



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE



### LIEUTENANT COLONEL DHARAM SINGH

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	IC-2447
<b>RANK</b>	Lieutenant Colonel
<b>NAME</b>	Dharam Singh
<b>SON OF</b>	Subedar Major Ujala Singh
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Village Badesara, District Bhiwani, Haryana
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	1 (PARA) KUMAON
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>	15 May 1941
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Maha Vir Chakra / 08 November 1948
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	1947-48 Indo-Pak War
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



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Lieutenant Colonel Dharam Singh was born 10 July, 1910 in the village of Badesara in Bhiwani district of Haryana. His father, Chaudhary Ujala Singh, was a former Subedar Major in the Indian Army. After finishing his education from village High School, Lieutenant Colonel Dharam Singh enlisted in 1/19 HYDERABAD REGIMENT of the British Indian Army in 1932. He steadily rose through the ranks and was commissioned on 15 May, 1941. Later, 1/19<sup>th</sup> HYDERABD REGIMENT was re-designated as 1 PARA (KUMAON).

During World War II, he was deployed in the North West Frontier Province (February, 1940 – March, 1941), Middle East (October, 1941- 1944) as part of the Persia and Iraq Force and Burma (July 1944 - August 1945). Post independence, he actively served and became the Commanding Officer of the Battalion. He was awarded Maha Vir Chakra during the First Indo Pak war on 08 November 1948. during the second Poonch link up (OPERATION EASY) for the capture of Point 6307 in Bhimbar Gali.

Lieutenant Colonel Dharam Singh retired from Service in July, 1962. He led a very active life after his retirement. After retirement, he was the Vice-President of the Zila Sainik Board, Bhiwani for many years. He lived a long and happy life and breathed his last on 18 August 1984 at the old age of 74 years.

The KUMAON Regiment traces its origins to the 18th century and has fought in every major campaign of the British Indian Army and the Indian Army including the two world wars. During World War I, a Kumaon battalion was raised at Ranikhet on 23 October 1917 as 34/39th Kumaon Rifles. In 1918, it was redesigned as 1st battalion, 50th Kumaon Rifles and a second battalion was raised. These were merged with Hyderabad contingent into the 19th Hyderabad Regiment in 1923. On 27 October 1945, the 19th Hyderabad was renamed as 19 Kumaon Regiment. Post Independence, it has been known as the Kumaon Regiment. Staying true to the regimental motto of Parakramo Vijayate (Valour Triumphs) the regiment has proved its mettle in Indo-Pak War of 1947-48, Sino-India War of 1962, Indo-Pak War 1971, Kargil War of 1999 and also participated in the Indian Peace-keeping Force in Sri Lanka. During the Sino-India War of 1962, 13 KUMAON displayed conspicuous courage and undaunted determination while fighting the enemy during the Battle of Rezang La, where Major Shaitan Singh received the Param Vir Chakra.<sup>1</sup> The KUMAON Regiment has contributed three Chiefs to the Indian Army namely General SM Shringesh, General KS Thimayya, DSO and General TN Raina, MVC.

The senior most battalion of the Regiment, 1 KUMAON was converted to the Airborne role in 1946. It fought with distinction in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947 as 1 PARA (KUMAON). It

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<sup>1</sup> Ballabh, Anand, Insights into Infantry Regiments: A Basic Factbook. Forward Books publications. New Delhi (2013)



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remained a part of the regiment until April 1952 when it was formally inducted into the Parachute Regiment as 3 PARA (KUMAON). Later in 2000, the battalion was converted to Special Forces as part of the expansion of the special operations forces of the Indian Army, and renamed 3rd Battalion Para (Special Forces) or 3 PARA (SF).

The Parachute Regiment is an airborne and special forces regiment of the Indian Army. It was raised in 1945 as part of the British Indian Army but was disbanded after the World War II and was re-raised in 1952 by absorbing the three existing parachute battalions of the 50th Parachute Brigade. In the post-independence restructuring, India retained only one parachute brigade—the 50th. This brigade consisted of three distinguished battalions personally nominated by the then Commander-in-Chief, namely 1 PARA (PUNJAB), 2 PARA (MARATHA) and 3 PARA (KUMAON). During the Jammu and Kashmir operations of 1947-48 these battalions distinguished themselves with glory in the battles of Shelatang, Naushera, Jhangar and Poonch, and were awarded the respective Battle Honours. On 15 April 1952, the three battalions serving with the Parachute Brigade were removed from their respective Infantry Regiments to form the PARACHUTE REGIMENT. Since then, The Regiment has participated in 1962 War, 1971 War, Op PAWAN, Op CACTUS, and 1999 Kargil War. Currently it comprises seven Special Forces, six Airborne, two Territorial Army and one Rashtriya Rifles Battalions.

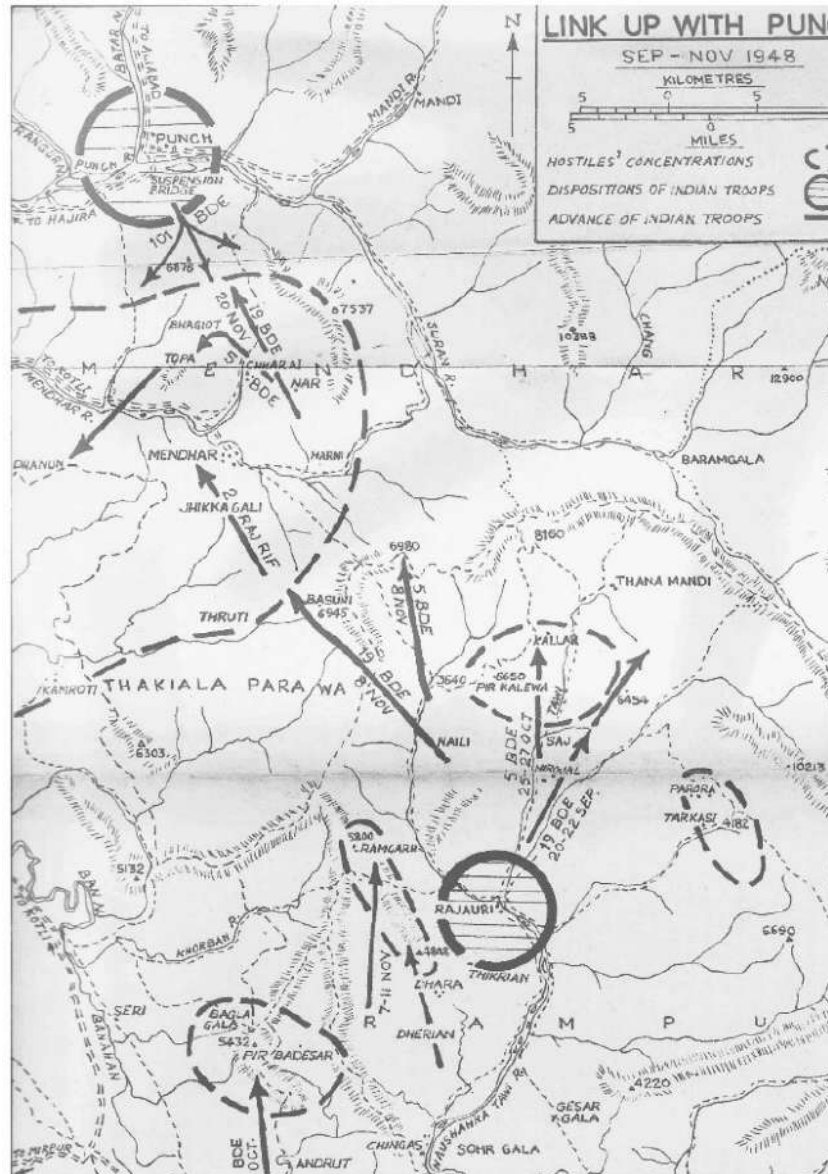
The first Indo-Pak war fought between the independent countries of India and Pakistan began in 1947. The bone of contention between India and Pakistan were the attempts by Pakistan to annex the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir by any means. On the map of India, the state of Jammu and Kashmir appeared 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 222,870sq 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>2</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.

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<sup>2</sup> Operations in Jammu and Kashmir S.N. Prasad. Dr Dharam Pal (2005). Natraj Publishers and Ministry of Defence, Government of India



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*Link Up with Poonch: 1947-48 Indo Pak War*

Source: Operations in Jammu & Kashmir 1947-48. S. N. Prasad, DharmPal. History Division, Ministry of Defence. Thomson Press (India) Limited. New Delhi (1987)

By the end of May 1948, the Poonch Brigade had succeeded in consolidating its position. The stage was now set up for an operation for the link up with 19 Brigade's advance from Rajauri to Thana Mandi and Surankot, where the Link up was to be effected with a battalion of Poonch Brigade from Poonch. Lieutenant General S M Shrinagesh, who was appointed Corps Commander



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in overall command of J&K Force on 14 September 1948 was planning for operation 'EASY' for the final link up with Poonch. An attempt to link up Poonch could be made either from the South, namely via Thana Mandi or Rajauri, or from the North via the Haji Pir Pass. Lieutenant General Cariappa didn't approve of the plan for the link up by the North route but sanctioned the link up with Poonch by South route. By 28 October, 268 Infantry Brigade and 5 Infantry Brigade succeeded in capturing two vital ridges for the link up, Pir Badesar and Pir Kalewa respectively. The objective was now to capture Ramgarh fort and Bhimbar Gali, preparatory to the capture of Mendhar and the advance to Poonch.

Brigadier Yadunath Singh, commander of Durga force, which was to undertake Operation EASY and was composed of 5 Infantry Brigade, 19 Infantry Brigade and the Rajauri Garrison., planned to make two brigades converge on Bhimbar Gali – 5 Infantry Brigade Group, operating from Pir Kalewa and Point 6980 to Bhimbar Gali and 19 Infantry Brigade Group capturing Point 6944 to Point 6307. The third Brigade was protecting the left flank of the two attacking columns. The phase I of the operation was to start by capturing Point 4844, Ramgarh Fort and Point 6480.

5 Infantry Brigade secured the left flank of Bhimbar Gali by capturing Point 6911 and Point 6980. Meanwhile, to secure the Right Flank, 19 Infantry Brigade was capturing the ridge from Point 6944 to Point 6360. 45 Field Battery (less Troop) was in support of the Brigade along with SQN No.10 RIAF, SQN No. 12 RIAF and No 1 AOP (RFT) RIAF were available for air support.

1 (PARA) KUMAON started climbing the feature, Point 6307, after crossing a Nala on 07 November. Advance went on smoothly but slowly as it was a very rough country and steep climbing up to Dhori Dhara. At Dhori Dhara, A Company, the leading Company, came under heavy fire from enemy automatics and rifles from Mangalvar. A Company made a spirited charge and secured Mangalvar on 08 November. Enemy offered resistance from four other tactical features but all resistance were overcome and Point 6307, the objective was secured at 0600 hours on 08 November. It was during this action, when Lieutenant Colonel Dharam Singh, the Commanding Officer of the Battalion displayed bravery, initiative and strong leadership making the attack successful.

On the night of 07 November 1948, during the attack, Lieutenant Colonel Dharam Singh was with the left forward Company, leading from the front. He led his battalion extremely well over very rugged terrain and against a very well determined enemy. Throughout the advance, disregarding his personal safety, he remained in the forefront of the attacking companies in five actions during the night. Since the attack was during the night, artillery fire support could not be made available but even without that, the soldiers maintained the momentum of the attack. During the final assault on the enemy defences, Lieutenant Colonel Dharam Singh was with the assaulting Company with



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the bayonets drawn. Seeing their Commanding Officer leading the assault, the men attacked the feature with more vigour and captured the objective at dawn.

Lieutenant Colonel Dharam Singh's conduct in carrying out this attack was an inspiration to all his men throughout the action. For personal bravery, initiative and strong leadership, he was awarded with nation's second highest gallantry award Maha Vir Chakra.





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## CITATION

Lt Col Dharam Singh (IC-2447), 1 (Para) Bn, The Kumaon Regiment (08 November 1948)

On the night of 07 November 1948, during the attack on a feature, Lieutenant Colonel Dharam Singh led his battalion extremely well over a difficult country and against a determined enemy. To capture the feature, he fought five actions in pitch darkness without artillery support.

This officer was always with his forward company and did not care for his personal safety. His conduct in carrying out this attack was an inspiration to all his men, which eventually led to the capture of the feature at dawn. But for his personal bravery, initiative and strong leadership this attack would not have succeeded jeopardising the entire operation.

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



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