



GURKHA COMPANY CATTERICK



e-Newsletter



First Edition

JANUARY 2013

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:

Welcome to Gurkha Company, particularly for the 126 new Trainee Riflemen of Recruit Intake 2013 (RI13). They have settled well into their 39 week Combat Infantrymans' Course (Gurkha) (CIC(G)) and the heavy snow has not dented their training or enthusiasm. Thanks must go to British Gurkhas Nepal for the recruiting and selection of RI13. Gurkha Company remains a unique and special place for all those connected with the Brigade of Gurkhas. We are proud of the quality of instruction and output that is achieved here; our 0% wastage statistic is one the whole Brigade can all be proud of.

This monthly newsletter has been established in order to keep you up to date with the amazing events and moments that occur here in Catterick as Gurkha recruits are moulded into an intake that will proudly maintain and uphold the finest traditions of our past and present Brigade. RI13 will continue with the reintroduced Close Quarter Combat using a khukuri training objective, an improved CIC(G) that now also includes GPMG weapon handling, HMNVS training and Close Quarter Marksmanship live firing.

By popular demand we have included some of the unique images of 2012 in this newsletter (see right), including the photo of Gurkha Company in a private audience with His Holiness The Dalai Lama! I hope you will find this monthly newsletter an easy read and of interest. Should you be passing through Yorkshire then you are always welcome in Gurkha Company, we look forward to hosting you. Jai Gurkha Company!

RECRUIT INTAKE 2012 PHOTO NEWS HIGHLIGHTS:



30166239 Rfn Sameer Gurung (now 1RGR) receiving the Champion Recruit prize from Major General CJ Boag CBE (GOC Sp Comd) during the 2012 Passing Out Parade.



Gurkha Company at a private audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama in June 2012.



All of Gurkha Company, led by CO 2ITB, started and completed the BUPA Great North 10k race in Gateshead in July 2012.

MEET THE NEW RECRUITS FROM INTAKE 2013



Trainee Rifleman Edwin Rai (pictured left) comes from Khotang in the eastern part of Nepal. He is 19 years old and passed Gurkha recruit selection on his 2nd attempt. In addition to learning basic military skills such as marching he has had to learn for the first time how to write a signature in English. He said about being selected for the Brigade, *"it is great to be training to be a Gurkha soldier, I'm so proud to be a part of it."*

Trainee Rifleman Prakash Tamang (pictured right), *"I had to pinch myself, so many dreams came true on one single day, what a coincidence."* He has every right to be the proudest recruit in the intake because his wife gave birth to their first child on the same day as the selection results were announced by Capt Norton RGR in Pokhara. He is 20 years old and comes from Kathmandu. He passed Gurkha recruit selection on his 3rd attempt.



ATTESTATION PARADE - RECRUIT INTAKE 2013

The attestation parade (pictured right) for the 126 recruits of Intake 2013 was held on Fri 4 Jan 13 in British Gurkhas Pokhara. The parade was commanded by Capt Rabindra Tulachan (2IC BGP) who's nephew, Trainee Rifleman Nazar Tulachan (5 Platoon, 1 Section), was on parade. The Saluting Officer was Major General CJ Boag CBE, fresh off the square as the Reviewing Officer at the previous intake's Passing Out Parade. The new Gurkha recruits swore their allegiance to Her Majesty in front of their families and VIPs from different departments of Nepal's Government, Army, and Police. "Bravest of the brave, most generous of the generous, never had country more faithful friends than you." Professor Sir Ralph Lilley Turner MC



OLD SKILLS REVIVED

Close Quarter Combat (CQC) using the khukuri has been reintroduced into the Combat Infantrymans' Course (Gurkha). Infantry soldiers must train to close and engage the enemy with personal weapons at a very short range, to the point of hand to hand combat with weapons such as the khukuri. CQC demands a rapid assault and precise application of lethal force. Gurkhas must have a great proficiency with their weapons, especially the khukuri, and also the ability to make split-second decisions in order to avoid counter blows. This can only be achieved by specific training that hones initiative, speed and aggression. CQC using the khukuri uses Tae-Kwon-Do as the foundation on which all training is based. The programme is a progressive 20 hours of training and culminates with individual and team demonstrations of the patterns and techniques that have been taught. All 176 in the last intake voluntarily achieved an upgrading of at least one Tae-Kwon-Do belt. The training is currently being led by Cpl Raju Tamang 1RGR (3rd Dan in Tae-Kwon-Do).



Temple Corner

Written by Pundit Atmaram Dahal



When Intake 2013 arrived in the UK they were warmly welcomed by the Permanent Staff from Gurkha Company, including the Commanding Officer 2ITB. Following the traditions of this occasion they were blessed with sacred powder (abir) along with a recital of *Swastika mantra*. Since arrival the spiritual classes in the temple have aimed to give the Gurkha recruits a general understanding of the physical, psychological, sentimental and spiritual attributes needed of a Gurkha soldier. Future classes will focus on their moral duties, along with the British Army's values and standards. Our Buddhist Religious Teacher has been on leave in Nepal but will return in March.

SUCCESS FOR GURKHA COMPANY QOGLR CHEFS

Article written by Pte Raju Thapa QOGLR

The 2013 British Open Hospitality Show was held in the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham between 21-23 Jan 13. Cpl Kedar Singjali, LCpl Ishaq Thakuri and Pte Raju Thapa entered and achieved outstanding rewards for their hard work. "Works in Fat" was one of the largest competition categories and we found ourselves competing against civilian chefs, hotel chefs, bakery chefs many catering colleges.



My fat carving experience was limited to the lessons which I had completed in Winchester during my chef Class 3 course. Cpl Kedar mentored and instructed me, eventually enabling me to reach the standard to be registered into this competition. After 2 weeks of dedicated and meticulous work the statue, a dragon made entirely of fat, was ready. Cpl Kedar and LCpl Ishaq had built a pair of horses, also entirely made of fat. We travelled carefully to Birmingham where we discovered the competition and

interest was incredible, with over 160 exhibits and 2.5 million visitors. This proved to be Europe's biggest and most intense competition.



Pictured above and left with their awards: Cpl Kedar won a silver medal (senior class), LCpl Ishaq won a gold medal as the class winner, best in category and Senior Grand Prix D'Honneur (senior class). I was delighted to be awarded a gold medal in the junior category. Jai Gurkha Company!