

**A HISTORICAL SURVEY: THE PORTRAYAL OF THE BRITISH IN SIEGE AND
RELIEF OF CHITRAL**

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ABSTRACT

This research study deals the British campaigns in Chitral (the Siege and the Relief of Chitral) during the last decade of 19th century. This research is on the regional history. Without understanding regional history, we cannot understand the National history. The regional history could not be viewed in the limit of any geographical boundary. Chitral has different history from the other parts of Northern Areas of Pakistan. Chitral is a district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, lies on Pak-Afghan border called Durand line. This region has many ethnic groups like: Broshu of Hunza, Shina of Gilgit, Balti of Baltistan, Kho of Chitral and so many other groups and all ethnic groups have their own cultures, traditions and histories. Chitral region got importance during British Raj due to Great Game and expansion policy of the British Empire. In late 19th century the regions experienced two major military campaigns in 1895 by the British; Siege of Chitral and Relief of Chitral, one was sent through Gilgit, and it was led by Colonel James Kelly and other from Peshawar, which was led by Major General Robert Low. The backdrop of these military campaigns was started from the last phase of the Great Game. Chitral was an important region for British and it was connected with rest of India via Gilgit and Peshawar. Although the upper route of Gilgit was shorter, but very rough and tough in terrain, and snowbound in winters. Both of the routes were used during the British military campaigns. At the end of these Military campaigns the British army got victory and after the victory of British Army Chitral became under the influence of the British Empire.

Keywords: Chitral, history, military campaigns, British Raj

INTRODUCTION

Chitral has fascinating area and cultural history of more than two millenniums; the region was somehow in isolation before arrival of British during the British Raj. Chitral is the largest district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province, lies on Pak-Afghan border called

Durand line. Sheikh Abul-Fazal claimed in *Akbar Nama* that the people of Swat, Peshawar and Bajour called Chitral as “Kashtkar”, but in the last two centuries, this area was called “Chitral” and the surrounding areas called it “Chitral”. Historically, Chitral was a portion of Dardistan and Bloristan. According to the folk tradition, the old name of Chitral is Kashkar,

after Kashkar it was also named Khoistan. This was the imitation of the ancient name “Kashkurd”. This area was named “Chatrar”. The word Chitrar was steadily replaced with Chitral. The Chitral area is being fascinated by various researchers and travel writers for a long time. Chitral is hub of many sub-cultures and having more than ten languages in a small region. Chitral has extensive roots in history, as recently Dr. Ihsan Ali: the leading archaeologist, found some clues of Gandhara Grave Culture in his field activities in the District Chitral and the date goes back to 1st millennium BC at least.¹ The recorded history of Chitral begins with the Tibetans invading Yasin Valley in early 8th century AD, followed by the Chinese and the Buddhists in 900 AD. Later, the Kalasha also ruled Chitral for decades. In the 14th century Chitral became a unified independent under the rule of Shah Nasir Raisa. In 1570, the Raisa dynasty was replaced by the Kator dynasty.² The famous Mehtar of Chitral: Aman-ul-Mulk ruled from 1857 to 1892. In 1895, the Siege of Chitral Fort took place and lasted a month, after which, Chitral: an independent state went under the influence of British Raj. In 1947 the State of Chitral, joint Pakistan and enjoyed the status of the state until 1969 and then it was merged in administrative structure of Pakistan as a District, and the head of the state was called Mehtar.

The Umra Khan of Jandol Episode

The Laram range of mountain was on the North side of the Swat valley. Beyond the Laram range, in the Southern side, there was the Dir valley. In this valley, Panjkora River was flowed and there was also a Panjkora valley. In the East of Panjkora valley, the fertile valleys were opened, like: Jandol and Bajaur valleys. Umra khan was the Chief of the Jandol and Dir valley, who was against the power of British.

Dir valley had a mountain range which was about 10000 feet to 20000 feet height. The Lowari Pass connects this valley to Chitral. The British column got the access of Chitral valley through this pass.³ Umra khan was a formidable chief. He was always creating trouble by making inroads on Chitral villages bordering his own territory.

Later the death of Aman-ul-Mulk his son Afzal-ul-Mulk declared himself as the Mehtar of Chitral valley, but at that time, his elder brother Nizam-ul-Mulk was in Yasin valley. Afzal-ul-Mulk murdered his three half-brothers and various other leading men for his Mehtarship.⁴ That time, Umra Khan offered to Afzal-ul-Mulk for the support against his elder brother Nizam-ul-Mulk: who was exiled in Gilgit. Umra Khan took the benefit of that circumstance; he was seized Chitral fort at Narsat. When Sher Afzal crossed the Dorah pass with his supporters for his Mehtarship then Afzal-ul-Mulk started the march against Umra Khan.⁵ Sher Afzal was the uncle of Afzal-ul-Mulk and Nizam-ul-Mulk. He was prominent in Chitral society and in Afghanistan. He had the support of Amir of Afghanistan. He desired to get the Mehtarship of Chitral valley. He had also Umra Khan's support. Umra Khan helped Sher Afzal because he needed to spread out his state line across the Chitral.⁶ At Drosh, Sher Afzal murdered Murid Distageer (the half-son of Aman-ul-Mulk) without any struggle. He reached Chitral in following night. He entered in the fort and killed Afzal-ul-Mulk and proclaimed himself the Mehtar of Chitral.⁷ When this news reached to Gilgit, Nizam-ul-Mulk returned to Chitral with the help of British. Nizam-ul-Mulk fought with Sher Afzal at

Drasan then Sher Afzal was escaped to Afghanistan. After that Nizam-ul-Mulk became the new Mehtar of Chitral. The power of Nizam-ul-Mulk was assumed by Dr. Robertson. This mission was gone back to Gilgit, but Younghusband remained in Chitral as political officer.⁸

On 1st January 1895, Nizam-ul-Mulk was killed by the half-brother Amir-ul-Mulk. After that, Amir-ul-Mulk was seized the Chitral fort. Umra Khan was his Brother-in-law. That's why Amir-ul-Mulk was in the hand of Umra Khan.⁹ Amir-ul-Mulk welcomed Umra Khan in Chitral.¹⁰ The murder of Nizam-ul-Mulk was linked to Umra Khan, but not directly. At that time, Umra Khan remained in his position in Narsat. Sher Afzal was the most popular candidate for the Mehtarship in Chitral. After the murder of Nizam-ul-Mulk, Umra Khan of Jandol crossed the Lowari pass with his force, which was consisted of 1200 fighter and 1500 coolies and conquered the lower Chitral on the name of "Jihad".¹¹ Lieutenant Gurdon was at Chitral on the visit from Mastuj with 14th Sikh, the remainder of his escort, but some 95 men of same regiment under the Lieutenant Harley remained at Mastuj. On 7th January, 50 men of 14th Sikh reached at Chitral. In the mid of January, the British Agent Surgeon Major Robertson left Gilgit for Chitral to report the condition and reached Chitral in February. Surgeon-Major-Robertson was requested to Umra Khan for an Immediate withdraw. Umra Khan replied that his aim had been to assist and to strengthen Amir-ul-Mulk. So Surgeon-Major-Robertson reached Chitral with 100 men of 14th Sikh and 150 men of Kashmir rifles.¹²

Almost 3000 Chitralis were not in the favour of Umra Khan's advance, but due to weakness and incapability of their leader Amir-ul-Mulk, the resistance of the Chitralis was collapsed. On 9th February, the advance of Umra Khan was holding the Kila Drosh.¹³ On 21st February, Surgeon-major-Robertson reported that in Chitral all was well, but the situation was changed by the arrival of Sher Afzal. On 27th February, Sher Afzal sent a message to Surgeon-Major-Robertson that he would be retiring to Mastuj. The news was received that Sher Afzal had come back with his few followers and Adamzada had also joined him. After that, Sher Afzal occupied the Gairat.¹⁴ During February, the British escort was reinforced from Mastuj. The amount of escort was 420 which consisted of 99 men of 14th Sikh, 380 men of 4th Kashmir Rifles.¹⁵ This escort was under the command of George Robertson. The lieutenant Gurdon, Doctor Church, caption Campbell, the Dogra officers Baj Sing, Major Bham Sing and local Sardar Wada-dar-Khan were under the leadership of George Robertson.¹⁶ The force of Umra Khan was about 3000, to 5000.¹⁷ Minor-e-Single was the head of the Sher Afzal's force. He made stables on the mountain of Karshanda. The two British officers and Baj Sing attacked on the force of Sher Afzal. In that attack, General Baj Sing was killed and two officers were injured. At that time, the situation was too much critical for British escort. Therefore, the British escort became weak and it was started to move on toward the fort, but Sher Afzal's force had been grabbed by British escort from every side. Finally, the British escort reached in the fort after facing many difficulties. Therefore, the force of Sher Afzal started to siege the fort with

firing.¹⁸ At that time, the new Mehtar Shuja-ul-Mulk and his followers, Shehzada Bahadur Khan, Shehzada Afrasiyab Khan, Wazir Inayat Khan, Fatih Ali Shah, Wafadar Khan and Bahadur Atalik and Jalil Khan were also in the fort of Chitral.¹⁹

The Siege of Chitral Fort

The incident of siege of Chitral was occurred on 3rd March 1895. In siege of Chitral, the British garrison was sheltered in the fort of Chitral. At that time captain Townshend was commanding and tried to improve the war strategy. The other officers: Lieutenant Gurdon, Lieutenant H. K. Harley, 14th Sikhs and Captain Whit church were with the Captain Townshend, but Captain Baird was died on 3rd March due to his injuries. The total number of fighters from British side was 543, who were linked from different ranks, like: 99 men of the 14 Sikhs, 301 of the Kashmir Rifles, 85 were followers and 52 were Chitralis²⁰, but in *Nai Tarikh-e-Chitral*, the writer claimed that the 600 men were sieged.²¹ Approximately, the food stock was for last two and half month. The ammunition for war was left 300 rounds of Martini-Henry and 280 rounds of Snider per Rifle.²² After the settlement of all defenders with new duties, Captain Townshend was enabling for further improvement in defence system. Only three officers were available for the military duty to look-after the board ship. The alarm force and guards had been already selected for Picquet duties by the British garrison and it was necessary. Captain Townshend ordered to his defenders that they would fire 30 rounds daily at 1000-yard distance, which was conquest by Sher Afzal.²³ No doubt, Sher Afzal would occupy the

fort of Chitral, but he preferred to negotiate. Therefore, on the 6th March, Sher Afzal Sent a message to the British Agent through his Diwan that Sher Afzal wanted to develop a good relation with the British and avoid fighting with them. He offered to Surgon-Major Robertson that he would go back to Gilgit with his escort if he would leave Chitral fort, but at that time, George Robertson was not agreed to do so. Therefore, he replied a diplomatic answer. So, Sher Afzal had the hope of peace with them by this negotiation. There was possibility that George Robertson would be going back to Gilgit, but Umra Khan created hurdle in this negotiation which was between Sher Afzal and the British agent because he did not like to saw a friendly relation between both of them. Therefore, Umra Khan gave the suggestion to George Robertson that he should go back to Peshawar through the Jandol route.²⁴

On 8th March, an attack was made on the water tower, but it was quickly impeded. Only 80 men of Sikhs and 240 men of Kashmir Rifles remained fit for the services on the end of first week.²⁵ On 11th March night, the person of Punal was succeeded in destroying few walls, which were opposite the West and the South faces of the fort. A renewed attack was occurred on the East side of the fort and the wooden garden was located there. Captain Townshend ordered to maintain their position on alongside of water tower which was conquered by detached post.²⁶ On the 19th March, Sher Afzal offered to the British Agent that if he would leave the Chitral fort then he could go back to India with his escort by Jandol route²⁷, but on the other hand, when Sher Afzal heard the news about the British force would come from the Mastuj side. Therefore, Sher Afzal was sending

his force to Mastuj under the supervision of Muhammad Afzal and Muhammad Isa. They attacked on British force and compelled it to move on towards Rishan, where the British force remained in a village. Then two British officers with their sixty followers fought with the force of Sher Afzal. The British force was grabbed by the force of Sher Afzal. So the force of Sher Afzal was was grabbed to the British force and fried on the British force. At that time, captain Rakes and many soldiers were killed, but Lieutenant Edwards and Fowler were captured.²⁸

Major Robertson also had letter from Edwards that their party was besieged in Reshun. When both British officers were not released on the request of George Robertson then Major Robertson rejected Sher Afzal's demand to leave the Chitral fort and go back to India.²⁹ On the 23rd March, Umra Khan's Diwan was again threatened because George Robertson rejected the term of their master Umra Khan and the result of that rejection was the unfavourable treatment with Lieutenant Edwards and Fowler. The British garrison was rejected to listen the suggestion of Sher Afzal's Diwan.³⁰ The British officers had killed their ponies and salted them for eat. On 26th March, the British garrison fired at the besiegers' Sangar. The Machicoulis galleries were constructed and started fire in night. This arrangement was proved effectively and economically then fireball and tow soaked were used for the defence of fort at night. On the other hand, the British garrison was harassed throughout the day and night with desultory rifle fire by besiegers.³¹

On the end of March, Captain Townshend had just 343 men, who worked on guard and

Picquet duties. Only 29,224 round of Martini-Henry and 68,587 rounds of Snider were remained. On the other side, the stock of grain was remained for only seventy-four days, but just the stock of "Ghi" was low. A Sangar was built by besiegers from 175 yard where defenders obtained their water-supply. At the same time, the besiegers started to contact with their lower Sangar, which was located on the West side of river.³² On 31st March, Sher Afzal sent a message to British Agent that he would go back to Gilgit with his escort if he leaves to Mastuj. This correspondence was continued. On the 6th April's night, the besiegers conquered the Summer House from the South-eastern side. This advance of besiegers created difficulties for the British garrison, especially on gun tower, which was exposed to rifle fire. The defenders were still working for the defence of fort with twelve rifles of the Sikhs and some Punialis.³³

- **Demolishing of Enemy's Mine**

On the night of 10th April, A man was killed by the attack on waterway and he belonged to levy wounded. The next night, besiegers started retire up in the direction of Drosan against the column of Colonel Kelly. At that time, there was no news about the arrival of the Relief force of the British, but on the other hand, besiegers had great struggle for conquered to the fort of Chitral. So, they started to dig a mine from Summer House to Gun Tower, but they did not impede to fire, because they wanted to hide this activity from the British garrison.³⁴ On 16th April, one native officer: Rab Nawaz said to George Robertson that the besiegers might be digging a mine, but he was not sure. So, George Robertson started investigation on this news. Finally, Lieutenant Harley was appointed with

one hundred men for this job.³⁵ The next morning they heard the noise of picking clearly. So, all the doubts had been cleared.³⁶ Lieutenant H.K Harley selected the ammunition which was consisted of forty Rifles of 14th Sikhs, two native officers and sixty men of 4th Kashmir Rifles. Captain Townshend ordered to his companion that they would not leave the free space of Summer House and only use the bayonet. Finally, Lieutenant H.K Harley held the Summer House and destroyed the place of mine. Sangar was rushed by Lieutenant H.K Harley. There were three bags of 11lb gun powder, 40 feet of powder of hose, numerous picks, shovels and forty rounds of ammunition for each man was arranged by this job.³⁷ The task of fuse to the mine was completed by the Lieutenant H.K Harley in an hour. After abolishing the mine, the pleasure of the British garrison was abolished because the besiegers started collective struggle for the attack on the East tower and waterway. The eight men of the British were killed and thirty men wounded, but on the besieger's side, they lost sixty men with two men who were in mine.³⁸ Now all the problems of the British garrison were near to end. On 19th April, the besiegers were alert that relieving force would reach here for abolishing the Siege. So, a mass was continued throughout the night. The people of Jandol wanted to meet Umra Kahn at Asmar, but on the other hand, Sher Afzal with his followers had escaped toward Bashka, where they were captured by the people of Dir. In siege of fort, 104 men were killed from British side and many were wounded.³⁹

The Action of Colonel Kelly for Relief to Siege of Chitral Fort

This operation was taken under the Colonel Kelly in Chitral to relief the Chitral fort. In March, Captain Stewart requested to Colonel Kelly march to Thither with the 32nd Punjab Pioneers. At the same time, Colonel Kelly received the serious information from Major Robertson in Chitral for the safety of the British garrison. On 22nd March, Colonel Kelly reached Gilgit and he received the instruction from the Adjutant-General of India:

You will assume military command in Gilgit Agency and make such disposition and movements as you may think well. The communication with Robertson is interrupted. You will be chief political officer within the zone of your military operation. On first April, a strong force of three brigades will advance on Chitral via Swat. You reported directly with Adjutant-General at Calcutta till 28th.⁴⁰

The British Agent was besieged in Chitral with his escort of the 14th Sikh, 300 Kashmir Imperial Services Troops by the Umra Khan and Sher Afzal. Colonel Kelly had no information about the condition of the Chitral beyond the Mastuj. The troops were distributed in Astor as 29 men of Kashmir Light Infantry, 442 men of 32nd Punjab Pioneers and 466 men of 5th Kashmir light Infantry were in between Bunji and Chilas. No1 Kashmir Mountain Battery and 209 men of 6th Kashmir light Infantry were in Hunza valley. 403 men of 32nd Punjab Pioneers, No 1 Kashmir Mountain Battery, 34 men of 4th Kashmir Rifles, 108 men of 5th Kashmir light Infantry, 140 men of 6th Kashmir light Infantry, 111 men of Kashmir Sappers and Miners Details were in Gilgit. 23

men of 6th Kashmir light Infantry were in Gokuch Roshan. 34 men of 4th Kashmir Rifles and 69 men of 6th Kashmir light infantry in Gupis. 129 men of 4th Kashmir Rifles and 6th Kashmir light Infantry, 52 men of Kashmir Sappers and Miners were in Ghizr.⁴¹ A column was organized for an advance toward Chitral. The attitude of Hunza and Nagir people was friendly and loyal. The transport was not available at that time, so, the Lieutenant Colonel Kelly decided that he would march toward Chitral with limited force to a small column, which was consisted of 400 men of 32nd Pioneers and section No:1 Kashmir Mountain Battery. The Amir of Hunza Nagir brought 900 men with 14 days supplies. One hundred of them were followed to the Ghizr column and other men were selected for detail to Roshan Garrison, but numbers of men were working for transferring the supplies to Gupis.⁴² This task was very difficult for Lieutenant Colonel Kelly. A road was existed for Gupis which was tough, rough and also difficult. This road was not fit for mule transport. At that time, the Shandur Pass was most important for ordinary track. Beyond the Shandur pass, they would not reach Chitral. So, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly's column was depending on Shandur pass. At Ghizr, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly divided his column into two parties. The first party was consisted of 200 men of Pioneers which marched from Gilgit to Chitral on 23 March and second party was consisted of Pioneers and two Gun of No: 1 Kashmir Mountain Battery, which followed to the first party on the next day. They had limited baggage. On 26th and 27th March, both detachments were arrived at Gupis. Here they reduced their stores and they left this place on 27-28th March. Then they arrived at Ghizr on 30-31th March. At that time, this column was

reinforced by 40 Kashmir Sappers and Miner and 100 men from Hunza and Nagir.⁴³

- **Crossing the Shandur Pass**

During the previous night, a number of Yasini coolies and ponies had bolted; supplies would be transported for only six days instead of ten days. Snow was falling for the next five days and it was so deep about three miles from Ghizr. So, in this condition, they would not be able to carry the animals with them. When they reached at Teru, then Lieutenant Colonel Kelly once again divided his force.⁴⁴ Lieutenant Colonel Kelly returned with his force to Ghizr and Captain Berradaile left to Teru. The man of 4th Kashmir Rifles was assisted, the gunners made a road from Teru to Langar which was covered by snow. Lieutenant Stewart reached to Teru on 2nd April and started to prepare the road. Lieutenant Stewart was accompanied by Lieutenant H.A.K Gough and fifty Kashmir Sepoys. When they reached at Teru, 32nd Pioneers and native officers took permission from Captain Borradaile to assists the gunners. On the other hand, the men of Kashmir Infantry were carrying the ammunition and guns over the Shandur pass. So, the guns were reached next day from Ghizr and at afternoon, Captain Borradaile set out for Langar.⁴⁵

Due to the snow the Battery mule faced difficulties for driven the track, but the result was unsatisfied. Lieutenant Stewart wanted to march along the Langar River, but animal and men became numbed due to cold water. The load was still carried by the men. It was the difficult task for artillery men to carry the heavy load from deep snow. After the great struggle the column was reached Langar at 11pm and heavy load was reached on the next day .The

level of Langar is 12000 feet above the sea-level. They found small hunt which was used for sick men, but the other men were remained in open place. Captain Borradaile left the guns and escort at Langar and started up the pass with his remainders at 9 am. Shandur pass was considering an easy pass in ordinary season. At that time, the snow was three to five feet deep.⁴⁶

On the next day, Captain Borradaile completed the protection of house. Some follower villagers worked in transport of guns from Langar. So, the guns were arrived Langer at evening. On the morning of 6th April, a reconnaissance was made by Captain Borradaile with 120 pioneers and 2 guns. At that time, they heard the news that the besiegers had occupied the Chakalwat defile with 300 to 500 men. On 6th April, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly, Lieutenant W.G.L Beynon and fifty Nagir levies arrived at Laspur. The artillery force was affected due to without goggles. They were unable to lay their guns. At that time, the force was increased by reaching of fifty Punial levies.⁴⁷ On 8th April, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly thought that the delay of his advance would allow to the besiegers to increase their power at Chakalwat. So, he went toward Gasht without the remainder column. His advance was consisted on 200 pioneers 40 Sappers and Miners, 100 Hunza and Puniali levies and 2 mountains guns, but Lieutenant Gough with 25 Kashmir Sepoys remained in Laspur until the other detachment of Pioneers would reach. Lieutenant Beynon reached at Gasht with the Hunza Levies.⁴⁸

Then Colonel Kelly reconnoitred the position of besiegers at Chakalwat which led a ford across the Laspur stream. This position had the great natural strength. A Sangar line was stretched, which across the edge of an alluvial

fan. A mass off fallen snow was on the right side of enemy. Above it a spur was crowned with more Sangar and other flank was preserved by shale slope. There was a boulder-strewn alluvial slope in the road of Gasht. Lieutenant Colonel Kelly left his baggage at Gasht and advanced with remainder of troops on 9th April. While Lieutenant Beynon ascended the right side of the enemy. On the other hand, Puniali levies were driving the task on the away of enemy where their stone shook on the slopes.⁴⁹ The force attacked and conquered the sloping spur at half mile from the position. Now the fire was opened at 82 yards range and on right Sangar the enemy was now cleared out. While the enemy drove back from their position on the spur by Lieutenant Beynon and his remainders. The fire was concentrated on next Sangar. At fugitives, few rounds were fired by guns. Then they crossed river and conquered Sangar. This advance continued further 1.5 mile. At that time, one native officer was killed and three men wounded from the British side while 50-60 men killed and 400-500 men wounded from besieger side. The march was forwarded to Mastuj and reach there without further difficulties. The British garrison noticed that the besieger retiring their position and relieving force was about three miles from fort. Lieutenant Colonel Kelly remained three days at Mastuj. These days were spent in collecting transport and supplies and also the repairing the damage Bridge of Yarkhun River which was a mile below from the fort. The second detachment arrived Mastuj on April under Lieutenant Patterson. On 12th April, the British found that the besieger holding a strong position and they impede to British advance through the Yarkhun valley.⁵⁰

- **The Action of Nisa Gol**

The force of Umra Khan built a line of a Sangar on the far edge of the Gol. The several Sanger were built on the above of Spur. The stuff of Lieutenant Colonel Kelly provided him a well sketch of war strategy and also gave the information about the disposition of defenders. So, he decided that he would attack on the weak position of defenders on 13th April. Then, the one party which was consisted of advance guard was gaining the plain and make a way to right and high up slope. Then attacked the enemy's left flank on lower Sangar until the remainder force and gun came into the position. So, in this way this Sangar was destroyed and defences were attacked, but on the other hand the levies search a path, which might be used in cross and turn the enemy's left. The advance guards contact with Umra Khan at 10:30 am while the working toward its right was still. It deployed at the 90-yard distance from Gol.⁵¹

The next party prolonged the line to the right. The two parties of Pioneers deployed and advanced the gun shelled Sangar and fire was silenced after the destroying the wall. After that the guns moved forward to engage Sangar which was at the fort of the Spur. The Kashmir artillerymen served their guns even they lost seven men and wounded many men in a few minutes. The three men were taken prisoners at Chakalwat and Ponies also captured at that place. During that time, they were making way up the Gol for the turning movements, but the four parties of Pioneers engaged the Sangar on the edge. Now the gun took the third position where they shelled the Umra Khan's center and their fire was switched.⁵² During this time, Lieutenant Beynon found a place where Gol could be crossed. So, sappers, under the command of Lieutenant Oldham, the parties of 4th Kashmir Rifles under the command of Lieutenant Moberly worked and make a

practicable path down the cliff. After that they reached at next Sangar. The way was gauntlet of stone shoot. The enemy realizing their position turned back. Then they left their cover. A general advance now ordered and a party was dispatched in pursuit, but they were able to make good their escape in the direction of Drasan.⁵³ A field hospital was established by Surgeon Captain Lured in Mastuj, where all the wounded were sent to this hospital on 14th, but the reminders resumed March at 7:00 am and they reached a point that the road of Chitral have been broken down. So, the force ascended a Spur, after the 2000 feet stiff climb. After that they forward to Drasan where they found deserted as well surrounding the village. The bridge of Torikho stream was destroyed which was repaired with beams and timber. So, this bridge was enough strong to bear the guns while the animals swam across. The cookies with baggage reached till after dark. There was found the large supply of grains in the fort, but there was not transport for moving it.⁵⁴ They reached Kusht on 15th. On 17th, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly was arrived Burnas. They cross the river by a dangerous ford. From Sanogher, there was a main road to Chitral on the left bank of Yarkhun. The disaster occurred to the Column under the captain Ross and Lieutenant Edward on this road. Lieutenant Colonel Kelly avoided the Korah and other formidable defile where he had hoped to check his advance. There were remained three day's supplies. On 18th made a Mario on their short march. Muhammad Isa: who commanded a party of enemy, retired during day and toward Chitral and held Durbar: called the "Golden Gold". The enemy destroyed all the bridges and roads in many places.⁵⁵

On the 18th noon, a letter was received from the Surgeon Major Robertson, in this letter,

announcement of the flight of the enemy and end of the siege was mentioned. On 20th April, the column of Lieutenant Colonel Kelly reached Chitral and met with the British garrison who had defended it throughout the siege. When the column reached Chitral, the following telegram was sent to foreign secretary to Sir Robert Low for the transmission to lieutenant Colonel Kelly:

I am desired by the Viceroy to express warm congratulations from himself and from Government of India to you and to your gallant troops on your admirable and successful advance to Chitral under circumstances of the greatest difficulties, arising not only from the opposition of the enemy, but also from enormous physical difficulties, which have been overcome with skill and rapidly.⁵⁶

The Advanced of Robertson Low

The operation of relief of Chitral was the combine movement from the South and North side. The column of the South side was faced much difficulties then the North British column. The South column was based on Peshawar while the North column was on Gilgit. Jandol was the camp of the besieger of Chitral.⁵⁷ Peshawar was inevitable Jeopardies for a decisive blow struck of Umra Khan's operation. With the result of that he would leave Chitral and try to secure his own territory. So, the first aim of the British relief force was occupied the Jandol valley. At Peshawar, on 19th March the orders were issued for mobilization of 1st Division army Crop. That time, the base was shifted to Noshera which is near to Peshawar. It

was too much difficult and compacted to mobile the force on the Indian Frontier. The British force carried out the more advance troops from India. During this campaign the allowance of each man was 10Ibs and per officer was 40Ibs. Tents were not allowed. Soldiers' blanket had just 4 or 5Ibs weight. 28,000 pack animals were carried out for feed and to maintain force. So, to mobile the army on Indian Frontier was not only difficult, but to carry the animals was also much difficult.⁵⁸ The British force of the South side was consisted on three infantry brigades, four regiments. The troops were consisted of two cavalry regiments four Batteries of mountain artillery, one regiments of Pioneers and three parties of sapper and miners, the General Sir Robertson Low K.C.B, with Brigadiers General Bindon Blood C.B, Royal Engineers as his chief staff officer were command the force. 1st Infantry Brigade consisted of Brigade General Kinloch, 1st Bedfordshire regiment, 1st king's Royal rifle crop, 15thSikh, 37th Dogras and 2 filed hospitals. 2nd Infantry Brigade was consisted of General Waterfiled, 2nd king's own Scottish Bordered, 1st Gordon highlanders, 4th Sikhs and 2 field hospitals. 3rd Infantry Brigade consisted of General Gatacre, one Royal East Kent regiment, 2nd Seaforth highlanders, 25 Punjab Infantry, 2nd 4th Gurkha rifles and 2 filed hospitals.⁵⁹

• The Action at Malakand and Panjkora

This was the first expedition of British Force over the Malakand Pass. The British also had information that there was no road; they could only track over the mountains. The Divisional headquarter, 2nd and 3rd Brigade were moved from Peshawar to Hoti Mardan on 30th March 1895, cavalry and guns were also distributed among them. So, the first Brigade was moved on

the next day of 30th March. The relief force crossed the range of mountain from the West to East. So, they found three passes which would be used for crossing the mountain ranges: Shakot, Morah and Malakand passes. The Malakand Pass was too tough than the Shakot and Morah pass.⁶⁰ The intelligence received all the passes with strongly. Sir Robertson Low decided to make an attack on Shakot and Mora passes, but his real attack was made on Malakand pass. So, he moved toward Morah pass to detract the enemy's attention from the real point of his attack. Soon the enemy got busy in the defence of those passes then Sir Robertson Low ordered to his force to concentrate on Malakand pass on 3rd April. So, the attack was carried out by 2nd Brigade with the help of 1st Brigade, but 3rd Brigade was stayed at Dargai valley. The Infantry battalion of 2nd Brigades fought on the way of the pass for 5 hours with the support of fire from the Mountain Batteries. At that time, 12000 the tribesmen were involved in war. Half of them were working with the fire force and around 500 tribesmen were killed in this war, but on the British side only 11 men were killed and 51 were wounded.⁶¹

Now the 1st Brigade was moved to swat valley and 2nd Brigades was on the top of Malakand Pass while 3rd Brigade was at Dargai. On the 4th April, the 1st Brigade fought at Khar and 2nd Brigade moved on the next day. At that time, the negotiation was taken with numerous tribal leaders. Muhammad Sharif Khan was the exiled Khan of Dir. He also negotiated with the Relief force of British. The 1st Brigade conducted an operation on the Swat River on 6th to 8th April. After that 1st Brigade moved toward the West across the Panjkora River and 2nd Brigade moved toward Swat valley while 3rd Brigade moved to Khar. That time a force from 1st Brigade patrolled up to the Panjkora River at

Sado and Umra Khan was at Mundah which was on the far side of Panjkora. The 2nd Brigade reached at Sado and they were fired on the far side of Panjkora River. A bridge was built up on the river which was complete on 12th April. After that, the six instructors parties of infantry were crossed the river for watch the bridgehead.⁶²

During this night, the flood was carried away the part of the bridge. Lieutenant Colonel Batty reached at the Jandol River, where he took his position. The tribesmen were assembled in the area of Kotkai. Batty held his position to enable the companies to withdraw and came under the attack. That's way he shoots dead. So, the Guides came back across the Jandol River. Then a suspension bridge was built up on the Panjkora River in 14th to 16th April. The 3rd Brigade and the part of the 2nd Brigade crossed the Panjkora River and 3rd Brigade marched toward Jandol valley and attack on it, finally withdrew to the West. There were 3 to 4000 Mumund and Salarzi Tarkanri tribes were present on that action.⁶³ On 18th April, the 2nd and 3rd occupied Mian Kilai. Umra Khan sent a message to Sir Robertson Low on 13th April that why his territory was invaded British. Then Sir Robertson Low replied if Umra Khan releases the prisoners and then he would retain his territory. On 15th April, Sir Robertson sends a message to Umra Khan that these terms were no longer in the case of dally. So, on the next day, Umra Khan released to Edward and Fowler and also asked for retains his territory, but Sir Robertson replied that these terms were now expired. So, Umra Khan escaped to Afghanistan.⁶⁴ The Gatacre's 3rd Brigade marched with five hundred shoulders and

reached Bandai. The route of Lowari Pass and to Chitral Valley was too much difficult.⁶⁵

Escape of Sher Afzal and the Final Episode of the Siege

The moral of Sher Afzal had decreased by the advance of British forces from South and North sides. Therefore, Muhammad Isa was called back from stable of Musheelak. On 18 April, Abdul Mujeed and Abdul Ghani were escaped to Asmar with Afghan army and Sher Afzal run away toward Kohistan, but many respected Chitralis people were also run away with Sher Afzal. Therefore, some of them leave their home in the fear of killing. That night, Rustam informed to sieged people about the escape of Sher Afzal, but they not opened the door of fort in the case of security, but on 20 April the door of fort was opened. Finally, the siege of fort was ended after forty-six days. On the next day, General Kelly reached to Chitral with his force, but the force of George Robertson Low reached to Chitral after five days of Kelly.⁶⁶ Sher Afzal was captured by Khan of Dir, who handed him over the British in the camp of Dir and other leading person were exiled from India.⁶⁷

Conclusion

River and Panjkora valley is also in Dir valley. In the East of the Panjkora valley, the fertile valleys are opened like, Jandol and Bajaur valleys. Umra Khan was the Chief of the Jandol and Dir valley, who was against the power of British. Dir valley had a mountain range which was about 10000 feet to 20000 feet height. The Lowari Pass connects this valley Chitral. The British column got the access of Chitral valley through this pass. After the death of Aman-ul-Mulk, Afzal-ul-Mulk proclaimed himself as the

Mehtar of Chital valley, but at that time, his elder brother Nizam-ul-Mulk was not in Yasin. That time, Umra Khan offered Afzal-ul-Mulk for the help against his elder brother Nizam-ul-Mulk, who was exiled in Gilgit. Umra Khan took the advantage of that condition, he was seized the Chitral fort at Narsat. When Sher Afzal crossed the Dorah pass with his followers for his Mehtarship then Afzal-ul-Mulk started the march against the Umra Khan. Sher Afzal was the uncle of Afzal-ul-Mulk and Nizam-ul-Mulk. He had also the favour of Umra Khan. Umra Khan helped Sher Afzal because he wanted to extend his boundary across the Chitral. The march of Sher Afzal reached to Chitral. He entered in the fort and killed to Afzal-ul-Mulk. After that, he proclaimed himself the Mehtar of Chitral. Then Nizam-ul-Mulk returned to Chitral with the help of British. After that Nizam-ul-Mulk became the new Mehtar of Chitral, but in the short term, Nizam-ul-Mulk was killed by the half-brother Amir-ul-Mulk. After that, Amir-ul-Mulk seized the Chitral fort. Then, Umra Khan of Jandol crossed the Lowari pass with his force, which was consisted of 1200 fighter and 1500 coolies and conquered the lower Chitral on the name of "Jihad". At that time, Lieutenant Gurdon was at Chitral on the visit from Mastuj with 14th Sikh, the remainder of his escort. The British Agent Surgeon Major Robertson reached Chitral in February for Chitral report the condition and. Surgeon-Major-Robertson requested to Umra Khan for an Immediate withdraw. Umra Khan rejected for withdraws. So, Surgeon-Major-Robertson reached Chitral with 100 men of 14th Sikh and 150 men of Kashmir rifles. Then the advance of Umra Khan was holding the Kila Drosh. And on the other hand, Sher Afzal occupied the Gairat. The force of Sher Afzal attacked on the British escort. Therefore, the British escort became weak and it started to move on toward the fort. Finally, the British escort reached in the fort after facing many difficulties. The incident of

siege of Chitral was occurred on 3rd March 1895. In siege of Chitral, the British garrison took shelter in the fort of Chitral. At that time, Sher Afzal preferred to negotiation. Sher Afzal Send a message to the British Agent through his Diwan that Sher Afzal wanted to develop a good relation with the British and avoid fighting with them. He offered to Surgon-Major Robertson that he would go back to Gilgit with his escort, but George Robertson was not agreeing to do so. On the other hand, the force of Sher Afzal attacked on British force and compelled it for move on toward Rishan. At that time, captain Rakes and many shoulders were killed, but Lieutenant Edwards and Fowler were captured. After that, the British garrison finally rejected listen the suggestion of Sher Afzal's Diwan, but on the other hand, the force of Sher Afzal started to dig a mine from Summer House to Gun Tower. Lieutenant H.K Harley holds the Summer House and destroyed the place of mine. Sangar rushed by Lieutenant H.K Harley.

In Gilgit, Colonel Kelly received the information from Chitral to relief the siege of Chitral fort. That time, Colonel Kelly had no information about the condition of the Chitral beyond the Mastuj. A column was organized for an advance toward the Chitral. This task was very difficult for Lieutenant Colonel Kelly. A road was existed for Gupis which was tough, rough and also difficult. This road not was fit for mule transport. At that time, the Shandur Pass was most important for ordinary track. So, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly's column was depended on Shandur pass. The British column started to cross the Shandhur Pass, but at that time, Snow was falling for the next five day and it was so deep about three mile from Ghizr. So, in this condition, they would not to carry the animals with them then Colonel Kelly divided his column. The condition of weather was too much painful for the British column, but they continued their advance to Chitral. The British

government sent only one force from Gilgit under the supervision of Kelly, but the British government also sent another force from Peshawar for to relief the British escort from the siege of Chitral fort. Because the British government knew that the Siege of fort was not one man planning, there were two men involved in this mission. One of them was in Mastuj and second one was in Jandol. So, it means Chitral was grabbed from both sides where the British forces can reach to Chitral.

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