



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE



### SUBEDAR NIRMAL SINGH

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| <b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>                                     | JC-208096M                             |
| <b>RANK (At the time of Award)</b>                        | Subedar                                |
| <b>NAME</b>   | Nirmal Singh                           |
| <b>SON OF</b>   | Dhana Singh                            |
| <b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/<br/>DOMICILE</b> | Village Chhinabet, Gurdaspur, Punjab   |
| <b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>                                | 8 SIKH                                 |
| <b>SERVICE</b>  | Indian Army                            |
| <b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>                      | 21 September 1976                      |
| <b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>                               | Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 05 July 1999 |
| <b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>                               | Kargil War / OPERATION VIJAY           |
| <b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>                             |  |



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Subedar Nirmal Singh was born on 06 May 1957 in Chhinabet village of Gurdaspur District, Punjab. His parent's names were Dhana Singh and Shanti Devi. Subedar Nirmal Singh was enrolled in 8 SIKH of Indian Army on 21 September 1976. During the Kargil War, during the recapture of Tiger Hill, he displayed extreme bravery, courage and kept motivating his comrades to fight till the last in the face of enemy. He single-handedly took on the enemy at close quarter and kept motivating troops around him. The recapture of Tiger Hill, one of the highest peaks in the Dras-Kargil area of Jammu and Kashmir, was among India's major objectives during the war.



*People paying respect to Subedar Nirmal Singh's statue.*

Source: <https://www.jagran.com/punjab/gurdaspur-subedar-nirmal-singh-had-created-a-history-of-bravery-by-defeating-the-pak-army-on-the-inaccessible-hills-of-kargil-22868331.html>

The SIKH Regiment is one of the highest decorated regiments of the Indian Army. It came into existence on 01 August 1846, with the raising of Regiment of Ferozepore Sikhs and Regiment of Ludhiana Sikhs by Captain G Tebbs and Lieutenant Colonel P Gordon respectively. They participated effectively in the 1857 First War of Independence. This war proved to be beneficial for the Sikhs as it revealed their valour and fighting tenacity. Under the British Indian Army, the Sikh Regiment fought gallantly in a number of war and battles including the Battle of Saragarhi in



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which they left an indelible mark in the regiment's history. By 1914 the Sikh Regiment was deployed as part of British Indian Army for operations in World War I. The Regiment served in all theatres of operations and earned 28 battle honours. The modern SIKH Regiment traces its roots directly from the 11th Sikh Regiment of the British Indian Army. When transferred to the Indian Army post-Independence, the numeral 11 was removed and new battalions were added. Naik (Later subedar Major & Honorary Captain) Karam Singh of this Regiment was awarded the nations highest gallantry award the Param Vir Chakra during the battle of Tithwal, in J&K in July 1948. Subedar Joginder Singh was awarded the Param Vir Chakra during the battle of Tonglen Pa in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh in October 1962. Both belonged to 1 SIKH now redesignated as 4 MECHANISED INFANTRY.

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 <sup>1</sup>, 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<sup>2</sup>. After two months of violent confrontation, the war came to an end on 26 July 1999.

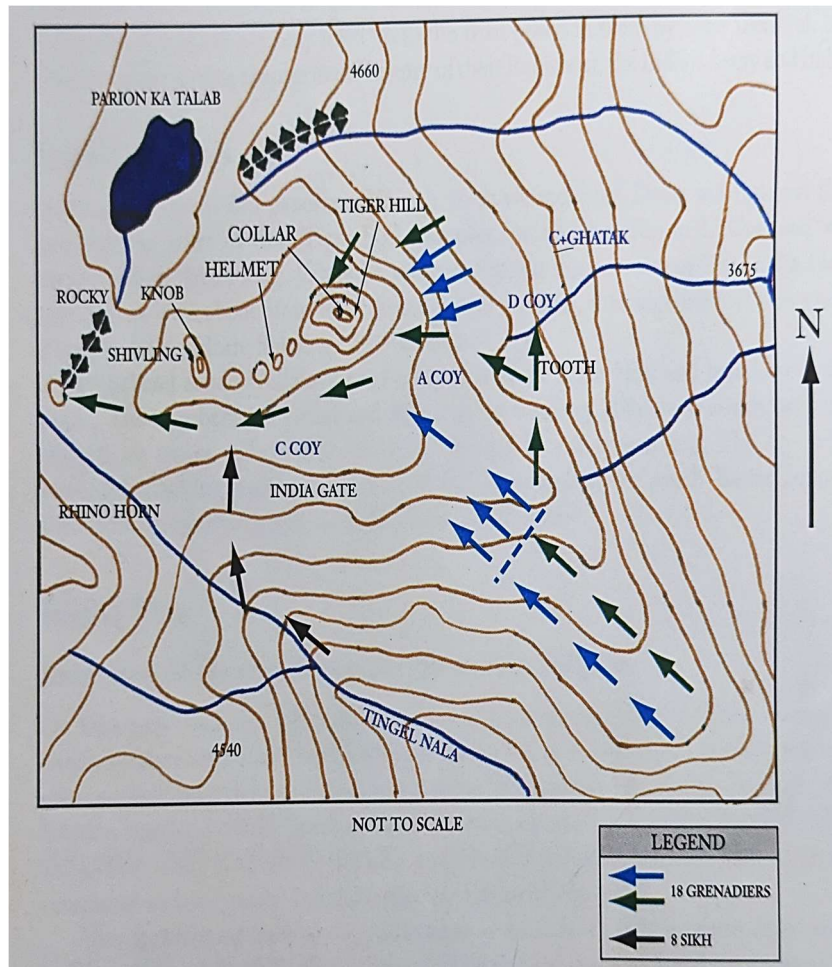
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<sup>1</sup> Kargil 1999: The Impregnable Conquered Lt. Gen Y M Bammi. (2002) Gorkha Publisher

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



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*Attack Plan by 192 Mountain Brigade on Tiger Hill*

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

The Tiger Hill complex is one of the most dominating and awe-inspiring features in the Dras sector. The Pakistani soldiers who had occupied the Tiger Hill complex in strength were bringing effective artillery on large tracts of the National Highway 1A. Eviction of the enemy from this feature was urgent and necessary. The Tiger hill was the key to enemy position in the Dras Sector. The Tiger Hill Complex was isolated from the North, South and East by 8 SIKH on 21 May 1999. However, the isolation from the West could not be done as the complete ridge line was occupied by the enemy. The Indian Army moreover was not permitted to cross the Line of Control to get behind the enemy to cut his line of communications. To completely isolate the enemy on Tiger Hill, Colonel Kaushal Thakur the Commanding Officer of 18 GRENADIERS, applied the lessons learnt earlier at the Tololing and Hump and decided a multidirectional attack, with the majority of force level assaulting from unexpected direction. The attack on Tiger Hill commenced on 03 July



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1999 at 2030 hours. By 0400 Hours of 05 July 1999, 18 GRENADIERS and 8 SIKH were able to capture several important features of Tiger Hill and succeeded in completely isolating the enemy sitting at the Tiger Hill top.

8 SIKH was inducted into the Dras sub-sector on 14 May 1999 and had cleared Point 4195, Point 4460 and the area around Pariyon ka Talab by 18 May 1999. Since then, 8 SIKH was in contact with the enemy at Tiger Hill and had contained and prevented further expansion of the enemy's defences, besides causing substantive attrition. They had isolated Tiger Hill from three directions and had provided a firm base to 18 GRENADIERS for the attack on Tiger Hill. Simultaneously, 8 SIKH had simulated attacks from the Southern and Northern directions. One company of the battalion was nominated as reserve. 8 SIKH was now given the task to facilitate the early capture of Tiger Hill by capturing its Western spur, including Helmet and India Gate, so as to prevent the reinforcement of Tiger Hill Top. The move was also intended to cut off the enemy's supply route to Tiger Hill. The Western spur of Tiger Hill extended 1.5 km and was well held. The approach to it lay along a steep rock face with a gradient of 75 to 80 degrees. Colonel SP Singh, Commanding Officer of 8 SIKH formed his Ghatak Platoon. Major Ravindra Singh was nominated to lead an ad hoc column comprising Lieutenant R K Sehrawat, four junior commissioned officers (JCOs) and 52 jawans. In a daring assault on the night of 04-05 July 1999, Major Ravinder Singh's Column climbed steadily under withering fire, helped only by the poor visibility caused by dense fog and pouring rain. The SIKHs established a fire base 200 metres from the objective, neutralised a machine gun sited on a vantage point and quickly charged uphill to occupy the feature named India Gate. The dreaded war cry of the SIKH, "Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri Akal", sent shivers down the spines of the intruders and cheered the Grinders on the other side.

Subedar Nirmal Singh was leading a small Team to establish a foothold on an objective in Dras Sub Sector on 05 July 1999. While assaulting, Subedar Nirmal Singh noticed enemy movement. But before enemy could react, he directed fire of own automatics on enemy and inflicted heavy casualties. Enemy was forced to retreat. Subedar Nirmal Singh then quickly approached the objective and captured it. Rest of the Company followed up next day and reorganised defences. Subedar Nirmal Singh deployed his platoon on a forward slope. At 0600 hours, enemy opened fire and followed it up with a counter attack on the position held by Subedar Nirmal Singh's men with 15/16 intruders. Heavy hand to hand fight ensued. Subedar Nirmal Singh and his men despite being seriously wounded, kept fighting the enemy with extreme bravado, courage and continued fighting till the last man last round. They kept the enemy away till they all succumbed to their fatal injuries.

During this operation, Subedar Nirmal Singh single handedly took on the enemy, face to face, at close quarter. He kept motivating troops around him and also led an assault on enemy force to



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repulse the counter attack. During the action, he made the supreme sacrifice of his life in the highest tradition of the army. He was awarded Vir Chakra posthumously.





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## CITATION

JC-208096 SUBEDAR NIRMAL SINGH, 8 SIKH (POSTHUMOUS)  
(Effective date of the award 05th July, 1999)

On 05 July 1999 Subedar Nirmal Singh was leading a small team to establish a foothold on an objective in Drass Sub sector during OP VIJAY. While assaulting, Subedar Nirmal Singh noticed enemy movement. But before enemy could react, he directed fire of own automatics on enemy and inflicted heavy casualties. Enemy was forced to retreat. Subedar Nirmal Singh then quickly approached the objective and captured it. Rest of the company followed up next day and reorganised defences. Subedar Nirmal Singh deployed his platoon on a forward slope. At 0600 hours, enemy opened fire and followed it up with a counter attack on the position held by Subedar Nirmal Singh's men with 15/16 intruders. Heavy hand to hand fight ensued.

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During this operation, Subedar Nirmal Singh single handedly took on the enemy, face to face, at close quarter motivating troops around him and also leading an assault on enemy force to repulse the counter attack, by making the supreme sacrifice of his life in the highest tradition of the army.

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Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No. 63-Pres/2000 dated 01 July 2000



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