**Surrender at Dacca: Birth of a Nation**

J.F.R. Jacob

During the War of Liberation, Lieutenant General JFR Jacob was the Chief of Staff of the Eastern Command. He retired from the army in 1986. In "Surrender at Dacca" he has written about many unknown incidents of the liberation war as well as the days of his soldier life. Jacob wrote in detail about the various roles of India in the war of liberation. His statement did not support the conventional view in many cases, forcing Jacob's book to think "in a new way" about the liberation war. The original book is written in English. Translated into Bengali by Anisur Rahman Mahmud.

Jacob joined the British Army during World War II. He went back to the battlefield of World War II to reminisce about the training of the army at that time. Jacob has fought in Iraq and Indonesia.

He came to India in August '1947.

In independent India, Politics enters the army. Nehru's friend Krishna Menon was made defense minister. Jacob claims that the inexperienced BM Kaul was made India's first army chief because of his closeness to Menon and Nehru. Kaul was stubborn and even more arrogant because of his high level of communication. There was considerable monogamy at the highest levels of the Indian army. "internal politics" ugliness in the Indian Army is further illustrated by Jacob's description.

Defense minister Menon dealings with Army officers were extremely cold. He hated the United States. But he had no objection to sending Indian army there for training!

From the very beginning of the War of Liberation, there was pressure for direct participation of the Indian Army. Then the army chief Manek Shaw informed the Eastern Command in April 1971 that the government wanted them to enter Bangladesh. In other words, at the beginning of the war, it was confirmed that India would provide direct assistance . But Jacob protested. Because no other force except the Mountain Brigade was close to Bangladesh then Was not. Going to attack with this little army was suicidal. Then General Manek Shaw wanted to know when they would be ready to attack.

Jacob replied,

"If we are given enough weapons and equipment, we will be ready by November 15."

It mentioned that the Bangladesh-India joint forces started the attack on November 21.

Meanwhile, BSF chief Rustamji and regional chief Golak Majumdar were much more enthusiastic about defeating the Pakistani forces. They told Jacob at a meeting that the BSF had decided to attack because the Eastern Command had not agreed to expel the Pakistanis and that the BSF would occupy Dhaka and parade there in the next two to three weeks. The aftermath of this meeting, in Jacob's words,

"Six members of the BSF were captured and the Pakistanis later paraded them in Dhaka."

Jacob advised Tajuddin Ahmed to form a provisional government and Tahuddin Ahmed form a government.This is definitely a good suggestion. But this incident made it clear that there was a high level of conflict in the Indian Army. Indira Gandhi praised Jacob for his advice on forming provisional government in it. Army Chief Manek Shaw and Aurora how was (Jacob’s boss at Eastern Command) got angry. Because Jacob didn’t told them about this plan.In short, everyone was open to taking credit. So there was a lack of coordination. There were more instances of professional jealousy.

The Indian Army did not have a modern map of Pakistan. It is insane to plan an attack with the help of a fifty-year-old map. Then some important information about maps was obtained through Mukti Bahini.

The Indian army was divided over the exact method of attack. Manek Shaw and Aurora wanted to move forward with a strategy that would make Dhaka unusable only if they occupied big cities like Khulna and Chittagong. They both said,

'Dhaka is not so important. No force will be allocated for the occupation of Dhaka. "

But Jacob thought that the occupation of Dhaka should be planned in advance. Otherwise, victory will remain elusive. In the context of the victory, it seemed that the Indian Army had no doubt that victory was certain at all. With this decision in mind, the main goal seems to be to conquer as much land as possible. If the war is stopped then the authority of the provisional government can be established in more areas. Even then, guerrilla attacks were considered more effective than regular forces. One reason for this may be that a quick victory in this war is not guaranteed, so guerrilla attacks are considered more logical than regular forces.

There was disagreement among the generals about the plan to occupy Dhaka and its implementation. Manek Shaw called the officers of the rank of Major General to a meeting and reprimanded them. The behavior of the army chief in this meeting

Jacob referred to it as "schoolmaster-like behavior."

A separate war was going on with Bangladesh on the international front. Diplomatically, the United States has said it will not help India The Soviets were tired of vetoing and decided not to veto anymore, urging India to hurry up. India needs a lot of troops to attack with the freedom fighters. But the military could not agree on whether China would take the risk of withdrawing troops from the border. In short, towards the end, the war of liberation was getting more and more complicated.

It is a curiosity why Niazi (নিয়াজি) surrendered without fighting with a huge force of ninety-three thousand. Jacob replied,

His idea was that he did not have the strength to defend the city. After the fall of Chandpur, he realized that his downfall in this war was inevitable. "

According to the Geneva Convention, the Indian Army took full responsibility for the security of Pakistani troops, including Niazi (নিয়াজি). Bangladesh and the freedom fighters had no role there. When Jacob was going to Suhrawardy Udyan with Niazi (নিয়াজি) with a little escort, a group of freedom fighters stopped them. They want Niazi back to Jacob. Jacob informed them that the Pakistanis had surrendered and that he would ensure that no retaliatory measures were taken against the Pakistanis. In short, the freedom fighters had no role to play.