



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE



### LANCE NAIK MADALAI MUTHU

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	2537049
<b>RANK</b>	Lance Naik
<b>NAME</b>	Madalai Muthu
<b>SON OF</b>	Shri Mangalam
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Village Manakal, Trichinopoly, Tamil Nadu
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	Artillery / 28 Air Defence Regiment
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>	02 August 1951
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Vir Chakra / 07 September 1965
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	1965 Indo Pak War
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



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Lance Naik Madalai Muthu was born on 22 August 1927 in Manakal Village of Trichinopoly District in Tamil Nadu. His father's name was Shri Mangalam. Lance Naik Madalai Muthu was enrolled into 28 Air Defence Regiment of the Indian Army on 02 August 1951. In the 1965 Indo Pak War, he was deployed for the defence of an Indian Air Force Base in Kalaikunda near Kharagpur, in West Bengal. During the enemy air attack, Lance Naik Madalai Muthu displayed courage and skilfully shot down a Pakistani's Sabre with his anti-aircraft gun on 07 September 1965

The Corps of Army Air Defence traces its origins to 1939, in Pre-Independent India when Anti-aircraft units were raised to counter Japanese air threat during World War-II. In its true sense, the raising of the Corps of Army Air Defence began on 15 September 1940 when Number 1 Anti-Aircraft Training Centre commenced its raising in Colaba (Mumbai) and was completed by January 1941 in Karachi. Post-independence, it remained a part of the Regiment of Artillery and later bifurcated as a separate arm on 10 January 1994, carving out a niche for itself as an operational critical and technical advanced Combat Support Arm of the Indian Army. The corps enjoyed autonomous status from 1994, after the bifurcation of the Corps of Air Defence Artillery from the Army's Regiment of Artillery.<sup>1</sup> A separate training school, the Army Air Defence College (AADC), was established to train its personnel.<sup>2</sup> On 1 November 1989, the Air Defence & Guided Missile School and Centre was formally inaugurated as a part of Gopalpur military Cantonment. The 'Air Defence & Guided Missile School and Centre' was rechristened as 'Army Air Defence College' (AADC) in 1998. Later in 2008, the Army Air Defence Centre was also relocated to Army Air Defence College. The motto of Army Air Defence is "Aksshe Shatrun Jahi" meaning 'Shoot the Enemy in Air'. The glorious history of the Corps is adorned by numerous honours and awards. It includes four Battle Honours, four Military Crosses, two Orders of the British Empire, one Medal of the British Empire, seven Indian Distinguished, Service Medals and two Ashok Chakras.



<sup>1</sup> The Corps of Army Air Defence Celebrates 31st Raising Day (Accessed on 27 May 2024)  
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1994905>

<sup>2</sup> Corps of Army Air Defence (Accessed on 27 May 2024)  
<https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/air-defence.htm>



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*The Regimental Flag and Crest of The Corps of Army Air Defence*

*Source:*

<http://indianarmy.nic.in/Site/FormTemplate/frmTemp9P13C.aspx?Mnid=xqize2kk2JnT0nJ+HKerMA==&ParentID=AeXAnY3WfKq4UPV4NHaoiw==>

The ceasefire line in Jammu and Kashmir and Indian frontiers with Pakistan have remained a sensitive zone for years. Pakistan has on and off resorted to firing, incursions and intrusions at several points of these frontiers, compelling India to adopt defensive measures. These attempts of Pakistan have been met by the Indian Armed Forces with commendable bravery and steely resilience, but always with great restraint to not escalate the conflict. The Indo-Pak War of 1965 was the second war fought between these two bordering countries. While India was still recovering from the damages of Sino-India war of 1962, Pakistan saw it as an opportunity to acquire Jammu and Kashmir with might, presuming India to be weak in terms of defence preparation. The war initiated on 24 April 1965, when Pakistan Army, attacked our territory in the Rann of Kutch and penetrated six to eight miles inside the Indian territory. This act of illegal occupation of Indian territory constituted violation of Indo-Pak Border Agreement 1960 and international law as per the United Nations Charter. The Pakistani forces subsequently intruded in Kashmir with the launch of Operation Gibraltar.

The infiltration of the Gibraltar Force at various points across the 750-km long Cease-fire Line and the International Border between Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir began on 05 August 1965. It covered areas of Jammu, Punch and Uri in the West, Tithwal in the North-West, Guraiz in the North and Kargil in the North-East. Initially, about 1,500 infiltrators crossed over in small batches, and concentrated at selected points inside Kashmir to organise themselves into larger groups. They were equipped with light automatic weapons and their aim, apart from sabotage, was to indoctrinate the Kashmiris so that they could revolt against India.<sup>3</sup> The period of the infiltration campaign was characterised by intense, hectic activity throughout the J&K Theatre with special emphasis in the Valley. The raiders and own forces marched and counter-marched all over the inhospitable terrain in a vast grim game of hide and seek. Several times during the day the opponents met, clashed and reeled apart in a series of bloody actions, weaving a confused pattern hard to unravel.<sup>4</sup>

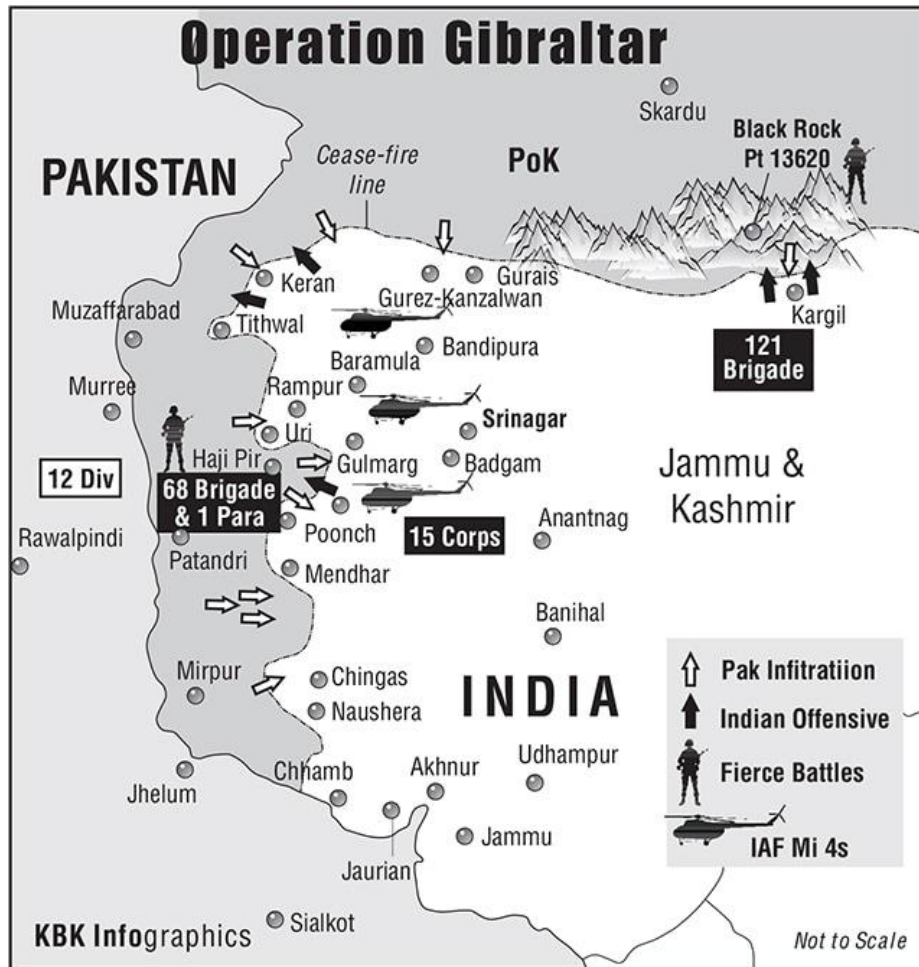
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<sup>3</sup> The Indian-Pakistan War of 1965: A History. S.N. Prasad. U.P. Thapliyal (2011). Natraj Publishers and Ministry of Defence, Government of India

<sup>4</sup> War Despatches: Indo-Pak Conflict 1965. Lt Gen Harbaksh Singh, VrC (1991). Lancer International, New Delhi



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Source: <https://www.firstpost.com/opinion/war-in-our-times-india-pakistan-war-of-1965-the-great-indian-fightback-in-kutch-and-kashmir-13065762.html>

The second batch of infiltrators, comprising some 6000 men, was pushed into Jammu and Kashmir in the third week of August. Taking into account the replacements for those who "exfiltrated", it is estimated that on the whole, about 8,000 infiltrators participated in these operations. By the first week of September 1965, a third batch of infiltrators, approximately 5,500 strong, was ready in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir for induction. But it could not be sent across the border due to the counter offensive launched by India in Punjab.<sup>5</sup> The plan failed with their early detection and lack of support from the locals, who gave away their positions.

<sup>5</sup> The Indian-Pakistan War of 1965: A History. S.N. Prasad. U.P. Thaplial (2011). Natraj Publishers and Ministry of Defence, Government of India



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In sheer desperation, Pakistan also employed its artillery in support of guerrilla operations in the Chhamb area. India grasped the criticality of the ongoing plan, repulsed the attacks and cut off the entry and exit points into the Kashmir Valley. A quick and firm response by India took Pakistan by surprise and thwarted their well laid out plans. India reacted almost immediately by recapturing Kargil heights which had been returned in Jul 1965, a limited offensive in the Tithwal Sector and most importantly, the capture of Haji Pir Pass in a daring operation by 1 PARA by Major (later Lieutenant General) Ranjit Singh Dayal under 68 Infantry Brigade commanded by Brigadier (later Lieutenant General) ZC Bakshi on 28 August 1965. This was one of the most notable achievements of the riposte. The capture of Haji Pir and loss of key positions in the Kishenganga Bulge were a severe setback for the Pakistanis which put them in a state of shock. Thus, by the end of August 1965, Pakistan's plans for quick annexation of the Valley had been squarely defeated.

The failure of Operation Gibraltar saw the last Phase, Operation Grand Slam put into effect by General Ayub Khan on 01 September 1965. A massive attack was planned in the Chhamb-Jaurian Sector aimed at capturing Akhnur, which would sever communications and cut off supply routes to Indian troops. In desperation, Pakistan played its hand by launching Operation 'Grand Slam' on 01 September 1965. It was launched across the Southern most portion of the CFL and was aimed at Akhnur; thus, Pakistan aimed at cutting of Indian positions in Naushera, Rajauri and Punch. Thereafter, as a part of Operation Grand Slam, an armoured thrust could be developed towards Jammu, the capture of which would have severed all land communications to Jammu & Kashmir.<sup>6</sup> This would place Pakistan in a position to dictate terms to India.

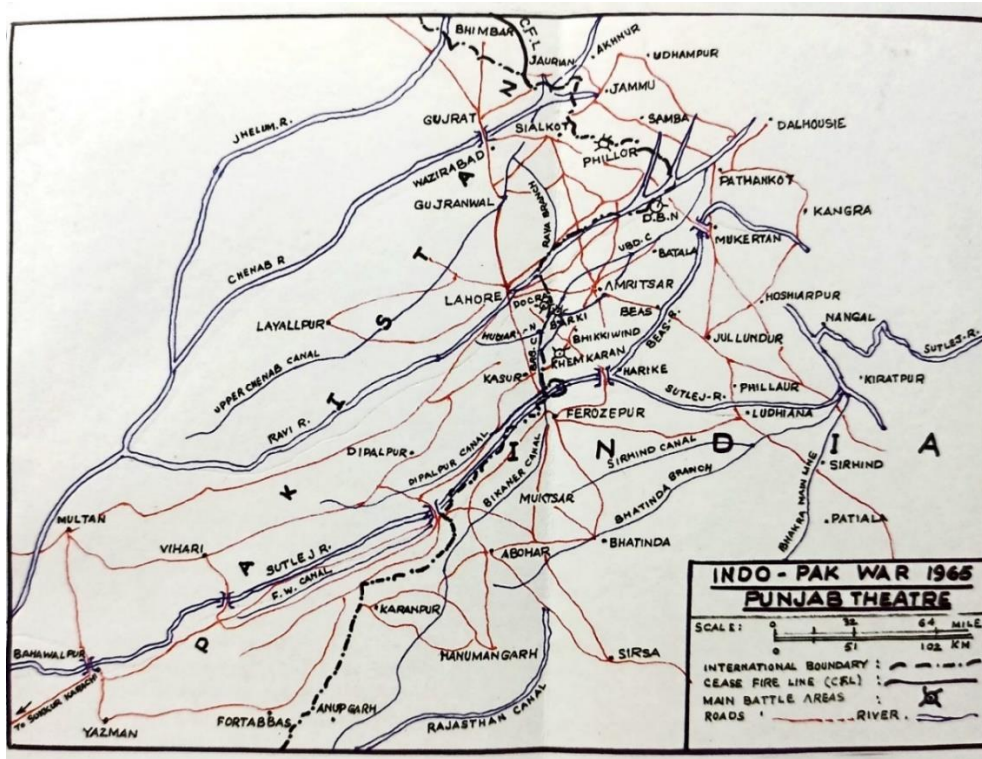
Pakistan did not call off Operation 'Grand Slam' despite the security council's call for an immediate cease-fire on 4 September 1965. It even carried out an air raid on Amritsar the next day. The Indian warning that an attack against Jammu and Kashmir would be treated as an attack against India was also ignored by Pakistan. Meanwhile, apprehending a Pakistani attack, India had also formulated a contingency plan to meet the situation militarily. The Indian plan visualised a limited offensive intended to cover the area from Dera Baba Nanak in the north to the Sutlej in the south.

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<sup>6</sup> 1965 Indo-Pak War – A Critical Appraisal (2015) Major General PJS Sandhu, (Retd) (Accessed on 8 September 2022) <https://usiofindia.org/publication/usi-journal/1965-indo-pak-war-a-critical-appraisal/>



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*Punjab Theatre: 1965 Indo Pak War*

Source: The Indian-Pakistan War of 1965: A History. S.N. Prasad. U.P. Thapliyal (2011). Natraj Publishers and Ministry of Defence, Government of India

The objective of the retaliatory Indian plan was to threaten Lahore, drive a wedge between the Pakistani forces deployed in the Lahore and Sialkot sectors and destroy their war potential. The offensive was to serve the dual purpose of ensuring the security of Punjab by advancing the Indian defence line to the Ichhogil Canal and to capture some Pakistani territory to serve as a bargaining lever in the political parleys, on the conclusion of hostilities.

In view of the above plan, the XI Corps was assigned the tasks on August 1965 to destroy the enemy forces which might enter Punjab and Ganganagar Sector in Rajasthan. Also, on orders from GOC-in-C Western Command, the Corps was to undertake the following measures simultaneously:

- a. To advance to the Ichhogil Canal along the axes GT road, Bhikkiwind-Khalra and Bhikkiwind-Khem Karan, to secure Pakistani territory from opposite Ranian inclusive to its junction with Dipalpur Canal opposite Hussainiwala. Also to capture intact Ichhogil Uttar road bridge, GT road bridge, Jallo road bridge and Barki bridge on Ichhogil Canal



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- b. To eliminate the Pakistani bridge-head at the Dera Baba Nanak and if possible, capture the bridge on the Ravi River, intact.

The Pakistan Air Force had formulated a perfect war plan against India by 29 June 1965. It envisaged a surprise attack on major IAF bases to destroy as many planes as possible on the ground and thus blunt the Indian edge in numbers. Even the timing of attack against IAF bases was carefully considered, and a strike at dusk was preferred. After a surprise strike by the Sabres, the bombers based at Mauripur were to rain bombs over the IAF bases the whole night. Even training aircraft were to be used in operations against the cities of Punjab, from the very first night of the War. Some Sabre jets were earmarked to lend close support to the Pakistan Army. Thus, the beginning of an all-out war on 06 September might have surprised the Pakistan Army but not the Pakistan Air Force.

A desperate Pakistan Army mounted a major armour-cum-infantry thrust in Chhamb, on 01 September 1965. The objective was to capture Akhnur Bridge and cut off the Jammu- Punch road. The same day at 1600 hours General JN Chaudhuri and Air Marshal Arjan Singh, met Defence Minister Chavan and Defence Secretary PVR Rao and sought permission to use the Indian Air Force (IAF) against the invaders. A 'Go Ahead' was obtained and within an hour the IAF went into action to stem the onslaught.

In a Joint Chiefs of Staff meeting held at 0830 hours on 06 September, and presided over by President Ayub Khan, the Pakistan Air Force Chief, Air Vice Marshal Nur Khan, was given full authority to conduct air operations the way he liked. He planned a pre-emptive attack on selected Indian Air Force bases to neutralise IAF aircraft and installations, and also to allot part of the Pakistan Air Force for close-support operations and air defence.

One of these targets was Kalaikunda air base situated near Kharagpur in West Bengal. The 1965 War was largely fought on the Western front and there was no ground action on the Eastern border. But on 07 September 1965, Kalaikunda IAF base came under attack from PAF Sabre F-86 jets. Six Sabres wreaked havoc and by the time the Pakistani jets flew back to Tezgaon, four IAF Vampires and two Canberras were damaged permanently. There was also significant damage to the airfield.<sup>7</sup> But there was hardly any respite for Kalaikunda. The Sabres returned to for their second attack within a few hours. However, the second attack on Kalaikunda was such a disaster for the PAF Sabres that they never ventured to attack Kalaikunda again for the rest of the 1965

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<sup>7</sup> The forgotten saviour of Kalaikunda - Flight Lieutenant Alfred Tyrone Cooke (Accessed on 04 October 2024) <https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/people/the-forgotten-saviour-of-kalaikunda-flight-lieutenant-alfred-tyrone-cooke/cid/2009447>



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War.<sup>8</sup> Flight Lieutenant Alfred T Cooke and Flying Officer SC Mamgain of IAF 14 Squadron – were in the air on combat air patrol duty North of Kalaikunda, monitoring the Barrackpore-Dumdum Sector. The Kalaikunda Radar Controller was asked to direct Cooke and Mamgain towards the Base. What followed next was some of the most audacious and breathtaking flying ever witnessed. In this chase, Flight Lieutenant Alfred T Cooke attacked one of the Sabres killed it's Flight Lieutenant Afzal Khan. He was awarded Vir Chakra for his bravery.



*Then President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan visiting soldiers in the forward area during the War.*

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-33815204>

During this attack, Lance Naik Madalai Muthu of 28 Air Defence Regiment was the Commander of the anti-aircraft gun Detachment at the Air Force base in Kalaikunda. He directed the fire of his gun very skillfully and effectively and shot down a Pakistani Sabre Jet in the air. The performance of the gun detachment under him was most praiseworthy.

Throughout the action, Lance Naik Madalai Muthu displayed courage and presence of mind. He was awarded Vir Chakra for his gallantry.

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<sup>8</sup> The War at Kalaikunda (Accessed 04 October 2024)  
<https://www.bharat-rakshak.com/iaf/history/1965war/rajwar/>





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## CITATION

2537049 Lance Naik Madalai Muthu, The Regiment of Artillery  
(Effective date of award 7th September 1965)

Lance Naik Madalai Muthu, who was commander of the anti-aircraft gun detachment at the Air Force Base in Kalaikunda, directed the fire of his gun skillfully and effectively and shot down Pakistani Sabre Jet on September 1965. The performance of the gun detachment under this non-commissioned officer was most praiseworthy.

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Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No. 15-Pres./66 dated 12 February 1966.



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9. The forgotten saviour of Kalaikunda - Flight Lieutenant Alfred Tyrone Cooke (Accessed on 04 October 2024) <https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/people/the-forgotten-saviour-of-kalaikunda-flight-lieutenant-alfred-tyrone-cooke/cid/2009447>
10. The War at Kalaikunda (Accessed 04 October 2024) <https://www.bharat-rakshak.com/iaf/history/1965war/rajwar/>



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## VIDEOS

Sabre Down! Dogfight over IIT Kharagpur - 1965 India-Pakistan war (Source: YouTube Cybersurg)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQVRnQnpZwM&t=2s>

4 Pak Fighter Jets, But an Indian Air Force Hero Won The Day (Source: NDTV)

<https://www.ndtv.com/video/4-pak-fighter-jets-but-an-indian-air-force-hero-won-the-day-382549>

IAF 1965 War What Really Happened | Indian Air Force 1965 War |1965 India Pakistan War (Source: YouTube Indian Military History)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWmhlwC9frw>

Air Force Day 2023 | Lieutenant Alfred Tyrone Cooke Returns To Kalaikunda Base After 58 Years | N18V (Source: YouTube CNN- News 18)

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