



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



LIEUTENANT COLONEL MAN BAHADUR RAI (Then CAPTAIN)

SERVICE NUMBER	IC-5261
RANK	Lieutenant Colonel (Then Captain)
NAME	Man Bahadur Rai
SON OF	Ram Singh Rai
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Darjeeling, West Bengal
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	1/11 GORKHA RIFLES
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/COMMISSION	23 August 1948
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Ashoka Chakra /03 May 1961
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	Military Cross Indian Distinguished Service Medal



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Lieutenant Colonel (Then Captain) Captain Man Bahadur Rai was born in Darjeeling, West Bengal on 10 January 1914 to Shri Ram Singh Rai. Initially he enrolled as a Sepoy in the Indian Army in 10 GORKHA RIFLES on 17 July 1930. He was granted commission on 23 August 1948 and assigned to 11 GORKHA RIFLES. During World War II, he was decorated with the Military Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Star Medal, Burma Star Medal and the War Medal. Later he performed many more brave acts while serving with 8 ASSAM RIFLES and Village Guards Organisation in Nagaland. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in February 1990.



(Source: <https://www.inindiaaa.com/2013/07/insurgency-in-nagaland.html>)

The first Battalion of Gurkha Regiment (now Gorkha Rifles) was raised in 1815 during the Anglo-Nepalese war. Impressed by the qualities displayed by Gurkhas during the war, the British started active recruitment of Gurkhas into the British Indian army. After the partition, in 1947 six Gurkha regiments viz, 1 GR, 3 GR, 4 GR, 5 GR, 8 GR and 9 GR remained with the Indian Army, while 2 GR, 5 GR, 6 GR, 7 GR and 10 GR were transferred to British Army as part of the Tripartite Agreement signed between India, Nepal and Britain. The 11 GR is the only Gurkha Regiment raised in Independent India. It was raised on 01 January 1948. Since independence, the regiment has participated in a number of wars and operations including the 1947 and 1971 wars against Pakistan and insurgency operation along the ravines of Nagaland. The battalion's motto is 'Yatraham Vijay Statra' (We are metaphors of victory). 1/11 GR was deployed in Siachen Glacier when the Kargil war started. Pakistan army had surreptitiously occupied the winter vacated posts of the Indian Army. The contribution of 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES during Operation VIJAY 1999 remains etched in the history of Indian Army. 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES fought in multiple key battles fought during Op Vijay in Batalik sector. A young officer Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey of 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES was awarded Param Vir Chakra for his supreme sacrifice during the Kargil War. For the display of prowess in warfare the unit also received CAOS Unit citation for Operation Vijay 1999. The regiments has also given India its first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, PVSM UYSM AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, ADC. He was succeeded by General Anil Chauhan, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM who adds on to the Regiment's legacy of shaping the extraordinary leaders.



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In April-May 1961, Captain Man Bahadur Rai took part in a series of actions against a body of hostile Nagas, interspersed with numerous ravines. Towards the end of April 1961, he led a Platoon in the dead of night through two hostile positions in the heart of their stronghold. He launched a fierce attack and after a bitter fighting, was able to dislodge the hostiles from their position.

On 03 May 1961, Captain Man Bahadur Rai led a Platoon against a well-fortified hostile position situated on the steep slopes of a ravine. The position was dominating the surrounding area and could only be approached from the front. Knowing that heavy casualties would result if he were to attack frontally, he crawled, with half a Platoon, through the surrounding thick undergrowth and scaled up the steep side of the position through a hail of close-range fire which covered his advance. On locating the hostile Naga hostilities position, he advanced towards it, threw two hand grenades and killed few hostiles. He then charged into them firing as he went on and killed two more hostiles.

His fearless assault spurred his men into action and so demoralised the hostiles that they fled into the thick jungle. The hostile lost ten men in this encounter and left behind some of their weapons. The attack dealt a crushing blow to the hostiles. His bold leadership, indomitable will power and disregard for personal safety were a source of inspiration to his comrades and earned him an Ashoka Chakra.

This decorated officer of the Indian Army breathed his last breath on 14 February 2011 in Jorhat of Assam.



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CITATION

(IC-5261) CAPTAIN MAN BAHADUR RAI, 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES

(Effective date of award — 03 May 1961)

In April–May 1961, Captain Man Bahadur Rai (IC-5261) took part in a series of actions against a body of hostile Nagas who had entrenched themselves in a very difficult, densely wooded, hilly region interspersed with numerous ravines. Towards the end of April 1961, he led a platoon at dead of night through two hostile positions into the heart of their stronghold, fiercely attacked them and was successful in dislodging them from that position. On the 3rd May 1961, he led a platoon against another strongly fortified hostile position which was situated on the steep slopes of a ravine.

This position dominated the surrounding area and could not be approached except frontally. Captain Rai, knowing that heavy casualties would result if he were to attack frontally, took half a platoon, crawled through the thick undergrowth and scaled up the steep side while exposed to a hail of close-range fire which covered his advance. On locating the hostile position, he pressed forward in its direction, threw two hand grenades killing a few hostiles and charged the position firing as he went and killing two more hostiles.

This fearless and unexpected assault spurred his men to action and so demoralised the hostiles that they fled into the thick jungle. The hostiles lost ten men in the encounter and left behind two rifles, one 12 bore gun and one tommy gun. The attack dealt a crushing blow to the hostiles and led to the eventual destruction of their position.

This action was one of several in which Captain Rai took part, first as an officer of the 8th Battalion of the Assam Rifles and more recently as an officer of the Village Guards Organisation of Nagaland. Throughout this period, he repeatedly showed conspicuous bravery, unselfishness and indomitable courage in very difficult and dangerous situations. His leadership and unconquerable will have been a source of inspiration to all his comrades and are in the highest traditions of the Army.

Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No. 9-Pres/62 dated 24 January 1962

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VIDEOS

Major Man Bahadur Rai, Ashoka Chakra 1962 | E02 GUARDIANS OF NORTH EAST |
#PWE Original Series (Source: YouTube Paper Weight Series)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Q2LJZTsrk2o>

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India's Nagaland crisis: Muivah's ambition at 86 runs into ethnicity, geography demography & history (Source: The Print YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0imxR0UmME>

History of Nagaland | How Nagaland Become Part of India ft. But Why (Source: Mohak Mangal)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGqCg2jiHX8>

A primer on Nagaland, India's oldest insurgency as crisis erupts with Mon killings | Abridged Ep 304 (Source: The Print YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1v4fBgVNb4>

Insurgencies & India's Northeast (Source: Strat New Global YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCnOBuIyXuI>

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