



The WAR DECORATED INDIA

NEWSLETTER



President's Message



I feel honoured to have been elected as President of The Association of The War Decorated India (TWDI). The national convention cum reunion was held on 9-10 Mar 13. It was addressed by a number of eminent personalities. We have to thank Brig NS Sandhu for bringing them to interact with the awardees and understand their needs. The convention was a grand success due to hard work put in by Brig KS Chandpuri, Brig BS Gill and Col GS Bajwa in making arrangements and conducting the event.

Hon'ble S Parkash Singh Badal, Chief Minister Punjab enhanced the annuity pension by twenty percent. The authorisation has been signed and a notification is awaited. He has created a corpus of Rupees Fifty lacks for financial assistance to the gallantry awardees, war widows and scholarship to their children. The funds have been placed at the disposal of Director Sainik Welfare, Punjab. We will be able to invite applications once the formalities for its dispersal have been completed. The Chief Minister also offered office space for the WDI in the Maharaja Ranjit Singh Preparatory Institute.

Gen Bikram Singh, COAS is a highly decorated officer. He understands the inspirational value of projecting the deeds of the awardees to the coming generation. He has issued instructions to take up our genuine demands with the centre and state governments. He has also sensitised his commanders and asked them to uphold and enhance the prestige of the gallant soldiers. We have received a positive response from them in taking up our cases with the state authorities and instituting in house measures to recognise the sacrifices of the awardees.

Hon'ble Shri PK Bansal, the then Union Railway Minister had announced extending the validity of the railway pass to 3-5 years and revising procedures for easier renewal by soldiers living in far flung areas. He had also promised to upgrade the pass. However due to the change in the Railway Ministry the issues could not be executed.

After the convention, some new vice presidents and state directors were nominated. Capt Reet MP Singh who has been the back bone of the association was kind enough to accept our offer to resume the charge of the Secretary General.

An annual executive committee meeting was held on 9-10 Dec 13. Due to some problems of rail reservations and personal commitments only a few state directors were able to attend the meeting. I must mention here that some of the state directors have done excellent work in their respective states and provided valuable inputs. It was decided during the executive committee meeting that we should explore the possibility of replacement of those state directors who have failed to attend meetings for a prolonged period. We are grateful to Air Mrshl Randhir Singh and Maj Gen LS Lehl for attending the meeting as special invitees and for giving us the benefit of their experience and wisdom.

The meeting gave us a good opportunity to discuss and identify new avenues for obtaining concessions and privileges, particularly for the widows and the wards.

I feel that we may have to take legal recourse in resolving some of the pending issues like the special pension notified on 26 Jan 1950 which was changed to an allowance in 1972. Major Navdeep Singh who has been actively handling court cases favouring defence personnel has accepted our offer to be the Honorary Legal Adviser and Consultant to WDI.

Whereas monetary benefits are essential for the financial security of the families and wards of the gallantry awardees, it is equally important to uphold and enhance their prestige. We need to work towards this end. Our grand ideas and plans to succeed would require full support from all association members. The process may be slow but we will try to make it purposeful, particularly for the other ranks and their families.

I would like to wish all members of the association A Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Jai Hind.

Lt Gen Gurbaksh Singh Sihota

YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Lt Gen GS Sihota
PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VM
President

68, Sector 4,
Mansa Devi Complex
Panchkula 160009
9815673232



Brig NS Sandhu, MVC
Immediate Past President

519, Sector 8-B, Chandigarh
160009
9915195190
0172-2547073
0172-2770977



Brig KS Chandpuri, MVC, VSM
Vice President Army

1119, Sector 33-C, Chandigarh
160020
9915711499
0172-2604565



Cdre KP Gopal Rao, MVC
Vice President Navy

1, Sriramnagar, North Street
TTK Nagar, Alwarpet, Chennai
600018
044-24350092
044-24338116



Air Mrshl Manjit S Sekhon
PVSM, VrC, SC, VM
Vice President Air Force

D402, Hind Apartments, Plot 12
Sector 5, Dwarka, New Delhi
110070
09313997627



Lt Col HIS Dhaliwal, VrC
Treasurer

1588, Sector 33-D, Chandigarh
160020
09814511588
0172-46195888



Mrs Kumud Kumar
Nominated Lady Member

w/o Capt Kumud Kumar, VrC
7, Sunshine Apartments, A-3
Paschim Vihar, New Delhi
110063
09910332834
011-25288910



Maj Gen Atma Singh, AVSM, VrC
State Director Delhi

Sital Vihar Apt. C-908, Plot 10, Sector 23
Dwarka. New Delhi, 110075
(M) 09312602304
(H) 011-28052411
(W) 01126176003



Col Rupinder S Sandhu, VrC
State Director Punjab

151, New Defence Colony
Old Phagwara Road
Jalandhar 144005
09876446676
0151-2632312



Col Sheel Kumar Puri, VrC, VSM
State Director West Bengal

Flat 14-A, Ashok Tower
11-A, Palm Avenue, Kolkata 70019
09433092696
033-24730812
033-32907049



Lt Col Amar Singh Khattri, VrC
State Director Uttarakhand

Sector 3-C, 187, Defence Colony
Dehradun (UK)
248001
0135-2665804



Brig Baljit Singh Gill, VrC, VSM
State Director Punjab

608, Sector 36-B
Chandigarh
160036
09872868095
0175-2648608



Mrs. Barinder K Dyal
State Director Himachal Pradesh

W/o Lt Gen Ranjit S Dyal, PVSM, MVC
245, Sector 6, Panchkula
134109
09915494453
0172-2560274



Brig JK Tomar, VrC
State Director Uttar Pradesh

"Neil Villa", F-71, Shastri Nagar
Meerut, Uttar Pradesh
250004
09456205122
0121-2767049

YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Brig Ravi Kumar, Vrc
State Director Bihar & Jharkhand

*NEELAM, 70, Bazar Mohalla
Nr. Police Station, Doranda.
Distt. Ranchi. Bihar
834002
9334042610 & 0651-2480910*



Col (Dr) Virendra Kumar, Vrc
State Director J & K

*Sahi Enclave, 560/1
Colonel's Colony, Opp. Air Port
Jammu Cantt. J&K 180003
09419130580
0191-2457412*



Maj Uday Sathe, Vrc
State Director Maharashtra

*Satsang Plot No. 96, St. No. 1
Vadgaon Sheri
Pune 411014
020-27036333*



Col Nawal Singh Rajawat, Vrc
State Director Rajasthan

*A-6, Hawa Sarak, Civil Lines
Jaipur 302006
09928402177
0141-2229217
0141-2229257*



Wg Cdr PPS Kwatra, Vrc
State Director Madhya Pradesh

*No. 2, Chandra Vihar Colony
Vill. Umeria. A. B. Road. PO RAU
Distt. Indore. M. P. 453331
09425063386, 09203903390
(H) 0732-4272054
(W) 0731-3296662*



Brig Sarlejeet Singh Ahluwalia, Vrc
State Director Chandigarh

*116, Sector 16-A,
Chandigarh (U.T.)
160015
09876266116
0172-6546636*



Col Gurjeet Singh Bajwa, Vrc, SC
Joint Secretary

*23, Skynet Enclave
Opposite AKM Marriage Palace
PO Zirakpur, SAS Nagar (Mohali)
134109
09855729693
01762-509376 & 295454*



Capt Reet MP Singh, Vrc
Secretary General

*Machhike, 303, UE - I (B)
Patiala 147002-04
09915077877
0175-2284877
0175-2281515*

It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to your enemies, but a great deal more to stand up to your friends.

~ Dumbledore, Harry Potter

True strength is keeping everything together when everyone expects you to fall apart.

~ Unknown

Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgement that something else is more important than fear.

~ Ambrose Redmoon

Courage is not living without fear. Courage is being scared to death and doing the right thing anyway.

~ Chae Richardson

The brave may not live forever, but the cautious don't live at all.

~ Ashley L.

PLEASANT REMINISCENCES & RECOLLECTIONS



Hony Capt Karam Singh, PVC, MM with the then Governor of Punjab H.E. Shri Surendra Nath



Brig Jaswinder Singh Jaswal, Lt Gen, Harwant Singh, Capt Reet MP Singh, VrC, S. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister, Brig NS Sandhu, MVC, Brig JPS Randhawa, VrC, SM, & Brig Kuldeep Singh Chandpuri, MVC, VSM

GLIMPSES OF CULTURAL EVENT





A group of delegates who came to participate in the 1st Triennial National Convention-cum-Reunion 1992 with the then Governor of Punjab H.E. Sh. Surendra Nath & the first president of TWDI, Brig Sukhdev Singh, VrC, MC

MORE GLIMPSES FROM THE PAST



Hon'ble S. Beant Singh, Brig Sant Singh & Brig Sukhdev Singh



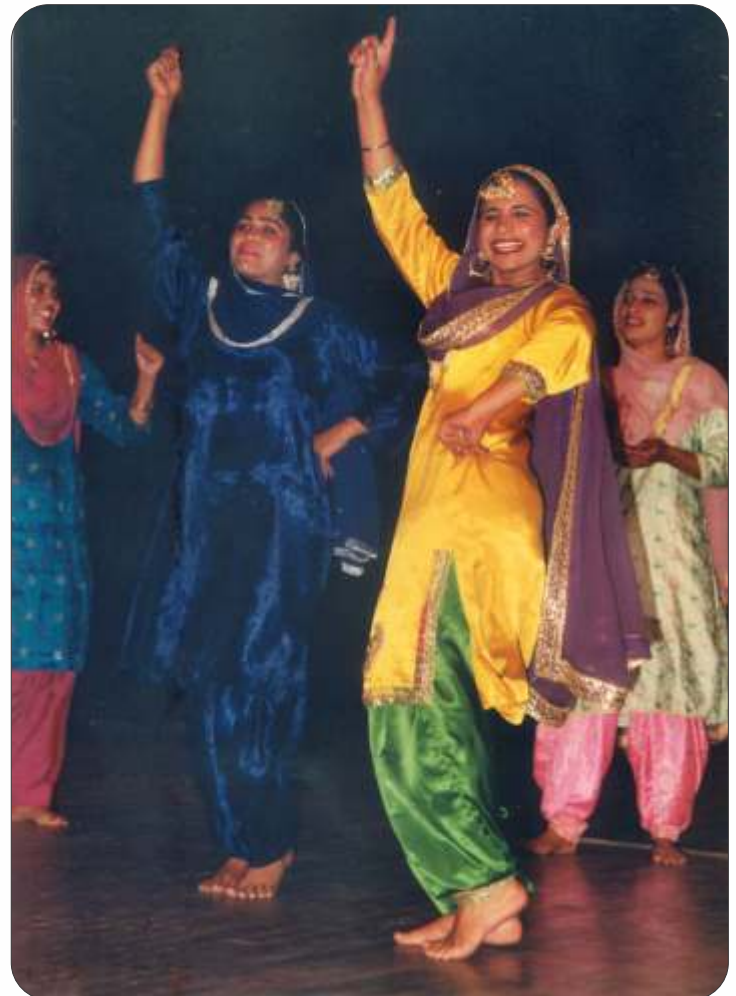
H.E. Lt Gen BKN Chhibber, Lt Gen RS Dyal, Brig Sant Singh & Lt Col Sardul Singh Randhawa



A young man with three stalwarts - Brig Sant Singh, MVC**, Lt Col Chewang Rinchen, MVC** & Lt Col Sardul Singh Randhawa, MVC



Hon'ble S. Beant Singh & Mrs Susheel IS Uppal



Effervescent girls at the Cultural Evening



जनरल बिक्रम सिंह

पी वी एस एम, यू आई एस एम, ए वी एस एम, एस एम, वी एस एम, ए वी वी

General Bikram Singh

PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC

रक्षा मंत्रालय

एकीकृत मुख्यालय (सेना)

नई दिल्ली-110011

Integrated Headquarters

Ministry of Defence (Army)

New Delhi-110011

A/00043/PPS/Gen Corr

12 Apr 13

Lt Gen Gurbaksh Singh Sihota
PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VM (Retd)
President
The War Decorated India
68, Sector 4, Mansa Devi Complex
Panchkula
Haryana-134 114

Dear General,

1. Please refer to your letter dated 02 Apr 13.
2. I appreciate your concern about the disparities existing in the relief being provided to the gallant soldiers, widows and their children. I assure you that this issue will be taken up with various State Govts being one of my seven KRAs. This issue also got discussed during the Army Cdrs' Conference.
3. I wish you success in all your endeavours. May "The War Decorated India" grow from strength to strength under your distinguished leadership.
4. I also gratefully thank you for the kind words on the address delivered by me at the Triennial National Convention-cum-Reunion (TNCR) of War Decorated at Chandigarh on 09 Mar 13 and my talk in the India Today Conclave on 15 Mar 13.

*With my best regards
Yours Sincerely
[Signature]*



जनरल बिक्रम सिंह

पी वी एस एम, यू वाई एस एम, ए वी एस एम, एस एम, वी एस एम, ए वी सी

General Bikram Singh

PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC

रक्षा मंत्रालय

एकीकृत मुख्यालय (सेना)

नई दिल्ली-110011

Integrated Headquarters

Ministry of Defence (Army)

New Delhi-110011

B/49851/Vet Cell/Offr Misc

13 May 13

Lt Gen Gurbaksh Singh Sihota
PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VM (Retd)
68 Sector 4, Mansa Devi Complex
Panchkula
Haryana – 134 114

Dear General,

1. Please refer to your DO letter dt 02 Apr 13.
2. At the outset let me congratulate you for being elected as the President of War Decorated India. I wish you the very best in your new assignment.
3. The issue of wide disparity in the grants being given to gallantry awardees or their widows by various state govts has been emphasised by me in the recently held Army Cdrs' Conf. Frmn Cdrs have been asked to interact with the concerned Chief Ministers to remove this disparity. The Raksha Mantri has also written to all Chief Ministers in this regard.
4. I wish to assure you that the welfare of Veterans, especially that of our War Heroes and their widows will continue to be accorded top priority by me.

With best regards
Yours Sincerely
[Signature]



Lt Gen Ashok Singh, AVSM, SM, VSM
General Officer Commanding-in-Chief

Tele : Army - 2600 (O) 2601 (R)
Civ - 020 - 26343020 (O)

Headquarters
Southern Command
PIN - 908541
c/o 56 APO

835001/A1(Wel)

13 May 2013



Lt Gen Gurbaksh Singh Sihota
PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VM (Retd)
The War Decorated India
68, Sector 4, Mansa Devi Complex
Panchkula, Haryana - 134 114



Dear General,

1. Please refer your DO letter dated 23 Apr 2013.
2. The Southern Command is committed towards the welfare of veterans and has been actively pursuing various issues of the veterans with various State Governments. You will be glad to know that the States of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have revised grants to award winners due to the efforts of our fmns (detls are encl).
3. I have dir GOC, MG & G Area to engage the Govt of Maharashtra on the issue raised and am sanguine of positive outcome.

Fond regards and best wishes.
yours Sincerely
Ashok



लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल ज्ञान भूषरा

पी.बी.एस.एम., यु.आई.एस.एम., ए.बी.एस.एम., वी.एस.एम., ए.सी.सी.

जनरल अफसर कमांडिंग-इन-चीफ एवं

कर्नल महार रेजीमेन्ट

Lt Gen Gyan Bhushan

PVSM, VYSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief &
Col of the Mahar Regiment

Tele : 0141-2249040 (O)

Army : 2600 (O) 2601 (R)

46218/1/A

मुख्यालय दक्षिण पश्चिमी कमान

पिन 908546

मार्फत 56 ए पी ओ

HQ South Western Command

PIN 908546

C/O 56 APO



11 Jul 2013

Lt Gen Gurbaksh Singh Sihota

PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VM (Retd)

68, Sector 4, Mansa Devi Complex

Panchkula, Haryana 134114

Dear General,

1. Please ref to your DO letter No Nil dt 10 Jun 13.
2. I wish to info you that welfare and care of our veterans is one of our focus area. MG-ic-Adm has already interacted with Col Nawal Singh Rajawat, VrC (Retd) and he has been info that whenever required by him, appt with Army Cdr will be arranged.
3. You would be pleased to note that due to proactive steps taken by us, monetary grants for Gallantry Award winners have been increased by Govt of Rajasthan in 2012 as under : -

		<u>Existing</u>	<u>Revised</u>
(a)	PVC	- Rs.22,500/-	Rs.20 lacs
(b)	AC	- Rs.20,000/-	Rs.18 lacs
(c)	MVC	- Rs.15,000/-	Rs.15 lacs
(d)	KC	- Rs.12,000/-	Rs.10 lacs
(e)	VrC	- Rs. 7,000/-	Rs. 8 lacs
(f)	SC	- Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 6 lacs
(g)	SM	- Rs. 3,000/-	Rs. 2 lacs

4. A number of other initiatives have also been taken by our Comd. I also take this opportunity to assure you that other issues brought out, will be looked into adequately.

with warm regards

Yours sincerely

Gyan Bhushan.

2



ले० जनरल नृ प्र पाढी, वी एस एम
चीफ ऑफ स्टाफ एवं
कर्नल कमाण्डेन्ट
इंजीनियर्स कोर (एम.इ.एस)

Lt Gen N P Padhi, VSM

Chief of Staff and
Colonel Commandant
The Corps of Engineers (MES)

Tele Mil : 2614 (O) 2615 (R)

Civ No. : 033-22480384 (O)

मुख्यालय पूर्व कमान
पिन : 908542
द्वारा 99 ए पी ओ
HQ Eastern Command
Pin : 908542
C/o 99 APO

202762/2/A5

11 Jul 13

Lt Gen GS Sihota, PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VM (Retd)
#68, Sector-4, Mansa Devi Complex
Panchkula-134114
Haryana

My dear General,

1. PI ref to your DO letter dt 08 Jun 13 on the issue of giving due recognition to the War Decorated ESMs.
2. Honouring our decorated soldiers is our bounden duty and a great motivation for coming generations. We have already initiated the process of iden of War Decorated soldiers in Eastern Comd. All Fmn Cdrs have been instr to pursue this noble initiative.
3. Fmns in our Comd have been instructed to give due recog and priority to gallantry award winners in our CSDs, Mil Hosps, Army Schools and Offrs/Sainik Institutes. The issue of according priority for rail reservations may kindly be taken up with the Mov Dte at IHQ of MoD (Army).

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely

Omprakash

RBE No. 27/2013

**भारत सरकार Government of India
रेल मंत्रालय Ministry of Railways
रेलवे बोर्ड (Railway Board)**

No. E(W)2008/PS 5-6/28

New Delhi, Dated: 01-04-2013

The General Manager(P),
All Zonal Railways.

Sub: Extension of facility of Complimentary Card passes to parents of unmarried posthumous Chakra awardees and awardees of Police gallantry medals.

Ref: Railway Board's letters No. E(W)96/PS 5-6/22 dated 23.02.96, 04.07.96, 29.10.96 and subsequent letters including letter of even number dated 16-05-2011.

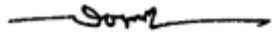
As per extant policy Ministry of Railways provides 1st Class/2nd AC Complimentary Card passes to gallantry awardees who are recipients of Chakra awards viz. Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Vir Chakra, Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra and to Police gallantry awardees i.e. recipients of President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) and Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG). The aforesaid Card pass entitles them life-long free rail travel for self along with one companion in same Class, by 1st Class/2nd AC over all Indian Railways (except Metro Railway/ Kolkata) by any train other than Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains. There have been further expansion/ liberalisation in the scheme and Chakra awardees have since been permitted travel by Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains also on the Complimentary Card pass issued to them. Such Card pass facility has been provided to the widow of posthumous awardees as also to widow of the gallantry awardee after his death in normal course. In terms of Board's letter of even number dated 16-05-2011, the facility of Complimentary Card pass has been extended to the parents of unmarried posthumous awardees of Param Vir Chakra and Ashok Chakra.

2. The issue regarding extension of the facility of Complimentary Card passes to the parents of unmarried posthumous awardees of remaining Chakra awards and of Police gallantry medals had been under consideration of this Ministry and it has now been decided to extend the aforesaid facility of Complimentary Card pass to them also. Accordingly, 1st Class/2nd AC Complimentary Card passes may be issued in the joint name of parents of unmarried posthumous awardees of Maha Vir Chakra, Vir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra, President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) and Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) with similar facilities of rail travel as are available to gallantry awardees on such Complimentary Card passes. As regards companion facility, when one of the parents travels alone on the Complimentary Card pass, he/she shall be entitled to take one companion in the same Class along with him/her. However, when both the parents are travelling together, the facility of companion shall not be admissible

Contd...2/-

on the Complimentary Card pass. The procedure and other conditions for issue of such Complimentary Card passes to parents in the aforesaid cases shall be the same as followed while issuing Complimentary Card passes to gallantry awardees under the existing scheme.

3. This issues with the concurrence of the Finance Directorate of the Ministry of Railways.
4. Please acknowledge receipt.


(Debasis Mazumdar)
Director Establishment (Welfare)
Railway Board.

Copy to:-

1. PS/MR, OSD(V)/MR, OSD(N)/MR, PS/MSR(K), EDPG/MSR(K), PS/MSR(A), EDPG/MSR(A), OSD/MSR(A), Railway Board.
2. PSOs/PPSs to CRB, FC, ME, ML, MM, MS, MT, Secy., DG/RPF, DG/RHS, All Additional Members/Advisers, EDPM, EDF(E), EDV(E), EDV(T), JS, JS(E&P), DTC(G), DTC(G)II, DPM, Dir.(GA), JDF(E), DDTG(G)II, DDF(E)III, US(Parl.), Railway Board.
3. G(Pass), TG-I, F(E)III Branches, Railway Board.
4. M/s Bahri Brothers, Lajpat Rai Market, Delhi.

War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today.

~ John F. Kennedy

Each Warrior wants to leave the mark of his will, his signature, on important acts he touches. This is not the voice of ego but of the human spirit, rising up and declaring that it has something to contribute to the solution of the hardest problems, no matter how vexing!

~ Pat Riley

To achieve the mood of a warrior is not a simple matter. It is a revolution. To regard the lion and the water rats and our fellow men as equals is a magnificent act of a warrior's spirit. It takes power to do that.

~ Carlos Castaneda

Men are born soft and supple; dead, they are stiff and hard. Plants are born tender and pliant; dead, they are brittle and dry. Thus whoever is stiff and inflexible is a disciple of death. Whoever is soft and yielding is a disciple of life. The hard and stiff will be broken. The soft and supple will prevail.

~ Lao-tzu Quotes from The Tao te Ching

FACILITIES/PRIVILEGES OFFERED BY WESTERN COMMAND

TO BE HANDED OVER ON RELIEF

Tele: 2709

Paschim Kaman Mukhyalaya
Headquarters
Western Command
Chandirnandir, Panchkula
Haryana -134107

46153/WDI/A1

08 Apr 2013

List A

FACILITIES / PRIVILEGES TO WAR DECORATED INDIA (WDI)

1. During the convention of 'War Decorated India', (NGO formed by Gallantry Award Winners) on 09 and 10 Mar 2013 at Chandigarh, issues of accn at Basantar Enclave and similar facilities at subsidised rent, utilisation of Golf Courses and Defence Offr Institute were projected by President of the NGO for pers who were awarded the PVC, MVC, VrC & Ashok Chakra.
2. The GOC-in-C Western Comd has approved the following for the awardees / NOKs of recipient of PVC, MVC, VrC & Ashok Chakra:-
 - (a) Accn in Guest Rooms within Comd Theatre. Concession of 50% on the basic rent will be offered to members of WDI.
 - (b) Golf. Offrs of WDI can play Golf by paying Green Fee and other routine chs as fixed by Mgmt Committee of Golf Course within Western Comd Zone even if they are not member of the golf course.
 - (c) Offrs Institute. Offrs of WDI will be allowed to avail the facilities of Offrs Institutes even when they are not members of that Institute by using cash / coupons for food / liquor.
 - (d) JCOs / OR Institute. JCOs / OR of WDI will be permitted to avail facilities of Sainik Institute even when they are not members of that Institute by using cash / coupons for food / liquor.
3. The Awardees have been requested to be in possession of necessary docus especially the Medal Card to prove their identity to avail the facilities.
4. This is for your info and further dissemination to all fmns and units under your jurisdiction for compliance.



(AS Kahlon)
Col
Col Pers
for GOC-in-C

WHAT IS ARMY?

BY: Col (Dr) Virendra Kumar, VrC
State Director - J & K



Army is:- When a cold and shivering jawan gets you a cup of hot tea on a patrol break at 13,000 feet.

When your sixth sense tells you there is something wrong with a guy at 50 meters.

When you meet with an accident and the first thing you check is the serviceability of your legs.

When you speak the language of your boys.

When you sit from dusk to dawn in an ambush on Valentine's Day, you know army is giving you the red rose.

When you are a master at pump stove, lanterns, solar lights, bukharis and travelling in trains without reservations.

When you know more about cramps and cold injuries than your average doctor.

When a girl in the pub is indicated by clock-ray method.

When only your sahayak can dig out the thing you want from your rucksack.

When your pain submits to your will. When you find it funny when your relative says he's going on a holiday to a hill station.

When your profession is a matter of discussion during marriage proposals.

When you do not believe in ghosts but do believe in Peer Baba and other high altitude babas.

When you know the real meaning of camouflage, in field, in parties, in unit routine and in your own house.

When you can live, anywhere, with anybody, on anything that nature can offer.

When you know this LMG will be re-sited by everybody up the ladder, till it comes back to where you had sited it initially.

When somebody asks, "Do you play Golf?" and you look at the brass on your shoulder and say "Not yet!" When you are the biggest consumer of foot powder, DMP oil, water sterilization kit, ORS packets and Meals Ready to Eat in the Army. When you gave it all that you have got, and some more. When you are the only one to get trained in bayonet fighting. And expect it to happen.

When your girlfriend thinks you are Rambo, Commando, Gladiator and Braveheart, all rolled into one. Your Commanding Officer, by the way, thinks you are none.

When you get lost in a multiplex with signboards but are at ease in a jungle with a compass.

When you can die for, what you have lived for. That is INDIAN ARMY... People call it ARMY, We call it LIFE.

The Great Trumpeter blew the LAST POST for the following:

- ★ Hony Nb Sub Surjan Singh, VrC - 25 Jun 2013
- ★ Hony Capt Ishwar Singh, VrC - 19 Aug 2013

May their soul REST IN PEACE.

Maharajah Bhupindra Singh of erstwhile Patiala state was to be The King of India, not destined though

(Maharajah Bhupinder Singh, the ruler of Patiala had his first interview with signor Benito Mussolini at the Palazzo Venezia on 17 April, 1935 at 4.14 PM. A letter was received by him from the ministry of foreign Affairs in Rome indicating date and time of the interview with Mussolini.)



Capt Mohinder Singh
Mobile: 9814808283

Maharajah Adhiraj Sir Bhupinder Singh, Chancellor of Princes of India, had gone to Burma borders to boost British forces which included Patiala forces as well, was seen riding a horse in Black dress on Mall road on his way to railway station to get in to his special compartment. Patiala people along with the RANVAAS (Pavittar Harem) cried bitterly as if their popular Maharajah was of to fight a battle and may not return. As they say his going to the country's frontiers imbibed in him the spirit of kingship of India.

Despite his all inclination towards the British, he could not escape the intrigues of that nation. He happened to be the vice patron of cricket board and Mr. RE Grant Govan was elected as president with Maharajah as patron and founder of Southern Punjab Cricket Association and member of Melbourne Cricket club, a unique honour those days and thus became a prominent figure in cricket field much to the jealousy of Earl of Wellington and his wife. Lord Wellington and Maharajah started as to who should dominate the cricket board? Maharajah's influence in the cricket sphere was much to the disliking of Viceroy and he started political intrigues by encouraging his advisors to pin prick the Maharajah to shatter his prestige. It was probably in 1934 when Jardine visited India and the British power was at its peak. Maharajah too smelt a rat and wanted to be at the roots of the conspiracies at Delhi and got hold of the copy of the file which was ready to be sent to the King with recommendations of dethroning the Maharajah some murder cases were cooked up which were to be countered. To conclude, the Maharajah succeeded in advance i.e. before the conspiracy reached, counter acting was already with the king.

It was in 1936, that the Maharajah had a friend in Italian consulate at Calcutta, with whom he had meetings on his way to England. This Italian friend made a way for him to meet Mussolini on the way to London and he had 3-4 short meetings with him, of course through British consulate as a protocol. There he assured the Italian King Mussolini that 3 crore Sikhs in India are at his beck and call beside 592 princes of whom he is the chancellor. During these meets the British representative called on the Maharajah to convey, "No more, and in case of his persistence, he may have to inform the crown." During this course the Maharajah had met and had similar talks with Adolf Hitler and General Goering, whom he visited in Berlin. Maharajah had written a letter to Adolf Hitler from Naples on 27 September, 1935:

Your Excellency, before leaving the shores of Europe today, I wish to thank Your Excellency most warmly for the great cordiality and kindness which Your Excellency and the German Government showed me during my stay in Germany. I will always recall to myself the real pleasure the most interesting conversation that I had the privilege to have with Your Excellency in Berlin. I am delighted to receive your autographed photograph which your excellency so kindly sent to me. I will treasure it as precious souvenir of your Excellency.

With highest esteem.

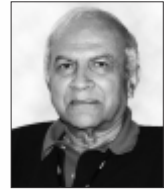
Yours Sincerely,

Bhupinder Singh

Adolf Hitler as well, too assured of his Kingship after the success of the plan. Maharajah was wise enough to rush to London to have intimate protocols and all that. There he was advised from back home to return straight to his state. Since danger was smelt by his advisers, he was advised to cool down his heels for a couple of years. During this period he did his best to make UV, Yadavindra Singh, the best cricketer by employing the world known coaches for him. By the time, he started losing eye sight, which was concealed from the people and the staff alike. But then the destiny, he died in 1938.

THE MYSTERY OF NAGATOMI POST

BY: Col Sheel Kumar Puri, VrC, VSM
State Director - West Bengal



Some people do not believe in Ghosts, some people believe in Ghosts and there are some who do not want to believe in Ghosts. Till July 1962, I was in the first category and after this incident now I belong to the third category.

In Nagaland, due to operational commitments, we had to set up an additional post at Nagatomi. I along with 2 JCOs and 66 ORs taken from various companies of the Battalion were ordered to establish this post. As a 22 year old 2nd Lt found my self commanding this post which was six hours marching distance from the Battalion HQ and four hours walk from the nearest road head deep inside the Jungles of "Seema Area" of Nagaland. Those days "Seema Area" was very "hot" since we were having plenty of encounters with the Hostiles. In order to thwart any hostile attack, we chose a hill top near Nagatomi village to establish the post.

Every night I made it a point to check the sentries at the four sentry posts at odd hours. One night when I was checking no 2 sentry post, I found three other sentries who were not on duty sleeping next to the sentry fully exposing themselves to the enemy fire. I got annoyed with them and ordered them to go down and sleep in the shelter. Gorkhas, obedient as ever, hesitated a bit but moved to the shelter without any protest. Next day again, the same thing was repeated by another set of sentries on the same post. Despite me getting annoyed same thing was repeated for the next three nights. Finally my senior JCO told me that the sentries at Post No. 2 were too scared to stand alone since a "Ghost" visits that post every night. As a young officer, I refused to believe this and gave a lecture to all my men. I told them that "Ghost" was the wild imagination of illiterate and ignorant people and I did not want my Gorkhas to believe this.



2ND/LT SHEEL PURI OUTSIDE NAGATOMI POST

On 21st June 1962, a Thursday, at night I heard footsteps on the wooden planks of the corridor of my hut. I asked as to who it was but got no reply, I immediately jumped out of the mosquito net and rushed to the corridor but found no one there. I went to the No. 4 sentry post, next to my hut and the sentry told me that he heard a 'Ghost' walking in my hut. As usual I did not believe him and went back to my hut and slept. Next Thursday again, I heard foot steps but could not see anyone. When I went to the sentry he confirmed having heard the footsteps of a 'Ghost' in my hut. This time I did feel a bit scared, smoked a cigarette at the sentry post and went back to my hut and slept. Same thing was repeated for next two Thursdays.

Finally on 19th July 1962 again, a Thursday, I heard the footsteps entering my room. Startled, I sat in my bed but could not see anything. Then I felt a hand grasping my neck. My mosquito net was still down how could anyone enter the bed without lifting the mosquito net? I yelled on top of my voice and rushed to Post No. 4. The sentry confirmed having heard my scream and also the 'Ghost' entering my hut. Though scared out of my guts I pretended not to believe him, after smoking another cigarette I mustered courage to enter my hut, but again I heard footsteps when I was nearing the hut. Whole night I did not dare to enter the hut and kept smoking and checking the sentry posts including the No. 2 post where the other two sentries were again sleeping in fully exposed position but this time I did not tell them anything.

Those days we used to send patrols led by one of the JCOs or me along with 20 other ranks for duration of 2 to 3 days. We used to take turns to go on these patrols. For next fortnight, I kept on going with every patrol since I was too scared to go back to my hut to sleep, I explained to my JCOs that due to 'operational commitments' it was essential for me to lead every patrol. Needless to say, it started affecting my health, but I was too scared to sleep in my hut.

News reached my battalion headquarters. My commanding officer, Lt Col DH D'cruz, KC, our second in command, Major ML Bhatia, Capt DB Thapa along with the battalion regimental medical officer came to the post to celebrate my 23rd birthday on 4th august 1962. Capt DB Thapa took over command of the post and I moved to the battalion headquarters. After Capt DB Thapa took over nothing about the 'Ghost' was reported because he never slept in this hut. Sentries on No. 2 post still reported that a ghost visits their post every night. On 20th September 1962 again a Thursday the hut caught fire on its own it was completely razed to the ground.

What it was, we could never have been found because soon after this incident the Battalion moved to NEFA to counter the Chinese aggression. As far as I am concerned, I still don't want to believe in ghosts. The wood does creek at night, due to variance in temperature in the hills. As far as catching my neck is concerned, I feel that in panic I must have caught my own neck. But there are still two unanswered questions, why this phenomenon took place only on Thursday night and why did the hut burn on its own again on a Thursday night. There must be some explanation for this. These unusual questions have been haunting me for the last 50 years. But, I DO NOT WANT TO BELIEVE IN GHOSTS.



STOP PRESS

- ☐ Punjab Government increases Gallantry Decoration allowance by 20% as follows:

PVC ₹ 2000.00

MVC ₹ 17556.00

VrC ₹ 10164.00

- ☐ Widows to get full amount of GDA Vide Punjab Government letter No. 2/12/2011-4RB/2878 dated 3 December 2010.
- ☐ Parents of posthumous bachelor awardees are authorised to travel by train.

GLIMPSES OF TNCR - 2013



Your Joint Secretary Col GS Bajwa with the past President at TNCR 2013



President Lt Gen GS Sihota with the immediate past President Brig NS Sandhu



Mr. Devinder Singh Sandhu f/o Lt Rajeev Sandhu, MVC, Mrs. Lilly Bawa, Mr. Ismail Mohd Aduzar g/o Civ Mohd Ismail, MVC & Mr. GL Batra f/o Capt Vikram Batra, PVC



Shri Pawan Bansal, the then Railways Minister with the past president Brig NS Sandhu



Gen Bikram Singh, COAS with the past President Brig Sant Singh, MVC**



Gen Bikram Singh, COAS with Brig NS Sandhu, Col Jagjit Singh, VrC, Col Jasbir Singh & Capt Bharpur Singh - All sons of the first President of WDI Brig Sukhdev Singh, VrC

GLIMPSES OF TNCR - 2013



Gen Bikram Singh, COAS, Brig NS Sandhu & Hony Capt Bana Singh, PVC



Gen Bikram Singh, COAS, Brig NS Sandhu & Hav Sanjay Kumar, PVC



Gen Bikram Singh, COAS, Brig NS Sandhu & Mrs. Amarjit Kaur d/o Nb Sub Nand Singh, MVC, VC



Lt Gen Sanjiv Chachra, Air Mrshl Randhir Singh, Gen Bikram Singh, Brig NS Sandhu & Mr. GL Batra f/o Capt Vikram Batra, PVC



Brig NS Sandhu, S. Parkash Singh Badal, CM Punjab, Mr. Virsa Singh Valtoha, Parliamentary Secretary, Punjab & Mr. Amarjit Singh s/o Hony Capt Karam Singh, PVC, MM



Brig NS Sandhu, S. Parkash Singh Badal, CM Punjab & Hony Sub Surjan Singh, VrC (since deceased)

GLIMPSES OF TNCR - 2013



Hony Capt Bana Singh, S. Parkash Singh Badal, CM Punjab,
S. Virsa Singh Valtoha & Hav Sanjay Kumar, PVC



S. Parkash Singh Badal, CM Punjab addressing press after the
Triennial National Convention-cum-Reunion 2013



A view of the audience at the auditorium



Lt Gen Sanjiv Chachra, Air Mrshl Randhir Singh, Gen Bikram
Singh, Hony Capt Ishwar Singh & Brig NS Sandhu



Mr. Rubinderjit Singh, Mrs. Balbir Kaur w/o Maj Sardar Malkiat
Singh Brar, MVC, S. Parkash Singh Badal, CM Punjab & S.
Virsa Singh Valtoha, Parliamentary Secretary, Punjab



Col Gurjeet Singh Bajwa, Mr. Dhani Ram Shandil, XXXX Mrs.
Lilly Bawa & Mrs. Santosh Kumud Kumar



A view of all delegates with Gen Bikram Singh, COAS after the Triennial National Convention-cum-Reunion 2013



Secretary General's ARZ Report

1. The new executive committee was installed after the Triennial National Convention-cum-Reunion held on 9-10 December 2013, attached.

2. The annual executive committee meeting was held on 9-10 December 2013 and was attended by the following:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Lt Gen GS Sihota, PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VM | 9. Maj Navdeep Singh, Advocate |
| 2. Brig Sant Singh, MVC** | 10. Col Sheel Kumar Puri, VrC, VSM |
| 3. Brig NS Sandhu, MVC | 11. Lt Col Amar Singh Khattri, VrC |
| 4. Brig KS Chandpuri, MVC, VSM | 12. Brig Jitendra Kumar Tomar, VrC |
| 5. Lt Col HIS Dhaliwal, VrC | 13. Mrs. Santosh Kumud Kumar |
| 6. Mrs. Barinder K Dyal | 14. Col Nawal Singh Rajawat, VrC |
| 7. Col Gurjeet Singh Bajwa, VrC, SC | 15. Maj Gen LS Lehl, PVSM, VrC |
| 8. Air Mrshl Randhir Singh, PVSM, AVSM, VrC | 16. Capt Reet MP Singh, VrC |



3. A large number of issues were discussed. The participants made useful contribution in making suggestions towards our future course of action which will benefit the members of association. As discussed, our future plans should include:

- Continue to seek support from the serving commanders to remove anomalies in the concessions being granted by various states.
- Enhance our reach to all the authorities to include centre and state governments, various ministries dealing with our needs of travel, health, education for the wards, housing and financial assistance.
- Increase interactions with service headquarters and their departments.
- Approach regimental centres to continue to honour gallantry awardees and take care of the needs of the widows, parents and their children.
- Reconcile data with Sainik Boards about our strength and the grants/concessions by the states.
- Acquire information about various allowances and concessions being received by others like freedom fighters, para military forces, sportsmen, railway employees and others. It will help us to prepare a strong cause for ourselves.
- Identify parliamentarians, who can take up our cause in Parliament house. This will help us to get better results.

4. We need to maintain and update our records by acquiring information from service headquarters and state Sainik Boards. Our data needs to be automated. Some efforts have been made to make the website comprehensive. However, suggestions are invited to make it more attractive as this can be sent to training institutions and regimental centres for inspiring the others to serve the nation.

5. Some of the letters received from COAS and the Army Commanders are attached.

6. It was suggested during the meeting that wherever possible the president and the Secretary General should visit other states, so that meetings can be organised with the members of association unable to attend the conferences.

7. Some of the new concessions which have been granted are as follows:

- Western Command letter no. 46153/WDI/A1 (attached)
- Kasauli Club Abstract Minutes of the Meeting (Attached)
- Rail pass for parents (attached)
- Tolls Tax Punjab Government (attached)

8. It has been decided to issue ID cards to members.

Capt Reet MP Singh, VrC (Retd)



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WAR DECORATED NEWS

We wish you a very Prosperous &
Happy New Year

Executive Committee

Lt Gen GS Sihota
President
9815673232 & 0172-2555196

Mrs. Santosh Kumud Kumar
Nominated Lady Member - WDI
09910332834 & 011-25288910

Brig KS Chandpuri
Vice President Army
9915711499 & 0172-2604565

Col Gurjeet Singh Bajwa
Joint Secretary
9855729693, 01762-509376

Cmde KP Gopal Rao
Vice President Navy
07200826216 & 044-24350092

Capt Reet MP Singh
Secretary General
9915077877, 0175-2284877

Air Mrshl MS Sekhon
Vice President Air Force
9313997627

Lt Col HIS Dhaliwal
Treasurer
9814511588 & 0172-46195888

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