



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



MAJOR RAJESH SINGH ADHIKARI

SERVICE NUMBER	IC-52574F
RANK (At the time of Award)	Major
NAME	Rajesh Singh Adhikari
SON OF	KS Adhikari
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Tallital, Nainital, Uttaranchal (Now Uttarakhand)
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	18 GRENADIERS
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	11 December 1993
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 30 May 1999
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	Kargil War
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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On 25 December 1970, Major Rajesh Singh Adhikari was born to KS Adhikari and Malti Adhikari. He was native of village, Tallital in Nainital district of Uttarakhand. Major Adhikari did his primary schooling from St. Joseph's College in Nainital and completed his middle and secondary school education from Government Inter College. Thereafter he went on to pursue bachelor's degree from Kumaon University and graduated in the year 1992. Being an exceptional student, Major Adhikari had plenty of career choices, but he was passionate about joining the Indian Army. His dream of joining the army was fulfilled on 11 December 1993, when he got commissioned into the Mechanised Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army. He took an oath to serve his nation as a commissioned officer at the age of twenty-three. After serving for five years in various operational areas, Major Adhikari got married to Ms. Kiran Negi on 9 June 1998.

He was affectionately called 'Addy' by his close friends and colleagues. Beneath his tough demeanor, Major Adhikari was a music lover who enjoyed playing guitar and loved singing. He often sang to his colleagues his favorite melodies 'Tears in Heaven' and 'Everything I do'. This Maha Vir Chakra recipient was well known for his physical toughness and commando like approach towards life.

Major Adhikari commissioned in the Mechanised Infantry Regiment which was raised on 2 April 1979 at Ahmednagar. It is one of the youngest infantry regiments of Indian Army. It comprises of several battalions that are attached to various armoured formation of India. It was formed as a result of lessons learned in the 1965 Indo-Pak War, to give infantry battalions greater mobility. The Mechanised Infantry Regiment of Indian Army was the brainchild of Gen Sundarji who had the foresight to cater the needs of a modern army. The war cry of this regiment is Bolo Bharat Mata Ki Jai (Victory of Mother India). Their motto is 'Valour & Faith'. The regiment has actively participated in Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka, Operation Rakshak and Operation Vijay in Jammu & Kashmir.

Kargil conflict started in 1999 when the Pakistan army surreptitiously occupied the winter vacated posts on Indian side of Line of Control. On 3 May 1999, enemy intrusions were detected and Operation Vijay was launched by the Indian Army to evict the intruders from Indian Territory. After two months of violent confrontation, the war came to an end on 26 July 1999. As the Kargil War progressed, the capture of Tololing became essential to flush out the Pakistani intruders. 56 Mountain Brigade was given task to capture Tololing and 18 GRENADIERS was tasked to capture Tololing on 23 May 1999. The Tololing Heights was the deepest penetration beyond the LOC by the Pakistani intruders. During the Kargil War, Major Adhikari was on cross attachment with 18 GRENADIERS. He fought bravely alongside the battalion during the series of attacks to recapture the Tololing heights. Tololing and another feature named Point 4590 were among the



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vital peaks for India. Both the peaks were crucial to capture as they overlooked the Dras sector and a large section of National Highway, giving enemy an access to every movement on the National Highway. 18 GRENADIERS is known as the 'Pole Star Battalion' for its steadfastness in the battlefield. Staying true to their name, within the time frame of five days the battalion acclimatized to the new surroundings of high altitude and launched their first attack on fifth day. On 22 May 1999, 18 GRENADIERS launched their first attack to capture Tololing feature, where enemy maintained a strong position.

On 30 May 1999, Major Rajesh Singh Adhikari was entrusted with securing the initial foothold by taking the feature's forward spur. The enemy was positioned at a height of around 15,000 feet, in a treacherous mountainous terrain blanketed with snow. While Major Adhikari was leading his company towards the objective, he was fired at by Universal machine guns from two mutually supporting enemy positions. The officer ordered the rocket launcher detachment to engage the enemy position killing two enemy soldiers. Under heavy fire, the officer ordered his medium machine gun detachment to take position behind a rocky feature and engage the enemy. Major Adhikari sustained serious bullet wounds while advancing ahead, yet he continued to direct his sub-unit. Refusing to be evacuated, he charged at the second enemy position and killed one more occupant, thus capturing the second position at Tololing and facilitating the capture of Point 4590. However, he succumbed to his injuries on the battlefield.

After consistent efforts, the Tololing top was recaptured on 13 June 1999 by 2 RAJPUTANA RIFLES. The body of this brave warrior could only be recovered after the capture of the Tololing.



Family Members and Army personnel pay their last tributes to Maj Adhikari

Source: <https://www.honourpoint.in/profile/major-rajesh-singh-adhikari-mvc-2/>



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Among the most circulated war stories associated to Major Rajesh Singh Adhikari, the one that remains imprinted on the minds of all the Indians, is about his wife's letter that he never got to read. Brigadier Khushal Thakur (Retd), who was the commanding officer of the battalion recalls, Major Adhikari kept the unopened letter from his wife in the breast pocket of his uniform, saying that he will read it in peace after capturing the feature. The unopened letter of his wife was handed back to her, drenched in the blood of her brave husband along with his body wrapped in tricolour.

For his outstanding bravery, commendable leadership and everlasting courage Major Rajesh Singh Adhikari was awarded Maha Vir Chakra, posthumously .



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CITATION

Major Rajesh Singh Adhikari (IC-52574), MECH INF (18 GRENADIERS) (Posthumous)
(Effective date of award: 30 May, 1999)

On 30 May 1999, as a part of battalion operation to capture the Tololing feature, Major Rajesh Singh Adhikari was tasked to secure the initial foothold by capturing its forward spur where the enemy held a strong position. The enemy position was located in a treacherous mountainous terrain covered with snow at a height of about 15,000 feet.

While Major Adhikari was leading his company towards the objective, he was fired at from two mutually supporting enemy positions with Universal machine guns. The officer immediately directed the rocket launcher detachment to engage the enemy position and killed two enemy soldiers in close quarter combat.

Thereafter, the officer, displaying presence of mind under heavy fire, ordered his medium machine gun detachment to take position behind a rocky feature and engage the enemy. The assault party continued to inch their way up. While so advancing forward, Major Adhikari suffered grievous bullet injuries, yet he continued to direct his sub-unit. Refusing to be evacuated, then he charged at the second enemy position and killed one more occupant, thus capturing the second position at Tololing which later facilitated capture of Point 4590. However later he succumbed to his injuries.

Major Rajesh Singh Adhikari displayed exceptional valour, outstanding leadership in the presence of the enemy and laid down his life in the highest traditions of the Indian Army.

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



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