



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



SUBEDAR IMLIAKUM AO (Then, SEPOY)

SERVICE NUMBER	14702937M
RANK	Subedar (Then, Sepoy)
NAME	Imliakum Ao
SON OF	Arennungba
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Chuchuyampang, Mokokchung, Nagaland
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	2 NAGA
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	04 May 1994
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Maha Vir Chakra / 08 July 1999
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	Kargil War / Op VIJAY
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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Subedar Imliakum Ao (Then, Sepoy) was born on 25 July 1976 to Mr Arennungba and Mrs Aoinla. He belongs to Chuchuyampang, Mokokchung, Nagaland. He enrolled into the Naga Regiment on 04 May 1994. During Op VIJAY, Subedar Imliakum Ao's Battalion 2 NAGA, was deployed in the Kargil Sector. His contribution to the capture of a position situated at the height of 15,000 feet in Mushkoh Valley made him a proud recipient of Maha Vir Chakra.



Sepoy (Later Subedar) Imliakum Ao greeting President KR Naryanan
(Photo Source: Rashtrapati Bhawan Archive)

The Naga Regiment is one of the younger infantry Regiments of Indian Army. The first Battalion of Naga Regiment (1 NAGA) was raised on 01 November 1970 at the Kumaon Regimental Centre, Ranikhet Uttarakhand. It comprised of Naga rebels and ex- militants who joined Indian Armed forces. While the training of these new recruits was still in progress there was turbulence on the borders with then, East Pakistan. 1 Naga was immediately deployed in the area. The Battalion which was not yet fully trained and ready for combat found itself on the battle-front in the Indo-Pak war of 1971. Yet, the Battalion displayed exceptional valour and combat skills in the Indo-Pak war of 1971. On 11 February 1985, the second Naga battalion (2 NAGA) was raised at Haldwani. 2 NAGA has contributed immensely during Operation Romeo in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir. It has been a part of the UN mission in Sudan, where it was awarded UN Force Commander's Appreciation Card. During the Kargil War, 2 NAGA contributed significantly



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to the capture of Twin Bump, Tiger Hill and Point 4875 complex. It also received Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Unit Citation for their service. The Regiment consists a majority of Naga recruits and a fair proportion Garhwali, Kumaoni and Gorkha soldiers.

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 03 May 1999, intrusions were detected. On 26 May ¹, 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.



Indian Soldiers during the battle of twin bump and Pimple Complex

Source: Heroes of Kargil

The Kargil War was fought in various Sub-Sectors. Each Sub-Sector had crucial points and areas which needed to be captured for an eventual victory. On 03/04 July 1999, 2 NAGA was entrusted to hold the left flank in the multipronged attack launched to capture the Tiger Hill. On 06 July 1999, during the operation to capture Point 4875, 2 NAGA was deployed in the Mushkoh Valley of Dras subsector. During the operation, they captured the Twin Bumps feature which paved a way to the success of Pt 4875's capture. Immediately after the capture of twin bumps, on 08 July, the

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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battalion launched a raid on the enemy mortar position situated at the height of 15,000 feet. During the attack Subedar Imliakum Ao (then, Sepoy) displayed exemplary valour and courage.

The enemy mortar position was effectively interfering with the progress of operations of 79 Mountain Brigade. The special mission was launched by 2 NAGA infiltrated through the enemy lines and approached the mortar position with caution. It was observed that enemy had posted sentries to guard against such a raid. Sepoy Imliakum Ao was entrusted by the Commanding Officer to silence the sentry. Displaying excellent mastery over field craft for which Nagas are famous for, he approached the enemy sentry on the outer perimeter by stealth and killed him soundlessly. He then moved forward and similarly eliminated one more sentry. This gallant act made possible for the assault to close in with the mortar position with total surprise. Imliakum then joined the Assault Group in overrunning the mortar position before the shocked enemy could react. With the bloodcurdling war cry of “*Jai Durga Naga*” the raiding party fell upon the startled Pakistanis who were manning the mortars. Three 120 mm and two 81 mm mortars were recovered during the raid by 2 NAGA along with a large stockpile of ammunition.

Sepoy Imliakum Ao’s valiant act led to the success of the raid. The valiant soldier closed in with the enemy with utter disregard of his personal safety. The thoroughly professional manner he eliminated the two sentries in quick successions ensured the success of the mission. For his daredevil courage, immense fighting spirit, tenacity of purpose, indomitable determination to succeed in the face of enormous odds and exemplary professionalism Subedar (then Sepoy) Imliakum Ao was awarded Maha Vir Chakra.³

³ The Heroes of Kargil Colonel Gurmeet Kanwal (2002) Army headquarters, New Delhi (Pg no 101)



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CITATION

14702937 Sepoy Imliakum, 2 Naga
(Effective date of award 08th July, 1999)

On 08 July 1999, Sepoy Imliakum volunteered to raid an enemy mortar position at a height of 15,000 feet in Mushkoh Valley in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sepoy Imliakum formed part of the Assault Group and was tasked to stealthily silence the enemy sentry who was on duty on the outer perimeter of enemy mortar position. Sepoy Imliakum approached the enemy sentry during broad daylight and killed him. Thereafter, he kept moving forward and killed one more sentry and subsequently stormed the mortar position along with the Assault Group.

Sepoy Imliakum showed exemplary courage and determination in personally killing two enemy soldiers. All through it was his determination, grit, cool confidence and raw courage in the face of the enemy which was instrumental in eliminating the enemy from the almost indomitable mortar position.

The elimination of enemy personnel by Sepoy Imliakum was a big success wherein three 120mm and two 81mm mortars were captured along with a huge stockpile of ammunition. The valiant action by Sepoy Imliakum, which was a true demonstration of valour in the presence of a well-entrenched enemy, was the sole factor which paved the way for a successful raid on the enemy mortar position which led to the destruction of the enemy dump.

Sepoy Imliakum, thus, showed exemplary courage in the face of enemy, sustained and successful performance in storming the enemy mortar position and killing two enemy soldiers.

Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No._____ dated_____



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