

AN ESSAY ON  
"LACHIT BORPHUKAN"

Name : Tuhi Daimari

Class : B.A. 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

Age : 18 yrs

Gender : Female

Phn. No. : 7099293027

Roll No. : 680

Dept. of History.

## Lachit Borphukan

Lachit Borphukan was the Borphukan and the commander in chief of the Ahom Kingdom Army. He was born on 24 November 1622 in the Ahom kingdom located in present Assam. His father's name was Momai Tamuli Barbarua (governor of upper Assam and commander in chief of the Ahom army). This enabled Lachit Borphukan to enjoy a comfortable upbringing. His father arranged for his education in humanities, scriptures and military strategies, and as he grew up he was given positions of responsibility.

Before being appointed as the Supreme commander of the army Lachit was made the Isoladhara Barua of the Ahom king, a position equivalent to a Private Secretaryship. This was regarded as his first step in the career of an ambitious diplomat and

politician. He was also appointed to other important posts like the Superintendent of the Royal Horses or Ahora Barua, Commander of the Strategic Simulgarh Fort and Superintendent of the Royal Household Guards or Dolakasharia Barua assisting the Ahom king. The king Chakradhwaj Singha was impressed by his duty, honesty and discipline and made him the commander-in-chief of the Ahom Army.

By the time of Lachit Borphukan's appointment as commander, the Mughals had occupied Guwahati and forced the Ahoms to sign a humiliating treaty named the "Treaty of Bribhujari Ghat" in 1663. This treaty had several harsh conditions so Ahom king Chakradhwaj Singha denied to sign that and resolved to rid the entire region of the Mughal empire.)

The king Chakradhwaj Singha presented Lachit a sword with a golden handle called Bengdang, and the customary paraphernalia of

distinction, and appointed him commander-in-chief of the Ahom army, which had been raised specifically to drive out the imperial Mughal rulers. Lachit raised the army and preparations were completed by summer of 1667. His army successfully retook Guwahati from the Mughal forces.

Emperor Aurangzeb after being informed of the defeat at Guwahati sent an expeditionary force from Dhaka under Ram Singh.

Knowing fully well the Ahom forces would easily be defeated if their commander was removed, Ram Singh resorted to subterfuge. An arrow carrying a letter by Ram Singh was fired into the Ahom camp; it later reached the Ahom king. The letter stated that Lachit had been paid 1 lakh rupees to evacuate Guwahati. Furious that his commander was allegedly in negotiations with the enemy, the king started doubting his sincerity, but his prime minister Atan Buragohain convinced him that this was a trick by the Mughals to make Chakradhwaj Singha dismiss the commander who

successfully fought the Mughals so far.

Lachit's patriotism and devotion to his land is best described by the battle of Saraighat where he even went to the extent of beheading his own uncle for the sake of his land. (During the preparations for the battle he ordered an earthen wall for fortification to be constructed within one night and employed his maternal uncle as the supervisor.)

Later in the night when Lachit came for inspection, he found that the work was not progressing satisfactorily. When asked for an explanation, his uncle tried to cite tiredness, at which negligence of duty, Lachit became so furious that he beheaded his uncle on the spot, saying "My uncle is not greater than my country." The barrier was completed within that night and the remains of this fortification are still known as "Mamai-kota hark" or "The fortification where the uncle was beheaded."

(Inspite of his illness, Lachit had himself carried on a boat and with

seven boats accompanying him advanced headlong against the Mughal fleet. He shouted, "If you (the soldiers) want to flee, flee. The king has given me a task here and I will do it well. Let the Mughals take me away. You report to the king that his general fought well following his orders." This had an electrifying effect on his soldiers. They rallied behind him and a desperate battle ensued on the Brahmaputra. The Ahoms in their small boats encircled the bigger but less maneuverable Mughal boats. The river got littered with clashing boats and drowning soldiers.) The Ahoms were victorious defeating the Mughals.

Smita  
81, 31

Lachit Borphukan died in 1672 due to illness at the age of 50. With his great braveness, patriotism, and dutifulness Lachit remains a hero of Assam's history.

On 24 November each year, Lachit Divas are celebrated in Assam to commemorate the heroism of Lachit.

Borphukan and celebrate the victory of the Battle of Saraighat.

Lachit Borphukan's Maidam was created by Swargadeo Udayaditya Singha in 1672 as a memory of Lachit Borphukan in Jorhat.

The best cadet from the National Defence Academy is awarded the Lachit Borphukan gold medal. It was first instituted in 1999 following an announcement by General VP Malik saying the medal would inspire defence personnel to emulate Borphukan's heroism and sacrifices.