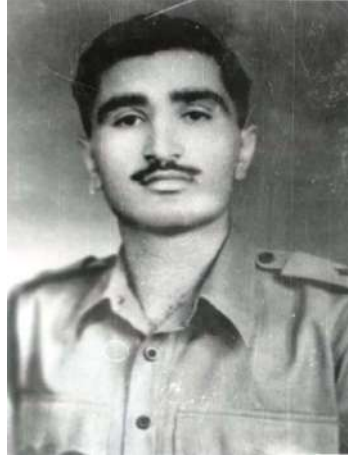




रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE



**CAPTAIN GURBACHAN SINGH SALARIA**

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	IC-8497
<b>RANK</b>	Captain
<b>NAME</b>	Gurbachan Singh Salaria
<b>SON OF</b>	Munshi Ram
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Gurdaspur, Punjab
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	3/1 GORKHA RIFLES
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>	09 June 1957
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Vir Chakra / 09 December 1961
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	UN Mission Congo
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

Captain Gurbachan Sing Salaria was born on 29 November 1935, he belonged to the Jamwal community, and his village was close to Shakargarh (in the former United Punjab), and his family later relocated to Jangal, in Gudaspur district of Punjab. His parents were Munshi Ram and Smt. Dhan Devi. He enrolled in the prestigious King George Royal Indian Military College in Bangalore in 1946 before transferring to the King George Royal Military College in Jalandhar (Now Rashtriya Military School Chail in Himachal Pradesh). Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria was later Joined the National Defence Academy as part of its the 9th Course and was in Bravo Squadron. He was subsequently commissioned from the Indian Military Academy, DehraDun into the 1 GORKHA RIFLES on 09 June 1957.

The first battalion of the Gorkha Regiment was raised in April 1815, after the Anglo-Nepalese War. At the time of Indian independence in 1947, 3/1 GORKHA RIFLES was transferred to the Indian Army as part of the Tripartite Agreement signed between India, Nepal and Britain. Prior to independence, the regiment was known as the 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles. In 1950, the regiment's title was changed to 3 GORKHA RIFLES. Since 1947, the regiment has participated in a number of wars and conflict situations including the 1947-48 and 1971 wars between India and Pakistan. The regiment has five battalions – 1/1 GR, 2/1 GR, 3/1 GR, 4/1 GR and 5/1 GR. 3/1 GR was part of the 99 Infantry Brigade Group which marked Indian presence in the United Nations Peacekeeping operation called the Opération des Nations Unies au Congo (ONUC) in 1961-62. The battalion's motto is "*Kayar Hunu Bhandu Marnu Ramro*" (*Better to die than live like a coward*).



*Munshi Ram Salaria, father of Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria, receiving Param Vir Chakra from President Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan on behalf of his son.*

(Source: <https://wikibio.in/captain-gurbachan-singh-salaria/>)



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

The Republic of Congo (now Democratic Republic of Congo) gained independence from its colonial master, Belgium, in 1960. However, the newly independent nation soon descended into a series of conflicts. The Congolese government appealed to the United Nations (UN) for aid and assistance of a multilateral force to contain the violence and maintain peace in the strife-torn country. The ONUC was established on 14 July 1960 under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 143. The initial mandate of ONUC was to ensure the withdrawal of Belgian forces from the Republic of the Congo, assist the Congolese government in maintaining law and order, and provide technical assistance. Subsequently, ONUC became embroiled in a chaotic internal situation of extreme complexity and had to be converted into an UN peacekeeping operation which allowed limited use of military force. The Force was designed to protect the Congo from outside interference, particularly by evacuating foreign mercenaries and advisers from Katanga and preventing clashes and civil strife, by force, as a last resort. In 1961-62, secessionist gendarmes under the command of foreign mercenaries clashed with the UN Force. At its peak, ONUC had 20,000 troops, including a brigade from India. In February 1963, after Katanga had been reintegrated into the national territory of Congo, ONUC began to be phased out. It was finally dissolved on 30 June 1964.

From 02 December 1961, onwards the number of violent incidents in Katanga increased and ultimately led to open hostilities. The Gendarmerie started attacking the UN troops and setup road blocks. On 05 December, 1961, under Operation UNOKART, 3/1 GORKHA RIFLES were tasked to clear a roadblock by the gendarmerie set up at a vital intersection in Elizabethville, Katanga. Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria was entrusted with this responsibility. The idea was that two sections of Gorkhas will march toward this roadblock from the airfield to function as a cutting-off force while one company and two Swedish armoured personnel carriers would attack the position frontally. At around 1312 Hours, Captain Salaria and his small force approached the roadblock from a distance of 1500 yards, when they came under heavy automatic and small-arms fire from an undetected enemy position positioned on his right flank. Along with two armoured vehicles, the opposition to Captain Salaria's small squad included roughly 90 men.

Along with two armoured vehicles, the opposition to Captain Salaria's small squad included roughly 90 men. Captain Salaria made the decision to clear this obstruction after realising that he had run into a side roadblock and ambush and that this enemy force might fortify the strategic roundabout and jeopardize the main operation. He led a charge while armed with a rocket launcher, khukris, and bayonets. Captain Salaria engaged the enemy in a valiant battle, killing 40 of them while knocking out two armoured vehicles. Despite having a numerical advantage and safe positions, the enemy retreated as a result of this unexpectedly brave move. However, a burst of automatic fire struck Captain Salaria in the neck, but he kept fighting until he passed out from excessive bleeding.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**

A major factor in the success of the main battalion's operation at the roundabout and in preventing the encirclement of UN Headquarters in Elizabethville was Captain Salaria's valiant action, which stopped any enemy movement of the enemy force towards the main battle scene. Despite the enemy's numerical advantage and tactical advantage, Captain Salaria's personal example, in complete disregard for personal safety, and fearless leadership encouraged his small but valiant force of 16 Gorkhas to hang on to their position, dominate the enemy, and inflict significant casualties. The Indian Army's traditions were best upheld by Captain Salaria's leadership bravery, unwavering devotion to duty, and disregard for personal safety.

On 23 January 2023, on the occasion of Parakram Diwas, 21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees. One of the islands was named after Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria called "Salaira Dweep".



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## CITATION

CAPTAIN GURBACHAN SINGH SALARIA (IC-8497), 3/1 GORKHA RIFLES

On 05 December 1961, 3/1 Gorkha Rifles was ordered to clear a roadblock established by the gendarmerie at a strategic roundabout at Elizabethville, Katanga. The plan was that one company with 2 Swedish armoured cars would attack the position frontally and Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria with two sections of Gorkhas and two Swedish armoured personnel carriers would advance towards this roadblock from the airfield to act as a cutting-off force.

Captain Salaria with his small force arrived at a distance of 1500 yards from the roadblock at approximately 1312 hours on 05 December 1961 and came under heavy automatic and small-arms fire from an undetected enemy position dug in on his right flank. The enemy also had two armoured cars and about 90 men opposing Captain Salaria's small force.

Captain Salaria appreciating that he had run into a subsidiary roadblock and ambush and that this enemy force might reinforce the strategic roundabout and thus jeopardise the main operation, decided to remove this opposition. He led a charge with bayonets, khukris, and grenades supported by a rocket launcher. In this gallant engagement, Captain Salaria killed 40 of the enemy and knocked out the two armoured cars. This unexpected bold action completely demoralised the enemy who fled despite their numerical superiority and protected positions.

Captain Salaria was wounded in his neck by a burst of automatic fire but continued to fight till he collapsed due to profuse bleeding. Captain Salaria's gallant action prevented any enemy movement of the enemy force towards the main battle scene and thus contributed very largely to the success of the main battalion's action at the roundabout and prevented the encirclement of UN Headquarters in Elizabethville.

Captain Salaria's personal example, utter disregard for personal safety and dauntless leadership inspired his small but gallant force of 16 Gorkhas to hold on to their position, dominate the enemy and inflict heavy casualties despite the enemy's superiority in numbers and tactical position.

Captain Salaria's leadership courage, unflinching devotion to duty and disregard for personal safety were best in the traditions of Indian Army.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## REFERENCES

1. Lt Gen DS Rana, AVSM, YSM, SM, DG SD, VSM Maj Gen Michael AJ Fernandez, ADG SD, VSM, Brig PS Dagar, VSM Brig PS Punia, SM, Col Kaustubh Kekre, Lt Col Kshitiz Arya, and Col AS Negi. 2022. The Blue Helmet Odyssey: Defining India's UN Footprints. Center for United Nations Peacekeeping, New Delhi India.
2. Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar.(2009). For the Honour of India: A History of Indian Peacekeeping. Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research, United Service Institution of India/Army HQ, New Delhi 110057

## BIBLIOGRAHY

1. "Republic of Congo- OUNC Background" by the Information Technology Section and Department of Public Information (DPI) Department of Peacekeeping Operation date (Accessed on Feb 25, 2022)  
<https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/past/onucB.htm>
2. "The Congo Crisis" by The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, date (Accessed on Feb 25, 2022)  
<https://www.britannica.com/place/Democratic-Republic-of-the-Congo/The-Congo-crisis>
3. The Honourpoint: An online memorial for every soldier (Accessed on 08 February 2023)  
<https://www.honourpoint.in/profile/captain-gurbachan-singh-salaria-pvc/>



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## VIDEOS

Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria | Only United Nations Peacekeeper to Receive the Param Vir Chakra (Source: YouTube Quint)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2D3OGrTUoPo>

Param Vir Chakra Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria जिसने विदेश में तिरंगे का मान बढ़ाया | EP 8 (Source: YouTube Sahitya Tak)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6czX85WgfnQ>

परमवीर चक्र विजेता कैप्टन गुरबचन सिंह सलारिया ,40 को मार कर अकेले ढेर कर देने वाले हीरो (Source: YouTube Bharat Tak)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGi3y9ATOT4>

Disclaimer\*\*<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Disclaimer: Photos, links to publications and videos presented here are not intended to serve as a substitute for consultation and should only be used at the user's own risk. These are primarily shared because of the extensive coverage available on the subject. No copyright infringement is intended and it is not intended to hurt anyone or make sales of any sort. All copyright belongs solely to the relevant owners/creators. Usage here is purely for Fair Usage in accordance with the Indian Copyright Act 1957.





रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## MEMORIALS

- Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria bust at the Param Yodha Sthal in National War Memorial Delhi.



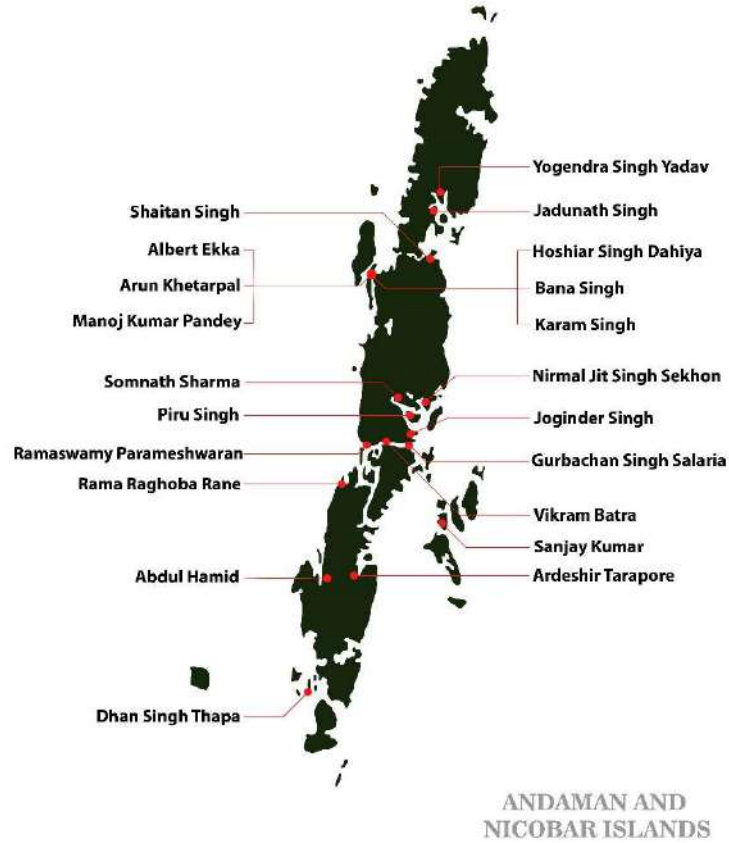
Source: <https://nationalwarmemorial.gov.in/param-yoddhas/details/9>

- A stadium and a park have been set up by 14 Gurkha Training Centre at Subathu in Himachal Pradesh as a tribute to Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria.
- A square in National Defence Academy Khadakwasla, Pune, Maharashtra has been named as “Salaria Square” in his honour.
- On the occasion of Parakram Diwas, 23 January 2023 21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands were named after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees.





रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE



(Source: Twitter @GallantryAward)

- A residential colony for the officers of Indian Armed forces is named after Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria in Dwarka, New Delhi.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE



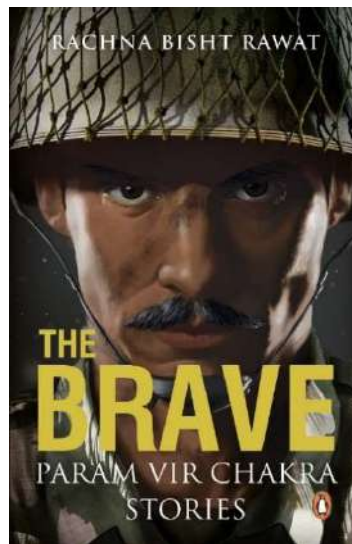
(Source: <https://www.99acres.com/salaria-officers-enclave-sector-21-dwarka-dwarka-delhi-npxid-r208243>)



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## OTHER INTERESTING RESOURCES<sup>2</sup>

- 1) A dramatic depiction Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria's life. It was televised by DD National and was directed by Chetna Anand.  
Param Vir Chakra Episode Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria (Source: Youtube Remember theirsacrifices1)
- 2) Book- A book titled 'The Brave: Param Vir Chakra Stories' by renowned author Rachna Bisht Rawat narrates engaging tales of valour of our twenty-one Param Vir Chakra awardees. It was published by Penguin, India in 2014.



Source: <https://www.amazon.in>

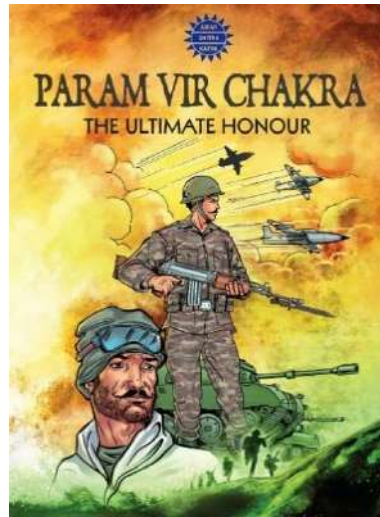
- 1) Amar Chitra Katha- To honour 21 Param Vir Chakra Recipients, a special comic titled 'Param Vir Chakra: The Ultimate Honour' was published on 01 January 2015. The book is the result of combined efforts by the Indian Army and Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd.

---

<sup>2</sup> Disclaimer: The content mentioned under the Listicles constitutes fair-use of any copyright material and is used for information and research purpose only. The content is in no way promoting or branding an individual, organisation, book or film.

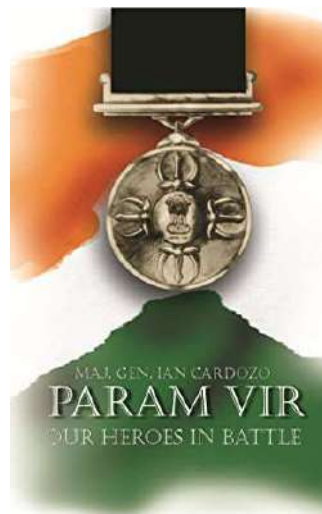


रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE



Source: Source: <https://www.amazon.in>

- 2) Book- Param Vir: Our Heroes in Battle by Major General Cardozo was published in 2003 by The Lotus Collection, Roli Books Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi. The book provides its readers a vivid description of the gallant actions of India's Param Vir Chakra winners.



Source: Source: <https://www.amazon.in>



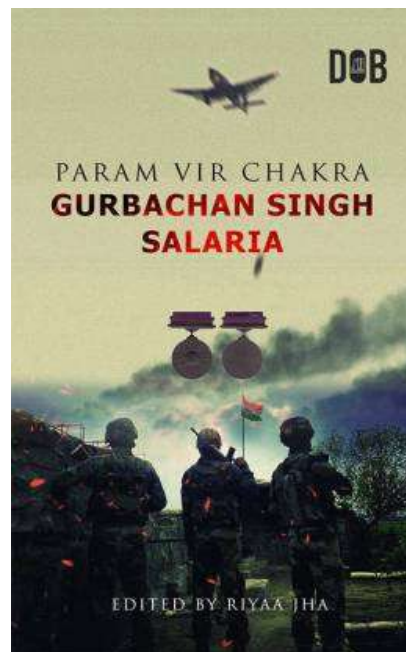
रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

- 3) First day cover released by the Army Postal Services in remembrance of Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria.



Source: <https://wikibio.in/captain-gurbachan-singh-salaria/>

- 4) A book titled 'Param Vir Chakra Gurbachan Singh Salaria' edited by Riyaa Jha narrates engaging tales of valour of Gurbachan Singh Salaria. It was published Delhi Open Books, India in 2022.



(Source: Flipkart)