



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**



### LIEUTENANT VED PRAKASH TREHAN

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	IC-11137
<b>RANK</b>	Lieutenant
<b>NAME</b>	Ved Prakash Trehan
<b>SON OF</b>	Rup Lal Trehan
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Gurdaspur, Punjab
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	4 Rajputana Rifles
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>	14 December 1958
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 29 December 1962
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	UN Mission in Congo
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



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Lieutenant Ved Prakash Trehan was born in Gurdaspur district of Punjab on 14 December 1937. He was commissioned into the Rajputana Rifles of the Indian Army on 14 December 1958.

The Rajputana Rifles was raised in 1921 as 6th Rajputana Rifles following the merger of six British Indian army regiments. In 1945 the numeral sign “6” was dropped and it became the Rajputana Rifles. It is India’s first rifle regiment. A rifle regiment is so called because all infantry troops in the regiment were armed with rifles. This was at a time when most soldiers fought with muskets or swords. The soldiers of a rifle regiment were known as riflemen. The area of Rajputana comprises of more than 20 princely states, notably Bikaner, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, and Ajmer, during the British rule. All these states merged with the Indian Union following independence in 1947. The Regiment has a fair combination of Jat and Rajput. The battle cry of the Rajputana Rifles is “Raja Ramchandra ki Jai” (Hail Lord Rama). 4 RAJ RIF was part of 99 Infantry Brigade Group in ONUC from 1961-63.

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 29 December 1962, Lieutenant Trehan was leading a patrol that pushed forward through dense jungle and reached about 100 meters from the enemy trenches. Here he came under intense machine gun and rifle fire. Trying to maneuver to the right flank, the patrol encountered heavy fire in that direction also. The encirclement of the patrol was near complete. Seeking a breakthrough, and completely unmindful of his personal safety, he charged the many enemy positions with determination and in a closely fought battle at close range, extricated the patrol and fulfilled the task assigned to him. He was mortally wounded in this bold action.

Lt. Ved Prakash Trehan received a Maha Vir Chakra for his bold leadership, raw grit and courage in the true traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra, posthumously.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Stories of Heroism: Param Vir Chakra and Mahavir Chakra Winners. History Division, Ministry of Defence, Government of India. (pg no. 375)



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## CITATION

Lieutenant Ved Prakash Trehan (IC-11137), The Rajputana Rifles. (Posthumous)  
(Effective date of award – 29<sup>th</sup> December 1962.)

On 29<sup>th</sup> December 1962, Lieutenant Ved Prakash Trehan was in command of a special patrol prior to an attack by the Fourth Battalion of the Rajputana Rifles on an enemy position at a road junction in Congo. The officer was given the task of locating and drawing fire from this strongly held enemy position. He was also directed to take deceptive measures to mislead the enemy about the direction of the Battalion's attack.

Lieutenant Trehan pushed forward with his patrol through dense jungle and reached about 100 yards from the enemy trenches, where he came under intense machine gun and rifle fire. Trying to maneuver to the right flank, the patrol came under heavy enemy fire from that direction also. Realizing that the patrol was being surrounded he charged the enemy positions with great determination and silenced them. He thus extricated his patrol and fulfilled the task assigned to him but was mortally wounded and killed in the action.

The supreme sacrifice and devotion to duty displayed by Lieutenant Ved Prakash Trehan were in the best traditions of the Army.

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



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## REFERENCES

1. Stories of Heroism: Param Vir Chakra and Mahavir Chakra Winners. History Division, Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Portraits of Valour: India's Highest Gallantry Awards and Their Recipients. The Defence Review. 2006.