



history / heraldry

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UKRAINIAN SYMBOLISM IN HERALDITIONS OF ITALIAN MILITARY UNITS



There is a military unit in the modern Italian army, the coat of arms of which adorns our Ukrainian trident (1). We are talking about the 82nd mechanized infantry battalion "Torino", which has a more than a century of history. The creation of this military unit was preceded by a special legislative decree of the government of June 29, 1882 to increase the number of infantry brigades of the Italian army. On November 1, 1884, in Turin, on the basis of units transferred from the 26th, 56th and 60th regiment, the 82nd Infantry Regiment was created, which was given the name of the main city of Piedmont - Turin (in Italian - Torino), which emphasized his

The history of this formation can be divided into three periods:

- from its creation to December 31, 1926, when, according to the decree of the government, the corps to which it belonged was disbanded;
- from July 1, 1938 (date of restoration of the 82nd regiment), until September 1943, when, after a long defense against attacks by German troops, on the one hand, and detachments of the Yugoslav partisans - on the other, the regiment was disbanded again;
- from September 10, 1950 (the date of the re-restoration of "Torino" within the framework of the general reform of the Italian army) and until now. These three periods of the history of the 82nd mechanized Infantry Battalion "Torine" are reflected in its coat of arms, which has the form of a shield divided into three parts. In the upper horizontal part we see the trident. The description of the coat of arms states: "... the square of blue contains the Golden Trident of Ukraine, which reminds of the most famous page of the almost century-old history of the hull..." The following explanation of the trident is briefly given: "These are two letters B, turned to each other. From this letter begins the name Basileus, which is translated from Greek as the King, and two letters B according to the Byzantine custom symbolize sovereign power. Two letters in the Ukrainian trident are returned to each other - a symbol used in this very religious region of the Greek-Orthodox rite."



The above-mentioned glorious page is participation in the military campaign of July 1942 - January 1943 on the Eastern Front - in Ukraine and the Middle Dnieper. For heroism and courage in these battles, the regiment was awarded the golden medal "For Military Valor". In the award certificate of the period of particularly heavy battles during the general retreat in January 1943, it is written: "... At first they were surrounded by Arbuzov. They ripped the ring of encirclement after two days of fierce fighting, accompanied by a continuous, more than 36-hour advance in the depths of the enemy, without provisions, in conditions of terrible, almost polar temperature. Again, having encircled and withholding the front for more than 24 days, they managed to

break through this second ring and after the loss of almost 90% of the personnel to carry out a new raid and reach the locations of their army. The flag of the regiment, all the pruned bullets, was kept on his chest by the commander, who, having received a fatal wound in the battle, was buried in the snow-covered steppe, wrapped in that flag, but without a coffin and without a tombstone with the name, like that grain, which should go down and become a blossom, and then a fruit under the sun's rays in the summer..."

Other medals depicted on the coat of arms are silver medals "For Military Valor" - for participation in Italian-Turkish (Battle of Tripoli, October 23-26, 1911) and the First World War (the Battle of Piavé, June 15 - July 6, 1918).



Two fields - gold and silver color divide the lower part of the emblem in half. The image of an unquenchable bull - the symbol of Turin - decorates these two fields.

The coat of arms is traditionally bordered by a vignette, where the battalion number is given on the silver plate, and a legionary helmet with three oak leaves on top is depicted above. The coat of arms is wrapped with ribbons with the names of insignia. Under the emblem - the motto assigned to the 82nd in accordance with the royal decree of February 24, 1939 - "Tsredo e Winzo" ("I believe and win").

It should be noted that the trident on their coats of arms also had other parts of the Italian army - the 3rd cavalry squadron "Savoy Cavalry" and the 5th Cavalry Squadron "Lancheri di Novara" ("Ulani from Novara").

Notes

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