

**Mendikulova G.M.<sup>1</sup>, Nadezhuk E.A.<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Prof., Dr., Satbayev University, Kazakhstan, Almaty, e-mail: gmendikul@hotmail.com

<sup>2</sup>doctorate-student, al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan, Almaty,  
e-mail: enadejuk@gmail.com

**THE PARTICIPATION  
OF KAZAKHS IN THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT  
IN FRANCE AND ITALY DURING THE WORLD WAR II:  
PROBLEM POSING**

The study of archival documents shedding light on the participation of Kazakhs in the fight against fascism, on the fate of people caught in fascist captivity, participating in the European Resistance Movement in France, Italy and other European countries, finding the burials of the deceased heroes, restoring the names of the heroes officially believed to be missing, is an important task for the formation and preservation of the historical memory of the Kazakh people, for the restoration of a real, true history of the Great Patriotic War. Comprehensive studies on the topic with extensive use of European archival materials have not been carried out, despite social and scientific demand. The sources of these new data should become foreign archival documents.

A complex, interdisciplinary investigation of problems of Kazakhs' participation in the World War II based on new documents extracted from the archives of France, Belgium, Italy, Russia and Norway is a priority task of the international research project «Kazakhs in the World War II: new documents from foreign archives», in which scholars – historians from Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Italy, Israel take part.

**Key words:** Kazakhs, World War II, France, Italy, New Archival Documents, Resistance Movement.

Меңдікұлова Г.М.<sup>1</sup>, Надежук Е.А.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>тарих ғылымдарының докторы, профессор, Satbayev University,  
Қазақстан, Алматы қ., e-mail: gmendikul@hotmail.com

<sup>2</sup>Докторант, әл-Фараби атындағы Қазақ ұлттық университеті,  
Қазақстан, Алматы қ., e-mail: enadejuk@gmail.com

**Екінші дүниежүзілік соғыста Франция мен Италиядағы  
қарсылық қозғалысына қазақтардың қатысуы: мәселені қою**

Қазақтардың фашизммен күрестегі үлесі, фашистік тұтқынға түскен адамдардың тағдырына әсері, Франция, Италия және басқа да еуропалық елдердегі қарсылық қозғалысына қатысты мұрағаттық құжаттарды зерттеп, сондай-ақ қаза тапқан батырлардың қабірін тауып, ресми түрде жоғалған деп саналған, есімдерін қалпына келтіру, Ұлы Отан соғысының шынайы тарихын жаңғыртып, Қазақ халқының тарихи жадысын қалыптастырып және сақтаудағы ең басты міндет болып табылады. Әлеуметтік және ғылыми өзектілігіне қарамастан бұл тақырып бойынша, яғни кең ауқымда еуропалық мұрағаттық құжаттармен зерттеулер бұдан бұрын жасалмаған. Бұл жаңа мәліметтердің көздері шетелдік мұрағаттық құжаттар болуы тиіс.

Франция, Бельгия, Италия, Ресей және Норвегияның мұрағаттарынан алынған жаңа құжаттардың негізінде, қазақтардың Екінші дүниежүзілік соғысқа қатысуындағы кешенді пәнаралық мәселелерін зерттеу, Қазақстан, Украина, Италия, Израильдің тарихшы зерттеушілерінің қатысуымен «Қазақтар Екінші Дүниежүзілік соғыста: шетел мұрағаттарынан жаңа құжаттар» халықаралық зерттеу жобасының басымды міндеті болып табылады.

**Түйін сөздер:** Қазақтар, Екінші Дүниежүзілік Соғысы, Франция, Италия, Жаңа Мұрағаттық Құжаттар, Қарсылық қозғалысы.

Мендикулова Г.М.<sup>1</sup>, Надежук Е.А.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>доктор исторических наук, профессор истории, Сатпаев Университет, Казахстан, г. Алматы, e-mail: gmendikul@hotmail.com

<sup>2</sup>докторант, Казахский национальный университет им. аль-Фараби, Казахстан, г. Алматы, e-mail: enadejuk@gmail.com

### **Участие казахов в движении сопротивления во Франции и Италии во время Второй мировой войны: постановка проблемы**

Изучение архивных документов, проливающих свет на участие казахов в борьбе с фашизмом, на судьбы людей, попавших в фашистский плен, участвовавших в Европейском движении сопротивления во Франции, Италии и других европейских странах, обнаружение захоронений погибших героев, восстановление имен героев, официально считающихся пропавшими без вести, является важнейшей задачей для формирования и сохранения исторической памяти казахского народа, для восстановления реальной, истинной истории Великой Отечественной войны. Всесторонние исследования по этой теме с широким использованием европейских архивных материалов не проводились, несмотря на их социальную и научную актуальность. Источниками этих новых данных являются зарубежные архивные документы.

Комплексное междисциплинарное исследование проблем участия казахов во Второй мировой войне на основе новых документов, извлеченных из архивов Франции, Бельгии, Италии, России и Норвегии, является приоритетной задачей международного исследовательского проекта «Казахи во Второй мировой войне: новые документы из зарубежных архивов», в котором принимают участие ученые-историки из Казахстана, Украины, Италии, Израиля.

**Ключевые слова:** казахи, Вторая мировая война, Франция, Италия, Новые Архивные Документы, Движение Сопротивления.

#### **Introduction**

In recent decades, in Western politics and historiography, there has been a tendency to downplay or suppress the role of the USSR in defeating fascism in the World War II. In addition, there are also facts that the Russian politicians and officials did not always adequately assess the great contribution that was made to the victory by the representatives of different peoples who formed the multinational Soviet Union.

Under these conditions, the study of archival documents shedding light on the participation of Kazakhs, our compatriots, in the fight against fascism, on the fate of people caught in fascist captivity, participating in the European Resistance Movement in different countries, finding the burials of the deceased heroes, restoring the names of the heroes officially believed to be missing, is an important task for the formation and preservation of the historical memory of the Kazakh people, for the restoration of a real, true history of the Great Patriotic War. Truthful, based on the study of archival documents, the reconstruction of events that took place during the war years and for various reasons not become the property of descendants is necessary for understanding our roots, the succession of generations.

In Kazakh historiography, the study of the problem of the participation of Kazakhs in the Second World War in European countries was

not widely publicized. Undoubtedly, in the Soviet years this problem was not included in the area of relevance. Moreover, it had a «prohibited» stigma. Labels of «traitors and spies» hung everyone who for various reasons was forced to leave the country or lived outside the Soviet Union. In the conditions of the command-bureaucratic system, the mere mention of «former citizens» became the reason for repression against political and cultural figures.

A systematic and integrated study of history and the recreation of a real picture of the participation of Kazakhs, former POWs who fled from concentration and labor camps and heroically fought against fascism in Resistance movements and partisan combat groups in various European countries, particularly France and Italy during the World War II is an urgent task from the scientific and military-patriotic standpoints and characterizes the Republic of Kazakhstan as a civilized and democratic state that values its history.

#### **Methods of research**

The research is based on modern methodological approaches, principles and conceptual guidelines aimed at understanding the historical and modern processes that characterize the entire tragedy of captured but unbroken people, escaped from captivity and joined the partisan units that fought against fascism in France, Belgium, Italy, Yugoslavia and others.

General scientific methods of research include such principles of historical knowledge as historicism, objectivity and other scientific principles, as well as theoretical conclusions and positions of leading scientists who formulated the fundamental principles of historical research.

To studying the historical process, such methods as historical-comparative, historical-biographical, historical-typological, historical-system, historical reconstruction will be used.

With the disclosure of various results of human activity, historical events and situations in which the active role of the human being is vividly expressed, i.e. the subjective factor, first of all, the causal explanations that follow from the universality of interrelations, objectively inherent in historical reality, are applied. Of course, certain objective circumstances also lie behind this factor, but they are manifested in the nature of subjective actions.

In addition, specifically problematic methods will be used on particular issues aimed at elucidating and studying the causes and consequences of specific phenomena, facts, events that characterize certain aspects of reality.

The research is based on modern methodological approaches, principles and conceptual guidelines aimed at understanding the historical and modern processes characterizing the tragedy of captured people, but unbroken, fleeing from captivity and joining guerrilla groups that fought fascism in France, Italy and other European countries.

### **The need and prospects for scientific research of the problem**

The studying of the problem of the participation of Kazakhs in the World War II in European countries in the Soviet and Kazakh historiography based on Kazakh and Russian archives' materials only. Foreign documents were not included in the scientific use.

In the modern historical science, the problems of the participation of Russian, Ukrainians, Azerbaijanis and Armenians in the resistance movement in the world are studied, but no data about Kazakhs is in these proceedings.

Almost the only work on this issue was an article by I.I. Malyar «Participation of Kazakhstan in the European resistance movement» (Petrov, 1971).

More intensive study of particular issues of participation of Kazakh soldiers in World War II began in the period of independence. It is characterized by scientific works by G.M.

Mendikulova, B.G. Ayagan, B.I. Sadykova, A. Kara, A. Kaken, S. Bekenova and others.

In 1995, in honor of the 50th anniversary of Victory was published memorial book of Kazakhstan «Bozdaktar». It was the first attempt to provide a complete statistical picture of the war. The names of those who died in battle, died from wounds and diseases in hospitals, died behind enemy lines or missing were collected in this book. The «Book of Memory» and the summary volume «Bozdaktar» is a true a monument to Kazakhstanis who died in the battles with fascism.

Particular attention to the problem ass paid in the scientific works by B.I. Sadykova, who investigates the activity of M. Chokay and history of the Turkestan Legion. B.I. Sadykova is the author of the script of the documentary «Zar, or those who were separated from the motherland.» In the «History of the Turkestan Legion in the documents», B.I. Sadykova for the first time describes the activities of the Turkestan national liberation movement, organized by Mustafa Chokay in Europe, his tactics and strategy. In 2011, she published a monograph «Mustafa Chokay in emigration» (Sadykova, 2011). All these works by B.I. Sadykova written on the base of archival documents from Germany, which had been collected and worked out well.

Associate Professor at the University of Mimar Sinan Kara A. wrote a book, which tells about the bitter fate of former soldiers of the Turkestan Legion (Kara, 2015). The book of well-known Kazakh journalist A. Kaken is based on sources devoted to the history of the Turkestan Legion (Kaken, 2000). In 2007, the memoirs by S. Bekenov one of the prisoners of Nazi camps were published.

An article-memoir titled «I was in the Turkestan Legion» was published on the pages of the internet magazine. It tells about Akhmetbek Nurumov, who was captured exactly a month after the war began. This man went to a POW camp in Poland, Turkestan Legion and Kolyma, was convicted of treason, and waited a long time for rehabilitation.

Within the program «People in the stream of history», in 2014-2016 Dr. K. Aldazhumanov conducted research on the topic «Kazakhstan in the period of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union. 1941-1945». In particular, it has been affected by the problem of prisoners of war, in the first place – the Kazakhs. The author carefully conducted research in the State Archive of the Russian Federation.

However, for a truly complete and objective study of this issue, work with archival documents of the countries of Europe is necessary. This is a priority task of the international research project

«Kazakhs in the World War II: new documents from foreign archives», in which scholars – historians from Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Italy, Israel take part.

Within the framework of the project, the authors conduct a complex, interdisciplinary study of problems of Kazakhs' participation in the World War II based on new documents extracted from the archives of France, Belgium, Italy, Russia and Norway.

In particular, one of the important successes in the research work on this problem are the documents, first discovered by Prof. Dr. G. Mendikulova, in the French National Archives, which confirm the memories of the Kazakh and French participants of those events.

The new names of Kazakhs and Turkestans, such as Ismailov, Karamergenov, Mukhamedzhanov, Abdullayev, who fought side by side with French

Maqizaras, were found in the Archives Nationales funds (Archives Nationales. Section du XX-e siècle. (Paris, France)).

In October 2009, Doctor of History, prof. G.M. Mendikulova in the Archives Nationales in Paris found correspondence, memories, documents about the creation of the First Partisan Regiment, in which the Kazakhs fought alongside the Georgians in the dashing year of the Second World War. It became possible thanks to the grant she won from the French institute Fondation Maison des Sciences De L'homme (Mendikulova, 2014: p.94).

In early 2015, information was discovered about the military activities of Shashubiy Beisembin, born in 1920, a native of the aul No. 7, Karaganda region. It also confirms the participation of Kazakhs in the Resistance Movement of France.



Picture 1 – The ticket of the 1st guerrilla Regiment No. 18 by Shashubay Beisembin

Shashubai Beisembin was drafted into the ranks of the Red (Soviet) Army in December 1940 in Pushkino, Leningrad Region (according to records: 24th Panzer Corps, 8th Motorized Regiment). On August 18, 1941, being surrounded in the area of Kamenka of the Leningrad Region he was taken prisoner, was in concentration camps in Latvia, Poland and France. According to the data submitted by his son Murat Shashubayevich Beisembin, in autumn 1943 Shashubai Beisembin fled from captivity in the city of Albi, France, and joined the French partisans. The participation of Shashubay Beisembin in the Resistance movement is confirmed by the available ticket of the 1st guerrilla Regiment No. 18 preserved in his family.

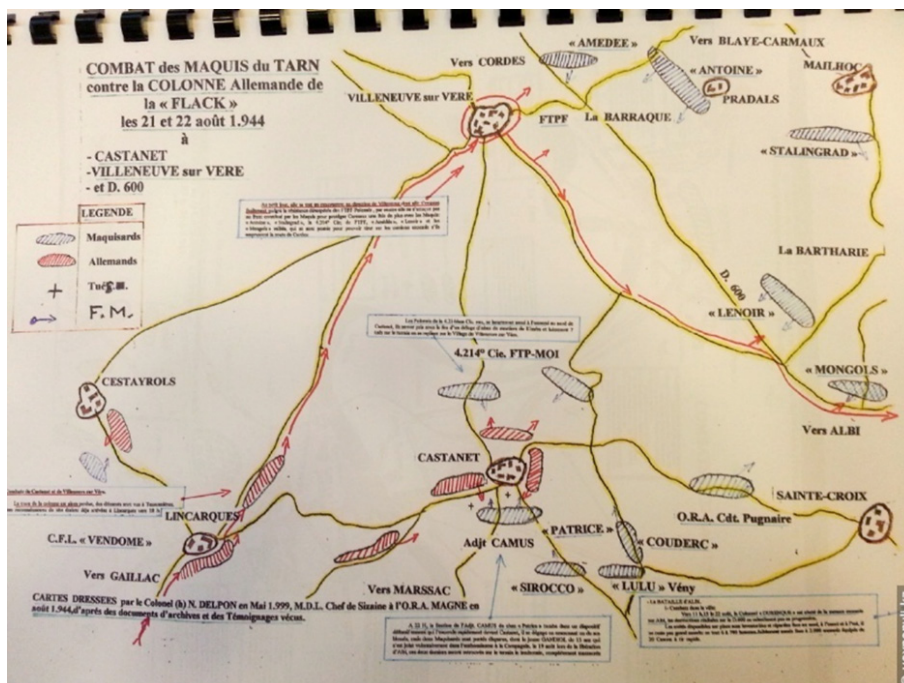
In 2015, G.M. Mendikulova in France also for the first time revealed maps and photos concerning to Kazakhs and their participation to the Resistance Movement in the funds of the *Archives Departamentales Haute-Garonne, the Toulouse Resistance Museum, the Archives Departamentales du Tarn, Archive of the Historical Service of the Ministry of Defense of France (Service Historique de la Defense)*.

From memories it is known that Turkestanis participated in several guerrilla groups, in particular, in the group «Stalingrad», and our soldiers were called «Mongols». A year after the release of Toulouse, Albi and Carmaux, they were still in the camps, where they lived in a special mode. If previously we



had only memories of the participants of these events, in the French archive in Albi Prof. Dr. G.M. Mendikulova found official documents confirming Kazakh

participation in resistance movement. It is the whole correspondence of the police department about one unpleasant incident took place on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1945.



Picture 2 – Map of the Maquis Resistance camps location in Tarn region from La Liberation du Tarn en Aout 1944 in the Archives Departementales du Tarn. MS 503, 691.

Therefore, a few ex-liberators of the south of France went to a local cafe to note the May holidays, as they had relative freedom of movement. Some of the locals insulted them, calling the Mongols and saying that there is no place for them there. Scuffle, called the police, and all participants were replaced to the police office. Commandant of the camp, where heroes – liberators of the south of France were held Zunum Zhamankulov had to write explanatory and intercessory letter about what happened. The letter, in particular, he explained that the former Soviet military Turkestanis and all 250 people in the camp, liberated France, and they are kept still in the camps and attitude of the locals towards them are incorrect. Found the answer of Prefect of police of the city of Albi, after a long trial (until July 1945), which says that, yes, indeed, these people heroically helped us to liberate our homeland from the Nazis, and a year after these events, the locals insult them, forgetting about their heroism. Thanks to this conclusion of the Prefect of police the participants of unattractive incident did not punished (*Archives Departementales du Tarn*. MS 503).

In 2017 E.A. Nadezhuk found documents on this issue in the archives of the Historical Service of the Ministry of Defense of France (Service Historique de la Defense). In particular, these are reports of the leaders of the French Resistance, in which the participation of former prisoners of war in the partisan warfare is confirmed. Valuable are the documents concerning the activity of Kadem Zhumaniyazov who heroically fought against fascists in France (Service Historique de la Defense. GR P 16P 187 463 Djoumaniasov Khadem; Service Historique de la Defense. 19P FFI 5RM TARN As B9 Maquis Stalingrad.)

The research group carries out a search work in the Generalized Data Bank «Memorial», which presents a large number of documents of the Central Archive of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation. A careful analysis of the documents found in European archives, comparing them with the data available in GDB «Memorial» and other digital sources, makes it possible to identify the burial sites of our compatriots who were previously considered missing, to fill the

gaps in their heroic history (Mendikulova, 2018; Nadezhuk, 2018).

Now, Prof. Dr. G.M. Mendikulova identified 34 cemeteries of the Soviet soldiers in France. We were able to explore five of them. In particular, in May 2018, Professor G.M. Mendikulova, during her trip to France, identified and recorded eight individual

registered burial places of Kazakhs near Paris, in Picardy and Lorraine.

Therefore, it is necessary to continue the work, as in France, and in Belgium, the Netherlands and other European countries, where the Kazakhs fought for the liberation of the world from fascism.



Picture 3 – World War II Burial places of Kazakhs identified by G.M. Mendikulova in France, 2018

Fragmentary, undocumented data we have about Kazakhs and Soviet prisoners of war who had escaped from concentration camps and fought bravely in the Italian teams. In the province of Modena acted battalion of Soviet partisans. In the region of Tuscany in the ranks of the partisan division «Guido Boskalo» Arezzo province fought 23 Kazakhstani people, including Takish Alpeisov from Karaganda, Kaldanbek Dyusenbekov from Kyzyl-Orda, Zhaymak Kulshikov from Aktyubinsk, Topai Sadvakassov and Ivan Kitastov from Akmola region, and others (Malyar, 1971: p.167).

In 2016, it became known about the burial of 38 Kazakhs in Trieste in northeastern Italy, who died fighting fascism. To date, because of the joint work of G.M. Mendikulova and Marco Fiorentino, during the comparison of the GDB «Memorial» data with the Italian sources at the disposal of the research team, several burials of the Kazakhs – participants of Resistance were identified in central Italy. However, scientific research in Italy has not been conducted, so it is necessary to fill this gap. In order to ascertain on the ground the reliability of the available information, as well as to obtain

more complete data on this problem, a complex expedition to Italy will be organized in 2019 within the framework of the international research project «Kazakhs in the World War II: new documents from foreign archives».

Based on the results of scientific research in France and Italy in 2018-19, the research group will compile and publish a collection of documents in two volumes devoted to this topical issue.

Thus, the research team faces the task of completing this study, revealing the names, fates, unknown places of burial of Kazakhs – participants in the struggle against the fascist regime in France and Italy, to analyze the revealed facts and make them available to Kazakhstani and the world community.

### Conclusion

To date, comprehensive studies on the topic of Kazakh participation in the Resistance movement in France, Italy and other European countries with extensive use of European archival materials have not been carried out, despite social and scientific

demand, with value for Kazakhstan and the former Soviet and international communities. A comprehensive study of this problem will contribute to the education of youth and the strengthening of patriotism and the nation of Kazakhstan, the development of historical science and military history in our country. The history of Kazakh participation in the Resistance movement and the

liberation of Europe from fascism in partisan groups and teams should be reconstructed. The sources of these new data should become foreign archival documents.

A thorough study of archival documents and memoirs of participants in the Resistance movement in France, Italy and other countries should restore and make public the bright memory of our compatriots.

### References

- Archives Departamentales du Tarn. MS 503, 691. La Liberation du Tarn en Aout 1944.  
Archives Nationales. Section du XX-e siecle.  
Service Historique de la Defense. GR P 16P 187 463 Djoumaniasov Khadem; Service Historique de la Defense. 19P FFI 5RM TARN As B9 Maquis Stalingrad.  
Kaken A. (2000). Turkestan legion. Dereky talgam. Almaty. (In Kazakh)  
Kara A. (2015). Istina Turkestanskogo legionia – mezhdru svastikoj i krasnoj zvezdoj. [The truth of the Turkestan Legion – between the swastika and the red star]. Research / translation from the Kazakh language. Astana: Research Institute «Public Opinion». 98 p. (In Russian)  
Malyar I. Uchastie kazahstancsev v evropejskom dvizhenii soprotivleniya. V kn. Petrov I.I. Vsegda nacheku. [Participation of Kazakhstanis in the European resistance movement // In: Petrov I.I. Always on the alert] (1971). Alma-Ata: Kazakhstan. (In Russian)  
Mendikulova G.M. O komparativistike i dostovernosti arhivnyih i otsifrovannyih dokumentov ob uchastii kazahov vo Vtoroy mirovoj vojne. [On comparativistics and reliability of archival and digitized documents on the participation of Kazakhs in the World War II] (2018). In: Social sciences and humanities in the digital world – 2018, April 12. Almaty: KazRTU named K.I. Satbayev. (In Russian)  
Mendikulova G.M. (Ed.). Uchastie kazahov vo Vtoroj Mirovoj vojne v stranah Zapadnoj Evropy: sbornik materialov kruglogo stola (2014) [The participation of Kazakhs in the Second World War in countries of Western Europe: a collection of materials from the round table]. – Almaty: Kazak Universiteti. (In Russian)  
Nadezhuk E.A. Kazahi vo Vtoroy Mirovoj vojne: tsifrovyye informatsionnyie resursyi po teme issledovaniya. [Kazakhs in the World War II: digital information resources on the research topic] (2018). In: Social sciences and humanities in the digital world – 2018, April 12. Almaty: KazRTU named K.I. Satbayev. (In Russian)  
Sadykova B.I. Mustafa Chokaj v eh migracii. [Mustafa Chokaj in emigration]. (2011). Almaty. (in Russian)