

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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AWARDS TO KARGIL HEROES ANNOUNCED

New Delhi, Asadha 9, 1887
June 30, 1965

The President has approved the award of Vishisht Seva Medal, Class I, to Brig. V.K.Ghai, who commands Indian troops in the Kargil Sector.

Vishisht Seva Medal, Class I, is awarded to Service personnel in recognition of distinguished service of the "most exceptional" order.

The President has also approved the posthumous award of Mahavir Chakra to Major B.S.Randhawa of 4 Rajput and Vir Chakra to Captain Ranbir Singh and Sepoy Budh Singh, both of 4 Rajput.

The Mahavir Chakra is the second highest gallantry award given for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy. The Vir Chakra is the third highest gallantry award given for acts of gallantry in the presence of the enemy.

The Defence Minister, Shri Y.B.Chavan, and the Chief of the Army Staff, General J.N.Chaudhuri, have sent messages of congratulations to the recipients of the awards as well as to their respective units.

The late Major Randhawa, personally led the counter attack in the Kargil sector which resulted in the capture of two Pakistani posts at a height of between 13,000 and 14,000 feet on May 17. The capture of these two posts was a remarkable military operation. The Pakistani troops had attacked on the night of May 16 in an effort to cut the vital Srinagar-Leh Road. Major Randhawa assisted by Captain Ranbir Singh and their band of gallant men repulsed the attack, chased the intruders back across the ceasefire line and occupied their two posts after fighting which lasted several hours.

Major Randhawa displayed conspicuous gallantry in this action, in which he was mortally wounded. He died subsequently.

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