



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



**SUBEDAR & HONORARY LIEUTENANT SHEO CHAND RAM (Then
NAIK)**

SERVICE NUMBER	30239
RANK	Subedar & Honorary Lieutenant (Then Naik)
NAME	Sheo Chand Ram
SON OF	Lekhi Ram
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Village Kulery, Hisar, Haryana
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	2 RAJPUTANA RIFLES
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	23 March 1942
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Vir Chakra /
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	1947-48 Indo-Pak War
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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Subedar & Honorary Lieutenant (Then Naik) Sheo Chand Ram was born in Kulery village in Hissar District of Haryana. His father's name was Lekhi Ram. Hissar and nearby districts have been famous for contributing soldiers to Indian Army since Pre-Independence India. Following in their footsteps, Naik Sheo Chand Ram also enrolled in 120 RAJPUTANA INFANTRY on 23 March 1942. After independence, the battalion was re-designated as 2 RAJPUTANA RIFLES. During the First Indo Pak war of 1947-48, Naik Sheo Chand Ram was awarded Vir Chakra for displaying gallantry of high order. He was also granted the Honorary rank of Lieutenant before he retired from the Army.

The 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 the 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 1947-48, 1965 and 1971 India Pakistan wars. During the Kargil War, the Rajputana Rifles displayed exemplary valour and determination, especially in the Tololing Operation. The 2 RAJ RIF was conferred India's first 'Instant Unit Citation' by General VP Malik, the then Chief of the Army Staff.

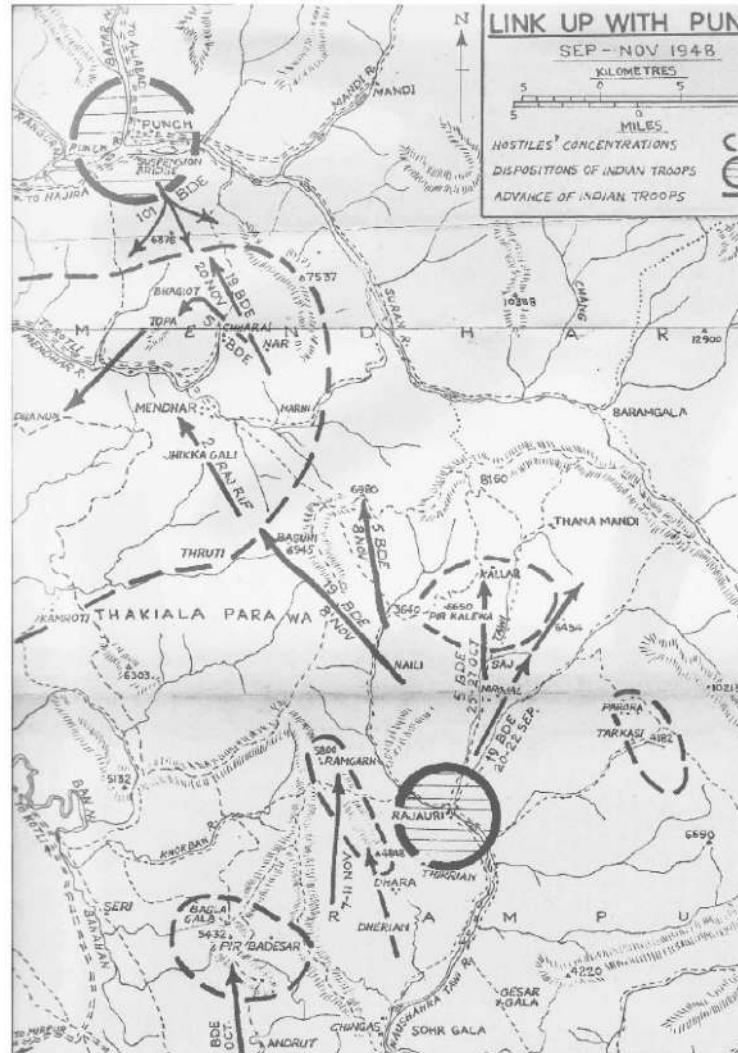
The first Indo-Pak war fought between the independent countries of India and Pakistan began in 1947. The bone of contention between India and Pakistan were the attempts by Pakistan to annex the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir by any means. On the map of India, the state of Jammu and Kashmir appeared 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

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



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Afghanistan, extending to China and separating Tajikistan from Gilgit-Baltistan, was to the North West.



Link Up with Poonch: 1947-48 Indo Pak War

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

By the end of May 1948, the Poonch Brigade had succeeded in consolidating its position. The stage was now set up for an operation GULAB for the link up with 19 Infantry Brigade's advance from Rajauri to Thana Mandi and Surankot, where the Link up was to be effected with a battalion of Poonch Brigade from Poonch. A force from Rajauri had cleared the area up to Thana Mandi in early May and gone back after establishing Birbal post. The commander of 19 Infantry Brigade planned to carry out the operation in three phases:



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1. Establishment of a firm base at Thana Mandi
2. Advance on the next day to link up with Punch Column at Surankot
3. Capture of Mendhar

After successful operations in Naushera-Jhangar, 2 RAJ RIF was moved to Rajauri to be part of Operation GULAB. In this Operation 2 RAJ RIF was given the task of protecting the East flank of the main force advancing from Rajauri to Thana Mandi. This task entailed capture of and securing Point 5603 which was known to have been held by the enemy in strength. It was during his attack, where Naik Sheo Chand Ram displayed bravery and exceptional leadership. He was Section Commander of the leading section of the attacking company.

On 29 May, the initial attack progressed well, but towards the end the enemy opened up with small arms, machine guns and mortar fire. Despite suffering heavy casualties, the jawans continued till it came to a halt due to deadly fire from a machine gun. In order to maintain the momentum of the attack, Naik Sheo Chand Ram ordered his section to give him covering fire and he, disregarding his personal safety, crawled forward, approached the machine gun bunker and lobbed a hand grenade killing its occupants. The advance was resumed and from 25 yards Naik Sheo Chand Ram assaulted another enemy position killing three and wounding one. He kept on advancing and chased the enemy 500 yards beyond the objective. This daring act by Naik Ram inspired his comrades and the entire section charged onto the objective and captured it.²

Naik Sheo Chand Ram demonstrated exceptional, courage, and devotion to duty. He was awarded Vir Chakra for his gallantry in the face of enemy.

² 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

On 21 May 1948, Naik Sheo Chand Ram was the forward section commander during the advance on feature in Jammu Kashmir when this section came under heavy enemy automatic fire at very close range. Undaunted, he rallied his men and assaulted the enemy bunkers, killing three and wounding many and finally clearing the area of all enemy soldiers. Later, during the mopping up operations on 29 May, Naik Sheo Chand Ram's section advanced under heavy automatic fire. He captured his objective at the point of bayonet and killed one enemy. Under artillery concentration, the advance was resumed and from 25 yards Naik Sheo Chand Ram assaulted another enemy position killing three and wounding one. He kept on advancing and chased the enemy 500 yards beyond the objective.

The courage, high sense of duty, confidence and magnificent leadership shown by this NCO enabled his platoon to capture the objective.

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)