

Battle of Buxar

The **Battle of Buxar** was fought on 22 October 1764 between the forces under the command of the BritishEast India Companyled by Hector Munro and the combined armies of Mir Qasim, Nawab of Bengal till 1763; the Nawab of Awadh; and the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II^[4] The battle fought atBuxar, a "small fortified town" within the territory of Bengal, located on the banks of the Ganges river about 130 kilometres (81 mi) west of Patna, was a decisive victory for the British East India Company. Shuja-ud-Daulah and Shah Alam surrendered and the war came to an end by the "Treaty of Allahabad" in 1765.

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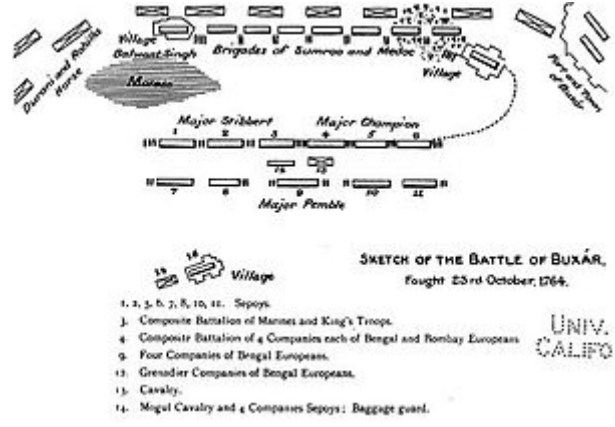
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Battle

The British army engaged in the fighting numbered 7,071^[5] comprising 859 British, 5,297 Indian sepoys and 918 Indian cavalry. The alliance army's numbers were estimated to be over 40,000. According to other sources, the combined army of the Mughals, Awadh and Mir Qasim consisting of 40,000 men was defeated by a British army comprising 10,000 men.

The lack of basic co-ordination among the three disparate allies was responsible for their decisive defeat.

Mirza Najaf Khan commanded the right flank of the Mughal imperial army and was the first to advance his forces against Major Hector Munro at daybreak; the British lines formed within twenty minutes and reversed the advance of the Mughals. According to the British, Durrani and Rohilla cavalry were also present and fought during the battle in various skirmishes. But by midday, the battle was over and Shuja-ud-Daula blew up large tumbrils and three massive magazines of gunpowder

Battle of Buxar	
Part of The Bengal Wars	
 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. Sepoys. 12. Composite Battalion of 4 Companies each of Bengal and Bombay Europeans. 13. Four Companies of Bengal Europeans. 14. Grenadier Companies of Bengal Europeans. 15. Cavalry. 16. Mughal Cavalry and 4 Companies Sepoys: Baggage guard. UNIV. CALIF.	
Date	22 October 1764
Location	Near Buxar
Result	British East India Company victory
Belligerents	
Mughal Empire ^[1] - Nawab of Awadh - Mir Qasim - Durrani and Rohilla Factions	 British East India Company
Commanders and leaders	
Shah Alam II ^[1] - Shuja-ud-Daula - Mirza Najaf Khan - Mir Qasim	 Hector Munro of Novar
Strength	
40,000	7,072
140 cannons	30 cannons
Casualties and losses	
Disputed British claim: ^[2] 2,000 killed	733-847 killed, wounded or missing ^{[2][3]}

Munro divided his army into various columns and particularly pursued the Mughal Grand Vizier Shuja-ud-Daula the Nawab of Awadh, who responded by blowing up his boat-bridge after crossing the river, thus abandoning the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II and members of his own regiment. Mir Qasim also fled with his 3 million rupees worth of Gemstones and later committed suicide. Mirza Najaf Khan reorganised formations around Shah Alam II, who retreated and then chose to negotiate with the victorious British.

Historian John William Fortescue claimed that the British casualties totalled 847: 39 killed and 64 wounded from the European regiments and 250 killed, 435 wounded and 85 missing from the East India Company's sepoys.^[2] He also claimed that the three Indian allies suffered 2,000 dead and that many more were wounded.^[2] Another source says that there were 69 European and 664 sepoy casualties on the British side and 6,000 casualties on the Mughal side.^[3] The victors captured 133 pieces of artillery and over 1 million rupees of cash. Immediately after the battle Munro decided to assist the Marathas, who were described as a "warlike race", well known for their relentless and unwavering hatred towards the Mughal Empire and its Nawabs and the Sultanate of Mysore

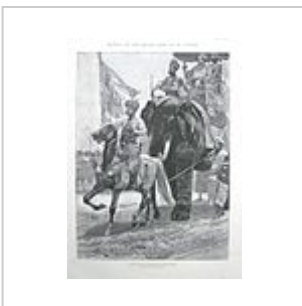
Aftermath

The British victory at Buxar had "at one fell swoop, disposed of the three main scions of Mughal power in Upper India. Mir Kasim [Qasim] disappeared into an impoverished obscurity. Shah Alam realigned himself with the British, and Shah Shuja [Shuja-ud-Daula] fled west hotly pursued by the victors. The whole Ganges valley lay at the Company's mercy; Shah Shuja eventually surrendered; henceforth Company troops became the powerbrokers throughout Oudh as well as Bihar"^[6]

Gallery



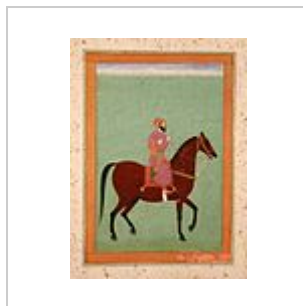
The Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II, as a prisoner of the British East India Company, 1781



The Nawab of Bengal, Mir Qasim



Shuja-ud-Daula served as the leading Nawab Vizier of the Mughal Empire, he was a lifelong of Shah Alam II.



Mirza Najaf Khan Baloch, the commander-in-chief of the Mughal Army.



Political map of the Indian Subcontinent in the year 1765.

See also

- Battle of Plassey

References

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2. Fortescue, John William (2004). *A History of the British Army: Volume III*. p. 102. The Naval and Military Press. Uckfield, Sussex. [ISBN 978-1843427155](#)
3. Black, Jeremy and Wyse, Liz. (1996). *The Cambridge Illustrated Atlas of Warfare: Renaissance to Revolution, 1492-1792*. p. 160. The Cambridge University Press. [ISBN 9780521470339](#)
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5. *Sir Edward Cust, Annals of the Wars of the Eighteenth Century Vol. 3* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=DoZCAAAYAAJ&pg=PA113>), p. 113, at [Google Books](#), Mitchell's Military Library (1858). [ISBN 1235663922](#)
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External links

- [A detailed description of the Battle of Buxar](#)

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