



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



MAJOR ANNAVI KRISHNASWAMY RAMASWAMY

SERVICE NUMBER	SS-140335
RANK	Major
NAME	Annavi Krishnaswamy Ramaswamy
SON OF	
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Ayilam, Kerala
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	3 (PARA) MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	15 December 1946
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	16 January 1948/Maha Vir Chakra
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	1947-48 Indo-Pak War
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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Major Annavi Krishnaswamy Ramaswamy hailed from Ayilam village of Palghat district in Kerala and was born on 31 October 1924. His family later moved and settled down in South Malabar in Kerala. He was commissioned into 3 (PARA) MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY on 15 Dec 1946 at the age of 22 years. By the year 1948, he had put in nearly 20? (it should be two + years of service and had been promoted to the rank of Major.¹

The MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY was formed as the 103rd Mahrattas in 1768, making it the senior most light infantry regiment of the Army. Their Regimental Centre has been Belgaum, Karnataka, since 1922. The battle cry of the MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY is, '*Bol Shri Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj ki Jai!*' (Cry Victory to Emperor Shivaji!) in tribute to the Maratha Emperor Shivaji. Indian independence saw the Regiment reverting back to the original five battalions, with the 3 MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY converting to the airborne role and becoming 2 PARA in April 1952. With the integration of the erstwhile Princely States, the 19th, 20th, 22nd battalions were amalgamated, from the State Forces of Kolhapur, Baroda, and Hyderabad, with the Regiment. The expansion of the Indian Army to meet the omnipresent threat to its borders has seen the Regiment grow to its present total of 18 battalions and two TA battalions whilst the period also saw the conversion of 21st Bn into 21 Para (Special Forces) and the 115 Infantry battalion (TA) being grouped under the MAHAR Regiment. The five Mahavir Chakras and the numerous other war and peace time gallantry awards bear testimony to the front-line leadership and courage of the Regiment's Officers, JCOs and NCOs. Gen J.J. Singh (9th and 5th) became the first Chief of Army Staff from the Maratha Light Infantry in Feb 2005. ² During the 1947-48 Indo-Pak war, 3 (PARA) MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY was a part of 50 Para Brigade commanded by Brigadier Usman Mohammad. The battalion participated in the crucial battles of Jhangar and Naushera. General JJ Singh , who was the Chief of Army Staff from to belongs to the MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY and has been their Colonel of the Regiment.

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

¹ Major AK Ramaswamy MVC. Honourpoint. (Accessed on 28 March 2023)
<https://www.honourpoint.in/profile/major-ak-ramaswamy/>

² Ballabh, Anand. Insights into Indian Infantry Regiment: A Basic Factbook. Forward Books publication. New Delhi



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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.³ 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 Tithwal, the relief in Punch and the fight of Chhamb to Tithwal.

On 09 January 1948, Brigadier Lakhinder Singh, MBE, commander of 'Z' Brigade Group, issued instructions for opening road Naushera-excluding Seri. The road was cleared by 10 January without meeting opposition from the enemy. After the failure of his attack on Naushahra on 06 January and his failure to keep the vital road Naushera-Beri Pattan closed to traffic, the enemy confined his activities to sniping and light patrolling, while carrying out the re-organisation of his forces for another major trial of strength. Indian forces too re-organised and confined their activities to light patrolling as a prelude to an attack on the strong enemy defensive position at Kot on 01 February. On 15 January, Z Brigade less 1/9 Gorkha Rifles, 3 (PARA) Mahratta Light Infantry and 22 Field Company RIE pulled out of Naushera, as the imminent threat to Naushera had been removed.

While reorganising, on 16 January 1948 a forward Company of the Para Battalion came under intense enemy fire. Major Annavi Krishnaswamy Ramaswamy who was commanding a Company of 3 (PARA) MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY tasked to reinforce the affected Company. He helped to relieving the intensity of enemy fire. After the systematic withdrawal of rest of the Battalion, when it was his Company's turn to withdraw, the enemy fire intensified. The route of withdrawal was covered by heavy enemy fire. A sepoy was hurt and left behind while crossing the area of the ground that was the most vulnerable. Despite knowing the magnitude of the dangers involved, Major Annavi Krishnaswamy Ramaswamy raced back to save the injured sepoy. The wounded sepoy gallantly warned the officer to not come foe his rescue. Undaunted, the officer hurried to the injured soldier's aid and, despite being shot at by the enemy, managed to drag him back 15 yards before dying while being taken to the Regimental Aid Post.

³ 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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CITATION

Major Annavi Krishnaswamy Ramaswamy (SS-140335), 3 (PARA) MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY

(Effective date of award – 16 January 1948).

On 16 January 1948, Major A.K. Ramaswamy, whilst in command of company of a para battalion at Naushera, was ordered to reinforce the forward company which was under enemy fire. He helped relieve the pressure of enemy fire. After the rest of the battalion had safely withdrawn, it was the turn of Major Ramaswamy's company to withdraw. The route of withdrawal was covered by heavy enemy fire. While crossing the most exposed part of the ground, a sepoy got wounded and was left behind. Major Ramaswamy, without any regard for his personal safety, ran back to evacuate the wounded sepoy.

The wounded sepoy gallantly warned this officer not to come to his aid and thus expose himself to enemy fire. But undaunted, the officer went to his aid and managed single-handed to bring back the wounded soldier 15 yards under a hail of enemy fire when he himself was mortally wounded and died while being evacuated to the regimental aid post.

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



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2. Stories of Heroism (PVC & MVC) Winners Dr. B.C.Chakravorty.(1995). Ministry of Defence, Government of India

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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
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/>



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VIDEOS

1. Guns and Glory Episode 3: 1947 Indo-Pak War (Source: Headlines Today YouTube)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huvEzONcutw>
2. Kashmir 1947: Anatomy of an invasion (Source: WION YouTube)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5PKINSqVdU>
3. Kashmir पर जब 1947 में कबायलियों ने हमला कर दिया था. Aisa Kaise Hua (Source: BBC Hindi YouTube)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehHWCpZh1IQ>
4. Gravitas: The story of the 1947 tribal invasion of Kashmir (Source: WION YouTube)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4n1L7HV7rdI>

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DETAILS FOR USI FOR AN EXTENDED RESEARCH



WING COMMANDER JAG MOHAN NATH

NAME CHANGE OF AWARDEE (If any, give references)	
DATE OF AWARD	26 January 1963
MOTHER'S NAME	
DATE OF BIRTH/DEATH	
BIRTH PLACE	
SCHOOL/COLLEGE	
RETIRED/IN SERVICE	
NOK (NAME/RELATION)	