

The Unsung Hero of Walong

The Life and Times of Lieutenant Bikram Singh



"I have already killed many to avenge my comrades. I will kill more till the bastards finish up". These were the words of Lt. Bikram Singh in his last letter home. Bikram was born on 30 November 1938 in a village called Jaroda Jatt to Vidhyawati and Ranbir Singh who was an employee of Punjab Agriculture Department and son of a retired Sub Inspector Badam Singh who lived in Sialba in Ropar.

Bikram Singh belonged to the Rathore Rajput community and his ancestors were from Bijaynagar in Rajasthan. Bikram had eight siblings, four brothers and four sisters. He received his primary education at Hoshiarpur where his father was posted. He passed his Matriculation examination in 1954 from Government High School, Karnal and later he joined Government College, Hisar as a student of F.Sc (First year Science). Bikram was a bright and sincere student; he was also a talented sportsman. He was a good hockey player in his school and college days. During his F.Sc his father once went to an astrologer with Bikram and the astrologer prophesied; this boy will join the Army and also said "Yeh Uchh Koti ka Sainik Banega Parantu iski umra ka Choubisva varsha bhaari hoga". Subsequently, Bikram applied for admission in the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Pune (NDA) and after about an year in college, he was selected for training in the NDA.

He joined NDA in January 1956 where he did extremely well in sports and academics. In NDA Bikram became a good polo player. With his team in NDA he won a prize in tent pegging at Poona Horse Show. In December 1958 Bikram passed out from NDA and joined IMA. He was

a very dedicated and determined cadet by whom all the instructors were impressed. In December 1959 Bikram met Lt Gen K Bahadur Singh of The Kumaon Regiment. The General impressed by Bikram's personality asked him about his preference, Bikram said I want to join the Rajput Regiment but the General wanted him to join The Kumaon Regiment. Bikram passed out from IMA and was commissioned into the 6th Battalion of The Kumaon Regiment in December 1959.

He joined his paltan in Ramgarh and in the paltan boys fondly used to call him as Dara Saab. Later in 1961 he moved to Ukhrul in Nagaland from where Bikram came home last time and was recalled from leave in January 1962 as his paltan was moving to Walong in March 1962 to relieve 2nd batallion of The Rajput Regiment.

