



THE CAPTURE OF KANGRA (1809)

Ranjit Singh always maintained that Kangra was a part of Punjab. Actually Kangra's hilly region was within the territory of Rajput dynasty under the leadership of Raja Sansar Chand Katoch since 1785. The Gurkhas under Amar Singh Thapa were advancing to capture the fort of Kangra. Sansar Chand appealed to Ranjit Singh for help. Gurkhas, considered as outsiders by Ranjit Singh, had captured the fort of Kangra in 1806. Ranjit Singh accompanied by some hilly chiefs and their contingent defeated them in a fierce battle at Ganesh Ghati of Kangra Valley. The total defeat took place in September, 1809. Use of small khukris by Gurkhas compared to long swords, guns and cannons by Sikh army, was a reason of failure of Gurkhas. Sansar Chand accepted the lordship of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.