

## Portuguese vs Ottomans

### Players:

José Pargana, aka Yussuf Parganolu, Beglerbeg of Rumelia

Filipe Martins, aka D. Pedro, Duque of Viseu and Marquis of Treviso

### Armies:

V/39 Ottoman Turks (Early Ottoman Empire)

V/34 Medieval Portuguese (Late Medieval Portuguese)

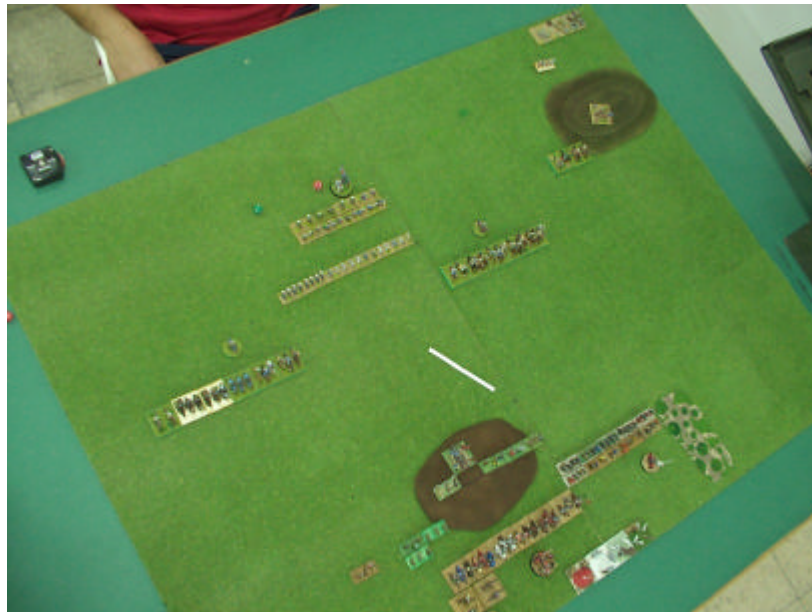
### Game:

AWr standard game - 105 AP

At the first hours in the morning the plains of the Serbian Sanjdak echoed the clinging of metal as thousands of men prepared for battle. It was a beautiful day and the Ottoman commander was ready to crush the Portuguese crusading army.

The entire battlefield was dominated by a gentle elevation, right in the middle of the Portuguese position. The Christian battle array consisted of an artillery unit placed in the hill and sided by elite and inferior crossbowmen. Behind them was a line of six units of knights plus a column of two ginetes (CvL). The left flank was lightly covered by crossbowmen and a single unit of spearmen (SpM). The Portuguese right was covered by an impressive wall of heavy and medium spearmen whose right flank was protected by a wood (and two slinger units hidden under cover from trees).

The Ottomans placed their azaps and yeni ceri archers (BwM and BwMe) facing the Portuguese artillery and crossbowmen, closely followed by azap infantry (SpM and BwL). The right flank was obviously covered by the Rumelian cavalry (after all, this was an European battlefield!), i.e., two cavalry units (CvM), a heavy cavalry Kapikulu unit (CvHe), two Christian knights units and, further right, a light horse-archer. The Turk's left was covered by the Anatolian cavalry archers (CvMA) and two light horse-archers. A misused artillery and a voynik armoured infantry unit were left behind, close to the baggage.



The battle array. Notice the knights behind the hill, ready to pass through the crossbowmen or to make an about face, as it eventually happened.

The Ottomans made the first move, advancing the two mounted wings of the army. The Portuguese replied, their knights making an about face to the left in order to face the Rumelian cavalry, while the crossbowmen on the centre-right turned to shoot at the Anatolian cavalry. The Ottomans approached rapidly and soon the Portuguese spearmen received a shower of arrows delivered by the Anatolians. Only their armour saved them from an inglorious recoil.

In the centre, the Turkish infantry approached the hill with a steady pace, only receiving a fatal casualty at the hands of the Portuguese artillery.

But it was the Ottoman's right that proved to be more "interesting". Before they could close in, a Turkish cavalry unit received a powerful shot from the crossbowmen, fleeing at once. But in turn the horse-archers on the Ottoman's far right did their job and put a unit of ginetes to flight. The Christians then

received the full blow of the Ottoman cavalry charge and the single spearmen unit covering the Portuguese left was shattered to pieces, thus fleeing from the battlefield. Eventually it was recovered in order to face the enemy again.

As these events were taking place, the Anatolian's arrows kept a constant pressure on the Portuguese spearmen wall, but to no avail since the Christian infantry not only had armour but was also preparing to charge the Mohammedan cavalry. As for the Ottoman infantry, they were keeping a steady pace, closing in rapidly in order to fight the artillery and the crossbowmen hand-to-hand.

Then it was the Portuguese knights' turn whose lances they broke against their foes. These knights inflicted serious injury into a Turkish cavalry unit, who run away from the field, but received, in turn, a severe blow from the Ottoman's Christians and thus they saw one of their own fleeing as well. This unit were then contacted by the pursuing enemies and fell apart.



Prince D. Pedro of Portugal. The real character served under the Emperor Segismund and actually fought against the Turks (and the Hussites) along with his friend, D. Alvaro Vaz de Almada.

In no time, albeit decisive moves being made elsewhere, the "cavalry flank" concentrated the attention of both commanders and, as the battle dragged on, knights and cavalry units mingled together in a terrible clash of men and horses. Dreadful cries of agony could be heard as swords and falchions slashed flesh and bones, as limbs and skulls were being broken by maces, men and horses falling to the ground never to raise up again, lying among a red mud made by this ungodly effusion of blood.

But then the Portuguese spearmen charged the Anatolian cavalry, sending one of their mounted foes straight home. The hidden slingers left the woods and delivered their pellets against a light horse archer unit. But the Turks recovered and sent another cavalry unit, who had fall behind the main formation, to attack the spearmen's left flank. As they failed, the Portuguese turned two of their heavy spearmen units, one to face this ongoing combat and another one to block the recoil of a cavalry unit who was instantly killed in the subsequent fight.

In the centre, the archers weren't able to defeat neither the artillery not the crossbowmen, who put up a stiff resistance.



The "cavalry flank". D. Alvaro Vaz de Almada is the Fco in the foreground. Notice the Kapikulu cavalry in the centre of the picture, facing two enemies at the same time!

And in the "cavalry flank", the Kapikulu cavalry held ground against the Knights of Santiago, although their flank was covered by an enemy unit. The Turks were being quite lucky since even their commanders (an FCo and the CiC) twice escaped capture!

Although far from being demoralised, the Ottomans decided that the day was lost. By then The Portuguese had a slight advantage since they had put to flight three cavalry units (a CvMA and two CvM) and had destroyed two more (CvMA) plus an archer units while, at the same time, they had suffered themselves three mortal casualties only (two Kn and CvL). Their left flank was in a mess, but the right was charging heavily so anything could still happen.

In overall, it was an fun and eventful battle between two friends who fought, almost first hand, with medieval armies. For Pargana (aka Parganolu) this was also his first experience in an AWR standard game. Although unaccustomed with the "messenger dice", he did performed well and proved himself a dangerous foe. A few more battles and he'll be ready to sweep the whole of Europe with a "Turkish wave".

Filipe Santos Martins