

1857

“Remembering Our Heroes, Aurangabad's Forgotten History of India's First War of Independence.”

References - In the Revolution of 1857 at Aurangabad, the British fired on Indian soldiers, Hit by cannons, beheaded with sword written by those Englishmen themselves to their higher authority published in Maharashtra State Government's Aurangabad District Gazetteers (revised edition), Govt. of Maharashtra 1977, Page No. 192 to 206

In service of the Nizam government in Aurangabad, Fardoonji Jamshetji (Collector) Aurangabad, was present in person on the day of the revolution and has given a detailed account through his article. The Nizam's Government Historical and Descriptive Sketch of His Highness The Nizam's Dominions 1884, Page no. 333 to 341. The Indian soldiers of the British in the first war of independence of India at Aurangabad, how they fought and sacrificed their lives in the war from 09/06/1857 to 23/06/1857. We should not forget that the blood that these soldiers shed is the cost of freedom that we as a nation enjoy today.

In the first war of independence of 1857, there was a revolution against the British at Aurangabad, the only place in the whole of South India. Both Tatyrao Tope and Nana Saheb Peshwa, the revolutionary leaders, had secretly instigated a revolt against the British amongst Indian soldiers in the British army at Aurangabad. The Nizam's soldiers were received by the revolutionaries from within. When the British got a hint of this, they hatched a conspiracy to separate the Hindu-Muslim forces. According to this diplomacy, Hindu forces were sent to Buldhana and Malegaon outside Aurangabad. Apart from this, he succeeded in reducing the number of Indian troops at Aurangabad. The details of the entire revolution are given in the report written by the British who took part in the war of revolution at that time.

1857 Revolution and Hindu-Muslim unity At Aurangabad from 9th June 1857 to 19th June 1857, Hindu and Muslim cavalry and infantry were united in the British Indian army. There was a lot of unity and brotherhood in it. Tatyrao Tope and Nana Saheb Peshwa had created a great enthusiasm for revolution in the Indian army. But the British had a hard time with this. During this time the number of British were small and the Indian army was large.



Tatya Tope



Nanasaheb Peshwa

June 9, 1857 Aurangabad : On this day, Captain Abbott, the Chief of Army Staff, reached Aurangabad with his troops from Nashik and set up camp at Risala (Cavalry Lines) in Usmanpura near Kala Chabutra. Abbott wrote a letter to his superior, The Resident, on June 13. In it he writes that the first cavalry detachment shows signs of revolution. A Risaldar named Burhan confirmed the news. Abbott further wrote that the Hindu-Muslim soldiers of this revolutionary Third Troop were not ready to go beyond the boundaries of the Nizam government. The reason for this was that the British authorities were going to send him to Delhi to fight against the emperor.

The darkness of the night, the frightening silence made it seem as if ghosts were everywhere. The tall trees began to dance because of the storm. Lightning and thunder added to the horror. From Kala Chabutra to the Risala (Cavalry Lines) at Usmanpura to the Tourist Bungalow, it was clear that the storm had affected the white sheet erected by the Hindi soldiers. The 10-12 British officers in the camp and their wives and children were half-dead for fear of being killed. He did not know when the rebel revolutionary Hindi soldiers would attack the camp. He had received the news today that some unidentified cavalry had infiltrated his infantry squad in the afternoon and was searching for the addresses of the houses of the British officers.

A man secretly arrived at the bungalow of Captain Spide, the Chief English officer of the infantry, in the middle of the night, regardless of the midnight storm and the dark night. This Burhan Baksh was very much in favor of Spide. He gave Spide the terrible news that the revolutionary soldiers in the cavalry were preparing to attack the camp just before sunrise. Spide's family was extremely worried. It was decided that they should leave for Ahmednagar immediately. Two women and children from Spide's family boarded a bullock cart wrapped in a white sheet. 'Burhan,' he pretended, was taking Muslim women. Spide's family fled in the dark of night.

June 16, 1857 : The second day dawned. The British officials in the camp came to know that many enthusiastic people in the city of Aurangabad were going to take advantage of the mutiny and attack the British camp and loot it. Immediate measures were taken on Lokahndi Pul built over the Kham River near Holycross High School and on the side of the camp near Barapula Gate. No British officer went on duty today, so rumors were spreading among the revolutionary army and tensions were rising. As it was a rainy day, tonight too it was raining heavily, the wind was blowing, the trees were rocking in the dark and the lightning was still strong.

At night all the English families in the different camps were gathered together in a big mess (possibly Brigade Mess) without sleeping in their bungalows. Suddenly frightened at night, someone rang the alarm drum. The British felt that they had been attacked by revolutionary soldiers. They immediately woke up and mounted their horses but were not attacked. Many such incidents were happening in Aurangabad from time to time. The British had lost faith in their artillery and infantry.

June 17, 1857 : Army Chief Capt. Abbott visited the Army this morning. At that time even the infantry Hindi army was very upset. The mood of the infantry was clearly misunderstood by Aboot that the entire cavalry, infantry and artillery in Aurangabad had become revolutionary. Captain Abbott sent Hindu cavalry and infantry to Buldhana on 19 June to break the unity of the revolutionaries by separating the British Hindu army and the Muslim army at Aurangabad according to the famous British diplomacy of "divide and rule" to reduce the number of revolutionaries.

The British resorted to diplomacy, tactics, temptations and promises to confront the rebel forces. He called for the help of British troops from Ahmednagar. Until then put the Velkadhu policy. These three days were wasted due to lack of proper leadership of the Indian soldiers and in the meanwhile the British succeeded in dividing the army into Hindu Muslim.

The English officers were extremely worried. The revolt of the revolutionary soldiers had not yet erupted. The British authorities were waiting for the opportunity to come to the aid of the British troops from Ahmednagar by giving assurances and temptations to the revolutionary soldiers through their diplomacy and tactics. The revolutionaries did not get the right leader, they could not take advantage of the weakness of the British. On the contrary, the British succeeded in separating the Hindu-Muslim soldiers. The revolutionaries wasted three very important days and fell prey to the British policy of wasting time.

June 23, 1857 : June 23, 1857 was a very important day. A large force from Ahmednagar arrived at Aurangabad in the morning. The British suppressed the revolution by attacking the Indian army. This information was given in writing by various officials. The information given by the British officials who were part of the revolutionary war.

Captain Abbott was the chief officer of the British army at Aurangabad. He had sought the help of the army from Ahmednagar. Accordingly, on 23 June 1857, British troops led by Major General Woodburn arrived from Ahmednagar in front of the camp of the Risala (cavalry) at Usmanpura in Aurangabad. It had an army of 2 miles in length including 14th Light Dragon, Squadron Captain Gaul, Artillery Chief, Woolcom, Colonel Folet. This day is very important in the history of Aurangabad. Hindi soldiers revolted against the British on the same day. This incident has been recorded by many English officials. Captain Abbott reported the revolution as follows.

"As soon as General Woodburn's brigade reached Aurangabad at 10 am, I accompanied him straight to the revolutionary quarters. I gathered the Hindi soldiers to do foot drills on horseback. They obeyed that order. The names of the Indian soldiers were then read. The first name was 'Jamadar Amir Khan'. He was very upset when he heard the name. As soon as he got his revolutionary soldiers on horseback and fled, Woodburn ordered them to shoot. The Dragon Squad chased the revolutionaries. Amir Khan and others were sheltered by the citizens of the city. Inside the forts in the city were soldiers of the Nizam government. The British laid siege to the city. But the citizens of the city and the Nizam's soldiers prevented the British from entering the fort."

Capt. Abbott further writes that the names of the revolutionary soldiers were re-read when the Dragon Army returned after pursuing Amir Khan and the revolutionaries. Meanwhile, Mir Fidaali shot Captain Abbott, but Abbott escaped. Mir Fidaali was captured. Risaldar Muhammad Hashim of the 2nd Brigade, Jamadar Najeeb Khan and five other revolutionaries were charged with the murder of Abbott and the assassination of British officers in the camp. Many were imprisoned. There were 1 Risaldar, 3 Jamadars, 9 Dafedars, 76 soldiers and 4 drummers.

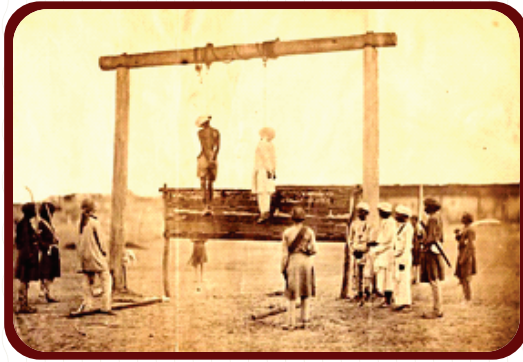
Another report from Abbott : As Abbott wrote, on June 23, General Woodburn led his brigade straight into the Revolutionary cavalry. Asked to keep the rebels at gunpoint. Given 6 minutes for that. Seeing that the troops were not putting down their weapons, he ordered them to be fired upon with small guns. One soldier was killed. The dragon detachment beheaded a dozen revolutionaries. All fleeing soldiers will be killed or hanged by tomorrow, Abbott noted.

A note from Charles's book : When General Woodburn saw the revolutionaries on horseback fleeing on June 23, 1857, he did not immediately order the firing. Because it was likely that faithful soldiers would be killed. Two of the four companies had surrendered. The revolutionaries were strong. The revolutionaries were prosecuted and 21 revolutionaries were shot at.

On the same day, Woodburn, Abbott and Colonel Mayne all went to the revolutionary tent. Abbott ordered all the rebels to come out of the tent and stand in line. Woolcombe prepared by filling the cannon with balls. Abbott questioned the rebels and threatened them. At that moment, Jemadar Amir Khan jumped up. It is not appropriate to shoot at one's own troops while Abbott is holding a pistol at him. That's what Woodburn said. Aamir Khan ordered his comrades to 'shoot'. The revolutionaries stopped the pistols, but without firing a shot, they began to flee. Abbott says that if the revolutionaries had fired at that time, not a single officer would have survived. Seeing the revolutionaries fleeing, Woolcombe turned his gun on them. But the guns were not fired.

Woodburn didn't order the gun to be fired until the end. When the revolutionaries left, he recovered and ordered the firing. Some horses died in it. The rebels managed to escape. The unarmed soldiers stood in their place. But as soon as the dragon came back, they ran away. By evening, 70 soldiers had been captured.

File no. 32 : The revolutionaries were hiding in some houses in the city. They were caught raiding homes in the city. Revolutionary leader Amir Khan went underground. He was never found. A reward of Rs 2,000 (now Rs 2.5 lakh) was given to the person who caught him.



He was hanged like this



Like this, the mouths of the guns were tied and blown up

Some of the revolutionaries arrested at that time are as follows. 1) Modi Khan, 2) Jambaj Khan, 3) Sheikh Rahim, 4) Mo, Mir Khan no. 1, 5) Mo. Mir Khan - 2, 6) Sheikh Fateh Mohammad, 7) Mohammad Raza, 8) Dilawar Khan, 9) Sheikh Hussain, 10) Mirza Aziz Beg, 11) Hussain Khan, 12) Sheikh Malaik, 13) Ahmed Khan, 14) Mir Mazhar Khan, 15) Noor Khan, 16) Mir Imam Ali, 17) Mir Badar Ali, 18) Qasim Ali Khan, 19) Faiz Mohammad Khan, 20) Abdullah Khan, General Record of Hyderabad, file no. 32 is recorded as above.

Report of Fardunji Jamshetji Collector Aurangabad : Mr. Fardunji Jamshetji, Collector, Aurangabad District Gazetteers, Aurangabad, was present at his office at Kile Arak inside the Aurangabad Fort on 23rd June, 1857. He was getting the news of every moment of today's revolution. He kept a complete record of the incident in writing. He has given the Aurangabad revolution as above.

The brutal act of the British : On the occasion of hanging and firing of cannons, a large crowd was gathering and creating panic among the people. On June 23, 1857, the revolutionaries were later tried and punished. According to this, 3 revolutionaries were tied at gunpoint and on the way from Paithan Gate to Kranti Chowk, these three revolutionaries were tied up at gunpoint in front of thousands of people gathered on both sides. Vajandri was playing drums in front. When the procession finally reached Kranti Chowk (Kala Chabutra), cannons were fired in front of a huge crowd and 21 revolutionaries were hanged.

Reference :

- 1) Aurangabad District Gazetteers (revised edition), Govt. of Maharashtra 1977, Page No. 192 to 206
- 2) Historical and Descriptive Sketch of His Highness The Nizam's Dominions 1884, Page no. 333 to 341

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