

The goal and choosing of the topic of the study

After the conquest of Istanbul, the fight between the East and West reached the South part of Central-Europe and this fight redrew the political, military, administrative and demographical relations of Europe. From this period controlled mostly by the Ottomans, numerous written records remained. These events constitute the small parts of the historical researches and they are mostly among the researches of the orientalists. Exploration and processing of the Ottoman manuscripts, that can modify our knowledge about the birth, rising and falling of the Ottoman Empire has been being carried out nowadays too. Diaries, monographs, reports of Turkish travelers and deputies make easier to understand the complicated events, the mentality and the goals of the civilized Eastern society, getting in touch with the Christian societies and taking part in the structural changes of the New Age Europe.

The Ottoman military history takes a smaller place in the historiography than we thought. We often realize that the original Ottoman records and sources do not appear in the literature specialized in the Turkish military history except in the scientific literature of the historiography. Besides this, these well-known editions barely deal with the military organization, strategy, composition of the army units, weapons technology although they process the Ottoman military history in detail.

My dissertation was made on the basis of the diary which can be found in the Topkapı Museum. This diary is about the Ottomans' unsuccessful 23-day siege of Pétervárad in 1694. On the basis of the

source, I tried to find answers to questions like military preparation of the Ottoman army, the headcount of the fighting parties, logistic of the army. Besides, with the results of the dissertation, I tried to draw attention to the importance of using narrative sources in the modern historiography.

Although the source is not quite unknown, neither its edition nor its processing does not suit the contemporary scientific requirements. That is why my goal is to give a picture of the campaign in 1694, its arrangements, the course of the 23 day battle against Pétervárad, the headcount of the fighting parties and the logistic of the campaign. The published and the unpublished sources give such a carefully formed picture which is unique in the Hungarian history from the aspect of the military history. In this way, one of the most interesting and quite unprocessed events of the recapturing wars get important data.

In my research, I would like to emphasize the fact that how differently the certain military events are shown by the Turkish historiographers and in the Habsburg and Hungarian sources.

Research of the topic. Sources

The source I studied has two manuscripts. Besides the piece kept in Istanbul, a non-completed copy of its can be found among the manuscripts of Berlin State Library (Deutsche Staatbibliothek), on the number LXXV-4.

The Berlin manuscript has got a short review in German written by Hammer-Purgstall in the journal of the *Archiv für*

Geschichte in 1829. The same author cited a short part of the text in his voluminous concluding work (Joseph von Hammer: *Geschichte des Osmanischen Reiches*. Budapest, VI. 588-589.). Supposedly Gusztáv Gömörý made the Hungarian translation from the same German text, although he did not name his source. In Hungarian, Gusztáv Gömörý was the only writer up to now who wrote about the Pétervárad siege, albeit he did not specify his sources precisely, but it seems he used one of the German reviews.

I completed my research with studying works about the general internal affairs and foreign policy, the overland and maritime military accomplishments, the equipments of the army, the military units and the traditions of the Ottoman Empire. That is why the division of the Ottoman military forces, the provisioning of the soldiers, the fort system, building roads and bridges on the course of the military marches, finance of the army and data about other similar factors also appear in my dissertation besides the data from the Pétervárad diary of 1694. In my dissertation, diaries written by other chroniclers and the recorded political, military or social data were used to process the diary fully and on a scientific level. The parts about the Pétervárad siege written by Râşid Mehmed Efendi and Defterdar Sarı Mehmet Paşa were helpful for my research too. Besides these I also used a short narrative text in German translation, the *Der Löwe von Temeschwar* telling the events of Pétervárad and written by Ali ibn Mehmed, the keeper of the seal of Cafer Paşa. I used *The Turkish Historiographers* [Török történetírók], a three-volume chrestomathia with many data,

explaining the Ottoman campaigns to Hungary from the viewpoint of the Turkish chroniclers too.

In addition, I used the material of the *mühimme* defters containing the commands of the lords' divan, which was the military and political decision maker corps of the Ottoman Empire. I elaborated the archival materials of the Habsburg side in addition to the sources of the Ottoman side. These records can be studied in Vienna at the War Archive (Kriegsarchiv) and consist of the German-language protocollums of the War Council and the Italian-language correspondence of the officers. With the help of the records I could follow the activity and the war strategy of the emperor's side on the course of the campaign. In my work, I also studied the diary of Imre Thököly who took an active role during the Ottoman campaigns in this period. Due to this I succeeded in demonstrating the military and political developments from the viewpoint of the Kuruc general and elected king of Central-Hungary.

Therefore we can get to know the history of the Ottoman state not only from the official historiography which is called „vak'anüvislik” but also from the writings of the „amateur” chroniclers. About them, we can say that they reflect the feelings of the common people much better and they were more objective in describing the state issues. The anonymous writers create a separate group among the historians because they wrote down their works not for making a rank or getting a position at the Porte and they had not to report to their leaders.

The structure of the dissertation

The dissertation analyses a campaign diary and demonstrates its Ottoman transcript, the Hungarian translation with explanations and other contemporary sources therefore it is very important to carry out an in-depth study on the structure of the Ottoman army, its soldiers, the navy of the lords, weapons technology and war strategy. These points are presented in the chapter of „*Human power and technological conditions in the Ottoman army*”. In this chapter, I deal with the *menzil* and transport system as a particular element of the logistics, the theory of the actio radius and the economical background of the army. Finally, the border fort system and the border fort soldiers are presented and the chapter is closed up with the subsection of „*The Ottomans and Pétervárad*” which details Vauban’s fort building and siege technique and the army’s way leading to the fort. After this, there is the translation and analyses of the diary’s text, then the next chapter presents the diary of Imre Thököly, the texts of the Habsburgs and the mühimme defters containing the commands of the Sultanian divan. The maps serving the better transparency of the siege are placed in the same chapter. In the Appendix, I summarize the most important Turkish people taking part in the siege and the Ottoman transcript of the diary can be found here too.

Results

The conception of the work is the comparison of the Pétervárad campaign's diary and the scientific results of the Ottoman military history. Based on the comparison, I got the following results.

All the sources provide data about the provisional, financial and accommodation problems because these caused problems for both army. Consequently, we can see that the recapturing wars were difficult not only for the Ottomans but also for the emperor's side. We can receive information about the headcount of the units on the score of both the Ottoman and the emperor's army. Of course, both of the parties can provide exact data only about their own units. Only the diary of Thököly does not mention the exact number of the soldiers. Gyula and Temesvár, the strategically important forts are such points which play central role in every sources. The question of the transport appears in all sources too, but the emphasis is placed on the transport of the troops and weapons in the case of the Ottomans and Thököly and on the ammunition and provision in the German and Italian sources. On both side, central topic of the writings is the war strategy of the opponents and the manner of the Ottoman army and the appearance of spies and prisoners in the camps are also important. All the texts provide information on the score of the Ottoman navy as well. But the most significant problem which concerns every units and determines the end of the fights was the weather. All the sources tell about this in detail.

Both Thököly and the Ottoman sources write about the exact daily events, the confrontations, the state of the author's (and

perhaps the army's) mind but we can not find data concerning this topic in any other place. Besides the Ottomans, Thököly also had certain amount of information about the march of the Turkish troops.

There are some data that we can get only by reading the works of the anonymous writer. Such is the march route of the Ottoman army and its duration and it mentions the certain stopping-places by listing and sometimes he presents them in detail. It happens that these presentations and some topics which are important from the viewpoint of our listing like juridical cases of the dependents or daily safety of the habitants are intertwined. The sacking and marauding of the soldiers belong to the everyday life, as well. Referring to these, we are informed not only about the events but also the orders of the leaders concerning to the events or the response of the common people. Of course, besides these questions, the leaders made decrees concerning the soldiers (i.e. money gift) and we can read with interest that people serving in the army were given possibility to advance their claims for the leaders from time to time. The notes augment our knowledge which tell about when, how, who and in what number joined the marching troops or from what kind of social classes and with what kind of motivations these soldiers got to the army. In addition to these unusual data, there are information about the weapon technology of the army, the clothing of the leaders, other equipments and the religion. The anonymous writer begins his work with a pray and the religious tone weaves his whole work through. He prays to God for the success of the march,

solving the everyday problems and the later confrontations. Religion plays a central role in the motivation of the soldiers as well, as we can read at some places, they fight under the command of the shade of God, namely the sultan, from the will of God and in the name of God against the infidels. This legitimates the war activity. We can see that the world of the religion and the system of the Ottoman state influenced the society and everyday life organized by the religion.

I hope that the results I achieved, I could draw the attention to the importance of the study and exhibition of the narrative sources in the modern historiography and I could make understandable a less studied part of the recapturing wars.

Publications connected with the topic of the dissertation

Pétervárad 1694-dik évi török ostroma. Belvedere Meridionale, Szeged. (The typescript of the book is under publication.)

“The Turkish People and the Ottoman Empire from the Perspective of Imre Thököly”. *Universität Leipzig - Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum Geschichte und Kultur Ostmitteleuropas.* (The typescript of the study is under publication.)

“XVII. Yüzyıl Macar Millet Anlayışının İdeolojik İçeriği Açısından Bir Örnek: Kuruz Hareketi ve Askeri Potansiyeli”. *Karadeniz Araştırmaları Merkezi*, S. 28, 2011, 67 – 84.

“Thököly İmre Gözüyle Osmanlı İmparatorluğu’nun 1694 Petrovaradin Kuşatması”. *Gazi Akademik Bakış Dergisi*, S. 6, 2010, 123 - 176.

Presentations connected with the topic of the dissertation

The Turkish People and the Ottoman Empire from the Perspective of Imre Thököly. Jagelló Egyetem (Krakkó, Lengyelország), Eperjesi Egyetem (Szlovákia), Universitat Leipzig - Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum Geschichte und Kultur Ostmitteleuropas (Németország), Szeged, 2009.

Az 1694-es pétervárad-i török ostromról. III. Szegedi Phd-konferencia, Szeged, 2008.