

#TRENDING

Beer O' Clock



With more and more microbreweries opening up in Jaipur, the city now has an eclectic mix of craft beers available. However, are the beer lovers embracing this new variant of beer or still sticking to the good old bottled ones? Let's find out.



Who doesn't love a good beer, especially on a hot day? It's chilled, it's fizzy, it's light... what's not to love? Well, not so long ago, a beer lover in Jaipur had limited options to choose from. In fact, when I was studying in Delhi over a decade ago, the only thing my friends back in Jaipur asked me to bring them was cans of Budweiser beer.

Out to April 2021. For the first time ever in the history of Rajasthan, licenses for microbreweries began to be given to hotels and clubs to set up their brewing equipment and manufacture their own beer. Forresta at Devraj Niwas was one of the pioneers in setting up a microbrewery in Jaipur and giving the beer lovers of Pink City their first sip of craft beer. Yes, it's called craft beer and not draught beer, as most of us old school beer lovers would wrongly assume. Soon after, many more breweries sprung



up and now it is safe to say that beer lovers are spoilt for choice. In fact, if you are a craft beer lover, there is no better time than now to be in the Pink City as there is a brewery at a stone's throw from all prominent localities of the city.

Craft Beer vs. Draught Beer

Let's begin from the beginning. What exactly is craft beer? Craft beers are produced with the most premium quality ingredients in small batches by a small and independent brewery. Draught beers, which were quite popular over a decade ago, went through the processes of filtration and pasteurization and essentially made like regular canned or bottled beer but stored in a cask or pressurized kegs. Craft beers are usually made with traditional ingredients but now breweries are experimenting with a host of ingredients, colours, flavour profiles and not to forget, shapes of glasses.



The newest addition to the list of microbreweries in Jaipur has been at one of Pink City's popular party destinations, Diona. From German Wheat and Belgian Wheat to Pale Ales and the classic Lager, there is something to please everyone's palate. In fact, they recently also hosted the popular German style beer fest in which a special brew 'Oktober Manzen' was introduced for a limited time period. The innovation brewers can bring in from time to time is what really makes craft beer so sought after these days.

At a nascent stage in Jaipur

However, Namokar Jain, who is the Managing Partner (Founder) of Diona Jaipur, says that the craft beer is still at a nascent stage in Jaipur. "Many people still prefer bottled beer over craft beer. Those who have had exposure to craft beer in cities like Mumbai, Bangalore, etc. still like to experiment and try new varieties of beer. For those who order bottled beer, we send free samplers of our craft beer so that they can try it out. Even though the prices for the latter are lower in our brewery than those who do order craft beer here, Lager, Belgian Wit and fruit flavours like Mango are the most popular ones here."

Elevated Jaipur's F&B Scene

Having lived in Germany for several years, Aridaman Singh Rathore, a Jaipur-based restaurateur, has had the opportunity to try some of the best beers in the world as well as attend the famous Oktoberfest. On being asked about the microbreweries and craft beer scene in Jaipur, he says, "With the introduction of craft beer and microbreweries to Jaipur's F&B scene, there is a lot of excitement to try out the new styles of beer. Two of my favorite places to have craft beer in Jaipur are SOUL & Forresta. The tasting options are good for people who want to try out all craft beer options available before settling for a favourite. The Belgian bite and Kokum beer at SOUL are my current favourites."

Not everyone's Mug of Beer

However, craft beer is not everyone's mug of beer. Nimit Mathur, a hotelier and the man behind opening 'Orcas' - the first-ever Kingfisher beer lounge in the city back in 2009 says, "I don't mind trying different varieties of craft beer once in a while because of their freshness and flavours but I love my Kingfisher lager, Heineken and Budweiser. I am still quite old-school that way!" At the end of the day, it's all about what makes you HAPPY!

Morally and legally the Hanification of the Tibetan population is genocide by another name. Linguistically, racially, culturally, and genetically the Tibetan are a different race from the Han Chinese and so are the Mongols, Manchurians, and many other ethnic minority groups. Millions of these minority races have been killed in the process of Hanification and yet the apologists of the Chinese amongst the Indian left and intelligentsia completely ignore this genocide and hold up the Maoist doctrine of governance and development as the ideal role model for the people of India to follow.



One of the canards spread by the Chinese is that Tibet was always a part of China which in reality it never was; of course they had diplomatic, religious and trade relations which are but natural amongst neighbours. In fact the reality was the other way around, for large parts of its history large areas of China were under Tibetan suzerainty. Chinese claims on Tibet are premised on the fact that during the reign of the Mongol Emperor Change Khan and his heirs particularly Kublai Khan when Marco Polo visited China, Tibetan representatives were seen in the Court at Peking. At that time China itself was a part of the Mongolian Empire and Tibet and Mongolia have always had close relations which continue even till today and the relationship between Mongolia and Tibet was never between master and vassal. The Mongolians always acknowledged the Tibetans as their superiors and so if the same logic was to be applied, the Tibetans can claim to be masters of China.

Indo China War-Historical Background

Much of Chinese claims are based on the Anglo-Chinese conventions of 1890 and 1893 some details of which were kept hidden from the public by the British authorities at the time and which even our present day scholars are unaware of. The facts of these conventions are that Durrand, who represented British India was not negotiating directly with the Chinese. He was instead negotiating with another Englishman who represented the Imperial Chinese Customs Department. The British were to obtain further trading privileges in Hong Kong and Shanghai for opium and other goods. They were also demanding that the New Territories be added to Kowloon in Hong Kong. To obtain these very



Gen Umrao Singh in NEFA with his staff officers.

The 'Panipat' Of Ladakh (...2)

#1962

lucrative concessions Britain acknowledged China's non-existent limited suzerainty over Tibet which was of no economic value to them. The Chinese claim that diplomatic gifts received by them from neighbouring nations was tribute by a subject people is a canard, on the contrary the Chinese paid such huge sums as tribute to Tibet and Tibetan Monasteries that they ran out of gold and silver and were forced to introduce paper currency and made payments in bolts of silk cloth for their imports. The price of a horse was twenty bolts of silk cloth and that of a young and beautiful slave girl fifteen bolts! As recently as the installation of the present Dalai Lama the KMT Government of China under Chiang Kai-shek paid a tribute of 4,00,000 pieces of silver to Tibet. Masters do not pay tribute, only vassals do. The Chinese have always complained that the nation was bankrupted by the payment of tribute to Tibet and sometimes when the opportunity arose particularly during the long period of the minority years of newly installed Dalai Lamas which followed his installation whilst still a child when Tibet would be ruled by a regency council, they sent out expeditions to loot some of the monasteries located in the eastern border provinces of Tibet namely Kham and Amdo. Some of these expeditions resulted in disastrous defeats of the Chinese Armies.

The procedure that was followed on the death of a Dalai Lama for a successor to be appointed was unique and cumbersome. When an incarnation of the old Dalai was found and he was installed on the throne most likely at an age between three to five years this would be followed by several years of rule by a regency council, this system was a great weakness for it sometimes led to anarchy that was taken advantage of by the opponents of Tibet.

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Lt Gen Umrao Singh.

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Conflict between Tibet & China.

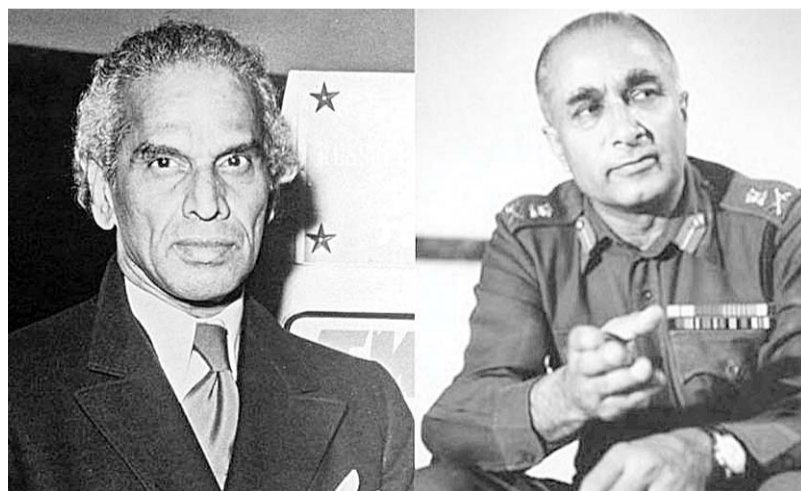
to Yating and recover the bodies. (Gen Brar was later given the thankless task to clear the Golden Temple of terrorists) Nehru also had the telegraphic link to Lhasa and other facilities handed over to China.

By all these actions he effectively not only gave up all Indian claims in Tibet but also surrendered Tibet's rights to have independent relations with the outside world. Our trade representatives at Kashgar, Gartok, Yating and Gyantse were withdrawn cutting off our centuries old links to Tibet. The following year at the Bandung Conference whatever residual interests and rights that we had in Tibet were signed away on a piece of paper called the Panchsheel agreement.

A shameful act that has been kept hidden from the Indian public. In 1951 just after the relics of the Buddha's disciples which had been returned by UK had been exhibited in Gangtok and Kalimpong and are now housed at Sanchi. India not only facilitated the journey to Lhasa but played host to the newly appointed Chinese Military Governor of Tibet General Chang Chin Wu even after having received reports of atrocities being committed by the first batch of Chinese invaders led by General Liu Po Cheng. At this point in time access to Tibet from China was very difficult, so much so that the Chinese Military Governor of Tibet had to proceed to Lhasa via Calcutta and Sikkim like Younghusband before him. If one Chinaman found it difficult to go to Lhasa directly how much more difficult it would have been to move an entire Army and then support it.

Summary of events leading to the 1962 War:
(a) In October 1959, the Indo-Tibetan Border became the responsibility of the Army. This was as a result of Chinese aggressive action on Longju in NEFA and Kongkala in Ladakh.
(b) Raising of XXXIII corps under Lt Gen Umrao Singh 1961.
(c) The introduction of the forward policy in 1961.
(d) The surrounding of the

Galwan Post in Ladakh on 10 July and Dhola Post in NEFA on 8 Sep 1962.
(e) Raising of IV Corps under Lt Gen Kaul at Tezpur and reassignment of area of responsibility of XXXIII Corps under Lt Gen Umrao Singh. - 4 Oct 1962
(f) Outbreak of hostilities- 20 Oct 1962
(g) Ceasefire- 21 Nov 1962.
(h) After the war both the Defence Minister Krishna Menon and the Army Chief Gen Thapar resigned and their place taken by JB Chavan as Def Min and Gen JN Chowdhury as Army Chief. The new Army chief on 14 Dec 1962 constituted an operational review under Lt Gen Henderson-Brooks and Brig PS Bhagat VC to go into the reverses suffered by the army, particularly in NEFA. Their report is still classified but parts of it have been leaked and are in the public domain on the internet. I have taken extracts of what is now in the public domain to show how the government pushed Army HQ to take actions for which the Army was not prepared and Army HQ instead of taking a firm stand, pushed HQ Eastern Command which in turn passed the buck to XXXIII Corps and Lt Gen



Krishna Menon and Lt Gen BM Kaul.

International Accounting Day

While accounting may seem like a boring profession, it's vital to every business out there. Without accountants, people won't get paid promptly nor be able to understand their debits and credits. Even with an accountant, these can still be hard to understand. Accounting is work that isn't something many people enjoy. Accountants enjoy the prospects of so much that they form their whole career around managing numbers and company finances. That's why, for those mathematicians out there in the industry, there is International Accounting Day to celebrate!



Panchsheel Agreement.

Umrao Singh.

Here the buck stopped. Gen Umrao refused to be hustled and made his position clear that he would take action on the instructions only once his troops were ready and the preconditions he laid down fully met.

The extracts of the Henderson-Brooks report makes the position taken by Gen Umrao Singh clear:

- (a) The Defence Ministry, on the request of the Army Chief issued the following instructions: The Army should prepare and throw the Chinese out, as soon as possible. The Army Chief was accordingly directed to take action for the eviction of the Chinese from NEFA.
- (b) In November 1959 Policy to be followed by our forces which was based on the intelligence reports of the possible strength of Chinese forces, and this was approximately one division, in reality it was three divisions. Facing them was the newly raised xxxiii Corps under Lt Gen Umrao Singh with a force of one division responsible for Sikkim, Bhutan, NEFA (Arunachal) Burma and East Pakistan borders.
- (c) Based on Army HQ intelligence summary of enemy strength Gen Umrao Singh made his own plans for the defence of NEFA. This was a three tier defence line. On the border itself small border outposts mainly manned by Assam Rifles, behind them regular army positions guarding vulnerable points to which if attacked the forward outposts could retreat and put up an organised resistance. In the rear of the vulnerable points would be the main defences on dominating features, manned by the army in strength and where the main battle would be fought and from where counter-attacks could be launched on the Chinese positions in Tibet.
- (d) It was essential for Army HQ at

this stage to carry out a major appraisal of the border situation and on the preparation and timing of the operation. They should not have allowed themselves to be hustled into ill-prepared operations that could only lead to disaster.
(e) Normal planning, detailed staff work and coordination, prerequisites of proper military functioning, balance and posture were progressively abandoned. It was more a question of acting on whims and suppositions. This had repercussions down the line: with the result our forces were ill-prepared to meet any military situation.
(f) Army HQ orders to the far flung and isolated posts were - if attacked they will fight it out and inflict maximum casualties on the enemy. 'Fight it out' to these far flung isolated and tactically unsound and uncoordinated small posts brings out vividly how unrealistic these orders were. It is orders like these which bring out, how out of touch with ground reality the authorities were.
(g) The three tier concept of defence of NEFA as formulated by Gen Umrao Singh was tactically sound. Had it been properly implemented, there would have been no question of our troops being caught off balance. As it was the troops and equipment that was required were not made available nor were the

plans adhered to.

Subsequent Events

- (a) On 9 September HQ Eastern Command ordered XXXIII Corps to take firm action for 7 Brigade under Brig Dalvi to link up with Dhola out post. This order had little practical basis and seems hard to understand. When General Umrao Singh protested to the Army Commander Lt Gen LP Sen, he was told that that he had received these orders personally from the COAS Gen Thappar. However Gen UMRAO Singh would not be moved and said that he would move his troops only after proper reconnaissance and preparation. This was not taken kindly by his superiors.
- (b) The Defence Minister held a meeting on 22 September 1962 and the border situation was reviewed. Gen Thappar considered that any action by us in Dhola area may result in a Chinese reaction in Ladakh. The Foreign Minister however was of the view that the Chinese would not react very strongly against us in Ladakh. The COAS was accordingly directed to evict the Chinese.
Gen Umrao Singh's superior Commanders, seeing that Gen Umrao Singh could not be hustled into taking military unsound actions, decided to replace him with a more compliant and ambitious

The Defence Minister held a meeting and the border situation was reviewed. Gen Thappar considered that any action by us in Dhola area may result in a Chinese reaction in Ladakh.

general BM Kaul. Knowing well that the position taken by Gen Umrao Singh was militarily correct they could not sack him, so they moved XXXIII Corps out of the theatre and raised a new Corps, IV Corps at Tezpur under command of Lt Gen Kaul. Kaul was from a non-fighting branch of the army and had spent his entire career in administrative and supply duties. But he was ambitious and close to Nehru, the result was as expected. In a month's time the Chinese had overrun the whole of NEFA and parts of Ladakh. It was a re-run of the several of the several Panipats we have suffered.

After some time General Umrao retired and returned to his home in Jaipur; denied future promotion but his honour intact, the only senior commander who did not kowtow to his superiors and put the interests of the nation and the army first. After about thirty years of service he was free to indulge in his hobbies of playing the accordion and keeping connected to his friends world-wide on his ham-radio.

NOTE

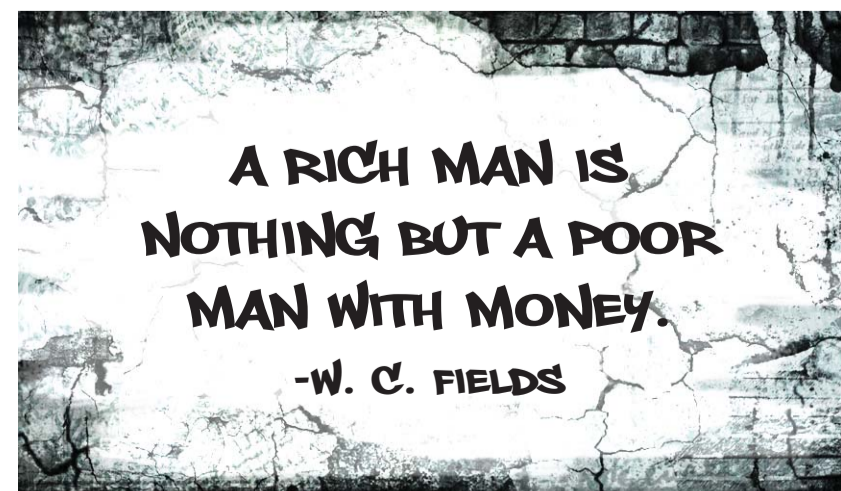
Part 3 of the 1962 War account will cover the events and battles in NEFA. Of the people living now, I and maybe a couple more are perhaps the only ones still around who personally knew the key participants, Brigs Dalvi and Rawley were former Commanding Officers of my battalion 4 Guards, Brig Hoshiyar Singh had served under my uncle in the Second World War and was the Deputy Commandant of NDA when I was a cadet and Brig RN Mishra was my 1971 Wartime brigade commander. In 1962 he was CO 9 Punjab at the Battle of Namkachu and managed to extricate the major part of his battalion as a fighting unit back to India. I have also walked over almost every inch of the ground where these tragic events were played out during the years 1969-70 just a few years after the war.

Concluded
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Indo-Tibetan Border Police.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman