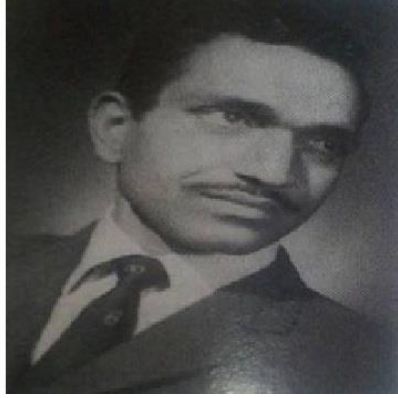




रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**



**CAPTAIN SHANKAR SHANKHAPAN WALKAR**

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	IC-23473
<b>RANK</b>	Captain
<b>NAME</b>	Shankar Shankhapan Walkar
<b>SON OF</b>	Shankaram Kheru Walker
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Kolhapur, Maharashtra
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	18 MADRAS
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>	15 June 1969
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Maha Vir Chakra/ 16 December 1971
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	Indo-Pak War 1971
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	

Captain Shankar Shankhapan Walkar was born on 08 March 1943 in Kadgaon Village of Kolhapur District of Maharashtra. On 15 June 1969, at the age of 26, Captain SS Walkar began his military career. He was commissioned into 18 MADRAS, which is renowned for its valiant warriors and many combat awards. Captain SS Walkar was involved in active actions shortly after he began his service, as the war with Pakistan erupted in 1971. In the Western front of the 1971 war, Captain Walkar's 18 MADRAS unit was stationed in the Nayachor/Umarkot Sector in Rajasthan and was instrumental in stopping the Pakistani attack during the Battalion's advance from Chachro to Umarkot in Sindh Pakistan.

The origin of the MADRAS Regiment in its present form can be traced to the time when the Levis were organised into companies of 100 men each, and two Battalions were thus raised on 4 December 1758 and placed under the command of Lord Robert Clive to defend Fort St. George at Madras. Thus, the Madras Regiment is one of the oldest Regiments of the Indian Infantry. The Regiment recruits its soldiers from the five Southern states – Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka. The valour of the Madras Regiment was seen when it fought fierce battles during most military operations of independent India. Their regimental war cry is “**Veer madrassi, adi kollu, adi kollu, adi kollu** ” meaning “**O brave Madrassi, hit and kill, hit and kill, hit and kill.**” In glorious 265 Years of its existence, the Regiment has a total 45 Battle Honours, 14 Theatre Honours, 11 COAS unit citations, 52 GOC-in-C Unit Appreciations, 5 UN Force Commander Citations, 01 Ashoka Chakra, 5 Mahavir Chakra, 11 Kirti Chakra, 36 Vir Chakra, 49 Shaurya Chakra, and many other gallantry & distinguished awards.

The 1971 War was a military conflict between India and Pakistan during the Bangladesh Liberation War between 03 to 16 December, 1971. India gained Independence in 1947, and the partition resulted in the creation of Pakistan. It began with preemptive airstrikes by the Pakistan Air Force on Indian targets, leading to India's involvement in support of Bengali nationalist forces. Pakistan suffered a significant defeat in this War. The Indo-Pak War of 1971 was the first war when the Indian Government engaged all three services on a large scale. A total of 4090 Indian soldiers made supreme sacrifice during this war and about 600 officers and men of the Indian Armed Forces were decorated with Gallantry awards. Of these, 04 were Param Vir Chakra, 76 Maha Vir Chakra and 513 Vir Chakra.

On the night of 04/05 December 1971, the 11 Infantry Division launched a three-pronged offensive to capture Pakistani territory up to Naya Chor. The axes of thrust were as follows:

- Northern Axis — Mithrau – Mankau – Saidau – Relnor – Kitlor – Jamo.
- Central Axis — Astride the railway line and track running west from Munabao to Naya Chor.
- Southern Axis — Gadra Road – Gadra City – Pirani ka Par – Dali – Bagal and Kelnor – Bhamka Tar – Khimsar.

On the Southern axis, 31 Infantry Brigade crossed the International Border at 1830 hours on 04 December. By 1900 hours, 20 RAJPUTS had seized control of Bhamka Ka Tar, and by 2305 hours, 18 MADRAS secured Mahadan Ki Dhani. The following day, 05th December, saw the expulsion of Pakistani forces from several other positions. Despite facing intense mortar fire and heavy machine gun and light machine gun attacks, 15 KUMAON successfully took over Gadra City at 0735 hours after an intense hand-to-hand combat that lasted for an hour, resulting in 40 casualties among the defenders, with many more wounded.

15 KUMAON then advanced towards Dali at 1400 hours and captured Kathe Ka Par by 1800 hours. 20 RAJPUT attacked Khimsar at 1540 hours and secured it by 1800 hours. The Battalion suffered only two ORs wounded while the Pakistanis suffered one officer and 40 ORs killed. 18 MADRAS then secured Pirani Ka Par by 1300 hours. 15 KUMAON contacted Dali at 1345 hours on 06 December. The engineers made provisions for the maintenance of the Gadra-Dali track. This facilitated the capture of Dali at 0600 hours on 07 December. The same day at about 0800 hours, 9 MADRAS captured Mahendro Ro Par and Fateh Ro Par. Earlier, a Combat Group of 10 Para Commando raided Chachro at about 0300 hours with a view to facilitate its capture by 20 RAJPUT. The Commandos took 17 POWs and captured some weapons and equipment. The Rajputs cleared Chachro by 1300 hours on 08 December, and thus gained full control of the Khimsar-Chachro area. Later, they left for Khimsar. Another group of Commandos raided Virawah at 0200 hours on 08 December. After the capture of Gadra City, Pirani Ka Par, Mahendro Ro Par, Dali, Khimsar, Bagal and Chachro in rapid succession 31 Infantry Brigade settled to consolidate the gains.

Maintaining the Division's buildup and supply line on a lone desert track in the region was proving challenging. Hence, it became imperative to initiate a secondary operation elsewhere to draw the enemy's attention away from Naya Chor and support the primary offensive. Consequently, the initial strategy of deploying the 31 Infantry Brigade along the Chachro axis was modified. A Battalion Group was directed to advance along the Chachro-Umarkot axis instead. 18 MADRAS was assigned this task and were supported by one Field Battery and one Light Battery, which commenced its movement at 1400 hours on 13 December.

Several nuisance minefields were cleared by the Battalion, and it moved to Dapaola from Fateh Ro Par and subsequently to Chachro. At Chachro, orders were received on 14 December to establish contact with the Pakistani defences at Umarkot by 1200 hours on 15 December.

The distance from Chachro to Umarkot is 80 Km. In 48 hours, 76 Km were covered, and the vanguard Company clashed with a Pakistani patrol at 1400 hours on 16 December. The Battalion was ordered to firm in at a place which was just beyond the village of Hingoro Tar. On the same day one Platoon probed forward, skirted an enemy minefield, and occupied the Northern end of a sand dune held by the enemy.

Due to the rapid advance, available artillery support was outdistanced except that of one Light Battery which had managed to reach the Battalion location by last light 16 December with very limited ammunition.

The Battalion had been without food or water for over 48 hours and had subsisted on one-day's emergency rations. During night 16/17 December, the Battalion was subjected to intense

artillery and mortar fire. This could not be returned due to limited artillery ammunition available but the Battalion dug in and suffered no casualties. On 17 December, the enemy put in a strong attack at dawn preceded and supported by heavy artillery and MMG fire.

Captain Shankar Shankapan Walkar was the Mortar Officer of a Madras Battalion on the Western front. On 16 December 1971, when the Battalion reached Hingore Tar (Pakistan), after a march of 42 miles, it came under very heavy shelling from enemy positions. With utter disregard for his personal safety, Captain Walkar visited each Rifle Company position to tie up the defensive fire tasks. While doing so, he twice sustained injuries from shell-splinters, but refused to be evacuated and carried on with his task, in a spirit of outstanding courage and devotion to duty. Heavy enemy shelling continued during the night, and early next morning the enemy assaulted two Company positions. Although wounded, Captain Walkar remained at his job, and by bringing very accurate mortar fire on the enemy, inflicted heavy casualties. At about 0800 hours, the mortar ammunition had almost finished, and the enemy attacked the exposed mortar position. Captain Walkar inspired his men to hold fast, and by himself shooting down four of the enemy, forced the enemy to pull back. He was, however, fatally wounded in this action, and after firing off the last round, he succumbed to his injuries.

For his conspicuous gallantry, inspiring leadership, and exemplary devotion to duty, and for having fought bravely and laid down his life heroically in the best traditions of the Services, Captain Shankar Shankapan Walkar was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra.



*Captain Shankar Shankapan Walkar's Bust*

Source: <https://honourpoint.in/profile/captain-shankar-shankhapan-walkar-mvc/#:~:text=Capt%20Walkar%20was%20a%20gallant,fighting%20spirit%20and%20supreme%20sacrifice.>

Captain SS Walkar's bust was installed in NCC Kolhapur, Maharashtra. The Housing project of Shankar Enclave in Mumbai has been named after Captain Shankar S Walkar, MVC.

## CITATION

Captain SHANKAR SHANKHAPAN WALKAR  
(IC-23473), Madras Regiment. (Posthumous)  
(Effective date of award—16th December, 1971)

Captain Shankar Shankhapan Walkar was the Mortar Officer of a battalion of the Madras Regiment during the recent operations against Pakistan on the Western Front. On the 16th December 1971, when the battalion reached Hingore Tar after advancing 42 miles it came under very heavy shelling from enemy positions. With utter disregard to his personal safety, Captain Walkar went to each rifle company position to tie up defensive fire tasks. In doing so, he was hit twice by splinters and sustained injuries, but he refused to be evacuated and carried on with his tasks displaying outstanding courage and devotion to duty. Heavy enemy shelling continued during the night and early next morning the enemy assaulted two Company positions. Although wounded. Captain Shankar Shankhapan Walkar stuck to his job and brought very accurate mortar fire on the enemy and inflicted heavy casualties. During a subsequent attack. Captain Shankar Shankhapan Walkar inspired his men to hold fast; he himself shot at least four enemy personnel and forced the enemy to pull back. He was, however, fatally wounded in this action. After firing the last round, he succumbed to the injuries.

Throughout, Captain Shakar Shankhapan Walkar displayed conspicuous gallantry, inspiring leadership and exemplary devotion to duty. He fought bravely to the last.

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Reference: Gazette Of India, Notification No. 18-Pres./72. — Dated February 12, 1972

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4. Lt Col JR Daniel. The Black Pom - Poms History of the Madras Regiment 1941-1983.