

THE MUGHAL-MARATHA STRUGGLE

authority, on the basis of which the question can be settled.

The battle with Girdhar Bahādur was fought near Amjherā. Chimāji sent the despatch of his victory over Girdhar Bahādur to the Peshwā from Amjherā on November 30, 1728. (It was acknowledged by the Peshwā in his letter dated December 27, 1728, Vol. XIII, 23). The itinerary of Chimāji shows that the Marathas first encamped at Amjherā on November 29, 1728. Letters Nos. 15 and 23 (Vol. XIII) give details of the battle with Girdhar Bahādur. He, according to the Marāthi report, had taken post with his army at Amjherā, evidently wishing to block the pass leading due south of Amjherā, by the Ambikā Devi caves to Manāwar, Bakāner and the Narmadā, by which he expected the Marathas to come, as the alternative route by the Māndu fort was more circuitous and exposed to attack from that famous fort. But suspecting that the invaders might have followed this undefended alternative route, and were coming to cut off his rear, he in alarm (*wahami* in Marāthi) faced round, i.e., north-eastwards, and descended to the plain between Amjherā and Tirlā, where he met the Marathas, just arrived. A severe battle immediately followed, and in it Girdhar

Defeat and death of Girdhar Bahādur in the battle of Amjherā, Nov. 29, 1728.

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MALWA IN TRANSITION

Bahādur with many of his leading officers was killed. His army and camp were plundered and a vast amount of booty fell into the hands of the Marathas. These letters do not name the exact site of the battle. It is, however, certain that it was fought near Amjherā on November 29, 1728. We know from the Maratha records that Chimāji was near Dharampuri on the north bank of the Narmadā on November 25, at Nālchhā on the 27th and on the 29th encamped at Amjherā, where he halted for four days and then set off northwards to Ujjain. He reports his victory in a letter dated November 30 from Amjherā. The language of Chimāji's despatch shows that the battle was a sudden collision, and continued for a long time; therefore it took place on the 29th immediately on the arrival of the Maratha horse at the place; after six hours' fierce fighting and the plundering of the Mughal camp, the victors pitched their camp at Amjherā only when they were free from all alarm.

Description  
of the  
battle in  
which Dayā  
Bahādur  
was  
defeated  
and killed.

The course of the supposed second battle in which Dayā Bahādur was killed can thus be summarized from the details given in letters Nos. 17, 26 and 27 (Vol. XIII). It is stated therein that Dayā Bahādur took up his position at Amjherā and lay guarding the pass near that place. The