



AMĪR TŪMĀN

AMĪR(-E) TŪMĀN, commander of 10,000 men, a military rank originally used by the Il-khanids in the 7th/13th century (see Jovaynī, I, p. 23; cf. the *nōyān* also a commander of 10,000 men; see G. Doerfer, *Türkische und mongolische Elemente im Neupersischen* I, Wiesbaden, 1963, p. 528). The term *tūmān* (*tümen*, *tūman*, etc.), used with various administrative and monetary values, originally referred to a district capable of providing approximately 10,000 men (but see W. Barthold, "Tuman," *EI*¹ IV, p. 836; on the origins, spellings, and meanings of the word see Doerfer, *Elemente* II, pp. 632-42).

Armies in Iran were generally divided in groups of ten, hundred, thousand, and ten thousand men with various terminologies which partly survived till Qajar times. Successive Qajar reforms introduced many changes in military ranks and titles (G. N. Curzon, *Persia and the Persian Question*, repr., London, 1966, I, pp. 576ff.; J. Qā'em-maqāmī, *Taḥawwolāt-e siāsī-e neẓām-e Īrān*, Tehran, 1326 Š./1947). Under Amīr(-e) Kabīr (1264-68/1848-51), top level officers were *sartīp* and *sarhang* (infantry), *sarkarda* and *solṭān* (cavalry) (F. Ādamīyat, *Amīr Kabīr o Īrān*, Tehran, 1354 Š./1975, p. 301). However, the highest executive ranks remained linked with titles like *sālār*, *sardār*, and *amīr* and terminology remained confused. Thus 'Azīz Khan Mokrī then held the title of *āḡūdān-bašī*. From that time the title *amīr tūmān* (ranking below the *sardār* and above the *mīr panja*) was granted to various Qajar dignitaries such as Moḥammad Khan Gīlānī (Bāmdād, *Rejāl* II, p. 329), Faẓl-'Alī Khan Qarabāgī and Mehr-'Alī Khan Šojā'-al-molk Nūrī (at the time of the Anglo-Persian war of 1273-74/1856-57; see Fasā'ī, I, pp. 317-18, tr. Busse, pp. 332ff.; Bāmdād, *Rejāl* IV,



pp. 187-88), and Mīrzā Nabī Khan Qazvīnī (Mīrzā Ḥosayn Khan Mošīr-al-dawla's father; see S. Bakhsh, *Iran: Monarchy, Bureaucracy and Reform under the Qajars: 1858-1896*, London, 1978, p. 43). Nāṣer-al-dīn Shah conferred it on his favorite Ġolām-'Alī Khan known as Malījāk at the age of nine (*ibid.*, p. 262). This probably accounts for the progressive depreciation of this title. However, since Nāṣer-al-dīn Shah sold titles, medals, military rank and other honors, the number of *omarā-ye tūmān* increased considerably. In Ramaẓān, 1311/March, 1894, a royal decree limited the highest military ranks to three *sardārs* and seven *amīr tūmāns*. A day after issuing this decree, the Shah approved the title of *amīr tūmān* for two new candidates and E'temād-al-salṭana complains that there were more than one hundred *amīr tūmāns* in the country although the Shah had once told him that the government couldn't afford to have even three of them (*Rūz-nāma-ye kāṭerāt*, ed. Ī. Afšār, Tehran, 2536 = 1356 Š./1977, pp. 940f.).

Among outstanding persons who held the title of *amīr tūmān* from late Nāṣer-al-dīn Shah's reign one may mention: Mīrzā Karīm Khan Arjomandī Firūzkūhī (*amīr tūmān* from 1308/1890-91, see Bāmdād, *Rejāl* III, pp. 175-76), Moḥammad-Šāeq Khan Qājār Šāmbayātī, better known as Amīn(-e) Neẓām, who, among other things, was commander of the artillery (E'temād-al-salṭana, *Rūz-nāma*, p. 682 and index; in 1312/1894-95, he was Iran's representative at Ešqābād to settle border disputes with Russia; see Bāmdād, *Rejāl* III, pp. 410-12; 'A. A. Šamīm, *Īrān dar dawra-ye salṭanat-e Qājār*, Tehran, 1342 Š./1963, p. 192), Mahdī Khan (Nāṣer-al-molk's brother), 'Abdallāh Khan Qaraguzlū, later Amīr(-e) Neẓām (Farīd-al-molk Hamadānī, *Kāṭerāt-e Farīd*, ed. M. Farīd, Tehran 1351 Š./1972, index), and Mīrzā Reẓā Khan Arfa'-al-dawla were also *amīr tūmān* (see Nāmahnā-ye Moġīṭ-al-salṭana, ed. M. Māfī, Tehran, 1362 Š./1983, pp. 96, 111, nn.). Among 'Abbās Mīrzā Molkārā's retinue at Moscow in 1313/1896, his own son Moḥammad Mīrzā and 'Abd-al-Ḥosayn Khan Modīr-al-molk Fūmanī had the rank of *amīr tūmān* ('A. Molkārā, *Šarḥ-e ḥāl*, ed. 'A. Navā'ī, Tehran, 1361 Š./1982, pp. 205f.). In 1304 Š./1925, the title and function of *amīr tūmān* were abolished and replaced by *amīr(-e) laškar*.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also Spuler, *Mongolen*³, pp. 299, 305, 335, 399.

M. Ḥ. E'temād-al-saltāna, *Tārīk-e montazam-e Nāşerī*, Tehran, 3 vols., lith., 1299-1300/1881-83.

Idem, *Maṭla'-al-šams*, Tehran, 3 vols., lith., 1301-03/1883-86.

Idem, *al-Ma'āţer wa'l-āţār*, Tehran, lith., 1307/1890-91, giving the dates of nomination, promotion, and discharge for each individual officer.

See also various ephemerides in *Sāl-nāma-ye Īrān*, 1290, n.p., lith., 1290/1873-74.