

Battles and battle tactics of the great Amir Temur and Bayezid Yildirim

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Abstract

This article provides information about the battles and combat tactics of Sahibqiran Amir Temur against the Ottoman Turkish Sultan Bayezid Yildirim.

Keywords: Sahibkiran, ruler of Turan, Ottoman Turkish Empire, 7 arms, center, left and right wings, front, main arm, main guard (manglai), vanguard (avant-garde).

The Battle of Ankara was a major battle fought near Ankara (July 20, 1402) between the armies of Amir Temur and the Ottoman Sultan Bayezid I Yildirim. It involved approximately 200,000 soldiers of Amir Temur and 160,000 soldiers of the Turkish Sultan. The main reasons for this battle were the following (figure 1).

Amir Temur, who managed to subjugate countries such as Iraq, Syria, Dashti-Kipchak, Khorasan, India, and Jeta, was concerned about the growing strength of the powerful Ottoman state established in the Balkan Peninsula and Asia Minor, which were close to the southwestern regions of his empire. The Ottoman Turks, who had defeated a large army of Western European knights and occupied the Balkan states, were also beginning to threaten the regions belonging to Amir Temur [1].

History testifies that Amir Temur entered the borders of Eastern Anatolia with his army in 1386 and defeated a large Turkish military force near the city of Arzinjan. In 1395, Sahibkiran made a second campaign to these lands and captured Sivas. Amir Temur prepared for the Battle of Ankara for more than two years. In 1399, he turned to Rum and besieged the Kamoh fortress conquered by Bayazid. After the conquest of Kamoh, Amir Temur besieged Ankara soon after. This action of Sahibkiran was actually a tactical measure, and the main goal of the experienced commander was to force Bayazid to throw his main forces into

the defense of the city and then deliver a crushing blow to him. Bayazid I, who was stationed with his main military force near



Figure 1. Amir Temur and Bayezid Ildirim

the city of Tokat, learned that Sahibkiran's soldiers were besieging Ankara and hastened to provide assistance to the besieged [2].

Amir Temur cancels the siege of Ankara and sees the reluctance of his opponent to meet him. He places the army units in convenient places on the battlefield (in a place called Chibukabad). Trenches are dug around Lashkargah and security measures are taken. As a result, Bayezid I's army is forced to enter the battle in extremely unfavorable conditions for himself. The Sultan's army suffers especially badly from thirst caused by a lack of water. The Sahibkiran army operates in

its traditional combat formation - yasad. The center of the army, consisting of forty units, is directly led by Amir Temur. The left arm is led by Shahrukh Mirza and Khalil Sultan Mirza for the Juvangar, the Juvangar advance is led by Sultan Husayn Mirza, the right arm is led by Miran Shah Mirza for the Baranggar, and the Baranggar advance is led by Abu Bakr Mirza. The center - on the right side of the arm - are commanders such as Umarshaykh Mirza's son Ahmad Mirza, Toshtemir Oglan, and Shahsuvar. On the left side of the arm are brave men such as Jalal Islam, Tawakkal Karkara, and Ali Muhammad. In front of the ranks of the army, 30 war elephants were prepared for battle (figure 2).



Figure 2. Route of A. Temur's army

On the opposite side, Bayezid I organized his troops from the countries of Rum and Farang and prepared for battle. The right wing of the army - in the barangar - was the Serbian prince Stefan (Bayezid I's brother-in-law) with 20 thousand Farangs, and the left wing - in the juvangar - was the army of Muslim (Suleiman) Chalabi (Boyezid I's son) with the Roman army. Sultan Bayezid I himself remained in the center of the army with 572 men, placing his three sons Musa, Isa and Mustafa in the chagdavul (rear of the army) [3].

The battle began with a fierce attack by the barangar under the command of Mironshah

Mirzo on the enemy juvangar. Bayezid I's unit, unable to withstand the attack of Emir Jahanshah and Emir Kara Osman, fled the battlefield. Noticing the confusion that had arisen in the ranks of Bayezid I's army, Amir Temur ordered all the princes, umars, and noyans to attack the enemy together. The fierce clash continued for a long and fierce time.

Finally, the sultan's soldiers, unable to withstand the onslaught of Sahibkiran's forces, began to retreat. The warriors under the command of Bayezid I resisted until the last moment. After the Janissaries were completely destroyed, Bayezid I and his second son Musa were captured by Sultan Mahmudkhan ibn Suyurgatmishkhan, who was elevated to the khanate of the Chigatay ulus by Amir Temur in 1388. Sahibkiran pursued the remnants of Bayezid I's troops, captured Bursa, Izmir, and reached the shores of the Sea of Marmara [4].

Hamidulla Dadabayev The armies of two great commanders of the Islamic and Turkic worlds, the most powerful rulers of their time, Sahibkiran Amir Temur and Bayazid Yildirim (Yashinchaknar), clashed on the slopes of Mount Stella one morning in June 1402. The battle took place for the city of Ankara, which was besieged by Timur. By the end of the 14th century, the Ottoman Sultan Bayazid Yildirim had conquered vast territories of the Balkans and Asia Minor and began to rule a vast empire. While Bayazid was expanding his empire, Amir Temur was laying the foundation for his vast empire in Central Asia. They were the greatest rulers of their time, representatives of a fraternal nation and a single religion. Nothing prevented the establishment of

mutual respect and friendly relations between the two leaders (figure 3). However, the Creator's decree was different. It is known that Timur wrote to Bayezid several times before he faced him on the battlefield and received a response. In each letter, Timur called on the Ottoman sultan to pursue a thoughtful policy. He emphasized that both rulers were



Figure 3. Before entering the battle

representatives of the same religion and fraternal nation, that Timur's enemies, who were taken under his protection by Bayezid, should be returned to him, and that friendly relations between the two powerful states should be established. However, the Ottoman sultan, who initially responded to Timur's ideas with favorable comments, sent rude and vulgar replies against Timur in his last letters [5].

One of the main mistakes that led to the downfall of Sultan Bayezid was his invasion of the territory of Erzincan, ruled by Timur's vassal Kara Yusuf. Angered by this situation, Timur sent an ambassador to Bayezid and demanded an apology. But the arrogant and self-confident Sultan Bayezid responded insultingly to the powerful Timur. Bayezid violated all the boundaries of diplomatic correspondence with his threatening letters. Timur, riding a horse of anger, immediately ordered to begin a

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campaign against the Ottomans. Soon, the army of Sahibkiran invaded the territories of Asia Minor. The first battle took place in 1399 near the city of Sivas.

In this battle, Bayezid's son Suleiman clashed with units of Timur's army, and Sivas was captured. Bayezid waited for Timur's army 150 kilometers west of Sivas, in a forest and mountain slope that were inconvenient for cavalry. Sahibkiran refused to fight the Ottoman army there, and, having bypassed the right bank of the Kizil Irmak River, moved to the rear of Bayezid's army and besieged Ankara from the rear [6]. The Ottomans were forced to turn back and fight in conditions unfavorable for themselves. The battle for Ankara began on the morning of June 1402, near Mount Stella, with the attack of Sultan Bayezid's army. More than 200 thousand warriors from each side took part in the battle (figure 4).



Figure 4. The battle process

The Ottomans attacked the right flank of Amir Timur's army and tried to break through to its rear, separating its main forces from the reserves. However, Timur's cavalry was able to repel this attack. After that, Timur's right wing army launched a relentless counterattack, separating the main forces of the Ottomans from the reserves and surrounding them. Timur's central and left wings also attacked,

crushing both wings of the Sultan's army. Bayezid's center and Janissary soldiers were also crushed. Sultan Bayezid's surviving soldiers and commanders began to flee in all directions [7].

All three Ottoman princes preferred to abandon their father and flee. Bayazid's loyal generals advised the sultan that the battle was over and that he should flee. However, the sultan refused to flee. Surrounded by the enemy, Sultan Bayazid fought a fierce battle with the enemy until midnight. At midnight, his horse fell, and Timur's warriors captured Bayazid Yildirim. The uncompromising and brutal battle ended with the defeat of the Ottoman Turks. The Ottoman state completely fell under the control of Amir Timur. Two-thirds of Bayazid's army was destroyed on the battlefield. Sahibkiran lost one-eighth of his army. The proud Bayazid, unable to bear captivity, died soon after. Amir Timur divided Bayazid's kingdom between his sons and returned (figure 5).



Figure 5. The battle process

The Battle of Ankara was the largest military engagement of its time. It was a clash between two Turkic peoples. As a result of the battle, the European countries were freed from the growing threat of the Ottoman Turks and were able to regain their footing. The defeat of Bayezid I's army by Amir Temur weakened the Ottoman Empire

for a while. Bayezid Yildirim's defeat delayed the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople (now Istanbul) by 50 years and set back their planned campaigns into Central and Western Europe for some time [8].

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