

***Tedo Dundua***

Professor,  
Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia

### **Georgian and European Armies in Action<sup>1</sup>**

*Georgia, an aspirant for NATO membership, actively contributes to NATO-led operations. Georgia's alliance with the West has its historical background. General chronology of the Crusades shows well-coordinated warfare.*

- 1085** Alfonso VI, king of Castile, took Toledo. The center of Arab science and learning fell into Christian hands.
- 1086** The Almoravid army in Spain defeated Alfonso VI of Castile's army at Zallaka.
- 1087** Genoa and Pisa took control of the Western Mediterranean from the Arabs.
- 1089** *David IV, son of Giorgi II, ascended the Georgian throne.*
- 1091** Duke Roger completed his conquest of Sicily and went on to take Malta.

---

<sup>1</sup> The paper was presented at international scientific conference “The Battle of Didgori – 900”, August 12. 2021, organized by Institute of Georgian History, Faculty of Humanities, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia.

- 1094** Castilian soldier Ruy Diaz de Bivar, better known as El Cid, took Valencia after a nine-month siege.
- 1095** The Byzantine Emperor Alexios requested aid against Seljuks. Pope Urban proclaimed the Crusade at the Synod of Clermont.
- 1096** Alexios Comnenos provided food and escort for the Crusaders, exacting an oath of fealty from the leaders in an attempt to protect his rights over any “lost provinces” of Byzantine Empire.
- 1097** Battle of Nicaea: a combined force of Crusaders and the Byzantines took the Turks’ capital.
- 1098** After a nine-month siege by Bohemund of Taranto, Antioch fell to the Crusaders.
- 1099** El Cid was defeated by the Almoravids at Cuenca and died. Jerusalem fell to the Crusaders. Kingdom of Jerusalem was founded under the Norman knight Godfrey de Bouillon. He was elected king and assumed the title of Defender of the Holy Sepulchre. *On hearing that Jerusalem fell to Christians, David IV of Georgia refused to pay tribute to Seljuks. He began a war against them.*
- 1102** Alfonso VI lifted the Almoravids’ siege of Valencia, he emptied and burned the city.
- 1104** Baldwin I of Jerusalem took Acre, Raymond of Toulouse took Byblos.
- 1105** *Battle of Ertsukhi, Georgians defeated the Turks.*
- 1109** Crusaders took Tripoli and Beirut.
- 1113** The knights of the Hospital of St. John resolved to fight for the defense of the Holy Land.

- 1114** Toledo withstood an attack by the Almoravids.
- 1118** Alfonso of Aragon retook Saragossa from the Almoravids, and made the town his capital. *King David IV of Georgia invited Cumans as settlers to form a light cavalry.*
- 1121** The Byzantine Emperor John II Comnenos took Southwest Anatolia back from Turks. *In the battle of Didgori David IV, with his Georgians and some 200 crusaders in the army, attacked the Seljuks more than twice as much in size. Turks were decisively defeated.*
- 1122** *David's army retook Tbilisi. Muslim rule was brought to end.*
- 1124** *David IV of Georgia invaded Armenia and Shirvan to exercise Georgian rule instead of Turkish.*
- 1139** *Demetre I of Georgia took Ganja in Azerbaijan.*
- 1144** Zangi sultan of Mosul took Edessa after conquering Muslim Northern Syria. This prompted calls for another Crusade.
- 1145** Almoravid rulers lost their hold over Spain.
- 1147** The Second Crusade began under leadership of Louis VII of France and Conrad III, but there was no overall command.
- 1153** Baldwin III king of Jerusalem took Ascalon, the last remaining Fatimid possession in the Holy land.
- 1154** Damascus surrendered to the sultan of Aleppo.
- 1163** *Georgia's victory over the Turks of Erzerum.*
- 1169** Salah ed-Din became vizier of the Fatimid Caliph of Cairo. As vizier, Salah ed-Din held more real power than the Caliph, who was mainly a ceremonial figure.

- 1171** Salah ed-Din abolished the Caliphate, becoming effective sovereign of Egypt.
- 1172** *Georgians were victorious near the Armenian city of Dvin.*
- 1173** Salah ed-Din seized Aden. *Giorgi, king of the Georgians, attacked Derbend. He was accompanied by his close friend and relative Andronicos Comnenos, future Emperor.*
- 1175** Salah ed-Din gradually welded Egypt and Syria into a single pan-Arab power, with serious implications for the Holy Land in the middle. Salah ed-Din planned to take the Holy Land for himself.
- 1176** Salah ed-Din mounted a campaign to drive Christians from the kingdom of Jerusalem.
- 1177** Salah ed-Din was defeated by Baldwin IV of Jerusalem at Ramleh.
- 1183** Salah ed-Din conquered Syria, took Aleppo and became sultan.
- 1185** Salah ed-Din seized Mosul and began his conquest of Mesopotamia.
- 1186** Frederick Barbarossa started to prepare for the Third Crusade.
- 1187** Salah ed-Din took Jerusalem.
- 1188** Philip II of France imposed a Salah ed-Din tithe to raise money for the Third Crusade.
- 1190** The Holy Roman Emperor Frederick Barbarossa drowned in the river Calycadnus in Cilicia. Philip II started to prepare to join the Crusade.
- 1191** Richard I of England embarked on the Third Crusade but spent a winter quarrelling with Philip II in Sicily. Then he left Messina and conquered Cyprus. Richard joined the siege of Acre and played a

major part in reducing Acre. Philip II fell ill and returned to Paris. Richard meanwhile gained a victory over Salah ed-Din at Arsuf and led the Crusaders to within a few miles of Jerusalem.

- 1192** The Crusaders followed unreliable and dishonest guides into the desert. Famine, disease and desertion reduced their numbers. Richard I made a truce with Salah ed-Din. Under it the Christians were allowed to keep the ports they had taken and have unrestricted access to the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.
- 1195** *Georgians defeated the Turks in the battle of Shamkhori.*
- 1202** Pope Innocent III offered the command of the Fourth Crusade to Boniface III, count of Montferrat. *Battle of Basiani – Georgians faced the sultan of Rum Rukn ad-Din, Turks were defeated.*