



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



CAPTAIN MANOJ KUMAR PANDEY

SERVICE NUMBER	IC-56959W
RANK	Captain
NAME	Manoj Kumar Pandey
SON OF	Gopi Chand Pandey
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	1/11 Gorkha Rifles
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	07 June 1997
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Param Vir Chakra (Posthumous)/ 02 July 1999
WAR/BATTLE/ OPERATION	Kargil War/Op VIJAY
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey was born on 25 June 1975 to Shri Gopi Chand Pandey and Mohini Pandey. He was native of Rudha village, Kamlapur tehsil, Sitapur district. He was eldest among his siblings. His early schooling took place at Sainik School, Lucknow. He was a brilliant student in school. He always dreamt of adorning the uniform of the Indian Army. He wrote in his personal diary, *'some goals are so worthy; it's glorious even to fail'*. After finishing his school education, he joined the prestigious National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla to realise his dream of becoming an army officer. After graduating, he joined the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun to complete his final phase of training and was commissioned in the first battalion of the 11 Gorkha Rifles (1/11 GR), a unit renowned for its heroic exploits. During the Kargil conflict, Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey was promoted to the rank of Captain.

The first battalion of Gurkha Regiment (now Gorkha Rifles) was raised in 1815 during the Anglo-Nepalese war. Impressed by the qualities displayed by Gurkhas during the war, the British started active recruitment of Gurkhas into the British Indian army. After the partition, in 1947 six Gurkha regiments viz , 1 GR, 3 GR, 4 GR, 5 GR, 8 GR and 9 GR remained with the Indian Army , while 2 GR, 5 GR, 6 GR, 7 GR and 10 GR were transferred to British Army as part of the Tripartite Agreement signed between India, Nepal and Britain. The 11 GR is the only Gorkha Regiment raised in Independent India. It was raised on 1 January 1948. Since independence, the regiment has participated in a number of wars and operations including the 1947 and 1971 wars against Pakistan. The battalion's motto is *'Yatrahām Vijay Statra'* (*We are metaphors of victory*).

1/11 GR was deployed in Siachen Glacier when the Kargil war started. In summer of 1999 Pakistan army had surreptitiously occupied the winter vacated posts of the Indian Army. On 03 May 1999, intrusions were detected. On 25 May, the Government of India approved application of Indian Airforce, followed by Operation Vijay, launched by the Indian Army to evict the intruders from our territory. After two months of violent confrontation, the war came to an end on 26 July 1999. One of the key battles which was fought during Op Vijay was in Batalik sector. The Kalubhar Ridgeline dominates the Batalik Area. The Jubar Complex is to its left and Point 5203 to its right in the Chorbat La Area, close to the LOC. The highest feature is Point 5287 (approximately 16,000 feet), with Point 4812 in its vicinity towards the south. The enemy had occupied Kalubhar Ridgeline and it was important to evict the enemy to reclaim the lost territory.



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1/11 GR was tasked to clear the Kalubhar Ridge. Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey was Number 5 Platoon Commander. His platoon's mission was to eliminate the interfering enemy positions in order to keep his battalion from being daylighted and being in a vulnerable position during its advance to Kalubhar Ridge. As his platoon reached close to its objective on the night of 02/03 July 1999 it came under heavy persistent enemy fire from the surrounding heights. Under heavy enemy fire, Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey quickly manoeuvred his platoon to an advantageous position and ordered one section of his platoon to clear enemy positions on the right, while he cleared four hostile positions on the left. He attacked the first enemy position fearlessly and killed two enemy personnel. Successively, he charged at the second position and captured it by killing two more enemy personnel. While clearing the third position, Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey was hit in the shoulder and legs by enemy fire. Undaunted and unconcerned about his serious wounds, he led the assault on the fourth position, rallying his men and destroying it with a grenade. During this attack he got a fatal medium machine gun burst on his forehead. It is this singular daredevil act of the officer, which provided the critical firm base for the battalion to finally capture Khalubhar.



Source: <https://www.honourpoint.in/profile/captain-manoj-kumar-pandey-pvc/> (Accessed on April 15, 2022)



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He displayed most conspicuous bravery, indomitable courage, exemplary personal valour, outstanding leadership and devotion to duty of an exceptionally high order and received country's highest gallantry award Param Vir Chakra posthumously. An entry from his personal diary vividly reflects the undaunting spirit of the immortal hero.

“If death strikes before I prove my blood, I promise (swear), I will kill death.”
- Lt Manoj Kumar Pandey

In remembrance of this brave alumnus, Sainik School in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh adopted the name ‘Manoj Kumar Pandey UP Sainik School, Lucknow’ and inaugurated a gate named, ‘Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey PVC Dwar’



Fig.: 1

Source: photosamachar.com (Accessed on June 02, 2022)



Fig.: 2

Source: School website



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CITATION

Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey (IC-56959), 1/11 Gorkha Rifles, (Posthumous)
(Effective date of the Award: 02nd July, 1999)

Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey, a young officer of the 1/11 Gorkha Rifles, took part in a series of boldly led attacks during Operation Vijay, forcing back the intruders with heavy losses in Batalik including the capture of Jaubar Top.

His finest hour was during the advance to Khalubar, when he was Number 5 Platoon Commander. On the night of 2/3 July 1999, as the platoon approached its final objective, it came under heavy and intense enemy fire from the surrounding heights. The officer was tasked to clear the interfering enemy positions, so as to prevent his battalion from getting day lighted, being in a vulnerable position. The officer quickly moved his platoon to an advantageous position under intense enemy fire and sent one section to clear the enemy positions from the right, while he himself proceeded to clear four other enemy positions on the left. Fearlessly assaulting the first enemy position, he killed two enemy personnel and proceeded to assault the second and destroyed it by killing two more enemy personnel. Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey was injured on the shoulder and legs by enemy fire while clearing the third position. Undaunted and without caring for his grievous injury, he led the assault on the fourth position urging his men and destroyed the same with a grenade, even as he got a fatal Medium Machine Gun burst on his forehead. It is this singular daredevil act of the officer, which provided the critical firm base for the companies, which finally led to capture of Khalubar.

Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey, thus, displayed most conspicuous bravery, indomitable courage, exemplary personal valour, outstanding leadership and devotion to duty of an exceptionally high order, in the face of enemy and made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of the Army.

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. Tyagi, Satish Chandra. 2019. The Kargil Victory Battles from Peak to Peak. The Speaking Tigers in association with The United Service Institute of India
4. Maj Gen Ian Cardozo. 2003. Param Vir: Our Heroes In Battle. The Lotus Collection, Roli Books Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, 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. Tyagi, Satish Chandra. (2019). The Kargil Victory Battles from Peak to Peak. The Speaking Tigers in association with The United Service Institute of India
4. 11 Gorkha Rifles (Accessed on 15 April 2022)
<https://assn11gr.org/index.php?do=menu3&Imid=36&Im2id=14&banner=yes>
5. 'I want to win Param Vir Chakra'- Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey (Accessed on April 15, 2022)
<https://www.aviation-defence-universe.com/want-win-param-vir-chakra-captain-manoj-kumar-pandey/>
6. Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey, PVC (Accessed 15 April 2022)
<https://www.honourpoint.in/profile/captain-manoj-kumar-pandey-pvc/>
7. Param Vir Chakra Awardee: Lt Manoj Kumar Pandey PVC
<http://twdi.in/node/1067> (Accessed 15 April 2022)



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VIDEOS

1999 Gallantry Award | Kargil | Manoj Kumar Pandey, Vikram Batra and Major Sudhir Kumar Walia (Source: Prasar Bharti Achieves)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYPA0CnH8tg>

Kargil War (Source: DD News)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97McR7KmOgI>

1999 Kargil Ki Kahani | Operation Vijay (Source: Prasar Bharti Archives)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WF4hyW73FPM&list=PLqtVCj5iilH6mwjine8rphufd_q9U212EU&index=5

Great Battles: Kargil (Source: NDTV)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qW2RwSnCY_Q

LoC se Last letters: Lt Manoj Kumar Pandey (Source: Red RM India)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vn-8i4xnN8Q>

Captain Major Kumar Pandey, Warrior who killed death to achieve eternal Glory. (Source: India Today)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQ8w5K0dNv8>

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MEMORIALS

Over the years, several memorials have been built across the country in remembrance of Param Vir Chakra awardee Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey.

Some of which are listed below-²

- Uttar Pradesh Sainik School, Lucknow has its main gate and assembly hall named after Capt Manoj Kumar Pandey.
- A memorial statute of Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey is situated at Manoj Kumar Pandey crossing at Gomati Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.



Source: www.lucknowobserver.com

² Honourpoint- An online memorial for every Indian Soldier Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey, PVC (Accessed 27 May 2022)

<https://www.honourpoint.in/profile/captain-manoj-kumar-pandey-pvc/>



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- A bust of Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey is installed in the Lucknow cantonment area.



Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/army-salutes-captain-manoj-pandey-on-17th-martyrdom-day/articleshow/53033819.cms>

- The Army Welfare Housing Organization (AWHO) designed and constructed an apartment complex for veterans in Ghaziabad district, Uttar Pradesh, and named it after him as “Manoj Vihar”.
- The Army quarters near the Cardio Thoracic Center(CTC) hospital in Pune is named after PVC Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey as ‘Capt Manoj Pandey Enclave’
- The National Defence Academy named the science block as the ‘Manoj Pandey Block’.
- A roundabout is also named after him as “Captain Manoj Pandey Chowk” in his home district Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh.
- A hall is named after him at Service Selection Center Allahabad as “Manoj Pandey Block”.
- A gallery in the Kargil War Museum at Dras is named after him.
- An assembly hall has been made in Sainik School Lucknow where he was educated to motivate the school cadets.



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- Uttar Pradesh Sainik School, Lucknow conducts an inter school football tournament annually as 'Late Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey memorial inter school football tournament' in school itself.
- In the memory of his greatest efforts to save the nation from the enemy forces, Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial Senior Secondary School constructed an auditorium in his name, which was inaugurated by his parents.

OTHER INTERESTING RESOURCES³

- 1) Amar Chitra Katha Comics- To honour 21 Param Vir Chakra Recipients, a special comic titled 'Param Vir Chakra: The Ultimate Honour' was published on 1 January 2015. The book is the result of combined efforts by the Indian Army and Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd.
- 2) Roli Comics- 'Param Vir Chakra Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey: A braveheart of operation Vijay who forced enemy forces to retreat at Batalik Sector and Captured the Jubar Top During Kargil War' is comic by Major General Ian Cardozo and Rishi Kumar. It was published in 2021 by Roli Books, India.



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- 3) Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey| Real Story | Kargil War | Hindi Kahaniya
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50u3viOOrZk> (Youtube Channel- Jhilmil TV: Hindi Animated Story)
- 4) A book in Hindi language, titled as ‘Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey’ has been published on this brave Indian soldier. It has been authored by Mr Rishi Raj. It is part of his book series ‘Bravest of Brave’ (वीरों के वीर). It was published by Prabhat Prakashan Pvt. Ltd. in November 2021.
- 5) A book titled ‘Hero of Batalik- Kargil War 1999’ by Pawan Kumar Mishra narrates tale of courage and bravery displayed by Param Vir Chakra Awardee Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey. VL Media Solutions, India in 2015.
- 6) A book titled ‘The Brave: Param Vir Chakra Stories’ by renowned author Rachna Bisht Rawat narrates engaging tales of valour of our twenty-one Param Vir Chakra awardees. It was published by Penguin, India in 2014.

