

Capt Vijendra Singh Gurung

Capt Vijendra Singh Gurung was commissioned as Short Service Commissioned Officer (SS-11) and joined 3 Assam in Aug 1971. His battalion was deployed in Fazilka sector of J&K during Indo –Pak 1971 war. On 03 Dec 1971, Indian Army defences were overrun by the Pakistani Army and Capt Vijendra Gurung and his commando platoon was caught and taken as Prisoners of War. Incidentally, in that battle, 3 Assam lost five officers when the Pakistanis attacked their battalion location.

Capt Vijendra Gurung was held as a prisoner of war for more than a year where he was tortured. Through the good offices of the International Red Cross, he was repatriated to India in 1973.

Surprisingly, his parent battalion, 3 Assam lost total contact with Capt VS Gurung after the war, even after his repatriation. This imprisonment and the inhuman torture he was subjected to turned Capt Vijendra Singh Gurung into a mental wreck. For whatever reason, he was not given any psychiatric treatment in the Military Hospitals. The officer, it is believed, did not opt for permanent commission and was released from Army on completion of 5 years with very minor terminal benefits.

Capt Vijendra Singh Gurung just fell through the cracks in the system.

When TSEWA was apprised of this pathetic condition in Jan 2018, Capt Gurung was living in total penury in Dehra Dun, UP. He was living in a hut of 8 ft x 6 ft, sleeping on the mud floor and would occasionally work as a daily wage labourer. Brig CS Vidyasagar, President, TSEWA apprised the TSEWA fraternity about the pathetic condition of Capt Gurung and undertook that TSEWA would help this unfortunate officer. Brig RS Rawat, President TSEWA, Uttarakhand and Lt Col Anil Joshi, an old school mate of Capt Gurung swung into action and met Capt Gurung. The situation was brought to the notice of Army Cdr, Central Command, Col of the Assam Regt, GOC Dehradun Sub Area, Assam Regimental Centre and the Chief Secretary, Govt of Uttarakhand.

Capt Gurung was admitted to the Military Hospital and his residence was made habitable courtesy Uttarakhand Sub Area as well as Chief Secretary, Govt of Uttarakhand.

In response to Brig Vidyasagar's mail, asking for donations to help this unfortunate officer, many generous members of TSEWA, immediately opened their hearts and wallets. In a very short period of time, a sum of Rs 8.5 lakhs was collected. The money was sent to Brig R S Rawat who ensured that some of it was used to repair his accommodation and to equip it with essentials; as well as clothing etc for the officer.

Brig R S Rawat, President, TSEWA, Uttarakhand along with Brig VPPS Gosain visited Capt Vijendra Singh Gurung at Dehra Dun on 25 Jan 2018. The first tranche of Rs 10,000 was handed over to as monthly remittance for life on behalf of TSEWA.

Click here to view the Video of the presentation of the cheque to Capt V S Gurung by Brig R S Rawat. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPWdW-OstX8>