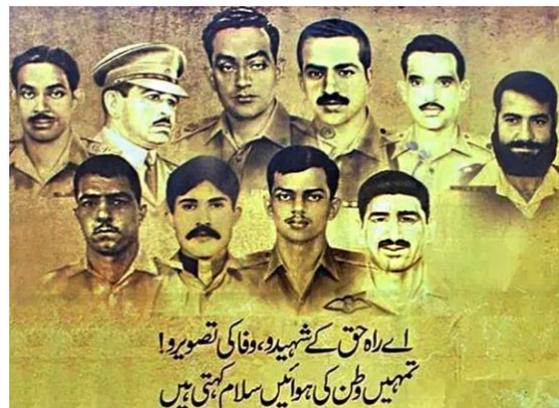


Lionhearted Custodians of Pakistan

As vindicated by the history, since its independence, Pakistan has produced a class of heroes whose courage, selflessness and resolve remained remarkable throughout. Evidently, the Pakistani soldiers from every generation have given their best in the battlefield for the dignity of nation and respect of their homeland. The heroes of Pakistan definitely understood that a



wound inflicted by the enemy to a single member of this nation is a wound inflicted to the whole country, with this courage and inspiration, the lionhearted defenders sacrificed their lives for the honour and prestige of their beloved homeland. As a matter of fact, to remember and commemorate their sacrifices, the whole nation is proud of their martyred heroes and they are still alive in the hearts of millions of people. There are countless such heroes who have fought in different wars such as Pak-Indo wars of 1965, 1971 and 1999 with great determination and sacrificed their lives for their beloved homeland and few of them were honoured with highest military award of “Nishan-e-Haider”.

Captain Raja Muhammad Sarwar Shaheed - Punjab Regiment

“Captain Raja Muhammad Sarwar Shaheed,” the brave hero of the “Battle of Tilpatra” in the Uri Sector of Kashmir is the winner of first “Nishan-e-Haider” of Pakistan. He was born in the year 1910, in Punjab before the partition of the Sub-continent. During the battle of Tilpatra, Muhammad Sarwar was a Captain in the Pakistan Army where he was appointed as a Signal Officer of the 2 Punjab Regiment in Kashmir. During the clash at Tilpatra Ridge between Indian and Pakistani troops, he volunteered himself to lead the troops to launch



an offensive strike on the enemy’s troops. During the skirmish, the machine gun operator of his platoon was martyred, after which he himself took the responsibility as a gun operator and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. Muhammad Sarwar was shot with a heavy machine gun in

his chest while attempting to cut through barbed wire with six of his men. He embraced martyrdom on 27th July, 1948 in Uri, Jammu and Kashmir. In commemoration of his valour and commendable sacrifice, he received the Nishan-e-Haider. Later on, as an honour, Sarwar Shaheed College of his native town in Gujarkhan was named after him.

Major Tufail Mohammad Shaheed - Punjab Regiment

Major Tufail Muhammad was born in Punjab Province during the times of British India in the year 1914. He was commissioned into the 1/16th Punjab Regiment in the 1943. In the capacity of a Major, he served Pakistan for 15 years in three units. In 1958 when he was designated as the Company Commander of East Pakistan Rifles, Indian Army was constantly violating the international borders in Lashmipur region of East Pakistan. In response, Major Tufail launched an assault to retaliate against the Indian troops, and during the fight, Major Tufail was shot three times in his chest. Despite attaining severe injuries he was able to silence the machine guns by using grenades and also destroyed the enemy posts. Furthermore, he entered into a hand-to-hand fight with his enemy, in which he hit a steel helmet on the face of the Commander of the Indian Army which resulted into his death. Fighting with determination, he successfully ensued the withdrawal of the Indian Army out of the village. He embraced his martyrdom in Bangladesh and was buried with full military honours in this native village a Punjab. For his exceptional valour and courage he was awarded with the highest military award of “Nishan-e-Haider” and is the only person to win the award for an action outside the Indo-Pakistan wars. As an honour, his village was also named after him as “Tufailabaad”.



Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed - Punjab Regiment

“Muhafiz-e-Lahore”, Raja Aziz Bhatti was born in Hong Kong in 1928. He moved to Pakistan before the partition of the Sub-continent and got commissioned in the Punjab Regiment of Pakistan Army in 1950. Major Raja Abdul-Aziz Bhatti usually known as Aziz Bhatti, was an outstanding army officer throughout his career, and was winner of the sword of honour of the Pakistan Military Academy and Norman Medal. During the Indo-Pak war of 1965, he was designated as the Company



Commander of his unit, which was deployed in the Burki area of the Lahore sector. During the war, Major Raja Aziz Bhatti deliberately stayed with his forward platoon to retaliate and defend strategic Bambawali-Ravi-Bedian (BRB) Canal, which was under successive artillery and tank attacks for five days and nights. Undeterred by relentless firing of arms, tanks and artillery of the enemy, he prearranged the strategic defence of the canal, while briefing his company regarding the strategic plan, he was hit by an enemy tank shell after which he embraced martyrdom. For his commendable sacrifice and act of courage, he was honoured with “Nishan-e-Haider”. He was also awarded with the title of “Protector of Lahore”.

Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed- Pakistan Air Force

Rashid Minhas Shaheed was born on 17th February, 1951 in Karachi but later his family shifted to Rawalpindi. Having a passion for aviation and its history, he decided to become a part of Pakistan Air Force. During his childhood, he used to collect different models and kinds of aircrafts.

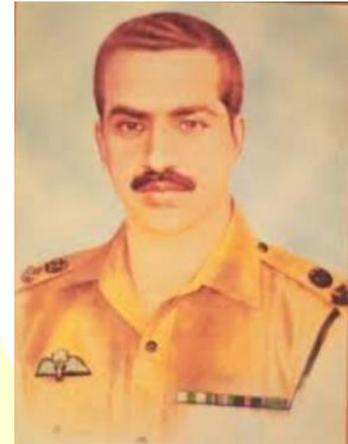


In March, 1971 at the age of 20, he was commissioned in the PAF. He remains as the youngest person to receive the award of “Nishan-e-Haider” and also the shortest serving officer in the Pakistan Air Force. He died while struggling to have control over a jet that was hijacked by the enemy while it was heading towards India. While in air, he was struggling and fighting physically to take control over the jet with the traitor Matiur Rehman. During the struggle to gain control over each other, the jet

crashed 32 miles from the border of India which resulted into the death near Thatta. It was reported that he deliberately made the jet to crash to prevent the enemy to take the plane to India. This act of bravery made him the most beloved national hero. The Air Force base at Kamra is named as “PAF- Base Minhas” after him.

Major Shabbir Sharif Shaheed - Frontier Force Regiment

Major Shabbir Sharif was born on 28th April, 1943 during the British Raj. He is the only person in the Pakistan Army to receive the highest gallantry award of “Nishan-e-Hadier”, and Sitara-e-Jurat which he won during the war 1965 war. He was also sword of honour winner from the Pakistan Military Academy. His uncle Major Raja Aziz Bhatti, was also the winner of the “Nishan-e-Hadier”. He was the elder brother of the former Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif.



He served Pakistan for seven years starting his commission from 19th April 1964 in two units namely; 6 Frontier Force Regiment and 4 Frontier Force Regiment. He participated in both Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971. In the war of 1971, he was commanding a company of 6 FF Regiment near Sulemanki Headworks. He was assigned the task of capturing the high bundh (ground) overlooking the Gurmukh Khera and Beriwala villages in the Sulemanki sector.

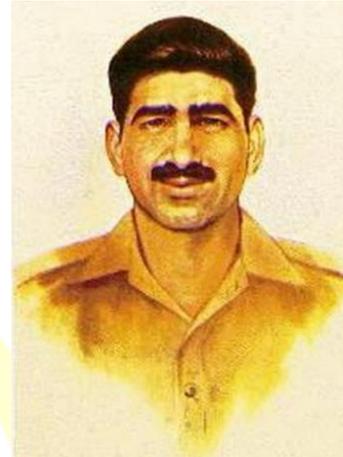
These points were defended by more than a Company of Indian Army's Assam Regiment which was supported by a squadron of tanks. To attain his objective, Major Sharif had to go through an enemy minefield and swam across a 30-foot wide and 10 feet deep defensive canal, which he accomplished under heavy artillery and automatic fire.

Leading his Company, he launched a frontal attack and succeeded in driving the enemy out of its fortified trenches by dusk on 3rd December 1971. A total of 43 enemy soldiers were killed in this well-nigh superhuman action, and another 28 were taken as prisoners. Moreover, four enemy tanks were also destroyed. However, Major Shabbir Sharif embraced martyrdom in the battle at the age of 28, on 6th December, 1971.

He was the elder brother of General Raheel Sharif (the former Chief of the Army Staff of Pakistan). Along with “Nishan-e-Haider”, he is the only one who has received “Sitara-e-Jurat” and “Sword of Honour” for his valour. His uncle, Raja Aziz Bhatti, had received the same “Nishan-e-Haider” award as well.

Sowar Muhammad Hussain Shaheed - Armoured Corps

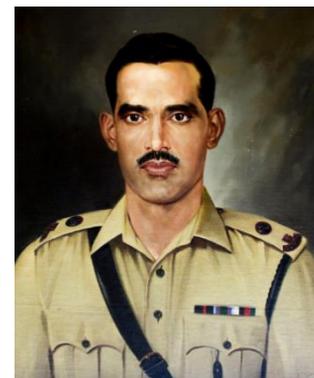
Sowar Muhammad Hussain Janjua was born in Punjab, on 18th June, 1949. He joined the 20th Lancers Armoured Regiment of Pakistan Army as a driver in 1966. Despite being a driver, he always desired to take part in active battle. However, his wish was fulfilled during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.



When the war of Indo-Pak broke out in 1971, Sowar Muhammad Hussain played a vital role, while confronting the intense shelling and direct fire from enemy tanks and infantry, he went from trench to trench delivering ammunition to the frontline soldiers. It was documented by his Company Squadron that on the following day, he went out with four fighting patrols and undertook most dangerous missions. However, on 10th December, 1971, he spotted the enemy digging in along a minefield near the village of Harar Khurd, along the minefield laid out by Pakistan Army. He immediately informed the unit officer but instantaneously on his own ingenuity he directed accurate fire at the enemy resulting in the destruction of sixteen enemy tanks. Thus while directing fire from recoilless rifles, he was hit in the chest by a burst of machine-gun fire and embraced martyrdom at the age of 22. Sowar Muhammad Hussain had the distinction of being the first Jawan (a rank of foot-soldier in the Pakistan Army) to be awarded the highest award of “Nishan-e-Haider”.

Major Muhammad Akram Shaheed- Frontier Force Regiment

Major Muhammad Akram Shaheed was born in Punjab province. He joined Pakistan Military Academy and completed his graduation degree in 1963. Afterwards he was commissioned in the Frontier Force Regiment.



During the Indo-Pak war of 1965, Major Muhammad Akram Shaheed was designated in Lahore sector where he fortified his area from Indian troops. Consequently, Pakistani Army retaliated which resulted into heavy casualties of Indian army.

In the year 1969 Muhammad Akram Shaheed was promoted to the rank as a Major. In the same year, the situation in East Pakistan was getting worse and the Indian troops were trying to penetrate inside East Pakistan border where they were sponsoring a terrorist organization "Mukti Bahni" to destabilize Pakistani establishment in East Pakistan. They also initiated an open campaign against Pakistan in the form of a war. During the war, Major Muhammad Akram Shaheed with his 4th Frontier Force Regiment was deployed in Hilli, Dinajpur District of East Pakistan. During the war, his regiment was facing both aerial bombardment and heavy artillery fire from enemy. Even though, the Indian army had numerical superiority but failed to gain any control in that area. Under the command of Muhammad Akram, his troops not only successfully repulsed attacks by the enemies, but Major Muhammad Akram and his unit also suffered heavy casualties. During this attack he also embraced martyrdom. However, he served his purpose as enemy failed to gain any momentum. He was buried in Hakimpur, Dinajpur District of East Pakistan. Not only he is awarded with "Nishan-e-Haider" but also a monument is constructed in Jhelum city to commemorate his sacrifice. His action at Hilli was even appreciated by the Indian army, which was described the Battle of Hilli as the most ferocious in the year 1971.

Lance Naik Muhammad Mahfuz Shaheed- Punjab Regiment

Lance Naik Muhammad Mahfuz was born on 25th October 1944. He joined the Pakistan Army in 1962. Subsequently, when the war broke out in 1971, he was serving in 'A' Company of 15 Punjab Regiment which was deployed at the Wagha-Attari Sector. During a clash between the Indian and Pakistani troops, Lance Naik Muhammad Mahfuz and his Company was pinned down by continuous forward and crossfire from heavy weapons. Although his machine gun was destroyed by an enemy shell, Muhammad



Mahfuz advanced towards an enemy bunker whose automatic fire had inflicted heavy casualties. Even though he had wounded his both legs with shell splinters, but when he reached the bunker he stood up and pounced on the enemy, in the encounter he was hit with a bayonet.

Due to severe injuries he embraced martyrdom on the night of 17th December 1971. For his remarkable efforts, he was awarded with the highest military award of “Nishan-e-Haider”.

Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed - Sindh Regiment

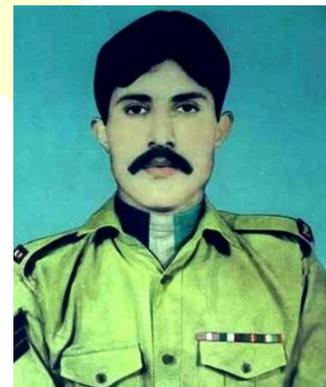
Captain Karnal Sher Khan was born on 1st January 1970. He was commissioned in the Pakistan Army on 14th October 1994. Captain Karnal Sher Khan emerged as the symbol of courage and valour during the Kargil conflict on the Line of Control. He had set personal examples of bravery and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. He defended the five strategic posts, which were established by his troops at the height of 17,000 feet at



Gultary, and repulsed many Indian attacks. After many abortive attempts, the Indians on 5th July 1999 ringed the posts of Captain Karnal Sher Khan with the assistance of two battalions and unleashed heavy mortar fire and managed to capture some part of one of his posts. Despite facing heinous challenges, he led a counter-attack and re-captured the lost parts of his posts, but during the course, he was hit by a machine-gun fire and embraced martyrdom at the same post. For his commendable sacrifice, he was honoured with “Nishan-e-Haider”.

Havildar Lalak Jan Shaheed - Northern Light Infantry

Havildar Lalak Jan Shaheed was born in the year 1967. He joined the Pakistan Army on 10th December 1984. He was serving in Northern Light Infantry Regiment when skirmishes broke out in Kargil in 1999. Havildar Lalak Jan of the Northern Light Infantry Regiment fought from the forefront to impede heavy Indian attacks. He volunteered himself to be deployed on the front positions located at the jagged peak in May 1999. Havildar Lalak Jan repulsed back many aggressive



ventures by the enemy and imposed colossal losses on them. On 7th July 1999, Havildar Lalak Jan sustained serious injuries as enemies pounded the area with heavy mortar shells. But despite being injured, he retained his position and frustrated the Indian assault. Due to severe injuries he embraced martyrdom. The Government of Pakistan awarded him with “Nishan-e-Haider”, the country’s highest award for extraordinary gallantry.