

Army Dedicates Gallery for Kargil Hero Nongrum

Shillong, Nov 17: To keep the memory of Captain Keishing Clifford Nongrum alive, the Army today dedicated an MVC gallery at the Rhino Heritage Museum.

Captain Nongrum achieved martyrdom during the Kargil war. He was first war hero of the State and conferred Maha Vir Chakra posthumously. Nongrum made the supreme sacrifice for the motherland during the war on July 1, 1999.

The gallery is adorned by the bravery citation, photographs and a letter written by Captain Nongrum's father. The copies of the handwritten scripts on "How to join Indian Army as officer" prepared by him indicating his strong character, patriotism and writing skill are also displayed at the gallery.

Notes of Nongrum, encouraging the youth to join the Indian Army was also made public. While on leave prior to proceeding to join the Operation Vijay, he delivered talks to the students in a few schools in Shillong.

In recognition of his supreme sacrifice, HQ 101 Area had also named the Married Accommodation Project at Shillong as Clifford Nongrum Enclave. Besides the memorial gallery, Maj General Sethi who is scheduled to retire at the end of this month also inaugurated the 'Captured Weapons of 1971 War Corner' at the Rhino Heritage Museum. The Units under command the HQ 101 Area have had the great privilege of reaching Dhaka first in the War for Liberation of Bangladesh in 1971.

Some small arms and equipments captured during the war have been displayed in the '1971 War Gallery' of the museum. These included Chinese, NATO and Iraqi made rifles and machine guns. Also on display is a sample Permanent Line Route (Copper Cable on Aluminium Poles) which was erected by the Signal Regiments of 101 Area in Bangladesh to extend communications in the war-torn country.

The Museum, located at T Junction of NH 40 and 44, leading to Shillong and overlooking the Umshyrpi River, is housed in a building which was made in 1928 as a Small Arms Stores. During World War II, it was known as the dungeon Lines and Japanese prisoners were kept there. Later, it was used as a magazine, and the building was left uncared for till it was renovated to turn it into a museum in 1998-99 by HQ 101 Area.

The Rhino Museum has many military historical photographs and items connected with the local culture and receive a large number of visitors every day.