

“Great Game” participants' comments on the Russian invasion of Central Asia (by US military correspondent Aloizi Januaris McGahan)

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Annotation: The article describes the life and work of the first American military journalist Aloizi Januaris McGahan, who came to Khorezm. The information of a talented journalist who personally participated in the journey of Tsarist Russian troops to occupy the Khiva khanate and covered many details will help to expand the pages of history. His whole life is an example of courage and bravery, devotion to the profession.

Keywords: Great game, Russian invasion, Khiva khanate, Hazarasp, Khanka, Muhammad Rahimkhan.

I.Introduction.

On June 12, 1844, a son was born to James McGahan and Henrieta Dempsey, who lived in New Lexington, Peri County, Ohio, USA. The baby was named Alois. James McGahan had served on the Northumberland before emigrating from Ireland to America, and in 1815 delivered Napoleon Bonaparte, who had been exiled to St. Helena.

When Aloizi was 7 years old, her father died and she was forced to work on a neighboring farm to support her family. At the age of 17, he moved to Huntington, Indiana, where he worked first as a salesman and then as a teacher. In early 1864, Alois moved to St. Louis in January and began working as an accountant for the Union Pacific Railroad. Meanwhile, he met General Philip Henry Sheridan, the hero of the ongoing U.S. Civil War. The general's nationality was Irish, and he played an important role in McGahan's later life.

In December 1868, A.Ya. McGahan went to Europe to study law and came to Brussels (Belgium). Here he mastered German and French in a short period of time, although he could not achieve his goal. By 1870, at a time when McGahan, who was running out of money, was preparing to return to America, war broke out between France and Germany. At this time, General F.G. Sheridan advised McGahan to become a military journalist and hired him for the London branch through James Gordon Bennett (junior), editor-in-chief of the New York Herald (New York Herald). McGahan kept sending instant messages and articles from battlefields in Europe. They were eagerly awaited not only by British and Americans, but also by journalists around the world. After the war, McGahan interviewed Frenchman Leon Michel Gambet and famous writer Victor Hugo.

II.Discussion.

In March 1871, McGahan was one of the first to write about the uprising in Paris and the formation of the commune. That same year, he was arrested by the French military, but was quickly released with the intervention of the U.S. embassy. Shortly afterwards, the journalist continued his work with devotion, despite being captured by the rebels in Spain and

risking his life on the battlefields. McGahan later wrote a pamphlet about these events [1]

Sent to St. Petersburg in 1871 as a correspondent for the New York Herald, McGahan soon learned Russian and covered the journey of American General William Sherman. Well-known Russian journalists and publishers began to see the young man as his close brother. Meanwhile, he got acquainted with the correspondent of the newspaper "Golos" Varvara Nikolaevna Elagina. Originally from Tula, this 22-year-old woman from a noble family married McGahan and gave birth to a son a year later.

On December 3, 1872, it was decided that the Russian army would march against the Khiva Khanate, with 13,000 soldiers and officers, 4,600 horses and 20,000 camels in the ranks of Commander-in-Chief von Kaufmann[2].

McGahan planned to take part in the march to Khiva and set out on March 23, 1873. He was initially accompanied by US Embassy Secretary Eugene Shuler, who was on a trip to Central Asia. When tourists arrive in Orenburg on horseback, in chariots, on skis, they hear that the Russian army left for Khiva a few days ago. Now they hurried to reach the troops coming out of Kazalinsk or Perovsky fort (fortress). But here, too, their hopes were dashed.

"I spent so much money on the New York Herald that I felt morally indebted and felt I had to do something," McGahan lamented. "Sometimes a reporter's situation is so bad that he can't do the job he's facing." whether or not to increase, without even being half aware of the obstacles and difficulties that exist, he begins to work. If he leaves much to be desired, he will try to finish it, no matter how difficult it may be. As a result, some reporters are overwhelmed by courage. mobile, "forehead hard," but in fact such a high price comes to an insignificant fame [3]"

On April 18, 1873, McGahan, who did not consider it necessary to continue his journey and said goodbye to Shuler on his way to Tashkent, set out for Khiva via Kyzylkum with the help of an interpreter Akmamatov, a hired servant and guide Murov, and another young Kazakh camel on six horses purchased from Perovsky Fort. The journalist, who saw the first traces of the

Russians in the Hol-ota gorge, wrote in his diary that the incident took place on the 60th day after leaving St. Petersburg.

Continuing his journey, McGahan, who had arrived at a place called Altykuduk, heard of a pursuit sent from Perovsky Fort with an emergency order to turn him off the road. The point is that the Khiva company, which was kept as secret as possible from the world community, should not have included any foreign journalists or military experts. Because between November 14, 1839 and February 2, 1840, the military governor of Orenburg, General V.A. There were also fears that new military operations, such as Perovsky's heavy and defeated campaign to seize the Khiva khanate, would end in reverse. McGahan, who was constantly forced to be aware of the actions of those who pursued him and those who could deceive him, sought to act hastily and with extreme caution. As a result, he gave everyone a "pand" and chased after the Russian army.

Colonel F.I. Lobyshevich wrote: "On May 17, an interesting man came to the camp and he remained in our squad until the end of the military campaign. In the meantime, he had behaved as a friend and brother to officers and soldiers alike, and had gained confidence. This man was McGahan from the United States. " Among his new acquaintances were Colonel N.I. There were Ivanov, Weimarn, and others.

The day McGahan arrived in the Russian army, the crossing of the Amu Darya began. Three days later, along with Commander von Kaufmann's staff officers, McGahan crossed the river and recorded in detail in his diary what he had seen on his way to Khiva. This information, which will be included in the pages of the future work "Military operations in the Amu Darya and the fall of Khiva" ("Voennye deystvie na Oksuse i padenie Khivy", 1875), captivates the reader with its accuracy and interest.

This fact can also be fully testified by the author of these lines. In particular, suffice it to say that the Russians crossed the Tuynukli crossing from Ak-Kamysh (near the present-day Miskin railway station) on the right bank of the Amudarya to the left bank, and that it was near the village of Toshoka, where the author was born. The Russians, who were camping in the village of Yangibazar, spent a week gathering food and exploring the area. Their detachments estimated the military capabilities of the villages of Pitnak, Karvak, Ovshar, Muhomon, and the fortress of Hazarasp. McGahan wrote about this very convincingly in his book.

When General von Kaufmann's army arrived in Khiva on May 29, 1873, General N.A. Verevkin and Colonel N.P. Troops from Orenburg and Mangyshlak, led by Lomakin, had already invaded. McGahan watched Khiva and recognized its architecture. He then stood with the commander-in-chief in the courtyard of the khan's younger brother, Otajon Tora, in the village of Gandimiyon. Here he met Lt. Col. M.D., who was famous for his courage and bravery. He befriended

Skobolev (b. 1843) and took part in military operations with him during the conquest of the Turkmen.

McGahan wrote in his impressions of Khiva that he had entered the khan's harem and met one of the concubines. In addition to such fabrications woven to interest the reader, when he assessed the Russian army soldiers, he noted that the commanders performed their duties unconditionally and quickly, were disciplined, did not harm the locals and did not allow looting. However, newly studied data show that during the invasion of the Khiva khanate by the Tsarist army, the local population, especially the Turkmen, acted brutally to suppress the resistance, shedding the blood of hundreds of people and looting their property [5].

On August 12, 1873, the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army, K.P. Kaufman and Khiva Khan Muhammad Rahim Bahodirkhan signed a truce. It included the payment of compensation in the amount of 2.2 million soums in gold to cover the expenses of the Russian army, the annexation (seizure) and transfer of the khanate's lands on the right bank of the Amudarya to Russia, special privileges for Russian traders and industrialists, control over foreign relations. McGahan noted that there were a number of difficult conditions, such as the release of slaves and their repatriation[6].

According to the information collected by the journalist, there were more than 30,000 slaves in Khiva. Of the 30,000 Iranians living in the khanate, 27,000 were slaves. The number of slaves belonging to the chief of Mat-Murad alone was 400.

During this period, the number of Iranian slaves in the Khiva khanate alone was estimated at more than 40,000[7]

During his visit to Khiva, McGahan writes that he met Muhammad Rahimkhan. They were the same age, and when they first met, the khan thought the guest was English, and was astonished to hear that he was American. During the conversation, McGahan told the khan about ships sailing in the seas and rivers, weapons made in the United States, especially rifles, the countries of the world and the relations between them[8].

On August 24, Russian troops resumed from the territory of the khanate. Ammo Mc Gaxan M.D. Skobolev and his two assistants stayed in Khiva to inform von Kaufmann about his trip to the Turkmen lands. Another source states that McGahan sailed on the Polvon Canal to the Amu Darya on August 9, 1873, and after staying in Hong Kong for some time, left for Russia on August 21. Among his companions on the way to Orenburg and Samara were General Bordovsky, Pistol Kors, Kolokoltsov, Adjutant Count Milutin, Major M. Alikhanov-Avasky, and others. The next day, as they set out, McGahan wrote that the Khivaites had not been raped and bowed[9].

III. Conclusion.

The events in Central Asia were in the spotlight not only of Russia but of the entire world community. This was especially true of the British, who were seeking

political dominance in Asia. For this reason, one of the English publishers, aware of McGahan's talent, published his book in a short time, in 1874. In 1875, the Russkiy Vestnik Association in Moscow translated the book into Russian and published many copies. The book is based on the work of the famous Russian artist V.V. The inclusion of paintings by Vereshagin and Lieutenant Fedorov further enhanced the impact of the work.

McGahan's book also sparked political controversy, and some rival figures sought to use it. In particular, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Benjamin Disraeli noted that his opponent William Gladstone relied on a lot of false information in the political struggle, in particular, giving money to the American McGahan, writing fabricated works and trying to discredit his government.

Let's look at the evidence. One of the first journalists to cover the Khiva military march was Major N.A., editor of the Turkestanskiye Vedomosti newspaper. It was Maev. Nikolai Alexandrovich, one of Commander-in-Chief von Kaufmann's trusted officers, wrote in a recent article in the newspaper: It would be an understatement to say that the Russian officer was interested in giving false information to his students.

About the march of the Russians mentioned above to Khiva, Colonel F.I. Lobisevich's book was edited by Major-General VN Trotsky, Chief of Staff of the von Kaufmann Army. Vitaly Nikolaevich was a

knowledgeable soldier who had checked many reports and would never allow his subordinate to use false information. Also about McGahan and his book, I.N. Yakunin (Zaxarin), A.I. Scholars who have written works about Khiva, such as Shepelev, have also expressed warm thoughts. His book on Khiva served to expand his impressions of this small khanate, which was very difficult to subdue by the Russians.

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