



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE



**COLONEL BRIJPAL SINGH (Then MAJOR)**

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|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>                                     | IC-2016                          |
| <b>RANK</b>   | Colonel (Then Major)             |
| <b>NAME</b>   | Brijpal Singh                    |
| <b>SON OF</b>   | Dafadar Sukhpal Singh            |
| <b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/<br/>DOMICILE</b> | Village Bapora, Bhiwani, Haryana |
| <b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>                                | 1 RAJPUT                         |
| <b>SERVICE</b>  | Indian Army                      |
| <b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>                      | 16 September 1941                |
| <b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>                               | Vir Chakra / 06 February 1948    |
| <b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>                               | 1947-48 Indo-Pak War             |
| <b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>                             |                                  |



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Colonel (then Major) Brijpal Singh was born on 26 March 1916 in Bapora village, in present day Bhiwani district of Haryana. His father's name was Dafadar Sukhpal Singh. Prior to his retirement in 1940, his father, who was a member of the British Indian Army, had actively fought in both World Wars I and II. After graduating from high school in Bhiwani, Major Singh enrolled in St Stephens College Delhi to pursue a senior secondary degree. He was commissioned into 1 RAJPUT on 16 September 1941.

Major Singh retired as a Colonel in 1966 after 25 years of service in the Army. After his retirement, he joined the newly established Border Security Force (BSF) and worked there as the Deputy Inspector General of Police until June 1972.<sup>1</sup>

The Rajput Regiment is one of the oldest infantry regiments of the Indian Army, tracing its origins to 1778 with the raising of the 24th Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry. The 1st battalion of the regiment was formed in 1798. After World War I, the Indian Army was restructured and most Rajput regiments became battalions of the 7th Rajput Regiment. These included the 2nd Queen Victoria's Own, 4th Prince Albert Victor's, 7th (Duke of Connaught's Own), and 11th Rajputs. Before India gained independence from the British Empire, the regiment consisted of Rajputs and Punjabi Muslims. The regimental insignia is a pair of crossed Rajputi Katars flanked by three Ashoka leaves on either side. This is mounted by the Lion Capital of Ashoka and a scroll below with the words "The Rajput Regiment". The regimental motto of Rajput Regiment is '*Sarvatra Vijaya*' meaning 'Victory everywhere'. 1 RAJPUT was later redesignated as 4 GUARDS.

The Brigade of The Guards is a regiment of the Indian Army. The troops from all parts of the country serve together in various battalions of this regiment. The Brigade of the Guards was raised to implement government's policy of encouraging army recruitment from regions which had been under-represented in the forces. Three of army's oldest battalions - 2 PUNJAB, 1 GRENADIERS, and 1 RAJPTANA RIFLES were converted as the GUARDS battalions in 1949. In 1950 1 RAJPUT was converted to 4 GUARDS. During the first war of Kashmir 1 RAJPUT (4 GUARDS) showed their mettle in the battle of Tain Dhar, where Naik Jadunath Singh fought valiantly and won the first Param Vir Chakra for his Regiment.<sup>2</sup>

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

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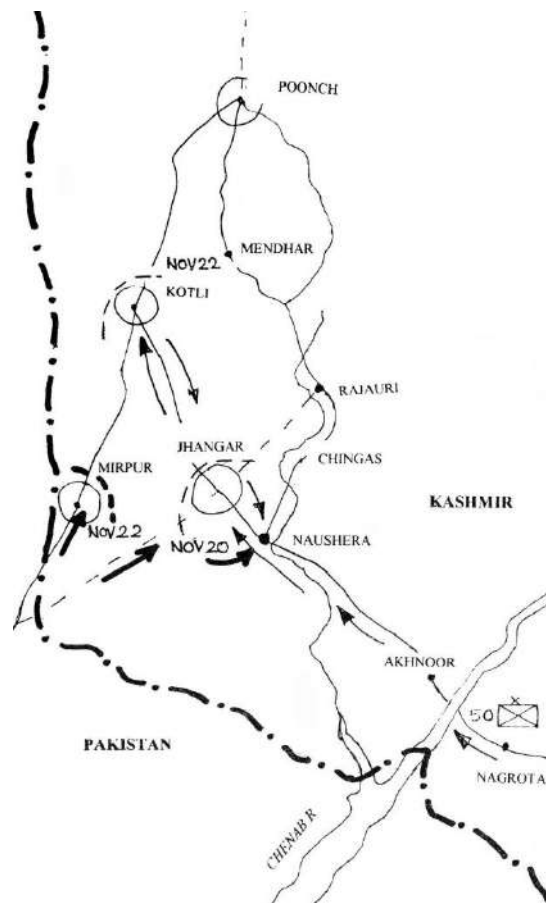
<sup>1</sup> The Military Heroes of Haryana. Gallantry Award Winners. Volume 1. Lt Col Dilbag Singh Dabas. (2021) Roller act Press Services, A84, Naraina Ind. Area Phase-1, New Delhi, India

<sup>2</sup> Ballabh, Anand, Insights into Infantry Regiments: A Basic Factbook. Forward Books publications. New Delhi (2013)



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MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

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.<sup>3</sup> 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.



*Progress of Operations in Jammu Sector during 1947-48 War*

Source: <http://www.indiandefencereview.com/battle-of-rajauri-1948/>

<sup>3</sup> 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

On 01 February 1948, 50 (Independent) PARA Brigade launched an attack at night and captured Naushera by the morning of 02 February. The enemy suffered heavy casualties and withdrew from their position. Enraged at this reverse, Pakistan launched a massive attack from different directions on 06 February 1948 with 15000 raiders to recapture Naushera and a grim battle ensued. Tain Dhar, a hill feature immediately overlooking Naushera received particular attention where repeated attacks were launched by the enemy. 1 RAJPUT held the feature and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. It was here that several gallant actions took place including hard hand to hand fighting.

On 06 February 1948, stung and mortified at the loss of Kot, the enemy launched an all -out attack on Naushera. The picquets at Tain Dhar received the brunt of attack by 3000 Pathans of Swat and Dir, using mortars, machine-guns, and grenades. The enemy under cover of darkness had crept up to the Indian picquets and defensive locations on commanding features. At first light, the men in picquets and posts saw thousands of armed men creeping into the Indian territory. This was also the battle in which the gallant Naik Jadunath Singh was awarded natin's highest gallantry award the Param Vir Chakra for his conspicuous bravery and sacrifice. The battle of Tain Dhar during 1947-48 War has gone down in the annals of military history as one of the toughest battles fought by an Infantry Battalion.

During the battle of Major Brijpal Singh was Second in Command of 1 RAJPUT. On 06 February, he was informed about the near annihilation of the forward most section of his battalion by the enemy but some men were still resisting the enemy's advance and the post had not yet fallen. Since the reinforcement had not yet arrived, Major Singh collected some twelve men from the Battalion Headquarters and rushed forward immediately. After having regrouped, the enemy launched another attack on the post with more vigour. Though heavily outnumbered, the twelve men held on and broke the momentum of the enemy's attack. Major Singh moved from trench to trench, inspiring the men. He kept on inspiring his men to fight the enemy to the last man, which broke the enemy morale, and eventually the enemy had to retreat leaving many casualties behind.<sup>4</sup>

Major Brijpal Singh displayed gallantry, inspiring leadership, and exemplary tenacity throughout the action and was awarded Vir Chakra for his dauntless courage.

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<sup>4</sup> The Military Heroes of Haryana. Gallantry Award Winners. Volume 1. Lt Col Dilbag Singh Dabas. (2021) Roller act Press Services, A84, Naraina Ind. Area Phase-1, New Delhi, India



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## CITATION

Major Brijpal Singh (IC-2016), 1 RAJPUT

On 06 February 1948, the enemy in overwhelming numbers attacked one of our key positions in Naushera. Major Brijpal Singh, who was in charge of a picquet with only two platoons under him, repulsed the attacks several times inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

Regardless of his personal safety, Major Brijpal Singh kept on inspiring his men to fight the enemy to the last man, which broke the enemy morale, and eventually the enemy had to retreat leaving many casualties behind.

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



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3. Insights into Infantry Regiments: A Basic Factbook. Ballabh, Anand, Forward Books publications. New Delhi (2013)