



GURKHA COMPANY CATTERICK



e-Newsletter



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Gurkha Company Mission: *“To deliver trained Gurkha soldiers in order to meet the operational requirements of the Brigade of Gurkhas.”*

Gurkha Company Role: *“To mould a Nepalese youth into a Gurkha soldier trained to the standards of the British Army, who retains his Nepalese identity and will live up to the traditions of the Brigade.”*

OC's INTRODUCTION:

I bring you this e-Newsletter as the Officer Commanding Gurkha Coy, a single gateway to the Brigade of Gurkhas. I am delighted to have the opportunity to be part of Gurkha recruit moulding process and add some value at the early stage of their military career. Since taking over the command in late July last year the company and I have been

heavily engaged in conducting unit cap badging, live fire tactical training, final exercise, Dashain, pass off parade for Recruit Intake 2014 (RI4), recruiting assistant (RA) duty and in particular the planning for Recruit Intake G200 (2015), SC230.

230 recruits of RIG200 arrived in the UK early Jan 15 and I have been impressed by their relentless effort, remarkable determination and will power. Combat Infantryman's course Gurkha (CIC(G)) is running efficiently and RIG200 Trainee Rifleman (T/Rfn) have completed Introductory exercises 1 and 2, Pass Off Square and the first cultural orientation exercise. They are due to deploy on INTRODUCTORY EXERCISE 3 in mid Mar followed by Recruit English Package (REP).

A considerable amount of churn has taken place over the past year with the new 8 Platoons ORBAT. 75% of the Platoon Commanders and 75% of the Sect Commanders are newly posted in. The Company have welcomed WO2 CSM Vijayprakash Subba as the CSM Gurkha Coy. Trg Offr responsibility is in the process of changing over, Capt Ganesh Rai 2 RGR will takeover from Capt Kamal Khapung Limbu QGE.

Rest assured, my intent is to sustain and seek to better training in all aspects. However, your support is critical especially with the External Validation (EV) that was sent out in early Feb 15. If I may, request to BG units to complete EV and submit to my Trg Offr by 24 Apr 15. Close Quarter Combat (CQC) Khukuri training will continue and the Khukuri Pattern Instructor Train The Trainer course conducted in Jan 15 secures its sustainability. RIG200 will undergo internal validation from 2015.

Beyond military training Gurkha Coy have been successful in securing 1st place during the major unit UK North Sports Basketball and Volleyball competition. The first Buddhist Temple in the history of Gurkha Coy was established and inaugurated in early 9 Feb 15.

JAN - FEB PHOTO NEWS HIGHLIGHTS:



Recruit Intake 2015 (RI15) on 5km uphill Doko race (Nepal, Pokhara).



RI15 welcomed in Gurkha Coy ITC Catterick.



CO 2ITB attending Khukuri training with RI15

RECRUIT INTAKE G200 (2015) - ATTESTATION PARADE

On completion of the intense Gurkha recruit selection, all 40 recruiting assistant permanent staff (PS) from Gurkha Coy swiftly conducted drill instruction and practice, preparation and parade rehearsals. On 3 Jan 15 all 230 recruits of Recruit Intake (RI) G200 (2015) including 40 permanent staff (PS) headed by Capt Autar Shrestha QGS marched off in front of close relatives, families, civilian servants, dignitaries and the Reviewing Officer Maj Gen T R Urch CBE during the attestation parade held in Pokhara, Bde of Gurkhas Nepal.



With the stage set, RIG200 marched in and formed up in front of the huge audience followed by the inspection of the parade by the reviewing officer. On completion of the inspection the oath taking ceremony commenced and this was conducted in groups of 3 recruits with all 230 recruits marching in front of the union jack and taking oath by touching the union jack in turns. The reviewing officer then highlighted what this day meant for recruits, their families, friends and relatives. This day marks as the day of enlistment in the Bde of Gurkhas hence it is an extremely important date of their lives. Trainee Rifleman Jivansingh Rai said 'I am extremely happy, hugely proud and immensely excited to be enlisted into the Bde of Gurkhas on third attempt, my dream has come true and I am over the moon'.

INTRODUCTORY EXERCISE (INTRO EX) 1 AND INTRODUCTORY EXERCISE 2

(Written by T/Rfn 30229663 My Life Raracha Sunuwar)

All personnel from the Recruit Intake G200 (RI15) deployed on INTRO EX 1 and INTRO EX 2 at the Catterick Trg area (CTA) from 30-31 Jan 15 and 19-20 Feb 15 respectively. On completion of packing kit, preparation and kit check we deployed on foot on both the exercises for a central demonstration followed by setting up of

harbour areas. Very basic field craft lessons were conducted through out the day and night including how to cook in the field, basic field hygiene, duties of a sentry, judging distance, target indication and Basha construction. Majority of my Numberies (enlisted at the same time) enjoyed learning about camouflage and concealment, and fire and manoeuvre because it provided a soldierly activity that made us feel that we were now in the Army with our face painted by camouflage cream, rifles loaded and charged the terrain with a lot of noise, discipline and controlled aggression. T/Rfn Ujjwolman Gurung said 'I used to watch war movies and used to listen to war stories from veteran Gurkhas and these exercises provided me with the similar sort of experience therefore I enjoyed both the exercises thoroughly despite the adverse weather'.

Buddhist Temple Opening Ceremony

(Written by Cpl Rabin Koyee Rai)

The first ever Buddhist Temple within Gurkha Company ITC Catterick was established and inaugurated on 9 Feb 15 by Col Bde of Gurkhas, Col James Robinson late RGR. The ritual process (Puja) was led by Khen Rinpoche Chewang Gurung. The Puja was conducted by 2IC Gurkha Coy (Capt Ram Rai), Pujari (Capt Deny Gurung) along with all the senior ladies within Gurkha Coy. The actual opening ceremony took place in the afternoon in the presence of CO 2ITB (Lt Col BPN Ramsay OBE WG), Senior Officers from ITC Catterick, Armed Forces Hindu Chaplain, civilian dignitaries, families, Gurkha Coy permanent staff and Recruit Intake G200 (RI15).



This facility will enable Buddhist religious teacher who has been employed in Gurkha Coy since 2007, in the conduct of religious practices appropriately. This has only been possible because of the relentless liaison, dedication, diligence and determination from all the

permanent staff (PS). Especially, SQM ITC and 2IC Gurkha Coy for providing and securing the infrastructure, Cpl Joseph Subba and Cpl Paban Thapa for leading minor construction and refurbishment under Capt Kamal Khapungimbu QGE, all the PS and RI14 for donating all the items within Buddhist Temple. All in all, a successful event and one of the remarkable events in the history of Gurkha Company, ITC Catterick.

UK NORTH SPORT (BASKETBALL COMPETITION)

(Written by Sgt Jayendra Garbuja)

Infantry Trg Centre (ITC) Catterick Basketball team led by Sgt Jayendra Garbuja was victorious during the UK North Sport Basketball Championships held on 12 Feb 15 in the Gym, ITC Catterick. ITC Catterick team was made up of mainly Gurkhas from Gurkha Company. There were 8 teams competing for major unit, 6 teams competing for minor unit and some female teams. The first game kicked off at approximately 0900hrs and it was played on a league basis. We managed to outplay all of the teams during the initial games and faced a very strong team during the 3rd match. This match turned out to be extremely competitive, both teams leapfrogging each other but yet again ITC Catterick team emerged victorious. The team managed to secure victory during the last match despite a strong opponent due to the fitness, determination, agility and technical skills resulting in winning the major unit categories. This has provided with an automatic qualification to compete during the Army Basketball championships. Overall the day was organised efficiently and provided our team with strong team cohesion and increased understanding not just within 2 Infantry Trg Battalion but within ITC.



KHUKURI PATTERN INSTRUCTOR TRAIN THE TRAINER COURSE

(Written by Cpl Subash Moktan)

With the increased number of Gurkha recruits SC230 enduring, it became difficult to sustain Close Quarter Combat (CQC) as a part of Combat infantryman's Course (Gurkha) (CIC(G)) with only 1 qualified instructor therefore Khukuri Pattern Instructor Train The Trainer (T3) Course was conducted on Saturday 24 Jan 15 in Gurkha Coy, ITC Catterick for the very first time in its history. The course was run by Capt Ganesh Rai 2 RGR and instructed by Cpl Subash Moktan 2 RGR with the initiative from Capt Kamal Khapunglimbu QGE (Trg Offr), authorised by Maj Dammar Shahi, OC Gurkha Coy. The aim of the course was to qualify all permanent staff (PS), especially Section Commanders to teach and Khukuri pattern during the Khukuri Training CQC.



The course started at 0830hrs in the Gym ITC Catterick with the whole morning of

instruction, demonstration and practice. On completion of the instruction all PS (course students) were given the opportunity to practice for 3 hrs in their Platoons followed by the assessment. The assessment was conducted in Platoons, Pl Comd leading, and in addition, the assessment was conducted for Inter Platoon Khukuri Pattern competition. 3 Platoon led by Capt Deny Gurung QOGLR was victorious and the Prizes were given out by CO 2ITB, Lt Col BPN Ramsay OBE WG. Khukuri pattern T3 course from this point on will be conducted annually during the Zero Week.

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Key Diary Dates:

Pass Off Square: 27 Feb 15
Basketball Competition: 28 Feb 15
EX Pahilo Kadam: 2 Mar 15
INTRO EX 3: 12 – 15 Mar 15
B Wing TAC EX 1: 1 – 3 Apr 15
A Wing TAC EX 1: 22 – 24 Apr 15