

#IMMIGRATION

Why So Many Germans Came to America?

Unlike other immigrant groups that came to America seeking fame or fortune, the Germans came for, land, opportunity, and safety



Battle of Dograi.



Maj Gen
Jagatbir Singh,
VSM (RETD)

The Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 was a defining moment in the post-independence history of the Indian Army, which witnessed one of the most intense and strategically significant engagements. Following Pakistan's audacious Operation Gibraltar and its subsequent attempt under Operation Grand Slam to capture Chhamb and sever the lines of communication to Rajouri, the Indian Army responded with carefully planned counteroffensives aimed at safeguarding territorial integrity and securing advantageous positions for potential post-conflict negotiations.

This phase, which saw

Operation Riddle being launched by 11 Corps under Lieutenant General JS Dhillon and Operation Nepal by the newly raised Corps under Lieutenant General P O Dunn, commenced in a ceasefire on 23 September by which time the Indian troops were knocking at the doors of Sialkot and Lahore, but more importantly, Pakistan's war-waging potential had been degraded. Major battles such as Dograi, Khem Karan, and Phillora exemplify the interplay of tactical foresight, operational innovation, and sheer valour that defined India's response.

The Battle of Dograi
Dograi, a small village, of immense importance, lies astride the Grand Trunk Road only twelve kilometres from Lahore. Control of Dograi meant control of the Ichhogil Canal crossing. More than that, it meant India could threaten Pakistan's most important city. The Battle of Dograi was not a single action but a drawn-out contest over several days on the Lahore front, fought

The concept of kindergarten, which focused on early childhood education, was introduced by German immigrants and became a cornerstone of American educational systems. The German dedication to order, education, and family values helped shape the nation's identity in ways that continue to be evident today.

A Second Wave: Political Refugees After 1848
Fast forward to 1848, a year marked by failed revolutions and political upheaval in Germany. The revolutions aimed at establishing democratic systems were crushed, leaving many Germans disillusioned and fearful for their futures. Faced with political repression and economic instability, another massive wave of Germans fled their homeland, and set sail across the Atlantic Ocean.

Pennsylvania became their beacon of hope. The region's fertile soil and welcoming policies made it an ideal destination for settlers, and it wasn't long before the first communities of German immigrants began to take root.

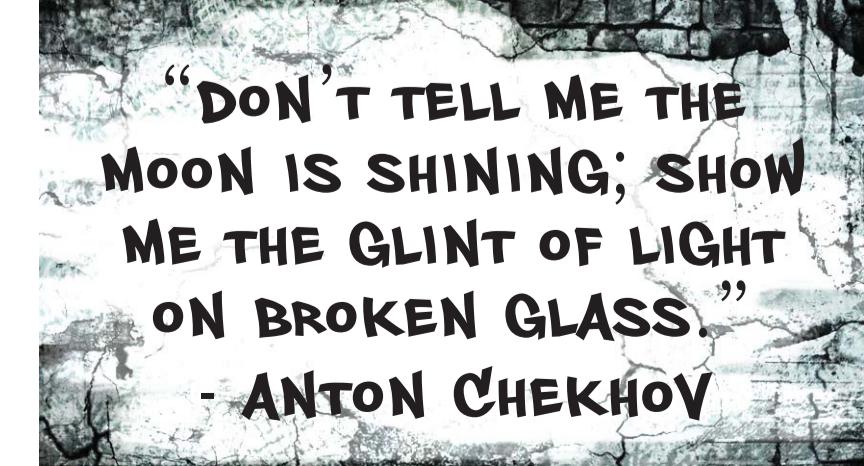
These immigrants, known as the Pennsylvania Dutch, established themselves as hard-working farmers and skilled craftsmen. They built barns, homesteads, and entire towns from nothing, bringing their European traditions, strong work ethic, and commitment to family with them.

The Blueprint of America: Immigrants Who Built the Nation

When we talk about America being built by immigrants, the German community's contribution cannot be overlooked. These immigrants came with the determination to build something lasting and meaningful. They found ways to thrive, even in the face of adversity, and in doing so, helped lay the foundation for a stronger, more prosperous nation. So, when people ask if German immigrants shaped America more than anyone realizes, the answer is clear: They played an essential role in shaping American culture, economy, and values.

From the Pennsylvania Dutch to the political refugees of 1848, the Germans helped to mold America into the land of opportunity that we know today.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES

When Wars Were Fought Close To Hand



Celebrating National Peanut Butter Day

National Peanut Butter Day, celebrated annually on January 24, honours one of the world's most beloved spreads. From creamy to crunchy, peanut butter has delighted taste buds for over a century, featuring in sandwiches, desserts, and snacks across generations. Beyond its irresistible flavour, it's packed with protein, healthy fats, and essential nutrients, making it a versatile kitchen staple. The day encourages fans to explore creative recipes, share their favourite peanut butter treats, and appreciate the simple joy it brings to meals. Whether spread on toast, stirred into smoothies, or baked into cookies, peanut butter remains a timeless comfort food.



Battle of Phillora.

In contrast to Dograi's offensive thrust, Khem Karan was a defensive stand of immense strategic value. Across the fields of Punjab, Pakistan unleashed its boldest Armoured thrust. But the Indian Army cut it down, halting the advance and leaving the countryside littered with burnt-out Pattons transforming the sugarcane fields around Asal Uttar into the 'Graveyard of Pattons.' Pakistan's plan was to break through towards Amritsar, cut the Grand Trunk Road, and possibly reach the Beas. The axis chosen was through Khem Karan, a small-town South-East of Amritsar. For this, Pakistan had concentrated its newly raised 1 Armoured Division under Maj Gen Nasir Ahmed Khan.



Battle of Phillora.

On 10-11 September and is considered one of the most ferocious tank battles since World War II. Intelligence indicated that Pakistani forces had positioned a Squadron of Patton tanks near the Libbe-Phillora road. Lieutenant Colonel MMS Bakshi of 4 HORSE detected the threat at dawn on 11 September and responded with remarkable initiative. Engaging the enemy at close range, he destroyed two tanks. Despite sustaining four direct hits and his tank catching fire, he pressed forward through the Pakistani line, eventually reaching the Libbe-Phillora road, where his crew bailed out under intense fire. They were rescued after three hours by 17 HORSE, meanwhile 4 HORSE neutralized six additional enemy tanks.

The Battle of Phillora

Following the Indian responses at Dograi and Khem Karan, the focus shifted to the Sialkot Sector, the newly raised I Corps, under Lieutenant General P O Dunn, and was tasked with launching a decisive offensive. Codenamed Operation Nepal, it aimed to penetrate the Shakargarh Bulge, thereby forcing Pakistan to divert forces from other critical sectors.

The subsequent tank clash unfolded between moving tanks at a range of only 100 yards. In this battle, the Pakistanis lost a total of 28 tanks as against one by 17 HORSE.

Khem Karan told a different story. Here, terrain and preparation turned the tide. Flooded the perimeter gunners waited and fired from concealed positions anti-tank guns, fired over open sights, artillery rained shells and Pakistanis tanks erupted in flames, one after another. Indian Centurions of 3 Cavalry engaged the Pattons at ranges as close as 500 metres. The Centurion, though an older design, had a powerful gun that could penetrate Patton armour.

Manoeuvring with skill, Indian tank crews outflanked and ambushed the heavier Pattons. Deccan Horse also joined the action on 09 September and its tank crews methodically destroyed wave after wave of enemy armour. Pakistani defences were unsupported by adequate infantry or artillery. The more they pressed, the more they lost.

On 10 September, the Pakistani offensive had stalled. Their counterattacks to break the defensive box failed with heavy losses. On 11 September, it was clear that Pakistan's Armoured Division had been decisively checked.

The aftermath was stark. Pakistan lost nearly 100 tanks destroyed or abandoned, many captured intact. The sugarcane fields around Asal Uttar were littered with wrecks. Indian losses were modest compared to the devastation inflicted on the enemy.

The failure at Khem Karan crippled Pakistan's ability to sustain offensive operations in Punjab. For India, the battle was more than just a defensive success. It was a defining moment that showcased tactical flexibility, improvisation under duress, and the resolve to turn weakness into strength.

During this battle, individual acts of gallantry stood out. CQMH Abdul Hamid of 4 GRENADIERS became a legend. Operating a jeep-mounted recoilless rifle, he stalked Pattons from the flanks and destroyed tank after tank before

The Battle of Phillora unfolded

at Shakargarh in suboptimal manoeuvre terrain achieved multiple strategic objectives. By decisively engaging and defeating Pakistani armour in the Shakargarh Bulge, India relieved pressure on Chhamb, safeguarded key communication lines, and Pakistan to divert resources from other fronts. The Battle of Phillora remains a defining engagement of the 1965 war. Its significance lies not only in the destruction of enemy armour and capture of strategic objectives but also in the demonstration of courage, and operational foresight. Lieutenant Colonel Tarapore made the supreme sacrifice, earning the Param Vir Chakra posthumously. Major General Gurbaksh Singh and Lieutenant Colonel MMS Bakshi were awarded Maha Vir Chakra for their decisive roles.

Conclusion
These decisive battles remain a testament to the Indian Army's grit and indomitable spirit. At Dograi, it was raw courage and swift infantry action that carried the day and proved that initiative and courage matter more than numbers. Khem Karan told a different story. Here, terrain and preparation turned the tide. Flooded the perimeter gunners waited and fired from concealed positions anti-tank guns, fired over open sights, artillery rained shells and Pakistanis tanks erupted in flames, one after another. Indian Centurions of 3 Cavalry engaged the Pattons at ranges as close as 500 metres. The Centurion, though an older design, had a powerful gun that could penetrate Patton armour.

Manoeuvring with skill, Indian tank crews outflanked and ambushed the heavier Pattons. Deccan Horse also joined the action on 09 September and its tank crews methodically destroyed wave after wave of enemy armour. Pakistani defences were unsupported by adequate infantry or artillery. The more they pressed, the more they lost.

On 10 September, the Pakistani offensive had stalled. Their counterattacks to break the defensive box failed with heavy losses. On 11 September, it was clear that Pakistan's Armoured Division had been decisively checked.

The aftermath was stark. Pakistan lost nearly 100 tanks destroyed or abandoned, many captured intact. The sugarcane fields around Asal Uttar were littered with wrecks. Indian losses were modest compared to the devastation inflicted on the enemy.

The failure at Khem Karan crippled Pakistan's ability to sustain offensive operations in Punjab. For India, the battle was more than just a defensive success. It was a defining moment that showcased tactical flexibility, improvisation under duress, and the resolve to turn weakness into strength.

During this battle, individual acts of gallantry stood out. CQMH Abdul Hamid of 4 GRENADIERS became a legend. Operating a jeep-mounted recoilless rifle, he stalked Pattons from the flanks and destroyed tank after tank before

The Battle of Phillora unfolded

Battle of Phillora.

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



Battle of Dograi.

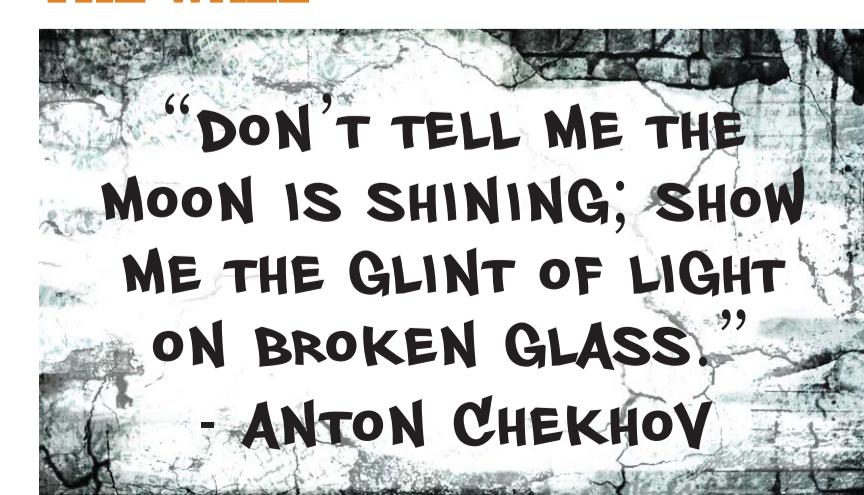


By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



THE WALL



BABY BLUES



BABY BLUES

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

