1a} [2] Aristagoras the Milesian attempted to establish a settlement upon the spot on which the city now stands when he fled from King Darius,^{2a} but he was dislodged by the Edonians.^{2b} Thirty-two years later the Athenians sent ten thousand of their own citizens (and whoever else chose to go) to settle the region, but these were destroyed at Drabescus^{2c} by the Thracians. [3] Twenty-nine years later the Athenians returned—Hagnon, son of Nicias, being sent out as a leader of the colony. He drove out the Edonians and founded a city on the spot, which was formerly called Ennea-hodoi, or Nine Ways. The base from which they started was Eion,^{3a} their commercial seaport at the mouth of the river, not more than three miles from the present city, which Hagnon named Amphipolis, because the Strymon flows round it on two sides, and he built it so as to be conspicuous from the sea and land alike, running a long wall across from river to river, to complete the circumference.

4.102
424/3
8th Year/Winter
AMPHIPOLIS
Brasidas marches against
Amphipolis, whose history
and geography is described.

Brasidas now marched against this city, starting from Arne in Chalcidice.^{1a} Arriving about dusk at Aulon and Bromiscus, where the lake of Bolbe runs into the sea,^{1b} he took supper there, and went on during the night. [2] The weather was stormy and it was snowing a little, which encouraged him to hurry on in order, if possible, to take everyone at Amphipolis by surprise (except the party who were to betray it). [3] The plot involved some natives of Argilus,^{3a} an Andrian^{3b} colony, who resided in Amphipolis, where they had also other accomplices won over by Perdiccas or the Chalcidians. [4] But the most active in the matter were the inhabitants of Argilus itself, which is close by, who had always been suspected by the Athenians, and had designs on the place. These men now saw their opportunity arrive with Brasidas, and having for some time been in correspondence with their countrymen in Amphipolis for the betrayal of the city, at once received him into Argilus, and revolted from the Athenians. That same night they took him on to the bridge over the river, [5] where he found only a small guard to oppose him, the city being at some distance from the passage and the walls not reaching down to it as at present. He easily forced his way through this guard, partly through there being treason in their ranks, partly from the stormy state of the weather and the suddenness of his attack; and so got across the bridge and immediately became master of all the property outside—the Amphipolitans having houses all over the quarter.

4.103
424/3
8th Year/Winter
AMPHIPOLIS
Brasidas, aided by Argilians
and conspirators inside
Amphipolis, marches quickly
on a stormy night to the
Strymon bridge and occupies
it easily.

The passage of Brasidas was a complete surprise to the people in the city; and the capture of many of those outside, as well as the flight of the

4.104
424/3
8th Year/Winter
AMPHIPOLIS
Despite surprise and
confusion, the gates of
Amphipolis are secured and a
message sent to Thucydides,
general and author of this
history, who after receiving it
leaves immediately from
Thasos with seven triremes.

4.102.1a Thucydides records the attempt to found Amphipolis in 1.100.3. Amphipolis, Strymon River: Map 4.106, AY.

4.102.2a For the story of Aristagoras and the attempt to found a city there, see Herodotus, Book 5, 124–26. See also Appendix E, The Persians, §2–3.

4.102.2b Edonia: Map 4.106, AY.

4.102.2c Drabescus: Map 4.106, AY; also see 1.100.3.

4.102.3a Eion: Map 4.106, AY.

4.103.1a Arne in Chalcidice: location unknown. For the location of Chalcidice, see Map 4.106, AX.

4.103.1b Aulon: location unknown. Bromiscus: Map 4.106, AY; Lake Bolbe: Map 4.106, AX.

4.103.3a Argilus: Map 4.106, AY.

4.103.3b Andros: Map 4.128, BY.

rest within the wall, combined to produce great confusion among the citizens; especially as they did not trust one another. [2] It is even said that if Brasidas, instead of stopping to pillage, had advanced straight against the city, he would probably have taken it. [3] Instead, however, he established himself where he was, overran the country outside, and for the present remained inactive, vainly awaiting a demonstration on the part of his friends within. [4] Meanwhile the party opposed to the traitors proved numerous enough to prevent the gates being immediately thrown open, and in concert with Eucles, the general, who had come from Athens to defend the place, sent to the other commander in Thrace, Thucydides son of Olorus, the author of this history,^{4a} who was at the isle of Thasos,^{4b} a Parian colony,^{4c} half a day's sail from Amphipolis, to tell him to come to their relief. [5] On receipt of this message he at once set sail with seven ships which he had with him, in order, if possible, to reach Amphipolis in time to prevent its capitulation, or in any case to save Eion.

Meanwhile Brasidas, afraid that help would arrive by sea from Thasos, and learning that Thucydides possessed the right of working the gold mines in that part of Thrace, and had thus great influence with the inhabitants of the mainland,^{1a} hastened to gain the city, if possible, before the people of Amphipolis should be encouraged by his arrival to hope that he could save them by getting together a force of allies from the sea and from Thrace, and so refuse to surrender. [2] He accordingly offered moderate terms, proclaiming that any of the Amphipolitans and Athenians who so chose, might continue to enjoy their property with full rights of citizenship, while those who did not wish to stay had five days to depart, taking their property with them.

Upon hearing this, the bulk of the inhabitants began to change their minds, especially as only a small number of the citizens were Athenians, the majority having come from various places, and also because many of the prisoners Brasidas had taken outside had relatives within the walls. They found the proclamation a fair one in comparison to what their fears had suggested. The Athenians were glad to get out, as they thought they ran more risk than the rest, and did not expect any speedy relief. The multitude were generally content at being left in possession of their civic rights, and at such an unexpected reprieve from danger. [2] The partisans of Brasidas now openly advocated this course, seeing that the feeling of the people had changed, and that they no longer gave ear to the Athenian general present, and thus the surrender was made and Brasidas was admitted by them on the terms of his proclamation. [3] In this way they gave up the city, and late in the same day, Thucydides and his ships entered the harbor of Eion,^{3a}

4.105
424/3
8th Year/Winter
AMPHIPOLIS
Brasidas, anxious to capture the place before Thucydides arrives, offers generous terms to the citizens.

4.106
424/3
8th Year/Winter
AMPHIPOLIS
The Amphipolitans decide to capitulate. Thucydides arrives too late to save Amphipolis, but he does save Eion.

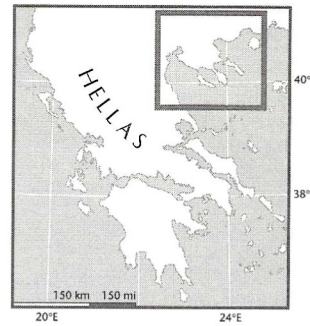
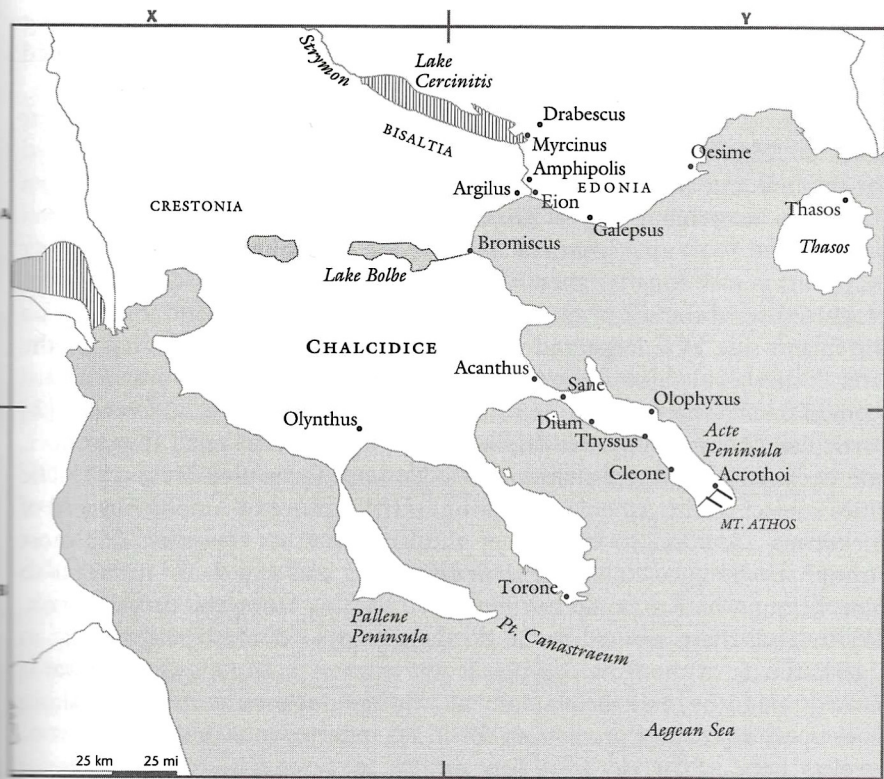
4.104.4a This is one of Thucydides' infrequent and restrained remarks about himself. See the Introduction (sect. I) for what is known of the life of Thucydides.

4.104.4b Thasos: Map 4.106, AY.

4.104.4c Paros: Map 4.128, BY.

4.105.1a See the Introduction (sect. I) for what is known of the life of Thucydides.

4.106.3a Eion: Map 4.106, AY.



MAP 4.106 OPERATIONS OF BRASIDAS AGAINST AMPHIPOLIS, ACTE, AND TORONE

[4] Brasidas having just got hold of Amphipolis, and having been within a night of taking Eion; had the ships been less prompt in relieving it, in the morning it would have been his.

After this Thucydides put all in order at Eion to secure it against any present or future attack of Brasidas, and received such as had elected to come there from the interior according to the agreed-upon terms. [2] Meanwhile Brasidas suddenly sailed with a number of boats down the river to Eion to see if he could not seize the point running out from the wall, and so command the entrance; and at the same time he attacked the city by land, but was beaten off on both sides and had to content himself with arranging matters at Amphipolis and in the neighborhood. [3] Myrcinus,^{3a} an Edonian city, also came over to him (the Edonian king Pittacus having been killed by the sons of Goaxis and his own wife Brauro); and Galepsus^{3b}

4.107
424/3
8th Year/Winter
AMPHIPOLIS
Brasidas attacks Eion but is
beaten off. Other nearby
cities now revolt against
Athens.

4.107.3a Myrcinus: Map 4.106, AY.

4.107.3b Galepsus: Map 4.106, AY.