



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



NAIK DIGENDRA KUMAR

SERVICE NUMBER	2883178A
RANK (At the time of Award)	Naik
NAME	Digendra Kumar
SON OF	Shiv Dan Singh
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Village Jhalara, Sikar, Rajasthan
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	2 Rajputana Rifles
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	03 September 1985
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Maha Vir Chakra / 13 June 1999
WAR/ BATTLE/ OPERATION	Kargil War/ Op VIJAY
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATES	



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Naik Digendra Kumar was born on 3 July 1969, to Shiv Dan Singh and Raj Gore. He is native of a village named Jhalar in Sikar, Rajasthan. He was enrolled into the Rajputana Rifles of the Indian Army on 3 September 1985.

Naik Digendra Singh, was a part of 2 Rajputana Rifles (2 RAJ RIF) which was deployed in Dras sector of Jammu and Kashmir for the capture of Tololing heights. The Rajputana Rifles is the senior most Rifle Regiment of the Indian Army. Its first battalion was raised in January 1775. The Rajputana Rifles has a long and glorious history. The regiment took part in some of the bloodiest battles in many theatres of the world. During World War II, the battalions of this regiment fought in every theatre in which the Indian Army was involved. Three of them, the 1st, 4th and Medium Machine Gun Battalions fought in Eritrea in North Africa and Italy as part of the famous 4th Indian Division, whose fighting record was one of the finest in World War II. Post-independence the regiment took part in many battles and operations including the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Congo. The Rajputana Rifles fought gallantly in the 1965 and 1971 India-Pakistan wars. During the Kargil War, the Rajputana Rifles displayed exemplary valour and determination especially in the Tololing Operation. The 2 RAJ RIF was conferred India's first 'Instant Unit Citation' by General VP Malik, the then Chief of the Army Staff. In the year 1999, during the Kargil War the men of this regiment displayed exceptional bravery and fortitude in the capture of Tololing Heights.

The Kargil war of 1999 was fought 52 years after independence. The genesis of 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 war commenced shortly after the signing of the Lahore declaration in 1999, when the Pakistan army surreptitiously occupied the winter vacated posts of the Indian Army. This act is thought to be the brain-child of General Pervez Musharraf, then chief of the Pakistan Army. On 3 May 1999, intrusions were detected. On 26 May¹, the first air to ground strike was launched by the Indian Airforce (IAF), followed by Operation Vijay, by the Indian Army to evict the intruders from the Indian territory². As the Kargil War progressed, the capture of Tololing became essential to flush out the Pakistani intruders. 56 Mountain Brigade was given the task to capture Tololing.

¹ Kargil 1999: The Impregnable Conquered Lt. Gen Y M Bammi. (2002) Gorkha Publisher

² From Surprise to Reckoning: The Kargil Review Committee Report (2000) Sage Publications, New Delhi (Pg no 104-105)



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The Tololing Heights was the deepest penetration beyond the LC by the Pakistani intruders. Tololing and another feature named Point 4590 were among the vital peaks for India. Both the peaks were crucial as they overlooked the Dras sector and a large section of National Highway, giving enemy a visual access to every movement on the National Highway. The intruders at the Tololing top stayed put and didn't open fire until they were discovered on 12 May 1999. This time was utilized by the intruders to build such an infrastructure that every movement of assaulting Indian troops would be met by heavy volume of accurate firepower.

On 22 May 1999, 18 GRENADIERS launched their first attack on the Tololing top. The battalion attempted several such remarkable attacks yet, were only able to encircle the enemy position in the span of two weeks. During the attempts to recapture the Tololing Top, 18 GRENADIERS also lost a valiant officer Major Rajesh Singh Adhikari on 30 May 1999. The responsibility to capture the top was then assigned to 2 RAJ RIF, a regiment which operated in the valley and had undergone extensive training at the Corps Battle School in Khrew. 2 RAJ RIF was inducted into the area from the Kashmir valley and it reached Dras Sector on 1 June 1999.

To recapture Tololing top and the surrounding features, a multi-directional plan was approved by Major General Mohinder Puri General Officer Commanding 8 Mountain Division. To ensure this attempt is a success, it was absolutely necessary to have adequate number of artillery fire units for each assaulting battalion. It was essential that the multi-directional attack should begin at the same time, as per plan, otherwise enemy would guess the position and take appropriate action. However, when the difficulty arose in the allotment of artillery, it was decided to commence the attacks within an hour or forty-five minutes of each other, to give adequate fire support to each assaulting column.

On 13 June 1999, at 0600 Hr, Naik Digendra Kumar's company attacked on Tololing feature in the Drass sector. He was the commander of the light machine gun group. The goal was to capture a well-defended enemy position. While the Assault Group was approaching its target, it came under heavy enemy fire from well concealed universal machine guns (UMG), heavy machine guns (HMG), and various small weapons causing several casualties in the assault group. A gunshot struck Naik Digendra Kumar in the left arm. Naik Digendra Kumar, undeterred by his own wounded, continued to fire with one hand, bringing effective and accurate light machine gun fire on the attackers. While Indian soldiers advanced towards the target, his precise fire kept the enemy's head down. Despite his critical injuries, the accurate fire support ensured the Assault Group was able to finally capture the objective. In the face of the enemy, Naik Digendra Kumar demonstrated exceptional gallantry, courage, and grit. For his conspicuous bravery, indomitable courage and agility, Naik Digendra Kumar was awarded Maha Vir Chakra.



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CITATION

Naik Digendra Kumar (2883178), 2 Rajputana Rifles
(Effective date of the Award: 13th June, 1999)

Naik Digendra Kumar was commander of the light machine gun group during his company's assault on Tololing feature in the Drass sector. The objective was to capture a well-fortified enemy position.

On 13 June 1999, when the Assault Group was nearing its objective, it came under effective enemy fire of well concealed universal machine gun, heavy machine gun and other small arms leading to heavy casualties in the assault group. Naik Digendra Kumar was hit by a bullet in his left arm. Undaunted and unmindful of his own injury, Naik Digendra Kumar kept firing with one hand and brought down effective and accurate light machine gun fire on the enemy. His accurate fire kept the enemy's head down while his own men advanced towards the objective. Finally, under his effective covering fire, own troops physically assaulted the enemy position and cleared it after a fierce hand-to-hand fight.

Despite being seriously wounded, it was due to his courageous action that the Assault Group could finally capture the objective. Naik Digendra Kumar displayed conspicuous gallantry, courage and grit in the face of the enemy.

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



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2. From Surprise to Reckoning: The Kargil Review Committee Report (2000) Sage Publications, New Delhi
3. A Ridge Too Far: War in the Kargil heights 1999. Amarinder Singh. (2001). Patiala: Motibagh Palace.
4. Taygi, Satish Chandra. (2019). The Kargil Victory Battles From Peak to Peak. The Speaking Tigers in association with The United Service Institute of India

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1. Gandhi, S.S. Portraits of Valour: India's Highest Gallantry Awards and Their Recipients. The Defence Review. (Ed 2006).
2. Singh, Amarinder. (2001). A Ridge Too Far: War in the Kargil heights 1999. Patiala: Motibagh Palace.
3. Taygi, Satish Chandra. (2019). The Kargil Victory Battles From Peak to Peak. The Speaking Tigers in association with The United Service Institute of India
4. The Internet Archive (Accessed on 15 June 2022)
<https://web.archive.org/web/20090106211700/http://kargil.myiris.com/Gallantry/galstory.html>
5. The War Decorated India & Trust (Accessed on 15 June, 2022)
<https://twdi.in/node/1135>



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VIDEOS

Kargil war hero shot five times denied border war benefits (Source: India Today)
<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/video/digendra-kumar-border-war-benefits-kargil-war-hero-government-apathy-maha-vir-chakra-422214-2013-08-17>

NN Shaurya Sammelan: Tale of Kargil hero Digendra Kumar's patriotism (Source: Youtube News Nation)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJ1THJiz1uc>

First India - Aamne Saamne with Kargil Hero Digendra Singh (Source: Youtube First News India)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzkm-yWXmdc>

Disclaimer**³

OTHER INTERESTING RESOURCES⁴

Kargil War की अनोखी कहानियां | Indian Army | LallanTop Show | 26 July
(Source: Youtube The Lallantop)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2E2NSuD_qEY

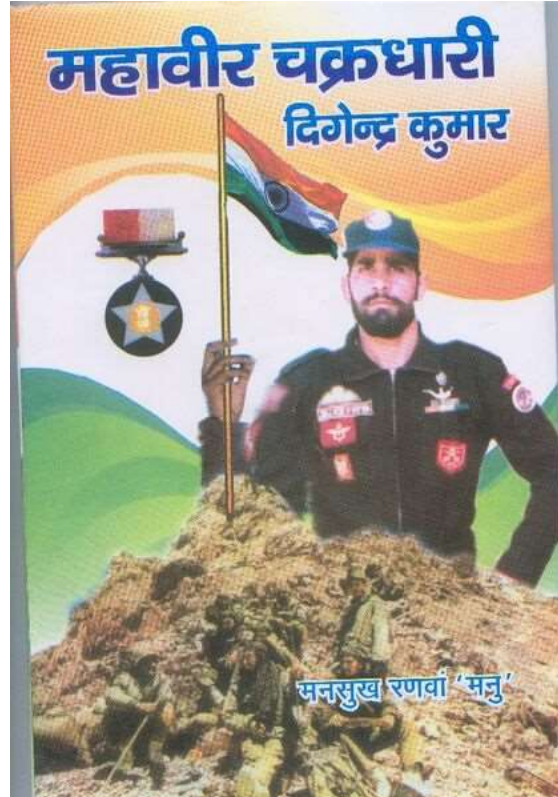
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A book by author and poet Mansukh Ranwa, titled Mahavir Chakradhari: Naik Digendra Kumar has been written on the brave deeds of Naik Digendra Kumar.



(Source: https://www.jatland.com/home/Digendra_Kumar)