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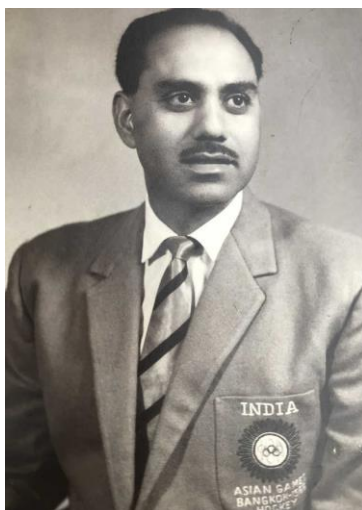
**LIEUTENANT COLONEL HARI PAL KAUSHIK (Then LIEUTENANT)**

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	IC-11811
<b>RANK</b>	Lieutenant Colonel (Then Lieutenant)
<b>NAME</b>	Hari Pal Kaushik
<b>SON OF</b>	Tirath Ram Kaushik
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Jalandhar, Punjab
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	1 SIKH (NOW 4 MECHANISED INFANTRY)
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>	13 December 1959
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Vir Chakra / 23 October 1962
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	1962 Sino India War
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

Lieutenant Colonel (Then Lieutenant) Hari Pal Kaushik was born on 02 February 1934 in Khusropur village near Jalandhar, Punjab. His father's name was Tirath Ram Kaushik. He used to play Hockey when he was a student, his daughter Veronica recalls that "he used to cycle around 10-15 km to play Hockey. He would eat Gur Channa (jaggery and black gram) and say 'Ghodey ka khana khathe' (We used to have a horse's diet)".<sup>1</sup> In his childhood, Lieutenant Kaushik loved playing the sport and would mostly be in the field and never in class. He used to tell her that "his shoulder would often get dislocated while playing. He would just get off the field, set his shoulder back himself and start playing again"<sup>2</sup>. On 13 December 1959, Lieutenant Hari pal Kaushik was commissioned in the Indian Army and joined 1 SIKH of the illustrious Sikh Regiment, noted for its valiant warriors and many battle honours.



*Lieutenant Hari Pal Kaushik*

Source: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/punjab/hockey-olympian-lt-col-haripal-kaushik-passes-away-534490>

During the 1962 Sino India War, He was commanding the forward Company holding the Tongpeng La position in North East Frontier Agency (NEFA). Lieutenant Hari Pal Kaushik fought valiantly against the overwhelming hordes of Chinese attackers and led a successful retreat, saving the unit's Heavy Machine Guns and Mortars. He was fortunate to break through the Chinese onslaught and returned weeks later bedraggled. He was shattered both physically and psychologically but fought back due to the faith of his Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Karnail Singh Sidhu and amazingly went on to play in the Olympics again winning his second Gold Medal in Hockey. A Vir Chakra for his 'remarkable bravery' and Arjuna Awardee Lieutenant Colonel Haripal Kaushik was known for his speed and stickwork.<sup>3</sup> He was

<sup>1</sup> With A Stick He Wiped Away the Scars of Battlefield', Published in Times of India on 30 December 2023.

<sup>2</sup> War hero and Olympic champion (Accessed on 09 January 2024)

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/war-hero-and-olympic-champion-579002>

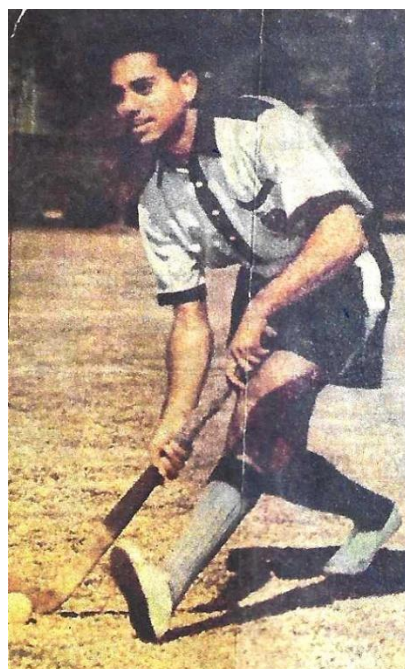
<sup>3</sup> Book Review: Camouflaged by Maj Gen Jagatbir Singh (Accessed on 21 December 2023)



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

an exceptional Soldier Sportsman. In 1955 the Sikh Regimental Hockey team (SRC) was scheduled to play in the semi-finals of the All-India Dhyan Chand Hockey tournament, at National Stadium, Delhi, against Hockey Club, Bhawalpur (Pakistan). The other semi-final was between Punjab Police and Aryan Club, Lahore. At that time Punjab Police boasted of eight Olympians in their playing ranks. Prestige was at stake, all round.

The SRC, left forward was injured, as replacement the Sikh Regiment was able to coax young Haripal, then a student in DAV (Dayanand Anglo Vedic) College, Jalandhar, to play for them. His cool demeanour, skilful artistry in building an attack, came to the fore and the Sikh Regiment won the finals, defeating Aryan Club Lahore 2-0.



*An early photo of Lieutenant Hari Pal Kaushik playing Hockey and a newspaper cutout from May, 1964*

Source: 'With A Stick He Wiped Away the Scars of Battlefield', Published in Times of India on 30 December 2023.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

Apart from being a gallant war hero, Lieutenant Hari Pal Kaushik was a superb athlete and an exceptional hockey player. As a versatile forward he represented India in hockey and was a member of the 1956 (Gold medal) in Melbourne, 1960 (Silver medal) in Rome and 1964 (Gold medal) in Tokyo Olympic teams.<sup>4</sup> In his interview to Sunday Tribune, a fellow Olympian Colonel Balbir Singh remembers Lieutenant Hari Pal Kaushik as “magnanimous, never kept the ball to himself...he was the coolest player on the circuit”.



*Indian Hockey Team at 1956 Olympic Games, Melbourne.*

Source: <https://olympics.com/en/news/melbourne-1956-olympics-indian-hockey-team-gold-medal-balbir-singh-sr-pakistan>

After the 1962 War, Lieutenant Hari Pal Kaushik lost the vitality and the drive to play the game. Though the war was over, it continued to haunt and torment him. In his stories to Veronica, her daughter, he often told her about how during the war “they drank the water they found, even caught and ate snakes to survive”.<sup>5</sup> The trauma of losing comrades on the battle field affected his health. Probal Dasgupta in his book, ‘Camouflaged: Forgotten Stories from the Battlefields’ mentions that during this period Lieutenant Hari Pal Kaushik “gained weight and appeared unfit”. It was during this time when Lieutenant Colonel Karnail Singh Sidhu, then Commanding Officer of the 1 SIKH, encouraged him to pursue the Hockey once again and find his second inning in the sport he once loved dearly. By the summer of 1964, Lieutenant Kaushik was in his best form. That May, Times of India reported him to be “Without doubt the

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<sup>4</sup> Hockey Olympian Lt Col Haripal Kaushik passes away (Accessed on 15 December 2023)

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/punjab/hockey-olympian-lt-col-haripal-kaushik-passes-away-534490>

<sup>5</sup> With A Stick He Wiped Away the Scars of Battlefield’, Published in Times of India on 30 December 2023.





रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

most attractive player on the view”.<sup>6</sup> At the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, Lieutenant Hari Pal Kaushik made his comeback and Indian Hockey Team went on to regain the Olympic title with Gold in the finals by defeating Pakistan’s team. This victory also paved the way for Lieutenant Kaushik to find peace. Following this, as the Team’s Vice Captain, he helped India win the Asian Games Gold in Bangkok in 1966.

Lieutenant Hari Pal Kaushik was married to Prem Bala and had a daughter, Veronica. To take care of his daughter, he took an early retirement when his wife passed away in 1983. He worked as a General Manager at a sugar mill in Paghwara and also created his own brand of Hockey sticks, *Goal Getter*<sup>7</sup>. He was also posted as the Adjutant of the Indian Military Academy in Dehra Dun from 1970-1972 where he left an indelible mark and served as a role model to the Gentleman Cadets. Lieutenant Hari Pal Kaushik received the Arjuna Award for excellence in Hockey in 1998.<sup>8</sup> He passed away at his residence in Jalandhar Cantonment on 25 January, 2018.<sup>9</sup>



*Lt Col Haripal Kaushik receiving the Arjuna Award from then President KR Narayanan*

Source: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/war-hero-and-olympic-champion-579002>

The Sikh Regiment is one of the highest decorated regiments of the Indian Army. It came into existence on 01 August 1846, with the raising of Regiment of Ferozepore Sikhs and Regiment

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<sup>6</sup> With A Stick He Wiped Away the Scars of Battlefield’, Published in Times of India on 30 December 2023

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> LT COL HARIPAL KAUSHIK VIR CHAKRA (1934-2018) (Accessed on 15 December 2023)

<https://oneindiaonepeople.com/lt-col-haripal-kaushik-vir-chakra-1934-2018/>

<sup>9</sup> Hockey Olympian Lt Col Haripal Kaushik passes away (Accessed on 15 December 2023)

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रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

of Ludhiana Sikhs by Captain G Tebbs and Lieutenant Colonel P Gordon respectively. They participated effectively in the 1857 First War of Independence. This war proved to be beneficial for the Sikhs as it revealed their valour and fighting tenacity. Under the British Indian Army, the Sikh Regiment fought gallantly in a number of war and battles including the Battle of Saragarhi in which they left an indelible mark in the regiment's history. By 1914 the Sikh Regiment was deployed as part of British Indian Army for operations in World War I. The Regiment served in all theatres of operations and earned 28 battle honours. The modern Sikh Regiment traces its roots directly from the 11<sup>th</sup> Sikh Regiment of the British Indian Army. When transferred to the Indian Army post-Independence, the numeral 11 was removed and new battalions were added.<sup>10</sup> This was the battalion that was the first battalion to be airlifted to Kashmir Valley in October 1947 and their CO, Lieutenant Colonel DR Rai laid down his life at Baramulla and was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra. 1 SIKH was later mechanised in 1970 and re-designated as 4 MECHANISED INFANTRY on 02 April 1979 also known as the Bravest of the Brave. Jemadar Nand Singh of the Battalion was awarded the Victoria Cross in World War II and thereafter the Mahavir Chakra in 1947-48. Subedar Joginder Singh was awarded the Para Vir Chakra in 1962.

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 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.<sup>11</sup>

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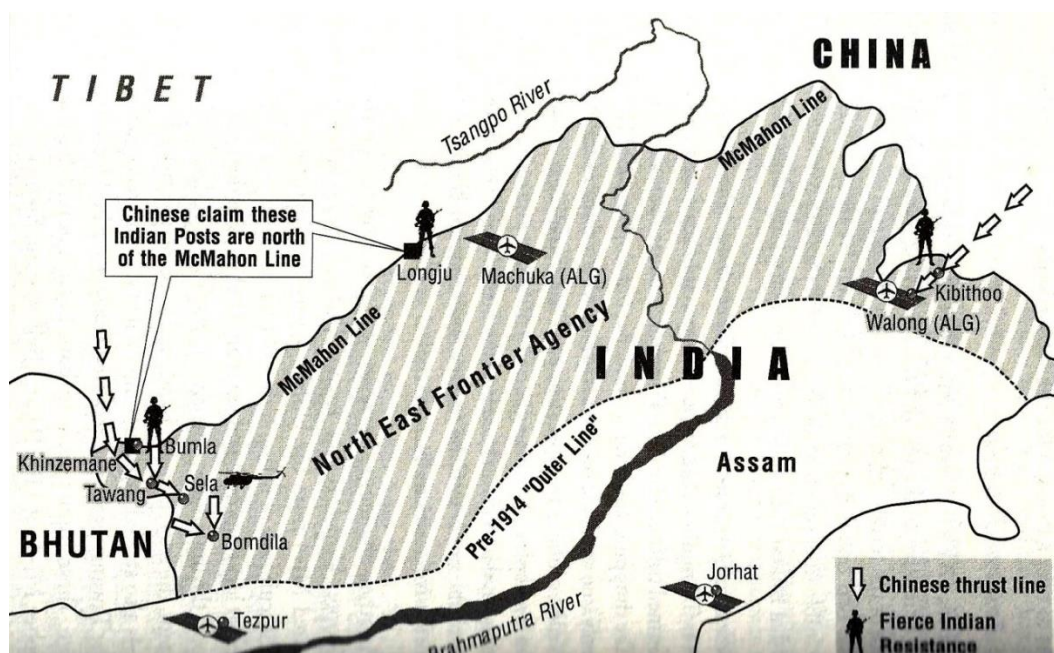
<sup>10</sup> Ballabh, Anand, Insights into Infantry Regiments: A Basic Factbook. Forward Books publications. New Delhi (2013)

<sup>11</sup> History of the Conflict with China, 1962. P.B Sinha. Col A.A. Athale (1992). History Division, Ministry of Defence, Government of India.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

On 09 September 1962, India's then-Defence Minister Krishna Menon decided to evict the Chinese troops stationed South of Thagla Ridge due to the increasing intensity of Chinese incursions into Indian Territory. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's then Prime Minister, who was in London for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, agreed with this decision. 7 Infantry Brigade commanded by Brigadier JP Dalvi was then given the order to advance to Namka Chu, which was considered as an advantageous ground for the Chinese. Being aware of this advantage, Chinese attacked the Indian post at Namka Chu on 20 October 1962 with overwhelming strength. The Indian Army fought the assault but were soon overpowered by enemy's strength in number and superior weapons. Soon after this attack, the Chinese army advanced towards Tawang. A Divisional sized force advanced across Bum La which was held only by a company of 1 SIKH. Hopelessly outnumbered yet ready to face Chinese forces, this Company which included Subedar Joginder Singh faced the wave upon wave of Chinese soldiers.<sup>12</sup>



*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.

On 20 October 1962, while in a defensive position atop a mountain in the Tongpeng La Sector of the Bum La axis, the Company noticed strong enemy concentration across the McMahon Line opposite Bum La. This was indeed preparatory to the Chinese assault on Bum La axis on

<sup>12</sup> Param Vir: Our Heroes in Battle. Maj Gen Ian Cardozo. (2003). The Lotus Collection, Roli Books Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, India.

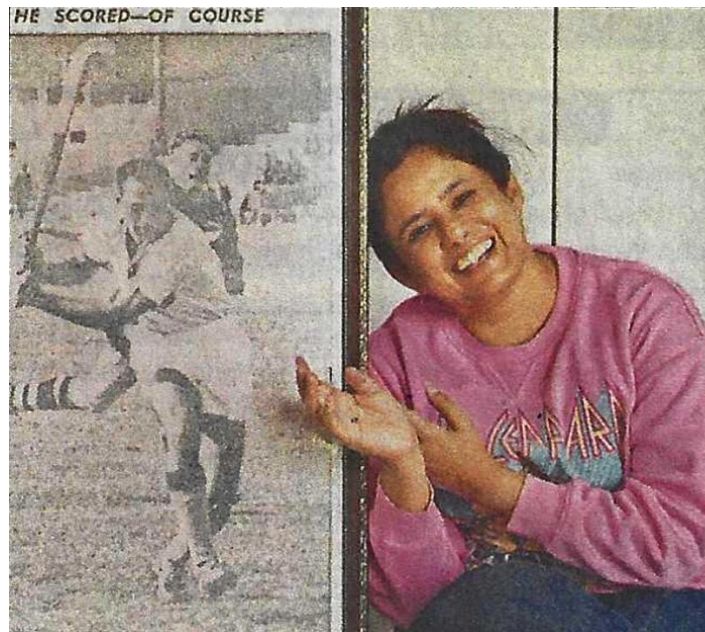




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MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

23 October. On 23 October 1962, around 0530 hours, the Chinese launched a fierce offensive on the Bum La axis with the aim of reaching Tawang. The enemy's leading Battalion launched three waves, each about 200 strong. Lieutenant Hari Pal Kaushik was commanding a Company holding the Tongpeng La position in NEFA. At 0530 hours on 23 October 1962, the Chinese started attacking with a Regiment on the Bum La axis with the intention of breaking through to Tawang. His Company's position was first attacked by a Chinese Battalion, but the attack was repulsed, with heavy losses, by his forward platoon. It was in this action, when Subedar Joginder Singh displayed conspicuous gallantry was awarded Param Vir Chakra posthumously.

After the fall of the forward Platoon, a second Battalion of the enemy attacked on a wide front trying to overrun the Company position. Lieutenant Hari Pal Kaushik moved from one Section position to another under enemy fire encouraging his troops. He was a source of inspiration to his men who continued to fight with great determination under his leadership. Eventually, when under heavy enemy pressure, he was ordered to make a tactical withdrawal to another mountain pass, a tough task considering there was an enemy with superior firepower on the prowl. Despite this, he handled the withdrawal skilfully and managed to clear, in face of enemy fire, all his personnel and weapons including heavy mortars and medium machine guns. Later, he was part of a Column that the Chinese ambushed. But he and fourteen other soldiers managed to dodge the bullets. When they reached the new Battalion base in Assam, they had been reduced to skeletons.



*Lieutenant Hari Pal Kaushik's daughter Verounica with his portrait*

*Source:* 'With A Stick He Wiped Away the Scars of Battlefield', Published in Times of India on 30 December 2023.





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## CITATION

Lieutenant Hari Pal Kaushik (1C-1181) The Sikh Regiment  
(Effective date of award - 25 October 1962)

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



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

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<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/punjab/hockey-olympian-lt-col-haripal-kaushik-passes-away-534490>
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## VIDEOS

Ep - 3 | Battle of Namka Chu. 1962 | जब ड्रैगन ने किया भारत पर हमला | Desh Ke Rakshak  
(Source: YouTube JK Cement Ltd.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CDD6ifmPIs>

The Nightmare of Nam Ka Chu 1962 (Source: YouTube MrSargesingh)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLMg\\_sVAgso](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLMg_sVAgso)

सूबेदार जोगिन्दर सिंह जी || Subedar Joginder Singh || Sikh Regiment (Source: YouTube Lodhi  
Reaction (Kshatriya)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8\\_QjxvCFwEg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_QjxvCFwEg)

Disclaimer\*\*<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</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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**DEFENCE**

## MEMORIALS

- The 'Haripal stadium' at MIRC was raised in honour of the officer.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Hockey Olympian Lt Col Haripal Kaushik passes away (Accessed on 15 December 2023)  
<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/punjab/hockey-olympian-lt-col-haripal-kaushik-passes-away-534490>