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Remembering *The Kashmir Liberation War, 1947-48*



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

Located in Rawalpindi and close to the Army Museum and the Army Central Library, the institute is mandated to archive, record, research, teach and promote military history, along with allied subjects such as physical history (in all its dimensions), battle honours, regimental lineages, customs of the service, 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, Physical History Wing and Special Studies Wing, the institute is emerging as a centre for military historical affairs; a melting pot for serving and retired

officers, and civilians, to meet and exchange views. Our *forte* remains military history, with research directors assigned to regularly visit the Army's schools of instruction, and the nation's universities and colleges, as visiting faculty and guest speakers. Military history buffs will also find themselves welcome in our lounges.

BUGLE & TRUMPET (B&T)

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

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

The views expressed in *B&T* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of AIMH. All content is the intellectual property of AIMH and may be reproduced or quoted, while citing the original author and AIMH. AIMH would appreciate a courtesy copy of reprints or reviews.

Readers are invited to contribute for the *B&T*. Original articles related to military history, upto 2500 words in font size 12 (Times New Roman) with double line spacing, on A-4 size paper, alongwith relevant details like photographs, maps or sketches, may be sent both in hard and soft form to the editor. Endnotes (*Chicago Style*) and a brief biographic note of the author, including passport size photograph, are required. Contributors will be paid a remuneration @ Rs. 3/- per word. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject contributions.



From The Editor's Desk

Dear readers,

The 8th issue of *B&T* is in your hands. *B&T* has travelled a long way after its maiden flight in June 2019. The editorial team is committed to producing scholarly, empirical and well-researched articles, anecdotes and narrations covering military history. We dedicate each number of *B&T* to an event of historical importance for Pakistan. The current issue is dedicated to *Indo-Pak War 1947-48*, also known as *The First Kashmir War*. Two articles, namely *Captain Hussain Khan, Fakhr-i-Kashmir, OBI, shaheed—A forgotten Hero of Kashmir Liberation War 1947-48* and *Major Sloan in Kashmir*, are written to commemorate our unsung heroes of *Indo-Pak War 1947-48*.

The Kashmir dispute has remained a flash point and led to three wars between India and Pakistan. *The First Kashmir War* witnessed many iconic battles. The *Battle of Rawalakot* was one, which saw the courage of Kashmiri freedom fighters under the charismatic leadership of Captain Hussain Khan, a brave Kashmiri veteran of two World Wars. Captain Hussain's role in defending Rawalakot made him a hero of *The First Kashmir War 1947-48*.

The article *Major Sloan in Kashmir*, is the story of a professional soldier who played a role in the occupation of important peaks in the Tithwal sector of *Jammu and Kashmir* in July 1948. The fall of *Chunj*, a salient feature in the area, stopped the Indian summer offensive towards Muzaffarabad. Major Sloan, a British army engineers officer, fought with the Pakistan Army during this operation, and lost his life on 10th July 1948. A British officer killed in action while serving Pakistan during an open war, is an unprecedented event of our military history.

Indo-Pak War 1971 is covered in each issue of *B&T*. The article *Grit and Grief, with a Grin: The Battle of Kushtia; East Pakistan 9th December 1971* pays tribute to the gallant soldiers of a lost war in East Pakistan. Despite being heavily outnumbered, our exhausted soldiers held their nerves and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in Kushtia subsector of erstwhile East Pakistan.

Wishing you pleasant reading!

Hassaan Javaid



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A Tale of Subedar Major Mauladad

24th Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry

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

The 6th Battalion of the Punjab Regiment is one of the oldest units of the Pakistan Army. It was raised in 1858 by Captain (later Field Marshal) Brownlow as the 24th Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry (BNI), and during the



FM Charles Brownlow
(Source: npg.org.uk)

Indian Army Reforms of 1904, it was renumbered as the 20th (Duke of Cambridge's Own) (Punjab) Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry (Brownlow's Punjabis). In the reorganisation of the army in 1922, it became the second battalion of the 14th Punjab Regiment (2/14th Punjabis).

One of the central figures in any battalion is the subedar major (SM), and being an old battalion, 2/14th had its share of those who could be considered remarkable. Prior to the First World War, subedar majors were nearly always old men who had been in the regiment before their present colonels had joined as lieutenants. They were full of wisdom and possessed great influence. However, Subedar Major Mauladad Khan (1822-1890), a Kuki Khel Afridi, who had joined the 20th on its raising, was a quite unique. He had seen a great deal of service and wore medals for 1857, China, Kabul, Egypt 1882 with clasp for the battle of Tel-el-Kebir; and also the N.W. Frontier (North-West Frontier) medal with many clasps. Mauladad Khan was considered 'as brave as a lion', and held the prestigious Order of Merit, which had been instituted in 1837 by the East India Company, as an award for outstanding gallantry, to native members of its forces. He was given the title of Sirdar Bahadur and the C.I.E.

(Companion of the Indian Empire), which in those early days was a particular honour, but he did not appreciate it. He explained that there was some sense in the Order of Merit, and in the Sirdar Bahadur, since a monetary allowance was attached to them, but the C.I.E. was quite beyond his comprehension, a very barren honour.



SM Mauladad Khan-1865
(Source: collection.nam.ac.uk)

Major-General L.C. Dunsterville had been associated with him when he was serving as adjutant of the 20th Punjabis. Dunsterville was commissioned into the British Army in the Sussex Regiment in 1884. The battalion was subsequently posted from United Kingdom (UK) to India, and its first station was Rawalpindi, where Dunsterville enjoyed the social life and the winter. In 1887 he decided to transfer to the Indian Army



Painting: 20th (Punjab) Regiment of the Bengal Native Infantry-1868
(Source: reddit.com)

because he could not afford to serve in a British battalion, and was posted to the 24th Punjabis at Mian Mir Cantonment in Lahore. He was a very intelligent and hardworking officer, and in three years had learnt Urdu, Punjabi, Pushto and Persian, and made himself familiar with the major religions of the subcontinent. In 1887,



he joined the 20th Punjabis as adjutant back in Rawalpindi, and in his autobiography has a tale to tell about Mauladad, in a vein of comedy.

*The duties of a conscientious adjutant were absorbing and difficult at all times, but



L.C. Dunsterville—1890
(Source: Author)

Dunsterville found his position exceptionally challenging. Like many of the old frontier regiments, the 20th Punjabis had retained a great deal of irregularity particularly in its uniform. The test for dress was the guard mounting, and on his first day of inspecting

the guard, he saw that there was great variety in the manner in which the *pagris* [turbans] were tied. He had learned that Sikhs, Dogras, and Pathans have each their particular way of arranging their head-dress but then he noticed that some of the fringes were black, some blue, and some green, some composed of long strings, some of little cotton balls. There was more fantasy in the footgear! The first man had plain leather sandals, the next a good blunt-toed Punjabi shoe, the next a pair of ornamental sandals with gold thread and silk tassels, the next a pair of light Punjabi shoes, with thin ornamental points extending some inches beyond the toe. There is a certain charm about minor irregularities in dress that seems to have a fascination for soldiers but the adjutant was determined to set things right as soon as possible.

The chief obstacle to make an improvement in the regularity of dress was the Subedar Major, a veteran of the old school, who could never be brought to believe that there could be anything good in a new way of doing things, and whose invariable reply to the suggestions

by the adjutant was: ‘This is the custom of the regiment. What you suggest has never been done.’ Mauladad explained his way of doing it ‘as we used to do in Talagang’. Twenty-five years previously, the regiment had been stationed at a small place in Punjab called Talagang, and it seemed that most of the regimental customs had



Map: British India (Source: in.pinterest.com)

arisen during that period. Dunsterville came to hate the sound of the word ‘Talagang’. Whatever changes he suggested in any regimental matter with a view to introducing a little regularity, was always opposed because it had not been done in Talagang. And the Colonel was almost as bad as the Subedar Major. When the adjutant would put any matter up to him, he would send for Mauladad and ask him, ‘How did we do it in Talagang?’

After the Egyptian Campaign of 1882, Mauladad had the honor of visiting England

as the guest of Queen Victoria, there being at that time no such thing as the appointment of orderly officer to the Sovereign. Queen Victoria always took the deepest interest in her Indian subjects, and for that purpose had actually undertaken the study of Urdu. However, Mauladad was totally



Queen Victoria
(Source: quora.com)

* Excerpts from the book started



illiterate and his knowledge of that language was very limited, and barely sufficed for any subject beyond military duties. He probably tested the patience of Her Majesty during the interview. He was taken to see all the sights of London, but took little interest in them and his memories chiefly consisted of admiration for the greenness of the fields compared with the barren hills of the Khyber, and the magnificence of the horses and cattle.

Since he was more irregular in every way than any man in the regiment it could be well understood how great an obstacle he was to the adjutant's efforts towards regularity. He wore his *pagri* as he pleased and had a habit of taking it off at most solemn moments to scratch the top of his head. In place of a regulation sword he carried an old *tulwar* (sword), curved like the crescent moon. He did not appreciate the solemnity of a ceremonial parade in which he could see no sense, and his attempts to salute with his *tulwar* in the march-past consisted of a friendly wave and a shake of the blade in the direction of the inspecting officer. When the latter took exception to such a peculiar deviation from the proper salute, it had to be explained to him that 'It was only Mauladad', and no more was said.

Dunsterville did succeed in curing Mauladad of one of his peculiarities, the wearing of a coloured handkerchief protruding from the inside of the collar of his tunic, and fluttering round his neck, but he only gave in to me [Dunsterville] over this out of pure friendship. In plain clothes he was hopeless. No one could recognise in the peculiar jumble of odd garments he wore a distinguished native officer of Her Majesty's Indian Army. Dunsterville spoke tactfully to him about this, but to no purpose. It only made him laugh, and Mauladad told an amusing adventure that befell him in this connection. He was going home on leave and on his way to the Khyber Pass, the *tum-tum* [a horse carriage] broke down and he continued

on foot. It was a very hot summer afternoon and he came upon a *sahib* lying in the shade of a tree. The *sahib* seemed to be ill and Mauladad gave him some water and helped him to his feet. He was very grateful and attempted to give a *baksheesh* of four annas. He evidently thought Mauladad was one of the men employed on mending the road. I [Mauladad] gave it back to him, telling him who I was and that I had plenty of money, but the Sahib did not look as if he believed it.

Mauladad had the heartiest contempt for all 'red books', as he called the military regulations, and was continually giving punishments he had no power to give, in utter defiance of the Indian Articles of War. On visiting the quarter guard, I often found a man imprisoned by order of Mauladad, often no one knew what for, and when I spoke to Mauladad, he did not seem quite sure himself. One morning the colonel asked me how many men were on duty in the quarter guard and I told him 21. The next day he had me up and said, 'You don't know much about your work. You don't even know how many men you have on duty. I visited the quarter guard and found 24 men.' This was an unpleasant rebuff for me, but I knew I had been right. I set to work to inquire, and I found that it was Mauladad again. 'Yes,' he said. 'It was a dark and stormy night, so I put an extra sentry on the back of the magazine.' A very wise precaution, of course, but quite beyond his powers, and making things rather difficult for me.

He knew his drill well up to the period of 1882. Anything beyond that he refused to learn, regarding any change as mere foolishness. When a pamphlet was issued on new formations and movements, the second-in-command gave a lecture to the Indian officers on the subject which was very thoroughly done in a most painstaking way, with the aid of diagrams skillfully drawn on a blackboard. However, at the conclusion of the lecture Mauladad had to have his turn and



summed up the whole affair as follows:

You've all heard what the major says, and you must try to remember all these new changes. What they are all about I don't know, but it is God's will that they have to change. But they are really of no importance at all. In the attack, there is only one thing to remember, and that is "fix bayonets and charge". 'Fix bayonets and charge', was his advice on all occasions. During an inspection, the general asked him what he would do if during an advance he suddenly found a body of the enemy on his right flank. His reply was, 'fix bayonets and charge.' 'Very good,' said the general, 'and if it seemed to you that the enemy entirely out-numbered you, what then?' 'Fix bayonets and charge,' he replied without hesitation. The general did not

put any further questions to him, but turning to the colonel said, 'That seems to be his solution of every problem, and I will not say anything to damp his ardor. I believe if I asked him what he would do if I dared to disagree with him, he would reply "fix bayonets and charge".'**

Mauladad retired on a very handsome pension in 1888, and a year or two later the old hero died. His place was at once taken by an equally unprogressive officer. Dunsterville did not have the power to resist anymore and admits that the spirit of the regiment had conquered him, and he became as bad as the rest.



SM Mauladad Khan
(in later years of his service)
(Source: Author)

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About the author



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

** Excerpts from the book ended.

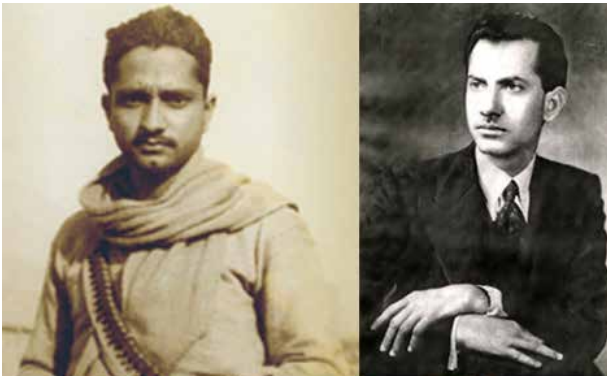


Captain Hussain Khan, *Fakhr-i-Kashmir*, OBI, shaheed

A Forgotten Hero of Kashmir Liberation War-1947/48

By Brigadier Imran Haider Jaffri, retired

The liberation of Azad Jammu and Kashmir from the coercive policies and atrocities of Maharaja Hari Singh, was the result of an indigenous struggle that cannot be attributed to only a few personalities. There have been many prominent figures who played a crucial part in the liberation movement. Some excelled in the political awakening, while others made an impact on the battlefield, sacrificing even their lives for the cause. Personalities like Sardar Qayyum, Sardar Ibrahim, Chaudhry Gulam Abbas, etc made immense contributions to agitate the minds of the Muslims of Jammu



Clockwise from top left: Sardar Qayyum, Sardar Ibrahim, Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas, Capt Hussain Khan, shaheed
(Source: sardarqayyum.com, mirwajal.blogspot.com, kmsnews.org, reddit.com)

& Kashmir (J&K) to rise and defend their right to self-determination. On the other hand, there have been individuals gifted with a natural instinct to lead men on the battlefield. Captain Hussain Khan, shaheed, was one of many such gifted individuals, who through superior resolve

and will, preferred to take up arms to liberate Jammu & Kashmir from the yoke of Dogra rule.

While the author was on visits to Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) to record oral accounts of veterans of the 1947/48 Kashmir Liberation War, as part of the Oral History Preservation Programme, he came across the grandson of a forgotten hero, who donated his life's earnings, and sacrificed his life for the liberation of his motherland. Through the grandson, I learned how his grandfather liberated the city of Rawalakot from the Dogra yoke. The succeeding paragraphs are based on the narration by Sardar Muhammad Ayub Khan, grandson of Captain Hussain Khan, shaheed, a resident of Hussain Kot, District Rawalakot.



Sardar M Ayub Khan
(Source: Author)

Early Life

Hussain Khan was born to a respected local landlord family of Sardar Hashmat Khan in 1895, in the village Kala Kot (now Hussain Kot-named after Captain Hussain), in district Rawalakot. Hussain was the eldest of his siblings. He could not get a formal education as there were no schools in the vicinity. Instead, he received basic Islamic and some religious education at his home, from family elders. Having a natural inclination to adventure from his childhood, Hussain was always keen to join the British Indian Army. It was this resolve which made him enlist in the British Indian Army in 1913, at the age of just 18 years. Soon after, the remaining six brothers followed Hussain's footsteps and joined the British Indian Army.



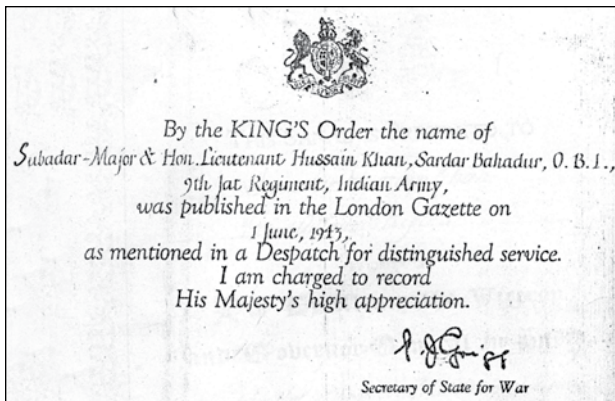
Map: Jammu & Kashmir-1947

(Source: en.wikipedia.org)

Services in the British Indian Army

Hussain was exceptionally intelligent and courageous. His superiors soon realised his potential and granted him rapid promotions. By 1917, he had been granted the Viceroy's Commission as a Viceroy Commissioned Officer (VCO or jemadar). His performance in the First World War was amply appreciated by the order of King George V, which was mentioned in despatches in the London Gazette in 1921. Jemadar Hussain was then part of 2/123rd Outram's Rifles. Hussain was also awarded the Order of British India (OBI), besides *JUNGI INAM* (monetary war benefits—valid for the next three generations), for his conspicuous gallantry. Captain Hussain also had the distinction of being the only Asian to represent India at the coronation of the British King George VI in 1937, where a special uniform and rifle was conferred for his services to the King.

His battalion (then the 9 Jat Regiment) saw action in Thailand and Singapore during the Second World War. Hussain's conspicuous performance in WW II earned him many medals, yet again. It is said that he rescued two British officers, while they, along with their troops, were surrounded by the Japanese in Singapore, and ferried them to Calcutta (now Kolkata) via Malaya, in a normal boat (authentication required). After the war was over, Hussain was deputed to train soldiers at different training centres in India, based on his experience of WW I and II. By 1945, he had been promoted to the rank of captain. The experience of the world wars had hardened his nerves and sinews. This was the time when the Subcontinent was undergoing a turbulent phase. Muslims and Hindus of the Subcontinent were demanding a separate homeland for their respective faiths. In pursuing their dreams, violence against each other was a matter of routine rather than an



Mention-in-Despatches awarded to Capt Hussain by the British Govt
(Source: Author)

exception. The fate of over 560 princely states hung in the balance, for joining either of the two newly formed dominions.

Captain Hussain was privy to the volatile situation in India in general, and *J&K* in particular. Being a visionary leader, and a seasoned campaigner, he could envision the deceit being hatched for his state under the Dogra ruler. He could not remain aloof from his people under such circumstances. He therefore, decided to resign from the British Indian Army at the prime stage of his career. His superiors tried to persuade him not to resign and offered a promotion and other monetary benefits. Hussain declined, for he knew that he would be better placed among his people to fight the liberation war. Hussain's decision later proved right as the heads of the princely states were delegated the right of deciding the fate of their subjects in favour of either of the two dominions i.e. India or Pakistan. Hussain instinctively realised that the Dogra ruler of *J&K* would accede to India, as the Dogra dynasty was biased towards India, against the wishes of the majority Muslim population.

Armed Struggle for Liberation of Kashmir

After retirement, Captain Hussain stayed in his native village until August 1947.

Violence had already erupted and engulfed the entire *J&K*. Districts Bagh, Rawalakot, Poonch, Mirpur etc., had revolted against the terror unleashed upon the Muslims of *J&K* by the State Forces. Some sixty thousand Muslim World War 2 veterans of *J&K* organised themselves against the State Forces. A massive political movement was going on in the entire *J&K*, against the autocratic and coercive policies of Maharaja Hari Singh. On 22 June 1947, Sardar Ibrahim Khan and Chaudhry Hamidullah arrived from Srinagar to visit Rawalakot. Secret meetings were held with notables of the area, including Captain Hussain Khan.¹ Hussain, however, believed that liberation could only be achieved by fighting, rather than political maneuvering. He embarked on organising ex-army personnel and volunteers. It took him considerable time to convince the people that freedom could only be achieved by taking up arms against the Dogra ruler. Many declined to stand by him, as they were afraid of facing the wrath of the Maharaja and his army.

Maharaja Hari Singh personally wanted to visit Rawalakot to assess the situation. Honorary Captain Muhammad Khan (retired)–another local officer, gathered around 1000 ex-servicemen to present *salami* (salute) to the visiting dignitary. Captain Hussain Khan declined to be part of any such parade. Referring to the Maharaja's visit, General Waheed Khan (retired) says, when the ruler arrived at Rawalakot on 21 April 1947, he was somewhat alarmed to see over 1000 ex-servicemen of the British Indian Army gathered to receive him. On return to his capital, the Maharaja moved three Jammu and Kashmir infantry battalions (1st, 8th and 9th) to Poonch, under the newly raised Poonch Brigade.²

1 Lt Gen (Retd) Zia Ullah Khan, *History of the Azad Kashmir Regiment: Vol – I (1947-49)*, 1st ed. (Mansar: Regimental History Cell, Azad Kashmir Regiment Centre, 1997).

2 Daily Parliament Times, Azad Kashmir, dated 11 November 2017.



Map: Rawalakot & surroundings

(Source: Author)

The state authorities were fully aware of the brewing revolt in *J&K*, including the intentions and activities of Captain Hussain in Rawalakot and the Poonch area. They put a constant vigil on the activities of Hussain Khan. Captain Hussain established his headquarters at Miral Gala near Banjosa. After organising the force, his main concern was the scarcity of weapons and ammunition, for which there was no money available. He did what is unprecedented in the liberation war of Kashmir. Instead of collecting money from people, he sold the jewelry of his wife and collected his lifelong savings of almost Rs 45,000—a handsome amount in those days—to buy arms. He proceeded to Kurram Agency (tribal area) to procure arms and ammunition.

Dothan Action

Captain Hussain Khan had been appointed as commander of Home Guards for

operations in the Sudhnuti-Poonch sector. The news of the carnage at Bagh by Dogra troops on August 26, 1947, reached Rawalakot the same afternoon. The next night, Captain Hussain Khan collected 200 Home Guards and notables at Miral Gala (Rawalakot), and declared war against the Dogra ruler. He administered an oath to the Mujahideen to fight for accession to the dominion of Pakistan at all costs.³

On the night of August 28-29, under the orders of Captain Hussain Khan, the Mujahideen destroyed culverts and communication network between Rawalakot and Hajira, and then took up a defensive position in the Dothan defile to block enemy reinforcement to Rawalakot. Enemy reinforcements, consisting of a company each of 1 and 9 *J&K* infantry battalions, commanded by Major Amarnath Lakhnupal and Captain Parkash Chand Katoch respectively, approached Dothan defile by midday on August 29. When the leading pointsman entered the defile,

3 Khan, *History of the Azad Kashmir Regiment*.



Mujahid Atta Muhammad shot him down, firing his muzzle-loader. Simultaneously, Mujahideen opened up with what all they had. Some others rolled down heavy rocks on the enemy. The Dogras managed to extricate and re-organise to launch a counter-attack. Mujahideen suffered heavy casualties including five killed.⁴

Battle of Rawalakot

The first attack on Rawalakot was led by Subedar Bostan Khan (retired) on November 4, 1947. The attack could not progress well due to stiff enemy resistance from well-prepared defences. The fighting was grim and the Mujahideen suffered 45 casualties, including 23 killed. The attack was called off at 0900 hours.⁵

On November 6, the attack was renewed under Captain Hussain Khan, who had returned from Sudhnuti-Kotli sector, having covered 47 miles in 16 hours, along with a 3-inch mortar (without a base plate). The enemy's outer defences were breached. Indian aircraft kept pounding the Mujahideen the whole day. A major effort was again made on 8th November under Captain Hussain Khan. The fighting continued for two days with heavy casualties, and positions changed hands often. During the night of November 10/11, Dogra forces, under intense pressure from Mujahideen, vacated Rawalakot and withdrew towards Poonch. The battle of Rawalakot was a great victory for the Mujahideen, as it cleared the whole area of Dogra troops. Mujahideen suffered 120 killed in this battle.⁶

Taking advantage of the darkness, Dogra troops along with local non-Muslim civilians moved off towards Hajira, and concentrated

6 miles northeast of Rawalakot. Another Dogra column from Bagh joined them on November 11. Captain Hussain, along with his troops, continued to exert pressure on the fleeing Dogra forces towards Hajira, and the city of Poonch. Hussain's main objective was Poonch city.

The Dogra force at this point was estimated to be about 2000 strong, including remnants of 4, 8, and 9 *J&K* infantry battalions. The Mujahideen under the inspiring command of Captain Hussain formed two groups. The first group, commanded by Captain Hussain himself, was composed of Mujahideen who subsequently formed the nucleus of the 10th and 6th Azad Kashmir Sudhnuti Battalions (now 3 AK and 6 AK), whereas the second group, commanded by Subedar (later Captain) Sher Khan, comprised of the Mujahideen who were shortly afterward designated as 5 Azad Kashmir Sudhnuti Battalion (now 5 AK).⁷

The Mujahideen attack started at daybreak on November 11, and continued the whole day with heavy losses on both sides. The Dogras lost 400 killed and many wounded. The Mujahideen suffered 260 casualties including 150 killed. Sector Commander Captain Hussain Khan fell mortally wounded, while leading the assault, and embraced *shahadat* at Shaheed Gala. The loss of this brave and inspiring leader was a great setback to the Mujahideen cause. At night the Mujahideen disengaged, and Dogra forces



Mujahideen (freedom fighters)
(Source: historyofpashstuns.blogspot.com)

4 Khan, *History of the Azad Kashmir Regiment*.

5 Khan, *History of the Azad Kashmir Regiment*.

6 Khan, *History of the Azad Kashmir Regiment*.

7 Khan, *History of the Azad Kashmir Regiment*.



managed to make their way to Poonch.⁸ Captain Hussain Khan was laid to rest at his native village Kala Kot (now Hussain Kot). A monument was later constructed at Miral Gala (the war planning headquarters).



Monument (left) & tomb (right) of Captain Hussain, shaheed
(Source: Author)

Recognition by the Government of AJ&K

The government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir awarded Fakhri-Kashmir posthumously to Captain Hussain on 27 March 1948.⁹ On the death anniversaries of Captain Hussain Khan, on 11 November 1967, the then President AJ&K, Abdul Hameed Khan, declared 11 November (the day of *shahadat* of Captain Hussain) as a holiday in the entire AJ&K, along with renaming Rawalakot Degree College as Hussain Shaheed College. Later in 2019, Azad Jammu & Kashmir Government declared 11 November as a local holiday for District Poonch, through an official notification.¹⁰ AJ&K government also granted Rs.150,000/- for the construction of the *mazar* (tomb) of this great hero of the Kashmir



Fakhri-Kashmir medal
(Source: Author)

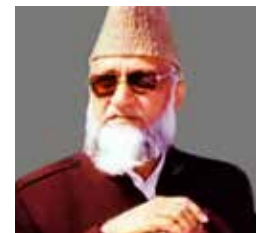
liberation war, in July 1982. His son, Akbar Khan, a retired captain, took up the case for upgradation of his award from Fakhri-Kashmir to Hilal-i-Kashmir, but the same could not be done, due to time lapse and the non-availability of those who had initiated his citation for Fakhri-Kashmir.



Captain Akbar Khan, retd
(Source: Author)

A Tribute by Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan

Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, while paying rich tribute to Captain Hussain shaheed on his death anniversary on 11 November 1983, at Sabir Shaheed National Stadium Rawalakot, narrated, “ *It was some time before the war of liberation in Kashmir, I was staying at a hotel in Murree, along with Sardar Ibrahim Khan, Captain Hussain Khan, shaheed, and Sardar Muhammad Shafeeh Khan. On one of the nights, someone knocked at my door at around 1 a.m. When I opened the door, I found Captain Hussain at the door. He dragged me to his room where I saw a big map of the state of J&K laid on the floor. It was marked with lots of symbols including arrows etc. He explained to me the entire plan for liberating J&K. It was Hussain’s plan that won us the areas, that we now call Azad Jammu & Kashmir. He was a great warrior*”.¹¹



Sardar Abdul Qayyum
(Mujahid-e-Awal)
(Source: prideofpakistan.com)

Indeed, it was Captain Hussain’s resolve and military strategy that gave the people of

8 Khan, *History of the Azad Kashmir Regiment*.

9 AJ&K Warrant of Institution number D 113/29 dated 14 March 1948.

10 Azad Government of The State of Jammu & Kashmir, Services & General Administration Department (General Section), No. S&GAD/G-8(18)/2017.

11 Sardar Muhammad Gulzar Hijazi, *Tareekh Tehreek-i-Azadi-I Kashmir, Inqalab-i-Poonch 1947*, 110-111.



Poonch and Rawalakot, the courage to rise against the atrocities of Dogra rule. Though Captain Hussain could not see the whole liberation war, the armed struggle initiated by him continued

until the ceasefire. The residents of districts Poonch and Rawalakot remain indebted to his struggle and sacrifice for liberating the area from the Dogras. May Allah bless his soul in heaven.

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Brigadier Imran Haider Jaffri (retired), Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military) was commissioned in 1987 in a self-propelled (medium) regiment Artillery. The officer held various command, staff and instructional appointments during his career. He has been on the faculty of School of Artillery and School of Armour & Mechanised Warfare. The officer is a graduate of Command & Staff College Quetta and has a masters of philosophy in international relations from National Defence University, Islamabad. He is also qualified in Overseas Joint Warfare Course from Australian Defence Warfare Training Centre. Since retirement, the officer is serving as research director at the Army Institute of Military History.



Grit and Grief, with a Grin

The Battle of Kushtia; East Pakistan 9th December 1971

By Brigadier Nasir Shafiq, retired

Introduction

The 1971 War in East Pakistan is a watershed event in the history of Pakistan, wherein not only was Pakistan cut in two, but the nation suffered the stigma of defeat, humiliation and surrender, which makes Pakistanis live with a black scar, to date. Overall, it was not a military defeat alone, but a national failure to rise to the occasion, sort out political disputes, address internal fissures and achieve national integration, and placing ethnic/linguistic nationalism above Pakistani nationalism. Without going into the reasons of this breakup and political juggling at national level, this is a study of the performance of soldiers who actually fought, offering their lives for the unity of the country. Field Marshall S H F J Manekshaw, the opposing army commander during 1971 War, commented on the overall performance of Pakistani soldiers, by saying “..... an impression has been created that Pakistanis had not fought well. They fought extremely well, if they had not, India would not have suffered heavy casualties”.¹ Regardless of what was going on at government and senior command level of armed forces, these brave soldiers did what they were tasked to do and trained for—to defend the motherland under all circumstances, and against all odds. This performance, however, pales into insignificance against the overall setback to Pakistan’s armed forces.²

One such glaring example is of the Kushtia battle fought on 9th December 1971 in East Pakistan, where a smaller but determined and courageous body of soldiers sent shock waves right up to the highest enemy command level, and halted the enemy’s divisional advance for more than 48 hours.³ This small but impactful combined action of two infantry companies (Pakistani 18 Punjab Regiment) supported by a few tanks (Pakistani 29 Cavalry), influenced the entire battle to the extent that the Indian higher command had to alter their advance and attack plans, resulting in a 90 degrees change in corps and divisional attack objectives and directions. This also resulted in digression from their strategic objective, for the time being though.⁴ Many years later in 1979, General JFR Jacob, chief of staff of Indian Eastern Command during 1971 War, commented on this fiasco by saying; “2 Corps were making good progress and had contacted Madhumati, there was no need for them to go to Kushtia. They would have captured ferry at Madhumati and onto Goalundo Ghat ferry and probably be knocking at the doors of Dacca. They lost 72 crucial hours. It was a bad move”.⁵

Topography

The area around Kushtia was generally flat but interspersed with ponds, marshes, thick clumps of trees and a few canals of varying widths. The town of Kushtia had a few roads

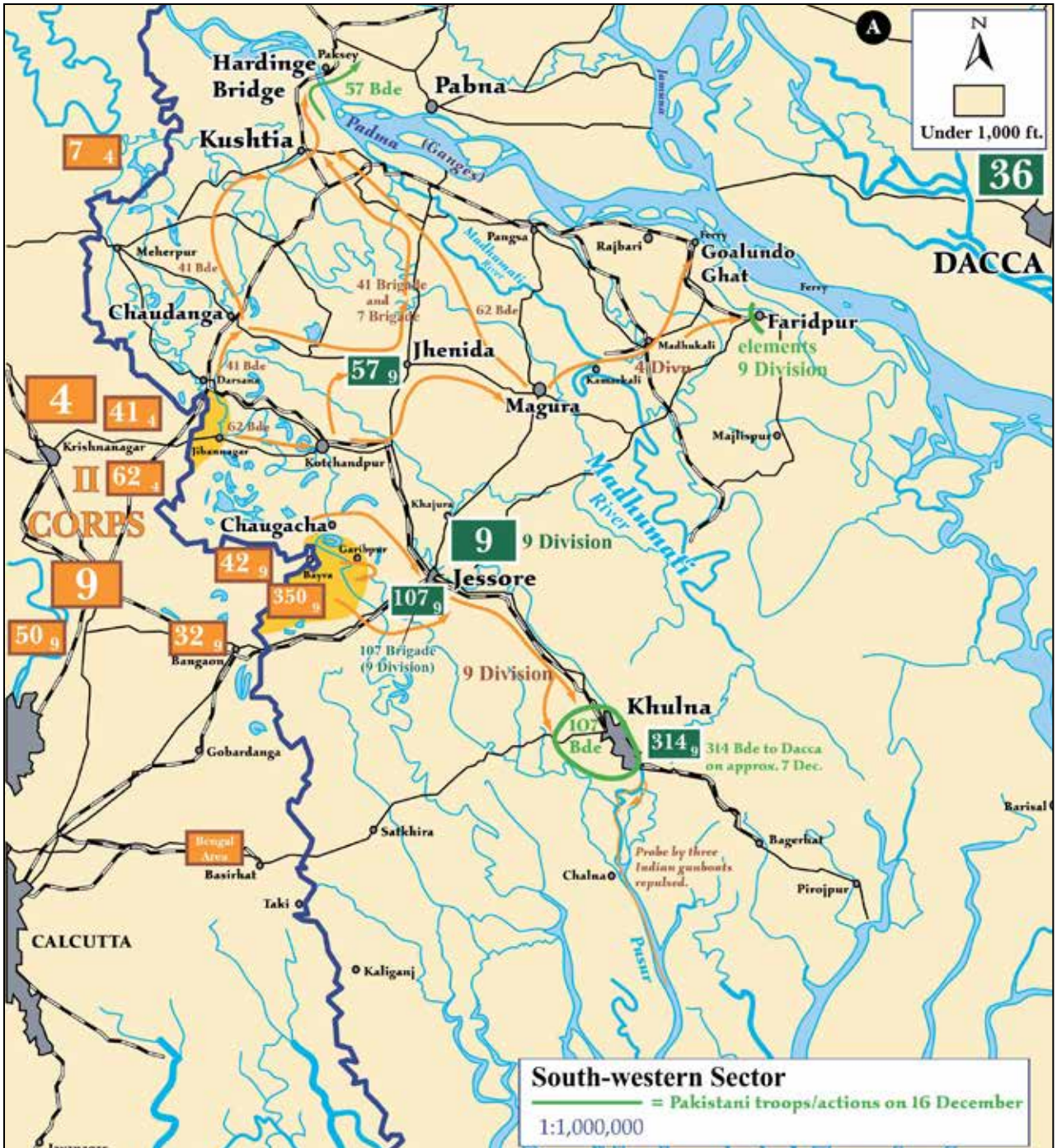
1 Afrasiab Mehdi Hashmi Qureshi, *1971 Fact and fiction; Views and Perceptions in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh* (Islamabad: Centre for Global and Strategic Studies, 2021), 107.

2 Air Headquarters, “The PAF at War”, *Shaheen Journal*, no. SH-61, 1972, 4.

3 Major (Retd) Agha Humayun Amin, “Squadron and Company Commander Dislocate a Corps Commander” *defence.pk*, last modified Nov 30, 2011, accessed on 22 October 2022, <https://defence.pk/pdf/threads/tank-ambush-at-kushtia.143936/>.

4 Major General Lachhman Singh, *Victory in Bangladesh* (Dehradun: Nartaj Publishers, 2005), 112.

5 Major General Pramod K Batra, “50 Years after Operation Cactus Lilly”, *Vayu Aerospace & Defence Review*, 2 Apr 2021, accessed on 26 Nov 2022, <https://www.vayaerospace.in/article/628/index.aspx>.



Map 1: South-western sector of erstwhile East Pakistan (1971 War)

(Source: 1971 War Eastern Theatre, C&SC Military History Primer-2011, P-47)

and a railway line, running water canals with higher embankments, offering ground cover and camouflage to both attacker and defender.⁶ Although the area was not suitable for large scale armour manoeuvre, it did afford some opportunities of tank close support to advancing

troops, generally restricted to main roads and tracks.

Situation by 9th December 1971

Kushtia was a middle-sized town and major communication hub on the western border

⁶ Major General Gurcharn Singh Sandhu, *The Indian Armour – History of Indian Armoured Corps 1941-1971* (India: Vision Books, 1984), 439.



of erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), which did not figure out as a major objective of Indian 4 Mountain Division (part of Indian 2 Corps). The war started on 21st November 1971 (Eid-ul-Fitr day), when Indian forces crossed the international border of East Pakistan in Jessore sector, and committed an open act of aggression against Pakistan. This should not be mixed with the opening of the western front on 3rd December 1971. Although India does not accept initiating hostilities on 21 November 1971, the shooting down of an Indian aircraft on 22 November 1971 in Chaugacha area of East Pakistan, is one of numerable irrevocable proofs of Indian open aggression.⁷

By 9th December 1971, Indian land forces supported by Indian Air Force (IAF) enjoying unchallenged air supremacy, and guided by *Mukti Bahini*, (Bengali insurgents, trained and equipped by India) had absorbed the area up to Jessore and Jhenida, in their push to reach Faridpur and Goalundo Ghat river crossings. They achieved this effectively, bypassing Pakistani forces and establishing road-blocks behind them at most places in this sector. Indian forces were in high morale, secured their objectives convincingly, and were poised towards their strategic objective, i.e., Dacca (Now Dhaka). IAF, having completely outnumbered Pakistan Air Force in East Pakistan—16 Pakistani aircraft against 161 of Indian Eastern Air Command—was playing its role with impunity, to support its ground forces.⁸

Pakistani 9 Division under Major General Muhammad Hussain Ansari, was in disarray after vacating Jessore, the major garrison on the

western border stocked with a lot of ammunition and logistic supplies.⁹ While Pakistani 107 Brigade under Brigadier Muhammad Hayat Khan had withdrawn towards Khulna, Pakistani 57 Brigade under Brigadier Manzoor Ahmed, was struggling to put up an organised defence against Indian 4 Mountain Division (Red Eagle), advancing under Major General MS Brar. After the loss of Chaudanga, an important defensive locality situated a few kilometres from the border, 57 Brigade tried its best to reach Jhenida, an important communication hub and also its brigade headquarters, to apply brakes on the Indian advance. However, it failed to do so due to effective roadblocks placed by Indian forces. The situation has been described by Indian Major General Pramod K Batra; “The Pak 57 Infantry Brigade had to finally pull back towards the Kushtia/Hardinge bridge to the north, but before that they were to give us a bloody nose at Kushtia.”¹⁰

Failing to reach Jhenida, and due to its capture by Indian forces, 57 Brigade ordered its units to wheel northwards and move towards Kushtia, before crossing Hardinge Bridge over the Ganges and entering Pakistani 16 divisional area in Pabna. 57 Brigade reached Kushtia during night 7/8 December¹¹ and established brigade headquarters in Kushtia police lines, expecting the enemy to follow up on road Chaudanga-Kushtia. This was the first and last battle that 57 Brigade fought in the entire war.¹²

Indian Plans

Indian Army Headquarters laid down specific tasks to field formations, vide its

7 Air Headquarters, “The PAF at War”, *Shaheen Journal*, no. SH-61 (1972): 4.

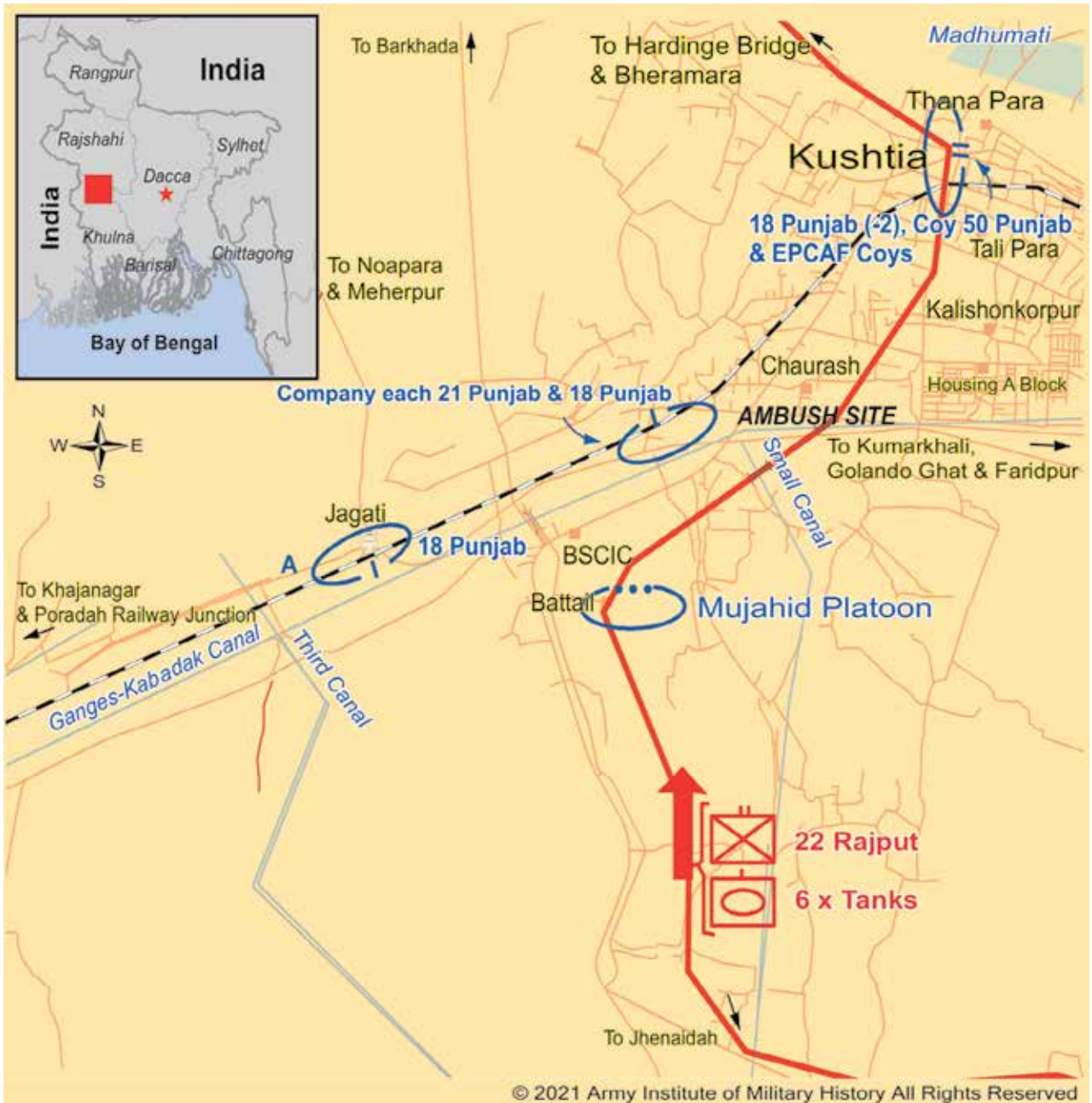
8 P.V.S Jagan Mohan and Samir Chopra, *Eagles over Bangladesh* (New Delhi: Harper Collins, 2013), 379-389.

9 Singh, *Victory in Bangladesh*, 124-127.

10 Major General Pramod K Batra, “50 Years after Operation Cactus Lilly”, *Vayu Aerospace & Defence Review*, 2 Apr 2021, accessed on 26 Nov 2022, <https://www.vayuaerospace.in/article/628/index.aspx>.

11 Major General Syed Ithar Hussain Shah, *A Thousand Miles Apart* (Rawalpindi: Army Institute of Military History, 2022), 216.

12 Siddiq Salik, *Witness to Surrender* (Karachi: Oxford University Press, 1977), 145.



Map 2: Kushtia Battle-9th Dec 1971 (inset: map of erstwhile East Pakistan)

Operational Instruction number 53, issued on 16 August 1971.¹³ Indian 2 Corps, operating in southwest sector (Jessore) had planned to capture Jessore, Khulna, Hardinge Bridge and crossing sites at Magura, Goalundo Ghat and Faridpur, before developing operations towards Dhaka. 4 Mountain Division, operating north of

9 Division, was tasked to secure these crossing sites and also capture Hardinge Bridge, a task for which 7 Brigade (corps reserve) was specially released to it. Consequently, 4 Division planned to capture Kushtia and Hardinge Bridge through 7 Brigade (less Naga Battalion)¹⁴ commencing operations on 9th December 1971. 5 Guards

¹³ S.N Parsad and UP Thapliyal, *Official history of 1971 India Pakistan War, Chapter 12, All-out War in Bangladesh*, (New Delhi: History Division Ministry of Defence, 1992), 502, <https://www.bharat-rakshak.com/ARMY/history/1971war/280-war-history-1971.html>.

¹⁴ *Ibid*, 520.



was allotted to 7 Brigade as its third battalion.¹⁵ 22 Mountain Artillery Regiment (less a field battery) also joined 4 Indian Division at Jhenida, by 2300 hours 8 December 1971.¹⁶

Pakistani Plan

Brigadier Manzoor Ahmed, Commander 57 Brigade (part of 9 Pakistani Division) did not have many options for defending his area, after losing Chaudanga, Jhenida and Magura in quick succession. Therefore, he planned to move to Kushtia with a hope to utilise Kushtia-Faridpur rail link for re-joining the divisional battle. However, this could not be done due to destruction of rail bridges by the IAF, and he was forced to await further developments in Kushtia.¹⁷

Indian Forces. Indian advance into Kushtia was undertaken by 7 Brigade, with 22 Rajput supported by two troops of PT-76 tanks from A Squadron 45 Cavalry. Equipped with 76mm calibre guns, amphibious PT-76 tanks were designed by the Russians to cross a network of rivers and canals in Europe. It could carry 22 combat soldiers



PT-76 tanks
(Source: armyrecognition.com)

or a recoilless gun mounted on a jeep, and swim across a water obstacle.¹⁸ 4 Mountain Division also had a few additional troops i.e. a mechanised infantry company and a medium artillery battery, apart from its divisional artillery. Indian forces enjoyed unchallenged air supremacy.¹⁹

Pakistani Troops. 57 Brigade had deployed two infantry companies, C and E (*ad hoc*) of 18 Punjab Regiment, supported by two troops of tanks from A Squadron 29 Cavalry, and 178 & 179 Artillery Batteries from 49 Field Regiment.²⁰ Overall, the quantum of forces was heavily in favour of India.²¹

Conduct

The actual battle of Kushtia, reflecting the *par excellence* grit of Pakistani soldiers, and equal determination by attacking Indian forces, commenced on the morning of 9th December 1971. Utilising road Jhenida-Kushtia, Indian 7 Brigade (recently released by Indian 2 Corps to 4 Mountain Division) under Brigadier Zail Singh²², commenced its advance supported by tanks (A Squadron 45 Cavalry) around 6:30 am.²³ 22 Rajput was tasked to lead the advance of Indian forces, who were assured that Kushtia was without any major Pakistani forces, and therefore they did not anticipate any worthwhile resistance.²⁴ Sensing a very cautious and sluggish advance by Indian troops, both Lieutenant General TS Raina (Commander 2

15 Singh, *Victory in Bangladesh*, 113.

16 Parsad and Thapliyal, *Official history of 1971 India Pakistan War*, 520, <https://www.bharat-rakshak.com/ARMY/history/1971war/280-war-history-1971.html>.

17 Singh, *Victory in Bangladesh*, 113.

18 Colonel Nitin Chandra, "1971 war: Blitzkrieg forced Pakistan to retreat sans fight", *Times of India*, accessed on 25 Nov 2022, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/1971-war-blitzkrieg-forced-pakistan-to-retreat-sans-fight/articleshow/87456203.cms>.

19 Major (Retd) Agha Humayun Amin, "Squadron and Company Commander Dislocate a Corps Commander" *defence.pk*, last modified Nov 30, 2011, accessed on 22 October 2022, <https://defence.pk/pdf/threads/tank-ambush-at-kushtia.143936/>.

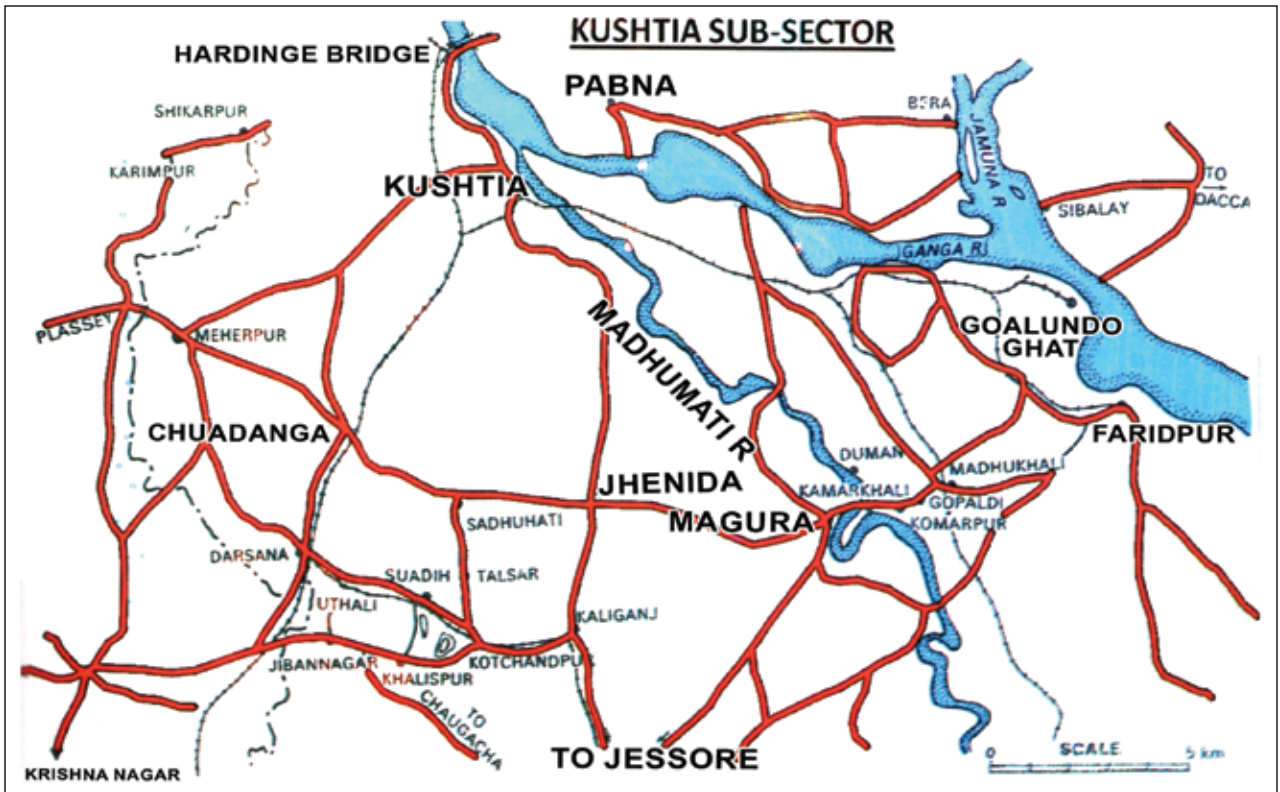
20 Captain (later Colonel) Muhammad Ali Shah company commander E Company 18 Punjab Regiment, interviewed by author on 22 October 2022.

21 Brigadier (ret) Nasir Shafiq, *Bugle & Trumpet* (Rawalpindi: Army Institute of Military History, December 2021).

22 Shah, *A Thousand Miles Apart*, 199.

23 Singh, *Victory in Bangladesh*, 127.

24 Shah, *A Thousand Miles Apart*, 220.



Map 3: Kushtia sub-sector (1971 War)

(Source: C&SC Military History Primer-2011)

Corps) and Major General MS Brar (General Officer Commanding 4 Mountain Division) landed in the middle of 22 Rajput, after aerial reconnaissance of Kushtia.²⁵ Observing a rather slow advance, they instructed them to move with greater speed against a presumably vacant or weakly held Kushtia town.²⁶ Based on his assessment, he also told them to lead with tanks through the built-up area of Kushtia, instead of infantry.²⁷ General Raina motivated them by saying *charh jao*, meaning *press on regardless*. This spurred on the commanders, who were eager to win laurels and show positive achievements, which they felt they had missed as they had been kept in reserve.²⁸

Therefore, the Indian advance continued, far less vigilant than before.²⁹ But 7 Indian Brigade was up against a bitter surprise. Emboldened by the corps commander's speech, and in the quest to win honours, 22 Rajput decided to lead the advance, with tanks following behind, while trying to enter the built-up area of Kushtia. They disregarded the suggestion offered by Second Lieutenant S R Chandravarker, the leading troop leader of 45 Cavalry, to lead with tanks instead of infantry.³⁰ The advance started with vanguard company (A Company 22 Rajput under Major Deo) leading, with tanks following closely behind.³¹ Some of the Indian tank commanders

25 Colonel Natin Chandra, History of 45 Cavalry Operations, cited in *50 Years of 1971 Indo-Pak War: Dispatches from Tank Ambush of Kushtia* by Man Aman Singh Chinna, December 5, 2021, accessed on 22 October 2022 <https://www.kcdesi.com/50-years-of-1971-indo-pak-war-dispatches-from-tank-ambush-of-kushtia/>.

26 Sandhu, *The Indian Armour – History of Indian Armoured Corps 1941-1971*, 439.

27 Ibid., 441.

28 Singh, *Victory in Bangladesh*, 127.

29 Adam Geibel, "1971 Bangladesh War The Amphibious Armour Advantage", *Bharat Rakshak*, accessed on 26 Nov 2022, <https://www.bharat-rakshak.com/ARMY/history/1971war/278-armour-advantage.html>.

30 Chandra, History of 45 Cavalry Operations, cited in *50 Years of 1971 Indo-Pak War: Dispatches from Tank Ambush of Kushtia* by Man Aman Singh Chinna, December 5, 2021.

31 Singh, *Victory in Bangladesh*, 127.



were Lance Daffadar Shankaran, Naib Risaldar George Thomas, Daffadar Vasu Mallapuram, Second Lieutenant SR Chandravarkar and Daffadar Cherian Abraham.³²

On the Pakistani side, the movement of tanks was observed by an EPCAF (East Pakistan Civil Armed Forces) platoon placed as screen at Battail.³³ These were Bihari mujahids of EPCAF, who reported the presence and movement of tanks to 18 Punjab Regiment. The Commanding Officer 18 Punjab Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Matloob, immediately ordered C Company under Maj Zahid ul Islam and E Company (*ad hoc*) under Captain Muhammad Ali Shah, to take up positions to delay the enemy advance. C Company had two regular infantry platoons

and an EPCAF platoon, with Second Lieutenant Salman Beg as company officer. E Company was an *ad hoc* arrangement with two EPCAF platoons. Second Lieutenant Malik Arif Hayat was company officer with E Company. The deployment of 18 Punjab Regiment is explained in the sketch on page 21.

Displaying courage, both companies took up positions along the Ganges-Kabadak Canal (main canal) embankment, with a few anti-tank recoilless rifles (RRs) and machine guns (MGs), and waited impatiently to trap and target the advancing Indian force.³⁴ The troop of tanks (under Lieutenant Aslam Pounwar Khan with Second Lieutenant Khalid Karak as one tank commander) from A Squadron 29 Cavalry under Major Sher ur Rehman, was also dispatched to beef up C and E Companies of 18 Punjab.³⁵



2/Lt Khalid Karak, shaheed
(Source: Author)



Clockwise from top left: Maj Zahid ul Islam, Capt M Ali Shah,
2/Lt Salman Beg, 2/Lt Malik Arif Hayat
(Source: Author)

As soon as the leading Indian tanks reached the main canal bridge, and 22 Rajput soldiers started crossing over a foot bridge approximately 100 yards west of the main canal bridge, Pakistani troops let loose all hell through controlled and coordinated fire by all elements, i.e., RR, MGs, small arms, tanks (main and coaxial guns) and artillery guns.³⁶ Sepoy Nazar, (later Tamgha-e-Jurat), of 18 Punjab Regiment, picked up his first tank target advancing at 5th position in line of advance, before destroying two or three more tanks moving ahead of his first target.³⁷ 29 Cavalry tanks also played havoc and

32 Chandra, History of 45 Cavalry Operations, cited in *50 Years of 1971 Indo-Pak War: Dispatches from Tank Ambush of Kushtia* by Man Aman Singh Chinna, December 5, 2021.

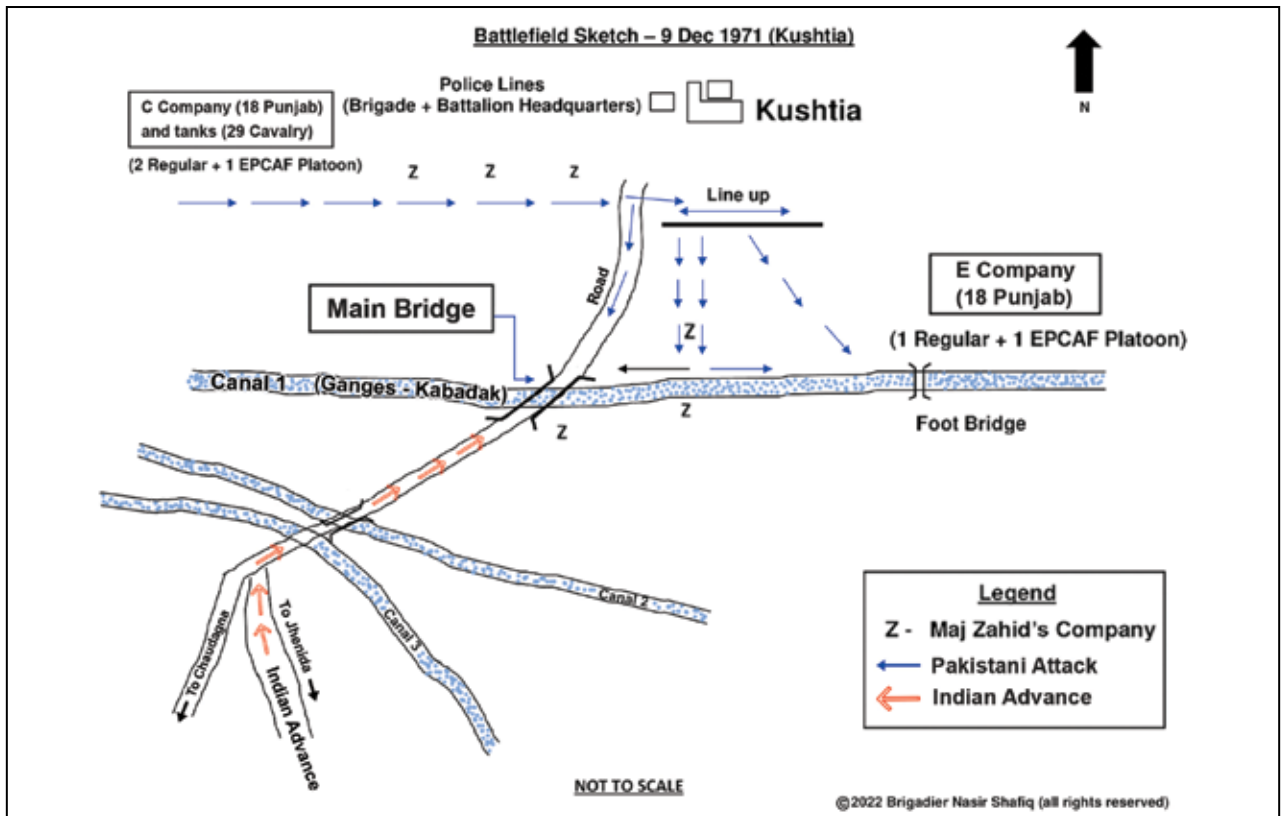
33 Shah, *A Thousand Miles Apart*, 220.

34 Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) Zahid ul Islam, officer commanding C Company, 18 Punjab Regiment, interviewed by author on 11 October 2022.

35 Lieutenant (later Brigadier) Aslam Pounwar Khan, 29 Cavalry Regiment, interviewed by author on 11 October 2022.

36 Second Lieutenant (later Lieutenant Colonel) Salman Beg, C Company, 18 Punjab Regiment, interviewed by author on 13 October 2022.

37 Maj (later Lt Col) Zahid ul Islam, officer commanding C Company, 18 PR, interviewed by author on 11 October 2022.



Battlefield sketch–9 Dec 1971 (Kushtia)

targeted Indian tanks accurately, at close range. The leading tank knocked out two Indian tanks before its main gun jammed.³⁸ Artillery guns of 178 and 179 Batteries ex 49 Field Regiment, under Captain Ashfaq and Major Fazal Hussain respectively, also did a lot of damage to attacking forces, by engaging tanks through direct hits.³⁹

The leading Indian tank, inscribed as *Hell on Tracks* on its turret, also fell prey to accurate fire from Pakistani forces, killing Lieutenant SR Chandravarker along with his entire crew. Four Muktis in their *lungies*, riding this tank were also killed instantly, says Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Aftab Butt, then a captain, and incharge composite supply point of 57 Brigade, an eye witness to this action.⁴⁰ He is the one who actually took out Chandravarker's body from the tank,

and describes the entire battle scene. "During the Kushtia battle, I was in battalion headquarters of 18 Punjab and listening to wireless communication between frontline troops and the commanding officer. We were so thrilled



Capt Aftab Butt
(Source: Author)

to know about the destruction of enemy tanks, that everyone rushed to the canal side to be part of troops engaged in pursuit. When I reached near the tank inscribed *Hell on Tracks*, I stopped and mounted the destroyed tank along with my driver and another soldier from the escort party. We observed a dead body inside the tank, and four bodies of Muktis wearing *lungies*, lying on the tank".

38 29 Cavalry, Regimental History, 47.

39 Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) Fazal Hussain, 179 field battery, 49 field Regiment, interviewed by author on 22 October 2022.

40 Captain (later Lieutenant Colonel) Aftab Butt, Officer incharge composite supply point 57 Brigade, interviewed by author on 9 October 2022.



Contrary to most Indian authors' allegations about mutilation of bodies, Aftab Butt continues his narration; "We tried to take out the dead body, but could not, as he was a fairly tall guy, probably 6 feet. I sent both the soldiers inside the tank, they tied his feet with a tank rope, and we pulled him outside with a lot of effort. We placed the body on the tank deck, and recognised him as Lieutenant SR Chandravarker. His left shoulder had been completely blown off and he was dead. I removed his blood-stained pistol and badges of rank. I say it on oath, that neither was he taken prisoner alive, tortured and killed, nor was his body mutilated. We left him there on the tank and proceeded further. For sure he was killed inside his tank, contrary to Indian claims that he was captured alive and then tortured and killed. I disposed of his pistol just before the surrender, but managed to take along his badges of rank to the Indian prisoner camp. These I destroyed by burning, later."⁴¹

Consequently 22 Rajput had no option but to retreat, leaving behind their dead and wounded, with most troops trickling back during next day as well.⁴² Both the infantry companies of 18 Punjab, and 29 Cavalry tanks, chased the withdrawing enemy till the 3rd canal, and destroyed another tank there, before coming back to original positions, to allow

time to, and facilitate unhindered extrication of 57 Brigade to Hardinge Bridge.⁴³ Though it provided an excellent opportunity to pursue the enemy, 18 Punjab had no resources to do so.⁴⁴ The Punjabis also blew up the canal bridge before withdrawing.⁴⁵ In total, five Indian tanks were destroyed and the sixth one was captured intact, which remained part of 29 Cavalry till the end of the war.⁴⁶ Moreover, 18 Punjab also captured 13 Indian prisoners of war, including an artillery officer, Captain R Singh.⁴⁷ It was actually Lieutenant Talat Mehmood Sheikh of 18 Punjab who captured these prisoners, almost single handedly.⁴⁸ By 1830 hours on 9 December, Major Zahid ul Islam had evacuated all of his injured troops to Milestone 2 area, using a captured Indian jeep.⁴⁹ Indian wounded prisoners were also sent to hospital, where they were taken care of well. They acknowledged this to their superiors, after the surrender.⁵⁰

This swift and brave action which lasted for half an hour, was so sudden and ferocious, that it completely unnerved the Indians right up to senior commanders.⁵¹ Indian general officer commanding Major General MS Brar, who was in divisional headquarters at the moment, had to rush back to Kushtia area to control the situation personally.⁵² It was especially a severe reversal for

41 Ibid.

42 Sandhu, *The Indian Armour – History of Indian Armoured Corps 1941-1971*, 439.

43 Second Lieutenant (later Lieutenant General) Arif Hayat Malik, E Company, 18 Punjab Regiment, interviewed by author on 23 July 2022.

44 18 Punjab, *Regimental history*, 5.

45 Sandhu, *The Indian Armour – History of Indian Armoured Corps 1941-1971*, 441.

46 Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) Sher ur Rehman, officer commanding A Squadron 29 Cavalry, interviewed by author on 22 October 2022.

47 Lieutenant Colonel Salman Beg, *Beg's Stories: a Subaltern's Account of 1971 and Thereafter* (unpublished).

48 Lieutenant Talat Mehmood Sheikh, Intelligence Officer, 18 Punjab Regiment, interviewed by author on 15 September 2020.

49 Zahid ul Islam, "Kushtia main Kushton pe Pushtay", *Hilal (urdu)*, (11 Apr 1986), 10.

50 Captain (later Major) Mushtaq Ahmed, Adjutant 18 Punjab Regiment, interviewed by author on 22 October 2022.

51 Major (Retd) Agha Humayun Amin, "Squadron and Company Commander Dislocate a Corps Commander" defence.pk, last modified Nov 30, 2011, accessed on 22 October 2022, <https://defence.pk/pdf/threads/tank-ambush-at-kushtia.143936/>.

52 Singh, *Victory in Bangladesh*, 116.



Brigadier Zail Singh, commander 7 Brigade, and 22 Rajput, which suffered heavy casualties. The Indians consolidated their defensive positions along the 3rd canal and brought up almost the entire divisional artillery against thinly-held Pakistani positions.⁵³ According to General MS Brar, General TS Raina was apprehensive that the Pakistanis might exploit the situation and undertake a local counter-offensive. Therefore, he ordered 4 Division to leave behind minimum force to contain Pakistani troops along River Madhumati, and move all remaining force to the Kushtia area. They were allotted additional tanks also, to make up the losses suffered at Kushtia.⁵⁴

Overall, 22 Rajput suffered 111 casualties including six officers.⁵⁵ General Jagjit Singh Aurora, Commander Indian Eastern Command, also acknowledged the loss of five Indian tanks in the battle.⁵⁶ Although there are different versions about the sequence in which Indian tanks were hit, Major General Gurcharan Singh, the author of *History of Indian Armoured Corps, 1947-71*, describes it; “the first shot from a Chaffee tank of 29 Cavalry split open the 5th tank down the line”.⁵⁷ On the Pakistani side, 29 Cavalry also



Maj Sher ur Rehman
(Source: Author)

lost one tank. Although many Indian accounts, including official Indian history of 1971 War,⁵⁸ claim destroying this particular tank, Major Sher ur Rehman (later Sitara e Jurat, squadron commander 29 Cavalry), denies this. According to



Chaffee tank

(Source: quora.com)

him, it was destroyed by 29 Cavalry, as it had inextricably bogged down on the road side.⁵⁹

This action by 57 Brigade, unexpected and full of surprises, sent shock waves right up to Indian corps headquarters. The situation has been described by General Gurcharan Singh; “The Corps Commander received the news of the mishap on return to his headquarters. He over-reacted and ordered 4 Mountain Division to halt its advance along the Faridpur axis and contain the enemy along Madhumati with one battalion. The rest of the division was to back track to Kushtia, capture and clear the Hardinge Bridge. Two tank troops of 45 Cavalry were ordered to move from 9 Division to make up its A Squadron in Kushtia. Kushtia was bombed and strafed by IAF on 10th and 11th December. Pakistanis had evacuated it during night 9/10 December. 4 Division concentrated outside the town by morning of 10th December. Elaborate plans were made for a divisional attack on 11th December, when the town was found clear”.⁶⁰

53 Ibid.

54 Shah, *A Thousand Miles Apart*, 224.

55 Kamal Matin ud Din, *Tragedy of Errors* (Rawalpindi: Services Book Club, 1993) 397.

56 Lieutenant General Aurora’s interview to Lieutenant General Kamal Matin ud Din, cited by Kamal Matin ud Din, *Tragedy of Errors* (Rawalpindi: Services Book Club, 1993), 397.

57 Command & Staff College Pakistan, *1971 War Eastern Theatre* (Quetta: C&SC, 2011), 65.

58 S.N Parsad and UP Thapliyal, “Official history of 1971 India Pakistan War, Chapter 12, All-out War in Bangladesh” *Bharat Rakshak*, accessed on 26 Nov 2022.

59 Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) Sher ur Rehman, interviewed by author on 22 October 2022.

60 Sandhu, *The Indian Armour – History of Indian Armoured Corps 1941-1971*, 441.



Major KC Praval, the author of *Indian Army After Independence*, has also made a



Book title

(Source: goodreads.com)

mention of the panic that senior Indian commanders were faced with, in the following words; “Unfortunately, Brar and Raina over-reacted to the reverse. During the evening, the former ordered 41 Brigade to move from Jhenida to Kushtia. Later, during the night Raina told Brar to move the third brigade too,

leaving a battalion on the Madhumati. Thus, by evening of 10th December the whole division assembled in front of Kushtia.”⁶¹

This heroic action by sub units of Pakistani 57 Brigade put a much deserved grin on their faces, by displaying grit and determination under the most adverse environment. The entire 57 Brigade and other troops present in the area were overjoyed, and their morale touched new heights. Killing so many enemy soldiers and tanks, and capturing prisoners of war, was a special treat for the Pakistani side.⁶²

Here the author would like to examine another facet of this battle—was it an ambush or a well-planned encounter battle? There is a very thin line of difference between them. While many historians on both sides of the divide i.e. India and Pakistan, refer to it as an ambush, the author does not feel convinced, in light of research on the subject, including views of many veterans interviewed specially for this article. In the author’s view, an encounter battle is a fluid fighting action between two professional sides, planned in advance as a contingency, factoring in the enemy, own situation and ground &

weather. Encounter battle can also be defined as a combat action that occurs when a moving force, incompletely deployed for battle, having limited or no knowledge about the enemy, engages the enemy at an unexpected time and place.⁶³ Deployment of screens and advance positions much ahead of Kushtia town by Pakistani 57 Brigade, in anticipation of an enemy advance, is good enough evidence to prove that it was a well-planned tactical action, as per dictates of encounter battle. Indian 7 Brigade fell prey to it due to unnecessary haste. This has been substantiated by almost every Kushtia battle veteran interviewed. The repeated attacks by 18 Punjab troops to dislodge Indian 22 Rajput from two bridges of the Ganges-Kabadak Canal (main and bamboo one), through smaller tactical actions resulting in extremely close quarter fighting, also indicates that this was an encounter battle, and not an ambush.⁶⁴

Resultantly, Indian forces pulled out two brigades, 41 & 62, from the main axis of advance (Jhenida–Magura/Faridpur/Goalundo Ghat), and secured (unoccupied) Kushtia by 5 pm on 11 December.⁶⁵ Both divisions of Indian 2 Corps i.e. 4 and 9, moved on divergent axes, chasing ghosts, towards Kushtia and Khulna respectively, and the golden opportunity offered to them to race towards Dhaka—their strategic objective—almost unopposed, was permitted to slip away. Indian intelligence regarding movement of Pakistani forces, and their intentions, had not been able to discern the developing Pakistani weakness.⁶⁶

Subsequently, Pakistani 57 Brigade crossed over Hardinge Bridge on night 10/11 December, amid intense IAF bombing and

61 Major KC Praval, *Indian Army after Independence* (New Delhi: Lancer International, 1987), 451.

62 Lieutenant Colonel (retd) Syed Jamil Mukhtar Shah, an historian & author, interviewed by author on 11 October 2022.

63 Glosbe online dictionary, “Definition Encounter Battle”, *Glosbe.com*, accessed on 26 Nov 2022, <https://glosbe.com/en/en/encounter%20battle>.

64 Zahid ul Islam, “Kushtia main Kushton pe Pushtay”, *Hilal (urdu)*, 11 Apr 1986.

65 Shah, *A Thousand Miles Apart*, 225.

66 Singh, *Victory in Bangladesh*, 112.



strafing of the bridge, taking advantage of delay imposed by the brave actions of company and squadron commanders.⁶⁷ Major Asif, the battery commander of 146 Field Battery, had ordered Lieutenant Naseem Javed to deploy two guns on the southern bank, to cover the crossing of 57 Brigade. When the bridge was damaged by IAF, Lieutenant Naseem and the gun detachment crossed the river in a ferry.⁶⁸ Subsequently, Hardinge Bridge was also destroyed, and there are divergent views about its destruction. While Indians claim it was destroyed by Pakistanis in panic, Pakistanis claim it was destroyed by the Indian Air Force.⁶⁹



Maj M Zulfiqar Rathore
(Source: Author)

However, Major (later lieutenant colonel) Muhammad Zulfiqar Rathore, an eye witness, and the officer who placed the bridge on reserve demolition, states that destruction of the said bridge was actually a *joint*

venture of both Indian Air Force and Pakistani engineers. The reserve demolition charge of span number 4 (from the northern side) of the bridge was triggered due to IAF bombing, and the whole span of 350 feet went up in the air, almost 50 feet.⁷⁰

Although this exceptional display of grit at Kushtia brought about joy, high morale and a grin on Pakistani soldiers' and commanders' faces, it did not end without a grave and regrettable human tragedy—the usual outcome of all wars affecting civilians as collateral damage. Kushtia was home to a sizeable Bihari

population. They remained loyal to the state of Pakistan, and stood by Pakistani forces for the unity of Pakistan. When Pakistani forces started withdrawing from Kushtia as planned, Bihari civilians had no option but to move along with them, to avoid assured reprisals by the *Mukti Bahini*. Almost the entire Bihari population of Kushtia, generally old or sick males, women and children, moved along with Pakistani troops in miserable condition, to cross over the Hardinge Bridge. A few local loyal Bengali-origin civilians joined them too, in fleeing the town.⁷¹ Hardinge Bridge was mainly a railway bridge to take two-way rail traffic, with some arrangement in the centre for pedestrians.⁷²



Hardinge Bridge after demolition (Source: bangladeshpost.net)

Eye witnesses saw women, children and elderly males walking, wearing slippers covered in blood, thirsty and hungry for days, and desperately crying for help. As a result of Indian Air Force bombing, a few women even got their *saris* (traditional dress worn by Bihari women) torn, while crossing the bridge, as these got entangled in shattered iron fragments of the bridge. The worst was the heartrending scenes

67 Captain (later Lieutenant Colonel) Naveed Hamdani, platoon commander EPCAF during Kushtia Battle, interviewed by author on 12 October 2022.

68 Major General (ret'd) Shaikat Riza, *Izzat-o-iqbal*: Nowshera, School of Artillery for MGA, Artillery Directorate, GHQ, Rawalpindi, 1980, p340-341.

69 Singh, *Victory in Bangladesh*, 130.

70 Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) Iftikhar Rathore, 63 Field Engineers Company, 16 Division, interviewed by author on 12 October 2022.

71 Ibid.

72 Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) Fazal Hussain, 179 field battery, 49 field Regiment, interviewed by author on 22 October 2022.



of women throwing their babies into the river, for fear of Mukhtars and Indians.⁷³ Many of these hapless civilians fell and drowned in the river due to shelling by IAF, killing or wounding most of them in the process. Pakistani troops helped them during this tragic situation, as best as they could.

Here comes a soldier, Subedar Qadir (a junior commissioned officer of 179 Field Battery ex 49 Field Regiment), who rose to the occasion, in keeping with soldierly traditions. Trying to save injured civilians, and not caring for his personal safety, Subedar Qadir saw a young Bihari boy critically injured by Indian aircraft. He picked up the boy, and tried to rush him to safety across the bridge. As soon as he started running on the bridge with the injured boy in his arms, he fell into the river through a large gap between sleepers of the railway bridge, and thus embraced shahadat. While his soldierly qualities, sense of responsibility and utmost caring attitude

towards injured civilians made Subedar Qadir a hero, it also brought about unending grief to his family, fellow soldiers and countrymen. Overall, it speaks volumes of the professionalism of the army that he belonged to.

To conclude this account of *grit and grief with a grin*, there is a need to look at it from another perspective. While the soldiers on either side fight and offer their lives, it is not the states but humanity which suffers the most. These soldiers have families too, who suffer and feel the pinch of losing their dear ones. This human suffering can be reduced through peaceful coexistence, shunning hegemonic designs, and treating neighbours fairly. The enormous resources that a war economy consumes, certainly has a better utilisation—improvement of economy, education and healthcare of common people, on either side of the divide. This ends the author's effort to put together *grit, grief and a grin*—all essential parts of a bloody game called *war*.

About the author



Brigadier Nasir Shafiq, Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military) was commissioned in Armoured Corps in September 1987. The officer is a graduate of Command & Staff College Quetta and Air War College Karachi. His staff appointments include general staff officer (operations), brigade major of an armoured brigade and general staff officer of a mechanised division. Apart from a stint at Siachen Glacier, the officer has been on the faculty of School of Armour & Mechanised Warfare, Nowshera, twice. He has commanded his parent regiment 38 Cavalry, and 2 Independent Armoured Brigade Group. He holds master's degrees in political science, international relations, defence & strategic studies and business administration (human resource management). Moreover, he also holds MPhil degree in international relations and is currently pursuing his PhD in management sciences. Presently, the officer is serving in Army Institute of Military History as research director.

⁷³ Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) Iftikhar Rathore, 63 Field Engineers Company, 16 Division, interviewed by author on 12 October 2022.



Major Sloan in Kashmir

(Story of a British officer serving with the Pakistan Army, killed in action during the Kashmir Liberation War, 1947-48)

By Dr. Ahmad Ali

Sacrificing one's life for one's country is a great contribution, but doing so, in the line of duty, for a foreign land, is an even greater act of valour. Major Alan MacFarlane Sloan is one such unique hero who rendered services not only to the British Indian Army, but later to the Pakistan Army as well. He laid down his life while performing his duty during the Kashmir Liberation War, 1947-48.



Alan MacFarlane Sloan
(Source: Author)

Early Life

Major Alan MacFarlane Sloan was born on 20th April 1925¹ at Beckenham, in a well-known English family. His father Mr. Cuthbert Sloan was a practising lawyer², living in Kent (a county in south-eastern England). After completing his education from school in Kent, Sloan joined the Royal Corps of Engineers of the British Army, in February 1943.³

Postings, Courses and Operations–India (1944-1947)

In June 1944, he was transferred to India, where he remained attached with various formations and units.⁴ In October 1945, he joined Engineering Officer Training School



Engineering Officer Training School (now institute) Roorkee
(Source: en.wikipedia.org)

(EOTS) Roorkee, for specialised training in the field of engineering. In Roorkee, he also learnt to speak *Urdu*.⁵ It was pre-requisite for a British officer to learn any local language, for getting a commission. After completing his course in June 1945, he was given *general emergency commission* as a second lieutenant in Royal Engineers, and posted to King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners Group of the Indian Engineers.⁶ After promotion as captain, Sloan was posted as second-in-command, 68 Field Engineers Company, in March 1947.⁷



Emblem of King George's Own Sappers and Miners
(Source: ebay.com)

Joining Pakistan Army and Kashmir Liberation War, 1947-48

As per the Partition Plan of 3rd June 1947, the Indian Sub-continent was divided

1 GRO CertNo: BXCJ 326101.

2 *Bachelor of Laws, Honours and Higher Degrees: External Students*, 161-163.

3 Mod Gov.UK Ref No: D/APC/HD/77546.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

into two independent dominions i.e. India and Pakistan, on August 14, 1947. Resultantly, all assets including armed forces, were divided between the two newly independent states. This is how the Pakistan Army was born out of the old British Indian Army.

At independence, there was an acute shortage of officers in Pakistan Army. Against the estimated requirement of 4,000 officers, only 2500 were actually available.⁸ It was decided that this deficiency of officers would be overcome by retaining willing British officers in the Pakistan



Cap badge of Pakistan Army Corps of Engineers
(Source: wikimili.com)

Army.⁹ The high command of British Indian Army was approached for this purpose. Resultantly, 474 British officers including, Captain Alan MacFarlane Sloan, volunteered to serve in Pakistan Army for nearly one year.¹⁰

Captain Sloan could not join Pakistan Army in August 1947 due to illness. After recovery, he came to Pakistan and joined 71 Field Company of Pakistan Army Engineers, on 18 October 1947.¹¹ Sloan was promoted major in November 1947.¹² It was a time when the war



FM Sir Claude Auchinleck
(Source: royal-irish.com)

had begun over the disputed region of Jammu & Kashmir. Indian troops were airlifted to Srinagar on October 27, 1947. As the build-up of Indian forces in Jammu and Kashmir continued, Pakistan Army units were hurriedly organised, and rushed to

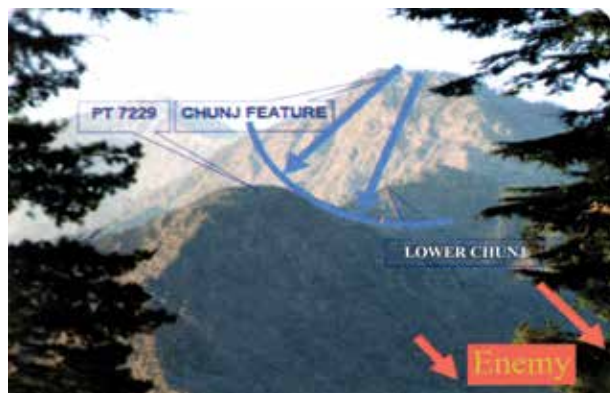
stop the Indian invasion. Field Marshal (FM) Sir Claude Auchinleck, then Commander-in-Chief of British Indian Army, had made it clear to Pakistan, that in case of war with India, British officers would leave.

In May 1948, Indian 163 Brigade launched an offensive in Tithwal sector, posing a threat to Muzaffarabad. 10 Brigade of Pakistan Army under Brigadier Haji Iftikhar Ahmad, was tasked to stop the Indian advance, and defend Muzaffarabad at all costs.¹³ Due to hilly terrain and water crossings in the area, the role of engineer units had become very important. The Pakistani brigade had two engineer companies, namely, 2 and 71 Field Companies Engineers, under the command of Major Tufail Ahmad and Major Sloan respectively.¹⁴ Tithwal sector had a very important mountain feature called *Chunj* which



Brigadier Haji Iftikhar Ahmad

(Source: thefridaytimes.com)



Chunj feature

(Source: AIMH)

consists of two formidable hills i.e. Point 7229 and Point 9444.¹⁵ Point 9444 was the highest and most dominating feature of the area, and its

8 Maj Gen Fazal Muqem Khan, *the Story of the Pakistan Army* (Dacca: Oxford University Press, 1963), 222.

9 In August 1948, there were 405 British officers in Pakistan Army, and 227 in Indian Army. Alastair Lamb, *Incomplete Partition* (Hertingfordbury: Roxford Books, 1997), 241–242.

10 Khan, *the Story of the Pakistan Army*, 223.

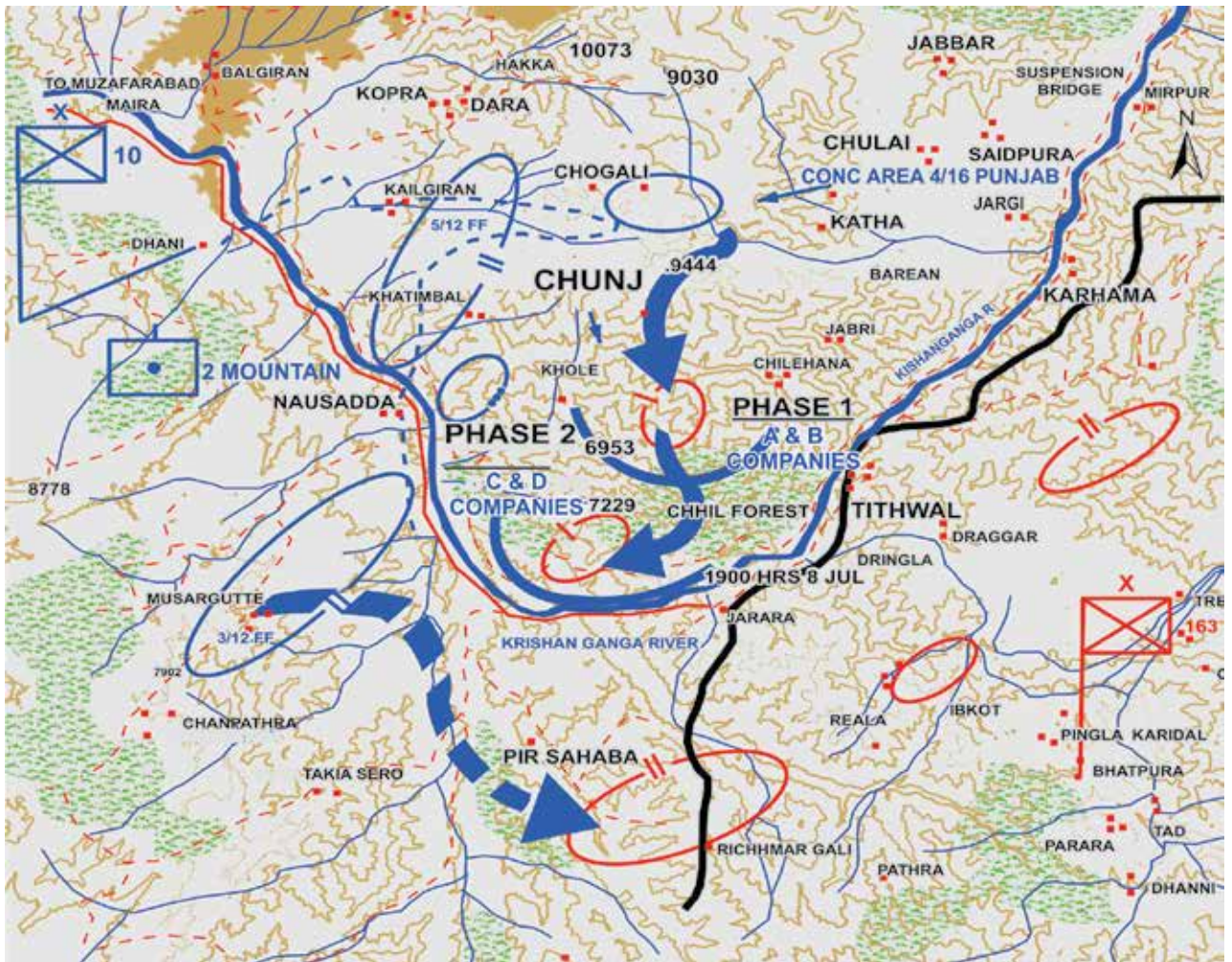
11 Mod Gov.UK Ref No: D/APC/HD/77546.

12 Ibid.

13 Historical Section, GS Branch GHQ, *The Kashmir Campaign 1947-48* (Rawalpindi: Historical Section, 1970), 143.

14 Ibid, 144.

15 Ibid, 145.



Map: Chunj operation in Tithwal sector (1947-48 war)

(Source: AIMH)

capture was necessary to evict the enemy. 4/16 Punjab (now 17 Punjab Regiment) was tasked to capture *Chunj* feature general area (Point 9444). Pakistan Army desperately needed artillery support at point 9444. It was decided to move a 3.7" howitzer gun *Shehzadi* to point 9444¹⁶ after dismantling it, due to lack of availability of a proper route. 71 Field Company Engineers, under the command of Major Sloan, worked day and night, and made the track fit for mules, upto 25 miles from Muzaffarabad. With the help of a sling and pulley, the dismantled gun and ammunition boxes were pulled across the Kishanganga (Neelam River), at Ghori. *Shehzadi*

was re-assembled in two days.¹⁷ After achieving this mission, 71 Field Company started construction work on other tracks beside the river, and cleared mines laid by the Indians.

Major Sloan was a courageous officer. He himself was leading his men during the mine clearing operation.¹⁸ While giving instructions to his men, Major Sloan slipped from a steep slope, and fell on a tripwire, which detonated a mine. Major Sloan received multiple and severe injuries, which proved to be fatal. He died in the line of duty, on 10 July 1948.¹⁹ Another Pakistani soldier, Lance Naik Aman Khan

¹⁶ Ibid, 145.

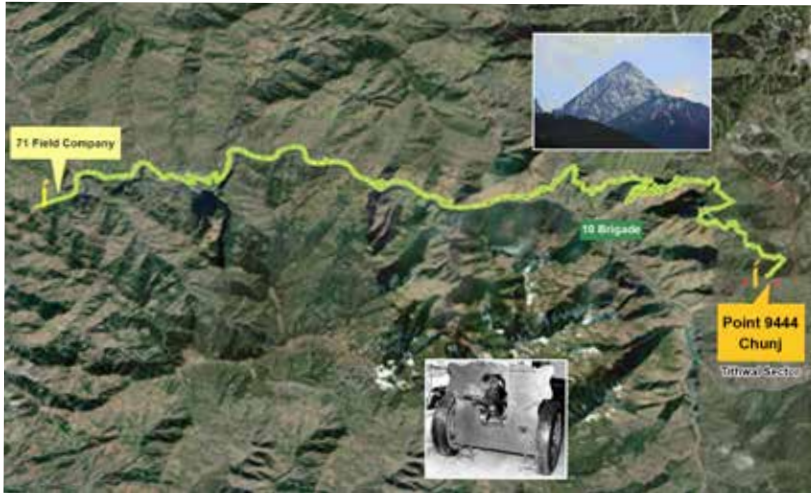
¹⁷ History of Corps of Engineers Pakistan Army (Rawalpindi: The Army Press, 1989), 24.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

also got martyrdom in the same accident.²⁰ The body of Major A.M. Sloan was taken to Abbottabad and buried at the British Cemetery Abbottabad, with full military honours.²¹ He

will be remembered for his valour and sacrifice for Pakistan. He remains the only British officer, to die in action, for Pakistan. May Allah bless his soul.



Sketch showing track made by Major Sloan's company from Muzaffarabad to Chunj feature (inset: Chunj peak, artillery gun Shehzadi)
(Source: Author)



Grave of Major Sloan in Abbottabad
(Source: Author)

Editor's Note

- Dr Ahmad Ali visited Abbottabad Christian Cemetery and saw the grave of Major Alan MacFarlane Sloan.

About the author



Dr. Ahmad Ali is a psychiatrist by profession, and a research specialist. He contributes for military history magazines.

“The best way out is always through.”

(Robert Frost)

²⁰ Historical Section, GS Branch GHQ, *The Kashmir Campaign 1947-48* (Rawalpindi: Historical Section, 1970), 159.

²¹ Ibid.



Cry 'Havoc!', And Let Slip The Dogs of War

Man's best friend—the dog—has for millennia, also been his best friend in the field of battle.

By Brigadier Fouad Hafeez, retired

Widely believed to have been the first species of animal that was domesticated¹, dogs were traditionally used to act as companions and guardians of home and hearth, since the time they may have been first domesticated by early hunter-gatherers, some 15,000 years ago.² Around 5,000 years ago, Egyptians, Romans and Greeks had started employing dogs on sentry and patrol duties.³



Roman war dog
(Source: dogtagbuddies.org)

The earliest history recorded in classical sources, of them being used as 'war dogs', though, stretches back to the 7th century B.C., when the army of Alyattes of Lydia battled the Cimmerians⁴;

where the dogs of the Lydians, used in packs, were employed to break through enemy battle lines and formations, disorient them, and eventually rout them.

In subsequent parts of this essay, we will see how these early tactics and employment techniques gradually underwent change, and how the dog—and its various breeds—also slowly morphed into being called a 'K9'* soldier, to the

widely accepted term nowadays; 'Military Working Dog', or MWD.



Military working dog
(Source: dvidshub.net)

The Evolution of Dogs in Warfare—Earliest Times Onwards

As far back as the mid-seventh century B.C., distinct tactics had started to emerge, employing dogs of war in combat. An example of this is the war waged by the Ephesians against Magnesia on the Maeander; where their horsemen were each accompanied by a war dog and a spear-bearing comrade. The dogs would be the first to enter the fray; used to break up the enemy ranks, followed by an assault with spears, then a cavalry charge.⁵ Often, these warriors would meet the same fate. An epitaph mentions the fate of a Magnesian horseman named Hippaemon with his dog Lethargos, his horse, and his spearman; who died in battle—and were buried—together.⁶



Sarcophagus depicting Alexander & his dog Peritas
(Source: quora.com)

- 1 Adam H Freedman and Robert K Wayne, "Deciphering the Origin of Dogs: From Fossils to Genomes", *Annual Review of Animal Biosciences* 8, no. 5 (Feb 2017): 281-307, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27912242/>.
- 2 Laurent A. F. Frantz, Daniel G. Bradley, Greger Larson & Ludovic Orlando, "Animal domestication in the era of ancient genomics", *Nature Reviews Genetics* 21, (2020): 449-460, <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41576-020-0225-0>.
- 3 "Dogs of War in European Conflict; Egyptians and Romans Employed Them in Early Warfare — Battle Dogs in 4000 B.C", the New York Times, February 21, 1915, <https://www.nytimes.com/1915/02/21/archives/dogs-of-war-in-european-conflict-egyptians-and-romans-employed-them.html>.
- 4 E. S. Forster, "Dogs in Ancient Warfare", *Greece & Rome* 10, no. 30 (1941):114, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/641375>.
- 5 E. S. Forster, "Dogs in Ancient Warfare", *Greece & Rome* 10, no. 30 (1941): 115, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/641375>.
- 6 P. A. L. Greenhalgh, *Early Greek Warfare: Horsemen and Chariots in the Homeric and Archaic Ages* (1973; reis., UK: Cambridge University Press, 2010), 145.

*homophone of canine



By the 5th century B.C., Xerxes I of Persia had stepped up the use of dogs in military campaigns. His armies that invaded Greece in 480 B.C., were accompanied by vast packs of Indian hounds. It is often speculated that these ancient mastiff breeds were the forebears of the Pakistani *Bully Kutta* breed; ferocious warriors, devoted companions, and excellent hunters.



Bully Kutta in rural Pakistan
(Source: vegbx.com)

These dogs may have served in the military alongside shock troops, and may also have been used for sport or hunting, but despite a very large number spoken of, their exact purpose is unrecorded.⁷

As time progressed, the efficacy of having canine companions accompany frontline troops, was starting to become more and more noteworthy. In 121 B.C., the then king of the Averni, Bituito (romanised as Bituitus), took to the field against the armies of Fabius Maximus in southern France. Perhaps the most remarkable feature of this battle was the desperate counter-attack by Bituito against the Roman legions with just the war dogs of his camp; a valiant, last-gasp measure that did not succeed, ultimately.⁸

In the *Late Antiquity* period, the much-feared Atilla—leader of a tribal empire consisting of Huns, Ostrogoths, Alans and Bulgars, in Central and Eastern Europe—used large war dogs in his many campaigns against the Western and Eastern Roman Empires.⁹ During and after this general period of time, exchanging bloodlines of various breeds became quite a norm for royalty



Mural depicting dog and a chariot
(Source: perseus.tufts.edu)

and nobility; which led to greater care being exercised in breeding dogs for desired traits and characteristics, and physical appearance. It is also from this time onwards, that the utility of these dogs as sentries, patrol animals, warriors, hunters, trackers and guardians continued to evolve and diversify. In some cultures, these dogs were even companions of brigands and highwaymen; used to attack and ransack (and defend, wherever needed) supply trains, and convoys, and caravans.

During the 15th century, on one side of the world—the Far East—Lê Lợi; a Vietnamese rebel leader—who founded the Later Lê dynasty as its first emperor—raised a pack of a hundred hounds, to harass and intimidate, and augment his guerilla operations against Ming troops. The trainer of these hounds, one Nguyễn Xí; so pleased the emperor with this, that it earned him command of a regiment of elite shock troops.¹⁰ From this start, Nguyễn Xí would go on to serve four generations of emperors, as a general, political adviser, and tactician.

On the other side of the world—the Far West—Spanish *conquistadors* used mastiffs and other large breeds—collectively known as the fearsome Becerrillo—to assist them in their conquest of Native American and Latin American

7 E. S. Forster, “Dogs in Ancient Warfare”, *Greece & Rome* 10, no. 30 (1941): 115, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/641375>.

8 Paulus Orosius, *Historiarum adversos paganos*, V, 14.

9 Ken Reynolds, “K-9 History: The Dogs of War!” YouTube, May 25, 2013, 6:32, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQWSLsFHYoQ>.

10 Nguyen Thanh Diep, “Vietnamese generals are likened to Khong Minh, taking tens of thousands of enemy names,” *Zing News*, March 11, 2017, <https://zingnews.vn/tuong-viet-duoc-vi-nhu-khong-minh-lay-hang-van-ten-cua-giac-post727561.html>.



Becerrillo-Spanish dog
(Source: ancient-origins.net)

tribes.¹¹ It is opined that some of the bloodlines from this stock—and those breeding lines from animals that were later transported back to Spain—formed the basis

for a number of large breeds, including the Presa Canario, the Fila Brasileiro, the Mastín Español, and the now-extinct Cordoba Fighting Dog.



Spanish dogs: Mastin Espanol (left), Presa Canario (right)
(Source: wisdompanel.com) (Source: fr.wikipedia.org)

that had never been imagined, saw the light of day. Techniques and drills and battle procedures that may have once been deemed improbable, became an accepted and widely-practiced norm. The employment of K9s in the war effort did not remain unchanged either.

Because of the growing lethality of weapons and munitions, the role of war dogs as part of shock troops, or frontline attack forces, started to diminish, and was replaced with a variety of other tasks, including being part of patrols, performing sentry duties, tracking and scent identification, acting as messengers and couriers, and being the unofficial mascots for their respective service, or branch, or regiment. Estimates put the number of K9 casualties between 1914 and 1918 at approximately one million killed.¹²

The World Wars and K9 Warfare

When World War I swept through most of the world, warfare and battle tactics underwent a period of intense, and accelerated evolution. Scenarios that had never been thought of, needed to be addressed. Weapons

The remarkable story of Sergeant Stubby; a Bull Terrier or Boston Terrier, who has been called the most decorated war dog of World War I, and the only dog to be nominated for rank and then promoted to sergeant through combat¹³, quite clearly exemplifies these multiple roles.



Sergeant Stubby in uniform
(Source: en.wikipedia.org)



Machine gun cart pulled by a dog in WW I
(Source: catawiki.com)

Stubby was found as a stray, on the grounds of the Yale University in July 1917, where members of the 102nd Infantry were training. As the men carried out their drills and battle procedures, Stubby would often be found hanging around them, specifically around



Sergeant Stubby with Corporal Conroy
(Source: findagrave.com)

11 John Grier Varner and Jeannette Johnson Varner, *Dogs of the Conquest* (Oklahoma, US: University of Oklahoma Press, 1983)
12 Melissa Thompson, “The 9 million unsung heroes of WW1: Dogs, horses and carrier pigeons made victory possible,” *Daily Mirror*, July, 2014, <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/real-life-stories/9-million-unsung-heroes-ww1-3939895>.
13 “The Price of Freedom’ exhibition”. Smithsonian Institute.



Corporal James Robert Conroy, with whom the dog shared a special bond.¹⁴ When it was time for the 102nd Infantry to ship out to France, Conroy hid Stubby on board the troop ship. At the time of disembarking, Stubby was hidden under his overcoat, and escaped detection.¹⁵ When finally the dog was discovered by Conroy's commanding officer, Stubby saluted him, as he had been trained to do so in camp, and the commanding officer allowed the dog to stay; where he ended up becoming the unofficial mascot¹⁶ for the 102nd.

Stubby served with the 102nd Infantry Regiment in the trenches of France for 18 months; where he participated in four offensives and was part of seventeen battles. His first



Stubby with 102nd Infantry Regiment
(Source: factsofworld4u.blogspot.com)

taste of combat occurred on February 5, 1918, at Chemin des Dames, where the 102nd came under constant fire for over a month. In April 1918, during a raid to take Seicheprey, Stubby was wounded in the foreleg by retreating Germans throwing hand grenades. He was sent to the rear to convalesce and recover; where he became an instant morale-raiser for the wounded and injured there, much as he was at the front. When he eventually recovered from his wounds, Stubby returned to the trenches, to join his comrades in combat.¹⁷

During the first year of his contribution to the war effort, Stubby was injured by mustard gas. After he recovered from his injuries, he returned to the field with a custom-fitted gas mask that enabled him to serve and protect without fear.¹⁸ Following this, Stubby became adept at learning to warn his unit of mustard gas attacks. He was incredible at locating wounded soldiers in no man's land, and his pronounced sense



Stubby wearing a gas mask
(Source: factsofworld4u.blogspot.com)

of hearing made him an expert at hearing the whistle of incoming artillery rounds well before they landed; saving countless lives, after him alerting his comrades to duck for cover. During one of his solo patrols into the no man's land, he single-handedly captured a German spy in the Argonne; grabbing hold of him by the seat of his pants and hanging on until troops arrived to assist him. For this action, his unit commander nominated Stubby for the rank of sergeant.¹⁹ After the recapture of Château-Thierry by US forces, the women of the town made Stubby a chamois coat upon which his many medals were pinned. He was later injured again, in the chest and leg by a grenade, and retired with two wound stripes. At the end of the war, Robert Conroy smuggled Stubby home; where he received all the adoration and admiration reserved for a true war hero.²⁰

By the time the events of World War II began to unfold, it had become fairly routine for people to donate their pets for military service.

14 "The story of Sergeant Stubby, WWI's most decorated dog". Stars & Stripes. July 1, 2014.

15 Ibid.

16 Ibid.

17 Ibid.

18 Ibid.

19 Ibid.

20 Ibid.



In 1942, a German Shepherd/Collie-Husky mix by the name of Chips, left his home in New York, and traveled to Virginia, to train as a military sentry. After his training, Chips served with the 3rd Infantry Division in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Germany and France. In 1943,



Chips and his handler
(Source: medium.com)

during the invasion of Sicily, Chips and his handler were pinned down by machine gun fire emerging from an Italian bunker. Chips assaulted the bunker single-handedly, and attacked the gun crew of four; who fled their pillbox and surrendered to the US forces. During the scuffle, Chips received scalp injuries and suffered powder burns, which did not stop him from assisting in the capture of ten more Italian soldiers the very same day.

For his actions during the course of the war, Chips was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross²¹, Silver Star²², and Purple Heart.²³ These awards though, were later rescinded and revoked due to an Army policy preventing official commendation of animals.²⁴ His unit on the other hand, unofficially awarded him a theater ribbon with an arrowhead, to signify his participation in an assault landing, and battle stars for each of his eight campaigns.

When he retired after the war—and much like Sergeant Stubby before him—Chips became a celebrity upon his return to the US.

After the World Wars to Present Day

From estimates, it is now widely accepted that around 5,000 US war dogs served in the Vietnam War (the US Army did not retain records prior to 1968); and that about 10,000 US servicemen served as dog handlers during this war. These dogs were used for tracking and as sniffer dogs, patrol animals, and to bolster protection and security forces. It is also estimated that these K9 units may have saved over 10,000 human lives; and in the process, 232 military working dogs²⁵ and 295²⁶ US servicemen working as dog handlers, were killed in action.



Employment of dogs in Vietnam war
(Source: nationalserviceanimalsmonument.org)



Parachute jumping

(Source: mirror.co.uk)

21 "Honoring the first dog to be awarded the Purple Heart", *Yahoo News*, March 13, 2015, https://news.yahoo.com/honoring-only-dog-awarded-purple-heart-095606961.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d-3cuZ29vZ2xLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAK6sChWjQOPZrn9J6hU0R9irCaUIHHqac9ohtJ0BFuod-KAUXkhEkdbCYZfvfIzU4IqdmVEyJiHyompnxXFEuv1QXT0qlXS_yIv0kGTnPUTjcwXl0DhedqjSb4qUAmelAcw5xLv5F0LezU9_rxZv6kZmPEJmf2sI4jpyq6--aem

22 Sandra Estrada. "Chips: Decorated War Hero". *Military.com*.

23 *Ibid*.

24 *Ibid*.

25 Burnam (2008) p. 288-293.

26 *Ibid*. p. 281-288.

United States 1st SFOD-D (Special Forces Operational Detachment-1, or 'Delta Force') operatives used a male Belgian Malinois named Conan²⁷; who took part in the Barisha raid in Syria, which resulted in the death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the then-leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, ISIS) terror organisation, on October 27, 2019.²⁸



Dog—Conan
(Source: reuters.com)

Conan chased Baghdadi down into a tunnel where the terror leader detonated his suicide vest; thereby killing himself. The dog was injured during this raid, by way of getting electrocuted by live wires in the compound, but later recovered, and returned to active duty, to complete over 50 missions.²⁹



Ambulance dog (Source: wikiwand.com)

War Dogs in the Pakistan Army

Pakistan's Army Dog Breeding Training Centre and School (ADBTC&S) was established in 1952³⁰, and is its premier K9 outfit; with the mission of breeding, rearing, training and issuing



Employment of dogs by Pakistan Army (Source: awamiitlah.com)

trained dogs to the field army.³¹ In addition to this, the school was also responsible to train officers & soldiers in different dog courses. It was initially authorised 114 persons and 292 dogs on its establishment.³² In 1986, the need was felt to increase the strength of dogs to 300 and men to 102.³³ Currently, the ADBTC&S has over 1000 dogs; spread across the length and breadth of the country, wherever their employment is warranted.

The dogs of the school are trained in the following disciplines:-

- Guard dogs
- Tracker dogs
- Mine detection dogs
- Sniffer dogs (narcotics, currency, Covid)
- Arms/explosive search dogs
- Avalanche rescue dogs
- Urban search and rescue (USAR) dogs

In addition to the training and breeding of dogs, the ADBTC&S provides training to officers and soldiers in various disciplines of dog breeding and training. The following training

27 James Laporta, "Classified name revealed of special operations dog wounded in Syria raid that killed ISIS leader Baghdadi", *Newsweek*, October 29, 2019.

28 Kevin Breuninger, "Trump praises Conan, hero dog injured in al-Baghdadi raid, at the White House", November 25, 2019.

29 Rukmini Callimachi, "ISIS Leader Paid Rival for Protection but Was Betrayed by His Own", *The New York Times*, October 30, 2019.

30 "Army Dog Breeding Training Centre and School", Training, Special Warfare/Skills Schools, Pakistan Army, <https://pakistanarmy.gov.pk/Army-Dog-Breeding-Training-Centre-and-School.php>.

31 Ibid.

32 Ibid.

33 Ibid.



objectives³⁴ are adhered to:-

- To train Remount Veterinary and Farm Corps (RV&FC) officers in kennel management, canine surgery, canine medicine, radiography, ultrasonography and breeding operations.



Training of dogs (Source: pakistanarmy.gov.pk)

- To train soldiers of RV&FC to handle and train dogs in different specialties.
- To train defence services personnel to handle dogs issued to units, and officers and soldiers from friendly countries.

Some of the astonishing achievements of these incredibly well-trained animals over the years in Pakistan, can be assessed from the statistics below:-

Explosives and ordnance identified by sniffer dogs

Item	Quantity
IEDs	73
Explosives	14,761 kg
Hand grenades	1,608
Firearms	4,172
Rockets and mortar bombs	1,175
Suicide bomber jackets	175
Ammunition rounds	312,608
Detonators	6,457
Mines (anti-tank and anti-personal)	165

34 Ibid.

Narcotics. A total of 5750 kg of assorted drugs (heroin, marijuana, and ice) over the past 5 years alone.

Tracking, Avalanche and USAR

- Since the start of the Siachen conflict, 24 surviving soldiers and 174 *shaheeds* have been recovered from various avalanche-hit areas.



Employment of dogs at Siachen (Source: ispr.gov.pk)

- A large number of Nepalese civilians, who were buried under rubble during the 2015 earthquake, were recovered by a Pakistani team sent for this purpose. These dogs received gallantry and good service awards by the Nepalese government.



Use of dogs in earthquake rescue operation in Nepal (Source: thestar.com.my)

- These dogs have tracked down some of Pakistan’s most wanted terrorists, across the length and breadth of the country.

Covid Detection. A fairly new discipline; the Army detection dogs have detected over 19,500

coronavirus positive cases at various border crossings and airports of Pakistan.



Sniffing dogs used in COVID detection
(Source: courrierinternational.com)

Currency Detection. Another fairly recent addition, Army dogs have foiled currency smuggling attempts to the tune of 11.9 million rupees, during the past some months.

In conclusion, ADBTC&S provides technical knowledge about military working dogs to not just the Pakistan Army, but also to officers, organisations & personnel from Defence Service Guards, Rangers, Customs and Police, and officers and soldiers of friendly countries, too. As the institution that is responsible for the



Employment of dogs in security duties (Source: nation.com.pk)

breeding, training and supply of trained dogs to dependent units and formations; the home to the most loyal of God's creatures, plays a vital role in the protection, safeguarding, and security of the nation, too.



Training of dogs at Dog Centre (Source: pakistanarmy.gov.pk)

Acknowledgment: *The statistics provided by the Pakistan Army Quartermaster General's Branch, Remount Veterinary and Farms Directorate, are gratefully acknowledged.*

About the author



Brigadier Fouad Hafeez is a retired mechanised infantry officer who served on various command, staff and instructional appointments during his military career. He commanded an infantry battalion and an Infantry brigade. He also served in Pakistan Military Academy as adjutant, and remained defence attaché in Jordan. The officer is presently serving in the Army Institute of Military History as director, Physical History Section.



Service in Eight Theatres of War

The 89th Punjabis in the First World War

By Lieutenant Colonel Rifat Nadeem Ahmad, retired

The First World War pitted Germany, Austria and Turkey against an alliance of western powers and their colonies. Fought on three continents over four long years, it produced carnage on a scale that still defies comprehension. The war took a horrific toll of an entire generation of young men, which included more than a million men from the Indo-Pakistan Sub-continent, who fought in every theatre of the war. Among them was an infantry battalion, whose service record is astonishing even by the standards of the First



Badge of 89th Punjabis
(Source: Author)

World War. The 89th Punjabis (now 1st Battalion The Baloch Regiment)*, was raised as a battalion of Madras Infantry in 1798. In 1903, it was designated as 89th Punjabis, with a class composition of Punjabi Muslims, Sikhs, Brahmans and Rajputs.¹ Despite more than a century of service, the battalion had not seen action in a major conflict, and its regimental colours were bare of any battle honours. The First World War offered it an opportunity to prove its mettle. Over the next six



Shoulder badge
(89th Punjabis)
(Source: deadspartan.co.uk)

years, it would participate in operations in eight different theatres of war on three continents, suffer horrendous losses, win numerous gallantry awards, and in the process, establish itself as one of the finest battalions in the Army.

Yemen: On 1 November 1914, the 89th Punjabis embarked for Egypt from Karachi, as part of Indian Expeditionary Force 'F'. En route, they were detached from the convoy near Sheikh



Officers of 89th Punjabis, Mandalay, Burma 1910
(Source: Brown University Library)

Sa'id Peninsula on the Red Sea coast of Yemen, on which was located the Turkish fort of Turba. The 89th Punjabis were ordered to capture and destroy the fort and its guns, which posed a threat to British ships sailing towards the Suez Canal. On 10 November, the task force arrived in front of Turba in bad weather and choppy seas. Under the cover of naval bombardment, the 89th Punjabis landed under the guns of the fort in broad daylight. After concentrating on a nearby hilly feature, they advanced towards the fort over open ground, under fire. At their approach, the Turks abandoned their positions and the fort fell to the battalion. It suffered losses of one killed and 8 wounded during the assault.² This is one of the first examples of an opposed assault landing in modern warfare. After the destruction of the fort, the battalion resumed its journey to Egypt, where it was deployed at Qantara on the Suez Canal.

Egypt: In November 1914, a Turkish force of 12,000 crossed into the Sinai Desert from Palestine, with the objective of cutting the British line of communication at the Suez Canal.

* In 1922, the battalion was designated as 1st Battalion 8th Punjab Regiment or 1/8th Punjab. In 1956, it became 1st Battalion The Baluch Regiment or 1 Baluch (now spelt Baloch).



Battlefields (theatres) of 89th Punjabis, 1914-20

(Source: Author)

Early on 3 February 1915, under the cover of a sandstorm, the Turks launched their attack at several points on the canal. At Qantara, the 89th Punjabis had placed a line of piquets beyond

in barbed wire entanglements. The Turks broke off contact and withdrew from the area. The losses of 89th Punjabis were four killed and 23 wounded.³ In April, the battalion left Egypt for Gallipoli in Turkey.



Map: Ottoman Empire

(Source: timemaps.com)

their main defence perimeter. In the dark, a party of Turks blundered into the barbed wire defences of a piquet, and heavy fighting broke out as the Turks also came in contact with adjacent piquets. The battalion beat back the attack after an intense firefight, thirty six Turkish soldiers were captured and another 20 were found dead

Gallipoli: When Turkey entered the war on the German side, Britain tried to knock her out with a bold stroke in the Dardanelles, by launching a surprise attack at Gallipoli. The Straits of Dardanelles is a narrow channel connecting the Sea of Marmara with the Aegean Sea. It is bounded on one side by the Turkish mainland, and on the other by the Gallipoli Peninsula; a hilly strip of land jutting out from the European part of Turkey. By forcing the Dardanelles, the British planned to open communication with Russian ports on the Black Sea, and threaten the Turkish capital of Constantinople (Istanbul). On 25 April 1915, an Allied invasion force of 75,000 landed at Gallipoli at several places. The Turks were surprised by the multiple landings. However, the slow and inept British follow up allowed the Turks to recover and move in reinforcements. The 89th Punjabis arrived at



Map: Gallipoli (Source: pinterest.com)



Indian troops during battle of Neuve Chapelle (Source: riflemantours.co.uk)

Cape Helles on 29 April, as the British were launching their first unsuccessful attack against Krithia, where the Turks had established their line of defence. On 9 May, the 89th Punjabis moved to the frontline. Over the next three days, they were engaged in intense exchange of fire with the Turks, including an advance on 12 May, when they suffered heavy casualties.⁴ Next day, concerns about the loyalty of Muslim troops led to the withdrawal of the battalion, even though no untoward incident had occurred.⁵ On 15 May, the battalion embarked for Egypt. During their short stay at Gallipoli, the 89th Punjabis suffered more than 100 casualties. It is the only infantry battalion of Pakistan Army to have fought in the Gallipoli Campaign.⁶

France: In August 1914, the Germans launched an offensive into France through Belgium, but were checked by the French and British on the River Marne. However, before the front could be stabilised, the Allied situation for some time remained precarious. The small British Expeditionary Force in France required urgent reinforcements. The only trained regular troops available at the time were in the Indian Army, and an Indian Corps of two infantry divisions was rushed to France to stem the German tide. The force arrived in September, and was immediately sent to the front without any preparation or training. Over the next 15 months, the corps

took part in some of the bloodiest battles of the war and suffered heavy casualties. Despite the drawbacks and horrific losses, it played a crucial role in saving the Allied situation in 1914-15. By the middle of 1915, the German offensive had ground to a halt and the fighting degenerated into interminable trench warfare. New battalions were dispatched to France as replacement of some of the broken units of the Indian Corps. Among them were the 89th Punjabis, who arrived in France on 29 May. By 12 June, they were in the trenches near Neuve Chapelle. The periods between major battles although quieter, were not idle, and casualties kept piling up. There was intense shelling, patrols were sent out to gather intelligence, and small attacks were



Map: Neuve Chapelle (France) (Source: legallegacy.wordpress.com)



launched for limited gains. This was the routine in which the 89th Punjabis found themselves in June 1915. “Although no major fighting fell to their lot, they did much useful work,” manning the defences, sending out fighting patrols, and enduring incessant artillery shelling along with the other hardships of trench warfare. In December, the Indian Corps was withdrawn for battlefields nearer to its home base, and the 89th Punjabis proceeded to Mesopotamia. Their tally of casualties in France was about 200.⁷

Mesopotamia: Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) was a Turkish province, whose proximity to the oil reserves of the Persian Gulf made it a target for the British. In October 1914, the 6th Indian Division sailed from India to occupy the oil installations at Abadan. Meeting little resistance from the Turks, who were caught unprepared, the division then occupied Basra. The British suffered their first reverse in November, when their over-extended troops failed to capture Baghdad. The 6th Division fell back to Kut al Imara located in a loop of the River Tigris, where it was besieged by the Turks. The British dispatched the two Indian divisions in France for relief of the besieged garrison at Kut al Imara. These included the 3rd Indian Division with the



Indian troops in Mesopotamia (Iraq)
(Source: laststandonzombieisland.com)

89th Punjabis, who arrived in February 1916, and were deployed on the right bank of River Tigris. As the British prepared for their advance, the Turks, leaving a small force at Kut, moved down to occupy strong defensive positions on both sides of the river. Between January and April



Map: Mesopotamia (Iraq) (Source: jlb2011.co.uk)

1916, the British launched repeated attacks to relieve the garrison of Kut al Imara.⁸

The 89th Punjabis’ first major action came early on 11 March, when they were ordered to occupy a nullah on the right bank of the Tigris. However, in the dark, the battalion overshot its objective and at dawn, found itself in front of the Turkish position at Abu Roman. Both sides were surprised. The 89th Punjabis immediately charged the position and occupied the first line trenches. The leading companies then gallantly continued the attack against the second line, however, with their ammunition running out and having lost 75 percent of their strength, they were ordered to withdraw.⁹

On 11 April, 3rd Division advanced towards the Turkish positions at Bait Aissa, with the 89th Punjabis on the extreme left of the division. On their left flank, a machine gun section under Lance Naik Shahamad Khan was deployed within 150 yards of the Turkish trenches. On 12 April, Shahamad Khan and his men beat back three Turkish



Nk Shahamad Khan, VC, 89th Punjabis
(Source: Imperial War Museums)



counterattacks and kept the gap secure for five hours until midnight, when they were ordered to withdraw. With most of his section having become casualties, this gallant NCO along with two sepoy continued to work their machine gun under heavy fire. And when their machine



Shahamad manning machine gun (Mesopotamia 1916)
(Source: vconline.org.uk)

gun was knocked out; they held their ground with rifles. While withdrawing, Shahamad Khan brought back his gun, ammunition and a severely wounded comrade. He then went back alone and retrieved all remaining weapons and equipment. For his gallantry, Lance Naik Shahamad Khan was awarded the Victoria Cross.¹⁰ The battalion suffered 121 casualties during the day's fighting.¹¹



Grave of Shahamad (Takhti Rajgan near Rawalpindi)
(Source: pakgeotagging.com)

Early on 17 April, the British resumed their attack. The 3rd Indian Division was given the objective of a series of six canals behind Bait Aissa. The advance was carried out so rapidly that Turkish trenches were still under bombardment when the attacking infantry reached their objective. The 89th Punjabis, which were in the second line, then leap-frogged over the leading battalions and occupied the mouths of the canals. "This assault was carried out with such dash that the 89th Punjabis passed clear

through our own artillery barrage." That evening, the Turks launched a fierce counterattack, which although beaten back, effectively broke the back of the British. The 89th Punjabis suffered 111 casualties, and their active strength was reduced to 176.¹² By now, the British were a spent force, and they gave up all attempts at the relief of Kut al Imara, which surrendered to the Turks on 29 April.

The North West Frontier: After two years of continuous field service, the depleted and exhausted 89th Punjabis were sent home to recuperate, in August 1916. The battalion was posted to Nowshera in the North West Frontier Province. However, rest remained elusive for them and they were frequently called out for



Map: North-Western Frontier Province (British India)
(Source: nam.ac.uk)

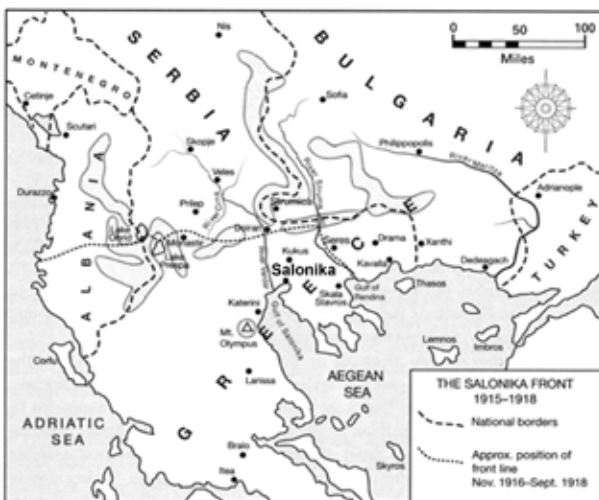
operations against hostile frontier tribesmen. In September, the British imposed a blockade of the Mohmand tribe because of their raids into the settled areas. On 12 February 1917, the 89th Punjabis marched to Shabkadar to join the blockade line, where they remained deployed until 26 April. In September, they proceeded to Chitral with a relief column. In December, the battalion was ordered back to Mesopotamia, where it was employed in internal security duties at Kufa and Nejef. By now, the Turkish Army in Mesopotamia had been largely defeated, and



Gallantry award recipients of 89th Punjabis, Nowshera 1917
(Source: Imperial War Museums)

it surrendered on 30 October 1918. The same month, the 89th Punjabis sailed for yet another theatre of war; this time to Salonika in Greece.¹³

Greece: In Salonika, the British and French were fighting against Bulgaria, which was allied with Germany and Turkey. By the time the 89th Punjabis arrived in Salonika on 4 November, an armistice was in place following the Bulgarian



Map: Salonika (Greece) (Source: pinterest.nz)

defeat, and the battalion did not see any action. The men took the news in their stride, “the Subedar Major asking if the men had permission to cheer!”¹⁴. The battalion, however, did not enjoy peace for long, and soon received orders to move to Batum in the Russian province of Georgia.

Russia: Since the 1917 Revolution, Russia had been in a state of civil war between the

communists and the royalists. Taking advantage of the situation, the Trans-Caucasian regions of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan declared independence. The mutually hostile states were in a very disturbed state, and the British, with an eye on the oilfields near Baku in Azerbaijan, quickly moved to safeguard their interests in the region. A British force entered Azerbaijan from Persia, while a division, with the 89th Punjabis was dispatched to Georgia from Salonika in December 1918. The battalion was deployed in detachments to guard sensitive installations



Map: Caucasian region (Source: travelweekly.com)

such as bridges and tunnels. In April 1919, it was detailed to provide guards on supply trains throughout the region. With a communist victory imminent, the British decided to withdraw from the region. In September, the 89th Punjabis concentrated at Batum, where they remained employed on guard duties until 9 July 1920, when they sailed for Constantinople. After a few weeks in Turkey, they left for India.¹⁵

During their long years of active service in the war, the 89th Punjabis suffered 1017 casualties, including 146 killed, 64 missing, 790 wounded, and 17 prisoners of war. They were awarded one Victoria Cross, one Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG), four Distinguished Service Orders (DSO), three Orders of the British Empire (OBE), six Indian Orders of Merit (IOM), five Military Crosses



(MC), one Order of British India (OBI), 26 Indian Distinguished Service Medals (IDSM), 27 Indian Meritorious Service Medals, and 68 Mentions in Despatches.¹⁶ They also earned 10 battle honours for their regiment.¹⁷ It is a remarkable record, while their service in eight theatres of wars; more than any other unit of the British Empire, is a unique distinction.

Notes

1. Lt Col RN Ahmad, *The Gallant One: War Services of First Battalion The Baloch Regiment* (Rawalpindi: The Battalion, 2012), 4, 22, 25, 29.
2. Col NM Geoghegan and Capt MHA Campbell, *History of the 1st Battalion 8th Punjab Regiment* (Aldershot: Gale & Polden, 1928), 2–7.
3. Geoghegan and Campbell, *History of the 1st Battalion*, 9–11.
4. Ahmad, *The Gallant One*, 39–44.
5. Simon Doherty, “Indian Muslim Regiments at Gallipoli: The 69th and 89th Punjabis,” *Durbar* 33, no. 3 (2016): 122–127.
6. Ahmad, *The Gallant One*, 44.
7. Geoghegan and Campbell, *History of the 1st Battalion*, 17–33.
8. Lt Col RN Ahmad, *History of the Baloch Regiment* (Abbottabad: The Baloch Regimental Centre, 2017), 59.
9. Geoghegan and Campbell, *History of the 1st Battalion*, 39– 42.
10. Supplement to the London Gazette, 26 September 1916. pp. 9418-9419.
11. Geoghegan and Campbell, *History of the 1st Battalion*, 46.
12. Geoghegan and Campbell, *History of the 1st Battalion*, 48–49.
13. Ahmad, *The Gallant One*, 68–70.
14. Geoghegan and Campbell, *History of the 1st Battalion*, 64.
15. Geoghegan and Campbell, *History of the 1st Battalion*, 65–69.
16. Geoghegan and Campbell, *History of the 1st Battalion*, 78–80.
17. Lt Col RN Ahmad, *Battle Honours of The Baloch Regiment* (Abbottabad: The Baloch Regimental Centre, 2010), 123.

About the author



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

Jihad and Humanitarian Laws of Warfare in Islam

By Brigadier Ghulam Jilani, retired

Clausewitz cogently defines war as a rational instrument of foreign policy: “an act of *violence* intended to compel our opponent to fulfil our will.”¹

A violent course taken to compel the opponent to accomplish a policy decision, is essentially not subservient to any law, because a violent action by definition, is against the law. There are no laws and rules that can be followed during war. Genghis Khan did not follow any rules or laws of war. Post-War of Independence in 1857 (mutiny for the British), according to Jon Wilson, the British reconquest was worse than Nadir Shah’s sacking of Delhi 118 years before, especially in its cruelty towards the general



Freedom fighters being blown from guns (1857 War of Independence)
(Source: deshgujarat.com)

public.² The modern and developed world first witnessed bombing of cities like London to beat the English into submission, and then Dresden, Berlin, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were razed to the ground, to bring the opposing side to collapse and bring to an early end World War II. Gas chambers were used for extermination of the Jews. In the shadowy wars of the recent past, wherein the enemy could not be identified or separated from civilians, these laws of war for civilians were also trampled upon.



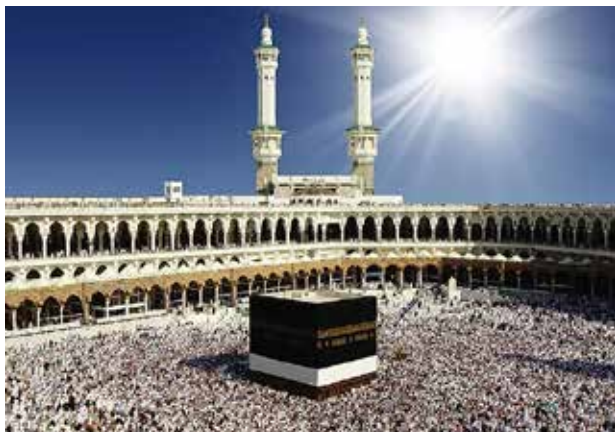
Devastation of atomic bomb (Hiroshima–August 1945)
(Source: accuracy.org)

In the aftermath of all crises, the narrative of the victor reaches the eyes and ears. Religion did not factor anywhere in the examples cited above. All these mass murders were violent actions by states or individuals, for a favourable outcome. However in the recent past, owing to actions of some individuals and groups who used religion as a shield, Islam as a religion is unfairly considered as supportive of wars and violence.

Among several, there is one particular verse of the Holy Quran that is often used both by religious zealots and proponents of Jihad, and also by the other side of extremism, to brand Islam as a violent religion. In 2:191 of the *Holy Quran*, ALLAH says: “And slay them wherever you catch them and turn them out from where they have turned you out. For tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter. Do not fight them at the Masjid Al-Haram (Ka’aba) unless they fight you therein. If they fight you, then slay them; such is the reward of those who suppress faith.” Needless to say, this verse was revealed when Muslims on the Hajj pilgrimage were attacked and killed by the Quraish, who had signed a treaty with the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ not to attack the pilgrims.

1 Joseph Frankel, “War”, Wars, Battles & Armed Conflicts, Britannica, accessed March 1, 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/war>.

2 Jon Wilson, *India Conquered: Britain’s Raj and the Chaos of Empire* (London: Simon & Schuster Ltd, 2016), 257

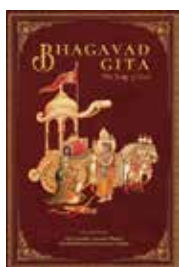


Masjid-al-Haram (Source: pinterest.com)

There is, therefore, a need to ascertain whether Islam can be associated with violent actions to achieve its objective of universal acceptance of Islam. There is also a need to determine the parameters laid down by the Quran and Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in relation to humanitarian matters, during and after conflict.

Sanctification of War in all Holy Scriptures

Is it only the Quran that has enjoined Muslims to fight against their enemies for a righteous motive? Other religious scriptures



Book: Bhagavad Geeta (Source: counterview.in)

have also commanded their followers to fight for the right cause. For example, Lord Arjun was told in *Bhagavad Geeta*. BG 2:33 “O Arjuna! If you do not fight for this religion and turn away from your religion, then you will lose your fame and glory.”³

The *Bible* asks its followers to fight. *Deuteronomy* 20:1-4 “When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the Lord

your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. And when you draw near to the battle, the priest shall come forward and speak to the people and shall say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing near for battle against your enemies: let not your heart faint. Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them, for the Lord your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.’”⁴

The *Torah*’s verse numbers 31:1-10 say: The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “And avenge the Israelite people on the Midianites; then you shall be gathered to your kin.” Moses spoke to the people, saying, “let men be picked out from among you for a campaign, and let them fall upon Midian to wreak the LORD’s vengeance on Midian. You shall dispatch on the campaign a thousand from every one of the tribes of Israel.” ... “The Israelites took the women and children of the Midianites captive, and seized as booty all their beasts, all their herds, and all their wealth. And they destroyed by fire all the towns in which they were settled, and their encampments.”⁵

Waging war for a righteous cause is analogous to the followers of almost all major religions. Knowledgeable scholars and commentators of a particular religion can appropriately give the context of each reference to war, made in their respective religious scriptures. The Quran, the life and actions of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, and the period of the four righteous caliphs of Islam are taken as a beacon for Muslims of the world, to interpret religious jurisprudence, in the same order of priority. Followers of Islam are bound to follow the laws of war in the same spirit as other commandments of Sharia pertaining to their way of life. Scholars have translated

3 Zainab Sikandar, “Quran doesn’t tell people to fight any more than Gita, Bible, Torah. Why pick on Muslims”, 2 November 2020, accessed on March 3, 2022, <https://theprint.in/opinion/quran-doesnt-tell-people-to-fight-any-more-than-gita-bible-torah-why-pick-on-muslims/534837/>.

4 Sikandar, “Why Pick on Muslims”

5 Ibid.



these sources into a legal system through two recognised methods—*Ijma e Ulama*, the unanimous consensus of scholars, and *qiyas*, analogical or deductive reasoning—which have themselves become sources of law. Islamic law is also shaped by commentaries and rulings, known as *fatwas*, by Muslim scholars.⁶



Al-Quran

(Source: islamghar.pk)

Revelations of the Quran continued for approximately 23 years, and in those years every facet of life was covered. Quranic commandments never came without context, background and reason, and covered the complete course of life, for all times to come.

Islam has laid down certain individual and collective duties, for example praying five times a day is an individual duty and everyone has to offer prayers. But *Namaz e Janaza* (funeral prayer) is a responsibility fulfilled by an individual for the community. Jihad becomes obligatory on every Muslim if attacked. *Therefore, a legitimate state has to declare Jihad, and not individuals.*⁷ However, the requirement to participate in a jihad could be met in several ways: by waging war, with the heart, with the tongue, with the hands, and with the sword. Jihad also means *a personal struggle to live as a true Muslim.*⁸

Military jihad is the only form of acceptable war in Islam, which prohibits the use of force for material gain or revenge. As such, in the 7th century, the very concept of jihad acted as a primary limitation on the use of violence. Historically, jihad was a positive phenomenon

because it humanised the practice of warfare in the Middle Ages. First, Shari'a (Islamic laws) prohibited the prevalent practice of using war for material gain or revenge. Second, the Prophet ﷺ and his companions, acting in accordance with the Qur'an and Sunnah, laid down very specific and strict rules for honourable combat.⁹

The Quran on Jihad and the Laws of War

The Qur'an (2: 190) says, 'fight in the way of Allah against those who fight you, and do not transgress limits. For Allah loveth not transgressors.' In this verse there are three succinct rules to fight. Firstly, Muslims are given permission to fight. Secondly, permission is granted with a caveat to fight against combatants only. Finally, Muslims are warned not to exceed the limits set by Allah and the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Islam is a complete code of life and has, therefore, laid down certain parameters in war, so that conflict stays within the precincts of basic human rights. A Qur'anic verse (2:205) to the effect says that destroying both life and property has been declared ... to be equivalent to spreading mischief in the world.

Islam is a religion of nature. It commands guidance according to instincts of human beings. Revenge is an instinct, but for Muslims, everything belongs to ALLAH, and therefore even while fighting for the cause of ALLAH, excess is not permitted. The Quran enjoins Muslims to refrain from exceeding limits, especially when the fire of revenge is burning. There is famous example of the conduct of Hazrat Ali (RA), when he spared a non-believer after overpowering him, because he spat on

6 Heba Aly, "Islamic Law and the Rules of War", *The New Humanitarian*, April 24, 2014, <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/2014/04/24/islamic-law-and-rules-war>.

7 Niaz A. Shah, "The Use of Force under Islamic Law", *European Journal of International Law* 24, no. 1 (February 2013): 343– 365, <https://academic.oup.com/ejil/article/24/1/343/438602>.

8 Youssef H. Aboul-Enein, and Sherifa Zuhur, *Islamic Rulings on Warfare*, (US: Strategic Studies Institute -Army War College, 2004): 4.

9 Karima Bennouna, "As-Salāmu `Alaykum? Humanitarian Law in Islamic Jurisprudence" *Michigan Journal of International Law* 15, no. 2 (1994): 621, <https://repository.law.umich.edu/mjil/vol15/iss2/7>



Ali's face. He explained after sparing him, that in case he had killed him, it would have been misconstrued as personal revenge, and that he fought against him only for the cause of ALLAH.

Many chapters of the Quran highlight the importance of jihad and use of force. Circumstances and the environment have also been clearly spelt out wherein ALLAH allows the use of force. The question remains, is it mandatory to use force against non-believers in all circumstances? Perhaps not, as the Quran says: "If they withdraw from you but fight you not, and (instead) send you (guarantees of) peace, then ALLAH hath opened no way for you (to war against them)" (4:90) "But if the enemy incline towards peace, do thou (also) incline towards peace, and trust in ALLAH: for He is the One that heareth and knoweth (all things)" (8:61).

"Invite (all) to the way of your Lord with wisdom, and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and gracious. For thy Lord knoweth who have strayed from His path, and who receives guidance" (16: 125). This verse guides towards a rational exchange of ideas, the freedom of choice in worship, and asks us to leave the judging of others to ALLAH. Many in the west believe that the goal of Muslims is to bring about submission and universal acceptance of Islam by the whole world, through jihad. This is far from the truth. Conversion by the sword is not

a reasonable expectation; instead the acceptance of Islam should be the result of free will.¹⁰ According to David Nicolle, in the western world, the public often regards Islam as a religion spread by force. In fact, forcible conversion is specifically banned by



David Nicolle
(Source: babelio.com)

Islamic *Sharia*.¹¹ It is worth its while to mention that a conqueror or victor nation leaves its cultural impact on the conquered land, and people follow it. When the East India Company came to dominate India by force, much like its predecessors, it came with its culture, dress code and even religion. Churches in almost every military cantonment of India and Pakistan stand till today. Most low caste Hindus converted to



Christ Church, Rawalpindi (Source: wikiwand.com)

Christianity through the preaching of priests, who neither came to India for trade, nor as a civil and military bureaucracy, but to spread Christianity. Even today, the western way of life and English language dominates the world because of its military, economic and cultural power. Hollywood is a case in point. Thus, people who converted to Islam after victories of Muslim armies, were essentially not overwhelmed by force. David Nicolle also highlights that conversion largely resulted from the example set by the early Muslim Arabs themselves, and activities of preachers and merchants.¹² Muslims took their superior culture, ethos and respect for every human being to the conquered lands, and Islam spread in all four corners of the world through the conduct and character of its preachers.

The Qur'an (5:32) states: 'We ordained for the children of Israel that if one slew a

10 Youssef, Enein, and Zuhur, *Islamic Rulings on Warfare*, 7.

11 David Nicolle, *The Great Islamic Conquests AD 632-750*, 7- 8

12 David Nicolle, *The Great Islamic Conquests AD 632-750*, 7



person—unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land—it would be as if he slew the whole people. And if anyone saved the life of a person it is as if he has saved the life of the whole of humankind. The Quran documented basic human rights to be followed by each Muslim, much before any enlightened society even imagined it.

According to the renowned Shafi'i jurist, An-Nawawi, there is a consensus among Islamic scholars that allows for tricks in war against non-believers, unless they have been given a promise or guarantee.¹³ The Qur'an clearly states that one should "not break the oaths after making them fast." (91:16). Muslims are obliged to follow the covenants they have concluded, and under no circumstances should they break them, unless the opposing side has initiated their violation. This was the case with the pact of Hudaibiyya, which was broken by the Quraish, and resulted in the subsequent conquest of Mecca.

The Quran further says "ALLAH does not forbid you to show kindness to non-believers who do not fight you because of your faith or drive you from your homes," (60:8-9). "Do not mischief on the earth, after it has been set in order" (7:56).

In Quran (76:8) ALLAH says: "And they feed, for the love of ALLAH, the indigent, the orphan and the captive" and in (47:4) ALLAH says: "Therefore when you meet the non-believers in battle smite at their necks; At length, when you have thoroughly subdued them then bind a bond firmly (make them prisoners), and afterwards either set them free as a favour or let them ransom themselves until the war lays down its burden."

Actions and Sayings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ about the Laws of War and the Treatment of the Enemy, during and after Conflict

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said after he returned from the last known *Ghazwa* (war in which Prophet ﷺ physically participated): "We have returned from the lesser jihad to embark on the greater jihad," describing the latter as the fight against inner demons controlling one's ego.

The Prophet ﷺ guided Muslim troops while dispatching them against the advancing Byzantine army, in language that foretold modern humanitarian rules and concerns: "In avenging the injuries inflicted upon us, molest not the harmless inmates of domestic seclusion; spare the weakness of the female; injure not the infants at the breast or those who are ill in bed. Refrain from demolishing the houses of the unresisting inhabitants; destroy not the means of their subsistence, nor their fruit-trees and touch not the palm ... and do not mutilate bodies and do not kill children".¹⁴

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is reported to have opposed the use of starvation as a weapon. In the war with the Meccans, a blockade of cereal exports to Mecca was ordered by a Bani Hanifa noble. When the Prophet was informed of this blockade by the Meccans themselves, he immediately ordered that it be lifted.¹⁵

The Prophet ﷺ sent a military expedition to Najran under Khalid bin Waleed. The instructions given to Khalid were, "call the tribe thrice to accept Islam. If they responded favourably, do them no harm. If they refuse, fight them."¹⁶

13 Bennoune, "Humanitarian Law in Islamic Jurisprudence", 625.

14 Bennoune, "Humanitarian Law in Islamic Jurisprudence", 624.

15 Bennoune, "Humanitarian Law in Islamic Jurisprudence", 631.

16 Lt Gen A.I Akram, *The Sword of ALLAH: Khalid Bin Waleed – His life and Campaigns*, (Islamabad: Poorab Academy, 2014), 119.



Map of Arabia showing main cities & battlefields

(Source: pinterest.com)

Muslim Book 19, hadith No. 4313). If one fights his brother, he must avoid striking the face, for God created him in the image of Adam. (Sahih Bukhari, Sahih Muslim).

Following the Battle of Badr, seventy prisoners were captured. There was no uniform treatment of prisoners in those times, who were either killed or enslaved¹⁸. The Prophet ﷺ released all seventy prisoners. Those who could afford it, paid a ransom, others were released on the only condition that they would teach some illiterate Muslims to read and write. After the Battle of Hunayn (A.D. 631), 6000 prisoners taken from the Hawazin tribe were simply set free by the Prophet ﷺ, with neither conditions nor ransom. The historian Al-Tabari

also reports that over one hundred families of the Bani Mustaliq tribe were taken as prisoners, but were set free without ransom, by the Prophet ﷺ.¹⁹ Is it possible for today's conventions to match this feat? Release of Wing Commander Abhinandan of the Indian Air Force, to a hostile neighbour, on the very next day of capture, without any preconditions, is a reflection of adherence to the teachings of the Prophet of Islam ﷺ.



Indian pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan (left)
(Source: kashmirlife.net)

Islam as a religion and way of life was the first one to clearly distinguish combatants and non-combatants of the enemy country. As far as the non-combatant population, such as women, children, the old and the infirm etc. is concerned, the instructions of the Prophet ﷺ were: “Do not kill any old person, any child, or any woman.” (Abu Dawud). During a war, the Prophet ﷺ saw the corpse of a woman lying on the ground and observed: “She was not fighting. How come then she was killed?” (Sahih Muslim Book 19, hadith No. 4320). From this statement of the Prophet ﷺ, jurists have drawn the principle that those who are non-combatants should not be killed during or after war.¹⁷

Before engaging in battle, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ instructed his soldiers, “do not desire an encounter with the enemy; but when you encounter them, be firm.” (Sahih

“Do not kill the monks in monasteries,” or “Do not kill the people who are sitting in

17 Youssef, Enein, and Zuhur, *Islamic Rulings on Warfare*.

18 Muhammad Hamidullah, *The Battlefields of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)*, rev. ed. (Karachi: Huzaifa Publications, 1979), 21.

19 Bennoune, “Humanitarian Law in Islamic Jurisprudence”, 634.



places of worship,” (Musnad of Ibn Hanbal). Privileges granted to the monks of the Monastery of Saint Catherine, and to all Christians near Mount Sinai, by the Prophet ﷺ are a monument to rational tolerance. He undertook himself and



Saint Catherine Monastery (Mount Sinai–Egypt)
(Source: civitatis.com)

enjoined his followers to protect the Christians, to defend their churches and the dwellings of their priests, and to guard them from all injuries. They were not to be unfairly taxed; no bishop was to be driven out of his diocese; no Christian was to be forced to reject his religion; no monk was to be expelled from his monastery; no pilgrim was to be stopped from his pilgrimage; nor were Christian churches to be pulled down for the sake of building mosques or houses for the Muslims. Christian women married to Muslims were to enjoy their own religion, and not to be subjected to compulsion or annoyance of any kind. If the Christians should stand in need of assistance for the repair of their churches or monasteries, or any other matter pertaining to their religion, the Muslims were to assist them.²⁰

Well maintained churches in Pakistan, thriving with religious festivities, are a manifestation of the teachings of our

Prophet ﷺ, and the religious tolerance enjoyed by the majority of Pakistanis. Perpetrators of violence are found in every religion and society, and are always an exception, therefore cannot be counted as a rule. In Christchurch, New Zealand, a fanatic named Brenton Tarrant killed forty nine and injured another forty eight Muslims in a firing incident in two mosques.²¹ It was never called a callous Christian attitude towards Muslims.

Four Righteous Caliphs followed the Path of their Mentor

Following the footsteps of his teacher and guide, while dispatching to Syria an army against the Romans, as was already decided by the Prophet ﷺ before his death, the first Caliph of Islam Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) gave some parting advice to his military commander: “In your march be not hard on yourself or your army. Be not harsh with your men or your officers, whom you should consult in all matters, be just and abjure evil and tyranny, for no nation which is unjust prospers or achieves victory over enemies. When you meet the enemy, turn not your back on him, for whoever turns his back except to manoeuvre for battle or to regroup, earns the wrath of ALLAH. His abode shall be hell, and what a terrible place it is. And when you have won a victory over your enemies, kill not women or children or the aged, and slaughter not beast except for eating. And break not the pacts which you make. You will come upon people who live like hermits in monasteries, believing that they have given up all for God. Let them be and destroy not their monasteries”.²²

Before departing for the conquest of the Levant, Caliph Abu Bakr told his warriors:

20 Dr. John Andrew Morrow, “Covenant of Prophet Muhammad with the Monks of Mt. Sinai,” Last Prophet. Info, January 1, 2015, accessed March 5, 2022, <https://www.lastprophet.info/covenant-of-the-prophet-muhammad-with-the-monks-of-mt-sinai>.

21 “Christchurch shootings: 49 dead in New Zealand mosque attacks”, *BBC*, March 15, 2019, accessed March 5, 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-47578798>.

22 Akram, *The Sword of Allah*, 312,314.



“When you meet your enemies in the fight, behave yourself as befits good Muslims.... If Allah gives you victory, do not abuse your advantage and beware not to stain your swords with the blood of one who yields, neither touch the children, the women, nor the infirm, also men, whom you may find among your enemies”²³

Caliph Abu Bakr (RA) also said: “Treat the prisoners and he who renders himself to your mercy with pity, as ALLAH shall do to you in your need; but trample down the proud and those who rebel.”²⁴

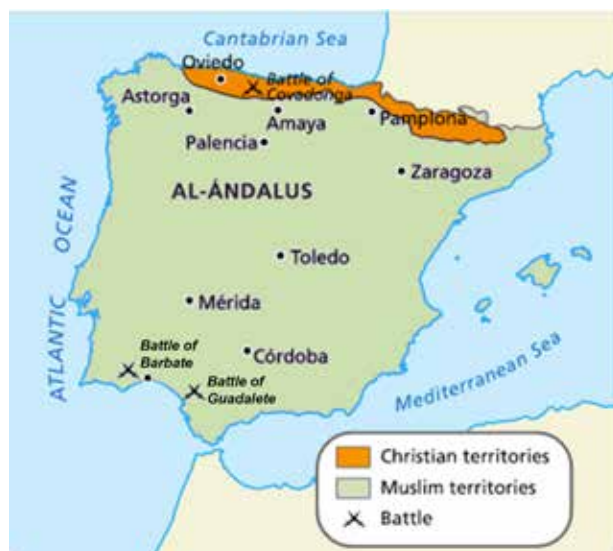
The second Caliph, Umar ibn al-Khattab (RA) was informed of the conduct of a Muslim fighter who told a Persian soldier not to fear him and then proceeded to kill the Persian. Umar warned the commander, saying “as ALLAH is my witness, if I hear anyone has done this I shall cut his neck.”²⁵

Caliph Umar (RA) had issued standing instructions to his departing armies: Do not mutilate when you have power to do so. Do not commit excess when you triumph. Do not kill an old man or a woman or a minor, but try to avoid them at the time of the encounter of the two armies, and at the time of the heat of victory, and at the time of expected attacks. Hazrat Umar (RA) is reported to have actually enforced these orders and went so far as to remove Khalid bin al-Waleed, his military commander, because Khalid was overzealous in slaughtering the enemy. Hazrat Umar (RA) is reported to have said, “Khalid’s sword is indeed violent.”²⁶ After the conquest of Egypt, the son of the governor Amr ibn al-‘Aas beat an Egyptian Copt without legal justification. Caliph Umar (RA), the

Muslim ruler at the time, whipped ibn al-‘Aas’s son as punishment.²⁷

The fourth Caliph Hazrat ‘Ali ibn Abu-Talib (RA) ordered his soldiers during an internecine Muslim conflict: “If you defeat them, do not kill a man in flight, do not finish off a wounded man, or mutilate the dead, do not rip open a curtain or enter a house without permission, do not take any of their property, and do not torture or harm their women even though they may insult your leaders, and remember ALLAH, mayhap you will have knowledge.”²⁸

Tariq Bin Ziyad, after successfully dealing with King Roderic in the Battle of Barbate, and when he moved in his campaign to destroy



Map: Al-Andalus (Spain) (Source: pictoeduca.com)

the forces of the Goths far and wide in Spain, addressed his men. He told them not to cause offence to unarmed and peaceful inhabitants of the land, to attack only those who are armed or actively assisted others who opposed the

23 Heba Aly, “Islamic Law and the Rules of War”, *The New Humanitarian*, April 24, 2014, <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/2014/04/24/islamic-law-and-rules-war>.

24 Aly, “Islamic Law and the Rules of War”.

25 Bennoune, “Humanitarian Law in Islamic Jurisprudence”, 625.

26 Bennoune, “Humanitarian Law in Islamic Jurisprudence”, 627.

27 Heba Aly, “Islamic Law and the Rules of War”, *The New Humanitarian*, April 24, 2014, <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/2014/04/24/islamic-law-and-rules-war>.

28 Bennoune, “Humanitarian Law in Islamic Jurisprudence”, 627.

Muslims, to take nothing in plunder except what fell in their lot in battle, or taken by force in battle.²⁹

In further foreshadowing of modern law, some early Muslim jurists made specific prohibitions regarding the types of weaponry and strategies considered particularly cruel. For example, the Maliki jurist, Khalil ibne Ishaq believed that poisoned arrows should not be used, in part because the suffering they inflicted far exceeded the potential gain.³⁰ This is exactly in consonance with today's treaties against the use of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

The limits placed on Muslims in the conduct of war, "gives to jihad an ideological-cum-ethical dimension that is obviously missing from the pre-Islamic practice of war," writes Karima Bennoune in the Michigan Journal of International Law.

Value of Laws of War in the Obtaining Milieu

Europe, the majority of whose population follows a single faith, witnessed progress in science and industrialisation during the 18th and 19th centuries, as a consequence of which the desire to dominate the world rose, and conflicts turned into violent actions. Sane minds started working on how wars could be made more civilised, and protect the weak and non-combatants from violence. Henri Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross, began the process of codifying these customs into international humanitarian law in 1864, and helped establish the first Geneva Convention, an international treaty that required armies to care for the sick and wounded on the battlefield. It was adopted by 12 European countries.³¹

Subsequently, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) summarised the basic rules of the Geneva Conventions and distilled them into seven basic principles applicable in armed conflicts.



Henri Dunant (founder of ICRC)
(Source: elm.com.sg)

- Those who do not take direct part in the hostilities should never be harmed, but rather must be actively protected.
- An enemy who is either sick or injured, or surrenders cannot be harmed or killed.
- The wounded and sick are always the responsibility of the party in whose power they are located.
- Captured combatants, or prisoners of war (POWs), have certain basic rights and they must be adequately provided for and allowed to correspond with their families. They cannot be attacked or be the objects of reprisal.
- No one should be subjected to torture or other cruel and unusual treatment and no one shall be held responsible for an act which he or she has not committed.
- The choices of methods of warfare are limited and those means which cause "unnecessary losses or excessive suffering" are absolutely prohibited.
- Distinctions must always be made between civilian and military populations and

29 Lt Gen AI Akram, *The Muslim Conquest of Spain*, (Lahore: Izharsons Printers, 2006-2007) 83-84.

30 Bennoune, "Humanitarian Law in Islamic Jurisprudence", 628.

31 Joanne Lu, "The 'Rules of War' Are Being Broken. What Exactly Are They?"; June 28, 2018, accessed March 8, 2022, <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2018/06/28/621112394/the-rules-of-war-are-being-broken-what-exactly-are-they>.



property, and only military targets can be subjected to attack.³²

Pakistan is a signatory to the Final Act of the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva, 12 August 1949.³³ ICRC teams often visit army schools of instruction, and deliver lectures on these laws of war. The Geneva Convention, if juxtaposed with the teachings of Islam on the humanitarian law of war—as have been discussed earlier—gives an impression that these codes worked out at Geneva are bequeathed by the teachings of Islam on human values, both during and after physical contact of the armies. Islam laid down certain fundamentals and principles for human values to be followed during and after war, which were practical. Therefore, more than a millennium before the codification of the Geneva Conventions, most of the fundamental categories of protection which the Conventions offer, could be found in a basic form in Islamic teachings.³⁴ The way Commander Kalbhusan Yadhav and Wing Commander Abhinandan of the Indian Navy and Air Force respectively, captured on Pakistani soil, have been treated by the Pakistan Army, is testament to the teachings of Islam on how to deal with POWs.

Pakistan Army is not only standing guard against external enemies, but also trying to bring peace to the body of Pakistan from internal conflict. Pakistan is a multi-ethnic and multi-lingual country, which also has clear sectarian delineations in religion. A country of such a makeup, with less resources and high population growth, thus becomes vulnerable to internal fissures, with external prodding. In the past, the services of the Pakistan Army—on many occasions—were therefore requisitioned by the Government of Pakistan, not only to

calm seething ethnic emotions and narrow the widening gaps in ideologies, but also to fight against self-styled jihadis, who in their own interpretation, declared jihad against their own legitimate government.



Pakistan Army during the War on Terror (Source: pakistanarmy.gov.pk)

While dealing with internal enemies, at times mistakes committed by a few became so pronounced—due to poor judgment—that they subsequently became monumental, and with irreparable damage done. The Pakistan Army underwent the trauma of surrender and ultimate breakup of East Pakistan in December 1971, partly due to the hostility of its local populace which believed that they were not treated with humility and justice during **OPERATION SEARCHLIGHT** in March 1971. This was during a crackdown on *Mukti Bahini* miscreants



Mukti Bahini getting training
(Source: srimalfernando.wordpress.com)

32 Bennoune, “Humanitarian Law in Islamic Jurisprudence”, 608.

33 “Final Act of the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva, 1949”, Treaties, States parties, and Commentaries, International Committee of the Red Cross, <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=5405BE0A482AE864C12563CD00519DEC>.

34 Heba Aly, “Islamic Law and the Rules of War”, *The New Humanitarian*, April 24, 2014, <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/2014/04/24/islamic-law-and-rules-war>.

who were conniving against Pakistan with full-spectrum Indian support and funding.

In the recent past, in our War against Terror, it often happened that miscreants, falsely propagating self-proclaimed jihad, struck at the very foundation of the motherland. Many civilians were killed and kidnapped by these miscreants to get their undesirable demands fulfilled. It is for such people that the Quran says, “when it is said to them make no mischief on earth, they say why, we only want to make peace” (2:11). And here it is essential to mention that the motto of Pakistan Army *Iman, Taqwa, Jihad fi Sabeelillah* is as much applicable against such miscreants, when the legitimate state declares action against them. In the arduous journey of **Operations Rah-e-Raast, Rah-e-Nijat, Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasaad**, learning lessons from the past and practicing humanitarian laws of Islam, the restraint shown by officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army in isolating miscreants before dealing with them, to save the lives and property of innocent civilians, was notable. Every



Pakistan Army saving lives and property of civilians
(Source: pakistanarmy.gov.pk)

so often it becomes difficult to resist emotions driven by a craving to take revenge for a fallen brother, after an IED attack or firing. Even in that trying environment of a natural desire to go for reprisals to take revenge, ire was kept within reasonable confines. Enlightened junior leaders did not go for indiscriminate action in the vicinity of the site of incident, following the



Martyrs of Pakistan Army (Source: reddit.com)

teachings of the Prophet ﷺ that battle is a *minor jihad*, in comparison to the struggle against evil of one's soul-self exertion in personal compliance with the dictates of Islam—which he describes as *superior jihad*. This is considered a masterpiece judgment to guide emotions in a positive direction. The exercise of compassion despite anger, would yield marvellous results.

Historically the East India Company and the British Indian Army had also spent much of their time countering internal disorders and *Pindaries*³⁵, to bring internal peace and order. The Pakistan Army may still be required to quell internal disorders in future, therefore, following the Quran, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and leading personalities and warriors of Islam, red lines should always be drawn wherein only miscreants should be tackled. Junior leaders of the Pakistan Army must give a very measured response whenever they come under attack, and their colleague dies in their arms due to some miscreants' activity in any disturbed area of the country. The advice of Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) must always be remembered: women, children and the elderly people must never be disrespected, let alone killed in retaliation. They must also be respected at the check posts. In the zone of conflict, locals generally have a similar outlook. Except for assailants, all must be treated normally. Islam, according to dictionary meanings, conveys the quality or state of being

35 “Pindari”, Indian history, Britannica, accessed March 13, 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pindari>



safe.³⁶ In view of the delicate nature of internal security operations to rid our society of the scourge of miscreants, the whole concept of humanitarian law in Islam during conflict, if followed in letter and spirit, will shield Pakistan Army against any propaganda or destructive narrative.

In a hadith narrated by Abdullah ibn `Amr ibn al-Aas, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

“You are neither hard-hearted nor of fierce character, nor one who shouts in the markets. You do not return evil for evil, but excuse and forgive.” (Al-Bukhari, Vol. 6, Book 60, hadith No. 362). With empathy, many a heart and mind can be won, but not through retaliation with bullets and guns. Guidance of the Quran, the Prophet ﷺ and the four righteous caliphs, should be treated as a standard and benchmark.

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About the author



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

He is presently serving as research director in the Army Institute of Military History.

“It is even better to act quickly and err than to hesitate until the time of action is past.”

(Carl von Clausewitz)



First *Victoria Cross* of The Frontier Corps of Militia

By Major Aamir Mushtaq Cheema, retired

Pakistan's present day, much decorated Frontier Corps, which is looking after the western borders with Afghanistan and Iran, was raised in 1907 as the *Frontier Corps of Militia, Rifles and Scouts*, with its headquarters at Peshawar.¹ In 1915, the first and last Victoria Cross from the Frontier Corps of Militia, was conferred upon Captain Eustace Jotham of the North Waziristan Militia (present day Tochi Scouts).



Capt Eustace Jotham
(Source: prabook.com)

Captain Jotham was commissioned from Sandhurst in 1903, and was transferred to the Indian Army in June 1905. Later he was attached



Map: NWFP (now KPK)–British India
(Source: fr.m.wikipedia.org)

to the North Waziristan Militia, which was raised for the purpose of detecting and protecting the Tochi Pass from any lashkar, and to hold them at bay till the regular Indian Army units stationed at Mir Ali, could reinforce them and provide firepower.

It was 7 January 1915 when Captain Eustace Jotham, wing commander² at Miranshah, was in Boya Fort inspecting his

troops. There were rumours of Khost Lashkar (from the Afghan province of Khost) gathering at Spina Khaisora, on the northern bank of Tochi River, with the intention of descending and looting the Boya Fort in a pattern similar to that of Miranshah in 1914.

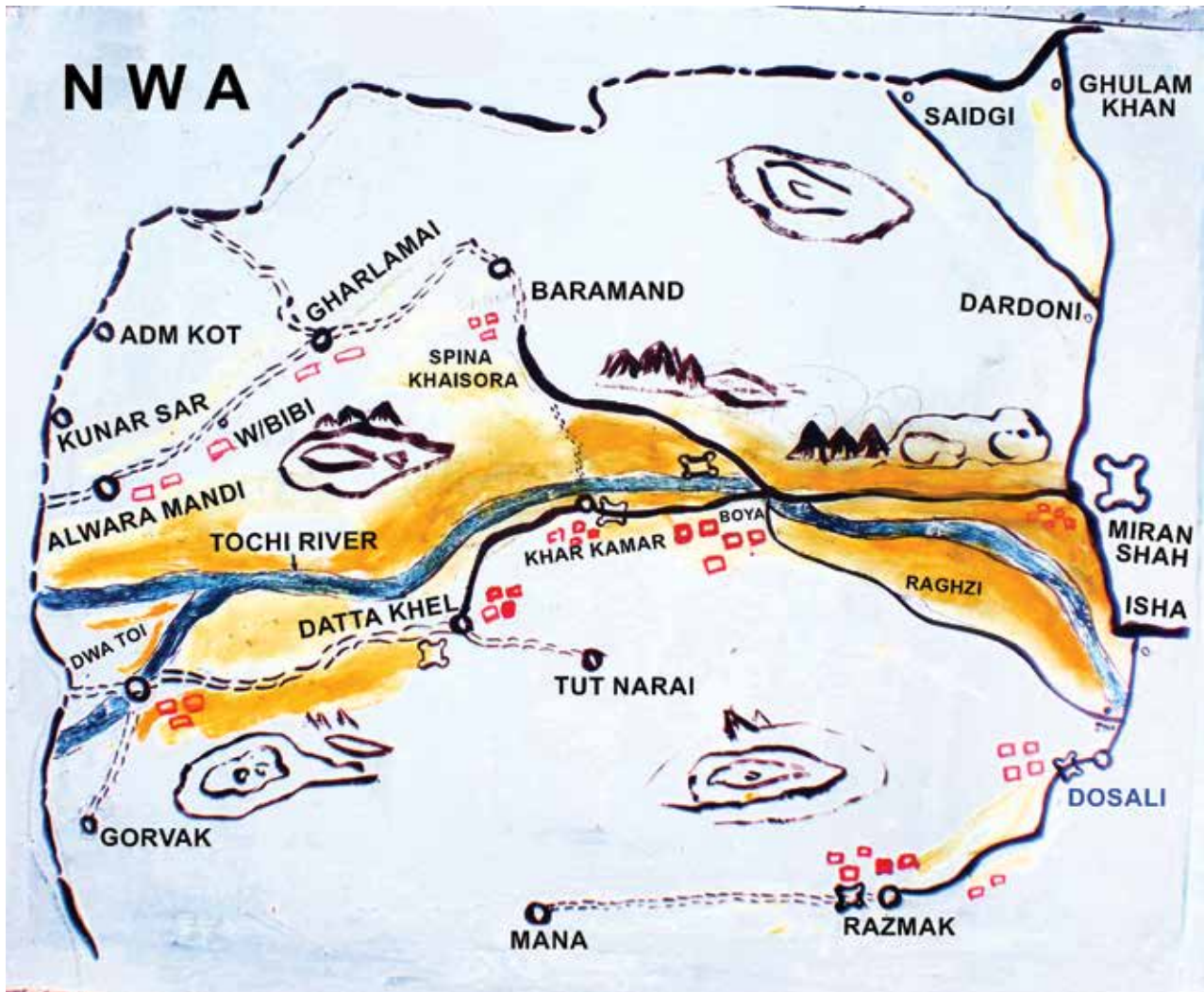


Cap badge of North Waziristan Militia
(Source: Author)

Jotham had been riding for an hour towards the west of Boya in the Khaisora Valley. Darim Shah, a Waziri sowar, was also accompanied him. The valley was rocky and partially green, at times restricting the mounted infantry to a single file, and at places there was ample space for three abreast to gallop. Captain Jotham reined in his horse *Glasgow* as he led his section of ten sowars, including Darim Shah, into the narrow defile. His sixth sense alerted him to something which he was unable to explain logically. One of the key factors of success and longevity of any officer in frontier warfare, is to trust his instincts.

All of a sudden, the first shot pierced the silence of the valley and noise ricocheted. Jotham knew, as did all the others, that they were on the verge of an ambush, something which had been regularly taught to them. Old hands knew that the best option was to gallop away, and find a place under cover to retaliate. Young Gulrung, a newly enlisted recruit out on his first *gasht* (patrol) was under fire, and a bullet hit his right thigh. Captain Jotham galloped

1 Present day **Frontier Corps**, was raised in 1907 as a liaison headquarters, to protect the Indian Frontier. The Frontier Corps was responsible for the entire border belt extending from Gilgit in the north to Mekran in the South. Comprising of Khyber Jezailchi (Khyber Rifles) - 1878, Zhob Levy - 1889, Gilgit Levies - 1889, Turi Militia - 1892, Chagai Levies - 1896, Tochi Levy - 1894, South Waziristan Militia 1900, North Waziristan Militia 1900, Chitral Scouts 1903,
2 In Militia, the organisation was based upon 'Wing' rather than a company or squadron. Wing had strength of over 200 men.



Sketch : North Waziristan Agency (NWA)

(Source: dattakhel.com)

towards Gulrung. From the cutting of the nullah, fire was coming incessantly. Jotham reached Gulrung, and instantly he was attacked by four miscreants. Jotham had an option to turn back and bolt for safety, but this young man charged forward for the sake of his sowar's safety. Captain Jotham picked up Gulrung the way he picked up a goat in *buzkushi* (Afghan polo played with a goat's headless carcass). Gulrung, half-conscious and half dead limbered, and Jotham heeled on *Glasgow's* left and bolted. He was first hit on his right shoulder, and then on his thigh, but he held Gulrung still. Bleeding profusely, Jotham rode, and Darim provided cover till he was away safely.

Captain Jotham died of wounds an hour after he reached Spina Khaisora, and so did Sowar Gulrung, but Darim Khan survived to tell the tale of bravery. Major Scott of the rescue party reached just in time, when the attacking Afghans thought they had won the day. Scott took position and started firing at them, and soon, as per tribal warfare, the tribes realised that the game has gone out of their hands, and started retreating. The Militia made a flanking attack, and by sunset the the attacking Afghans left the area, for the moment.

Jotham's bravery during these operations earned him a posthumous Victoria Cross. He is buried at Miranshah cemetery.³

³ For more details please see Tochi Scouts Museum at Miranshah..



Editor’s Note

Victoria Cross (VC) is the highest gallantry award which is bestowed upon members of the British or Commonwealth armed forces of the former British Empire. The VC was instituted in 1856 by Queen Victoria, and is awarded for extreme acts of bravery in the face of the enemy. Since its inception, there have been 1,358 VCs⁴ awarded. This includes 153 to members of the British Indian Army⁵ and civilians under its command, from 1857 until independence in 1947.



Victoria Cross
(Source: awm.gov.au)

Author’s Note

Citation of Captain Eustace Jotham:

For most conspicuous bravery on 7th January, 1915, at Spina Khaisora (Tochi Valley). During operations against the Khostwal tribesmen, Captain Jotham, who was commanding a party of about a dozen of the North Waziristan Militia, was attacked in a nullah and almost surrounded by an overwhelming force of some 1,500 tribesmen. He gave the order to retire, and could have himself escaped, but most gallantly sacrificed his own life by attempting to effect the rescue of one of his men who had lost his horse.



Plaque installed at Miranshah Cemetery to commemorate fallen British soldiers
(Source: mbdin.com)

About the author



Major Aamir Mushtaq Cheema was commissioned in 1984 in 58 Medium Ack Ack Regiment. He joined Army Aviation in 1989 and retired in 2008. He holds a master’s degree in history, and master of letters in war studies from University of Glasgow. He is the author of History of Royal Air Observation Corps 1936-1956, North Waziristan Militia & Tochi Scouts 1895-2012 and An Illustrated History of Chitral Scouts 1903-2014. He also co-authored History of Pakistan Army Aviation 1947-2007.

⁴ “The Victoria Cross,” National Army Museum, London, <https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/victoria-cross>.
⁵ “List of Victoria Cross recipients of the Indian Army,” Fandom, https://military-history.fandom.com/wiki/List_of_Victoria_Cross_recipients_of_the_Indian_Army.



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 correct option

- Which Ghazwa (battle fought by Holy Prophet ﷺ) is also known as Yaumul Furqan?
 - Ghazwa e Badr
 - Ghazwa e Uhud
 - Ghazwa e Khyber
 - Ghazwa e Khandaq
- Which incident in Islamic history is referred to as Fatah-e-Mubeen?
 - Hijrat e Madina
 - Fatha e Makkah
 - Ghazwa e Badr
 - Treaty of Hudaibiya
- A line of concrete fortifications, obstacles, and weapon installations was built by France during the 1930s, on its borders, to deter a German invasion. This strategy failed, as German forces went around this line and invaded France at the start of WW II. What was the name of this famous line of defences?
 - Hindenburg Line
 - Mannerheim Line
 - Maginot Line
 - McMahon Line
- Victoria Cross (VC) is the highest gallantry award of British and former Commonwealth countries forces. Who was the first Muslim recipient of VC in history?
 - Naik Shahamad Khan
 - Sepoy Khudadad Khan
 - Jemadar Mir Dast
 - Jemadar Abdul Hafiz
- BRB Canal runs along the eastern boundary of Lahore, near the border with India. Historically, the canal has significant importance as it provided a natural line of defence during Indo-Pak War of 1965. BRB stands for:-
 - Bambanwala-Ravi-Bedian Canal
 - Balloki -Ravi-Bedian Canal
 - Bambanwala-Ravi-Balloki Canal
 - Bhera-Ravi-Bedian Canal



6. Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas (shaheed) is the only recipient of the highest gallantry award *Nishan-e-Haider*, from Pakistan Air Force (PAF). To commemorate his supreme sacrifice, an air force base was named PAF Base Minhas. Where is this base located?
- (a) Karachi (b) Quetta
(c) Shorkot (d) Kamra
7. The Pakistani submarine PNS Ghazi sank due to an accident, while on a reconnaissance mine-laying mission near the Indian port of Vishakhapatnam (Bay of Bengal) during Indo-Pak War of 1971. When was PNS Ghazi inducted in Pakistan Navy?
- (a) 1970 (b) 1965
(c) 1964 (d) 1962
8. *OPERATION DWARKA*, also known as *OPERATION SOMNATH*, was a naval operation undertaken by the Pakistan Navy, to attack the Indian coastal town of Dwarka. This was the first employment of Pakistan Navy in any of the Indo-Pakistan wars. When was this operation conducted?
- (a) On 6-7 September 1965 (b) On 7-8 September 1965
(c) On 8-9 September 1965 (d) On 9-10 September 1965
9. Who was the first Commander-in-Chief of Pakistan Navy?
- (a) James Wilfred Jefford (b) R. L Archy
(c) Frank Messervy (d) Allan Perry-Keene
10. Alexander the Great was an ancient Macedonian ruler, and one of history's greatest military leaders. His empire stretched from the Balkans to modern-day Pakistan. During his childhood, a famous philosopher played a key role in the grooming of his personality. This great philosopher was:-
- (a) Socrates (b) Aristotle
(c) Plato (d) Euclid

(Answers on page 67)



Glimpses of AIMH Activities



Farewell visit by General Qamar Javed Bajwa, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff, on 4 November 2022



DG AIMH call on Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, NI(M), S Bt, Chief of the Naval Staff at Naval Headquarters Islamabad, on 16 August 2022



Visit to AIMH by General Michael Erik Kurilla, Commander US CENTCOM, on 18 August 2022



Farewell visit by Lieutenant General Syed Muhammad Adnan, HI(M), Inspector General Training and Evaluation, on 7 October 2022



Lieutenant General Muhammad Chiragh Haider, HI(M), incoming Inspector General Training and Evaluation, visiting AIMH on 10 November 2022



Glimpses of AIMH Activities



Visit by Indonesian military delegation on 17 October 2022



Afghan delegation visiting AIMH on 28 November 2022



Visit by Lieutenant General Humayun Aziz, HI(M), retired, Secretary Ministry of Defence Production, on 26 September 2022



Lieutenant General Muzammil Hussain, HI(M), retired, ex-chairman WAPDA, delivering a talk on *water security*, on 20 October 2022



Book launch of 'A Thousand Miles Apart: 1971 War in East Pakistan' by Major General Syed Ithar Hussain Shah, retired, on 8 September 2022





Glimpses of AIMH Activities



National consultative meeting on tragedy of East Pakistan 1971, held at AIMH, on 14 December 2022



Awarding certificates to interns on completion of 6 weeks training programme, on 26 August 2022



Faculty & students of National University of Modern Languages visiting AIMH on 30 September 2022



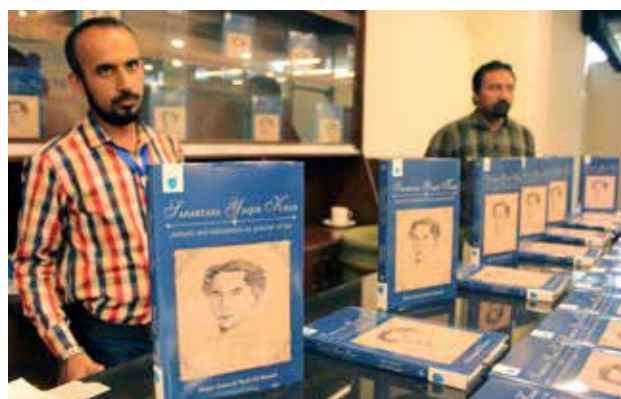
Question/Answer session during visit of faculty and students of Air University, Islamabad, on 4 October 2022



Glimpses of AIMH Activities



Focused group discussions held on 7 July 2022 and 30 August 2022 at AIMH, attended by scholars and experts

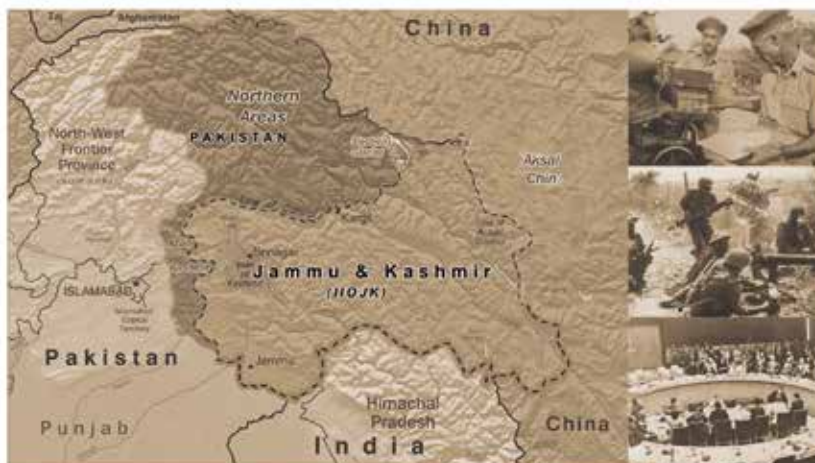


Book launch of ‘Sahabzada Yaqub Khan: pursuits and experiences as prisoner of war’ by Major General Syed Ali Hamid, retired, on 25 October 2022

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

75 Years Ago

Kashmir Liberation War, 1947-48



Left: Map of Jammu & Kashmir, top right and middle: Indo-Pak War over Kashmir, bottom right: UN Security Council

(Source: pakpassion.net, sarkarnama.in, thisday.app)

This war was fought over the princely state of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) from October 1947 to December 1948.¹ It was fought in the backdrop of illegal occupation of J&K by Indian forces.

Both India and Pakistan won independence from British rule in August 1947. According to the Partition Plan of June 3, 1947, the rulers of more than 550 princely states, including J&K, were given the choice to either remain independent, or join one of the two dominions (India or Pakistan), by executing an *instrument of accession*.² At that time, the princely state of J&K, with a majority Muslim population, was governed by a Hindu Maharaja Hari Singh. The Maharaja initially decided to remain independent, but later inclined towards India, against the wishes of the majority. Resultantly, the people of J&K stood up against the Maharaja's decision, and started an armed struggle, which spread across the length and breadth of the valley. When the Maharaja saw himself losing control of the state machinery, he asked India for military support. Along with signing the instrument of accession with India, on October 27, 1947,³ the Indian Army landed at Srinagar airport, and thus officially began the war. A series of battles was fought between the two rival forces during the winter of 1947, and throughout 1948. The main battles were fought in Uri, Bagh, Rawalakot, Mirpur, Kotli, Poonch, Baramula and Tithwal.⁴ Initially, only tribal lashkars and local freedom fighters fought against the enemy, but later they were joined by regular troops of the Pakistan Army.⁵ These ill-equipped soldiers and barely trained freedom fighters, fought one of the most difficult wars of modern history, and succeeded in liberating nearly one third of *Jammu and Kashmir*, today known as *Azad Jammu and Kashmir*. India first took the Kashmir dispute to the United Nations⁶, and requested for a ceasefire.⁷ Finally, a formal ceasefire was declared between India and Pakistan which came into effect on 1 January 1949. Today, the ceasefire line between two opposing forces is known as the *Line of Control*.⁸

1 Nawaz, Shuja (May 2008), "The First Kashmir War Revisited", *India Review*, 7 (2): 115–154, doi:10.1080/14736480802055455, S2CID 155030407

2 Historical Section, GS Branch GHQ, *The Kashmir Campaign 1947-48*(Rawalpindi: Historical Section,1970),xix.

3 Ibid, 61.

4 <https://www.pakistanarmy.gov.pk/1948-war.php>

5 Initially, only one Pakistani brigade was available to face 5 plus Indian brigades. Later on, both rival countries increased their strength in the valley but still balance of force remained in favour of India. (source: <https://www.pakistanarmy.gov.pk/1948-war.php>)

6 <https://pakun.org/kashmir/history.php>

7 Historical Section, GS Branch GHQ, *The Kashmir Campaign 1947-48*(Rawalpindi: Historical Section,1970),270.

8 <https://www.pakistanarmy.gov.pk/1948-war.php>

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