



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



LIEUTENANT KEISHING CLIFFORD NONGRUM

SERVICE NUMBER	SS-37111P
RANK	Lieutenant
NAME	Keishing Clifford Nongrum
SON OF	Keishing Peter
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	East Khasi Hills, Shillong, Meghalaya
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	12 Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	05 September 1997
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 30 June 1999
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	Kargil War/Op VIJAY
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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Lieutenant Keishing Clifford Nongrum, was born on 7 March 1975 to Keishing Peter and Saily Nongrum. He was a resident of Shillong Meghalaya and completed his school education from Don Bosco Technical High School Shillong. He graduated in Political Science from St Anthony's College Shillong and thereafter was commissioned in the Indian Army on 5 September 1997 in the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAK LI). He was an avid music lover and passionate football player. He is the only officer from his battalion and from his state to be awarded Maha Vir Chakra. In memory of his gallant action and conspicuous courage, a bust of Lieutenant Nongrum has been installed in the Rhino Museum Shillong.

Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAK LI) is an infantry regiment of the Indian Army. The regimental history of JAK LI is very unique. In 1947, when Pakistani troops intruded into the Indian territory, militia groups were raised from the locals of Jammu, Nubra and Leh under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The militia fought with great distinction in the 1965 India-Pakistan War. However, it was the gallant action of the militia troops in the India-Pakistan War of 1971 that earned them three battle honours. After the war in 1972, the militia was converted into a full-fledged regiment and in 1976 the name was changed to Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry. The JAK LI has been deployed in the Indian Peacekeeping Force in Sri Lanka in 1987 and also in the United Nations Mission in Somalia. During the Kargil War, the 12 Jammu Kashmir Light Infantry was tasked to capture Point 4812 in the Batalik Sector, for which the unit received "unit citation" from 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 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. After two months of violent confrontation, the war came to an end on 26 July 1999.

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 challenges in the Batalik sub-sector were manifold as the enemy had intruded almost 8-10 km from the LC and occupied an unheld area west of the Chorbat La Pass. The 12 JAK LI was given the task of driving a wedge between the enemy's defences at Point 5203 (eastern extremity) to that of Point 4812, Point 5287, Point 5000 (the Khalubar ridgeline). Colonel VS Bhalotia, the commanding officer of 12 JAK LI planned to execute a multi-directional attack on Point 4812. He planned to execute an assault with two columns of Charlie Company under Major DK Pathak and Lieutenant KC Nongrum where tasked to assault from North and East side respectively. A column of Bravo Company led by Captain Sanjeev Dhiman was to assault from the South and one column each from Delta Company and Alpha Company under Major TS Bhandari and Major Rupinder Singh were nominated as reserves. On 30 June 1999, at 2030 Hours the assault troop set out and the attacking columns reached their respective positions by 0300 Hours on 1 July 1999. During the action along the Eastern approach, Lieutenant Nongrum's column came under enemy fire from a sangar and two riflemen were killed. Lieutenant Nongrum did the near impossible task of climbing up a near-vertical cliff at Point 4812 and achieved success.

CAPTURE OF PT 4812 BY 12 JAMMU & KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY

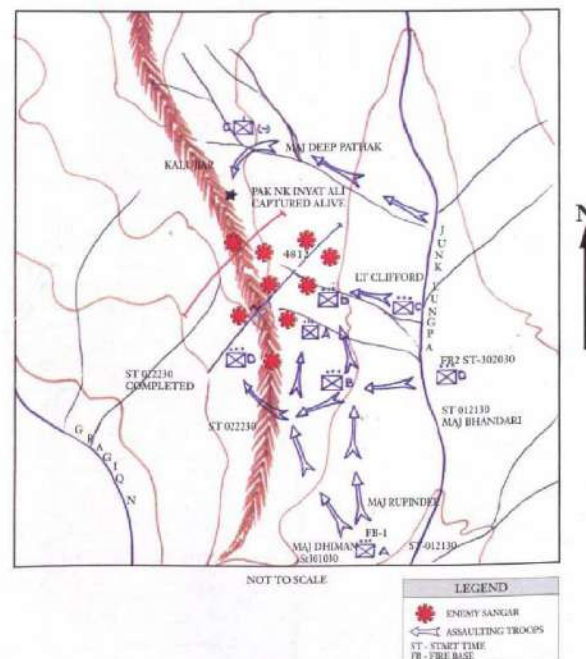


Image showing the Map of Operation conducted by 12 JAK LI on PT 4812

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



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Lieutenant Keishing Clifford Nongrum was tasked to assault feature at Point 4812 from the South Eastern direction in the Batalik sector. He climbed a near-vertical cliff and upon reaching the top, his column was fired at by the enemy, who had the advantage of well prepared and coordinated defences. The enemy had well established interconnected bunkers made of boulders and stones to protect them from artillery fire. The enemy open fired at Lieutenant Nongrum's column with automatic weapons. He charged at the enemy through the fire zone with complete disregard for his personal safety. On closing in with the enemy position Lieutenant Nongrum lobbed grenades at the first position killing six enemy soldiers. He then tried to snatch the universal machine gun of the enemy from the second position and received a volley of bullets. Lieutenant Nongrum's actions surprised the enemy. The officer's team took advantage of the situation and closed in on the enemy and finally cleared the position. Despite bleeding profusely, he refused to be evacuated and fought valiantly till his last breath. Lieutenant Nongrum's column ultimately achieved success in capturing Point 4812.

Lieutenant KC Nongrum displayed conspicuous courage, devotion to duty and inspiring leadership in leading the column to achieve the ultimate success, for which he was awarded Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous).



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CITATION

Lieutenant Keishing Clifford Nongrum (SS-37111P), 12 Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry
(Posthumous)

(Effective date of the Award: 30th June, 1999)

On the night of 30 June/01 July 1999, in an operation to capture Point 4812 in the Batalik sector, Lieutenant Keishing Clifford Nongrum was tasked to assault the feature from the South Eastern direction. He led his column over the near impossible vertical cliff feature. On reaching the top, his column encountered strong enemy opposition. The enemy was well entrenched in interconnected positions carved out of boulders and remained immune to even artillery fire.

The enemy pinned down the column of Lieutenant Keishing Clifford Nongrum with heavy and accurate automatic fire for about two hours. On seeing the futility of own fire against the fortified enemy position, Lieutenant Nongrum, with utter disregard to his personal safety, charged through the fire zone. Closing in with the first position, he threw grenades into it and killed six enemy soldiers. He then tried to snatch the universal machine gun of the enemy from the second enemy position and received a volley of bullets.

The audacious action of Lieutenant Keishing Clifford Nongrum stunned the enemy giving valuable reaction time to his troops to close in and finally clear the position. Though severely wounded, he refused to be evacuated and fought valiantly till he succumbed to his injuries. This act resulted in the ultimate capture of Point 4812.

Lieutenant Keishing Clifford Nongrum displayed conspicuous bravery, dogged determination and raw courage in the face of the enemy and made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of the Indian Army.

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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<https://www.thebetterindia.com/62701/kargil-hero-keishing-clifford-nongrum/>
3. At the feet of the Motherland: The Life of Captain Clifford K Nongrum (Accessed on 29 April 2022)
<https://youtu.be/GDF9CC5Rzec>
4. Capt KC Nongrum: A Tribute (Accessed on 29 April 2022)
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6. Bust of Kargil War martyr Captain Clifford K Nongrum unveiled in Shillong (Accessed on 29 April 2022)
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7. Bust of Capt Clifford K Nongrum unveiled (Accessed on 29 April 2022)
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VIDEOS

1. At the feet of motherland: The life of Captain Clifford Nongrum (Source: T7 News Channel) (Accessed on 13 June 2022)
<https://youtu.be/GDF9CC5Rzec>

**Disclaimer³

MEMORIALS

1. A Bust of Lieutenant Keishing Clifford Nongrum has been installed at Rhino Museum , Shillong
(Source 1: Wikipedia)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keishing_Clifford_Nongrum#/media/File:Capt_KC_Nongrum.jpg
(Source 2: indiablooms.com)
<https://www.indiablooms.com/news-details/N/10625/bust-of-capt-clifford-k-nongrum-unveiled.html>
2. Rilbong Chowk in Shillong renamed to Clifford Nongrum square after Lt Keishing Clifford Nongrum, MVC Posthumous
<https://theshillongtimes.com/2017/03/01/rilbong-chowk-renamed-as-clifford-nongrum-square/>
3. Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry has built an auditorium “Nongrum Auditorium” named after Lieutenant Nongrum (Source: dailyhunt.in)
<https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/northeastnow-epaper-dh7f6ad4764b56451ca5c14e7ef8c2a4e6/meghalaya+jk+light+infantry+sets+up+nongrum+auditorium+in+srinagar-newsid-n163219892>

³ DISCLAIMER:

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