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BIOGRAPHIES OF RENOWNED GENERALS

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MILITARY HISTORY

LESSON PLAN

MH 1

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Introduction

Military History is a humanities discipline, within the scope of general historical recording of armed conflicts in the history of humanity, and its impact on the societies, their cultures, economies and changing national and international relationships.

The essential subjects of military history study are the causes of war, the social and cultural foundations, military doctrine on each side, the logistics, leadership, technology, strategy, and tactics used, and how these changed over time. Thus it is a dynamic discipline.

Importance / Necessity of Studying Military History

History of the World is Largely a History of Warfare

Military history is a valuable field of study to both professional soldiers and civilians. As historian John Keegan said, “The written history of the world is largely a history of warfare.”

Yet one may argue if someone is not preparing for war, what is the point of studying the military past? War is such a dominant feature of human history that most modern nation-states and the nation-state system itself came into existence either through or because of war

All Civilisations have Wars in their Culture

All civilizations have war in their cultures and "the states within which we live today came into existence largely through conquest, civil strife or struggles for independence." Consider the United States, a nation forged by the Revolutionary War, re-forged by the Civil War, and expanded through wars with Native Americans, Mexico and Spain.

The study of history, politics and culture over the last millennia of human history would be impossible without a study of military history. Without military history, placing these massive changes in their proper context would be impossible.

From War Arise Greatest Leaders in History

Maximum leaders in history have arisen from this conflict / strive. To name a few – Abraham Lincoln of USA, Winston Churchill of Great Britain and Mrs. Indira Gandhi of India, are best remembered for their contribution in wars. These figures in history "understood the use of violence and did not hesitate to use it for their ends."

Study of Military History Affects the Future of Civilisations

More importantly, most voters lack any military experience, yet elect leaders-with predominately the same lack of experience to control the most powerful armies in the world. These leaders will determine if and how their countries will wage wars. These decisions will affect the future of civilizations.

Military history fills in the gap where personal experience is sorely lacking. As warfare continues to influence our world today, we who study military history must continue to learn, and to teach, the lessons demonstrated in history.

Study of Military History Develops Leadership

Qualities

Study of Military History we come across many leaders with above mention leadership qualities, study of military history helps us to know and develop the leadership qualities and learn about leadership traits.



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These include Alertness, Courage, Dependability, Endurance, Initiative, Integrity, Judgement, Justice, Knowledge, Loyalty, Sense of Humour, Truthfulness, Espirit-de-Corps, Maturity, Humility and Patience.

Study of Military History is a must for Political & Military Commanders:

Applying Past Lessons help us to plan for the future. History can also show how certain plans/moves led to victory or defeat. Military and Civil leaders can strategize based on the history to develop more concrete techniques to win the battles in future. In addition, history has also taught us that it is important to have the support of our home front prior to sending our soldiers to war, especially for extended periods.

We must also understand the ideology of our enemy. Taking the time to learn the mind set and thought process of an enemy does provide us with the adequate tools to properly prepare ourselves for current and future wars. Soldiers can learn strategy, operational art, tactics, techniques, battle procedures/drills, logistic and management aspects, leadership qualities and styles from military history.

BIOGRAPHY OF FIELD MARSHAL
KODANDERA MADAPPA CARIAPPA, OBE

Field Marshal Kodandera “Kipper” Madappa Cariappa, OBE (28 January 1899 – 15th May 1993) was the first Indian Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army and led the Indian forces on the Western Front during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1947-48.

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He is among only two Indian Army officers to hold the highest rank of Field Marshal (the other being Field Marshal Sam Bahadur Manekshaw). His distinguished military career spanned almost three decades, at the highest point of which, he was appointed as the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Military in 1949.

Early Life and Military Career

Cariappa was born at Shanivarsante in Kodagu (Coorg) which is currently in Karnataka. In 1919, he joined the first batch of KCIOs (King's Commissioned Indian Officers) at The Daly College at Indore and was commissioned into the Carnatic Infantry at Bombay as a Temporary Second Lieutenant. In 1927, Cariappa was promoted to Captain.

He saw active service with the 37 (Prince of Wales) Dogra in Mesopotamia (present- day Iraq) and was later posted to the 2nd Queen Victoria's Own Rajput Light Infantry, which became his permanent regimental home. He was the first Indian officer to undergo the course at Staff College. Quetta in 1933. He was promoted to the rank of Major in 1938.

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Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa, the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, was born today in 1899

First Indian Army Chief

1942, was the first Indian Officer to be given command of a unit before Independence

1946, Colonel Ayub Khan, later Field Marshal and President of Pakistan, served under Cariappa

1947, handled the amicable division of the Army and sharing of its assets between India and Pakistan

Fondly known as Kipper, he is the only Indian to hold the highest rank of Field Marshal, along with Sam Manekshaw

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Cariappa served in Iraq, Syria and Iran from 1941-1942 and then in Burma in 1943-1944. He spent many of his soldiering years in Waziristan. He earned his 'Mentioned in Despatches' as DAA and QMG of General (later Field Marshal) Slim's 10th Division. He was the first Indian Officer to be given command of a unit in 1942. By 1944, Cariappa was a Temporary Lieutenant-Colonel.

After command, he volunteered to serve in 26 Division engaged in clearing the Japanese from Burma, where he was decorated with an “Officer of the order of the British Empire.” In 1946, he was promoted as the Brigadier of the Frontier Brigade Group. Post-Independence, Cariappa was appointed as the Deputy Chief of the General Staff with the rank of Major General. On promotion as Lieutenant General, he became the Eastern Army Commander.

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On outbreak of war with Pakistan in 1947, he was moved as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command and directed operations for the recapture of Zojila, Drass and Kargil and re-established a linkup with Leh. In all this, he showed tremendous energy in moving troops, against considerable odds and finally ensuring success.

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On 15th January 1949 Cariappa was appointed as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army. Cariappa was then instrumental in turning an Imperial Army into a National Army.



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Higher Commands and Offices

After his retirement from Indian Army in 1953, he served as the high commissioner to Australia and New Zealand till 1956. He was conferred with 'order of the chief commander of the legion of merit' by us president, Harry S. Truman. As a token of gratitude of the nation for the exemplary service rendered by him, the Government of India conferred Cariappa with the rank of field marshal on 14th Jan.1986 at the age of 87.

BIOGRAPHY OF FIELD MARSHAL SAM

MANEKSHAW, MC

Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw, MC (3 April 1914 – 27 June 2008), popularly known as Sam Bahadur ("Sam the Brave"), was an Indian military leader. He was the first Indian Army officer to be promoted to the five-star rank of Field Marshal.

Though Manekshaw initially thought of pursuing his career as a doctor, he later joined the first batch of the Indian Military Academy (IMA) when it was established in 1932. Right from his days at IMA, he proved to be witty and humorous in nature. He was first attached to the 2 Battalion of Royal Scots, and then later posted to the 4 Battalion of 12 Frontier Force Regiment, commonly known as the 54 Sikhs.

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Following partition, he later reassigned to the 16 Punjab Regiment, before being posted to the 3 Battalion, 5 Gorkha Rifles, for a brief period later he adopted 8 Gorkha Rifles. His distinguished military career spanned four decades and five wars, beginning with service in the British Indian Army in World War II. During action in World War II, he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry.

Manekshaw rose to become the 8th Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army in 1969 and under his command, Indian forces conducted victorious campaign against Pakistan in the Indo- Pakistani War of 1971 that led to the liberation of Bangladesh in December 1971. Later, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan for his services to the Indian nation.

Early Life and Education

Manekshaw was born on 3 April 1914 in Amritsar, Punjab to Parsi parents, Hormusji Manekshaw, a doctor, and his wife Hilla, who moved to Punjab from the city of Valsad on the coastal Gujarat. Sam's father served in the British Indian Army as a Captain in the medical services and also participated in World War I. Hormusji and Hilla had six children of which Sam was the fifth one.

Fali, Cilla, Jan and Sehroo preceded Sam and Sam was followed Jemi, who later joined the air force as a doctor and was the first Indian to be awarded the air surgeon's wings from Pensacola, United States. After completing his schooling in Punjab and Sherwood College, Nainital, and achieving a distinction in the School Certificate of the Cambridge Board at the age of 15, he asked his father to send him to London to become a gynaecologist.

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But his father refused to send him to London stating that he was not old enough.



The cadets of the first course of the Indian Military Academy (IMA) with Muhammad Musa (number 2) who was the General of the Pakistan Army during the 1965 war.

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In an act of rebellion against his father's refusal, Manekshaw took the entrance examination for enrolment into the Indian Military Academy and was one of the fifteen cadets to be selected through open competition. He stood sixth in the order of merit.

Just before taking over as the Chief of the Army Staff, at a function on 5 June 1969 to mark the centenary of Sherwood College, Manekshaw recalled that his years at the college had prepared him for war as they had taught him to live alone and independently, to fight without relent, tolerate hunger for long periods and to hate his enemy.

Military Career

Manekshaw's military career spanned four decades, from the British era and World War II, to the three wars against Pakistan and China after India's independence in 1947. He held several regimental, staff and command assignments. Manekshaw went on to become the 8th chief of the army staff, led the Indian Army successfully in a war with Pakistan and became India's first field marshal after independence.

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On commissioning, as per the practices of that time, Manekshaw was first attached to the 2 Battalion, The Royal Scots, a British battalion, and was later posted to the 4 Battalion, 12 Frontier Force Regiment, commonly known as the 54 Sikhs. Manekshaw was later reassigned to the 16 Punjab Regiment, before being posted to the 3 Battalion, 5 Gorkha Rifles, and then adopted 8 Gorkha Rifle after partition and went on to become the Colonel of the Regiment of 8 Gorkha Rifle.

World War II

During World War II, the Captain Manekshaw saw action in Burma in the 1942 campaign on the Sittang River with the 4th Battalion, 12 Frontier Force Regiment, and had the rare distinction of being honoured for his bravery on the battlefield.

During the fighting around Pagoda Hill, a key position on the left of the Sittang bridgehead, he led his company in a counter-attack against the invading Japanese Army and despite suffering 50% casualties the company managed to achieve its objective. After capturing the hill, Manekshaw was hit by a burst of Light Machine Gun fire and was severely wounded in the stomach.

Observing the battle, Major General David Cowan, the then commander of the 17 Infantry Division, spotted Manekshaw holding on to life and, having witnessed his valour in the face of stiff resistance, rushed over to him. Fearing that Manekshaw would die, the general pinned his own Military Cross ribbon to Manekshaw saying, "A dead person cannot be awarded a Military Cross."

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The official recommendation for the MC states that the success of the attack was largely due to the excellent leadership and bearing of Captain Manekshaw. This award was made official with the publication of the notification in a supplement to the London Gazette on 21 April 1942 (dated 23 April 1942).

Chief of the Army Staff

Then Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General P P Kumar amangalam was due to retire in June 1969. Though Manekshaw was the senior-most commander in army, then Defence Minister Sardar Swaran Singh was in favour of Lt Gen Harbaksh Singh, who had played a key role as the GOC-in-C of Western Command during the 1965 Indo-Pak war.

Putting the rumours of Harbaksh Singh taking charge as the COAS to an end, Manekshaw was appointed as the 8th Chief of the Army Staff on 8 June 1969. As the Chief of the Army Staff, he developed the Indian Army into an efficient instrument of war. During his tenure as COAS, he was instrumental in stopping the implementation of reservations for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the army.

Indo-Pakistan War of 1971

Towards the end of April 1971, Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, during a cabinet meeting, asked Manekshaw if he was prepared to go to war with Pakistan. In response, Manekshaw told her that his single armoured division and two infantry divisions were deployed elsewhere, that only 13 of his 189 tanks were fit to fight, and that they would be competing for rail carriage with the grain harvest at that point of time.

He also pointed out that the Himalayan passes would soon open up, with the forthcoming monsoon in East Pakistan, which would result in heavy flooding. When Indira Gandhi asked the cabinet to leave the room and the chief to stay, he offered to resign. She declined to accept it, but sought his advice. He then said he could guarantee victory if she would allow him to prepare for the conflict on his terms, and set a date for it. These were acceded to by the Prime Minister

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Under Manekshaw's direction, the army launched several preparatory operations in East Pakistan including training and equipping the Mukti Bahini (a local group of freedom fighters), and about three brigades from the regular Bangladesh troops were trained. As an additional measure, 75,000 guerrillas were trained and equipped with arms and ammunition. These forces were used to harass the Pakistani army stationed in East Pakistan sporadically in the lead up to the war.

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The war started on 3 December 1971, when Pakistani aircraft bombed Indian Air Force bases in the western sector. Manekshaw instructed Lt Gen J F R Jacob, Chief of Staff Eastern Command, to inform the Indian prime minister that orders were being issued for the movement of troops from Eastern Command. The following day, the navy and the air force also initiated full-scale operations on both eastern and western fronts.

The veto used by the Russians against the United States' proposal to implement a cease-fire in the United Nations proved decisive in securing India's victory. Manekshaw addressed the Pakistani troops three times via radio messages on the subject of surrender, assuring them that they would receive honourable treatment from the Indian troops. The messages were broadcast on the 9th, 11th and 15 December.

The last two messages were delivered as replies to the messages from Maj Gen Rao Farman Ali and Lt Gen Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi. These messages from the Pakistani commanders to their troops were to have a devastating effect on their side, subsequently leading to their defeat

Though on 11 December, Ali messaged the United Nations requesting for a cease-fire, it was not authorized by the President Yahya Khan and the fighting continued. Following several discussions and consultations, and subsequent attacks by the Indian forces, Yahya decided to stop the war in order to save the lives of the Pakistani soldiers.

The actual decision to surrender was taken by Niazi on 15 December and was conveyed to Manekshaw through the United States Consul General in Dhaka (then Dacca) via Washington. But Manekshaw replied that he would stop the war only if the Pakistani troops surrendered to their Indian counterparts by 9:00 a.m. on 16 December. Later the deadline was extended to 3:00 p.m. of the same day on Niazi's request. The Instrument of Surrender was formally signed on 16 December 1971.

Promotion to Field Marshal

After the end of the war, Indira Gandhi decided to promote Manekshaw to the rank of Field Marshal and subsequently appoint him as the Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS). However, after several objections from the bureaucracy and the commanders of the navy and the air force, the latter was dropped. Though Manekshaw was to retire in June 1972, his term was extended by a period of six months.

On 3 December 1973, Manekshaw was conferred with the rank of Field Marshal at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

MARSHAL OF THE AIR FORCE

ARJAN SINGH

Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh, DFC was born on 15 April 1919. He is the only officer of the Indian Air Force to be promoted to five-star rank, equal to a Field Marshal, to which he was promoted in 2002. He was born in the Punjab town of Lyallpur, British India, into Aulakh family.

Early Life and Career

Arjan Singh was born on 15 April 1919 in Lyallpur in the Punjab in what was then British India. He was educated at Montgomery, India (now in Pakistan). He entered the RAF College Cranwell in 1938 and was commissioned as a Pilot Officer in December 1939. As a distinguished graduate of the RAF College, Singh's portrait is found on the walls of the College's west staircase.

Air Marshal Arjan Singh led No.1 Squadron, Indian Air Force into command during the Arakan Campaign in 1944. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) in 1944, and commanded the Indian Air Force Exhibition Flight in 1945.

Career and Commands Held

He was Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), from 1 August 1964 to 15 July 1969, and was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1965. He also became the first Air Chief Marshal of the Indian Air Force when, in recognition of the Air Force contribution in the 1965 war, the rank of the Chief of Air Staff was upgraded to that of Air Chief Marshal.

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After he retired in 1969 at the age of 50, he was appointed the Indian Ambassador to Switzerland in 1971. He concurrently served as the Ambassador to the Vatican. He was appointed High Commissioner to Kenya in 1974. He was member of the Minorities Commission, Government of India from 1975-1981. He was Lt. Governor of Delhi from Dec 1989 - Dec 1990 and was made Marshal of the Air Force in January, 2002. He expired on 16th Sep 2017.

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Career Highlights

- (a) 1938-Entered RAF College Cranwell as a Flight Cadet
- (b) 1939-Commissioned in RAF as a Pilot Officer.
- (c) 1945-Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross.
- (d) 1964-Chief of Air Staff (Air Marshal).
- (e) 1965-Upgraded to Air Chief Marshal.
- (f) 1965-Awarded Padma Vibhushan.
- (g) 1969-Retired from Indian Air Force.
- (h) 1971-Ambassador to Switzerland.
- (i) 1974-High Commissioner to Kenya.
- (j) 2002-Marshal of the Air Force.

CONCLUSION

Today the Indian Military is the third largest in the world. As India is planning to emerge as a regional super power, it is mandatory for its civilian and military leaders to learn from military history to be ready to meet future challenges. We can learn a lot from the biographies of Field Marshals Cariappa and Sam Manekshaw.

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Therefore, it is important for all cadets to study the biographies of Field Marshal Cariappa and Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw. The Leadership qualities displayed by them worth emulating in every walks of life.



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