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HISTORY OF KARAKALPAK ARMS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS IN THE
XVII-XVIII CENTURIES

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ABSTRACT:

Numerous scientific studies on the socio-political life, economy, agriculture, material and spiritual culture and ethnography of the Karakalpaks in the XVII-XVIII centuries were conducted and their results were published as works. Unfortunately, the history of armaments and military affairs of the Karakalpaks at that time is one of the topics that has not been consistently studied on the basis of sources to this day. In the analysis and generalization of materials from written sources, historical literature and epics, the article relied on the methods of scientific, objective, critical and comparative analysis of historical science, followed the principles of continuity and continuity.

As a result, it became clear that in the XVII-XVIII centuries Karakalpaks and island Uzbeks were in an alliance in military affairs, in most periods they conducted joint military operations, and in certain periods the state had its own military. Until the end of the 19th century, they used simple weapons such as bows, spears, swords, armor, shields, and clubs. From the first half of the seventeenth century, the use of shotguns in battles began. From the beginning of the XVIII century Karakalpaks began to produce rifles, gunpowder and ammunition. In the early days of pistol rifles were used by infantry in the process of disrupting the enemy's battle line. With the advent of many types of firearms, the importance of armored armor disappeared from the late 18th century to the end of the 18th century. At the beginning of the XVII-XIX centuries there were mutual struggles with Khiva, Bukhara and Small Kazakh khanates. At that time, among them grew brave and snipers who fought for the freedom of the nation.

The absence of a centralized state was a serious obstacle to the development of the military. As a result, at the beginning of the XIX century Karakalpaks and island Uzbeks were included in the Khiva khanate.

In short, the Karakalpaks and island Uzbeks of the XVII-XVIII centuries were one of the peoples with military potential, their own army, weapons and defense facilities.

Introduction, purpose, and brief analysis of the literature. Since the Karakalpaks lived a semi-nomadic life in antiquity and the Middle Ages, their lives were directly related to warfare. The epics contain information about the weapons of the people's heroes, their methods of fighting in military campaigns, martial arts.

Unfortunately, the history of Karakalpak weapons and military affairs is one of the topics that has not been specifically studied. The aim is to study the history of weapons and military affairs of the Karakalpaks in the XVII-XVIII centuries on the basis of written sources, literature and epics. The main thing is to get new results about the history of military work of the Karakalpaks of that time during the study of such areas as the military army, types of weapons, defense facilities.

The works and diaries of Russian ambassadors, travelers and military specialists of the XVII-XIX centuries contain brief and general information about the fighting situation, military potential, armaments and defense facilities of the Karakalpaks and island Uzbeks. Among them are D. Gladyshev and N. Muravin, P. Rychkov, N. Veselovsky, merchant Rukavkin and others. The works of D. Gladyshev and N. Muravin contain information about the population of the Aral Sea region at the beginning of the XVIII century, the defensive structures, elders and dancers of the cities of Kungrad and Shakhtemir, the state of war, weapons.

In the work of the Russian statesman P.P. Richkov (1762) and other Russian sources there is information about the production of rifles, gunpowder and ammunition by the Karakalpaks and the availability of traditional weapons such as bows, spears and swords.

The collection of sources on various aspects of the life of Karakalpaks and island Uzbeks, published on the basis of the archives of the Russian Empire in the XVII-XIX centuries, publishing houses, newspapers and magazines, also contains a lot of information about their military activities and weapons.

At that time, the Khiva khanate, the weapons and military affairs of the island Uzbeks and Karakalpaks were close and interdependent. The works of Abulgazi Bahodirkhan, Munis and Agahi, historians of the Khiva khanate, contain information about the political events of that period, military campaigns, tactics of military campaigns, types of weapons, fortresses and fortresses, and other military history. Among them, "Firdavs-ul-Iqbal" provides information about the conquest of the Karakalpaks by the Khiva khans and the struggles of the Sufi ruler Toremurat against the Khiva khan, military campaigns, fortresses and military tactics and weapons of that time.

S. Kamalov's work "Karakalpaks of the XVIII-XIX centuries" is a work of fundamental importance in the history of Karakalpaks. Although the play does not specifically study the history of military affairs, it provides information about the political life, military campaigns, and fortresses of that period. U. Davletova studied the origins, analogies and significance of the concepts of military position, types of weapons, military

tactics and skills in the lexicon of the Karakalpak language in connection with the history of military work in the Karakalpak epics.

Methods. The methodological basis of the article is the objective coverage of objectivity and historicity in the science of history. Generalization and comparative analysis on the basis of chronological sequence in the study of written sources, historical literature and epics, filling the historical gap through the use of analogical methods of comparative study.

Discussion. The military activities of the Karakalpaks in the XVII-XVIII centuries were closely connected with the political relations of the small Kazakh khanate on the Syrdarya, Bukhara, Kokand and Khiva khanates. At the end of the 17th century and in the first half of the 18th century, the Karakalpaks had their own state system. At the same time, there was a united state of Karakalpak and Aral Uzbeks in the Southern Aral Sea called "Aral Region" (1625-1814). Unfortunately, both states did not rule regularly at that time due to objective and subjective factors. However, the locals are waging a military struggle to maintain their independence. The article seeks to answer controversial questions about their military in the 17th-18th centuries, types of weapons, use of firearms, military defenses, biys and batyrs, and the reasons for their dependence on the Khiva khanate.

Results . The information in the sources and epics shows that the Karakalpaks' military activities, such as weapons, military potential, war tactics, have ancient historical roots and resemble neighboring nations. Even in the late Middle Ages, the Karakalpaks continued to use weapons such as bows, spears, swords, armor, shields, hammers, maces, axes, and rifles. According to the data in the sagas, there were several forms of the same type of weapon. For example, the names of armor such as armor, blue iron, nine-layer armor, quail-eyed blue armor, nine-layer net armor, multi-button white armor, temirton are common.

The information in the epics shows that in the ethnic history of the Karakalpaks there were military positions such as khan, king, commander, sardar, boy. For example, a young boy fighting with a sharp sword in his hands. In the Turkic-Mongol peoples, including in the XIII-XIV centuries in the Golden Horde state, "boy" meant a military post that commanded a certain group. In the sagas, the army is divided into the following parts. They are called ten, forty, hundred, thousand, and district (ten thousand). In particular, military units of forty young men, forty brave, forty girls are widely used. For example, in the epics of Qoblan and Gorogly there are 40 young men, in the epos of the Kyrgyz - Kyrgyz and others.

The epics also contain the terms of the post, which perform certain functions during military campaigns: guard, bakul, yasovul, shindovul, spy. For example: As a guard, navkars control the intersection of nine roads.

It is known that in wars, spies were sent to find out the situation on the enemy side. A spy is a group of people who gather information about the military secrets of the enemy. This is confirmed by the following lines:

Anxious eyes, with a bloodless face,
cunning spies.

Karakalpak warriors also had centuries-old traditions related to the use of weapons. In one-on-one combat, the use of military weapons by the heroes, their skill, strength, and courage of the warrior serve as a measure. One-on-one shootings were regulated by certain rules and rituals and were carried out only with the help of military weapons. Warriors were well versed in a certain type of weapon, such as spears, swords, bows, and rifles, but most warriors were capable of using all of these weapons.

Sources contain information about the Karakalpaks who lived on the banks of the Syrdarya in the first quarter of the XVII century. Tazkiray Muqimkhan, written by Muhammad-Yusuf Munshi, contains information about the revolt of the Karakalpaks and Kazakhs against the Bukhara khan Boki-Muhammad (1599-1605), as well as several invasions of the Karakalpaks around Bukhara.

At the end of the 17th and the beginning of the 18th centuries, the Karakalpaks united into a state with its own army. Tabarchuk Sultan (1680-1718), the son of the Kazakh khan Tao'ke khan, was a khan of Karakalpaks, he had 1600 and more navkars. During this period, the Karakalpaks, along with the Kazakhs, carried out military campaigns, and their weapons and military uniforms were similar.

The data in the sources show that although the Karakalpak navkars are few in number, they are brave warriors and skilled warriors on the battlefield. Moscow's ambassador Boris Pazukhin (1671) wrote, "There are 1,500 or more Karakalpaks and Kazakhs (black house-T.B.) In the Bukhara khanate. The queen of the Bukhara king, the Karakalpaks, are said to be" reliable in battle. "

At the end of the 17th century, in a Bashkir uprising initiated by the Russians to colonize the Zakamsk region, the Karakalpaks joined the Bashkirs and launched attacks on the Ural and Siberian volosts. There is evidence that at that time there were constant contacts between the Karakalpaks of the northern, Ural group and the Karakalpaks along the Syrdarya during the Bashkir uprising. The combined invasions of the Bashkirs and Karakalpaks posed a threat to the periphery of the Russian Empire.

During the reign of Ishmuhammad Khan (1720) Karakalpaks established diplomatic, trade and economic relations with neighboring countries. They levied taxes on caravans passing through their territory. This shows that during this period in the state of Karakalpakstan was formed a military sphere, in which the organizational work was properly organized.

In 1721, the ambassador of the Russian Empire D. Arriving at the Karakalpak center of Vershin, he held talks with the Karakalpak khan Ishmuhammad khan on the Syrdarya River on the exchange of Russian captives. In 1722, the Karakalpak ambassadors, led by Janibek Batyr, were received by Emperor Peter I, who in the negotiations asked permission to return the captured Karakalpak snipers to their homeland.

In the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, the Karakalpaks, in addition to traditional weapons such as bows, swords, spears, shields, and armor, had firearms and produced some of them themselves. Some of them were sold to Kazakhs. There are also reports that the sagas contained firearms such as rifles and cannons. For example, a rifle from

firearms is found in the epos "Maspodshah" - dupen, in "Honshayim" - a brass ear, in "Bozoglon" - a rifle. This suggests that different types of rifles are also available. During this period, some types of weapons were imported from other countries. Among them are rifles, spears from Europe, Isfahan sword and Isfahan armor from Iran.

According to a document from 1698, the Karakalpaks living in the lower reaches of the Syrdarya River mined lead and red copper from their territories, making ammunition from saltpeter, although they did not produce weapons themselves, but brought them from Bukhara. According to the military newspaper *Uralskie Vedomosti*, in the 1720s the Karakalpaks produced weapons and gunpowder.

According to PP Richkov (1762), one of the authors of that period: "They (Karakalpaks) sell to the Kazakhs their own weapons (guns), gunpowder and ammunition. They produce everything themselves and know how to protect themselves."

According to another source, "they have firearms, make them themselves, as well as buy them from Khiva, make Selitra and gunpowder themselves and sell it to the Kazakhs. Their cavalry has weapons such as bows, spears and swords."

These data indicate that the Karakalpaks used firearms in battle, which they also produced in the early 18th century, sometimes purchased from Bukhara and Khiva.

At the beginning of the 18th century, the Karakalpaks mastered the use of rifles in combat operations, during which time many snipers grew up among them. The names of Aktemir sniper, Beket sniper, Black sniper are mentioned in the archives of the Russian state. At that time, the fortresses and fortresses of the Karakalpaks were important as defensive structures, they were protected from nomadic invasions, attacks, clashes and various looting. These include the fortresses of Signak and Janakent on the Syrdarya River, the Orynbay Fortress on the Janadarya River, and the Aralbay Fortress, which played an important role in military affairs, defense, and economic life.

During the period under consideration, a state of island Uzbeks and Karakalpaks called "Aral Region" (1625-1814) was formed on the shores of the South Aral Sea. They were in constant opposition to the Khiva khanate and repeatedly appointed their own khans from the Uzbek, Karakalpak and Kazakh tribes. The "Aral region" had a military army as a state. In some periods they exerted their political influence on the Khiva khanate, organized military and invasion marches, and organized defense campaigns against the Khiva khanate.

In 1642, during the exile of Khiva khans Abulgazi Bahodirkhan (1643-1663), he found protection among the Uzbeks of the island. In 1643 he was appointed khan of the "Aral region". In 1644, with the help of the army of the "Aral region", he succeeded to the throne of the Khiva khanate.

Details of this battle are given in Abulgazi Bahodirkhan's "Shajarai Turk". 320 archers, 25 snipers, 5 heavy armored cavalry and infantrymen from the Aral Sea region took part in the battle against Khiva. The infantry were mostly armed with bows and rifles, the cavalry were armed with spears, and were protected by armor.

The battle was attended by 700-800 cavalymen on the side of the enemy, who had helmets on their heads, long spears, hammers and other weapons in their hands, and had no other weak spot than their eyes. Rifles were used effectively in battle, and they fired at enemy cavalry only 30 paces away.

During this period, bows and rifles were used by infantry to disrupt the ranks of the enemy army. The use of armored armor as a means of defense in the cavalry continued. In this battle and in subsequent battles, the Arals and Karakalpaks used rifles as strategic weapons. The wick rifle was about one and a half feet long and consisted of an iron barrel, a wooden barrel, and a butt. A rifle is actually a weapon of infantry and is sometimes found in cavalry as well. This is because it was a lot of inconvenience to put ammunition on a wick rifle, to smash it, to target it, and to shoot it. The horses were in danger of knocking down the warrior on top, frightened by the loud sound of the rifle.

In the 18th century, the islanders made several military campaigns against Khiva. In particular, in 1714, the Aral Uzbeks revolted against Yodgor khan and swore allegiance to the Karakalpak khan Ishim-Muhammad, who was invited to the post of khan. "Yodgor Khan himself twice organized a military campaign against the islands and sent troops three times. There will be strong battles every time." But once he fails to persuade the islanders to side with Khiva.

During the reign of Ilbarskhan (1728-1740) the islanders revolted again and defeated the Khiva along with the Karakalpaks. After the assassination of Shohtemir, the khan of the "Aral region", the islanders were defeated, and three thousand Mangitians (islanders) and Karakalpaks were killed by the khans of Khiva. However, Ilbarskhan was not able to surrender the islands and Karakalpaks immediately. Only in 1735, after the death of Shirdali from the beys of the Aral Sea region, all the island Uzbeks and Karakalpaks living in the lower reaches of the Amudarya recognized the authority of Ilbarskhan.

The military campaigns of the Khiva khans to subdue the "Aral region" and the Karakalpaks lasted for almost 100 years.

At the beginning of the 18th century, the Aral Sea region included 32 clans of the "four tribes" (four tribes), the fortresses of Kungrad and Shakhtemir, which were ruled by elders and biys. At that time, the islanders lived a semi-nomadic life, migrating to other areas, in one hundred to five hundred black houses. The elders and dancers of the Aral Sea region wore steel swords at their waists. The handle of the sword is skillfully made of bone and decorated with colorful gemstones. The daggers are made of gold, the handle is made of silver and gold water, and even the handle of ordinary knives is covered with green leather. In 1740-1748, Nurali, the son of Abulkhair khan, the youngest Kazakh khan, ruled the Aral region.

It should be noted that although the island Uzbeks and Karakalpaks were ruled by khans during the period under study, they did not have a central government and real power, and the tribes were mainly ruled by biys and aksakals.

In the 18th century, the population of the Aral Sea region was considered a semi-nomadic people, but it had fortifications with defensive structures. Shakhtemir Fortress is one of the defensive fortifications of the islands, the walls of the fortress are made of cotton (mud) and the outside of the city

wall is surrounded by a trench. The Aral Sea region had another fortress called "Aral" or "Kungrad". The perimeter of the castle is surrounded by a 20-verst (1 verst = 1.0668 km x 20 = 21,336 km) earthen wall with several exits, the height of which reaches 2 arshins (1 arshin = 71cm x 2 = 142.24 cm). when necessary they were reinforced with carts and wooden poles. All the surrounding people gathered in the winter with their families in a castle built of this soil.

In the first half of the XVIII century the population of the "Aral region" was estimated at more than a hundred thousand. About forty thousand of them were able to ride horses (i.e. those with fighting skills).

By the middle of the 19th century, the city of Kungrad had become a number of strongholds. This was reported by Captain Butakov, a member of the expedition (1848-1850), M.G. Recorded in Chernyaev's diary. "The bell represents a space surrounded by a cotton wall ... The height of the wall is 3 sajens (3x176 = 528 cm), the thickness of the foundation is 2 sajens (2x176 = 352 cm), and the upper part is 1 foot (30.5 cm). On the outside of the defensive wall, there is a trench formed during the construction of the wall. From the inside, there is a possibility of climbing the wall from only a few places, but from the outside it is very difficult. ... In a word, it is difficult to climb the wall from the inside as well as from the outside."

Etibor bersak, 1 sajen 176 cm, 1 ft 30.48 cm. This meant that the height of the city's defensive wall was more than 5 meters and the width of the foundation was more than 3.5 meters. The width of the outer wall was 3.5 meters.

All this indicates that in the XVIII-XIX centuries Kungrad was a city with a strong defensive fortification.

King Nadir, the ruler of Iran, who conquered Khiva in 1740, sent ambassadors to the islands and Karakalpaks with an offer to accept his citizenship. Their representatives came to King Nadir and told him that the new khan of Khiva would carry out the orders of his vassal. Initially, the islanders and Karakalpaks sent an army of 6,000 men to serve the new Khiva khan Tahir.

However, riots soon broke out in Khorezm, and Tohirkhan was overthrown by the Karakalpaks and the islanders. They captured the cities of Khiva and Urgench with the help of military forces led by Nurali Khan and Artuk Inak. After these events in 1742, at the request of Rizakuli Mirza, fourteen-year-old Abdul Ghazi ascended the throne of Khiva. Artuk-inak from the island is accepted as a father.

Since the middle of the XVIII century in the "Aral region" there has been an increase in the number of fortifications with defensive structures. Among them are Kungrad, Shakhtemir, Khojayli, White Jagys, Sasiq biy fortress, Aralbay fortress, White fortress and other fortresses. Fortresses played an important role in battles as a defensive construction. Their outer defensive walls were built thick and high. The area around the fortress is surrounded by ditches. Along the corners and walls of the forts, corrugations are installed with pylons reminiscent of ancient towers. Along the walls are mounted bullets (boynitsa) from a bow or rifle. The forts had two or three gates, and guards were built on the inside. Sometimes the gates are buried for protection in times of strong enemy threat.

In the middle of the 18th century, the territory of the Aral Sea region expanded slightly, to which the Karakalpaks on the banks of the Janadarya and White Jagis were added.

At the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, the Karakalpak horde occupied the territory from the Kuvondarya and Janadarya basins to the lower reaches of the Amudarya. This is the time when Karakalpak sheep migrated from the banks of the Syrdarya. At that time, they had no statehood. In the sources, there is no material about the existence of khans during this period. Each tribal association was ruled by biys, and they held high positions. They enjoyed legal, economic privileges and powers, as well as the right to militarily govern their people.

Sources and examples of folklore contain information about Karakalpak dancers and heroes. In 1722, on behalf of the Karakalpak khan Ishmuhammad Bahodur, under the leadership of Janibek Batyr, Khojaboy Batyr, Turdyboy Batyr, Kalmuhammad Batyr and Temirbek Batyr sent an embassy letter to the Russian Emperor Peter I. The names of thirteen famous heroes and dancers of the Karakalpaks of the XVIII century are given in the folklore.

Oris biy, Tobet biy, again Mamani, the past tense of Davlatyarbek. Turkestan's wrestler, thirteen batyrs are in Karakalpakstan.	Oris biy, Tobet biy, again Mamani, the past tense of Davlatyarbek. Turkestan's wrestler, thirteen batyrs are in Karakalpakstan.
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The title or title of hero was given to him for his personal courage, success, and skillful management of the battles that led to his victory over the enemy. According to the laws of the Turkic peoples, the title of hero is not inherited. The title "Botir" reflects the image of a brave warrior. The sources mention the heroism of Karakalpak dancers and heroes of the XVII-XVIII centuries, such as Hangeldi, Jangeldi, Aybos, Maybas, Ajigeldi, Amangeldi, Asan, Aspentay, Oris biy (Irisqul), Tobet biy, Maman biy, Dauletiyarbek, Nurtoy.

Berdakh's Shejere states that the Karakalpaks built a fortress on the banks of the Janadarya, where the heroes Qosnazar and Nurtay fought for freedom against the invasion of the Kazakhs (T.B.-feudal lords).

Fourteen seeds remained immobile, He built a fortress on Janadarya, Koshnazar and Nurtay, He was fighting with a Kazakh.	Fourteen seeds remained immobile, He built a fortress on Janadarya, Koshnazar and Nurtay, He was fighting with a Kazakh.
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Historical documents further complement the information about Nurtoy batir. It reads: "Last fall, Hudaymendi Sultan (Kazakh sultan) with 8,000 troops organized a military march to the Karakalpak fortresses on the banks of the Janadarya, to the people of Nurtay. The reason was to punish the Karakalpaks for killing Khudaymendi sultan's brother Buri sultan and for invading Kazakh caravans going to Bukhara for trade. For protection, the Karakalpaks, with the help of the Turkmen, will organize a defense fortress of 20,000 people.

The fact that at the end of the 18th century the Karakalpaks formed a defensive fortress of 20,000 people shows that the majority of the population was aware of their martial arts and military skills.

At that time, the Karakalpak settlements in the Kuvondarya and Janadarya basins were frequently invaded by Kazakh feudal lords and Khiva khans. The Karakalpaks are divided into tribes and protected in one place. Sometimes whole tribal associations lived in one place. "Each village has its own fortifications, which are surrounded by soil. In autumn and winter, the whole village takes refuge in it, because during this period there were more regular attacks. "

Apparently, such defensive structures are adapted to the lifestyle of the population and the property of village leaders. In the literature, such forts are found under the name "Kuren". In the winter, most of the Karakalpaks were in the Kuren with their livestock.

"Kuren" was used in the sense of a fort surrounded by a wall made of earth. The Khiva Kuren had a fortified character, where the agricultural inhabitants kept their property and livestock and were protected from the enemy when necessary. "

It is difficult to say how many kuren there were in the Karakalpaks in the 18th century, but documents from 1872 state that there were 13 kuren in the areas where they lived. They are mainly named after the biys and aksakals who govern them: Jontemir Eshan in the Blue Territory, Khudoynazar beglar-begi and Ernazar ataliq in Oktuba, Qabil biy beglar-begi in Aqqala, Uroz otalik in the Ishim canal sheep stream, Odil otalik in Bozkol and Arzi otaliq. Beknazar biy, Omon biy and others in Daoqara.

Especially in winter, the need for such defensive structures increased, because at that time all the water arteries in the riverbeds were ice, nomadic cavalry groups were a good time for invasion, looting attacks, and armed invasions began.

In Karakalpakstan, in addition to stationary defensive structures, there was another fortification called the "chariot siege" (a nomadic defensive structure built of carts). There is information about "Arba Kamal" in the epic *Alpomish*: "He dug a ditch out of the ground, besieged it from a chariot, put the gate in one place, and became a siege."

The emergence of the "Arba siege" among the nomads dates back to ancient times. It can be assumed that such a method of defense was developed in the world of nomads, who conquered the boundless areas of the Great Steppe. The famous historian Rashid ad-Din (1247-1318) says that in ancient times, when a tribe stopped in a certain area, it was located like a ring and its elder was located at the center of the circle. Such a defensive fortification is called Kuren. Kuren is a nomadic settlement consisting of carts and black houses, derived from the Mongolian word "huree", meaning "ring", "camp".

During the Aydos Biy Uprising of 1827, the rebels established the Arba-Kamal defensive fortification in the Saritao area at the foot of the Janadarya. They dug a trench there and built a defensive fortification around it with carts. There were about 2,000 black houses inside the fort. The Arba Qamal defense fort was also used during the Ernazar Batyr Uprising of 1855-1856. Berdakh's Ernazarbiy contains information about this.

Yasovulboshi also came,
The island Karakalpak was jammed.
The siege of the chariot,

Ernazar biy was left alone.

According to AA Roslyakov, Karakalpaks found refuge in the camp "Arba Qamal" during the civil war in Khorezm in 1918.

It should be noted that in the XVII-XIX centuries, the Karakalpaks in combat operations, in addition to stationary defensive structures such as castles, fortresses, kuren, also widely used defensive fortifications such as chariots. Such fortifications were formed under the influence of factors in the lifestyle, geographical location and economic life of the Karakalpaks.

At the beginning of the 18th century, the navkars of the Karakalpaks and island dancers took part in the battles along with the mercenaries of the Khiva khanate. The Kalmyk khan Ayukakhan wrote in a letter to the Russian government on May 16, 1717: They are... Armed with rifles, swords, spears, machetes, bows and other ordinary weapons. "[]

According to D. Rukavkina (1753), "most Turkmens and Aral people volunteered for Khiva. They say that in ancient times these peoples (island Uzbeks and others) were able to mobilize 20-30 thousand people for war. But now it is difficult to gather so many people, there are many reasons for this "[11, 388–391].

From the end of the 18th century, some Karakalpak dancers began to serve Khiva khans. According to the historian of the Khiva khanate Munis, in 1768-1769 Khan Muhammad Amin Inoq with 500 navkars in the military campaigns against the Yavmud and Shavdur tribes of the Turkmens, the dancer of the Chinese tribe Qurbanboy, the dancer of the Keneges tribe Amankul, the bell tribe Esengeldi mahram and Ghoib Bahodir.

At the end of the XVIII - beginning of the XIX century the "Aral region" experienced crises in the socio-political administration. During this period, the united political unity of the island Uzbeks and Karakalpaks was separated. The invasions and military campaigns of the Khiva khans, the political and diplomatic games waged by the khans further accelerated the disintegration of the union.

Initially, Esengeldi biy from the bell tribe became a citizen of Khiva khan. In the 70s of the XVIII century, the second biy of Kungrad, Aydos biy, who ruled the Koldov tribe, received the citizenship of Khiva. Thus, the Karakalpaks are divided into two parts. Aydos biy was appointed governor of all Karakalpaks by a special decree of Khiva khan Muhammad Rahimkhan. The fortress of Akjagis was fortified and from that time it was called Aydos fortress.

As a fortress located in a convenient strategic position in the eastern part of the Amudarya delta, Akjagis became an "important outpost fortress of the Khiva khanate in military campaigns against the Kungrad region and the Janadarya Karakalpaks." In 1810 the Karakalpaks were subjugated to the Khiva khanate due to disagreements between the tribes, lack of unity, and betrayal of the elders and biys.

At the beginning of the 19th century, military operations were organized to annex the Toremurat Sufi Okjagis fortress to the Kungrad region, which unfortunately did not succeed. At that time, the Sufi of Toremurat had about 2,000 cavalry. In 1809-1814, the ruler of the Kungrad region, Sufi Toremurat, and Karakalpak dancers such as Begis and Mirjiq fought against the invasions of the Khiva khans.

In conclusion, At the end of the 17th century and the beginning of the 19th century, the Karakalpaks and the island Uzbeks had their own military armies at certain times. They organized military campaigns and fought defensive battles against the neighboring Bukhara and Khiva khanates, the Lesser Juz Kazakh khanates. The traditional style of the Middle Ages was widely used in the formation of the battle line.

At that time, the main tactical tool of the island Uzbeks and Karakalpaks in the battle was to accept a sudden and rapid attack. As the enemy approached, the soldiers quickly circled around and took up comfortable defensive positions. In the front line of the army gathered warriors who fired at the enemy with bows and rifles, followed by cavalry armed with spears and swords.

At that time, Karakalpaks and island Uzbeks mainly used traditional weapons such as bows, swords, spears, swords, daggers, and clubs. The protective weapons of the warriors were shields, helmets, and various armor. Pilt rifles have been used since the first half of the 17th century. From the beginning of the 18th century, the Karakalpaks began to produce rifles, gunpowder and ammunition.

In the battle, the cavalry was attacked with spears and the infantry with rifles from the ambush, breaking the enemy's line of battle. Occasionally, cavalrymen also used partial-barreled rifles.

Spears and swords were the main weapons among the cavalry at that time. Most of the time, before the army entered the battle, there were group attacks, in which the skilled fighters fought one-on-one. They mostly fought with spears or swords. From the 19th century onwards, with the proliferation of firearms, armored armor began to lose its importance as a means of defense.

Practical advice. In the study of the history of any nation, the study of its history, military history, along with the socio-political and economic life of its culture, spirituality, plays an important role. From this article, fundamental works on the history of the Karakalpak people play an important role in writing pages on the history of military affairs, making documentaries and preparing materials that educate the younger generation in the spirit of patriotism.

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