Welcome to the latest edition of Parbate, where we bring you news from the Brigade of Gurkhas and its community. Once again this edition is jam packed with photos, stories and information from around the globe:

Support Company, 1 RGR, stationed in Brunei takes part in a Humanitarian and Disaster relief exercise (page 4).

Also in this edition, as we get closer to celebrating the 200 years of Gurkha service to the British Crown in 2015, the Gurkha Museum takes a look at the World Wars (page 16).

Different units across the BG learn the history of great wars and remember those servicemen who died for their country (page 17).

Formation of Gurkha Lions. 2 RGR bowls itself into a new sport for the Brigade: Cricket (page 22).

Finally, Gurkha teams demonstrate more of the skills that have earned a fine reputation for the Brigade during the Cambrian Patrol achieving Gold Medals (page 21).
FEATURES
04 Gurkhas in New Caledonia
Gurkhas take part in a humanitarian exercise

04 Happy Birthday QGE
Queen’s Gurkha Engineer’s 66th Birthday

06 Champion Coy 1 RGR
B Coy wins the Champion Coy Trophy

16 Gurkha service during the wars
The Museum gives us the second part of its potted history on the Brigade of Gurkhas

18 Intake 14 Passing Out Parade
Gurkha Recruits intake ’14 passes out with distinction

21 Cambrian Patrol
2 RGR and Gurkha Coy Sittang get Gold

18 Intake 14 Passing Out Parade
Gurkha Recruits intake ’14 passes out with distinction

PARBATE SPORT
22 The Gurkha Lions
2 RGR Gurkhas rise to the new challenge of cricket

23 Army Volleyball Championship
1 RGR and QOGLR make it an all-Gurkha final at the Army Volleyball Competition 2014

23 Armed Forces Parachute Championship 14
WO2 Khadak Chhetri GSPS wins the Silver Medal in the Junior Team Accuracy at the Armed Forces Parachute Championship 2014.

Military Skills, stamina and dedications were constantly evaluated. Amongst five teams who were awarded Gold Medals, two teams were comprised of Gurkhas; 2 RGR and Gurkha Company Sittang. The Nepalese Army team achieved Silver. The Cambrian Patrol p 21.
The great achievement was finishing 2nd in Indonesia’s T20 in 2013 with breaking almost all records of scores, wickets, and the longest six. The Gurkha Lions “2 RGR Cricket Team”

2014 marks 100 years since the start of the First World War; a devastating conflict in which Gurkhas once again proved both their loyalty to the British Crown and their formidable courage

Ex CENTENNIAL VICTORY
By Capt TJA Baker RGR
Gurkhas take part in Humanitarian and Disaster relief exercise in New Caledonia

By Unit correspondent

Soldiers from Support Coy, 1 RGR assisted by HQ Brunei Garrison were deployed to New Caledonia between 25 Aug- 5 Sep to take part in a multinational humanitarian aid exercise.

This multinational exercise saw the Gurkhas joining troops from France, Australia, United States, New Zealand, Canada, Tonga, Vanuatu, Japan, Singapore and Chile. The exercise scenario was designed to imitate the conditions immediately after an imaginary natural disaster where the islands had been hit by a category 4 cyclone which led to a rapid deterioration in living standards and a breakdown of law and order.

British Forces Brunei are regularly invited to participate in other nations’ training events within the wider South East Asia and South Pacific region. This was an excellent opportunity for the Gurkhas to work as part of a multinational force in a humanitarian assistance and Disaster Relief environment which is a likely task for the unit within the South East Asia and South Pacific Region.

The training and terrain were especially challenging and soldiers from Support Company benefited from the opportunity to conduct useful training in unfamiliar terrain, and show-case the qualities of British Forces and the RGR, whilst conducting wider-regional military engagement.

The Gurkha teams proved themselves early on during an international log race, where the RGR teams came first and second.

The exercise also gave Staff Officers from the Garrison a chance to work in a Multinational Headquarters. The UK filled the posts of Joint Operations Chief Officer (Major Rajeshkumar Gurung), Information Officer (Major Woodman), Logistics Officer (Captain Marshall), Intelligence Officer (Captain Devall), Movements (Sgt Vambe).

During the final exercise Commodore Richard Powell OBE, UK DA in Canberra visited the troops in the field. The exercise finished with a parade of all the participating nations in Noumea.

By LCpl Ramkaji Thapa

The QGE celebrates its 66th Birthday

On Sunday 28th September 2014 the Queen’s Gurka Engineers celebrated its 66th birthday in Invicta Park Barracks. It is celebrated as a special day in the QGE calendar and this year wasn’t any different; the regimental birthday brings together the serving and ex serving members along with their families.

The event was started by the Brigade of Gurkhas’ Band putting on a spectacular marching and static display for the gathered audience. The Adjutant 36 Engineer Regiment then announced a Special Routine Order followed by the announcement of the Bowring Trophy and the Durand Medal winners. The Bowring is presented to the Junior NCO who in the opinion of the Commandant, has shown the best examples of leadership and discipline throughout the year. This year the winner of the trophy was LCpl Seesan Gurung and the runner up was LCpl Sandesh Rai. The Durand Medal which is presented to the best officer, in the opinion of the Commandant, went to Capt Kamal Khapung and Warrant Officer Class 2 Govinda Rana was the runner up.
Brigate Band performance draws huge crowds - in Brecon and online

By Musn Bhagiman Lingden

The annual Brecon Freedom Parade held earlier this year certainly drew the crowds, but a performance from the Band’s Kukri display team has been a hit elsewhere. Over 200,000 people have now seen the kukri dance on the Gurkha Brigade Association Facebook page -a record for the Brigade’s online activities.

The Colonel of the Regiment, the Commandant QGE and the Gurkha Major QGE cut a Birthday cake with a kukri to officially celebrate the occasion. Then after a speech by Commandant QGE Lt Col Walker, the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General T R Urch CBE gave his speech highlighting that the QGE is a very versatile force; able to adapt to new roles quickly, for example from a Search role to the Force Support Engineering.

The presentations for the winners and runners-up of the football, Chelo and Ladi’s Cake competitions was then led by SSgt Narendra Gurung.

Typical Nepalese cuisine was served followed by an entertainment programme organised by LCpl Nagesh Sunuwar which included traditional Nepalese dance.

The Gurkha Company Mandalay marched through the town of Brecon earlier this year alongside the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas and Pipes and Drums from 2nd Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles and The Queen’s Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment. This year saw the parade’s usual marches, parade and band music accompanied by kukri combat demonstrations as well as traditional dances from Gurkha children and wives -all of which were covered on the Brigade’s social media pages. The response has beaten all previous records for the Brigade.

The Mayor of Brecon, Councilor Neil Sandford, took the salute and inspected the parade. The huge local crowd also enjoyed the joint Band display followed by colourful music: the YouTube hit ‘Gangnam Style’, world famous ‘Kukri Dance’ and Pipe music ‘Highland Cathedral’ and ‘79th Farewell to Gibraltar’. 
Nine teams from 1 RGR took part in the Bullock Trophy Competition in the second week of June to be crowned the Champion Company for the year. This 36 hour event, focusing on basic military skills, marked the start of a series of competitions that would ultimately see the crowning of the next Champion Coy within 1RGR. Each Coy had entered two platoons into the competition with HQ Coy only entering one, and for some teams, training had started months previously.

The Bullock Trophy consisted of a series of nine exercise stands that had to be navigated to and completed within a time limit. The initial competition ended on the second day with a six mile march-and-shoot event, with the final couple of miles having to be completed with a stretcher. It was clear that every team put their all into those first two days to prove their thirst for wanting to be the Champion Company. With one competition down and three more to go, the rankings put SP Coy overall 1st with B and A Coy 2nd and 3rd respectively. Lt Charles Collins (PC4) led his platoon to overall 1st.

Hot on the heels of this success at the Bullock Trophy, the Roberts Cup came two weeks later. With everyone out training as much as possible in B (SARI BAIR) Coy wins the Champion Company 1 RGR Trophy 2014

Lt Jones, B Coy, 1 RGR

Under the careful eyes of the Sgt Major from each Coy, drill and turnout improved drastically and all seemed to have what it would take to win. The testing phase began early in the morning and ended after hours of flawless turnover and well executed drill routines. Scores were not told to any who competed in order to keep the running for Champion Coy as competitive as possible.

Swiftly following on from the drill competition, and during the weeks prior, the competition was fierce. With an A and B team competing from each Coy, the combined scores were added and put A Coy as the winners and SP Coy as runners up. This placed both teams in a very strong position after good results during the military skills as well.

During the weeks after these competitions, life in the Battalion became much harder. The next competition for Champion Coy was a test of drill and turnout. For most, many of the working days were spent practicing a routine over and over again under the baking Brunei sun.

70 Gurkha Fd Sqn gets a spectacular view of British history

By LCpl Seesan Gurung

Gurkha Fd Sqn (Rear Party) organised an educational day-trip to the Imperial War Museum and Buckingham Palace in London in order to broaden their knowledge of British history. Here is LCpl Seesan Gurung’s account of the day.

“...the Holocaust exhibit, and climbed straight to the Lord Ashcroft gallery on the fifth floor. This showcases the world’s largest collection of Victoria Crosses, George Crosses and medals from recent conflicts. We explored extraordinary stories behind those medals of bravery; tales of initiative, skill, aggression and sacrifice. Thereafter we walked to our next stop on the visit, Buckingham Palace.

“It was a spectacular visit to the official home of Her MajestyThe Queen. We had the opportunity to visit the State Rooms, Ballroom, all treasured Royal collections, lavish furniture, artistic ceilings, grand chandeliers and also an exhibition on Royal childhood. It was an informative and memorable experience to see one of the few remaining working Royal palaces in the world. A very well put together and informative audio guide kept us moving and allowed us to relish the magnificent view of the palace.”
final two weeks before Summer leave, Coy’s battled it out for the decider on who would get the title. The two weeks tested those involved in a whole manner of sporting competitions; competing for the Wallace Memorial Trophy. During the first week, Volleyball and Basketball were the main focus of the Battalion, with players performing to near professional standards. At the end of the first week the whole Battalion then partook in a 6 mile cross-country race with the top runners from each Coy being recorded for the competition.

Finally, the last week saw football and swimming teams battling head to head in their respective disciplines in a final push to be Champion Coy. B Coy took overall 1st place in the Wallace Memorial Trophy and A and SP Coy took 2nd and 3rd.

By this point it all came down to who won the drill competition. A and SP Coy had remained consistently high throughout with B Coy hot on their heels. On the final day before summer leave, results were announced. Overall, Champion Coy was a tie between B and A Coy. With A and B Coy tied 1st to be Champion Coy, the rules stated that the Coy who had performed best in the military skills phase, would then be crowned overall Champion.

In the Bullock Trophy B coy had just outdone A Coy by a few points. Because of B Coy Comds’ clear direction, man management & leadership, B Coy managed to hold the champion flag again.

At the end of the two months of competitions, all teams had demonstrated true professionalism, determination and team spirit throughout every event. It had been a pleasure to see such dedication and sportsmanship throughout the ranks and all those who were involved are thanked for their efforts.

The final standings were as follows:

1. B Coy
2. A Coy
3. SP Coy
4. C Coy
5. HQ Coy

At the end of the tour, we came outside to a beautifully kept garden in which we could take photos, which had not been allowed inside. Our final stop was to walk through Horse Guards’ Parade to Whitehall and see the statue of the Gurkha soldier. The statue is dedicated to the Gurkhas who fought in all the conflicts for the last two hundred years with the British Army. After reading the inscriptions on the plinth and taking photographs, we headed on to look after our peckish stomachs.

“It was a refreshing and memorable visit and those who attended are now in a better position to understand the stories of those who sacrificed their lives in the Great War. Credit goes to Sgt Bishnu for organizing this excellent trip and we are eagerly waiting for another trip in a different location.”

In addition to providing welfare support to Gurkha veterans in need in Nepal, the Trust also has a long-standing programme of supporting Gurkha communities in Nepal.

A key programme is our Rural Water and Sanitation Programme. We have worked in partnership with the Department of International Development since 1989 to bring clean drinking water and hygienic sanitation to Gurkha villages. In that time we have:

- Installed new water systems: 1,102
- Repaired existing water systems: 304
- Constructed school latrines: 355

This has benefitted 44,519 households and 297,792 people in Nepal.

Providing clean water and effective sanitation can be life-changing. 29 years ago we installed a water system in the tiny village of Bharat Pokhari where there were only 11 homes. Once clean water was available, the village started to grow. In 2011, with a thriving 55 homes, the village once again approached the Trust for help. Its existing water supply simply wasn’t large enough to cope with the influx of new families.

Construction on the new expanded water supply was completed in February 2013. Villager Mankumari Pun told us that before she had to rise early to avoid the long queues at the limited water supply. Now she can simply fetch clean water from the tap in her front garden.

As well as saving women and children from the arduous work of carrying water up the village’s steep slopes, a simple tap irrigation scheme provides water for a village garden, enabling the villagers to grow more crops.

In 2014/15 the Trust will spend just under £1.7m ensuring 80 villages have access to clean water.
As part of the Army 2020, the Army Reserve is recruiting Ex Regular Soldiers. So, if you have already retired or are about to retire from the Regular Army, you can join the Reserves in any cap badge with no new skills or qualifications. The government is also offering handsome benefits to the Ex Regulars when they join the Reserves. The aim of this article is to provide you with summary of benefits that you may be entitled to if you join the Army Reserves now.

Financial Incentive
All Reserve soldiers are entitled to receive Annual Army Reserve Training Bounty of £1,691 when they meet the minimum annual commitment and the Army Reserve salary. On top of this, from 1 April 2014, the Army Reserve is offering a number of new and revitalised financial incentives to Ex-Regulars a sum up to £10,000. Normally, this is divided over four payments:

- £2,000 on approval by the CO of your Army Reserve unit
- £3,000 after completing your first year full training commitment
- £3,000 after completing your second year full training commitment
- £2,000 after completing your third year full training commitment

To be eligible for £10,000 you must meet the following criteria:

- You must have completed at least four years Regular service with the rank of Captain or below
- You must join the Army Reserve before 31 March 2017
- You must have left the Regular Army no more than six years before enlisting into the Army Reserve
- You must have applied for and be capable of employment in a post approved by an Army Reserve units’ CO
- You must be Medically Fully Deployable (MFD) or Medically Limited Deployable (MLD)

Reduced Commitment.
Annual Training Requirement. For the Ex Regulars, the minimum qualifying period for the annual Army Reserve Training Bounty has been reduced from 27 to 19 days. Army Reserve units’ CO have the discretion to reduce the MATT requirements

Application Process
Serving Personnel. Unit’s RCMO is the first port of call for personnel leaving the Regular Army. If you are a Service leaver, you have to complete the application for enlistment in the TA -Serving Soldier, Appendix 2 To Annex B To 2012DIN01-164 dated Aug 12, prior to your last day in the service.

Ex-Service Personnel. Ex-Regular wishing to join the Army Reserve should in the first instance, research the Army Reserve unit. This can be achieved by liaising with the nearest Army Reserve unit RCMO or local Army Career Centre. Applications to join should be submitted online.

Any Gurkhas who wishes to know more about joining the Army Reserve may also contact one of the following individuals:

- Capt Lok Gurung (QG SIGNALS). SO2 Transition. Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas, Former Army Staff College, CAMBERLEY, Surrey, GU15 4PQ. Tel: 01276 4122619. Email: Gurkhasbde-transition@mod.uk.
- Maj Buddhi Gurung (Ex QG SIGNALS). RCMO, 7 Rifles. Brock Barracks, Oxford Road, Reading. RG30 1HW. Tel: 01189 530237. E-Mail: 7Rifles-RCMO@mod.uk
- Maj Khim Gauchan (Ex QOGLR). RCMO, 151 Regt RLC. Sydenham Road, CROYDON, CR0 2EW. Tel: 020 8760 7103. E-Mail: 151TPF-RHQ-RCMO@mod.uk.
- Maj Duth Gurung (Ex QG Engr). PSAO, 579 Field Squadron (EOD. St John’s Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 9UU. Tel: 01892 556831. Email: 101Engr-579-PSAO@mod.uk
- WO2 Serbahadur Gurung (Ex 1 RGR). Youth Engagement Warrant Officer, 2 Brigade. Sir John Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3HF. Tel: 01303 225 380. E-Mail: 2X-HQ-Dps-OrgCts-WO@mod.uk or serbahadur.gurung882@mod.uk

The Army Reserve is recruiting ex-Gurkhas Now

To visit your nearest Army Regional Recruiting Centre logon to: http://www.army.mod.uk/join/20088.aspx. Tel: 08456008080

For online Applications: http://www.army.mod.uk/join/The-Army-Reserve.aspx. Tel 0345 600 8080
Gurkha Coy Sittang inaugurates a Buddha Statue on the auspicious occasion of Buddha Jayanti

By Rfn Tejbahadur Tamang

Gurkha Company Sittang has celebrated the annual Buddha Jayanti in time honoured Gurkhal tradition. The parade started early morning on Monday, 19 May 2014 at the GCS holy temple. Capt Manikumar Rai (GCS 2IC) highlighted the sequence of events about how the day was going to be celebrated. Then with a few jokes from our Dharma Lama Guru (Religious Buddhist Teacher, also know as Buddhist Monk), the puja commenced. Firstly, the Lama Guru told a moral story relating to Buddha, which everyone enjoyed. Secondly, he began to tell us about the importance of Buddha Jayanti by adding other stories and several means of worshipping Buddha.

One of the highlights of this event was the new Buddha statue. The day was ideal for the Buddha statue to be inaugurated. The face of the statue was covered until the Dharma Lama Guru finished the mantra (a Buddhist prayer especially chanted in Tibetan). Our chief guests for the event were Col BG, Col J Robinson Saheb. Our OC, Major Yam Rana MVO also spoke about how the Buddha’s path and our military core values (CDRILS) are connected.

This type of celebration plays a vital role in our life as well as in the civilian life as it guides and reminds everyone the story of Buddha and how he achieved nirvana. Other thing, it teaches us is to the help others and walk in the right path. It gives us the moral to be honest and loyal. These qualities are the most common traits that Buddhism wanted us to know.

Religious fact file
Buddha is often described as relaxed, meditative and full of joy and holiness. Holiness was born on full moon day in 563 BC. He devoted his life and left his family and kingdom in search for the unanswered questions to help mankind to reach beyond life and death. His birth, achievement of Nirvana and the last breath on this world was on the same month of Baishak Purnima which is the first month of Nepali Calendar. This year the Lord Buddha becomes 2557 years old and we celebrate it as Buddha Jayanti, the day which is widely celebrated around-Asia and some European Countries.
**Adventure of a lifetime in the Baltic Sea for RAO Det 10 QOGLR**

By Pte Vivek Gharti GSPS

On 18 Jun 14, RAO Det 10 QOGLR took part on a weeklong sailing course taking place in and around Danish islands in the Baltic Sea.

“On 19 Jun 14, we reached Kiel Training Centre (KTC) in the north of Germany who were solely responsible for organising this exercise. There we were allocated to our designated group and issued with the sailing kits and some petty cash for food and day-to-day personal expenses. Everything was new to us, which made learning more interesting as we played with new equipment.

“In the early morning of 20 Jun 14, we sailed from Kiel and headed towards Marstal in Denmark. From there we sailed to beautiful locations of Denmark mooring the yacht in a harbour area every evening. We also got the opportunity to go around the places and see the contrasting culture and meet new people. On 24 Jun 14, we sailed to Kappeln in Germany where we were lucky enough to witness a large annual sailing festival taking place.

“On this exercise, we learnt things like tacking (changing the direction of the yacht as the wind changes), judging the wind, importance of sea navigation and tying various types of sailing rope knots, mooring and man over board drills. Not only did we have fun sailing, but also got to see the lifestyle of the Danish and German people. All in all, this entire trip was absolutely worthwhile.”

---

**Functional Skills course delivered at Shorncliffe Garrison**

By Rfn Hari Rai B Coy 2 RGR

Ten soldiers from the different companies of 2 RGR and two soldiers from 36 Queen’s Gurkha Engineers participated in a one-week Pre-FS (ESOL) and two week English Functional Skills Level 2 course conducted by Chatham Army Education Centre (30 AEC Group) at Shorncliffe Garrison, Folkestone, Kent.

The course was organised for all service personnel regardless of rank, location and year of service. The first five days of ESOL-based subjects were taught by Mathew Freeman from the Kent organisation Skills Plus. Gill Hawkins from RA CPD taught reading, speaking and listening in the second week and writing was delivered in the last week by Hilary Colling, also from RA CPD.

Students had to pass three different assessments: Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing to achieve the full FS English Level 2 qualification. Individuals had to pull their socks up to get their best result! Everyone passed the speaking and listening test, whereas only eight out of eleven succeeded on the reading test - with a highest score being 92.5% performed by Mabin Gurung and seven students passed the writing test - Sgt Bhakta Bahadur Gurung achieved the best score with 84%.

Education is an essential part of military life and it gives strength to the Army. According to Kirsten Johnson,30 AEC Chatham, the main aim of the course was for the tutors to deliver the course with a high success rate. She said, “The course went well! It was planned and delivered extremely well, all the administration for funding was completed and everyone had a lot fun! The group and the tutors definitely bonded as a team.”

If you are interested in doing a Functional Skills course at Shorncliffe Garrison, please contact: Kirsten Johnson BSDM, 30 AEC Chatham. Mil Tel: 94661 2970 Civ Tel: 01634 822970 E-mail: 30AEC-Chatham-BSDM@mod.uk

---

20 Sqn personnel took part in a WW1 Battlefield Study (BS) of Ypres, Neuve Chapelle and the surrounding areas of Belgium and France between 30 Jul to 3 Aug 14. Here is LCpl Nirkumar Magar’s account of the trip:

After approximately six hours of driving, we arrived at Dover and embarked on the ferry to Calais, France.

Once in France we had a further drive to the city called Roubaix where our hotel accommodation was booked. On the second day, as per our plan, we travelled to Ypres (Belgium), known as ‘Wipers’ by the British Forces where the first and second battles of Ypres were fought during 1914 -1915.

During the first battle of Ypres approx 60,000 British soldiers were killed and more than...
8 VCs were awarded. As a part of the tribute to WW1, we attended the last post ceremony at the Menin Gate and Capt Vishal Pun (Tp OC) laid a wreath at the gate in the memory of those known and unknown soldiers who lost their lives in these battles.

The next day of study was focussed on the battle areas in French Flanders where the Indian Corps (including the Gurkhas as part of the British Indian Army at the time) took part. We visited Neuve Chapelle where 2/2 Gurkhas took part in trench warfare for the first time. Gurkhas also took part in the battle, during which Rifleman Kulbir Thapa of 2nd Battalion 3rd Gurkha Rifles was awarded the first Gurkha Victoria Cross.

We studied the third and fourth battles of Ypres (1917-1918). We visited the battlefield sites of Messines and Poelcappelle where so many soldiers lost their lives. We finished the day visiting the Passchendaele memorial museum where the memory of the war has been kept alive through images, movies, historical artefacts, underground tunnels, headquarter workplace scenarios etc.

In conclusion this tour was very educational and helped all who participated to learn about the development of warfare, the change of tactics, weapon and overall life of soldiers in the Great War (WW1) leaving us with many lasting memories.
The Brigade of Gurkhas had the honour of welcoming a very special guest during the week before Remembrance Sunday. Rambahadur Limbu, VC, MVO, the only living Gurkha VC holder, joined representatives of the Gurkha Brigade Association at the opening of the Westminster Field of Remembrance. He also attended short ceremonies at the statue of Field Marshal Slim and the Gurkha Statue.

Later in the week Rambahadur went on to visit HQBG and the Gurkha Museum where he received a tour and spoke with other guests about the display showing his VC winning actions.

The soldiers of 2RGR in Shorncliffe were the next to welcome ‘VC Saheb’ where he spoke with the junior troops about his experiences and gave them advice on being a good Gurkha soldier and how to forge a strong career.

Lastly he visited the Gurkha Welfare Trust who spoke with him about some of the excellent work they are doing out in Nepal as well as here in the UK to assist retired Gurkhas.
1. Cpl Milan, Subodh, Bhishma and Chitraranjan from 246 GSS took part in BUPA, The Great North Run and raised £1512 for the ABF The Soldier’s Charity.

2. Sgt Tarjan in action during 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn Tihar celebration.


5. OC GSPS and OC SIPAC Sqn congratulates the newly capbadged GSPS soldiers on their Pass Out Parade.

6. Col Blackmore with two QGOOs after receiving his OBE at the Investiture in Buckingham palace.

7. Maj Chin Saheb at the NMA.

8. COS BGN Lt Col E A Davis and Mrs Sue Davis riding on a elephant during the tow out in BGK.
9. Welfare Staff and Gurkha families based at Dover presenting a cheque for £400 to the Head teacher Mrs Deby Day for Guston C of E Primary School and the Manager Mrs Nicky Ellse for Burgoyne Heights Pre School.

10. Col BG presenting farewell gift to Col Bishwanath Ghimire, Military Attachés Nepal Embassy UK

11. Training Team Brunei- Rfn Suresh, TTB dog handler with the dogs

12. QG Signals 2014 Dashain celebration

13. Comd, GM and Gurkha Adjt QG Signals with newly capbadged Signallers who transferred from the RGR
Two hundred years of Gurkha history - G200 Part 2

When Britain declared war on Germany on 4th August 1914 the only trained troops available to come to Britain’s aid were the Indian Army. Nepal immediately offered money, equipment and troops to Britain in her hour of need.

Six Gurkha battalions were in the trenches of northern France by the end of October 1914 at the start of a war that raged for four years and would see Gurkhas fighting in Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Palestine, Salonika and on the North West Frontier. Exceptional bravery was displayed and hardship endured by the Brigade. Gurkhas were the only troops to achieve any meaningful success against the Turks at Gallipoli, Gurkhas rode with Lawrence of Arabia in Palestine and Gurkhas showed exceptional resolve in defence at Ctesiphon in Mesopotamia. Over 90,000 Gurkhas served during the war of which over 20,000 died or were wounded or missing.

Rifleman Kulbir Thapa became the first Gurkha soldier to be awarded the Victoria Cross for saving the lives of wounded comrades on the Western Front in September 1915 at the battle of Loos. This was one of three VCs awarded during that war to Gurkha regiments. In addition, 165 awards of the Indian Order of Merit were made. As had been the case for many years, ongoing military action was taking place on the North West Frontier but in May 1919 the Third Afghan War broke out with the invasion of British India by Afghan forces. This took some months to bring to an end by repulsing the Afghan troops and it is during that war that prominence was given to 11th Gurkha Rifles, which was a short lived unit of the Gurkha Brigade.

Although the size of the Brigade had returned to peacetime levels, revolts, uprisings and disturbances continued all along India’s north western frontier and further afield. Between 1918 and 1939, medals were awarded to Gurkhas for service on the North West Frontier, Waziristan, Mahsud, Malabar, Iraq, North West Persia, Kurdistan and Burma.

The Quetta Earthquake of 1935 wrecked the 7th Gurkha Rifles’ cantonments. Luckily, both battalions were absent but a battalion of 8th Gurkha Rifles was there and in the rescue operations that followed, two Gurkhas were awarded gallantry medals, one of which would be later exchanged by Naik Nandial Thapa for the George Cross.

On the outbreak of the Second World War, Gurkhas were highly trained and experienced in fighting from their years on the North West Frontier. As in the First World War, Gurkhas saw service in many theatres of war: Syria, Iraq, Persia, North Africa, Malaya, Burma, Italy, Greece and again, Gurkhas were at the forefront of many notable achievements. The night-time breach of the Mareth Line in North Africa, the ascent and capture of Hangman’s Hill at Cassino and the steadfast defence by Gurkha Parachute Battalions at the Battle of Sangshak thus giving valuable time to the defenders of Imphal and Kohima, record but a few.

The qualities of the Gurkha enabled evasion from Japanese capture in the early part of the war in Burma, the endurance and jungle craft on the two Chindit Operations and the ability to withstand the privations and hardship experienced following the fall of Singapore in 1942.

It is hardly surprising that twelve Victoria Crosses were awarded to the Brigade during a war that saw over 137,000 Gurkhas serving. There were over 23,000 who were casualties and of this number the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records the names of 9,056 from Gurkha regiments who died.

The defeat of Japan did not bring an end to fighting by Gurkha battalions, some of which were sent to Vietnam, Java and Sumatra in September 1945 to counter separatist uprisings. It was the 15th August 1947, the day of Indian independence, which was to change the future of the Gurkha Brigade. (to be continued)
2014 marks 100 years since the start of the First World War, a devastating conflict in which Gurkhas proved once again both their loyalty to the British Crown and their formidable courage - one of many examples being the first Victoria Cross awarded to a Gurkha soldier, Rfn Kulbir Thapa in France, 1915.

However it was not to France but to the Ypres Salient in Belgium that four members of 1RGR turned their attention in a recent battlefield study. Major Kamal Rana, Captain Tom Baker, WO2 Sher Bahadur Gurung and WO2 Giri Prasad Gurung were fortunate enough to gain places on Ex CENTENNIAL VICTORY, a battlefield study organised by Maj Tristan Kemp, SO2 Plans at 2 (Southeast) Brigade, which took place 23-25 September.

The Ypres campaign comprised three major battles. They were fought in and around the town of Ypres, which had strategic importance for both sides. To the Germans it represented an obstacle between them and the French channel ports, and to the British it was a key objective in their aim to get to the Belgian ports that housed the U-Boat menace. The first Battle of Ypres took place between October 30 and November 24, 1914. The battle concluded in an allied victory but led directly to the formation of the entrenched, static positions one so often visualizes when thinking of the First World War. Attrition rates were extreme.

The second battle took place between April 22 - May 25, 1915 and saw the Germans illegally employing gas as a weapon, with troops from 2 Brigade being among the first to suffer its devastating effects. The battle once again concluded in a bloody stalemate, with Allies sustaining around 60,000 casualties, and the Germans around 35,000 casualties. The third and most infamous battle, also known as the Battle of Passchendaele, was fought between July 31 and November 10, 1917. The British High Command saw offensive action as an absolute necessity in order to relieve pressure on the French and allow them to consolidate after their near-disastrous mutiny earlier in the year.

On June 17, the British achieved an advance and captured the village of Messines, which was strategically located on high ground to the northeast of Ypres itself. However, from July to November, record levels of rain turned all the low ground into a morass, making movement of artillery and supplies almost impossible and creating abysmal conditions for the infantry. It was almost impossible to march across. The Allies had gained a total of eight kilometres of ground at a cost of 250,000 casualties - the Germans suffered a similar number. This equates to around 35 Allied lives for every metre of ground taken - an almost inconceivable loss of life.

2 Brigade, which was then an infantry formation, held the distinction of having served from the beginning of the campaign in Ypres to its conclusion. The Brigade is now partway through the process of being withdrawn from the Army’s order of battle. This study was therefore a very poignant and fitting tribute to the Brigade’s history and a chance to reflect on the sacrifice and tenacity of our forebears.

Our group, which comprised members of 2 Brigade, PWRR and RGR, based itself in Hooge, the scene of an epic battle in the First Ypres during which both sides detonated enormous mines under the opposing side’s trenches, creating vast craters that now appear as lakes. We visited Sanctuary Wood, to the south, which had been held by elements of 2 Brigade in 1915 to act as a rendezvous and aid post. We also had a guided tour of the memorial museum of Paschendaele, where we were able to view original items of soldiers’ kit and equipment and visit a number of surviving trenches. The complexity of these defensive structures was remarkable. As soldiers, we are always glad of the opportunity to pay our respects to our forebears and there is no better place to do this than the Western Front.
By LCpl Narbahadur Gharti, QG Signals

248 Gurkha Signal Squadron’s annual Live Firing Tactical Training (LFTT) exercise, Exercise KHUKURI HOPTON, took place over the period 02-06 June 14 at Sennybridge Training Area (SENTA).

The main aim of this exercise was to train the Squadron Soldiers on Tactical Live Firing. The exercise was coordinated by SSgt Jagatram Rai and was boosted by the presence of Squadron OC Maj Smith, and Sgt Kiran Gurung and Sgt Barun Sherchan also played important role as an assistance to facilitate to run the exercise smoothly. The main exercise began on early sunny morning on Mon 2 Jun, with personal weapons zeroing and grouping followed by few practices for ACMT. The ACMT was conducted on the following day. The next training was fire and manoeuvre beginning with individual’s fire and movements and developing into Fire Teams Attack. It then led to section attacks on the next day followed by night defensive shoot that evening. The most interesting phase of the exercise was inter-section march and shoot competition on Fri 6 Jun which developed into a fierce competition. Everyone performed their best but the winner was 4 Section.

After successful completion of the Combat Infantryman Course, 28 new Riflemen from Recruit Intake 2014 (RI14) arrived at 2 RGR’s Sir John Moore Barracks on Sat 11 Oct 14.

The Battalion Training Cell, supported by staff from BTT and Coys, conducted two weeks Induction Cadre designed to teach and inform the new Riflemen about Regimental traditions, ethos, and Gurkha values and standards. There was an emphasis on 2 RGR’s way of operating in Barracks and in the field. The cadre came to an end with Kasam Khane parade on Mon 27 Oct 14, during which the new Riflemen swore their allegiance to the regiment by presenting themselves before the NISANI MAI (Queen’s Truncheon). This day is particularly important for them as they become the fully fledged members of the 2nd Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles. It marks the start of their service with 2 RGR. The reviewing officer on the parade was Lt Col M H Reedman, Commanding Officer 2 RGR. Available members from 2RGR and their families witnessed the Kasam Khane parade.
Gurkhas from 2 RGR commanded by Maj James Cartwright took over from The 1st Battalion The Rifles with a mission to train the Malian Army and make them capable to fight extremists in the North of Mali as part of OP NEWCOMBE. The operation is a European Union Training Mission that is held in Mali where troops from 23 EU countries including the 2RGR Infantry Training Team, have deployed to the African nation to train the Malian Army during this mission.

Before deploying to Mali the had Pre-Deployment Training that took place in Sir John Moore Barracks in Shorncliffe. It started from 07 July to 11 August 2014 and was five weeks training covering different elements required to be competent before the deployment.

Having completed two months of pre-deployment training before being deployed, the 2 RGR team learned how to train the Malian Army. In this training period some of the Irish comrades also joined them and trained for a week. French is commonly spoken in Mali, so French language classes were part of the programme. During that period there was also an opportunity to learn the Malian peoples’ language called Bambara.

Pre deployment, 2 RGR did an in-theatre training package of three weeks during which they organised an International Shooting Competition in which soldiers from 22 Countries took part. They even managed to celebrate Dashain during this busy period despite being far from their families. From 28 Sep the unit started to train the Malian Army with the first phase of training being held in Sikasso, in the South East of Mali.

LCpl Jitbahadur Pun said: “This tour is a big opportunity for us. We are here to train the Malian Army, which leads us to improve our own capability and we are very happy to get an opportunity to work along with them.”
‘Highest Calibre’
Gurkha recruits graduate after nine months of rigorous training

By Unit Correspondent

120 new Trainee Riflemen joined the ranks of the Brigade of Gurkhas on 9 Oct 14 after successfully completing nine months of rigorous training in Catterick.

The young men paraded in front of a packed audience with the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas playing at the event. Trainee Rifleman Nichahang Rai was presented with the overall Champion Recruit award by Maj Gen T B Radford DSO OBE, GOC FTC who was the Reviewing Officer of the event. All recruits have already been allocated their Cap badges within the Brigade of Gurkhas. The allocation are as follows:

- 1 RGR- 30
- 2 RGR- 30
- QGS- 21
- QOGLR- 20
- QGE- 19
- GSPS- 4
- Brigade Band - 2

The recruits then treated their friends and family to a special demonstration including dancing, Taekwondo skills and combat tactics as well as the famous Kukri dance. The former Officer Commanding of the Gurkha Company Catterick, Maj Anderson said this intake had one of the highest calibre of cadets throughout their training, and the Brigade will welcome them amongst their ranks.
Gurkhas excel at the Cambrian Patrol

By Capt Lilaram Rai

Gurkha Company Sittang (GCS) from RMAS was one of 119 teams that took part in the 55th Cambrian Patrol. The event was organized and run by 160 (Wales) Brigade over the period of 17-26 Oct 14. The international list of competing teams included mixed regular and reserve teams from the British Army and teams from many countries like Norway, New Zealand, Poland, Pakistan, Czech Republic, France, Denmark, Australia, Italy, Holland, Ireland, India, Canada and Estonia. For the first time in the event’s 55-year history, soldiers from Brazil, Kazakhstan, The Royal Army of Oman, Georgia and notably Nepal also took part.

Military skills, stamina and dedication are constantly evaluated during the patrol and marked with a system of points. Teams that successfully completed their mission were awarded a gold, silver or bronze medal or certificate of merit, depending on the total number of points they gained. The patrol faced real challenges throughout the day and night along the very tough terrain, high mountains, swampy valleys and bad weather. Navigating both by day and night, the patrol faced many testing and specialist challenges, including observation and reconnaissance of enemy forces, cold river crossings in full kit without access to boats, first-aid and an attack.

Captain Rai recalls some of the challenges for Parbate: “The first morale damper came when the helicopter insertion was one kilometre away from the original drop off point. The initial route was open uphill with less cover. The position of the body on the move was almost in 60 degree angle into the wind for the balancing while the weather was absolutely blustery with hail storm from the side. Although we were blown away number of times and fell off our feet, we continued with determination. Finally, the patrol accomplished the first mission, arrived at RV at 0015 hrs on 22 Oct 14 and handed over the Patrol Report which was written on the way. An armed local militia issued another location Grid which followed on the further tasks; CBRN, Road/Obstacle Crossings for twice, Casualty evacuation from Mine field, River Crossing, Ammunition Resupply, AFV Reorganisation, Artillery Target Indication (ATI), Night Section Attack, Kit Check and Final Debrief.

“The extreme cold water made life even harder after the river crossing and every team member started getting tired, sleep, restless and painful. Shoes were wet, feet were full of blisters and clothes were wet. Despite all the challenges, we arrived at the final destination after a real battle. Despite being the oldest member of the team, Capt Lilaram, 44, proved that he was bravest of the brave. “We came to the main event which was the medal ceremony. Our burning eyes could not open properly, but we kept open our ears to listen the final announcement. We felt like we were over the moon when it was announced “GOLD” for the Gurkha Company Sittang. The moment we received the medal and Maj Yambahadur Rana MVO, OC Gurkha Coy Sittang congratulated the team along with other dignitaries, we forgot every pain that we went through. All in all, two of the five Gold medals were won Gurkha teams won Gold Medals amongst five awarded.
In Action: The first team of Gurkha Lions which was formed in Brunei in 2012.

"Gurkha Lions, the name says it all. Since its inception, the cricketers from 2 RGR have proved many of their detractors wrong. Their progress to the semi-final at the Army Major Inter Unit Cup is a big statement of how far the Gurkha Lions have matured as a team. I salute all the players on their achievement. Jai Gurkha Lions, Jai 2 RGR"

Sgt Jigmi Lama RLC, founder of Gurkha Lions
Congratulations to WO2 Khadak Chhetri on winning the Silver Medal in the Junior Team Accuracy at the Armed Forces Parachute Championship 2014. The championship took place at Netheravon Parachute Centre over the period 9 – 15 Aug 14.

Gurkha Regiments smash Army Volleyball Tournament

The annual Army Volleyball tournament finals held at Aldershot on 30 April 2014 became a Gurkha tour-de-force with six of the ten knock-out format quarterfinalists, three of the semi-finalists and both finalists being Gurkha teams.

1RGR and QOGLR were the cream of the crop in the end with a closely fought match between the two decided by only a couple of points in each frame. 1RGR came away the eventual valiant winners. The awards were handed out by Adjutant General and Colonel Commander of the Gurkha Brigade, Lt Gen Gw Berragan CB.

The main event was held on 30th April in the Garrison Gym in Aldershot. The event started at 1000 hrs and there were eleven strong teams who took part. The teams were divided into two groups and played in a league system for the first round, followed by a knock out system in the final. 10 QOGLR and 1 RGR made it the final which proved to be tough and extremely competitive. The exciting roar of the supporters was real boost to our moral and we performed to our best until the end. Two players from 10 QOGLR team; LCpl Bam Lumba and Pte Abiskar Rakhal, were selected to take part in the next Crown Services competition which is a great achievement for our Regiment. The event was witnessed by the Adjutant General G W Regt Senior Maj Browne and GM Devendra Ale MVO behalf of the commander 10 QOGLR. The chief guest Lt Gen GW Barragan CB presented the medals and prizes to the winners and the event ended at 1530 hrs.

Our main target is to lift the Army Volleyball Championship in trophy 2015 and we look forward to many successful years to come. I am confident that we can perform better in the future events.

The Gurkha Brigade Association Gurkhas Army Volleyball

@ Tej Pajja Magar
Jay 1 RGR champions

@Aasman Gorung
My salute n utmost respect to this bir Gorkhile for their courage Well done 1 RGR

@Keth Luck
Well done boys

@ Kushal Gurung
Shabsh 10 QOGLR and 1 RGR

Congratulations to WO2 Khadak Chhetri on winning the Silver Medal in the Junior Team Accuracy at the Armed Forces Parachute Championship 2014. The championship took place at Netheravon Parachute Centre over the period 9 – 15 Aug 14.

PARBATE Vol 66 No 4 October 2014 23
Gurkhas and Cricket are two words not often heard in the same sentence as they stem from very different parts of history in the British Empire that flourished simultaneously but very much individually from one another. Hence, when 2 RGR decided to form the Gurkha Lions, it was a story of two histories coming together for the first time since their beginning some two centuries ago.

Cricket was first played in southern England in the 16th century and by the end of the 18th century, with the expansion of the British Empire, cricket was being played overseas and by the mid-19th century the first international match was held. As the British Empire expanded in the Indian subcontinent, it collided with the expanding Kingdom of Nepal, and during the Anglo-Nepalese war in 1814 the British failed to annex Nepal as part of the Empire. As a result Army officers were impressed by the tenacity of the Gurkha soldiers and encouraged them to volunteer for the East India Company once a truce had been called. Since then Cricket has become one of the leading sports around the world, but has never taken a strong hold in Nepal.

The Gurkha Lions team was formed in Brunei when 2 RGR was last there. It was then the first cricket team gathered in 2 RGR history. The team played in the Brunei cricket championship and leagues with the A division teams of Brunei. The great achievement was finishing in 2nd place in Indonesia T20 in 2013 with breaking almost all records of scores, wickets, and the longest six. On returning to UK, the members of Gurkha Lions kept on playing cricket. Two members of Gurkha Lions, Rfn Avtar and Rfn Rohan, also played for the Army team in the Tri-service cricket competition where they finished first. Some of the members joined the local Folkestone cricket club and equipped themselves, which was later beneficial in building the 2 RGR team for the Army championship. The local cricket club provided the practice nets.

It has been a real surprise for the Battalion and for the Army how Gurkhas have inherited and are quickly mastering this historic game. Indian subcontinent teams (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh) are leading test playing nations, but Nepal is just starting to rise up the ranks. The craze of cricket among Nepalese young boys is getting bigger day by day with the success of the National team in international arenas and among those young lads are future Gurkhas. The Gurkhas who are closely associated with the famous Khukri may someday be known for playing great cricket.
UK TRADES TRAINING
PROVIDERS OF ACCREDITED PRACTICAL TRAINING COURSES

COURSES FOR FORCES

USE YOUR ELC AND RESETTLEMENT WITH OUR LEVEL 3 COURSES

Property Development
Self Employment
Wall & Floor Tiling
Plastering
Joinery/Kitchen Fitting
Photography
Locksmith
Plumbing

Captain RamBahadur Malla Testimonial

Hi, my name is Capt Rambahadur Malla from ITC Catterick; I have just completed my five weeks resettlement course (Tiling, Joinery/Kitchen/Bathroom and Plastering) at the UK Trades Training Centre in Newcastle. It’s an excellent package to have when you’re leaving the Army, going forward into ‘civvy street’. Five weeks seemed to be a long time for a course, but it went very swiftly and smoothly due to the excellent training I received from all the staff and instructors. I am aware that many of you will soon be retiring and will be joining me in civvy street; I strongly encourage you to do some of the wonderful courses that the UK Trades Training Centre can provide, giving you the strength to stand on your own two feet with ease. Gurkha’s can use their ELC entitlements to pay for the course - the staff at the training centre can help you to sort out the details.

I am evidence that any Gurkha soldier, or our counterparts, who are seeking trade skills as part of their resettlement to approach the UK Trades Training Centre, they will help you to achieve success in your chosen trade.

For more information please call us on: 0191 4547733
Or visit us at: www.uktradestraining.co.uk