



HORMOZDĠĀN

HORMOZDĠĀN (also Hormozgān, Arabicized Hormozjān), BATTLE OF, the engagement which brought the Sasanians to power. It was fought between Ardašir I (q.v.) and his Parthian overlord Ardavān (Artabanus) V (IV according to the new reckoning; see *EIr.* II, p. 649), on 30 Mehr/28 April 224 C.E.; Ardavān was killed and the 427-year rule of the Sasanian dynasty began (Ṭabari I, p. 821; Nöldeke, *Geschichte der Perser*, pp. 14-15, 409-11; Dināvāri, ed. 'Amer and Šayyāl, p. 42; the often-quoted date in the *Chronicle of Arbela* [q.v.] is a miscalculation, and the authenticity of the work is in serious doubt). Ardašir had about 10,000 horsemen, some of whom had been equipped with Roman-style, flexible chain armor (see [ARMOR i.](#)). Ardavān had a larger force, which was less prepared (still wearing the cumbersome lamellar armor; Bivar, pp. 275-76; Widengren, p. 739).

The site of the battle has not been identified. The Arabic chronicle *Nehāyat al-arab* gives it as *b'drj'an* (see Widengren, Pl. VI, l. 3) or *b'dj'n* (ibid., p. 769, n. 167). Widengren restores the name as *Jurbađijān (i.e., Golpayagān) and argues for a northerly advance by Ardašir (pp. 716, n. 16, 739-45; cf. Garrusi, pp. 109-10). This is unlikely. Ardašir was active in the Kaškar region prior to the battle (Ṭabari, p. 818; Nöldeke, *Geschichte der Perser*, pp. 13-14), and an incomplete manuscript of Bal'ami mentions the site's name as *Ḳoš-Hormoz* (Bal'ami, ed. Bahār, p. 882, n. 4). This is a "translation" of the well-known city Rām-Hormoz on the border of Arrajān (q.v.) and Ahvāz (q.v.), and it suggests that Hormozdgān could be a synonym for Rām-Hormoz, which explains why the former is not attested in the works of Islamic geographers while the latter is



described in detail (see Le Strange, *Lands*, pp. 243-44; Schwartz, *Iran* IV, pp. 293-95, 333, 343-45). The town of Rām-Hormoz still exists, some 65 km (as the crow flies) east of Ahvāz, in a wide plain just at the foot of the hills that form the northeastern tail of the Bengestān Mountain of the Zagros chain. The plain nearby is admirably suited for a cavalry engagement.

The battle is symbolically shown on one of Ardašir's rock-reliefs at Firuzābād (see ARDAŠĪR i. and the Rock-reliefs reproduction, in *EIr.* II, p. 379, fig. 14; von Gall, pp. 20-27), where Ardašir is depicted on horseback overthrowing a mounted Ardavān, while Ardašir's heir, Šāpur (I), is transfixing with his lance a Parthian grandee, Dādbondād (cf. Ṭabari, I, p. 819). The victory was commemorated by the kindling of Ardašir's royal fire (Henning, pp. 113-16) and his assumption of the title Šāhānšāh "king of kings" (Ṭabari, I, pp. 819, 821).

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