

RAJA RAM SINGH

THE FORGOTTEN PRINCE

AND

HIS TIMES

(1861—1899)



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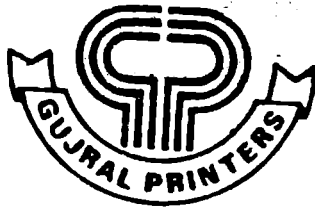
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Mohinder Singh



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P R E F A C E

One of the colourful but little known personalities among the princes of Jammu and Kashmir State was Raja Ram Singh. The role he played, the qualities he displayed and the neglect he has suffered, so far, prompted me to explore information about this forgotten Prince.

The major difficulties one faces in securing information for such a prince who live for a short period is non-availability of reliable material. Since this State lacked news papers and a developed literary traditions, normal source materials in these form are not available in this case. So this work is solely based on records of the State Archives, Jammu, a few published Books and un published manuscripts.

I am conscious of the fact that the work could not be made as free from defects as I would have wished. For this, I crave the indulgence of the learned readers, whose kind and relevant suggestions would be thankfully accepted and utilized by me for improvement in the future.

For the preparations of this work I am much indebted to Prof. A.C. Bose & Dr. S.S. Charak who helped

me with valuable suggestions.

I am grateful to the staffs of State Archives Jammu, Ranbir Library Jammu, Central and History Department Library of the university of Jammu for their co-operation in my work.

I must express my gratitude to S. Santokh Singh Gujral for the encouragement and guidance for Publishing my work.

Lastly, I am indebted to all my friends who helped me in my work by their co-operation and assistance.

Jammu
July 1, 1990

Mohinder Singh
Lecturer in Commerce

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INTRODUCTION

From olden times Jammu has been the seat of a Rajput dynasty¹ which ruled over a small principality extending over a few miles around it. The two lakes, Mansar and Siroinsar a little to the east of the city, have given to its inhabitants the name "Dogra" a corruption of the Sanskrit word "Dwigarth" or "do" and grith² means two lakes. But if the Tarikh-i-Azami of Kashmir (1417 A.D.) is to be belived one finds mention of the Dugara desha (from which, obviously, the names Duggar and Dogra were derived) in two copper plate title- deeds by the Raja of Chamba in

1 *Banzai P.N. Kaul, A History of Kashmir, Published by Metropolitan Book Co. (Pvt) Ltd., New Delhi-6, in 1973, P. 639.*

2 *Charak S S, Introduction to the History and Culture of the Dogras, Published by Ajaya Parkashan, 6-A Canal Road, Jammu. P. 69.*

1053. One is still not sure of the origin of the name of Durgara. It might have been derived from the word Durgagiri (inaccessible hills). Jammu, however, appears to have been the most important and influential of the dozen of tiny Dogra states which comprised the hilly country extending from the plains of the Punjab to the snowy range of the mountains bounding the Kashmir valley on the south and now known as the Jammu Province. These Dogra principalities are said to have been founded by Rajput adventurers from Oudh and Delhi³, about the time of Alexander's invasion, when they moved up north to oppose the Greeks. At the time of Timur's invasion in 1398 A.D. these petty principalities were engaged in quarrels among themselves, but they combined against Timur's forces, who however, drove them into hills. During the Mugal period, these Dogra chiefs appear to have carried on the feudatories of the Emperors, retaining a large measure of freedom in the management of their fiefs. Of Sangram Dev⁴, Tuzk-i-Jehangiri contains several references, one of which mention him as "the Raja of Jammu having a mansab of 1500 personnel and 1000 horses".

³ *Buzai P.N. Kaul, A History of Kashmir, P. 639.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

Introduction

After the invasion of Mohamad-ud-din Ghori⁵ the Rajput hegemony in the hilly tract between Punjab and Kashmir was shattered. The Rajput rulers who held sway around the town of Jammu regained their independence when the Mughal kingdom began to show sign of disintegration. They were combined under Raja Dhruv Dev⁶ and his son Ranjit Dev in 1707. Ranjit Dev succeeded to the throne in 1742⁷ and continued to hold prominence in the politics in Jammu and out side for forty years. Ranjit Dev was unfortunate in respect of his son. The eldest Brij Raj Dev, was of dissolute character and in order to save the kingdom from falling into his unworthy hands, he nominated his second son, Dalil Singh⁸, as his successor. Brij Raj did not tolerate this, and approached the leaders of Sukharchakia Misl Charat Singh for help, with his help he succeeded the throne of Jammu.

After Ranjit Dev, Brij Raj Dev could not stand against rising power of the Sikhs for long. Mahan

5 *Gwasha Lal, Kashmir Present and Past P. 1,*

6 *Ibid.*

7 *Churak S S., Introduction to the History & Culture of the Dogras P. 39.*

8 *Bamzai P N. Kaul, A History of Kashmir, P. 641.*

Raja Ram Singh

Singh⁹, the father of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who had succeeded to the leadership of the Sukárchakia Misl tried to capture Jammu but he could not do so. On the death of Brij Raj Dev his one year old child Sampuran Dev¹⁰ succeeded to him under the guardianship of Mian Mota, a cousin of Brij Raj Dev, Sampuran Dev died at the age of eleven and was succeeded by Jit Singh, the son of Brij Raj Dev's younger brother, Dalil Singh.

Raja Jit Singh¹¹ proved to be an incompetent man, and his wife who was an ambitious lady, took the management of affairs in her own hands. Finding the small state torn by internal dissensions, Maharaja Ranjit Singh¹² ordered in 1803 Bhai Hukam Singh, his trusted lieutenant, to reduce Jammu and annex it to the sikh state and thus the whole province came directly under the Lahore Darbar. It was only twelve years later that Jammu principality was retrieved by another scion of the family Raja Gulab Singh, who with his remarkable bravery in the field and diplomatic skill,

9 Ibid.

10 Ibid.

11 Bamzai P.N. Kaul, A History of Kashmir, P. 641.

12 Ibid. P. 642.

Introduction

slowly built Jammu, extending its frontier into the east and north of the valley, and after incorporating the latter into his dominions founded the present state of Jammu and Kashmir.

In 1846 when as a result of the Treaty of Amritsar, Gulab Singh was made the absolute master of Jammu and Kashmir state i.e. the area situated to the eastward of the River Indus and westward of the River Ravi including Chamba and excluding Lahul, being part of the territories ceded to the British Government of India by the Lahore State according to the treaty of Lahore March, 1846. Thus the state of Jammu and Kashmir under the independent charge of Maharaja Gulab Singh came into existence and ruled by him for ten years, when he was succeeded by his son Ranbir Singh in February, 1856¹³.

Although Gulab Singh (the first ruler of Jammu and Kashmir state) became ruler of the state in 1846 but he did not get the actual possession of his new province of Kashmir without difficulty. His forces fought against the Sikh troops.

It was the only state in the time of British rule in

¹³ *Bamzai P.N. Kaul, A History of Kashmir, P, 660,*

Raja Ram Singh

India who did not keep silent. The ruler of this state continued with efforts to extend its territories by invading the adjoining tribal areas of Hunzo Nagar, Chilas, Chitral etc. All these struggles for rule prove that Dogra families of the Jammu ruler provided a number of brave Generals. Raja Ram Singh was also one of them who was born in the second half of the 19th century.

-:0:-

2 EARLY LIFE

Raja Ram Singh was the son of Maharaja Ranbir Singh, the second Dogra Ruler of Jammu and Kashmir state. Maharaja Ranbir Singh had four sons¹, namely Partap Singh, Ram Singh, Amar Singh and Lachman Singh. The second son named Ram Singh was born in June, 1861 (Jeth, 1918²) by the first wife of Maharaja Ranbir Singh, named Subh Devi popularly called Malhori Rani. Partap Singh and Amar Singh were born by the same wife of Maharaja Ranbir Singh in 1850 and 1864³ respectively. This Rani also gave birth to two girls⁴ known as Bua Sahiba which shows

1 Khan Singh Balawria, Tarikh Rajgan Jammu and Kashmir, Published by Steam Press Lahore, 1920, P, 180,

2 Ibid,

3 Ibid,

Early Life

that Ram Singh had two real brothers and two real sisters. The fourth son of Maharaja Ranbir Singh was Lachman Singh, who was born in 1873⁵ by the Charak Rani named Krishna Devi, but he died⁶ at the age of five years only. Thus of the three surviving sons of the Maharaja, Partap Singh was the eldest and Ram Singh was the second. Maharaja Ranbir Singh paid great attention to the upbringing of his children. The Jagir of Ramnagar⁷ along with the Revenue of villages of that Tehsil, amounting to Rupees one lakh and twenty five thousands, was sanctioned for the upbringing of Raja Ram Singh, which remained under his charge till his death. His Mundan ceremony (first shaving) was held on January 21, 1866⁸ when he attained the age of five years. According to the Dogra family tradition every Dogra child had to wear the sacred thread when he attained the age of ten years.

4 *Ibid*,

5 *Ibid*, P, 181,

6 *Ibid*,

7 *Khan Singh, Balawria, Tarikh-i Rajgan Jammu and Kashmir*, P, 181,

8 *Ibid*, P, 180,

9 *Ibid*, P, 181,

Raja Ram Singh

Thus the thread ceremony of Raja Ram Singh was performed in April, 1872⁹.

Born and brought up in luxury and great paternal care, Ram Singh developed into a smart young man. He got his education in the palace from Pandits and Maulvies. As Ram Singh was an educated and smart young Prince, Maharaja Ranbir Singh appointed him a commander in the Jammu and Kashmir state forces at an early age and placed certain other business of the state forces under his control.

Princes of ruling families usually married young and often indulged in polygamy. In the true spirit of the time and conventions of the ruling class Raja Ram Singh too had five wives. First of the five marriages was held on May 3, 1875¹¹ with the daughter of Rajgan Padwal resident of Tilokpur. The second marriage took place after six years in (Katoch family) with the sister of Colonel Jai Chand of Lamba-graon district Kangra in 1881¹². Raja Ram Singh had two sons Bahnupal Singh, Narain Singh¹³ and a daughter

11 Khan Singh, Balawria, Tarik-i-Rajgan Jammu and Kashmir, P, 181,

12 Ibid,

13 Ibid,

Early Life

Bua Sahiba from this Rani. However, these two sons¹⁴ died in their childhood (in the days of Tafuliat). The surviving Bua Sahiba was married to Raja Kedar Chand Balia of Chenan on March 4, 1901, after the death of Raja Ram Singh. Raja Ram Singh married, for the third time, the sister of Thakur Pyar Singh Pathania¹⁵ of village Ray district Kangra. His fourth marriage was with a Charak girl of Katharwale tehsil R. S. Pura district Jammu on February 19, 1888¹⁶. This Rani left this world in 1925¹⁷ after his death.

Though, Raja Ram Singh married four times, yet he was left destitute of the heir to throne. He was blessed with two sons but they passed away in their childhood. Therefore, Raja Ram Singh married again, now the fifth time. He was betrothed¹⁸ to the daughter of Raja of Sermor, the cousin of Jai Chand of Lama-graon, district Kangra on October 3, 1894. The betrothle ceremony was celebrated in which resident was

14 *Ibid*,

15 *Khun Singh Balawria, Tarikh-i-Rajgan Jammu and Kashmir, P. 182.*

16 *Ibid.*, P. 183.

17 *Ibid* , P. 183.

18 *C.S. Old English Record File No. 66 of 1894, S.A.J.*

19 *Ver. Record File No. 342/8 of 1895., S.A.J.*

Raja Ram Singh

also an invitee along with other officials of the residency. March 9, 1895 was fixed the date of marriage. The marriage party left Jammu on March 5, 1895 and reached Kapurthala on March 8, 1895. The marriage formalities were performed in the house of the parents of the bride. The marriage party returned to Jammu on March 11, 1895.

Thus, Raja Ram Singh had five marriages but he left this world without a heir.²⁰ Rao Rattan Singh was his natural son.²¹ He was of two and a half years old when Raja Ram Singh breathed his last.

No sooner had His Highness the late Maharaja Ranbir Singh Bahadur breathed his last than internal dissensions and personal animosities affiliated over the Darbar. Not only the ministers of the state but even members of the ruling family, nay, even the three real brothers became deadly divided against one another. To describe in detail how these mutual animosities and personal grudges produced the most disastrous results, how Colonel Nisbett, very aptly and justly called Nishputt (one who uproots) by the loyal subjects of the state, alienated the loyal youngest

20. *Son from his wives.*

21. *A son, from other than his wives.*

Early Life

brother from the kind-hearted and affectionate eldest one, how the Kashmir state once a very flourishing and awe inspiring frontier kingdom sank into an ignominious vassalage and how the farfamed coffers of the Dogra rule (Raj) was impoverished was not the object of this chequered narrative suffice it to say that the ancient saying "House divided against itself cannot stand," was proved in a most overt manner here in this state. These animosities and mutual differences not withstanding the ruin and disaster affected by them were continued for long. Royal brothers and members of the council were split against each other, especially the differences between the Maharaja and his youngest brother Raja Amar Singh were carried so far that they even did not take their food together. But the differences between Raja Ram Singh and Maharaja Partap Singh were apparant than real.²²

²² *Wazir Lachman, Wazir Lachman and the Kashmir State by an eye witness, 1896, P. 11, 12 & 13.*

3

President of the State Council of Jammu & Kashmir

It may be pointed out here that Kashmir occupied a position of great strategic importance on the north-western frontier of India. To keep itself posted with all the developments on this side, the Government of India had, therefore, been keeping an "Officer on special duty", in the state since the time of Maharaja Gulab Singh though, ostensibly, the "officer" was to look to the welfare of the European visitors to Kashmir. Just before Maharaja Ranbir Singh's death, the Government of India decided to raise the status of the officer on special duty to that of a full-fledged political resident²³ so that their representative may carry on

23 *Veena Rajput, Raja Amar Singh, Dissertation submitted for M.A. Final, 1976, P. 32.*

their political activities with great freedom and vigour. According to the Government of India, this change was called for 'not' merely by the need for assisting and supervising administrative reforms, but also by the increasing importance to the Government of India of watching events beyond the North-West frontier of Kashmir. Army disturbance which continued misgovernment might create in Kashmir. But actually this disturbance was on the frontier of Afghanistan which gave the political complication between the Kashmir and the dependent chiefs. We have, therefore, to consider the necessity of providing efficient political supervision, not merely in the interest of the people of Kashmir, but also in the interest of the people of India.²⁴ The consequences were that at the time of the accession of Maharaja Partap Singh to the throne that the Government of India was able to force him to accept the said change which his predecessors had successfully resisted, and Sir Oliver St. John became the first British resident in Kashmir.

Thus, the new succession of 1885 had offered the Government of India with an opportunity to tighten

²⁴ *Progs., May, 1884. Forgn., Sec. E, No. 354 N.A.I., Government of India to Secretary of State, April 7, 1884, Veena Rajput, Raja Amar Singh, P. 33.*

their control over Kashmir. If there could be any other similar occasion, it could enable them to strengthen their position in Kashmir further for the sake of India's defence against Russia. The treasonous letters had the substance to precipitate such a situation. Therefore, although the Government of India did not attach much importance to them yet they decided to use them to "set the things straight" in the state. The Maharaja's "Irshad" came further handy to them. The result was that the Government of India decided that the Maharaja should have no say in the administration of his state for an indefinite period and that, instead of him, the affairs of the state should be conducted by a new council under the guidance and supervision of the resident. This decision was conveyed by Colonel Nisbet, first, verbally to the Maharaja²⁵, and subsequently in writing to the Maharaja's Prime-Minister, Raja Amar Singh on April 17, 1889²⁶. Thus Maharaja Partap Singh was practically deposed.

After Maharaja Partap Singh was deprived of pol-

25 *Progs, July, 1889, Forgn., Sec. E, Nos. 221-230, N.A.I. Resident to Foreign Secretary, April 19, 1889., Veena Rajput, Raja Amar Singh, P.*

26 *Progn, May, 1889, Forgn, Sec. E, No. 563, N.A.I., Resident to Raja Amar Singh April 17, 1889, Ibid.*

Raja Ram Singh

itical powers, a new council of state was constituted. Initially it comprised three ordinary members, Raja Amar Singh, Rai Bahadur Bhag Ram, Rai Bahadur Suraj Kaul and a President, who was Raja Ram Singh.²⁷ Lateron Khan Bahadur Muhi-ud-din was added to it as the fourth²⁸ member. This council commenced its working at Srinagar with effect from April 18, 1889.²⁹

27 Progs, April 1889, Forgn., Sec.E., No. 150, N.A.I.,
Ibid.

28 Progs, April 1886, Forgn., Sec.E., Nos. 94-95, N.A.I.,
Ibid.

59 *Ibid.*

4

WORKING OF THE COUNCIL

The new council of Jammu and Kashmir state was formed on April 18, 1889.¹ The members of the council were appointed by the Govt. of India and hold independent charge of their respective departments. Subject to the General Control of the state council Raja Ram Singh² was made incharge of the military department, Raja Amar Singh, Rai Bahadur Suraj Kaul, Rai Bahadur Bhag Ram were made incharge of Foreign, Revenue and Justice respectively. The Public Works department was divided among Raja Amar Singh, Rai Bahadur Suraj Kaul and Rai Bahadur Bhag Ram till Khan Bahadur Sheikh Gulam Mahjuddin joined the state council on

1 *State Council, Kashmir, Quarterly Report of the Proceedings from April 18, 1889 to July 31, 1889, S. A. J, P. 1.*

2 *Ibid,*

Raja Ram Singh

June 15, 1889³ and assumed the charge of this department from 19th of June, 1889.

The council usually met once a week⁴ but emergency special meetings were convened by order of Raja Ram Singh and Raja Amar Singh. During the Presidentship of Raja Ram Singh, he attended only the meetings held in April and May, 1889.⁵ After that he left for Jammu in company with the Maharaja Partap Singh in connection with the Charsala⁶ Ceremony of their late father - Maharaja Ranbir Singh. In his absence the Resident recommended to the Government of India the appointment of Raja Amar Singh as the President of state council in place of Raja Ram Singh.

Under the Presidentship of Raja Singh the state council held fifteen⁷ meetings and four emergency meetings but Raja Ram Singh attended only eight⁸ meetings in which the following rules and regulations were passed in different departments.

3 *Ibid.*, P. 25.

4 *Ibid.*, P. 1,

5 *State Council, Kashmir, Quarterly Report of the Proceedings from April 18, 1889 to July 31st, 1889, P. 2.*

6 *Ibid.*

7 *Ibid.*

8 *Ibid.*, P. 3,

MILITARY DEPARTMENT

In April, 1889 Raja Ram Singh favoured the state council with proposal based on Captain Hogg's scheme on the subject of accourtments⁹ and C. for active service and it was accordingly resolved that (i) the Bahu and Katgarh preserves be placed at the disposal of the Military Department, (ii) an application was made to the Resident for the services of a trained Native Farrier Major and a Salutri, (iii) as regards the remaining proposals, those appertaining to the expenditure was incorporated in the Budget estimate. While those requiring special sanctions were to be submitted separately for orders. The military budget had not been prepared, the Council was not in a position to state definitely what would be necessary in the way of improving the state troops.

The restoration of service grants¹⁰ to the Swars employed in Artillery services was referred to the revenue department for detailed enquiry and report as to (i) the principles on which these grants were made (ii) causes of their subsequent resumption and (iii) the desirability or otherwise of their future restoration, to-

9 State Council, Kashmir, Quarterly of the Proceedings from April 18, 1889 to July 31, 1889, S.A.J., P.4.

13 Ibid.

gether with the grounds for such recommendation and for the preparation and submission of a detailed statement of all old grantees, the year of each grant and the period during which its enjoyment continued.

The proposal from General Punjab Singh of Gilgit Area suggesting dismantlement of the old fort at Naubal¹¹ by reason of its proximity to the new fort was referred to Captain Curand for his opinion through the resident.

The dependents of Army personal who laid down their lives for the state were to be provided with employments e.g., the case of grandsons¹² of Colonel Zalim Singh were referred to the Commander-in-Chief of the state forces by the state council to employ them at Rs. 50/- per month in Military Service on occurrence of suitable vacancies.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

1. Foreign Relation ; The Raja of Nagur applied for the deputation¹³ of a state Vakil to his Court, but

11 State Council, Kashmir, Quarterly Report of the Proceedings from April 18, 1889 to July 31, 1889, S.A.J., P. 4.

12 Ibid.

13 Ibid., P.5.

Working of the Council

his application not being very clear, he was asked to state specifically if he was anxious to have a consulate permanently established at his capital.

Being a foreign subject the applications of Musa kargaz and twenty other headmen of Shaidulla Khoja was forwarded to the Resident because they had applied for pecuniary and military force to restore and occupy the fort of Shaidulla Khoja.

2. **Reserve Treasures:** The state council, on assuming the charge of the administration, had the misfortune of receiving a legacy from the late Government in the shape of heavy arrears due to troops and the work establishment employed in the civil and public works department, the treasury was empty,¹⁴ and fears were entertained that it would be impossible to administer the state efficiently without providing funds for expenditure. Here after it had been customary to replenish the exchequer withdrawals from the Riasi Reserve Treasury, whenever the expenditure fell heavily on state Finances. But the state council could not follow this precedent, and it was accordingly resolved that although past arrears might be paid up by means of remittances obtained from the Reserve Treasury, all

14. *State Council Kashmir, Quarterly Report of the Proceedings from April 18, 1889, to July 1, 1889, S.A.J., P. 7.*

such withdrawals must be treated in the Finance Accounts as loans repayable within the following two years, by which time the state council hoped to recover itself from their embarrassments.

Accordingly, in April, 1889 a sum of Rs. 1,50,030/-¹⁵ was withdrawn from the Riasi Reserve Treasury for current expenditure and strict orders were issued to the provincial Governors to provide funds for future requirements by converting the existing stock of grains into money at prevailing market rates, Again, in order to ensure the speedy completion of the Srinagar and Kohala road and the Jammu water works project, a sum of Rs. 4,00,000/- was withdrawn from the accumulated Reserve Investment of Rs. 25 lakhs in notes held in trust by the Agra Bank,¹⁶ leaving the remaining two lakhs to be provided out of the ordinary Revenue of the state.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

This department was under the control of Rai Bahadur Suraj Kaul, Revenue member of the state council. This department proposed a number of regu-

15. *State Council, Kashmir, Quarterly Report of the Proceedings from April 18, 1889 to July 31, 1889, S.A.J., P. 7.*

16. *Ibid.*

Working of the Council

lations and circulars of which the following were passed by the state council :-

1. Regulations for guidance of Municipalities¹⁷ and bye-Laws there under.

2. The proclamation was issued that land is primarily responsible for state Revenue, and that no transfer of private right in such land could operate to do away with or disturb such security. This was considered necessary in order to invalidate contracts frequently entered into between parties transferring Revenue paying lands. receiving payment of Revenue by the Transferor¹⁸

3. The practice of recovering grain advances from Zamindars, together with an additional charge of 1/4th of the principle quantity advanced, was discontinued, officers Incharge of grain depots being at the same time warned against making private transactions with villagers for personal gain.¹⁹

17. *State Council, Kashmir, Quarterly Report of the Proceedings from April 18, 1889 to July 31, 1889, S.A.J., P. 11.*

18. *Ibid., P. 14.*

19. *State Council, Kashmir, Quarterly Report of the Proceedings from April 18, 1889 to July 31, 1889, S A.J., P. 15.*

4. Considering the facts that actual receipts from Forests (exclusive of timber supplied to Railway Department) during 1889, amounted only to Rs. 1,28,777/- instead of Rs. 4 lakhs as estimated, the officer incharge of Forests was suspended, pending a thorough enquiry into the accounts and an application was made to the Resident for the services of a trained Assistant Conservator of Forests, qualified to place Forest Administration on satisfactory footings²⁰.

5. To create a well-organised system of accounts and audit and to appoint an experienced officer, to the newly created post of Accountant General, the establishment entertained for recovery and adjustment of outstanding balances was abolished causing a saving of Rs. 20,160/- to the state, after paying the salary of the above created accounts system.²¹

6. Pandit Mahanand was the Governor of Jammu, having proved himself inefficient, besides being indebted to the state for Rs. 2,50,000/- which he neglected to liquidate, was suspended and was replaced by Rai Bahadur Radha Krishan Kaul on a reduced salary from Rs. 1,000/- rising to Rs. 1,200/- pending further report on the quality of his work. A notice was issued requiring Pandit Mahanand to appear before the Governor

20, *Ibid.*

21. *Ibid.*

Working of the Council

within a month and show cause why the balance outstanding against him could not be recovered.²²

7. Certain merchants having complained against the action of the customs authorities in detaining and opening packages at Kohala, for the assessment²³ of customs duty, the following rules were passed :

- (a) That, custom duty may be levied on production and examination of the copy of the invoice subject to the original invoice being surrendered to the Srinagar authorities on receipt of the goods.
- (b) That, packages should not be examined, except when there is reason to suspect false and erroneous returns in the invoice.
- (c) That, if goods are found to be in excess of the quantity or description borne on the invoice, the duty shall be doubled.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

This department was under the control of Rai Bahadur Pandit Bhag Ram, who was the Secretary to the State Council of the state as well.

22. *State Council, Kashmir, Quarterly Report of the Proceeding from April 18, 1889 to July 31, 1889, S.A.J., P. 15.*

23. *Ibid.*

Raja Ram Singh

The following references from the Judicial Department were disposed off by the state council during the time of Raja Ram Singh, the President of the State Council :-

1. Judicial circular regulating recovery, refund, and due account of the fine imposed by Criminal Courts.²⁴

2. Judicial circulars regarding taking of evidence and judgements to other matters pertaining to the trial of civil and criminal cases.

3. Rules framed by Judicial department relative to prosecutions against Public Servants for offences committed by them in their official capacity, and providing generally for enquiry into the conduct of such servants and punishment to ministerial and other ranks.

4. Judicial circulars regulating appeals from decisions and orders of civil and criminal courts.

5. Regulations for the guidance of courts of small causes defining the jurisdiction of such courts and prescribing simple rules of practice and procedure.

6. Rules stopping the irregular practice of public officers, holding monies received by them on state

24. *State Council, Kashmir, Quarterly Report of the Proceedings from April 18, 1889, to July 31, 1889 S.A.J., P. 17.*

Working of the Council

account and on their own authority disbursing these from contingent and other office expenses and directing that all such monies should be deposited into the state treasury.

7. Rules regulating the inspection of articles of food and drink and for construction of slaughter houses within Municipal limits.

8 Rules for inspection of records of subordinate courts by Judges of Saddar Adalats.

9. Rules regulating the appointment of Court Inspectors and Deputy Court Inspectors.

These circulars were issued to remedy defects in the administration as they were brought to light and have had the effect of eradicating scandals and abuse to considerable extent ²⁵

10. A question rose in regard to certain civil and criminal powers exercised by the Jagirdars of Muzaffarabad, under His Highness the Maharaja's Irshad No. 237, dated June 1, 1877 the main objection being, that though descended from ancient Rajas the so-called Jagirdars had been reduced to the status of petty un-influential Zamindars and disposed off cases without a regular office or system of record. The matter was

25, State Council, Kashmir, Quarterly Report of the Proceedings from April 18, 1889, to July 31, 1889, S.A.J., P. 18.

referred to the Revenue Department for a detailed report after thorough examination of the records, and the Sanads in the possession of the Jagirdars.²⁶

11. The question of extradition had been the subject of a controversy by reason of the Chief Court of Punjab having authoritatively declared the rules of 1856 or having been superseded by the Act of 1879.²⁷ It was set at rest by the Resident's reply to a reference made by the state council in which it was determined that the procedure under Act 21 of 1879 had been substituted for the rules of 1856 only in those cases in which extradition from Kashmir, in which case applications for surrender might be made still under the old rules.

12. A scheme for the speedy disposal of civil appeals from the decisions of Sadar Adalats of Jammu and Kashmir, by making over such cases to an appellate bench composed of the deciding officer and the provincial Governors, was laid before the council and sanctioned as regarded Jammu and Kashmir territory for a period of six months each.

13. The question of final attestation of registered deeds of transfer of immovable property, under section 23 of the Kashmir rules, was disposed off by delegating

26. *Ibid.*, P. 19f

27. *Ibid.* P. 20.

the duty to the Prime Minister until any change was made in the existing rules.

14. The question of appeals from the decisions of the Judicial member was under consideration, and will be disposed off when the draft codes of civil and criminal procedures were laid before the state council.

15. With reference to a notice from one Wazira, threatening to institute a suit in the Jehlum Courts for recovery of Rupees sixty, alleged to be due to him on a contract for the collection of wood, it was decided after due enquiry from the Court.

16. Jay Kishan Munsiff of Srinagar having assaulted one of his subordinate clerk, the state council in consideration of the previous services rendered to the state by his family, overlooked his fault with a severe warning that a recurrence of such conduct shall be punished by his summary dismissal.

17. On a complaint of the Judicial Department that the Military Court was in the habit of requiring police officers to assist them in collecting money²⁸ and C., from defaulting judgement-debtors in cases of execution of decree, it was decided that records and C., of the military court (which had been since abo-

28. *State Council, Kashmir, Quarterly Report of the Proceedings from April 18, 1889 to July 31, 1889, S.A.J., P. 21,*

lished) should be transferred to the Sadar Court for necessary action under rules.

JAILS

Early in April, 1889 the attention of the Council was invited to the satisfactory condition of the jails at Jammu and Srinagar and it was resolved (i) that an application be made to the President of the council for the services of two trained Jail Daroghas and (ii) that the necessary communication be made with the public works department for the construction of a new Jail at Jammu and for making improvement to the Srinagar Jail.²⁹

DISPENSARIES

A scheme involving an annual expenditure of Rs. 1,772/- chilkis, for the establishment of a Leper Asylum at Srinagar, was laid before and considered by the state council, but affect has not yet been given to the proposals made in there and sanctioned, pending the selection of a suitable site for the purpose.³⁰

Owing to the insufficiency of the existing arrangements for dealing with accidents incurred during work on the Srinagar and Kohala roads, General-De-Bourbel's

29. *State Council, Kashmir, Quarterly Report of the Proceedings from April 18, 1889 to July 31, 1889. S.A.J., P. 22.*

30, *Ibid.*

proposal for utilizing Doctor M'Culloch's services on payment of a monthly salary of Rs. 200/- including travelling allowance, was sanctioned.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The construction of a temporary³¹ Railway station till the completion of the Tawi Bridge engaged the attention of the council, the council being of the opinion that the cost should be as low as possible as the temporary Railway Station would be rendered useless after the completion of the permanent Railway Station at Jammu. With that view General-De-Hourbel was requested to devise the cheapest scheme possible under the circumstances and it was finally decided, in conference with him, that the temporary station be built at a distance of 1/4 miles from the left Bank of the Tawi River at a cost of Rs. 25,000/- on the understanding that the material shall be utilized on the construction of the permanent station, the net loss to the state not exceeding Rs. 15,000/-.

On the recommendation of the Chief Engineer, the purchase of a Ballast Train at a cost of Rs. 20,100/- was sanctioned, on the understanding that after six months a sum of Rs. 10,400/- shall be recovered by

31. *State Council, Kashmir, Quarterly Report of the Proceeding from April 18, 1889 to July 31, 1889, S.A.J., P. 25.*

resale of the permanent way train.

Certain proposals for the construction of road and railway bridge over the Tawi were considered in council, sanction being accorded to the construction of the road overhead and railway beneath the girders at a cost of Rs. 66,500/- but it was not constructed.

MUNICIPALITIES

Municipalities were also under this department, the nomination of the following members of Municipalities were sanctioned :-

1. Dr. A. Mitra to be President of the Srinagar Municipality.
2. Raj Bhadur Radha Kishan was made President of the Jammu Municipality. It was sanctioned by the council under the Presidentship of Raja Ram Singh³²

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT

(a) The management of the Telegraph offices on Kohala Srinagar road under construction was entrusted to the public works department, satisfactory arrangement had been made for the due accounting of Telegraph receipts by the Executive Engineer incharge of the road.

32. *State Council, Kashmir, Quarterly Report of the Proceeding from April 18, 1889 to July 31, 1889, S.A.J. P. 26.*

(b) A scheme for the extension of Telegraphic communication from Domel to Kohala was sanctioned, and the Resident was requested to move the Government of India to facilitate through communication by extending their own line from Muree to Kohala.³³

REMOVAL FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

In June, 1889 the Maharaja left Srinagar for Jammu ostensibly in connection with "Chaubarsi" ceremony of his father late Maharaja Ranbir Singh, but in reality as a protest against the treatment meted out to him. Raja Ram Singh also accompanied him (Maharaja Partap Singh) against the wish of the Resident As Raja Ram Singh was the President of the council, besides being the Commander-in-chief of the state forces, his absence from the seat of the the Government was likely to create difficulties in the working of the council. Hence the Resident recommended to the Government of India the appointment of Raja Ram Singh³⁵ as the President of the council of Jammu and Kashmir State. Accordingly, in August 1889 Raja Ram Singh was removed from the office of the President and Raja Amar Singh became the new President of the council of Jammu and Kashmir State.³⁶

33. *State Council, Kashmir Quarterly Report of the Proceedings from April 18, 1889 to July 31, 1889, S.A.J., P. 26.*

34. *Resident to Foreign Secretary, June 2, 1889, Foreign Sec. E., No. 70. Progress, August 1889. P. 35. N. A. I.*

35. *Ibid.*

36. *Bamzai P. N. Kaul. A History of Kashmir, P. 626.*

force of all the three Arms consisting of :-

1. Squadrons of Cavalry,
2. Mountain Batteries,
3. Infantry Regiments.

numbering 2656 Combatants, and 225 non Combatants, which was placed at the disposal of the Imperial Government by the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir as the State's contribution towards the defence of the Indian Empire in 1889-90.⁷ Two additional Regiments, locally known as "Raghunath" and Nursing Ramgole were transferred to the Imperial Service Corps on the first of January, 1891⁸, with designation of :-

- 4th Kashmir Rifles,
- 5th Kashmir Light infantry,

by adding one Junior Assistant Commandant to each Regiment to perform the duties of the Quarter-master. There were officers who were on the Supernumerary list.

After their transfer to Imperial Service, Raja Ram Singh ordered that in future the following corps be equipped as under :-

- Suraj Gorkhas as Rifle Regiment,
- Futeh Sahib Regiment as Infantry Regiment, &
- Rudhar Sahib Regiment as Light Infantry⁹.

7. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1889-90.*

8. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1890-91.*

9. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1897-98.*

posed of experienced officers. Everyone was personally asked (i) whether he wished to remain in the service of His Highness Maharaja on a supernumerary list, or (ii) he wished to retire from the service with a special gratuity. A large number selected later alternative. An amount of Rs. 63,929/- was given as gratuity to the out-going persons. There remained a proportion on the supernumerary list also. The total estimated cost of the supernumerary list for the year 1891 was Rs. 83,741/-. These reductions saved an amount of Rs. 1,59,170/-³ of the state revenue. Not only this but each reform that had been introduced was towards the amelioration of the position of all ranks.

The reduction of the army continued in the preceding years also. A revenue of Rs. 42,882/- was saved in 1890-91⁴ as compared to the earlier year. The number of soldiers was further reduced to 7,516 in 1897⁵ from 9965 in 1892 i.e. in five years. Further reduction was made by reducing the existing six Battallions of Infantry from 600 each to four Battallions of 702 strong each.⁶

Another measure of special importance was; the reorganization and training of the specially selected

3. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1889-90.*

4. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1890-91.*

5. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1896-97.*

6. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1897-98.*

RAJA RAM SINGH AND ADMINISTRATION

Raja Ram Singh brought about many reforms in the Military Department as long as he remained the Military member of the state council and the commander-in-chief of the state forces. It may be said that the Salutory affect of these reforms benefitted in a marked degree, the general financial condition of the country, in other words, the expenditure reduced to an annual sum of Rs. 12 lakhs. It was done by reducing the strength of Armed Forces from 22,398 (on 31st of March 1888) to 9,965 (on the 11th April, 1890) i.e. a reduction of 12,433 men in one and a quarter year.¹

To carry out the necessary reduction in the armed forces, without creating dissatisfaction, the cases of the officers and gun-men to be terminated were very carefully enquired into by a select committee² com-

1. *Admin. Rpt. of the Jammu & Kashmir, 1889-90, P. 6-12.*

2. *Ibid.*

force of all the three Arms consisting of :-

2. Squadrons of Cavalry,
2. Mountain Batteries,
3. Infantry Regiments.

numbering 2656 Combatants, and 225 non-Combatants, which was placed at the disposal of the Imperial Government by the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir as the State's contribution towards the defence of the Indian Empire in 1889-90.⁷ Two additional Regiments, locally known as "Aghunath" and Nursing Ramgole were transferred to the Imperial Service Corps on the First of January, 1891⁸. with designation of :-

4th Kashmir Rifles.

5th Kashmir Light Infantry.

by adding one Junior Assistant Commandant to each Regiment to perform the duties of the Quarter-master. These were officers who were on the Supernumerary list.

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7. *Admin Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1889-90.*

8. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1890-91.*

9. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1897-98.*

Raja Ram Singh wanted to raise the state forces to the standard of Imperial forces. A number of experienced instructors in drill and weapon training were borrowed from the Imperial forces¹⁰ to train the state forces. New weapons and accessories were given to the soldiers. For the recreation, a band for each brigade was formed by reducing the strength in each company.¹¹ These Sepoys were transferred to the band. The work of transportation¹² of the grain to Gilgit for military use was also undertaken by the military department in 1890-91, which was previously done by the civil authorities. The Godowns of grains were under the civil authorities but Raja Ram Singh felt it inconvenient and incorporated these into his own department in 1891.¹³

Raja Ram Singh recommended the increase of pay and famine allowance to the soldiers, which was passed by the state council.¹⁴ He recommended the (a) Family pension to the heirs of all, who were killed in Chitral, Hunza Nagar and Chilas campaigns equal to half of the pay of the rank of the deceased, (b) wounded pension, as per scale laid down in Army

10. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1893-94.*

11. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1890-91.*

12. *Ibid. P. 15.*

13. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1891-92.*

14. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1896-97.*

Regulation of India Vol. I, Part-II, Para 558, (c) the grant of six months pay of rank in addition to the heirs or estates of those who were killed during the late Chitral campaign, else where than in Chitral Fort¹⁵ The state council sanctioned all the recommendations of Raja Sahib. In April, 1899 when the Kashmir Chilkis¹⁶ was depreciated in value Raja Ram Singh approached the State Council and since then the Army was paid in British Coins. Deductions from their pay were reduced thereby increase the take-home salary of the soldiers.

Besides the administration of the Army Raja Ram Singh had taken over the administration of the police department in 1895-96.¹⁷ Whenever he used to go out on inspection, he stopped at a number of places on his way and enquired about the conditions of the people. He went on an inspection tour on Oct. 22, 1896¹⁸ through the Kishan Ganga Valley in which he met with the officials, common people and their representatives. He submitted their problems with suitable suggestions to the state council for their solution. The copy of the report was submitted to the state council and to the Maharaja. The report gave all the facts and figures

15. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1896-97, P 10.*

16. *Kashmir Currency (Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1898-99.*

17. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1896-97, P. 25.*

18. *Ibid.*

which Raja Ram Singh observed himself during his inspection tour from Srinagar to Muzaffarabad through the Kishen Ganga Valley. He put-forth many matters¹⁹ in his report. as follows :

- (a) That the Tehsildar of Utter Machipura made efficient arrangements for affecting a passage over the snow clad passes of Kasdoni and Kachhal because there was no other passage to go.
- (b) That the Tehsildars, Lala Kahan Chand and Hazari Lal who improved the roads in their area, so as to make them fit for transport animals. Lala Kahan Chand in particular deserved credit for their exertions in causing the country to be opened out to outward traffic,
- (c) That in his opinion it would be gracious act on the part of the council to recognize the service of the three officials by granting them commendatory Parwanas.
- (d) That the Guzzar tribes of Lolab Valley and the people of the Kishen Ganga Valley complained :-
 - (i) That the Forest boundries are being drawn close to their pastures and cultivation

19. *Kashmir State Council, Proceedings of a Meeting of Jammu and Kashmir, February 13, 1897.*

- (ii) That they are not allowed to gether fuel from the forests adjoining their villages, and are being put to opperssion of sorts.
- (iii) That they are not given any timber at all for their houses.
- (e) That owing to the isolated position of the Kishen Ganga Valley and its remoteness from the Headquarters it is seldom visited by local Inspecting Officers, has resulted the disputes and grievances of the people are generally left unattended.
- (f) There were certain rent-free grants of land amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 1,315/- enjoyed by the pople of Karnah, which have since been commuted to cash payment payable out of the Dharmarth funds.
- The recipients comprising old men and women could hardly be expected to travel all the way to receive payment of their shares which averaged about Rs. 5 or 6 per head. Their complaint was reasonable and ought to be remedied as soon as possible.
- (g) There was no open space left round the forts at Sharda, Karnah post for purpose of parade. Raja Ram Singh had noted down his proposal on the map, but at the same time, asked the council to decide finally the area which should be set apart for the purpose.

- (h) The Hospital Assistant attached to his camp noticed the prevalence of fever of a severe type in Darwa, where no medical help was near at hand.
- (i) The people of the valley generally complain of being inadequately paid for forced labour exacted from them as carriers.

Raja Ram Singh made the following suggestions²⁰ to remove the above mentioned problems of the people and officials serving in that far flung area :

- (i) He suggested that the Parwanas be granted to those three officials (Tehsildar) who were serving there. The state council granted the Parwanas recommended by Raja Ram Singh.
- (ii) Raja Ram Singh suggested that the state council should make free concession of timber to the Sharda²¹ people on the scale in force in Kashmir. The state council forwarded this matter to the Conservator of Forests for necessary action.
- (iii) He was greatly impressed by the service of the Tehsildars of that area and recommended the increase in their pay.

20. *Jammu & Kashmir State Council, Proceeding of February 13, 1897.*

21. *A place near the Jehlum Valley.*

- (iv) He suggested that it was of the very great importance that the countryside should be visited by the Wazir-Wazarat and Tehsildar, at least, once a year. The area of the tract extend over about 100 miles and considering the inconvenience and expenses involved, it was essential that the pay of the Tehsildar of Karnah should be raised.
- (v) The Commander-in-Chief suggested that an amount of Rs. 1,315/- be placed at the disposal of the Tehsildar at Karnah for disbursement to the grantees on the spot. State Council made this request to the Dharmarth trust for the suggestion of Raja Ram Singh.
- (vi) He also suggested that a Branch Hospital should be opened at Darwa because the people of this place were suffering from severe type of fever.
- (vii) The Commander-in-Chief of the state force also suggested that the local authorities should be called upon to explain why the order of the council prohibiting impressment of Begar coolies have not been carried out.

The state council paid his earnest consideration to the suggestions made by Raja Ram Singh. The state council thanked the Commander-in-Chief for the

valuable suggestions to improve the administration of the different departments of the Government which could improve the living of the people.

He came out with the recommendation that the Military expenditure would be reduced in such a way that the total expense incurred would be in proportion to the total revenue of the state, which would make easy for the finance department to make both ends meet.

Raja Ram Singh's father Maharaja Ranbir Singh bestowed²⁸ the Jagir of Ramnagar on his son in 1877, when he was in his infancy, and had no interference in the administration of the Jagir. Only the revenue of the Jagir was collected and spent on his nourishment.

In 1886, when Ramnagar had come into the hands of Raja Ram Singh a fresh settlement was made, after rough measurement of the cultivated unassigned lands only, the new demand being Rs. 1,06,370/- as compared to Rs. 1,07,960 made in the settlement by Lala Amir Chand in 1928,²⁹ (1872 A.D.)

This settlement of 1886 was distinguished amongst the summary settlements carried out in the state as being one which resulted in a reduction of the demand.

22. *Assessment Rpt. of Ramnagar Tehsil, District Udhampur, 1912.*

23. *Ibid.*

demand, though it was not a large reduction. He found that the condition of the state was not satisfactory by the settlement of 1886, a new settlement operation was taken up in 1893 which announced a new assessment of revenue of Rs. 1,20,904/-. This assessment did not remain in force and was cancelled in 1901 soon after his death. Raja Ram Singh paid his due attention towards other public concerns like roads which linked his Jagir with the parts of the state. He repaired the old roads by constructing small bridges over nullahs.

RAJA RAM SINGH AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE STATE FORCES

Raja Ram Singh was appointed Commander of the state forces by his father during his life time.¹ After the death of his father, his elder brother Maharaja Partap Singh became the ruler of Jammu and Kashmir State. He appointed Ram Singh as Army member in his council along with the Command of the state forces i. e. Commander-in-Chief of state forces in 1887².

In April, 1889 when the new council was framed at the initiative of the British Government of India. Raja Ram Singh was appointed President of the council. He also kept the charge of military department under his control, and worked in the office of the

1. *Hasmat Ullah Khan, Tarikh Jammu, P. 73.*

2. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu & Kashmir State, 1889. S.A.J.,*

Commander-in-Chief of the Jammu and Kashmir State forces.³ Even after his removal in August, 1889 from the office of the President of state council, he remained incharge of the Army department and Commander-in-Chief of state forces.⁴

LIEUTENANT COLONEL IN THE IMPERIAL TROOPS.

In December, 1888 Lord Duffrin before handing over the charge to his successor Lord Lansdowne, announced an agreement on a plan under which the states which had particularly "good fighting" material would raise a portion of the Army to such a pitch of general efficiency as will make them fit to go into action side by side with the Imperial Troops.⁵ It was envisaged that the maintenance of these forces would be on an entirely voluntary basis. These troops would be recruited from among the people] of the states and they would be officered by Indians. The large cumbersome armies maintained by the rulers could be reduced in size to small compact bodies of well-trained, highly disciplined men who

3. *State Council, Quarterly Report of Proceedings from April 1889 to August 1889, S.A.J.*

4. *Ibid.*

5. *Pali,t Maj. General D.K., Jammu & Kashmir Arms, History of the JAK Rifles, P. 69.*

would be regularly paid and who would be liable to serve outside their states when the need arose. The British Government of India offered to modernise the equipments and to send British officers to the state to train the men to ensure uniformity of standard with the British Army.

The Jammu and Kashmir state provided the largest contingent of Imperial Services troops, constituting one mixed brigade at Jammu cantonment, one squadron of Kashmir Lancers, first and second Jammu and Kashmir mountain Batteries grouped together into the Imperial Service Artillery and the Raghu Pratap, the Bodyguard and the Ragunath Infantry Battallions.

The Jammu and Kashmir Army were unique in contributing a unit to the Imperial Services Artillery.⁶ The composition of the Jammu and Kashmir (JAK) contingent of Imperial Service Troops included Gorkhas, although, they were not the native residents of the state. They were allowed to continue because they had been employed in the JAK Army since the middle of the nineteenth Century. Purbias and Pathans were also recruited into the JAK forces until the Imperial Service troops were formed. Thereafter they were replaced by the Dogras, Sikhs and Muslims of the state.⁷

6. *Palit, Maj General D.K., Jammu and Kashmir Arms: History of the JAK Rifles, P. 70.*

7. *Ibid., P. 70.*

The Gorkhas were originally enlisted in the Suraj Gorkha Battalion (Present 4 JAK Rifle) raised in 1849 at Jammu. Later this unit became all Dogra and the Gorkhas were enlisted in the Bodyguard and the Ragunath (IInd and IIrd JAK Rifles) Battalions. They were designated for services in Gilgit as part of the Imperial service troops. The Gilgit Brigade served on a rotation basis, one Infantry Battalion and a mountain Battery from the force allotted to Imperial Service troops maintained the Garrison at Gilgit.

On January 1, 1890 4th JAK and 5th JAK Kashmir Light Infantry were added to the Imperial troops. Fourth JAK then consisted of 3 companies of Dogras and 3 companies of Gorkhas. 5th Light Infantry composed of 2 companies of Dogras, 2 companies of Gorkhas and 2 companies of Jammu Muslims. These were armed with the short and long sniper Rifles issued in 1889 and 1877 respectively.

When the state Government supplied the above mentioned state forces to the Imperial Service troops of the Government of India, the latter conferred on the Commander-in-Chief of State forces, Raja Ram Singh, the Hony, Rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Imperial Service Troops of British India in July, 1891.³

8. *C. S. Old English Record, File No. 5 of 1896, S.A.J.,*

INSIGNIA OF THE COMPANION OF BATH 'C.B.'

The tribes of North-West Frontier had been creating problems for the state rulers since a long time. Many a times tribes surrendered themselves to the state rulers but revolted again and again whenever they received help and support from across the frontier, since the time British Government had his office in Kashmir she paid her special attention to this area. The British Government of India along with the state forces made following expeditions to capture the territories of the following tribes in the North-West Frontier :-

Humza, Nagar, Chilas, Chitral etc.

for which the British Government of India awarded Raja Ram Singh with a number of Badges of Honour.

HUMZA AND NAGAR

The states of Humza and Nagar had accepted the suzerainty of the ruler of Jammu and Kashmir state, Maharaja Ranbir Singh but their inaccessibility precluded the firm control by the Kashmir ruler. Although populated by the same clan⁹ and speaking the same language, Humza and Nagar were persistent rivals and would unite only in the face of an alien threat. Isolated by vast mountain ranges which encircles the states, the people of Humza and Nagar maintained their inde-

9. *Yashkun race.*

pendence with occasional submission to the rulers of Gilgit and later to Kashmir. The two states separated by a river which flows between them. Of the two states Humza was the more important. Cultivation was limited by the scarcity of arable land. Unable to rely on their resources the people of Humza had survived by plundering the Caravans Crossing the passes between Central Asia and India.¹⁰ Humza also controlled the vital passes leading to the Pamirs and had developed a fearful reputation among the merchants who traversed that area. Slave track was another lucrative business in Humza as the area to the north was unpopulated. The ruler of Humza himself often directed his people in pillaging and kidnapping. The state was reasonably prosperous and the inhabitants were energetic, brave and aggressive.

By contrast the people of the adjacent state of Nagar were more docile, Cultivation was extensive, irrigation facilities were wide spread, Forest and Crops production was good. Satisfied within their own borders the people of Nagar were less aggressive and

10. *F M. Hussain, Gilgit, The Northern Gate of India, Published by Sterling Publishers, Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, 1978, P, 8-10, also Palit, Maj. General D.K., Jammu & Kashmir Arms, A History of JAK Rifles.*

warlike than those of Humza.¹¹

These two states had been brought under the suzerainty of Kashmir during Maharaja Ranbir Singh's time and accepted the rule of Agency when it was set up. They were accordingly paid an annual subsidy of Rs. 2,000/-¹². But in 1891 "The frontier was much excited by the military promenade of the Russian on the Pamirs", the Chiefs revolted and marched at the head of their forces to capture the strategic fort of Chalt. Colonel Durand, the political agent at that time, however, fore stalled them by occupying the fort and the Humza - Nagar forces withdrew. Colonel Durand commanding a force of the Dogra and Gorkha soldiers launched a strong assault on the breastwork which the tribes men had thrown up for the defence of their fort overlooking the Nilt Nullah.¹³ It was by a clever strategem and personal bravery of the soldiers that the Sangars were overcome and the enemy position was captured. The state forces under General Suram Chand bore the brunt of the fighting and so did the state exchequer, the expenditure involved in

11. *F.M Hussain, Gilgit, the Northern Gate of India, P. 9.*

12. *Ibid.*

13. *Bamzai P. N. Kaul, The History of Jammu & Kashmir, P. 684. Sangars : Breast work for defence purposes.*

carrying this campaign to a successful conclusion on December 26, 1891. "Humza Nagar Rajas made their submission" and about 700 soldiers of the Raghu Paltap Bodyguard and the Artillery under Kumedar Hazara Singh were distributed among the forts in Humza and Nagar.

In recognition of the fine efforts of the JAK forces, the Maharaja presented a Bronze Medallion to all those who participated in Humza-Nagar expedition¹⁴.

CHILLAS

South of the states of Humza and Nagar was the belligerent state of Chilas straddling the Indus River as it flows westwards out of Gilgit. No sooner had the JAK forces and their British over lords settled matters in the far north than a deputation arrived in Kashmir from Gor. In the very near vicinity of Chilas there was a tiny state of Gor towards its north. This tiny state was always under the threat of Chilasis aggressiveness. In fact, there were three small states to the north of Indus in Chilas region, Gor, the smallest; Dara and Tangir had periodically suffered in the Chilasi raids between Astor and Kashmir proper. In the 1850's as recounted earlier, Gulab Singh's forces had attacked

14. Palit Maj. General D.K., *Jammu & Kashmir Arms, History of the JAK Rifle*, P. 278.

Chilas and forced its surrender, the Chilas had accepted the suzerainty of Kashmir state but had not renounced their belligerency. Of the three threatened states Tangir was a tributary of Yasin and thus was tied to Kashmir through Yasin's dependence on Kashmir while Darel had submitted to Kashmir Darbar in 1866. pa d yearly tributes and sent hostage to the ruler. Gor, already a tributary of Kashmir, was a group of village forts perched thousands of feet above the Indus near Bunji. Docile people of Gor shrank from involvement in any conflict and chose to align themselves openly with Kashmir.¹⁵ In response to their call for help a detachment of 50 men of the Bodyguard and Punyali levies were despatched to Gor.

Chilasi reaction to the move was immediate. As the JAK forces reached the Chilasi border, they were attacked. In retaliation Chilas was burnt; but the JAK forces were then besieged in a village fort at Thalpen.

The attacks on the JAK forces besieged in Thalpen continued for several days and included one vigorous assault by some thousands of Tribes men. However, the forces held their position and then sallied out of the fort with about 80 men and routed the enemy. By then reinforcement from Gilgit began to arrive and state forces soon distinguished them-

15. *Palit, Maj. General DtK., Jammu & Kashmir Arms, A History of JAK Rifle. P. 79.*

selves by clearing a force ten times to its own size from a nearby hill at the point of the bayonet. The JAK forces then installed itself in Chilas, shifted the lines of communication to the more accessible south and army was reinforced by 300 men of the Body-guard. A line of posts was then established between Banji and Chilas and the Kashmir Government was committed in retaining control over this turbulent area.

In 1893, however, it was learnt that a vast uprising of the tribes of the upper Indus valley and Kohistan was being organised. The forces of Darel, Tangir and Chilas also planned to join in the concerted attack on the Chilas Fort.

On April 27, 1893 the Resident in Kashmir asked Raja Ram Singh for aid in the form of troops from the Imperial Services and the other state forces at the state's disposal.¹⁶

Raja Ram Singh replied to the resident that the Ragu Partap Regiment of 500 men was available for immediate despatch. He also said that the Raghbir's turn was to proceed on leave but was postponed. No. 1 Mountain Battery could also be sent if the Government of India made the arrangements of mules for which he had consulted with Captain Duncan per-

16. *C.S. Old English Record, File No, 3 of 1893, S.A.J.*

sonally.¹⁷ Raja Ram Singh also offered to go with his troops. But the Resident thanked Raja Ram Singh for his offer while dissuading him from actually doing so.

It was not long before the first move was made by the enemy. The tribes men mounted a determined surprise attack on Chilas Fort one night, but they were quickly repulsed and pursued into the village. However the state forces gave up the pursuit when two of their men were killed and an officer was wounded, the party withdrew. The next morning a force of 150 men attacked the village in which the enemy was strongly entrenched and heavy fighting continued until midday when the state forces withdrew. Three officers, Adjutant Nain Singh, Subedar Man Singh, Subedar Bir Singh and 22 men had been killed and one officer, Jamadar Nathoo and 25 men were wounded. Sporadic fire continued throughout the day but no further attack was mounted. By the next morning the enemy withdrew from the village, leaving 120 men dead¹⁸.

Chilas was then reinforced with more infantry and two guns of First JAK Mountain Battery. Its position on the East flank of the Gilgit - Kashmir road

17. *C.S. Old English Record, File No. 3 of 1893; S.A.J. (A telegram No. 66 dated April 28, 1893. from Raja Ram Singh C-in-C to the Resident).*

18. *Palit, Maj. General D.K., Jammu & Kashmir Arms, A History of JAK Rifle, P. 80.*

made it of considerable strategic importance and it effectively barred the way to any incursions from the West.

The Bodyguard Regiment (Second JAK Rifle) was highly commended for its work in this operation and Lieutenant Moberly, a British Officer present at the action stated, "I have only the highest praise for the sepoys of Bodyguard Regiment in the Garrison here, who showed the greatest courage and behaved splendidly throughout" Subsequently, Jamadar Gian Singh and six other Sepoys of the Regiment were awarded the order of Merit Class III for gallantry in this operation.

The British Government of India was very impressed by the courage and co-operation of the state force, and the Commander-in-Chief of the state forces. The British Government of India informed Maharaja Partap Singh to present a Badge of honour of the works of companion of Bath "B.C." to Lieutenant Colonel Raja Ram Singh and asked to arrange to perform the ceremony after the 20th of May, 1893.¹⁹

The Durbar for the presentation of the C B. Badge was held on May 24, 1893²⁰ the Birthday of her

19. C.S, Old English Record, File No. 72 of 1893. SAJ.

20. *Ibid.*

Majesty Queen Victoria as proposed by the Maharaja and his council. Investiture was made at the day time and the dinner followed by the display of fire work. Celebration of her majesty's birthday was given as usual at night. On this occasion Raja Ram Singh 'C.B.' delivered a speech in thanks to the Queen Victoria and the British Government of India.²¹ Text of the speech is given in Appendix III.

THE HONOUR OF KNIGHT COMMANDER OF BATH (K.C.B.).

The state forces under Raja Ram Singh as their Commander-in-Chief distinguished themselves in the Humza-Nagar and Chilas campaigns on the Gilgit Frontier. The British Government of India who was in worry of the events on the north western frontiers of India which were moving very fast. The British were anxious to isolate Afganistan,²² which had leanings towards Russia. The relation between Afghan and Chitral were no good for the reason that the Afghans wanted to invade and conquer Chitral. Accordingly, the Viceroy was anxious to secure an indirect control over the Hindukush through the Maharaja of Kashmir who was asked to send his forces once more.²³

21. *Ibid.*

22. *F.M. Hassain, Gilgit. The Northern Gate of India, P. 63.*

23. *Ibid. p. 65.*

CHITRAL

Chitral was a small state situated on the North West frontier of Gilgit just beneath the Afghanistan, Russia and Chinese Turkistan, on the left bank of River Yashkun, On the opposite side was Yasin.

The earliest records available shows that since the year 1864, the Mehtar of Chitral, Amam-ul-Mulk used to send his Nazrana through his representative (sometimes his brother, Makhmul Shah) to the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir.²⁴ In 1876, the Mehtar appeared to have approached the Maharaja, with a view to seek his protection against the threatening attitude of Afghanistan. As a result of the protection an agreement was made to pay the tribute in 1877²⁵

Upto the year 1892 the Mehtar of Chitral regularly paid the annual tribute fixed by the Agreement of 1877²⁶. When in late August 1892 the Mehtar of Chitral, Aman-ul-Mulk died, affairs in Chitral took a grave turn. The relative stability of his reign was shattered by a long and complicated struggle for power. The eldest son Nizam-ul-Mulk, seized power, murdered his many brothers who threatened his rule and set off

24. *Ibid.* p. 45.

25. F.M. Hassain, *Gilgit, The Northern Gate of India*, p. 57.

26. *Ibid.*

for Yasin to eliminate the last contender. Nizam-ul-Mulk fled to Gilgit after a feeble fight and Afzul-ul-Mulk returned to Chitral, proclaimed himself Mehtar and was recognised by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Within two months, however, his uncle, Sher-Afzal, who after an unsuccessful attempt to seize power from his brother earlier, had been exiled to Afghanistan, returned to Chitral, massed considerable support and appeared outside the Chitral Fort with his force. Unaware of the danger, Afzal went to investigate the crowd at the gate and was murdered. Sher-Afzal proclaimed himself Mehtar and was accepted by the people of Chitral. The Jammu and Kashmir, however, did not recognise his rule and in anticipation of conflict, moved 250 men, two guns and 100 levies to Yasin to strengthen Western Gilgit and Yasin.²⁷

Nizam-ul-Mulk, finally mustering up courage set out for Chitral from his refuge in Gilgit. As he entered Chitral, he easily amassed support, including a force of 1,200 men sent by Sher-Afzal to repulse him; and quickly captured two forts. Sher Afzal fled back into Afghanistan and Nizamul-Mulk became the Mehtar of Chitral and was recognised by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Unfortunately, on January 1.

57. *Palit, Maj. General D.K., J&K Arms, The History of JAK Rifle p. 81.*

1895 this ally was murdered by his step-brother Amin-ul-Mulk, and the Jammu and Kashmir Government again sought to counter any conflict by reinforcing the fort at Mastuj, with 100 men, a part of 4 JAK and 6 Kashmir Light Infantry. The Garrison at Chitral consisting of only 320 men of 4 JAK under General Baj Singh and 100 British Soldiers under Capt. C.P. Cambel prepared its defence and augmented its supplies.

At this juncture Umra Khan a Chief of Jandal State just South of Chitral, invaded his neighbouring state, ostensibly, to support Amir-ul-Mulk but actually in the hope of annexing Chitral to his own territory which had been founded by just opportunist ventures. With 3,000 men Umra-Khan crossed the snow laden 10,000 feet Lowaria pass and at first was effectively opposed by the Chitralis. However, lacking in resolute leadership, they soon succumbed and Umra-Khan quickly captured the fort "Kila Drosh" in the Southern Chitral, making it the base for future operation. In February, 1895 Sher-Afzal reappeared from Afghanistan and allied himself with Umra-Khan at Killa Darosh.²⁸ This alliance

28. *Palit, Maj. General D.K., Jammu & Kashmir Arms, The History of JAK Rifle, p. 82.*

drew immediate support from the local population and aided by the invading Arms. Sher Afzal marched on Chitral Fort where the JAK and British forces were already positioned.

On March 3, 1895 at about 4.30 P.M., General Baj Singh received information that Sher Afzal was marching towards Chitral with a large force. A party of 200 men of the 4 JAK was despatched to the numerous small villages in the cultivated area that extended some three miles down the village. The men scattered and the main party ultimately encountered enemy forces outside a village. Both General Baj Singh and Major Bhikam Singh were killed in action and further attempts were abandoned.²⁹ The Jammu and Kashmir forces gradually withdrew to the fort after the enemy had claimed the lives of two officers and 22 other ranks. Twenty eight other ranks were wounded. Subedar Badrinar Singh Silwal (later Major) and twelve others were awarded the Indian order of Merit for this action.

Then commenced a forty seven day siege of Chitral Fort. The British political Agent at Gilgit, Sir George Robertson was among the besieged, as he had been on tour of Chitral at that time. News of the routs of

29. *Palit Maj. General D.K., Jammu & Kashmir Arms, A History of the JAK Rifle, p. 82.*

the JAK forces reached Srinagar and Calcutta by March 7, 1895 and plans were made for operation against Umra Khan from Gilgit to Peshawar. Communication with Chitral fort was being served and the line of retreat of the JAK forces was cut off. On March 14, a message was sent to Umra Khan directing him to withdraw from Chitral at once, failing which by April 1, he would be attacked.

The Government of India ordered the mobilisation of Division No. 1 under Major General Sir Robert Low in Peshawar but before it moved, it was learnt that a JAK detachment enroute to Chitral had been slaughtered (One officer and 56 men out of a total of 71)³⁰ In addition, in the fighting at Reshum on March 7, a small party of JAK Rifle under Subedar Dharm Singh was surrounded and annihilated while defending a position. Recommendations for the bravery of the JAK forces were forwarded to the Government of India and Government of Jammu and Kashmir by Lieutenaent S M. Edwards the British Officer present there. Finally, communication with the JAK forces in the Mastuj fort was made.

The counter attack called for the 1st Division,

30. *Palit, Maj. General D.K., Jammu & Kashmir Arms, A History of JAK Rifle, p. 83.*

(Some 15,000 strong and all supporting arms) to move as quickly as possible from the south and attack Umra Khan from the rear. Simultaneously, a force was to move from Gilgit in a wide circle through Mastuj and enter Chitral from the North East. Lieutenant Colonel J.G. Kelly, the officer Commanding 32 Pioneers and the senior military officer in Gilgit, was placed in command of the operation in the Gilgit Area. He had the entire Gilgit Garrison at his disposal but was reluctant to move with the whole force because many small states in the region had only recently been subdued and the possibility of widespread revolt was great. Three thousand men were, therefore, positioned in the frontier regions, the bulk of which consisted of three battalions of Kashmir Infantry of 600 men each and the 1st JAK Mountain Battery.

All along the 220 miles long route from Gilgit to Chitral, which crosses some passes as high as 12 400 feet, local tribes were in rebellion and threatened the passage of the column. It was learnt too, that Mastuj was now under seize. The physical hardships for the men were many, tracks were dangerously narrow, transport was scarce and the men moved without tents. Snow severely impeded their movement since the mules could not negotiate the deep snow, men often volunteered to carry the weapons themselves. A party of 400 men of the 4 JAK assisted in this effort

to cross the treacherous Sandhur Pass. Snow blindness bitter cold, exhaustion and lack of water combined to, make this an almost un-endurable march.

The battle lasted for the months of April and May, till the forces of Umra Khan had been withdrawn from Chitral to impede the progress of the 1st Division from Peshawar. The Chitralis were defeated by that force at the battle of Malakand.

With the defeat of the Umra Khan, the conflict in Chitral ended. The JAK relief column earned praise and appreciation from no less a person than Queen Victoria herself as well as from the commander-in-chief of India, who particularly noted the extra ordinary achievements of the state forces in crossing the deep snow with heavy equipments. The Government of India granted six months pay of rank to all officers and men who participated in the expedition. Twenty four class I order of merit and one Class II merit were issued by the Government of India and awards to the JAK forces persons,

When the Chitral campaign was over, the British Indian Government asked Maharaja Partap Singh to arrange a ceremony in which the Chitral medals could be distributed.³¹ To honour and prize the Commander-in-Chief of state forces, Raja Ram Singh the British Government granted him the honour of K.C.B. along

31. *C.S. Old English Record, File No. 113 of 1895, S A J.*

medals to a few others of the state forces. The function of presentation of this honour was celebrated on the same day, the 18th of January, 1897 at Jammu fixed for the distribution of medals.³²

The medal distribution function was celebrated according to the military tradition under the order of Raja Ram Singh Commander-in-Chief state forces. The Chitral medals were distributed by His Highness Maharaja Partap Singh and the honour of K.C.B. was presented to Raja Ram Singh ji by a British representative Colonel Sir Adelbert Talbot, the Resident in Kashmir on behalf of the Imperial majesty the Queen Empress. Raja Ram Singh delivered a speech in thanks to the British Government for the K.C.B. and the Chitral medals separately on the same day.³³ The contents of the speech is given in Appendix III.

31. *Ibid.*

33, *C.S. Old English Record, File No. 113 of 1896, S.A.J.*

AFTER THE DEATH

CREMATION AND DEATH CEREMONIES.

Raja Ram Singh passed away in the prime of his life on the 22nd day of June, 1899 at 7:00 P.M. at Srinagar.¹ He died of heart failure. The Army and Government of Jammu and Kashmir suffered an irreparable loss in the death of their beloved Commander-in-Chief. His loss was deeply mourned by the ranks and file alike. On Ram Singh's untimely demise, his younger brother Raja Amar Singh took over the charge of Commander-in-Chief of the state forces on July 22, 1899², on whom His Highness the Maharaja in Council had since formally conferred the rank³ of a

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1. *C.S. Old English Record, File No. 129/R-11, of 1898, Also Ver. Record File No. 1111 of 1990, S.A.J. Sufi G.M.D., Kashmir, P. 812,*
 2. *Admin. Rpt. Jammu and Kashmir State, 1898-99, S.A.J.*
 3. *Ibid.*

General of Jammu and Kashmir state forces.

The cremation ceremony of Raja Ram Singh was performed according to the Hindu Rajput traditions. The army of the state gave a guard of honour to their beloved Commander, and the band mourned his death by a sad turning.⁴ The ashes were collected and sent to Hardwar by train to be immersed in the holy Ganga.⁵ After one year *Barkhi*⁶ (first death anniversary) was performed according to the royal family traditions. All the formalities of *Chhaj* and *Danpatar*⁷ were performed. The *Charsala* ceremony (fourth death anniversary) was held on June 8, 1903 at Jammu.⁸ The state Council sanctioned Rupees seventy thousand⁹ for this purpose. It was directed to draw this amount in instalments of Rupees fifteen thousand, Rupees Twenty five thousand and Rupees thirty thousand respectively. The entire amount was not spent. The actual expenditure on his

4. *C.S. Old English Record, File No. 65 of 1899, S.A.J.*

5. *Ibid.*

6. *C.S. Old English Record, File No. 65 of 1899, S.A.J.*

7. *Chhaj & Danpatar :- Goods, given to the Brahmans on the fourth death anniversary.*

8. *C.S. Old English Record File No. 188-40 of 1902, S.A.J.*

9. *Ibid.*

Charitable ceremony was Rupees sixty nine thousand two hundred and eighty five only, which meant saving of Rupees seven hundred & fifteen¹⁰. After this, the annual Sharad ceremony was performed, as ritual, every year in the month of September and expenditure for this was met out from the state treasury.

When all the early ritual ceremonies of the departed soul were over, Maharaja Partap Singh proposed in the meeting of state Council that a Samadh¹¹ (Tomb) of his younger brother, Raja Ram Singh, would be constructed to commemorate his bravery and statesmanship. The state council ordered the public works department to prepare an estimate for the construction work of Samadh. The public works department prepared an estimate on which the state Government sanctioned an amount of Rupees thirty seven thousand, four hundred and eighty two.¹² The Smadhi of Raja Ram Singh was constructed in Ram Bagh besides the Smadhi of Maharaja Gulab Singh¹³. A well was also constructed

10. *Ibid.*

11. *C.S. Old English Record File No. 58/S-16 of 1900, S.A.J.*

12. *C.S. Old English Record, File No. 58/R-16 of 1900 S.A.J.*

13. *Ibid.*

in the compound of the Smadh at a cost of Rs. 678/-¹⁴ The Smadhi of his farther Maharaja Ranbir Singh stand already constructed at Jammu in the Ragunath Temple

The Prithistha ceremony of the smadh took place as usual on June 3, 1914.¹⁶ A number of people visited this place on that day. Maharaja Parlap Singh also visited the Samadhi of his younger brother in the evening and paid homage to him.¹⁷

All the arrangements of the ceremony were made by the Dharmarth Trust of Jammu and Kashmir State but the State Government paid an amount of Rupees fifteen thousand, three hundred and nitny five (Rs. 15,394/-)¹⁶ to the Dharmarth Trust for the Prithistha ceremony and tho maintenance of the smadh.

HIS PROPERTY.

Raja Ram Singh died without having a male chi'd and left no Testamentary disposition of his property. Therefore, the state Government on the suggestion of

14. *Ibid.*

15. *Ibid.*

16. *C.S. Old English Record, File No. 26/D-78 of 1914, S.A.J.*

17. *Ibid.*

18. *Ibid.*

the British Resident in Kashmir locked the outer palaces at Jammu and Ramnagar in which his moveable properties were lying so that his servants and Ranis could not misuse them.¹⁹ Raja Amar Singh, the Vice-President of the state council, conveyed this suggestion to the Governor of Jammu and Tehsildar of Ramnagar respectively.²⁰ As regard the moveable property at Srinagar, which were alleged to be comparatively of no considerable value. His Highness had given an order for the preparation of an inventory by the officials of the late Raja and all the things (including household furniture) was packed and sent back to Jammu. His Highness did not consider it necessary and desirable to keep the Srinagar property under locks in that circumstances of sorrow.²¹

The Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir informed the Resident that the properties of the late Raja had been locked but the Durbar had no concern, whatsoever.

19. *A letter from Lieutenant Colonel Sir, Adelbert Talbot, Resident in Kashmir to Raja Sir Amar Singh, Vice-President J&K State Council No. 3901, dated June 21, 1899, A.A.J.*

20. *Resolution No. 8 dated July 25, 1899 of State Council Jammu and Kashmir. Z.A.J.*

21. *A letter from Vice-President of the state Council J&K to the Resident No. 1925, dated June 30, 1899, A.A.J.*

with the private estate or effect of the deceased brother, which belonged exclusively to the widows of the deceased and to whom the affect must be delivered in due course,²²

The Resident did not want to act on the Information of His Highness. He made discussions with Maharaja and other members of the council for the disposal of the moveable and immovable properties of Raja Ram Singh. There arose some questions in the discussions for disposal :-²³

Firstly, the arrangements to be made for the liquidation of the late Raja's debts and winding up of his estates.

Secondly, the evaluation of his property—real and personal, and

Thirdly, the provisions to be made for (a) the widows and (b) the servants and dependents of the late Raja.

These questions were discussed in the meeting of the State Council. In regard to the first question

22. *C.S. Old English Record, File No. 35 of 18Y9, S.A.J.*
(A letter from the Vice-President J&K State Council to the Resident, No. 1925, dated June 30, 1899).

23. *Ibid.*

(A letter from the Resident to the Vice-President of the State Council, No. 253.C, dated July 9, 1899).

the State Council passed the formation of a committee comprising of the accountant General, Rai Bahadur Pandit Bhag Ram (Revenue member and Secretary of State council), Lala Biehan Dass, Wazir-Wazarat Udhampur, and Diwan Amar Nath (Governor of Jammu) which would prepare the scheme for the liquidation of the late Raja's properties. The committee prepared a complete inventory of the properties and estates of the late Raja. The Jagir enjoyed by the late Raja in Jammu and Kashmir including landed estates and C. hold by him under mortgage or otherwise, comprising the real properties of the deceased was lapsed to the state from the date of his demise by the order of the State Council.²⁴ The existing establishment employed on these estates and Jagir & C. were retained as the Durbar did not wish to dispense with their service without cause. Some of them were adjusted in the state services and others were retired by giving the gratuity and allowances.

When the inventory was completed, the State Council ordered the committee to assess its value. Accordingly, the Committee assessed the late Raja's properties for Rs.18,52,894/11 annas which included stamps worth Rs. 2,42,894/5 annas out of which red

24. Resolution No. 8 Proceedings of the State Council
Tuesday, 25th of July, 1899, S.A.J.

real stamps worth Rs. 2,37,611/5 annas and 6 Pai were handed over to Raja Amar Singh, the new Commander-in-Chief and green seal stamps to the nominal value of Rs. 4,726/4 annas were deposited in the state Treasury²⁵ His horses and saddles were transferred to the state Baghi Khana, the house hold utensils of brass, clothings like Pashmina etc. were sold in an open auction at 1/2 and 1/3 of its prices²⁶ while the silver and gold ornaments were melted to make one piece of each which were deposited in the State Reserve Treasury. Then there remained the Jewellery worth Rs. 4,04,953/13 annas and 3 Pais out of which the Jewellery of Rs. 6,055 were given to the mother of Mian Rattan Singh, the natural son of Raja Ram Singh.²⁷ The remaining portion of the jewellery were valued by a jeweller Piara Lal of Delhi but the amount which he valued was too less. Hence the State Council found that it was impossible to sell it in Jammu so he sent it to Calcutta from where some of it was sent to England. The rest was sold to M/s. Hamilton & Co. at Calcutta for Rs. 50,542/- which was less than the assessed value. The amount received was deposited

25. *C S. Old English Record, File No. 35 of 1899, S.A.J.*

26. *Ibid.*

27. *Ibid.*

in the state treasury to clear the debts of late Raja Ram Singh which amounted to Rs. 2,17,000/-²⁸

Badami Bagh of Srinagar was also a part of property of Raja Ram Singh which was spread over 187 Kanal and 8 Marlas. Its value was assessed at Rs. 300/-. Different offers were received for its sale. The highest offer of Rs. 750/- was of Colonel Diwan Bishan Dass but it was not accepted. At last it was sold to Diwan Daya Kishan Kaul in an open auction for Rs. 1400/- vide His Highness order No 1083 dated June 21, 1907.²⁹ This amount was also deposited in the state treasury.

HIS DEPENDENTS.

Raja Ram Singh left four widows, a daughter Bua Sahiba and a natural son (Mian Rattan Singh) who was two and a half years old when Raja Sahib left this world.³⁰ The widows now had no source of income for their livelihood because none of them had a male child who could make their both end meet. On the other hand the properties, Jagir and other landed

28. *C S. Old English Record, File No. 46/H-93 of 1909, S.A.J.*

29. *Ibid.*

30. *Ibid. (Resolution No. 8, Proceedings of the council on Tuesday, 25th of July, 1899.)*

estates enjoyed by the late Raja were reverted to the state.

The council considered the case of the widows in all its bearings and sanctioned an aggregate allowance of Rs. 1,00,000³¹ per annum i.e. Rs. 25,000 per head per annum, which detailed as :-

Jagir allowance Rs. 7,000/- per annum to each.

Cash allowance Rs. 18,000/- per annum to each.

besides gardens and Rakhs as allotted to the other Rajas, the above amount represented the total cost of the entire house hold including the inner and outer establishment while the resident suggested to pay them monthly wise allowances. This amount was far less than the cash allowances paid to the Maharani Sabiba (step-mother of Maharaja Partap Singh and the late Raja)³² However, the allowances were sanctioned to the widows but they could not draw them. The money was drawn from the state treasury on a proper bill bearing the signature of His Highness the Maharaja. The Mohtrid or Agent was responsible for due accounting of the monies i.e. the widows allowance through

31. *C.S. Old English Record, Fil No. 35 of 1899. S.A.J.: (Resolution No. 8 Proceedings of the council on Tuesday the 25th of July, 1899)*

32. *Ibid.*

the agent of the State Government for the widows³³. One of his widow Rani Sahiba Katoch died In A.D. soon after the death of her husband³⁴. Her allowances were stopped i.e deducted from the amount of the allowances, while the other three were paid at the old rate. Some changes were made after some time by granting them Jagirs of Digiana, Keran, Kalyana and Lalial in place of cash allowances.

Rao Rattan Singh the natural son of Raja Ram, was born on December 26, 1896 i.e. two and half years before the death of his father.³⁵ His Tansure ceremony was held during the life of Raja Ram Singh but he remained helpless after the death of his father Raja Sahib. On the other hand, not being his legitimate son, Rao Rattan Singh would not have right to property of his father and the right of accession to the throne of Jammu and Kashmir state in place of Maharaja Hari Singh. Even then Maharaja Partap Singh gave his mother some jewellery from Raja Ram Singh,s property. The state council granted an allowance of Rs. 100/-

33. *Ibid.*

34. *C.S. Old English Record, File No. 35 of 1899, S.A.J.*
(A letter No. DO/1669 dated June 16, 1900 from Accountant General to the Vice-President of Council.)

35. *C.S. Old English Record, File No 147/H-75 of 1914, S.A.J.*

per month³⁶ which was raised to Rs. 200/- per month in March 1900,³⁷ further it was increased to Rs. 3240/- per annum.³⁸ The details of the allowances mentioned above was under :-

1. Cash allowance	Rs. 1440/-
2. Jagir allowance	Rs. 1200/-
3r From the Private purse	Rs. 600/-

Total	Rs. 3240/-

On May 22, 1914 his Jagir allowance was stopped by granting him a Jagir of Kotli Jagan which had the revenue of Rs. 1184/- and the difference of Rs. 16/- was adjusted in cash allowance and the exemption from the payment of cattle grazing in the village Blant-har Tehsij Ramnagar.³⁹

36. *Resolution No. 2 Proceedings of the state council Nov., 31, 1899, S.A.J.*

37. *Resolution No. 11 Proceedings of the state council Mareh 19, 1900, S.A.J.*

38. *C.S. Old English Records, File No. 147/H-75 of 1914, S.A.J.*

39. *C.S. Old English Record File No. 147/H-75 of 1914, S.A.J.*

BUA SAHIBA

Bua Sahiba, the only surviving daughter of late Raja, was brought up in the palace along with the other children of the royal family. She was married to Raja Kedar Chand Balia of Chenan on March 4, 1901 by Maharaja Partap Singh himself soon after her father's death, with the usual ceremonies accompanying such princely marriages.⁴⁰

40. Khan Singh Balawria, *Tarikh-I-Rajgan Janimu & Kashmir*, P. 183.

CONCLUSION

Born in a Dogra royal family and brought up under the filial affection of a royal father who provided his son with the cherished opportunities essential for the training of a successful prince. he had a charming personality. When he grew up, his farther made suitable arrangements for his military and other administrative trainings. Certain important units of the Jammu and Kashmir state forces were entrusted to his care. Raja Ram Singh stood the early test and proved to the satisfaction of his father, to be an efficient energetic Commander. This led Maharaja Ranbir Singh to appoint him a Commander in the Jammu and Kashmir state forces.

The relations among the three brothers were not normal after the death of Maharaja Ranbir Singh. The latter wanted to appoint his youngest son as his successor but the British Government declared Partap Singh the next Maharaja of the state in 1885 after the death of Maharaja Ranbir Singh. Rejection of Raja Amar

Singh's claim to the throne laid the foundations of deep rooted and life long enmity between Maharaja Partap Singh and his two brothers Raja Ram Singh and Amar Singh. Raja Ram Singh and Amar Singh were closer to each other than to Maharaja Partap Singh. However, the relations between Partap Singh and Ram Singh were not as strain as that between Partap Singh and Amar Singh who was cunning enough to put the Maharaja away from the administration to get the highest position in the Durbar. The British Government of India was already looking for an opportunity to have his control over the state administration so that she could keep her eye on the North-West Frontier. Thus, compelled by the circumstances created by his brothers, Maharaja Partap Singh put them on important positions in administration so that he could win their favours. This led to the appointment of Raja Ram Singh as the Commander-in-Chief of the state forces.

However, Raja Amar Singh, who was very thirsty for power, continued with his intrigues. Raja Ram Singh also participated with him, with the desire to be the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, if only Maharaja Partap Singh could be removed from the throne. The British Government of India proposed the composition of a new council which was not accepted by the Maharaja. The British Government put another proposal

to bring forth Raja Moti Singh of Poonch, a descendant of Raja Dhian Singh, the brother of Maharaja Gulab Singh, who was a rival of Maharaja Partap Singh. Feared by not only from Moti Singh but his brothers, the Maharaja yielded.

Despite all these, the Maharaja showed no signs of actually implementing the Viceroy's suggestions. The result was that Plowden had to press him towards that end and it was only in January 1887, that the Maharaja appointed Dewan Lachman Dass¹ as the President of the new council. Raja Ram Singh and Amar Singh were the other two members.

Dewan Lachman Dass was Pro-British in his preferences and soon after having the office of President, he reported to the Resident that the Maharaja's attitude was one of non cooperative and that it was difficult for him to assume his new office.² Raja Ram Singh and Amar Singh also supported the Dewan's contention. There upon Plowden advised Maharaja to

1. *Progress, March 1887, Form, Sec., Nos. 46-48, (Resident to Foreign Secretary January 21, 1887, N.A.I.), Veena aRjput, Raja Amar Singh, Dissertation M.A. Final, 1970.*

2. *Ibid,*

appoint Raja Moti Singh as the Prime Minister³ of the state. This resulted the assurance of full co-operation by the Maharaja to Dewan Lachman Dass. Supported by the Resident and the young Rajas, the Dewan dismissed some of the private servants of the Maharaja and when the latter came to their rescue, there resulted "a crucial trial of power", between the new administration and the old clique.⁴ The victory of the new administration was intolerable for the ambitious young Rajas- Ram Singh and Amar Singh. These circumstances united the three brothers secretly and resulted in the dismissal of Dewan Lachman Dass for neglecting his duties.⁵

Then a new council was framed in 1888. Maharaja Partap Singh was appointed its President Raja Amar Singh the Vice-President, while Raja Ram Singh, Babu Nilamber Mukerjee, Dewan Janki Parsad were the other members of the council. But the thirst for power of the

3. *Ibid*,

4. *Forgn., Secs E. No. 46-48, Progress March, 1887 N.A.I. (Resident to Foreign Secretary, the 14th of Feb. 1887) Veena Rajput, Raja Amar Singh.*

5. *Forgn., Sec. E., No 44, Progress May, 1892, Resident to Foreign Secretary, the 7th of January, 1892), N.A.I., Ibid.*

young Rajas, did not end here. There was still something wanting to fulfil their desire. And in 1819, an opportunity came, when Colonel Nisbet became the British Resident in Kashmir. He informed the British Government of India about the administration of the state. The British Government ordered the Maharaja to frame a new council along with a list of names for the Presidentship of the council. The name of Raja Ram Singh was also included in that list. Maharaja Partap Singh thought it better to frame a council under the Presidentship of his younger brother Raja Ram Singh than all others proposed by the British Government of India. Hence Raja Ram Singh became the President of the new council in April, 1889.

As the President of the state council, he made many improvements in the administration of the state. The state was short of funds to meet the expenditure, to solve this problem he first of all appointed an Accountant General, the post which was lying vacant for long, to put the accounts of the Revenue and expenditure straight, so that he could find out where did the fault lie. In fact, since a long time the amount drawn from the reserve treasury at Riasi was not refunded (re-deposited). He stopped this practice and ordered that in future every amount drawn was to be treated as a loan and refunded in time, from the revenue of state. If the amount was not sufficient the

stock of grain in the provincial stores should be sold, but the loan must be refunded, at all cost. This shows that he was very particular about the reserve which could be used in emergency. Not only this, he reduced the strength of the state forces to meet the expenses from within the resources of the state.

Raja Ram Singh was keen on seeing his state prosperous for which he linked the state by rail road with the British India Via Sialkot. He constructed a temporary railway station at a distance of 1/4 mile from the left bank of River Tawi, till the permanent station was constructed during his Presidentship. Beside this he linked his Jagir of Ramnagar and many other parts of the state with the two capital cities of the state, Jammu and Srinagar, by repairing the old roads.

He was a lover of justice. He made provisions for the efficient working of the state courts and speedy disposal of appeals. To have a check on the working of the courts he appointed Inspectors and Deputy Inspectors of courts. He also reduced the power of the Jagirdars to free the tillers from their clutches.

He took keen interest in the welfare of his people and made extensive tours of the far flung areas, like Muzaffarabad through Ki han Ganga Valley and Skardu, to know the difficulties of the people closely. He made recommendations, by submitting his tour

diaries, for solving the problems of those peoples. He did not wish that anybody should suffer without fault. Once when Maharaja Partap Singh suspended⁶ one of his (Ram Singh's) official without consulting Raja Ram Singh. He did not tolerate it because he was his immediate boss so Maharaja reinstated that official. On the other hand he was a lover of hard working. Any one who did not do his duties was not spared by him. Once during his Presidentship he found that the Governor of Jammu (Pandit Mahanond) was not doing his duty efficiently and was indebted to the state for Rs. 25,000/- which he neglected to liquidate. He immediately removed him from the office of Governor.

He had lust for power but did not ignore his family. He was removed from the office of the President for defying the order of the Resident, not to leave the office in order to go to Jammu to pay the homage to his loving father late Maharaja Ranbir Singh on his Charsala ceremony. It was only an excuse, the British Resident wanted to appoint Raja Amar Singh on that post. But Raja Ram Singh did not care a bit for that, He preferred to pay homage to his father rather than sticking to the office of the President.

As the Military member of the state council he

6. *Dewan Chand, Head Clerk. (C.S. Old English Record, File No. 78 of 1896), S.A.J.*

recommended the proposal of the British Government to convert the state forces into Imperial Service Troops which caused reduction in the military expenditure of the state. The forces were now well equipped with modern weapons and uniforms. They began to get their salaries in the British Indian currency in place of state Chilkis, because the state Chilkis was devalued. He revised the salaries of army personnel. The provisions were made by granting the pensions to the dependents of those killed in action. Special opportunities were created for the employment of their dependents.

As the Commander-in-Chief of the state forces he wanted to remain as the head of his forces in the war to lead them. He made offers of his service along with his force on the expedition to Swat, Black Mountain and Gilgit.⁷ But the British Government did not accept his personal services. Only the state forces participated who earned a number of Badges of honour for themselves and for their Commander-in-Chief.

He was also a lover of art and literature. He could read and write Persian, Urdu, Sanskrit and English. He

7. *C.S. Old English Record, File No. 90/Q-16 of 1898. S.A.J. A Letter from C.I.N.C. to Resident. No. 33J of September 9. S.A.J.*

C.S. Old English Record, File No. 3 of 1893, S.A.J.

delivered a number of speeches in English on the medal distribution functions while thanking the British Government i.e. Queen Victoria.

As regards his properties after his death, the state Government locked both the movable and immovable properties which was something quite novel. It is true that he left no male heir but there were four widows, a natural son and a daughter. Even the Maharaja told Resident that the Durbar had nothing to do with the properties of late Raja, that should be given to the widows in due course. But with the order of Resident the state council auctioned the movable property of the late Raja and immovable transferred to the state and said that the amount received was deposited in the state treasury to clear his debts and amount in excess would be paid to the widows and dependents. The Resident and official of that time were so cunning and corrupt that they sold his property at a value lower than the assessed one and did not show the amount exceeding his debts. His dependents i.e. widows and natural son, were granted allowances which were much less than the allowance of the dependents of other late Rajas.

As regards his personality, it would be no exaggeration to say that he was cut to the shape and stature of a prince possessing a smartness which very few

princes of India of his days could have. He had a little stammer and was a First Class rider. It is said that he used to go to Ram Nagar from Jammu on horse back in one day. He used to go in his bed room on the first floor on the horse back.⁸ He was a good player of Polo. It is said that a special polo play was arranged at Skardu in his honour when he visited that place.

He was devoted to Goddess Durga (Tripuri Sundri). It is said that he had a Sidi of this Goddess. Once he had to take guns on the Chitral fort. The path was very steep, the mules became helpless. He sat on the ground for a moment, remembered his Goddess, after which the mules took those guns to the top of the mountain which enabled his forces to capture the Chitral Fort⁹. Hence such a prince who possessed all the qualities of a good Soldier, administrator and a religious man should have survived for a long time to strengthen his state.

8. *Th. Younginder Singh, Assistant Director of Sports, University of Jammu, (Retd). Son of Rao Rattan Singh, Natural son of Raja Ram Singh, Manuscript.*

9. *Ibid.*

EARLY HISTORY OF RAM NAGAR

Originally held by a number of petty Ranas, the greater part of the tract now included in Ramnagar was conquered, (according to tradition about the 12th Century of the Hindu Era), by Raja Bharat Dev, a Chambail Rajput and brother of the ruler of Chamba. In these events one Guru Thakkar, an exiled Wazir of the principal Ranas was said to have played an important part. Many stories are told about this personage, who had name to the Ghurta Ilaka, consisting of a few villages still held by his descendants.

Raja Bahadar Dev founded the Bhandral dynasty, whose members are said to have ruled the country for seven centuries. Warring with the neighbouring Chiefs; their principal rivals were the Mankotia Rajas of Ramkote and Brigarh, who long contended with them over the possession of Paimasta and the ruins of their respective forts still crown the hills on either side of it. The descendents of both Bandrals and Mankotia are now ordinary Thakurs.

The Bandral Chief in Samvat 1874 was Raja Bhup Dev, the last of the line, who in that year was forced to attend the court of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in order to pay homage and tribute to Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Mistaking the invitation, Raja Bhup Dev fled to Kangra, making a last use of his authority to create a number of petty Muafis for the disadvantage of his successors, a proceeding which has had a lasting affect on the fortune of the tract. As for as I am convinced, these petty grants were in most cases worse than useless to their holders. The Sikhs took the possession of the territory thus vacated, and placed it incharge of Misr Rup Lal, until in 1877 Maharaja Ranjit Singh bestowed Ramnagar and Samba on Raja Suchet Singh who held them until his death in in Samavt 1900.

Raja Suchet Singh appears to have made considerable efforts to improve the state of the country, inspite of such opposition to his authority from the local Thakkars, who were long recalcitrant and met with severe punishment. He built roads on many principal routes, and brought in traders and settlers to people. The tract, the possession of the Gaddis & many others, dates from his time, are the existing instances,

In 1900 Raja Suchet Singh died at Lahore and was succeeded by his adopted son Maharaja Ranbir Singh and Ramnagar was ruled by various Wazirs on his behalf not without some local conflicts, untill in

1913 he succeeded Maharaja Gulab Singh as Maharaja, and Ram Nagar got merged in the territories of Jammu.

In 1933 Ramnagar was bestowed by Maharaja Ranbir Singh on his son late Raja Ram Singh K.C.B. who held it in Jagir until his death in 1956, when it again came under the ordinary administration, and has so remained.

A speech delivered by Raja Ram Singh on the presentation ceremony of 'C.B.' in thanks to the Queen Victoria

Your Highness Colonel Barr,

I cannot express sufficient thanks for the distinguished honour conferred upon me by Her Imperial Majesty the Queen-Empress. I am proud to think that the loyalty of the family to which I have the honour to belong is well known to the British Government and I beg to assure you that it is always my object to follow the examples of my fore-fathers in loyalty and devotion to the paramount Power. It has been with these examples before me, the examples set by those I am, proud to imitate in this respect, that I have, always offered my services however humble they might be to the British Crown.

The recent hostilities in Chilas in which the soldiers of the Army, I have the honour to Command have so well upheld the honour of their country, at first pointed to more extended operation on that frontier, and I gladly seized the opportunity of offering my service to H.E. The Viceroy and Governor General of India in the hopes that I too might assist in repelling the adversaries of the Indian Government

Commanding the state force in the field. But my hopes seems doomed to disappointment as from the latest reports it seems that the political skill of the British Agent Lieutenant Colonel Durand has completed the victory which the sword commenced and the tactics of war will not require to be put into operation to enforce the submission of the Tribesmen. But I 'doubt not' should necessity arise, the Government of India will honour me by accepting my proferred services. I am quite ready to, go under the British flag, any where the British Government may require my services.

I have the honour to receieve the distinguished order of the bath on this suspicious day of the birth of our august sovereign and while expressing my obligation to her Imperial Majesty. I beg most humbly to congratulate Her Majesty, on her birthday and pray for her long life. I thank you Colonel Barr from the bottom of my heart, for the very kind words, you have spoken about me and I humbly beg you to offer my heart felt gratitude to H.E. The Viceroy and Governor General of India and also to request His Lordship to convey my sincere gratitude to Her Majesty for the honour conferred upon me an honour to prove worthy of which shall be no constant endeavour in life. I can not conclude without acknowledging here the valuable assistance which I have received from Colonel Neville Chamberlain, Military Secretary to this Government, and which he has always so willingly given me.

Bishan Dass
Private Secretaiy

A speech delivered by Raja Ram Singh on Presentation Ceremony of K. C. B. badge in thanks to the British Government.

Your Highness Colonel Sir Talbot, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I cannot adequately give expression to my feelings of gratitude for the distinguished honour conferred upon me by Her Imperial Majesty, the Queen Empress.

While this mark of Her Majesty's appreciation of my humble services as Commander-in-Chief of the state forces and as the Military member of state council unquestionably redemeed to my personal credit. I beg to be permitted to say, that it is as well a solid recognition of that loyalty, self sacrifice and unswerving devotion, to the paramount power, for which the ruling family of Jammu has been traditionally conspicuous among the native states in India.

It is a gratification to the Durbar as well as to myself that the state forces under my command have distinguished themselves in the field in Humza Nagar, Chilas and Chitral companies in which they fought side by side with their British Comrades although I had ead not the good fortune to Command them personally as I wished on this occession. I have had nevertheless

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the good luck to receive a share in the glorious victories achieved by them.

I beg you will please accept my thanks for yourself and convey to His Excellency the Viceroy, my heart felt obligation to him and to request him to lay at the foot the august throne expression of our devoted loyalty.

2. Thanks for the Medal Awarded to the state troops.

Your highness Colonel Adelbert Talbot Ladies and Gentlemen,

I cannot find words to discharge the debt of gratitude that I owe to Her Imperial Majesty the Queen Empress and to your Highness for the great honour done to the Imperial Services. State Troops assembled here by conferring upon them 25 orders of merit and the Chitral Medals by your Highness.

In November, 1894 a portion of the I.S. Troops which participated in the Humza-Nagar campaign had the honour being presented with order of merit by Her Imperial Majesty the Queen Empress and Coller Badges by your Highness.

The presentation at that time, though it now be held as superstition on my part took place in such an auspicious occasion that it has brought good luck to

the troops, earning for them a large instalment of the order of merit and the Chitral medals.

There can be no denial about the fact that as a frontier state our foremost duty consists in attending to the affairs on the frontier and so I cannot but feel that we have no greater claim to the high honour now bestowed on the troops which I have the honour to Command that the mere fact that they as Soldiers have only done their duty. I beg your Highness will ask the Resident to convey to Her Empress my heart felt obligations and expression of our devoted loyalty and accept the same for your yourself.

Bishan Dass
Private Secretary

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