

MAP 4.5 THE OPENING OF THE PYLOS CAMPAIGN

ships to garrison it, hastened with the main body of the fleet on their voyage to Corcyra and Sicily.

As soon as the Peloponnesians in Attica<sup>1a</sup> heard of the occupation of Pylos, they hurried back home, the Spartans and their king Agis thinking that the matter touched them nearly. Besides having made their invasion early in the season while the grain was still green, most of their troops were short of provisions: the weather also was unusually bad for the time of year, and greatly distressed their army. [2] Many reasons thus combined to hasten their departure and to make this invasion a very short one; indeed they stayed only fifteen days in Attica.

About the same time<sup>1a</sup> the Athenian general Simonides getting together a few Athenians from the garrisons, and a number of the allies in those parts, took by treachery the Mendaean<sup>1b</sup> colony of Eion<sup>1c</sup> in Thrace, which was hostile to Athens, but he had no sooner done so than the Chalcidians<sup>1d</sup> and Bottiaeans<sup>1e</sup> came up and beat him out of it, with the loss of many of his soldiers.<sup>1f</sup>

On the return of the Peloponnesians from Attica the Spartans themselves and the nearest of the *perioikoi* at once set out for Pylos,<sup>1a</sup> the other Spartans following more slowly as they had just come in from another campaign. [2] Word was also sent round the Peloponnesus to come as quickly as possible to Pylos; while the sixty Peloponnesian ships were sent for from Corcyra,<sup>2a</sup> and being dragged by their crews across the isthmus of Leucas,<sup>2b</sup> passed unperceived by the Athenian squadron at Zacynthus,<sup>2c</sup> and reached Pylos, where the land forces had arrived before them. [3] Before the Peloponnesian fleet sailed in, Demosthenes found time to send out unobserved two ships to inform Eurymedon and the Athenians on board the fleet at Zacynthus of the danger to Pylos and to summon them to his assistance. [4] While the ships hastened on their voyage in obedience to the orders of Demosthenes, the Spartans prepared to assault the fort by land and sea, hoping to capture with ease a work constructed in haste, and held by a feeble garrison. [5] Meanwhile, as they expected the Athenian ships to arrive from Zacynthus, they intended, if they failed to take the place before, to block the entrances of the harbor to prevent their being able to anchor inside it. [6] For the island of Sphacteria<sup>6a</sup> stretches along in a line close in front of the harbor and at once makes it safe and narrows its entrances, leaving a passage for two ships on the side nearest

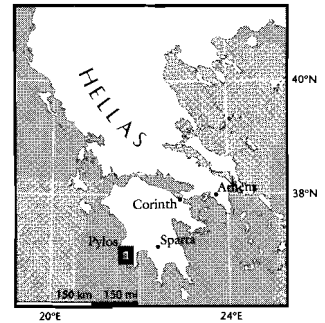
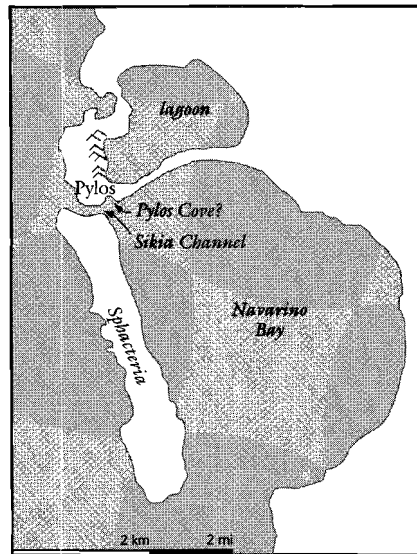
4.6  
425  
7th year/Summer  
ATTICA  
But when Agis learns of the fort, he marches his army back to Sparta.

4.7  
425  
7th year/Summer  
THRACE  
The Athenians take but then fail to hold Mendaean Eion.

4.8  
425  
7th year/Summer  
PYLOS  
The Spartans concentrate land and sea forces to attack Pylos. Demosthenes sends for help from the Athenian fleet at Zacynthus. The Spartans plan to blockade Pylos and take it by siege. They occupy the island of Sphacteria.

4.6.1a Attica: Map 4.5, BY.  
4.7.1a This chapter deals with events in Thrace, which was last mentioned in 2.101.  
4.7.1b Mende, on the Chalcidian peninsula of Pallene: Map 4.5, AX.  
4.7.1c This Eion in Thrace, whose location is unknown, cannot be the more familiar Eion on the Strymon River (Map 4.5, AY), which had for some time now been subject to the Athenians.  
4.7.1d Chalcidice: Map 4.5, AX.  
4.7.1e Bottiaeans, living at that time in Bottica: Map 4.5, AX.

4.7.1f The narrative of events in Thrace is picked up again in 4.78.  
4.8.1a Pylos: Map 4.5, BX. For information about the Spartan class of *perioikoi*, see the Glossary and Appendix C, Spartan Institutions, §9.  
4.8.2a Corcyra: Map 4.5, AX.  
4.8.2b Isthmus of Leucas: Map 4.5, AX.  
4.8.2c Zacynthus: Map 4.5, BX.  
4.8.6a Island of Sphacteria: Map 4.8.



MAP 4.8 POSSIBLE LOCATIONS FOR THE "HARBOR" AT PYLOS

Pylos and the Athenian fortifications, and for eight or nine ships on that next the mainland on the other side: for the rest, the island was entirely covered with wood, and without paths through not being inhabited, and about fifteen *stades* in length.<sup>6b</sup> [7] The Spartans meant to close the entrances with a line of ships placed close together with their prows turned toward the sea and, meanwhile, fearing that the enemy might make use of the island to operate against them, carried over some *hoplites*<sup>7a</sup> to it, stationing others along the coast. [8] By this means both the island and the continent would be hostile to the Athenians, as they would be unable to land on either; and since the shore of Pylos itself outside the inlet toward the open sea had no harbor, there would be no point that the Athenians could use as a base from which to relieve their countrymen. Thus the Spartans would in all probability become masters of the place without a sea fight or risk, as there had been little preparation for the

4.8.6b Thucydides erroneously writes that Sphacteria's length is about 15 *stades* (1.6 miles), but its true length is closer to 24 or 25 *stades* (3 miles); the Attic stade was 607 feet, the Olympic stade 630.8 feet. All of Thucydides' distance measurements are given in *stades* and were rounded off to miles or furlongs by Crawley and to just miles in this edition.

4.8.7a *Hoplite* is the Greek word for a heavily armed infantryman. See Glossary and Appendix F, §2.