

264 BC - This year Appius Claudius Caudex is consul. The tyrant of Syracuse, Hiero II, attacks the Mamertines. They ally themselves with a nearby Carthaginian fleet and hold off the Syracusans. However, when the Carthaginians do not leave, the Mamertines appeal to Rome for an alliance, hoping for more reliable protection. The Mamertines do not like the Carthaginians in their territory.

263 BC - Manius Valerius Messala is consul, Romans invade Syracuse, this fails utterly, however Rome convinces Hiero II to break alliance with Carthage

262 BC - Desiring Agrigentum for a base, Carthage brings 50,000 men to take it, however Rome does not like this and besieges Agrigentum. Romans storm and sack the city. The Carthaginian leaders are so overawed that they never again engage the Romans in battle



261 BC - The indecisive campaign of small successes and reverses in 261 made them realise that a long war was before them. The Carthaginians at this time have around 120 quinqueremes, the Romans don't have many ships. This year is dedicated to building a navy

260 BC - Gaius Duilius is consul. The battle of Mylae occurs. Rome has 140 ships, the Carthaginians have 130. Due to the corvus, the Carthaginians lose 50 vessels, and Duilius has a column established in his honor. This gives Rome command of Sicilian waters.

259 BC - Romans fight against the Carthaginian colonies of Corsica and Sardinia

Nothing really happens until 256 BC

256 BC - Consuls are Atilius Regulus and Manlius Vulso. Mainland invasion of Africa. This occurred 50 years earlier when the leader of Syracuse, Agathocles, had defended himself against the Carthaginians by invading Africa, and had success (310-306). Atilius Regulus is given 15,000 men to hold the base. This campaign virtually won Sicily for the Romans, and Regulus makes peace negotiations with the Carthaginians. Punic admirals unsuccessfully attempt to use encirclement.

255 BC - Regulus is consul. Xanthippus is a condottiere (a leader or a member of a troop of mercenaries, especially in Italy.) who compels Carthage to fight. The Romans are defeated when Xanthippus uses a double encirclement technique. Regulus is taken prisoner. Carthaginians counter attack with Cape Hermaeum, however, their ships are destroyed and they lose sea power for the next five years.

254 BC - Cape Panormus occurs this year, Romans carry out an assault on the sea front.

253 BC - Romans raid the coast of Tripoli which yields no result but does cause further casualties due to storms

253-251 are uneventful

250 BC - Carthaginian commander tries to recover Panormus, but is defeated. This victory was so good that the Romans then begin an offensive against Punic strongholds in western Sicily. They attack Lilybaeum, which was their first notable attempt at a scientific siegecraft (Hiero's officers taught Rome this). But they still failed to take Lilybaeum.

249 BC - Claudius Pulcher and Iunius Pullus go off to fight against Adherbal at Drepana. Adherbal destroys them. A few days later, Iunius Pullus, was herded by Carthaginian admiral Carthalo towards Cape Passaro. His fleet was then destroyed by a watery gale. Iunius, on land, manages to seize Eryx, and the temple of Aphrodite on the mountains behind Drepana. Famous quote (Bibant, quoniam esse nolunt. Let them drink, since they desire not to eat)

248-242 BC - Carthaginians obtained some more naval power, and decide to counter attack Rome. In 247 BC, they give chief control of Sicily to Hamilcar Barca. Hamilcar seizes two strongholds - Mt. Hercte near Panormus and Mt. Eryx near Drepana

241 BC - Lutatius Catulus fights at Aegates islands off of Drepana beating Hanno.