



## The Ancient World: Extraordinary People in Extraordinary Societies

### Philippi, Battle of

**Date:** October, 42 BCE

**Locale:** Philippi, a town overlooking plain and bay at Neapolis in Greece

**Related civilizations:** Republican and Imperial Rome

**Significance:** The battle avenged the murder of Julius Caesar and marked the end of the Roman Republic.

**Background:** After the murder of Julius Caesar in 44 BCE, Marcus Junius Brutus, one of the chief assassins, took possession of Macedonia, where he was joined by Gaius Cassius Longinus, another assassin, who commanded Syria. The two rivals for power, Caesar's friend Marc Antony and Caesar's heir Octavian (later the emperor Augustus), reconciled in 43 BCE and formed (with Marcus Aemilius Lepidus) the Second Triumvirate. In the following year, Antony and Octavian (with twenty-eight legions) set out to recover the eastern provinces.

**Action:** The forces of Brutus and Cassius (with combined nineteen legions) were positioned along the Via Egnatia, west of Philippi (FIH-leh-pi); Brutus to the north was partly protected by a marsh. Brutus's forces successfully overran Octavian's camp, although Octavian avoided capture. Antony successfully attacked the camp of Cassius; Cassius, discouraged and not knowing of Brutus's success, committed suicide. The first battle was a stalemate. Three weeks later on October 23, Brutus began another battle. With his troops in flight, he also committed suicide.

**Consequences:** The battle marked the defeat of Brutus and Cassius, the leading assassins of Caesar, and left Rome in the power of the Second Triumvirate.

**See also:** Antony, Marc (10.3331/CWEP\_0515); Augustus (10.3331/CWEP\_0531); Brutus (10.3331/CWEP\_0539); Caesar, Julius (10.3331/CWEP\_0541); Cassius (10.3331/CWEP\_0551); Rome, Imperial (10.3331/CWEP\_0736); Rome, Republican (10.3331/CWEP\_0738); Triumvirate (10.3331/CWEP\_0770).

—Thomas McGeary

## Citation Types

| Type          | Format  |
|---------------|---|
| MLA Style     | . "Philippi, Battle of." <i>The Ancient World: Extraordinary People in Extraordinary Societies</i> , edited by Shally-Jensen Michael, Salem, 2016. <i>Salem Online</i> .  |
| APA Style     | . (2016). Philippi, Battle of. In S. Michael (Ed.), <i>The Ancient World: Extraordinary People in Extraordinary Societies</i> . Hackensack: Salem. Retrieved from <a href="https://online.salempress.com">https://online.salempress.com</a> |
| CHICAGO Style | . "Philippi, Battle of." <i>The Ancient World: Extraordinary People in Extraordinary Societies</i> . Hackensack: Salem, 2016. Accessed January 31, 2018. <a href="https://online.salempress.com">https://online.salempress.com</a> .        |