



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



COMPANY HAVILDAR MAJOR PIRU SINGH

SERVICE NUMBER	2831592
RANK	Company Havildar Major
NAME	Piru Singh
SON OF	Lal Singh
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	6 RAJPUTANA RIFLES
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	20 May 1936
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Param Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 18 July 1948
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	1947-1948 Indo Pak War
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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Company Havildar Major (CHM) Piru Singh was born on 20 May 1918 in village Rampura Beri, District Churu, Rajasthan. He was the youngest among his siblings. He joined the Indian Army on 20 May 1936 at the age of 18. He had initially served in 10/1 PUNJAB and 5/1 PUNJAB and later participated in World War II.¹ Within a few years after joining the army, he passed the Indian Army First Class certificate of Education and was promoted to the rank of Lance Naik on 07 August 1940. In September 1941, he was posted as an instructor at the Punjab Regimental Centre and was appointed as Company Havildar Major in May 1945.² Later when he returned from the war in September 1947, he was assigned to the 6 RAJPUTANA RIFLES because the Indian Army had been reorganised. During the Indo-Pak War of 1947-1948, CHM Piru Singh participated in the Battle at Darapari in Tithwal in J&K, where he fought gallantly and displayed exemplary leadership.

Rajputana Rifles is the senior most rifle regiment of the Indian Army. Its first battalion was raised in January 1775. The Rajputana Rifles has a long and glorious history. The regiment took part in some of the bloodiest battles in many theatres of the world. During World War II, the battalions of this regiment fought in every theatre in which the Indian Army was involved. Three of them, the 1st, 4th and medium machine gun battalions fought in Eritrea in North Africa and Italy as part of the famous 4th Indian Division, whose fighting record was one of the finest in World War II. Post-independence the regiment took part in many battles and operations including the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Congo. The Rajputana Rifles fought gallantly in the 1965 and 1971 India Pakistan wars.

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 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

¹ Honourpoint: An Online Memorial for every Indian Soldier,
<https://www.honourpoint.in/profile/chm-piru-singh-pvc/>

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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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.

Darapari is a hill feature in Tithwal Valley over 1100 feet high. 6 RAJPUTANA RIFLES was tasked to capture Tithwal valley. The battalion was informed that the enemy did not have enough time to dig-in extensively and therefore could be easily dislodged. However, the information received was inaccurate and the battalion did not have enough time to conduct proper reconnaissance of the enemy position. The attack for the capture of Darapari was to take place at 0130 Hr on the night of 17/18 July 1948. CHM Piru Singh's platoon was leading the assault. When platoon commander Subedar Bhika Singh was hit, CHM Singh took command and led his gallant platoon against the murderous fire coming from the enemy deployed in well-dug trenches and bunkers on high ground.

D Company, of which CHM Piru Singh was part of, was detailed to attack and capture an enemy-occupied hill feature at South of Tithwal. The enemy had well dug in their positions, sited MMG to cover likely approaches. D Company's offensive was greeted with strong MMG fire from both flanks as it approached. The enemy lobbed grenades and brought down heavy fire at CHM Singh's platoon from their bunkers. Company Havildar Major Piru Singh was then assigned to the company's forward-most section. He remained steadfast despite seeing more than half of the section slain or wounded. He encouraged the remaining men with battle cries and moved forward with tremendous purpose onto the nearest enemy MMG position. With complete disregard to his personal safety, he continued to advance, despite grenade splinters shredding his garments. Taking over the MMG position he neutralised the enemy gun crew with stengun fire.

In a daring act, he jumped on the MMG crew bayoneting them to death. CHM Singh realised that he was the sole survivor of the section and the rest were either dead or wounded. Shortly later, another grenade was thrown at him, which wounded his face. With blood dripping from his wounds on his face, he crawled out of the trench, hurling grenades at the next enemy position. He gave a loud battle cry, then jumped on the occupants of the next trench bayoneting two to death. As he came from the second trench to charge the third enemy bunker, he was shot in the head by a bullet and last seen falling into the enemy trench. There was an explosion in the trench, indicating that his grenades had done their job.

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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Company Havildar Major Piru Singh laid down his life in the highest tradition of the Indian Army. He left behind a legacy of exemplary leadership, conspicuous courage and undeterred determination. He was awarded Param Vir Chakra (Posthumous).



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CITATION

Company Havildar Major Piru Singh, 6 RAJPUTANA RIFLES (Posthumous).
(Effective date of award—18 July 1948).

South of Tithwal, 'D' Company, of which No 2831592 Piru Singh, was Havildar Major was detailed to attack and capture an enemy-occupied hill feature. The enemy had well dug in positions and had sited his MMGs so as to cover all possible approaches. As the attack advanced, it was met with heavy MMG fire from both flanks. Volleys of grenades were hurled down from enemy bunkers. Company Havildar Major Piru Singh was then with the forward-most section of the company. Seeing more than half of the Section killed or wounded, he did not lose courage. With battle cries, he encouraged the remaining men and rushed forward with great determination onto the nearest enemy MMG position. Grenade splinters ripping his clothes and wounding him at several places, he continued to advance without the least regard for his safety. He was on top of the MMG position wounding the gun crew with Sten gunfire. With complete disregard for his bleeding wounds, he made a mad jump on the MMG crew bayoneting them to death, thus silencing the gun. By then he suddenly realized that he was the sole survivor of the section, the rest of them either dead or wounded. Another grenade thrown at him wounded him in the face. With blood dripping from his face wounds in his eyes, he crawled out of the trench, hurling grenades at the next enemy position.

With a loud battle cry, he jumped on the occupants of the next trench bayonetting two to death. This action was witnessed by C company Commander who was directing fire in support of the attacking Company.

As Havildar Major Piru Singh emerged out of the 2nd trench to charge on the 3rd enemy bunker he was hit in the head by a bullet and was seen dropping on the edge of the enemy trench. There was an explosion in the trench which showed that his grenades had done its work. By then CHM Piru Singh's wounds had proved fatal.

He had paid with his life for his singularly brave act but he had left for the rest of his comrades a unique example of single-handed bravery and determined cold courage.



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3. Meet brave Major Piru Singh- the man who died but saved Kashmir in 1947 Indo-Pak War. (TheYouth.in) (Accessed on 13 October 2022)
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VIDEOS

1. A narration of the story of Company Havildar Major Piru Singh

<https://youtu.be/TRVSMYK0CME>

2. Param Vir Chakra Company Havildar Major Piru Singh

<https://youtu.be/RRz5pXrfczQ>

****Disclaimer⁴**

MEMORIALS

A bust of Company Havildar Major Piru Singh has been installed at the National War Memorial, New Delhi within the Param Yodha Sthal.



⁴ DISCLAIMER:

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A statue of Company Havildar Piru Singh has been installed in his village at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.



Battle of Tithwal on a bronze mural being displayed at the National War Memorial where soldiers of 6 Rajputana Rifles can be seen charging at the enemy.





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OTHER INTERESTING RESOURCES⁵

BOOKS

Fig 1: Param Vir by Major General Ian Cardozo

Fig 2: The Brave: Param Vir Chakra by Rachna Bisht Rawat

Fig 3: Parakram Gatha: Immortal Stories of Courage and Sacrifice, Company Havildar Major Piru Singh



Fig 1

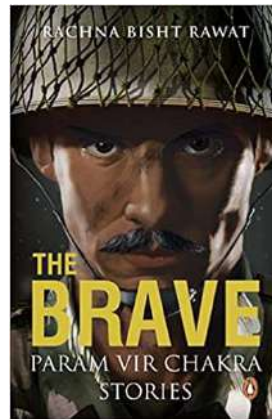


Fig 2

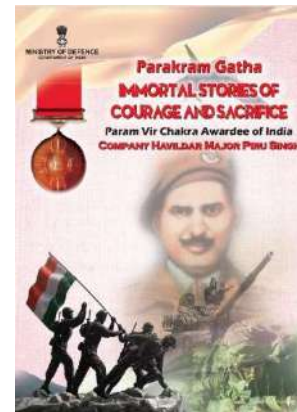


Fig 3

FILMS

A TV show on Company Havildar Major Piru Singh was aired in 1988 directed by Aslam Khan and starred Gufi Paintal, Sameer Rajda and others.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10011692/>

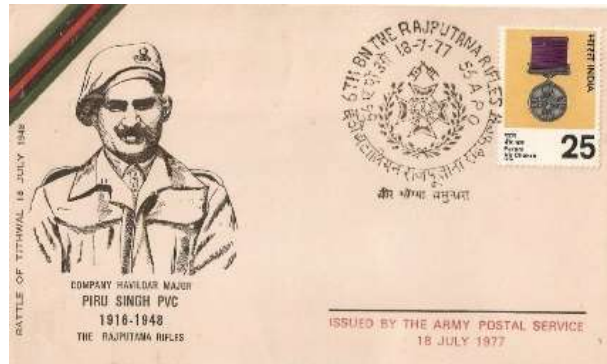
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REMEMBRANCE

First day cover on Company Havildar Major Piru Singh was issued by the Army Postal Service dated 18 July 1977.



The Shipping Corporation of India Ltd (SCI), named fifteen of her Crude Oil Tankers in honour of the Param Vir Chakra recipients. The crude oil tanker named MT “Company Havildar Major Piru Singh, PVC” was delivered to SCI on 12 October 1984.⁶



⁶ Honourpoint: An Online Memorial for every Indian Soldier. (Accessed on 13 October 2022)
<https://www.honourpoint.in/profile/chm-piru-singh-pvc/>