

International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

Golden Research Thoughts

Chief Editor
Dr.Tukaram Narayan Shinde

Publisher
Mrs.Laxmi Ashok Yakkaldevi

Associate Editor
Dr.Rajani Dalvi

Honorary
Mr.Ashok Yakkaldevi

Golden Research Thoughts Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

Regional Editor

Dr. T. Manichander

International Advisory Board

Kamani Perera
Regional Center For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka

Mohammad Hailat
Dept. of Mathematical Sciences,
University of South Carolina Aiken

Hasan Baktir
English Language and Literature
Department, Kayseri

Janaki Sinnasamy
Librarian, University of Malaya

Abdullah Sabbagh
Engineering Studies, Sydney

Ghayoor Abbas Chotana
Dept of Chemistry, Lahore University of
Management Sciences[PK]

Romona Mihaila
Spiru Haret University, Romania

Ecaterina Patrascu
Spiru Haret University, Bucharest

Anna Maria Constantinovici
AL. I. Cuza University, Romania

Delia Serbescu
Spiru Haret University, Bucharest,
Romania

Loredana Bosca
Spiru Haret University, Romania

Ilie Pinteau,
Spiru Haret University, Romania

Anurag Misra
DBS College, Kanpur

Fabricio Moraes de Almeida
Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil

Xiaohua Yang
PhD, USA

Titus PopPhD, Partium Christian
University, Oradea, Romania

George - Calin SERITAN
Faculty of Philosophy and Socio-Political
Sciences Al. I. Cuza University, Iasi

.....More

Editorial Board

Pratap Vyamktrao Naikwade
ASP College Devrukh, Ratnagiri, MS India Ex - VC. Solapur University, Solapur

Iresh Swami

Rajendra Shendge
Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University,
Solapur

R. R. Patil
Head Geology Department Solapur
University, Solapur

N.S. Dhaygude
Ex. Prin. Dayanand College, Solapur

R. R. Yaliker
Director Management Institute, Solapur

Rama Bhosale
Prin. and Jt. Director Higher Education,
Panvel

Narendra Kadu
Jt. Director Higher Education, Pune

Umesh Rajderkar
Head Humanities & Social Science
YCMOU, Nashik

Salve R. N.
Department of Sociology, Shivaji
University, Kolhapur

K. M. Bhandarkar
Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia

S. R. Pandya
Head Education Dept. Mumbai University,
Mumbai

Govind P. Shinde
Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance
Education Center, Navi Mumbai

G. P. Patankar
S. D. M. Degree College, Honavar, Karnataka

Alka Darshan Shrivastava
Shaskiya Snatkottar Mahavidyalaya, Dhar

Chakane Sanjay Dnyaneshwar
Arts, Science & Commerce College,
Indapur, Pune

Maj. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary
Director, Hyderabad AP India.

Rahul Shriram Sudke
Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore

Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya
Secretary, Play India Play, Meerut (U.P.)

S. Parvathi Devi
Ph.D.-University of Allahabad

S.KANNAN
Annamalai University, TN

Sonal Singh,
Vikram University, Ujjain

Satish Kumar Kalhotra
Maulana Azad National Urdu University



PERIOD OF THE ARMISTICE AND VIOLATION OF THE BRITISH IN THE MYSOREANS' AFFAIRS, 1783-1784

M. Janani

Full-Time Ph.D. Research Scholar in History,
Department of History , Pachaiyappa's College, Chennai.

ABSTRACT

The hostilities between the British and the French were ceased on 2nd July 1783 and the armistice was concluded. Both the British and the French attempted to involve Tipu also in the armistice just as Sindhia had tried to include Haidar in the Treaty of Salbai. The period of the armistice from August 1783 to March 1784, when the war came to an end was one of uneasy truce. Both parties, the British and Mysoreans, had reluctantly agreed to an unavoidable situation hoping that they would seize the first opportunity to outwit each other in order to gain advantage later in the peace negotiations.

KEYWORDS: British, Tipu, Armistice, Fullarton, Macartney, Campbell, Macleod, Malabar.



INTRODUCTION :

Tipu was reluctant to stop fighting and looked upon the French conduct as a stab in the back. However, on second thoughts Tipu realized that with the desertion of the French the threat of an Anglo-Maratha offensive, the advance of Fullarton from the south and the exhaustion of his army fighting on three fronts, eastern, western and southern, his chances were not bright. Therefore he revised his decision and concluded an armistice at Mangalore on 2nd August 1783. With this, the hostilities ceased both on the eastern and on the western sectors of the war.

The British were the first to violate the armistice both in the Carnatic and in Malabar. Although Stuart desisted from hostilities after learning about the conclusion of armistice by Tipu, Fullarton did not cease his preparations to invade Mysore. He marched to Dharapuram and launched his offensive on Palghat in October.¹ Disregarding the protests of Roshan Khan, Tipu's commander, he continued to advance and, after occupying a number of small posts, he besieged Palghat.² Roshan Khan forwarded a letter of the Madras Government to him to desist from further hostilities, but it had no effect. Fullarton

stormed the fort and secured large quantities of provisions, military stores and cash to the extent of 50,000 pagodas.³ He then advanced to Coimbatore and captured it on 28th November 1783. The letters of the Commissioners forwarded by Roshan Khan were ignored. This repeated defiance of Fullarton was not without the sanction of the Madras Government, which had been anxious to invoke the Paris Peace Treaty just a while ago, when the British army was in distress. But, at the slightest improvement of their situation, the treaty was conveniently ignored. There is good reason to think that Fullarton's actions had the support of the Madras Government, for despite his apparent disregard of their orders and those of the Commissioners, he was not even reprimanded, much less punished. His actions were not just

countenanced; they were encouraged and supported. Macartney sent two sets of orders, one through Tipu's officers and the other direct to Fullarton. In the first he commanded him to desist from hostilities, and in the second, he asked him to retain Palghat and other possessions security for the garrison of Mangalore," and as a bargaining point to secure favourable terms from Tipu.⁴ On 13th December 1783, Macartney sent specific orders not to restore the captured places, which would afford "the means of retaliation" against Tipu.⁵ Even as late as 24th January 1784, Macartney issued similar kind of instructions to Fullarton.⁶ It was only when Macartney was fully convinced that the duplicity of his conduct would result in the fresh flare-up of hostilities that he asked Fullarton peremptorily to withdraw to the limits he had occupied on 26th July 1783. But, before he retired, Fullarton caused considerable damage to Tipu by plundering Coimbatore, carrying off provisions, guns and ammunition, together with large sums of money. Instead of delivering up the forts to Tipu's officers, he handed them over to the agents of the Mysore Rani, who had been implicated in a plot against Tipu.⁷ Thus the British committed an open breach of the armistice for two obvious reasons. One was to strengthen their own hands to wrest favourable terms at the time of negotiating peace. Quite a few forts of the British were in Tipu's hands, whereas one or two of his forts which had been conquered by the Bombay army on the western coast had also been recovered by him. Therefore the Madras Government was anxious to retain some of their gains, although these had been obtained by breach of trust. Secondly, these conquests would bring them immense monetary gain at a time when they were in great financial distress. Sullivan had concluded a treaty with the Rani of Mysore who had promised that she would give them three lakhs of pagodas on the fall of Coimbatore. Just to extract this money from the Rani they broke their armistice and captured Coimbatore. This conduct of the British was quite reminiscent of the politics so often seen since the battle of Plassey.

MACLEOD-TIPU TALKS

Fullarton was not the only person who had committed the breach of the armistice. Another instance of a similar type occurred through the conduct of Brigadier-General Macleod, who was in command of the troops on the western coast. The Bombay Government had sent this man with three vessels loaded with provisions and a detachment of Hanoverians to help the Mangalore garrison to hold out for a longer period. But more than a fortnight before his arrival, Campbell had concluded the armistice. Although, according to its terms, Macleod could not supply the provisions by sea, Tipu had permitted him to land and even made arrangements for his stay in the town. He was treated kindly and was presented with a palanquin, a horse, and a khilat. He was permitted to have a free and frank talk with Tipu for two days, 20th and 21st August 1783.⁸ With him Tipu discussed the peace, and Macleod too attempted to impress on him the advantages to him of British friendship.⁹ He pointed out how the British were now able to extricate themselves from their misfortunes as they had made peace with all except him. Relieved of anxiety from all other directions they would henceforth devote their whole attention to overpower Tipu. The General argued that a protracted war would not serve his interests. He would lose his time, his money and his best troops, which could be more usefully employed elsewhere. The Marathas and the Nizam were depicted as more dangerous threats to his sovereignty than the British, who, he asserted, had no territorial ambition.¹⁰ Tipu appreciated these sentiments, as he admired valour and frankness in others. But he also knew the worth of British professions of friendship. Ever since the failure of Muhammad Ali to deliver up the fort of Trichinopoly, Mysoreans had lost faith in the promises of the British. Their present anxiety for peace was due more to their adverse circumstances than to any genuine change of heart or modification of policy. Therefore, when the turn came for Tipu to speak out his mind he dwelt at length on their faithless conduct, their refusal to deliver Trichinopoly and pay the promised sum of one and a half lakhs of rupees, and their intrigues with Muhammad Ali. But Macleod dubbed these grievances as old disputes whose renewal would not help to solve the present issue. Instead it would retard the peace and further complicate the problems. He appealed to Tipu's humanity and pressed for the release of the prisoners. Tipu was agreeable to comply with his request provided the General proceeded to Srirangapatnam to take personal delivery of the prisoners. Tipu also proposed to discuss with him the terms of peace which would establish permanent friendship between the two states. But the General pleaded want of authority to conclude the peace, and the interview proved abortive.

FLAGRANT BREACH OF THE ARMISTICE

These meetings and the cordial talk did not help to implement the armistice faithfully. At first Macleod was satisfied with Tipu's treatment of the garrison.¹¹ Tipu tried to accommodate the British as much as he could. When on 13th August 1783 Campbell visited him and pleaded shortage of provisions, he caused a bazaar to be set up near the fort.¹² But these arrangements did not satisfy the British, whose intentions were to enable Campbell to withstand the siege for a long time by reinforcing the fort with sufficient men and supplies. They were bent on capturing Mangalore permanently, and expelling Tipu from the western coast. The expression by Macleod of friendly feelings was all to divert his attention. Macleod appeared twice in October and attempted to dump into the fort lots of provisions. This was contrary to the terms of the armistice by which the garrisons were prohibited from receiving any supplies by sea, as they had been provided enough for their daily consumption through the local bazaar.¹³ Therefore, when Tipu refused permission to provision the fort, Macleod appeared with a squadron and a large army on 22nd November and insisted on sending 4,000 bales of rice. Far from yielding to the threat, Tipu prepared himself for the renewal of war. The flagrant breach of the armistice and the despatch of troops and warships had roused his indignation. But through the efforts of the French envoy, Piveron de Morlat, a clash was averted and a compromise was effected between the parties. Instead of 4,000 bags of rice, 1,000 bags were permitted into the fort. Even this was a great concession which the British obtained, as the armistice did not permit the storage of provisions for more than ten or twelve days.

BROKE-OUT OF EPIDEMICS AND INCLEMENCY WEATHER

But Campbell could not hold the fort for a long time. The difficulty was not shortage of provisions but the diseases which prevailed among the besieged. The conditions of the garrison had grown pitiable on account of the break-out of epidemics and the inclemency of the weather.¹⁴ Scores of men were dying because of scurvy. The Europeans in the garrison were on the verge of mutiny and the Indians were deserting daily. In such circumstances Campbell was forced to capitulate on 29th January 1784.¹⁵ The fort was to be delivered up in exchange for some other fort in the Carnatic. The garrison was to march out of the fort with full military honours and to be sent on boats to Bombay at Tipu's cost with provisions for the journey. If sufficient boats were not available the troops were to be sent by land, and Tipu was to make all arrangements for their transport through his territories. They were to be permitted to take with them all their belongings but nothing belonging to the Sultan.¹⁶ Tipu strictly honoured these terms.¹⁷ The British regretted much the loss of this fort, which they had wished to retain till the release of all their prisoners. Moreover, in the expected peace parleys, their possession of such a strategic place was expected to weigh more in their favour. But Tipu was happy that the repeated breaches of the armistice by the British had resulted in their own discomfiture.

AGGRESSIVE ACT OF BRITISH

The British were guilty of yet another aggressive act. In December 1783, when the Commissioners had already opened the peace talks, Macleod attacked Cannanore, captured the fort, imprisoned the Bibi, who was its ruler, and obtained four lakhs of pagodas and large quantities of provisions.¹⁸ The proclaimed reason for this highhanded action was that the Bibi had imprisoned certain British troops who had been driven ashore in November 1783 as the result of the sinking of their boat, the *Superb*.¹⁹ The real reason why the place was captured was that it formed one of the finest natural ports on the west coast. Macleod wrote, "It is much more valuable to us than Mangalore because no enemy can step between it and the sea."²⁰ The Bibi was not released until she had signed a treaty as dictated by Macleod, by which she agreed to pay three lakhs of pagodas to the British, placed her forts at their disposal, granted them the sole monopoly of the pepper trade and waived her claim to the merchandise and other properties captured by them as lawful prize-money.²¹ The Madras Government approved the action of Macleod, but the Bombay authorities objected to his concluding a treaty without their consent.

They disallowed and annulled it, and ordered the restoration of the places to the Bibi. In spite of this, however, the fort was not delivered back to her until after the conclusion of the Treaty of Mangalore.²²

BRITISH VIOLATION OF ARMISTICE

In certain other ways also, the terms of the armistice were broken by the British, much to the annoyance of Tipu. The British instigated the Raja of Coorg to revolt against Tipu and join their side. The strategic situation of the Coorg country, which could be of immense use to them for quickly marching their troops to Srirangapatnam, attracted their attention. They were afraid that its possession by Tipu would give him easy access to the Malabar coast, if he ever decided to attack it.²³ Besides, the British had given refuge to the Raja of Cherikal, who was a dependant on Tipu. They incited the Malabar chiefs to cast off their dependence on Tipu. For Tipu Malabar was a trouble-spot where his disaffected subjects, the Nairs, were constantly seeking the support of the British against him. Peace in the area was frequently disturbed by Tipu's anxiety to consolidate his hold over these possessions, the British intervention in their affairs, both secret and open, and by the hostility of the Nair chiefs, whose mutual rivalries, frequent changes of loyalties and fighting propensities had added to the confusion. Fullarton reported to Madras, "The Rajah of Calicut or the representative of the ancient Zamorins, is now with me, and I receive much assistance from the Brahmins and other inhabitants of this country, on whom I bestow every mark of favour and protection, in order as much as in my power to preserve the British name from the stain too often incurred by violence and oppression."²⁴ It was this disloyalty of the Malabar chiefs that later proved disastrous to Tipu's interests in the Third Mysore War.

In these circumstances Tipu did not wish to strain his relations with the Marathas, although they had been preparing themselves for an offensive against him. He informed the Peshwa and Sindhia on 29th July 1783 that he was willing to conclude a peace with the British through the help of the Marathas and that he had accepted the Treaty of Salbai as the only means of establishing general peace in India.²⁵

To conclude, the British had hoped that Tipu would be involved in domestic affairs after the death of his father and there would be a slackening of his efforts to conclude the war successfully. But Tipu ascended to the throne without any civil war and was determined to prosecute the war effectively. The Madras Government, on the other hand, was compelled to desire peace on account of their ruined finances, broken credit, devastated provinces and a hostile Supreme Government. Conditions of near famine were raging in the country. There was the apprehension of a mutiny among the troops, their salaries being long in arrears. The dissensions of the civil and military authorities made the effective prosecution of the war very difficult. Their resources were scanty and their rich provinces were in the hands of "the powerful invaders of the Carnatic." The uncertainty of the Maratha attitude, the military reverses, the loss of Bidnur, the siege of Mangalore and the arrival of Bussy with reinforcements further reduced them to a sorry plight. Their financial distresses caused grave concern to them, as the revenues of their territories hardly sufficed for the expenses of the war. The Nawab of Arcot obstructed the collection of revenues assigned to the Company in 1781. The Bengal Government advised Madras in January 1783 to restore the Carnatic revenues to the Nawab and made it depend entirely on the periodical assistance from Bengal. But, right at this time, the Bengal finances also were far from satisfactory, The presence of a French fleet on the Coromandel coast prevented the supplies to Madras. The Court of Directors were also eager for an early peace and they wrote on 25th January 1783, "A safe and speedy peace with all Indian powers is our primary consideration. This must never be forgotten. Nor must any step be taken but such as shall have a direct tendency to accomplish this desirable object." These were the circumstances that compelled Madras to initiate peace negotiations despite the bitter opposition of the Governor-General. Lord Macartney realized that the situation could in no other way be retrieved than by peace.

END NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Military Sundries (M.S.), 1785, Vol. 66, p. 97.

2. Ibid., p. 103.

3. Ibid., Vol. 61, p. 712.

4. Ibid., Vol. 66, p. 129.

5. Ibid., Vol. 60A, p. 383.

6. Ibid., Vol. 66, p. 120.

7. Ibid., Vol. 61, p. 712.

8. Secret Consultations (S.C.), 14 November 1783.
9. Ibid., 16 December 1783.
10. Ibid.
11. Thomas Campbell, The Complete Poetical Works of Thomas Campbell, A Memoir of Life, New York, 1855, pp.1-12.
12. Secret Proceedings, (S. P.), 10 November 1783.
13. Ibid., 20 January 1784, No. 29.
14. Military Consultations, (M.C.), 20 February 1784, Vol. 97A, p. 533.
15. Secret Proceedings Consultations, 1 March 1784, No. 7.
16. M.S., 1784, Vol. 61, pp. 820-825.
17. M.C., 20 February 1784, Vol. 97A, p. 531.
18. S.P., 13 April 1784.
19. Ibid., 13 May 1784.
20. M.S., 17 January 1784, Vol.61, pp. 766-767.
21. S.P., 13 April 1784.
22. Ibid., 13 May 1784.
23. Tellicherry Minutes of Consultations, Vol. LIX, p. 152.
24. M.S., 15 November 1783, Vol. 60A, p. 299.
25. Military Country Correspondence, (M.C.C.), 8 November 1783, p. 204.



M. Janani

**Full-Time Ph.D. Research Scholar in History,
Department of History , Pachaiyappa's College, Chennai.**

Publish Research Article

International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal For All Subjects

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication, you will be pleased to know that our journals are

Associated and Indexed, India

- * International Scientific Journal Consortium
- * OPEN J-GATE

Associated and Indexed, USA

- EBSCO
- Index Copernicus
- Publication Index
- Academic Journal Database
- Contemporary Research Index
- Academic Paper Database
- Digital Journals Database
- Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- Directory Of Academic Resources
- Scholar Journal Index
- Recent Science Index
- Scientific Resources Database
- Directory Of Research Journal Indexing

Golden Research Thoughts
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005, Maharashtra
Contact-9595359435
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com
Website : www.aygrt.isrj.org