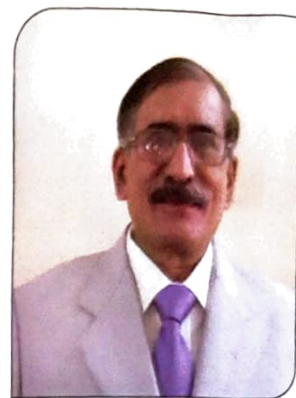


HUMOUR IN UNIFORM

Jawan Baldev Singh was frustrated when his leave was refused the second time. He desperately wanted to go home. His wife had given birth to a baby boy and he has set his heart on having a look at the child. He decided to make one last attempt and carried the file with his latest application to the Commanding Officer. One look at the papers was enough to make the CO fly into a rage. "NO ", he shouted and threw the file back at him. Baldev picked it up quietly, saluted the CO, came back, packed his bags and went home.



HFO Novel Lobo
Veteran

All hell broke loose when it was discovered the next day that Baldev had gone, and rub salt into the wound of insubordination was the statement by his fellow jawans that the CO had granted his leave.

It was decided that he should be court-martialled on his return and, in anticipation, the case was processed accordingly. Baldev returned on the ninth day and was immediately summoned by the CO for his court-martial. His friends were surprised at his calmness and apparent lack of concern. They thought he had lost his mind.

The charges were read out to him. "What have you to say in your defence?" the CO thundered at Baldev.

"A small lack of understanding Sir", he said.

"And pray, what is that" asked the CO sarcastically.

"I had asked for 10 days' leave, Sir. I came to you, Sir, with the application, Sir. You looked at it, Sir, and threw it back at me shouting No. I thought what difference is there between No (Nine) and Dus (Ten) so I went and came back right after nine days, Sir" (In Hindi, It sounded more funny- maine socha nau aur dus mein kya farak hai, Sir).

The CO looked at him flabbergasted. There was complete silence for a few seconds. Then the CO threw his head back and roared with laughter. "You blackguard, you rascal", he said "I will put some sense into your head the next time. As of now the charges against you are dropped".

Not a muscle of Baldev's serious face moved as he saluted the CO and came out.

(From Readers Digest)