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**Cossacks and Health Care under Mazepa**

In such an army as the Cossack one during active military operations of the late 17th – early 18th centuries the organization of military medicine should play an important role. The troops of hetman Ivan Mazepa participated in 11 tsar’s campaigns, their losses were especially great in the Great Northern War, not only from military operations, but also from chilblain, diseases, and hunger. Continuous military actions undermined Cossacks’ health, laid down a heavy burden on them, campaigning at their own expense [5, p. 111]. Mazepa relied on the rich Cossack foremen, so the problems of medical help for ordinary Cossacks were out of his focus.

Many deaths in campaigns can also be explained by the fact that the health care in Mazepian troops was practically not organized. Not even the most notable representatives of the foremen were insured. For example, the nephew of Mazepa, colonel of Nizhyn Ivan Obidovsky, a young man, died from illness during the campaign in Baltic lands [8, p. 23]. Under the reign of the tsar Aleksey Mikhailovich many Western specialists, including healers were invited in the modernized army of Moscow State [10, p. 181]. It reduced losses significantly in the comparison with the irregular Cossack army. But the Cossacks had no desire to serve in regular army. One of the rationales for Mazepa’s betrayal was the rumor that the tsar was going to transform the Cossack army into regular [6, p. 403].

In the first Crimean campaign under the lead of hetman Ivan Samoilovich many warriors died from “unhealthy water”; it became one of the points in Mazepa’s slanderous denunciation [10, p. 200, 204]. It was really strange, because Cossack scouts followed the simple rule: never drink raw water in unknown places [9]. In the time of denunciation the army was still on the march, diseases were raging. Many Cossacks, foremen, regular soldiers and officers died during the return. On the Kolomak River, where the army encamped, Samoilovich has been arrested, and Mazepa took his place. To his credit, in the second Crimean campaign Mazepa managed to avoid epidemics [10, p. 205-206, 232].

In addition to precautions other methods were used. For example, hetman did not risk even in conditions of a serious conflict with the Host ataman; he did not send a Cossack hetman’s army against the Zoporozhian Cossacks, who suffered from plague [1, p. 12]. Active using of quarantines against the plague has begun only at the beginning of the 18th century [3, p. 173]. Using of drugs in the modern sense was not wide-spread. During the war with Sweden, started on the advice of Mazepa, the Cossacks in 1706 were fortunate to seize the field pharmacy of the Polish king Stanislaw Leszczynski [8, p. 27]. However, its fate is unknown.

The Cossacks were returning from the campaigns with a large number of wounded and ill. Medical care during the Mazepian era was provided to the Cossacks mainly in two large monasteries: the Kiev Mezhyhirian and the Samara Hermitage Nicholas’ (modern-day Novomoskovsk). The last one was fortified, had own artillery, and served as a safe place for the wounded. Both folk and relatively scientific medicines were practiced there [4, p. 148-149].

In the paragraph 3 of hetman Mazepa’s Kolomak articles it was stated that although monasteries did not pay any military taxes, but it was forbidden to take in new peasants [7, p. 299], that limited monasteries’ financial capabilities. However, monasteries received significant rewards for the treatment of the Cossacks. There were also many small institutions. Brotherhoods’ shelters-hospitals in the settlements provided care for infirm people, but were not medical institutions despite the name “hospitalis” [4, p. 149]. Military hospitals acted in the Lebedyn monastery near Chigyryn and Levkovsky near Ovruch. In such Cossack hospitals not only care was provided, but also treatment [3, p. 171].

The fee for medical treatment was very high and inaccessible for ordinary Cossacks. There were no doctors at all in the most of the settlements [3, p. 167-168]. Therefore, a significant role in the treatment of the Cossacks belonged to “tsyrulnyks”, barbers and healers at the same time. They were united in guilds and assisted with injuries, fractures, bleeding [4, p. 147-148]. Tsyrulnyks made bloodletting, put cups, treated chopped and shot wounds, pulled teeth out, treated skin and venereal diseases [3, p. 168]. Going on campaign they procured bandaging materials, splints for fixing fractures, rosins, etc. [4, p. 147-148]. The treatment was primitive, often folk, and training of tsyrulnyks was insufficient [3, p. 169].

Mazepa became one of the first European politicians who used medicine and speculation on health problems for political purposes. “Strong illnesses” allegedly forced the hetman to lift the siege of the Polish pro-Swedish fortress Bykhov and return to Baturyn [6, p. 402]. Failure to perform the orders of Peter the Great, refusal to come to his headquarters on the general council Mazepa justified by “serious illness”, even being “at death’s door” [2, p. 87-88]. The construction of the Pechersk fortress in Kiev, according to Mazepa, greatly exhausted the Cossacks and plunged them into illness. He dismissed the Cossacks, and stayed in Kyiv under the pretext of gout. Doctors did not leave the simulating Mazepa, pretending to be ill and infirm. He lay covered with plasters, ointments and bandages, moaned, even could not roll over without the help of servants, did not eat and sleep, even made extreme unction, demonstrating that he is on the brink of death. With the Swedes approaching the disease “was intensifying”. Tsar Peter sent the French doctor Peter Kozoa to his favorite, however, the hetman cleverly got rid of him under the pretext that they cannot communicate. Doctor spoke French and Italian, but Mazepa was employing only German doctors [1, p. 59, 89, 93-94, 99-100]. Everything looked very believable. People sent from the tsar found motionless hetman in bed, hardly able to answer questions. Kyiv metropolitan Joasaph and the tsar were effectively deceived [8, p. 33].

It can be concluded that health care during the reign of hetman Mazepa was at a quite primitive stage of development. Treatment of the questionable quality ordinary Cossacks could receive from monasteries and tsyrulnyks, and their wealthy brethren – from private doctors. Using of medicine for achieving of political goals was a specific feature of the hetman.

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