



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



SUBEDAR AJIT SINGH

SERVICE NUMBER	JC-18340
RANK (At the time of Award)	Subedar
NAME	Ajit Singh
SON OF	Ujagar Singh
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Jalandhar, Punjab
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	4 SIKH
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	23 May 1952
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 06 September 1965
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	1965 Indo Pak War
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	

Subedar Ajit Singh was born on 08 April 1933 to Shri Ujagar Singh in Sobhana village in the Jalandhar District of Punjab. He joined the Army at the age of 19 years and was enrolled into the Sikh Regiment on 23 May 1952. During the Indo-Pak war in 1965, Subedar Ajit Singh's unit, 4 Sikh, was deployed in Punjab Sector, South of Amritsar.

The Sikh Regiment is one of the highest decorated regiments of the Indian Army. It came into existence on 01 August 1846, with the raising of Regiment of Ferozepore Sikhs and Regiment of Ludhiana Sikhs by Captain G Tebbs and Lieutenant Colonel P Gordon respectively. They participated effectively in the 1857 First War of Independence. This war proved to be beneficial for the Sikhs as it revealed their valour and fighting tenacity. They soon earned a rank of seniority over other Indian Sepoys. Under the British Indian Army, the Sikh Regiment fought gallantly in a number of war and battles including the Battle of Saragarhi in which they left an indelible mark in the regiment's history. By 1914 the Sikh Regiment was deployed as part of British Indian Army for operations in World War I. The Regiment served in all theatres of operations and earned 28 battle honours. The modern Sikh Regiment traces its roots directly from the 11th Sikh Regiment of the British Indian Army. When transferred to the Indian Army post-Independence, the numeral 11 was removed and new battalions were added. 1 SIKH was later mechanised in 1970 and re-designated as 4 MECHANISED INFANTRY on 02 April 1979.

The genesis of the Indo-Pak conflict can be traced back to the year 1947. The bone of contention between India and Pakistan are the attempts by Pakistan to annex the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir by any means. The ceasefire line in Jammu and Kashmir and our frontiers with Pakistan have remained a sensitive zone for years. Pakistan has on and off resorted to firing, incursions and intrusions at several points of these frontiers, compelling India to adopt defensive measures. These attempts of Pakistan have been met by the Indian Armed Forces with commendable bravery and steely resilience, but always with great restraint to not escalate the conflict. The Indo-Pak war of 1965 was the second war fought between these two bordering countries. While India was still recovering from the Sino-India war of 1962, Pakistan saw it as an opportunity to acquire Jammu and Kashmir with might, presuming India to be weak in terms of defence preparation. The war began on 24 April 1965, when the Pakistan Army attacked Indian territory in the Rann of Kutch and penetrated six to eight miles inside the Indian territory. This act of illegal occupation of Indian territory constituted violation of the Indo-Pak Border Agreement, 1960 and the international law as per the United Nations Charter. The Pakistani forces subsequently intruded in Kashmir with the launch of Operation Gibraltar.

On the 06 September 1965, GOC 7 Infantry Division ordered Brig Ferris, Commander 65 Infantry Brigade, to resume advance at 0700 hours next morning, by which time the bailey bridge over the Hudiara drain was expected to be ready. The GOC appreciated the Pakistani strength in the area at two infantry battalions, supported by a squadron of armour and a regiment of artillery, reduced of course by the casualties suffered at Hudiara. He allotted the following additional troops to the Brigade:

- a) Under Command – Central Indian Horse (Shermans) less one squadron; 94 Field Company; and Tentacle with ACT.
- b) In direct support – 165 Field Regiment
- c) In support – 7 Artillery Brigade less 165 Field Regiment, one battery 66 Field Regiment and 82 Light Regiment.

Brig Ferris had no time for reconnaissance. His appreciation was, therefore, based on a general study of the area and perusal of maps, including the one captured from a Pakistani. Finally, he decided to secure Barka Kalan. The causeway and the bailey bridge, 200 yards to the west of Hudiara, became operational by 1545 hours on 07 September. Soon after, 9 MADRAS with B

Squadron Central India Horse advanced to capture Barka Kalan and secured it by 1800 hours despite heavy firing from the village. A half-hearted counter-attack launched by Pakistani troops was beaten back.

North of the road, the 16 PUNJAB patrols were subjected to firing from the Barka Khurd village on 08 September. 65 Infantry Brigade decided to capture it and the task was entrusted to 16 PUNJAB. The Battalion launched the attack at 2030 hours on 09 September and captured Barka Khurd by 2100 hours, without suffering any casualty.

7 Infantry Division maintained relentless pressure on the Pakistani defenders and advanced further to capture Barki on its way to the Ichhogil Canal. The task was entrusted to 65 Infantry Brigade, which decided to complete it in 2 Phases.

Phase I: 4 SIKH to capture the Barki Village

Phase II: 16 PUNJAB to capture the east bank of Ichhogil and destroy the Barki Brigade.

Prior to launching of the attack by 4 SIKH, Indian guns engaged known Pakistani positions from 1930 hours to 1955 hours. From 1955 hours to 2000 hours, the positions at Barki and along the East bank of the Canal were neutralised. At 2000 hours, the Division artillery, including 5 Field Regiment, effectively engaged Barki Village and covered the advance of 4 SIKH. When the assaulting troops neared the objective, Central India Horse less two Squadrons moved forward to provide fire support to them. In the moonlit night, the Indian armour sprayed the canal bank and the village with fire, effectively. The Indian advance was, however, held up by a well-sited enemy gun position. Subedar Ajit Singh was assigned the task of destroying the gun emplacement which was holding up the Indian attack. In complete disregard of his safety, the Subedar Ajit Singh charged the emplacement single-handedly. Though wounded in the chest by a burst of medium machine gun, he pressed home the attack and destroyed the post by lobbing a grenade through a loophole in the emplacement. Sub Ajit Singh's gallant act not only removed the menace of the machine gun but also inspired his comrades to destroy the enemy position. Subedar Ajit Singh later succumbed to his injuries and was martyred. 4 SIKH captured Barki Village after overcoming all resistance by 2110 hours. The defenders, lodged in pill boxes, were either killed or captured.

According to GOC, 7 Infantry Division, continuous firing by the Indian armour at night, led Pakistanis to believe that the Indians had brought in new tanks with night vision, and hence they abandoned Barki out of fear. It is said that the Pakistanis took away four truck-loads of corpses from the battlefield of Barki. In this battle 4 SIKH suffered 3 JCOs and 20 ORs killed and 2 Officers, 1 JCO and 93 ORs wounded.



A statue of Subedar Ajit Singh

Source:- https://twitter.com/love_for_nation/status/1302477592704901120



A Multi Utility Sports Complex named as Sub Ajit Sports Centre was inaugurated by Lt Gen JS Cheema, GOC, Vajra Corps in Jalandhar in April 2016.

Source:- https://twitter.com/love_for_nation/status/1302477592704901120

During the assault on Barki, Subedar Ajit Singh of 4 SIKH displayed great courage. Though wounded in the chest by a machine gun burst, he crawled forward and lobbed a grenade inside a Pakistani bunker and destroyed it. He was honoured with the MahaVir Chakra, posthumously.

CITATION

JC-18340 Subedar Ajit Singh, 4th Battalion, the Sikh Regiment (Posthumous)
(Effective date of award–6th September 1965)

On the 6th September, 1965, during the attack on Burki Village in Pakistan. Subedar Ajit Singh was given the task of destroying a gun emplacement that was holding up the attack. In complete disregard of his safety, he charged the emplacement single-handed and though wounded in the chest by a burst of medium machine gun he pressed home the attack and destroyed the post by lobbing a grenade through a loophole in the emplacement. This gallant act not only removed the menace of the machine gun post but also inspired his comrade to destroy the enemy position. Subedar Ajit Singh subsequently succumbed to his injuries.

In this action, Subedar Ajit Singh displayed supreme courage and devotion to duty of an exceptional order.

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

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