

# BLOOD BATH AFTER RANJIT SINGH



AVTAR SINGH GILL

# **Blood Bath After Ranjit Singh**



**Avtar Singh Gill**

*Publisher: NotNul*

*Published On: June, 2023*

*© Avtar Singh Gill*

*Dedicated humbly  
to those  
who really wish to learn from  
their hair-splitting past history*

## **Table of Content**

### **FOREWORD**

### **PREFACE**

### **Important Characters in Sikh History**

### **Murder of Chet Singh Bajwa**

Kharak Singh As Maharaja	16
Dogras Versus Sikh Nobility	17
Early Life-Sketch	21
Lull Before The Storm	24
War of Nerves Commenced	33
Preparations and Attempts for Revenge	42
Dogras Quenched the Thirst	49
The Family Avenged	52

### **Humiliation of Misr Beli Ram Toshakhania**

Misr Family in Trouble	55
The Maharaja for the Misr	61
The Misrs Released	64
The Dooms Day	67

### **Demise of Maharaja Kharak Singh**

The Saintly Prince	74
The Last Days	80
The Last Journey	88
The Last Rites	92

### **Death of Ambitious Nau Nihal Singh**

Hope of The Sikh People	100
Days of Glory Returned	103

Death Beneath the Gate-Way	106
The Dreadful News Broken	117
Journey to the Cremation Ground	121
Kanwar Sher Singh Condoled	124
Ashes Collected	126
Ashes Immersed in Ganges	130
<b>Siege of Lahore By Sher Singh</b>	
The Ambitious Widow	134
Rival Claims for the Throne	136
Formation of Co-Regency	142
Kanwar Sher Singh Retired	149
Prime Minister Retired to Jammu	150
Conditions Deteriorated	156
Sher Singh Marched to Lahore	159
Defence Preparations of Mai Sahiba	163
Siege of Lahore by Sher Singh	166
Raja Dhian Singh Dogra Arrive	181
Negotiations- Terms Of Peace	185
<b>Jowala Singh Tortured to Death</b>	
Sardar becomes Chief Advisor	197
The Crafty Sardar	199
The Sardar Entrapped	204
<b>Chand Kaur Stoned to Death</b>	
Mai Sahiba Shifts to the City	212
The Army Ran Amuck	215
Chand Kaur's Bid For Power	221
Stage Set for the Murder	226
Murder Perpetrated	232
Maharaja Sher Singh Arrived	236
<b>Maharaja Sher Singh Treacherously Murdered</b>	



Early Life	239
The Sandhanwalias	243
Past Strategy of Maharaja Sher Singh	249
Sandhanwalias Reconciled	250
Prime Minister Dissatisfied With the Maharaja	259
Unsuccessful Plot to Murder Prime Minister	265
Stage Set for Committing Murder	272
Catastrophic Plan for Murders	275
Kanwar Partap Singh Also Slain	285
<b>Raja Dhian Singh Dogra Shot Dead</b>	
Early Life	289
Capture of Hawk-Power monopolised	293
Murder of Bajwa Sardar Avenged	297
<b>Sandhanwalias Slaughtered</b>	
Hira Singh Sharpened His Teeth	308
Sandhanwalia Sardars Deserted	313
Lahore Fort Stormed - September 15, 1843	314
Ajit Singh Sandhanwalia Slain	321
Lehna Singh Sandhanwalia Shot Dead	325
<b>Appendix-A</b>	
<b>Appendix-B</b>	
<b>Appendix-C</b>	
<b>Bibliography</b>	

## FOREWORD

Four decades of the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1799-1839) have often been remembered by the Punjabis as golden period of their history, a few British Officer-historian's unsavoury accounts, which were written with an intention to highlight *Angrezi Raj Ki Barkatein* (the bounties of the British rule); notwithstanding. However, some of them like Lapel. H. Griffin did not fail to accept that portraits of wood carvings of Ranjit Singh could be seen in every house in Punjab even after half a century of extinction of his empire. There is no denying the fact that Ranjit Singh was a hero for his people who ushered in an era of peace and prosperity in the Punjab and gave the Punjabis and particularly the Sikhs, a sense of pride by establishing a sovereign kingdom. That he could maintain his sovereign status against the might of the British imperialism when Tipu Sultan of Mysore and the Maratha confederacy had fallen before them, was in itself a great achievement. British debacle in Afghanistan soon after Maharaja Ranjit Singh's death and thereafter the wars of Sutlej demonstrated full well that the Maharaja had created a standing army and a sense of patriotism

amongst his people that was strong enough to defend his kingdom against the British might. In diplomacy also he remained conscious of his limitations.

The decade that followed the death of Ranjit Singh unfolded a saga of tragedies wherein the royals and courtiers were play boys. The events moved at such a fast pace that it has not been possible for the historians to comprehend them fully. Mr. Avtar Singh Gill, a retired judge turned historian, undertook the task of making an indepth study of the period with a view to discover, what went wrong with successors of Ranjit Singh of the Sikhs as a whole? He has already written with competence on Maharaja Dalip Singh and his mother Maharani Jindan.

The present work *Blood Bath after Ranjit Singh* seeks to provide the students of history with a narrative of the happenings in proper sequence during the fateful decade of 1839-49. While doing so, he has tried to lay bare the conduct and perfidy of the Dogra clan, who had entrenched themselves in the Khalsa Darbar during the life-time of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and played a major role in destabilizing the kingdom soon after Ranjit Singh closed his eyes. They played Kharak Singh and his son Naunehal Singh against each other. This became the starting point of decline. Secondly, it. has been well