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MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



MAJOR RAMA RAGHOBHA RANE (Then SECOND LIEUTENANT)

SERVICE NUMBER	SS-14246 IC-7244
RANK	Second Lieutenant
NAME	Rama Raghoba Rane
SON OF	Raghoba Rane
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Village Chendia, Karwar, Karnataka
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	37 Assault Field Company (Now Part of 104 Engineer Regiment) (BOMBAY ENGINEERS)
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	15 December 1947
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Param Vir Chakra / 08 April 1948
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	1947-48 Indo-Pak War
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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Major (then Second Lieutenant) Rama Raghoba Rane was born on 26 June 1918 in Chendia village in Karwar district of Karnataka. Born in a Konkan Kshatriya Maratha community, Second Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane had his education in different parts of the country because of his father's job. In the 1930s, while growing up, he was greatly influenced by the call of Mahatma Gandhi, asking the youth to demand freedom from the British reign. Rama Raghoba Rane began taking part in the campaigns related to the non-cooperative movement. When his father came to know about his affiliation with the movement, Second Lieutenant Rane was sent back to his ancestral village at Chendia. At the age of 22, Second Lieutenant Rane decided to join the British Indian Army, while the Second World War was in full swing. On 10 July 1940, Rane enlisted in the Bombay Engineer Regiment, and passed out as the "Best Recruit". He was handed Commandant's Cane for his outstanding performance. Subsequently, he was promoted to Naik.

After his training, Second Lieutenant Rane was posted to the 28th Field Company, an Engineer unit of the 26th Infantry Division which, at the time, was fighting the Japanese in Burma. As his Division retreated from the Japanese after the failed Arakan Campaign, he, along with his two Sections, was hand-picked by his Company Commander to stay back behind at Buthidaung to destroy key assets and then be evacuated by the Royal Indian Navy. Though the objective was soon achieved, the expected pickup did not happen. This forced Second Lieutenant Rane and his men to cross a river that was patrolled by the Japanese to reach their lines. Second Lieutenant Rane, along with his two Sections, skilfully evaded the Japanese troops, and joined the 26th Infantry Division at Bahri. For his actions, he was promoted to Havildar.

Second Lieutenant Rane later received a Viceroy's Commission as a Jemadar (now the rank of Naib Subedar). For his dedication, commitment, hard work and leadership qualities, Rane was selected for a Short Service Commission prior to the partition. In 1947, following the country's independence, Second Lieutenant Rane remained in the Indian Army and was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers on 15 December 1947 as a Second Lieutenant. As a young officer Major Rama Raghoba Rane played a vital role in Indo-Pak War of 1947-48. He proved his mettle as an outstanding soldier in Indo-Pak War and was given the nation's highest gallantry award, "Param Vir Chakra".



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Second Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane receiving PVC from the President Dr Rajendra Prasad

Source: https://www.gallantryawards.gov.in/digital_library

After the war, Rane was promoted to Lieutenant on 14 January 1950 and to Captain on 14 January 1954. On 27 May 1955, he received a regular commission as a Captain, with the service number IC-7244. In July 1954, he was awarded the Chief of Army Staff's Commendation Card for devotion to duty for his work during the Maha Prabhu Mela in Kashmir. He then went on to command a Bomb-Disposal Platoon and retired as a Major on 25 June 1968. But his love for the Army did not let him leave. He continued to serve in the Army until 07 April 1971 at which time he retired from the Services.

Second Lieutenant Rane married Rajeshwari on 03 February 1955 and the couple had three sons and a daughter. After retirement, he settled down in Pune. Besides the PVC, Second Lieutenant Rane also received five "Mention-in-Dispatches" and a Commendation by the Chief of Army Staff during his Service career. In 1994, Major Rane passed away at the age of 73, at Command Hospital, Southern Command in Pune after undergoing an operation where the doctors were not able to stop his bleeding. He is survived by his wife Mrs Rajeshwari Rane, who continues to live in Pune.



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Major Rama Raghoba Rane with his wife and children

Source: <https://wikibio.in/major-rama-raghoba-rane/>

On 23 January 2023 during the Parakram Diwas, 21 unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands were named after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees. One such island has also been named after Second lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane.



The Bombay Engineering Group also referred to as the Bombay Sappers informally, are a regiment of the Indian Army Corps of Engineers. The Bombay Sappers draw their origin from the erstwhile Bombay Presidency army of the British Raj. The headquarters of this regiment is



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located at Khadki, Pune, Maharashtra. The Bombay Sappers have gone on to win many accolades in battle throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, both before and after Independence, including the British Victoria Cross and the French Legion of Honour before independence.¹ Bombay Sappers celebrated its bicentenary anniversary in 2020. In these 200 years, they have served in nearly every major battle as well as humanitarian efforts including helping flood victims and building bridges and railroad tracks. In 1820, a group of Engineer Lascars were raised and organised under an Engineer Officer into a company known as Sappers and Miners. Even though the Bombay Sappers could trace their lineage back to 1777, when the first Company of Pioneer Lascars was created, it was in this year that the raising of the Bombay Sappers came to be formally recognised. The Bombay Sappers have earned 31 Theatre Honours and 37 Battle Honours in addition to the highest awards for gallantry pre-independence and post-independence i.e. Victoria Cross, French Legion of Honour, Param Vir Chakra and Ashoka Chakra.² The Group has also made its mark in peacetime activities such as sport, adventure, aid to civil authority and prestigious construction projects. They are renowned for their endurance, courage and valour on the battlefield.³ Lieutenant General P S Bhagat, was awarded a Victoria Cross in World War II also belongs to the Bombay Sappers and the present COAS General Manoj Pandey is also from Bombay Sappers.



Second Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane's wife at the Medal Handing over ceremony to the Bombay Sappers

Source: <https://www.thebridgechronicle.com/pune/bombay-sappers-gets-major-rr-rane%E2%80%99s-param-vir-chakra-45915>

¹ Bombay Engineer Group (Accessed on 09 February 2023)

https://military-history.fandom.com/wiki/Bombay_Engineer_Group

² Bombay Sappers: A Saga of 200 Years (Accessed on 09 February 2023)

<https://www.thebridgechronicle.com/opinion/bombay-sappers-saga-200-yrs-46163>

³ Bombay Engineer Group (Accessed on 09 February 2023)

https://military-history.fandom.com/wiki/Bombay_Engineer_Group



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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.⁴ 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.

After recapturing Jhangar, Naushera by 50 Para Brigade and 19 Infantry Brigade from Pakistani hands on 18 March 1948, the Indian Army's next move was to capture and secure the Rajauri district. It was decided that the Indian forces should go on the offensive. The enemy held a number of defiles along the axis of advance, carried out extensive demolitions and erected numerous roadblocks. The advance required the capture of Barwali Ridge, Chingas and Rajauri in successive phases. The advance commenced on 08 April, and the ridge was captured the same evening. The enemy counter attacked but this was beaten back. The advance thereafter took place along the hills on either side of the road. Chingas was captured by the morning of 10 April. It was during this advance that a young Engineer Officer, Second Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane, cleared extensive mines along the axis at grave risk to himself to enable the armoured column to move on. Second Lieutenant Rane was in command of the 37th Assault Field Company, which was tasked to clear out the obstructions so that the columns can move forward safely. On 08 April 1948, Pakistani forces began a heavy bombardment of the Indian position, at 1100 Hours. Second Lieutenant Rane and his party were waiting near the tanks to begin the work of clearing the mines ahead. As a result, two members of the mine-clearing party were killed and five others, including Second Lieutenant Rane, were wounded. Despite being injured, he continued to clear out the roadblocks fearlessly under incessant enemy fire. The officer immediately reassembled his team and got to work getting the tanks to their position.

⁴ 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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Throughout the day he was near the tanks, constantly being attacked by hostile enemy machine guns and mortars.⁵

Even though he was aware that the enemy had not yet been entirely driven out of the region following the capture of Barwali Ridge at around 1630 hours, Second Lieutenant Rane led his party ahead and began preparing a detour for the tanks. He continued to work until 2200 hours that night in plain view of the enemy under heavily machine-gun fire. On 09 April he again started work at 0600 hours and worked on till 1500 hours, when the diversion was prepared for the tanks to go forward. He boarded the leading carrier and moved ahead as the armoured column advanced. After proceeding about half a mile he came across a roadblock made of pine trees. He immediately got down his horse and blasted the trees. The advance kept going. The same story was repeated after 300 yards. By this time it was getting on to 1700 hours. The road was curving round the hill like a snake. The next roadblock was a demolished culvert. Second Lieutenant Rane again got on with the job. Before he could begin his task, the enemy opened fire with their machine guns, but because of his amazing leadership and courage, he made a diversion and the column moved forward. Despite the increasing number of obstacles in his path, he continued to blast them. It was now 1815 hours, and light was fading fast. The carrier came across a formidable roadblock of five big pine trees surrounded by mines and covered by machine-gun fire. He began removing the mines and was determined to remove the roadblock, but the commander of the armoured column took note of the situation and manoeuvred the column into a harbour area.

On 10 April 1948 at 0445 hours, Second Lieutenant Rane resumed working on the roadblock in spite of machine-gun fire with the support of one troops of tanks. He managed to get through this obstacle by 06:30. The following 1,000 yards were filled with barriers and demolished embankments. That was not all. The enemy had the entire region under machine-gun fire, but even though he was injured, he displayed his extraordinary efforts, cool leadership, and disregard for his own safety, he cleared the route by 1030 hours.

While Second Lieutenant Rane continued to prepare the road for the administrative column, the armoured column advanced and got off the road into the Tawi riverbed. The tanks reached Chingas by 1400 hours. Second Lieutenant Rane appreciating that the opening of the road was most vital, continued working without rest or food till 2100 hours that night. On 11 April 1948, He once again got to work at 0600 hours and opened opening the road to Chingas by 1100 hours. He worked on that night till 2200 hours clearing the road ahead. Despite all obstacles, Second

⁵ Param Vir: Our Heroes in Battle. Maj Gen Ian Cardozo. (2003). The Lotus Collection, Roli Books Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, India.



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Lieutenant Rane and his team successfully cleared out the route for tanks. His actions from 08 to 11 April 1948 contributed greatly to the success of the objective.

Second Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane's superhuman efforts despite being wounded, cool courage, exemplary leadership and complete disregard for personal safety enabled the Indian tanks to reach Chingas. He was awarded the Param Vir Chakra for most conspicuous gallantry in the face of enemy.



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CITATION

On 8 April 1948, Second Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane, Bombay Engineers, was ordered to be in charge of the mine and roadblock clearing party at Mile 26 on the Naushera-Rajouri road which passes through very hilly country.

At 1100 Hours, on that date near Nadpur South, just as Second Lieutenant Rane and his party were waiting near the tanks to start the work of clearing the mines ahead, the enemy started heavy mortaring of the area, with the result that two men of the mine-clearing party were killed and five others including Second Lieutenant Rane were wounded. The officer at once reorganized his party and started work for the tanks to go on to their position. Throughout the day he was near the tanks under heavy enemy machine-gun and mortar fire.

After the capture of Barwali Ridge at about 1630 hours, although knowing that the enemy had not been completely cleared of the area, Second Lieutenant Rane took his party ahead and started making a diversion for the tanks to proceed. He worked on till 2200 hours that night in full view of the enemy and under heavy machine-gun fire.

On 9 April he again started work at 0600 hours and worked on till 1500hrs when the diversion was ready for the tanks to proceed. As the armoured column advanced, he got into the leading carrier and proceeded ahead. After proceeding about half a mile he came across a roadblock made of pine trees. He at once dismounted and blasted the trees away. The advance continued. Another 300 yards and the same story was repeated. By this time it was getting on to 1700 hours. The road was curving round the hill like a snake. The next roadblock was a demolished culvert. Second Lieutenant Rane again got on with the job. Before he could start work, the enemy opened up with their machine-guns, but with super courage and leadership he made a diversion and the column proceeded ahead. The roadblocks were becoming numerous but he blasted his way through. It was now 1815 hours, and light was fading fast. The carrier came across a formidable roadblock of five big pine trees surrounded by mines and covered by machine-gun fire. He started removing the mines and was determined to clear the roadblock but the armoured column commander appreciating the situation got the column into a harbour area.

On 10 April 1948 at 0445 hours, Second Lieutenant Rane again started work on the roadblock in spite of machine-gun fire with the support of one troops of tanks. With sheer will power he cleared this roadblock by 0630hours. The next thousand yards was a mass of roadblocks and blasted embankments. That was not all. The enemy had the whole area covered with machine-gun fire but with superhuman efforts, in spite of having been wounded, with cool courage and



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exemplary leadership and complete disregard for personal life, he cleared the road by 1030 hours.

The armoured column proceeded ahead and got off the road into the riverbed of the Tawi but Second Lieutenant Rane continued clearing the road for the administrative column. The tanks reached Chingas by 1400 hours. Second Lieutenant Rane appreciating that the opening of the road was most vital, continued working without rest or food till 2100 hours that night.

On 11 April 1948, he again started work at 0600 hours and opened the road to Chingas by 1100 hours. He worked on that night till 2200 hours clearing the road ahead.

Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No._____ dated_____



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2. Param Vir: Our Heroes in Battle. Maj Gen Ian Cardozo. (2003). The Lotus Collection, Roli Books Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, India.

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2. India's Wars:A Military History 1947 -1971. Arjun Subramaniam (2016) Harper Collins Publishers. Uttar Pradesh, India.
3. The Major who cleared the way for Army to recapture Rajouri from Pakistani invaders (Accessed on 09 February 2023)
<https://newsable.asianetnews.com/india-defence/the-major-who-cleared-the-way-for-army-to-recapture-rajouri-from-pakistani-invaders-vpn-qvbhai>
4. Bombay Sappers gets Major RR Rane's Param Vir Chakra (Accessed on 09 February 2023)
<https://www.thebridgechronicle.com/pune/bombay-sappers-gets-major-rr-rane%E2%80%99s-param-vir-chakra-45915>
5. Bombay Sappers: A Saga of 200 Years (Accessed on 09 February 2023)
<https://www.thebridgechronicle.com/opinion/bombay-sappers-saga-200-yrs-46163>
6. Bombay Sappers & Miners (Accessed on 09 February 2023)
https://wiki.fibis.org/w/Bombay_Sappers_and_Miners



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VIDEOS

PM Modi participates in ceremony to name 21 unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar

(Source: YouTube **PMO India**)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1PEUqeVLfM&t=2s>

Param Vir Chakra Episode 3 2nd Lt Rama Raghoba Rane (Source: YouTube [The Militarians](#))

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odE5hMiRTeE&list=PLqMM_ipMmTS8iQ5nCZGpKfKwxYj5x3g-1&index=3

Gallantry of Major Rama Raghoba Rane – The story of a hero | Tales of Valour | Epic (Source: The EPIC Channel)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itEqwet7A84>

Biography of Major Rama Raghoba Rane, Fought against Pakistani infiltrators in 1948

#ParamVirChakra (YouTube StudyIQ IAS)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4zKuv8G-BY>

Param Vir Chakra Major Ram Raghoba Rane (Source: YouTube [Remember theirsacrifices1](#))

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPU3BYATxUs>

Param Veer Chakra - Episode 5 - Major Rama Raghoba Rane (Source: YouTube GS World IAS Institute)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ep3rMLm5-Rg>

राम राघोबा राणे की वीर गाथा | indian army | param vir chakra | indo pak war (Source: YouTube Military Base)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6Hm1xpd89M>

Param Veer Chakra 2nd Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane || Indo - Pak 1947-48 Part -7

(Source: YouTube [Cavalry man](#))

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qw9UqHUfGzE>

Param Vir Chakra 3 | Rama Raghoba Rane की वीरता की कहानी | YRY18 Live (Source: YouTube Yry18 Live)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJfFe6vkAtY>

Disclaimer**⁶

⁶ Disclaimer: Photos, links to publications and videos presented here are not intended to serve as a substitute for consultation and should only be used at the user's own risk. These are primarily shared because of the extensive



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MEMORIALS

- Second lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane memorial in Pristine Beach of Karwar. It was inaugurated by Shivanand Naik, former Minister for Small Industries, and presided over by then Flag Officer Commander-in-Chief, Western Command, Vice Admiral Sangram Singh Byce.



Source: <https://newsriveting.com/who-is-lieutenant-rama-raghoba-rane-whom-the-prime-minister-referred-to/>

- Second lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane statue at Param Yodha Sthal, National War Memorial, New Delhi.



Source: <https://nationalwarmemorial.gov.in/param-yoddhas/details/6>

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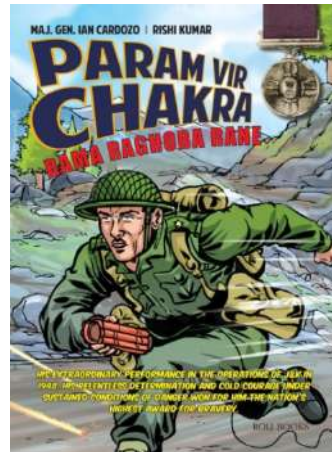
- The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), a Government of India enterprise under the aegis of the Ministry of Shipping, named fifteen of her crude oil tankers in honour of the Param Vir Chakra recipients. The crude oil tanker named MT Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane, PVC was delivered to SCI on 8 August 1984. The tanker was phased out after 25 years of service.



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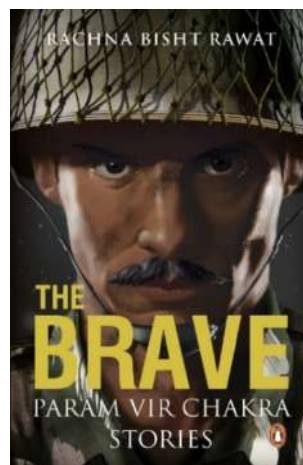
OTHER INTERESTING RESOURCES⁷

- 1) Roli Comics- 'Param Vir Chakra: Rama Raghoba Rane' is comic by Major General Ian Cardozo and Rishi Kumar. It was published in 2018 by Roli Books, India.



Source: Source: <https://rolibooks.com/product/param-vir-chakra-rama-raghoba-rane/>

- 2) Book- A book titled 'The Brave: Param Vir Chakra Stories' by renowned author Rachna Bisht Rawat narrates engaging tales of valour of our twenty-one Param Vir Chakra awardees. It was published by Penguin, India in 2014.



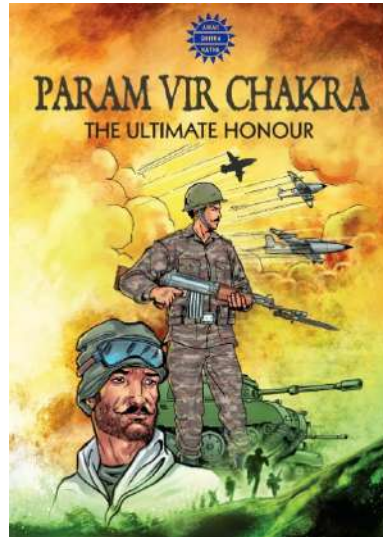
Source: <https://www.amazon.in>

⁷ Disclaimer: The content mentioned under the Listicles constitutes fair-use of any copyright material and is used for information and research purpose only. The content is in no way promoting or branding an individual, organisation, book or film.



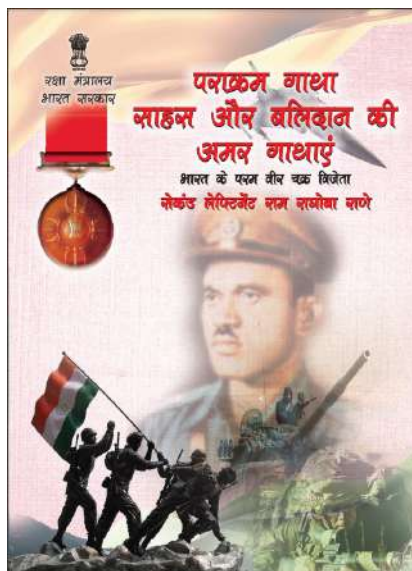
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- 3) Amar Chitra Katha- To honour 21 Param Vir Chakra Recipients, a special comic titled 'Param Vir Chakra: The Ultimate Honour' was published on 1 January 2015. The book is the result of combined efforts by the Indian Army and Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd.



Source: Source: <https://www.amazon.in>

- 4) Magazine: Published by Ministry of Defence on Second Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane



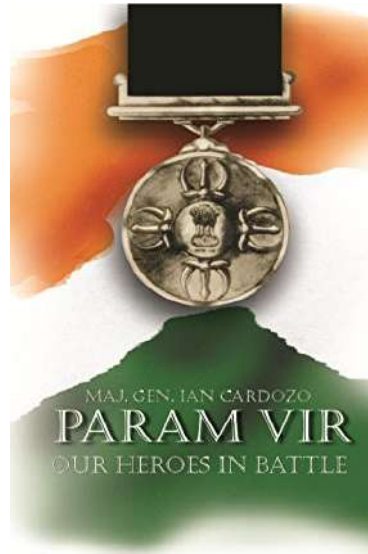
Source: Source:

<https://www.gallantryawards.gov.in/assets/images//books/books/1617707377-3.pdf>



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- 5) Book- Param Vir: Our Heroes in Battle by Major General Cardozo was published in 2003 by The Lotus Collection, Roli Books Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi. The book provides its readers a vivid description of the gallant actions of India's Param Vir Chakra winners.



Source: Source: <https://www.amazon.in>