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INDIAN ARMY WAR HEROES PVC



MILITARY HISTORY LESSON PLAN MH 2

Introduction

Our Army has been involved in five major wars with our neighbouring countries. We have fought four wars with Pakistan and one with China. Other major operations undertaken by the army include Operation Meghdoot and Operation Cactus, Operation Pawan and Operation Rakshak. Apart from above mentioned operations, the army has also been an active participant in United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Lt. Dr. A. Edward Samuel, Associate NCC Officer, 1 Coy, 8 TN BN NCC, GAC(A), Kumbakonam

Introduction (Cont...)

The Indian Army has shown thorough professionalism, dedication and devotion while participating in all these wars and operations. And for the same many gallantry awards have been awarded to Indian Army for displaying courage, bravery and selfless dedication beyond the call of duty.

Param Vir Chakra and War Heroes Decorated with PVCs.

The **Param Veer Chakra** (**PVC**) is India's highest Military decoration awarded for highest degree of valour or self-sacrifice in the face of enemy. The medal has been awarded 21 times 14 of which were posthumous awards. Literally meaning "Wheels (or cross) of the ultimate brave" it is similar to Medal of Honour in the United States and the Victoria Cross in the United Kingdom.

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The PVC was established on 26 January 1950 by the President of India, with effect from 15 August 1947. It can be awarded to Officers or enlisted personnel from all branches of the Indian military. It is the highest gallantry award of the Government of India.

The Design

The medal was designed by Savitri Khanolkar who was married to an Indian Army Officer, Vikram Khanolkar of the Sikh Regiment. This was done following a request from the first Adjutant General, Major General HiraLal who in turn had been entrusted with the responsibility of coming up with an Indian equivalent of the Victoria Cross by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The medal is a circular bronze disc 1.375 inches (3.49cms) in diameter.

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The state emblem appears in the Centre, on a raised circle surrounding this, four replicas of Vajra, the all-powerful mythic weapon of Indra the ancient Vedic king of Gods. The motif symbolizes the sacrifice of Rishi Dadhichi, who had donated his bones to Gods for making Vajra

RECIPIENTS OF THE PARAMVIR CHAKRAS

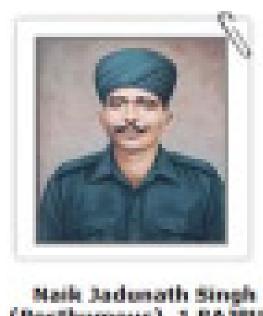
The country has awarded 21 Param Veer Chakras for exemplary courage and bravery to the following brave soldiers:

(a) Maj Somnath Sharma, 4 KUMAON Badgam, Kashmir November 3, 1947.



Posthumous), 4 KUMAON (1947)

(b) Naik Jadunath Singh Rajput Taindhara, Naushera, Kashmir February 6, 1948.



Naik Jadunath Singh (Posthumous), 1 RAJPUT (1948)

(c) 2nd Lt Rama Raghoba Rane Bombay Engineers Naushera Rajouri Road April 8-11, 1948.



2nd Lt Rama Raghoba Rane, BOMBAY ENGINEER (1948)

RECIPIENTS OF THE PARAM VIR CHAKRAS



Major Somnath Sharma (Posthumous), 4 KUMAON (1947)



Lance Naik Karam Singh, 1 SIKH (1948)



2nd Lt Rama Raghoba Rane, BOMBAY ENGINEER (1948)

(d) Company Haviladar Major Piru Singh 6 Rajputana Rifles Tithwal sector, J&K July 18, 1948.



(Posthumous), 6 RAJ REF (1948)

(e) Lance Naik Karam Singh 1 Sikh Tithwal sector, J&K October 13, 1948.



Lance Naik Karam Singh, 1 SIKH (1948)

(f) Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria 3/1 Gorkha Rifles Elizabethville, Katanga, Congo Dec.5, 1961.



Capt Gurbachan Singh Salaria (Posthumous), 3/1 GR (1961)

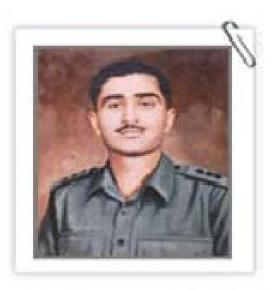
RECIPIENTS OF THE PARAM VIR CHAKRAS



Naik Jadunath Singh (Posthumous), 1 RAJPUT (1948)



(Posthumous), 6 RAJ RIF (1948)



Capt Gurbachan Singh Salaria (Posthumous), 3/1 GR (1961)

(g) Major Dhan Singh Thapa 1/8 Gorkha Rifles Ladakh October 21, 1962.



Major Dhan Singh Thapa, 1/8 GR (1962)

(h) Subedar Joginder Singh 1 Sikh Tawang, Arunachal October 20-23, 1962.



Subedar Josinder Singh (Posthumous), 1 SIKH (1962)

Lt. Dr. A. Edward Samuel, Associate NCC Officer, 1 Coy, 8 TN BN NCC, GAC(A), Kumbakonam

(i) Major Shaitan Singh 13 Kumaon Regiment Rezang La, Chusul sector, Ladakh November 18, 1962.



Major Shaitan Singh (Posthumous) 13 KUMADN (1962)

RECIPIENTS OF THE PARAM VIR CHAKRAS



Major Dhan Singh Thapa, 1/8 GR (1962)



Subedar Joginder Singh (Posthumous), 1 SIKH (1962)



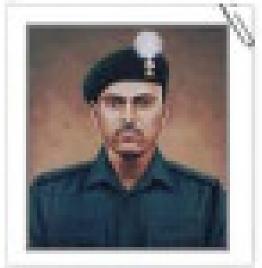
Major Shaitan Singh (Posthumous) 13 KUMAON (1962)

(j) Lt Col A B Tarapore 17 Poona Horse Phillora, Sialkot, Pakistan September 11-16, 1965.



Lt Col AB Tarapore (Posthumous), 17 HORSE (1955)

(k) Company Quartermaster Havildar Abdul Hamid 4
Grenadiers Cheema, Khem Karan September 10,
1965.



(Posthumous), 4GRENADIERS (1965)

(l) Lance Naik Albert Ekka 14 Guards, Gangasagar, 6 1/2km west of Agartala December 4, 1971.



(Posthumous) 14 GUARDS (1971)

RECIPIENTS OF THE PARAM VIR CHAKRAS



(Posthumous), 4GRENADIERS (1965)



Lt Col AB Tarapore (Posthumous), 17 HORSE (1965)



(Posthumous) 14 GUARDS (1971)

(m) Flying Officer Nirmal jit Singh Sekhon No.18 "Flying Bullets" Squadron Srinagar December 14, 1971.



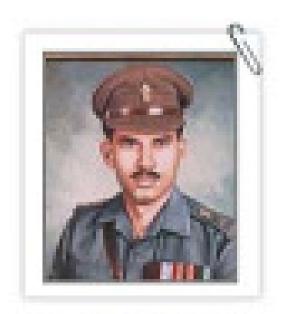
Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Sing Sekbon 18 Squadron, Indian Air Force (1971)

(n) Second Lt Arun Khetarpal 17 Poona Horse, 47 Infantry Brigade Shakargarh sector December 16, 1971.



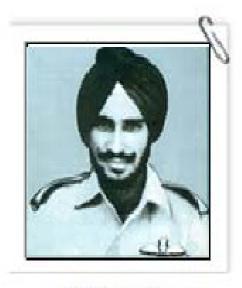
2nd Lt Arun Khetrapal (Posthumous) 17 HORSE (1971)

(o) Major Hoshiar Singh Grenadiers Regiment Shakargarh sector December 17, 1971.



Major Hoshiar Singh, 3GRENADIERS (1971)

RECIPIENTS OF THE PARAM VIR CHAKRAS



Flying Officer
Nirmal Jit Sing Sekhon
18 Squadron, Indian Air Force
(1971)

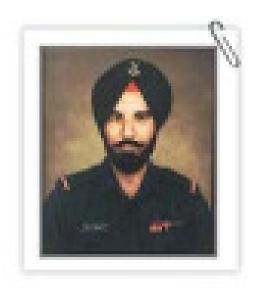


2nd Lt Arun Khetrapal (Posthumous) 17 HORSE (1971)



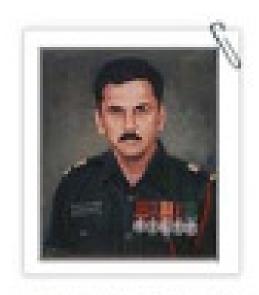
Major Hoshiar Singh, 3GRENADIERS (1971)

(p) Naib Sub. Bana Singh J&K Light Infantry Siachen 1987.



Naib Subedar Bana Singh, 8 JAK LI (1987)

(q) Major Ramaswamy Parameswaram Mahar Regiment Sri Lanka (Operation Pawan) November 25, 1987.



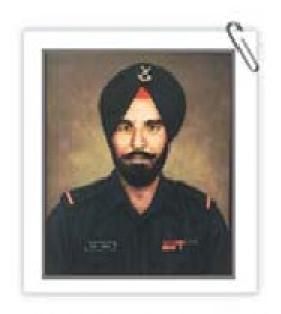
Posthumous), 8 MAHAR (1987)

(r) Lt Manoj Kumar Pandey 1/11 Gorkha Rifles July2-3, 1999.

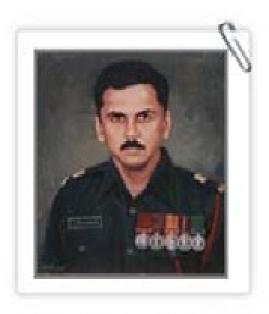


Lt Manoj Kumar Pandey (Posthumous), 1/11 GR (1999)

RECIPIENTS OF THE PARAM VIR CHAKRAS



Naib Subedar Bana Singh, 8 JAK LI (1987)



Major R Parameswaran Posthumous), 8 MAHAR (1987)



(Posthumous), 1/11 GR (1999)

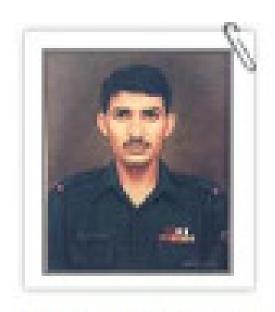
(s) Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav 18 Grenadiers July 3-4,

1999.



Grenadier Yogender Singh Yadav, 18 GRENADIERS (1999)

(t) Rifleman Sanjay Kumar13 J&k Rifles July 4, 1999.



Rifleman Sanjay Kumar, 13 JAK RIF (1999)

(u) Captain Vikram Batra13 J&K Rifles July 7, 1999.

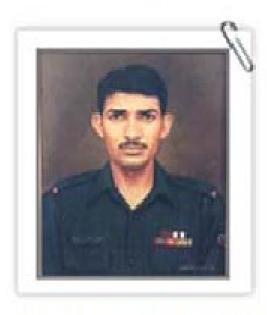


(Posthumous), 13 JAK RIF (1999)

RECIPIENTS OF THE PARAM VIR CHAKRAS



Grenadier Yogender Singh Yadav, 18 GRENADIERS (1999)



Rifleman Sanjay Kumar, 13 JAK RIF (1999)



(Posthumous), 13 JAK RIF (1999)

CHM PIRU SINGH, PVC.

Born 20 May 1918, Beri, Rajasthan.

Died 18 July 1948 (aged30) Martyred in

action at Tithwal, Kashmir

Years of service 1936–1948

Rank Company Havildar Major

Unit 6th Battalion, Rajputna Rifles

Battles/wars Indo-Pakistani War of 1947

Awards Param Vir Chakra



Company Havildar Major Piru Singh Shekhawat (20 May 1918 – 18 July 1948) was an Indian Army soldier, awarded the Param Vir Chakra (PVC), India's highest military decoration. Singh enrolled in the British Indian Army on 20 May 1936, and was assigned to the 1st Punjab Regiment. Between 1940 and 1945, he served on the North-West Frontier and as an instructor, before deploying to Japan as part of the **British** After Commonwealth Occupation Force. independence, he took part in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947, serving with the Indian Army's 6th Rajputana Rifles.

During the battle, Singh was part of the leading section of a company that was assigned to capture a Pakistani post at Tithwal, in Jammu and Kashmir. Soon after their attack was launched, the company suffered heavy casualties. In time, Singh successfully occupied a Pakistani medium machine-gun post. But, by that time, the entire company lay dead or wounded. Singh was left alone to achieve the objective. He moved out and lobbed grenades at the next enemy post. Before moving to another trench, he received a mortal bullet wound to the head.

Early Life

Piru Singh was born on 20 May 1918, in village Beri, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan. He was the son of Lal Singh. His family consisted of seven children three brothers and four sisters with Singh being the youngest son. As a young boy, Singh always hated school, as he was unable to cope with the restricted environment. One day, after being scolded by his class teacher for quarrelling with one of his classmates, Singh ran away and never returned to school.

After that, Singh continued to help his parents in their farm, and grew up to be well-built and handsome youth. Shikar, a local Indian sport, was his favourite game. Though Singh wanted to join the army from his childhood, he was rejected twice, as he was too young, before he was accepted at the age of eighteen.

War 1947

Following tensions between the newly independent nations of India and Pakistan, war broke out over control of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir in October 1947, shortly after Singh returned from Japan. In July 1948, Pakistan launched offensive strikes in the Tithwal sector of Jammu and Kashmir, and captured a ring contour on 8 July. This forced the Indian troops stationed in the forward positions across river Kishanganga to retreat.

In an attempt to reverse the situation, Singh's unit, the 6th Battalion of the Rajputana Rifles, was moved from Uri to Tithwal, and was assigned to the 163rd Brigade. The troops took position on the Tithwalbridge.

On 11 July, the Indian troops commenced their attack. These strikes continued for another four days. But reports regarding the situation suggested that the Pakistanis were still in command of a strategically important position and the Indian commanders decided that these had to be captured before the advance could continue. Apart from this position, another position was also to be captured by the Indians.

The task of capturing these two positions was assigned to the 6th Rajputana Rifles. Two companies were assigned to the operation, with the battalion's 'C' Company securing the second position after the first was captured by 'D' Company.

On 18 July, the 'D' Company launched it first attack at 01:30. The path to the position held by the Pakistani troops was just 1 metre (3 ft 3 in) wide, and deep ravines lay on either side. This narrow path was overlooked by hidden Pakistani bunkers that allowed both observation and clear fields of fire for the defending troops. As they advanced, the Indian company was subjected to heavy shelling from the Pakistanis, and within half an hour the company had recorded fifty-one casualties.

During the battle, Singh's section, leading the company, was sheared down to half strength due to heavy casualties. Singh rushed towards a Pakistani medium machine gun post, which was causing most of the casualties, during which he suffered multiple shrapnel wounds across his body as the Pakistani defenders began rolling grenades down from the heights.

Undeterred, Singh continued to advance adopting the battle cry, "Raja Ramchandra Ki Jai" (English: Hail Lord Rama). Soon he occupied the post killing the men on guard with his bayonet and Sten gun.

But by the time he captured the position, the rest of his company lay dead or wounded. Singh was left alone to achieve the objective assigned. He advanced towards the second Pakistani medium machine gun post. At this juncture, he was almost blinded by a grenade that blast at his face. His Sten gun ammunition had run out. Singh moved out of the trench and lobbed grenades at the next Pakistani post.

Meanwhile, he jumped into another trench, and killed two Pakistani soldiers with his bayonet. Before he was able to move out of the trench, he was hit by a bullet in his head. As he succumbed to his wounds, Singh hurled a grenade into a nearby Pakistani trench.

Citation

On 17 July 1948, Company Havildar Major Singh was posthumously was awarded the India's highest military decoration, the Param Vir Chakra. The citation reads of follows:

South of Tithwal, 'D' Company, of which No 2831592 Piru Singh, was Havildar Major was detailed to attack and capture an enemy occupied hill feature.

The enemy had well dug in positions and had sited his MMGs so as to cover all possible approaches. As the attack advanced, it was met with heavy MMG fire from both flanks. Volleys of grenades were hurled down from enemy bunkers. Company Havildar Major Piru Singh was then with the forward most Section of the company. Seeing more than half of the Section killed or wounded, he did not lose courage.

With battle cries he encouraged the remaining men and rushed forward with great determination onto the nearest enemy MMG position. Grenade splinters ripping his clothes and wounding him at several places, he continued to advance without the least regard for his safety. He was on top of the MMG position wounding the gun crew with Sten gun fire. With complete disregard to his bleeding wounds he made a mad jump on the MMG crew bayoneting them to death, thus silencing the gun.

By then he suddenly realized that he was the sole survivor of the section, the rest of them either dead or wounded. Another grenade thrown at him wounded him in the face. With blood dripping from his face wounds in his eyes, he crawled out of the trench, hurling grenades at the next enemy position.

MAJ SHAITAN SINGH, PVC.

Born December 1, 1924, Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Died November 18, 1962 (aged 37) Rezang

La, Jammu and Kashmir, India

Years of service 1949–1962

Rank Major

Unit 13 KUMAON

Battles / War Sino-Indian War



Introduction

Major Shaitan Singh was born on December 1, 1924 at Jodhpur in Rajasthan. His father was Lt Col Hem Singh Bhati.

Military Action

The 'C' Company of the battalion, led by Singh, held this crucial position at Rezang La, at a height of 5000 metres. The company area was defended by three platoon positions and the surrounding terrain isolated it from the rest of the battalion.

The expected Chinese attack on Rezang La came on November 18 in the morning. It was the end of a very cold winter night, with light snow falling. The icy winds howling through Rezang La were biting and benumbing. More than the thin air and cold, the location of Rezang La had a more serious drawback. It was crested to Indian artillery because of an intervening feature, which meant that they had to make without the protective comfort of the big guns.

In the dim light of the morning, the Chinese were seen advancing through nullahs to attack No.7 and No.8 Shaitan Singh 2 platoon positions. The Indian Army troops fell on their prepared positions to face the Chinese offensive.

At 0500 hours when the visibility improved, both platoons opened up on the advancing Chinese with rifles, light machine guns, grenades and mortars. Indian artillery could, however, not be used. The nullahs were littered with dead bodies. The survivors took position behind boulders and the dead bodies. The Chinese, though they failed the first frontal attack, were not discouraged. They subjected the Indian positions to intense artillery and mortar fire at about 0540 hours.

Soon about 350 Chinese troops commenced advance through the nullahs. This time, No.9 Platoon, which held fire till the enemy was within 90 metres opened up with all weapons in their possession. Within minutes, the nullahs were again full of dead bodies, mainly of the Chinese. I in frontal attack, the enemy, approximately 400 strong, then attacked from the rear of the company position. They simultaneously opened intense medium machine gun fire on No.8 Platoon.

This attack was contained at the barbed wire fencing of the post. The Chinese then resorted to heavy artillery and mortar shelling. An assault group of 120 Chinese also charged No.7 Platoon position from the rear. However, Indian Army 3-inch mortar killed many of them. When 20 survivors charged the post, about a dozen Kumaonis rushed out of their trenches to engage them in a hand-to-hand combat.

Meanwhile, the Chinese brought up fresh reinforcements. The encirclement of No.7 Platoon was now complete. The platoon, however, fought valiantly till there was survivor. No.8 Platoon also fought bravely to the last round. Singh displayed exemplary leadership and courage in the battle of Rezang La. By all accounts, he led his troops most admirably. Unmindful of his personal safety he moved from one platoon post to another and encouraged his men to fight.

While moving among the posts he was seriously wounded, by a sniping Chinese MMG. But he continued to fight along with his men. While he was being evacuated by two of his comrades, the Chinese brought heavy machine gun fire on them. Singh sensed danger to their lives and ordered them to leave him. They placed him behind a boulder on the slopes of a hill, where he died. The Chinese announced a unilateral ceasefire on November 21, 1962. In this action, 109 Kumaonis out of a total of 123 were killed. Of the 14 survivors, 9 were severely injured.

The Chinese suffered more than a thousand casualties. After the war was over, the body of Singh was found at the same place, dead from the bullet wound and the freezing cold. It was flown to Jodhpur and cremated with full military honours. Singh was awarded Param Vir Chakra, the highest wartime gallantry medal, posthumously, for his leadership and devotion to duty.

Citation:

The citation for the ParamVir Chakra awarded to him reads: Major Shaitan Singh was commanding a company of an infantry battalion deployed at Rezang La in the Chushul sector at a height of about 17,000 feet. The locality was isolated from the main defended sector and consisted of five platoon-defended positions.

On 18 November 1962, the Chinese forces subjected the company position to heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire and attacked it in overwhelming strength in several successive waves. Against heavy odds, our troops beat back successive waves of enemy attack.

During the action, Major Shaitan Singh dominated the scene of operations and moved at great personal risk from one platoon post to another, sustaining the morale of his hard-pressed platoon posts. While doing so he was seriously wounded but continued to encourage and lead his men who, following his brave example, fought gallantly and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy.

For every man lost to us, the enemy lost four or five. When Major Shaitan Singh fell disabled by wounds in his arms and abdomen, his men tried to evacuate him but they came under heavy machine-gun fire. Major Shaitan Singh then ordered his men to leave him to his fate in order to save their lives.

Captain Vikram Batra Param Vir Chakra



Nickname(s) Sher Shah

Born 9 September 1974

Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, India

Died 7 July 1999 (aged 24)

Pt. 4875, Kargil, Jammu & Kashmir,

India

Allegiance Republic of India

Service/branch Indian Army

Years of 1996-1999

service

Rank

Captain

Service IC 57556

number

Unit 13 JAK RIF

Battles/wars Kargil War

Operation Vijay Battle of Tiger Hill

Awards Param Vir Chakra

Captain Vikram Batra, PVC (9 September 1974 – 7 July 1999) was an officer of the Indian Army, posthumously awarded with the Param Veer Chakra, India's highest and prestigious award for valour, for his actions during the 1999 Kargil War in Kashmir between India and Pakistan. He led one of the toughest operations in mountain warfare in Indian history. He was often called as "Sher Shah" in the intercepted messages of the Pakistan army.

Early Life and Career

Vikram Batra was born on 9 September 1974 in Ghuggar village near Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, to GL Batra and Jai Kamal Batra. He got his primary education from his mother, who herself was a teacher. He received his education up to Middle Standard at the D.A.V. Public School in Palampur and up to senior secondary stage in Central School, Palampur.

After passing his 10+2 in 1992 from Central School Palampur, he got admitted in D.A.V. College, Chandigarh in B.Sc where he was adjudged the best N.C.C. Cadet (Air Wing) in two zones. Later, he was selected to join the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun in 1996 in Jessore company of Manekshaw Battalion, and was commissioned in the Indian Army as a Lieutenant of the 13 Jammu & Kashmir Rifles at Sopore, in Jammu and Kashmir. He rose to the rank of Captain.

Heroic Act of Capt Bikram Batra, PVC in Kargil War

During the Kargil invasion of 1999 by Pakistan, Lt Batra (at time), 13 JAK Rifles, and his Delta Company were ordered to recapture peak 5140 on June 19, 1999 five weeks after the war began. Nicknamed *SherShah* ('Lion King') in Urdu for his courage which also doubled as his call sign, he decided to approach the hill from the rear, aiming to surprise the Pakistani defenders.

He and his men ascended the sheer rock-cliff, but as the group neared the top, the enemy pinned them on the face of the bare cliff with machine gun fire. Captain Batra, along with five of his men, climbed up regardless and after reaching the top, hurled two grenades at the machine gun post. He single-handedly killed three enemy soldiers in close combat. He was seriously injured in the process, but insisted on regrouping his men to continue with the mission.

Inspired by the courage displayed by Captain Batra, the soldiers of 13 JAK Rifles charged the enemy position and captured Point 5140 at 3:30 a.m. on 20 June 1999. His company is credited with killing at least eight Pakistani intruders and recovering a heavy machine gun.



CAPTAIN VIKRAM BATRA

Born: September 9, 1974 (Palampur, Himachal Pradesh)

Operation Vijay, 1999 Killed in Action: July 7, 1999

The capture of Point 5140 set in motion a string of successes, such as Point 5100, Point 4700, Junction Peak and Three Pimples. Along with fellow Captain Anuj Nayyar, Batra led his men to victory with the recapture of Point 4750 and Point 4875. This led to the fall of Tiger Hill and India's eventual hold on the valley was strengthened.

Nine days later, Vikram Batra was assigned to an urgent mission to recapture peak 4875. This was one of the most difficult peaks to capture as the Pakistani troops sat above the peak at 16,000 feet and the climb gradient was 80 degrees. The fog made matters worse for Batra and his team. In the early morning hours of 7 July 1999, he commanded a mission to rescue an injured officer during a Pakistani counterattack against Point 4875.

During the rescue attempt, he pushed aside his Subedar, saying "Tu baal-bacche dar hai, hat ja peeche." (You have children, step aside) and was killed in action while clearing enemy positions. His last words were, "Jai Mata Di.", which is a Punjabi creed referring to Durgadevi, the Hindu Goddess of Victory.

CONCLUSION

Soldiers face the dangers and vagaries of war and sacrifice their lives for their motherland. The Indian Nation also honours its bravest of the brave soldiers by conferring on them the highest gallantry award "Param Vir Chakra" as recognition of their bravery and sacrifice.

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