



CAPTAIN KAPIL SINGH THAPA

SERVICE NUMBER	IC-14682
RANK	Captain
NAME	Kapil Singh Thapa
SON OF	Subedar Major D S Thapa
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Dehradun/ Uttranchal
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	3 JAT
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	30 June 1963
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous)/ 21 September 1965
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	1965 Indo-Pak War
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	

Captain Kapil Singh Thapa was born to Subedar Major D S Thapa on 02 November 1937, in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. He studied at New Forest Higher Secondary School, Dehradun. He was commissioned into the 3 JAT on 30 June 1963. Captain Kapil Singh Thapa was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra on 21 September 1965.

The JAT Regiment is one of the oldest regiments of the Indian Army. It is an Infantry Regiment that claims its origins to the Calcutta Native Militia raised in 1795, which later became an Infantry Battalion of the Bengal Army. Jat people were historically considered to be martial class and were enlisted in the British Army when the policy on class Regiments came. In 1922, during the grouping of the class Regiment the 9 Jat Regiment was formed by bringing under a single Regiment, four active Battalions and one Training Battalion. In the post-independent era, the JAT Regiment had lived up to their reputation and holds the distinction of fighting in all the wars that India fought since its independence including the IPKF to Sri Lanka. Their battle cry: Jat Balwan, Jai Bhagwan was adopted in 1955. 17 JAT received "Unit Citation" from the Chief of the Army Staff, General VP Malik for their conspicuous courage in the Kargil War.

The genesis of the Indo-Pak conflict can be traced back to the year 1947. The bone of contention between India and Pakistan are the attempts by Pakistan to annex the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir by any means. The ceasefire line in Jammu and Kashmir and our frontiers with Pakistan have remained a sensitive zone for years. Pakistan has on and off resorted to firing, incursions and intrusions at several points of these frontiers, compelling India to adopt defensive measures. These attempts of Pakistan have been met by the Indian Armed Forces with commendable bravery and steely resilience, but always with great restraint to not escalate the conflict. The Indo-Pak War of 1965 was the second war fought between these two bordering countries. While India was still recovering from the Sino-India War of 1962, Pakistan saw it as an opportunity to acquire Jammu and Kashmir with might, presuming India to be weak in terms of defence preparation. The war began on 24 April 1965, when the Pakistan Army attacked Indian territory in the Rann of Kutch and penetrated six to eight miles inside the Indian territory. This act of illegal occupation of Indian territory constituted violation of the Indo-Pak Border Agreement, 1960 and the international law as per the United Nations Charter. The Pakistani forces subsequently intruded in Kashmir with the launch of Operation Gibraltar.

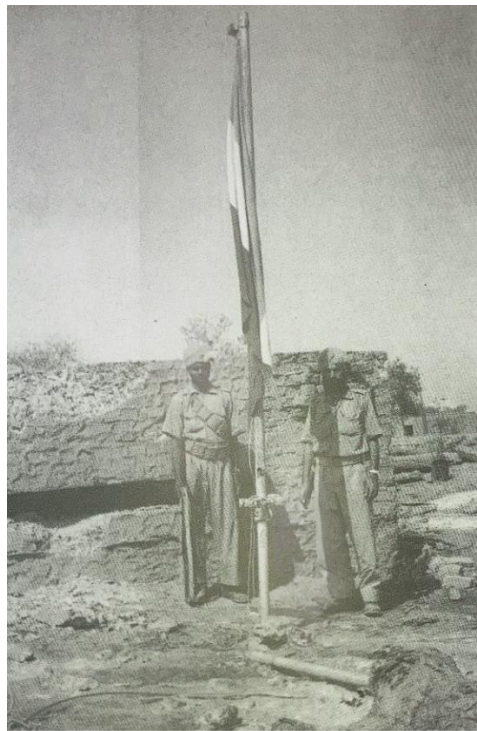
3 JAT, backed by divisional artillery, planned a significant flanking manouvre covering 6000 yards to seize Dograi in the Lahore Sector from the North. On 21 September, 3 JAT carried out extensive patrolling to gather intelligence on Dograi, which was to be attacked in the night. It was discovered that the Pakistanis were well entrenched. There were minefield and wire entanglements. The town itself was guarded by reinforced concrete pill-boxes around its three approaches.



3 JAT at Dograi

Source:- Official History of the Indo-Pak War, 1965, History Division, Ministry of Defence, Government of India:
History of the Indo-Pak War, 1965, by B. C. Chakravorty, ed. S. N. Prasad et al., New Delhi 1992

Lieutenant Colonel Desmond Hayde led 3 JAT, and was the first to cross The International Border on 06 September 1965. Despite a successful initial attack capturing the hamlet of Dograi, insufficient support and air cover forced a withdrawal to Santpura. After a fifteen-day wait, the unit launched a second attack on Dograi on the night of September 21/22. Captain Kapil Singh Thapa was tasked with capturing the North Western edge of Dograi village.



Indian Flag at Dograi

Source:- Official History of the Indo-Pak War, 1965, History Division, Ministry of Defence, Government of India:
History of the Indo-Pak War, 1965, by B. C. Chakravorty, ed. S. N. Prasad et al., New Delhi 1992

Captain Thapa, along with his men, initiated a bold assault on the assigned target on 21 September, 1965. Leading his men through a minefield, he personally spearheaded the attack on well-defended enemy positions, engaging the enemy with grenades and bayonets. Despite heavy resistance, they successfully captured the objectives. Tragically, Captain Thapa sustained severe injuries in the intense firefight and ultimately sacrificed his life at the age of 27. He displayed outstanding courage, grit and fighting spirit in the highest traditions of the Indian Army. Captain Kapil Singh Thapa was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra for this conspicuous gallantry.

CITATION

On the night of the 21st/22nd September 1965, during the Battle of Dograi, Captain Kapil Singh Thapa was given the task of capturing the north western edge of Dograi village. He personally led his men through a minefield and assaulted the enemy position. He engaged the enemy with grenades and bayonets and captured the objective, but was himself killed in the encounter. Captain Kapil Singh Thapa displayed conspicuous gallantry and determination in the best traditions of the Army.

Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No.70-Pres/66 dated October 8,1966

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