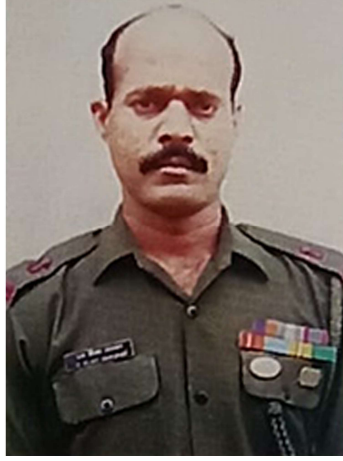




रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



BRIGADIER S VIJAY BHASKAR (Then MAJOR)

SERVICE NUMBER	IC-43258F
RANK	Brigadier (Then Major)
NAME	S Vijay Bhaskar
SON OF	N Srinivasan
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Noida, Uttar Pradesh
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	13 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	14 December 1985
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Vir Chakra / 07 July 1999
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	Kargil War/ Op VIJAY
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	COAS Commendation Card, GOC-in-C Northern Command Commendation Card



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE

Major S Vijay Bhaskar was born on 03 December 1964 in Bangalore, Karnataka. He was commissioned into the Indian Army on 14 December 1985 and was commissioned into the 13 JAMMU and KASHMIR RIFLES. During the Kargil war, he led the Alpha Company in the operation at Point 4875.

The Jammu and Kashmir Rifles has a unique regimental history. It was raised in 1821, by an intrepid Indian ruler Gulab Singh. He was one of the ablest Generals of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and later became the ruler of the Jammu and Kashmir state. As a state force, Jammu and Kashmir Rifles fought as Imperial Service troops in both World War I and II and contributed immensely during 1947-48 war. The Jammu and Kashmir Rifles was later absorbed into the Indian Army as a distinct and separate regiment. In 1963, the designation was changed to Jammu and Kashmir Rifles. After conversion, the Ladakh Scouts became a part of the regiment and has recently become a full-fledged regiment. During the Kargil conflict in 1999, the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles created an unprecedented record of bravery and sacrifice.

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 Kargil war of 1999 was fought 52 years after independence. 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 ¹, 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 territory². After two months of violent confrontation, the war came to an end on 26 July 1999.

The capture of Tololing on 13 June 1999, changed the dynamics of the war. The next objectives were Point 5140 and Point 4875, as these features provided clear view of the National Highway 1A. The task was entrusted to the 13 JAK RIF. On 17 June 1999, Major Vijay Bhaskar launched a daylight attack on Point 5140 in the Dras sector. Despite the difficulties during advance, intense enemy fire and the treacherous terrain, he displayed courage and nerves of steel, as he assaulted the well-sited sangars with complete disregard to his personal safety. He led from the front and motivated his men for a close gun battle in which six intruders were killed and the position was

¹ Kargil 1999: The Impregnable Conquered Lt. Gen Y M Bammi. (2002) Gorkha Publisher

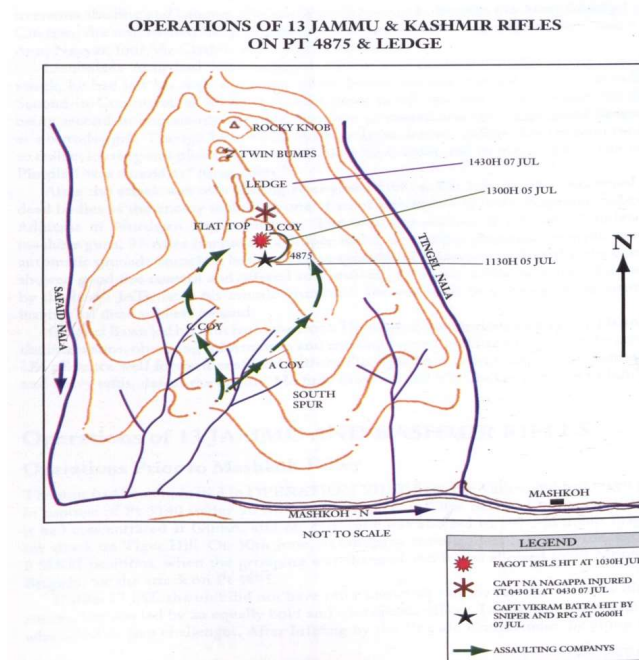
² From Surprise to Reckoning: The Kargil Review Committee Report (2000) Sage Publications, New Delhi
(Pg no 104-105)



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE

finally captured. Displaying conspicuous courage and strong resilience he assaulted the well-sited enemy sangars with utter disregard to his own safety. He successfully captured the objective.

After 13 JAK RIF's commendable action at Point 5140, the next main featured tasked to capture was Point 4875 in Mashkoh Valley. The main features of Point 4875 include- Whale Back, Flat Top and Shivling. Lieutenant Colonel YK Joshi, the Commanding Officer of 13 JAK RIF gave the order for the attack on 03 July 1999. The attack was launched on 07 July 1999, with Major SV Bhaskar leading the A Company from the Eastern slopes of Point 4875 and Major Gurpreet Singh assaulting from the Western slopes of South Spur, with a view to capture Flat Top. Major SV Bhaskar led his company with sheer grit and professional acumen. The company advanced and reached 150 metres short of the objective when it came under heavy shelling and automatic fire. With quick presence of mind, Major Bhaskar reorganised his company and personally killed two enemy intruders in a close combat. In the end, four intruders were killed and Major Bhaskar's Company successfully captured Point 4975.



Sketch Showing Plan of Attack for Capture of Pt 4875 & Ledge

Source: Lt Gen (Retd) YM Bammi, "Kargil 1999: The Impregnable conquered"

Major S Vijay Bhaskar displayed inspiring leadership, professional acumen and conspicuous courage in the face of the enemy. He was awarded the Vir Chakra.



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE

CITATION

Major S. Vijay Bhaskar (IC-43258) 13 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles
(Effective date of the Award: 07th July, 1999)

Major S. Vijay Bhaskar was Alfa Company Commander, 13 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, tasked to capture Point 5140 in the Drass Sector during "OPERATION VIJAY". Despite difficulties of movement under intense fire and treacherous rocky and rugged terrain, Major Bhaskar volunteered to launch a daylight attack on Point 5140 on 17th June 1999.

Displaying unadulterated courage, nerves of steel and firm resolve, he assaulted the well-sited sangars with utter disregard to his personal safety. Leading from the front in the finest traditions of the Indian Army, he motivated his men for a close gun battle in which six intruders were killed and the position was captured, making the capture of Point 5140 easy.

In another operation in the Mushkoh Valley, Major Bhaskar was tasked to capture Point 4875 on 7 July 99. Notwithstanding the inhospitable terrain and rarefied atmosphere, Major Bhaskar, displaying sheer grit, professional acumen, raw courage and exemplary command and control, achieved complete surprise to reach 150 meters short of the objective, when he came under heavy shelling and automatic fire. Showing exceptional presence of mind, he reorganised his company for a daylight attack and personally killed two enemy intruders in a close combat. In all, four intruders were eliminated, leading to the capture of point 4875.

Major S. Vijay Bhaskar displayed raw courage in the presence of enemy.

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



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE

REFERENCES

1. Col SC Tyagi, "The Kargil Victory: Battles from Peak to Peak, Speaking Tiger Publication", New Delhi, 2009
2. Col. Gurmeet Kanwal, "Heroes of Kargil", Army Headquarters, New Delhi. (2002)
3. Lt Gen YM Bammi, "Kargil 1999: The Impregnable Conquered.
4. Ballabh, Anand. Insights into Indian Infantry Regiment: A Basic Factbook. Forward Books publication. New Delhi

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Gandhi, S.S. Portraits of Valour: India's Highest Gallantry Awards and Their Recipients. The Defence Review. (Ed 2006).
2. The War Decorated India and Trust (Accessed on 20 July 2022)
<http://twdi.in/node/3587>
3. Pakistani pickle was subdued flavour of victory at Kargil (timesofindia) (Accessed on 20 July 2022)
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/pakistani-pickle-was-subdued-flavour-of-victory-at-kargil/articleshow/77194648.cms>
4. Nation commemorates the valour of Indian soldiers in Kargil Conflict (Point 4875: unmatched gallantry) (scoopnews) (Accessed on 20 July 2022)
<http://scoopnews.in/det.aspx?q=58768>



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE

VIDEOS

1. Brigadier SV Bhaskar message to the Red Cross Society (Source: Youtube)
<https://youtu.be/YXQfJdqEmOA>

****Disclaimer³**

OTHER INTERESTING RESOURCES⁴

Major S Vijay Bhaskar's code name during Op VIJAY was 'Khalifa'. He played a very crucial role in reaching the objectives at Point 5140 that helped secure 13 JAK RIF its victory at Point 5140.

<https://twitter.com/YkJoshi5/status/1537660306373062656>

³ DISCLAIMER:

Photos, links to publications and videos presented here are not intended to serve as a substitute for consultation and should only be used at the user's own risk. These are primarily shared because of the extensive coverage available on the subject. No copyright infringement is intended and it is not intended to hurt anyone or make sales of any sort. All copyright belongs solely to the relevant owners/creators. Usage here is purely for Fair Usage in accordance with the Indian Copyright Act 1957.

⁴ Disclaimer: The content mentioned under the Listicles constitutes fair-use of any copyright material and is used for information and research purpose only. The content is in no way promoting or branding an individual, organisation, book or film.