



Summary :

Nikephoros Melissenos was born ca. 1045. He was a military official and a scion of an aristocratic family of Asia Minor. In the autumn of 1080, he rebelled against the emperor Nikephoros III Botaneiates in Nicaea of Bithynia. He abandoned his imperial ambitions in April 1081 and acknowledged the power of his brother-in-law, Alexios I Komnenos, who honored him with the title of kaisaras. He died on November 17th, 1104.

Date and Place of Birth

ca. 1045, place unknown

Date and Place of Death

November 17th, 1104, place unknown

Main Role

Official

1. Biography

Nikephoros Melissenos was born ca. 1045. He was of noble descent from both his parents, who belonged to old aristocratic families. Their members had acquired high offices in the military hierarchy. His father was a member of the [Bourtzes family](#), one of the most prominent families of the [military aristocracy](#) of [Asia Minor](#), with influence on the [theme of Anatolikon](#) and the region of [Antioch](#). His mother was a member of the [Melissenos family](#). Its members had acquired high offices in the byzantine army serving as [strategoi](#) of themes from the 9th until the 11th century.

The marriage of Nikephoros Melissenos to Eudokia Komnene –the second-born daughter of [kouropalates](#) John Komnenos and Anna Dalassene, as well as sister of the subsequent emperor Alexios I (1081-1118)– occurred prior to 1067, and tied Nikephoros Melissenos to the royal house of the [Komnenoi](#). This marriage gave him a son, John Komnenos. Nikephoros Melissenos died on November 17th, 1104.

2. Military career

Nikephoros Melissenos was honored with the title of [magistros](#) prior to 1067 and served as the [doux](#) of Triaditza (modern Sofia) during the reign of [Constantine X Doukas](#) or [Romanos IV Diogenes](#) for an unknown period of time. During the reign of the latter, he served in the byzantine army under the command of his brother-in-law, the [protostrator](#) Manuel Komnenos. In the autumn of 1080, he was captured, along with Manuel Komnenos and his other brother-in-law, Michael Taronites, in a clash with the [Seljuks](#) of Chrysosekoulou near the city of [Sebasteia](#). Their captivity, however, did not last long, since Manuel Komnenos convinced Chrysosekoulou to enter the service of Romanos IV Diogenes.

When [Nikephoros Botaneiates](#) rebelled against Michael VII Doukas (1071-1078) in October 1077, Melissenos refused to join his rebellion, in contrast with many other great landowners of Asia Minor. It seems possible that he replaced the rebel as the commander of the theme of Anatolikon and was appointed strategos of the theme during that period.¹ Following the ascent of Nikephoros III Botaneiates to the throne (spring of 1078), he fell into disfavor. In 1080, he resided in [Kos](#), most probably on exile, due to his opposition against the emperor at the time of his rebellion.²

3. Rebellious activity

Nikephoros Melissenos [rebelled](#) against Nikephoros III Botaneiates in the autumn of 1080, attempting to seize the imperial throne. In order to achieve his goal, he did not hesitate to reinforce his rebellious army with Seljuk mercenaries, knowing that their great



numbers were necessary for his prevalence. The local populations welcomed him as an emperor during his advance through the lands of Asia Minor. As a result, it was easy for him to seize [Nicaea](#) of [Bithynia](#) and proclaim himself emperor in February 1081. The simultaneous rebellion of Alexios Komnenos, however, which became known to Melissenos a month later, forced him to adjust his demands. He proposed to Alexios to divide the empire among themselves, claiming for himself the western provinces and his coronation as co-emperor. However, the diplomatic manoeuvres of Alexios and the rapid course of events leading to the coronation of Alexios a few days later, placed Melissenos before a fait accompli. He abandoned his imperial ambitions and accepted the privileges that Alexios offered. He was honored with the title of **caesar** and received the tax revenues of the region of Thessaloniki as an imperial grant.

The extent of the ambitions of Melissenos is hard to fathom, since the ease he abandoned his claim to the crown reveals that his objective was not the throne itself but the securing of his property, which was threatened by the Seljuk presence in Asia Minor. It is indicative that after the ascent of Alexios I Komnenos to the throne, Melissenos abandoned his great estate in [Dorylaeum](#) and relinquished part of the imperial grants to his relatives, the Bourtzes family. His failed attempt to assume power had dire consequences on the territorial integrity of the empire, since the cities where he set up garrisons of Seljuk mercenaries remained under their control following the failure of his rebellion. His rebellion is a characteristic example of how the political dispute for the throne and the personal ambitions of the aristocrats weakened the empire and gave the chance to the Seljuks to be involved in the interior of the empire.

4. Activity of Nikephoros Melissenos from 1081 until his death



From 1081 until 1091, Nikephoros Melissenos fought next to Alexios I Komnenos. In the autumn of 1081, he participated in the battle of Dyrrachion against the Normans of Robert Guiscard as a commander of a part of the imperial army. He retained this position in the battle of Dristra (autumn of 1087) against the [Pechenegs](#). During that battle, which ended in the defeat of the Byzantines, he was captured and bought off by the emperor Alexios I. In the spring of 1091, Melissenos was ordered by the emperor to gather conscripts among the [Bulgarian](#) and Vlach nomads. He then commanded units of the imperial army in the battle at the foot of mount Levounion, which ended in a byzantine victory and the temporary elimination of the Pecheneg threat.

In 1094, Nikephoros Melissenos confirmed his allegiance to Alexios I Komnenos as he participated in the family council of the Komnenoi on the subject of the rebellion of John Komnenos, the doukas of Dyrachion, and Nikephoros condemned his action. During that same year, he was sent, along with George Palaiologos and John Taronites, to Beroe in order to guard the nearby region which was threatened by the [Cumans](#). That is the last mission of Nikephoros Melissenos mentioned in the sources.

1. Gautier, P. (ed.), *Nicephori Bryennii historiarum libri quattuor* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae IX, series Bruxellensis, Brussels 1975), p. 300, note 1.

2. Gautier, P. (ed.), *Nicephori Bryennii historiarum libri quattuor* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae IX, series Bruxellensis, Brussels 1975), p. 301, note 3.

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	Νομίσματα Αλεξίου Α΄ Κομνηνού http://www.wildwinds.com/coins/byz/alexius_I/i.html
	Νομίσματα Νικηφόρου Γ΄ Βοτανειάτου http://www.wildwinds.com/coins/byz/nicephorus_III/i.html

Glossary :

	caesar In the Roman Empire the title of Caesar was given to the Emperor. From the reign of Diocletian (284-305) on this title was conferred on the young co-emperor. This was also the highest title on the hierarchy of the Byzantine court. In the 8th c. the title of Caesar was usually given to the successor of the throne. In the late 11th c. this office was downgraded and from the 14th c. on it was mainly conferred on foreign princes.
	doukas (lat. dux) Antiquity: Roman military commander who, in some provinces, combined military and civil functions. Byzantium: a higher military officer. From the second half of the 10th c. the title indicates the military commander of a larger district. After the 12th c., doukes were called the governors of small themes.
	kouropalates A high-ranking dignity, which from Justinian I was conferred on members of the imperial family and on foreign princes. During the 11th c. it was conferred on several generals, not belonging to the imperial family.
	magistros Higher office that Philotheos in his Kletorologion places above the anthypatos. This title lost its importance from the 10th century and gradually disappeared - most probably in the middle of the 12th century.
	protostrator A Byzantine military office, accorded to the chief of imperial <i>stratores</i> or <i>hippokomoi</i> («grooms»). The title is first mentioned in the 8th century. In the 9th and 10th century, his major duty was to accompany the Emperor while on horseback. In the 12th century he was one of the highest officials of



the Byzantine court and he also commanded troops.

strategos ("general")

During the Roman period his duties were mainly political. Office of the Byzantine state's provincial administration. At first the title was given to the military and political administrator of the themes, namely of the big geographic and administrative unities of the Byzantine empire. Gradually the title lost its power and, already in the 11th century, strategoi were turned to simple commanders of military units, responsible for the defence of a region.

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Quotations

The historian Nikephoros Bryennios refers to the marriage of Nikephoros Melissenos to Eudokia Komnene:

ΑΛΛ' αἰ μὲν δύο τῶν θυγατέρων ἔτι τοῦ πατρὸς περιόντος ἀνδράσιν ἡρόσθησαν τῶν εὐ γεγονότων καὶ πλούτῳ κομώντων, ἡ μὲν πρεσβυτέρα Μαρία τῷ Ταρωνίτῃ Μιχαήλ, ἡ δὲ μετ' ἐκείνην Εὐδοκία τῷ Μελισσηνῷ Νικηφόρῳ, ἀνδρὶ νουεχεῖ τε καὶ θαυμασίῳ, ὃς πατρόθεν ἐς Βουρτζίους τὸ γένος ἀνέφερε.

Νικηφόρος Βρυέννιος, *Υλη Ιστορίας*, Gautier, P. (ed.), *Nicéphore Bryennios, Histoire* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 9, Bruxelles 1975), p. 85.17-22.

The capture of Nikephoros Melissenos by the Seljuks, as being described in Bryennios' work:

Μανουήλ, ὡς εἴρηται, ὁ κουροπαλάτης στρατηγὸς αὐτοκράτωρ τῶν ἐφῶν ταγματῶν πρὸς τοῦ Διογένοους ἀποδειχθεὶς, περὶ τὴν Χαλτικὴν διατρίβων ἐφυλάττετο τὰς τῶν Τούρκων ἐπιδρομὰς. Ἐπεὶ δ' ἀπηγγέλη αὐτῷ παρὰ τῶν σκοπῶν ὡς πλήθος Τούρκων στρατηγὸν ἔχοντες τὸν Χρυσόσκουλον, ὃς ἐκ σουλτάνων σειρᾶς ὤρμητο, τῆς δ' ἐξουσίας ἀντεποιεῖτο Περσῶν αὐτῷ προσηκούσης, ἐπίασι τὰς τοῦ Ἀρμενιακοῦ κωμοπόλεις πορθήσοντες, τὰς δυνάμεις ἀναλαβὼν ἐχώρει κατὰ τῶν Τούρκων καὶ διεσκεδασμένοις αὐτοῖς ἐντυχῶν ὡς εἰς προνομίην ἐξιούσι ῥαδίως τούτους ἐτρέψατο. Ἐγγιστα δὲ τοῦ στρατοπέδου τῶν Τούρκων ἐν τῷ διώκειν γενόμενος καὶ λόχοις αὐτομάτοις περιπεσὼν καὶ ἐπιπολὺ ἀντισχῶν καὶ γενναίως ἀγωνισάμενος, ἐπεὶ μὴ οἷός τε ἦν καρτερεῖν ἔτι, τῆς Ῥωμαίων φάλαγγος εἰς φυγὴν τραπίσης καὶ διασκεδασθείσης, ὤρμησε καὶ αὐτὸς εἰς φυγὴν, κυκλωθεὶς δ' ὑπὸ τῶν Τούρκων ἀλίσκεται ἅμα τοῖς δυσὶν αὐτοῦ γαμβροῖς τῷ τε Μελισσηνῷ καὶ Ταρωνίτῃ.

Νικηφόρος Βρυέννιος, *Υλη Ιστορίας*, Gautier, P. (ed.), *Nicéphore Bryennios, Histoire* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 9, Bruxelles 1975), p. 101.1-15.

Nikephoros Melissenos remains loyal to the emperor Michael VII (1078):

Πάντων δ' αὐτῷ προσκεχωρηκότων, ὁ Μελισσηνὸς Νικηφόρος, ἐς Βουρτζίους τε καὶ Μελισσηνοὺς ἀνέλκων τὸ γένος, τῷ κρατοῦντι τηλικαῦτα Ῥωμαίων πίστιν τηρῶν, πολέμιον ἑαυτῷ τὸν Βοτανειάτην ἀπέδειξε.

Νικηφόρος Βρυέννιος, *Υλη Ιστορίας*, Gautier, P. (ed.), *Nicéphore Bryennios, Histoire* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 9, Bruxelles 1975), p. 239.7-10.

Bryennios describes the commencement of Nikephoros Melissenos' rebellion (1080):

Ἐν ὅσῳ δὲ ταῦτα ἐπράττετο, ὁ Μελισσηνὸς Νικηφόρος, ἀνὴρ εὐγενής, ὡς ὁ λόγος ἐγνώρισεν ἄνωθεν, ἐκ κήδους ὧν ὤκειωμένοις τοῖς Κομνηνοῖς, καὶ γὰρ ἔφθη συναφθῆναι τὴν τούτων ἀδελφὴν Εὐδοκίαν, περὶ τὴν Κῶ διατρίβων, τὰς Τούρκων δυνάμεις καὶ



τούς Τούρκων ἄρχοντας ἐλύσας πρὸς ἑαυτὸν, περιήει τὰς τῆς Ἀσίας πόλεις, τὰ κοκκοβαφῆ ὑποδησάμενος πέδιλα. Οἱ γοῦν πολῖται ὡς βασιλεῖ Ῥωμαίων σφᾶς τε αὐτοὺς καὶ τὰς πόλεις αὐτῶ παρεδίδουν. Ὁ δὲ καὶ ἄκων τοῖς Τούρκοις ἐνεχειρίζεν, ὡς συμβῆναι διὰ βραχέος καιροῦ κακῶ τούτου τοῦ τρόπου πασῶν τῶν περὶ τὴν Ἀσίαν τε καὶ Φρυγίαν καὶ τὴν Γαλατίαν πόλεων κατακυριεύσαι τοὺς Τούρκους· ξὺν στρατεύματι γοῦν πλείστῳ τὴν ἐν Βιθυνίᾳ Νίκαιαν καταλαμβάνει κάκειθεν τῆς βασιλείας ἀντεποιεῖτο Ῥωμαίων.

Νικηφόρος Βρυέννιος, *Υψηλὴ Ἱστορία*, Gautier, P. (ed.), *Nicéphore Bryennios, Histoire* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 9, Bruxelles 1975), p. 301.1-12.

The compromise between Nikephoros Melissenos and Alexios Komnenos, as being described by the latter's daughter, Anna Komnene:

ἐνόσω ταῦτα ἔτελεῖτο, φήμη τίς περὶ τοῦ Μελισσηνοῦ διέτρεχε φθάσαι τοῦτον μηνύουσα περὶ τὴν Δάμαλιν μεθ' ἱκανῆς στρατιᾶς εὐφημῆσθαι τε ὡς βασιλέα ἤδη καὶ ἀλουργὰ ἠμφισπόμενον. οἱ δὲ τῶ λεγομένῳ πιστεύειν τέως οὐκ εἶχον. τὰ δὲ κατ' αὐτοὺς κάκεινος μαθὼν πρέσβεις ταχὺ πρὸς αὐτοὺς ἐξαπέστειλεν, οἱ καὶ καταλαβόντες ἤδη τὰς πρὸς αὐτοὺς γραφὰς ἐνεχειρίζον οὕτως πῶς διεξιούσας· «ὁ Θεὸς με μέχρι Δαμάλεως μετὰ τῆς ὑπ' ἐμὲ στρατιᾶς ἀσινῆ διεσώσατο. μεμάθηκα δὲ καὶ τὰ ὑμῖν ξυμπεσόντα καὶ ὡς τῆς κακονοίας τῶν δούλων ἐκείνων καὶ τῶν δεινῶν καθ' ὑμῶν ἐπιχειρημάτων Θεοῦ προμηθεῖα ὀυσθέντες τῆς ἑαυτῶν πεφροντίκατε σωτηρίας. ἐπεὶ δὲ καὶ γὰρ τῆ μὲν σχέσει Θεοῦ νεύσει ἐξ ἀγχιστείας ὑμῖν προσφκείωμαι, τῆ δὲ γνώμη καὶ τῆ πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἀρρηκτῶ διαθέσει οὐδενὸς τῶν καθ' αἷμα προσηκόντων ὑμῖν ἀποδέω, ὡς ὁ τὰ πάντα κρίνων οἶδε Θεός, δέον ἡμᾶς κοινῶς σκοπήσαντας περιποιήσασθαι ἑαυτοῖς τὸ ἀσφαλές τε καὶ ἀκατάσειστον, ὅπως μὴ παντὶ ἀνέμῳ μεταφερόμεθα, ἀλλὰ καλῶς τὰ τῆς βασιλείας ἰθύνοντες ἐπ' ἀσφαλοῦς βαίνωμεν τῆς κρηπίδος. τοῦτο δὲ πάντως ἡμῖν ἐσέεται, εἰ Θεοῦ νεύσει τῆς πόλεως παρ' ὑμῶν ἐαλωκυίας ὑμεῖς μὲν τὰ τῆς ἐσπέρας διεξάγοιτε πράγματα θατέρου ὑμῶν ἀναρρηθέντος, ἐμοὶ δὲ τὰ τῆς Ἀσίας ἀποκληρωθῆναι ἐκχωρήσοιτε στεφηφοροῦντι καὶ ἀλουργὰ περιβεβλημένῳ καὶ ἀναγορευομένῳ, ὡς ἔθος τοῖς βασιλεῦσιν ἐστί, σὺν τῶ ἀναρρηθέντι ἐξ ὑμῶν, ὥστε κοινὴν τὴν ἡμῶν εὐφημίαν γίνεσθαι, κἂν οἱ τόποι καὶ τὰ πράγματα ἡμῖν ἀπομεμέρισται, τὴν τε γνῶμην μίαν καὶ τὴν αὐτὴν εἶναι. καὶ οὕτως ἡμῶν ἐχόντων ἀστασίαστα δι' ἀμφοῖν διεξάγοιτο ἂν τὰ τῆς βασιλείας». ταῦτα οἱ πρέσβεις ἀπαγγέιλαντες ἀπόκρισιν μὲν αὐτοτελή τῆνικαῦτα οὐκ ἐδέξαντο. τῆ δὲ μετ' αὐτὴν μετακαλεσάμενοι τούτους διὰ πολλῶν τὸ ἀδύνατον τῶν παρὰ τοῦ Μελισσηνοῦ μηνυθέντων ἐδείκνυνον, τὰ δὲ γε δοκοῦντα τούτοις ἐς νέωτα γνωρίσαι αὐτοῖς ἐπηγγέλλοντο διὰ Γεωργίου τοῦ καλουμένου Μαγγάνη, ᾧ καὶ τὴν αὐτῶν θεραπείαν ἀνέθεντο. τούτων οὕτω γινομένων οὐδὲ τῆς πολιορκίας κατερραθύμουν παντάπασιν, ἀλλὰ δι' ἀκροβολισμῶν, ὡς ἐνόη, τῶν τειχῶν ἀπεπειρώσαντο τῆς πόλεως. τῆ δὲ μετ' αὐτὴν μετακαλεσάμενοι τούτους τὰ αὐτοῖς εἶπον δοκοῦντα. τὰ δὲ ἦν τιμηθῆναι τὸν Μελισσηνὸν τῶ τοῦ καίσαρος ἀξιωματῶ καὶ ταινίας ἀξιωθῆναι καὶ εὐφημίας καὶ τῶν ἄλλων, ὅσα τῶ τοιοῦτῳ προσήκει ἀξιωματῶ, δοθῆναι δὲ οἱ καὶ τὴν Θετταλοῦ μεγίστην πόλιν, ἐν ἣ καὶ ὁ ἐπ' ὀνόματι τοῦ μεγαλομάρτυρος Δημητρίου περικαλλῆς ναὸς ᾠκοδόμηται, ὅπου καὶ τὸ μῦρον ἐκ τῆς ἐκείνου τιμίας σοροῦ βλύζον ἀεὶ μεγίστας ἰάσεις τοῖς μετὰ πίστεως προσιοῦσι παρέχει. οἱ δὲ δυσχεραίνοντες ἐπὶ τούτοις, ἐπεὶ ἐφ' οἷς μὲν ἔλεγον οὐκ εἰσηκούοντο, ἐώρων δὲ πολλὴν τὴν κατὰ τῆς πόλεως τοῦ ἀποστάτου παρασκευὴν καὶ παμπληθῆ τὴν ὑπ' αὐτὸν στρατιάν οὖσαν καὶ τὸν καιρὸν ἤδη αὐτοῖς ἀποστενούμενον, δεδιότες μὴ τῆς πόλεως ἀλούσης τεθαρρηκότες οἱ Κομνηνοὶ οὐδ' ἄπερ νῦν ὑπισχνούνται θελήσωσι περατώσαι, διὰ χρυσοβούλλου λόγου ταῦτα γενέσθαι ἐγγράφως δι' ἐρυθρῶν βεβαιωθέντος γραμμάτων ἠτοῦντο. κατανεύει πρὸς τοῦτο ὁ Ἀλέξιος ὁ ἀρτιφανῆς βασιλεὺς καὶ μετακαλεσάμενος εὐθὺς Γεωργίον τὸν Μαγγάνην, ὃς καὶ ὑπογραφεὺς αὐτῶ ἐχημάτιζεν, ἀνατίθεται τούτῳ τὴν τοῦ χρυσοβούλλου γραφὴν.

Ἄννα Κομνηνή, *Ἀλεξιάς*, Reinsch, D.R. – Kambylis A. (eds.), *Annae Comnenae Alexias* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 40, Berlin - New York 2001), pp. 75.23-77.69.

Nikephoros Melissenos as commander of a part of the imperial army in the battle of Dyrrachion (October 1081):

τὸ δὲ λοιπὸν τοῦ στρατεύματος εἰς φάλαγγας διελὼν αὐτὸς μὲν τὸ μεσαίτατον εἶχε τῆς παρατάξεως, δεξιόθεν δὲ καὶ ἐξ εὐωνύμου φαλαγγάρχης τὸν καίσαρα Νικηφόρον τὸν Μελισσηνὸν ἐπέστησε καὶ τὸν καλούμενον Πακουριάνον καὶ μέγαν δομέστικον, τὸ δὲ μεσαίτατον αὐτοῦ τὸ καὶ τῶν πεζῆ βαδίζόντων βαρβάρων ἱκανοὺς εἶχε στρατιώτας τῆς τοξείας εἰδήμονας.

Ἄννα Κομνηνή, *Ἀλεξιάς*, Reinsch, D.R. – Kambylis, A. (eds.), *Annae Comnenae Alexias* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 40, Berlin - New York 2001), pp. 132.94-133.4.

Alexios I assigns a mission to Nikephoros Melissenos:



καὶ δὴ μετακαλεσάμενος τοὺς στρατηγούς τε καὶ ἡγεμόνας καὶ συγγενεὶς ἅπαντας βουλῆς ἤρχετο τὴν ἐκάστου γνώμην ἀναζητῶν· εἶτα τὸ σκοπηθὲν ἀπήγγειλε. τὸ δὲ ἦν παραδοῦναι τὰ τάγματα ἅπαντα τοῖς συγγενέσιν αὐτοῦ· προεξάρχοντα δὲ τὸν Μελισσηνὸν Νικηφόρον ἐπίστησι καὶ τὸν Κουρτίκιον Βασίλειον, τὸν καὶ Ἰωαννάκην καλούμενον· ἀνὴρ δὲ οὗτος τῶν ἐπιφανῶν, περιβόητος ἐπ' ἀνδρεία καὶ στρατιωτικῇ ἐπιστήμῃ, ἐξ Ἀδριανουπόλεως ὁρμώμενος. οὐ τὰ τάγματα δὲ μόνον αὐτοῖς παραδίδωσιν, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὰ τῆς βασιλείας παράσημα ἅπαντα· ἐπέσκηπτε δὲ ποιήσασθαι τὴν παράταξιν καθ' ὃ σχῆμα ἐν τοῖς προηγησαμένοις πολέμοις αὐτὸς παρετάττετο παραγγείλας αὐτοῖς δι' ἀκροβολισμῶν πρότερον ἀπόπειραν τῶν ἐμπροσθεν τῶν Λατίνων ἐρχομένων ποιήσασθαι, εἶτα τὸ ἐνυάλιον ἀλαλάξαντας πανστρατὶ κατ' αὐτῶν χωρῆσαι. ἐπὶ δὲ ὁ συνασπισμὸς γένηται καὶ εἰς χεῖρας κατ' ἀλλήλων ἔλθωσι, νῶτα παρασχεῖν τοῖς Λατίνοις καὶ φεύγειν ἀκρατῶς ὡς πρὸς τὸ Λυκοστόμιον ὑποκρίνεσθαι.

Άννα Κομνηνή, *Αλεξιάς*, Reinsch, D.R. – Kambylis, A. (eds.), *Annae Comnenae Alexias* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 40, Berlin - New York 2001), p. 156.66-80.

Nikephoros Melissenos participates in the battle of Dristra against the Pechenegs (autumn 1087):

αὐτὸς δὲ κατὰ τὸ περιορθρον ἔξεισι τῆς παρεμβολῆς καὶ τὰς δυνάμεις διελὼν καὶ τὰς φάλαγγας εἰς πολέμου καταστηράμενος σχῆμα παραθέων ἐθεᾶτο τὸ στράτευμα. εἶτα τὴν μέσσην τῆς παρατάξεως χώραν εἶχεν αὐτὸς συμπληρουμένην ἀπὸ τε τῶν ἐξ αἵματος καὶ ἀγχιστείας προσηκόντων αὐτῷ συγγενῶν καὶ τᾶδελφοῦ Ἀδριανοῦ τῶν Λατίνων τῷ τότε ἡγεμονεύοντος καὶ ἐτέρων γενναίων ἀνδρῶν, τοῦ δὲ γε ἀριστεροῦ κέρως κατήρχε Νικηφόρος καίσαρ ὁ Μελισσηνὸς ὁ ἐπ' ἀδελφῇ γαμβρὸς αὐτοῦ, κατὰ δὲ τὸ δεξιὸν ἡγεμόνες ἴσταντο ὃ τε Κασταμονίτης καὶ ὁ Τατίκιος, τῶν δὲ ἐθνικῶν ὃ τε Οὐζᾶς καὶ ὁ Καρατζᾶς οἱ Σαυρομάται.

Άννα Κομνηνή, *Αλεξιάς*, Reinsch, D.R. – Kambylis, A. (eds), *Annae Comnenae Alexias* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 40, Berlin - New York 2001), p. 211.42-50.

Anna Komnene describes the participation of Nikephoros Melissenos in a family council of the Komnenoi:

συγκαθεσθέντες οὖν ἄμφω μετὰ τοῦ Μελισσηνοῦ Νικηφόρου τοῦ καίσαρος καὶ τινῶν τῶν ἐξ αἵματος καὶ ἀγχιστείας προσηκόντων αὐτοῖς μόνοι πρὸς ἀλλήλους ὠμίλουν περὶ τῶν κατὰ τοῦ Ἰωάννου ῥηθέντων. ὡς δὲ τὸν Μελισσηνὸν καὶ τὸν ἴδιον ἀδελφὸν Ἀδριανὸν κατατρέχοντας ἐσηματισμένως τοῦ ἰδίου υἱοῦ ἑώρα, αὐθις τὸν θυμὸν παφλάζοντα μὴ δυνηθεὶς κατασχεῖν δορυμὸν πρὸς τὸν Ἀδριανὸν ἀτενίσας ψιλῶσαι τὸν αὐτοῦ πῶγονα ἠπειλήσατο καὶ διδάξαι μὴ προφανῶς ψευδόμενον τοιούτων συγγενῶν ἀποστερησαὶ τὸν βασιλεία ἐπιχειρεῖν.

Άννα Κομνηνή, *Αλεξιάς*, Reinsch, D.R. – Kambylis, A. (eds), *Annae Comnenae Alexias* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 40, Berlin - New York 2001), p. 254.91-4.

Nikephoros Melissenos' participation in the campaign against the Cumans:

καλῶς τοῖνυν παρασκευασάμενος τῆς κατὰ τῶν Κομάνων ὁδοῦ εἶχετο. ἅπαν οὖν τὸ στράτευμα μετακαλεσάμενος καὶ καταλαβὼν τὴν Ἀγχίαλον τὸν μὲν ἴδιον γαμβρὸν καίσαρα Νικηφόρον τὸν Μελισσηνὸν καὶ τὸν Παλαιολόγον Γεώργιον καὶ τὸν ἀδελφιδοῦν αὐτῷ Ἰωάννην τὸν Ταρωνίτην μεταπεμψάμενος, εἰς Βερόνην ἐκπέμπει ἐφ' ᾧ ἐπαγρυπνεῖν καὶ ἀσφάλειαν αὐτῆς τε καὶ τῶν παρακειμένων αὐτῇ ποιῆσθαι,...

Άννα Κομνηνή, *Αλεξιάς*, Reinsch, D.R. – Kambylis, A. (eds), *Annae Comnenae Alexias* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 40, Berlin - New York 2001), p. 286.41-47.

The 12th century historian John Kinnamos describes the large estate of Melissenos in Dorylaeum:

ἐνταῦθα Μελισσηνῶν ποτε καίσαρι οἰκίαι τε ἐξωκοδόμηνται λαμπραὶ καὶ κῶμαι πολυάνθρωποι ἦσαν θερμά τε αὐτόματα καὶ στοαὶ καὶ πλυνοί, καὶ ὅσα ἀνθρώποις ἡδονὴν φέρει, ταῦτα δὴ ὁ χώρος ἄφθονα παρείχεν. ἀλλὰ Πέρσαι, ὀπηνίκα ἢ κατὰ Ῥωμαίων ἠκμαζεν ἐκδρομή, τὴν τε πόλιν εἰς ἔδαφος βεβλημένην ἀνθρώπων ἔρημον παντάπασιν ἐπεποίητο καὶ τὰ τῆδε πάντα μέχρι καὶ ἐπὶ λεπτόν τῆς πάλαι σεμνότητος ἠφάνισαν ἶχνος.

Ἰωάννης Κίνναμος, *Επιτομή*, Meineke, A. (ed.), *Ioannis Cinnami historiarum libri septem* (Bonn 1836), pp. 294.21-295.5.



Chronological Table

ca. 1045: Birth of Nikephoros Melissenos

prior to 1067: Nikephoros Melissenos is married to Eudokia Komnene

autumn of 1070: Nikephoros Melissenos is captured by the Seljuks

October 1077 - spring of 1078: Nikephoros Melissenos opposes the rebel Nikephoros Botaneiates. Presumable exile of Nikephoros Melissenos to Kos

autumn of 1080: Rebellion of Nikephoros Melissenos in Asia Minor

February 1081: Nikephoros Melissenos is proclaimed emperor in Nicaea. Rebellion of Alexios Komnenos

March - April 1081: Nikephoros Melissenos sends an embassy to Alexios Komnenos. Compromise between the two rebels. Nikephoros Melissenos receives the title of caesar

April 1081: End of the rebellion of Nikephoros Melissenos

1081-1091: Nikephoros Melissenos fights in the various campaigns of Alexios I Komnenos against the Normans and the Pechenegs

1094: Nikephoros Melissenos participates in a family council of the Komnenoi, in which he accuses John Komnenos, the nephew of the emperor, of rebellion

November 17th, 1104: Death of Nikephoros Melissenos