

During the Armed Struggle of Central Asian Peoples against Alexander's Troops

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Abstract:

In article it is generalized and analyses structure, structure and an order of conducting fight of armies of Alexander the Great, and also development of military art in a course to struggle of the people of the Central Asia against them.

Keywords: Alexander the Great, Aristotel, Doro III, Spitamen, Avstan, Katan, Bactria va Sogdiana, Nautaki (modern territories of Kitaba), Marokand (Samarkand), Jaksart (Sirdarya), Politimet (Zarafshan), militia and hired army, phalanx, katafrakts, operations.

BC. From the middle of the 4th century BC, Macedonia, located in the north of the Balkan Peninsula, established its rule in Greece. The majority of the Macedonian population consisted of free peasants and pastoralists. In Athens and Sparta, the slave-owning system was in decline, while in Macedonia it was just beginning to develop. The state of Macedonia and its army coincided with the period of great rise of military art, the period of the royal activity of the great commander of the ancient world - Alexander the Great. Macedonia, thanks to its extensive horse breeding, had a powerful cavalry force, the number of cavalymen in the army being several thousand horsemen.

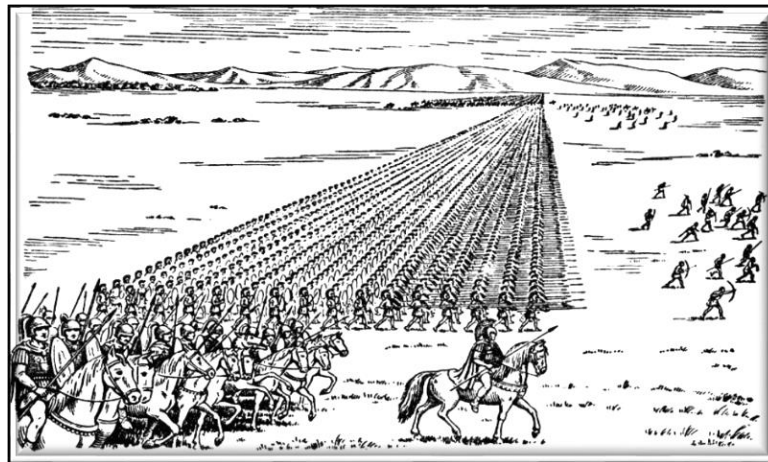
After the death of Philip, king of Macedonia, his young son Alexander became king of Macedonia. Alexander received good upbringing and education. For several years, his tutor was the great Greek philosopher Aristotle. Under his leadership, Alexander he became one of the educated men of his time. From 16 years old he began to take part in his father's campaigns and acquired good practical skills.[2]

In contrast to Greece's militia and mercenary army, Macedonians had a military presence in Greece before BC. In the middle of the 4th century, a standing army was created and included infantry and cavalry.

The Macedonian army's infantry was divided into light, medium, and heavy infantry. The light infantry consisted of poor peasants and the inhabitants of dependent tribes. The warriors of the middle infantry (hypaspists) were similar to the Peltasts of Greece, but they did not have drotics, as the preparation of the attack was entrusted to light infantry. The hypaspists were the connecting link between the attacking cavalry wing and the heavy infantry front in battle and developed the success of cavalry. Heavy infantry (phalangites) were the backbone of the battle order. Pedestrian in addition to these types, the Macedonian army also included spear throwers. Horse regiments were divided into heavy (catafractory), medium (dimax) and light cavalry. The heavy cavalry gave the main blow. Moderate cavalry units were prepared to fight on horseback and on foot. Light cavalry did not have defensive weapons, it started fighting, then ensured security of flanks and the rear of the front.[2]

The main part of the army consisted of a huge, heavy Macedonian phalanx. During the reign of Alexander the Great, the heavy infantry falanga numbered 16,384 people. It was built in 16 sherengas (instead of 8-12 sherengas of Greece) along the depth, with 1024 people per sherenga. The front of the phalanx was 1 kilometer.

The phalanx had a clear organizational system. Each division of the Falange had its own commander at its head. The lower unit "lokh" consisted of 1 man along the front and 16 men along the depth. The following divisions consist of 2, 4, 8, and 16 "lokhs." A column of 16 men along the front and 16 men at depth (256 men) was called a santigma and had a small line unit; Sixteen centimeters constituted a small phalanx, and four small phalanxes constituted a large phalanx. The Macedonian phalanx was divided linearly, but tactically integrated. There were no gaps between the units in the battle. Within the falanga, the warriors stood close to each other. The phalanx had neither support nor reserves, but it possessed a powerful striking force [2].



Epaminond's idea is infantry in the Macedonian army and developed to the point of harmonizing the movements of the cavalry, that is, of the two types of troops. But for that, soldiers in the army and combat skills of the command ranks, high linear preparedness of units were required [9].

After the death of Darius III, Alexander the Great began to pursue Bess, the Viceroy of Bactria and Sogdiana, who proclaimed himself the successor of the Achaemenids. Alexander declared that the official reason for his campaign into Central Asia was to punish Bess. In 329 BC, the Macedonian army invaded Bactria and Sogdiana. This army crossed the Oxus (Amudarya) in five days.[1]

The local rulers, having learned of the Macedonian king's intentions, captured Bess and delivered him to him. Alexander punished Bess, but he did not stop the march. Alexander's army passed through Nautaki (now Kitab Territory) and he occupied Maroqand (Samarkand). After that, the Macedonian army moved to the banks of the Yaksart River (Syrdarya), on the banks of which a

heavily defended city of Far Alexandria was built, but cities that fought for their independence in order to strengthen themselves in Sogdiana and had to fight hard with the tribes for three years.[3]

The struggle against the Macedonian invaders in Sogdiana was led by a talented commander, Spitamen, who relied on alliance with the Saka tribes. The inhabitants of Sogdiana, who attacked small detachments and small garrisons of the enemy, staunchly resisted. The inhabitants of seven cities located in the valleys of the Yaksart River, who rose up against the invaders, narrowly crushed the Macedonian garrisons. Alexander had to besiege these cities again. A detachment led by Spitamen besieged a Macedonian garrison in Marocanda. The Saxons were concentrated on the right bank of the Jaxart. The Macedonian army was in a difficult position. After fierce fighting on the right bank of the Jaxart, the Saxons retreated into the interior of their state. Alexander did not dare to pursue them across the desert. The invaders continued their advance into Maroqand. Spitamen correctly assessed the situation, did not engage in battle, and withdrew to unite with the Sacks after dismantling the siege of Maroqand. A small detachment of Macedonians tried to catch up with him.[4]

Spitamen began to attack the Macedonians from time to time without engaging in a serious battle. This forced the Macedonians to begin a retreat. The Macedonian detachment halted in the bushes on the banks of the Politimet (Zeravshan) river to suffer less damage from the enemy's arrows, and the battle began from there. This battle took place in BC. It took place on the bank of the river Politimet in 329. The Macedonians began crossing the river. Spitamen's archers began to destroy the enemy crossing the river in front of them with bows. At the same time, Spitamen's cavalry threw themselves into the river and attacked the enemy's wings trying to hide on one of the islands in the middle of the river. Spitamen's detachment literally defeated the Macedonians from the bows. Some of the Macedonians were ambushed by the Saks. At the same time, all the Macedonian military leaders were killed, only 40 cavalry and 300 infantry managed to escape. Spitamen's mobile cavalry detachment, without going into battle, forced the enemy into traps, organized ambushes, and crushed a large detachment of the Macedonian army. Alexander sent a large force to help his detachment, which, despite the fact that they had traveled 280 km in three days, was much delayed. The Macedonian army buried the dead and returned to Bactria, fearing to penetrate into the territory of the Saks. Throughout the winter, the Macedonian army prepared for a new campaign and at the same time continued to fight the rebellious peoples of Bactria and Sogdiana.

When Alexander began his campaign to the East, he still believed in the teachings of his teacher, Aristotle, that "the barbarian and the slave are by nature the same." But what he saw in a faraway land, unknown to him, fundamentally changed his understanding of "barbarians." Here he distinguishes slavery and unfreedom, barbarism and saw not ignorance, but perseverance and high human value.[1]

Spitamen did not leave the enemy alone for a single day. His swift cavalry detachments attacked the invaders and inflicted considerable casualties on him. BC. In the spring of 328 BC, Alexander divided his army into five parts, moving from one end of Sogdiana to the other, and killed 120,000 people. In the fall of this year, Spitamen's final battle for Alexander and Maroqand took place. Both sides suffered great losses in this battle. Spitamen again retreated into the desert. Here the chiefs of the nomadic tribes attacked him treacherously, and, as Arrian writes, "they cut off his head and sent it to Alexander." In doing so, they eliminated the danger that threatened them."[5]

Having conquered the Achaemenid world, Alexander was unable to suppress the popular uprising in Sogdiana. It was only through the treachery of the local nobility and the military superiority of the Greco-Macedonian army that the heroic resistance of the Sogdians was suppressed. Alexander took nearly three years to conquer the lands of Central Asia, but nevertheless he managed to subjugate a small territory: Sogdiana, Bactria, and a small part of the mountainous regions. Khwarazmian and nomadic tribes they retained their independence.

In order to attract the local nobility to his side, Alexander conceived of Rohshanak (Roxana), the daughter of Vakhshunvar (Oxiart), ruler of one of the mountainous provinces of Sogdiana.

Spitamens' uprising was suppressed with difficulty, but it was still resisted by Paretakena (the land of the Paretakins - a historical region in the northern region of Surkhandarya), where Bactrians led by tribal leaders Avstan and Katan fought heroically. This uprising was stained with blood. For Alexander the Great, victory was costly and equal to defeat. Arriving in Syr Darya, he did not dare to continue the attack with the stakes [7, 8]. Thanks to the perseverance of our ancestors, who had talented commanders such as Spitamen, Avstan, and Katan, as well as their highly capable cavalry, the Macedonians were forced to spend a lot of time and effort to conquer Bactria and Sogdiana. The Macedonian army suffered great losses. Alexander himself was wounded several times.

BC. In 327 his army began to march on India.[5] Based on the above, the following conclusions can be drawn:

The tactics of Spitamen's troops were directed towards offensive actions. He was always ready to repel a sudden blow, and in many cases he himself used the method of a sudden blow;

Numerous ambushes have always been organized and rationally used in the troops;

The process of crossing natural barriers, especially river crossings or rafts, has been mastered and improved;

They preferred to attack the sleeping enemy at night or at dawn, to gallop towards the enemy at high speed, and as they approached the enemy's combat regimes, they took arrows from the arrows hanging behind them and fired them violently;

The cavalry had high maneuverability, and when they encountered resistance, they dispersed in all directions, but again they clustered at the same speed, flying forward like the wind, and spread out again. While performing the maneuver, he sometimes fled and tried to keep the enemy at a long distance, then killed them with arrows. At the same time, they attacked the lagging enemy detachments and their rearguard "like a swarm of bees," separating them from their main forces and destroying them.

The peoples of Central Asia made a significant contribution to the development of military art in the struggle against the armies of Alexander the Great, which can be seen in the following: the foundation of the army was formed by horsemen, who developed and used their own tactics of action against the enemy: going into battle "closed"; strategic retreat; misleading the enemy into "trap" and creating ambushes; simultaneous bombardment of the enemy with arrows at a distance; surrounding the wings and the rear. The main focus in defense was on the construction of fortified fortresses and fortresses.

Based on this, it can be noted that the lack of knowledge of military-historical foundations limits the tactical training of the commanding ranks to a specific template.

Professionalism, psychological training, and physical fitness are key components of the combat power and combat abilities of the country's Armed Forces and as the number and quality of personnel determining the levels of discipline, the study of the history of wars and the martial arts should be conducted by the cadet and is of great importance in shaping military scientific thinking among listeners, increasing their knowledge of military issues, and practically solving issues of personnel training.

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