

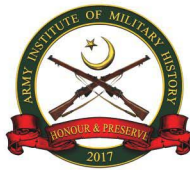
Magazine of the  
Army Institute of Military History  
Pakistan

# Bugle & Trumpet

Winter  
2020



**Nagorno-Karabakh**  
Glimpses of transition in future warfare



## THE ARMY INSTITUTE OF MILITARY HISTORY

### **Bugle & Trumpet**

Volume II (Winter 2020)

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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 Current 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

As a publication with the love of Military History at its very core, Bugle & Trumpet (*B&T*) 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 with due credit to the author and *B&T*. 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:** Map of Armenia, Azerbaijan and conflict zone of Nagorno-Karabakh. (Source: www.rt.com)



## From The Editor's Desk

*Dear readers*

*Amidst these times of global political uncertainties, the pandemic seems to have returned with a vengeance. Despite curtailed environments, B&T team has worked tirelessly to put together the fourth issue of the magazine. At the same time, we are grateful for invaluable suggestions and critique by the readers which help us towards constant improvement.*

*This time, we have selected a contemporary military history conflict as our lead story i.e. Nagorno-Karabakh, as it predicts the shape of future war. Importantly, the dynamics of this conflict also resonate with the Kashmir imbroglio.*

*Command and Staff College is the oldest and most prestigious military institution of Pakistan Army. First story of the magazine is about Lieutenant Colonel (later Major General) Shahid Hamid who served at Staff College as an instructor during 1940s. This story will take you through the corridors of this premium institution.*

*'The Punjab Boundary Force' highlights the sacrifices offered by the Muslims of Sub-Continent leading to the greatest migration of human history. This article attempts to examine the performance of Punjab Boundary Force, in countering and containing the communal violence that rocked India in general, and Punjab in particular, during the momentous events of 1947.*

*'HMS Rawalpindi', a physical history article is related to a British armed merchant cruiser (a converted passenger ship) that was sunk in a surface action against German battleships during the early months of the Second World War.*

*B&T provides a forum to commemorate the sacrifices made by our armed forces while defending its borders. Three such stories are included in this issue to pay homage to those great heroes of our motherland who showed utmost courage in the line of duty.*

*'East Pakistan and 1971 War' has always been a part of B&T pages. This time, we are commemorating the sacrifices of patriotic citizens of erstwhile East Pakistan who undertook an unforgettable journey to their dreamland.*

*'A man can be destroyed but not defeated' (Ernest Hemingway). This saying is truly reflected in the article 'The Indomitable Soldier' which is an inspirational story of resilience shown by a young army officer who took a fresh start while coping with the greatest trauma of his life.*

*Finally, we extend good wishes for the well-being and safety of our readers.*

*Keep reading and stay blessed!*

  
**Ansar Jamil**



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# A Muslim Instructor At Staff College Quetta; 1943-45

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



Maj Gen Shahid Hamid  
(Source: flickriver.com)

My father, Major General Syed Shahid Hamid was one of the first Muslim officers on the faculty of the Staff College, Quetta. He was not from a combat arm but from the Royal Indian Army Service Corps that was disparagingly known as the *Rice Corps* after its acronym of RIASC.

Shahid's path to the hallowed corridors of the College was not without glitches. He was from the last batch of Indian officers commissioned in 1932 from Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and accepted by 3rd Cavalry. To his dismay he found that it was an unhappy regiment. Its British officers had not come to terms with the Indian cavalry unit amalgamations and resented being an Indianised regiment. They disliked the presence of 'native' officers in their mess and except for a few, the rest were snobs. His squadron commander was disliked by all, but Shahid persevered and enjoyed serving with a horse mounted *Kaimkhani* squadron till he fractured his arm in 1936.



Royal Military Academy Sandhurst  
(Source: peoplepill.com)

He was operated on in Vienna, where he spent a year convalescing. When he returned, his squadron commander was commanding the regiment and the atmosphere had further deteriorated. Since there were no vacancies for additional 'native' officers in the other two Indianised cavalry regiments, Shahid Hamid first applied for the Indian Political Service but was denied an entry. He then applied for

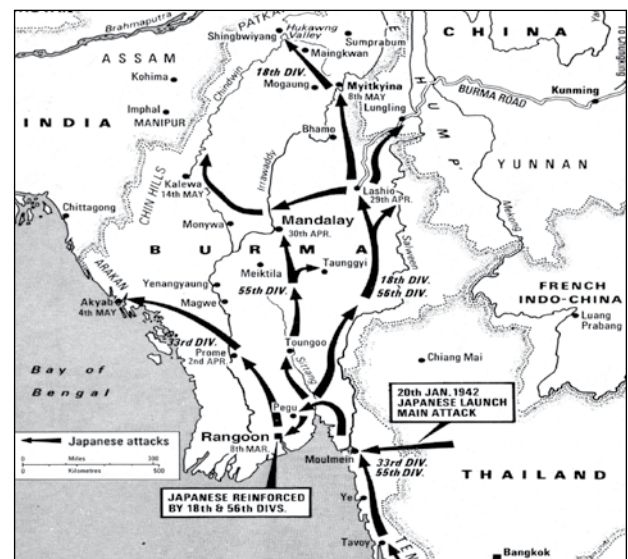
a secondment to the RIASC. The fact that officers in the RIASC received an additional allowance probably eased the ignominy of transferring from the prestigious cavalry to a mule based organisation. It was providence that he left 3rd Cavalry. The regiment was part of the reinforcement sent to stem the Japanese invasion of Malaya and became POWs for the rest of the war.

Shahid first commanded a mule company in Fort Sandeman (now Zhob) and then a transport company in the newly raised Indian Armoured Division at Risalpur. When the division was disbanded due to shortage of equipment, Shahid was posted on the Staff



RIASC  
(Source: regimentalbadges.com)

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Japanese Conquest of Burma - 1942 (Source: himalaya.com)

of the Burma Corps at Rangoon. These were trying times as the Japanese were overrunning Southeast Asia and the British India Army was driven out of Burma under appalling conditions. Shahid was injured when the Japanese bombed Mandalay, and evacuated.



Syed Shahid Hamid (1) attending the Staff College, Quetta, 1942. The Indian DS, Kalwant Singh is at (2) (Source: Author)

While serving in Burma he had been recommended for the Staff Course as “his advancement would be of interest to the service” and arrived in Quetta in 1943. Till the Second

the ‘imperial’ subjects were jettisoned and the syllabus was redesigned as a 17-week course dedicated to the essentials of divisional staff work. However much to the chagrin of the students, English prose and composition was retained in the syllabus.



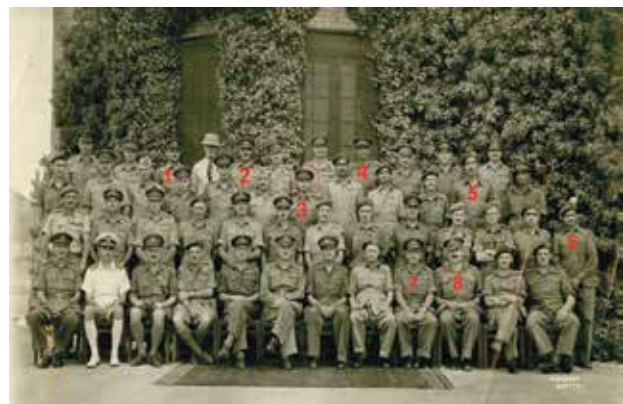
Staff College Quetta (past) (Source: cscquetta.gov.pk)



Command and Staff College Quetta (present) (Source: cscquetta.gov.pk)

World War, the college conducted a two-year course featuring a year’s tuition on divisional staff and command duties, and a further year’s study devoted to corps and army operations as well as the political and strategic issues faced by imperial defence planners. During the war,

Because of the mass induction of British and Indian emergency commissioned officers during the war, there was an amazing assortment of students from all walks of life: ex-actors, bookies, writers, professional Bridge players and all, from various theatres of operations with a variety of experiences. The only Indian instructor at the college at that time was Kalwant Singh who later commanded a corps in the



General Auchinleck, C-in-C India with the Senior Officers Course at Staff College Quetta, 1946.

1. Brig Sher Khan, MC, 6/13 FF. 2. Lt Gen Haji Iftikhar, 3rd Cav.
3. Maj Gen Syed Shahid Hamid, 4. Gen Cariappa, C-in-C Indian Army. 3 Cav. 5. Maj Gen Nazir, 6/13 FF. 6. Lt Col Govind Singh, 61 Cav.
7. Lt Gen Frank Messervy, 13 Lancers & C-in-C Pakistan Army.
8. Lt Gen Dudley Russel (Pasha), 6/13 FF. (Source: Author)



Indian Army. He expected all the Indian officers to call on him and was annoyed at Shahid for not coming. When he threatened to harm Shahid's career, there was a heated argument and the two nearly came to blows. Shahid did very well on the course partly because of his field experience in the headquarters of an active formation in Burma, and was told that he would be returning as an instructor. From Quetta he travelled 4500 km by rail/road to command a transport company on the Imphal Road.



British India (Source: quora.com)



Library (top) and Demonstration Hall (bottom) of Staff College Quetta (Source: cscquetta.gov.pk)

Shahid returned as an instructor with only 11 years of service and was promoted to lieutenant colonel on arriving. By now there were three Indian instructors – Jayanto Nath (Mochu) Chaudhuri who was the Indian COAS during the 1965 War, Mahadev Singh whose nickname was 'crow' and Iftikhar Khan who had also served in 3rd Cavalry. Iftikhar could have been the first Pakistani C-in-C if he had not died in an air crash in 1949.



Maj Gen Iftikhar Khan

(Source: thefridaytimes.com)

The college building was like a chateau beautifully constructed in 1905 with heavy wooden panelling. Shahid recalls that it had a magnificent library with some rare books, pictures and paintings. Apart from large lecture and demonstration halls, there were several

common rooms for the Directing Staff with large desks to work on. Their walls were adorned with wooden boards with the name of previous instructors. Each instructor had a syndicate of ten students and was also responsible for sponsoring subjects and exercises. Some things haven't changed.

With his background of logistics, Shahid prepared basic précis, lectures and exercises related to maintenance of troops in the field and on lines of communication. The most time-consuming task on which he burnt the midnight oil was correcting assignments. Shahid recalls that instructors were quite candid in their remarks and did not mince words, but the students accepted it in good spirit. Since his wife had written his English assignments when he was attending the course, she now corrected those of the students and was surprised to see how badly some of the British officers wrote in their own mother tongue.

There were many Indian students at the college and Shahid remembers the two Pathanias, Rajinder Singh Paintal, Kashmir Singh Katoch, Virender Singh, Harnarain Singh



Shahid Hamid (2nd from right) with Sam Manekshaw (2nd from left)  
(Source: csio.blogspot.com)

and Abdul Hameed Khan.<sup>1</sup> Sam Manekshaw (who was the Indian Chief of Army Staff during the 1971 War), also attended the staff course while Shahid Hamid was there and being a friend, he and his wife stayed at their residence for a couple of months. Sher Singh (Sam's orderly who had saved his life in Burma) was with him and could do nothing wrong. Before his marriage, the orderly used to wear Sam's shirt and Sam never objected. However this continued after he was married and every time the orderly wore his shirt, Siloo his wife used to call out loudly....."Saaaaaaaam! He is wearing your shirt again". Sam just ignored Siloo.

Instructors were expected to make their lectures interesting by injecting amusing stories.



Jayanto Nath Chaudhuri  
(Source: cscquetta.gov.pk)

Sometimes the humour backfired. Shahid was conducting a short course for the Women's Auxiliary Corps. He and his students developed a mutual dislike and they complained that their instructor had narrated (what they perceived to be) a dirty joke. Much to his relief,

Shahid was replaced. There were a number of students from the Indian State Forces. Referring to the officers from the Hyderabad State forces, Mochu Chaudhuri in bad taste commented that they came from "The realm of His *Exhausted* Highness, the Nizam of Hyderabad". There was uproar by the students from Hyderabad who were relatively large in number and Mochu had to apologise.

In between courses, instructors visited the Headquarters of formations and units in combat for first-hand information on the lessons learnt. Shahid got an opportunity to return to Burma for a month in the winter of 1944 when the Fourteenth Army commanded by General Bill Slim had launched its counteroffensive and



14th Army crossing river Chindwin (Source: www.pinterest.co.uk)

was assaulting across the River Chindwin. The whole complexion of the war had changed for the better after what he had been through during the retreat, it was heartening to see troops confidently advancing against the Japanese.



Gen (later FM) Bill Slim  
(Source: www.abc.net.au)

1 The two Pathanias were Anand Singh (6/13th Royal Frontier Force Rifles) and his uncle Mohinder Singh (5/10th Baloch 'Cherry Bottom'). Anand Singh had earned a well-deserved MC at the Battle of Karen and later commanded 1/5th Ghurkha in the First Kashmir War and awarded a MVC. He retired as a major general. Paintal commanded the Indian 190 Infantry Brigade in Korea and retired as lieutenant general. Katoch was GOC of XV Corps in Kashmir during the 1965 War. Virendra Singh was a RIMCOLLIAN who retired as major general in 1966. Harnarain Singh retired as a major general and was military secretary to the first President of India. General Hameed was COS Pakistan Army during the tenure of General Yahya Khan.





One of the highlights of the year was a two months Senior Officers' Course to prepare them for commanding brigades and higher formations. The discussions were set on actual operations and made even more interesting because most of the officers had served in combat theatres and some had been awarded for valour. The final exercise was attended by no less than the Army Chief.

Shahid's two-year tenure at the college had an unpleasant ending. His father passed away in Lucknow and he was posted to a division close to home. A few months later after a number of interviews at the Army Headquarters at Delhi (the purpose of which was not revealed



General Claude Auchinleck (centre) and Shahid Hamid (right)  
(Source: Author)

to him), he was selected as the Private Secretary to General Claude Auchinleck, C-in-C India. It was the pinnacle of his career in the British India Army.

### 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).*

*“Boldness governed by superior intellect is the mark of a hero”*

*(Carl von Clausewitz)*

# The Punjab Boundary Force

(1st August – 1st September, 1947)

By Brigadier Imran Haider Jaffri, retired

## Political Background

After World War II, the Labour government in London realised that Britain's devastated economy could not cope with the cost of over-extended empire. As a result of this realisation and the growing demand for a separate homeland by the Muslims of India, His Majesty's Government (HMG) despatched a Cabinet Mission to India in early 1946 with the



Cabinet Mission Plan - 1946 (Source: historypak.com)

task of keeping India united as a confederation. The Cabinet Mission put forward its proposals to the two leading political parties. The Muslim League accepted the proposals conditionally, while the Congress rejected them. An act of parliament proposed June 1948 as the deadline for transfer of power. By March 1947, a new viceroy Lord Mountbatten was sent to India, who announced on 3 June, 1947 that the



3rd June 1947 Plan (Source: www.rediff.com)

partition would be advanced to 14 August, 1947. A Partition Council and a Joint Defence Council (JDC), with members from both the dominions, were set up.

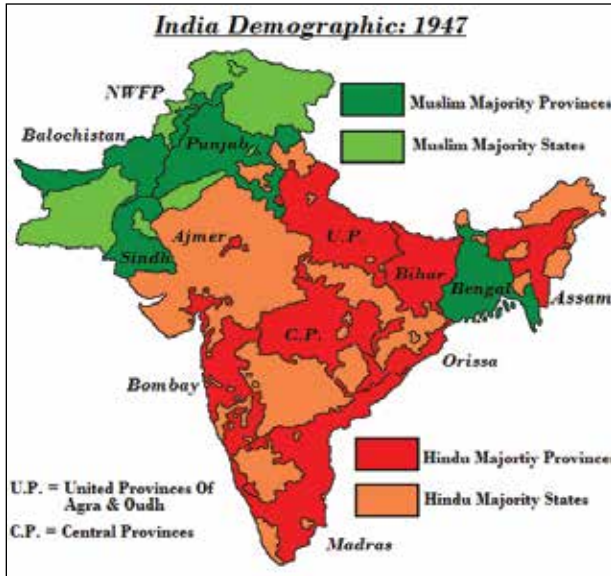
Although communal violence had already started after the *Direct Action* demonstrations of Muslim League's supporters in August/September 1946, which resulted in many killings in Calcutta (known as Calcutta



Calcutta (now Kolkata) Riots - 1946 (Source: quora.com)

Killings), the decision to divide India into two independent dominions i.e. India and Pakistan, and later to advance the date of partition, further compounded the violence throughout India, especially in Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. Majority group of one religion would unleash terror on the minority group of the other religion in their respective areas.

The worst hit was Punjab. The Muslim League emerged as the largest single political party in the Punjab Legislative Assembly, securing 75 out of a total of 86 Muslim seats in the 1946 elections, defeating the Unionist Party. The Unionist Party formed a coalition with the Congress and the Akalis, which antagonised the League. The Muslim League termed Khizar Hayat Tiwana, the Punjab premier, a traitor and called for direct action. Political unrest gripped the province and Khizar Hayat Tiwana had to come to terms with the Muslim League. Later,



(Source: pinterest.com)



Khizar Hayat Tiwana  
(Source: facebook.com)

Khizar had to resign due to relentless pressure of direct action of the Muslim League. Khizar was a sort of buffer between the Muslim League and the Unionist Party and its allies i.e. the Congress and the Akalis. The fall of the Unionist

Ministry removed the barrier to communal violence overwhelming the Punjab. Sikhs were particularly concerned and indifferent towards the Muslim League. Imposition of Governor's rule in the Punjab further complicated the



Unrest across India (Source: timescontent.com)

political atmosphere of Punjab. Anti-Pakistan demonstrations by Sikh and Hindu students in Anarkali, Lahore further aggravated communal disharmony, and riots soon spread to the rest of

Punjab – Rawalpindi, Attock, Multan, Sialkot etc. Almost 4000 shops of Muslims were burnt by Sikhs in Amritsar, which was responded to in the same coin elsewhere in West Punjab by Muslims. *Rawalpindi Riots* of March 1947 added fuel to the communal violence and there were massive killings on both sides.



Mountbatten visiting after Rawalpindi Riots  
(Source: newscomworld.com)

Muslims were in majority in West Punjab whereas East Punjab was a Sikh majority area. After the *Rawalpindi Riots*, Sikhs decided to throw in their lot in India's favour. Whatever boundary was decided by the Punjab Boundary Commission, it was certain to cut Sikh lands into two; and in particular danger of cession were rich lands owned by Sikhs in the western canal-colonies of Lyallpur (now Faisalabad) and Montgomery (now Sahiwal).

While the Indian Muslim and non-Muslim leaders at Delhi had pledged themselves in advance, to accept the award of Punjab Boundary Commission, the Sikhs in Punjab, led by Master Tara Singh, Baldev Singh etc.



Master Tara Singh addressing Sikhs (Source: newscomworld.com)



Map: Punjab in 1947

(Source: wiki.fibis.org)

embittered by the recent killings, made it clear that they would not shrink from direct action to oppose any decision they considered unfavourable. Everyone, including the Sikhs, knew no decision favourable to them was indeed possible. In addition, Sikhs had nursed longstanding grievances of having been left out of mainstream politics and administration. *Rawalpindi Riots* were not the only cause for widespread Sikh rampage in Punjab. In fact, Sikhs could not digest the idea of losing West Punjab where they owned fertile lands, besides emotional attachment to their revered temples and shrines. Hindus, obviously, welcomed the idea with open arms and supported the Sikhs wholeheartedly, in every respect.

Punjab civil administration - a mix of Muslims and non-Muslims, had gone completely partisan by July 1947. A few in the civil administration were still trying their best to keep up with the situation, but were finding it hard. The Army was the only cohesive and

disciplined organisation which could be looked upon to restore the deteriorating situation. Moreover the civil administration, including police, was acutely under strength for a meaningful response to the disturbances.

The Partition Council, anticipating a certain amount of trouble over the award of Punjab Boundary Commission, requested Field



The Punjab Boundary Commission with Sir Cyril Radcliffe sitting at the centre  
(Source: www.pinterest.com)

Marshal (FM) Auchinleck to set up a neutral force to act in aid of civil power in maintenance of law and order in the disputed areas of Punjab.



FM Auchinleck  
(Source: en.wikipedia.org)

Accordingly, the F.M. set up the Punjab Boundary Force (PBF) as from 1 August, 1947, working directly under the F.M., and responsible to JDC on behalf of both the dominions.

The 12 districts of Punjab forming the disputed area covered about 37,500 square miles, larger than Ireland. These districts were Lahore, Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Jullundur, Ludhiana, Ferozepur, Montgomery (now Sahiwal), Lyallpur (now Faisalabad), Sheikhupura, Gujranwala and Sialkot. The population, about four and a half million, were tough, pugnacious Punjabis, given to a high rate of crimes in ordinary times. They were mostly Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs in the proportion of 55, 25 and 20 percent respectively.

## Formation of The PBF

The PBF was built on the nucleus of the 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division (less its 7 Brigade responsible for Bombay), which was already in the area. Major General Thomas Wynford Rees was the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Division. General Rees was given three



4th Indian Infantry Division  
(Source: en.wikipedia.org)

additional brigades – 14 Para, 43 Lorried and 114 Infantry Brigades – a force of almost a corps size, though the numbers were weak owing to demobilisation and overseas leave. The troops, a mix of Muslims and non-Muslims shortly to be allotted to either of the dominions, were expected to remain neutral for the period of employment in PBF. No British troops were to be employed and they were moved out of the area under the ruling of HMG.



Maj Gen TW Rees  
(Source: wikiwand.com)

General Rees was given two senior Indian military officers as advisors – later increased to four. First, Brigadier Ayub Khan (later Field Marshal and President of Pakistan) of the Pakistan Army and Brigadier D.S. Brar of the Union of India and, later Brigadiers Nasir Ahmed and Thimmaya were added from Pakistan and India respectively.



Brig (later FM) Ayub Khan  
(Source: Author)

**Task.** The Force was tasked to maintain law and order *In Aid of Civil Power* in the disturbed areas of Punjab.



The Force with confiscated weapons (Source: blogs.lse.ac.uk)

**Order of Battle of the Force.** The Force was organised as under :-

**5 Infantry Brigade** located at Amritsar had three infantry battalions i.e. 1 Indian Grenadiers at Gurdaspur, 5 Rajputana Rifles at Amritsar and 1/9 Gorkha Rifles at Jullundur.

**11 Infantry Brigade** with its headquarters, 3/1 Punjab and 3 Frontier Force Regiment (FFR) was located at Jullundur while its third battalion i.e. 3 Mahar (Machine Gun) was at Hoshiarpur.

**14 Para Brigade** with its headquarters and 3 Baluch were located at Lahore. 3 Rajput and 4 FFR were at Lyallpur and Sialkot respectively.

**43 (Lorried) Brigade** with 2 Rajput, 1 Baluch, 2/8 Grenadiers and 3 Dogra were stationed at



Ferozpur. Another battalion i.e. 1/2 Punjab was in Montgomery.

**114 Brigade** with all its under command units i.e. 4 Baluch, 5 FFR and 2 Dogra were located at Lahore.

Besides above mentioned units, a number of logistic areas, Royal Indian Army Services Corps, Medical Corps, Electrical & Mechanical Engineers and provost units were placed under command General Rees for the purpose of logistics and assistance to the PBF.

Later, on 18 August 1947, 50 Para Brigade (located at Batala), with its infantry units – 1 FFR, 3/16 Punjab and 5 Baluch, was placed under command the PBF. Two more infantry units i.e. 2 Mahratta and 2 Bihar were released to 114 Brigade on the same date.

## Modus Operandi/Tactics of the Rioters

The tactics used by the rioters varied from furtive stabbing to planned attacks by large numbers on villages, trains or convoys. Armament ranged from the primitive – axes, spears and clubs of a mediaeval crowd of peasants, to most modern rifles, tommy-guns, light machine-guns, and grenades. Arson culprits varied from momentarily fanatical and often clumsy mobs to careful planners. Sikhs were better organised and equipped than the Muslims. They had the advantage of carrying *kirpans* (swords). Sikh *jathas* (armed bands)



Refugee Train

(Source: dailyo.in)

would vary from 20/30 to 5/600. The number would swell at times to 5/6000 for a particular operation for attack on larger Muslim villages, or bigger convoys or trains carrying refugees. There were frequent ambushes carried out on refugees convoys, trains etc and thousands of casualties were inflicted by this method. In one such affray in August 1947, 400 casualties occurred in just a few minutes.

Troops were given clear orders to hit hard whenever engaged in a situation, but they were to stop the fire when the objective was achieved. Sometimes, heavy casualties had to be accepted for restoring the situation, before the mobs could be beaten off. At times troops had to be employed in very small detachments, but commanders on the ground were encouraged not to take unnecessary risks of exposing small detachments, as it would expose them as easy prey for the attackers. This would certainly lower the morale of the PBF troops and elevate that of the attackers.



The Force implementing order (Source: acenews.pk)

## Sequence of Events during August, 1947

### 1<sup>st</sup> week August 1947

There was a steady increase in violence in the cities of Lahore and Amritsar. Sikh *jathas* started killing in the rural areas of Amritsar, which was retaliated by killings of non-Muslims in Lahore and Gujranwala by Muslims. Tensions were high in Lyallpur.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Week August, 1947

Violence continued to increase in towns and



the countryside. Pillars of smoke could be seen from burning Muslim villages in Amritsar District and vice-versa in Lahore District. On 8<sup>th</sup> August, the first Pakistan special train carrying Muslim officials and families, bound from Delhi to Karachi, was derailed by Sikhs, inflicting very heavy casualties. This was retaliated by three attacks by Muslims in Wazirabad-Sialkot area.



*An image of devastation* (Source: bloomberg.com)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Week August, 1947

After 15<sup>th</sup> August, the gloves were really off with a vengeance. Trouble became widespread in rural areas as well as towns. Troops started experiencing increased and stiff resistance. And refugees movement with all its grave problems, snowballed quickly to gigantic proportions. Acts of killings, rape and burning alive at Amritsar, and killings at Lahore, were more pronounced. Although both sides were pursued to call off the violence, which was agreed to, but any false or real tale would re-ignite the fury and violence would continue. A high level meeting also took place during this week which was attended by the prime ministers of both the dominions, who agreed to take steps to mitigate the violence in their respective areas. Disbanding of the Force was also considered, due to its failure in maintaining law and order, but it was decided that probably this was not the right time to do so, as virtually there was no civil administration in place and the Army was the only sound organisation standing firm between Punjab and chaos.

### 22<sup>nd</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1947

Arson, slaughter, forcible conversions, and large scale abductions of women on both sides

were on the increase. Troops were flat out everywhere, meeting heavy opposition and were themselves suffering casualties. Sialkot and Sheikhupura were the worst hit in West Punjab, while Ludhiana painted a horrific picture in East Punjab. During one incident, non-Muslim troops raised questions on the action of Muslim troops of their own unit against Sikh looters. Each side started accusing the troops of the other side of becoming partisan to the mobs of same faith. And this became common with every passing day, with fear of fight breaking out among the troops of the Force.



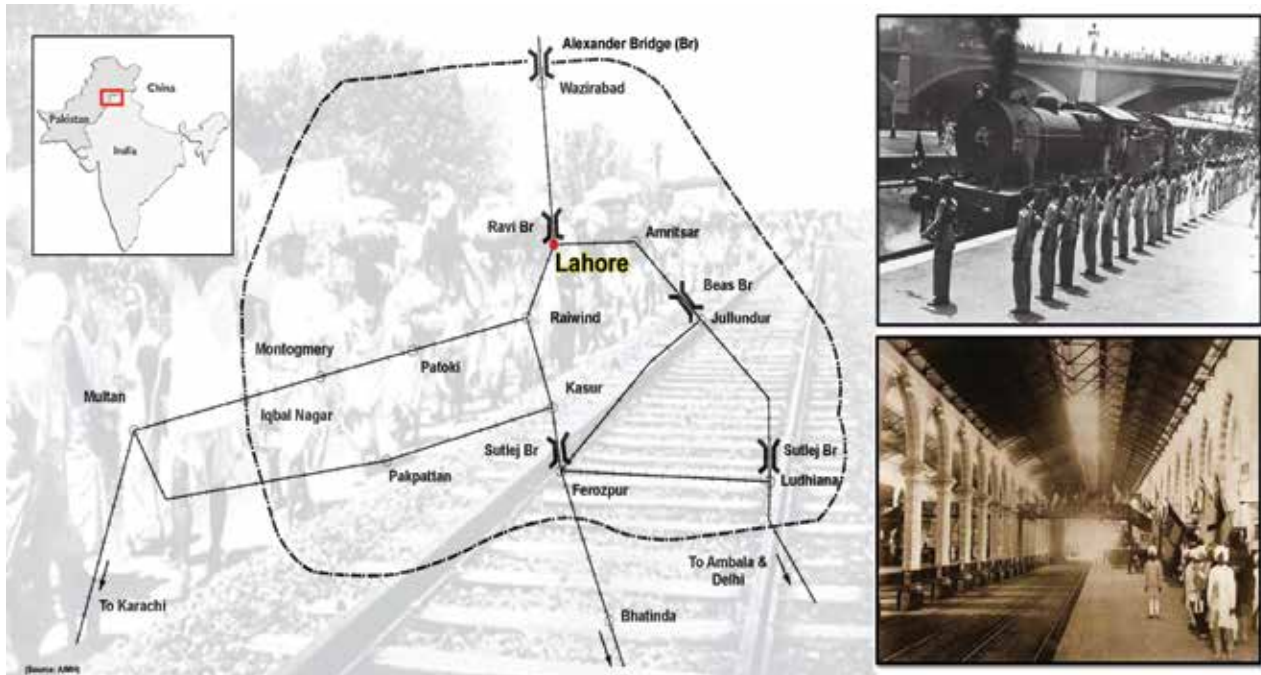
*A caravan of refugees* (Source: tribune.com.pk)

Consequently on 25 August, General Rees was summoned to Delhi to report on the situation to the JDC. The matter was discussed at length. The growing danger of troops becoming seriously affected, and any small incident precipitating fighting within the Army with results fatal to both dominions, were also discussed. F.M. Auchinleck pressed for early handing over of responsibility to both the dominions.

Meanwhile terror continued, there were numerous train attacks especially on Pakistan



*A refugee train* (Source: thediplomat.com)



Map: Area of Responsibility of Punjab Boundary Force - Train Routes, Guard of Honour to a refugee train (top right), Lahore Railway Station (bottom right) (Source: pinterest.co.uk)

specials, with very heavy casualties to civilians. At the end of the month, rain added to the miseries of refugees mostly migrating to Pakistan. Rains impeded refugees movement and enabled the attackers to get among them, especially when they were trying to cross the swollen rivers. Hundreds and thousands of corpses were seen floating in River Ravi.

On 29 August, there was a meeting of the JDC at Lahore. Besides others, Mountbatten and Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah were



Quaid-e- Azam with Mountbatten (Source: telegraph.co.uk)

also present in the meeting. The GOC was asked to report on the current situation, which was that the trouble was continuing unabated, and

for the most part was dying down only after the bulk of killing and destruction was completed. Police of both sides was completely partisan. There was a complete breakdown of the civil administration on both sides. Communalism had crept in the Indian Army units, and there was a danger of fighting breaking out among the troops themselves.

## The Decision for Disbandment

The decision was taken during the same meeting to split the PBF and to hand over responsibilities to both dominions. General Rees had proposed that the refugee problem should be looked after by a high level organisation with unified control. Although there had been mass killings during the month of August, PBF did manage to avert many more casualties, suffering considerable losses to its own men. The force had to look after a huge area of responsibility which was certainly beyond the capabilities of an under-strength force, consisting of Muslims and non-Muslims, who were bound to fall victim to communalism themselves. The Force did manage, despite heavy slaughter on refugee trains, a transition of around 6 million refugees





to either side of the border. It is hard to give an exact figure of total casualties during one month life of PBF, but it is estimated that it could be several hundred thousand, including greater numbers in the following months. The disbandment of the Force was followed by re-locating Muslim and non-Muslim units to their respective dominions. Thereafter, both the dominions operated in their respective areas for maintenance of law and order.

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# Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict; Impact on Regional Geopolitics, Future Warfare and Relevance to South Asia

By Brigadier Sohail Nasir Khan, retired

*“He sent against them, birds in flocks, to strike, and destroyed them”  
(Al-Quran, 3-5/105).<sup>1</sup>*



Map: Erstwhile USSR (Source: britannica.com)

The genesis of Nagorno-Karabakh issue lies in the erstwhile Union of Soviet Socialist Republics' (USSR) colonial manipulation of borders to stoke internal disharmony and suppress nationalism. With the demise of USSR in 1991, the isolated Armenian-dominated enclave within Azerbaijani borders led to Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict that lingered on for three years, displacing millions and killing thousands. The 1994 ceasefire drew a line of contact, froze the conflict and left it to simmer for the next three decades, with occasional clashes. Armenian aggression in July this year (2020) went unnoticed, despite Azerbaijan's protest and proved to be the precursor to a full scale war in

September 2020 that seemed a *bad omen*<sup>2</sup> for regional as well as world peace. This conflict in the Caucasus besides military repercussions also had geopolitical implications and dragged in Turkey<sup>3</sup> that is actively supporting Azerbaijan, Russia that is arming both former colonies but supporting Armenia under obligations of regional security pact Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO-2002<sup>4</sup>) to actively help her



Minsk Group  
(Source: nation.com.pk)



CSTO emblem  
(Source: en.wikipedia.org)

(and now has deployed regional peacekeeping force) amidst raising concerns of *Minsk Group*<sup>5</sup> (functioning under organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE<sup>6</sup>) chaired by Russia, France, USA, and participated by ten other countries to resolve Nagorno-Karabakh issue since 1992). Armenian ethnic claim<sup>7</sup> despite being the aggressor<sup>8</sup> vis a vis legal Azerbaijani claim,<sup>9</sup> has culminated in a partial victory for Azerbaijan. This situation has an uncanny resemblance to Kashmir issue in the South Asian region, between



Map: Conflict zone - Nagorno-Karabakh (Source: ymca.int)



Map : South Asia  
(Source: AIMH)



India and Pakistan, where a humanitarian issue of self-determination lay hostage to Indian aggression based on a controversial piece of evidence attributed to an unpopular, cunningly self-centred and retreating ruler.<sup>10</sup> Simmering for the last 73 years, the issue has potential to lead to a conflict between two nuclear powers unless addressed as per UN resolutions.<sup>11</sup>

Nagorno-Karabakh reflects a perplexing perception that mingles history, lawfare, geopolitics,<sup>12</sup> perception management and technology to create varying versions of the truth for both domestic and international audiences. While international media focused on fighting, it is a conflict largely seen and read through official tweets, YouTube videos, Facebook posts



Social media (Source: impactplus.com)

and emails,<sup>13</sup> ushering in a new age of warfare where drones are swarming the battlespace, making concealment subservient to deception, observing and destroying targets (including armoured vehicles) besides recording HD videos to help belligerents dominate propaganda narrative.<sup>14</sup> Long range weapons, especially artillery, have been used with unprecedented accuracy and precision, due to observation data feedback of drones. The conflict has also sparked a debate about efficacy of tanks as weapons of future warfare besides emphasising the need “to build a force fit for new age of warfare”.<sup>15</sup>

## Drone Warfare

Modern drone strikes made their debut with the *Predator* just a few weeks after 9/11,<sup>16</sup>



Modern warfare and Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (Source: dailymail.co.uk)

and have thence been effectively used against soft targets and high value targets (HVT). Coordinated and effective use of drones with other long range weapons on the battlefield was initially displayed by Turkey against Syrian/



Drones - UCAV Harop (Source: defense-update.com)

Bayraktar TB2 (Source: defenseworld.net)

Russian forces earlier this year<sup>17</sup> (2020) and has been repeated with similar precision in Azerbaijan (using Israeli Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle - UCAV *Harop*<sup>18</sup> and Turkey’s *Bayraktar TB2*<sup>19</sup>). Having seen use in Syria, Libya, Iraq and Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) insurgents and nearly eight years after its first flight, the affordable \$ 5 Million TB2 drone is now used by Libya, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Qatar, Turkmenistan and Oman.<sup>20</sup> Drones are cheap, effective, overwhelming and wealthy countries are struggling to field an effective defence against swarms of small expendable drones,



Swarm technology (Source: thedailyguardian.com)



CH 901 vehicle (Source: defence.pk)

giving the advantage to the attacker for the time being.<sup>21</sup> China has tested swarm technology<sup>22</sup> and her loitering munition (vehicle/helicopter based CH 901 with 20 lbs warhead) resembles US Aero Vironment's Switch Blade 300<sup>23</sup> (with 5



Switch Blade 300 (Source: militaryfactory.com)

lbs warhead, whereas later version Switch Blade 600 has 50 lbs warhead), with armour piercing as well as fragmentation warheads. US Navy's *Locust Swarming* attack drone is in development



Locust swarming attack drone (Source: yuzczr.xyz)

since 2015 as per Forbes and Pentagon is working to organise its counter drone efforts, and is key Department of Defence priority in 2020.<sup>24</sup> All these drones can be used in swarms, working in a group of 20 or above, with directed or autonomous operation, function without need of GPS, have tablet based tap-to-target guidance, literally undetectable (electric motors)

and are too overwhelming to be responded to by contemporary air defence systems. The expanding array of relatively low-cost drones can offer countries air power at a fraction of the cost of maintaining a traditional air force.<sup>25</sup> Coupled with unprecedented accuracy and precision of long range weapons, it poses a credible threat and needs to be analysed for its impact on likely future war scenarios. Considering the likelihood of an India-Pakistan conflict in future, such a capability can substantially help offsetting Indian dominance on battlefield as a cheaper, effective and viable counter measure.

## Tank Warfare

With developments of airpower, missiles and drones recently, role of armour appears to be curtailed, but tank has outlived such confident predictions about its end since 1950s (due to ATGMs).<sup>26</sup> However, it must be acknowledged



Use of ATGMs (Source: en.wikipedia.org)

that effects of massed Turkish drones combined with long range artillery / rockets strikes against Syrian tanks and armoured vehicles have major implications for viability of traditional armour manoeuvre warfare on the battlefield,<sup>27</sup> and its effective use sparked controversy in the UK about the need to maintain many of the British main battle tank Challenger 2.<sup>28</sup> Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) attributes destruction of tanks in Karabakh conflict to flawed use of tanks, and success to density of sensors, challenging



Turkish drones (Source: flipboard.com)



*Tank-Challenger 2* (Source: defensenews.com)



*An Azeri tank* (Source: mbs.news)

conventional balance in combined arms warfare,<sup>29</sup> whereas, Bateman is certain that drones haven't made tanks obsolete.<sup>30</sup> In today's battlefield, camouflage and darkness offers no safety because of drones and it is a fact that if you control sky, you control the ground.<sup>31</sup> In future, an effective armoured force would need anti-drone features to ensure optimum utilisation of their strengths of mobility, protection and firepower. Dry mountains of Nagorno-Karabakh



*Dry mountains of Nagorno-Karabakh*  
(Source: travel2unlimited.com)

are not good tank country, tanks are usually used in tandem with ground forces, and the ones shown destroyed in videos are mostly due to land mines and guided missiles with enhanced accuracy because of drones.<sup>32</sup> Camouflage and concealment has to be linked with deception to achieve the needed element of surprise.

Conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh may be limited in scope, but provides vital indicators for future war fighting, and tanks need accompanying Electronic Warfare (EW) units, wide dispersion and offensive use of drones. Every piece of military equipment has some

limitations, and it is in the integration of systems that the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts.<sup>33</sup> Nagorno-Karabakh has brought to the fore the efficacy of UCAV in warfare, and India is likely to procure cheaper drones for any



*Drone strikes of UCAV* (Source: yuzczr.xyz)

future conflict.<sup>34</sup> It holds good for Pakistan as well, especially in the backdrop of contemporary Indian thinking.<sup>35</sup> The lessons from this conflict are consistent with those of other wars in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century: it is much better to have a smaller ground force that is well defended from the air than large armoured forces that are completely exposed to sensors and airpower above.<sup>36</sup> Alternatively, the other viable option is to enhance air cover / dominance through a fleet of affordable drones, to ensure needed liberty of action for mechanised forces. It is an issue of technology and terrain, that can be mitigated by tactics.

## Perception Management

While the international media focuses on fighting, it is a conflict largely seen and read through official tweets, YouTube videos, Facebook post and emails.<sup>37</sup> The role of



contemporary media is overwhelming in understanding war. A simple matter of jurisdictional issue as per international law, has been *spin doctored* into a matter of nationalism, geopolitics and lawfare to manage conflicting perspectives through the use of technology, involving cameras fixed in the nose of missiles and rockets. Resultantly, reality has become a matter of perception management. This can have a substantial impact on how we fight war, how it is perceived or understood, and implies that our media policy must foresee and layout a comprehensive strategy for media usage in any future war. One probable reason of unresolved Kashmir issue is the effectiveness of Indian media narrative vis-à-vis Pakistan



(Source: thequint.com)

narrative, despite being the aggressor. Pakistani media should highlight Kashmir issue more proactively, giving it considerable screen time on a routine basis, as our next generation is becoming oblivious of this intricate issue,



Indian media (Source: geopolitica.ru)

because of Indian media dominance. Creating a favourable media environment, and narrative supporting our national objectives in our daily lives and more importantly during war is cardinal in today's post-truth society based on managed and crafted perceptions.

## Lawfare

Importance of lawfare in modern conflict, especially Nagorno-Karabakh, cannot

be overemphasised. No matter how both projected their perspectives, it needed to be legally justified. USA has included lawfare in the list of its twenty first century principles of war<sup>38</sup> and it duly deserves this place because of its significance in contemporary arena of international relations. This remains Pakistan's primary option to resolve Kashmir and other issues. Unfortunately, the aspect presently gets cursory treatment only, as an additional rationale for articulating a point of view, whereas it needs to become the primary strand to weave and present a national perspective on different issues. Public international law should be included in our course syllabi at military and civilian training institutions for officers. Relevant civilian and military departments should have exclusive international law sections, to assess and advise leadership on legal aspects effecting the future warfare for domestic as well as international audiences.

## Future of Warfare in South Asia

The immediate outcome of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is a ceasefire through Russian mediation, but from a strategic perspective, it further complicates the situation without addressing causative issues. Insertion of physical troops from Russia and Turkey in conflict complicates the overall geo-political equation in region, especially the development of Chinese belt-road initiative (BRI) as well as proximity to the major energy corridor (oil and gas) from Baku to the western world through Georgia and Turkey.<sup>39</sup> It is somewhat analogous to Kashmir issue in South Asia with possible intervention of super-powers, to ensure implementation of BRI and creation of an international energy corridor for Central Asian Republics (CARs) through Pakistan (CPEC). Given Indian influence and her inclinations to make Pakistan irrelevant in geo-strategic context, a similar situation may be made possible through a short conflict on a manipulated and managed pretext, based on our global reputational deficit and coupled with



Energy corridor from Azerbaijan to western world  
(Source: silkroadbriefing.com)



Drone (MQ-9 Reaper) (Source: defenseneews.com)

rhetoric of dangers to world peace between overt nuclear powers of South Asia. Once super powers are involved for a *peaceful role*, a similarly fractured resolution of Kashmir can be forced. Though possibilities of such a scenario seems remote at present, but such a probability must not be ruled out, and warrants a pragmatic analysis of visualising Pakistan's response for emergence of such a geo-strategic milieu in future in the region.

The mosaic of future warfare in South Asia would certainly include India because of geographic imperatives (the only country to have borders with all), as well as geo-political reasons of nurturing an extremist political vision of *Hindutva*, accompanied by an aggressive policy in the region, though limited only to power projection on all smaller neighbours.



(Source: play.google.com)

Enmeshed presently in an embarrassing conflict with China in Ladakh, Indian arrogance is embodied in her military's concept of *Two Front War*. The mismatch between capability and ambition is indicative of an irrational approach that can result in aggression against Pakistan. Despite the nuclear overhang Indian ambition of short and high tempo war to *teach Pakistan a lesson* is real and its manifestation, based on swift mechanised thrusts, is a possibility. India is indigenously manufacturing drones, besides acquisitions from Israel, and IAF is in consultation with USA to buy UCAVs like MQ-9, Reaper. She has also

recently inked an agreement with USA (BECA - Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement) for sharing Geo-spatial Data to enhance ISR capabilities, refine target acquisition for long range munitions and drones and acquiring updated geographic information for situational awareness. Drawing pertinent lessons from ongoing conflicts around the world, India should possibly be brainstorming these capabilities to remain dominant in projected conflicts with Pakistan. The Indian effort to create such a capability through Israeli / US collaboration remains significant, and would affect any probable future war scenario in the region.<sup>40</sup> For such an eventuality, the paradigm of proportional and befitting response warrants investment in future EW capabilities and drone technology to



Electronic warfare (EW) (Source: c4isrnet.com)

offset numerical advantage, and through agility and superior doctrinal orientation of our armed forces.

The need to *build a force fit for new age of warfare*<sup>41</sup> is of utmost essence. For traditional powers, such effective use of drones in war has prompted concern over the changing power dynamic across the world, as it gives middle tier powers the ability to inexpensively punch over their weight, by using cheaper Israeli, Chinese and Turkish drones.<sup>42</sup> The wide variety of drone



Drone technology (Source: esjnews.com)



Pakistani drone - Burraq (Source: defence.pk)

roles, varying between observation and right upto destruction, are likely to play a major part in future warfare. Their acquisition and usage in our future military operations must be pursued with vigour. Besides present acquisitions from abroad, it is extremely important that Pakistan develops an indigenous production base to minimise continuous reliance on foreign sources. Swarming battlefield<sup>43</sup> with drones is overwhelming and their integration with

mechanised forces can be very beneficial to us in any future war in our region. American technology is sophisticated, costly and comes with a lot of attached strings. Our best endeavour lies in getting relatively affordable and acquirable Turkish and Chinese drones on transfer of technology (ToT) basis. The contemporary environment and relations with both at present offer an opportunity to equip Pakistan with such a capability for future warfare. Carpe diem!

## Notes

1. 105<sup>th</sup> chapter of Holy Quran explains the incident of powerful King Abraha who led an expedition of a powerful army to Makkah to destroy Kaaba. This seemingly invincible army with elephants was divinely defeated through flying flocks of birds who threw stones on them from above and it was completely destroyed.
2. Stonski, Paul, "The Nagorno-Karabakh is a Bad Omen", Carnegie Endowment For International Peace, Commentary, 14 October, 2020.
3. Turkey has traditional links and strongly supports Azerbaijan. Azeri people are Turkic speaking race with abundant oil/gas reserves since centuries. Two large important oil and gas lines pass through Turkey via Tbilisi, so Turkey has geo political interests to safeguard as well.
4. Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) is a Russia led regional military alliance of six former soviet states (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Krgyzstan and Russia) to ensure collective response to aggression against region or any member state. It began as Collective Security Treaty of nine states in 1994, but Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Georgia left it in 2000. ([www.evnrepot.com](http://www.evnrepot.com)).
5. OSCE Minsk Group was created in 1992 to encourage a peaceful negotiated resolution to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh. It is jointly chaired by Russia, USA and France with ten other countries as members including both fighting states. In last 28 years it has been unable to negotiate a peaceful solution to Nagorno-Karabakh issue.
6. With 57 participating states in North America, Europe and Asia, the OSCE (the organisation for security and cooperation in Europe) in world's largest regional security organisation. It works for stability, peace and democracy for a billion people through political dialogue about shared values and practical work to make lasting difference. [www.osce.org](http://www.osce.org).





7. Nagorno-Karabakh was kept in Azerbaijan by Stalin in 1921 as an independent oblast, despite Armenian majority, besides creating independent oblast of Nakhchivan of Azeri majority from Armenian territory. However, today even Armenia does not recognise Nagorno-Karabakh as independent country.
8. Armenia is presently controlling over 15% area of Azerbaijan which it occupied in 1994 conflict on a flimsy pretext of helping ethnic Armenians. To create physical contiguity to Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia holds surrounding seven Azerbaijanian districts, otherwise there is no ground link.
9. Nagorno-Karabakh alongwith seven surrounding districts are recognised as part of Azerbaijan territory by UN/World and is as such stated even in UN resolutions on conflict (822,853,874,884).
10. Premeditated invasion and occupation of J&K on 27 October 1947, nearly few hours after Hari Singh inked a controversial pact with India, remains at the core of controversy. For detailed accounts refer to Alastair Lamb's "Kashmir, A Disputed Legacy 1846-1990", Oxford University Press, New York, 1991.
11. It is the oldest conflict on UN agenda (since 1947) and simmering since 73 years despite passage of over 17 UN resolutions on it. J&K has cultural, social, geographical, demographic and historical contiguity with Pakistan besides strategic significance as source of its rivers, the issue lingers on due to Indian stubbornness and exploitation. Its potential as nuclear flashpoint is masked by dominance of Indian narrative in media and her diplomatic clout. World must comprehend the implied desolation in such a conflict, the sooner, the better.
12. Traditionally as area of Russian influence, South Caucasus creates a geopolitical mosaic of conflicting interests today. Russia would like dominance by virtue of Minsk Group and CSTO whereas Turkey aims at prominence from ethnic, religious and interest based (oil/gas pipelines) perspectives. OSCE considers it important for influencing regional dynamics and World trade in oil and gas through Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC), Baku-Tbilisi-Supsa (BTS) and Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum (BTE-Gas). Armenian threat to target these lines, as they pass close to Nagorno-Karabakh is significant in its effect on international stage.
13. Robert Forestier, "Nagorno-Karabakh: Information War and Competing Media Narratives", 28 September 2020 at [www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/9/28/nagorno-karabakh-information-war-and-competing-media-nattatives](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/9/28/nagorno-karabakh-information-war-and-competing-media-nattatives) accessed on 20 October, 2020.
14. Alex Gatopoulos, "The Nagorno Karabakh is Ushering in a New Age of Warfare", 11 October, 2020, at [www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/10/11/nagorno-karabakh-conflict-ushering-in-new-age-of-warfare](http://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/10/11/nagorno-karabakh-conflict-ushering-in-new-age-of-warfare). Also refer to Nabih Bulus, "A New Weapon Complicates an Old War in Nagorno-Karabakh, Los Angeles Time, 15 October, 2020, accessed via [www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-10-15/drones-complicates-war-armenia-azerbaijan-nagorno-karabakh](http://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-10-15/drones-complicates-war-armenia-azerbaijan-nagorno-karabakh) accessed on 20 October, 2020.
15. Attributed to CGS British Army General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith while addressing a seminar, as quoted in RUSI. Refer Watling, Jack; "The Key to Armenia Tank Loses: The Sensors, Not the Shooters", RUSI, 6 October 2020, via [www.rusi.org](http://www.rusi.org) accessed on 16 October 2020.
16. [www.nbcnews.com](http://www.nbcnews.com) accessed on 16 October 2020.
17. Turkey's 'Operation Spring Shield' was launched following February 2020 joint Russian / Syrian forces attack in Idlib, which killed 36 Turkish soldiers (Hurriyet, February 2020). An innovative concept of operation based on drone warfare integrated with long range artillery / rocket system in a high tempo operation to overwhelm Syrians Arab Army. Initially Air Defence system based on Russian Panstir was destroyed followed by coordinated attacks using drones for ISTAR. Refer to "Turkey Transfers Drone Warfare Capability to its Ally Azerbaijan" by Can Kasapoglu, 15 October 2020 in volume 17/issue 44 of Eurasian Daily Monitor, accessed at [www.jamestown.org](http://www.jamestown.org).
18. Harop is a loitering munition system developed by Israel Aerospace Industries primarily as SEAD-



- optimised anti radar homing system. It can function autonomously or human-in-the loop mode with 6-8 lbs warhead. It is in service with Azerbaijan. India is also negotiating to buy eight to ten systems as per Janes Defence Weekly of 28 August 2007. Turkey is reported to be the launch customer for Harop in 2005 (<https://www.airforce-technology.com/projects/haroploiteringmuniti/> as accessed on 22 October 2020).
19. “Bayraktar TBs” makes the first indigenous armed UCAV system of Turkey that falls in Medium Attitude Long Endurance (MALE) category. Bayraktar means ‘Standard-bearer’ in Turkish and can carry four missile, including ATGMs. It has been effectively used to decimate Armenian tanks, AD system and other soft targets. Yet no confirmed data for analysis exists
  20. Bensaid Adam, “Turkey’s TB2 Drones are changing Modern Warfare”, TRTWORLD at [www.trtworld.com](http://www.trtworld.com) accessed on 27 October 2020.
  21. [www.bbcnews.com](http://www.bbcnews.com), “Cheap Drones from Turkey, China and Israel are fueling conflicts like Nagorno-Karabakh”, accessed on 13 October, 2020. Also refer to [www.euraia.com](http://www.euraia.com), “Clash of Drones: How Israeli and Turkish Drones Have Created Havoc in Azerbaijan-Armenia War”, accessed on 10 October 2020, by Eurasian Time Desk.
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  26. Thediplomat.com, “Tank Vs Drones Isn’t Rock, Paper and Scissors” accessed on 18 October, 2020.
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## About the author



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# Pilot Officer Rashid Majeed Minhas, shaheed, NH

A legacy of bravery and sacrifice

By Group Captain Masroor ul Hassan , retired



Young Rashid Minhas  
(Source: tribune.com.pk)

The day of 20<sup>th</sup> August 1971 was bright with a westerly wind and moderate temperatures. Weather was suitable for inexperienced under training pilots to fly solo. Three student pilots of No.2 Squadron were scheduled for solo flights that day. Two of the students had already taken off and headed towards training areas to consolidate air exercises learnt hitherto. All operations were routine and usual, until the air traffic controller at PAF Base Masroor spotted, at 1131 hours, a trainer aircraft T-33 also called T-Bird, entering



T-33 , The Bird tandem seat trainer (Source: youtube.com)

runway 27 without permission. Since all aircraft movements on the ground and in the air are meticulously regulated by duty controllers, and no aircraft can move, let alone enter the *active* (runway in use) without clearance, the incident was a blatant violation of standard operating procedures (SOPs).

The controller on duty was alarmed and demanded the call sign of aircraft which had started take off run by that time. There was no response from the aircraft. The controller immediately apprised the Officer Commanding (OC) Flying Wing of the situation, and added that the aircraft was turning left after takeoff, which again was an unusual practice. After informing higher authorities, the OC Flying ordered a pair of F-6 fighters to scramble and intercept the unruly T- Bird, now heading towards our eastern

(Indian) border. He then rushed to the control tower to oversee the emerging contingency. The F-6 formation being much faster, was closing on the T-33 when given vectors towards the expected position of the subject aircraft, which was probably flying below the radar horizon, thus not appearing on radar console. By this time the air traffic controllers had figured out the identity of the pilot flying that T-Bird. It was to be flown by young under training Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas, who had requested for and was given clearance to taxi at 1126 hours.



F-6(MIG 19) fighter interceptor  
(Source: pinterest.com)

Reconstruction of events later revealed that Rashid Minhas was not alone at the time of unauthorised take off. Flight lieutenant Matiur Rahman, a Bengali instructor pilot in NO. 2 Squadron and Flight Safety Officer (FSO), had signalled Rashid to stop on the taxi track leading towards the runway. Rashid, seeing Mati, must have envisaged some malfunction affecting safety of the mission. He stopped, opened the canopy and removed his oxygen mask to speak to the instructor. Matiur Rahman was seen putting a cloth on Rashid's face, covering his nose. The cloth was probably soaked in chloroform which rendered Minhas unconscious. Matiur Rahman hopped into the rear cockpit and started to taxi for takeoff, closing the canopy in the meanwhile. The rear cockpit was prepared for solo flight so Rahman



Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas  
(Source: nation.com.pk)



could not strap himself up with the seat. He was however, a very experienced instructor pilot and managed nap-of-the-earth flying after takeoff to avoid radar detection. He underestimated Rashid's mettle. Chloroform could not keep him sedated for long and he started to regain consciousness within a few minutes. He figured out the gravity of the situation and understood



*Matiur Rahman*  
(Source: imdb.com)

that Matiur Rahman was hijacking the T-Bird towards India. He transmitted a radio call, "(Call Sign) -- is being hijacked." Control tower responded, "Hijacked by whom?" Rashid repeated the same message twice with no further information.

His voice indicated that there was a physical struggle going on when he was transmitting the calls. The T-Bird was found crashed 32 miles (51 kilometers) from the Indian border, near Thatta.



*Route of Rashid Minhas' plane* (Source: meemainseen.com)

What must have gone through the mind of the young pilot, is anybody's guess, but one thing can be said with certainty, that Rashid was too brave to be hijacked into the territory of the enemy he despised from early childhood. The young Minhas must have decided that allowing the defection of his plane would be unacceptable, and made a sacrifice of the highest kind, for which he was awarded the nation's highest gallantry award in combat, Nishan e Haider. With the

benefit of hindsight and evidence gathered by the investigating team headed by Group Captain Cecil Chaudhry, we may reconstruct the sequence of events with reasonable accuracy. According to Yawar A. Mazhar, writer for Pakistan Military consortium who had interviewed Cecil, the T-Bird had flown into the ground at high speed, nose first, instantly killing Rashid. The canopy was found at a distance and the rear cockpit was empty at the time of ground impact. Matiur Rahman's body with severe abrasions was found at some distance from the crash site. It looks that Rashid jettisoned the canopy and imposed negative Gs to throw unstrapped Matiur Rahman out of the cockpit. He did succeed in his attempt but the height was too little to recover from dive, and he flew into the ground, embracing martyrdom.



*Gp Capt Cecil Chaudhry*  
(Source: twitter.com)

This gallant young man, Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas, had graduated with 51<sup>st</sup> General Duty (Pilot) course which can boast to be one of the finest batches of the PAF. He flew T 6G Harvard during primary and basic flying training in PAF Academy, Risalpur. He passed out at the top of the course, securing the sword of honour. His course later produced three Chiefs of the Air Staff; one for the PAF, Air Chief Marshal Kaleem Saadat, and two for Bangladesh Air Force, Air Vice Marshal Fakhrul Azam and Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Rafiqul Islam. Group Captain (R) S.M. Hussaini gained



*T-6G trainer*  
(Source: Author)



*Gp Capt S.M. Hussaini*  
(Source: defence.pk)



51st G.D.(P) Course, PAF (Source: defence.pk)

international fame as PAF's painter, and arguably the world's leading military aviation artist today.

Rashid was born on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1951 in a Rajput family of Majeed Minhas and Rasheeda Minhas. He was the fourth child after three elder sisters. Being the first boy, he enjoyed extra love of his elder siblings, parents and older relatives. But instead of getting spoilt, he grew up to be a mature young man with a perpetual smile on his face. His father was Assistant Garrison Engineer in PAF Base Drigh Road, Karachi at the time of his birth. His early childhood was characterised by the urge to grow and achieve high goals. So when his father was posted in PAF Base Chaklala, he had to be sent to St. Mary's Cambridge school, Rawalpindi with his sisters at the tender age of three. He was a brilliant student who completed "O" and "A" levels from St. Patrick's High School, Karachi securing all "A" grades. He always fancied becoming a fighter pilot and most of his childhood toys were different types of airplanes. One of his maternal cousins was in Pakistan Navy.



Rashid Minhas with his father (Source: flickriver.com)



Cadet Rashid Minhas (Source: pinterest.com)

Young Rashid was inspired by his uniform and used to wear his hat the moment he would arrive to visit. Rashid had made a firm and conscious decision to join the PAF by the time he was in grade six. His mother never discouraged him, despite knowing very well the risk involved in military flying. His father Majeed Minhas was very friendly with him, and both shared good moments together. He was beside himself with joy when he was selected for pilot training in the PAF. The first person he shared the news with was none other than his now proud mother, Majeeda Minhas. His letters to his mother always conveyed the pride of an honourable cadet, and the satisfaction of a person who has seen his dream come true.

Who knew at that time that Rashid would write his name with own indelible blood, on the pages of the history of Pakistan? He is the youngest Nishan e Haider recipient in Pakistan, and the only one in the PAF. He embraced martyrdom on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1971 at noon, and made his family and entire nation proud.



Rashid Minhas at PAF College (Source: pinterest.com)



Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas during training (2nd from left-middle row) (Source: twunroll.com)



Nishan e Haider (Source: app.com.pk)

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَإِنِّ إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ



Grave of Rashid Minhas, shaheed

(Source: brandsynario.com)



Grave of Rashid Minhas, shaheed

(Source: twitter.com)



Road named after Rashid Minhas shaheed

(Source: facebook.com)

Pakistan Air Force Base at Kamra has been named PAF Base Minhas to remember the young shaheed, and motivate other young pilots. Pakistan Post issued and printed 500,000 postage stamps (denomination of



Stamp of Rashid Minhas, shaheed

(Source: defence.pk)

rupees two) in 2003, in his honour. One of the main roads in Karachi has also been named after Rashid Minhas Shaheed.

Rashid Minhas's short life can be described by Mirza Ghalib's poetry;

جزبہ بے اختیارِ شوق دیکھا چاہیے  
سینہ شمشیر سے باہر ہے دم شمشیر کا

## Notes

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## About the author



Group Captain Masroor ul Hassan, served as fighter Pilot in the PAF. He flew Strike Master BAC-167 in Saudi Arabia during the first Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, albeit not in direct combat. Served as instructor pilot in coveted Combat Commander School, he has about 7000 hours of flying experience. He is a graduate of Air War College besides holding M.Sc. degree in defence & strategic studies from Quaid-i-Azam University and M.Sc. degree from Karachi University in strategic studies.

*"The past changes a little every time we retell it"*

(Hilary Mantel)



## HMS Rawalpindi

*By Lieutenant Colonel Imran Hassan Khan Niazi, retired*

The P&O (Peninsular & Oriental) Steam Navigation Company commissioned the 16,697-ton ocean liner P&O SS *Rawalpindi* in



*HMS Rawalpindi* (Source: wrecksite.eu)

1925, on London-Bombay (now Mumbai)-Far East routes. Named after a major garrison city of British-India (present-day Pakistan), it was a regular and popular ship on the India run. The second of the four 'R' class sister ships, made by the P&O for the first time with facilities for carrying refrigerated stores, mainly fish and fruit. She could carry 307 first class and 288 second class passengers. She was a little under 548 feet in length and 30 feet of draught, and a fraction over 71 feet in breadth. Powered by two quadruple expansion four-cylinder steam engines with 15000 indicated horsepower, *Rawalpindi* had a service speed of 17 knots.

At the outbreak of World War II, she was requisitioned by the British Navy and converted into an armed merchant cruiser on 26th August 1939. Most of her civilian P&O crew were Royal Naval Reservists, and hence many of them were retained on the ship as well as her civilian name, but now commissioned as the '*HMS Rawalpindi*' (also addressed as *RMS Rawalpindi* in some accounts). She was modified at the Royal Albert Dock, London by R & H Green & Silley Weir. Eight 6-inch and two 3-inch guns of First World War vintage were mounted after the removal of aft funnel. She was employed on convoy protection work.



*HMS Rawalpindi after conversion*  
(Source: warfarehistorynetwork.com)

According to an account by *Royston Alfred Leadbetter*, one of the survivors, since being tasked, *HMS Rawalpindi* was on her third patrol on her doomsday. He also claimed that they sunk one German ship '*Gonsenheim*' during their second patrol. However, this claim could not be verified through any historical reference.

On 23 November 1939, she was on patrol between Iceland and the Faroes, when she encountered German battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*. According to battle account under article *AGAINST ALL ODDS - HMS RAWALPINDI* by Stephen Cashmore and David Bews (uploaded on *www.pandosno.co.uk*), the cruiser was on day's routine and intelligence reports indicated the presence of German pocket battleship *Deutschland* at large somewhere in the North Atlantic. *Rawalpindi*'s orders were to avoid combat should she spot her and immediately radio her position for despatch of interception.



*Deutschland* (Source: ww2ships.com)





At 1530 hours, under the dying winter sun of a cold and foggy afternoon, *Rawalpindi* sighted a ship's silhouette on the starboard horizon. Captain Edward Coverley Kennedy, a 60-years old reservist (father of future media figure Ludovic Kennedy) initially thought her to be a British cruiser of the Northern Patrol, but the experienced veteran still ordered 'Action Stations!'. Observing through his binoculars from the bridge under a twilight, soon he recognised the grey enemy battlecruiser, initially taking it as *Deutschland*. Fully understanding the gravity of the situation, he ordered to change course under smoke-screen with full speed towards the fog bank's enveloping shelter, and to radio 'enemy sighting' immediately. After failure of the smoke floats to ignite in freezing cold and drizzling rain, he instantly ordered a course change towards a large iceberg about 4 miles away, expecting a better promise of protection. However it was not to be, as the German warship, almost twice as fast as the *Rawalpindi*, quickly cut off her escape route. Captain Edward Kennedy was a man cast in the mould of Lord Nelson, who ignored *Gneisenau's* signals and warning shells with mere scorn. Now being certain of a German battleship but not *Deutschland*, he ordered an amended message. While the *Gneisenau* once again flashed, 'Heave to!' (a naval term to slow down for boarding the ship), another ship had been sighted to starboard at that very moment. Caught between two superior enemies, Kennedy realised that it was the end of the road and he announced; "**We'll fight them both, they'll sink us - and that will be that. Goodbye**". *Rawalpindi*, a hastily converted passenger liner with outdated guns and eggshell armour, was about to take on the mightiest warships in the *Kriegsmarine*.



*Gneisenau* (Source: forum.worldofwarships.com)

Having received *Rawalpindi's* radio message, the Home Fleet Headquarters had already despatched *HMS Newcastle*, *HMS Delhi*, heavy cruisers *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*, all hurrying full steam ahead to intercept the German battlecruisers, but it was all too late for *Rawalpindi*.



*Scharnhorst* (Source: padresteve.com)



*Rawalpindi's* 6-inch 45 calibre WW1 vintage bow gun (left) versus *Gneisenau's* main battery (right)  
(Source: laststandonzombieisland.com) (Source: padresteve.com)

This time *Scharnhorst* signalled 'Abandon your ship!'. According to Captain Hoffmann of 'Scharnhorst';

He was astonished at *Rawalpindi's* failure to respond. Was the captain mad? Surely no sane person would pit eight obsolete 6-inch guns against the combined weight of eighteen modern 11-inch monsters, firing at point-blank range of only 4 miles? From his vantage point on the ship's foretop, filled with a mixture of bewilderment and silent admiration, Hoffmann commanded the 'Abandon ship!' signal be repeated. It was - twice, and twice it went unheeded. With a heavy heart, Hoffmann prepared to give the signal for the *Scharnhorst* to open fire.

It was 1545 hours. Barely a quarter of an hour had gone by since *Rawalpindi's* first sight of the hostile vessels. Another 15 minutes



and it would all be over. At this very moment, a salvo of 6-inch shells from *Rawalpindi's* four port guns burst harmlessly against the second German battlecruiser, *Gneisenau*, commanded



Admiral Wilhelm Marschall  
(Source: military.wikia.org)

by Admiral Wilhelm Marschall. A similar salvo was on its way to Hoffmann's ship simultaneously. The gunnery of *Rawalpindi's* crew was good as they had practiced it often on the passing-by icebergs during routine patrolling, only that the weaponry was too weak for the German

monsters. The salvo on *Scharnhorst* caused some casualties at the quarterdeck while, though negligible, the outdated guns did cause some damage to *Gneisenau* as well. In reply, the first salvo from *Scharnhorst* slammed into the boat-deck, directly under the *Rawalpindi's* bridge, killing almost everyone on it and demolishing the radio room. A cluster of 11-inch shells from *Gneisenau* struck *Rawalpindi's* main gun control station, killing everyone there and immobilising one of her starboard guns. Caught in a murderous crossfire, *Rawalpindi* had no hope of survival. The undaunted Captain Kennedy having survived the direct hit on *Rawalpindi's* bridge, ordered Chief Petty Officer Humphries to instruct commanders of all seven surviving gun turrets to continue firing independently which they did, manhandling 6-inch shells from magazine to gun turrets amidst the storm of German shells. Ablaze from stem to stern, her guns being picked off one by one, *Rawalpindi* was doomed. In desperation, Captain Kennedy went aft with two ratings to try again and lay a covering smoke-screen, but in the process he was killed. He went down fighting as a true warrior. It was hopeless and there was nothing left but to abandon the ship. The boats were being lowered and seemed as if a good number of crew would

manage to be rescued, when at 1600 hours, a shell of *Scharnhorst's* 11-inch gun found *Rawalpindi's* forward magazine and the enormous explosion broke *Rawalpindi* in half. The stricken vessel began to sink and in the blazing chaos, a single British gun kept on firing, only two men of her crew still standing, and the story goes that other sailors vainly fired on the German ships with machine guns and even rifles.



Norman Wilkinson's "Rawalpindi's final action," a painting that hung in Pe&O's main London office for decades  
(Source: laststandonzombieisland.com)

Adding to the agony of the survivors, *Scharnhorst* while closing in for the kill, swung hard and swamped the lifeboats but then, in keeping with naval chivalry, the German battle-cruiser reduced speed and returned to rescue the survivors struggling in the freezing sea. She managed to pluck a few while, before *Rawalpindi's* broken structure turning turtle, some unidentified hero repeatedly sent a message from the inferno in Morse Code to the Germans: "please send boats". Admiral Marschall in the best tradition of the sea, ordered rescue. The desperate work of launching boats in this chaos, amidst crashing seas despite knowing for sure that *Rawalpindi* must have radioed the situation, is to their enormous credit. They stayed for an hour or so, doing everything in their power to save freezing seamen. However, the Germans had to finally return due to reports of Britain's fast approaching pursuit ships, thereby leaving some survivors stranded in the water and washing away some with their turn around splash. Despite all odds, *Rawalpindi* offered a valiant fight under an intense thirteen-minute



bombardment. She finally sunk in the cold grey waters at 2000 GMT, after drifting ablaze for three hours.

Contrary to some accounts, Captain Kennedy received a posthumous ‘Mentioned in Despatches’, the highest honour possible in the circumstances at the time. His famous words: ‘we will fight them both’, became the *HMS Rawalpindi*’s memorabilia slogan for all times to come.



Captain Edward Coverley Kennedy and his memorial in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

(Source: cdrsalamander.blogspot.com)

(Source: laststandonzombieisland.com)

Darkness was fast falling when the last 11 survivors were rescued by *HMS Chitral*, another war time cruiser (returned to P&O by Royal Navy in 1948). Only 37 out of 302 officers and crew survived, 26 of them were rescued by Germans and made prisoners. By now the first of the British warships had arrived on the scene. Soon, other battlecruisers including *Hood* and *Repulse* and battleship *Warspite* began converging on the forward track of the German cruisers. It looked as though the *Rawalpindi*’s defiance had entrapped the Germans. *HMS Newcastle* was in closest vicinity and arrived first, but it did not possess radar and could not take on both ships in combat. The rain now turned into a white wall of snow cutting down visibility. By the time the



*HMS Chitral*

(Source: pandosnco.co.uk)

snow cleared, the northern climate had already helped the German cruisers escape. Had the British possessed radar at this stage, it is doubtful whether *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* would have made it back. Nevertheless, *Rawalpindi*’s sacrifice had not been in vain after all. The encounter not only checked the *Kriegsmarine* breakout into Atlantic waters, but made them retreat under threat of retaliation, thereby abandoning further adventure.



They Sailed the Seven Seas: The P&O Story, a painting by Neville Dear (left) Survivors of Rawalpindi being addressed by Admiral Sir Charles Little, Illustrated London News, Saturday, 9th December 1939 (right)

(Source: fineartamerica.com)

(Source: wrecksite.eu)

*Rawalpindi*, was built by Harland & Wolff Ltd, Belfast, coincidentally the *Titanic* was built by the same company.



Builder’s model at the Maritime Museum Greenwich, London

(Source: laststandonzombieisland.com)



Display model at Imperial War Museum (Source: iwm.org.uk)

*HMS Rawalpindi* made the headlines in all leading newspapers including *The Daily*



(Source: laststandonzombieisland.com)



Headlines in the leading newspapers (Source: alamy.com)

Mirror, The Daily Telegraph, The Birmingham Gazette, The Daily Post, The Daily Mail etc.



HMS Duke of York firing at Scharnhorst (Source: padresteve.com)

Rawalpindi was at last avenged when Gneisenau was aerial bombed at dry-dock of Kiel, damaged beyond repair, on 26 February 1942 by the Royal Air Force. The Scharnhorst was sunk in the Battle of Cape North on

26 December 1943 by battleship Duke of York and cruiser HMS Belfast of Royal Navy, taking



Survivors of Scharnhorst debark on their way to internment (Source: iwm.org.uk)

with her 1,968 men in the icy seas of Norway. A mere 36 survived. It was a befitting tribute to Rawalpindi indeed.

It is not confirmed whether the Royal Navy reservists were given war medals or not. However, a special postcard and stamp were



Post Card and Stamps issued in remembrance of HMS Rawalpindi (Source: nativepakistan.com)

issued by Britain in 1974 to mark 35 years of her sinking, and again on the Day of Remembrance on 11 November 1989, as 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the loss of HMS Rawalpindi.

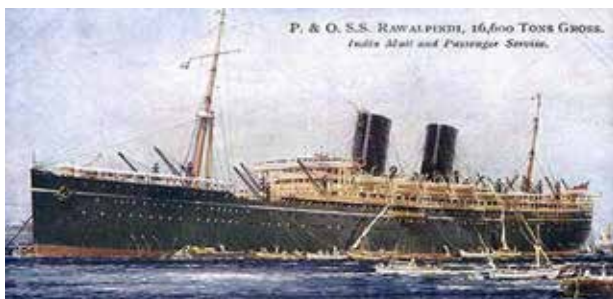
British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill paid tribute to HMS Rawalpindi and her crew in his book in the following words:

Her commanding officer, Captain Kennedy, could have had no illusions about the outcome of such an encounter. His ship was but a converted passenger liner with a broadside of four old 6-inch guns, and his presumed antagonist mounted 11-inch guns, besides a powerful secondary armament. Nevertheless he accepted the odds, determined to fight his ship to the last. The enemy opened fire at 10,000 yards, and the Rawalpindi struck back. Such a



one-sided action could not last long, but the fight continued until, with all her guns out of action, the Rawalpindi was reduced to a blazing wreck. She sank sometime after dark, with the loss of her captain and 270 of her gallant crew. Only 38 survived, 27 of whom were made prisoners by the Germans, the remaining 11 being picked up alive after thirty-six hours in icy water by another British ship. In fact it was not the Deutschland but the two battle-cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau which were engaged. These ships had left Germany two days before to attack our Atlantic convoys, but having encountered and sunk the Rawalpindi, and fearing the consequences of the exposure, they abandoned the rest of their mission and returned at once to Germany. The Rawalpindi's heroic fight was not therefore in vain.

(Source: Churchill, Winston, The Gathering Storm: The Second World War, Volume 1, Winston Churchill World War II Collection, page 445, RossetaBooks, Kindle Edition)



India Mail and Passenger Service Postcard Advertisement 'P. & O. S.S. Rawalpindi', 1927 (Source: ebay.com)



German pamphlet reporting sinking of Rawalpindi (Source: ebay.com)



End of HMS Rawalpindi' A painting by George Telford (Source: ebay.com)

HMS Rawalpindi's incident was one of the initial naval encounters of WW2. It was also an unprecedented fight back of a vessel which was neither designed nor equipped for a direct face-to-face combat. Had she seen through the war and gone back to P&O like many other wartime converted liners, she might not have earned such a distinction in the annals of maritime history. The only other example of such outstanding courage is of HMS Jervis Bay and Beaverford in November 1940.



HMS Jervis Bay (Source: warfarehistorynetwork.com)



HMS Beaverford (Source: military.wikia.org)

In 1930, Churchman's cigarettes by W.A & C.A of the Imperial Tobacco Company, Britain and Ireland issued a series of 25 named 'Life in a Liner; SS Rawalpindi' displaying her luxurious layout. In 1947, Amalgamated Tobacco Corporation South Africa included her in the twin series of 25 titled; 'Famous British Ships' in their trade advertisement cards. Sea Cadet Corps at Prince Albert, Canada (established 1942) has been named after Rawalpindi.



Crest of 118 Rawalpindi Royal Sea Cadet Corps (Source: paseacadets.ca)



Silver napkin ring with crest of HMS Rawalpindi (Source: ebay.co.uk)



Churchman's Cigarette Card 'Life in a Liner; SS Rawalpindi', 1930 (Source: ebay.com)



Trade Card by Amalgamated Tobacco, 1947 (Source: ebay.com)



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## 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 history student and has also compiled 150 years of his own battalion's history in 1999. After retirement, the officer is serving as Director of Composite Wing in Army Institute of Military History.*

*“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots”*

*(Marcus Garvey)*



## A Soldier of Many Shades

(The story of a Captain Abdul Jalil, Sitara e Jurat, an enthusiast for martyrdom, looking for an opportunity ...which he got during 1965 war)

By Dr. Ahmad Ali

Only extraordinary persons can turn opportunity into reality, and Abdul Jalil was one of them. Born in Peshawar in 1931, Abdul Jalil always sought to do different from others. He had a brilliant academic career as a student, he was an amateur singer, passionate traveller and an excellent athlete. During college days, Abdul Jalil made a record in pole vault which remained unbroken for many years. But it was a divine order that Abdul Jalil would join the Army, and make another record. After being commissioned from Officers' Training School (OTS) Kohat in



Capt Abdul Jalil  
(Source: Author)

1958, and serving as an education officer for a few years, Abdul Jalil finally landed in an infantry regiment<sup>1</sup> (3 Punjab) in 1961. Captain Abdul Jalil was a versatile officer who was destined to create history in his military career.



At OTS Kohat  
(Source: Author)

### Indo-Pak War of 1965 & Attack on Point 3807

Before Indo-Pak war in 1965, Captain Abdul Jalil was deputed to 14 Azad Kashmir Regiment as company commander. On the night of 06-07 September 1965, Charlie Company under his command, was given the mission to capture enemy's post at point 3807 (Kalidhar)<sup>2</sup> in Azad Kashmir, which overlooked Pakistani



Map: Location of martyrdom of Capt Abdul Jalil Shaheed (point 3807)  
(Source: Author)

military positions and movements, posing a serious threat. In order to gain the upper hand, Captain Abdul Jalil was deputed to the right forward company for this operation, to capture enemy's post. Shelling from the enemy side became intense when his company was only a 100 yards from the target. He kept moving in the battlefield with slogans *Nara e Takbeer, Allah O Akbar*. He led his men and attacked the enemy's bunker. After capturing the first, he didn't stop and moved to the second bunker.<sup>3</sup> During this charge an enemy machine gun burst struck his chest. He fell but kept encouraging his men. His last words were "we must destroy every enemy in this post". He embraced martyrdom on 07 September 1965, the dream of so many, but only chosen ones could achieve. Captain Abdul



Dr Muhammad Ali standing in line to receive SJ of Capt Abdul Jalil shaheed from FM Ayub Khan (Source: Author)



Grave of Capt Abdul Jalil shaheed (Source: Author)

Jalil was posthumously awarded *Sitara-i-Jurat* for this utmost sacrifice.<sup>4</sup> Dr. Muhammad Ali<sup>5</sup> received the military award of Captain Abdul Jalil from President Field Marshal Muhammad Ayub Khan in 1966.

Captain Abdul Jalil was buried at his

family cemetery at Peshawar with military honours. Captain Jalil once said to his friend, “If I die, I want to die like a soldier, fighting on the battlefield, not on the way to the battlefield and being hit by some bullet or bomb before the war starts”. And he fulfilled his commitment.

## Notes

1. Posting/Transfer from AEC to infantry 3 Punjab GHQ letter No 0389/26/MS-4C dated 13 July 1961.
2. History of Azad Kashmir Regiment, volume II,232-233.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Father of Dr Ahmad Ali, author of the article.

## About the author



Dr. Ahmad Ali is a doctor of medicine and psychiatrist by profession. He is a nephew of Captain Abdul Jalil, shaheed and can be reached at [drahmad7@hotmail.com](mailto:drahmad7@hotmail.com)





## The Indomitable Soldier

*(Story of a warrior who refuses to give up...Ajmal Victor Samuel)*

By Lieutenant Colonel Nayyar Sajjad, retired

*In this era of global pandemic, everything seems negative. We can be inspired to be strong, positive and hopeful by those who have shown resilience in overcoming tremendous challenges without ever giving up. The story of Ajmal Victor Samuel whose life and struggles, achievements and success, really puts a lot of things into perspective when we feel down or want to give up.*

### An unexpected turn in fate

Ajmal was commissioned in 39 Signals Battalion in year 1986. After two years of service, while returning from Divisional Battle School (DBS) in Kotli, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the van in which he was travelling met with an accident and fell into a ravine. The driver was killed and Ajmal was severely injured. He was evacuated to CMH Rawalpindi where it was determined that he had a severe spinal cord injury, paralysing his lower body for the rest of his life at a very young age. With little facilities for treatment and rehabilitation in Pakistan, his father sent him to the United Kingdom at his own expense.



Lt Ajmal Victor Samuel  
(Source: ajmalsamuel.com)

After two years' treatment at a local hospital in England, Ajmal proceeded to Germany for higher education in computing. Ajmal finally reached Hong Kong in 1992 along with his father who got a job there.

### Set back after set back

Ajmal tried hard to find job in Hong Kong but no one was ready to employ a special person sitting on a wheel chair. Ajmal struggled for next 20 years, trying many jobs including computer technician in local firm, President and CEO of an ailing ticketing company which

he turned profitable and finally entrepreneur starting his own company which also collapsed few years later. In spite of all these set-backs, Ajmal continued on his entrepreneurial journey and in 2015, was able to buyout the same company in which he was working and once again took control of the payment business as the Chairman and CEO. Remember, Ajmal was in a wheel chair! In fact, as a result of that he was in constant chronic pain and relied on heavy doses of prescription opioids. In 2003, against the advice of his doctors, Ajmal stopped all his pain medication, which he believed was dulling his reflexes and mobility.



A fresh start

(Source: scmp.com)

### Sports: another chance at life

To counter this 'cold turkey' experience, he took up sports, starting with handcycling followed by rowing. With his determination, he became member of Hong Kong national team of rowing, representing his country in the Asian Games, the World Championships, as well as many other international competitions. Following are some of the medals which he has



Handcycling (Source: youtube.com)

won for Hong Kong:

- Asian Championships in Korea, 2018 – Gold Medal
- Australian National Championships in Sydney, 2015 – Silver Medal
- European Rowing Championships in Italy, 2015 – Silver Medal
- World Championships in 2015 in France – Ranked 20th in the world
- Asian Championships in 2015 in Beijing – Bronze medal



Medals won by Ajmal Victor (Source: youtube.com)

- Asian Games in Seoul, 2014 – Ranked 4th in Asia

In addition to rowing and cycling, he got a mastery in scuba diving, deep sea diving, costal rowing and long distance cross-country hand cycling. He rode his hand bike from Beijing to Mohe (the Chinese border with Russia) covering total distance of 2,615 km in 37 days. He is now planning to handbike from Karachi to Khunjerab.



Rowing (Source: youtube.com)



Deep Sea Diving (Source: youtube.com)

Ajmal's many participations in sports are often done to raise awareness for disabilities, but also to raise money for different charities.

Ajmal's life after his service in the Pakistan Army is surely inspirational. Let us not let the pandemic or any other challenges we may face get us down. Learn from Ajmal: never give up and you don't know where you will end up going!

## About the author



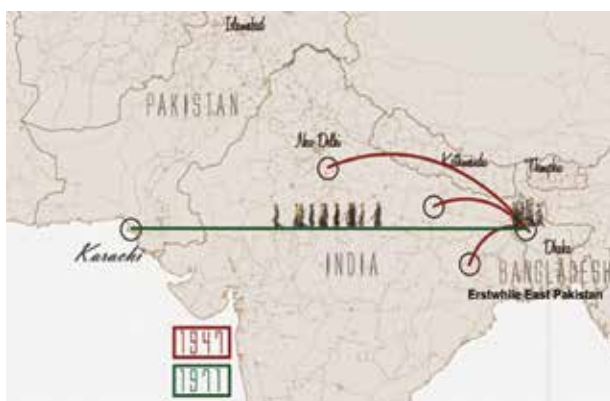
*Lieutenant Colonel Nayyar Sajjad, Tamgha-e-Imtiaz (Military) was commissioned in 54 Cavalry in 1986. The officer commanded his parent regiment and a mujahid infantry battalion. The officer served as grade-II staff officer in a corps headquarters and grade-I staff officer in School of Armour and Mechanised Warfare. Officer has remained Principal Multan Public School (Divisional School) for more than four years after retirement. He also remained on faculty of NUST in HRDC Multan.*



## Perilous Voyage to Akyab

By Major Mumtaz Hussain Shah, retired

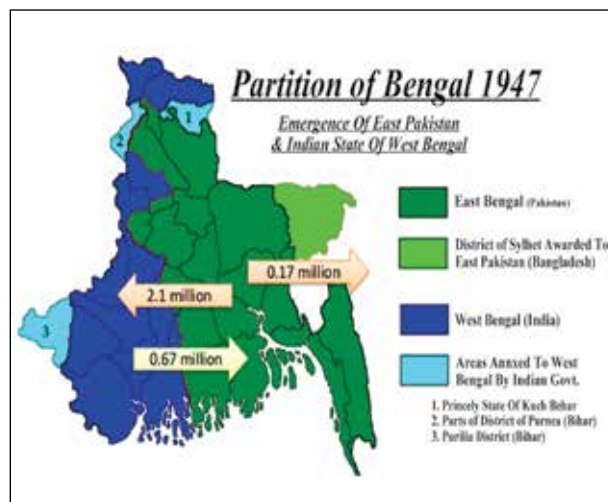
The truncation of Pakistan in 1971 is a traumatic event of our national history. The tragedy unleashed a spate of miseries for the non-Bengali population, especially the Urdu speaking community – Biharis. It triggered transfrontier migration, with few parallels in human history. The tragedy becomes heart-breaking in case of the Bihari community, as they were uprooted twice in two and half decades<sup>1</sup> (1947 & 1971). No such example exists in contemporary history.



Migration – 1947 and 1971 (Source: thenews.com.pk)

While serving at Chittagong Martial Law Headquarters as a staff officer, I came across a number of such terrorised Bihari families, who had already fallen prey to Bengalis' vendetta, or were under constant threats of elimination. Dr Shah Saleem-ud-Din – a septuagenarian was a well-to-do physician migrant from Bihar. His family was one of the highly educated ones, residing in a prominent mansion, *Al-Mushriq*,

in a posh area of Glaxo Hill, Chittagong.



(Source: quora.com)

Dr Shah's family had rendered invaluable services to Pakistan in general, and the region in particular. His eldest son was (then) a serving lieutenant colonel (now Brigadier retired) in the Pakistan Army, and posted to West Pakistan, while the second son; Shah Nusrat Saleem<sup>2</sup> (SNS) was an architect after graduation from Chittagong Engineering University. His third son Shah Abu Shees Salim (SASS) was a mining engineer and son-in-law; Syed Inam-ud-Din<sup>3</sup> was a genius civil and mechanical engineer and an entrepreneur *par excellence*. He was the director of his own Delta Construction Company Ltd<sup>4</sup> and Sunrise Enterprise Ltd<sup>5</sup>.

On 27<sup>th</sup> March 1971, Major Zia<sup>6</sup>

- 1 Interestingly, they were requested by Sheikh Mujib-ur-Rahman, who was then a student leader, to move to East Bengal, during his visit to Bihar after Hindu – Muslim riots in 1946. 25 years later, his Awami League was instrumental in Biharis' persecution when it surged to top political hierarchy.
- 2 SNS is the narrator of the story.
- 3 Syed Inam-ud-Din (1923 – 2008), graduated from NED Engineering College (now University), Karachi in 1951.
- 4 Delta Construction Ltd was one of three leading companies of East Pakistan. It was nationalised when Mujib assumed power.
- 5 Sunrise Enterprise Ltd had monopolised the manufacturing of buoys, shackles, chains and anchors – only one in the region, the other being Karachi Shipyard.
- 6 Major Zia was commissioned in Pakistan Army in 1955. He was second in command of 8 East Bengal Regiment (EBR), revolted and killed his West Pakistani commanding officer.



Chittagong Radio Station (inset: image of Major Ziaur Rahman)  
(Source: thedailystar.net)

announced independence of Bangladesh<sup>7</sup> from Chittagong Radio. The first to fall victim to Bengalis' brutalities was Dr Shah himself. In all pervasive anarchic conditions, no one felt safe. Dr Shah's personality and dominant family role was a benign attraction for both the distressed Bengalis and non-Bengalis. On outbreak of disturbances, many families sought refuge at Dr Shah's mansion.

As the mouths to be fed increased, Dr Shah ran short of food. On 1<sup>st</sup> April, he undertook a fatal errand to the city in his car, for procurement of groceries. He had gone to the market with a friend; Mr Mansoori and domestic cook Mafooz. Both were Bengalis. They never returned. However, Mansoori returned after four days with the news that Dr Shah was kidnapped by Bengali extremists from the market. A day later, Dr Shah was seen by his grandson Bazmi, being driven away in another vehicle to some unknown destination<sup>8</sup>. His car was found abandoned at a deserted place after a week.

About a month later, I was introduced to the family by a common friend, when they desperately sought the Army's help to trace out their missing elder. We launched a man-hunt for many such recurring cases. The results were distressing. A captured rebel spoke about Dr Shah's fate.<sup>9</sup> I took the family in confidence and told them the bitter reality. My frequent visits to the family brought me closer to the members, especially Mr and Mrs Inam and their children.<sup>10</sup> The couple developed a parental affinity for me, which lasted till both left this mortal world.

In August 1971, I was posted to 31 Punjab<sup>11</sup> for promotion. Though the Pakistan Army had established its writ, the animosity amongst locals and non-locals was soaring. Indian overt support to secessionists was fanning the smouldering fire. The pent-up hatred was bound to explode and the war with India was becoming a foreseeable reality.



Maintaining order in erstwhile East Pakistan  
(Source: erosbonazzi.altervista.org)

In case of war, the Army was to be redeployed on the borders, thereby reducing

7 Dr Nouman Bazmi – is the co-narrator of this story. He was the grandson of Dr Shah, son of Mr Inam, and was then a 10<sup>th</sup> class student. He heard the announcement of Major Zia from Chittagong Radio in these words, “*Aami shashdin Bangla biplo betar kendro thi ke Major Zia bolchi.* (I am Major Zia speaking from independent Bangla Radio station). From the roof top of Shah Mansion, he witnessed two PAF Sabers bombarding the Radio Station building.

8 No news about him since then. Only some swindlers contacted the family with uncorroborated evidence of the doctor being alive, and held in Indian captivity. They demanded a heavy amount to secure his release from Indian captivity.

9 After utilising his services for over a month and finding a Bengali doctor as a substitute, Shah was martyred.

10 Dr Syed Numan Bazmi was their eldest son. He is now Professor at Department of Community Medicine at Institute of Health Sciences, CMH, Bahawalpur.

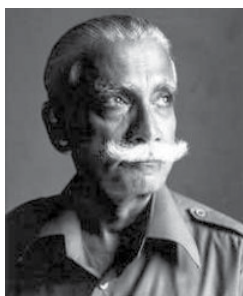
11 The battalion was located at Sylhet, nearly 400 km in the North East bordering Indian states of Tripura and Assam.



inwards vigil, which was bound to exacerbate the security threat – the brunt of which was to be borne by the unfortunate non-Bengalis, especially the Bihari community. While saying good bye to the Inam family, I requested them to move to Karachi the soonest possible, even temporarily, as some of their close relatives were already there. Mr Inam promised me to consider the proposal in earnest.

I felt relieved when in October, Mrs Inam informed me that she along with her mother, sisters and children have safely moved to Karachi. Inam and her two brothers SNS and SASS<sup>12</sup> were left behind to wind up their business and rejoin the family later.

In this grim scenario came December 1971 War with India, resulting in the tragic



Col M.A.G. Osmani  
(Source: facebook.com)

truncation of Pakistan. As expected, the Awami League (AL) and rebels spearheaded by Colonel Osmani and Major Zia-ur-Rahman unleashed a spate of barbaric reprisals, targeting mostly non-Bengalis, either killing them or forcing them to flee. It forced Shah's left-over family members into hideout. SNS<sup>13</sup> narrates the gory incidents



Persecution of Biharis (Source: nation.com.pk)

in the aftermath of the fall of Dacca.

On 17<sup>th</sup> December, the Indian army entered Chittagong and took control of the city. It gave a rude shock to the supporters of “independent” Bangladesh. Gradually, reality dawned. Many so-called freedom fighters were in tears when the actual Indian designs crystallised. It was not for the love of Bangladesh, but for the cause of “greater India.” Bangladesh was to become a vassal state of India. All the tall promises of Awami League appeared castles in the air. Most national assets of the newly born state were moved to India, in shortest possible time.



Non Bengali Population being tortured (Source: quora.com)

The dust settled gradually. Most of the non-Bengali population had either been eliminated, or forced to go underground or flee. The systematic persecution of non-Bengalis continued. The survival of marooned non-Bengalis became difficult. After seizing the immovable assets of non-locals, the local Bengalis started contacting stranded non-locals, for pushing them out to “safety”, and making quick bucks in the bargain. One such group - Zulu<sup>14</sup> contacted SNS for their trans-border evacuation. For the impending task, they demanded Pak Rupees 10,000/- per person.

SNS struck a deal for his brother SASS and two other friends, for their incognito

12 SASS was interviewed by the author on telephone, just before his death due to coronavirus recently.

13 SNS was interviewed by the author on telephone. He is a retired architect and settled in Karachi.

14 Zulu Group was a local fishermen group. Due to their frequent ingress to international waters for high sea fishing, they indulged in all sorts of nefarious activities such as; human trafficking, narcotics and commodities (jute/rice) smuggling to Myanmar (formerly Burma) with the connivance of coastal security forces of both BD and Myanmar.



**Standing from left:** Shah Abu Sheesh Salim (Mining Engineer), Syed Inamuddin (civil engineer and businessman), S.N. Bazmi Inam, Shah Nustat Salim (Architect), Muhammad Hayat (Civil Engineer), Brig Hashmat Salim, **Sitting left to right:** Wives, daughters, and daughters-in-law and their children. Dr Shah Salimuddin is sitting in the centre with his wife on his left.  
(Source: Author)

move to Akyab<sup>15</sup> in Burma (now Myanmar). The voyage was to commence at a later date as decided by the operators. They were directed to remain in hideout lest they were discovered and eliminated. They had to wait for quite a long time, after paying hard cash for the journey. As their agonising wait prolonged, the anxiety was replaced by despondency.

They heaved a sigh of relief when a Zulu Group representative contacted SNS and gave them the good news to be ready to move out of their hideout on the following day, after sunset, for their long-awaited voyage to Akyab. Next



Map: sea route from Chittagong to Akyab (Source: line.17qq.com)

day as promised, the Zulu group representatives arrived just before sunset. At night, SNS, SASS and his friends were led out of Chittagong to Sadar Ghat – thana area. There were more than 70 displaced persons (DPs) waiting there to embark upon the voyage to Akyab.

Soon SNS brothers were guided to an off shore motor boat, after wading through knee deep water. It was not an auspicious beginning. Their guide moved into deeper water. In order to swim across to reach the boat, they had to drop their baggage. Thus, they were deprived of their personal belongings. With a lot of difficulty the two brothers swam to board the boat, while their two friends were separated and got into the second boat. SNS recalls they were stuffed into these motor boats like animals. There were ladies, children, old and young alike. The DPs were instructed to maintain hushed silence if intercepted by the security forces en-route, and follow their demands without questioning.

They were jubilant when their 5 horse-power motor boat lifted anchor. While on the River Karnaphuli, they were intercepted by



Karnaphuli River in Chittagong (Source: dhakatribune.com)

anti-smuggling squad, who were patrolling the littoral waters. The Zulu group rep negotiated with them. After hushed parleys, both the motor boats were cleared to proceed. It was divulged later that it was a normal practice to allow such surreptitious movements, after paying handsome amounts to anti-smuggling squad.

15 Akyab, now known as Sittwe, is the capital of Rakhine State of Burma, located on the eastern coast of Bay of Bengal, about 300 km south east of Chittagong.



Chittagong Port in erstwhile East Pakistan (Source: wikiwand.com)

In the pitch dark night, the boats moved towards the high seas, leaving behind Chittagong lights fading gradually into darkness. In the dark, no one could see the wet faces of others. Only a few sobs were audible. Imagine what a human treasure the newly born state was set to lose, as the boats carried away artisans, architects, engineers, doctors and numerous technicians to perpetual oblivion.

The sea was comparatively calm. Both the boats were cruising to their destination when the leading boat developed engine fault. There was a temporary holdup in the journey to rectify the fault. But the engine failed to crank. Both the boats were stuffed full. It precluded the chance of readjusting the human load within the carrying capacity of the other boat. The only plausible remedy to keep the caravan on the move was to tow the stranded boat with the accompanying one. It drastically reduced the cruising speed.

In the twilight hours, the glowing horizon was flocked by sea birds, signalling the close proximity to shores. Slowly, the sun appeared in the east and calm sea was visible for miles ahead. At day break, the caravan was again intercepted. This time by the Burmese coastal security force. After receiving their share of illegal gratification, the caravan was allowed to dock at a remote jetty. It was broad daylight now. The DPs disembarked and were handed over to a group of armed native civilians<sup>16</sup>, who transported them to a camp.

SNS recalls that the camp had already a sizeable population. It was gradually filled with incoming DPs at irregular intervals. The DPs were provided accommodation and food under the Pakistan consulate arrangements. SNS contacted the consulate to seek further guidance and help, but received a lukewarm response. Life in the camp was dull and lacklustre. The DPs were discouraged from leaving the premises, ostensibly due to security constraints. The delay in repatriation led to unrest amongst DPs.

Dr Bazmi (co-narrator) recalls what was happening behind the scenes in Islamabad. In fact the Government had refused Bihari refugees rehabilitation on Pakistani soil. The teenager Bazmi found the receptive ears of Mr Zia Abbas, the general secretary of Muslim League (Qayyum Group). The ML (Q) was sharing power with Mr Bhutto and the party head, Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan<sup>17</sup>, was then Interior Minister in the Federal Cabinet. Mr Zia was very much impressed by how Dr Bazmi had pleaded the case of repatriation of his community. Zia's influence with the Interior Minister paved the way for repatriation of stranded Biharis to West Pakistan. First priority



Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan  
(Source: urdupoint.com)



Stranded Pakistani Camp in Bangladesh (Source: thedailystar.net)

<sup>16</sup> They were the rebels who had taken up arms against the Burmese Government.

<sup>17</sup> Abdul Qayyum Khan (1901-1981) was Chief Minister NWFP (now KPK) from 1947 to 1953, and Interior Minister in Bhutto cabinet (1972-77).



(Source: thefridaytimes.com)



(Source: researchgate.net)

*Images of squalid Biharis' Camp*

was accorded to the sick, or the ones stuck on alien soil.

Thus the first batch of 300 DPs at Akyab were cleared to move to Rangoon (now Yangon) for their repatriation to West Pakistan under consulate arrangements. SNS and his group of technocrats were amongst those lucky DPs who were allowed to be repatriated, while hundreds remained marooned on alien soil. Even today after 50 years, a sizeable Bihari population is languishing in squalid camps in Bangladesh.

SNS and his group arrived Karachi with new hopes and aspirations. They were to take a fresh start to re-establish in new environments. It was their ingenuity and academic strength that put them on the road to prosperity. Time proved their mettle once again, to find a respectable place in the land of their dreams. The scars of unceremonious exit from Bangladesh gradually faded, but never disappeared. They were destined to enjoy prestige and honour, which were denied to them in Bangladesh. The desire to shine became more pronounced now as it was aided by the resolve never to look back nostalgically!

### About the author



*Major Mumtaz Hussain Shah, retired, was commissioned in Punjab Regiment in July 1966. He saw operations in former East Pakistan during the 1971 Indo-Pak War. He is a graduate of Command and Staff College, Quetta. He has been associated with a number of training institutions as a guest speaker. As a freelancer, he scribes for the leading national dailies of the country.*

*“Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence”*

*(John Adams)*





## 'The Sky was his Home'

*Unsung Hero – Group Captain Saiful Azam, SJ (1941-2020)*

*By Major Hassaan Javaid, AEC*

Group Captain Saiful Azam, SJ was a legendary fighter pilot and hero of 1965 Indo-Pak and 1967 Arab-Israel war. He is *the only ace pilot* in the world who has many distinguished records to his name; the only pilot who served in the air force of four countries (Pakistan, Jordan, Iraq and Bangladesh), the only pilot who shot down planes of two countries (India and Israel), and the only pilot who was awarded gallantry awards by three countries (Pakistan, Jordan and Iraq).

Born in 1941 in Pabna (East Bengal), Saiful Azam was commissioned as a fighter pilot in Pakistan Air Force (PAF) in 1960. During



*Clockwise from top left: Gp Capt Saiful Azam, Saiful Azam being awarded SJ by FM Ayub Khan after 1965 war, Saiful Azam with Arab pilots in Jordan (3rd from left)* (Source: arabnews.pk)

1965 War, Saif shot down an Indian aircraft during aerial combat and later was awarded Sitara e Jurat (SJ). During the 1967 Arab Israel War, Azam being part of Jordanian and Iraqi Air Forces, shot down at least three Israeli aircraft. After 1971, Azam joined Bangladesh Air Force and finally retired as a group captain in 1980. In 2001, he was given the award of *Living*

*Legend* in United States for his skills and mastery in air combat. This great unsung hero breathed his last on June 14, 2020 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. His wife truly said about him, "The Sky was his home".

### Notes

- Pakistan Air Force. "The 'Living Eagle' Gp Capt Saif ul Azam | Ace Pilot of Arab-Israel War | PAF Documentary" *YouTube* video, 4:15. June 16, 2020. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ny-pupE\\_HqI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ny-pupE_HqI) accessed on 25 December 2020.

### About the author



Major Hassaan Javaid is the sub-editor of *B&T* magazine and can be reached at [editorbugle.trumpet@yahoo.com](mailto:editorbugle.trumpet@yahoo.com)



## 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

- In April 1965, Pakistan and India were locked in a localised skirmish. Where did the clash take place?
  - Rann of Kutch
  - Kargil
  - Bajwat
  - Kel
- Which Indian plane was shot down by PAF when it crossed the LOC on 27 February 2019?
  - MiG-21 Bison
  - Sukhoi Su-30MKI
  - Mirage 2000
  - MiG - 29
- Battle of Gallipoli or Gallipoli Campaign is one of the deadliest campaigns of WW1. The campaign was considered a great Turkish victory as they defended their motherland against Allied forces in Gallipoli peninsula. When did this battle take place?
  - 1913-14
  - 1914-15
  - 1915-16
  - 1917-18
- Which German officer surrendered at Stalingrad in January 1943, and later became the first field marshal in German history to be captured alive?
  - Erwin Rommel
  - Ferdinand Schörner
  - Friedrich Paulus
  - Erich von Manstein
- In which battle did Hazrat Khalid Bin Waleed (RA) break 9 swords during combat, and resultantly got the title of ‘Saifullah’ (Sword of Allah)?
  - Battle of Yamama
  - Battle of Chains
  - Battle of Al-Anbar
  - Battle of Mu’tah



6. He gave his life while fighting an intense battle in Zafarwal-Shakargarh sector during 1971 war and received a gallantry award of Nishan e Haider (NH). The name of this brave son of the soil is:-
- (a) Lance Naik Muhammad Mahfuz      (b) Sowar Muhammad Hussain  
(c) Major Muhammad Akram              (d) Major Shabbir Sharif
7. Which recipient of Nishan e Haider (NH) was also recipient of Sitara e Jurat (SJ) and regarded as the most decorated officer of the Pakistan Army?
- (a) Major Raja Aziz Bhatti                  (b) Captain Karnal Sher Khan  
(c) Major Muhammad Akram              (d) Major Shabbir Sharif
8. Pakistan Army shot down an Indian fighter plane during Kargil War in 1999 when it crossed the LOC. The Indian pilot ejected and was caught by our ground forces. The name of the pilot was:-
- (a) Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon              (b) BC Karambaya  
(c) Abhinandan Varthaman              (d) Kambampati Nachiketa
9. A significant naval battle between US Naval forces and imperial Japanese Naval Forces was held in the Pacific Theatre of World War II, just six months after latter's attack on Pearl Harbour. The U.S. Navy's decisive victory in the air-sea battle turned the tide of World War II in the Pacific. The battle is known as:-
- (a) Battle of Wake Island                  (b) Battle of Coral Sea  
(c) Battle of Bismark Sea                  (d) Battle of Midway
10. The Muslim victory in Ghazwa e Khyber against Jews had far reaching consequences, as Muslims were no longer confined to Medina. In which Hijri year, was Ghazwa e Khyber fought?
- (a) 5 Hijri                                      (b) 6 Hijri  
(c) 7 Hijri                                      (d) 8 Hijri

(Answers on page 53)



## Glimpses of AIMH Activities



Visit of Lieutenant General Sher Afgan, HI(M) outgoing Inspector General Training & Evaluation on 11 December 2020



Visit of Lieutenant General Syed Muhammad Adnan, HI(M) incoming Inspector General Training & Evaluation on 24 December 2020



## Glimpses of AIMH Activities



Visit of Lieutenant General Chiragh Haider, HI(M) Director General, Joint Staff Headquarters and Major General Nadir Khan, HI(M) Director General, Military Lands & Cantonments on 26 November 2020



Visit of Lieutenant General Azhar Abbas, HI(M) Commander 10 Corps on 4 December 2020



Visit of erstwhile East Pakistani citizens on 22 September 2020



Visit of veteran officers of 1971 Indo-Pak War on 15 September 2020



## Glimpses of AIMH Activities



Visit of Lieutenant General Aamir Abbasi, HI(M) Quarter Master General on 29 October 2020



Newly constructed building of AIMH



Focused Group Discussion on zoom during COVID-19 on 17 December 2020



Interaction and discussion - retired senior officers on 28 October 2020



## Military History Minestrone

### Answers

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

*“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen”*

*(Winston Churchill)*

## 175 Years Ago (1845-46)

### The First Anglo-Sikh War



*Battle of Sobraon*  
(Source: nam.ac.uk)



*Map: 1<sup>st</sup> Anglo-Sikh War*  
(Source: warfarehistorynetwork.com)

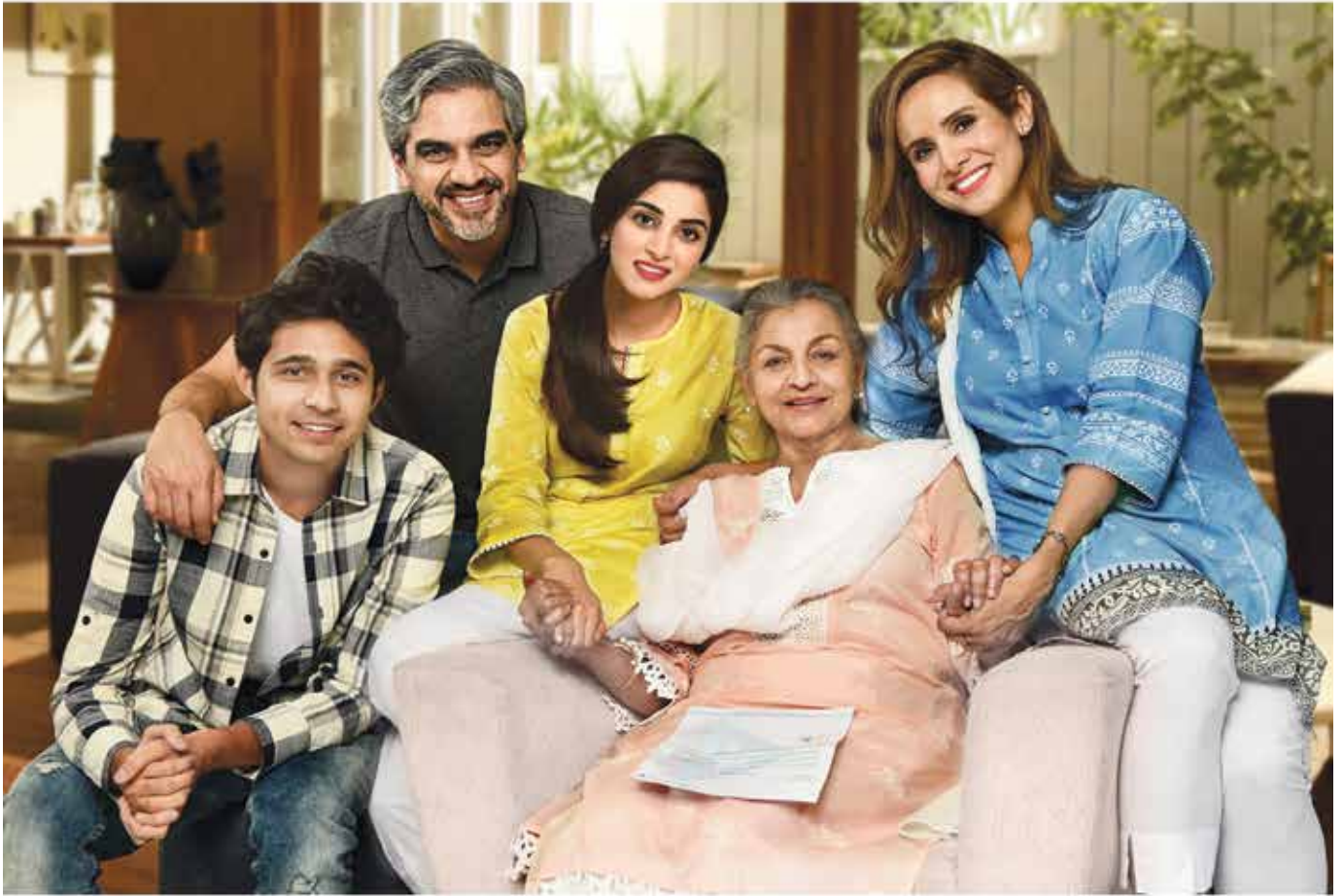
The First Anglo-Sikh War was a series of battles which were fought between the Sikh Empire and the British East India Company (EIC) from December 1845 to February 1846, over control of Punjab.

Maharaja Ranjeet Singh was the founder of Khalsa kingdom who ruled over Punjab for nearly 40 years (1799 -1839). However, soon after his death, his empire started disintegrating due to internal differences between rival chiefs over accession to the throne. Meanwhile, the East India Company was gaining power in the east and south of the Khalsa state. The British had annexed Sindh and were establishing garrisons east of Sutlej River. Under the pretext of forestalling a British attack, the Sikhs crossed the Sutlej River in December 1845. Five bloody and intense battles were fought at Mudki, Ferozshah, Buddowal, Aliwal and Sobraon, from December 18, 1845 to February 10, 1846. Both sides suffered heavy losses, but finally the British prevailed, followed by the Treaty of Lahore. According to this treaty, the Sikh Kingdom had to cede the Julundhur-Doab region and Kashmir to the British. Khalsa Army was forced to downsize and accept the appointment of Sir Henry Lawrence as permanent British resident to the Sikh *darbar*.

The Treaty of Lahore didn't last long. Within three years, Sikh and East India Company forces again clashed in Second Anglo-Sikh War fought in 1848-49. It resulted in the fall of the Sikh empire, and Punjab was finally annexed by the East India Company in 1849.

Ref: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Sikh-Wars>





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