



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE



### LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAGANNATH RAOJI CHITNIS

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	IC-3472
<b>RANK</b>	Lieutenant Colonel
<b>NAME</b>	Jagannath Raoji Chitnis
<b>SON OF</b>	Dr. Raoji Gopal Chitnis
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Satara, Maharashtra
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	1/3 GORKHA RIFLES
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/COMMISSION</b>	12 April 1942
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Ashoka Chakra (Posthumous)/14 June 1956
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

Lieutenant Colonel Jagannath Raoji Chitnis was born on 20 August 1918 in Satara, Maharashtra. The son of Shri Raoji Gopal Chitnis, Lieutenant Colonel Chitnis was commissioned into the 1/3 GORKHA RIFLES on 12 April 1942. After passing out from OTS Bangalore, Lieutenant Colonel Chitnis served with his unit in different operational areas and evolved into an experienced and battle-hardened soldier. By 1956, Lieutenant Colonel Chitnis had put in about 14 years of service and had been promoted to the rank of a Lieutenant Colonel. In 1956, he was appointed as the Commanding Officer of 1/3 GORKHA RIFLES and was commanding the Battalion in the Northeastern border of the country.



(Source: <https://mahabahu.com/naga-insurgency-a-brief-history/>)

The first battalion of Gurkha Regiment (now GORKHA RIFLES) was raised in 1815 during the Anglo-Nepalese war. Impressed by the qualities displayed by Gurkhas during the war, the British started active recruitment of Gurkhas into the British Indian army. After the partition, in 1947 six Gurkha regiments viz, 1 GR, 3 GR, 4 GR, 5 GR, 8 GR and 9 GR remained with the Indian Army, while 2 GR, 6 GR, 7 GR and 10 GR were transferred to British Army as part of the Tripartite Agreement signed between India, Nepal and Britain. The 3 GORKHA RIFLES was raised in 1815 as the Kemaon Regiment. It was formerly known as the Third Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles. In 1950, after India gained its republic status, it was renamed to be the 3 GORKHA RIFLES REGIMENT of the Indian Army. The Regiment has proved its mettle in two Indo-Pak Wars of 1947-48 and 1971. The Regiment's motto is '**Kafar Hunu Bhandu Marnu Ramro**' (Better to die than live like a coward). The regiment has won the Battle Honour 'Pir Kanthi' in the Uri Sector of J&K for its contribution in the war of 1947-48. In the year 1956, 1/3 GORKHA RIFLES was deployed in the Naga Hills throughout the tenure the Battalion displayed steely resilience and Lieutenant Colonel Jagannath Raoji Chitnis was awarded the Ashoka Chakra Posthumously for his remarkable gallantry during the operations.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

On 14 June 1956, Lieutenant Colonel Jagannath Raoji Chitnis was leading 1/3 GORKHA RIFLES during his deployment in Naga Hills. He and Subedar Major Nain Singh were heading towards Zunhebeto from Mokokchung with the treasury chest containing the pay of the Battalion. He had eight jeeps that proceeding towards Zunhebeto with a Platoon as escort. Suddenly the middle jeep of the convoy was fired upon by nearly about 100 hostiles carrying weapons like Light Machine Guns, Sten-Guns and Rifles. At the same time three of his jeeps got separated.

He stopped the remaining jeeps, quickly assembled the troops and organised covering the fire. Grabbing his Sten-Gun and accompanied by his Platoon, he charged hostile position. The Platoon halted 150 yards away from the hostile's bunkers and even though Lieutenant Colonel Jagannath Raoji Chitnis was already wounded in the leg, he led bayonet attack on the hostiles, individually killing one hostile and wounding another. At another stage when an LMG situated at a flank opened up on his party, he again led a bayonet charge against the LMG Post and was critically injured in the stomach and fell from some 15 yards away from the bunker. Even after getting wound, he continued to motivate his Platoon to move forward and destroy the position of the hostiles. The hostiles' position was finally cleared and they suffered intense casualties including 20 dead. Lieutenant Colonel Jagannath Raoji Chitnis set an example of conspicuous bravery and leadership by continuing to lead and motivate his men till his last breath. Lieutenant Colonel Jagannath Raoji Chitnis for his exceptional courage, extraordinary leadership, personal bravery, and dedication towards his duty awarded with India's one of the highest gallantry awards Ashoka Chakra.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## CITATION

Lieutenant Colonel Jagannath Raoji Chitnis (IC-3472), 1/3 GORKHA RIFLES  
(POSTHUMOUS) 14 JUNE, 1956

In 1956, Lieutenant Colonel Chitnis was commanding 1/3 GORKHA RIFLES in the Naga Hills. On 14 June 1956, while proceeding from Mokokchung to Zunheboto in a convoy of 8 jeeps, his convoy was attacked by about 100 hostile Nagas near 21 Milestone. The hostiles were armed with Light Machine Guns, Sten Guns and rifles. In this surprise attack, Lieutenant Colonel Chitnis and four of his men were wounded. He halted the convoy when it was just 150 metres short of the hostile bunkers and ordered a bayonet charge on the bunkers. He led the assault keeping him in the forefront. With his Sten Gun, he killed one hostile Naga and wounded another. At this stage a hostile Light Machine Gun, located at a flank, subjected his party to withering fire.

Though weakened by the leg injury, Lieutenant Colonel Chitnis made a frontal assault on the light machine gun post. He was again grievously wounded, this time in the stomach and he fell 15 metres short of the hostiles post. Despite grave injuries, he continued to encourage his men to carry on the battle against the hostiles. His words inspired his men to fight valiantly and clear the position of the hostile Nagas, who suffered heavy casualties including 20 dead.

Lieutenant Colonel Jagannath Raoji Chitnis not only saved his men from the jaws of death but also inflicted heavy losses on the hostiles. He continued to lead his men till the last breath and thus set the example of conspicuous bravery and leadership, qualities for which he was awarded the Ashoka Chakra.

---

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



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Stories of Heroism: Ashoka Chakra & Kirti Chakra Winners. Dr. B.C.Chakravorty.(1997). History Division Ministry of Defence, Government of India
2. Portraits of Valour II : Winners of Ashoka Chakra. S S Gandhi.(2006). The Defence Review Publication
3. The Indian Army: A brief history. Edited by Major General Ian Cardozo. Center for Military History and Conflict Studies, United Service Institution of India
4. 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/>
5. The Honourpoint: An online memorial of every Indian Soldier. Lt Col Jagannath Raoji Chitnis, AC  
<https://honourpoint.in/profile/lieutenant-colonel-jagannath-raoji-chitnis-ac/> (Accessed on 10 April 2024)
6. Thank You Indian Army. (Accessed on 12 April 2024)  
<https://www.thankyouindianarmy.com/lieutenant-colonel-jr-chitnis/>
7. The Naga Insurgency (Part 1). Shri EN Rammohan, IPS (Retd) The United Service Institution of India. (Accessed on 22 March 2024)  
<https://www.usiofindia.org/publication-journal/the-naga-insurgency-part-i.html>
8. The turning point in Naga insurgency. Lt Gen Panag. The Times of India. (Accessed on 21 March 2024)  
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/shooting-straight/the-turning-point-in-naga-insurgency/>



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**

## OTHER INTERESTING SOURCES

India's Nagaland crisis: Muivah's ambition at 86 runs into ethnicity, geography demography & history (Source: The Print YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0imxR0UmME>

History of Nagaland | How Nagaland Become Part of India ft. But Why (Source: Mohak Mangal)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGqCg2jiHX8>

A primer on Nagaland, India's oldest insurgency as crisis erupts with Mon killings | Abridged Ep 304 (Source: The Print YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1v4fBgVNb4>

Insurgencies & India's Northeast (Source: Strat New Global YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCnOBuIyXuI>

Disclaimer\*\*<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</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.