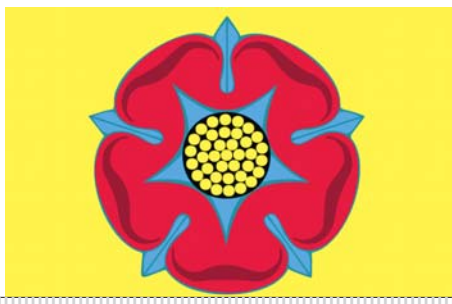




#PRANK

“Pachaas hazaar kharch ho gaye, par mazaa nahin aaya”

When Kishore Kumar Turned Producer's Taunt into Musical Mischief in 'Jai Jai Shiv Shankar'

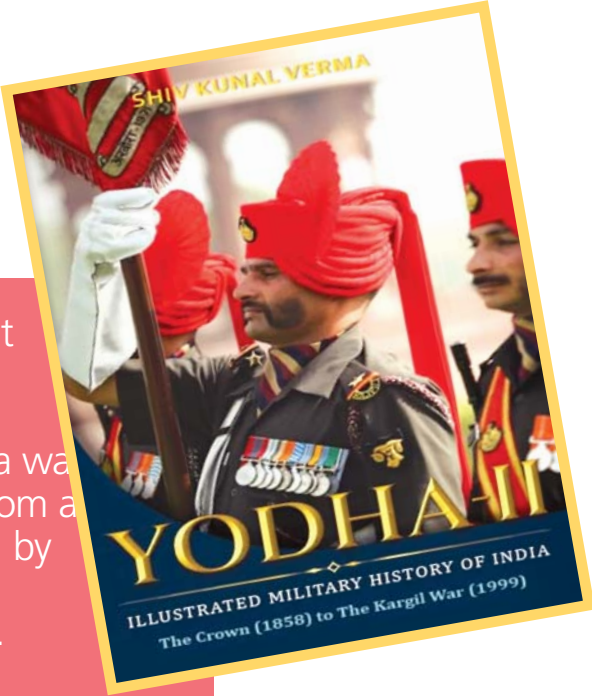


The exuberant tune 'Jai Jai Shiv Shankar,' sung by Kishore Kumar and Lata Mangeshkar, is not only a staple of Hindi music but also a window into Kishore's mischievous genius. The song, composed by R.D. Burman for the Rajesh Khanna-Mumtaz starrer *Aap Ki Kasam*, became legendary not just for its rhythmic charm but for a prank that Kishore played live during recording. According to multiple sources, the song's budget ballooned from an expected 25,000 to a staggering 50,000, thanks to the inclusion of choruses, extra musicians, and elaborate instrumentation. Naturally, director-producer J. Om Prakash wasn't pleased and reportedly muttered during rehearsals, "Pachaas hazaar kharch ho gaye, par mazaa nahin aaya" ("Fifty thousand spent, and still no fun"). When Kishore Kumar reached the recording session and learned of the producer's grouse, he couldn't resist turning it into performance art. As the song reaches its crescendo, Kishore bursts out spontaneously. "Bajao, bajao... imaandari se bajao! Pachaas hazaar kharch hue! Hee! Hee! Hee!" ("Play it honestly! Fifty thousand was spent! Hee! Hee! Hee!"), and this impromptu snippet found its way into the final mix. The playful jab not only lightened the mood in the studio but also ensured that Kishore Kumar's spirited personality echoed in the track forever. R.D. Burman even kept the impromptu line intact, sealing a moment where frustration was turned into musical fun.



Yodha II Is A Panorama Of Indian Military

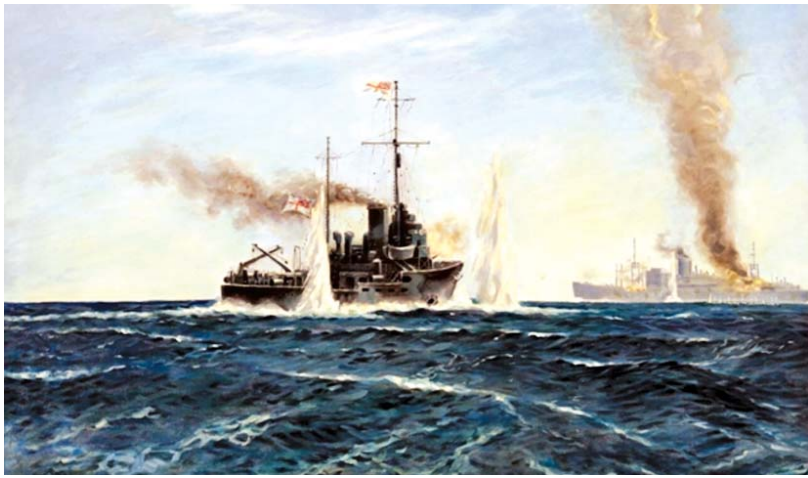
Perhaps, the most important chapter is when Kunal writes about the Atlantic Charter that gave India's freedom movement its biggest boost. He talks of how President Roosevelt's policies ensured that Churchill, 'towed the American line or sank like a stone with his imperialist beliefs.' He quotes Roosevelt as saying, "Yes, I can't believe that we can fight a war against fascist slavery, and at the same time not work to free people all over the world from a backward colonial policy." Kunal also emphatically states that apart from the stand taken by the America, two other reasons that forced the British to leave India in 1947 were the activities of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose and Royal Indian Naval Mutiny in February 1946.



Maj Gen Jagatbir Singh VSM (RETD)

At a time when narratives, both present and past, are being pushed to shape perceptions, apolitical writers are at a premium. Further enhancing his reputation as one of India's finest military historians, Shiv Kunal Verma's second volume 'Yodha II: Illustrated Military History of India' not only sets the benchmark yet again, but in the process, further lifts the bar by another few notches. Yodha I had covered the period from the Epics to the Uprising of 1857, while the second volume now takes us through 'The Crown (1858) to the Kargil War (1999),' which he had himself filmed. The combined panoramic canvas has over 1,600 stunning illustrations, paintings and photographs that bring to life the stunning and diverse spectrum of India's military history.

Kunal was known as 'Fauji' while studying at the Doon School and he has more than lived up to that sobriquet as he has single-handedly made it his life's mission to keep military history alive in this country. His earlier books include the spectacular and seminal three-volume Northeast Trilogy, books on the Assam Rifles, The Long Road to Siachen, then the book that is considered to be the most definitive work on what was India's worst military disaster, 1962: *The War that Wasn't*. This objective masterpiece (shortly to be released in Hindi as well) was followed by 1965: *A Western Sunrise and Indusant*, all of which adds up to a rich body of work. Like all his earlier work, this latest offering is also



Royal Indian Navy (RIN) - 1942 HM Minesweeper Bengal sinks Jap Ship: During the time the Japanese had a complete upper hand in 1942, the Mine Sweeper Bengal took on a much larger Japanese ship and, against all odds, sank it.

While writing about the developments post 1857, the author does not mince words and outlines how the British systematically responded with raw brutality to the uprisings which left the sub-continent stunned. On 01 November 1858, Queen Victoria passed control of the territories from the East India Company to the British government who opted to 'shock and awe' the subcontinent's populations into submission. With the 'Majesty of Governance' being the underlining mantra, the British Indian Army was also overhauled as was the existing educational system. The Presidency Armies were now all merged into the British Indian Army and the nomenclature of regiments/units were created.

About the Book

He then writes about the systematic British expansion as wars in Bhutan from 1864-1865, Lushai in 1871 and also about the 'Great Game' which he says 'impacted the geopolitical situation and not only coloured events at that time but continued to do so two centuries later.' Once the dust of the 1857 Uprising settled, the British felt the need to hold a visual demonstration of imperial rule which resulted in the Delhi Grand Durbar of 1877 by a show of 'military prowess.' He states that Queen Victoria was not present but her speech was read out which contained 'all promises that included liberty and dignity which were soon discarded.'

Writing about the State Forces, Kunal says of the 550 Princely States, 58 maintained Armed Forces of a standard fit to be used for the defence of India, but they were bound by many restrictions imposed on them. Of these, many served in the Boxer Rebellion as well as the two World Wars and were later amalgamated into the Indian Army. Another aspect which has been very well covered by Kunal is the Youngusband Expedition to Tibet in 1904 and the Bailey-Morshead Expedition to Tsangpo in 1913. The latter for the first time 'established the definitive route by which the Tsangpo River reached the sea from the Himalayas through the Dibang Gorge.' Their findings and survey of the watershed would prove to be the basis of drawing the McMahon Line in Simla a year later. The texts in both cases have been supplemented by wonderful photographs. His own helicopter forays up the Dibang Valley, upto both Andra La and Yonggap La and add tremendously to the photographic content.

As regards World War I, Kunal says, 'that it has been universally acknowledged that the Indians had arrived in the nick of time and played a crucial part'. 1.5 million men had enlisted between the start of the hostilities and the end of the war of which 0.9 million were combatants. The Indians fought in diverse theatres and proved their mettle in the many battles fought, but by the end, 53,486 had lost their lives and 64,350 were wounded and 2937 were missing. The Indians also won 21 Victoria Crosses but he states that 'unfortunately, their important contributions were never given the recognition they rightfully deserved.' Unfairly treated and punished by their colonial rulers, their 'contribution to the conflict has mostly been erased from history by the British after the war.'

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#BOOK REVIEW



The Author: Shiv Kunal Verma.



1891 Manipur - Cannon: The British Blowing the Royal symbol of the Manipuris, the Kangla Sha.

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During World War II, 2.5 million Indian men were sent to fight and 14 million worked around the clock to keep the war factories and farms running. Field marshal Slim called the Indian troops in Burma, 'the best in the world.' The Indian Air Force also 'cut their teeth' while Royal Indian Navy ships saw action in multiple theatres of war and came into their own.

Regarding J&K, Kunal writes that 'it was of great interest to the departing British' and the forcible annexation of the Princely state of J&K had been meticulously planned by British officers on both sides of the border with operational directives being issued within four days of 'Pakistan's' independence. Though, it would take four months for the Lakshars to be mobilized and take on the Jammu & Kashmir State Forces.' Interestingly, this aspect had first been documented by him almost a decade and a half previously in his earlier book, *The Long Road to Siachen*, where he also detailed how Mohammad Ali Jinnah had been recruited by none other than Winston Churchill.

Amongst the operations covered in great detail is Operation Datta Khel in Gilgit where Major William Brown, who had resigned from the British Army to serve Pakistan, led the mutiny of the Gilgit Scouts. He was later awarded the MBE, though,

he admits 'his actions appeared to possess all the elements of high treason.' Later, in 1993, he was posthumously awarded the *Sitara-i-Jang* by the Pakistani government. These wheels within wheels when knit together and the dots that are joined together paint a very interesting picture.

Yodha II also covers how the Governor of Assam, Jai Ramdas Daulatram tasked Major Bob Khatung, a former Assam Rifles Officer then, with Indian Frontier Administrative Service, to occupy Tawang. He completed his task after nearly a month's match on 11 February 1951. But when Prime Minister Nehru found out, he was 'furious.' Fortunately, Tawang is now firmly within India. Once again, his own coverage of the Northeast and work with the Assam Rifles endows Kunal to richly illustrate these otherwise lesser-known events with photographs painstakingly shot during the Northeast Trilogy.

Not surprisingly, the battles of 1962 are extremely well covered with outstanding photographs and detailed maps. Kunal's book on 1962 is, of course, a must read and his intimate knowledge of the terrain and details of the battle stand out. No wonder that he states that the trio of Generals, P.N. Thapar the Army Chief, Lieutenant General LP Sen the Eastern Army Commander and Lieutenant General BM Kaul were 'found completely out of their depth in NEFA' which 'underlined the need to keep politics away from the Armed Forces.' Subsequently it was left to Lieutenant General Sam Manekshaw, who took over as the 4 Corps Commander to issue a one-line order stating 'there will be no withdrawal unless orders were given in writing' and then adding wryly that 'those orders will never come!'

Writing about the 1965 War, he states that in many ways, it was an extension of the 1962 War. All major battles and the manner in which the



1877 Delhi Grand Durbar: The 'Majesty of Governance' in full display at the jaisah-i-qaisari that was held at Delhi.

The book also covers other events such as the occupation of the geostrategically important Siachen Glacier in 1984, Operation Blue Star the same year as well as Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka where he states that the 'Indian soldiers fought gallantly despite many lacunae in the environment' and that this also 'saw the emergence of true jointmanship.' The Indian Armed Forces 'learned a number of lessons due to this brutal insurgency which came in handy in Kashmir a little while later.'

Painstakingly written and put together, the scope of the book is stunning. Most people tend to look at any battle or period of history in a piecemeal manner and the picture that emerges is quite different from the one we see in case we view the same events against the larger framework. This book has covered capturing Bogra and 8 GUARDS commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Shamsher Singh was assigned to capture Morpara, which they achieved despite massive casualties. The subsequent vital thrust of 4 Corps under Lieutenant General Sagat Singh has also been covered in great detail in which he has brought that the intention was not to capture Dacca but only areas up to the Meghna River. The Battles fought at Akhaura and Ashuganj by 18 Rajput (his father, Lieutenant Colonel Ashok Kalyan Verma was the Commanding Officer), 10 Bihar and 4 Guards, that were part of 311 Mountain Brigade, played a major part in forcing open the gates to Dacca.

He then talks about the atrocities by the Pakistani Army including the 'Race Improvement Camp,' where 'Pakistani soldiers' were allowed to have their way.' Unfortunately, at the Simla in 1972, even though, the Indians held all the cards, like they had done in Tashkent six years earlier, returned everything to Pakistan without even ensuring the release of their own POWs who were in Pakistani custody.

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27 RAJPUT in Operation Vijay.

The book gives out a realistic perspective of India's rich military heritage with some outstanding maps which help the reader understand the battles fought and rare photographs. The structure of the book offers readers a choice of embarking on a comprehensive and chronological examination of various events and battles in a selective reading, based on specific timelines and campaigns. Having read the first book, one can clearly say that both need to occupy the book shelves of all those who are not only keen students of India's rich military legacy but also students, academicians and for those individuals wanting to understand the ethos and legacy of India's Armed Forces and the manner in which they have contributed towards shaping the destiny of the nation. To quote Yashwant Thorat, the book is 'a must for everybody, for it puts our entire military history into perspective.'

Conclusion

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#SNACK

The Invention of Potato Chips

The invention of potato chips is often credited to George Crum, a chef at a resort in Saratoga Springs, New York, in the mid-19th century and Catherine Wicks

Potato chips are one of the most popular and beloved snacks around the world, enjoyed by millions for their crispy texture and savory flavor. But have you ever wondered how this iconic snack came to be? The invention of potato chips is often credited to George Crum, a chef at a resort in Saratoga Springs, New York, in the mid-19th century. However, another important figure in this story is Catherine Wicks, whose role in the development of the snack is less known but just as significant. Let's dive into the fascinating history of potato chips and how these two individuals played pivotal roles in their creation.

The Origins of Potato Chips: George Crum's Story

George Crum, born in 1824 as George Speck, was a chef of Native American and African-American descent who worked at the Moon's Lake House in Saratoga Springs, New York, a popular resort for wealthy patrons during the mid-1800s. The commonly told story of the invention of potato chips involves a certain incident that happened in 1853, which would forever change the snack world.

The Incident with the 'Difficult' Customer

The most popular tale is that one day, a particularly demanding customer at the resort sent his plate of fried potatoes back to the kitchen multiple times, complaining that they were too thick and not crisp enough. Frustrated by the complaint, Crum decided to take matters into his own hands and prepared a batch of potatoes that were sliced extremely thin, so thin that they were nearly transparent.

Crum then fried them until they were crisp and crunchy, and seasoned them with a generous amount of salt. To his surprise, the customer loved the new creation and, in fact, insisted on ordering more. Word spread quickly, and the snack



became a hit with other patrons, leading to its popularization as the 'Saratoga Chips,' named after the town where Crum worked.

Crum's Legacy

Though Crum's role in the creation of potato chips is widely recognized, it's important to note that he didn't patent the invention, and thus, he never received any formal recognition for his creation beyond the popularity it gained at Saratoga Springs. He eventually opened his own restaurant, and Saratoga Chips became a regional delicacy, served at Crum's establishment and other eateries in the area.

While George Crum is often heralded as the father of potato chips, it's worth remembering that he was also an innovative chef who had a wide range of culinary skills, and potato chips were just one of his many contributions to the world of food.

The Role of Catherine Wicks in the Potato Chip Story

While George Crum is often credited as the inventor of potato chips, there is another individual whose contributions to the story have gone largely unrecognized, Catherine Wicks. Wicks was an African-American woman and a cook at the Moon's Lake House, where Crum worked. Some historians believe that Wicks played a crucial role



in the creation and refinement of the potato chip recipe.

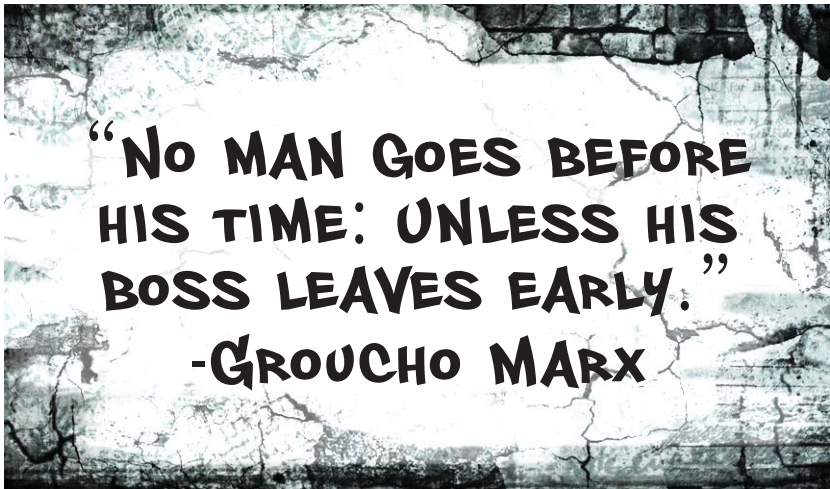
According to various accounts, Catherine Wicks was known for her culinary expertise, and many reports suggest she was likely involved in the preparation of the original batch of crispy potatoes. Wicks is believed to have worked with Crum in the kitchen at the time of the incident with the demanding customer. While Crum is often portrayed as the figure who first had the idea to create the ultra-thin, crispy potatoes, it's possible that Wicks, as an experienced cook, helped him refine the recipe and technique for perfecting the texture and flavor of the chips.

The Legacy of George Crum and Catherine Wicks

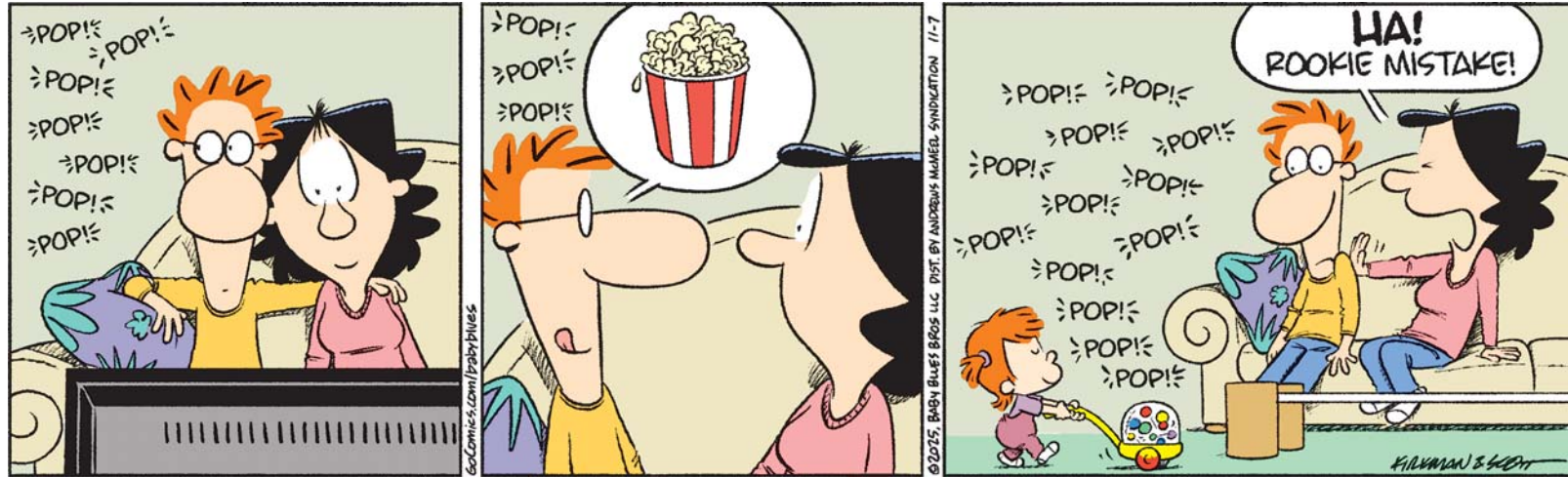
The story of George Crum and Catherine Wicks and their role in the invention of potato chips is not just one of culinary invention but also of social history. While Crum received most of the credit for the creation of the snack, it's important to remember that innovation in kitchens, especially during the 19th century, was often a collaborative process, one that included the often-overlooked contributions of women and people of color. Potato chips, like many foods we enjoy today, have a complex and nuanced history. While we might think of them as a simple snack, their origins reveal a fascinating tale of creativity, necessity, and cultural change. George Crum's famous incident with the demanding customer in 1853 is undoubtedly part of the reason potato chips became a beloved snack, but the influence of others, like Catherine Wicks, should not be forgotten.

Today, potato chips are produced in massive quantities and come in a variety of flavors, from classic salted to more exotic options like sour cream and onion or barbecue. The legacy of George Crum and the contributions of many unsung heroes have cemented potato chips as one of the most iconic and enduring snack foods in history.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



ZITS



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman