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PARTICIPATION OF THE 1st TURKESTAN ARMY CORPS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

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ABSTRACT

The article describes the beginning of the First World War between the leading countries and the participation of the 1st Turkestan Army Corps in the military operations. The activities of the troops of the Turkestan district aimed at protecting the interests of the Russian Empire were revealed in combat operations.

KEYWORDS

War, front, corps, battalion, Cossack, operation, artillery, headquarters, defense, offensive.

INTRODUCTION

On June 28, 1914, Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, was killed by Gavrilo Principe, a member of the Serbian organization "Mlada Bosna" in Sarajevo. As a result, World War I broke out between the world's two leading military-political alliances ("Fourth Alliance" - Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, Bulgaria and "Antanta" - Great Britain, France, Russia). On August 1, the German ambassador von Purthales handed the note about the declaration of war to the Russian foreign minister S. D. Sazanov. Soon the rest of the countries were drawn into the war.

DISCUSSION. At the beginning of the First World War, general A.V. Samsonov (1909-1914), the commander of the Turkestan Military District, and the 1st Turkestan

Army Corps were sent to the "Eastern Front" on the borders of Germany and Austria-Hungary. General Samsonov was given the command of the 2nd Russian Army. However, Samsonov's participation in military operations ended in tragedy. On August 26-30, 1914, the Russian 2nd Army, consisting of 11 infantry and 3 cavalry divisions, was defeated by General Hindenburg's 8th German Army in the "Battle of Tannenberg" in East Prussia. The Russians were surrounded by the Germans in the Kaltenborn forest. On August 30, Samsonov, deeply depressed by the defeat of his troops, committed suicide near Willenberg [1]. As a result of the defeat, 125,000 people from Samsonov's army were captured. 40,000 people

died. Only 171 officers and 10,300 soldiers managed to break through the siege [2]. General S. Scheideman was appointed commander of the surviving parts of the 2nd Army.

The High Command formed the 10th Army in Poland on September 5, 1914, consisting of the 3rd Siberian Corps, the 22nd Army Corps, and the 1st Turkestan Corps under the command of general Yerofeyev, to replace

the destroyed 2nd Army [3]. The 10th Army was deployed around the Bobr River. The command of the 10th Army was given to General von Flug. On September 20, order №1068 of the headquarters of the 10th Army was issued on the formation of a new composition of the 1st Turkestan Corps [4]. According to the order, the 11th Siberian Rifle Division and the Siberian Cossack Division were included in the 1st Turkestan Army Corps.

The command of the 1st Turkestan Army Corps in IX.1914: [5]

Corps commander - infantry general Mikhail Rodionovich Yerofeyev	
Commander of the 11 th Siberian Rifle Division	general Zarakovsky
Commander of the 1 st Turkistan Rifle Brigade	general Morjitsky
Commander of the 2 nd Turkistan Rifle Brigade	general I.Kolpikov
Commander of the 1 st Brigade of the 11 th Siberian Divis.	general Raspopov
Commander of the 2 nd Brigade of the 11 th Siberian Divis.	colonel Berezin
Commander of the 11 th Siberian Artillery Brigade	general Kozlovsky
Commander of the 1 st Brigade of the Siber. Cossack Divis	general Usachev

In 1914, the first major military operation in which the 1st Turkistan Army Corps took part was the Augustov Battle. On September 15, the 1st and 10th Russian armies launched an offensive against the 8th German army in the Augustov forest on the border of East Prussia. On September 16-17, the 1st Turkestan Corps defeated the German division of General von der Golt south of Augustov and liberated Osovets. In the Battle of Augustov, the 10th Russian Army cleared the Osovets-Avgustov-Suvalki area from the enemy. 3000 prisoners, 20 cannons were captured. Despite the success, General Flug was relieved of command of the

10th Army and replaced by General Sievers [6]. After Augustov, in the battles of September 22-27, the 1st Turkestan Army Corps captured the cities of Lik and Biyalu in East Prussia. But at the beginning of October, the 25th German reserve corps pushed out the Turkestan corps from Lik. In this battle, the 1st Turkestan Rifle Brigade under the command of General Morjitsky suffered significant losses. After that, on October 22, the Turkestan Corps was removed from the 10th Army and included in the 1st Army of General Rennenkampf, which was being reorganized around Mlava on the southeastern border of Eastern Prussia.

The composition of the 1st Turkestan Corps at the beginning of October 1914: [7]

Military unit	The composition of the military unit	Commanders
1 st Turkestan rifle brigade	1 st , 2 nd rifle regiment 3 rd , 4 th rifle regiment	Fedorov / Popovichenko Pleshkov / Doljenko
2 nd Turkestan rifle brigade	5 th , 6 th rifle regiment 7 th , 8 th rifle regiment	Dushkin / Lyashkevich Beyl / Suxorsky
1,2 rifle brigade of 11 th Siberian divis.	4 st , 42 nd rifle regiment 43 rd , 44 th rifle regiment	Kremensky / Shuts koy Berezin / Alekseyev
1st Turkestan Corps sapper detachment	1 st Turkestan sapper battal. 4 th Siberian sapper battal.	colonel fon Gering colonel Smirnov
Artillery units of the 1st Turkestan Corps	1 st , 2 nd Turk. artillery units 3 rd , 4 th Siber. artillery units	Boyarsky / Putinsev Dmitriev / Snejkin
1 st Brigade of the Siber. cossack divis.	4 th Siber Cossack regiment 5 th Siber Cossack regiment	voys.starshina Vlasov voys.starshina Grivanov

The participation of the troops of the 1st Turkestan Corps in the battles of "Lodz" and "1st Prasnys" in Poland in 1914 is particularly noteworthy. "Operation Lodz" took place on November 11-24, 1914. The German command planned to break through the 1st and 2nd Russian armies and then encircle the 2nd and 5th Russian armies. On November 17-18, 5 German divisions under the command of General Schaeffer broke through Lodz and Lovich in order to encircle the city of Lodz and the 2nd Russian army. On November 19, by the order of General Rennenkampf, the "Lovich detachment" consisting of the 9th and 10th Turkestan rifle regiments and the 6th Siberian divisions under the command of F.P. Panov and S.S. Kochaunov was formed to defend the Lodz road[13]. On November 22, the 2nd and 5th Russian armies from the south and west, and the Lovich detachment from the east moved against Sheffer. In the battle on November 9(22), the 9th and 10th Turkestan rifle regiments captured about 2,000 German soldiers [8]. In order not to be

surrounded, Schaeffer orders his troops to retreat. The Germans lost 50,000 men in the Lodz operation [9]. After the operation, General Sheideman was removed from his post and replaced by General Yerofeyev as the commander of the Turkestan Corps.

On November 20-27, 1914, in the "1st Battle of Prasnish", the 1st Turkistan Corps, under the command of General N.P. Bobir (1854-1920), as part of the "Narevoldi Army Group", successfully fought in the Mlava region. In the 1st Battle of Prasnish, the Narevoldi group fought against 18 German battalions, 42-45 squadrons and 80 artillery pieces. In battles with this group, the Germans lost 15,000 soldiers in Zoldau and 6,000 in Tsekhanov until November 16 (29)[11]. On November 20-27, in the battles around Prasnish, soldiers of the Turkestan Corps managed to capture 4 cannons and more than 1000 soldiers [10].

The 1st Turkestan Army Corps took an active part in the "2nd battle of Prasnys", which was aimed at the



defense of Prasnish, located at the intersection of the main highways north of Warsaw, on the Eastern Front from February 20 to March 30, 1915. As a result of the attacks on February 26, the 1st Siberian and 1st Turkestan corps together captured 40 German officers and 3,600 soldiers in the Prasnish area [12]. On February 27, the city of Prasnish was recaptured. By March 30, German troops were pushed into the territory of East Prussia.

The period of greatest losses and failures for the Turkestan Corps on the Eastern Front was in the summer-autumn of 1915. During this period, Russian troops were forced to leave Poland, Lithuania and Belarus to avoid being encircled ("The Great Retreat"). The battles that determined the results of the war in this period were the "3rd Battle of Prasnish" (30.06. - 5.07.) and "Operations Narev" (13.07. - 2.08.).

During the "Great Retreat", the 1st Army, which included the 1st Turkestan Corps, was assigned the task of holding the defense until the Russian troops in Poland retreated to the desired positions. In the 3rd Battle of Prasnish, the 1st Turkestan Corps fought against the 11th and 17th Corps of the 12th German Army [14]. At the beginning of the battle, the composition of the 1st Turkestan Army Corps consisted of 35 battalions, 22 Cossack units and 104 cannons [15]. On June 30, a strong German attack began. The main blow fell on the shoulders of the corps of the 1st Turkestan division of the 11th Siberian division. In the hours before the attack, the trenches of the 11th Siberian Division were bombarded with about 500,000 German shells. The 11th Siberian Division resisted fiercely. After 14 hours of fighting, about 5,000 of the 14,500 soldiers of the 11th Siberian Division survived. As a result, the division, which lost 70% of its personnel, had to retreat 7-8 kilometers [16].

After Prasnish, in the "Battle of Narev", the 1st Turkestan Corps was assigned the task of preventing the Germans from crossing the Narev River in the defense line of Pultusk. On July 13 (26), in the village of Severinka near the Narev River, the 3rd Battalion of the 11th Turkestan Regiment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Gorn repelled the enemy's attempt to breach the defense. Gorn himself was killed in the battle [17]. In the battle of Narev, the 2nd and 4th Russian armies were withdrawn from Poland without too much loss due to the good defense of the 1st and 12th Russian armies.

In 1916, the main confrontations in the First World War took place in the south-west of the Eastern Front. To regain the lands lost in 1915, between May 22 (June 4) and September 7 (20), the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 11th Russian armies under the general command of the Austro-Hungarian Front carried out a large-scale attack. This entered the history of the First World War under the name "Brusilov breakthrough".

In the Brusilov operation, the troops of the Turkestan military district took an active part in the battles of "Yazlovets", "Stokhod", "Baranovich" and "Kovel". The 3rd Turkestan Rifle Division of the 7th Russian Army crushed the Yazlovets defense position, which was considered impregnable by the enemy around the Olkhovets and Stripe rivers. The 3rd Turkestan Division captured 235 Austrian officers and 9,700 soldiers in Yazlovets on May 24-25 (June 6-7)[18]. As a result of the victory in Yazlovets, the 7th Army entered the area behind the Stripe River. This victory was the prelude to Brusilov's breakthrough.

In June-July, the 1st Turkestan Corps of the 8th Russian Army reached the Stokhod River with significant success. The 7th and 8th Turkestan regiments crossed the Stokhod river for a certain time. The 1st Turkestan Corps defeated General Fat's Corps of 34,400 men

around Tuman and Razinich. In the Battle of Stokhod, the 3.8th Russian armies captured 21,766 soldiers (12,000 were captured by Turkestan Corps soldiers). As a result, on June 25, German general Lisingen was forced to withdraw his troops behind Stokhod. The Germans recognized this defeat as one of the most serious crises in the East [19].

On June 20 - July 12, in the "Battle of Baranovich" in Belarus, the 7th Turkestan Rifle Division and the 1st Turkestan Cossack Division of the 4th Russian Army fought against the German 9th Army. But the 4th army failed at Baranovich and 80,000 soldiers died [20]. In July-August, the 1st Turkestan Army Corps participated in the "Battle of Kovel" in Galicia in the Rudka Mirinskaya area. In the attack on July 21, 600 people were captured by Turkestan district and 12 machine guns of the enemy were captured [21]. The Russians won the Battle of Kovel, but they could not capture the city of Kovel.

As a result of the summer offensives on the South-Western Front, Russian troops achieved major victories in Galicia and Bukovina. About 1 million Austro-Hungarian soldiers are killed and wounded, and 400,000 are captured. As a result of the attack, the Russian army 60-150 km [22]. moved forward. These successes gave a great impetus to Romania's entry into the war on the side of the Entente on August 27. Since December 1916, the Eastern Front entered a period of stagnation. Neither side will significantly change the situation on the fronts. On February 23, 1917, as a result of revolutionary movements, the Romanov dynasty in the Russian Empire overturns. These events started a new era in the history of Turkestan military district and district troops on war fronts.

CONCLUSION

it can be said that the First World War and the participation of the Russian Empire in it did not bypass Turkestan. The regular army corps and European population in the THO were mobilized to the war fronts. The participation of the 1st Turkestan Army Corps in the First World War is characterized by the constant mobilization of corps troops to the most important battlefields on the fronts. In this case, the 1st Turkestan Corps did not act as part of a single army, but was sent to the armies that needed auxiliary forces on the fronts. The corps has demonstrated itself several times during military operations.

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