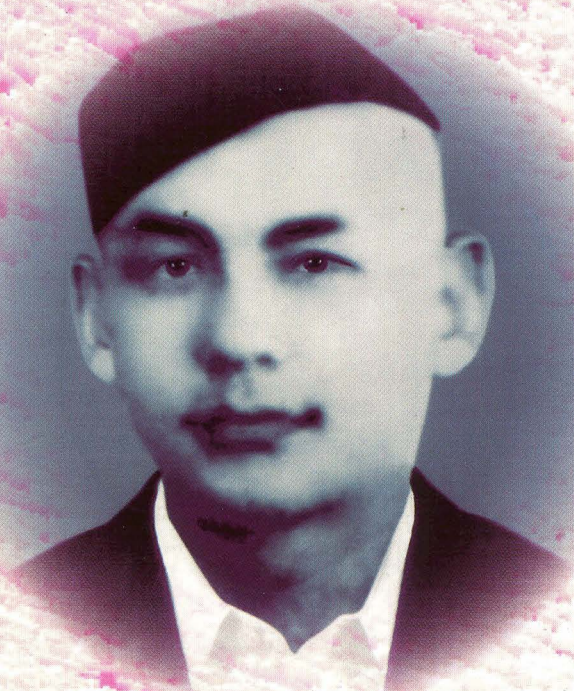


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Shaheed Durga Malla



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
DECEMBER 2004

SHAHEED DURGA MALLA

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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PREFACE

Shaheed Durga Malla occupies a unique position among the great martyrs who dared and defied the British authorities in India and stirred a revolutionary fervour in the hearts of young men and women across the length and breadth of the country to dedicate their lives for the liberation of the Motherland from the British.

A grateful nation honours the memory of Shaheed Durga Malla on 17 December 2004 when the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, will unveil his statue in the Parliament House Complex. We are grateful to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, for his inspiring guidance in organising this function.

We are thankful to Smt. Dilkumari Bhandari, President of the Bharatiya Gorkha Parisangha, Darjeeling, West Bengal for donating the statue of Shaheed Durga Malla which has been made by the eminent sculptor Shri Gautam Pal.

To mark the occasion, the Lok Sabha Secretariat is bringing out this booklet containing a profile of Shaheed Durga Malla. We hope, it will be found useful and informative by all.

NEW DELHI
December, 2004

G.C. MALHOTRA,
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

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SHAHEED DURGA MALLA

- A Profile -

Countless Gorkhas have fought and made sacrifices for our beloved nation. From the freedom struggle to the heights of Kargil, Gorkhas have always been at the forefront in the defence of our country. Shaheed Durga Malla belongs to the front rank of Gorkha heroes martyred for the cause of our country's freedom. He epitomized the fighting spirit and ardent patriotism of Indian Gorkhas.

His Family and Early Life

Born on 1 July 1913 at village Doiwala in Dehradun district of Uttaranchal, Durga Malla was the eldest of the four sons of Parwati Devi and Ganga Ram Malla. Ganga Ram Malla was Jamadar (now called Naib-Subedar) of Gorkha Rifles in the military and Parwati Devi a housewife. With the passage of time, this family was blessed with three more sons and three daughters. The eldest among the four brothers, Durga Malla was an extremely self-respecting, laborious, dedicated and honest person.

The ancestors of Durga Malla had been living in Doiwala area since the eighteenth Century. Their main occupation was agriculture and service in military forces. Growing sugarcane crop, preparing 'gur' and sugar; and selling them in the market was also part of their profession.

Since his childhood, Durga Malla was different in nature from other children of his age. Besides having a keen interest in sports, particularly football, Durga Malla had a great fascination for literary and social activities. He was very good at studies. But due to the absence of proper educational facilities in Doiwala area, he had to join Gorkha Military Middle School, at present Gorkha Military Inter College, near Dehradun. Since the school was quite far from Doiwala, he shifted to his paternal uncle Kedar Malla's house at Nalapani. He used to go to school on foot along with one or two of his friends, covering a distance of about 8 or 9 miles everyday. Despite being tired on return from school late in the evening, he never neglected his studies and always stood first in his class.

Durga Malla had drawn inspiration from the poet and social reformer Subedar-Major Bahadur Singh Baral and the musician and playwright Mitra Sen Thapa. He was greatly inspired by the prominent Gandhian freedom fighters of Dehradun like Thakur Chandan Singh, Veer Khadagbahadur Singh Bisht, Pandit Ishwaranand Gorkha and Amar Singh Thapa. The Dandi March of Mahatma Gandhi in 1930 to violate 'salt rule' started generating patriotic sentiments in the heart of Durga Malla, motivating him to take part in the freedom struggle. He could see the vision of the freedom of India under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

At the time of the *Satyagraha* movement, Durga Malla was only a student of ninth class, but he was actively engaged in anti-British activities in his locality. He used to enter the Gorkha battalion area in the night with some of his friends to paste posters of freedom struggle. Sometimes, he participated in processions with freedom fighters. Due to his anti-British activities, his family was frequently subjected to severe interrogation by the British Government.

Durga Malla was in his youth in 1930. He always remained worried and restless at the plight of the Gorkha society. The following lines, composed by Durga Malla and published in the book *Thakur Chandan Singh* authored by Magan 'Pathik' writer-editor and poet of 'Bhaksu', reflect his sentiments and restlessness in his heart for self-respect—

*Dikhao aakar Bhagwan, susupt jaati ko rah;
Kya hua hamein, kyon hui aaj mati mand;*

*Virata, pourush ke karan mili veer Gorkha ki upadhi;
Jo heere ke saman tha ujwal, kyon hua maati tulya.*

*Aaj dekhkar yeh, kuchh kah nahin sakta;
Kab janeinge yah apne kartavya, sabhi ke ude hain hosh.*

*Kaise mila janm inhen, badal gaye saare;
Karate hain anpon ki chugali, pyar bantne ke badle.*

*Chali gai purkhon ki pratishtha, Jaat hui badnam;
Sirf bacha hai manav chola, kyon banate ho maati.*

*'Durga' likh raha hai lekh, prabhu choor karo inka darp;
Netra hon, to ab bhi dekho, anya logon ki chalane ki rah.*

Durga Malla was also deeply concerned about the subjugation of India and the pathetic condition of the country. Therefore, he joined the freedom struggle to free the country from the shackles of slavery. This was the time when the police in Dehradun was frantically arresting freedom fighters. As a result, freedom fighters started migrating to other places from Dehradun. To dodge the police, Durga Malla, who was a young student, went away to the house of a relative at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh.

In 1931, when he was only eighteen years old, he joined the 2/1 battalion of Gorkha Rifles. In his battalion, Durga Malla was comparatively a more educated recruit. Therefore, after completing 'recruit training', he was sent to Pune for 'signal training'. In the course of time, he attained excellence in several other military trainings. On the basis of his dedicated services and efficiency, he got quick promotions and after a few years, was promoted to the important post of Signal Hawaldar.

In 1941, after serving the army for about ten years, Durga Malla married Sharda Devi, a girl of Thakuri family of district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. But fate had something else in store for him. It was the time of the Second World War. Japanese aggression had become more violent in Burma, Malaya and Singapore. The 2/1 battalion of Gorkha Rifles was also ordered to advance for the war-field. Just three days after his marriage, Durga Malla got an emergent call from his unit. He was called back for war by the Army even before his newly married bride Sharda Devi could get acquainted with him.

Participation in the Second World War

Being a true patriot, Durga Malla did not get upset while leaving his newly married bride alone back at home. He marched for war with utmost courage. When his battalion reached Secunderabad, he was sanctioned leave for 28 days and given an opportunity to reach home and meet his family members before departing for Malaya. From Secunderabad, his battalion reached Bombay and on 23 August 1941, departed for Malaya from the Bombay sea-port. By September 1941, all the Gorkha battalions had reached Malaya. Following an attack on 8 December 1941 by

Japan on the Allied Forces deployed in South-East Asia, the war was declared. By 11 December 1941, the condition of the British Forces weakened. Gradually, Japanese forces tightened their grip over the war.

Never before in the history of British rule had the Indian soldiers felt so demoralized as did in Malaya and subsequently at other places in South-East Asia. In December 1941, a group of Indian soldiers lost themselves in the jungle. One of their officers, Captain Mohan Singh decided not to rejoin the retreating British Forces. He convinced himself that Indian soldiers had no cause to fight for the Britishers and instead fight the Britishers along with the Japanese. With this mission in his mind, he approached Major Fujiwara of Japan who assured him that Japan was prepared to go all out to assist India to attain independence. Major Fujiwara also declared that all Indian Prisoners of War, who were handed over to the Japanese Government by a British officer Col. Hunt on behalf of the British Government, would be under the control of Captain Mohan Singh.

To consolidate the Indian Independence movement in South-East Asia and determine the nature of Japanese assistance to the movement, two conferences were held in Tokyo and Bangkok in March and June 1942, respectively where the important decision to raise the Indian National Army was taken. On 1 September 1942, the Indian National Army (*Azad Hind Fauz*) was officially formed in Singapore.

Role in the Indian National Army

The formation of the Indian National Army represented a milestone in the history of India's freedom struggle. Durga Malla was one of those who played an important role in the formation of the Indian National Army. In 1942, he not only joined this Army with a patriotic zeal but also inspired his fellow men to join it.

Initially, Durga Malla was given the responsibility to mobilise volunteers for the Indian National Army from different Gorkha battalions. Later, by virtue of his patriotic feelings, his sense of duty towards his country and his valour, he earned promotion to the rank of Major.

At the War Front

When after the formation of the Provisional *Azad Hind* Government under the supreme command of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose war was declared against the Allied Forces on 25 October 1943, soldiers of different branches of the Indian National Army were deployed on the fronts. Durga Malla was posted in the Intelligence Branch. He, along with some other fellow soldiers entered the hilly area of the then greater Assam across Burma border. There he used to collect and send important information regarding matters of strategic importance to the headquarters of Indian National Army in Rangoon despite the shortage of supplies, ammunitions and weapons and adverse geographical conditions. On 27 March 1944, when Durga Malla was on a mission to collect information of the enemy camps, he was captured by the soldiers of enemy side at Ukhrul in Manipur near Kohima.

Prisoner of War and Trial

After his arrest, Durga Malla was kept in the prison at Red Fort, New Delhi as a prisoner of war. He was prosecuted by military court under section 41 of the Indian Army Law and section 121 of the Indian Penal Code. He was given death sentence by the Court Martial, the court of trial before which he was tried at Red Fort. That was the time when the imperialist British rulers were trying to suppress the Indian freedom struggle by all means. Therefore, before the death sentence was finally executed, the British authorities tried to coax Major Durga Malla into confessing the wrong and promised him grant of remission if he could do so. But it was against the wishes of *Veer* Durga Malla whose only objective was to get the country free. He preferred to embrace the gallows rather than accepting the proposal of the British rulers. All persuasions having failed, Durga Malla's wife Smt. Sharda Devi was brought before him at the prison cell as the last resort. British authorities were of the opinion that she would persuade her husband to apologise. But Major Malla yielded to no devices of the British authorities. On the contrary, he gave his wife his last words by saying, "Sharda, I am sacrificing my life for the

freedom of my motherland. You need not be worried and distressed. Crores of Hindustanis will be with you after my death. The sacrifice I am offering, shall not go in vain. India shall be free. I am confident, this is only a matter of time.”

Supreme Sacrifice

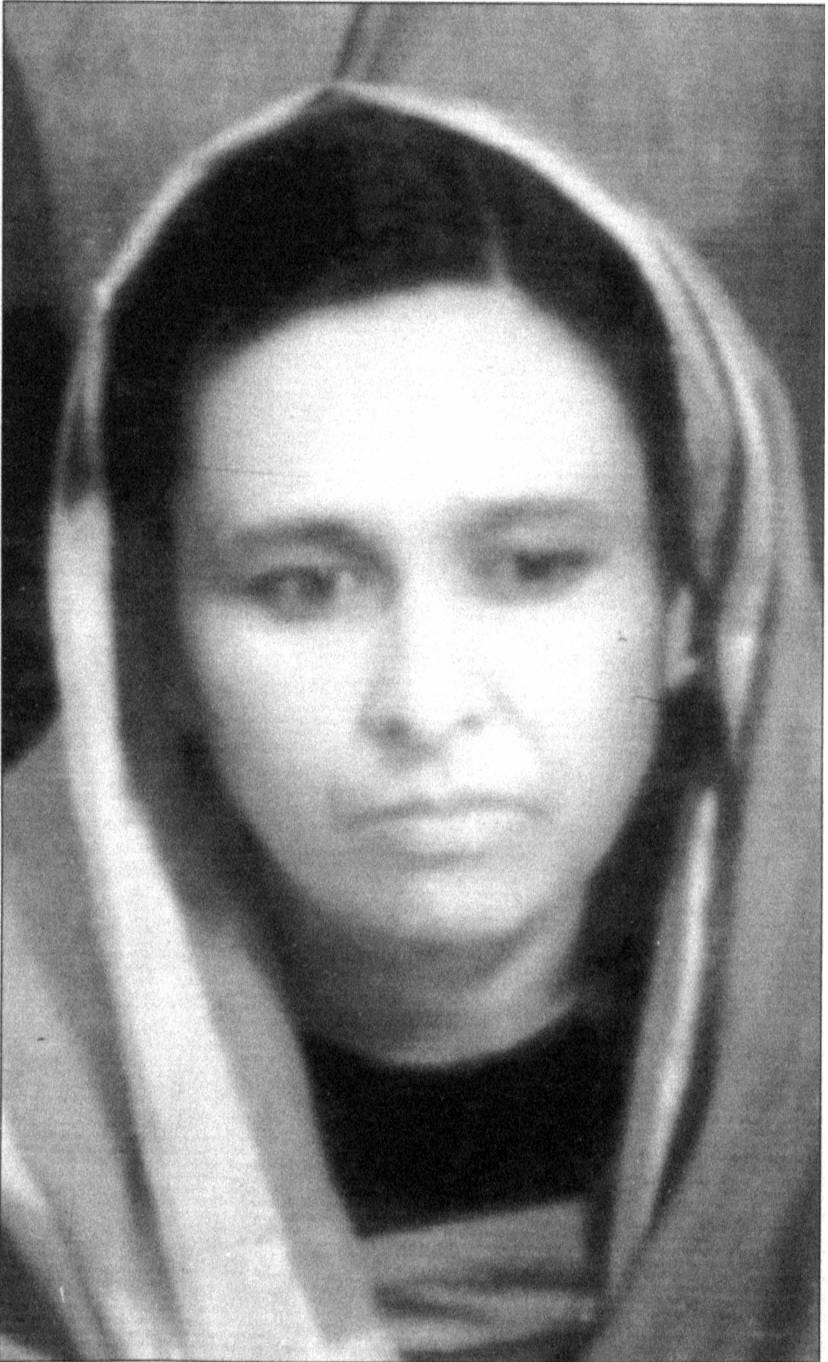
On 15 August 1944, *Veer* Durga, the great patriot, was taken to Delhi Central Jail from the Red Fort. After ten days, on 25 August 1944, he was sent to the gallows. Thus ended the journey of one more noble son of mother India who laid down his precious life at the altar of Freedom. Durga Malla's physical body is no more but he sacrificed himself after leading a meaningful life of only 31 years and became immortal.

SHAHEED DURGA MALLA

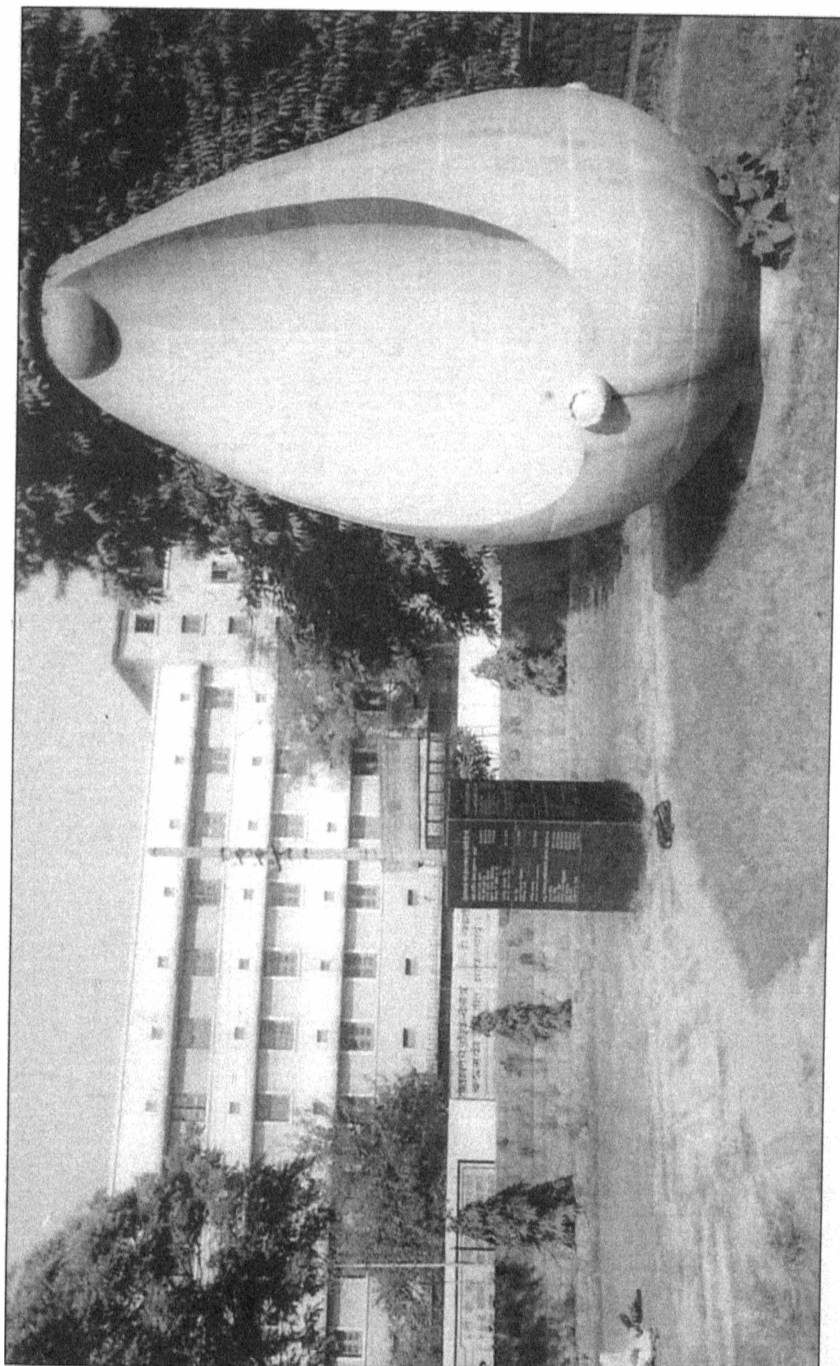
- A Pictorial Profile -



Young Durga Malla



Sharda Malla (1927-1990) wife of Shaheed Durga Malla



The very *smarak* (Gallows) at Delhi District Jail where Shaheed Durga Malla was hanged by the Britishers on 25 August 1944

देशभक्तों को इस स्थान पर फौसी दी गई

लाई हाईंग बम्ब प्रकरण 1912

मास्टर अमीर चन्द	6.5.1915
माई बाल मुकन्द	8.5.1915
मास्टर अवध बिहारी	8.5.1915
बसन्त कुमार बिस्वास (अम्बाला में फौसी दी गई)	9.5.1915

हवलदार जलेश्वर सिंह (सेना को भड़काने के लिए)	31.3.1916
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मंसा सिंह (सदस्य हिन्दुस्तान सोशलिस्ट रिपब्लिकन पार्टी)	6.4.1931
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शफीक अहमद (संघर्षक "जलामन" हत्या प्रकरण)	20.5.1940
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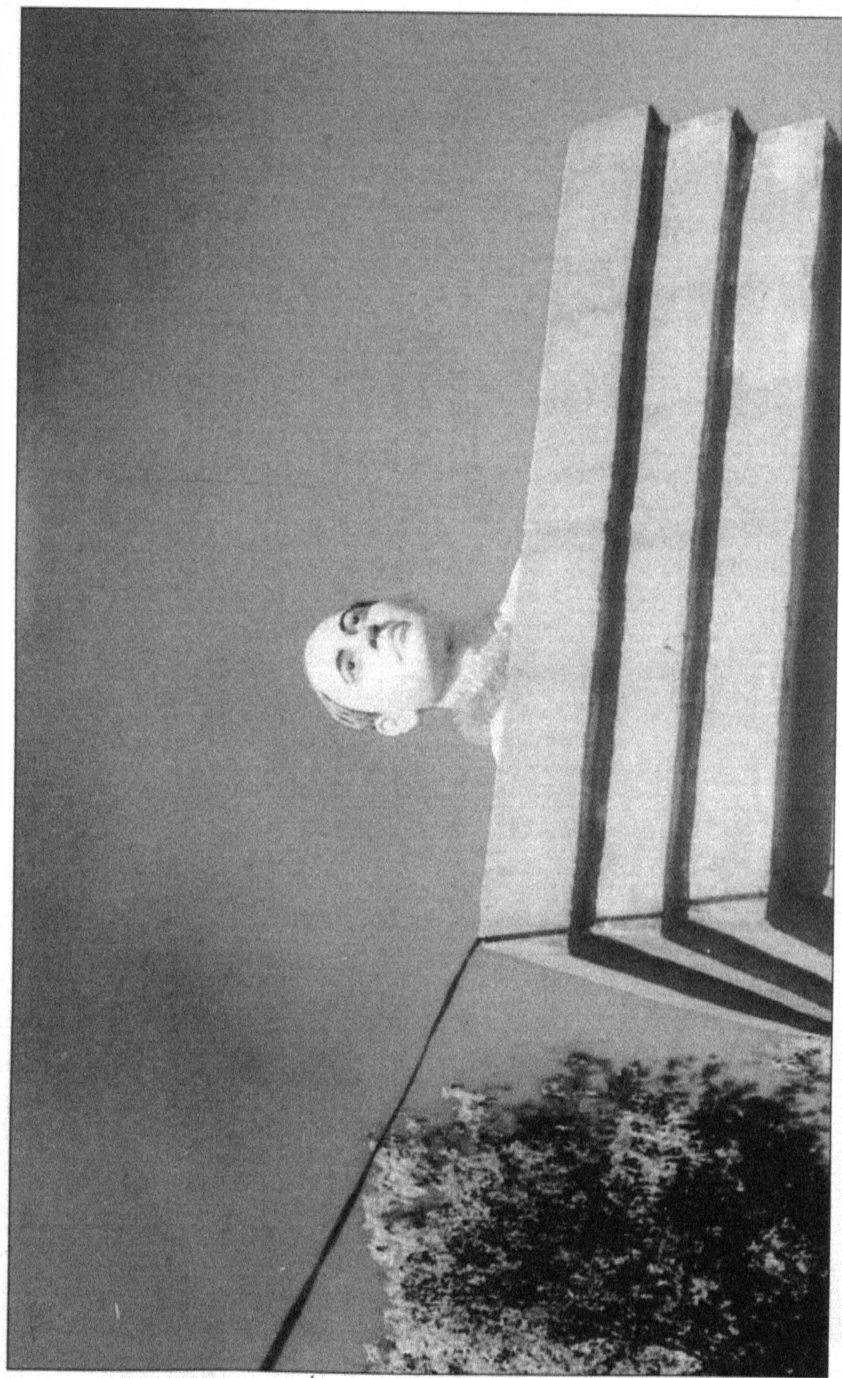
रात्रु अभिकर्ता अधिनियम के अंतर्गत (आई.एन.ए)

छत्तर सिंह	29.7.1944
नज़र सिंह	29.7.1944
अजायब सिंह	24.8.1944
सतेन्द्र नाथ मजूमदार	24.8.1944
जुहर अहमद	24.8.1944
दुराणा मल	25.8.1944
केशरी चन्द शर्मा	3.5.1945

Shaheed Stambh at the place where Durga Malla was hanged by the Britishers



Statue of Shaheed Durga Malla installed at the Town Committee Building ground of Doiwala, District, Dehradun, Uttaranchal



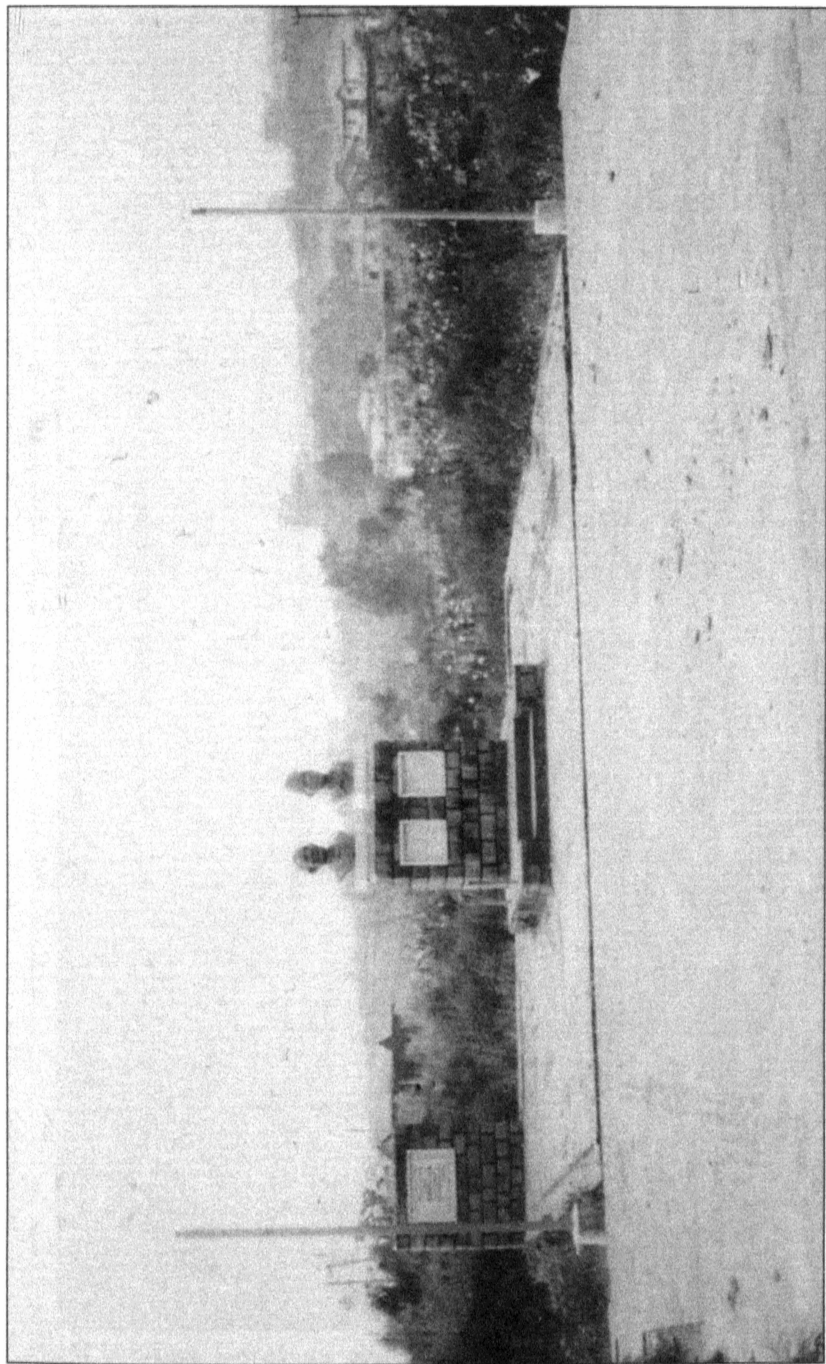
Statue of Shaheed Durga Malla at Doiwala, District Dehradun,
Uttaranchal



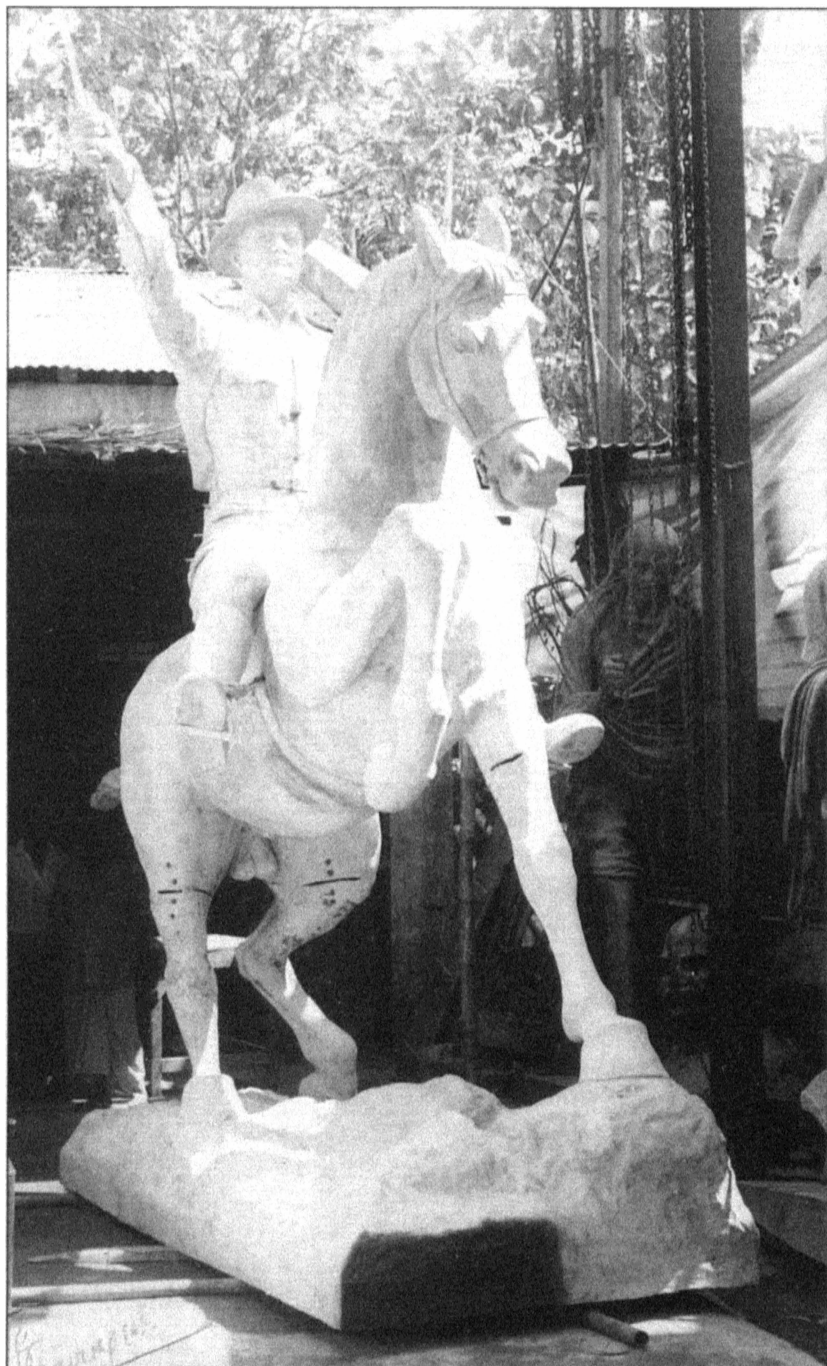
Front view of the statue of Shaheed Durga Malla installed at
Shaheed Smriti Vatika, Darigaon, Dharamshala,
District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh



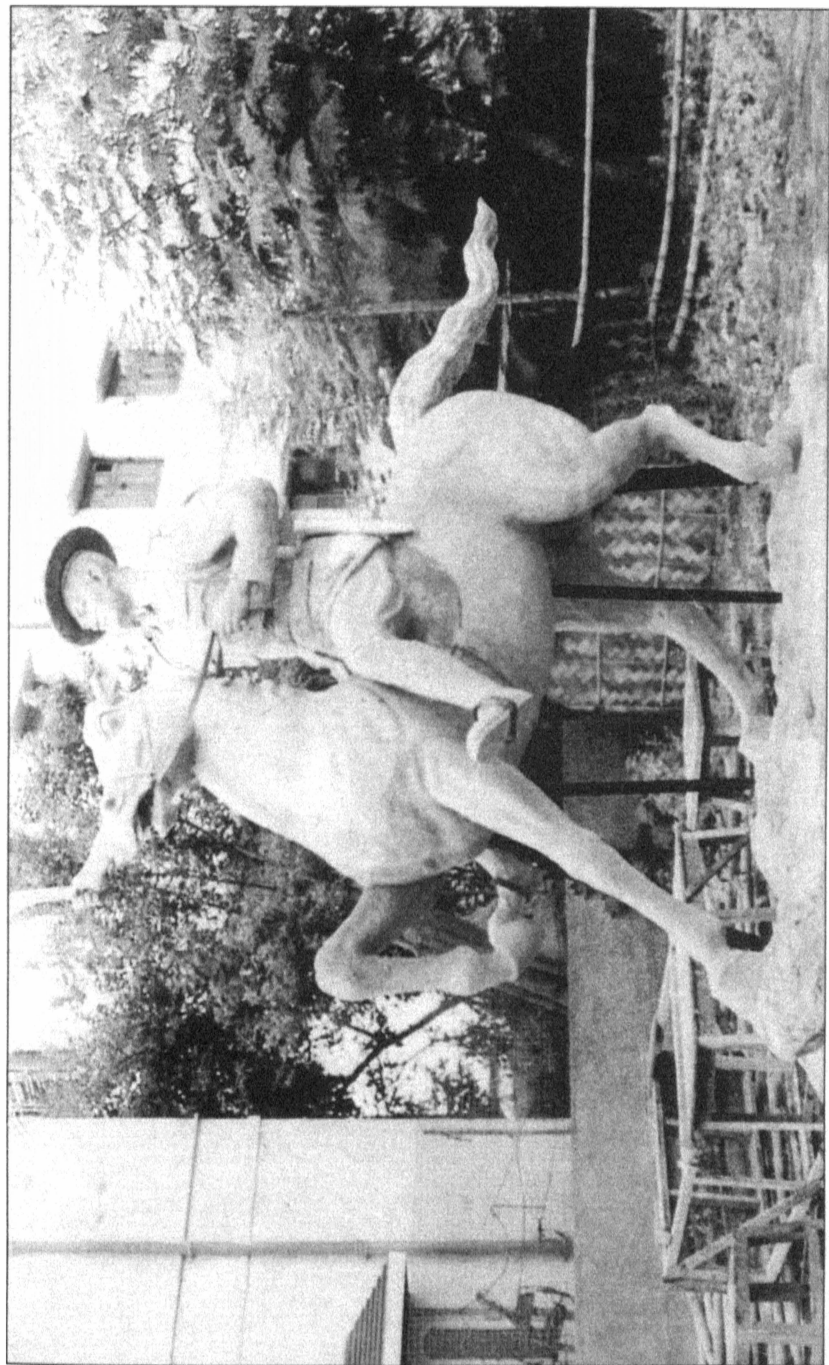
Statue of Shaheed Durga Malla (left) with the statue of Shaheed Dal Bahadur Thapa (Capt. INA) at Shaheed Smriti Vatika, Darigoan, Dharamshala, District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh



Full view of Shaheed Smriti Vatika, Darigaon, Dharamshala,
District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh



Model of the statue of Shaheed Durga Malla which was approved by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on 27 June 2003



Complete bronze statue of Shaheed Durga Malla