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MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**



### **CAPTAIN PRADIP KUMAR GOUR**

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	IC-8164
<b>RANK</b>	Captain
<b>NAME</b>	Pradip Kumar Gour
<b>SON OF</b>	M P Gour
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	New Delhi, Delhi
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	660 AOP SQUADRON, REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/COMMISSION</b>	02 August 1964
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 14 December 1971
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	1971 Indo-Pak War
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



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Captain Pradip Kumar Gour was born on 15 December 1945 in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. His father's name was Shri M P Gour. His family shifted to New Delhi where he completed his secondary schooling from Harcourt Butler Higher Secondary School, New Delhi and he joined the Indian Army as an Emergency Commissioned Officer on 02 August 1964. He was commissioned into 85 Light Regiment of Artillery. The unit was located in Kargil Sector during the 1965 War with Pakistan. He later joined the Air OP. He was an Air OP Pilot with 660 Air OP Squadron on the Western Front during the 1971 Indo - Pak War. On 05 December 1971, Captain PK Gour was inter-posted to 9 Air OP Flight to make up the deficiency of fully operational pilots. He flew numerous missions deep inside enemy territory, directing enemy fire and obtaining vital information about the enemy. On 09 December 1971, No 9 Air OP Flight moved to Behrampur ALG as part of accretion of aviation assets in Shakargarh Sector.

The Regiment of Artillery was raised on 28 September 1827. It was initially raised as Bombay Artillery and was later renamed 5 Bombay Mountain Battery. In May 1857, the mutiny by Indian soldiers started in the artillery of the Army of the Bengal Presidency. The incident prompted a complete ban on Indian artillery units, except the mountain artillery batteries in select provinces. The decision was reversed in the mid-1930s when the first of the Field Regiments of the Indian Army were raised. The Field Regiments support the formations on the field. The Regimental motto of Artillery Regiment is 'Sarvatra Izzat-O-Iqbal' which means 'Everywhere with Honour and Glory'. The regiment has given Indian Army five Chiefs, the Artillery



(Source: <https://m.rediff.com/news/special/the-mantra-that-handed-the-indian-army-victory-in-1971/20160513.html>)



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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 defence 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 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. The 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.



(Source: Banaras Vocals <https://banarasvocals.com/news/india/features/1971-indo-pak-war-on-this-day-pakistan-surrendered-in-the-indo-pak-war-of-1971/27448>)

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<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



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On 14 December, Captain Pradip Kumar Gour and Captain Gurmeet Singh Punia took off in aircraft No. 558 to register targets for an attack planned in the afternoon. By then, the enemy had started mounting special Sabre missions to take care of them. They managed to dodge the Sabres by taking evasive action but continued with their mission. However, a little later, the Sabres appeared again, fired a rocket which again missed the Krishak but one of the Sabres flying over Nainkot fired a long burst of canon which hit the fuel tank setting the Krishak on fire and killing Captain Gour instantly. Showing remarkable presence of mind, Captain GS Punia, with the controls partially effective, managed to crash land the burning aircraft behind own defended localities. Captain Punia suffered serious third degree burns but survived and was evacuated to Military Hospital Udhampur by helicopter. The Krishak was completely burnt. For his conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary devotion, Captain PK Gour was awarded MVC (Posthumous) and Captain Punia the Vir Chakra.



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## CITATION

IC-16177 CAPTAIN PRADIP KUMAR GOUR, REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY  
(Effective date of award-14 December 1971)

Captain Pradip Kumar Gour was an air observation post pilot with an Air Observation Post Squadron, deployed on the Western Front. throughout the operations, he flew round the clock millions deep inside enemy territory, directing artillery fire and obtaining vital information about the enemy un-deterred by heavy small arms and artillery air burst fire. On The 7th December 1971. Captain Gour was given the task of locating and registering targets deep inside enemy territory. This was an important mission vital to the success of an impending attack by own troops. While on this mission. Captain Gour saw three enemy Sabre-aircraft operating in the area. Instead of returning to the base and avoiding the danger, he decided to continue with the mission in view of its vital nature. He carried on with his mission evading the sabre jets who attacked him but was eventually shot down them.

In this action, Captain Pradip Kumar Gour displayed conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary devotion to made the supreme sacrifice.

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



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## 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>

India Pakistan Conflict -1971 (Source: Films Division YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jC1-M63kOPc&t=1342s>

Indo Pak 1971 War: गोलियों की बौछार और India-Pakistan के कमांडरों ने लिखे पत्र. Vivechna (Source: YouTubeBBC Hindi)

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

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

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