

Chapter 1 : The Catalan vengeance | Open Library

Initially the Catalan Company, from Aragon, arrived in Constantinople in with 39 ships and 6, men, which consisted of 1, horsemen, 4, Almogavars and 1, footsoldiers, most of whom were Aragonese, Catalans and Valencians from the Crown of Aragon.

Moses ben Eldad Mark Keller Tune: My six gold rings were dearly bought. My comrades blood for the plate I own. Of a hundred men I returned alone. We were Spanish troops in Sicilian ships And the king of the Greeks had sent to hire Our thousand spears to scour the Turks From his Eastern realm with sword and fire. From his Eastern realm with sword and fire. We drove the Turks to the Iron Gate, But the faith of a prince keeps not the day. We were bandits now said the king of the Greeks So he hanged our captain and stole our pay. So he hanged our captain and stole our pay. His herald said "Wear chains or die. Rode along the stream to surround our line. An arrows flight from our waiting spears The knights formed ranks with a joyous sound. Now the first wave comes at a walk, now trot Five hundred ride for the killing ground. Five hundred ride for the killing ground. And you bar their path with an eight-foot spear. At fifty yards their lances dip We grip our pikes in gauntlet hand, As a steel-shod thunder drowns our cries And the ground shakes so we can hardly stand. And the ground shakes so we can hardly stand. So we hurled out darts and fired our bows, Five hundred trapped and the rest are fled. Five hundred trapped and the rest are fled. And left his flesh for the dogs and birds. Rich gifts they brought, these Frankish knights, Who called us bastard Spanish curs. Two bushels brim with silver spurs. My comrades lie in the white Greek soil, But they do not rest in the earth alone, Five hundred knights and a Frankish duke Share a pool of mud for a marking stone. Share a pool of mud for a marking stone.

Chapter 2 : Byzantine Military: The Catalan Company - Byzantine Mercenaries

The Catalan Grand Company, mercenary spear with some light cavalry, were evicted in Sicily in and took service with the Byzantine Emperor. When the Emperor killed their captain, Roger de Flori, by treachery, the Company turned bandits to ravage the hills of Morea for half a decade.

Dedicated to the military history and civilization of the Eastern Roman Empire to "Time in its irresistible and ceaseless flow carries along on its flood all created things and drowns them in the depths of obscurity. Thrace, Macedonia and Thessalonica had already been taken by Nicaea in Because of the wars of the Reconquista the Christian shepherds of the Pyrenean valleys were left unable to use the valleys in winter because they had been occupied. In order to continue to survive, these shepherds had to organize themselves into bands of outlaws and penetrate the enemy domain in search of what their people needed to survive. During these raids, which usually lasted only a few days, the Almogavars could live off the land and sleep in the open. They were remarkable in that they were both fierce and disciplined in combat outside combat, not so much. They could move fast through very rugged terrain, attack a Muslim settlement, and then flee before reinforcements arrived. Although they could stand against heavy cavalry, they proved very effective troops in running down the lighter Berber-style horsemen of the Iberian Muslim kingdoms. The average Almoghavar wore little to no armor, growing his hair and beards long. He carried a spear, 2 heavy javelins called azconas , and short stabbing sword. They were the literal descendents of the Iberians that followed Hannibal into Rome, their weapons unchanged since the Romans copied them naming them Pila and Gladius Hispaniensis. After many generations of leading this new kind of life that they had been pushed into by the invaders, it seems clear that a genuine warrior spirit formed in these shepherd communities, so that they ended up not knowing how to live by any other means than making war. In addition, it was much easier to make a living through attacks lasting a few days than by working hard for the whole year. The Catalan Company may have been the first true mercenary company in Western Europe. The Catalan Company was raised in to fight as mercenaries in the War of the Sicilian Vespers, where the Angevin and Aragonese dynasties fought over the Kingdom of Sicily. When the war ended 20 years later its commander was Rutger von Blum, better known as Roger de Flor. De Flor was originally a Templar sergeant. At the fall of Acre in he became rich using one of the Templar galleys to shuttle fugitives from Acre to Cyprus for enormous fees; later he was a pirate before he joined the Catalan Company and worked his way up to command it. The battle ended in a crucial Ottoman victory, cementing the Ottoman state and heralding the final capture of Byzantine Bithynia by the Turks. When peace broke out in Sicily the Catalan Company was surplus, and Sicily was strongly interested in seeing the last of them. Roger de Flor departed with 39 galleys and transports carrying around 1, knights and 4, Almogavars infantry. Was sole emperor from The Company arrived at Constantinople in September and were truly welcome by the Greeks. They had no sooner arrived in Constantinople than they got involved in a bloody melee in the street with the local Genoese community. Roger was created Caesar, perhaps in December In less than 8 days, Roger de Flor and his army destroyed the Turkish site and left nobody alive older than 10 years old. In the next 3 years the Catalans cleaned Greece from Turkish presence and Andronic was celebrating he had recovered full power on his territory. Due to the victories and successes along the years, the Greek population started to praise Roger de Flor, now duke of Byzantium. So he planned to betray the Catalans. By this point, the Catalans, who had recruited nearly Turkic horse into their ranks, were considered by the Byzantines to be little better than brigands and freebooters. The successes had inflated the already arrogant De Flor, leading him to entertain plans of establishing his own dominion in Anatolia. Before leaving for a new campaign in the region of Anatolia, Roger de Flor and some of his best men were invited to the court for a farewell dinner. There they were brutally assassinated: The attack was unsuccessful, but it largely decimated the Company. The Company had only horsemen, 1, foot soldiers left and no clear leader when Emperor Michael attacked, trusting in his numerical superiority, only to be defeated in Battle of Apros in July Thus began the Catalan Vengeance. For two years, the Catalan Company raided and ravaged the regions of Thrace and Macedonia for the next two years, including an attack on Mount Athos. They sacked Rodosto, brutally hacking apart every

man, woman, and child in revenge for what was done to their brothers and their leader. Although they had no siege works and so could not sack the walled cities, no Greek army could stand against them. The Emperor was forced to watch as the Catalans burnt the undefended outskirts of Constantinople. So thorough was their domination that the two year pillage of Thrace ended not because they were forced out, but because there simply was not enough places that they could pillage for food. Coat of arms of the Aragonese Kings After the Company had successfully reduced his enemies, he attempted to expel the Company from Athens with their pay in arrears. On the 15 March an army of Frankish Knights, 2, cavalry and 12, foot soldiers led by Walter V of Brienne, met the Catalan Company of 3, of which cavalry. There was also a contingent of 2, Turks standing by, to take the side of the winners. The battle marks the beginning of the Catalan domination of Athens By that time, like many military enterprises, the Great Company had faded out of history. Description of an Almogavar "These people who are called Almogavars live for nothing more than the profession of arms. And they endure harsh living conditions which others could not endure. They could well spend two days without eating if necessary, eating herbs of the fields with no problem. And the adalids leaders who lead them know the country and roads. And they do not wear more than a tunic or shirt, be it summer or winter, and they wear leather breeches on their legs and leather sandals on their feet. And they wear a good knife and a good shoulder strap and a flint steel in their belt. And they each carry a good lance and two spears, as well as a leather shoulder bag, where they carry their food. And they are very strong and very quick, for escape and for pursuit, and they are Catalans and Aragonese and Saracens.

Chapter 3 : Roger de Flor - Wikipedia

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It tells the story of Spanish troops in a battle with French knights. What might not be so well known is that is basically a true story. This is the rest of the story. The story does not begin in Catalonia, a region in Spain centered around Barcelona, and then connected to the Kingdom of Aragon. Nor does it begin in Greece, though much of the action occurs there. The story begins in Sicily. The uprising known as the Sicilian Vespers resulted in the Sicilian crown being given to the Aragon king. This, of course, did not sit well with the family of the previous ruler, so war was waged for twenty years. Among the Aragonese troops were a group of light infantry known as Almugavar. Three years into the war, the original claimant, Pedro III, died. His eldest got the Aragon throne, while his second son, James, got the Sicilian throne. Six years later, the eldest died and James gained the Aragon throne, who then placed his brother Frederick as regent. But after four years, for peace, James exchanged Corsica and Sardinia for Sicily. The Sicilian did not appreciate this maneuver and so promoted Frederick to king. The Almugavar chose to fight for Frederick, and thus were branded traitors to the Aragon throne. Thus when the war finally ended in they could not go home. Peace in Sicily did not agree with the Almugavar. But as it so happened, the Byzantine emperor Andronicus II had need of mercenaries to hold back the Turkish flood which had just taken out his latest army. Sailing in 39 ships were Almugavar, horseman, other infantry, and their women and children. Upon their arrival they quickly got into fights with the local Genoese merchants and Alan mercenaries—fights that set up later tragedies, and were a constant feature of their presence. The following spring, in a series of fights relieved several cities being besieged by the Turks and chased them from the western part of the Anatolian plateau. The next year, they marched against the remaining Turkish presence and destroyed them. This occurred in front of the pass that separates the plateau from the lowlands of upper Mesopotamia, the Iron Gate of the song. At this point, the company was recalled and they set up camp at Gallipoli. It was now that the political intrigues that had been festering made their mark. Moreover, he allied himself with the Empress Irene to put her son from her first marriage on the throne of Bulgaria. These two moves would have given him almost de facto control of the empire. These intrigues climaxed on April 5, at Adrianople. The rest of the leaders of the company smelled a trap, but Roger insisted on going. Why is one of those mysteries of history. After several days of feasting and discussions, trap was sprung. After the Byzantines had retired, the Alans burst in killing Roger and the Catalans there. Byzantine soldiers killed most of the rest of the escort, though some were captured, but later died in a dramatic attempt to escape. The Byzantines misjudged the Catalans in thinking that this dramatic stroke would cause them to slink away. It had the opposite effect. They began a campaign of revenge whose memory would last for centuries. Among the Greeks, the word Catalan holds as much horror as the word Nazi does today. For two years the company scourged the area around the Bosphorus. Only in the walled cities did the Greeks had a modicum of safety as the Catalans had no siege equipment. The Byzantine army sent against them was wiped out. They tracked down the Alans and virtually killed every last one of them. Finally, driven by the fact that they had made the area a virtual desert, they moved west to Thessaly where they continued their vengeance. It was here that they met with a general that could check and they were compelled to move south, where they found a new employer. He saw the chaos created by the Catalan company as an opportunity to expand his holdings, and the company as the means. So the summer of saw the company help capture some 30 castles in central Greece for the duke. But at the end of the campaign, the duke saw no reason to give the company the rest of its pay or allow it settle in the area. The company spent a miserable winter in the mountains. In the spring, they came down for a reckoning. The Battle of Kephissos, fought on March 15, , should be listed along with Falkirk, Courtrai, Bannockburn, and to a lesser extent Crecy and Agincourt. Heavy armored cavalry charging undersized infantry whose front was protected by a morass. All with the same results: The battle site is in a basin drained only by the limestone caverns beneath. The night before the battle, the company reopened the channels that regularly flooded the plain. The duke gathered all his feudal forces, some knights, other

cavalry, and infantry. The company numbered with cavalry. Another Turkish auxiliaries stood nearby, unsure if the battle was really a trap for them. As the French forces began to be slaughter, they joined in. The song implies that there was a line of spearmen in front of the main line at the edge of the marsh, and that the French made at least two charges. This is unsupported by the period descriptions of the battle. These reports put a single charge in which the horses quickly floundered and the French resistance collapsed. While the company casualties go unmentioned, they do not appear to be heavy. The five gold rings of the song were bought cheaply. While the song ends with the battle, the story of the company continues. Kephissos can be compared with yet another battle; that of Hattin which ended the Kingdom of Jerusalem. In each, the leadership and fighting force was completely eliminated, and further resistance was impossible. The Catalan Company found themselves the rulers of the Duchy of Athens. The story immediately takes a strange twist. In the years since the murder of Roger de Flor, the company gradually lost, usually through death or betrayal, all its gentlemen leaders. Realizing that a leader from the peasant class would not be recognized, they cast around for a leader with the proper status. Not all the French knights were killed, several had been saved because they had dealt fairly with the company in the past. So they set one of these knights as their leader. They then appealed to Frederick of Sicily to be the sovereign lord and grant them a proper ruler. Thus Greece became an Aragonese possession. There is no happy ending though. While the son of the duke made an attempt to gain back his inheritance, as well as the Byzantines, these were easily beaten back. The collapse of the Duchy of Athens came from a different quarter. The prosperity of the Duchy came from trade, particularly of textiles. After the company captured Athens, many of the weavers moved to Sicily or Aragon. More critically, Frederick gave no measurable support to his new holding, nor did nominal dukes make even a token appearance in the duchy. Worse, in a treaty signed in 1282, to appease the Venetians for the acts of piracy by the company, mothballed the Catalan trading fleet. By 1287 the Duchy was a shell, and the company in disarray. A new mercenary group, the Navarrese Company entered the scene in 1288. And in the employ of the son of a Florentine banker, Nerio Acciajuoli, began to wear down the company. On May 2, 1291, the last Catalan stronghold, Athens, fell. And the story of the Catalan Company comes to a close. The story of the Catalan Company is a dreary tale of violence, barbarity, and self aggregation. There were no heroes, no winners, and everybody acted badly. And their impression on history transitory. The time they gained for the Byzantine Empire in pushing the Turks off the Anatolian plateau was taken back with their vengeance. The fearlessness and aggression that served them so well on the battlefield, made enemies of those whom they lived with off that field. In the end the only legacy of the Catalan Company is the memory of destruction. The Chronicle of Muntaner. Hakluyt Society, Lowe, Alfonso. Routledge and Kegan Paul, Catalan Domination of Athens,

Chapter 4 : Catalonia separatists seek break with Spain, Barcelona shutdown threatened - Washington Times

Catalan Vengeance Words: Moses ben Eldad (Mark Keller) Tune: Ballad of Spring Hill by Peggy Seeger Source: MIDI file / NWC file / PDF file / History. My six gold rings were dearly bought.

Veyentnos sols venir, los pobles ja flamejen: La guerra y lo saqueig, no hi ha mellors plahers. Que avisin als fossers! La veu del somatent nos crida ja a la guerra. Les feres tenen fam! Wake up, O iron! Just seeing us passing the crows are wiping their beaks. War and plunder, there are no greater pleasures. Let them call the gravediggers! The voice of the somatent is calling us to war. Weariness, rains, snow and heat we shall endure. And if sleep overtakes us, we will use the earth as our bed. And if we get hungry, we shall eat raw meat. Fast as the lightning let us fall over their camp! Let us go there to make flesh, the wild beasts are hungry! The Almogavars formed the most effective element of his army. Once a knight was on the ground he was an easy victim of an Almogavar. The battle ended in a crucial Ottoman victory, cementing the Ottoman state and heralding the final capture of Byzantine Bithynia by the Turks. By this point, the Catalans, were considered by the Byzantines to be little better than brigands and freebooters. The successes had inflated the already arrogant De Flor, leading him to entertain plans of establishing his own dominion in Anatolia. Roger de Flor entering Constantinople This put him at odds with the Byzantine Emperor, and the indiscipline of the Almogavars marked the end of Roger de Flor. On 30 April , he was slain along with cavalry and 1, infantry by the Alans, another group of mercenaries at the service of the Emperor. The attack was unsuccessful, but it largely decimated the Company. Thus began the Catalan Vengeance. For two years, the Catalan Company raided and ravaged the Thracian countryside. They sacked Rodosto, brutally hacking apart every man, woman, and child in revenge for what was done to their brothers and their leader. Although they had no siege works and so could not sack the walled cities, no Greek army could stand against them. The emperor was forced to watch as the Catalans burnt the undefended outskirts of Constantinople. So thorough was their domination that the two year pillage of Thrace ended not because they were forced out, but because there simply was not enough places that they could pillage for food. In , the Catalan Company left their camp in Gallipoli and pursued the Alan force that had murdered their leader. The 9, Alani were fleeing north-west to their homelands. The Catalans caught up with them and butchered all but in perhaps their most difficult battle. So he equipped the women and had them defend the walls under relentless Genoese crossbow barrages. One wife refused to leave her post despite being wounded five times! Finally the Genoese had run out of arrows, and the general berated them for being turned back in their assault of the walls by women. Muntaner ordered his 6 remaining horsemen and infantry to prepare to assault! He had them discard their heavy armor now that the enemy had run out of ammunition, and opened the gates. The surprising ferocity of their attack sent the Genoese reeling. Their general was cut down in the first attack, and the will of the attackers was broken. When the main body of the Catalan Company heard of the attack on their camp, they raced back and secured it. But now the Company was at an impasse. They had exacted what revenge they could, and the countryside was barren. Worse, despite receiving reinforcements Spain and Sicily, the lords of these reinforcements clashed with the leaders of the Company. The Catalan Company had begun to consume itself. This growing rivalry persisted as the Catalan Company decided to head west, into Thessaly and down into Greece. After the Company had successfully reduced his enemies, he attempted to expel the Company from Athens with their pay in arrears. On the 15 March an army of Frankish Knights, 2, cavalry and 12, foot soldiers led by Walter V of Brienne, met the Catalan Company of 3, of which cavalry. There was also a contingent of 2, Turks standing by, to take the side of the winners. The battle marks the beginning of the Catalan domination of Athens By that time, like many military enterprises, the Great Company had faded out of history. The author, Muntaner, was secretary and paymaster of the Catalan Company, an experienced mercenary formation that had previously fought in Sicily. His account is particularly important because, as paymaster, Muntaner had accurate daily figures at his disposal of the numbers of troops in the Company and gves plausible information about logistic problems, i. The relative size of armies and their supply needs can therefore be computed from his figures with a degree of accuracy, as also casualties. There are other details often omitted from the standard accounts that deserve particular attention

from Byzantinists. Firstly, the Catalans had brought their families with them to the Byzantine empire. Their ruthless fighting methods were thus a consequence of the fact that they were endeavouring to ensure the survival of a whole society that had migrated inside the frontiers of the Byzantine state. Secondly, it is apparent that the Catalan Company became the rallying point for many disaffected people who joined their fighting forces. Among them were dispossessed Greek soldiers and peasants, as well as clans of Turkish fighters from Asia Minor, who trusted the honesty of the Catalans more than that of their own political and military elites. The Catalan Company was to some extent an experiment in multi-ethnic military democracy based on talent, courage and mutual need, in contrast to the divisive and grasping aristocratic politics of the Byzantine system. Third, Muntaner provides important indications about the laws of war.

Chapter 5 : The Catalans in Greece

The Catalan Vengeance [â€™] In a warfare of twenty years a ship or a camp was become their country; arms were their sole profession and property; valour was the only virtue which they knew; their women had imbibed the fearless temper of their lovers and husbands; it was reported that with a stroke of their broad-sword the Catalans could cleave a horseman and a horse; and the report.

Fuld was armed with a pistol, ran after Jabarin, and managed to shoot him. Jabarin was reportedly shot by others as well yet survived. Fuld succumbed to his wounds shortly after. Fuld was a prominent right-wing pundit here he is on Israeli News Talk Radio, hailing the detention at Ben Gurion airport of Peter Beinart and advocating that all leftists should be detained , and his American background helped him in reaching out to many Americans and other English speakers. This piece could have been about so many other deaths in Palestine or Israel. Hanan Ashrawi strongly condemned: But who is listening? Thus, the progressive Forward immediately offered not less than four articles to commemorate Fuld. Two of them were reports, but two of them were outright propaganda opinion pieces. By this logic, if a Jew lives in Judea and Samaria, then, the Jewish murder victim is not a normal human being whose life is sacred and precious. No, settlers are to be demonized and dehumanized, even in death. Lerner was even more directly admonishing. Many eulogized Ari, including at a beautiful, heartbreaking funeral attended by thousands. But some of the voices that I was confronted with on social media were extremely disturbing. Because in this argument of right and wrong, you are wrong. In other words, we are ostensibly told that we need to look at this with completely universal, unbiased eyes, and mourn the death of this special, innocent Jew, who was murdered not for being a settler, God forbid, but simply for being a Jew. We need to disregard the political realities which the assailant child, Yousef Jabarin, came from. Jabarin comes from the town of Yatta south of Al-Khalil Hebron , and the attack took place about 10 km north of Al-Khalil. Haaretz noted that the parents had received message from the boy that he was going to carry out an attack â€™ they in fact notified both the Israeli army and the Palestinian Authority. The location he had mentioned was the Al-Ibrahimi mosque, but he could not be located there â€™ he went further north. Nonetheless, the family house was slated for demolition, as is standard procedure. Imagine that â€™ you do what you can as a parent to handle the situation, but to no avail. You are still subject to collective punishment. Is it possible to perceive, that this kind of discriminatory reality affects a year-old to the point of uncontrollable rage? Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also immediately jumped on the opportunity to promote the Israeli hasbara which Fuld was such a champion of, and Netanyahu was doing it in my name as well: In the name of every citizen of Israel, I send my condolences to the family of Ari Fuld, who was murdered today in a terrorist attack in Gush Etzion. With his last strength, Ari fought heroically against the terrorist and prevented a greater tragedy. Ari was a wonderful father to four children. He was an advocate for Israel who fought to spread the truth about Israel. May his memory be a blessing. That was the English version of his message. This is real fascism. If you thought Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked is bad, these guys go just a bit further. But no, all that is not to be mentioned in the heartfelt eulogies that the Forward and other Israeli apologists provide, because it spoils the mood. Fuld was not a settler, neither was he an extreme-right fascist propagandist. No, he was just an innocent Jew. I am not writing with glee about the death of a human, be they Israeli, Palestinian, Jewish, Muslim or what have you. I would definitely want to relate to humans as humans. But when these Israeli hasbarists exploit this one death for more hasbara; when they admonish us for being insensitive, or even complicit if we do not mourn, while they obviously would not even note the deaths of those killed under that self-righteous Zionist zeal â€™ that makes me angry, and I have to push back.

Chapter 6 : SCA Songs - Catalan Vengeance

Auto Suggestions are available once you type at least 3 letters. Use up arrow (for mozilla firefox browser alt+up arrow) and down arrow (for mozilla firefox browser alt+down arrow) to review and enter to select.

Richard von Blum was killed fighting at the Battle of Tagliacozzo in 1188. At eight years old Roger de Flor was sent to sea in a galley belonging to the Knights Templars. He entered the order [1] and became captain of a galley. Following some intrigues and personal disputes he was accused of robbery and denounced to the pope as a thief and an apostate. This resulted in his relegation from the order. Roger fled to Genoa, where he borrowed a considerable sum from Ticino Doria, purchased a new vessel and began a career in piracy. When the Peace of Caltabellotta brought the war to an end in 1193, Frederick was unwilling and unable to keep a mercenary army and was anxious to free the island from troops called "Almogavars", whom he had no longer the means of paying. Given the political and military situation, Roger found an opportunity to make his services useful in the east in fighting against the Ottoman Turks, who were ravaging the Byzantine Empire. Looking for assistance from the European kingdoms he made Roger an offer of service along with the Almogavar army under his command. In September Roger with his fleet and army, now known as the Catalan Company, 6, strong, arrived at Constantinople. Facing strong opposition from the powerful Genoese, some weeks passed lost in dissipation, intrigues, and bloody quarrels against the Genoese who were intent on keeping him out of the circles of power, Roger and his men were sent into Asia, and reportedly beat the Turks back as far as Armenia and Iran [citation needed]. After these successful encounters with the Turks they went into winter quarters at Cyzicus. In May they again took the field, defeated the Turks at Germe along with Byzantine forces under Hranislav and rendered the important service of relieving Philadelphia, then invested and reduced to extremities by the Turks. He sent his treasures to Magnesia, but the people slew his Catalans and seized the treasures. He then laid siege to the town, but his attacks were repulsed, and he was compelled to retire. Being recalled to Europe, he settled his troops in Gallipoli and other towns, and visited Constantinople to demand pay for the Almogavars. Roger was created Caesar, perhaps in December. The life of Roger de Flor inspired the fictional character of Tirant lo Blanc, an epic romance written by Joanot Martorell, published in Valencia in 1491. It is one of the best known medieval works of literature in the Catalan language, and played an important role in the evolution of the Western novel thanks to its influence on Miguel de Cervantes. Roger de Flor is the title and the main character of a historical novel by the late Greek writer and publisher Kostas Kyriazis. Property and Discipline in the Hospital of St. Medieval Warfare in Societies Around the Mediterranean, ed. Donald Joseph Kagay, L. Andrew Villalon, Brill, 2008.

Chapter 7 : Magnas Societas Catalanorum (The Catalan Company) in 14th century Byzantium | panathinaea

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Chapter 8 : revenge - Wiktionary

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Chapter 9 : Catalan campaign in Asia Minor - Wikipedia

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