Chapter 4

Jaipur Army and its Operations
Mughal Empire in the eighteenth century was grappling with pressing problem of maintaining peace in the Empire. There were many areas which were cause anxiety. Rajput Rajas of Amber, as Mughal noble, were entrusted important responsibilities to safeguard and cope with the enemies and smoothly administer their watan area and other territories. This chapter focuses the attempt of Raja of Amber in managing this arduous task. It also intends to discuss about the working of the army of Jaipur. How they marched to the battlefield, techniques they used during war time, how they made sieges and how they coped with the sieges made by the army of opposition are also focused in this chapter.

Maps and literary texts

Interestingly enough we have extant maps and its literary text which reveal the war tactics used by Rajput Rajas during siege operations. These extraordinary documents are primarily in the form of the kapad dwara maps which depict location of forts, placement of enemy tribes and position of Mughal army troops, ammunition etc. Such a survey was the preliminary preparation to gauge the nature of problem to be addressed. The kapad dwara collection also possesses military charts which chalked out the detailed strategy for defense and offense. How the rajas army had to be divided with clear instruction of right or left wing and the command of the leader of the troops, the placement of troops and animal were how army is divided into central, right or left wing is also shown. These charts also provided graphic descriptions of tunnels, ditches, barriers as well as position of canons, weight of gun powder and other seemingly minor details. This intricate study on the part of the Raja, which is first step towards the expedition is available in profusion in our records.

\[1\] Kapad dwara, Map No. 169.
\[2\] Ibid., Map No. 89.
\[3\] Ibid., Map and Notes 541 also see, Notes No- 188.
\[4\] Ibid., Map No. 57.
\[5\] Ibid.
\[6\] Ibid., Map No 169.
\[7\] Ibid., Notes No 174.
\[8\] Ibid., Notes No- 284.
\[9\] Ibid., Notes No 89.
MAP - 2 FORT OF BASWA ADAPTED FROM KAPAD DWARA
MAP – 3 SURKHAB ADAPTED FROM KAPAD DWARA
MAP – 4 POSITION OF TROOPS IN A BATTLEFIELD ADAPTED FROM KAPAD DWARA
The encampments of the army

The camps of army were an important part of the working of the army. The Amber chief had two complete sets of the establishment. One was pitched where he had to stay. The other was pitched where the Amber chief had to make next halt (ie next day). This was called Pesh Khana. The royal camps were pitched in the area of 150 feet long and 90 feet broad. The zanana tents were also fixed along with the royal camps. The guard’s tents were placed around these royal camps. Then the tents of officer s and workshops were stationed. Around these the tents of noble were placed according to their ranks. The bazaars (shops) were also set up at some distance. There was adequate arrangement of light. The lightening was done with the help of candles and earthen pots. The royal camp was covered by the partition called kanat having the height of 7 feet to 8 feet.

The camps of the Rulers consisted of number of profusely decorated tents called khakwa’s. It was surrounded by the tents of sub-assignees. The tents of ladies of were also copiously decorated. The stables of horses, elephants, and other animals were placed outside the royal apartment. For the protection of Rulers, artillery was either placed in front of the royal camps or flanked both sides of the Rulers tents.

The tent housing kettle drum (Naqqarkhana) was positioned at the entrance of the ruler camps. The naqgar was beaten at the regular intervals. Tents of Guards (Chowki khana) were placed near the royal tents for the placed of the security of the ruler and the harems. The light towers were also pitched nearby. Various other tents were placed for their specific purposes. These tents included the departments candles and torches (mashal khana) and saddles (zee khana) rasoikhana( kitchen), stable for horse, elephants etc. The tents of sub assignees were placed according to the rank and the height of these tents were lower than that of the ruler. The main gate of these tents faced towards the tent of the rulers. The tents of general soldiers were pitched nearby.

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10 The layout of the army was similar as in the Mughal military expedition. Set out in Ain 17, see also, Kapad-dwara, Notes No- 174.
11 Ain-i-Akbari, op. cit., list of plates no. IV
12 Ibid.
13 Kapad dwara, Notes no- 138.
14 Ain-i-Akbari, op. cit., list of plates no. IV
The merchant and traders also accompanied the army. These special quarters were called *bazaars* which functioned as mobile shops for the army and its associated functionaries. *Bazaars* were meant to supply the food and other items to the troopers at a moderate profit. They were provided protection and other facilities by the army.

The imperial kitchen was the main body for the distribution of the food not only for Rajas but also for soldiers, matchlock men, and even the palace servants. The *banjaras* were also employed by the rulers to supply the food grains. The fodder for the animals was also taken care of by the ruler. The separate class of the troopers were employed for looking after the fodder of the animals. For the discipline and security of the huge camps, *Daroga* was appointed. He was responsible to maintaining peace and order in the camp. During the night he kept guard around the camp, and also employed the spies to know the happening of the camps.\(^{15}\)

A clear vision of the army encampment can discerned by the chart provided in Ain.\(^{16}\)

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\(^{15}\) *Ibid.*

\(^{16}\) *Ibid.*
Photo -37 Layout of Military Camp Adapted *Ain-i-Akbari*
Siege Operations

The siege operations were made when the army had to capture an enemy fort. The Siege operations comprised of many tactics. Trenches and mines were made, the ditches were filled, siege towers were made, walls were scaled, food supply was cut off, fort doors were broke open by elephants, battering rams etc. The planning details can be gauged by a perusal of siege layout which divided the entire contingent into diverse number of troops with specified responsibility.\(^{17}\)

![Photo-38 Showing layout of siege operation. Source: Saga of India Cannons.](image)

\(^{17}\) Saga of Indian Canon op. cit., p. 2.
Trenches and Mines

The construction of these trenches was done with many carpenters, stone cutters, blacksmiths, excavators, earth workers, and shovelmen were set to work to construct Sabat which are peculiar to Indian. The term of Sabat is used for two walls which are made at a short distance of a musket shot; and under the shelter of planks and baskets which are held together by animal hides, the said walls are carried close to the fort. Then the matchlock and the mine diggers come safely, through the wide ways between those walls to fort and they were dig a mine filled it with gunpowder.18

Ditches-

Kapad-dwara maps shows that the forts were protected by ditches, though ditches were usually filled with water, sometimes these ditches were filled up by sand or mud and temporary bridges were built to cross it.19

Siege-towers

Siege towers were usually built of timber. They were fully covered and mounted on the wheels otherwise sometimes raised on the ground. These towers were stationary and movable. From the top of the tower the troopers could fight enemy forces on battlement of forts.20

Scaling

For scaling of Fort walls, rope ladders were used.21

Cutting the Food Supply

Stopping the food supply to the enemy camp for a long period to starve them is one of the war tactics. Under such circumstances, ruler had to surrender to the besieger for the sake of army or public. Raja Jai Singh in 1722 A.D. captured the fort of Bharatpur, when Churaman was made starve along-with his army in his fort.22

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19 Kapad dwara, Map and Notes No- 328
20 Ibid., Notes Nos- 89, 102.
21 See Mughal painting enclosed in Chapter 1, fig. 23.
22 Army of Indian Moghul, op. cit., 284.
Use of Elephants

The elephants were also used during sieges. They were used for battering the gates of the forts. The elephant were especially trained for the purpose. For this purpose the elephant’s forehead were armoured with the help of iron or steel plates. The iron spikes were projected on the gates of the forts to make the ramming of forts difficult for the elephant.  

The Army operation

Before going to march they made preparation for it. The order of the march was communicated by the commander to the pattayat commanding their troops, who in turn conveyed it to their sub ordinate by beating naqarrah. They made huge sound of trumpet for the preparation of the march. When all the troopers have assembled, the march started.

The place of halt was selected where the availability of water and food was easy. Various means of transportation were used in such march such as Horses, camels, elephants, oxen, used in chariots, carts, palanquins and howdah (wooden plank) etc. The mode of transportation depended on the terrain covered and person using it.

During the march of army to the battlefield, heavy artillery formed the advanced guard. The treasury of the royal house followed the artillery. The official records were carried down by the camels and oxen. Harem formed the central part of the march. Cavalry and infantry followed the Harem and provided protection. After them commander or Ruler positioned themselves, followed by queens and other ladies of the Harem. The rear guard consisted of servant which carrying, tents and baggage’s etc. The convoy usually made many halts during the march. The time of journey depended on many conditions including length of halts, weather conditions, etc. The journey from Jaipur to Udaipur (132 Kos) was covered in 23 days in 16 halts. The return journey was much faster by same convoy as it was covered in 17 days with nine halts.

23 V.R. did, Phalgun Sudi 10 1768/7 April 1712.
24 Tauji Jamakharch,1783 V.S.
25 V.R. No. 4/4dated 26 Jamadi-us-sani, 1092/3 July 1681; V. R. No. 29/33 dated 3 Rabi I 1093/12 March, 1682.
During emergency times, the forced or quick marches were ordered. During 1738 A.D. the Jaipur forces approached Tunga in 9 days for making halt for nine days at Khanderi. This march was covered in 13 days having the distance of 73 miles which implies that they covered about 15-20 Kos per day. Usually march of army under desert condition takes about 4-5 Kos per day.

The intelligence service was also arranged to check the disloyalty among troopers. The intelligent department was supervised by the Jamadar, Daroga as well as their subordinates called Harkaras and Qasid. The horses were provided to the qasids for communicating the messages. The proper Dak (post) arrangements were also made. Qasids were responsible for the transportation of the messages. For this purpose the dakchowkis were established.

The Army on the Battle Field

The battle array of Mughals was picked by Rajputs with whom they had been associated for very long time. In the battle field the first line was composed by the artillery. Behind this artillery was the advanced guards- the harol and haraval. At the centre —Gol, the commander stood. He was flanked on both left hand side Bain taraf (left hand side) and Dahini Tarrf (right hand side) by the left wing and the right wing of the army. After it there was the reserve force which was kept for the guarding the camp from the enemy. Chandawal or Chandol was the rear guard that protected royal baggages and supplies.

The slain and wounded were also recorded during the battle. When the high ranked person died the drum were mounted on the fort and were beaten according to the recognized mode for the occasion. If the officer were killed in the battle field he was cremated with the honour. The relative of the deceased were compensated with the grant of inam and patta.

The wounded were also compensated by allowance. This allowance was given according to the rank of the trooper. This allowance was termed as pattî bandhai, or zakhamnama.

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26 V. R. dtd. Baisakh Sudi 1, V. S. 1772/4 May 1715.
27 V. R. dtd. Phalgun Sudi 2, 1769/16 March 1713.
28 Kapad dwara, Notes No-89.
29 Army of Indian Moghals, op. cit., pp. 223-228
30 Ibid.
The Strategies and Tactics of Jaipur army

The army also used the *tuleghma* tactics which was first in India was used by Babur in the battle of Panipat. This battle was fought between Ibrahim Lodi and Babur in 1526 A.D. In this battle the force of Ibrahim Lodi was very large in comparison to Babur force. But due to skillful tactics applied by the Babur he won the war. When Lodi ordered to attack the right flank Babur ordered the reserve forces to attack. The army of Lodi was numerically in large number which made them unable to move.

In mean time the reserve force of Babur surrounded the Lodi’s force on both sides and attack on them, which created confusion among the army of Lodi. Then Babur ordered his right and left wings to attack on the Lodi’s army form rear side which made Lodi’s forces completely paralyzed and Babur won the battle. 31 This situation is termed tulegma and finds clear mention in the following line drawing of Military layout

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Photo-39 Showing Layout of *Tulighma* tactics source: Rushbrooke, William *An Empire Builder of the Sixteenth Century*

**BATTLE OF PANIPAT**

**POSITION 1**

- **R** - Right Wing
- **C** - Centre
- **L** - Left Wing
- **A** - Advance Guard

- Palisade of Carts and Breast works
- Musketeers (Mustfa)
- Artillery (Ustad Ali)

**POSITION 2**

- Artillery and Musketeers

**INDEX**

- A - Advance Guard
- R - Right Wing
- L - Left Wing
- C - Centre
- LC - Left Centre
- RC - Right Centre
- LF - Left Flanking Party
- RF - Right Flanking Party

- Babur’s Troops
- Sultan Ibrahim’s Troops
- Ditch
- Felled Trees
- Villages
Before the battle there was always an attempt to resolve conflicts without use of armed forces. They spread false news into the state of the enemy to demoralize the opponent’s army so that the strength of the army could be shaken. The spies were employed to enter the enemy camps and collect all the information about the army of the enemy and convey it to their masters.  

After the cavalier action the war began between the general combat (infantry). These troopers fought with swords, spear, mace, dagger, javelins etc. These troopers fought person to person with the help of these weapons. The infantry also used bows and arrows for attacking the enemy.

The war cries also played an important role while fighting. They called the name of the God for the blessings which gave energy to the troopers to fight. The encouraging the soldiers also played an important role in the war. It was the good leadership of the commander that encouraged the soldiers. High morale of army has always played important role in any war and wars of Rajputs were no exception.

**The Military Operation undertaken by Jaipur Army**

The Jaipur army had fought various battles on behalf of imperial army. One can enumerate such battles like when the Mughal emperor sent Man Singh against Rana of Mewar. During this time, the Kachhawah family had achieved the highest rank in the Mughal service for displaying the exceptional capacity of war and government under the emperor. The battle took place at the ground of Haldighati in 1576. In this battle Man Singh was the commander of ten thousand men. Four thousand of these were of his own clan (kachhawah) and one thousand was other Hindu clan. The remaining five thousand were Muslim troops of the imperial service. Man Singh brought success to the Mughal army.

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33 *Kapad-dwara*, Notes No- 328.
35 *Military History of India*, op. cit., p. 80.
36 Ibid, p. 77.
In the battle of Pancholas, Sawai Jai Singh sent his three hundred troops under the five nobles of kachhwahas namely Isarda, Sarsop, Suhadpur, Nantori and Paondhera to help Salim Singh. In this battle Maharao Budh Singhwas forced to retreat and army operation of Sawai Jai Singh was successful. Sawai Jai Singh also helped Dalel Khan to restore him by helping him with the twenty thousand troopers.

In the battle of Gangwana, the army of Sawai Jai Singh also played important role against the Jat. He was commanding about fifty thousand cavalry and more of infantry. To help the Jaipur Army in 1717.A.D imperial government sent about eighty four small cannons to Jai Singh at Thun and in addition to that three hundred man of gunpowder, one hundred man of lead and rocket were sent from Agra.

During the time of Ishwari Singh, the battle of Rajmahal took place on march 1747 A.D. between the army of Jaipur and the army of Maharana. The battle continued only for a day. The skillful planning of Jaipur army defeated the force of Maharana and the Jaipur army captured all the artillery pieces.

The battle for Bundi was fought between the Jaipur army and the army of Ummed Singh in March 1747 A.D. The Jaipur army defeated the Ummed Singh at Devpur and occupied Bundi.

The army of Jaipur was summoned by the Emperor to help him repulse the invasion of Afghan invader- Ahmad Shah Durani. This battle took place at Manupur in March 1748 A.D.

In 1750 A.D. during Ishwari Singh reign ,the army of Jaipur helped Ram Singh fight against Bakht Singh for the throne of Marwar. The battle took place at Piper near Roona.

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38 Ibid., Vol. IV, pp. 3220-21.
40 Ibid., p. 64.
42 Ibid., pp. 220-221.
43 Ibid., p. 221
44 Ibid., p. 226
The army of Jaipur during Ishwari Singh had also defeated the Madho Singh force when he tried overthrow Ishwari Singh from Jaipur.\footnote{Ibid., p. 217}

During the times of Madho Singh, the Jaipur forces fought against the Marathas between 1753-1756 A.D. Madho Singh and his army had also fought the battle of Bhatwara against Maratha and the battle of Maonda against the Jat.\footnote{Ibid., pp. 238, 242.}