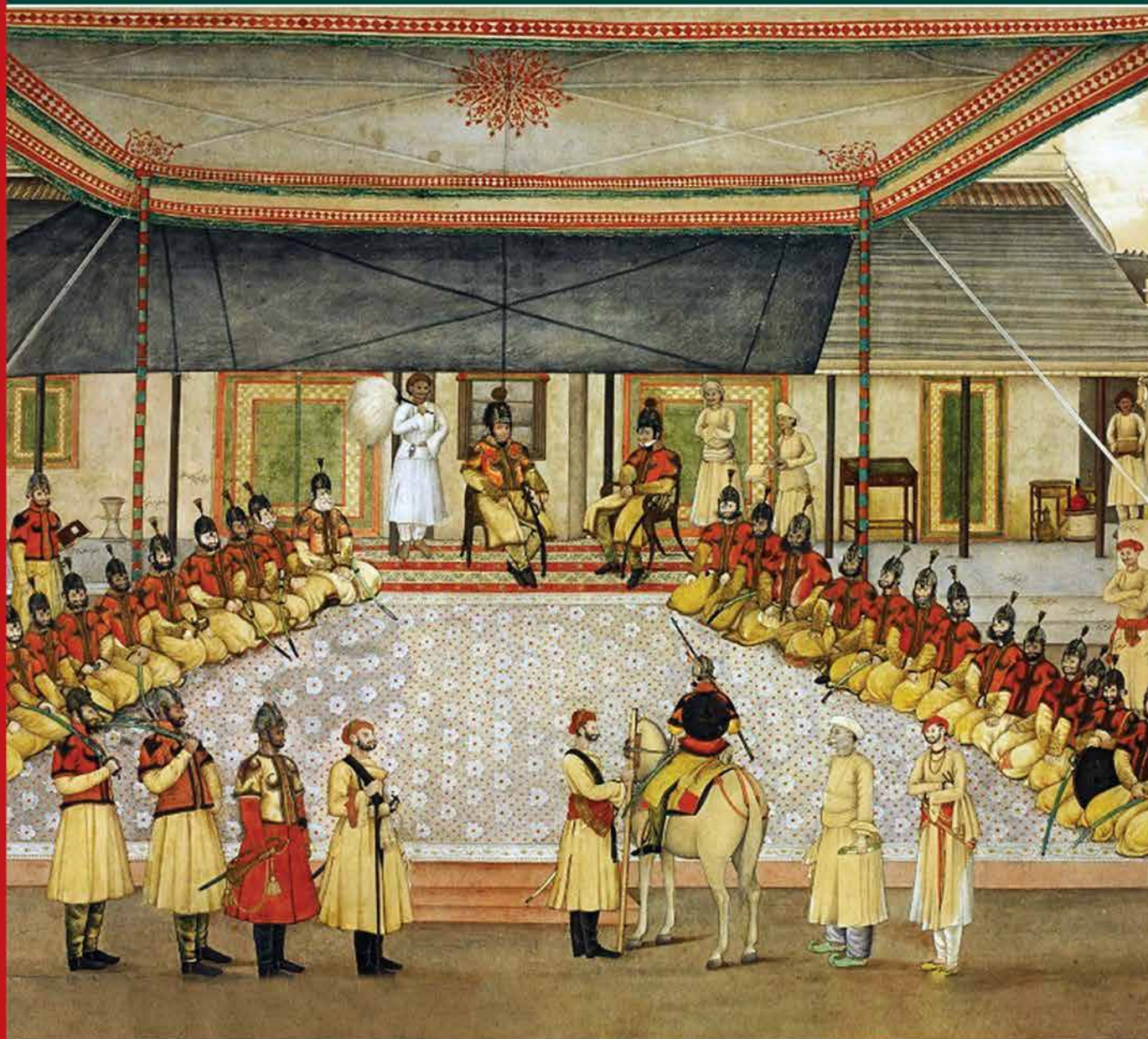




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The Irregular Cavalry through the Lens of a Painting



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Editor in Chief

Major General Agha Masood Akram (retired)

Editor

Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Khalil, AEC

Mailing address

Editor, Bugle & Trumpet
Army Institute of Military History
252 Aziz Bhatti Road, P.O. Box Number 917
Rawalpindi, 46000, Pakistan.

E-mail

editorbugle.trumpet@yahoo.com

www.aimh.gov.pk

WhatsApp: +92 333 5055167

Phone: +92 51 5202244

THE ARMY INSTITUTE OF MILITARY HISTORY

Pakistan's military history stretches far back into antiquity, to our sturdy ancestors along the mighty Indus, who tilled the land and defended themselves against multiple waves of invaders. Our soldiers today are descended from those warriors of antiquity, while structurally, the Pakistan Army is directly descended from the grand old regiments of the British Indian Army, some of which predate Pakistan by nearly two hundred years. It has a rich and proud history extending both sides of Partition (1947)—always defending Pakistan.

Taken together, Pakistan's military history and the overlapping history of Pakistan Army, form a substantial part of our nation's history. Add to this the need for our officers and men to be well-versed in general military history—a matter very close to their hearts—and one can see the case for a single organisation to handle these subjects taken together.

The then COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa is credited with approving a proposal to establish the Army Institute of Military History (AIMH) on 2nd June 2017—the day we were officially born. It has been set up as a semi-autonomous research body with a broad outreach both within the civilian and military domains, and is steered by a designated governing body, the Army History Board (AHB).

Located in Rawalpindi and close to the Army Museum and the Army Central Library, the institute is mandated to archive, record, research, teach and promote military history, along with allied subjects such as physical history (in all its dimensions), battle honours, regimental lineages, customs of the service,

On the Cover: Colonel James Skinner, presiding over a regimental durbat at Hasni in 1827.

(Source: Major General Syed Ali Hamid, retired)

matters of dress and accoutrements, and so on. The institute also serves as a forum for veterans, academia, subject matter experts and concerned civil society members, to gather and air their learned views on subjects of interest to the Army. AIMH also encompasses outreach to academia and students.

With a Military History Wing, Physical History Wing and Special Studies Wing, the institute is a centre for military historical affairs; a melting pot for serving and retired officers, and civilians, to meet and exchange views. Our *forte* remains military history, with research directors assigned to regularly visit the Army's schools of instruction, and the nation's universities, as visiting faculty and guest speakers. Military history buffs will also find themselves welcome in our lounges.

BUGLE & TRUMPET (B&T)

As a publication with the love of military history at its core, Bugle & Trumpet aims at providing readers with a diverse cross-section of articles and narrations that showcase different aspects of military history. It attempts to do so in a readable manner. It tells the stories of unsung heroes and living legends, and celebrates individual acts of courage. It attempts to stimulate intellectual probity and foster a fondness for this all-important, yet oft-neglected subject.

By means of its interactive nature, whereby readers may freely contribute their anecdotes, personal experiences, photographs and musings, it aims at becoming a publication which is anticipated; a place which every military history enthusiast in Pakistan might call home.

The views expressed in *B&T* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of AIMH. All content is the intellectual property of AIMH and may be reproduced or quoted, while citing the original author and AIMH. AIMH would appreciate a courtesy copy of reprints or reviews. Readers are invited to contribute for the *B&T*. Original articles related to military history, upto 2500 words in font size 12 (Times New Roman) with double line spacing, on A-4 size paper, alongwith relevant details like photographs, maps or sketches, may be sent both in hard and soft form to the editor. Endnotes (*Chicago Style*) and a brief biographic note of the author, including passport size photograph, are required. Contributors will be paid a remuneration. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject contributions.

From The Editor's Desk

Dear readers,

We are happy to present our 11th issue. We embark on a scholarly journey through the World Wars, colonial era and Indo-Pak wars.

The cover story, *The Irregular Cavalry Through the Lens of a Painting*, illustrates the story of a painting commissioned by Colonel James Skinner, providing a unique glimpse into the history of Skinner's Horse, a prominent irregular cavalry regiment in the British Indian Army. The painting and accompanying article delve into the evolution of cavalry in India, the distinctive practices of Skinner's Horse, and the regiment's enduring legacy, including the *darbar* system's continued use in modern armies.

Exploring the symbiotic relationship between national security and economic prosperity, *Security and Economics in Pakistan* navigates through history, examining how armed forces have played a pivotal role in economic revival and nation-building endeavours. From ancient conflicts driven by economic imperatives to modern-day strategies shaped by geopolitical considerations, the synergy between military strength and economic development emerges as a cornerstone for nations aspiring towards prosperity.


We revisit *The Battle of Plassey* in 1757, a watershed moment that heralded British dominance in Bengal and set the stage for centuries of colonial rule in India. Through astute political maneuvering and military strategy, the British East India Company secured victory, altering the political and economic landscape of the region.

The First Opium War (1839-1842) serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of unchecked economic interests and unequal power dynamics. We delve into the conflict sparked by the British opium trade in China, which ultimately led to the signing of the Treaty of Nanking. This treaty not only reshaped China's territorial boundaries, but also spotlighted British military prowess, exposing China's vulnerabilities and paving the way for subsequent foreign encroachments.

Our exploration extends beyond the battlefield to commemorate figures whose legacies continue to inspire. We study individuals whose dedication has left an indelible mark on history. *Baba-e-Poonch Khan Sahib Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan's* contributions as a freedom fighter and social reformer in the region of Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir, which played a pivotal role in establishing an enlightened welfare society, will remain an inspiration for present and coming generations.

We invite our readers to immerse themselves in the historical narratives presented here. Your feedback is invaluable to us, as we continually strive for delivering scholarly content. We welcome suggestions or insights regarding improvements to our publication.

Happy reading!



Muhammad Khalil



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The Irregular Cavalry through the Lens of a Painting

By Major General Syed Ali Hamid, retired

In an auction in 1980, the British National Army Museum paid a high price for a collection of paintings commissioned by Colonel James Skinner. Two of them are magnificent panoramas. One shows the entire Skinner's Horse returning from a review (see painting no 1), the other, the colonel presiding



Painting No. 1: 1st Regiment of Skinner's Horse returning from a general review, 1828 (Source: Author)

over a regimental durbar at Hasni in 1827 (see painting no 2). On its lower left is inscribed, 'The work of Ghulam Ali Khan painter resident of the Caliphate of Shahjahanabad completed in the Christian year 1827'. He was one of the last miniature painters of the Mughal Court.

The irregular cavalry regiments were an interesting feature of the British Indian Army, and a column on the silladar scheme—the structure on which the irregular cavalry was based—appeared in a 1898 edition of *The New York Times*. Central to the structure was the *sowar* (rider) providing his own horse, accoutrements, forage, clothing, etc. This system was not new to India or England, which had its own yeomen; however, in India the British perfected it to the point that it served

them for over a century, through numerous frontier campaigns and colonial wars.

Cavalry had been the dominant arm in the Subcontinent for centuries. The Mughals fought mostly on horseback, with only musketeers and bowmen as foot soldiers.

Haider Ali fielded an army of 60,000, of which 40,000 were cavalry, and Sivaji had 80,000 cavalry supported by 50,000 foot soldiers. The East India Company, on the other hand, took its time creating its mounted weapon, borrowing cavalry from the Nawabs of Arcot and Oudh in

the 1700s. These regiments were ineffective, and some mutinied. While a few irregular units were raised, the Madras and Bengal Presidencies primarily depended on the regular light cavalry regiments, which numbered fourteen by 1800.



A sowar of the Rohilla cavalry

(Source: meisterdrucke.ie)

The year 1801 marked a turning point in the East India Company's cavalry. General Lake was appointed C-in-C of the Bengal Army, and he welded the cavalry into an effective arm. Following the Marathas' crushing defeat at Aligarh in 1803, the Company army absorbed a large body of their Rohilla cavalry by raising three irregular corps,

two of which survive in the Indian Army as the 1st Skinner's Horse and 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse).

Lieutenant Colonel Carmichael Smith, who commanded an irregular regiment prior to 1857, credits Colonel James Skinner as the father of the Bengal Presidency's irregular cavalry. While fielding a corps of three regiments, each with 30 native officers, 90 daffadars and a 1000 sowars, Skinner probably developed the pattern on which the irregular cavalry would be organised and governed. The silladar system did not extend to the other arms, and the only silladar infantry battalions known as Jacob's Rifles, were raised by Major John Jacob.



Colonel James Skinner
(Source: victorianweb.org)

Since the silladar system was institutionalised by the Mughals, its terminology and words of command were in Persian, and they were adopted with modifications. The Persian *aslahbardar* (i.e. a



At its raising, the native officers of Skinner's Horse were nearly all Muslims. L-R: Resaidar Sheikh Surrih Hoosein, Resaldar Gholam Hoosein, Summud Khan (nishan bardar), Jemadar Abdul Rahman and Jemadar Mirza Bohtoman
(Source: Author)

soldier bearing arms) became a silladar and *bag-girs* (i.e. holders of reins) was corrupted into *bargirs*. There were two classes: silladar or gentlemen, who provided a horse at their own expense, and the *bargirs* who were supplied with a horse by the state.

The men in short blue jackets and red turbans at the top left in the painting (see painting no 2) are the *gonzalez* (probably

a corruption of the Persian *gola andaz*), who worked the galloper guns or the swivel *zambooraks* shot from a camel. Nearly all the ranks and appointments were also in Persian



Painting No. 2: Colonel James Skinner presiding over a regimental durbar at Hasni in 1827, with two rows of seated native officers. In the foreground is a new recruit with his horse and a sowar with a pole to measure its height. Artist: Ghulam Ali Khan, resident painter to the Mughal court (Source: Author)

e.g. *risaldar* (native officer), *nisanchis* (standard bearers), *nagarchis* (kettle drummers), *vakils* (clerks), etc. There was an intermediary rank of *ressaidar* between *risaldar* and *naib risaldar*, but it was discarded. The rank of *risaldar major* (the equivalent of the *subedar major* in the infantry) was authorised nearly 80 years after the first irregular regiments were formed.

In the durbar painting, Colonel James Skinner sits at the apex of two rows of native officers (see painting no 2). The regiment wore distinctive yellow *kurtas* (long coats) that prompted the nickname *the yellow boys*. Skinner was from a Scottish father and a Rajput mother, and it is possible that he chose this colour because it represents purity to Hindus. As against 24 British officers in the regular cavalry regiments, the silladar regiments usually had only four—the commandant, a second-in-command, adjutant and surgeon. This not only resulted in significant cost savings for British officers, but it also gave native officers greater authority and command of squadrons. Some were very old. During the Second Anglo-Sikh War, Subedar Major Mir Sher Ali, 8th Light Cavalry, was 78 years old when he was killed on the banks of the Chenab River at Ramnagar.



In 1861, the Bengal Army was re-organised and the strength of the irregular cavalry regiments was slashed by half, to 13 native officers, 54 daffadars and 420 *sowars*. Because of financial pressures, useless horses and outdated equipment continued in service. For this and other reasons, the system was refined in 1872. The regiment provided a *sowar* with a horse plus his arms and accoutrements for a fee (his *assami*). Often a troop commander held the *assamis* of all his men. Most of them were from his village, and therefore his word was law. In fact, crime was rare and discipline was based on the principal of shared *Izzat* (respect / honour).

In the 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse), the *assami* was between Rs 350 and 400. Poorer regiments charged more but allowed a deposit of Rs 150, and the balance was made up with a deduction of Rs. 3. There were other funds that the *sowar* had to contribute to, which resulted in them being very hard up in the early years



A sowar of 2nd Bengal Lancers (Gardner's Horse)
(Source: pinterest.com)

of their service. On discharge, the *assami* was returned, giving a substantial lumpsum to start retirement. The commanding officer was under a lot of pressure. He was not only in charge of a combat regiment, but also of a lending company, with nearly every shareholder

owing money. In some cases, he also ran a horse trading business—the regimental stud farm—which bred and sold horses.

The *darbar*, which was similar to a shareholders' meeting, could be held twice a week. Each of the 8 troops bought grain for the horses from the unit's *bannias* (traders), who delivered their accounts of payments and dues at the *darbar*. Regiments were always in debt to the *bannias*, and some began buying grain



A *darbar* of 15th Lancers (Cureton's Mooltanis) in 1903. At this time it was an all Muslim regiment. Some retired VCOs are sitting on the right in the hollow square
(Source: Author)

from the government. Everyone had the right to speak about issues like discipline, training, administration, leave, firearms, etc., reinforcing the sense of belonging to a family. The commandant made all decisions with the advice of his British and native officers. As depicted in the drawing, the *darbar* was also used to assess recruits, and in the painting a recruit, probably flanked by his sponsors, is formally introduced to the commandant and his officers. Next to him stands a *sowar* with a pole to measure the height of the horse (see painting no 2).

The painting is exceptional because the names and ranks (or roles) of nearly all the figures are inscribed in gold, but the text is faded and difficult to read. Skinner's Horse recruited mainly from around the Delhi region—Rohtak, Hissar, etc., therefore the men were mainly Muslims, many of whom were *Ranghars*; although interestingly James Skinner rarely appointed *Ranghars* to command appointments. As a result, many of the native officers in the painting have names that begin with Ameer, Mirza, Sheikh, Syed, and end with Khan, indicating that they are of Central Asian (Mughal) descent. The only Hindu in the painting is Daffadar Ganga Sankar seated last on the right.

The regiments were not always well-mounted. The wealthier regiments, such as Skinner's and Probyn's Horse, had vast estates with stud farms, while others purchased horses from agents and depots. When the First World War broke out, the 6th KEO (King Edward's

Own) Cavalry, a forerunner of the 18th KEO Cavalry, was inspected at Sialkot. The GOC 2nd (Rawalpindi) Division graded the regiment below standard, primarily because their horses were of very poor class and the remounts were the worst horses. So it is not surprising that the Indian cavalry regiments were not as well mounted or equipped as the British cavalry regiments of the British Expeditionary Force.

The system could not stand the test of a world war. It was only capable of absorbing the pressures of short campaigns close to home, and relatively fewer casualties in men and mounts. After the war, the India Army was reorganised and the irregular regiments were relegated to history. However, the custom of the durbar was adopted by the entire British Army in India, and continues in its successor armies.

Author's Note

Right till the First World War, silladar regiments had to purchase regulation weapons from government stocks. In 1896, the 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry spent Rs. 5,363 for a Maxim machine-gun from Nordenfelt Gun Company, London.

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About the author



Major General Syed Ali Hamid (retired) was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in 1968 and served with his regiment, 26 Cavalry in Chhamb during the 1971 War. He is a graduate of the Staff College, Camberley and National Defense University, Islamabad where he remained instructor for four years. Besides his illustrious military career, he raised the Defence Export Promotion Organization (DEPO).

Security and Economics in Pakistan

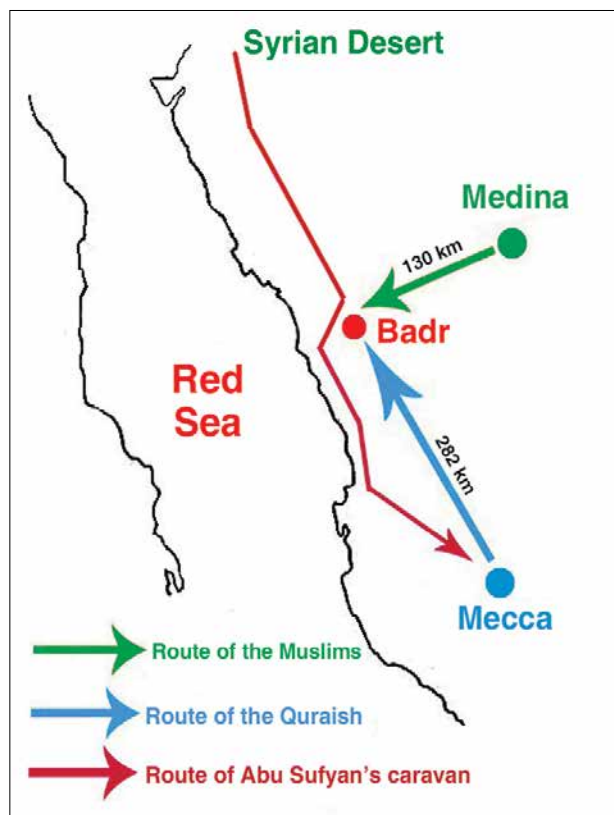
Historical Context with an Eye on the Future

By Brigadier Ghulam Jilani, retired

There is a profound relationship between the security and economy of a modern nation state, which has remained relevant since times immemorial. Wars have been fought in the past and will be fought in future, for economic reasons. Economic progress will be essential because *wealth is usually needed to underpin military power, and military power is usually needed to acquire and protect wealth.*¹ This statement needs a historical context.

Historical Context

The first battle of Islam at Badr, was fought more for economic reasons and clashing ideologies. Budding Islam was an ideological threat to the overall economy of the Quraish, who would harvest their business boon during the pilgrimage of neighbouring Arab tribes to the Holy Kaaba. Islam challenged their ideology, to make their gods irrelevant, and the Quraish knew this irrelevance would affect their trade and business. The threat further escalated when the Holy Prophet ﷺ migrated to Yasrib (later Madina). Hazrat Saad bin Muaz, an *Ansar* (helper) chief had visited Mecca for the pilgrimage, but it was denied to him by Abu Jahl, who threatened him with dire consequences unless the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was killed or externed from the territory of Madina. Hazrat Saad gave him a counter threat; *if he was not permitted to perform the pilgrimage, he would be constrained to block their trade route to Syria.* Abu Jahl and the other Quraish immediately realised the gravity of the situation, and felt that if the Muslims gained



Sketch showing routes of movement before the Battle of Badr
(Source: tasheeltadrees.blogspot.com)

power through their base at Madina, very soon the Meccans would suffer economically.² And it later resulted into a battle at Badr.

In a later period, the Muslims, after conquering the Iberian Peninsula (Spain), were defeated in the Battle of Tours in 732 AD³ and their further drive towards western Europe was halted. Peter Frankopan writes in his book *The Silk Road*, that the truth is that while defeat was certainly a setback, it did not mean new attacks would not be unleashed in the future. If, that is, there were prizes worth winning. As far as

- 1 Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers: Economic Change and Military Conflict from 1500 to 2000* (London: Unwin Hyman, 1988).
- 2 Dr S.M. Rahman, Col Bashir Hussain, *Early Battles of Islam*, (Rawalpindi: Army Education Press, 2001), 32.
- 3 Kennedy Hickman, "Muslim Invasions of Western Europe: The 732 Battle of Tours," Thought Co. accessed November 2, 2023, <https://www.thoughtco.com/muslim-invasions-battle-of-tours-2360885>.

western Europe was concerned in this period, these prizes were few and far between. Wealth and rewards lay elsewhere.⁴ The Muslims thereafter, did not venture into western Europe because it was then going through the Dark Ages.

Historical examples will unequivocally suggest that a well-equipped and organised army is pivotal to the steady rise of nations. The Ottomans reached their zenith between 1451 and 1566, and unlike most armies of the period, the permanent core of Ottoman forces received regular pay. The elites were rewarded by revenue charged to lands.⁵

William Dalrymple in his book *The Anarchy* explains that the Mughal army was the high point of Mughal rule, until the death of Aurangzeb in 1707. It could fight back to defend and steadily expand its territories by defeating any force that challenged the writ of the Mughals, but the death of Aurangzeb changed everything for the British East India Company (EIC).⁶ The empire went into tatters and central rule was defied. Local sovereigns fell out of Mughal control and raised their own armies. Tipu Sultan decided to break off relations with the Mughal monarch Shah Alam, and became the first ruler to formally disown even nominal sovereignty to the Mughal emperor.⁷ According to Tipu, the emperor was actually enslaved to Scindia—the Marhatta raja



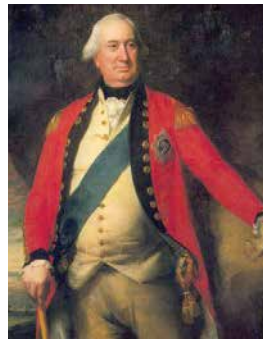
Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb Alamgir
(Source: quora.com)



Tipu Sultan—ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore
(Source: rediff.com)

who was protecting the crown in Delhi against its enemies—on a monthly wage of Rs 15,000.⁸ Such was the deplorable situation for the Mughals because they had failed to raise a strong army owing to lack of resources, thus had to mortgage their sovereignty to local maharajas and warlords. This gave a decisive advantage to the EIC, which dealt with local nawabs and rajas piecemeal, to establish full control over the Subcontinent.

Tipu Sultan controlled Mahe on the Malabar Coast, which the British considered a gateway and economic and logistic lifeline to their arch rival—the French EIC—for further extension into India. Thus, defeating the Nawab of Mysore became vital for its economic



Charles Cornwallis—Governor General of India
(Source: artuk.org)

gains, and to preclude any chance of the French establishing a toehold in India. Cornwallis, as Governor General after the Second Anglo-Mysore War, turned the fortunes of Bengal, thus had the resources to deal with Tipu. The sepoys of the Bengal Presidency Army of the EIC were classed as *gentlemen troopers*, earned around Rs 300 a year, while their equivalents in the Mysore army earned Rs 180.⁹ EIC's armies could therefore draw

4 Peter Frankopan, *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2015), 90.

5 Gerard Chaliand, ed., *The Art of War in World History: From Antiquity to the Nuclear Age*, 1st ed. (California: University of California Press, 1994), 32.

6 William Dalrymple, *The Anarchy, The Relentless Rise Of East India Company* (London: Bloomsbury publishing, 2019), 26.

7 Dalrymple, *The Anarchy*, 322.

8 Dalrymple, *The Anarchy*, 322.

9 Dalrymple, *The Anarchy*, 316-317.



unprecedented manpower to defeat Tipu Sultan. As Burton Stein put it, *the colonial conquest of India was as much bought as fought*.¹⁰ Economic condition is directly proportional to military power, therefore with better resources, the EIC outspent and outgunned the Mysore army.



Mahadji Scindia—
Maratha raja
(Source: quora.com)

In the same period Mahadji Scindia, who was also trying to exert his influence, anxiously reflected that *without money it was impossible to assemble an army or prosecute war*.¹¹ According to Napoleon, *an army marches on its stomach*.¹²

In the 20th century, since Germany did not offer enough land to supply the German people and the demands of German industry, Hitler felt, as early as 1933, that it was imperative to expand into the eastern territories and bring them under control. Just before initiating his offensive in the west, Hitler first took on Czechoslovakia and Austria to obviate economic difficulties, and then turned to Norway. To run the German war machine, iron ore and control of Norway's extensive coastline were required. This would grant Germany sway over the North Sea for the passage of their warships and submarines into the Atlantic, and also facilitate import of iron ore from Sweden, via the port of Luleå.¹³

According to a trade pact concluded in 1940, Germany would deliver military equipment and industrial goods to the Soviet

Union, in return for raw materials like oil and grain. Soviet richness in natural resources, and German dependence, convinced Hitler to start planning an attack on Russia as soon as possible. His idea was that by occupying and exploiting the rich natural resources of the Soviet Union, he could make Germany independent of imports, and that independence would negate the effect of any future sea blockade.¹⁴ The economy and its growth had serious consequences in war. In the final outcome of the war on Russia, the Germans were *outproduced* by the Soviet Union in the armaments battle, as well as *outfought* by it on the front.¹⁵

In the American Civil War, whereas the *Confederates* found it impossible to pay for the war, the *Union's* economy was booming. *The American way of war*, to use Professor Weigley's phrase, was first forged here in the *Union's* mobilisation and deployment of its massive industrial-technological potential, to defeat the *Confederates*.¹⁶

Nixon in his book *Leaders* mentions that despite the Soviet advantage and edge in Vietnam, Kosygin, the then foreign minister of USSR, confided to de Gaulle, the French President, lamenting the economic problems caused by that war for the Soviet Union.¹⁷ The USSR was later bled white economically by the Americans. The US military, with superiority in strategic nuclear weaponry, had outspent and outgunned the Soviet Union, and that put additional pressure on its economy, which ultimately resulted in collapse.

10 Dalrymple, *The Anarchy*, 317.

11 Dalrymple, *The Anarchy*, 330.

12 "Napoleon Bonaparte quotes," AZ Quotes, accessed on November 3, 2023, <https://www.azquotes.com/quote/31328>.

13 C N Trueman "The Invasion of Norway 1940," The History Learning Site, 20 Apr 2015, accessed on October 4, 2023, historylearningsite.co.uk.

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15 Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, 362.

16 Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, 181.

17 Richard Nixon, *Leaders*, 1st ed. (New York: Warner Books, 1982), 75.

National Security as an Imperative

According to Richard Nixon, *economic power will be key to other kinds of power*.¹⁸ The *militarisation of the world economy* as the Worldwatch Institute terms it, is now advancing faster than it has for a generation.¹⁹ Slow growth in a country is likely to depress public morale, cause discontent, and exacerbate the discussion over national spending priorities. On the other hand, large-scale armaments spending, though realising more growth for its part, can cause a diversion of resources from other groups in society, and make the national economy less capable of handling the competitive challenges of other countries.²⁰



laissez-faire economic policies (Source: wallstreetmojo.com)

In today's politico-military world, there exists a tense environment between a nation's existence and its survival in a *laissez-faire* economic world; on the one hand are pursuits for strategic security through investment in state-of-the-art weapon systems, and allocation of national resources to the armed forces. On the other is the search for economic stability and national prosperity according to the ideals and aspirations of its people, which are naturally contingent upon growth, enlarged output, and thriving international trade, to minimise unemployment. This tall order can

be disturbed due to disproportionate spending on armaments and armed forces. There are models for both types, like Japan, South Korea, Switzerland, Sweden and Austria, which have taken advantage of growth and international production without much expenditure on security. The other models are India, Pakistan and Iran, among others.

In the case of Pakistan, it has to allocate a higher share of the budget for defence, in its effort to avoid, or at least mitigate, the effects of being outspent and outgunned by its eastern neighbour. India has a 3.73 trillion dollar, 5th largest economy²¹ and 2nd largest army of the world.²² It poses a huge challenge to the



Former COAS General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, retired
(Source: tribune.com.pk)

security of Pakistan. To effectively thwart Indian designs, full spectrum deterrence has to be maintained, which former COAS General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani put across very aptly, *plan on the adversaries' capabilities, not intentions*.²³

Defence spending in the budget for 2018/19 was 2.87% of the GDP, which was drastically cut (voluntarily) by the Army to 2.62%, that is 14% of the total outlay of the budget, from 18.5% in the outgoing year.²⁴ This happened when the Pakistan Army was also quelling internal disorder. India spent 15.5 % of its total budget outlay for defence for 2019/20

18 Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, 413.

19 Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, 443.

20 Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, 444.

21 *World GDP Rankings 2023 | Top 10 Countries Ranked By GDP - Forbes India*.

22 "The Largest Armies In The World," World Atlas, accessed on October 16, 2023, <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/29-largest-armies-in-the-world.html>.

23 "Kayani spells out threat posed by Indian doctrine," *Dawn*, February 4, 2010, <https://www.dawn.com/news/858309/kayani-spells-out-threat-posed-by-indian-doctrine>.

24 Baqir Sajjad Syed, "Budget 2019-20: Defence budget to grow nominally next year," *Dawn*, June 12, 2029, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1487718>.

and 2020/21, which comes to about 2.1 % of its GDP.²⁵

It is disturbing that like most developing countries, a steady budget deficit in Pakistan is the primary cause of major ills of the economy. It has varied between 5.4 to 8.7% of the GDP during the last two decades. The current account deficit varied between 2.7 to 7.2% of the GDP during the same period.²⁶ The economy of Pakistan is under stress, with payment of interest on debt, both external and internal, now soaring to a level that it consumes the lion's share of revenue collected by the federal government. Interest payments in the first quarter of fiscal year 23-24 increased alarmingly to Rs 1.38 trillion, equal to 98% of the federal government's net income of Rs 1.4 trillion.²⁷ This leaves a miniscule amount for other heads, thus the need to take more loans to repay older ones. The problem is further compounded by the woes of loss-making state-owned enterprises. Presently there are 215 of them, of which 170 are commercial entities with 475,000 employees, which have rarely achieved a five percent return on their assets in three consecutive years.²⁸ Circular debt of the power sector, despite massive increase in tariffs, has reached Rs 2.54 trillion after September 2023.²⁹ This vicious cycle, if not stemmed, will further aggravate the economic afflictions of Pakistan.

The defence budget has always been in the national discourse of Pakistan. It is common to suggest a cut in the defence budget in the name of assuaging economic distress, to lessen military influence in national decision

making. This is an unwise and dangerous discourse. The military establishment like other pillars of state, has a role in national decision making. The solution is not to reduce its size, but *to increase the capacity of other institutions to play their roles efficiently*. National polity and security, if left to infighting, creates a vacuum which is then filled by forces like the erstwhile EIC, which is not good for the country. We have experienced trauma and the scourge of terrorism in all provinces in the last decade, which almost shook the foundations of the country. This has been courageously and methodically cut down by the Armed Forces of Pakistan. This can only be consolidated through institution building and unity.

It is a challenge to prioritise the distribution of resources for a weak economy like Pakistan. In hard times, should the budgets of organised and functional institutions like the Army, NADRA, HEC, Motorway Police



and Emergency Service 1122 also be slashed, to bring them at par with other dysfunctional state institutions? The logical course should be to support government and non-government organisations on ways and means to help increase the size of the financial cake of Pakistan, instead of cutting the budget of the Army to make room for others. Empirical evidence suggests that poverty in different parts of the world does not occur always due to lack of resources, but due to *poverty of ideas*, the

25 <https://idsa.in/issuebrief/india-def-budget-2020-21-lkbehera-040220>.

26 Anjum Aqeel and Mohammed Nishat, "The Twin Deficits Phenomenon: Evidence from Pakistan," *The Pakistan Development Review* 39, no. 4 (February 2000):535-550, DOI:10.30541/v39i4Ipp.535-550.

27 Shahbaz Rana, "Strict measures help meet IMF's budget deficit target for Q1," *The Express Tribune*, October 26, 2023, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2443051/strict-measures-help-meet-imfs-budget-deficit-target-for-q1>.

28 Shahid Kardar, "Privatising PIA as going concern?," *Dawn*, October 28, 2023, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1784402>.

29 Shahbaz Rana, "Power sector debt soars to Rs2.54tr," *The Express Tribune*, October 27, 2023, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2443142/power-sector-debt-soars-to-rs254tr>.

inability to innovate, and indifference to undo wrongs. *Economy in truth and honesty always results in more poverty and unrest.*

The people of Pakistan speak 12 major languages and hundreds of dialects. Before independence from colonial rule, Pakistan lacked a political entity, despite its distinct geographical entity based on the Indus River. It is not only ethnically diverse, but also has sectarian cleavages. Though Pakistan has enough resources, the population bomb is ticking fast. To hold it together requires statesmanship of the highest order, and unison effort of all institutions of the country.

Elements of national security and power are intertwined, therefore the Pakistan Army in the peculiar political, regional and international environment, cannot and should not stay aloof as a bystander, to witness deterioration of the economy, brick by brick. Thus, as the most organised institution of the country, it may help other organs of the state to apply their own weight effectively. Objectively, it should work in tandem with national security policy, and within it. It must buttress other institutions, to bring them at par with international standards and competitiveness. And this must be done within the precincts of the constitution of Pakistan.

It is for this reason that the Army has again shown an institutionalised way forward, within the four walls of the constitution, exerting its administrative power to re-energise governance to address economic issues, at priority. To bring in foreign investment and avoid any effort to stymie it (through red tape), on 20th June 2023, the Government of Pakistan approved the establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), to act as a single window to facilitate

investors, establish cooperation among all Government departments, and fast-track project development. It is chaired by the Prime Minister, with members including federal ministers, provincial chiefs and the head of the Army. The Government established the SIFC



to shorten lengthy business processes through a cooperative and collaborative whole-of-the-government approach, with representation of all stakeholders. It is aimed at capitalising on Pakistan's untapped

potential in key sectors of defence production, agriculture, mining, information technology (IT) and energy, through domestic and foreign investment.³⁰ The Army, therefore, has an important role in SIFC.

How and Why the Army is an Important Building Block of Economic Revival

The Pakistan Army, due to its internal and external standing, and the confidence it inspires among friendly countries, is poised to bring in much needed foreign investment to improve the economy and bid adieu to international loaning agencies. Pakistan Army has its footprint far and wide in every area of Pakistan, thus the tone it has set for itself and other organs of the state, has an historical and well documented record, that it is adept to realise the dream of economic stability.

The Army has an inbuilt mechanism to learn from experience. The quality that distinguishes it, is that lessons learnt were applied as course corrections, which is the hallmark of any strong institution. For example, a weakness was recognised in 1965 and 71

30 "Pakistan establishes the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC)," Investment Policy Monitor-UNCTAD, June 20, 2023, <https://investmentpolicy.unctad.org/investment-policy-monitor/measures/4366/pakistan-establishes-the-special-investment-facilitation-council-sifc->.

Wars, that the higher direction of war was uncertain. Consequently, the National Defence University (then College) was established. The outcome of this, which must not have gone unnoticed by intellectuals, and commentators, was emphatic during escalations of the years 1987, 2002 and 2009, when the Indian Army was ready to cross the borders. Superior strategy was applied by the high command



Sun Tzu—Chinese general and military strategist
(Source: fairbd.net)

of Pakistan Army, and merely by correct and timely disposition of forces, the designs of our enemy were defeated. In the words of Sun Tzu, a Chinese general, military strategist, writer and philosopher, *the ultimate proof of generalship, is the ability to defeat an opponent without fighting.*³¹

The Armed Forces of Pakistan have served and gone beyond the call of duty to improve the economy and social sector of Pakistan. There is oft repeated criticism of Defence Housing Authority (DHA), without analysing its full potential and contribution towards improving the national economy, through revival of at least forty industries involved in construction. Services of the Army also need to be acknowledged in the development of the education sector of Pakistan. National University of Science and Technology (NUST), being run under the auspices of the Army, is now well-placed at 417th position globally, by the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).³² NUST is the only university of Pakistan which is included in the list of 500 best universities of the world, by the QS. The Army has also established National

University of Technology (NUTECH) which has been selected as one of the most innovative universities in the world in 2023 by the World University Ranking for Innovation (WURI).³³ National University of Modern Languages (NUML), National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) and Lahore Garrison University also help meet the growing requirements of higher education in the fields of social, technological and medical sciences. Service to education is not confined to higher education. A network of Army Public Schools and Colleges (APSACS), Federal government education institutions (in cantonments and garrisons), and Rangers and Frontier Corps Public Schools, is spread all over the country, and imparting quality education to thousands of young boys and girls in the urban as well as far-flung areas of Pakistan.

Pakistanis take pride in Pakistan-China friendship, the practical manifestation of which was through construction of the 800 kilometre long Karakorum Highway (KKH), an engineering marvel. Men in khaki, as part of the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO), helped build the KKH with their blood and



Karakoram Highway
(Source: nation.com.pk)

sweat, over several years. Such was the difficulty of terrain, *virtually each kilometre cost a life.* FWO, a subsidiary

organisation of Pakistan Army, since establishment in 1966, is contributing in a big way to the national economy.³⁴ More important is its role in the construction of 674 kilometre

31 Dean Cheng, "Winning a War without Fighting," The Heritage Foundation, July 19, 2013, accessed on November 3, 2023, <https://www.heritage.org/asia/commentary/winning-war-without-fighting>.

32 <http://www.nust.edu.pk/QA/Ranking/Pages/QS%20World%20University%20Ranking.aspx>

33 "NUTECH among most advanced universities in world," The Nation, July 19, 2023, <https://www.nation.com.pk/19-Jul-2023/nutech-among-most-advanced-universities-in-world>.

34 Dawn dated 31 October 2019

long highways, 751 metre long Nahakki Tunnel, Gomal Zam Dam and infrastructure in far-flung areas of the country, where other commercial organisations are reluctant, or unable to tread. Industries like fertilizer, cement, food, and oil and gas exploration companies, function under the umbrella of the



Nahakki Tunnel
(Source: voiceofkp.org)



Gomal Zam Dam
(Source: gwadarpro.pk)

Army Welfare Trust. These are run by retired military personnel and civilian professionals for the welfare of veterans, and are the largest tax contributors to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

The Army, through its overseas peacekeeping missions and training activities, earns foreign exchange which is close to the billion dollar mark, per year. Besides that, it is through Special Communication Organization serving the national economy and its people (SCO), National Logistic Cell (NLC) and a large network of combined military hospitals spread

all over Pakistan, from Gwadar to Skardu. The Pakistan Army is all set to assist local farmers in a systematic manner for agricultural farming on 1,000 acres of land in the Zarmalam area of South Waziristan. Over the next few years, the farming area will be expanded and 41,000 acres of land will be made suitable for farming.³⁵ This project is expected to enhance agricultural productivity, promote food self-sufficiency, help boost the local economy, and generate jobs for the young population in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Army's contributions in social and economic sectors are many, but the point to highlight it here, is to underscore that the Armed Forces are but a part of Pakistan, and those who are serving in this institution, are Pakistanis. It will be appropriate and to the liking of all, to join hands, and with unity of thought and purpose, make a prosperous Pakistan which has the resources to contribute to all segments of society, and create national power to defeat our enemies. The lesson of history and the contemporary world is *united you stand and divided you fall. You have to get away from the past. Dust yourself off, get back into the mainstream. Put your dreams together and move forward. Thinking of the positive things that are true, honest and good, will put us in a positive state of mind.*³⁶

About the author



Brigadier Ghulam Jilani (retired), SI (M) was commissioned in 34 Punjab (LAT) in 1987. The officer commanded his parent battalion and an infantry brigade. He also remained on the faculty of School of Infantry & Tactics. He served as a grade-III staff officer in a brigade, grade-II staff officer in Military Operations Directorate and grade-I staff officer in a strategic formation.

He is presently serving as research director in the Army Institute of Military History. The writer can be reached at jilani@aimh.gov.pk

35 Arshad Aziz Malik, "Pak Army set to launch its farming plan for 41,000 acres of barren land in S Waziristan," *The News*, November 03, 2023, <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1125386-pak-army-set-to-launch-its-farming-plan-for-41-000-acres-of-barren-land-in-s-waziristan>.

36 Shiv Khara, *You Can Win: A step by step tool for top achievers* (New Delhi: Bloomsbury India, 2014), 12.



The Battle of Plassey—Pivot of History

By Tariq Aqil

The battle of Plassey was a turning point in the history of the Subcontinent. The victory



Robert Clive—first British Governor of Bengal
(Source: britishbattles.com)

of British East India Company forces under the command of Colonel Robert Clive, had far reaching consequences for India, and British colonial ambitions in the Subcontinent. This battle, fought on 23rd June 1757 in the Plassey region,



Siraj-ud-Daula—Nawab of Bengal
(Source: worldhistory.org)

between Nawab Siraj-ud-Daula of Bengal and the forces of the East India Company, resulted in the beginning of British rule, first in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, and eventually in the establishment of Crown rule after the “Great Indian Mutiny,” or first War of Independence in 1857. Instead of a battle, Plassey was rather an unimpressive military encounter, as the defeat

of the Nawab of Bengal was largely due to the betrayal of his chief confidant and commander of his forces, Mir Jaffar. This battle, regarded as the most crucial incident in British colonial advances in India, was nothing more than a military skirmish.

The young Nawab Siraj-ud-Daula had taken the strategic fort and territory of Calcutta from the East India Company with his huge army in June 1756, and this was the time when the infamous incident of the *black hole of Calcutta* took place under his watch, that inflamed British passions and ignited their thirst for retribution. The news of the gory incident reached company officials in Madras in October,



Black hole of Calcutta (June 1756) (Source: britishbattles.com)

and the company directors ordered Robert Clive, 32 years old, to march against the Nawab of Bengal. Clive mustered a force of 2500, of mixed European and Indian descent, prepared for battle, and managed to drive the army of Siraj-ud-Daula out of their defensive positions in early January 1757.

The directors of the East India Company and Robert Clive were convinced that the best way to secure the interests of their company in Bengal, was to replace Siraj-ud-Daula with a new nawab, who would dance to their tune, and be more pliant and easy to manipulate. After lengthy and complicated secret negotiations, a candidate suited to British interests was found in the form of Mir Jaffar, an elderly general in command of the nawab's forces. He was

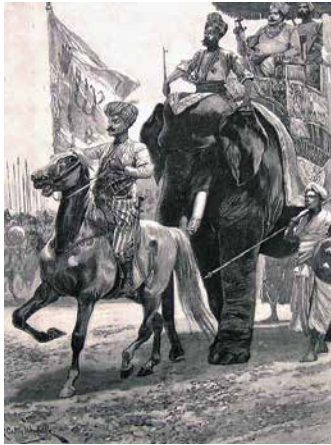


Mir Jaffar—general in command of the Nawab's forces
(Source: pinterest.co.uk)

lured into betraying the nawab with promises of huge bribes, and being placed on the throne of Bengal after getting rid of the legitimate ruler. A detailed secret agreement was drafted and then smuggled into the women's quarter of Mir Jaffar's house, and that was willingly

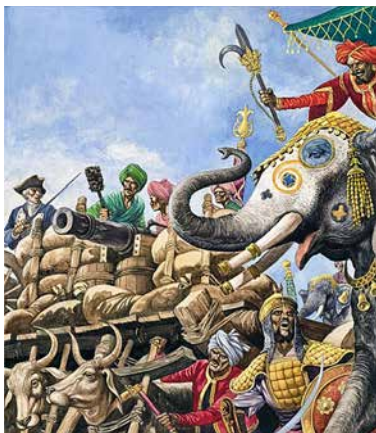
signed by Mir Jaffar, thus making him a willing accomplice in the great conspiracy and betrayal of the Nawab of Bengal.

Nawab Siraj-ud-Daula was completely unaware of any conspiracy against him, but as a precaution against British actions, he moved his army south to the field of Plassey. At the same time on June 13th, Robert Clive made his initial move when he marched north with 2000 Indian sepoys and 600 British infantry soldiers, with about 200 artillerymen, ten field cannon and two howitzers. By



Siraj ud Daulah: Battle of Plassey in the Anglo-French Wars in India
(Source: quora.com)

this date Robert Clive was riddled with doubts and a crisis of self-confidence, because of the ambiguous behavior of Mir Jaffar, who was still not sure of his position. Clive summoned all his top officers to a final council of war on the 21st of June, and in this meeting the majority of his officers voted against any action against the army of the nawab because of the much superior strength of the nawab's army. According to British intelligence sources, the Nawab's army had over 50,000 foot soldiers, along with some



Siraj ud Daulah's guns advancing during the Battle of Plassey
(Source: britishbattles.com)

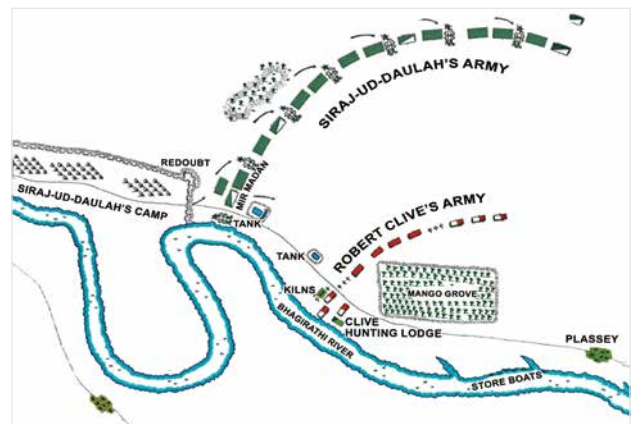
elements of French troops. The Nawab had also fielded more than 50 cannon and about 40 war elephants, whereas the forces under Robert Clive numbered only 3000 foot soldiers. At this



Clive's troops in the mango grove at the Battle of Plassey
(Source: nation.com.pk)

point, according to one of his close friends, Robert Clive disappeared into a grove of trees where he meditated for an hour, and on his return he ordered his army to march to Plassey.

Robert Clive marched towards the Bengal capital Murshidabad, and clashed with



Map of the Battle of Plassey on 23rd June 1757
(Source: britishbattles.com)

the Army of Siraj-ud-Daula at Plassey (*Palashi*) on the banks of the Bhagirathi River. With the numerical strength of the nawab's forces, it appeared that the British force under Clive was doomed to failure. The Bengal army of 50,000 men was armed with muskets, the French had sent artillery to bolster the nawab, and then they faced Clive's force of about 3000 men—a mix of European and native soldiers, and a very small artillery component. The French artillery opened fire first, followed by the Bengali guns. The British guns returned fire. Due to the close proximity of the Bengal cavalry to the French guns, Clive's bombardment missed the artillery but caused damage to the cavalry, forcing the



nawab to pull them back for protection. When the nawab's infantry advanced, Clive's field guns opened fire with grapeshot along with volleys of infantry musket fire, and the Bengali troops were held back.

Mir Jafar, with around one-third of the Bengal army failed to join in the fighting, despite pleas from the nawab, and remained on one flank. At this stage it appeared as if the army of the nawab was holding their ground against the British force, and would eventually succeed. Then suddenly the sky opened up and it started to rain in torrents. Clive had waterproof tarpaulins to cover his cache of gunpowder and keep it dry, but the nawab's army, due to negligence or just ignorance, had not made any such arrangements. The nawab's field guns were all rendered ineffective because of the damp gunpowder, and now they were without vital artillery support. On the false assumption that the British cannon too were now ineffective, the Nawab ordered his cavalry to charge head-on. The British guns now opened fire with devastating effect, killing the cavalry commander Mir Madan Khan, and wreaking havoc in the ranks of the nawab's cavalry. This cavalry charge was a precursor of the disastrous *Charge of the Light Brigade* in the Crimean War, a century later.

Siraj-ud-Daula was seized with panic at the rout of his cavalry and the death of



Robert Clive and Mir Jafar after the Battle of Plassey
(Source: britishbattles.com)

a very experienced general. He ordered his army to fall back, and thus exposed the French artillery who were attacked by the British and had to surrender. After the French surrender, Clive's field guns released a barrage of artillery fire on the Nawab's forces. The artillery of the Bengal army could not return fire because their gunpowder was useless, and the tide of battle turned in favor of the British. Siraj-ud-Daula, in panic and in fear of his life, fled from the battlefield on a war camel. The traitor Mir Jafar was hastily installed as the nawab and ruler of Bengal, and willingly became a puppet of the British.

The victory at Plassey resulted in only about 100 casualties on the British side, while the army of the Nawab lost over 1500 soldiers and thousands others badly wounded. Only twenty two British soldiers were killed, but the aftermath of the battle was that the British gained complete control of Bengal, and this was the beginning of British colonial rule in India, for over two centuries. Siraj-ud-Daula, the unfortunate Nawab of Bengal, was executed on 2nd July 1757 By Mohammed Ali Beg, under the



Mir Jafar and his son Mir Miran
(right)
(Source: britishbattles.com)

orders of Mir Miran, the son of Mir Jafar, in Namak Haram Deorhi, as per the agreement between Mir Jafar and Robert Clive. He ruled from 9th April 1756 to 23rd June 1757, a short reign of just a little over one year, and he died at the age of 24.

Robert Clive became a great British hero after the Battle of Plassey, and went on to earn fame and fortune under the banner of the East India Company. He was proclaimed as the first Baron of Plassey and appointed as the first British administrator of Bengal. During

his first governorship (1757-60), he achieved fame at the Battle of Plassey, and during his second governorship he reorganised the British colony, and became one of the creators of British power and influence in India. He was born on September 29, 1725 in Styche, Shropshire, England, and died on November 22, 1774 in London. He joined the East India Company at the early age of 18, and started his career in Madras. Robert Clive's personal conduct and honesty leave a lot to be desired. After the Battle of Plassey, he not only accepted full compensation for the losses to the East India Company, but also huge payments to himself. He received 2,340,000 Pounds sterling in cash, a Mughal title of nobility, and a landed *Jagir* or estate with a rental value of 30,000 pounds annually.

His example led to opening of the flood gates of corruption that nearly destroyed the economy of Bengal, and did serious damage to the East India Company. He obtained from the nawab, the practical exemption from internal duties not only on the company's goods, but



The great Mughal gives Robert Clive dominion over Bengal, Bihar and Orissa

(Source: britishbattles.com)

also on private trade of the company's servants. Since the company possessed paramount force, and its servants believed in working on their own behalf, this had the most harmful effect on the economy of Bengal. Robert Clive's career in India was tainted

with corruption and duplicity. He returned to England in 1760 and was honoured with an Irish peerage in 1762 as *Baron Clive of Plassey*, and then he received a knighthood in 1764. William Pitt the Elder, called him *a heaven-born*



French gun captured at the Battle of Plassey on 23rd June 1757

(Source: britishbattles.com)

general. He became a member of the British Parliament, purchased an estate and used his Indian money to launch his political career in England.

The Battle of Plassey, although a military skirmish, was a turning point in the history of India. It had far reaching political and economic effects. This battle resulted in the end of French influence and the destruction of their armed force in Bengal, under British protection and patronage of India. The crown of Bengal was placed on the head of the traitor Mir Jafar, and he became the sovereign ruler. Mir Jafar did not remain loyal to the British, and soon after, encouraged the Dutch to attack them, to consolidate his own position. Consequently, the Battle of Chinsura was fought between the Dutch and British forces on November 29, 1759. Later on the British got rid of Mir Jafar, Mir



Mir Qasim—successor of Mir Jafar

(Source: quora.com)

Qasim was placed on the throne of Bengal, and the British became the supreme and paramount power in Bengal. After their victory at Plassey, the British started imposing severe rules and regulations in the name of tax



collection, and the entire economy of India was severely affected. The victory at Plassey in 1757 established Britain as the dominant force in India, the whole of which gradually came under

British control, and which became the most prized possession in its empire. Few battles in history have had such profound consequences.

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About the author



Tariq Aqil is a teacher of world history, English language GRE teacher at the United States Education Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP), and author at *The Friday Times*, *Pakistan Observer*, *Express Tribune* and the *News International*. The writer can be reached at tariq.aqil@headstart.edu.pk

“Know thy self, know thy enemy. A thousand battles, a thousand victories.”

(Sun Tzu)

The First Opium War (1839-1842)

By Brigadier Fouad Hafeez, retired

Introduction

The First Opium War was a conflict between China and Britain that lasted from 1839 to 1842.¹ The main cause of the war—and the reason for its name—was the British trade of opium, a highly addictive drug, in China. The British had been importing opium from India and selling it to Chinese merchants, who then distributed it among the Chinese population.² This resulted in widespread addiction, social problems and economic losses for China.

The then Chinese government tried to stem this influx of the drug by confiscating and destroying opium stored by the British in Canton (Guangzhou), and threatening to impose the death penalty for future offenders.



Canton Harbour

(Source: reason.com)

Despite the opium ban, the British government supported the merchants' demands for compensation for seized goods, and insisted on the principles of free trade and equal diplomatic recognition with China. Opium was Britain's single most profitable commodity trade of the 19th Century.

The British responded to what it viewed as curtailing of their economic interests, by sending warships and troops to China, where they easily defeated Chinese forces. The war ended with the Treaty of Nanking, which forced China to pay a large sum of money by way of indemnity, cede Hong Kong to Britain, and open five ports for British trade and residence.

The First Opium War marked the beginning of Western imperialism and unequal treaties in China—although British colonialism was well-entrenched in other parts of the world, already—which weakened the Qing dynasty and led to internal rebellions and external pressures.³ Coincidentally, Indian troops were of critical importance in the British Empire's wars in the Indian Ocean region. Perhaps the most important of these conflicts, the First Opium War, is now widely acknowledged as a pivotal event in world history. British India was the principal protagonist in this war: it provided a vast number of land forces soldiers, the bulk of the funding, and most of the ships, sailors, and auxiliaries for the campaign. That the accounts of their participation are untraceable through authentic literary resources, is a telling indictment of how undivided India's resources were ruthlessly utilised by the British Empire for their own gain, sans due recognition.

The Outbreak of Hostilities

After several skirmishes, fighting in earnest began in November 1839.⁴ HMS *Volage* and HMS *Hyacinth* defeated 29 Chinese vessels

1 "Opium War," *National Army Museum*, <https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/first-china-war-1839-1842>.

2 "Opium War."

3 Jack P. Hayes, "The Opium Wars in China," *Asia Pacific Curriculum*, <https://asiapacificcurriculum.ca/learning-module/opium-wars-china>.

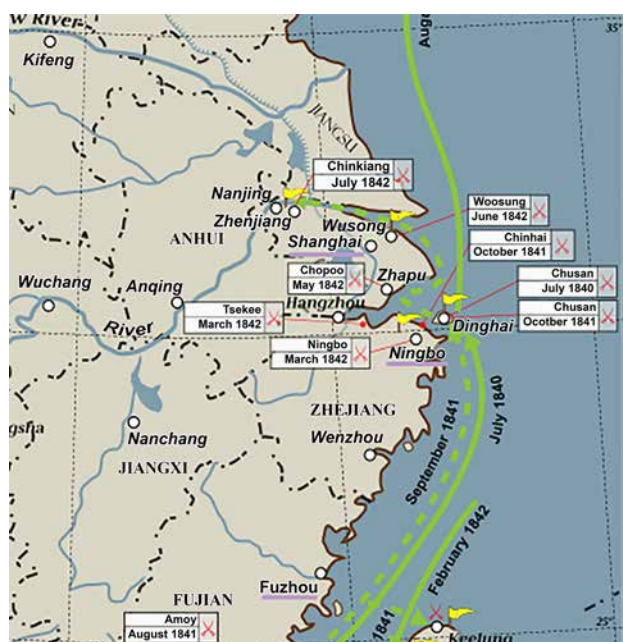
4 Hayes, "The Opium Wars in China."

during the evacuation of British refugees from Canton; inflicting the first of a series of humiliating defeats on Chinese forces.⁵



HMS Volage and HMS Hyacinth (Source: quora.com)

On 21 June the following year, a naval force commanded by Commodore Sir Gordon Bremer arrived off Macao. It then moved north to Chusan and on 5 July bombarded the port of Ting-hai, which was then occupied by troops under Brigadier-General George Burrell.



Theatre Map 1st Opium War (Source: Author)

Negotiations began between the British and the Chinese Emperor. Lord Palmerston, the foreign secretary, demanded compensation and

the granting of an island off the coast, for use as a trading station. The Chinese refused and on 7 January 1841 the British captured the Bogue forts of Chuenpi and Tycocktow, that guarded the mouth of the Pearl River.

The force that captured the forts was commanded by Major J L Pratt of the 26th (Cameronian) Regiment, and suffered only 38 casualties.⁶ Of the Chinese fleet of 13 war-junks, 10 were captured and their flagship was destroyed.⁷

The Chinese Admiral, Kuan Ti, asked for a truce, and faced with overwhelming British strength, signed an agreement on 18 January 1841 by which Hong Kong became a British territory.⁸

Battle of Canton, March 1841

The Battle of Canton, 1841, was one of the major conflicts of the First Opium War.⁹ It consisted of two separate engagements, one in March and one in May, that resulted in British victories and the occupation of Canton by British forces. The battles were sparked by the Chinese government's attempt to suppress the opium trade, which had caused a severe trade imbalance and social problems in China. The British, who profited from the opium trade, resisted Chinese measures and demanded more trade concessions and diplomatic recognition.

In March 1841, after a series of naval skirmishes, the British bombarded and captured several Chinese forts near Canton, and landed troops ashore. The Chinese commander, Qishan, surrendered and signed the peace treaty mentioned earlier, with the British plenipotentiary, Charles Elliot, which

- 5 Susanna Hoe and Derek Roebuck, *The Taking of Hong Kong: Charles and Clara Elliot in China Waters* (Richmond, Surrey: Curzon Press, 1999), xviii.
- 6 "Attack and Capture of Chuenpee Nr Canton, 1842," *National Army Museum*, <https://nam.ac.uk>.
- 7 "Attack and Capture of Chuenpee Nr Canton, 1842."
- 8 "Opium War."
- 9 Michael Dillon, *China: A Modern History* (London: I.B Tauris, 2010).

ceded Hong Kong to Britain and allowed trade to resume. However, this treaty was rejected by the Qing emperor, who replaced Qishan with his nephew Yishan and sent more troops to Canton.¹⁰

In May 1841, the British launched a second attack on Canton, supported by steamers and gunboats. They overcame Chinese resistance and entered the city, where they hoisted the Union Jack on the British factory. The Chinese suffered heavy casualties and lost many guns and forts. The British also captured several Chinese officials and demanded ransom for their release. The battle ended with another peace treaty, which granted more trade privileges and indemnities to Britain.¹¹ This treaty was also disavowed by the Qing emperor, however; who continued to fight against the British until 1842.

The Battle of Amoy, August 1841¹²

The Battle of Amoy was one of the conflicts that took place during the First Opium War between Britain and China in the 19th Century. The battle occurred on 26 August 1841, when a British naval and land force attacked the Chinese city of Amoy (now Xiamen) and its surrounding forts on Xiamen Island, and Gulangyu Island in Fujian province.¹³

By this time, the situation had become quite dire. The British were spurred on by their desire—some might say *greed*—to open up China for trade, and to stop the Chinese government from destroying their illegal opium imports. The Chinese were determined to resist



18th Royal Irish regiment storming the fortification at Xiamen—Battle of Amoy
(Source: theguardian.com)

skirmishes and a real raising of diplomatic tensions between the two sides.

The British force consisted of 15 ships¹⁴ and 2,500 troops¹⁵, commanded by Rear Admiral William Parker and Major General Hugh Gough. The Chinese force had 26 junks and 5,600 to 10,000 troops. The



Major General Hugh Gough
(Source: jatchiefs.com)

British began the battle by bombarding the Chinese batteries on Gulangyu Island for several hours, with little effect. They then landed their troops on the island and captured the batteries with little resistance. The Chinese retreated to Xiamen, where they

faced another bombardment and assault by the British. The city fell the next day, and the British occupied it until 1845.

The Battle of Amoy was a decisive victory for the British who suffered only 17 casualties, while the Chinese lost over 60 men and hundreds of guns. The British also captured all of the 26 Chinese junks, and gained

¹⁰ Lane J. Harris, *The Peking Gazette* (China: Brill, 2018).

¹¹ *The Nautical Magazine: A Journal of Papers on Subjects Connected with Maritime Affairs*, (London: Brown, Son and Ferguson, 1841), <https://archive.org/details/the-nautical-magazine-1841/page/n9/mode/2up>.

¹² John Elliot Bingham, *Narrative of the Expedition to China from the Commencement of the War to Its Termination in 1842*, vol. 2 (London: H. Colburn, 1843).

¹³ "Opium War."

¹⁴ Duncan MacPherson, *Two Years in China*, 2nd ed (London: Saunders and Otley, 1843)

¹⁵ William Hutcheon Hall and William Dallas Bernard, *The Nemesis in China*, 3rd ed (London: Henry Colburn, 1846).



control of a strategic port in China. The battle demonstrated the superior firepower and discipline of the British forces, as well as the weakness and disorganisation of the Chinese. The battle also paved the way for further British advances along the coast of China, leading to the eventual capture of Nanking and the signing of the Treaty of Nanking in 1842. The war also saw several naval engagements, such as the Battle of the Bogue, the Battle of Chuenpi, and the Battle of First Bar.



British vessels destroying Chinese war junks at Chuenpi, 1841
(Source: nam.ac.uk)

In terms of effects—physical as well as psychological—the battle also clearly underscored how British ships had a marked advantage over the Chinese junks and warships, thanks to their superior firepower, speed and maneuverability. The British navy also used steamships, such as the *Nemesis*—on its maiden mission—which could navigate shallow waters and fire rockets.

The Battle of Ningbo

In the early stages of the war, the British had focused mainly on naval operations. However, by 1842, they had realised that they needed to capture key ports and cities in order to achieve their objectives. Ningbo was one such city, and it was heavily fortified by the Chinese, with walls and trenches that made



Battle of Ningbo (Source: fandom.com)

it difficult to assault. The British commander, Major General Hugh Gough, landed a force of around 7,000 troops near the city and began to prepare for an assault.¹⁶

The Chinese defenders, commanded by General Lin Zexu, were well-prepared for the British assault. They had a force of around 10,000 troops and had fortified the city with walls, trenches and artillery. However, the British were well-equipped and well-trained, and they had a significant advantage in terms of firepower.¹⁷



General Lin Zexu
(Source: holachina.com)

On March 10, the British began their assault on the city, with a coordinated attack on the eastern and western walls. The Chinese defenders put up fierce resistance, but they were unable to stop the British advance. By March 12, the British had breached the city walls and were engaged in street fighting with Chinese defenders.

On March 13, Chinese defenders made a final stand at the city's southern gate, but they were quickly overwhelmed by the British. General Lin Zexu was captured and the city was occupied by the British.

¹⁶ Arthur Waley, *The Opium War through Chinese Eyes* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1958)

¹⁷ Daniel Cone, "An Indefensible Defense: The Incompetence of Qing Dynasty Officials in the Opium Wars, and the Consequences of Defeat," *Emory Endeavours: Transnational Encounters in Asia* 4, 64-76, <http://history.emory.edu/home/documents/endeavors/volume4/Cone.pdf>.

The Battles of Chapoo, Chinhai and Chinkiang

The Battles of Chapoo, Chinhai and Chinkiang were three important engagements that took place during the First Opium War between British and Chinese forces, in 1841 and 1842. These battles resulted in significant losses for the Chinese side, and paved the way for the British capture of Nanking, the capital of the Qing Empire at the time.¹⁸

The Battle of Chapoo occurred on 18 May 1842, when a British force of about 3,000 men attacked the walled city of Chapoo (Zhapu), defended by a garrison of 10,000 Manchu and Mongol bannermen. The British breached the walls with artillery and stormed the city, killing or capturing most of the defenders. The British also seized a large amount of military supplies and treasure.¹⁹



Chapoo before hostilities (Source: mutualart.com)

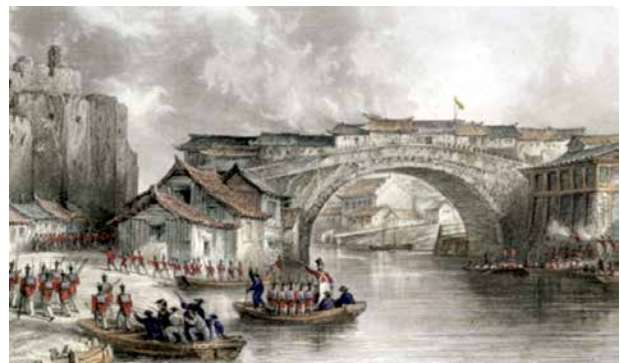
The Battle of Chinhai took place on 10 October 1841, when a British squadron of 10 ships bombarded and landed troops near the city of Chinhai (Zhenhai), which was protected by a fort with 157 guns and a garrison of 8,000 to 9,000 soldiers. The British quickly overran the fort and entered the city, encountering little resistance. The Chinese suffered several hundred casualties and lost all their guns, while



Battle of Chinhai (Source: warontherocks.com)

the British had only 19 killed or wounded.²⁰

The Battle of Chinkiang happened on 21 July 1842, when a British force of nearly 7,000 men assaulted the city of Chinkiang (Zhenjiang), which was situated at the junction of the Yangtze River and the Grand Canal. The



Landing troops at the west gate of Chingkiang, 1842
(Source: nam.ac.uk)

city was defended by about 4,000 bannermen, who fought fiercely but were outnumbered and outgunned by the British.



Daoguang Emperor
(Source: quora.com)

The British captured the city after a bloody street fight, in which many of the bannermen committed suicide rather than surrender. The fall of Chinkiang effectively cut off the vital transport network of the Qing Empire and forced the Daoguang Emperor to sue for peace.

¹⁸ F. Watts, *Bulletins of State Intelligence*, 1st ed (London: Harrison and Sons, 1852).

¹⁹ Watts, *Bulletins of State Intelligence*,

²⁰ Hall and Bernard, *The Nemesis in China*.



Aftermath

The Nanking Treaty of 1842 was a significant event in the history of China and Britain. It marked the end of the First Opium War, a conflict that erupted over the trade of opium and other goods between the two countries. The treaty was one of the first unequal treaties that China was forced to sign by foreign powers. It imposed harsh terms on China, such as paying a large indemnity to Britain, ceding Hong Kong Island to Britain as a colony, opening five ports to British trade and residence, abolishing the Canton system that restricted foreign commerce, and granting extraterritorial rights to British subjects in China. The treaty also exposed China's political weakness, and triggered more foreign

aggression and internal unrest in the following decades.

In *tactical-practical* terms, the First Opium War also demonstrated the effectiveness of British forces—at sea, as well as on land—in the war, as opposed to the serious inadequacies in Chinese imperial forces. The British troops were well-equipped and well-trained, and they were able to overcome the Chinese defences despite their overwhelming numerical and *home ground* advantages.

It was perhaps for this very reason that China embarked upon a relentless march towards enhanced military capacity; which continues to this day, and has fueled its meteoric rise to become a dominant world player in the modern age.

About the author



Brigadier Fouad Hafeez (retired), is a mechanised infantry officer who served on various command, staff and instructional appointments during his military career. He commanded an infantry battalion and an infantry brigade. He also served in Pakistan Military Academy as adjutant, and remained defence attaché in Jordan. The officer is presently serving in the Army Institute of Military History as research director, and can be reached at fouad@aimh.gov.pk

“Part of the happiness of life consists not in fighting battles, but in avoiding them. A masterly retreat is in itself a victory.”

(Norman Vincent Peale)

Baba-e-Poonch Khan Sahib Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan: A Kashmiri Leader

By Brigadier Dr Saif ur Rehaman Malik, retired

Introduction

The legendary freedom fighter, military strategist, educationist par excellence, social reformer and a specimen of selflessness,



Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan
(Source: flickr.com)

Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan, popularly known as Khan Sahib, is remembered for his multifarious services for the uplift of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He was born in a noble Sudhan family in 1882 at village Chhachhan (now Khanabad),

Sudhnuti tehsil of Poonch district, state of Jammu and Kashmir.¹

After acquiring basic religious education, at the age of 10 he was admitted to a primary school in Kahuta, Rawalpindi district. Just after completing primary education, Khan Sahib started his military career as a soldier, joining the British Indian Army (102 Grenadiers) in 1902. He was promoted to the rank



Indian Distinguished
Service Medal (IDSM)
(Source: aberdeenmedals.com)

of subedar in 1916.² Khan Sahib participated in World War I, and in recognition of his meritorious services, was conferred *Indian Distinguished Service Medal* (IDSM) in 1916.³ The same year he retired from the army as subedar major, was later employed as a police inspector in Poonch by Raja Baldev Singh, and continued with the same designation till 1924.⁴

Prior to a description of his contributions and multifaceted roles in various spheres like military, social, economic and political, it is imperative to have a brief overview of Poonch and to grasp the geography and demography.

Demographics and Geographic description of Poonch

Geographically, Poonch region of Jammu and Kashmir State is in the southwestern foothills of Pir Panjal Range, a significant mountain range separating the valley of Kashmir from the Jammu province. It begins from Banihal Pass and covers Rajouri, Budhal and Poonch on the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC), and Kotli, Rawalakot and Bagh on the Azad side.⁵ The terrain of this region varies from sub-tropical to temperate. The climatic conditions of the upper areas of Mandi and Surankot, touching the main Pir Panjal Range, resemble Kashmir valley. Due to its natural beauty, Poonch is also known as *mini-Kashmir, land of sufis and derwaishes*, and

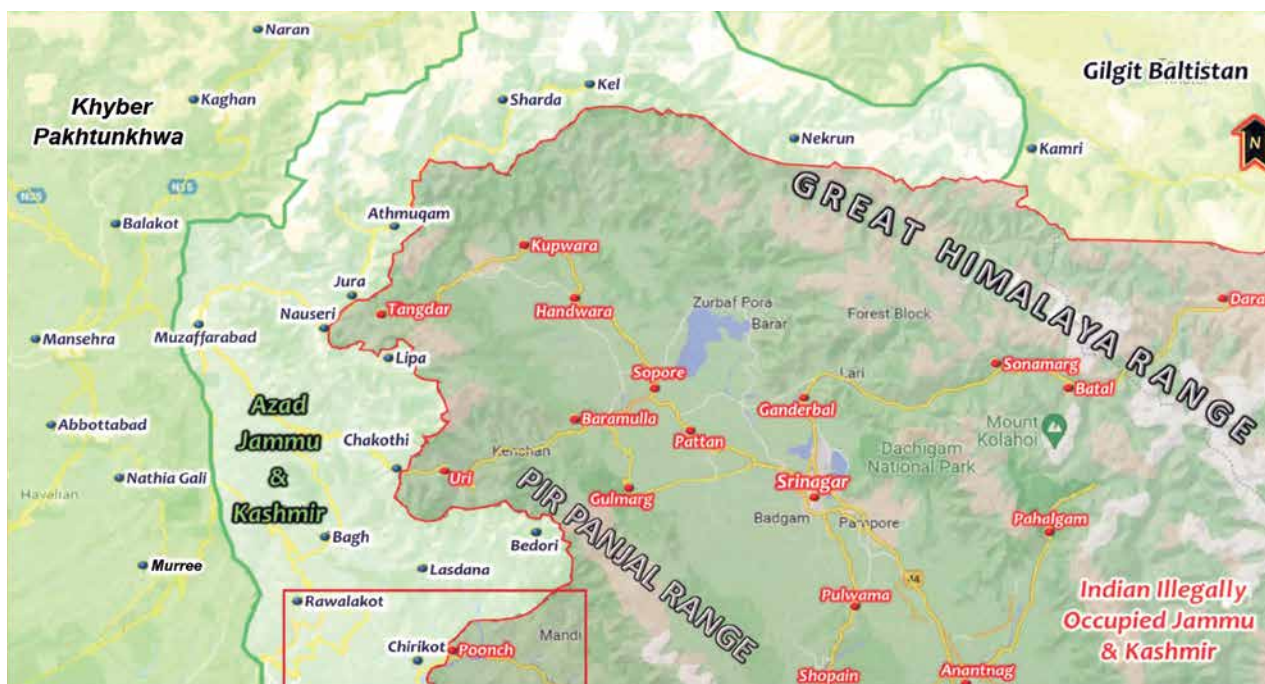
1 Brig (R) M Sadiq Khan and Prof Dr. Ghulam Hussain Azhar, *Yagana e Kashmir*, (Karachi: Ali Printers, October 1986), 29.

2 Khan and Azhar, *Yagana e Kashmir*, 31.

3 Supplement London Gazette, October 19, 1916, p.10056.

4 Khan and Azhar, *Yagana e Kashmir*, 34.

5 KD Maini, "Rajouri and Poonch Identifying Early Warning Signals and Addressing New Challenges," *IPCS Issue Brief*, no.143 (2010), accessed on May 22, 2023, https://www.ipcs.org/issue_briefs/issue_brief_pdf/IB148-BPCR-Maini.pdf.



Map 1: road infrastructure of Poonch and surrounding areas

(Source: Author)

area of warrior tribes. Gojri and Pahari are the predominant languages in the area, however other languages like Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, and Kashmiri are also spoken.⁶ The road infrastructure of Poonch and surrounding areas are given in Map1.

As per the census of 1923, the population of Poonch was around 0.4 million, comprising 96% Muslims, 3 % Hindus and 1% others.⁷ Figure 1 below reflects the magnificent historic Poonch fort. Built in 1179, Poonch

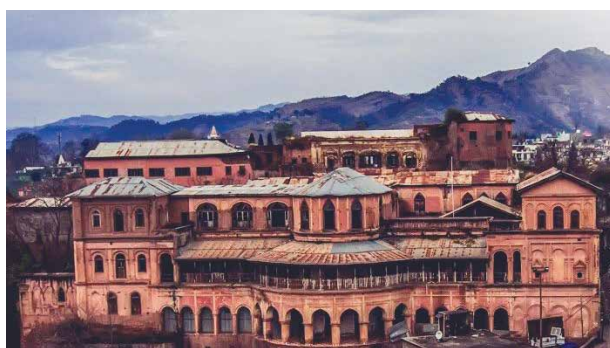


Figure 1: Poonch Fort

(Source: Author)

fort of Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed the historical stories of Dogras, Muslims and Sikhs.

Historical Background of Kashmir

In 1339, Shah Mir became the first Muslim ruler of Kashmir, setting up the Shah Mir dynasty. For the next five centuries Muslims ruled Kashmir, including the Mughal Empire from 1586 until 1751, and the Afghan Durrani Empire from 1747 until 1819. In 1819, the Sikhs under Ranjit Singh annexed Kashmir.⁸ Poonch was a component of the Khalsa Darbar in Lahore from 1819 until 1850. In 1846, after the Sikh defeat in the First Anglo-Sikh War, and upon purchase of the region from the British under the Treaty of Amritsar, the Raja of Jammu, Gulab Singh, became the new ruler of Kashmir. Poonch was proclaimed a *jagir* by the first Dogra Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1850, and his nephew Moti Singh was given the title of Raja.⁹ In fact, Maharaja Ranjit Singh handed

⁶ Amar Jahangir and Syed Akmal Hussain Shah, "A Historical Study of the Social and Political Movements of Muslims in Poonch State, Jammu And Kashmir against Dogra Raj (1846-1947)," *Journal of History and Social Sciences* 13, no.2 (2022): 1, <https://doi.org/10.46422/jhss.v13i2.212>.

⁷ Khan and Azhar, *Yagana e Kashmir*, 17.

⁸ Kashmir through ages, online available at <https://mofa.gov.pk/kashmir-through-ages/>

⁹ Jahangir and Shah, "A Historical Study of the Social and Political Movements of Muslims in Poonch State, Jammu

over Poonch to a Dogra noble, and it ultimately came under the control of Gulab Singh as part of the princely state of Kashmir. Poonch was recognised for its picturesque landscape, fine tea and good horses. Map 2 below of Jammu and Kashmir, produced during the British Raj, showing the Poonch Jagir in 1946.



Map 2: Poonch Jagir (1946)

(Source: reddit.com)

Poonch was divided in 1947, and presently consists of five districts: one in Indian-held Kashmir (Poonch) and four in Azad Kashmir i.e., Bagh, Haveli, Poonch (Rawalakot as headquarters) and Sudhanoti. Map 2 reflects Poonch district after partition of British India.

Military Contributions and Achievements

Formation of Home Guards & War Council

Shortly after announcement of the Partition Plan of June 3, 1947, under which two sovereign states were to emerge in the Subcontinent, Honorary Captain (later Colonel, retired) Khan Sahib held a meeting of ex-

servicemen at Palandri, and announced the formation of home guards of various groups of villages in Sudhnuti, Bagh and Kotli.¹⁰ This was among one of the initial steps towards the armed struggle for the liberation of Kashmir, and its accession to Pakistan. Khan Sahib established Numb camp near Palandri

on October 1, 1947, and planned distribution of dry rations to volunteers coming forward to join the liberation forces being organised to fight against Dogra rule.¹¹ On October 2, 1947, Khan Sahib held the final meeting for organising a *mujahid* force in Chhachhan area, and a large number of ex-servicemen of various ranks participated in the meeting. Notable among them were Subedar Major (later Captain and the first commanding officer 1 Azad Kashmir Regiment), Muhammad Hussain Khan of Kahala, Subedar (later Captain) Muhammad Ismail Khan of Nandi Channi, Subedar

Shan Khan of Chhachhan, Subedar (later Captain and first commanding officer 36 Azad Kashmir Regiment), Burhan Ali Khan of Chhachhan, Jemadar (later Lieutenant) Bostan Khan, Jemadar Jalal Khan and Jemadar Abdullah Khan of Nandi Chhanni. It was decided to launch operations against the Jammu and Kashmir Dogra troops.¹²

On October 6, 1947, a war council under the patronage of Khan Sahib was set up at Palandri. The war council reorganised the *mujahideen* in the form of units, provided ammunition, made deployments at different places of strategic significance, and pushed Dogra forces out from Palandri and surrounding areas. The war council succeeded

And Kashmir against Dogra Raj (1846-1947),” 1

10 *History of the Azad Kashmir Regiment Volume-1(1947-49)*, 1st ed. (Mansar: Regimental History Cell, Azad Kashmir Regimental Centre, 1997).

11 *History of the Azad Kashmir Regiment Volume-1(1947-49)*.

12 *History of the Azad Kashmir Regiment Volume-1(1947-49)*.



in repulsing the advance party of Dogra troops accompanied by hundreds of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) armed workers at Hajira.¹³ There was no civil government at that time, it was the war council which administered various civil affairs. Subsequently, the war council was reconstituted as defence council under Lieutenant Colonel Syed Ali Ahmed Shah, defence minister, as chairman, and Syed Nazir Hussain Shah, finance minister, Brigadier Muhammad Zaman Kiani, Colonel Habib ur Rehman and Khan Sahib Colonel Muhammad Khan as members.¹⁴

Khan Sahib maintained the pace of advance with the support of Colonel Sher Ahmed Khan. He left for Kotli via Hajira, along with a *jatha* (a group of armed fighters), and started operational planning for future movement. There he united various armed groups and named them the *Sudhan Brigade*. This brigade had remarkable achievements in the clearance of Kotli, Saryah and Rajouri, with the help of the following battalions, being part of the *Sudhan Brigade*¹⁵:

- 1 AK Regiment—commanded by Captain Muhammad Hussain Khan (Kahala)
- 2 AK Regiment—commanded by Lieutenant Burhan Ali Khan (Chhachhan)
- 3 AK Regiment—commanded by Captain Muhammad Abdullah Khan (Palandri)
- Riasti Regiment—commanded by Lieutenant Muhammad Sher Khan (Baral)

The Sudhan Brigade staff included:

- Brigade commander—Colonel Sher Ahmed Khan
- Deputy commander—Major Haji Sher Muhammad Khan
- Staff officer—Colonel Mehboob Khan

- Admin officer—Major Muhammad Zaman Khan
- Staff officer—Major Mukhtar Ahmed Khan
- Officer in charge defence platoon—Lieutenant Muhammad Akram Khan

Khan Sahib not only contributed in military pursuits by organising the dispersed local forces into a disciplined liberation force, he also contributed in social welfare as well as education of the common people.

Social Contributions

Role as a Reformer

Khan Sahib's role as a reformer reveals his leadership attributes, and is unique in nature. Post World War II, thousands of local soldiers retired from military service, and faced serious financial hardship and unemployment. He took the issue to the Viceroy of India and obtained sanction for huge funds for the rehabilitation of retired soldiers. Besides, he believed in preservation of military history for generations to come, serving as a roadmap for them, highlighting their sacrifices, and paying tribute to unsung heroes. He desired to compile an authentic military history book on *Jihad e Kashmir*. Moreover, he approached selected individuals and urged them to document the history of the freedom struggle in any written form, so as to compile it in the form of a book. In pursuit of his passion to preserve military history, he succeeded in obtaining the history of Battle of Thorar, from Captain Bostan Khan. He himself took notes of the operations at Mang and Pattan Sher Khan.

In 1925, he laid the foundation of a revolution in the socio-economic arena, and promotion of education sector. This was the worst time for the people of Kashmir in general, and Poonch in particular, as they were going

¹³ *History of the Azad Kashmir Regiment Volume-1(1947-49).*

¹⁴ *History of the Azad Kashmir Regiment Volume-1(1947-49).*

¹⁵ Khan and Azhar, *Yagana e Kashmir*, 238.



through the era of ignorance, and subservience to orthodox customs and traditions, particularly in the domain of marriages and deaths. To deconstruct and reconstruct such norms, he persuaded people to refrain from customs contradicting Islamic practices, and urged them to lead a simple life. He considered education as the only pragmatic way to live their lives. In the beginning of the 20th Century, certain social and educational organisations emerged in different regions of Jammu & Kashmir, with the objective of removing harmful and un-Islamic customs from society, through communication and education among the young generation.

On the same pattern, a socio-educational movement was initiated in Poonch region by Khan Sahib in early 1930s; however, he considered education as the most significant tool for reformation of society. It was the need of the hour, as literacy amongst Muslims in Poonch Jagir was just around 2%, as compared to 5% in the rest of Jammu & Kashmir, while the condition in villages was at a low level. Therefore he initiated an educational campaign in 1934. The remarkable work in this regard was the establishment of Sudhan Educational Conference to serve the purpose of promotion of education and allied healthy activities for the youth.

Under the auspices of this organisation, funds were generated for financial sponsorship of needy students at home and abroad. As part of this movement, various independent schools were established in different parts of Poonch region, where teachers offered their services on a volunteer basis. This movement paid dividends in the form of promotion of education, for both males and females. Thousands of individuals benefited by this movement, and some prominent personalities who served in different positions and portfolios

in the government of Azad Kashmir, are worth mentioning. This includes Sardar Ibrahim Khan (president & prime minister), Sardar Habib Khan (advisor), Major General Rahim Khan, retired (former secretary defence, Pakistan), Colonel Mansha Khan, retired (speaker state assembly), Mr. Ibrahim Khan (secretary), and Colonel Dr Qaisar Muhammad, retired. Sudhan Educational Conference is still quite active in pursuit of its objectives, even after the demise of Khan Sahib, hence it has the honor of being an old non-government organisation of the Subcontinent. Khan Sahib played an illustrious role in the renaissance of the Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir in general, and the Muslims of Poonch in particular.

He introduced *muthi bhar atta* scheme, where a handful of each family's surplus flour was collected every day, and funds were generated for promotion of education and construction of the Jamia mosque and Darul Uloom Madrasa in Palandri.¹⁶ It was a unique fund-raising strategy, with no match in the history of the Subcontinent. To eradicate poverty and for the socio-economic uplift of the lower strata of society, he advised men and women to adopt austerity measures, work hard with special attention to livestock, poultry farming, and obtain optimum benefits from agricultural produce. He was the first of his time who advocated women's education, involved womenfolk in decision making, in matters related to the community, and set up separate educational institutions for women. He floated the idea of women's empowerment by equipping them with education, almost eighty years ago.

Besides, he played a remarkable role in all socio-political movements in Jammu and Kashmir from 1930 onwards. Khan Sahib had served as member Kashmir Legislative

¹⁶ Khan and Azhar, *Yagana e Kashmir*, 180



Assembly from 1934 to 1946, and relentlessly fought for political, social and economic rights of his constituents. He inculcated political awareness among the masses to stand for their rights, and kept alive the atrocities and barbaric acts committed in the Gulab Singh era. Being a charismatic leader, he was elected unopposed as a member legislative assembly, later urged Sardar Ibrahim Khan to contest elections on his behalf, and ensured his success in the upcoming elections of legislative assembly.

Honours and Award

In recognition of his commitment and



Title of Khan Sahib—presented to Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan, Baba-e-Poonch, 11 June 1942
(Source: Author)

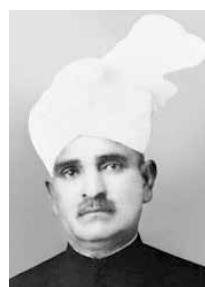
selfless service to the people of Kashmir, he was given the title of *Khan Sahib* on 11 June 1942 by the Viceroy of India, on behalf of the British Government. The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government awarded him the honorary titles of Colonel, *Baba-e-Poonch*, and *Ghazi-e-Kashmir*.¹⁷

On November 11, 1961, with the demise of Khan Sahib, his five-decade long struggle as a reformer came to an end. He was a symbol of courage, dedication, and selflessness, he fought



Awards and medals of Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan
(Source: Author)

both politically and militarily for the rights of his people. He successfully established an enlightened welfare society and empowered the Kashmir liberation



Baba-e-Poonch in his later years
(Source: alchetron.com)

movement. Services rendered to the nation by Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan in the Kashmir liberation struggle, education and reforms, will remain an inspiration for present and coming generations. His role to get the people of Poonch liberated from the oppressive rule of the Maharaja of Kashmir, will be remembered in the history of Kashmir.

About the author



Brigadier Dr Saif ur Rehman Malik (retired), TI (M), was commissioned in Army Education Corps in 1990. He acquired a PhD from Quaid e Azam University in Asian Studies/IR in 2008. He served as analyst in Ministry of Defence, had an extended tenure at National Defence University Islamabad as Director Research & Publications, founding HOD MPhil program of National Security & War Course, founding Director BS Program, Editor NDU journal, Margalla Papers and ISSRA Papers. He has authored four books on research methodology along with a number of research articles in national and international research journals. Dr Saif has been the founding Director India Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad. Presently he is serving in AIMH as Director Special Studies. The writer can be reached at drsaifmalik@aimh.gov.pk

17 Ghulam Hassan Khan, *Freedom movement in Kashmir, 1931-1940* (India: Light and Life Publisher, 1980), 283.

Morale boosting Combat Leadership, 1971

By Professor Dr Aalia Sohail Khan

Leadership is the most important determinant of the morale of combatants on a battlefield. John Spiszer, a US Army major, contends that leadership plays a large and significant role in a soldier's morale, and thus morale and leadership together contribute to combat motivation.¹ Of the 13 features listed by him that boost the morale of combatants, leadership is the most important factor. Psychological and doctrinal works refer to many factors that influence soldiers' and group morale. Leadership is listed as the pivotal factor in fostering and strengthening morale in all doctrinal and psychological theories of morale.

High morale comes from good leadership, shared hardship and mutual respect. *High morale results in a cohesive team that enthusiastically strives to achieve common goals.*² Similarly, *Leadership: Theory and Practice* (1993) also gives top priority to the factor of leadership that influences morale.³ In his dissertation titled *Combat Motivation: The Human Dimension Correlates* (1990), Daniel Reeves looks at the human dimensions in a military organisation, and how they produce what he refers to as combat motivation.⁴ He contends that,

"High morale and cohesion are related to enhanced combat performance, considered a preventative against combat stress reaction, and seen as an important element in a soldier's will

to fight. They are also indicative of successful military socialization and commitment to army values and are the direct product of successful leadership."

Morale is considered the most important leadership indicator because other indicators are affected by it. Morale, leadership, and discipline are closely related in the army. It is the strength of fighting forces, and leadership is the means of successfully handling men with discipline. The goal of leadership is the immediate and willing obedience and cooperation of subordinates, thus, true discipline is concerned with the state of mind of soldiers.

With this doctrinal basis established, this paper will take a closer look at the components of morale-boosting leadership in the battle of Ashuganj, fought in erstwhile East Pakistan in 1971, as described by Brigadier



Brigadier Saadullah Khan
(Source: Author)

Saadullah Khan in his book *East Pakistan to Bangladesh*. He writes that his GOC (general officer commanding), General Qazi Abdul Majeed, did not sit back and cheer his soldiers from his headquarters. He

joined his men in the face of Indian fire; shouting directions at his men. He stood within range of enemy fire. Lieutenant Colonel Abdul

1 John M. Spiszer, "Leadership and Combat Motivation: The Critical Task." *Military review* 79 (1999): 66.

2 Joko Rahmanto, "Army Leadership" FM 22-100 Headquarters, Department of the Army, August 1999, 3-3, https://www.academia.edu/4880898/FM_22_100_Headquarters_Department_of_the_Army.

3 Peter G. Northouse, *Leadership: Theory and Practice*, 9th ed. (California: SAGE Publications, Inc, 2021).

4 Daniel T. Reeves, "Combat motivation : the human dimension correlates" (Master's Thesis: Carleton University, 1990), <https://repository.library.carleton.ca/concern/etds/8336h200m>.



Map of the Battle of Ashuganj, 1971 (Source: hilal.gov.pk)

Qadir, SJ (ret'd), writes in *Those who Dared*⁵, that as the GOC, Qazi Majeed stood on the railway line with his staff officers to evaluate the situation, there was an intercept on their wireless net. *An Indian officer was heard seeking permission of his commanding officer to fire at a Pakistani general within the range of his fire, but he was told that they would like to capture him alive.*

Brigadier Saadullah⁶ writes, *"The General stepped out and moved forward. He was now standing in front of the wall, not behind it. The small arms firing was continuing intensely. Some weapons were firing from a distance of about 150 yards... his aide-de-camp also moved up. 'Get back, you fool! This is none of your business.' The general officer commanding snarled- 'If someone leaves this position, there will be no Court Martials. If anyone is court martialed, it will be myself. I will personally shoot the..., who leaves his position. Is that quite clear?' The general added threat to personal example." This had an electrifying effect on the troops. Brigadier Saadullah notes that courage is as contagious as cowardice.*

Here, by way of contrast, it is relevant to draw upon the poem *The General* that was

written by the English poet Siegfried Sassoon



Siegfried Sassoon
(Source: study.com)

during World War I. It helps to understand the concepts of good leadership, shared hardship, common purpose, courage and duty, that kept the morale of Pakistan Army high, while fighting in East Pakistan.

*"Good-morning, good-morning!" the General said
When we met him last week on our way to the line.
Now the soldiers he smiled at are most of 'em dead,
And we're cursing his staff for incompetent swine.
'He's a cheery old card,' grunted Harry to Jack
As they slogged up to Arras with rifle and pack.
But he did for them both by his plan of attack.*

This *anti-heroic* poem demonstrates the lowered morale of soldiers. They have neither respect for their general who issues orders from his safe position at a distance from combat, nor do they have confidence in his capability to win the war. The general is called *an incompetent swine*, a *cheery old card* who cannot inspire and infuse energy in his soldiers. The soldiers can see through his empty words as he does not share the hardship and turmoil of battle with them. Shared experience on the battlefield that develops trust and bonding, is missing here. The general who is anonymous in this poem, is a symbol of failure of leadership. He stands for incompetence and faulty planning,



Wilfred Owen
(Source: poets.org)

that results in demoralised soldiers and massive loss of life during war. A picture of demoralised soldiers is portrayed by Wilfred Owen in his poem *Dulce et Decorum Est* (It is sweet and honorable to die for one's country) in these words:

5 Muhammad Yasin & Syed Jamil Mukhtar Shah, *Those Who Dared* (Islamabad: Creative Plus Private Limited, 2023), 42.

6 Saadullah Khan, *East Pakistan to Bangladesh* (Lahore: UMT Press, 2021), 114-115.

*Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed
through sludge,...
All went lame; all blind...*

On the other hand, the constant presence of the commanding officer in the cross fire, with all hell breaking loose on the battlefield, is a remarkable feature of Pakistan Army. Brigadier Saadullah writes that when General Majeed moved his tactical headquarters forward to Brahman Baria, it added to their strength and boosted their morale.⁷ Leadership and morale are not synonymous; yet they are inseparable as the component parts of an electrical circuit. Morale is like the current—a powerful electromotive force—and leadership is like the conductor that guides and transmits the force to the motor. Hence the state or quality of morale produced, is directly proportional to the quality of the conductor or leader.⁸ Those officers and men lost the war, but the epic tenacity of those Pakistan Army soldiers can never fade. They are comparable to the soldiers immortalised in Tennyson's poem, *Charge of the Light Brigade*;

*Was there a man dismayed?
Not though the soldier knew
Someone had blundered.
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die.*

As contrasted to the typical or customary 1:100 death ratio of officers to soldiers on the battlefield, the casualty ratio of officers to soldiers shahadats in Pakistan Army is 1:12. This remarkable casualty ratio is a mark of pride for the Pakistan Army, whose officers

are always found in the vanguard. They lead the attack. Major General Syed Ali Hamid⁹,



Major General Syed Ali
Hamid, retired
(Source: AIMH)

recollecting a battle commanded by Brigadier Saadullah Khan, in East Pakistan 1971, writes that Pakistani forces, though low in numbers yet high in spirits, kept a large force at bay with their “ever present brigade commander”. An excerpt from *East Pakistan to Bangladesh* demonstrates this;

“Artillery fire was going on. I did not like to risk the lives of more men. Taking only the battalion wireless control operator, I moved out towards the temple. I felt a compulsion to personally get Bukhari's company back. They had fought heroically for six days. One platoon was overrun; two platoons in hard combat contact with the enemy and the daylight coming fast, their survival was in utter peril. They had been true to their salt. I just could not leave them by themselves to tackle that very tricky situation. It perhaps was not a good decision, but it gave me deep satisfaction.”¹⁰

Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Qadir, describing the courage of Brigadier Saadullah, writes in *Those Who Dared*¹¹,

“There was heavy fighting on the other side of the Meghna River, and our forces had repulsed an attack of the two enemy battalions which, after being thoroughly routed had fallen back, leaving behind a number of dead and Amphibian tanks, in running condition. Brigadier Saadullah undertook the attack in person, with one battalion commander and a few officers and 100 to 150 men from assorted units including

7 Khan, *East Pakistan to Bangladesh*, 87.

8 Evan George Williams, “The Importance Of Morale In The Modern New Zealand Army” (Master's Thesis: U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, 2002), <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/tr/pdf/ADA407870.pdf>.

9 <https://pdf.defence.pk/threads/gurkha-from-kargil.645374/#post-11927077> (Not a relevant reference).

10 Khan, *East Pakistan to Bangladesh*, 117.

11 Yasin & Shah, *Those Who Dared*, 43.

signalers who had hastily joined the attack on seeing their commander rushing towards the enemy.”

As the brigadier advanced on foot towards the Indians, his carbine had no bayonet; he requested his men to give him a rifle with a bayonet. Someone gave him a G-3 rifle with a bayonet. The act of leading the assault personally and risking his life by being in the front, enthused the other men also. He was recommended for the award of *Nishan e Haider* by his GOC, but he was awarded *Hilal e Jurat*.

Brigadier Saadullah pays a glowing tribute to junior leaders, who despite heavy odds against them—inadequate in number, no reserves—demonstrated remarkable courage and determination; “they were skilful and veterans of many small combat actions.”¹² Under the most adverse circumstances, they charged like tigers. They always volunteered to lead the assault anytime, anywhere. Many were critically wounded or fell fighting, but they remained undaunted till the last. Volumes can be filled with examples of excellent Pakistani junior military leadership. However, given the constraints of space, only one example is given here. Major Muhammad Akram was the Pakistani hero of the Hilli battle, who was

awarded *Nishan e Haider*, the highest military gallantry award of Pakistan. During the East Pakistan War of 1971, the 4th Battalion FF Regiment came under continuous and heavy air, artillery and armour attacks from the Indian side. Despite enemy superiority in both numbers and firepower, Major Akram and



Major Muhammad Akram,
shaheed

(Source: ispr.gov.pk)

his men repulsed many attacks, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. An Indian Lieutenant Colonel, Diljit Singh, paid tribute to Major Akram in these words, “Akram’s name rouses the soldier in you... Pakistan proved to be a tough customer...”

The enemy was literally advancing in the mouths of the guns.... Killing an adversary may give satisfaction, but killing a brave has tinge of sorrow”.

War is destructive, but the heroic deeds of Pakistan Army in 1971 should be celebrated, because they reinforce faith in the ideals of service above self, courage to sacrifice life for Pakistan, will and determination to fight for honour, fidelity, tenacity of purpose, obedience and discipline. War heroes of 1971 inspire us to emulate the best models of action, and consolidate national confidence.

About the author



Professor Dr. Aalia Sohail Khan is the daughter of Brigadier Saadullah Khan, HJ. She is former Vice Chancellor of Rawalpindi Women University, and has extensive experience of teaching, research and administration. The writer can be reached at aaliasohail@gmail.com

¹² Saadullah Khan, *East Pakistan to Bangladesh*, (Lahore, Punjab: UMT Press, 2021), 91.

Churchill's Piquet–Chakdara, Malakand

By Lieutenant Colonel Tanveer Jilani, retired

*When first under fire an' you're wishful to duck,
Don't look nor take 'eed at the man that is struck,
Be thankful you're livin', and trust to your luck
And march to your front like a soldier.
Front, front, front like a soldier ...*

(*The Young British Soldier* by Rudyard Kipling)

A legendary structure strikes the eye while plying from Chakdara to Timargara, a sentinel watch tower christened *Churchill's Piquet* in honour of Winston Churchill. He was the British premier, soldier and an author extraordinaire, who led his nation and allies in the darkest hour of their history, and overcame the rising tides of fascism and Nazism. He realised a comprehensive victory in the Second World War.



Winston Churchill as a 19 year old officer
(Source: britishbattles.com)



Churchill's Piquet (Source: britishbattles.com)

Commissioned in February 1895, Churchill entered the 4th Queen's Own Hussars as a 2nd lieutenant.¹ In 1896, he moved to



Sowars of 4th Queen's Own Hussars
(Source: militarygallery.co.uk)

India with his regiment and stayed for 19 months, joining expeditions to Hyderabad and the erstwhile North West Frontier Province. Eager to participate in action, Churchill volunteered to join the Malakand Field Force, engaged in a campaign against a tribal uprising in Swat Valley, which concluded with a victory for the British Indian Army in August 1897. Major



Major General Sir Bindon Blood
(Source: mediastorehouse.com)

General Sir Bindon Blood accepted his services as a war-correspondent of the *Daily Pioneer*², since he had earlier experience of covering the Cuban War for the *Daily Graphic*.³ His dispatches from the battlefield attracted such wide attention, that on arriving back at Bangalore in October 1897, he penned down *The Story of the Malakand Field Force* in early 1898.⁴

During the first week of September 1896⁵, Churchill joined the Field Force. By then, fighting in the Swat Valley was nearly over, and move towards the Mohmands in the Nawagai Valley was imminent.⁶ Churchill's Piquet at Chakdara was actually a signal tower

1 Sir W.L.S. Churchill, *My Early Life* (London: Odhams Press, 1930), 61.

2 Churchill, *My Early Life*, 121.

3 Martin Gilbert, *Churchill: A Life* (London: Pimlico, 2000), 58.

4 Gilbert, *Churchill: A Life*, 81.

5 Gilbert, *Churchill: A Life*, 75.

6 Churchill, *My Early Life*, 127.

providing communications through heliograph equipment.⁷ He mentions Chakdara Fort and the signal tower in these words, “On the further side is the fort, a Lilliputian Gibraltar⁸, consists of the fortified knoll, an enclosure for horses, protected by a loopholed wall and barbed wire, and the signal tower is a detached post around 200 yards up the cliff”.⁹ Referring to the defence of Chakdara Fort from 26 July to 2



Chakdara Fort (Source: pukhtoogole.com)

August 1897, Churchill mentions, “Then out of the darkness began a fusillade, which did not stop until 2nd of August”.¹⁰ 11 Bengal Lancers, 45 Sikhs, 24 Punjab and Dir Levies defended the small garrison¹¹; he notes “they had been continually fighting for 96 hours and men fell asleep at the loopholes and in service of the field guns”.¹² Admiring the fierce nature of



11 Bengal Lancers, c. 1865 (Source: collection.nam.ac.uk)

opposing Pathans, he showered praise on them; “I remark with pleasure, as an agreeable trait in the character of the Pathans, the immunity, dictated by a rude spirit of chivalry”.¹³



Yousafzais of Malakand c. 1895 (Source: nam.ac.uk)

The *casus belli* of the uprising was a paradigm shift in British Indian government policy in these frontiers, from *holding line of mountains*, to *extend and consolidate influence* through a *Forward Policy*, aimed at obtaining the frontier regions of Gilgit, Chitral, Jelalabad, Kandahar (sic).¹⁴ In Malakand, a local cleric, Fakir Saidullah alias the *Mad Mullah*, exploited mass resentment and declared to expel the



Fakir Saidullah alias the Mad Mullah (Source: paperjewels.org)

Firangi (foreigners) from their native lands. The British nonetheless, came out victorious, thanks to the then state-of-the-art weaponry

7 “Malakand Rising 1897,” British Battles, accessed on January 20, 2024, <https://www.britishbattles.com/north-west-frontier-of-india/malakand-rising-1897/>.

8 Churchill, *My Early Life*, 127.

9 Sir W.L.S. Churchill, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force: An Episode of Frontier War* (London: Thomas Nelson & Sons, Ltd., 1916), 116.

10 Churchill, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*, 118.

11 Churchill, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*, 130.

12 Churchill, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*, 126.

13 Churchill, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*, 27.

14 Churchill, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*, 347.

and equipment, coupled with training and discipline of troops, enforced by leadership of the officers.

Pakistan Army, engaged in War on Terror operations for two decades in the



Indian General Service Medal 1854-1895

(Source: britishbattles.com)

western frontiers of the erstwhile British Raj, can draw lessons in multifarious fields, to consolidate victory earned through immeasurable sacrifices. An all-inclusive pragmatic policy, pursued firmly is the answer to the recent insurgence of terrorism. Churchill's

advice to the then British Indian Government, seems very relevant; "Dynamite in the hands of a child is not more dangerous than a strong policy weakly carried out".¹⁵

Although Churchill did visit Chakdara Fort¹⁶, it cannot be established with certainty whether 2nd Lieutenant Winston Churchill actually stayed at Churchill's Piquet, since no authentic written reference exists to this effect.

Albeit, what is certain is his praise for the bravery and sacrifice of British Indian soldiers against worst odds, and overwhelming numerical strength of their opponents. Naming the signal tower as Churchill's Piquet is befitting tribute, not to a British Premier of the Second World War, but to a *subaltern* of the Malakand Field Force during the tribal uprising. Lieutenant Churchill fought alongside the nameless soldiers of the British Indian Army, displayed resolve to have his name mentioned in despatches¹⁷, and subsequently immortalised the soldiers' courage sacrifices, and valour for eternity.

About the author



Lieutenant Colonel Tanveer Jilani (retired), TI (M) was commissioned in 63 Medium Regiment Artillery in 1994. The officer commanded a Frontier Corps wing at Razmak, North Waziristan Agency and also remained on the faculty of School of Artillery. He served as a grade-II staff officer in Military Intelligence Directorate and grade-I staff officer in an Infantry division and Strategic Plans Division. He is presently serving as research assistant director in the Army Institute of Military History. The writer can be reached at jilanitanveer939@gmail.com

"Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities... because it is the quality which guarantees all others."

(Winston Churchill)

¹⁵ Churchill, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*, 352.

¹⁶ Gilbert, *Churchill: A Life*, 75.

¹⁷ Gilbert, *Churchill: A Life*, 79.



A Rifle Company in Defence at Khem Kharan Distributary

By Major Muhammad Abdur Rahman

(reprinted from *Pakistan Army Journal*, December 1970, after fresh editing and proofreading)

Introduction

On 8 September 1965 our formation 11 Division had captured Khem Karan. Our battalion (5 FF) advanced along road Kasur-Amritsar with a view to capturing Asal Uttar, which is about three miles from Khem Karan. An attempt to capture Asal Uttar was not successful, and the battalion was ordered to fall back and organise defences on 10 September along Khem Karan Distributary.

Terrain

The ground was flat, interspersed with a number of water channels and minor distributaries. The Khem Karan Distributary running from east to west, was more prominent. It was about 8 to 10 feet wide, with 3 to 4 feet high banks of sand. Wherever smaller drains branched off from it, there were culverts. Towards north and south the banks of the distributaries were higher than the surrounding area. The ground was soft, which could take all types of vehicles in dry weather. The cotton and sugar-cane crops restricted visibility. Small groves scattered all over the countryside, provided good cover from air and ground. Road Kasur-Amritsar was a two-way metalled road running through the area. The Khem Karan-Amritsar railway line passed through the area, and its embankments were of tactical significance.

The Enemy

We had failed to capture Asal Uttar because the enemy was holding the place in strength with an estimated infantry brigade supported by a tank regiment. They were well dug in, and their front and flanks were

protected by mines and anti-tank guns. From intercepted wireless messages and interrogation of prisoners of war, it was revealed that the enemy was planning a counter attack to recapture Khem Karan. Village Asal Uttar was to be the base for this counter attack.

Own Troops

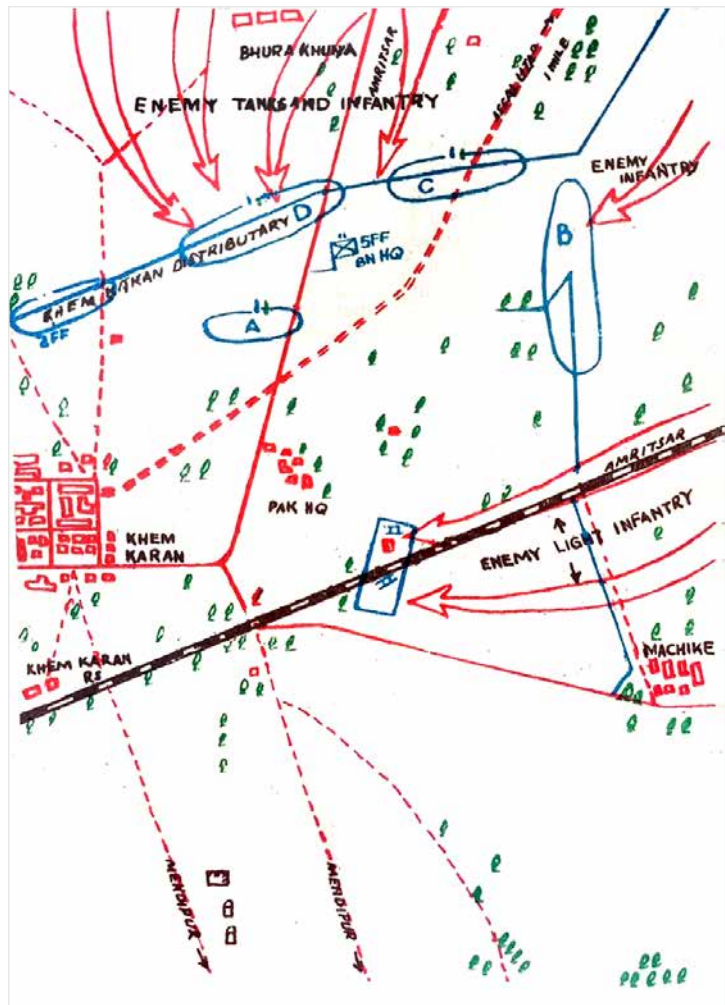
When the battalion withdrew from village Asal Uttar at about 2200 hours on 10 September, it was ordered to take a defensive position along Khem Karan Distributary by first light 11 September. The commanding officer, therefore, without detailed reconnaissance, gave orders off the map to his company commanders, and allotted areas of responsibility. D Company, whose action is described in this article, was assigned the task of covering the main road Khem Karan-Amritsar. Because of darkness, the Company Commander 'D' Company had to issue orders off the map, and allotted areas to the platoon commanders. This he did to cover a larger frontage. On receipt of orders, the troops started preparing their defensive positions. Their morale was high, but co-ordination with flanking companies could not be established due to darkness. At dawn the company commander carried out readjustment of defences, since certain flaws were left during the night. Co-ordination with flanking companies was established and the forward observation officer (artillery observer) was briefed. At this time, the company commander had to request the commanding officer for an additional recoilless rifle, some machine-guns and anti-tank mines, which were provided.

The day was spent in improving the defences. It was a problem to find suitable

places for the deployment of recoilless rifles and machine-guns, and these had to be deployed on the side of the canal bank, and fields of fire created for them through standing crops. Due to wide frontages and the little time we had at our disposal for preparing defences, no patrols were sent out, nor any screens established, and this made everyone apprehensive about the time and direction of the impending enemy attack. At this stage, no plans existed at the battalion level for a counter attack, or counter penetration. In the absence of screens and patrols, the defences were a little *naked*.

The Battle

On 12 September, while the company commander was going round the defences, he received a message from his commanding officer, who said, “I want all of you to be very vigilant and active. Khem Karan has to be defended at all costs”. The die was cast, and we all were determined to defend the captured territory. The enemy guns opened up at 0700 hours, and the shelling continued for half an hour. The shells blasted the trenches, uprooted trees and damaged the banks of distributaries. Gradually the intensity of shelling decreased, but this was followed by the enemy’s smoke, limiting the already poor visibility still more. Behind the smoke screen, the sound of tank engines became audible. The enemy was forming up, it appeared, astride road Kasur-Amritsar. As the tanks came nearer, our own anti-tank guns opened up, and were also joined by the recoilless rifles of C Company. The enemy tanks were advancing in proper formation, by fire and movement. One of our anti-tank guns, which opened up at long distance, was spotted and destroyed by the enemy tank. Immediately afterwards, one of our anti-tank gunners destroyed three enemy



Battle Map—Defence of Khem Karan (Source: Pakistan Army Journal)

tanks in succession. This had a sudden effect on the morale of our troops. Shouts of “*Nara i Takbeer and Nara i Haidri*” rang through the bullet-ridden field.

As the battle progressed, the enemy pressed on with infantry and tanks. Their tanks came within 200 yards of our defences. Now, probably, they were waiting for the infantry to catch up. At this stage, it is worth mentioning the individual action of Major Khadim Hussain of 24 Cavalry, who arrived on the scene from the rear, and took control of one of the recoilless guns whose gunner had been killed. He engaged a number of enemy tanks with this gun, destroying one of them, until he received a direct hit and was killed. This officer was awarded a posthumous *Sitara-i-Jurat*. The enemy infantry now started coming closer



and closer, but the sustained and determined fire of our own defensive weapons, managed every time, to halt and break up the enemy attack. The company commander moved from position to position, encouraging his men and directing the operation. At one stage, the ammunition was running short. Quickly a party was organised, and sent to the rear to get replenishment, which arrived in time. The battle had now waged for nearly six hours, and the enemy had failed to penetrate. We could see the enemy infantry withdrawing at about 1300 hours, under cover of tanks. Later their tanks also followed the withdrawing infantry.

Diversiónary Move

While the above attack was developing, the enemy had pushed a battalion i.e., 4/11 Sikh Regiment along Kasur-Amritsar railway line. This gap had been left unprotected. The battalion was to pass through this gap, to our rear. The unit was given the following tasks:¹

- To cut our line of communications, and establish themselves in our rear.
- If possible, to attack the gun positions or any administrative installations.

Their plan was to create chaos in our rear, but it was not properly executed. They passed through the gap as if they were moving on a peacetime route march. They came in single file, knowing fully well that a battle was raging in the vicinity. It appeared that either they were expecting a free run, or they were not mentally prepared for combat.

As this battalion came in our rear, it was spotted by our tanks hidden nearby in the crops. The moment our tanks opened fire, the whole regiment surrendered without resistance. Some of them ran towards our gun positions to surrender.

The Second Attack

Though the enemy had withdrawn, there was a great deal to be done by the company commander who quickly got busy in reorganising his company. The dead were removed and the wounded were attended to. Ammunition was replenished, and damaged or defective weapons were replaced. The company commander wanted more anti-tank guns, but none were available, and he had to make use of what he had. The immediate need of his troops was water and food, which was quickly provided. Their morale was high, as they had withstood a determined enemy infantry-tank attack, and made them withdraw with heavy losses. They had just completed restoring the position and replenishing, when the enemy launched his second attack. Their artillery shelling was intense and accurate, because they had come to know the layout of our defences.

The volume and intensity of fire showed that a divisional artillery supported the attack. Their advance was on the same pattern as in the first phase of the attack. Our anti-tank guns opened up when their tanks came within range. Two enemy tanks managed to avoid being hit, and overran our forward-most trenches. Seeing this, one of our tanks² quickly engaged the leading enemy tank and destroyed it. Their second tank surrendered, which yielded two officers³, who were made prisoners of war. The enemy infantry now started putting in a determined attack, but our well co-ordinated and determined fire every time broke up the enemy onslaught.

Throughout this phase, the company commander was present in the front, conducting the battle and encouraging his men. Our own artillery fire had to be brought quite close to our own positions at the closing stage of the battle. This risk had to be taken

¹ Later confirmed from Prisoner of War.

² Three tanks supported us in this operation.

³ Lt Dhani Ram and Lt Sher Dil Sharma, both from Deccan Horse.



in order to beat back the enemy attack, which ultimately ceased, and the enemy withdrew, leaving behind 600 wounded and dead. Ten enemy tanks had been destroyed, and three were captured intact. A large quantity of small arms and ammunition was left behind when they ran back in panic. Our own casualties were 2 junior commissioned officers and 25 other ranks killed and wounded. The loss of equipment included 6 vehicles and two recoilless rifles.

This was the action of an infantry company fighting a defensive battle within a battalion defensive area. It had beaten back an attack launched by a brigade supported by tanks.⁴ Due to the wide frontage of troops, the company was on its own. It did get fire support from its flanking units, and administrative support from battalion headquarters. However, most of the time the battle had *to be fought by the company commander and his company, with whatever supporting weapons they had, and with their integral company resources.*

Lessons Learnt

Leadership

Appropriate and timely action by a junior leader will not only always help the sub-unit, but will have a direct bearing on the overall success of the battle. During combat, a situation rapidly develops into a major crisis, and unless dealt with quickly, and with determination, can have serious consequences.

It is during the initial stages of the battle that constant vigilance is required on the part of junior leaders, and this calls for personal leadership. Such battle situations demand that junior leaders remain with forward troops for conducting the battle, and encouraging their men.

Need of Security Elements

In this case the battalion had not sent out screens or patrols, and therefore we were ignorant of the time and direction of the enemy attack. This enabled the enemy to plan his attack without interference.

Covering of Gaps

There will always be a paucity of troops for defence. Gaps between localities must be accepted and covered by small arms fire, standing patrols and indirect fire. Troops must be earmarked to seal off enemy penetration, if it occurs due to wide frontages. In this case, the enemy was able to penetrate a battalion without difficulty. It was fortunate that some tanks happened to be there, and outwitted the enemy's otherwise good move.

Fire Control

During the first encounter with the enemy, our anti-tank gunners opened up at longer ranges, which caused the loss of some anti-tank guns. Fire control during combat is a difficult task, but it has to be insisted upon, and personally supervised by junior leaders.

Reorganisation

Immediate coordination and readjustment is a *must*, after an enemy attack. Often the enemy repeats his attack immediately, providing little time for the defenders to carry out readjustments. Once the attack is beaten back, ammunition must be replenished, dead and wounded removed, weapons checked and readjusted where required, and prisoners of war sent back. These actions were carried out by the company commander, and therefore, he was able to meet the second attack successfully.

⁴ Later confirmed from prisoners of war, and our infantry and artillery observers.

300 Years Ago

Establishment of Asaf Jahi Dynasty

By Anoshka Johum

Following the prosperous reign of the Qutub Shahis, the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb ruled over the city of Hyderabad. However, the establishment of the Asaf Jahi dynasty in 1724 marked a turning point in the history of the Deccan region. This dynasty, also known as the Nizams of Hyderabad, played a crucial role in shaping the political landscape of southern

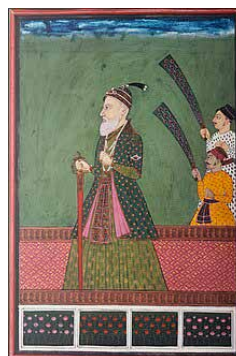


Map of Nizam of Hyderabad

(Source: quora.com)

India during the early modern period. The decline of the Mughal Empire in the early 18th century led to the fragmentation of central authority, and the emergence of regional powers across the Indian Subcontinent. In the Deccan region, the decline of Mughal control created a power vacuum that various local rulers sought to exploit.

Mir Qamar-ud-din Khan Siddiqui, also known as *Nizam-ul-Mulk*,¹ was a distinguished



Nizam-ul-Mulk Mir Qamar-ud-din Khan Siddiqui

(Source: letsquiz.com)

Persian noble and administrator who served at the Mughal court. The family came to India in the late 17th century and became employees of the Mughal Empire. They were patrons of Persian culture, language, and literature, and the family found ready patronage. Mir Qamar rose to prominence through his administrative skills and military prowess. He served as the governor of several provinces in the Mughal Empire, including Malwa and Awadh, where he earned a reputation for effective governance and loyalty to the Mughal Emperor. However, his ambitions extended beyond serving as a mere provincial governor. He aspired to carve out an independent principality in Deccan, where he could exercise greater autonomy and establish his own dynasty.

In 1724, *Nizam-ul-Mulk* was appointed



Mughal Emperor Muhammad Shah

(Source: pinterest.com)

as the *Subedar* (governor) of Deccan by the Mughal Emperor Muhammad Shah. Taking advantage of the weakening central authority in Delhi, he declared de facto independence, and established the Asaf Jahi dynasty, named after the honorific title *Asaf Jah* bestowed upon him by the Mughal court.

¹ Nizam-ul-Mulk has various titles awarded to him by different rulers. For instance he was awarded title of Chin Qilich Khan by Aurangzeb, Nizam-ul-Mulk by Farrukhsiyar, and Asaf Jah by Muhammad Shah.

With the support of his loyal army and influential allies, he consolidated his control over the Deccan region, establishing his capital at Aurangabad. He adopted the title *Nizam-ul-Mulk* (administrator of the realm), and began to govern the Deccan as an autonomous state, albeit nominally acknowledging Mughal suzerainty.



Aurangabad—capital of Asaf Jahi Dynasty (Source: dreamstime.com)

His rule was characterized by stability, effective administration, and patronage of arts and culture. He implemented various reforms to strengthen the economy, promote trade and commerce, and maintain law and order in his domain. His enlightened governance earned him the respect and admiration of his subjects, as well as recognition from neighbouring powers.

The establishment of the Asaf Jahi dynasty in 1724 laid the foundation for the emergence of the Nizams of Hyderabad, as one of the most powerful and influential dynasties in southern India. Over subsequent centuries, the Nizams expanded their territories, consolidated power, and played a key role in regional politics.

Under the Nizams' rule, Hyderabad became a centre of culture, learning, and commerce, attracting scholars, artisans, and traders from across the Subcontinent and

beyond. The Nizams also maintained a delicate balance of power with other regional powers, including the Marathas, the British East India Company, and the princely states of southern India.

The Asif Jahi dynasty ruled for over two centuries, from 1724 to 1948 CE, which was considerably more protracted than its predecessors, the Qutub Shahis. The state spanned an enormous 95,337 square miles,



Qutub Shahi dynasty

(Source: lotusarise.com)

which is the combined area of Nepal and Kashmir, and more space than Mysore or Gwalior. By virtue of its vast size, cultural richness, and diversity of languages and peoples, Hyderabad attained national prominence during this dynasty. Historiographers, nevertheless, hasten to assert that the Nizams were unable to match the extent of their contributions to the state that the Qutb Shahis did. The dynasty's legacy continues to resonate in the Deccan region, where its contributions to governance, architecture and culture remain an integral part of the region's heritage. It ushered in an era of stability and prosperity, laying the groundwork for the rise of the Nizams of Hyderabad as prominent rulers in southern India.

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About the author



Anoshka Johum is a PhD scholar at the department of Defence and Strategic Studies Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad. Previously, she was working as a Research Associate with an Islamabad-based think tank. Her areas of research interests are South Asia’s strategic environment, cyber security and hybrid warfare. She is currently working as civil research assistant at the Army Institute of Military History. She can be reached at anushkajohum@gmail.com

“He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life.”

(Muhammad Ali)



Military History Minestrone

Our quiz; for the military history enthusiast and novitiate alike

("Minestrone"; a thick soup of Italian origin has no fixed recipe as it can be prepared out of whatever vegetables one has.)

Select the correct option

1. Which treaty marked the end of the First Opium War, and imposed harsh terms on China?
 - (a) Treaty of Chapoo
 - (b) Treaty of Amoy
 - (c) Treaty of Nanking
 - (d) Treaty of Chinkiang
2. In the run up to the First Opium War, the British stored drugs in which Chinese city?
 - (a) Chengdu
 - (b) Guangzhou
 - (c) Shenzhen
 - (d) Chongqing
3. Who betrayed Nawab Siraj-ud-Daula and sided with British forces, during the Battle of Plassey?
 - (a) Mir Qasim
 - (b) Mir Sadiq
 - (c) Mir Jaffar
 - (d) Mir Miran
4. What title was Robert Clive granted after his victory at the Battle of Plassey?
 - (a) Baron of Plassey
 - (b) Knight of the Garter
 - (c) Baron of Bengal
 - (d) Earl of Calcutta
5. On October 6, 1947, a war council under the patronage of Khan Sahib was set up at:
 - (a) Srinagar
 - (b) Chhachhan
 - (c) Hajira
 - (d) Palandri
6. What was the main purpose of Churchill's Piquet, as described in the article "Churchill's Piquet"?
 - (a) To house British soldiers during the tribal uprising
 - (b) To provide communication through heliograph equipment
 - (c) To serve as a fortification against tribal attacks
 - (d) To store ammunition and supplies for the British Indian Army



7. According to the article, what pivotal role did the Ottomans play in terms of their military organisation and economic structure?
 - (a) They relied on mercenaries for their military forces
 - (b) Their military forces were not paid regularly
 - (c) They funded their military through taxation on their subjects
 - (d) They provided regular pay to their permanent core of forces
8. What strategic importance did Mahe on the Malabar Coast hold for the British East India Company?
 - (a) It served as a major trading post with China
 - (b) It provided access to valuable spices and textiles
 - (c) It was considered a gateway and logistic lifeline for the French EIC
 - (d) It was a key military stronghold against Mysore
9. What was the primary task assigned to D Company 5 FF in the defensive operation described in the article “Defence at Khem Karan”?
 - (a) Covering the main road Khem Karan-Amritsar
 - (b) Intercepting enemy communications
 - (c) Providing medical aid to wounded soldiers
 - (d) Engaging in reconnaissance missions
10. What terrain feature was of tactical significance according to the article “Defence at Khem Karan”?
 - (a) Khem Karan-Amritsar railway
 - (b) Road Kasur-Amritsar
 - (c) Khem Karan Distributary
 - (d) Small groves scattered across the countryside

(Answers on back cover inner side)

Glimpses of AIMH Activities



Major General Kamal Anwar Chaudhry, Director General Military Training, 13 December 2023



Major General Naseem Anwar, Commandant Command and Staff College Quetta, 19 December 2023



Lieutenant General Zahid Latif Mirza, retired, 23 January 2024



A delegation of AEC officers undergoing Education Officer Basic Course, 29 January 2024



A delegation of Centre of International Strategic Studies (CISS), AJK, 12 February 2024



Major General Kamal Azfar, DG DW&CE, 19 February 2024

Glimpses of AIMH Activities



Lieutenant General Fayyaz Hussain Shah, HI (M), IGT&E, inspecting an internship programme lecture on 14 Feb 2024



*Visit of Mrs. and Mr. Suresh Pal Singh Bhalla,
(Sikh Foundation of Canada), 19 February 2024*



Turkiye Army delegation, 20 February 2024



Students from NUML University, 21 February 2024



A delegation of Oxford University, 21 February 2024

Glimpses of AIMH Activities



AIMH team visited Chawinda battlefield, prior to Army Staff Ride (ASR), 2 March 2024



A team of Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN), 4 March 2024



AIMH presence at a job fair at National University of Modern Languages, 5 March 2024



A delegation of students from Tribal district Bajaur, 5 March 2024



Brigadier Muhammad Uzair Ahmed Qureshi, Director AIMH, conducting an Army Staff Ride (ASR) from 5-7 March 2024, at Chawinda battlefield



Lieutenant General Muhammad Asim Malik, HI (M), Adjutant General, 8 March 2024

Glimpses of AIMH Activities



Cadets from PMA, 1-5 April 2024



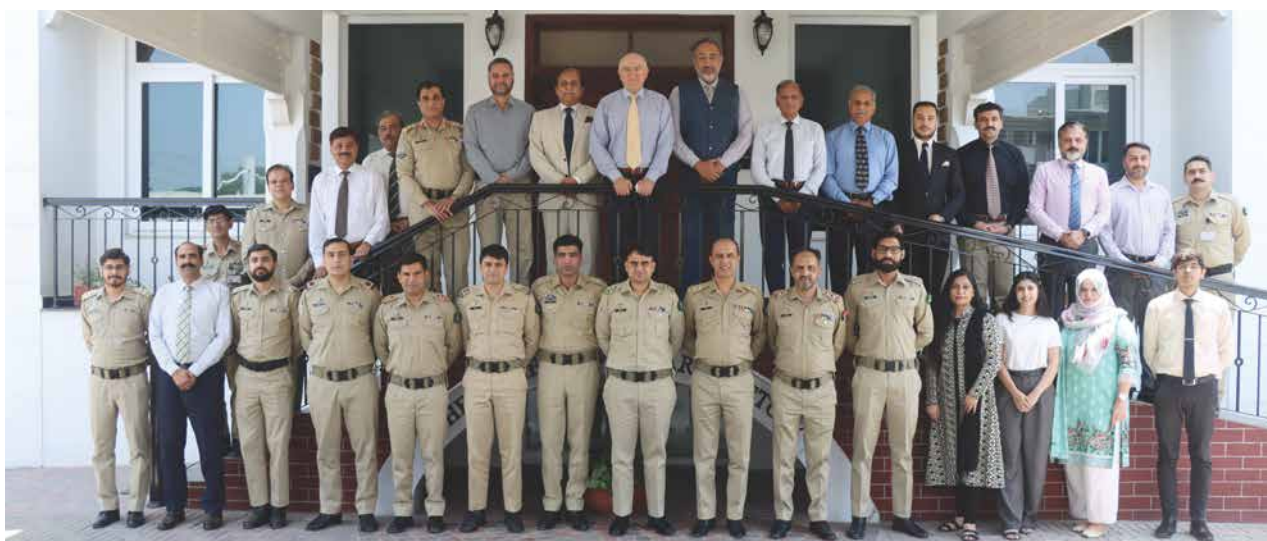
*Lieutenant General Rahat Naseem Ahmed, HI (M),
Commander 12 Corps, 15 April 2024*



Lieutenant General Tauqir Zia, retired, 22 April 2024



*Lieutenant General Akhtar Nawaz Satti, HI (M),
Commander 2 Corps, 27 May 2024*



AIMH celebrated its 7th Founders' Day on 4 June 2024



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Term reunion

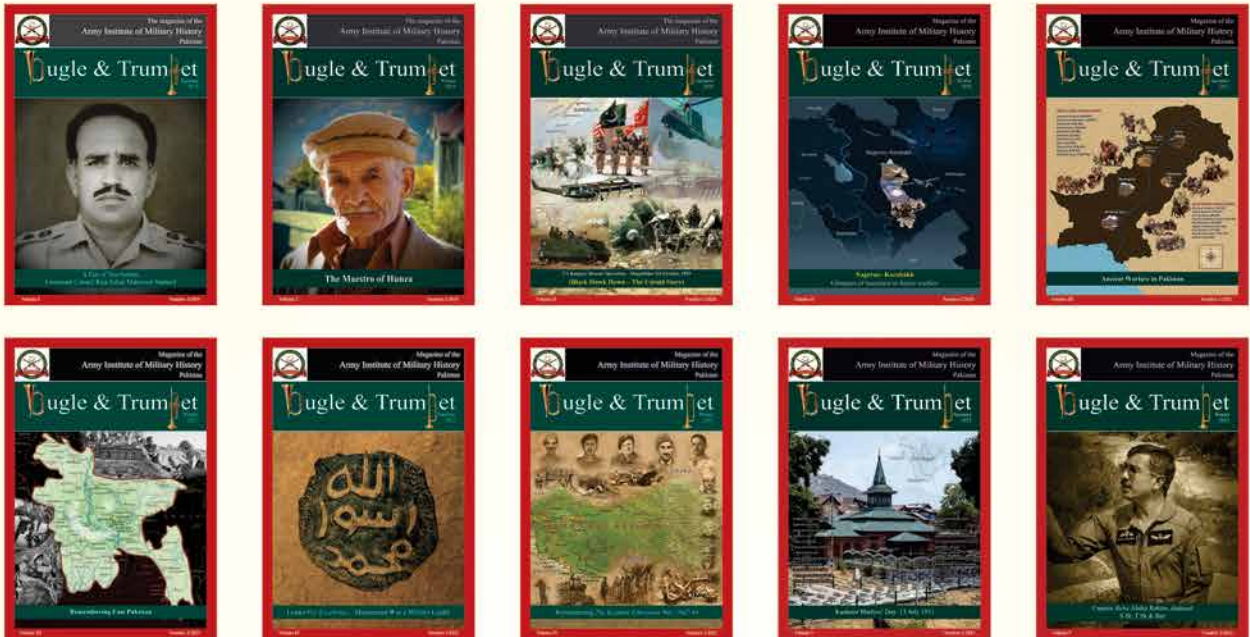
(By Rear Admiral Mian Zahir Shah, retired, author of Bubbles of Water)

Military History Minestrone (Answers)

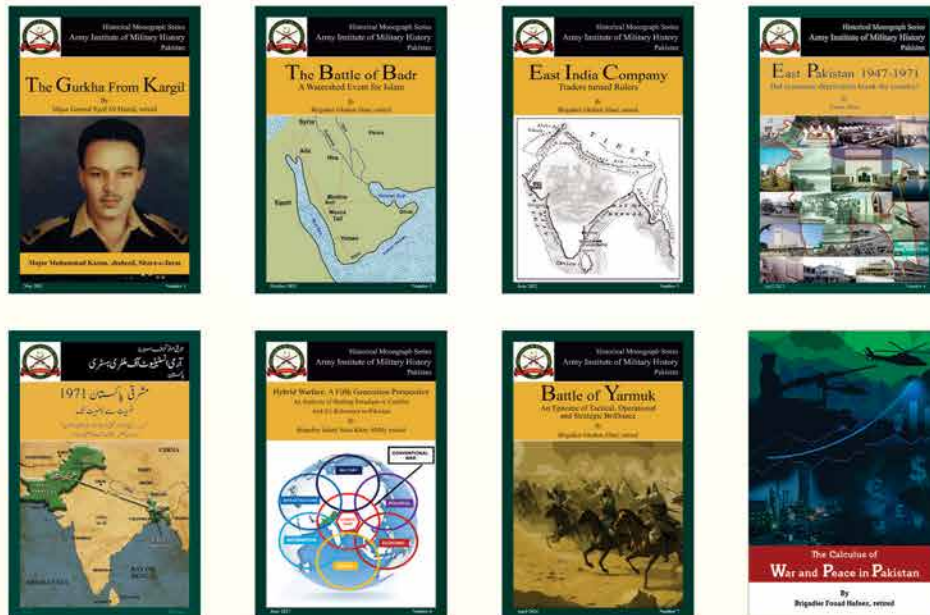
- | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (b) | 3. (c) | 4. (a) | 5. (d) |
| 6. (b) | 7. (d) | 8. (c) | 9. (a) | 10. (a) |

AIMH PUBLICATIONS

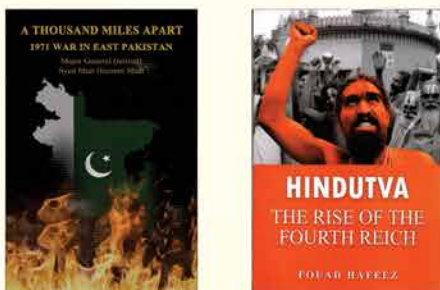
Bugle & Trumpet (Magazine)



Monograph Series



Books



Military History Primer

