

#WAR

A Hard Revenge

The Danish Government faces two choices, spend years using trained engineers, to clear them safely or use the people who planted them. They choose option two



German POWs expected Prisoner Camps when they surrendered in 1945. Instead, Denmark hands them sticks and sends them crawling through minefields, their own army planted. Hundreds die clearing beaches, one poke at a time. Here is the revenge nobody talks about.

May 1945 Denmark, Germany surrenders, leaving 1.5 million landmines buried along Denmark's West coast, a defensive perimeter that makes miles of beach unusable and deadly. The Danish Government faces two choices, spend years using trained engineers, to clear them safely or use the people who planted them. They choose option two. 2000 German POWs, many just 15 to 17 years old, who were conscripted in the war's final months, are given minimal training, and sent to crawl through the sand. No metal detectors or protective gears, just teenage boys lying flat, poking sand with sticks, praying they don't hit a trigger, when a mine detonates. Pieces of the boy disappear. The survivors keep crawling. Danish officers watch from safe distances. The boys clear 45000 mines in the first month's estimated casualties. Hundreds dead, more maimed. Some lose legs, some lose hands, some just vanish in the explosion. The irony is brutal. These teenagers didn't design the minefield strategy. They were children when it was implemented. Now, they are paying for it with their bodies. International law technically prohibited using POW for hazardous work. Denmark argued that these boys were clearing their own military

mines. A form of responsibility. Critics called it revenge, then disguised as justice. The work continued for months. Every cleared beach cost German teenage lives. The boys who survived were physically and psychologically shattered. By late 1945, Denmark's beaches were clear. The cost, an unknown number of teenage German POWs killed doing work. Trained engineers would take years to complete safely. The Danish government never officially apologized. The story remained largely hidden for decades. The lesson, sometimes, the victors' justice is just slower execution. One mine clearing program proved that even after war's end, the dying continues, just with different victims holding the sticks.



● Bulbal Joshi

After the Chinese People's Liberation Army or PLA launched an attack against India in October 1962, India's brave soldiers fought against all adversities to protect the country. Some went much beyond the call of duty to protect India's territorial integrity.

Subedar Joginder Singh fought valiantly when the PLA launched an attack through the Bum La Pass, sparking a battle named after the location; the Chinese soldiers, as they advanced, met with a few more valiant Indian soldiers. These heroes went on to etch their names in the annals of history as they fought against all odds.

The structure is built in the memory of Jaswant Singh Rawat, a rifleman of 4 Garhwal Rifles. This was the spot where the 21-year-old took a heroic stand against the Chinese, creating the impression of a full contingent of Indian soldiers while fighting single-handedly.

Subedar Joginder Singh was born on 26th September 1921 in Mahakalan village, located in the Moga district of Punjab, into an agricultural Saini Sikh family. He was the son of Shri Sher Singh Saini and Smt Bibi Krishnan Kaur. From a young age, he displayed qualities of sincerity, determination, and an eagerness to learn. He went to primary school in village Nathu Ala and to village Daroli for his middle school. He was unable to pursue further studies due to the modest financial condition of his family. Determined to build a meaningful life through service to the



nation, he joined the British Indian Army on 28th September 1936 and was enrolled in the 1 Sikh battalion of the Sikh Regiment, a renowned regiment of the Indian Army known for its valour, discipline, and glorious battle traditions. As a young soldier, he saw active combat during World War II on the Burma front, where Indian troops played a decisive role in halting the Japanese advance. Later, following India's independence, he also participated in the Indo-Pak War of 1947-48, fighting bravely in the defence of Srinagar. His battlefield experiences during these operations shaped him into a seasoned and composed soldier, known for his courage under fire.

In his personal life, Subedar Joginder Singh married Ms Bibi Gurdyal Kaur Banga, who hailed from a Saini family of Kotah Rara Singh village near Kot Kapura. The couple was blessed with a son and two daughters, and he remained a devoted husband and father, deeply rooted in family values even while serving in demanding field conditions. A man of perseverance, Subedar Joginder Singh continued his education within the Army by passing several professional examinations and qualifying as a unit instructor, a role that required deep knowledge, leadership, and dedication. His commitment to excellence, uncompromising discipline, and genuine concern for the welfare of his men earned him immense respect among both his peers and subordinates. Known for his integrity and unwavering sense of duty, he became a role model within his regiment, embodying the true spirit of a soldier who lived and served with honour.

#REVISITING '62 WAR



Indo-China War: 23 Oct 1962

A fierce and historic battle was fought at Tongpen La, near Bum La, in the Tawang sector during the 1962 Sino-Indian War. This region, known then as the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA), is today the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. As tensions with China escalated and the possibility of war became inevitable, 1 Sikh battalion was urgently mobilized from its peacetime location in Jaipur to the forward area was arduous and physically demanding. The soldiers had to traverse dense jungles en route to Tenga Valley, negotiate the treacherous mountain paths of Bomdila, descend into Dirang, and climb again towards the frozen expanse of Sela Lake before finally reaching Tawang. Amidst the freezing temperatures and harsh terrain, Subedar Joginder Singh, who was then a platoon commander, stood out for his strength, composure, and unshakable resolve. A veteran of World War II and the 1947-48 war in Kashmir, he was deeply respected in the battalion for his discipline, tactical skill, and exemplary leadership in combat. Subedar Joginder Singh's platoon was tasked with

defending a strategic ridge in the Tongpen La area along the Bum La axis in Tawang.

On 20 October 1962, the Chinese launched their first major offensive at Namka Chu against the 7th Infantry Brigade. Having prepared meticulously for years and equipped with superior weapons and logistics, the Chinese forces swiftly overran the Indian positions and advanced towards Tawang, where Subedar Joginder Singh and his men were holding their ground. As the enemy began to gather across the stream and dig defensive trenches, it became evident that an attack on his post was imminent.

Anticipating the confrontation, Subedar Joginder Singh prepared his men for the battle that lay ahead.

At dawn on 23 October 1962, around 5:30 a.m., while the soldiers were preparing tea in the camp kitchen, the Chinese forces launched a sudden and heavy assault on the position. Despite being outnumbered and outgunned, the brave men of 1 Sikh met the attack head-on. Subedar Joginder Singh's platoon fought with exceptional courage, catching the enemy off guard and inflicting heavy casualties. The battle cry 'Jo Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri Akaal' echoed through the icy mountains, lifting the spirits of the defenders. The enemy regrouped and launched a second, more determined wave of attack. Undeterred, Subedar Joginder Singh displayed remarkable courage and tactical acumen. Even as casualties mounted and ammunition ran low, he continued to inspire his men, urging them to fight with the spirit of the Khalsa and to defend their motherland with honour. His calm composure under pressure and his words of encouragement kept the platoon's morale unbroken despite overwhelming odds.

As the final and most ferocious



wave of the Chinese assault came, most of his men had either been killed or severely wounded. Subedar Joginder Singh himself was gravely injured but refused to give up. Taking personal control of a light machine gun, he continued to fire upon the enemy, inflicting significant losses. When the ammunition was completely exhausted, he and his remaining soldiers fixed bayonets to their rifles and charged out of their bunkers shouting their battle cry, "Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri Akaal!" In this desperate but valiant last stand, they fought hand-to-hand with the advancing Chinese, bayoneting many before being finally overpowered. Ultimately, sheer numbers and superior firepower prevailed, and Subedar Joginder Singh was captured after being severely wounded. Even as a prisoner of war, he upheld his dignity and the honour of his regiment. His indomitable courage, leadership, and refusal to surrender became legendary. For his unparalleled bravery, leadership of the highest order, and supreme sacrifice in the defence of the nation, Subedar Joginder Singh was posthumously awarded the 'Param Vir Chakra,' India's highest wartime gallantry award. In a rare gesture of respect, the Chinese forces later returned his ashes upon learning of the honour conferred upon him.

The Jaswantgarh War Memorial, located in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh, welcomes visitors year-round with a compelling tale of valour.

Both locations are located close to Jaswantgarh, which is adorned with a camouflaged temple-like structure to mark the bravery of Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat.

The Sela Pass is named after Sela and the Nurang falls (Jang Falls) has been named after Nura to honour their sacrifice. The plaque at the memorial says for 72 gruelling hours, he inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy entirely on his own before making the ultimate sacrifice. He was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra.

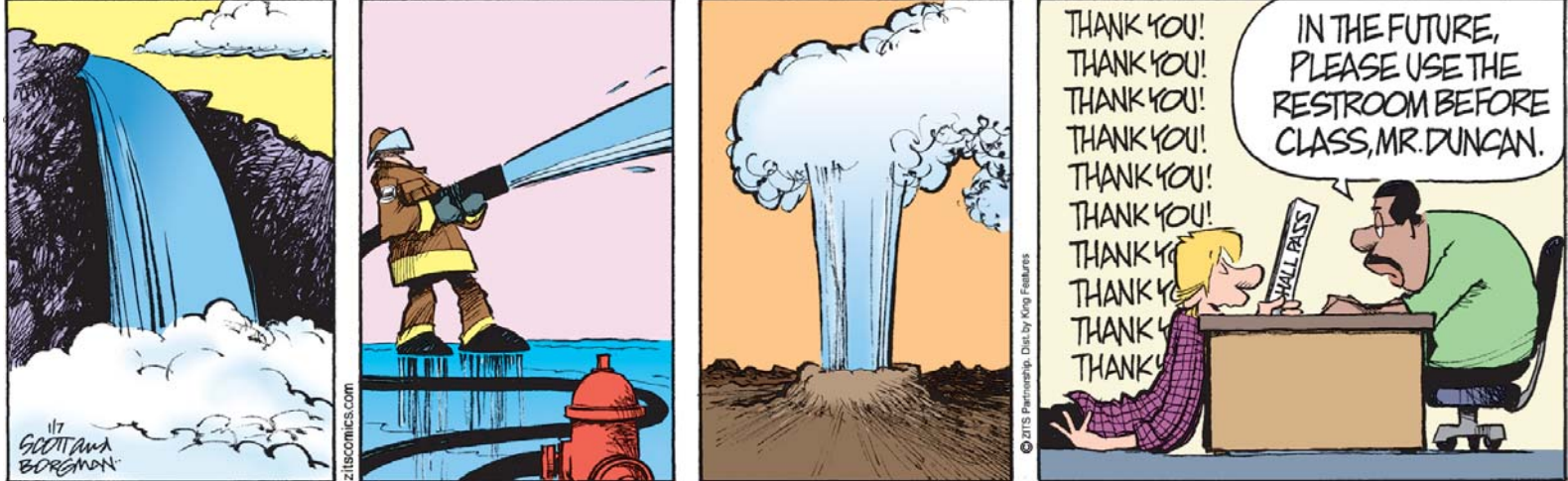


By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

BABY BLUES



ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman