



## ANBĀR

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**ANBĀR** (Pers. term meaning granary), a town on the left bank of the Euphrates five km north-west of Fallūja and sixty-two km west of Baghdad. Its strategic position at an important ford near the point where the Euphrates enters the alluvial plain and where the first navigable canal went to the Tigris was recognized as early as the Parthian period with the construction of a square fortress there. The town was refounded by Šāpūr I (241-72) and called Pērōz Šāpūr to commemorate his victory over Gordian IV in 243 and to protect the Euphrates end of the border with the Romans in Mesopotamia (Herzfeld, *Samarra*, Hamburg, 1948, p. 12; Maricq, p. 47). Arabic sources generally credit Šāpūr II with the foundation of Pērōz Šāpūr as the seat of a marzbanate, with a garrison of 2,000 men and storehouses for barley, fodder, and straw in the third century (Balāḍorī, *Fotūḥ*, p. 246; Dīnavarī, p. 51; Ḥamza, p. 45; Ta'ālebī, *Gorar*, p. 529; Ṭabarī, I, p. 859; Yāqūt, I, pp. 367-68).

When Pērōz Šāpūr fell to Julian in 363 it had a garrison of over 2,500 men. The town was surrounded by double brick walls with towers coated with bitumen at the level of the moat drawn from the Euphrates. In the center stood a tall, circular citadel where the Romans found large quantities of weapons and provisions (Ammianus Marcellinus 24.2.7-22; Zosimus 3.17-19).

During the reign of Qobād (Kawād), in the early 6th century, Pērōz Šāpūr became the administrative capital and district of Šāḍ Qobād between the Euphrates and Tigris. This district consisted of the subdistricts of Šāḍ Fīrūz or Fīrūz Sābūr (Anbār, Hīt, and 'Anāt), Bādūrāya, Masken, and Qaṭrabbol (Qodāma, *Ketāb al-ḵarāj*, BGA, VI, p. 235; Ebn al-Faḡīh, p. 199; Yāqūt, III, p. 227;



Dīnavarī, p. 68; Ebn Ḳordādbēh, p. 7). This unit survived in early Islamic administration as the Upper Province (Ōstān al-‘Ālī) with Anbār as its capital (Qodāma, *Ḳarāj*, p. 235; Yāqūt, I, p. 241, III, p. 592) and as a mint for post-reform dirhams (J. Walker, *A Catalogue of the Arab-Sassanian Coins*, London, 1941, pp. cxl-cxli).

During the ascendancy of the Banū Laḳm in the late 6th century, the friends and supporters of No‘mān b. Monḍer were supplied from the storehouses of Anbār (Balāḍorī, *Fotūḥ*, p. 246; Yāqūt, I, p. 368). Thereafter Anbār reverted to direct Persian rule, and at the time of the Muslim conquest the Persians living there are said to have been descendants of those who had been settled by Šāpūr I (Balāḍorī, *Fotūḥ*, p. 177) and included *dehqāns* (Ṭabarī, I, p. 2203).

When Ḳāled b. Walīd raided Iraq in 12/633 he is said to have been met outside Anbār by its commander, Šīrzād, with 70,000 completely armored Persian and Arab troops. After some 2,000 of them had been blinded by Muslim arrows, Šīrzād surrendered and was allowed to evacuate Anbār with the garrison, who had to leave all their possessions behind. Ḳāled then imposed an annual tribute on the town (Ṭabarī, I, p. 2060; Baḷ‘amī, *Chronique* III, p. 337). In 14/635 Posfarrūḳ, then *marzbān* of Anbār, is said to have provided Moṭannā b. Ḥāreṭa with guides when the latter raided the village of Baghdad (Dīnavarī, p. 122). The people of Anbār are said to have broken their treaty with Ḳāled, and then made new terms with Jarīr b. ‘Abdallāh Baḷalī for an annual tribute of 400,000 dirhams and 1,000 cloaks (Balāḍorī, *Fotūḥ*, p. 246; Ṭabarī, I, p. 2061; Yaḥyā b. Ādam b. Solaymān, *Ketāb al-ḳarāj*, tr. A. Ben Shemesh, Leiden, 1958, rep. 1967, p. 46).

Anbār remained a prosperous, populous town and administrative and military center in the early Islamic period. Hīt and ‘Anāt were detached from the territory of Anbār and added to the Jazīra by Mo‘āwīa or by Yazīd I (Dīnavarī, p. 681; Yāqūt, III, p. 929), and Moṣ‘ab b. Zobayr sent a governor to the Upper Province in 68/687 (Ṭabarī, II, p. 757). Descendants of the Ḳorāsānī troops settled there in 134/752 by Abu’l-‘Abbās were still living there in the early 9th century (Dīnavarī, p. 38; Ṭabarī, III, p. 678; Ya‘qūbī, I, p. 510). Beginning in the 9th and 10th centuries the town declined in population due to Bedouin raids but survived as an administrative, agricultural, and commercial center until as late as the 8th/14th century (‘A. ‘Azzāwī, *Ta’rīḳ al-‘Erāq bayn eḥtelālayn*, 8 vols., Baghdad, 1937-57, I, pp. 204, 337, 548). Its ruins are still visible and have recently been the object of Iraqi archaeology.



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