



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



This period has been the steepest learning curve of the course. This phase has been about 'test and reward'. Specifically the T/Rfn have all conducted their rite of passage on the parade square, followed by gaining their first taste of BG style messing to celebrate their hard efforts. As you will read, the tests have been demanding for all, and the rewards well deserved.

Importantly, they have all been able to visit the local area for the first time, both during their formal cultural training and in their limited free time. In order to deepen the moral component, each PI will conduct a battle honour memorial service. This quarter has seen 4 (Iraq) PI and 5 (Helles) PI complete theirs.

Sporting fixtures have played a large part in the programme for recruits and Staff, with a win in the UK North Squash Championships, a semi-final place in the Army Volleyball Championship and our Recruit inter-PI Volleyball competition being held in this quarter. To round off a busy and rewarding period, we welcomed Colonel of the RGR, Brig GM Strickland DSO MBE to Gurkha Coy, enjoyed the colour of Holi festival (photo below) and celebrated Nepali New Year in style in Apr. Going forward, the key requirement is to 'mould' our recruits both physically and conceptually, but most importantly morally. This will continue with English language training, the tactical exercise phase and cultural trips to Whitby and London.



PASS OFF THE SQUARE

Pass off the Square (POS) takes place in 8th week of the training and it is one of the important events in the Gurkha Coy Calendar for Recruits. It marks the completion of the first phase of the Combat Infantryman Course (CIC) Gurkha.

Friday 26 Feb 2016 was the day for R116 TRfn to hold a Khukuri for the first time and change the rank slides from blue to green which marks the completion of the first phase of the CIC Gurkha.

Every single individual of the recruit company worked very hard throughout. On that day, we had our breakfast then we completed the final preparation for inspection. With best shaped berets, smartly ironed uniform and polished boots, we were trying our best to present ourselves perfectly. At the same time, we were all nervous waiting for the inspecting officer and see his reaction. Capt Meenjung arrived and completed the inspection proficiently and we could just make a guess that it went well. As soon as Phase one was completed, our section commanders congratulated us. We then rushed for phase two, which was personal turnout and drill. As we marched onto the parade square smartly dressed, Sgt Yakthunghang was set to examine us and that went very well too.

All the individuals on parade were given a score, but at the end scores secured by each individual were added to platoon score. The final phase of the POS was Platoon drill and it was faultless. We all were very nervous but excited to hear the results. Finally, CSM Saheb started to announce the top ten of the POS followed by Platoon Duty Trainees (PDT) and Section Duty Trainees (SDT). I was astonished to hear that the top seven in R116 were from my platoon and I was the highest scorer. I was nominated the first PDT of my platoon. I am anxious but determined to take on the responsibilities as first PDT of the PI.

The POS is taken as the first test that reflects our discipline, values and standards as well as kaida and all the credit goes to our instructors for their dedication, out of hour work and guidance. That evening, we quickly changed into tracksuits and our Instructor Cpl Subash Gurung took us through a field cooking (Messing- self prepared- team building meal) walk through talk through session. It was a magnificent experience for us to learn and prepare the messing with our PI Comd and all of the instructors in the PI. Of course, eating curry prepared on an open fire for the first time was reminiscent of home. The day was completed with the delicious messing (Bhaat by haat) that we prepared together, with a sense of achievement and excitement for rest of the Trg.

TRfn Jagman Gurung, 1 (SOBRAON) PI





Ex PAHILO KADAM

What does pahilo kadam (first step) mean to me? The answer would differ greatly if one were to ask all of us what the exercise meant to us, though for many it was an opportunity to explore a new world we have worked hard for, a different lifestyle with different culture and history we were not used to. It was indeed a first step into that world which us recruits of RI 2016 aimed to grasp back in Nepal, exercise PAHILO KADAM was a heart-warming experience which I'd bet a penny if any one of us would remember it as a "exercise".

On 29th February the day had come, excitement and curiosity was in the air as this being the first time we had left the gates beyond the training area. All of us 240 recruits in total, dressed slick and smart with excitement starting our day. Platoons lined up for the brief by 2IC Saheb Capt Gyan Bahadur Dhenga followed by all the sections under their respective section commanders, headed towards their destinations as per the MEL. The aim of the exercise was the cultural orientation and use of public services. With joy and anticipation we boarded our coach to Darlington. There we learned how to use the transport services, food facilities, takeaway, and town centre facilities; exploring street by street, we made our way to the town centre. Shops and malls, glittering attractions were hard to pass by without noticing, it was a gratifying experience to talk and hear from the local people of the bravery and loyalty of the Gurkhas, the respect which people showed towards us and for the Gurkhas reminded me of the great deeds of our forefathers. Richmond, a beautiful town where yet another welcoming was awaited in the museum, The Green Howards Museum of the British army where we came to know about the history of the regiment, the bravery and great deeds of men who left their mark in the book of history. There we had an opportunity to see the decoration room with all the medals of gallantry, bravery and the glorious "VICTORIA CROSS" which was awarded to a few brave men. We also had a brief glance of the past weapons and artefact collections and the history preserved in it, so with a feeling of deep respect we learnt more and moved on to our next destination being the Tesco supermarket where we oriented ourselves to the variety of goods they had to offer. Later we had a chance to enjoy the meal at McDonalds. The day finally came to an end with our walk back to the camp. The day was a beautiful day that all of us will remember to years to come.

TRfn Arjun Thapa, 6 (ASSAYE) Platoon



The 2003 Iraq War Battle Honour Remembrance Service

On 20 March 2003, the UK, US and allied forces invaded Iraq by carrying out aerial bombardments. Later in the same year on 14 December, the coalition forces successfully captured Saddam Hussain and he was hanged till death after the trial to a relief of the oppressed ethnic groups in Iraq. The UK operation was named Op TELIC, which officially ended on 30 April 2009 During Op TELIC, 179 UK troops were killed.



The moment came to remember our British military history and those who paid the ultimate price in helping to free the persecuted Iraqi people from a criminal dictator Saddam Husain. Gurkha (Training) Company observed 4 (Iraq) Platoon's battle honour on the morning of 21 March 2016 at Helles Barracks, Catterick. The main aims were to remember the fallen and to educate 240 members of the Recruit Intake 2016 (RI16) about a significant military tradition.

On that morning, members of RI16 alongside the Coy HQ, Hindu religious teacher, a bugler and 4 (Iraq) Platoon permanent staff assembled at the Coy Chautara. The service commenced at 0730 hrs after WO2 (CSM) Vijayprakash Limbu reported to Maj E R Withey RGR, OC Gurkha Company to lead the memorial service. Pundit Aatmaram (Hindu religious teacher) held the prayers and the 2003 Iraq War battle honour narrative was read out to remember the fallen comrades. Major Withey, Capt Gyan Dhenga and the Iraq PI Comd Capt Autar Shrestha laid wreaths at Chautara in honour of their distinguished service. The bugler from Gurkha Brigade Band, who had travelled from Shorncliffe, played the Last Post. A two minute silence ensued, and then a Reveille call was played at the end.

Cpl Lilaram Rai, 4 (IRAQ) PI



INTRO Ex- 3

The word 'SOLDIER' depicts robustness, reliability and flexibility. As such, the purpose of Intro Ex-3 was to test the soldiering skills of TRfn. The intro Ex-3 is one of the important base level exercises of the military career. In simple words, it is the root that supports the tree until it dies. The field skills we learned in Intro Ex 1 and 2 were tested in Intro Ex-3.

Intro Ex-3 was held for four days and three nights from 10th - 13th March. At the end of the Ex was a summative test therefore, the first three days were spent practicing field skills that we learned in previous exercises so as to perform to a good standard and successfully pass on the test day.

Finally on the fourth day, we all gathered at the spider junction for central brief by the Training Officer. The brief was Clear and concise on objectives, sequence of events, stands and risks. We were then divided into 5 different groups and sent out to 5 different test stands. We all were keen to showcase our skills that we rehearsed in the previous days. I along with my group headed to the target indication stand. After passing the target indication, we proceeded to another stand and so on till the last stand which was Judging the Distance. 'TRAIN HARD, FIGHT EASY' is a well-known phrase, and it was a tough day. Despite this, we all passed target indication, personal camouflage and concealment, fire and manoeuvre, observation and judging distance, as was taught in intro ex 1 and 2. Moreover we were dedicated and determined in learning and practicing to meet the next level. We are relieved that we successfully passed the summative test and we are looking forward to the Tac EX-1 hereafter.

TRfn Shishir Senoli 2 (KANDAHAR) Platoon



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Key Diary Dates:

Tac EX 2 (B Wing) 2 – 6 May 16
AT (B Wing) 9 – 13 May 16
Ex D/Kadam (A Wing) 20 May 16
AT (A Wing) 23 – 27 May 16
Tac EX 2 (A Wing) 30 May – 3 Jun 16
Unit Presentation 6 Jun 16
Orienteering Comp 10 Jun 16
Ex Tesro Kadam (B Wing) 13 – 15 Jun 16
Summer BBQ 18 Jun 16
Ex Tesro Kadam (A Wing) 28 – 30 Jun 16

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