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Crown Servicemen in Pakhangyi (1752-1885)

Win Myint Aung¹

Abstract

In the days of Myanmar Kings, Pakhangyi was the well known and the ancient town. So *Ahmudan* (crown servicemen) resided in Pakhangyi jurisdictions. *Ahmudans* had been divided into *Sugyi* (all armed men) *Sugyan* (menial labourers), *Sunu* (artisans) and *Suthay* (small groups). Of the included *Ahmudans* in *Sugyi*, *Thwethauksu* (blood bond brotherhood), *Myinsu* (cavalry), *Thanatsu* (Gunnery) and *Sucha* (armed foreigners) are presented in this paper.

Historical Background

The Ancient Pakhangyi lies in the Yesagyo Township, Pakokku District, Magway Region. It is situated between latitudes 21° 32' 30'' N and longitudes 95° 12' 10'' E. It is bordered on the east Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, Myaing Township, Sagaing Region, and in the west by Myiang Township, in the south Pakokku Township, Magway Region, and Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, in the north Salingyi and Myaung Township, Sagaing Region. The Ancient Pakhangyi is distanced about 17 miles from Pakokku, 10 miles from Yesagyo and lies between Pakokku-Monywa highway roads.

Nowadays, Pakhangyi has over 725 houses and the population of Pakhangyi is 4131. It is over 3 miles from the west of Chindwin River and located on the mainland. The village called Pakhanngye lies in the east of Pakhangyi. Pakhanngye is out of the river line. In order to be different from Pakhanngye, the ancient town of Pakhan is called Pakhangyi.

According to the historical documents, the Pakhangyi was an only village during the reign of King Alaungsithu (1112-1167). The "*Kukhan: Arap*" had been described in *Gawun kyaung* (Gawun monastery) inscription on 7th May 1069.² Besides, the "*Kukhanywa*" had also been stated in *Maungma Saw Khin Mi Nge* inscription on 23rd April 1206. Therefore, the Pakhan was called the "*Kukhan:*" or "*Kukhan*" respectively in the Bagan period (1044-1287). There was an inscription on 9th August 1301 that *Pakhankri Nwaini Arap* had been found in

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² Htay Win Maung, (Collected), *Kukhan or Pukhan*, Yangon, 2012, p.162 (Henceforth: Htay Win Maung, 2012)

it. The word of “*Kukhan Nwayni Mre 50*” (donated for 50) in the *Nataungmya Mingyi kyauksar* was also mentioned. (King Nataungmya’s inscription). So, the Nwaini village can be mostly exposed in the inscriptions. Moreover, we can note that the socio-economic condition developed and was an accessible place to other regions in the Konbaung period.³ The scholars assumed that the Pakhangyi jurisdiction was related to the central government in the ancient time.

The Pakhangyi area

The Sithushin pagoda was built by the King Alaungsithu (1112-1167) in Pakhangyi. The headman of Pakhangyi charged to build this pagoda. So, he was also rewarded as the title of *Bommayaza* by the King Alaungsithu. Moreover, the King granted to govern the Pakhan jurisdiction to the headman of Pakhangyi. Its jurisdiction was designated below.

In the east there is the Ayeyarwady River

In the south there is the Ayeyarwady River

In the west there is the Yoma hill

In the north there is the stream of Yamar

There were 299 villages in the Pakhangyi jurisdiction which was governed by the headman of Pakhangyi.⁴ The Pakhan area was recorded on 2nd February 1638 in the Inwa period as follows.

In the east there is the Ayeyarwady River

In the south there is Ngakyaw’ land and other side

In the west there is Waipula hill

In the north there is Nayyitsaya⁵

Ngakyaw’ land was defined as Ngakyawtan *Seywa* which was included Myinwun, Tinkat, Wunpyae, Leya, Kantaw, Patitwin, Thayetkan, Nyaung, Chauktaung, and Ngakyaw. These villages are situated on the western site of Shwetantit pagoda in Pakokku. Ngakyaw’ land, Myitkaing, Sonkon and Myintha which are not included in the Pakhangyi area but the eastern site of Shwetantit pagoda were included in Pakhangyi area.

³ Htay Win Maung, 2012, 165, 166

⁴ Htay Win Maung, 2012, 164

⁵ Dr Than Tun (Edited and translated), *Jam-bu-di-pa in a Nutshell*, Yangon, Myanmar Historical Commission, 2005, p.93

In the Konbaung period, the Pakhan's boundary was stated in the royal order of Badon Min on 29th March 1810. But, there was a little difference for boundary to the previous Kings. And then, during the reign of King Thibaw (1878-1885), the Upper Myanmar was divided into ten districts. The Pakhangyi became the district and Pakhangyi *Myowun* governed together with the Bantkyi *Taik wun*, and *Yaw Myowun*.⁶ The district was stated below.

In the east there is the Chindwin River and the Ayeyarwady River

In the south there is the Tantkyi hill

In the west there are the four towns of Yaw

In the north there is Bantkyi *taik* in the Lower Chindwin

Therefore, the Pakhangyi district was included with the Bantkyi *Taik*, and *Yaw laymyo* (Htilin, Yaw, Saw, Laungshay) during the time of King Thibaw.⁷ Moreover, the Pakhangyi district was being widened since the ancient Myanmar Kings and was the most significant administration unit in the later Konbaung period.

Town Officers (*Myowun*) of Pakhangyi

The administration in the days of Myanmar kings can be divided into two: the royal capital administration and provincial administration. In provincial administration, a range of officials for the security and law and order was appointed. At the village level, small villages were administered by respective village headmen under the governance of adjacent village headman. Big villages had their own headman. Some villages were governed by Land Transfer-cum- Village Headman (*Myedaing Thugyi*). In the early Konbaung period, villages were administered by village headman and those of Land Transfer-cum Headman albeit; the two past were merged in the reign of King Badon in 1783 A.D. Nevertheless, the post of Land Transfer-cum-Headman did not disappear and went on existing, especially in Pakhangyi area, where Land Transfer-cum-Headman ruled some villages.⁸ Such rulers were:

⁶ Dr Than Tun (Edited and translated), *The Royal Orders of Burma (AD 1598-1885)*, Part.IX (AD. 1853-1885), Kyoto, The Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, 1989, p.1050 (Henceforth: Than Tun, 1989)

⁷ Than Tun, 1989, 1050

⁸ Khin Maung Htay, *Konbaung Khit Ok-chock-yei (History of Administration in Konbaung Period)*, MA Thesis, Department of History, University of Mandalay, 1975, p.85 (Henceforth: Khin Maung Htay, 1975)

Headman	Village
<i>Myedaing</i> U Shwe Sa (14 Nov 1783)	<i>Sincheya, Myesundaw</i>
<i>Myedaing</i> U Shwin (15 April 1802)	<i>Sincheya, Myesundaw</i> ⁹

In small towns, there were such rulers of Town headman (*Myo Thugyi*) and Town land Transfer (*Myo Myedaing*), whereas large towns had their rulers of Town Officer and the big ones were under the rule of Governor. Sometimes, a Town Officer (*Myowun*) ruled 2 or 3 small towns in affiliation. Pakhangyi was under the rule of a Town Officer.¹⁰ However, Pakhangyi was ruled by Town Officer sometimes and at another time by Town headman. Pakhangyi Town headmen were:

U Shun Pay (14 Dec 1783)
 U Htun (18 Dec 181)
 Maha Thiha Yazabo (12 August 1893)
 Minhtin Thihabo (10 Feb 1853) and
 U Lu Gyi (11 July 1884).¹¹

Official town headmen (*Myo Thugyi*), town land transfer (*Myo Myedaing*), *Myo-ok*, and town officers (*Myowun*) were town administrative officers. Under the Town Land Transfer (*Myo Myedaing*) were town head (*Myo Gaung*), hundred households head (*Ya-ein-gaung*) and ten households head (*Se-ein-gaung*). Also under the town officer were Regimental officer (*Sitke*), Liaison Officer (*Nargan*), Town Clerk (*Myo Saye*), Provincial leader (Gunners) (*Thanat Bo*) and Adjutant (Gunners) (*Thanat Saye*). This was the particular town administrative system in which officers and servicemen were jointly assigned. But the structure of staffs and officials under town officer could be different from one town to another.¹² In Pakhangyi, some town officers were those of Provincial Leaders (Gunners) and under them were Adjutants (Gunners). Town Officers of Pakhangyi in Konbaung period were:

⁹ Aung Naing Oo, *Shin-ma-daung Region through the Ages*, PhD Dissertation, Department of History, University of Mandalay, 2014, p.117 (Henceforth: Aung Naing Oo, 2014)

¹⁰ Khin Maung Htay, 1975, 85

¹¹ Aung Naing Oo, 2014, 118

¹² Khin Maung Htay, 1975, 86, 87

Table (1)
List of the Myo Wun (Town Officer in Pakhangyi)

Town Officers	The Reign of King	Remark
Pyanchizeya Kyaw	Badon	
Yehtin Nawrahta	Badon	
Naymyoye Khaung Kyaw	Sagaing	
Mingyimin Khaung Kyaw	Sagaing	
Mahamin Hlathurein	Tharawady	<i>Natsuletya Thanatbo</i>
Mingyimahamin Hla Kyaw Swa	Tharawady	
Minhtinminhlaye Khong	Mindon	
Minthinyaza	Mindon	
Mahamin Kyawminthintansaung	Thibaw	<i>Thin Thanatbo</i>
Mahaminhlamin Kyaw Thurein	Thibaw	
Bongathahmon	Thibaw	

Source: Maung Maung Tin, 2004 *b*, 142, 144, 174, 186,

Maung Maung Tin, 2004 *c*, 34,440, 446

Aung Naing Oo, 2014, 110

In appointing town officer, though civilian town officers were appointed in a place where *Athi* (commoners) people dominated, Town Provincial Leaders (Gunners) (*Myobo*) were appointed as town officer in a place where *Ahmudans* (Crown Serviceman) overwhelmed. In Pakhangyi, it was found that instead of *Myowun*, *Thanatbo* ruled the town by assuming the duty of *Myowun*. Town officers (*Myowun*) were not only to do the responsibility of administration, but also to serve in the military campaign whenever these are required. The instances were that in Badon's reign, two Pakhangyi *Myowun* of Pyanchi Zeya Kyaw and Yehtin Nawrahta were to follow in the campaign to Manipur. Likewise in the reign of King Sagaing, Pakhangyi *Myowun* Mingyi Mingaung Kyaw served as the Right Regiment Officer, along with the Left Regiment Officer Bandula, commanding 15,000 strong troops, in Manipur expedition.

Asu Ahmudans (Crown Servicemen)

In the royal administration of Myanmar kings, there could be divided into two classes of the rulers and the ruled. The ruled were included in crown servicemen and those of “*Athi*”, “*Ala*”, “*Winne*” and “*Kappa*”. Crown servicemen were organized by their “groups” and “divisions”.

Group and division meant that people who were grouped to do the affairs of the Crown and people for the service of state security. For this reason, formation of groups and divisions meant that these were organized for the administration, law and order and security of the country.

Crown servicemen in Konbaung period were organized into *Sugyi* (all armed men both natives and foreigners), *Sugyan* (menial labourers), *Sunu* (artisans) and *Suthay* (small groups). In *Sugyi* (armed men) were included *Thwethauksu* (Blood bond Brotherhood), *Mynizu* (Cavalry) and *Thanatsu* (Gunners). In *Sugyan* were *Hlethin Asu* (fleet), *Ati* and jailors. In *Sunu* were gold leaf makers, gold embroidery, and gem in bidding craft in ornamental works and comb makers, all of these were for royalty. In *Suthay* were herald, caduceus bearer, gate keeper, stairway keeper and usher of the court.¹³

Of the *Asu Ahmudans*, *Thwethauksu* was the highest, followed by cavalry, gunners, *Suthay*, *Sunu* and *Sugyan*, in descending order of importance.

***Thwethauksu* (Blood bond Brotherhood)**

Thwethauksu was at the highest tier in Konbaung period. Formation of the group was based on the same rank, status and livings of particular peoples. The earliest formation was found during the reign of King Thalun (1629-1648), on 10th April 1630, and the king ordered formation of the forties and the fifties of *Thwethauk*.¹⁴ In Konbaung period, formation of *Thwethauksu* became frequent and grew in numbers. First, Alaungmintaya (1752-1760) formed the first of its kind by choosing 68 skilled cavalrymen. Then *Thwethauksu* was formed with 140 qualified men under the leadership of *Thwethaukgyi Shwetaung Eindakyaw* and *Thwethaukgyi Nga Aung Kyaw San*.¹⁵

Formation of *Thwethauksu* even became more frequent in Hsinbyushin's reign and these groups took the center stage. Early Konbaung kings as the process of building an empire, had gone on forming *Thwethauksu* for the security and military expedition of empire. On 15 September 1764, the king formed the forties, the fifties, Interior *Thwethauksu* and

¹³ U Maung Maung Tin, *Shwe-nan-thone Woharya A-bi-dan* (Dictionary of Words and use at the Court), Yangon, University of Historical Research Centre, 2005, pp.291-292 (Henceforth: Maung Maung Tin, 2005)

¹⁴ "Tharlun Min Let-htet Ok-chock-ye" (Administration in King Thalun's Reign), Dr Tham Tun, Journal of the Burma Research Society, XLIX, June 1966, p.67 (Henceforth: Than Tun, 1966)

¹⁵ U Maung Maung Tin, ATM, KSM, *Konbaung Set Maha Yazawindaw-gyi* (The Great Chronicle of Konbaung Dynasty, Vol.I, Yangon, Yarpay Press, 2004, p.25 (Henceforth: Maung Maung Tin, 2004a)

Exterior *Thwethauksu*. These royal Special Forces had various numbers of servicemen in their make-up. In the forties, there were four *Thwethaukgyi* and 109 followers, in the fifties were four *Thwethaukgyi* and 90 followers, while the Interior *Thwethauksu* had 10 *Thwethaukgyi* and 800 followers and the Exterior had 11 *Thwethaukgyi* and 590 followers. In general, *Thwethauksu* was formed with one Decurion with 10 followers, one *Thwethaukgyi* with 50 followers and one captain with 100 followers and one commander with 500 followers. In Hsinbyushin's reign, altogether 29 *Thwethauksu* were formed.¹⁶

In Badon's reign (1782-1819), the king went on forming *Thwethauksu*, and on the ground some qualified men who fear could be left in the formation of *Thwethauksu* since the days from Alaungmintaya. The king issued a royal order on 25th December 1783, dictating formation of *Thwethauksu*.¹⁷

Thwethauksu were to follow and escort the king, in addition to armed duty in military campaigns. In King Sagaing's reign, the first Anglo-Myanmar War (1824-26) broke out and Myanmar lost it. This made King Sagaing to form more *Thwethauksu*, even in provincial area to build up military strength. In Pakhangyi in 1827, it had formed a trace with 2016 *Ahmudans*, 200 Decurion and 40 *Thwethauk*. The following table shows this force in comparison to other *Thwethauk* forces.

Table (2)
List of *Thwethauk* Forces (1827-1850)

Town	<i>Thwethauk</i>	<i>Akyat</i>	<i>Ahmudan</i>	Total	Formed in the year
Dabayin	61	305	3050	3416	1827
Pakhangyi	40	200	2016	2256	1827
Talok	17	85	850	952	1827
Bagan	10	50	500	560	1829
Bantgyi <i>Taik</i>	5	24	239	268	1827
Yaw	4	20	200	224	1838
Magwe	2	10	100	112	1829
Saw	1	5	50	56	1845
Laung Shay	1	5	50	56	1829

¹⁶ Maung Maung Tin, 2004a, 348, 359

¹⁷ U Tin, *Myanmar-min-ok-chock-pon Sa-tan nhit Bodawphayagyi-ei Yarzathat Khaw-thaw A-mein-taw-dan-gyi* (Record of Administration under the Myanmar Kings), Five Volumes, Yangon, Seik Ku Cho Cho Press, 2012, p.44

According to the table, Pakhangyi *Thwethauk* force stood second in strength after Dabayin which had strength of 3050 *Ahmudans*. It is noteworthy that *Thwethauksu* were formed not only in Pakangyi but also in rural area in 142 villages with 20 *Thwethauksu*.

Table (3)

List of Villages in Myoma *Thwethauk*

<i>Thwethauksu</i>	Villages Included
Kanlat	3
Kanbyu	10
Kyauksauk	9
Kyaukhtat	11
Kaing	9
Khwemyot	11
Chaungzongyi	7
Naung-U (Nan-U)	10
Pakokku	10
Hpyathi	7
Myoma (Pakhan)	1
Monnyinbyin	12
Myaing	3
Lingadaw	10
Letyetma	6
Thahpangan	5
Thabye	1
Thawkeiba	2
Alegan	3
Alegyaw	12

Source: Aung Naing Oo, 2014, 114

Thwethauks were important in the royal administration and military affairs, and they were to follow the king wherever he goes. For this reason, Konbaung kings had kept lists of these men in detail and rewarded them with rank and title with insignia.

Myinsus (Cavalry)

Like *Thwethauksu*, cavalry was also important in Konbaung period in both administration and military affairs. Of *Asu Ahmudans*, cavalry was the second highest in rank and status. They formed part of *Sugyi*, all armed men of the kingdom. Knowing the importance of these peoples, Myanmar kings always expanded the strength of cavalry whenever possible. The cavalry had the ability to move quickly more than the infantry and can counter the enemy in lighting speed and since Bagan period it was important through the successive periods of Myanmar history.

The formation of cavalry was ten houses which made one horseman, fifty horsemen made one leader and ten leaders made one captain of horse. Under one cavalry captain, there usually were about 500 cavalrymen.¹⁸ Regarding horse groups, the formation of it began in the reign of Athinkhaya Sawyun it began in the reign of founder of Sagaing Dynasty and Sagaing Town, in the year 1308 A.D, where it was learnt that altogether 810 horse groups had been there. It was also learnt that King Uzana in Pinya period had formed a total of 1040 horse groups in 1322 A.D. In Ava period, Mingaung I of founder of Ava city formed Pyinzi Cavalry with 36 leaders of horses. Thus it can be seem that cavalry formation went on expanding. In Nyaungyan period, King Thalun in his reign had formed 40 horse groups (one horse group had one hundred men).¹⁹

In Konbaung period, Alaungmintaya formed horse groups, for the rebuilding of the nation. Of horse groups were formed in King Thalun, Alaungmintaya regrouped and reformed those horse groups of Kyauksauk, Khetlon, Ngayane, Sawput-O, Nyaungshwe, Dabayin, Talok, Htandabin, Bagan, Pyinzi, Linzin, Lanbu, and Shan. In the reign of King Dabayin (1760-1763), the king, in addition to horse groups formed by Alaungmintaya, formed horse groups of Thurein Kyawgaung, Tuyin Zeyakyaw, Thurein Sekkakyaw, Tuyin Gonban, Thurein Kyawhtin, Arkar Yehtin and Yebaw Ponnya.

Hsinbyushin expanded formation of horse groups in his reign and reformed such horse groups of Kyauksauk, Shwebo, Khetlon, Ngayane, Sawput-O, Nyaungshwe, Dabayin, Lanbu, Shan and Kathe. The king added a new Zinme horse group in 1764 A.D.

¹⁸ "Myingyan Nei-ta-wite-shi Myin-a-hmu-dan-mya" (Cavalry Ahmudan in Myingyan in 19th Century), Daw Thaung Thaung, Tatkatho Pynnyar Padethar Sa-saung, Vol.IX, part.iv, 1973, p.124 (Henceforth: Daw Thaung Thaung, 1973)

¹⁹ Than Tun, 1966, 65, 66

In Badon's reign, many horse groups were reformed and expanded such as horse groups of Pyinzi, Pinn, Lanbu, Kyauksauk, Yudawmu, Sawput-O, Metlon, Deva Alan Sein, Theikdaha Sari, Deva Theikdhaha Sari, Kupi Zayun, Myanmar, South Nine, North Nine, Kathe, Cachar (Ekkabat), Myoba, Kyaukka, Sipottara, Sitha, Pakhan, Letywenge, Myinsugyi, Nauktawba, Kyundawhaung, Nindawhneit, Dabayinba, Talokmyoba, Shan, Natshin, Yebaw, Nan Oo, Minye, She, Nauk, Shwepyi Yan Aung and Yeyihman.

Of the horse groups formed in King Badon, in addition Pakhan horse groups, Kathe, Cachar, Nauktawba, Myinsugyi, Shan and Shwepyi Yan-aung horse groups were included in Pakhangyi cavalry region. The king allotted land to all horsemen in Pakhangyi cavalry region. The following table shows the allotted land to horse groups.

Table (4)
Land Allotted to Horse Groups

Particular	Officer	Ahmudan	Two in total	Land in Pe
Kathei	6	17	23	335
Cachar	49	266	315	3755
Nauktawba	11	34	45	275
Myinsugyishan	156	345	501	6080
Zimmeba	13	115	128	1440
Shwepyi Yan-aung	7	21	28	350
Total	242	798	1040	12495 (12235)

According to the above list, *Myinsugyi* Shan horse group was found as the biggest horse group, as it had 50 horse officers. There were two responsibilities for any horse. The first one was for the security of royal capital, in addition to be included in the entourage of the king and to be the royal escort in his it inerrant around the country. For this reason, members of *Myinsugyi* Shan horse group were given residents in the royal capital and rations. The second one was whenever there was military campaign; they had to take part in it. At such time, they had to come to the royal capital only at the time of summon to them by their respective officer of Horse, Captain of Horse, Cavalry officer, and Adjutant of Horse. Such summon to serve in the military campaign was called in Shwebo region as “*htaung-hni-laik-htan*” (serving in the military) and in Myingyan, known as “*myinhmu-htan thi*” (serving in the cavalry).²⁰ When the military campaign was over, these horsemen were to go back to their region, to proceed their rural agricultural life. But they could not live in the village they liked,

²⁰ Daw Thaung Thaung, 1973, 120

but to live in the designated cavalry villages. Records of horsemen living in a cavalry region were taken and kept by respective village headman, captain of horse and *Thwethauk*. This record keeping duty was especially responsible for cavalry officer (*Myinzi*). Respective officers were required to keep the list of cavalymen in the Royal Treasury.

Thanatsus (Gunnery)

Among the armed *Ahmudans*, gunners ranked the third highest in rank and status in Konbaung period. In the days of Myanmar kings, there were two kinds of armies: a regular army for the protection of the royal city and provisional army recruited in the time of military campaign or expedition. In the regular army were included those of Exterior Six Groups of Gunners, Interior Six Guards and Gunners Group.

Exterior Six Groups of Gunners were *Natsu Letwe*, *Natsu Letya*, *Ywe Letwe*, *Ywe Letya*, Left Column and Right Column. These Exterior Six Gunners had been formed during the reign of Alaungmintaya and thus took part in the nation building since then. All gunners were under the administration of Central Leader (Gunnery) (*Thanat Wungyi*) and under him were Provincial Leader (Gunnery) (*Thanatbo*), Adjutant (Gunnery) (*Thanat Sayegyi*), Clerk to Gunners (*Thanat Saye*), commander, *Thwethaukgyi* and *Akyat* (Decurion).²¹ In Thayarwaddy's reign, Pakhangyi *Myowun* Maha Minhla Thurein was *Natsu Letya Thanatbo*. In the reign of King Bagan, the southern spread of Pakhangyi was governed by *Thanatbo* Maha Minkyaw Thiha Minhtin and that of northern spread by *Thanatbo* Maha Minhla Mingaung. Adjutant of Gunners in Pakhangyi during King Badon's reign was Minhtin Thihabo.

Six Interior Guards were North Dawei, South Dawei, North 150, South 150, North Maraban and Shwepyi Hmankin. These six Interior Guards were formed during Badon's reign. Gunners of these groups were exclusively from the region called Badon (now in Monywa Township).²²

Group Gunners were South Maraban, Shwehlan, Natshinywe, Shwepyi, Nauk Wunkyin (Ambient Rear), Linzin, Kinda, Thuye, Dagani (Red Gate), Bondawphae, Bondawdoe, and 150 Gunners.²³ The number of Group Gunners in Badon's reign was about 14 groups and in Thibaw's reign 24 groups. All these gunners of Exterior Six Gunners,

²¹ Maung Maung Tin, 2005, 282, 284

²² Maung Maung Tin, 2005, 278, 281

²³ Maung Maung Tin, 2005, 286, 288

Interior Six Guards and Group Gunners were in fact royal escort, but in case of military affairs, they became fighting soldiers.

Of the Six Interior Guards, North Dawei Gunners took the right duty in turn in the North Dawei Apartment and that of South Dawei Gunners in the South Dawei Apartment. Likewise, North 150, South 150, North Maraban and Shwepyi Hmankin took the night duty in turn of the Earth Palace.²⁴

For the night duty in turn, Gunners Groups were also formed in provincial towns and cities and took the duty. These provincial Gunners Groups came from such towns of Pakhangyi, Talok, Dabayin, Magwe, Sagaing and Yamethin. Details on them are described in the following table:

Table (5)
List of Night Sentry Musketeers

Gunners Group	Present	Night sentry
Talokmyo	560	56
Dabayinmyo	1100	100
Pakhangyi	1000	100
Magwe	200	
Yamethin	560	
Sagaing	563	
Pindale	560	
Nga Singu	560	
Salin	500	
Saku	222	
Legaing	134	
Kyapin	100	
Ava	450	
Yindaw	100	
Total	6609	256

Source: *Parabaik*, No. 704, Yangon, National Library

Of the night duty bearing gunners, Pakhangyi gunners had to provide the second largest numbers after Dabayin. In serving night duty, anyone who got fever could take leave by informing it in advance. Night duty absence without informing leave could be punished by

²⁴ Maung Maung Tin, 2005, 278, 281

sending to locks for 10 days. It occurred three times absence and that person was cancelled from night sentry *Ahmudan*.²⁵ Night sentry duty was checked by *Letwe Winhmu* (Left Warden) and *Letya Winhmu* (Right Wander). If night sentry duty breaking occurred, that person was sent to the Alderman of the City (*Shwepyisoe*). According to the royal order of King Badon, issued on 5th January 1802, it is found all wealth of land, garden, and slaves given by the king were ripped off from those culprits of night sentry breakers. Besides, those officers, who failed to observe their duty, of checking night sentry, were removed from their posts.²⁶

Pakhangyi cavalry was found not only to serve for the night sentry but also to keep the security of the city at twelve city gates. To do the city gate security, a total of 56 horsemen were to assign at each gate. For city security, 672 *Ahmudans* were chosen from a total of 16151 *Ahmudans* by means of getting one person for 24 *Ahmudans*. As Pakhangyi had a total of 1000 *Ahmudans*, it had to send 42 persons for the royal city security.

Table (6)

List of Night Sentry from Cavalries

Night Sentry Bearing Cavalries	Number	By list	Quota Person
Pakhangyi	1	1000	42
Talok	1	560	23
Kanni	1	300	12
Myedu	1	450	20
Ahmyint	1	225	10
Shweyinmar	1	112	4
Chaung U 10 villages	1	112	4
Popa	1	20	1
Total	8	2779	116

Source: *Parabaik*, No. 704, Yangon, National Library

²⁵ Htun Yee (Collected and edited), *Collection of Upade: Law and Regulation of Myanmar Last two kings (AD 1853-1886)*, Vol.IV, Toyohashi, Aichi University, 1999, p.82

²⁶ Dr Than Tun (edited and translated), *The Royal Orders of Burma (AD 1598-1855)*, Part.Vi, (AD 1807-1810), Kyoto, The Center for Southeast Asian studies, Kyoto University, 1987, p.323

***Sucha* (Armed Foreigners)**

Sucha meant armed foreigners, who usually happened to be prisoners of war. In the days of Myanmar Kings, a range of war captives, such as Lao, Thai, and Manipuris were resettled in Pakhangyi Township. In Sinchaung village near Pakhangyi, Laotians from Lao were resettled. List of *Sucha* in Pakhangyi during Badon's reign can be seemed in the following table.

Table (7)
List of *Athi* and *Sucha* (1783)

45 in total	Original List			Later Addition			Two in Total		
Town	<i>Athi</i>	<i>Sucha</i>	Two in total	<i>Athi</i>	<i>Sucha</i>	Two in Total	<i>Athi</i>	<i>Sucha</i>	Two in Total
Amarapura	4447	10964	15411	16	110	126	4463	11074	15537
Yadanapura	22	51	73	2271	3981	6252	2293	4032	6325
Zeyapura	1272	5139	6411	1691	3468	5159	2963	8607	11570
YadanaTheinga	649	1104	1753	3511	8528	12036	4160	9632	13792
Dabayin	4622	4295	8917	1800	3963	5763	6422	8258	14680
Ahlon	2066	3524	5590	5561	6018	11579	7627	9542	17169
Pakhangyi	3146	954	4100	5910	983	6893	9056	1937	10993
Total	16224	26031	42255	20760	27051	47811	36984	53082	90066

Source: *Parabaik*, No. 732, Yangon, National Library

According to the table, it is to learn that there were 9056 *Athi* people and 1937 *Sucha* peoples in Pakhangyi town.

Conclusion

To sum up, *Asuahmudan* formation of Pakhangyi in Konbaung period was the same to that of the other *Ahmudan* formation. Other important armed *Ahmudan* groups such as *Thwethauksu*, cavalry, gunners and *Sucha* were also formed throughout the period. But in Badon's reign, *Thwethauksu* formation was most frequent, in that some were new formation and others simply reformation by new addition or addition to meet the formation. Thus, *Thwethauksu* formation in Badon's reign was greatly stronger than other reigns. Having defined qualities of mobility and maneuverability in warfare, cavalry groups were greatly formed in number in Konbaung period. As gunners formed the most important in the infantry, gunners groups were formed at an accelerated pace. The 14 groups of gunners in Badon's reign grew in number to 24 groups in Thibaw's reign. As gunners were regular armed *Ahmudans*, they had to take duties of royal capital security and night sentry in the palace, in addition to taking part in various military campaigns.

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