

## Appreciations :

### **Major General C. A. Luckshman Algama - a patriotic son**



On the 10th May 1963 Major General Lucky Algama enlisted in the then Ceylon Army as a Second Lieutenant, after graduating from the University of Peradeniya. He was posted to the army's regular force, and served in the 1st Btn. Gemunu Watch. He carried out duties entrusted to him, with extreme efficiency.

General Algama then continued to serve in 3rd Btn. (Volunteer) Gemunu Watch, Volunteer Force, Army Headquarters, Ministry of Defence, Mulathivu and Trincomalee districts and then on 27th December 1987 he was appointed as Commanding Officer of the 4th Btn. Gemunu Watch. He rose rapidly in the ranks as follows: In 1964, he was promoted Lieutenant, in 1967 as Captain, in 1974 as Major, in 1981 as Lieutenant Colonel, in 1986

Colonel and Colonel General Staff at Army headquarters, in 1988 as Brigadier, and then he was made 13 Brigade Commander, thereafter as Military Secretary, in 1990 as Regimental Commandant, in 1991 as Deputy General Commanding 2nd Division.

In 1992 he was promoted as Major General, and made General Commanding 3rd Division. In 1994 he was appointed as Army Chief of Staff. Despite his rank and status most of his time was spent in the North-East theatre of operations. On second June 1995 he resigned from the army.

Major General Algama with other Combined Operations fellow officers such as retired Major General Janaka Perera and Thilak Paranagama ensured the complete annihilation of southern terrorism which threatened our basic freedom to justice and survival. Thereafter he alongwith Major General Janaka Perera completely defeated the LTTE in the East.

The people of our country knew and appreciated the brave efforts of the late General Algama despite many attempts by some to deny him credit in this regard. A scribe once asked him as to why he used excessive force to put down terrorism. His razor-sharp reply was that a frightened people did not give him a 'Bana Potha' but instead thrust a T-56 into his hands. Alongwith retired Major General Janaka Perera, late Major General Lucky Algama completely defeated the LTTE in the Eastern Province and made the so-called invincible Karuna to hightail it to Jaffna. He attended a number of overseas courses and gave the army a vast amount of military knowledge.

Despite his excellent track record and showing that the Sri Lanka Army can defeat any form of terrorism, the weak and corrupted persons, who always manage to fool any government, ensured that Major General Algama would never be made army commander. The country was outraged.

Therefore, in order to eradicate the menace of persons he fondly referred to as

uniformed General Merchants, and corrupt leaders, he took to the murky and unchartered dangers of politics, against advice from those close to him. He was determined to be the proverbial knight in shining armour, but his normal cavalier attitude blanked out the inevitable treachery that lay in waiting for him. The cowardly conspirators united against the dangers that he represented in terms of integrity and patriotism, plotted to ensure their survival.

On 18th December 1999 by virtue of a most cowardly and unprincipled attack, the plotters took away the life of a soldier of whom our motherland is proud to call a true patriotic son of her soil.

Major General Algama, like all beings, became ensnared in his destined karma. There is never permanency in this life. The plotters too, that sowed the wind will soon reap the whirlwind. This is the undisputable laws of religion and nature. Sons and daughters of our motherland will always revere the memory of brave and honest individuals like the late Major General Algama, who sacrificed so much, so that others may gain their tomorrows.

May he attain Nibbana!

Do not stand at his grave and weep

He is not there, he is not asleep

In the midst of terrorist horror

He gave us peace with pride and honour

When you awaken in the morning's hush

He is our motherland's uplifting rush

Do not stand at his grave and cry

He is not there, he did not die.

*- Jith Wijesekera,*

The General Ranjan Wijeratne Foundation