

Formation and Working of the Imperial Service Troops of the Bahawalpur State

***Dr. Sandeep Kaur**

Abstract

The scheme of Imperial Service Troops was started to provide uniformity and efficiency to the armies of the princely states of India. The princely state of Bahawalpur also raised its Imperial Service Troops and made untiring efforts to improve the standard of the forces. Annual budget of rupees two lakhs was reserved for the discipline, training and purchasing of equipments for the troops. The Bahawalpur Imperial Service Troops provided wholehearted services to the British Government at the time of emergency.

Keywords:- Battery, Squadron, Musketry, Subedar, Resaldar, Jemadar, Sowars, Silladari, Snider Rifles, Carbines, Lancers.

Aims of the study

1. To analyse the causes of the formation of the Imperial Service Troops.
2. To study the nature of the Bahawalpur Imperial Service Troops.
3. To know the efforts made by the Bahawalpur State to improve the standard of its Imperial Service Troops so that it can provide valuable military services to the British Government at the time of emergency.

The Princely State of Bahawalpur was situated in the south-west of the Punjab and to the north-east of Sind. It was bounded on the north by the Satluj, on the west by the Indus and on the south by the Princely States of Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Sind. Its length was about 300 miles, its mean breadth about 50 miles and its area about 1,500 square miles.¹ The dominant race in the State was of the Daudputras to which the family of the Chief of the Bahawalpur State belonged. With the rise of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Nawab Bahawal Khan, the ruler of the Bahawalpur State had made many requests to the British Government to provide him protection. So the British Government concluded a treaty with the Bahawalpur State in 1838 A.D by which the Nawab placed himself under the protection of the British and was bound to provide troops at the requisition of the British Government according to his means.² The Nawab wholeheartedly provided his military services to the British Government whenever it faced any internal or external danger. He also earned a lot of appreciation of the British Government.

* Assistant Professor, Department of History, Punjabi University, Patiala

¹ Report on the Administration of the Punjab and its Dependencies for 1919-20 A.D, Lahore, 1920, p.4. Punjab State Archives, Patiala hereafter given as PSA.

² C.U Aitchison (Compl.), *A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads relating to India and Neighbouring Countries*, Vol IX, Calcutta, 1892, p. 187.

However, the Revolt of 1857 brought a remarkable change in the British policy towards the Princely States in respect of the military affairs. After the Revolt the strength of the native sepoys was decreased and artillery was placed strictly under the control of the Europeans.³ However, these measures were not considered sufficient for the security of the British Empire which could be threatened by the Princely States or by any foreign power. So the British held the opinion that it was important not only to have some control over the military establishments of the Princely States, but also to seek their cooperation in case of a foreign invasion. No doubt the Princely States of the Punjab had always supported the British in the defence of the Empire even then it was decided to keep the military establishments of the all the Princely States including the Bahawalpur State under the strict control and supervision of the British Government. They firmly believed that all these States should not keep armies than were needed to maintain law and order in their States or to upkeep their dignity as sovereigns and also to provide recruits to the British in times of danger. Manufacturing of arms and ammunition by the Princely States was strictly prohibited. By the year 1870-71 A.D the British Government had decided to get detailed information regularly regarding the strength and nature of artillery, infantry and cavalry of all the States. The Governor-General-in-Council dispatched a letter on July 29, 1864 in which the Political Agents and the Local Governments were asked to get the detailed information regarding the army and other military establishments of the States. He had instructed them to tabulate the total number of artillery men, infantry and cavalry along with the weapons which each State possessed.⁴ The character of the infantry and cavalry was also to be recorded. Hence it was the first definite step in the evolution of the new policy of the British Government towards the Princely States in respect of military matters. The purpose of the whole exercise was to keep a check on the military strength of the Princely States and also to examine the possibilities of engaging a certain number of troops of the Princely States, according to the resources of those States for the protection of the British Indian Empire at a time of emergency. This intention may be seen as a distant emergence of the idea of the establishment of the Imperial Service Troops. But before the actual formation of the Imperial Service Troops the main aim of the British government was certainly to keep the military strength of the Punjab States under control. In 1871 A.D. Col. Minchin, the acting Superintendent of the Bahawalpur State took steps for the reduction and reorganisation of the State Army. He proposed scheme in which the strength of artillery and infantry of the State was to be reduced from 194 and 1,266 men to 153 and 1,110 men respectively, the strength of the cavalry was to remain the same i.e 376 horsemen. He also proposed to raise the salary of the soldiers. This scheme of the British Superintendent was approved and sanctioned by the British Government.⁵ In 1876 A.D. the British Superintendent again recommended that the number of the State forces should be reduced and it should be converted into a police force. He firmly believed that a smaller and wellorganised army would be both in the interest of the State and the British Government.

During the Anglo-Afgan War of 1878 A.D. the Nawab of Bahawalpur along with the other rulers of the Princely States offered his military services to the British Government. He offered his military service not only in India but also in the far off wars in Africa. On the

³³ A.C Arora, *British Policy towards the Punjab States 1858-1905*, Jalandhar, 1982, p.248.

⁴ Ibid, p.251.

⁵ Ibid, p.252.

occasion of the silver jubilee celebrations of the Queen Empress in 1887 A.D. the Nawab of the Bahawalpur State along with the other rulers of the Princely States of the Punjab had again expressed his desire to render financial and and military services to the British Government. The British Government now wanted to chalk out certain means under which the revenues of these States could be used to support the Supreme Government in lieu of the protection and peace provided to them by the British Government. The best option was to utilise their forces for the defence of the British Empire.⁶ The formation of the Imperial Service Troops had a political and military significance. It was a step which would win over the support and loyalty of the Princely States in defending the Indian Empire against Russia. The rulers of the Princely States would appreciate this system and would consider themselves as loyal subjects of the Queen Empress. The well trained and efficient Imperial Service Troops would also demoralize the remaining army of the Princely States which were large in number and could be a source of danger for the British Government.⁷ The next year i.e 1888 A.D Mortimer Durand, the Foreign Secretary of the Government of India, gave the proposal that a portion of the troops of some Princely States should be organised, drilled and equipped by the British military officers so that these troops could join the Imperial Forces in the field. He held the opinion that the Princely States had huge armies which were not organised properly and could not be used against the enemy and so the number of these forces should be reduced and should be changed into a well-trained and highly organised reserve. This new proposal would not only provide efficiency to the forces of the Princely States but would also be financially beneficial for the States. The officer lent to the States will provide uniformity in the organisation, training and equipments of the army and thus will increase their efficiency. The large indiscipline forces were to be disbanded which will lessen the financial burden of the Princely States.⁸ He was of the opinion that the Princely States vary in their size, population and resources, so only selected States should contribute their forces which could be used by the British Government.

The Nawab of the Bahawalpur State despatched a letter to the Viceroy and the Governor-General of India on December 5, 1887 A.D in which he offered to place at the disposal of the British Government, the military resources of his State. In response to this letter, a letter was sent to the Nawab by C.L. Tupper, Esquire, Offg, Secretary of the Punjab Government, in which he remarked that the British Government had not yet decided whether to accept the offer of the Nawab and if accepted then which form of assistance was to be accepted. The Government was desirous of obtaining certain further information which would be helpful in arriving at a conclusion on the subject. The letter further made it clear that an officer had been deputed to visit the Bahawalpur State who would make verbal inquiries on the method of recruitment and composition of the forces and generally the character of the military organisation and system of the State including particulars as to retirement on the grounds of age and and the grant of pension if any. The officer who had been selected for this duty was Major Howard Melliss who visited the Bahawalpur State and remained there for a sufficient time to enable him to collect the information which was

⁶ Major Donovan Jackson, *India's Army*, London, 1940, p.496.

⁷ K.M.L Saxena, *The Military System of India (1850-1900)*, New Delhi, 1974, p.227.

⁸ Sir William Lee Warner, *The Native States of India*, London, 1910, p.233.

necessary.⁹ Major Melliss arrived at Bahawalpur State on February 17, 1888. A State official was deputed to provide every assistance to him. After making a review of the artillery, infantry and cavalry of the State, he returned on February 20, 1888. Major Melliss submitted his report on the armies and the military resources of the Princely States of the Punjab on March 7, 1888. His report on the Bahawalpur State was as follows¹⁰:-

The revenue of the Bahawalpur State was over nineteen lakhs of rupees annually and the military expenditure was of two lakhs and thirty seven thousand rupees

The force comprised of:-

	<u>Men</u>
1 Battery of Artillery (6.6.pr.guns M.L.S.B)	80
1 Cavalry Squadron	110
1 Infantry Regiment	400
Military Police	280
Irregular (200 horsemen; 300 footmen)	<u>500</u>
Total	1370

Artillery:-

The Field Battery was officered by-

1 Subedar on Rs. 100

1 Jamadar on Rs. 30

The gunners and drivers were paid rupees 7. The Battery was drawn by bullocks. The men were tidy, fine looking and young but the Battery was used only for saluting purposes. Some of the men were exceptionally powerful and the drivers belonged to a poor class.

Cavalry:-

The officers in the Cavalry Squadron were-

1 Resaldar on Rs. 100 (commanding)

1 Jemadar on Rs 60

The Sowars were paid Rs 25.

Although the Sowar was highly paid yet he did not turn out as well as he should have been. He was decently dressed and fairly well mounted and much more soldier like appearance than the Sowars of the Patiala or Kapurthala States. The majority of the Sowars were young or middle aged. The saddlery was well-kept. Men were armed with lances, carbies and old swords of local manufacture. They marched really well.

⁹ Foreign (Native States) Department, January 1889, Nos. 1-22, Part-A, pp.1, 2. Punjab States Archives (Chandigarh Branch) hereafter given by PSA (Chandigarh Branch).

¹⁰ Foreign (Native States) Department, January 1889, Nos. 1-22, Part-A, p.11, PSA (Chandigarh Branch).

Infantry:-

1 Subedar-Major- Rs 100 per month (in command).

An Adjutant- Rs 83 per month.

4 Subedars- Rs 50 to Rs 65 per month.

4 Jemadars- Rs 35 per month.

The men were paid Rs 9.

This Infantry regiment was smart in its appearance. The majority of men in the ranks were young, of excellent physique, better set up than the majority of the soldiers of the Princely States. Major Melliss held the opinion that there must be some good officers in this regiment or rather men who could be made into good officers, for its smart appearance was due to some interior supervision, as neither the Commander of the Army nor the Nawab took a very great interest in soldiering.¹¹

Irregulars:-

The Military Police merely performed the duties of ordinary policemen. They were armed in the same manner as the most police were armed in India. Major Mellis recommended that these irregular forces should not form part of the Military establishment at all. The irregular consisted of horse men, footmen, camelmen and were known as 'Shikar Corps.' They were kept up for hunting purposes. They were never drilled or uniformed.

The Bahawalpur Army consisted of 75% of Muslims born in the State, about 12% of the Sikhs and 13% of Punjabi Hindus, Dogras and Purbeahs. For the regular enlistment rules were in force. Men were only taken between the age group of 18 to 25 years and of 5 feet 6 inches in height and 33 inches in chest measurement. They had to undertake a medical examination. Desertion was rare. The code of Army Regulations of the Indian Army was followed in the Bahawalpur regular force. The salaries of the troops were good and equal to the salaries of the Indian Troops. There was also a scale of good conduct pay entitling a man after three years service to receive Rs. 1 extra per month and after 9 years of service Rs 2 and after 15 years of service Rs 3. Pensions were not given according to the rule. The discipline enforced was also in accordance with the Indian Army Regulations. The Commander-in-Chief was Sayad Sher Shah. The system in the cavalry was *Silladari*. The price of the remounts was about Rs 150. Major Melliss held the opinion that as many as 4000 camels and about 2,000 ponies could be collected in the Bahawalpur State within three or four weeks. There are no horses or mules.¹²

Major Melliss in his report recommended that the Bahawalpur force could be made useful by converting the cavalry into the Nawab's Guard (as he had no guard), making the Battery purely one for saluting purpose and doubling the number of men in the Infantry Corps, making a corresponding reduction in numbers in the Irregulars. Three of the companies at least of the newly formed Infantry regiment should be trained as a Camel Corps, a sufficient number of camels being kept in the corps to transport the whole Infantry

¹¹ Foreign (Native States) Department, January 1889, Nos. 1-22, Part-A, pp.11, 12. PSA (Chandigarh Branch).

¹² Foreign (Native States) Department, January 1889, Nos. 1-22, Part-A, pp.12, 13. PSA (Chandigarh Branch).

regiment, each camel carrying two men. This corps numbering 850 or 900 men would be the Bahawalpur Field Service Corps.¹³

After obtaining the consent of the Princely States of Patiala, Nabha, Jind, Kapurthala, Faridkot and Bahawalpur for this scheme of the Imperial Service Troops, the British set up a committee consisting of Sir Frederick Roberts, the Commander-in-Chief, Sir James Lyall, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, Mr. G. T Chesney and Sir Mortimer Durand, which accepted the report of the Major Melliss. The committee held its meeting in Shimla on September 26, 1888. For Bahawalpur State, the committee fixed 150 cavalry and 300 infantry to be eventually formed in a camel corps. It further held the opinion that the Nawab would like to have a resident British officer as he wanted to have an enlightened companionship. It was further suggested to arm the whole 450 men of his Infantry regiment with Snider rifles because arming a portion (300 thereof) would necessitate a break in the present organisation and would be unpopular with the Nawab. But for the war purposes he won't be asked to furnish more than 300 men already suggested. The Lieutenant-Governor agreed to this suggestion.¹⁴ The British Government sanctioned the free issue of 10 carbines to the Cavalry and 50 Snider rifles to the Infantry of the Bahawalpur State. The Government further sanctioned issue on payment of 200 rounds of ball and 40 rounds of blank ammunition per Snider rifle and carbines to the State.

Major Harward Melliss was appointed as the Chief Inspecting officer of the Imperial Service Troops and was to function under the direction of the Foreign Department. Captain J.W. Hogge and Major F.H.R Drummond were appointed as the Inspecting officers of the Punjab State Armies who were to train the selected troops of Infantry and Cavalry respectively. These officers were required not only to inspect and train troops of the Princely States but also to advise the States in improving the efficiency of their forces.¹⁵ In November, 1888 C.L Tupper and Major Harward Melliss promised the Nawab that his whole regiment of 450 men would receive instruction to make it efficient.¹⁶ In a letter dated Febuary 13, 1889 to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, Major H. Melliss informed about the selection of men from the Bahawalpur State to form the war service Corps was approximately as:-

150 Cavalry- 130 Muhammadans, 20 Sikhs.

300 Infantry- All Selected- All Muhammadans.¹⁷

Major F.H.R Drummond submitted his report on the progress made by the Cavalry of the Bahawalpur State from January to May 1889 in which he reported that he found the men of the Bahawalpur Cavalry to be of excellent physique, in every way fitted for active service. They were chiefly Muhammadans, half of whom were the British subjects. The remainder were the Sikhs. The State cavalry having originally been organised and supervised by a British officer was much more advanced in drill than that of any other State. He, however pointed out that there were many signs of slackness inevitable in troops under entire control of the local officer. A Jemadar, one Kote-Daffadar, two Daffadars and two Sowars had been

¹³ Foreign (Native States) Department, January 1889, Nos. 1-22, Part-A, p. 13, PSA (Chandigarh Branch).

¹⁴ Foreign (Native States) Department, January 1889, Nos. 124-157, Part-A, pp. 21,22. PSA (Chandigarh Branch).

¹⁵ Major G.F MacMunn, *The Armies of India*, London, 1911, p.196.

¹⁶ Foreign (Native States) Department, January 1889, Nos. 124-157, Part-A, p.3, PSA (Chandigarh Branch).

¹⁷ Foreign (Native States) Department, May 1889, Nos. 26-58, Part-A, p.2, PSA (Chandigarh Branch).

selected for instruction with the 12th Bengal Cavalry. The squadron was well officered. The equipment of the Bahawalpur Cavalry was found on the whole to be fair. The necessary renewal of equipment and saddlery was recommended and was carried out. Unfortunately swords of very inferior steel were used by the men and the State authorities were reluctant to change them. The horses of the 1st Troop were found to be old and those of the 2nd Troop young and of excellent quality. The lines were built on the usual Bengal Cavalry plan and required no alteration. They were cleanly kept and well drained. The Squadron had for some years been organised almost exactly as the Bengal Cavalry. Bahawalpur Lancers had a uniform of drab green colour and had flag of scarlet, white crest.¹⁸ The annual report of the Bahawalpur State for the year 1889-90 was forwarded by H.C Fanshawe, the officiating Chief Secretary of the Government of the Punjab. This report mentioned that the arrangement for the training of the contingent troops specially maintained by the Bahawalpur State as the contribution towards the Imperial defence had been fully developed and the last progress report which was submitted to the Government of India had furnished evidence of the efficiency which had already been attained by the selected regiments. The Cavalry of the State took part in the general parade at the Muridke Camp-of-Exercise before His Highness Prince Albert Victor and the Commander-in-Chief. The smart and workman-like manner in which the troops were turned out created a favorable impression and elicited the commendation of Sir Frederick Roberts.¹⁹

The British Government issued a battery of four 9-pounder guns with carriages and limbers to the Bahawalpur State in July, 1890 as a token of the confidence placed in its loyalty, but also made it clear that the Government had no intention to ask the State to increase the present force of artillery maintained by it.²⁰ When the Bahawalpur State joined the scheme of Imperial Service Troops in 1889 A.D, it had a special force consisting of 150 Lances and 400 infantry. In 1901 A.D as it was difficult to maintain these corps by the enlistment of the subjects of the State, the two corps were disbanded and replaced by a Silladar Camel Baggage train, with an escort of 120 Muslims, trained as infantry, armed with the rifles and mounted on camels. In 1903 A.D. the escort was increased to a strength of 165.²¹ On October 1, 1903, the Bahawalpur Imperial Service unit consisted of 361 Camel Corps, 161 men, 1040 pones and camels. So the total strength of the unit was the 1096.²² The annual budget provision for the maintenance of the Imperial Service Camel Corps was Rs. 2,00,000. The actual expenditure for the year 1904-5 was as:-

	Rs.
Mounted Corps	45,330
Baggage	1,15,037
Pensions	2,393
Rewards	772
Allowances etc	2,031
Contingencies on account of buildings and ammunition	11,766
Hospitals	11,529
Total	1,88,958

¹⁸ Foreign (Native States) Department, March 1890, Nos. 7-21, Part-A, pp.7,9. PSA (Chandigarh Branch).

¹⁹ Foreign (Native States) Department, September 1890, Nos. 1-22, Part-A, p.1. PSA (Chandigarh Branch).

²⁰ Foreign (Native States) Department, August 1890, Nos. 31-36, Part-A, p.2. PSA (Chandigarh Branch).

²¹ Brigr. General Stuart Beatson (Compl.), *A History of the Imperial Service Troops of Native States*, Calcutta, 1903, pp.8,9.

²² Major Melliss, *Imperial Service Troops of Native States*, p.176. PSA

A reserved company consisting of 85 men and officers was formed in June, 1904 to meet the contingency of loss among the sepoys of the Baggage corps in the war. In 1904-05 A.D. it cost the State Rs. 9,735 out of the annual provision of Rs. 10,677 sanctioned for its maintenance. For the use of the Imperial Service troops, a hospital was maintained in the cantonment lines. The total number of the patients treated during the year 1904-05 was 5,760. Camels and horses of the Imperial Service Corps were under the charge of four Veterinary Assistants appointed for the purpose. There was no contagious or epidemic disease among the camels since the establishment of the corps. In the early months of 1905, the Bahawalpur Mounted Escort, with two selected troops of the Transport Corps, attended the Muzaffargarh Training camp and won the approbation of General Walter Kitchener.²³ During the year 1912-13 A.D. the Imperial Service Camel Corps was subdivided into:-

- (a) Baggage or Transport Corps:- officers and men 372 (commissioned officer 4, non-commissioned officers 25, men 326, establishment 17), Camels 966. Besides these transport camels, the officers and the Kote-Daffadars had 17 riding camels.
- (b) Mounted escort:- officers and men 190 (commissioned officer 6, non-commissioned officers 34, men 129, followers 21), with camels 166.

Rs. 120 in excess of the full budgeted provision of Rs. 2 lakhs was expended on the maintenance of this Corps with the following details

	Rs.	A	P
Salaries	1,74,009	6	8
Miscellaneous	26,110	9	4
Total	2,00,120	0	0

During the year 1912-13 A.D Major J.F Finnis Inspecting Officer, Imperial Service Camel Corps, paid his usual inspection visits. Major Munn, Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, Musketry, Captain Scott, Inspector of Signalling, Imperial Service Troops and the Civil Chief Master Armourer inspected the corps and recorded their satisfaction at its condition. The men of the Imperial Service Corps were sent to Meerut, Nahan and Kiarighat for training.²⁴ The Camel Corps and Escort and Baggage Corps were very efficient and also earned the commendation of Colonel Watson, Inspector- General, Imperial Service Troops.²⁵ Mistri Allah Rakha was sent on May 5, 1914 to the Ferozepur Arsenal to gain an acquaintance with the new rifle of the Corps. The forces enjoyed good health and the condition of the camels was reported to be good and the Camel Corps provided its service in Egypt during the First World War.²⁶ The Camel Corps continued to provide their services during the entire period of the First World War. By the year 1915 A.D the State had also added 13 horses to its Baggage of Transport Corps. The expenses of the Imperial Service Troops was also increased. It amounted to Rs. 2,29,208-12-8 against the fixed budget provision of Rs. 2 lakhs with the following details:-

²³ Punjab States Gazetteers, Vol. XXXVI, A Bahawalpur State, 1904, Lahore, 1908, p.336.

²⁴ The Annual Administration Report of the Bahawalpur State for the year 1912-13 A.D, Lahore, 1913, pp.21,22. PSA.

²⁵ Report on Native States under the control of the Punjab Government for the year 1913-14, Shimla, 1914, p.6. PSA.

²⁶ The Annual Administration Report of the Bahawalpur State for the year 1914-15 A.D, Lahore, 1915, pp.15,16. PSA.

	Rs.	<u>a</u>	<u>p</u>
Salaries	1,70,460	0	2
Miscellaneous	58,743	12	6
Total	2,29,208	12	8

During the year 1915-16 A.D, Major G.R.D Churchill, the Inspecting Officer, paid his visit and inspected the Imperial Service Troops of the Bahawalpur State. The Civil Chief Master Armourer also inspected the armourer's shop and was satisfied with the working and condition of the weapons. The condition of the forces was found to be good and also the condition of the camels was found to be satisfactory. However 14 men of the Transport Escort were tried by court-martial and were duly punished while one man of the Escort and 17 of the Transport were given slight punishments for minor offences. Muhammad Hassan of the Escort was awarded a punishment of 30 canes and was dismissed from service by court-martial in the field.²⁷ So the State took pain to enforce discipline in its Imperial Service Troops.

The Imperial Service Troops of the Bahawalpur State had provided wholehearted services to the British Empire during the First World War. The extra strength of 86 was maintained for the period of the war. The expenses of the Imperial Service Troops for 1916-17 A.D amounted to Rs. 2,00,000 with the following details:-

	Rs.	<u>a</u>	<u>p</u>
Salaries	1,59,726	0	10
Miscellaneous	40,273	15	2
Total	2,00,000	0	0

Along with the above expenses, the field service expenses for the year 1916-17A.D amounted to 9,858-12-3. The State also paid attention to the physical training of its troops. Two soldier, Nek Muhammad and Ghulam Qadir were sent to the physical training class at Ambala.²⁸ During the year 1918-19 Senior Subedar Muhammad Jafar Khan and Lance Naik Muhammad were sent to Musketry class at Meerut and Havildar Muhammed Gul and Lance Niamat Khan to Shaikh Madin for training in Bayonet fighting and free gymnastic and returned successful. However, 24 men from the Escort and 7 from the Transport deserted or absented themselves without leave. So one of them was dismissed, 7 were fined and others were punished with quarter guard or forfeiture of their pay for period of absence.²⁹ By the year 1919 A.D the strength of the Imperial Service Corps was further increased as:-

- (a) Baggage or Transport Corps Officers and men 374 (commissioned officers 6, non-commissioned officers 30, Silladars 322, establishment 16) and camels 966. Besides

²⁷ The Annual Administration Report of the Bahawalpur State for the year 1915-16 A.D., Lahore, 1916, pp.22, 23. PSA.

²⁸ The Annual Administration Report of the Bahawalpur State for the year 1916-17 A.D., Lahore, 1917, pp.27, 28. PSA.

²⁹ The Annual Administration Report of the Bahawalpur State for the year 1918-19 A.D, Lahore, 1919, pp.26, 27. PSA.

these transport camels, the officers and Kot-daffadars had 9 riding camels and 13 horses.

- (b) Mounted Escort:- officers and men 203 (commissioned officers 8, non-commissioned officers 34 and men 129, followers 32) with 2 horses 168 camels for riding. The expenses of the Imperial Service Camels Corps during this time amounted to Rs. 2,81,526-12-7 against the fixed amount of Rs. 2 lakhs and its details was:-

	Rs.	a	p
Salaries	2,17,726	6	7
Miscellaneous	63,800	6	0
Total	2,81,526	12	7

The men were sent to Pune, Ambala and other place for musketry training and returned successfully. The Military Advisor paid his inspection visits and was satisfied with the working and conduct of the Imperial Service Camel Corps.³⁰ The Bahawalpur Imperial Service Camel Corps was reorganised under the Indian State Forces Scheme in 1922 A.D.

The Bahawalpur State made efforts to improve the efficiency their Imperial Service Troops but even then the State was not allowed to upgrade the irregular troops of the State. The British Government did not accept any demand to provide sophisticated weapons to the irregular troops of the State. The Nawab of the Bahawalpur State well kept the strength of the Imperial Service Camel Corps and also regularly sent men to obtain training in musketry etc. The discipline was strictly enforced and the deserters were punished. The State Inspecting teams visited the State regularly and held the Imperial Service Troops in high esteem. The Bahawalpur Imperial Service Camel Corps proved their worth during the First World War and won many laurels for themselves. The Imperial Service Troops of the Bahawalpur State along with others Princely States proved to be a boon for the British Government as it always provided its services for the protection of the British Empire.

³⁰ The Annual Administration Report of the Bahawalpur State for the year 1921-22 A.D, Lahore, 1922, pp.19, 20. PSA.