THE FAMILY OF BARHA SAYYIDS

Barha Sayyids, who were the first among Indian Muslim to have joined Mughal service under Akbar, belong to modern Muzaffarnagar district of U.P. In the course of their stay they developed considerable influence over local Zamindars and became a dominant force in the region. The main characteristic feature of Barha Sayyids, unlike other Sayyids, was their martial qualities; they served in the vanguard and were also not properly educated. They seems to have joined imperial service under the Lodis and some of them attained important position. Sayyid Mahmud Barha diserted Sikandar Sur who was besieged at Mankot and entered the service of the Akbar. After that, Sayyid Mahmud Barha’s brothers and other kinsmen were also admitted. They were given mansabs and their services were utilised in almost all important military campaigns. However, none of them were appointed to any important office.

During the closing years of Akbar’s reign, their numerical strength in the Mughal nobility as well as total mansab in their family declined. But it was not because of any particular bias against them;

1. Several veiws has been given about their name Barha. For more details see 'The Mughal Nobility under Akbar and Jahangir', 105.
2. A brief history of the family alongwith the list of Barha mansabdarsof Akbar was prepared by Blochman (Ain-iAkbari, vol. 1, Calcutta, 1927),425-31.
after the death of senior Barha nobles, their sons were not given higher ranks and some of them were not considered for the position of an amir. However, during the accession crisis at the time of Akbar's serious illness, the Barha Sayyids under Shaikh Farid Bukhari openly supported Prince Salim\(^3\) and with their crucial help the Prince ascended the throne. After his accession, Barha Sayyids were specially favoured and again they served Mughal armies in all important military campaigns\(^4\). However, none of them were given governorships or independent charge of a military campaign. While Prince Khurram was posted in the Deccan, it appears some of the Barha Sayyids like Muzaffar Khan and Sayyid Shuja'at Khan became very close to him and during the entire period of his rebellion, they remained loyal. Sayyid Shuja'at Khan no doubt deserted him but only when he came to know that the Prince had decided to go to Iran.

After the accession of Shahjahan, Barha Sayyids were specially favoured for their support during the rebellion. But it is significant to note that even those Barha nobles who fought with him in the battle of Bilochpur and thereafter were not discriminated. The list of the nobles of Shahjahan's reign show that most of them were given promotions\(^5\).

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4. The Barha Sayyids as Tuzuk mentions 'formed the vanguard of the Mughal armies and were very proud of their martial qualities, 366.

5. See Appendix-Z
However, the dominant position among them was enjoined only by Muzaffar Khan Barha and Shuja’at Khan Barha. We have discussed in detailed only about them and their family in the following pages.
(A) The Family of Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha

Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha Known as Muzaffar Khan, Khan-i Jahan Barha,\textsuperscript{1} was the son of Sayyid Yusuf. He was born in a village Bihari in modern Muzaffarnagar district in 1580. He belonged to the Tihanpuri branch of the Barha clan of the Sayyids.\textsuperscript{2} His father got him educated and well trained in martial arts. The Sayyids of Barha had been enjoying very high reputation at the Mughal court right from the time of Akbar. Muzaffar Khan Barha joined Mughal service under Prince Khurram in 1618 and because of his personal valour, pleasing manners, high Lineage and loyal disposition soon became his great favourite.\textsuperscript{3}

Shortly after joining the Mughal service, he was sent with Prince Khurram to the Deccan campaign where he proved his worth and earned Prince’s confidence.\textsuperscript{4}

In 1623, when Prince Khurram rebelled against his father, Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha firmly stood by him\textsuperscript{5} and after his

\textsuperscript{1} The Nobility under Akbar and Jahangir, 104-5.
\textsuperscript{2} Zakhirat-ul Khawanin, vol. III, 10.
\textsuperscript{4} Ibid
\textsuperscript{5} Zakhirat-ul Khawanin, vol. III, 10; also see Sayyed Safdar Husain and Sayyida Husain, Tarikh-iSadat-eBarha, Multan 1994, 334-35.
accession, he rose to a prominent position at the court. The Emperor specially rewarded those nobles who were his associates during his Prince hood. Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha being one of them was given mansab of 4000 Zat 3000 Sawar and a cash reward of one Lacs of rupees.\(^6\) He also appointed Qiledar of Gwalior fort with his son Mansur as his deputy.\(^7\) In the same year, Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha was sent with Mahabat Khan in pursuit of the rebel Jujhar Singh Bundle.\(^8\) He was surrounded by Mahabat Khan, Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha and Khan-i Jahan Lodi from three sides. Finding himself incapable of resisting any more, Jujhar Singh Bundela surrendered before Mahabat Khan. He was pardoned by the Emperor but some portion of his Jagir was confiscated and distributed among Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha, Khan-i Jahan Lodi, Abdullah Khan and others.\(^9\)

In 1628, Khan-i Jahan Lodi,\(^10\) on account of some suspicion, fled from the court. When Asaf Khan learnt about it, he reported the matter

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8. Jujhar Singh was the son of Bir Singh Dev Bundela. After the death of his father, Jahangir bestowed him the title of Raja. At the death of Jahangir, he held the rank of 4000Zat 4000Sawar. For more details see *Ma’asir-ul Umara*, vol.II, PP.214-18.
to the Emperor. Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha along with Khwaja Abul
Hasan and others, was sent in pursuit of Khan-i Jahan Lodi.\footnote{Lahori, vol. I, Part I, P. 274; Ma‘asir-ul Umara, vol. I, P. 716.} The
imperial army, under the command of Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha got
took place between the two forces in which a grand son of Muzaffar
Khan and nineteen other Barha Sayyids lost their lives.\footnote{Lahori, vol. I, Part I, P. 275.} Khan-i Jahan
Lodi, however, managed to escape from the battle field. The Emperor
generously rewarded Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha and by an increase
of 1000 Sawar,\footnote{Ibid, P.280. Zakhirat-ul Khawanin, vol. III, P. 10.} his rank was raised to 4000 Zat 4000 Sawar. Khan-I
Jahan Lodi, after crossing Narmada, entered Jujhar Singh Bundela’s
territory and with the assistance of Bikramjit, crossed over to
Gondwana. The Emperor immediately deputed Azam Khan the Subedar
of Gujrat along with Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha to suppress the
rebels. At the same time, it was reported that Sayyid Muzaffar Khan
Barha was unable to ride due to a swelling above the navel. The
Emperor sent Jagjivan, a surgeon, for his treatment. After recovery, he
was exalted to the rank of 5000 Zat 4000 Sawar\footnote{Lahori, vol. I, Part I, 316; Ma‘asir-ul umara, vol. I, 760.} and proceeded to
chase the rebels. Khan-i Jahan Lodi was again defeated and fled
towards the Nizam Shahi territory. As the situation in the Deccan had
become serious owing to the arrival of Khan-i Jahan Lodi, the Emperor
proceeded towards Deccan personally to supervise the campaign against
Nizam Shah and Khan-i Jahan Lodi. Under the pressure of the imperial
army, Khan-i Jahan Lodi fled to Malwa via Ujjain and reached Kalpi,
which was a strong hold of the Afghans. The Emperor had already sent
Abdullah Khan Feroz Jung and Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha to pursue
him. Being hotly chased by the imperialists, Khan-i Jahan Lodi fled
from one place to another. Near Bhandar Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha
overtook him and in a fierce battle Muhammad (s/o Khan-i Jahan Lodi
) and many other Afghans were killed. However, Khan-i Jahan Lodi
again escaped and marched towards Kalinjar. Sayyid Muzaffar Khan
Barha immediately crossed Narmada at Akbarpur and reached Dholpur.
Thereafter from Dholpur, he marched to Telgaon in the pursuit of the
rebels where he was joined by Abdullah Khan Feroz Jung but Khan-i
Jahan Lodi escaped from there too and entered Nimi which is thirty kos
from Allahabad. The imperialists reached Nimi and gave him hot
chase. Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha surprised Khan-i Jahan Lodi when
he was resting after a long tiresome journey. He again fled from
there and when reached on the bank of river Seendh, Sayyi Muzaffar

17. Ibid, 348.
Khan Barha and Madho Singh\textsuperscript{18} overtook him. In a hand to hand fight Madho Singh wounded him with his dagger and his followers soon cut him to pieces. Sayyid Makhan, the daughter’s son of Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha and twenty seven other imperial soldiers were also killed.\textsuperscript{19} Thus, the rebellion of Khan-i Jahan Lodi was finally suppressed. After this great achievement, Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha came to the court where he was honoured with the title of Khan-i Jahan and by an increase of 1000 Sawar to his mansab, he was promoted to the rank of 5000 Zat 5000 Sawar of which 1000 Sawar were soon made do-aspa, sih-aspa.\textsuperscript{20}

During the course of rebellion Khan-i Jahan Lodi came Deccan and took shelter with Murtaza Nizam Shah II. The situation became so serious that Shahjahan himself proceeded towards the Deccan and opened his extensive campaign in Ahmadnagar. However, serious differences developed between the Mughals and the Bijapuris at the time of military operation against Nizam Shah. It was only after the submission of Fateh Khan in Dec. 1631, that Shah Jahan despatched Asaf Khan to invade Bijapur. Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha now Khan-i Jahan Barha also accompanied the invading army. The capital was put t

\textsuperscript{18} For more details see \textit{Ma’asir ul umara}, vol. III, 453-56.


to seige but ultimately the campaign failed and the Mughal army retreated. In appreciation of his services in the Bijapur campaign, Muzaffar Khan Barha promoted to the rank of 5000 Zat, 5000 Sawar out of which 2000 Sawar do-aspa – sih-aspa.\(^{21}\)

Shahjahan appointed Mahabat Khan as the viceroy of Deccan and himself returned to the capital. Soonafter Mahabat Khan achieved some significant victories and proposed to capture Parenda.\(^{22}\) Shahjahan immediately accepted his request and despatched Prince Shuja at the head of a large army. Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha was appointed as one of the commanders of the Prince’s army. After reaching Deccan at the advice of Mahabat Khan, the fort of Parenda was put to seige. This campaign is well known and its details are mentioned in almost all the important works and therefore repetition is being avoided. However, some information related to the campaign is available in arzdashts,\(^{23}\) which not only sheds light on the difficulties of


\(^{22}\) The fort of Parenda originally belonged to the Nizamshah and was surrendered to the Adilshah in 1632. Highlighting the importance of Parenda, Muqarrab Khan remarked that if Parenda was allowed to fall in to the hands of the Mughals, the extinction of Nizamshahi Kingdom would be complete.

\(^{23}\) Khan-i Jahan Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha, Arzdasht-ha-i Muzaffari, Ms. Br. M.Add.16,859, is a rare collection of documents. It also contains three Arzdasht of Muzaffar Khan addressed to Shahjahan relating to Parenda campaign.
the campaign with which the Mughal army was faced but also on the activities of Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha during the campaign.

During the course of the campaign Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha wrote three Arzdashts (Petitions) to the Emperor. These Arzdashts provide new information about the arrangements made for procurement of food and fodder and enemy’s attempt to check them. The arzdashts clearly indicate that there was shortage of supply particularly of fodder for animals and the imperialists had to go several miles in battle formation, to collect the same, because the Deccanis used to attack them in order to capture or destroy their provisions. Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha tells us that the military commanders were deputed turn by turn to protect the provisions from the enemy. He refers to such an incident: when the fodder collecting party of the imperial army had to gone long away from the camp, and was attacked by the enemy comprising of 12,000 horsemen while coming back. Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha confronted the enemy and a pitched battle was fought in which matchlocks, iron rockets and arrows where freely used. But the pressure of the Deccanis was so heavy that they could be repulsed only after the timely reinforcement of a party of the army of Prince Shuja. However, a large number of clansmen of Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha were wounded and killed.24

Prince Shuja therefore, found it advisable to raise the siege as the rains had also set in at that time and much progress was not possible. Moreover, there also developed dissensions in the Mughal army. But from the Arzdashts of Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha, it is revealed that the acute problem of supplies was the most important cause of the failure of the Mughal army in this campaign. The Mughal army had to fight two battles at a time, one for the conquest of Parenda and the other to procure provisions for men and animals. Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha appear to have played very significant role at both the fronts.25

In 1635, Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha was appointed governor of Agra with the rank of 5000 Zat 5000 Sawar, all do-aspa sih-aspa26 and was deputed to pursue Jujhar Singh Bundela who had again rebelled. Abdullah Khan Firoz Jung and Khan-i Dauran were also appointed to coordinate with him in eliminating the rebels.27 The Gwaliormama, which provides day to day account of the campaign, tells us that Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha took keen interest in the campaign by keeping close vigilance over the activities of Jujhar Singh Bundela28. When Jujhar Singh Bundela captured the fort of Chauragarh and Jauhar was performed by Bhim Narayan’s family to save their honour, it was

25. Arzdasht f.15(a)
an army of 70,000 Soldiers under the joint command of Abdullah Khan Feroz Jung, Khan-i Dauran and Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha to crush the rebellion.\(^{29}\) After fifteen days ceaseless efforts they could capture the fort of Orchha. But Jujhar Singh and his son succeeded in escaping to Dhamoni and from there, when chased by the imperialist, they fled into Jungles where they were put to death by the Gonds.\(^{30}\) On the instructions form the court, Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha unearthed the hidden treasure of Jujhar Singh Bundela form the Jungles of Dhamoni with the help of some forest dwellers.\(^{31}\)

According to the Gwaliornama, Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha won over a Bundela chief Devi Singh\(^{32}\) and utilised his services in settling the Bundela’s affairs. Besides the Bundelas, the Panwar and Sakarwal tribes also rebelled against the Mughal administration. Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha organized his army to suppress the rebels. To keep the tribals in control, he appointed Salar Barha at Karhara, a strong hold of Bundelas and Panwaras. To get the support of a section of immediately conveyed to the Emperor who, being infuriated, despatched


\(^{32}\) Gwaliormama, ff 137-40. He was the son of Raja Bharat, who died in 1633. For more details see Ma’asir-ul Umara, vol. I, 295-97.
Rajputs, he strongly recommended the case of Rai Man Singh who played a crucial role in Gurhi and Kalyani area. From an Arzdasht it appears that even after killing of Jujhar Singh, the situation in that area remained rebellious and the military operation continued. Although apparently Muzaffar Khan was not directly involved but he along with Abdulla Khan with whom he had cultivated very close relations, continued to suggest ways and means to establish peace and tranquility in the area.

It appears that Shahjahan relied on Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha very much for his Deccan campaigns. After the suppression of the rebellions of Bundelas, Panwar and Sakarwal tribes, Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha along with Khan-i Zaman and Khan-i Dauran was sent against Bijapur. After reaching Dharwar through Bir where he stayed for sometime, he proceeded towards Sholapur which was part of Sidi Rihan’s Jagir and established a thana at Dharasain. He fought several battles with Bijapuris. In one of these engagements Randola Khan was wounded by Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha. Large portions of Adilshahi territory was devastated by imperialists and Adilshah was ultimately forced to submit to Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha.

33. Gwaliomama, f. 145.
34. He was one of the important noble at Adilshahi court. He with the active support of Randola killed Khawas Khan (Lahori, vol.1, part II,107-8).
In 1641, Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha was promoted to the rank of 6000 Zat 6000 Sawar, out of which 5000 Sawar were do-aspa sih aspa. He was deputed to lead an expedition against Raja Jagat Singh, the chief of Nurpur in Punjab and a mansabdar holding the rank of 3000 Zat, 2000 Sawar. For some time he had been feeling that his services were not receiving due appreciation from the Emperor. The feeling was based on the fact that, whereas other nobles were being given quick promotions he had not been granted any promotions since Shahjahan’s accession. He waited for the suitable opportunity to throw off the imperial yoke. He got an opportunity to do so when his eldest son, Rajrup, faujdar of Kangra, became defaulter and the Emperor decided to replace him by someone else. As soon as he came to know of the Emperor’s intention to relieve Rajrup of his charge, Raja Jagat offered himself for the office, and submitted a petition to the Emperor promising that if he was appointed faujdar of Kangra, he would bring the refractory Rajrup under imperial submission, and also realize from the Zamindars of the neighbouring estimates Rs. 400,000 as annual tribute for the imperial exchequer. Jagat Singh’s request was granted; he was given a robe of honour and a horse and permitted to leave for Kangra.^^

After reaching Kangra, he at once started fortifying Taragarh^^. When

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Shahjahan heard the disloyal behaviour of Jagat Singh, he sent Sundar Kavi to Kangra to know the truth. Sundar Kavi reported that although Jagat Singh was still obedient, he secretly meditated rebellion for which he was making fast preparations. The Emperor ordered immediately a well equipped expedition to Kangra. A force of 30,000 was divided into three divisions, each division being placed under a separate command. Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha was given command of one of the divisions and Nazr Bahadur, Raja Amar Singh and certain other nobles were deputed to serve him. The supreme command of the army was given to Prince Murad.

After the expiry of the rainy season, Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha left Lahore to capture Nurpur (Sept 1641), defeated Rajrup son of Jagat Singh and battered down masonry work which had been built to stop the imperialists. Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha also succeeded in reaching up to one mile of Nurpur fort, but the besieged managed to defend the fort exceedingly well and foiled all the attempts made to capture the fort of Nurpur and Mau. In order to retrieve the situation Shahjahan transferred Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha to Mau and Prince Murad was made over all in charge of the operation. Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha

alongwith Bahadur Khan and Rustam Khan launched offensive with
great vigour and forced Jagat Singh to flee from the fort and take shelter
at Taragarh. Taragarh was also besieged by Sayyid Muzaffar Khan
Barha. Having been considerably depleted in men and material, Jagat
Singh sent Rajrup to Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha to intercede on his
behalf with the
Prince for pardon. It seems that the request was taken seriously by the
Prince who immediately despatched Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha to
bring Jagat Singh to his presence apparently for negotiations. Muzaffar
Khan was honourably admitted in the fort of Taragarh. But shortly
afterwards, the orders for the demolition of fortification created an
awkward situation. Bahadur Khan and Asalat Khan who had also come
with Muzaffar Khan favoured carrying out the orders immediately but
Muzaffar Khan counselled delay. At this Jagat Singh broke off
negociation and fortified himself.

Upon this Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha wrote, the following
to Emporer I recommended the case of Jagat Singh not because I
am afraid of him. Infact I was thirsty for his blood. My reasons
were different. The campaign led by the Prince and other leading
officers had lasted too long; and Jagat Singh had taken refuge in a
fort which was impregnable. Further operations would have
involved the loss of imperial prestige. I am sending Jamal Khan

who can explain the entire situation to your Majesty, and it is in your Majesty’s power to pardon the rebels or not.\footnote{Arzdasht, ff (20a-24b).}

Having despatched the letter to the court Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha successfully restrained the other two commanders from executing the royal order, and took the entire responsibility on himself. It seems that Shahjahan insisted on the demolition of the fortification of Taragarh. In his letter to the Emperor, Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha argued that Jagat Singh was ready to surrender provided his family’s palace was spared. Consequently, other fortifications were demolished and leaving his son-in-law Sayyid Feroz there he came to the Prince with Jagat Singh in March 1642. Finally, Muzaffar Khan carried Jagat Singh to the court where his offence was pardoned.\footnote{Lahori, vol. II, 275-78; Amal-i Saleh, vol. II, 357-58.}

In the same year, Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha was chosen to accompany Prince Dara Shikoh on Qandhar expedition and was bestowed with a special Khilat, ornamented sword, two horses and an elephant and was also promoted to the rank of 6000 Zat, 6000 Sawar all do aspa Seh aspa.\footnote{Lahori, vol. II, 285; Ma’asir-ul Umara, vol. I, 765.} In 1644, he was summoned from Gwalior to the court. This was the occasion when Shahjahan wished to pay a visit to the

\textit{\footnote{Arzdasht, ff (20a-24b).}}
shrine (Dargah) at Ajmer. His Majesty specially left Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha in-charge of Darul Khailafat Agra. Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha continued to look after Agra affairs till Shahjahan returned in next year. This shows that Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha in the year mentioned was the most trusted officer. When Shahjahan returned Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha was allowed to go to his Jagir in Gwalior.44

In 1645, Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha was summoned by Shahjahan at court, where he had a paralytic attack and died after two months in Dec 1645. The Emperor was grieved of his death and his three sons Mansur Khan, Sherzaman Khan and Munawwar Khan were favoured by the Emperor, and each one of them was granted suitable mansab.45

During his long service at the court, Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha earned reputation for his loyalty, bravery and simplicity. The author of the Zakhirat-ul Khawanin relates an interesting anecdote which reveals that inspite of holding a high rank and position at the Mughal court, Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha was a very simple and obedient man. The author mentions:

“They say that one day Shahjahan seated him at his table and made him share his meal. Afterwards, when the Emperor rose,

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Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha ran and placed his slipper under his feet. The Emperor was angry and said ‘You should have respect for your high title. When a person has such a title, we and all the Princes, not to speak of officers, need his support and he does not make an exceptions in anybody’s favour. In future in all proceedings the code and rules must be observed.’

He spent his life with great honour. Shaikh Farid Bhakkari further writes that “every one of royal servants who was associated with him, he assigned villages out of his Jagir. He recruited mostly Barha Sayyids as his retainers and also favoured them for other position. In his dealings he trusted Barha Syyids more than others.”

The emperor had so much confidence in him that he was chosen to look after state prison located in the Gwalior fort where only rebellious Princes and refractory chiefs and nobles were kept under strict vigilance. According to the author of Tarikh-i Sa’adat-i Barha the imperial treasury was also kept under his control.

47. Ibid.
48. Tarikh-i Sa’adat-i Barha, 344.
Sayyid Mansur Khan Barha

Sayyid Mansur Khan Barha was the eldest son of Muzaffar Khan Barha. After the accession of Shahjahan, when his father was appointed Qiledar of Gawalior, he was appointed as his deputy.

In 1631, he accompanied his father in the campaign against Bijapur, where he performed great feats of bravery in a series of engagement against the Deccanis. The Emperor in recognition of his service awarded him a robe of honour. It appears that he was not given any independent charge during the life time of his father and at the time of his father’s death, he held the mansab of only 1000 Zat 200 Sawar. When his father died in 1645, his two younger brothers who were very young, were not only given the mansab of 1000 Zat 250 Sawar each but were also given the charge of Lahore fort. But Mansur Khan was neither given any promotion in his previous mansab nor any appointment, Mansur Khan, apparently dissatisfied with the attitude of

48. Mohammad Hashim Khafi Khan, Muntakhab-ul Lubab, edited K.D. Ahmad, Asiatic society of Bengal, 1869, 618, wrongly calls him grant son of Muzaffar Khan but on page 646 he had been correctly mentioned son of Muzaffar Khan
49. Amin Qazvi, Badshahnama, Br, M, Or. 173; Add. 20734;170.
50. Tarikh-i Sa’adat-i Barha, 449.
52. Ibid, 474.
the Emperor fled from the court. The Emperor was quite displeased with his impudent act and despatched an army under the command of Yadgar Beg\textsuperscript{53} to arrest him. But in the meantime it was reported that he had gone into the Lakhi Jangle\textsuperscript{54} where he had been arrested by the Karori. But because the Karori was closely related to him, Sayyid Mansur escaped at his connivance before the arrival of Shafiullah Barlas who has been sent to bring him to court. But on strong measure having been taken against the Karori, Sayyid Mansur was ultimately arrested by Yadgar Beg in Sirhind and brought to the court and imprisoned.\textsuperscript{55}

In 1647, he was released at the intervention of Prince Aurangzeb. Soon he was inducted into the entourage of Prince Aurangzeb and accompanied him to Balkh campaign.\textsuperscript{56}

When Prince Murad Baksh was appointed governor of Gujarat, Sayyid Mansur was also appointed with him. According to the author of \textit{Ma'asir-ul umara}, he was sent to Mecca, soon after reaching Gujarat apparently on the instruction of the Emperor to offer retribution for his ill


deeds in the hope that this might change his unbecoming habits. When he returned from Mecca (1656) on the recommendation of Prince Murad his rank was restored and he was also permitted to serve with the Prince. Shortly afterwards he was given promotion of 150 Sawar on the request of Murad.57

He accompanied Prince Murad, when the Prince in alliance with Aurangzeb proceeded to clash with Prince DaraShikoh for the throne. In the battle of Samugarh Sayyid Mansur gave an example of rare valour. The Prince honoured him with the title of Khan.58

When Aurangzeb treacherously imprisoned Murad near Mathura, Sayyid Mansur went over to Aurangzeb who granted him the rank of 3000 Zat 1500 Sawar.59 Later on, he was despatched along with Khalilullah Khan in pursuit of Darashikoh.60

However, the author of Sa’adat- i Barah adds that in 1660, after the accession of Aurangzeb, he was appointed faujdar of Baglana and his

60. Ibid.
mansab was increased to 3500 Zat 2000 Sawar. But Shahnawaz Khan specifically mentions that after the war of succession he had no information about Sayyid Mansur's career. We have no information either about the date of his death. According to the local traditions he was buried at village Khatoli in Muzaffarnagar. His Jagir comprised of 84 villages.

In a brief note on Sayyid Mansur, Shahnawaz Khan had pointedly mentioned about his hot and hasty temper and committing of faults from time to time. He further says that Sayyid Mansur deserved exemplary punishment for these acts, but he was pardoned for the service of his father who was not only a high ranking noble but a great favourite of Shahjahan. However, he has not enlightened us as to why he kept on doing mischief. It seems Sayyid Mansur was not satisfied with his position at the court. As discussed above after the death of his father neither he was given promotion in his rank nor appointed to any important office.

61. Tarikh-i Sa'adat-i Barha, 352.
62. Ibid.
Sayyid Sherzaman And Sayyid Munawwar

Sayyid Sherzaman and Sayyid Munawwar were also the sons of Muzaffar Khan. At the time of Sayyid Muzaffar’s death (their father) in 1645, they were very young. However, in recognition of valuable services rendered by Sayyid Muzaffar, Shahjahan granted them the mansab of 1000 Zat 250 Sawar each.\(^6^3\)

In 1647-48 Sayyid Sherzaman and Sayyid Munawwar were appointed qiledar\(^6^5\) of Lahore and as both the brothers were very young, Sayyid Ali Barha their brother-in-law was made ataliq\(^6^6\) (guardian). They continued to hold the charge of Lahore till 1650.\(^6^7\)

In 1656, taking advantage of the confusion following the death of Muhammad Adil Shah and succession of Ali Adil Shah, Shahjahan despatched an army under the command of Mir Jumla and Shaista Khan to launch an offensive on Bijapur under the supervision of Prince Aurangzeb. Sayyid Sherzaman was also despatched to the Deccan.

\(^6^5\) Ibid.
along with Mir Jumla. The Mughal army launched an offensive on Kalyani and forced Bijapuri to vacate the fort. Following the fall of Kalyani and Bider, Prince Aurangzeb laid the siege of Bijapur. Sayyid Sherzaman showed rare personal valour in the siege operations and attracted the attention of the Prince. The Bijapuri were so hard pressed that they agreed to accept all the demands of the Mughals short of the annexation of the kingdom. At this stage, imperial government ordered Aurangzeb to suspend the war and withdraw army from Bijapur and send nobles back to the court.\textsuperscript{68} Although several mansabdars returned to court even without taking permission of Prince Aurangzeb, Sayyid Sherzaman who appears to have established personal contact with the Prince, preferred to remain there.\textsuperscript{69}

Sayyid Sherzaman accompanied Prince Aurangzeb, when he marched towards Agra, after reaching an understanding with Prince Murad to contest for the throne. On reaching Burhanpur, Prince Aurangzeb reviewed his forces and promoted some of his noted officers to higher ranks. Alongwith other officers Sayyid Sherzaman was also promoted to the rank of 2000 \textit{Zat} 1000 \textit{Sawar}\textsuperscript{70} and given the title of

\textsuperscript{68.} Alamgirnama, vol. I, P.29;  
\textit{Ma'asir-ul Umara}, vol. II,P.466.  
\textsuperscript{69.} Ibid, P.467.  
\textsuperscript{70.} Alamgirnama, vol. I, P.49.
Muzaffar Khan\textsuperscript{71} by which his father was known in the earlier days. In the battle of Dharmat (April 1658) fought between the imperial army commanded by Jaswant Singh and Qasim Khan and the combined army of Aurangzeb and Murad, and in the battle of Samugarh (28 May 1658) fought between imperial army headed by Prince Dara Shikoh and combine forces of Aurangzeb and Murad, Sayyid Sherzaman alongwith a contingent of Barha Sayyids was in the vanguard and fought bravely. In the same year he was sent alongwith Sayyid Najabat Khan and other Barha Sayyids under Prince Sultan Muhammad against Prince Shuja who having come to know that Aurangzeb was away from Agra, decided to capture it. Therefore, setting out from Bihar in Dec. 1658, he reached Allahabad and without waisting time to capture the fort of Allahabad he moved further. His advance, however, was checked by Prince Sultan Muhammad at Khajwa.\textsuperscript{72} In the meantime to the utter surprise of Prince Shuja, Aurangzeb and Mir Jumla also joined Muhammad on 21, Jan. 1659. Inspite of the desertion of Jaswant Singh, Aurangzeb’s army achieved a great victory, Sayyid Sherzaman and other Barha Sayyids who were in the vanguard fought bravely.\textsuperscript{73} After being defeated, Shuja

\textsuperscript{72} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{73} Alamgirnama, vol. I, 541-50; Ma’asir-ul Umara, vol.II, 467.
with his sons and few followers fled towards Bengal. Aurangzeb despatched his son Muhammad to pursue Shuja. Sayyid Sherzaman and a number of Barhas also accompanied. Prince Shuja being hotly pursuued was chased upto Hugli. In this campaign also Sayyid Sherzaman remained quite active, but surprisingly in our chronicles, we have no information about him after this incident. However, in Sada’at-i Barha it had been mentioned that due to the sudden and sad demise of his only son Badi-udzaman, he requested Aurangzeb to relieve him from imperial service. He came to his village and passed rest of his life among his clansmen. Sayyid Sherzaman laid the foundation of Muzaffarnagar in the honour of his father. He also established village Shernagar where he lived in his later life and died.

Sayyid Munawwar Khan remained at the court after the departure of Sherzaman to the Deccan, and became close associate of Prince Dara Shikoh. During the war of succession in the battle of Samugarh Sayyid Munawwar along with several other Barha Sayyids was in the left wing of Dara Shikoh’s army. However, after the defeat of Dara Shikoh, Sayyid Munawwar went over to Aurangzeb and with the help of his brother, who was already with the Prince, was admitted in service, given the title of Khan and rank of 1000 Zat 400 Sawar.

74. Tarikh-iSa’adat-i Barha, 359.
Sayyid Shuja’at Khan was the son of Sayyid Jahangir and grandson of Sayyid Mahmud Barha, who was the first among Barha Sayyids to have joined service under Akbar.1 Shuja’at Khan joined imperial service during the reign of Jahangir, but he was so close to Prince Khurram that he joined him during the latter’s revolt against his father.2 He parted company with the Prince, when he came to know that he had decided to proceed to Iran3 and came back to his home town. Jahangir having came to know of his arrival, summoned him to court. He was immediately granted the mansab of 1000.4 The author of Sada’at-i Barha adds that he was also appointed faujdar of Nasik.5 However, it appears that he remained in the service of Jahangir’s till his death in 1627. But after the accession of Shahjahan, Sayyid Shuja’at Khan lost imperial favour because of his earlier desertion from earlier desertion from Khurram’s camp. Although no action was taken

5. Sada’at-i Barha, 459.
against him but apparently he was not granted mansab. Being ignored and humiliated, he left the court and came back to his native place and retired from active service\(^6\). However, Shuja’at Khan was summoned to the court in 1632 and granted the mansab of 4000 Zat and 2000 Sawar\(^7\), apparently to utilise his services in the Deccan.

In 1634, he accompanied Prince Shuja in Parenda campaign. The campaign\(^8\) dragged on due to the haughtiness of Mahabat Khan and lack of co-operation among leading officers such as Khan-i Dauran, Muzaffar Khan Barha and Shuja’at Khan. On the other hand the Deccanis had been making all out efforts to cut the supplies of the imperialists and starve them. The imperialists became desperate specially with the approach of rains. They wanted to postpone the campaign and raise the siege. But because of the rude behaviour of Mahabat Khan no commander was willing to propose for the lifting the siege. Shuja’at Khan took the initiative and boldly told Mahabat Khan;

Ma’asir-ul Umara, vol. II, 424. In Zakhirat-ul Khawanin, (vol. III, 13) His mansab was mentioned as 5000 Zat and 5000 Sawar.
"If you talk foolishly, you will be killed. The fact of the matter is that this year this expedition cannot be terminated. In spending the rainy season, in this neighbourhood, the imperial army will have to face famine and scarcity. We can give you in writing. If you will put down in writing the date of finishing this business (i.e. the date of taking fort), We will stand by you till it comes even to subsisting on corrion."  

Though Mahabat Khan wished to demonstrate the advantage of staying on, but the Prince ordered to raise the siege. Mahabat Khan lost his self control and said to the Prince, "This victory was in Your Highness’s name was certain. At the words of these Jumrati Sa’adat (Barha Sayyids) you are throwing away the winning card for no reason." Ultimately Mahabat Khan also agreed to the proposal and the Mughal armies raised the siege. In 1637, he was appointed as governor of Allahabad and promoted to the rank of 4000 Zat and 4000 Sawar, 2500 do aspa-sih aspa. The Suba of Allahabad was in a state of turmoil but he bravely dealt with the situation.

In 1642, Shuja’at Khan was replaced by Abdullah Khan Feroz Jung as a governor of Allahabad. He was assigned the Irij and Bhadner (Paragnas) as his Jagir\(^\text{13}\). In the same year he was appointed to quell the rebellion Bundellas but before he could undertake this business, he died due to excessive drinking\(^\text{14}\). Sayyid Shuja’at Khan left behind two sons named Sayyid Muzaffar\(^\text{15}\) and Sayyid Najabat\(^\text{16}\) who held the ranks of 1500 Zat and 1000 Sawar and 1000 Zat and 500 Sawar respectively during the reign of Shahjahan\(^\text{17}\). Sayyid Shuja’at Khan was a man of many sided talents. He was an eloquent speaker and dabbled in science as well. He was fond of drinks and imitated the ways of the Prince. He was also known for his forthrightness both in manners and in speech. This particular habits earned him Shahjahan’s despleasure. The Emperor always favoured Sayyid Muzaffar Khan another Barha Sayyid

\(^{13}\) Ma’asir -ul Umara, vol. II, 426. 

\(^{14}\) Lahori, vol. II, 319. 

Zakhirat-ul Khawanin, vol. III, 15; 
Ma’asir-ul Umara, vol. II, 426 

\(^{15}\) Lahori, vol. II, 431. 

\(^{16}\) Waris, 204 (a); 

\(^{17}\) Ma’asir-ul Umara, vol. II 427.
This proved too much for Shuja’at Khan. He always abused Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha. One day, the Emperor asked him, “where does your lineage meet that of Sayyid Muzaffar Khan Barha?” He replied “just on Dhaurikhal of Agra meets the Jumuna”\(^\text{18}\).

\textit{Ma’asir-ul Umara}, vol. II, 426