



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**



**CAPTAIN DARA DINSHAW MISTRI**

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	IC-1857
<b>RANK</b>	Captain
<b>NAME</b>	Dara Dinshaw Mistri
<b>SON OF</b>	
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Dharampur, Himachal Pradesh
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	40 MEDIUM / REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>	15 September 1941
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous) /14 December 1948
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	1947-48 Indo-Pak War
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

Captain Dara Dinshaw Mistri was born on 14 October 1921. He was commissioned in to the 40 MEDIUM Regiment of Artillery on 05 July 1942. He belonged to Dharampur, Himachal Pradesh. During 1947-48 Indo-Pak War, he single-handedly manned his position and refused to evacuate despite being aware of the threat to his life.

The Regiment of Artillery was raised on 28 September 1827. It was initially raised as Bombay Artillery and was later renamed 5 Bombay Mountain Battery. In May 1857, the mutiny by Indian soldiers started in the artillery of the Army of the Bengal Presidency. The incident prompted a complete ban on Indian artillery units, except the mountain artillery batteries in select provinces. The decision was reversed in the mid-1930s when the first of the Field Regiments of the Indian Army were raised. The Field Regiments support the formations on the field. The regimental motto of Artillery Regiment 'Sarvatra Izzat-O-Iqbal' which means 'Everywhere with Honour and Glory'.

The first Indo-Pak war fought between the independent countries of India and Pakistan began in 1947. The bone of contention between India and Pakistan were the attempts by Pakistan to annex the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir by any means. On the map of India, the state of Jammu and Kashmir appeared as a somewhat rectangular projection in the extreme North-West corner of the sub-continent. In size it was the largest of the Indian 'Princely States' during the pre-independence era. It was 222,870 sq km or roughly double the area of Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxemburg combined. The state was important because of its strategic location. Even before the birth of Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir was surrounded on almost three sides by foreign states. Today, its importance has been accentuated by recent international developments. To the East lay Tibet; to its North lies Chinese Turkestan or Sinkiang (Xinjiang); to West is Afghanistan; to South-West and South was Pakistan; and to the South and South-East lay the states of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh of India.<sup>1</sup> The narrow Wakhan corridor, a narrow strip of territory in Afghanistan, extending to China and separating Tajikistan from Gilgit-Baltistan, was to the North West. Some of the significant battles that took place in Jammu and Kashmir were, the Battle of Badgam, capture and recapture of Jhangar, battle of Naushera, the advance to Tithawal, the relief in Punch and the fight of Chhamb to Tithwal.

After a convincing defeat from the Indian Forces, Naushera area, had a respite from enemy attacks, was exposed to the full fury of enemy shelling in the middle of December. Hell seemed to have got loose when on 14 December enemy turned all available guns of two regiments on the Naushera area. 5.5-inch medium guns, 25 pounders, 3.7-inch heavy ack-ack guns and 75 mms from medium tanks pounded mercilessly the Naushera area. Between 1100 hours and 2000 hours that day, enemy

---

<sup>1</sup> Operations in Jammu and Kashmir S.N. Prasad. Dr. Dharam Pal (2005). Natraj Publishers and Ministry of Defence, Government of India



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

fired 2,000 shells into an area with a radius of 11 km. At the farthest point they picked on targets at Beri Pattan, 16 km south-east of Naushera. Their targets included Beri Pattan, Seri, Naushera, Punjab Hill, Nothi Dhar, Kaman Gosha, Grund Gala and the much-shelled Chhawa ridge. The shelling continued through the night with varying intensity and was resumed next morning. On 16 December enemy shelled the Tactical Headquarters accurately and heavily. Altogether, enemy fired well over 5,000 shells in this bombardment. The defenders simply stayed put and held on.

After their heavy pounding, the Pakistanis perhaps expected to find them abandoned. Unfortunately for them, the two battalions had held on to their positions and effectively fire greeted the Pakistanis, after which they withdrew.

Chhawa ridge suffered the most. Captain Mistri of 1 Medium Battery, 40 Medium Regiment Artillery, was an Observation Officer at the forward-most picket. On 15 December, the enemy shelled his post relentlessly, using howitzers and 4.2-inch mortars. Despite the murderous fire, this officer stuck to his post and it was due to his fearless conduct that enemy guns were pin-pointed in this sector. He reported the presence of Sherman tanks on his front, in the Sandoa village area and remained at his post when these tanks engaged his picquet for more than two hours.

He did not listen to the entreaties of his platoon commander to seek safety, but continued to observe and pass back information to the guns till a 75-mm shell hit his position, killing him on the spot.

By day and by night this gallant officer continued to be a resilient guard of the picquet. His personal courage, unparalleled gallantry and devotion to duty with utter disregard for personal safety was a source of inspiration to all ranks on the picquet and worthy of the highest praise. For his devotion he was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra posthumously.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## CITATION

CAPTAIN DARA DINSHAW MISTRI (IC-1857)  
1<sup>ST</sup> MEDIUM BATTERY-40 MEDIUM REGIMENT ARTILLERY (POSTHUMOUS)  
(Effective date of awards- 15 December 1948)

On 15 Dec 1948 , at Chhawa Ridge in the Naushera Sector, Capt DD Mistri was the Observation Officer of the forward most picquet, when the hostiles relentlessly shelled his position using every type of artillery from 3.7 howitzer to 5.5" mortar guns.

In spite of this murderous fire, Capt Mistri stuck to his post, and it was due to his fearless conduct that the hostile guns were pinpointed in that sector. He was also able to confirm the presence of enemy Sherman Tanks in the Sandoa village area and remained at his post when these tanks engaged his picquet for more than two hours.

He would not listen to the entreaties of the platoon commander to seek safety but continued to observe and pass back the information to the guns.

On one occasion more than a dozen shells straddled his OP but still undaunted he remained there till a 75mm shell hit his position killing him instantaneously.

By day and by night this gallant officer continued to be the watch dog of the picquet. His personal courage , unparalleled gallantry and devotion to duty with utter disregard for personal safety was a source of inspiration to all ranks on the picquet and worthy of the highest praise.

---

Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No.\_\_\_\_\_ dated\_\_\_\_\_



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## REFERENCES

1. Operations in Jammu And Kashmir S.N. Prasad. Dr. Dharam Pal (2005). Natraj Publishers And Ministry Of Defence, Government Of India
2. Stories of Heroism (PVC & MVC) Winners Dr. B.C.Chakravorty.(1995). Ministry of Defence, Government of India

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Defending Kashmir (Written by Official History of the Jammu & Kashmir Operations) (Accessed on 08 October 2022)  
<https://www.bharat-rakshak.com/ARMY/today/254-defending-kashmir.html>
2. India's Wars since Independence: A Concise History by Lieutenant General Vijay Oberoi, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM (Retd) (Accessed on 08 October 2022)  
<https://usiofindia.org/publication/usi-journal/indias-wars-since-independence-a-concise-history/>
3. Indo-Pakistani Wars (Accessed on 08 September 2022)  
[https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Indo-Pakistani\\_Wars](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Indo-Pakistani_Wars)
4. Indo-Pak War, 1947-48: The History and its Current Ramifications by Col Jaibans Singh (Accessed on 08 October 2022)  
<http://www.indiandefencereview.com/news/indo-pak-war-1947-48-the-history-and-its-currentramifications/>



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## VIDEOS

1. How Indian armed forces Saved Srinagar from being captured in 1947: Part 3 - 'India's Response' (Source: YouTube Indian Military History)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTQmQ5Qjnbs>

Disclaimer\*\*<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Disclaimer: Photos, links to publications and videos presented here are not intended to serve as a substitute for consultation and should only be used at the user's own risk. These are primarily shared because of the extensive coverage available on the subject. No copyright infringement is intended and it is not intended to hurt anyone or make sales of any sort. All copyright belongs solely to the relevant owners/creators. Usage here is purely for Fair Usage in accordance with the Indian Copyright Act 1957.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**

### **OTHER INTERESTING RESOURCES<sup>3</sup>**

1. India Pakistan war 1947-48 part - 1 animated war documentary (Source: YouTube Cavalry Man)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROgo787H11M>

---

<sup>3</sup> Disclaimer: The content mentioned under the Listicles constitutes fair-use of any copyright material and is used for information and research purpose only. The content is in no way promoting or branding an individual, organisation, book or film.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**