



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Evaluation the structure of Sassanid era army

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ABSTRACT

This study has investigated the structure of Sassanid army. Sassanid Empire was the name of Persian family that was ruled from 224 until 651 AD about (427 years) over Iran. Sassanid Empire had a great army which in world of that day could defeat Iranian great opponent the Roman Empire many times. The main and major part of their army was constituted by Eternal horsemen - ACHAEMENID relic – but there is no information available about their number. Arms Riders combined with shield, helmet, armor, and other stuff that covers the head and hands, chest and feet. Horses also covered with metal components. Heavy cavalry arms of defensive weapons and it was the biggest advantage Sassanid army to the Parthian era. Cavalry weapons were bow and arrow, sword and mace and lasso hastate. The easiest part of Army was Infantry Regiment which mostly consisted of locals who had given guns. There were also elephants of war in this army, sometimes was employed at back army to carry the combaters. In some other cases they were employed in the front the army in order to frighten the enemy horses and the Persians took advantage of this in the war with the Romans, Sassanid Flag, was the flag of KAVYAN - souvenir of the blacksmith KAVEH - and it was important to the Iranians. This flag was decorated with precious jewels. Sassanid Army in building trenches and towers, applying catapults and other devices, getting Military tools from enemy with lasso, piercing the walls of the castle, pouring hot lead down the assailants and many other items were highly skilled., Division Commander in addition having the Military Intelligence also must was calm and cool. In the following we will discuss a brief description of the various units of the Sassanid Army.

Keywords: Sassanid, Sassanid Army, Army

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INTRODUCTION

Regarding Iranian army at the Sassanid era, Aside from the writings of the famous Roman historians like PROK, AMIN MARSELN and JORSTON etc. Armenian and Jewish historians and finally the historians of Islam period had left many usefulness contents for us as a souvenir. Above all about in FERDOSI SHAHNAME there are many detailed information about wars and conquests and getting forts at Sassanid era. The Romans during experiences of wars with Parthian understood that the Iranian had not mastered in getting and sieging of the castles. And also they were tired of quick moves and surprise invasion and Iranian riders Blitz attacks, Hence they resorted to Battles of the castle and for a long time inside the Mesopotamia and particularly at the northern and eastern parts of it close to the Tigris shore proceeded to build castles and defensive strength. In addition in order to protection from Iranian trouble often built string of strongholds close to each other that were related to each other by burrowing and underground ways, and in order to prevent Iranian cavalry aggression they had constituted a kind of strong line of defense around the Euphrates and Antioch. This was due to the operation of Roman that the in Sassanid Army there was found something necessary to change such as organization and composition and weapons and equipment and procedures and they were worth to noting.

At the beginning of this era, ARDASHIR BABAKAN, the dynasty of the Sassanid Empire evicted Iran's Army from guerrilla mode, and turned it into ordered and continual mode. "Armies" or militias of Iran in this period had the second place between Quadripartite of community, and the organizations of army administer had been recognized as a primarily important categories. At the time of Sassanid all segments of society except the royal family were divided into four main categories: Armies, Teachers, priests and ordinary people, including peasants, farmers and artisans. Among these armies, cavalry were individual elite and chosen people, and they were chosen only among the original nobles of Iran and they were

famous between people as magnitude and nobility. Each of the Iranian cavalry units had its specific flag that they had carried it beforehand of them in day of war. Sassanid cavalry army was consisted of three main categories or spectrum: The first category belongs to the royal family members and six other Iranian families with roots Party (Parthian) with names of ESPAHBOD PAHLAVI, KARN PAHLAVI, SUREN PAHLAVI, SEPAND YAZ, MEHRAN and GIYO. The second category included the gentlemen who known as the ZATAN (free) that constituted the main body of the Sassanid cavalry army. The third category achieved by K KHOSRO I (ANUSHIRVAN) reforms who allowed the peasant to enter cavalry army [1]ZAEEN KUB, 1985, page 501).

Take a look at the Sassanid army:

In the early Sassanid era, army had similar organization to their Parthian counterparts. In order to organize their armies they had been used three terms: 1 - VESH (the Parthian West), a department and the smallest part of army. 2 - The flag that were involved over larger units of thousands of men and had its own flag. 3- GAND that was the Large and systematic army that had been driven under the command of GANDSALAR (Major General). The total number of professional military forces of the Sassanid was 12 thousand persons. But the cavalry of Sassanid army was always a source of pride (RAVANDI, 1977, page 698).

Degree and promotions:

Warriors and brave and devoted soldiers after several years of honestly serves found promotion from military-grade to higher ranks gradually. Then for higher degrees, the extraordinary courage and competence in managing subordinates would be criterion. Overall, there was little promotion in peacetime only the great leaders were attributable to the aristocracy. According to some interests and possibly political considerations they were honored to receive a degree. Noncommissioned and troops especially those who showed their heroism during the battle after the victory also received gifts and gratuities (NEZHAD AKBARI MEHR BAN, 2009, page 273).

Military titles:

There were several different titles in Sassanid military that could be named like the SAVARAN, DILIMIYAN, coordination, elephant guards and the Archers. Among all these categories SAVARAN or Sassanid Empire horsemen were more famous. Swords and spears were mainly DILIMIYAN skills and coordination were also Sassanid army infantry, and sometimes would be SAVARAN zealot forces, and had special skills in Crossfire. The Sassanid Empire elephant guards were mostly elephant riders which were brought from India (NAFISI, 2011, page 35).

Immortal Cavalry: Another group of horsemen due to fearlessness in battle, called JAN OSPAR (KIRISHMEN, 1987, page 35).

Auxiliary troops: auxiliary troops also fought alongside Iranian Assyrian, and they were AFVAJSAVAR, Sassanid auxiliary forces like ACHAEMENID era, were constituted by the landlord Assyrian, and were commanded by local princes (SHIPIMAN, 2011, page 114).

Elephant riders: Elephants were brought from India, and pulled long Catapults of wood, that a large number of soldiers could situate in it (ZARRIN KUB, 2011, page 87). The turrets were mounted on the back of elephants and soldiers those turrets supported cavalry. During war at the postscript of BEKRDAR army they had built a wall, and troops were encouraged and ensured of it (IBN KHALDUN, 1996, page 503). Elephants frightening perspective and odor also were scared enemy horses (HERUDET, 1983, page 107).

Infantry (coordination), MOK armies: The last part of the Sassanid army was constituted by infantry or coordination, and the commander was called SALAR PAYGAN. They were in charge of aid and in terms of war tactician was not chartered (HAVAR, 2000, page 174).

Presence and absence in army: Before the war, at the presence of the king sat on a bed and was in charge of commanding the war, and asked forces and soldiers to go ahead and one after another went ahead and hurled a butt shaft to particles insults and then stamped baskets. After the end of war, each soldier took a beam from that basket, from remained butt shaft they could understand the number of dead and captured (SAMI, 2009, page 304).

Weapons and tools of war:

Sassanid Empire in peacetime stored weapons and tools of war in Cisterns (ANBARAK), chairman of the armory was called warehouse GOBAD, after the war the soldiers were delivering weapons, the most important weapons according to FERDOWSI's poetry, so going:

Butt shaft: It were being made from ZARANG tree that had a hard wood, usually in order to create speed and balance there were mounted feather of various birds at the end butt shaft. The tall of each butt shaft was about 80 or 85 cm. Butt shafts were made in many forms, such as the falcon-winged, the iron thorn, the horn handle, the lead poison, and the head flying vulture (AFRASIYABI, 2009, page 304).

Bow: In manufacturing or taking care of a bow were used some yellow resinous oil called SENDEROS (FARROKH, 2010, page 56).

Butt shaft wheels: It was a vehicle threw butt shaft serial like and successively. Some believe that it was shot with iron infected with fire medication (possibly oil, gunpowder or other flammable materials), and threw to the enemy (SAFI ZADE, 2003, page 708).

Lance: According to HELIVUDURUS, Sassanid Empire lances were able to sew two fighter men to each other at the same time, Sassanid Empire army usually during the raid took lance with both hands and their hands were align with their loin (DARYAYI, 2004, page 147).

Mace (demoniacal): Maces were also used most likely to broke enemy armor into pieces. Maces were made of iron and had a height about 40 to 50 cm (the same, page 287).

Sword: Sassanid Empire long swords (1 to 1/11 Meters and 5 to 8/5 cm width) vertically were hung by moving pods from the waist. Late Sassanid era Swords was interesting from this point that there were two Congresses or indentations on the hilt. Theshorter dent was the place for putting the index finger (pointing finger) and the taller dent or notch was for the next three fingers (the same, page 287).

Shield: Iranians made their shields from a piece of leather and castellans were using a kind of shield was called the KILIKA. It was made of goat hair. Wicker shields were commonly used from the late Sassanid era, which were made of tanned skin or raw skin (KIRISTEN SEN, 2010, page 142).

Flag: Iran's national flag was known as the flag of KAVYAN that made of leather which in order to story at that time KAVEH was closed to the forward of his chest and Turned people the alienated king Sami ZAHAK and with it he brought FERIDUN to the throne. This flag was too big in the late Sassanid Empire era that had 22 feet long and fifteen feet wide, means almost it was nearly seven meters in five meters (GADIYANI, 2005, page 167).

Uniform colors of Sassanid army: In Iranian and non-Iranian sources, the color of Sassanid troops garment were (MUSAVI, 2003, page 28).

Helmet: Sassanid Empire army used kind of advanced combat helmet (Helm ASPANG) that had several pieces (KIRISTEN SEN, 2010, page 241).

Sassanid army armored: Including armor multi-layer laminate armor, armor-like scales of eventually were armor (NEZHAD AKBARI MEHR BAN, 2009, page 287).

Military tactics and attack procedures: In addition to the Parthian era battle tactics of fight and flight and retreat maneuver, at Sassanid Empire era, close to each other wars or sometime pitched wars were common. The commander after animating troops would start the war with sound of the trumpet. Before the war they poured some holy water at nearest river and then turned a branch of the sacred plant into a butt shaft then threw it towards the enemies. The task of Force commander was that before the battle he should invite the enemy to obey Zoroastrianism and also the king and or with shout a man to man invited whoever talked about chivalry, to a pitched battle. If the enemy was defeated in battle in order to prevent enemy's forward move and advancing used scorched earth policy and had burned the wheat and barley fields then the enemy could not achieve it. They had been opened the sections of the rivers in order to prevent their rapid advancing by flooding in the plains. Putted the war Elephants in the rear of cavalry the elephant awe and strength were terrorizing the enemy's army and had been weaken their morale. Pouring molten lead and boiling water on the attackers head and taking their surround tools by the lasso were tactics of the Sassanid army (PIRNIYA, 2008, page 236).

Legacy of Sassanid army: One of the Sassanid empire interactions at the Muslim world state administration was the Sassanid era tacticians. At the very first pages of the history of Islam in procedures that suggested we eat Iranian warships passed Salman Farsi and Prophet Muhammad (S) fulfilled wore: Such as digging trenches around MIDAYEN city to prevent the attack of Maki. Among the books about Islam tactician from Persian into Arabic by IBN NADIM lists them could name as Shooting Principles of BAHRAM GUR and in the other word BAHRAM CHUBIN, books about defending the borders of the Sassanid kings, castles and towns occupied tactician, spyware put stalk and use tricks and tactics to combat ARDASHIR I was writing a book about the Marine Corps War and make up (RAJABI, 2004, page 442).

CONCLUSION

Sassanid kings of kings with specific and reach goals reared in their head and should performed their policies at eastern and western borders, relying on the army. In fact, they gained the national interest by the army. This is evident very well from the SHAPOUR words, he said in his inscription: AHURA MAZDA was a witness to mine actions that I didn't took even a step contrary to the interests of my country. I am the same king that did not leave my troops at battlefield alone, as my father did not leave them alone. I am the same king who brought security to his people all over the country up to the moment they do not suffer hardship. Various weapons were used at course of the ACHAEMENID and Iran Sassanid era. Many of these

weapons not only used in the war but also they were a sign of king. A comprehensive study of rock art and art objects found alongside archaeological give us a clear picture of the evolution and development of these weapons. Due to Iranian military confrontations with other civilization new weapons were introduced and weapons, and existed weapons were further improved to have the greatest impact.

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