



Volume - 5  
(2021)



# BOOTS & SADDLES

*Journal of Maharaja Ranjit Singh  
Armed Forces Preparatory Institute*



*Celebrating*



*of Excellence*

*Nischay Kar Apni Jeet Karoon . . .*





**CAPT VISHAVDEEP SINGH (9 PARA CDO)  
(Ex-AFPIAN – 1<sup>st</sup> Course) AWARDED SENA  
MEDAL (GALLANTRY) JAN 2021**

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AFPI

By all accounts this has been an unusual year for us at AFPI. The grim shadow of Covid 19 loomed large over our training activities as Government orders were received in March 2020 to shut down all training institutes and schools due to increasing numbers of Covid patients in the state. Clearly the situation demanded a speedy reorientation in our normal system of training. Full marks to the faculty and to the cadets who responded splendidly to the challenge and in no time at all we had a system of online classes and lectures in place.



Ninjas of the Ninth Course were primarily focused on completion of CBSE syllabus (mercifully truncated by the Board) and preparation for the NDA entrance exam. The course performed extremely well in the exam and achieved a record result. The Tenacious Tenth were put through online lectures towards personality development and communication skills. Where the cadets suffered tremendously was in the fields of physical fitness, games, debates, lectures and inter sqn sports.

Selection of cadets for the Eleventh Course (Double First) has been completed. The course is expected to commence in May.

We received some very good news from our young officers. Capt Vishavdeep Singh, 9 PARA CDO, received a Sena Medal for gallantry in J&K. Vishav was with us in the first Course. He was commissioned into 17 RAJ RIF (Sawai Man) but later opted for Special Forces. This is our first gallantry award. Lt Jasmeet Singh Bamrah (3<sup>rd</sup> Course), 14 JAK RIF did extremely well in active operations in Galwan Valley and was awarded Chief of Defence Staff Commendation Card. Lt Chetan Thakur (3<sup>rd</sup> Course), 151 AD Regiment has got a DISTINCTION on his Young Officers Course which is an extremely rare honour. Capt Danish Chadha (1<sup>st</sup> Course), Armoured Corps has stood third on his Automotive Course at Ahmednagar and got an Instructor grading. Well done Afpians. Keep the flag flying high.

In the last one year 25 cadets succeeded in joining NDA and other service academies. With that we now have 162 names in the Achiever's Gallery and 69 young men have been commissioned into the armed forces.

*"Nishay Kar Apni Jeet Karoon."*

(B S Grewal)

Maj Gen

Director General

Date: 30 Apr 2021



## MESSAGE FROM SQN COMMANDER – CHARLIE

It is a matter of personal pride for me to be part of the AFPI family. Having joined very recently and still finding my feet in this new but familiar environment, I can say with conviction that my decision to join this prestigious institute has been a correct one.

I have been the director training of the National Defence Academy not too long ago and have understood the process of conversion of a raw boy into a man of steel and a good officer at the end of the training curriculum. Having seen this Institute closely in the short tenure I have had so far, I can confidently



say that we are well geared up in all respects to produce outstanding finished products for a career in the Indian Armed Forces. The quality of training imparted, the infrastructure as well as the men at the backend who make sure that the system runs well like a well-oiled machine-All of them are responsible for what happens to you at the end of the two years.

As you come to the end of your tenure here at this institute and look back at the two years that have gone by, you must be extremely satisfied. Look at yourself two years ago when you entered the portals of this institute and look at yourself today. All those significant changes, big and small, have been realised due to your hard work and sincerity as also the efforts put in by rank and file at the institute.

You would soon embark on your new journeys. For those who make it to the NDA, well done and keep the AFPI flying high; go on and win laurels for yourself and your alma mater during your training and beyond. For those who have not been able to make it this time, I am sure that you will put in additional efforts to better your performance in the chances you have left. In any case, the military training that has been imparted to you at this institution will never go waste. I am sure that you realize that it has taught you a thing or two about life and about living life in the best possible manner.

I take this opportunity of wishing the 9<sup>th</sup> course the very best in the new innings and pray to almighty to protect you and grant you success in all your endeavors.

Jai Hind, God Bless and Happy Landings!



(Nitin Sathar)  
Air Cmdr  
SqN Cdr

Date: 30 Apr 2021



## MESSAGE FROM SQN COMMANDER- ALPHA

Seldom has it happened that the source is ready, the recipient is ready and yet the training content remains less delivered and poorly assimilated. That is where comes the importance of 'environment'! Environment is just not the matter and the delivery skill of the trainer/source, but it consists of the pattern of interaction and the culture of the teaching-learning-training process. Last year the pandemic has played the villain. It came as an insurmountable boulder between the Cadets and the trainers of this Institute.



Training was mostly online and not interactive.

This Institute has posted phenomenal success in the past. And this success is the result of the activities and training content imparted to the cadets during the pre-academic and post-academic hours. Here the cadets learn three types of skills i.e the Cognitive skills, the Life and Soft skills and the Martial skills through a unique pattern of interaction with their mentors. With interaction comes the mind conditioning, commitment to schedule, fear of being watched during the non-conforming acts and chances of spot correction on erring behaviour. The benefits of interactive training away from home are irreplaceable.

What we missed the most is the inter-squadron competitions. The Alpha Squadron did well in academics the pre-pandemic year and we had some strategy to post achievements in the outdoors also. Achievements or no achievements, inter-squadron competitions have lot of training value. Opportunity lost and even this year we are limping and balancing on a slippery muddy ground.

I wish all cadets the best of luck this year. Let's hope that cadets of Alpha will post significant achievements in all the training activities. And as the psychologist of the Institute I wish the cadets' fraternity a resounding success in the NDA entrance exams.

Together we will make it!

(AK Srivastava)

Gp Capt

Sqn Cdr

Date: 30 Apr 2021



## MESSAGE FROM SQN COMMANDER- BRAVO

It's my privilege to be associated with this great institution where I am able to contribute towards training young cadets for joining armed forces of our nation.

I congratulate cadets of 9th course for successfully completing their training. Although the training was hampered due to Covid restrictions, you worked hard to achieve your goals. Those of you who could not make it to NDA this time, I am sure you will try harder to get through in the next attempt. We wish you good luck for higher achievements in life.



The 10th course training has been mainly online and despite frequent disruptions, the students have shown immense interest in learning from home. I sincerely hope and pray that this pandemic comes under control and we are able to resume our normal training at the institute. Notwithstanding all the constraints, together we shall stand by our motto "Nischey Kar Apni Jeet Karoon".

All the best, God bless

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to the Squadron Commander.

(HS Randhawa)  
Col  
Sqn Cdr

Date: 30 Apr 2021



## **HONOUR CODE**



*"I WILL BE TRUTHFUL, TRUST WORTHY, HONEST AND FORTH RIGHT UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. I WILL ALWAYS FOLLOW THE RIGHTEOUS PATH AND CONSTANTLY ENCOURAGE MY COMRADES TO DO SO. I UNDERTAKE TO LIVE UP TO THE HIGH VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF THIS GREAT INSTITUTION AND THE SERVICES WHICH I ASPIRE TO JOIN. "*

## **CADETS' PRAYER**

*"DEAR GOD, WE PRAY TO THEE FOR THY GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT IN OUR ENDEAVOUR TO JOIN THE NATIONAL DEFENCE ACADEMY AND BECOME LEADERS OF MEN IN THE ARMED FORCES OF OUR COUNTRY. WE PRAY FOR PHYSICAL STRENGTH TO FACE THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS THAT LIE AHEAD OF US AND THE TENACITY TO OVERCOME EVERY HURDLE THAT COMES OUR WAY. IGNITE IN US THE DESIRE TO EXCEL IN OUR ACADEMIC PURSUITS AND THE WISDOM TO APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE ACQUIRE IN THE JOURNEY OF LIFE. AWAKEN IN US THE ADMIRATION FOR HONEST DEALING AND CLEAN THINKING, AND GUIDE US TO CHOOSE THE HARDER RIGHT INSTEAD OF THE EASIER WRONG. GRANT US THE COURAGE WHICH KNOWS NO COMPROMISE OR RETREAT WHEN TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS ARE IN PERIL SO THAT WE MAY NEVER FALTER IN DOING OUR DUTY TO OUR COUNTRY AND TO THE MEN WE COMMAND."*



## CREST AND COLOUR



*THE INSTITUTE CREST SYMBOLISES THE THREE SERVICES I.E. THE ARMY, THE NAVY AND THE AIR FORCE. IN ADDITION, SINCE THERE IS A LOT OF EMPHASIS ON ACADEMIC TRAINING, THIS IS INDICATED BY AN OPEN BOOK.*

*TRADITIONALLY THE COLOUR OF JOINTMANSHIP IN THE SERVICES IS MAROON. THE COLOUR IS DERIVED FROM A MIX OF THE COLOURS OF THE ARMY, THE NAVY AND THE AIR FORCE IN EQUAL PROPORTIONS WITH THE COLOUR OF BLOOD TO DEPICT SACRIFICE. SINCE THE INSTITUTE CATERS FOR ASPIRANTS FOR ALL THREE SERVICES, THE COLOUR OF THE INSTITUTE IS MAROON.*



## THE TEAM



Maj Gen BS Grewal, VSM  
(Director General AFPI)



Air Cmde Nitin Sathe  
(Interviewing Officer & Head of CTW)



Gp Capt AK Srivastava  
(Psychologist & Adm Officer)



Col HS Randhawa  
(Group Testing Officer)



Risaldar Birbal Singh  
(Warden)



Sub Swaran Singh  
(Drill Instructor)



Hony Capt Rajinder Singh  
(PTI)



Hav(APTC) Gurmail Singh  
(PTI)



Mr. Amandeep Singh  
(Accountant)



Hav Dharampal Singh  
(Head Clerk)



Hav Avtar Singh  
(Library Clerk)



Hav Paramjit Singh  
(Driver)



Hav Kuldeep Singh  
(Driver)



Hav Tajinder Singh  
(Driver)



# *What is in there for you...*

❖	Going Down Memory Lane (April 2020 to Apr 2021)	-	01 - 05
❖	Writer's & Artist's	-	06 - 36
❖	Achievers Gallery	-	37 - 40
❖	The Ninjas AFPI 9th Course	-	41 - 45
❖	We added these motivational Statues during the year	-	46 - 52
❖	Our Valour Park	-	53 - 61
❖	Alumni Corner	-	62 - 65
❖	Happenings	-	66 - 69
❖	Messages from Ex-AFPIANS	-	70 - 74
❖	The AFPIAN's Song	-	75



Going Down  
Memory Lane  
Historical Records

APRIL 2020 TO APR 2021



## **HISTORICAL RECORD**

**01 APR 2020 TO 30 APR 2021**

In many ways this year has been most unusual and challenging. The grim shadow of Covid 19 loomed large over our efforts to prepare the cadets for the NDA entrance exam and SSB. We were forced to resort to innovative methods of training to ensure that our cadets do not suffer. In the process we met with several successes and also experienced some failures.

We commenced the year with a lot of expectations and plans. Charlie Sqn had just been created from within the existing number of cadets. The aim was to provide greater leadership opportunities, ensure better control and monitoring by cadets, greater participation in inter sqn events and ease of supervision by Sqn Cdrs. Things did not go as planned. Since the cadets were at home due to Covid 19, none of these aims could be achieved. The experiment will continue and we look forward to better progress in the coming year.

Tenth Course (Tenacious Tenth) was scheduled to join us in April. This could not physically happen. The course joined online and commenced training in May. We have 51 cadets in this course.

Shemrock Sr Secy School conducted online classes for cadets of both courses. These were fairly effective. A problem faced by us was that at times the attendance of such classes tended to drop and a little pep talk was often necessary to ensure that the desired degree of interest and attendance was maintained. All in all these efforts were fairly successful and in fact the school was able to finish the syllabus of the respective classes well in time. In so doing they were facilitated to some extent by the fact that CBSE had reduced the syllabus of Class 12 to cater for interruptions to normal classes due to Covid 19.

IMPACT classes were also conducted online. The teachers and cadets worked extremely hard and preparations for the NDA entrance exam were completed well in time.

138 NDA Course passed out from NDA on 30 May. A formal passing out parade could not be held and an abridged programme was conducted in Habibullah Hall instead. We had 18 cadets in the passing out course. ACA Loveneet Singh and SCC Arunav Laroiya won medals for leadership. BCC Rajdeep Singh also did extremely well and passed out high in the order of merit. All these young men are from our 5<sup>th</sup> Course. Unfortunately for them they were not given any leave after the passing out parade and had to report to their service academies forthwith.

Passing out Parade at IMA Dehra Dun was held on 13 June. Five cadets from the 4<sup>th</sup> AFPI Course were commissioned as officers

- Lt Simranjit Singh – 1<sup>st</sup> Horse
- Lt Karan Singh Cheema – Assam Regiment
- Lt Sahgurbaz Singh – 101 Med Regt
- Lt Gurlal Singh – 12 Fd Regt
- Lt Mirazinder Singh – Int Corps (15 JAK RIF)

More good news came from the Indian Naval Academy as Sub Lt Manjot Singh and Sub Lt Abhishek Tiwari were commissioned in the Indian Navy.

CBSE Class 12 results were announced in Jul. 8<sup>th</sup> Course has done extremely well. We have four cadets who have secured over 90% marks – Anshdeep ((95%), Bharat Sharma ((93.4%), Karanpreet Singh Gill (91.4%) and Tushant (90.4%).

In Aug we were delighted to learn that our ex Cdt Jaideep Amitoj Singh Vasu has been selected to join Air Force Academy (Course No 207 SSC).



Since the cdts were not physically present during the year, we could not conduct the normal inter sqn events in sports, debates and lecturricanes. The other adverse impact on training was that the traditional guest lectures had to be minimized. Only a few lectures were held in the online mode.

The NDA entrance exam for NDA 145 which was scheduled to be held on 19 April 2020 was postponed due to Covid. A combined exam was held on 06 Sep for both NDA 145 and 146. For NDA 145 we had the left over cadets of the 8<sup>th</sup> Course taking their second attempt and all cadets of the 9<sup>th</sup> Course appeared in the exam for NDA 146. Results were announced on 9 Oct. We were very pleasantly surprised to see that 20 cadets had cleared the entrance exam for NDA 145 and 30 cadets out of 39 (9<sup>th</sup> Course) had cleared the exam for NDA 146. The fact that so many cadets have cleared the entrance exam is a tribute to the hard work put in by the cadets and the IMPACT teachers. They have not allowed the Covid restrictions to deter them and this has been one of our best ever results so far.

For SSB training we resorted to the practice of short capsules with limited number of Cdts in attendance. These capsules were conducted in Nov, Dec and Jan.

In Oct a number of cadets received their call letters for joining various academies as under: -

- Cdt Jashanpreet Singh – 149 IMA Course
- Cdt Rishabh Sharma – 149 IMA Course
- Cdt Aachman Sharma – 106 NAVAC
- Cdt Saksham Gupta – 106 NAVAC
- Cdt Amrinder Singh – 144 NDA
- Cdt Tushant – 144 NDA
- Cdt Kritin Gupta – 144 NDA
- Cdt Pratham Parmar – 144 NDA
- Cdt Abhinav Mishra – 144 NDA
- BCC Kanwarnoor Singh Khera – 144 NDA
- DCC Aditya Sharma – 144 NDA
- DCC Anish Pandey – 144 NDA
- Cdt Shobitdeep Singh – 144 NDA
- Cdt Abhay Partap Singh – 144 NDA
- Cdt Yash Nailwal – 144 NDA

In Nov 2020 we got good news from Officer's Training Academy, Chennai. Our ex Cdt Prabhdeep Singh Bhatia has been commissioned as an officer. He joins the JAG Branch and will be doing his infantry tenure with 6 Madras.

A media team from PTC news channel visited the Institute on 04 Dec to make a news report on AFPI. A seven minute programme was aired on the following day.

In Dec, DCC Jaskirat Singh and CQMS Gurmahakpreet Singh received call letters for joining 106 NAVAC course.

The Military Literature Festival was organized in the online mode this year. Director alongwith a few cadets took part in a programme to highlight the activities of the institute and to motivate the youth to join the armed forces. The programme was recorded in MGSIPAP and aired through Youtube. The following cadets participated: -

- Cdt Karanbeer Singh, 9<sup>th</sup> Course
- Cdt Kanishk Chouhan, 9<sup>th</sup> Course
- Cdt Karan Kaushish, 9<sup>th</sup> Course
- CSM Gurpartap Singh, NDA
- CSM Amol Gautam, NDA



Passing out Parade was held at IMA, Dehradun on 12 Dec. Cdt Yashasvi Sharma has been commissioned as a Lt and will be joining a famous cavalry regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry. Also in Dec, our ex Cdt Daljinder Singh (3<sup>rd</sup> Course) was commissioned into the Indian Air Force in the rank of Flying Officer.

On 17 Dec, Director took part in a programme aired live on All India Radio Patiala to motivate the youth to join the armed forces.

Col HS Randhawa, our new GTO joined duty on 01 Jan. He is an experienced GTO who while in service was in the Artillery. We wish him a very successful and rewarding tenure at AFPI.

Cdt Manmeet Singh joined AFA as part of 209 AFA Course in Jan 2021.

The entrance exam for 11<sup>th</sup> AFPI Course was scheduled to be held on 17 Jan. However due to the fact that CBSE has postponed the Board exams this year we too postponed our entrance exam to Mar.

The following teams visited the institute in Jan and were briefed regarding the training being conducted by us: -

- A team of officers from the Govt of Haryana visited the institute on 08 Jan. They were briefed by Gp Capt AK Srivastava.
- On 28 Jan a team from NSPI visited the institute. They were briefed by the Director in MVH.
- On 29 Jan a team from Rayat Bahra University visited the institute. They were briefed by Gp Capt AK Srivastava and Col HS Randhawa.

On 03 Feb an online programme was held for the inauguration of AFPI, Bajwara, Hoshiarpur. Director alongwith Cdt Harpreet Singh Gill attended the function. Cdt Harpreet gave a short speech on the occasion which was greatly appreciated by the Chief Minister who presided over the function.

Class 11 final exam results were announced by the school on 08 Feb. All cadets have done well and have been promoted to Class 12. The new session started in online mode with effect from 15 Feb.

On 01 Mar Sub Maj Balkar Singh, our Accounts Clerk retired from service. He has been handling accounts since Jul 2011. His absence will be greatly missed.

Tenth course cadets reported for training on 01 Mar. They have all rejoined voluntarily. This speaks volumes for their level of motivation and determination.

Merit list for NDA 145 was issued by UPSC on 06 Mar. Cdt Bharat Sharma has done us proud by achieving All India Rank 9 in the merit list. We have five cadets in the list: -

- Cdt Bharat Sharma – 9
- Cdt Sahildeep Singh – 169
- Cdt Shiv Kumar – 350
- Cdt Uttam Malik – 374
- Cdt Sahilpreet Singh – 406

The entrance exam for the 11<sup>th</sup> AFPI Course was conducted on 07 Mar. 1918 candidates appeared in the exam at three centres.

- Mohali – 448
- Fatehgarh Sahib – 769
- Jalandhar – 701



Final academic results of Tenth Course (Class 11) were received from the school on 12 Mar. Cadets have done extremely well and as many as sixteen cadets have been awarded the Academic Torch for getting over 92% marks.

- (a) 477/A/10 Cdt Avaneesh Yadav
- (b) 482/A/10 Cdt Gurnek Singh
- (c) 494/A/10 Cdt Ramandeep Singh
- (d) 475/A/10 Cdt Sehajdeep Singh
- (e) 493/A/10 Cdt Amarjit Malik
- (f) 457/B/10 Cdt Suraj Gupta
- (g) 459/B/10 Cdt Vishesh Sood
- (h) 470/B/10 Cdt Abhayvir Singh Bajwa
- (j) 502/B/10 Cdt Baldeep Singh
- (k) 455/B/10 Cdt Abhay Singh Raghav
- (l) 463/B/10 Cdt Anmol Pal Singh
- (m) 480/B/10 Cdt Jasnoor Singh
- (n) 498/B/10 Cdt Shivansh
- (o) 485/B/10 Cdt Ujjwal Deepak Sachdeva
- (p) 467/C/10 Cdt Anutaj Singh
- (q) 497/C/10 Cdt Gurtaj Singh Dhaliwal

Sgts were appointed on the basis of the Academic results.

- (a) Sr Sgt -475/A/10 Cdt Sehajdeep Singh
- (b) A Sqn Sgt- 494/A/10 Cdt Ramandeep Singh
- (c) B Sqn Sgt- 480/B/10 Cdt Jasnoor Singh
- (d) C Sqn Sgt- 467/C/10 Cdt Anutaj Singh

Paper evaluation of the 11<sup>th</sup> Course entrance exam was done in MVH on 12 Dec and results announced. The top 151 candidates were being invited for interviews for 42 available seats. This year we conducted interviews in ten batches of 15 candidates per batch to prevent overcrowding and enforce social distancing norms as mandated by Covid restrictions. Interviews were conducted during the period 07 to 22 Apr and 72 candidates were short listed for the medical examination at Sohana Hospital. Final merit list will be prepared in May after all the review medicals are over. We hope to commence the course in the online mode in May.

On 20 Mar orders were received from the govt to shut down all schools and institutes once again due to alarming rise in number of Covid cases. Yet another unfortunate interruption in the training but we shall cope as best as we can and revert to the online classes mode.

Ninth Course completed their practical exams in Mar and are on study leave to prepare for the board exams.

Air Cmde Nitin Sathe joined the AFPI faculty as an Interviewing Officer on 25 Apr. He will be looking after Charlie Sqn as also the Cadet Training Wing programme which we hope will be kick started after a long wait of four years. The officer is an experienced Helicopter pilot and has been the President of Air Force Selection Board, Dehradun. He is also the author of several books.

In the normal course we would have conducted the Achiever Awards function in Dec 2020. This could not be held due to Covid and as such the awards to cadets of 8<sup>th</sup> Course are still pending. Awards were finalized in a conference held in Mar as follows :-

- Best in Academics – Cdt Bhart Sharma
- Best in Sports – Cdt Amrinder Singh
- Best in OLQ – Cdt Tushant
- Best all round Cdt – BCC Kanwarnoor Singh Khera

Five cadets of the 8<sup>th</sup> Course joined NDA in April as part of the 145<sup>th</sup> Course. This course was scheduled to commence in Jan but was delayed due to Covid. Total number of Achievers from the first eight courses is now 162. Of these, 69 have been commissioned in the armed forces so far and the rest are under training in various academies.

We sign off this newsletter on 30 April in the fond hope that Covid will recede in the weeks ahead and that we shall be in a position to resume normal training in the near future. In the meanwhile the catch words are – Stay healthy, Stay safe.

## Chetwode Motto

*"The safety, honour and welfare of your country come first, always and every time.*

*The honour, welfare and comfort of the men you command come next.*

*Your own ease, comfort and safety come last, always and every time."*

**Field Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode**  
**(Inauguration of the IMA on 10 December 1932)**



Writer's  
&  
Artist's

## **MY FOODIE MEMORIES**

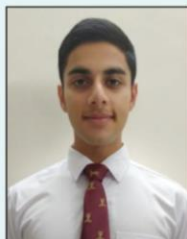
Written during lockdown period, remembering my weight loss times reducing weight for AFPI admission and controlling my cravings.....

My foodie memories,  
Are not a subject of worries,  
Rather they are of some bread and curries,  
Pudding topped with some cherries  
Or milk with some strawberries,  
Said no to all my worries,  
With a cup of berries.

It's a roller-coaster ride,  
To every possible side,  
To hide and to guide,  
My taste to every possible side.

The new healthy me,  
Now, replaced the spoilt me,  
From replacing,  
My junk with a healthy funk,  
I took on me to become a better me.

Walked each day  
In a better way  
But my heart went away  
With the SUBWAY.



Cdt Shivansh  
(498/B/10)

## **SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED**

Something has happened; the novelty is in air,  
Never saw the stars, with such a sparkling glare...

Something has happened, the rivers are silent,  
The fish are finer, the water is fair...

Something has happened, the body feels Soothing,  
Sounds everywhere and noises are the rare...

Something has happened, the sky is suffused,  
With birds and birds, chirping with the flair...

Something has happened, sweet rains are usual,  
Percolating slowly, into soil's layer...

Something has happened, the nature is delighted,  
The 'greens' are the glad, grey concretes are bare...

Something has happened, closeness of my heart,  
With the closer ones, is stepping each stair...

Something has happened, every bit is changing,  
Someone new has taken, part in nature's share...



Cdt Manjot Singh  
(499/C/10)



## WAY TO OFFICER

While running along the way I realised,  
I couldn't feel the pain and agony anymore  
Was it destiny or my determination?

That again let my endurance cured

Not an experience not a habit  
But you will learn it being sure,  
Hardships are enjoyed not tormented my friend  
Was it destiny or determination?

That has let me understand it surrendering before

This way awakens a lot of patriotic souls  
Although seem a bit tough yeah I know  
But that's the reason I chose  
Was it destiny or determination?

That's compelling me through this way to my goal

Glancing ahead I spot expectations and my hopes  
Will accomplish one day to be sure  
Was it destiny or determination?

That has constructed this way to let me lure

Twirling head behind I would evocate memories  
But thanks to Corona that made this Way  
effortless hitherto

Nevertheless it's crystal clear that my  
determination settled this way

Hoping to crown this way with wisdom a lot  
then before



Cdt Jaskirtan Singh  
(473/C/10)

## ਬਾਲ ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰੀ

ਕਿੰਨੀ ਵਾਰ ਇਹ ਦਾਅ ਤੇ ਜ਼ਿੰਦਗੀ ਪਿਆਰੀ ਲਾਉਂਦੇ ਨੇ,  
ਮਾਸੂਮ ਜਿਹੇ ਅੱਜ ਕਿੰਨੇ ਬੱਚੇ ਦਿਹਾੜੀ ਲਾਉਂਦੇ ਨੇ।  
ਮਲੂਕ ਜਿਹੇ ਨੇ ਹੁੰਦੇ, ਮਨ ਜਿੰਦਰ ਵੀ ਲਾ ਦਓ,  
ਸੁਰਤ ਸੰਭਲ ਦੇ ਹੀ ਇਵਜਾਨੇ ਰਾਹ ਪਾ ਦਓ।  
ਇਸ ਉਮਰ ਹੀ ਆਪਣੇ ਆਪ ਤੋਂ ਪੈ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਐ ਦੂਰੀ,  
ਜੇ ਰੱਬ ਵੱਸੇ ਵਿਚ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ, ਰੱਬ ਤੋਂ ਨਾ ਕਰਵਾਓ ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰੀ...

ਇਹ ਉਮਰ ਹੈ ਮਾਂ-ਬਾਪ ਦਾ ਕੁਦਰਤੀ ਮੋਹ ਪਾਉਣ ਲਈ,  
ਇਹ ਉਮਰ ਹੈ ਮੁਕੰਮਲ ਦਿਲ ਪੜ੍ਹਾਈ ਚ ਲਾਉਣ ਲਈ।  
ਇਹ ਉਮਰ ਹੈ ਸ਼ਰਾਰਤਾਂ ਦੀ ਤੇ ਮੱਜਾਂ ਮਾਨਣ ਦੀ,  
ਜ਼ਿੰਦਗੀ ਤੇ ਕਾਇਨਾਤ ਦੇ ਵਿਰਲੇ ਰੰਗਾਂ ਜਾਨਣ ਦੀ।  
ਪਰ ਕੀ ਕਰੀਏ ਛੋਟੀ ਉਮਰੇ ਸਿਰ ਪੈ ਜਾਵੇ ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰੀ....  
ਜੇ ਰੱਬ ਵੱਸੇ ਵਿਚ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ, ਰੱਬ ਤੋਂ ਨਾ ਕਰਵਾਓ ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰੀ...

ਕਈ ਬੇਵੱਸੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਹ ਰਾਹ ਅਪਣਾਉਂਦੇ ਨੇ,  
ਪਰ ਬਹੁਤੇ ਤਾਂ ਧੱਕੇਸ਼ਾਈ ਇਹ ਬੋਝ ਉਠਾਉਂਦੇ ਨੇ।  
ਕਈ ਵਾਰ ਤਾਂ ਮਾਪੇ ਹੀ, ਹੁੰਦੇ ਨੇ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ,  
ਕਈ ਵਾਰ ਅੰਤਿਆਚਾਰ ਕਰਦੇ ਲੋਭੀ ਸਰਮਾਏਦਾਰ।  
ਸਭ ਆਵਤਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਨਜਿੱਠ ਕੇ ਖਾਂਦੇ ਬੇਸੁਆਦੀ ਚੂਰੀ....  
ਜੇ ਰੱਬ ਵੱਸੇ ਵਿਚ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ, ਰੱਬ ਤੋਂ ਨਾ ਕਰਵਾਓ ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰੀ...

ਇਹ ਪੂਰੇ ਵਤਨ ਦੀ ਧਿਰ ਨੇ, ਭਵਿੱਖ ਵੀ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਉਡੀਕੇ,  
ਪਰ ਮਰ ਜਾਵਣ ਉਮੰਗਾਂ, ਜੋ ਚੱਲਦੇ ਤੌਰ ਤਰੀਕੇ।  
ਕਾਹਦੇ ਨੇ ਕਨੂੰਨ, ਤੇ ਕਾਹਦੀਆਂ ਸਰਕਾਰਾਂ,  
ਲੋਕਤੰਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ, ਪੈਣ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਾਰਾਂ।  
ਅਸਲ ਚ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਹੋਰ ਹੈ ਕਨੂੰਨ ਤਾਂ ਬੱਸ ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰੀ....  
ਜੇ ਰੱਬ ਵੱਸੇ ਵਿਚ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ, ਰੱਬ ਤੋਂ ਨਾ ਕਰਵਾਓ ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰੀ...

ਬਰੜਵਾਲੀਏ ਬਹੁਤ ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਨੇ, ਚੰਗੇ ਈਨ ਘੜ ਰੱਖੇ ਨੇ,  
ਪਰ ਅਸਲ ਚ ਦੇਸ਼ ਮਹਾਨ ਓਹੀ, ਜੋ ਓਹਨਾ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਵੀ ਕਰ ਸਕੇ ਨੇ।  
ਸੋ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਪਾਲਣਾ, ਨੂੰ ਯਕੀਨੀ ਬਣਾਓ,  
ਫੇਰ ਆਪਣੀ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰੀ, ਐਸਾ ਨਾ ਪਾਪ ਕਮਾਓ।  
ਦੇਸ਼ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਗਤੀ ਲਈ, ਇਹ ਕਹਿਰ ਮਿਟਾਉਣਾ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ....  
ਜੇ ਰੱਬ ਵੱਸੇ ਵਿਚ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ, ਰੱਬ ਤੋਂ ਨਾ ਕਰਵਾਓ ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰੀ...



Cdt Manjot Singh  
(499/C/10)

## **THAT DAY!**

I admire that day, Every day!

When the stamping full of josh,  
Would rock the earth.  
When every second of training,  
Would serve its worth.

When zeal and triumph,  
Would surround everything.  
When the Josh and the delight,  
Will get new wings.

I admire that day, Everyday!

When my parents full of joy,  
Would be standing on my sides.  
I'll hopefully fill,  
The AFPI family with pride.

By the hands of Thy,  
My shoulders donned with 'Stars'.  
I think of that moment,  
Every hour.

I admire that day, Everyday!

I work hard every day,  
To conquer my goal.  
The vista of the POP,  
Is the biggest motivation to my soul.

I admire that day, Everyday!



Cdt Aniket Kahol  
(472/C/10)

## **From Innocence To Prudence**

I was like a bird,  
Soaring freely in the skies,  
Truths were the truths,  
Also truths were the lies...

Then one day my eyes,  
Saw a dazzling flower in red,  
'Rose' was its name,  
Petals spattered my mind's bed...

But again after some days,  
I saw same red rose,  
It had dull and sharp,  
The 'spikes' that made me morose...

After touching many times  
I'm now well alert,  
'Red' rose will delight me every time,  
And 'dull' will give a hurt...



Cdt Manjot Singh  
(499/C/10)



## Hands of Time

Hands of time, I thought were far,  
But they paced up, like a shooting star...

My tree's leaves, were green and fresh,  
Were never thought of, this sweet thresh...

A long and lasting, pinkish spring,  
Leaves and branches, endlessly sing...

But now is grey, 'the' autumn time,  
Neither a beep, nor a rhyme...

Shrivelled branches, waterless leaves,  
Power of my tree, stolen by the thieves...

Tree isn't dying, neither leaves are falling,  
Embracing tree sadly, there soft winds are calling...

Tree begs for, the same-pinkish spring,  
But time doesn't listen, he is the cruel king...



Cdt Manjot Singh  
(499/C/10)

## LOVE – A POWER

Love is a great power,  
Like aroma of sweet flower,  
Which opens the door of fate,  
And heals the wound of hate.

Love has enough boldness,  
To protect one from harsh coldness,  
Lap of love is so warm,  
And it never harm.

One who hate others is fowl in smell,  
He cheat with his own soul and go to hell,  
Symbol of love ,  
Is sweet white DOVE.

Nature is human's friend,  
And provide a helping hand.  
Nature is God's best creation,  
With animals, it has story relation.

At end,  
Mother's love is the purest of all,  
Which can even break a hard brick wall.



Cdt Rhytham Mahajan  
(458/C/10)

## **The aspirations of the** **"TENACIOUS TENTH COURSE"**

It all started in the early 2020..  
Out of 2173...51 got the opportunity..  
To be the part of..  
The Tenacious Tenth Course of AFPI..

These 51 cadets were full of zeal..  
To join AFPI in April..  
But the COVID virus ruined their all aspirations..  
And the things became beyond their expectations..

The 10<sup>th</sup> course joined AFPI virtually..  
By adapting a new way to study..  
All the classes and AFPIAN lectures were online..  
Considering it as God's will..  
We said, "Okay...Fine!!.."

We met our seniors on the screen..  
They showed us how to be disciplined and swift..  
And the 'online ragda' was like a surprise gift..  
I wish, we could get these surprises offline..  
And could interact with our seniors for some time..  
(Thanks to the AFPI and Shemrock family for your efforts for us in these hard times)

We spent the whole year facing laptops and mobiles..  
And missed one year of AFPIAN life..  
I am writing these lines on the New year's day of 2021..  
Hoping for a wonderful year ahead..  
And craving to join AFPI physically..  
To meet our seniors and the AFPI family...

As we are determined and focused towards our goal..  
They call us "*The Tenacious Tenth Course*"...



Cdt Saarthak B Sharma  
(456/C/10)

## ਕੁਝ ਕੁ ਹੀ ਨੇ...

ਸੁਫਨੇ ਤਾਂ ਲੈਂਦੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਲੋਕੀਂ ਹੀ ਹੁੰਦੇ,  
ਛੋਹਦੇ ਪਰ ਪਹਾੜਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਤਾਂ ਕੁਝ ਕੁ ਹੀ ਨੇ।  
ਖੁਆਬ ਜਿਹੇ ਤਾਂ ਲੈਂਦੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਲੋਕੀਂ ਹੀ ਹੁੰਦੇ,  
ਲਾਉਂਦੇ ਅੰਬਰੀਂ ਉਡਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਤਾਂ ਕੁਝ ਕੁ ਹੀ ਨੇ।

ਜਿੰਨਾ ਚਿਰ ਹੱਕ ਦੀ ਕਮਾਈ ਹੋਵੇ ਨਾ,  
ਦਿਲ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਚਿਰ ਰੱਬ ਚ ਸੁਦਾਈ ਹੋਵੇ ਨਾ।  
ਪੈਸੇਆਂ ਦੀ ਤਾਕਤ ਦਿਖਾਉਂਦੇ ਨੇ ਬਥੇਰੇ,  
ਜ਼ੋਰ ਨਾਲ ਇਜ਼ਤ ਕਮਾਉਂਦੇ ਨੇ ਬਥੇਰੇ,  
ਪਾਉਂਦੇ ਦਿਲੋਂ ਸਤਿਕਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਤਾਂ ਕੁਝ ਕੁ ਹੀ ਨੇ।

ਪਤਾ ਲੱਗੇ ਰੂਹ ਜਦੋਂ ਖਤਰੇ ਨੂੰ ਖਾਂਦੀ ਏ,  
ਜੰਗ ਸਦਾ ਜਿਗਰੇ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਲੜੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਏ।  
ਗੱਲੀਂ ਬਾਤੀਂ ਚਾਹੇ ਦਿਨੇ ਚੰਦ ਚਾੜ੍ਹ ਲਿਓ,  
ਸੋਚਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਸ਼ੇਰ ਮਾਰ ਲਿਓ,  
ਪਰ ਫੜ ਦੇ ਤਲਵਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਤਾਂ ਕੁਝ ਕੁ ਹੀ ਨੇ।

ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਦਿਲਾਂ ਦਾ ਉਹੀ ਫੁੱਲ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਏ,  
ਜਿਸ ਦੀ ਜ਼ੁਬਾਨ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਮੁੱਲ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਏ।  
ਲੱਗਣ ਦੇ ਪਲ ਵਾਅਦਾ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ,  
ਲੱਗਣ ਦੇ ਪਲ ਵਾਅਦਾ ਹਰਨ ਲਈ,  
ਨਿਭਾਉਂਦੇ ਪਰ ਕਰਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਤਾਂ ਕੁਝ ਕੁ ਹੀ ਨੇ।

ਸਹੀ ਰਸਤੇ ਵੀ ਸਦਾ ਜਾਈਏ ਲੱਭਦੇ,  
ਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸ ਰੱਖੀਏ ਵੀ ਉੱਤੇ ਓ ਸਰੱਬਤੇ।  
'ਬਰੜਵਾਲੀਏ' ਵੇ ਜਿੱਤ ਚਾਹੇ ਭਾਉਂਦੀ ਮਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ,  
ਨੂਰ ਵਾਂਗ ਚਾਹੇ ਰੁਸ਼ਨਾਉਂਦੀ ਮਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ,  
ਪਰ ਮੰਨ ਦੇ ਵੀ ਹਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਤਾਂ ਕੁਝ ਕੁ ਹੀ ਨੇ।



Cdt Manjot Singh  
(499/C/10)



## **DREAM, IMAGINE, BELIEVE**

When God made life , Adam and Eve  
Then every other and had a heave.  
So beautiful the world was then,  
Even better than you would perceive.

Then he gathered up one and all,  
Men and women both big and small.  
O my sons! As he would call,  
Never let your spirits fall.

Now I will tell something to you,  
Which will make your life seem true.  
Accept it if you wish for fame,  
Only way to save your name.

Success is not facile to tame,  
Remember it's not a child's game.  
To make every day of your life an eve,  
You must dream imagine and believe.

Dreams are not that you see in sleep,  
But they make you think a lot more deep.  
Dream if you want success in life,  
Else you may have it full of strife.

Imagine your dreams as good as they can be,  
Even farther from what you can see.  
Success is something that comes at a price,  
Don't think of it as a cup of tea.

To believe in dreams is what makes you smart,  
Believing gives you a perfect start.  
If the dream is big, don't lose your heart,  
Believe in yourself and do your part.

Dreaming is what teaches you things,  
To imagine is what gives you wings.  
The zest you get from believing the dreams,  
Gives you the courage to bear any stings.

Now what stood there was a swarm,  
Directed by the lord's charm.  
Then, I heard a noise that meant no harm,  
Oh! It was my alarm.

## **DREAM, IMAGINE, BELIEVE (CONTD....)**

Then I woke up from a doze,  
With a very puzzled pose.  
But the dream I saw had given me,  
The key to the path, that I chose.

Yes! It was a dream I must say,  
And I thank it, to this day.  
It feels as if success itself,  
Had chosen me for its way.

The dream was such, it made my will,  
To do any task that seemed uphill.  
Such was the sway of the dream I saw,  
It made my life move from being still.

To this day, I remember,  
The dream that made me good.  
The one that changed and strengthened me,  
From the place where I stood.



Cdt Abhayvir Singh Bajwa  
(470/B/10)

## **FEELINGS OF INDIA GATE** **26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

I resemble soil colour,  
Soil is soldiers' mother,  
On soil and on me,  
They happily live with each other...

The verity that they all are same,  
Give me a loftier fame,  
I tower higher everyday,  
Due to every carved name...

They shimmer in daylight,  
They sparkle in moonlit night,  
They dance with the winds,  
Along birds take a flight...

I'm never afraid,  
Never fatigued and laid,  
Because they hold me upright,  
For each passing decade...

They tell me the stories,  
Their triumphs and glories,  
How they saved mankind,  
And how the territories...

Due to their eternal happiness,  
And courageous-daring readiness,  
My 'Amar JawanJyoti',  
Forever flickers high and priceless...

When 26th January shoot,  
Prime minister pays me tribute,  
But my heart each second,  
Confers them a fervent SALUTE...



Cdt Manjot Singh  
(499/C/10)

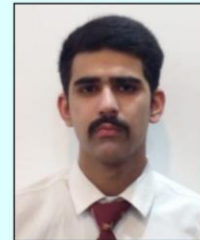
## **मेरा भारत**

जहां अल्लहा, वाहेगुरु भगवान और धर्म सभी रहते हैं,  
जहां सभी धर्म की पूजा करने वाले रहते हैं,  
उसे भारत मेरा कहते हैं, उसे भारत मेरा कहते हैं।

जहां अरदास में हो सकूं, जहां का और दुआ में खुशहाली है,  
जहां कहीं सूखे रेगिस्तान तो कहीं हर गली में हरियाली है,  
निकले मुंह से भारत मां, जिस दिन जान जाने वाली है,  
जहां अरदास में हो सकूं जहां का और दुआ में खुशहाली है।

मैं वहां का रहने वाला हूं,  
जहां नदियों को भी मां मैं कहता हूं,  
हां भारत मेरी जां और भारत में ही मैं रहता हूं।

फूलों की बहारों में, हिमालय के पहाड़ों में,  
पावन हो जाता हूं, जब जब गंगा, यमुना, ब्रह्मपुत्र, नर्मदा  
और कावेरी में बहता हूं,  
सर ऊंचा कर रीत जहां की मैं कहता हूं,  
हां भारत मेरी जां कर भारत में ही मैं रहता हूं,  
हां भारत में ही मैं रहता हूं।



Cdt Manav Puri  
(484/A/10)



## THE JOURNEY AHEAD

Full of curiosity, some dreams to chase,  
I loved riding my "Bullet" at a great pace.

Considering my hair, to be very cool,  
I enjoyed the carefree life in my school.

At AFPI, I make memories each passing night,  
Enjoy training, But miss my bike.

We train hard, we eat great,  
We wake up early, we sleep late.

In our Khaki, when we stand straight,  
The stellar maroon berets, look great.

In NDA, hair will again go away,  
And Beret's colour will change, to French grey.

Full of Josh, climbing the Sinhagad Hike,  
I would love gadding about on NDA bike.

On the call of duty, with weapons and backpack,  
The colour of my beret, will now be black.

Sparkling on my shoulder, will be my rank,  
I'll roar like a lion, while commanding a tank.



Cdt Aniket Kahol  
(472/C/10)

## Touch The Sky With Glory

O Heart!

It's your time now, pursue your dreams,  
Grip the pen, and write your story,  
Never feel alone, Never feel low,  
Alongside you, stands nature's jury...

Be regimented, follow the regimes,  
Put in your finest, from inner penury...  
Always stand stiff, follow the truth,  
Even in the times, of the extreme "gory"...

Nothing is Impossible, just damn illicit paths,  
& Bear the costs, not just vocalize sorry,  
Take risks sometimes, learn something novel,  
Remember you are valiant, and not an old  
hoary....

Do something great, be an example,  
So that you must be saluted, each century,  
With blessings of parents and all the mentors,  
& With all the hopes, "Touch the sky with  
GLORY"....



Cdt Manjot Singh  
(499/C/10)

## **MY INTERVIEW**

My Interview for entrance for AFPI was on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Before coming to the interview day I would first like to mention my cousin Ekamdeep Singh who helped me for the preparation. Really it was his guidance that helped me to crack the interview and filled in me an amazing confidence. Now coming to the interview day....When we arrived, we (me and my fellow interviewees) were called for verification of the documents. There I noticed an exciting fear and hope in everyone's eyes. After that we went for Picture Perception and Description Test (PPDT). Luckily I was able to complete my story in the given time. Then we had some snacks and I was continuously revising my story in that time and I am sure everyone was doing the same. Then we went for Group Discussion. This was the part I was most afraid of, before my turn came I was very nervous. However I was able to narrate my story well and participated equally well in the discussion. Many of my fellow interviewees admired me after the GD, it built up my confidence for the individual interview test. My interview was taken by Gp Capt Arun Srivastava, Psychologist at the Institute. He seemed to be quite satisfied with my answers. Personal interview was the part during which I was most relaxed and the answers I gave were purely of my own. I think that was the reason I remained calm. Finally results were out.... "Chest No.25 Sehajdeep Singh" these words by Director Sir during announcement of the results calmed my rising anxiety. However I cannot describe intense happiness and satisfaction I felt that moment. Now though those events are of past but I think I can never forget them.....



Cdt Sehajdeep Singh  
(475/A/10)

*Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence.*

*Talent will not: nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent.*

*Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.*

*Education will not: the world is full of educated derelicts.*

*Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.*

*Calvin Coolidge*



## FARM LAWS AT TIMES OF LOSS

Agriculture is a part of state list, which means that only state government has the power to make laws relating to agriculture but central government intervened and made the three contentious farm laws without even consulting farmers or farm leaders. This unprecedented move was made by government when Covid was at its peak and due to the pandemic there was a huge downfall of the economy. In addition to this, INDIA-CHINA standoffs were also going on. Instead of focussing on these major issues, central government made these laws which were not even required at that moment. Due to this a state-wide protest turned into a nation-wide protest and led to international recognition too.

The three farm laws and their drawbacks are :-

1. **FARMERS AGREEMENT OF PRICE ASSURANCE AND FARM SERVICE ACT** - This act allows corporates to enter into the field of agriculture. History has proven that whenever corporates had entered into the fields like education, health, transportation etc, they had ultimately gained control over the respective field. With entry of them in agriculture, farmers are afraid that they would have get a grasp over it too and will also control the prices of crops.
2. **FARMERS PRODUCE AND TRADE COMMERCE ACT** - With this act government controlled Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) which in layman language is called MANDIS. This will run alongside private Mandis, controlled by private parties. Now farmers fear in this act is that for first few years private Mandis will buy crops at low prices which will help farmers gain profit but with their system of 'OPEN AUCTION', this will leap downwards and they will start luring money from farmers.
3. **ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) ACT** - This bill virtually removes food items such as cereals, pulses, onions etc from list of "essential commodities". It also controls the production, supply and distribution of these commodities.
4. In 1906, number of infected rats in Vietnam proliferated instantly which led to many casualties, so the Vietnam government apprised people that if they kill a rat, they will get a reward and as a proof they had to show tail of dead rat. Now, irony of the situation is that instead of killing the rat, people only cut the tails with numbers of rats still increasing. Same is the case with Government of India, they are just 'counting the tails'.

*Lives of great men all remind us, We can  
make our lives sublime, And, departing,  
leave behind us, Footprints on the sands of  
time.*

*-H W Longfellow*



Cdt Gurshan Singh Sidhu  
(481/A/10)

## **WHY AND HOW I LEARNT TO DRIVE ?**

Most frequent question that I encountered when I was in Class 10th was that , "Can you drive a car?" and I used to say "I have not learnt it yet." Then the person would say "You must have done it by this time. "Actually I was not afraid to drive as I could ride a motorbike very well but never desired to drive a car as I didn't have much interest in cars. But then the question was on my prestige and I am sure that no adolescent would bear such an insult. Finally I decided that I would drive. Making my father as my trainer, I was very determined to do it. First day we went on our own car in the morning in an open ground. Some boys were playing cricket but we were able to get sufficient space to drive. My father told me about the gears, accelerator, clutch, brakes, etc. My father sat beside me and I drove nicely in that ground (with no traffic). Then my father got out and asked me to drive alone. I got a little nervous and took the car very near to a parked truck. My father shouted, "Press the brakes..brakes..." I got even more nervous and pressed the accelerator by mistake. Thank God the car was in first gear and just the front part was damaged a little. My father came running and shouted at me. I decided to leave it but he motivated me to drive. Everyday we went and I did some mistakes but my father corrected them, finally I was able to drive in less traffic and now I can drive in any kind of traffic. Actually I developed a desire to drive. Wherever we went, I used to drive. Practice makes a man perfect. Isn't it? I also learnt that how mistakes are a part of our path towards success.



Cdt Sehajdeep Singh  
(475/A/10)



## THE LAND OF FIVE RIVERS

Punjab had always been an important piece of land even since the ancient world. From the time of Indus Valley Civilization to various great Sufi saints of medieval time and from an active site of Indian Independence movement to a farming hub. This land has a very proud history. Having been a site of numerous foreign attacks it holds in itself a history full of guts and glory. Punjab had seen beard a lot of wars and Punjabis have always shown their bravery to defend their land. As it is the gateway of India, if Punjab fell, so would India, it was felt. This attracted a lot of attackers towards Punjab and the most famous of them all is Alexander the Great, who got defeated on this land only in his way to capture the whole world. This land had also bore the main brunt of partition in 1947 which divided the water of five rivers between two same states of two different nations.

Punjab is also known in the whole world as the land of Pir-Pagambars. A lot of saints and gurus were born here in medieval period. It is the land where Sikhism started and flourished. Many other religious teachers gave their teaching on this land and even today you can see a lot of cities and villages named after them. A lot of poets and writers also belong to Punjab like Bulleh Shah, Waris Shah, Sheikh Farid ji, Shiv Kumar Batalvi, Bhai Vir Singh and many more.

Not only Sufis and saints, it is the land of strong men and women who have proved themselves in various sports events at various levels. One of the most famous of them is our 'Flying Sikh', Sr. Milkha Singh, Hockey legend Balbir Singh, various Kabaddi players and athletes. This land has also given the India some legendary military men including the only Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh Aulakh(DFC), Field Marshal SAM Manekshaw, Flying Officer Nirmal Jeet Singh Sekhon(PVC), and countless PVC, MVC, VC and many chiefs of a Army, Air and Naval Staff. Punjabis have shown their valor and courage in various wars including WWI, WWII, battle of Saragarhi, and all other major battles and operations after independence.

Today, Punjabis are doing a lot of progress in all the fields but the main field in which Punjabis are doing great is Farming sector. We Punjabis have made even the unfertile soil of South Punjab productive and have filled the godowns of the government with our farm produces.

But some new issues have arisen with the changing times. Most dangerous of them is the increasing problem of drug addiction among the youth. This problem has resulted in decrease in performance of Punjab in Sports and games, in various competitive exams, in farming and increase in crimes throughout the state.

One more problem is Brain Drain means the shifting of trained and productive population towards other states and countries in search of good salary. This is making the backbone of Punjab i.e. human resource weak. There is need to develop new sectors for employment generation in Punjab. The youth should also be educated about their state's strong and weak fields.

There are a lot of employment opportunities in our country only but the need is to raise awareness among students about the various fields including civil services, forces, space, nano technology, artificial intelligence, sports, adventure and many more. Students should be educated about the proud past of Punjab, the present problems of state and about what to do next. Here all of us will have to work as a team; not only government but teachers, parents, elders of villages and the students themselves should be free enough to think independently.

I would conclude with a question that why are we forgetting the sacrifices made by Sr. Bhagat Singh, Sr. Kartar Singh Sarabha, Shaheed Sukhdev, Shaheed Rajguru and Shaheed Udham Singh who got us our independence and running towards other countries to work as slaves leaving this glorious land behind?, Is this the fault of the government's wrong policies and inability to satisfy the needs of people or is it the innocence of our own people towards deciding their aims and choosing a good and respective career for them or is it a fifty-fifty case?



**Cdt Arshdeep Singh**  
(414/B/9)



## **DAD BROUGHT THAT CUTE PUPPY HOME**

I was 9 years old when my father presented me a very cute puppy. I selected a name for him that was "HUNTER". When he was brought he was just 10 days old and I still remember how he would walk on his knees and drank milk from a feeding bottle. As the time passed he became older. I spent best moments of my life with him.

Everyday he use to go on a walk with my grandfather and sometimes we both use to go in the fields to play together, I use to throw a ball and he caught it and gave it back to me to throw it again. I remember that incident when we hired a teacher for him to teach him some words like sit, stand, stay, eat, no eat, catch, sleep, etc. At that time, daily he use to hide in store room under a bed as he did not like his teaching classes .

As we all know that one who takes birth on this earth has to go back one day, his time also arrived. He left all of us. Hunter was my best companion who was able understand my feelings, he was like a brother to me. The bond which I had with him cannot be defined in words and of this circumstances there is nothing to say at all. Its silence silences.



Cdt Anmolpal Singh  
(463/B/10)

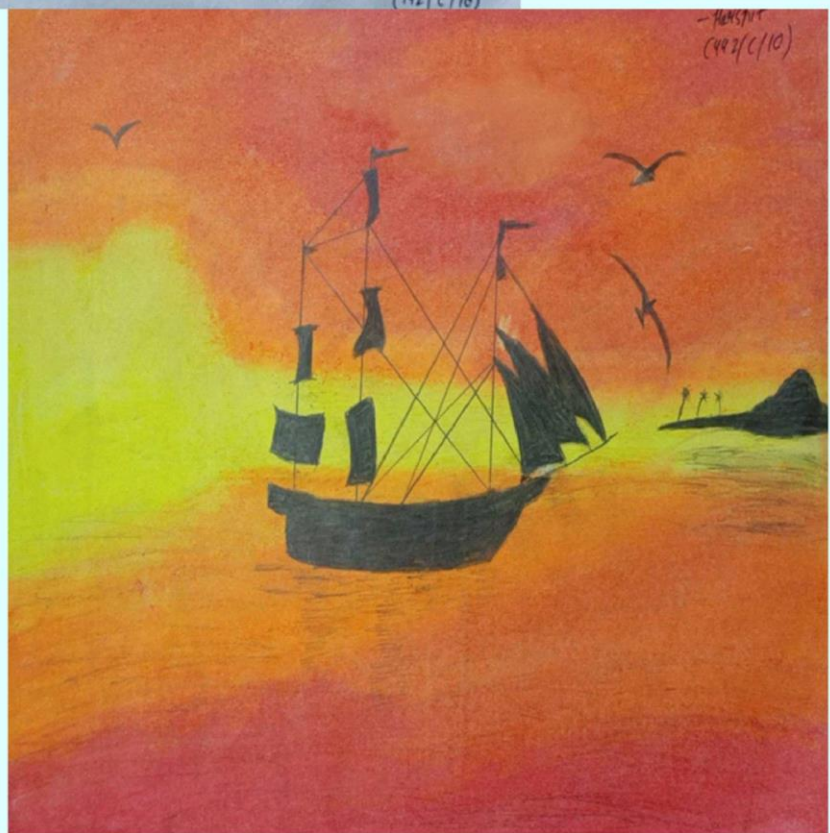
*Talent without working hard is nothing .....*

*Cristiano Ronaldo*





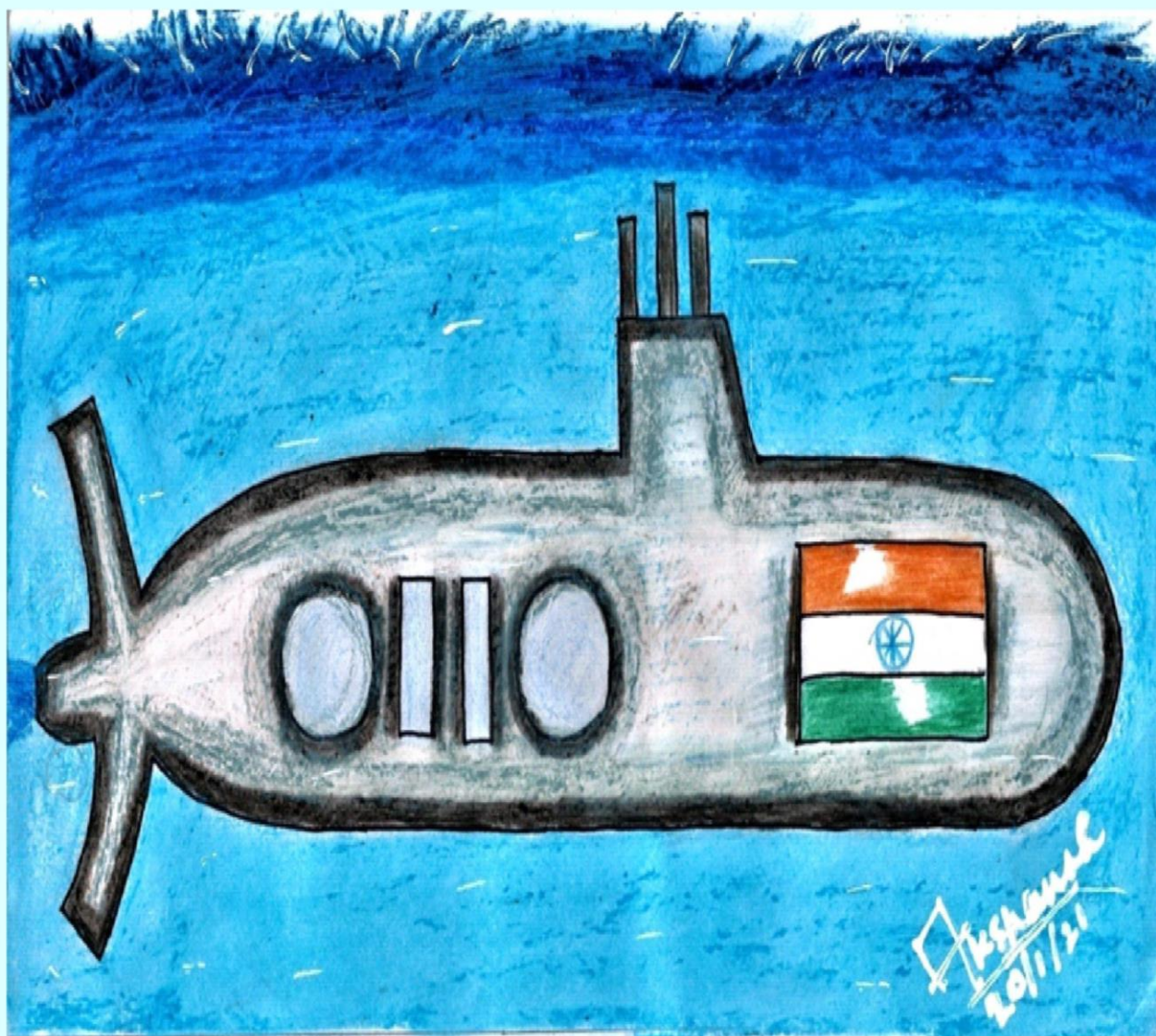
Cdt Harshit Choudhary  
(492/C/10)





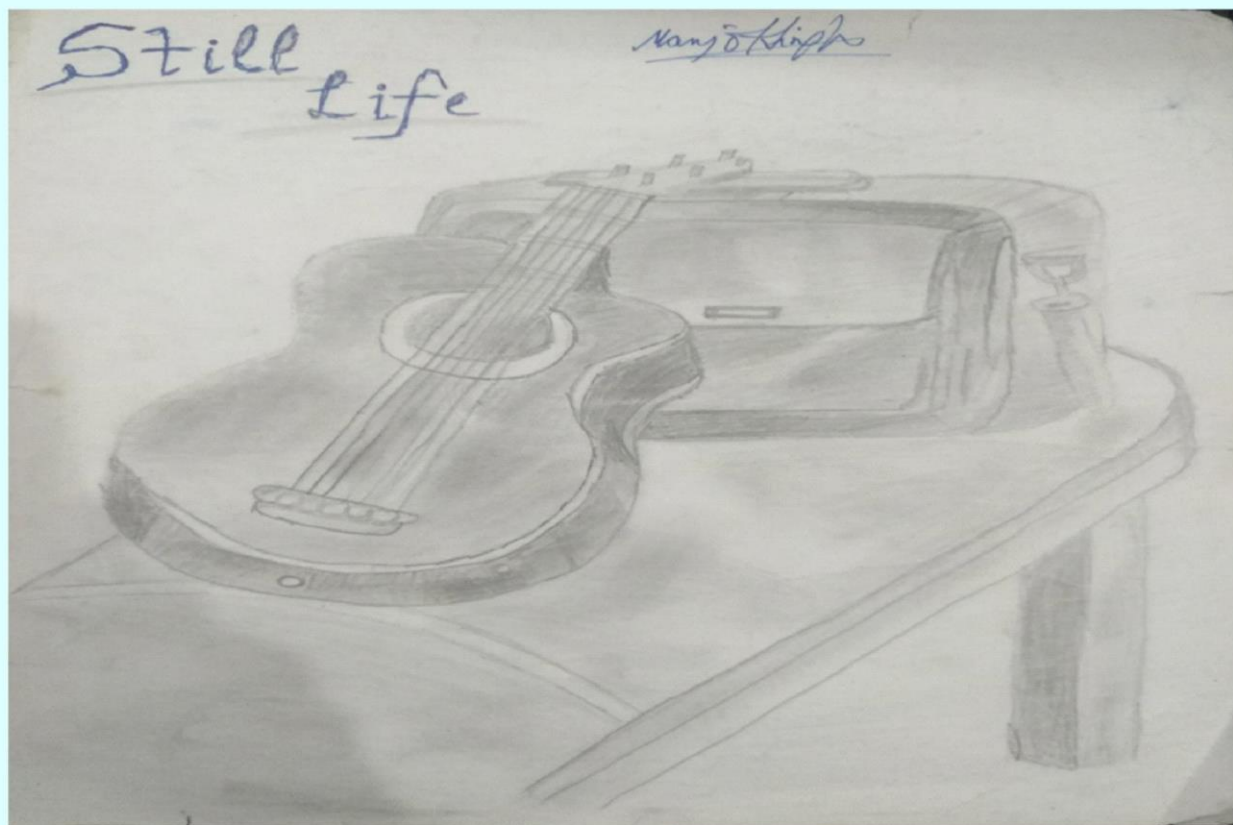
Cdt  
Saarthak B Sharma  
(456/C/10)





Cdt Akshansh Aggarwal  
(476/ A /10)

*If you don't stick to your values when they're being tested, they're not values : they're hobbies.  
Jon Stewart*

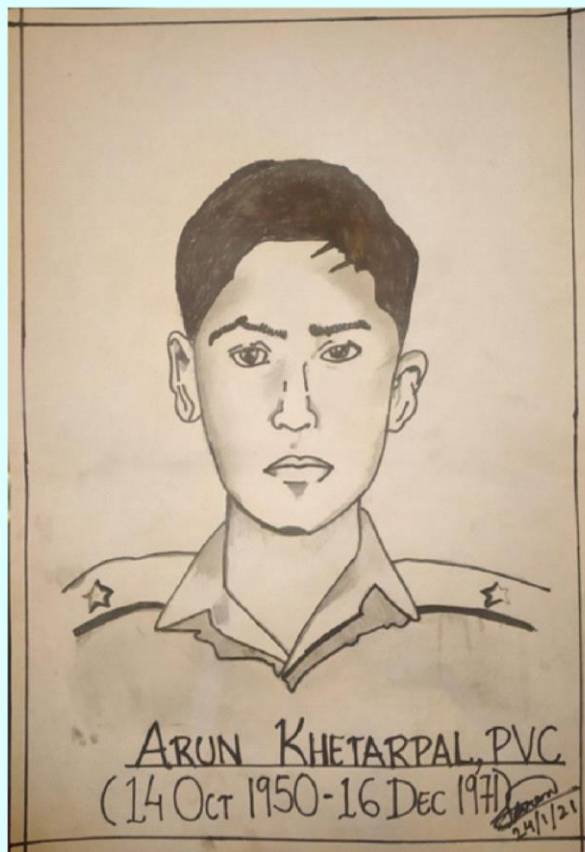
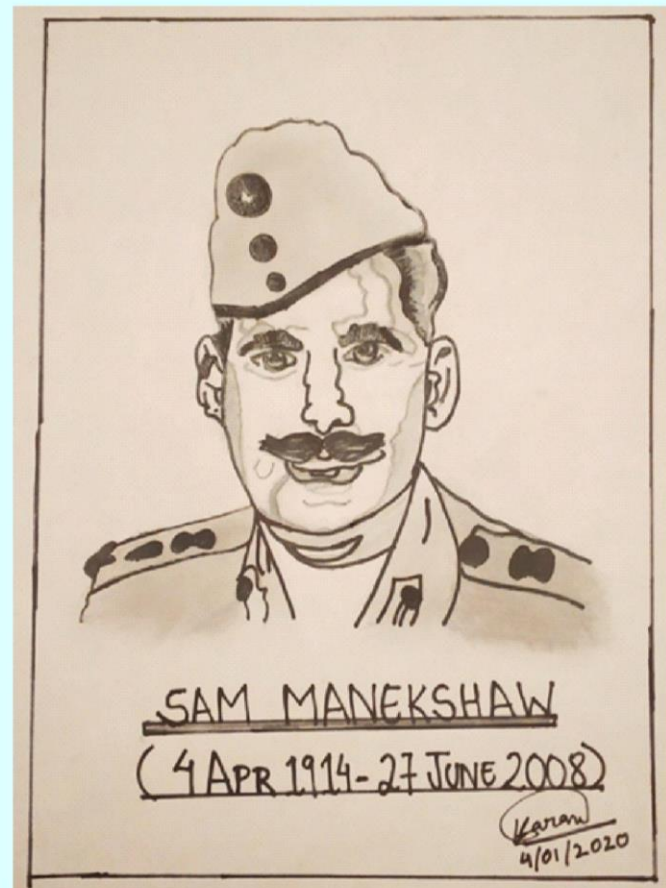


Cdt Manjot Singh  
(499/C/10)



*When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me'.*

*Erma Bombeck*



Cdt Karan Kaushish  
(411/A/9)

## BELIEF

*There will be a time when you believe everything is finished....that will be the beginning!*

*-Louis L'Amour*

*A belief is not merely an idea that the mind possesses; It is an idea which possesses the mind!*

*-Robert Bolton*

Belief. That's what I am going to tell you a story about.

This is a true story about a true person and about a true friend and comrade in arms. I wrote his biography not too long after he flew into the blue skies on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2014. (Born to Fly-Vitasta Publishing, New Delhi)

Meet the hot shot MiG-21 pilot- Flying Officer MP Anil Kumar-called 'MP' by all of us.

Just close your eyes and imagine yourself paralyzed neck down and not able to do **anything** yourself. Even if an irritating fly or a mosquito sits on your nose, all you can do is call for help. You have to be fed, be taken to the loo where someone presses your stomach so that you can relieve yourself, and someone has to turn the page of the book you are reading.

Completely incontinent, completely dependent.

This is what exactly life got to the table for 'MP'...my friend and course-mate from the Air Force.

It was a late evening of early August 88 and MP was on his way back from night flying which had been called off due to bad weather. There was lightening, thunder and light rain; and the base was enveloped in darkness due to

the usual power failure. It was difficult to see clearly as rain water kept dribbling down his helmet visor as he rode back home slowly on his bike, his briefcase precariously balanced on his thighs and the fuel tank.

That is when the accident happened. MP drove into an unlighted wooden barrier and was thrown off his bike, his spine fractured. All would have been well if the second accident hadn't happened. The people who rescued him picked him up holding his hands and legs, his neck dangling like a broken flower hanging on to its stem. Due to this, the chipped vertebrae went on to slice through the entire bundle of nerves passing through his neck and the control of the brain over the body was severed forever.

MP was paralyzed neck down for life, forced to spend

the rest of his life in bed or tied to a wheel chair. 'What is the point in living when I can't even swat a fly sitting on my nose! I don't want to be a burden on anyone, I hope to die soonest,' he said to his friends as he was recovering in hospital.





Soldiers in the armed forces are trained in the finest institutions in the world and our warriors are taught never to give up. And, MP never gave up; despite the crushing blow to his life. He wove for himself a meaningful second life, and in doing so, became an inspiration for many.

Bound as he was to his wheelchair, his mind was boundless and he courageously conquered the world. There is no one, repeat, **no one**, who met MP and did not come out feeling good. He lifted your spirits, showed you the way and told you that there was light at the end of the tunnel.

I, for one, do believe that MP was the epitome of 'self-belief' and called him the Stephen Hawking of India.

Whilst researching for my book, countless people sought me out, sharing with me their memorable MP stories. These were stories of individuals who were defeated by life, but whom MP brought back from the precipice of despair. And that, I believe, is what makes MP the unique human being he was.

For the next 26 years, more than half his life, MP lived at the Armed Forces Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre (PRC) in Pune tied to the bed or his wheel chair.

Much as we take heart from MP's zeal for life, it was anything but easy.

At 24, he had to relearn to live. He learnt to write with his mouth and then went on to operate the computer with a pencil held in between his teeth.

This 'connect' with the outside world became a turning point in his life.

He wrote the first mouth written essay 'Airborne to Chairborne' which became part of the Maharashtra and Kerala government text books. So powerful was this



essay that he became a celebrity, and children, teachers and many more people from all over thronged to see this wonder man. With this increase in human contact, MP's will to live got a boost. He became a confidante for a large number of people who came to him for advice.

Over the years, during my numerous meetings with him, I constantly prodded him to write his memoirs. He would always say, 'I am no great man, there are so many disabled soldiers out there who have been injured while actively engaging the enemy and are doing so well-they are the ones to be written about.'

He always underplayed his own transformation and central role in transforming lives of countless others.

After his passing in 2014, something inside me told me that I must write his biography. With encouragement from his family and numerous friends-especially mates from the Sainik School Kazhakootam, I went on to write his amazing story.

MP passed away on May 20, 2014, 15 days after his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In 1988, the doctors had given up on him and said that it would be a matter of time before MP was claimed by the almighty. But MP defied all odds, as he did so often in the 26 years after the horrific accident.

As his body moved into the electric furnace, I almost heard MP say, 'Come on guys, it's only my body that's gone, my spirit will live on forever...don't weep or grieve over me....move on...And like our Air Force motto, "Touch the Sky with Glory"!

The furnace reminded me of the reheat on Anil's MiG-21. He was finally rolling down the runway for his take off.

He flew into eternity, leaving indelible imprints on many hearts and many minds.

Flying Officer MP Anil Kumar proved to all of us that where there is a will, ways will open up. He truly defined the word BELIEF, didn't he?

MP was truly BORN TO FLY.

***(This essay is a tribute to MP Anil Kumar on his 7<sup>th</sup> death anniversary. I also salute the unnamed soldier who gets incapacitated for life in the line of duty and proves to the world that if you have belief in yourself, then- The Sky is the Limit!)***

***If I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning....***

***-Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi***



Air Cmde Nitin Sathe (IO)



## DEEP

DEEP-DEEP-DEEP.... the word buzzes my thinking system. What can one write on this word, I wonder?

So deep rooted is the military in my brain and blood that *any* word prompt takes me into past life immediately. So read if you must and read if you wish to fall into the deep! (Not Sleep!)

So, here is my story about the deep...

### THE PUSH INTO THE 'DEEP'

From up above, one can see the maze of green and brown play fields shrouded under the haze of city smoke. The red stone of Sudan block and the silver dome of the science block with its big clock ticking away time are ominous.

We don't have all that much time to think from up there. If we did, we may have admired the scene. The dark blue water at the deep end of the pool beckons.

At the Ustaad's whistle, all of us young cadets stand in our maroon trunks, our thin legs shaking (because of the cold shower, we like to think) and ascend the 50 odd steps to the concrete ledge 35 feet above the centre of the deep end of the pool.



Wonder if the others are also trying to focus on the lunch at the other side of this ordeal.

The instructor has forbidden us to look down into the water. We do so anyway, with prayer on our lips. The pool looks like a blue postage stamp on a brown and green camouflage envelope. The deep end seems unfathomable even to the sunlight trying to pierce its way into its depths. But all the sun succeeds in, is a golden shimmer on the gentle waves of the water.

The adrenalin kicks in and our heart accelerates like an aircraft at full power for takeoff. The ramp is our runway for the moment. There is no running back now. The only way down is by taking the final leap into the deep.

The Robert Frost poem which we have just been through in our English class comes to my mind...and my brain modifies it even in the panic...*"The water is cold, dark and **deep**...but I have to leap; because I have promises to keep, and there's still time to go before I sleep!"*

One step off the board and we are off - lips pursed, eyes closed.

The stomach churns, the eyeballs go up into their upward stops, the lungs contract as if squeezing out the life in us. Hands and legs go into a grotesque dance as if trying to hold on to thin air to stop the fall. But gravity won't have any of this; it accelerates us downwards in the few seconds that we are airborne.



And then, in the moment that once stood at the end of eternity, the deep gobbles us in a thunderous splash. There is a slap of the water hitting our chests or back sides and we go down under with a whoosh, our breath escaping in bubbles that sound loudly and continuously in our ears. We gasp for air, water finds its way into our bodies, into crevices, orifices. We sputter for breath, hands and legs struggling to get to the top of the water world.

Buoyancy now takes over; and we find ourselves propelled upwards to the sunny side of the pool- it is as if god has finally heard our prayers and is guiding us back to life. Our head pops out of the water and we try to orientate ourselves after the crash. Soon, we thrash our hands and legs and get to the edge of the pool and out of it.

We are alive! Yet another jump is over!

Whether you were a swimmer or not, it was mandatory for cadets to jump from this height at the National Defence Academy (although in the junior terms, we jumped from a little lower 7 meters!) The idea was to see if the young men had the mental courage it took to join the military. Even if this courage was less in magnitude in the early years, this jump into the deep and many such 'mad' activities at the academy made sure that the latent steel within us surfaced in good measure at the end of our training.

There are so many incidents at the pool that bring a smile on our faces even now. One such incident is about Cadet 'GP'. The boy was good at everything else but hated the pool and its water. For many of us, the first jump was a Waterloo-as it was for GP. Allow me to narrate this incident in the beautiful words of my friend MP which I have recorded in my book Born to Fly.

*"Despite numerous commands given from below by the Divisional Officer Flt Lt Mishra, GP kept on holding to the railings on the side of the approach to the diving board. No amount of cajoling would make his grip loosen; and Nijjar- the ustaad- realised that it would be impossible to unlock the white knuckles of the boy to dislodge him from the top. Now, one 5<sup>th</sup> term, Cadet Aggarwal, was sent to bolster the efforts to get GP to jump. A minor scuffle ensued and the boys below waited for the frail GP to now come down flying.*

*Nothing of that sort happened. GP's perseverance won, and he soon managed to edge both his assailants to a drop into the pool! Aided by some un-understood law of prehensility, our man clung on to the railing, his legs dangling, a la Spiderman in his swimming costume. He then summoned energy from somewhere to do a toilsome pull-up and get back on to the 7 meter board, and majestically stood there unvanquished'.*

GP would have been relegated or sent home if he hadn't jumped. Eventually, jump he did; and to top it all, went on to join the Indian Navy!

In life, one requires the gentle push to go into the deep. Once you have crossed this threshold, you now discover the ways to get to the top. You then realise that you have the strength to fight adversity, come what may.

And then, later on in life, one continues to look for new depths that one would want to jump into, to conquer...but this time more confidently. We had just conquered the seemingly impossible. Jumping from 35 feet only in your chaddi's requires B.... and sometimes a push!



Air Cmde  
Nitin Sathe (IO)



## REMINISCENCES: PREAMBLE LEADING TO THE SECOND INNINGS



While I was posted as GI Training (MATT) at 2 STC Panaji, Goa, sometime in Apr 1992, my Senior Instructor called me to say that there was a signal from MS Branch detailing me to TO's course. Initially I thought that perhaps it was the GTO's (Group Testing Officer's) course and there could have been an error, that probably 'G' could have been erroneously missed out, however on query, it was learnt that the signal was correct, as TO meant "Technical Officer" i.e., Psychologist's course. As SSB tenure is considered prestigious, being equivalent to an Instructor Class "A" Training Establishment, it was decided by Signal Training Centre to send me on the course.

At that juncture, all I could think was that my glorious tenure of the Sun-n-Sand and attractive beaches of Goa would soon be coming to an end, however I could never have imagined that this **DIPR course** would enable a **second career** after retirement.

I vividly recall the first day at Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR) when the **Director, Dr W Selvamurthy**, in his inaugural address queried to know as to how many of us were "MA Psychology", perhaps because, the system of inducting Officers from all arms as Psychologists had just been initiated. On hearing a negative response, he appeared astonished, wondering as to how "MS Branch" had nominated Officers for such a course!!!

We were issued a pile of books with the curriculum and exam schedule with just three months to learn psychology. This included the norms and nuances of assessment & personality evaluation, so we were left with no option but to slog to avoid failure and being "**Returned to Unit**" (RTU).

Those of us who cleared the theory leg were despatched to report to various selection Centres (SSBs) for the practical leg of another three months. At SSBs, the performance of the trainee is closely monitored for live assessment of cadets which is.

then matched with that of the Instructor. **Consistency in assessment** is a vital factor and **variation often resulted in being weeded out** even though having reached to the second leg of the course.

I had **two tenures** as a **Psychologist**, one at **34 SSB** (Selection Centre East Allahabad) from 1993 - 1996 and **second tenure** at **Selection Centre Central Bhopal** from 2010 - 2011, as a re-employed Brigadier in the capacity of Senior Psychologist and Call up Officer.



During these SSB tenures, I had the opportunity to **assess over 2400** candidates of which a sizable number are officers today.

During my tenure at MCTE as Cdr Faculty of Combat Communications (**FCC**), I often conducted **SSB coaching classes** on Sundays and holidays for **JCOs/OR**, who had call letters to **face SSBs**.

Officers from technical arms have more opportunities and options of serving with MNCs in the field of IT as **second innings** after superannuation, but my exposure and experience in personality assessment and SSB training sparked **a strong passion** to help youth in the induction to armed forces as officers, so I dropped the idea of joining an IT Firm.

In **Apr – May 2013**, the Punjab Govt advertised to fill up a vacancy of an DIPR trained/experienced Psychologist, for employment with Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forces Preparatory Institute. I applied and was selected to join the Institute with effect from **09 Jul 2013**, during this tenure up to **18 DEC 2019** (six and a half years), during this period, I had the opportunity to train approx. **330 cadets from 2<sup>nd</sup> course to the 8<sup>th</sup> course**.

I wish to mention here that besides my duties primarily as a **Psychologist** at Maharaja Ranjit Singh- AFPI, I was also assigned an additional responsibility as **“officer in charge academics”** for cadets studying at **Shemrock**. This entailed multiple tasks of monitoring the academic performance of cadets, review of curriculums to adjust AFPI training requirements, monitoring of coverage of syllabi, arranging **Academic Conferences between the School and AFPI** authorities to review progress and iron out anomalies, if any as also maintaining liaison and a close coordination with the school.

This was altogether a **new experience**, it was a treat to solve many challenging problems including naughty pranks of cadets, one of the perpetual complaints from School was of cadets dozing off in classes, then, making lame excuses that they were always short of sleep due to rigors of training **at AFPI**, at times there were also typical problems like **altercations** between other **“Shemrockites and AFPIans”** over games, and other **adolescent issues**. Thus, there was never a dull moment.

It was interesting to study the **psyche of the cadets**, to apprise them of their weaknesses and emphasis to build strong fundamentals for success in life, inculcating **squadron spirit** to win the coveted **“Champions Trophy”** and allied prizes, motivating and guiding them through various competitions (sports, cross country, debates), including organising their squash and tennis championships was fun, as I always **felt younger** being with them and at times even challenged the squash winner. I enjoyed my tenure grooming the cadets, in their personality development and SSB training, so that they excel in their performance at SSBs.

**It was a matter of pride and honour that Sh. Prakash Singh Badal, ex CM Punjab, was a frequent visitor to AFPI**, he nurtured and cared for AFPI, his unstinted support, deep sense of involvement, magnanimity to sanction funds and ensuring infrastructural maintenance of the Institute was a great morale booster for AFPI, the



Institute in return worked very hard and produced outstanding results. Soon, MRS AFPI became the **cynosure of Punjab**. MRS AFPI also had the honour of the visit by the **Governor of Punjab, His excellency Sh. Shivraj V Patil, Army Commander (Western Command) and many other VVIPS.**



VISIT TO AFPI - SH PRAKASH SINGH BADAL, HON'BLE CM PUNJAB, DEC 2013



HIS EXCELLENCY SH. SHIVRAJ V PATIL, GOVERNOR OF PUNJAB INTERACTING WITH OFFICERS AT AFPI

It is mentioned that among other prominent visitors was the erstwhile **Commandant of NDA, Air Marshal KS Gill, AVSM, YSM, VM** who on seeing the curriculum of training complimented and remarked, that **AFPI, Mohali** was like running a **mini-NDA**.

The outstanding results and achievements of AFPI resonated and **the electronic media and the Press** came forth to give a wide coverage as could be seen in leading newspapers. Some pictures and newspaper clips are given below: -



# CLIPPING FROM PROMINENT NEWSPAPERS – JUN 2018



Ideally, a team of **GTO, Psych, and an Interviewing officer** is required for imparting personality development and SSB training. As there was no Interviewing Officer, this task was carried out by our team, prior to outsourcing an IO, thus giving each cadet adequate exposure to the technique I am told this long outstanding requirement has now been fulfilled, AFPI now has a dedicated Interviewing Officer, and the team of assessors is complete.

During my tenure, I must say, ours was a very small and a happy team, we worked hard as also relished every moment, of that period, I had the opportunity to work with Maj Gen BS Grewal as Director and **four GTOs in succession** viz Col HS Chauhan, Lt Col SS Rai, and Brig Rajsher Grewal and Lt Col CP Singh.

I consider myself fortunate and lucky to have been a part of the training team, it was and a pleasure and a great learning to have worked with Maj Gen BS Grewal.



THE CORE TRAINING TEAM

It is worth the mention that hearing the **success story** of **Maharaja Ranjit Singh AFPI**, the Government of **Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and Telangana** sent **high level delegations** to study and **replicate the AFPI Model**.

The other **feathers in the cap** of AFPI include the highlights of **POP in Jun 2019** at Air Force Academy (Dundigal). **Ex AFPI Cdts, Gagandeep Singh Dhami and Jasmehak Singh** gave proud moments to AFPI by **securing the First position in both Fighter as well as Helicopter Streams**, respectively. AFPIans also **topped All India UPSC NDA list twice**. One Cdt **Gurvansh Gosal** won Bronze Medal during IMA (POP), held in Dec 2019.





AFPI – 3RD COURSE (134 NDA): 19 JUNE 2019 – FACILITATED AT ALMA MATER

The AFPIans of **138<sup>th</sup> NDA/148 IMA** (Fifth AFPI course) gave proud moments as **12 of them** passed out on 12 JUN 2021, two of them held coveted appointments, **GC Rajdeep as BCA**, and **GC Loveneet**, passed out as **ACA**, he also bagged the distinction of being awarded the prestigious **Bronze medal for standing third in the overall merit**.

Thus, MRS AFPI as the honour and pride to bag the **“IMA Bronze Medal” twice**, as also **to usher 83 cdt as commissioned officers** in the armed forces and induct **162 cadets** to NDA and other training academies as on date. It is a treat to see AFPI climb to the **pinnacle of glory**, and to be a part of the training team.

Meanwhile in 2019, the Punjab Govt gave directions that re-employed officers more than 62 years of age to **be relieved** of their duties, as the process of my replacement progressed, I was prepared for the **glorious end of my second innings**, but just then the Punjab Govt mooted the idea of the plan for a third **AFPI** to come up at **Hoshiarpur**, as I was involved with the **preliminary recce** and making the **scope of work** etc, the Govt nominated me as the **“CHIEF PROJECT OFFICER”**. I was initially very reluctant to take up the assignment, Maj Gen BS Grewal motivated me to accept the assignment, moreover MB AFPI did not have a Psychologist and as Gp Capt. A K Srivastava had already joined, so the Govt decided **to retain me** on the above pretext, and I was **side stepped to MB AFPI**.

MB AFPI has made a **good start** and is not too far behind, as on date, **8 lady cdts** have already been **commissioned** of which ex **Lady Cdt Tabassum** topped the '**Air Transporter Stream**' (among men and women), two lady Cdts are under training at OTA, and **11 Lady Cdts** are awaiting merit after clearing SSB.

As MRS AFPI and MB AFPI are sister organisations, **AFPI** has been very close to my heart, I feel happy that I am still remain a **part of AFPI**, and that the **second Innings yet continues**.

It gives me an immense pleasure, satisfaction, and pride, that I was given an opportunity to groom, train and shape the career and future of the youth both men and women of Punjab and to enable their **induction as Officers in the Armed Forces**.

I pray for many many **more laurels and greater moments of glory to both AFPIs**.



BRIG KD SINGH (Retd)

*The heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight, but they while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night.*

*-HW Longfellow*



## GREEN CAMPUS, CLEAN CAMPUS

**Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forces Preparatory Institute** is spread over a large area, which encompasses the office complex, Hostel Complex, GTO Grounds and various sports facilities. Keeping in view the environmental saving ethos and also to inculcate nature loving attitude amongst the cadets, a large number of Trees have been planted in the complex. A Green belt has been created all along the boundary wall by planting various kinds of ornamental Trees and thick hedges. Variety of Fruit bearing plants have been cultivated in the **Saragarhi Park**. Each tree in the Saragarhi Park has a board displaying the name of Martyr's, who sacrificed their lives in the battle of Saragarhi. A variety of plants & hedges all along the **Maharaja Ranjit Singh Statue** adds to the beauty of the complex.

The **Valour Park** which contains busts of gallantry award Winners is surrounded by mix of flowers and hedges to give it a ceremonial look. The office complex is full of seasonal flowers and gives a very soothing look to the visitors. GTO Grounds are full of Mango and other variety of shade bearing trees. A small kitchen garden near the Candidates Mess gives it a very refreshing look. The credit for maintaining these beautiful parks and the greenery all around the complex goes to our hard working ground staff and the supervisory staff. The visionary thought and environmental friendly work started by the Director Years ago, is bearing fruits now. The lush green and clean Complex of the institute is an inspiration for young cadets where they learn to co-exist with the nature.



Col HS Randhawa (GTO)



OFFICE COMPLEX



SARAGARHI PARK



MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH STATUE



VALOUR PARK



GTO GROUNDS



# ACHIEVERS GALLERY...



## ACHIEVERS

162 AND COUNTING.....

Jun 2020



8/B/1 CDT  
BARJOT SINGH  
111 SSC

Aug 2020



74/A/2 CDT  
JAIDEEP AMITOJ SINGH  
207 AFA

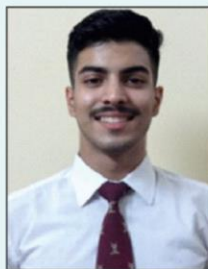
Oct. 2020



185/B/4 CDT  
JASHANPREET SINGH  
149 IMA



239/B/5 CDT  
RISHABH SHARMA  
149 IMA



375/B/8 DCC  
AACHMAN SHARMA  
106 NAVAC



357/A/8 BCA  
SAKSHAM GUPTA  
106 NAVAC



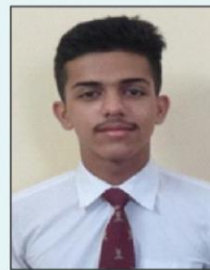
396/B/8 CDT  
AMRINDER SINGH  
144 NDA



374/A/8 CDT  
TUSHANT  
144 NDA



382/A/8 CDT  
KRITIN GUPTA  
144 NDA



379/A/8 CDT  
PRATHAM PARMAR  
144 NDA



**376/A/8 CDT  
ABHINAV MISHRA  
144 NDA**



**380/B/8 BCC  
KANWERNOR SINGH KHEHRA  
144 NDA**



**388/B/8 DCC  
ADITYA SHARMA  
144 NDA**



**390/B/8 DCC  
ANISH PANDEY  
144 NDA**



**370/A/8 CDT  
SHOBHITDEEP SINGH  
144 NDA**



**352/B/7 CDT  
ABHAY PARTAP SHARMA  
144 NDA**



**393/A/8 CDT  
YASH NAILWAL  
144 NDA**

## **Dec. 2020**



**361/A/8 DCC  
JASKIRAT SINGH  
106 NAVAC**



**385/B/8 CQMS  
GURMAHAK PREET SINGH  
106 NAVAC**



## Jan. 2021



**139/B/4 CDT  
MANMEET SINGH  
209 AFA**

## Apr 2021



**360/B/8 CDT  
SHIV KUMAR  
145 NDA**



**373/B/8 CDT  
UTTAM MALIK  
145 NDA**



**391/B/8 CDT  
BHART SHARMA  
145 NDA**



**400/A/8 CDT  
SAHILDEEP SINGH  
145 NDA**



**404/B/8 CDT  
SAHILPREET SINGH SANDHU  
145 NDA**

WHO'S WHO?  
The Ninjas  
AFPI 9TH  
COURSE





NINTH COURSE(9TH COURSE) - 2019 TO 2021  
THE NINJAS

SITTING ROW (L - R ) -

MR AMANDEEP SINGH (LIB CLK), HAV DHARAMPAL SINGH (HEAD CLERK), SUB MAJ BALKAR SINGH (ACCOUNTANT), HONY CAPT RAJINDER SINGH (PTI), BCA SAMAY SAINI, GP CAPT AK SRIVASTAVA ( SQN CDR 'A' ), MAJ GEN BS GREWAL, VSM ( DIRECTOR AFPI ), COL HS RANDHAWA ( SQN CDR 'B' ), BCC GAUTAM VERMA, RISALDAR BIRBAL SINGH (WARDEN), SUB SWARAN SINGH (DRILL INSTR), HAV (APTC) GURMAIL SINGH (PTI), SCC ( C ) SUKHDEV SINGH GILL.

STANDING 1ST ROW (L-R) -

CDT VEDANT VASUDEVA, DCC AKSHIT PAL, CDT MANNAT DCC MOHINDER SINGH SEKHON, CDT VINAYAK SHARMA, CDT CHAITANYA VASHISHT, CQMS(B) HEMANG BANSAL, CDT KARAN KAUSHISH, CDT MANVEEN SINGH BEDI, CQMS (C) DEVASHISH GUPTA, CDT KUNAL KANSAL, CDT GURSHAAN SINGH BONS, CSM ( C ) PARASDEEP SINGH KHOSA, CSM ( B ) HENRIK SACHDEVA.

STANDING 2ND ROW (L-R) -

DCC KANISHK CHAUHAN, DCC SAMARJOT SINGH, CDT ABHINAV SINGH, CDT PARAMJOT SINGH, CQMS(A) HARPREET SINGH GILL, CDT MANDEEP SINGH, SCC (B) ARYAN SHARMA, CDT SIMARNOOR SINGH, CDT ARPIT PARASHAR.

STANDING 3RD ROW (L-R) -

CDT DHIMANT, SCC(A) GAURAV SINGH, CDT GURANSHVIR SINGH GILL, CDT YUVRAJ SINGH TOMAR, CDT JASKARAN SINGH, CDT HIMNEESH GOYAL, CSM (A) PARAMSUNIL SINGH, CDT SUKHPREET SINGH SEKHON, CDT ADITYA THAKUR, DCC KARANBEER SINGH CHEEMA, CDT KUSH PANDEYA, CDT ARSHDEEP SINGH, DCC HARFAN SINGH.

## ALPHA SQN

<u>SR. No.</u>	<u>CADET NAME</u>	<u>ONE-LINER</u>
	DCC HARFAN SINGH	The Professor
2.	CDT KARAN KAUSHISH	Hugger Mugger
3.	SCC GAURAV SINGH	Stud (y) -Boy
4.	CDT JASKARAN SINGH	The Skyscraper
5.	CDT VEDANT VASUDEVA	Stand-Up Comedian
6.	BCA SAMAY SAINI	Tough Guy
7.	CQMS HARPREET SINGH GILL	Ace of AFPI
8.	CDT ADITYA THAKUR	Macho Man
9.	CDT GURSHAAN SINGH	Meme-Lover
10.	CDT ABHINAV SINGH	Muscle Machine
11.	CSM PARAMSUNIL SINGH	Physical Education Topper
12.	DCC KARANBEER SINGH	Mr Couch Potato
13.	CDT CHAITANYA VASHISHAT	Mr Poser



## **BRAVO SQN**

<u>SR. No.</u>	<u>CADET NAME</u>	<u>ONE-LINER</u>
1.	CDT ARSHDEEP SINGH	Sounds like an AN-32
2.	CDT MANVEER SINGH BEDI	Mona Lisa With killer Smile
3.	CDT DHIMANT	G....Host
4.	SCC ARYAN SHARMA	Almond Runner
5.	DCC AKSHITPAL	Gurkha Optee
6.	DCC KANISHK CHAUHAN	Seventh Heaven Coowner
7.	CDT PARAMJOT SINGH	All AFPI Radio
8.	CDT YUVRAJ SINGH	Yogi' s Blessing
9.	CQMS HEMANG BANSAL	Muster on StudyTable
10.	BCC GAUTAM VERMA	Josh Type BCC
11.	CDT HIMNEESH GOYAL	Drill Master
12.	CSM HENRIK SACHDEVA	STU' ' D
13.	CDT KUSH PANDEYA	Bakery Product

## CHARLIE SQN

<u>SR. No.</u>	<u>CADET NAME</u>	<u>ONE-LINER</u>
1.	CDT ARPIT PRASHAR	Bhangra kaptaan-perfect specimen for GTOs
2.	SCC SUKHDEV SINGH GILL	Pradhan! Famous from Shemrock to MBAFPI
3.	CDT KUNAL KANSAL	Man from Jurassic Era
4.	CDT SIMARNOOR SINGH	Sniper, Drill wele da amli
5.	CDT MANDEEP SINGH	Link between Shemrock and AFPI
6.	CSM PARASDEEP SINGH	Known for his lifting skills
7.	CDT MANNAT	Sir got invisible after Dinner
8.	CDT SUKHPREET SINGH	A straight and perfect Cadet
9.	DCC MS SEKHON	Shaky hands, because he make records
10.	CDT VINAYAK SHARMA	AFPI loves his cheeks
11.	CQMS DEVASHISH GUPTA	Confused between Left and Right
12.	CDT GURANSHVIR GILL	Jattan da Munda loves guns
13.	DCC SAMARJOT SINGH	Tension Kis gal Dihai Yaar?



WE ADDED THESE  
MOTIVATIONAL  
STATUES DURING  
THE YEAR



## MAJOR BHUPINDER SINGH, MVC



- ❖ Service No : IC-4466
- ❖ Date of Birth : 19 Sep 1928
- ❖ Birth Place : Ropar (Punjab)
- ❖ Service : Army
- ❖ Last Rank : Major
- ❖ Last Unit : 4 Horse  
(Hodson's Horse)
- ❖ Arm/Regt : The Armoured Corps
- ❖ Operation : Op Riddle
- ❖ Award : MVC
- ❖ Date of Martyrdom : 03 Oct 1965



Major Bhupinder Singh was born on 19<sup>th</sup> Sep 1928 at Rupnagar in Ropar district of Punjab. Son of Shri Sajjan Singh, Maj Bhupinder joined the army after completing his education. He was commissioned into the Hodson's Horse on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 1949. By the year 1965, he had been promoted to the rank of Major and had put in over 15 years of service. Major Bhupinder Singh had developed into a committed soldier and gritty officer who always believed in leading from the front. During the 1965 Indo-Pak war, Major Bhupinder Singh's unit got deployed in the Punjab sector.

### Indo Pak War: Sep 1965

The battle of Phillora was one of the largest tank battles fought during the Indo-Pak war. It was the first major engagement between the two nations in the Sialkot sector. The battle started on 10<sup>th</sup> September, when Indian troops launched a massive attack in the sector. Its 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Division was on the offensive in that area. Equipped with four Armoured Regiments, this division faced stiff opposition from the Pakistani 6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division. Pakistani air attacks did little damage to the tank columns. For the next two days, intense fighting continued and the outnumbered Pakistani troops made a tactical retreat towards Chawinda. By this time, Indian troops had destroyed 67 Pakistani tanks.

During this time Maj Bhupinder Singh was commanding 'Bravo' Squadron of 4 Horse which was deployed to cut the enemy line of along the road Gadgor-Phillora and provide a fire base for attack on Phillora. Major Bhupinder Singh led his squadron with distinction in the battle of Phillora and his squadron was able to cause large-scale destruction of Pakistani tanks and other equipment.

Maj Bhupinder also played a key role in the subsequent battle for Sordreke on 19 Sep. With skillful deployment and bold action, his squadron proved its mettle and changed the course of the battle



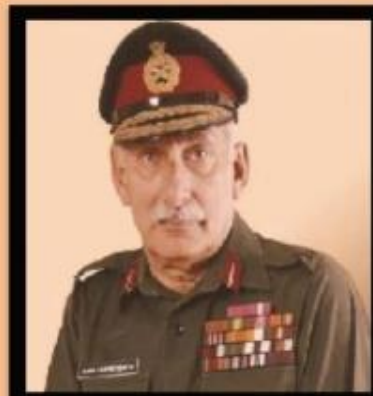
in India's favour. Although Maj Bhupinder's tank was hit on several occasions, he continued to remain in effective command and by several acts of personal gallantry, inspired his men to fight courageously. In one of the attack, though his tank was damaged, he bailed out safely and went back to save one of his comrades, which exemplified his courage, sacrifice and comradeship. Ironically, on 19th September which was Major Bhupinder Singh's birthday, his tank was hit and caught fire in which he received severe burn injuries. He was evacuated and shifted to the military hospital at Delhi. Maj Bhupinder later succumbed to his injuries on 3rd October 1965.

For displaying exemplary gallantry, leadership and devotion to duty Major Bhupinder Singh was awarded nation's second highest gallantry award 'MahaVir Chakra' posthumously. When Prime Minister asked why "Tears in such a brave man's eyes", Major replied "Not because of pain, its because my PM is standing before me and I can't even salute him "" . The District Authorities of Ludhiana have named the Bharat Nagar Chowk of city as Major Bhupinder Singh Chowk.

*Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers. It may not be difficult to store up in the mind a vast quantity of facts within a comparatively short time, but the ability to form judgments requires the severe discipline of hard work and the tempering heat of experience and maturity.*

*Calvin Coolidge*

## FM MSHL SHF J MANEKSHAW, MC



- ❖ Date of Birth : 03 Apr 1914
- ❖ Birth Place : Amritsar (Punjab)
- ❖ Service : Army
- ❖ Last Rank : Field Marshal
- ❖ Service Years : 1934-2008
- ❖ Award : MC
- ❖ Date of Martyrdom : 27 Jun 2008



Field Marshal Sam HormusjiFramji Jamshedji Manekshaw popularly known as “Sam Bahadur” was born on 3<sup>rd</sup>Apr 1914 at Amritsar in Punjab. His parents, Dr HormusjiManekshaw and SmtHeerabai, had moved from the city of Valsad in the coastal Gujarat region. His father also served for the British Army as a medical officer in Mesopotamia during the First World war. FM Manekshaw had three brothers and two sisters and, all them, except the eldest brother, went to 'Sherwood School' in Nainital for studies.

At the age of 15, FM Manekshaw asked his father to send him to London to study medicine as he wanted to become a gynecologist. But his father declined and in an act of defiance, on 1<sup>st</sup>Oct 1932, FM Manekshaw appeared for the Military Academy entrance examination in Dehradun. He got selected and became part of the first batch of 40 candidates selected for the Military Academy. He got commissioned as second lieutenant in the Frontier Force Regiment in the year 1934. He initially became part of the Royal Scouts and then the 54th Sikh Regiment, which, on partition, became part of the Pakistani Army. After serving for a couple of years, he got married to MsSiloo Bode on 22<sup>nd</sup>Apr 1939 and the couple had two daughters Sherry (born on 11<sup>th</sup>Jan 1940) and Maya (born on 24<sup>th</sup>Sep 1945).

### Military Leader-Par Excellence

Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw achieved a number of firsts throughout his military career and was the first Indian Army officer to be promoted to the rank of Field Marshal. His distinguished military career spanned over four decades and five wars, beginning with the British Indian Army in World War II. He was initially selected into the Indian Military Academy as a part of the first batch of cadets called “The Pioneers”. His first major military campaign was in World War II, where he served as a captain with the 4/12 Frontier Force Regiment in Burma in 1942. In Feb 1942, FM Manekshaw displayed his soldierly and leadership skills during the battle of the Sittang Bridge against the Imperial Japanese Army. He launched a forceful counter-attack and engaged the Japanese forces fearlessly. He led his unit to an emphatic victory, despite losing half of his soldiers. His exemplary leadership clinched the militarily significant Sittang Bridge for the Allied forces.

During the counter offensive for the capture of Sittang Bridge, FM Manekshaw was hit by a burst of light machine gun fire and suffered a major injury in his stomach. His exceptional bravery was appreciated by Major General David Cowan, who was the Commander-in-Chief of the 17<sup>th</sup>Infantry Division. Fearing that FM Manekshaw would succumb to his injuries, the general pinned his own Military Cross ribbon on then CaptManekshaw's chest saying, “A dead person cannot be awarded a



Military Cross". The award was made official when a notification was published in the London Gazette in April 1942. FM Manekshaw was evacuated from the battlefield and taken to an Australian surgeon who treated him. After recovering from the wounds he suffered during the Burma Campaign, FM Manekshaw completed the staff course at Command and Staff College in Quetta and served there for a while as an instructor.

He joined the 12 Frontier Force Rifles in Burma and was wounded in battle again. Towards the end of the war, he was assigned the important task of 'rehabilitation of the 60,000 Japanese POWs (prisoners of war)', which he carried out very successfully. He was highly appreciated for the way he handled the whole process that resulted in no cases of indiscipline or untoward incidents. Later, he served with the Military operation directorate and handled many planning and administrative issues that crept up after partition. He also accompanied Shri VP Menon to Srinagar when the 'Instrument of accession' was signed with Maharaja Hari Singh. He also assisted in the planning of "Op Polo" which was launched in Sep 1948, when peaceful negotiations failed with the Nizam of Hyderabad. FM Manekshaw continued to prove his mettle as a soldier and a military leader in various appointments thereafter, and contributed immensely in fine-tuning the Indian Army into a potent force.

1971 Indo-Pak War: The war was officially declared on 03 Dec 1971, when Pakistani Air Force bombed eleven IAF bases in the western part of our country. Gen Manekshaw, as Chief of Army Staff, formulated an aggressive strategy to fight the war on both Western and Eastern fronts. The war, lasting barely 13 days, saw more than 90,000 Pakistani soldiers being taken as POWs, and it ended with the surrender of Pakistani forces, resulting in the birth of Bangladesh. After the war, FM Manekshaw, as a true soldier, ensured that the POWs were treated with respect as enshrined in the Geneva conventions. He was elevated to the rank of Field Marshal on 1 Jan 1973 and retired from active service on 15 Jan 1973. After his retirement FM Manekshaw went on to head several companies, and running their affairs with the ethos and values he held dear to his heart. He was conferred with multiple awards for his service to the nation including "Padma Vibhushan" and "Padma Bhushan".

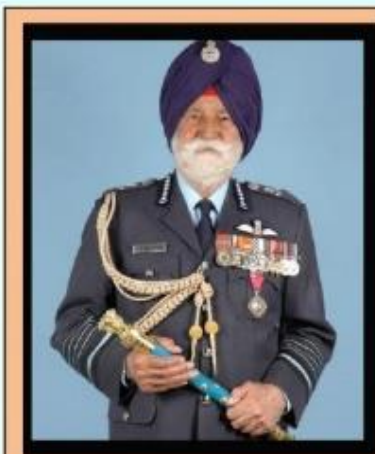
Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, with a string of accomplishments, lived a contended life and left for his heavenly abode on 27 Jun 2008 at the age of 94 years. He was undoubtedly India's greatest soldiers and will continue to inspire future generations for a long time to come.

*A 'yes man' is a dangerous man. He is a menace. He will go very far. He can become a minister, a secretary or a Field Marshal but he can never become a leader nor, ever be respected. He will be used by his superiors, disliked by his colleagues and despised by his subordinates. So discard the 'yes man'.*

*- Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw*



# MARSHAL OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE ARJAN SINGH



- ❖ Date of Birth : 15 Apr 1919
- ❖ Birth Place : Lyallpur (Punjab)  
(Now Faisalabad, Pakistan)
- ❖ Service : Air Force
- ❖ Last Rank : Marshal of the Indian  
Air Force
- ❖ Service Years : 1938-1969  
2002-2017
- ❖ Awards : Padma Vibhushan
- ❖ Date of Demise : 15 Sep 2017



Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh was born on 15 Apr 1919, in a military family in Lyallpur, Punjab, of undivided India. His father, grandfather and great grandfather too had served in the Army. Patriotism ran in his family as his father was a Lance Daffedar in the Hodson's Horse at the time of his birth, and retired as a full Risaldar of the Cavalry. His grandfather, Risaldar Major Hukam Singh and great-grandfather, Naib Risaldar Sultana Singh had also served in Army.

MIAF Arjan Singh was selected to the Empire Pilot Training Course (EPTC) at RAF, Cranwell, when he was 19 years old. His first assignment on being commissioned was to fly Westland Wapiti biplanes in the North-Western Frontier Province as a member of the No.1 Royal Indian Air Force Squadron. He was promoted to the rank of Squadron Leader in 1944 and led the squadron against the Japanese during the Arakan Campaign. He also flew close air support missions during the crucial Imphal Campaign and later assisted in the advance of the Allied Forces to Rangoon.

For his role in successfully leading the squadron in combat, then Sqn Ldr Arjan Singh was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) in 1944. After his promotion to the rank of a Wing Commander, he attended the Royal Staff College in Britain. Immediately after Independence, he commanded Ambala Air Force Station in the rank of Group Captain. In 1949, he was promoted to Air Commodore and took over as Air Officer Commanding of an operational command that later came to be known as the Western Air Command.

Air Cmde Arjan Singh had the distinction of having the longest tenure as the AOC of an Operational base, initially from 1949-1952 and then again from 1957-1961. After his promotion to Air Vice Marshal, he was appointed as the AOC-in-C of another Operational Command. Towards the end of the 1962 war, he was appointed as the Deputy Chief of Air Staff and became the Vice Chief in 1963.

On August 1, 1964, in the rank of Air Marshal, he took the reins of the IAF at a time when the force was rebuilding itself and was gearing up to meet new challenges. Arjan Singh was a WWII hero and won our nation's gratitude for his military leadership in 1965 war. He led a young Air Force into the war against Pakistan in 1965 when he was 45. With careful planning, unmatched insight and wisdom, Arjan Singh, outfoxed the Pakistan Air Force which had the top of line US jets as against India's old Gnats and Vampire fighters. After a few initial setbacks, the Indian Air Force outmaneuvered the Pakistani fighters, handing



a decisive air superiority to the Indian war effort. He remained the IAF chief from August 1, 1964, to July 15, 1969. He was the first Indian Air Chief to be elevated to the rank of Air Chief Marshal on January 16, 1966. He retired from the service in 1970 after a glorious service career at the age of 50.

#### Post Retirement Period

After his retirement from the air force, MIAF Arjan Singh was appointed as India's Ambassador to Switzerland in 1971 and concurrently served as the Ambassador to the Vatican. He was also the High Commissioner to Kenya in 1974. He served as a member of the National Commission for Minorities and was also the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. In recognition of his lifelong services, the government conferred the rank of the "Marshal of the Indian Air Force" on Arjan Singh on 28 Jan 2002, making him the first and the only 'Five Star' rank officer of the Indian Air Force.

The gallant soldier left for his heavenly abode on 16 Sep 2017 at the age of 98, owing to natural causes. MIAF Arjan Singh will go down in the military history of India as one of the greatest soldiers and will continue to inspire future generations.

*Squadron Leader Arjan Singh is a fearless and exceptional Pilot, with a profound knowledge of his specialised branch of tactical reconnaissance and he has imbued those under him with the same spirit. The success of No. 1 Squadron Indian Air Force reflects the greatest credit on him.*

*- From No. 1 Sqn Diary*



OUR  
VALOUR  
PARK







## CAPTAIN GURBACHAN SINGH SALARIA,



- ❖ Service No : IC-8497
- ❖ Date of Birth : 29 Nov 1935
- ❖ Birth Place : Gurdaspur (Punjab)
- ❖ Service : Army
- ❖ Service Years : 1957-1961
- ❖ Last Rank : Captain
- ❖ Last Unit : 3/1 Gorkha Rifles
- ❖ Arm/Regt : 1 Gorkha Rifles
- ❖ Operation : Congo Ops
- ❖ Award : Param Vir Chakra
- ❖ Date of Martyrdom : 05 Dec 1961



Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria, PVC (29 Nov 1935 - 05 Dec 1961) was a member of the United Nations peacekeeping force in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Singh was an alumnus of King George's Royal Indian Military College and the National Defence Academy. He was the first NDA alumnus and is the only UNPeacekeeper to be awarded a Param Vir Chakra (PVC), India's highest wartime Military decoration.

In December 1961, Salaria was among the Indian troops deployed to the Congo as part of the United Nations Operations. On 05 Dec, Salaria's battalion was tasked to clear a roadblock of two Armoured cars manned by 150 gendarmes of the secessionist State of Katanga on the way to the Elizabethville Airport. The plan was that Salaria and his men were to block their retreat. His rocket launcher team attacked and destroyed the Katangese Armoured cars. This unforeseen move confused the gendarmerie and Salaria felt it would be best to attack before they reorganised. Though his troops were badly outnumbered, they charged towards the Katangese and killed 40 men in a kukri assault. During the attack, Salaria was shot twice in the neck and eventually succumbed to his injuries. The remaining gendarmes fled in utter confusion leaving their dead and wounded behind. This helped the main battalion to easily overrun the Katangese and clear the roadblock. For his duty and courage, and disregard for his own safety during the battle, Salaria was awarded the "Param Vir Chakra".

*I don't have time for hobbies. At the end of the day, I treat my job as a hobby. It's something I love doing.*

*David Beckham*



## FLYING OFFICER NIRMAL JIT SINGH SEKHON, PVC



- ❖ Service No : 10877
- ❖ Date of Birth : 17 Jul 1945
- ❖ Birth Place : Ludhiana (Punjab)
- ❖ Service : Air Force
- ❖ Service Years : 1967-1971
- ❖ Last Rank : Flying Officer
- ❖ Last Unit : 18 Sqn AF
- ❖ Operation : Op Cactus Lily
- ❖ Award : Param Vir Chakra
- ❖ Date of Martyrdom : 14 Dec 1971



**Flying Officer** Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon, **PVC** (17 Jul 1943 - 14 Dec 1971) was an officer of the **Indian Air Force**. He was posthumously awarded the **Param Vir Chakra**, India's highest Military decoration during war, in recognition of his lone defence of the **Srinagar** Air Base against a **PAF** Air Raid during the **Indo-Pakistani War of 1971**. He is the only member of the Indian Air Force to be honoured with the PVC.

Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon was born on 17 Jul 1943 in a Jat **Sikh** family in the village of Isewal, **Ludhiana, Punjab Province, British India**. He was the son of MWO Honorary Flight Lieutenant Tarlok Singh Sekhon. He was commissioned into the **Indian Air Force** on 04 Jun 1967.

During the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, he was serving with the **No.18 Squadron**, "The Flying Bullets" of IAF, flying the **Gnat fighter aircraft** based out of Srinagar. On 14 Dec 1971, Srinagar airfield was attacked by six **Pakistan Air Force F-86** Jets of 26 Sqn from PAF base **Peshawar**. Flying Officer Sekhon was on ORP (operational readiness platform) duty at that time. As soon as the first aircraft attacked, Sekhon rolled for take-off as No 2 in a two-Gnat formation, with Flt Lt Ghuman in lead, just as the first bombs were falling on the runway. Only delayed due to dust kicked up by the preceding Gnat, Sekhon lost no time in singling out the first Sabre pair, which was re-forming after the bombing run. The Gnat Leader, Flt Lt Ghuman, lost visual with his wingman just after take-off, remained out of the fight leaving Sekhon to handle the muddle all by himself. In the ensuing air battle, Sekhon scored a direct hit on one Sabre and set another ablaze. The latter was seen heading away towards Rajauri, trailing smoke.

Sekhon, after being hit, was advised to return to the base. He is said to have flown in straight, wings level for some time, then going inverted, plummeting down, probably due failure of aircraft control systems. He attempted a last-minute ejection, which did not prove successful, as his canopy was

seen to fly off. The wreckage of the Gnat was found in a gorge, near the road coming from Srinagar town to the base, a few miles away from the airport. The bravery, flying skill and determination displayed by Flying Officer Sekhon, against odds of 1:6, earned him India's highest wartime medal for gallantry, the "Param Vir Chakra."

*Cowards die many times before their death. The  
Valiant never taste of death but once.*

*- Shakespeare*



## SUBEDAR & HONORARY CAPTAIN KARAM SINGH PVC



- ❖ Service No : 22356
- ❖ Date of Birth : 15 Sep 1915
- ❖ Birth Place : Sangrur (Punjab)
- ❖ Service : Army
- ❖ Arm/Regt : The SIKH Regiment
- ❖ Last Rank : Subedar & Hony Captain
- ❖ Unit : 1 SIKH
- ❖ Operation : Indo Pak War 1947-48
- ❖ Award : Param Vir Chakra
- ❖ Date of Demise : 20 Jun 1993



Honorary Captain Karam Singh was born on 15 Sep 1915, at Bhaliawala village in Sangrur district of Punjab. Son of a farmer Sardar Uttam Singh, Karam Singh always wanted to live a life of thrill and adventure since his childhood. His uncle was a JCO in the army and the young boy Karam Singh wanted to follow in his footsteps as he was impressed by the army way of life. He uncle was inducted into the famed Sikh Regiment in Aug 1942 and had proved himself as a good sportsman, making a name for himself in pole vault and long jump disciplines. He also had participated in World War II and proved his mettle as a dedicated and brave soldier.

### Military Medal

During World War II, Singh faced Japanese soldiers at the Burma Front in 1945. He fought in the deep jungles of Burma against the formidable force of the Japanese. For his astute bravery and skill, he was awarded the gallantry medal of Britain, the "Military Medal" on 14<sup>th</sup> Mar 1944.

### Indo Pak War: Oct 1948

During the J & K operations in the summer of 1948, the Indian Army made substantial gains in the Tithwal sector. Subsequently, on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, they seized control of this sector. The enemy had no choice but to abandon their mission. They were, however, far from letting Tithwal go without a fight. The Battle of Tithwal went on for months with the Pakistani army constantly vying for its capture. They could not, however, make a dent on the Indian defences. The re-capture of Tithwal, with Richmar Gali as a vital objective, became the Pakistan Army's main goal. To achieve this objective, a reinforced Brigade, with artillery, was deployed to encircle the position.

On 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 1948, the Pakistan Army launched an attack with a Brigade strength to evict the Indian Army from their strongly held positions. The attack saw immense fighting in the Richmar Gali region and heavy shelling by guns and mortar. The enemy fire took out the communication lines. During this time, the then Lance Naik Karam Singh was commanding a forward outpost in the area. The enemy troops heavily outnumbered the Sikh Regiment and launched no less than 8 attacks on their post. The Indian troops fought fiercely, and Lance Naik Singh went around helping his troops and battling the enemy.

enemy with his grenades. He went on to fight despite being advised evacuation to hospital. During the fifth enemy attack, he fought hand to hand with two enemies and bayoneted them to death. His actions inspired his men and demoralized the enemy. Finally, they fought off the last attack on the night of 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. The Sikh regiment had lost 15 men while the enemy forces lost nearly 300. The enemy could not capture a single bunker.

For his absolute bravery and disregard for his own life, Lance Naik Karam Singh was awarded the revered “Param Vir Chakra.” He was the first non-posthumous recipient of this award. His bravery and leadership saved the coveted position of Tithwal and inevitably changed the course of the war. He became the only Indian to receive the highest gallantry award from both Indian and British governments.

He retired from the army as Subedar and Honorary Captain and left for his heavenly abode due to natural causes on 20<sup>th</sup> Jun 1993 at the age of 77. Hony Capt Karam Singh is still remembered today as the 'Sardar', the leader, the man of steel. He will go down in the history as one of the greatest soldiers of India and will continue to inspire future generations.

*Education is the manifestation of perfection already existing in man*

*-Swami Vivekananda*



## SUBEDAR JOGINDER SINGH, PVC



- ❖ Service No JC-4547
- ❖ Date of Birth : 26 Sep 1921
- ❖ Birth Place : Moga (Punjab)
- ❖ Service : Army
- ❖ Service Years : 1957-1961
- ❖ Last Rank : Subedar
- ❖ Unit : 1 SIKH
- ❖ Arm/Regt : The SIKH Regiment
- ❖ Operation : 1962 Leg Horn
- ❖ Award : Param Vir Chakra
- ❖ Date of Martyrdom : 23 Oct 1962



Subedar Joginder Singh was born on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1921 in Mahakalan village in Moga district of Punjab. Son of Shri Sher Singh Saini and Bibi Krishnan Kaur. Sub Joginder Singh did his primary education in his village. He could not continue his studies further as his parents could not afford it. He joined the British Army on 28 Sep 1936 and was recruited into 1 Sikh of the famed Sikh Regiment known for its courageous soldiers and numerous battle honours.

As a young soldier, he participated in World War II on the Burma front and then also took part in Indo-Pak war of 1947-48 in Srinagar. He married Bibi Gurdyal Kaur Banga, from village Kothay Rara Singh near Kot Kapura. The couple had a son and two daughters.

### Indo-China War: 23 Oct 1962

A fierce battle was fought at Tongpen La, near Bum La, Tawang in 1962. This area earlier known as the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) is now in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. As the war with China became imminent, 1 Sikh regiment was also called in from Jaipur. It was an arduous journey for the soldiers; crossing the jungles to Tenga valley, winding paths of Bomdila and a climb down to Dirang, to the frozen Sela lake and finally to Tawang. Sub Joginder Singh was the platoon in-charge and was a strong man with steely resolve. He was highly respected in the battalion for his discipline and exemplary fighting skills which he had shown during the World War II and the 1947-48 war with Pakistan.

Sub Joginder Singh's platoon was positioned on a ridge in the Tongpeng La area on the Bum La axis in Tawang. On 20 Oct 1962, the Chinese attacked the Indian post at Namka Chu that was under 7 Infantry Brigade. Equipped with superior arms and ammunition and having readied for the war for close to three years, they easily overran the Indian troops and made way to Tawang where Sub Joginder Singh and his men had established their post. The Chinese soldiers began to collect at the other bank of the stream and to dig trenches. The attack on Sub Joginder Singh's post became imminent and he prepared his troops for the fateful day.

It was on 23 October 1962 at 0530 AM, when the kitchen was making tea for the soldiers, the Chinese decided to attack the Tawang post. Sub Joginder Singh's platoon of 1 Sikh stood ready for the counterattack.

They fought fiercely and the enemy was taken aback with many casualties on their side. However, in no time the enemy had unleashed another attack with more energy and troops. The battlefield resounded with the war cry, "Jo bole so nihaal, Sat Sri Akaal". Sub Joginder Singh handled the counterattack on Chinese with courage and patience. He knew there were very few soldiers on his side and arms and ammunition were scarce. In this situation, it was more important for him to keep the morale of his soldiers high. He motivated them to prove themselves as worthy soldiers of their motherland.

The final wave of the Chinese attack was more forceful and by that time Sub Joginder Singh had lost most of his men and was badly injured too. But he continued his attack by manning a light machine gun and killing enemy troops. When the ammunition with the platoon was exhausted, in a rare display of courage, Sub Joginder Singh and his men emerged from their bunkers with bayonets fixed on their guns, shouting the Sikh battle cry. They fell upon the advancing Chinese and bayoneted many to death.

Finally, better weapons and numerical superiority of the Chinese prevailed; and Sub Joginder Singh was captured as a POW. Sub Joginder Singh led his men and fought with grit, energy, and dedication. He kept the fighting spirit of his men ignited till they fell, badly injured, covered under the blanket of snow.

Sub Joginder Singh was awarded the "Param Vir Chakra" for devotion to duty and inspiring leadership and bravery of highest order. As a mark of respect to the brave soldier, Chinese returned his ashes once they came to know about the PVC being awarded to him. Sub Joginder Singh has been immortalized in the nation's history for his outstanding act of valour and will remain one of the greatest soldiers the Indian Army has ever seen.

*God, Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things, I can and wisdom to know the difference.*

*-Reinhold Niebuhr*



# ALUMNI CORNER





FROM KIDS TO MEN... THE TRANSFORMATION CAN NEVER BE FORGOTTEN  
FROM L TO R – LT SIMRANJEET SINGH, LT SAHGURBAZ SINGH, LT GURLAL SINGH  
AND LT KS CHEEMA (4<sup>TH</sup> COURSE)



FLYING THE TIRANGA HIGH IN DENMARK...  
EXTREME RT - S/LT AALAMPREET SINGH (2<sup>nd</sup> COURSE)





S/LT MANJOT SINGH AT INA ( 2<sup>nd</sup> COURSE)



GAMES AND SPORTS LEARNT AT AFPI STAND US IN GOOD STEAD...  
MIDSHIPMAN MANJOT SINGH RECEIVING SPORTS MEDAL AT INA





LT BIKRAMJIT SINGH  
WITH HIS FATHER AT PIPPING CEREMONY



LT BIKRAMJIT SINGH WITH  
LT RISHI SINGLA (3<sup>RD</sup> COURSE)



TALL SHIPS CREW PARADE- HARLINGEN 2019  
BEST IN CREW PARADE IN LOKAYAN 20 IN NORWAY  
EXTREME RT - S/LT AALAMPREET SINGH



# HAPPENINGS



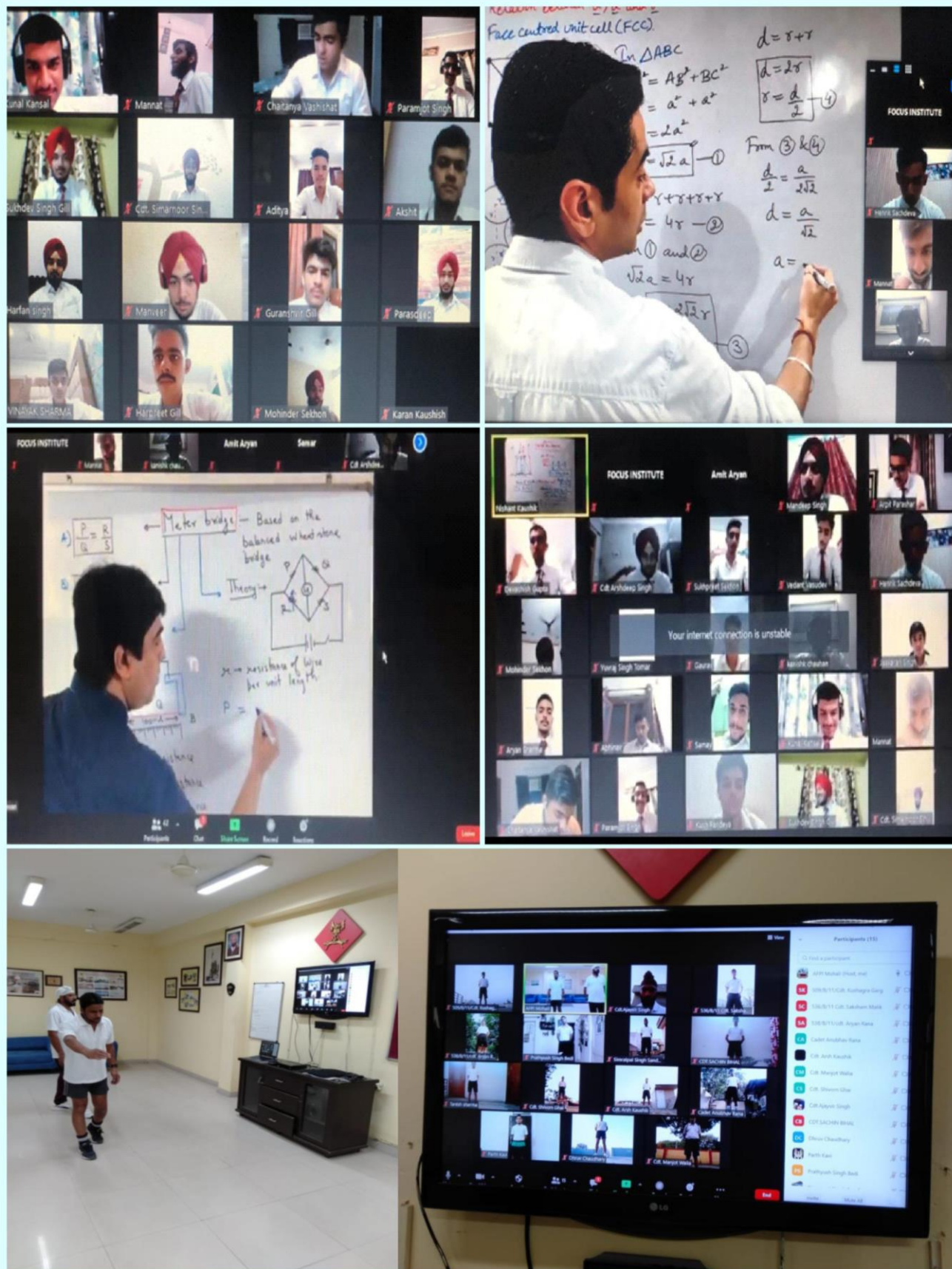


FAREWELL PARTY OF SUB MAJ BALKAR SINGH (ACCOUNTANT)



VISIT BABA SEWA SINGH JI OF KHADUR SAHIB





ONLINE CLASSES &amp; PT BY AFPI CDTs





AFPI OFFICER'S



AFPI STAFF

AFPI SUPPORT STAFF



Messages  
From  
EX- AFPIANS...



Hello Sir, I, Sub Lt Manjot Singh (2<sup>nd</sup> Course), am writing upon receiving your mail regarding Boots and Saddles Journal.

Firstly, my heartiest congratulations to you for the still ongoing beautiful innings. Your hardwork and blessings have played an important part in our success. This reminds me that the Panini Library at the Indian Naval Academy had a copy of a previous edition of Boots and Saddles journal and I used to read the journal every time I visited the library. Being an AFPIAN, reading that journal made me feel so proud.

Sir, I joined the Indian Naval Academy as a part of 29<sup>th</sup> NOC Extended Course in July, 2019 and passed out in July, 2020 to join the Executive branch of the Indian Navy. You'll be happy to know that during my training days I won Gold Medal in Inter Flotilla Rowing and Pulling Regatta.

After I passed out from the academy, I joined the prestigious First Training Squadron of the Indian Navy. The Squadron aims to impart first hand training to all the executive branch officers of the Navy as soon as they pass out from the academy. This training is also known to help the trainees develop their sea legs. After passing out from the Training Squadron, I am currently undergoing my Sub Lieutenant Afloat Phase onboard INS Chennai. It is an indigenously built Stealth Destroyer and one of the best ships in the Indian Navy.

I would love to tell you that AFPIANS in the Navy are doing great and all of us share a great bond. Since we don't have a lot of us as officers in the Navy in comparison to the Army and Air force, I would request you to motivate the upcoming courses to join this most technologically advanced arm of the tri services. As once quoted by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, "To be secure at Land, We must be supreme at Sea."

I wish you and the entire training team a good health and hope that this pandemic comes to an end and we can once again see you over a very special alumni meet this year.

Jai Hind

Sham No Varuna

---

Good Morning Sir,

Received your message regarding the Boots and Saddles journal for the year 2020. Selected a few photos which you might like to include in the journal Sir.

No doubt that the year 2020 has been a tough one for all of us but being soft and strong is a combination very few have mastered.

The spark is what you gave all of us Sir.

Regards,

SLt Aalampreet Singh Mamik  
83/A/2

All AFPIANS in the Navy are doing great Sir..

Lt Mohit Sharma is Medium Range Gunnery officer on INS Trishul,  
SLt Nishant Rajput is on the aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya  
SLt Aalampreet Singh Mamik is on a frontline destroyer, INS Kolkata  
SLt Arjun Singh Sandhu is on a fleet replenishing unit, INS Jyoti  
SLt Jagpreet Singh Toor is on another destroyer, INS Mysore, planning to join the submarine arm  
SLt Manjot Singh has completed his sea training time and will be joining the Western Fleet shortly.  
Cadet Pinaki Kaushal and Cadet Abhishek Tiwari are also doing well in INA



Good Afternoon sir.

I take this opportunity to inform you that I stood 3<sup>rd</sup> in my Auto Instr Course- 53 and was adjudged as Best in Proj & TP and graded AXI.

For your info sir.

Regards

Capt Danish Chadha  
Armoured Corps.

Captain Ajaypal Singh  
Mob : 8699900552

Binaguri Military Station  
West Bengal

16 Jan 2021

Maj Gen BS Grewal, VSM  
Director AFPI

### BOOTS AND SADDLES JOURNAL 2020-21

Dear General,

1. A very happy new year to you too sir on behalf of the entire AFPI fraternity. As always it was a pleasure to have received the update on AFPI from The Director itself. First of all, my apologies to you and the staff for not being able to visit the AFPI more often but I assure you that a part of me always stay there with our cadets.
2. We will be delighted to be part of the 'Boots and Saddles Journal'. The said details asked in your letter are attached as appendix.
3. I would also like to wish luck to the cadets going for the SSB for the NDA 146. Any cadet can contact us for any sort of guidance if he wishes to do so. We look forward to be of any assistance in future as well.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely  
Ajaypal Singh

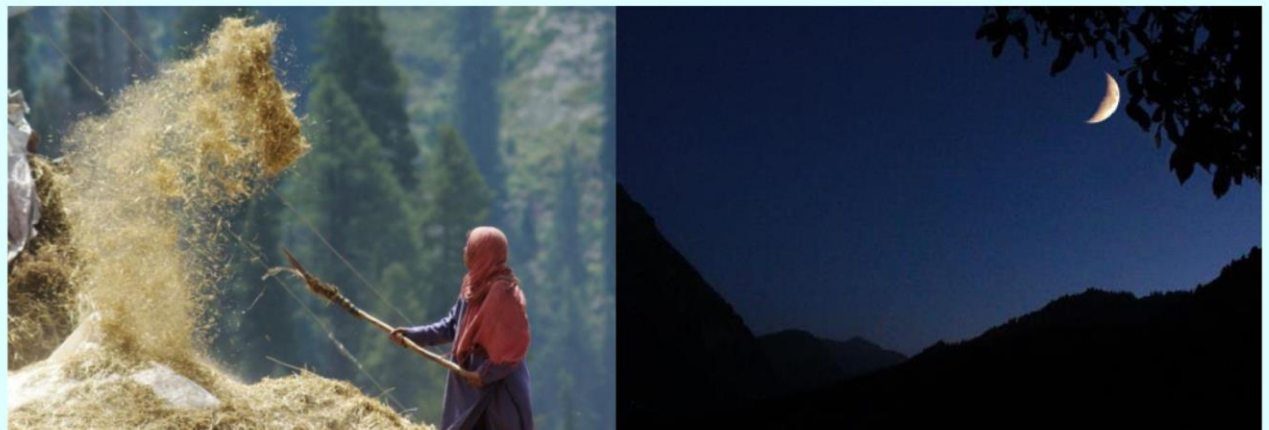
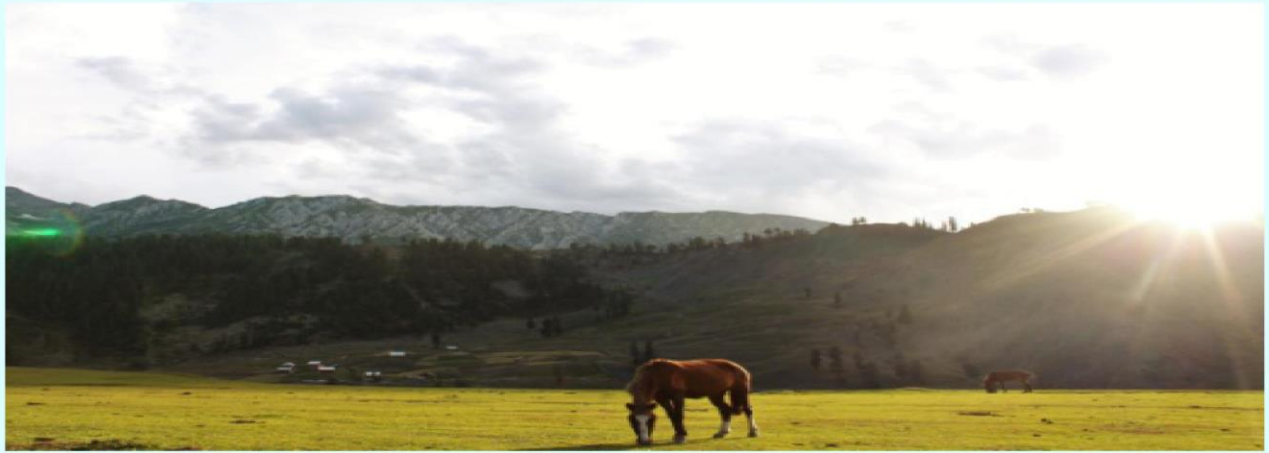


Captain Ajaypal Singh,  
19 DOGRA  
(Ex- AFPIAN 1<sup>st</sup> Course)

1. It gives me tremendous pleasure to be able to communicate to young AFPIANS through the medium of this journal. I sincerely hope the institute is functioning with full zeal under the able leadership of our Director.
2. I can proudly say that some of us are doing extremely well in both academy training as well as in service. Like other established schools built for same purpose, AFPI has managed to set up a positive rapport in services.
3. I was commissioned in 19th Battalion of THE DOGRA REGIMENT and coming June 2021, shall be completing four years of my service. I have served at Pathankot and J&K, with latter being the most memorable one. I got recently posted to Binaguri, West Bengal and am performing the duties of Adjutant in my battalion.
4. I have enjoyed every second my tenure along Line of Control in high altitude area in North Kashmir. The place as we have all heard is truly and completely astounding, both in terms of operational experiences and scenic beauty. As an infantry officer, I have had a fortunate chance of patrolling most of the area under responsibility myself along with my troops and the magical land never fails to impress. I look forward to come across similar yet new experiences during my present tenure.
5. I also wish to highlight the contributions of AFPI in laying very strong foundation to my military character during the initial years. I can assure you that when you land in your respective training academies, you will find yourself to have gained a subtle edge over your coursemates. Trust the hands you are in, they are certainly the best ones. JAI HIND.

**'NISHCHAY KAR APNI JEET KAROON'**





CLICKED BY CAPTAIN AJAYPAL SINGH,  
19 DOGRA (EX- AFPIAN 1<sup>ST</sup> COURSE)

# THE AFPIAN'S SONG



We are proud young men from  
the land of five rivers  
At the thought of us  
the enemy is bound to get the shivers.  
We train hard; we train tough,  
We get going when the going gets rough.  
Play games, do PT every day  
That is what our PTIs say.  
We stamp our feet with all our might  
Swing our arms and Drill is alright.  
Chest out; chin in; no movement at all;  
Stand tall and erect, steady as a wall.  
Study hard in school and in our cabins too,  
Not enough time there is home work to do.  
Avoid the 'weak list' at all cost,  
And if you get there all happiness is lost.  
Front rolls and back rolls in the scorching sun  
Punishments galore for mischief done.  
Late for muster - you are in trouble  
Happiness is a fragile bubble!!  
No matter the hard ship, no matter the pain  
AFPIANS have fun, we dance in the rain.  
Chase our dreams with our heart and soul.  
Determined to achieve our cherished goal.  
We will serve our country with all our might  
Leaders of men, we are ready for the fight  
We are proud young men from the land of five rivers  
At the thought of us the enemy is bound to get the shivers.





**LT JASMEET SINGH BAMRAH, 14 JAK RIF  
(Ex-AFPIAN – 3<sup>rd</sup> Course) RECEIVING CDS  
COMMENDATION CARD FOR OPERATIONS  
IN GALWAN VALLEY, LADAKH**

**EDITORIAL TEAM** AIR CMDE NITIN SATHE, HAV AVTAR SINGH, MR. AMANDEEP SINGH WITH INPUTS FROM CADETS OF 9TH COURSE

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