



‘ABBĀSĀBĀD

‘ABBĀSĀBĀD, fortress built in 1810 by ‘Abbās Mīrzā on the northern bank of the [Araxes river](#). Erected at a place formerly called Yazdābād about six miles to the southwest of Naḵjavān city, the fortress commanded the passage of the Araxes and was of special strategic importance for the defense of the Naḵjavān khanate. It was initially constructed on a European model, from plans furnished by Captain Lamie, a French engineer attached to the mission of [General Gardane](#), and was later improved by Captain William Monteith of the Madras Engineers (Porter, II, p. 616; Public Records Office, Kew, U.K., F. O. 60/14, Plan of the fortress of Abbasabad by W. Monteith). A visitor in 1814, however, remarked that the heaviest stones were placed at the top so that every year portions of the wall collapsed; and an Armenian church in the center of the complex had been converted into a gunpowder magazine (Morier, *Second Journey*, p. 311). Structures were added to the outer reaches of the fortress, compromising its defenses, and earthquakes further damaged the fortifications (Atkin, p. 127).

During the second Russian-Persian war ‘Abbāsābād was betrayed into the hands of the Russians. In 1827 ‘Abbās Mīrzā entrusted the fortress to Eḥsān Khan Kangarlu, of a local family of dubious loyalty to the Qajars. Moḥammad Amīn Khan Develu Qājār, a brother-in-law of ‘Abbās Mīrzā, and the Bakhtiāri chief ‘Abbās Khan were sent to his support. After the Russians suffered heavy losses in an attempt to take the fortress by escalade on July 14, they mounted a siege. Eḥsān Khan secretly contacted the Russian commander-in-chief, General Paskevich, and opened the gates to him on 27 Du’l-ḥejja 1242/22 July 1827



(Jūhāngir Mīrzā, pp. 72-73, 81-82; Sepehr, XIX pt. 1, pp. 374-75). With the fall of ‘Abbāsābād, Naḵjavān became a Russian province; Eḥsān Khan was rewarded with the governorship.

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