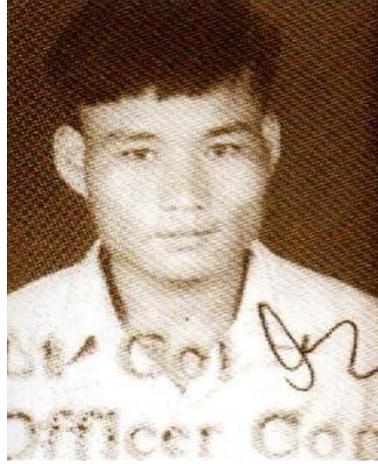




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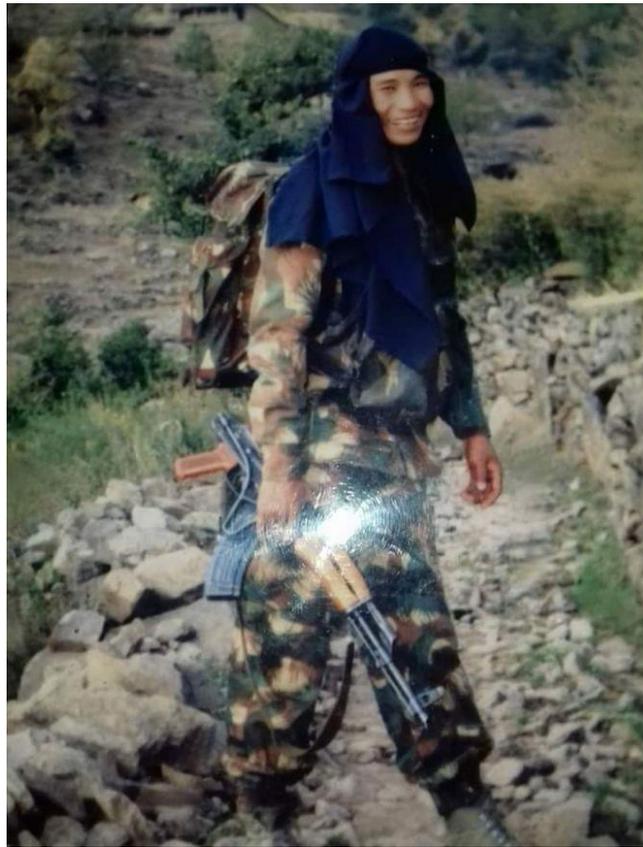
SEPOY K ASHULI

SERVICE NUMBER	14702837F
RANK (At the time of Award)	Sepoy
NAME	K Ashuli
SON OF	S Kapani
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Makhan Centre, Senapati District, Manipur
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	1 NAGA
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	19 June 1992
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 19 June 1999
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	Kargil War / OPERATION VIJAY
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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Sepoy K Ashuli was native of Senapati District, Manipur. He was born on 01 March 1976 to S Kapani and N Takra. After finishing his school education, He was enrolled into the 1 NAGA of the Indian Army on 19 June 1992. During the Kargil War, Sepoy Ashuli's Battalion, 1 NAGA was at the heart of the battle and played a crucial role in the capture of Tololing which turned the tide of the war. Soon after the capture of Tololing, 1 NAGA was tasked to capture Black Rock, a steep cliff close to Tololing. It was during this action, Sepoy K Ashulu braved the fearful odds of enemy fire and displayed conspicuous gallantry. He was decorated with Vir Chakra posthumously. Sepoy Ashuli is survived by his son K Hriiyio Mao.



An archived photo of Sepoy K Ashuli in his Uniform.

Source: <https://m.rediff.com/news/special/kargils-forgotten-hero/20220708.htm>

The NAGA Regiment is one of the younger infantry Regiments of Indian Army. The first Battalion of NAGA Regiment (1 NAGA) was raised on 01 November 1970 at the Kumaon Regimental Centre, Ranikhet Uttarakhand. It comprised of Naga rebels and ex- militants who joined Indian Armed forces. While the training of these new recruits was still in progress there was turbulence on the borders with then, East Pakistan. 1 NAGA was immediately deployed in the area. The



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Battalion which was not yet fully trained and ready for combat found itself on the battle-front in the Indo-Pak War of 1971. Yet, the Battalion displayed exceptional valour and combat skills in the Indo-Pak War of 1971. On 11 February 1985, the second NAGA battalion (2 NAGA) was raised at Haldwani. During the Kargil War, 1 NAGA was in Northern Command and the unit was part of 56 Mountain Brigade of 8 Mountain Division. It contributed immensely in the capture of Black Tooth during the simultaneous operations of Point 5140 and Point 4700. The Regiment consists a majority of Naga recruits and a fair proportion of Garhwali, Kumaoni and Gorkha soldiers.

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.

While 13 JAK RIF assaulted Point 5140 itself from the South, 18 GARHWAL RIFLES successfully secured the Eastern and Northern flanks of Point 5140 and divided the enemy's attention. The objective's given to 1 NAGA in this coordinated attack by 56 Mountain Brigade were to capture Black Tooth and Area Rocky. These objectives were to the South West of Point 5140. 1 NAGA had been the first additional Battalion to be inducted for Operation Vijay on 11 May 1999 and had participated in the early attacks on Point 5100 and Point 5140 during May 1999. Popularly known as the Headhunters, the Nagas approached their objectives from the direction of the Tolling Nala and established a firm base by first light on 18 June 1999. Colonel D A Patil, the CO, decided to launch a simultaneous assault with two Companies. At 2030 hours on 18 June 1999, 'A' Company commenced its move to Area Rocky and 'B' Company to Black Tooth. The nature of the terrain along the approach route and steady enemy artillery and small arms fire retarded progress. Steep nalas and sheer cliffs enroute permitted climbing only on all fours. But the Nagas were not daunted. At about 2300 hours. just about 100 metres short of the objective, 'A' Company was held up by the sheer volume of enemy machine gun fire. The Company Commander asked for artillery fire to destroy the sangars interfering with the attack. Major Abhay Tiwari of 197 Field Regiment was with the Headhunters and carefully coordinated the bombardment of the

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)



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objective by a series of concentrated fire assaults that caused immense damage and left the enemy numb, enabling the Nagas to close in.



Pakistani sangars complex at Point 5060 cleared by 1 NAGA

Source: Col. Gurmeet Kanwal. Heroes of Kargil. Army Headquarters, New Delhi. (2002)

After a pitched close quarter battle that lasted over one hour, the enemy withdrew. 'A' Company again pressed forward and, amidst cries of "Jai Durga Naga," and captured Rocky by 0100 hours on 19 June 1999. 'B' Company's progress towards Black Tooth was even slower. Well sited enemy sangars brought down effective fire on the assaulting troops. Repeated attempts throughout the night to establish a foothold on Black Tooth failed. In fact, close reconnaissance during daylight revealed that the enemy at Black Tooth had well-coordinated defences with medium and heavy machine guns sited to cover all the approaches. 'B' Company's standoff lasted two more nights during which the troops of 'A' Company remained deployed without cover on Area Rocky. However, to the credit of the valiant men of 'B' Company, they kept on trying relentlessly to dislodge the enemy from Black Tooth.

Sepoy K Ashuli participated in the attack on Black Tooth by Alfa Company, 1 NAGA during OPERATION VIJAY. The National Highway was dominated by a vertical cliff with strong defences, thus it needed to be removed as soon as possible. The hostile terrain had caused a temporary halt to the offensive. The feature needed to be secured using a rope. Indifferent to his own safety, Sepoy K Ashuli offered to perform the risky task. He clung to tiny crevices on the cliff



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and carefully ascended, braving the terrifying odds of hostile fire and the environment. His fortitude and tenacity set the example for the business to follow. He successfully kept the enemy engaged after reaching the summit, and he and his comrades then attacked and seized the enemy sangar at Black Tooth. He suffered severe injuries as a result of his valiant deed, and passed away from his wounds on 23 July 1999.



The Tricolour at Black Tooth after its capture

Source: Col. Gurmeet Kanwal. Heroes of Kargil. Army Headquarters, New Delhi. (2002)

In keeping with the best traditions of the Indian Army, Sepoy K. Ashuli demonstrated steely resolve, outstanding bravery, unmatched devotion to duty and fearlessness in the face of hostile fire. He was awarded Vir Chakra Posthumously.



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Sepoy K Ashuli's son Hriiyio at Drass Memorial

Source: A Son's Pilgrimage for A Warrior Father (Accessed on 21 June 2024)
<https://m.rediff.com/news/special/a-sons-pilgrimage-for-a-warrior-father/20220728.htm>



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CITATION

14702837 Sepoy K Ashuli, 1 NAGA (Posthumous)
(Effective date of the Award: 19th June, 1999)

During OPERATION VIJAY, Sepoy K Ashuli was part of Alfa Company, 1 NAGA attacking Black Tooth in the Drass Sector. A sheer cliff with well-fortified defences dominated the National Highway and was required to be cleared at the earliest. The enemy had occupied these well-coordinated defences of sangars with automatic weapons. The attack had been temporarily stalled due to the inhospitable terrain.

A rope was required to be fixed on to the feature. Sepoy K Ashuli volunteered to do the daring task unmindful of personal safety. Braving fearful odds of enemy fire and terrain, he clung to mere cracks onto the cliff and slowly made his way up. His strength and courage shaped the way for the company to follow. On reaching the top, he effectively kept the enemy engaged and along with his comrades assaulted the enemy sangar at Black Tooth and captured it. In this brave action, he was grievously injured. He later succumbed to his injuries on 23 July 1999.

Sepoy K Ashuli displayed nerves of steel, exemplary courage, fearlessness under enemy fire and camaraderie of the highest order in keeping with the finest traditions of the Indian Army.

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



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SHAURYA TALES EP.11 L THE NAGA WARRIORS: BRAVEHEARTS OF NORTH EAST
(You Tube Capt. Yashika Hatwal Tyagi)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zew0tykcdy0>

GREAT BATTLES: NDTV'S 1999 KARGIL WAR COVERAGE (AIRED: JULY 2006) (You
Tube NDTV)

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

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STORY (PART 1) (You Tube INDIA TV)

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