

Эхо Судбищенской битвы долетело до Европы

В рамках реализации национального проекта «Туризм» у с. Судбище Новодеревеньковского района обнаружено место последнего сражения между русским войском и войском крымско-татарского хана Девлет-Гирея, где произошло одно из самых известных сражений эпохи Ивана Грозного. Найдено более 1500 артефактов, из них - свыше 800 наконечников стрел разных типов, более 100 свинцовых пуль и картечин, серебряные монеты Иоанна Грозного, пластины от доспехов, куски кольчуг и многое другое. «Событие, которое произошло на территории Новодеревеньковского района, имеет значение не районного или областного масштаба, а, как минимум всероссийского, или скорее даже европейского и мирового масштаба», - отметил губернатор Орловской области А.Е. Клычков.

Международное издание X-ray признало эти находки наиболее уникальными за последнее столетие в Европе.

Право исторического открытия, которое многие эксперты поставили в один ряд с находками Куликовской битвы, принадлежит орловским дайверам из клуба подводного плавания ДИВО. Кроме того, вследствие дальнейшего изучения находок, специалисты института РАН и Эрмитажа пришли к выводу, что найденные артефакты свидетельствуют о первой в истории битве с применением артиллерийского оружия.

wreck rap

Panorama of the site of the Battle of Sudzichin (above); A coin from the time of Ivan the Terrible was one of the artifacts found (right).

Staff from the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Archaeology investigate the coastal zone of the river, using metal detectors (right) and conduct geodetic surveys (top right).

Searching for material traces of military history outside settlements or fortifications is very problematic. Finding items that relate to an episode of a legendary battle at the bottom of the river is a rare piece of luck, offering a unique chance to reconstruct an historical event.

Land-based surveys
After the completion of the underwater part of the archaeological survey, members of the expedition began to carry out complex search activities on land, under the guidance and support of the archaeologists. During these land-based surveys, the site of a real clash was discovered, which took place, judging by the artifacts

excavated from the ground, no later than the middle of the 16th century. Where the metal detectors signaled a find, historical specialists marked these places with special flags. This was followed by a geodetic survey of the area with an accurate referencing of all detected objects, using a tachometer and GPS navigator.

The list of finds was impressive, and included more than 150 arrowheads of various shapes and sizes, lead bullets and buckshot, a blade fragment, a quiver hook, belt pads and girth buckles, horseshoe nails, and fragments of shoes and horse-shoes. During the expedition, more than 900 items were discovered in total, including the artifacts handed over by the divers. There are now

plans to organize further large-scale excavations, which will become a new stage in the historical and archaeological research of the defense system of the southern borders of the Moscow state in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Concluding thoughts
The archaeologist Oleg Radyush summed up the results: "With my archaeological team, upon the invitation of Sergey Kulikov—the head of the "ДИВО" dive club—we arrived at the place of unexpected finds and saw

Another artifact found was a cross dated to the 16th century.

Arrowheads found at the battle site (above); Bullet and arrowhead (top center)

83 X-RAY MAG : 107 : 2021 EDITORIAL FEATURES TRAVEL NEWS WRECKS EQUIPMENT BOOKS SCIENCE & ECOLOGY TECH EDUCATION PROFILES PHOTO & VIDEO PORTFOLIO



Expedition members prepare the camp and dive equipment (below). Oleg Shabunov photographs artifacts at the bottom of the river (right)



The Battle of Sudbischen Miniature from the *Obverse Chronicle of Ivan the Terrible* written in the 16th century



As part of this work, the Oryol divers studied archival materials, working with local historians and archaeologists, and conducted underwater research under their auspices.

After setting up camp and preparing dive gear and equipment, expedition members began surveying the waters of the Gogol River. As a result of exploring the bottom of the river, a spearhead and several dozen arrowheads were found by the divers. According to preliminary estimates, these artifacts were at least 400 years old. Most likely, the spearhead and arrowheads (used by medieval archers) were none other than material evidence of the legendary Battle of Sudbischen, which, according to

historical records, took place at the surveyed locations.

Background
Prior to these finds, historians, regional specialists and archaeologists had repeatedly tried to identify the battle site for a long time. The study of written sources and documents had not brought the desired result. Only one thing was known for certain: In June 1555, not far from Sudbisch, a battle took place between a squad of 7,000 fighters of the voivode (local governor) Ivan Vasilyevich Sheremetev and a 60,000-member horde of the Crimean Khan Devlet I Giray. The clash was preceded by a surprise attack by Russian warriors, and the enemy con-



Battle

voy was repulsed, relinquishing among other trophies, around 60,000 horses and 180 camels. After a fierce two-day battle, the enemy force retreated, leaving 15,000 dead on the battlefield.

The Battle of Sudbischen was not only a measure of the extraordinary steadfastness and fearlessness of Russian fighters, an event in which 5,000 Russian soldiers died in an unequal battle, but it was above all an outcome that saved the Moscow state and all of Europe from another devastating invasion. In the 16th century, the primary basis for the economic prosperity in the Crimean and Kazan states were the raids on neighboring territories, followed by the theft of slaves. According



Medieval Russian spearhead, arrowheads and artifacts found on the river bottom (above); Underwater documentation of the spearhead (top right)