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Leader Par Excellence – Muhammad ﷺ as a Military Leader



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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 descendent from those very same warriors of antiquity, while structurally, the Pakistan Army is directly descended from the grand old regiments of the old 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 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, matters of dress and accoutrements, and so on. The institute also serves as a forum for veterans, academia, subject 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, Composite Wing and Contemporary Affairs Wing, the institute is emerging as a centre

for both historical and current 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 and colleges, 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 that has little to do with heavy volumes of raw data. 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 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. Readers are invited to contribute for the *B&T*. Original articles related to military history, upto 2000 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 @ Rs. 3/- per word. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject contributions.

On the Cover: The seal of Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

(Source: AIMH)



From The Editor's Desk

Dear readers,

We are delighted to present the 7th issue of Bugle & Trumpet, with a feeling of satisfaction. We reiterate our resolve to continue efforts in offering a good blend of thought provoking, informative and exciting content.

This time the lead article, *Leader Par Excellence – Muhammad ﷺ as a Military Leader* explains the significance of a role model in our lives. In order to stay motivated and inspired, we should look for someone who inspires us to be the best we can. One of the key traits of a role model is his ability to inspire. This will help our younger generation to look in the right direction for guidance and inspiration.

To pay tributes to our heroes, *B&T* includes articles or anecdotes about those who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. The article *The Martyrs of Mustafabad* highlights those heroes who fought audaciously both on the war front and in the rear areas. The account ends on a poignant note.

The article *Pioneers of Pakistan Army – The First Muslim Officers* revives the memory of those Muslim officers who opted to join the Pakistan Army at partition. They became pioneers of Pakistan Army and rendered valuable services to lay a strong foundation of the newly formed Army.

Army in Aid of Railway – 1947 describes glimpses of turmoil, turbulence and anguish faced during the largest migration of human history, at the time of partition in 1947.

The Rann of Kutch conflict is the prologue of 1965 Indo-Pak War. It was a short but intense encounter, which proved to be a real test of tactics by the arch rivals. *Rann of Kutch Conflict, April 1965: The First Indo-Pak Encounter across the International Border* shares details of this battle.

The article on *Russo-Ukraine Conflict* is an effort to offer an overview of the ongoing conflict, encompassing all essential details of the issue, to trigger an interest in studying contemporary warfare in a historical perspective. This article highlights the challenges of writing on ongoing conflicts.

I hope our readers and military history enthusiasts like the diversity of our magazine. Always looking forward to feedback.


Tahir Najeeb Raja



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Leader Par Excellence – Muhammad ﷺ as a Military Leader

By Lieutenant Colonel Tahir Najeeb Raja, retired

Indeed in the Messenger of Allah (Muhammad ﷺ), you have an excellent model to follow, for him who hopes for (the meeting with) Allah and the Last Day and remembers Allah much.

(Al Quran 33:21)

Today the world is in chaos and a state of desperation, because it is devoid of sound, visionary and ethical leadership, or we may say that the global leadership crisis today is the root cause of turmoil. No one thinking rationally can dispute that leadership matters everywhere, be it a small unit like a family, an organisation, a country or an international body.

In leadership, an example is everything. No one becomes a leader in essence unless he or she *walks the talk*. This holds since time immemorial. A Chinese philosopher of the 4th century BC, Huananzi, brilliantly summed it up in the following words, “*When leaders are worthy of respect, the people are willing to work for them, when their virtue is worthy of admiration, their authority can be established*”¹

It is therefore imperative to look in the right direction for inspiration and guidance. Do we have some exemplary role models to learn from and follow? I believe yes, we are fortunate to have the recorded example of one such leader, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ before us, to follow regardless of the walk of life we belong to, as his role is not confined to any particular sphere of life. Minutest details about every role in his life are recorded.

The Prophet ﷺ was the flag-bearer of the fastest growing religion in the world, Islam. A religion followed by more than 1.8 billion² people across the globe today. Prophet



Masjid al-Nabawi (The Prophet's Mosque)
(Source: dailysabah.com)

Muhammad's ﷺ following is highly inclusive and diverse. Apart from Muslims, the pool of admiration constitutes people from other faiths, including his rivals, which suggests the high appreciation for the content of his character, competence and conduct, by those who are under no religious compulsion to follow him. To quote a few;

A famous French historian and educator Alphonse de Lamartine, wrote:

*“If greatness of purpose, the smallness of means and astounding results are the three criteria of human genius, then who could dare to compare any great man in history with Muhammad ﷺ? Philosopher, apostle, legislator, warrior, conqueror of ideas, restorer of rational beliefs, of a cult without images, the founder of twenty terrestrial empires and one spiritual empire, that is Muhammad ﷺ. As regards all standards by which human greatness may be measured, we may well ask, is there any man greater than he?”*³

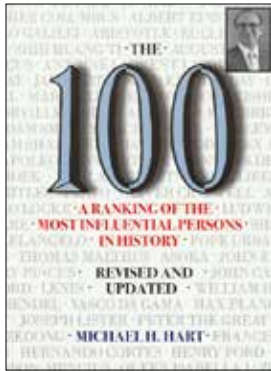
1 John Adair, *The Leadership of Muhammad* (London: Kogan Page, 2010), 24.

2 “Mapping the Global Muslim Population”, Pew Research Centre, October 7, 2009, accessed April 3, 2022, <https://www.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2009/10/Muslimpopulation.pdf>.

3 Alphonse de Lamartine, *Historie de le Turquie*, Vol. 1 (Paris: Librairie Du Constitutionnel, 1854), 276-277, <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k29365z/f1.item.texteImage.zoom>.



Michael Hart states, “Today, thirteen centuries after his death, his influence is still powerful and pervasive.”⁴



Book by Michael H. Hart
(Source: olatbuku.com)

Indeed, if centuries later an individual could have such a strong influence over so many, there can be no doubt in his leadership. Hart also emphasises that the Holy Prophet ﷺ is ranked as the most influential person in the world because he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels.⁵ Thomas Carlyle pays tribute to Muhammad ﷺ, stating that he is “Hero of the Prophets”.⁶

Professor Joel Hayward, a British scholar, writer, and poet who currently serves as professor of strategic thought, introduces the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in these words, “He was both a military leader involved in wars that created new power structures and a prophet who ushered in dramatically original ways of understanding monotheistic religion and its relationship with politics”.⁷ He writes “Muhammad ﷺ had what he called a sound grasp of military judgment, strategy, and tactics. It is hard to argue against this, given that only during a decade, from 622 to 632 CE, he quickly transformed from an inexperienced and unsure military leader to a highly successful routinely successful, and battle-hardened military commander capable of skillfully handling armies with thousands of warriors”.⁸

Imam Murtadha Gusau⁹ and Nabeel Al-Azmi¹⁰, both in their independent and separate studies, drawing on their analyses of the Prophet’s ﷺ life, identified a comprehensive list of over fifty prophetic leadership qualities. Both reviewed these critically to further narrow them down. After extensive filtering, merging, and examining the list against Seerah¹¹ based evidence, they arrived at eleven qualities, and concluded that each of these eleven was vital, and hence it be considered definitive list”. In essence both the lists are common, however expression varies a little. The list given below is in the words of Nabeel Al-Azami.

- Integrity
- Vision
- Courage
- Competence
- Holistic justice
- Pragmatic decisiveness
- Servant-leadership
- Practical wisdom
- Resilience and patience
- Compassion
- Emotional and spiritual intelligence

It shall be endeavoured to encapsulate the aforementioned traits of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ within the following four, which in effect encompass all the essentials of military leadership:-

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| I. Integrity | II. Competence |
| III. Courage | IV. Conduct |

4 Michael Hart, *The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History* (New York: Hart Publishing, 1978).

5 Hart, *The 100*.

6 Maulana Waheeduddin Khan, *Muhammad: A Prophet for all humanity* (SOS Free Stock, 2016), https://www.muslim-library.com/dl/books/English_Muhammad_A_Prophet_for_all_Humanity.pdf.

7 Joel Hayward, *The Leadership of Muhammad: A Historical Reconstruction* (UK: Claritas Books, 2021), 17.

8 Hayward, *The Leadership of Muhammad*, 85.

9 Imam Murtadha Gusau, “Prophet Muhammad (PBUH): The greatest Leader of all times”, *Vanguard*, November 13, 2020, accessed April 6, 2022, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/11/prophet-muhammad-pbuh-the-greatest-leader-of-all-times/>.

10 Nabeel Al-Azmi, *Muhammad 11 Leadership Qualities that changed the world* (UK: Claritas Books, 2019), 44.

11 In Islamic sciences or the Sharee’ah, Seerah means the study of the life of the holy prophet Muhammad ﷺ.



I – Integrity

Kouzes and Posner in their pursuit to identify the most essential qualities of leadership, conducted various studies and surveys over three decades, involving more than 75,000 respondents from across the world, who were asked to complete the checklist “characteristics of admired leaders”.¹² The authors state that literally in every survey, irrespective of its geographical location, country or type of organisation they chose since the research work was initiated in 1980, **honesty** is chosen as the topmost essential attribute of leadership. ‘**Honesty is essential to leadership.**’

This indeed has been asserted by Almighty Allah. The Quran says; “And verily, you (O Muhammad ﷺ) are an exalted (standard) of Character” (68:4). Allah combined in His final Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the most illustrious qualities. His unimpeachable trustworthiness won for him the title of *as-Sadiq al-Amin* (the Truthful, the Trustworthy, a faithful custodian, and unfailing trustee). The unique part is that even though infidels of Mecca repudiated his message and persecuted him, yet they trusted him with their most valuable assets. The Prophet ﷺ consistently exhibited matchless strength of character from childhood. Let us have a look at an example from the Battle of Badr, in the context of military leadership. The ratio of forces was 1:3 in favour of the infidels. Similarly, the Muslim army was far inferior in number and quality of sinews of war. In these circumstances a Yemenite, Hudhaifa ibn al Yemen narrates; “I was not prevented from taking part in the Battle of Badr on the side of the prophet ﷺ except for the fact that when my father and I accepted Islam and passed through Makkah en route, we were detained by the Quraish, they suspected that

we had embraced Islam and that we would take part in the war ahead. We assured them that we were going to Medina on our private vocations, and had no intentions of joining the forces of Muhammad ﷺ; on our taking oath, they released us. We came to Badr and narrated the incident to the Prophet ﷺ. He asked us to go to Medina and carry out the pledge and said: God will help us against the Quraish.¹³ The Prophet’s ﷺ life is full of such incidents reflecting his matchless character.



Routes and main cities of Arabia in ancient times
(Source: history.mcc.edu)

II – Competence

In order to comprehend the essence of the Prophet’s ﷺ leadership, it will be helpful to go through an overview of the struggle and transformation process, or revolution brought about by the Prophet ﷺ. Dr Israr Ahmed¹⁴ (late), states that he deduced the stages of revolution from the study of the life of the Prophet ﷺ (Seerat-un-Nabi). An overview is as under;

Stage-1: Communication, Publicity, and propagation of the message or ideology. In this case, it was TAWHID, meaning unification or oneness of Allah (monotheism) as per Islam. Its implementation and implications in the social,

12 James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner, *Credibility: How Leaders Gain and Lose it – Why People Demand it* (USA: Josseybass, 2011).

13 Dr Muhammad Hamidullah, *The Battlefields of the Prophet Muhammad Peace be upon him* (New Delhi: Kitab Bhavan, 1992), 33.

14 Dr. Israr Ahmed, *Minhaj e Inqilabe Nabwi* (Lahore: Maktaba Markazi Anjuman I Khuddamul Quran, 1995), 146.



economic, and political domains combined, are the essence of the Prophet's ﷺ message, which in reality was a challenge to an idol-worshipping society plagued by tribal feuds and other social ills.

Stage-2: Unite and organise all those who accept the message and are willing to endure hardship as a consequence of joining Islam.

Stage-3: Training and grooming is fundamental to bringing about the revolution, which becomes a precursor to societal change.

Stage-4: Passive resistance implies *patience*, which is a great virtue. Brigadier* A I Akram¹⁵, dwelling upon the significance of patience, states that this aspect, though one of the most essential qualities of leadership, is often ignored.

Dr Israr Ahmed is of the view that there is no need to be apologetic and shy about the fact that conflict is initiated by the preacher of new ideology, or the one who challenges the *status quo*. Though the Prophet ﷺ communicated a divine message, it however, challenged beliefs, norms, customs and way of life of the idol-worshipping Quraish of Makkah. The reaction was obvious. During the initial three years of prophethood, they targeted the Prophet ﷺ alone. The Quraish applied all possible tools of physical and mental persecution and humiliation to break the Prophet's ﷺ will, determination and perseverance, to stop him from preaching Islam. On failing to achieve this, the next step adopted was to attack followers of the Prophet ﷺ. The siege of Sha'ab e Abi Talib is one such heinous example of persecution. This attempt also failed to achieve their objectives. However Muslims, based on divine command, migrated, leaving behind everything. This implies that passive resistance continued throughout the period till migration to Medina. Here we see a supreme example of patience. Patience indeed is

the leader's ability to hold and control himself from anger and panic in dealing with people, and hardship in the course of undertaking his responsibilities.

Stage-5: Active resistance commenced as Muslims' migration to Medina took place. Since Allah granted them permission to fight against the aggressors, hence we may call it a stage of *active resistance*. Here we will only briefly touch upon various activities prior to the Battle of Badr.

- **Economic Blockade.** Employment of patrols and raid parties on the trade route to Syria and Yemen, to establish and show the presence of Muslims on these routes, and threaten Quraish's trade caravans.
- **Agreements and alliances** with tribes, to make them allies, or at least persuade them to be neutral in any war being waged against Muslims. In today's terms, we call this the *political isolation of Quraish*.
- **Internal Stability.** The first six months at Medina were utilised for internal stability and organisation, while in the next one and a half year, prior to Badr, eight military expeditions carried out different minor operations of war.

Stage-6: Armed Conflict. Now having gone through the rigours of initial stages up to active resistance; it is time for consolidation and execution of military plans, as divine permission for war has already been accorded. This is also the last phase of the Prophet's ﷺ revolution within the Arabian peninsula. This stage was decisive and it heralded the advent of Islam as a way of life which would last till eternity.

- **Consultative Process.** The cornerstone of any military strategy is the process of consultation. The historical records clearly

15 A I Akram, *Patience of a Cat*, (Pakistan Army Journal-Summer edition, 1967).

*Later Lieutenant General



Map showing battles fought by Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (Source: AIMH)

for an overall victory for the Muslims. In the treaty of Hudaibiyah, although the terms of the treaty were discriminatory in favour of the pagans, the Holy Prophet ﷺ agreed to them in the wider interest of the *Ummah* (Islamic community). The enabling strategic environment necessitated nullifying the pact between the Jews of Khaybar (north of Medina) and the Quraish (south of Medina), which stated that in case of a conflict with Muslims by either of the parties, the other will attack Medina. It appeared later

suggest that Muhammad ﷺ firmly believed in a meaningful consultative process, and he would remain steadfast once the decision had been made. In the Battle of Badr, the exercise of the option to fight the Quraish Army at Badr, instead of attacking Abu Sufian's trade caravan, was taken after a rigorous consultative process.

that this treaty resulted in the much wider publicity of the Islamic message, and it was a prologue to the conquest of Makkah, because it was within only two years that the pagans violated the terms of the treaty, and the Holy Prophet ﷺ had to announce its termination. These events made it possible for the Holy Prophet ﷺ to march towards Makkah with his ten thousand blessed companions, and the pagans had to surrender the city to him without bloodshed. It is pertinent to mention here that by signing this treaty, the Quraish accepted that Muhammad ﷺ was a power to reckon with. This reflects the strategic vision, practical wisdom, pragmatic decisiveness and farsightedness of the Prophet ﷺ.

- **Superior Military Thinking.** Selection of positions taking into account the direction of the sun, the layout of ground and its implications, intelligence gathering and thorough reconnaissance during the first major battle at Badr, all reflect professional acumen, and superior military and strategic thinking of a military leader.
- **Treaty of Hudaibiyah.** Allah says in the Quran, “Surely, We have granted you an open victory” (48:1). This verse was revealed after the return from Hudaibiyah. The *open victory* refers to the treaty of Hudaibiyah, which in the relevant circumstances was a victory in its own right, as it paved the path

III – Courage

Richard A. Gabriel¹⁶ writes, “*Had Muhammad ﷺ not succeeded as a commander, however, Islam might have been relegated to a geographic backwater – and the conquest*

16 Richard A. Gabriel, “Muhammad: The warrior Prophet”, History.net, May 17, 2007, accessed April 21, 2022, <https://www.historynet.com/muhammad-the-warrior-prophet/>.



of Byzantine and Persian empires by Arab Armies might never have occurred". He further elaborates this statement by stating that Muhammad ﷺ was undoubtedly a great general, who within a short period of one decade, led eight major battles, eighteen raids and planned around thirty-eight other military operations which were led by commanders designated by him, but operating under his orders and strategic direction. During these campaigns he was wounded twice, and also experienced having his positions overrun by numerically superior forces, before he succeeded to turn the tables on his enemies and rally his men to victory*. More than a great political-military leader and organisational reformer, he was also a strategic thinker, military theorist, field general and tactician, operational level combat commander, and a heroic soldier.¹⁷ This leaves no ambiguity about his courage, resilience, and persistence.

The best example of the manifestation of Ralph Nader's famous quote: "*the function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers*" is apparent in this case, where within 15 years of his departure to the eternal world, the commanders groomed and inspired by him established Muslim rule in three continents of the world.¹⁸

He confronted an enemy three times bigger in numerical strength, and sometimes even twelve or more times the force at his disposal, and yet practically he always succeeded



Byzantine and Persian empires at the time of the advent of Islam (Source: quora.com)

to achieve his strategic objectives. The Muslim empire commenced with some of the streets of Medina – a small city-state (as initially not all the residents of Medina joined him in his cause) – expanded at the average rate of over 830 square kilometers¹⁹ per day, and within ten years when he left for his eternal abode, he was ruling an area of over three million square kilometers.²⁰

The Prophet's ﷺ ethical leadership, compassion, and love for humanity, coupled with his vision and competence, ensured the prevention of human loss as far as possible. The entire area of over three million square km was conquered at the expense of fewer than 250 men killed on the enemy side, while Muslim casualties during combat were less than two hundred.²¹

IV – Conduct

The Prophet's ﷺ was kind, humble, and magnanimous, he always exhibited patience, perseverance, and unflinching faith. His conduct at the time of the conquest of Makkah is the manifestation of his humility and magnanimity. There is no parallel of the act of forgiving murderers of one's family members,

17 Ibid.

18 Hameed Ullah, *The battlefields of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)*.

*During the battles of Uhud and Hunain

19 Hameed Ullah, *The battlefields of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)*, 2.

20 Ibid.

21 Ibid.



despite having legal and moral authority.²² He truly embodied the Quran, “So (O Prophet ﷺ) it is through mercy from Allah that you are gentle to them. Had you been rough and hard-hearted, they would have dispersed from around you. So, pardon them, and seek forgiveness for them. Consult them in the matter and once you have taken a decision, place your trust in Allah. Surely, Allah loves those who place their trust in Him” (3:159).²³ We, as his followers, must bear in mind the lesson that unfair treatment, persecution and undue hardship have to be endured in the larger interest of accomplishing the bigger goal.

Final Thoughts

The life of our beloved Muhammad ﷺ will always remain the *living* example of a leader who possesses all the virtues and traits of a person who is able to lead and guide his followers through trying times, and establish his teachings as the ultimate mode of acquiring divine bliss. As for this life, he is an *epitome* of

living and leading the life while observing divine tenets and worldly wisdom. He will always remain the practical manifestation of a leader who has lived up to unparalleled standards of leadership, be it as a statesman, military leader or in his social obligations. Muhammad’s ﷺ impeccable approaches in problem-solving and decision-making have earned him the stature of a living legend. One does not need to look through a religious lens to certify his leadership, as is evident from an array of non-Muslim writers over the years. It is time that our future generations align their focus and learn the traits of leadership from the person who is divinely positioned to be our leader in this world and the hereafter.



The seal of Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ
(Source: whyislam.org)

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: “It is better for a leader to make a mistake in forgiving than to make a mistake in punishing”

(Muhammad ibn Dsa at-Tirmidhi)

About the author



Lieutenant Colonel Tahir Najeeb Raja, retired, was commissioned in the Frontier Force Regiment in March 1986. He held various command, staff and instructional appointments including command of his unit, 11FF during his military career. After retirement from the Army, he served in the corporate sector and academia. Before joining AIMH, he was Principal Karnal Sher Khan Cadet College Swabi. He has a master’s degree in business administration (HRM) and Islamic Studies. He has attended numerous professional courses, certifications and seminars from institutions like LUMS and NUST. Presently, he is serving as research director in AIMH.

22 Saheh Bukhari, Kitab al Tafseer.

23 Translation of verse is from The meaning of the noble Quran by Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani.

Pioneers of Pakistan Army—The First Muslim Officers

By Lieutenant Colonel Rifat Nadeem Ahmad, retired

Pakistan at the time of independence inherited a standing army, which was already two hundred years old. During the preceding centuries, it had gained the reputation of a highly professional and disciplined force, while the valour and loyalty of its soldiers were legendary. However, until a mere thirty years earlier, the officer rank was closed to its men. It was an article of faith among the British that only *they* were capable of commanding Indian troops. General James Willcocks, Commander of the Indian Corps in France during the First World War declared that, “the Indian is simply not fit to lead his men”.¹ It was a view widely shared by his colleagues. However, some British officials had realised much earlier that eventually, they would have to open the officer corps to Indians. A beginning was made in the 19th century by commissioning doctors, but any suggestion of offering commissions in the fighting arms faced stiff resistance. The eventual opening of the officer corps to Indians was a long and tortuous process, which took decades of bitter struggle to achieve.

On the insistence of Indian princes (rajahs and nawabs), an Imperial Cadet Corps was established at Dehradun in 1901, to impart military training to members of the Indian aristocracy. However, although commissioned officers, they could only serve on staff appointments in the Indian Army and were not allowed to command Indian troops. These officers, realising their inferior status, soon lost interest and the experiment fizzled out.² Meanwhile, the British faced challenges of a different kind during the First World War, when it became impossible to find replacements for British officers of the Indian Army, who had become casualties. At the same time, they came under intense political pressure from Indian nationalists, who understood that if they were to achieve self-rule, they would need Indian officers



The Imperial Cadet Corps, Delhi 1903
Back row: Khan Muhammad Akbar Khan of Hoti (1st from left),
Aga Cassim Shah (3rd from left)
(Source: Royal Collection Trust)

to run the Army. But opening the officer corps of an imperial army to its conquered subjects was akin to letting in the Trojan horse. After all, the very purpose of the Indian Army was to perpetuate British rule in India. And herein lay the dilemma.

But it was an issue that could no longer be ignored, and grudgingly, the British acceded to the demand. A start was made in 1917, by granting the King's Commission to nine officers of the Imperial Cadet Corps, and by giving direct commission from the ranks to a few selected men. This was followed in 1918 by setting up a Temporary School for Indian Cadets at Indore, and offering ten vacancies at the Royal Military



Temporary school for Indian cadets, Indore 1919
Back row: Mohammad Akbar Khan (2nd from left), Mohammad
Munir Khan Tiwana (3rd from right), Malik Gulsher Khan Noon
(2nd from right). Middle row: Abdur Rahim Khan (4th from left),
Malik Mohammad Ali Khan Noon (5th from left)
(Source: Lt Col Zahid Mumtaz, 54 C)

Academy, Sandhurst. To differentiate the new King's Commissioned Indian Officers from the



existing Indian officers, subedars and jemadars were designated as Viceroy's Commissioned Officers or VCOs. The most vexing problem for British authorities was the question of British officers serving under Indians. As Lord Rawlinson, Commander-in-Chief Indian Army wrote, "old officers say they won't send their sons out to serve under natives." To get around the problem, eight units of infantry, cavalry and pioneers were selected for *Indianisation*. No British subalterns were to be posted to these units, and thus, none would have to serve under *native officers*.³ Indian officers faced racism and discrimination at every step of the way. Starting at Sandhurst and continuing into the regimental messes and local clubs—closed to the *natives*—life for many of these pioneers was an ordeal.

Even though the entire process was riven by controversy and ill-will, the important thing was that it continued. However, the limited number of vacancies made the process very slow, and by 1932, only 141 Indians had graduated from Sandhurst. To speed up the



Indian Military Academy Dehradun 1932 (Source: storypick.com)

process, the number of units to be *Indianised* was increased and an Indian Military Academy with an annual intake of sixty cadets was opened at Dehradun in 1932. The British had to pay dearly for their churlish attitude, when at the start of the Second World War, they could only find 400 Indian officers for the rapidly expanding Army. Indianisation was abandoned, and all arms and services were opened to Indian officers. The intake at Dehradun was increased to 600 and new Officer Training Schools were opened. Several thousand emergency commissions

were granted, but even then, the Indian Army remained short of officers throughout the war. Indian officers performed well during the war. Several of them commanded battalions and one even a brigade. British officers had no problem serving under them. War had swept aside all rancour of the past.⁴

Around one-third of Indian officers in the Army were Muslims. At the time of Independence, most of them opted for Pakistan. It was these intrepid men who laid the foundations of the Pakistan Army. Several of them rose to prominence, and are well-known. However, most of the earlier pioneers, who paved the way for them, have been forgotten. This article will attempt to revive their memory by identifying every single one of them right up to the first batch of Indian Military Academy Dehradun, which passed out in 1934.

Indian Medical Service

Until 1917, only Indian doctors were eligible for commissions in the Indian Army. In 1855, the first Indian officer was commissioned in the Indian Medical Service (IMS), the forerunner of Army Medical Corps.⁵ Lieutenant Colonel Zalnoor Allee Ahmed (1848-1931), was the first Muslim doctor to be commissioned on 1 October 1872. He served as the Regimental Medical Officer of 28th (Punjab) Bengal Infantry (now 12 Punjab) from 1884 until his retirement in 1903.⁶ Major Syed Hassan, commissioned in 1880, was the second Muslim officer. Between 1901 and 1914, eight Muslim doctors were admitted in the IMS, while more than forty were commissioned during the First World War. Three were awarded the Military Cross. More than 300 medical officers including ten lady doctors and twelve dentists served during the Second World War.⁷



Lt Col Zalnoor Allee
(Source: 12 Punjab)



Lt Gen SMA Faruki
(Source: History of AMC)

Lieutenant (later Colonel) Nawabzada Ali Ahmed Khan was one of only three Muslim officers to receive the Distinguished Service Order. PAⁱ-100001 Brigadier (later Lieutenant General) Shaikh Mohamed Afzal Faruki (1892-1970),

commissioned on 6 July 1917, was the senior-most Pakistan Army officer at the time of Independence. He served as the first Director General Medical Services of Pakistan Army from 1947 to 1954.⁸

The Imperial Cadet Corps

The Imperial Cadet Corps was established in 1901, to *meet the military aspirations of Indian princes and gentlemen*.⁹ After undergoing three years of training at Meerut and Dehradun, these cadets were commissioned in *His Majesty's Native Indian Land Forces*. Their commission was inferior to the regular King's Commission of British officers, they could only serve on staff appointments and were not allowed to command troops. Only 11 officers were commissioned, and in 1914, the Corps was disbanded. On 25 August 1917, nine of them were granted regular King's Commissions in the Indian Army, becoming the first Indian commissioned officers other than doctors. Three were Muslims.¹⁰

1. Major Aga Cassim Shah, 3rd Skinner's Horse. Commissioned on 4 July 1905. Retired 1925. Nephew of Agha Khan III.
2. Lieutenant Colonel Nawab Sir Muhammad Akbar Khan of Hoti, KBEⁱⁱ, CIEⁱⁱⁱ (1885-1952), 1st Brahmans. Commissioned on 4 July 1905. Second-in-Command of 1/124th

Baluchistan Infantry (now 6 Baloch) during the Third Afghan War, 1919. Retired as a major 1921. Honorary Nawab 1925 and lieutenant colonel 1934. Member of the Council of State. Father of Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan Hoti, Governor NWFP (North West Frontier Province – now KPK).



Lt Col Muhammad Akbar
Khan of Hoti
(Source: Hilal English)

3. Major Malik Mumtaz Muhammad Khan Tiwana, 4th Cavalry (2nd Lancers). Commissioned on 1 January 1907. Resigned as a captain 1920. Honorary major 1937.

Direct Commissions from the Ranks

Eighteen officers were directly commissioned from the ranks in 1918-19, including four Muslims commissioned on 7 October 1919:¹¹

1. Brigadier Sir Hissam-ud-din Khan, CIE, OBI^{iv}, IDSM^v, 23rd Cavalry (now 11th Cavalry). Retired as a major in 1932. Honorary lieutenant colonel 1933 and brigadier 1946. Commander-in-Chief Bhopal State Forces 1940. Son of Colonel Nawab Sir Muhammad Aslam Khan of Khyber Rifles.
2. Major Malik Khan Muhammad, IOM^{vi}, 36th Jacob's Horse. Died 1945.
3. Lieutenant Taj Mohammad Khan, MBE^{vii},



Brig Sir Hissam-ud-din
(Source: Punjab Cavalry by
Col MY Effendi)

i PA – Pakistan Army (Number)
ii KBE – Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire
iii CIE – Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire
iv OBI – Order of British India
v IDSM – Indian Distinguished Service Medal
vi IOM – Indian Order of Merit
vii MBE – Member of the Order of the British Empire



3rd Guides Infantry. Retired 1925.

4. Captain Mohammad Kamaluddin Khan, OBI, MC^{viii}, 38th Central India Horse. Retired 1933.

Temporary School for Indian Cadets Indore^{ix}

On 15 October 1918, a Temporary School for Indian Cadets was opened at Daly College Indore. On 1 December 1919, 39 cadets were granted temporary commissions. Out of these, 33 were granted King's Commissions on 17 July 1920.¹² Eleven were Muslims:¹³

1. Lieutenant Colonel Sir Sher Muhammad Khan, CIE, MBE, 25th Punjabis (now 9 Punjab). Retired 1930. Honorary lieutenant colonel in 4/8th Punjab (now 4 Baloch) 1944. Member Legislative Assembly. Father of Admiral Tariq Kamal Khan.
2. Colonel Abdur Rahim Khan, Guides Cavalry. Transferred to the Indian Political Service^x 1925. Pakistan's first representative to the United Nations 1947-48. Retired as federal secretary 1953.
3. Brigadier Malik Gul Sher Khan Noon, OBE^{xi}, 18th Lancers (now 19th Lancers). Transferred to Army Remount Department 1931. First Pakistani Director RV&FC (Remount Veterinary and Farms Corps). Retired 1949.
4. PA-1 Major General Mohammad Akbar Khan, MBE (1897-1993), 40th Cavalry.

Transferred to 12th Cavalry (5th Probyn's Horse) 1921, 1/14th Punjab (now 5 Punjab) 1934 and ASC (Army Service Corps) 1935. GOC (general officer commanding) 8 Division 1947-50. Retired 1950.



Maj Gen Muhammad Akbar Khan

(Source: Book-Meri Akhri Manzil)

5. Colonel Malik Mohamed Ali Khan Noon, Hodson's Horse. Retired 1949. Brother of Prime Minister Sir Malik Feroze Khan Noon.
6. Brigadier Malik Mohammad Munir Khan Tiwana, 19th Lancers. Retired 1949.
7. Captain Hamid Ullah Khan, 124th Baluchistan Infantry (now 6 Baloch). Dismissed 1931.
8. Lieutenant Colonel Mir Haider, 92nd Punjabis (now 4 Baloch). Transferred to ASC 1930. Commanded 9/8th Punjab (now 3 Sind) 1948-49. Retired 1949.
9. Major Masud Hayat Khan, 67th Punjabis (1/2nd Punjab). Retired 1945.
10. Lieutenant Colonel Raja Muhammad Abdullah Khan, 29th & 28th Punjabis (now 12 Punjab). Resigned as a captain 1930. Honorary lieutenant colonel. Member Punjab Provincial Assembly 1951-55. Ambassador to Brazil 1957-58.
11. Major Muhammad Ayub Khan, MBE, 35th Scinde Horse and 12th Cavalry. Retired 1944.

viii MC – Military Cross

ix At the time of Partition, five officers from Officers Training School (OTS) Indore were still serving: Brigadier Malik Gulsher Khan Noon, Major General Mohammad Akbar Khan, Colonel Malik Mohammad Ali Noon, Brigadier Malik Mohammad Munir Khan Tiwana and Lieutenant Colonel Mir Haider. Except for PA-1 Major General Akbar Khan, all retired in 1949, before the grant of Pakistan Army (PA) numbers in 1950, and thus were never allotted PA numbers.

x The Indian Political Service (IPS) looked after civil administration of frontier districts and served as British agents to rulers of Princely States. It was considered an elite service and drew its officers from both the Army as well as Civil Services. The military officers on secondment to IPS continued to hold their military commissions. After independence, they were absorbed by the Civil Services of Pakistan.

xi OBE – Officer of the Order of the British Empire



Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

Five vacancies were offered to Indian cadets at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst



Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (Source: wikipedia.org)

in January 1919, Syed Iskander Ali Mirza (1899-



First Muslim cadets at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, 1920
Standing L to R: M Nawaz Khan and Faiz Mohammad Khan. Sitting L to R: Sarwar Ali Khan, Iskander Mirza, Edris Yusuf Ali (Source: Lt Col Zahid Mumtaz, 54 C)

1969) was the only cadet from the first batch to receive the commission on 16 July 1920.¹⁴ The last Indian cadet passed out in 1933. A total of fifty Muslim officers were commissioned from Sandhurst:¹⁵

1. Major General Sahibzada Syed Iskander Ali Mirza, CIE, OBE (16 July 1920), 33rd Cavalry (17th Poona Horse). Transferred to Indian Political Service 1926. Secretary Defence 1947, Governor East Bengal 1954, Interior Minister 1955, Governor General 1955-56, first President of Pakistan 1956-58.
2. 2nd Lieutenant Nawab Sarwar Ali Khan (14 July 1921), 16th Light Cavalry. Resigned 1923. Nawab of Kurwai. Father of Shaharyar Khan, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan.
3. PA-2 Brigadier Sahibzada Faiz Mohammad Khan (14 July 1921), 16th Light Cavalry. Served in Indian Political Service 1927-33. Retired as Director RV&FC.
4. Lieutenant Edris Yusuf Ali (23 December 1921), 20th Lancers. Resigned 1929. Son of Allama Abdullah Yusuf Ali, who translated the Holy Quran into English.
5. 2nd Lieutenant Muhammad Nawaz Khan (23 December 1921), Unattached List. Resigned 1923.
6. Major Sahibzada Mohammad Khurshid (31 August 1922), 1/14th Punjab (now 5 Punjab). Transferred to Indian Political Service 1927. First Pakistani Governor NWFP 1949-50. Died 1950.
7. Colonel Agha Syed Bad Shah, OBE (30 August 1923), 1/14th Punjab (now 5 Punjab). Transferred to Indian Political Service 1930. Served as Secretary States and Frontier Regions. Ambassador to Afghanistan, Egypt & Yemen. Chairman Federal Public Service Commission.
8. Captain Muttaqui Mahomed Ali (30 August 1923), 2/1st Punjab (now 2 Punjab). Retired 1935.
9. Major Mirza Osman Ali Baig, MBE (31 January 1924), 7th Light Cavalry. Transferred to Indian Political Service 1930. Foreign Secretary of Pakistan 1951-52. Secretary General CENTO 1959-61.
10. PA-3 Major General Mohammad Ishfakul Majid (27 August 1924), 4/19th Hyderabad. GOC 9 Division 1950-51. Resigned 1951. East Pakistani of Assamese heritage.
11. Lieutenant Mirza Rashid Ali Baig (30 August 1924), 16th Light Cavalry. Resigned 1930. Private Secretary to Quaid-i-Azam. Joined Foreign Service 1946. Opted for India in 1947. Brother of Major Mirza Osman Ali Baig.
12. Major General Sahibzada Anis Ahmad Khan (30 August 1924), 2/1st Madras Pioneers. Transferred to 2/1st Punjab (now 2 Punjab) 1932 and ASC 1935. Opted for India in 1947. Retired 1953. Migrated to Pakistan 1955.



13. Lieutenant Asghar Ali Khan (30 August 1924), 1/7th Rajput. Resigned 1929.
14. Captain Sheikh Maqbul Hussain (30 August 1924), 7th Light Cavalry. Retired 1935.
15. Lieutenant Ali Asghar Khan (29 January 1925), 1/7th Rajput. Resigned 1932.
16. Lieutenant Raja Nausherwan Khan Janjua (3 September 1925), 2/1st Punjab (now 2 Punjab). Resigned 1932.
17. PA-4 Brigadier Khairuddin Mohammad Idris (3 September 1925), 16th Light Cavalry. Commanded 3 Armoured Brigade.
18. PA-5 Brigadier Malik Fazal-ur-Rahman Kallue (29 January 1927), 5/5th Mahratta Light Infantry. Transferred to 5/8th Punjab (now 5 Baloch) 1932. Military Secretary 1948. Colonel of 8th Punjab Regiment 1952. Retired 1954. Father of Lieutenant General Shams-ur-Rahman Kallue.
19. PA-6 Brigadier Raja Mohammad Afzal Janjua (29 January 1927), 2/1st Punjab (now 2 Punjab). Transferred to ASC 1934.
20. PA-7 Major General Nawabzada Agha Mohammad Raza (29 January 1927), 1/7th Rajput. First Pakistani Adjutant General 1948-49. GOC 12 Division 1949-50. Retired 1951. Ambassador to China, Iran, France, Italy and the United States.
21. PA-8 Brigadier Ahmad Jan, MBE (29 January 1927), 7th Light Cavalry. First Pakistani Inspector General of Frontier Corps 1950-51. Retired 1954. Son of Brigadier Sir Hissam-ud-din.
22. PA-9 Colonel Afif Khan (27 August 1927), 1/7th Rajput. Commanded 5 FF (Frontier Force) Rifles (now 10 FF) in Kashmir War 1948.
23. PA-10 Field Marshal Mohammad Ayub Khan, NPK^{xii}, HJ^{xiii}, MBE (2 February 1928), 1/14th Punjab (now 5 Punjab). GOC 14 Division 1948. Adjutant General 1949. First Pakistani Commander-in-Chief 1951-58. President of Pakistan 1958-69.
24. PA-11 Lieutenant General Nasir Ali Khan, SQA^{xiv} (2 February 1928), 1/7th Rajput. First Pakistani Military Secretary 1947-48, Quartermaster General 1948-49 and Chief of Staff 1951-57.^{xv} First Colonel of the Baluch (now Baloch) Regiment 1952. Retired 1957.
25. PA-12 Major General Jamaldar (30 August 1928), 1/14th Punjab (now 5 Punjab). Transferred to ASC 1934. Quartermaster General 1949. Member National Assembly 1970-77. Minister for Kashmir & Northern Areas 1973-76 & 1981-82.
26. PA-13 Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Jan (30 August 1928), 16th Light Cavalry. Commanded 1 FFR (now 3 FF) 1947. Transferred to RV&FC. Son of Brigadier Sir Hissam-ud-din.
27. PA-14 Major General Nazir Ahmad Malik, MBE (1 October 1928), 6/13th FF Rifles (now 1 FF). GOC 9 (Frontier) Division 1948. Implicated in Rawalpindi Conspiracy Case 1951. Dismissed from service. Mayor of Lahore.
28. PA-15 Lieutenant General Mohammed Yousuf (31 January 1929), 7th Light Cavalry.



Field Marshal Ayub Khan
(Source: wordpress.com)

xii NPK – Nishan e Pakistan

xiii HJ – Hilal e Jurat

xiv SQA – Sitara e Quaid i Azam

xv The senior-most staff appointment in Pakistan Army. It was abolished in 1972, along with the office of Commander-in-Chief.



GOC 12, 7, 9 & 14 Divisions. Chief of General Staff 1951-53. First Colonel Commandant of the Armoured Corps. Ambassador to UK, Australia and Afghanistan.

29. Major General Mohammad Iftikhar Khan



Maj Gen Muhammad Iftikhar Khan
(Source: Lt Col Zahid Mumtaz, 54 C)

(29 August 1929), 7th Light Cavalry. GOC 10 Division 1948. Selected as the first Pakistani Commander-in-Chief but killed in an air crash in 1949. Brother of Major General Mohammad Akbar Khan.

30. PA-16 Lieutenant General Mohammad



Lt Gen Muhammad Azam Khan
(Source: flickr.com)

Azam Khan, HQA^{xvi} (29 August 1929), 4/19th Hyderabad. Transferred to the Baluch Regiment 1942. GOC 10 & 14 Divisions. First Commander I Corps 1957. Federal Minister 1958. Governor East Pakistan 1960-62. Retired 1962.

31. 2nd Lieutenant Nawabzada Mohammad Mumtaz Ali Khan (29 August 1929), 16th Light Cavalry. Resigned 1932.

32. Major General Enaith Habibullah (28 August 1930), 16th Light Cavalry. Opted for India in 1947.

33. Major Syed Ibn-i-Hasan (28 August 1930), 5/12th Baluch (now 12 Baloch). Transferred to Indian Political Service 1937. Opted for India in 1947. Joined Indian Foreign Service.

34. Major Nawabzada Zulfiqar Ali Khan Qizilbash (28 August 1930), 5/6th Rajputana Rifles. Retired 1946.

35. Brigadier Mohammad Khalilullah Sheriff (29 January 1931), 5/5th Mahratta Light

Infantry. Opted for India in 1947.

36. Major Allah Dad Khan (27 August 1931), 5/11th Sikh. Transferred to Indian Political Service 1936. Joined Civil Service of Pakistan in 1947. FCR^{xvii} Commissioner 1952.

37. PA-17 Major General Sheikh Mohammad Afzal (27 August 1931), 5/6th Rajputana Rifles. GOC 12 Division, Quartermaster General.

38. PA-18 Major General Mian Hayaud Din, HJ, MBE, MC (27 August 1931), 12/4th FF (now 6 FF). Commanded 102 Brigade in Kashmir War 1948. GOC 7 Division 1950. Chief of General Staff 1953-55. Colonel Commandant FF Regiment 1954-56. Retired 1960. MD OGDC (Managing Director Oil and Gas Development Corporation) 1962-65. Chairman National Press Trust. Killed in an air crash at Cairo in 1965.



Major General Mian Hayaud Din
(Source: AIMH)

39. PA-19 Brigadier Khan Ata Mohammad Khan (27 August 1931), 1/14th Punjab (now 5 Punjab).

40. PA-20 Brigadier Nawabzada Agha Khan Raza (27 August 1931), 3rd Cavalry. First Pakistani Commandant of Guides Cavalry (FF).

41. Brigadier Mohammad Sher Khan, MC (28 January 1932), 6/13th FF Rifles (now 1 FF). Director Military Intelligence 1947. Director Military Operations 1948. Killed in an air crash along with Major General Mohammad Iftikhar Khan in 1949.

42. PA-21 Lieutenant General Khalid Masoud Sheikh (28 January 1932), 4/12th FF (now 6 FF). First Pakistani Chief of General

xvi HQA – Hilal e Quaid i Azam

xvii FCR – Frontier Crimes Regulations



Staff 1950. GOC 15 Division. Colonel Commandant FF Regiment 1957-62. Federal Minister of Interior 1958. Chairman CDA (Capital Development Authority) 1967-70.

43. PA-22 Brigadier Massaud Khan (28 January 1932), 7th Light Cavalry. Commanded 11th Cavalry (FF) in Kashmir War 1948.

44. PA-23 Major General Adam Khan Babar, MC (28 January 1932), 2/1st Punjab (now 2 Punjab). GOC 8 Division 1950. Retired 1958.

45. PA-24 Major General Nawabzada Mohammed Sher Ali Khan Pataudi, HJ (2 February 1933), 7th Light Cavalry. Transferred to 1/1st Punjab (now 1 Punjab) 1944. Commanded 14 (Para) Brigade in Kashmir War 1948. Adjutant General 1951. Chief of General Staff 1955-57. Retired 1958. Ambassador 1959-66. Federal Minister 1969-71.

46. Major Meraj-Ud-Din (2 February 1933), 2/1st Punjab (now 2 Punjab). Killed in Action, Burma 1945.

47. PA-25 Major General Akbar Khan, DSO^{xviii} (31 August 1933), 6/13th FF Rifles (now 1 FF). Brigadier-in-Charge Kashmir 1947-48. Chief of General Staff 1950-51. Court martialled for leading Rawalpindi Conspiracy 1951. National Security Adviser 1972-74. Ambassador 1974-77.

48. PA-26 Major General Mohammad Abdul Latif Khan, OBE (31 August 1933), 1/7th Rajput. Director Military Intelligence 1948. First Pakistani Commandant Staff College 1954-57. Retired 1958.

49. PA-27 Major General Syed Shahid Hamid (31 August 1933), 3rd Cavalry. Transferred to ASC 1940. First Director ISI 1948-50 and Master General Ordnance 1951-56. Adjutant General. Federal Minister 1978-81.

50. Brigadier Mohammad Usman (31 August 1933), 5/10th Baluch (now 12 Baloch). Opted for India in 1947. Killed in Action during Kashmir War 1948.

Indian Military Academy Dehradun

The Indian Military Academy (IMA) was established at Dehradun in 1932, with an initial intake of 40 cadets. The 1st IMA Course with eight Muslim officers was commissioned on 4 February 1934:¹⁶

1. PA-28 General Mohammad Musa, HPk^{xix}, HQA, HJ, MBE, 6/13th FF Rifles (now 1 FF). GOC 14 & 8 Divisions. Chief of General Staff & Chief of Staff 1957. Commander-in-Chief 1958-66. Governor West Pakistan 1966-69 & Balochistan 1985-91.



Gen Muhammad Musa
(Source: Command & Staff College Quetta)

2. PA-29 Brigadier Gulzar Ahmed, MBE, 5/10th Baluch (now 12 Baloch). Commanded 104 Brigade in Kashmir War 1948. Director Military Operations 1949. Renowned scholar and author.

3. PA-30 Major General Mohammad Umrao Khan, 2/1st Punjab (now 2 Punjab). Adjutant General, GOC 14 & 15 Divisions.

4. Lieutenant Nawabzada Ali Ashraf Khan, 5/2nd Punjab. Died 1936.

5. PA-31 Brigadier Mohammad Zaman Khan, 1/14th Punjab (now 5 Punjab). Transferred to the Corps of Signals 1948. First Pakistani Signals Officer-in-Chief 1950-55. Died 1955.

6. PA-32 Lieutenant General Mohammad Habibullah Khan, SPk^{xx}, 5/10th Baluch (now 12 Baloch). GOC 7 Division 1954. Chief of General Staff 1957. Chief of Staff 1958. Retired 1959.

xviii DSO – Companion of the Distinguished Service Order

xix HPk – Hilal e Pakistan

xx SPk – Sitara e Pakistan



7. Captain Ehsan Qadir, 5/2nd Punjab. Captured by the Japanese in Malaya 1942. Joined the Japanese-sponsored Indian National Army (INA). Dismissed from service 1946.
8. PA-33 Brigadier Mirza Hamid Hussain, 5/11th Sikh. Transferred to Army Ordnance Corps 1940. Director ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) 1950-51. Transferred to Foreign Service 1951.



1st IMA Course, Indian Military Academy, Dehradun 1932

(Source: National Army Museum)

Notes

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2. Dr Chandar S. Sundaram, "The Imperial Cadet Corps and Indianisation of the Indian Army's Officer Corps, 1897-1923: A Brief Survey", *Journal of the United Service Institution of India* CXXXIX, no. 577 (July-September 2009), <https://usiofindia.org/publication/usi-journal/the-imperial-cadet-corps-and-indianisation-of-the-indian-armys-officer-corps-1897-1923-a-brief-survey-2/>.
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8. FA Bhatti, *History of Army Medical Corps* (Rawalpindi: Medical Directorate, 2015), 37, 804.
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10. Gautam Sharma, *Nationalisation of the Indian Army, 1885-1947* (New Delhi: Allied Publishers, 1996), 44-45.
11. The Quarterly Indian Army List, April 1921, 333. Two officers were commissioned from ranks on 14 January 1922: Lieutenant Raja Najibullah Khan Janjua, IOM, 1/16th Punjab (13 Punjab), retired 1925; and Lieutenant Haji Nur Ahmad Khan, IOM, MC, 4th Hodson's Horse, retired 1930.
12. Sharma, *Nationalisation of the Indian Army*, 53.
13. The Quarterly Indian Army List, April 1921, 370.
14. Sharma, *Nationalisation of the Indian Army*, 237.
15. The Quarterly Indian Army Lists 1920-34.
16. The Indian Army List, October 1935, 231.

About the author



Lieutenant Colonel Rifat Nadeem Ahmad, retired, was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps in 1989. He is a professor of Pathology and author of several books on history of the Baloch Regiment.



Rann of Kutch Conflict, April 1965: The First Indo-Pak Encounter across the International Border

By Brigadier Muhammad Uzair Ahmed Qureshi, retired

Introduction

The India-Pakistan War in 1965 was preceded by a clash between the armies of both the countries in the *Rann of Kutch* (Figure-1) during the early part of the same year. This was the first time both the regular armies faced each other in an armed conflict across the international border. India claimed a portion of the Rann of Kutch that formed part of Pakistan, and directed her forces in the area, to creep forward and occupy as much of Pakistan's territory as she could. The Pakistan government tried to persuade India to give up her illegal claim on Pakistani territory, but to no avail. Finally, it was decided to eject the Indians from these places using force.

Operations in this area entailed many

administrative and logistical difficulties, but the Pakistan Army conducted successful operations to evict the enemy from their territory. A surprise dawn attack was launched from an unexpected direction that caught the enemy completely unawares. The Indian Army fled in panic, leaving behind large quantities of war material.¹ Later, British mediation made a ceasefire possible, and an agreement was signed by India and Pakistan, bringing an end to the Rann of Kutch conflict.

Background

Historically, especially since the dawn of Islam in Sind, this area has been a disputed territory between the states of Sind and Kutch. A concise history of the area till the partition of the Subcontinent is tabulated in Figure-2.



Figure-1: Map of Rann of Kutch (left), Landscape of Rann of Kutch (top right), Pakistani troops – extreme right is lieutenant colonel M Iqbal Khan, commanding officer 2FF (Guides), later General, and Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (bottom right)

(Source: quora.com, oneearth.org, defence.pk)

¹ Pakistan Army archives.



Figure-2: History of Rann of Kutch area, events leading to the conflict between India and Pakistan, till the settlement of the issue through Kutch Award.

Period / Year	Status of Rann Of Kutch	Details ²
Advent of Islam in Sind / 1760		Muslim ruler of Sind conquered the state of Kutch from Ghodji
	Disputed territory between the states of Sind and Kutch	The Raos of Kutch wanted to annex the Rann with their state
1813		Hindus and the deposed Raos conspired with the British, and Rao Bharmalji was made the Kutch ruler
1819		Rao Desalji became the ruler of Kutch
1876		Maharaja Rao Khenjarji became the ruler of Kutch
British India / 1904	Kutch claimed Rann, desiring its annexation	Maharaja Rao Khenjarji, ruler of Kutch since 1876, laid claims on the Rann – annexation could not be realised, Maharaja died in 1908
1914		Kutch/ Sind border could not be delineated
British India / 1924	The state of Kutch acceded to British India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consequent to territorial adjustments for administration, the control of the Rann passed to the Governor of Sind • Demarcation of boundaries between Sind and Kutch seemed unimportant, because both formed part of the British Empire³
1926	Under the British Empire	The Kutch administration tried to encroach upon the Rann, but failed due to the resistance of Tharparkar and Sind people
British India / 1938	Under the British Empire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey commission, mutually appointed by the States of Sind and Kutch to resolve the issue, did not reach any settlement due to outbreak of the Second World War • Sind maintained full administrative control over the Rann, but the territory was shown in survey maps as disputed
1939	Under the British Empire	Chief surveyor proposed to omit boundary from modern survey maps
Partition of Subcontinent – Emergence of India and Pakistan / August 1947	Boundary between India and Pakistan in the area, defining the Rann of Kutch, remained undemarcated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dispute over the Rann was inherited by India and Pakistan • India claimed the whole Rann • Pakistan claimed only the northern part⁴
1948		Inter-Dominion Agreement between India and Pakistan was signed
1950		India developed Kandala and Navanagar into major naval and air bases respectively

2 Lt. Gen. Mahmud Ahmed, *A Military History of the Indo-Pak War – 1965* (Rawalpindi: Service Book Club, 2006). Maj. Saeed Ahmed, *Indo-Pak Clash in Rann of Kutch (1965)* (Rawalpindi: Army Educaiton Press, 1973).

3 The annexation resulted in yet another dispute between Mirs (Sind) and Raos (Bhuj). “The British acting upon their characteristic policy of *divide and rule* generated a territorial dispute in the Rann between the Mirs of Sind and the Raos of Bhuj, and then kept it dormant or alive as it suited their policy.” Ahmed, *Military History of the Indo-Pak War-1965*.

4 The Sind Police Rangers (later Indus Rangers) established posts along the Pakistani side of the Rann and patrolled along a track ten miles south of the Customs Track. Perhaps for reasons of economy, some of the Rangers posts were abandoned and patrolling was discontinued by Pakistan. Consequently, India lost no time in establishing her claim over the entire territory of the Rann. Ahmed, *Military History of the Indo-Pak War – 1965*.



Period / Year	Status of Rann Of Kutch	Details
1951		Sind Rangers (Pakistan) strengthened their posts in the area of Chhad Bet and increased patrolling activity down to 24 th parallel
1953	Boundary dispute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sind Rangers' (Pakistan) strength was reduced as an economy measure • India lost no time in establishing her claim over the entire territory of the Rann when Pakistan abandoned some of the Ranger posts, and discontinued patrolling • India increased aggressive patrolling in the disputed area and started quite frequent abduction of Pakistan Customs' men
1954		In view of a large number of abductions of Pakistan Customs' men, IG police Sind (Pakistan) and IG Police Rajasthan (India) held a border conference in Karachi
1956		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian military establishment in the Rann comprised 112 Indian Infantry Brigade in area Khavda, Joint Service Headquarters at Bhuj, and a squadron of Vampire fighter aircraft • Indian army laid an all-weather road between Kala Dongar and Kanwar Bet • Indians intensified aggressive border patrolling
25 th February 1956	Boundary dispute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A company of the Indian Reserve Police (later the Border Security Force) occupied Chhad Bet, dislodging a platoon of Sind Rangers from there • Pakistan ordered Rangers not to cause any provocation, and to withdraw to Wingor
1956 (to 1964)	Boundary dispute	Series of talks between Indian and Pakistani Defence and Prime Ministers continued intermittently until the end of 1964, without any results
1958		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premiers of India and Pakistan met • General Ayub established a military government in Pakistan
1959		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian encroachment on Pakistan Customs' Track • Meeting between IG Police West Pakistan and IG Police Rajasthan (India) • Ayub-Nehru meeting at Palam airport
1960		Swaran Singh (India) and Lieutenant General K.M. Shaikh (Pakistan) met to conclude Indo-Pak pact of 1960
1962		Sino-Indian conflict resulting in Indian defeat
1963		India received massive military and economic aid from the USA, USSR and Britain – India re-organised her armed forces and equipped them with modern armaments
1964		Nehru died
January 1965	Boundary dispute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan offered fifty thousand tons of wheat to India as a testimony of goodwill • Indian Defence Council (established since 1962) was reconstituted • India continued to act aggressively⁵ – Indian border patrols began creeping forward with the intention of occupying the whole of the disputed Rann, and presenting Pakistan with a <i>fait accompli</i>

5 By end January 1965, Indian patrols probed as deep as Indus Rangers posts at Mara, Rahim ki Bazar, Ding, Kanjarkot and Sutiari, often passing within 300 metres of the Pakistani posts. Ahmed, *Military History of the Indo-Pak War – 1965*.



Period / Year	Status of Rann Of Kutch	Details
February 1965		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 and 67 Infantry Brigades of the Indian Army moved into the Kutch area • An Indian naval task force, comprising aircraft carrier 'Vikrant', 7 destroyers/frigates and one fleet tanker, was deployed off the Gulf of Kutch • Indian aircraft started reconnaissance flights over Ding, Kanjarkot, Rahim Ki Bazar, Surai and Mara • Indians completed preparations for exercise "ARROW HEAD" in the area
15 th February 1965	Boundary dispute	Indian Deputy Inspector General Rajkot Range and Lieutenant Colonel Aftab Ali, Commandant Indus Rangers held a meeting to ease mounting tension, but the meeting broke up without any results as both sides claimed <i>de facto</i> control over Kanjarkot Fort
22 nd February 1965	Boundary dispute	Indus Rangers occupied Kanjarkot Fort, which Indians had claimed and occupied
	Boundary dispute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India escalated the situation by ordering regular troops to move to the sector – 31st Infantry Brigade moved to Bhuj • On getting this information, Pakistan ordered 8 Division to take operational control of the area
March 1965		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptionally heavy wireless traffic on Indian side of Sind / Kutch border • Indian political leaders and services chiefs held a conference in the Kutch area • Indians vacated village 50 miles deep along Kutch • In view of impending Indian sweep forward, Sind Rangers (Pakistan) requested for Army's support
27 th March 1965	Boundary dispute	Indian joint services exercise (ARROW HEAD), by a brigade group, INS Vikrant, several destroyers and frigates, held in the Gulf of Kutch
April 1965	Boundary dispute / Rann of Kutch Conflict	Ding Post established by India on 5 th April – Operation "DESERT HAWK" – Indians established minor posts at Chieta Bet, Seraj Belo and Vigiokot, and a major post near Ding-Mara area called Sardar Post
9 th / 10 th April 1965	Boundary dispute / Rann of Kutch Conflict	Attack on Sardar Post by 51 Brigade
April 1965	Boundary dispute / Rann of Kutch Conflict	Reinforcements and readjustments by Indian and Pakistani troops
20 th April 1965		Pakistan informed the UN Security Council about the seriousness of the situation
24 th – 26 th April 1965	Boundary dispute / Rann of Kutch Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistani troops attacked and captured Sera Bet (Point 84) and Biar Bet • It marked the end of 8 Division's operations in the Rann of Kutch
April 1965		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Division was thinned out • Commander 8 Division created a small mobile force called the Changez Force
May – December 1965		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lull prevailed in the operational area • Indo-Pakistan Agreement of 30th June to end operations and start work for a negotiated settlement of the dispute • Establishment of the Kutch Tribunal • Indo-Pakistan War of September 1965
1966		Tribunal meeting and proceedings
31 st October 1967		Kutch Award



Notwithstanding the status of un-demarcated boundary between India and Pakistan in the Rann of Kutch area at the time of partition in 1947, India laid claim over the entire area of Rann, while Pakistan claimed only its northern part. In the subsequent years, Pakistan established Rangers posts and carried out patrolling on its side. On the contrary, India aggressively patrolled the area, claiming control over the entire territory, and by end February 1956, a company of Indian Reserve Police dislodged a platoon of Sind Rangers from Chhad Bet and occupied it.⁶ The Pakistani side, however, did not react, and Rangers were withdrawn to Wingor.

Subsequently, from 1956 to as late as 1964, talks held at various levels between India and Pakistan to resolve the issue remained inconclusive. India continued to act aggressively,

as Indian border patrols began creeping forward with the intention of occupying the whole area. By end January 1965, Indian patrols probed as deep as Indus Rangers posts at Mara, Rahim ki Bazar, Ding, Kanjarkot and Sutiar, often passing within 300 metres of the Pakistani posts. In February 1965, the situation further escalated ensuing failed talks between the Indian Deputy Inspector General Rajkot Range and Lieutenant Colonel Aftab Ali, Commandant Indus Rangers.

Continued Indian aggressive posturing, with the manifestation of ever increasing territorial claims through deep patrolling and establishing of posts in Pakistani territory, left few options for Pakistan. General Officer Commanding of Pakistan's 8 Infantry Division, Major General Tikka Khan, ordered the Indus Rangers to occupy Kanjarkot Fort, which was in Pakistan's territory, and which the Indians

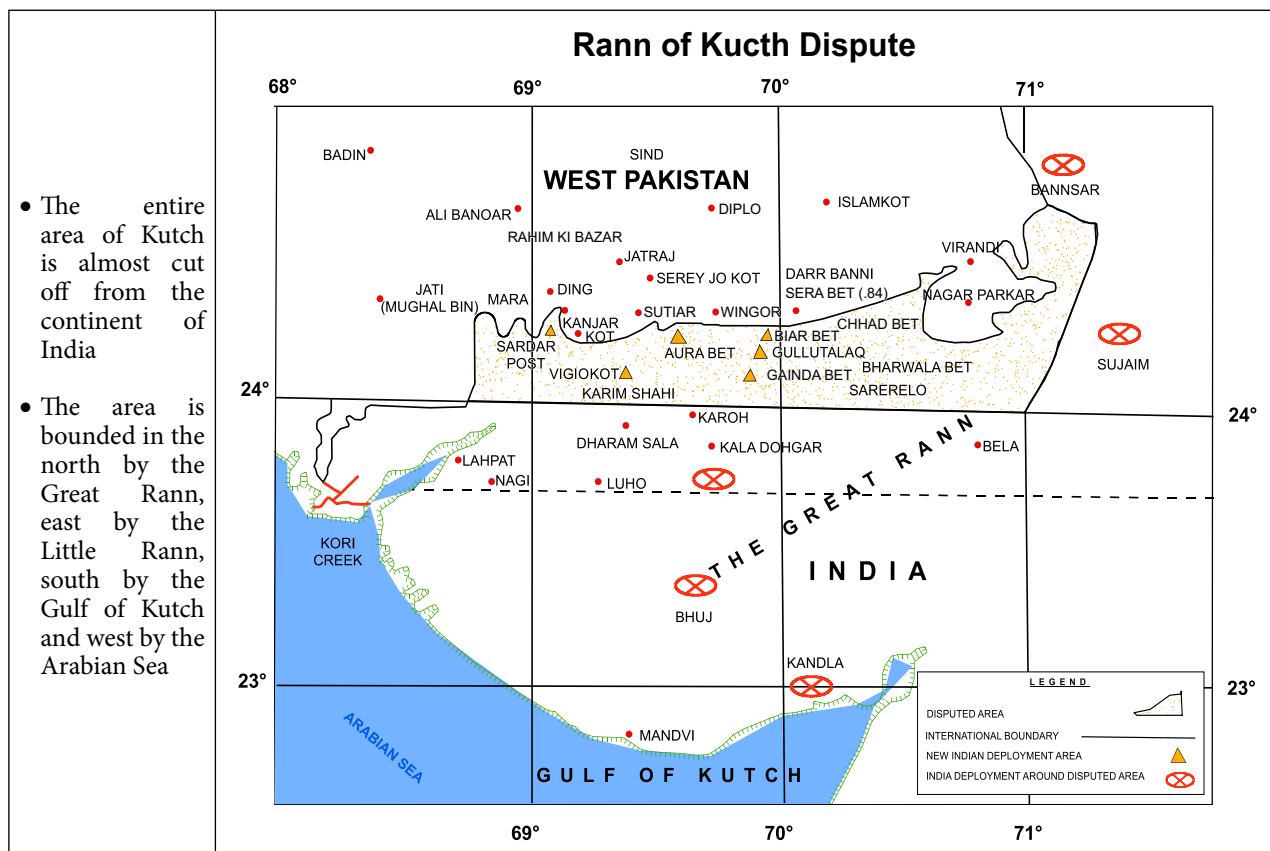


Figure-3: Area of operation

(Source: AIMH)

- The entire area of Kutch is almost cut off from the continent of India
- The area is bounded in the north by the Great Rann, east by the Little Rann, south by the Gulf of Kutch and west by the Arabian Sea

6 Ahmed, *Military History of the Indo-Pak War – 1965*.



had claimed and occupied. Kanjarkot Fort was occupied by Pakistani troops on 22nd February 1965.

The Indian reaction was twofold: firstly, India reinforced Chhad Bet and established strong police posts at Suigam, Bela, Vigiokot, Karim Shahi and Sardar Post; and secondly, ordered 31st Infantry Brigade, consisting of 17th Rajputana Rifles, 2nd Sikh Light Infantry and 1st Mahar, to move from Dhrangadhra to Bhuj.⁷ Hence India further escalated the situation by ordering regular troops into the sector, showing clear intent to use force to resolve the issue. On receipt

of information about the movements of regular Indian troops in the Rann of Kutch, 8 Division was ordered by GHQ to take operational control of the situation.⁸ A naval exercise in the Gulf of Kutch by India was yet another clear indication of Indian intentions. On 27th March, the Indian high command started a joint services exercise nick-named ARROW HEAD. The exercise by a brigade group, INS Vikrant, several destroyers and frigates, was held in the Gulf of Kutch. Owing to Indian gesturing, tensions had mounted during the month of March 1965, creating an environment of posturing.

Pakistan		
Formation	Commander	Remarks
8 Infantry Division	GOC Major General Tikka Khan	
6 Brigade	Brigadier Eftikhar Khan	The brigade comprising 15 Punjab, B Company 15 FF (R&S) and 25 Field Regiment moved from Quetta
51 Brigade	Brigadier K. M. Azhar Khan	The brigade comprised three battalions: 18 Punjab and 6 Baluch at Malir, and 8 FF at Hyderabad
India		
Formation	Commander	Remarks
KILO Sector	Major General PO Dunn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earlier, operations in Kutch were conducted by Maharashtra and Gujrat Area (headquarters at Bombay) • From 18th April 1965, KILO Sector was set up with its headquarters at Khavda
31 st Infantry Brigade		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The brigade, consisted of 17th Rajputana Rifles, 2nd Sikh Light Infantry and 1st Mahar • The Brigade was moved from Dhrangadhra to Bhuj
50 Para Brigade		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The brigade comprised 2, 3 and 4 Para Battalions • Ordered to move to Kutch on 9th April

Figure-4: Opposing Forces

7 K. C. Praval, *India's Paratroopers – History of the Parachute Regiment of India* (Delhi: Thomson Press (India), 1974), 242.

8 8 Division was ordered to “assume operational control of the area before the situation gets out of control of the Rangers”, and to “take all necessary steps to assist the Indus Rangers in maintaining status quo and ensure no violation takes place in the territory under de facto control.”

Maj. Gen. Shaukat Riza (retd), *The Pakistan Army – War 1965* (Rawalpindi: Service Book Club, 1984), 79.



Major General Tikka Khan
GOC 8 Division



Brigadier K.M. Azhar Khan
Commander 51 Brigade



Brigadier Eftikhar Khan
Commander 6 Brigade



Figure 5 A: Background and mounting tension in February 1965⁹

(Source: AIMH)

9 Ahmed, *Military History of the Indo-Pak War - 1965*, Map 2.

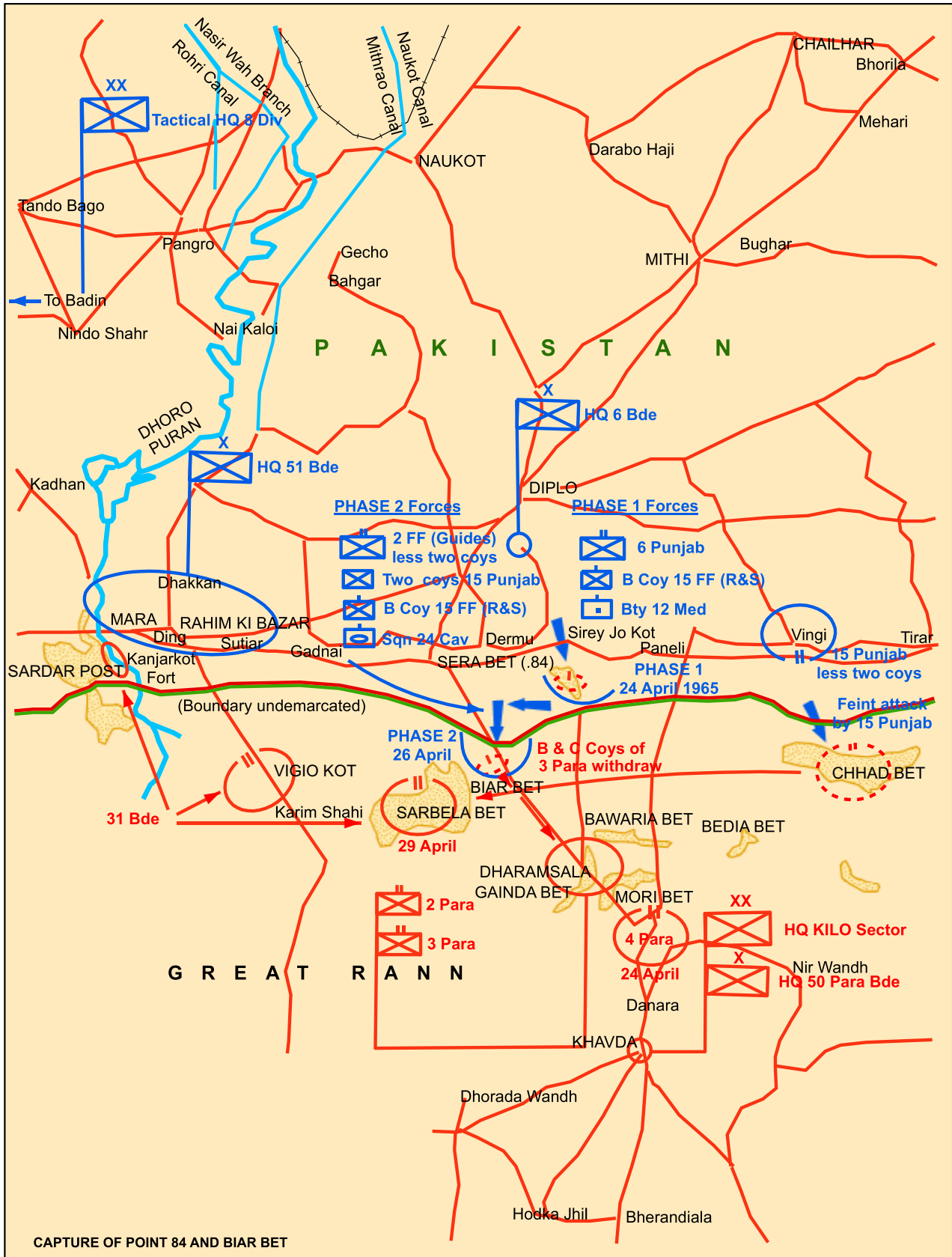


Figure 5 B: Build up, reinforcements, escalation and finally capture of Point 84 and Biar Bet in April 1965¹⁰ (Source: AIMH)

10 Ahmed, *Military History of the Indo-Pak War - 1965*, Map 7.



Conduct of Operations

By moving regular troops into the sector, (Figure-5A) India had escalated the situation, choosing to use force instead of negotiations to resolve the border dispute. Assessing the situation after assuming operational control of the area, Pakistani 8 Division ordered 51 Infantry Brigade on 6th March to move to its operational area. Headquarters 51 Brigade moved to Badin, 18 Punjab to Diplo, one battery of 14 Field Regiment to Kadhan, and one company of 8 Frontier Force Regiment along with a troop of 120 millimetre mortars, to Rahim Ki Bazar. 51 Brigade was ordered by 8 Division to “ensure strict vigilance and have Indus Rangers patrol the area extensively; establish close liaison with the Rangers and Headquarters 8 Division; and support Indus Rangers in their operations.” The division ordered the brigade to *avoid provocation and maintain status quo*.¹¹

Attack on Sardar Post by Pakistani 51 Brigade

Indian forces established yet another post on 5th April, namely Ding Post, northwest of Ding. On night 6th/7th April, Pakistani 51 Brigade was ordered to attack and destroy the enemy in area Sardar Post by last light 9th April.¹² The attack on Sardar Post was planned in two phases, with H hour at 0100 hours on night 8th/9th April. In phase one, 18 Punjab (less one company) and 8 Frontier Force Regiment were tasked to capture camp A and B respectively. In phase two, 6 Baluch (now Baloch) was to capture Jungle and Shalimar Posts. 14 Field Regiment and 83 Independent Mortar Battery were to provide fire support.

The attack began at 0200 hours, but while attacking camp A, enemy fire from camp

B brought the attack of 18 Punjab to a halt. 6 Baluch, however, reported at about 0430 hours that they had captured Shalimar Post. 18 Punjab could not capture camp A and at 1030 hours, their commanding officer ordered the troops to dig in and hold positions. Attack on camp B by 8 Frontier Force Regiment could not progress as well, owing to enemy’s artillery and mortar fire.¹³ At this moment, Commander 51 Brigade, Brigadier Azhar, decided to use 6 Baluch with two companies of 8 Frontier Force Regiment to capture camp C. The battalion regrouped at Ding for the attack, but enemy machine gun and mortar fire brought the attack to a halt. “The whole brigade was now stretched around Sardar Post, with little prospects of capturing it. The brigade commander decided to call off the operation and withdraw to a defensible position. Indians did not know about Pakistan’s decision to withdraw, and they also withdrew from Sardar Post. An Indian air observation post later discovered that the post was not occupied, and they occupied it again.”¹⁴

Readjustments and reinforcements after Attack on Sardar Post

The Indian 50 Para Brigade, with two battalions, was moved to the Rann on 9th April, and on 18th April, Major General PO Dunn took command of the area.¹⁵ Major General Dunn moved 3 Para Battalion (less two companies) to Dharamsala and 2 Para Battalion to Dharamsala-Biar Bet track.

On Pakistan’s side, after readjustment, 51 Brigade established a compact defensive position in area Mara, Ding and Kanjarkot. 6 Punjab with a battery of 25 Field Regiment and a troop of 88 Mortar Battery had arrived from Quetta on 10th April. While on 12th April, tactical headquarters

11 Riza, *The Pakistan Army – War 1965*, 79.

12 Ahmed, *Military History of the Indo-Pak War – 1965*, 2.

13 Ahmed, *Military History of the Indo-Pak War – 1965*, 3.

14 D.K. Palit, *History of the Regiment of Artillery--Indian Army* (London: Leo Cooper Ltd, 1973), 217.

15 With the arrival of 50 Para Brigade at Bhuj on 18th April, India had two regular brigades in the area.

of 8 Division was established at Hyderabad, and 12 Cavalry (FF) with one squadron of tanks reached Kadhan. On 14th April, 6 Brigade with 15 Punjab and 25 Field Regiment reached south of Diplo. On 15th and 20th April, one squadron of 24 Cavalry and a battery of 12 Medium Regiment also reached the Rann.

On 18th April, Major General Tikka ordered 6 Brigade to dominate the area south of Wingor-Jat Trai and be ready to launch an attack towards Vigiokot if Indians attacked 51 Brigade. Pakistani artillery by now was having



Figure 6: From right to left: Major General Tikka Khan (General Officer Commanding 8 Division), Brigadier K.M. Azhar (Commander 51 Brigade), and Brigadier Eftikhar Khan (Commander 6 Brigade)¹⁷ (Source: Book, Indo-Pak Clash in Rann of Kutch)

a telling effect on the Indians.¹⁶ On 20th April, Indian border police abandoned the post at Point 84 and Biar Bet after a heavy dose of artillery fire. 3 Para Battalion reoccupied both

the posts with a company each.

Attack on Sera Bet (Point 84) and Biar Bet

On instructions from General Headquarters, General Tikka ordered 6 Brigade to clear Sera Bet and Biar Bet, as Sera Bet was well within the Pakistani side of the border. (Figure-5B and Figure-8). Commander 6 Brigade, Brigadier Eftikhar, planned to capture the objectives in two phases. In Phase one, 6 Punjab was to capture Sera Bet while 15 Punjab (less two companies) was to launch a feint attack on Chhad Bet on 24th April. In Phase two, 2 Frontier Force Regiment (Guides) was to capture Biar Bet by first light 26th April. Squadron from 24 Cavalry,

one company from 15 Frontier Force Regiment R&S (Reconnaissance and Support) and two companies of 15 Punjab were to support the attack in both the phases. 6 Punjab planned a silent attack with artillery fire on call, and H hour at 0230 hours on 24th April. 6 Punjab marched off at 2000 hours, and a reconnaissance patrol was sent at about 0330 hours under Lieutenant

Nadir Pervez, to locate exact enemy positions. The patrol was fired upon when it reached within about 200 meters of the enemy, and it quickly returned to the battalion location. Soon the Indian artillery started shelling 6 Punjab. In the meantime, a platoon of 15 Punjab under Captain Zafar Mehdi launched a feint attack on Chhad Bet.

Supported by a field artillery battery, Mehdi kept Chhad Bet under a simulated attack for an hour. It deceived the Indian artillery and made it to shift some fire from Sera Bet to engage the feint attack. By daybreak, artillery on both sides was fully active, but 6 Punjab had not yet captured their objective. Commanding Officer 6 Punjab ordered Major Shakur Jan, Company Commander B Company 15 Frontier Force Regiment (R&S), to outflank the enemy and



Figure 7: Pakistani troops in the field during the Rann of Kutch conflict¹⁸ (Source: Book-Indo-Pak Clash in Rann of Kutch)

16 Ahmed, *Military History of the Indo-Pak War - 1965*, 5.

17 Ahmed, *Indo-Pak Clash in Rann of Kutch (1965)*.

18 Ahmed, *Indo-Pak Clash in Rann of Kutch (1965)*.

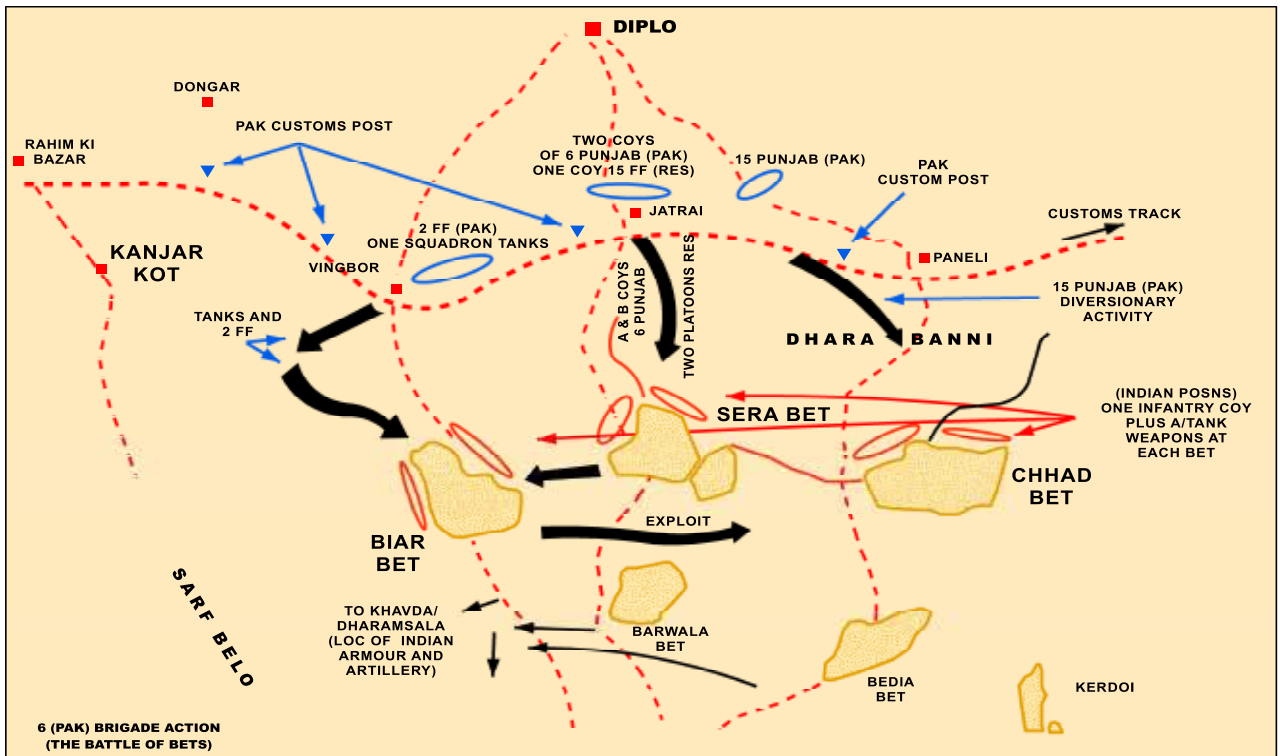


Figure-8: Capture of Sera Bet (Point 84) and Biar Bet by Pakistani troops¹⁹ (Source: AIMH)

threaten it from the flank and rear. The move yielded positive result and the Indians quickly withdrew from Sera Bet, by 0730 hours.²⁰ In phase two, move of 2 Frontier Force Regiment, along with ten tanks of 24 Cavalry, two companies of 15 Punjab and a company of 15 Frontier Force Regiment started at 0400 hours on 26th April. The attacking troops were fired at when they reached about 2,000 meters from the enemy positions. Realising that further delay could endanger own troops, Commander 6 Brigade ordered the armour squadron commander to launch an immediate assault with tanks, without waiting for the infantry. Supported by artillery and fire of B Company of 15 Frontier Force Regiment, the Squadron Commander Major Sher Altaf dashed towards the objective being defended by Indian C Company of 3 Para Battalion. The shock of sudden assault by tanks was too much

for the Indians, who withdrew in great haste.²¹ The successful culmination of operations, finally resulting in the capture of Biar Bet, marked the end of 8 Division's operations in the Rann of Kutch.

Outcome

Ground positions remained unchanged after 26th April 1965, though artillery duels continued for another month and a half. Finally, hostilities ceased on 1st July 1965 with signing of the Kutch Agreement on 30th June.²² The armed conflict resulted in a clear victory for Pakistan and embarrassment to India. Indian



Brig Eftikhar being decorated by Gen Muhammad Musa, then C-in-C²³

(Source: Book-Indo-Pak Clash in Rann of Kutch)

19 Ahmed, *Indo-Pak Clash in Rann of Kutch* (1965).

20 Ahmed, *Military History of the Indo-Pak War - 1965*, 7.

21 Ahmed, *Military History of the Indo-Pak War - 1965*, 8.

22 Ahmed, *Military History of the Indo-Pak War - 1965*, 9.

Tribunal meeting and proceedings continued during 1966, and Kutch Award was signed on 31st October 1967.

23 Ahmed, *Indo-Pak Clash in Rann of Kutch* (1965).



troops were evicted by Pakistan Army from the area and posts they had occupied in Pakistan's claimed territory. Pakistan defeated India in the Rann of Kutch, both militarily and politically. Indian Army suffered embarrassing defeats at Kanjarkot, Sera Bet (Point 84) and Biar Bet.

Pakistan's success in evicting Indian troops had positive effects for her government and army. While the favourable outcome of the conflict and the tribunal's decision vindicated the position of Pakistan's government, the skirmishes between the land forces of both countries resulting in withdrawal of Indian troops, proved the better performance by Pakistan Army, which raised their morale. Any further exploitation of the success by Pakistan Army would have caused further losses and embarrassment to the Indian Army.

The conflict was beneficial for the Pakistan Army in assessing the threat and its response, as well as enhancing its preparedness to meet the future threat from India. After the Rann of Kutch conflict, Pakistan Army C-in-C General Musa had asked the government to raise two infantry divisions to address the imbalance. However, the divisions were not sanctioned by the government, and it had implications during the 1965 War.

Pakistan Army formations which were deployed during the Rann of Kutch conflict, were at an advantage because the troops were familiar with their operational areas and knew their tasks. For example, Major General Sarfraz, the General Officer Commanding 10 Division (Lahore sector, 1965 War) had put his formation on 8-12 hours' notice since 20th August, due to the situation in Kashmir. The notice was further reduced to 4-8 hours on 1st September. On 4th September, the division was ordered to move to its defences on night 5th/6th September.²⁴ Likewise, the rehearsals carried out during the Rann of Kutch conflict also paid off.²⁵

"... The Government did not accept our views on guerrilla operations in Kashmir on the advice of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1965. In our opinion, we should have been able to press on with them successfully and would have also been poised more offensively and strategically more balanced when war broke out if the raids had been launched, as we had suggested, after the ground had been prepared for them adequately beforehand in conjunction with the people in the valley and Azad Kashmir and the Army had been augmented in the very least by raising the two infantry divisions GHO had recommended after the Rann of Kutch battle."

My Version: India-Pakistan War 1965

*General (Retired) Muhammad Musa,
HJ, MBE*

Aftermath

The conflict between India and Pakistan in the Rann of Kutch had many effects on relations between the two countries, as well as on subsequent developments.

The conflict in the Rann started when India, instead of choosing negotiations to settle the issue, resorted to the military option. India moved regular troops into the Rann of Kutch area, started aggressive patrolling and established new posts in area claimed by Pakistan. Pakistan had no other choice but to respond militarily.

For India, the use of force had been the first option since partition of the Subcontinent, in dealing with her adjacent minuscule princely / independent states. Indian army was used in 1947-48 to capture most part of Jammu and Kashmir. Junagarh and Hyderabad Deccan were also annexed by India using force. *Indian army, but not diplomacy or peaceful negotiations, was the main tool employed by the Indian government*

²⁴ Ahmed, *Military History of the Indo-Pak War – 1965*, 157.

²⁵ Ahmed, *Military History of the Indo-Pak War – 1965*, 167.



to further its hegemonic designs against Pakistan... Indian army was used in 1965 to continuously escalate the situation from aggressive deployment in Rann of Kutch, crossing the Cease Fire Line in Kashmir, and then attacking Pakistan in an undeclared war across the international border. In 25 years from 1947 till 1972 Pakistan had seen only extreme hostile acts from India, notes Major General Syed Ithar, an eminent Pakistani military historian.²⁶

Subsequently, during August, when Pakistan's operations were limited to the disputed territory in Jammu and Kashmir, it was India that initiated a conventional war across the international border on 6th September 1965, without a declaration of war. A dispassionate analysis of events starting from Indian advances

in the Rann of Kutch, and subsequent politico-military posturing and actions, shows that India not only provoked the war, but kept on escalating it. Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadar Shastri's statement in an address to Lok Sabha in April 1965, stating "... we will attack at a time and place of our choosing ..." clearly signifies Indian thinking, desire, intent and objective. There are no other reasons required to place the onus on India, for starting 1965 War --OPERATION NEPAL was not conceived and planned overnight!



Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadar Shastri addressing his troops
(Source: twitter.com)

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²⁶ Maj. Gen. S. Ithar Hussain Shah (retd), *Indian Military Threat and Pakistan Army: From 1947 to 2017* (Islamabad: Aaraq Publications, 2021).

The Anglo-Sikh Wars & Chillianwala

By Major General Syed Ali Hamid, HI(M), retired

The 38 years (1801-1839) that Maharaja Ranjit Singh ruled, witnessed the evolution of the Sikh army from a semi-feudal and disorganised force, to an efficient fighting machine that would have been able to hold its own against



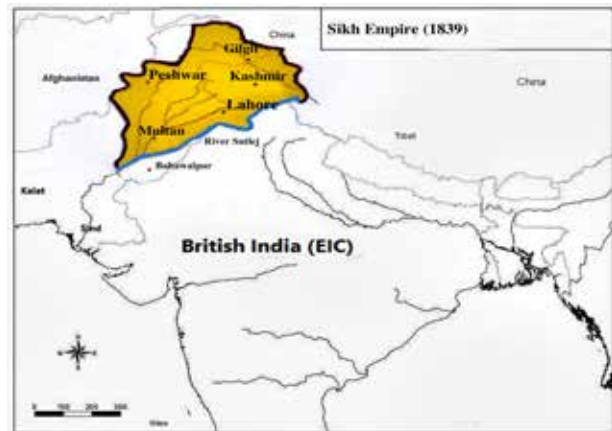
Ranjit Singh
(Source: quora.com)

the best European armies. Ranjit Singh prescribed the most exacting standards of efficiency in march, manoeuvre and marksmanship, and under his watchful eye the army developed into a balanced force with the infantry and artillery gaining in

importance. It not only drove the Afghans out of the Peshawar Valley, it was by far also the most potent force faced by the East India Company (EIC).

Ranjit Singh was conscious of the expansionist designs of the EIC and was careful in not provoking the British. The British too needed a strong and stable Punjab kingdom as a buffer against a Russo-French alliance. In 1809 the Treaty of Amritsar was signed between the two, in which the line of the River Sutlej became the *de facto* boundary, which allowed the Maharaja to expand his kingdom towards Multan, Peshawar and Kashmir. The cooperation between the two continued for the next 30 years, and in 1838 the two most powerful armies on the Indian Subcontinent – that of Ranjit Singh and of the EIC—assembled in a grand review at Ferozepur. The following year Ranjit Singh died.

Following the annexation of Sind in 1843, the arrows of the EIC pointed towards the Punjab. It was a rich kingdom and the last remaining one that had not succumbed. Politically and militarily there was great disorder, and the army had emerged as an independent



Map: Sikh (Khalsa) Kingdom (Source: quora.com)

power base. Ranjit Singh's wife, Jind Kaur, who had become vice regent, was secretly cooperating with the EIC along with the prime minister Lal Singh, and the army chief Tej Singh. To break



Hari Singh Nalwa, one of the ablest of Ranjit Singh's generals, who captured Multan, Kashmir, Peshawar and Hazara
(Source: twitter.com)

the power of the army, she goaded it to a contest with the EIC. Simultaneously, on the pretext that unstable conditions in the Punjab threatened the adjoining territories, the EIC prepared for war.

In 1845, a Sikh army of 40,000 with 40 guns crossed the Sutlej. One army under Tej Singh advanced towards Ferozepur but made no effort to surround and attack the British cantonment. Eighteen miles away, another one under Lal Singh advanced on a British force that was resting at Mudki. The Sikh guns and



infantry formed up in a dense jungle with the *Ghorchurra* (irregular cavalry) deployed on the flanks. Though better equipped than the British cavalry and highly skilled, they had never succumbed to the discipline imposed by Ranjit Singh on his infantry and artillery, and proved to be the weakest link in most encounters. Their charge was repulsed by a counter charge of the British cavalry that then struck the Sikh artillery and infantry, but they stood firm even against a subsequent assault by the main British force. As darkness descended, the Sikh artillery which mainly consisted of heavy guns, inflicted substantial casualties on the EIC troops with grapeshot. Though the Sikhs were driven from the field, the gunners managed to save more than half their guns.

Lal Singh now established a well-entrenched position at Ferozeshah with 47,000 troops and 88 guns of all calibres. The battle



Lal Singh (Source: britishbattles.com)

opened with a terrific artillery duel in which the Sikh artillery outperformed that of the enemy. Since the barrels of the Sikh guns were heavier and could fire a bigger charge, they outranged the British. Being better trained, the gunners also had a 3:2 advantage in the rate of fire. The artillery concentrated on the British battalions and the 4th Division broke. By the evening all four divisions of the *Army of the Sutlej*, that had been assembled for battle by the EIC, had penetrated the Sikh ramparts, but with heavy casualties.

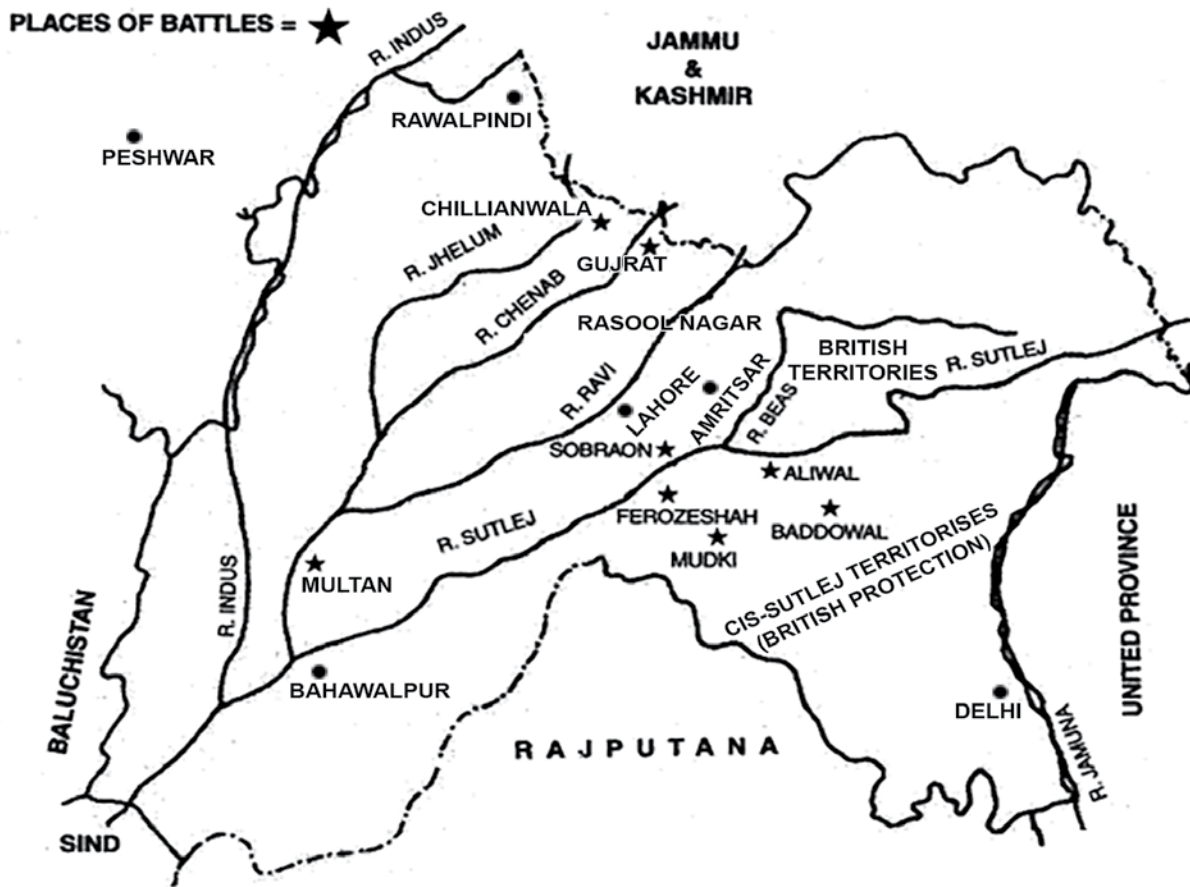
There now occurred a repeat of what happened a hundred years earlier at Plassey. During the night Lal Singh fled the camp with all his *Ghorchurras* and the crews of 60 guns,



Sikh Ghorchurras (Source: britishbattles.com)

and when Tej Singh arrived in the morning, he declined to give battle. The British C-in-C General Gough remarked after the battle, “Never did a native army, having so relatively slight an advantage in numbers, fight a battle with the British in which the issue was so doubtful as at Ferozeshah; and if the victory was decisive, opinion remains divided as to what the result might have been if the Sikh troops had found commanders with sufficient capacity to give their qualities full opportunity.”

Following this narrow victory, the *Army of the Sutlej* was too shaken to pursue the Sikhs who themselves were dispirited, but with reinforcements arriving within a few weeks, they again established a bridgehead at Sobraon. A smaller force of 7,000 men and 20 guns crossed higher up the Sutlej to menace the supply lines of the British, who detached a division under Sir Harry Smith to clear this threat to their rear. The two forces clashed at Aliwal where once again the Sikh artillery and infantry performed exceedingly well, but the cavalry underperformed. Unlike other battles of both Anglo-Sikh Wars, the Sikhs retreat at Aliwal became a disorderly rout, and they abandoned most of their guns.



Map: Anglo-Sikh Wars in Punjab

(Source: pbesolutions.com)

General Gough who commanded the *Army of the Sutlej* through both campaigns, was reluctantly persuaded to wait to attack Sobraon, till the arrival of Harry Smith's division and heavy guns. As at Ferozeshah, the Sikhs had established a strong entrenchment around their camp on which a two-hour bombardment by British heavy guns had little effect. After a feint, a British division attacked the Sikh right, where according to information provided by Lal Singh, the defences



General Gough
(Source: britishbattles.com)

were weaker. However, the division was driven back by the murderous fire of the Sikh artillery, followed by counter-attacks, and its commander was killed.

The British then attacked along the entire front and broke through in a number of places. Because a large number of Sikh gunners had fallen in the previous battles, their artillery was firing high. The weak right was finally breached and the cavalry and guns of the EIC pushed through. Once again treachery had prevailed, both by Lal Singh as well as Tej Singh, who left the battle early, and with guns deployed across the river, fired at the bridge. Already under strain because of three days of rain that swelled the river, the bridge broke when the Sikh soldiers started crossing, trapping 20,000 on the far bank. None of them surrendered, fighting till the last.

The First Anglo-Sikh War ended with the Sikhs surrendering the whole of the Jullundar Doab, ceding Kashmir and the hill states between the Beas and the Indus. A limit



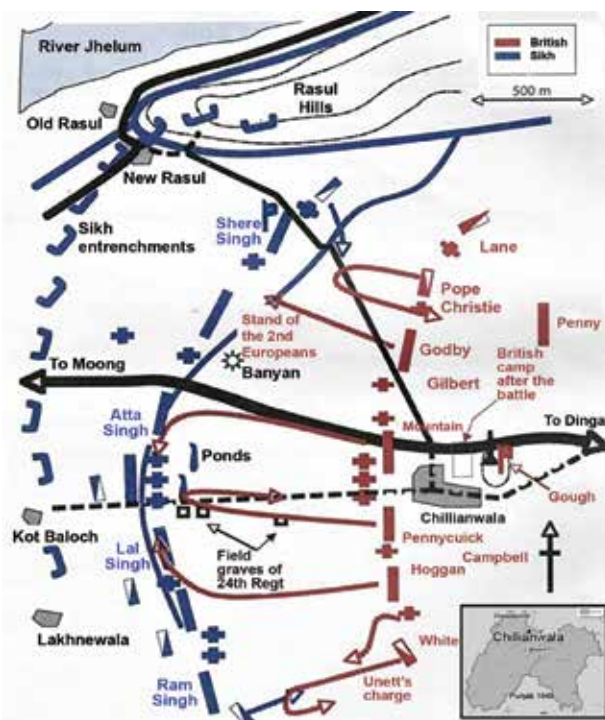
First Anglo-Sikh War medal

(Source: wikiwand.com)

was placed on the size of the army and a British resident was placed at Lahore. However, resentment against the British interference in the affairs of the Kingdom grew into a general uprising that culminated in a second war. It began with a rebellion in Multan in April 1848, that led to a siege by the British which lasted nearly a year.

The campaign in northern Punjab opened in November 1848 when a British contingent of cavalry and artillery, with an infantry brigade, failed to attain a surprise crossing over the Chenab at Ramnagar (present Rasulnagar below Wazirabad). A detachment of Sikhs on the left bank executed a planned withdrawal, drawing British cavalry and horse artillery into the soft dry sand of the wide river bed, where they came under intense fire from heavy batteries well concealed on the right bank. The British horse artillery was outgunned and forced to retire, and 3000 *Ghorchurras* crossed the river to follow up the success. The main British contingent of two regiments of cavalry made a counter charge, but recoiled after exposure to the Sikh artillery. For once the *Ghorchurras* responded well and wheeling back, struck the British cavalry, causing heavy casualties.

Two months later in January 1849 the British and Sikh armies clashed at Chillianwala. It was one of the bloodiest battles fought by the EIC, in spite of the fact that Sher Singh's army was not more than 10,000, but he had 60 well-serviced guns. General Gough had 15,000 with 100 guns, but his tactics, as in some of the earlier battles, were ill-thought out and deeply criticised for headlong attacks resulting in heavy casualties. The Sikh artillery, in combination with counter-charges by infantry and cavalry, played an overwhelming role in stopping the advance of a division towards the right wing. The British brigade twice nearly reached the gun-lines, but



Map: Battle of Chillianwala (1849) (Source: Author)

in the process was almost *broken*. On the other flank the British cavalry brigade lost direction, wheeled all the way back and masked their guns. Taking advantage of this, the *Ghorchurras* fell upon the British horse artillery. The final losses to Gough's army were 2,512 killed and wounded, of which a comparatively high proportion were British rather than Indian.

The British C-in-C claimed a victory, but actually the battle ended in a stalemate, with doubts expressed by the British press about the results of the campaign. General Gough's blunder was the poor use of artillery. "With so tremendous a pack of artillery and supply of mortars as that at his disposal," wrote a reporter, "It might have been imagined that our ordnance could have told on them fearfully at a range to which their shot could not have reached". Gough was removed from command, but before his replacement could arrive, the two sides again clashed at Gujrat a month and a half later.

Gough would not repeat this mistake at the final battle of the campaign. The Sikhs opened



An artist's impression of Battle of Chillianwala (January 13, 1849)
The Salt Range is visible in the background.
(Source: artuk.org)

the battle with all their guns, but their untrained gunners fired before the British were in range, and revealed their positions. Capitalising on

this error, the British batteries safely redeployed, and for the next three hours pounded the Sikh artillery. The heavy artillery advanced to successive forward positions, driving back the Sikhs, and the horse and light field batteries broke their ranks. The Sikh defenses were then practically a walkover, but some of the gunners stuck to their guns till the bitter end, ensuring that the legacy of their artillery lived on.

The Battle of Gujrat was the *swansong* of the Sikh kingdom, and the remnants of Sher Singh's army surrendered on the outskirts of Rawalpindi. The British were now masters of the whole of India, from Bengal till Peshawar.

Author's Note

To commemorate the battle, a monument was erected on a mound near Chillianwala. The main 75-foot sandstone obelisk has inscriptions in four languages. Next to it are some tombs and three long trench graves where the dead of HM 24th Foot were hastily buried the following morning in freezing rain, by the shocked and demoralised survivors. In 1871 the Viceroy of India, Lord Mayo, donated a white marble cross.

For some unknown reason, the battalion, freshly arrived from Britain were ordered: "There must be no firing, the bayonet must do the work". It advanced very rapidly, but lost cohesion and also lost touch with the rest of the brigade in the thick scrub. Trying to attack Sikh guns head on, they suffered the most debilitating casualties from grapeshot. Over 50 percent of the casualties inflicted by the Sikhs befell the 24th Foot, which suffered 590 killed and injured. During a visit, three mass graves of 24th Foot were discovered in enclosures on the road to Moong. Most of their casualties were buried close to where they fell, because the sight of their bodies being brought to the main graves at Chillianwala, lashed to the camels, was too demoralising for an army already so shaken by battle.

In 1993 the three mass graves of the 24th Foot were in good repair, but since then they have suffered greatly and little remains. Tim Willasey-Wilsey, who was a research fellow at the Centre for Defence Studies, King's College, London, had visited the site in 1993 and subsequently wrote an article on 'The Battle of Chillianwala and the "Lost Graves" of the 24th Foot'. Two years ago I received a request from him, and I agreed to help Tim in restoring the enclosures. He put me in contact with the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia (BACSA), a charity organisation that helps to conserve old European cemeteries over a wide area of South and East Asia. In 1983 in a joint effort, the organisation had refurbished the pyramid graves of Brigadier General Cureton and



Monuments at Chillianwala
(Source: mbdin.com)



Lieutenant Colonel Havelock near Rasulnagar (old name Ramnagar) below Wazirabad. In another joint effort in 2000, this time with the Hussars, a boundary wall as well as memorial plaques were erected.

BACSA was most receptive to the idea. I found a very efficient contractor and carried out a survey of the graves and enclosures. Each enclosure was 25m x 25m and surrounded by a one metre high perimeter wall. They had indeed suffered greatly and were overgrown with scrub and bushes. Some material had also been removed. The remains of two enclosures closer to a village were still visible, but a third which was 500 metres away from the road, had been nearly obliterated. Since Chillianwala is 160 km from Islamabad, the mobilisation of labour and resources took a little time, but finally work commenced on clearing the site. That is when we ran into the first problem. Having lain practically undisturbed for 170 years, the first two enclosures were a nesting site for snakes and the third was burrowed by porcupines.

BACSA desired that the original material should be used, but what was left of the brick walls and its foundations had been badly corroded by a high water table brought about by rice cultivation. Therefore, new foundations were necessary and the walls would have to be completely reconstructed with new bricks. Fortunately, the contractor knew of a brick kiln which provided flat bricks exactly of the same size. The pace of work increased as the late monsoons cleared. After the foundations had been laid, the old material was used as a base for a concrete floor within the enclosures, so that scrub would not grow again.

The project is 60 percent complete and work has started on erecting the boundary walls, which will be topped by 4 inches of concrete coping. The original tablet is unreadable, but a new one will bear the original inscription: "In memory of the men of HM 24th Foot who fell around this spot in the battle of Chillianwala on 13th January 1849".



*Sites of burial of EIC soldiers
(Source: mbdin.com)*

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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 Chamb 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).

“Never give an order that can’t be obeyed”

(D. MacArthur)



The life and Times of Brigadier Tariq Mahmud (TM) shaheed

By Brigadier Dr Tughral Yamin, retired

Brigadier Tariq Mahmud (TM) is revered as an icon of courage in the Pakistan Army. Known by his acronym among the rank and file, TM served most of his active service in the special forces and was always involved in one high profile operation or the other. At the time of his untimely death on 29 May 1989, he was just fifty years old. His passing away was widely mourned and the legend of TM became synonymous with a *devil-may-care* attitude and pluck. He was one of the most decorated officers of his time. He was twice decorated with Sitara i Jurat (star of courage), Sitara-e-Basalat and Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military). He was posthumously awarded Hilal-e-Shujaat. TM Square at the entrance of the GHQ at the junction of Peshawar Road and Murree Road, and a monument in Gujranwala cantonment, are testimonies to the high regard he is held in, in Pakistan.



Brig Tariq Mahmud (TM)
(Source: Author)



TM Square
(Gujranwala Cantt)
(Source: mapio.net)

TM was born at Multan on the 18th October 1938 to Akhter Bano (Bi Jaan) and Syed Habib ul Hassan. Syed Habib was recruited into the Punjab Police as an assistant sub inspector in 1930, and rose through the ranks to retire as a deputy superintendent of police (DSP) in 1967.

As an inspector in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Syed Habib earned the ire of General Gracey, the British C-in-C of Pakistan Army, for keeping tabs on certain British officers involved in anti-state activities. Gracey wrote to the prime minister in June 1948 asking him to remove Syed Habib from the CID. To his credit Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan ignored the C-in-C's request and Syed Habib continued to work for the CID till his retirement.¹

Syed Habib and his wife had a large brood of nine children – six sons and three daughters. TM was the third in order of seniority. The eldest brother Syed Masud ul Hasan retired as a brigadier, late Dr Aziz Mahmood Zaidi was the Principal of Gordon College, and Khalid Mahmud Zaidi was the first head of the morning production of PTV.² TM attended schools in Sargodha, Pindi Gheb and Rawalpindi. He sat his middle school and matriculation examinations from Muslim High School and Dapper High School in Rawalpindi. He completed his intermediate education from Gordon College Rawalpindi in 1956. TM then joined the famous Government College (GC) Lahore. At GC, he was member of the College cricket team captained by Javed Burki. After graduation from GC in 1959, TM went to Peshawar to study law at the University of Peshawar.



Young Tariq Mahmud (Source: Author)

1 Brigadier (retired) Syed Masud ul Hassan, "General Gracey vs. Brig TM's father," Pakistan Defence, May 29, 2009, accessed March 28, 2022, <https://defence.pk/pdf/threads/general-gracey-vs-brig-tm-s-father.27447/>.
2 Information provided by the family of Brigadier TM.



Around the same time, he was selected for the Army and joined Pakistan Military Academy (PMA). PA* 6311 Second Lieutenant TM was commissioned into 2 Baluch (now Baloch) Regiment in 1960. In 1963, with barely two years of service, he opted to join the special forces – the Special Services Group (SSG). After completing his basic commando training, he was posted to Shaheen Company of the 1st Commando Battalion (Yaldram).



GC Tariq Mahmud
(Source: Author)

TM soon became a byword for courage, and professionalism not only in the SSG, but in the Army in general. He had hundreds of jumps to his credit, and earned a reputation for his daredevil freefalls. There was never a dull moment in the life of TM. He was increasingly called in the service of the nation on exceedingly difficult missions. He operated behind the enemy lines inside occupied Kashmir in 1965 and was deployed over the entire length and breadth of the country from Siachen to Baluchistan (now Balochistan) (counter insurgency) and Sind (anti dacoit) operations; and in East Pakistan during the civil war 1971. There are references of him operating in Afghanistan during the Soviet invasion, and he was involved in at least two anti-hijacking operations. He also trained the Sri Lankan, the British SAS (Special Air Service) and US special forces. Brigadier TM became a personal favourite of General Ziaul Haq, who took him to India as part of his famous cricket diplomacy.³

He became the commanding officer (CO) of 3 Commando battalion (Powindahs),

while still a major. He remained in command for eight years, even after he became a colonel. To honour his memory, the powindahs call their battalion ‘TM’s own’.⁴ Due to the secret nature of his missions, many of his exploits remain shrouded in layers of official secrecy. Some of his well-known actions have been penned down in this article. In 1965 TM was selected for a skydiving course in the US. He declined because his heart was set on the covert infiltration mission into occupied Kashmir codenamed OPERATION GIBRALTAR. TM and his fellow



TM during Operation Gibraltar (1965) (Source: Author)

SSG soldiers were made part of the Tariq Force that infiltrated in the extreme north and carried out operations in general area Dras cantonment. Teams number 3 and 4 with Captain Tariq Rafi as the overall commander, and TM as one of the team leaders, were tasked to strike Dras cantonment.⁵ The parties were armed with rifles, two MGs, one 2-inch mortar and a 3.5-inch rocket launcher (RL). After having infiltrated across heights of 17,000 to 18,000 feet between 15 and 16 August 1965, the raiders were able to destroy the target. TM was awarded his first Sitara-i-Juraat



TM being awarded SJ by
FM Ayub Khan
(Source: Author)

3 Information provided by Lieutenant Colonel Waseem ur Rahman Qureshi, SSG.

4 Major Shaheerullah Khan, *The Pownidah Trail: A Saga of Valour 1965-2018* (Karachi: Mehran Publishers, 2019).

5 Lieutenant General Mahmud Ahmed, *History of Indo Pak War 1965* (Rawalpindi: Services Book Club, 2006), 40-41.
*Pakistan Army



(S) for his acts of bravery during the Indo-Pak war of 1965.

TM was promoted to the rank of major in 1970, and was made the officer commanding



TM in Para Training School (PTS) Peshawar (Source: Author)

(OC) of the Parachute Training School (PTS) in Peshawar. In 1971, he volunteered to go to East Pakistan to participate in operations against the Mukti Bahini rebels. One of his major raids included the securing of the strategically sensitive Bhairab

Bazar bridge over the River Meghna. The bridge is one of the oldest bridges in the area and was built in 1936 during the reign of King George VI. During the civil war the bridge had been occupied by hostile forces and defended by Indian Gurkha troops and the renegade elements of the East Pakistan Rifles (EPR). Around 6 a.m. on the morning of 15th of April 1971, elements of Shaheen and Jungju companies of SSG, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Shakur Jan, were ferried on MI 8 helicopters and landed near the Bhairab Bazar bridge. The landing zone (LZ) was a mile away from the target area. Shaheen Company being commanded by Captain Shoukat, and Jungju Company by Major TM, stealthily moved and reached the bridge within 45 minutes and secured it before the enemy could trigger the controlled demolitions. Displaying great presence of mind and lightning action, TM subdued and killed the man who was fumbling with his last matchstick to light the fuze. Two hundred rebels were killed in the encounter, four were made prisoner and the vital bridge was opened for movement of friendly



Meghna Bridge in erstwhile East Pakistan (1971 War) (Source: defence.pk)

forces. Towards the end of the 1971 War, at 11:30 am on 11 December, Pakistani troops blew up part of the Meghna Bridge towards Bhairab with dynamite to slow down the Indian advance.⁶

From 1973 to 1979, 3 Commando Battalion (Powindahs) was deployed in counter insurgency operations in Baluchistan under the command of TM. The insurgency in Baluchistan had been created due to political mishandling of the situation. The Marri and Mengal tribes of Baluchistan, under their tribal sardars, had taken up arms and had gone to the mountains to wage war against the government. The counter insurgency operations were extremely difficult and fraught with danger. The rebels knew their area well, were loyal to their tribal chiefs, and were well provided for by their foreign sponsors. It needed extreme dedication and energy to respond to the developing situations day in and day out, against ruthless fighters, who had no mercy or qualms to kill and destroy. The weather was also an element that took a toll on the energy and efficiency of the troops. Nonetheless the Powindahs gave a very good account of themselves. They were pulled out after General Ziaul Haq took over, and announced a general amnesty for the Baluch guerillas.

TM was personally involved in two anti-hijacking operations in the 1980s. As always, he led from the front. On 29 September 1981,

6 "Bhairab Bridge One of the Oldest Railway Bridge at Brahmanbaria," January 18, 2022, accessed May 26, 2022, lrbtravelteam.com.



an Indian Airlines Boeing 737 on a domestic flight, was hijacked and made to land in Lahore. The hijackers were Sikhs demanding Khalistan. Colonel TM, wearing a mechanic's uniform, was able to win the trust of the hijackers and made an entry into the aircraft. Once inside, he and his team made short work of the hijackers, and freed the passengers.

Five years later, on 5 September 1986, Pan Am flight 73 from Bombay to New



Pan Am Aeroplane (Source: liputan6.com)

York was hijacked, as it made a scheduled stopover at Karachi. The hijackers were four armed Palestinian men belonging to the Abu Nidal Organisation (a Palestinian liberation organisation). There were 360 passengers on board. The passengers included those from the US, Pakistan, India and Mexico. For seventeen hours, the hijackers negotiated for the release of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli prisons. As night fell their patience ran out and they opened fire on the passengers at 21:30 Pakistan Standard Time (PST). In the ensuing *melee* Brigadier TM, leading Zarar Company, successfully stormed the aircraft and rescued most of the passengers. Some of them were killed and wounded. The SSG team was able to help the passengers flee through the emergency exits. All the hijackers were arrested. The SSG commando unit was headed by Brigadier TM, and the Shaheen Company of the SSG's 1st Commando Battalion carried out the operation.

In 1987-88, TM commanded the special forces operations in the riverine kutch areas of Sindh. This heavily forested area had become the hiding place for dacoits. Operations in the



TM with General Ziaul Haq (Source: Author)

area were very difficult because the criminals knew the area like the back of their hands, and could disappear without a trace. Support from the locals was not forthcoming because they risked the wrath of the notorious highwaymen. Nonetheless, the SSG troops under Brigadier TM gave good account of themselves and were able to clear large swathes inhabited by the malcontents.



TM leading SSG contingent - 23 March Parade (Source: Author)

Brigadier TM had a high profile and was visible not only leading the SSG troops in the 23rd March parade, but also while making freefall demonstrations at public events. It was during the passing out ceremony of the aviation pilots in Aviation School Rahwali on 29 May 1989, that his parachute malfunctioned, and he fell to his death. TM had jumped ahead of his team from a Mi17 helicopter, in what was to be



Free fall by TM (Source: Author)



a routine show jump. As the audience, including his family watched aghast, his chute did not billow and fill with air, and his fall could not be broken. That fateful day, the indomitable TM, who had always defied enemy bullets, returned to his maker. Sabotage was ruled out. According to investigations, when his first parachute did not open, he got badly entangled in its ropes. He desperately tried to cut the ropes with his dagger, and tried to open the backup parachute. Both his back up and main parachutes opened but the distance from the ground wasn't enough for these to deploy properly. So came to an end the life of a brave soldier. He died with his boots on.⁷ His death was widely mourned and the Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Baig publicly expressed his grief.

TM was a man of many qualities. He was always cheerful and full of good humour. Fear was unknown to him. He was a soldier's soldier, and was loved and adored by his men. He was always present when they needed him, and they were forever ready to lay down their lives on

his orders. TM was also a devoted husband and an affectionate father. He married Iffat Gondal in Quetta on the 7th of October 1976. The couple were blessed with two children. He named his eldest offspring Sherbano (born 1977) on the suggestion of his driver. Haider (born 1978) is a successful telecommunication engineer. Both of TM's children have children of their own.⁸



Uniforms of Brigadier TM –SSG Centre Cherat (Source: Author)



Grave of Brigadier TM Shaheed at Rawalpindi (Source: Author)

Editor's Note

The author interviewed the family of Brigadier TM for collection of data for this article.

About the author



Professor Dr. Tughral Yamin was a career infantry officer and retired as a brigadier. He is a graduate of Command & Staff College Quetta and NDU Islamabad. Prof. Yamin has the honour of being the first PhD from the Department of Defence and Strategic Studies Quaid i Azam University Islamabad. His research was on Cyberspace CBMs between Pakistan and India. This was later published as a much acclaimed book. His other books include The Evolution of Nuclear Deterrence in South Asia, UN Peacekeeping Operations in Somalia 1992-1995: A Pakistani Perspective, and Securing Pakistan: Making Sense of the Fundamentals of Counter Terrorism and Counter Violent Extremism. Prof Yamin is a founding member and associate dean for the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) Islamabad.

⁷ Lieutenant Colonel Waseem ur Rahman Qureshi was part of the freefall team and the first one at the scene of the unfortunate accident.

⁸ Information provided by TM's family.

Evolution of the Army in Ancient Pakistan

By Brigadier Khan Ahmed Sufyan, retired &
Lieutenant Colonel Dr Sayyam Bin Saeed, AEC

In the aftermath of the fading away of the 9000 years old Indus Valley civilisation of Pakistan, the politico-military threat of foreign



Map: Indus Valley Civilisation (Source: pinterest.ch)

invasions forced ancient Pakistanis to raise organised military forces. Over a period of time, organisational changes were necessitated due to the nature of enemy threats, induction of various weapons and weapon carrying mobile platforms, which became essential to thwart enemy invasions, both from the west as well as from the east. The existence of numerous ancient battlefields and forts, ancient weapons and military artefacts etcetera, are testament to the well-established linkages between the people and the politico-cultural, societal and military heritage of Pakistan, since ancient times.

War Elephants

War elephants were first used in battle in ancient Pakistan against the invading Assyrian Army in 800 BC. From ancient Pakistanis, this practice spread westwards into the Mediterranean and eastwards towards South East Asia. The ancient Pakistanis captured wild elephants, tamed them and trained these beasts as a mobile warfighting platform. Specific training courses were charted out for preparing



War elephant (Source: Army Museum Lahore)

the war elephants for battle:-

- Flag signal training was imparted so that various orders could be given to the elephant squadrons.
- Obstacle courses were organised to train them to negotiate natural or manmade obstacles.
- Marching in different formations was practiced in order to employ varied tactics during battle.
- Training to trample enemy cavalry horses and foot soldiers.
- Training to encounter and defeat the enemy's war elephants, in a direct engagement.
- Charging against forts and buildings.
- Training mounted soldiers in the use of stand-off weaponry and close combat.
- Training of the mahout (driver).

Generally war elephants were deployed either in front of the army, or in the centre. The charge of massed war elephants could achieve a speed of 30 kilometres per hour, and it would become extremely difficult to stop their momentum. Over a period of time war elephants were also equipped with integral armour, which



provided them additional protection on the battlefield. During the Battle of Hydaspes in 326 BC, between Raja Porus and Alexander, Porus deployed his elephants in the front, with each elephant at a distance of 40-100 feet, while the remaining fighting echelons rallied around the elephants. Interestingly, a teeth-to-tail ratio was worked out between the war elephants and the elephants needed for logistical support. The number of war elephants was much less as compared to those used for logistical support. After the advent of gunpowder, the use of war elephants gradually faded out.



Battle of Hydaspes-326 BC (Source: quora.com)

Chariots

The horse was not a locally found animal in Ancient Pakistan during the Indus Valley civilisation. It was introduced in Pakistan by people migrating from Central Asia, around 1500 BC. Subsequently, it became a major item of trade and later was also locally bred and raised in large numbers. Introduction of the chariot as a war fighting platform in Pakistan therefore, was late in happening.

The chariots developed by ancient Pakistanis were different from the two-wheeled lighter chariots used by Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. The local chariots were larger, heavier and compact platforms mounted on 4 or 8 spoked wheels, and were pulled by 4-6 horses. The chariot crew consisted of 4-6



Roman chariots (Source: pinterest.com)

soldiers comprising the commander, driver and 2-4 archers who also carried shields, swords and lances for close combat. Unlike the long bows carried by infantry archers, the chariot archers carried smaller bows and arrows. The chariots were not generally used for outflanking



Local chariots of the Subcontinent (Source: Army Museum Lahore)

movements. These would be lined up abreast in hundreds, ahead of the infantry, and while on-board archers rained arrows from a higher platform and stand-off distance, they would charge straight at the enemy ranks, crushing anyone in their path. The ancient Pakistanis later also added scythed chariots in their arsenal, featuring sharp blades attached to the wheel hubs, which would cause dismember or kill enemy soldiers falling in their path. The use of chariots gradually faded out when counter-tactics supported by well-trained infantry and cavalry borne archers, reduced their efficacy on the battlefield.

Cavalry

When locally bred and raised horses were available in some numbers, the use of horses in battle emerged during the 9th century AD. However, due to paucity of horses, the military force structure of that time could not field large cavalry contingents, as compared to the invading



The local (Subcontinental) cavalry
(Source: Army Museum Lahore)

armies. The local cavalry carried curved swords and shields, but not bows and arrows. The horsemen initially wore leather breast-plates and bronze plated helmets for protection. Later, with the availability of iron ore, the protective gear improved considerably.

Over time, the cavalry contingent was raised, housed and trained as a separate fighting force. The local cavalry was effectively used for:-

- Charging and piercing through the enemy's front, flanks and rear.
- Safety and security for the entrenched positions.
- Obstruction of enemy's logistics and supplies.
- Blocking of enemy reinforcements.
- Swift response to any developing situation.
- Protection of the army's flanks.
- Pursuing retreating enemy forces.
- Speedy communications with echelons deployed at a distance.

With the passage of time, cavalry became an indispensable part of the army. From the Huns to the Turks, the age of cavalry dominated

life's scene. Many rock carvings in central Punjab in Pakistan, show men riding, even standing on horseback, brandishing their swords and shooting arrows.



Rock carving showing a horse rider
(Source: thehighasia.com)

Infantry

The mainstay of the army since ancient times has always been the infantry. The ancient infantry carried swords and bamboo spears with metal heads. For safety they carried shields made of bamboo covered with leather, wore leather cuirasses and leather helmets. As the metal was not so commonly available, only the elite wore metal cuirasses and metal helmets. The infantry wore white cotton dress. The upper garment covered the shoulders and the lower garment reached the ankles.



Infantry soldiers

(Source: timetoast.com)

Infantry soldiers were properly trained under dedicated commanders, not only in infantry warfare but also in combined operations with other fighting echelons. Generally the infantry was used in various defensive and offensive formations, supported by war elephants, heavy chariots, cavalry and archers. Battles were planned as a combined operation, wherein a suitable environment was created through integrated application of war elephants, heavy chariots and cavalry, while the infantry remained the decisive arm of battle.



Artillery and Rocket Forces

During the 13th century, Mongols started making incursions into Pakistan. The use of gunpowder and fire-throwing weapons by the Mongol army, made city fortifications falling in the path of Mughal incursion in Pakistan vulnerable, and these were considered obsolete. These had to be redesigned, and ditches were dug around forts as well.



Mughal artillery piece (inset: Mughal soldier with musket)
(Source: artstation.com)

During these Mongol incursions, some Mongols who were considered experts in the art of fire-throwing weapons, deserted the Mongol Army and joined local forces. These Mongols thus introduced muskets, artillery guns and bamboo-filled rocketry.

Ghubar Khana

A unique regiment was raised in Ranjit Singh's Army in Punjab, Pakistan. The regiment was called *Ghubar Khana* (dust raising). Colonel Hassan Ali Khan was the commander of *Ghubar Khana*. The regiment was created to throw dust in the air and like a smoke screen, to hide troop movements, and to deceive and confuse the enemy about the direction of attack. Relevant textual documents are available in Faqir Khana Museum in Lahore, Pakistan.

Editor's Note

On April 27, 2022, while sitting in his office, Brigadier Khan Ahmed Sufyan (co-author of this article) suffered a severe heart attack which proved to be fatal. He was a passionate reader, a diligent researcher and a true historian. He will always be remembered for his outstanding services for the army and the nation. He is survived by a widow, two sons and two daughters. May his soul rest in eternal peace. Aameen.

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About the authors



Late Brigadier Khan Ahmed Sufyan was commissioned in the First Battalion (Scinde) the Frontier Force Regiment. He was a graduate of Turkish Army Staff Course and National Defence University, Islamabad, besides holding a master's degree in war studies from Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad. He was also awarded Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Commendation Card.

He was the founding-director and curator of Army Museum Lahore, where he had served from March 2015 to August 2021. As his last assignment, he was serving as director Army Heritage 4 Corps Lahore. The article *Evolution of the Army in Ancient Pakistan*, was co-authored by Brigadier Sufyan for *Bugle & Trumpet*, six months before his demise.



Lieutenant Colonel Dr Sayyam Bin Saeed was commissioned in the Army Education Corps in April 2001. He holds a master's degree in english literature and is a PhD in educational administration. He served as an instructor in Pakistan Military Academy Kakul, Military College Sui and in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He was awarded COAS commendation card for establishment of Army Museum Lahore. Presently, he is on deputation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the second time.



Army in Aid of Railway – 1947

By Lieutenant Colonel Imran Hassan Khan Niazi, retired

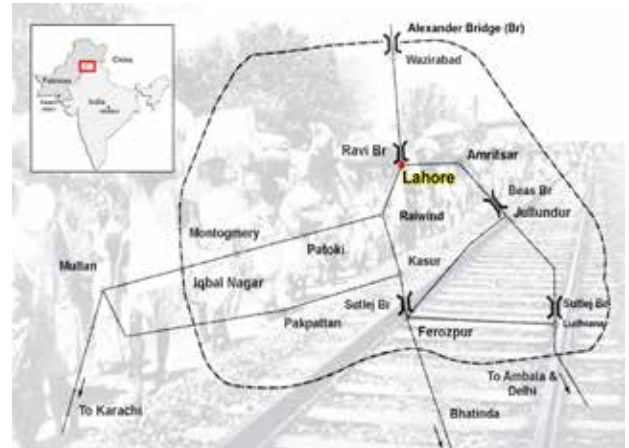
The partition of the Indian Subcontinent in 1947 resulted in the forced migration of millions of people across the newly drawn borders between India and Pakistan. A cross-over of approximately 15 million people over the course of a year, turned it into the largest migration of the 20th century.¹ In 1982, Gentleman Cadet (now retired brigadier) Muhammad Uzair Ahmed Qureshi made an oil painting (shown below), from a most widely circulated image of migration, shot by renowned Pakistani photographer of partition era, Mr F.E. Chaudhry.²



Refugees train (Source: Author)

Trains were one of the most common modes of transport, and it is estimated that 700,000 refugees travelled by train between 15th August and 8th September 1947 alone. To meet the demand of transporting large numbers of people migrating across the borders, both passenger and goods trains were used.³

The uncertainty surrounding the exact boundaries that were to be drawn, and the helplessness felt by those who lost their homes



Map: Railway network across Punjab - 1947 (Source: AIMH)

and livelihoods, saw people relying on prayer and faith, for the strength to endure the trials ahead of them. The Pakistan Army, in collaboration with the North-Western Railway (NWR) (later PWR after partition), played a significant role in rescuing thousands amidst the bloodshed which consumed millions on both sides of the border. The Railways remained busy day and night, and many a time brought trains with all dead, famously known as *ghost trains*.



Logo : North-Western Railway (Source: Author)



Logo: Pakistan Western Railway (Source: Author)

First Air Observation Post Flight Rawalpindi flew missions in support of the army deployed, immediately after independence, to

1 Hannah Bloch, "Giving Voice To Memories From 1947 Partition And The Birth Of India And Pakistan", *National Public Radio*, August 13, 2017, accessed April 8, 2022, <https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/08/13/542803259/giving-voice-to-memories-from-1947-partition-and-the-birth-of-india-and-pakistan>.
 2 F.E Chaudhry, "Refugees Boarding A Train In Lahore", Google Arts & Culture, Citizen Archive of Pakistan, accessed on July 27, 2021, https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/_/tQF4k0alaC0flw.
 3 "The Railways and Partition", Google Arts and Culture, Partition Museum, accessed on August 3, 2022, <https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/the-railways-and-partition-partition-museum/6wJCowz-A3aTIw?hl=en>.

help the refugees' columns and trains. The Auster flights between Amritsar and Lahore, were a source of solace and assurance. A painting by famous military aviation artist, Group Captain S.M.A. Hussaini (retired) is on display in Army Aviation Mess Rawalpindi (shown below), depicting one such scene.⁴



Flight over a refugee train (Source: Author)

A renowned Indian mountaineer, Captain Mohan Singh Kohli, recalls the attack on their goods train while travelling to India near Wazirabad. Thousands of terrified passengers were timely saved and escorted across by a Pakistani infantry regiment under Brigadier (later President and Field Marshal) Ayub Khan, who was his father's friend.⁵

Another famous incident is the safe passage of a special train carrying ordnance

stores, equipment and nearly 1200 passengers from Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh). It travelled over 1200 KM for nineteen days to Lahore via Ambala, and further reached Malir on 5th December 1947, under Captain (later Major) Syed Muhammad Rafi. He locked all the train doors from inside with the master key, and



Key and photograph of Major Rafi (Source: Railway Museum Golra)

himself guarded it with his handful of armed soldiers for the entire journey. He kept that key as a souvenir for seven decades until he presented it to Railway Heritage Museum Golra in 2014. In his honour, ex Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif inaugurated *Rafi Auditorium* in Ordnance Centre, Malir Cantonment, in 2015. The officer passed away in 2017.⁶

About the author



Lieutenant Colonel Imran Hassan Khan Niazi (retired) was commissioned as a second-generation officer in a mechanised infantry battalion of the elite Frontier Force Regiment in 1987. He is a graduate of Command and Staff College Quetta and a recipient of Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military). He has diverse experience of various appointments including homeland security and counter terrorism. The officer has been a student of history and has also compiled his own battalion's 150 years history, in 1999. After retirement, the officer is serving as director of Composite Wing in Army Institute of Military History.

4 Maj Gen Mohammad Azam (Retired), *History of Pakistan Army Aviation 1947-2007* (Islamabad: The Army Press, 2008), 5-6.

5 The Partition Museum, "Captain Mohan Singh Kohli", YouTube video, 5:06, July 6, 2018, accessed on July 14, 2021, https://youtu.be/85_AYIXZkHU.

6 Major Syed Muhammad Rafi, "Recollections of nineteen fateful days", *The News*, August 15, 2014, <https://www.the-news.com.pk/archive/print/519667-recollections-of-nineteen-fateful-days>.



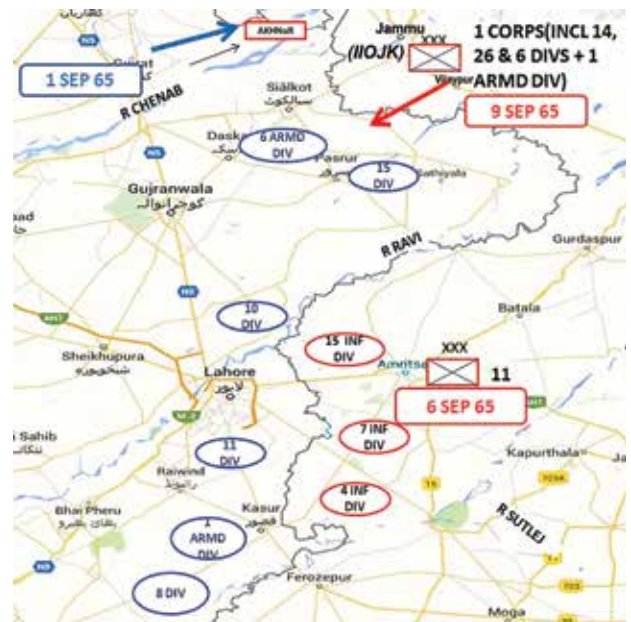
The Martyrs of Mustafabad

In Ardius Fedalis - A Tale of Grit and Gratitude*

By Major Bilal Naseer Mahmood, 32 Cavalry

(Account of a 1965 War cemetery, its caretakers and the fallen soldiers who were buried there ...)

By 1st September 1965, the battle for Chhamb was practically over, and Pakistani pennants were proudly fluttering over the captured town. Preparations to move the artillery pieces forward to support the advance across River Tawi started the same evening. In spite of extremely bad going, the leading artillery regiments were in position by first light 2nd September to support the advance beyond Palanwala. By mid-day the whole Corps Artillery was in action behind Tawi to support the advance.¹ The success of *OPERATION GRAND SLAM* was creating panic in the Indian ranks and file, whose resonance could be felt at every echelon. The capture of Chhamb and potential break out of Pakistani forces towards Akhnur had created much anxiety in the Indian camp. It left India with two options i.e. reinforce the sector under attack and save Akhnur, or attack Pakistan to release the pressure on Munawwar Gap. According to Bhupinder Singh², “*Indian*



Deployment of forces – 1965 War (Source: vnexpress.net)

Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, comforting assurances by Corps Commanders and persuasion by Lieutenant General Kashmir Singh Katoch (Commander Indian XV Corps), the Indian Army Chief decided to launch an offensive across the international border. This offensive was codenamed by Commander Indian Western Command, Lieutenant General Harbakhsh Singh and Commander XI Corps Lieutenant General JS Dhillon, as *OPERATION RIDDLE*.³ On 6 September, the operation was launched with Indian 15 Division on Attari-Wagah axis and Indian 7 Division on Khalra-Barki axis. Indian 4 Mountain Division commenced its offensive on Khem Karan-Kasur axis. Pakistan, having only skeleton force called ‘X Ray Force’ on the FDLs⁴ (forward defended localities), undoubtedly Indian offensive across the international border came as a surprise to Pakistan. But with a bold counterattack lead by Brigadier Abdul Qayyum Sher (Commander 22



Map : Chhamb and surroundings (Source: googlemap)

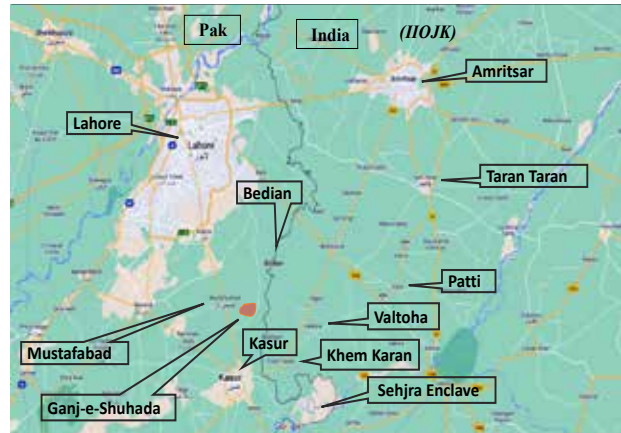
Army Chief General J.N. Choudhuri (who had been a platoon-mate of General Ayub in Sandhurst) appeared to be nervous about the situation and idea of crossing the international border did not appeal to him”. Finally, under pressure of

* The Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) motto meaning ‘faithful in adversity’.



Brigade of 10 Division), Pakistan managed to push the Indians back, and regained balance in the Lahore Sector.⁵

Short of Kasur, around 10 kilometres from the international border, at village Mustafabad-Lalyani, villagers were witnessing constant Indian artillery pounding. Young Ashraf was keenly observing his fellow villagers leaving the village in flocks on all sorts of carts they could get hold of. The village gave the look of a deserted ghost town, but young Ashraf and his brothers decided to stay in the village. By evening, the sun of 10 September 1965 was about to set beyond the beautiful green fields. Ashraf was watching the last dying rays of the sun and thinking what must be happening at the front. While he was mired in these thoughts, he noticed an army truck appearing from the east. After some time, the truck stopped near him. Ashraf saw two men stepping out of the truck, wearing khaki uniforms covered in dust and sweat. Ashraf identified one as a driver, having a stout body and thick brown moustaches tied to his fair but tired and weary face. The other man was in his early 40s, he was tall, slim and wheatish in complexion, from his eyes Ashraf could make out that he had not slept for quite some time. War had indeed taken a toll on him. When he came close to Ashraf, the young villager could read his name plate and the metal on his shoulders. *“I am Subedar Major Sher Aslam and I am coming from the battlefield at Khem Karan. I have around 10 dead bodies of our martyrs lying in the back of my truck, I request you to give me some land so that I can bury them.”* Ashraf glanced at the back of the truck and found 10 blood-soaked bodies, lying respectfully on the floor of the truck. One of them was of a young lieutenant, bearing a blood soaked nameplate having the name ‘Nadeem’ on it. Young Nadeem’s body beneath his legs was all ridden by artillery splinters. *“Alas!!! Such a handsome young lieutenant, must still be in his teens”*, thought Ashraf with a gloomy expression on his face. Ashraf was really touched by the



Map: Main area involved during 1965 War (Source: googlemap)

sense of commitment and patriotism of these men. Out of sheer patriotism Ashraf looked towards Subedar Sher and said *“Subedar saab app tight ho kar larain, mein aur merey bhai zameen bhi dain gay aur kaffan daffan bhi kar dain gay”* (Subedar saab, you just leave and focus on the war, we are responsible for burial of all martyrs). Ashraf along with his brothers made wooden boxes and buried the shaheeds in their village Mustafabad-Lalyani.

Next morning, Ashraf’s peaceful sleep was rudely interrupted by the thundering sounds of Indian artillery. He hurriedly got up while rubbing his eyes, still half a sleep, and noticed the same military truck, G-508, also known as *Jimmy*, traversing the twists and turns of un-



G-508 truck

(Source: wikipedia.org)

metalled tracks between the green fields. The truck stopped near him, and again Subedar Sher along with a truck driver stepped down from the truck. Subedar Sher looked towards the trunk of the truck, Ashraf too could see the bodies of the *shaheed* soldiers, and he exactly knew what to



do next. Ashraf unloaded the bodies of shaheeds and started preparing for their burial. After two days, Subedar Sher again arrived at Mustafabad with more dead bodies of the soldiers who had embraced *shahadat* in Khem Karan sector and Ashraf buried them too. Throughout the war, after one odd day Subedar Sher would come to the village and hand over more dead bodies to Ashraf, who in turn used to bury them.

Towards the end of the war, the Indian Prime Minister Shastri, asked the Indian Chief, General Chaudhury “*whether India could win a decisive victory if the war was prolonged for some days*”. General Chaudhury replied that the Indian army had not only consumed most of its frontline ammunition, but had also suffered considerable tank losses. This conversation occurred during



Indian Army Chief General Chudhury (right) with Indian Air Chief Arjan Singh during 1965 War
(Source: gettyimages.com)

the discussions that took place on 13 and 14 September 1965 in the Emergency Committee of the Cabinet (ECC).⁶ On these two days, the ECC was debating the pros and cons of agreeing to a ceasefire with effect from 6:30 p.m. on 14 September. The same was proposed by the United Nations Secretary General, U Thant, who was present in Delhi between 12 and 15 September.⁷ But the ceasefire did not come into effect on 14 September, and the war continued for another week.

On 14 September, Subedar Sher again came to the village Mustafabad with a load of dead bodies placed in the back of his truck. Subedar Sher, the truck driver and Ashraf along with his brothers unloaded the bodies. Ashraf could see their khaki uniforms all soaked in blood, he could imagine the anecdotes of courage behind the subtle calmness of each blood-covered face. Ashraf’s mind was lost in many thoughts. “*Freedom indeed has an ascribed cost, a cost which could be paid in only one currency; blood and sweat, life and limb.... and these men had paid that price, for my freedom, for freedom of the people of my village, for the freedom of my country*”, thought young Ashraf while glancing at each blood-covered face. That glance was a glance of gratitude and respect for the fallen men from the Khem-Karan front. Ashraf and his brothers started digging the graves and laid down these newly arrived martyrs alongside the martyrs buried earlier. After filling the last grave with the sacred soil, Ashraf looked up and took a glance at the piece of land where he had been burying fallen soldiers. He could see more than 40 graves in rows and columns, each having a martyr in its sacred coffer.

From 7 to 15 September, UN Secretary-General Mr U Thant visited the Subcontinent in pursuit for the ceasefire. In his report of 16 September to the council, he noted that both sides had expressed their desire for a cessation of hostilities. On 20 September, Ashraf tuned in the radio and heard that the Security Council had adopted resolution 211 (1965)⁸, which demanded that a ceasefire take effect at 0700 hours GMT on 22 September 1965, and called for a subsequent withdrawal of all armed personnel to the positions held before 5 August. At around 3 am on 23 September, the ceasefire was implemented. By 22 September 1965, Subedar Sher had brought in a total of 51 dead bodies, which were unloaded and buried by Ashraf and his brothers.

On 23rd September, the ceasefire came into effect. The sun of 23rd September 1965



was finally setting beyond the green fields of Mustafabad, but without the fanfare and roaring sounds of artillery fire. Ashraf, sitting under the tree of his *dera*, was witnessing this calm, silent and peaceful sunset. While still mesmerised by the peaceful view of the huge sinking orange ball, he noticed the same G-508 truck coming towards him from the east. The truck stopped, the same driver with thick brown moustaches stepped down and pointed towards the back of the truck which had three more dead bodies. Ashraf took a glance at the faces of the martyrs. One of the faces covered partially in mud and blood, seemed familiar. On close observation, Ashraf realized that the body was of Subedar Major Sher himself. Subedar Major Sher, who had been bringing dead bodies of his comrades for the burial all along for 17 days of war, embraced martyrdom himself on the last day of the conflict. His body was mounted on the same jimmy truck G-508 and brought to Ashraf. It was a saddening moment for young Ashraf, he pulled out the body of Subedar Major Sher with all the respect and buried him alongside other 51 *shaheed* who were brought by him earlier. Now, in *Ganj-e-Shuhada*, a total of 54 *shaheeds* lay buried, mostly from 5 Frontier Force (FF). In the first row there are two officers, Lieutenant Nadeem of 24 Cavalry and Major Sultan Asad of 5 FF. And in the last row, lies buried Subedar Major Sher Aslam, who had brought all his



Graves of 1965 War martyrs (*Ganj e Shuhada*) (Source: Author)

of the graves, and the other is a local MPA who had requested to be buried alongside these noble *shaheeds*. In the same complex there is a minaret constructed as a monument for martyred Brigadier Ahsan Rasheed Shami. The condition of this minaret is deteriorating and needs repair.



Monument of Brigadier Shami (Source: Author)

Ashraf died in 2013 at the age of 78. Throughout his life he had been taking care of the martyrs complex of Mustafabad, now known as *Ganj-e-Shuhada*, which still stands tall as a reminder of the supreme sacrifice and grit of the men in khaki, and as a reciprocating gesture of gratitude of the nation. Initially the martyrs were buried as *amanat* on a piece of land south of the Ferozpur road, so that their bodies could be disinterred later, and reburied at their respective native towns by their relatives. Later the bodies were shifted to *Ganj-e-Shuhada* located north of Ferozpur road at Mustafabad graveyard. The place where they are buried now was the location of MDS (main dressing station) during 1965 War, having Khem-Karan as ADS (Advance Dressing Station). Actually Subedar



Haji Ashraf (Source: Author)



Main entrance of Mustafabad shuhada graveyard (Source: Author)

martyred comrades, buried in rows ahead of his grave. There are two civilians also buried in the same complex of martyrs. One is the care taker



Main Dressing Station (MDS)
(Source: Author)

Major Sher used to bring the wounded soldiers along with the dead bodies to MDS first, i.e present location of Ganj-e-Shuhada. The injured soldiers were shifted to MDS, where a surgeon in a concrete bunker used to carry out lifesaving surgeries.

Those who died on the way to MDS, or at the MDS after surgery, along with the other dead bodies already lying in the truck, were transported by Subedar Major Sher to Ashraf and his brothers for the burial. After the war all the relatives of

shaheeds arrived at the Mustafabad graveyard where the *shaheeds* were buried as *amanat*, so that they could recover the bodies and take them along for burial at their respective villages. But the sight of the graves arranged in perfect rows and columns, under the shade of the fluttering Pakistani flag, made them change their minds. It was decided by the relatives of the martyrs that since all these fallen soldiers had served together and fought together, so they should remain buried together at the same place. Now this cemetery of martyrs is being looked after by Haji Ashraf's grandson Mr Jamshed⁹ and his son in law Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Ilyas, a *Piffer* officer from 24 FF.¹⁰

Editor's Note

On conclusion of the Rann of Kutch Agreement on 30th June 1965, Article 2(I) of this agreement required all troops of India and Pakistan to withdraw from the border. Pakistani 10 Division returned to Lahore leaving a small body of troops called X Ray Force, consisting an infantry company each on Wahga-Attari and Barki-Khalra axes.

Notes

1. Lieutenant General Mahmud Ahmed (retired), *History of Indo-Pak War-1965* (Rawalpindi: Services Book Club, 2006), 103.
2. Ahmed, *History of Indo-Pak War 1965*, 141.
3. Ahmed, *History of Indo-Pak War 1965*, 134.
4. Ahmed, *History of Indo-Pak War 1965*, 155.
5. Ahmed, *History of Indo-Pak War 1965*, 177-195.
6. Sankaran Kalyanaraman, "The Context of the Cease-Fire Decision in the 1965 India-Pakistan War", *Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses*, (October 2015), https://www.researchgate.net/publication/282123614_The_Context_of_the_Cease-Fire_Decision_in_1965_India-Pakistan_War.
7. Ibid.
8. "Resolution 211: The India-Pakistan Question", UNSCR Search engine for the United Nations Security Council Resolutions, accessed on February 13, 2022, <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/211>.
9. Interview of Mr Jamshed – grandson of Haji Ashraf, by the author on 12 Feb 2022, at village Mustafabad.
10. Interview of Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Ilyas, 24 FF, son in law of Haji Ashraf, on 15 Feb 2022 in Rawalpindi, at his residence.

About the author



Major Bilal Naseer was commissioned in 32 Cavalry in April 2008. He has served in the Northern Areas at Conway Saddle, (Baltoro Sector) followed by a tenure at Lower Dir during OPERATION RAH-E-RAAST, 2012-14. The officer has also served in Peshawar Corps as ADC in 2014, followed by a stint on the Pak-Iran Border in Balochistan. He holds degrees of BSc (Hons), BA (Philosophy) and PGD (Applied Psychology). Presently he is serving in ISPR Rawalpindi.

Russo-Ukraine Conflict

Europe's First Hybrid War

By Brigadier Sohail Nasir Khan, retired

The West has launched a “hybrid war” against his country, the consequences of which would be felt around the world. Sergei Lavrov, Russian Foreign Minister¹

“In this time of uncertainty, we have a clear way forward: Help Ukraine defend itself. Support the Ukrainian people. Hold Russia accountable.” Antony J. Blinken Secretary Of State²

We commend partners that have aligned with us, and encourage others to adopt measures to increase the cost of the war for Russia by isolating it, and Belarus for its support, from the global economy, and to prevent sanctions evasion, circumvention and backfilling. G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement³

War is likely to remain the *beau ideal*⁴ arbiter for resolving conflicts, despite ongoing debates regarding its place in the ambit of reason and logic of the 21st century.⁵ The Westphalian peace⁶ ushered in the entity of the state as a new unitary participant in international relations, that reached its *apogee* three centuries later, with two world wars. The perigee of *cold war*⁷ thereafter, was a systemic aberration that drew down a dividing *iron curtain*⁸ in Europe (NATOⁱ vs Warsaw Pact), and later throughout the world, by initiating simmering proxy conflicts that subordinated ethical and legal dimensions of war to ideology alone.⁹ Thus, here was born a war that sanctioned the use of every resource to achieve victory, and persists until the enemy is comprehensively defeated or annihilated. The evolutionary transformation of war (through paradigms of forms, waves, epochs and generations) highlights the variations in conduct, but not in the purpose of war. Gradually rising from individual clashes, tribal contests and state conflicts, war has now acquired a systemic character that tends to weaponise every aspect of life, whether it is military, political, social, economic, informational or infrastructural.¹⁰ Oscillating on a wide spectrum of worldviews between Locke¹¹, Rousseau¹² and Hobbes¹³, what may the war of the future look like? The Russo-Ukraine conflict offers a glimpse, when seen in



Map: NATO & Warsaw pact countries (Source: britannica.com)

a wider perspective of the states at war, and the weapons being used.

Swift disintegration of the USSRⁱⁱ in 1991 reinforced perspectives like the end of history¹⁴, clash of civilisations¹⁵ and neo-realism¹⁶, that were profoundly mixed with liberal democracy¹⁷



Map: USSR – 1991 (Source: britannica.com)

i NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organization

ii USSR – Union of Soviet Socialist Republics



Map: Expansion of NATO (Source: quora.com)



Map: Attack on Georgia by Russia - 2008 (Source: wikipedia.org)

by the USA to usher in an era of hegemonic uni-polarity. Disregarding the mindset¹⁸ (the same signatories that created the USSR in 1922¹⁹ also endorsed the Belovezha Accords²⁰ in 1991, to dissolve it), warnings²¹, environment²², assurances²³, and balance of power²⁴, NATO gradually expanded eastwards²⁵ to incorporate former USSR states.²⁶ This gradual military build-up (NATO²⁷ is a military alliance) creeping nearer to her borders, alarmed Russia. It was understandably perceived as a threat in terms of strategic logic, and later cited by Russian President Vladimir Putin²⁸ as one of the causes to rationalise the Russian invasion of Ukraine.²⁹ The USA perceived the situation inversely, as a Russian hybrid war to re-create the former zone of influence of the USSR.³⁰ What we witness then in Ukraine³¹ is the eruption of a decade-long simmering conflict, based on different worldviews. But there is more to this conflict than meets the eye.

Ukraine-NATO liaison³² began immediately after the USSR's disintegration, and then signing of NATO Partnership for Peace framework³³ in 1994. Ukraine formally applied for integration through NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP), along with Georgia, in 2008. This was enthusiastically hailed by the US/EU/NATO, and strongly opposed by Russia.³⁴ This triggered a chain of events, starting with the first European war of the 21st century in Georgia (2008) that lasted only five days, but

had an enormous impact on regional dynamics. It was indicative of the emerging features of a Russian hybrid war.³⁵ Russia accused Georgia of an *aggression against South Ossetia*³⁶, and launched a full-scale land, air and sea invasion of Georgia (using the Black Sea Fleet from Crimea) on 8 August 2008, including its undisputed territory. While calling it a *peace enforcement operation*³⁷, Russia established direct control³⁸ over the region. The fighting took place in the strategically important South Caucasus region, and is regarded as the first European war of the 21st century³⁹, which saw Russia acting in line with the European *realpolitik* models of the 19th



Map: Russian military operation in Ukraine (Source: wsec.multiscreensite.com)

and early 20th centuries.⁴⁰ This triple mistake⁴¹ later paved the way for annexation of the Crimea, and troubles in Ukraine that continue to date.

Purely from the perspective of hybrid war, *little green men*⁴² helped the annexation of



Crimea within a week. Donbass troubles started after arrival of Russian *humanitarian convoys*⁴³, that continued for the next six years, despite Ukraine's anti-terrorist operations that were converted into joint force operations in 2018. The west slammed Russia with a first round of sanctions, that were supplemented by a second and third round⁴⁴, though these did not create the desired impact, as Europe was heavily dependent on Russia for oil and gas. Because of a variety of contestants⁴⁵ the war in Donbass simmered for eight years, notwithstanding twenty nine ceasefire agreements.⁴⁶ Disregarding the prevailing conventional wisdom⁴⁷ that blamed Putin for the crisis, Mearsheimer⁴⁸ (whose views were endorsed by Henry Kissinger and Stephen P. Cohen) considered this the west's miscalculation⁴⁹, which disrespects the balance of power⁵⁰ in an effort to integrate⁵¹ Ukraine into Europe, both militarily (NATO) and economically (EUⁱⁱⁱ), at the expense of Russia. Ukraine is a core strategic zone for Russia⁵² as compared to EU/NATO, as they are not willing to use direct force for achieving it. The west is playing a losing hand, and her encouragement is leading Ukraine down the path of destruction. The Crimea is gone forever, and there are less chances of a re-emerging cold war, as Russia is not USSR. The west must consider shunning NATO eastward expansion, and include Russia in any future security architecture for Europe. Ukraine must be developed as a neutral buffer state, through an economic rescue plan that includes EU, IMF^{iv} and Russia. No one listened.

Ignoring the strategic context again, Zelenskyy (inaugurated on 20 May 2019) reinvigorated a Ukrainian bid to join NATO on 12 June 2020, by joining NATO's enhanced opportunity partner interoperability program⁵³ and reiterating it through the new national security strategy⁵⁴ two months later. With positive developments and encouragement from

EU/NATO and USA, Zelenskyy began calling Russia a threat that would increase, if Ukraine were not integrated into NATO.⁵⁵ Putin replied with a long paper⁵⁶ that, besides outlining anti-Russian conspiracies and asserting the role of Russia in Ukraine⁵⁷, explained why Ukraine is an important part⁵⁸ of Russia, and will become a direct threat to Russian security if incorporated into NATO.⁵⁹ Russian forces started amassing on Ukrainian borders by 7 April, 2021⁶⁰, and continued throughout the year. In December 2021, Russia advanced two draft treaties that



Map: Russian attack on Ukraine (Source: reddit.com)

contained requests for what it referred to as *security guarantees*, including a legally binding promise that Ukraine would not join NATO, a reduction in NATO troops and materiel stationed in Eastern Europe. They threatened an unspecified military response if those demands were not met in full. The West faced a choice between taking a politically difficult but responsible path, which would allow it to repair its relationship with Moscow (creating a situation where all sides win), and a more impulsive and reckless path, which may be politically easier, but in which everyone would lose.⁶¹ NATO rejected these requests, and the United States warned Russia of *swift and severe* economic sanctions, should it further invade Ukraine.⁶² On 21 February 2022, Putin again spoke at length

iii EU – European Union

iv IMF – International Monetary Fund



on Ukraine, sanctions and officially recognised the two breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine, the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic, as independent states⁶³, and deployed troops to Donbas for *peacekeeping*.⁶⁴ Three days later, Putin announced that Russia was initiating a *special military operation* in the Donbas, and launched a full-scale invasion⁶⁵ to *demilitarise*⁶⁶ and *denazify*⁶⁷ Ukraine.

Russian forces launched four simultaneous lightning efforts⁶⁸ to defeat Ukraine with a swift manoeuvre, and were knocking at the doors of Kyiv within 48 hours.⁶⁹ However, on the 25th March, the Russian Defense Ministry said the *first stage* of what they called the *special military operation* was generally complete, that the Ukrainian military forces had suffered serious losses, and that the Russian military would now concentrate on the *liberation of Donbas*.⁷⁰ It is difficult to ascertain



Map : Donbas region (Source: newseu.cgtn.com)

what objectives were achieved without capturing Kyiv or Kharkiv (that comprised three out of four initial efforts), with such enormous forces.⁷¹ The Kremlin says Russia will continue its self-described *special military operation* in Ukraine until *all its goals have been met*, as the offensive enters its 100th day.⁷²

The west has levied a host of retaliatory sanctions (the fourth round of sanctions since 2014)⁷³ against Moscow, including on the crucial oil and gas sectors, and Europe is beginning to wean itself away from its dependence on Russian

energy. Russia currently faces over 5,000 targeted sanctions, more than any other country. Some \$300 billion worth of Russian gold and foreign exchange reserves in the West have been frozen, and air traffic in the country dropped from 8.1 million to 5.2 million passengers between January and March. More than 1,000 *self-sanctioning* companies have curtailed their operations in Russia. Russia stock index has plunged by nearly 40 percent, and inflation came in at 17.8 percent. 35% of Ukraine's GDP^v has been wiped out by the war, with direct losses exceeding \$600 billion. Ukraine, a major agricultural producer, has been unable to export some 22 million tons of grain. Zelenskyy accused Russia this week, of stealing at least a half-million tons of grain during the invasion.⁷⁴



Russian President Putin (left) & Ukrainian President Zelenskyy (Source: aa.com.tr)

The fallout of this conflict has sent ripples around the globe, further driving up costs of basic goods on top of inflation, that was already in full swing in many places before the invasion. Developing countries are being squeezed particularly hard by higher costs of food, fuel and financing. Crude oil prices in London and New York have risen by 20 to 25 percent, resulting in higher prices at the pump, and for an array of petroleum-based products. Wheat supplies have been disrupted in African nations, which imported 44% of their wheat from Russia and Ukraine. The African Development Bank has reported a 45% increase in continental prices for the grain. Amin Awad, the U.N. crisis coordinator in Ukraine, said 1.4 billion people worldwide could be affected by shortages of

v GDP – Gross Domestic Product



grain and fertiliser from the country, *'This war's toll on civilians is unacceptable. This war has no winner, and today we mark a tragic milestone. And we know what is needed the most: An end to this war'*.

The latest CSIS^{vi} assessment⁷⁵ concludes that Russia has failed to achieve most of its objectives in Ukraine, because of poor military planning, significant logistical problems, low combat readiness and other deficiencies, which undermined Russian military effectiveness. The Russian military failed to achieve major political objective i.e. to overthrow Kyiv government in a *blitzkrieg-type* military operation. These and other challenges—including Ukrainian military efforts and western aid—severely impacted Russian air, ground, cyber, and maritime operations. Russia's failures will force the Russian military to fundamentally rethink its training practices, organisational structure, culture, logistics, recruitment and retention policies, and planning efforts. Nevertheless, Russia is still attempting a *de facto* annexation of parts of eastern and southern Ukraine that it controls. The report precisely outlines the succeeding reasons for Russian failure.

Russian air operations focused on long-range strikes against Ukrainian military and civilian targets, to undermine the military's ability to wage war, weaken population morale and punish the country for a shift towards the west. The Russian air force could not achieve air superiority because of strong Ukrainian air defense capabilities (stingers, S 300 SAM etc.) due to western aid. The Russian air force had recurring logistic problems, including low stock of long range PGMs^{vii}, after the first three weeks of war. Dozens of Russian UAVs^{viii} (Orlan 10, Orlan 20, Orlan 30, Eleron and Forpost) were shot down or jammed electronically. In the long

run, western sanctions will create supply chain issues of refined components made in the UK, USA and EU.

Russian ground operations relied on roads, and made progress initially due to superiority of material, but got stuck due to anti-tank ambushes as it moved through Ukrainian towns and villages. This also separated advancing columns from support columns, which too were not well protected. Russia military vehicles marked with 'Z' were especially easy to target. Battalion tactical groups (600 personnel), the bulk of Russian forces, were generally mechanised and self-sufficient, but lacked an infantry component to hold territory. The Russian army faced significant logistical and maintenance issues, operating in contested areas. The tactics of heavy bombardment followed by reconnaissance to contact and destroy Ukrainian forces, weakened due to effective use of anti-armour munitions (ATGMs^{ix}, loitering munitions, UAV). Roads were clogged with traffic as there was no rail transport available to them. No spare parts could be pushed ahead, so all faulty vehicles were abandoned. Russian forces were not well balanced. They reached Kyiv in 48 hours, but then did not have enough combat power left to invest and seize cities like Kyiv and Kharkiv. Seizing and holding territory need at least 15-20 soldiers per 1000 inhabitants, whereas Russians had only 4 per 1000. Even this adverse ratio was problematic, due to low morale of conscripted soldiers. The Russians relied more on bombardment than on actual manoeuvre. Even that lacked combined arms effectiveness. Part of the blame can also be put on poor leadership. The quality of Ukrainian soldiers surprised Russia. Ukrainians had modern Javelin anti-tank missile systems, new generation light anti-tank weapons, and Stugna-P ATGM systems. Ukrainian resistance

vi CSIS – Center for Strategic and International Studies

vii PGM – Precision Guided Munition

viii UAVs– Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

ix ATGMs –Anti-tank guided missiles



Weapons used during Russo-Ukrainian War

(Source: informnapalm.org)

also delayed pushing forward of sensitive EW^x and air defense systems in the country. It resulted in many command and control problems. Russian soldiers used mobile phones for communication, that made them easy targets. Russia has lost at least 1000 tanks, 350 artillery pieces, 36 fixed wing aircraft and 50 helicopters. In the maritime domain, Ukrainian forces sunk the Russian flagship *RTS Moskva*, the flagship



RTS Moskva (Source: wikipedia.org)

of the Black Sea Fleet, with a Neptune anti-ship missile. The Russian navy also lost *RTS Saratov*, two Raptor class boats, and Serna class landing craft. Turkish Bayraktar TB2 UAV apparently sunk patrol boats and landing craft.

The Russians conducted multiple cyber operations, including cyber-attacks and espionage operations in concert with land, air and maritime attacks. Before the military invasion, cyber attackers of GRU (main intelligence directorate) launched destructive wiper attacks on hundreds of systems in the Ukrainian

government, and energy, IT, media and financial sectors. The Russian goal was to weaken the political will, ability to fight, and to collect information to use for tactical, operational and strategic advantages. Over the next several weeks, Russian actors linked to GRU, SVR (foreign intelligence service) and FSB (federal security service) conducted numerous cyber-attacks, utilising malware families of Whisper Gate, Fox Blade, Sonic Vote, Caddy Wiper, Industroyer etc. These malware were designed to do a range of malicious activities, such as overwriting data, rendering machine unbootable, deleting data and destroying critical infrastructure as industrial processes and production. Using a variety of techniques, 40% of the attacks were aimed at critical infrastructure sectors, and 32% at government sites. Russia also conducted an EW campaign against Ukrainian forces to shut down communications, and signals across a broad spectrum of AD^{xi} radars. Russian electronic counter measure (ECM^{xii}) UAVs simulated Russian aircraft to harass and draw out Ukrainian air defense locations. However, Russian cyber war was not very effective because of Western assistance to Ukraine in identifying these attacks, and remedial measures. US Cyber Command and NSA (National Security Agency) helped the Ukrainian government with hunt-teams. The private sector also responded, as Microsoft worked closely with Ukraine.

x EW – Electronic Warfare

xi AD – Air Defense

xii ECM – Electronic Countermeasure



Elon Musk and starlink satellite internet
(Source: businessinsider.com)

In January 2022, Microsoft Threat Intelligence Centre identified dozens of malware. Microsoft established a secure line of communication with the Ukrainian government, to identify and beat Russian cyber-attacks. Microsoft Defender feature helped controlling folder access. Elon Musk's company Space X activated Starlink (a satellite internet) in Ukraine, and set additional network terminals including over 10,000 dish antennas and receiver dish (only 23 inch wide). This helped in setting up a simple router that projected WiFi internet signal. Starlink helped blunting Russian jamming signals to block internet, to undermine Ukrainian command and control capability.

The Russians made mistakes that could not be fixed quickly. Poorly trained Russian forces relied more on long range attrition than manoeuvre, so capturing territory will be difficult from well-defended Ukraine forces. Russian cyber and EW capabilities have been neutralised with the west's help. However, Russia has fixed many anomalies and improved logistics. Regrouping in the southern and eastern fronts has improved their lines of communication. The Russians have constructed bridges, railheads and roads. Russian naval success in the Sea of Azov allowed resupply by sea lanes. Still, the war in Ukraine will be protracted. Status quo will not be acceptable to the Kremlin, who have yet to achieve major political and military objectives. As



Map: Sea of Azov (Source: pinterest.com)

NATO is likely to expand to Sweden and Finland, so Russia will attempt to grind out a victory, as it did in Chechnya. *Status quo* will also not be acceptable to Ukraine. Zelenskyy is unwilling to allow more annexation of territory, and as a May 2022 Ukrainian opinion poll indicated, 82% people also desire the same. However, winning back territory will be difficult, as the Russians have constructed hardened defences in annexed areas. 'If US / West wants to shift the balance of power in Ukraine favour, they need to provide more weapons e.g. better UAVs, tanks, long range missiles, HIMARS^{xiii} and even fighter aircraft. Over the past eight years, Moscow has seized some portions of Ukrainian territory and tried to overthrow the government. There is little probability that Vladimir Putin will stop now.'⁷⁶

In the overall context, there was no declaration of formal war by either side, and operations were branded as *peace enforcement missions, humanitarian convoys, demilitarisation, denazification, special military operations*. With imprecise objectives, these operations besides military fighting, also saw the employment of mercenaries, misinformation campaigns, cyber-attacks, economic sanctions, historical misinterpretations, crashing stock exchanges,

xiii HIMARS – High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems



using oil, gas and even food grains as weapons of war, with damaging ramifications throughout the world. Europe has surely plunged into a new form of warfare, now universally christened as *hybrid wars*. To conclude, every new or emerging conflict is somehow different and unique, as was pointed out by war studies pioneer Carl von Clausewitz, who stated: *Each period has its own independent form of war, the conditions of war, as well as its own independent theory of war.*⁷⁷



Hybrid Warfare

(Source: katehon.com)

Notes

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About the author



Brigadier Sohail Nasir Khan, SI(M), is a retired infantry officer who besides staff and war courses, holds a master of philosophy degree in peace and conflict studies from NDU Islamabad. He also has a master degrees in defence management, English linguistics, business administration and education management along with professional certifications from local and foreign universities in fields as diverse as social psychology, cultural anthropology, IR, mass communication/ media, international law, HRM, logistics, and terrorism. Besides distinctive operational staff assignments, commanding infantry brigade and regimental centre, he has also commanded a multinational force under UN mandate. He is presently serving in the Army Institute of Military History as research director.



Military History Minestrone

(our quiz; for the military history enthusiast and novice 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 best option

- World War I, also known as the Great War, began in 1914 after the assassination of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, by a Serbian nationalist, in the city of Sarajevo (capital of modern day Bosnia Herzegovina). His murder triggered a war across Europe that lasted until 1918. The name of the heir was:
 - Kaiser Wilhelm
 - Franz Joseph
 - Franz Ferdinand
 - Karl Ludwig
- Submarines played a significant military role for the first time during the First World War. The Germans made extensive use of submarines against allied warships as well as merchant ships. Which one of the following ships was sunk by a German submarine during this war?
 - Lusitania
 - Arizona
 - Bismarck
 - Barham
- What is the name of the international organisation created at the end of the First World War?
 - League of Nations
 - NATO
 - United Nations
 - European Union
- The Japanese attack on US naval base at Pearl Harbor, on 7 December 1941, was one of the most significant events of World War II. Who was the commander of Japanese forces attacking Pearl Harbor?
 - Hirohito
 - Myamoto
 - Yamamoto
 - Matsuhito
- The greatest tank battle of history was fought between German and Russian forces during World War II, near the Russian town of Kursk. When did this battle take place?
 - July-August 1942
 - July-August 1944
 - July-August 1943
 - July-August 1941



6. The Allied invasion of Europe during World War II was primarily directed at the French coast. What was the codename given to this operation?
- (a) OPERATION BARBAROSSA (b) OPERATION WATCHTOWER
(c) OPERATION OVERLORD (d) OPERATION BAGRATION
7. Luftwaffe was the name given to the German Air Force during World War II. Who commanded Luftwaffe during the war?
- (a) Erich Von Manstein (b) Heinz Guderian
(c) Hermann Göring (d) Heinrich Himmler
8. The PNS/M Ghazi was sunk during Indo-Pak War of 1971, when it was conducting a mine-laying operation near the Indian port of Vishakapatnum. Who was the commanding officer of PNS Ghazi, during 1971 War?
- (a) Zafar Muhammad Khan (b) Mohammad Shariff
(c) Ahmad Tasnim (d) Muzaffar Hassan
9. The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is celebrated every year to pay tribute to all those who have lost their lives while serving under the UN flag since 1948. This day is celebrated on:-
- (a) April 29 (b) May 29
(c) June 29 (d) July 29
10. The F-16 Fighting Falcon is a single-engine multirole fighter aircraft originally developed by General Dynamics. It has been serving the Pakistan Air Force since 1980s. When was the first batch of F-16s inducted in the Pakistan Air Force?
- (a) 1980 (b) 1983
(c) 1985 (d) 1987

(Answers on page 73)



Glimpses of AIMH Activities



Lieutenant General Khalid Zia, HI(M), Commander 31 Corps, inaugurating Bahawalplur Lounge in AIMH, on 8 February 2022



Lieutenant General Muhammad Ali, HI(M), Commander Army Strategic Force Command, visiting AIMH on 31 May 2022



Major General Agha Masood Akram, retired, Director General AIMH giving lecture to officers of Bahawalpur Garrison on the subject of 'Importance of Military History' on 26 January 2022



Faculty and cadets of Pakistan Military Academy Kakul visiting AIMH on 3 February 2022



Officers from friendly countries attending course at National Defence University Islamabad, visiting AIMH on 19 May 2022



Officers from friendly countries attending staff course at Command and Staff College Quetta, visiting AIMH on 5 February 2022

Glimpses of AIMH Activities



Students of Christian Community Study Centre visiting AIMH on 17 March 2022



Lieutenant General Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, NI, HI, HI(M), retired, visiting archive section of AIMH on 22 March 2022



Students from Balochistan visiting AIMH on 30 June 2022



Students and faculty of department of history and Pakistan Studies, International Islamic University Islamabad visiting AIMH on 7 March 2022



Students from Quaid e Azam University Islamabad attending seminar held at AIMH on 7 June 2022





Glimpses of AIMH Activities



Visit of Dr Mazhar Hameed, MD National Book Foundation, on 22 June 2022



Ex soldiers from East Pakistan Civil Armed Forces (EPCAF) visiting AIMH on 24 March 2022



Focused group discussions held on 20 January, 1&2 March and 31 March 2022 at AIMH and attended by renowned scholars and experts

Military History Minestrone (Answers)

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

Obituary



In memory of Brigadier Adnan Azim, retired

The editorial team of *B&T* is grieved to inform readers that Brigadier Adnan Azim, SI(M), retired, serving at AIMH as research director, passed away due to cardiac arrest, at Armed Forces Institute of Cardiology, Rawalpindi on 11 February 2022. He was very respected officer, a great colleague and a thorough gentleman. His demise leaves void in the AIMH fraternity. He is survived by a widow and two sons. May his soul rest in eternal peace. Aameen.



75 Years Ago (1947)

Partition of India and the Creation of Pakistan



Clockwise from top left: Quaid i Azam, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, All India Muslim League (AIML) annual session on 23 March 1940, map of India and Pakistan-1947, refugees coming to Pakistan, Inauguration ceremony of the Pakistan Constituent Assembly on 14 August, 1947

It is 75 years since the partition of India, and the creation of a separate homeland for Muslims of the Subcontinent. The creation of Pakistan is quite a unique occurrence in modern history. Pakistan is not simply another Muslim state in the community of nations, it is the only Muslim ideological state on the map of the world. The *Two Nation Theory* distinguishes it from all other countries. It is home to one of the oldest civilisations i.e. the Indus Valley civilisation which flourished during 2600-1900 BCE.¹ Although Pakistan politically appeared on the map of the world on 14th August 1947, it has a long history. Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan once said, *Pakistan started the moment the first non-Muslim was converted to Islam in India long before the Muslims established their rule.*²

Muslim rule over India spread over nearly 1000 years, and it was followed by the British entering India in the guise of traders, who slowly and gradually occupied it completely. Muslims remained at the forefront during the freedom struggle against this British occupation, and heroes like Siraj ud-Daulah and Tipu Sultan laid down their lives while defending their motherland. After the *War of Independence (aka Indian Mutiny) of 1857*, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, an educator and reformist, had started advocating a separate identity for the Muslims of India. Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, a poet-philosopher is credited with first proposing the idea of an independent state for Indian Muslims, based on Muslim-majority areas in the Subcontinent, during his famous address at the All India Muslim League (AIML) annual session, held in Allahabad in 1930.

It was the historical day of 23rd March 1940 when the Pakistan Resolution was passed during AIML annual session held in Lahore, and the Muslims of India finally decided to achieve their ultimate objective, *Pakistan* under the charismatic leadership of Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Pakistan thus emerged as an independent state in August 1947, but the achievement of this objective was not easy. It resulted in one of the biggest migrations in history, where millions of people moved in both directions across the India-Pakistan border, and several hundred thousands, including women and children, lost their lives. This price of freedom was very heavy. The agenda of partition is still unfinished, as the status of Muslim-majority Jammu & Kashmir, a princely state of British India, is yet to be decided by plebiscite under United Nations resolutions.

¹ Rita P. Wright, *The Ancient Indus: Urbanism, Economy, and Society* (UK: Cambridge University Press, 2009), 1

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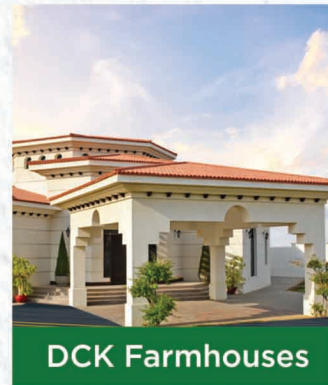
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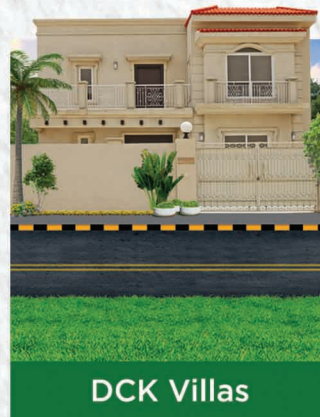
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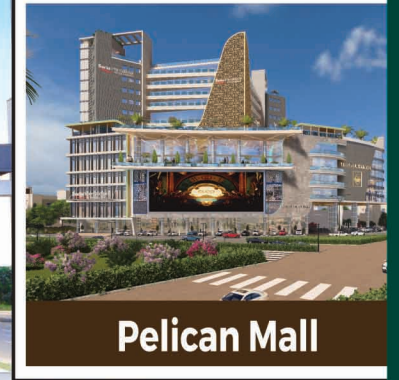
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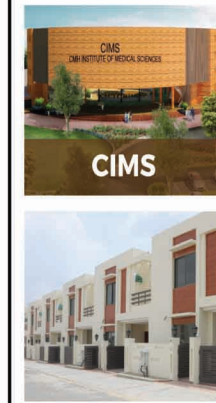
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