



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



MAJOR GENERAL MOHINDAR SINGH

SERVICE NUMBER	IC-524
RANK	Major General
NAME	Mohindar Singh
SON OF	
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Chandigarh
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/COMMISSION	06 October 1940
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 14 December 1971
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	1971 Indo-Pak War
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	Military Cross (MC)



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Major General Mohindar Singh, MVC, MC was born on 20 December 1914 in village Birdhanon, in the erstwhile state of Nabha now part of Punjab. He was the third of five children, the eldest being his sister. His mother belonged to a Gill family from a village called Ganda Singh Wala. His father and uncle were then both serving in the Artillery, 9 Muree and 6 Jacob's Mountain Batteries respectively. Both had fought in Palestine, Galipoli, Mesopotamia, Afghanistan and NWFP and awarded War Jagir Jangi Inam) for their war time service. His mother and grandmother also came from military families. Mohindar started his education at the age of 4 years in a gurudwara about a mile away from the village. Three years later he shifted to a government school nearby and on promotion to 3rd class he joined the government school Nabha which was thirteen miles away as a border. He grew up to be a handsome strapping youngster, an all-rounder, very good in studies and excelled in hockey, football, cricket and kabaddi. Mohindar joined the Army in June 1932 in the Artillery in the ranks and served up to January 1940 in the two Mountain Batteries where both his father and uncle had served earlier on. Considered to be a first rate officer material by his British officers, he was encouraged to apply for commission into the Indian Army after the Second World War broke out. He passed out on 06 October 1940 from Indian Military Academy (IMA) Dehradun. He did his Young Officers Course at the School of Artillery Kakul (now in Pakistan) where he topped his batch. He was thereafter posted to Mountain Artillery Training Centre at Ambala from where he proceeded to the Middle East in June 1941 with 26 Mountain Regiment. The Regiment came back to India in May 1942 and he was posted to 5 (Bombay) Mountain Battery as Battery Captain.

He took over the command of the battery in March 1943 and thus became the first Indian officer to command a mountain battery, the oldest one at that. From there he went to Burma with his battery as part of 25 Mountain Regiment and saw action in the Arakans. Having taken part in the operations, evicting the Japanese from this area, the Battery along with 7 Infantry Division was flown to Assam where he took part in battle of Kohima and a number of high risk deep penetration columns behind enemy lines. For his conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty, he was awarded the Military Cross (MC) and Mentioned in Dispatches. In 1946 he attended the Staff College at Quetta and thereafter served for a while in 34 Maratha Anti Tank Regiment (SP). In 1948 he took over 22 Mountain Regiment thus becoming the first Indian officer to command a mountain regiment. The regiment under him took a leading part in Naushera and Rajouri sector throughout the operations in J&K from 1947-1949.

The Regiment of Artillery was raised on 28 September 1827. It was initially raised as Bombay Artillery and was later renamed 5 Bombay Mountain Battery. In May 1857, the mutiny by Indian soldiers started in the artillery of the Army of the Bengal Presidency. The incident prompted a complete ban on Indian artillery units, except the mountain artillery batteries in select provinces. The decision was reversed in the mid-1930s when the first of the Field Regiments of the Indian Army were raised. The Field Regiments support the formations on the field. The regimental motto of Artillery Regiment 'Sarvatra Izzat-O-Iqbal' which means



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‘Everywhere with Honour and Glory’. The regiment has given Indian Army five chiefs, General Paramasiva Prabhakar Kumaramangalam DSO, OBE (7 June 1966 – 7 June 1969) General Om Prakash Malhotra PVSM (31 May 1978 – 31 May 1981) General Sunith Francis Rodrigues PVSM, VSM (30 June 1990 – 30 June 1993) General Sundararajan Padmanabhan PVSM, AVSM, VSM (30 September 2000 – 31 December 2002) General Deepak Kapoor PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM (30 September 2007 – 31 March 2010).



The then prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and army officers atop a captured Pakistani tank.

(Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/chandigarh/tale-of-grit-and-glory-living-legends-of-1965-indo-pak-war/story-Q3VR2Y2jPjkqd7KJqDtLvL.html>)

There were no deputy brigade commanders then but as the Artillery Commander, Major General Mohindar Singh not only played the role of a sheet anchor under Brigadiers Usman and Yadhunath Singh, he periodically held the fort in the absence of the incumbent commanders during crisis situations. In April 1949 he was given command of 2 Field Regiment (SP) yet another outstanding unit that had performed admirably during World War 2 from where he was posted as GSO1 in HQ UP Area at Bareilly. During this period, he also attended Land Air Warfare courses in U.K. Thereafter for three years he served as Senior Instructor at the Infantry School Mhow. This was followed by his being detailed to attend the Long Gunnery Staff course at Larkhill in U.K., which he topped. On his return, he was posted as Deputy Commandant School of Artillery, Deolali. In 1961 he was promoted to the rank of brigadier and took over 17 Artillery Brigade that was part of 17 Infantry Division being commanded by



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Maj Gen K P Candeth. In December 1961, the Division took part in the operations for the liberation of Goa then under the occupation of the Portuguese. In July 1962 he proceeded to attend the National Defence College course. After completion of the course, he was posted to command another artillery brigade for a brief period. In 1963 he was appointed as Commandant School of Artillery, Deolali. In 1965 he was promoted to the rank of Major General and appointed Deputy Master General of Ordnance (Dy MGO) at Army Headquarters. Soon India found itself in a war situation initiated by Pakistan. It was only on 06 September 1965, India launched a limited offensive along the international border in Punjab as a counter to a massive Pakistan attack in Chhamb Jaurian sector.



(Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Politics/BfkmN7VpNFoObx4koe08yN/Remembering-the-1965-IndiaPakistan-war.html>)

The Indo-Pak war of 1965 was the second war fought between the two bordering countries. While India was still recovering from the damages of Sino-India war of 1962, Pakistan saw it as an opportunity to acquire Jammu and Kashmir with might, presuming India to be weak in terms of defence preparation. The war was initiated on 24 April 1965, when Pakistan Army, attacked our territory in the Rann of Kutch and penetrated six to eight miles inside the Indian territory. This act of illegal occupation of Indian territory constituted violation of Indo-Pak Border Agreement 1960 and international law as per the United Nations Charter. The Pakistani forces subsequently intruded in Kashmir with the launch of Operation Gibraltar.



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The aim of the offensive launched was to force Pakistan to divert a significant part of its forces operating there to face this new threat by India. The strategy paid off. However, it must be stated that largely because of the suddenness with which the situation developed, its formations were moved in with insufficient planning and preparations, though they did achieve total surprise initially, especially in respect of 15 Infantry Division, where its leading battalion (3 JAT) in a spectacular dash went and captured the town of Dograi on the Ichhogil canal and then moved a company across the demolished bridge and occupied Batanagar, a suburb of Lahore. Fortunately for Pakistan operations elsewhere in 15 Division had foundered and there was also much confusion on account of failure communication network leading to 3 JAT being ordered to fall back. Pakistan launched a fierce counterattack with its armoured elements which were east of Ichhogil canal and its Air Force soon played havoc with Indian troops caught in the open and its many vehicles that were strung out on the road. When the situation worsened, it had become essential to replace the incumbent GOC and this is when the choice fell on the stolid and cool headed Major General Mohindar Singh, who was then serving in the Army HQ as Dy MGO, with his formidable record in World War 2 and the Operations in Kashmir in 1947-48. On 08 September Major General Mohindar Singh was rushed to take over 15 Infantry Division. Soon order set in among the rank and file and the Division resumed the offensive. But it was not going to be easy as the enemy had fortified its defences as never before. Dograi which had fallen so swiftly earlier was now going to be a very hard nut to crack. The responsibility to win Dograi was once again entrusted to the valiant troops of 3 JAT led by their very brave CO Lieutenant Colonel Desmond Hayde. The Battle of Dograi is unforgettable. It will be remembered for the bloodiest battle fought between Pakistan forces and Indian jawans. Major General Mohindar Singh's adroit deployment of infantry, armour and artillery, his able stewardship and planning led to a glorious victory in this sector. The general remained with his men in the thick of the battle at every crucial moment and inspired confidence and courage in them. He was awarded Maha Vir Chakra (MVC), the second highest war time gallantry award in our country for his role in this War. After the cease fire thousands of visitors came to have a look at the war devastated area from Wagah onwards to Dograi. They could not conceive how troops could hold on and survive under such heavy bombardment, where even concreted buildings had turned into rubble. The area was full of bomb craters. Dograi had been reduced to a state of ruins pitted with splinters of artillery shells, rockets and bullets of machine guns. Having seen all this, they saluted the Indian soldiers

In January 1967 Major General Mohindar Singh was posted to Southern Command, Pune as the Chief of Staff. Later, he visited Deolali to see the finished products of the projects started when he was the commandant, especially the B (Sarvatra) Mess. There were some cracks in the walls and the roofs were leaking. He sent Brig Grant, the Chief Engineer to Delhi who had the defects put right. In January 1969, on completion of nearly 37 years of Service, Major General Mohindar Singh retired from the Army. He drove to Chandigarh via Deolali and settled down in his house which he had bought in 1959. Major General Mohindar was one of India's finest generals, he passed away in 1992.



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(Effective date of award-09 September 1965)

On the 9th September 1965, Major General Mohindar Singh took over command of an Infantry Division in the Lahore Sector. Soon thereafter the Division plunged in the battle for the Ichhogil canal. With his zeal, determination and leadership, Major General Mohindar Singh infused a new spirit in the formation. Disregarding his personal safety, he moved from formation to formation and set a very high example to his subordinate commanders in the accomplishment of difficult tasks. During the period from the 9th to 23rd September 1965, Major General Mohindar Singh displayed sound operational planning and indomitable courage which enabled the Infantry Brigades under his command to capture Ichhogil Uttar Bridge and Dograi .

Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No dated



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VIDEOS



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१९६५ का भारत पाकिस्तान युद्ध | The 1965 History (Source: World Documentry HD YouTube)

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