

ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULAR ARMY CORPS IN THE MILITARY DISTRICT OF TURKESTAN IN THE LATE 19TH – EARLY 20TH CENTURIES

Bokhodirov Ikhtiyor Bokhodirovich

Researcher History Of Uzbekistan, National University Of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT: By the beginning of the 20th century, as a result of long-term changes in the military district, formal and departmental reorganization of the armed forces and improvements, regular armies were established in Turkestan. During this period, there was a significant increase in the number of armaments and soldiers in the district. However, at this stage of the district's history, it began to lag behind other military districts in the Russian Empire in terms of influence and position in the state armed forces, military potential, and the weight of heavy artillery weapons. This was mainly influenced by the fact that the main attention was focused on the western and eastern military districts within the framework of preparations for the upcoming world war with the imperialist countries in the west of the country and the Far East.

KEYWORDS: Military district, army corps, general staff, troops, rifle, battalion, brigade, division, artillery, cossack, infantry, regiments.

INTRODUCTION

By the beginning of the 20th century, the territory of the Turkestan military district will expand significantly and reach 1,490,926 versts². On July 1, 1899 Semireche and Transcaspian regions and military units on their territory were transferred to the Turkestan military district[1].

The 1st, 2nd Transcaspian rifle brigades, 1st, 2nd Transcaspian railway battalions, Transcaspian sapper company, Kuban Cossacks 1st Taman, 2nd Caucasian regiments, Turkmen irregular cavalry division, 2 light, 1 mountain, 1 cossack cavalry artillery batteries, total: 8 rifle battalions (32 companies), 2 reserve battalions (10 companies), 2 railway battalions, 1 sapper battalion, 1 fortress artillery company, 14 cavalry sotnies, 3 light and 1 cavalry batteries (24 field and 6 mountain guns)[2] or 569 officers, 15 202 ordinary soldier (8803 riflemen, 334 sappers, 2999 railway troops, 1271 artillerymen, 2051 Kuban and Turkmen cavalries, 1806 reserve soldiers)[3] joined the Turkestan troops.

And from Semireche, the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th West-Siberian line battalions (16 battalions), the West-Siberian artillery division (2 artillery batteries), 1 cavalry artillery platoon, 1 fortress artillery team (total 18 cannons)[4], 3 cossacks regiments, 1 sapper company and 8 local command districts in Sergiopol, Kopal, Pishpek, Narin, Przhevalsk, Lepsinsk, Bakhti, Zharkent were transferred to the district administration[5]. The transfer of both regions and their military units to the territory of

the district increased the number of troops of Turkestan military district and expanded the scope of operations. As a result, in 1901 the number of battalions in the military district reached 44, 6 separate infantry companies (5 of them were fortress artillery companies), 48 cossack sotnies and 15 artillery batteries [6]. In 1901, 22 military medical institutions served these military units. 6 of them were mobile hospitals, 10 were reserve hospitals, 2 were brigade hospitals and 2 were military-sanitary transports (through the Central Asian Railway) [7].

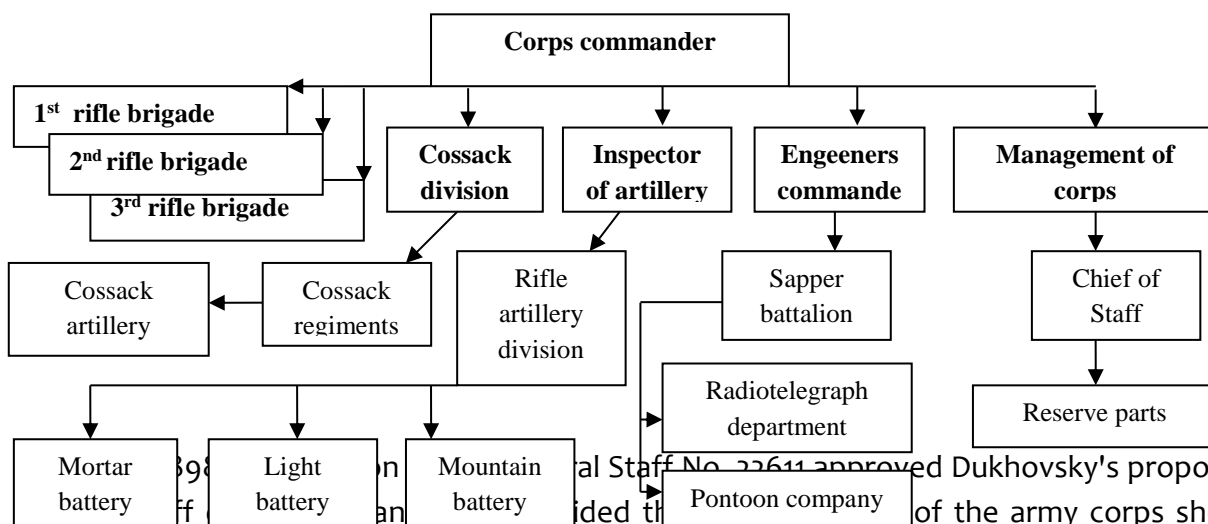
On the financial side, the significant increase in the number of troops and the military expenses in Turkestan complicated the financial situation of the Turkestan governor general. The general governorship received 10.1 mln. rubles of income while the expenses reached 22.6 mln. rubles. The damage was 12.4 mln. rubles [8].

Large-scale changes were made in the management of the troops of the military district in 1899-1901. Initially all local and personnel training line battalions of the district were merged into local brigades of Tashkent and Trascaspian in 1899. Then based on them the 1st and 2nd Turkestan reserve brigades were formed. On June 26, 1900, all line battalions in Turkestan were abolished and turned into rifle battalions.

In 1898, general Dukhovskiy (1898-1901), the commander-in-chief of the Turkestan military district, initiated the creation of "army corps" in Turkestan as in other districts. The army corps was considered a large land tactical-operational unit of the armed forces of the Russian Empire. Its main task in peacetime was to organize military training and maintain the combat readiness of the troops. The number of soldiers in the corps reached 30 000.

On April 21, 1898, the Ministry of War received letter № 52 on behalf of Dukhovskiy. Dukhovskiy proposed to the Minister of War Kuropatkin to create a Turkestan army corps based on the military units in Turkestan, which would include 1 rifle and 3 line brigades of infantry and 1 cavalry brigade of Cossacks [9]. According to Dukhovskiy, the organization of the army corps prevents the increase in the number of soldiers in military units, simplifies their management, and improves the quality of combat and tactical training of military units. The district commander informed St. Petersburg that 30,357 rubles will be spent on the annual expenses of the 1 army corps command department [10].

The Management of army corps in Turkestan



carried out according to the location of military units in Turkestan, that all military units would be included in it, that the authority of regional governors would be limited to administrative management, that corps brigades and military units would be subordinated to corps or brigade commanders, not to governors, had determined that it was necessary. The General Staff considered it necessary to create an army corps in Transkaspy, to transfer a part of the military units along the Amudarya river to its composition, and to include field artillery brigades in the country as part of the army corps[11].

On June 18, 1899, 2 Turkestan army corps were established in the Turkestan military district based on the existing 1,064 officers and 31,510 lower-level military personnel. The headquarters of the 1st Turkestan Army Corps is located in Tashkent, and the headquarters of the 2nd Turkestan Army Corps is located in Ashgabat[12]. In 1901-1909, the 1st Army Corps consisted of 5 rifle brigades, 1 reserve brigade, 20 riflemen, 4 reserve battalions, 1 Cossack division, 7 Cossack regiments, 1 sapper battalion, 1 Cossack cavalry It consisted of an artillery battery, 1 artillery brigade, 1 artillery division, several artillery companies. In the autumn of 1901, there were more than 21 000 soldiers in the 1st Turkestan Army Corps. On April 26, 1904, the Turkestan pontoon company of engineer troops was formed as part of the 1st Army Corps and was stationed in the city of Termez. Its main task was to build convenient ferries and pontoon bridges for the passage of troops across the Amudarya.

The composition of the 1st Turkestan Army Corps in 1901-1909:[13,14]

Military units	Based on which part	Commander
1st Turkestan rifle brigade 1,2,3,4 th rifle battalions	Turkestan rifle brigade 1,2,3,4 th rifle battalions	general Dushkevich
2nd Turkestan rifle brigade 5,6,7,8 th rifle battalions	2nd Turkestan line brigade 6,8,12,17 th line battalions	general Ganenfeld
3rd Turkestan rifle brigade 9,10,11,12 th rifle battalions	3rd Turkestan line brigade 2,4,15,18 th line battalions	general Maslov
4th Turkestan rifle brigade 13,14,15,16 th rifle battalions	7,13,19 th line battalions	general Samaylo
Squad of Semireche 2,3,4,5 th West Siberian rifle battalions West Siberian artillery division West Siberian Cossack brigade	2,3,4,5 th West Sib.line battalions West Siberian artillery division 1 st ,2 nd Siber. ossack regiments	general Pospelov general Jigalin
1st Turkestan reserve brigade Tashk,Kho'jand.Zirabulak,Andj.batl.	Tashkent local brigade 1,10,11,20 th personnel battalions	general Timchenko
Turkestan Cossack divison 1 st Semireche, 2 nd Ural regiments 4,5,6 th Orenburg regiments	Turkiston kazaklar brigadasi 1 st Semireche, 2 nd Ural regiments 4 th ,5 th ,6 th Orenburg regiments	general Grekov
1st Turkestan artillery brigade 1,2,3,4,5 th light, 6 th mountain batteries	Turkestan artillery brigade	general Pozoev
Turkestan fortress artillery Tashkent, Samark. fortress company Skobelev, Termez fortress company		colonel Losskiy lieutenant Kovalenko

In 1901, the main part of the 1st corps was deployed in the regional centers - Tashkent, Samarkand, Skobelev, Verniy and the important strategic cities - Termez, Kattakurgan, Andijan, Kokan, Kerki[15].

In 1901-1909, the 2nd Turkestan Army Corps consisted of 3 riflemen, 1 reserve, 1 railway brigade, 12 riflemen, 4 reserves, 2 railway battalions, 1 Cossack brigade, 2 Cossacks regiment, 1 local irregular cavalry division, 1 artillery brigade, 1 sapper battalion, 2 fortress artillery companies. In the fall of 1901, the number of soldiers in the 2nd Turkestan Army Corps was more than 18,000.

The composition of the 2nd Turkestan Army Corps in 1901-1909[16,17]

Military units	Based on which part	Commander
5th Turkestan rifle brigade 17,18,19,20 th rifle battalions	1st Turkestan line brigade 3,5,9,14 th line battalions	General Motorny
6th Turkestan rifle brigade 1,2,3,4 th Transkaspy rifle battalions	1st Transkaspy rifle brigade 1,2,3,4 th Transkaspy rifle battalions	general Zikov
7th Turkestan rifle brigade 5,6,7,8 th Transkaspy rifle battalions	2nd Transkaspy rifle brigade 5,6,7,8 th Transkaspy rifle battalions	general Gryaznov
2nd Turkestan reserve brigade 5,6 th Kushka, Goktepa battalions 7,8 th Marv, Krasnovodsk battalions.	Transkaspy local bigade Kushka, Goktepa battalions 16 th Turkestan personnel battalion	general Artemev
Trasnkaspy Cossack brigade 1 st Taman, 1 st Caucasus regiments Turkmen cavalry division	Kaspiyorti kazlar brigidasi Taman, Caucasus regiments Turkmen cavalry division	general Xelmitsky
2nd Turkestan artillery brigade 1,2,5 th light, 3,4 th mountain batteries	Transkaspy artillery brigade	general Makarashvili
Transkaspy fortress artillery Kushka fortress company Karki fortress company		colonel Demsky lieutenant Yunger
Transkaspy railway brigade 1 st Transkaspy railway battalion 2 nd Transkaspy railway battalion Kushka railway company		lieutenant Ranxner lieutenant Gavronsky lieutenant Kozlaninov

In 1901, the main part of the 2nd Turkestan army corps was located in the Ak-tepa camp near Ashgabat, Kerki and Kushka fortresses in the Transkaspy region. The remaining military units of the corps were in the cities of Marv, Krasnovodsk, Charjoi, and Tajan[18].

At the end of the 19th century, Kuban Cossacks and Turkmen horsemen natives of the country, began to serve in the 2nd army corps in the territory of the Turkestan Military District. Turkmen cavalry militia in 1885 (300 horsemen), and Turkmen cavalry division in 1892 were formed in Transkaspy region. In 1899, the Turkmen cavalry under the command of Colonel P.P. Kalitin (1853-1927) with the troops of Kaspiyorti were included in the army of the Turkestan Military District[19]. The Turkmen cavalry regiment consisting of 4 hundreds was established on the basis of Turkmen cavalry in 1914. Young men between the ages of 19 and 30 were recruited into the Turkmen military units[20]. In the 80s of the XIX century, Turkmen horsemen were paid 25 rubles a month for military service and general expenses, and officers 50-100 rubles [21].

CONCLUSION

In short, in the beginning of the 20th century, the military reforms in the Turkestan military district were completed and the process of transformation of the military district in Turkestan was completed. The troops of the Turkestan military district were brought into the form of a regular army. The control of military formations was separated from the military-people's administration in the territory of Turkestan. During this period, for the first time in the Turkestan military district, military educational institutions were created to train military specialists for various branches of the country's troops.

REFERENCES

1. Гейер И.И. Весь Русский Туркестань. – Ташкенть: Типография Турк. Т-ва печатн. дела, 1908. – С. 1.
2. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 479 work, 19 page.
3. Отчеть о состоянии войскъ Закаспийской области (За шестилетний периодъ съ 1890 по 1895 г. включительно). – Асхабадь: Тип. Штаба Закаспийской области, 1897. – С. 8, 14-15.
4. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 479 work, 19 page.
5. Общий списокъ офицерскимъ чинамъ Русской императорской армии (01.01.1909). – Петербургъ: Тип. Главнаго Штаба. 1909. – С. 534.
6. Отчеть служебной поездке Военногo Министра въ Туркестанский военный округъ въ 1901 году. – Петербургъ: Военная типография, 1902. – С. 4.
7. Отчеть служебной поездке Военногo Министра въ Туркестанский военный округъ въ 1901 году. – Петербургъ: Военная типография, 1902. – С. 76.
8. Alexander Morrison. Russian rule in Samarkand 1868-1910. New York. Oxford university press. 2008. – P. 32.
9. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 293 work, 1 page.
10. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 293 work, 10 page.
11. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 293 work, 11 page.
12. Отчеть служебной поездке Военногo Министра въ Туркестанский военный округъ въ 1901 году. – Спб: Военная типография, 1902. – С. 7.
13. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 1 work, 24 page.
14. Общий списокъ офицерскимъ чинамъ Русской императорской армии (01.01.1909). – Петербургъ: Тип. Главнаго Штаба, 1909. – с. 425-432, 437-438, 495-497, 597-599, 606-607, 668, 732-733, 754, 761.
15. Отчеть служебной поездке Военногo Министра въ Туркестанский военный округъ въ 1901 году. – Спб: Военная типография, 1902. – с. 6-8.
16. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 1 work, 24-25 page.
17. Общий списокъ офицерскимъ чинамъ Русской императорской армии (01.01.1909). – Петербургъ: Тип. Главнаго Штаба, 1909. – С. 432-436, 497-499, 540, 604-606, 668, 733, 754-755, 763, 778-779.

18. Отчет служебной поездке Военного Министра в Туркестанский военный округ в 1901 году. – Спб: Военная типография, 1902. – С. 6-8.
19. Потапов А.Е. Участие Кубанского казачества в присоединении Средней Азии к России (70–90 годы XIX века). Диссертация канд. ист. наук. – Краснодар, 2020. –С. 211.
20. Олейников А.В. Текинский конный полк — элитная кавалерийская часть русской армии в период Первой мировой войны // Военно-исторический журнал, 2016. № 6. – С. 9-10
21. George Nathaniel Curzon. Russia in Central Asia in 1889 and the anglo-russian question. – London: Longmans, Green, and CO, 1889. – P. 128.