

## **Military Analysis of Attack Phase of the Vijithapura Battle**

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The Battle of *Vijithapura* fought between King *Dutugemunu* and King *Elara* is documented in ancient chronicles of the country to be of irrefragable significance in the Sri Lankan military history. Though the diverse literature sources reveal this battle, it has not been analysed in a military angle. This was an exploratory type of pure research and it was aligned with the naturalist research paradigm. Further, it has based on the secondary data sources and the research approach acquiesces with the qualitative method. The scope of this research was to analyse the attack phase of the *Vijithapura* Battle using the present-day battle appreciation format of the Sri Lanka Army. In the battle stage, it can be identified that the *Vijithapura* fortress was the strongest among the other 36 fortresses and it was well secured by three moats and high walls. During the attack, King *Dutugemunu* has considered many factors which are not having much recognition of the present-day battle appreciation format. King *Dutugemunu*'s force has effectively used the besiege tactics including encirclement, elephants to breach gates, and hunt down escaping troops by using horses. As the next step, they have proceeded with a well-planned siege warfare tactic to capture the *Vijithapura* fortress. For the planning purpose, the spy service was used strategically to cluster information. In addition to that, assigning tasks to *Mahasona*, *Theraputtabhaya*, and *Gothaimbara* (recorded in the history to be among Ten Giants) to attack three entrances that were located around the *Vijithapura* fortress can be identified as the tactic of "effective use of human skills". Besiege tactics, siege tactics, spy service and effective use of human skills are the lessons learned from the *Vijithapura* battle and finest points to concern in empowering the present-day battle appreciation format of Sri Lanka Army

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