
**TURKISH FORTRESSES OF OCHAKOV AND KINBURN, THE
BIOGRAPHY OF VICE-ADMIRAL CH. H. NASSAU ZIGEN IN
HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS FROM FUNDS OF NATIONAL
LIBRARY OF UKRAINE OF V.I. VERNADSKY'S NAME**

**V. I. Vernadskiy Ukrayna Milli Kütüphanesi Fonlarındaki Tarihi Belgelerde
Oçakov ve Kinburn Türk Kaleleri, Koramiral K. G. Nissau Zigen'in
Biyografisi.**

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Özet

Makalede, XVIII. Yüzyıl Rus-Türk savaşları dönemi, Oçakov ve Kinburn Türk kaleleri tarihi, Koramiral K. G. Nissau Zigen'in biyografisi ele alınmıştır. Makalede V. İ. Vernadskiy Ukrayna Milli Kütüphanesi fonlarındaki az bilinen tarihi belgeler takdim edilmektedir: Kont G. A. Potyomkin'in "Emirler Defteri", Rusya İmparatoru II. Katerina'nın Güney Seyahati (1787) döneminde Koramiral Zigen'in Varşova'ya mektupları ve günlüğü. Takdim edilen tarihi belgeler 1787 – 1791 yılları Rus-Türk savaşı arifesinde Osmanlı İmparatorluğu ile Rusya karşı durmasının karmaşık özelliğini açığa çıkarmaktadır. Makalede Rus Karadeniz Donanması'nın teşekkülü, Türk kalesi Oçakov yakınlığında hudut münasebetleri, Koramiral Zigen'in İstanbul'a ziyareti gibi az bilinen olgular kaydedilmektedir. 1788 yılında Oçakov kalesinin kuşatılması zamanı Türk ve Rus donanmalarının deniz muharebelerinde Koramiral Zigen'in rolünden bahsedilmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: kütüphane fonları, Türk kaleleri, tarihi belgeler.

Abstract

Article is devoted the period of Russian-Turkish wars of second half XVIIIc., stories of Turkish fortresses Ochakov, Kinburn, biographies of vice-admiral K.G. Nassau Zigena. In article little-known historical documents from funds of National library of Ukraine of V.I. Vernadskogo's name are presented. It is «Magazine» of orders of the prince of G. A. Potemkina, the letter, a diary of vice-admiral K.G. Nassau Zigena to Warsaw in travel to the South Russian empress Ekaterina II. These historical documents open difficult character of opposition of Ottoman empire and Russia on the eve of Russian -Turkish war of 1787-1791. In article little-known historic facts of creation of the Black Sea fleet, boundary relations near a Turkish fortress Ochakov between the Turkish and Russian parties, visit of vice-admiral K. G. Nassau Zigena to Constantinople are noted. The role of vice-admiral K. G. Nassau Zigena in sea battles of Turkish and Russian fleet in a siege of Ochakov in the summer of 1788 is noted.

Keyword: kütüphane fonları, Türk kaleleri, tarihi belgeler

The Library fund contains little-known hand-written printed historical documents on Turkish fortresses of Ochakov, Kinburn vice-admiral K. G. Nassau Zigen's biographies. At Institute of manuscripts the little-known historical document a copy 19 centuries «Magazine to confidential papers of prince Potyomkin Tavrishesky office [1781-1786] » is kept («Журнал секретным бумагам канцелярии князя Потемкина Таврического [1781-1786] »)¹.

The magazine represents in a chronological sequence orders and directions of the prince of G. A. Potemkin about various military preparations on the south of Russia, in the Crimea on creation of the Black Sea fleet, strengthening of Russian-Turkish border on the eve of new war of Russia against Turkey (1787-1791). This document also represents the little-known fact about Turkish fortresses Ochakov and Kinburn which remained the important strategic military points in Northern Black Sea Coast. After events of Russian-Turkish war of 1768-1774 and the Kuchuk-Kajnardzhi peace treaty the fortress of Kinburn began to belong to the Russian empire. In it the Russian government has disposed Russian military garrison. At this time the Ottoman empire homagers from Ochakov continued to contact with Russian party on boundary territories on the Kinburn spit in the district of a fortress of Kinburn and also around the Kinburn salt lakes. About it prince G. A. Potemkin's order from August 8, 1781 directed to Jazykov which it is fixed in noted «Magazine» told. Ivan Andreevich Osterman has notified Prince G. A. Potemkin and the Russian empress the by dispatch from extreme envoy Stakhiev on complaints of Turkey about a non-admission of inhabitants from Ochakov to take salt, to cut a bush in vicinities of Kinburn that was against conventions on borders.

This interdiction occurred as precaution from precaution which the pestilence shouldn't get into Russian borders. But Russia should kept here to conventions with Turkey. Therefore to the commandant of a fortress of Kinburn would not do obstacles to coming Turks for the reception of salt and bush cutting. Kinburn's commandant should remove any occasion which could lead to infringement of the kind union between Russia and Turkey. But in the same time the orders of Russian vice-chancellor I. A. Osterman should protect Russian border from pestilent near fortresses of Kinburn and

¹ Институт рукописей Национальной библиотеки Украины имени В.И.Вернадского. Ф. V. 808. [Архив Одесского Общества Истории и Древностей] Журнал секретным бумагам канцелярии князя Потемкина-Таврического [1781-1786 г.г.] [Копии XIX в.], 144 с.

Ochakov.

In 1782-1783 G. A. Potemkin directs some orders to Kherson to general lieutenant Gannibal with requirements to direct to Ochakov the reliable person who knows what occurred in Ochakov and to tread to receive in all possible ways of data on events in Ochakov. Also it was necessary to have information about all preparations, gossip at Turks in Ochakov. G. A. Potemkin demanded daily to report by mail about events which occurred in Ochakov.

May 16, 1783 G. A. Potymkin sent the order to Major General Repninsky. This document stated that in the Turkish Ministry in Konstantinopole the changes came. The supreme minister Pasha Ochakov's became. It's needed by reliable Russian intelligences to know the consequences of this change in Ochakov and across the Turkish border.

Prince G. A. Potymkin was interested what rumors came from Constantinople, what expectancies and interests of the new Turkish vizier. The reports to A.G. Potemkin on these issues had to be secret. The Turks did not have to think that the Russian worried. In the 80 years of the 18th century. Prince G. A. Potyomkin began an active preparation of Russian Black Sea Fleet for a future war with Turkey. For this, he was actively developing good relations with the French colonel of German origin, naval commander Charles Henry of Nassau Siegen. Ch. H. Nassau Siegen arrived in Russia from Warsaw.

On the eve of the Russian-Turkish war, he had to solve a difficult problem to study the Turkish fleet, especially its manoeuvrability in the Black Sea near the marine mooring in the Crimea, near the Turkish border fortresses of the Northern Black Sea.

Probably with reconnaissance mission on the state of the Turkish fleet and orders of Prince G. A. Potyomkin in 1784 Ch. H. Nassau Siegen arrives in Constantinople. This Ch. H. Nassau Siegen's visit to Constantinople was complicated by epidemy of pestilence disease, in the Turkish capital, and was a danger to life of French colonel and other officers of the Russian fleet, which visited at this time Constantinople.

This is evidenced by the order of Prince G. A. Potyomkin to General lieutenant and gentleman Baron Igelvshtröt of August 9; 1784 which is contained in that «Journal» of Prince G. A. Potyomkin's directions. In the

Order of Prince G. A. Potyomkin noted that the Prince of Nassau Siegen and other Russian officers, who came from Constantinople had to stand strictly quarantine for six weeks. It is possible to assume that the Nassau Siegen and other Russian naval officer returning from Constantinople to Russia through Crimea. Their knowledge of the Turkish fleet from Constantinople was urgently needed to Prince G. A. Potyomkin, in preparation for a new war with Turkey.

Kinburn salt lakes on the Kinburn spit had a particular interest in the plans of Prince G. A. Potyomkin and his military activities in preparation for the new Russian –Turkish war 1787-1791. A territory of Kinburn's salt lakes allowed to have not only regular supplies of salt for food of the Russian army and to have money in the state treasury of the Russian army but also to have money in the state treasury of Russia. Kinburn's natural resources usage also observed the military preparation of neighboring Turkish fortress of Ochakov, for Turkish military garrison's and the activities population of the district Ochakov. In November 1782 to the governmental Senate a report was sent to Russia with a request to G. A. Potyomkin by collegiate assessor Garezin about return to him Kinburn salt lakes. Kinburn salt lakes were farmed out by the captain Spassky who paid annually to the treasury of Russia 2500 rubles for the usage of Kinburn salt lakes. But he has not fulfilled his obligations and due to the abuses Novorussian province office it was defined to abolish the contract concluded with him and to take the Kinburn salt lakes from his jurisdiction.

G. A. Potyomkin said that if there is a person, will take the Kinburn lake, which the amount of the annual payoff for them must increase to 5.000 rubles. G. A. Potyomkin wrote that he tried to give the Kinburn Lake in good hands that the Russian treasury provided from these lakes by the large payments and the money should be sent for building fortifications of Russian border fortress.

G. A. Potemkin had the desire to give the Kinburn lakes to the faithful people or the local land owners. These decisions are explained by the fact that the lakes were situated near the Turkish border and there was a need to monitor the actions of the Turks – the “neighbors of Russia”. He gives orders to build near Kinburn lakes a harbor for military preparations using Russian cargo ships and boats.

For the safety of the Russian-Turkish border near the fortress of

Kinburn he temporarily left the Kinburn Lake to Major General Mezentsov and to Captain Ivan Fedorov. They were required to pay p.a. a payment in the amount 5200 rubles for these lakes. They were obliged for this money to build the pier for salt by ships transport.

They were obliged also near Kinburn lakes to build a dam that the water would have flowed from the estuary into Kinburn lakes and could not prevent the salt sedimentation.

Noted by G. A. Potemkin persons had to contain Kinburn lakes in order, that financial profit and social benefit from these lakes would be received. It was necessary to build new ships, piers and for this purpose it was need to have a considerable amount of money.

Therefore Potemkin suggested for Novorossiysk province office let a contract with these persons on the Kinburn salt lakes. Assessor Garezin offered for Kinburn lake a year taxed money 10 100 rubles, when the lakes were not given to other persons. But Potemkin could not give these important border areas into the hands of an unknown man but as he probably saw in it the threat to its military activities in the Northern Black Sea region on the eve of the Russian-Turkish war 1787-1791. He saw the benefit for the state using near Kinburn lakes reliable people. He said it was a matter more important that the income of the state treasury from these lakes. It was possible to suppose that Potemkin considered Kinburn lakes not only in point of view of commercial and financial interests. He looked at this border area from the point of view of military and state human, who prepared army and the Black Sea fleet to a new war with the Ottoman Empire. He believed that Kinburn lake area was very necessary for the military building of Russia for border military intelligence on the Russian-Turkish border near Turkish fortress of Ochakov which was actively collecting information about the events taking place in Turkish fortress of Ochakov on the opposite bank from Kinburn of Dnieper-Bug estuary.

Ceremony of the Russian Empire in the 18-th century was associated with Russian-Turkish wars. The travel ceremony of Russian Empress Catherine II took a special place. During the trip to the South in 1787, she decided the major foreign policy objectives receptions during dinners, private meetings with diplomats and military commanders².

²Якубова, Т. А. 2012: “Источники по истории Северного Причерноморья в

The magazin "Russian Antiquity" published diary and letters of vice-admiral of the Russian Navy Prince Charles - Henry Nassau Siegen to his wife, Polish aristocrat Charlotte Gorska in Warsaw, which he wrote while traveling to the South in the retinue of Catherine II, («Русская старина». Ноябрь. Санкт Петербург, 1893 / Императрица Екатерина II в Крыму 1787 г.)³. It is a Russian translation of the French publication "Un paladin au XVIII siècle. Le Prince Charles de Nassau-Siegen, d'après sa correspondance originale in édite de 1784 á 1789. Par le marquis d'Aragon" (Paris, 1893). Prince Ch. H. Nassau Siegen being in Russian service was the author of an extensive correspondence wrote in 1788-1794. In 1787 he met a Russian Empress and accompanied her to the South during the famous voyage. During the trip, he wrote a long letter every day to his wife remained in Warsaw. In them he described in details all what surprised him. He was not able to send long letters every day. So he began to keep a diary and sent it as soon as possible in Poland to his wife for reading. Russia has become a second home for him after he managed to get some brilliant victories at the head of rowing fleet over the Turkish fleet near the Ochakov fortress in 1788 (June 17-18 , 1788 , July-1).

During the trip to the South of the Russian Empress in the Dnieper estuary several Turkish ships near the Ochakov fortress appeared. Turkish ships blocked the path of Catherine II to the fortress of Kinburn. This circumstance troubled greatly Russian Empress as she saw a large force of Turkish fleet under Ochakov in 1787.

Ch. H. Nassau Siegen recorded on June 1, 1787 that the Russian Empress entourage arrived in Inkerman in the Crimea. From the window of the house in Inkerman he saw Sevastopol raid Russian ships in battle array. Nassau Siegen informed opinion about the Russian empress of the Black Sea Fleet. K. G. Nassau Siegen informed Russian Empress about his opinion because he believed that the Russian fleet was strong enough to resist the Turkish ships in the Black Sea.

Empress of Russia was interested in at that time the question of the power of the Turkish fleet near Ochakov. Therefore during her trip to the

собраниях Национальной библиотеки Украины им. В.И.Вернадского" Археография музейного предмета. Материалы Международной научной конференции. Москва, 16-17 марта 2012, Москва, с. 199-201.

³ 1893: Императрица Екатерина II в Крыму 1787. Русская старина. Ноябрь 1893. СПб., с. 283-299.

South, she has turned repeatedly during private conversations to Nassau Siegen with various questions about the Turkish navy near Ochakov. Next Nassau Siegen wrote their conclusion of “military man” after observing in the Crimea for Russian military preparations for a war with Turkey. He wrote: «All this does not give the right to consider at this moment that war is inevitable, although I think that every wish it ». Probably during the trip to the South and personal interviews of with Nassau Siegen the Russian Empress and Prince Potemkin had a special opinion about that French colonel Prince Nassau Siegen could be the most successful candidate as the Black Sea naval commander for military operations against the Turkish fleet near the fortress Ochakov in further war in 1787-1791.

Ch. H. Nassau Siegen had several estates in the Crimea. Perhaps it was the gift of the Russian empress as an advance for the future of his naval service in the Black Sea before the war with Turkey of 1787-1791. He received from the Russian Empress estate in Crimea - «Massandra». He described his wife orchards of this area and said: «Here I want to be when I die, what would forever be close to the sea that I love, in a beautiful location». During the trip on the South, he visited the Sudak, where he had estates and vineyards. Over Perekop he had an estate on the bank of the Dnieper River where he had great meadow. He assumed here to have a few villages with serfs and keep large herds of cattle.

Five months after the Russian-Turkish war start and Turkish troops landed at the fortress of Kinburn (1787)⁴. In October 1787 Prince Potemkin ordered to the Black sea board of administration to develop in Kherson a project of light-oared rowing sailing ships. These ships of a new design had to use as rowing in the estuary and as sailing in the Black Sea. These preparations of the Black Sea Fleet were Russia’s response to the new Swedish shipbuilding program, which included construction of gunboats with heavy guns on board⁵. New ships for Nassau Siegen and military companies near Ochakov in 1788 planned to be built near the city of Kremenchug secretly.

⁴ Якубова, Т. А. 2012: “Историческая биография вице-адмирала Нассау Зигена (XVIII в.) в исторических источниках Института Рукописей Национальной библиотеки Украины имени В.И.Вернадского” Аркасівські читання. Матеріали II міжнародної науково-практичної конференції, Миколаїв, 27-28 квітня 2012 р., Миколаїв.: МНУ імені В.О.Сухомлинського, с. 205-206.

⁵ Кобалия, Д. Р. 2010: Днепровская гребная флотилия в первой половине XVIII века, Запорожье, 204 с.

These Russian ships were built with new design in consideration of the constructional peculiarities of Zaporozhye Cossacks' ships and they called «Kremenchug boats» in Russian military cartography.

On March 4, 1788 from the city of Elissavet Potemkin wrote to Catherine II about that he should go in Kremenchug where he examined a question of building new ships for the military campaign under the fortress of Ochakov in 1788. He wrote that there are many difficulties in this matter while the sailors and carpenters had not yet arrived and part of the river Dnieper to Kremenchug was covered by ice⁶. In the Russian Army of Prince Potemkin lack of marine officers existed. On rowing boats he planned to put the army officers. He wrote that the Nassau Siegen very diligent and will be the “second Suvorov”. The ships were built in Kremenchug in great secrecy. The journal “Russian antiquity” on May 1875 published a letter of Potemkin to Suvorov. The letter reported that Potemkin in Kremenchug 75 ships like ships Zaporozhye Cossacks will be built, they will be able to carry the big guns. Prince Potemkin planned to send ships from Kremenchug to Nassau Siegen by the Dnieper River in the Dnieper Estuary for a military company near Ochakov. Nassau Siegen eagerly enrolled under the command of A.V. Suvorov, whom he loved and respected for his great military experience.

A.V. Suvorov warmly welcomed Nassau Siegen and between them a frank business correspondence began. On April 17, 1788 A.V. Suvorov sent a report to Potemkin about the choice of base for ships of Nassau Siegen. A.V. Suvorov indicated a station -landing stage Kizlyarich on the Kinburn Spit for Russian ships⁷.

After a relations break between Russia and Turkey Nassau Siegen was accepted to the Russian navy in the rank of Rear Admiral. On 17-18th of June 1788 he defeated the Turkish fleet near Ochakov. On July 1, 1788 the ships of Nassau Siegen inflicted the final defeat of the last part of the Turkish fleet near Ochakov.

For military valor in military operations in the body of water near Ochakov Nassau Siegen was awarded by the rank of vice admiral. On July

⁶ Лопатин, В. С. 1997: Екатерина II и Г.А.Потемкин. Личная переписка 1769-1791, Москва, с. 271-813.

⁷ Суворов, А. В. 1951: Документы. Москва, т.2, 681 с.

24, 1788, he was awarded by the Order of St. George of 2-second class⁸.

Russian Empress Catherine II gave him 3020 serfs in Mogilev province in perpetual and hereditary tenure. In the sector of cartography of the National Library of Ukraine the collection of manuscript maps – “Battle plan of the Russian navy with Turkish №17389” is preserved. It contains a manuscript map “Ochakov battle plan in 1788. Plan 1” (“План сражений Российского флота с Турецким № 17389», «План Очаковского сражения 1788 года. План 1”). On this map there are presented: “The Russian ships. Naval squadron: 2 cannon ships; 6 frigates; 8 transports. Rowing flotilla under the command of the Prince of Nassau Siegen: the galleys, double boats, floating batteries, armed barges –65. Cossack boats – 60. Kremenchug boats –22.

Turkish ships. The first squadron. Ships –17. Frigates –8. Bombing ships – 5. Small vessels – 29. The second squadron. Ships and frigates –5. Small vessels –42.”

The sector of cartography stored old published [publications before 18th century in Russia- translator’s note] military map in Russian and French – “Plan of burning Turkish ships by flotilla under the command of the Prince Nassau Siegen which took place on July 1, 1788. Plan du Combat Naval, entre les Vaisseaux a rames sous les ordres du Prince de Nassau et la Flotte turque, donne le 1 Juillet 1788”. (“План сожжения турецких судов флотилиею под командою принца Нассау де Сигена состоявшею 1-го Июля 1788-го года”).

On this map the interpretation-explanation is located, which includes the following items: A.— The first location of the Russian fleet. B. — The second location when Turkish vessels were set fire. C — The last disposition of Russian ships. D – Turkish ships burning. E – Turkish ships are disposed near fortress. L —The squadron of sailing ships under the command of admiral Paul Jones. After the encirclement of Ochakov Potemkin presented in St. Petersburg his plan of taking of the Ochakov Turkish fortress in which prominent role was given to the Russian flotilla. Ochakov siege was continued. But the Turkish fleet had not been inactive.

On July 29, 1788 the Turkish fleet came under the fortress of Ochakov. Turkish Kapudan-Pasha run the blockade of Ochakov and

⁸ Нассау-Зиген, Карл-Генрих, <http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki> – С.1-2.

delivered to the besieged Ochakov the ammunition and military reinforcements. The value of the Russian galley fleet was again reinforced. Prince Potemkin in September 1788 ordered to put on a Russian frigate near Ochakov 36 – pounder guns so their power increased up to the level of battleships. On October 10, 1788 Nassau Siegen suggested to Prince Potemkin his plan of attack to Ochakov from the Sea. But Prince Potemkin fearing the growth of authority of Nassau Siegen and evilly joked on him at the council.

After these events Nassau Siegen left for St. Petersburg. On December 22, 1788 a hero of Dnieper estuary was joyfully greeted by the Russian Empress Catherine II. From the Russian capital he was sent undercover agent to France and Spain, who should talk about the contract with the two countries and Austria⁹. Nassau Siegen was not going to stay long abroad. The military experience of vice-admiral Nassau Siegen, which he received in the body of water near Ochakov (1788) the Russian Empress Catherine II commended. She appointed him a commander of the Russian galley fleet in the Black Sea in the Russian-Swedish war.

Little-known historical and cultural collections of the Nation Library of Ukraine named after V. Vernadsky retain a considerable historical material on the Turkish fortresses Ochakov, Kinburn during the Russian-Turkish war and the biography of vice admiral Nassau Siegen. The historical records of library funds allow us to see the uncommon role of these Turkish fortresses in the military plans of Russia during the second half of the 18-th century and left significant prospects for historical researches of the “Turkish topic”, in the history of Ukraine, Russia and Europe.

⁹ Скрицкий, Н. В. 2000: Карл-Генрих Нассау Зиген. Самые знаменитые флотоводцы России, Москва, с.170-179.

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