

**Major Gen. Rustom Zal Kabraji, AVSM (Retd) VU2BK \*1917-2008\*** A steadfast officer and Gentleman of the Indian Army Corps of Signals and a great part of the Signals journey of 100 years saga of rich heritage. Beginning 15 February 1911, the Indian Army Corps of Signals has recently celebrated its centenary in our year 15 February 2011. We bring to memory and tribute General Rustom Zal Kabraji, AVSM (Retd) a man who has always looked up to the sky and found friends. He was fondly known as “KAB” to his many ham radio brothers, the Indian Beacon.



Kab was probably the highest percentage VU station to give a new country to literally thousands of world wide DX amateurs including myself here in the States. I still recall that early morning long path 30 years ago QSO with Kab. What a thrill, my first India DX on the key. His patience and love of the radio game is still historic. Those early morning long path signals from VU2BK are memorable to we DX chasers.

Sir Kab possessed a steady clear fist and powerful 15 to twenty over S9 signal that could be easily be heard each morning in the U.S.A. I sent Kab an IRC coupon and obtained his immediate reply and note of appreciation.

Our subject along with Brig P.S. Gill VU2PS lead one of the first all army ham expeditions to Bhutan in 1962, giving world radio amateurs a contact with Bhutan for the very first time.

VU2BK was a very active Ham operator and pursued his hobby right until the end of his life. His excellent CW operating techniques were known the world over with hams commenting, “His CW is like music to our ears!”

The General’s family consisted of Nargesh, his wife who passed away in 2004. He has two sons living in Pune, near Bombay, India. They are Zal Rustom Kabraji and Zubin Rustom Kabraji. Also a grandson Darius Zubin Kabraji.

Major General R. Z. Kabraji, AVSM retired from the Indian Army Corps of Signals 1 June 1970 as Chief of Staff, Southern Command, Pune. At that time he was also Hon ADC General to the President of India. The General was a very enthusiastic golfer and actively promoted the game at Mhow. He was also a keen angler and some of his fishing stories have gone down in history, especially when he was GOC 6 Mtn Division. View adjacent Army Corps of Signals badge.

Kab became a silent key at age 90 in Pune, India, February 21, 2008 who is mourned by his family and friends alike. Those dots and dashes since 1946 are carried on through his son Zal VU2DK. Our tribute is possible through information we obtained from generosity of Zal Kabraji and Ham Gallery Tom K8CX. W8SU 2011

