

SITREP 2

"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 highlights a number of changes that have occurred since the last update. Planning is developing well and there is now a clear and comprehensive programme of activities for 2015 worldwide. There is no doubt that we will make the most of this very special bicentenary.

The events are a mix of Gurkha Welfare Trust, Gurkha Brigade Association and serving Brigade. To see the detailed plans please see the GBA website:

www.gurkhabde.com/g200/

In addition there is a new G200 website that has been produced by the GWT G200 Team which will become the main external communication website.

www.gurkha200.co.uk

Key Events and Changes

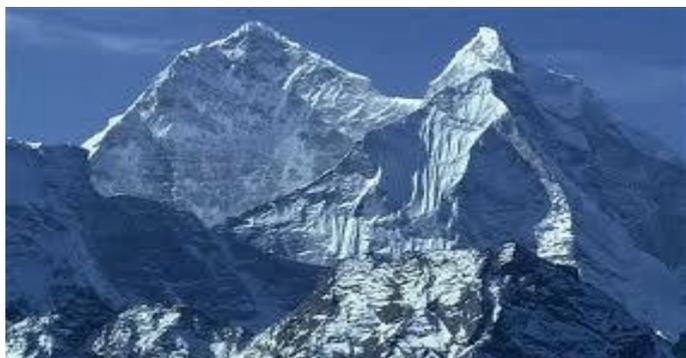
Nepal. There are a number of events to mark G200 in Nepal and these have now been confirmed with all parties:

- **British Embassy Reception – 25 Mar 15.** This will be held in Kathmandu and will be by invitation only.
- **Brigade Bhela in Nepal – 26 Mar 15.** A joint event with the Indian Gurkha Brigade and will be held in Kathmandu. This event will provide an opportunity for our pensioners in Nepal to celebrate 200 years of service. It will also allow us to forge closer links with the Indian Gurkha Brigade.
- **Sirmoor Durbar (2GRRRA) in Nepal - 28 to 29 Mar 15.** This event is being organised by 2GRRRA in Pokhara and will provide an opportunity for retired Sirmoorees to celebrate the 200th Anniversary.
- **7GRRRA Durbar in Nepal – 28 Mar 15.** This event is being organised by 7GRRRA in Dharan and will provide an opportunity for retired 7GR personnel to celebrate the 200th Anniversary.

- **Gurkha Memorial Service at the Gurkha Statue, Whitehall – 30 Apr 15 (NEW DATE).** A Memorial Service and the unveiling of new campaign plaques will be held at the Gurkha Statue in London. The parade will start with the Gurkha Band and formed groups from each of the Gurkha units marching down the Mall to the Gurkha statue. There will then be a Memorial service conducted. Those attending will include serving and retired members of the Brigade of Gurkhas as well as selected guests.



- **G200 Mount Everest Expedition - 'A Serving Gurkha on Saga Martha' - May 15.** A team of serving Gurkhas will attempt to reach the summit of Mount Everest.



- **Presentation of the Queen's Truncheon to HM The Queen – (May TBC).** The Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR) will present the Queen's Truncheon to HM The Queen. No date in May 15 has yet been agreed but it will be a discreet presentation within Buckingham palace.



- **The FA Cup Final – 2 May 15 (NEW CONFIRMATION).** It has been confirmed the Brigade Band will play at the FA Cup Final at Wembley Stadium. It is hoped that this will give us the opportunity to raise funds for the GWT



- **Public Duties in London - 04 May to 29 May 15 (NEW DATES).** Officers and soldiers from each serving Regiment (less the GSPS) will carry out Public Duties in London, setting the context for the 'centre-piece' of the Brigade's 200th Anniversary at the Royal Hospital Chelsea (RHC). There has been a slight readjustment of dates. The RGR, QGE, QOGLR and QG SIGNALS will do 3 Public Duties each.



• **G200 Gurkha Pageant – The Brigade Night at the Royal Hospital Chelsea – 08 Jun 15 (NEW DATE).**

This musical and military extravaganza, which will include historical re-enactments, forms the ‘centre-piece’ of the Brigade’s celebrations and will be followed by drinks and tipan-tapaan. The first night will be open to serving and retired members of the Brigade of Gurkhas. Details of attendance and costs will be promulgated later.



• **G200 Gurkha Pageant at the Royal Hospital Chelsea - 09 Jun 15 (NEW DATE).** This is the main night of the ‘centre-piece’ of the Brigade’s celebrations and will be followed by drinks and tipan-tapaan. It is hoped that VVIPs will attend and the evening is designed to raise money for the GWT. Attendance will be confirmed by the GWT. Details on how to apply for tickets will follow in due course on the G200 website.

• **Edinburgh Tattoo 02 – 25 Aug 15.** The Brigade Pipes and Drums have been invited to take part in the Tattoo. We will use this televised event to advertise our 200th Anniversary in 2015.

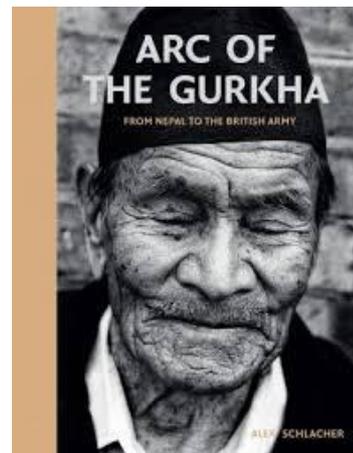


• **Brigade Bhela in UK – 8 Aug 15.** This Bhela will take place at Queen’s Avenue, Aldershot. The aim will be to encourage all GBA veterans, serving personnel and their families in UK to come together and celebrate 200 years of Gurkha service. Details will be confirmed by the GBA but attendance will be open to all.

G200 Publications.

There are a number of publications that are being published to mark G200. Some are from serving officers and others have had support from the serving Brigade:

• **Launch of ‘The Arc of a Gurkha’ Book – 02 Dec 14.** Photographed and written by Alex Schlacher. A powerful book of photographs that reveal the human face of the Brigade of Gurkhas.



• **Publication of Afghan Lahure – 1 Apr 15.** Written by Brig Ian Rigden (late RGR), this book will chronicle the outstanding contribution that Gurkhas have made to Britain’s campaigns in Afghanistan.

• **Launch of ‘The Gurkhas: 200 Years of Service to the Crown’ – 30 Apr 15.** Written by Brig Craig Lawrence (late RGR), this book is provisionally titled “The Gurkhas: 200 years of Service and Sacrifice” and will tell the remarkable story of Britain’s Gurkhas using many previously unpublished photographs.

A full list of events can be found on the GBA website:

www.gurkhabde.com/g200