



SITREP 3 (November 2014)

"To mark 200 years of Gurkha service to the Crown in a series of activities that enhance the Brigade's reputation, both nationally and internationally, in order to contribute to the maintenance of the Brigade of Gurkhas in the Army's Order of Battle and to enhance support for the GWT."

Objectives of G200:

- **Provide** an opportunity for BG personnel, both serving and retired, to celebrate 200 years of loyal service.
- **Provide** high profile opportunities to attract positive media coverage in order to raise public awareness of the BG.
- **Raise** awareness of the GWT, reinforcing the link between it and the serving BG, and provide a platform in order to launch a specific campaign for fund-raising.
- **Provide** opportunities to host key people external to the BG in order to gain their support for the BG and the work of the GWT.

G200 Planning so far:

This SITREP provides an update on the progress of planning since SITREP 2 was released in June this year. This SITREP highlights a number of changes that have occurred since the last update.

Visibility on the G200 programme is available through our two websites. The GBA website: www.gurkhabde.com/g200/ contains a summary of all planned events that impact on the serving Brigade and GBA as well as GWT events that require serving Brigade support. Additionally it regularly publishes news on Brigade activities.

The GWT G200 website: www.gurkha200.co.uk is focused exclusively on G200 and provides background information on the Gurkhas and their history, particularly for the public audience.

Much work has been conducted to secure the availability of the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas for next year. Allocations are undertaken by HQ Support Command, with whom there has been much liaison and we are confident that our Band will be able to support our key events whilst conducting routine Army support. It will be a busy but interesting year for them.

Contributions from the serving Brigade units have now been finalised. These are primarily manpower and Pipes and Drums, and we are hoping that there will be no large scale military deployments.

Key Events and Changes

Nepal Events. There are a number of events to mark G200 in Nepal and these have now been confirmed with all parties:

- **British Embassy Reception – 25 Mar 15.** This will take place at the British Ambassador's residence at the British Embassy. Timings will be 1900 – 2100 hours. It is expected that all 2GRR and 7GRR travelling from UK will be able to attend. This will be coordinated through GBA Sec to Hon Secs. The Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas will be present and the British Embassy will also invite a number of dignitaries.

- **Brigade Bhela in Nepal – 26 Mar 15.** British Gurkhas Nepal now have a firm plan for the event. It will take place at the Nepalese Army Annex at the end of the Tundikhel in the centre of Kathmandu. It will start at 1100 hours and there will be cap badge gathering points set up. Lunch will be provided and it is expected that 1,500 will attend. This will include the 2GRRRA and 7GRRRA from the UK (who will pay £10 collected through Regt Secs) as well as some Indian Army Personnel. At 1530 hours all will move to the stands in the centre of the Tundikhel to watch a display by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas and three Nepalese bands.



- **G200 Mount Everest Expedition - 'A Serving Gurkha on Sagarmatha' – May 15 (UPDATE ON PROGRESS).** The team of 16 serving Gurkha soldiers (whittled down from 75) are currently climbing Mt Makalu in Nepal on Exercise Mountain Tiger. On return the team will then further reduce to the final group of 8 climbers and support team of 4 who will then make the assault on Everest in May 2015.



UK Events

- **Presentation of the Queen's Truncheon to HM The Queen. (CONFIRMED DATE – 28 MAY).** The Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR) will present the Queen's Truncheon to HM The Queen. It is hoped HRH Prince Charles will also be present. The audience is currently planned to start at 1600 hours and last for

approximately 20 minutes. It will be a discreet presentation within Buckingham Palace attended by a few representatives from the RGR and 2GRRRA.



- **Gurkha Memorial Service at the Gurkha Statue, Whitehall – 30 Apr 15 (UPDATE ON PROGRESS).**

At 1400 hours 4 contingents from the 4 serving Brigade major units accompanied by the Band, massed Pipes and Drums and The Queen's Truncheon, will march from Wellington Barracks down the Mall, across Horse Guards to the Gurkha Statue in Whitehall. There a short memorial service will take place, which will include the dedication of the new unit and campaign plates on the statue. There will be some guests including senior Army officers. Attendance by members of the GBA will be coordinated by the GBA Regt Sec – details will follow in due course. On completion the contingents will march back across Horse Guards and down Bird Cage Walk to Wellington Barracks. It is expected the event will conclude by 1500 hours.

- **Public Duties in London – 04 May to 29 May 15 (UNIT DATES).** Officers and soldiers from Brigade major units will carry out Public Duties in London. Dates for each unit to conduct its three guards are:

RGR	4-9 May
QGE	11-16 May
QGS	18-23 May
QOGLR	25-29 May

- **G200 Gurkha Pageant – The Brigade Night at the Royal Hospital Chelsea – 08 Jun 15 (UPDATE).** The first night will serve as a full dress rehearsal and will be open to serving members of the Brigade of Gurkhas and their families (children aged 11 and over). Details of attendance and costs (approximately £15 to include a meal and drink) will be promulgated later.

• **G200 Gurkha Pageant at the Royal Hospital Chelsea – 09 Jun 15 (UPDATE).** Planning continues to deliver the show piece event of G200. The Pageant is a GWT event supported by the serving Brigade with some professional input. The hour long Pageant will cover 200 years of Brigade's history and include enactments of major battles and VC winning actions as well as cultural and musical displays. Attendance will be confirmed by the GWT. There is the opportunity to register your interest in tickets early at a discounted price of £70 by visiting the Gurkha 200 website www.gurkha200.co.uk and clicking on the Pageant page. Details on when tickets will be on sale will then be automatically emailed to you.

• **England Cricket – Sat 23 May. (NEW EVENT)** Unfortunately the desired slot for the band to play at the Saturday of the Ashes Test Match at Lords was not possible. In lieu we are hopeful that they will play at the New Zealand Test Match at Lords cricket ground on Saturday 25 May.



• **Brigade Bhela in UK – 11 Jul 15. (NEW DATE)** This Bhela will take place at Queen's Avenue, Aldershot. The aim will be to hold the Nepal Cup Final and the Veterans' Kathmandu Cup on this day. In addition, to attract as many veterans and families as possible, options being considered include a parachute display, children's activities, military displays and food stalls. The Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas will also be present and the day has been changed to a Saturday to attract as many ex-servicemen (and families) as possible.



• **Ex ARTIC Gurkha. (NEW EVENT - MAY)** As part of the G200 celebrations and to raise money for GWT, in May 2015 Captain Jonathon Armstrong and Corporal Arjun Gurung will kayak around the coast of Ellesmere Island, northern Canada. This is a distance similar to the coast of British Isles and has only been achieved once before. They look to set a record and will raise money for the GWT.



• **Trailwalker. (UPDATE)** The plan is to make Trailwalker 15 a big occasion and have a record number of entries. Get training! In addition we hope that a number of celebrities will also take part. Later in the year, one serving Brigade team will be sponsored to fly to Hong Kong to take part in the original Hong Kong Trailwalker and try to break the record time.



A full list of provisional events can be found on the GBA website: www.gurkhabde.com/g200/

