



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



HONORARY SUBEDAR SANWAL RAM (Then JEMADAR)

SERVICE NUMBER	IO-57421
RANK	Honorary Subedar (Then Jemadar)
NAME	Sanwal Ram
SON OF	Arjan Ram
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Village Ranasar, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	6 RAJ RIF
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	31 August 1929
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Vir Chakra / 18 April 1948
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	1947-48 Indo-Pak War
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE

Honorary Subedar (then Jemadar) Sanwal Ram was born on 31 August 1911 in Ranasar village in Jhunjhunu District of Rajasthan. His father's name was Arjan Ram. Jemadar Sanwal Ram was enrolled into 6 RAJ RIF on 31 August 1929 at the age of eighteen. He fought in the first Indo-Pak war of 1948-48 and displayed considerable skill and gallantry in the defence of 'Subash' picquet in Uri, Jammu & Kashmir. It was a vital post for the defence of Uri. He was awarded Vir Chakra for his conspicuous bravery in the face of enemy.

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 as well as during the 1999 Kargil Conflict.

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.¹ 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.

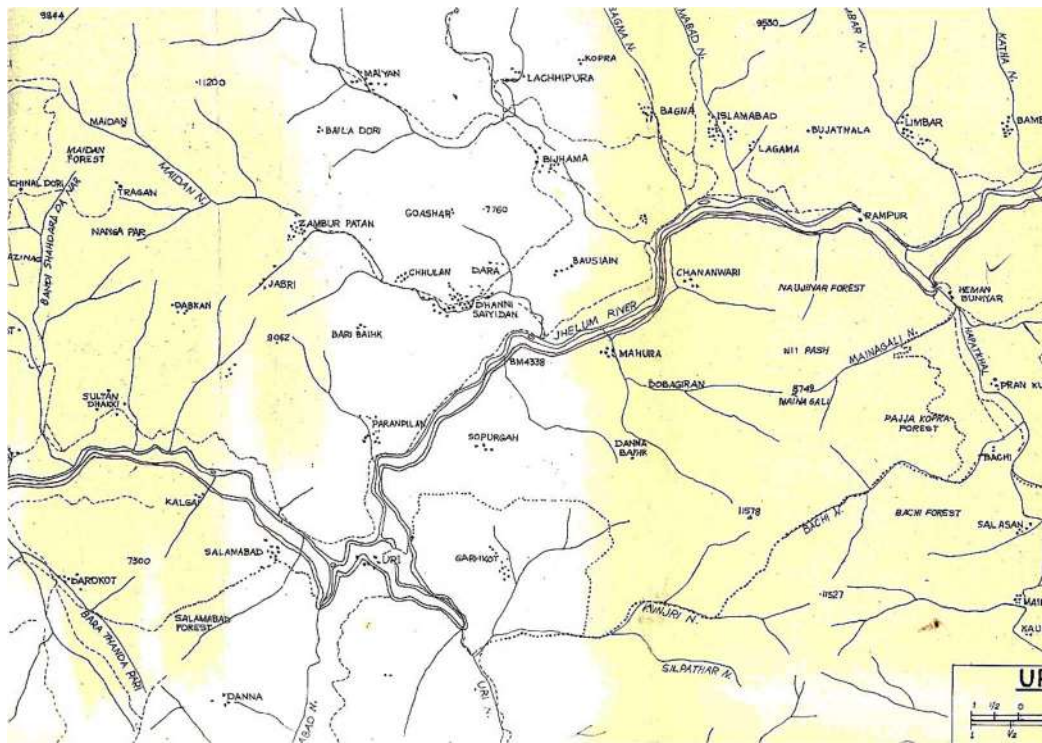
During the war, when enemy pressure increased in Uri-Mahura Sector in April 1948, two battalions 6 RAJ RIF and 2 DOGRA were manning the picquets in Uri. 6 RAJ RIF was garrisoned at Chauhan, Subash, Ashoka, Man, Ranjit, Nalwa and a picquet a little to the East in Uri Sector.

¹ Operations in Jammu and Kashmir S.N. Prasad. Dr. Dharam Pal (2005). Natraj Publishers and Ministry of Defence, Government of India



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE

‘Subash’ was a bare isolated feature overlooked by a long feature about 245 metres higher. ‘Chauhan’ was about 900 metres South of the spur which ended abruptly in a steep cliff and ‘Ashoka’ was about 630 metres in the north separated by a forest of pine tree. It was in the middle of the April, when with the advent of the spring, the enemy launched fierce assaults on the Indian picquets, especially ‘Subash’, ‘Ashoka’ and ‘Nalwa’. On 18 April, enemy movements were observed in the area of Kalagai and by the close of the day their activities indicated an attack during the following night. At about 1815 hours on 18 April, the enemy launched an attack on first ‘Subash’ picquet and then ‘Ashoka’ picquet but were unable to dislodge Indian troops from the two picquets. Both attacks were beaten back with heavy losses to the enemy. By 2300 hours, having failed both attacks, the enemy launched an attack on the third picquet ‘Nalwa’. This picquet was key to defences of Uri and was spoken of as ‘Uri Ka Morcha’. During this attack, the enemy didn’t dare to come near the picquet for launching the attack and used long range arms. The attack was again repelled by the Indian troops and enemy suffered heavy losses.²



Uri sector during 1947-48 India Pakistan War

Source: Operations in Jammu & Kashmir 1947-48. S. N. Prasad, DharmPal. History Division, Ministry of Defence. Thomson Press (India) Limited. New Delhi (1987)

² Operations in Jammu and Kashmir S.N. Prasad. Dr. Dharam Pal (2005). Natraj Publishers and Ministry of Defence, Government of India



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE

During these attacks, it was 'Subash' picquet that bore the most burnt. The credit for repelling the attack on this picquet was given to Jemadar Sanwal Ram who was commanding the garrison there. On 18 April 1948, the enemy approximately 250 strong, supported by 3-inch mortar, Medium Machine Guns (MMGs) and Light Machine Guns (LMGs) made persistent attacks on 'Subash' picquet vital for the defence of Uri. The shots, however, fell short of the picquet and no damage was done. But an attack came around 1835 hours, when two platoons of the enemy emerged out of the jungle and advanced up the spur to attack the picquet. The fire was intense and heavy. The men garrisoning the picquet reserved their fire waiting for enemy to draw nearer. Jemadar Sanwal Ram, who was commanding the garrison completely disregarded his personal safety and went from post to post in pitch darkness encouraging his men and at the same time hurling grenades at the enemy. They brought fire from their guns on to the enemy turning enemy's war cries into pitiable moans of wounded and the dying. The enemy, having failed to over-run the position in three waves, made a final desperate attempt to rush in. At this moment, Jemadar Sanwal Ram went forward under incessant enemy fire and killed five enemy soldiers with his sten gun and grenade. After five hours of grim fighting, found several enemy dead lying in front of Jemadar Sanwal Ram's post.

Throughout the action, Jemadar Sanwal Ram acted with coolness and daring of the highest order. He demonstrated exceptional courage, devotion to duty and was awarded Vir Chakra for his gallantry in the face of enemy.



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE

CITATION

On 18 April 1948, the enemy approximately 250 strong, supported by 3-inch mortar, MMGs and LMGs made persistent attacks on a picquet vital for the defence of Uri. The main attack came from the south on a platoon which was commanded by Jemadar Sanwal Ram. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Jemadar Sanwal Ram went from post to post in pitch darkness encouraging his men and at the same time hurling grenades at the enemy. The enemy, having failed to over-run the position in three waves, made a final desperate attempt to rush in. At this moment, Jemadar Sanwal Ram went forward under incessant enemy fire and killed five enemy soldiers with his sten gun and grenade. After five hours of grim fighting, dawn found several enemy dead lying in front of Jemadar Sanwal Ram's post. Throughout the action, this JCO acted with coolness and daring of the highest order.

Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No._____ dated_____



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE

REFERENCES

1. Param Vir: Our Heroes in Battle. Maj Gen Ian Cardozo. (2003). The Lotus Collection, Roli Books Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, India.
2. Operations in Jammu & Kashmir 1947-48. S. N. Prasad, DharmPal. History Division, Ministry of Defence. Thomson Press (India) Limited. New Delhi (1987)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. India's Wars:A Military History 1947 -1971. Arjun Subramaniam (2016) Harper Collins Publishers. Uttar Pradesh, India.
2. Insights into Infantry Regiments: A Basic Factbook. Ballabh, Anand, Forward Books publications. New Delhi (2013)
3. The Military Heroes of Haryana. Gallantry Award Winners. Volume 1. Lt Col Dilbag Singh Dabas. (2021) Rolleract Press Services, A84, Naraina Ind. Area Phase-1, New Delhi, India
4. Hony Sub Sanwal Ram (Accessed on 17 April 2023)
<http://twdi.in/node/4514>