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Mahesh C. Regmi

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Regmi Research (Private) Ltd
Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal

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Munitions Production

During the nineteenth century, Nepal depended wholly on indigenous production for supplies of arms and ammunition. The foundation of the indigenous munitions industry had been laid by Prithvi Narayan Shah in Nuwakot with technicians procured from India, but production was too inadequate and the army depended on what it was able to seize during its victorious encounters with the invading forces of the Nawab of Bengal and the East India Company, and on what it could smuggle from India.¹ Consequently, one of the major aims of Gorkhali policy during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries was to procure arms from every possible source. In 1796, for instance, Subba Dinanath Upadhyaya was instructed to endorse the purchase of "200 guns of good quality and two pieces of cannon, both of British manufacture" by officials deputed from Kathmandu.² In 1799, reports were received that at least seven companies, Khas, Ranabhim, Batukdal, Simhanad, Taradal, Devidatta, and Haya Sabuj, were short of guns. A sum of Rs 2,500 was sanctioned from revenues collected in the western hill region to purchase guns for their use.³ A few weeks later, Rs 2,750 was similarly sanctioned for the purchase of guns and bayonets for twelve other companies from revenues collected in Morang.⁴ Regulations promulgated in 1813 on the eve of the Nepal-British war for Bara, Parsa,⁵ Saptari, and Mahottari districts⁶ empowered the local administrators to purchase "flintlocks, steel, and flints" whenever possible.

Munitions production on a systematic basis started in 1793, soon after the Nepal-China war, when a factory, later known as the Jangi Meggin, was opened in Kathmandu under the supervision of a French technician.⁷ Its main function was to manufacture arms and equipment needed by the army.⁸ On the eve of the Nepal-British war, the factory was expanded and employed as many as 305 technicians and other workers.⁹ In 1851, Oldfield described the Jangi Meggin as "the Government foundry for the manufacture of cannon, as well as of many other articles which are worked in the hard metals".¹⁰ During the Rana period, the Jangi Meggin also manufactured nuts, bolts, hinges, etc. for the palaces of the Ranas.¹¹

In October 1804, Kathmandu ended a seven-year lull in the campaign of territorial expansion by attacking Garhwal. The Gorkhali march toward the Sutlej region followed thereafter. The renewed campaign naturally led to a spurt in defense production. Local administrators in Majhkirat in the eastern hill region, the Marsyangdi-Pyuthan region in the west, and elsewhere were ordered to commandeer local ironsmiths, procure supplies of iron, and manufacture cannonballs.¹² The quotas were fixed by Kathmandu: 30,000 balls from Majhkirat, and 50,000 balls from the Marsyangdi-Pyuthan region, within a month. A special officer was deputed to the Tarai districts in November 1805, one of his functions being to procure technicians from India and start munitions factories where possible.¹³

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At the middle of the nineteenth century, the munitions industry appears to have been well established. Notwithstanding the derisive remarks of British observers about techniques and quality, the scale of production is truly impressive! In the words of Cavanagh!¹⁴

There is a foundry at Kathmandoo and a large manufactory of fire arms at Feutana, about 15 marches distant. The guns are of brass (copper and zinc) and bored by machinery worked by water power...". The rifles and muskets in use with the Gorkha Army are of fair construction, but with rude flint locks...". It is supposed that in case of emergency, the government could supply muskets and accoutrements sufficient to equip upwards of 100,000 men.

Sir Richard Temple, who visited Kathmandu in May 1876, noted: "In the vally near Kathmandu there are arsenals and magazines, with ordnance, including siege guns, stores, thousands of stands of arms, small arm and ammunition, and the like. It is remarkable that for all this they depend on indigénous manufactures."¹⁵ He also noted that "There is a large supply of ordnance of various calibres, also made in Nepal"¹⁶

In Pyuthan, rifles of Enfield model were manufactured on a large scale. Production amounted to 501 rifles a year in 1811¹⁷, which was subsequently raised to 2,101 rifles. After 1849, Prime Minister Jung Bahadur decided to operate it on a smaller scale to restore production to the previous figure.¹⁸

Around 1864" an attempt was made to manufacture rifles in Thosa, a rich iron-mining area in the hill region east of Kathmandu. Initially, local iron workers were commissioned to manufacture rifles in their own homes;¹⁹ a regular factory was opened for that purpose only in 1875". However, production was suspended in 1888 for about five years. In 1893, the factory was reopened²⁰ and equipment was installed for the manufacture of nine rifles daily.²¹

If the scale of production was impressive, continuous experimentation and innovation were no less so. In 1851, Cavanagh noted that the manufacture of percussion caps for rifles "is not likely to be introduced in Nepal".²²

Less than fifteen years later, however, Daniel Wright noted that percussion caps were being manufactured in the arsenal at Kathmandu with machinery imported from England.²³ Similarly, Cavanagh had mentioned that the Nepalis "are in a great measure unacquainted with the art of manufacturing fuses". He added that "General Jung Bahadur has devoted much time and attention towards making experiments in order to ascertain the exact proportions of the ingredients used in preparing the composition, but hitherto with but little success"²⁴ However, there is evidence that fuses were manufactured on large scale at Sindhuli-Gadhi during the Nepal-Tibet war.²⁵

Of perhaps greater interest were the innovations introduced to adapt munitions production to the exigencies of mountain warfare. Again according to Cavanagh:²⁶

The Artillery attached to the Nepal Army numbers about 300 guns, of which 160 are retained at the capital. . . Those at Kathmandoo are all in serviceable condition and well-adapted for mountain warfare, being chiefly of small calibre, from 2 to 6-pounders The government has lately made arrangements by separating the gun from the carriage, for transporting field pieces by means of elephants.

Munitions factories, no doubt, employed workers who were on the regular pay roll, in the form of cash salaries or jagir land assignments.²⁷ At the same time, the services of many workers, mostly unskilled, were impressed under the rakam systems. In other words, these workers worked in munitions factories without wages in fulfillment of their rakam obligations and received in return only a full or partial exemption from the payment of homestead taxes and protection from eviction from the rice-lands they tilled. The usual practice was to assign a number of adjoining villages to the factory; the inhabitants were then under obligation to provide such labor for portage and other services. For instance, when the Thos munitions factory was reopened in 1893, a total of 314 families in nine adjoining villages were enrolled as porters for transporting its manufactures to the Nakhu magazine in Kathmandu.²⁸ In 1812, the inhabitants of three villages in the Chisapani-Gadhi area were told:²⁹

There is a severe shortage of iron in the munitions factory (in Kathmandu). It has become necessary to operate mines in Mahadev-Kharka, because there is a shortage of charcoal (to operate iron mines) in Ruping. You are, therefore, ordered to provide portage services for the supply of 40 dharnis of copper every day by rotation. You are hereby exempted from forced labor obligations for other purposes.

In Pyuthan, the inhabitants of 25 villages were under obligation to pay their homestead and other taxes in the form of such materials required by the local munitions factory as sulphur and saltpeter. Because these supplies were not locally available, they had no alternative but to visit places as far as Nepalgunj, and sometimes even India, to purchase them.³⁰ The large-scale exaction of unpaid labor for munitions production is underscored by the following report which the government received from that district in 1889.³¹

The people (of Pyuthan district) are being employed in different capacities to meet the requirements of the local munitions factory. In some villages, people extract iron ore, while others transport

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the iron to the factory. Still other "people procure" and supply timber, charcoal, hides and skins, saltpeter, sulphur, borax, or salt. People are also employed to grind gunpowder, or "construct factories and other government buildings, bridges, etc. Other obligations include the supply of stones, flints, sand, wax, baskets, oil, oil-cakes, oilseeds, etc". The people of this district have thus to remain in constant attendance at the factory all the twelve months of the year.

There is even evidence that occasionally force was used to employ unwilling or recalcitrant workers. In 1855, local authorities at Sindhuli-Madi were ordered to employ local people for the manufacture of fuses in chain gangs if necessary, if they did not offer their services voluntarily.³²

In any case, there seems little doubt that unpaid-labor services in munitions factories imposed an onerous burden on the local peasantry. In December 1812, for instance, the inhabitants of Sharlang village complained that they had no time to cultivate their lands because unpaid labor under the jhara system was exacted all the year round for work at the local sulphur mines.³³

These efforts to modernize the munitions industry ran parallel to the production of traditional weapons in the traditional manner. These included, according to Kirkpatrick, bows and arrows, "Kohras, or hatchet swords,"³⁴ and, of course, the Khukuri, "the dagger," or knife worn by every Nepaulian.³⁵ These were the weapons, in addition to matchlocks, with which local "irregular militia" were equipped.³⁶

Bows and arrows were employed by the regular army during the Nepal-British war.³⁷ In 1813, on the eve of the war, local authorities and functionaries in the Chepe/Marsyangdi-Bheri region were ordered to supply bows and poison-tipped arrows to General Amar Singh Thapa in Palpa.³⁸ Often arrows were procured as part of the peasants' obligation under the jagir system.³⁹

Notes

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3. "Royal Order to Krishnanand Lohani," Aswin Badi 5, 1856 (September 1799). RRC, Vol. 23, p. 397.

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4. "Allocation of Ijara Revenues of Morang for Purchase of Guns," Aswin Sudi 5, 1856 (September 1799), RRC, Vo. 23, P. 416.
5. "Administrative Regulations for Bara and Parsa District," Poush Sudi 14, 1869 (January 1813), Sec. 9, RRC, Vol: 41, P. 222.
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9. "Appointment of Employees in Jan'gi Magjin," Marga Badi 2, 1868 (November 1811), RRC, Vol. 40, P. 299. The number was reduced to 203 in 1831. "Land Assignments to Employees of Munitions Factory," Baisakh Badi 6, 1868 (April 1831). RRC, Vol. 44, PP. 270-73. Regulations relating to the duties and privileges of these employees were promulgated on the same date. ibid, pp. 262-69.
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11. "Order Regarding Manufacture of Nuts, Bolts, etc. for" Commanding General Dhir Shumshere's House," Marga Sudi 6, 1921 (December 1864). RRC, Vol. 33, P. 707."
12. "Royal Order to Subba Hemakarna Thapa in Chainpur," Marga Badi 7, 1862 (November 1805). RRC, Vol. 6, P. 658; "Royal Order to Subedar" Baka Khatri and Subedar Rajavarna Manat in Majhkirat," Marga Badi 7, 1862 (November 1805), ibid, vol. 6, p. 658.
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16. Ibid, p. 258.
17. "Appointment of Subedar Dharmaraj Khatri as Chief of Pyuthan Magazine," Chaitra Badi 4, 1867 (March 1811). RRC, Vol. 4, P. 1.

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18. "Appointment of Employees in Pyuthan Magazine," Marga Sudi 11, 1906 (November 1849). RRC, Vol. 49, P. 328; "Cash Salaries and Land Assignments of Employees of Pyuthan Magazine," Chaitra Sudi 15, 1918 (March 1862). Ibid., P. 359.
19. "Order Regarding Supply of Foodstuffs to Mechanics of Those Mines," Kartik Sudi 6, 1923 (October 1866). RRC, Vol. 63, P. 316.
20. "Order Regarding Supply of Rakam Labor for Those Magazine," Jastha Sudi 2, 1854 (May 1897). RRC, Vol. 61, P. 688.
21. "Order Regarding Manufacture of Rifles at Those Magazine," Jastha Sudi 3, 1854 (May 1897). Ibid., P. 732. This document notes that "magnetic machinery" was installed there in A.D. 1893.
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25. "Order Regarding Manufacture of Fuses at Sindhuli-Gadhi," Ashadh Badi 5, 1912 (June 1855). RRC, Vol. 56, P. 437.
26. Cavanagh, op. cit. P. 15.
27. See n. 9 above.
28. See n. 26 above.
29. "Order to Inhabitants of Richok and Other Villages," Marga Sudi 4, 1869 (November 1812), RRC, Vol. 41, P. 167; "Hiring Labor for Gunpowder Factory in Nuwakot," Baisakh Sudi 2, 1874 (April 1817). Ibid., P. 656.
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- 37c Mahesh Raj Pant, "Nepal-Angrej Yuddha, Nalapaniko Ladain" (The battle of Nalapani during the Nepal-British War). Purnima, Year 1, No. 3, Kartik 1, 2021 (October 17, 1964). English translations in Regmi Research Series, Year 10, No. 11, November 1, 1978, P. 170.
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39. "Jagir Grant to Kaviraj Khadka for Supply of Arrows," Ashāh Sudi 2, 1853 (June 1796). RRC, Vol. 23, P. 110; see also pp. 350-57c

The Budget System and the
Ranas

By

Mahesh C. Regmi

The Rana rulers have been criticized for their failure to develop a sound system of fiscal administration. According to one study:¹

No distinction was made between the personal treasury of Rana ruler and the treasury of the government; any government revenue in excess of administrative expenses was pocketed by the Rana ruler as private income. No budgets of the government's expenditures and revenues were ever made public.

Similarly, Subarna Shumshere J.B. Rana, Nepal's first Finance Minister after the political changes of 1951, declared in the course of his budget speech on February 3, 1952:²

During the Rana regime, the people had no hand in the affairs of state and nobody had any information about the revenue and expenditure of the country... No distinction was made between the public exchequer and the personal property of the Rana Prime Minister.

These facts cannot be disputed. Nevertheless, it will be unfair to criticize the Rana rulers for their failure to adopt a modern budget system well in advance of other contemporary states in Asia. Moreover, there is no evidence that any distinction had been made between the public exchequer and the personal wealth of the rulers during the pre-Rana period.

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The conception of the budget as the central instrument of financial direction and control is a comparatively recent development. It was chiefly the outgrowth of the demand that no financial burden be imposed upon the people without their consent expressed through their representative assembly.³

During the nineteenth century, the budget system does not appear to have been adopted in any part of Asia, except Japan and British India, and definitely not in any of the princely states of India.

Notes

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3. S.N. Eisenstadt, The Political System of Empires, New York: Free Press, 1963, P. 40.

Particulars of Birta and Guthi Lands Abolished in A.D. 1805

Area of rice-lands in muris.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Birta</u>	<u>Guthi</u>	<u>Total Area</u>
<u>Kathmandu Valley</u>			
Kathmandu	6,543	695	7,238.
Patan	14,107	4,751	18,858.
Bhadgaun	2,763	4,331	7,094.
Total...	23,413	9,777	33,190.

Areas East of Kathmandu

Singhu, Sipa, Sungachok, Jarayotar, and 9 other villages	7,157	x	7,157.
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Deupur, Duwja, Chauri, Buchakot and 6 other villages	15,231	422	15,653.
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Jhanga-jholi- Tamakosi region	12,833	x	12,833.
Tamakosi-Dudhkosi region	26,875	x	26,875s
Dudhkosis Arun region (Majhkirat)	29,873	73	29,946.
Total...	91,969	495.	92,464s

Areas West of Kathmandu

Bhimdhunga-Trishuli region (Lamidanda)	61,820	245	62,065.
Kanule-Trishuli region (Thansing, Nuwakot, etc.)	26,441	230	26,671.
Trishuli-Gandi region	17,679	20	17,699s
Gandi-Daraundi/ Bhusundi region	19,156	372	19,528.
Daraundi/Bhusundi- Chepe/Marsyangdi region	36,479	120"	36,599.
Total...	161,575	987	162,562.

Western Hill Districts

District	<u>Birta lands</u> <u>of Brahmanas</u>	<u>Guthi lands</u>	<u>Birta lands</u> <u>of Bhat, Jogi,</u> <u>etc.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lanjung	78,473	115	1,180	79,768.
Tanhu	91,106	x	1,390	92,496.
Kaski	62,616	20	1,123	63,759.
Parbat	39,885	65	511	40,461.
Paiyun	12,015	x	362	12,327.
Palla-Nuwakot	21,156	20	1,282	22,458.
Garsun	25,624	10	463	26,097.
Gulkot	7,912	x	350	8,262.

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Sataun	15,489	15	664	16,168.
Bhirkot	29,406	28	1,486	30,920.
Rising	2,378	72	x	2,450.
Chiring	1,266	x	x	1,266.
Isna	1,003	x	95	1,098.
Musikot	2,420	x	x	2,420.
Pallo-Dhading	498	x	x	498.
Total...	391,247	345	8,906	400,498.

Palpa, Gulmi, Argha, and Khanchi

<u>District</u>	<u>Birta</u>	<u>Bandha</u>	<u>Guthi</u>	<u>Total</u>
Palpa	63,744	5,687	200	69,631.
Gulmi	5,714	358	x	6,072".
Argha	4,549	387	x	4,994.
Khanchi	4,167	492	14	4,673.
Total...	78,174	6,924	214	85,370.

Grand total of all categories of abolished Birta and Guthi lands --- 774,084 muris.

Regmi"Research Collection, Vol. 16, pp. 132-34.

Dharan Town

Adapted from: Kaviraj Narapati Sharma, "Dharanko Itihasa" (A history of Dharan). Gorkhapatra, Bhadra 17, 2035 (September 2, 1978).

Dharan is situated at the foothills of the Mahabharat range between the Syauti and Sardu-Khola streams in the east and the west respectively. Until A.D. 1903, the place was covered by forests. In that year, Sahu Mehar Man, Subedar Ganga Prasad, and Subedar Sher Bahadur Kariki started clearing the forests from three sides. In A.D. 1906, the Bada Hakim of Biratnagar, Jit Bahadur Khatri, started a weekly market (hat) in Dharan every Saturday.

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Before Dharan emerged as a market, Vijayapur, which is situated on a hill nearby, was the main market of that area. There was also another market on the banks of the Sardu-Khola stream, where handloom cloth known as Sardule-khandi was woven. Traders from the mountainous region of the north purchased imported goods at the Vijayapur market.

In A.D. 1934, Colonel Shiva Pratap Shumshere Thapa, Bada Hakim, arranged for the allotment of homesites in Dharan. The price of each allotment was one Indian rupee. Gradually, Marwari and other traders from India, as well as Nepalis from Katmandu Valley, Palpa, Pokhara and different parts of the eastern hill region settled in Dharan. The population of Dharan increased considerably as a result of the influx of Nepali returnees from Assam and Burma after the second world war.

One reason for the increased importance of Dharan was the growing volume of salt imports from India. Previously, salt used to be imported from Tibet and sold in Dhankuta Bazaar. But eventually it became easier to import salt from India. Dharan then became the center of the trade in Indian salt.

More Documents on the Battle of Nalapani

By

Mahesh Raj Pant

"Nepal-Angrej Yuddha Nalapanika Ladain Sambandhi Aru 6 Patra." (Six more letters on the battle of Nalapani during the Nepal-British war). Purnima, Year 1, No. 4, Magh 1, 2021 (January 14, 1965). pp. 65-82.

As we went through old letters at Bir Library, we first came across three letters describing the battle of Nalapani. It was on the basis of these letters that I had published an article on that battle in the Purnima. Later, I found six more letters at the Bir Library giving an account of the battle of Nalapani. These letters are published in this article, because they contain some additional information about the battle, and also provide details of some of the points contained in the earlier letters.

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Letter No. 1

To General Bhimsen Thapa and Kaji Ranadhoj Thapa from
Krishnananda Khandudi and Dhanabir Thapa, with due bless-
ings and obeisance.

We are all well here. We shall feel relieved if you
too are well there. The situation here is good.

Rudnakaji (Amara Simha Thapa) has ordered that
necessary arrangements be made for Garhwal, and that
ryots who had fled be reassured and resettled in their
villages. We, therefore, arrived in Srinagar from the
headquarters in the month of Shrawan. We are doing our
best to carry out the order.

As for the situation here, a strong force of the
enemy arrived at Dehradun and fought a battle against
Captain Balabhadra Kanwar at the fort of Nalapani on
Ashwin Sudi 11 (Kartik 10) and Kartik Badi 2 (Kartik 16).
On Ashwin Sudi 11, twenty-two persons were killed, and
several wounded on the enemy's side. They finally retreated
to their previous garrison at Dhumbala and Ambala.

Again, on Kartik Badi 2, the enemy attacked Nalapani
with a large force. In the ensuing battle, which lasted
nearly twenty-two hours, 23 white soldiers and 120 native
ones were killed or wounded at the gates of the fort.
The dead bodies were carried away.

Thanks to the grace of His Majesty, we were victorious"
on both occasions. From the letter of the Bhardars, you
must have received details of the victory won by Captain"
Bhakti Thapa in the battle of Tujhar.

We are maintaining the maximum vigilance here. Due
to preoccupation with arrangements for the supply of
munitions to Nalapani, there has been a delay of five
or seven days in sending the ritual offering made at the
Dashain ceremonies. Please forgive us for this delay. It
will be reaching you soon.

Please continue favoring us with necessary instruct-
ions.

Saturday, Kartik Badi 8, 1871 (Kartik 22, 1871),"
Srinagar.

Letter No. 2

To His Majesty from Brahma Shah.

Your Majesty must have received information from
my earlier petition also.

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I have received a letter sent by Kaji Ranajor Thapa from Nahan, informing me that the British had blocked the route, so that he had been compelled to send a man in the guise of a mendicant through a different route to have the letter delivered. He has also sent a letter to be forwarded to Your Majesty, which is enclosed herewith. Your Majesty will get detailed information through his letter. Also enclosed is a copy of his letter to me.

From Nahan, the mendicant had gone to Nalapani and met Captain Balabhadra Kunwar. Balabhadra Kunwar too has sent a letter to be forwarded to Your Majesty. Your Majesty will get a detailed account of the situation at Nalapani from his letter.

In his letter addressed to me, he has given his own estimate of the casualties suffered by the enemy in the battle that took place on Kartik Badi 2-3 (Kartik 16-17).

Information given by our agents in the British forces indicates that one General, one Colonel, one Major, 150 white soldiers, and 200 native soldiers had been killed in the battle. The number of the wounded is not known. However, the informant has indicated that a total of about 1,000 or 1,200 men have been killed or wounded.

Balabhadra Kunwar has asked me to send arms and ammunition, including poisoned arrows and flints. We had sent arms and ammunition we had here through Kaji Rewant Kunwar. These supplies are inadequate. Kaji Rewant Kunwar has been ordered to proceed from here as fast as possible.

Some of the men on our side also were killed when they came out of the fort and attacked. I have written to Captain Balabhadra Kunwar as well as to Kaji Rewant Kunwar not to fight in this manner.

A subedar was among those who were killed in the battle of Nalapani. Hence it is likely that the number of troops will not be sufficient now.

Kartik Sudi 1, 1871 (Kartik 29, 1871),
Almora.

Letter No. 3

From Balabhadra Kunwar, Ripumardana Thapa, Chandrabira Thapa, Nathu Majhi, Chamu Basnyat, Ganga Singh Thapa, Dalajit Kanwar, and Dayaram Khadka to General Bhimsen Thapa and Kaji Ranajor Thapa.

We are all well here. We will feel reassured if you too are well. The situation here is good.

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They fought two battles with the British, in which one General and eight British officers on their side were killed. A column of their troops, including sappers, appeared to the north of the fort on Kartik Eadi 30 (Kartik 28), and in the vicinity of the water spring located to the south of the fort on Kartik Sudi 2 (Marga 1) on the pretext of building a road. They attacked us from the forest. In the fighting that ensued, 8 or 10 men were killed, and 10 or 12 wounded and taken to the camp. I have given details of this in my earlier letter.

The younger sister of the fallen General arrived at the place of fighting. She is grieved over the death of her brother as well as of her husband. Accompanied by four or five British officers she looks around the fort on horseback with a telescope from a distance that is out of the range of cannon-fire.

We are told that when cannon of the size of 24x18" arrives, they will bombard us for seven days from a distance, and that, on the eighth day they will attack us. They are getting reinforcements every day.

We have received a letter from the Kaji at Nahan informing us of the despatch of Kaji Jaspau Thapa, and inquiring whether he has reached this place.

A letter from Chautariya Ram Shah, informing us that he had despatched Kaji Rewant Kunwar on Wednesday Kartik Eadi 12 (Kartik 26), and one from Kaji Rewant Kunwar, stating that he would arrive in ten or fifteen days, have reached us.

After the two Kajis arrive here, we shall consult them, maintain vigilance at the fort, and, by the grace of the Goddess, and His Majesty, kill our enemy and repulse them.

In his letter from Nahan, the Kaji has stated: "Kaji Jaspau Thapa has been sent there. You should fight without venturing out of the fort, and protect it. The enemy has sent out a company of troops to Kalsi. We have consulted an astrologer for an auspicious date when the company should start attacking that company."

A company of 700 troops armed with rifles, the Kaji attacked the company positioned at Kalsi. About 700 or 800 troops of the enemy were killed, according to information received from the ranks of the enemy.

The Shyansotha Company was sent overnight to rescue the enemy. We have not received written information about this. A messenger has, therefore, been sent to verify the truth. "Once we get correct information, we shall write to you accordingly."

Kindly send us necessary instructions. What more can we write?

Thursd'y, Kartik Sudi 6, 1871 (Marga 4, 1871),

Letter No. 4

A report on the situation in the "western front, sent by Dhanabir Thapa to His Majesty.

On Marga 13, Kaji Ranadipa Simha Basnyat arrived at a hill near Rajapur village located at a distance of three kosh to the north of Gurudwara, and of 1½ kosh from Nalapani.

In the meantime, the British left Dhamabala and took all their forces to a place near the fort of Nalapani and laid siege to it. As a result, "Kaji Ranodipa Simha Basnyat could not enter the fort. He is still staying at the hill near Rajapur."

"The battle of Nalapani" is still going on. Cannon and "gun-fire is still being exchanged."

"I shall send you" whatever accurate "information that I shall to receive morning and evening."

"The Budha Kaji has sent a written message from his camp asking that the Kamins and Sayanas of Garhwal be rounded up for Jhara (forced labor) services and brought" before him. Accordingly, I am planning to do so.

"The Khandudu Brahmans and their relatives and" followers are all loyal to Your Majesty, and are acting" dutifully and promptly according to the "instructions of the Bhardars."

"Shivaram, Chitraman and others of" the Sakanlyani clan" have gone to Dehradun with their families and cattle to join the enemy. Kashiram Sakanlyani, son" of Sisaram, has also" fled from Nahan and defected to the British. Shivaram Dobhal, chief of the Dobhal clan, has also followed suit.

"We are maintaining" vigilance at all strategic points"

"Your Majesty may have received other information" from the petition sent from here by Kaji Bakhtwara Simha Basnyat.

"The royal order regarding duties to be carried out here by us is in the possession" of Jagadeo Thapa. It had been issued in response to our earlier petition."

"I shall abide by whatever commands Your Majesty may graciously send me through the Budha Kaji."

"Pleading for Your Majesty's gracious forgiveness for any error I may have committed."

Your Majesty's loyal servant,
t Dhanabir Thapa.

Friday, Marga Badi 5, 1871 (Marga 19, 1871),
Srinagar.

(To be continued)

Contd.

Revenue Collection in Jumla

The following regulations were promulgated on Falgun Badi 10, 1915 for revenue-collection in Jumla.

(Abstract translation)

1. Prices for procurement of supplies by the army, which had been fixed at seven pathis of rice, twelve pathis of wheat, and 2½ pathis of salt per rupee, in 1896 Samvat, have been reconfirmed.
2. Government officials shall obtain milk cows and buffaloes from the local people with their consent on payment of two rupees for a cow, and four rupees for a buffalo, and return them to the owners after they became dry. In case the animals die, compensation shall be paid at (specified) rates.
3. In 1869, Asmani levy had been imposed on each household in Jumla. However, Jimmawals and Mukhiyas did not apportion the income from judicial fines among the local people. In 1909 Samvat, Jimmawals were abolished, and judicial functions were centralized in the Adalat. From 1916 Samvat the judicial income as collected in the year 1908 Samvat shall be deducted from the revenue stipulated from each village every year.
4. Each Mukhiya shall collect the revenue and hand over the proceeds to the appropriate military office. The office shall not send officials to the villages to make collections.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 29, P. 272.

Several problems arose in enforcing these regulations. Mukhiyas did not refund judicial income to the local people as prescribed therein. Moreover, there were nearly 900 village Mukhiyas in the whole of Jumla. It was not possible to supervise their work properly. Because revenue was not collected fully, and also because it was not considered practicable to depute collectors from the military, a new tier of Mukhiya was created in each dara above the village Mukhiya on Jestha Badi 3, 1923. The admission of 2½ percent of the revenue collection was then shared equally between them. The dara-level Mukhiya was held personally liable for full revenue collection.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 57, P. 517.
