



CENTRE FOR
JOINT WARFARE
STUDIES
(CENJOWS)

Book Review

VALOUR & WISDOM

100 YEARS
OF UNPARALLELED
LEADERSHIP



**SAGA OF
RIMCOLLIANS
CENTENARY
VOLUME**



EDITORS

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Review By
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The Rashtriya Indian Military College celebrates its 100th anniversary with the book "Valour & Wisdom" (RIMC). The book describes how the British made less deliberate attempts to send chosen students to Sandhurst to become future officers following the World War I. As a result, on March 22, 1922, the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College was founded in Dehradun (PWRIMC). To prepare Indian youth for admission to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, UK, before granting them a Royal Commission into the officer cadre, it was established in the style of British public schools. This nursery of military leadership completed 100 years of existence on March 13, 2022. RIMC's alumni have served in various wars and examples of their heroism and their significant contribution in military operations have been firmly established. The leadership role of Rimcollians has been admirably chronicled in the book.

In order to firmly avoid politics from intruding, the book recounts how obstacles posed by a less-than-understanding external environment were overcome. This was substantially facilitated by the internal cohesion of the staff, cadets, and Old Boys. In order to explain how the PWRIMC evolved into the RIMC, the Sainik School, and finally back to the RIMC, the book takes a reflective turn. The incidents are accurately recounted, it tells tales of bravery, devotion, and unity that transcend caste, religion, and linguistic barriers, and the numbers of those who rose to high ranks and received honours for their bravery and devotion to duty are staggering. The book has beautifully covered the concerted efforts and commitment displayed by Commandants, principals and teachers who were earlier British and later Indians, who understood the significance of creating and institutionalising the requirements of any professional Armed Forces. The atmosphere at RIMC was channelized through discreet internal feedback and aided by a well-rounded relationship shared between the gurus and their 'chelas'. Even after the change of nationalities in the RIMC, the strong ethos established continues to exist till date.

The book makes tries to cover the exploits of the alumni of RIMC, Dehradun which have remained confined to their respective regimental history or part of the military folklore. One such chapter covers the role of Rimcollians in integrating J&K, one tale is that of Colonel Kashmir Singh Katoch who was appointed Military Advisor to the Maharaja of J&K. Following the accession on 26-27 October 1947, the state forces came under the Indian Army with Colonel Katoch as its Commanding Officer. He was decorated with Padma Bhushan for his service in Kashmir. Another tale is of "Battle of Budgam", Major Somnath Sharma who was awarded India's first Param Vir Chakra, the highest gallantary award of Independent India. RIMC's achievements goes far beyond Indian Borders and will continue in the foreseeable future as its alumni contribute with valour and wisdom to India's military might and development.

