

EVE OF 75th YEAR OF SHAHADAT
CAPTAIN RAJA MUHAMMAD SARWAR
SHAHEED
(1st NISHAN-E-HAIDER)



First Day Of Issue

**EVE OF 75th YEAR OF SHAHADAT
CAPTAIN RAJA MUHAMMAD SARWAR SHAHEED
(1st NISHAN-E-HAIDER)
COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP
JULY 27th, 2023**

SALIENT FEATURES

Size of Stamp	:	35 x 50.5 m.m.
Size of Print	:	31 x 46.5 m.m.
Number of Stamps in a sheet	:	(6 x 3) 18 Stamps
Perforation	:	13 C
Denomination	:	Rs. 75/-
Colours	:	CMYK
Printing Technology	:	Lithography (Offset)
Paper	:	100 GSM W/M Gummed Paper
Gum	:	PVA
Quantity	:	0.2 Million (2 Lacs)
Design	:	Supplied by the customer
Printer	:	National Security Printing Company, Karachi.



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Captain Muhammad Sarwar was the first *Nishan-e-Haider* in the history of our great nation. He was born in village Singhori, Rawalpindi in 1910. His father, Raja Muhammad Hayat Khan served in the British Indian Army and rose to rank of Havildar. He served with distinction during World War-I and was awarded with a war medal. Along with the medal, the British Government also awarded him with three squares of agricultural land in Chak 229, *Tehsil Samundri*. After his retirement from the British Indian Army, Raja Muhammad Hayat Khan was also appointed as the "numberdar" of his village. He passed away on February 23, 1932.

Since his childhood, Raja Muhammad Sarwar was fond of reading and he acquired extensive religious knowledge. The people of his village named him "*Sakhi* (generous) Sarwar". The chief characteristic of his nature was piety and devotion. His other hobbies were horse riding, hunting, and playing football.

He started his military career in the *ranks* as a Sepoy. He was a self-made man who finally rose to be a commissioned officer. He joined as a recruit in Baloch Regiment on April 15, 1929 and got his initial training from the old Baloch Centre at Karachi. He served there until April 30, 1941. On April 27, 1944, he passed out as a Commissioned Officer from Indian Military Academy Dehradun and took part in World War II, where he was awarded the *Burma Star*.

After independence, Captain Muhammad Sarwar joined the Punjab Regiment of Pakistan Army. Captain Muhammad Sarwar was serving as a Company Commander in the Uri Sector in Kashmir when he was tasked by his Battalion Commander to undertake a very important operation that involved a pre-emptive attack on a well defended Indian position that was to serve as a base for further operations by his battalion. Indian Army had landed in Srinagar on October 27, 1947 and since then advanced upto Uri. Indians had plans to capture the remaining Kashmir. There was a need to stop Indian advance and save innocent Kashmiris. Young Captain Sarwar decided to volunteer for noble cause of defending Kashmir.

The strength of the Indian Army was more than eight Brigades in Uri Sector and they were supported by tanks and engineers. What made the task more challenging was the fact that the Indian posts were located on an uphill position and had many LMG positions and tanks in this area.

The Commanding Officer asked for a volunteer who can silence enemy tanks and guns by '*surprise attack*'. Captain Muhammad Sarwar said, "Sir, I will perform this duty". Capt. Muhammad Sarwar thus planned his attack with diminutive details and the essence of his success depended upon the charge with an element of surprise. This called for highest level of leadership to lead his company by example, which he did by leading the charge himself.

By attacking a strongly fortified enemy position under heavy machine gun, grenade, and mortar fire, he not only led his Company bravely but inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy.

Having achieved this initial foothold, he held it against several repeated counter-attacks and finally secured it as a base of future operations. In order to provide a safe passage to his battalion, he volunteered to make way for the rest of his battalion.

On the night of July 27, 1948 at 0300 hours, he took along six men, crawled out of his bunker to cut the enemy's barbed wire barrier to make way for his battalion to move through this gap for further operations. He moved stealthily and bravely, closed up to the defensive position of the Indians and was able to cut the barbed wire for his battalion to pass through. While he was waiting to guide his comrades, he was picked up by the Indians, when he was still perched up near the gap in the barbed wire, he received a direct burst of enemy's heavy machine gun fire, and was wounded badly. He however, continued guiding his battalion despite being badly wounded and eventually embraced *shahadat* on the spot. By that time, the battalion was able to pass through, assemble and complete its task successfully.

In recognition for his courage, selflessness, and bravery that was beyond the call of duty, he was posthumously awarded with the first *Nishan-e-Haider*.

On the eve of 75th year of Shahadat Captain Raja Muhammad Sarwar Shaheed (1st Nishan-e-Haider), Pakistan Post is issuing the Commemorative Postage Stamp of Rs.75/- denomination on July 27th, 2023.

TERMS OF SALE

This Commemorative Postage Stamp will be available for sale from July 27th, 2023 at all important Post Offices in the country.

Overseas orders for Stamps, First Day of Issue Covers and Leaflets should be addressed to the Manager, Philatelic Bureau, Karachi GPO or Manager, National Philatelic Bureau, Islamabad GPO, accompanied by a Bank Draft or Crossed Cheque encashable in Pakistan.

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