

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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GOVERNMENT MOURN LOSS OF SERVICE OFFICERS

New Delhi, Agrahayana 3, 1885  
November 24, 1963

A Notification has been published in a Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated November 23, 1963, with a black border on the loss of the six Service Officers who were killed in an air crash near Poonch on November 22. It says: "The President has learnt with the deepest regret of the death of six distinguished officers of the Armed Forces, namely, Lt.-General DAULET SINGH, Lt.-General BIKRAM SINGH, Air Vice-Marshal F.W. PINTO, Maj.-General N.K.D. NANAVATI, Brigadier SIRI RAM UBEROI and Flt.-Lieut. S.S. SODHI in an air crash on November 22, 1963.

"Born on January 4, 1911, Lt.-General DAULET SINGH was commissioned from Sandhurst in 1931. He was a Cavalry officer, and, after holding various command and staff appointments, including the Command of an Armoured Division, he was posted as Quartermaster-General, Army HQ, in February 1957. In August 1958, he was promoted to the rank of Lt.-General, and was appointed as Corps Commander in January 1959 and G.O.C.-in-C., Western Command, in May 1961.

"Lt.-Gen. BIKRAM SINGH was born on July 4, 1911, and commissioned from Sandhurst in 1933. He saw active service in the Middle East during World War II. In August 1955, he was promoted to the rank of Maj.-General and posted to J & K as a Division Commander. Later, he served as G.O.C., Assam, and G.O.C., Delhi and Rajasthan Area. In June 1961, he was promoted to the rank of Lt.-General and posted as a Corps Commander, which post he held till the time of his death.

"Air Vice-Marshal PINTO was commissioned in August 1940 at the age of 19. He saw action in Burma and in J & K and was mentioned in despatches in both the operations. After holding several important appointments, he was promoted to the rank.... 2

the rank of Air Vice-Marshal in 1959 and appointed Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Operational Command, subsequently designated Western Air Command. He organised the participation of I.A.F. Canberras in U.N. operations in the Congo, and was later in charge of air operations in Goa. During and after the Chinese aggression, he was put in charge of transport and helicopter operations in Ladakh.

"Born on June 23, 1917, Maj.-General NANAVATI was commissioned in January 1938. He saw active service in the Middle East and Europe and was awarded the Military Cross and mentioned in despatches. In January 1960, he was appointed Commandant of the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, and in May 1963, he was promoted to the rank of Maj.-General and given command of an infantry Division in J & K.

"Brigadier UBEROI was born on July 8, 1917, and commissioned in May 1941. He served in Burma during World War II and was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry. He was promoted to the rank of Brigadier in September 1961 and posted as Commander of an Infantry Brigade in J & K.

"Flt.-Lieut. SODHI, born on November 6, 1937, was commissioned in August 1956. He was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal for his meritorious work in Ladakh last year.

"The Government of India mourn the loss of these able and distinguished officers of the Army and the Air Force and wish to place on record their appreciation of the services rendered by them. To the bereaved families, Government offer their sincerest sympathy."

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