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Էդիկ Մինասյան

պ.գ.դ., պրոֆեսոր, ԵՊՀ պատմության ֆակուլտետի դեկան

ՀԱՅԿԱԿԱՆ 89-ՐԴ ԹԱՄԱՆՅԱՆ ԵՌԱԿԻ ՇՔԱՆՇԱՆԱԿԻՐ ԴԻՎԻԶԻԱՅԻ ՊԱՏՄՈՒԹՅԱՆ
ՆԵՆԳԱՓՈԽՄԱՆ ԱՂԲԵԶԱՆԱԿԱՆ ՓՈՐՁԵՐԸ

Հիմնաբառեր. Թամանյան դիվիզիա, հայ, զինվոր, խորհրդային, կեղծել, Հայրենական մեծ պատերազմ, Օլեգ Կուզնեցով, Կարմիր բանակ

Օլեգ Կուզնեցովի կողմից գրված «Վիքիպեդիայում հոդված վերաշարադրելը հեշտ է, սակայն վախկոտությունը թաքցնելն անհնար է» հոդվածում ակնհայտորեն առկա են սխալ տեղեկություններ 89-րդ Հայկական հրաձգային դիվիզիա փառահեղ մարտական ուղու վերաբերյալ: Հոդվածի հեղինակը նպատակադրված տարածում է ոչ հավաստի ինֆորմացիա Հայրենական մեծ պատերազմի տարիներին ԽՍՀՄ ռազմական ստորաբաժանումների գործունեության մասին: Հոդվածն իրմեջ պարունակում է ոչ հարգալից, վիրավորական վերաբերմունք Խորհրդային զինվորականության նկատմամբ, ում ներկայացուցիչները մարտնչում էին 89-րդ հրաձգային դիվիզիայի շարքերում: Հեղինակն 89-րդ դիվիզիայի անհաջողությունների օրինակով մատուցում է հայ էթնոսի բացասական ընկալումը ռուսալեզու լսարանին: Հեղինակը, բերելով հայությանը վարկաբեկող մտացածին փաստեր, ակնհայտ աղրբեջանամետ նպատակներ է հետապնդում:

Հանգամանորեն անդրադարձել ենք բոլոր անհրաժեշտ կետերին և թիրախներին, որպեսզի պարզաբանում մտցվի և ներկայացվի ճշմարտությունը:

Edik Minasyan

Doctor of History, Professor, Dean of YSU History Faculty

THE AZERBAIJANI ATTEMPTS TO FALSIFY THE HISTORY OF THE 89TH ARMENIAN TRIPLE ORDER
BEARER TAMANYAN DIVISION

Keywords: Tamanyan Division, Armenian, soldier, Soviet, to falsify, Great Patriotic War, Oleg Kuznetsov, Red Army

In the article “It is Easy to Rewrite a Wikipedia Article, but You Can’t Hide the Cowardice,” written by Oleg Kuznetsov, there is obviously incorrect information containing a certain intent on the glorious combat path of the 89th Armenian Rifle Division. The author of the article deliberately

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disseminates false information about the activities of the military units of the USSR during the Great Patriotic War. The article contains a disrespectful, insulting attitude towards the Soviet military, whose representatives fought in the ranks of the 89th Infantry Division. Using the example of the failures of the 89th division, the author deliberately forms a negative perception of the Armenian ethnos by the Russian-speaking audience. O. Kuznetsov, citing fictitious facts discrediting Armenia, pursues obvious pro-Azerbaijani goals.

We have raised all the necessary questions in order to provide clarifications and present the truth.

Эдик Минасян

доктор исторических наук, профессор, декан факультета истории ЕГУ

**ПОПЫТКИ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКОЙ СТОРОНЫ ФАЛЬСИФИЦИРОВАТЬ ИСТОРИЮ
АРМЯНСКОЙ ТРИЖДЫ ОРДЕНОНОСНОЙ 89-Й ТАМАНСКОЙ ДИВИЗИИ**

Ключевые слова: Таманская дивизия, армянин, солдат, советский, фальсифицировать, Великая Отечественная война, Олег Кузнецов, Красная Армия

В статье «Переписать статью в «Википедии» просто, но трусость не скрыть», написанной Олегом Кузнецовым, очевидным образом присутствует неверная, содержащая определенный умысел информация о славном боевом пути 89-й Армянской стрелковой дивизии. Автор статьи намеренно распространяет недостоверную информацию о деятельности воинских подразделений СССР в годы Великой Отечественной войны. В статье содержится неуважительное, оскорбительное отношение к советским военным, представители которых воевали в рядах 89-й стрелковой дивизии. На примере неудач 89-й дивизии автор преднамеренно формирует негативное восприятие армянского этноса со стороны русскоязычной аудитории. О. Кузнецов, приводя вымышленные факты, порочащие Армению, преследует очевидные проазербайджанские цели.

Нами были затронуты все необходимые вопросы, чтобы дать разъяснения и представить правду.

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A Historic Reference Regarding the Article of the Candidate of Historical Sciences O. Yu. Kuznetsov “It is Easy to Rewrite a Wikipedia Article, but You Can’t hide the Cowardice”

It is a well-known fact that from the first days of its formation (May 1918), the Azerbaijani state tried to falsify the centuries-old Armenian history beginning with the formation of the Armenian people up to the modern historical events. The presidents of Azerbaijan, Heydar and Ilham Aliyevs,

have gone even further, considering not only Western Armenia Turkish, but also Eastern Armenia (the current Republic of Armenia) and its capital Yerevan Azerbaijani. By invading and misappropriating Armenian territories, they not only destroy any historical monument reminiscent of Armenian heritage there, including tombstones and khachkars, but also bribe various foreign so called “authors” making an attempt to falsify our heroic history, humiliating the victories achieved by the Armenian people. One of the pro-Azerbaijani so called “authors” is the Russian “historian” Oleg Kuznetsov, who was bribed by Azerbaijan and, being an author of only a few articles, became a member of the Azerbaijani Academy of Sciences, taking into consideration his anti-Armenian services, especially the falsification and discrediting of the activities of some Armenian heroes, prominent Armenian military and statesmen. Through such falsifiers, the Azerbaijanis try to substantiate their “ancient” existence in the occupied territories of Armenia, considering them their own.

Russian “scientist-historian” Oleg Yurievich Kuznetsov, who is mentioned in his biographical information site as a morgue worker, does not hide his pro-Azerbaijani, pro-Turkish attitude and preferences, sources of foreign funding and the usefulness of working for foreigners. Thus, on February 6, 2020 the electronic resource vesti.az published an article from Wikipedia entitled “Cowardice cannot be hidden: the accusation of a Russian expert against the Armenian Foreign Ministry” where the so-called “historian” accuses the Armenian Foreign Ministry of lying regarding the glorification of the 89th Armenian Tamanyan Division.

With the materials in his article, Kuznetsov tries to pass the reader a conclusion about the cowardice of soldiers, especially with ethnic characteristics, highlighting their Armenian origin. He presents the retreat as a phenomenon typical exclusively of the Armenian divisions, while at that time in the first years of the war it was obvious that the retreat referred to practically all directions of the front, all the divisions. The pro-Azerbaijani historian gradually prepares the Russian reader to form a negative opinion about Armenians in general. The author’s methodology and analysis do not meet the requirements of historiography.

In the article, having singled out from numerous documents describing the situation in the northern military formation of the Transcaucasian Front at the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, only letter No. 1166, written by the head of the political department of the North Caucasian Army, Brigadier General Khalil Nadorshin, to Shcherbakov, the head of propaganda of the Red Army, the pro-Azerbaijani “historian” guided by the general text of the method of deliberate analysis, inappropriate for historiography, which speaks of the same general situation in the Georgian (2), Azerbaijani (3) and Armenian (2) divisions, which by the way was at the beginning of the Second World War on all fronts, highlights the state of affairs in the Armenian 89- division, with the aim of discrediting the Armenians, especially the Armenian soldiers and officers.

Accusing them of cowardice, treason and even falsifying the date of the letter, October 18, 1942, the “historian” dates it as of the end of October 1943, trying to shift the situation not to the beginning of the war, but later, with the above-mentioned goal. The author deliberately blames only the command and the soldiers for the losses suffered by the division, forgetting the insufficient level of armament of the division. The author’s conclusions do not correspond to the assessment of the historical place and role of the 89th Tamanyan Infantry Rifle Division. The conclusions of the pro-

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Azerbaijani author are deliberately intended to downplay the heroic activities of the Division, calling the Armenian soldiers cowards, also presenting the command staff as a disorganized one with an irresponsible behavior.

He forgets about the glorious military victories of this division. Beginning with August 8, 1942 up to May 9, 1945 the Tamanyan Division under the leadership of its hero commander Nver Safaryan covered 7250 km, 3690 of which were in persistent battles. During that time the division liberated more than 900 settlements and 30 cities from the fascist invaders. In the bloody battles, the military units of the division destroyed 10863 soldiers and officers of the enemy with a large amount of military equipment, captured 9591 soldiers and officers, as well as a large amount of ammunition and military equipment. During the whole military operations, more than 12,000 soldiers and officers of the division were awarded with military orders and medals. 9 of them were awarded the title of Hero of the USSR, and 8 became full knights of all ranks of the Order of Glory.

The division was the only national division whose glorious victories were taken into consideration by the Soviet leadership, and Joseph Stalin personally allowed them to enter the German capital Berlin, where Armenians danced “Kochari” at the Walls of Reichstag.

Fulfilling the order of Azerbaijan, this bribed pro-Turkish author even allows calling the Armenian national statesmen Dro, Nzhdeh nationalists, interfering in the internal affairs of Armenia, advising to remove their monuments from the territory of Armenia. Here is the impudent behavior of the falsifier of history Oleg Kuznetsov, his falsification of the history of the Great Patriotic War and his pro-Azerbaijani, deliberate behavior that is not consistent with science.

We have presented the answer to this falsifier of history by interpreting the undeniable historical facts, we have approved it by the decision of the Academic Council of YSU Faculty of History, where we have demanded that he be sued. We do not, therefore, dwell on our detailed answers to this forger.

Now we should make a detailed analysis via answering a number of questions, to justify what we have written above.

Does the methodology of analysis and presentation of the original source, applied by the author in the article, correspond to the requirements of historical science?

1. The article, published on Wikipedia and the methodology of analysis do not meet the requirements of historiography. Referring to the report No. 1166 from numerous similar documents describing the situation in the Northern Army of the Caucasian Front at the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, the author is guided by a method of deliberate biased analysis inappropriate for historiography. The state of affairs in the Georgian, Azerbaijani and Armenian divisions, by the way, was the same on all fronts at the beginning of the Great Patriotic War. And the author highlights only the situation in the Armenian 89th Infantry Division, deliberately discrediting Soviet soldiers and officers on the basis of ethnic origin.

The date of the report, October 18, 1942, is also incorrectly reflected. The author dates it to the end of October 1943, thereby trying to shift the events described not to the beginning of the war, but to a later period.

That is, historical science, the academic scientific method does not imply drawing parallels between the successes or failures of Soviet military formations during the Great Patriotic War and the ethnic composition of this or that formation.

Also, historical science does not recognize the artificial correction of dates and events. Impartiality, comprehensiveness and criticality as the principles of science do not leave room for a one-sided presentation of the facts of history by a scientist in interests that are far from science.

Summarizing the above mentioned, we should note that the analysis applied by the author is characterized by:

- complete disregard for the heroic career of the 89th Tamanyan Infantry Division from Arm. SSR to Berlin.

- a superficial study of a fragment of the history of the Tamanyan Division (1942) and, on this basis, biased conclusions about the entire combat route of the division, marked by state awards for the talent and skill of military leaders, and the heroism of soldiers and officer corps.

A biased approach to the study of the 1942 fragment led the author to ignore the macro-context of the history of the Great Patriotic War of 1941-42, namely:

- a. the perfidious attack of Nazi Germany revealed many of the mistakes made by the country's leadership. As a result of the military disaster, more than two million Soviet soldiers were captured.

- b. the operation of a brutal machine within the army led to the abandonment of personal initiative by many officers and the preconceived explanation of failures in order to avoid military tribunal.

- c. the hasty throwing of completely understaffed, not fully trained and not having combat experience formations into the furnace of battles (night attacks) sometimes led to desertion and capture.

- d. The Red Army, by and large, learned to fight in 1941-42.

Based on the foregoing, we believe that the biased approach of the author of the article is not only unscientific and unfair in relation to the historical route of the 89th Tamanyan Infantry Division, but also casts a shadow on the bright feat of the Soviet people, who, at the cost of the lives of millions of their sons, saved humanity from Nazi evil.

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What exactly is the report about?

2. The report refers to the activities of 7 national divisions operating as part of the Northern Army of the Caucasian Front, the existing situation in these formations. Of these, 2 were Georgian, 2 Armenian and 3 Azerbaijani national divisions. The report says that in almost all of these national military formations, party-political and educational work, especially work with soldiers, commanders of non-Russian nationalities, was in a neglected state. The commanders and political instructors did not take into consideration the national characteristics of all the fighters, their way of life, and, therefore, very often a heartless and rude attitude dominated. As a result of the neglect of educational work with personnel, poor study and knowledge of people, the lack of elementary work on combat cohesion of units and their preparation for participation in battles, the condition of most national divisions until recently was poor (see p. 399).

Is only the Armenian 89th division being discussed by Soviet officers?

3. It should be noted that in the report of the Head of the Political Department of the Northern Group of Forces of the Transcaucasian Front, Brigadier Commissar Kh.S. Nadorshin to the head of the Main Political Directorate of the Red Army A.S. Shcherbakov on the conditions in national divisions in the Northern Group of Forces of the Transcaucasian Front, the situation around the Armenian 89th Infantry Division was not the only subject of discussion, and this document applies to all national divisions of the Northern Group of Forces of the Transcaucasian Front.

Does the interpretation of the report of the Head of the Political Department of the Northern Group of Forces of the Transcaucasian Front Kh.S. Nadorshin to the head of the Main Political Directorate of the Red Army A.S. Shcherbakov to the reality, as written by the author of the article?

4. In the author's comments, the content of information regarding the report of Nadorshin to Shcherbakov partially corresponds to the original document, since in this unscientific article the author aimed to discredit the Armenians, presenting the command staff and fighters of the 89th Infantry Division as irresponsible, demoralized, unprepared for hostilities, hostile persons, ready to betray the Motherland, citing the fact of the transition of 400 man on the side of the enemy from a division of 12,000 people. The author writes despite a number of historical sources stored in the archives of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation: (CAMO RF, fund of the 45th Army, inventory 9458, d. 24, sheets 496 - 504), (CAMO RF, fund of 89th Infantry divisions, inv. 1, file 64, sheet 37, file 65, sheet 119-120, inventory 825376, file 1, sheet 1-2), Combat route of the 89th Armenian Tamanyan Red Banner, orders of Kutuzov II degree, Red Star Infantry Division (1942-1945), collection of materials, Yerevan, pp. 670-685).

In the article under study, the author deliberately blames only the command and soldiers for the losses suffered by the division, without pointing to the armament of the 89th Infantry Division, for which the picture was as follows: instead of the planned 7000 rifles (of the Mauser type), the division had the same number of rifles of the old system, instead of 339 sniper rifles - 100, 635 instead of 655 machine guns, 101 instead of 114 machine guns, 140 instead of 279 anti-tank guns, etc. 45th Army, inventory 9458, case 24, sheets 496-504). Despite the shortage of various types of weapons and military equipment by almost half, the inspection commission of the 45th Army found that the division was ready to be sent to the front, while the level of weapons included machine guns, sniper rifles, artillery shells, anti-tank artillery shells, vehicles. Insufficient supplies during subsequent battles would definitely affect the firepower of the division, and the effectiveness of the tasks. The order to send to the front, signed by the commander of the 45th Army, Lieutenant General Remezov, was issued on August 6, 1942. The military units of the division moved by train from the railway station of Yerevan to Grozny. The division became part of the 24th Army of the Transcaucasian Front and was stationed on the right bank of the Terek River. Both before departure, and on the way, during unloading, the spirit of the personnel of the division was persistent; the mood of the fighters and commanders was high. There were no emergencies and incidents during this time. The personnel of the division was ready to fight selflessly and fulfill the promise given to the people - to return home with victory: (source - K. Harutyunyan, Armenian national military formations in 1918-1945. Yer., 2002, p. 210, in Armenian), as well as (CAMO, fund of the 89th Infantry Division, inventory 825376, file 1, sheets 2-3, inventory 1, file 3, sheet 1).

Do the author's conclusions correspond to the real historical place and role of the 89th division during the Second World War? Does the author reveal to the reader that the 89th Division is the forerunner of the Tamanyan Twice Red Banner Division?

5. The author's conclusions do not correspond to the real historical role of the 89th Division during the Great Patriotic War. The author does not disclose to the reader that we are talking about the 89th Infantry Tamanyan Division. The author's conclusion is deliberate, aimed at downplaying the heroic role of the 89th Infantry Division, forming a false conclusion that the Soviet soldiers of the Armenian origin are cowardly, disorganized, and the command staff is not ready to fulfill their duties (the author does not indicate that the division commander, Lieutenant Colonel Andranik Sargsyan, although he was replaced by Colonel Artashes Vasilyan on October 14, 1942, was promoted to commander of the 41st division, appointed deputy chief of staff of the 12th army, head of the operational department, in 1944 commander of the 236th Infantry regiment, etc.). It is known that on September 18, the division became part of the 9th Army of the Northern Group of Forces, fought defensive battles in the direction of Tersky and Balashov, thereby receiving its first "baptism of fire" in the battles for the Caucasus. On September 26, after artillery preparation, the military units of the division went on the offensive in order to liberate the settlements of Terek, Terskoye and Predmostny. Although the troops of the division were unable to liberate the settlements in four days of fierce fighting, they blocked the enemy's path to Grozny. The division suffered heavy losses in those battles; on September 30 it was withdrawn from the reserve of the 9th Army, where it was

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replenished with new forces. The division remained in reserve until October 17, when the next day parts of the division connected with the advanced military units of the 9th Army and from October 21 took up defensive positions in the Grozny area, preventing the enemy from advancing from the city to the southeast. For 2.5 months of defense near Malgobek, the division took part in 35 battles, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy in manpower and equipment. On January 1-10, 1943, the division pursued the enemy in offensive battles, from January 1 to January 10, 1943, the division pursued the enemy in offensive battles, on January 2, 1945, liberated the city of Malgobek; on the 4th - the village of Khamidia, on the 6th of January it crossed the Terek, on the 10th it reached the village of Soldatskaya. Until February 9, the division moves along the route Georginsk, Mineralnye Vody, Voroshilovsk (Stavropol). Arriving in Gabozovaya Balka, the division was withdrawn to the first echelon of the army, having received a combat order to occupy the settlement of Novo-Dzherelievskaya. However, due to the attack of enemy tanks in ambush on February 9-10, the division suffered heavy losses. The division commander A. Vasilyan died and many others died in night battles of unequal strength. Nevertheless, the village of Novo-Dzherelievskaya was liberated from the enemy (in honor of the 35th anniversary of the liberation of Novo-Dzherelievskaya in 1978, one of the streets in the village was renamed in honor of the 89th Infantry Division). Colonel A. Vasilyan was replaced by Colonel Nver Safaryan (major general from December 1943). He led the division until the end of the war. At the end of February 1943, the division took up positions on the northern coast of the Sea of Azov along the Taganrog Bay. In early September of the same year, the military unit was again withdrawn to the positions of the North Caucasian Front as part of the 18th Army. They took up positions in front of the “blue line” of the enemy, fortified on the Taman Peninsula, on the site of Mount Sakharnaya Golovka-Dolgaya. On September 12, the division, along with other troops of the front, went on the attack, breaking through the “blue line” after several days of fierce fighting. During the assault on Mount Dolgaya, the senior sergeant of the division Hunan Avetisyan, Suren Arakelyan and ordinary sapper Jahan Karakhanyan performed an immortal feat. They were posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

The following is a far from complete list of soldiers of the division who were awarded various ranks and awards, which are not mentioned in the author's publication. (Source - <https://nashasreda.ru/uchastie-89-j-tamanskoj-strelkovoij-divizii-v-boyax-za-kerch/>):

By the order of the troops of the Separate Primorsky Army # 0213 dated March 24, 1944, the machine gunner of the 3rd machine gun company of the 526th Infantry regiment of the 89th Infantry Tamanyan division, Red Army soldier Miran Balabekovich Khachatryan, born in 1922, was also awarded the Order of the Red Banner in 1942 by the Martuni District Military Commissariat of Armenia. In the battles for the Crimea, he was also awarded two military orders. Unfortunately, during one of the battles, he died...

Gunner of the 3rd machine-gun company of the 526th Infantry regiment of the 89th

Infantry Tamanyan Division, Red Army soldier M.B. Khachatryan will die as a hero on May 11, 1944 in the battles for Sevastopol. By the order of the command of the Separate Primorsky Army # 0527/n dated July 15, 1944 (Posthumously), he was awarded the Order of the Patriotic War, 2nd degree. Among M. Khachatryan's military awards is the medal "For Courage", which he received by the order of the commander of the 525th joint venture of the 89th RD (# 030/n, 20/10/1944), having distinguished himself in the battles for the Taman Peninsula...

More than a dozen people who, for the feats committed in the battles for the Crimea (mostly for Kerch and Sevastopol), were preparing documents for conferring the titles of Heroes of the Soviet Union, due to a number of unclear reasons, were awarded orders. The time when the higher command made such decisions falls on June-July 1944, when, following other peoples, Armenians were also subjected to special resettlement from the Crimea. In most cases, such decisions were made for the fighters of the 89th Tamanyan Infantry Division (thrice decorated). Among them is the commander of the 2nd Infantry Company of the 400th Infantry regiment, Captain Hambardzum Alexandrovich Anoyan, born in 1909, who was called up in 1941 by the Kirovabad City Military Commissariat.

During the Great Patriotic War, H. Anoyan was awarded the Orders of the Red Banner (2), Bohdan Khmelnsky 3rd degree, Patriotic War 2nd degree and the Red Star. He received two of these orders in the battles for Kerch and Sevastopol. Before the battles for the Crimea, he distinguished himself in the battles for Taman, for which he was awarded the Order of the Red Star. H. Anoyan is a participant in the Kerch-Eltigen landing operation and the battles for Kerch...

By the order of the Separate Primorsky Army # 0213 dated March 24, 1944, he was awarded the Order of Bohdan Khmelnsky, 3rd degree. It should be noted that by the same order, the Order of the Patriotic War of the 2nd degree were awarded those, who distinguished themselves for Kerch:

- commander of the 2nd Infantry battalion of the 390th joint venture captain Avanesov Rafael Gaevich, born in 1921, in the Red Army since 1938, was called up from Baku. During the war years, he was also awarded the Orders of the Red Banner, the Order of the Patriotic War of the 1st degree, the Red Star;

- Commander of the 2nd mortar company of the 526th joint venture Captain Akopov Georgy Arshakovich, born in 1922 in Baku. He will be awarded the Order of the Patriotic War of the 2nd degree in the battles for Sevastopol. Among his military awards are also the Order of the Patriotic War of the 1st degree (the second will receive in 1985), the Red Star;

- Assistant platoon commander of the 2nd Infantry Company of the 2nd Infantry Battalion of the 526th joint venture, Starshina Sargis Militosovich Vartanyan, born in 1914, was called up by the Kotayk District Military Commissariat of Armenia. In the battles for Sevastopol, he will be nominated for the Order of Lenin, but will be awarded the Order of the Red Banner. He died on March 2, 1945.

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Posthumously, he will be awarded the Order of the Patriotic War, 1st degree. Among his military awards, there is also the medal “For Courage”, which he received in the battles for Taman;

- telephone operator of the communications platoon of the 1st Infantry battalion of the 526th joint venture, Red Army soldier Abel Samsonovich Grigoryan, born in 1922 (posthumously, died in Kerch on January 27, 1944). He was drafted in 1941 by the Dilijan District Military Commissariat of Armenia;

- the commander of the department of the 3rd Infantry Company of the 526th joint venture, Sergeant Hovhannes Abramovich Galustyan, born in 1922 (posthumously, died on January 28, 1944 after forcing the Katerlez River). He was drafted into the Red Army in 1941 by the Alaverdi (Alagez) District Military Commissariat of Armenia. In the battles for Taman he was awarded two medals “For Courage”;

- the commander of the department of the 3rd machine-gun company of the 526th joint venture, Starshina Artavazd Oganosovich Mkhitarian, born in 1911, a native of the city of Kars, was called up by the Yerevan City Military Commissariat in 1941. In the battles for Taman he was awarded the medal “For Courage”. In the battles for Germany on April 14, 1945 he was seriously wounded, where he died and was buried;

- commander of the Infantry platoon of the 3rd Infantry Company of 526th joint venture, senior sergeant Markar Gasparovich Khachatryan, born in 1903 (posthumously). A native of Western Armenia (Turkey), he was drafted by the Talin District Military Commissariat of Armenia. He fought for the Caucasus and Taman, was awarded the medal “For Courage”. He died on January 29, 1944 and was buried at the divisional cemetery in the village of Kolonka (Kerch);

- shooter of the 4th Infantry Company of the 526th joint venture, Red Army soldier Avanes Sarkisovich Edigarov, born in 1908 (posthumously). He was drafted in 1941 by the Khanlar District Military Commissariat of Azerbaijan. He died on January 28, 1944 in the battles for Kerch.

As mentioned above, the detailed list is available at the link provided.

On October 3, 1943, the division liberated the city of Taman, for which, by the order of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of October 9 (CANO, RF, fund of 89th Infantry Division, inventory 2, file 31, sheet 277), it was awarded the honorary title Taman. After the liberation of the peninsula, on November 21-25, the 89th Armenian Tamanyan Division carried out a landing on the Kerch Peninsula and, as part of the Separate Coast Guard Army, from December 1943 to April 1944, took part in the battles for the liberation of the Kerch Peninsula and the city of Kerch. For the exemplary performance of the assigned tasks in the battles for the liberation of the city of Kerch and for the

courage shown, the division was awarded the Order of the Red Star by decree of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of April 24, 1944 (ibid., p. 276, continued in Hist. reference).

Has the Soviet leadership assessed the activities of the division?

6. The Soviet leadership highly appreciated the activities of the division, as evidenced by the titles, orders, medals and awards assigned to the soldiers. On October 9, 1943, by the order of the Commander-in-Chief the division was awarded the honorary title of Tamanyan (CANO, RF, fund of 89th Infantry Division, inventory 2, file 31, sheet 277) for active participation in the military operation to clean up from Nazi troops. For valiant performance of tasks in the battles for the liberation of Kerch and for the courage shown at that time, the division was awarded the Order of the Red Star by the decree of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of April 24, 1944 (CAMO, RF, fund of 89th Infantry division, inventory 2, file 31, sheet 276).

By the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of May 24, 1944, for heroism and courage shown in the exemplary performance of tasks during the liberation of Sevastopol, the division was awarded the Order of the Red Banner, and its 390th and 400th Infantry regiments were awarded by the order No. 0136 of the same day of the Commander-in-Chief the honorary title of Sevastopol. On May 7-12, 1944, in the battles for Sevastopol (especially at the foot of the Gornaya height), for outstanding deeds, 5 fighters were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union by the order of March 24, 1945 (CAMO, RF, fund 33, inventory 793756, file 3, sheet 165, file 43, sheet 125, file 51, sheet 142, file 4, sheet 49).

The division was awarded by the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of May 28, 1945 for the exemplary performance of command assignments in battles during the breakthrough of the German defenses and the attack on Berlin and the valor and courage shown at the same time (CAMO, RF, reference book about Infantry divisions, inventory # 1389, page 270). The 154th separate self-propelled artillery battalion of the Tamanyan Division was awarded the Order of Alexander Nevsky by the order of June 11, 1945 (CAMO, RF, fund 154th SSPA, 89th Infantry division) (CAMO, RF, fund 154th SSPA, 89th Infantry division, inventory 327752, file 1, sheet 10).

From August 8, 1942 to May 9, 1945, the 89th division covered 7250 km, of which 3640 km were in stubborn battles. During this time, the division liberated more than 900 settlements and 30 cities from the Nazi invaders. In bloody battles, the military units of the division destroyed 10,863 enemy soldiers and officers, 32 tanks and self-propelled artillery mounts, 169 artillery pieces of various calibers, 163 grenade launchers, 289 machine guns, 6 aircraft, 11,060 cars, 85 trucks, 22 tractors, 2 armored personnel carriers, 635 wagons who transported cargo of various types, captured 9591 enemy soldiers and officers, took as a trophy 15 tanks, 227 artillery pieces of various calibers, 444 machine guns, 49 grenade launchers, 3600 machine guns, 32 anti-aircraft artillery guns, 2149 cars, 685 motorcycles, 1,400 bicycles, 1,000 carriages, 1,200 horses, 10 railway trains, ammunition, 41

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food and uniform depots, more than 120,000 rounds of ammunition, etc. (CAMO, RF, fund of the 89th Infantry Division, inv. 1, doc. 2, ah. 19-24). Over the entire period of hostilities, more than 12,000 soldiers and officers of the division were awarded military orders and medals. 9 of them were awarded the title of Hero of the USSR, and 8 became full holders of all degrees of the Order of Glory (Kliment Harutyunyan, Armenian national military formations in 1918-1945, Yerevan, 2002, p. 242-243).

If so, is there any information about it in the article?

7. However, this article does not contain any information about the further actions of the division, the titles awarded to its soldiers, awards to soldiers and officers, medals and orders awarded by the Soviet leadership.

Does the author justify the military failures of the division by its ethnic composition?

8. The author tries to explain the combat failure of the division by the peculiarity of its ethnic composition, accusing the Armenian soldiers and officers of not resolving party, political, domestic and other issues. At the same time, he deliberately belittles the heroism of Soviet soldiers and officers of the Armenian origin, does not mention the heroic combat direction of the Tamanyan Division, highlighting only that part of the story about the 89th Division, where the Georgian, and especially the Azerbaijani 223rd division dominate.

Does the author explain what were the true problems of ethnic divisions, for example, in mistakes in commanding the front?

9. The author does not give a detailed explanation of what the real problems of the ethnic division were, for example, the mistakes of the front command. With this argument, he is trying to accuse the Armenian command staff of the division, the fighters, and not the front command, of the fact that the division's servicemen do not speak Russian, forgetting that the condition for the creation of national divisions was to give and execute commands in the national language. That is why the national divisions had their own newspapers.

Does the article contain deliberately false, fragmented information about the events on the Caucasian front of hostilities in the USSR during the Second World War?

10. The article contains incorrect, deliberately separate information about the events on the Caucasian front and military operations during the Second World War. It is known that the Patriotic War was an integral part of the Second World War. The author in his article in a biased way presents the actions of the Soviet soldier in 1942-1943 as irresponsible, emphasizing the propensity to go

over to the side of the enemy. It is obvious that the goal is to completely discredit the fighters who did not divide each other by nationality.

Is it possible to conclude from the article that its author allows the dissemination of deliberately unreliable information about the activities of the USSR and its military units during the Second World War?

11. It can be concluded that the author of the article deliberately disseminates false information about the activities of the military units of the USSR during the Great Patriotic War. It is known that the battles for the Caucasus were not only the first period of hostilities when the Soviet army retreated in an unorganized manner, suffering heavy losses and prisoners, but also from the end of 1942, especially in 1943-1944, during the liberation of Kerch, Sevastopol, Crimea as a whole, the liberation battles moved to Ukraine, Belarus, Poland, and Germany. Instead of presenting an impartial picture, the author of the article deliberately distorts the facts about the first stage of the war, citing fictitious facts that discredit the Armenians.

Does the article contain disrespectful judgments and insults against the Soviet soldiers who fought in the 89th division?

12. The article contains a disrespectful, insulting attitude towards the Soviet soldiers, who fought in the ranks of the 89th Infantry Division. Deliberately criticizing the image of a Soviet soldier, including those of Armenian origin, especially demoralization and a tendency to go over to the side of the enemy, he shows his negative attitude towards the Soviet soldier who fought in the ranks of the 89th Infantry Division. It is known that in addition to Armenians, Ukrainians, Georgians and others also served here.

Does the author propose to subject the Republic of Armenia to “denazification”?

13. Without any facts, the author groundlessly accuses the Republic of Armenia of Nazi tendencies and proposes its denationalization. He is trying to accuse baselessly the Armenian national, state and patriotic figures Dro (Drastamat Kanayan) and Nzhdeh (Garegin Ter-Harutyunyan) of spreading Nazi ideas of collaboration with the Germans among the Armenians. He does all this in order to discredit again and again Armenians as an ethnic group in the eyes of the Russian-speaking reader.

Does the author think that “activists” in Armenia are trying to glorify those who are not worthy, who are cowards in the context of the analysis of the 89th division?

14. As a result of the analysis of the activities of the 89th division, the author believes that the Armenian “activists” spare no effort to eliminate those who are cowardly and not worthy of being Armenians. According to the author's erroneous and unfounded judgments, it is just cowards who

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are described as heroes. In this article, the author has a wrong idea about Armenian heroes, but it is known that there were many heroes in Soviet Armenia, including Marshal Hovhannes Baghramyan, pilot Nelson Stepanyan - Twice Hero of the USSR. 26 Armenian soldiers were awarded the title of full cavalier of three degrees of glory, which is equivalent to the title of Hero of the USSR.

Does the author draw a conclusion about the Nazi nature of the modern Republic of Armenia (a member country of the CSTO, the EAEU), Armenians, as a people, only on the basis of the fact that monuments to two controversial historical figures were erected in the country? Does he give examples of Russian-Armenian friendship?

15. The author makes an unreasonable and incorrect conclusion about the false-Nazi nature of modern Armenia and Armenians. He does not say a word about the Russian-Armenian friendship, but on the contrary, with the imaginary facts he cites, he is trying to drive a wedge into this friendship, fulfilling the order of the neighboring republic, Azerbaijan. It is for this purpose that he criticizes the Armenian national politicians Dro and Nzhdeh.

Does the author, using the example of the failures of the 89th division, lead to a negative perception of the Armenian ethnos by the Russian-speaking reader?

16. The author gives an example of the failures of the 89th division in negative colors in terms of the perception of the Armenian ethnos by the Russian-speaking audience. His goal is to undermine the centuries-old friendship between the Armenian and Russian peoples by driving a wedge into it.

Is the author of the article a historian with a degree?

17. According to the author's biography, he has graduated from the Faculty of History of the Oryol State University, PhD in History (**biography attached**).

Does the article correspond to the level of a specialist with a scientific degree?

18. In our opinion, the article does not contain scientific substantiation, is devoid of argumentation, and does not meet any scientific criteria.

Instead of Afterword

At the end of the article, radically changing the subject of the publication, the author O.Yu. Kuznetsov unexpectedly and unreasonably turns to undeserved insults and humiliations associated with the language of blackmail and threats against Taman veterans: "published and as yet

unpublished evidence of their cowardice and shame is still very and a lot, and they are well known to me”, after which he formulates a certain call to some amorphous activists from the capital of Armenia: “to engage in the denazification of their country”.

Conclusions

1. Article of the candidate of historical sciences O.Yu. Kuznetsov “It’s easy to rewrite an article on Wikipedia, but you can’t hide the cowardice” is anti-scientific in its nature, its author, freely interpreting an episode taken from the whole context of a historical document separately, extends the conclusions to the entire military career of the Taman division.

2. The article was published in a foreign Russian-language electronic resource in the information and telecommunications network “Internet” Vesti.az and is composed of a combination of various pseudo-historical, emotional formulations that encourage the non-historian reader to a negative emotional state, which can motivate actions due to ethnic intolerance. The number of views of the article is 35,838.

3. The author does not criticize the mistakes of the Red Army command, which is the main idea and purpose of the report of Commissioner Kh.S. Nadorshin, but, basically, a separate ethnic group, forming the image of a “traitor ethnic group” in the reader. Thus, using the method of selective fragmented presentation of the primary source, the author creates a false conclusion in the non-professional reader not about the Red Army and its well-known systemic mistakes in the initial period of the war, but about soldiers of ethnic, and specifically, Armenian origin.

4. The article, in general, contains an offensive tone and undeservedly offends the memory of veterans of the Great Patriotic War on the example of the fighters of the Taman division and the bright feat of the united Soviet victorious people, who had no division into ethnic communities during the war years.

5. The article distributed publicly in a foreign electronic media contains deliberately unreliable, false information about the events of the war; offends the official days of Russia's military glory, hurting the memory of the participants in the battles for the liberation of the Caucasus. So, from January 1, 1943, the 89th division was part of the 58th army, which participated in the battles for the liberation of the Caucasus - the liberation of the Caucasus is one of the days of Russia's military glory (Article 1 No. 32-FZ “About the days of military glory and memorable dates of the Motherland”).

6. By trying to accuse the Republic of Armenia of Nazism, the author confirms his complete incompetence as a historian, since he does not know that Nazism takes place only in those countries where national minorities have quantitative and social indicators. However, such an article sows ethnic discord in the multinational Russian Federation, where representatives of different peoples, nationalities and ethnic groups have peacefully coexisted for centuries.

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Armenia is a member of the CSTO and the EAEU; the Armenian people survived the genocide in the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th century, officially recognized in the Russian Federation and focused on annually.

We believe that such articles and authors that are anti-scientific and insulting to entire ethnic groups should receive a legal assessment from the judicial authorities of the Russian Federation, since each “shot” at the bright pages of our common history that unites us can result in irreparable destruction in future.

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E-mail: eminasyan@ysu.am