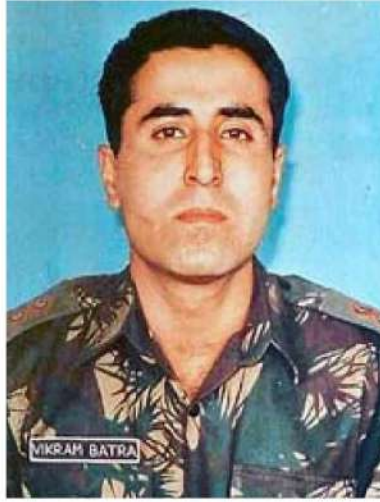




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**CAPTAIN VIKRAM BATRA**

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	IC-57556H
<b>RANK</b>	Captain
<b>NAME</b>	Vikram Batra
<b>SON OF</b>	Girdhari Lal Batra
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Palampur, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	13 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles Regiment
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>	6 December 1997
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Param Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 7 July 1999
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	Kargil War / Op VIJAY
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



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Captain Vikram Batra, popularly remembered as the “Shershah of Kargil” was born on 9 September 1974. He was the elder twin son of Girdhari Lal Batra and Kamal Batra from Palampur, Himachal Pradesh. As a child, Captain Batra had always been inspired to join the forces. He attended DAV College Chandigarh, where he had joined the National Cadet Corps (NCC). During the inter-state NCC Camp, he was adjudged the best NCC Cadet Air Wing. He even attended and marched at the Republic Day Parade. Later he informed his parents about his desire to join the forces. He was commissioned into the Indian Army on 6 December 1997 in the 13 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles (JAK RIF).

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 came under the aegis of the regiment and has only recently acquired the title of 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 3 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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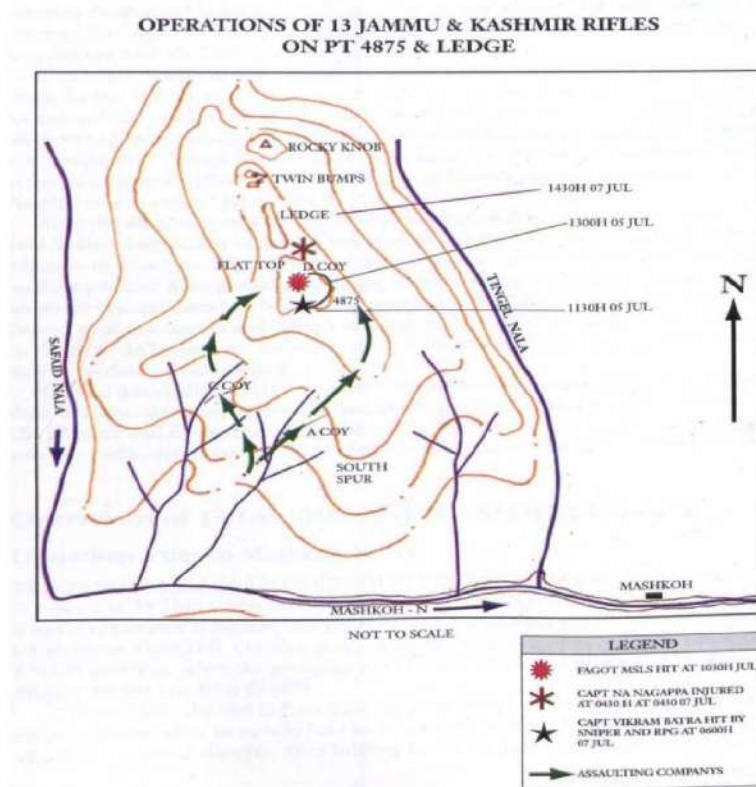
<sup>1</sup> Kargil 1999: The Impregnable Conquered Lt. Gen Y M Bammi. (2002) Gorkha Publisher

<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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The capture of Tololing changed the dynamics of the war. The next objectives were Point 5140 and Point 4875 as these features provided dominant viewpoints to the National Highway 1 Alpha. This task was entrusted to the 13 JAK RIF. Lieutenant Colonel Yogesh Kumar Joshi decided to employ the B and D Company under Captain SS Jamwal and Captain Vikram Batra respectively, for the task. It was after the success at Point 5140 that Captain Batra delivered his iconic success signal **“Yeh Dil Mange More”**. Captain Vikram Batra, was the D Company commander tasked to capture Point 5140 on 20 June 1999. He reached close to the objective despite the treacherous terrain. He along with his company moved from the East while maintaining absolute silence achieving complete surprise. Captain Batra reorganised his column and displayed exemplary leadership as he fought the enemy from the forefront. The officer’s action motivated his men to physically attack the enemy positions. In an act of formidable courage, Captain Batra pounced onto the enemy and killed four intruders in the physical combat.



*Sketch Showing Plan of Attack on Point 4875 and Ledge*

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



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After Point 5140 was captured, 13 JAK RIF was tasked to capture Point 4875. On 7 July 1999 he and his company were tasked to clear enemy defences from a narrow feature with sharp cuttings on both the sides leading up to Point 4875 and Area Ledge. Captain Batra led the assault from the front and engaged with the enemy in a physical fight. He killed five enemy soldiers at point blank range and he himself sustained serious injuries. Despite his injuries, he moved towards the next enemy sangar and threw grenades to clear the enemy position. His dauntless determination inspired his men to clear the enemy from a dominating position. Later, he succumbed to his injuries. His fearless determination and leadership encouraged his company men to avenge his death and finally capture Point 4875.

Captain Batra's inspiring leadership, dedication to duty and steadfast love for his country continue to be an inspiration to the young generation. He attended the call of duty with absolute disregard of his personal safety. He was awarded the Param Vir Chakra (Posthumous).



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## CITATION

Captain Vikram Batra (IC-57556), 13 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, (Posthumous)  
(Effective date of the Award: 07th July, 1999)

In Drass Sector, the enemy held strong fortified positions, heavily reinforced with automatic weapons, with treacherous approaches dominating Srinagar-Leh Road, the lifeline of supplies to Leh.

On 20 June 1999, Captain Vikram Batra, Commander Delta Company, was tasked to attack Pt 5140 during Operation VIJAY. Captain Vikram Batra, with his company, skirted around the feature from the East and maintaining surprise reached within the assaulting distance. The officer reorganized his column and motivated his men to physically assault the enemy positions. Leading his men from the front, the officer in a daredevil assault pounced on the enemy and killed four intruders in a hand-to-hand fight.

On 7 July 1999, in yet another operation in the area of Point 4875, the company of the officer was tasked to clear a narrow feature with sharp cuttings on either side and heavily fortified enemy defences, that covered the only approach to it.

In order to speed up the operation, the officer decided to assault the enemy positions along a narrow ridge. Leading the assault, he engaged the enemy in a fierce hand-to-hand fight and killed five enemy soldiers at point blank range. In this action, Captain Batra sustained grievous injuries. Despite the serious injuries, he crawled towards the enemy and hurled grenades clearing the position. Leading from the front he rallied his men and pressed on the attack and achieved a near impossible military task in the face of heavy enemy fire with utter disregard for personal safety. The officer, however, succumbed to his injuries. Inspired by this display of extraordinary junior leadership, the troops fell upon the enemy with vengeance and annihilated them, finally capturing Pt 4875.

Captain Vikram Batra, thus, displayed the most conspicuous personal bravery and junior leadership of the highest order in the face of the enemy and made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of the Army.



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10. 'He still protects Kargil Mountains': Remembering Captain Batra where he was martyred 20 Years ago. (news18.com) (Accessed on 31 May 2022)  
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## VIDEO LINKS

1. Caption: A documentary on the legendary soldier who laid down his life at Point 4875 fighting the enemy.  
Video title: Captain Vikram Batra (PVC) Documentary on Captain Vikram Batra, Jai Hind show, (Source: Prasar Bharti Archives) (Youtube) (Accessed on 28 May 2022)  
<https://youtu.be/ECHh2LvB-Ks>
2. Caption: A narration of the story of Captain Vikram Batra who displayed conspicuous courage and fearless spirit in the face of the enemy.  
Video Title: The Story of Captain Vikram Batra (Source: India Defence) (Accessed on 31 May 2022)  
<https://youtu.be/zImHyTyYhM8>
3. Caption: Vishal Batra, twin brother of Captain Vikram Batra narrates the story of his brother who made the supreme sacrifice in defending the country.  
Video Title: My Brother, My Pride by Vishal Batra for TedXNitteUniversity, (Source: Tedx Talks) (Accessed on 03 May 2022)  
<https://youtu.be/qUg9hLa1jEo>
4. Caption: After two decades of Kargil, the iconic snippet from the interview of Captain Vikram Batra was telecasted again by the same news portal that conducted his interview.  
Video Title: Yeh Dil Mange More: Kargil Hero Captain Vikram Batra's Story, (Source: NDTV). (Accessed on 03 May 2022)  
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5. Caption: There was one soldier whose life was saved by Captain Vikram Batra. Captain Naveen Nagappa shares the story.  
Video Title: Capt Naveen Nagappa's interview: On how Captain Batra saved his life, (Source: ETimes) (Accessed on 31 May 2022)  
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6. Caption: Captain Batra's parents recalls the gallant action of their son Captain Vikram Batra as they watch the film- Shershaah portraying the life of Captain Batra.  
Video Title: Kargil martyr Vikram Batra's parents remembers their son  
(Source: The Quint) (Accessed on 31 May 2022)  
<https://youtu.be/UrDz6M1GbRw>
  
7. Caption: Vishal Batra, the twin brother of Captain Vikram Batra tells the story of Luv and Kush.  
Video Title: Remembering Vikram Batra: His twin tells us the tale of Luv and Kush  
(Source: The Quint) (Accessed on 31 May 2022)  
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**\*\*Disclaimer<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>3</sup> DISCLAIMER:

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[https://nationalwarmemorial.gov.in/uploads/yodha\\_image/popup\\_image/162497295022C apt-Vikram-Batra.jpg](https://nationalwarmemorial.gov.in/uploads/yodha_image/popup_image/162497295022C apt-Vikram-Batra.jpg)
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## OTHER INTERESTING SOURCES<sup>4</sup>

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Fig 1: Param Vir Vikram Batra: The Sher Shah of Kargil by GL Batra

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Fig 2: The Shersshah of Kargil: Captain Vikram Batra PVC by Deepak Surana

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Fig 3: Param Vir Chakra: Vikram Batra by Maj Gen Ian Cardozo and Rishi Kumar, Roli Books

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Fig 4: Indian War Comics: Capt Vikram Batra (PVC) by Aditya Bakshi

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Fig 1

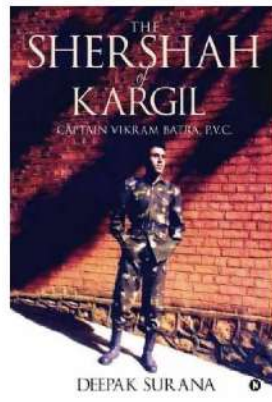


Fig 2

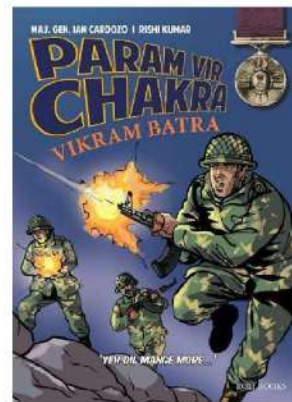


Fig 3



Fig 4

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## FILMS<sup>5</sup>

1. Film “Shershah” directed by VishnuVardhan depicting the life of Captain Batra was released on 12 August 2021.
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<sup>5</sup> Disclaimer: Films are fictional representations but the essence or idea behind each of these films have been inspired by Kargil