



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



HAVILDAR MALKIAT SINGH

SERVICE NUMBER	2436723
RANK	Havildar
NAME	Malkiat Singh
SON OF	Kartar Singh
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Jalandhar, Punjab
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	9 PUNJAB
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/COMMISSION	11 May 1950
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 10 October 1962
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	1962 Sino-India War
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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Havildar Malikat Singh was born on 11 May 1932, to Sardar Kartar Singh in Jalandhar, Punjab. He was enrolled in 9 PUNJAB of the Indian Army on 11 May 1950 at the age of seventeen. During the Sino India War of 1962, Havildar Malkiat Singh was deployed in the NEFA Sector where he fought the Chinese in the battle of Tseng-Jong and sacrificed himself for the nation. He was awarded Vir Chakra posthumously.

The PUNJAB Regiment, is amongst the oldest Regiments in the Indian Army and traces its origins back to 1805 when the First Battalion was raised under the Maharaja of Patiala. Originally, the Regiment comprised four British-raised Battalions. The numbers and titles of the Battalions changed during the successive reorganisations of the Madras Presidency Army, the British Indian Army and the Indian Army during 18th, 19th and 20th Century. After the 1857, the British applied the martial races theory and North Indian troops replaced the South Indians. Post Independence, the PUNJAB Regiment of India was formed from the 2nd Punjab Regiment of the British Indian Army. In 1951, four battle experienced Battalions of the former Princely states of Punjab, joined the Regiment. These battalions were from the Jind and Nabha State Forces and the first and second Battalions of Patiala Infantry. They were designated as the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th battalions of the PUNJAB Regiment. Additional Battalions have been raised since 1963. Since 1947, the PUNJAB Regiment has taken part in various battle sand wars, winning numerous honours and awards for the same. The Regimental Centre of the Regiment was first raised at Loralai and was shifted to Multan in 1922, Meerut in 1929 and at last to its present location in Ramgarh, Jharkhand in 1976.¹ During the Sino-India war of 1962, the Regiment was deployed in the North-East Frontier Agency Sector (NEFA) as part of 7 Infantry Brigade of 4 Infantry Division and fought valiantly in the crucial battles in Namka Chu Sector.

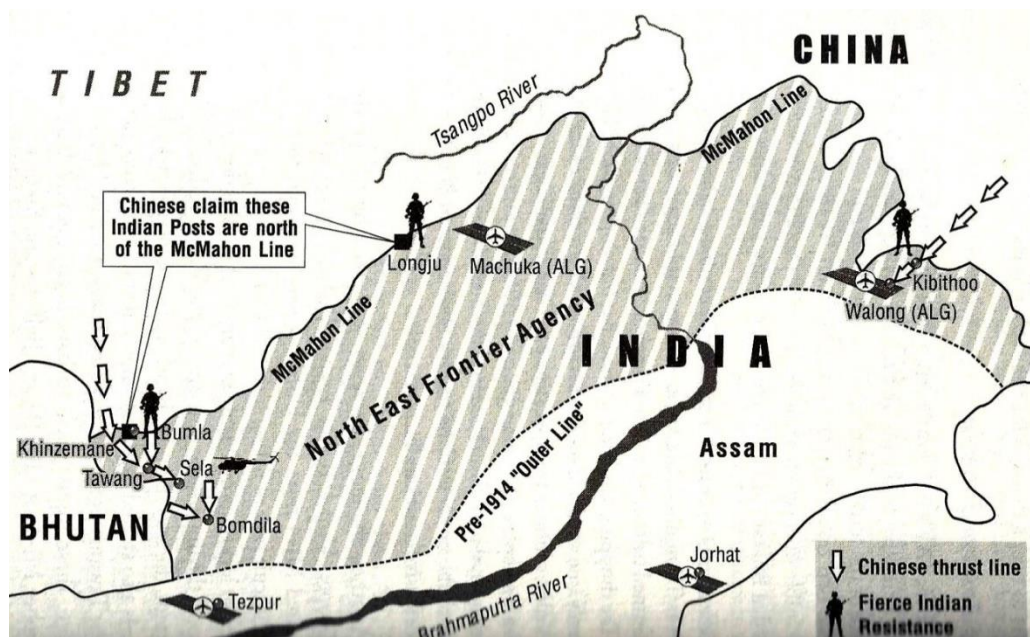
Since its independence, India followed a foreign policy of maintaining cordial relations with China. It wanted to revive its ancient contacts with the people of China. Therefore, soon after its establishment on 01 October 1949, India was one of the first few countries to grant diplomatic status to the People's Republic of China (PRC). India supported the demand of state recognition of PRC on various international platforms. India took the initiative to enter into negotiations with China on the question of Tibet and entered into the Panchsheel Agreement in 1954. Within a few weeks of Chou Enlai's visit to India in 1954, the Chinese launched a protest against the presence of Indian troops in Barahoti, three kilometers South of a Border Pass, Tun Jun La in Uttar Pradesh. This was the first time, the Government of China laid claim to any part of Indian territory formally. The construction of the Tibet-Sinkiang Road in 1957 marked a turning point in the Sino-India relations as the Chinese occupied a large part of the Aksai Chin. This opened an opportunity for China to come out with territorial claims against India openly. By 1959, Chinese soldiers moved in further into Ladakh and established

¹ Ballabh, Anand, Insights into Infantry Regiments: A Basic Factbook. Forward Books publications. New Delhi (2013)



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themselves at Chushul- Rezang La, and at Mandal, just South of Dambu Guru. On 08 September 1962, about 600 Chinese troops encircled the Dhola Post in the Eastern Sector and began firing. The Chinese launched simultaneous attacks in the Eastern Sector in Namka Chu Sector as well as in the Western Sector in Ladakh. The overwhelming number of the Chinese troops attacked the Indian soldiers but they fought the enemy with grit and determination. The Chinese announced the cease-fire at midnight of 21/22 November 1962.²



North East Frontier Agency during Sino India War 1962

Source: India's Wars: A Military History 1947 -1971. Arjun Subramaniam (2016) Harper Collins Publishers. Uttar Pradesh, India.

During the 1962 Sino-India War, the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) was a hub of enemy invasions. In early September, the Government of India ordered immediate evacuation of enemy troops from the NEFA. On 24 September Lieutenant General Umrao Singh, who was the Corps Commander conveyed the orders to Major General Niranjana Prasad, GOC 4 Infantry Division who then made sure that the energies of Indian Army in the area was directed to execute "OPERATION LEGHORN". Brigadier JP Dalvi, who was the Commander of the 7 Infantry Brigade, along with Major General Niranjana Prasad prepared a plan with a modest aim of capturing a small feature on Thag La slopes, and Tseng-Jong, then roll down West to East to the Chinese positions on the Namka Chu. However soon the responsibility of NEFA was handed over to IV CORPS commanded by Lieutenant General B M Kaul, the CGS. Acting

² History of the Conflict with China, 1962. P.B Sinha. Col A.A. Athale (1992). History Division, Ministry of Defence, Government of India.



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upon the Brigadier Dalvi's plan for Op LEGHORN, on 08 October Lieutenant General Kaul began his opening moves by ordering 2 RAJPUTS and 1/9 GORKHA RIFLES down from Tsangdhar to join other troops along the river line. Both the Battalions reached the river line on 09 October 1962.

The plan was to evict the Chinese from Thag La" by 7 Infantry Brigade. Thag La Peak, was where they would take positions behind and dominating the Chinese, as the Chinese had not yet occupied it. Lieutenant General Kaul chose the approach through Tseng- Jong which would be occupied by 9 PUNJAB. One Platoon of 'D' Company 9 PUNJAB, under Major M.S.Chaudhary left for Tseng-Jong and established bridgehead on the North bank of Namkha Chu. The Platoon occupied a location at 1500 hours on 08 October. One Section of this Platoon then occupied Karpole II height next morning. One Platoon Section of 'A' Coy 9 PUNJAB then left to for Tseng-Jong to reinforce Major Chaudhary's Platoon on 09 October 1962.



Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru with troops at a forward position during the 1962 India-China war.

Source: <https://www.indiasentinel.com/opinion/1962-india-china-war-how-scholars-misled-indians-a-case-study-5846>

Although Chinese response to these moves didn't come instantly, but a strong Chinese response came on 10 October 1962. When groups of men from 2 RAJPUT were moving up the Southern Bank of the Namkha Chu, making for Bridge III on their way to Log Bridge - the planned crossing point on the way to Yutso La - a full Battalion of Chinese emerged from their positions and moved quickly down the Ridge, to form up for an attack on, Tseng-Jong. At the same time the Indian position at Tseng-Jong came under fire from heavy mortars. At around 0800 hours approximately 800 Chinese attacked the 9 PUNJAB position at Tseng-Jong from the East and North-East. After a heavy exchange of fire for about 45 minutes, the attack was repulsed. However, the enemy soon re-formed for a second time and started assaulting the position at around 0930 Hours. A Section of 9 PUNJAB under Havildar Malkiat Singh on Karpola II had



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moved close to the flank of the Chinese. The Section opened fire on the Chinese and completely surprised them. While the Chinese were caught in the cross-fire of Light Machine Guns and suffered heavy casualties, they reacted and opened Heavy Mortar fire on the Section. The Section was subsequently asked to withdraw.

Havildar Malkiat Singh who was commanding the Section Post on High Ground at Karpola II North of Tseng-Jong in NEFA. When the enemy launched a massive attack on a Platoon Post at Tseng-Jong, he brought intense and accurate fire on to the enemy. Although his Section Post did not have any overhead shelter, and he was aware of the fact that if his Section's position is disclosed, they will be subjected to heavy shelling, yet undaunted by any danger he continued to bring down effective fire on the enemy. Subsequently during the day, when Havildar Malkiat Singh's Section Post was subjected to intense mortar fire, he personally manned the Light Machine Gun position until the Post ran short of ammunition. After the Section was asked to withdraw, he led his men by a circuitous and difficult route and reached Tsangdhar after about 48 hours.

On 18th October 1962, learning that ammunition and other essential stores were urgently needed by our troops at Tsangle which was three days march from Tsangdhar. Havildar Malkiat Singh volunteered to carry the stores. Twenty other Ranks of his Platoon following his example volunteered to go with him. On 20th October 1962, however, on the way to Tsangle, the party encountered a column of approximately twelve hundred Chinese. Undaunted by the overwhelming superiority in numbers, Havildar Malkiat Singh and his twenty brave men took up a position, brought down heavy fire on the enemy, and put up a gallant fight in which he was killed. Throughout the operations, Havildar Malkiat Singh, displayed consistent enthusiasm, exceptional bravery and leadership. For his exceptional bravery, he was awarded Vir Chakra posthumously



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CITATION

2436723 Havildar Malikat Singh, 9 PUNJAB. (Posthumous)
(Effective date of award-10 October 1962)

Havildar Malkiat Singh was commanding a section post on high ground al Karpola north of Tseng-jong in NEFA. On 10 October 1962, when the Chinese launched a massive attack against the platoon post at Tseng-jong. Havildar Malkiat Singh brought intense and accurate fire to bear on the enemy. His section post did not have any overhead shelter, and he was quite aware that if their position was it would be subjected to heavy shelling. Undaunted by the danger and in complete disregard of his own safety, Havildar Malkiat Singh continued to bring down maximum fire on the enemy.

During a subsequent; attack on the Tseng-jong position the same day, the section post of Havildar Malkiat Singh was subjected to intense mortar fire. He personally manned the gun position and continued accurate fire on the enemy until the post ran short of ammunition. By this time the enemy had occupied his route of withdrawal to thei Saute" of Namka Chu and Havildar Malkiat Singh and his men were Forced to withdraw through the thick jungle to the West. He then led his men by a circuitous and difficult route and reached Tsangdhar after about 48 hours. The party had no rations and had to carry a wounded soldier. On 18th October 1962, learning that ammunition and other essential stores were urgently needed by our troops at Tsangle three days march from Tsangdhar. Havildar Malkiat Singh volunteered to carry the stores. Twenty other Ranks of his platoon following his example volunteered to go with him. On 20th October 1962, however, the way to Tsangle. the party encountered s column of approximately twelve hundred Chinese. whelming superiority in numbers. Undaunted by the enemy Singh Havildar Malkiat and his twenty brave men took up a position, brought down heavy fire on the enemy, and put up a gallant fight in which he was killed Throughout these operations, Havildar Malkiat Singh, displayed consistent enthusiasm. exceptional bravery and gallant leadership.

Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No dated



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VIDEOS

INDO-CHINA 1962 WAR|ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE (SOURCE: PRASAR BHARTI YOUTUBE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pl8exz7ifuw&t=123s>

DNA: Analysing the unforgettable India-China war of 1962 (Source: YouTube Zee News)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79-wYad_j9A

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