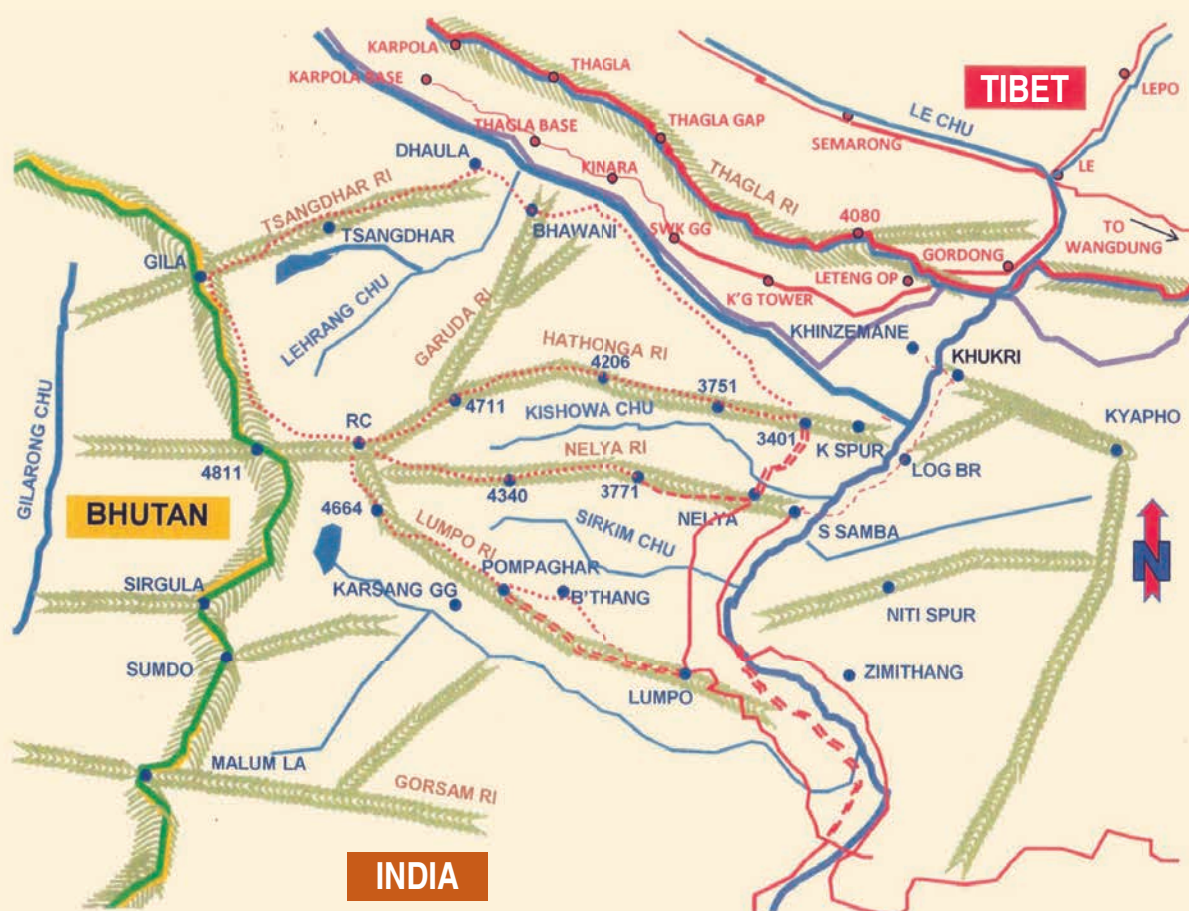


Major General Pardeep K Batra recollects

'Operation Falcon'

The Chinese intrusion in Wandung / Sumdrong Chu in 1985-86



Maps and images courtesy Maj. Gen. PK Batra

In this article, Major General Pardeep K Batra, Commander during 1985-87 of the famous 77 Mountain Brigade ('Chindits') of World War II fame narrates his personal experiences and highlights how this Brigade, as part of the 5th ('Ball of Fire') Division, stood up to the calibrated Chinese aggression, and also assuaged the memory of Hathungla Martyrs' of the 1962 War.

'Amicable' resolution of the 73 day-long Doklam Stand-off in June-August 2017 at the India-Bhutan-Tibet Tri-junction area, revived memories of the 1962 India-China border war, particularly of the 'Battle of Namka Chu' and then the later Chinese intrusions in September 1967 and October 1986. The last two incidents were widely reported

across the world and the experience gained by the Indian Army and in-depth analyses provided a vital glimpse into the Chinese mind-set and *modus operandi*. Enhanced military capabilities of the Indian armed forces over the years and astute diplomacy has prepared the Nation to confront any Chinese aggression and the multi-pronged rhetoric without wavering.

In April 1985, I was Colonel General Staff 31 Armoured Division, when the duty signal officer rang to inform me of my posting on promotion to 77 Mountain Brigade. I requested him to find out the location of this Formation, took off my jogging shoes and put on DMS boots : the exercise to toughen up for the high mountains had begun !