



ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE ARMY OF AMIR TIMUR. ORDER OF BATTLE AND TACTICS OF FIGHT

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Abstract. In this article, based on the study of historical sources, fiction, exhibits, as well as miniature illustrations concerning the life and work of the great commander, statesman Amir Timur, the organization and structure of his army, the order of battle and tactics of actions during the conduct of battle and military operations are described in more detail.

Keywords: commander, foreman, emir, army, outpost, vanguard, order of battle, tactics, strategy, attack, citadel, tower, catapult.

Organization and structure of the army

In the area of military development, Amir Timur significantly surpassed his contemporaries, developed and implemented a system for creating, selecting and improving his army.

Timur made high demands on the command staff. He carefully monitored that his command staff constantly improved their combat, moral and psychological qualities.

Amir Timur personally selected and trained his commanders. The correct appointment of foremen (un begi), centurions (yuz begi), thousanders (ming begi), temniks (tuman begi) largely determined the military success of the army.

Amir Timur paid special attention to experienced warriors. Experienced fighters who participated in many major battles and considered military action their main

occupation, gathered together before setting out on a campaign. They were entered into registers, into the list of people receiving a state salary.

Troops were divided into tens (un), hundreds (yuz), thousands (ming) and tens of thousands (tuman) of people. The sovereign paid special attention to the selection of talented military leaders.

He demanded that military leaders of various ranks possessed courage, bravery, sensitivity, fortitude and enterprise.

Each military leader had his deputy. In the event of the death of one or another military leader, his place was taken by a deputy (naib).

Amir Timur widely used various types of incentives for great feats. In his "Code" ("Tuzukat") it is written: "I have established three types of rewards for the emir who conquers the kingdom or defeats the enemy army, I award him the honorary title of "brave man" ... I admitted him to my council and, finally, handed him control of the border province. The emir who won a victory over the army of some prince, received the same reward"¹.

For other commanders, of a rank lower than the emir, various material and moral incentives were also established.

Amir Timur paid great attention to the selection of chiefs. "A chief," he said, "whose power is weaker than a whip and a stick, is unworthy of the title." Tens were chosen by the tens, centurions, thousands and higher-ranking chiefs were appointed.

The main element of Amir Timur's army was the nomadic tribes, which supplied horsemen and archers. The settled population supplied infantry and warriors for auxiliary and siege work, that is, for launching catapults, driving in battering rams, launching fire arrows and throwing grenades with an incendiary mixture of oil. In the army of Amir Timur, a certain salary was paid. The amount of salary was

¹ Timur's Code. - Tashkent: Shark, 2005. - 124, 127, 133 p.

determined by the efficiency of service. A warrior received from 2 to 4 cens of a horse, a foreman - the salary of his foreman (therefore, he was interested in his warriors receiving the highest rate); a centurion - the salary of six foremen, etc. One of the disciplinary sanctions was the withholding of one tenth of the salary.

In the army of Amir Timur, there was light infantry, which rode horses on campaigns, and dismounted for combat to increase shooting accuracy. The infantryman had a sword, a bow and up to 30 arrows. Light infantry was used for actions on rough terrain and during sieges. In addition, Amir Timur organized special infantry for actions in the mountains (mountain infantry).

The army had a well-organized and specific formation order. Each warrior had to know his place in a ten, a ten in a hundred, etc. Military units knew how to move in formation and were distinguished by the color of their equipment, clothing, and banners.

Some units were distinguished by the colors of their horses. The law on inspections before a campaign under Amir Timur was carried out with all strictness.



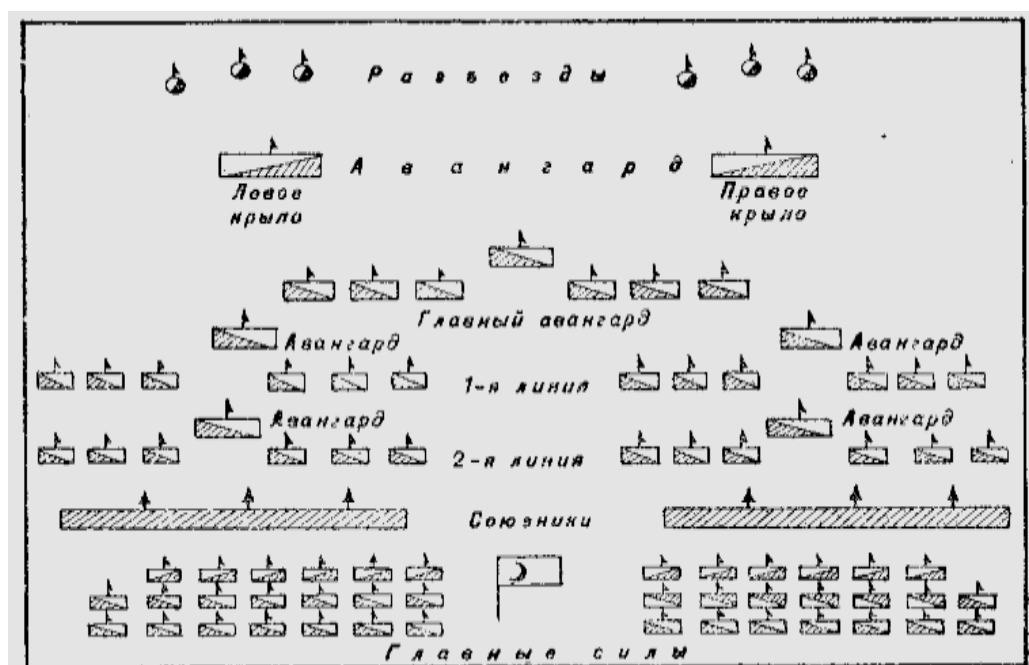
A large and level field was chosen for the battle, while attention was paid to the fact that there was water and pasture nearby, so that the sun did not shine in the eyes. The battle order was dispersed along the front and especially in depth. Due to the weakening of the center, the flanks were strengthened, which were means of encircling the enemy. For a decisive blow, Amir Timur created strong reserves.

During major battles, the commander-in-chief's tent (bargokh, saroparda), decorated with multi-colored battle flags and bunchuks, was set up on high ground,

from where it was easy to control the battle. Usually, a military orchestra was located near the commander-in-chief's tent, which played continuously, raising the morale of the soldiers.

The battle was started by light cavalry, which carried out guard duty, or light troops standing at outposts, throwing arrows and darts, then the vanguard entered the battle. When it was necessary to support it, the vanguard of the right wing (shakavul) entered the battle, then the left (chapavul); if more reinforcements were needed, then the left half of the right wing and the right half of the left wing entered the battle; when these were not enough, the remaining units of both wings would enter the battle, and at the same time inform Amir Timur of the state of affairs. If these efforts were not enough, then the commander (amiri lashkar) had to rush at the enemy himself with the main forces (kul), that is, with the reserve, with full confidence that the ninth attack would bring victory. "The ninth attack," said Amir Timur, "brings victory"².

When signs of the enemy fleeing from the battlefield appeared, a detachment of horsemen was allocated to pursue him until he was completely destroyed.



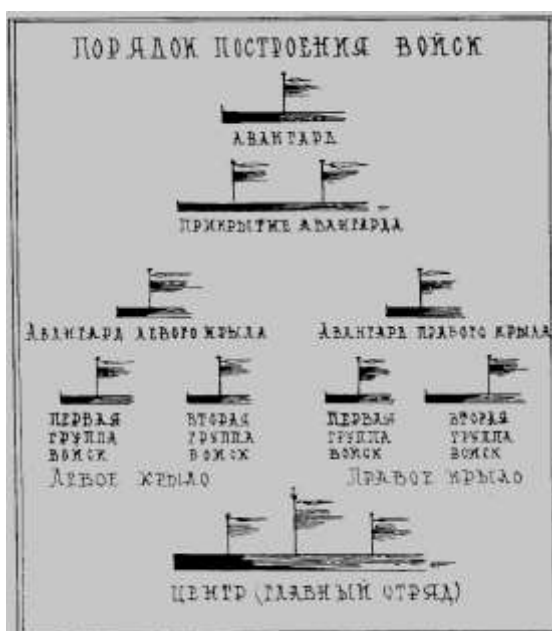
Scheme of the building of the combat order of the troops Amir Timur

² Timur's Code. - Tashkent: Sharq, 2005. - 124, 127, 133 p.

Amir Timur's army had a correct formation and several lines, which he gradually introduced into battle, and finally, when the enemy was weakened and tired by successive attacks, a strong and fresh reserve, made up of the best troops, was introduced into battle, which could always bring victory.

The enemy, having retreated to fortified structures, was besieged. In front of the thick walls of the fortresses, battering rams (manzhanik) and stone throwing (arroda) weapons were installed. Cannons (rad) were set in motion. Under the walls and towers, tunnels were dug. Gaps were made. Through the holes in the wall, the soldiers quickly went inside the fortress. During the assault, protective shields (tura), ladders (shotu), loops (kamand), ropes, etc. were used.

The organization, strategy and tactics of the cavalry attack found their most complete completion in the army of Amir Timur. In Timur's army, there was a



Order of the building of the troops

prototype of engineering units - divisions that included catapults and devices for throwing combustible mixtures to undermine the walls of fortresses. His army used all the modern technology of that time - siege equipment, ballistas for throwing pots of burning oil. Amir Timur's army also included specialists - pontooners for building

bridges across rivers. The achievements of science and technology, especially those of China, were widely used.

Amir Timur improved the organizational structure of his army. The "Code" defines the battle formations of the troops: "If the enemy army exceeds twelve thousand people, but does not reach forty thousand, then the command can be entrusted to one of my fortunate sons, with the appointment of two commanders and several emirs with detachments of one hundred people, ten thousand people and hordes under his command, so that the number of the entire army extends to forty thousand."

According to Timur's rules, a good commander, having learned the number of enemy detachments, should be able to oppose them with his detachments, observe what the enemy is doing, what kind of archers, spearmen, swordsmen he has, whether they attack slowly or quickly, all at once or in parts, notice the entrances and exits from the battlefield, both for attack and for retreat and try to penetrate the battle formation and intentions of the enemy. He had to be careful not to lure himself into an ambush, understand the entire mechanism of the battle, guess the enemy's intentions and use all means to upset his plans.

"From forty thousand horsemen, the leader must form fourteen units in the following way: he will form his line and call it the center. Three units will form the rearguard (or corps of the right wing). One of the three units will be called the vanguard (of this rearguard). Of the three units that make up the left wing, one will serve as its vanguard. Likewise, three other units will be placed in front of the rearguard of the right wing, they will form its front, one of these three detachments will serve as the vanguard of the front of the right wing.

The left wing will consist of the same number of units, and they will form its front. One unit will serve as the vanguard of the left wing, like the previous one. Then he will form the main vanguard in front of the center of the army. The vanguard will consist of: archers, warriors armed with sabres, spearmen, brave and

experienced fighters who will fight, making loud cries to cause disorder in the enemy vanguard,” the “Code” says.

Further follows: “Not a single movement of the opposing side should escape the commander-in-chief, and that self-confident commander who moves forward without having an order to do so should be punished.” First, the vanguard entered the battle, then the vanguards of the right and left wings, after which the cavalry units of the right and left wings entered the battle, followed by the second detachment of the right wing and the first of the left. If the gradual reinforcement of the fighting units of the second line troops was not enough and thirteen attacks did not decide the battle, then the commander-in-chief should not hesitate to lead his reserves into battle, which consisted of the best troops.

If even then the victory remained undecided, then the commander-in-chief had to rush into battle himself and, setting an example, inspire the fighters. The main banner should not be lost from sight.³

When the enemy army exceeds forty thousand people, then Amir Timur himself went out against it, then his troops were divided for battle as follows: from forty detachments of formed hordes of one hundred and ten thousand people, he chose twelve, to whom he gave a distinctive sign (tamga); they were divided into forty aimaks. Of these, twelve of the choicest made up the first line, and the remaining twenty-eight the second and third lines.

The troops led by his sons and grandsons stood in front of the right flank, and relatives and allies in front of the left. All these units formed a reserve and rendered assistance wherever it was needed.

Six aimaks formed the base or second line of the right flank and one - its vanguard, the same number of aimaks and in the same order formed the base of the left wing; in front of both wings of the second line was located the first, in the same

³ Nizamuddin Shami. Zafarnoma. - Tashkent, 1996. - P. 164-165.

order and in the same number of aimaks in front of the front of the first line was located a large vanguard of the same number of aimaks composed of experienced leaders and brave warriors; this vanguard had in front of it another aimak, which formed its vanguard, two detachments of light troops by means of patrols and patrols covered the army from sudden attacks and observed the enemy.

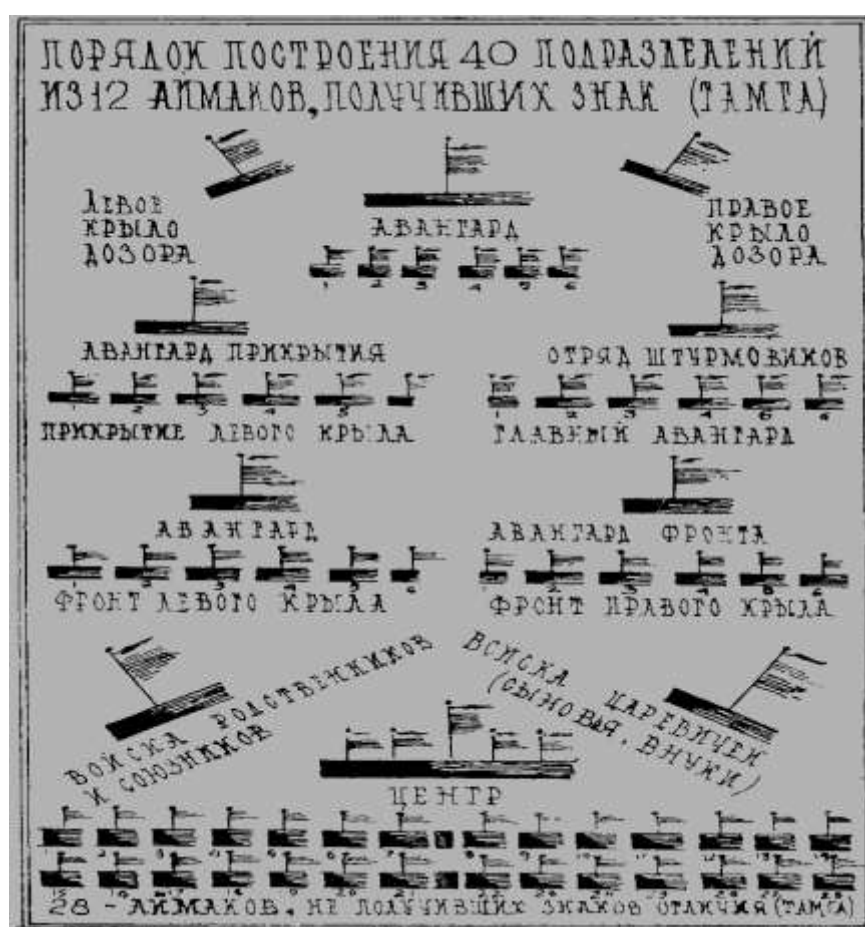


Order of the building 14 subdivisions from 40 thousand rider

The light troops and the vanguard began the battle; the commander of the main vanguard reinforced them and brought his troops into the battle if help was needed, gradually increasing the efforts by bringing the first, then the second line into battle. If these reinforcements were not enough, then the right and left wings of

the reserve, that is, the sons, grandsons, relatives and allies of Amir Timur, entered the battle.

Their main duty was to defeat the enemy, all their attention should be directed to the enemy commander-in-chief and his banner, try to take him prisoner and overturn his banner. If these efforts did not bring victory, then the rest of the unit entered the battle and made a decisive attack. Thus, by delivering successive blows, Amir Timur's army weakened the enemy, and strong reserves completed his rout.



Order of the building troops from 40 subdivisions

The army created by Amir Timur, although close in its organizational structure to the system of the army structure of Genghis Khan, had the following main features.

1. Although Amir Timur's army was considered a militia, it did not have a nationwide character, as it was during the time of Genghis Khan.

2. Under Genghis Khan, the army was based on nomads. Under Amir Timur, nomadic tribes supplied horsemen and archers. But along with this, the settled population also made up a significant part of the army. Thus, along with cattle breeders, farmers, artisans and other categories of the sedentary population were also called up for military service.

3. In addition to the cavalry, which formed the basis of the army, Amir Timur's infantry played a major role. Under Genghis Khan, there was no infantry as such.

4. Amir Timur was one of the first in the East to introduce artillery weapons (rad) into his army. The emergence of a new type of firearm contributed to the creation of artillery units. The number of gunners (radandoz) reached several thousand people. Artillery weapons were intended to defeat enemy manpower and equipment, as well as to besiege fortresses, citadels and were installed in the most critical areas of the siege lines.

5. He created special infantry military units that skillfully operated in mountainous areas.

6. Amir Timur skillfully built the battle formations of his army and maneuvered them, masterfully used flank attacks and attacks on the enemy's rear with cavalry, depending on the situation, he divided his army into nine and seven parts (kul).

Порядок построения войска из 40 подразделений

7. The army also included parts formed by women, who stood in the same row with men during the battle and showed examples of courage and valor.

The composition of Amir Timur's army consisted of warriors called up from Maverannahr, Dashti-Kipchak, Khorasan, Iran, Badakhshan, Mughalstan, Khorezm, Mazandaran and Jete.

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