



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



SECOND LIEUTENANT BHAGWAN DUTT DOGRA

SERVICE NUMBER	IC-13176
RANK	Second Lieutenant
NAME	Bhagwan Dutt Dogra
SON OF	Dewan Chand
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Delhi
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	1/9 GORKHA RIFLES
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	10 June 1962
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Maha Vir Chakra / 20 October 1962
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	1962 Sino India War
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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Second Lieutenant Bhagwan Dutt Dogra, the son of Dewan Chand was born on 25 September 1941 in Lahore, now in Pakistan. He was commissioned in 1/9 Gorkha Rifles of Indian Army on 10 June 1962. During 1962 Sino-India war, Second Lieutenant Dogra was deployed on the left flank of the battalion to guard the track leading to his company's position in Namka Chu in the Tawang Sector of NEFA. He was awarded second highest gallantry award Maha Vir Chakra for the display of conspicuous courage and exemplary leadership in the battle of Tsangdhar area in North East Frontier Agency (NEFA).

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 9 GR was raised in 1817 at Infantry Levy at Fatehgarh as Fatehgarh Levy. In 1823, it became 63rd Regiment a regular unit as part of the Bengal native Infantry. Following the reorganisation after 1857, the designation was changed to 9th Bengal native Infantry with one of its companies formed by Gurkhas and other hillmen. In 1893, the regiment became a wholly Gorkha unit before finally designated as 9th Gorkha Rifles in 1903. The regiment fought in Europe during World War I and in Italy and North West Frontier during World War II. Since independence, the regiment has proved its mettle in Sino-India War of 1962 where it fought under the most demanding conditions on the Namka Chu in NEFA (Now Arunachal Pradesh). Later, the Regiment was also involved in Indo-Pak War of 1965 and 1971.¹ The regiment's motto is '*Kafar Hunu Bhandu Marnu Ramro*' (Better to die than live like a coward).

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 since both the countries shared political, geographical and cultural similarities. 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 visit to India, the Chinese launched a protest against the presence of Indian troops in Barahoti, three kilometres 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

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



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part of the Aksai plateau. 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 Western sector in Namka Chu sector as well as in Ladakh. The overwhelming number of the Chinese troops hit the Indian soldiers but they fought the enemy with grit and determination. The Chinese announced the cease-fire at midnight of 21/22 November 1962.²

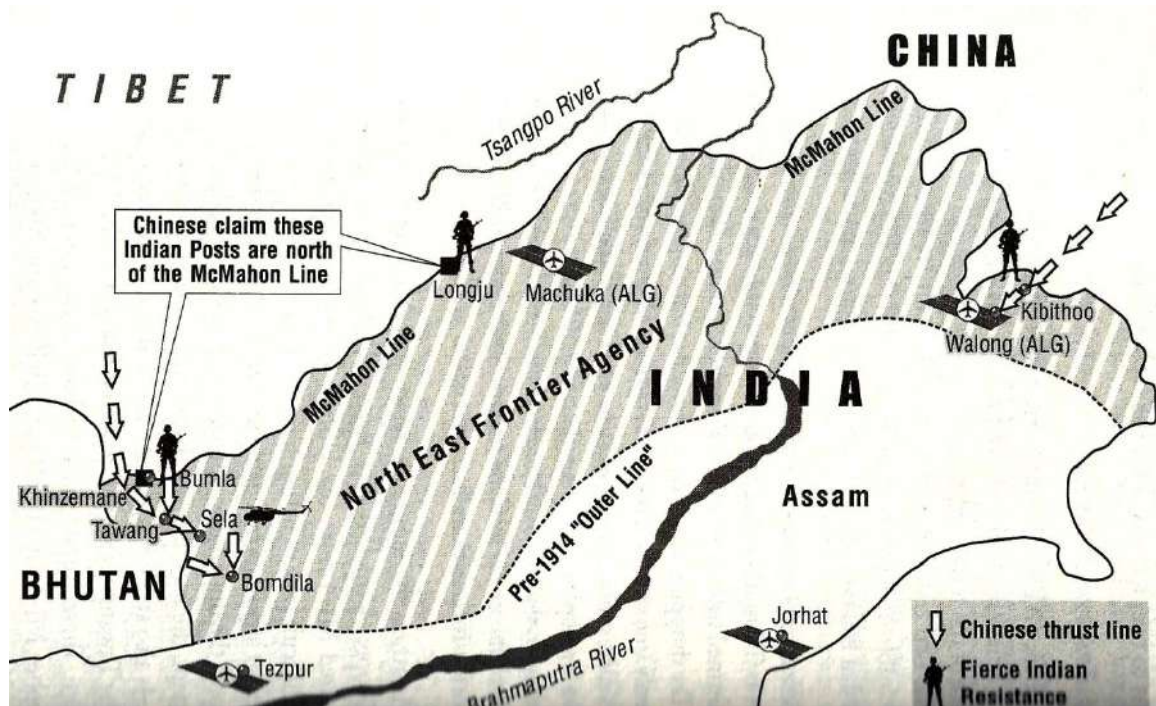
On 09 September 1962, India's then-Defence Minister Krishna Menon decided to evict the Chinese troops stationed South of Thagla Ridge due to the increasing intensity of Chinese incursions into Indian territory. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's then Prime Minister, who was in London for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, agreed with this decision. The 7 Infantry Brigade 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 was soon overpowered by enemy's strength in number and superior weapons.

On the eve of their attack on the night of 19-20 October, the Chinese had about four battalions South of Thag La Ridge and two coys in the vicinity of Khinzemane. They had moved a battalion to Shao and another battalion to the subsidiary passes between Thag La and Karpola II. Along with holding a rear positions between Thag La and Marmang in depth, Chinese had also infiltrated the Tsangdhar area. Chinese had started subjecting the Indian post at Tsangle on the north bank of Namka Chu to heavy shelling since 17 October. However, they left this post alone in early hours of 20 October and engaged other posts all along Namka Chu by heavy mortar fire. And between 0600 Hr and 0700 Hr they attacked Tsangdhar area, Bridge 3 (on Namka Chu) and Dhola with aim to cut off the Indian troops. 1/9 GORKHA RIFLES was deployed to hold positions on the northern slopes of Tsangdhar during the attack. The Gorkhas fought as hard as they could but to their surprise first they were attacked from the flanks and later from the rear.

² 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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North East Frontier Agency during Sino India War 1962

Source: India's Wars: A Military History 1947 -1971. Arjun Subramaniam (2016) Harper Collins Publishers. Uttar Pradesh, India.

Chinese soldiers attacked the left flank of the position held by 1/9 GORKHA RIFLES in the Tsangdhar area of NEFA at dawn on 20 October 1962, following a period of heavy bombardment. On this flank, the platoon of Second Lieutenant Bhagwan Dutt Dogra was guarding a track that led to his company's position. His platoon was attacked by no fewer than 200 Chinese forces and came under intense fire. Second Lieutenant Dogra himself went from bunker to bunker, inspiring confidence in his soldiers and motivating them, he continued to do so despite being wounded in the face and bleeding profusely. Greatly outnumbered, his men held their position and stopped the initial attack. On noticing that the section's light machine gun had stopped firing, Second Lieutenant Dogra raced through a hail of enemy fire with utter disregard for his personal safety, put the gun into action, and inflicted significant damage to the enemy. He then provided cover fire for his soldiers as they withdrew until his machine gun was destroyed and he was taken into custody.

The valiant Gorkhas stood their ground against the overwhelming strength and superior weapons of Chinese soldiers. Second Lieutenant Bhagwan Dutt Dogra, throughout this action, displayed exceptional bravery, leadership, and selfless devotion to duty in the best traditions of the Army and was awarded Maha Vir Chakra for his outstanding gallantry.



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CITATION

Second Lieutenant Bhagwan Dutt Dogra (IC-13176) The Gorkha Rifle
(Effective date of award – 20 October 1962)

On 20 October 1962 at dawn, after heavy bombardment, Chinese forces attacked the left flank of the position held by a Gorkha Rifles battalion in the Tsangdhar area in NEFA. Second Lieutenant Bhagwan Dutt Dogra's Platoon was on this flank, guarding a track leading to his company position. His platoon came under intense fire and was attacked by no less than 200 Chinese soldiers. Though heavily outnumbered, Second Lieutenant Dogra's men held their ground and broke the initial assault, Second Lieutenant Dogra himself moved from bunker to bunker, infusing confidence in his men, and continued to do so even when wounded in the face and bleeding profusely. Observing that the light machine gun of the section had stopped firing, Second Lieutenant Dogra in complete disregard for his personal safety ran through the hail of enemy fire, put the gun into action, and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. Afterwards he gave covering fire for the withdrawal of his men till his machine gun was destroyed and he was captured.

Second Lieutenant Dogra, throughout this action, displayed courage and leadership of a high order and selfless devotion to duty in the best traditions of the Army.

Reference: Gazette of India, Notification NoNo. I-Pres./64 dated 1st January 1964



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