



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**



### NAIK CHAIN SINGH

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	2437390
<b>RANK</b>	Naik
<b>NAME</b>	Chain Singh
<b>SON OF</b>	Sadhu Ram
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Gurdaspur, Punjab
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	9 PUNJAB
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/COMMISSION</b>	19 October 1951
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 10 October 1962
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	1962 Sino-India War
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



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Naik Chain Singh was born on 19 October May 1931, to Shri Sadhu Ram in Gurdaspur, Punjab. He was enrolled in 9 PUNJAB of the Indian Army on 19 October 1951 at the age of twenty. During the Sino India War of 1962, Naik Chain Singh was deployed in the NEFA Sector where he fought the Chinese in the battle of Tseng-Jong and sacrificed himself for the nation. He was awarded Maha Vir Chakra posthumously.

The PUNJAB Regiment, is among the oldest Regiments in the Indian Army, it traces its origins back to 1805 when the First Battalion was raised under the Maharaja of Patiala. Originally, the Regiment comprised four British-raised Battalions. The numbers and titles of the Battalions changed during the successive reorganisations of the Madras Presidency Army, the British Indian Army and the Indian Army during 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century. After the 1857 War of Independence, the British applied the martial races theory and North Indian troops replaced the South Indians. Post Independence, the PUNJAB Regiment of India was formed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Punjab Regiment of the British Indian Army. In 1951, four battle experienced Battalions of the former Princely states of Punjab, joined the Regiment. These battalions were from the Jind and Nabha State Forces and the first and second Battalions of Patiala Infantry. They were designated as the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th battalions of the PUNJAB Regiment. Additional Battalions have been raised since 1963. Since 1947, the PUNJAB Regiment has taken part in various battle sand wars, winning numerous honours and awards for the same. The Regimental Centre of the Regiment was first raised at Loralai and was shifted to Multan in 1922, Meerut in 1929 and at last to its present location in Ramgarh, Jharkhand in 1976.<sup>1</sup> During the Sino-India war of 1962, the Regiment was deployed in the North-East Frontier Agency Sector (NEFA) as part of 7 Infantry Brigade of 4 Infantry Division and fought valiantly in the crucial battles in Namka Chu Sector.

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

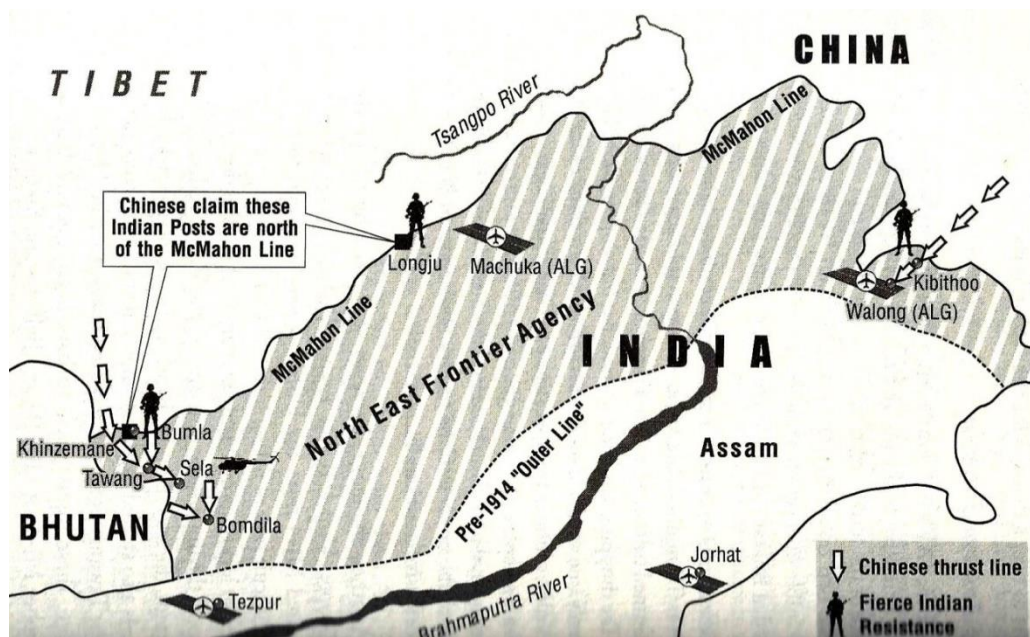
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<sup>1</sup> Ballabh, Anand, Insights into Infantry Regiments: A Basic Factbook. Forward Books publications. New Delhi (2013)



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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.<sup>2</sup>



*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.

During the 1962 Sino-India War, the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) was a hub of enemy invasions. In early September, the Government of India ordered immediate evacuation of enemy troops from the NEFA. On 24 September Lieutenant General Umrao Singh, who was the Corps Commander conveyed the orders to Major General Niranjana Prasad, GOC 4 Infantry Division who then made sure that the energies of Indian Army in the area was directed to execute "OPERATION LEGHORN". Brigadier JP Dalvi, who was the Commander of 7 Infantry Brigade, along with Major General Niranjana Prasad prepared a plan with a modest aim of capturing a small feature on Thag La slopes, and Tseng-Jong, then roll down West to East to the Chinese positions on the Namka Chu. However soon the responsibility of NEFA was handed over to IV CORPS commanded by Lieutenant General B M Kaul, the CGS. Acting

<sup>2</sup> 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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upon the Brigadier Dalvi's plan for Op LEGHORN, on 08 October Lieutenant General Kaul began his opening moves by ordering 2 RAJPUTS and 1/9 GORKHA RIFLES down from Tsangdhar to join other troops along the river line. Both the Battalions reached the river line on 09 October 1962.

The plan was to evict the Chinese from Thag La" by 7 Infantry Brigade. Thag La Peak, was where they would take positions behind and dominating the Chinese, as the Chinese had not yet occupied it. Lieutenant General Kaul chose the approach through Tseng- Jong which would be occupied by 9 PUNJAB. One Platoon of 'D' coy 9 PUNJAB, under Major M.S.Chaudhary left for Tseng-Jong and established a position on the North Bank of Namkha Chu. The Platoon occupied the location at 1500 hours on 08 October. One Section of this Platoon then occupied Karpole II height next morning. One Platoon Section of 'A' Coy 9 PUNJAB under Naik Chain Singh then left for Tseng-jong to reinforce Major Chaudhary's Platoon on 09 October 1962.



*Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru with troops at a forward position during the 1962 India-China war.*

Source: <https://www.indiasentinel.com/opinion/1962-india-china-war-how-scholars-misled-indians-a-case-study-5846>

Although Chinese response to these moves didn't come instantly, but a strong Chinese response came on 10 October 1962. When groups of men from 2 RAJPUT were moving up the Southern Bank of the Namkha Chu, making for Bridge III on their way to Log Bridge - the planned crossing point on the way to Yutso La - a full Battalion of Chinese emerged from their positions and moved quickly down the Ridge, to form up for an attack on, Tseng-Jong. At the same time the Indian position at Tseng-Jong came under fire from Heavy Mortars.

Naik Chain Singh was in the Platoon position at Tseng- Jong in NEFA. Approximately 500 Chinese concentrated in the vicinity of his Post and started shelling it with guns and mortars. Although greatly outnumbered and with limited quantity of ammunition, Naik Chain Singh and



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his men inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. The Chinese then launched more determined assault on this Post from all sides; but Naik Chain Singh and his men held on and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. When he had nearly run out of ammunition, he was ordered to withdraw his Section. Ordering his Rifle Group to withdraw, he took over the Light Machine Gun to give covering fire to the rest of his Section. But while doing so he was hit by a burst of enemy Machine Gun fire. Although seriously wounded, he kept on manning the Light Machine Gun to facilitate the withdrawal of his Section. He was again hit by an enemy Machine Gun burst in the head and killed on the spot. It was due to the exceptional courage and leadership of Naik Chain Singh that his Section could inflict heavy casualties on the attacking Chinese troops and withdraw. His supreme sacrifice was in the best traditions of Indian Army. For his exceptional bravery and conspicuous courage, he was awarded Maha Vir Chakra posthumously.



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## CITATION

2437390 Naik Chain Singh, 9 PUNJAB. (Posthumous)  
(Effective date of award-10 October 1962)

On 9th October 1962. Naik Chain Singh was sent with the Test of his platoon from Tsangle to reinforce the platoon position at Tseng-jong, north of Namkha chu river in NEFA Early next morning. Approximately 500 Chinese concentrated in the vicinity of this post and started shelling it with gun and mortars. Although greatly outnumbered and with a limited quantity of ammunition. Naik Chain Ram and his men inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy and repulsed the attack. The Chinese launched a more determined assault on this post from all sides; but once again Naik Chain Singh and his men inflicted heavy casualties on the Chinese. When they had nearly run out of ammunition, he was ordered to withdraw his section. Ordering his rifle groups to withdraw. he took over the light machine gun to give covering file to the rest of his section. He was hit by a burst of enemy machine gun fire. Although seriously wounded, he kept on manning the light machine gun to facilitate the withdrawal of his section. He was again hit by an enemy machine gun burst in the head and was killed on the spot. It was due to the exceptional courage and leadership of Naik Chain Singh that his section inflicted heavy casualties on the attacking Chinese troops. His supreme sacrifice was the best traditions of Indian Army.

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



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## VIDEOS

INDO-CHINA 1962 WAR|ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE (SOURCE: PRASAR BHARTI YOUTUBE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pl8exz7ifuw&t=123s>

DNA: Analysing the unforgettable India-China war of 1962 (Source: YouTube Zee News)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79-wYad\\_j9A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79-wYad_j9A)

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