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Captain *Baba* Abdur Rahim, shaheed
S Bt, T Bt & Bar



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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 descended from those warriors of antiquity, while structurally, the Pakistan Army is directly descended from the grand old regiments of the British Indian Army, some of which predate Pakistan by nearly two hundred years. It has a rich and proud history extending both sides of Partition (1947)—always defending Pakistan.

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

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

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

Bugle & Trumpet (Winter 2023) is in your hands. We are delighted to present this 10th issue with a collection of well-researched compositions on military history. Articles from the World Wars, colonial era, Indo-Pak wars and our own Army are included, keeping in view contents, diction, originality and above all, interest of the readers.

The cover story illustrates the tale of a dauntless aviator, Captain *Baba* Abdur Rahim, shaheed, who gave his life in OPERATION LIFELINE during the massive October 2005 earthquake, while saving the lives of others. A brave, down-to-earth and seasoned pilot with three awards for gallantry, he would take on any action in the pursuit of his professional duties. He had the courage to step into the jaws of death, and snatch life out of it.

Joint Operations by a Baluch Battalion in the Second World War is the story of 3/10th Baluch (now 10th Baloch) that took part in World War II under the command of Lieutenant Colonel A. C. Taylor, DSO, as part of 8th Indian Division, in Iran and North Africa. The task given in Iran was to capture and secure the naval bases of Bandar Shahpur, Khurramshahr and Haft Khel. Later the battalion was deployed in North Africa, Italy and Greece. Indian Infantry battalions were primarily trained for frontier warfare and internal security; however, the novel experiences of World War II prepared the battalion for future pursuits.

Soldiering and sportsmanship have been two inseparable professions since times unknown. They are like two sides of a coin. Discipline, character, initiative, teamwork, perseverance and surprise & deception, are some of the traits shared by both professions. In his article *Soldier—A Virtuous Sportsman*, the writer has delved deep into the origin of various games and their association with the military. Pakistan Army being not an exception, has achieved laurels in sports and produced eminent sportsmen of national and international repute.

Demystification of Millions Killed sheds light on the most controversial and distorted topic of our military history—killings of Bengalis in 1971 War by our armed forces. The author has attempted to clear the fog on the issue, and has brought to light that the scale of killings inflicted on non-Bengalis in East Pakistan never received the attention it deserved. The popular narrative in this regard is the penance we have paid for 50 years of criminal silence.

I hope that this issue is well received by our readers. Suggestions regarding further improvement will be appreciated, and we will make all efforts to include your feedback in future editions.

Happy reading!

Muhammad Khalil



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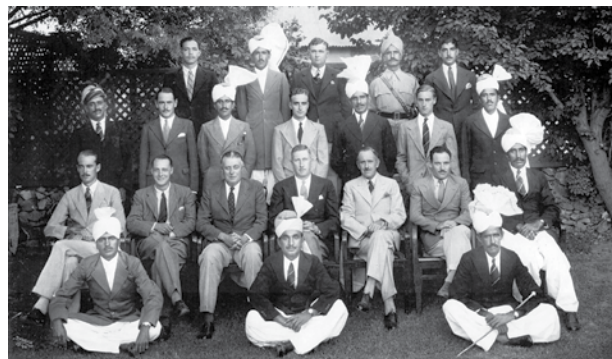


Joint Operations by a Baluch Battalion in the Second World War

By Lieutenant Colonel Rifat Nadeem Ahmad, retired

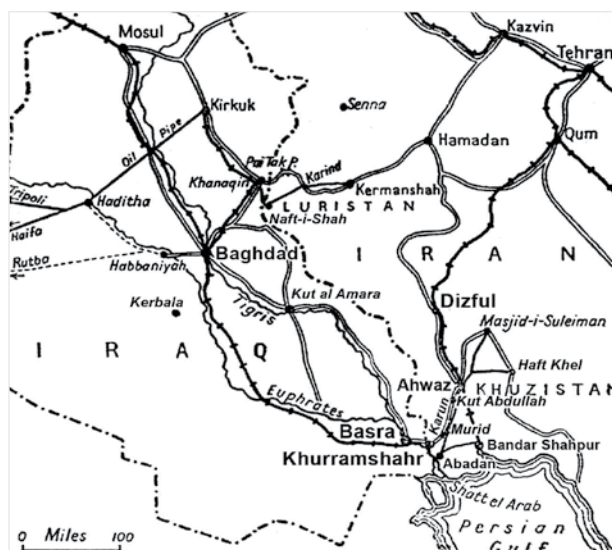
The Second World War did not start well for the Allies. By early 1941, the Germans had conquered most of Europe, following a string of stunning victories. In June they invaded the Soviet Union, bringing them uncomfortably close to the Middle East and its oil resources. Wary of German influence in the region, Britain asked neutral Iran to expel all Germans from the country. However, the presence of German nationals was only an excuse, British actions were largely motivated by a desire to secure a supply route to the Soviet Union, and seize Iranian oilfields. Iran, which had declared neutrality on the outbreak of war, was suspicious of British and Soviet intentions. On Iranian reluctance to comply with the ultimatum, the Allies launched OPERATION COUNTENANCE. On 25 August, the Soviet Union invaded Iran from the north, while the British attacked from the west. The small and poorly equipped Iranian Army, supported by a few obsolete ships and airplanes, did not stand a chance. After offering token resistance, the Iranians capitulated.¹ The British invasion force of about 19,000 men consisted of the 8th Indian Division. Among them was a Baluch battalion which carried out three joint operations with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.²

On the outbreak of the Second World War, 3rd Battalion (Queen Mary's Own) 10th Baluch Regiment or 3/10th Baluch (now 10 Baloch*), was stationed at Razmak on the North West Frontier of India. In September 1940, it was mobilised for war and posted to 18th Infantry Brigade of the 8th Indian Division at Meerut. In June 1941, Lieutenant Colonel AC Taylor, DSO, took command of the battalion.



Officers and VCOs of 3/10th Baluch, Razmak, Waziristan, 1940
(Source: Author)

Next month, the 8th Indian Division was ordered to Iraq, and 3/10th Baluch sailed from Bombay on 31 July 1941. On their arrival at Basra on 9 August 1941, Colonel Taylor was informed that his battalion had been selected for a special mission, the details of which were to be kept secret for the time being.



Map: Iran and Iraq (1941)
(Source: Her Majesty's Stationary Office)

The battalion was distributed into three combat groups for joint air and naval operations. Two groups under command of the Royal Navy, were to capture the Persian Gulf port of Bandar

* In 1945, 10th Baluch Regiment shed its number to simply become 'The Baluch Regiment'. In 1956, 3 Baluch was renumbered as 10 Baluch, while in 1991, the spelling of Baluch was changed to Baloch to better reflect the correct pronunciation.



Shahpur and the Iranian naval installations at Khurramshahr, while the third group was to capture the oilfield at Haft Khel further inland, by an air-landing operation with the Royal Air Force. The Baluchis were flattered at being selected for those unusual commando operations and accepted them with great enthusiasm.³

Bandar Shahpur

Bandar Shahpur is an Iranian port on the Persian Gulf. Its location and the presence of a railhead from where supplies could easily be transported to the Soviet Union, made it an obvious target for the Allies. The combat group earmarked for Bandar Shahpur consisted of two companies of 3/10th Baluch under Major WE Maxwell, CIE. Their mission was to secure the port of Shahpur and capture or sink the German and Italian merchant ships anchored in the harbour, along with the Iranian naval vessels guarding them.⁴ Intelligence about Iranian strength and dispositions were vague. The Baluchis left Basra secretly on 10 August 1941 and the next day, were transferred to the

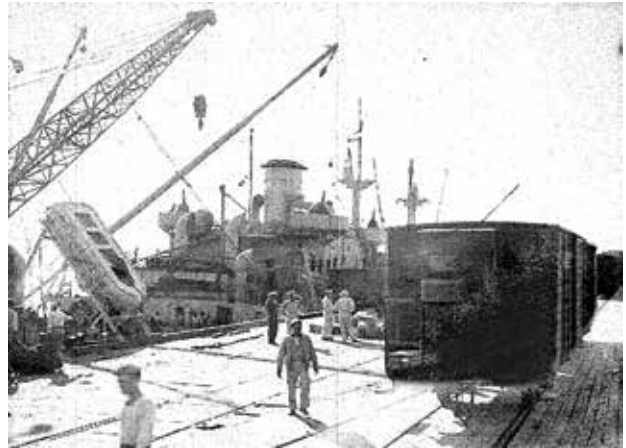


The Armed Merchant Cruiser HMAS Kanimbla
(Source: Royal Australian Navy)

Australian armed merchant cruiser *HMAS Kanimbla*, the flagship of the task force. The naval flotilla was made up

of an assortment of seven ships, nicknamed the *Afghan Navy* by the sailors.

Early on 25 August 1941, the task force arrived at Bandar Shahpur. Several raiding parties from the Royal Indian and Australian Navies, along with eight men from 3/10th Baluch under 2nd Lieutenant RH Brown silently approached the harbour in boats. Surprise was complete. Nine ships were captured, while two were scuttled by their crews. There were no



The Jetty at Bandar Shahpur after its capture in 1941
(Source: Pars Times)

casualties among the Baluchis, who boarded and captured the German flagship *Hohenfels*, in the face of some resistance. In the meantime, the *Kanimbla* had arrived in the harbour. The naval engagement commenced at 0515 hours. Two hours later, the Baluchis started landing at the jetty, where they came under fire from Iranian soldiers, from the direction of the railway station. The Baluchis fired back and immediately sent a platoon to outflank them, at which the Iranians fled into the marshes towards the north. The port was then secured and prisoners rounded up. One sepoy was wounded among the Baluchis.⁵

Khurramshahr

Khurramshahr is an inland port situated on the River Karun, north of Abadan. The port was defended by around 3000 Iranian soldiers and 1500 sailors, six Iranian naval vessels were anchored in the port. The task of capturing the



Lieutenant JM Vokes
(Source: cranbrookschool.co.uk)

town was given to 18th Indian Brigade.⁶ Meanwhile, C Company 3/10th Baluch under Lieutenant JM Vokes, was to capture the Iranian naval base. The company left Basra on 24 August 1941 on board Royal Navy warships *HMS Falmouth* and *HMAS Yarra*, arriving at Khurramshahr just before dawn. Under the cover of a naval bombardment, the



Baluchis boarded and captured two Iranian gunboats. They landed ashore under fire, and immediately attacked and silenced a machine gun post, which was firing at them. They then proceeded to clear shore installations. Main resistance came from the Iranian quarter guard, where Lieutenant Vokes was mortally wounded, while gallantly crossing open ground under fire, to throw a grenade. By late afternoon, the Baluchis had attained all their objectives. A number of Iranians were killed, including the admiral commanding the naval base, while 30 Iranian sailors were captured along with a large number of weapons and equipment. The only Baluch casualty was their company commander.⁷



Iranian sailors captured at Khurramshahr by 3/10th Baluch on 25 August 1941
(Source: Australian War Memorial)

Haft Khel

The third combat group under Captain JM Forster consisted of B Company 3/10th Baluch. Their mission was to air-land at Haft Khel to secure the oilfield, and protect the employees of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company and their families. Early on 25 August 1941, the company boarded six Vickers Valentia military transport aircraft of the Royal Air Force at



A Vickers Valentia military transport aircraft
(Source: BAE Systems)

Shaibah airfield near Basra, arriving at Haft Khel two hours later. Two of the

airplanes crashed into a nullah, while landing. Miraculously, no one was killed or seriously injured. After disarming the local police, the Baluchis secured the oil company employees at Haft Khel, until relieved on 30 August 1941.⁸

After a few months in the Middle East, 3/10th Baluch was sent as reinforcement to North Africa, where it arrived in December 1941. Until the outbreak of the Second World War, Indian infantry battalions were trained primarily for frontier warfare and internal security. Although the joint operations conducted by 3/10th Baluch did not involve any major fighting, the novel experience greatly boosted their morale and confidence, and served as good preparation for what was to follow. Over the next four years, the battalion was continuously engaged in fighting in North Africa, Italy and Greece, suffering 668



GOC-in-C Greece inspecting 3/10th Baluch, 22 October 1945
(Source: Imperial War Museums)

casualties, including 130 killed. It was awarded numerous gallantry awards and added 18 battle honours to its colours. It is possible that its experience in Iran played a role in its selection as a parachute battalion in 1946. However, the Partition of India in 1947, led to disbandment of the airborne division, and the battalion reverted to its traditional role.⁹



Notes

1. Mervyn Roberts, "Operation Countenance: The 1941 Invasion of Iran and the Clash of Propaganda Narratives," *Iranian Studies* 52, no. 3-4 (2019): 589-610. doi: 10.1080/00210862.2019.1628638.
2. Dharm Pal, *Official History of the Indian Armed Forces in the Second World War 1939-45: Campaign in Western Asia*, ed. Bisheshwar Prasad (Delhi: Combined Inter-Services Historical Section, 1957), 313-314.
3. Lt Col WE Maxwell, *Capital Campaigners: The History of the 3rd Battalion (Queen Mary's Own) The Baluch Regiment* (Aldershot, England: Gale & Polden, 1948), 92-96.
4. Pal, *Campaign in Western Asia*, 314.
5. WS Thatcher, *The Tenth Baluch Regiment in the Second World War* (Abbottabad: The Baluch Regimental Centre, 1980), 167-173.
6. Pal, *Campaign in Western Asia*, 325.
7. Thatcher, *The Tenth Baluch Regiment in the Second World War*, 173-174.
8. Maxwell, *Capital Campaigners*, 100-101.
9. Lt Col RN Ahmad, *History of the Baloch Regiment* (Abbottabad: The Baloch Regimental Centre, 2017), 332, 351, 378.

About the author



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"As long as there are sovereign nations possessing great power, war is inevitable."

(Albert Einstein)



Soldier—A Virtuous Sportsman

By Brigadier Ghulam Jilani, retired

Dominance is a characteristic of highly social animals such as humans, in which individuals of the same species compete intensely with one another for food, mates, territory or any other resource, including money.¹ Sports is a benign way to allow this competitive spirit, for individuals to satiate their desire to dominate, within the confines of ethics and civilised behaviour. Sports arenas provide an opportunity to make a positive effort to dominate each other, still providing space to the adversary, to assay and get ready to compete again, after organised hard work and perseverance.

Sport is derived from the Latin word *portare* which means to *amuse* or *entertain* oneself.² Physical activity has been shown to stimulate brain chemicals called neurotransmitters that make you feel better.³ The advantages accrued by playing sports go far in learning new physical accomplishments. Sports help develop better ways to cope with the crests and troughs of life, and negative feelings can be regulated and channelised for good results. To win and lose is an essential part; it adds maturity and sportsman spirit after you lose. Losing in a game allows an individual or team to overcome disappointment and plan for the next day in a better fashion, manage unkind experiences and makes one more robust. Sports plays an extremely important role in the makeup of a thriving society, it



Sports role in the makeup of a thriving society
(Source: atozmp3.ws)

regulates innate energy of individuals and society and moves them in a positive direction.

Sports Through the Lens of History

Sports in different versions and formats, according to cultural values of different societies, has been played for centuries. Ancient civilisations like the Egyptians, Greeks and Mayans all had a sport they enjoyed taking part in. They were created to bring people together, and help them settle disputes or conflicts in an organised manner.⁴

In the first century BCE when Rome came to dominate the western Mediterranean, it was an intensely competitive state that had glorified its military and traditions. The backbone of Roman power was its army, honed and conditioned to fiercely demanding standards. Soldiers were expected to be able to march more than twenty-five miles in five hours, hauling at least fifty pounds of equipment with them at the same time.⁵ Gladiatorial

- 1 Dario Maestriperi, "Social Dominance Explained Part I," *Psychology Today*, March 2, 2012, accessed on April 4, 2023, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/games-primates-play/201203/social-dominance-explained-part-i>.
- 2 "Similarities Between Sports and War," *UK Essays*, May 1, 2017, accessed on April 4, 2023, <https://www.ukessays.com/essays/history/similarities-between-sports-and-war-history-essay.php>.
- 3 "Developing life skills through sports," *Health Direct*, accessed on April 3, 2023, <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/developing-life-skills-through-sports>.
- 4 "History and Importance of Sports amongs Ancient Civilizations," *Bartleby*, accessed on April 4, 2023, <https://www.bartleby.com/essay/History-and-Importance-of-Sports-amongs-Ancient-PK2CAC4EJDM6S>.
- 5 Peter Frankopan, *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World* (New York: Vintage Publishing, 2017), 12-13.



Gladiatorial games in Rome as public entertainment
(Source: medium.com)

games were thus part of the military training and public entertainment. The first gladiatorial



Decimus Junius
Brutus

(Source: britannica.com)

games recorded in Rome took place in 264 BCE when the sons of Decimus Junius Brutus organised an event for their recently deceased father.⁶ Whereas the first known Olympics were held in the summer of 776

BCE at Olympia, a site in southern Greece where people went to worship their gods.⁷

Sports in India date back as far as 8000 years, deriving from the Bronze Age. Records suggest, the birth of sports in India came during the Indus Valley Civilisation, 3300-1300 BCE.⁸ Indus Valley, or ancient Pakistan, was one of the developed civilisations of its time. It had a complex sewage and drainage system, buildings for domestic and non-

residential use, along with essential water supply networks. There seems no reason why sports should not have been part of the cultural activities of an advanced and developed society. A mantra in the Atharvaveda (an ancient scripture or 4th Veda) sums up the importance of sports: “duty is in my right hand and the fruits of victory in my left”⁹ Romans and the Persian Empire dominated the ancient world but the British who later dominated the colonial world approached sporting encounters driven by amateurism, the spirit of fair play and the principles of muscular Christianity.¹⁰ Most of the modern sports like cricket, tennis, badminton, squash and hockey were introduced in the Sub-continent by the British East India Company. Cricket was thought to embody certain ‘English virtues’ such as strength, persistence, courage, leadership, camaraderie and sportsmanship.¹¹ Favourite sports of the local population of the Sub-continent, which now have international recognition, were polo, wrestling and kabaddi.

Do Sports have an Interrelation with Soldiering?

People with some knowledge of sports culture in ancient Greece know that soldiers did participate in sports, and felt it was good training for the sort of skills one needed for war.¹² Anthropologists believe that sports may have descended from tribal war games.¹³

6 “How Did Gladiatorial Games Evolve in Ancient Rome,” DailyHistory.org, accessed on April 4, 2023, https://dailyhistory.org/How_Did_Gladiatorial_Games_Evolve_in_Ancient_Rome.

7 Kay Boatner, “Let the Games Begin: The First Olympics,” National geographic, accessed on April 4, 2023, <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/first-olympics>.

8 Hiyah Zaidi, “The Origin and History of Sports in India,” Desi Blitz, September 11, 2020, accessed on March 29, 2023, <https://www.desiblitz.com/content/the-origin-and-history-of-sports-in-india>.

9 Zaidi, “The Origin and History of Sports in India”.

10 Martin Hurcombe and Philip Dine, “Introduction: War, Peace and Sport,” *Journal of War & Culture Studies* 13, no. 4 (October 2020): 337-341, <https://doi.org/10.1080/17526272.2020.1829398>.

11 “Sport and morale in the British Army,” National Army Museum, accessed on April 4, 2023, <https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/sport-and-morale-british-army>.

12 Gerald Early, “War and Sports,” Center for the Humanities, July 28, 2010, accessed on March 23, 2023, <https://humanities.wustl.edu/nnr-summer-institute/392>.

13 Nigel Barber, “The Social Function of Sports,” Psychology Today, accessed on March 14, 2023, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/the-human-beast/201812/the-social-function>.



Sports of all kinds, be they modern or ancient, are intensely competitive in nature, and require immense physical activity. Thus, the language, expressions, rules and cultural aspects of many sports are influenced by the adversarial structures of warfare. The difference remains that those are regulated encounters that promote mutual understanding and tolerance.¹⁴ Sports thus became not only a way of preparing young male bodies and minds for combat, but a form of cultural defence in the assertion of a particular national identity.¹⁵

To further understand the relationship between war and sports, it is essential to mention English novelist, essayist, journalist and critic George Orwell’s famous dictum that *sport is war minus the shooting*. For Orwell, even the Olympics should be considered nothing less than *mimic warfare*.¹⁶

Throughout history, sports and militarism have been inseparable.¹⁷ It is for this reason that protagonists of both sports and battlefields have many similarities. They are both regarded as signs of national excellence, adroitness and quality. Soldiers and sportsmen are critical to demonstrate the will of the state, which is essential to ultimate success in the sports and on the battlefield. The sportsground and battlefield are connected to each other as sites to validate rightful nationalistic expression and will.

A table of sports for Olympics and Asian Games, reveals that most sports like archery, fencing, wrestling, athletic events like javelin and hammer throw—and the list continues to read on—were once battlefield activities. Modern day sports are essentially duels of ancient times and almost every sport,



Ancient Greek Sports (Source: artofit.org)

has an inbuilt mechanism of attack and defence. Players are dedicated for attack and defence, with their skills and training much like soldiers. Team sports are symbolically connected to warfare, many involve some notion of territory that is contested and either won or lost. Most also provide a venue for pageantry, group colours and emblems that resemble tribal warfare.¹⁸

In a team sport, for example football, there are five attacking principles which are penetration, support/depth, mobility, width and creativity/improvisation.¹⁹ An offensive plan of any formation or unit is generally



Principles of attack and defence in football (Source: laderasoccer.net)

evolved on these five principles. Similarly, five defensive principles in a team sport are delay,

14 Hurcombe and Dine, “Introduction: War, Peace and Sport,” 337-341.

15 Hurcombe and Dine, “Introduction: War, Peace and Sport,” 337-341.

16 Hurcombe and Dine, “Introduction: War, Peace and Sport,” 337-341.

17 “Similarities Between Sports and War”.

18 Barber, “The Social Function of Sports”.

19 Audrey Tramel, “The Five Principles of Attacking & Defending in Soccer,” SportsRec, December 5, 2018, accessed on April 2, 2023, <https://www.sportsrec.com/8080962/the-five-principles-of-attacking-defending-in-soccer>.



depth, balance, concentration and composure/discipline/patience.²⁰ Deploy a formation or unit for defence and elaborate these principles, the results will be the same. There will hardly be any difference in attack and defence doctrine in sports and on the battlefield.

Homogeneity in Characteristics and Ethos of a Soldier and a Sportsman

Both for soldiers and civilians, warfare lifts life to *a higher plane of power*. It enables the expression of higher human qualities which often lie dormant in ordinary life, such as discipline, courage and self-sacrifice. Warfare creates a powerful sense of community in the face of a collective threat. It binds people together and creates a sense of cohesion with mutual goals. The *war effort* inspires individual citizens (not just soldiers) to behave honourably and unselfishly, in the service of a greater good.²¹ Is it only warfare that creates a sense of community in the face of a collective threat? In big encounters of sports, the whole community or nation unites to support its team against rivals. It is therefore interesting to determine parallels in ethos, characteristics and capabilities that a soldier and sportsman exhibit in their respective fields. There exists a commonality of attributes and expression of character in both sports-ground and on the battlefield. A few facets are dilated upon in subsequent paragraphs.

- **Discipline**

Human beings have a general affinity and instinct towards self-preservation, and therefore generally show traits of greed, selfishness, envy, pride and self-gratification

etc, without any rules or boundaries. Discipline enables a person to think beyond his or herself, and more for the society or team, considering the common good, and how his or her behaviour can affect the progress of the team in the long term, without distraction. According to Johnny Lewis, *be hundred percent disciplined and you have a good chance of success.*²²

Every sport is played within the precincts of strict rules, thus has either limitation of time or points which are strictly followed. Referees and umpires control the game and one whistle can bring everyone to a complete halt, and a wave of a hand or whistle starts it again. Sports inculcates essential elements of discipline in human beings, and will do the same for soldiers.²³

Discipline is an attribute which is at the core of military training and ethos of a



Drill instructors at PMA
(Source: PMA)

soldier and officer. Discipline is an essential tool to make an ethical

judgment both during peace and war. A soldier should be a manifestation of discipline and rules. Sports help in achieving this quality.

- **Character and Integrity**

Honesty and adherence to rules is the foundation of every game. Players can

20 Tramel, "The Five Principles of Attacking & Defending in Soccer."

21 Steve Taylor, "Sport and the Decline of War How sport can help the human race transcend war and conflict," Psychology Today, March 14, 2014, accessed on March 28, 2023, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/out-the-darkness/201403/sport-and-the-decline-war>.

22 "Discipline in Sport," Sports Nova UK, accessed on March 31, 2023, <https://www.sportnova.co.uk/discipline-in-sport>.

23 "Discipline in Sport."



develop into some of the strongest members of their team when they realise there are no short cuts. Sports foster character and integrity in sportsmen. A sportsman has to be honest; cheaters and liars are punished to set an example. Three Pakistani cricketers were disgraced and banned from playing cricket for selling their conscience a few years ago, whereas Majid Khan is still revered for his graceful conduct and honesty in the annals of cricketing history. An honest and truthful player is respected, and others are compelled to respect rules through stringent measures. Rules of the game are strictly applied, irrespective of the game, and that is why the adage *rules of the game* is used as a common phrase. There stays a deep connection among character, sports and military leadership.

Through character, leaders are able to build trust with their subordinates, an essential component to mission command, especially in large-scale combat operations.²⁴ Character for a military leader is all or nothing. A military leader's ethical foundation, which needs to be nurtured with the seeds of integrity and character, should permeate the decision-making process; the criteria of which should never be personal comfort, money, time and manpower but ethical behaviour alone. Thus, character has a profound connection with both a military leader and a sportsman.

- **Initiative**

Initiative necessarily means taking action in the absence of orders, a quality, which if



Display of initiative by a player in hockey
(Source: pksportslink.com)

cultivated properly, can bring out the best of results in a leader. A good sportsman has an intrinsic aptitude to take the initiative. A hockey forward, through exquisite dribbling skills, takes the ball right next to the goal mouth, but it is his ingenuity at that moment, whether to pass it to somebody better placed to score, or take a shot himself, which ultimately would decide the outcome of the game. In racket games, whether to play a shot or lob the ball, does not require prompting of a coach, but creative nature of the player. In cricket a cover drive to an out-swinging ball can fetch a boundary or a catch in the slips, hence a batsman's own choice at the spur of the moment. A player with superior ability to decide on his instinct, determines his level of proficiency in that particular sport. Proficiency of any sportsman is based on his ability to take this initiative with a positive outcome. Ronaldo, Ponting and Samiullah etc, achieved best results for their ability to make prompt choices at the right time. A good soldier exactly in a similar fashion, based on his intuition, decides to take the best action. Khalid Bin Al Waleed's decision in the Battle of Uhud to launch a

²⁴ Sgt. Maj. Demetris A. Prewitt, "Evaluating Character," Army University Press-NCO Journal, September 10, 2020, accessed on April 1, 2023, <https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/NCO-Journal/Archives/2020/September/Evaluating-Character/>.

counter attack when the archers vacated their location, was an initiative based on his intuition; he was never ordered to do it.

Sports can thus be instrumental to stimulate in soldiers, selfless approach and the ability to take the initiative.

- **Teamwork**

Together Everyone Achieves Mission (TEAM). Teamwork consequently is the basis of a team's efforts in any team game. Personal gains are sacrificed for the better results of the group; this is a first precept in all team sports. Sportsmen learn quickly that their best chance to achieve success will be through cooperation with teammates. In team games every member has his own expertise and thus everyone is dependent on each other, like parts of a well-oiled machine. Best results for any team are



Synchronised drill movements by PMA cadets
(Source: pakdefense.com)

achieved only when every team member has an equal level of competence, just like drill movements in the passing out parade of Pakistan Military Academy. Essentially, all activities in a military unit, whether in peace or war, are interconnected, akin to the tasks of each member of a crew in



Michael Jordan
(Source: quora.com)

gun drill, therefore team work in the army also is the guiding principle to achieve results.

Talent wins games, but teamwork

and intelligence win championships, says Michael Jordan, a star basketball player.²⁵

- **Surprise and Deception**

Throughout history, belligerents were able to achieve surprise on the battlefield by introducing new tactics, adopting bold strategies, employing deception and developing exceptional troop discipline.²⁶ There are many examples from military history wherein the enemy was surprised and deceived, to be defeated. Similarly in all types of competitive sports, when two players or teams are contesting each other for victory, stratagem is an essential part



Display of deception by a football player
(Source: medium.com)

to achieve victory. From dribbling, to who will strike the ball for a score or point, all parameters of deception are employed in team and individual sports to counter the opponent.

Surprise and deception from inception to planning and execution is an intrinsic part of the scheme of things both in sports as

25 Mike Henry, "Sacrifice and Teamwork," Lead Change, May 31, 2012, accessed on March 29, 2023, <https://leadchange.com/sacrifice-and-teamwork/>.

26 Klaus Knorr and Patrick Morgan, *Strategic Military Surprise: Incentives and Opportunities* (UK: Routledge, 1982), 2.



well as on the battlefield. This makes them identical twins to perform a particular job in two different domains.

- **Leadership**

Whether deliberately or not, every leader sets an example. The *led* must know what the leader is all about; like the reaction of a horse which at once becomes aware that



The led must know what the leader is all about
(Source: nation.com.pk)

his rider is confident and experienced. He must essentially be better in knowledge and expertise than his subordinates.

There are three constant factors that determine better chances of victory in any battle, the moral law (obedience), the commander (the captain), method and discipline (the general disposition and organisation). Now apply these to the team situation of a sport, and consider the following:

- Moral law is essential to achieve the respect of your subordinates or teammates, and to win their trust.
- A team captain like a commander on the battlefield, should display the ability to take his game a few notches above his team mates.

- Method and discipline clearly define roles of each member of the team and his responsibilities, exactly like in battlefield conditions, wherein every single individual knows his duties, like drill.²⁷

Only the best players who have earned the confidence of their colleagues through better expertise and qualities can lead the team. In the recently concluded FIFA World Cup, Messi as captain of Argentina took full responsibility and withstood all pressure situations through his good performance, drove the team to the finals and won the crown for his country. A captain of the team is expected to exhibit his best in a situation of crisis. It is the same for the military; subordinates always look towards their leader to give the best solution in a critical situation. *No man is a leader until his position is ratified in the minds and hearts of his men.* This is true for every military leader and is quoted in the US Army’s Infantryman’s Journal (1954).²⁸

- **Self-Sacrifice and Compassion**

In the Battle of Tabuk, three wounded companions of the Prophet ﷺ embraced shahadat, pointing a water carrier to their wounded colleagues first, all succumbing to their wounds without a sip of water, and set a great example of self-sacrifice for each other. Self-sacrifice is expected



Self-sacrifice is expected from every soldier
(Source: defence.pk)

²⁷ “How to Apply the Art of War in Sports,” Wiki How, last updated on January 31, 2023, <https://www.wikihow.life/Apply-the-Art-of-War-in-Sports>.

²⁸ PowerPoint Presentation (dmcma.org).



from every soldier, while in the line of duty, to accomplish a task. Those who eschew sacrifice and selflessness cannot set a personal example. Being self-centred is considered very negative in the army. Now apply the same in sports, wherein players like Messi, Ronaldo and Shahbaz, would not have touched the heights of expertise, if they were self-centred. In all team sports, a selfish player for self-aggrandizement can let the team down and thus is considered a pariah.

- **Team Spirit and *Esprit de Corps***

The British Indian Army fostered and favoured the concept of regimentation to build loyalty towards each other, a feeling of pride and mutual loyalty shown and shared by members of a unit. This feeling of oneness among officers and men as a well gelled team, has served the Pakistan Army well.

The structure of the team in sports is naturally built with oneness; team spirit is a natural process that develops as people play with one another. The shared experience of playing and watching sport was crucial in developing *esprit de corps*—feelings of pride and confidence among the members of a regiment.²⁹ Playing sports and a common desire to win nurtures team spirit, which then prevails over individualism, and personal differences are overcome.

It is very hard for every team member to have the honour of hitting the winning runs, or kicking the goal that wins the match. What defines a *team player* is the willingness to accept a degree of personal loss, in order to make a gain for the team.³⁰

- **Time Management and Patience**

In any operational task, time and space is an essential factor to reach a workable plan. In this context, time and space are calculated



Time management is essential to reach a workable plan
(Source: medium.com)

minutely. Similarly, most sports are time-bound activities with certain restrictions.

A sportsman, like a good leader of men, plans every time-bound activity on merit, to achieve the best results. Sports, therefore helps in development of social skills, time management, patience, respect for others, fair play and moderate the urge to always win.

- **Perseverance**

Sports teaches a soldier not to flee from the face of adversity when it strikes. To have the tenacity and determination



Fight through difficult terrain to achieve objective
(Source: medium.com)

to accomplish something despite the level of difficulty, fight through it in difficult terrain and weather conditions to achieve objectives.

There will be impediments and obstacles, but success can be achieved by navigating those obstacles through skill and perseverance. *“My suggestions are to smile when the headwind makes us work harder, laugh when we fall down bleeding, and never let anyone else control our emotions.”* -Tim Host, ATC Cross Country.³¹

²⁹ “Sport and morale in the British Army”.

³⁰ Brian Smith, “The value of sport in building team spirit and camaraderie,” The Scots College, March 23, 2017, accessed on March 29, 2023, <https://scots.college/the-value-of-sport-in-building-team-spirit-and-camaraderie/>.

³¹ JP Murrieta, “Life Lessons Sports Teaches Us,” New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA), December 24, 2020, accessed on April 3, 2023, <https://www.nmact.org/2020/12/life-lessons-sports-teaches-us/>.



Sports in the British Indian Army—Pakistan Army Made the Best of it

Modern sports were introduced to India by the British, and the Indian Army in British India played a leading role in sport—the Army Sports Control Board (ASCB) was set up in March 1919 on the lines of the British body with the same name.³²

- In 1721, British soldiers docked and decided to play cricket. They started playing with the locals on the seaboard of India,



A game of cricket being played in the 18th century
(Source: wisden.com)

near Cambay.³³ The late 19th century saw the rise of modern polo, Assam became home to the first polo club in India in 1834.³⁴



Winston Churchill with his polo ponies in India, circa 1896
(Source: telegraph.co.uk)

- The officers stationed in the city of Poona started playing Badminton in 1860s.³⁵
- In 1889, the first football club was formed in Calcutta.³⁶
- The introduction of tennis came in the 1880s.³⁷
- In 1885, the first hockey club was established in Calcutta. In 1928, the Indian hockey team won its first gold medal at



Indian hockey team in 1928, Amsterdam Summer Olympics
(Source: reddit.com)

the Amsterdam Summer Olympics after defeating Netherlands 3-0 in the final.³⁸

Pakistan Army continued the legacy of the British Indian Army by treating sports as a training activity and created a sports section under Infantry Directorate in GHQ, called Army Sports Control Committee. It was designated as Army Sports Directorate in 1986.

Pakistan Army held the banner of leading Pakistan in sports, no sooner the country gained independence. Lieutenant Colonel Nazar Muhammad Malik, Colonel A.I.S Dara and Abdul Hamid (Hamidi who later retired as brigadier), formed part of

32 Md Imtiaz, “Indian Army and sports: How the alliance is bringing glory to the nation,” The Bridge, January 15, 2021, accessed on March 27, 2023, <https://thebridge.in/featured/indian-army-sports-how-alliance-bringing-glory-nation/>.

33 Zaidi, “The Origin and History of Sports in India”.

34 Zaidi, “The Origin and History of Sports in India”.

35 Zaidi, “The Origin and History of Sports in India”.

36 Zaidi, “The Origin and History of Sports in India”.

37 Zaidi, “The Origin and History of Sports in India”.

38 Zaidi, “The Origin and History of Sports in India”.



the Pakistani contingent in 1948 Olympics, immediately after independence. Hamidi as team captain, Zakir and Noor Alam were part of the hockey team which won the first Asian Games gold medal in 1958. Hamidi as captain of the team along with M. H Atif, Zafar Hayat (both of whom later became brigadiers),



Colonel Nazar Colonel AIS Dara Brigadier Hamidi

Honorary Captains Bashir Ahmad and Noor Alam were part of the team which won the first Olympic crown in hockey for Pakistan. 1950s and 60s were the golden era of Pakistani sports, credit of which goes to the Pakistan Army, wherein not only in hockey, but in Athletics also, Havildar Mirza Khan, Subedar Abdul Khaliq, Honorary Captains Muhammad Iqbal, Muhammad Nawaz and Ghulam Raziq won gold medals in Asian Games. The list of silver and bronze medals is even longer. A total of 82 athletes of Pakistan Army in different disciplines have won medals in Olympics and the Asian Games so far. Honorary Captains Muhammad Iqbal, Ghulam Raziq, Faiz Muhammad and Naik Azhar Hussain won gold medals in athletics and wrestling events of the Commonwealth Games, whereas 8 other athletes also won silver and bronze medals. Pakistan Army rules the arena of sports in Pakistan, and has never lost the prestigious Quaid-e-Azam National Games trophy.

Pakistan Army underwent a tumultuous period after 9/11, and the American descent into neighbouring Afghanistan. Pakistan won the war of its survival against terrorists, in which many lost lives and a huge number lost



War wounded soldiers in a race on wheels
(Source: Author)

limbs. Those who lost limbs were living under traumatic stress. Participation in sports buttressed the rehabilitation process of the war wounded. It allowed them to come out of the stress that they encountered as a result of a loss of limb, and become useful member of society and military culture. The results were seen when the same soldiers, as special athletes,



War wounded soldiers in archery competition
(Source: Author)

participated in Paralympic Games in 2014, to represent Pakistan at the international level.

Why Sports are Essential? What Best can be Achieved?

Sports fosters a soldier's faith in his unit, reinforces group identity and makes soldiers ready to serve a common cause. Sports also bridge the gap between officers and men. These officers and men excel in sports, and also reach the highest rung of military leadership. Sports



Admiral Zaka Ullah,
ex Chief of Naval Staff
(Source: defence.pk)

never become a hindrance for bright officers and men in their professional pursuits. Admiral Zaka Ullah won gold medals twice in the Asian Games and went on to become Chief of Naval Staff.³⁹ It is for this reason that every army unit in the country

39 "Admiral Zakaullah takes charge as new navy chief," *The Express Tribune*, October 07, 2014, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/772136/admiral-zakaullah-takes-charge-as-new-navy-chief>.



has a large playground, which is also the training area. It clearly shows that sports are an essential requirement to construct a military mind, spirit and body.

Sports may also assist in identifying personality traits which can help the leadership in assignment of tasks. Sports competition can be exceedingly helpful to cultivate good traits in the personality of a soldier and young officer. A player manifests his boldness and offensive spirit in a game, whereas a timid player cannot hide his weakness even with his best skills. Moreover, a responsible player can easily be identified in the field. Sports therefore is a good instrument to ascertain officers' and soldiers' capabilities to perform difficult tasks on the battlefield. It is therefore strongly felt that: -

- In all training institutions of the army including PMA, sports and games should form part of the curriculum, not only as a leisure activity but as a proper training tool to improve physical and mental health, and assess trainees' capabilities, to recommend their employment in operations.
- Sports activities in the units and formations should be a regular feature, to accrue

benefits to discipline, and train all ranks. Sports activities can help a great deal in preparation and training of young soldiers for all types of operational and security tasks.

- In order to stave off young soldiers and officers from excessive use of social media, sporting activities among all ranks must be generated on weekends and in the evenings.

Sports must become a regular feature in all Army Public Schools and Federal Government Educational Institutions, with regular inter-school and inter-region sports competitions.

It has been established beyond doubt that the army as an institution supports the nation to keep its flag high, and sports are a binding force for the nation. A fine performance at international level helps gel the whole nation as one unit, it is therefore essential to support sporting activities at national level, to produce athletes like Brigadier Hamidi, Abdul Khaliq, Abdul Raziq and many more. This will keep the flame of competition burning in other national departments and teams, and the country will benefit.

About the author



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

He is presently serving as research director in the Army Institute of Military History. The writer can be reached at jilani34p4@gmail.com



Captain *Baba* Abdur Rahim, shaheed A Legendary Aviator

By Brigadier Khalid Mahmood, retired

A signboard with the name *Captain Abdur Rahim (shaheed) Sitara-i-Basalat (S Bt), Tamgha-i-Basalat (T Bt) & Bar Chowk* is visible at the crossroad of Central Ordnance Depot



Captain Abdur Rahim, shaheed Chowk

Many people cross this chowk daily and read the name, very few know the history of this brave soldier. This signboard is in fact, honouring a legendary pilot.

When researching into the life of this celebrated hero, the scribe contacted Lieutenant Colonel Mahboob Haider, retired, who remained associated with Captain Rahim during aviation operations in Siachen. He narrated his personality and professionalism in such an enthusiastic manner, that it further strengthened the resolve to pen down a few aspects about this brave soldier.

Captain Rahim, commonly known as *Baba* in Aviation, was a legendary aviator.



Captain Abdur Rahim, shaheed

Northern Areas flying remained the most important and outstanding part of his military career. He was born in a humble family on 2 December 1959, at Uch Sadogare, Lower Dir. For initial schooling he joined

Government High School Number 1 Peshawar City, and attained his matriculation certificate in 1975. Subsequently he joined Government College Peshawar, from where he completed his intermediate education in 1979. During childhood, he worked in a motor garage to earn his livelihood. Later, he joined Pakistan Air Force as an airman, from where he started his professional life.¹ Thereafter, he appeared for the Inter Services Selection Board and joined Officers Training School (OTS) Mangla. He was commissioned in the Pakistan Army on 10 June 1983 and posted to 86 Field Artillery Regiment stationed at Lahore. After a couple of years of service in the Artillery, he opted to join the Army Aviation Corps, and till his shahadat on 15 October 2005, he remained in Aviation.² In a life span of almost 46 years, it was over two decades that he served in Aviation. He was only to be an aviator, and died an aviator.

His flying experience and extensive flying hours, first on fixed wing (nearly 800 hours), then on rotary wing (nearly 4000 hours), speak about his professional career in Aviation.³

The scribe interviewed ex-General Officer Commanding Aviation, Major General Khalil Dar, retired, an old colleague of Captain Rahim. He says that he was not an ordinary officer, right from when he joined the Army, till he laid down his life in the line of service. He remained a different, extraordinary soldier and human being.

He was truly a field soldier and a master of flying. Lieutenant Colonel Faizan, retired,

1 Information provided by Major Waleed, s/o Captain Rahim.

2 Extract of service particulars of the officer.

3 Bio-data obtained from Army Aviation Squadron at Dhamial Army Aviation Base.



his aviation colleague says, “*He used to make helicopters dance on his fingers but was least interested in reading and studying. Short stature, under confident looking personality but was actually a brave hearted lion. He was soft, gentle and very friendly in the crew room but suddenly used to change into an extraordinary, brave and daring pilot in the cockpit. He was ruthless, verbal and demanding to his co-pilots. The flight engineers and crew chiefs were equally afraid of him because of his extraordinary technical knowledge.*”

Despite many attempts, he did not pass the captain to major promotion examination. He was served with a warning for termination of service due to non-clearance of promotion examination within the prescribed period, but his illustrious flying career, expertise in the field, and on the recommendation of Army Aviation, the Army retained him. In Aviation, *Baba* Rahim joined as a captain and embraced shahadat as a captain, but the respect he earned as a daring and brave pilot is unprecedented.

In 1985 he opted to join the Aviation, he initially qualified on Mushak (MFI-17) and was posted to the Army Aviation Squadron at Peshawar, which happened to be his home



Captain Abdur Rahim with his Lama helicopter

town. He was happy and stayed there for about two and half to three years, thereafter he converted to Lama helicopters and started serving in Skardu (Siachen).

He joined the Skardu Aviation Squadron in December 1990.⁴ Those were the days when Aviation was fighting the war with troops on the *highest battlefield in the world* (Siachen). The Lama pilots were respected, well reputed and doing the toughest jobs in the world. They were exploring the limits of men and machines. Captain Rahim was senior in that squadron, and the way he used to talk earned him the nickname of *Baba*. He used his knowledge of being an airman (technician) very well as a pilot. One would find him standing on the deck and sometimes fiddling with the engine along with technicians. He was the only pilot who could accomplish any type of mission. Besides this, if there was any electrical issue where pilots used to stay in Skardu, General Khalil says, *we would not call an electrician, he would do it himself*. If there was a stove which was not working, he would get hold of that stove and put it right. So he was an extraordinary, multi-skilled person.

When most pilots would come back after a day’s mission, feel tired and lie down, he would take his fishing rod and go to Sadpara Lake for fishing. He was very fond of fishing.



Captain Abdur Rahim, fishing in Sadpara Lake

He was a good story teller as well, on any topic like hunting or fishing.⁵

He was the kind of person everybody knew and looked up to. He would volunteer

⁴ Extract of officers particulars.

⁵ Extract from interview of Major General Khalil Dar, ex GOC Aviation, dated 22 October 2022.

for difficult missions. Many a time, his brave actions and decisions saved innocent lives. He had made his mark in the Skardu Aviation Squadron through his professionalism. Later he converted to twin engine helicopter MI-8/17.

MI-17s were specifically inducted for operations in Northern Areas (now Gilgit Baltistan), so the first priority for conversion was given to pilots who had already operated there. *Baba* Rahim was selected for conversion. He was amongst the first batch that went to Russia in 1996 for training, and to ferry the helicopters to Pakistan. He became a pioneer in MI-17. He was inherently and naturally good



Captain Abdur Rahim with his MI-17 helicopter

in flying and technical knowledge; he became a kind of leading authority on MI-17, competing with very senior officers who were there in the squadron. The Kargil operations were not possible without the cargo support of Captain Rahim. He flew in a hostile environment, at times completed more than 20 missions in a day to provide logistic support (rations, ammunition and casualty evacuation).⁶

Shifting of Guns (sling operation)

He was one of the daring pilots who undertook the challenging and very demanding helicopter mission of slinging a 130 millimeter gun, to deploy them in forward locations, to provide effective fire support. With this heavy

weight, there was no way to move the guns to forward locations. 130 millimetre guns were



Sling Operation of 130 mm gun by MI-17

stripped into pieces, weighing about 2 to 2.5 ton each, and the barrel was loaded inside MI-17. Aviation did not have the knowledge or necessary equipment at that time, to sling. It was considered too dangerous as compared to a normal cargo load, being aerodynamically unstable. It was a major operation, very



Loading of a 130 mm gun barrel inside MI-17

senior and experienced aviators participated including Rahim *Baba* and made it a success. This operation proved useful to counter the Indians on the Line of Control, and especially during Kargil operations.

From Airman to Instructor Pilot in the PAF

- Pakistan Air force also inducted MI-17 helicopters, and the PAF requested Pakistan Army to provide pilots and instructors initially to operate MI-17 helicopters, and later train PAF pilots. Rahim *Baba* along with Lieutenant Colonel Ihsan was sent to PAF on deputation, in February 2002 as instructors. Though Rahim *Baba* was captain in rank, but as a token of respect, he was allowed to wear the PAF uniform in the rank of squadron leader. Strangely,

⁶ Ibid.



Rahim was not a qualified MI-17 instructor, but he was taken as instructor because of his experience and skill of Northern Areas flying. He remained instructor for about 3 years at Mushaf Air Base, Sargodha. He used to train Alouette pilots at various bases like Masroor, Chaklala, Kamra and Skardu. He established his reputation as a pilot who knew his machine, and its limitations. He was a highly respected instructor pilot in the PAF, and earned the nickname *Rambo* during his stay in Pakistan Air Force.

- During 1999, Captain Abdur Rahim was tasked to move an Air Force radar, from Skardu to a location at a height of nearly 14,000 feet. This was the first ever operation of this nature, where a radar container⁷ was slung with the MI-17 helicopter. It immediately served as a deterrence upon enemy aircraft, which tried to penetrate deep into Pakistan's airspace. Apparently it seemed impossible, but he was specifically short-listed for the mission as he was considered the most skilful pilot in the Northern Areas. He took up the challenge and completed the mission in a manner that Pakistan Air Force still remembers him for his bravery, skill and timely support.⁸

Participation in OPERATION LIFELINE

On 8 October 2005, Pakistan was hit by a massive earthquake. During this time, OPERATION LIFELINE was conducted by the Aviation, almost all of Aviation especially MI-17s from all aviation units participated. At that time *Baba* Rahim was posted in Aviation Squadron at Dhamial, and one

of the helicopters, an MI-17 belonging to Anti-Narcotics Force was being piloted by Captain Rahim and co-piloted by Lieutenant Colonel Roghani. The area was in Bagh, Azad Kashmir. His devotion and commitment can be ascertained by the fact that from 8 to 15 October 2005, *Baba* Rahim delivered 22,500 kilograms of relief goods, recovered 229 casualties and had flown 32 hours within the first seven days. It amounted to 4 to 5 hours of flying and rescue missions daily.



Last photograph of Captain Baba Abdur Rahim, shaheed in 2005

On the sad day of 15 October 2005, the helicopter took off from Bagh at around 0910 hours for the first destination, Sher Camp, and landed there at around 0930 hours. While off-loading relief goods at Sher Camp, the crew noticed a sudden weather build up, therefore decided to return to Bagh by discontinuing the mission. The helicopter took off from Sher Camp for Bagh and immediately encountered low clouds, rain and thunder, with almost zero visibility. While trying to avoid the weather and in a hurry to get out of it, the helicopter hit the mountain ridge, approximately 2.2 kilometres north-west of Sher Camp. The helicopter disintegrated and caught fire. All seven occupants, crew members and Captain Abdur

⁷ Information provided by his co-pilot in this mission, Lieutenant Colonel Saqib Qayum, TI (M).

⁸ Air Commodore Tariq Mahmood Ashraf, ex OC Flying at Minhas Base Kamra, and Base Commander Skardu during 1998/1999.

Rahim, along with Lieutenant Colonel Roghani, embraced shahadat.⁹



Wreckage of the helicopter after the tragic incident

For the first time, *Baba* Rahim could not defeat the weather, which he had mastered for so long. It was only his departure from this physical world that could break his will to serve. His commitment to service during the hour of need remained far above the call of duty. His departure was a setback not only for the Army Aviation, but for the nation. He was posthumously awarded a T Bt in 2006 for his role in the conduct of OPERATION LIFELINE, in the earthquake-hit areas, during October 2005.

“The Role of Army Aviation stood out in reaching the needy, evacuating the injured and providing succour to wherever and whatever required in the most trying conditions. This, they did to the peril of their lives. *One but cannot forget the heroism of Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Ali Roghani and Captain Abdur Rahim who died while making an attempt to reach out to the “waiting” when lesser men would have given up. May God bless their souls.* Aviation flew around 20,000 hours, evacuating over 170,000 injured and transporting 132,000 tons of relief goods. These statistics speak for the Herculean Effort

and more so, when it comes through limited resources in men and material. You have deservedly earned the nation’s applause and brought credit to the country amongst the international community.”¹⁰

Vice Chief of Army Staff, General Ahsan Saleem Hayat

Gallantry Awards

Captain Rahim’s meritorious service is reflected by his awards.¹¹

- Captain Rahim was awarded S Bt in 1992, for successful evacuation of 3 individuals from a post at 21,000 feet, an avalanche hit area.



Captain Abdur Rahim, shaheed receiving S Bt in 1992

- Even before his shahadat, he was awarded T Bt in 2005 on successful completion of 2,000 hours of safe flying in Siachen.
- He was posthumously awarded a second T Bt in 2006, for his role in the conduct of OPERATION LIFELINE for the earthquake hit areas, during October 2005.¹²
- He was awarded Imtiaz Sanad (1999—KARGIL OPERATION) for successful completion of more than 300 flying hours in the operational area.

His son Major Waleed Rahim, EME, remembers his father in these words; “my father was very skilful in every field. Whenever we used to be posted from one station to another, he would make crates for packing,

⁹ Extract of accident report obtained from Army Aviation Squadron at Dhamial.

¹⁰ History of Army Aviation 1947-2007, OPERATION LIFELINE, by Historical Section, Army Aviation Directorate P-381.

¹¹ Photos and copies of gallantry awards provided by Major Waleed, EME.

¹² Citation obtained from Army Aviation Squadron at Dhamial.



from wooden planks. The funny part was that neighbours used to think that a carpenter was working, but later when they knew about dad doing all this, they used to appreciate it. Our home was full of workshop tools, from woodwork to car tools. Our dad was an all-rounder”.



Shuhada monument at Army Aviation Squadron, Dhamial Base

Architect Junaid Rahim, his other son, says that the monument dedicated to shuhada at the Army Aviation Squadron, Dhamial Base is designed by him, dedicated to his father.

Baba Rahim actively participated in construction of a mosque in Peshawar Aviation Squadron in 1987, which was renovated and named after him in 2008. This mosque was

inaugurated by his youngest son (now Major) Waleed.

Final resting place of our shaheed *Baba* Rahim

The officer had an intuition about shahadat in active service, and asked to be buried among other shuhada at Army Graveyard, Rawalpindi.¹³

Baba Rahim left behind a widow, Nargis Rahim, a daughter and three sons. 18 years down the

line, Momina Rahim is a student of fine arts at Fatima Jinnah Women University, Waleed Rahim is serving in the Army as major, Junaid Rahim is a reputed architect, and Shoaib Rahim is a dentist at Fauji Foundation Hospital, Rawalpindi.



Grave of Captain Abdur Rahim, shaheed

Note

All pictures were provided by Major Waleed, son of Captain Abdur Rahim, shaheed.

About the author



Brigadier Khalid Mahmood (retired), SI (M) was commissioned in Artillery in September 1982. The officer is a graduate of Royal Military College of Sciences, Shrivenham, UK, Command and Staff College Quetta and National Defence University Islamabad. He has been on the faculty of Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul. He has commanded a self propelled artillery regiment, armoured divisional artillery and corps artillery, besides various staff and operational assignments. He holds a master degree in war studies from Quaid-i-Azam University, and MPhil in peace & conflict studies from National Defence University, Islamabad. He is presently serving in Army Institute of Military History as director special studies. The writer can be reached at khalid.3733@yahoo.com

¹³ Brief obtained from Aviation Squadron at Dhamial.



Army of the East India Company Enters Lahore—1846

By Dr. Irfan Ahmad

The powerful Khalsa army of the Sikh kingdom of Punjab, led by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, was renowned for its discipline and



Maharaja Ranjit Singh
(Source: byjus.com)

European-trained military competence. This army served as a formidable defence against Afghan raiders, and deterred the East India Company from pursuing ambitions on the southern border. However, following the death of Ranjit Singh in 1839, the Sikh kingdom faced a period of instability due to a weak and corrupt court in Lahore that was unable to control the powerful Khalsa army. The army's influential committees, known as



Maharani Jindan
Kaur
(Source: sikhiwiki.org)

panchayats, expressed an unpredictable will. Maharani Jindan Kaur, widow of Ranjit Singh, acted as regent for her young son, Maharaja Duleep Singh, who eventually succeeded to the throne. This period of instability made it difficult for the British to maintain a stable relationship with the Sikh kingdom.

Between 1839 and 1842, the East India Company suffered a military defeat during its occupation of Afghanistan, which damaged its military reputation. Meanwhile, in the Punjab, the British were apprehensive about the instability and expansion of the Khalsa army, which had grown to around 80,000 soldiers by 1845. Although the British policy in India was generally colonialist, it was unlikely that the East India Company sought to annex Punjab at that time, due to lack of resources and manpower. However, some authorities in



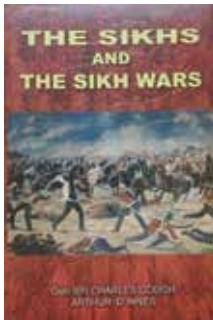
Map: Sikh Kingdom of Punjab
(Source: defence.pk)

the Lahore court desired to start a war with the East India Company, hoping that a defeated Khalsa army would be easier to control.

Tensions rose between the Khalsa and the British, and in December 1845, the Khalsa crossed the weakly defended British frontiers. The Battle of Ferozeshah was a pivotal moment, with the exhausted East India Company forces coming close to defeat on the first day, yet managing to defeat the Sikh army. After subsequent defeats in the battles of Sobraon and Aliwal in 1846, Maharani Jindan and the Sikh Durbar urged the prime minister, Raja Gulab Singh, to proceed immediately to the British camp to beg pardon in the name of the Durbar and the Sikh Government, for the offence that had been committed. They hoped to negotiate an arrangement that would preserve the country from complete ruin.



General Charles Gough in his book ‘The Sikhs and the Sikh Wars: The Rise, Conquest and Annexation of the Punjab State’ narrated the situation; *“There was no question as to the completely decisive character of the great victory of Sohraon. The Sikh army was shattered, and scattered beyond possibility of an effective rally; the way to Lahore lay open to the victors. The battle was fought and won on February 10th; on the 13th the British troops were encamped in the Punjab at Kussoor; on the 20th they were at Lahore”.*



Book: *The Sikhs and the Sikh Wars*
(Source: hook2book.com)



The victory of Sohraon by the East India Company
(Source: kids.britannica.com)

The decision was made that Duleep Singh would meet with the Governor-General Henry Hardinge at Lalliani, near Lahore, on 18 February 1846. However, on the afternoon of 17 February, news arrived that Duleep Singh along with Bhai Ram Singh and other leaders had hurriedly made their way from Lahore, arriving at Raja Gulab Singh's encampment, which was positioned a mere mile beyond the piquets of the British troops. Furthermore, it was conveyed that Duleep Singh was ready and eager to meet with Hardinge right away. Hardinge deemed



Governor General Henry Hardinge
(Source: allaboutsikhs.com)



Maharaja Duleep Singh
(Source: medium.com)

it appropriate to uphold the original arrangement and therefore informed Duleep Singh and the other leaders that the meeting would take place as scheduled on the following day, at Lalliani, located eleven miles further along the road to Lahore.

William Humbley, a cavalry officer who rode with the 9th Lancers to Lahore, chronicled the environ of Lalliani with an unwavering pen. *“On the 18th of February, the 9th Lancers reached the little mud-walled village of Lulleanee, a distance of ten miles, during which I was on baggage guard. It stands in the midst of corn fields and jungle. It is about thirty-four miles from Ferozepore, and about midway between that place and Lahore”.*

On the evening of 18 February 1846, Gulab Singh with other chiefs arrived in grand fashion. His procession included a retinue of attendants, a number of imposing elephants, and a buggy loaded with European prisoners, as a peace-offering to the victors. However, what truly caught the eye of all in attendance was the presence of the young Maharaja Duleep Singh himself, *“a charming child of eight years acting his part,”* as Charles Stewart Hardinge describes him in his book ‘Viscount Hardinge and the



Duleep Singh, flanked by Raja Gulab Singh, in the tent of Governor General Henry Hardinge
(Source: economist.com)



advance of the British dominions into the Punjab', "without any fear and with all the good breeding peculiar to the Eastern people".

The Maharaja's council apologised for the army's aggression, and only after Duleep Singh submitted, did Hardinge give him the honours and privileges of a prince. Duleep Singh was asked to stay in camp until the British army entered Lahore. The Sikh council asked that the British flag should not fly over the walls of Lahore city. But the Governor-General refused, demanding compensation for the bloodshed of his people, and declared; "Yes," he added, without adjournment, "the flag of England shall float over your walls".

On the 20th of February 1846, the young Maharaja was taken to his palace in Lahore Fort. The escort that accompanied him included two regiments of European



Maharaja Duleep Singh enters his palace in Lahore from the parade ground, accompanied by an escort of British troops
(Source: medium.com)

cavalry, two regiments of native cavalry, one regiment of irregular horse, and two troops of horse artillery, all under the command of Brigadier Cureton. The Secretary to the Government, Sir Frederick Currie, was responsible for the care of the Maharaja and his entourage. He was accompanied by Major Lawrence, the Political Agent,



Brigadier Charles Robert Cureton
(Source: britishbattles.com)

Mr. C. Hardinge, the Governor-General's private secretary, and several other officials.

As Duleep Singh was being escorted to Lahore Fort, the British troops set out on their march towards Lahore. With no foreknowledge of their future, the British troops embarked on a ten-mile journey towards the famed Mian Mir. Little did they know that this very place would become their permanent cantonment in just five years' time, a barren ground at that time where Sikh soldiers used to drill, and also the site where Jawahar Singh, brother of Maharani Jindan Kaur, had been brutally



Scene of assassination of Jawahar Singh
(Source: ottomanblog.wordpress.com)

assassinated. The British army pitched camp just six miles from the city, without opposition, marking the arrival of a new era in the annals of Lahore's tumultuous history.

Sir Frederick Currie, Secretary to the Government of India, who escorted Duleep Singh, presented a fascinating depiction of the procession to the Governor-General on this significant occasion, as follows; "At about a quarter of a mile from the Maharajah's camp, I was met by the Minister Rajah Gulab Sing and some of the chiefs.



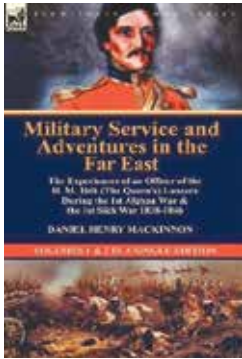
Sir Frederick Currie
(Source: ranker.com)

Intimation of our approach was then sent on to the Maharajah, that he might be ready on his elephant upon our arrival. On reaching the Maharajah's camp, the troops of our escort drew up, and the Maharajah, with Bhai Ram Sing on the same elephant, came forward from his tent accompanied by several chiefs. After the usual salutations and complimentary questions and



replies, I placed the Maharajah's elephant next to mine, and the troops having fallen in, as at first, proceeded round the walls of the city to the gate of the citadel”.

The procession then marched towards the palace. A cavalry officer who was present at the occasion, narrated an interesting account of the events in his book ‘Military Service and Adventures in the Far East’ as follows; “Marching round the walls of the city, nearly suffocated with dust, which rolled in dense columns and obscured the whole scene, we were received and saluted by Ghoolab Singh's forces, drawn up



Book: *Military Service and Adventures in the Far East*
(Source: abebooks.co.uk)

on their several posts around Lahore. Most of these were fine wiry looking soldiers, and bore some resemblance in appearance to our Goorkha battalions, though inferior in appointments, and evidently not half disciplined.

The gateway to the palace, then occupied by the Ranee, opened from the north-western quarter of the city, and the escort formed line fronting the citadel, whilst the governor-general's representative and his party proceeded on their mission. On arriving at the entrance, the political agent and a few officers proceeded to the interior, and shortly afterwards a salute from the light guns announced that the boy whom we had set up to be a king over the Sikhs had been placed in the hands of his anxious mother, the Ranee, of drunken notoriety.

The ceremonial being ended, we wound about the exterior of the city towards our camp, thus completing the whole circuit of the walls, and returned to our quarters about nightfall, after a tolerably fatiguing day; but we had now become so well used to living in our saddles that it was rather a variety to pass the day anywhere else.

As the conclusion of the war now rested in the hands of the political department, we were at length able to lie down at night, with some hopes of not being trumpeted into our saddles before we had well fallen asleep; and there were few soldiers of the British array who did not take full advantage of this immunity, save the unfortunate members of the standard guards and outlying pickets”.

The British and the Sikh government eventually reached an agreement on 9 March 1846, known as the *Treaty of Lahore*, where the Sikh government would surrender the territory between the Sutlej and Beas rivers, pay



Signing of the Treaty of Lahore by British & Sikh Governments in March 1846 (Source: wikimedia.org)

an indemnity of one and a half crore of rupees to cover the expenses of the war, disband the present Sikh army, and reorganise it according to the regulations that were in place during Maharaja Ranjit Singh's rule. The size of the new army would be limited, in consultation with the British government. Additionally, the Sikh government would surrender all the guns that were used against the British army, and the British would gain control of both banks of the river Sutlej. Other arrangements, including the future boundaries of the Sikh state and the organisation of its administration, would be determined at Lahore.

The Treaty of Lahore, with its ink still fresh upon the page, indicated the arrival of British forces to claim both the Fort and the city of Lahore. Within its pages, Article II resolutely



declared that..... *“The Lahore Government agrees that the Force left at Lahore for the purpose specified in the foregoing Article, shall be placed in full possession of the fort and the city of Lahore, and that the Lahore troops shall be removed from within the city. The Lahore Government engages to furnish convenient*

quarters for the Officers and men of the said force, and to pay to the British Government all the extra expenses in regard to the said force, which may be incurred by the British Government in consequence of their troops being employed away from their own cantonments, and in a foreign territory”.

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About the author



A consultant and successful trainer, Dr. Irfan Ahmad has authored eleven books. He was born in Lahore and is recognised as a committed scholar specialising in military history from the British colonial period. Currently, he is working on his forthcoming book titled “Life and Times of Lahore Cantonment during the British Raj”. Dr. Irfan Ahmad presently lives in Lahore. The writer can be reached at tenderservice@gmail.com

“The East India Company’s domination of the Indian economy was based on its private army.”

(Robert Trout)



The Myth of Three Million Killed:

A Stumbling Block in Pakistan-Bangladesh Rapprochement

By Brigadier Nasir Shafiq, retired

Introduction

This matter in itself, is the biggest stumbling block in full normalisation of relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan. Whereas both nations share so much in common, and certainly look forward to a bright future of close relations in multiple domains, the festering wound stands out, indeed cries for closure. Only then can both nations move forward.



Bangladesh and Pakistan looking forward to warm relations
(Source: pakistantoday.com.pk)

Bangladesh has insisted on the veracity of this figure, considering it the tragic result of a deliberate genocidal campaign by Pakistani forces against hapless Bengalis, in 1971. The state of Bangladesh has insisted on a formal apology by Pakistan (despite repeated expressions of regret at the highest levels in Pakistan), for the violence seen in erstwhile East Pakistan. For want of serious and deliberate academic research in the aftermath of 1971, Pakistan has remained silent on the issue, and the search for the truth never really commenced. Much literature written here and abroad, therefore, is skewed in favour of a narrative that is both hostile to Pakistan, as it is one-sided.

As both countries approached the fiftieth anniversary of that sad episode in 2021, more attention was focused on the figure of three million in Bangladesh and in Pakistan, with India putting in concerted efforts to stoke this issue and keep it alive, like malevolent background music. This has given a fillip to earnest research work, especially in Pakistan, in the search for the truth. The presence of a large number of surviving veterans, Biharis and loyal Bengalis who faced genocidal fury, and of other non-Bengali victims of violence, has added richness and depth to this research work. In light of the need to search for the truth, and



Guerilla fighters of the Mukti Bahini bayonet men who allegedly collaborated with the Pakistani Army
(Source: aljazeera.com)

in an effort to attain closure with Bangladesh, the issue of three million needs to be addressed, even at the cost of repetition, till a common understanding is attained in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The claim of three million Bengalis killed during the East Pakistan crisis of 1971, or the *Bangladesh Liberation War*, as Bangladesh knows it, is one of the most *contentious* ones of recent conflictual history. Before discussing this figure's background and origin, let's see

what a myth is, and how James K. Feibleman, the famous American philosopher, explains it. According to him, “A myth is a religion in which no one any longer believes”¹. When it comes to Bangladesh and its creation, it seems that the religion of mythology still exists, and has a large number of followers. In fact, it is usually claimed by a small section of Bangladeshi writers—certainly not all of them—that those who perished during the 1971 crisis were three million, and that they were all Bengalis and Hindus.

World-renowned scholars, including many impartial Bengali authors and Western scholars, don't agree with this perception, which seriously lacks scholarly authenticity. The origin of the 3 million figure can be traced back to December 1971 when *Pravda*, the Soviet newspaper in its editorial of 23 December 1971 titled *Enemy Occupation*, reported that deaths in the war of 1971 were about 3 million. This figure gained legitimacy after it was endorsed by Sheikh Mujibur Rehman in his interview



Sheikh Mujibur Rehman
(Source: arabnews.pk)

with David Frost of BBC, on 18 January 1972. There is another view, according to which Sheikh Mujib made a mistake when he said 3 million died. What he really meant was 3 *lacs* (*three hundred thousand*).

Mujib also formed an inquiry committee in late January 1972, comprising representatives from the armed forces, police, border security force and civil administration, to validate the figure of 3 million, which it could not do. In fact, the total number found by them was 38,000, which was *rounded off to 50,000*.

Statistical Analysis

Let's analyse this contested claim from another angle, mainly through the prism of authentic international records. The casualty figures during major conflicts of the world's recent history, and corresponding population statistics as recorded by various world organisations, offer a sound basis for the statistical analysis of the whole issue. Table 1 comprises data from eight major conflicts, including the East Pakistan crisis of 1971, fought during the last about 60 years. It explains various conflicts along with their duration, troops deployment at its peak, casualties suffered, and then computes the annual casualty average in the last column on the right. Assuming that the propagated number of casualties of the 1971 crisis i.e. 3 million over a nine months duration is correct, the resultant *annual casualty figures of four million* (table 1, last row) in the case of Bangladesh, is hard to believe. It surpasses all previous world casualty records, including both world wars. This suggests that actual casualties that took place were not even remotely close to the figure of three million.

1 James K. Feibleman, “Quotes,” accessed on November 24, 2023, https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/4272085.James_K_Feibleman.



Table 1

Sr	Conflict	Duration (Years)	Troops deployment at its peak	Casualties	Annual casualty average (%)
1	Vietnam ²	12	500,000 in 1968	1,000,000	83,333
2	Algeria ³	7.5	French forces: 500,000	100,000	13,333
3	Cambodia ⁴	8	270,000 in 1972-3	310,000	38,750
4	Soviet-Afghan War ⁵	14	Soviet Army: 115,000 Afghan Army: 65,000 Mujahideen: 200,000/250,000	2,000,000	142,857
5	Angolan Civil War ⁶	16	MPLA: 70,000 Cuban: 60,000	300,000	18,750
6	Bosnian War ⁷	3	Bosnian Army: 110,000 Bosnian Serb Army: 80,000	329,000	109,666
7	Sri Lankan ⁸ Civil War	13	Army: 210,000 in 2008 LTTE: 30,000 in 2008	100,000 50,000	11,538
8	East Pakistan	9 months	Pakistan Army: 45,000	3,000,000	4,000,000

Population Analysis

Let’s assume once again, for the sake of academic analysis only, that three million people perished during the 1971 crisis, within a short span of nine months (March to December 1971), and then compare it with changes in population data of the rest of the conflict zones (table 2), as recorded by the World Bank. When these data values are converted into graphs

through computer assisted tools, it produces very interesting results as shown in graphical charts 1 to 4. It points out that, while there is a visible dip in the population graphs of Bosnia, Rwanda and Cambodia during their respective conflict years, the same is not observed in the case of the 1971 crisis. Contrary to the case of these countries, and despite an expected significant dip in the East Pakistan population graph (as a result of presumed devastating

2 Spencer Tucker, *The Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War: A Political, Social, and Military History* (US: ABC-CLIO, 2011), xliii.
 3 David Ottaway and Marina Ottaway, *Algeria: The Politics of a Socialist Revolution* (US: University of California Press, 2022).
 4 John Pike, “Cambodia Civil War, 1970s,” accessed August 25, 2023, <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/cambodia2.htm>.
 5 Maxime Rischard, “Al-Qa’ida’s American Connection, Global-Politics.Co.Uk,” n.d., <https://web.archive.org/web/20111121131224/http://www.global-politics.co.uk/issue6/Stahl/>, accessed on August 25, 2023.
 6 Por Juan F. Benemelis, “Las Guerras Secretas de Fidel Castro,” *Cubamatinal*, January 18, 2012, accessed on August 25, 2023, <http://www.cubamatinal.com/Noticia.cfm?NoticiaID=7964>.
 7 Sabrina P. Ramet, *Central and Southeast European Politics since 1989* (UK: Cambridge University Press, 2010), 30.
 8 “Armed Conflicts Database 2006,” International Institute for Strategic Studies, May 11, 2006, accessed on August 25, 2023.



casualties), it indicates a straight, steady and upward curve. So, very interestingly, it does exactly the opposite in case of Bangladesh, and belies the claim of three million killed. This statistical analysis based on figures provided by

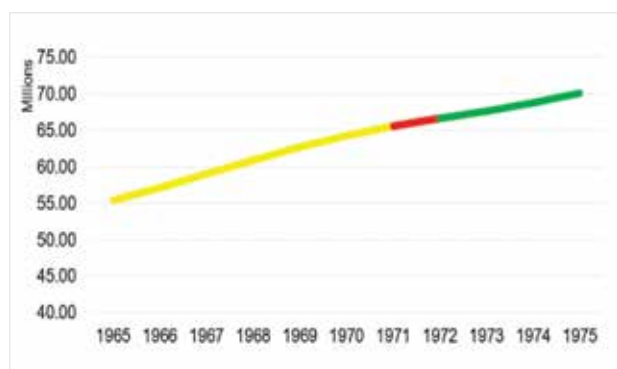
the World Bank and other authentic sources, indicates with authority, that this claim—devoid of empirical evidence—is grossly exaggerated and far-fetched.

Table 2
Population Data by World Bank

Country	Bangladesh ⁹		Rwanda ¹⁰		Cambodia ¹¹		Bosnia ¹²	
	Year	Pop	Year	Pop	Year	Pop	Year	Pop
Years of Conflict	1965	58,500,159	1990	7,319,962	1975	6,727,922	1990	4,494,310
	1966	60,265,259	1991	7,485,681	1976	6,307,122	1991	4,502,386
	1967	62,104,488	1992	7,657,208	1977	6,040,197	1992	4,275,730
	1968	63,995,652	1993	7,904,740	1978	5,961,193	1993	3,942,981
	1969	65,866,908	1994	6,732,665	1979	6,051,808	1994	3,762,330
	1970	67,541,860	1995	5,686,897	1980	6,198,959	1995	3,750,527
	1971	68,376,204	1996	6,715,510	1981	6,364,472	1996	3,907,751
	1972	69,346,705	1997	7,666,732	1982	6,619,699	1997	4,047,748
	1973	71,144,818	1998	7,914,645	1983	6,881,962	1998	4,115,059
	1974	72,947,807	1999	8,009,587	1984	7,133,899	1999	4,153,014
	1975	74,700,345	2000	8,109,989	1985	7,376,090	2000	4,179,350

Population of East Pakistan / Bangladesh¹³

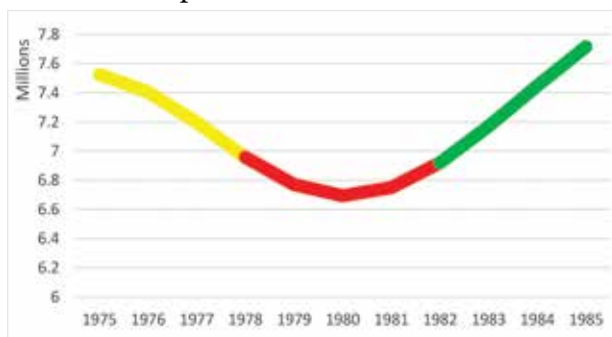
Population of Rwanda¹⁴



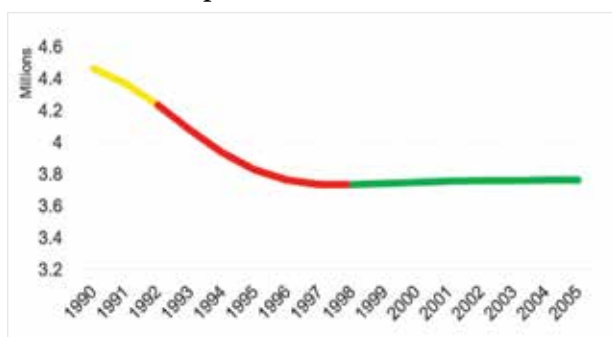
9 Bangladesh: “World Development Indicators | DataBank,” World Bank, accessed on November 8, 2023, <https://databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?source=2&series=SP.POP.TOTL&country=#advancedDownloadOptions>.
 10 Rwanda: “World Development Indicators | DataBank,” World Bank, accessed on November 8, 2023, <https://databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?source=2&series=SP.POP.TOTL&country=#advancedDownloadOptions>.
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Population of Cambodia¹⁵



Population of Bosnia¹⁶



World Scholarly Opinion

Other than statistical and population analysis, are the opinions of renowned scholars and a few other sources.

- **Syyid A Karim**, Bangladesh's first foreign



Syyid A Karim
(Source: lisauk.org)

secretary, openly declared that “the figure of 3 million mentioned by Mujib to David Frost in January 1972, was a gross overstatement”¹⁷.

Coming from the country's foreign secretary, it carries weight and authenticity.

- **The Peace Research Institute in Norway**, along with Uppsala University of Sweden in 1972, estimated the casualties to be almost 58,000. This research institute, founded by Johan Galtung in 1959, is highly regarded as an independent and impartial research institute in the field of peace and conflict studies. It presented these figures after thorough research based on authentic data, eyewitness accounts and media reports.¹⁸

- **Dr Abdul Mu'min Chowdhury**, an ethnic



Dr Abdul Mu'min Chowdhury
(Source: lisauk.org)

Bengali academic and scholar, has carried out intensive research and authored a book, *Behind the Myth of Three Million*, specifically focusing on

the authenticity of these figures. He has presented various facts and incidents to show that the figure of three million is unfounded. Two incidents narrated in his book are quite interesting. Firstly, he talks about Abdul Gaffar Choudhury, a well-known newspaper columnist and close associate of Sheikh Mujib, who questioned the authenticity of the *three million* figure in May 1973, saying; “We are now saying, three million Bengalis have been martyred. Without any survey, we are telling, three million Bengalis have died”¹⁹. He also mentions a debate in the Bangladesh national assembly on 15 June 1993, where

¹⁵ “Population estimates and projections | Data Bank. (2022),” World Bank, retrieved May 7, 2022, from <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/population-estimates-and-projections>.

¹⁶ “Population estimates and projections | Data Bank. (2022),” World Bank, retrieved May 7, 2022, from <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/population-estimates-and-projections>.

¹⁷ Junaid Ahmad, *Creation of Bangladesh: Myths Exploded* (Karachi: AJA Publishers, 2016).

¹⁸ “An Unceasing Propaganda and the Myth of Three Million,” accessed November 25, 2023, <https://www.hilal.gov.pk/eng-article/detail/NTEExMA==.html>.

¹⁹ Dr M. Abdul Mu'min Chowdhury, *Behind the Myth of Three Million* (London: Al Hilal publisher, 1996).

Colonel Akbar Hussain, a former decorated *Mukti Juddha* and cabinet minister, while



Colonel Akbar Hussain
(Source: thedailystar.net)

making a pointed attack on the Awami League for its *propensity to falsify history*, said that the Awami League had created the myth of *three million killed*,

whereas in reality it was closer to a tenth of that figure.²⁰ These conclusions, coming from reputed Bengalis, are worth considering, to gauge the veracity of these figures.

- **William Drummond**, a professor of journalism and renowned journalist of his time, of the University of California Berkley, worked for the Los Angeles Times. He served as bureau chief at New Delhi and Jerusalem, and Washington DC correspondent.



William Drummond
(Source: linkedin.com)

He also worked as *White House Fellow* and *Associate Press Secretary* with US Presidents Gerald R Ford and Jimmy Carter. Having researched the subject well, and through his enormous exposure and expertise, he wrote a report in the *Guardian* on 11 June 1972. The report says, “Based on numerous trips around Bangladesh beginning in December (1971) and based on an extensive discussion with many people at the village level as well

as in the government, the figure of 3 million deaths is an exaggeration so gross as to be absurd....no more than 25,000 people died”²¹.

- **Ingvar Oja**, Swedish journalist reported on March 1, 1973, through his article in *Dagens Nyheter* (the largest daily newspaper of Stockholm) that the *allegation regarding the killing of 3 million people is highly exaggerated*.²²
- **Peter Gill** of the Daily Telegraph was another renowned journalist of his time



Peter Gill
(Source: telegraph.co.uk)

who worked as a foreign correspondent in South Asia and the Middle East. He wrote in the Daily Telegraph, London, on 16 April 1973; “The Pakistan soldiery in the East

during 1971 was suppressing a rebellion, and not in occupation of a foreign country. Sheikh Mujib’s wild figure of three million Bengalis killed during those 10 terrible months is at least 20 times too high if not 50 or 60. And what of all the killings that the Bengalis did whenever they had a chance?”²³

- **Sarmila Bose**, a noted Indian Hindu Bengali writer and research associate at Oxford University, writes in her book *Dead Reckoning*, “.....the number ‘three million’ appears to be nothing more than a gigantic rumour”²⁴ She further writes, “it appears possible to estimate with reasonable confidence that at least 50,000–100,000

20 Chowdhury, *Behind the Myth of Three Million*.

21 Views shared by William Drummond in Los Angeles Times of June 1972. *Afrasiab, 1971 Fact and Fiction, Views and Perceptions in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh*, March 2021 edition.

22 The Financial Express, Dhaka dated 13 December 2010 (vlex.in/vid/232323267) accessed on 11th June, 2016. Ahmad, *Creation of Bangladesh*.

23 Peter Gill, “Pakistan Holds Together,” *Daily Telegraph London*, 16 April 1973.

24 Sarmila Bose, *Dead Rockoning: Memories of the 1971 Bangladesh War* (London: C.Hurst & Co., London, 2011), 177.



Sarmila Bose & her book (Source: youlinmagazine.com)

people perished in the conflict in East Pakistan/Bangladesh in 1971, including combatants and non-combatants, Bengalis and non-Bengalis, Hindus and Muslims, Indian and Pakistanis. Casualty figures crossing one hundred thousand are within the realm of the possible, but beyond that one enters a world of meaningless speculation”²⁵

- **Mohammad Tajamul Hussain**, a noted Bangladeshi journalist, writes in his book *Bangladesh, Victims of Black Propaganda, Intrigue and Indian Hegemony*; “As such, the figure of 3 million killed in 1971 and 200,000 women alleged to have been violated seem fictitious, baseless and far removed from the truth”²⁶

- **David Bergman** is a well-respected journalist who has worked extensively in Bangladesh. He got into a serious problem when he wrote an article questioning the genuineness of the *number of three million*. He was summoned by the Bangladesh



David Bergman (Source: tribune.com.pk)

International Crimes Tribunal, found to

be in contempt of court on 2 December 2014, and fined the equivalent of \$ 65. He wrote the following in the New York Times; “The fine is modest, about \$ 65, but the message from Bangladesh’s International Crimes Tribunal is ominous: anyone who challenges—however legitimately, however respectfully—the official number of three million people killed during the 1971 Bangladesh war for independence, is guilty of contempt of court”²⁷

- **Serajur Rehman**, the former deputy head of BBC Bangla Program in the UK, in a letter to *The Guardian* dated 24 May 2011 narrates, “On 8th January 1972, I was the first Bangladeshi to meet independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



Serajur Rehman (Source: bdreports24.com)

after his release from Pakistan. During the day, I and others gave him the full picture of the war. I explained that no accurate figure of the casualties was available but our estimate, based on information from various sources, was that up to ‘three lakh’ (300,000) died in the conflict. To my surprise and horror, he told David Frost later that ‘three million of my people’ were killed by the Pakistanis. Whether he mistranslated ‘lakh’ as ‘million’ or his confused state of mind was responsible, I don't know, but many Bangladeshis still believe a figure of three million is unrealistic and incredible”²⁸

25 Bose, *Dead Rockoning*, 181.

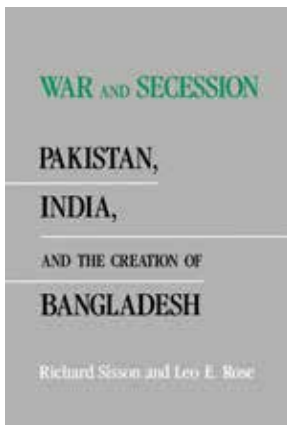
26 Mohammad Tajammul Hussain, *Bangladesh Victim of Black Propaganda Intrigue and Indian Hegemony* (London: The Al-Hilal Publishers Ltd., 1996), 69.

27 “Muzzling speech in Bangladesh,” *The New York Times*, December 23, 2014, https://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/24/opinion/muzzling-speech-in-bangladesh.html?_r=0.

28 Serajur Rehman, “Mujib’s confusion on Bangladeshi deaths,” *The Guardian*, May 24, 2011, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/may/24/mujib-confusion-on-bangladeshi-deaths>.



- **Richard Sisson and Leo E. Rose**, the authors of the book *War and Secession: Pakistan, India, and the Creation of Bangladesh*, write in their book; “It is still impossible to get anything like reliable estimates as how many of these were liberation fighters killed in combat, how



Book: *War and Secession*
(Source: goodreads.com)

many were Bihari Muslims and supporters of Pakistan killed by Bengali Muslims, and how many were killed by Pakistani, Indian and Mukti Bahini fire and bombing during hostilities”²⁹

Conclusion

The half-century-old propagation of the figure of three million killed, which has been contested by almost every reputable scholar of the world, seems to be a case of political compulsion within Bangladeshi politics. It is a noticeable phenomenon that whenever the incumbent party comes into power, the figure proliferates, especially during and closer to electioneering. While it may be fair for them to get political mileage out of it, certainly it adds nothing to historical truth. This approach is shifting the chances of regional peace in general, and Pakistan-Bangladesh rapprochement in particular, from difficult to bleak. This is putting stumbling blocks in the path of *truth and reconciliation*, much desired by the people of both countries, and the world too.

About the author



Brigadier Nasir Shafiq (retired), SI (M) 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 degrees in political science, international relations, defence & strategic studies and business administration (human resource management). Moreover, he also holds an 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. The writer can be reached at nasirshafique38@gmail.com

²⁹ Richard Sisson and Leo E Rose, *War and Secession: Pakistan, India, and the Creation of Bangladesh* (US: University of California Press, 1991).



Hybrid Warfare—the Ethical Dimension

By Brigadier Sohail Nasir Khan, retired

Few activities raise as many ethical questions as the activity of war¹, and their relevance to the contemporary concept of hybrid warfare seems to substantially complicate the predicament of fighting a *just war*.² Postmodern conflict of the 21st Century (hybrid warfare) conceptualises hybridity as the leading characteristic of warfare, and places



Intersection of domains in hybrid warfare
(Source: mpcoe.org)

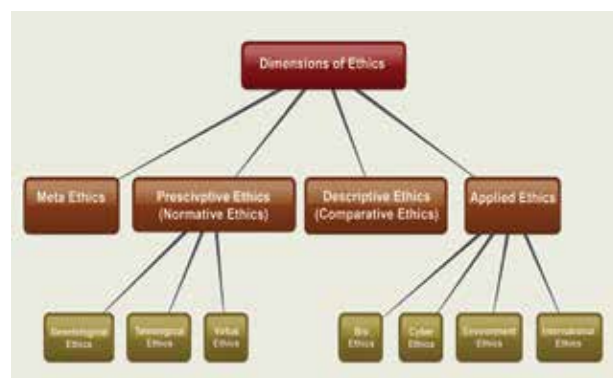
absolutely no restriction on the nature and proportion of state resources for warfare. Presenting the widest canvas of conflict in human

history (i.e. simultaneously synchronising the political, military, economic, social, informational and infrastructural elements of national power as legitimate facets of warfare), the emerging ethical dilemma can either be viewed as a positive or a negative influence.

Such perspectives are products of a particular world-view, when these are used as the basis of analysing ethical imperatives e.g. realism, liberalism, pragmatism, constructivism or pacifism. While one might expect that ethical considerations would act as a constraint, what emerges from Zehfuss (2018) analysis³ is that instead, the commitment to ethics enables [good / humanitarian] war and indeed enhances its violence. To think in Foucauldian terms, ethics and morality figure out prominently in our contemporary landscape precisely because it has been problematised.⁴ But can such ethical perspectives be made

in an era of an ever-intrusive mass media blitz, touching the limits of misperception management that frequently blurs the distinction between war and peace? This also raises another inquiry; are ethical standards universal or case-dependent?

Ethics⁵ seek to resolve questions of human morality by defining concepts, such as good and evil, right and wrong, virtue and vice, justice and crime.⁶ As a field of intellectual inquiry, moral philosophy is related to the fields of moral psychology (study of moral development), descriptive ethics, and value theory (axiology). Descriptive ethics, also known as comparative ethics⁷, is the study of people’s belief about morality (what is right). It differs from meta-ethics (what right means), normative ethics (how people should act) and applied ethics (how moral knowledge is put into practice). Meta-ethics today stand at the



Dimensions of Ethics (Source: ClearIAS.com)

confluence of beliefs, democratic opinions and state legislation, which are mixed in varying combinations as per situational imperatives.

With an ever-intrusive social media presence, mega-ethic trends influence descriptive and normative ethics, while leaving the applied ethics to laws and treaties. The enormity of the field of ethics in human

behaviour is baffling, and it seems pragmatic to restrict it here to one of the most recurring phenomena of human history i.e. conflict, in light of comparative ethics. War, whatever the conscience advocates, is a fundamental of life representing the ultimate expression of man's apparently endless struggle for resources and space, in addition to his desire for security, power and self-justification.⁸ Of all these factors that invoke conflict, presently security seems the most dominant, followed by power and culminates with self-justification. It is here that ethics can play its role as arbiter.

International *just-war theory*⁹ crystallised after the Second World War with the signing of the United Nations Charter in 1945, and the subsequent Geneva Conventions of 1949. Article 2(3) of the UN Charter demands peaceful settlement of disputes¹⁰, without impinging on the right of states to defend themselves from attack (Article 51).¹¹ The UN-affiliated Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) charter calls upon member Muslim states “to adhere our commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter, the present Charter and International Law”¹², part of which is adherence to the *just-war theory*. So essentially, all Muslim countries did not see any major conflict between the UN Charter and traditional conceptions of *Jihad*, which is the Islamic equivalent of *just-war theory*.¹³ However, some western thinkers fail to make this connection between traditional Islam and modern developments.¹⁴ This, then brings to forth the issue of interpreting these principles.

Since the beginning of the 21st Century, we have found ourselves in apparently unending and supposedly inevitable war.¹⁵ At the same time, what Anne Orford (2003) calls a ‘new interventionism, or willingness to use force in the name of humanitarian values’



Anne Orford
(Source: law.ugent.be)

shaped international politics.¹⁶ In such a contemporary anarchic state-based system of international relations, narrowly focused on self-centred national interests and underscored

by an interdependent globalised economy, it seems that our peaceful existence must be based on ethical considerations. Our salvation lies in adhering to the universal principles of conduct of combatants in warfare, as outlined in just war, *milhama*¹⁷, *jihad*¹⁸, international



Emblem of MILHAMA
(Source: artpal.com)



Scene of JIHAD
(Source: almahdi.edu)

humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights (UDHR 1949). We can use the ethical considerations of morality before going to war (i.e. *jus ad bellum*, meaning ‘right to go to war’), during the war (i.e. *jus in bello*, meaning ‘right conduct in war’) and after the war (i.e. *jus post bellum*, meaning the morality of dealing with post-war settlements and reconstruction¹⁹). While there is almost a universal consensus on *jus in bello* (right conduct during war) in shape of Geneva Conventions and IHL, there are apparent differences on dictates of *jus ad bellum* (the right moral conditions for going to war). The field of *jus post bellum* (justice after war) is considered to be yet in the evolutionary stages.²⁰ Based solely on the history of western *just war* tradition, the student of comparative ethics ought to recognise that there are at least three models, broadly speaking, for



understanding ethics: the *legal paradigm*, the *virtue or character paradigm*, and the *economic paradigm*.²¹ In this context the virtue or character paradigm assumes added importance, and has the potential to significantly influence the other two.

The concept of hybrid warfare has been criticised by a number of academics and practitioners due to its alleged vagueness, its disputed constitutive elements, and its alleged historical distortions.²² The abstractness of the term means that it is often used as a catch-all term for all non-linear threats²³, as well as their use along with linear threats, and by keeping them under detection as well as response thresholds. By combining kinetic operations with subversive efforts, the aggressor intends to avoid attribution or retribution.²⁴ This context alone makes hybrid war an anathema to the very concept of ethics in warfare. Leaving aside the viability, legality and conduct of hybrid war, the primary question confronting us, is how to juxtapose such conflict imperatives (unending war) to the contemporary dictates of national security? The answer lies in the factor of capability and ethics. The inherent logic of hybrid war as a timeless conflict in every field of life, tends to take away the considerations of *jus ad bellum*, or at best mixes them with *jus in bello*. This leaves the ethical dimension of hybrid war restricted to being just and right, distinction, proportionality, military necessity and no means *malum in se*.²⁵ Unless being

just and right is universal, we will always have conflict. And that's probably the only space available to indulge in hybrid warfare.

What moral principles should we follow during war? *Jus ad bellum* (moral justifications for going to war) requires that the cause for war is just; the right authority makes the decision; the decision is made with the right intention

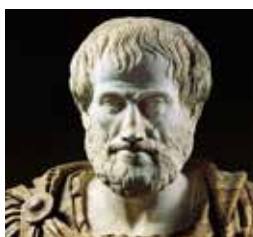


Fight for just war
(Source: kobo.com)

of bringing about peace; the war is a last resort; *the overall evil of the war does not outweigh the good*.²⁶ The last part of preceding concept says it all! Ethical

dimensions of hybrid war must be based on the moral justifications as enunciated by leading faiths of the world, as well as the human conscience, which proclaims war as permissible only if it is kept within the bounds of universal ethics.

It seems befitting to paraphrase the father of ethics, Aristotle, as an epitome to the preceding discussion.



Aristotle
(Source: britannica.com)

*A war is just, if it is undertaken by “the right people, for the right reasons, and in the right way”*²⁷. Only ethics can lead us on this way.

Notes

- 1 Helen Frowe, *The Ethics of War and Peace: An Introduction* (Routledge: New York, 2016), 1.
- 2 Gregory M. Reichberg, *Thomas Aquinas on War and Peace* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017), viii. Also see, Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* (Christian Classics Ethereal Library), pt. II, sec. 2, q. 40, a. 1.
- 3 Maja Zehfuss, *War and the Politics of Ethics* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018), 3.
- 4 Gavin Kendall and Gary Wickham, *Using Foucault's Methods* (London: SAGE Publications Ltd, 1999), 3.
- 5 The English word *ethics* is derived from the Ancient Greek word *ēthicas* (ἠθικός), meaning «relating to one's character», which itself comes from the



- root word *êthos* (ἦθος) meaning «character, moral nature». This word was transferred into Latin as *ethica* and then into French as *éthique*, from which it was transferred into English.
- 6 Veronica Root Martinez, “More Meaningful Ethics”, Notre Dame Legal Studies Paper No. 191023, University of Chicago Law Review Online (January 7, 2020), Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3474344> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3474344>
 - 7 Comparative ethics, the empirical (observational) study of the moral beliefs and practices of different peoples and cultures in various places and times. It aims not only to elaborate such beliefs and practices but also to understand them insofar as they are causally conditioned by social, economic, and geographic circumstances. Comparative ethics, in contrast to normative ethics, is thus the proper subject matter of the social sciences (e.g., anthropology, history, sociology, and psychology). Available at <https://www.britannica.com/topic/comparative-ethics>, accessed on 21.1.23
 - 8 Kenneth Macksey, *The Guinness Book of History of Land Warfare* (London: Oxford University Press, 1993), 4.
 - 9 “Just War: Definition and Introduction”, by Carnegie Council for Ethics and International Affairs. *Just war is warfare that is justified by a moral or legal tradition*. Just war theory presumes that there are legitimate uses of war but also sets moral boundaries on the waging of war. It deals with two fundamental questions concerning the ethics of war and peace: When is it morally and legally justified to go to war? What moral principles should we follow during war? *Jus ad bellum* (moral justifications for going to war) requires that the cause for war is just; the right authority makes the decision; the decision is made with the right intention of bringing about peace; the war is a last resort; the overall evil of the war does not outweigh the good. *Jus in bello* (moral principles to follow during war) governs the treatment of prisoners; requires the protection of civilians, and prohibits the disproportionate use of force. A third part of just war theory is *jus post bellum*, denoting justice after war.
 - “Just War: Definition and Introduction,” Carnegie Council, accessed on November 28, 2023, <https://www.carnegiecouncil.org/explore-engage/key-terms/just-war#:~:text=Just%20war%20is%20warfare%20that,on%20the%20waging%20of%20war.>
 - 10 Article 2(3) of the Charter states that, “All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered”. Available at, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>, accessed on November 23, 2023.
 - 11 Article 51 of UN Charter states that, “Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security”. *Ibid*.
 - 12 Arwa Ibrahim, “All you need to know about the OIC: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation is the second largest intergovernmental body after the UN”, *Al Jazeera*, May 31, 2019, accessed on November 23, 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/5/31/all-you-need-to-know-about-the-oic>.
 - 13 Justin Parrott, *Jihad in Islam: Just War Theory in Quran and Sunnah* (Texas, USA: Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research, 2020), 4.
 - 14 Parrott, *Jihad in Islam*, 4.
 - 15 Mark Duffield, *Development, Security and Unending War: Governing the World of Peoples* (UK: Polity Publishers, 2007), 1.
‘Unending war’ is Duffield’s term. The US Army talks about ‘persistent conflict’. See George W. Casey Jr, “Comprehensive Soldier Fitness: A Vision for Psychological Resilience in the U.S. Army”, *American Psychologist* 66, no. 1 (2011):1 and Paul T. Berghaus and Nathan L. Cartagena, “Developing Good Soldiers: The Problem of Fragmentation within the Army”, *Journal of Military Ethics* 12, no. 4 (2013): 291.
 - 16 Anne Orford, *Reading Humanitarian Intervention: Human Rights and the Use of Force in International Law* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2003), 2.
 - 17 It is the Jewish word for war. Shoshana Kardova, “Word of the Day Milhama: Sometimes War Is Just a



- Game. Combat is a serious matter. When it's not, the pronunciation changes. Haaretz (October 11, 2013), accessed on November 28, 2023, <https://www.haaretz.com/2013-10-11/ty-article/.premium/word-of-the-day-milhama/0000017f-e0d4-df7c-a5ff-e2fe1e6a0000>.
- 18 “Jihad,” BBC, last updated on August 3, 2009, accessed on December 6, 2023, https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/beliefs/jihad_1.shtml.
 - 19 Charles Guthrie and Michael Quinlan, “Chapter III: The Structure of the Tradition,” in *Just War: The Just War Tradition: Ethics in Modern Warfare* (London: Bloomsbury Publications, 2007), 11–15.
 - 20 Frowe, *The Ethics of War and Peace*, 239. “Advocates of jus post bellum insist that if, as Augustine argued, war is only legitimate to the extent that it is fought to preserve a just peace, then it stands to reason that combatants be held to account for the way in which the war is concluded and peace managed”. Quoted from, A. Bellamy, “The responsibilities of victory: Jus Post Bellum and the just war”, *Review of International Studies* 34 (2008): 601–2.
 - 21 Torkel Brekke, *The Ethics of War in Asian Civilizations: A Comparative Perspective* (New York: Routledge, 2006), 7. As explained in, *Introduction: Comparative ethics and the crucible of war*, by, G. Scott Davis.
 - 22 Donald Stoker and Craig Whiteside “Blurred Lines: Gray-Zone Conflict and Hybrid War—Two Failures of American Strategic Thinking”, *Naval War College Review* 73, no. 1 (Winter 2020): 1–37.
 - 23 Frederick Burkle, “Bastardizing Peacekeeping and the Birth of Hybrid Warfare,” *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine* 37, no. 2 (March 2022): 147-149, doi:10.1017/S1049023X22000425.
 - 24 Peter Pindjak, “Deterring hybrid warfare: a chance for NATO and the EU to work together?,” *NATO Review*, November 18, 2014, accessed on November 28, 2023, <https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2014/11/18/deterring-hybrid-warfare-a-chance-for-nato-and-the-eu-to-work-together/index.html>.
 - 25 Latin legal phrase meaning bad in itself.
 - 26 “Just War: Definition and Introduction”, by Carnegie Council for Ethics and International Affairs.
 - 27 Brekke, *The Ethics of War in Asian Civilizations*, 7.

About the author



Brigadier Sohail Nasir Khan (retired), SI(M) is an infantry officer who besides staff and war courses, holds an MPhil degree in peace and conflict studies from National Defence University Islamabad. He also has master degrees in defence management, English linguistics, business administration and education management along with professional certifications from local and foreign universities in social psychology, cultural anthropology, IR, mass communication/ media, international law, HRM, logistics and terrorism. Besides distinctive operational staff assignments, commanding an infantry brigade and regimental centre, he has also commanded a multinational force under UN mandate. He is presently serving in the Army Institute of Military History as research director. The writer can be reached at sohailnasirkhan313@gmail.com



Dress Distinctions in the Pakistan Army

By Lieutenant Colonel Imran Hassan Khan Niazi, retired

It has been customary in various armies that units are awarded accoutrements to distinguish them among others, as a symbol of outstanding performance during wars. Sometimes they are also granted for some unprecedented historical act or incident of significance.

Pakistan Army inherited the traditions of her predecessor British Indian Army in 1947. The uniform and equipment have undergone many evolutionary stages in the last three quarters of a century, however there has been very little deviation from the roots. There are some units which were granted dress distinctions before independence. Pakistan Army continued by and large to allow them to wear those distinctions till today. A couple of units have been granted distinctions after independence too, whereas a few lost theirs during evolution.

The Policy

Pakistan Army continued with the old policy for over seven decades. It was not until 2018, that the policy was revised according to local conditions, and finally enforced in 2020. The salient eligibility criteria is outstanding war performance by the collective action of a unit, where the enemy has been significantly hurt. There have been different types of accoutrements allowed in the past. As per current policy, a hackle (commonly known as *plume*), collar piping, or a lanyard are the standard accoutrements permissible as a distinction. A unit found eligible for a distinction, can claim either of the three, and

not more than a single item, for one distinction. The distinction cannot be claimed on the basis of an individual action.

In view of the very few distinctions allowed since 1947, there is a study under consideration currently, to grant distinctions on the basis of individual gallantry awards under a standard criterion, but not implemented as yet. There is also a suggestion under consideration to add an arm patch or a distinction disc, among eligible accoutrements.

There are two types of dress distinctions being followed at present. One is a unit's individual distinction, and the other is regimental or arm-based distinction. The latter is explained in the following part.

Regimental Dress Distinctions

There are regiments and arms which wear a particular dress item as a standard regimental accoutrement.

Cross Belt. There are two types of dress accoutrements specific to *Armoured Corps*, but



Service dress with leather toshdan
(Source: Author)

admissible to officers only. *Cross belt*, commonly known as *pouch belt*, is worn with ceremonial

dress i.e., in leather with services dress and in gold lace (embroidered) with mess kit. In Pakistan Army, it is referred to as *toshdan*. Every regiment has its own distinctive *toshdan*.¹

¹ Army Dress Regulations 2010.



At one time, it was allowed to officers and viceroy commissioned officers (VCOs) of various arms, but this was discontinued by the British in the Indian Army during the post-World War I reorganisation.²

VCOs were commonly known as *Indian officers* prior to grant of regular commissions



Subedar Mir Dast Afridi, VC in post WW I photograph, wearing pouch belt in black leather
(Source: oxforddnb.com)

(King's commission, regular commission and temporary commission), which started after WW I.³ Until then, jemadars, subedars and subedar majors were considered Indian or native lieutenants, captains and majors respectively, and wore similar ranks.⁴ A slip-on ribbon (also known as *braid, stripe or band*) was

added on the shoulder, under the rank, in 1942, and after regiment title in 1946, to the ranks of VCOs, to differentiate them from regular Indian commissioned officers.⁵ When Pakistan became an independent republic in 1956,



Current rank of Naib Subedar
(Source: AIMH)

the King's commission was replaced with the President's commission and VCOs

with junior commissioned officers (JCOs).

Mail Chains. Armoured Corps officers also wear chain net on shoulders, called *mail chains*, on the mess kit. It is basically an accoutrement,



Mess kit with gold lace toshdan and mail chain
(Source: AIMH)

a vestige of traditional cavalry dress before the advent of tanks, when body armour with a chained hood to cover the exposed area under a helmet, was worn by cavalry soldiers while riding. It is also worn by officers from Remount Veterinary and Farms Corps, carrying the tradition of old Remount Corps. A few units other than these two arms, are also individually authorised to wear it⁶, which shall be covered in units' dress distinctions.

Lanyard. It was inherited from the British Indian Army and was worn by all arms and



White lanyard of the Regiment of Artillery
(Source: AIMH)

services, in distinctive regimental colours. It was discontinued in 1975. In 2021, the lanyard of the

Regiment of Artillery has been restored.

Hackle. *Punjab Regiment, Sind Regiment, Northern Light Infantry Regiment (NLI) and Pakistan Military Academy (PMA)* have the distinction of wearing *hackle (plume)* on regimental beret with ceremonial dress.

2 Dress Regulations (India) 1931, issued by The Government of India Publications Branch, Army Department, Calcutta, 1931.
3 Iskander Mirza (later honorary Major General, Governor General and President of Pakistan) was the first native to have obtained a King's commission in 1920.
4 Rob Clark, "WW1 Indian Army Ranks", accessed on January 27th, 2023, <https://www.researchingww1.co.uk/indian-army-ranks>.
5 Lt Col Rifat Nadeem Ahmed, *Uniform & Badges of The Punjab Regiment* (Rawalpindi: Hamza Parvez Printers, 2022).
6 Army Dress Regulations 2010



Pakistan inherited five regimental groups of Punjab Regiment (1, 8, 14, 15 and 16). In 1956 all groups amalgamated into a single regiment, less 8 Punjab which was amalgamated in Baluch (now Baloch) Regiment.



Hackle—Punjab Regiment (Source: pinterest.com)

The green plume of Punjab regiment is associated with former 1st Punjab Regiment, which was granted grass green feather hackle, as a distinction for services during WWII, for suffering heavy casualties while winning the highest number of gallantry awards, among the entire British Indian Army.⁷

Sind Regiment wears a red hackle. Although raised in 1980, the regiment was authorised plume as 11 battalions from Punjab Regiment became part of the newly raised regiment. *NLI* wears white hackle of monal pheasant feathers, with green base, on ceremonial headgear, and cadets of *PMA* wear twin colour hackle in red and green with ceremonial beret.⁸



Hackle—Sind Regiment (Source: ADR-1989)



Hackle—NLI Regiment (Source: AIMH)



Hackle—PMA (Source: AIMH)

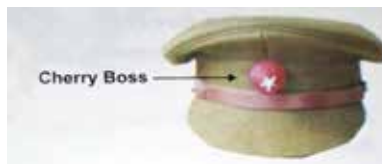
Gorget Patches. Gentlemen cadets of *PMA*, following the tradition of Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, UK, also wear *gorget*

patches (otherwise a distinction for senior ranks of colonels and above only), with ceremonial uniform, in white colour.



White gorget patches—PMA (Source: PMA)

Cherry Boss. *Baloch Regiment* officers have the distinction of wearing a five-pointed silver



Cherry Boss—Baloch Regiment (Source: ADR-2010)

star over a cherry boss (bobble) with the blue forage and khaki peak cap, instead of a

regiment badge.⁹

Officers of 7FF (formerly 1/13th (Coke's) Frontier Force Rifles) have worn a red bobble with silver bugle on their peak caps, to honour the battalion's association with the British 60th Rifles, until 1956.¹⁰

Black Web Belt. *Armoured Corps* (AC) and *Frontier Force Regiment* (FF) wear a black web



FF khaki uniform—Black belt and buttons (Source: 5 FF)

belt with uniform, whereas remaining arms and services wear olive green.¹¹ AC was granted black because

7 Lt Col (ret) Raja Tahir Mehmood, *The Story of Punjab Regiment-A Saga of Pride, Honour and Sacrifice (1759–2017)* (Mardan: Punjab Regiment Centre, 2017), 26.

8 Army Dress Regulations 2010.

9 Army Dress Regulations 2010.

10 Brigadier W.E.H. Condon, *The Frontier Force Rifles* (Aldershot, England: Gale & Polden, 1953), 176.

11 Army Dress Regulations 2010.



of the distinction of wearing *black berets* prior to WWII, and still carry on with the same.¹² *FF* carries the distinction due to its *rifles* past, since *FF Rifles*, amalgamated in *FF Regiment* in 1956, wore black leather, web equipment and shoes. Rifle regiments in the British Army wore the same since the 18th Century, but *FF Rifles* are the pioneers of black webbing and buttons in the British-Indian Army. The ceremonial jacket or tunic among rifle battalions, was also of rifle green colour.¹³

1st (Self Propelled) Medium Regiment Artillery (FF) is the only unit from the Regiment of Artillery, to wear black belt and buttons, being affiliated to the Frontier Force Regiment. *Defence Services Force (DSF)* which is a civil armed force (CAF) of Ministry of Defence, also wear black webbing.

The distinction of *black shoes* remained distinctive to *FF* officers, while officers from other corps and regiments wore brown shoes.¹⁴ In the 1960s, the whole Army was converted to black footwear, and with all types of dresses.¹⁵ The same was the case with *black web equipment* for all units mentioned earlier, which wore black webbing, until induction of current *camouflage combat dress (CCD)* to replace khaki in the field.

FF also has a singular distinction of being the only regiment in the Army to wear *black buttons*, whereas all remaining wear khaki.¹⁶ Black buttons and webbing is the tradition inherited from 13th Frontier Force Rifles (now amalgamated in the Frontier Force Regiment).¹⁷



CMP escort with white webbing
(Source: AIMH)

White Belt and Webbing. *Corps of Military Police (CMP)* is the only service authorised to wear white webbing, being the custodian of discipline.

Units and Individual Distinctions

There are a number of units which have been granted various types of dress distinctions. Some are pre-independence legacies, and a few were granted after independence.

- **Collar Piping** is worn by five units: -

Guides Cavalry (Frontier Force), 2nd Battalion (Guides) The Frontier Force



Scarlet piping
(Source: 1 (SP) Medium Regiment Artillery (FF))

Regiment and 1st (Self Propelled) Medium Regiment Artillery (FF) wear *scarlet*

piping on the collars. The former two wear it as a distinction since British times, for being former Corps of Guides. The latter regiment was granted it on the basis of war performance during *1965 War*.



Prussian blue piping
(Source: 9 FF)

9th Battalion (Wilde's) The Frontier Force Regiment wears *Prussian blue piping*,

12 Major General (retired) Syed Hamid Ali, "The Origins of Black in The Pakistan Army," *Bugle & Trumpet* 1 no. 2 (2019), Army Institute of Military History.

13 Ali, "The Origins of Black in the Pakistan Army".

14 Army Dress Regulations 1959, issued by Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Defence, Karachi, 1960.

15 Army Dress Regulations 1989

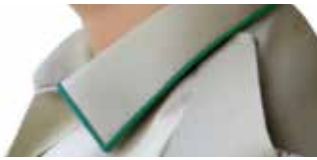
16 Khaki is derived from word 'Khak', a local word which means loose earth. Khaki refers to the colour of *khak*, and universally called as such in the British Army and the descendants of the former British-Indian Army

17 *The Piffers*, limited edition (Abbottabad: Frontier Force Regiment Centre, 2002).



granted during the 19th Century. During reorganisation of the Army in 1956, it was discontinued. It was restored in 1979.

12th Battalion, The Northern Light Infantry Regiment has recently been granted



Pakistan green piping
(Source: 12 NLI)

Pakistan green piping for outstanding war performance during OPERATION

KOH-I-PAIMA (Kargil conflict) in 1999.

- **Distinction Lanyard** is worn by only two units. Regimental lanyard is worn around the *left shoulder*, whereas the distinction lanyard is a short-length lanyard worn around the *right shoulder*. When lanyard as a dress item was discontinued in the 1970s, the distinction lanyard was also discontinued, but later restored. It now continues to be worn by the units which held it as a distinction: -

1st Battalion (Scinde) The Frontier Force Regiment wear a *scarlet* lanyard and 5th Battalion The Frontier Force Regiment wear a *dark blue* lanyard, which were granted to the units upon conferment of the title *Royal*, for their war performance during World War I, and in the inter-war period, respectively.

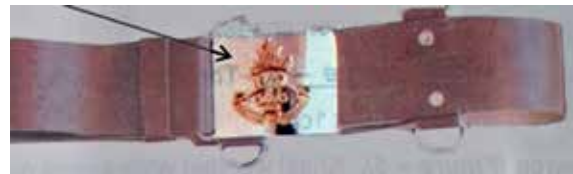


Lanyards of 1FF (scarlet) and 5FF (dark blue)
(Source: AIMH)

- **Leather Belt.** Unit badge crested *leather belt* is authorised to all officers and JCOs of *Guides Cavalry (FF)*, *2 FF (Guides)*, *1 (SP) Medium Regiment Artillery (FF)* and *34 Lancers*. *12 Cavalry (FF)* is authorised a brown leather belt for officers only.



Leather belts and collar piping
Guides Cavalry (FF) and *2 FF (Guides)*
(Source: Guides Cavalry, 2 FF)



Leather belt 12 Cavalry (FF) (Source: ADR 2010)



Leather belt—34 Lancers and 1 (SP) Medium Regiment Artillery (FF) (Source: 34 L, 1 SP)

- **Toshdan.** 1st (SP) Medium Regiment Artillery (FF) and 2nd Battalion (Guides) The FF Regiment are the only



Toshdan worn by 2 FF (Guides) with scarlet piping on collars
(Source: 2 FF)

units other than AC regiments, to wear this accoutrement (officers only).

- **Whangee Swagger Stick.** It is made from *whangee bamboo*. All officers from 19 Lancers carry it in lieu of a regimental cane, as a tradition inherited as 19th King George V's Own Lancers. It resembles the *Malacca*



Whangee Swagger Stick—19 Lancers (Source: 19 L)



Malacca cane (Source: ADR-2010)

cane which is made from *palm stems* and is a symbol of rank, authorised to officers of the rank of colonel and above.



Discontinued Dress Distinctions of the past

- Maroon Lanyard.** *11 Cavalry (FF)* was granted a maroon lanyard by Prince Albert Victor in 1892, for outstanding performance in frontier expeditions. The lanyard was not part of dress accoutrements of AC when it was worn as part of army uniform. *11 Cavalry (FF)* had the distinction of being the only armour regiment authorised to wear a lanyard.¹⁸ The distinction was lost when the lanyard was discontinued (refer back to regimental dress distinctions).
- Khaki Lanyard.** *2 FF (Guide's)* wore a khaki lanyard¹⁹ as a legacy of Lumsden's invention²⁰, instead of black (standard colour of FF Regiment). Like *11 Cavalry (FF)*, this distinction was lost by the battalion when the lanyard was discontinued.
- Arm Title.** At independence, arm title of regiment, arm and service was worn by all on the shoulder in cloth, with backing, as per designated colours.²¹ It was discontinued after 1956, however *2 FF (Guide's)* was allowed to wear an arm title of 'GUIDES' in silver gilded metal, in convex curve on the sleeve below the shoulder, on the service dress.²² It was discontinued later.²³
- Dark Uniform.** *7th Battalion The Frontier Force Regiment* wore a dark coloured uniform since raising in 1849. It was an indigo-dyed very dark tunic in the beginning, and the only unit not only within the Punjab Irregular Force (P.I.F), but the entire army to do so.²⁴ At that time, dark coloured uniform was only worn by the *rifles* units of the British Army.²⁵ The colour was retained over the years, and even after the first reorganisation of British-Indian Army under *Kitchener's Reforms* in 1903. During post-World War I reorganisation, it changed to rifle green in 1924, when *13th Frontier Force Rifles* were organised.²⁶ After WW II reorganisation was again carried out and the army changed to Khaki uniform, less Gurkha battalions, which wore olive green for employment in tropical and hilly areas. The unit adopted olive green battledress and berets in continuation of the tradition of wearing dark coloured uniform.²⁷ After independence, they continued to wear *rifle green colour* and were known as *Siah Posh (black coated)* for their individuality.²⁸ The distinction continued after independence until 1952, when the entire Frontier Force Rifles was brought onto rifle green uniform.²⁹ When the Army was reorganised in 1956, khaki was adopted as

18 Army Dress Regulations 1959, issued by Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Defence, Karachi, 1960.

19 Ibid.

20 Lieutenant General H.B. Lumsden while commanding the Corps of Guides (now Guides Cavalry and 2 FF), resorted to dust colour uniform by using dried mud on traditionally conspicuous coloured uniforms of the time, as a camouflage to merge with the ground. He later invented uniform cloth of the same colour which became famous as khaki, and thus considered as its inventor. Khaki was later adopted by many armies of the world.

21 Army Dress Regulations 1953 vide Special Pakistan Army Order of January 1953.

22 Army Dress Regulations 1959, issued by Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Defence, Karachi, 1960.

23 Army Dress Regulations 1989.

24 Colonel H.C. Wylly, *The History of Coke's Rifles* (Aldershot, England: Gale & Polden Ltd, 1930), 6.

25 Refer to *Black Web Belt* in the article.

26 Army Department, *Dress Regulations (India) 1925* (Calcutta: Central Publication Branch, 1926).

27 Condon, *The Frontier Force Rifles*, 176.

28 Major General M. Hayaud Din, *One Hundred Glorious Years—A History of The Punjab Frontier Force 1849-1949* (Lahore: Civil and Military Gazette Ltd, 1950), 20.

29 Army Dress Regulations 1953 vide Special Pakistan Army Order of January 1953.

a standard colour of uniform of Pakistan Army. Though the unit was reluctant to give it away, it could not be retained due to resemblance with the Indian Army, which adopted olive green colour for the uniform. It is a general perception that black buttons of FF are a reminder of the old *rifles* past, however the paltan claimed for many years that the insistence of the unit (then 1/13 FF Rifles), was also one of the reasons. The unit nevertheless, lost the distinction which it had for 107 years.



Painting by Lieutenant Colonel O.E.B McLeod
(Source: The Frontier Force Rifles by Brigadier W.E.H. Condon)

- **Sam Browne's Belt**³⁰ was a standard dress accoutrement, inherited on independence, worn by officers on the service dress, and junior commissioned officers with ceremonial dress. It was discontinued in the 1980s, and is now worn by appointment holders of final term cadets at PMA. Officers and JCOs only wear it during



An AC officer wearing Sam Browne's belt circa 1958
(Source: Inter services Public Relations)

ceremonial guards, and while on duty in the garrisons.

Traditions Observed as Dress Distinctions

Guides Cavalry (FF) and 2 FF (Guides) wear distinctions which are not mentioned in Army Dress Regulations (ADR), but remain as a tradition linked to their past.³¹

- **Waist Sash.** Both the Guides units (cavalry and infantry) have a tradition that the regimental waist sash worn by ceremonial guards, has the badge on the left side, whereas the rest of the Army wear it on the right. They carry it as a tradition of the former Corps of Guides, since raising.
- **Arm Title.** 2 FF (Guides) continue to wear the title as a tradition of *GUIDES*, patched above the formation sign.



Waist Sash—Guides
(Source: 2 FF)



Arm title worn by 2 FF (Guides) with scarlet backing
(Source: 2 FF)

Conclusion

Dress distinctions are an age-old tradition carried by soldiers and armies from the earliest times. Distinctions granted over a period of time become traditions, which are part and parcel of soldiering. Traditions lead to the development of culture based on history,

30 This belt was invented by General Sir Sam Browne, VC, after losing an arm during 1857 while commanding 2nd Punjab Cavalry (now 12th Sam Browne's Cavalry (FF) of Pakistan Army), to help him carry the sword. The belt was named after him by the British and later became a dress accoutrement among all Commonwealth armies.

31 Army Dress Regulations 2010.



morale, and ultimately to *esprit de corps* and infusion of leadership. These distinctions are not merely an acknowledgement of a unit's or regiment's acts of glory, but subsequently serve as a source of motivation. Each time an individual wears a distinction, he or she is reminded of a past historical event. The

memory sparks energy to perform well and live up to the reputation that is carried with that distinction. This ultimately helps in individual as well as collective output of the unit. To end with a quote of Field Marshal Wavell; '*Tradition is the bedrock of tattered battalions when they are faced with heavy odds*'.

About the author



Lieutenant Colonel Imran Hassan Khan Niazi (retired), TI (M) was commissioned as a second-generation officer in a mechanised infantry battalion of the elite Frontier Force Regiment in 1987. He is a graduate of Command and Staff College Quetta. He has diverse experience of various appointments including homeland security and counter terrorism. The officer is a student of history and has also compiled 150 years history of his own battalion in 1999. The officer is serving as director of Composite Wing in Army Institute of Military History. He can be reached at ikhan755@hotmail.com

“The way you dress is an expression of your personality.”

(Alessandra Michele)

History of the Army Service Corps

By Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Mustafa, retired

With the creation of the *New Model Army* in British India, the need for logistics was felt, and a Commissariat Department was established for provision of rations. In the Indian Subcontinent, the Mughal Army used porters and animal handlers from within *camp followers* to cope with logistic needs. The



Mir Bakawal
(Source: pinterest.com)

The Mughal King Babar always appointed good men such as *Mir Bakawal* (master of the kitchen) and *Mir Manzil* (quartermaster) for distribution of foodstuffs to the army. With the advent of the East India Company in the Indian Subcontinent (1757), *Army Commissariat Departments* of Bengal, Madras and Bombay

Presidencies were established in 1760. Hence, history of the Army Service Corps (ASC) in the Subcontinent dates back to 1760. During East India Company days, the Commissariat was placed under the direction and control of the *Commissary General* in each Presidency. The executive commissariat officers were civil servants of East India Company, not military officers. Rations were composed of meat, flour and rum for Europeans, and grain for the Indian Sepoys. Gram for horses was provided on active service only.

In 1793, revolutionary French forces invaded the Low Countries (coastal region, north-western Europe consisting of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg), and declared war on Britain. Existing military plans relied on local men to provide supplies and transport for the British Army overseas, which

proved to be inadequate. Therefore, the first uniformed transport corps, named the Royal



Royal Wagon Corps
(Source: the-guild.ca)

Waggoners, was created on 7 March 1794.¹ One year later, after British forces withdrew from the

Low Countries, the Royal Waggoners were disbanded. The animal and vehicle transport were under one military official called *Wagon Master*. Transport was divided in two parts; Public Cattle and Carriage Cattle. The former was owned by the Company, and the latter was hired.

In 1799, Sir Ralph Abercromby led a British expedition into north Holland to break



Sir Ralph Abercromby
(Source: britannica.com)

the French hold on the strategically important Scheldt estuary. Another transport corps was created to support this effort. Initially titled the *Royal Wagon Corps*, it was renamed the *Royal Wagon Train*, ranking as a *mounted corps*.

Due to the success of Abercrombie's expedition, the *Royal Wagon Train* of five squadrons was reinforced by a further seven squadrons/troops. Victory at Waterloo brought an end to the Napoleonic Wars, and with it, 22 years of conflict between France and much of Europe. After the battle, the Royal Wagon Train was responsible for

1 John Sutton, ed., *Wait for the Waggon: The Story of the Royal Corps of Transport and its Predecessor (1794–1993)*, 1st ed. (Yorkshire: Leo Cooper, 1998).



Royal Wagon Train
(Source: wiktiree.com)

clearing over 4,000 allied dead from the battlefield. After Napoleon's defeat, the train was reduced

to five troops, primarily utilised for mundane transport tasks. By 1818, only two troops remained, with one stationed in Gibraltar. The train was finally disbanded in 1833.

In India the British Government kept transport resources under its own control, yet most of the animals, carts and drivers were hired locally when required, under the Commissariat Department. In December 1843, the Scinde (Sindh) Camel Corps now the 1st Battalion (scinde) The Frontier Force Regiment, Pakistan Army was raised, based on the recommendations of Sir Charles Napier.



Scinde Camel Corps badge
(Source: Author)

He wrote in July 1843, "I am forming a fighting camel corps and I have long since proposed to form the army baggage corps also into a regular corps, able to manoeuvre and defend itself"². In 1844, the Scinde Camel Baggage Corps was raised, which conducted long marches from Karachi to Bahawalpur, however this logistic body was disbanded on 18 June 1851, being uneconomical.

There was no permanent transport department or corps as a unified entity in the Indian Army until 1883. From the records available, it may be said that a transport scheme was drawn up by Colonel R.C. low, Deputy Commissary General (Transport) in 1881.

Separate transport branches were first raised on 9 March 1883. The concept was that a force put into the field, to be effective, should be provided with adequate transport. Transport was provided for supplies, ammunition, equipment and clothing etc. The scheme of transport was based on two cardinals, *economy* and *operational efficiency*, which are considered the leading principles of logistics even today.

After the Second Afghan War, a fresh report on transport was submitted to the



Second Afghan War painting
(Source: nam.ac.uk)

Government in July 1885, recommending improvements in procedures, transition from peace to war, accounting systems,

employment of officers and command articulation etc. The Commissariat Department continued to be responsible for contracts, local purchases and also provision of clothing to the army. It was also decided that transport services should be a branch of the Commissariat, with some additional staff to take over this responsibility.

The Army Service Corps was actually constituted as *Army Commissariat Department*



Supply and Transport Corps, 1901
(Source: Author)

of Bengal on 1 February 1810, of Madras on 1 December 1810 and of Bombay on 28 August 1811.

Commissariat Transport Departments of Bengal, Madras and Bombay were raised on 10 February 1887, which were transformed into *Supply and*

² Brig Abdul Latif (Retd), *History of Army Service Corps (1760-1935)*, volume 1 (Rawalpindi: Pap Board Printer, 1988).



Transport Corps on 24 July 1901.³ The titles of various appointments were changed and *the Supply and Transport Corps* (S&T) was placed under the Commander-in-Chief (C-in-C) from 1 May 1905.⁴

Silladar Camel Corps was raised in 1901 by recruitment from camel owners; however when additional camel transport was required, a Government Camel Corps was formed. In 1905 during reorganisation, regular corps and cadres of mules, camels and cart transport were made. This consisted 21 mule corps, 9 silladar camel cadres and 2 pony cart train cadres. A mule corps was commanded by a British officer, and was divided into two subdivisions, a warrant officer being in-charge. Transport problems emerged during World War I, especially where lines of communication (L of C) were overstretched. Air supply was resorted to for isolated troops, but was inadequate.

On 1 January 1919, there were some 7000 military vehicles, and Royal Army Service Corps (Mechanical Transport), or RASC (MT) companies held 400 officers and 12,000 other ranks. With improvement in mechanical transport (MT), the force commander General Maude suggested that animal transport (AT) should gradually be replaced by MT companies



No 2 Battery, 1st HQ Armoured Car Brigade, NWFF, Peshawar, India, 1920

(Ford vans). This increased the radius of action and reduced the burden of forage supplies.

Those Ford MT companies were extensively used for daily maintenance, especially water supply. With great difficulty and untold stories, S&T units supported the campaigns.

For supply of rations, oil and bedding there was a supply depot in each cantonment, under an officer, with detachments around. Mobilisation reserves of food and clothing were held in nine reserve depots (RSD) located at Quetta, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Meerut, Lucknow, Mhow, Poona and Sikandarabad, all directly under command GHQ India. Before World War I, the supply branch of S&T Corps was responsible for purchase and distribution of rations. On 17 April 1923, *Royal Army Service Corps* of UK and *Supply and Transport Corps* of India amalgamated, and title of *Supply and Transport Corps* (S&T) changed to *Indian Army Service Corps* (IASC). It was designated as the *Royal Indian Army Service Corps* (RIASC) on 3 June 1935. On 14 August 1947 with the emergence of Pakistan, the RIASC units of Pakistan Army were called *Royal Pakistan Army Service Corps* (RPASC). Indian Catering Corps was



Royal Army Service Corps
(Source: Author)



Indian Army Service Corps
(Source: Author)



Royal Indian Army Service Corps
(Source: Author)



Royal Pakistan Army Service Corps
(Source: Author)

3 Governor General's Order 669 of 1901.

4 Lt Col B. N. Majumdar, *History of the Army Service Corps (1858-1913)*, volume 2 (New Delhi, 1976).



Army Service Corps, 1956
(Source: Author)



Army Service Corps, 2012
(Source: Author)

merged into it on 1 September 1948. Present designation of *Army Service Corps* (ASC) dates from 23 March 1956 when Pakistan became an Islamic Republic. The present flag of *Army Service Corps* (ASC) was introduced on 24 July 2012.

The Army service Corps has come a long way since its inception on 17 March 1794 as waggons. The Corps continued its journey with different names, and as time passed, flags and badges of the Corps also changed. Transformation of badge and flag can be divided into various stages, as per time period (see table 1).

Table 1
Transformation of ASC badges & flags

Stage	Name	Period
1.	Supply and Transport Corps	24 July 1901 to 16 April 1923
2.	Indian Army Service Corps	17 April 1923 to 2 June 1935
3.	Royal Indian Army Service Corps	3 June 1935 to 13 August 1947
4.	Royal Pakistan Army Service Corps	14 August 1947 to 22 March 1956
5.	Army Service Corps	23 March 1956 to 22 December 1971
6.	Army Service Corps	23 December 1971 to 23 July 2012
7.	Army Service Corps	24 July 2012 to date

Royal Indian Army Service School was established at Chaklala, Rawalpindi in 1939 as part of ASC Centre.⁵ In 1940 the school was shifted to Kuldana, Muree (present location

of Army School of Logistics), and it remained there till March 1941. In 1941, RIASC School was relocated to Kakul (present location of Pakistan Military Academy). In September



Royal Indian Army Service Corps School, Kuldana
(Source: ivoanacom)



Royal Indian Army Service Corps School, Kakul
(Source: defence.pk)

5 Rasad-o-Rasael, 1955 (p.9) ASC Magazine



Royal Indian Army Service Corps School, Chaklala
(Source: Author)

1947 the school was relocated again to Chaklala Rawalpindi as part of ASC Centre. In 1960, the school along with ASC Centre moved to Jhelum and remained part of ASC Centre. In 1962, the school moved to Nowshera under command of Lieutenant Colonel Amjad Hussain, the first commandant. In 1966, the school was given independent status. ASC School is affiliated with 3 national universities, besides various civil organisations. The school provides training facilities to students of 5 foreign countries.

Major General Akbar Khan *Rangroot* was from Army Service Corps (after initial service in the cavalry).⁶ Just before Independence he was given the rank of major



Major General Akbar Khan
(Source: linkshop.pk)

general, and after Independence in 1947, he was allotted Pakistan Army Number PA 1.⁷ General Akbar had the honour of becoming the first Muslim major general of the British Indian Army. He was a good polo player and writer.⁸ His brother Major General Iftikhar Khan

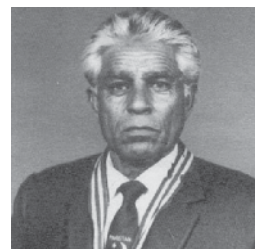
was next in seniority and was allotted PA number 2. Brigadier M.J.A Sheehan CBE was the first Director Supply and Transport (September 1947– March 1948).



Brigadier M.J.A Sheehan CBE
(Source: wikipedia.org)

Since ages horsemanship is considered a symbol of warriors, and animal transport is an important segment of ASC. Besides transportation, animals are trained and used for riding. In ASC, horse riding is mandatory for officers and optional for troops. ASC has produced international polo players like Lieutenant Colonel Shabbir Haider Rizvi and Sardar Ahmed Khan. They both died as a result of a fall from horseback.

ASC men represented Pakistan at international and national levels in other



Mubarik Shah
(Source: olympedia.org)

games as well. Mubarik Shah got the first silver medal in 1955 for Pakistan in Asian Games in Jakarta. Matloob Ali represented Pakistan in Kabaddi World Cup 2014, and Kabaddi Asia Cup 2016 and received silver and gold medals respectively.

Pakistan Army Service Corps participated in all wars on external and internal fronts, including War on Terror. Officers and men of ASC stood shoulder to shoulder with the nation during earthquake and flood relief operations. They sacrificed their lives for the motherland, and received gallantry awards. Some of the award recipients (shuhada) are at table 2.⁹

6 WWHK, “[Urdu] General Akbar Khan Rangroot – Pakistan Army,” Youtube, October 15, 2020, video, 9:49, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ix-yePfwzWM>.

7 Khalid Mustafa, *Wafiyat Ahl-E-Qalam Asa Kar-E-Pakistan* (Lahore: Fiction House, 2014), 59.

8 ASC School A Glance through the Corridors of History: Rasad-o-Tarseel, 2016 (Vol-50).

9 Data provided by Lt Col Amjad Ullah Khan GSO-1 (Research, Publication & Method) ASC School Nowshera.



Table 2
List of award recipients (shuhada)

Sr.	Name & Distinction	Place & Date
1.	Major Khalid Sohail Sultan, shaheed, SJ	Siachin, 1 August 1992
2.	Captain Muhammad Iqbal Khan, shaheed, HJ	Siachin, 25 December 1987
3.	Captain Sarfraz Ali Khan, shaheed, S Bt, T St	Free fall jump, 5 May 1985
4.	Captain Muhammad Akmal Khan, shaheed, T Bt	Siachin, 26 November 1986
5.	N/Sub Atta Muhammad, shaheed, SJ	Siachin, 26 June 1987
6.	Naib Risaldar Faqeer Muhammad, shaheed, T Bt	10 September 1997
7.	Naik Muhammad Deen, shaheed, SJ	5 November 1948
8.	Lance Naik Muhammad Rafiqe, shaheed, T Bt	2 June 2014
9.	Sepoy Talib Hussain, shaheed, T Bt	14 April 1986
10.	Sepoy Muhammad Javeed, shaheed, T Bt	16 December 1986
11.	Sepoy Mehmood Hussain, shaheed, T Bt	23 November 1988
12.	Sepoy Dost Ali, shaheed, T Bt	1 October 1997
13.	Sepoy Muhammad Waris, shaheed, T Bt	1 October 1997
14.	Sepoy Abdul Razzaq, shaheed, T Bt	1 October 1997
15.	Sepoy Muhammad Ghaffar, shaheed, T Bt	1 October 1997
16.	Sepoy Abrar Hussain, shaheed, S Bt	17 June 1999
17.	Sepoy Rehmat Ul Allah, shaheed, T Bt	22 June 1999
18.	Sepoy Kareem Khan, shaheed, T Bt	9 July 1999
19.	Recruit Majid Nawaz, shaheed, S Bt	Terrorist Attack on ASC Centre, 15 December 2007

Army Supply Corps has played a vital role in logistic support system of Pakistan Army. It has come a long way since inception. To remain in step with changing requirements of modern war, ASC has gone through

organisational/doctrinal changes. Induction of women in ASC started in 2007, a positive step towards capacity enhancement of the corps. The Corps will continue to strive to maintain and improve its operational capabilities.

About the author



Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Mustafa (retired) was commissioned in Army Service Corps in 1988. He remained part of UN mission in Somalia in 1993/4. Later, he was appointed as adjutant in Army Service Corps Centre, Nowshera. He worked as Assistant Director Procurement in 2005. He also commanded 32 Supply & Transport Battalion in North Waziristan. He holds master degrees in urdu and mass communication. He is a writer, poet, critic, researcher and translator. The author can be reached at khalidmustafa91@gmail.com

75 Years Ago

The first PMA Passing Out Parade—1948

By Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Khalil, AEC

Pakistan Military Academy Kakul (PMA), commonly known as the cradle of leadership, was born in the lap of the lush green mountains of Abbottabad, in October 1947, immediately after the inception of Pakistan. Senior cadets were received from 3rd IMA (Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, India)



Colonel F.B. Ingall

Regular Course, known as IMA/ PMA Course, and 1st Graduate Course. Junior to them were those cadets who were inducted in 1st PMA Long Course. Colonel F.B. Ingall, DSO, was given the responsibility of establishing the Pakistan Military Academy, on the model of Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

75 years ago, on 25 November 1948, it was decided that inaugural ceremony and the



Khwaja Nazimuddin & General Gracey

1st passing out parade of PMA would be held simultaneously. Governor General, Khwaja Nazimuddin was invited as the reviewing officer of the parade, known as the Governor General's Parade. Commander-in-Chief Sir Douglas Gracey also witnessed the parade. Lieutenant Colonel M. A. Latif Khan, MC of the Baluch (now Baloch) Regiment, a veteran of the Burma campaign, was battalion commander of the 1st Pakistan Battalion, and Captain Bashir Ahmad performed the duty of parade adjutant. V. C. Duffield of the 3rd battalion, Coldstream Guards was the regimental sergeant major who prepared the



V. C. Duffield

cadets for the passing out parade. 'A super drill instructor, he became a legend at Kakul for the high standards of drill, discipline and turnout'.

There were only three companies of 1st Pakistan Battalion; Tariq Company, Khalid Company and Qasim company. The parade marched in under command of the adjutant, Captain Bashir Ahmad. Senior division comprised of IMA/ PMA Course and 1st Graduate Course, while junior division constituted 1st PMA Long Course. After reviewing the parade, Khawaja Nazimuddin



Reviewing of the parade by the chief guest

presented Quaid-e-Azam's banner to the 1st Pakistan Battalion (Quaid-e-Azam's own). One minute silence was observed for the



Presentation of Quaid-e-Azam Banner

departed soul of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, as a token of respect. Later, awards and medals were given to



the best cadets of the courses. The first sword of honour was presented to the battalion senior



Presentation of 1st sword of honour

under officer Sadiq-ur-Rashid Muhammad Abbasi (later lieutenant general) and the first Norman Gold medal

was given to platoon under officer Furrugh Bakht Ali. Senior division marched off the parade ground in slow time, and junior division presented arms. Junior division left the parade ground under command of the new battalion senior under officer, Raja Aziz Bhatti.



Group photo of 1st PMA Long Course (Major Raja Aziz Bhatti in circle)

Afterwards, the Governor General addressed the cadets and their parents, who had gathered from far-flung areas of the country,



Address by the chief guest

to see their proud sons on the eve of their commissioning. The chief guest appreciated the standards of drill and turnout of the cadets, and applauded the commandant and his team for successful conduct of the parade. He also congratulated parents on successful commission of their sons, who would join the corps of officers of Pakistan Army from then on.

The day was a remarkable moment in the short history of the newly born nation; her own academy had produced the first batch of officers who would always remember their alma mater fondly. From then on, this cradle of leadership produced great leaders and war heroes like Major Raja Aziz Bhatti, Major Muhammad Akram, Major Shabbir Sharif and Captain Kernal Sher Khan. PMA had gone through many transformations and evolved, in terms of training as well as infrastructure. It has grown into a mature institution in 75 years and will always carry the legacy of our forefathers elegantly and proudly.

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About the author



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Military History Minestrone

Our quiz; for the military history enthusiast and novitiate alike

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

Select the correct option

- During the First World War, a battalion fought as 126th Rifles, and in 1921 was renumbered. It also took part in the Malayan Campaign in 1940-42. It is the story of: -
 - 4/10 Baluch
 - 3/10 Baluch
 - 1/10 Baluch
 - 2/10 Baluch
- British forces surrendered to the Japanese in Singapore on 15 February in: -
 - 1939
 - 1940
 - 1942
 - 1941
- In May 1948, the Indians launched their summer offensive with a two-pronged attack through the Jhelum and Kishenganga (Neelum) River valleys against: -
 - Poonch
 - Srinagar
 - Pulwama
 - Muzaffarabad
- Which Indian Division at Srinagar was given the task of capturing the town of Muzaffarabad with three brigades in 1948.?
 - 19 Division
 - 7 Division
 - 11 Division
 - 10 Division
- In Jhelum Valley in 1948, responsibility for the defence of Uri sector was given to 101 Brigade, under a brigadier who had earlier directed Azad forces under the *nom de guerre* of *General Tariq*. Who was the brigadier?
 - Brigadier M. Akbar Khan
 - Brigadier M. Aslam Khan
 - Brigadier Rehmatullah Khan
 - Brigadier Sher Khan



6. Which peak was the site of a decisive victory, and ended the Indian threat to Muzaffarabad in July 1948?
- (a) Pir Chanasi (b) Gulmarg
(c) Kazinug (d) Pandu
7. The brutal gunning down of 22 Muslim Kashmiris on a day in 1931, was a turning point that fanned the flames of the freedom movement in Kashmir. The day is solemnised as Martyrs' Day in Kashmir. What was the day?
- (a) 5 August (b) 13 July
(c) 5 February (d) 8 July
8. Martyrs' Day is observed with solemnity and a sense of loss in Pakistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), since 1931. When did the hardline Hindutva-driven, BJP-led Indian Government de-notify this day as an official holiday?
- (a) August 2019 (b) January 2018
(c) February 2017 (d) December 2019
9. On 8 September 1965, Lieutenant Colonel Nisar Ahmed, Commanding Officer 25 Cavalry, reacted quickly and decided to employ B Squadron of his regiment to block the advancing Indian force. Which tanks were used?
- (a) M36B2 (b) T-80UD
(c) M4 Shermans (d) M47 Patton
10. Indian General Gurbux Singh was so impressed by the bravery of a young Pakistani officer in East Pakistan who defended Kamalpur in the 1971 War, that he decided to meet him personally, and beg him to surrender to save his life. His gallant stand against heavy odds is now recognised as an epic in the military history of Pakistan. He had only 70 soldiers of 31 Baluch and some paramilitary men under him, and he faced an Indian brigade with massive air and artillery support. Who was the officer?
- (a) Captain Ahsan Siddique (b) Captain Aftab Ahmad
(c) Captain Arif Hussain (d) Captain Abrar Hussain

(Answers on page 63)

Glimpses of AIMH Activities



Lieutenant General Fayyaz Hussain Shah, HI(M), Inspector General Training & Evaluation, visited AIMH on 2 November 2023



Mr Nicolas Lambert, Head of ICRC, visited AIMH on 23 August 2023



Brigadier General Mohamad Saad Abdelrazek, Defence Attache Egypt, visited AIMH on 23 August 2023



Glimpses of AIMH Activities



Captain Andrew Burnett, RAN,
Defence Attache Australia, visited AIMH
on 13 September 2023



Delegation of Academy of Strategic Defence Studies
Sultanate of Oman, visited AIMH
on 19 September 2023



Brigadier Masood Zakhoy,
Defence Aattache Iraq, visited AIMH
on 20 October 2023



Fateh Muhammad Malik, Ex Vice-chancellor
International Islamic University Islamabad, visited
AIMH on 2 November 2023



Malaysian delegation, headed by Major General Dato
Haji Semaon Bin Haji Marjuki, visited AIMH
on 7 November 2023



Major General Azhar Yasin, Commandant Junior
Leaders Academy (JLA), visited AIMH
on 11 December 2023

Glimpses of AIMH Activities



Delegation headed by Major General Muhammad Jadou Al Ruwaili, Commandant AFC & SC/ President SANDU, Saudi Arabia, visited AIMH on 8 November 2023



German Delegation, constituting of Professor Dr. Alaric Searle and Colonel (GS) Dr. Martin Hofbauer visited AIMH on 22 November 2023



Glimpses of AIMH Activities



US CENTCOM delegation visited AIMH on 6 December 2023



Nepali delegation, headed by Major General Suresh Kumar Karki, retired visited AIMH on 12 December 2023



3rd batch of AIMH internship program—2nd half 2023—held from 10 July–18 August 2023

Military History Minestrone (Answers: Bugle & Trumpet Summer 2023)				
1. (Page-3)	2. (Page-9)	3. (Page-10)	4. (Page-10)	5. (Page-10)
6. (Page-15)	7. (Page-17)	8. (Page-21)	9. (Page-27)	10. (Page-45)

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