

Life history of Udham Singh

Gulab Singh married was in a Rukwal Rajput family. By divine grace, three Sons were born to Maharaja Gulab Singh. First, Mian Udham Singh, second Mian Sohan Singh and third Mian Ranbir Singh.

Udham Singh, the primogenitor of the illustrious lineage begotten by Maharaja Gulab Singh, assumed a pivotal role within the opulent corridors of the Lahore Darbar during the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. In tandem with his esteemed progenitor, Maharaja Gulab Singh, Udham Singh emerged as a veritable paragon of martial prowess, garnering recognition from none other than Alexander Gardner, the esteemed artillery commander in the service of Maharaja Gulab Singh.

In his chronicles, Gardner praises the exploits of Udham Singh, weaving a tapestry of valorous deeds in the annals of history. A notable episode, etched in the narrative, unfolded in the precincts of Kairabad, as Maharaja Gulab Singh's forces, embarked on a formidable campaign enroute to Afghanistan, and found themselves encamped in the proximity of Kahirabad, near Jamrud. In the stillness of the night, evil rebels surreptitiously purloined the royal camp's precious cargo strings of regal camels. Upon receiving intelligence of this audacious act, Udham Singh, accompanied by a meager contingent, swiftly pursued the miscreants.

Udham Singh confronted the thieves, whose countenance betrayed trepidation upon encountering his formidable presence. Faced with the resolute Udham Singh, the malefactors, overwhelmed by fear, abandoned their ill-gotten loot, fleeing into the obscurity of the night. Gardner further recounts Udham Singh's extraordinary feats during the Yusuf Zai campaign, where his valor commanded universal admiration and applause, evoking awe from the entire continent.

Udham Singh's indomitable manifested itself in the quelling of the insurrection in Poonch, orchestrated by Shams, a formidable zamindar. Apprised of this rebellion, Maharaja Gulab Singh was dispatched.

The royal decree, a Farman, to Udham Singh, who, having just returned from the Panjatar Expeditions, promptly marshaled a formidable force. Leading from the front, Udham Singh's mere presence caused the rebels to stand in bands, scattering like leaves in the tempest. His relentless pursuit continued until the entire insurgent faction met its demise. 2

In the labyrinth of Lahore Darbar's burgeoning political landscape, Udham Singh, at a tender age, emerged as a prominent player, established ganun wavering camaraderie with Nao Nihal Singh, scion of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Alas, the promising trajectory of Udham Singh's life met an untimely demise on that fateful day, November 5, 1840. In the company of Nau-Nihal Singh, tragedy befell them as the weighty battlements of a gate collapsed, ensnaring both in its unforgiving descent. The colossal stone fell upon Udham Singh, shattering his neck and extinguishing his vibrant life in an instant.

Thus concluded the life of a burgeoning luminary within the Dogra family, Udham Singh, whose valorous legacy, etched in the annals of history, serves as a testament to the martial prowess and indelible mark left by the scions of Maharaja Gulab Singh. This city is named after Raja Udham Singh and its significance is deeply rooted in its strategic location and cultural heritage. The Dogra rulers, particularly Maharaja Gulab Singh and his successors, played a significant role in shaping the history of Udhampur. In the mid-19th century, after the First Anglo-Sikh War, the Treaty of Amritsar in 1846 resulted in the establishment of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir under the Dogra rule. Udhampur became an integral part of this princely state.