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## **ALEXANDER MACEDONIAN AS A GREAT MILITARY LEADER**

Macedonian army has passed a long way in its development. At first we can observe disorder in the interaction between the armed forces such as a defect of the attack and retreat, that's why we can say about army's inability to take part in serious collisions. During the reign of Philip II Macedonian the army was totally reorganized. The process of military organizational and tactical elevation of the Macedonian army was developed by Alexander the Great (336-323 years BC).

Macedonian army consisted of two arms : infantry and cavalry, which were divided into lightly armed soldiers, average armed soldiers and heavily armed soldiers. The structure of these troops consisted of soldiers from all parts of Greece. Depending on their experience of warfare they were taken a separate task on the battlefield. It should be noted that such words as "the secondary function" didn't characterize the Macedonian army, because all the victories of Alexander were caused by the organized activities of soldiers in various fields.

One of the main shock forces of the Macedonian army was heavy cavalry called "hetairos", which meant friends. The hetairos were divided into squadrons called "ilai", each 200 men strong, except for Royal squadron, which numbered 300. In total, all "ilaies" composed about 1800 riders. In a battle ilaies were placed on both flanks of the Macedonian army. Last "ilai", was to the right end and it was called "Royal". It consisted of 200 riders, with under the king. This squadron attacked by the wedge shape. The structure also included heavily armed cavalry soldiers of the Thessalian region. Thessalian cavalry was located on the left side of the Macedonian army. In the battle alignment was occurred in the form of diamond. One of the major components of the Macedonian army was lightly armed cavalry, which mainly consisted of Thracian population. They were engaged in the exploration. During the battle they provided support to the heavily armed cavalry.

Phalanx was the basis of the Macedonian troops. Soldiers who were the part of the heavily armed body called "pezhetairoi" which was translated as "walking friends." The main armaments of soldiers were: "sarissa pike" which had a length of 4 meters, "hoplitsky" helmet, shield "aplis", and others. The phalanx was divided into divisions – "taxis". "The taxis" line shaped phalanx. There were 12 taxis for 1.5-2 thousand people. In the first row the "sarissa" was shorter than in the second, the third and the fourth. During the losing fighters from the first row, the second row's falangists replaced their place quickly. By the way the Macedonian hoplites were training with heavier spears from 6 to 8 meters long. It developed their professional experience and made them faster than ethnic Greek hoplites. Alexander Macedonian was the first who applied a horse-foot shot effectively. The "hypaspists" were the elite arm of the Macedonian infantry. The word "hypaspists" translated into English as "shield-bearers". The part of the troops was formed with foot armour-bearer. The idea of attacking with the help of horse infantry troops was created by Philip II, but it was successfully applied by his son. Hipaspists interacted with hetayry closely. They walked, holding the horse's mane or tail. The interaction of infantry and cavalry was quite important because it helped to support a battle order. It helped to destroy the enemy, who wanted to surround them. Also it was a red herring. When hetairos lost their weapon they could take spear from hipaspist's hand. For example at the Battle of Gaugamela when Alexander tried to kill Darius with the spear, which he hadn't in his personal arsenal.

The light infantry was one of the supporting forces of the Macedonian army. The most important it was the Thracian infantry, which interacted with hetairos [1, p. 32]. It was considered the most elite unit when they were storming towns and were fighting in the mountains. Archers should include in the light infantry. They were formed in three divisions, 500 persons each. The Cretan archers were the most popular. They were famous for their accuracy. Allied troops were not used in major battles, as they hadn't tactical weight. They were placed as a garrison in captured cities.

At this time engineering of the troops improved gradually. Alexander started using this weapon in the form of field artillery, especially in the mountains and at crossings [2, p. 54].

Speaking of psychological education of the Macedonian army, we could say that Alexander created a separate department, which coached young boys for military affairs. They were taught not only to use weapons, but to defend themselves without any kind of arms. All Macedonians were exercised such martial art as "Pankration". In combat, no matter how you would win, the result of it was the main thing. The fighters could choke, bite, and brake arms. These workouts were often carried out in the field.

Alexander the Great contributed to the development of his army. He practiced a new tactics of warfare. He set himself as an example of an ideal warrior. As a king and a military commander he rushed to the enemy with these words: "Follow me". He never used "Forward". Alexander endured the hardships of the campaign with his soldiers. During the pursuit of Darius, he refused to swallow the water. But the most important thing was that, he didn't want wealth:

"His great undertaking had another purpose than to rob the vanquished and accumulate treasure, and his men knew it. If this were not so, he would complete his way as soon reached the Persepolis captured Treasure of Persia." Mino Milani [3, p. 26].

#### **LITERATURE**

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