



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE



**CAPTAIN NEIKEZHAKUO KENGURUSE**

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	IC-58396A
<b>RANK</b>	Captain
<b>NAME</b>	Neikezhakuo Kenguruse
<b>SON OF</b>	Neiselie Kenguruse
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Village Nerhema, Kohima, Nagaland
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	2 Rajputana Rifles (On Attachment From ASC)
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>	12 December 1998
<b>AWARD/ DATE OF ACTION</b>	Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 28 June 1999
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	Kargil War/Op VIJAY
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



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Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse, fondly called as Neibu by his friends and Nimbu Sahab by his colleagues was born on 15 July 1974 to Neiselie Kenguruse and Dinuo Kenguruse. He was a resident of Nerhema village in Kohima, Nagaland. He completed his graduation from Kohima Science College and worked as a teacher in a government school before joining the Indian Army. Captain Kenguruse belonged to a warrior community and his great grandfather, who was his inspiration to join the Army, was a respected warrior of his village. He was commissioned into the Army Service Corps (ASC) of the Indian Army on 12 December 1998 and served on attachment with the 2 Rajputana Rifles. He is the only officer from the ASC to be awarded a Maha Vir Chakra.

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 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and medium Machine Gun Battalions fought in Eritrea in North Africa and Italy as part of the famous 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Division, whose fighting record was 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.

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 Kargil war of 1999 was fought 52 years after independence. 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 May <sup>1</sup>, 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 territory<sup>2</sup>. After two months of violent confrontation, the war came to an end on 26 July 1999.

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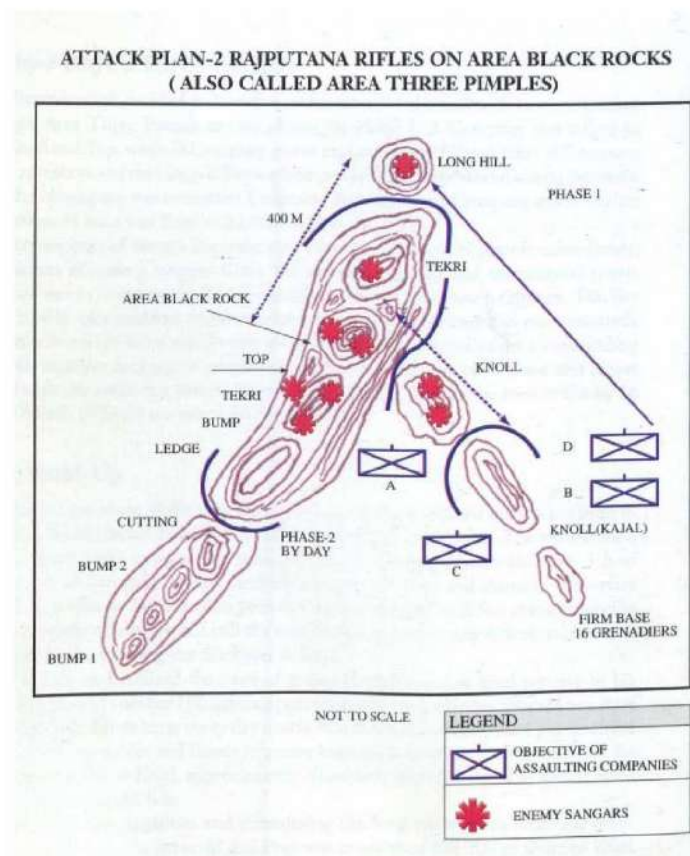
<sup>1</sup> Kargil 1999: The Impregnable Conquered Lt. Gen Y M Bammi. (2002) Gorkha Publisher

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



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The rugged heights in Dras sector provided unobstructed view of the National Highway 1 Alpha. The intruders from Pakistan had occupied well-coordinated defences on the heights. It was imperative for the Indian Army to clear the enemy from these features to secure the highway. After successful eviction of enemy from Tololing, the 2 Rajputana Rifles was tasked to capture Area Three Pimples Complex in the Dras sector. It is a cluster of sharp conical features in close proximity to each other between Sando and Tololing Nullahs and comprises of Knoll, Three Pimples and Lone Hill. Lieutenant Colonel MB Ravindranath, the officiating Commanding Officer of the 2 Rajputana Rifles sent out patrols to recce the area before the attack was launched. Based on the information from the patrols, it was decided that the best approach to attack Three Pimples was from the South-East direction. Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse was tasked to lead the Ghatak platoon to take down an enemy machine gun position located on a dominating height that was hindering the advance of the battalion from approaching the objective.



*Sketch Showing Plan of Attack on Area Black Rocks (Also Called Area Three Pimples)*

Source: Lt Col (Retd) YM Bammi, "Kargil 1999: The Impregnable conquered"



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On 28 June 1999, Captain Kenguruse and his platoon commenced the climb on a near vertical cliff to attack the enemy machine gun position. As Ghatak Platoon approached the cliff face, they came under heavy machine gun fire and Captain Kenguruse sustained splinter wounds in his abdomen. Despite bleeding profusely, he did not yield and motivated his men to continue the advance. The final hurdle was a rock wall that separated them from the enemy machine gun post. In an act of sheer valour, despite his injury, Captain Kenguruse removed his shoes to get a good grip and climbed up the rock wall, while carrying a rocket launcher. With complete disregard of his personal safety, Captain Kenguruse fired the rocket launcher at the enemy machine gun post to destroy it. Later, in hand-to-hand combat, he killed two enemy soldiers with his knife and two others with his rifle. He single-handedly managed to neutralise the enemy position which was hindering the battalion advance. However, in the course of his gallant action, Captain Kenguruse succumbed to his injuries.

Captain Kenguruse was awarded Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous) for displaying indomitable resolve, inspiring leadership and self-sacrifice in the highest tradition of the Indian Army. His medal citation read- "He displayed conspicuous gallantry, indomitable resolve, grit and determination beyond the call of duty and made the supreme sacrifice in the face of the enemy, in true traditions of the Indian Army." A memorial has been installed in his honour in Jalukie, Peren district in Nagaland and a statue has been installed at the Army Services Corps Headquarters (South) in Bengaluru.



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## CITATION

Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse (IC-58396), 2 Rajputana Rifles (ASC) (Posthumous)  
(Effective date of the Award: 28h June 1999)

Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse was the Ghatak platoon commander during the attack on area 'Black Rock' in the Drass Sector on the night of 28 June 1999 during 'Operation VIJAY'.

He volunteered to undertake a daring commando mission of attacking a well-sited enemy machine gun position, on a cliff face, which was heavily interfering with all the approaches to the main objective of the battalion. As the commando team scaled the cliff face, it came under intense mortar and automatic fire, which caused heavy casualties.

The officer sustained splinter injury in his abdomen. Bleeding profusely yet undeterred, he urged his men to carry on with the assault. On reaching the final cliff face, the commando team was halted by a sheer rock wall that separated them from the enemy machine gun post. The officer took off his shoes to get a good grip and scaled the rock wall carrying with him a rocket launcher, which he fired at the enemy position.

Unmindful of his personal safety, he thereafter charged at the enemy position and personally killed two men with his rifle and another two with his commando knife in a hand-to-hand combat before succumbing to his injury.

By his dare devil act, Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse single handedly neutralized the enemy position, which had held up the battalion's progress.

Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse displayed conspicuous gallantry indomitable resolve, grit and determination beyond the call of duty and made the supreme sacrifice in the face of the enemy, in true traditions of the Indian Army.

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



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2. Col. Gurmeet Kanwal. Heroes of Kargil. Army Headquarters, New Delhi. (2002)
3. Lt General (ret'd) YM Bammi, Kargil 1999: The Impregnable Conquered, Gorkha Publishers, New Delhi (2002)
4. Col SC Tyagi, "The Kargil Victory: Battles from Peak to Peak, Speaking Tiger Publication", New Delhi, 2009
5. Ballabh, Anand, "Insights into Indian Infantry Regiment: A Basic Factbook", Forward Books publication, New Delhi

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3. Meet Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse-The Kargil War Hero you have never heard of by Abhishek Saxena (indiatimes.com) (Accessed 21 April 2022)  
<https://www.indiatimes.com/culture/who-we-are/meet-captain-neikezhakuo-kenguruse--the-kargil-hero-you-have-never-heard-of-234587.html>
4. Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse of 2 Rajputana Rifles- Heroism beyond Kargil, (thestorypedia.com) (Accessed on 24 May 2022)  
<http://www.thestorypedia.com/news/captain-neikezhakuo-kenguruse-2-rajputana-rifles-heroism-beyond-kargil/>
5. Captain Neikezhakuo climbed Kargil's Icy slopes barefoot to defeat the enemy, (Arise Bharat) (Accessed on 24 May 2022)  
<https://arisebharat.com/2020/12/16/captain-neikezhakuo-climbed-kargils-icy-slopes-barefoot-to-defeat-the-enemy>
6. Statue of Kargil hero unveiled, (tribuneindia.com) (Accessed on 24 May 2022)  
<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/nation/statue-of-kargil-hero-unveiled-155623>
7. Army Service Corps honours its sole Mahavir Chakra Awardee (thehindu.com) (Accessed on 08 June 2022)  
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/army-services-corps-honours-its-sole-mahavir-chakra-awardee/article7850346.ece>



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## VIDEOS

1. NCC Kohima pays homage to late Captain Kenguruse (Source: NLTV)  
<https://youtu.be/WxqvoW13usI>
2. Story of Capt Neikezhakuo Kenguruse narrated by Shri Sunil Rane for “One for All and All for One” (Source: One for All, All for One)  
<https://youtu.be/NgBP1XPEqek>
3. Shaurya Tales, Episode 4 narrated by Capt Yashika Hatwal Tyagi (Source: Capt Yashika Hatwal Tyagi)  
<https://youtu.be/0wgwdzTXA3o>

\*\*Disclaimer<sup>3</sup>

## MEMORIALS

Bust of Capt Neikezhakuo Kenguruse, MVC (Posthumous) unveiled by his parents at Sainik School, Punglwa, Peren District, Nagaland facilitated by Assam Rifles, (EasternCommand\_IA-Twitter handle) (Accessed on 24 May 2022)

<https://twitter.com/easterncomd/status/1151089672459702272?lang=en>

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<sup>3</sup> DISCLAIMER:

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## OTHER INTERESTING FACTS<sup>4</sup>

1. Assam Rifles, Axis Bank and National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO) signed a tripartite agreement to establish a Centre for Excellence and Wellness for the future youth of Nagaland. This Centre has been named after late Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse, MVC (Posthumous). (Source: [Newsonair.gov.in](http://Newsonair.gov.in)) (Accessed on 07 June 2022)

<https://newsonair.gov.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=440948>

2. The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the state-level Football tournament held in Nagaland was titled, “Captain Kenguruse, MVC (Posthumous)” to honour the late Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse for his act of gallantry in the heights of Kargil. (Source: [easternmirrornagaland.com](http://easternmirrornagaland.com)) (Accessed on 07 June 2022)

<https://easternmirrornagaland.com/captain-kenguruse-mvc-football-tournament-trophy-unveiled/>

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