

**HISTORY OF MYANMAR ARMED FORCES
IN KONBAUNG PERIOD
(1752 - 1885)**

Ph.D.DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

During the Konbaung period the infantry played an important role in Myanmar army. The groups of sword, lance, club armed and musket were included in the infantry. There were two classes of army groups in the Konbaung period. One was the standing army organized to protect the palace and the capital. The other was the army mobilized when warfare arose. In forming the Myanmar army during the Konbaung period, the *thwethouk* group formation took a central part. As in the current modern army where movement is based on the platoon's ability, Konbaung period army depended on the platoon led by the *thwethouk* to make their initial attack on the enemy. The formation of the army and the navy departmental organization differed a little. The difference was that there were separate *Ye'hlay wun*, *Phoung wun*, *Hlay thin bo* and *Hlay thin sayays* appointed. Those officers had the same authority as Captains of the army. During the Konbaung period sword, lance, bow and arrow were customarily used as of older times but in the later period it can be seen to have progressed to a useage of guns, cannons, and jingals. Guns and cannons were ordered from foreign countries to replace the obsolete weapons. Similarly weapons were manufactured within the country. There were other efforts to upgrade the weaponry situation. That is apparent in the action of sending young men to foreign countries to study the manufacturing of fire arms and ammunition. In building the modernized armed force, not only the weaponry but also discipline was important. Therefore during the Konbaung period there were strict army discipline concerning the attires, ordnance, marching procedures and conduct of the armed force.

CONTENTS

	Page
Abstract	IV
Abbreviation	VI - VII
Introduction	VIII - IX
Chapter I	Infantry and Marine Organization And Their Accomplishments
	1- 29
Chapter II	Cavalry and Elephantine Troops
	30 - 54
Chapter III	Army Reformation and Discipline
	55 - 90
Conclusion	91 - 93
Appendix I	16 army groups
	95
Appendix II	Photograph of Thwethoukgyi
	96
Appendix III	Alaungphaya's Cavalry Organization
	97
Appendix IV	Myanmar and Shan Horses
	98
Bibliography	99 - 105