

## Lachit Borphukan

Lachit Borphukan was a great warrior and holds a special place in the history of Assam. He was the youngest son of Momai Tamuli Borbarua, the first Borbarua of upper-Assam and Commander-in-Chief of the Ahom dynasty. During his young age, Lachit taught philosophy, arts, and military skills to the people which was a customary in Ahom society. Ahom king Prataap Singha appointed Lachit Borphukan as the Commander-in-Chief of the Ahom army under the first Borbarua, Momai Tamuli, to lead upper Assam during the 17th century..

Ahom King considered him for the position of Soladhara Barua (scarf-bearer) as a result of his dedicated work and dedication. A principal secretary would be the modern equivalent of that position. Ahom king Chakradhwaj Singha gradually appointed Lachit to other major positions such as Superintendent of the Stables of Royal Horses (Ghora Barua) and Superintendent of the Royal Household Guards. In response to Lachit's attentiveness, King Chakradhwaj Singha promoted him to the rank of Borphukhan. As one of the five patra mantras (councilors) in the Ahom system of governance, Borphukan had both executive and judicial powers.

Even when the Mughal Empire was at its zenith, the region of Assam and present-day North-East was untouched by them. Since the time of Muhammad Ghori, Ahoms successfully repelled more than seventeen invasions from their homeland. This was an anomaly that the most barbaric emperor Aurangzeb wanted to change. As a result, repeated attempts were made to capture Assam.

For his reputation as an expert strategist, Lachit Borphukan was selected as the Commander-In-Chief of the Ahom kingdom. To fight against a huge Mughal army where there was no chance of winning in an open battlefield he used tactics like guerilla warfare and clever terrain choices to achieve victory. Here is how the famous battle is outlined in this extract:

Flowing streams isolated the Mughals due to mud and mudslides. There was an advantage for the Ahoms. The terrain and climate were more familiar to them. Mughals suffered heavy losses due to their extensive guerilla warfare. Ram Singh called these operations "thieves affairs" and was very contemptuous of them. A duel was announced between him and Lachit Barphukan. The bribe was also worth three lakhs to Lachit, who was expected to abandon the Guwahati defenses in exchange for the bribe. His next move was to use a ruse.

Letters addressed to Lachit were kept in the Ahom camp with arrows attached. As a result of his payment of one lakh, Lachit had been urged to evacuate Guwahati as soon as possible. Lachit Barphukan's loyalty was questioned by the Ahom King at Gargaon after receiving the letter. The Prime Minister convinced the King that the Mughal Commander was playing a trick on him and he shouldn't doubt Lachit's loyalty.

However, the King insisted that Lachit engage the Mughals on open ground and come out of his defenses. Lachit was forced to follow the King's order despite his objections to such a suicidal move. Taking advantage of the open area, he attacked the Mughal army from the Allaboi plains. The battle had reached its fourth phase.

The Ahoms captured Mir Nawab after some initial success but then were attacked by Ram Singh and his entire cavalry unit.

The physicians asked Lachit not to go out on the battlefield at a crucial stage of the battle. This was because he was very ill. As the Mughal army advanced and Lachit's health deteriorated, the morale of the Ahom army was deteriorating. In the end, Lachit realized that his health was less significant than his duty to protect his people. According to the record, he said:

<sup>4</sup> In the midst of an invasion against my country and my army fighting and sacrificing its lives, how can I rest my body because I am ill? My country is in trouble. How can I think about heading home to my wife and children?" (Source?)

The brave Borphukan asked for seven boats loaded with bows and arrows to be brought to him because he knew fighting on land would be difficult for him. From the river, he prepared for war and attacked.

Ahom warriors charged the Mughal army inspired by Lachit's gallantry, and the Mughal army was suddenly attacked from the riverfront. Before the advance of the army, Lachit had built a line of defenses behind them, so they could retreat if forced. Confused and beleaguered, the Mughal army retreated after suffering massive casualties.

After the war, Lachit Borphukan passed away. Despite the brutal invasions of the Islamic tyrants, Assam's culture remains intact to this day. Our civilization has survived all types of onslaughts because of brave hearts like Lachit Borphukan and Shivaji during the dark days of Aurangzeb's tyranny..

Lachit's patriotism, bravery, dutifulness, and determination are enshrined in the history of Assam. In the face of opposition from the mighty Moghul army, Lachit also succeeded in restoring and upholding the freedom of his country and people. Assamese patriotism can be attributed to Lachit Barphukan.

*Dibya Mohan Brahma*

**Dibya Mohan Brahma**

**Age-31 (Male)**

**Mob-8638673085**

**Post Office-Udalguri**

**784509**