

Patharighat martyrs get rich tribute by Red Horns Army

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Daya Nath Singh 31 January 2009 20749 views

One hundred fifteen years ago on 28th January 1894, the villagers of Patharighat in Darrang district of Assam revolted against the British atrocities in which 140 people lost their lives and 150 injured. The martyrs were buried together at this very place called the 'Patharughatar Ran'. This historic place now witnesses a magnificent memorial service organized by the Red Horns Artillery Brigade. This pious and sacred function was attended by Major General, Chander Prakash, AVM, General Officer Commanding, Red Horns Division on January 30, 2009.

Patharighat is etched in the history of our freedom struggle with Golden words. It was at this very place 115 years ago 140 villagers of the region sacrificed their lives protesting against the atrocities of the British. This brutal massacre took place much before the Jalianwala Bagh and heralded the initiation of the freedom movement in the North East.

In a sanguine ceremony organized under the stewardship of Brigadier R K Rajput, Commander, Red Horns Artillery Brigade, troops paid homage to the martyrs with full military honors. The decorated memorial was witness to a massive out pour of humanity, where people cutting across all divisions assembled in silent reverence. The Deputy Commissioner of

Darrang, D J Hazarika and noted freedom fighter and Gandhian, Pani Ram Das, addressed the gathering. The General Officer in his speech highlighted the importance of this historic event in our lives and urged one and all to work towards the greater prosperity and progress of Assam.

Later in the day Major General, Chander Prakash, VSM, GOC, Red Horns Division, dedicated a vocational training centre to the people of Assam, Constructed at Kalaigaon, under the aegis of the Army's Operation Sadbhavana project this training node will provide training in skills like welding, plumbing, carpentry and candle making to the unemployed and needy. A colorful cultural programme was put up by local children of the area, which was applauded enthusiastically by the huge gathering present for the function. The General Officer also flagged in a group of students from Kalaigaon and Deomornai, who had the opportunity to visit the splendors of Rajasthan during the National Integration Tour organized by 65 Field Regiment. The children; had been on a conducted tour of Jaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and New Delhi for a period of nine days earlier.

Speaking on the occasion, Major General, Chander Prakash, VSM, GOC Red Horns Division reiterated the Army's resolve to strive for an all round progress and development of the people of Assam. He mentioned that the aim of the training centre was to provide skills for earning a livelihood to the youth and urged them to lead respectable lives as responsible citizens of the country. The General Officer also mentioned that the National Integration tours were organized to expose the children of the region to the rapid strides made by the country and motivate them to strive for the same in their home state. He presented gifts and mementos to the participants of the function. Civil dignitaries and important personalities of the area like freedom fighter, Pani Ram Das were present on the occasion.

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