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AUSTRIANS IN NIŠ: NICOLAS DOXAT'S DREAM WHICH LAST SHORTLY

Summary: After undergoing military training in order to become a fortification officer, Nicolas Doxat joined the Dutch army at the age of 18, as a result of which he later became a participant in the War of the Spanish Succession and the conflict in Flanders in the period from 1702 to 1714. After the siege of Lille, he entered the service of the Austrian imperial army, advancing to the rank of general. Gaining vast experience during the Austro-Ottoman conflicts in the Danube region from 1716 to 1718, and then during the conflict in Sicily from 1718 to 1720. He endured the siege of Timisoara the hardest, during which one of his injuries left him lame until the end life. Improving the defensive strength of the fortifications in Vienna and in Hungary, he paid special attention to moving strategic points outside their walls. The reconstruction of the Belgrade fortress was considered one of his greatest successes. During 1737 a new Austro-Turkish war broke out, in which, suppressing the enemy, the Austrian army advanced quickly, reaching Niš. Although the city was successfully conquered, general Seckendorf, the commander-in-chief, decided to expand his conquering domain all the way to Novi Pazar. On an insufficiently organized terrain, the scattered Austrian army found itself in disarray. As 80.000 Turks approached Niš at high speed, Seckendorf sends word to General Doxat that he will help, sending reinforcements that he never planned to actually send.

Keywords: Niš, fortress, Austrians, Nicolas Doxat, Austro-Turkish war

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