

# Storage of Military Historical Memory in Vidin Region (A Subject that Outlines Basic parameters Project KP-06-OPR 05/6)

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**Abstract:** *Rich in events and figures Bulgarian military history represents an inexhaustible source for research work. Leading military historiography occupy the wars of the Third Bulgarian State. Occupy an important place research on organizational development, modernization and training of the Armed Forces and the armed forces. Prints combat stories of military formations of the army, which remains emblematic of cities where the lodge. For them, people on the ground keeps bright memories even decades after they disbanded. Consequently, this topic is a timely and useful in view of the primary lines about its substantive aspects.*

**Keywords:** Vidin, military history, Macedonian cultural charity "Gotse Delchev", Society of fighters from the Front 1936-1944, the officer Vidin company Vidin company officer

The theme in the world of preservation of military-historical memory in Vidin region was established under the research project "Christian and cultural heritage of Northwestern Bulgaria - Strategies for preserving and translating local identities" (KP-06-OPR 05/6 ) to fund "Science Studies"(MES). This article attempts to outline the parameters of the study on the military-historical memory in the region. So far the subject has not been studied in depth and it allows us to look at some important aspects. These include mainly outlines ideas regarding specific cultural charities, companies of soldiers, sergeant and other companies to which we will try to turn an objective view.

## 1. Introduction

Topicality and importance of scientific problems is based on the current situation of increasing recourse to spirituality and culture of Vidin region, which threatens the extinction of the primary signs of Christianity, culture, history and identity. Bringing these findings into account national examinations, inspections and analyzes information from official statistical sources and databases. However, that motivates us to deploy strategy with practical scientific innovation, which will not be dependent on the objective conditions and create employment opportunities in the long term. Given this fact to date and the invitation to offer Strategy 1) in accordance with the specifics of the region and the availability of adequate and working closely with local government sectors in the short and long term, and 2) that provides up to date and relevant model of the vision of the State the development of scientific research in Bulgaria, the priorities of the Innovation strategy for smart specialization, the National strategy for higher education, and in a broader plan - and the implementation of the Operational program "Science education for smart growth "and the European Framework Program. This project proposal takes into account the named documents.

### Actuality of study problems

Current situation so far revealed retardation of research on the culture and spirituality of villages in north-western Bulgaria, in particular - in Vidin region in interdisciplinary plan. Research over the past twenty years are fragmented

and unsatisfactory, mainly descriptive, and the model for the continued translation of the spiritual and cultural life in a modern environment completely missing.

The scientific system as a whole continues to integrate difficult in the region not only because of its remoteness from central Bulgaria, but due to increased migration of local scientific potential. In this context the relevance of the project proposal is reinforced by the grounds that the proposed strategy "will attract and retain young people in the country" (Innovation Strategy for smart specialization, p. 11), which corresponds to the vision of innovation strategy for smart specialization. The proposed option is practical deployment process beyond the time limits of the program.

### Status of research on the issue

According to the Innovation Strategy for smart specialization 2014 - 2020, from nasal-orientation of scientific potential in the country, the focus of research and innovative development strategies in northwestern Bulgaria, and especially in Vidin region have been subject discussions and analysis in various scientific and specialized sectors. Unfortunately, the practical results of their development do not report sufficient progress. One of the essential problems of science and research is layering with respect to the humanities years as a phenomenon hardly recognizable practical and applied nature. If humanities research and innovation is recognized as a social factor responsible for the development of society as a whole, addressing the challenges of low cultural and spiritual expression could become much easier.

Regarding research on villages in the Vidin region in the recent past few of them have been subject to historical, archaeological and ethnographic interest, devoid of any intersiplinaryness. Few villages falling in the research field of closely specialized local professionals. Recognizes and low efficiency of the applications of research and low participation of foreign experts.

### Meaningful plan of this topic

Rich in events and figures Bulgarian military history represents an inexhaustible source for researchers and

activists of pen and brush. Captivated by combat glory and heroism of our ancestors they recreate on paper and canvas Bulgarian military glory. Leading military historiography occupy the wars of the Third Bulgarian State. Over the years, research teams and individual authors endeavor to study the organizational construction, modernization and training of the Armed Forces and the armed forces. Prints combat stories of military formations of the army, which remains emblematic of cities where the lodge. For them, people on the ground keeps bright memories even decades after they disbanded.

The undeniable achievements of researchers materialized in rich content War-history bibliography, in our humble opinion, suffer from some incompleteness. The majority of scientific developments affecting different areas of military history in national format and are rarely those that reflect the relations and participation of civil society in military life in peace and wartime. Even in these war stories seen primarily lives in the barracks and on the battlefield, isolated populations and social structures on the ground.

Existing publications concerning certain aspects of the thesis, conditionally can be divided into four groups. The first group includes studies devoted to the history of the town. Vidin region and travelogues about regional developments for individual settlements defenses and forts. They affect certain aspects of the dissertation topic that can successfully promote and enrich this study. [1]

The second group includes publications related to organizational development and preparation of the Bulgarian army, the study of theaters of operations, plans warfare and military equipment and armament. This group includes the published stories of troop units and paramilitary structures in the region. [2] Studies of this group are partially touching interest to our problem. The third group is the largest by volume contains works dedicated to the participation of the army in the wars of Bulgaria. They examined the operations and fighting groupings, formations and units of operational theaters and on the battlefield. [3] They Vidin region only be considered as areas of focus and exit points for offensive formations and units of the Bulgarian Army. The fourth group includes documentary collections and memoirs of participants in the events that partially affect topic. [4]

The analysis set out in four groups developments affecting directly or indirectly the contribution of population in the region in military history of Bulgaria during the period 1878 - 1945, shows that the subject has not been the subject of self-examination and a white spot in the military historiography. This determines its relevance and need for development.

When writing a thesis used archival and documentary sources held at the State Military Archive in Veliko Tarnovo - National Library "St. Cyril and Methodius" - c. Sofia, State Archives - Vidin Regional History Museum - Vidin Regional Library "Mihalaki Georgiev Vidin", Military History library at the Military Academy "Georgi Sava Rakovski" and others. When working on the thesis have been used a number of publications, articles, reports, correspondences, etc. in national and regional periodicals.

The aim of the study was based on archival and documentary sources and publications to investigate and reveal the contribution of the population in Vidin region to the enrichment of Bulgarian military history. To realize the aim, the thesis must solve three groups of research tasks. The first involves researching and analyzing the conditions and prerequisites for determining the place and role of Vidin region in the system of military protection in Northwest Bulgaria. The second group covers the study of the participation and contribution of the local population in wars and led the third group unites finding answers to questions related to the contribution of the people of the region to protect the memory of the heroes and preservation of military traditions and virtues.

Formulate goal and major tasks arising from the object and subject of study. The object of the study is the population of the town. Vidin region, including the army and civil society, refracted through the prism of military events during the fixed period. The subject covers the connections and relationships between civil society, local government, state, municipal and non-governmental organizations in Vidin region with military structures and army staff in peacetime and wartime.

PhD thesis has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the traditional chronological approach to problem-study problems as in the conventional hronologizatsiya are presented interpretations, opinions and conclusions of the author analyzed topic. The working hypothesis of the study is scientifically justified and documented proof of the importance and contribution of the population of Vidin region in Bulgarian military history.

#### **At issue were introduced following restrictions:**

1. The study is a contribution in military history only to the institutions and people engaged in their activities and participating in military formations only in Vidin region at a particular historical period of time, namely the period 1878 to 1945 on 2. "Vidin region" means an area of land bounded by the north of the river. River with over the years included territories and settlements with respect to the studied subject. Structurally topic analyzes the existing publications on the problem and demonstrated the need to study the problem. Presents the purpose, scientific tasks, object and subject of study. Indicate the chosen method of research and the limitations.

The ambition pursued in the development of this work is to enrich the military historiography and to highlight existing "white spot" in terms of the studied problems. The results of this study with success can be used not only by professionals but also in the curricula of military schools and Military Academy.

A timely look at the Macedonian cultural charity "Gotse Delchev" - c. Vidin Following the decisions of the Berlin Congress of 1878 many Bulgarians remain outside the Bulgarian state. This problem is compounded more after the Ilinden Uprising of 1903 After the unsuccessful end of which thousands of Bulgarians were expelled from Macedonia and are forced to seek refuge in Bulgaria. The number of migrants is increasing more and after the wars of

1912-1913 and 1914- 1918, all this creates the need to reconcile this emigration. As a result of this need in 1919 Bulgaria created many Macedonian organizations. In Vidin they are four, are: Macedonian cultural charity brotherhood "Gotse Delchev" Company "Ilinden" Female Emigrant Society and Youth Association "Gotse Delchev" . [5]

Macedonian charity brotherhood stands out as a leader among Macedonian organizations. The main objectives of the brotherhood are to: - incorporating immigrants and refugees from Vidin and county; - maintain spiritual ties of its members with their compatriots who live in Macedonia; - develop cultural and educational activities; - To support morally and materially deprived, collect and store materials throughout the history of their homeland;

The funds that use Brotherhood to achieve those aims are: membership fees, revenue evenings, lectures, performances, greeting cards, gifts, etc. [6] Shortly after the establishment of brotherhood among the Macedonian emigration occurs division. Vidin emigrants decided to maintain neutrality and influence by all means, its cohesion. In this period it refuses material support both one and the other and spend funds collected for other purposes. On the one hand it helps those in need of Macedonia, on the other hand, devotes many resources for cultural and organizational goals. Subsequently occurs unanimity among the emigration and brotherhood decided to revise its statutes in line with the general statute of emigration. This is done on 01.09.1920 In this way it becomes part of the Union of Macedonian brotherhoods in Bulgaria, should adhere fully to the statutes of the Union and rigorously implement its decisions. [7] As one of the main objectives pursued by the Union is a legitimate way to repair the injustice done and to establish an autonomous Macedonia to raise emigration in cultural and educational terms, and assisted financially needy immigrants. To realize these objectives own, he uses different means. By issuing pamphlets, newspapers and books for illumination of public opinion on the Macedonian question, both in Bulgaria and abroad. Union enter into direct relations with all legal Macedonian organizations, regardless of where they are, it is important to pursue the same objective.

He does everything possible announcement of its goals to all international factors and seek support in their face to solve the Macedonian question. Suits scientific lectures, public meetings and gatherings, evenings, concerts and more. All fraternities, which are included in the union have their own autonomy and is governed by its own statutes, which, however, must be in full compliance with the statutes of the Union.

Each fraternity imports two-thirds of all revenues to the treasury of the Union and of the remaining funds assist needy refugees from the area, the extremely poor members or use them for other activities. [8] Vidin Macedonian cultural charity brotherhood counts 170 people in 1920, they have different professions - according to a statement of brotherhood among them lawyers, prosecutors, teachers, merchants, priests, pensioners and others. its members, the vast majority are immigrants from Debar and Debar, and a small part of Kicevo and Kichevo. The total number of family members of Macedonian refugees at that time was

1/8 of the townspeople. These are people who have been accepted, accommodated and fed in our city . [9]

#### **A company of soldiers from the front, the 1936-1944**

Vidin company of soldiers from the front based on the November 26, 1936 by 15 people in the lounge of a popular bank in town. Vidin. According to the adopted statute president is elected Yotso Iliev, Vice-Chairman is Nacho Raykov.

A company of soldiers from the war 1936-1944 The objectives of the company are: to bring together other branches in the region; to maintain good camaraderie between its members; to educate people in the spirit of patriotism and willingness to sacrifice for the Fatherland; erecting monuments to perpetuate the names of those who died in wars; to support the families of those killed and others. The number of members of the company grew over the years as in 1940 it was 128 people, and in the last year of its existence in 1944 - 660. [10] The company of soldiers from the front they intend to make a group visit of "Baba Mountain" in Macedonia. To bow before his comrades gave their lives during heavy fighting peak. Pelister and Red wall during the First World War. Message that their intent find in the newspaper "Bdin fireworks" from October 9, 1941 . [11]

#### **Vidin company officer**

Representatives of Vidin company officer attend a meeting of the Vidin District Council by February 21, 1927 It delegation headed by Al. Ignatiev, thank you for granted 20 000 lev and beg for more 20 000 lev amount they need to conduct IX Congress of alternate officers in the town. Vidin. In gratitude they donated a drawing that adorns the hall of the Council. [12]

#### **Sergeant Company "Bdin"**

For the company at this stage we can mention very little. Information draw from an article dedicated to the 19th regular sergeant Congress, which consists in the town. Vidin. It takes place in the days from 16 to 19 October 1932 and in our city arrived delegates, Uncommon board of the union and its chairman - D. Varbenov.

They are greeted at the station by stack many citizens and members of Vidin sergeant company, headed by Mayor C. Manojlova and President of the company M. Mihaylov. Accompanied by military music they move to sergeant club where al. Radushev welcomed them on behalf of the company sergeant "Bdin."

In response to his words, the President of the union D. Varbenov, thanks for the warm welcome and spoke of the importance of the town. Vidin. After that delegates and visitors, whose number exceeds 1,000 head accomodation. [13]

#### **Vsebalgarski Union "Vasil Levski" - Branch city Vidin**

Unfortunately at this stage the information about the local branch of the company "Vasil Levski" is scarce. From the pages of "Enlightenment" understand that in 1944 consists meeting of the company. It shall give an account of his work over the years: 1941, 1942 and 1943 and elected a new board. Was elected chairman Ivan Kamenov - lawyer;

Secretary-treasurer is Nayden Stefanov and members Ivan Hristov Tsvetan Deninski. Control Commission: Nikola Dimitrov; Trifon Popov and Petar Tsvetkov. [14]

[12] Vd.M - A NI - 573. p. 150-151.

[13] Elan, issue. 14 of October 15, 1932, p. 1.

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