

## History of Garhwal Rifles 1887 to Kargil war 2002

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*Abstract: O mighty comrade of frozen frontiers, We salute in your determined endeavors .Icy gales of the saltoro you have braved, And many a mate from icy crevasses you have saved . Be proud you have inhaled the pure air of Siachen, And lived in the glacial hts of the Karakorams .You have fought the enemy without rest and respite. Cheerful determined and courageous in this fight , Many a friend has not returned home entombed in ice .You grieved and vowed to avenge his sacrifice .O warrior of snow who defined this sacred land, May the Goddess of the mountain steady your hand .Inspire and guide you towards even greater glory.*

**Keywords: History of Garwal Rifle, History of India Indian War, War**

The 105 years old Garhwal Rifles is one of the most illustrious and decorated infantry Regiments of the Indian Army .The Regiments has been rendering loyal and devoted service to the country and Army consistently since it come to the country and the Army constantly since it come in to existence . prior to the Garhwali did not have the separate Regiment of their own and for the many years Garhwali were the enlisted in the five regiments of the Gorkahs belonging to the Bangle infantry and the Punjab frontier force .The proposal to rise a separate Regiment of the Garhwalis was moted in January 1886 personally field Marhsal of sir Fs Roberts VC KG KP GCM OM GCSI GCIE the then commander in chief in India who acknowledged the martial qualities and the distinct entity of the inhabitants of Garhwal consequently in April 1887 rising of the second battalion .The third Gorkha Rifles was ordered having the class composition of six companies of Garhwals companies of the Gorkahas

On 5may 1887 LT COL EP Mainwaring raised the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the regiment at Almora in Kumuon .The Battalion moved on the 4 November 1887 to Kaludanda in Garhwal Kaludanda was subsequently renamed as Lansdowne after the then viceroy of India in 1891 the two Gorkha companies moved away to from the nucleus of 2/3 queen Alexandra own Gorkha Rifles and remaining battalion was redesignated as 39(Garhwal Regiment of the Bengal infantry .The Regiment saw action in Niti pass area china Hills Burma North west frontier and the central between 1889-1898 and was awarded battle Honor PUNJAB Frontier .2battlion the 39 th Garhwal Rifles was raised in 1901 and both the battalion were selected to the represent the Indian army at the coronation of the king Edward vii.in1911 again both the battalion of the regiment represent the Indian army at the king George Durber at Delhi. During the world war First both battalion saw action in

France as part of the famous Grahwal brigade and the two victory cross were won the Nailk Darwan singh Negi and Rifleman Gaber Singh Negi 5 the Regiment saw action in the Niti pass area chin hill in the bruma north west frontierchitral between 1889-1898 and was the awarded battle houner of Punjab frontier .2<sup>nd</sup> battalion the 39<sup>th</sup> Garhwal rafils was raised in 1901 and both the Battalion were to selected to represent the Indian army that the coronation of king edward vii.in 1911 agin both the battalion of the regiment represented the Indian armyat king George V Durbar at delhi . During the world war I both battalion saw action in farance as the part of the famous Garhwal brigade and two Victoria cross were the won by Nike Darwan singh Nigi and Rifle man Gaber singh Negi (Posthumos) .Nike Darwan singh Negi was the first Indian to receive the Victoria cross from the king King emperor at the locan france on the 10th march 1915 Battle honour L.A bassee Armanettierrs festruberate Neuve Chapelle and Aubers were awarded two regiment. After the leaving the western front in 1915 the regiment saw the action in Egypt .Mesopotamia and Turky the Action of the regiment were recognized by the award of Egypt .Macedonia Mesopotamia Khan Bagdad and Sharqut. The third and the forth battalion were the raised in 1916 and 1918 respectively and saw the action in the third Afghan war .in recognition of the service the regiment was awarded the battle honor Afagnistan .In 1920 forth Battalion took part the operation in Kohat .Tank Bandola and kotkai .At kotkai the regiment won its third Victoria cross when lieutenant Kenny was posthumously awarded t is coveted decoration for gallantry . On the 2 February 1921 on the historic occasion of laying of the foundation stone of the all India war memorial at new Delhi (Commonly Known as India gate the duke of Connaught announced that in recognition of the distinguished service and outstanding gallantry during world war I the king Emperor had

conferred the title royal on the Garhwal rifles .The Regiment was thus privileged to wear the scarlet lanyard on the right shoulder this rare honor placed the regiment amongst the very few cavalry and infantry regiments which had been thus honored .

The Regiment was accorded another rare honor when the regiment war which had been thus honored. The regiment war memorial at Lansdowne was unbeliever on the monistic day 11 November 1923 by lord Rawlinson of the commander in chief in India in commemoration of supreme sacrifice of the gallant warriors the shine of the regimental deity Badrinth the regimental war memorial and scarlet lanyard are three emotional rallying points for the regiment and the source of the motivation and fortitude all ranks .

During world war ii five more battalion 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> and 25 grasion battalion were the added to the regiments .the enter regiment was the active service in the eastern and western theaters .Battle honours Gallabat, Barenutu, keren, massawa, amba , alagi, kuantan, yenang, monywa,north arakan,Ngakyeduk,pass, Reamree Taungup and CITA DI CASTELLO,and the number us gallantry awarders were best ownd open the regiment during this period some of the battalions of the regiment were disbanded during world war ii having either have been captured or because of having joined the Indian national Army (INA) the battalion and the additional battalion 8 Garhwal rifles were the re-raised the war .After the independence a number of additional regular battalions have been the added the regiment including a scouts battalions and is doing very valuable work in ecological balance as also conservation of the forest .

The regiment has the distinction of having taken part in all the post independence operations winning numerous laurels in the process .The regiment has so far been awarded 30 battle honours of which of the five have been won since independence the post independence battle honours are Tithwal Nuranaange gadra road Buttur dograndi and hilli the gallantry awards own by the regiment including 3 Victory cross 1 ASOKA CHAKRA, 2 MAHAVIR CHKARA, 3 KIRITI CHKARA ,4 UTTAM YODH SEVA CHAKRA ,42 VIR CHAKRA and many other awards .the distinction of earning the highest number of gallantry awards by an infantry battalion in a single operation is also credited to the third battalion of this regiment this battalion won the one Mahavir Chakara and 18<sup>th</sup> Vir chakra in 1948 in Tithwal sector of J and k .16<sup>th</sup> the Garhwal Riffles was raised and continued to remain is one class regiment in which only Garhwali wear enrolled till 1985.on 11 February 1985 as a consequence of decision taken the national level 18<sup>th</sup> battalion of the regiment was raised with fixed mixed class composition taking Jats, Doogari and Marathas in its fold .The regiment has simultaneously contributed Gharwali personee to Rajputana Rifles

Jat Shikh Assam and Bihar Regiment for all most ninety nine years has now been restructured in accordance with the prevalent nation ethos and policy. The first Indian colonel regiment was the late major general Hiralal Atal was followed by MC and major general HN Shingal PSLV .Completion of over 100 years outstanding and honorable the Garhwal Rifles is a significant chapter in its history and is a matter of great pride and joy for all serving and retired personnel of the Regiment .The Regiment looks back with pride on the Glorious achievements and looks ahead with confidence and determination to many more selfless and dedicated service to nation

### **GRHWAL REFLES BRAVERY AWARD AT A GLANCE**

Victory cross 02 ,Distinguished service award 17,Bar 2 D.S.O 01 ,Military cross 46,

Bar 2 military cross 03,I.O.M 38,I.D.S.M 64,Military medals 24,Bar 2 military medal 01,Mention in dispatch 264

### **After independence**

Asoka chakra 01, Mahavier Chakra 04,Kriti Chakra 11,Veer Chakra 52,Shaurya Chakra 39,Sena Madel 194,Mention in Dispatch 107

### **WAR HONOUR**

- 1-Lavasi 1914
- 2-AMentierrs 1914
- 3-Phastowart 1914
- 4-New chapel 1915
- 5-Auburs 1915
- 6-France 1914-15
- 7-Egypt 1915-16
- 8-Mesidonia 1918
- 9-Khan Bagdadi 1918
- 10-Sharkat 1918
- 11-Mesopotamia 1917-18
- 12-Affganistn1919
- 13-Galavat 1940
- 14-Wayrentra 140
- 15-Karen 1941
- 16-Masava 1941
- 17-Amba Alagi 1941
- 18-Kauntan 1942
- 19-Yenagyoung 1942
- 20-Moneva 1942
- 21-City D- Castella 1944
- 22-Arakan 1944

23-Ramri 1945  
24-Tangup 1947  
25-Tithwal 1947-48  
26-Noranaang 1962  
27-Gadra road 1965  
28-Batur Dograndi 1965  
29-Hilli 1971

**Thearter honour**

Abasiana 1940-41  
Maliya 1941-42  
North affrica 1940-43  
Burma 1942-45  
Italy 1943-45

**After independence**

Jammu Kashmir 1947-48  
Rajasthan 1965  
Punjab 1965  
East Pakistan 1971

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