



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



LANCE NAIK RAN BAHADUR GURUNG

SERVICE NUMBER	5333223
RANK	Lance Naik
NAME	Ran Bahadur Gurung
SON OF	Shri Krishana Bahadur Gurung
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Village Pakhrikot, Lamjung, Nepal
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	3/1 GORKHA RIFLES
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	6 October 1952
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 6 December 1961
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	UN Mission in Congo
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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Lance Naik Ran Bahadur Gurung was born on 6 October 1935 in a village Pakhrihat of Lamjung district in Nepal. He was enrolled in 3/1 Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army on 6 October 1952.

The first battalion of the Gorkha Regiment was raised in April 1815, after the Anglo-Nepalese War. At the time of Indian independence in 1947, 3/1 Gorkha Rifles was transferred to the Indian Army as part of the Tripartite Agreement signed between India, Nepal and Britain. Prior to independence, the regiment was known as the 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles. In 1950, the regiment's title was changed to 3 Gorkha Rifles. Since 1947, the regiment has participated in a number of wars and conflict situations including the 1947-48 and 1971 wars between India and Pakistan. The regiment has five battalions – 1/1 GR, 2/1 GR, 3/1 GR, 4/1 GR and 5/1 GR. 3/1 GR was part of the 99 Infantry Brigade Group which marked Indian presence in the United Nations Peacekeeping operation called the Opération des Nations Unies au Congo (ONUC) in 1961-62. The battalion's motto is "Kayar Hunu Bhandra Marnu Ramro" (Better to die than live like a coward).

The Republic of Congo (now Democratic Republic of Congo) gained independence from its colonial master, Belgium, in 1960. However, the newly independent nation soon descended into a series of conflicts. The Congolese government appealed to the United Nations (UN) for aid and assistance of a multilateral force to contain the violence and maintain peace in the strife-torn country. The ONUC was established on 14 July 1960 under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 143. The initial mandate of ONUC was to ensure the withdrawal of Belgian forces from the Republic of the Congo, assist the Congolese government in maintaining law and order, and provide technical assistance. Subsequently, ONUC became embroiled in a chaotic internal situation of extreme complexity and had to be converted into an UN peacekeeping operation which allowed limited use of military force. The Force was designed to protect the Congo from outside interference, particularly by evacuating foreign mercenaries and advisers from Katanga and preventing clashes and civil strife, by force, if necessary, as a last resort. In 1961-62, secessionist gendarmes under the command of foreign mercenaries clashed with the UN Force. At its peak, ONUC had 20,000 troops, including a brigade from India. In February 1963, after Katanga had been reintegrated into the national territory of Congo, ONUC began to be phased out. It was finally dissolved on 30 June 1964.



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On 6 December 1961, when the 3/1 Gorkha Rifles were attacking the hostile positions in Katanga, they came under the intense fire from the opposing forces. Lance Naik Ran Bahadur Gurung, was second- in- command with one of the sections of the platoon. He crawled for approximately 300 meters with his bren gun and closed in on the enemy post, killing nine occupants. However, his section came under fire from an enemy medium machine gun located on a nearby ridge. A sudden burst of fire from the ridge killed this brave Indian soldier on the spot.

Lance Naik Ran Bahadur Singh was awarded Maha Vir Chakra for his outstanding courage, unparalleled devotion to duty and gallantry, posthumously.



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CITATION

No. 5333223 L/Naik Ran Bahadur Gurung, 3 Bn., 1st Gorkha Rifles (Posthumous).
(Effective date of award – 6th December 1961)

On 6th December 1961, when our troops were attacking enemy positions in Katanga, they came under intense machine gun and rifle fire. L/Nk Ran Bahadur Gurung who was second in command of one of the sections of a platoon crawled approximately 300 yards with his Bren Group and closed in on the enemy post. The party was under fire not only from the enemy post which they were attacking but also from an enemy medium machine gun located on a nearby ridge. L/Nk Gurung successfully destroyed the enemy post, killing all the nine personnel therein. He himself was, however, killed by a burst of machine gun fire from the ridge area.

L/Nk Ran Bahadur Gurung's undaunted personal courage, exemplary devotion to duty and conspicuous gallantry in the face of the enemy was in the best traditions of the Army.

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



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