

Late Maj Mohan Gangadharan

A Krecian and a National Hero



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Memories : Foreword by a batch mate of '84

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Memories

Saturday, June 09, 2001

Dear friends

For one moment, let us take a step back in time and travel to a monsoon day of 1979, when a motley crowd of guys was waiting at the steps of KREC to be admitted inside the portals of the institute. There they were, young and callow, in the hushed ambience of the college, with anxious thoughts roaming their minds about the future.

It was a dark and wet day, darkened by gray clouds and drenched by monsoon sprays wind blowing and the palm fronds in front of the college swaying to the wind. From a distance came the regular and rhythmic sounds of the sea waves cresting and falling in their incessant fury.

In a dark corridor outside a room huddled boys, some alone, some accompanied. Names were called out aloud; one by one boys went in, certificates were submitted, admission granted.. complete the formalities, search for room partners, search for a room (which does not leak)...buy buckets and mugs..

There, along with the others was a tall, taciturn and lean guy.... Mohan Gangadharan.

It took little time for the boys to adjust to each other... new friendships took root. Soon the pain of leaving homes was forgotten.

Mohan became Capo...Kundoori, Kuntz...Uchil, Booty

Years rolled by.

Finally a day came in 1984 when goodbyes were to be exchanged.. with each other and with the Alma Mater. Hands were shaken...old memories recalled...promises were made to keep in touch.

Today we have traveled several years down the road. But one of us has stopped marching.

Capo is not there with us.

After leaving college, Capo, true to his family tradition, joined the Army, on 18th December. Soon, he climbed the ladder and rose to the rank of Major. On the fateful day of 23rd February, he was Post Commander at Shankarbasti Post in Nagon District, Assam, operating under 311 Mountain Brigade, under Operation Rhino. In the evening he received intelligence that a group of militants was holed up at Jainkhan village. He immediately rushed to the village with the Quick Reaction Team and placed a cordon around the village.

A group of three armed militants on a motorbike tried to flee the cordon in the cover of darkness. Using their arms, they laid down a curtain of bullets to facilitate their escape. Unmindful of the deadly barrage, Mohan charged through with his gun blazing and brought down one Pratap, who was the self styled Area Commander of the Action Group of Karbi National Volunteers, with a bullet in his leg. In the process, he received bullet injuries in the right arm and chest and fell down. Blood was pouring out of his wounds but Mohan rose undeterred and led the charge, the gun now in his left hand.

His bullets found their mark and Pratap was killed. Now, he switched attention to the other two militants.

Mohan was still firing when he finally succumbed due to loss of blood.

Due to the exemplary courage and leadership displayed by him, the other two militants were captured and a veritable cache of arms was seized.

For the gallantry displayed on the battlefield, Mohan was awarded the Shaurya Chakra posthumously on 15th August 1999.

Friends, Mohan is no more but his wife Renjini and a four-year-old daughter Nayanthara survive him. He also leaves behind a large family of his KREC friends.....us.

It is our bounden duty to this son of the soil who made the supreme sacrifice by laying down his life at his country's service that we KRECIans unite and get behind the bereaved family.

In this regard, we have set up a fund in his memory such that money accrues on a regular basis to his daughter as she grows up, continually expressing our care, concern and solidarity. We are also planning a befitting memorial to him at the college so that future generations of KRECIans shall remember this great son of the Alma Mater and be proud to have graduated from the same institute as he.

In this regard a Mohan Gangadharan Memorial action plan has been prepared which is appended. The plan outlines the mode of payment, the modus operandi for the funds collected and the actions envisaged. Kindly go through the same and send in your contribution as per the plan. You can enhance your contribution much further if you are able to connect to other KRECIans known to you and pass this mail on to them.

With best regards,

SATISH CHANDRA

Electronics & Communication,

Batch of 1984

Bangalore

E-mail : madhurisatish@netcracker.com

Late Major Mohan Gangadharan (Shaurya Chakra Posthumous) - A profile.

Awarded by the **President of India, Mr.K.R.NARAYANAN, SHAURYA CHAKRA POSTHUMOUSLY** on 15th August 1999, for making the supreme sacrifice of laying down his life for the country, fighting ULFA Militants.

Date of birth: 11 th February 1961 **Date of Death:** 23 rd February 1999.
Place of birth: Guwahati Assam **Place of death:** Naogam, Assam
Son of: Lt. Col. K.G. Gangadharan (Retd) & Mrs Sarojini Gangadharan
Survived By: Mrs. RENJINI GANGADHARAN & Daughter Nayanthara Gangadharan.

Education:

Schooling:

10th, ICSE BOARD from St. Francis, Lucknow.

12th, ISE BOARD from St Edmund College, Shillong.

Graduation: KREC, SURATHKAL, 1984, CIVIL ENGG BATCH

Extracurricular Activities at College: Played Basketball took part in Group music, talent competition, etc

(I)

Saturday, February 27, 1999

Death of a jawan while fighting ULFA ultras

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

BANGALORE, FEB 26: For 75-year-old ex-servicemen Col K G Gangadharan it is a proud moment that his soldier-son died a hero's death serving the country but for a father loss of a son brings untold grief.

Bangalore's Major Mohan Gangadharan, (38), of the Bengal Engineer Group, 59 engineering regiment, stationed at Naugong in Assam, was killed in an encounter with the ULFA militants on Tuesday.

On that fateful day, Mohan had flagged down three men on a motorcycle when the pillion rider opened fire with an AK-47. He was hit by a bullet on his hand. Ignoring the injury, the Major retaliated with his gun. The Major's bullets killed two of the militants on the spot. However, before one of the militants died, a shot from his bullet hit Mohan's chest and it was instant death for him. The third militant managed to escape.

On Thursday evening, a special aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) brought his body to the city. The body has been kept at the Air Force Command Hospital mortuary.

Mohan's military family at Benson Town in the city has accepted his death bravely. One of Mohan's elder brothers Lt Col Keshav Gangadharan is at Jhansi while another one, who would have also been a military man but for his health, is employed in the State Bank of India, Bangalore.

Their father recollects, among the three, Mohan was a topper all through his life. He always stood first at the Bengal Engineering Centre at Rourkee. Besides being a champion basketball player, a swimming champion and a coach, he was the best sharp-shooter of the regiment in the Army, said Col P Madhavan, Mohan's co-brother. He had got into the Army on a direct recruitment through the Indian Military Academy.

Mohan had married P G Nair's daughter, Renjini, and had a two-year-old daughter Nayanthara.

Says a grieving Nair, "My daughter was living with him in Rourkee until he got transferred to Assam border. He was to have come to Bangalore in about ten days to take his family along."

Bangalore-based MEG Centre's Major R Premachandran said, as the Bengal regiment did not have its centre in Bangalore, his centre would perform the last rites complete with military honours.

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(II)

His Regiment remembers:

LATE MAJOR MOHAN GANGADHARAN, SC

Late Maj Mohan Gangadharan, SC "Mohan" as we knew him was a true officer and a gentleman. He had an easy and approachable manner and a winning smile which need to adorn his face all the time.

Professionally, he was sharp and astute and was quick and efficient in getting any work done. From 1993 to 1994 he was the Adjutant of the Regt. Even that high pressure job could not shake his 'smiling Buddha' countenance and juniors and seniors alike would flock to his office to share a joke or exchange gossip.

Both he and Renjini, his wife made a wonderful couple, socially. Mohan could be counted upon to remember everyone's anniversary and birthday except perhaps his own.

He had a wonderful and large heart and you would find hordes of jawans, many from other coys who would approach him with problems and requests. He somehow found time for each and everyone.

Mohan had tact and grace far beyond his years. Even in awkward situations where there was a confrontation between two senior officers he would manage to sort things out and sooth ruffled feathers.

He would work late at office much to Renjinis annoyance, but you could never remain angry with Mohan for long and neither could Renjini.

When we received the news of his untimely demise the whole Regt was shocked. It was not just the loss one feels for a fallen comrade; it was as if each one of us had lost a brother. That is how we all thought of and remember Mohan.

(III)

CITATION FOR AWARD

For use of MS (x)

Sponsored by

Name of Unit/Formation:

Diary No:

59 ENGINEER REGIMENT/
4 Corps

Date:

Initial:

HQ Command: HQ EASTERN COMMAND

PART-I PERSONAL DATE

15. Personal No: IC- 4846M

2. Rank: MAJOR

15. Name in Full (English): MOHAN GANGADHARAN (POSTHUMOUS)

Name in Full (Hindi):

15. Dates of

(a) Birth: 11 FEB 61

15. Date of Commission: 18 DEC 88

I Date of Promotion

(i) Acting : MAJOR, JUN 96

(ii) Substantive : CAPT

(d) Likely Retirement : 2012

5. Regiment/Corps : 59 ENGINEER REGIMENT/
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

(a) Present Appointment : COMPANY COMMANDER
(Last appointment in
case of deceased/retired)

(b) Present Unit : 59 ENGINEER REGIMENT
(Last Unit in case of
deceased/retired)

6. Details of Previous Award : Award Year
NIL
7. (a) Permanent Home Address : No 6 CHURCH ROAD
BENSON TOWN,
BANGALORE – 560046
TELE – 080 – 3332688
- (b) (i) Name of Next of Kin : MRS RANJINI MOHAN
(ii) Relationship : WIFE
(iii) Address(With pin code) : 'DHANYA'
THIRUVANGAD
TELLICHERRY
KERALA - 670101
TELE - 0490 322370
- (c) Nearest Railway Station : COCHIN
8. State of Domicile : KERALA
9. Mother Tongue : MALAYALAM
10. Religion : HINDU
11. Details in case of casualty :
- (a) Killed/wounded in action : One officer, Major Mohan Gangadharan
killed in action at Jainkhan, Assam
23 Feb 99 at 1930h.
- (b) Died of wounds on _____ : NA
- (c) Mission of _____ from _____ : NA
- (d) Prisoner of war on _____ : NA
- (e) Died subsequently on _____ for reasons not related to qualifying act. NA
12. Citation for the present qualifying act NOT initiated earlier : NA
13. Act pertains to : Gallantry.
14. Act of Gallantry : Gallantry in the face of armed militants
Service pertain to in Counter
Insurgency (Operation RHINO)
15. Type of Act : Collective
16. Casualty suffered : One Officer, IC-48463M Major Mohan
Gangadhran killed in action.

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17. Achievement (Highlight) : Major Mohan Gangadharan displayed indomitable courage, exemplary leadership and extraordinary devotion to duty in the highest traditions of Army, thereby not only killing self styled Area Commander of Karbi National Volunteers, capture of three ;hardcore Kachin trained militants, recovery of sophisticated arms and amn but also saved the lives of his comrade at arms.
18. Impact on further action : The raid and search operation in Jainkhan planned and led by Major Mohan Gangadharan resulted in the capture of three militants and killing of the Area Commander of the 'Action Group' of Karbi National Volunteers thereby breaking the backbone of this outfit.
19. Details of witness (if any) : (a) JC-325458N Naib Subedar
Jitender Singh
(b) No 1490233K Sapper
Raghvendra Singh

NON INVOLVEMENT CERTIFICATE

20. Certified that there is nothing adverse and no disciplinary/Vigilance/Criminal case pending against IC-48463M Major Mohan Gangadharan of 59 Engineer Regiment.

Station : C/O 56 APO

Sd/- x x x
(Signature of Initiating Officer)

Name : S CHOWDHURY

Rank : COLONEL

Appt : COMMANDING OFFICER

Date : 28 Feb 99

Unit/Fmn : 59 ENGINEER
REGIMENT

Major Mohan Gangadharan was constantly a source of inspiration to the men under his command. In this action, he bore the burnt of automatic fire of the militants and attained martyrdom. This daring act of supreme sacrifice of Major Mohan Gangadharan resulted in the capturing of three Kachin trained hardcore militants and the death of their self styled Area Commander and recovery of sophisticated arms and ammunition.

Major Mohan Gangadharan, thus displayed conspicuous courage, exemplary leadership, devotion to duty and gallantry of the highest order, beyond the call of duty and laid down his life fighting the militants. For this most conspicuous act of bravery, pre-eminent valour and supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of the Army, Major Mohan Gangadharan is strongly recommend for the award of 'Ashok Chakra'.

Sd/- x x x
(Signature of Initiating Officer)

Name : S CHOWDHURY

Rank : COLONEL

Appt : COMMANDING OFFICER

Date : 28 Feb 99
REGIMENT

Unit/Fmn : 59 ENGINEER

PART II: CITATION

21. IC-48463M Rank MAJOR Name : MOHAN GANGADHARAN (POSTHUMOUS)
22. Place of Act : JAINKHAN, ASSAM
23. Brief description to cover QUALIFYING ACT AND ACHIEVEMENT in not more than 200 words (Attach photographs, press cuttings copies of sitreps as relevant).

QUALIFYING ACT

Major Mohan Gangadharan, Company Commander 66 Field Company of 59 Engineer Regiment was the Post Commander at Shankarbasti Post, Nagaon District since 18 Jan 99 and was operating under 311 Mountain Brigade under OP RHINO.

On 23 Feb 99 at 1720h the officer got a specific and hard intelligence about the presence of 'Action Group' of Karbi National Volunteer militants in villages called Theisu Tirang and Jainkhan, Major Mohan Gangadharan immediately reacted with his Quick Reaction Team and raided two houses in these villages and apprehended three hardcore militants. After carrying out on the spot interrogation of these militants Major Mohan Gangadharan came to know about the presence of Pratap, self styled Area Commander of Karbi National Volunteers and two more armed militants in another hideout in Jainkhan. The officer moved the Quick Reaction Team to Jainkhan by 1920h for a specific search operation. When the cordon was being placed in the general area, three militants tried to escape on a motorcycle firing a barrage of bullets from their automatics and taking cover of darkness. Major Mohan Gangadharan immediately changed the position of his men showing presence of mind and tactical acumen. Undaunted by the militants fire and unmindful of his personal safety, Major Mohan Gagadharan charged through a hail of militants bullets and brought down effective fire on the fleeing militants and in the process received bullet injuries on his right arm and chest. One of the militants, later identified as Pratap got hit on his leg and all the three fell down from their motorcycle due to this swift and bold attach.

Undeterred by his injuries, with indomitable courage and grim determination, he dashed alongwith one of his men Sapper Laxman Singh through the indiscriminate fire

of the militants, firing with his left hand and shot dead Pratap on the spot. Bleeding profusely, he got up from the ground where he had fallen and despite his serious personal injuries he organised his jawans and charged towards the other two well entrenched militants, leading from the front and exhorting and inspiring his men. Faced with such extraordinary courage, the militants broke ranks and fled, leaving behind even their weapons. Major Mohan Gangadharan continued firing at the militants till he finally collapsed due to loss of blood and made the supreme sacrifice.

PART - III: RECOMMENDATIONS

24. IC-48463M Rank MAJOR Name: MOHAN GANGADHARAN (POSTHUMOUS)

25. Citation Relates to: -

(a) Gallantry Not/in the Face of enemy. : Gallantry of the highest order in the face of Heavily armed militants.

(b) Distinguished service: NA
Not in war

(c) Rescue/Humane while Not on duty. : NA

(d) Adventure/Sport/Civil Awards. : NA

26. RECOMMENDATIONS :-

	Recommendation	Awards	Signature and date (Seal)
Initiating Officer	Strongly Recommended	'Ashok Chakra'	Sd/- x x x (S Chowdhury) Col Commanding Officer
Reviewing Officer			
Senior Reviewing Officer			
Next Senior Reviewing Officer (if applicable)			

Next Senior Reviewing Officer (if applicable)			

LIST OF MILITANTS AND RECOVERIES

1. Militants Killed : Pratap, self styled Area Commander of Karbi National Volunteers.
2. Militants Apprehended
 - (a) Rain Singh Dinu :
 - (b) Rajen Bay | Part of 'Action Group' of Karbi National Volunteers.
 - (c) Main Singh |
3. Recoveries.
 - (a) AK-56 rifle one with twenty six live rounds
 - (b) US made revolver one with two live rounds.
 - (c) Japanese revolver one with four live rounds.
 - (d) Yamaha motorcycle one.
 - (e) Incriminating documents.

(IV)

“CAPO” Major Mohan Gangadharan, Shaurya Chakra, Memorial Plan

With a view to honor the memory of a great son of India and alumnus of the Karnataka Regional Engineering College, Surathkal (KREC), it has been agreed by Mrs. Renjini Mohan, widow of Major Mohan Gangadharan (Capo) and a group of alumni of KREC to constitute a fund, which shall be operated as described in this Plan.

Contributions

Contributions shall be sought from the alumni of KREC.

Structure

The contributions shall be deposited in a separate new Bank Account jointly held by Renjini Mohan and a KREC alumnus. S. Premchandran (alumnus, 1984) is being nominated to represent the alumni. This Account shall be used solely for this Memorial Plan.

Usage of Funds

The Funds so collected shall be utilized as follows:

Funds upto Rs. 2.6 lacs

The initial corpus of upto Rs. 2.6 lacs shall be first used, to purchase a LIC policy in the name of Nayanthara Mohan, aged 4, daughter of Capo so that she receives monthly income of Rs. 1000 from age 5 to 9 and Rs. 2000 from age 9 to 17 and Rs. 4000, from age 18 to 23. She would receive a lump sum payment of Rs. 1.0 lac by age 17 and around Rs. 1.5 lac by age 23 and a further loyalty benefit. These amounts are for a LIC policy of Rs. 2.6 lacs and would be lower for a lower valued policy. The initial payment is a one time upfront payment and the monthly payments will be made directly to Nayanthara.

Funds received in excess of Rs. 2.6 lacs shall be used towards College related activities described below.

Funds towards College activities

The alumni and the authorities at KREC shall strive to immortalize the memory of Capo and to remind future generations of students of his heroism and supreme sacrifice. Some of the plans include:

- Naming a building block in his honor (the building to have a plaque in his honor).
- Instituting an annual basketball tournament in his name
- Instituting the circulation of books, scholarships etc. in his name

It is recognized that non-monetary based plans such as the above-mentioned naming of a building are far more effective. Hence efforts shall be made to co-opt a senior representative at the College into these activities.

Committee

The above activities and the usage of funds shall be overseen by a Committee consisting of Mrs. Mohan, Col K T Udupa (alumnus, 1981) Mr. Premchandran, Mr. Eknath Pai (1983, alumnus), Vijay Angadi (alumnus, 1984) and others as necessary. The quorum for conducting a meeting to consider the usage of funds shall be three Committee members.

Operation of Bank Account

The Account shall be operated jointly by Mrs. Mohan and an alumnus with both required to sign each cheque. The joint Account holders shall operate the Account per the instructions of the Committee. Mr. Premchandran is being nominated to represent the alumni.

Remittance details

Cheques/drafts or wire transfers are to be made to:

Mrs. Renjini Mohan
Savings Bank Account number: 000201029202
ICICI Bank, Prestige Meridian, M.G. Road
Bangaloe-562001
India

Cheques/drafts with the name and account number printed on them may be sent by registered post/courier directly to the Manager of the ICICI Bank at the above address with instructions to credit to Mrs. Renjini Mohan's above Account.

In case of wire transfer from abroad the following details may be used:

PLEASE REMIT USD__ FOR CREDIT OF ACCOUNT NO 001-1-427374 OF ICICI BANK LIMITED, MUMBAI (CHIPS UID NO.340828) (SWIFT CODE: ICICINBBXXX) WITH CHASE MANHATTAN BANK, NEW YORK (SWIFT ID: CHASUS33)(FW 021000021) ADVISING THEM THIS REMITTANCE FOR FURTHER CREDIT TO SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNT NO. 000201029202 OF MRS RENJINI MOHAN WITH ICICI BANK, M.G ROAD, BANGALORE BRANCH, INDIA.

CHASE MANHATTAN BANK
4 CHASE METRO TECH CENTRE, 8TH FLOOR
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11245, USA
TEL: 1212 2706000
FAX: 1212 6823761

Confirmation of receipt of remitted amount will be given to individuals by email on request by the Committee.

Audit of Accounts

An annual audited statement of usage of funds shall be put up to the Committee and to the alumni.

Progress report

The Committee shall send out quarterly/milestone based progress reports to the Alumni and to the Principal, KREC.

Memorial Committee Members

Mrs. Renjini Mohan
B2, Gaurav Enclave
Behind Pushpanjali Theatre
KHB Road, SultanPalya, RT Nagar, Bangalore-32
Tel (office): +91-80-5485510,5482932.

Colonel K Thammayya Udupa
Commanding Officer, 109 Rapid (s) Engineer Regiment
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Tel: +91-7582-41814, 52502 and 52539 (Residence)
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(V)

Late Major Mohan Gangadharan ,his wife Mrs Renjini Mohan & daughter
Nayanthara Mohan

