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**SECOND LIEUTENANT RAKESH SINGH**

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	IC 51242
<b>RANK</b>	Second Lieutenant
<b>NAME</b>	Rakesh Singh
<b>SON OF</b>	Colonel Raj Singh
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Model Town, Rohtak, Haryana
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	22 GRENADIERS
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/COMMISSION</b>	13 June 1992
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Ashoka Chakra (Posthumously) /1993
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



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DEFENCE

Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh was born on September 18, 1970, in Chandigarh into a military family that hailed from Rohtak, Haryana.<sup>1</sup> He was the youngest among the three brothers. He had his early education from St. Patricks Convent School, Kanpur Cantt till he passed his 4th Standard examination. Subsequently, he joined St. Thomas Boys High School, Kirkee, Pune and passed his 8th Standard from there. Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh passed his High School examination from Model School Rohtak and subsequently did his Senior Secondary Schooling from Jat College Rohtak. Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh was found of keeping pets. In his childhood he kept a dog as his pet and subsequently kept a pair of rabbits till he was selected for NDA. He used to care for his pets and believed in doing everything himself for them. From his childhood he was found of skating and shooting and kept an air gun. He played Cricket, Hockey and Badminton right from his childhood.<sup>2</sup>



*Young Rakesh Singh with elder brothers in 1981*

Source: Shri Rajesh Singh

While in college, he was a member of N.C.C. and was adjudged best N.C.C. Cadet for his smart drill, turnout and shooting. He was always selected for Republic Day and Independence Day parade to represent his college. He was quoted as an example to other N.C.C. Cadet for his best turnout and smart drill.

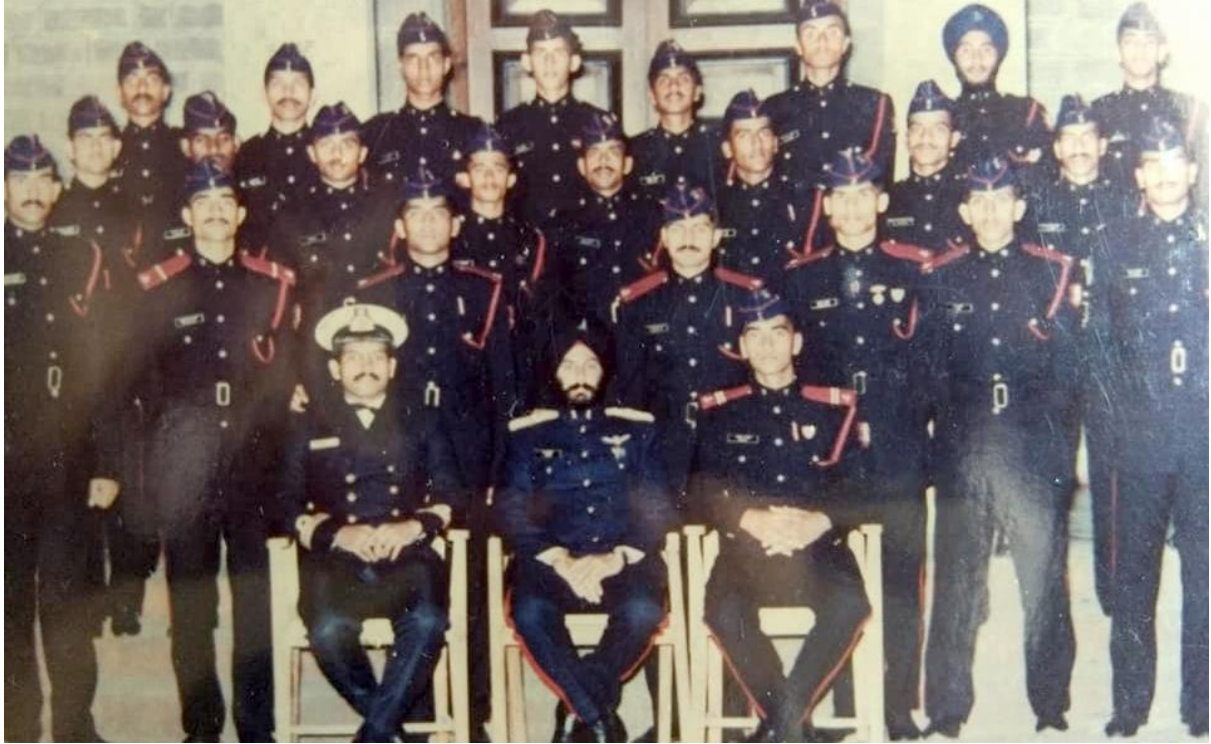
<sup>1</sup> The Defence Review. 2011. "Portraits of Valour II: Winners of Ashoka Chakra". New Delhi

<sup>2</sup> @ The GAP team is deeply grateful to Shri Rajesh Singh, brother of Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh for providing us with valuable documents, information, and photographs.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

सत्यमेव जयते



*Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh as a young Cadet NDA, Khadakvasla, Pune*

Source: Shri Rajesh Singh

The son of Colonel Raj Singh, a veteran of the Indian Army, and Smt. Savitri, he harbored a deep passion for Army life from an early age. Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh joined the 79 Course (Jan 88 to 01 Dec 90) of prestigious National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla (Pune). He was in Bravo Squadron at NDA Khadakwasla. He was very popular amongst other cadets at NDA. for his cooperation and good behavior. He took keen interest in sports and represented his Squadron in Hockey and Football. He was very good in drill and was selected to Escort the “Colours” during the Passing Out Parade at NDA Khadakwasla.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**



*Passing Out Parade at the NDA, Khadakvasla, Pune*

Source: Shri Rajesh Singh

At IMA Dehradun he was in NAUSHERA Company. He was very sincere hard working and co-operative with other GCs. He was very good at drill and was selected as Cane Orderly at IMA. While at IMA Dehradun he always admired the Infantry and because of its high traditions and glory in battle he aspired to join the Grenadiers Regiment .

His grandfather Captain Rattan Singh had served in 3 GRENADIERS and fought during the World War-II. His uncle Colonel S P Mehla commanded 16 GRENADIERS. Captain Om Parkash from 6 GRENADIERS is his brother-in-law. Inspired by his grandfather and father's service, he was determined to follow in their footsteps and dedicate himself to the Armed Forces. Whenever Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh would go on vacations to his grandfather's house, he would see his grandfather and father's photograph in full army uniform hanging in the living room of the ancestral palatial bungalow in Hisar.<sup>3</sup>

Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh was commissioned on 13 June 1992 and was posted to 22 GRENADIERS. Though artillery could be his parental claim, Rakesh chose Grenadiers, the decorated regiment, which has given two Param Vir to the Indian Army.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Global Strategic and Defence News. (2022, December 5). HEROES IN UNIFORM: 2/LT RAKESH SINGH, ASHOKA CHAKRA. Retrieved February 18, 2025, from Global Defense News - GSDN - Global Defense News website: <https://gsdn.live/heroes-in-uniform-2-lt-rakesh-singh-ashoka-chakra/>

<sup>4</sup> 2/Lt Rakesh Singh: Youngest recipient of Ashoka Chakra - The Tribune. (2018, July 7). Retrieved from The Tribune website: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/haryana-tribune/2-lt-rakesh-singh-youngest-recipient-of-ashoka-chakra-616187/>



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**



*Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh during the passing out parade in IMA Dehradun*

Source: Shri Rajesh Singh

The 22nd Battalion of the GRENADIERS Regiment is a distinguished infantry unit of the Indian Army, known for its bravery, discipline, and combat prowess. As part of one of the oldest and most decorated regiments, 22 GRENADIERS has played a crucial role in various military operations, including conventional warfare, counter-insurgency missions, and UN peacekeeping efforts. The Battalion has operated in diverse terrains, from high-altitude mountains to dense jungles and deserts.

The GRENADIERS Regiment, including 22 GRENADIERS, has a legacy of valor in battles such as the Indo-Pak Wars (1947, 1965, 1971) and the Kargil War (1999). Known for its motto,



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**

"Sarvada Shaktishali" (Always Powerful), and its spirited war cry, the regiment continues to uphold its tradition of courage and dedication to national security.<sup>5</sup>



*Cadet Rakesh Singh with his Father Colonel Raj Singh*

Source: Shri Rajesh Singh

While conventional war remains central in the construct of the spectrum of operations, the Indian Army continues to prosecute effective Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terrorism operations to ensure deterrence through punitive responses, against state sponsored proxy war.

Indian Union Territory (formerly State) of Jammu Kashmir is facing Low Intensity Conflict encompassing all kinds of armed conflicts below the threshold of war. These include proxy war, terrorism and insurgencies; border skirmishes also fall within this category. It involves protracted struggle of competing principles and ideologies. Pakistan is involved in a proxy war

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<sup>5</sup> The Grenadiers Regiment – Indian Army. (2025). Retrieved February 18, 2025, from Bharat-rakshak.com website: <https://www.bharat-rakshak.com/army/units/infantry/grenadiers/>



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

with India using non-state players to fight on their behalf across the country but primarily in Kashmir. Since 2019, Jammu and Kashmir is a region administered by India as a union territory, and further infuriated Pakistan.

Pakistan has been, since independence, aiding and abetting terrorism in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The role Indian Army is mandated to safeguard National Interests from External Aggression and Internal Subversion. The Indian Army is committed to bringing down the levels of violence to "manageable levels" in Jammu and Kashmir so as to restore the confidence of the people and create a secure environment to facilitate smooth governance and socio-economic development.<sup>6</sup> Army's focus is on conducting of surgical and professional operations based on hard intelligence, while cause minimum inconvenience to the local populace. Simultaneously, the focus has been on destruction of terrorist infrastructure, resulting in a large number of hideouts being busted and recovery of huge caches of arms and ammunition.<sup>7</sup>

### **SHOPIAN OPERATION: 05 DECEMBER 1992**

Shopian, also known as Shupiyān, is a hill District in the Kashmir Valley, situated in Jammu and Kashmir, India. Located along the historic Mughal Road, much of its landscape is covered by forests and falls within the Pir Panjal Range, making it extremely cold in winter, with temperatures dropping as low as -7°C. Formerly a Tehsil of Pulwama District, Shopian was granted district status in March 2007. During 1992, Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh's unit, 22 GRENADIERS was deployed in J&K for Counter Insurgency operations. He was then the Officiating Company Commander of Bravo Company of 22 GRENADIERS, at a tender age of 22 years, was leading a cordon and search operation at Padarpur village in Pulwama District of Jammu and Kashmir. The insurgency in Kashmir during the 1990s was a period of violent conflict between militant groups and Indian security forces. It began with growing separatist movements and support from Pakistan, leading to attacks on security forces and widespread unrest. In response, the Indian government launched counter-insurgency operations, deploying the army, paramilitary forces, and police. This resulted in frequent clashes, civilian hardships, and security concerns. By the late 1990s, these efforts had weakened many militant groups, but tensions and violence in the region continued.<sup>8</sup>

After getting commissioned in the GRENEDIERS on 13 June 1992, Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh joined his unit on 05 August 1992 in Kashmir Valley where the unit was in thick of

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<sup>6</sup> The Need for a Strategic Response to Insurgency and Terrorism Internal Security Cluster \* IDS IDSA ISSUE BRIEF. (2010). Retrieved from [https://idsa.demosl-03.rvsolutions.in/system/files/IB\\_Strategic%20ResponsetoInsurgencyandTerrorism.pdf](https://idsa.demosl-03.rvsolutions.in/system/files/IB_Strategic%20ResponsetoInsurgencyandTerrorism.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Counter Terrorist Operations in Jammu and Kashmir, Indian Army <https://indianarmy.nic.in/KnowYourArmy/know-your-army-main/counter-terrorist-operations-in-jammu-and-kashmir-operations-un-mission>

<sup>8</sup> Jammu & Kashmir: State Response to Insurgency - The Case of Jammu -- Thomas A. Marks. (2020). Retrieved February 18, 2025, from Satp.org website: <https://www.satp.org/satporgtp/publication/faultlines/volume16/article1.htm>



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

insurgency fighting the anti-national elements. As the unit's area of operation was the hotbed of militant activities, the unit troops had to maintain a very high state of alert and often undertook operations against the militants. In one such operation, on the 05 December 1992, Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh as the Commander of 'B' Company was given the responsibility for blocking the escape of eight terrorists fleeing Afgan Mujahedeen, flushed out during Counter-Insurgency operations in Shuptan Tehsil of Pulwama District. While organizing his troops at Paadarapur village's area, Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh received information at around 0700 hours from another Company that the terrorists had reached the South of the village after fleeing from the attack site. He then encountered eight hardcore militants armed with AK 47 and UMG and challenged them single handedly killing the first two militants he spotted. The fierce encounter ensued and in exchange of fire, a UMG burst hit him on his right arm and left shoulder.<sup>9</sup> Undeterred by the injuries, he further charged at the militants killing three more and thus, saving lives of his fellow soldiers.

Exemplifying a spirit of aggressiveness, he alone killed five of the retreating Mujahedeen. Unfortunately, in the process, he too was badly injured wherein, the bullets that has hit on the shoulder pierced through his heart and eventually, by 0715 hours ( CHECK TIMINGS). he had succumbed to his death. Inspired by the outstanding courage of their young company commander, the unit fought back with double vigor and killed three more terrorists. The mission was thus successfully completed by the unit under the inspiring leadership and daredevilry of Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh. He was awarded the nation's highest peacetime gallantry award, " Ashok Chakra" for his raw courage and leadership. The young brave officer made the supreme sacrifice within six months of being commissioned in the Army.

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<sup>9</sup> Dhanedhar, Reva. 2015. Saga of Valour: Param Vir Chakra and Ashoka Chakra Winners. New Delhi: Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India





रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**

CITATION

**SECOND LIEUTENANT RAKESH SINGH ( IC-51242), 22, GRENADIERS  
( POSTHUMOUS)**

**Effective Date of Award: 05 December 1992**

On 5 December, 1992, Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh, officiating Commander of a Company of 22 Grenadiers, was leading a cordon and search operation in Padarpur village, in Pulwama District of Jammu & Kashmir to apprehend Pakistan trained militants operating in that area. Approximately at 0700 hours while deploying the troops South West of Padarpur village, he was informed by the leading Company about the escape of a group of militants towards South of Padarpur. Though short of manpower, the officer reacted swiftly and rushed to the said area with the three available men of his unit.

After seeing the group led by Second Lt Rakesh Singh coming towards them the militants took defensive positions and started firing. Undeterred by the heavy fire, the officer launched a determined counter attack on the militants and killed two of them single handedly. The militants, completely surprised by the swift attack, retreated and, thereafter, started outflanking one of the men accompanying the officer. Second Lt. Singh immediately saw that one of his men was in grave danger and the only way he could save him was to move to a better position, which involved crossing the militants' line of fire. Placing his own life of jeopardy, this officer ran through the barrage of the militants' fire and received bullet injuries in his right arm and left shoulder. Undeterred by these injuries, he got up from the ground, where he had fallen and charged directly at the militants and killed three more of them. He continued firing at the militants till he succumbed to his injuries. Inspired by their officer's bravery, the jawans of his unit killed the remaining three militants. In this operation, considerable quantities of weapons and ammunition were captured from the militants.

By his heroic action, which resulted in all the militants being killed, Second Lt Rakesh Singh displayed the most conspicuous bravery, setting a shining example of loyalty and devotion.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE



*Colonel Raj Singh, Father of Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh receiving Ashoka Chakra from the President Shankar Dayal Sharma in 1993*

Source: Shri Rajesh Singh



*Shri Rajesh Singh, elder brother in December 2005 at NDA on inauguration of building in name of *Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh**

Source: Shri Rajesh Singh



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**



Shri Rajesh Singh during inauguration of statue in village Subana, District Jhajjar on 05  
December 2022

Source: Shri Rajesh Singh



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**

सत्यमेव जयते



Bust of Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh at Man Sarovar Park, Rohtak

Source: Shri Rajesh Singh



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**

सत्यमेव जयते



*Family of Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh in 2017*

Source: Shri Rajesh Singh



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

सत्यमेव जयते

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