



## World Tuberculosis Day

honoring the relentless human spirit in the face of a formidable adversary, a disease that has shaped history and medical progress is Tuberculosis. World Tuberculosis Day focuses on a global challenge that affects millions every year. The day marks the anniversary of Dr. Robert Koch's groundbreaking discovery of the bacterium causing tuberculosis (TB). It's a day that brings people together, raising awareness about the impact of TB and the ongoing efforts to beat it. Think of it as a reminder that, despite advances in medicine, TB still poses a significant threat, especially in parts of the world with limited access to healthcare!

# A Daylight Bombing Of Sargodha

**PART:4**

That night, there were reports that Pakistan had dropped some infiltrators by parachute around the airfields in Punjab including Adampur. We were called back to the squadron and spent the entire night guarding our precious aircraft while a furious gunfight went on between our squadron airmen and an enemy, who was returning the fire from behind the fields adjoining the airfield perimeter. When dawn broke, we were bleary-eyed, not having slept a wink all night. A search of the fields behind the squadron did not reveal any intruders.



Air Marshal Philip Rajkumar (Retd)

When we were flying to the North of Lahore, I saw a glint in the sky above and to the left of the formation. It could only have come from a turning aircraft and I reported 'Bogey, left 7 o'clock' high and Handa called out 'Buster,' which meant opening full power. As we crossed the border, my low fuel red warning light came on in the cockpit, indicating a fuel reserve of about 10 minutes at the engine power I was using and I reported this to Handa. He replied, 'You are over India now and you can eject if you have to.' I had no intention of doing that and we unintentionally flew over the radar unit at Amritsar. Our own anti-aircraft guns started firing at us and I saw the red tracer shells coming straight at me and then burning out.

Fortunately, no one was hit and I called out that I was easing up to 6000 feet AGL to spot Adampur. To my relief, I saw the runway from a distance of about 15 miles. I throttled back, descended to traffic pattern height, did a tight pattern and touched down with barely three minutes of fuel left in my tanks.

### Debrief

Back in the crew room, every one clustered around us to hear about the results of our raid. When I announced that Handa had destroyed a Sabre on the ground, a cheer went up. Kay had dropped his bombs on the other aircraft at the Northern ORP and Brar had dropped his bombs on an aircraft hanger. We had no idea what damage our bombs had caused because there was no post raid reconnaissance to assess the damage. Ours was the most successful mission of the entire day because we had returned unscathed from the enemy's lair after destroying an aircraft and some installations on the ground. Handa's formation had redeemed itself in style after the early morning mistakes! I grabbed a cup of tea, sat down and noticed that my hands were shaking. The 90-minute adrenalin rush was over.

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In 1988, 28 years after his victory, Devayya was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra, posthumously.

## #TIGERS OVER SARGODHA



Squadron Leader, AB Devayya, in a Mystere Cockpit. He was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra almost 23 years after the 1965 War. As far back as in 1980, Group Capt Omi Taneja wrote a letter to the Indian Government recommending Squadron Leader Devayya for a Maha Vir Chakra. Taneja pointed out the admission in Fricker's book and the possibility that Devayya was the victor.



Adampur. We were called back to the squadron and spent the entire night guarding our precious aircraft while a furious gunfight went on between our squadron airmen and an enemy, who was returning the fire from behind the fields adjoining the airfield perimeter. When dawn broke, we were bleary-eyed, not having slept a wink all night. A search of the fields behind the squadron did not reveal any intruders. It turned out that our fire was being returned by our own airmen in the Mechanical Transport section, which was located behind the fields. We had spent the whole night firing at each other! I can never forget the events of 07 Sep '65.

In 1980, the PAF admitted to an English journalist that they had lost one F-104 Starfighter in combat with a Mystere during the dawn raid by the Tigers on 07 Sep '65. Both aircraft had engaged in a dogfight at low level and shot each other down. The Starfighter pilot had ejected and survived but the Mystere pilot had gone down with his aircraft. As no one else had claimed this 'kill,' the aircraft could have been shot down only by Devayya. Air Hq doggedly pursued this case with the Ministry of Defence, and on 26 Jan '88, more than 22 years after the event, Devayya was awarded a posthumous Maha Vir Chakra for his act of bravery, which has ensured him a hallowed niche in the pantheon of Indian air warriors.

Concluded.

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THIS IS A PAINTING BY DEB GOHAIN. HE HAS BEEN AN AIR FORCE PILOT AND, AS OTHER PILOTS OF THE FORCE, REMEMBERS THIS OPERATION WITH REVERENCE. HE HAS A COLLECTION OF PAINTINGS OF VARIOUS FORCES' ACTIONS THAT ARE A PART OF OUR HISTORY AND DUE TO HIM, NOW, WE HAVE ANOTHER DIMENSION TO REVERE THEM.

Pen Pictures of The 13 Air Warriors Who Struck Sargodha on 07 September 1965. The 13 pilots of No 1 Squadron, based at Adampur in Punjab, attacked the heavily defended Pakistan Air Force base at Sargodha at the dawn on 07 September 1965. They flew in three formations of four aircraft each.

**Red Formation**

1. Wg Cdr OP Taneja
2. Flt Lt VK Verma
3. Sqn Ldr P R Earle
4. Sqn Ldr A Sridharan

**PINK Formation**

1. Sqn Ldr DE Satur
2. Fg Offr SS Dange
3. Flt Lt JP Singh
4. Flt Lt AK Brahmawar

**White Formation**

1. Sqn Ldr S Handa
2. Flt Lt DS Brar
3. Flt Lt DS Kahai
4. Fg Offr P Rajkumar

**Standby 1**

Sqn Ldr AB Devayya

**Standby 2**

Sqn Ldr BS Raje (Did not take off)



## PINK FORMATION

### Flight Lieutenant Janak Pratap 'JP' Singh

JP was commissioned as a fighter pilot with the 74th Pilots Course in 1958. After the early morning raid on 07 Sep 1965, he went to Sargodha for a second attack in the afternoon at 3 P M. For his gallantry, he was awarded a Mention-in-Despatch. Later, he commanded No 3 squadron equipped with Mig-21 FL aircraft and was the Air Officer-Commanding at Air Force Station



Pune in the mid 1960s. He was the Air Attache at the Indian Embassy in Iraq and superannuated on his return in 1968. JP was awarded a Vayu Sena Medal by the Rashtrapati for his services in the IAF. JP was married to Tekraj and they have a son, Vikram, who was an airline pilot with the erstwhile Indian Airlines. JP passed away in 2014. Tekraj and Vikram live in Mumbai.

## WHITE FORMATION

### Flying Officer Philip 'Raj' Rajkumar

Raj was born in Davangere in the old Mysore state in 1941 and graduated with a science degree in April 1960. Commissioned in the fighter stream with the 82nd Pilots Course, he initially flew Toofanis with No 47 squadron, underwent gunnery training on Sabre jets in the USA and joined No 1 squadron in September 1964. He was awarded a Mention-in-Despatch for gallantry during the war. In 1971, he was selected to undergo the experimental Test Pilots course in France and spent two decades in the discipline of flight testing. Commanded No 108 squadron, Air Force Station Gorakhpur and the IAF Flight Test Centre, the



Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment at Bangalore. In 1994, Raj was deputed to the

Aeronautical Development Agency to take charge of the flight test programme of India's most ambitious aeronautical venture, the Light Combat Aircraft Project. In spite of US sanctions following the Pokaran nuclear tests, the first technology demonstrator was successfully flown in January 2001. For his distinguished services, Raj was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and the Vayu Sena Medal. He superannuated in August 2001 in the rank of Air Marshal. Raj is married to Sheila and they live in Bangalore. Their only daughter, Nilima, and her family have settled down in Chicago, USA.

### Flight Lieutenant Darshan Singh 'DS' Brar

Having from Ferozepur in Punjab DS, graduated from the National Defence Academy and was commissioned as a fighter pilot in the IAF with the 80th Pilots course in December 1961.

Initially posted to a Toofani squadron, he underwent gunnery training on the F86F Sabre jet with the United States Air Force. After the Sargodha raid, he flew many more missions during the

conflict and was awarded a Mention-in-Despatch for gallantry. He left the IAF in 1967 as he wanted to marry a foreign national and settled down in Sydney, Australia.

## STANDBY 1

### Squadron Leader Ajamada Bopayya 'Tubby' Devayya

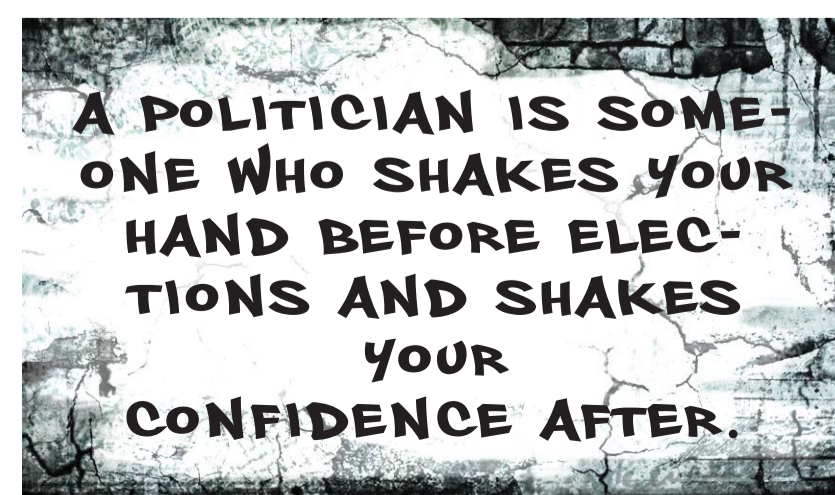
Tubby was an instructor at the Jet Training Wing in Hakimpet, Hyderabad when he was attached to No 1 Squadron for operational duties in August 1965. He was detailed as Standby 1 for the Sargodha raid.

Though he was not required to take off, as no aircraft from the main force had fallen out, he did get airborne, navigated his way to the target and got into a dogfight with a Pakistani F-104 Starfighter, a vastly superior aircraft to the Mystere. Both aircraft shot each other down. While the Pakistani pilot ejected and survived, Devayya perished with his aircraft. The IAF was blissfully



unaware of Tubby's courageous act till the other side admitted to a British journalist in 1980 about their loss of a F-104 during the dawn raid by No 1 Squadron. Gp Capt (Retd) Omi Taneja took up his case for a gallantry award with Air Headquarters. After due diligence, Devayya was awarded a posthumous Maha Vir Chakra on 26 January 1988. The proud citizens of his hometown Madikeri, Kodagu, Karnataka have erected his statue at a town traffic island to commemorate his heroic sacrifice. Devayya was married to Sundari and they had two daughters, Preetha and Smitha. All of them live in Bengaluru.

## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman