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MINISTRY OF
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LIEUTENANT TRIVENI SINGH

SERVICE NUMBER	IC- 61417
RANK	Lieutenant
NAME	Triveni Singh
SON OF	Captain Janmej Singh
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Pathankot, Punjab
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	5 JAMMU KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY (5 JAK LI)
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Ashoka Chakra (Posthumous)/02 January 2004
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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Lieutenant Triveni Singh was born on 01 February 1978, to Captain Janmej Singh Thakur and Mrs. Pushplata in Ranchi, Jharkhand. He originally hailed from Pathankot, Punjab. His father served in the Indian Army and retired as a Captain. Lieutenant Triveni Singh completed his schooling from St Joseph Convent School Pathankot and went to Ludhiana for his graduation. He was proficient in martial arts and went on to become a National Level champion in Karate and Swimming. After graduating from the Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana, he joined the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun and passed out on 08 Dec 2001 as a proud Lieutenant. He was commissioned into 5 JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY at the age of 23.



Lt Triveni Singh and his family during his passing out ceremony

(Source: Honourpoint)

He was then sent for further training, Young Officers Basic Course and Commando Course, to the Infantry School in Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh and Junior Leaders Wing in Belgaum, Karnataka. He was awarded the nation's highest peace time gallantry award, the Ashoka Chakra (AC) posthumously on 26 January 2004 for his selfless act of extraordinary gallantry, unyielding fighting spirit and supreme sacrifice on 02 January 2004 against a terrorist attack at a railway station in Jammu. His proud father Captain Janmej Singh Thakur received the Ashoka Chakra from then President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam on his son's behalf. He is survived by his father, mother and two sisters Pooja and Jyotsana.

Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAK LI) is an infantry regiment of the Indian Army. The regimental history of JAK LI is very unique. In 1947, when Pakistani troops intruded into the Indian territory, militia groups were raised from the locals of Jammu, Nubra and Leh under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The militia fought with great distinction in the 1965 India-Pakistan War. However, it was the gallant action of the militia troops in the India-Pakistan War of 1971 that earned them three battle honours. After the war in 1972, the militia was converted into a full-fledged regiment and in 1976 the name was changed to Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry. The JAK LI has been deployed in the Indian Peacekeeping Force in Sri Lanka in 1987 and also in the United Nations Mission in Somalia. It also has a distinguished record in Siachen. Subedar



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Major and Honorary Captain Bana Singh who was awarded the Param Vir Chakra belongs to this Regiment.

In 2003, Lieutenant Triveni Singh's unit, 5 JAK LI was deployed in Jammu and he was appointed as the Adjutant of the unit. Since being commissioned into the unit, Lieutenant Singh had participated in several major operations in Jammu and Kashmir. One such operation involved hunting down two terrorists who had attacked a Dogra battalion's Barrack on 28 June 2003 injuring one officer, six soldiers, and twelve others. During the said operation, he chased the second terrorist across a field before killing him.

On 02 January 2004 at 18:50 hours, two heavily armed terrorists entered the Jammu Railway Station and started firing indiscriminately at the passengers, killing three and injuring fifteen. On receiving information about the fidayeen attack, the Commanding Officer asked Lieutenant Triveni Singh, who was the Adjutant of his unit, to alert the officers and soldiers on duty and prepare for action. Realising the gravity and urgency of the situation and believing that informing and collecting everyone would delay the operation, Lieutenant Singh requested the Commanding Officer that he be allowed to lead a Quick Reaction Team to the railway station.

After being granted the permission, Lieutenant Triveni Singh and his team of commandos quickly got into a jeep and Lieutenant Singh asked the driver to speed across the railway tracks in order to reach the under-siege station faster. Despite this, by the time Lieutenant Triveni Singh reached the station, the number of casualties had increased to seven while several others had been injured. Without wasting any time, Lieutenant Triveni Singh immediately swung into action and ordered his troops to cordon off the station. At 19:25 hours, Lieutenant Singh along with his team and a police party began a search of the Railway Station, aimed at locating and identifying the terrorists. As a result, in order to avoid detection, the terrorists reduced their fire and became untraceable.

At 22:20 hours, as the officers were regrouping, one of the terrorists hiding under the staircase of the overhead bridge, opened fire and injured a policeman. Moving swiftly, Lieutenant Singh spotted the terrorist and closed in on him before the terrorist could reach the exit gate of the station and killed him instantly. According to an eyewitness, a senior railway police officer, Singh and his team reached the spot in ten minutes, cordoned off the station and employed the 'zigzag methodology' to arrive within close range of the terrorists. Singh took on the terrorists in a gunfight at close quarters. He faced indiscriminate firing and lobbing of grenades. He succeeded in killing one of them near the bridge between the first and the second platforms, and took charge of the so far uncontrollable situation.

However, the second terrorist now began firing from the overhead rail bridge and lobbed a grenade at Lieutenant Triveni Singh in an attempt to escape. In this exchange of fire Lieutenant Singh sustained a bullet injury to the lower part of his face, an injury which would later prove fatal. Despite his injuries, he remained aware of the fact that the terrorist was equipped with lethal weapons and had enough ammunition to kill over 300 passengers that had taken refuge in the parcel room, a short distance away. Lieutenant Triveni Singh charged, closing the distance between himself and the terrorist quickly, grappled and engaged him in hand-to-hand



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combat before killing him at close quarters and succumbed to his injuries. His body was found six inches away from the terrorist he had just killed.

In the exchange of fire between the two sides, that continued for almost two and a half hours, seven people were killed, including Lieutenant Triveni Singh, one Police Officer, two BSF Jawans, one Railway Policeman and two Civilians while fifteen others were injured in the attack. Additionally, a huge cache of AK-47 magazines and grenades was recovered from the terrorist. Lieutenant Triveni Singh's body was taken to his hometown, Pathankot in Punjab, where his funeral was conducted with full military honour. In this exemplary display of bravery and courage of exceptional order, Lieutenant Triveni Singh killed both the terrorists single-handedly, thereby preventing a bloodbath and saving the lives of many innocent civilians stranded at the Jammu Railway Station. His last words were "Mission accomplished, Sir".

Maj Gen Rajinder Singh, General Officer Commanding (GOC), 26 Infantry Division in Jammu, said after the operation, that Lieutenant Triveni Singh was a brave and sharp boy even when he was commissioned in the 5 JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY back in 2001. He also said that, "I am proud of our young officer Lieutenant Triveni Singh, who braved firing and grenade bursts to kill both the suicide group terrorists in the shortest-ever operation at the railway station".

Lieutenant. Triveni Singh was posthumously awarded the Ashok Chakra, the country's highest bravery award during peacetime for displaying conspicuous gallantry. President APJ Abdul Kalam presented the award to Lieutenant Triveni Singh's father, Captain Janmej Singh (Retired) during the 2004 Republic Day parade.

Lieutenant Triveni Singh's mother, Mrs. Pushpalata remembers him as a miracle that came into their lives. She remembers the day he was born and mentions that the doctor had congratulated her for having given birth to an officer of the Indian Army.

"Let every mother give birth to children like Triveni who refuse to abandon their guns and run away from the battlefield even if their decision costs them their life"

– Mrs Pushpalta, Mother



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Captain Janmej Singh and Mrs Pushpalata unveiled a statue of their son Lieutenant Triveni Singh at the Sunjuwan Military Station.

(Source: @Shivaroor Twitter)

Lieutenant Triveni Singh's father, Captain Janmej Singh who is an Army veteran himself reminisces that, seeing his father in a uniform all his life, is probably what inspired Triveni Singh to join the army. His sister, Jyotsana, remembers asking her "Sonu Bhaiyya", as she endearingly called him, how he was coping with the 'difficult training' he was having to go through at the Academy. He replied that he wasn't finding it difficult at all, instead he found it an interesting exercise in testing himself to his limits which he hadn't found yet. His eldest sister, Pooja, fondly remembers having once asked him what gift he wanted, and he had replied with "a Combat Kit".

His family still remembers the day they last saw him like it was yesterday. He had come home on 31st December 2003 to celebrate the New Year with them and they had had a great time together. However, he had to go back on 01 January 2004 and asked his mother to wake him up early in the morning. His father now remembers seeing off his beloved son that day, unaware that that would be the last time he would see him alive.

"I am proud, but at the same time I am sad. He has done well for the country and saved hundreds of lives. I am sad because he is not with me when I am in the evening of my life. I am a very proud father. His memory will take us along"

- Captain Janmej Singh, Father



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Captain Janmej Singh salutes his brave son Lieutenant Triveni Singh's statue.

(Source: @Shivaroor Twitter)

Captain Singh recalls the sequence of events of that fateful day, on the night of 02 January 2004, the family was sitting and planning Triveni Singh's wedding, which was to take place in two months' time. Captain Singh received a phone call from his son's in-laws, asking him to turn on the news. He turned on the television and began surfing through channels airing reports of a terrorist attack on the Jammu Railway Station. The station was filled with hundreds of people and security personnel. He continued to watch the reports on the operations being undertaken, first by the police and then by the paramilitary forces to take out two heavily armed Lashkar-e-Tayiba terrorists. "After a while, I noticed a headline scrolling at the bottom of the screen", he recalls. It said an Army officer had been killed in the operation. "Then they put out a flash naming the officer; it was my son, Lieutenant Triveni Singh " and his heart sank. But he still hoped that his son was fine, despite being aware that his son was the only Triveni Singh in the Army from that area, "In my mind, I knew my son was dead. But I did not tell anyone". So, he called up the base where his son was posted, "the officer at the other end said Triveni was all right. But I insisted on speaking to his superior."

He further added, "The media does not lie". On being told that the superior officers were at the Railway Station, he decided to go there and find out for himself. On reaching the base, they were informed of their son's brave actions that had saved over 1000 lives and made the 25-year-old a hero in the eyes of all those who witnessed that unbelievable feat. Captain Janmej Singh then went to the Railway Station and saw, with his own eyes, the location where his son



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had fought and saved so many lives, but had failed to save his own. He says, “there was not one spot on that station that wasn’t covered with bullet holes” and it made him wonder, “how can someone come out alive from such an onslaught of bullets”. “It is his reaction to any situation that reveals the mettle of a man. There were hundreds of people from all communities at the Jammu Railway Station. How you reach the place and how you achieve your target decides the number of innocent people who will live or die. Within fifteen seconds of beginning the operation, Triveni had achieved his target” said the proud father about his son’s brave actions and sacrifice as Lieutenant Singh left the anonymity of his military uniform behind and added his name in golden letters to the heroic annals of India’s fight against terrorism.



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CITATION

IC-61417 LIEUTENANT TRIVENI SINGH

5 JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS)

On 02 January 2004 at 1850 Hr, two heavily armed terrorists entered Jammu Railway Station and fired indiscriminately on the passengers, killing three and injuring 15. On receipt of information, Lieutenant Triveni Singh rushed to the incident site along with a Quick Reaction Team.

At 1925 hours, team led by Lieutenant Triveni Singh commenced search of the railway station along with police party. Consequent to search, there was a lull in firing and the terrorists were untraceable. While the officer was returning to his party, at 2020 hours, one terrorist, hiding under the staircase of the over-bridge, opened fire and injured a policeman. Lieutenant Triveni Singh immediately rushed and closed in 'with the terrorist, who was attempting to move towards the out gate of the station and killed him instantly. Second terrorist who was hiding close by started firing and lobbed a grenade at Lieutenant Triveni Singh. In exchange of fire, one bullet hit Lieutenant Triveni Singh on his upper lip and fatally wounded him. Despite being injured Lieutenant Triveni Singh charged, grappled with terrorist and killed him at close quarters. In this act of exemplary display of bravery and courage of exceptional order Lieutenant Triveni Singh killed both the terrorists single-handedly thereby saving the lives of many passengers stranded at the Jammu Railway Station. Later Lieutenant Triveni Singh succumbed to injuries.

Lieutenant Triveni Singh, thus, displayed most conspicuous bravery, raw courage and made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of Indian Army for the safety of numerous lives.

Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No. _____ dated _____



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2. Honourpoint: An memorial for every Indian Soldier. Lieutenant Triveni Singh,Ashoka Chakra (Accessed on 12 January 2023)
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2. Statue of martyr Lt Triveni Singh unveiled (Accessed on 12 January 2023)
<https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/statue-of-martyr-lt-triveni-singh-unveiled/>
3. अशोक चक्र विजेता लेफ्टिनेंट त्रिवेणी सिंह का 15वां श्रद्धांजलि समारोह उनके नाम पर बने स्कूल में मनाया
<https://www.bhaskar.com/punjab/pathankot/news/15th-tribute-ceremony-of-ashok-chakra-winner-lt-triveni-singh-celebrated-in-his-school-named-after-him-030027-3569869.html>
4. OUR SOLDIER'S BRAVERY STORIES- Lt Triveni Singh (Accessed on 12 January 2023)
<https://atharvafoundation.in/oneforall/Triveni-Singh.html>
5. ARMY PAYS HOMAGE TO BRAVEHEART LT TRIVENI SINGH ASHOK CHAKRA (P) (Accessed on 12 January 2023)
<http://kashmirtimes.com/newsdet.aspx?q=113036>



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VIDEOS

Jai Jawan Jai Kisan: Story of Lt. Triveni Singh, who saved numerous lives before attaining martyrdom (Source: YouTube ABP Sanjha)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWBAVnJjbCc>

Vande Mataram | Story of Lt. Triveni Singh (Source: Youtube AAJ TAK)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcOQ9dnI3R8>

देखिए जम्मू के रक्षक त्रिवेणी सिंह की शौर्यगाथा | (Source: YouTube Bharat Tak)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMsGFICA9TM>

Jammu Railway Station पर लेफ़्टिनेंट त्रिवेणी ने 2 आतंकियों को मार सैकड़ों की बचाई जान।
Defence Diary (Source: YouTube Bharat Takk)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sx1NBE-wXTY>

Lieutenant Triveni Singh AC | True Story | Indian Army | Jammu Kashmir Railway Station |
In Hindi (Source: Shivalik Journal)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAnWrcZrjKw>

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MEMORIALS

- In the memory of Lieutenant Triveni Singh, a Triveni Dwar stands tall in Pathankot, Punjab. On 04 January 2022 a floral wreath laying ceremony took place to commemorate the bravery of this officer.



Floral tribute being paid to, Lt Triveni Singh during a simple function at Pathankot.

Source: <https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/rich-tribute-paid-to-martyr-triveni-singh>