CHAPTER II

Status of Military knowhow in Mysore
Tipu Sultan by a Mysore artist, 1798–99
Courtesy, Victoria and Albert Museum, London
To illustrate the THIRD ANGLO-MYSORE WAR and TIPU'S KINGDOM in 1789.

TIPU'S KINGDOM...
To illustrate TIPU'S KINGDOM after 1792 and the FOURTH ANGLO-MYSORE WAR 1799.
Tipu sultan, Fateh Ali Khan, was born on Friday, November 20, 1750 to the second wife of Haider Ali, Fatima, popularly known as Fakhr-un-Nissan at Devanhalli, just north of Bangalore.¹ The sun was in the sign of scorpion when he was born and named Tipu Sultan after the name of the Sufi saint Tipu Mastan Aulia of Arcot. Newly born baby with the splendour of his person became Haider’s favourite. He took care of his life not to endanger.

De la Tour wrote that Haider, “who passionately loves his son and is acquainted with his zeal and courage, was fearful respecting him on account of his very early age, for this reason, he usually entrusted him the guard of the camp, when he supposed the day would prove too fatiguing or dangerous.”²

Tipu was also taught riding, shooting, and fencing. He attended his father in military reviews in order to acquire knowledge in discipline and the art of war, specially as practised by the Europeans. His military perceptor was Ghazi Khan, who was the best partisan officer in Haider’s service.³ Tipu was a born soldier and excellent rider. His progress in tactics was a matter of astonishment and terror to all those who ventured to encounter him in the battle-field. The terror of his arms spread every where and he marched almost unhindered from battle to battle and victory to victory. It is said that he matured in the battle-field and when he died the sword was in his hand.
The territory which Tipu had inherited from his father Haider Ali, stretched from the Krishna river and Dharwar in the north to beyond Dindigul in the South. It was bordered on the west by the Arabian sea and to the east by the ghats which rose up from the Carnatic plain. These and the western ghats, which in the south join to form the Nilgiri hills, provided a natural barrier to would-be invaders of the Mysore plateau, which is situated over 2000 feet above sea level. Dotted about the plateau are high peaks of rock named droogs by the Europeans, which sometime reach heights of 5000 feet and which frequently proved impregnable to attackers. The capital Seringapatam on the river Kaveri and the town of Bangalore further north were the kingdom's main urban centres.

A fertile region of great beauty, for some British soldiers in 1791, Mysore seemed almost like paradise. Tipu had also inherited a heathy treasury, which contained both a large amount of money and substantial collection of jewels and valuables. In addition, the powerful Mysorean army intimidated its neighbours, particularly the Marathas and the Nizam of Hyderabad, both of whom regarded the ambitions of its ruler with a mixture of fear and hostility.

Haider had been suffering from carbuncle since Nov. 1782, but at first it was considered by the physicians to be an ordinary boil, soon, however, the true nature of the disease was
found out, and the Hindu. Muslim and French physicians tried their best to cure him, but in vain. His health continued to deteriorate and he died on the morning of 7th Dec, 1782, at Narasingaayanpet near chittoor at the age of 60.7

On 28th Dec, at 9 o'clock in the night, Tipu crowned on the throne of his father with all pomp and ceremony and assumed the title of Nawab Tipu Sultan Bahadur, his army saluted him with 121 guns and the French with 21. He succeeded to a large kingdom and was left by his father, an army of about 88,000 men, excluding garrisons and provincial troops, which was at that time definitely the best fighting force in India. According to Punganuri, Ram Chandra, R. Haider’s army at this time consisted of 12,000 regular cavalry, 2000 irregular horse, 30,000 foot, 12,000 carnatic militia, 5000 infantry and some artillery.8 Tipu sultan taking over the charge of Mysore state reorganised its military system on a line distinctly different from those of the other Indian states owing to his zeal for innovation and improvement. During his survey, Francis Buchanan spoke to an amaldar who claimed that he had been employed by Tipu in a diplomatic capacity at Poona. The amaldar informed him that; Tipu’s government, when compared with that of the Marathas, was excellent and, not withstanding all the evils the people suffered from the extortion of the asophs, and the attacks of invading armies, they enjoyed a comparatively great security under
Tipu. The govt. never subsisted by open plunder; whereas among the Marathas chiefs there are very few who do not support their troops by avowed robbery.

Organisation of Mysorean Army-

During the early period of Tipu's rule the Mysore army was divided into cushoons, risalas and juqs. Each cushoon was commanded by a sipahdar, and had a Bakhshi and Mutasaddis attached to it. At the head of each risala was a risaldar, and at the head of each juq was juqdar. Next in rank were the sarkheils, the jamadars, the dafadar and yazakdar.

The duty of the sipahdar was to look after the conduct of the officers and men belonging to his cushoon. He was empowered to promote the juqdars and other junior officers to higher ranks as well as to punish them. In the latter case, they were to be tried by a court martial. But if a risaldar deserved punishment or reward, his case was to be reported to the Sultan. The sipahdar, with the bakhshi and the mutasaddis were required to take the muster roll of the troops once every month, and inspect their firelocks and accoutrements. He was then to submit a report conjointly with the Bakhshi. He was to see that his cushoon was well supplied with arms and ammunition, that guns were kept clean, and that parade was regularly held. If he was faced with some difficulty, he was to consult the risaldars, and
take their opinions in writing. If their views differed from his own, the decision was to be taken by mutual agreement. The duty of the Bakhshi was to prepare a statement of salary of the troops of his cushoon at the end of every month and after obtaining the money from Sringapattam, to distribute, it of the first of every month in the presence of the sipahdar. The duty of Risaldar was to hold the parade of the troops of his risala everyday of the week, except on thursday which was to be a holiday.

Another important officer in the army was the Saryasaqchi. His duty was to visit his risala everyday in order to find out the condition of the army, and submit a report first to the sipahdar then, to the Jaish cutchelrī of the huzur, and finally to the Sultan. The duty of the yasaqchi was to keep the risaldar and the sipahdar in touch with the troops. He was to wander about the risala and find out the condition of the soldiers and their equipment, and then to report to the risaldar and the sipahdar. He was also to carry the orders of the commandors to their subordinates in the time of war. Further, he was to be present at the time of the parade of the troops and to see that it was done properly. If he merited advancement, he was promoted to the position of a Juqdar, but if he deserved punishment he was degraded to the rank of a sarkheil.

Tipu reorganised his army administration in 1793.
He inherited a fairly efficient system of govt. from his father, but owing to his zeal for innovation and improvement, he introduced considerable changes in army administration, as a result. The Bakhshi, who had formerly occupied the position of merely a paymaster, now became the most important officer in the army. The askar (regular horse) was divided into Cutchehris (Brigades). There were four such Cutchehris. Each cutchehris was divided into five mokums (regiments). The number in each cutchehris or mokum was not fixed. The commander of a cutchehris was called Bakhshi, that of a mokum was known as mokumdar. The mokum was divided into four risalas (squadron), each having a risaldar as commander. The risala was further divided into yaz (Troops), each having a jazakdar (captain) as its head, and under him were sarkheils (subalterns), havaldars and sepoys.15

The Silhadar (Irregular horse) was not formed into corps, and each officer commanding a party made such arrangements as he thought proper. Although the irregular horse was very useful, it was without any discipline. The horses of the regular cavalry were the property of the govt. at whose expense the soldiers were clothed and armed. But the horses of the irregular cavalry belonged to the commander or the horsemen and the govt. paid a regular monthly salary to their owners. If the horse was killed on service the govt. paid its price. Half of the plunder obtained by the regular cavalry was regarded as the
property of the govt. The rest was distributed among the soldiers.16

The Jaish (infantry) was divided into four cutcheris (brigades). Each cutchehri consisted of six cushoons (regiments). Each cushoon was commanded by a Bakhshi who was provided with accountants and a number of assistants. At the head of a cushoon was a sipahdar (commandant). Each risala was commanded by a rishaldar. At the head of a Juq was a juqdar (captain), who had under him sarkheils (Subalterns) jamadars and privates.17 Each cushoon had an establishment of rocketmen under a juqdar, and an establishment of gunners under a subedar, including lascars for drawing the guns. The number of guns attached to each cushoon depended upon the strength of the corps and the nature of the service, and accordingly varied from one to five guns. Each cushoon had a red, triangular standard with a green border and pendants to distinguish the corps.

The general administration of the army was carried on by the Mir Miran deptt. After the treaty of Seringapattam (1762) a separate deptt. was formed to look after the troops recruited from among the inhabitants of the Mysore kingdom. The Mir Sudur deptt was responsible for inspecting defences of the forts and for supplying them with provisions, war materials and troops. But so far as matters relating to military policy were concerned, these were decided by the Sultan who was his own
Recruitment of Troops-

Tipu Sultan retained the entire patronage of the army in his own hands, and being constantly with it both in peace and war, his presence created a spirit of emulation which did not exist in the armies of other Indian rulers. His army was not modeled on a feudal basis and this was great source of its strength. Mysorean army was standing one, part of which Tipu kept with him at all times, practise thought to have led to a 'spirit of emulation' not found in the Maratha or Hyderabad armies as stated above. Lewin Bowring noted that there was 'an almost entire absence of native aristocracy in the province [Mysore]', which he believed was a direct result of Haider and Tipu centralising rule.

Tipu obtained recruits for his army not only from Mysore but also from the neighbouring states. The families of the soldiers had to reside either at Seringapattam or Bangalore or at Bednure. Tipu Sultan created a new department in 1793. It was named Mir Miran Cutchehri (Zumra). The soldier recruited in Mysore were called Zumra, and were given green turbans with a raddish Border: while those recruited from outside the kingdom were called Ghairzumra, and their turbans were wholly green. Mohammad Raza was incharge of Mir Miran cutchesri and
received an annual salary of 1050 pagodas. Besides his pay, he was given a small Jagir. There were ten officers under him. Eight of them were paid 700 Pagodas and the rest 500 pagodas each annually. Each officer had also a jagir. Tipu exempted Brahmans, Darweshes, and merchants from military service. Among the Hindus only the Rajpoots and the Marathas were enlisted, while among the Muslims the recruitments of shaikh, Sayyids, Mughals and Pathans were encouraged. This is confirmed from the following observations of Kirmani, who in his biography always delineates his hero (Tipu Sultan) with sympathy: “The chief part of the sultan’s time was spent in collecting and enlisting men for his horse and foot. But notwithstanding this, the Amirs and Khans of old times whom Haider had allured into his service from all cities and countries at the expense of hundreds of thousands of pagodas were now all at once cast down from rank and power and from the honour of the Sultan’s confidence and low-bred vulgar youngmen were appointed who were willing to take up muskets and a pair of pistols were entered in the cavalry and those persons who were willing to take up muskets and a pair of pistols were entered in the cavalry and those who opposed this recruitment and innovation were deprived of their rank and dismissed. As the confidence of the Sultan was chiefly placed in artillery and muskets as the most efficient arms, the brave men who excelled at the handling of the sword and spear lost heart and some cavalry officers were appointed and compelled to enlist
men for the jysh and uskur, horse and foot by the order of Sultan who were ignorant of the rules and qualifications necessary for these division of the service.\(^{25}\)

Tipu's commanders and senior officials appear on the whole to have been intensely loyal. Thomas Munro pointed out that even when Tipu was holed up in his capital his authority in distant provinces remained loyal and firm. This is perhaps an example of the effectiveness of Tipu's policy of keeping the families of his officials and soldiers virtually hostage at the capital, Seringapatam.\(^{28}\)

Training of Soldiers-

The secret of Tipu's success against his countrymen and enemies appears to have consisted chiefly in his clear perception and ready adoption of the advantages of European discipline and technology. He in all his battles mostly relied on Artillery and regular infantry under the French and Portugees' experts. The French, no doubt, imparted smartness in parade (Drilling) to his officers, Artillery and men of the regular army.

Commands for the exercise of the Infantry-

The date of the adoption of these exercises is contained in
the following lines:

When I sought the year of victory and glory I discovered it to be contained in the words ya fattah shud.

After making the yazakdars fall in two rows in the position of 'Shoulder Arms' the following commands should be given:

1. Look to the Right.

2. Carry Arms

3. First Ranks Move Forward Five Paces.

**Guards Draw Swords:** The jaqddars having drawn their swords must bring them down after the manner of the salute and remain in that position. Steady. (i.e. having laid hold of their swords in their left hands they should take up their respective posts among men.) Present Arms. (i.e. The men having presented arms by placing the right hand above the pouch and the left hand on the butt of the fire-lock and bringing the firelock straight up and then to the front, the jaqddars, sarkhayls and standard-bearers should salute with their swords, pikes and colours. This is the manner of saluting the ruler whether present or absent. This must be performed in the beginning of the parade, other exercises to follow afterwards). 27

**Shoulder Arms.** (When this command is given the
men must shoulder their arms and the juqdars, sarkhayls and standard-bearers should place their swords to their left and their pikes on the ground and remain in that position.)

1. Order Arms.
2. Down Ramrods.
3. Enter Ramrods.
4. Return Ramrods.
5. Take up Arms.
6. Shoulder Arms.
7. Present Arms.
8. Open Pans.
11. Shut up Pans.
12. Load Cartridges.
15. Make Ready.
16. Present Arms.
17. Fire.
18. Draw Back Livers
19. Shut up Pans.
20. Present Arms.
22. Ground Arms.
23. Take up Arms.
24. Shoulder Arms.
25. Secure Arms.
26. Shoulder Arms.
27. Draw Bayonets.
28. Fix Bayonets.
29. Shoulder Arms.

Present Arms. It is required that after placing the right hand above the pouch and left hand on the butt of the firelock it should be brought close to the face and then to the front, and then they should remain in that position.

Right Turn. Having brought the firelock straight up, they ought to bring it down in their front and remain in that position. The same is to be observed by juqdars etc.²⁸

1. Right Turn.
2. Right About Turn.
3. Left Turn.
4. Left About Turn.
5. Shoulder Arms.
6. Charge Bayonets.
7. Bring Arms to the Knee.
8. Slope Arms.
10. Unfix your Hands.
12. Load.
13. Shoulder Arms.
14. Both Ranks: For Bayonet Charge Make Ready.
15. Advance.
17. (First Rank Make Ready).
18. Extend Right Foot.
19. Present Arms.
20. Fire.
21. Right About Turn.
22. March. (i.e. having marched to the former position you must halt).
23. Left About Turn.
24. Front Rank: Charge Bayonets. Rear Rank: Right About Turn,
25. Left About Turn (First Rank: Make Ready).
27. Take out Cloth.
29. Shut Pans.
31. Return Cloth.
32. Shoulder Arms.
33. Take up Bayonets.
34. Return Bayonets.
35. Shoulder Arms.
36. Rear Rank Close.
37. Slope Arms.

Juqdar: Return Sword (i.e. having brought the sword to the front after the manner of the salute he is to return it.)
1. Carry Arms.
2. Right About Turn.
3. Order Arms.
4. Disperse (When this word is given all must disperse).

Commands for the long slinging of firelocks by the infantry, during rains.

Present Arms.

Long Sling Arms. (When this command is given it is necessary that the firelock must be taken to the shoulder and sling must get its support for the neck and the left hand should pass through the sling and then one should wait (for further orders).

Secure Arms. (When this word is given it is necessary that after putting the left hand in the sling the firelock is placed on the back. Then for taking out the firelock the following word is to be said:)
1. Take out Arms.
2. Present Arms.
3. Shoulder Arms.
Commands for Piling Arms.

1. Open to the Right and Left.
2. Every two Divisions wheel to the Right and Left and move to the front.
3. Order Arms.
4. Pile Arms.
5. Take Up Arms.
6. Wheel to the Right and Left and Move to the Rear.
7. Close to the Right and Left.

Chalipah Exercise.

(That is to say, having formed both ranks separating at Open Order, they are made to perform this exercise until the men come to correct position).

1. Carry Arms.
2. First Rank: Move to the front-Five Paces.

Juqdar: Draw Sword (With his sword drawn, he ought to bring it down after the manner of Salute and remain in that position.)

Steady, (i.e. having laid hold of his sword in his left hand, he should take his place in the ranks.)

1. Load.
2. Shoulder Arms.
3. Front Rank: One Foot to the Rear.
4. Present.
5. Fire.
6. Shoulder Arms.
7. Load.
8. Oblique to the Right, One Foot to the Rear.
10. Fire.
11. Shoulder Arms.
12. Load.
13. Oblique to the left, One Foot to the Rear.
15. Fire.
16. Shoulder Arms.
17. Load.
18. Oblique to the Right and Left, One Foot to the Rear.
19. Present.
20. Fire.
21. Shoulder Arms.
22. Load.
23. Rear Rank, To the Right-Extend the Foot.
24. Present.
25. Fire.
26. Shoulder Arms.
27. Load.
28. Oblique to the Right-Extend the Foot.
29. Present.
30. Fire.
31. Shoulder Arms.
32. Load.
33. Oblique to the Left-Extend the Foot.
34. Present.
35. Fire.
36. Shoulder Arms.
37. Load.
38. Oblique to the right left-Extend the Foot.
40. Fire.
41. Shoulder Arms.
42. Load.
43. Rear Rank: Close Ranks.
44. Present in the Air.31

Payment of Troops-

Nawab Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan paid their soldiers a monthly salary at a fixed time. Sultan very minutely attended and cared theirs soldiers about this matters. It was their prime intension not to delay in payment. We find a number of references for the regular payment.32

In his payments to the army, Haider departed from the existing practice. Previously the disbursement of salary had taken place according to the Hindu calander based on the
movement of the moon. The difference between the solar year and the lunar year (Months) was adjusted at proper intervals by an inter-calary month which was considered inauspicious. No payment was made during this time causing great hardship to the soldiers. Haider removed the disadvantages of this system of payment by issuing two half-patis in each month of account instead of one as before. Every person in the military service from a guard to a drummer had a pati or warrant in which was stated the name of the person along with those of his father and grand-father. A description of his person and of his horse (if he was a horseman), the day of his joining the service, his rank and pay and the period at which he received the sum, were also enumerated. The statements received by the officers contained only their name, position, and pay. The paties were issued in three different languages, persian, Marathi and kanarese, each being kept mostly regular by a different chancellory.33

The great convenience of this arrangement was that it reconciles the soldiers to the artificial postponements for which Hindu and Mohammedan festivals furnished such numerous apologies. A postponement of one or two days in each half month was scarcely noticed at first, though the delay caused, would perhaps reduced the year of account of nine or ten months in the aggregate. The troops accepted these irregurlarties of payment as natural and there was no calculation of arrears, for it was a
fixed rule that whenever a pati or a half pati was issued, it was payment in full of past demands.34

A special provision was made in the case of the sillahdar horse. They received their paties in terms of rupees of account calculated at two third of the actual value once in thirty five, and afterwards in forty or even forty-five days. These paties were called bees rose or patis of twenty days. Two thirds of month were calculated and payed for in such estimates, the remaining third being an arrear that was settled at the end of the year or sometimes of two years out of the booty brought of payment to the Sillahdar in this way, the value of the plundered property was shown. It was therefore, to the interest of the Sillahdar to conceal the amount of the Sillahdar to conceal the force. This was more difficult under Haider than under Tipu Sultan.35 For the payment of salaries, Tipu’s month varied between 36, 45, 50, and even 60 days.38

Information about the regularity in salaries, we find in the letters of Lord Wellesley which he wrote after the fall of Seringapattam to General Haris, that “you paid your attension to give the salaries of Amirs and Qiladars and whatsoever possible paid them the salary of April and May.37

By the begining of 1798, the total number of Sillahdars amounted to 11,000 or 12,000. To meet their payments,
Tipu Sultan had recourse during this time to the granting of Jagirs, or estates in proportion to the number of horses and men that the commanders were required to supply.\(^3\) They had the option of being paid either in land or in cash or whatever part they desired of each.\(^3\)

The Sillahdar, comprising of an equal number of cutcherries (four cutcherries) made up a force of 7,500 in 1793. Their pay varied from 22 to 50 Pandicherry rupees for each man and horse for a month of 40 days. The exact amount being determined on the basis of individual merit and appearance at the time of enrolment. The lower rates of salary being much more, a Sillahdar could be said to receive rupees 28 on an average.\(^4\)

Tipu appears to have continued to give Jagirs to four of his sons and six of his senior commanders and officials however, only his sons Fath Haider and Abdul Khaliq were required to maintain 100 horse each.\(^4\) This information is based on figures for the year 1797-98 and how reliable it is for previous years is debatable, since it has been suggested that Tipu had reintroduced the giving of Jagirs in lieu of pay at about the beginning of 1798.\(^4\) Bakshi Bheem Rao, who had been second and first Bakshi of the Sillahdar horse, however, stated that the pay of Government servants, including cavalry and infantry, had remained the same from Haider’s time right up to that of purnaiya and the
reinstated kartar.

Establishment, Training and Breeding of Animals

For an agricultural country, so much the cattle, hard working and adroit, must be needed, there is no exaggeration to say that farming is done by the bullocks in Mysore state. Whatever cattle were available before the establishment of Sultanat-i-Khudadad, they were very short and weak accordingly the cows were also too short and weak and did not give sufficient milk.43

In this sphere first attempt was done by Chikka Devraja wodeyar (1673-1704) who established KEREN BEREK department (cattle department) to form a breeding stud and to provide the palace with ghee and milk. It was called Bannea Chaouree or the butter department.44 Beside this from the military point of view the oxen which were available in Mysore unable for transport and there was no better horses. Although elephants were available in Mysore forest. The ruler of Mysore, Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan established a department named as ‘Amrat Mahal, which looked after the Government establishment and upbringing (Nurture) of the oxen, cows, sheep, Buffeloes, horses and elephants.45 These were the finest cattle in the Mysore district, and indeed in south India. The Amrat Mahal or the Sultan's breed which supposed to have been obtained by Haider from a
conquered poligar. The breed was maintained by Tipu with greatest care. Like his father he also tried to improve the Mysore breed of horses. The irregular horse sprang generally from Arab sires and Maratha dames. Rice L. writes that Amrat Mahal, from which it is evident that it was purely for the supply of pure milk but it was especially for military purposes. The aim of Sultan was to use them for military transportation and to draw his artillery from one place to another place and only hard working cattles could only be performed this duty. A especial kind of child oxen were brought from Trichonopoly for breeding. As a result a special kind of oxen were born which were called in Mysore as Halikar. They were famous for their hard work and continuous labour in the battle field.

Haider had the best draught bullocks able to draw off his artillery before the British could be moved. His field piece could be moved across the country by these bullocks even where, there were no road. Haider strengthened his establishment which numbered more than 60 thousand Bullocks classified as grain, plough, draught, Bullocks, special kind of meadows (Pasture) were maintained with the greatest care.

Sir Mark Gibbon writes that it was this establishment which enabled to Haider Ali to march 100 miles in two and a half day to the relief of chidambaram and after every defeat to draw off his guns in the face of enemies. It was this
establishment which enabled Tipu Sultan to cross the Peninsula in one month for the recovery of Bednure, again he argues that it was the cattle because of which Sultan enabled to march 63 miles in two days and defeated General Medows. It is important to note that Duke of Wellington, when he was busy in European wars, wished to have the cattle of Amrat Mahal to drag the cannons from one place to another and for easy supply. Again this establishment helped the English in defeating the Marathas after the downfall of Sultanat.

Oxen are of the greatest utility in India, both for draught and carriage. This species, which is but little varied in Europe, is very much so in India, much more than any other species of animals. There are some extremely tall, some middle sized, and some small. They work at the plough, draw all sorts of carriages and go very fast. Some have their horns straight, others curved and others have none at all, the greater number have a hunch on their back, and generally it is an animal of the greatest utility, which is still more enhanced by the consideration, that, after doing much service its flesh is eatable, and its skin turned for leather. These oxen were employed to drag the cannons in the battle fields of a very high order. The Governor of Pondicherry stated that 40,000 Bullocks were employed in the battle field to drag the Cannon.

Colonel Wilks writes that in whole India the horses
used, are bad tattus whose height is not more than twelve hand. Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan tried their best to breed a good generation of horses and for this purpose, they arranged to bring best animals from Arab and different countries, for further development of horses. They established form and meadows under Amrat Mahal Department at different places. Their arrangements were of very high order. The generation which bred here, those were so much hard working and laborious that these were the horses which were used in Sultanat-i-Khudadad army. Wilks further argues that under this department, the stud which born they were naughty and healthy that today in the entire Indian sub continent where ever naughty horse is found. It is called Kolari.53

Rice. L. writes for the breeding of elephants, meadows were made at different places. It is also important to note that in Amrat Mahal department, the breeding of bullocks was on a limited scale. At Kangal from the Governments order breeding of horses was also done and the horses were famous throughout India.54

Despite the many changes made by Tipu in the composition of his army after 1792, his strength was never the same as before.55 For one thing, with reduced resources the court could not afford to be equally liberal to horse dealers. Naturally, their supply fell off disease and want of good forage, while stationed at Seringapatam, further reduced the number of these
animals finally, only small portion of the mares received proper attention at the time of breeding. When a mare was reported to have foaled, the rider was sent along with her to Seringapatam from the foraging station and became a dismounted horse-man for a considerable time. Besides this inconvenience, owners tried to prevent their mare, from breeding as they thought it to be prejudicial to the strength and speed of the animals. As the regular cavalry man received their mount from the state they did not have to face the problem of replacing one horse, when it died, by another. The state could not, avoid however the problem of a scarcity of war-horses. As a solution perhaps, Tipu organised the sillaحدار horse towards the end of his administration into ranks similar to those of the regular cavalry, the only difference being that in their case there was particular limit to the number of privates in a tip, the strength of which depended on the activity of the officer in charge. By the beginning of 1798 the total number of sillaحدار amounted to eleven or twelve thousand. To meet their payments, the sultan had resource during this time to the granting of Jagirs, or estates in proportion to the number of horses and men that the commanders were required to supply. They had the option of being paid either in land or in cash or whatever part they desired of each. They were generally permitted to canton in any part of the country they liked. But were required to appear frequently at Seringapatam for reviews or musters.56
Like Haider, Tipu had an eye for details. He enforced the rule that every horse in the regular cavalry was to be attended by one man whose duty was to provide grass to the animal. The rider had the responsibility of clearing the mount, failing which he had to pay the grass cutter for performing the job. By an order of August 1796, an establishment of public servants was attached to each cutchehri. They were to supply grams, saddles, head-ropes etc. are required by the Bakhshi. Horse-shoes were furnished by contract at the rate of two canterai fanams for each horse per month. To inure the men and horses to long marches every corps had two field days in a month, at each of which they marched some 20 to 30 miles without dismounting.
References


5. Ibid., p. 29.


7. Ibid., p. 21. An entry dated 15 Dec. 1782 in memoirs of the late war in Asia, (p. 109), Says: 'He died of an ulcer in his back which had afflicted him for seven years;.


11. Ibid., f.f. 60b-61b.

12. Ibid., f. 82b.

13. Ibid., f. 63a-b.


16. Ibid., p. 94.


19. Ibid., p. 353.

29. Ibid., pp. 224-25.
31. Ibid., pp. 226-27.
34. Ibid., p. 70.
39. Ibid., p. 79.
40. Ibid., p. 76.
41. Beatson, A. A View of the origin and conduct of the war with Tippoo Sultan, London, 1800, Appendix, 3.
46. Ibid., p. 166.
47. Ibid., p. 199.
50. Ibid., p. 459.
53. Ibid., p. 461.
55. Ibid., p. 79.
57. Military Sundry Books, Vol.-102, A. 1796-97, Substance of the report of Imam Beg, assistant to one of the corps of regular cavalry in the service of Tippoo Sultan.