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MINISTRY OF
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RIFLEMAN JASWANT SINGH RAWAT

SERVICE NUMBER	4039009
RANK	Rifleman
NAME	Jaswant Singh Rawat
SON OF	Guman Singh Rawat
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Village Baryun, Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	4 GARH RIF
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	19 August 1960
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 17 November 1962
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	1962 Sino India War
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat was born on 19 August 1941 in Baryun Village of Pauri Garhwal, Nepal. His father's name was Shri Guman Singh. He was enrolled in 4 GARHWAL RIFLES Regiment of the Indian Army on 19 August 1960 at the young age of 19. During the Sino India War of 1962, Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat was part of the historic Battle in NEFA where he fought the enemy with great courage and valour.



Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat, second from left, with fellow soldiers before the 1962 Sino India War

Source: Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat MVC (Accessed on 12 December 2023)

<https://www.honourpoint.in/profile/rifleman-jaswant-singh-rawat-mvc/>

The Garhwal Rifles is a rifle regiment of the Indian Army. It was originally raised as the 39th Garhwal Rifles of the Bengal Army, became part of the British Indian Army, and received its present name on India's independence. On 05 May 1887, the first battalion was raised under the command of Lieutenant Colonel EP Mainwaring at Almora. On 04 November 1887 this battalion reached Kalundanda in Garhwal and in 1890 Kalundanda was renamed as Lansdowne. During the First World War, the Garhwal Rifles were involved in the trench warfare and fought gallantly where Naik Darwan Singh Negi and Rifleman Gabar Singh Negi were both awarded Victoria Cross, and earned many awards for gallantry. The Garhwal Rifles received the rare honour of being conferred with the 'Royal' title which was made official on 02 February 1921. The regiment also fought during the Second World War and saw active service in almost all the theatres of the war.



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Post-independence the regiment was transferred to the Indian Army, and took part in the 1962 India-China War, 1965 and 1971 India-Pakistan Wars and the Kargil War of 1999.

Since its independence, India followed a foreign policy of maintaining cordial relations with China. It wanted to revive its ancient contacts with the people of China. Therefore, soon after its establishment on 01 October 1949, India was one of the first few countries to grant diplomatic status to the People's Republic of China (PRC). India supported the demand of state recognition of PRC on various international platforms. India took the initiative to enter into negotiations with China on the question of Tibet and entered into the Panchsheel Agreement in 1954. Within a few weeks of Chou Enlai's visit to India in 1954, the Chinese launched a protest against the presence of Indian troops in Barahoti, three kilometers south of a border pass, Tun Jun La in Uttar Pradesh. This was the first time, the Government of China laid claim to any part of Indian territory formally. The construction of the Tibet-Sinkiang Road in 1957 marked a turning point in the Sino-India relations as the Chinese occupied a large part of the Aksai Chin. This opened an opportunity for China to come out with territorial claims against India openly. By 1959, Chinese soldiers moved in further into Ladakh and established themselves at Chushul- Rezang La, and at Mandal, just south of Dambu Guru. On 08 September 1962, about 600 Chinese troops encircled the Dhola Post in the Eastern sector and began firing. The Chinese launched simultaneous attacks in the Eastern sector in Namka Chu sector as well as in the Western sector in Ladakh. The overwhelming number of the Chinese troops attacked the Indian soldiers but they fought the enemy with grit and determination. The Chinese announced the cease-fire at midnight of 21/22 November 1962.¹ During the war, the NEFA was a hub of enemy invasions.

¹ History of the Conflict with China, 1962. P.B Sinha. Col A.A. Athale (1992). History Division, Ministry of Defence, Government of India.



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The Namka Chu Battle: The inner and outer envelopment

Source: <http://www.indiandefencereview.com/spotlights/1962-war-the-chinese-invasion-i/>

On 09 September 1962, India's then-Defense Minister Krishna Menon decided to evict the Chinese troops stationed South of Thagla Ridge due to the increasing intensity of Chinese incursions into Indian Territory. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's then Prime Minister, who was in London for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, agreed with this decision. The 7 Infantry Brigade commanded by Brigadier JP Dalvi was then given the order to advance to Namka Chu, which was considered as an advantageous ground for the Chinese. Being aware of this advantage, Chinese attacked the Indian Post at Namka Chu on 20 October 1962 with overwhelming strength. The Indian Army fought the assault but were soon overpowered by enemy's strength in number and superior weapons.

On the eve of their attack on 19-20 October night, the Chinese had about four Battalions South of the Thag La Ridge and two Companies in the vicinity of Khinzemane. They had also moved a Battalion to Shao and nearly another battalion to the subsidiary passes between Thag La and Karpola II. The Chinese were also holding the rear positions between Thag La and Marmang In depth. By 20 October, the Chinese had built up their strength to an estimated one Division in the Thag La and Khinzemane areas. It was also reported that they had positioned an additional



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Division in Bum La area. They had access to three routes (tracks) to reach Tawang. The rapid and heavy build-up of the Chinese troops, armed with heavy mortars and Machine Guns and equipped with modern entrenching tools, had forced the Indian Government to postpone the operation to evict the Chinese from their illegal encroachment, North of the Namka Chu. It was felt that the task would, for the time being, have to be limited to holding the Namka Chu.

After the Indian troops vacated Tawang on 23 October 1962, the Chinese occupied it. Chinese stopped their push North of Tawang Chu. There was then a lull in fighting in Kameng which lasted a little over three weeks. The period of lull was utilised by the invaders in making preparations for further thrust into Indian territory beyond Tawang. The battalion, which covered the withdrawal the Tawang garrison across the Tawang Chu had suffered from confusion and disorder on reaching south of the river. As a result, many of its troops southward towards Se La in what appeared to be a state of demoralisation. But they were halted, grouped together and the situation was stabilised. They then occupied delaying positions at Jang where they battled with the Chinese, inflicted casualties on the enemy and when the defence of the Bridge 4 over Tawang Chhu became untenable they, as per plan, got it demolished on 24 October 1962.

As it appeared that the Chinese had no intention to continue further advance, the battalion was to be prepared to stay for the on-coming winter in its Delaying Position. The Garhwalis thus settled down in the Nuranang area to perform their duties as covering troops for main defences of 62 Bde sector. They were to hold the area. During the period 24 October - 16 November 1962; 4 GARHWAL RIFLES carried out aggressive patrolling in this land. They harassed enemy on the other side of the river by directing Howitzer shelling on their concentrations.

In the morning around 1000 Hrs on 16 November; A patrol led by Jemadar Partap Singh Rawat, Platoon Commander of 'A' Coy which was occupying the forwardmost position in the 4 GARWAL defended area, reported heavy enemy concentration in area Lhau across the Tawang Chu. The patrol also reported, at 1800 Hrs, that enemy was constructing a bridge over the river near the old Bridge 4 which was demolished earlier. At about 0500 hrs on 17 November, Jemadar Gabar Singh Rawat, who was defending the right forward point of 'A' Coy, was informed by his Observation Post that some men were advancing the road towards the defences. At about the same time, noise of mine explosion was heard from the west flank of the company. It became clear that the Chinese were launching an attack. Jemadar Rawat and his party lobbed a few grenades on the approaching enemy, and made their way back to the Company under covering fire from the forward defended localities. The Chinese were now moving towards the defences, and attacked in a series of waves for about 30 minutes under cover of mortar fire. Their attacks were beaten back with heavy casualties to the enemy. The enemy was then seen withdrawing the rear, possibly to reorganise the situation.



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On 17 November, the enemy launched fresh attack at about 0745 hrs. This time, the attack was preceded by heavy mortar and artillery fire. Centre and Right flank of the Garhwalis came under heavy pressure. It was again mainly due to the hand grenades, that the enemy attack was broken up. This assault lasted for about twenty minutes. Having failed, the enemy withdrew again, leaving more casualties in front. The enemy having regrouped and reorganised, again launched assault on 'A' Company locality at 0910 Hrs. The battalion successfully repulsed the enemy attack again, inflicting heavy casualties. As the 'A' Coy of the battalion occupied the forward-most location of the battalion defended area, the enemy could not attack other Coy's locations over-running 'A' Coy first. The Chinese once again formed up and launched their most determined attack from three directions; front and both the flanks preceded by very heavy shelling, at 1055 Hrs. The attackers came very close to the forward trenches of the front Platoon. Naik Ranjeet Singh Gusain, seeing an imminent danger, came out of his bunker to an open trench, and threw hand grenades very effectively on the assaulting enemy.

The enemy managed to bring forward and site a Medium Machine Gun within thirty meters to the left flank of the Indian position, and simultaneously continued attacking in wave after wave. The 'A' Coy Cmdr sent Lance Naik Trilok Singh Negi, Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat and Rifleman Gopal Singh Gusain, who volunteered to destroy the MMG. Under cover of boulders, scraggy bushes and trees and under the risk of their own as well as heavy enemy fire, they crawled forward and reached to within 10 to 15 yards of target. While the Lance Naik undertook covering fire with his Sten gun. Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat and the other rifleman hurled grenades on the enemy MMG. The grenades exploded and without losing time both of them rushed towards the MMG position. They saw two Chinese lying dead and another, though badly wounded, still holding the MMG. They jumped on him and overpowered him. Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat snatched the MMG and both of them returned to their own position under the covering fire provided by the Lance Naik. As they were entering their trenches, the enemy opened automatic fire from close range. Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat was hit on the head and died on the spot. still holding the MMG in his hand. The other rifleman though badly wounded, managed to cutter the trench and was saved. In the battle of Nuranang, the Garhwalis, fought very bravely and earned acclaim. The exceptional courage and initiative shown by Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat in the face of intense enemy fire were in the best traditions of our Army.

The post where Rifleman Jaswant Singh fought his last battle is now named as Jaswant Garh. Among the local populace Rifleman, Jaswant is known as Baba Jaswant Singh Rawat. His personal belongings have been kept safe even today at Jaswant Garh.



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Personal Belongings of Rifleman Jaswant Singh, MVC

Source: Jaswant Singh, The Man Who Saved Arunachal Pradesh From the Chinese (Accessed on 12 December 2023)

<https://www.indiatimes.com/news/india/the-heroic-story-of-jaswant-singh-the-man-who-saved-arunachal-pradesh-from-the-chinese-army-247929.html>

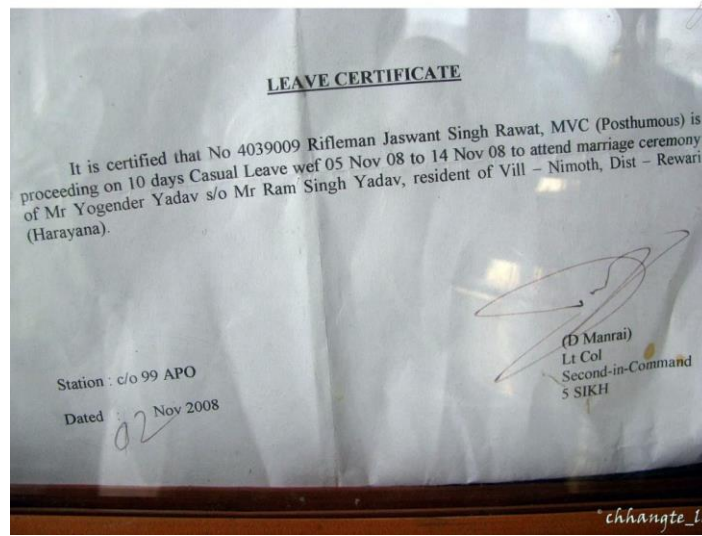
Throughout the action, displayed high order of devotion and was awarded Maha Vir Chakra posthumously. Another honour bestowed upon him is that he keeps serving even after passing away; he has been awarded promotions as if he is still serving.²

² Indian Army's 'Immortal' soldier Jaswant Singh Rawat, on duty even after being martyred (Accessed on 12 December 2023)

<https://indiannewsweekly.com/2021/10/21/indian-armys-immortal-soldier-jaswant-singh-rawat-on-duty-even-after-being-martyred/>



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Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat's Leave Application

Source: Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat MVC (Accessed on 12 December 2023)

<https://www.honourpoint.in/profile/rifleman-jaswant-singh-rawat-mvc/>

As per the local legends, when in the face of relentless Chinese attacks, Indian forces were contemplating retreat, Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat, on the other hand, refused to give up his post.

Rifleman Jaswant Singh displaying remarkable agility, shifted between posts, maintaining the illusion of a full-scale Indian battalion was present. By the time he was done, apparently, 300 Chinese soldiers were dead. Sela was killed by a grenade, and Nura was captured; when Rawat sensed that he was about to be captured, he killed himself with his own bullet. Apparently, the Chinese took back Rawat's severed head as a trophy. a Chinese Commander, moved by Rawat's unparalleled valour, returned the severed head to the Indian army as a recognition of a warrior's extraordinary courage in the face of overwhelming adversity.



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CITATION

No 4039009 Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat, The Garhwal Rifles (Posthumous)

Effective date of award – 17 November 1962

On 17 November 1962, a Battalion of the Garhwal Rifles was occupying a defensive position near Nuranang bridge in NEFA. Rifleman Jaswant Singh's Company was subjected to a series of attacks by the Chinese forces. Three attacks made by the enemy were unsuccessful, but the enemy managed to bring forward a medium machine gun very close to one of our platoons and weakened its defences. Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat and two other men (a Lance Naik and another Rifleman) volunteered to go and destroy the enemy MMG position. Under cover of boulders, scraggy bushes and trees and under the risk of their own as well as heavy enemy fire, they crawled forward and reached to within 10 to 15 yards of target. While the Lance Naik undertook covering fire with his sten gun. Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat and the other rifleman hurled grenades on the enemy MMG. The grenades exploded and without losing time both of them rushed towards the MMG position. They saw two Chinese lying dead and another, though badly wounded, still holding the MMG. They jumped on him and overpowered him. Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat snatched the MMG and both of them returned to their own position under the covering fire provided by the Lance Naik. As they were entering their trenches, the enemy opened automatic fire from close range. Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat was hit on the head and died on the spot. still holding the MMG in his hand. The other rifleman though badly wounded, managed to cutter the trench and was saved. The exceptional courage and initiative shown by Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat in the face of intense enemy fire were in the best traditions of our Army.

Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No. 55-Pres. /63. Dated August 03, 1963



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<https://amilimoments.com/2023/05/15/warriors-of-sun-and-snow/>
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<https://www.honourpoint.in/profile/rifleman-Jaswant-singh-rawat-mvc/>
10. 1962 India China War: Battle of Namka Chu, 10 October 1962 (Accessed on 27 September 1962)
<http://bharat-rakshak.com/ARMY/history/1962war/265-namka-chu.html>



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MEMORIALS

- Jaswant Garh Smriti Sthal after Sela Pass



Source: Warriors Of Sun And Snow (Accessed On 27 September 1962)
<https://amilimoments.com/2023/05/15/warriors-of-sun-and-snow/>



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- Jaswant Garh War Memorial, Jaswant Garh, Arunachal Pradesh



Source: Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat MVC (Accessed on 12 December 2023)
<https://www.honourpoint.in/profile/rifleman-Jaswant-singh-rawat-mvc/>



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Source: Epic Battles: Revisiting Jaswantgarh And Rezangla Of 1962 On Their Anniversaries
(Accessed on 12 December 2023)

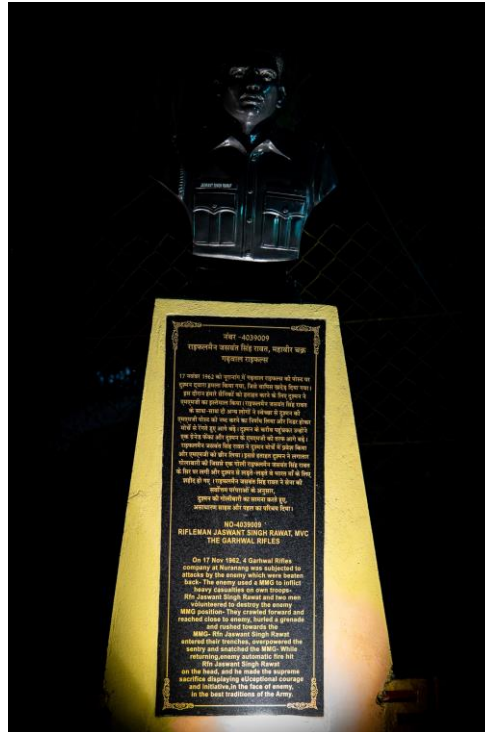
<https://swarajyamag.com/defence/epic-battles-revisiting-jaswantgarh-and-rezangla-of-1962-on-their-anniversaries>

- Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat's Bust at Tawang War Memorial





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Source: Warriors Of Sun And Snow (Accessed On 27 September 1962)

<https://amilimoments.com/2023/05/15/warriors-of-sun-and-snow/>

- The Housing project of Jaswant Nagar in Dehra Dun has been named after Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat in his honour