



# TRACES OF PRISONERS OF WAR OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR IN THE KOKAND DISTRICT IN THE FERGANA VALLEY

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## ABSTRACT

*The article examines the history and fate of the prisoners of war of the First World War in the Kokand district of the Fergana Valley, Uzbekistan.*

**KEYWORDS AND EXPRESSIONS:** *prisoners of war, uyezd, fortress wall, citadel, mazar, madrasa, urda, infirmary, evacuation point, name list, baker*

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## INTRODUCTION

Kokand lies in the western part of the valley on the lands of a densely populated oasis, irrigated by numerous canals and ditches, which diverge in a wide fan from the bed of the mountain river Sokh. In ancient times, trade caravans passed through the oasis, so the village that appeared here gradually grew into a large city.

## MAIN PART

In the XIII century, it was destroyed by the hordes of Genghis Khan. In the XVIII century, in its place, the Eski-Kurgan fortress was erected, and a little later, in 1732, the city reappeared, which became the administrative and trade and craft center of the Kokand Khanate.

At this time, a powerful fortress wall was built, which, together with deep ditches filled with water, surrounded the city. It had 12 gates that had their own names. So were the gates of Yaypan, Gijduvan, Sokh, Isfara, Margilan, Rishtan, Namangan, etc. The names corresponded to the roads connecting Kokand with other cities and regions of the Fergana Valley. The gate was guarded by special guards. At nightfall, they locked themselves up until dawn.

The real architectural decoration of the city was the khan's residences, erected by the hands of craftsmen. Their history was revealed by a native of Kokand, the famous ethnographer of Central Asia A.K. Pisarchuk.

The first Kokand citadel is considered to be the citadel of the founding of the city of Shokhrukh, located near the place where the lepers later lived, as a result of which it received the name "Mohauzor Kurgon". In 1947 it was a low hill with a small mazar on it.

The second citadel, about which Academician V.V. Bartold wrote, was erected by Shokhrukh's son, Abdul Karim. It was built of clay and surrounded by a wall with two gates. In the middle of the 19th century, the now defunct Olim Madrasah was built on the site of this citadel.

For subsequent khan residences, the territory on the western bank of the Kokand - say, flowing not far from Chorsu from south to north, was chosen. It was here, on the site of the present Yangi hayot street, that the third Khan Urda was erected under Norbutabey, who ruled from 1770 to 1800.

The fourth urda was the Urda Umar Khan, who sat on the throne from 1809 to 1822. According to V.P. Nalivkin, he was in the place of the Urda of the last Kokand ruler, Khudoyarkhan. During the reign of Muhammadalikhan, who ruled from 1822 to 1842, this urda was rebuilt and received the name "Zarrin" (gilded) or Kyrk soup.

The penultimate urda was the Urda, built around 1864 for the brother of Khudoyarkhan - Sultan Seyid, which was called "Jakhon ori" (Decorating the world). The memory of her was preserved among the



people. The place where she was is known as "Eski Urda" - old Urda.

Khudoyarkhan, twice expelled from the throne, feared for his life. Painful memories of the old urda, where his brother and father were slaughtered, prompted him to build a new palace. A place for it was chosen a little to the west, after which the old Urda was demolished.

The construction of the palace was carried out from 1863 to 1870, and the design of the facade from various new facings was completed in 1873. The construction involved 16 thousand people, 80 craftsmen and 1000 arb [1].

There is an assumption that the prototype of the Kokand Urda was the Yakubkhan's palace built in Khotan not long before. This is all the more possible since not only the masters of Kanibadam, Kokand, Namangan, Andijan, Chust, Uratyube participated in the construction and decoration of the Khudoyarkhan palace, but also the Kashghar people, taken out in 1829 by the Kokand Khan Muhammid - Ali from Kashgar and settled in large numbers in Andijan ... It was through these masters that some of the techniques of folk art of East Turkestan penetrated into the folk crafts of the Fergana Valley [2].

After the conquest of the Kokand Khanate by Russia, the question immediately arose which of the cities of the Fergana Valley would be the regional center. At first, these functions were performed by Kokand. But the location of the city on the ground, the lack of good drinking water in it, which led to a massive illness of the population with malaria and goiter, the concentration of hostile forces in it made Kokand inconvenient for the location of the regional administration. In the end, it was decided to build New Margilan near the city of Margilan, which lies in the center of the valley, where regional institutions were officially transferred from Kokand on April 27, 1877. The city was called by this name until 1907, when it was renamed the city of Skobelev, and in 1924 it received its present name, the name of Fergana. Kokand, on the other hand, entered the Fergana region as a district town with 23 volosts located in the northwest of the Fergana Valley.

Despite the fact that New Margilan was elected the administrative center of the Fergana region, the economic a - in a printing house, 6 people - in a cigarette workshop, 2 people - cooks, 4 people - tailors, 4 people - hairdressers, 17 people - workers on the 17th section of the railway track, 2 people worked at the headquarters of the 3rd brigade, 4 people - in the city hospital, 28 people worked in Shurab, 57 people worked in the Santo field, 19 people worked in the Rishtan field [5] and many others.

In Kokand, more than sixty prisoners of war worked on the railway. They and others, together with local workers, worked conscientiously, honestly,

most of them earned respect among the collective and the city community. In 1916-1922, Kokand was the center for receiving and sending prisoners of war to other camps in the Fergana Valley: Andijan, Skobelev, Osh, Namangan, Jalal-Abad, Khujand.

After the conclusion of a peace treaty by Russia and Austria-Hungary, most of the prisoners of war left for their homeland through the Kokand oblevak.

The archival fund contains a personal list of former prisoners of war foreign nationals who were at work in the Kokand district at the Shurab fishery, 75-85% disabled, assigned to be sent home, who were supposed to receive a payment and be sent to Kokand at the disposal of the head of the Plenbezh evacuation point to the camp for foreigners.

Reason: Telegram Ferobl. Dept. Plainbezh dated July 3, 1920, No. 149.

1. Paul Anton 80%
2. Not bad Michael 85%
3. Stoykinger Rudolf 75%
4. Gak Yogain 80%
5. Baljash Dord 75%
6. Oakgort Hubert 80%
7. Tadar Michal 85%
8. Mother Anton 85%
9. Fishk Bandol 75%
10. Gomesh Shandor 80%
11. Dishary Nazef 80%
12. Yugan Yakob 80%
13. Mechaler Franz 75%
14. Fisher Friedrich 85%
15. Sechedi Kalman 80%
16. Shebostin Istvan 75%
17. Bistrak Yakhosh 80%
18. Mitrovich Peter 85%
19. Chillleg Knore 75%
20. Conchelle Conred 80%
21. Simonovich Joseph 85%
22. Buydi Ferdinand 85%
23. Ignatovich Sandor 85%
24. Tot Joseph 80%
25. Boldish Yanos 75%
26. Mishkavich Stanislav 75%
27. Kokesh Josef 75%
28. Sakalovsky Voytekh 75%

Assistant to the Head of the Kokand Evacuation Center

Pleinbege: signature

Head of the Kokand Evacuation Center

Pleinbege: signature

Printing

June 4, 1920 No. 167

Warned: Konryad Kakshel

Kokesh Yosef

They refuse to leave for their homeland (6).

Thousands of Austro-Hungarian and German prisoners of war, soldiers and officers stayed here



forever. In all cities of the Fergana Valley there are graves of prisoners of war of the First World War. Including in Kokand there is a burial of 552 deceased prisoners of war in a fraternal cemetery. Through the efforts of the research group, it was found out that a monument to Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war was erected in Kokand in 1917. The four-meter-high monument has two entries in Latin. The first entry reads "COMILITONES-AUSTRS-HUNGARIS!" ("Austro-Hungarian comrades"), the second "MORTIUS PROCUL PATRIA 1914-1917", ("The Dead at Home" 1914-1917).

Naturally, the monument was erected in 1917, since Austro-Hungarian and German prisoners of war were in Kokand until 1922. It is difficult to say for sure how many POWs died in the Kokand camp during the period from 1917 to 1922.

The fund contains a letter from the head of the evacuation point of the capture of the city of Kokand dated July 1, 1920 under No. 276. To the head of Feroblevak, the following content: I ask you not to refuse to issue a mandate for the unhindered right to travel by rail from Kokand station to Orenburg station to those leaving for Central Russia for permanent residence below named foreign family nationals disabled persons entrusted to me evacuation center:

1. Satay Boni with his wife
  2. Zatrokh Ivan with his wife and 2 children
  3. Kindel Karl with his wife and child
  4. Rainish Anton with his wife
  5. Staffen Rudolph with his wife and child
  6. Bukhor Franz with his wife
  7. Kasash Georg with his wife
  8. Benz Ferenc with his wife and child
  9. Belshan Franz with his wife and child.
- Assistant to the Head of the Kokand Evacuation Center  
Pleinbege signature  
Head of the Kokand Evacuation Center  
Plenbezh signature [7].

## CONCLUSION

One of those prisoners of war who stayed here, A. Gordon, got married, had two children, and worked on the railway. His son P.A. Gordon. worked as a professor at the Central Asian Institute for Advanced Medical Studies (the author's record from the words of an eyewitness I.I.Dobrov, head of the library of the regional hospital).

## REFERENCES

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3. *Ibid, p. 68*
4. *Sobirov N., POWs of the First World War in the Fergana Valley, T., "Navruz", 2019.*
5. *F.G.A. fund 121, 2, unit xr. 1*

6. *F.G.A. fund 431, 3, storage unit 2*
7. *F.G.A. fund 435, d, 1 unit, store 1*