

India's First Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw

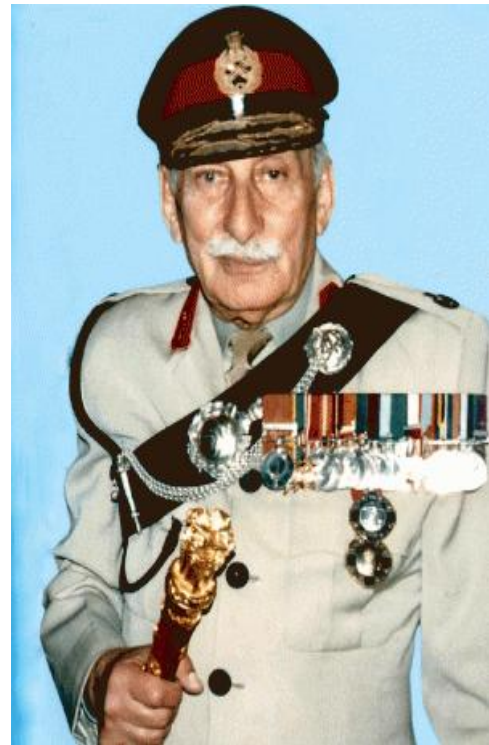
Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw had an illustrious career path. He was dedicated to his duty and a highly committed soldier.

In 1942, Sam Manekshaw was posted at Burma, where he was given double promotion due to shortage of officers, and had to take additional responsibilities. During this battle, he was shot rapidly by a Japanese soldier in close range who pierced 9 powerful bullets through his lungs, stomach, liver, intestines & kidneys. He remained lying in the battlefield for 36 long hours, before he was finally found by his fellow soldiers in an unconscious state. Everyone had given up hopes. Even the Doctor refused to take him because he felt it would be a waste of time on treating a "finished case".

However, thanks to his Sikh colleague's **Sepoy Sher Singh** insistence & perseverance, the Doctor agreed to treat him, but not for more than few hours. Fortunately, within few hours, Sam Manekshaw regained consciousness, but was still critical for next few days because his vital organs were literally out of shape. Even the intestines had to be stitched several times.

Finally, due to his firm belief in the ideology of serving the Nation, he overcome all his health issues, and was discharged within days. Over the next few decades, he went on to serve India in several major wars, including the legendary 1971 war where he led the Indian Army with utmost grace & style, bringing Pakistan down to its knees, thereby making every Indian proud.

One of the biggest take away from this story is about the power of ideologies which can give a strong purpose in a person's life and can help overcome all



difficulties. Even in our dreams, it is difficult to imagine recovering from critical



multi-organ damage caused by 9 powerful bullets. But Sam Manekshaw, who had taken it up as his ultimate cause of serving the nation (He had made it his life's



purpose), took everything in his stride, and emerged stronger not only to the personal extent of living for up to 95 years of age, but also to the professional extent of quickly rising up the ladder, to lead India to major victories, and becoming **independent India's first Field Marshal.**

