
Research Papers



**FORTIFICATION IN THE DECCAN KINGDOMS
(15th-18th CENTURY)**

Dr. Shambhuling S. Wani

Associate Professor, Department of History Govt College Sedam Road Gulbarga.

ABSTRACT :

With the introduction of dangerous and weapons into battling in India critical changes happened in military designing in the Muslim domains of the Deccan between the fifteenth and eighteenth many years. In this examination we will endeavor to show the possibility of these adjustments and, appropriately, portray the watchman guidelines got during this period. Our assessment relies upon discernments made at most likely the fundamental districts of the Deccan, to be explicit Basava Kalyana, Bidar, Bijapur, Gulbarga and Mudugal (in the northern piece of Karnataka), Daulatabad, Gandikota and Golkonda (in Andhra Pradesh), Naldurga, Parendia and Solapur (in the southern piece of Maharashtra) The task is everything except a straight forward one.

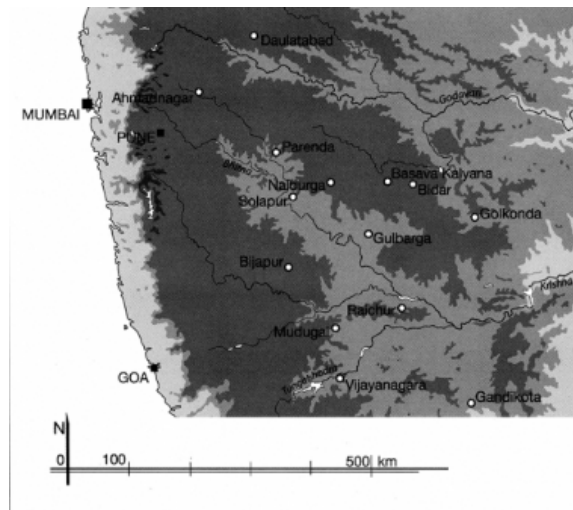
KEYWORDS- Muslim domains, fundamental districts.

INTRODUCTION

Problems of Methodology

We think about our cutoff points. To take a gander at and bunch these various forts, point by point monographs are required. Shockingly, only two objections have been the subject of certifiable examinations: Bijapur separated by H. Cousens and Bidar by G. Yazdani. These books are clarifying examines made by dumbfounding epigraphists and archeologists, luxuriously addressed with heavenly photographs and low down plans showing isolate regions and tourist spots, yet they need nuances on defend devices and don't give the plans of the various works. Naldurga, Solapur and Gulbarga are simply referred to in Gazetteers. The strongholds of Parendia and Basava Kalyana or Kalyani have been quickly portrayed by G. Yazdani in two articles. S.K. Joshi, in his book on the posts of Karnataka, has given a segment to Bijapur and another to Basava Kalyana, where he gives the portrayal of the essential entryways with plans. The fortress of Mudugal has been the subject of a short report by C.S. Patel, the fortification of Daulatabad the subject of a short portrayal by S. Piggott and the fortress of Gandikota has been quickly depicted by N.S. Ramachandra Murthy. At long last, ought to be referred to the book by S. Toy, an expert in military plan, on the strongholds of India which

presents Bidar, Bijapur, Daulatabad and Golkonda with brilliant plans and photographs, showing furthermore the essential entryways of the walled in areas.



This load of studies, even the final remaining one, are insufficient according to the perspective of military engineering, in light of the fact that, aside from the enormous doors, they give little data on the drapery dividers, pinnacles, railings and hardly anything on the cavaliers, box machicolations, and so forth. The basics still need to be finished.

Different Types of Defensive Works

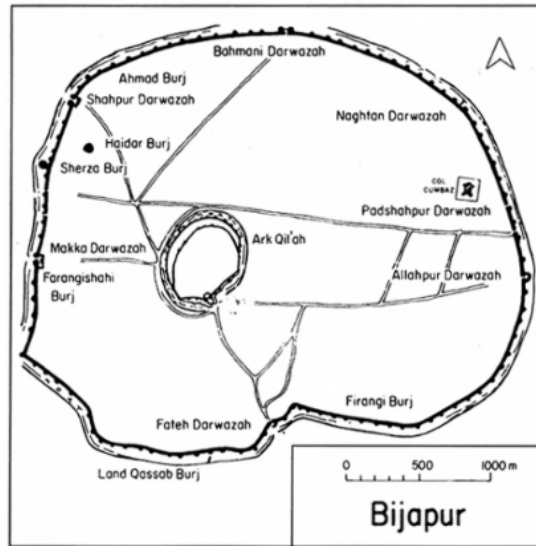
Here are viewed as enormous sustained spots with extremely long nooks (in excess of 10 km at Bijapur, 7 km at Golkonda, 4 and 4,8 km for the two walled in areas of Bidar, around 3 km, at Gulbarga, Naldurga, Daulatabad and Mudugal), yet additionally more modest ones like Paranda (1 300 m), Solapur (1 000 m) and Basava Kalyana (660 m).

The protection conditions are not the equivalent in these various locales. In enormous towns like Bidar and Bijapur, the broad strongholds offer an extremely long front to the foe, driving them to isolate and scatter along the bulwarks and to make immense attempts to attack the town.

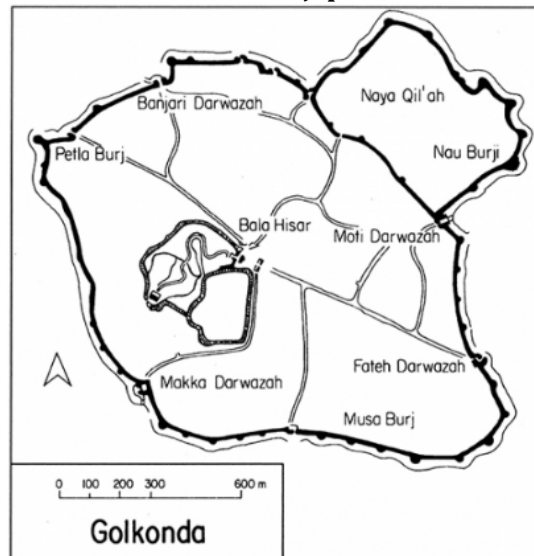
In posts of more modest measurements like Basava Kalyana and Paranda, the posts, encased in a restricted region, outfitted with close-set defensive works, addressed a conservative strength which couldn't be effectively astounded, yet which could be overwhelmed by numbers. In any case, the protections didn't differ much from one spot to the next.

Chronology

Our undertaking will be to discover their qualities, considering the impressive alterations they have gone through as the centuries progressed. It's anything but a simple occupation since the developments we see today are the last phase of their advancement, after progressive remodels, especially at the railing level. It is normal hard to recognize old structures dating from a period preceding guns from those fabricated when black powder was brought into fighting. It is thusly important, at whatever point it is conceivable, to fall back on epigraphy.

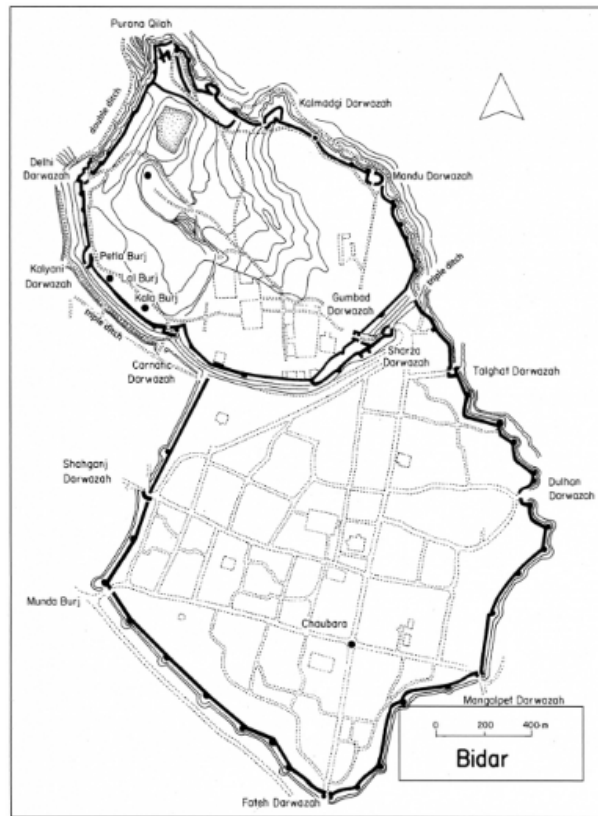


Plan of Bijapur

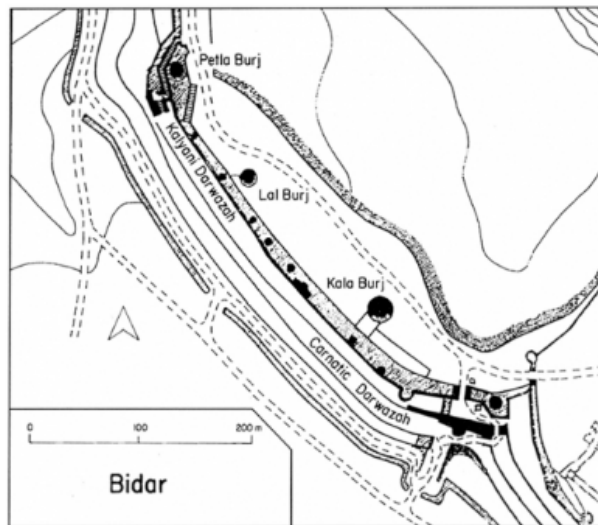


Plan of Golkonda

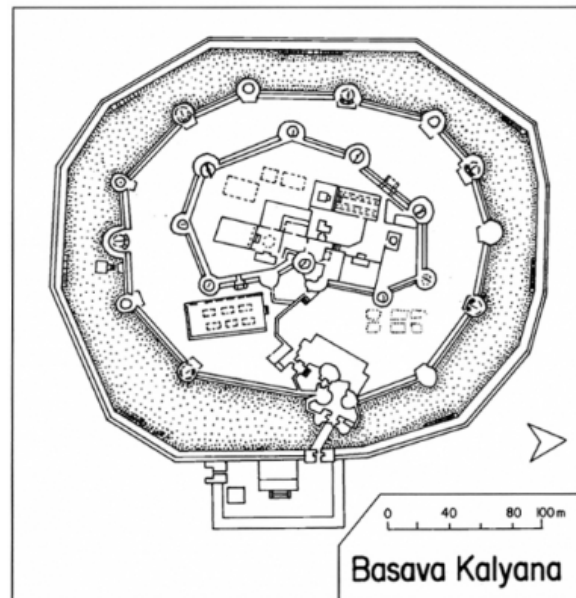
FORTIFICATION IN THE DECCAN KINGDOMS (15th-18th CENTURY)



Plan of the fort and town of Bidar



Plan of Bidar, detail



Plan of Basava Kalyana

Epigraphy's Contribution

The majority of the engravings that have been gathered are dated from the center of the sixteenth to the center of the seventeenth century. They concern basically entryways and towers or burj, giving data on the time of their development or, all the more oftentimes, on the point on schedule of their remodel or remaking (see epigraphic references in Appendix).

On the nooks of Bijapur, the capital of a realm since 1490, a specific number of epigraphs are accessible. Those disturbing the most old fortress, for example the bastion, date from 1514 to 1544: they show chiefly that the southern door was revamped a few times; different ones, of a later period (after 1565), found on the external fortresses, notice the year when a specific work was fabricated or remodeled.

It is something similar for Bidar whose fortress would have been reconstructed toward the finish of the fifteenth century and the city walled in area, in the sixteenth century: the engravings date from 1503 to 1850.

On the protection works of Golkonda, the seat of the Qutb-Shahi government since 1512, engravings notice fundamentally the reproductions made in the seventeenth century.

At Gulbarga, the capital of the Bahmani realm from 1347 to 1429, the data given by epigraphy concerns the period from 1557 to 1673 and shows especially the job of the Bijapuris. At Naldurga, epigraphs call attention to that the post worked by the Bahmanis was remade in the sixteenth century by the Sultans of Bijapur.

As to Kalyana, remade under the Bahmanis toward the finish of the fifteenth century, engravings likewise notice the significant works acknowledged during the Bijapuri occupation between 1553 et 1646.

FORTIFICATION COMPONENTS

Ditches

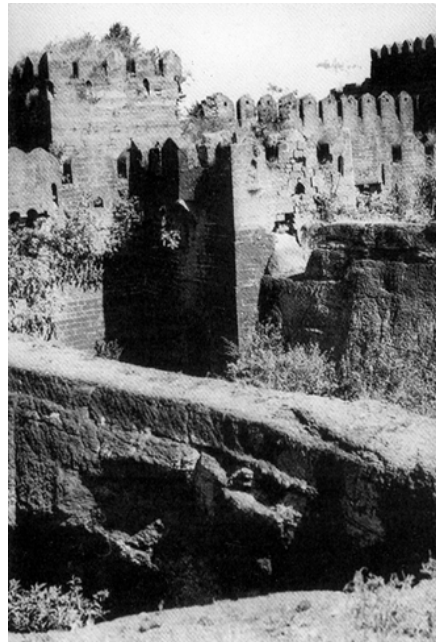
These works are long unearthings made in the ground by burrowing which are from 25 to 40 m wide, and from 5 to 10 m profound. They are dry in where water can't be brought and

FORTIFICATION IN THE DECCAN KINGDOMS (15th-18th CENTURY)

wet in zones where water is accessible or can be brought from a lake or a lake. At Bidar, the twofold trench toward the north of the post, called Paniya Khandaq, "water ditch", is associated with a tank inside the fenced in area at Solapur and Gulbarga there is a lake alongside a bit of the dividers. At Naldurga, based on a high edge, toward the north and east, the fortress is secured by the twofold wander of the stream Boranadi toward the south and west, the trench is exhumed in the stone at Gandikota, the fortification stands at the limit of a level projecting into the enormous bend made by the Penner waterway At Basava Kalyana, arranged at the least piece of a roundabout sadness, from 3 to 5 km in sweep, the trench, from 10 to 12 m profound, gathers all the overflow; from the last seven trips of steps lead to the covered way. In every one of the fortresses, the sides of the trench (escarp and counterscarp) are confronted with stone brick work.



Naldurga, west side.



Bidar, south side

Curtain Walls

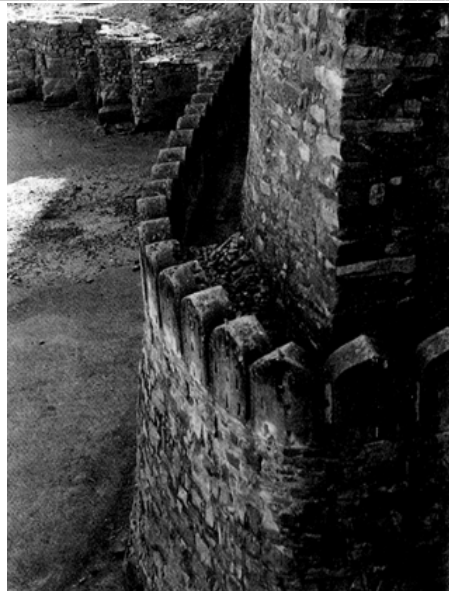
The fundamental component of the bulwark, as in the old Hindu stronghold, is as yet a strong workmanship development, with earth and rubble filling, wedge-formed stone squares being dressed on the external surface and regularly on the inward one likewise, however the jointing framework contrasts: in Hindu designs stones are laid with no mortar, in Muslim developments mortar is plentifully used to tie together the units of workmanship. Also, the dividers are of a bigger size. In Bijapur, they are exceptionally thick in places, from 9 to 10 m; they are additionally extremely high, around 10 m. In the town of Bidar, their thickness changes from 5 to 15 m and their range from the lower part of the trench to the highest point of the railing is 12 or 13 m; in Golkonda, the external window ornament divider fluctuates in thickness from 5 to 10 m. Such monstrous designs were planned to oppose section by battery or scaling.



Daulatabad, 2nd enclosure, north-east side.



Gulbarga, south side.



Gandikota, south side.



Daulatabad, 3rd enclosure.



Basavana Kalyana, fausse-braye, north side.



Daulatabad, on the top of the citadel.



Bidar, Kala Burj.

Development Of Machicolation In India

Clearly, these works seem to have been the models of the crate machicolations projected out on corbels that we have portrayed. This raises the issue of the starting points of machicolation in India. It appears to be that these designs were worked at a period before the utilization of explosive, when bubbling pitch, stones, darts and different rockets were tossed down on the adversary beneath. Likely,

- The window ornament dividers of the main fenced in area of Daulatabad (not the pinnacles dating from a later period) were raised when it turned into the city of a domain in 1327;
- The Gulbarga fundamental walled in area was fabricated when it turned into the capital of the Bahmani realm in 1347;
- As for Bijapur bastion, it was developed, as per engravings, between the finish of the fifteenth and the principal quarter of the sixteenth century.

This implies that stone hoods were fabricated when guns were not yet boundless in the Deccan.

Presently, in regards to the genuine box machicolations, it is intriguing to see whether any development can be seen in the various sorts of works and provide us some insight into

date the fenced in areas. Tragically, it is unimaginable on the grounds that new examples may have been received while remodeling a lot more established developments.

In North India, box machicolations are infrequently seen on fortresses in any case, in the Deccan, they have been bountifully based on the majority of the fortifications and assumed an incredible part in the cautious frameworks. We wonder in what portion of the world they may have begun. Could it be the Middle East?

CONCLUSION

All in all, it is satisfying to look at the issue of stronghold in the southern Deccan on a bigger plane and set it back with regards to an extensive investigation of South Indian History. How to clarify this exceptional blooming of fortresses in this piece of India?

The incredible advances made in military engineering are not because of the impulses of destiny. There are a few explanations behind this development.

REFERENCES

1. S. Piggott, 'Daulatabad', in *Some Ancient Cities of India*, pp. 79-85.
2. N.S. Ramachandra Murthy, *Forts of Andhra Pradesh*, pp. 199-214.
3. S. Toy, *The Strongholds of India*, pp. 23-32, 40-47 & 53-60.
4. They are mentioned by H. Cousens in *Bijapur*, p. 28.
5. They are described by G. Yazdani, in *Bidar*, pp. 41-43.