THE FAMILY OF DILAWAR KHAN KAKAR

The family of Dilawar Khan Kakar\(^1\) was another important Afghan family which served under Akbar, Jahangir, Shahjahan and Aurangzeb with distinction. Dilawar Khan whose real name was Ibrahim Khan\(^2\) started his career in the personal service of a Mughal noble called Mohammad Yusuf Khan Rizavi.\(^3\) But we have no information about his father or any other family member. From a reference in Akbarnama it appears that Dilawar Khan was in the service of Daud the, Afghan ruler of Bengal and after the Mughal conquest, along with several other Afghans entered the service of Mohammad Yusuf Khan Rizavi. However, we have not been able to know his position under Afghans. It seems that he was not admitted in the imperial service and continued to serve under Mohammad Yusuf Khan Rizavi. In 1592 he accompanied Mohammad Yusuf Khan Rizavi during the course of an engagement at Hirapur. Abul Fazl includes him among the servants of Mohammad Yusuf Khan Rizavi.\(^4\)

\(^2\) Zakhirat-ul Khawanin, vol.11, 329; Ma'asir-ul umara vol.11, 9.
\(^3\) For Yusuf Khan Rizavi see Zakhirat-ul Khawani, vol. I, 171-72.
Some time after 1592, probably not satisfied with his position, Mohammad Yusuf Khan Rizavi joined Prince Salim, who had rebelled against his father and established himself at Allahabad, with the hope of better future prospects. Jahangir in his memoirs clearly mentions that he (Dilawar Khan) was one of those who served him during his princehood. But Dilawar Khan was not among those fortunate one’s who got high mansab and important office immediately after Jahangir’s accession. The first reference of Dilawar Khan after Jahangir’s accession is in connection with a violent incident involving Abhay Ram, Bijay Ram and Shyam Ram sons of Akhiraj, the grandsons of Bhagwan Das who have not only behaved immoderately but were planning to flee the court and join Rana of Mewar. As no Rajput nobles stood for their surity Amir-ul umara handed them over to Dilawar Khan Kakar and another Afghan Hatim son of Babu Managali. When Dilawar Khan tried to disarm them, they challenged him and a scuffle ensued right inside the hall of public audience in the presence of Amir-ul umara and Shaikh Farid. Dilawar Khan personally fought the rebels, saved Shaikh Farid and killed Abhay Ram, the two other brothers were also killed by imperial officials. Niamatullah writes that in reward for this service he was assigned the rank of 3000, the title of Dilawar Khan and Jagir of

5. Tuzuk-i Jahangiri, 311.
Jaunpur. However there is no reference of award of mansab, jagir or title in the Tuzuk immediately after this incident. But during the celebration of Nauroz festival (11 March 1606) along with several other nobles, Dilawar Khan was also promoted to the rank of 1500.

Soon afterwards, he was appointed faujdar of Lahore in the suba Punjab and ordered to proceed immediately. While he was marching towards Punjab and reached Panipath Prince Khusrau who had rebelled and fled from the court also reached in the vicinity of the town. Having come to know of this new development Dilawar Khan sent his family across the Jamuna and immediately marched towards Lahore so as to reach there before Khusrau. About the same time Abdur Rahim also reached Panipath, Dilawar Khan requested him to offer resistance to Khusrau till the arrival of the imperial army. But Abdur Rahim preferred to join Khusrau. Dilawar Khan remained firm in his loyalty to the throne and rapidly marched towards Lahore informing every one including the servants of the court (Mulazman-i Dargah) Karoriyan and merchants whom he came across, about Khusrau’s rebellion. He

7. Tarikh-i Khan-i Jahani, 671.
10. Tuzuk-i Jahangiri, 26
11. Ibid, 27.
12. Ibid.
took some of them with him and those who could not accompany him were advised to stand aside of the way. Although, because of his precaution servants of court were relieved of the plundering and oppression of Khusrau, but because of the sudden arrival of Khusrau at Panipath he lost confidence and could not check him. Jahangir in his memoirs adversely comments about the efforts made by Dilawar Khan at this moment:

"most probably if Saiyyid Kamal in Delhi and Dilawar Khan at Panipath had shown courage and determination and had blocked Khusrau’s path, his disorderly force would not have been able to resist and would have scattered and he himself would have been captured. The fact is that their talents (Himmat) were not equal to this."^{13}

Dilawar Khan went off to Lahore on wings of speed and reached the fort before Khusrau. He strengthened the towers and walls and wherever these were broken he repaired them. When Khusrau reached the city he found the gates closed. Khusrau put the fort on siege and made every effort to reduce the besieged to submission.\textsuperscript{14} But as the imperial army was also marching rapidly towards Lahore and the fall of city was not in sight he raised the siege and left Lahore. By Dilawar Khan’s bravery and devotion the city was saved. Jahangir in his memoirs acknowledges Dilawar Khan’s service: "Dilawar Khan by his

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rapid march, entered the fort of Lahore before Khusrau reached it, and by this notable service made amends for his earlier short coming”. He was also promoted to the rank of 2000 Zat 1400 Sawar was for this service. Soon afterwards he was also assigned sarkar of Jaunpur in Jagir.15

After this we have no reference of his activities in any of the source till 1614, when alongwith Sher Khan and some other Afghans, he was despatched to join Prince Khurram in the conquest of Udaipur. He seems to have performed distinguished service during the campaign16 because in the following year he was promoted to the rank of 2500 (an increase of 500 Zat 100 Sawar in his previous rank).17 He was also deputed to the Deccan campaign18 where he served for about four years but no details of his activities are available to us. However in the beginning of 1618 (13th regnal year) when he came to court and presented an offering 100 muhrs and 1000 rupees he was deputed as governor of Kashmir.19 In this connection Jahangir’s in his memoirs writes, “As Ahmad Beg Khan Kabuli who had obtained the governorship of Kashmir and promised that he would conquer in the

15. Tuzuk-iJahangiri, 36
17. Tuzuk-iJahangir, 146.
18. Ibid.
space of two years Tibet and Kishtewar and promised time had elapsed and he had not fulfilled this service I removed him and promoted Dilawar Khan Kakar to the government of Kashmir. He also made a promise in writing that in the course of two years he would conquer Tibet and Kishtewar".  

After reaching Kashmir Dilawar Khan’s immediate attention was directed towards Kishtewar where Gohar Chak and Aiba Chak, descendants of Kashmir ruling family had taken shelter and with the connivance of the Raja of Kishtwar were fomenting trouble. Delaware Khan raised a large army of 10000 horses and foot, and leaving the city to the charge of his son Hasan and Ali Mir Bahar and appointing his brother Haibat Khan at Desu near Kotal of Pir Panjal to watch the movement of Gohar Chak and Aiba Chak, he himself rapidly marched towards Sanginpur. Another army under his younger son Jalal and Nasrullah Arab and Ali Malik Kashmiri marched by another route towards Kishtewar. Dilawar Khan’s eldest son Jamal Khan was appointed as advance guard of the army.  

But soon after, it was found that no horses could go on the road, therefore by way of precaution he took only few horses with him and left nearby all his soldiers horses to be sent back to Kashmir. The soldiers

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went up the hill on foot and fought from post to post. After the killing of Aiba Chak the Raja lost heart and fled and strengthened himself at Bhandarkot. The imperial army desperately fought the enemy for about twenty days against heavy odds and succeeded in breaking the military strength of the rebels. Being hard pressed, the Raja sent an envoy with the offer of submission. He also agreed to send his brother to the court along with suitable offering and promised to present himself before the Emperor after his offences were pardoned. Dilawar Khan thought that the offer of the Raja was only a ploy to gain time, therefore he rejected the offer and dismissed the envoy. The campaign against the Raja was continued with renewed vigour with exceptional valour shown by his son Jamal who led the van. After four months and ten days the Raja was defeated and imprisoned and the capital city of Mandarbadar was captured. Shortly afterwards when Jahangir reached there Dilawar Khan presented the Raja before the emperor on 21 March 1620. As a reward for this service Jahangir bestowed a year’s revenue on Dilawar Khan. It is further added that by conjecture his jagir was worth about 1000 Zat 1000 Sawar according to the Jahangir rules. Further he was promoted to the rank of 4000 Zat 3000 Sawar for the excellent service that had been done during the Kistwar conquest. His sons were also conferred

23. Ibid, 297. Tuzuk writes from all sources his income is about 100,000.
ranks. Some time afterwards in the same year Dilawar Khan died. In his memoirs on his death Jahangir writes;

"Beyond all the other Amirs of high rank, he combined valour with leadership and knowledge of affairs, and from the time when I was a Prince carried away from all the ball of superiority in my service. He acted constantly with the perfection of sincerity and the Jewel of doing right, and thus he arrived at the dignity of Amirship. In the end of his life God Almighty, bestowed grace upon him, and the conquest of Kishtwar, which was an exemplary service, was accomplished by his courage. It is hoped he may be one of the pardoned."24

Soon after Dilawar Khan's death the Zamindar of Kishtwar again rebelled and killed Nasarullah Arab who was left to guard the area. When this information reached the court, Jahangir appointed Dilawar Khan's son Jalal to suppress the revolt, he was given the rank of 1000 Zat 1000 Sawar and the retainers of his father. The neighbouring Zamindars and Raja Sangram the Zamindars of Dalmau were deputed to his help. But Jalal failed in his duty and was replaced by Iradat Khan.25

After this we have no information about the sons or any other family member of Dilawar Khan in the remaining period of Jahangir's reign. It appears that his sons Jalal, Jamal and Hasan were given minor ranks and after Jalal's failure in Kishtwar campaign no further promotion was given in the family.

25. Ibid, 312.
After the accession of Shahjahan two sons of Dilawar Khan Jamal and Jalal were received with favours. Jalal Khan who held the rank of 1000 Zat 600 Sawar was promoted to the rank of 1500 Zat 700 Sawar and Jamal Khan was raised to the rank of 800 Zat 600 Sawar. He was despatched to the Deccan under Mahabat Khan to conquer Daulatabad. During the course of the siege operations, Mahabat Khan realising that commanders were not putting their heart in reducing the beseiged to submit used extremely harsh words. Jamal Khan who was hot headed became very angry, drew his swords and aimed it at his head. Mirza Jafar Najam Sani who was sitting just behind Mahabat Khan jumped up and caught Jamal by his arms. But this lead to armed scuffle, among those present there. Jamal’s son who was of tender age attacked Mirza and killed him and Mahabat Khan’s son Khan-i Zaman sharply reacted and killed both Jamal and his son. In this way Jamal and his son’s career was cut short. Jalal Khan, the other son of Dilawar Khan despite the above mentioned unfortunate incident involving his elder brother remained a favourite of Shahjahan. In 1630 A.D. he was dispatched alongwith Sa’id Khan to punish Kamaluddin Ruhella son of Ruknuddin Ruhella who had rebelled and had succeeded not only in

27. Ibid, 310.
29. For Sa’id Khan’s career see Ma’asir-ul Umara, vol. II, 429-37.
uniting all the tribes of Afghans from the bank of river Nilab and Indus to the confines of Kabul and its surrounding areas but also got the support of Abdul Qadir, the son of Ahdad and Karimdad, the son of Jalal. Having then collected together the various Afghan tribes he proceeded to the vicinity of Yulam and from thence advanced his forces towards Peshawar. After occupying the suburbs of the town of Peshawar the fort was put to seige. As the royal troops were too few to allow Sa’id Khan and Jalal Khan ‘to take a force into the field and also leave a garrison in the fort; It was decided only to guard the fort and for that Sa’id Khan threw up various entrenchments inside the defences, which had been build of earth and had fallen into decay over the years. In these he placed detachments of royal troops for their protection; and alongwith Jalal Khan and a number of Ahadis, he exercised a general suprintendence over the hole’. Accordingly whenever the Afghans made an attack the garrison in that quarter responded with a body of matchlock man and forced them to retreat. Ultimately the Afghans made a united assault with their full force Sa’id Khan and Jalal Khan “heedless of the numerical superiority of enemy, left the entrenchment in charge of the artillerymen and fel head long upon them” and forced the rebels to flee³⁰.

In 1639 A.D. he was made faujdar of Jammu replacing Shah Quli

Khan. In 1640 A.D he accompanied Prince Murad Baksh to Bhera and in the following year he was promoted to the rank of 1500 Zat 1000 Sawar. Shortly afterwards he was sent to the Deccan where he served till 1657. During his stay in the Deccan he was promoted to the rank of 2000 Zat 1500 Sawar and in 1657 A.D. was dispatched along with Mirza Khan Manuchehr to realise the arrear of tribute of Konkan, the Zamindar of Deogarh. Soon afterwards at the request of Aurangzeb he was appointed faujdar and jagirdar of Nasirabad in Khandesh. It appears that Aurangzeb was very much impressed with his military skill and bravery. He remained his close associate during the tenure of his subedari in the Deccan.

After ascending the throne Aurangzeb gave special favour to him. He was raised to the rank of 3000 Zat 2000 Sawar and assigned the faujdari of Hoshangabad in Malwa. We have no further information about Jalal Khan’s career in any contemporary or near contemporary work.

32 Ma’asir-ul umara vol. I, 531.  
34 Zakhirat-ul Khawain vol. II, 335.  
35 Ma’asir-ul umar vol. I, 531.