



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



NAIB SUBEDAR CHUNI LAL

SERVICE NUMBER	9086705F
RANK	Naib Subedar
NAME	Chuni Lal
SON OF	Shankar Dass
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Baderwah, Doda District, Jammu and Kashmir
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	8 JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/COMMISSION	1984
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Vir Chakra/ 24 August 2000 Ashoka Chakra (Posthumous)/24 June 2007
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	Op RAKSHAK
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	Sena Medal



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Naib Subedar Chuni Lal was born in Bhara village of Baderwah Tehsil in Doda District of Jammu & Kashmir to Shri Shankar Dass. He joined the Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry (JAK LI) in 1984 and was posted to 8 JAK LI. On joining his Battalion, young Chuni Lal lived up to the promise of an ideal soldier when in the year 1987, he volunteered and played an important role in capturing the now famous Bana Post located at 21153 feet in the Siachen Glacier, the highest battlefield in the world. For this act of Gallantry, he was awarded the Sena Medal. A decorated soldier has also served with the UN peacekeeping force twice, Somalia in 1992 and Sudan in 2006. He served as an instructor with the NCC Officers Training Academy, Kamptee. On 24 August 2000, this valiant JCO became an example to emulate while serving with his unit in the Poonch Sector as a part of 'OPERATION RAKSHAK' was awarded the Vir Chakra and on 24 June 2007 while serving in Kupwara District of J&K he was awarded the Ashok Chakra (Posthumous).



Army pays tributes at the statue of Nb Sub Chuni Lal

(Source: Honourpoint)

Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAK LI) is an Infantry Regiment under the Indian Army. The Regimental history of JAK LI is very unique. In 1947, when Pakistani troops intruded into the Indian territory, militia groups were raised from the locals of Jammu, Nubra and Leh under the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs. The militia fought with great distinction in the 1965 Indo-Pak War. However, it was the gallant actions of the militia troop in the Indo-Pak War of 1971, that earned them three battle honours. After the war in 1972, the militia was converted into a full-fledged Regiment and in 1976 the name was changed to Jammu and



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Kashmir Light Infantry. The JAK LI has been deployed in the Indian Peacekeeping Force in Sri Lanka in 1987 and also in the United Nations Mission in Somalia. In 1984, JAK LI was deployed to the Siachen Glacier during Op MEGHDOOT. 8 JAK LI earned great honour by capturing a Pakistani post at 21000 feet at the Siachen Glacier in 1987. Subedar Bana Singh of this Regiment has been awarded the Param Vir Chakra.

On 24 August 2000, Havildar Chuni Lal was part of a special mission operation at the Line of Control in Doda- Poonch Sector in Jammu and Kashmir, where he successfully thwarted enemy's attack to capture own Forward Post. On the night of 23/24 August 2000, when enemy started shelling and firing heavily at own Post, despite heavy shelling, Havildar Chuni Lal displayed undaunted bravery by moving from bunker-to-bunker within his Section motivating his troops who brought down effective Medium Machine Gun fire on the enemy's attacking column. Subsequently, he inspired his men by personal example to fight a close quarter battle in open trenches. Observing that two enemy soldiers had jumped inside own communication trench, he picked up a Light Machine Gun and rushed at them disregarding own safety and shot them dead. Taken by surprise at the ferocity of the pro-active stance of own troops, the enemy quickly retreated leaving behind several weapons at our Post. Twelve enemy soldiers were killed in the action. Havildar Chuni Lal displayed conspicuous courage and relentless offensive action in the face of the enemy. For his gallantry he was awarded Vir Chakra.

Earning the name of being an extraordinary soldier at a very young age only inspired Naib Subedar Chuni Lal to outdo himself with every new opportunity which came his way. In the year 2007 he was posted in Kupwara District of Jammu and Kashmir. On the night of 24 June, the troops of his unit noticed some suspicious movements along the line of control. Due to poor visibility, the movement of the terrorists could not be tracked effectively.



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Naib Subedar Chuni Lal's wife receiving Ashok Chakra award from the President Pratibha Patil

(Source: Honourpoint)

A search party led by Naib Subedar Chuni Lal was launched in the morning to ascertain the facts. The twice decorated JCO led his troops from the front. The troops were fired upon by a group of terrorists hiding near the line of control. Naib Subedar Chuni Lal retaliated immediately with heavy volume of fire. The young JCO putting his acumen into the act manoeuvred his troops to block all escape routes of the terrorists. This led to the elimination of two fleeing terrorists at the outset, the remaining terrorists finding themselves surrounded and out manoeuvred made a suicidal bid to escape, injuring two soldiers. Sensing the criticality of the situation and threat to life of his fellow soldiers, Naib Subedar Chuni Lal, with total disregard to his personal safety, charged at the terrorists. This act of bravery and extraordinary courage took the remaining three terrorists by total surprise. The JCO, though wounded and profusely bleeding, continued to fire at the terrorists till all the remaining three terrorists were killed. Subedar Chuni Lal too breathed his last in the encounter. This act of great bravery, leadership and supreme sacrifice by Naib Subedar Chuni Lal not only resulted in elimination of five terrorists but also saved the lives of his fellow soldiers under his command.



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Army personnel and others pay respects to Martyr Chuni Lal on his 16th martyrdom day in Bhaderwah.

Source: <https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/naib-subedar-Chuni-lal-remembered-on-16th-martyrdom-day/>

Survived by his wife and two children, he was cremated with full military honours in his hometown Bhaderwah. His act of great bravery, leadership and supreme sacrifice was in the best traditions of Indian Army that earned him the Ashoka Chakra posthumously. The award was received by his wife Smt Chinta Devi. The Army, in a rare gesture adopted his then 16-year-old son, Manvir Singh.



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CITATION

9086705F HAVILDAR CHUNI LAL, 8 JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY

(Effective date of award- 24 August 2000)

Havildar Chuni Lal was part of a special mission operation at the Line of Control in Doda-Poonch Sector in Jammu and Kashmir. On 24 August 2000, he successfully thwarted enemy's attack to capture own forward post. On the night 23rd/24th August 2000, the enemy started shelling and firing heavily at own post. Despite heavy shelling, Havildar Chuni Lal displayed undaunted bravery by moving from bunker-to bunker in his section and motivating his troops who brought down effective medium machine gun fire on the enemy's attacking column. Subsequently, he inspired his men by personal example to fight a close quarter battle in open trenches.

Observing that two enemy soldiers have jumped inside own communication trench, he picked up a light machine gun and rushed at them disregarding own safety and shot them dead. Taken by surprise at the ferocity of the pro-active stance of own troops, the enemy quickly retreated leaving behind several weapons at our post. Twelve enemy soldiers were killed in the action. Havildar Chuni Lal displayed conspicuous courage and relentless offensive action in the face of the enemy.

Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No. 129 Pres/2001, dated 15.08.2001



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CITATION

9086705F NAIB SUBEDAR CHUNI LAL, 8 JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIGHT
INFANTRY

(Effective date of award- 24 June 2007)

On June 24, 2007, Naib Subedar Chuni Lal received the information that a group of terrorists was likely to infiltrate in the Northern sector.

At 0700 hours, while leading the search operation, the small team led by Naib Subedar Chuni Lal came under heavy fire from the terrorists hiding near the Line of Control.

He retaliated instantaneously with fire and manouvered his troops to block all escape routes of the terrorists. He tactfully closed in and shot two terrorists at close range. However, the terrorists evacuated both the casualties and regrouped to resume the offensive. Finding his men in danger Naib Subedar Chuni Lal in a daring act charged into the direction of fire, killing one more terrorist on the spot. However, in the process he sustained multiple gunshot wounds in his groin and lower abdomen.

Despite profuse bleeding, he continued with the operation which resulted in the death of two more terrorists.

Reference: Gazette of India, Notification, dated



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MEMORIALS

- A bust statue of Naib Subedar Chuni Lal at the Officers Training Academy Kamptee.



(Source: X @NCC OTA KAMPTEE)



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- Statue of Naib Subedar Chuni Lal unveiled and installed by Indian Army in Srinagar Jammu And Kashmir



(Source: X @Adgpi-Indian Army)

- Statue of Naib Subedar Chuni Lal installed in his hometown in Badherwah District of Jammu and Kashmir.



(Source: Daily Excelsior)



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VIDEOS

Northern Command Army Commander Pays Tribute To Lt Naib Subedar Chuni Lal
(Source: YouTubeExcelsior News)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbLLQn6ufxY>

Jai Hind Janab में Shaheed Naib Subedar Chuni Lal की दास्तान, मरणोपरांत बहादुरी के मिला
Ashoka Chakra (Source: YouTube Zee Salaam TV)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgV8GlyHNqs>

Nb Subedar Chunni Lal Ashok Chakra | Kupwara Operation | Indian Army | #BalidanDiwas |
In Hindi (Source: YouTube Shivalik Journal)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYVIP8HKIFw>

Highly Decorated Shaheed naib subedar Chunni Lal remembered (Source: YouTube Earth
News)

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

Most decorated soldier in the history of Indian Army Subedar Chunni Lal remembered on
Independence (Source: YouTube Young Bites)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZFxgeuEq3o>

Nb Sub Chuni Lal Ashok Chakra, Veer Chakra, Sena Medal (Source: YouTube Chinar
Corps)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZ5dCTGy_OI

सेना ने याद किए देश के हाइली डेकोरेटेड शहीद नायब सुबेदार चुन्नी लाल (Source: YouTube
Punjab Kesari TV)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ab9P-neRMio>

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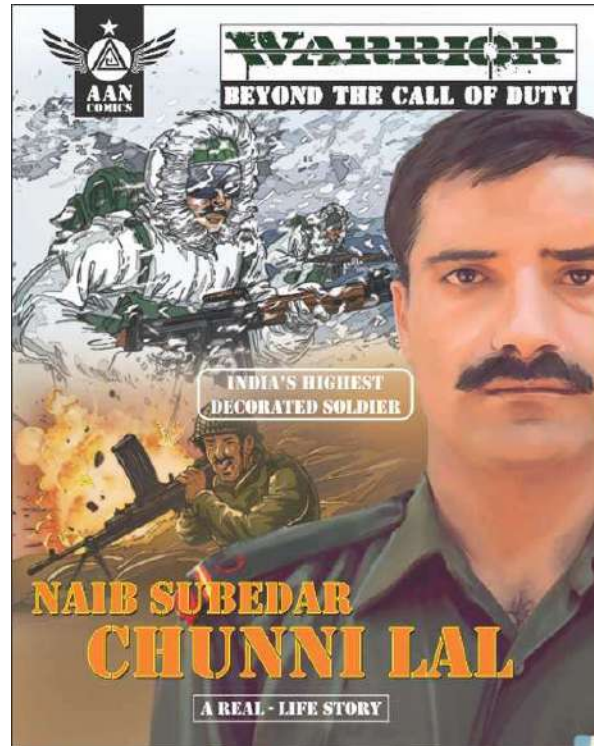
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OTHER INTERESTING SOURCES

- AAN Comics has published a book which graphically illustrates the story of India's most decorated soldier Naib Subedar Chuni Lal AC, VrC, SM



(Source: AAN Comics)