

The Gazette  of India

EXTRAORDINARY

PART I—Section 1

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

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No. 15] NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1962/MAGHA 4, 1883

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PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATIONS

*New Delhi, the 24th January 1962*

**No. 8-Pres/62.**—The President is pleased to approve the award of the PARAM VIR CHAKRA, for most conspicuous bravery at Elizabethville in U.N. Operations in the Congo, to:

Captain GURBACHAN SINGH SALARIA (IC-8497), 3/1 Gorkha Rifles (*Posthumous*).

*(Effective date of award—5th December 1961)*

On the 5th December 1961, 3/1 Gorkha Rifles was ordered to clear up a road block established by the Gendarmerie at a strategic roundabout at Elizabethville, Katanga. The plan was that one company with two Swedish Armoured cars would attack the position frontally and Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria with two sections of Gorkhas and two Swedish armoured personnel carriers would advance towards this road block from the airfield to act as a cutting off force.

Captain Salaria with his small force arrived at a distance of 1500 yards from the road block at approximately 1312 hours on the 5th December 1961 and came under heavy automatic and small arms fire from an undetected enemy position dug in on his right flank. The enemy also had two armoured cars and about 90 men opposing Captain Salaria's small force.

Captain Salaria appreciating that he had run into a subsidiary road block and ambush and that this enemy force might reinforce the strategic roundabout and thus jeopardise the main operation, decided to remove this opposition. He led a charge with bayonets, kukries and grenades supported by a rocket launcher. In this gallant engagement, Captain Salaria killed 40 of the enemy and knocked out the two armoured cars. This unexpectedly bold action completely demoralised the enemy who fled despite their numerical superiority and protected positions.

Captain Salaria was wounded by a burst of automatic fire in his neck but continued to fight till he collapsed due to profuse bleeding. Captain Salaria's gallant action prevented any movement of the enemy force towards the main battle scene and thus contributed very largely to the success of the main battalion's action at the roundabout and prevented the encirclement of U.N. Headquarters in Elizabethville. Captain Salaria subsequently died of his wounds.

Captain Salaria's personal example, utter disregard for personal safety, and dauntless leadership inspired his small but gallant force of 16 Gorkhas to hold on to their position, dominate the enemy and inflict heavy casualties despite the enemy's superiority in numbers and tactical position.

Captain Salaria's leadership, courage, unflinching devotion to duty and disregard for personal safety were in the best traditions of our Army.

**No. 9-Pres/62.**—The President is pleased to approve the award of the ASHOKA CHAKRA, CLASS I, to the undermentioned personnel for most conspicuous bravery:

- (1) Captain MAN BAHADUR RAI (IC-5261), M.C., I.D.S.M., 11th Gorkha Rifles. (Seconded to Assam Rifles).

*(Effective date of award—3rd May 1961)*

In April-May 1961, Captain Man Bahadur Rai (IC-5261) took part in a series of actions against a body of hostile Nagas who had entrenched themselves in a very difficult, densely wooded, hilly region interspersed with numerous ravines. Towards the end of April 1961, he led a platoon at dead of night through two hostile positions into the heart of their stronghold, fiercely attacked them and was successful in dislodging them from that position.

On the 3rd May 1961, he led a platoon against another strongly fortified hostile position which was situated on the steep slopes of a ravine. This position dominated the surrounding area and could not be approached except frontally. Captain Rai knowing that heavy casualties would result if he were to attack frontally, took half a platoon, crawled through the thick undergrowth and scaled up the steep side while exposed to a hail of close range fire which covered his advance. On locating the hostile position, he pressed forward in its direction, threw two hand grenades killing a few hostiles and charged the position firing as he went and killing two more hostiles. This fearless and unexpected assault spurred his men to action and so demoralised the hostiles that they fled into the thick jungle. The hostiles lost ten men in the encounter and left behind two rifles, one 12 bore gun and one tommy gun. The attack dealt a crushing blow to the hostiles and led to the eventual destruction of their position.

This action was one of several in which Captain Rai took part, first as an officer of the 8th Battalion of the Assam Rifles and more recently as an officer of the Village Guards Organisation of Nagaland. Throughout this period, he repeatedly showed conspicuous bravery, unselfishness and indomitable courage in very difficult and dangerous situations. His leadership and unconquerable will have been a source of inspiration to all his comrades and are in the highest traditions of the Army.

- (2) No. 30385 Subedar Major KHARKA BAHADUR LIMBU, M.C.,  
8 Bn. Assam Rifles (*Posthumous*).

(*Effective date of award—26th April 1961*)

On the 26th April 1961 Subedar Major Kharka Bahadur Limbu, M.C. of the 8th Bn. Assam Rifles took over the command of a platoon which had the task of taking a position held strongly by Naga hostiles. This position situated in a jungle ravine and difficult of access was barricaded by a long palisade covered by bamboo stakes, well dug in. A notorious hostile leader was in charge of the camp. Due to the impregnable defences and accurate fire from within, it was extremely perilous to attack it. At 0400 hours on the 26th April Subedar Major Kharka Bahadur Limbu, in complete disregard of his own personal safety, ran through hostile fire to the stockade, beat down a portion of it and with a handful of men stormed the nearest bunker. He himself rushed through the defenders counter attacking him, shot down two of them and captured two rifles before being wounded mortally. With a rifle bullet inside him, he dragged himself forward undaunted, threw two grenades into a bunker and shot down three more hostiles. With his dying breath he cheered and encouraged his men to break the defences and destroy the hostiles. He made the supreme sacrifice but the stronghold was stormed leading to the eventual collapse of hostiles in this area.

Subedar Major Limbu's outstanding courage, fearlessness and gallantry were in the highest traditions of the Assam Rifles.

R. K. RAMADHYANI,  
*Secretary to the President.*

