

THE TREATY OF KHOTYN 1621

The Treaty of Khotyn. In the XVII century near Khotyn there was one of the largest military clashes in Europe. This is a battle that, due to its longevity and the number of armies, was called the Khotyn War. It was a combined siege and series of battles which took place from 2 September to 9 October 1621 between a Polish-Lithuanian army with Cossack allies, commanded by the Grand Hetman of Lithuania Jan Karol Chodkiewicz, and an invading Ottoman Imperial army, led by Sultan Osman II. The army of the Zaporizhzhya Cossacks was led by the hetman Petro-Konashevich-Sagaidachny.

The commander of Polish-Lithuanian forces, the Grand Lithuanian Hetman Jan Karol Chodkiewicz crossed the Dniester River in September 1621 with approximately 20,000 to 35,000 soldiers, joined by 10,000 more led by the future king of Poland, Prince Władysław Vasa. This army numbered 30,000 (18,000 cavalry, 12,000 infantry) and their allied Cossack army was composed of 25,000–40,000 troops, mostly infantry, and about 22 guns.

After several costly and unsuccessful assaults in the first week of the siege, the Ottomans tried to take the fortress by cutting off their supply and reinforcements and waiting for them to succumb to hunger and disease. Polish-Lithuanian troops and their allies also suffered heavy losses.

The lateness of the season, the loss of approximately 40,000 of his men in battle, the general exhaustion of the Ottoman army, and the fact that his large force was also running out of supplies compelled Osman II to accept a request from the defenders to start negotiations even though the Polish-Lithuanian forces were almost out of supplies (a legend has it that by the end of the siege, the Commonwealth army was down to its last barrel of gunpowder).

On October 9th, Osman II was forced to sign a peace treaty that amounted to defeat. In some clauses, it favoured the Commonwealth, but the Ottoman Empire also got what it wanted. There were no territorial changes; the Commonwealth-Ottoman border was confirmed to be the Dniester River and the Commonwealth recognized Ottoman control over Moldavia. In the Commonwealth, and among the Cossacks, the stopping of the huge Ottoman army was seen as a great victory.

One of its points (from the Polish side) stated: "With the conclusion of the agreement, we will have to give Khotyn in full order, as it was found when the king's troops arrived, with everything [that was there], to whoever will be the Moldavian master at that time".

According to the agreement, there were no territorial changes: the border between the states ran along the Dniester. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth refused to interfere in the affairs of the Ottoman vassals of Transylvania, Wallachia and Moldova, to which Khotyn was transferred. The Polish-Lithuanian state undertook to prevent Zaporozhian raids on Turkish possessions, and Turkey - Crimean Tatar raids on the territory of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

In honor of the Khotyn Battle, Pope Gregory XV and Pope Urban VIII established a day of remembrance - October 10. Until the end of the 19th century, the Catholic Church held a special service on this day to honor the memory of the victorious Polish-Lithuanian-German and Cossack troops.

As a result of Khotyn's victory over the numerically superior Turkish-Tatar forces, the threat of the conquest of Europe and its absorption by the Muslim world was eliminated. After all, as

historian Petro Sas emphasized: "On the fields of the Khotyn War, not only the fate of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was decided, but also, to a large extent, the fate of Christian civilization." The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth together with the Cossacks and all of Christian Europe received a peaceful rest for several decades.

According to historical sources, it is impossible to trace the exact place of conclusion of the treaty, but there is a mention that it was near Khotyn city.