

THE PRIZES AWARDED TO THE FIGHTERS OF THE GREEK REVOLUTION OF 1821

After the end of the Greek Revolution of 1821, Greece gained its independence, but during King Otto's rule the country was financially wretched, with great needs and little resources. The Regency of the new State was initially supported by the Army, which consisted mainly of Bavarians, and did not have enough funds to keep an adequate number of Greek army troops as well, in order to engage all Greek fighters and provide them with a means of income. The abolishment of the Greek irregular army troops in March 8th, 1833 caused a lot of trouble and discontent to the people, especially to the fighters of the Greek Revolution of 1821, who did not own their own land and the only craft they knew was the craft of the fighter.

One of the methods used to content the survivors among those who fought for the independence of Greece was the award of prizes or national badges or medals, as we would say today. It would be an inexpensive moral satisfaction, an acknowledgement of the fights and sacrifices made by the people.

The Royal Decree dated May 20th, 1834, as published in Government's Gazette No. 20 on June 3rd, 1834, awarded the following prizes:

- Silver prize to officers
- Bronze prize to non-commissioned officers
- Iron prize to privates and sailors.

Officers were those who fought as Chieftains, having under their command during the Revolution their own army troops and saw to the provision of supplies and ammunition. The Chieftains were divided in seven Orders of Officers: the first two Orders were rewarded with government positions, while the remaining orders received titles of military ranks, from Lieutenant – Colonel (3rd rank) to Second Lieutenant (7th rank).

Non-Commissioned Officers were those called “Boulouxides – Μπουλουξήδες” or “Boukadoroi - Μπουκαδόροι“, leading small groups of privates and were under the command of a Chieftain. They were divided into rank a' and rank b' Non-Commissioned Officers.

All remaining fighters were considered as Privates.

In accordance with a more recent Royal Decree dated February 1835, a prize was awarded to all Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates of the Army Forces, provided that they have participated in the Revolution.

Prizes would be awarded only to living fighters. No distinction was foreseen for those who died during the Revolution, or those who had since deceased.

PHALANX OF LAKONIA

During the first months after May 20th, 1835 and after King Otto reached maturity, a decision was made to financially support some of the leading figures of the Greek Revolution of 1821. Upon formation of the Greek Phalanx, i.e. an armed troop consisting of distinguished military leaders of the Revolution, they would receive a salary that would remedy their extremely miserable (for most of them) financial condition.

The Phalanx would be divided into Tetrarchies (Quarters); the following ranks would serve in each one of them: one Captain (equal to Colonel), one Lieutenant, two Second Lieutenants (equal to Majors), one Flag-Bearer, four Sergeant Majors (equal to Captain) and 54 Corporals and Phalangites.

The monthly salary of a Phalangite was 48 Drachmas and the salary of a Second Lieutenant was 140 Drachmas.

The duties of the troops in the Phalanx were mainly police duties, whereas, in cases of emergency and if called, these men would form a special party or would serve as guides in the National Guard.

Those recognized Chieftains with the necessary qualifications to be enlisted in the Phalanx, who were, however, unfit to perform any kind of field service, as well as those who would become unfit in the future, would be ranked as Seniors of the Phalanx. They would keep their rank, enjoy all honors, being in a state of permanent leave. Moreover, as soon as the members of the Phalanx would turn 50 years old, they could request their transfer to the Veterans.

With a decree dated September 1st, 1837, the first members of the Spartan or Lakonian Phalanx were appointed.

(Extracts from the book of Stavros G. Kapetanakis: Prizes to honour the fighters from Mani during the Greek Revolution of 1821, pages: 31-34, 55-57. Editions: Αδούλωτη Μάνη - Adouloti Mani, 2008)

Our following ancestors received a prize:

Dimitrios M. Patsourakos-Patzourakos from Nomia of Messi, resident of Pylos, bronze award, File No. 113, Document No. 230 and then silver, box No. 172, File No. 30 and No. 34.

Initially he received the bronze prize and then, in 1844, he was awarded the silver prize. A certificate signed by Ant. Mavromichalis testified that fought at Karytaina under the command of Kyriakoulis Mavromichalis and was wounded. He was initially ranked as a Private under the serial number 07394 (011680) and following a second decision he received the rank Non-Commissioned Officer class B', under Serial number No. 05834 (018279).

Dimitrios Patsourakos from Konakia of Malevri, type of prize unknown, File No. 139, Document No. 166 and No. 167. Iron prize (through Tzanetakis Grigorakis), File No. 259, Document No. 294, Catalogue No. 10.

Ilias Patsourakos-Patzourakos from Konakia of Malevri, type of prize unknown, File No. 138, Document No. 139 and No. 140. Iron prize, File No. 227, Document No. 003, Catalogue No. 70. Silver prize (through G. Perrotis), File No. 220, Document No. 090, Catalogue No. 28 and File No. 288, Document No. 060 and No. 061, Catalogue No. 28.

Theodoros Patsourakos from Konakia of Malevri, inhabitant of Strontza, iron prize (through Tzanetakis Grigorakis), File No. 259, Document No. 294, Catalogue No. 9. Certificate dated 16/12/41, History and Ethnology Society of Greece, Document No. 17047/162.

Ioannis Patsourakos from Neohori of Karyoupoli. On March 15th, 1844 he was awarded the silver prize as Second Lieutenant of the Phalanx, File No. 276, Document No. 108, Catalogue No. 18.

Nikolaos Patsourakos from Konakia of Malevri, iron prize, File No. 259, Document No. 288, Catalogue No. 93.

Panayiotis Patsourakos from Konakia of Malevri, bronze prize, File No. 218, Document No. 042, Catalogue No. 3 and Document No. 044, Catalogue No. 6. Silver prize (through II. Dimitrakarakos), File No. 281, Document No. 073, Catalogue No. 16 and File No. 283, Document No. 071 and No. 072, Catalogue No. 18.

The relevant request was submitted by his children Nikolas and Theodorakis who were residents of Strontza.

It is stated that during the battle at Valtetsi, he was injured on the right cheek and in 1837 was to become Second Lieutenant, but his promotion was hindered by rival parties. He received the rank of Private, under Serial number 05164 (008589), box 172, File No. 83.

Kyriakos Patsoureas-Pazireas, 1811 from Nomitsi of Lefktra, request for prize, File No. 45, Document No. 026. He is not mentioned in the Prize Records, File No. 56, Document No. 103, Catalogue No. 51 and File No. 59, Document No. 153, Catalogue No. 51.

Nikolaos Patsoureas-Patzoureas from Kastania of Lefktra, silver prize, File No. 254, Document No. 019, Catalogue No. 48.

Ioannis Patsouris – Priest from Platsa of Lefktra, bronze prize, File No. 274, Document No. 107, Catalogue No. 59.

Georgios Patsouros from Skyfianika of Malevri, silver prize (through II. Dimitrakarakos), File No. 281, Document No. 073, Catalogue No. 5 and File No. 283, Document No. 071 and No. 072, Catalogue No. 5.

Lazaris Patsouros, iron prize; in 1837 he was a private of the 1st Company of the 4th Light Battalion and was nominated for a prize. He participated in the following battles: a) at Karytaina (P. Voidi), b) at Koroni (Anast. Mavromichali), c) Varoussi at Koroni, during the years of Ibrahim invasion, Haikali, Hores, Kalamata and Almyros (Stef. Pikoulaki), File No. 12, Document no. 087, Catalogue No. 11.

Nikolaos Patsouros-Patzouros from Nomia of Messi, Second Lieutenant of the Phalanx, iron prize, File No. 127, Document No. 145, Catalogue No. 5 and Document No. 148 and No. 149. He received a bronze prize and returned the iron prize, File No. 169, Document No. 152.

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ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ

ΤΟΙΣ ΗΡΩΙΚΟΙΣ
ΠΡΟΜΑΧΟΙΣ
ΤΗΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΔΟΣ

