

Write-Up on Lachit Borphukan on the occasion of 400th Birth Anniversary.

Introduction:

Lachit Borphukan was a commander in chief of Ahom Army in present day Assam. He was the son of Momai Tamuli Borboruah. He was born in 24th November 1622 at Saraideo, Assam. The battle of Saraighat of 1671 which was a decisive victory and it is also a glorious chapter in the history of Assam. Lachit Borphukan died on 25th April 1672 at the aged of 49 in Jorhat, Assam.

The first Muslim invasion took place in 1206 A.D. Second Muslim invasion in 1227 A.D and the third Muslim invasion took place in 1257 A.D. During the time of Ahom King Jayaddhaj Singha, Kamrup and Goalpara were under the muslims. At this time the sons of Moghul Emperor, Shah Jahan were quarreling over the possession of the throne. Taking advantaged of the situation King Jayaddhaj Singha advanced with an Army towards Gauhati to recovered the lost areas.

In the year 1662 A.D. Moghul General Mirjumla led an expedition against Assam with a huge force. He reached Jogighopa in the Goalpara fort and then divided his army into three divisions. One was ordered on the south Bank and the other by the land route of the north and the third one by water up the Brahmaputra river. Mirjumla occupied without effort by destroying the fort at Silghat. They attack upon the kingdom of Koch Parikshit Narayan. The Ahom soldier at Kaliabor killed one muslim trader as a spy on suspicion. When this news reached the ears of Nawab of Bengal, Sheikh Kassim he sent an army in 1663 A.D. against the Ahom Kingdom but the Ahom defeated the mussalmans by surprised at night. After a period of four months the muslims defeated combined force of the Ahom king Dharmanarayan. They re-occupied the fort and the muslim established the moghul rule in South Kamrup.

Mirjumla gradually occupied Kaliabor upto Ahom kingdom and occupied capital at Gargaon in 1663.

During the ruled of Jayaddhaj Singha, he thought of expelling the Moghuls from Assam. He also stopped payment of tributes to Moghul Emperor. He appointed Lachit Borphukan and told him to take over Kamrup from the Moghuls.

Lachit Borphukan was a very brave man he was the son of Momai Tomuli Barburuah. He was also skillful General .He captured the Mongol ramparts at Kajali and Banhbari and advance towards Gauhati. Shortly Pandu and Gauhati fell in the hands of the Ahoms. After the defeat of the Moghuls reached the ears of Aurangzeb he became very angry. He sent a vast army under Raja Amper, Ram Singha against the Ahom. The Ahom King too collected a huge army and placed Lachit Borphukan in the Command and asked him to hold Gauhati. Lachit built camps and ramparts as required for the coming fight.

To check the Moghuls at short distance from Gauhati an earth-Made ramparts had to built up over nigh. This he instructed to his maternal uncle to complete in time but in the latter part of night he himself went to supervise the work but he saw that there was much to be done to complete the work on the rampart. He asked the reason of such delayed. His uncle said "those men has become tired for working whole night". Lachit became very angry and spoke out "Uncle is not greater than the mother land". He immediately cut off the head of his uncle.

After fear in the hearts of the men they took up the work and completed before night ended. The remains of this rampart are still there and it has become famous as the "Mamai Kata Gar" that means the rampart upon which the uncle was cut off in twos.

The serious fight between the Ahom and Moghuls at Saraighat near Pandu were that in land when fighting the Ahom Won a victory in the battle, in the water were defeated and had to retreat. Lachit felt seriously ill at the news of the Ahom's defeat. He boarded a boat with temperature very high, seeing the sick General in action, the Ahom soldier was filled with renewed courage. They attacked the Moghuls with determination and were completely defeated.

Conclusion:

After the decisive victory in the battle of Saraighat of 1671 by the Ahom Armies over the Moghuls its open a new chapter in the history of Assam. The boundary of Ahom Kingdom and the Moghuls territory now became the Manah River. The Moghuls General Ram Singha was forced to leave the entire Assam region up to the Manah River for the Ahoms and thus the battle of Saraighat in 1671 did kept high the glory of free Assam.



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