Özdemiroghli 'Othman Pasha by Ebübekir b. 'Abdullah (cf. A.S. Levend, Gazavát-nâmeler, 87).

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OTHMAN PASHA, YEGEN, leader of lewends [q.v.], bandit, vizier, and ser casker of the Ottoman army in Hungary. In 1096/1685 he was bölük-bashî [q.v.] of the lewends of serdar Sheytan/Melek Ibrahim Pasha in Hungary. After fleeing from the theatre of war, he sacked villages and towns between Sivas and Bolu (in Anatolia). Afterwards, he became the chief bolük-bashi of Khalīl Pasha, who was responsible for the pursuit of the bandits (uftīshdi). When the latter was dismissed (Djumādā II 1089/April 1689), Othman Pasha obtained the sandjak of Karahisar-i Ṣāḥib [see AFYŪN ĶARA ḤIṢĀR] with two horsetails (tugh) and was ordered to go on campaign with five hundred segbāns [q.v.] (Silāḥdār, Ta nīkh, ii, Istanbul 1928, 266; M. Cezar, Osmanlı tarihinde levendler, İstanbul 1965, Fotokopi no. 6). In the capital he also enforced his nomination as serčeshme, i.e. leader of all lewends, and, being considered powerful, he was honoured several times by the sultan. After the Ottoman army had been defeated near Mohács [q, v] on 3 Shawwal 1098/12 August 1687 and the Grand Vizier Şari Süleyman Pasha had fled, 'Othman Pasha took part in the meeting of the army commanders in which Siyāwush Pasha was made serdār and an account drawn up for the sultan. He did not, however, join the rebellious army in its advance against the capital, but stayed back at Edirne. He then proceeded to Istanbul, but pitched his tents before the city and carefully remained distant. After Mehemmed IV had been deposed and Süleyman II had ascended the throne (2 Muharram 1099/8 November 1687), Siyāwush Pasha appointed him beglerbegi of Rumelia, but before Othman Pasha could march off, the Grand Vizier was killed by the rebels. His successor Ismācīl Pasha did not want to take command of the

campaign personally, and had Othman Pasha appointed vizier, beglerbegi of Aleppo and serdar. The new vizier reinforced his lewend troops, extorted money on their behalf and had relatives and followers appointed as sandjakbegs and beglerbegis. When it became known that he had his eyes on the grand vizierate, he was removed from the supreme command, officially because he was going to be appointed beglerbegi of Bosnia. In fact, however, a legal prosecution was introduced against him (firman at the end of April 1688, in A. Mumcu, Osmanlı devletinde siyaseten katl, Ankara 1963, 215 ff.), and the units of the saridjas and segbans, the bases of his power, were disbanded. But the new Grand Vizier Bekrī Muṣṭafā Pasha confirmed him in his function because the Imperial troops were about to attack Belgrade and a new army command could not be organised in due time. At the advance of the enemy, Othman Pasha abandoned the camp before Belgrade and retreated to Nis, his lewends having looted the bezistān [see KAYŞARIYYA] and the \underline{kh} āns [q.v.] (Silāhdār, Ta7 $\overline{\imath}\underline{kh}$, ii, 373). Although now entrusted with the defence of the frontier, 'Othman Pasha, while looting villages, retreated further to Sofia, allegedly to spend the winter there. At consultative meetings held in the capital during the winter of 1688-9, it was again decided to disband the saridjas and the segbans, and to put an end to the function of serceshme. It was also decided to raise a general troop levy (nefīr-i 'amm) against 'Othman Pasha (Silāhdar, Ta'rīkh, ii, 409-11; the firmans of ewa'il Rebi' ül-ewwel 1100/end of December 1688 are in the Basbakanlık Arşivi, Mühimme defterleri 98, 132-5). With a dwindling number of followers, Othman Pasha fled westwards, but at Ipek (Peć [q.v.]) they were outmanoeuvred and killed by Maḥmūd Beg-zāde Maḥmūd (<u>D</u>jumādā II 1100/March-April 1689, Silāḥdār, Ta nīkh, ii, 423-4; Defterdar, Zübde-yi wekayi at, ii, 170-1). Such a rise of Anatolian-Turkish lewends to leading positions in the Ottoman empire was symptomatic of the times, but remained only an episode.

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*OTHMAN PAZAR (in modern Turkish orthography, Osman Pazar; in Bulgaria since 1934, Omurtag), the name of a minor town (population in 1981, 10,339) in central Bulgaria, situated at an altitude of 540 m/1,771 feet above sea level on an infertile wooded plateau to the north of the Balkan Mountains. In late Ottoman times (till 1878) the town was the centre of a kadāo of the same name, which besides *Othmān Pazar contained three small towns: Kazghan/Kotel, Virbiče/Vărbitsa and Čitak (after 1934: Tiča), and 82 villages with a total population of