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### **A.F. Dubitsky as a sapper of the 29th Rifle Division: highlights of biography and frontline life (based on the materials of the archive of Nur-Sultan)**

The article covers the highlights of the biography and the heroic path of a sapper and front-line newspaperman of the 29<sup>th</sup> Rifle Division named Andrei Fedorovich Dubitsky (1915–2005), based on the materials of the archive of Nur-Sultan. A.F. Dubitsky was born in the Cossack village of Akmolinskaya stanitsa, which is one of the constituent parts of the city of Akmolinsk. In 1931, he graduated from a seven-year school in Akmolinsk and entered the Omsk Art College. In 1936, having successfully graduated from college, he returned to Akmolinsk and began to work as a teacher of drawing and drafting in 5–10<sup>th</sup> grades. He collaborated with “Socialist construction” and “Akmola truth” newspapers on a part-time basis. A.F. Dubitsky loved to write poems, essays, stories, drawings about the daily life of his city. In December 1941, he was drafted into the Red Army by mobilization and enlisted as a soldier in the 78th separate sapper battalion of the 29<sup>th</sup> rifle division, which was formed in Akmolinsk and Karaganda. In January 1943, F. Dubitsky was promoted from a soldier to a junior lieutenant and he was appointed an executive secretary of “Soviet Bogatyr” division newspaper. In this position, together with the 72<sup>nd</sup> Guards Rifle Division, he left Stalingrad for Kursk Bulge. The harsh front-line daily routine of a fighter A.F. Dubitsky was reflected in hundreds of notes, dozens of life-drawings (mainly portraits of soldiers and commanders), and his own poems. Together with the 72<sup>nd</sup> Guards Krasnograd Red Rifle Division, he went through Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Transylvania, Hungary, and he was in Bucharest, Budapest, Vienna, Bratislava and Prague. He ended the war in the same 72<sup>nd</sup> Guards Division as a senior lieutenant, executive secretary of the Soviet Bogatyr division newspaper. A.F. Dubitsky was awarded for the combat and labor exploits, i.e., two orders of the Patriotic War, “For courage”, “For the defense of Stalingrad”, “For the capture of Budapest”, “For labor valor”, “For distinguished labour”, “For the development of virgin and fallow lands” medals and other awards. He is an author of the collections of short stories named “Donin Kindergarten”, “Forged Helmet”, “Smile”, “Raspberry Blagovest”, novels “Barrier”, “Sultry Interfluve”, “Hard Life”, books of local history “Akmola — the glorious city”, “Where Ishim flows”, “Let’s walk along the streets of Tselinograd”, “Tablets of history” and others. The article notes that the main highlights of A.F. Dubitsky’s biography and front line will become an eternal example, evoking pride and respect among not only the members of present generation, but also the future one.

*Keywords:* The Great Patriotic War, front, Victory, Battle of Stalingrad, Kazakhstan, A.F. Dubitsky.

#### *Introduction*

It is no exaggeration to say that one of the main historical events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the Victory of the Soviet Union in the Great Patriotic War, the 75th anniversary of which is celebrated this year.

Unfortunately, recently researchers and scholars in historiography have attempted to “popularize” the discourse, which calls into question the historical role and contribution of the Soviet Union to the Victory during the Second World War. The desire to rewrite the history of not only the Second World War, but also the Great Patriotic War not only affects the change in the nature of the research subject, but also leads to a distortion of historical memory in the minds of contemporaries and descendants about the events of that time. Under these conditions, it is quite natural for the researchers to increase their responsibility for further objective study of the labor and front-line heroism of the Soviet people based on archival materials.

Those who fought for their homeland bore all the brunt of war, and we owe them a peaceful life today. The heroism of Soviet soldiers will never lose its significance and relevance, since it is an example of overcoming the most difficult real-life challenge. The main source of this great Victory was the absolute unity of the front and home front. The endless support of the people increased the strength of the Soviet army in battles with the sworn enemy, increasing military power.

The war came to every house, and every republic gave everything possible to achieve a common victory and defeat Nazi Germany. Kazakhstan, along with other republics, made a significant contribution to the Victory of 1945, i.e., being the front arsenal, the republic supplied equipment and food to the front, thereby

providing large-scale economic support to the units. In addition, Kazakhstan, along with other Soviet republics, took an active part in the battles of the Great Patriotic War and made a huge contribution to the Victory. Kazakhstan sent 1 200 thousand people to the front, including “82 thousand communists (2/3 of the pre-war number), 242 thousand Komsomol members (almost 70 %) and 5 183 women and girls, as well as 700 thousand army and special construction units” [1; 450]. During the war years, military divisions were formed on the territory of the republic and took a direct part in the fighting — 12 rifle divisions and 4 cavalry divisions, as well as separate brigades, regiments and battalions.

It should be noted that according to article 1 of the Law “On General Military Duty” of September 1, 1939, military service in the Workers’ and Peasants’ Red Army was an honorable duty of the USSR citizens. According to article 3 of the same Law “All men — citizens of the USSR — are obliged to serve in the armed forces of the USSR without distinction of race, nationality, religion, educational qualification, social origin and position” [2]. Service in the Red Army was considered not only a common military duty, but also was the honorable duty of citizens of the USSR. After the outbreak of Great Patriotic War, the State Defense Committee on September 17, 1941 adopted Decree No. GKO-690 “On Compulsory General Military Education for Citizens of the USSR”, according to which males from 16 to 50 years old were given in-service military affairs trainings. In paragraph 5, attention was drawn to the fact that “during military training, special attention should be paid to drill, mastering a rifle, machine gun, mortar and hand grenade, to chemical defense, digging trenches and disguise, as well as to tactical training of a single soldier and squad” [3]. Having worked at the machine, all residents of Akmolinsk rushed to military training [4; 205]. According to the archive of Nur-Sultan, about 37 thousand people left Akmolinsk (the name of this city in 1941. — *authors.*) as volunteers during the first six months of the war [4; 205].

In addition to them, the military units of the Soviet troops were replenished with 9 783 soldiers, drafted into the army in the 310<sup>th</sup>, 387<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> rifle divisions and 106<sup>th</sup> national cavalry divisions formed in Akmolinsk and Karaganda [4; 17].

#### *Methodology and research methods*

One of the requirements issued to modern history researchers is a shift from descriptive style to methodological analysis of historic facts, from a mere statement of historic events to comparative analysis of material. This allows to reveal problems of a studied topic and certain aspects of the historic process (which by force of conjuncture or other reasons were left out by scientists), to objectively contrast them and on the basis of that identify perspectives for future research in order to provide knowledge continuity in the evolvement of scientific thought.

In the article, we used general and special scientific methods of historic research (such as the method of objectiveness).

#### *Discussion*

This article focuses on the heroism of the sapper of the 29<sup>th</sup> Rifle Division, the war correspondent of the Soviet Bogatyr division newspaper, the honored cultural worker of Kazakhstan, the honorary citizen of Akmola, now a city of Nur-Sultan, Andrei Fedorovich Dubitsky. Talking about him as a person and about his personality is difficult, but at the same time fascinating, since we are talking about a person with an interesting fate.

Andrei Fedorovich Dubitsky was born on October 30, 1915 in the Cossack village of Akmolinskaya stanitsa, which was one of the constituent parts of Akmolinsk. In 1931, he graduated from a seven-year school in Akmolinsk and entered the Omsk Art College. In 1936, having successfully graduated from college, he returned to Akmolinsk and began to work as a teacher of drawing and drafting in 5–10<sup>th</sup> grades. He collaborated with the “Socialist construction” and “Akmola truth” newspapers on a part-time basis. A.F. Dubitsky loved to write poems, essays, stories, drawings about the daily life of his city.

After the outbreak of war in December 1941, he was drafted into the Red Army by mobilization and enlisted as a soldier of the 78<sup>th</sup> separate combat engineer battalion of the 29<sup>th</sup> rifle division, which was formed in Akmolinsk. The battles near Stalingrad are especially memorable for him, as he took a direct part in it in the 29<sup>th</sup> division from July 1942 (from the very beginning until its full ending). Andrei Fedorovich was at the forefront almost daily meeting with people. Compiled materials formed the basis of notes on the front-line life of soldiers. As a miner-sapper and a front-line newspaperman, he had a lot to see and deal with the division and fellow soldiers. The sapper service during the war was dangerous and difficult: “The sappers, these great war workers, were always given some kind of work, sometimes the most incredible one. They went first on

the offensive, making passages through minefields and wire fences, building blown-up bridges, constructing ferry. When leaving, they were the last. The division sometimes was located around tens of kilometers away. Risking to fall directly into the enemy's hands, they still mined roads and tank-accessible areas, disposed mini-surprises at the places where it was possible, blew up bridges and water pumps, steam locomotives and rails. When searching, they always accompanied the scouts. At the ferry, they got wet in the water for days being on duty at the berths under bombardments and shelling. On the defensive, night and day they had been digging the ground, building command post, defiladed emplacement, earth-and-timber emplacements, dugouts for brass, disinfection plants, baths, dryers, performing dozens of large and small tasks. They remained themselves without dugouts — there was no time left for their own welfare improvement. They slept wherever and however they could. During their long stops, as soon as it seemed that everything had already been done, that it was finally possible to build dugouts for themselves, an order to relocate was usually received. As the division was relocated, everything that had been done with such difficulty usually flew to dust. In a new place, it all started a new" [5; 29].



A photo. Andrey Fedorovich Dubitsky, a soldier of the 78<sup>th</sup> separate combat sapper battalion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rifle Division. Stalingrad Front. Volga-Don interfluve. July 1942 (State Archive of Nur-Sultan. F. 362. I. 3. Case 51. Sh. 7)

It was especially hard for the fighters of the 29<sup>th</sup> division near Stalingrad. The battle of Stalingrad is called the greatest. Indeed, humankind has not known yet such a battle, neither in a scale nor in historical significance. The iron wave of the German offensive crashed Stalingrad. As a result of the defeat of the many-thousand-strong group of Field Marshal Paulus, the legend of the invincibility of the German army was finally dispelled. The Red Army achieved a radical change during the Great Patriotic War and seized the initiative.

Memoirs of fellow soldiers, personal impressions of A.F. Dubitsky about the Battle of Stalingrad was reflected in his book, where he clearly defines the goal of addressing this topic: “The tasks that I set for myself are very modest — in a popular way to tell young people who do not really know what war is about the greatest calamity of our peoples, about how much blood was sacrificed for the freedom and independence of the Soviet Motherland” [5; 5].

During the Battle of Stalingrad A.F. Dubitsky was temporarily appointed a literary employee of “Soviet Bogatyr” division newspaper (instead of the deceased literary employee Lieutenant Tarasevich) [6; 19]. Andrei Fedorovich, together with the bandmaster of the brass band Lev Markov, created the “Song of the Fighters of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division”:

*Наши лица опалило пламя,  
Нас оваял славой Сталинград* [6; 136].

*Flames burned our faces  
We were captured by the glory of Stalingrad.*

(Translation. — authors)

But the song, as the author recalled, did not take root. “Firstly, the text and music were not entirely successful, and, secondly, the division was soon transformed from the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 72<sup>nd</sup> Guards: the old words lost their meaning. I had to think about a new song” [6; 137]. A.F. Dubitsky started to write the lyrics of the new marching division song again, Sergeant Vasily Mogutov was entrusted to write music.

In the joint creative tandem, a marching “Song of the Fighters of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Guards Division” appeared. Here is a small excerpt of it:

*Вьюги да бураны, степи да курганы,  
Грохот канонадный, дым пороховой.  
Над страной любимой, на земле родимой  
В зареве пожара не смолкает бой.  
Мы идем к победам, страх для нас неведом —  
Не обманет пуля, штык не подведет!  
Гвардейцам-акмолинцам по донским станицам  
Путь пролег широкий, путь один — вперед [6; 139].*

*Blizzards and snowstorms, steppes and barrows,  
The rumble of cannonade, powder smoke.  
Above the beloved country, on the beloved land  
In the glow of the fire the battle does not cease.  
We head for victories; fear is unknown to us —  
The bullet won't deceive, the bayonet won't fail!  
To Akmola guards in the Don villages  
The path is wide, the path is one — forward.*

(Translation. — authors)

A.F. Dubitsky told: “It was written in one night. To my own accompaniment on a trophy accordion, Mogutov sang it in front of the members of political department and staff officers. They liked the song. And when, on March 4, the first columns of the division from the village of Buzinovskaya went to the Voroponovo railway station to load into the cast, the marching “Song of the 72nd Guards” was already sounded over their ranks. Not so well-made song was sung from the heart, putting a feeling into it, because it was their own song, which was close, understandable to everybody. They sang it on hikes, on halts, in dugouts near tin-fired stoves, at amateur performances, at drunken soldiers’ revels. It was played by a divisional brass band, printed in leaflets and newspapers. It was carried from Stalingrad to Prague and returned home” [6; 140].

In January 1943, F. Dubitsky was promoted from soldier to junior lieutenant and was also appointed executive secretary of the Soviet Bogatyr division newspaper. In this position, together with the 72<sup>nd</sup> Guards Rifle Division, he left Stalingrad for Kursk Bulge. The harsh front-line daily routine of a fighter A.F. Dubitsky was reflected in hundreds of notes, dozens of life-drawings (mainly portraits of soldiers and commanders), in his own poems.



A.F. Dubitsky’s drawing. After the attack. September 26, 1944  
(State Archive of Nur-Sultan. F. 362. I. 3. Case. 51. Sh. 4)

Together with the 72<sup>nd</sup> Guards Krasnograd Red Rifle Division, he went through Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Transylvania, Hungary, and he was in Bucharest, Budapest, Vienna, Bratislava and Prague. During the war he was slightly wounded: “...once we were blown up on the road by an anti-tank mine, escaped with severe bruises, shiners, abrasions” [6; 17]. He ended the war in the same 72<sup>nd</sup> Guards Division as senior lieutenant, executive secretary of the Soviet Bogatyr division newspaper.

After the war, A. Dubitsky was demobilized and returned to Akmolinsk. The whole post-war life of A.F. Dubitsky was associated with the literary field, he went through all stages of career growth — from the literary secretary of the “Akmolinskaya Pravda” newspaper to the head of the department of culture and

consumer services of the “Tselinogradskaya Pravda” newspaper, from the executive secretary of the newspaper to the honored cultural worker of Kazakhstan. So, he got a job in the newspaper in 1947, then he worked as a literary, executive secretary of the “Akmolinskaya Pravda” newspaper (1947–1956), after that he worked as the head of the editorial culture department (1956–1961), then the head of the literature and art department of the “Tselinny Krai” newspaper and head of the department of culture and consumer services of the “Tselinogradskaya Pravda” newspaper (1961–1978).

Upon retiring, A.F. Dubitsky did not interrupt connection with Akmolinskaya Pravda newspaper, systematically publishing notes, articles, essays, and stories on its pages (in other newspapers and magazines).

He is the author of the collections of short stories titled “Donin’s Kindergarten”, “Forged Helmet”, “Smile”, “Raspberry Evangelism”, “The Barrier”, “The Sultry Interfluvium”, “The Hard Years”, books of local history titled “Akmola — the city of glorious”, “Where Ishim flows”, “Let’s walk along the streets of Tselinograd”, “Tablets of history” and others [6; 18]. The archive preserved A.F. Dubitsky’s front-line album of with his drawings about the front life of soldiers, full, on the one hand, of drama from the tragic events during the war, on the other hand — sincere love for fellow soldiers, for the land and homeland...

### Conclusions

A.F. Dubitsky was an honored cultural worker of Kazakhstan (February 18, 1970), a pensioner of republican significance (December 19, 1977), an honorary citizen of Akmola (November 15, 1995), a member of the Union of Writers of Kazakhstan (March 30, 1961) [6; 20].

A.F. Dubitsky’s glorious military and labor path was awarded, i.e., two orders of World War II, “For courage”, “For the defense of Stalingrad”, “For the capture of Budapest”, “For labor valor”, “For labor distinction”, “For the development of virgin and fallow lands” medals and other awards.

A.F. Dubitsky was a member of the Union of Writers of the USSR, a member of the Society for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of the Kazakh SSR, took part in the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Congress of Writers of Kazakhstan. This man had tremendous fortitude. He was faithful to the front-line brotherhood, his courage and fearless heroism played a huge role in the victory over fascist Germany, and the life and front-line path became an eternal role model, evoking pride and respect not only of the present generations, but also of future ones.

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## **29-шы атқыштар дивизиясының сапері А.Ф. Дубицкий: өмірбаянына және майдандағы өміріне шолу (Нұр-Сұлтан қ. мұрағатының материалдары бойынша)**

Мақалада Нұр-Сұлтан қаласының мұрағатындағы материалдар негізінде 29-шы атқыштар дивизиясының сапері әрі майдангер-газетші Андрей Федорович Дубицкийдің (1915–2005) өмірбаяны мен ерлік әскери жолы баяндалған. А.Ф. Дубицкий Ақмола қаласының құрамына кіретін негізінен казактар мекен еткен Ақмолинская деп аталған бөлігінде дүниеге келген. Ол 1931 жылы Ақмола қаласындағы жеті жылдық мектепті бітіріп, Омбы көркемсурет училищесіне оқуға түседі. Аталған оқу орнын 1936 ж. жақсы аяқтаған соң Ақмолаға қайтып оралады да, 5–10 сыныптардың сурет және сызу сабақтарының мұғалімі болып жұмысқа орналасқан. Қосалқы түрде «Социалистическая стройка» және «Ақмолинская правда» газеттерінде жұмыс істеген. А.Ф. Дубицкий өлеңдер, қысқа әңгімелер, мақалалар жазуды жақсы көрген және оларды өз суреттерімен безендіре білген, бұл шығармалары негізінен өзінің туған

каласына, ондағы күнделікті өмірге арналып отырған. Ол 1941 ж. желтоқсан айында мобилизация тәртібінде Қызыл Армия құрамына шақыртылып, Ақмола мен Қарағандыда жасақталған 29-шы атқыштар дивизиясының 78-ші дербес саперлік батальонына қатардағы жауынгер ретінде қабылданған. А.Ф. Дубицкий 1943 ж. қаңтар айында қатардағы жауынгерден кіші лейтенант шеніне ауыстырылған, сондай-ақ, «Советский богатырь» дивизиялық газетінің жауапты хатшысы болып тағайындалған. Осы лауазымда 72-ші гвардиялық атқыштар дивизиясымен бірге ол Сталинградтан Курск Доғасына шығады. Жауынгер А.Ф. Дубицкийдің соғыс жылдарында бастан кешкен күнделікті өмірі өзі жазған жүздеген естеліктерінде, өмірден алынған ондаған суреттерінде (негізінен жауынгерлердің, командирлердің портреттері), шығарған өлеңдерінде айқын бейнеленген. Қызыл Тулы Красноград 72-ші гвардиялық дивизиясы құрамында ол Украина, Молдова, Румыния, Чехословакия, Австрия, Трансильвания, Венгрия жерлерін басып өткен, Бухарест, Будапешт, Вена, Братислава мен Прага қалаларында болған. Андрей Федорович соғысты осы 72-ші гвардиялық дивизия құрамында аға лейтенант эскери шенінде, «Советский богатырь» дивизиялық газетінің жауапты хатшысы лауазымында аяқтаған. Соғыстағы және еңбектегі ерліктері үшін А.Ф. Дубицкий Отан соғысының екі орденімен, «Ерлігі үшін», «Сталинградты қорғағаны үшін», «Будапештті азат еткені үшін», «Еңбектегі ерлігі үшін», «Еңбектегі ерекшелігі үшін», «Тың және тыңайған жерлерді игергені үшін» төсбелгілерімен және өзге мадақтау түрлерімен марапатталған. «Донин садик», «Кованый шлем», «Улыбка», «Малиновый благовест» атты әңгімелер жинақтарының, «Заслон», «Знойное междуречье», «Лихолетье» повестерінің, өлкетану бағытындағы «Ақмола – город славный», «Где течет Ишим», «Пройдемся по улицам Целинограда», «Скрижали истории» т.б. кітаптардың авторы. Мақалада А.Ф. Дубицкийдің өмірбаяны мен соғыс жылдарындағы өмірінің негізгі жолы өскелең ұрпақ үшін мақтаныш және ризашылық сезімін тудыратын өшпес үлгі болып қала беретіні баса айтылған.

*Кілт сөздер:* Ұлы Отан соғысы, соғыс жылдары, жеңіс, Сталинград шайқасы, Қазақстан, А.Ф. Дубицкий.

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### **Сапер 29-й стрелковой дивизии А.Ф. Дубицкий: страницы биографии и фронтовой жизни (по материалам Архива г. Нур-Султан)**

В статье освещены основные страницы биографии и героического военного пути сапера и фронтового газетчика 29-й стрелковой дивизии Андрея Федоровича Дубицкого (1915–2005), основанные на материалах Архива г. Нур-Султан. А.Ф. Дубицкий родился в казачьей станице Акмолинская, являвшейся одной из составных частей города Акмолинска. В 1931 г. он окончил семилетнюю школу в Акмолинске и поступил в Омское художественное училище. В 1936 г., успешно окончив училище, вернулся в Акмолинск и стал работать учителем рисования и черчения в 5–10 классах. По совместительству сотрудничал в газетах «Социалистическая стройка» и «Акмолинская правда». А.Ф. Дубицкий любил писать стихи, очерки, рассказы, рисунки о повседневной жизни своего города. В декабре 1941 г. по мобилизации призван в Красную Армию и зачислен рядовым 78-го отдельного саперного батальона 29-й стрелковой дивизии, сформировавшейся в Акмолинске и Караганде. В январе 1943 г. Ф. Дубицкий из рядовых был произведен в младшие лейтенанты, а также назначен ответственным секретарем дивизионной газеты «Советский богатырь». В этой должности вместе с 72-й гвардейской стрелковой дивизией из Сталинграда он выехал на Курскую Дугу. Суровая фронтовая повседневность бойца А.Ф. Дубицкого нашла отражение в сотнях заметок, десятках рисунков с натуры (в основном портреты бойцов и командиров), сочиненных им стихах. Вместе с 72-й гвардейской Красноградской Краснознаменной стрелковой дивизией он прошел через Украину, Молдавию, Румынию, Чехословакию, Австрию, Трансильванию, Венгрию, был в Бухаресте, Будапеште, Вене, Братиславе и Праге. Войну закончил в той же 72-й гвардейской дивизии старшим лейтенантом, ответственным секретарем дивизионной газеты «Советский богатырь». За боевые и трудовые подвиги А.Ф. Дубицкий был награжден двумя орденами Отечественной войны, медалями «За отвагу», «За оборону Сталинграда», «За взятие Будапешта», «За трудовую доблесть», «За трудовое отличие» и другими наградами. Он автор рассказов «Донин садик», «Кованый шлем», «Улыбка», «Малиновый благовест», повестей «Заслон», «Знойное междуречье», «Лихолетье», «Улыбка», «Малиновый благовест», повестей «Заслон», «Знойное междуречье», «Лихолетье», книга краеведческого направления «Ақмола — город славный», «Где течет Ишим», «Пройдемся по улицам Целинограда», «Скрижали истории» и др. В статье отмечено, что основные страницы биографии и фронтового пути А.Ф. Дубицкого станут вечным примером, вызывающим гордость и уважение не только у нынешнего, но и будущего поколения.

*Ключевые слова:* Великая Отечественная война, фронт, Победа, Сталинградское сражение, Казахстан, А.Ф. Дубицкий.

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