

Army of the andes wikipedia

The Crossing of the Andes (Spanish: Cruce de los Andes) was one of the most important feats in the Argentine and Chilean wars of independence. A combined army of Argentine soldiers and Chilean exiles crossed the Andes mountains, which separate Argentina from Chile, to invade Chile, leading to its liberation from Spanish rule.

Led by General Jos  de San Mart n and departing from Mendoza--then part of the Province of Cuyo, Argentina--in January 1817, the successful crossing took 21 days. The army navigated heights averaging 3,000 meters. The feat has been compared to Hannibal's and Napoleon's crossings of the Alps and is considered one of the greatest achievements of its kind in military history.

The crossing of the Andes was a key part of the strategy devised by General Jos  de San Mart n to defeat the royalist forces at their stronghold in Lima, Viceroyalty of Peru, and to secure the Spanish American independence movements. The idea of crossing the Andes had been developed earlier by secret lodges advocating for South American independence and was part of the Maitland Plan, designed by Thomas Maitland. San Mart n became aware of this plan during his brief stay in Britain before sailing to South America. After realizing the difficulties of attacking the royalist stronghold of Lima through Upper Peru, he decided to implement this plan.

The Captaincy General of Chile had removed its governor in 1810 and replaced him with the First Government Junta, marking the beginning of a period in Chilean history known as Patria Vieja. However, they were defeated in 1814 at the Battle of Rancagua, and during the subsequent Reconquista, Chile once again became a royalist stronghold. Bernardo O'Higgins and other Chilean leaders fled to Mendoza during the new royalist regime, and O'Higgins later became a key figure in the Army of the Andes alongside the Argentine soldiers.

During this period, the city of Mendoza became a crucial headquarters for the preparations before the crossing. The citizens of Mendoza supported the troops by manufacturing gunpowder and ammunition, and they even learned to make cannons.

The main food supply for the army was a regional dish called valdiviano, prepared with dried meat or charqui, sliced raw onion, potatoes, and boiling water. The army had designated soldiers responsible for transporting food. These soldiers carried forty tons of charqui, maize cakes, meat, brandy to combat the nighttime cold, garlic and onion to stimulate appetite, over 4,000 cattle for the remainder of the campaign, as well as cheese and rum.

On the morning of January 19, 1817, San Mart n and his army set out from their base camp, El Plumerillo,

and began their journey across the Andes mountain range. San Mart?n crossed with 4,000 men, though he ultimately lost one-third of them during the trek. The number of auxiliaries reached 1,200.

To manage the crossing, San Mart?n divided his army into two groups. The main division, which traveled through the Pass of Los Patos, was led by San Mart?n, Miguel Estanislao Soler, and Bernardo O'Higgins. The secondary division, which took the more southerly Uspallata pass, was led by Juan Gregorio de Las Heras.[8]

On February 13, 1817, San Mart?n, O'Higgins, and their army successfully entered Santiago, Chile, after crossing 500 kilometers of mountain range.[9] By this time, the royalist forces had advanced north to avoid San Mart?n's army, but one royalist leader remained behind with 1,500 men at a valley called Chacabuco, near Santiago.[10] This led to the Battle of Chacabuco.

In 2010, the Argentine and Chilean armies recreated the crossing during the bicentennial celebrations of the Revolution.[11]

Our editors will review what you've submitted and determine whether to revise the article.

The Army of the Andes (Spanish: Ej?rcito de los Andes) was a military force created by the United Provinces of the R?o de la Plata (Argentina) and assembled by General Jos? de San Mart?n as part of his campaign to liberate Chile from the Spanish Empire. In 1817, it crossed the Andes Mountains from the Argentine province of Cuyo (with its staging point being the present-day province of Mendoza, Argentina) and succeeded in its objective by driving the Spanish out of Chile.

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