



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



LANCE HAVILDAR RAM KUMAR

SERVICE NUMBER	8031499
RANK	Lance Havildar
NAME	Ram Kumar
SON OF	Charan Singh
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Village Bewawas, Bhiwani, Haryana
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	18 GRENADIERS
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	21 August 1985
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 03 June 1999
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	Kargil War / OPERATION VIJAY
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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Lance Havildar Ram Kumar was born on 01 April 1965 in Bewawas village of Bhiwani District, Haryana. His father's name was Charan Singh. He was enrolled in 18 GRENADIERS on 21 August 1985. During the Kargil War, he was part of an attack on Point 4590 in Kargil Sub Sector, which overlooked the Srinagar-Leh highway, on 03 June 1999. He displayed gallantry, utmost devotion to duty and sacrificed himself for the nation. He was awarded Vir Chakra posthumously for his bravery.

Lance Havildar Ram Kumar was married to Kamla Devi. He had one daughter, Sonu and two sons, Nagender Singh and Devender Lamba. After Lance Havildar Kumar's death, his wife Kamla Devi moved to Beal village, where the government allotted her a gas agency. She recalls that "It was difficult for a woman to stay in another town just a year after her husband's death. (But at least) I sent my children to good schools."¹



Lance Havildar Ram Kumar's Older son Devender Lamba, and granddaughters with his framed photo.

Source: Peace the best way to solve problems: Lance Havaldar Ram Kumar's family (Accessed on 15 August 2023)
<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/peace-the-best-way-to-solve-problems-lance-havaldar-ram-kumar-s-family/story-5X2DXpyGY63j7S4V4ErDRP.html>

¹ Peace the best way to solve problems: Lance Havaldar Ram Kumar's family (Accessed on 15 August 2023)
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The GRENADIERS Regiment was formerly a part of the Bombay Army and later in pre-independence India, the regiment was known as 4th Bombay Grenadiers. They distinguished themselves in two World Wars and have won battle honours Gurez, Assal Uttar, Jarpal and Chakra. During 1971 Indo-Pak War, the soldiers GRENADIERS displayed conspicuous courage and fought valiantly in the battle of Basantar. The Regiment has also fought with distinction in 1965 War where CQMH Abdul Hamid of 4 GRENADIERS was awarded the Param Vir Chakra, 1971 War where Colonel Hoshiar Singh Dahiya was awarded Param Vir Chakra and during the Kargil Conflict in 1999, when Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav of 18 GRENADIERS was awarded Param Vir Chakra.

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, 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. After two months of violent confrontation, the war came to an end on 26 July 1999.

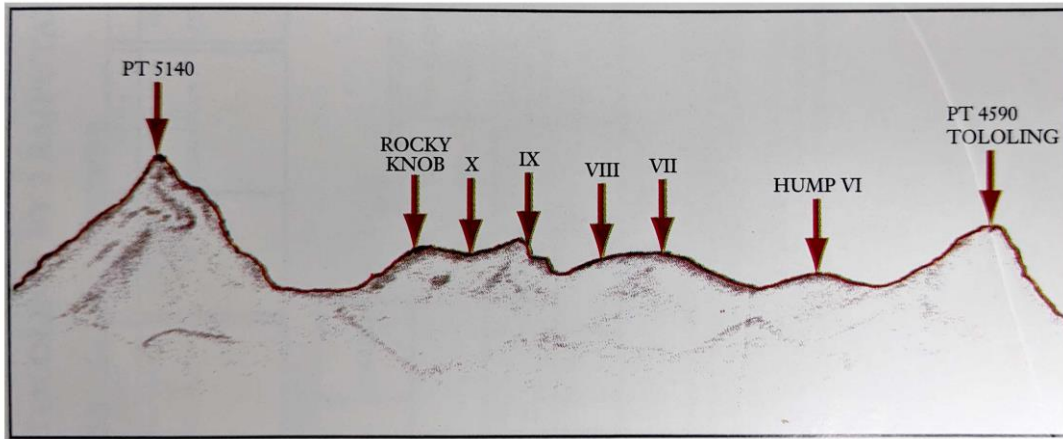
The Tololing Heights was the deepest penetration beyond the LoC by the Pakistani intruders. As the Kargil War progressed, the capture of Tololing became essential to flush out the Pakistani intruders. 56 Mountain Brigade was given the task to capture Tololing. Tololing and another feature named Point 4590 were among the vital peaks for India. Both the peaks were crucial as they overlooked the Dras Sector and a large section of National Highway, giving enemy a visual access to every movement on the National Highway. The intruders at the Tololing top stayed put and didn't open fire until they were discovered on 12 May 1999. This time was utilized by the intruders to build coordinated defences that would enable the enemy to bring effective fire on attacking troops.

On 22 May 1999, 18 GRENADIERS launched their first attack on the Tololing top. The battalion made several attempts and were able to encircle them in the span of two weeks. During the attempts to recapture the Tololing Top, 18 GRENADIERS also lost a valiant officer Major Rajesh Singh Adhikari on 30 May 1999.



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PANORAMA-PT 5140



Panorama view of Point 5140 and Point 4590, Tololing

Source: Kargil 1999: The Impregnable Conquered Lt. Gen Y M Bammi. (2002) Gorkha Publisher

In order to facilitate the smooth passage of traffic along the route to Leh and other destinations, the strategic acquisition of Point 4590 was taken in priority. 18 GRENADIERS was entrusted with the mission to secure Point 4590 before dawn on 03 June, 1999. Remarkably, the GRENADIERS successfully reached the top and secured the elevated position well before midnight. Significantly, the capture of Point 4590 also marked the first significant triumph in the Kargil war.

During the attack, Lance Havildar Ram Kumar, the Commanding Officer's radio operator was also in the assault group. During night attack on Point 4590 on 03 June, 1999, when the assaulting troops came under enemy's automatic fire, Lance Havildar Ram Kumar, with utter disregard to personal safety, crawled close to the enemy sangar from which a Universal Machine Gun (UMG) was firing on the assaulting troops with a view to lobbing a grenade inside the sangar. When he was close to the objective, he received gunshot wounds on the shoulder and waist. Unmindful of his injuries, Havildar Ram Kumar continued to inch close to the sangar and succeeded in lobbing a hand grenade, killing one of the occupants and injuring the other two. In the ensuing hand-to-hand fight, he killed the other two occupants also but then succumbed to his own injuries.

Throughout the action, Lance Havildar Ram Kumar displayed raw courage, dogged determination and made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of the Army. He was awarded Vir Chakra posthumously.



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CITATION

8031499, Lance Havildar Ram Kumar, 18 Grenadiers (Posthumous)
(Effective date of the Award: 03rd June 1999)

On 03 June 1999 during 'Operation Vijay', a battalion assault was launched by 18 Grenadiers on Tololing in the Drass sector, to evict the Pakistan backed infiltrators located in a well-stocked and fortified post at over 15,000 feet. Lance Havildar Ram Kumar was also in the assault group. When the assault group was close to the objective, the enemy opened fire. With utter disregard to his personal safety, Lance Havildar Ram Kumar crawled close to the enemy sangar from which Universal machine gun fire was being directed. When he was close to the objective, he received a gunshot wound on the shoulder and waist.

Unmindful of his injuries, Lance Havildar Ram Kumar inched close to the sangar and lobbed a hand grenade killing one of the occupants and injuring the other two. In the ensuing hand-to-hand combat, he killed the other two occupants also, but thereafter succumbed to his injuries.

Lance Havildar Ram Kumar made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of the Army and valiantly fought with the enemy during assault on Tololing.

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



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