

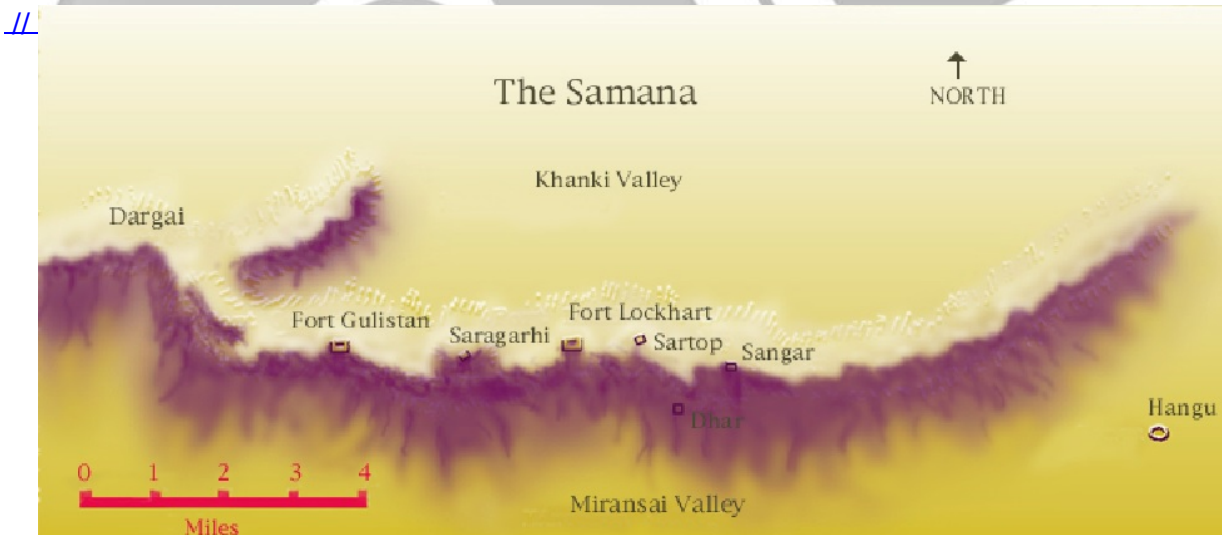


## 127th Anniversary of the Battle of Saragarhi

[Source: IE](#)

Recently, the 127<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Battle of Saragarhi](#) was observed on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024. It is one of the **greatest final defences** in world military history.

- On **12<sup>th</sup> September 1897**, **21 soldiers** and a **non-combatant** (named **Daad** who did menial works) of the **36th Sikh Regiment (now 4<sup>th</sup> Sikh)** fought against over **8,000 Afridi and Orakzai tribal militants** in the **North West Frontier Province (NWFP)**, now in Pakistan.
  - The soldiers, led by Havildar Ishar Singh, fought **valiantly** for seven hours, **killing 200 militants** and **injuring 600** others.
- **Strategic Importance of Saragarhi:** Saragarhi was a communication tower located between [Fort Lockhart](#) and [Fort Gulistan](#), two critical British forts in the NWFP. , originally built by [Maharaja Ranjit Singh](#) and later renamed by the British.
  - Losing this post meant **isolating the forts**, thereby making British troops and the families of British officers **vulnerable to attack**.
- **Honours for the Martyrs:** Queen Victoria awarded the 21 dead soldiers the **Indian Order of Merit (comparable with the Victoria Cross)** for their bravery.
  - The British built an **obelisk** using burnt bricks from Saragarhi to honour the martyrs.
  - In 2017, the Punjab government declared 12<sup>th</sup> September as **Saragarhi Day**, a holiday to honour the sacrifice of the soldiers.
  - The **Khyber Scouts** regiment of the **Pakistani army** continues to honour the **Saragarhi martyrs** with a guard and salute at the memorial near **Fort Lockhart**.



Read More: [Battle of Saragarhi](#)

