



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**



### **BRIGADIER KAILASH PRASAD PANDE**

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	IC - 4128
<b>RANK</b>	Brigadier
<b>NAME</b>	Kailash Prasad Pandey
<b>SON OF</b>	R R Pandey
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	The Regiment of Artillery
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>	25 August, 1945
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Maha Vir Chakra / December 1971
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	1971 Indo-Pak War
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**

Brigadier Kailash Prasad Pandey was born on 04 July 1925 in a family which had a long history of serving in the military. He was born in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. During his graduation years at Gwalior's Victoria College, former Prime Minister of India Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee was his class fellow. His family had a tradition of its male members joining the Army and he was to follow suit. He was commissioned in 1945 into the Royal Indian Artillery and posted to 42 Field Regiment. Throughout his Military career there have been several accomplishments. He became an Instructor in Gunnery (IG) after qualifying on the Long Gunnery Staff Course and later graduated from the Defense Services Staff College Wellington. Having been a Field gunner to begin with, he later became a Mountain Gunner and a diehard one at that. In 1961, he raised 145 Mountain Battery at Bareilly.

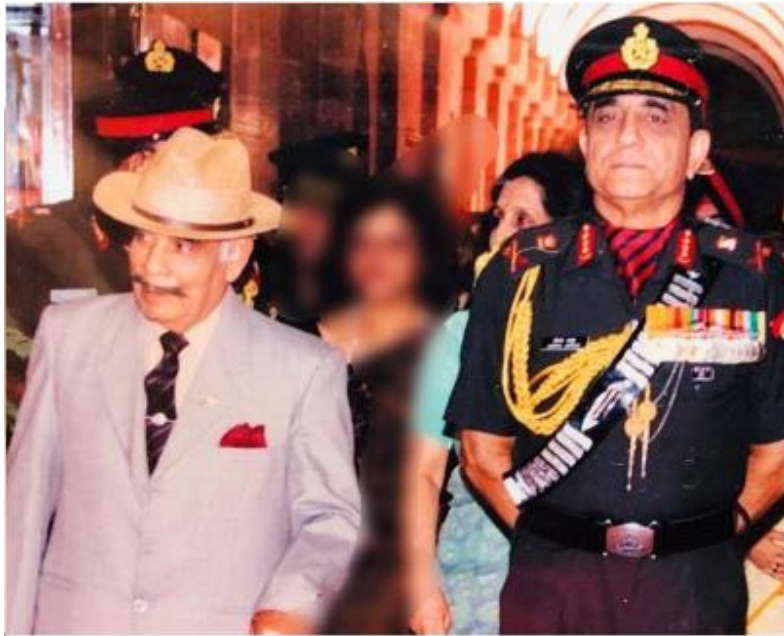
He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1964 and was asked to raise 56 Mountain Composite Regiment (pack). The Famed 4 Hazara Mountain Battery (Frontier Force) and his own erstwhile 145 Mountain Battery joined the Regiment later in the same year. After a very successful command of the Regiment, in 1966, he was posted to the Indian Military Academy Dehradun as a Battalion Commander. He was flamboyant and full of verve with a tough exterior (a put on for dramatic effect, because he had gem of a heart otherwise). He was full of the Gunner spirit and enthused many outstanding Gentlemen Cadets (GCs) to join the Regiment of Artillery. He was popularly Known by as Tom Pandey, probably because of his josh and short stature. In 1970 he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier and posted as Commander 2 Artillery Brigade on India's North East border with Tiber and Burma (now Myanmar). His reputation as a professional soldier and a dynamic leader had preceded him. He commanded the Artillery Brigade for a year plus and ensured that the training was hard, realistic and enjoyable. In 1971 when the trouble erupted in East Pakistan with millions of refugees pouring into India, the 1971 Indo-Pak War was forced upon us by Pakistan.

India gained Independence in 1947, and the partition resulted in the creation of Pakistan. The foundation of Pakistan was laid by the Muslim League based on the two-nation theory. Pakistan comprised two Wings- East and West Pakistan which were geographically separated by 1600 kms Indian territory. The two Wings of Pakistan were culturally and linguistically different and the diversities between the two Wings could not be bridged by an emotional appeal to religion. Consequently, fissures started erupting in the political body of Pakistan soon after the Independence and with each passing year it widened. In the absence of appropriate defense arrangements, the people of East Pakistan felt isolated and abandoned. Finally, the malfeasance of Pakistani leadership during Cyclone Bhola and the overwhelming support for the Awami



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

League in the 1970 elections, proved the proverbial last straw on the camel's back.<sup>1</sup> The Awami League led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (of East Pakistan) secured an absolute majority in the general elections held in December 1970. This entitled the League to form a Government in Pakistan. However, Pakistan's military rulers denied this democratic right to the Awami League, in connivance with the PPP, led by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. This arbitrary act of government caused deep resentment among the population of East Pakistan resulting in widespread protests. When the slide became unmanageable, the Pakistani rulers resorted to a midnight crackdown on 25 March 1971. Government ordered a military crackdown and the Pakistan army under Lieutenant General Tikka Khan unleashed a reign of terror and massacred thousands of Bengalis in a genocide code-named 'Operation Searchlight'. Pakistan launched its attack against India on 03 December 1971. The Indo-Pak War of 1971 was the first war when the Indian Government engaged all three services on a large scale. India unfolded its plan of attack in East Pakistan following pre-emptive air strikes from Pakistan on 03 December 1971.



Brigadier Kailash Prasad Pande (left) with son-in-law General Deepak Kapoor, ex-COAS

The Indian Army began preparing for the war meticulously. Mukti Bahini trained and supported by India now began skirmishing with the Pakistani Forces all along the India - East Pakistan border, gradually escalating to a level when regular Indian units and formations were drawn into the conflict to assist the Mukti Bahini. One such operation was the capture of Dhalai post by 61 Mountain Brigade being commanded by Brigadier Shiv Yadav. The operation was set to begin

---

<sup>1</sup> The India-Pakistan War of 1971: A History. S.N Prasad and U.P. Thapliyal. (2014). Natraj Publishers and Ministry of Defence, India



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**

on 28 October 1971. Brigadier Pande had been directed earlier in the month of July to move to this area with selected staff to function as the Artillery Adviser. Captain Deepak Kapoor who would later rise to become the COAS was then his GSO-3 and later became his son-in-law was part of his group. The Battle turned out to be fierce with many casualties on our side which included Brigadier Yadav who had to be evacuated. The Corps Commander, Lieutenant General Sagat Singh arrived on the scene of battle and ordered Brigadier Tom Pande to take command of the Brigade and carry on with the attack. It was a hard-fought battle where Brig Pande led from the front with innovation and guile. The Corps Commander was extremely pleased with the performance, especially Brig Pande's leadership and immediately recommended him for MVC. Not only that, General Sagat Singh now directed him to take over the Brigade formally. It was a rare honour for an Artillery Brigade Commander to be given such a prestigious assignment in the middle of a battle. Brigadier Kailash Prasad Pande lived up to the trust and confidence reposed in him by his superior, he went on to achieve many more spectacular victories with 61 Mountain Brigade at Chandina on 07 December, Daudkhandi on 09 December and Mynawati on 16 December, at par with some of the higher formations operating alongside. On 16 December Brigadier Atif, the Garrison Commander at Mynawati surrendered to Brigadier Kailash Prasad Pande along with five thousand troops. It is believed that during the course of the war, he was thrice recommended for Maha Vir Chakra. And for his commendable display of conspicuous courage and exemplary leadership during the Indo-Pak War of 1971, he was awarded Maha Vir Chakra.

After the liberation of Bangladesh, the Indian Army was promptly withdrawn from there. 61 Mountain Brigade, now upgraded to a Brigade Group was however asked to stay on and was placed at the disposal of the Bangladesh government for pacifying restive areas in the East. For six months the Brigade Group helped put down uprisings and rebellions in the Hill Tracts of Chittagong, suffering casualties but delivered the goods and as an aphorism came to be referred to as the Phantom Brigade.

Brigadier Pande took premature retirement and went and settled down in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, his home state. Madhya Pradesh government was only too glad to welcome the war hero and wasted little time in utilizing his services. Brigadier Pande was made Director General of the Home Guards and also got involved in looking after the welfare of Ex-Servicemen. In 1984 when the Bhopal Gas Tragedy occurred, Brigadier Pande was given charge of the Red Cross Organization. He did his best to provide relief and succor to the victims to the maximum extent possible. Later, Brigadier Pande was sent to Sri Lanka during Indian Army's Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**

Brigadier Kailash Pande passed away on 04 February 2010, while attending the Artillery Reunion, at Deolali. His son-in-law, General Deepak Kapoor the then COAS (Fifth of the five Gunner Chiefs) was there. It was a proud day for the family that turned tragic and poignant. There was a large gathering of the veterans and senior serving gunners who had gathered at the Nasik Road crematorium to pay their last respects to a truly great personality from the Indian Army.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**

## CITATION

Brigadier Kailash Prasad Pande (IC-4128) 61 Mountain Brigade  
(Effective date of Award: 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1971)

Brigadier K.P. Pande's mountain brigade was assigned the task of clearing a well-fortified position in the Eastern Sector in December 1971. The task was successfully completed mainly due to Brigadier Pande's inspiring leadership. He was always well forward, unmindful of his safety, encouraging troops and directing the battle. The brigade group advanced forty miles in 72 hours, effectively bottling up the enemy and capturing key posts. When lodgment was attained in the fortress of Mynamati defences, the brigade was subjected to determined enemy attacks supported by tanks. Against all the relentless pressure of the enemy, the brigade held on to the defence until surrender by the enemy commander.

Throughout the operations, Brigadier K.P Pande displayed gallantry, leadership and devotion to duty of a very high order.

---

Reference: Gazette of India, Notification 123 Pres/72,16.12.72



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## REFERENCES

1. Mahavir Chakra (MVC) Awardee: Brig Kailash Prasad Pande, MVC (retd)  
<http://twidi.in/node/1438>
2. Operations in Jammu And Kashmir S.N. Prasad. Dr. Dharam Pal (2005). Natraj Publishers And Ministry Of Defence, Government Of India
3. Stories of Heroism (PVC & MVC) Winners Dr. B.C.Chakravorty.(1995). Ministry of Defence, Government of India
4. Portraits of Valour: India's Highest Gallantry Awards And Their Recipients. S S Gandhi.(2006). The Defence Review Publicatio
5. 1971 India-Pak War: Victory Flame Reaches Home Of Late Brigadier Kailash Prasad Pande  
<https://www.businessworld.in/article/1971-India-Pak-war-Victory-Flame-reaches-home-of-Late-Brigadier-Kailash-Prasad-Pande/17-12-2020-354952/>
6. 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh': Family members of late Maha Vir Chakra awardee felicitated  
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/swarnim-vijay-varsh-family-members-of-late-maha-vir-chakra-awardee-felicitated/articleshow/79778011.cms?from=mdr>
7. Tributes paid to Brigadier KP Pande  
<https://www.theindiapost.com/nation/madhya-pardesh/bhopal/tributes-paid-to-brigadier-kp-pande/>
8. Defending Kashmir (Written by Official History of the Jammu & Kashmir Operations) (Accessed on 08 October 2022)
9. Independence: A Concise History by Lieutenant General Vijay Oberoi, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM (Retd) (Accessed on 08 October 2022)  
<https://usiofindia.org/publication/usi-journal/indias-wars-since-independence-a-concise-history/>
10. Indo-Pak War, 1947-48: The History and its Current Ramifications by Col Jaibans Singh (Accessed on 08 October 2022)  
<http://www.indiandefencereview.com/news/indo-pak-war-1947-48-the-history-and-its-current>



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## VIDEOS

1971 India-Pak war: Victory Flame reaches home of Late Brigadier Kailash Prasad Pande (Source: ANI News)

<https://youtu.be/JUbZpa4askk>

Watch: Swarnim Vijay Mashaal reaches Late Brig KP Pande's home; family felicitated (Source: Hindustan Times)

<https://youtu.be/qE7IjslNW54>

Kashmir 1947: Anatomy of an invasion (Source: WION YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5PKINSqVdU>

Kashmir पर जब 1947 में कबायिलियों ने हमला कर दिया था. Aisa Kaise Hua (Source: BBC Hindi YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehHWCpZh1IQ>

Gravitas: The story of the 1947 tribal invasion of Kashmir (Source: WION YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4n1L7HV7rdI>

Disclaimer\*\*<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Disclaimer: Photos, links to publications and videos presented here are not intended to serve as a substitute for consultation and should only be used at the user's own risk. These are primarily shared because of the extensive coverage available on the subject. No copyright infringement is intended and it is not intended to hurt anyone or make sales of any sort. All copyright belongs solely to the relevant owners/creators. Usage here is purely for Fair Usage in accordance with the Indian Copyright Act 1957.





रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**

## MEMORIALS

- Family members of late Maha Vir Chakra awardee Brigadier Kailas Prasad Pande were felicitated as apart of 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh', the 50th anniversary year celebrations of India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war that led to the birth of Bangladesh. One of the four 'Swarnim Vijay Mashaals', or the golden victory torches, was brought by the Army at the event here that took place near the family's home. Moreover, soil was also collected from around their home to be taken to the National War Memorial (NWM).



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**

## DETAILS FOR USI FOR AN EXTENDED RESEARCH



**BRIGADIER KAILASH PRASAD PANDE**

NAME CHANGE OF AWARDEE (If any, give references)	
---	--



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

<b>DATE OF AWARD</b>	6 December, 1971
<b>MOTHER'S NAME</b>	
<b>DATE OF BIRTH/DEATH</b>	04 July 1925/ 04 February 2010
<b>BIRTH PLACE</b>	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
<b>SCHOOL/COLLEGE</b>	Victoria College (Maharani Laxmi Bai Govt. College of Excellence)
<b>RETIRED/IN SERVICE</b>	Retired
<b>NOK (NAME/RELATION)</b>	Saroj Pande/Wife, General Deepak Kapoor/Son-in-law

<b>NOK ADDRESS</b>	44, PNB Colony Idgah Hills Bhopal Madhya Pradesh 462001 India
<b>NOK PHONE NO./EMAIL</b>	
<b>REMARK (if any other)</b>	He studied at Gwalior's Victoria College, now known as Maharani Laxmi Bai Govt. College Of Excellence, where the former Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee was his classmate.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**