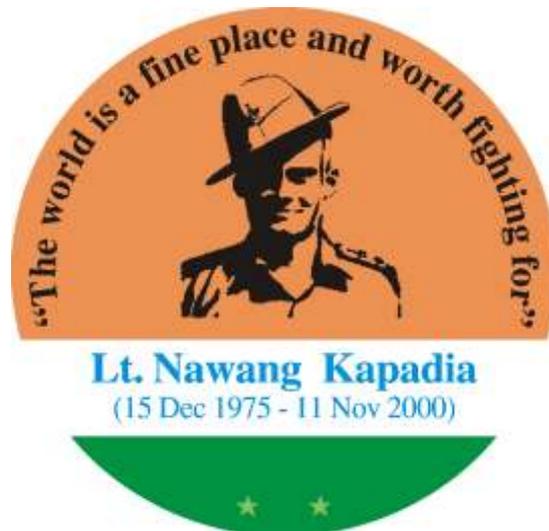


# PHOTOS

## Tawang Tract

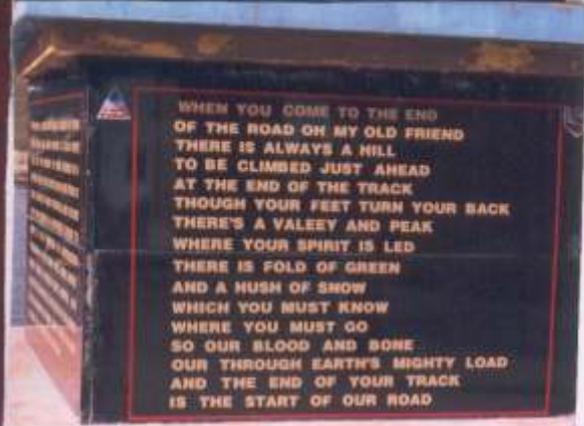
### Arunachal Pradesh

### October 2003



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*Expedition dedicated to memory of Lt. Nawang Kapadia*



War Memorials and inscriptions:  
1. At Nykmadong. 2. Se La pass  
3. Gate at Se La Pass 4. Jaswant Garh





1-2. Tawang Monastery

- 3. Gorsam Chorten near Zimithang.
- 4. War Memorial at Tawang.



①



②



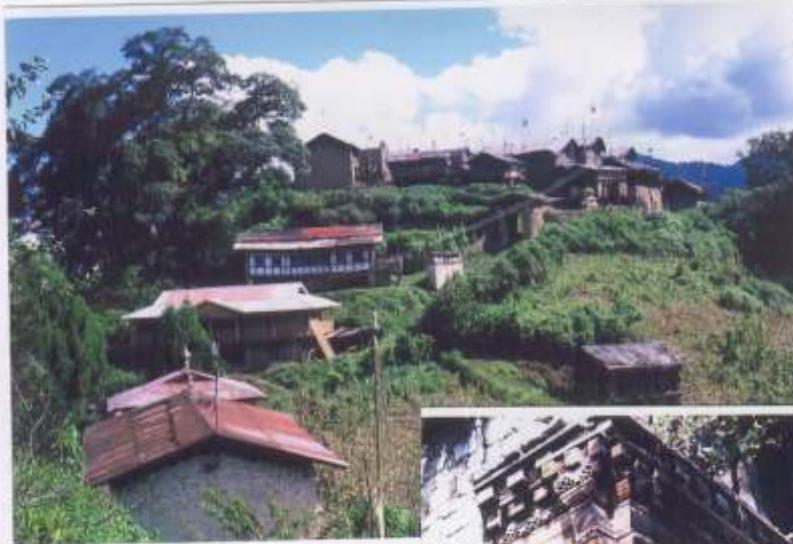
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④



1. McMahon Line ridge from Mahipat Point.
2. Shrine to Subedar Joginder, near Bum La.
3. Bum La Pass
4. Typical forest on trek



①



②

1. Thembang
2. House for travellers, Thembang
3. Old Tibetan Gate
4. The Dzong (fort) at Dirang



③



④

①

1. Mundama: the "Broken Spectre"
2. View from Chander.
3. Poshing La (right notch) from Changia.
4. Salute to brave solders at old army bunkers, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2003, exactly 41 years after the war.

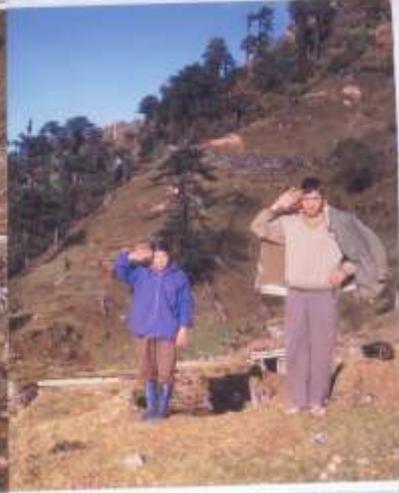
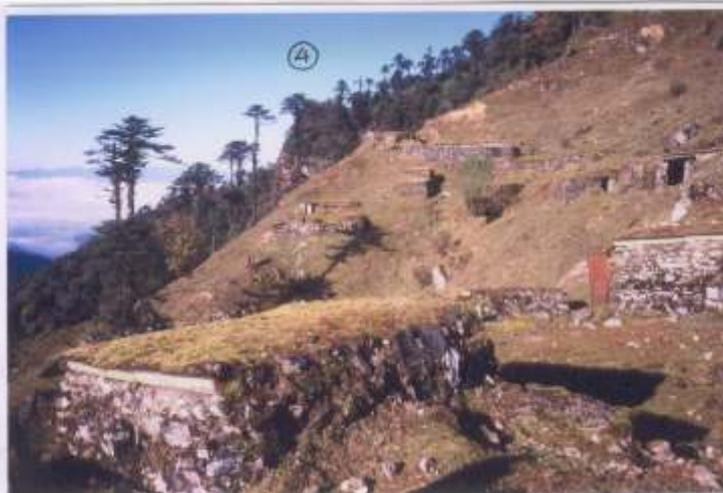


②

③



④





1. Gorichen from Pt. 4983, near Tse La.
2. Gorichen from Chander.



3. Kangto, 7042 m from Poshing La.
4. Gorichen from Poshing La.





**Lieutenant Nawang Kapadia**  
15 December 1975 – 11 November 2000

Lt Nawang Kapadia, who was commissioned in the Fourth Battalion the Third Gorkha Rifles, died while gallantly fighting Pakistan based in Kupwara district of Srinagar on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2000.

The happiest day in twenty four year old Mumbai -born Nawang's life was when he joined the Officers' Training Academy at Chennai. His parents, well -known mountaineers Harish and Geeta, encouraged him to the fullest in spite of the cynical views of others. It was a proud moment indeed at the Passing Out Parade on 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2000 when his family and friends saw him receiving his Lieutenant stars on commissioning to the prestigious Fourth Battalion The Third Gorkha Rifles. After a brief visit home, Nawang proceeded to the Regimental Centre at Varanasi from where he joined his Battalion on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2000 . The Battalion was, during this period, continuously involved in operations against foreign terrorists who had infiltrated and were in the process of establishing their bases in the Kupwara area of Jammu and Kashmir. Nawang was immediately involved in these operations where his qualities of heart and mind as well as his abundant courage were a beacon to the troops under his command.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of Nov the Battalion received information of a large number of terrorists hiding in the notorious jungles of Rajwar near Kupwara. Search and destroy operations were immediately launched with Nawang leading his own platoon. At approximately 11 am, a large hideout was discovered by the Battalion and Nawang's platoon came under fire from a group of eight to ten terrorists in the vicinity. Havaldar Chitra Bahadur got a burst in the stomach and fell mortally wounded. At this stage, Nawang instinctively rushed to rescue Chitra Bahadur, firing his weapon, under the covering fire of his comrades. A terrorist who was hiding in the nearby foliage fired at Nawang. In the crossfire, Nawang got a bullet in the face and died, leading his troops in the highest tradition of valour and sacrifice.

Nawang Harish Kapadia was born on December 15, 1975, in Mumbai three years after his elder brother, Sonam. As his surname indicates, theirs is a family of traditional Gujarati cloth merchants, of a community that has a scarce presence in the Defence Services. From his early childhood, Nawang had imbibed the best adventurous talents of his parents, Geeta and Harish, both of whom have many achievements under their belt. Sonam and Nawang were named after famous Sherpa mountaineers; ironically both are Gorkha names. Nawang means "leader of men", a very apt name for an able soldier.

Nawang did his initial schooling at New Era School and subsequently at the St. Xavier's Boys' Academy. He did his B. Com. from Jai Hind college, Bombay. In college, his interests included trekking, hiking, mountaineering (which of course, was in his genes), sports, martial arts and music. He enjoyed life to the maximum, and it was most evident in his passion for food. When it came to eating, no one could match him. Nawang could out-eat anyone and at anytime.

Lt Nawang Kapadia's sacrifice will remain a shining light to inspire future generations. The city of Mumbai should be proud of its son who lived his life here and leaves behind a sorrowing family and a large circle of friends.

He was cremated with full military honours on Tuesday, 14 November, 2000 in Mumbai in presence of large number of family and friends and army officers. Nawang lies in peace, having chosen a career as he desired and dying for the country, trying to save a life, in best traditions of the army.