CHAPTER-IV
MILITARY COMMANDANTS

In this chapter attempt has been made to trace out the ranks and positions assigned to Hindu Courtiers and Officials at the Lahore Darbar. Their military abilities, services, their participation in various campaigns and contribution in the battle fields have been discussed and examined critically. The Maharaja exhibited keen interest in appointing the Hindus as military commandants because of their bravery, courage and leadership qualities. Doubtlessly, most of the conquests in Ranjit Singh's early career, when he was trying to establish and consolidate the kingdom, were fought and commanded by Hindu Commanders and Generals.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh was helped in his territorial expansion by a number of brilliant military commanders like, who were Hindus, Diwan Mohkam Chand, Misr Diwan Chand, Diwan Ram Dayal and Diwan Bhawani Das. They play a significant role: the firm establishment of the Sikh empire.

The most distinguished general with the help of whose skill and courage Ranjit Singh rose from chief-ship to the Emperor of the Punjab, was Diwan Mohkam Chand.383 From 1806 to 1814 he remained associated with almost all the military campaigns of the Maharaja as the chief military adviser and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. During the period of consolidation of power by Ranjit Singh and until his death Diwan Mohkam Chand was a constant companion of the Lahore Monarch. The Maharaja expressed his appreciation of military ingenuity

by conferring upon him the titles of Diwan and Fateh Nasib in 1812. 384 He joined the expeditions of the Maharaja to the Cis-Satluj territory in 1806 and 1807, Kangra in 1809, Jalandhar in 1811, against Kashmir in 1812 in conjunction with Fateh Khan, against Fateh Khan in 1813, where he defeated the Afghan Wazir in the battle of Haidaru.

The first task assigned to Mohkam Chand was to capture the fort of Pathankot385 known to be one of the strongest forts in Punjab those days. The task was accomplished soon and received forty thousand from Jaimal Singh. Then the General proceeded to subdue the hilly territories of Jasrota, Chamba and Basoli and imposed considerable tributes. Rupees 8,000 yearly was fixed on the Rajas of Basoli and Chamba each.386 He crossed the Satluj and snatched Zira from the widow of Sardar Mohar Singh Nishanwalia. Being aided by Sodhi Jawahar Singh, he occupied Mukatsar and Kotkpura, the possessions of Jagat Singh Buria. He also realized tribute from the ruler of Faridkot. Later, he seized village Mari from Hari Singh and Arbel Singh, the brothers-in-law of Tara Singh Ghaiba.387

In October 1806 Ranjit Singh found conditions conducive to establish his authority in the Malwa region. The occasion was the dispute between the chiefs of Patiala and Nabha over the village of Doladhi. Raja Bhag Singh of Jind was an ally of the Raja of Nabha and so were the Ladwa and Kaithal Chiefs. They were aware that they could not contend with the forces of the Raja of Patiala. Raja Bhag Singh who was the maternal uncle of Maharaja Ranjit Singh sought assistance from

387 Lepel Griffin, The Punjab Chiefs, p. 552.
him. Mohkam Chand, with a force about 20,000 strong accompanied the Maharaja. In the situation that developed Patiala was constrained to submit very soon and the Raja of Nabha and Jind paid their Nazrana. The Maharaja crossed the river at Ludhiana and occupied it and handed it over to Raja Bhag Singh. He deprived Rani Lachmi widow of Sudha Singh of her territory. During this expedition, the Maharaja seized Ludhiana, Jandiala, Baddowal, Jagraon, Kot, Talwandi and Saniwal. He distributed the territory among the rulers of Jind and Nabha, Gurdit Singh, Fateh Singh Ahluwalia and Diwan Mohkam Chand.

The second opportunity was provided to Ranjit Singh by the dissensions between the Raja of Patiala and his wife, Rani Aas Kaur. She invited him to espouse her cause, promising a famous brass gun, Jamjama, belonging to the family and a precious diamond necklace as the price of his assistance. The Sikh ruler crossed Satluj at Hari-ke-Pattan in September 1807. On his way to Patiala, he seized all the remaining possessions of the deceased Rao Ilias and distributed them among his own dependents and allies. However, before he reached Patiala, the Raja and the Rani had reconciled through the mediation of the Jind and Thanesar Chiefs. Nevertheless Ranjit Singh exacted his prize. Diwan Mohkam Chand besieged the fort of Nariangarh from Kanwar Kishan Singh of Nahan. Naraingarh was given to Fateh Singh Ahluwalia. During the return journey, Mohkam Chand captured a number of small principalities such as Wadni, Zira, Morinda etc. The Maharaja gave the district of Zira to Mohkam Chand and Wadni to his mother-in-law Sada Kaur.

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In 1807, Diwan Mohkam Chand remained employed in reaching settlement with the dependents of the deceased Tara Singh Ghaiba head of the Dallewalia Misal.391 The estates, which were worth over seven lakhs a year in revenue, extending over the town of Rahon, Nakodar and Naushera, were merged with the Lahore Darbar. Ranjit Singh gave a Jagir of a few villages to his widow.392 In June 1807, Ranjit Singh sent a force under Mohkam Chand to seize Dinanagar and a few other places belonging to Sada Kaur. The Diwan captured the places and acquired 9 guns, 7 elephants, 50 horses and about two lakhs of rupees in cash.393 After this Diwan Mohkam Chand along with Fakir Aziz-ud-Din was sent to settle the areas beyond Satlej. They received the Nazrana of Rs. 2500 from Dhunna Singh Hijria, military incharge of Ferozpur.394 In 1808 Mohkam Chand occupied Sialkot from Sahib Singh Bhangi.395 Sahib Singh Bhangi was arrested, brought to Lahore and produced before Ranjit Singh. Although Sahib Singh was released, all his lands and properties were confiscated.396 Subsequently, in July 1808, Diwan Mohkam Chand seized the territories on both sides of the Satlej from Anandpur (Makhowal) downwards which once belonged to Tara Singh or to Baghel Singh.397 The Maharaja was well pleased with the Diwan’s distinguished services. In the course of three years from 1806 to 1808 Diwan Mohkam Chand received many ilaqas in Jagirs including portions

392 Bute Shah, Tawarikh-i-Punjab, MS, 1848, Punjabi Translation, p. 45.
394 Sohan Lal Suri, Umdat-Ut-Tawarikh, Daftar-II, p. 60; Bute Shah, Tawarikh-i-Punjab, p. 48.
397 Ganesh Das Wadehra, Char Bagh-i-Punjab, MS 1855, Punjab State Archives, Patiala, Punjabi Trans by Jeet Singh Seetal, p. 591.
of Gill, Kot, Jagraon, Talwandi, Dharamkot, Kotkapura, Zira, Faridkot, Saniwal, Jandbar, Bharampur, Dhari and Chandpur comprising 268 villages and yielded revenue worth Rs. 154,255 a year.\textsuperscript{398} The area of Rahon and Nakodar worth Rs. 6,42,611 was also to him as \textit{Jagir}.\textsuperscript{399} The \textit{Maharaja} from time to time, besides titles, bestowed upon him an elephant, valuable horses, a precious Kalamdan, a Kirpan and Kalgi.\textsuperscript{400}

Raja Sansar Chand sought assistance against Gurkhas from Ranjit Singh who was engaged in negotiations with Metcalfe. The \textit{Maharaja} sent Diwan Mohkam Chand to Kangra to help Sansar Chand with caveat of handing over the fort of Kangra as the price of his assistance.\textsuperscript{401} The \textit{Raja} agreed to cede the fort after the expulsion of the Gurkhas and offered his eldest son as a hostage, but Mokham Chand and his master did not agree. At this time, the negotiations with Metcalfe were at a critical stage, the \textit{Diwan} with his army was summoned. After the conclusion of the treaty of Amritsar the \textit{Maharaja} again sent his troops towards Kangra. According to Cunningham." "The stronghold was offered to the Sikh ruler as the price of his assistance but Sansar Chand hoped, in the meantime, to gain admittance himself, by showing to the Gurkhas the futility of resisting Ranjit Singh, and by promising to surrender the fort to the Nepal Commander, if allowed to withdraw his family."\textsuperscript{402} Maharaja Ranjit Singh saw through the duplicity of Raja Sansar Chand who by this stratagem wanted to retain the fort for himself. The \textit{Maharaja} arrested Anrudh Chand son of Sansar Chand and cajoled Amar Singh Thapa whom he promised a joint expedition against the Rajput hill chiefs and

\textsuperscript{398} Lepel Griffin, \textit{The Punjab Chiefs}, p.552.  
\textsuperscript{399} Ahmad Shah Batalia, \textit{Kitab-i-Hind}, MS, 1291, Khalsa College, Amritsar, (Punjabi Trans.)  
\textsuperscript{400} Sita Ram Kohli, \textit{Maharaja Ranjit Singh}, Delhi, 1953, pp. 93-94.  
\textsuperscript{402} Cunningham, \textit{History of the Sikhs from the Origin of the Nation to the Battles of the Satluj}, New Delhi, 1977 (reprint), p. 132.
also Kangra as part of the Gurkha share of the general spoil. The Maharaja’s troops took possession of the fort of Kangra by deceptively demanding entrance as the expected relief. Sansar Chand was baffled by this counter strategy and the Maharaja took possession of the fort in 24 August, 1809. Amar Singh Thapa deemed it prudent to retreat across the Satluj. The Sikhs in alliance with the Hill Chiefs disrupted his communications. Diwan Mohkam Chand was appointed Governor with Desa Singh Majithia as his deputy. As the Diwan was required for other expeditions, the full charge of Kangra hills was entrusted to Desa Singh Majithia.

In 1810, Diwan Mokham Chand accompanied the Maharaja to Multan, but the attack on the place proved to be abortive and only Muzaffar Khan the Governor of Multan paid tribute. During 1810, Mohkam Chand, at the head of a 5,000 strong force was assigned the task of subjugating the chiefs of Bhimbur and Rajauri. When the Sikh force arrived at Bhimbur, its chief Sultan Muhammad Khan, shut himself in the fort. Although, he put up a strong resistance, the resistance did not last long and the fort was captured. The Sultan agreed to pay an annual tribute of Rs. 40,000 and was reinstated in the chieftainship. The Rajauri Chief also met a similar fate.

In 1810 Mohkam Chand subjugated the country held by Kahan Singh Nakka. The territory under the Nakkais was situated between Multan and Kasur. It generated an annual income of nine lakh rupees. The territory included the towns of Chunia, Dipalpur, Sharkpur, Satgarha, Kot Kamalia and Goggera. Ranjit Singh was married to Datar

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403 Kanhiya Lal, Tarikh-i-Punjab, p. 209.
Kaur, the sister of Sardar Gian Singh, the chief of the Nakkai Misal. As referred to earlier Kharak Singh was born to Datar Kaur. Sardar Kahan Singh, son and successor of Gian Singh Nakkai, had gone to Multan to realize the tribute from Muzaffar Khan on behalf of the Lahore Darbar. Ranjit Singh sent Mohkam Chand and Prince Kharak Singh to the territory of the Nakkais to take charge of the same. The Nakkai administrator Diwan Hakam Rai immediately approached Ranjit Singh with the request that it was not appropriate for the Lahore forces to take military action against the Misal. In case the territory of the Nakkais was allowed to continue in the hands of Sardar Kahan Singh a big Nazrana would be given to the Maharaja. Maharaja Ranjit Singh told Hakam Rai, "I have nothing to do in the matter. Prince Kharak Singh is the maternal grandson of the Nakkais. Only he knows as to what is to be done." Mohkam Chand conquered the fortresses of Chunia, Dapalpur and Satgraha. Sardar Kahn Singh came back from Multan to find his Misal gone out of his hands. He was given a Jagir worth twenty thousand rupees annually.

Diwan Mohkam Chand moved to Phillaur and subjugated the Chief of Jalandhar. Budh Singh Faizalpuria, who had possessions on both sides of the Satluj, did not care for Ranjit Singh. For long, the Maharaja had wanted to subjugate him; his refusal to attend the court providing the excuse. On October 1811, Mohkam Chand with forces of Fateh Singh Ahluwalia and Jodh Singh Ramgarhia entered the Jalandhar Doab to wrest the possessions of Faizalpuria Chief. Fateh Singh Ahluwalia and Jodh Singh Ramgarhia, in the words of Lepel Griffin, "were to have

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406 Ibid., 96,88.
409 Ibid., pp. 96, 88.
410 Ibid., pp. 96, 88-89.
formed an alliance with Budh Singh Faizalpuria to resist Ranjit Singh should he attack either of them. But it was perhaps to postpone an attack on themselves, which they saw was imminent, that they joined the Diwan in his attack on Jalandhar."\(^{412}\) Budh Singh escaped to Ludhiana and sought protection of the British. The fort of Jalandhar and its surrounding areas were conquered by Diwan Mohkam Chand.\(^ {413}\) Budh Singh's possessions near Tarn-Taran were also captured by the Maharaja's artillery officer Ghaus Khan. Thus a territory bringing an annual income of three lakhs rupees fell in to the hands of the Maharaja. Ranjit Singh also got some cash and ammunition from the fortresses of the Faizalpuria. For these conspicuously important services rendered by Mohkam Chand, he was honoured with the title of Diwan and a rich Khillat was granted to him\(^ {414}\), together with a sword set in diamonds and an elephant with a golden Howdah.\(^ {415}\)

In 1812, Diwan Mohkam Chand subjugated Kulu\(^ {416}\) and got the Nazrana of one lakh ninety thousand rupees from the ruler of Mandi and other hill territories.\(^ {417}\) The same year Ranjit Singh found reason to send a campaign under Diwan Mohkam Chand to Kashmir. The incentive was an offer of Fateh Khan, the minister of Shah Mahmmud of Kabul to join forces with him to invade Kashmir. The beautiful valley of Kashmir, because of its physical loftiness has a dominating and strategically important position in Central Asia. From the perspective of defence of the Indian subcontinent it is of great importance since it occupies a place of great strategic value. It was more so in the case of the

\(^{412}\) Lepel Griffin, *The Punjab Chiefs*, p.553.


Punjab since after the decline of the Mughal rule in India the Kashmir Valley had been under the rule of the Afghans. During the reign of Zaman Shah, grandson of Abdali, Ata Muhammad was the Governor of Kashmir. During the struggle for the Kabul throne between Shah Shuja and Shah Mahmmud, Ata Muhammad had helped the former. Shah Shuja had unfortunately lost the battle for accession. The Kabul Wazir, Fateh Khan, was thus not happy with Ata Muhammad. In 1812, the Wazir decided to punish the Governors of Attock and Kashmir who were both brothers. With this intention, the Wazir at the head of a huge force crossed the Indus towards the end of November. Fateh Khan was strongly opposed to Ranjit Singh but he had a realisation that he alone might not be able to conquer Kashmir.\textsuperscript{418} There was also some apprehension in his mind of co-operation or alliance being forged between Ranjit Singh and Ata Muhammad. On his past the Maharaja did not consider himself strong enough to conquer Kashmir single handedly while being opposed by the Governor of Kashmir on the one hand and the Kabul Wazir on the other. When the Maharaja and Fateh Khan came to know of each other’s designs, they both pretended to co-operate with each other in their common adventure and declared it as a common cause. Both needed each other’s assistance. According to Payne, "Neither party desired to come to blows, and neither was inclined to advance into the hills with the possibility of having its retreat cut off by the other. There was but one alternative. The leaders met and agreed to finish the hunt together, and divide the spoil. On this understanding the parties advanced, each having made a mental reservation to outwit the others if the opportunity offered."\textsuperscript{419} Each party wanted to use the other for its own benefit and a race for Kashmir between the two equally matched

\textsuperscript{418} Bhagat Singh, \textit{Maharaja Ranjit Singh and His Times}, New Delhi, 1990, p. 75.

adversaries started. According to N.K. Sinha, “Ranjit’s chief motive in joining Fateh Khan was not so much the lure of a heavy money payment, nor the hope of getting Kashmir itself by some stratagem, as the desire to acquire local knowledge for future use. Another motive of Ranjit Singh in participating in this expedition was his eagerness to get the person of Shah Shuja, the ex-King, who was a closed prisoner of Ata Muhammad Khan of Kashmir.” Wafa Begum, wife of Shah Shuja, had taken shelter in Lahore and had promised the Maharaja the world famous Kohinoor in exchange for the release of her husband. As she was in distress for shortage of funds she was being granted Rs. 4,000 a month by the Lahore Darbar. According to Sohan Lal Suri and Diwan Amar Nath, Goder Mal, a reliable Vakil of Fateh Khan, was also sent to the Maharaja’s court in December 1811 for a join venture thereby increasing the incentive to launch the Kashmir expedition. Maharaja Ranjit Singh assured the envoy of Fateh Khan of his help.

Fateh Khan and the Maharaja met each other in an interview at Rohtas and made a deal. Ranjit Singh agreed to help Fateh Khan with 12,000 troops under Diwan Mohkam Chand and to facilitate an Afghan march through Rajauri over Pir Panjal range. In return the Maharaja was to be aided by a detachment of the Afghans against Multan and nine lakhs from the spoils of Kashmir. N.K. Sinha and G.S. Chhabra both, on the authority of a letter written to Fateh Khan by

421 Amarnath Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh., p. 60; Bute Shah, Tawarikh-i-Punjab, p. 94.
the Maharaja in April 1813, say that Ranjit Singh had demanded one third of the booty, one third of the Kashmir territory, and assistance in the conquest of Multan.\(^{427}\) Sohan Lal Suri gives a different view. In the course of negotiations for peace after the battle on the Chhuchh plains, the Maharaja informed Godar Mal, the Afghan Vakil, that in order to observe the terms of friendship, they should pay fixed portion of the large sums per annum from the revenues of Kashmir and according to their former promises, they should secure Multan for him and when these two conditions were fulfilled, the fort of Attock would be handed over to them.\(^{428}\)

Another contemporary source, *Events at the Court of Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1810-1817)*, in a more explicit account about the conditions of agreement, refers to a communication addressed to Fateh Khan by Ranjit Singh in April 1813, "In the past the noble Sarkar and he had met together at Rohtasgarh where mutual agreement had taken place that if he would look carefully into what was agreed to in writing and decide to abide by it honestly he would not like to break his promises in the manner in which he had done, that if he had a mind to maintain firm relations he must first get the fort of Multan evacuated and surrender it to the noble Sarkar and should also establish and recognize the Government of the noble Sarkar over one third of the country of Kashmir and also yield one-third of whatever treasure, property and other things had been seized by him from Kashmir, in accordance with the terms of that agreement. It further stated that if he agreed to abide by these terms genuinely the noble Sarkar would evacuate the fort of Attock, and hand it


over to him." Thus it is clear from the Sikh version that the contract between Fateh Khan and Ranjit Singh included for the latter a portion of the territory of Kashmir, a share in the spoils from the valley and the possession of Multan.

The forces of the Lahore Darbar to the tune of 12000 men, under the command of Sardar Dal Singh Naherna, Jiwan Singh Pindiwala and chiefs of Jasrota, Basoli, Haripur, Nurpur and Raja Sansar Chand's forces started for Kashmir. They were under the overall command of Diwan Mohkam Chand. During the first week of December 1812 the combined forces of the Sikhs and the Afghans marched from Jehlam for the invasion of Kashmir. The snow-fall at the Pir Panjal Range hindered the advance, the Sikhs not being accustomed to such climatic conditions their advance in the snow-clad hills was impeded. The Wazir, who did not want the Sikhs to play any important part in this expedition, took advantage of it and without informing the Diwan, kept on advancing. The Diwan had suspected Fateh Khan's intentions and had accordingly apprised the Maharaja, but the latter wanted to keep his promise till it was broken by the other party. The clever Diwan, however did not give in and thought of some other means of rapid advance. He promised the Raja of Rajauri a Jagir worth Rs. 25,000 if he would show him a pass through which he might reach the valley at the same time as Fateh Khan. The Diwan succeeded in entering the valley with a handful of soldiers under the command of Jodh Singh Kalsia and Nihal Singh Attari. When Ata Mohammad came to know of the joint invasion of Kashmir by the Afghans and the Sikhs, he decided to face them, near the

429 H.L.O. Garrett and G.L. Chopra (eds.), Events at the court of Ranjit Singh 1810-1817, p. 82.
fort of Shergarh, where Shah Shuja was interned.\textsuperscript{432} It was bitter cold and the Sikh soldiers were not in a position to acquit themselves properly. One hundred foot soldiers and one hundred horsemen perished in the encounter.\textsuperscript{433} At one stage of the expedition, Ata Mohammad Khan had even offered to join the Sikhs with all his valuables and cash if they agreed to render assistance to him. The \textit{Diwan} did not accede to his offer, though he shifted his headquarters to a distance and intimated the \textit{Maharaja} about the offer, who might have refused it.\textsuperscript{434} The \textit{Sikh} and Afghan forces, ultimately jointly took possession of the fort.\textsuperscript{435} The allies got a huge booty from the fort. Ata Muhammad surrendered the fort. Diwan Mohkam Chand released Shah Shuja and took him back along with him to Lahore.\textsuperscript{436} Kashmir was captured but Fateh Khan showed no eagerness to give the promised share of the spoils. The \textit{Diwan} had to return to Lahore in disgust, but he managed to secure the person of Shah Shuja. When the \textit{Diwan} and his army were returning to Lahore, Fateh Khan treacherously dispatched a force to attack them. But the Lahore army’s pace was too fast for the Afghan and he failed to over take the former.

The \textit{Maharaja} had been outwitted by the \textit{Wazir} in this campaign and it had cost him Rs. 6,70,000 and many lives. But this expedition did not prove to be absolutely futile. In fact it acquainted the \textit{Maharaja} with the terrain and geographical conditions of the country. His best general had carried out a successful reconnaissance. He had also extrapolated

\textsuperscript{432} Kanhiya Lal, \textit{Tarikh-i-Punjab}, p. 212.
\textsuperscript{436} W.L. Mc’ Gregor, \textit{History of the Sikhs}, Vol. I, p. 169; Wazir Fateh Khan had demanded the delivery of Shah Shuja to himself and had been threatened to use force for this purpose. But, Diwan Mohkam Chand defied the \textit{Wazir}, held on to the person of Shah Shuja and marched towards Lahore; Fakir Syed Waheediuddin, \textit{The Real Ranjit Singh.}, p. 88.
local knowledge of the country which helped the *Maharaja* to plan and execute his subsequent campaigns for the capture of Kashmir. Secondly Diwan Mohkam Chand was able to procure for the *Maharaja* the person of Shah Shuja, the owner of the famous *Kohinoor* diamond. Thirdly, the possession of Shah Shuja’s person enabled Ranjit Singh to use him for his own political ends. Fourthly, the Lahore *Darbar* had also sized up the quality and strength of the Afghans, which stood them in good stead during the battle of Attock.

In 1813, Diwan Mohkam Chand occupied the fort of Attock. The strong fort of Attock was situated on the bank of river Indus. It had been considered as a passage to the north-western frontier passes and routes. It was under the control of Jahandad Khan, the brother of Ata Muhammad Khan, the Governor of Kashmir.⁴³⁷ Ranjit Singh had studied its strategic advantage and was convinced that unless it was captured by him the continual tide of the invaders from across the frontier could not be checked. Ranjit Singh was negotiating with Jahandad Khan for the possession of Attock even before the decision was taken regarding the joint Sikh-Afghan expedition to Kashmir. Jahandad Khan, now felt that after the conquest of Kashmir it was his turn to be ousted from the fort by Wazir Fateh Khan.⁴³⁸ He knew his limitations and clearly felt that he was no match for Shah Mahummud and his Wazir Fateh Khan. He approached Ranjit Singh and agreed to surrender the fort on the condition that he would be given proper assistance. Ranjit Singh immediately offered the *Pargna* of Wazirabad as a *Jagir* for Jahandad Khan⁴³⁹ and dispatched his army under the command of Fakir Aziz-ud-Din, Sardar Mit Singh Bharania, Diwan Bhawani Das and Sukhdayal to

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take charge of the fort of Attock. According to Alexander Burnes, "Ranjit Singh obtained Attock at the small sacrifice of a lakh of rupees and prepared to defend his acquisition." Jahandad Khan's Afghan force in the fort was in arrears of pay to the tune of one lakh rupees which Ranjit Singh's men paid and occupied the fort. The Maharaja obtained the fort of Attock and got grains of 3510 maunds (1400 quintals), ammunition 439 maunds (170 quintals), guns, mortars and surivels of 70 pieces and rock salt and tobacco 235 maunds (93 quintals). Thus the Maharaja got this fort of strategic importance very cheaply. Maharaja Ranjit Singh honoured Diwan Mohkam Chand with a Kalgi, sword and Khillat for his feat. This negotiation between Jahandad Khan and the Maharaja was kept secret from Fateh Khan. When Fateh Khan came to know about it he was highly agitated and annoyed. The Maharaja declared that, "It was caused by his own breach of faith, in not fulfilling terms of their agreement and paying the expenses of Diwan Mohkam Chand's contingent." Fateh Khan sent a detachment to attack the Sikh army under Mohkam Chand at that time retiring from Kashmir but the latter marched too rapidly to be overtaken. Mohkam Chand's retreat was through Baramulla-Rajauri-Bhimbur route. Handing over the charge of Kashmir to his brother Azim Khan, Fateh Khan reached Peshawar and sent a message to Ranjit Singh to evacuate the fort of Attock. But the Maharaja refused to evacuate

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447 *Foreign Department; Political Proceeding*, 23rd April 1813, No.11, Para I, National Archives of India, New Delhi.
it. The fort of Attock was held by Daya Singh and Diwan Devi Das with him.

Wazir Fateh Khan accompanied by Dost Muhammad Khan, Duni Beg Khan and Samad Khan marched towards Attock and encamped at a distance of 24 kos from Attock. But they did not advance further. Here, Fateh Khan collected a large number of Afghans to participate in the coming *Jehad*. Mahmmud Shah’s troops under Shahzada Ayub and Abbas had arrived and were located on the west of the Indus. The *Maharaja* was fully aware of the gravity of the situation. When the Sardars offered him *nazar* he refused to accept it till the conquest of Multan.449

There were negotiations for the settlement between Mohkam Chand and Wazir Fateh Khan, but they proved to be abortive. The Afghan army was not strong enough to lay siege to the fort and reinforcements from Lahore continued coming. By the month of May, the fight seemed imminent. Dost Mohammad, a brother of the *Wazir* of Kabul, at the head of 4,000 cavalry, tried to disrupt the transportation of grain, gunpowder and ammunition to the fort which had been dispatched from Lahore. As a retaliatory measure, a vanguard was dispatched from Lahore to restore these channels of transportation.

The main contingent of troops under Diwan Mohkam Chand alongwith Kanwar Kharak Singh and Bhai Ram Singh was dispatched from Lahore and it reached Rawalpindi in the first week of June.450 The presence of the seasoned general like Diwan Mohkam Chand was imperative in the area infested by the Afghan cavalry. The troops of Fateh Khan had already invaded Hasan Abdal and defeated a body of the Sikh troops under Ram Singh. The arrival of the veteran general brought

about a rapid and complete turn around in the situation. He advanced with the troops from Saraikala to Hasan Abdal and was around the middle of June at a distance of five or six kos from the army of Fateh Khan. Both the Sikh and Afghan forces were poised face to face for three months without any action. During this period frequent skirmishes took place between the two forces. On one particular day a Sikh party during their reconnaissance sighted the enemy camp and attacked it. A fierce battle took place lasting the whole day but ended without any tangible or conclusive results. The clever Mohkam Chand avoided a general battle and bided his time till the Afghans were exhausted of their supplies. With his personality, initiative, energy and resourcefulness Diwan Mohkam Chand had changed the situation in his own favour. It was apparent that he was now determined to give a fight as he deployed his forces for the battle at a place called Haidru, five miles from the fort of Attock. Hari Ram Gupta mention the Diwan organised his cavalry into four divisions in the form of a square, each side containing 2,000 men. The infantry battalion of 2,000 men was in the centre of the square. He was head of the infantry on an elephant, on whose back on both sides of the Diwan two light cannon were tied with gunners to fire.\textsuperscript{451} Ghaus Khan with his artillery corps was lingering in the rear away from the battlefield.

With the permission of the Maharaja the Sikh forces attacked the Afghans on July 12, 1813\textsuperscript{452} at Hazro, about 8 kilometers from Attock. This battle is also known as the battle of Chhuchh. A terrible fighting took place between the adversaries. In the meantime Afghans received fresh reinforcements under Dost Muhammad Khan.\textsuperscript{453} The Diwan left his

\textsuperscript{451} Hari Ram Gupta, \textit{History of the Sikhs}, Vol. V, pp. 110-11
elephant, mounted a horse and personally leading his reserves fell upon the disorganized Afghans\textsuperscript{454}. Hand to hand fighting took place and there were heavy losses on both sides. Diwan Amar Nath mentions that 2,000 Afghans were killed.\textsuperscript{455} Dost Muhammad was seriously wounded. Many Afghans drowned in the Indus and a large number were taken prisoners. The Sikhs plundered the provisions of the Afghans. Besides Diwan Mohkam Chand, Jodh Singh Kalsia and Fateh Singh Ahluwalia, Sardar Dal Singh, Diwan Ram Dayal also took part in fighting against Afghans at Hazro.\textsuperscript{456} Fateh Khan fled away to Peshawar.\textsuperscript{457} Thus the victory for the Sikhs was complete. The credit for this major triumph goes to the dynamic generalship of Diwan Mohkam Chand. Hukam Singh Chimni was appointed \textit{Qiladar} of the fort of Attock.\textsuperscript{458}

Hugel writes about this battle, "The Muhammadan power was already on the decline in India and unimportant battle of Attock only above the last bands over the Indus."\textsuperscript{459} This seems to be a totally misleading estimate of the battle. The importance of this battle is immense. It should not be underestimated. This was the first pitched battle between the Sikhs and the Afghans and was fought to decide the issue of the possession of the fort of Attock. The importance of the battle lies in the fact that it was the first real and decisive Punjabi victory over the Afghans, "who from the time began to entertain a dread of their (Sikhs) prowess."\textsuperscript{460}

As a result of the battle of Hazro the Lahore \textit{Darbar} established a strong and permanent control over Attock. According to Khushwant

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{454} Kanhiya Lal, \textit{Tarikh-i-Punjab}, p. 220.
\item \textsuperscript{455} Amarnath, \textit{Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh}, p. 74.
\item \textsuperscript{456} Sohan Lal Suri, \textit{Umdat-ut-Tawarikh}, Daftar-II, p. 160
\item \textsuperscript{457} Ganesh Das Wadhehra, \textit{Char Bagh-i-Punjab}, p. 155.
\item \textsuperscript{458} Amarnath, \textit{Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh}, p. 86; Ganesh Das Wadhehra, \textit{Char Bagh-i-Punjab}, p. 156.
\item \textsuperscript{459} Charles Baron Hugel, \textit{Travels in Kashmir and the Punjab}, London, 1845, p. 215.
\item \textsuperscript{460} Syed Muhammad Latif, \textit{History of the Punjab}, p. 397.
\end{itemize}
Singh, "It was the first victory the Punjabi's had ever won over the Afghans and the Pathans. The fort of Attock had been wrested from the Hindu Raja Jaipal in A.D. 1002 by Muhmud Ghazni and since then had remained in the hands of the invaders. Its capture meant the liberation of Northern India from the Pathan and Afghan menace."461

When the second expedition was sent against Kashmir in 1814, Mohkam Chand, who was now very old and suffered from the failing health of senility, was not allowed to accompany the expedition. He died on October 29, 1814, on Saturday, at Phillaur.462 He left behind an illustrious son Moti Ram, and grand-sons Diwan Kirpa Ram and Ram Dyal who too rendered meritorious services to the Sikh State. He was arguably one of the ablest Generals of Ranjit Singh. Diwan Mohkam Chand was the most loyal, devoted and trustworthy of his subordinates. He was one of the architects of the Sikh empire who rose by dint of merit to the post of Diwan and virtually the commander-in-chief of the Sikh forces. N.K. Sinha observes. "As a general, he was uniformly successful and from 1806 to 1814 the annexation of Ranjit Singh was due not only to his irresistible cunning but also to Mohkam Chand's military talents."463 Ranjit Singh always held him in high esteem. He had a sound knowledge of military tactics and strategy. He did not suffer a defeat; he was an ever victorious General.

Misr Diwan Chand was another of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's brave Generals. He was worked as a clerk in the Topkhana of Main Ghaus Khan. Due to his efficiency and loyalty his states was increased and he was appointed as Naib (Assistant) incharge of artillery. In 1814, after the

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death of Mian Ghaus Khan, Misr Diwan Chand was appointed on his post by the Maharaja as a chief of artillery or ordnance department. In the beginning the artillery was mixed affair. It was called *Topkhana Jinsi* or mixed batteries, having guns driven by horses, bullocks and camels. In 1814 Artillery was divided into four sections: 1. *Topkhana Fili* or Elephant Batteries, 2. *Topkhana Shutri* or Camel swivels or Zamburaks, 3. *Topkhana Aspi* or Horse Batteries, 4. *Topkhana Gavi* or Bullock Batteries

Misr Diwan Chand remained the head of Artillery until his death in 1825. He was the commander-in-chief of many significant battles, such as battle of Multan fought in 1818; the battle of Kashmir in 1819; expedition against Sada Kaur in 1820; battle of Naushera in 1823 and many more. He also participated in a few minor campaigns. After the death of Diwan Mohkam Chand, Maharaja Ranjit Singh was convinced that Misr Diwan Chand could fulfill the gap left by the late Diwan Mohkam Chand.

From 1802 to 1818 Multan was invaded seven times by Maharaja Ranjit Singh. During his first six expeditions he accepted *Nazrana* from Nawab Muzzaffar Khan and returned back. Misr Diwan Chand took part in the fifth and seventh expeditions only. In February 1816, the Maharaja sent the fifth expedition to conquer Multan under the command of Misr Diwan Chand. Maharaja Ranjit Singh also despatched to Multan a small force under Akali Phoola Singh. The Maharaja demanded a lakh and twenty thousand rupees as *Nazrana*. The Sikh army under Misr Diwan Chand besieged the fort of Ahmadabad which the Khalsa army soon occupied. The Nawab assessing the situation as

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unfavourable accepted Sikh demand of Nazrana. He paid a Nazrana of eighty thousand rupees immediately and promised to pay the remaining amount of forty thousand within the next two or three months.\(^{466}\)

The sixth expedition was sent under the command of Diwan Bhawani Das in 1817. The expedition proved to be a total failure, and Diwan was appropriately punished.\(^{467}\) In 1818, Maharaja Ranjit Singh made elaborate preparations for the final conquest of Multan. The charge of this expedition was given to Misr Diwan Chand.

On January 14, 1818, a massive force comprising 25,000 men under the nominal leadership of Kanwar Kharak Singh, but in reality commanded by Misr Diwan Chand was sent to Multan.\(^{468}\) The jealousy of Jagirdars, who objected to serve under a man of yesterday, obliged Ranjit Singh to adopt the plan of sending his heir-apparent in nominal command of the whole contingent.\(^{469}\) The Maharaja gave instructions to the Kanwar that he would work according to the advice of the Misr Diwan Chand and nothing was to be done against his advice.\(^{470}\) The prominent Generals like Ram Dayal, Jamadar Khushal Singh, Abdus Samad Khan, Diwan Moti Ram, Diwan Bhawani Das and Kanwar Kharak Singh were included in this expedition.\(^{471}\) Artillery which had to play major role in reducing the fort, was under the command of General Ilahi Bakhsh. The Bhangi Cannon, Zam-Zama was also ordered to proceed. Ranjit Singh made several preparations for this expedition. The charge of maintaing a free flow of food grains and war material was entrusted to Kanwar Kharak Singh’s mother Rani Datar Kaur, popularly known as Mai Nakkain, who set up her head quarters at Kot Nau.\(^{472}\) Ranjit Singh

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thus issued his orders to Misr Diwan Chand, the leader of the Multan expedition, “Give the Multan Vakils a frank reply that it is my intention to occupy Multan and so they should not talk of the giving of Nazrana”.473

On the other side, Muzaffar Khan, had also made large scale preparations to confront the invader. In order to obtain help from fanatic Muslims, he raised the cry of Jehad474 and collected over 20,000 fanatic Muslims (ghazis) under his green banner. He even tried to get the support of the British and the neighbouring Muslim chieftains but in vain. Now the Nawab had to depend mostly on his own resources and on the fanaticism of Ghazis. The Nawab collected large quantities of arms, ammunitions and other provisions in the fort of Multan.

On his way to Multan, Misr Diwan Chand took the fort of Khangarh and Muzaffargarh and reached Multan in the first week of February.475 Nawab as usual, offered to pay a tribute if the Sikh army returned to Lahore but this time the Maharaja was determined to capture Multan. The battle of Multan was fought in three phases. In the first phase the countryside around Multan was to be occupied. In the second phase the Sikhs under Diwan Moti Ram closely besieged the town of Multan which was defended by Nawab Muzaffar Khan with great vigour.476 With the bombardment of the fort by the Lahore troops the battle of Multan entered the last phase in March. A considerable number of Sikh soldiers were killed. The pathans fled and enclosed themselves within the fort. The Nawab had an army of only 2,000 men477 but the fort was very well defended and arrangement were made in such a way that even if the

473 Ibid., p. 240; Bute Shah, Tawarikh-i-Punjab, p. 169.
474 Kanhiya Lal, Tarikh-i-Punjab, p. 249.
475 Bute Shah, Tawarikh-i-Punjab, p. 168.
476 Syed Muhammad Latif, History of the Punjab, p. 411.
The siege lasted several months the provisions would not get exhausted. The great Zamzama cannon was now in active deployment. Maharaja Ranjit Singh repeatedly wrote to Misr Diwan Chand, forbidding him to run any risk, for he had not yet recovered the losses he had sustained in his Kashmir expedition. The object of the Maharaja was to compel Muzaffar Khan to surrender through discretion and coercion and not exclusively through force. Misr Diwan Chand communicated an order to the Nawab consenting to accept a Jagir of Shujabad which he had been previously offered.\textsuperscript{478} Nawab agreed to Maharaja Ranjit Singh's proposal. Kanwar Kharak Singh sent Diwan Bhawani Das, Punjab Singh, Qutab-ud-Din Khan former Nawab of Kasur and Chaudhary Qadar Bakhsh to the Nawab to contract the proposed agreement.\textsuperscript{479} However, the Nawab's forces refused to surrender. According to Sohan Lal Suri, the Nawab changed his mind under an inspiration from his officers who had aroused his spirit of self-respect.

\begin{center}
\begin{quote}
उम ते पवित्र, मेरे भें ची ठा बाल,
ख़ाङे भें मे सख़्त पतल, मरना आफ़ि दे हिन्द़ज़ भे।\textsuperscript{480}
\end{quote}
\end{center}

The Bombardment was resumed and went on till 2\textsuperscript{nd} June. Ilahi Bakhsh's artillery was able to effect two breaches in the wall of the fort but failed to enter the fort. However, on the midnight of June 2\textsuperscript{nd} a party of Akalis under the command of Sadhu Singh\textsuperscript{481} entered the fort through one of the breaches in Khizri gate, risking their own lives. He was followed by the Sikh troops. Hand to hand fighting took place, the noise and commotion emanating from which was remembered for many decades thereafter. The Nawab and his five sons were killed in the

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{479} Sohan Lal Suri, \textit{Umdat-ut-Tawarikh}, Daftar-II, p. 247; Bute Shah, \textit{Tawarikh-i-Punjab}, p. 156.
\item \textsuperscript{480} Sita Ram Kohli (ed.), \textit{Fatehnama Guru Khalsa Ji Ka}, Patiala, 1952, p. 61.
\end{itemize}
battlefield, his sixth son was wounded severely in the face and two accepted the offer of peace for surrender and were saved. The fort of Multan was captured on 2nd June 1818. The citadel was now sacked and an immense booty fell to the troops engaged in the assault. Sukhdial, who was appointed the first Nazim of Multan was ordered to get the fort repaired by investing Rs. 3000 per day.482 Misr Diwan Chand returned to Lahore, leaving in the fort a garrison of 600 men under the command of Sardar Jodh Singh Kalsia and Dal Singh Naharana. The Victor Misr Diwan Chand was honoured with the title of Zafar Zang483 a brave victor of the battles and was granted a Jagir of Rs. 25,000 in addition to a present of a valuable Khillat of one lakh.484 Ali-ud-Din Mufti describes the title of Misr as Khair Khwah, ba bafa, Zafar Zang, Fateh Nasib, Misr Diwan Chand Bahadur (well wisher, honourable, conqueror in war, Main of victorious destiny, Misr Diwan Chand the Brave).485 Some more pairs of gold bangles were given to those who had outstanding achievements in the battle to their credit.486 The Jagir of Sarakpur was granted to the Sarfraj Khan the captured son of Muzaffar Khan.487 After the conquest of Multan, Maharaja Ranjit Singh subdued the chiefs of Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Dera Ismail Khan and Mankera and it opened up the road to Sindh.

Misr Diwan Chand’s name is also associated with the conquest of Kashmir (1819). Maharaja Ranjit Singh had sent expeditions to Kashmir in 1812 under the command of Diwan Mohkam Chand and in 1814

482 Amarnath, Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh, p. 102.
486 Amarnath, Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh, p. 102.
under Diwan Ram Dayal but he had failed to conquer Kashmir. The Maharaja on his part was very keen to conquer Kashmir. After the conquest of Multan (1818) Ranjit Singh diverted his full attention towards the coveted valley of Kashmir. Misr Diwan Chand the hero conqueror of Multan, was appointed commander-in-chief of the Sikh army. In the beginning of May 1819 a huge army got assembled at Wazirabad and was divided into three parts. The first was placed under the combined command of Misr Diwan Chand, Sham Singh Attariwala, Sardar Hari Singh, Jagat Singh Attariwala, Jawala Singh and Rattan Singh; the second under Kanwar Kharak Singh and the third under the command of the Maharaja himself who stayed back at Wazirabad as a reserved force.

The force marched, towards the valley of Kashmir through different routes. Misr Diwan Chand reached Bhimbur in May and left his heavy artillery at Bhimbur, carrying only light guns with him. By the beginning of June, Misr Diwan Chand had occupied Rajauri and Punchh, and all the hills and passes south of the Pir Panjal range. From Rajauri, Misr Diwan Chand informed the Maharaja that Agar Khan (Raja of Rajauri) had rendered valuable assistance. The entire Sikh force of 12,000 took up their position at Serai Ali, leading to Supin. Misr Diwan Chand let his tired force rest for few days. Meanwhile the Maharaja himself arrived at Shahbad to see the arrangements and found that supply position was in perfect order. Here a battle was fought between the Sikhs and the Afghan. Governor of Kashmir, Jabbar Khan with 12,000 horseman and foot soldiers at his command. The Afghans fought

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well and were also able to capture two of the Sikh guns. Akali Phoola Singh came into his own and fell upon the Afghans. Jabbar Khan was seriously wounded, fled first to Srinagar and then through Bhimbur escaped to Peshawar.\textsuperscript{491} According to Cunningham it was almost a bloodless victory.\textsuperscript{492} On entering the city the soldiers started plundering it but Misr Diwan Chand stopped it with an iron hand.\textsuperscript{493} After its conquest, Kashmir was put under military rule for some time. Sardar Sham Singh Attariwala and Sardar Jawala Singh were made heads of Baramulla and Misr Diwan Chand of Kashmir. Maharaja Ranjit Singh himself left for Lahore. After some time Diwan Devi Das inform the Maharaja that the administration of Kashmir was not in perfect order. Thereafter, the Maharaja recalled Misr Diwan Chand from Kashmir. On the 5\textsuperscript{th} July Diwan Moti Ram was appointed Governor of Kashmir Province\textsuperscript{494} and Diwan Devi Das was to be the Chief of the settlement of Kashmir. Misr Diwan Chand having settled the country, left Moti Ram incharge of Kashmir and reached Lahore. The Maharaja was so pleased with the conquest of Kashmir that he awarded Misr Diwan Chand with the title of \textit{Fateh-o-Nusrat Nasib} and also granted him a \textit{Jagir} with 50,000 rupees and a valuable \textit{Khillat}.\textsuperscript{495}

On 25\textsuperscript{th} of July, 1819 Misr Diwan Chand was sent with artillery to Mankera to exact \textit{Nazrana}. He succeeded in getting \textit{Nazrana} of a Lakh and 80,000 rupees from the Governor of Mankera and returned to Lahore.\textsuperscript{496}

After this, Misr Diwan Chand alongwith Diwan Moti Ram and Attariwala Sardars was sent to punish the \textit{Zamindars} of Punchh, Khakhri

\textsuperscript{491} W.L. Mc' Gregor, \textit{History of the Sikhs}, Vol. I, p. 185.
\textsuperscript{492} Cunningham, \textit{History of the Sikhs}, p. 143.
\textsuperscript{493} Gulcharan Singh, "The Kashmir Campaigns of Maharaja Ranjit Singh", \textit{The Panjab Past and Present}, XVII (i), April 1983, p. 43.
and Bhimbur. Misr Diwan Chand reached Mirpur and laid waste the country, while Moti Ram and the Attariwala Sardars seized some of the Khakki tribes. The remaining tribes fled to the hills and concealed themselves.

The Maharaja sent Misr Diwan Chand to seize the territory of Sada Kaur. The relation between the Maharaja and his mother-in-law Sada Kaur had become strained. He accordingly sent to his mother-in-law an order, on October 1820, to set apart half of her own Jagir for the maintenance of her two grandsons Sher Singh and Tara Singh but she was not at all ready for this. In 1821, Misr Diwan Chand and Attariwala Sardars were sent to seize all her territory. Misr Diwan Chand first captured Batala, Pathankot, Mukerian and then marched to Akalgarh, the head quarter of Rani. The fort of Akalgarh was captured and immense wealth of the fort was brought to Lahore by Misr Diwan Chand.

Misr Diwan Chand was sent to various expeditions by the Maharaja from time to time. In 1817, he was sent to deal with the Nawab of Mitha Tiwana. On his advent, the Nawab Ahmad Yar Khan shut himself in the fort of Nurpur. He offered some resistance to the Misr but could not withstand the seize for long and fled to Mankera. Misr Diwan Chand occupied the fort.

On 25 November, 1821 Misr Diwan Chand alongwith Diwan Kirpa Ram captured the fort of Bhakher without firing a shot and occupied Khangarh, Leigh and Mangarh without facing any opposition. During the

499 Kanhiya Lal, Tarikh-i-Punjab, p. 278.
same year, Ranjit Singh sent an army under Misr Diwan Chand against Dera Ismail Khan and Mankera.\textsuperscript{501} Nawab Hafiz Muhammad Khan of Mankera had earlier helped the Tiwana chief Ahmad Yar Khan. Mankera was a well defended fortress but after a siege of 25 days the embattled Nawab surrendered.\textsuperscript{502} Misr Diwan Chand was made the Governor of Dera Ismail Khan.\textsuperscript{503}

In 1821, The Maharaja sent Misr Diwan Chand to take action against Nara Zamindars the murderers of Sardar Amar Singh Majithia.\textsuperscript{504} He also took part in the battle of Peshawar in 1823.\textsuperscript{505} Mohammad Azim Khan called upon the Afghans of Peshawar and Attock to unite under his banner and wage a Jehad (a religious war) against the Sikhs in order to recapture all the lost Afghan territories. On the other side, Ranjit Singh sent forth a big force against Azim Khan. This force was led by Kanwar Kharak Singh. The Maharaja also detached the galaxy of generals: Misr Diwan Chand, Hari Singh Nalwa, Fateh Singh Ahluwalia, Desa Singh Majithia and Attar Singh Sandhawalia. He was also sent on missions Allard, Ventara, Gurkhas and Balbhadra, with their newly trained battalions. An appeal was even made to the Akalis to join these combined forces against the coming danger from the side of the Afghans. No doubt, "the fanaticism of the Akalis was pitted against the fanaticism of the Ghazis."\textsuperscript{506} The battle was actually fought on March 14, 1823, at a place known as Naushera. The Akalis were led by Phula Singh and under his command they fought dauntlessly and aggressively. Though Akali Phula Singh was killed while fighting even so, the Sikhs emerged victorious.

\textsuperscript{503} District Gazetteer of Muzaffargarh 1883-84, p. 39.
\textsuperscript{504} Amarnath, \textit{Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh}, p. 130.
Indeed the victory of the Sikhs in this battle sounded the death-knell of Afghan supremacy beyond the river Indus.\textsuperscript{507} It consolidated Ranjit Singh’s power in the territories between Indus and Peshawar. The Maharaja sent Misr Diwan Chand occasionally to receive Nazrana from these territories. He regularly received Nazrana from Sialkot,\textsuperscript{508} Mankera.\textsuperscript{509} He was also sent to conquer Sahiwal.\textsuperscript{510}

Another General whose bravery was beyond question was Diwan Ram Dayal. He was grandson of Diwan Mohkam Chand and son of Diwan Moti Ram. Like his grandfather he was an expert in military activities. He was employed on a number of minor campaigns. Such as the campaign against Kashmir in 1814 and conquest of Kashmir in 1819, campaign against Multan in 1817, against Hazara in 1820 and many more. He is described as a brave leader of the Khalsa Army.\textsuperscript{511} He led a very important and difficult expedition against Kashmir in 1814, when he was only twenty two years of age.\textsuperscript{512} This expedition was a particularly eventful one and a trying challenge for Diwan Ram Dayal. Diwan Mohkam Chand who had gained a considerable experience of the territory, was the only chief who openly and sincerely advised the king against the launching of this expedition.\textsuperscript{513} He put forward strong arguments in support of his views. He emphasized that the season was not suitable for operations in that territory and that difficulties would be faced as soon as the rains set in. Secondly, the operation would lack administrative support as supplies had not been collected, nor any provisions stocked at Bhimbur or Rajauri. Thirdly, the hostility of the hill

\textsuperscript{507} B.J. Hasrat, \textit{Life and Times of Maharaja Ranjit Singh}, Hoshiarpur, p. 121.
\textsuperscript{508} Bute Shah, \textit{Tawarikh-i-Punjab}, p. 164.
\textsuperscript{509} \textit{Ibid.}, p. 167; Amarnath, \textit{Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh}, p. 115.
\textsuperscript{510} Bute Shah, \textit{Tawarikh-i-Punjab}, p. 195.
chiefs who had not been adequately subdued was also an important factor to be reckoned with.

But, Maharaja Ranjit Singh was determined in his desire to capture Kashmir. When he saw that Ranjit Singh was not amenable to his suggestions he asked permission to accompany the army. Since Mohkam Chand was now very old and his health was fragile the Maharaja desired him to remain at Lahore and preserve order during his absence. Maharaja Ranjit Singh made full preparations for a massive invasion of Kashmir. The Sikh army was first collected at Sialkot and from there reached Rajauri on June 11, 1814. In accordance with the advice of the treacherous Raja Agar Khan of Rajauri, the army was divided into two divisions.\footnote{C.H. Payne, \textit{A Short History of the Sikhs}, p. 82; Giani Gian Singh, \textit{Tawarikh Guru Khalsa}, Vol. II, p. 337.} A section of the army comprising 30 thousand men, under the command Diwan Ram Dayal, Sardar Dal Singh, Ghaus Khan (Darogha-Top Khana), Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa and Sardar Mit Singh Padhania, started for Kashmir.\footnote{Khushwant Singh, \textit{History of the Sikhs (1469-1839)}, Vol. I, p.238.} Second section of the army which was larger in number and greater in strength was under the command of the Maharaja himself who started for Kashmir valley by a different route. According to Ganesh Das, Aghar Khan of Rajauri treacherously advised Ranjit Singh in favour of the Punchh route. The Maharaja reached Punchh suffering immense hardship.\footnote{Ganesh Das Wadhera, \textit{Char Bagh-i-Punjab}, p.1; Amarnath, \textit{Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh}, p. 71.} Diwan Ram Dayal accompanied by Jiwan Mal, Dal Singh and their contingents, reached Behram Gala\footnote{Amarnath, \textit{Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh}, p. 71; W.L. Mc' Gregor. \textit{History of the Sikhs}, Vol. I, p. 172.} and conquered it and established a thana there.\footnote{Amarnath, \textit{Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh}, p. 71.} Then he took possession of the hills of Pir Panjal.\footnote{Murray, \textit{History of the Punjab}, Vol. II, p.21.} Diwan Ram Dayal was confronted with the forces of Azim Khan, the Governor of Kashmir. There was a
fierce fighting between the forces of Diwan Ram Dayal and Azim Khan, on 24 June 1814. There was another episode of bloody fighting at Shopian. The Afghan opposition was stubborn and what was more unfortunate was that because of rains the Sikh guns could not be fired during the battle. Kanwar Kharak Singh's brave officer Jiwan Mal died fighting there. Mit Singh Padhania also died while fighting and his son Sardar Jawala Singh was given his father's place. Diwan Ram Dayal acquitted himself very honorably. According to Amarnath two thousand Afghans were killed there. At the time of fighting, there was a heavy downpour. Diwan Ram Dayal had consequently to fall back and asked for reinforcements.

The main army under Maharaja Ranjit Singh himself reached Punchh only to find itself exposed to rain and storm. Maharaja Ranjit Singh advanced to Mandi, thence to Tosh Maidan Pass where he found Azim Khan entrenched. Here he heard about the distress of Ram Dayal's detachment. The Maharaja had sent five thousand men under Bhai Ram Singh along with Diwan Devi Das and Qutab-ud-Din Khan to reinforce Ram Dayal who could not reach there because of incessant rains and the cowardice of Bhai Ram Singh. This careless commander, more anxious to save his own life, indifferent to the interest at stake halted en route and making the bad weather an excuse did not move from there. Hence the reinforcement never reached the young Diwan. According to Amarnath, Bhai Ram Singh avoided fighting and informed the Maharaja that the enemy had an upper hand over the Sikh forces of whom many had been killed and it was in the interest of the Lahore

521 Amarnath, *Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh*, p. 73.
To recall the forces from Kashmir.\textsuperscript{524} He returned to Rajauri without waiting for a reply from the Maharaja.\textsuperscript{525} Because of the dereliction of his responsibility, Bhai Ram Singh was suspended from his office\textsuperscript{526} and also fined him.\textsuperscript{527} Later, on the recommendations of the crown Kanwar Kharak Singh, he was reinstated on 27 August, 1827.\textsuperscript{528}

The army under the Maharaja was stuck up at Rajauri on account of rains. Rahulla Khan the ruler of Punchh, was secretly in league with the Governor of Kashmir. He created more impediments for the Sikh forces. The Maharaja had to return from Kashmir to Lahore in August 1814 via Punchh, Kotli and Mirpur.\textsuperscript{529}

Diwan Ram Dayal, short of manpower and supplies was left to his own resources. He handled the situation with such courage and boldness that Muhammad Azim Khan was unable to drive out of his country, this doughty young general at the head of a band of determined men and was obliged to come to terms with him. According to some authoritative accounts the terms offered by Diwan Ram Dayal, and accepted by Azim Khan, were that the former would retire if Azim Khan accepted in writing the 'nominal supremacy' of the Lahore Darbar. From the courage, determination and boldness shown by Diwan Ram Dayal, it is quite evident that Azim Khan accepted this condition in order to get rid of the invader whom he had failed to oust by force. According to Amarnath dwelling upon the friendly relations with Diwan Mohkam Chand, grandfather of Diwan Ram Dayal, Azim Khan is said to have considered it worth while to contract cordial relations with Diwan Ram Dayal and the Lahore Darbar. He sent valuable presents for the Maharaja and assured

\textsuperscript{524} Amarnath, Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh, p. 72.
\textsuperscript{525} Murray, History of the Punjab, Vol. II, p. 20.
\textsuperscript{526} Ibid. p.74; Amarnath, Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh, p. 73.
\textsuperscript{527} Amarnath, Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh, p. 73.
\textsuperscript{528} Murray, History of the Punjab, Vol. II, p. 74.
\textsuperscript{529} Ganesh Das Wadehra, Char Bagh-i-Punjab, p. 1.
Diwan Ram Dayal of wishing well of the Maharaja and his kingdom.  

Even after a series of disasters which had befallen the expedition Diwan Ram Dayal retrieved matters as far as was possible. Thus he held his own in the Kashmir Valley with such determination that Azim Khan was compelled to come to terms, allowing him safe conduct and even admitting in a written document the supremacy of Lahore. Diwan Ram Dayal returned to Lahore safe and sound.

Thus the whole expedition returned to Lahore, having lost its best officers and men and being short of everything that constituted its strength and utility as a military body. The Maharaja lamented the fact that in the campaign he could not avail himself of his aged Diwan's discretion and judgment, as well as of his skill and valour. Everything had come to pass exactly as the old Diwan had predicted and the ruler of Lahore rued the political blunder he had committed.

Diwan Ram Dayal had participated in a subordinate capacity in the various campaigns launched for Multan. He had accompanied the 1817 campaign under the command of Diwan Bhawani Das when the force withdrew after collecting a Nazrana of rupees sixty-one thousand. He had also taken part in the final campaign for the capture of Multan in 1818. He took part in the house-to-house fighting inside the fort and razed most of the houses to the ground. He had captured the Nawab's eldest son Sarfraz Khan, hiding in a cell and brought him to his tent with all honours. When the fort was occupied, Diwan Ram Dayal was appointed to see that the fort was not plundered by the Lahore

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530 Amarnath, Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh, p.84; H.T. Prinsep, Origin of the Sikh Power in the Punjab, p. 85.
531 N.K. Sinha, Ranjit Singh, pp.54-55.
533 Amarnath, Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh, p.87.
soldiers. He got all the gates of the fort locked and posted guards on them. He had captured large quantities of the precious stones, jewellery, shawls and other valuable materials. He kept these under safe custody and at the appropriate occasion handed over these articles to the Maharaja.

As was the practice, Diwan Ram Dayal was also occasionally sent out for collecting tribute. In 1815, he along with Dal Singh was sent for this tribute hunt towards Multan and Bahawalpur from where he collected a substantial amount and in 1818 from Bahawalpur and Mankera. Later, when Wazir Fateh Khan crossed the Indus and started collecting tribute from the territory of Multan, Dal Singh was dispatched to drive away the Wazir. Diwan Ram Dayal who was already in the vicinity, was instructed to help the Sardar in the venture, he detached a force of 2,000 horses for the purpose. The Wazir was driven away, and also convinced of the Khalsa’s invincibility.

The same year Diwan Ram Dayal was despatched to Rajauri to punish its chief, Agar Khan, for his treachery during the Kashmir expedition of 1814. Agar Khan tried to buy forgiveness, but Diwan Ram Dayal would not heed his terms and sacked and burnt both the town of Rajauri and the palace of the Raja. He left behind him a terrible example of royal revenge. He was also sent to receive Nazrana from Khangarh and Muzaffargarh.

The next year Diwan Ram Dayal sent northwards to watch the movements of Fateh Khan, who had joined his brother Azim Khan in

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Kashmir. Hukam Singh Chimni was at this time in charge of the Attock fort and it was the endeavour of Diwan Ram Dayal and Hukam Singh Chimni to keep in order the Muslims of Hazara and Yusafzai, who had been instigated to revolt by Fateh Khan, and on one occasion Diwan Ram Dayal was all but defeated by them.\textsuperscript{540}

In 1819 Diwan Ram Dayal again participated in the final and successful expedition against Kashmir.\textsuperscript{541} This time the leader of the Sikh army was Misr Diwan Chand, the conqueror of the division. But because of his other preoccupations and then his advance being impeded by weather, he could not participate in the actual fighting. Little resistance was, however, made. Zabar Khan took flight and the province of Kashmir was annexed by Ranjit Singh to his dominions.

Diwan Ram Dayal was also sent against the Raja of Punchh in 1819 in order to bring the Raja Zabardast Khan into subjection.\textsuperscript{542} When the Raja saw that he could offer no resistance to the Sikhs under Ram Dayal, he dispatched his son to the Maharaja and all the Zamindars in the direction of Kashmir, likewise presented themselves. On this occasion, the Maharaja received fifty-three lakhs of rupees from these provinces.

When Bhai Makhan Singh was killed in Hazara and Hukam Singh Chimni, the Governor recalled, Diwan Ram Dayal was sent there to restore order.\textsuperscript{543} This was no easy matter. The tribes had been thoroughly exasperated by the conduct of Hukam Singh and their successes in rebellious activities had given them confidence. The Maharaja could not tolerate the rebellion in Hazara and directed Kanwar Sher Singh and Rani Sada Kaur, to proceed to Hazara with a huge force.

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\textsuperscript{540} Amarnath, Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh, p. 83.
\textsuperscript{542} W.L. Mc' Gregor, \textit{History of the Sikhs}, Vol. I, p. 185.
\textsuperscript{543} Ganesh Das Wadehra, \textit{Char Bagh-i-Punjab}, p. 6.
\end{flushright}
They were accompanied by Sardar Fateh Singh Ahluwalia, Sardar Sham Singh Attari and Diwan Ram Dayal. This was in January 1820.

The Hazara rebellion was widespread and was not confined to any one part. Sardar Muhammad Khan had provoked the Ghazis to such an extent that they were filled with a revengeful spirit and the atmosphere was surcharged with deep enmity. The Sikh forces had, therefore, an uphill task to accomplish. The entire force was divided and put under different commanders and deployed at Pakhli, Dhamtor, Dharband, Tarbela and Gandgarh.\textsuperscript{544} When Diwan Ram Dayal had penetrated as far as the fort of Gandgarh, he was surrounded by a number of the enemies, the Afghans of Miswari, Srikot, Tarbela, Yusafzai and Swat and was compelled to fight. Through the whole day, the battle was fought against enormous odds by the Sikhs, and at night, completely worn out, they retired to their entrenchments. Last to leave the field was Diwan Ram Dayal.\textsuperscript{545} When he was crossing a Durah, the enemy perceiving that he was separated from the main body of the army, made a sudden dash and cut off and surrounded his party.\textsuperscript{546} Even then Diwan Ram Dayal gave tough time to the Afghans at Hazara and died fighting against them in 1820\textsuperscript{547} at the young age of about 28. It was a great loss to the Khalsa and gloom was cast in the army’s rank and file. He was a rising officer of great promise in the Sikh army.\textsuperscript{548}

Thus ended, abruptly the career of this most promising general of the Lahore Darbar. Keeping the status and regard of Diwan Moti Ram in mind, the Maharaja sent Kanwar Kharak Singh to convey his

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item Amarnath, \textit{Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh}, p. 115.
\item Ganesh Das Wadhera, \textit{Char Bagh-i-Punjab}, p. 6.
\item Kanhiya Lal, \textit{Tarikh-i-Punjab}, p. 267.
\item Murray, \textit{History of the Punjab}, Vol. II, p. 43.
\end{enumerate}
\end{footnotesize}
condolences for his brave and courageous son Diwan Ram Dayal.\textsuperscript{549} The death of Diwan Ram Dayal was a great grief to his father who gave up the Kashmir government and retired to Banaras.\textsuperscript{550} To the \textit{Maharaja}, who had expected still greater achievements from this worthy grandson of the illustrious Diwan Mohkam Chand, his death was a source of deep sorrow.

Diwan Ram Dayal was a capable and a promising general of the Lahore Kingdom. He had distinguished himself in the capture of Multan and in the Kashmir campaign of 1814. During the latter campaign he had saved an awkward situation by his presence of mind and coolness. Although weak in men and material, he had put up a bold stand against an enemy. Diwan Ram Dayal was an outstanding general who successfully conducted the retreat from the Kashmir campaign under the trying conditions of a difficult terrain, bad weather and with his force tired and exhausted. A leader of men, extremely popular with his troops. Diwan Ram Dayal was a rising star who had commanded a division at the age of twenty.

Here we are going to examine the services performed by Diwan Bhawani Das in the military campaigns soon after joining the Lahore \textit{Darbar} under Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Although he was the Finance Minister, besides his financial duties he was entrusted with military duties. His military services were also considerable. He joined the expedition to Jammu in 1809,\textsuperscript{551} Attock in 1813\textsuperscript{552}, Kashmir in 1814\textsuperscript{553} and 1819\textsuperscript{554} and Kohistan in 1828\textsuperscript{555}. He realized the tributes from

\textsuperscript{550} Raja Ram Tota, \textit{Gulgashat-i-Punjab}, p. 139.
\textsuperscript{554} \textit{Ibid}, p. 305.
\textsuperscript{555} \textit{Ibid}, p. 461.
Nakka country in 1809\textsuperscript{556}, Kohistan in 1809\textsuperscript{557} and 1810\textsuperscript{558}, the Nawab of Multan in 1816\textsuperscript{559} and 1817\textsuperscript{560} and Kohistan in 1823\textsuperscript{561}. After the cession of the fort of Kangra to Ranjit Singh by Sansar Chand, in 1810, and the reduction of the hill chiefs, Diwan Bhawani Das was sent to collect the tribute from the Rajas of Mandi and Suket and Kulu.\textsuperscript{562} He received fifty thousands rupees from Mandi, seventy thousands rupees from Kulu and seventy seven thousands rupees from the Raja of Suket respectively.\textsuperscript{563} In 1809, he was sent with a strong force to Jammu which he annexed to Lahore territory. He also sent against Peshawar and Yusafzai tribes.\textsuperscript{564} After 1810 Ranjit Singh could not pay any attention to Multan for the next many years. During this time he was busy against Attock and Kashmir. Phula Singh Akali was sent against Multan. A band of desperadoes led by him stormed the town and even secured the outworks of the citadel. But when Muzaffar Khan held grimly on and would not capitulate Diwan Bhawani Das, who led this expedition, consented to withdraw on payment of 80,000 rupees.\textsuperscript{565} In 1813, he captured the Haripur hill territory.\textsuperscript{566} In 1816, he was made the chief Diwan to Kanwar Kharak Singh\textsuperscript{567} and was appointed to reduce the territories of Ramgarhia Sardars about Amritsar and Gurdaspur.\textsuperscript{568} The next year he was sent to Jammu to bring the district into order and make it over to Gulab Singh, who had just received the title of Raja. In

\textsuperscript{556} Ibid, p. 81.  
\textsuperscript{557} Ibid., p. 91.  
\textsuperscript{558} Ibid, p. 99.  
\textsuperscript{559} Ibid, p. 205.  
\textsuperscript{560} Ibid, p. 243.  
\textsuperscript{561} Sohan Lal Suri, Umdat-ut-Tawarikh, Daftar-II, p. 455.  
\textsuperscript{562} Ibid, p. 99; Bute Shah, Tawarikh-i-Punjab, p. 144; Kanhiya Lal, Tarikh-i-Punjab, p. 208.  
\textsuperscript{565} Bute Shah, Tawarikh-i-Punjab, p. 154; According to Amarnath, Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh, p. 87, Diwan Bhawani Das got 61 thousand rupees as Nazrana.  
\textsuperscript{567} Murray, History of the Punjab, Vol. II, p. 28.  
\textsuperscript{568} Lepel Griffin, The Punjab Chiefs, p. 288.
1815, June, the Maharaja sent Diwan Bhawani Das and Desa Singh Majithia to extract tribute from the Raja of Kulu and Mandi.\textsuperscript{569} In 1817, the Maharaja sent a contingent under Diwan Bhawani Das to realize the stipulated Nazrana from the Nawab of Multan.\textsuperscript{570} Due to the hesitant attitude of the Nawab an army was dispatched to conquer Multan which was besieged but soon thereafter the seize was lifted. A couple of towers of the out wall of the town were battered and breaches were caused to the wall at many places. Both Amarnath and Kanhiya Lal mention this expedition was not successful because of the bribes, amounting to ten thousand rupees, accepted by the commander of the expedition, Diwan Bhawani Das.\textsuperscript{571} For this failure the Diwan was fined Rs. 10,000 by Maharaja Ranjit Singh.\textsuperscript{572} He imprisoned him and confiscated his property. However, after a few months, on the recommendation of Kanwar Kharak Singh, he was excused and restored to the position.\textsuperscript{573}

Another Hindu who performed his military services in the Lahore Darbar was Diwan Ajodhia Parshad. He came to Lahore in 1814. After the study of two years at Lahore he was sent to Kashmir, where he was placed in the military office, on a salary of 1000 rupees per annum.\textsuperscript{574} It needs mention that not much information about his performance in the battle fields is available. It is however known that six months later he was recalled to Lahore. In 1819, he was placed under Ventura and Allard as paymaster of the troops and as a channel of communication between the commanding officers and the Maharaja.\textsuperscript{575} Though he was offered the office of his father yet he politely refused and continued to serve with

\textsuperscript{569} W.L. Mc' Gregor, History of the Sikhs, Vol. I, p. 175.
\textsuperscript{570} H.L.O. Garrett and G.L. Chopra (eds.), Events at the court of Ranjit Singh 1810-1817, p. 333.
\textsuperscript{571} Amarnath, Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh, p. 88; Kanhiya Lal, Tarikh-i-Punjab, p. 286.
\textsuperscript{572} W.L. Mc' Gregor, History of the Sikhs, Vol. I, p. 179.
\textsuperscript{573} Kanhiya Lal, Tarikh-i-Punjab, p. 286.
\textsuperscript{574} Lepel Griffin, The Punjab Chiefs, p. 124.
\textsuperscript{575} Sohan Lal Suri, Umdat-ut-Tawarikh, Daftar-III, p. 203.
Fauj-I-Khas. He was entrusted with the entire administration of this brigade during Ventura's temporary absence to Europe and was warmly praised for his efficient management by the latter on his return.\textsuperscript{576} So ably did he do this, that General Ventura wrote of him in these terms: "On the two occasions that I have been absent on leave in France, Ajodhia Prashad has held the command of the life guards of the Maharaja. I have never had cause to repent appointing him my Deputy, for on my return from France, I have found the troops in as a good condition as if I had been present myself."\textsuperscript{577}

Although, Diwan Moti Ram and Diwan Kirpa Ram served Maharaja Ranjit Singh as Governors yet they also participated in minor expeditions. In 1817, Diwan Moti Ram and Kanwar Kharak Singh were instructed to punish the Zamindars of Chhib and Bhau.\textsuperscript{578} Diwan Moti Ram took part in the final expedition of Multan in 1818.\textsuperscript{579} In November 1814, the Maharaja issued orders to Diwan Moti Ram to settle the affairs beyond Satluj, where Phoola Singh Akali and Tahil Singh were creating disturbances. Diwan Moti Ram by this order settled the affairs.\textsuperscript{580} The Maharaja sent Diwan Moti Ram with Dal Singh to receive Nazrana from Mandi and Kulu.\textsuperscript{581} In 1819, when the tract between Kot Kamlia and Tulamba was infested with dacoits, the Maharaja sent Diwan Kirpa Ram and Jawala Singh along with Kanwar Kharak Singh to restore law and order there.\textsuperscript{582} Diwan Moti Ram and his son Diwan Kirpa Ram were sent to Sarai Phillaur to administrate the area on the both banks of satlej. Before their departure to Phillaur they were presented siropas by the

\textsuperscript{576} G.L. Chopra, \textit{The Punjab as a Sovereign State (1799-1839)}, p. 107.
\textsuperscript{577} Lepel Griffin, \textit{The Punjab Chiefs}, p. 125.
\textsuperscript{578} Sohan Lal Suri, \textit{Umdat-ut-Tawarikh}, Daftar-II, pp. 174-175, 177.
\textsuperscript{581} Bute Shah, \textit{Tawarikh-i-Punjab}, p. 159 mention he received Nazrana from Mandi Rs. 50,000.
Diwan Kirpa Ram was also sent along with Jamadar Khushal Singh and Dhanna Singh Malwai to conquer the fort of Kutlehr which they subjugated. He also took part in the expedition of Mankera with Misr Diwan Chand. In 1823, Diwan Kirpa Ram joined the Maharaja with the Doab forces and took part in the battle of Naushera in which the Afghan forces under Muhammad Azim Khan of Kabul suffered a heavy defeat. During the same year, in September, Diwan Kirpa Ram was sent against Uzzul Khan. He subdued the country and seized Uzzul Khan and his son and brought them to Lahore.

Lala Karam Chand though he was attached to revenue department was also appointed with Lala Raj Kaur Peshawari, Sardar Dhanna Singh Malwai and Jamadar Khushal Singh to successfully settle the campaigns towards Dera Ghazi Khan. He also accompanied the expedition of Attock in 1812.

Diwan Devi Das who joined the service of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1809, took part in the ill-fated Kashmir expedition of 1814, the final expedition in 1819 and the expedition of Attock in 1813. He was also sent to receive the Nazrana from the ruler of Mankera.

Misr Rallia Ram who was made the chief of Custom Department in 1812 joined the service of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1811. In 1812, Misr Rallia Ram was sent to collect the Nazrana from the hill territories. In 1821 he was sent to reduce Sardar Jai Singh Attiwala who had risen in

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584 Bute Shah, Tawarikh-i-Punjab, p. 228; Kanihiya Lal, Tarikh-i-Punjab, p. 294.
585 Bute Shah, Tawarikh-i-Punjab, p. 207.
589 Bute Shah, Tawarikh-i-Punjab, p. 99.
591 Ibid., p. 189.
593 Bute Shah, Tawarikh-i-Punjab, p. 155.
594 Kanihiya Lal, Tarikh-i-Punjab, p. 233.
He reduced his stronghold of Kallar Kahar and compelled him to take shelter with Dost Muhammad, the Amir of Kabul.

Misr Sukhraj joined the service of Maharaja Ranjit Singh as a petty officer and rose to be a commander of several battalions of infantry. In 1835, he was elevated to the position of a general with the command of 4 infantry regiments, a cavalry regiment and 2 troops of artillery.

Another Hindu Lala Sukh Dayal took part in the expedition of Attock in 1812. In 1835, at Peshawar he had taken possession of some villages in the country of Ghar and included it in the state of the Maharaja. The Maharaja remarked about him that "he was a very brave and daring man and granted him an estate of Rs. 10,000 for his maintenance".

In brief, we may conclude that almost all the Hindu Courtiers and Officials who served the Lahore Darbar during the life time of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, commanded and participated in various principal campaigns as well as in minor campaigns. Their participation in various wars proved fruitful and the credit of the various regions/states which were captured by the Sikh army goes to these officers—particularly to Diwan Mohkam Chand, Misr Diwan Chand, Diwan Ram Dayal and Diwan Bhawani Das. Lastly it has to be admitted that the less prominent Hindu Courtiers and Officials too contributed to a great extent in the extension and consolidation of the Sikh State under Maharaja Ranjit Singh, especially. Thus their contribution and achievement in the field of military campaigns were not only significant but unforgettable.

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595 Lepel Griffin, The Punjab Chiefs, p. 47.
596 Amarnath, Zafarnama-i-Ranjit Singh, p. 211.
598 Bute Shah, Tawarikh-i-Punjab, p. 99.
600 Ibid, p. 229.