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DEFENCE



**MAJOR SUDHIR KUMAR WALIA, SM\*, AC**

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	IC-47623
<b>RANK</b>	Major
<b>NAME</b>	Sudhir Kumar Walia
<b>SON OF</b>	Subedar Major Rulia Ram Walia
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Banuri Village, Palampur District, Himachal Pradesh
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	9 PARA (Special Forces)
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/COMMISSION</b>	11 June 1988
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Ashoka Chakra (Posthumous)/ 29 August 1999
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	Sena Medal – 26 January 1993 Sena Medal* - September 1994



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Major Sudhir Kumar Walia's family hailed from Banuri village in Palampur town of Kangra District in Himachal Pradesh, but he was born in Jodhpur in Rajasthan on 24 May 1968. His father was Subedar Major Rulia Ram Walia was an Army veteran and his mother was Smt Rajeshwari Dev, he had a brother Arun (born on 02 Oct 1972) and a sister Bindiya (born on 22 Feb 1976) as his siblings. He did his initial schooling at Government school Banuri and later joined Sainik School Sujanpur Tira in Himachal Pradesh. The school was located about 45 kms from Banuri and was inaugurated on 02 Nov 1978. While studying in the Sainik School his inclination towards the Armed Forces grew and the foundation of his future military life was laid. His resolve to join the Army grew with the age and consequently, he got selected for the prestigious National Defence Academy (NDA) after finishing school. Consequently, he cleared his entrance exam for NDA in his first attempt and joined the prestigious academy in the year 1984.



*Major Sudhir Kumar Walia with his mother.*

(Source: X @IndianDefenceFacts)



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He excelled in various aspects of training at NDA and passed out on 30 May 1987 as part of 72nd Course. Later he went to the Indian Military Academy (IMA) Dehradun and became part of Cariappa Battalion Sangro Company. He passed out of IMA as a Second Lieutenant on 11 June at the age of 20 years. He was commissioned into 4 JAT Soon after commissioning, he was posted to his unit 4 JAT in Dehradun. However, after few months of joining, his unit received orders to move to Sri Lanka as part of IPKF. Thus, he became part of 70,000 soldiers who were sent to Sri Lanka on a peace mission under Indo-Sri Lanka accord. In Sri Lanka, the young Second Lieutenant Walia took part in various operations and gained experience in active field operations. He also got an opportunity to operate with the 9 PARA(SF) soldiers in Sri Lanka and got motivated to join the Special Forces. After he returned from Sri Lanka, he got selected to join the 9 PARA(SF) in the year 1990. 9 PARA(SF) was raised in 1966 as 9th Parachute Commando Battalion (now known as 9 PARA(SF) and specialized in Mountain Warfare and Counter Insurgency/Counter Terrorism operations.



*A group photo of Major Sudhir Kumar Walia's National Defence Academy (NDA) Squadron*

(Source: Wordpress Diskshank Sharma, The Rambo I knew)

Thereafter, he attended myriad training courses to gain expertise in various field craft skills. The important training courses that he underwent included Commando Training course at Belgaum, Counter Insurgency Jungle Warfare course at CIJW School at Vairengte Mizoram,



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Officers' Transport Management (OTMC) at Bangalore, Para Training course at PTS (Para Training School) and Mountain Warfare Course at High Altitude Mountain Warfare School at Gulmarg in J&K. Major Sudhir Walia and his unit, 9 PARA(SF), known for their daredevil covert operations undertook numerous operations in J&K.



*Major Sudhir Kumar Walia being decorated with Sena Medal.*

(Source: Instagram guts\_glamour)

The Parachute Regiment is an airborne and special forces regiment of the Indian Army. It was raised in 1945 as part of the British Indian Army but was disbanded after the World War II and was re-raised in 1952 by absorbing the three existing parachute battalions of the 50th Parachute Brigade. In the post-independence restructuring, India retained only one Parachute Brigade—the 50th. This brigade consisted of three distinguished battalions personally nominated by the then Commander-in-Chief, namely 1 PARA (PUNJAB), 2 PARA (MARATHA) and 3 PARA (KUMAON). During the Jammu and Kashmir operations of 1947-48 these battalions distinguished themselves with glory in the battles of Shelatang, Naushera, Jhangar and Poonch, and were awarded the respective Battle Honours. On 15 April 1952, the three battalions serving with the Parachute Brigade were removed from their respective Infantry Regiments to form the PARACHUTE REGIMENT. Since then, The Regiment has participated in 1962 War, 1971 War, Op PAWAN, Op CACTUS, and 1999 Kargil War. Currently it comprises seven Special Forces, six Airborne, two Territorial Army and one Rashtriya Rifles Battalions. The 9 PARA (SF) was raised in 1966 as 9<sup>th</sup> Parachute Commando Battalion. The three of the Special Forces battalions were originally trained for use in certain environments; 1 PARA (SF) [Strategic Reserve], 9 PARA (SF) [Mountain], 10 PARA (SF) [Desert] and 21 PARA (SF) [Jungle]. Currently, all the Special Forces battalions are trained for all environments.





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In Kashmir, the Special Forces operators of Indian Army often roamed in militant disguise, hunting for terrorists by locating their hideouts. This strategy facilitated the execution of many militants, their leader and even eliminated several outfits. In July 1993, in an operation in Kandi village, located in Budhal tehsil of Rajouri district, Major Walia eliminated three hard core terrorists. On 26 Jan 1993, he was awarded Sena Medal for his display of gallantry, commendable courage, leadership and devotion to duty during this operation. In the year 1994, Major Sudhir Walia was decorated with a Bar to Sena Medal for being part of an expedition to scale the peak Brammah II in the Brammah mountains in Kishtwar region of J&K. It was an armed, fighting expedition, where the purpose was training in extremely challenging conditions.



*Major Sudhir Kumar Walia delivering his speech at the Pentagon in United States.*

(Source: Reddit)

In 1997, Major Sudhir was sent to the United States for a specialized course and also got the rare honour of speaking at the Pentagon during this mission. Known as “Rambo” in the Indian Army he was called ‘Colonel’ by his peers in the course, who had come from 80 other countries. Major Sudhir was posted twice in the Siachen area and also served as an Aide-De-Camp (ADC) to the former Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Ved Prakash Malik. While he was excelling in his career when the Kargil War commenced and Major Sudhir Walia wrote an application to General Malik, the Chief of Army Staff at that time, requesting him for a



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posting to Kargil to be with his unit in the time of need. General Malik acceded to his request and sent his most fearless and valiant soldier to the battle area of Kargil. Within ten days of his departure from Delhi, he led his team to capture Zulu Top at 5200 metres, in the Mushkoh Valley sector.



*Major Sudhir Kumar Walia with General Ved Prakash Malik. He served as his ADC.*

(Source: Facebook Indian Army Fans)

Following the victory of Kargil War, on 29 August 1999 at 0830 hours, Major Sudhir Kumar led a Squad of five men into the dense undergrowth in Haphruda forest in Kupwara District of Jammu and Kashmir. Soon he heard voices of militants but was unable to see them. He, along with his buddy crawled uphill and on reaching a knoll, observed two armed militants barely four metres ahead, and a large covered hideout in a depression 15 metres below. The officer immediately fired killing the closest sentry and charged at the second, who jumped back towards the hideout. Major Sudhir Kumar without hesitation charged at the hideout with only his buddy giving him covering fire. The militants who out numbered about twenty were shocked and rushed out in an attempt to flee. The officer single handedly grappled with them and firing from a distance of two metres, killed four militants. In this action, he was, however, hit on his face, chest and arm and fell down bleeding profusely at the entrance to the hideout

Major Sudhir Kumar, although unable to move, called up his troop commanders and all the stops on the radio set and directed them to hold fast and not to allow the rest of the militants to



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escape. It was only after 35 minutes, when the fire fight stopped that he permitted his evacuation.

Bleeding profusely, he continued to pass instructions to his troops on his radio set. He passed away holding his set.

Major Sudhir Kumar, thus, displayed most conspicuous gallantry and bravery beyond compare and made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of the Indian Army.



*Subedar Rulia Ram (Retd), Father of Major Sudhir Kumar Walia receiving Ashoka Chakra from then President K R Naryanan.*

(Source: Word Press Dishank Sharma The Rambo I Knew..)



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## CITATION

MAJOR SUDHIR KUMAR (IC-47623), 9 PARA (SF) (POSTHUMOUS)  
(Effective date of the award-29 August 1999)

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Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No ..... dated .....





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2. Stories of Heroism (KC & AC) Winners Dr. B.C.Chakravorty.(1995). Ministry of Defence, Government of India
3. Portraits of Valour: India's Highest Gallantry Awards And Their Recipients. S S Gandhi.(2006). The Defence Review Publication
4. The Indian Army: A brief history. Edited by Major General Ian Cardozo. Center for Military History and Conflict Studies, United Service Institution of India
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<http://specials.rediff.com/news/2004/jul/19walia1.htm>
6. Sudhir Walia — A Braveheart who went beyond the call of duty (Accessed on 24 June 2024)  
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7. The Rambo from 9 para (Accessed on 24 June 2024)  
<https://militarylunatics.com.home.blog/2019/05/24/the-rambo-from-9-para/>



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## MEMORIALS

- A Bust Statue of Major Sudhir Kumar Walia Yol Cantonment in Himachal Pradesh



(Photo Source: X @Jaishree\_7)

- A bust Statue of Major Sudhir Kumar Walia installed in Sainik School Sujanpur Tira, in Himachal Pradesh.



(Photo Source: Instagram @Anujaggi173)



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- Father of Major Sudhir Kumar Walia, Subedar Rulia Ram Salutes his Bust Statue Installed In Palampur, Himachal Pradesh



(Source: The Tribune)

- A Bust Statue of Major Sudhir Kumar Walia in Dhramshala State War Memorial
- The Portrait of Major Sudhir Walia has been put up in The Sudan Block at NDA Khadakwasla in his Honour.



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## VIDEOS

Subedar Major Mahendra Singh KC, SM On Major Sudhir Kumar Walia AC, SM | 9 PARA SF Legends (Source: Youtube Balidan)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZSPCnIRI5g>

Major sudhir kumar Walia's father receiving his Ashok Chakra (YouTube: Nishant Singh)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r\\_yja4SLSjc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_yja4SLSjc)

Rambo of Indian Army Major Sudhir Kumar Walia AC, ADC, SM & BAR (Source: YouTube Balidan)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NNasYTkIwM>

इस मेजर को क्यों कहते हैं भारतीय सेना का 'Rambo' | Bharat Tak (Source: YouTube Bharat Tak)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cKya\\_Ht5X4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cKya_Ht5X4)

Indian Army के Major Sudhir Kumar Walia के पराक्रम की गाथाएं | Watan Ke Rakhwale | NDTV India (Source: YouTube NDTV)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRivEz8dG7I>

GENERAL VP MALIK, EX COAS ON MAJOR SUDHIR WALIA, 9 PARA SF, ASHOK CHAKRA, SENA MEDAL BAR (YouTube: Desh)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKJLIv8c>

Story Of Captain Saurabh Kalia and Major Sudhir Kumar Walia | Vande Mataram | September 12, 2016 (Source: YouTube AAJ TAK)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBFOnts2EO0>

Memories of operating with Major Sudhir Walia, AC, SM ( Bar) - 9 Para SF (Source: YouTube Military Mantra)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfhqY4Wf4Zk>

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<sup>1</sup> Disclaimer: Photos, links to publications and videos presented here are not intended to serve as a substitute for consultation and should only be used at the user's own risk. These are primarily shared because of the extensive coverage available on the subject. No copyright infringement is intended and it is not intended to hurt anyone or make sales of any sort. All copyright belongs solely to the relevant owners/creators. Usage here is purely for Fair Usage in accordance with the Indian Copyright Act 1957.

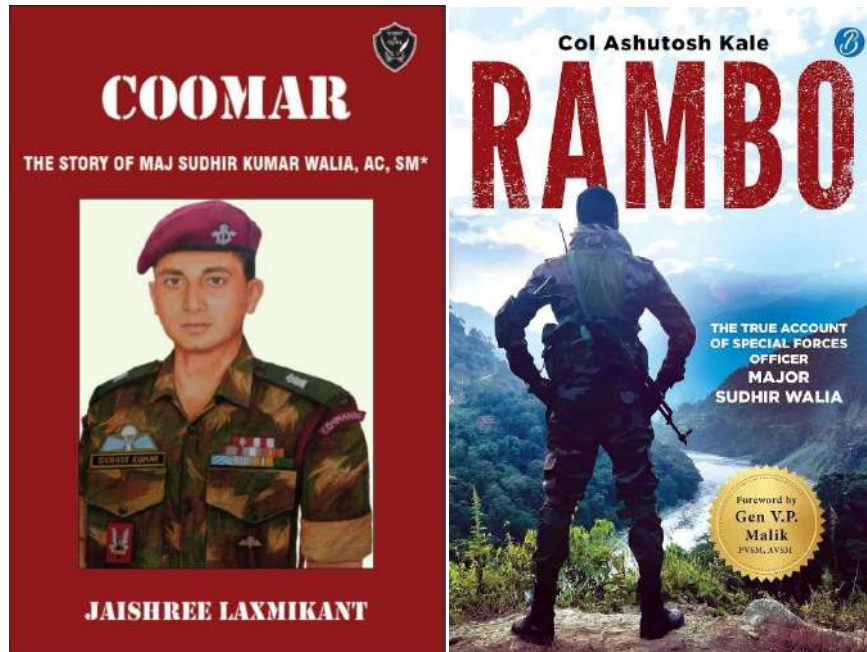




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## OTHER INTERESTING SOURCES<sup>2</sup>

A book written by Author Jiashree Laxmikant narrates the story of Major Sudhir Kumar Walia's life



(Photo Source: Amazon India)

A book Authored by Colonel Ashutosh Kale named '*Rambo: The true account of a Special Forces Officer, Major Sudhir Walia | True story of a brave Para SF Officer*', elaborates on Major Sudhir Kumar Walia's illustrious military career.

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