

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRIGADE OF GURKHAS



THE KUKRI 2021



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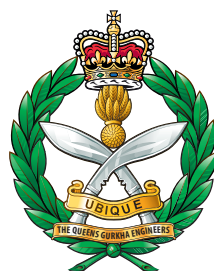
THE KUKRI

2021

Number 72, August 2021

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Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas
Robertson House
Camberley, Surrey
GU15 4NP



Front Cover: Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers

Captain Ganeshkumar Gurung MVO RGR and Capt Deepak Rai MVO QG SIGNALS

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EDITORIAL

*By Gurkha Brigade Association Secretary
Major Manikumar Rai MBE, DL*

As I write this Editorial, we find ourselves: as nation and Brigade emerging from a global pandemic, the effects of which we will continue to feel for some time. The Army has embarked on the most significant transformation we have seen for many generations, some of which, will benefit the Brigade. The government continues to wrestle with a “cost of living crises” and the war in Ukraine brings into sharp focus the need to remain vigilant to external threats.

With the lifting of Covid restrictions in Mar 2021, life within the “4 Pillars”, has gradually returned to normality. The lock down resulted in the need to devise innovative ways of conducting our day-to-day business of work, whether it was meetings, training or fund raising. These will, I am sure, be developed further to identify innovative and efficient ways of working enabling us all to be more effective i.e. work smarter rather than harder.

The Gurkha Museum

Despite the lockdown, the Museum deficit at the operating level was lower than budgeted for, thanks to Covid grants and investment gains. With the lifting of Covid restrictions, exhibitions and lectures have restarted and revenue is slowly being generated.

The Museum’s digital outreach programme “Gharma Sunnu” has won a number of awards and “Gharma Siknu”, aimed at school age children, is still in its infancy, but has already started to resonate with the younger generation.

The Museums’ focus has been to develop its bid to National Lottery Fund and other possible donors for the Museum’s development project. The intent is to make a museum fit for the mid-20th Century. Fund raising will start in earnest in the next couple of years.

The Brigade of Gurkhas (BG)

Across the Brigade the soldiers and officers continue to provide fully manned and highly deployable units, delivering outstanding operational excellence, whether in barracks, on exercise or deployed on operations. The implementation of the Integrated Review has seen the Gurkha footprint move wider across the British Army (BA) than ever before. Gurkha personnel are now in practically every BA unit, at officer or soldier level.

The BG continued to excel in all military skills competitions and sports within the BA. Once again, the Queen’s medal was won by a Gurkha, 8 Gurkha teams, including the GSPS, achieved gold in the Cambrian Patrol competition and achieved great success in other sporting events as well.



The Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT)

The GWT like everyone else, did not escape the scourge of Covid 19, with events in the early part of the year having to be cancelled or postponed. Despite these setbacks, the fund-raising income surpassed the target. The GWT continues to make improvements to the delivery of aid to Gurkha veterans, widows and their families. New and innovative ways of delivering aid, both medical and financial, remains at the forefront of GWT aspirations. The increase in the number of Gurkha pensioners registering and using the GWT’s medical facilities has led to financial challenges that are currently being addressed.

The GWT’s work with the Government of Nepal to provide Water, Sanitation and Healthcare (WASH) facilities has had to be scaled back due to the reduction in the FCDO aid budget to Nepal.

The Gurkha Brigade Association (GBA)

After a relative quiet 18 months the GBA resumed its work with Gurkha veterans. The naming of Great Western Railways InterCity train after Tulbahadur Pun VC in June, the launch of the Commonwealth and Gurkha Memorial Garden in Woolwich in July and unveiling of the Kulbir Thapa statue in Aldershot in September were the highlights of the year. The GBA, in conjunction with the other 3 Pillars continues to address the challenges and capitalising on opportunities to enhance the standing of the Brigade.

The affiliation of RGR Companies to Regimental Associations (RAs) has paid dividends with more interaction between company personnel and the RAs. The GBA has played a key role in ensuring that our veterans, both British and Gurkha were kept informed of the wider Gurkha interests, particularly during the COVID lockdown. The link between UK and Nepal Gurkha veterans remains strong.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all those who contributed articles. It is always difficult to decide what to include when there are so many things going on going every week. I extend a particular thanks to Mrs Becky Key, Creative Media Design, at the Directorate of Engagement and Communications for her design work. Thank you.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF NEPAL

**By Colonel Commandant The Brigade of Gurkhas
Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE**

Honourable President,

It is my privilege, as Colonel Commandant, to present to you the 2021 annual report on the Brigade of Gurkhas. Throughout this report you will see that this has been a challenging but also hugely constructive year for the Brigade. Our Gurkhas have provided much needed support in countries all around the globe in a wide variety of tasks ranging from supporting the Bruneian Ministry of Health during their COVID-19 outbreaks, to providing critical communications to the UN mission in Mali. 2021 is truly another year in which the Brigade of Gurkhas can be proud of their many achievements.

Once again, I am very pleased to be able to state that all members have represented the Brigade with great distinction and continue to maintain the name and reputation of the Gurkha soldier. Their dedication and exemplary conduct is testament to their homeland, and they remain true to Nepali culture through recognising religious and cultural festivals. The expansion of the Brigade of Gurkhas, that was highlighted in the 2020 report, has continued to reinforce the Brigade's very positive position within the British Army. We continue to harness the great potential of every Gurkha soldier allowing them to develop new skills and test their renowned ability in new and challenging environments.

The global pandemic has continued to present challenges, but the adaptability and resilience of the Gurkhas and their families is as evident as ever, with many inventive ways to enrich soldiers' lives professionally and personally seen across the Brigade. It is these attributes and their unwavering dedication



Brigade of Gurkha representatives paid respects at the Gurkha Soldier Memorial on Remembrance Day

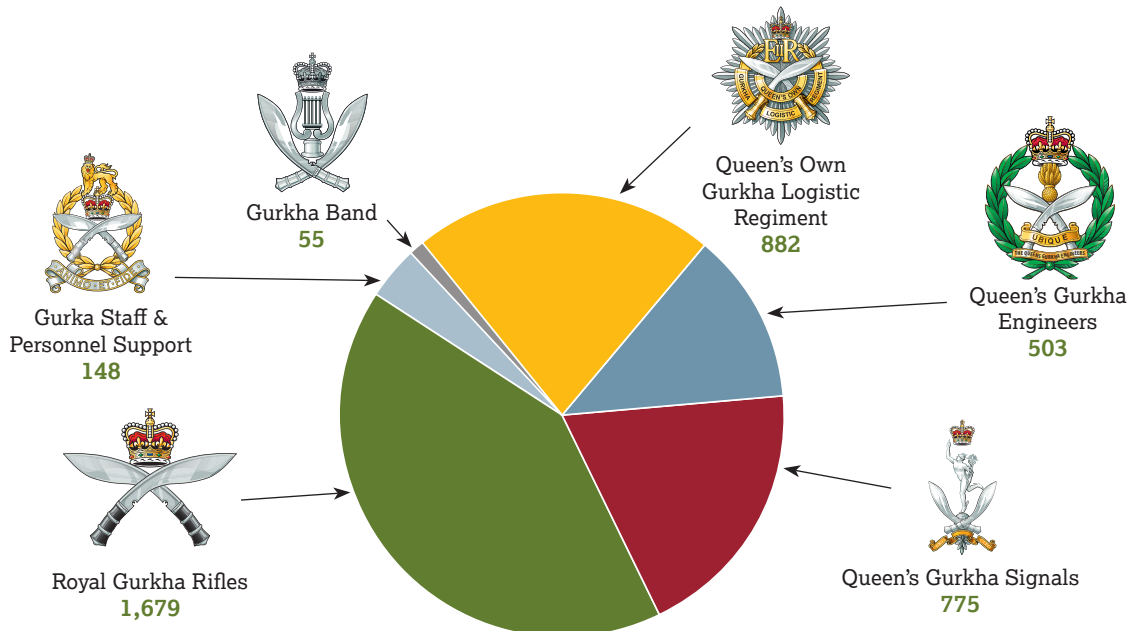


Great Western Railway names a train in honour of Victoria Cross recipient, Tulbahadur Pun

to each other and their homeland that continues to make them outstanding ambassadors for the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

Manning Update

As at 31 December 2021, the strength of the Brigade of Gurkhas was 3,982. This includes the 340 recruits who were recruited in 2021.



Brigade of Gurkha Growth

On 5th July 2021, the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) Support Battalion formally redesignated to become Gurkha ARRC Support Battalion. The Battalion provides enabling and force protection support to the ARRC NATO Warfighting HQ on all operations and exercises.

The Battalion has had an extremely busy year focussed heavily on training. It participated in a NATO - sponsored, land domain Computer Assisted and Command Post exercise that was held in Germany and Poland. In addition, elements of the Battalion deployed in support of the UK Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic by conducting COVID vaccination support in both Scotland and England.

The Battalion has also done various charity work and raised funds for the Gurkha Welfare Trust and local NHS Trusts. Throughout 2021, the Battalion has been heavily involved in key NATO HQ warfighting exercises and has continued to maintain its place at the heart of the British Army and with its NATO partners.

Operational Activity

The pandemic continues to present the Brigade of Gurkhas with unique challenges. The Brigade has used this period to focus on delivering operational excellence both in the UK and abroad. Soldiers of the Brigade have deployed to Kosovo, Cyprus, Iraq, Kenya, and Somalia, to name a few. Common to all deployments is the Brigade's ability to deliver for the British Army. The Brigade also supported NATO's commitment to the evacuation of Afghanistan, ensuring safe passage for large number of refugees. Whilst some soldiers have deployed overseas, many have remained in the UK and delivered military assistance in the continued fight against the pandemic. Members of the Brigade continue to provide expertise and support around the country. The 2nd Battalion has also excelled in its support to the Government of Brunei. It has become the backbone of the Bruneian fight against the pandemic, delivering support in ever-expanding roles across all aspects of government, such as delivering vaccines and planning international logistics. The Brigade has continued to prove that it remains a vital part of UK Defence.



QGS deployed on operation in Mali



QGLR deployed on operation Mali



RGR deployed to Kosovo



QGE deployed on operation in the UK



RGR deployed on operation in the sub-Saharan Africa



RGR Deployed in Brunei

Recruiting

In February 2021, strict force health protection measures provided British Gurkhas Nepal a challenging environment to work in. However, through strict adherence to the Nepali government's rules, 340 personnel were still recruited into the British Army. The recruiting processes continue to evolve as the global situation develops and we are now preparing for 2022's selection.



Online registration was introduced this year and saw over 10,000 applicants register interest, including applicants from the most remote regions, who would have previously travelled many days to register



Community briefs advertising opportunities in the British Army and reassuring parents of the "free, fair, and transparent" recruiting process



The doko race will be conducted as the determination and stamina assessment. They will run 5.8km carrying a 15kg doko



3,445 potential recruits were called forward to Regional Selection which involved medical, physical, and education assessments. All assessments are rigorously assured throughout



Recruit Intake 21 taking their oath at the Attestation Parade in British Gurkhas Pokhara. 560 potential recruits were called forward from which 340 were selected



English speaking, listening, reading, writing, and mathematics are assessed during recruitment stages. Designed and conducted by a UK education team

Recruit Training

This year, Gurkha Company Catterick has trained 340 Riflemen for the Brigade of Gurkhas. This year's Passing Out Parade's Reviewing Officer was The Right Honourable Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was escorted by the Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas. From 2022, every unit of the Brigade – including The Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas will be represented amongst the instructors. Recruit Intake 22 will form up in February 22 and will be the first Gurkha intake to undertake the new Combat Infantry Course (Gurkha) 21.



The Champion Shot of Recruit Intake 21 is celebrated by the Permanent Staff and Recruits



Recruits practice their Chemical Biological Radioactive and Nuclear drills



The Chancellor of the Exchequer inspects a rank on the Passing Out Parade, December 2021



Recruits undergo field training using the Tactical Engagement Simulation (TES) system



Recruits take part in an Inter-Platoon Tug-of-War competition as part of Gurkha Company's 70th Birthday celebrations



Close Quarter Combat training blends traditional kukri patterns with Taekwondo and is a formal part of Combat Infantry Course (Gurkha)

Unit Activity

1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles (1RGR)

The 1st Battalion has had an extremely busy year focussed heavily on operations in the UK and around the world. In January, the Battalion deployed in support of the UK Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic by conducting COVID testing for drivers at locations all across England. In the Autumn, 1 RGR deployed to Kosovo in support of NATO forces, participating in exercises and patrols with international forces from around the world. In Kosovo, 1 RGR also delivered support to Afghan civilians who had been evacuated from Kabul, by creating a safe environment for families to stay in while waiting for their visa applications to be approved for their onwards destinations.

Throughout 2021, 1 RGR has been involved in key operations and has maintained its place at the heart of the British Army. Nine Gurkhas paraded alongside the Regiments and Corps to whom the Duke of Edinburgh was Colonel in Chief to, assisting in paying final respects to His Royal Highness after his passing.



1 RGR soldiers training in Kosovo



COVID testing in the UK in support of the Government

2nd Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles (2RGR)

Another busy, rewarding year for The 2nd Battalion in Brunei. Amid a developing COVID-19 backdrop, 2 RGR has continued to deliver Defence Engagement in Africa, SE Asia and a new deployment to Papa New Guinea. Whilst maintaining this high level of output, 2 RGR and wider British Forces Brunei have provided critical support to the Bruneian COVID -19 response. Soldiers deployed across the country providing healthcare support and assistance to the Ministry of Health.

The battalion also assisted the Sultan of Brunei's son in his preparation for the Royal Marines' All Arms Commando Course, which he passed in December.



A 2 RGR Platoon Commander working alongside his Bruneian counterpart in the jungle



2 RGR soldiers conduct physical training during the Junior Leadership Cadre

The Queen's Gurkha Signals (QGS)

QG SIGNALS have continued to deliver on many fronts with operational deployment and various high-profile exercises abroad and in the UK. Recently, 249 Gurkha Signal Squadron returned from the USA after successfully taking part in 3rd (UK) Division's warfighting exercise. Similarly, 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron have just returned from Standing Joint Force UK's (SJCUK) mission rehearsal exercise in Sweden, and 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron deployed on a NATO warfighting exercise in Poland and Germany.

This year, the Regiment have made history by winning the Nepal Cup (Brigade football competition) and Trailwalker UK (team 100km foot race), back-to-back. QG SIGNALS sub units have also done various charity work and raised funds for the Gurkha Welfare Trust, Oxfam UK, Gurkha Museum UK and Covid-19 Relief Fund in Nepal.

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70 Gurkha Field Squadron building a Boat store in Cyprus as part of Adventurous Training facilities refurbishment



The Queen's Gurkha Engineers conducting mass Coronavirus testing on M20 Motorway, Kent



Queen's Gurkha Signals Red & Blue team at the Trailwalker podium



QG SIGNALS Nepal Cup winning team proudly posing for photo

Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR)

QOGLR soldiers have been very busy this year, supporting a number of Operations and Exercises for 3(UK) Division and SJC(UK). Since returning from Ex WARFIGHTER 21.4 in Texas USA, the Regiment has been committed to the United Kingdom Standby Battalion. 94 Sqn QOGLR deployed to Afghanistan and 14 Sqn QOGLR continues to support the newly named Gurkha ARRC Support Battalion on exercise in Poland and Germany. The QOGLR have also had the opportunity to host several VVIP visits including the General Officer Commanding 3 UK Div and Commander Field Army. The QOGLR also competed in Cambrian Patrol, earning four gold medals for their outstanding efforts. The 10 QOGLR Pipes and Drums were also able to perform at full-scale this year and performed at notable events such as the unveiling of the new Gurkha statue of Kulbir Thapa VC at Princes Gardens in Aldershot.

Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas (Band BG)

With the effects of COVID 19 enduring, the early part of the year saw the Band focus on Military and Musical training. This gave time to increase the bands strength to a Type54 (second largest band in the British Army) and prepare the next generation of the band. Members also took part in physical challenges (Doko race/ Trailwalker/ Sailing and Mountain Biking) to raise money for the GWT. The latter half of the year saw the band celebrate its 27th Birthday, support the Royal Family at Dover Castle, help the people of Folkestone celebrate Dame Vera Lynne's life, support Remembrance events in Cyprus, and celebrate the 71st birthday of the Queen's Gurkha Signals. A very busy and proud band continue to serve as professional Gurkha musicians and hope to return to Nepal in early 2022 to work alongside the Nepal Army, Police and Armed Forces Police bands.



Soldiers from QOGLR being inspected in the field by Commander Field Army



The QOGLR Gurkha Major and team in Temple celebrating Dashain



Band BG celebrating Dashain



Band BG performing at Dover Castle

Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support (GSPS)

This year marked the 10th anniversary of the formation of the cap badge. A proud moment for the organisation to have reached its first milestone with astounding success over the past decade on all fronts. To mark this historic occasion, all members from around the globe attended a virtual celebrations on 30th June, followed by a formal parade.

As part of the 10th Anniversary celebrations, many members organised various charity events raising funds totalling over £4,000, all of which went towards good causes.

The GSPS have had a very busy year. The members of the GSPS have really been put to the test, being deployed to various parts of the UK and overseas, often at very short notice. Most notably, members deployed to Kosovo as part of the RGR Battlegroup and are contributing to the redeployment and recovery of troops in support of the UK response to COVID 19. The future looks equally challenging and successful for the GSPS.



The Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support celebrated their 10th anniversary since their formation



GSPS Intake 2021 at the Passing Out Parade



Maj Bijayant Sherchan receiving MBE from HRH Prince Charles



GSPS soldiers checking travel documents in Bosnia



Pte Prashish talking with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP after the Passing Out Parade

Honours & Awards



Captain Vivekjung Shah was recognised with an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List



Warrant Officer Class 2 Bhimbahadur Gurung was awarded an MSM (Military Service Medal) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List



Warrant Officer Class 2 Bishwahang Rai was awarded a Queen's Commendation for Bravery in the Operational Honours List



Warrant Officer Class Two (Company Sergeant Major) Surendra Tamang was awarded a Chief of General Staff Commendation on the New Year's Honour List



Corporal Rajan Ektin Limbu was awarded The Commanding Officer's Commendation for his contribution to The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst



Corporal Anil Gurung was awarded The Commanding Officer's commendation for his contribution to The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst



Warrant Officer Class Two (Company Sergeant Major) Naresh Gurung was awarded a Standing Joint Command Commendation on the New Year's Honours List



Sergeant Ratanraj Rai was awarded a General Officer Commanding Army Recruiting and Initial Training Command Commendation on the New Year's Honours List



Sergeant Sanjib Sherchan was awarded a General Officer Commanding Army Recruiting and Initial Training Command Commendation on the New Year's Honours List

Other Activities



The Intelligence Cell, 2 RGR, conducted Exercise THE CELL which comprised mountain biking, hiking and water sports



Director of Music of the Band BG participates in a Doko Race in London to raise money for the GWT



Sergeant Uttam Pun from the Royal Gurkha Rifles received a commendation from Commander Sandhurst Group



Private Umit Rai from Queen's Own Gurkha Logistics Regiment has been awarded this year's Mackenzie Award - an award given to the most deserving British Army Chef



Family educational visit to Shri Vallabh Nidhi Mandir in London



The presentation of the Queen's truncheon at the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral



Lance Corporal Arun, Sapper Niraj, Sapper Jitendra, Sapper Subham and Sapper Deepak from the Queen's Gurkha Engineers successfully passed the All Arms Commando Course



For the first time, a team from the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas took part in Trailwalker 2021 and completed the challenge in 17hrs 29mins

The Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT)

Throughout the year, COVID-19 has continued to impact much of our work, both delivering aid in Nepal and fundraising in the UK. Nevertheless, by adapting and persevering the team were able to achieve tremendous success - culminating in vital support for thousands of Gurkha veterans, their families, and local communities across Nepal.

A new success for us this year was the delivery of a medical camp in Humla district. The camp, which was open to the whole community, fitted individuals with prosthetics for the first time. The results were heart-warming, especially for children who were provided with artificial limbs to life-changing effect. In total, as a result of the camp 28 people received 51 prostheses.

This year our Rural Water and Sanitation Programme team conducted a COVID Intervention Programme. In all, 369 sites were provided with COVID relief support with either handwash stations, sanitation equipment and advocacy or with PPE. The programme spread across six provinces and helped 208,675 people in health facilities, quarantine and isolation centres.

We installed **36 water projects**, benefitting 6,285 people across **1,184 households at a cost of Rs 296 million**.

We built **three major schools** this year, worked on 11 building extensions and **54 refurbishments**.

The team treated **71,000 medical cases** and conducted just over **8,000 home visits** as well as over 50,000 telephone consultations.

Our two Residential Homes housed **33 vulnerable Gurkha veterans and widows**.

Over **4,000 veterans and widows**, with an average age of 80 years-old, received a **pension worth 12,600 NPR per month**.

Emergency Hardship Grants were awarded to 1,261 people and **100 earthquake-resilient homes** were built at a **cost of Rs 201 million**.



HEADQUARTERS BRIGADE OF GURKHAS

Staff List

Staff List as at 31 December 2021

Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas	Colonel D Robinson
Chief of Staff Major	Major D O'Conner
Deputy Chief of Staff	Major Jit Hamal GSPS
SO2 Personnel/Policy	Major Dammarbahadur Shahi RGR
OC BCLT	Major Purnasingsh Tamang QGE
Brigade Secretary	Major (Retd) Manikumar Rai MBE, DL
RGR Regimental Secretary	Major (Retd) B McKay MBE
Executive Staff	Mr G Trafford Smith
Brigade Welfare Officer	Captain (Retd) Mahendra Limbu MBE
Communications Officer	Mr M Latter
QGOO/SO3 Plans	Captain Krishna Loksam RGR
QGOO	Capt Suren Limbu GSPS
BG Adjutant	Captain W Carter RGR
RCMO 3 RGR	Captain Ganeshkumar Rai RGR
SO3 Implementation	Captain Belbahadur Gurung RGR
Finance Officer	Ms A Lopez
Asst Brigade Welfare Officer	Hon Lieutenant (Retd) Tulbahadur Gurung
Superintendent Clerk	WO1 Priyachandra Rai GSPS
Manning Clerk Staff	Sergeant Anandbir Gurung GSPS
Administration Clerk	Corporal Vivek Gharti GSPS
Communications Clerk	Corporal Shekar Gurung QGS
Welfare NCO	Lance Corporal Jeevan Thapa QOGLR
GWAC Welfare Clerk	Mr Bhanu Jabegu

HQBG Review 2021

Normality returned to HQBG in 2021 following the COVID-19 pandemic. HQBG resumed its busy visit programme visiting BG units across the country and continued to provide support to our soldiers from the UK, Nepal, Brunei and beyond. 2021 also saw the return of social functions, most importantly the Brigade Dinner Night at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Personnel

2021 saw the handover of Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas. In November, after two years as Col BG, Colonel Jody Davies MBE handed over responsibilities to Colonel David Robinson who had previously served as Chief of Staff in HQBG between 2009 and 2011.

Elsewhere in the Headquarters there were further staff changes. We have said goodbye to Maj Andrew Blackmore RGR (Chief of Staff), Capt David Carter RGR (BG Adjt), Maj Charlie Collins RGR (RGR Adjt), SSgt Diwash Rai (Man & Estb Clk), Sgt Anandbir Gurung GSPS (SSA), Cpl Vivek Gharti GSPS (Admin NCO) and LCpl Jeevan Thapa QOGLR (Welfare NCO) all of whom have contributed to the success of the headquarters.

HQBG then had the pleasure of welcoming Maj Danny O'Connor RGR (Chief of Staff), Maj Gary Power RLC (Deputy Chief of Staff), Capt Thomas Sachs R SIGNALS

(BG Adjt), Capt Nathan Halliday RGR (RGR Adjt), SSgt Tanka Rai (Man & Estb Clk), Cpl Pratik Paija GSPS (Admin NCO) and LCpl Minbahadur Gurung QOGLR (Welfare NCO).

Visits

While most of the year was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, visits recommenced towards the end of the year with Col Jody Davies MBE able to visit many of the BG Units including Nepal before leaving post. Col David Robinson arrived in time to conduct his first major duty as Col BG, visiting Gurkha Company Catterick in December for the Recruit Intake 21 Pass off Parade.

Events

Brigade Week, HQBG's main event of the year returned to its full programme of meetings and social functions after a reduced programme in 2020. Taking place in September, slightly later than normal, the week also saw the return of the Brigade Dinner Night where Officers and Warrant Officer from across the Brigade came together at RMAS to socialise for the first time in two years.

The Brigade of Gurkhas football competition, the Nepal Cup, also returned in 2021. This year's victorious team was the QG SIGNALS who retain the cup after their triumph in 2019.

The increase to the size of the Brigade continued in 2021 with the establishment of the Gurkha ARRC Support Battalion in Imjin Barracks, Innsworth. The Battalion will provide close support to the NATO's 4* Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Headquarters and provide further employment opportunities for our Gurkha personnel from the RGR, QGE, QOGLR and GSPS.

Conclusion

HQBG continues to rise to the challenges presented by the recent expansion and diversification of the Brigade in the post pandemic world. Looking forward, the HQ is poised to support the outcomes of the Integrated Review whilst looking to seize future opportunities as and when they arise.

Year Honours and Awards 2021

The Most Honourable Order of the Bath (As Companion (CB))

Major General Jonathan James COLE, OBE Late QG Signals

The Most Honourable Order of the Bath (As Officer (OBE))

Colonel James Nicholas Briers BIRCH Late RGR

Meritorious Service Medal (MSM)

Warrant Officer Class 1 Prawin MALLA RGR
 Warrant Officer Class 1 Kamalbahadur PUN MAGAR RGR
 Warrant Officer Class 1 Pandu TAMANG QG Signals
 Warrant Officer Class 2 Sajan LIMBU RGR
 Staff Sergeant Yambahadur GURUNG QOGLR

Commander Field Army Commendation

Captain JR DICK RGR
 Corporal GB CHHETRI RGR

Chief of the General Staff Commendation

Warrant Officer Class Two Surendra TAMANG RGR

Standing Joint Command Commendation

Warrant Officer Class Two Naresh GURUNG RGR

Meritorious Service Medal:

Warrant Officer Class 2 Birendrakumar KAMBANG QGE
 Warrant Officer Class 2 Premkumar Jagebu LIMBU RGR

Fishmongers Award

Warrant Officer Class 2 Ekabahadur RAI QGE

THE ROYAL GURKHA RIFLES



Regimental Battle Honours

History

Amboor, Carnatic, Mysore, Assaye, Ava, Bhurtapore, Aliwal, Sobroan. Delhi 1857, Kandahar 1880, Afghanistan 1878-80, Burma 1885-87, Tirah, Punjab Frontier.

The Great War - La Bassee 1914, Festubert 1914 -15, Givenchy 1914, Neuve Chapelle, Aubers, Loos, France and Flanders 1914-15, Helles, Krithia, Suvia, Sari Bair, Gallipoli 1915, Suez Canal, Megiddo, Egypt 1915-16, Sharon, Palestine 1918, Shaiba, Kut al Amara 1915, 1917, Ctesiphon, Defence of Kut al Amara, Tigris 1916, Baghdad, Khan Baghdadi, Sharqat, Mesopotamia 1915-18, Persia 1918, North West Frontier 1915, Baluchistan 1918.

Afghanistan 1919

The Second World War - Iraq 1941, Deir ez Zor, Syria 1941, Tobruk 1942, El Alamein, Mareth, Akarit, Djebel el Meida, Enfidaville, Tunis, North Africa 1942-43, Cassino 1, Monastery Hill, Pian di Maggio, Campriano, Poggio Del Grillo, Gothic Line, Tavoleto, Coriano, Poggio San Giovanni, Montebello-Scorticata Ridge, Santarcangelo, Monte Reggiano, Monte Chicco, Lamone Crossing, Senio Floodbank, Bologna, Sillaro Crossing, Medicina, Galana Crossing, Italy 1944-45, Greece 1944-45, North Malaya, Jitra, Central Malaya, Kampar, Slim River, Johore, Singapore Island, Malaya 1941-42, Sittang 1942, 1945, Pegu 1942, 1945, Kyauksa 1942, 1945, Monywa 1942, Shwegyin, North Arakan, Imphal, Tuitum, Tamu Road, Shenam Pass, Litan, Bishenpur, Tengnoupal, Shwebo, Kyaukmyaung Bridgehead, Mandalay, Myinmu Bridgehead, Fort dufferin, Maymo, Meiktila, Capture of Meiktila, Defence of Meiktila, Irrawaddy, Magwe, Rangoon Road, Pyabwe, Toungoo Point 1433, Arakan Beaches, Myebon, Tamandu, Chindits 1943, 1945, Burma 1942-45

Falkland Islands 1982

Regimental Marches

Quick March - Bravest of the Brave
Slow March (Band) - God Bless the Prince of Wales

Double March - The Keel Row
Slow March (Pipes) - The Garb of Old Gaul

Affiliated Regiments

The King's Royal Hussars
 The Royal Regiment of Scotland
 The RIFLES

Colonel in Chief HRH The Prince of Wales KG KT GCB OM AK QSO NPC ADC
Regimental Colonel Brigadier GM Strickland DSO MBE
Regimental Secretary Major (Retd) B McKay MBE

Serving Officers RGR - Nominal Roll as at 31 Dec 21

Serving Officers

Maj Gen G M Strickland DSO MBE BA(Hons) psc(j)

Col J N B Birch OBE MA MDA psc(j)

Col D J Robinson MA psc(j)

Col J P Davies MBE MA(Cantab) psc(j)

Col D M Rex BA(Hons) MVO

Col J C Murray BLE (Hons) hcsc(j)

Col D T Pack OBE psc(j)

Colonel, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, General

Commanding 6th (United Kingdom) Division

COS, HQ Defence College of Technical Training,
Gosport

Dep Col RGR and Col BG

DACOS SJC(UK), HQ Standing Joint Command
(UK), Aldershot

CEO, The Queen's Green Canopy - on secondment

Chief of Staff, ACGS Defence Engagement Asia

Pacific, British Defence Staff, BHC Singapore

AHd Personnel Strategy, Personnel

Officers of RGR

Lt Col C R Boryer MBE BA(Hons) psc(j)

Lt Col S W M Chandler BA (Hons) psc(j)

Lt Col C P L Conroy BSc(Hons) psc(j)

Lt Col N J Aucott MA

Lt Col G Chaganis BSc(Hons) psc(j)

Lt Col A P Todd BSc(Hons) MBE MBA

Lt Col H P S Stanford-Tuck

Lt Col M A Shields

Lt Col E P Oldfield psc(j)

Lt Col A M S Hellier BA(Hons)

Lt Col N L Moran MRes psc(j)

Lt Col S S Burton

Lt Col J M L Cartwright BA(Hons)

Lt Col J A E E Jeffcoat BA(Hons)

Lt Col R T Anderson BA(Hons)

Maj A Blackmore BSc, MEd

Maj M J James BSc(Hons)

Maj B G Birkbeck

Maj N R Lloyd BSc

Maj D P O'Connor

Maj Chandrabadahur Pun

Maj Prembahadur Gurung MBE

Maj Rajeshkumar Gurung

Maj P A Houlton-Hart BEng(Hons)

Maj Hemkumar Tamang

Maj C P A E Bairsto BSc

Maj Prakash Gurung MVO

Maj R E Morford MEng (Hons)

Maj Muktiprasad Gurung MVO

Maj S T Meadows BA(Hons)

Maj Rajkumar Rai

Maj Shureshkumar Thapa MVO

Maj Gyanbahadur Dhenga

Maj Lalitbahadur Gurung MVO

Maj B E Norfield

Maj Ramkumar Rai

Maj C E F Russell BA(Hons)

Maj Jiwan Pun

SO1 Inflow Ops Data, Personnel & Training
Branch, HQ Home Command

DS, ACSC, Shrivenham

SO1 Comd Plans, LWC, Warminster

COS, BDILS, Washington DC

CO, Southampton UOTC

CO, 2 RGR

SO1 Organisation, Army Org, Strategic Centre,
Army Headquarters

SO1 DS Land3, British Military Mission, Kuwait

CO, 1 RGR

SO1, EXPROD, Exercise Training & Innovation,
Joint Warfare Centre, Stavanger

MA to COMARRC HQ ARRC

SO1, J3 Lands OPS, PJHQ

CO, ATFC Winchester

SO1 Parliamentary Engagement,

Army Staff London

ACSC, Shrivenham

XO to COS Regional Command, Aldershot

Student, DCLC, Shrivenham

SO2 Assurance, The Sandhurst Group

Strategic Command Requirements Manager,
Abbey Wood

COS, HQBG

SO2 Individual Training Policy, Army HQ

OC, TSD, IBS Brecon

GM, 1 RGR

Bn 2IC, 1 RGR

COS, AEG, HC

COS, HQ 16 Air Assault Bde

Snr Instr Combat, RE Warfare Wing, Minley

COS, HQ South West, Tidworth

QM, BATSUB

Directing Staff, ICSC(L), Shrivenham

SO2 Resources, FTU, Westdown Camp

OC, Gurkha Coy (Sittang), RMAS

JCAST, Contract Manager, Joint Force Training,
Strategic Command, Northwood HQ

GM, 1 RGR

OC, B Coy, 2 RGR

GM, 2 RGR

OC, C Coy, 1 RGR

DCOS Watchkeeper Force, HQ WKF

Maj J Devall	OC, A Coy, 1 RGR
Maj A E Genillard	OC, F Coy, 2 RANGER Bn, Aldershot
Maj Rajankumar Badgami	GM, BGN
Maj Dillikumar Rai MVO	OC, Trg Sp (Babaji) Coy, ITC Sp Bn, Catterick
Maj J England	Student, Overseas Staff Course, Germany
Maj T E B Latham	SO2, Force Dev, 77 Bde
Maj S R Nightingale LLB MA	SO2, Plans, RG
Maj J K Armstrong	A Block, MOD
Maj Sanjipkumar Rai MVO	OC, HQ Coy, 2 RGR
Maj H Gardner-Clarke	A Block, MOD
Maj C J Schroeder MA	SO2 Commitments, ICSC, Shrivenham
Maj Mukunda Gurung	SO2 Influence, HQ11 Inf Bde and HQ SE
Maj Milanchandra Rai	SO2 G4 Log, LWC, Warminster
Maj Subas Gurung	Student, BTC Course, DEFAC Tech School
Maj Babindra Gurung	OC, HQ Coy, 1 RGR
A/Maj C F D Diamond	CTLO, Kuala Lumpur
A/Maj J A Millar	OC, C Coy, 1 RGR
A/Maj W J D Patrick	ICSC, Shrivenham
A/Maj M F Barney BA(Hons)	OC, Gurkha Coy, ITC Catterick
A/Maj Nawalkiran Yakha	ICSC, Shrivenham
A/Maj T W C Hunter BA(Hons)	A Block, MOD
Capt J P Christy	SO3, G5 Plans, HQ 7 Inf Bde
Capt Mahendra Phagami	Rehab Officer, PRU East, Aldershot
Capt Bikulman Rai	OC, Gurkha Company (TAVOLETO), SWS, Warminster
Capt Ganeshkumar Rai	RCMO, 3 RGR
Capt Kiran Pun MVO	SO3, F Ops CSS, HQ 20 Armd Inf Bde
Capt Ganeshkumar Gurung MVO	2IC, BGP
Capt Raju Dura	DCMO, APC Glasgow
Capt Premkaji Gurung	UWO, 1 RGR
Capt Binodkumar Kerung	2IC, Gurkha Coy (Sittang), RMAS
Capt Bhupalsingh Rai	UWO, 2 RGR
Capt P O V Lambert	OC BGP, Nepal
Capt Krishnaprasad Loksam	QGOO/SO3 Plans, HQBG
Capt C L J Collins	RGR Regt'l Adj, RGR RHQ, HQBG
Capt GG Davies	ICSC, Shrivenham
Capt Buddhibahadur Gurung	2IC, Trg Sp Div, IBS Brecon
Capt Lalitbahadur Gurung (9323)	QM(T), 1 RGR
Capt Chhatraman Limbu Lingthep	SO3, TF Hannibal, CRTC EXECUTE
Capt C R Jones	Att, 16 AA Bde
Capt Giri Prasad Gurung	RCMO, 1 RGR
Capt Som Thulung	RCMO, 2 RGR
Capt C R Boote	MOD, A Block
Capt R A Cassini	MOD, A Block
Capt Belbahadur Gurung	Welfare Officer, 3 RGR
Capt Genendra Rai	MTO, 2 RGR
Capt Vijayprakash Subba Limbu	2IC, Gurkha Company, ITC Catterick
Capt Bahadur Budha Magar	2IC, A Coy, 1 RGR
Capt Shreeman Limbu	QM (T), 2 RGR
Capt Bhaktaprasad Sherchan	2IC, B Coy, 1 RGR
Capt W P Reeve BSc(Hons)	SO3, G7, HQ 4th Inf Bde and HQ NE, Catterick
Capt S J Marshall	XO, HQ Spec Inf Gp
Capt Jiwanprasad Gurung	2IC, G Coy, 4 RANGER Bn
Capt Suresh Sambahamphe	2IC, C Coy, 2 RGR
Capt Sangam Rai	2IC, Sp Coy, 2 RGR
Capt Prem Shreesh	2IC, C Coy, 1 RGR
Capt J G Adamson	Adj, 2 RGR
Capt J R Dick BSc(Hons)	Adj, 1 RGR
Capt O C H Goldfinger	MOD, A Block

Capt Kailash Khebang Limbu	2IC, CSS Coy, 2 RGR
Capt Padambahadur Gurung	Pl Comd, Gurkha Coy Sittang, RMAS
Capt D R Carter BSc(Hons)	Student, DCLC, Shrivenham
Capt T P Gardner BSc(Hons)	Pl Comd, RMAS
Capt Bikash Gurung	2IC, F Coy, 2 RANGER Bn, Aldershot
Capt Tarjan Gurung	Pl Comd, Gurkha Coy Sittang
Capt Imbahadur Ghale	MTO, 1 RGR
Capt S L Sears BA(Hons)	MOD, A Block
Capt S G Bird BA(Hons)	OC, Mortar Pl, 2 RGR
Capt C F Cavell	OC, Anti-Tank Pl, Sp Coy, 2 RGR
Capt A P B McWilliam BA(Hons)	MOD, A Block
Capt Shivakumar Rai	Pl Comd, B Coy, 2 RGR
Capt Lakshbahadur Gurung	2IC, A Coy, 2 RGR
Capt Madankumar Jimi	Pl Comd, Mandalay Coy, IBS Brecon
Capt Basanta Rai	Tp Comd, Close Support Troop, 14 Sqn, Gurkha ARRC Sp Battalion
Capt Santoshkumar Rai	Pl Comd, Gurkha Coy, IT Catterick
Capt T J Eddings BSc(Hons)	Ops Offr, 2 RGR
Capt C J R Hornby BA(Hons)	Ops Offr, 1 RGR
Capt N J Halliday	RGR Regt'l Adj, RHQ RGR, HQBG
Capt Nawaraj Jimee	Team Leader, G Coy, 4 RANGER Bn, Aldershot
Capt E D Hicks BA(Hons)	SO3 Media Ops, Army Comms, Army HQ
Capt Deepak Kumar Gurung	Pl Comd, A Coy, 1 RGR
Capt Narbir Galami	Pl Comd, Gurkha Coy, ITC Catterick
Capt Arunhang Nembang	Pl Comd, C Coy, 2 RGR
Capt Bhupendra Gaha	Pl Comd, B Coy, 1 RGR
Capt Santosh Rai	Pl Comd, Gurkha Coy, ITC Catterick
Capt Basantakumar Rai	Tp Comd, 14 Sqn, Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn
Capt Ramkumar Serpuja Pun	Pl Comd, C Coy, 1 RGR
Capt D W-I Dewick BA(Hons)	OC BTT, Shorncliffe
Capt W C Rushworth BA(Hons)	Team Leader, G Coy, 4 RANGER Bn, Aldershot
Capt R K Weale BA(Hons)	OC, Mortar Pl, 1 RGR
Capt J J Hogg BA(Hons)	ADC, GOC, HQ 6 Div, Upavon
Capt N F Pollinger	IO, 2 RGR
Capt B A S Atkinson BA(Hons)	OC Reece Pl, Sp Coy, 2 RGR
Capt T G Washington Smith BSc	Team Leader, G Coy, 4 Ranger Bn, Aldershot
Capt R Cannon BA(Hons)	Ops Offr, 2 RGR
Capt H L Parker BA(Hons)	OC, Recce Pl, Sp Coy, 1 RGR
Capt T H J Parsons BSc(Hons)	OC MMG Pl, Sp Coy, 1 RGR
Capt L J Griffin BSc(Hons)	Team Leader, F Coy, 2 RANGER Bn, Aldershot
Capt Phurba Tamang	Team Leader, F Coy, 2 RANGER Bn, Aldershot
Capt Naresh Gurung	Pl Comd, Gurkha Coy, ITC Catterick
Capt Begindradal Limbu	Pl Comd, B Coy, 2 RGR
Capt Kumar Purja Pun	Pl Comd, Gurkha Coy, ITC Catterick
Capt Mukunda Rajali	Pl Comd, Gurkha Coy, ITC Catterick
Capt Surendra Tamang	Pl Comd, A Coy, 2 RGR
A/Capt C Fraser BA(Hons)	RSO, 1 RGR
A/Capt A W Fall BSc(Hons)	OC ATk Pln, Sp Coy, 1 RGR
Lt A GJ Baker BA(Hons)	Team Leader, F Coy, 2 RANGER Bn, Aldershot
D F Foster BSc(Hons)	Team Leader, F Coy, 2 RANGER Bn, Aldershot
Lt T B L Wood BSc(Hons)	Pl Comd, MMG Pln, 2 RGR
Lt L M Whyatt	Pl Comd, Gurkha Coy, ITC Catterick
Lt D Hamill BA(Hons)	IO, 1 RGR
Lt J M Howlett BA(Hons)	Pl Comd, A Coy, 2 RGR
Lt A P Cousins BA(Hons)	Pl Comd, B Coy, 1 RGR
Lt F N Kingdon BA(Hons)	Pl Comd, B Coy, 2 RGR
Lt T J Moore BA(Hons)	RSO, 2 RGR
Lt M T Bennett BSc(Hons)	Pl Comd, A Coy, 1 RGR
Lt M A Emmott BA(Hons)	Pl Comd, A Coy, 2 RGR

Lt R C St C Logan
 2Lt M H A Pilkington BA(Hons)
 2Lt A H C Atkins BA(Hons)
 2Lt G D C Summerton BA(Hons)
 2Lt S H Williams
 2Lt O G Blofeld BA(Hons)
 2Lt B J O Gartland BA(Hons)
 2Lt G A C Patterson BA(Hons)
 2Lt J R Hazeldean
 2Lt T A D Last BA(Hons)

Pl Comd, C Coy, 1 RGR
 Pl Comd, C Coy, 2 RGR
 Pl Comd, A Coy, 1 RGR
 Pl Comd, B Coy, 1 RGR
 Pl Comd, B Coy, 2 RGR
 Pl Comd, A Coy, 2 RGR
 Pl Comd, 1 RGR
 Pl Comd, C Coy, 2 RGR
 PCBC, IBS Brecon
 PCBC, IBS Brecon

Attached and Seconded Officers

1 RGR

Maj T Cummings SCOTS
 Maj D Sharp RIFLES
 Maj E M J Pretsell RAMC
 Maj P Goodall R WELSH
 Capt B S Green AGC (SPS)
 Capt Bijay Limbu GSPS
 Capt S Teuber KRH
 Mr Shankarmani Nepal Civilian

OC B Coy
 QM
 RMO
 OC Sp Coy
 RAO
 AGC Det Commander
 IO
 Religious Teacher

2 RGR

Maj D Evans RIFLES
 Maj S Makin RAMC
 Maj A Gurung AGC (GSPS)
 Capt Sumit Joshi GSPS
 Maj J Black R WELSH
 Maj A Emerson R ANGLIAN
 Maj B Collier LANCS
 Mr Bhishmaraj Niraula Civilian

QM
 RMO
 RAO
 AGC Det Comd
 OC A Coy
 OC B Coy
 OC Sp Coy
 Religious Teacher

1 RGR - Battalion Update

1 RGR began 2021 with the Bn deployed across Kent following a rapid force generation for Op RESCRIPT (part of HMG's domestic response to COVID-19). Op ROSE was the name given to the Cross-Channel Haulier COVID testing regime established initially in Kent and subsequently right across the nation in support of the civil authorities, following surprise changes to French Border entry requirements in December 2020. The Battalion was initially warned-off for a deployment to Manchester to conduct asymptomatic mass testing from 4th January, but on Christmas Day the Battalion (held at R2 (5 days NTM)) were tasked to RiP with UK Standby Battalions South 1 and 2 to become the Haulier Testing Resilience Unit (HTRU), no later than 28 December 20.

This saw all 1 RGR force elements recalled from leave on Boxing Day to be back in barracks by 27 December for immediate battle preparation. Commanders' recces followed on 28 December, and the RiP began in earnest the same day, with the Transfer of Authority completed on 29 December. Lateral Flow Device Testing was



1 RGR soldiers conducting COVID testing on Op ROSE

conducted by Company groups at multiple sites; A (Delhi) Company with perhaps the most gruelling task on the M20 between Ashford and Maidstone during Operation STACK, B (Sari Bair) Company at Manston Airfield, C (Mogaung) Coy at the Port of Dover and Lydden Hill Racetrack, all supported in earnest by



An "Upstream Testing" site in the Midlands supporting Op ROSE

Support (Medicina) Coy and HQ (Burma) Coy. The Bn was then ordered to establish 'Upstream testing,' and 1 RGR was reinforced by C Squadron of the King's Royal Hussars to deploy alongside a temporarily reinstated D (Kandahar) Coy to establish 46 'upstream testing facilities. These were testing booths located at motorway service stations, stretching from Carlisle to Southampton. With testing successfully established and the backlogs in Kent significantly reduced, the Bn handed Op ROSE over to the KRH in mid-January.

Over the period of 19 days (29 December 20 – 15 January 21), 1 RGR tested 44,611 individuals across 39,552 vehicles and in so doing ensured that the requirement for a negative COVID test did not interrupt the flow of traffic over the English Channel. The Battalion enjoyed interacting with UK and foreign hauliers from Dover to Carlisle, operating in dispersed locations under pressure (both tactically and strategically), whilst managing relations with other agencies and dealing with the winter weather.

The early months of 2021 also saw the Battalion's Junior Leadership Cadre delivered for 64 Riflemen initially in Kent and subsequently on Salisbury Plain. Support Weapons Cadres rapidly followed and prior to Easter Leave the Battalion conducted a short and sharp Collective Training Level DELTA exercise across the Cinque Ports Training Areas: Ex KUKRI WARRIOR.



JLC students on Battle PT

The Battalion then spent much of the summer term preparing to take on the task of Strategic Reserve Force (SRF) for Op ELGIN, the UK contribution to NATO peace support operations in the Western Balkans. This included a detailed programme of Public Order training and subsequent MRTC validation for all Companies largely based at Rype Village, Lydd, the rapid achievement of a long list of Joint Training Requirements and then full TLFTT and LFTT up to Coy Attack delivered by the B Coy and the Battalion training teams at Sennybridge in July.



Public Order training in Kent prior to assuming readiness as the Strategic Reserve Force

Every two years NATO directs that an Op Rehearsal Level 2 (OPREH L2) is run, testing the ability of Troop Contributing Nations (TCNs) to push forward 'Over The Horizon Reserves' (OTHR) within the desired timelines. In 2021 the OPREH L2 period covered 30 August-10 September and directed a deployment to Kosovo.



1 RGR prior to the OPREH L2 Distinguished Visitors' Day in Kosovo

The UK contribution to NATO's OTHR is an Infantry Bn known as the Strategic Reserve Force (SRF), currently based around 1 RGR. For the 2021 OPREH L2, 1 RGR deployed 461 personnel for approximately five weeks. This period saw participation in the KFOR led OPREH L2 (integration training and Distinguished Visitors' Day) and an additional UK-organised extension window, allowing the Bn to conduct patrolling along the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) between Serbia and Kosovo, as well as field exercises on the Babaj Bokes training area.

It should be noted that throughout the first quarter of 1 RGR's deployment, the UK and NATO focus was firmly (and quite rightly) on the NEO playing out in Kabul. This created two frictions for OPREH L2. First, the movement plan for the deployment was significantly affected by Op PITTING, resulting in two RAF flights being swapped for nine civilian flights, and a road move across Europe for the Bn's weapon systems. This created delays in deployment, RSOI and had a notable effect on the Bn's ability to acclimatise prior to commencing activity. Second, the Bn was tasked by LOC to support Op ALLIED SOLACE. This was a JFC Naples led operation to resettle over 800 NATO Affiliated Afghans who had been extracted as part of the NEO. Due to overcrowding, they were now being moved forward from the Middle East into Kosovo and as yet unprepared site with minimal notice. The end result was that the Bn HQ was required to plan and execute across two operations concurrently; launching A Coy and the RAP(-) onto an embryonic Op ALLIED SOLACE the morning after they arrived in country, whilst replanning OPREH L2 and the subsequent extension window to work with just two of the original three Coys it was planned for.

A (Delhi) Company deployed into Kosovo as the lead element of the main body. Within hours of arrival in country, the company was dynamically re-tasks from Op ELGIN to Op ALLIED SOLACE; part of the NATO contribution to assisting NATO-Affiliated Afghans who had evacuated from Kabul. Having received QBOs, A Company quickly established itself within a vacant site formerly utilised to accommodate construction workers and worked to clear the site for the imminent arrival of several hundred 'guests'. The guests themselves were men, women, and children, some of whom had suffered terrible personal loss during the violence of the evacuation, and others with long-term special needs. The sense of exhaustion, anxiety and trauma amongst these people was palpable, and occasionally spilled out into displays of frustration on arrival. However, uniquely placed within UK defence to reach across the cultural and language divide, A Coy established a strong dialogue with the guests, often in Urdu, treating them with a compassion and respect that helped to build a strong rapport. Working alongside NATO partners, the Company provided camp safety and security, antigen testing and vaccinations, facilitation of arrivals and onward movement, and the means of data collection that became NATO's template across wider evacuation sites. As weeks passed and immediate needs for sustainment began to make way for wider welfare and entertainment provision, volleyball and football trophies became hotly contested prizes between Gurkhas and Afghans, watched on by cheering Afghan families. It was a rewarding sight for A Coy personnel to bid farewell to departing guests as they boarded the first onward flights to the UK or other destinations, and to have helped launch an effort that continues to be delivered by UK and NATO partners in Kosovo today. OPREH L2 was an excellent opportunity for the SRF to conduct theatre orientation and participate in KFOR integration

training very early on during our tenure at readiness. This experience will prove invaluable if a real time activation were to be called. The experience has been hugely educational, and the soldiers feel upbeat and self-assured as a result. The Bn is significantly better prepared to fulfil their role as the SRF going forward.



1 RGR JNCOs during an Interoperability Demonstration with NATO forces in Kosovo



Rfn Sabindra Limbu, B Coy on exercise in Kosovo

Concurrent to OPREH L2 and ALLIED SOLACE, C (Mogaung) Company deployed to France on the OTX GAULISH 1/21. This saw C Coy train as a Coy Gp and as part of a French Battlegroup at the Centre d'Entrainement aux action en Zone Urbaine (CENZUB) throughout September 2021. CENZUB trains and validates French combined arms company groups (Sub-Group Tactique Inter-Arme (SGTIA)) in urban operations. The C Coy Gp exercised under command of 1er Régiment de Chasseurs Parachutistes (1er RCP) and were assessed by CENZUB instructors. The exercise proved to be an exceptionally challenging and rewarding experience for the C Coy Gp. An excellent opportunity to work with and learn from a close ally and to experiment in a complex, fully augmented urban environment against a peer plus adversary.

The final few weeks of the autumn term saw a period of in camp training and re-cuperation. This included the recovery of equipment and vehicles from Kosovo, the

Champion Company competitions, TLFTT and LFTT concentrations, company level Adventure Training and social activity designed to re-charge the collective batteries following another busy year. For the first time since the pandemic started, 1 RGR celebrated Dashain in October and the usual spread of Christmas lunches and associated Mess Parties followed in December. It has been marvellous to be able to relax in each other's company and socialise as a Battalion once again.

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh's Funeral - The Royal Gurkha Rifles Ceremonial Contingent

By Major James Christy, The First Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles

The 17th of April 2021 was the funeral of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. A 'special relationship detachment' of nine Gurkhas from The First Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles (1 RGR) paraded with The Queen's Truncheon alongside those Regiments and Corps to whom His Royal Highness was Colonel in Chief, to assist the nation in paying final respects to His Royal Highness and provide support to our Sovereign. This is the first time The Queen's Truncheon has been paraded in such pageantry since Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second's Coronation in 1953. Not for this reason alone, was the event significant in our Regiment's history.

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh was involved in every detail of the funeral arrangements before he passed away. Those units with whom he enjoyed a close relationship through Colonelcy or Patronage were to attend with their Colours for the ceremony. 7th Gurkha Rifles was awarded the Royal title of The Duke of Edinburgh in 1959 in recognition of its outstanding operational record in Malaya and two world wars. The Regiment was to be styled "7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles". It was for this antecedent connection that The Royal Gurkha Rifles representatives attended, and we were the only Regiment present without a direct connection to HRH.

Upon news of HRH's passing on the 9th April 2021, seven Gurkha soldiers and a Truncheon Jemadar from 1 RGR were activated, under the command of Major James Christy, and urgently fitted for number one uniforms in the Battalion tailors. It was serendipitous that The Queen's Truncheon was on its way back from Brunei when the dreadful news reached the Regiment. Fitting for the Truncheon's funerary black drape took place immediately upon its receipt.

The four days of drill practice at Pirbright, under the watchful eye of the London District Garrison Sergeant Major and Army Ceremonial School hurtled by in a flash. Royal Gurkha Rifles soldiers, unused to heavy drill, benefited from extra tuition from the Drill Sergeants.

It was during the first dress rehearsal at Windsor Castle on Thursday the 15th of April 2021, that the magnitude of the occasion started to sink in. In the Windsor Castle Quadrangle, they would represent their Regiment, mere metres away from the chiefs of the Armed Forces, the Royal Family and HRH's coffin. Thankfully, they passed their inspection by the London District Garrison Sergeant Major with flying colours, and the manoeuvres they would perform in the Quadrangle were etched into their muscle memory.

Upon arrival at Windsor on the 17th April, the Gurkhas quietly descended the coach steps and made their way under direction of the Parade Marshal to their Assembly Area at the bottom of the Long Walk. As the heat of the day reached its zenith, the Gurkhas, alongside other special relationship units (the Queen's Royal Hussars, The Grenadier Guards, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Rifles, the Intelligence Corps, and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; in order of precedence) stood at ease in three ranks, awaiting the order to begin their quick march up the Long Walk.

The Queen's Truncheon, highly polished and adorned with a simple black funerary drape below the Crown, glittered resplendently in the sun. Regimental Colours, Guidon and Truncheon also paraded in strict order of precedence according to the Army List. We were proud however to be the bearers of the oldest Regimental Colour on parade by some margin. Given that that Queen's Truncheon originates with the Sirmoor Rifles, the RGR, 7 GR, and 2 GR were represented on parade.



The Truncheon Jemadar, Captain Bhupendra Gaha and the Truncheon Party

Cometh the hour, cometh the Gurkha. Upon a bellowing right turn and quick march from the Parade Marshal, the special relationship detachments began to wind their way up the Long Walk led by the Band of the Grenadier Guards. As they entered King George IV gate they were greeted by the grandeur of the Quadrangle, and a smart right wheel at the King Charles II statue led them into their final positions, ready to begin the ceremony. Television cameras swivelled urgently to capture the best angles of the parade unfolding before them. The Truncheon Jemadar, Captain Bhupendra Gaha, was proud to hear that The Queen's Truncheon was acknowledged and discussed by the BBC commentator during this moment.

And so, the ceremonial Royal funeral for His Royal Highness began. Hours upon hours of hard work on the drill square had gone into this moment. Not a flicker of idle movement from a Gurkha soldier was seen on television.

The orchestral drill movement of "lowering upon your arms": rifles and swords slowly lowered over the count of six seconds, and culminating in the bowing of heads, was an emotive moment. Even more so as "I vow to thee my country", "Jerusalem" and "Nimrod" were struck up by the massed bands of The Royal Marines, The Foot Guards, and The Royal Air Force. The atmosphere in the Quadrangle was emotionally charged. As the twelve minutes of music eventually drifted away upon the breeze, and present arms was called, the emotional tension amongst all military personnel & spectators rose

to a crescendo. First at the sight of HRH's coffin, being carried to the custom-made Land Rover that would bear HRH to Saint George's Chapel. But secondly at the sight of Her Majesty The Queen in her vehicle joining the back of the procession, holding a courageous air of dignity and grace even in mourning.

The funerary procession began its slow march towards Saint George's Chapel. As The Queen's vehicle disappeared from view into Engine Court, the parade was ordered to stand at ease, and it was felt that as HRH The Duke of Edinburgh had passed from view, a defining era for Great Britain had passed with him, and the future seemed a little more uncertain that it had before.

The Gurkhas had delivered what they had promised during the parade. A high standard of drill, immaculate turnout and personal discipline throughout. No one could have asked for more from their duty that day. The Gurkhas who stood in the Quadrangle saw their attendance as the greatest honour, that they could pay their last respects to a senior member of Royalty, who had never touched their lives directly, but whose presence could be felt in the professional fabric of the Regiment. Selfless service brings honour upon those that give it, and it was a privilege to give honour to HRH as he was laid to rest at Windsor.

Jai 1 RGR!



HRH The Duke of Edinburgh Funerary Procession

2 RGR - Battalion Update

A (Amboor) Company



JLC 21 at New Hover Jump after the final attack

A (AMBOOR) Company started 2021 by delivering JLC 21, coming together once more after being separated during the deployment on Op CORDED. JLC 21 went exceptionally well, with the CO describing it as ‘the fairest’ he’d seen and a memorable final attack ending at New Hover Jump LP. There were strong performances all-round with JLC Number One going to Rfn Bishal Rai, A Coy and the Rfn choosing Cpl Ajay Tamrakar as best instructor.

In April the company switched fire to support the BFB community with a jungle safari and a talent competition. ‘Brunei’s Got Talent’ was an amazing showcase of our exceptionally talented people and a great day for our families, ably organised by CSM WO2 Jitendra Tamang. The winner was Master Sayok Rai (7) with his exceptional performance on the drums. The ‘Jungle Safari’ was well attended and well received, giving our families a chance to experience the true nature of the Borneo jungle. Special thanks must go to CSgt Praveen Kishor Rai, then CQMS A Coy, for his hard work in delivering this fun and interesting event. In May A (AMBOOR) Company continued to support our community by putting on the BFB Families Shooting Day. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all, with special mention going to Pema Gurung, wife of CSgt Suman Sherpa, CQMS, B Coy, who won a hard-fought wives’ shoot. PS 1 Sgt Prakash did a sterling job during what can only have been a nerve-wracking experience as RCO.

In May the company hosted another shooting event (just as fiercely competitive as the wives’ shoot!), the BFB Skill-at-Arms Meet (SAAM). Comprising of six shoots over five days, 9 teams from across BFB and the Brunei Defence Force took part. While a whole company effort, Capt Lakh Bahadur Gurung bore the brunt of responsibility as Senior Range Conducting Officer, ably assisted by A Coy PS; Sgt Prakash, Sgt Dil and Sgt Subash. The winning team was Sp Coy, and the overall best shot was LCpl Amit Gurung, Sp Coy. Other accolades include LCpl Amrit Thapa, A Coy who was ‘Rifle’ overall top shot. Pistol overall top shot was also LCpl Amit Gurung, Sp Coy. The Pistol overall winning team was RBLF team A.

Outside of our support to Bn training, Defence Engagement and the BFB community, Amboor Company continued to support the operational outputs of the battalion and brigade, supporting the Irish Guards with PRT for Ex RATTLESNAKE in the USA and the Royal Irish during their pre-deployment training for Op CORDED, utilising the experience from our deployment in 2020.



Comd RBLF meets the firers at the BFB SAAM



A Coy soldiers supporting medical staff in Kuala Beliat Hospital in the early days of Op ICARUS

With summer leave approaching Maj John Black assumed command of the company from Maj James Marden, who took over as the BFB Chief of Staff, just in time for the Delta variant of COVID-19 to breach Brunei's successful 'zero-COVID' strategy and plunge the country into crisis. Amboor company soldiers were the first to deploy to support the government of Brunei, and within hours of the initial request, assisting with swab testing and administration in Kuala Belait hospital and helping establish the National Testing Facility at the BRIDEX International Conference Centre. In what became known as Op ICARUS, Amboor company provided the majority of the BFB response to the crisis, whilst otherwise locked-down in camp and quarters.

The Company responded outstandingly to the challenge, impressing our hosts with our attitude, discipline, adaptability, and maturity whilst on task and maintaining morale and training via virtual means while in camp. Due to the nature of the taskings, on-the-ground leadership was given to our most junior LCpls and Senior Rfn, who took the challenges of a dispersed and dislocated C2 environment utterly in their stride.

Our Dashain and Tihar was conducted virtually, but the Company made the most of it, with CSgt Jivan and his team delivering festive food and cheer to muglis and married alike. CSM WO2 Jitendra Tamang led the Bn virtual Tihar, in his capacity as PMC of the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess, in a virtual event that incorporated the lessons of what was now a good number of virtual events; it was clear, snappy, and technologically flawless in execution.



Testing Team 2 at the National Testing Facility sporting their newly presented "Pandemic Heroes" T-shirts

As restrictions finally began to ease in the run up to Christmas leave, A (AMBOOR) Company turned its attention to returning to field training to prepare our JLC candidates and planning the Bn Recruit Induction Cadre. Recruit Intake 21 arrived in Brunei during winter leave and began their induction under the watchful eye and steady hand of A Coy 2iC Capt Lakh Bahadur Gurung. After completing their introduction to the Complex Tropical Terrain Environment on a very wet and stormy Ex Kali Pertama. The new arrivals began to practice for their Khassam Khane parade, which saw the garrison finally come together to celebrate their arrival and the return of some form of semblance and normality to BFB.

B (Gallipoli) Company

2021 has been a busy year for B (Gallipoli) Coy, which has delivered a huge array of training, operational team building and charitable activities, all within the context of constantly changing COVID restrictions in Brunei. The start of 2021 saw B Coy receive and integrate Recruit Intake 20 into 2 RGR with the RI20 Induction Cadre. The package was designed to help the new Rfn adapt to their new lives in 2 RGR and develop all the skills necessary to operate within the jungle environment. For many of the new intake Ex GALLIPOLI HUTAN was the first time they had been on exercise outside of UK training areas such as Catterick and Otterburn, therefore learning how to live, navigate and fight in the jungle took some getting used to. The induction cadre concluded with the Kasam Khane Parade, and the new intake swore their 'Oath of Allegiance' to the Her Majesty the Queen before being officially welcomed into 2 RGR.



Recruit Intake 21 are welcomed at Tuger Lines by B (Gallipoli Company)

During the year, B Coy focussed on transitioning from the CCTE to urban environments and conducted multiple exercises across the Brunei training estate and Penanjong Urban Village. The Coy deployed at full strength on Ex GALLIPOLI TORPEDO to hone their skills at riverine tactics, mounting and dismounting watercraft and conducting camp clearances along the riverbank. B Coy subsequently deployed on Ex ANTIM PARIKSHA, a joint FTX with Sp Coy, operating as a Coy Group with the full array of Sp Coy attachments. The exercise included an impromptu, and possibly crocodile infested, swamp march, testing the winch capabilities of 667 Sqn and a complex camp attack against a dynamic and determined enemy. Midway through the year, B Coy took a break from exercising in the CCTE, and instead conducted joint urban training with the Royal Brunei Land Forces. On Ex HIKMAT BERSATU 6, B Coy put this training into practice alongside Bruneian SF, 3rd Bn RBLF, Armoured Personnel Carriers and RBAF Blackhawks during an urban demonstration for His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei.

Strict Covid restrictions in Brunei limited the social time B Coy could spend together, particularly in the latter half of the year. The Gallipoli Battle Honour Day was thankfully celebrated in full and included sending a team to Bandar Seri Begawan to parade as part of the 'ANZAC Day Dawn Service'. Dashain 2021



B Coy conducted pre JLC for Recruit Intake 19 (RI19)



Ex Road to Gallipoli for the RGR Trust



Ex Hikmat Barsatu 6 (HB6) - Urban Ops demonstration for Sultan of Brunei



B Coy had a social evening after the easing of lockdown

was celebrated virtually by B Coy and their families, a different way of celebrating to normal but nonetheless a joyous occasion with much fun and laughter had by all. B Coy continued to demonstrate their selfless commitment, conducting multiple charity events over the course of the year. Events were organised to comply with the Covid restrictions, and B Coy found new ways of delivering activities virtually. Notably the 'Road to Gallipoli' consisted of members from across B Coy and BFB running, swimming, and cycling the distance from Tuger Lines to Gallipoli - a total of 9525km. All activities were tracked electronically, enabling all Coy members to take part, despite the Covid restrictions. Such charity events were a huge success, and a significant sum was raised for the RGR Trust and GWT, thanks to the efforts of B Coy personnel and their families.

2021 also saw the 2 RGR personnel, including members of B Coy, deploy to hospitals and testing centres across Brunei on Op ICARUS in support of the Bruneian Ministry of Health. The ongoing operation involved

many members of B Coy, who have done an exceptional job whilst COVID testing the local population and supporting our Bruneian partners. Undoubtedly their cheerful professionalism and selfless commitment has done much to further develop the strategic relationship between the UK and Brunei. As 2021 draws to a close, all hands are set on the preparation for Ex PACIFIC KUKRI, with B Coy due to deploy to Australia in February 2022. A great year for B (Champion) Coy with the promise of an exciting start to 2022 ahead.

C (Tamandu) Company

2021 was another tumultuous year across the globe and Brunei did not escape the clutches of the pandemic. Nevertheless C (Tamandu) Company met the challenges head on and found much opportunity amid the limitations. The year saw C Company members conduct and support a huge array of successful activities and exercises across the globe and provide much valued support to the Brunei Ministry of Health in the effort to contain and combat the country's Covid-19 outbreak.

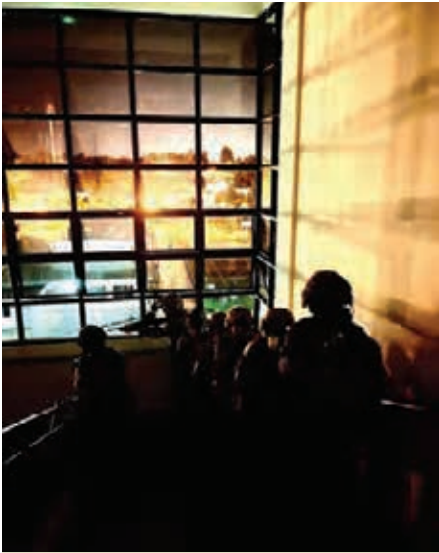
C Company's global reach involved deployments to the US, Kenya and Australia. On Ex RATTLESNAKE 'Observer Mentors' gained praise from their American counterparts. In Kenya, young riflemen delivered impressive outputs performing well above their rank, C Coy members also deployed to Australia to help prepare and support B Company for their imminent deployment on Ex PACIFIC KUKRI.

C Company began the year with a focus on the Urban Environment, Ex TAMANDU STREETFIGHTER utilised the 'Urban Training Facilities' of the Royal Brunei Land Forces. The Coy deployed with supporting elements from Support Company allowing junior commanders a rare chance to plan and consider the use of support weapons. Preceded by a tough insertion through secondary jungle, it proved a fast paced and intense exercise in which the company could demonstrate its excellent urban fighting skills and its comfort in the jungle-to-urban interface. Further exercises followed, the company found itself back in its favourite habitat for Ex TAMANDU FIRST STEP honing its knowledge and skills for the more junior members of the Coy in the jungle. It then returned to the jungle/urban interface in Ex TAMANDU STREETFIGHTER 2, pushing further to prove itself comfortable in any environment it finds itself in.



C (Tamandu) Coy conduct live firing on Ex TAMANDU WARRIOR

members contributed greatly to Brunei's fight against the virus and provided a valuable service to the local population. This has proven the Coy's flexibility and our soldier's resilience and stepping up to take on different and challenging role and delivering successfully.



C (Tamandu) Company conduct training in the Urban Environment led by Cpl Kiran Thapa

Time was also set aside for the C Coy family to spend time together socially. The Tamandu Battle honour was celebrated on 5 March, with a wide assortment of demonstrations, talks and activities laid on, it was a fantastic time to explore the history of the Coy and bring C Coy families together to celebrate and reinforce friendships and cohesion.

The pursuit of professional excellence remained, further training followed, Ex TAMANDU WARRIOR provided the Coy the opportunity to conduct live fire progression, and jungle skills were again honed on Ex TAMANDU SAINEEK under the watchful eye of Colonel BG.

The latter half of the year saw a change in focus for C Coy with the arrival of tough COVID-19 restrictions in Brunei. With Brunei suffering severely from the pressures of the pandemic, C Coy answered the call to support the Brunei Ministry of Health. Working alongside the Brunei governments' health workers staffing a local swab test centre on Op ICARUS, C Coy



Rfn Dinesh Kumar Shahi poses with his counterpart from the Brunei MoH and conducts swab testing on Op ICARUS



Undeterred by the strict restrictions, the Coy adapted and innovated, using technology to stay connected and maintain a rich training programme. A highlight was the Bn E-Sports competition which all C Coy members

took part in and showed a wonderful competitive spirit regardless of the backdrop.

C Coy turned its focus to the JLC candidates. Ex TAMANDU STEP 2 gave the JLC 22 candidates an excellent opportunity to test and adjust their skills which are essential for proving themselves in a very competitive environment. Each candidate took up the challenge and the chance to learn from our vast wealth of knowledge and experience in the Coy with gusto, already proving that there are a great many future leaders at all levels within C Coy.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the year was the opportunity for a large portion of the Coy to return to Nepal over the winter leave period. For some C Coy members this was the first opportunity they had to return home in 3 - 5 years due to the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This opportunity was truly appreciated and means the soldiers were refreshed and ready to meet the challenges that 2022 might bring.

Support (Imphal) Company

From the grasslands and swamps of Louisiana to the tropics of Papua New Guinea, Support (Imphal) Company has had another busy year of overseas commitments, whilst maintaining its jungle-based expertise in Brunei.

It started with the Support Weapons Cadre, which saw Rfn volunteers from across the battalion train and qualify into their respective platoons. Over this six-week cadre, Mortar Pl and Machine Gun Pl focussed on their capability to provide fire support from the deep, including live ranges on all weapon systems. Notably Mortar Pl conducted live firing using a Heli OP, the first time in nearly 20 years this had been achieved in Brunei. Recce, Sniper and Anti-Tank Pl focussed on their surveillance and intelligence gathering capability, which was tested and assessed during a joint final



Mortar and Sniper platoon in action



exercise in the deep jungle. All five platoons showed off their newly taught skill sets, to support one another in an arduous, yet successful, final exercise where trackers led the way for a Recce call sign, whilst Mortars and Machine guns enabled kinetic activity. It started with an arduous swamp march to insert into parts of the jungle rarely trained in, and for some fortunate members of the Coy, gave them a close encounter to the critically endangered Siamese crocodile, proving that no jungle experience is ever the same.

Elsewhere on the cadre, the Pioneer Pl's dual role of construction and demolitions, whilst also forming the Battalion's Pipes and Drums, meant their focus was on these assault pioneer tasks and getting to grips with learning a new instrument. For the instructors the cadre gave them a great opportunity to refine and prove their prowess to mentor and instruct, resulting in them being handpicked to deploy on Ex OLGETTA WARRIOR 21. This was a short-term training team deployment to Papua New Guinea to instruct and mentor members of the Pipes and Drums Platoon and Ceremonial Guard Company of The First Battalion, The Royal Pacific Island Regiment. Playing a key role in developing relationships between UK Defence and the PNGDF. At the time of writing this article, Capt Sangam Rai, 2IC Sp (Imphal) Coy is preparing to deploy as the lead for the Ex OLGETTA WARRIOR 22 team where the focus will be on teaching jungle tactics, leadership, and combat shooting.



Sp (Imphal) Coy were crowned 2 RGR E-Sports champions in October 21

During the summer 2021, members of Sp (Imphal) Coy deployed to Fort Polk, Louisiana, USA on Ex RATTLESNAKE to act as range staff and observer mentors for the Irish Guards Battlegroup. Lead by Capt Seb Bird, OC Mortars, this task involved working alongside our US allies, sharing best practice, and providing feedback to the Irish Guards BG during their exercise. The challenging terrain of "The Box" of the Joint Readiness Training Centre tested exercising troops, and whilst 2 RGR were there to help facilitate training, lessons were learned by all. To reward the hard work over this period, the team embarked on some R&R, visiting some of the local sights which were even better viewed whilst skydiving in Dallas.



The British High Commissioner in Papua New Guinea being presented with a Kkukuri



Sgt Arjun and his team in Papua New Guinea

Despite the enforced lockdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in Brunei from August until early December, Imphal soldiers continued to find innovative ways to train and maintain their morale. Virtual quizzes, games nights, and celebrations were welcome distractions from the monotony of life in lockdown. Notably, Sp (Imphal) Coy were crowned 2 RGR E-Sports champions in October 21, emerging victorious across a number of the disciplines.



Sp (Imphal) Coy were crowned 2 RGR E-Sports champions in October 21

Whilst this year has seen many seniors away on commitments, our junior ranks have also shown the same selfless commitment in Brunei. Whether it is supporting rifle company training, excelling on career courses, or swabbing during Op ICARUS, they should all be proud of living up to and exceeding the standard expected of an Imphal soldier. The Imphal soldier is professional, responsible, and ready for any task given to him, and this, during a busy year has been proven across a large global footprint. As the year comes to an end, 2022 looks to bring with it many opportunities which the Company look forward to grasping and exploiting.

CSS (CASSINO) Company

2021 was a challenging year for all in Brunei. The ever-present COVID19, although obviously very much under control in 2 RGR, has limited some of the opportunities for the Coy. However, against all the odds, a highly productive, exciting and rewarding year has been had by all with every opportunity being fully grasped whenever they arose!



Infantry Platoon Radio Operator (IPRO) Cadre, Final Exercise

We start in January and after the arrival and induction of RI20. Signals Platoon very effectively ran and completed the IBRU Cadre qualifying all new Riflemen in the use of platoon radio systems. This kick started the Coy back into daily routine after a much-needed period of leave. February saw 20 members of the Coy away on AT on Ex UKALI ORALI, a 2-day package organised by CSgt Keshar Thapa Magar in the Temburong Area, capitalising on the natural surroundings we find ourselves with in Brunei. March saw plenty of opportunity for celebration involving the families, with the UWO organising a ladies' recreational visit to BSB and of course, the Cassino Battle Honour celebration on the 16th of March with educational presentations to the families of the Coy about Monte Cassino and Hangman's Hill.



Unit Welfare Officer (UWO) organised hiking for BFB ladies

Opportunities for charity work and raising money were still found this year. The first of these was the charity car wash, organised by Sgt Subodh Thapa Magar, raising over \$1200 for the RGR Regimental Trust in



Exercise UKALLI ORALI, Mountain Biking event

April. Then, in May the Big Lunch Charity event took place under the attentive eye of SSgt Deepak Pun raising an outstanding B\$3000 for the RGR Regimental Trust. The month of May also saw the successful conduct of the IPRO cadre, organised by the Signals Platoon. 23 members of 2 RGR completed this giving them a far greater understanding.

A quiet period then came to Brunei over the summer period. Rising cases of COVID19 caused a national lockdown which went through varying phases of severity and restrictions. This naturally caused a slowing in the pace of the professional life in the Coy, but never failing to be adaptable in uncertain times, training and life found a way.

Throughout this period members of the Coy deployed on Op ICARUS to give much needed support to the Brunei Ministry of Health, carrying out all roles from testing to driving support all over the country. After a short period of build-up training and familiarisation, they were ready and held themselves to a high standard furthering the name of the Coy and gaining high praise from the local authorities.



Op ICARUS

Defence engagement with Brunei was not limited to Op ICARUS this year and with the country coming tentatively out of lockdown in November, life began to return to normal. In November, members of the Coy conducted the Quad Bike Operator Course, for the Royal Brunei Armed Forces. This qualified 8 members of the RBAF in the applied use of Quads as well as furthering our ability to work together in the future.

When December rolled around at the end of a varied and eventful year, the Coy had some fully deserved leave. Many members of the Coy took the opportunity to return to Nepal or the UK. It is already set to be a busy year in 2022 with the Coy preparing to deploy to Papua New Guinea on an STTT, Australia on Ex PACIFIC KUKRI, support task to Kenya, JLC and Support Weapons Cadres. The main event of 2022 will be the preparation for the unit move and return to Shorncliffe and the high tempo of life in 16 Air Assault Brigade. After a varied and unconventional year in Brunei, the Coy is greatly looking forward to the opportunities the next year will bring.



Cassino Day

RGRRA - Chairman’s Update

A very warm welcome to you all. The indomitable stoicism, determination, and good humour of our veterans throughout the pandemic was an example to all and it is with some relief that we now look forward to a more normal and sociable life.



The visit of our brother and fellow Gurkha, Tristan Hinxman

To complement the local gatherings that our veterans are so good at organising, we launched our inaugural Kothimora Lunch Club at the India Club on The Strand on 25th March. This will be an annual lunch that we will hold every March and my hope is that regional associations will emulate this lunch in their own locations and make it an annual feature across the United Kingdom, where our veterans reside, and I look

to our regional leads to encourage this. I would also like to pay particular thanks to Jules Irens and Hon (Lt) Menbahadur Gurung for their energetic leadership of the Scottish Branch of the RGRRA and for organising an annual Scottish gathering at Cowdenknowes House (thanks also to Caroline for hosting!)

The purpose of the Association, above all is about friendship and this could not have been better borne out by the visit of our brother and fellow Gurkha, Tristan Hinxman who has endured so much but remains firmly in our thoughts. Once a Gurkha, always a Gurkha!

Jai RGR!

RGRRA Kothimora Lunch

The inaugural RGRRA annual Kothimora Lunch was held in the India Club in London on 25 Mar 22 and it was attended by 25 members of the Association.



The food and beer were excellent, and the meeting of old friends was even better



RGR Regimental Association Scotland Branch - Photo News



Men Gurung became a Burgess of Aberdeen and officially admitted to The Burgesses of Guild of the City and Royal Burgh of Aberdeen



Men Gurung meeting with the Duke of Rothesay and Duchess of Cornwall during their official visit to the reopening of the Aberdeen Art Gallery



Representing the Gurkhas at the Gordon Men and his wife Manu visiting the Highlanders Memorial unveiling ceremony at the National Memorial Arboretum



Representing the Gurkhas at the annual Remembrance Sunday in Aberdeen - Graham, Govin, Lord Dean, Men, Lord Provost, Binod, Khagendra and didi baini haru



Men and his wife Manu visiting the Gurkha Memorial Chautara at the NMA to pay their respects to the fallen



First ever Royal Gurkha Rifles Regimental Association Scotland members get-together – Alastair Kennedy, Jules Irens, Khagendra Limbu, Men Gurung, John Patchett, Ted Shields, Binod Rai, Govinda Gurung, John Purves, Tika Limbu, Sudan Dewan, Naresh Khawas, Caroline Dalmeny, Pippa Shields, Meena Limbu, Pabrita Khawas, Nilam Dewan Tricia Purves, Durga Patchett



Representing Gurkhas to lay a wreath at the 75th VJ Day ceremony, Men Gurung and the Lord Provost



THE QUEEN'S GURKHA ENGINEERS



History

Formed by the Royal Warrant as the Gurkha Engineers, part of the Brigade of Gurkhas on 28 September 1955. On 21 April 1977 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II approved the title of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

Gurkha Training Squadron RE was raised at Kluang, Malaya in September 1948. Gurkha Training Squadron became 67 Gurkha Field Squadron Royal Engineers in October 1949. Re-designated 67 Independent Gurkha Field Squadron in September 1994. Disbanded on 31 December 1996 in Hong Kong.

68 Field Squadron RE was raised at Kluang, Malaysia in August 1950. Disbanded on 18 December 1993 in Hong Kong.

69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron was raised at Sungei Besi, Malaya on 1 April 1961. Disbanded in Hong Kong on 17 August 1968. 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron re-formed on 1 March 1981 in Hong Kong and moved to Kitchener Barracks, Chatham later that month. Re-designated 69 Gurkha Field Squadron and incorporated into 36 Engineer Regiment on 1 April 1993. Moved to Invicta Park Barracks, Maidstone on 13 September 1994.

70 Gurkha Field Park Squadron was raised at Sungei Besi, Malaya on 1 April 1960. Disbanded in Singapore on 31 July 1971. On 6 August 1982 Support Squadron redesignated 70 Support Squadron. Disbanded on 18 December 1993 in Hong Kong. 70 Gurkha Field Support Squadron was reformed and became part of 36 Engineer Regiment with effect from April 2000.

Both 69 and 70 Gurkha Field Squadrons re-roled to Search Squadrons in February 2011.

Both 69 and 70 Gurkha Field Squadrons re-roled to Force Support in 2013.

QGE successfully transformed into a Force Support Engineer Regiment and was firmly established within 12 (Force Support) Engineer Group, 8 Engineer Brigade until 31 Mar 22.

69 Gurkha Field Squadron continues to be firmly established within 12 (Force Support) Engineer Group, 8 Engineer Brigade.

70 Gurkha Field Squadron re-roled to 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron on 1 Apr 22 within 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment, 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team.

Current Organisation

Regimental Headquarters The Queen's Gurkha Engineers

69 Gurkha Field Squadron QGE

70 Gurkha Field Squadron QGE

Affiliated Corps

The Corps of Royal Engineers

Regimental Marches

Pipes Far o'er the Sea

Band Wings

Affiliated Colonel in Chief

Her Majesty the Queen

Staff List

Brigadier J L Clark CBE Colonel of the Regiment

Regimental Headquarters

Lt Col Mark Hendry MBE RE	Commandant
Maj Kamalbahadur Khapung Limbu MVO QGE	Gurkha Major
Maj Mark Johnson RE	Deputy Commandant
Lt Col Neil Darvill RE	Quartermaster
Capt Edward Griffiths RE	Adjutant
Capt Govindabahadur Rana QGE	SO3 QGE Sldrs (GRCMO)

Field Officers

Maj Richard Lawrence RE	OC 69 Gurkha Field Squadron
Maj Oliver Clark RE	OC 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron
Maj Buddhibahadur Bhandari MVO QGE	Quartermaster Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn
Maj Ganeshprasad Gurung QGE	QM 32 Engr Regt
Maj Purnasingh Tamang QGE	2IC, REWW
Maj Khadkabahadur Gurung QGE	SO2 G1 Welfare/SSO HQ Brunei Garrison

Captains

Capt Edward Borland RE	2IC 69 Gurkha Field Squadron
Capt Charles Collins RE	2IC 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron
Capt Krishnakumar Pun QGE	Quartermaster, British Gurkhas Pokhara
Capt Narendradhoj Gurung QGE	Log Officer, 50 HQ & Sp Sqn
Capt Nareshkumar Limbu QGE	Operations Officer, 69 Gurkha Field Squadron
Capt Khelendrabahadur Gurung QGE	Operations Officer, 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron
Capt Ashokkumar Gurung QGE	SO2 WARDEV, ITC, Catterick
Capt Prithibahadur Chhantyal QGE	Troop Commander, 24 Trg Sqn, 1 RSME Regt
Capt Ramkumar Rai QGE Platoon	Commander, Gurkha Company, ITC, Catterick
Capt Lalbahadur Rana QGE	Support Troop Commander, 69 Gurkha Field Squadron
Capt Hemraj Gurung QGE	Support Troop Commander, 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron
Capt Chandra Pun QGE	Troop Commander, Curragh Troop, 3 RSME Regt
Capt Bikash Shrestha QGE	Troop Commander, 37 Fd Sqn, 32 Engr, Regt
Capt Robert Green RE	Echelon Commander, 69 Gurkha Field Squadron
Capt Simon Fudge RE	Echelon Commander, 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron

Subalterns

Lt Thomas Penman RE	G Troop Commander, 69 Gurkha Field Squadron
2Lt Brandon Ovens RE	G Troop Commander, 69 Gurkha Field Squadron
Lt William Rutter RE	H Troop Commander, 69 Gurkha Field Squadron
2Lt Mathew Anderson RE	I Troop Commander, 69 Gurkha Field Squadron
Lt Ross Campbell RE	J Troop Commander, 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron
Lt Siobhan Price RE	K Troop Commander, 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron
Lt Alistair Greatorex	L Troop Commander, 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron
2Lt Luke Thorn RE	L Troop Commander, 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron

RSM

WO1(RSM) A P Malone RE	RSM
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Honours, Awards and Achievements

Courses

75 Training Party Initial Trade Training 2 (Cbt Engr Cl 2)

30359844	Spr	Umesh Moktan	Overall Top Student
30359077	Spr	Milan GC	Top Academic Student

ME Digital Communications Technical (DCT) Corporals Course 21/001

21171666	Cpl	Sureen Thapa	Top Student
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ME Digital Communications Technical (DCT) 0-2 Course

30337524 Spr Jeewan Sinjali Rana Top Student

ME Digital Communications Technical (DCT) 0-2 Course

30337621 Spr Rohit Tamang Top Student

Army Diving Class 2 (2021)

30252501 LCpl Chet Gurung Top Student

RE Field Sergeant Course (2021)

30085152 Cpl Roshan Buda Magar Top Student

Craft Award 2021

30274090 LCpl Mahesh Gurung

Top Carpenter and Joiner of the year 2021

30274090 Spr Bir Dhan Rai

Carpenters' Company Premier Carpenter of the Year 2022

30293676 Spr Madan Limbu

Soldiers' Soldier Award ALDP MT

30252584 Spr Shubham Gurung

Op NEWCOMBE (Mali) Coin

30188416 LCpl Himal Limbu Angbuhang

30252491 Spr Ghan Bdr Chhetri

School of Infantry Commanders' Coin

30085132 LCpl Dhan Prasad Ghale

30120297 Cpl Gaurav Tamang

Commander Field Army Coin

21170858 SSgt Dekraj Thapa

Fishmongers' Gold Medal Award 2022

21170630 WO2 (SSM) Eka Bahadur Rai

8 Brigade Commander Coin

30166317 LCpl Bijay Ale

7 Brigade Commander Coin

21169982 Capt Bikash Shrestha

11 Brigade Commander Coin

30166273 Cpl Milan Gurung

30166794 LCpl Finju Sherpa

35 Engineer Regiment CO's Coin

30207822 Spr Bijaya Lama

1 RSME CO's Coin

30312039 Spr Madhav Karki

1 PWRR Battlegroup Commander's Coin

30142397 LCpl Surendra Ghale

30252584 Spr Shubham Gurung

30311997 Spr Bhupendra Budha Magar

30293301 Spr Sabin Pun

30338194 Spr Bharat Rai

Bowring Trophy 2021

30166862	LCpl	Nripesh Rai	Winner
30141915	LCpl	Min Kumar Rai	Runner Up

Hendry Trophy

30207822	Spr	Bijaya Lama	Winner
30166259	Spr	Dinesh Gurung	Runner Up

Commander BATUK Commendation

30207788	Cpl	Raj Limbu
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Colonel of the Regiment's Message*Brigadier J L Clark CBE*

It is my privilege to offer some reflection to The Queen's Gurkha Engineers journal for the second time as the Colonel of the Regiment. As I write this message, we find ourselves: as a nation emerging from a global pandemic, the effects of which we will continue to feel for some time; as an Army that had embarked on the most significant transformation we have seen for many generations; as a Corps that continues to be Ubique – everywhere – delivering resilience at home and stability overseas; and as The Queen's Gurkha Engineers Paltan that is at the forefront of all of these.

More recently at home, the government has found itself wrestling with a 'cost of living crisis' and in Europe, we are managing the consequences of Russian aggression which brings a sharp focus to our assertion that our security underpins our prosperity and our way of life. Future Soldier was drawn up in direct response to the threats we face and in military terms, the design of the future Army was against a Russian attack on a member of the NATO alliance. So, the tragic and unnecessary events we are witnessing in Ukraine reinforce the value of the design we announced in November while at the same time making its delivery more urgent.

I recognise that for everyone in the Regiment, the tempo has been extremely high. QGE sub-units are contributing to many of the major deployments and exercises undertaken by the British Army in this era of 'constant competition'. Over the past 12 months, members of the Regiment have deployed to Cyprus, Mali, Kenya, the United States, the Falkland Islands, Chad, Nigeria, Brunei and North Macedonia. Even as I write, around 20% of the QGE strength is deployed on overseas training and exercises. I am delighted that the Regiment continues to achieve success on these deployments and exercises in very challenging circumstances. The distinctive military capability that the QGE delivers is highly regarded and valued.

In terms of QGE growth, Phase 3 growth is complete and although Future Soldier means that we will no longer re-establish 68 Gurkha Field Squadron, importantly growth within the Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn and 67 Gurkha Field Squadron continues. The re-subordination of 70 Gurkha Field Squadron to 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment is complete with the Squadron joining the British Army's Global Response Force – this is a huge feather in the QGE cap. 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron offers 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team and 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment within it an enormously deployable, fit, robust, self-motivated and highly disciplined subunit. I have every trust that QGE Sappers will continue to deliver both on operations and during peace time as a Gurkha Parachute Squadron. Finally in terms of Future Soldier structural change, 67 Gurkha Field Squadron will reform within 36 Engineer Regiment. This will re-establish 36 Engineer Regiment as the Home of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers with an RHQ and 2 QGE sub-units in the same location once the dust settles. Given the overall reduction in the size of the Army as part of the Integrated Review, this growth and consolidation of the QGE is an excellent result.

The Regiment continues to provide a unique engineering capability based on its cultural identity and operational effectiveness. Since its formation, the QGE have served our nation on operations around the world with consummate professionalism and dedication coupled

with the humour and humility that are a hallmark of the very best. 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron recently returned from a Joint Force Enabling Exercise (JFEE) Ex PINESTICK in Cyprus which included the completion of various infrastructure projects. The Squadron has a troop currently deployed on Ex SWIFT RESPONSE in North Macedonia with the Army's Global Response Force and some members deployed on Short Term Training Team (STTT). 69 Gurkha Field Squadron was busy preparing to deploy to Gibraltar for a trade refresher training followed by Ex SAILFISH but was put on high readiness following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Elements of 67 Gurkha Field Squadron deployed on Ex ASKARI STORM to Kenya and delivered engineering support to 1 PWRR battlegroup. All QGE members employed within ERE locations remain busy and continue to deliver unique engineering capability to an exceptional standard. RHQ QGE has been very busy coordinating all of these deployments and the necessary structural change, driving the Regiment forward in coordination with key stakeholders. QGE Sappers have continued to demonstrate their ability to outperform their counterparts on subsequent trade training and continue to receive top student and student of the year awards. Members of the Regiment have also been successful in recently receiving Honours and Awards. Additionally, the Regiment's charity in raising over £4,000 to support Gurkha veterans impacted by COVID-19 in Nepal is very impressive.

As the Colonel of the Regiment, it was my pleasure to mark a historic day in the Regiment's history with a double parade at the beginning of April. The occasion, at Invicta Park Barracks, saw 70 Gurkha Field Squadron's re-subordination and 75 Training Party's Kasam Khane. Although the weather was challenging, attendees were able to witness 52 QGE Sappers from 75 Training Party taking the oath of allegiance to the Queen's Gurkha Engineers and members of 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron individually receiving their maroon berets and collectively being presented with their new flag.

After a difficult couple of years due to COVID-19 restrictions, I am very pleased to note that all social,

cultural and traditional events including Dashain, Tihar and our QGE Birthday were celebrated in a normal regimental custom this year. I am also delighted that QGE soldiers and their families have been able to travel to Nepal to spend time with families and friends since December – a pleasure denied them since early 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

As we move forward together, I note that, as current events prove, the world moves on and we need to move with it. As soldiers and officers in the British Army, duty always calls - what is asked of us and what we offer is unique in the society - of this we should be very proud. But we will inevitably face challenges along the way - as individuals and together. This is where our Kaida comes in. It is what makes us different, binds us together and gives us strength in adversity. Gurkha units reinforce Kaida to help achieve success. We must maintain this, always. It is our responsibility to uphold our special Gurkha name, the Gurkha brand and the Gurkha reputation.

In closing, I would like to recognise the fantastic contribution, devotion, diligence and hard work of the Gurkha Major Kamal Khapung Limbu MVO over the past 2 years. On behalf of the Regiment, I offer the GM Saheb a heartfelt 'thank you' for a hugely professional and dedicated performance and I offer him every best wish for his next appointment at RHQ RE as SO2 Pers Ops. At the same time, I am delighted to welcome, selected Major Govinda Bahadur Rana to the fold as the 27th Gurkha Major of the QGE. I would also like to congratulate the committee of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers Association for their efforts to relaunch and transform the QGEA, in particular, Colonel (Retd) Richard Walker.

I very much look forward to my next visit to the Regiment for the QGE management cocktail reception and dinner night later this month and the celebrations of the QGE Mela and the QGE Birthday later in the year. Thank you for all you do. Keep up the good work.

Baliyo Rahanu Hos ! Jai QGE!



Lt Col MD Hendry MBE, Mrs S Hendry, Brig JL Clarke CBE, Mrs S Kennedy OBE, Maj Kamal Khapung MVO and Mrs Puja Sonyok

Commandant's Report

Lt Col MD Hendry MBE



I write having settled into my second year as Commandant after what has been a year of considerable change for the Queen's Gurkha Engineers Paltan ani hamro Pariwar. I must take this opportunity to thank all serving and retired members of QGE for their unrelenting support and josh throughout this period. I must also personally thank Andy Gooch Saheb for producing this outstanding magazine which is hugely appreciated by all serving personnel.

Many of the changes articulated in the Integrated Review have started to take hold; 70 Gurkha Field Squadron has already transitioned to be 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron and is firmly part of 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment, but still resides in Invicta Park Barracks here at Maidstone. The re-subordination parade was executed in real style, despite the wintry conditions and set the tone for our first Airborne Gurkha Sappers! In addition, 67 Gurkha Field Squadron continues to grow in numbers ahead of its move back to the home of our Paltan in 36 Engineer Regiment in April 2023 and will maintain our QGE centre of gravity when eventually 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron relocates. To reinforce these changes, we also received 52 new QGE soldiers as part of the new 75 training party.

RHQ QGE has also been working in the background to apply many of these changes to our organisational structure and ensure these structures are sustainable whilst exploiting the abundance of talent that we have. This includes a structuring of WO2 and WO1 ranks as well as providing a clear pathway for our very best to achieve the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In addition, the Regiment has seen significant upgrades to our Messing Hut and the Mandir to improve the lived experience of our Nepali community. A new piece of Regimental Silver has also been commissioned to mark QGE contribution to the nation's fight against COVID-19; I believe it is our first piece since leaving Hong Kong.

While building towards their re-subordination, 70 Squadron experienced a varied and exciting year. A successful deployment to Cyprus on a Joint Force Enabling Exercise witnessed our soldiers refreshing their artisan skills and experimenting with the latest technologies such as Photogrammetry, Light Detection and Ranging and 3D Printing. Similarly, the Squadron's approach to resubordination has been exemplary and mirrors the professionalism we have seen through the multitude of changes in their rich history.

69 Gurkha Field Squadron started the year with a series of exercises building up to Ex WESSEX STORM, which saw the Squadron deployed to support both the 1 R IRISH and SCOTS DG battlegroups. The Squadron excelled and came out with an enhanced reputation as a subunit more than capable of providing Light Role Close Support Engineering when needed. In September the Squadron deployed a Troop on a highly successful Brigade level exercise in America with the team being highly praised for their efforts. Closer to home, the Squadron has been involved in providing infrastructure upgrades to the Big Cat Sanctuary in Ashford, with a Troop working towards their National Vocational Qualifications and refining their skills ahead of a potential construction deployment to Belize. The Squadron is currently at high readiness to conduct operations and hugely looking forward to their Belize deployment on Ex SAILFISH and all the trade refresher training this requires.

The QGE has continued to be recognised, both as individuals and as a collective Pariwar. Maj Olly Clark received a 3* SJC Commendation, WO2 Birendra Kambang and Prem Jabegu both received the Meritorious Service Medal and there have been a plethora of other high-level awards from CGS, the Chief Royal, GOC 1XX, Commander 8X and Commander ARRC. The QGE soldiers continue to excel on trade and career courses, often securing the top places. There have been a number of soldiers undertaking their GCSE, A-level and university studies, with SSgt Jas Rai and Sgt Ashish Malla recently completing their BA Honours degrees.

I look forward to all of the things that we as a Paltan and Pariwar have been unable to do over the last few years. Cultural activities and community events, certainly within Invicta Park barracks have re-ignited and I am already looking forward to Dashain and Tihar festivals later this year. This QGE Magazine report will be my last as Commandant before I hand over the baton to Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Castro in early 2023, who will undoubtedly push The QGE forward and sustain our enviable reputation. I thank you and your families for the support you have continued to give over the last year.

Jai QGE!

The Gurkha Major's Report

Major Kamal Bahadur Khapung Limbu MVO



It gives me a great pleasure, but I am equally sad to write my final report for QGE Journal because my second and final year as the Gurkha Major of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers draws to a close this summer before I move to RHQ RE as SO2 Personnel and Operations. Hands on heart, GM QGE has been the best job I have undertaken throughout my 31 years of service, by some margin. This is largely due to:

- Exceptional support, care, backing and a very clear direction from Commandant QGE, Lt Col MD Hendry MBE and Col QGE, Brig J L Clark CBE. Perfect leadership and a flawless team as QGE undergo a seismic evolution.
- A united, effective and professional team within RHQ 36 Engr Regt and RHQ QGE including within sub-units and Regiment in its entirety. As the saying goes – It is not the job, it is the people that we work with makes the difference.
- A remarkable opportunity to serve our PEOPLE, PALTAN and PARIWAR as the father figure. All Gurkha Majors must take this as the golden opportunity to showcase their ability, talent and calibre including leadership and management skills to give back to the Paltan and Pariwar. Gurkha Majors must not take this appointment as granted but instead recognise its importance and acknowledge not everyone gets the opportunity to be the Gurkha Major; Serve to Lead and Lead to Serve.
- RHQ QGE's accomplishment within the last 2 years as a team to PROTECT, SHAPE and SUSTAIN the Queen's Gurkha Engineers - Job satisfaction.

As another busy year draws to a close, I feel it is appropriate to highlight the latter in order to provide the readers with an understanding of the work we have achieved as a team and as a Paltan, and they are as following:

Home of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

Re-subordination of 70 Gurkha Fd Sqn to 23 Para Engr Regt meant all 3 x QGE subunits (SUs) were geographically dislocated within 3 different Brigades. The requirement to sustain a central location as a 'home' is viewed as culturally essential by Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas and RHQ QGE. RHQ QGE's advice of the requirement to maintain the centre of mass (CoM) for QGE and sustain a minimum of 2 QGE SUs with RHQ QGE in one geographic location was reflected on the Future Soldier structure. This centre of mass allows RHQ QGE to deliver all aspects of command, leadership and management, to effectively monitor, influence and support the QGE WF and their families. A cultural centre also allows QGE GURTAM WF at other locations (70 Sqn/ERE) and their dependents to regularly rotate through a central location and receive appropriate cultural/religious support from a wider Nepali community and RHQ QGE. The strength of the community bonds, those of wives and the children schooled together, hold together in good times and bad to deliver an enhanced moral component and in turn increased operational effectiveness.

QGE LE (Late Entry) Officers' career model and structure.

RHQ QGE conducted a review of the QGE LE structure and generated a QGE LE Career Model (CM) which was required to ensure QGE LE Officer compete for the right KSE-B posts amongst UKTAP arena, provide greater flexibility and create broadening, deepening and more dynamic CM. Additionally, it was required to ensure fair and equitable progression for GURTAM LE Officers in order to maximise talent, to Subunit Command (SUC), ICSC(L) and promotion to Lt Col, in anticipation of Single Officer Terms of Service (SOTOS) as part of Prog CASTLE. QGE LE CM has been finalised and authorised which we have already started witnessing of the conversion of PIDs to GURTAM. All QGE SUs' (67, 69 & 70 Sqn) Sqn 2ICs and Echelon Comds will change to GURTAM plus QM (Tech) GARRC, Comd Log Node 50 HQ & Sp Sqn and Trg Oftr 36 ER/23 ER will change to GURTAM. A total of 14 to 16 x Captains and 4 x Majors GURTAM PIDs are incorporated within QGE LE CM and structure. This CM provides progression of QGE LE officers from junior to senior Captain appointments then to Majors. Additionally, it provides KSE-B for conversion to RegC followed by promotion prospect to Lt Col. RHQ QGE has recommended all RegC QGE LE officers to be managed within the RE pool.

WO2 and WO1 structure. In liaison with WF Plans, RHQ QGE has finalised QGE WO2 and WO1 structure with a total of 10 x WO2s and 1 x WO1 PIDs. We will see the addition of RQMS GARRC and RSM GARRC from 2023.

QGE LE Commissioning policy and WO2 to WO1 promotion policy. From April 2022, QGE soldiers require two SJARs as a substantive WO2 to be eligible for selection for an LE Commission. In addition,

candidates must have sufficient residual service to be serving on 1 Apr of the following year. The change is to come into effect for AOSB (SSE) 2022, for commissioning from 1 Apr 23, in order to allow Reporting Officers to adjust their reporting and to allow soldiers currently expecting to go to AOSB (SSE). Similarly, QGE WO2s require two SJARs as a substantive WO2 to be eligible for selection for promotion to WO1.

QGE Memoranda. Finalised and published last year and it is incorporated within the RE Corps memoranda as an Annex. QGE memoranda includes QGE history and traditions, Regimental customs and dress regulations. It is a live document and requires to be reviewed annually.

Emphasis on Education. Recognising the importance of education, English communication and English qualification, RHQ QGE facilitated GCSE course and exam for circa 140 Sappers. Numerous individuals are undergoing or completed 'A' levels and undergraduate degree with few officers undergoing post graduate degree. Strong communication skill is key to success for all QGE soldiers and officers in light of SOTOS. Temple Refurbishment. A new larger pagoda, custom made QGE pattern carpet, painting of the entire Temple, new shed, new Mauna, entrance gate and new large vases have been purchased for Temple at approximately £12,000.

Messing Hut Refurbishment. Construction of new oven, replacement of benches, deep cleaning and painting of chimney, construction of wood storage area, construction of new washing area and drainage plus the installation of new basin and soak pit, painting of the entire messing hut and installation of lighting were completed at approximately £6000.

QGE Silver Piece (Large QGE Cap Badge).

New QGE Silver Piece worth around £5000 was procured to commemorate QGE's contribution to the nation in the fight against COVID-19. Arguably, the first QGE Silver Piece that was procured after leaving Hong Kong in the 90s. The Queen's Gurkha Engineers made a major contribution to the Nation in the fight against COVID-19 through the construction of a 400 ICU bed NHS hospital for coronavirus patients (Project NIGHTINGALE), mass coronavirus testing of hauliers within M20 and Dover port providing them with negative COVID-19 test certificate for their onward journey to France (Op ROSE), and mass community coronavirus testing in Kent as a Military Aid to Civil Authorities to support Kent County Council in order to help break the chain of coronavirus transmission by identifying carriers, informing them to isolate and hence reducing the pressure on the NHS (Op RESCRIPT). This significant contribution to the nation by QGE has been commemorated by a QGE Silver Centre Piece. This silver centre piece was initiated by Commandant QGE, Lt Col MD Hendry MBE, and designed and scoped by Gurkha Major QGE, Major Kamal Khapung Limbu MVO.

The silver centre piece is a QGE Cap badge made up of 12" crossed Khukuri (silver plated) with 3D grenade and pommels (gold plated hallmark filled) and two fabricated scrolls (gold plated sterling silver hallmarked) with shaded engraved UBIQUE attached front and rear making the piece a 360-degree centrepiece. The piece is mounted on a bevel edged silver ball feet black wooden rectangular plinth with a silver top plate and engraved silver side plates.



QGE Silver Piece



Best Sapper of the Year Trophy

Best Sapper of the Year Trophy. Initiated and implemented 'The Hendry Trophy' which is presented to the best Sapper of the year annually from 2021. This is to provide Sapper cohort with the equal opportunity to be recognised because the Regiment did not have anything in place to identify the best Sapper of the year. Comparatively existing Bowring Trophy is presented to

the best LCpl (JNCO) of the year and existing Durand Medal is presented to the best SNCO/Officer.

CQC Advance Khukuri Fighting Skill. In order sustain identity and equally to develop from CQC Basic Khukuri fighting skill taught at ITC Catterick, RHQ QGE initiated and implemented CQC Advance Khukuri fighting skill from 2021. This has been rolled out to all QGE SUs including RE officers and soldiers attached to QGE SUs which has been hugely popular, and SP have welcomed the initiative.



Khukuri fighting skills demonstration

QGE Pipes and Drums. A total of 26 PIDs for QGE pipes and drums have been incorporated within QGE 8005 as part of the Future Soldier structure. These are not additional PIDs but pipes and drums will be their secondary role with their primary role remaining extant as sections sappers, tradesman, section 2ICs and Section Commanders. 67 and 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn incorporates 10 x pipers PIDs each and 70 Gurkha Para Sqn incorporates 6 x pipers PIDs within their 8005. This will enable pipes and drums kit and equipment including uniform tailoring to be scoped through the system.

QGE History Boards and Honours List. A large QGE history board, QGE honours list and BG board has been installed within RHQ QGE. Smaller versions of history boards including QGE honours list with citations have been presented to all QGE SUs in order to educate and sustain QGE history and heritage.

Second QGE Silver Piece (Large QGE Regimental Badge). At a cost of approximately £7000, RHQ QGE has procured second QGE Silver Piece in the form of a large QGE Regimental badge to commemorate the re-subordination of 70 Gurkha Fd Sqn on 1 Apr 22 to 23 Para Engr Regt. This silver piece is also initiated, designed and scoped by Lt Col MD Hendry MBE (Comdt QGE) and Maj Kamal Khapung Limbu MVO (GM QGE). QGE Growth. Phase 3 growth and growth within Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn Tranche 1 is complete with Tranche 2 fill plan in hand. 67 Gurkha Fd Sqn Tranche 1 growth is complete and Tranche 2 growth has no issues in terms of WF but has some infrastructure issue. Growth within 3 RGR and 4th QGE Sqn (68 Gurkha Fd Sqn) growth has been paused as part of the Future Soldier structure.

QGE History. RHQ QGE has established a QGE history corner spot within Gurkha Museum, Winchester where QGE history artifacts and publications will be displayed. QGE history will also be automatically updated as Gurkha Museum, Winchester is added to the QGE journal automatic recipient list. QGE related webinars and talks were also delivered to the RE history society and to the Friends of RE museum.

QGE Cypher (Regimental Badge). RHQ QGE has successfully liaised with Army HQ media and agreed the Queen's Gurkha Engineers correct Cypher to be generated and uploaded within the Army and MOD portal. This will be available to download from Jul 22. The QGE Cypher should have been changed within the Army and MOD portal in 1977 when the name of the Regiment was changed from 'The Gurkha Engineers' to 'The Queen's Gurkha Engineers'.

36 Engr Regt and QGE - Transformation. QGE is the heart and a key component of 36 Engr Regt. Therefore, QGE is at the forefront of 36 Engr Regt transformation. WF Plans have reassured that the Implementation Order will reflect; the change of 20 Fd Sqn to 67 Gurkha Fd Sqn, the change of 61 Fd Sp Sqn to 20 Fd Sp Sqn, no change to 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn and 50 HQ & Sp Sqn, and 70 Gurkha Para Sqn has already resubordinated to 23 Para Engr Regt. This transformation plan has its challenges in terms of WF and infrastructure, but all stakeholders are seeking for solutions.

Next, I reflect with huge pride on the achievement of the Regiment. QGE SP circa 40 within 37 Fd Sqn have lived up to the challenges and our expectations, and transitioned seamlessly within 32 Engr Regt. They are delivering QGE distinctive capabilities to an exceptional standard, all management team within their SHQ and RHQ cannot stop praising QGE SP's operational effectiveness, professionalism and their reputation. A huge credit to Capt Bikash Saheb, WO2 (SSM) Jayandra and their formidable team. They have recently returned from Ex ASKARI STORM in Kenya providing engineering support to 1 PWRR. Simultaneously, 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn delivered all the major QGE and BG events, yet again raising the standard of the delivery to an extraordinary level; delivered the best Dashain, the best Tihar and the best QGE Birthday that I have witnessed during the 31 years of my service. They have supported various operations and exercises and in addition deployed SPs overseas on operations. In the middle of a thorough preparation of their pre-deployment training to Ex SAILFISH they were put on Very High Readiness (VHR) following the Russian aggression in Ukraine. Their dedication, diligence and perseverance to get the Squadron to the readiness was impressive. 69 Squadron is currently conducting preparation for Ex SAILFISH. Equally, 70 Gurkha Fd Sqn have been immensely busy with pre-deployment training to Ex PINESTICK followed by the deployment, construction and recovery. They have recently resubordinated to 23 Para Engr Regt on 1 Apr 22 as

part of 16 Air Assault Brigade Cbt Team (BCT), global response force. They have a number of SPs deployed overseas on operations and exercises, more notably a Troop strength personnel are currently deployed on Ex SWIFT RESPONSE to Macedonia. QGE ERE personnel continue to deliver effect and engineering support throughout the year. A large number of QGE Sappers continue to demonstrate their ability and intelligence during trade and career courses by securing Top Student positions. I am also pleased to inform the Regiment personnel have been successful in the recent Honours and Awards list. The Regiment also continues to showcase its talent in various sporting activities and have also raised approximately £4000 to support Gurkha veterans impacted by COVID-19 in Nepal.

Despite heavy commitments, the Regiment marked a historical day with a double parade on 1 Apr 22; 70 Gurkha Fd Sqn re-subordination parade and 75 Trg Party attestation parade. This saw all the members of 70 Gurkha Fd Sqn presented with their maroon beret, change of flag and change of Squadron name to 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron. Simultaneously, the Regiment welcomed 52 new QGE Sappers of 75 Trg Party during the parade who swore oath of allegiance to QGE.

The Regiment welcomed Maj RM Lawrence RE (OC 69 Sqn), Maj MJ Johnson RE (Deputy Comdt QGE) and Capt E. A. Griffiths RE (Adjt QGE) to the fold. This year we will experience a huge churn within the Regiment,

Maj O B Clark RE (OC 70 Sqn), Maj AJ Britton RE (OC 50 Sqn) and Maj AP Caulfield RE (OC 37 Sqn) hand over their responsibilities this summer. I wish to take this opportunity to convey my gratitude and a genuine thank you for their time, support and advice. I also have the pleasure to welcome the 27th Gurkha Major of QGE, Selected Major Govinda Bahadur Rana QGE. I wish him the very best of luck and also wish him for a very successful tenure.

A sincere thank you to QGEA chairman Col (Retd) RG Walker OBE Saheb and the QGEA committee for their initiative as a team to relaunch QGEA. Equally, a huge thank you to both previous and current Adjt QGE, Capt Lauren Hardern RE Mem Saheb and Capt E. A. Griffiths RE Saheb for their relentless support to me as the Gurkha Major as well as to the Regiment. Additionally, I enjoyed exceptional support from WO1 (RSM) AP Malone RE, WO2 (SSM) Eka Rai Q1GE, WO2 (SSM) Suresh Sherma QGE, WO2 Rojan Rai QGE and WO2 (QMSI) Ganesh Rana Magar QGE. I wish you all, best wishes for future endeavours.

Before I conclude, a wholehearted thank you to the Commandant Saheb and Colonel QGE Saheb for your relentless support, influence and devotion to me, my family and to the Regiment. Thank you very much for giving me the best 2 years of my service and the opportunity to work under your leadership. I thoroughly enjoyed my time, I never had a dull day,



70 Gurkha Fd Sqn Re-subordination Parade

there was always something exciting hence my 2 years has just flown by. As a team, we came across numerous challenges, but we swiftly changed them into opportunities. Your natural love, affection and passion for QGE have been felt across the Regiment and as a direct result PROTECT, SHAPE and SUSTAIN piece has developed strength to strength for QGE. Words are insufficient to describe your invaluable contribution to the Regiment. The Queen's Gurkha Engineers is extremely lucky to have you as their Commandant QGE and Colonel QGE. A heartfelt thank you to Sarah Mem Saheb and Seema Mem Saheb for their input to the Paltan especially to our families.

Lastly, a heartiest thank you to all the members of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers for providing me with the opportunity to serve you as your Gurkha Major. I am honoured and privileged to have been given this chance to give back to the Paltan and Pariwar as the father figure, the Gurkha Major.

I wish QGE, the very best!

Baliyo Rahanu Hos! Jai QGE!

RHQ QGE News

By Captain Govindabhadur Rana PgDip QGE



SO3 QGE Sldrs SO3 QGE SLDRS (formally GRCMO) After just over two years of posting in Nepal as the Quartermaster British Gurkhas Pokhara (BGP), I was delighted to take over a new role as SO3 QGE Sldrs based at Army Personnel Centre (APC) in Glasgow. This role was previously known as Gurkha Regimental Career Management Officer (GRCMO) based at RHQ QGE, Maidstone. I am pleased to be given the opportunity to be employed as the first SO3 QGE Sldrs and it gives me a great pleasure to announce that SO3 QGE Sldrs post is now established within APC.

My new role as SO3 QGE Sldrs started with a walk around my workplace within an empty Kentigern House (KH) with Sgt Sangam Gurung GSPS, Cbt Sp SNCO CM QGE[1] as everyone was working from home (WfH). Most of the work was conducted remotely via Skype and Microsoft Teams, as a result communication was a huge challenge. As the COVID restrictions started easing off, Smarter Way of Working (SWOW) was introduced. This enabled more employees to return back to work and permitted me to get to know and meet my co-workers

face to face. Geographical separation from RHQ QGE presented its own challenges and I found my job rather tricky during the initial phase but it now feels normal as I settle into APC routine.

I am responsible for QGE Soldiers Career Management across the ranks of Sapper (Spr) to Warrant Officer Class 1 (WO1). Provision of Career Management (CM) advice to all ranks, liaison with unit RCMOs and Chain of Command including acting as the interface between QGE soldiers, RCMOs and the units, fall well within my area of responsibilities. Additionally, my responsibilities include preparation, planning and delivery of all QGE Promotion, Appointment, Assignment and Conversion of Versatile Engagement (VEng) Boards. In addition to regular unit visits, interviews, presentations and other CM engagements, I am heavily involved in the utilisation of JPA in order to provide assurance and accuracy of JPA actions including AR finalisation prior to the board and issuance of Assignment Orders (AO). Changing from the conventional GRCMO role based in Maidstone to this new role as SO3 QGE Sldrs based at APC Glasgow has provided a broader satellite view of QGE soldiers that are employed in 15 different units scattered across the United Kingdom, and Nepal and Brunei.

After less than a year here in KH, employed as SO3 QGE Sldrs, I am yet again thrilled to be assigned back to QGE on promotion. After 28 years of service within QGE, I am privileged and honoured to be selected for the prestigious role as the 27th Gurkha Major of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers. I am due to take over the role from current GM QGE, Major Kamalbahadur Khapung Limbu MVO in July this year. I wholeheartedly welcome Captain Narendradhoj Gurung QGE as the next SO3 QGE Sldrs and I wish him the very best and a successful tenure.



Left to Right: Capt Khadkabhadur Gurung QGE (GRCMO QGE), Lt Col MD Hendry MBE RE (Comdt QGE), Brigadier J L Clark CBE (Colonel of the Regiment), Maj Kamalbahadur Khapung Limbu MVO QGE (GM QGE), WO1 (RSM) A P Malone RE (RSM QGE) and Capt R Pickering RE (Standing Adjt)

Army Personnel Centre (APC). Pictorial chart of Combat Support Branch at APC.



QGE Workforce (WF). The Integrated Review (IR) and Future Soldier Structure has seen the reduction of overall strength of the Army. As a direct result Royal Engineers has seen the reduction of its WF by approximately 12%. On the other hand, QGE has seen growth by approximately 40%. This is largely due to the growth of 3rd QGE Squadron, 67 Gurkha Fd Sqn. The table below illustrates total Strength and liability of QGE WF dated 1 Apr 22.

In Summary

Strength	494
Liability	437

Over Strength +57 (3 x Reg C (LE) Majors and 5 x personnel on Clerk of Works (CoW) course are not included within QGE WF as they are employed under wider RE PID).

Overall QGE WF will remain overstrength until 2025 when Future Soldier structure is achieved, and the

transformation of 36 Engr Regt and Pj SHERPA are delivered. QGE has experienced overstrength of WF primarily due to Pj UPNOR (New Sappers assigned to the Field Army before the subsequent trade training) and PiDs that have been made invalid due to Future Soldier structure. Overstrength WF are assigned under Surplus To Establishment Organisation (STEO) PID, commonly known as bucket PiD in Multiple Occupancy (PMO) commonly known as the Double PiD. Rest assured overstrength WF will be given a meaningful employment and will be career managed effectively.

Training Pipeline. 52 x Sappers from Recruit Intake (RI) 21 joined QGE, in December last year and moved to Minley for their Initial Trade Training (ITT). They have recently completed their ITT and subsequently progressed on to Cat B driver training and Subsequent Trade Training (STT) in 1 RSME. Some of the Sappers from RI 20 and RI 19 are still on their STT and are yet to join the Regiment.

Integrated Review (IR) and the Future Soldier. The IR and Future Soldier structure has significantly changed the size, shape, structure and location of QGE Workforce (WF) and QGE subunits (SU). 70 Gurkha Field Sqn resubordinated to 23 Para Engr Regt and named 70 Gurkha Para Sqn. This has resulted in the reduction of 20 x PIDs within 70 Gurkha Para Sqn due to the Parachute Squadron being smaller in size. 70 Gurkha Para Sqn is likely to remain in Maidstone until the Year 24/25 before moving to Rock Barracks, Woodbridge. Future Soldier structure has paused growth within 3 RGR and growth of 4th QGE Squadron, 68 Gurkha Fd Sqn.

Project SHERPA (Pj SHERPA). QGE growth as part of Pj SHERPA is going extremely well. Currently QGE is managing growth with Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn and the reformation of 67 Gurkha Fd Sqn.



RHQ QGE & Families

67 Gurkha Fd Sqn - Reformation. Tranche 1 of 67 Gurkha Fd Sqn is formed within 37 Fd Sqn, 32 Engr Regt. As per the recent Future Soldier structure 67 Gurkha Fd Sqn will no longer form within 32 Engr Regt but now will form under 36 Engr Regt. As part of 36 Engr Regt transformation plan, 20 Fd Sqn will change to 67 Gurkha Fd Sqn. Tranche 2 of 67 Gurkha Fd Sqn will form within 20 Fd Sqn from 1 Sep 22 - 31 Mar 23. Tranche 3 of 67 Gurkha Fd Sqn will form within 20 Fd Sqn from 1 Sep 23 - 31 Mar 24. Simultaneously, Tranche 1 of 67 Gurkha Fd Sqn that is currently at 32 Engr Regt will move to 20 Fd Sqn within 36 Engr Regt. QGE Invalid PiDs - 13 x PiDs became invalid in 2022 as part of Future Soldier Structure drawing down the WF as the part of Integrated Review. This reduction has been experienced across RE and wider Army.

Deletion of CMT PiDs. We may experience the deletion of CMT (Construction Material Technician) trade from all Field Squadron within the Royal Engineers as part of Future Soldier structure. If this is the case, then 2 x CMT PiDs within QGE will be deleted too.

Versatile Engagement (VEng). VEng(S) to VEng(F) conversion quota was significantly reduced this year due to the pause of QGE 4th Squadron growth and 3RGR growth. This may continue until 2025 when the Future Soldier structure is achieved, and the Regiment begin to experience a stable outflow and inflow. In 2021, only 7 out of 30 candidates were offered VEng(F) and the quota may remain same for this year too. I want to make absolutely clear that WF requirement and quotas for conversion and promotions are all dictated by WF Plans.

Conversion of Commission

Short Service Commission LE (SSC LE) - Intermediate Regular Commission LE (IRC LE)
21169485 Captain Khelendrabahadur Gurung

Squadron Sergeant Major (SSM) Appointment
21170526 WO2 Yakthunghang Angbuhang
21171246 WO2 Akash Tamang

QGE Conditional VEng Short to Full Conversion 2021
30207822 Spr Bijaya Lama
30189129 Spr Ravi Rana Magar
30207826 Spr Puskal Limbu
30188640 Spr Bibek Nembang
30208410 Spr Sumanchandra G R
30189121 Spr Subodh Rana
30208383 Spr Ishwor Gurung

Promotion

Promotion to Major
21169283 Captain Govindabahadur Rana

Promotion to Short Service Commission Late Entry

(SSC LE) - Captain
21170376 WO2 Premkumar Jabegu Limbu

Promotion to WO2
21170526 SSgt Yakthunghang Angbuhang
21171246 SSgt Akash Tamang

Promotion to SSgt 2021
21170510 Sgt Sangharsa Rai
21171242 Sgt Bhupendraprasad Gurung
21171750 Sgt Seesan Gurung

Promotion to SSgt 2022
21170545 Sgt Bikram Gurung
21170686 Sgt Premjung Thapa
21171624 Sgt Gaurab Gurung

Promotion to Sgt
21171322 Cpl Satish Gurung
21171244 Cpl Kumar Pun
21171965 Cpl Basanta Thamsuhang
30085152 Cpl Roshan Buda Magar
30120258 Cpl Bal Buda Magar

Promotion to Cpl
30084955 LCpl Birendrakumar Thapa
30085760 LCpl Umesh Gurung
30085059 LCpl Sangit Gurung
30120263 LCpl Mahesh Gurung
30141939 LCpl Purna Limbu
30166252 LCpl Sunil Gurung
30166255 LCpl Shiv Gurung
30166273 LCpl Milan Gurung
30166274 LCpl Krishna Tilija Pun
30189109 LCpl Rupesh Gurung

Promotion to LCpl
30166259 Spr Dinesh Gurung
30166313 Spr Amir Gurung
30188640 Spr Bibek Nembang
30189121 Spr Subodh Rana
30189129 Spr Ravi Rana Magar
30207822 Spr Bijaya Lama
30207826 Spr Puskal Limbu
30207843 Spr Niraj Gurung
30208383 Spr Ishwor Gurung
30208398 Spr Hemanta Gurung
30208410 Spr Sumanchandra G R
30229218 Spr Bikash Gurung
30229236 Spr Prakash Gurung
30229239 Spr Puspa Gurung
30229716 Spr Bhupal Rai
30252400 Spr Lanam Lama
30252489 Spr Subash Malla Thakuri
30252497 Spr Rajan Rana
30252501 Spr Chet Bahadur Gurung
30252584 Spr Shubham Gurung
30252591 Spr Sanjok Gurung
30274086 Spr Dipesh Tamang
30274151 Spr Bhupendra Rana
30274648 Spr Amar Sing Thapa

Transfer to Royal Signals

30166243	LCpl	Mohan Gurung
30208403	Spr	Prakash Rana

Clerk of Works

21171917	SSgt	Tulbahadur Thapa
30085763	SSgt	Bijaya Rana Magar
30120260	SSgt	Pawan Gurung

69 Gurkha Field Squadron*By Maj RM Lawrence RE, Officer Commanding***Introduction**

Following the disruption and challenges of operating under Covid conditions, the past year has seen a gradual transition to 'the new normal' with activity more similar to that pre-pandemic. In what has been a busy year 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn has seen members of the Squadron deploy to over 15 countries on 4 continents including Mali, Chad, Nigeria, Gibraltar, Austria, Germany, Nepal, Belize, Canada, Oman, the USA, Sweden, Poland, France and Spain. Notable other highlights include the opportunities when we have had a chance to celebrate as a 69 Squadron family at events such as the Squadron summer and Christmas functions and the important QGE cultural events such as the QGE birthday, Dashain and Tihar. The dedication, commitment and adaptability of all in the Squadron has continued to be demonstrated in a year when the security architecture of Europe has been redrawn with obvious implications for all in the military. As a result of this, readiness has been a key feature of the past year, with a focus both on individual readiness, vehicle and equipment preparedness, and inculcating a mindset of adaptability and reactivity to short notice taskings. All of this has been massively supported by families and friends of the Squadron and we are hugely grateful for the help and backing they have given us over what has at times been a turbulent year. I hope this journal article gives some insight into what a truly exciting year for 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn and the wider 36 Engr Regt & QGE family has been.

Personnel changes

As ever with the Army there has been a significant churn of personnel, particularly in the SHQ where Maj Mike Gledhill handed over to Maj Rich Lawrence in July, Capt Naresh Limbu was posted from Brunei to take over as Ops Officer and WO2 Suresh Sherma arrived as Sergeant Major from Catterick. There was transition in all the troops with Capt Lalbahadur Rana taking over Sp Tp, Lt Hamaad Basir handing over H Tp to Lt Will Rutter, SSgt Prakash Gurung arriving at G Tp, SSgt Deepak Rai returning to 69 Squadron as I Tp SSgt and Sgt Bhim Limbu as H Tp Recce Sgt. The CSC also saw an influx of new personnel into 69 Squadron and QGE pariwar with the arrival of WO2 Liam Philpott as the CSC WO and SSgt Louis Holloway as an MPF. A massive thank you to those of all ranks who have left either on promotion or posting for everything you contributed to 69 Squadron in your tenures.

Green Exercises

Building on the progression towards Ex INVICTA STALLION reported in last year's newsletter, the first major event of this year was Ex WESSEX STORM. This was the Squadron's main effort for 2021 and was the final confirmatory exercise to qualify them to work in a Brigade context, taking place across Salisbury Plain over May and June 2021. Supporting two battlegroups concurrently, 1 R IRISH and SCOTS DG, the Squadron had to navigate the challenge of both supplying sufficient staff horsepower to facilitate their planning processes and also provide sufficient resources to deliver combat engineering effect on the ground. Following a series of live fire ranges building up to be able to support the battlegroups appropriately, the Squadron moved into the Combined Arms phase of the exercise. During this, the bulk of the effort was apportioned to supporting 1 R IRISH with a range of arduous and complex operation coordinated by the battlegroup. Whilst testing at times, particularly with the multiple concurrent tasks, the Squadron benefitted from the experience and came out with a glowing report and an enhanced reputation for being able to deliver results under the most strenuous conditions.



Construction of 12 Bay MGB DS during Ex INVICTA STALLION

Following Ex WESSEX STORM, 69 Squadron had a few weeks to rehabilitate all the equipment prior to summer leave, and with the reduction in COVID restrictions some members of the Squadron seized the opportunity to go on Adventure Training. Ex TIGER DUNGA CHALAK saw 15 personnel from the Squadron head to Salcombe, Devon, and Falmouth, Cornwall, to take part in a sea kayaking expedition, achieving Kayak 2* foundation and 3* intermediate sea kayak ably led by Lt Helen Bridgman and Cpl Sureen Thapa. Meanwhile the rest of the Squadron enjoyed the summer function, held outside the wire due to COVID restrictions on 27 Jul 21. With some fantastic entertainment, it provided an opportunity to say farewell to Maj Gledhill with the whole Squadron present for the first time since COVID.

Whilst most of the Squadron was deployed on Ex WESSEX STORM the Rear Ops Group (ROG) was tasked with arranging a troop to deploy to the United States on Ex RATTLESNAKE. This took place from Sep to Oct and saw Lt Helen Bridgman lead a



Casualty extraction on Ex WESSEX STORM

composite troop from across the Squadron and a sect from 50 HQ & Sp Squadron supporting a 1 IRISH GUARDS battlegroup in Fort Polk, Louisiana. After some hard work prior to summer leave ensuring all PDT requirements were met and mosquito nets were issued, there was a slight delay to the deployment due to operations elsewhere using military planes. After a truncated period of RSOI the Troop deployed onto the ground with A/Capt Hamaad Basir acting as the BGE for the Irish Guards fitting into a 101st Airborne Brigade Combat Team. With temperatures regularly above 30 degrees Celsius and high humidity and thunderstorms, conditions were testing, particularly with the extremely light role nature of the exercise. Due to the limited resources available the Troop found themselves often involved in obstacle construction and being used as an echelon fighting force. Working alongside the Americans provided an opportunity to test interoperability and identify freedoms and frictions occurring through working with allied forces. The exercise culminated with a three-day R&R package in Dallas which was enjoyed by all.

As well as the major exercises mentioned above the Squadron continued its steady drum beat of lower-level training including plant concentrations, driver training and local section and troop level exercises, gradually building up towards Ex PULNIRMAN in Wyke Regis in November. This focused on some of the less commonly practised combat engineering skills including captive ferry, aerial ropeway and trackway. After some hard combat engineering work with Sappers and JNCOs being tested with short notice presentations, the exercise culminated in an intra troop raft race. With some novel designs and a changing tide, it was anyone's race to win. Going for a streamlined design G Troop went all out; unfortunately, the narrowness of their raft resulted in a roll over and swim for most of the team. After some hard-fought races, the SHQ team, ably led by WO2 Suresh, claimed victory.

The Squadron has had a big input into the Regimental Dive team with Cpl Sureen qualifying as a Dive Supervisor and LCpl Chet Gurung coming top of his Advance Diving course. Four members of the Squadron

also supported the Regimental Dive Team on a dive concentration to Gibraltar and other more local diving exercises and training.

Construction

Whilst the start of the year focused on green skills, artisan training was not neglected with the completion of the Makers' Space Project. This project, started and reported on, in last year's journal, saw the Squadron design and construct a workshop space for all members of the Regiment to use. Constructed from ISO containers, the internal fit out involved framing and insulation along with electrical installation. With the added benefit of 3D printing machines, a full suite of power tools and a CNC machine final product is now a great and often used resource within Invicta Park Barracks allowing all to work on projects in their own time.

The next major construction project undertaken by the Squadron was led by H Troop under Lt Will Rutter and supported by SSgt Steve Cottam from the CSC. It took place at the Big Cat Sanctuary in Ashford. A metal framed building had been constructed to act as a classroom facility, vet space and offices; however, this was a totally empty shell when members of the Squadron arrived. Over the course of six weeks the Troop installed all internal walls, insulating where required, plastering all surfaces, installed plumbing including toilets and first and second fix electrical fittings. It provided an invaluable opportunity for artisan tradesmen to work alongside civilian contractors, getting advice and guidance and acting as excellent pre-deployment training for the upcoming Ex SAILFISH deployment in Q1 2023. This also allowed many tradespersons to complete vital work required towards achieving their apprenticeships. From a bare shell to an internally fitted out building there was a huge sense of achievement and satisfaction for the client as well as all those involved for helping a charity and the beautiful cats they look after.

The final construction project of 2021 saw I Troop take the lead on the refurbishment of the Regimental Messing Hut. Due to the sheer volume of use over a long period of time it was starting to look tired and the addition of elements such as an improved stove, grease trap, lighting and re-decoration were much needed improvements that provided a huge benefit to the facility for all in Regiment to enjoy.

Operations

Whilst the past year hasn't seen the Squadron as a whole, deploy on operations, we have had personnel deployed to numerous theatres around the world including Op NEWCOMBE (Mali), Op ROCKSTAFF (Poland), Op TURUS (Chad and Nigeria) and UK based Ops ESCALIN and RESCRIPT. LCpl Himbu Limbu Angbuhang and Spr Ghan Chhetri deployed to Mali to support the RAF CH47 detachment on Op NEWCOMBE as individual attachments. Both gained huge credit for their hard work and were rewarded with the Op

NEWCOMBE coin as recognition of their hard work. As well as their trade work helping maintain the power supply in theatre both contributed huge amounts to assisting a charity triathlon helping 1310 Flt run, cycle and row 4,603km – the distance between Gao in Mali and RAF Odiham in Lincolnshire. Spr Ghan won the overall prize for most distance covered, completing a phenomenal 690kms over the course of a week. Op ROCKSTAFF was an operation in support of the Polish government securing their Eastern Border with Belarus. Due to the plant heavy nature of the task 69 Squadron were asked to support with a number of POMs to help 26 Field Squadron (32 Engineer Regiment). Consequently 5 members of the Squadron deployed to help them, only returning in mid-April after a chilly time in Eastern Europe.

The later part of the year saw two separate deployments under Op TURUS to Africa. Op TURUS is the operation which covers UK support to Nigeria and neighbouring African countries to help deal with the threat of Islamist insurgency in West Africa by building their military capacity. The first deployment to Nigeria saw Cpl Kumar Pun deploy as an instructor followed by Capt Lal Rana leading a team of five to Chad to teach counter-EOD to personnel from Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. Although teaching lessons through a translator was tricky at times, both teams ultimately made a huge impact during their deployments, acting as first-rate ambassadors for QGE and British Army in their ability to mentor and instruct.

In November, panic buying of fuel led to a national fuel shortage with many petrol station forecourts being left without any fuel and significant queues for those that did. In response to this the government called in the military to support the fuel industry under Op ESCALIN where soldiers are trained to drive civilian tankers and deliver petrol across the country. Having previously attended training to drive civilian tankers, Spr Renish Roka Magar was called up to assist delivering fuel round the Southeast of England. Concurrently, Cpl Subin Rai was called up to support Op RESCRIPT for a second time - this time as a General Duties vaccinator. With little warning he was deployed over Christmas to support 11X vaccination task force delivering COVID vaccinations to the general public. For his outstanding performance over this period, he was awarded an Army Sergeant Major's Coin.

Cultural Events

With a gradual easing of Covid restrictions taking place in the latter part of 2021, the QGE pariwar was able to come together to celebrate important events including the QGE Birthday, Dashain and Tihar for the first time since the pandemic began. After the disappointment of numerous cancellations or having to endure virtual events in 2020, everyone was keen to make sure these were particularly memorable. Led by an assortment of people from across the QGE including Capt Lal Rana, Sgt Dil Pun and Cpl Bishnu Magar amongst many others there were some notable highlights from all three major events. The implementation of CQC Advance



Col of the Regt, Comdt QGE and GM QGE cut the 73rd QGE Birthday Cake

Khukuri fighting skill displays with over 40 members of the Squadron performing a synchronised display at the QGE birthday was particularly memorable for those in attendance. A couple of weeks after the QGE birthday we were able to fully invest in the Dashain festival which culminated in an evening of outstanding Nepali food and entertainment in the ABLE hangar which was superbly decorated for the festivities. Over 400 people attended the event safely which was testament to the hard work and dedication those involved put in to ensure the event could take place for the wider QGE community. Likewise, Tihar in November was well attended by people from across QGE and wider community with some high-quality entertainment performed as Deusi Bhailo.

Education

Lifelong learning has been a key element of the Squadron's year encompassing formal courses and continuous professional development opportunities. The most notable achievements of the year were the Squadrons' success on the Clerk of Works applications board, with two members of 69 Squadron family, LCpl Sangit Gurung and LCpl Kaji Gurung, being selected to attend the course in August 2022. There are personnel undertaking education from GCSE through to Master's Degree level. As a wider education piece 20 members of the Squadron visited the Defence Security & Equipment International 2021 in September. This provided an opportunity to see developments right across the defence sector from individual weapons and sighting systems to the latest generation virtual reality and unmanned fighter planes of the future. It provided an opportunity to understand the procurement process that kit and equipment undergoes in order to reach service in the Army, provide ideas for innovation and listen to presentations from senior members of the military and defence industry.

Sport and Adventure Training

The Squadron has maintained its reputation as being awash with keen sportsmen across the board, with personnel representing the Army, Corps and Regiment at sports including Tennis, Squash, Hockey, Cross Country, Orienteering, Mountain Biking and Badminton. Additionally, we had Spr Lal Rana completed the Devizes to Westminster canoe race, personnel competing in the 100km Ex TRAILWALKER along the South Downs and the Squadron organising and leading the Ex CAMBRIAN-PATROL, gaining an impressive Silver Medal.

As well as the kayaking AT mentioned earlier, members of the Squadron also deployed to Wales in January to conduct some Summer Mountaineering Foundation training and gaining quality mountain days. Braving some wintry conditions some high-quality hill walking was carried out under the direction of SSgt Prakash Gurung and Cpl Bheshbahadur Gurung. From the hills of Wales to the sea near Southampton, 11 personnel

from the Regiment deployed on Ex TIGER MARINER achieving their Competent Crew or Day Skipper Royal Yachting Association qualifications over the course of a week sailing on the Solent. Despite some challenging conditions all had an enjoyable time and look forward to more sailing opportunities.

Humanitarian Aid Task Force

With the Russians amassing on Ukraine's borders the Squadron started ramping up its readiness as the British Army stood up a range of formations to prepare for short notice deployments to Eastern Europe. 69 Squadron was aligned to the Humanitarian Assistance Task Force (HATF) under 7 Brigade, forming part of a task force made up of engineers, logistics and general duties troops. The HATF was aimed to support countries neighbouring Ukraine to deal with an anticipated large outflow of refugees from conflict zones into adjacent areas. From a standing start in mid-February, we were put at R2 (five days' notice to move) and it was not long after reduced to R1 (48 hours' notice to move). There ensued a busy few weeks as we took over all necessary vehicles, conducting early maintenance, completing numerous vaccination, dental and hearing parades to ensure everyone was fit to deploy and satisfying all required deployment standards. Once at readiness we prepared to wait, attending daily intelligence updates and keeping abreast of the ever-changing situation and deployment requirements. Whilst we ended up not deploying the Squadron proved its ability to get move to high readiness rapidly and ended as the most deployable Squadron in the Corps, proving our ability to work at a high tempo in anticipation of fulfilling an operational role.

Future Plans

Looking ahead the Squadron is due to remain at readiness for the foreseeable future, however being at R2 (5 days' notice to move) affords us some flexibility to undertake other projects. We are hoping that the Ex-SAILFISH, Squadron deployment to Belize we were due to go on Jun-Sep this year, can be delayed to Jan-Mar 23. Additionally, we have planned or are scoping construction projects in Tunbridge Wells, London, Gibraltar, Nepal and Germany, so are hopeful that we will continue to add to the list of countries that people have deployed to. I am continually humbled by the achievements of those in the Squadron and the breadth of activity we take part in, as I write this, we have personnel preparing to take part in operations in Mali (Op NEWCOMBE), Cyprus (Op TOSCA), march in the Queen's Jubilee Parade in London and sail to Iceland (Ex ARCTIC EXPRESS). Whilst we may not know what the future holds, what we can be certain of, is that 69 Gurkha Field Squadron will remain prepared to react to whatever comes our way and we will continue to do 36 Engineer Regiment and the Queen's Gurkha Engineer proud.

Jai QGE

70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron

By Maj O B Clark RE, Officer Commanding

Introduction

Unsurprisingly 2021-2022 has been a varied, challenging and historical year for 70 Gurkha Para Squadron. Having an opportunity to reflect on the past year provides a cathartic manner in which to take stock of its achievements and admire the Soldiers, Officers and families, and their breath-taking resilience and support throughout. The roller-coaster of challenges and COVID-19 restrictions has required an astounding level of commitment, flexibility and patients. The gradual easing of COVID-19 has given back an element of normality and rejuvenated the Squadrons optimism for the future.

Holistically the Squadron has continued to contribute to the full spectrum of defences outputs, sporting competitions and social events this year. From a Squadron overseas deployment, to supporting operations whilst maintaining very high readiness for numerous resilience/contingency operations. The most noteworthy and historical change is clearly the resubordinating of the Squadron from 36 Engineer Regiment to 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment, which brings excitement, opportunity and change.

The Squadrons successes are founded on its family togetherness, culture, tradition and Kaida. Its achievements could not have been possible without the love and support of our Pariwar. This year more than ever has tested and stretch relationships; despite this the unwavering dedication and enthusiasm from the families is staggering, to which we owe a debt of thanks.

I hope the article provides an exciting glance at all the interesting and varied activities 70 Squadron have been involved in.

Ex PINESTICK 21-2

The Squadrons focus for the past 4 years has been Close Support Engineering and public duties. Ex PINESTICK provided the pivot to exploiting Sapper's artisan skills in a construction environment. Most exciting is it would be the Squadrons first overseas deployment in circa 5 years. Ex PINESTICK is a rolling overseas Joint Force Enabling Exercise in Cyprus. Focused on the development of infrastructure in the UKs Sovereign Based Areas, it provides Royal Engineer Squadrons with the opportunity to exercise independent command, test planning, resourcing and trade skills in a challenging environment. Whilst importantly offering a practical output for wider UK defence.

Pre-Deployment Training (PDT)

To ensure success, there was a requirement to conduct much needed PDT. The Squadron ensured they had some meaningful tasks to fully test and prepare them for all trade related activities that they could encounter while on Ex PINESTICK. The PDT was designed in a progressive three phase package which was based around a 'crawl', 'walk' and 'run' graduation.

Crawl phase

Consisted of numerous small tasks to focus and refresh tradesman on their artisan skills. The Troop shelter task provided a good opportunity for junior leadership within the Squadron to plan and execute a construction task. J Troop under, Cpl Sunrise led the construction of the troop shelter and BBQ area within Invicta Park Barracks (IPB) which expands the offerings of the camp pavilion, allowing it to host bigger events and providing an area for troops to hold outdoor lessons. Similarly, a much-needed seating area refurbishment by Dundas block (led by Cpl Ganga), as well as a modular bar (led by LCpl Min) which will be used at QGE functions for years to come. And later the refurbishment of the Mandir led by Cpl Umesh and Spr David.



Refurbishment of seating area next to Dundas Block led by Cpl Ganga

Walk phase

Involved the refinement of techniques, the improvement of skills and growth of scale of task to something closer to what the Squadron would encounter in Cyprus. A 1 RSME package provided a standard trade refresher course for B&C, C&J, ELECs and H&P. Plant PDT was as part of the Regimental exercise in Thetford. Led by Support Troop (Sgt Prithi and Cpl Top) the three-week task involved the upgrade of a 6 km stretch of training area routes. Many of the soldiers had not been able to put their skills to the test for over a year as such this proved critical training.

Gurkha Museum Enhancement - Members of the Squadron deployed down to the Gurkha Museum to conduct a vital upgrade to enhance the McDonald Galley. This was completed by 7 Service personnel and both B&SF and C&J trades were exercised. The McDonald gallery had a comprehensive repaint and a replica HERRICK Style sangar constructed to provide visitors a 3-dimensional experience. In total the task was completed in 40 hours and with the client (museum director) being a former OC in 20 Field Squadron it had a real personal feel to the project.



Construction of Boat Store led by SSgt Joseph (Tp SSgt L Tp) on Ex PINESTICK 21

Project Management / Reading week - The Command team conducted several training packages to ensure they had the right skills to manage the projects during Ex PINESTICK. 5 Officers went and completed Management of Risk training which was a 5-day course at the Professional Engineering Wing in Chatham. While MS Project was delivered as a refresher day to the project managers. Khelendra Saheb and the Construction Supervision Cell organised a reading week where key stakeholders were read in to the detail of the programme, as well as a design review with the Military Design Authority; these were vital weeks to ensure success.

Run Phase

Worthy down Messing Hut - The design, resource and construction of a Gurkha Messing Complex at Worthy Down Barracks, complete with Cooking Hut, Messing Hut and ablution block. Covered every trade which would be used in Cyprus. Complex and fast-paced task with added nuance of being private funded, gave the tradesmen opportunity to liaise directly with civilian suppliers. Completion of the task generated a tangible output in the form of a messing facility for the Gurkha community at Worthy Down, providing a dedicated location for such an important part of Gurkha life. 2 months long project was led by J Troop (Lt Campbell and SSgt Jas) and was finished to such a high standard that the facility is being used as a benchmark for future builds for other Brigade of Gurkha (BG) units.

Ex PINESTICK

After a busy planning cycle, navigating the friction of COVID-19 and Op PITTING, 70 Gurkha Field Squadron deployed to Cyprus in early September 2021 for 3 months. 110 personnel from across 6 subunits deployed one week late due to the impact of Op PITTING. On arrival the Squadron immediately started work on their primary task - the completion of a large boat storage building (L Troop), a slipway, and the start of a large club storage building (J Troop) at RAF Akrotiri. Following the speedy completion of the slipway, a secondary workforce led by Sgt Premjung Thapa initiated the first phase of the construction for an ablution block at Tunnel Beach, Episkopi Garrison. In addition, a further 20 smaller tasks were completed or recced and designed for future Royal Engineer Squadrons to complete. Notably, the Squadron was able

to generate a taskforce to rapidly recce live security and operational tasks. Such as the reinforcement of security around an important military site at a remote Cypriot location, or an operation room fit out. Tasks like this having a direct impact on UK operational locations. These range of tasks enabled the Sapper influence to be felt across the island.

In an attempt to stretch the remit of the exercise, innovation projects were also conducted, finding new ways to incorporate 3D printing, augmented reality modelling and a Deployable Engineering Workshop (DEW) into a construction project. Led by Lt Greatorex, SSgt Paija and the G4 team, the Squadron deployed a Makerspace 3D Printing ISO container from Proj LIVENS (1 RSME), enabling construction site objects to be organically designed and produced en masse. A subsequent warm-weather trial report was compiled by the innovation team and added to the Army Research Reports Repository. Elements of a DEW from 39 Engineer Regiment was also taken to Cyprus, helping to rapidly complete any carpentry tasks. The innovation research culminated in an 8X TED Talk.

A key benefit of working in a tri-service environment are the many opportunities for interoperability. Colleagues from RAF Project ASTRA worked alongside the 70 Squadron innovation team, discussing how defence should best incorporate new technologies. Permission was also granted for soldiers to visit Typhoon Detachment used on Op SHADER as well as Watchkeeper UAVs, which additionally captured ISTAR data of the construction site progress. Heli-lifts were conducted to move equipment between task-sites and 84 Sqn RAF enabled key stakeholders to witness multiple project locations through aerial recce.

In addition to construction tasks, the Squadron also made the most of the wider opportunities Cyprus has to offer. Adventure training, cultural experiences, sporting events and numerous other training opportunities. 45 personnel participated in a helicopter familiarisation from 84 Sqn RAF in preparation for the Squadrons' resubordinating to 23 Para Engr Regt. The majority of the Squadron participated in Adventure training packages; 465 activity days were completed. Cultural visits were conducted including a trip to Paphos' Tomb

of the Kings, and extra-curricular activities covering quad biking, a local marathon and various charity fundraisers were enjoyed by all.

Despite the busy timetable, the Squadron was not deterred from celebrating the most eagerly awaited events of the calendar: QGE Birthday, Dashain and Tihar. These traditional Nepali events were attended by external friends and guests, with entertainment packages including 'Bin Dance' and the Troop Commanders' take on Bollywood being especially well received!

Ex PINESTICK Rear Operations Group

Rear Operation Group (ROG) has been a key element that supported Ex PINESTICK and kept the 70 Squadron flag flying back in IPB. The ROG was 40 personnel strong with Capt Charlie Collins at the helm and SSgt Dekraj as SSM.

The ROG was divided into four different sections: SHQ, MT Dept, HUSKY section and Delta Troop. The small SHQ team provided direction to the ROG for execution of various tasks. One of the major tasks during the ROG was to carry out numerous inspections and assurance checks which was led by rear echelon department which received high praise.

Delta Troop was primarily a main work force for the ROG which was committed to completing all tasks given by the Regiment. The elements of the ROG took part in Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL; a gruelling 48 hours taskings in the Brecon Beacons and achieved silver on completion. A handful of personnel from ROG also took part in 1 UK Div BISMARCK challenge where the Regiment team finished 6th from more than 30 teams. There was low-level infantry training and JNCO ALDP pre training organised for Squadron personnel to develop Sapper ready for promotion; many personnel from Delta Tp took part and made the most of the training.

The ROG also completed Ex DHARILO DELTA TEAM which was the most awaited exercise for the rear party as it incorporated different exciting adventurous sports and activities. Cpl Bikash Gurung (Signaller) came up with the idea and executed it. The exercise itself was focused on building team cohesion between all ranks and to re-energise soldiers. Over three days the exercise included ice skating, paintballing and mountain biking, the last day of the exercise was concluded with messing conducted by Spr Rohan and team. Ex DHARILO DELTA TEAM achieved its goal of enhancing not only skills but team cohesion and coordination within themselves.

The End of HUSKY

The HUSKY armoured vehicle has been the subunits' primary fighting vehicle for the past 5 years, which was going out of service in 2022. 17 x HUSKY platforms complete with all its technical equipment were to be backloaded for disposal. It has been a huge effort from so many across the Squadron to maintain these platforms to an impeccable standard to ensure

consistent readiness. The process of preparing the vehicles for backloading was significant and the ROG HUSKY teams did an exceptional job in quick timelines. With particular credit to Cpl Manoj and Yogesh, the vehicles and signals equipment were returned on time to the 3rd line. The feedback praised the teams for returning the equipment in such good order.

Arduous courses

The Squadron have had an excellent performance on arduous courses with four people completing the All-Arms Commando Course, one qualified as a Physical Training Instructor, and now more pertinently two have completed P Coy.

Just before the Christmas leave 2021, 4 soldiers attended All Arms Pre-Parachute Selection (AAPPS) held at Rocks Barracks, Woodbridge 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment. The AAPPS(S) took place at Okehampton Battle Camp from 3 - 14 Jan 22. Out of the 60 candidates, only 30 students successfully completed the course and earned their Maroon Beret; two of which were QGE from 70 Gurkha Field Squadron. A further 13 members of the Squadron have successfully passed the 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment Screening and are onto the next phase, we wish them good luck.

75 Trg Party Trade selection

This year, Induction and Trade Selection Training Programme was conducted by 70 Squadron and was overseen by RHQ QGE over the period 06 - 18 Dec 21 at 3 RSME, Minley. After the completion of nine months of Basic Combat Infantry Course at Gurkha Company - ITC Catterick, 52 new Sappers joined the Queen's Gurkha Engineers. The trainees then attended a 2-week Induction and Trade Selection Training Programme, The Sappers went through a series of academic, IQ, and physical assessments. At the end of the programme, based on their performance, they were allocated a suitable trade.

Re-subordination to 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment Defences Integrated Review and the news this brought to the Squadron, that 70 Gurkha Field Squadron would change to 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron and form part of 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team (BCT) from the 1 April 2022. This news was welcomed for the exciting opportunities it would offer but did bring some uncertainty surrounding the relocation of the Squadron to Rock Barrack in Woodbridge. Currently planned for 2025 the Squadron will remain at Invicta Park Barracks for the short term.

With the changeover fast approaching, the Squadron began to plan and implement its transition. Sending service personnel on P Coy and planning future air manoeuvre training, many working groups followed to aid the smooth transition and discuss how living detached from the Regiment would work, and how best to mark this historical occasion. It was decided that the Squadron would join with 75 Trg Party attestation



Colonel of the Regiment presenting maroon beret to Capt Khelendra Gurung (Ops Offr)

parade at IPB on 1 April 2022. With credit to SSgt Jas planning and many drill practices, the parade went swimmingly well with the iconic maroon beret being handed to our SP by Brigadier J L Clark CBE (Col QGE) and both COs, and with the changeover flags marked the occasion in the fashion it deserved; all be it during a very cold snow blizzard. The day was finished with great variety of traditional Nepali lunch and the Squadron then celebrating its 48th birthday by having a welcomed social in the evening, with fine messing and entertainment.

Adventurous Training /Sport

The Squadron continues to have a fine representation across Sport and Adventurous Training. Representing at all levels, Army, Corps and Regimental. Spr Luca walking straight into the Corps rugby union team and earning his Corps colours during his first year in the Field Army. Spr Long representing both Army and Corps in Swimming and water polo. SSgt Jas Rai represented both Army and Corps in badminton. Finally, Lt Price Mem Saheb has represented the Corps at Sailing and Polo. Cpl Topjang Rai continues to represent the Army team cross country mountain bike, while Cpl Victor Fombo has been selected for Corps enduro team this year. Many of the Squadron have also consistently been representing the Regt on Army MTB X country series.

Beside the construction projects in Cyprus, personnel from 70 Squadron took part in various adventurous training such as Mountain biking, Hill Walking, Rock Climbing, Scuba Diving, Water Ski and Basic Parachute Foundation course etc. This provided personnel the opportunity to take part in multiple activities and expand their experience and push themselves out of their comfort zone throughout the deployment.

The Squadron's sporting prowess was also showcased at the inter Squadron sports competition where 70

Squadron won the event. This was later reinforced by the Regimental Doko Race performance. The event organised by Cpl Satish was a gruelling 5Km loop around IPB with a 20Kg Doko. The Squadron proudly took 5 of 9 podium positions, with particular noteworthy performances from Spr Niraj Koucha (overall winner) and Capt Collins and Sgt Nagesh wining their age group.

Education

In between construction and green activities there has been a remarkable amount of personal development. This year has seen many QGE SP embrace further education, with 16 personnel completing GCSE level courses, 6 personnel are in the progress of or completed Open University courses including BA Hons Degree's and MBA's. The Squadron has a continuous flow of applicants for the Clerk of Works course with LCpl Nirpesh being successful this year.

Environmental

The Squadron has taken the environmental lead within IPB with SSM Eka Rai taking the helm. Some 10 initiatives of various scale have helped increase the Regiments sustainability. Construction of a camp vegetable garden has been completed by the sports pitches and will be maintained by families and the welfare team; hopefully seeing some high yield. Combined with this a compost production has been installed and uses shredded papers from subunits to feed the much-needed compost for the vegetable garden growth. Insect hotel construction has been completed, laid in various location around camp. Plans are also underway for a recreational pond and a £20K grant from Southeast Water should improve water efficiency and water saving. These initiatives have been enhanced by numerous environmental education visits, which have included RAF Maharam, a self-sustainable infrastructure with Zero carbon emission, UK's first Eco Village in Bicester.

Community Engagement and Charity

Meet the Army Day

Under SSgt Dekraj the Squadron organised the Meet the Army Day for 120 -140 school students aged 14 - 16 years in IPB. Meet the Army is a part of the Community Engagement (CE) programme. It seeks to raise awareness and understanding of the Armed Forces and signpost individuals towards career opportunities that can be further exploited by the recruiting groups. This one-day event was executed in an engaging environment following a challenging period due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a total of 8 stands including Cbt Engr, trade artisan, REME mechanics, Pair F&M and RLC chefs. The event was delivered with a typical day to day experience of a soldier in the unit in an interactive and activity-based environment and gave children a flavour of military life, showcasing the many different roles available within the unit from multiple cap badges.

This year the Squadron members have organised numerous charity and community events for various noble causes. A team led by WO2 (SSM) Eka Rai completed 150mile cycle race with veterans for RBLI in Jul 21. The team started their race from Aylesford (Kent) to Manchester with veterans raising total of £600. Whilst deployed on Ex PINESTICK the Squadron members organised four gruelling challenges which pleasingly saw members of British Forces Cyprus also take part.

The events were:

- Running the distance from Cyprus to UK, 3,589km as a collective subunit accumulated over the deployment.
- Running around the perimeter of Cyprus, 648km. Over 23 - 27 Nov 21 Troops accumulated the distance over a collective half marathon.
- A team running 11km each day from 1st to 11 Nov 21; marking remembrance.
- Sea to Summit Tyre Flip 18 Nov 21. Teams flipping a tyre the height of Everest.

Throughout the deployment a total of £1658 was raised to support Gurkha Veterans who suffered from COVID-19 back in homeland, Nepal.

Operational and Support to Exercises

The Squadron continue to support current operations around the world and has held itself at various levels of readiness to react to a range of possible taskings. The below provides a snapshot of the activities:

Op TURUS - Combat Engineering Short Term Training Team (STTT) deployment to Chad. Teaching groups of 20 students on a 9-week deployment from Cameroon, Chad and Nigerian on field engineering foundation, counter-mobility, survivability, and demolitions. The training is then finished with a final exercise phase to fully test the students. The STTT has been fully tested in their instructor ability with the use of interpreters translating their lessons as they teach.

Op ESCLAIN - The fuel shortages and panic buying across the UK in Nov 21 resulted in OP ESCALIN being activated to support UK distribution of fuel to garage forecourts across the UK. After months of training at Defence School of transport and a work placement with a fuel haulage company Spr Prakash Rai deployed for a month to support this operation.

Op ROCKSTAFF (Poland) - Clerk of Works (Construction) deployment to Poland attached to 26 Field Squadron 32 Engineer Regiment (MCF). Overseeing the construction of Timber elevated Observation Posts (OP) for the Polish Border Unit. Several OP locations were proposed along the Polish/Belarusian (POL/BLR) borders which would provide better living conditions and field of view from which 200m of fence line can be observed with better depth. Clk Wks was responsible for design and quality assurance and aid MCF in the build process. The OP components were prefabricated from an off-site location and delivered onto site where the OP construction was completed. The prefabrication process saved time and provided better quality product.

Support to Op NEWCOME, SHADER and TOSCA pre deployment exercises - Spr Atkinson deployed short notice to support the Op NEWCOME MRX as a forklift operator, the MRX has been based out of Salisbury and Thetford. Teams also delivered valuable support to both Op SHADER and TOSCA FTX.

In addition to these activities the Squadron has concurrently had a consistent drumbeat of personnel held a Very High Readiness. At 12hrs to 24 hours' notice to move for numerous global contingency operations. Op TEMPERER (UK counter terrorist reaction), Op VENTUS (humanitarian assistance disaster relief in the Caribbean) and finally UK resilience's readiness for anything that may threaten UK homeland.

Collective and individual training

This year the Squadron continued to generate interesting and relevant training to ensure collective training requirements are achieved. A demolition package organised by Cpl Ganga and Sgt Nagesh at Salisbury plane training area, offered a progressive package that refreshed many of the Squadron on this vital skill. This was followed shortly by a Squadron Operational shooting competition organised by Cpl Sangum. The competition was held down on Hythe ranges, it offered a range of technical rifle and pistol shots and culminated in a march and shoot. Congratulations to Spr Amir who was crowned top shot. The annual bridging exercise took place on 7 - 11 Feb 22 in Wkye Regis, Weymouth. The aim of the exercise was to achieve competency and hit training objectives for mobility and watermanship with revision on aerial ropeway. The exercise began with the construction of a Medium Girder Over Bridge (MGOB), leading to construction of a 12 Bay Double Storey Medium Girder Bridge. At the end of the exercise, a best combat Spr

competition was held, testing the knowledge of JNCOs and Sprs; tested on three areas: military knowledge, knots and lashings and naming parts of both non-equipment bridge and equipment bridging. Spr Bharat Gurung (intake 19) won the competition.

Summary and looking forward

The Squadron remains in fine form, having continued to contribute to Defences outputs. The vast range of activities that the Squadron and their families support with such enthusiasm humbles me daily. As we look forward, the future remains uncertain to which the Squadron are comfortable and ready, our new role in 16 BCT will pose challenges and fantastic opportunity for those members of the subunit. 70 Squadron is no stranger to rerolling, and I can say with some confidence that the blend of Gurkha and Airborne ethos will be an extremely potent mix. It will also be to the betterment of the QGE by the variety of opportunities and the broadening of the QGE's skill set to now include high readiness air manoeuvre and para. The members of the Squadron are agile and adaptable, and I am confident the focus on culture, tradition, Kaida and identity will see this transition a success for the future.

I depart command summer 2022 and it has been an exceptional honour to have commanded such motivated, proud and humble people. Dheri Dhanyhabad.

Baliyo rahanuhos ani Ad Unum Omnes

Jai QGE, Jai 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron!

QGE Element within 37 Fd Sqn, 32 Engr Regt - QGE Update

By Maj AP Caulfield RE, OC 37 Fd Sqn

QGE seamlessly integrate in 32 Engineer Regiment but due to the Integrated Review (IR) they are unfortunately not expected to stay on mass beyond 2023.

As Officer Commanding of the only hybrid Squadron (QGE/RE) in the Corps of Engineers, it has been a great privilege for me to witness first-hand how professional and versatile, members of the QGE are. I can honestly say that my predominately UKTAP Squadron and more broadly 32 Engr Regt have benefited from QGE presence. Since arriving, in Sep 21 the Squadron has been extremely busy, gearing towards a four-month deployment in the Land Regional Hub (Africa) and Battlegroup Collective Training (CT) validation alongside 1 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment (1PWRR). Our time in Kenya was a monumental success with tasks ranging from an arduous 3-week exercise to various community engagement projects. From an OC's perspective I wish to thank specifically my SSM WO2 Jayandra Garbuja QGE for his pragmatic, always timely advice and his fierce determination to make the Squadron as good as it possibly can be.



Members of SHQ 37 welcomed the new QGE members

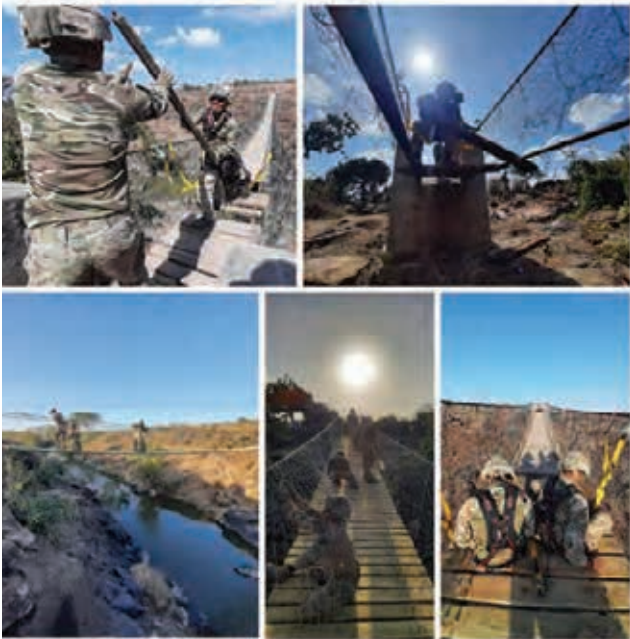
QGE Birthday Celebration (28 Sep 21) - A small number of QGE personnel celebrated the QGE's birthday under the direction of SSM, the ceremony was led by Cpl Gyan Thapa.

Dashain and Tihar Celebration (14 Oct 21) - Due to the Covid-19 restrictions it was a difficult and challenging task to organise this year's social events. However, recognising the importance of traditional Nepali festivals, we were given the opportunity to do so. Dashain was celebrated in a small-scale event with the families in a local community centre led by Cpl Gyan and LCpl Sahadev under the direction of WO2 (SSM) Jayandra Garbuja. It was a highly enjoyable affair and helped to bring together the QGE personnel after a long hiatus created by Covid-19.

Later, and with greater freedoms, Tihar was celebrated with families at Marne Bks with invites sent out to all our British counterparts from the Regiment. It started with an introductory speech from Maj Caulfield followed by the Regt QM and SSgt Basanta. Overall, Tihar was a wonderful night that helped to bring together Gurkha and British culture and helped to frame the character of the Gurkha community for the British through shared cultural experience.

Trailwalker 2021 & Charity Curry Lunch - In late 2021, SSgt Basanta led a team (Rab Elija) from 32 Engr Regt and participated in Trail walker 21. The team consisted of Maj Caulfield, Cpl Champak, Spr Tularaj and Cpl Ward from 37 Fd Sqn. The team performed excellently, finishing in 14 hours and 30 minutes, coming 20th overall. On top of that they successfully raised £1,100 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT) and Oxfam. Back at Marne Barracks, Cpl Gyan and his team worked hard to organise a Regimental Gurkha Curry Lunch by coordinating with local families to provide an excellent meal for the Regiment. They were able to raise £600 for the Regimental Trailwalker Team which went towards financing food and kit to complete the challenge. Overall, a highly successful phase for QGE at 32 Engr Regt.

Ex NODDY RUN and Ex ASKARI STORM - Ex NODDY RUN was a Squadron build up exercise that was held at Gibraltar Barracks Training area for a week. It was a great opportunity to work together as a Squadron and to hone our Military Engineering Skills on Mobility, Counter Mobility and Survivability in preparation for Ex ASKARI STORM. This exercise gave huge confidence to Squadron personnel prior to deploying on Ex ASKARI



Suspension bridge refurbishment - Community engagement in Kenya

STORM. 37 Fd Sqn deployed on Ex ASKARI STORM for 3 months with 1 PWRR battlegroup. Troops were given great opportunities to participate on AT packages and carry out community engagement tasks in various rural areas of Kenya. Community engagement provided a huge sense of achievement after the handover of completed projects to the community, which ranged from bridge construction to building refurbishment. The community were very pleased and praised the work ethic of all those involved. After the completion of AT and community engagement our focus was on the main exercise. During the 3 weeks exercise we conducted various engineering tasks which tested our combat engineering skills and resilience. The 3-week exercise was very successful and some QGE personnel were awarded coins by the Battlegroup Commander for their significant contribution.

Awards and achievements

7 Brigade Commander Coin

Capt Bikash Shrestha

Soldiers' soldier award ALDP MT

LCpl Shubham Gurung

Sports

Cross Country North League, first place due to immense contribution by QGE Sprs in the Sqn

1 PWRR Battlegroup Commander Coin

LCpl Shubham Gurung, LCpl Surendra Ghale, Spr Bhupendra Budha, Spr Sabin Pun, Spr Bharat Rai

50 HQ & SP SQN - QGE Update

By Cpl Deviram Rai

Diversity and Inclusion are a vital aspect of any workplace, not only are they important for the well-being of service personnel (SP) but also for the benefit of the organisation. 50 HQ & Sp Sqn is the most diverse Sqn within 36 Engineer Regiment and the Queen's Gurkha Engineers where you can find SP with various cultural backgrounds working shoulder to shoulder in harmony. This is what makes 50 HQ & Sp Sqn a unique and successful Squadron.



50 HQ & Sp Sqn on Ex IRON VIPER

QGE detachment within the Squadron is predominantly employed within the DCT or Support Troops, and the Regimental Logistics Node. Although an RE Squadron, there is no department where QGE Sappers are not involved. Out of many achievements of the Squadron, the following are the highlighted events where QGE SPs within the Squadron were heavily involved in:

Exercises

Ex IRON VIPER and Ex INVICTA COMMUNICATOR

Ex IRON VIPER - A 101 Logistic Brigade Training Level FOXTROT exercise validating logistic support to 3 (UK) Division in a warfighting scenario. The exercise simulated the mounting of the Logistic Brigade from the UK to a foreign theatre, then providing support to 3 (UK) Division in a War Fighting intervention in support of an allied nation under threat.

Ex INVICTA COMMUNICATOR - A Regimental DCT based Communication Exercise in a subterranean environment. The main aim of the exercise was to test and trial the current Bowman communication kit in the Army in a subterranean environment.

Community Engagement and Charity Events

Queen's Green Canopy (QGC)

Under the direction of HQBG and RHQ QGE, and to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, on



Queen's Green Canopy - RHQ QGE



Cpl Nirajan Budathoki planting a tree during his deployment to Kenya

Saturday 12 March 2022, a team of 12 SP from 50 HQ and Sp Sqn, 36 Engineer Regiment and the Queen's Gurkha Engineers took part in a community engagement tree plantation programme at Young Peoples' Forest associated with the Woodland Trust Foundation in Derbyshire. A further 2 more trees (Magnolia) were planted in IPB in the presence of the Commandant QGE Lt Col Mark Hendry MBE and the Gurkha Major Kamal Bahadur Khapung Limbu MVO on 21 March 2022 making a total of 638 plants for the Regiment's account of trees planted to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Using the QGC as a platform the Gurkhas within the Sqn organised a charity event called the "Himalayan Brew Service" to raise donations for the Woodland Trust and the Gurkha veterans impacted by COVID-19 in Nepal.

Overseas Deployment

Cpl Nirajan Budathoki deployed to Kenya as a Temporary Deployment Staff (TDS). During his 6 months tenure he organised a tree plantation where he managed to plant 1000 trees in a foothill of Mt. Kenya. He has also managed to receive the Chief Royal Engineers' commendation for selfless support to the Forces community and others in the UK and abroad.

LCpl Anup from Sp Tp was also deployed as an acting MT Cpl within the BATUK RE Support Team (REST) where he provided an outstanding contribution, organising two mess functions and two charity events in a very short period of time. During his seven months tour he was awarded BATUK commander's coin for his excellent work. Cpl Birendra was attached with 69 Gurkha Field Sqn and deployed to Ex RATTLE SNAKE (USA) as a BGE G6 advisor.

Although a small team, the Gurkhas within 50 HQ and Sp Sqn have achieved and delivered a lot this year. Working alongside their RE counterparts is an opportunity that not every QGE SP will get to experience. The opportunity to understand, share and embrace various culture and traditions amongst ourselves can only broaden our knowledge and power of Diversity and Inclusivity.

Jai QGE

ITC Catterick - QGE Update

By Capt Ram Kumar Rai, 3 Platoon Commander



'It's not what you teach, it's what they learn that counts' is what I firmly believed during my tenure as 3 Platoon Commander in Gurkha Company. I have had a remarkable 2 years. My responsibilities include planning, implementation and conduct of all training for a platoon of recruits. Sadly, I am handing over this rewarding job to Capt Prem Jabegu before my family and I move to Kent where I will assume the role of an Operations Officer of the newly resubordinated 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron, in June 2022.

Gurkha Company uses Combat Infantryman Course (Gurkha) (CIC(G)) to train and mould selected Nepali youths into Gurkha Soldiers of the British Army. CIC(G) is a 37-week standard Line Infantry course augmented with several Gurkha-specific training serials including English, Close Quarter Combat and cultural orientation. We are fortunate to have a diverse team of professional staff who care passionately about the delivery of world class infantry training and the provision of highly trained Gurkha soldiers to the British Army. We must ensure we uphold the highest standard for our recruits, ensuring that they have learnt what has been taught through assessment and that we send highly trained soldiers to the Brigade of Gurkhas units.



Gurkha Company QGE personnel L-R, Cpl Gaurav Tamang, Cpl Dhan Ghale, Capt Ram Rai, WO2 (QMSI) Akash Tamang, Sgt Bhupendra Rai, Cpl Rajendra Rai & Cpl Laonya Limbu

CIC(G) 21 Rollout

Training co-ordinator WO2 Akash Tamang carefully managed the Roll out of CIC(G) 21 which has evolved significantly from CIC(G) 18 with increased focus on content, resources, delivery and programming. Gurkha Coy Recruit Intake (RI) 22 is the first intake to undertake CIC(G) 21 in 2ITB (Infantry Training Battalion). This is a 37-week long course, split between Basic Training and Initial Trade Training (ITT).

Basic Training Phase: Values and Standards, Junior Leadership and Mental Resilience Training are the three core golden threads of the CIC 21 Basic Training Phase.

ITT Phase: Infantry weapons lesson and ranges are at the fore of the training. Urban & Patrol Exercises are blended into one extended exercise. GPMG LFMT has been moved into a Gun Camp to focus on marksmanship. Lastly, defence exercise has been re-formatted to enable maximum Training Objectives (TOs). All of this together provides an optimal learning opportunity to trainees.

Sek Kong Rejuvenation Project

Cpl Gaurav has gone above and beyond his responsibilities as a Section Commander to improve Gurkha Coy permanent staff and recruit welfare facility. As the project lead, Cpl Gaurav renovated an unused bar room in Gurkha Coy to a beautiful welfare facility whilst he was undertaking a number of other additional responsibilities including the preparation leading up to the Passing Out Parade. His ability to handle multiple tasks and effectively plan, design, resource and build was evident as the project progressed and as the final finished welfare facility was witnessed. Cpl Gaurav and his team's professionalism, dedication, diligence, devotion and selfless commitment was highly commendable, and was recognised by the award, SCHINF Comd's Coin.

Senior Instructor PTI

Cpl Dahn Ghale is currently employed as a Gurkha SI PTI and his primary responsibility is to assist Training Co-ordinator WO2 Akash Tamang in planning CIC(G) Physical Development (PD) program. Additionally, he is responsible for advising OC Gurkha Coy on PD policy and delivery of PD training to Gurkha recruits. He is also responsible for the collection, analysis and assessment of physical training data. He helps to identify training trends and to produce visual evidence of physical assessments on physical training standards, in liaison with the validation cell.

Commando Speed March

Cpl Rajendra Rai and Cpl Laonya Limbu from QGE plus 5 other members of Gurkha Coy ITC Catterick participated in the Commando Speed March and raised a hefty amount of money for multiple charity organisations. They were all praised for an exceptional display of endurance, resilience and selfless commitment. The Commando Speed March is an annual charity event and this year it was held on 5 Mar 22 in the Scottish Highlands. It consists of carrying 36 lbs over 7 miles in less than 60 minutes. The route follows the original World War Two Commando Speed March route between Spean Bridge railway station and Achnacarry House.

Army Trainer Mentor (ATM)

Sgt Bhupendra Rai is the Army Trainer Mentor lead for Gurkha Coy. He supports training teams by assessing and observing their lessons, contributing to instructional competency and professional development. This provides assurance support to both Gurkha Coy and Battalion Headquarters during OFSTED and other external assurance checks. On arrival at ITC Catterick, instructors are required to complete Defence Trainer Portfolio (DTP) with support and guidance from qualified ATM. Completing DTP is an essential

part of instructional and professional development. All instructors within ITC receive Defence Trainer Level 1 (Foundation) JPA competency on completion of the observation of all 4 lessons. On completion of DTP, all instructors gain Defence Trainer Level 2 (Practitioner) JPA competency.

3 RSME - QGE Update

By Spr Choules, Curragh Tp 55 Trg Sqn

On the 2nd of January 2022, 48 Sappers paraded for the first time as Curragh Troop. Looking to the left and right, it was easy to tell that this B2 course would be unlike any other. With a mixture of reverse pipelined British Sappers mixed into the mostly QGE (Queen's Gurkha Engineers) cohort, it was obvious to spot the cultural differences and camaraderie that had already been formed beforehand. However, despite these differences it would only help to make the Troop stronger in the long run, especially when things get tough.

The first couple of days were purely admin, but room inspections were already in full swing, with the QGE Sappers already showing their reputation of being hard workers and implementing their 'Kaida' into everything they do. For the British troops this was an eye opener to see this level of effort being put into the simplest of tasks and definitely elevated the standard of the British cohort. The thing that stuck with me the most was the shine on the QGE Sappers' shoes, it was immaculate but to the training team it still wasn't quite good enough! This showed that even when something appears to be perfect it definitely isn't and that's a good thing as it means there is still room to grow and improve. This also taught me that 110% effort must be put into everything, from the No2 shoes to your rifles, because if one thing isn't up to standard then it renders everything else, regardless of how good it is - null and void.



Curragh Troop

After a few days of admin and room inspections it was time for the real combat engineering work to begin, with everyone being put into mixed sections to create sound cohesion and integration through the whole Troop. The first stage of training was preparation which involved identifying demolitions, hand tools, lifting tackle, knots and lashings, and mine-warfare equipment. This stage set the tone as it would have us all within our sections which greatly increased our capacity to work as a team and helped to create bonds that would last throughout the course and beyond.

"If a man says he is not afraid of dying, he is either lying or is a Gurkha." - Field Marshall Sam Manekshaw
The next stage started to see a slight increase in the physical side of training with PT going up a level and our tasks during lessons getting more and more technical. This stage was counter-mobility and involved fencing, preliminary demolitions, confidence charges, reserve demolitions, standard and non-standard obstacles, trenching and houses in defence. During this stage we were able to get hands-on real demolitions to help build our confidence with using explosives so that we don't panic when using them throughout our career.

After this stage we now moved onto the final section stage, which is called section mobility. This mainly involved bridging but meant that we now had to learn how to make the bridges that sappers are famed for such as NEB (Non-Equipment Bridging), HGOB (Heavy Girder Over Bridge), MGOB (Medium Girder Over Bridge), 5 Bay MGB and IAB (Infantry Assault Bridge), we also covered obstacle breaching as well. This stage was incredibly physically challenging because of the heavy lifting with all the bridging parts. But seeing that finished bridge after all that toil and struggle, made all the aches and pains worth it, truly giving us all a huge sense of accomplishment. This only compounded with each bridge we built, especially when considering that this work is what sets the Engineers above all others.

We next moved into the Troop mobility stage which was the first time we had been able to work as a full Troop during tasks. This only further increased the cohesion throughout the whole Troop. This stage involved the biggest bridges which the engineers build by hand such as 5 bay LSB (Logistic Support Bridge) and the 12 Bay MGB (Medium Girder Bridge). These bridges, especially the 12 bay MGB, increased the physical pressure on our bodies with the amount of overhead pressing needed to help get the top panels onto the bridge.

Our final phase of Troop mobility was the watermanship part, this was my favourite aspect of the course as the whole time we were out on the water doing beach assaults, overboard drills and just getting confident with driving the MK6 Assault Boats. I never once felt like I was working - it honestly felt like I was enjoying my hobby and I couldn't help but feel privileged to be in a job that I felt so much joy doing.

Our concluding phases before our final exercise were survivability and signals, these phases I found less engaging as the previous phases. But it was interesting to see how the Engineers can bring fresh drinking water to pretty much anywhere in the world under any conditions. I guess that's why our motto is "Ubique."

Finally, it was time for the week that the whole course had been building towards the final exercise. The final hurdle and confidence test on everything that we had been taught before we could earn the famous stable belt and be able to wear the flashes, to allow us to stand side by side with the rest of the Corps. We knew this would be a tough week and would require everyone to work together, the days were long, the tasks were challenging both physically and mentally, combined with minimal sleep. Every TAB felt a little longer, everyone had to dig a little deeper and find that extra grit to stay strong and be a vital link in the chain that is Curragh Troop. It was an honour to be side by side with everyone on this course and not once during the exercise did I ever feel let down by anyone or feel like someone wasn't pulling their weight, it seemed that when the going got tough, the tough got going and I'm proud to say that all 48 who started the course made it to the last day of exercise.

Now came D-day, the day we had all worked so hard to get to, the final extraction, the very last obstacle to breach before being able to even hold that stable belt. It started with a Troop attack, which was incredibly thrilling, and we executed the best attack I had ever been a part of during my fledgling Army career. Next came the explosions and the fateful words "man down!" Now the final nails were being hammered in: it started with a mass casualty extraction, quickly followed by an equipment carry, which led us all the way to Hawley Lake, where we then mounted into the boats and paddled across the lake with our jungle hats on feeling far more "ally" than we deserved but loving every second of it. We dismounted and started building bridges; one being the MGOB and the other being the IAB. Once completed, we were then attacked one final time by our pursuing OPFOR, once again we had another CASEVAC. This time it was the final one, not that any of us knew it. For at the end, we ran into the front gates of Hawley Lake and awaiting us were our CoC, the Officer Commanding 55 Trg Sqn and the Commanding Officer of 3 RSME Regt, ready with our stable belts. We had made it and had finally earned the privilege to wear them.

In conclusion, anybody outside of the military could be forgiven for thinking that this course could've gone wrong with the clashing of cultures between the Brits and the Gurkhas. Two completely different cultures, forced together in adversity, but the reality is this only made us a stronger Troop and helped to broaden the horizons of every individual who had the honour of being a part of it. The PT was challenging but the

section competitions during our green physical sessions made it so much more achievable and rewarding. The differences in language helped to create extra banter between the group and I can honestly say I have made some lifelong friends with people who live half the world away from me, something only the Army can truly give you. Lastly the feeling of being able to wear that famous Sapper stable belt is a feeling like no other, and one that I will never forget, we as Curragh troop are now forever forged into the brotherhood of Engineers, HUURAH FOR THE CRE!

1 RSME - QGE Update

By Capt Prithi Chhantyal QGE, Tp Comd

As I embark on the second year of my Troop Commander tenure at 1 RSME, it gives me a great pleasure in reflecting remarkable achievements and all-round good work by QGE personnel across a broad spectrum of Regimental arena. Like the past years, the QGE brand continues to grow from strength to strength as our soldiers add tangible value to the operational output of the Regiment and wider Chatham Station.

Currently there are 9 x QGE personnel serving in 1 RSME, an increase of 3 from the previous year. Sprs Abinash Gurung, Jesh Magar and Subash Chand have joined the Regiment holdover Troop. Their key responsibilities are to provide OPFOR and RLS support field exercises throughout the year. In addition, they carry out general duties in support of the Regiment's mission. After a brief yet exciting period in the Heating and Plumbing department, Sgt Bhupendra Gurung has moved on to Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn on promotion but has been replaced by very able Sgt Bal Budha Magar. Cpl Sagar Gurung has joined us from Brunei in exchange of Cpl Sachin Limbu who left after 2 very successful years in the Fabricator department. Cpl Ganesh Khatri has replaced Cpl Jit Thapa as the boat instructor in Durrant Troop and he is responsible for conducting All Arms Boat and Water Safety course. Sgt Rashon Gurung continues as the 24 Training Sqn Ops SNCO, responsible for delivering G3/5 function. In the absence of Sqn Ops Offr, he works directly with the Regt Ops cell and Squadron Chain of Command. He conducts this role alongside his Gurkha Liaison Officer responsibilities. At the start of the year, I took over command of Neame Troop, the Regiment Holdover Troop which is at a rather exciting juncture. Traditionally, the Troop's responsibility was to provide administrative and duty of care support to the Holdover Trainees. In a recent restructure, my Troop is responsible for the delivery of 2 Major Corps outputs, End Point Assessment (EPA)¹ and LIVENS suite, Corp's centre of excellence for Additive Manufacturing (AdM).²

In the year 21/22, 51 x QGE Sappers successfully completed their class 2 trade training and 18 x

1 Once all apprenticeship requirements have been met, to complete, the apprentice must pass an independent End-Point Assessment (EPA).

2 AdM- Commonly known as 3d Printing and Scanning.



*Rear Row (L-R) - Spr Jesh Magar, Sgt Nishan Thakali, Sgt Rajkumar Limbu, Cpl Ganesh Chettri, Spr Abinash Gurung
Front Row (L-R) - Spr Subash Chand, Sgt Rashon Gurung, Capt Prithi Bahadur Chhantyal,
QGE, Cpl Sagar Gurung, Sgt Jit Bahadur*

QGE Sappers completed Class 1 training. With the introduction of FMVT (Fixed Mastery Variable Time) training delivery, Sappers complete the course at varying speed depending upon their ability. Vast majority of QGE trainees, complete the course ahead of the course average with high grades. Spr Mandir Rana (POM 0-2) and Spr Khajindra Gurung (Svy 0-2) secured top student on their respective courses³. Some trainees excel even further and produce some truly exceptional result. Spr Madan Limbu is one of them who was awarded the prestigious Premier Carpenter Award for his all-round outstanding performance throughout the course. Likewise, Spr Shree Chhantyal will be representing the QGE and the Corps in the regional heats of the WorldSkills⁴ competition for bricklaying.

In addition to fulfilling their primary role of providing duty of care and instructor support, QGE personnel make significant contribution in various other fields including sports, community engagement and charity work. 1 RSME Regiment football team, of which Cpl Arpan Gurung is a key player, were crowned the Southeast league champions for 2021. A keen badminton player and Regiment OIC for the Sport, Cpl Sagar Gurung and his team secured overall second position on the RE Badminton championships 2022. Subsequently, he along with Cpl Arpan represented the Corps in the Inter Corps championships. Sgt Rashon is the Regiment volleyball OIC and Cpl Ganesh has recently been appointed as the Captain of the Regiment volleyball team. Spr Abinash has been a real asset to the Regiment with his MTB leader qualification. In his capacity as the Regiment MTB 2IC,

he delivered an excellent 4-day MTB package capturing personnel from across the Regiment. In May 21, Spr Kiran Gurung, a key athlete made history by being part of the First Training Regiment team to win the Army Major Unit's Athletic competition.

On 28 Jul 21 whilst on his Electrician Class 1 course, Sapper Ujjwal Karki completed 1815 chin up challenge in 5 hrs and 1 min (target time was 6 hrs). He managed to raise £900 in support of the RBLI and the GWT. This was also his preparation for his planned 24 hrs chin up world record challenge.⁵ Furthermore, the Neame VC charity event was organised on 11 November 2021 by Spr Abinash Gurung in honour of the late Sir Philip Neame VC. His team successfully raised the sum of £400 completing 141 miles in 2 Hrs and 20 mins on four watt-bikes, all in support of RBLI. Both above events were conducted under careful guidance of Sgt Rashon.

Despite the gloomy backdrop of the Pandemic, past year has seen QGE soldiers delivering on all fronts. The adaptable, disciplined and highly motivated nature of QGE soldiers continue to endure in the face of adversity.

Balio Rahanu Hos! Jai QGE!

³ Majority of the trades do not disclose positioning.

⁴ WorldSkills is the apex of trade competitions with squads from over 50 countries competing in the finals.

⁵ The current world record is 5340.

British Forces Brunei - QGE Update

By Major Khadka Bahadur Gurung CMgr EngTech
PgDip QGE, SSO/SO2 G1 BFB

I am privileged and honoured to write QGE update about the British Forces Brunei (BFB) as the first QGE Officer employed within a QGE E1 PID. It gives me a great pleasure to announce SSO/SO2 G1 post has been firmly established and the conditions have been set for success for other QGE LE officers to be employed in the future.

Brunei still remains largely affected by COVID-19 but we are gradually experiencing the easing of COVID restrictions with international flights returning to routine schedules, shops, schools and NHS returning to normal operating hours and units and sub-units encouraged to plan battlefield study (BS) and other activities in Brunei or in the neighbouring countries. Service personnel were given the opportunity to travel to Nepal as the COVID restrictions started easing off. As the SSO/SO2 G1, I have a diverse team within BFB welfare team & Support Services, comprising of 26 personnel: military, civil servants and Locally Engaged Civilians (LEC). I am responsible for the delivery of support services to the BFB circa 2,000 including serving personnel, their dependants, and UK British Citizens (UKBC). BFB welfare team & Support Services is situated in Toker Lines and the team include Army Welfare Service (Personal Support and Community Support), HIVE Information Support Officer, SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association), Unit Welfare Centre led by UWO RIB, UWO GST, Post Office, Royal Military Police, ably supported by volunteers from the community. Additionally, I am responsible for 546 Service Families Accommodation (SFA) and four premises including welfare house in the Garrison. SFA allocation, renovation, redecoration, deep cleaning, March in and out is well supported by three Estate Wardens. Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Brunei maintains the estate; led by the Garrison Engineer (GE). WO1 (WSM) Ram Rai RE who works under the GE understands the need of the customer and as a direct result the delivery has changed significantly. In addition, I am responsible for RIB Unit Move (UM) 2022 and it has been my main effort due to its sheer size, complicated nature and its complexity. The first UM flight to UK is in June and by the end of summer 2022 both battalions of the Royal Gurkha Rifles will complete the UM.

Brunei Boat Section (BBS)

Since the last BBS QGE update, we have witnessed some churn within the BBS personalities. On completion of Assault Pioneer Sgt within IBS Brecon and on promotion, SSgt Sangharsha Rai took over the BBS helm from SSgt Deepak Rai. Thereafter, Cpl Finju Sherpa took over the responsibilities of Water Safety Equipment Maintainer from Cpl Raj Kumar Thapa in the same year. However, Cpl Sachin and Cpl Mahendra remained in the post for another year which is a great news in terms of continuity.



*Back Row: LEC Eddy Santana Hong, LEC Chin Kui Fook
Front Row: Cpl Sachin Limbu, Cpl Rajkumar Thapa,
SSgt Sangharsha Rai, Cpl Mahendra Anguhang,
Cpl Finju Sherpa*

As I write this update, BBS team is supporting JWD to deliver Jungle Warfare Instructor Course (JWIC). BFB supported the safe delivery of insertion, extraction and river rhine operations in Ulu Tutong training area for SF selection Jungle phase, Ex ATAP HURDLE. 'Small but Mighty' BBS team presented and displayed the capabilities of boats and boat section to the VVIP, as part of a routine capability brief. BBS members successfully gained exceptional result during the recent LEA inspection, largely due to their efforts, diligence and devotion. BBS constantly supported the delivery of high-profile visits including Deputy High Commissioner and DIO AMFE, Lt Col Dick Gale Saheb's visit. BBS has grown strength to strength and proved its versatility in the face of adversity. Its ability to strive for relentless pursuit of excellence, continuous improvement and its capacity to deliver result at every turn is recognised, praised and commended.

Life in Brunei has been exceptionally challenging because of the recent lockdown due to COVID-19. An additional QGE LE Officer employed in a QGE E1 PID as SSO/SO2G1 provides the top cover for BBS and our Service personnel have experienced a significant step change in the delivery of welfare and administration especially BBS's support to operations and exercises. Recent lockdown provided the opportunity to explore Brunei extensively which saw our service personnel and their families visiting Masjid Omar Ali Saifuddin and Kampong Ayer (water village). Additionally, island hopping on a boat where you can stop for snorkelling in its finest reefs, swimming in the clear water of Lugu Lake, kids' day out at the Jerudong Park and family hiking to Labi waterfall are few attractions BBS families have enjoyed. With the COVID restrictions easing off and the reopening of the borders, service personnel and their families are looking forward to visiting popular destinations within South Asia.

Jai QGE!



Cpl Sachin is operating HHRC during the Riverine Ops, JWIC 2201 Course

Infantry Battle School Brecon - QGE Update

By WO2 (QMSI) Yakthunghang Angbuhang QGE, Pl Comd APNR Pl

A remarkable year for Assault Pioneer Platoon (APNR Pl), Infantry Battle School (IBS) Brecon, filled with enormous challenges but equally presented with golden opportunities. Despite the global pandemic and strictly imposed COVID-19 restrictions, IBS has consistently delivered its world class training outputs. Due to the continuous training delivery at IBS, the APNR Pl has been extremely busy delivering distinctive engineering capabilities and assault pioneer support to all Training Divisions (Trg Divs) throughout the year. The multi capbadged APNR Pl comprises of eight Combat Engineers from QGE and eight Assault Pioneers from RGR, and they operate as a team under the Training Support Division (TSD). APNR Pl is responsible for providing primarily three critical training support output at IBS; Battle Noise Simulation (BATSIM), Field Defence and Wet Gap Crossing. In addition to the primary role, APNR Pl has gone that extra mile above and beyond their capacity and extensively delivered in a plethora of activities both Army and civilian and represented TSD and IBS.

Training Capability Support

Firstly, the APNR Pl is responsible for delivering the most demanding and vital training augmentation, BATSIM, to all tactical courses and Live Firing Tactical Training (LFTT) at IBS. The BATSIM effect is required to generate realism to all training environment which ultimately increases effectiveness of the training. The Demolition Conducting Officers (DCO) from QGE and RGR, support all Training Divisions and provide invaluable KSE and expertise. These exclusive and expedient KSE add significant value in the delivery of first class Infantry training at IBS throughout the year.

Secondly, the APNR Pl delivers field defence support mainly in 2 fronts; Teach defence lessons to all tactics students and deliver defensive position digging

capability. The sole Plant Operator at IBS, LCpl Amit Gurung has been instrumental to this delivery as he is the only qualified Plant Operator Mechanic. This capability enables more time for effective training and less time for digging defensive positions. In addition, APNR Pl refurbished the poorly managed trench system at SENTA and facilitated a safe sub-terrain training facility for IBS and other users.

Thirdly, since the IBS introduced Wet Gap Crossing training on tactical courses from 2020, the APNR Pl is responsible for the delivery of a safe training environment for all water crossing training at IBS. This year alone, APNR Pl safely conducted three successful Wet Gap Crossing serials for Junior Division, allowing students to practice river crossing drills during their complex terrain training. These serials also offered an excellent opportunity for QGE personnel to demonstrate key watermanship skills and knowledge.

Community Engagement

Despite strict COVID-19 restrictions, APNR Pl constructed an outdoor recreational area at Brecon High school as part of community engagement. The project was led by Sgt Sangharsa Rai (now SSgt) and due to his effective and professional liaison with various stakeholders the project was delivered to a very high standard. All students and teachers including the locals were hugely appreciative of the support provided by APNR Pl and IBS. Similarly, all the members of TSD and IBS recognised the hard work, diligence, devotion and more notably the unique engineering capability and niche skills of APNR Pl. Simultaneously, the project provided a huge opportunity to showcase QGE's ability to deliver the type of support military can provide to the civilian community. On completion, the project was inaugurated by the Commander 160th (Welsh) Brigade, Brig A P I Dawes CBE. The inauguration ceremony was attended by all staff and students from Brecon high school, Armed Forces Covenant staff and other vital public figures from the local town, Brecon including key personalities from TSD and IBS.



Community Engagement Task at Brecon High School

In-house Project

With a strong QGE work ethic, QGE tradesmen at IBS volunteered to undertake additional responsibilities and constructed a long awaited first messing cooking facility at IBS. Under the supervision of WO2 (QMSI) Yakthunghang Angbuhang QGE (project manager), the project was completed in five weeks, within a tight timeline. The project was delivered whilst the APNR PI delivered its primary role, providing training support to IBS. Sgt Gaurab Gurung, the project 2IC was responsible for purchasing construction material and managing all tradesmen to deliver this critical project within the restricted timeline. This messing cooking facility was desperately needed since a long time for Gurkha permanent staff, their families and students to maintain the moral and cultural aspects, ultimately contributing to the operational effectiveness and capability of the unit.

Additional activities

Notwithstanding the busy APNR routine, QGE personnel have participated in several significant military activities. More notably, Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL 2021 has been the main highlight. Sgt Gaurab Gurung as the Patrol Commander superbly led this challenging, tough and well renowned patrol and successfully secured the first ever gold medal for IBS. LCpl Amit Gurung from QGE was as a member of the patrol team. A huge congratulations for their efforts, hard work and professionalism. Meanwhile, WO2 (QMSI) Yakthunghang managed and led two teams on a gruelling challenge, Ex TRAIL WALKER 2021 that represented IBS. In addition, APNR PI has consistently been a critical asset to IBS and has contributed to numerous activities, such as organising bonfire night, Brecon freedom parade and providing additional workforce support to achieve IBS business efficiently.

Overall, an outstanding year for APNR PI with the members of APNR PI including members of QGE delivering effects, providing critical engineering support, leading high profile exercises and providing community support including leading and organising tough arduous physical events. APNR PI's unique strength and capability continues to play a key role and an integral part in the delivery of the world class infantry training within IBS. Jai QGE!

Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn - QGE Update

By WO2 (SSM) Prem Jabegu QGE, SSM HQ Sqn

The Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Support Battalion is a part of 1 (UK) Signal Brigade based in Imjin Barracks, Gloucestershire. On 5 July 2021, ARRC Support Battalion conducted its redesignation parade to Gurkha ARRC Support Battalion.

The Gurkha ARRC Support Battalion supports the UK led 3-star NATO High Readiness Force Headquarters. The Battalion comprises of two Sqns, 14 Sqn QOGLR and HQ Sqn. The Battalion is highly diverse due to its multi-cap badged environment. RLC and QOGLR provide the primary logistics capability. QGE and RGR provide combined intimate Force Protection and close combat support. Royal Engineers provide high scale power supply and heating to HQ ARRC during overseas NATO deployments. QGE have been an integral part of this unique Battalion over the last few years. Currently, there are 15 members of QGE serving in the Battalion, ranging from Quarter Master to a Section Sapper split between 14 Sqn QOGLR and HQ Sqn.

2021/2022 has been a unique and fantastic year for all the QGE Sappers in GARRC Sp Bn. During this demanding year, QGE Sappers have been heavily employed to support the Bn.

Ex STEADFAST LEDA 21

The Bn deployed on Ex STEADFAST LEDA 21 (STLE 21), a largescale command post exercise for HQ ARRC with over 1000 multinational troops. The STLE 21 exercise occurred in two different locations overseas. One group in Germany (600 pax) was led by HQ Sqn and another group in Poland (400 pax) was led by 14 Sqn QOGLR to provide Real Life Support to HQ ARRC. As Combat engineers and tradesmen, QGE Sappers were heavily involved to construct, sustain, execute and recover the Staff Working Environment (SWE) area. Specifically, the jobs included were the construction of defences wiring and provision of force protection for the NATO Equipment Rooms (NER), Class 1 & 2 SWE area and HQ ARRC. The versatility of Sappers proved to be an asset for the Bn while constructing catwire fence, improvised sangars, power distribution to exercising troops and additional combat engineering tasks to provide Real Life Support.

Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL 21

The Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn participated in the most demanding Patrol tests across the harsh Welsh landscape. The Bn conducted a Pre-Cambrian Patrol for the exercising members at Brecon in preparation for the exercise. LCpl Gobinda Rana Magar (QGE) was selected as a key patrol member and managed to secure a silver medal with a section of multiple cap badge. LCpl Santosh Tamang (QGE) led the Bn team with physical training for the competition.



The Ex CAMBRIAN-PATROL 21 -Team

Trail Walker 21

QGE Sappers LCpl Prabesh and LCpl Angshihang, participated and led the two teams of Gurkha ARRC Warriors Team A and B, representing GARRC Sp Bn. In addition, LCpl Prabesh and LCpl Angshi organised and led all physical aspects and admin for the training event. Both teams completed 100 km with decent timings.

Temple and Messing hut refurbishment

It has been yet another busy year for Sappers at GARRC Sp Bn. The Bn Temple Project was led by SSgt Bhupendra Gurung. The renovations of the Bn Temple Project commenced under Gurkha Major's close support and guidance. The key improvements of the Bn temple were the construction of new roofing, formworks, a 5m x 5m concrete pad, paintings and multiple minor tasks. It was an excellent opportunity for the tradesmen to engage and apply their trade skills, particularly Carpentry & Joinery (C&J), Building Structure and Finisher and Brick Layer trades. Along with QGE Sapper, assault pioneers from RGR were fully engaged during the project. In addition, the messing hut was renovated by constructing a new wash sink, a firewood hut, painting the shed and replacing

British Gurkhas Pokhara - QGE Update

By Capt Krishnakumar Pun QGE, Quartermaster

Recruitment- Recruit Intake (RI) 2022

I have experienced a full cycle of Gurkha recruitment process, from initial online registration to the regional and central selection, on taking over the role of Quartermaster (QM) BGP in Jul 21. Gurkha recruitment for the British Army and Gurkha Contingent Singapore Police Force (GCSPF) is the core mission of BGP. Despite administrative challenges faced due to the third wave of COVID-19 in Nepal, the determination, professionalism and discipline of the recruiting staff ensured mandated numbers were safely recruited in line with our mantra of Free, Fair and Transparent recruitment. Due to both the UK and Nepal COVID restrictions and guidelines only a small number of

Potential Recruits (PRs) were invited into the BGP daily to conduct required assessments. Local Party Palaces were hired and turned into a make-shift accommodation for Recruiting Staff and PRs. At the start of the central selection, more than 30 staffs were tested COVID positive hence enormous stress was experienced within the limited recruiting staff. However, the gradual easing of the pandemic as the selection progressed enabled a full-scale Attestation Parade for 218 recruits with their close families and dignitaries. A total of 6130 PRs registered for the British Army and 2419 PRs for GCSPF during RI22 recruitment process. After the regional selection, 420 PRs were called forward for British Army and 210 PRs for GCSPF of which 218 were selected in the British Army and 140 in the GCSPF.



The ubiquitous – Doko Race

Attestation Parade

Nepal was under very strict restrictions hence we were unable to invite Ex-QGE members into the BGP to celebrate 73rd QGE Birthday. Only those members working in GWT(N) and KAA were invited to the Kalikhola Mess and celebrated with BGP staff.

Since the start of COVID-19, Ex-QGE members were unable to socialize and integrate with BGP members for over two years. As the COVID restrictions eased towards the end of 2021, we celebrated and welcomed New Year 2022 with Ex-QGE members from Pokhara re-establishing vital link between serving personnel and veterans in Nepal. The event led by Maj (Retd) Hukumraj Thapa Saheb was hugely successful and welcomed by all. Those on leave and visiting from the UK also attended the event making it even more special and memorable.



Attestation Parade

BGP Sustainability Committee

Sgt Dibesh Lama founded the BGP Sustainability Committee in Aug 21. Since then, the committee has been committed to a sustainable procurement, waste management, environmental education, and movement towards a plastic-free camp. The end state; BGP on target to achieve MOD’s carbon net-zero strategy.

Recently, to commemorate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, the committee proposed to plant the Weeping Fig Tree to support the Queen’s Green Canopy. Col Comdt, Dep Col Comdt, Col BG, and Comd Sahebharu along with HMA completed the tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in her 70th year of service to the United Kingdom and Commonwealth.

Jai QGE !!!

Unit Welfare Department - QGE Families News

By WO2 Rojan Rai, Unit Welfare Warrant Officer



I am absolutely delighted, and proud to work as the Unit Welfare Warrant Officer. This job has given me the opportunity to learn about the skills required to support families and soldiers within 36 ER & QGE. All families face challenges as they move on assignments, not just with housing but also immigration including the impact on partners’ job, children schooling and accessing healthcare. Brigade Marriage Registration, Compassionate Procedures and family disputes are some of the supports I provide as UWWO. We highlight

any non-confidential problems to the chain of command at every level to make sure the families and single soldiers experiences and views are heard. Despite the pandemic, it’s a year to be thankful. Over the last year, the welfare team have made every effort to support and provide a comprehensive welfare service to the families as well as ensuring the youngest members of the service community were heard and recognised. Additionally, we managed to organise families’ activities in line with COVID-19 Government Guidelines. All Force Health Protection (FHP) procedures were implemented with formal risk assessments at all events. Following events were organised by unit welfare department:

Viswa Hindu Temple - Cultural Education

Early in the morning of Saturday 2 October 2021, QGE families went to Vishwa Hindu Mandir, as an educational and cultural visit in Southall. Once everyone arrived, they entered the Temple and conducted a religious Puja. Thereafter, everyone enjoyed a few hours visiting the surrounding area. Although the weather was not favourable, everyone made the most of the day enjoying the delicious Indian cuisine on offer and shopping for clothes and groceries. The main aim of the event was to support the integration of our families and children, promote diversity and inclusion through the religious understanding and learn about Nepali culture. All attendees explored the opportunity to be engaged as a whole community. This brought the families together, provided religious knowledge prior to Dashain, and enabled to respond positively to cultural differences.

Windsor Castle - Team Building

On Saturday 31 October 2021, the families, parents with children and even some visiting grandparents from Nepal had the opportunity to visit Windsor Castle to enhance their knowledge about British history and strengthen the relationship and bond between the families. We got there just in time to see the changing of the Guards. After half an hour we entered the Castle in groups of six. The Castle was built around 1070 and is the largest occupied castle in the world, offering an extraordinarily rich and varied day out. Throughout its history, the Castle has



The ubiquitous - Doko Race

been redecorated, enlarged, and rebuilt. It is open to visitors throughout the year and was founded by William the Conqueror, within 2-years of his victory against the Saxon King, Harold II at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. It has since been the home to 39 monarchs. Exploring Windsor Castle was extremely interesting. It was so much bigger than we were expecting, and the state rooms and all the collectables were stunning. We particularly enjoyed the free audio guide provided throughout.

Oxford Street London - Cultural Orientation

Organised by the Welfare Team and sponsored by the GM QGE Maj Kamal Khapung limbu MVO, the Service Families of 36 ER & QGE received a marvellous opportunity with a visit to London on Saturday 4 December 2021. Unlike other visits, it was especially designed for ladies only. The objective of the visit was to learn attitudes, behaviours, beliefs, lifestyle, dress, culture, language and other identifiable attributes of London. Also, to spend time together as 36 ER & QGE service family’s team, away from home life, and to indulge in some much-deserved retail therapy!

Partners’ Function

The Partners’ Function was organised to mark a long-standing regimental tradition, on Fri 10th December 2021 in the WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess. Due to the pandemic, this was the first partners’ function since 2018. It gave us an opportunity to thank wives and partners of our service personnel for putting up with all the upheaval that military life brought throughout the year and taking the lead in helping the family adjust to new realities and challenges. This included serving drinks and food by senior personnel (QM, RSM, SSMs, and SNCOs) in mess dress, to make the evening special. The catering team provided a first-class menu, and all the guests were very impressed by both the quality of the food, drinks, entertainment, and the service delivered throughout the evening. The event was a great success and there was a lot of positive feedback from the guests regarding the venue, staff and food.

Pearl Island Cup - Badminton Tournament

A regular annual sporting event, The Pearl Island Cup 22 Badminton Competition took place at the Unit Gymnasium on Saturday 23 April 2022. The families and children of 36 ER & QGE gathered and took part. This healthy competition helped to increase the participants general well-being, raised awareness and felt good to get back to a more normal lifestyle. The competition was divided into three different categories: Singles, Doubles and U16s. The Women’s Singles final was very competitive, with some excellent play, skills and endurance. The event trophies were presented by Mrs Sarah Hendry (W/O Comdt QGE) and Mrs Paru Sonyok (W/O GM QGE) to the following players:

Singles:

- Winner - Mrs Aliza Ale Limbu. W/O Cpl Victor Fumbo Limbu
- Runner-up - Mrs Rebecca Limbu. W/O SSgt Joseph Subba

Doubles:

- Winner - Mrs Rebecca Limbu. W/O SSgt Joseph Subba
- Runner-up - Mrs Aruna Limbu. W/O Cpl Roshan Rai

U16s:

- Winner - Mr Nirik Limbu. Son of Capt Nareshkumar Limbu
- Runner-up - Ms Saraya Rai. Daughter of SSgt Jasbahadur Rai



QGE Pearl Island Team and supporters



Partners Function

Big Gurkha Curry - Charity Event

Big Gurkha Curry, charity event was organised by welfare department at Junior Ranks Cookhouse to support Gurkha Veterans impacted by COVID-19 in Nepal. SPs and their families gave generously for a great cause. We managed to raise a total of £740. This donation will be greatly received by many Gurkha veterans impacted by COVID-19 in Nepal.

Regimental Sport News

By WO2 (QMSI) Ganesh Rana Magar, QMSI FE

COVID-19 Pandemic changed everything and immensely impacted our daily routine and lifestyle for the last two years including sports, as we are all aware. This year, better and greater achievements were recorded for the Queen`s Gurkha Engineers (QGE) compared to the previous year. Although every event had to be planned under COVID Force Health Protection Measure (FHPM), with additional control measures the Brigade of Gurkhas (BG) and QGE annual events such as Nepal Cup, Trailwalker and Intake Rising Cup were delivered within the guidelines of FHPM. Regardless of great passion and desire for competitions, QGE sportsmen had to adapt and took every opportunity to represent their unit in the Army and Tri-Service platform.

Athletics

Athletics and Cross-country events have been fruitful for QGE Sappers and they have continued to thrive this year. Spr Kiran Gurung represented 1 RSME and was crowned the winner of the Men`s 4 x 400m relay and Men`s 400m Hurdles during the Army Inter-Unit Athletics Championship 2021. In addition, 36 Engineers Regiment and the Queen`s Gurkha Engineers Team managed to secure overall 3rd Position within the



Spr Kiran Gurung, Winner Men`s 400m Hurdles and Men`s 4 x 400m relay during the Army Inter- Unit Athletics Championship 2021

RE Corps X-Country Championships because of Spr Dik Rai securing the overall 2nd Runner up position in U23 category. The remarkable journey of QGE Sappers continue this year because the Corps team that are made up of QGE Sappers have been crowned the champions in the Army Inter Corps Cross Country Championship, U23 category.

Football

QGE has always been the strongest contender in the Brigade of Gurkhas (BG) Nepal Cup Football Competition with influential footballing skills and character. The history has shown excellent teamwork and dominant enthusiasm from QGE sappers within the BG. However, it was a real blow for QGE team to be knocked out of the competition in the Semi-Finals this



Intake 2020, Winner Intake Rising Cup 2021 with GM QGE Maj Kamal Khapung Limbu MVO

year. Besides the bitter result in Nepal Cup, the Intake Rising Cup 7 - A side football tournament went ahead under a close direction of RHQ QGE this year. The event was led by Cpl Nirajan Budhathoki and Intake 2007. The event provided every opportunity to build team bonding and cohesion while consistently delivering moral component and increasing unit's operational effectiveness and capability, as a direct result. Intake Rising Cup 2021 results were as following:

Winner Intake 20
 1st Runner Up Intake 19
 2nd Runner Up Intake 18

Trailwalker

Despite the cancellation of Trailwalker last year, this year, it was held on Sat 25 Sep 21. A judgement Day for QGE Sappers that were ready to demonstrate their physical and mental resilience after a very effective, timely and tough training session under Sgt Sandesh Rai. OC 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn took charge of the event and was determined to emerge victorious but due to heavy fog and disorientation the team lost almost an hour which was too much to recover but still team BALARAM finished at overall 4th position.



Trailwalker 2021, Team BALARAM QGE with GM QGE, OC 69 and members of QGE at the finish point

Mountain Biking

Mountain Biking has become hugely popular amongst QGE soldiers. Cpl Top Jang Rai who represents Army has been the key influencer. WO2 (SSM) Eka Bahadur Rai has been learning the trait exceptionally well within a short space. Due to his influential leadership, majority of the QGE Sappers have followed suit. WO2 (SSM) Eka secured 1st Runner Up position in the Male Masters category in the Army Cross Country Mountain bike series round 2. Furthermore, another milestone amongst the QGE mountain bikers, Cpl Victor Fombo was selected to represent the Royal Engineers Gravity Enduro Team.

Squash and Golf

This year, the Regiment Squash team successfully reached the Semi-finals in the team event in The Corps Squash Championships with some great performances all around. Cpl Devi Ram Rai secured 2nd Runner-Up in the Super Plate Individual game. On other hand, Golf has been tremendously successful. A team consisting of



WO2 (SSM) Eka Bahadur Rai, 1st Runner Up, Army Cross Country MTB Series Round 2

SSgt Furtenji Sherpa, Sgt Maniram Thapa Magar and Sgt Sanman Thapa Magar from 36 Engineer Regiment and The Queen's Gurkha Engineers were the champions in the Inter Unit Golf Competition aggregating the best gross score over 36 holes during the Royal Engineers Golf Society, Corps Championship 2021. In addition, SSgt Gajendra Gurung was selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Service Golf Championships, a historic moment for the QGE and the first ever individual from the Brigade of Gurkhas to represent the Army in the Inter-Service Golf Championships.

Badminton

The defending champions, 36 Engineer Regiments and The Queen's Gurkha Engineers team, once again were victorious in the Unit Doubles and Inter Unit doubles during the Royal Engineers Badminton Championships 2022. A total of six units participated in the Championship which saw a record number of participants involved across the corps. The categories and winners were as follows:

Unit Doubles discipline and Inter-Unit doubles winner:

36 Engineer Regiment & The Queen's Gurkha Engineers

Veteran's Doubles winner:

Mr Rastra Rai and Cpl Sagar Gurung

Men's Double winner:

Capt Ram Rai and SSgt Joseph Subba

Men's Singles winner:

Capt Ram Rai and SSgt Joseph Subba

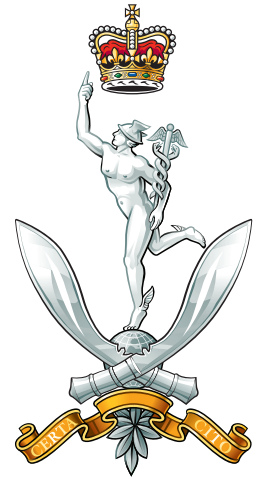
Men's Singles Plate winner:

Capt Ram Rai and SSgt Joseph Subba

QUEEN'S GURKHA SIGNALS

Two Khukuris point upwards, the handles crossed in saltire, the cutting edges of the blades inwards, between the blades the figure of Mercury on a globe, the latter supported above by a scroll bearing the motto "Certa Cito" and below by nine laurel leaves, the whole surmounted by Saint Edward's Crown.

Raised in Kuala Lumpur in 1948, by Major A C Cox R SIGNALS, from Gurkha soldiers of each of the eight battalions of the then new Brigade of Gurkhas. They, together with re-enlisted ex-servicemen of the Indian Army, British officers and soldiers of the Royal Signals, formed the Gurkha Signals Training and Holding Wing in early 1949.



The first elements were designated "Royal Signals Gurkha". In 1952 this was changed to "Gurkha Royal Signals". The present badge was granted on 23 September 1954, the date which is now the official Regimental Birthday. The regimental title became "Gurkha Signals" in 1955 and on 21 April 1977, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II approved the title "Queen's Gurkha Signals". On 16 May 1983 Queen's Gurkha Signals restructured to a Regimental organisation.

Since the closure of the base in Hong Kong in 1997, the Regiment has gone through considerable changes. In 1997, the Regiment got reduced to just one Squadron in Bramcote and two Independent Troops: Nepal Signal Troop and Brunei Signal Troop. Over the years it slowly expanded yet again and as at now, QG SIGNALS includes 5 x Field Squadrons and 3 x Independent Troops. The formation of sixth Squadron, 242 Gurkha Signal Squadron, is well underway with first year of growth nearing completion. Furthermore, the growth of seventh Sqn, 243 Gurkha Signal Squadron, has been confirmed in recent IR announcement. The likely timeline will be 2024-2028.

Affiliations and Associations

Affiliated Corps	The Royal Corps of Signals
Affiliated Regiment	32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Association	6th Signal Regiment, The Royal Australian Corps of Signals
Regimental March Past	"Scotland the Brave"

The organisations and units which currently comprise Queen's Gurkha Signals

Regimental Headquarters Queen's Gurkha Signals	Bramcote
246 Gurkha Signal Squadron	Perham Down
247 Gurkha Signal Squadron	MOD Stafford
248 Gurkha Signal Squadron	MOD Stafford
249 Gurkha Signal Squadron	Bulford
250 Gurkha Signal Squadron	Bramcote
11 (RSS) Signal Regiment	Blandford
Brunei Signal Troop	Brunei
Nepal Signal Troop	Nepal
Seremban Troop	RMA Sandhurst

Additionally, the Regiment also have significant footprint in 11 (Royal School of Signals) Signal Regiment at Blandford, Gurkha Company at Infantry Training Centre Catterick, 13 Sig Regt, 18 (UKSF) Signal Regiment, HQ ARRC, Blandford Garrison Support Unit, Specialist Weapons School, ATC (Pirbright) and ATR (Winchester), Sandhurst Support Unit and Directorate Information Army Headquarters (D Info Army HQ).

Staff List

Colonel of the Regiment

Major General J J Cole OBE

British Officers

Lieutenant Colonel S M Smith
 Major A Cotterill
 Major A Fitchett
 Major D Prady
 Major J Leigh
 Major E Adams
 Capt R Blackman
 Capt A Bristol
 Capt D Pretorius
 Lieutenant J Standford
 Lieutenant J West
 Lieutenant R Richardson
 Lieutenant K MacPhee
 Lieutenant A Thompson
 Lieutenant R Debbage
 Lieutenant J Sankey
 Lieutenant A P Altree
 Lieutenant A Richards
 Lieutenant W Skirrow
 Lieutenant O J Masterson
 Lieutenant A Stoddart

Comd QG SIGNALS
 OC 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 OC 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 OC 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 OC 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 OC 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Ops Officer 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Ops Officer 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Ops Officer 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Tp Comd 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Tp Comd 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn
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 Tp Comd 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Tp Comd 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Tp Comd 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Tp Comd 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn

Gurkha Officers

Major Amrit Gurung
 Captain Sureshkumar Limbu
 Captain Indrabahadur Thapa
 Captain Khagendra Pun
 Captain Subaraj Sunuwar
 Captain Gyanendrabahadur Rai
 Captain Simbahadur Chochangi
 Captain Laxmanbabu Rana
 Captain Lalitbahadur Thapa
 Captain Ashok Gurung
 Captain Gopalkrishna Saru
 Captain Robin Rai
 Captain Hembahadur Rana
 Captain Jagatram Rai
 Captain Sanjeev Rai
 Captain Sekendra Gurung
 Captain Rajkumar Gurung
 Captain Pramod Gurung
 Captain Ashok Pun

GM QG SIGNALS
 Adjt QG SIGNALS
 RCMO QG SIGNALS
 2IC 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 2IC 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 SO3 G1 1 (UK) Div
 2IC 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 OC BST
 OC NST
 QM, 16 Sig Regt
 2IC 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Tp Comd 217 Sig Sqn
 2IC 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Ops Officer 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Trg Offr 4 (Mil) Sqn
 Pl Comd ITC Gurkha Coy
 MTO 30 Sig Regt
 Tp Comd 30 Sig Regt
 OC Battleaxe Tp 3 Sqn

Gurkha Officers holding E1/E2 Appointments

Lieutenant Colonel Tolbahadur Khamcha
 Major Hebindra Pun
 Major Ganeshbahadur Gurung
 Major Shankar Gurung
 Major Dhirbahadur Pun
 Major Omprashad Pun
 Major Lokbahadur Gurung MVO
 Major Vishal Pun
 Major Kamal Gurung
 Major Deepak Rai MVO

CO/Dep Gar Comd HQ Tidworth & Bulford Gar
 QM 30 Sig Regt
 QM 2 Sig Regt
 QM, 22 Sig Regt
 OC HQ Coy, 2 MI Bn
 Station Comd MoD Corsham and CO Joint Support Unit
 2IC Sandhurst Sp Unit, RMAS
 OC HQ Coy, 4 MI Bn
 AMA BGN
 QM 4 MI Bn

Foreword by Colonel of the Regiment

Major General J J Cole OBE



It is my honour to have served another year as Colonel of the Regiment. This publication lays out some of the incredible achievements of our officers and soldiers, who are known for their technical skills and their soldierly qualities. I was buoyed by seeing this year's new trainees at Altcar as they transitioned between Gurkha Company and the Royal School of Signals. We are a growing Regiment, and are attracting really high quality soldiers. Our sahebharu and our gurujis do a fantastic job helping our soldiers to develop their skills, to integrate with Royal Signals and to serve the many commanders and staffs from across the Joint Force and the Army that depend upon us. We have achieved excellence on so many fronts – individually and collectively – in sports, on courses, on exercise and on operations. I hope that you celebrate our Regiment as you read the encouraging josh from the pages of this publication.

Jai QG SIGNALS!

Foreword by Commander

Lieutenant Colonel S M Smith



Firstly, it was an absolute privilege to assume command of the Paltan on 4 January 2021, it is so good to be back in the Pariwar and I would like to thank everyone who has made my own family feel so welcome once more. In my early months, I have managed to visit all our Squadrons in the UK, our Blandford based personnel, Seremban Tp at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and Gurkha Coy at ITC Catterick. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, I have not had the chance to visit our overseas Troops and Association members in the UK and Nepal, but I am in regular contact through their chains of command and the Association Secretary. It was clear from the outset that the Paltan remains in great shape and we are held in very highest of regards by the Royal Corps of Signals, the Brigade of Gurkhas, and the wider Army. I would also like to thank Colonel Hannah Stoy and the previous Regimental Headquarters team for their efforts in creating the conditions for our continued success.

2021 has been another exceptional year for the Paltan and one in which everyone of us can take a great deal of pride. Despite the pandemic effecting the majority of our outputs in some way, our people have excelled, both collectively and individually. We have delivered on all fronts, be that operations, exercises, career courses, sports and our charity endeavours. With our five regular sub-units and numerous detachments across the globe, our people have been deployed in nine operational theatres. Wherever our people have gone, praise and plaudits have quickly followed. This is evidenced through the numerous commendations ranging from 1* to 4* citations, COs' coins and top student accolades in both trade and military courses.

The key highlight for most of us was retaining the Nepal Cup and Trailwalker - incredible feats of physical and mental prowess, superb teamwork, and utter determination. Retaining both titles was a first for the Paltan and created a truly historical moment. Not only did we win Trailwalker in style, but we really dominated, securing 1st, 2nd and 4th place. Well done to all who represented the Paltan in these events, supported throughout the preparation phases and managed the teams on the day - all played a critical role in ensuring our collective success.

I was fortunate in my last post, as SO1 Capability Organisation in the Army Headquarters, to ensure that the Implementation Order (IO) for the generation of a 6th Gurkha Signal Squadron was published. I am glad to report that the first year of growth is on track and by 31 March 2022 we will have 1+30 GURTAM in the new Squadron, followed by second-year growth 1+22 GURTAM by 31 March 2023. This summer, the Squadron will be officially redesignated as 242 Gurkha Signal Squadron.

The outcome of the Integrated Review, 'The Future Soldier', has been favourable to the Paltan and wider Brigade of Gurkhas. The growth of our 7th Squadron is now confirmed, and the new Squadron will be 243 Gurkha Signal Squadron, part of 15 Signal Regiment at Perham Down. The growth of this sub-unit will begin in 2024. This means the Paltan will have three sub-units co-located in Bulford/Perham Down, three in Stafford and one in Bramcote, providing additional stability for our families. Under 'The Future Soldier' announcements, there will be some changes to the size and shape of R SIGNALS Regiments that contain QG SIGNALS sub-units. We will likely need to adjust to these changes and fine-tune our structures accordingly to improve our diversity of appointments and our promotion prospects.

In terms of promotions, 2021 has been a brutally competitive year. In total 58 personnel across all ranks from LCpl to WO1 were successful, with 3 selecting for a Late Entry commission. The reduction in promotions was mainly due to our people serving for an additional 2 years through the Versatile Engagement (Full) (VEng(F)), the loss of Troop Staff Sergeant posts under A2020R and the uncertainty of the Integrated Review. There is some work to be done with our structures, particularly at Corporal and Sergeant level, as we look to improve our promotion rates. The pull through effect from those commissioning and individuals reaching the end of their service should see these increase, across all ranks, from January 2023.

In December 2021 we welcomed Recruit Intake 2021 to the Paltan, a total of 72 bhaiharu. They are currently going through their Induction and Trade Selection Training at Altcar Training Camp, Liverpool. All seem as capable and committed as the generations before them and I will have the pleasure to formally announce

their trades at their Attestation Parade on 3 March 2022. They will be the first batch of Gurkha trainees to go through the new CADUCEUS training model in Blandford. Project CADUCEUS continues to be developed and your RHQ is fully embedded with the planning team looking at how the future Leadership Model will work for the Paltan. We are working alongside all stakeholders in the design phase to ensure it will provide a clear career pathway and enduring opportunities for our soldiers and officers. There is much to be done.

Throughout the pandemic, my priority in Bramcote has been to protect our people and safeguard the ability to deploy our capabilities held at Extremely High Readiness (EHR). To do this I have made several difficult decisions curtailing our Regimental events here in our Regimental home. Mass gathering events such as the Annual Dinner, Association Dinner, Regimental Birthday and Central Dashain celebrations have not been possible over the last two years. We continue to dynamically review the risks presented by the ever-changing pandemic. Last year, in consultation with the Gurkha Major, I gave direction to our sub-units to celebrate the Regiment's birthday and Dashain at their own sub-unit locations in a smaller and covid complaint manner. This protected our people, our reputation and avoided cross pollination of our forces held at various levels of readiness. Funds were provided to support these local events. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Worshipful Company of Dyers and the QG SIGNALS Trust, who continue to provide the Paltan with financial support, this has been vital to maintain the morale component of our serving and retired members.

Finally, it is my honour to command the exceptionally talented people within our Paltan. We continue to go from strength to strength and our reputation has never been higher but there is much to do in 2022, with progressive change and growth. We are committed to looking after our Pariwar and delivering excellence in everything we do. Hopefully the covid situation will improve soon and we will be able meet again socially. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Jai Queen's Gurkha Signals!

Foreword by Gurkha Major

Major Amrit Gurung



By the time this newsletter lands on your desk, my tenure would be coming to end – time does fly fast! Let me start by congratulating Major Deepak Rai saheb on his selection to be the next Gurkha Major. He will be replacing me in the summer as the 27th Gurkha Major of QG SIGNALS.

In January 2021, our new Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Simon Smith saheb took over the helm of the Paltan. Throughout his early months, I took him around to visit all our UK based sub-units, Blandford, Seremban Troop and Gurkha Company, Catterick. We have been very impressed by the professionalism, altruism, dedication, and commitment shown by our people in all fronts. We have received nothing but plaudits from their respective chain of command. Unfortunately, due to time and Covid constraints, we have not managed to visit our two overseas Troops and smaller contingents across the UK. I am hopeful we can visit them soon.

Like everyone, I thought 2021 would see the end of pandemic and return of normality to our daily lives with the UK leading the way in vaccination rollout programme. It did for a while but emergence of the new variant, Omicron, back end of the year has slowed our journey to full freedom yet again. It may not be as lethal as its predecessors but nonetheless extremely transmissible. This has had knock on impact on our service life, particularly in our regimental and social events. In the summer of 2021, second wave of Covid swept through Nepal with deadly consequences. Once again, our Nepal Signal Troop members were hit hard. Our bhairu and all families were repatriated to the UK for the second time. Both the Commander and I visited them at Larkhill Camp. Despite all the hassles

and upheaval, they remained positive and in good spirit throughout. Luckily, their repatriation period was shorter this time and they are all returned to Nepal now.

Despite the pandemic affecting day to day business, officers and soldiers of the Paltan have continued to excel in providing vital military effect at the highest of standard. All our sub-units, including the independent troops (Brunei Signal Troop, Nepal Signal Troop and Seremban Troop) have been extremely busy on operations and in high profile exercises throughout the year delivering their outputs. Those currently serving in Blandford, ITC Catterick, Hereford and other ERE/ Singleton posts are relishing the challenges and opportunities in the wider E1/ E2 arena.

Manning. The Paltan is currently 28+664 strong. This figure does not include 72 Recruit Intake 2021 (RI 21) bhairu who are undergoing their Induction and Trade Selection training at Altcar Training Camp at the moment.

Paltan growth and basing. The first-year growth of our sixth Squadron, 242 Gurkha Signal Squadron, with 22 Signal Regiment is on track. As per the Implementation Order (IO), there will be 1+30 GURTAM in the new Squadron by end of March 2022. The second-year growth starts in April 2022 with the formation of SHQ element. Recently announced in the Integrated Review, The Future Soldier, the formation of our seventh Squadron is now confirmed. It will be 243 Gurkha Signal Squadron with 15 Signal Regiment at Perham Down. Finally, 246 Gurkha Signal Squadron has moved from York to Perham Down. The Squadron has settled in well in their new base.

Promotions/Engagement & Commission Conversions. 2021 was a difficult year for soldiers' promotion. This is mainly due to many serving two years longer on Versatile Engagement (Full) and uncertainty of the outcome of Integrated Review. There were total of 58 Other Ranks (ORs) promotions (1 x WO1, 4 x WO2s, 6 x SSGts, 13 x Sgts, 13 x Cpls and 21 LCpls) and 28 successful Open Engagement to Versatile Engagement conversions. On officers' promotion and commission conversion, there were 1 x Major, 2 x Regular Commission (Late Entry) and 3 x Intermediate Regular Commission (Late Entry). 3 x Warrant Officers were successful in the Army Officer Selection Board 2021. They will be commissioned directly into Intermediate Regular Commission (Late Entry) in the promotion year 22/23.

New Year Honours List 22. Our Colonel of the Regiment, Major General J J Cole OBE saheb is made The Companion of The Most Honourable Order of the Bath (CB) and WO1(RSM) Pandu Tamang has received Meritorious Service Medal (MSM). Shyabaash and many congratulations to both of them.

Sports. What a year we had on sports! After one year absence of major sports due to pandemic, 2021 finally

saw the return of two beloved sports in the Brigade of Gurkhas: Nepal Cup and Trailwalker. Our very talented bhaiharu have done us proud once again by winning and retaining the title on both events – a rare and proud occasion. Our teams dominated Trailwalker by securing 2nd and 4th place as well. Our golf team also secured Runners Up in the Brigade of Gurkhas Inter Unit Golf Championship. My big thank you to all the players, runners, coaching and management staff and their chain of command.

Regimental Events. Throughout 2021 all Regimental social events such as Annual Regimental Dinner, Association Dinner and Dashain fell victim to Covid restrictions. Like 2020, our sub-units marked the Regimental Birthday and auspicious festival of Dashain and Tihar in their own locations in a Covid compliant way. On behalf of the entire Paltan, ten days of religious rituals were performed fully at Bramcote Temple by the Pundit, Gurkha Major and pujari team.

In February, we managed to hold a Covid compliant Attestation Parade for our RI 20 bhaiharu at Altcar Training Camp in the presence of Colonel of the Regiment and Corps Colonel. They are now on last leg of their Initial Trade Training (ITT) at Blandford and soon start their assignments in Field Squadrons. On a similar note, the Paltan recently welcomed 72 bhaiharu from RI 21 on 6th December 2021. They are undergoing their Induction and Trade Selection Training at Altcar Training Camp.

Conclusion. When you take the time to pause and reflect, there is so much to be proud of and celebrate about 2021. Our Paltan, Queen's Gurkha Signals, has gone from strength to strength, our reputation has never been higher, and our people continued to deliver on operations and exercises, and achieved outstanding results in career courses, team and individual sports, and charitable efforts. Wherever our people went, praise quickly followed. We are so very proud of our achievements, as individuals and importantly as a Paltan. There is so much to look forward to in 2022. There will be many more challenges ahead, but I remain very optimistic that our Paltan and its people will relish and overcome every one of them.

As this is my finale note for Newsletter, I would like to express my heart felt gratitude to all serving members of the Paltan, retired members all over the world and their families too, for the support you have given me, Jamuna and Swikaar. It has been the greatest privilege and honour to be your Gurkha Major.

Jai Paltan!

246 Gurkha Signal Squadron News

Following our last year's News update 246 Gurkha Signal Squadron has maintained its operational focus. Our people have deployed on operations overseas, and at home, in support of the Army's NATO commitments and the civilian authorities. As a Squadron we continue to be held at high readiness to support 20 Armoured Infantry Brigade, which is currently the Vanguard Armoured Infantry Brigade of the warfighting division. Whilst the pandemic has inevitably imposed restrictions on training, we have nonetheless managed to maintain readiness through a steady drum beat of collective training exercises from troop to divisional level. We have also been able to deploy on UK based Adventure Training packages and delivered traditional QGS events over virtual means. This period has also witnessed a seminal event for the Squadron as it relocated from its post Hong Kong home in York to Perham Down under Op FARAN.

In September 2020, Kowloon Tp led by Lt Newman and Sgt Arjun Gurung left the UK for a winter tour on Op CABRIT 7; replacing Sek Kong Tp. Deploying on numerous Battle Group exercises our Rear Link Detachment (RLD) teams impressed their supported Battle Group with their TacCIS knowledge and soldiering ability. The OpCIS team quickly set about implementing projects to improve wifi services and repair legacy equipment faults. They also made a name for themselves by frequently beating other units (UK and NATO) in sporting / fitness competitions. Returning in March they were glad not to see any snow and enjoyed their well-deserved postponed R&R and POTL.

Whilst Kowloon Troop were deployed the rest of 246 GSS continued delivering in barracks commitments. Personnel deployed on Ex CERBERUS and Ex ARMY WARFARE EXPERIMENT, helping to deliver divisional / brigade level command and control, and supporting Army innovation. The troops managed to deploy the entire Squadron fleet on Ex KHUKURI COMMUNICATOR 2/20, a successful remind and revise exercise. This allowed Sek Kong Troop to find their footing following their return from Op CABRIT. During this period the Squadron also managed to observe the Dashain Tika ceremony under strict C-19 rules, as well as celebrate a well-coordinated virtual Tihar and Nepali New year celebration.

The New Year saw the Squadron deploy on Operation WINTER PREPAREDNESS 20 (WP20), helping schools carry out the rollout of C-19 testing and assisting NHS staff in hospitals during the peak of the second wave. During a challenging three months, our soldiers developed close bonds with the nurses and patients, enjoying both the victories, but also consoling the losses. On return from Op WP20, the Squadron conducted its first collective training exercise since 2019. This proved to be an invaluable opportunity for the Squadron to address COVID induced skill fade and reset ourselves ready for 11 Signal Brigade's Exercise FLYING FALCON which is due to take place this October.

In recognition of SP professionalism and commitment, several awards have been bestowed upon the Sqn this year. Capt Gopal was awarded both Master of Signals and Air Officer Commanding 22 Gp commendations. SSgt Shankar was presented Comd SJC (UK) Commendation. Capt Hem, Sgt Bipendra, Sgt Giri, Cpl Pragyan, Cpl Hasta Ghale, Cpl Uttam, LCpl Dirgha and LCpl Ravi were awarded 20 Inf Armoured Brigade Commander's Commendation. CO's Coins were presented to Cpl Pratik, Cpl Uttam, Cpl Man, Cpl Niraj and Cpl Yuwraj. Cpl Samso, LCpl Gagan and LCpl Janam demonstrated their excellence as a junior commander taking top student on the new ALDP course. SSgt Shankar and LCpl Ashish were awarded the Comd QG SIGNALS Coin. OpCIS Tp deployed in Estonia received a Comd CABRIT Commendation for their work during CABRIT 7. As well as a Tp Commendation, Sgt Arjun received a United States (US) Brigade Commander's Commendation for his performance as RLD Commander in Poland. LCpl Amrit and LCpl Joshan also received a Commander CABRIT Commendation for their outstanding performance in the RLD in Poland. In June, the Sqn also saw the handing over and taking of command of OC 246 GSS to Maj Cotterill from Maj Tunj Masi.

The main effort of July 2021 was successful delivery of the much-awaited Op FARAN move to relocate 246 GSS from York to Perham Down. Having resubordinated from 2 Sig Regt to 1 Sig Regt in 2019, 246 GSS finally joined with rest of the Regt (which concurrently moved from Stafford) in Perham Down. Captain Gopal Saru, 2IC 246 GSS, was the Squadron lead and was ably supported by the SQMS, SSgt Dipal Gurung. Together they work tirelessly to ensure the move was a success, overcoming the inevitable points of friction and challenges. Tasks included the movement of Service Families Accommodation, soldiers, equipment and vehicles to Perham Down from York whilst handing over and taking over infrastructure in York and Perham Down. It is testament to their efforts that they were frequently held up as an exemplar to the rest of the regiment. Following summer leave we now find ourselves in a titivating phase ahead of what promises to be exciting close to the year, supporting 20 Armoured Infantry Brigade, deploying on Ex FLYING FALCON and competing in Lanyard Trophy and Trail Walker.

The move has enabled the squadron to focus on supporting the 20th Armoured Brigade Combat Team and the 3rd Division's Wide Area Network. A series of exercises has enabled us to refine our ways of operating and address areas of skill fade brought on by the pandemic. Over the autumn the squadron celebrated the Queen's Gurkha Signals 72nd Birthday and Dashain in its new home and went on to battle its way to a commendable 2nd and 4th place finish in the Lanyard Trophy, and finished 7th in Trail Walker. Covid has had a significant impact upon the squadron. We have had to get used to socially distant working and operating in bubbles. This is of course challenging but what has been most profound is its effect on our social

calendar and the inability of our soldiers to return to Nepal. Thankfully, as the year drew to a close, we began to witness the return of fun. Our Pariwar was able to attend Dashain and Tihar and as of November our Bhai haru were able to return to Nepal to see their loved ones.

A busy year as always, although somewhat unorthodox; it has seen 246 triumph in many aspects, with promotions, commendations, operations and trawls. Yet another stellar performance from a Sqn which proudly upholds the values and reputation of the QG SIGNALS!

Jai 246 GSS

Kowloon Troop, 246 Gurkha Signal Squadron on Op CABRIT 7

Between September 2020 and March 2021, 23 soldiers from Kowloon Troop, 246 Gurkha Signal Squadron deployed on Op CABRIT 7 across Estonia and Poland. Deploying as part of the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence to reassure our allies and deter our adversaries, this was an excellent experience for young soldiers and experienced NCOs alike. For many it was the first time working in such a diverse multi-national environment, and the first time in such extreme cold conditions. The deployment was split between 3 locations - Operational Communication Information Systems (OpCIS) Tp in Estonia, Rear Link Detachment (RLD) support to the NATO Battlegroup (BG) in Estonia, and RLD support in Poland.

Op CIS Tp Estonia *By Sig Ajay*

Nine members of Kowloon Troop deployed to Estonia as a part of National Support Element (NSE) in support of 5 Rifles Battlegroup. As an OpCIS Tp, our role was to provide vital Communication and Information Services to the Battlegroup. Our main technical achievement was the successful rollout of Meraki network throughout theatre providing welfare WiFi for all members of the BG. We also managed to celebrate our auspicious festival Dashain under strict Estonian Covid rules away from families and friends which was one of the highlights of my tour. It provided much-needed morale for us out in the theatre. For many of us it was the first time working in extreme cold weather; the temperature often plummeting as below as to -26 during winter! It did not stop us participating in various social and educational visits during our spare time. Some highlights included a 25km Danish Charity race, carrying 10kg, in which Cpl Samso finished in 2nd with a time of 2hrs 10mins. During the BG table tennis competition, Cpl Santosh became the runner up, with LCpl Nabin from RLD winning the competition. Overall, we had a very successful operational tour. For our hard work and outstanding performance whilst in operation, OPCIS Tp was awarded with CABRIT Commander's commendation.



OpCIS Tp Estonia after receiving CABRIT Commander's commendation

RLD Estonia

By LCpl Hitesh

Eight members of 246 Gurkha Signal Squadron were deployed as part of RLD, attached to CIS Platoon 5 RIFLES. Our primary task was to establish and maintain RRB in support of BG Comms, providing vital communication link between dismounted crew on Bulldogs and HQ main.

Working with the armoured BG was a very new experience for all of us so we were keen to learn and gain experience with armoured vehicles. We were involved on a series of exercises, including an Ex FURIOUS AXE, which was a multi-national live firing exercise in Latvia. We were also involved in Ex PATHFINDER which was a very challenging exercise due to the cold weather and was the closest to the Russian border.

Estonia was the coldest country that I have ever been, and I consider myself extremely lucky to have completed the Cold Weather Operator's course. We were taught

how to survive in the extreme conditions and even had the opportunity to jump into a frozen lake. Despite our busy schedule, we were able to take part in DANCON March, adventure training, team cohesion activities in the local area, and new experiences like disc golf, sea kayaking, and bog walks.

It was a great pleasure to be the part of CIS Pl, 5 RIFLES and complete the tour with huge success and gaining operational experience.

RLD Poland

By LCpl Joshan

Six soldiers led by Sgt Arjun were deployed to Poland with 'Cassino Tp' - a hybrid squadron-strength formation comprising the elements of Queen's Dragoon Guards, Royal Yeomanry, and other attached arms. The team undertook the role of facilitating and enabling resilient CIS services to the close-knit Battlegroup. For most of us, it was the first time



The soldiers of RLD Estonia enjoying a well-deserved break

working in close collaborated environment with the Light Cavalry and Reserve units, not forgetting our NATO allies - the host nation Poland, United States, Croatia and Romania.

The Operational experience was phenomenal. Additionally, despite the current climate of C-19, we had several significant achievements, including celebrating our well-deserved Dashain celebrations, commemorating St. David's Day with the Welsh Cavalry, and participating in a 500 km race for over 5 days to fundraise for the NHS. Another highlight was on Ex SOBIESKI, where all member states proved their interoperability in a joint live firing exercise. Alongside that, the soldiers benefitted from the continuous development provided by working with the blend of different cap-badges. We delivered lessons on leadership, survival training in cold weather, and many other cultural activities.

It was a great honour to represent the country and the Regiment in a joint multi-national NATO operation where the essence of comradeship and NATOism was rightly felt. All the six RLD members' hard work was recognised with the United States (US) BG Commander's coins for delivering not operational outputs but also promoting the Gurkha Kaida and Nepalese culture at Dashain.

Furthermore, in recognition of the exemplary performance and outstanding work ethic throughout the tour, Sgt Arjun was awarded with US BG Commander's commendation whilst LCpl Amrit and LCpl Joshan were awarded with UK CABRIT Commander's commendation.



Sgt Arjun, LCpl Amrit and LCpl Joshan proudly displaying their commendations

Lanyard Trophy 2021

By LCpl Ravi Thapa

The Lanyard Trophy is named after the lanyard that 216 Squadron soldiers made from the parachute cords. This competition was designed in 1979 by Pete Richards, an officer of 216 Signal Squadron, to challenge his comrades. The race is a team event and includes a 40 miles endurance event over the undulating ground carrying not less than 30 lbs weight, excluding water. All members of The Royal Corps of Signals can take part in the event.

This year, the event took place on the 11th of September 2021 after a long wait since it was cancelled in 2020 due



RLD Team Poland



The full lanyard team. Team A- Rear row. Team B- Front row.

to the Pandemic. It was held at Otterburn Training Area hosted by 216 Parachute Signal Squadron. 246 Gurkha Signal Squadron members formed a team and trained for months to represent the 1st Signal Regiment to participate in this event. The training included a mixture of tabbing sessions, flexibility and some strength sessions. The training was coordinated by Lt Altree and Cpl Niraj, with guidance from experienced PTIs and experienced team members. With quality training, the team managed to form a strong team for the Regiment.

All the participants arrived at the Otterburn Training camp a day before the race and the organiser provided the accommodation. There were about 50 teams from different regiments who were going to try and complete the event. Two teams were competing from the 1st Signal Regiment, each consisting of 8 members. As soon as the bergans were weighed and the kits inspected, the event started in the early morning at 0400 and 0600 hrs for the B and A Teams, respectively. Lt Altree and 2IC Sgt Giri led team A, and Lt Stanford and SSgt Irving led team B. Likewise, LCpl Dikshan led the support team.



LCpl Sanjock sharing a joke with the Master of Signals, Maj Gen Nesmith

The competition was fierce amongst the competing teams over very challenging terrain. However, everyone's team spirit and leadership boosted morale. The pace for Team A was maintained by Sgt Giri, which kept the team's momentum in a good state till the end. Finally, after hours of dedication and effort, 216 Signal Squadron secured the first position whilst A Team and B Team of 1st Signal Regiment managed to secure runners' up and 4th position overall, finishing in 11 hours 26 minutes and 13 hours 44 minutes respectively. The team was privileged to have CO 1 Sig Regt, RSM, OC 246 Gurkha Signal Squadron and SSM following the teams and supporting them throughout. The teams were honoured for their hard work by receiving medals from the Master of Signals, Major General Nesmith at the finish line.



Halfway through the course, LCpl Yangde and LCpl Bishwas look ready to tackle another 20 miles

Overall, it was a considerable achievement for the Regiment and the team, considering the busy schedule with Op Faran and other Regimental commitments throughout the year. The training events were planned well, executed well and competed with vigour and warrior spirit on the event day. Even though the team was second best, it gave the team members a lot, providing a platform for team bonding and understanding each other under strenuous conditions, thus improving operational effectiveness. It was also an excellent opportunity for the young soldiers to represent the Regiment and set an example for future generations.

247 Gurkha Signal Squadron News

Personnel in 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn have enjoyed a busy but rewarding year. Despite the challenge of force health protection measures, Sqn personnel have made many fantastic achievements. The main focus and core business was Ex DEFENDER 21, but Sqn personnel have also participated in many other UK exercises, Adventurous Training and sporting competitions, including some who deployed to wider activities such as Recruit induction training 21 or course development in Blandford. Operationally, the Sqn remains at R2, with some elements held at R1 ready to support the Theatre Enabling Group (TEG).

The start of the year saw personnel undertaking Ex KHUKURI WARRIOR, a military skills exercise that provided an excellent opportunity to test personnel on their basic infantry skills. Preparatory exercises for Ex DEFENDER 21 followed, focusing Sqn effort on the deployment which ran from Apr through to Jul and saw Borneo Troop deployed to Greece, King Troop to Slovenia and Hong Kong Troop to Croatia. The exercise aim was to test NATO's capacity to deploy and sustain the movement of large forces in response to any potential threat, which was a great success. Whilst deployed, the Sqn provided ICS support to the TEG locations and personnel excelled in federating to the US 21st Theatre Sustainment Corps. Despite COVID restrictions, personnel undertook many cultural and Adventurous Training opportunities, exploring what each country had to offer; testament to their initiative and drive.

On returning, the changeover of Sqn 2IC took place and Capt Sim Chochangi handed over to Capt Khagendra Pun; we wish Capt Sim Chochangi and his family all the best for the future. The Sqn then deployed on an excellent Adventurous Training Package to Scotland led by Cpl Sagar Gurung. The latter end of the year offered no ease in commitments; the Sqn also supported Bde Exercises Ex FLYING FALCON, IRON VIPER and WINTER WOLF.

Despite COVID restrictions the Sqn was able to celebrate Dashain, led by Sgt Lalit Rana who managed to deliver an exceptional event whilst meeting force health protection measures. The opportunity to come together as a wider family across Stafford Stn, was well needed after such a long time. All those who attended has a truly memorable celebration.

Within sporting events and competitions, the Sqn has many achievements to boast about. The Sqn has entered teams for Ex Cambrian patrol, Lanyard and Lightning strike, all personnel performing exceptionally. Notable achievements include Cpl Lokendra Thapa being voted MVP for the Inter Corps Basketball Competition and 4 personnel from the Sqn entering Ex TRAILWALKER, 2 in the winning team and 2 in the runners up. For charity the Sqn has proudly conducted several activities. Sgt Dhanesh Ghale raised funds for the Nepal COVID

Appeal competing a 24hour run challenge. Notably, SSgt Ajib Gurung organised a Station International day highlighting the 8 cultures found within the 3 units on Stafford station through food, dance and education. He raised £1200 for the Army Bereavement Fund, but importantly brought Stn personnel together after long COVID restrictions.

Despite force health protection measures, personnel have worked diligently to deliver activities within constraints; something all should be proud of. 2022 will certainly see the Sqn grow even stronger.

Jai 247 Gurkha Signal Squadron. Jai Paltan

Ex DEFENDER 21 (Slovenia)

By LCpl Sangam Rai

Ex DEFENDER 21 (Europe) is 104 Log Sp Bde lead exercise that supported US Army Combat Div demonstrating the NATO's capability to rapidly deploy combat forces in response to aggression. We, King Troop within 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn based at Stafford, had to provide robust and secure communication platform to the staff users of 5 Bn REME HQ on this exercise that took place in Slovenia.

On 22 May 21, eleven serving personnel from the King Troop deployed to Slovenia from RAF Brize Norton along with 5 Bn REME personnel. After two hours of plane journey, we arrived at one of the military base airports in Slovenia. Then we were taken to LSA Postojna, the Slovenian Army camp, on a coach. Our Troop Sergeant (Sgt Shankar Gurung) was there to receive us. He was deployed along with 5 Bn REME Advanced Party and arrived 2 weeks before us. He gave us a quick initial brief and did the camp familiarisation. Everyone on the main body were welcomed by Maj Hockley, the LSA Commander.



King Troop personnel on Ex DEFENDER 21

Our working place and the accommodation were in the same building which made us easier while working long hours. The building had secure rooms where we could easily secure the Crypto items. All our main CIS assets such as Falcon Early Entry Capability (FEEC), OpNET Blue, Type 4 Node (DII SECRET), Housekeeper (DII-RESTRICTED) servers were placed inside the Network Equipment Room (NER). From the day we arrived, we started working on the CIS detachments to bring them online and began testing the services. On the third day of our arrival, we had Staff Readiness Check (SRC) which was successful. We were ready to provide a secure voice and data services to enable 5 Bn REME HQ to be able to carry out their mission. During the exercise we encountered many challenges such as unable to establish secondary network connectivity over the Internet, power level fluctuation on the SATCOM and Crypto Association back to UK; these issues were resolved quickly by the competent engineers. For some of us it was our first deployment on the DEFENDER (Europe) and certainly it was great opportunity to learn and share our knowledge and expertise. The 24/7 service desk was running smoothly with a robust and resilient mission critical network connectivity back to the Theatre Enabling Group HQ (TEG HQ) located in Greece.

Besides maintaining communications, there were many exciting activities that we enjoyed. We were invited by the British Ambassador to Slovenia in her residence where we delivered a presentation on the Gurkha history and stringent selection process to join the Bde of Gurkhas. She was really impressed and for our surprise she invited us to the BBQ and a charity hike. Similarly, we shared our culture and traditions by having a sports afternoon followed by a curry evening with the deployed UK and US forces along with the host nation army personnel. We made the best of our time and explored the beautiful places of Slovenia such as Triglav national park, Lake Bled, 24 km long Postojna cave, Predjama castle and the capital city Ljubljana.



LCpl Suraj and Cfn Woods working together on Ex DEF 21

Finally, after nearly two months of deployment, it was confirmed that we were returning to UK on 11 Jul 21. The RAF flight took off from Ljubljana airport and soon we were in the UK seeing our families and friends who were waiting for us desperately. It was a great feeling to be home after a successful deployment on Ex DEFENDER 21 (Slovenia).

EXERCISE DRAGON CRUSADE Bavaria

By Sig Hemanta Tamang

Given the disruption we've seen over the past 18 months by the COVID 19 pandemic and the fact that many service personnel haven't been to any overseas adventure training, the chance to deploy on Exercise DRAGON CRUSADE BAVARIA in mid-October was a golden opportunity that everyone involved relished. The AT package was organised by Sgt Lalit Rana from 247 Gurkha Signal Squadron.

We deployed on 18th of October 2021, and once the initial documentation check was complete, we headed towards the Haus Magnus Lodge, a popular outdoor recreation establishment located in Wertach Germany. This served as our accommodation for the duration of the exercise. After a long 23 hours of driving, we reached our destination and, having had a dinner, we settled into the lodge prior to serials commencing the following morning.

Our first day, started with the usual administration followed by quality hill walking. SSgt McArthur covered a safety brief and then we started to walk towards our destination, Grunten Mountain, which is 1738 metres high. After four hours of arduous hiking, we reached at the summit; there was a mesmerising view of the beautiful Grunten, also called the Guardian of Allgau. From the top we had a fantastic 360-degree view of all corners of the Allgau and other mountains around, which many of us being from Nepal, gave us a homely feeling. Then after enjoying the view and taking some pictures we started descending downhill. On the descent we stopped at a coffee shop. With a few more breaks we continued our walk towards where we started from, it was a wholesome feeling. We came down to the parking area and then headed back to the lodge.

The second day, Thursday morning, due to unpleasant weather instructors decided to go for indoor rock climbing and bouldering, which was quite challenging and arduous for few of us, yet very interesting. This activity lasted for about 4 hrs which was informative yet tiring! We learned the value of taking time to focus more effectively and after few climbs, learning finger grips and practicing climbing faster, we headed back to our accommodation. On the third morning, we went for a challenging mountain bike ride. Once our instructors covered their initial safety brief and conducted first parade on their respective bikes, we headed towards the trails. The ascent was pretty tough, only a few students managed to complete it without dismounting.



At Tiroler Bergwacht in Germany



Serving members from 16 Signal Regiment on an overseas AT in Germany

Once the climb was conquered, the descent was quite daring and tough too. Few of us struggled on the way down but eventually everyone completed the ride intact.

Saturday morning, like the day before, we decided to go for more mountain biking. The instructors again covered their initial brief, and we went for a second ride. That day we managed to circumnavigate the beautiful Grunten lake. The route was a bit short compared to the day before, although everyone seemed to be enjoying the ride. After covering around 15 miles we headed towards the lodge and then the instructors wrapped up the day with the consolidation brief.

Having returned from the mountain biking, we decided to go for a hill walking again the next morning. This time our destination was Thaneller mountain, which stands tall at 2345 meters. After few hours of arduous hiking, we reached the top of the mountain, which sits in Lechtal Aps, a subrange of the northern Limestone Alps in Tyrol, Austria. Thaneller boasts a magnificent viewpoint and is very popular. The views to the east and west were dominated by more beautiful mountains. After resting for a bit and taking a few pictures, we started descending downhill and headed back to lodge.

On our last day, we went for an outdoor rock climbing near Neuschwanstein Castle. We climbed a couple of routes and did an abseiling at the end of the day. Next morning, we decided to visit the most famous and attractive Neuschwanstein castle which is located at Hohenschwangau, Germany. It is the most famous historicist building in the world, which was opened to the public shortly after the king's death in 1886. Since then, this place has been very popular tourist destination. It took us an hour to summit the castle. On the way down most of us grabbed the chance to buy some souvenirs for friends and our families. Next morning, with a heavy heart we left the place at around 0900 hrs in the morning for the drive back to Stafford.

Overall, it was a great experience, even though the period we spent in Bavaria was short, we got to cover a lot and learn about new places, including Bavaria's vibrant culture during our trip. The trip was informative and educational as well.

248 Gurkha Signal Squadron News

248 Gurkha Signal Squadron have been consistently busy and have consistently delivered to the highest standard - We are pleased to report that there has been no change!

We have retained our commitment to provide the Communication Information Services (CIS) for the 1* Forward Headquarters and the 2* Rear Headquarters for the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), increasingly relevant in the current climate. We have deployed individuals in support of the national COVID-19 response effort, under Operation RESCRIPT; held individuals at high readiness for UK Counter Terrorism, under Operation TEMPERER, and deployed to Africa and the Middle East in support of Training and PJHQ operations. Our wider commitments to the R SIGNALS, Paltan, charities and our local community have also continued.

The primary focus of our year has been the overseas deployment of the ARRC HQ to Poland (Forward HQ) and Germany (Rear HQ) from October to December for Exercise STEADFAST LEDA 21. The first overseas deployment of the ARRC HQ in five years, the challenge was significant. Building up from Troop Level exercise in January, that were virtual due to COVID, we progressed through an increasingly challenging set of validation exercises to the Brigade validation exercise, which took place in Stafford and Innsworth in June. Characterised by increasingly close working relationships with, the newly re-designated, Gurkha ARRC Support Battalion the Brigade validation was a huge success with several soldiers receiving Brigade Commander's coins and praise for their outstanding contribution. Success here meant I was able to deploy the Squadron to Poland and Germany with real confidence. My confidence was not misplaced, the Squadron's performance throughout was exemplary. Fighting for communications, the teams at Forward and Rear overcame significant engineering challenges and manpower shortages, due to COVID, to deliver trademark, polished, and uninterrupted services to a combined staff of around 150.

I was particularly proud of the Squadron's professionalism throughout Exercise STEADFAST

LEDA 21 and their one-team ethos with Gurkha ARRC Support Battalion. Although I was impressed by everyone, three individuals stood out. Capt Jagatram Rai, the Operations Officer, provided outstanding leadership and guidance throughout, he also fulfilled the role of CIS Commander for Rear, a role normally reserved for a Major. First in and last out, the immaculate G4 planning and liaison of SSgt Parasmani Gurung as the SQMS played a huge role in the Squadron's success. Finally, Cpl Ealash, who at very short notice planned and delivered a wireless welfare network to more than 200 support personnel and Staff in Poland - Dherai Syabash!

I won't dwell on our wider operational or exercise commitments here, but I will report some sporting highlights. FofS (IS) Ramesh Gurung captained the newly formed Brigade of Gurkhas cricket team which included several of our soldiers in the Inter Corps cricket competition. A notable achievement for the team was playing against the House of Commons and House of Lords team in an exhibition match. LCpl Prashant Thedi Magar was also selected to appear in BBC Sports documentary for his outstanding performance from the team. Aside from Cricket, LCpl Buddha became the National Cross-fit champion of Nepal, a significant achievement in a sport that is becoming increasingly popular in Nepal. Also, in an excellent feat of endurance, Capt Hem won the Hardmoors 55 miles, an ultra-running event held in the North York Moors.

This year there have been several command appointment changes in the Squadron and Regiment. The Squadron bid farewell to the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Chris Dixon, the Officer Commanding, Maj Thomas Collins and the Squadron 2IC Capt Suresh Limbu who departed to be the Adjutant of the QG SIGNALS. We welcomed back the new Commanding Officer Lt Col Lewis Matthews, who had previously served with the Squadron as the Operations Officer, he and his wife were welcomed to the Gurkha pariwar in the traditional manner during an excellent station Dashain function shared with 247. Captain Hem Rana, the new Sqn 2IC, and I were also given a very warm welcome at a Squadron summer BBQ. We have said hello and farewell to many others this year and I wish you all the very best for the future from 248. Finally, we have had several promotions, particular congratulations go to WO2 (SSM) Saroj Rai who has been selected for WO1 (RSM) QG SIGNALS.

Building back from COVID-19 we have invested heavily in our Kaida this year with several celebrations and charitable events including the 72nd Regimental Birthday, Dashain, the OC's Cup, Exercise WARRIOR CHALLENGE, to name a few, which you can read about below. I must also pass on my sincere thanks to our pariwar who have continued to provide unwavering support through another busy and demanding year, we could not do what we do without you - dherai dherai dhanyabadh.

In summary, supported by our pariwar, the Squadron continues to pursue excellence in all areas. Whether delivering CIS on exercise or operations, on the sports pitch, supporting charities or engaging with the local community the Squadron continues to uphold and promote the Paltan's ethos and Kaida and we look forward to another successful year ahead.

Jai 248!

BATUK Tour *By LCpl Anish Gurung*

The UK has a long history and relationship with Kenya. The UK has deployed many troops to Kenya whether for training or on operations in the form of Short Term Military Training Teams (STTT). The British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) is a permanent training support unit which provides training for exercising unit to prepare them for Operations and High-readiness task. There are different cap badges which support BATUK. Royal Signals is responsible for installing, maintaining, and operating all types of telecommunications equipment and information systems, providing command support to commanders and their headquarters.

I was deployed on 8 Feb 21 as a Temporary Deployment Soldier (TDS) for six months. My role in BATUK CIS department was 2IC of the Network Equipment Room (NER). My main job was to monitor the Network of the entire camp and distribute Bowman equipment to the exercising troops when required. As key personnel in the camp, we had daily dealings with the soldiers from other cap badges which certainly was not an easy job. This was challenging for me at the beginning but gradually I started to adapt and enhance my trade skills and experience. As a NER 2IC, my responsibility was not only monitoring the camp's network but ensuring all communications issues were resolved as quickly as possible.



At Tiroler Bergwacht in Germany

BATUK helps Kenyan communities by aiding with projects and providing support. It was a good opportunity for me to work alongside the local community. We were engaged in many community activities like constructing the library for Nanyuki School as the school needed a proper library for the students. We also planted around 100,000 plants in LolDaiga with the help of other local people. Furthermore, we went to Orphan House in Samburu County to provide aids like books, beds and TV. It was a great privilege to help local community.

I participated in the Last Male Standing Rhino Cup, a charity event that is held in June every year. I was amazed to see wild animals like Rhinos, Elephants and Giraffe during our game. I felt like they were there to watch our games as an audience. We managed to win a Wooden Spoon. I also represented BATUK Football Team as we played a friendly match against Kenyan Defence Force (KDF).

During my tour, I had a great opportunity to explore Kenya. I visited Mombasa, Kenya's most famous beach and Mt. Kilimanjaro. I had enjoyed wildlife safari which was in my bucket list for a long time. I also went hiking and visited a lot of places to learn about their culture and traditions.

In conclusion, It was great experience working alongside various cap badges across the army. I had an opportunity to develop my leadership, trade skills and knowledge. I enjoyed helping local communities and people, playing sports alongside Kenyan defence forces, visited wildlife safaris. It was a memorable and excellent opportunity to learn different culture. Being my first overseas tour, it will be always special tour for me.

Op SHADER 13

By Sgt Ramesh Rai

22nd Signal Regiment personnel deployed on Op SHADER 13 between Jun - Dec 21 as the J6 Detachment team at UK National Support Element, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Op SHADER is the UK contribution to the US CENTCOM-led coalition Op INHERENT RESOLVE to counter the threat posed by Daesh in Iraq and Syria. It aims to degrade Daesh and minimise the threat from Daesh and other Violent Extremist Organisations (VEO) to the UK and UK interests overseas. OP SHADER is OPCON to Commander Joint Operations (CJO), nested within the ENDURA Strategic Framework in the Broader Middle East (BME).

My role as the J6 Senior NCO is to provide ICS close support to Commanders HQ BRITFOR (L), the HQ Staff Officers through the provision, maintenance and administration of Communication and Information

Systems (CIS). Additionally, the team supports the provision of the US CIS systems and interoperability between NATO countries.

Joint Force CIS (ME) at Qatar as the OPCON, is the forward deployed representative of PJHQ J6 in JOA; providing guidance and support to deployed commanders. It also exercises operational control of CIS assets and people and provides the interface between FEs and UK based organisations, partners, and agencies.



J6 team with Brig N Stokoe (PJHQ J6 ACOS)

Our team has had constant engagement with coalition partners regarding the provision and support of ICS on behalf of the Commander. Furthermore, we support contingent operations and ad-hoc tasking. This operational deployment had been a challenging tour to the collaborative team, always aspiring to expand the delivery of services.

Our Corps being the technical lead within the British Army, we deliver solutions to both resolve problems and focus on resilient communications provision.

This operational tour has in turn significantly developed the key core skills and experience of the J6 team, enabling staff to deliver their role with flexibility and ease.

249 Gurkha Signal Squadron News

2021 has been yet another busy but highly successful year for 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn, providing Command Support to the 3rd (UK) Div HQ, whilst also deploying on operations. Circa 50 personnel from the Sqn deployed on Ex WARFIGHTER 21.4, a Training Level H interoperability OTX in Texas, USA, over the period February to May 2021 delivering ICS support to 3 (UK) Div MAIN CP. Concurrently, approximately a Troop of personnel deployed on Op TORAL 11 and 12; the latter team were also part of Op PITTING and responsible for the retrograde of CIS equipment as well as withdrawing UK citizens after the drawdown of NATO forces from Afghanistan.

In barracks, the Sqn continued with training and development opportunities by delivering Training Level B-G exercises, both military (BCCS) and trade (communication), including deploying on Ex FLYING FALCON. Beyond the core outputs, the Sqn has had significant contribution and successes in extramural activities. The Regt's Cambrian Patrol team which was predominately made up of personnel from 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn, and managed by Sgt Santanu Pradhan, bagged the Silver Medal on the competition, matched only by one other R Signals unit. 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn also dominated the Kiwi Trophy event, a Regimental march and shoot competition held annually to commemorate the contribution of the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces during the First World War and their time at Bulford camp. The event was led and executed by Cpl Vishal Rai, whilst Sig Krishna Lama, WO2 (SSM) Shyamkumar Lama and the 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn team won the overall individual, veteran, and the team trophies respectively; that is 3 out of 4 major trophies (the only outstanding being fastest female).

The provision of a Gurkha temple for the serving personnel and their families was finally accomplished. The temple, situated at the Tidworth Oval, now offers a cultural amenity not only for the serving members within Tidworth, Netheravon and Bulford (TNB) Garrison, but also to all the Hindu faith civilian community within the area. The temple was formally inaugurated by the Comd 11 Sig Bde, Brig AJ Smith in May 2021. On the charity front, soldiers from the Sqn have organised various activities in barracks and on operations, raising significant amounts of charity funds in support of GWT, COVID-19 Appeal for Nepal, Gurkha Museum, and the local charity Salisbury Stars Appeal.

Mindful of the importance of Nepalese and Gurkha culture, the Sqn organised highly successful Dashain and Tihar activities for the entire Nepalese community within the Regt under the COVID restrictions. The year also saw a changeover of the entire SHQ Command element (Sqn OC, 2IC and SSM) and the Sqn is very much looking forward to another seemingly extremely busy year in 2022.

Jai 249!

Cambrian Patrol 2021

By LCpl Samir Limbu

The Cambrian Patrol is an annual premiere international patrol event organised by the British Army that takes place in and around Wales. This event is regarded as the most arduous military patrol event in the world, and military units from all over the world field their best team to compete in this patrolling exercise. Cambrian Patrol focuses on enhancing their capabilities and



3 (UK) Div Sig Regt Cambrian Patrol Team 2021

preparing them for different operations. This year the patrol itself was to cover the distance of approximately 60 kms over the undulating terrain of the Black Down mountains and Sennybridge Training Area (SENTA). The patrol comprises of military skill checkpoints where you are assessed on various disciplines such as BCD, CEO, Water Xing, CBRN, Recce, Attack, AFV Recognition and Artillery targeting.

A team of 8 led by Lt Clifton from 3rd (UK) Division Signal Regiment participated in Cambrian Patrol 21 which contained 4 members from 249 Gurkha Signal Squadron and the team was trained, prepared, and managed by Sgt Santanu Pradhan as the Team Manager.

As part of our preparation for the event, the team went through intensive physical training under the Regimental QMSI's training program and diverse military trainings at various location with different units as prepared by the manager. The whole team successfully completed the Team Medic course, went through Artillery targeting training at the Royal Artillery's training wing in Larkhill and foreign weapons recognition training at Small Arms School Corps, Warminster. We were very fortunate to have the opportunity to undergo two weeks of training with the Brigade of Gurkhas Training Team (BTT) which consisted of a mock patrol of 36 hours in SENTA. This training proved to be crucial in preparation of the team for the event and helped us enormously to perform our best.

With all these training opportunities and hard work, 3rd (UK) Division Signal Regiment was able to bag the Silver Medal Award.

During the patrol, I was honoured to take the role of point man/lead navigator which meant I had a big responsibility of leading my team through the checkpoints without getting lost. As a JNCO, this experience has aided in boosting my confidence for further exercises and operations. My secondary role in the patrol was being CPERS handler. Performing this role was a great experience for me as I got to learn about the proper handling, managing, and treating the CPERS humanely.

EXERCISE KIWI TROPHY 2021

By Cpl Vishal Rai

Ex KIWI TROPHY is a prestigious March and Shoot competition held annually to commemorate contribution of the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces during the Great War and their time at Bulford camp. The event is named after a historical depiction of a Kiwi bird carved in Beacon Hill, Bulford by the Kiwi Forces in 1919. The competition was first organized by the then Officer Commanding 249 AMF(L) Signal Squadron, Major Danny in 1981 to mark one-year anniversary of the Kiwi monument by the Squadron. After disbandment of the Squadron in April 2003, the



3 (UK) Div Sig Regt Cambrian Patrol Team 2021 - Orders delivery training



Sig Krishna Lama receiving Individual Winner Trophy from the Army SM

conservation of the monument and the continuation of the Trophy has been carried on by 3rd (United Kingdom) Division Signal Regiment.

This year the competition was organised by 249 Gurkha Signal Squadron, led by Corporal Vishal Rai, on 18th November 2021. Traditionally a 14-miler March and Shoot event carrying 15 kg including personal weapon, the distance was shortened to 10 miles considering the Regiment's involvement in various exercises and commitments in addition to COVID that restricted participants to a limited build up training. Keeping up with their commendable performances from previous

years, 249 Gurkha Signal Squadron dominated the competition by securing 3 out of 4 category prizes.

The winners were as follows:

Overall Individual Winner:

Sig Krishna Lama (1 hr 20 min), 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn

Female Winner:

Cpl Bowyer (2 hr 17 min), 202 Sig Squadron

Veteran Winner:

WO2 Shyam Lama (1 hr 26 min), 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn

Winning Team:

249 Gurkha Sig Sqn (1 hr 35 min)

Individual trophies were awarded by the Army Sergeant Major, WO1 Carney whilst the winning team trophy was presented by the Commanding Officer 3rd (United Kingdom) Division Signal Regiment, Lt Col Harris. All the winners also had an opportunity to share their experience with visiting guest, Brig Bliss from the New Zealand Army.

The competition was a resounding success and was well received by all 180 participants and 54 enablers. Ex KIWI TROPHY 2021 helped forge a strong sense of camaraderie amongst the participants whilst displaying mental resilience and overcoming physical endurances in the arduous terrain of the Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA).



Kiwi Trophy winners with the guest, Brig Bliss and CO 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt, Lt Col Harris

250 Gurkha Signal Squadron News

In amongst the brief C19 respite, demanding exercises, standing operational commitments and cultural festivities have characterised another busy year for 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron. In support of the Main Effort, delivering CIS support to Standing Joint Force Headquarters (SJFHQ), the Sqn excelled and pioneered on the Ex KHUKURI CONNECTION and Ex UNITED MARAUDER 21 build-up exercises. The culmination of which saw the Sqn deployed on Ex JOINT PROTECTOR 21, a UK led 2* Combined Joint Task Force Headquarters (CJTJFHQ) MRX in Sweden. Here, our people honed their technical skill, delivered OpCIS to the highest standard and continued to do so against the international backdrop of C19 mitigations. Soldiers from 250 are also proud to have contributed to the Land Testing Team (LTT) and Op ESCALIN in support of the COVID logistics battle. Good-natured dedication and total professionalism underscored all these outputs.

Overseas on Op TANGHAM, Op TURUS and Op NEWCOMBE (LRRG(M)), we achieved significant J6 gains through dedication to mission success, our colleagues and commanders; emblematic of what the Paltan represents. We shared cultural festivities, fund raised, shared in Kaida and even cut the Task Group Commander's hair alongside our primary outputs and roles. Operational inserts and numerous letters from theatre show the breadth of tasks and quality of all those who have represented 250 overseas, detached from friends and family.

In barracks, the Sqn proudly hosted a number of senior Commanders and VIPs; we formally welcomed Commander and Deputy Commander 1 Signal Brigade, as well as Commander Joint Force Operations (CJFO) and Chiefs of Staff from both SJFHQ and Permanent Joint HQ (PJHQ). To mark his illustrious tenure, we also bade farewell to Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas with a traditional lunch.

Alongside all of this we led the Paltan-wide effort in delivering Ex TRAILWALKER, one of the Army's biggest public-facing events last year and a huge success. We also found time to hone our 'green' skills on Ex KHUKURI LEADER. We helped the QG SIGNALS win the Nepal Cup, represented the Corps in many sporting disciplines and celebrated together for both Dashain and Tihar. Through tenacity, hard work and commitment; 250 has had a hugely successful year; we owe this to the support, patience and love that comes from our families.

Jai 250!

LCPL ALDP Course 20/017

By LCpl Sonam Tamang

Regimental Training Wing, 30th Signal Regiment organized LCpl ALDP course 20/017 between 22 Feb - 5

Mar 2021. Despite the global pandemic, where everyone is going through a stressful time, this course was conducted and executed swiftly & securely, minimising every possible situation of Covid-19 outbreak. It was a two-weeks long course encompassing theoretical (classroom-based) and practical aspects (field exercise). Since the environmental setting was unlike any others, this course was conducted discretely compared to the previous courses.

Traditionally, during the 1st week, all students would gather up in the classroom and conduct theoretical lessons throughout the week. However, this course was conducted with the mixture of virtual delivery utilizing video-telephony software programs, such as MS teams and Zoom, and practical lessons delivered outdoors. For the practical phase, all the essential requirements and standard protocols laid out by the government's guidelines were applied, such as wearing masks at all time, maintaining social distance of 2 meters and frequent hand-washing and sanitizing throughout. All students were limited to their respective section bubble. During the 1st week, lessons on various topics such as leadership, battlefield discipline, fieldcraft, presentation, health and safety, section battle drills and froth were covered by the training staff. The section directing staff closely observed and monitored every student's action and provided clear direction and assistance when required.

The 2nd week of this course took place on Swynnerton training area. Since we were already aware of the activities going to be conducted outdoor, this week was more challenging than the previous one. On the 1st day



LCpl Sonam Tamang with the "Top Field Soldier" Award

at Swynnerton Camp, we revised all the lessons we had learned so far and on the 2nd day, we had a formative test where points were awarded based on the scores obtained to assess the knowledge acquired. Similarly, on the 3rd day, we had a summative test where we were tested on our competencies as the Section's Second in Command role (2IC). On Thursday morning of the 2nd week, Ex was ended with the final attack at the crack of dawn.

PROJECT HERMOD

By LCpl Govinda Gurung and Sig Shivraj Gurung

On 15th March 2021, an element of 30th Signal Regiment led by 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron deployed on 'Project HERMOD' as part of Standing Joint Force Headquarters (SJFHQ) in Bovington Training Area. The aim of Proj HERMOD was to showcase the British Army's capability as part of an integrated review to the media. Integrated review covers international and national security policy aspects, such as defence, diplomacy, development, and national resilience. Proj HERMOD was a weeklong exercise representing the regimental capability in support to SJFHQ commitments. 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron were tasked to deploy and setup Staff Working Environment (SWE) including provide robust power supply for the duration. Due to global pandemic situation, all the exercising personnel needed to go through COVID Lateral Flow Test (LFT) on the arrival at Lulworth camp where we all tested negative.

As soon as the result came negative to all, we moved to actual location at Bovington Training Area. On arrival at Ex location, we quickly started setting up DLX tents and laid the power equipment without wasting time under the supervision of SNCO expertise. Team worked tirelessly throughout finishing setting up complete DLX tents and power equipment by early morning on the following day. Project HERMOD's main event was set on Fri 19 Mar 21 for VVIP including hierarchies in the defence including media personnel. To meet the requirement numerous rehearsals were conducted over the week and every rehearsal went exceptionally well and the expectation of the hierarchy's was clearly met. Due to the nature of task and COVID restriction our working pattern was set on shift system following FHP and government guideline. Whilst working in a shift system, team also had some personal time such as carry out and maintain personal fitness, visit local areas in a pair to refresh ourselves from the exercise. Despite the busy schedule, we also managed to visit Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door beach which is located 20-minutes away from Bovington. On 18th march, final COVID Lateral Flow Test (LFT) was conducted on Lulworth camp to ensure the exercise personnel were free from COVID-19 and ready for D-Day on Fri 19 Mar 21. The day began with VVIP visits inspecting capability that we deliver in current context. Proj HERMOD was called off at late afternoon on Friday and we were given an authority to dismantle complex, pack up kits for recovery back to Gamecock Barracks on the following day.



Project HERMOD setup view from outside

In overall, it was a huge success of proj HERMOD, this including thorough planning and preparation, smooth deployment, effective delivery and successful recovery all in a good order as expected by CoC. Everybody played their vital role throughout and it was also a great opportunity for us to know the requirement for future deployment as Army is transiting into a better technological era. As a new member in the regiment, this was a great opportunity for me to learn and explore as career progresses.

Blandford Camp Gurkha Community (BCGC) News

As I approach the end of my Command here at 11 (Royal School of Signals) Signal Regiment and importantly, the tied position of Gurkha Focus for all Blandford Camp Gurkha Community (BCGC), it is a personal honour to be able to commit 2021 to paper. I feel very privileged to have held such a key leadership position for all the Queen's Gurkha Signals soldiers and officers within the Garrison and to have had the opportunity to share and celebrate in the notable achievements of the ever-flourishing community here in Blandford.

Once again, BCGC has enjoyed a characteristically busy period as PS from across 11th (Royal School of Signals) Signal Regiment and Blandford Garrison Support Unit have continued to deliver and support training, despite the on-going exigencies of COVID-19. It is testament to the impressive innovation and hard work that well-trained soldiers have continued to be output, on time, to the Field Army despite the many challenges. The structured training programme developed and delivered for SIKAMAT Company in 2020, has continued to endure in a reduced template to support holdover troops. Generated originally to support Gurkha and other trainees unable to go home during the initial lockdown and only training pause, it is testament to the quality of the training programme that it has been able to be adapted for continued use; critical for the provision of constructive training for all trainees not under training.

With increased Gurkha trainee intakes to support growth of the Paltan, the community has grown significantly and I am continually heartened by the real sense of 'Kaida' that is demonstrated across the

community. All BCGC PS unerringly strive to uphold and instil the values and traditions of the rich Nepali heritage to the young soldiers. The latter continue to thrive and excel in trade and across the sporting arena with Sig Mousam representing the very best of his intake this year and receiving the well-deserved accolade of best trainee. Supporting the integration of Recruit Intake 20, the QG SIGNALS staff arranged a very well-received trip to Winchester and the Gurkha Museum; unfortunately the planned trip to London was curtailed by COVID-19 restrictions but this was a great alternate plan. The importance of having role model instructors from QG SIGNALS cannot be underestimated, both to ease the transition and support the new Gurkha trainees but equally in supporting all aspects of Regimental and Garrison life.

That wider contribution has been evident across the breadth of unit activity and additionally, we have been fortunate this year to be able to physically deliver and take part in all of the traditional celebrations. Initially celebrating the Queen's Gurkha Signals 72nd Birthday with all BCGC, this was a superb day culminating in a sporting competition that saw the PS tug-of-war team prevail over the trainees. Credit to Sgt Arjun, who meticulously organised and planned the whole day. Dashain and Tihar celebrations were equally marvellous for all BCGC and honoured guests. Throughout all, the Blandford Gurkha ladies have continued to be the foundational support of the community. Their unswerving contribution and effort to drawing the community together and upholding traditions has been fundamental to its on-going success. This has also seen the continued delivery of Nepali classes by the volunteer ladies, for which, Mingma, Neelam, Pramila and Shrijana bainiharu deserve every credit and thanks.

In sum, 2021 has been another busy and rewarding year both delivering our mission as well as fostering 'Kaida' in the thriving community. I close by addressing directly, the soldiers and officers of BCGC. Despite the challenges that the Pandemic has wrought, the unfailing sense of community, pursuit of excellence and shared trust that you all exhibit is an inspiration. As my tenure comes to an end, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and everyone one of you and your families for the experiences and support you have given both me and my family. It will remain a lifelong privilege to have served for and alongside you all and I depart filled with gratitude and enormous respect.

Jai Blandford Camp Gurkha Community!

Royal Signals Foundation (FDN) One course By Sig Ganesh

Foundation 1 is the Combat Communicator syllabus designed under the planned project CADUCEUS and the start of our technical training as a Signaller. It introduces Basic Signalling Skills whilst building



Cpl Sanam delivering Foundation 1 BCCS Lesson

upon our existing Basic Close Combat Skills to create combat communicators; "Technical First, Soldier Always". Due to COVID-19 restrictions in military training, the course was compressed into two weeks as opposed to four weeks.

We arrived at the 11th (Royal School of Signals) Signal Regiment, Blandford, in February 2021. Course backlog caused by the pandemic meant an expected delay in our course too. Finally, after six weeks, we were loaded into the April course. As the start date approached, I was full of excitement, my first ever career course as a Signaller. The course started with 45 students from different trades from within the Corps, such as Information Service Engineer, Network Engineer, Power Engineer and Electronic Warfare. Amongst 45, 14 of us were Gurkha Trainees, the first-ever interaction with our British counterparts, introduction to the British way of working.

The first week was about the Royal Corps of Signal; what, why and how do we do it. It expanded on the Corps' ethos, history, structure and capabilities; how do we provide the vital link required to achieve success on the battlefield. Others were the Basic Signalling Skills, communication principles, etiquette and voice procedure.

The second week was confirmatory of the first week, introducing the practical elements of the BOWMAN radio system. We got tested on our practical skills, whilst communicating basic Report and Returns such as SALTA, MIST(AT) and 9 Liners: basic skills of a combat communicator. During Ex Mercury Dismount, a two-day field exercise, we practised sending R2s whilst conducting Troop In Contact scenarios. It was interesting to experience; how difficult it is to establish a radio link due to various factors such as distance, clearance, dead spots etc. I also learned the calmness and composure required to communicate over a radio network under pressure. I found this to be one of the most challenging and realistic aspects of the course yet rewarding. I can now establish a small radio network, communicate and be the vital link. I am delighted with what I had achieved.

After completing the course, we were announced a qualified Combat Communicator, earning a place in the Corps, worthy of wearing the Crops' TRF and stable

belt. They were presented to us by WO2 SSM(G) Bishnu Gurung Saheb. It was a joyous moment for me. It was pleasant to see the hard work we put into the course had paid off and to now officially be a part of the Royal Corps of Signals and Queens Gurkha Signals. This course was a great adventure, and it would not have been possible without the guidance of our section commanders; Cpl Rajen, Cpl Sanam and Cpl Milan Gurujis. We would like to express our gratitude to our Gurujis.

Jai QG SIGNALS!

An Evening with Beavers

By Cpl Sanam Rai

Charlton Marshal Scout actively engages its young members in a wide range of activities such as sports, environment and community related initiatives to develop the young children. Amongst various age groups, Beavers are the youngest Scout members aged six to nine years old. On Friday, 26 Nov 21, 21 members of Beaver group visited Blandford Camp for the first time and spent the evening learning about Army, Royal Signals and the Gurkhas.

Beavers were dropped off by their parents at the front gate, where the event co-ordinator, Cpl Sanam from 4 (Mil Trg) Sqn, welcomed the young curious visitors. Three adult leaders of the Beaver group were also present throughout. Beavers were extremely cheerful and showed an impressive level of communication skills. In order to gain their interest in military life, as well as provide them with the most basic understanding of discipline and technology; activity stands were prepared where Beavers could watch, learn, take part and enjoy. An indication of the success of the plan was present right from the very first activity, where Beavers got to march in a squad alongside a few Gurkha Trainees.

Trainees delivered an interesting talk on CEFO and CEMO kit to the young audience. Beavers also had an experience of sleeping inside the military sleeping bag under the poncho shelter resembling their outdoor camping activities that they got taught in their Scout programme. Along with Beavers, leaders (Emma and Thomas) enthusiastically tried on wearing a webbing set. The final activity involved the use of a Personal Role Radio and talking to each other over the air. Beavers communicated to each other in pairs and succeeded in winning over a mini maze designed for them. This activity also allowed the Scout leaders to align the Beavers' accomplishment for their own code breaking activity record.

Despite limited time and indoor settings, Beavers seemed to enjoy their interaction with soldiers and experience a few basic military syllables. Most importantly, the event was a success in terms of establishing a foundation of a pleasant relationship between Blandford Garrison and the Local Scout



Beavers testing their PRR



Beavers with Gurkhas

organisation. Leaders and parents highly praised and thanked the organising team for putting up an enjoyable yet educational event. The evening concluded with a promise of giving a continuation to similar kind of engagement in the future.

Jai Blandford Camp Gurkha Community!

Jai QG SIGNALS!

Brunei Signal Troop News

The Brunei Signal Troop enjoyed another successful year in 2021. (BST). Despite several challenges, BST continues to provide reliable CIS/ICS support to British Forces Brunei (BFB).

COMMCEN and the Support Desk have served as a single point of contact (SPoC) for all IT and communication-related issues, offering exceptional service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our small but very capable technical team has overseen administering and monitoring the reach back link to the United Kingdom, as well as maintaining a variety

of communication networks operational and providing level 2/3 technical support. The crypto cell has played a significant role in safeguarding and accounting cryptographic materials for the BFB and external elements such as 2RGR, Jungle Warfare Division, 7 Flt AAC, and MAB2 exercises. Power Engineers, on the other hand, has been delivering Signal Dispatch Service and all MT-related concerns in a fast and efficient manner. They've been critical in maintaining generators running and providing field power assistance to exercises at the Coy and Bn levels.

In addition to our ongoing responsibilities, BST contributes directly to all minor/major G6 projects in BFB. MODNet migration, MODNet (S), My MODNet Laptops (c800), High Speed Broadband across the Garrison estates, and Free VPN for all SPs and UKBC were all delivered this year. Our technical team also played a key role in bringing the Brunei Healthcare Information Management System (Bru-HIMS) online in the MOD system, as well as completing the COVID isolation facility in Sitang Camp (training camp in Tutong). We're working on several initiatives right now, including a new reach back link and microwave links to bring high-speed internet to Medicina Lines.

Our small but cohesive team has been punching above its weight in all fronts, maintaining its prominence in the Garrison. We have been highly proactive; leading events from the front be it military, sporting, adventurous, charitable, or social activities. One example of this is BFB SAAM, where we achieved 2nd position overall out of 8 teams including Rifle companies 2RGR and Roya Brunei Army (RBA). Equally, our ladies have been highly proactive in leading/participating all community engagement programmes, becoming an integral part of the BFB ladies' community and bringing significant value to it.

Jai QG SIGNALS! Jai BST!

EXERCISE PARIWAR BANA JANE 21

By LCpl Sajan Gurung

Brunei Signal Troop (BST) held a Garrison Support Troop (GST) families' team bonding event in Training Area C on the 24th of May 2021 to give them a taste of living in the Close Country Tropical Environment (CCTE). This was a notable effect by the BST team in successfully organising such an event in such a fun way.

The Field Firing location in Training Area C was used for this drill. The Safe System of Training was used to carry out all of the events in this exercise. Heat illness was one of the concerns that was thoroughly covered and briefed. All of the nominated ICs assessed the families for such hazards on a regular basis. Cpl Puspa served as the exercise coordinator, assisting in the overall preparation and execution of the exercise.

There were various stands with various CCTE subjects on display. Our SCO, Capt Laxman saheb, gave us the briefing for this exercise. After the families had made their way into the bush, Cpl Bir set up a water stand and demonstrated several techniques and sources of drinking water. Cpl Prakash explained various types of survival shelters that can be erected in the bush at the shelter stand. The fire and food stand were discussed by Cpl Manoj and LCpl Shambhu. They demonstrate how to make fire as well as a variety of edible jungle delicacies. The penultimate stand was the trap stand, which was led by Cpl Ram and demonstrated various trapping techniques.

The GST families were unfamiliar with these survival techniques and approaches. It was amazing to observe the children's and women's eagerness to learn the skills needed to survive in the wild. After a delicious meal, the practise concluded with an explosive's demolition display. Everyone returned to safety after that.



Group photo during Ex PARIWAR BANA JANE 21

Overall, the exercise went well for the families and provided them with the opportunity to practise basic survival skills in a tropical forest setting. Exploring the forest and spending exciting time with friends and families was a lot of fun. Because of everyone's participation, it was a genuinely successful exercise.

BFB SAAM Shooting Competition

By LCpl Amit

Tradesman first, soldier always. A soldier's basic requirement, regardless of trade or function, is to be able to shoot. It's also a fantastic sport that, like all sports, is both physically and mentally challenging. To become a competent shooter, you must have a strong commitment and willingness to study.

This year, 2RGR A (Amboor) Coy, directed by Capt Lakh Bahadur Gurung 2IC A Coy, organised the British Forces Brunei SAAM Shooting Competition 2021. The Army Operational Shooting Tournament (AOSC) was cancelled in the UK because to the ongoing COVID outbreak, but BFB was fortunate enough to organise a similar competition in Brunei. There were numerous divisions for pistol and rifle shooting in this tournament.

The competition featured highly competitive Company teams of 2RGR battalion's best shooters. This year's competition included two very excellent shooting teams from the Royal Brunei Land Forces (RBLF). A strong squad from the Garrison Support Troop (GST) was led by Captain Nathan Kelsey SO3 LOG SP as captain team. The competition was held in Tuger Lines at 25 metres and Tutong Ranges at 600 metres from May 24 to June 4, with a week of shooting instruction and match practises before to the competition. The competition's major goal was to find possible new shooters for the 2RGR shooting squad, maintain a positive relationship with

the RBLF through shooting, and retain solid operational shooting capabilities.

Throughout the competition, the firers were required to carry 7 kg of weight and wear full Virtus gear. For us, the excessive humidity and heat were the most difficult hurdles. It was difficult for the squad to compete with the infantrymen because they had little or no experience with the LDS sighting system. However, thanks to the best preparation and assistance from senior firefighter members, our squad came in second place overall out of eight strong teams from the Bn and RBLF. Our team members received a few individual awards. Out of 72 best firers from the battalion and the RBLF, Capt N Kelsey Saheb took second place overall for best team captain, while Cpl Ram Tamang from BST took third place overall in the individual rifle category.

Despite their lack of expertise, the troop's lack of shooters, and Brunei's tough weather, the Garrison Support Troop achieved a great overall result. Personally, I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the team, as well as the information, experience, and shooting skills that I have gained during this competition. I'm already looking forward to the competition the following year. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a member of the Garrison Support Troop shooting team. Of course, the training was difficult and demanding, but the results were well worth it, and the team spirit was a joy to be a part of, as it aided in the tough times and made the good times even better, as shooting can be more frustrating than golf, tennis, or any other sport in the country. I'm honoured to be a member of such a dedicated team that rallied around each other and fought tirelessly for each other all the way to the competition's conclusion.



Group photo BFB SAAM SHOOTING COMPETITION

Nepal Signal Troop News

“Nepal Signal Troop is to provide Communication and Information System (CIS) Support to BGN and GWT in order to facilitate Commander BGN and his Staff to accomplish their mission”.

Nepal Signal Troop (NST) continues to deliver both strategic and contingency tactical CIS/ICS capabilities 24/7 throughout the year in support of British Gurkhas Nepal (BGN), as well as supporting FCDO, HQ GWT and AWCs based in different parts of the country. Besides its primary role, the Tp is actively supporting BGN’s core tasking of recruitment, supporting on welfare of serving and retired soldiers and families and preparedness for contingency operation.

Nepal Signal Troop’s current held manning strength remains 1+12 including Senior System Engineer in Pokhara. Despite Global Pandemic of C-19, our serving personnel and their families have been able to manage balancing work life and social life with extra care. All serving personnel and their families within HQ BGN were repatriated back to the UK during 1st and 2nd quarter of Year 2021 however all families have now safely returned to Nepal. Roll out of Booster Vaccine to all SPs and their families in BGN have now been successfully completed.

Achievements and ongoing projects

Nepal Signal Troop is currently engaging with all key stakeholders (G2 Army HQ, Regional Command, Defense Digital, DXC, Global Connectivity, CPO, Atlas, World Link and NTC) to ensure all the current G6 projects gain momentum. To name but few projects are successful completion of DII (S) migration to MoDNet (S), My MoDNet Laptop (MML) Rollout NST’s responsibility to engage, plan and execute MML Win 10 rollout by Jan 22. WiFi Accreditation. While we all in the UK enjoy free WiFi in workplace through DBI, the onus here in Nepal is vested upon NST to deliver OFFICIAL WiFi. This again must go through DART process for full accreditation and will take some time and effort. Integrated User Service (IUS)- this will replace the current exchange in BGN and provide enhanced digital voice capability and other feature such as central management and conference hosting after Mar 22. Installation of SIP Gateway- The existing PRI DID is now obsolete and the installation of SIP Gateway between the Realities DXs and NTC for the continuation of the STD and ISD services in BGK is now complete. VPN in official PED and private PED - The VPN that is recommended by both PJHQ and AHQ Cyber, F-Secure Freedom has been installed on all official PED and waiting approval from HQRC for the installation of VPN in private VPN. Global Connectivity (GC)- IPLC 4Mbps link was recently upgraded to 10Mbps GC link in Aug 21.

Activities

Nepal Signal Troop has been involved in/or conducted the following major activities over the year.

- Deployed to British Gurkhas Pokhara to assist Gurkha Recruit Selection (RI22) Regional and Central Selection.
- Conducted Ex CONTINGENCY Operation plan.
- Organized a fund-raising charity event during European Football Cup 2020 to support local community in Nepal.
- 72nd Queen’s Gurkha Signal Regimental Birthday Celebration.
- Successful conduct of Ex Valley Rim Walk 21 (an annual adventure training day of hillwalking) for BGN Serving Personnel.
- BGN Triathlon 2021.
- Outstanding contribution from NST members and their families is worth mentioning. They have continued to be at the forefront of all families’ activities, always volunteering and taking the lead. Whether leading on Dashain celebration or BGN Winter ball; well received by all BGN members, their families and guests.
- Additionally, NST personnel have been taking the opportunities to complete various courses; training et al throughout the year. Meet and greet followed by a regular Regimental update by OC NST has strengthen a relationship with QGSA(N) stronger than ever.

Conclusion

Yet again, it has been another hectic but very productive year for the Nepal Signal Troop. Our focus remains continually providing robust, resilience and reliable services to HQ BGN and other departments. Nepal Signal Troop is delivering critical support to HQ BGN in order to achieve its mission and maintain core functions. With outstanding personal and departmental achievements throughout the year, our SPs’ and families’ morale remain high and NST is looking forward for further challenging years ahead.

Jai Nepal Signal Troop!

Jai Paltan!

Ex- VALLEY RIM WALK (VRW) 21

By Cpl Kailash Rai

Year 2021 put the whole world into stand down, everything stopped and so did British Gurkhas Nepal. The Covid-19 pandemic hit us hard and safety of all Military Service personnel, Civil staff members and families were paramount. Getting back to normality was a challenge and after a year of pandemic Cpl Kailas from Nepal Signal Troop (NST), who voluntarily organized Ex- VALLEY RIM WALK 21 a day hillwalking to Chandragiri Hills.

Everyone was excited and full of enthusiasm about the trek as we had not done one since late 2019. The early morning of 12th March we all gathered outside at BGN

Chautara (raised platform) feeling fresh and ready for the day. We were all looking at each other's bag and stuff they were carrying, excited about what would one need on a trek like this, and RAO Saheb Maj Neil Fidler's broly was the one that was outstanding. LCpl Dinesh then took us through safety brief for the day and it was quite exhilarating to see NST OC Saheb Capt Khagendra on a 500cc safety motorcycle.

We all jumped onto our respective vehicle and headed towards Hattiban Resort (4kms away from BGK) which would be our start point. To our surprise we also met our BGN padre at the start point and after our first group picture together the first group of 8 including BGN DCOMD Saheb Lt Col Townsend and DCOS Saheb Maj Narendra Gurung started the hill walk. Soon after 10 minutes the second group of 8 left the start point too.



SSgt Pasang not missing any opportunity to capture the memories

We could not have asked for a better weather that day, it was sunny, and the sky was clear. We started at the elevation of 1705m and our destination was 2550m south west of Kathmandu valley. I was on a second group and LCpl Sheraph Tamang was our Lead IC. The trek led us through a lot of beautiful sceneries and landscapes. It was breath-taking to see such a view above the hills where we could see the whole of Kathmandu valley and the mountains far above the horizon. WO2 Matt Bavington introduced us to this amazing phone application where you would see the names of all the mountains when you hold and face the phone towards the mountain range and to our surprise the names were far too many as we with our eyes we could only see the three big mountains.

Halfway through our day we all met at Chap Banjyang Resort for lunch. BGN DCOMD Saheb shared his story of how he came there on his mountain bike before and I thought of all the stairs we climbed thinking how would that be possible but there are lot of routes for hillwalkers and mountain bikers to explore. We stayed there for an hour, a cup of tea and a bowl of hot soup noodles we were recharged and ready to finish the second half of the leg.



BGK SP at the finish point, temple of Chandragiri Hill

At our final RV point, Deurali, we met OC NST Saheb on his safety motorcycle and it was quite commendable for him to drive such an arduous route to reach the final safety point as we listened to his side of the story. It took us 4 hours and 40 minutes walking 12 kms up and down the hills to reach Chandragiri Hills at 2550m. The whole journey starting from Hattiban Resort to Chandragiri hills was impressive, adventurous and full of memories.

BGN TRIATHLON 2021

By Cpl Kailash Rai

British Gurkhas Nepal (BGN) is a small unit within the Brigade of Gurkhas with responsibilities and work never leaving your sight. Despite busy schedule and duties, we always find ways to indulge ourselves on various activities. BGN Triathlon for this year took place from 29 Sep- 01 Oct 2021. The sport comprises of three disciplines; 750m Swimming, 20km Bike and 5km Run. It is classed as Sprint Triathlon as per British Triathlon organisation.

We had a total of 7 fully fit participant for the event. WO2 Yogendra Limbu was the man to beat as he was the overall winner of last year and on very impressive form to reclaim his title for this year too. We had all nervous yet enthusiastic participant as most of them have never completed all three disciplines in one go. All of them were briefed on rules.

Day 1 of the event was the day to set the benchmark. As the organiser, I volunteered myself to go first and completed the overall event at 1 hour 29 mins just few seconds ahead of SSgt Judbir Gurung whose biking and running were very impressive than mine but lost time on transition. I was unaware of what was coming on Day 2 and 3.

WO1 (RSM) Basanta Jung Gurung was the only participant on Day 2. As to my surprise, he completed



BGN RSM WO1 Basantajang completing the final part of the competition

the overall event at 1 hour 25 mins and was now setting the new time to beat. It was his first time completing the sprint triathlon.

Everyone was looking forward to Day 3 of the event as we had the past winner and some eager and aspiring participant to claim and triumph on this year's Triathlon. It was the day of lot of hard work, sweats and determination. Cpl Amrit Gurung (NST) started first and completed on very impressive time of 1 hour 17 mins. We had overall winners from the next three participant Capt Sundar Sherchan, SO3 G6, WO2 (RQMS) Yogendra Limbu and SSgt Jangabahadur Thapa. Capt Sundar Sherchan clinched the overall third and the fastest runner trophy as he completed the 5km run on impressive time of 22 mins 12 secs. WO2 Yogendra Limbu gave his very best effort and we could see his experience from the past as he took only 2 mins on overall transition. He claimed overall second just ahead of the third by merely 3 seconds. SSgt Jangabahadur Thapa was the overall winner completing the event at 1 hour 13 mins and clinching the trophy of fastest swimmer with time of 10 mins 15 secs.



COMD BGN Col Paul Smith handing over the First winner trophy to SSgt Janga (DIO)

We had visitors throughout the event and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Commander BGN (Col P Smith) handed the medals and trophies to the winners and runners up of the event.

We look forward for next year's triathlon with even more competitiveness and participation.

QG SIGNALS Detachment - Gurkha Company ITC Catterick

Gurkha Company Mission - "To deliver trained Gurkha Soldiers in order to meet the operational requirements of the Brigade of Gurkhas"

"We do not learn from experience. We learn from reflecting on experience"

As I write this reflection, we are still in the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic. When we think we've turned another corner, another variant breaks out somewhere in the world. It's looking though this could be our new-normal for quite some time. The year 2021 was indeed a big year for learning - learning not only subject matter but also how to transition from various learning settings from home to Infantry Training Centre (ITC) and Gurkha Company (G Coy) and Coy to home and most importantly, how to deal with the anxiety and other big feelings of living, training, coaching and mentoring through this pandemic.

If there is one thing, we can all learn from the last two years, it's the importance of reacting to unforeseen circumstances. Our Gurujis have shown flexibility, emotional courage and resilience during these uncertain times. They took full responsibility to coach, mentor and train the new generation of the Gurkha soldiers. It is with great pride I can look back at the many achievements of our NCOs and JNCOs. They have worked so hard and with ever-changing demand made on us by the challenging Combat Infantry Course. Their resilience in dealing with these challenges is something we recognise, celebrate, and never forget. Immense gratitude to our families too; they had borne their heavily committed husbands and they had been our strengths and support when we were tested the most.

I am proud of what we have achieved this year, providing the best training to the new Gurkha Recruits under some difficult circumstances. Our agility, collectively and individually, has meant that we've been able to provide the best possible support to the G Coy, ITC and the Brigade of Gurkhas. This has been underpinned by our values, KAIDA and moral courage in embracing new ways of working and digital tools. And I'm excited to see how we can continually adapt as an organisation and strengthen our approach next year. QG SIGNALS' strength in G Coy will reduce significantly in year 2022. The Wing 2IC post is drawn down as part of Project SHERPA and a further reduction of two Section Commanders and two JNCOs in Signal Detachment means the total strength will only be 1+5.

Despite reduction in numbers and our yearning for the old normality, we will continue to live in uncertain times for a while to come. And we will need to respond to changes as they appear. 2022 will be full of challenges again, but I know with the fantastic team we have at the G Coy and our network of PARIWARS within the QG SIGNALS and across the Brigade of Gurkhas, we will meet them - so bring it on!

Recruit Intake 2021 (RI 21)

On 1 Sept 21, the Cap Badge Ceremony for Recruit Intake 21 (RI 21) was held at Gurkha Company, ITC. Lt Col S M Smith (Comd QG SIGNALS), Maj Amrit Gurung (Gurkha Major QG SIGNALS) and WO1 (RSM) Pandu Tamang along with QG SIGNALS Representative Capt Sekendra Gurung (4 Pl Comd, Gurkha Coy) handed the new cap badge to the 72 Trainees (Total 340) selected to join the QG SIGNALS. The Trainees have successfully completed the training and they have now joined the QG SIGNALS as of 5 Dec 21.

Section Commander in ITC, Catterick, Gurkha Company

Cpl Sunil Subba

Section Commander in Infantry Training Centre (ITC), Catterick, is one of the job roles that everyone, if not most of the Gurkha service personnel aspire to serve during their service in the Army. The sense of achievement and pride that comes with being an instructor in such a prestigious institution is second to none. However, this privilege comes with equally immense responsibilities.

The job role of a section commander in ITC, Gurkha Company is to deliver trained Gurkha soldiers to meet the operational requirement of the Brigade of Gurkhas and the wider Army. Therefore, the job demands a high level of KSE on basic combat infantry skills and competency in fundamental military subjects. The organisation

expects Section Commanders to deliver CIC lessons at the highest standard and conduct day-to-day supervision of their recruits, both in the field and in the barracks, to teach, assess and monitor their overall development.



Cpl Lucky with his section on Exercise

The trainees that arrive in G Coy are highly motivated and disciplined individuals. However, because of their diverse background, they lack the basic understanding of culture and way of life on arrival at their new place and require extra supervision and guidance during their training. So, it is also a section commander's responsibility to act as their guardians and look after their welfare and provide that much needed emotional parenting support.

In addition, the recruits always look at their section commanders as role models and thus, it is the section commanders' responsibility to always conduct themselves at the highest standard. Gurkha recruits during training are equally susceptible to learning unfair behaviours as supposed to good ones, as they are very observant by nature. Recruits will probably imitate



RHQ QG SIGNALS with trainees and Permanent Staffs

section commanders' conduct and approach. So, section commanders must abide by the standards-setting an example and inject those impeccable values and norms on the aspiring Gurkha soldiers at an early stage to establish a solid bedrock for the future of the Brigade.

ITC Catterick, Gurkha Company is a unique establishment and demands your best at everything you do. There is no doubt that this results in sizeable working hours and requires absolute dedication from every individual, but the joy of learning, experiencing and contributing towards the development of the future soldiers of our Brigade of Gurkhas overwhelms all the extra efforts that you put in.

The Road to Becoming A Gurkha Soldier - A T/Rfn Blog

By T/Rfn Oshis Gurung

Being a Gurkha soldier is a desire of many youths in Nepal. Earning that title is not a simple dream to achieve, out of thousands of candidates fighting for limited spaces. Therefore, all potential recruits undergo hard training, pushing themselves to their limit. To arrive where I am, I had to face many challenges.

In the cold and windy weather of February, my journey to become a Gurkha soldier had begun - a new chapter in my life and the challenges. The initial three months were hectic because we had to learn many new things such as weapon handling, rifle lesson and the values and standards of the British Army whilst at the same time maintaining the highest standard of discipline and turnout. It was very challenging to adapt to an alternative lifestyle, KAIDA of Gurkhas and somewhere I was also worried about all those new and unknown things which we were not exposed to.

Our life took a tremendous leap. Intense physical training and learning about army knowledge and skills have been new areas to cope with. Sweat dripping from our body and with sore muscles, we still have to give extra effort to not get an extra set of exercises. However, these challenges brought many positive changes to my approach. My mindset is different from my past, as I can think more wisely and has developed a 'can-do' attitude.

I had never thought that I could undertake so much responsibility in one go. The journey has taught me many lessons which I cannot express in words. Advantages of being positive, getting personal satisfaction by helping others, staying in a high standard of discipline, time management, the importance of individuals in a team and most importantly the experience of a mental change - I feel more mature and responsible.

Overall, my training was fruitful - it developed me a lot, and I was lucky enough to have seized many opportunities that had built my confidence. My Platoon Commander has been my role model who has inspired



T/Rfn Oshis Gurung receiving the award from OC G Coy

me to win the overall Pass of the Square champion and the Champion Recruit of the QG SIGNALS - I am very proud to be a part of the paltan.

In conclusion, the road to becoming a Gurkha soldier is not so easy because it takes determination, enthusiasm and patience. The word 'Gurkha' carries a high degree of military and professional excellence. The key to success, forming a band of brothers - RI21 and to becoming part of it lies in our ability to adapt, initiative and an overall professional standard and performance; these set us apart from other cohorts of recruits.

Seremban Troop, SSU, RMA Sandhurst News

It has been another hugely demanding, yet successful year for Seremban Troop providing unparalleled support to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Seremban Tp has continued to maintain its high reputation in RMA Sandhurst, constantly delivering reliable and resilient Bowman Tactical Communications and power support to the Academy (Ac) circa 50 exercises per year, including overseas from Company to Battle Group level.

Seremban Troop is yet again facing greater challenges each term. A shortfall of manpower coupled with increasing demands due to COVID-19, has put added pressure on the Troop. Regardless of this, we have continued to display a high level of technical proficiency, effectiveness, and total professionalism whilst mitigating the COVID-19 risks. We have been proactive in remaining flexible to cope with the growing changes in the training modules within RMA Sandhurst, while also improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our service.

Besides our professional commitment, Seremban Troop has remained active in all aspects of Ac life. Despite a busy schedule, Seremban Troop members delivered Squadron level military exercises for the Squadron personnel and continued to maintain team cohesion whilst upholding the Gurkha kaida and tradition during this difficult time. We have also been involved in charity raising £315 for The Gurkha Welfare Trust by taking

part on UK Doko Challenge South. As a result of these extremely effective and reliable outputs, throughout the year, Troop members have received awards, commendations and outstanding promotion results.

Overall, it has been another tremendously busy yet rewarding year for Seremban Troop. We have continued to stamp our mark as a highly professional Troop within RMA Sandhurst and deliver first class service to the Ac. We are also mindful to ensure our strong Regimental ethos, kaida and tradition are maintained while continuing to integrate with the diverse community within the Ac and Squadron.

Ex SCOVELL SPANNER 21 (44 Support Squadron CT1 Exercise)

By Sig Amir Rai

Ex SCOVELL SPANNER 21 (ExSS21) was a Squadron CT1 exercise which took place at Stanford Training Area (STANTA) over the period 10 – 13 May 2021 for 44 Support Squadron, RMA Sandhurst. The exercise incorporated lessons on Equipment Care (EC), Basic Close Combat Skills (BCCS), and Operating in Built Up Area (OBUA). It was led and meticulously planned by SSgt Mehar Singh Gaha and Cpl Anil Gurung as a Planning Officer (PO) and Exercise Conducting Officer (ECO).

On 10th May, the Squadron deployed to the training area early in the morning. First day saw exercising troops involved on equipment care lessons for whole day. The troops were tested on vehicle recovery (using both straight bar and TIRFOR jack) and L1 vehicle repair (changing a tyre) whilst in a tactical setting including casualties.

The second phase focused on Military Skills through the medium of OBUA and BCCS lessons. Stanford Council Houses were utilised to teach OBUA lessons. OBUA being first time for most of the exercising troops and complexity of the lessons, the day progressed slow, but steadily. Building up from the stack, Method of Entry (MOE) to a platoon deliberate attack of the Tottington Council Houses on next morning culminated the OBUA phase. BCCS phase included day of teaching and revising lessons from back to basic syllabus. Round robin lessons on patrolling, section attack and casualty evacuation kept the exercising troops engaged and motivated before they settled in for the night. Dawn saw delivery of section patrol order, followed by section strength patrol for a sequential section attack on multiple objectives.

Overall, the exercise was a great success, despite fatigue and inadequate sleep, everyone displayed good battlefield discipline and performed enthusiastically throughout the exercise. Without a doubt, ExSS21 has developed our Mil Skills on both conventional and built up setting and most importantly enhanced CLM skills of junior commanders ready to embark on their relevant ALDP courses in the future.



Need some screening, Section ready to assault an objective

Ex DYNAMIC VICTORY (Winter Term 2021)

By L/LCpl Sujan Tamang

Ex DYNAMIC VICTORY (ExDV) is the final confirmatory exercise for Officer Cadets (OCdts) at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS). This term, the exercise took place in Germany over the period 7 – 19 November 2021 for Regular Commissioning Course 211. The exercise included two different phases; the first phase was Live Fire Tactical Training (LFTT) in Grafenwohr Training Area and the second phase was the tactics in Hohenfels Training Area.



“Hello B30, this is O, send sitrep”, Sig Amir in EXCON

Two Signallers were deployed in advance with a Bowman Detachment during the first phase. The main role in this phase was to operate a service desk and provide safety nets for the range staff on the ground whilst OCdts built their live firing skills from an individual fire and manoeuvre to a Platoon attack. During the second phase, the EXCON was established in Ravensdorf village with Battle Group (BG) Comd and BG Admin nets. In addition to this, a TAIT radio network and Wi-Fi link was established to facilitate Directing Staff (DS).

The second phase started with 3 Companies conducting a round-robin of rural operations 1, rural operations 2 and urban operation stands in very demanding terrain. A Signaller was attached to each company to provide tactical communications support at the Coy Command Posts (CP). This played a vital role in establishing secure communication with the EXCON. Ex DYNAMIC VICTORY culminated with a final dawn attack in Ubungsdorf village which marked the end of long gruelling journey for the OCdts.

The long hours of providing exercise support not to mention the epic journey from and to the UK were made all worth it by the success of the exercise and the Hohenfels retail store, the PXtra. Soldiers were able to buy essential and not so essential items at subsidised prices.

It is a very fortunate and unique feeling to be part of the training cycle at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. We play a part in producing the leaders of the British Army and this is bringing everyone involved, a huge honour. I feel proud for being a member of Seremban Troop and being able to conduct this role with total professionalism and dedication.

Jai Seremban Troop!!



Coy CP is ready, time for a snap - Sig Anuj posing in front of his Coy CP

THE QUEEN'S OWN GURKHA LOGISTIC REGIMENT



An eight-pointed Star in Silver, thereon a Scroll inscribed "QUEEN'S OWN GURKHA LOGISTIC REGIMENT". Issuant therefrom a Wreath of Laurel all in Gold, overall, two Kukris in Saltire, the blades Silver, the hilts Gold, ensigned with the Royal Cypher in Gold

Lineage

Gurkha Army Service Corps (Gurkha ASC) was raised at Nee Soon, Singapore, in 1958 and comprised:

- 28 & 30 Companies Gurkha ASC raised & formed in 1958-59.
- 31 & 34 Companies Gurkha ASC raised & formed in 1959-60.
- Headquarters Royal Army Service Corps 17 Gurkha Division re-designated Headquarters Gurkha ASC in 1960.

The Gurkha ASC re-designated as The Gurkha Transport Regiment (GTR) in 1965 and comprised:

- 28 Squadron GTR.
- 30 Squadron GTR disbanded in 1968.
- 1 Squadron GTR.
- 34 Squadron GTR re-designated 34 Training Squadron GTR in 1967. 34 Training Squadron re-designated The Gurkha All Arms Mechanical Transport (MT) Training Wing GTR in 1970 before being re-designated Gurkha MT School and absorbed into 31 Squadron GTR in 1971.
- Headquarters Squadron GTR was formed in 1978.
- 28 (Ambulance) Squadron GTR raised as a composite squadron for service in Gulf War 1990-91.
- 34 (UNIFICYP) Transport Squadron GTR raised as a composite squadron for service with the United Nations Force in Cyprus 1991-92.

GTR was re-designated The Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment (QOGTR) in 1992 and comprised:

- 28 Squadron QOGTR, re-designated 28 Transport Squadron QOGTR in 1993. 28 Transport Squadron QOGTR was re-subordinated to 10 Transport Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) in 1993.
- 31 Squadron QOGTR, re-designated 31 Transport Squadron QOGTR in 1993. 31 Squadron QOGTR disbanded in 1994.
- Headquarters Squadron QOGTR disbanded in 1994.
- Headquarters QOGTR was co-located with Headquarters 10 Transport Regiment RLC in 1995.

QOGTR was re-designated The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR) in 2001, with:

- 28 Squadron QOGLR.
- 94 Stores Squadron, 9 Supply Regiment RLC re-designated 94 Stores Squadron QOGLR in 2002 before being re-designated 1 Supply Squadron QOGLR in 2012.
- 1 Engineer and Water Support Squadron, 10 Transport Regiment RLC re-designated 1 Transport Squadron QOGLR in 2005, before being disbanded in 2012.

10 Transport Regiment RLC was re-designated 10 Transport Regiment QOGLR in 2006 before being re-designated 10 QOGLR in 2008, and comprised:

- 1 Transport Squadron QOGLR.
- 28 Squadron QOGLR, re-designated 28 Fuel & General Transport Squadron QOGLR in 2012.
- 36 (Headquarters) Squadron, 10 Transport Regiment QOGLR re-designated 36 (Headquarters) Squadron QOGLR in 2006.
- 94 Stores Squadron QOGLR, 9 Supply Regiment RLC re-designated 94 Materiel Squadron QOGLR in 2008, and 94 Materiel Squadron QOGLR re-designated 94 Supply Squadron QOGLR and re-subordinated to 10 QOGLR in 2012.

Under the QOGLR Growth Program, first troops moved to 4 Regiment RLC, 9 Regiment RLC and Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Support Battalion (ARRC Sp Bn) in 2018 and formed:

- 60 Close Support (CS) Squadron RLC 4 Regiment RLC redesignated 60 CS Squadron QOGLR and re-subordinated to 4 Regiment RLC in 2019.
- 94 Supply Squadron RLC 9 Regiment RLC redesignated 94 Supply Squadron QOGLR and re-subordinated to 9 Regiment RLC in 2020.
- 14 Squadron Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) redesignated 14 Squadron QOGLR and re-subordinated to Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn in 2021.

Current Organisation

RHQ 10 QOGLR
 HQ QOGLR
 1 Supply Squadron 10 QOGLR
 28 Fuel & General Transport Squadron 10 QOGLR
 36 (Headquarters) Squadron 10 QOGLR
 10 QOGLR LAD REME
 60 Close Support Squadron QOGLR 4 Regt RLC
 94 Supply Squadron QOGLR 9 Regt RLC
 14 Squadron QOGLR Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn

Campaign Services

Brunei 1962
 Borneo 1962-66
 Malay Peninsula 1964-65
 Gulf War 1991
 Cyprus 199-92, 2007-08 & 2011-12
 Balkans 1995, 1996-97, 1999 & 2001-02
 Iraq War 2003, Iraq 2006-07
 Afghanistan 2009-10 & 2011-12

Humanitarian Service	Sierra Leone (Ebola Virus) 2013
Affiliated Corps	The Royal Logistic Corps
Affiliated Colonel-in-Chief	Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal
Colonel of the Regiment	Brigadier P S Reehal MBE
Regimental March	Wait for the Wagon

Current Organisation

RHQ 10 QOGLR
 HQ QOGLR
 1 Supply Squadron 10 QOGLR
 28 Fuel & General Transport Squadron 10 QOGLR
 36 (Headquarters) Squadron 10 QOGLR
 10 QOGLR LAD REME
 60 Close Support Squadron QOGLR, 4 Regt RLC
 94 Squadron QOGLR, 9 Regt RLC

QOGLR Officers Staff List - 2021

Lieutenant Colonel GR Sugdon RLC	Commander	RHQ
Major D Melia RLC	Senior Major	RHQ
Major Basantadhoj Shahi	Gurkha Major	RHQ
Captain R Melhuish RLC	Adjutant	RHQ
Captain Bhim Shreesh	Gurkha Adjutant	RHQ
Captain H Eaton RLC	Operations Officer	RHQ
Captain Dhungana Rai	Regimental Career Management Officer	RHQ
Captain Dawanuri Sherpa	Regimental Welfare Officer	RHQ
Captain K McLeod RLC	Regimental Technical Officer	RHQ
Captain P Ryan RLC	Regimental Intelligence / Signal Officer	RHQ
Captain Ram Thapa GSPS	Regimental Administrative Officer	RHQ
Lieutenant J Clarke SPS	Detachment Commander	RHQ
Major J Sutton RLC	Officer Commanding	1 Sqn
Captain Pawan Sherchan	Second-in-Command	1 Sqn
Captain H Christiansen RLC	Operations Officer	1 Sqn
Captain Harkaman Tawa	Troop Commander	1 Sqn

Lieutenant C Anderson RLC	Troop Commander	1 Sqn
Lieutenant T Hare RLC	Troop Commander	1 Sqn
Second Lieutenant F Dickson	Troop Commander	1 Sqn
Major A Brazier RLC	Officer Commanding	28 Sqn
Captain Vivekjung Shah MBE	Second in Command	28 Sqn
Captain T Christopher RLC	Operations Officer	28 Sqn
Captain Nirmalkumar Innam	Troop Commander	28 Sqn
Captain Z Marsden RLC	Troop Commander	28 Sqn
Lieutenant C Reedman RLC	Troop Commander	28 Sqn
Lieutenant S Davies RLC	Troop Commander	28 Sqn
Major E Hanley RLC	Officer Commanding	36 Sqn
Major J Revell RLC	Regimental Quartermaster	36 Sqn
Captain Uttam Limbu	Second-in-Command	36 Sqn
Captain Prakash Rai	Regimental Quartermaster (Technical)	36 Sqn
Captain G Pryor MBE RLC	Regimental Training Officer	36 Sqn
Captain M Rodgers RLC	Regimental Contracts Officer	36 Sqn
Captain A English RLC	Operations Officer	36 Sqn
Captain Harry Wright REME	Officer Commanding	LAD
Major A Wilson RLC	Officer Commanding	60 Sqn QOGLR
Captain Todhan Ghale	Second-in-Command	60 Sqn QOGLR
Captain W Moore RLC	Operation Officer	60 Sqn QOGLR
Captain Lalkaji Gurung	Troop Commander	60 Sqn QOGLR
Lieutenant M Walker RLC	Troop Commander	60 Sqn QOGLR
Lieutenant T Jenner RLC	Troop Commander	60 Sqn QOGLR
Second Lieutenant J Aird RLC	Troop Commander	60 Sqn QOGLR
Major J Kedge RLC	Officer Commanding	94 Sqn QOGLR
Captain Dipendra Rai	Second-in-Command	94 Sqn QOGLR
Captain N Watkins RLC	Operation Officer	94 Sqn QOGLR
Captain Giriraj Limbu	Troop Commander	94 Sqn QOGLR
Lieutenant S West RLC	Troop Commander	94 Sqn QOGLR
Lieutenant C Langridge RLC	Troop Commander	94 Sqn QOGLR
Second Lieutenant D Harrison RLC	Troop Commander	94 Sqn QOGLR
Major M Hearth RLC	Officer Commanding	14 Sqn QOGLR
Captain Surendra Purja	Second-in-Command	14 Sqn QOGLR
Captain B Ryde RLC	Troop Commander	14 Sqn QOGLR
Captain J Sedman RLC	Troop Commander	14 Sqn QOGLR
Captain Basanta Rai RGR	Troop Commander	14 Sqn QOGLR
Lieutenant C Norris RLC	Troop Commander	14 Sqn QOGLR
Lieutenant R Humphrey RLC	Troop Commander	14 Sqn QOGLR
Second Lieutenant O Dyer RLC	Troop Commander	14 Sqn QOGLR
Extra Regimentally Employed		
Lieutenant Colonel Devendra Ale MVO MBE	CI Supply Training Wing	DLS
Major Baldeep Tamang	Gurkha Major	GARRC Sp Bn
Major Chakra Khatri	SO2 ES Mat	3 UK Div
Major Ram Rai	Quartermaster	3 RLC
Captain Deny Gurung MVO	Quartermaster (Technical) G	ARRC Sp Bn
Captain Safin Magar	SO3 Family Support	HQ Regional Comd
Captain Prakash Gurung	OC QOGLR Detachment	Brunei Garrison
Captain Bikram Thapa	Troop Commander	25 Regt RLC

Unit Newsletter



Ex WARFIGHTER advance party in Texas, USA

COVID-19 offered us an ever more challenging environment, never experienced before in modern history. The impact that instigated our personal and regimental life is immeasurable and perhaps only the time will assist in healing the scar that was left by the pandemic. Though the situation and how we had to conduct ourselves was completely unique during this period, our personnel from across The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment still managed to partake in a range of activities.

After the Christmas break, we started our new year with some hopes to return to normal military life after a long period of uncertainty. On 4th January 21, the Ex WAR FIGHTER advance party was deployed to the USA to facilitate the smooth reception of the exercising troops from across the 3 (UK) Division Units. The Ex WAR FIGHTER was a Corps level military exercise conducted in Texas, USA, and participated by soldiers from US, UK and French warfighting Divisions. The Exercise was designed to test their readiness, inter-operability skills and military leadership on a simulative battlefield environment. 10 The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment was given the responsibility to coordinate the Real-Life Support (RLS) of all deployed forces of the 3 (UK) Div. Providing a Real-Life Support to a Division level of military personnel in such a restricted environment was a real challenge. It drew a substantial number of workforces from 10 QOGLR and planning time to mitigate the Covid risk to the deployed forces as per UK Government's Covid rules and Forces Health Protection Instructions. However, Regiment successfully executed the given mission without any unintended glitch and all deployed troops were safely repatriated back to the UK by end of Apr 21. Whilst majority of the regimental personnel were deployed on Ex WARFIGHTER, 28 Sqn was tasked to reinforce and manage the COVID-19 Military Quarantine Facility at Crowborough Camp (QFAC). They took over the QFAC responsibility from 12 January 21 and finally returned to Aldershot on 31 March 21.

After Easter leave in April, the Regiment sifted priority to the Force Generation (FGen) for the UKSB (S) commitment and subsequently assume the role from 01 Jun to 03 Sep 21. As the majority of the soldiers were aligned for this commitment and put on high readiness,

Summertime break was delayed until September. Whilst still committed to the UKSB (S) task the regiment managed to organise several activities including high-ranking officers' visits. On 08 June 21, the Regiment hosted GOC 3 (UK) Div Lieutenant General I B L Jones CB at Old Carter Barracks where he displayed the regimental capability and readiness state in a true regimental style and flair. During his visit, he presented his Commendation to the soldiers who had performed exceptionally well, and the impact of that performance was felt at the Division level. Subsequently, Commander Field Army Lieutenant General R W Wooddisse CBE MC visited the regiment on 22 July 22. He was also offered to observe and witness the capability and readiness state of the regiment at Rushmoor Arena.

In addition to the high-ranking officers' visit, the Regiment bid a final farewell to the Gurkha Major QOGLR Major Indrabahadur Tamang on 02 July 2021. Upon completion of the Gurkha Major's tow out, Major Basantadhoj Shahi assumed the role of the new Gurkha Major QOGLR. Due to the Covid restriction, the event was carefully tailored and a limited number of SPs from QOGLR satellite Sqns were invited.

This year Gurkha Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Support Battalion found its first-ever Gurkha Major. Major Baldeep Tamang QOGLR took over the role of the Gurkha Major GARRC Sp Bn in July 2021. The Formation Parade of the GARRC Sp Bn was held on 05 July 2021 at Imjin Barracks, Gloucester which also formally marked the re-designation of 14 Sqn QOGLR.

On 28 Jul 21, HQ QOGLR organised the Colonel of the Regiment Khukuri challenge, a very first-ever organised series of sporting events contested by all QOGLR Squadrons. After a cumulative result, 1 Sqn, 10 QOGLR was declared as the overall winner of the CoR Khukuri challenge 2021.

Usually, QOGLR organises Regimental Birthday and KASAMKHANE parade on the first Saturday of July every year but considering the unprecedented time of the year, the parade was postponed until September. As Covid cases were lowered and restriction was eased, finally the Regimental Birthday and KASAMKHANE parade was

organised on 04 September 21 at Aldershot with some imposed Covid control measures and limitations in place. The number of personnel on parade was scaled down and observed by very limited personnel only.

After the delayed summer leave in September and the Dashain celebration in October, Regiment focused on some low-level Collective Training in order to be fully ready for the Ex KHUKURI ENDEAVOUR in February 2022.

Overall, the year 2021 became a very successful year. We are much confident that the memories and experiences we treasured together this year will help us to cultivate our regimental value for many years to come.

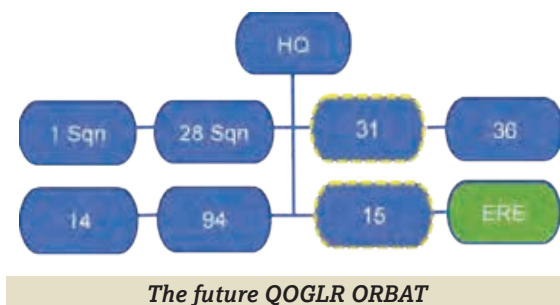
Manning Updates

The Queen’s Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment is the second-largest cap badge within the Brigade of Gurkhas and perhaps it has the largest footprint across the UK and overseas locations compared to other Brigade Units. Currently, QOGLR liability is 815 strong and soldiers have been employed in 31 different locations.

Following the Future Soldier announcement by the Defence Secretary of State on 24 November 21, QOGLR saw an increase of another Squadron and resubordination of 60 Squadron QOGLR to the 15 Air Assault Support Squadron QOGLR within the 13 Air Assault Support Regiment Royal Logistic Corps. On 03 December 21, it was further confirmed by Colonel of the Regiment Brigadier Patch Reehal MBE Saheb that 31 Fuel and General Transport Squadron QOGLR will be reformed at Gale Barracks, Aldershot which will remind us once again of the Gurkha Army Service Corps’ time in Malaya and Hong Kong. As Implementation Orders (IOs) for 31 Squadron are yet to be released we have not many details to share at this stage.

The current 60 Sqn QOGLR will be resubordinated to 15 AASS QOGLR and moved to Colchester to be collocated with 13 AASR RLC by 2023. This will see the change in Sqn’s role from Close Support to the Air Assault Support which will create opportunities for many of the QOGLR personnel to do the P Coy course in the future. When Future Soldier reform completes by 2025, QOGLR will have 7 Squadrons in total and 3 of them will be collocated with other RLC Units. The future QOGLR ORBAT will reflect the model below.

Jai QOGLR



36 (Headquarter) Squadron, QOGLR

EXERCISE WARFIGHTER 21.4

By SSgt Begbahadur Thapa

36 (HQ) Sqn, 10 QOGLR deployed to support the Real Life Support (RLS) for Exercise WARFIGHTER 21.4 (WFX 21.4). This saw the Squadron and Regiment respectively deploying to Fort Hood, Texas, USA in support of 3 (UK) Division. During these trying times of COVID-19, the Regiment supported one of the UK’s largest deployments which was also the Division’s main effort. WFX 21.4 is a US-led Corps level CPX. HQ 3 (UK) Division deployed to Fort Hood as part of III (US) Corps to be validated alongside 3 (Fr) Div. The validation was through Collective Training level H. During this validation, it also saw 7 Infantry Brigade deploy to Fort Bliss, Texas as part of 1 (US) Armoured Division (AD). This was the first time any unit has been invited to a US Armoured Div.

WFX 21.4 was one of the most challenging overseas deployments encompassing all cap badges and trades from across the Division. This was a fantastic opportunity for 10 QOGLR to deploy and support 3 (UK) Div, where over 1300 service personnel were deployed, thus making it the largest Warfighter exercise to date.

The RLS contingent of the exercise was mostly comprised of QOGLR personnel with additional personnel from a variety of cap badges including the Royal Military Police (RMP) and the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). The strong RLS team was commanded by Officer Commanding 36 (HQ) Sqn (Maj G Power).

An advance party comprised of 21 members of the RLS were deployed on 4 January 21 to meet the vessel as it arrived in Texas. Due to COVID compliance restrictions, they were put into US mandated quarantine for 14 days. This team’s mission was to ensure the sustainment of the RLS (10 QOGLR) and enabler contingent (3 Divisional Signal Regiment) circa 500 personnel. At such an early stage of the exercise, the RLS had to undergo some of the harshest weather conditions that Texas has faced in over 100 years. The temperatures dropped to -20 degrees centigrade and there was a state of emergency imposed on Texas for weeks. This had a knock-on effect on all stores and shops required to facilitate the build phase of the exercise. This coupled with COVID restrictions made it a very complex start to the exercise and arguably these issues proved to be the hardest challenge throughout.

Upon establishment of the 3 exercise locations, circa 800 service personnel arrived and isolated in their respective exercise locations. This included Lt Col G Sugdon (Comd 10 QOGLR), WO1 Madan Rana (RSM) and many other staff officers who were amongst exercising troops and as part of 3 (UK) Div deployed force. The RLS mission was now to support, sustain and facilitate the deployed personnel in all locations



36 (HQ) Sqn, 10 QOGLR on Ex WARFIGHTER 21



Real Life Support Team



36 (Headquarter) Squadron on EXERCISE WARFIGHTER



36 (Headquarter) Squadron

(LSA Hood, Boaz and Elijah). This added additional complexity for the RLS having to divide the workforce into all the locations accordingly. Even though we suffered delays and closures due to adverse weather conditions the exercise still needed to be facilitated. The timeline was now very limited. However, the tireless efforts and hard work of the RLS team continued to manage and locally purchase all required items to support the exercise. In addition, we liaised with contractors to ensure all the requirements are being met. These range from but are not limited to, fuel, water, accommodation, laundry, waste management, environmental health, and PPE. This was coupled with the defence engagement with our allied forces both the US Army and the French Army.



36 (Headquarter) Squadron on EXERCISE WARFIGHTER

Despite a very busy schedule and COVID-19 restrictions, the deployed troops managed to organise various team bonding events including messing and key celebrations to maintain the morale of the deployed QOGLR troops.

In summary, 36 (HQ) Sqn led RLS support to 3 (UK) Div on WFX 21.4 was performed with the highest professionalism and impeccable standards. Knowledge, skills and experience in such adverse conditions are invaluable. Regardless of location, unprecedented adverse weather conditions, COVID-19 implications, and the number of personnel deployed; the 10 QOGLR contingent performed faultlessly earning plaudits from Brigade, Division and on an international platform respectively.

EXERCISE KHUKURI ISLAND 22

By Cpl Jitang Jimi

On the 1st of February 2022, 36 SQN, 10 QOGLR deployed on **Ex Khukuri Island** to Jersey Camp, Isle of Wight. Led by Maj E Hanley (OC 36 Sqn), to exercise the Sqn in both permissive and non-permissive environments. It was an opportunity to develop junior commanders across the Regiment and our paired reserve unit (151 Regt) through joint training. The primary objectives were to revise, learn, and develop knowledge of Basic Close Combat Skills, as well as to form an excellent team bonding.

Initially, Ops with Training Team, SQMS Dept and the Catering Dept deployed to the area as an advance party to conduct necessary preparation and administration to facilitate training for the Sqn. As the main body arrived at the location, they were briefed on the camp's safety

by WO2 Volaman Limbu (SSM) and accommodated into sections as per their Exercise ORBAT. It is also to mitigate Covid-19 spread, limiting the risk on the deployed force. The initial BCCS phase was initiated by delivering theory lessons, demonstrating them in training, and then practising to build confidence and knowledge. Individuals were also given the opportunity to deputise the next rank, which was a challenge, but they learned how to cope with the additional pressure in a difficult situation. As a final phase for the BCCS, a Platoon level attack was conducted where the Junior commanders displayed exceptional leadership skills. Upon completion of the BCCS phase, there was a Gurkha messing organised to provide pivotal moral support. On the Op TEAMWORK, we also had the opportunity to address the army's delegated topics and speak freely to express our opinions. The March and Shoot competition was another highlight of the exercise. The primary goal of this event was to assess participants' fitness and sharpen their shooting skills.



Orders during Ex EXERCISE KHUKURI ISLAND 22

In conclusion, it was an excellent exercise for all, and gradually building up each phase enabled individuals to learn efficiently in an effective manner. Everyone played a substantial role in various phases which helped us achieve the exercise intent by retaining and expanding knowledge on all the mandatory training subjects.



Battle Preparation



EXERCISE KHUKURI ISLAND 22 participants

Communication Troop

By Cpl Sujan Gurung

2021 was another busy yet rewarding year full of opportunities for Comms Troop. Operating internationally in their core role as Communication Specialists, the Troop have continued to build on their trade knowledge.



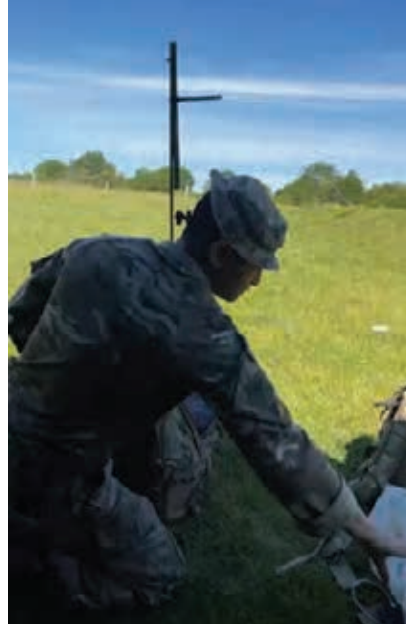
Hasty Comms establishment during EX KHUKURI STAR 2

Communication is a key element to the running of a troop, squadron, or higher formation, performing a vital role in maintaining command and control. Communications Troop, QOGLR are vital in providing this function for the Regiment and are involved in supporting all the exercises across the Regiment by providing robust and reliable communications. In addition, the Troop also conducts training for Regimental personnel including staff user training and Non-Vocational BOWMAN training.

With the Covid-19 pandemic causing a difficult start to the year, the troop still managed to overcome challenges to deliver their function. Ex WARFIGHTER saw part of the Troop deploy on the divisional level exercises to Texas, USA. In preparation for the Exercise, LCpl Nirajan Gurung and LCpl Rabin Rana Magar qualified as JCB operators whilst Cpl Dhurba Gurung prepared to deploy as an Application Specialist (AppSpec) in order to support the 3 (UK) Div HQ.

Whilst part of the Troop was on exercise the remainder of the Troop continued to be busy. Cpl Bikash Rai posted to ARRC Sp Bn as HQ ARRC Sp Bn BOWMAN storeman. Meanwhile, Cpl Hom Pun returned to 10 QOGLR and has since been promoted to Sgt, he will now take on a new role for the Troop as TAC CIS Trg SNCO, his new role is a positive development for the Troop allowing growth within the trade. Additionally, the Troop has welcomed a new Troop Commander, 2Lt Rebecca Old, again a new role introduced at 10 QOGLR.

As Ex WARFIGHTER began to come to a close, Cpl Bhogendra Subba was already planning to deploy with



LCpl Som Maski Magar preparing his Manpack radio for patrol in Ex KHUKURI STAR

his Detachment as Detachment Commander on PDT to Warcop, followed by deploying to Caerwent for an Urban Exercise in preparation for Ex VIKING STAR which was due to be held in Denmark. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, a deployment abroad wasn't possible, however, the Detachment along with 1 Sqn, deployed to Barton Stacey on Ex KHUKURI STAR 2 and continued to provide the best possible Comms in support of the Exercise.

Throughout the summer the Regiment was aligned to UK Standby to support the public services. In order to support this role, for a period of three months, the Troop took control of 70 BOWMAN radios and 107 Airwaves. This equipment required maintenance in order to ensure the serviceability should the Regiment be called out.

As the Regiment stood down from UKSB, the festival season began to approach fast. The Regiment celebrated Dashain together, as is tradition. During the celebrations, Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL, a grueling forty-eight hours foot patrol competition, was also taking place. Pte Almosh Kirat Rai from 10 QOGLR as well as Pte Prashant and Pte Lakpa from 9 Regiment were key members of the team representing QOGLR at the competition. The team persevered in the challenging patrol and secured Gold medals; a true testament to the soldiers and the unwavering Kaida, as well as the tradition and mentality of the Regiment.



Brigade Commander visiting Comms Detachment in EX KHUKURI STAR 2



10 QOGLR Team, GOLD MEDAL receiver in EX CAMBRIAN PATROL 2021



Repairing Headlight in service area during EX KHUKURI DURSANCHAR convoy move



Pte Lakpa, Pte Prashant, and their team receiving GOLD Medal in EX CAMBRIAN PATROL 2021



Mountain Biking in Forest of Dean, AT organized by Cpl Nom Tilija Pun

As we began to approach the end of 2021 10 QOGLR Comms Tp prepared for their last exercise of the year. Deploying on Ex KHUKURI DURSANCHAR the Troop aimed to prove Comms from Aldershot to West Freugh in Scotland, identifying any blackspots along the route in preparation for EX KHUKURI ENDEAVOR, a Regimental deployment planned for March 2022. The Troop were able to use this opportunity to develop their knowledge, skills and experience in both comms and driving with several people in the Troop acting one rank up.

competing in Rugby Union. Cpl Nom Tilija Pun was selected to play basketball for the RLC. Additionally, Cpl Sujan Gurung and LCpl Som Maski Magar have both participated in the Army Enduro Cycling Competition.

In December, Cpl Nom Tilija Pun organized a 48-hour Adventure training package within the 36 SQN. The Adventure Training aimed to bring people from around the SQN together after a busy year of exercises, courses and readiness.

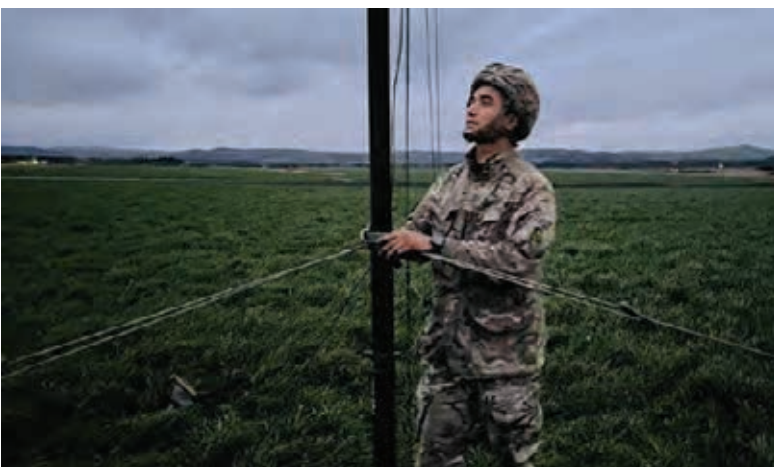
As 2021 draws to a close the Troop have now turned their attention to Ex KHUKURI ENDEAVOUR as the Regiment begins to prepare for Op TOSCA deployment in Cyprus.

Jai 36 (HQ) SQN! Jai QOGLR!

Ex KHUKURI STAR 1 & 2 – 1 Sqn QOGLR

For 1 Sqn, 2021 was a year of readiness. As the wider Army began to return work as fully as possible during the pandemic, the wheels of the Sqn operations room began turning in preparation for a year focussed on infanteering. With all personnel returned from Ex WARFIGHTER in the USA, the Troops and departments switched their focus on to teaching and revising basic dismantled close combat skills.

Two exercises were planned for the year - Ex KHUKURI STAR 1 was to be made up of two parts, with overall control from SSgt Niraj. The first week, in Warcop camp, was a TLFTT (transition to live fire tactical training)



LCpl Aadarsha Magar setting up 8m Mast in EX KHUKURI DURSANCHAR

Although the Troops are kept busy with exercises across the Regiment, they have also made time for extracurricular activities. Cpl Bhogendra Subba and LCpl Nirajan Gurung both represented 10 QOGLR

package, overseen by Sgt Yubaraj. For many, this was their first experience of live fire tactical ranges since Catterick. Warmup lessons were conducted on the use of the laser light module and night vision sights, before rotating through a number of live fire stands, including section in defence, and pairs fire and manoeuvre. This was interspersed with Troop entertainments and games in the evenings, organised by the junior Ptes. The second phase was an urban operations package, with Cpl Lumansingh providing a wealth of knowledge and training. The Troops practised building entry and clearance drills, and working in small, isolated teams. The two Troops then engaged in a peer-on-peer serial, pitting themselves against one another in a complex, fast moving environment. The Ex concluded with a dawn Company attack, seeing the Troops now working together, rather than against each other. The terrain and urban layout of Caerwent training are provided fantastic learning opportunities and left the Sqn in a good state for the next exercise.

The second exercise was Ex KHUKURI STAR 2, originally planned for Denmark, but changed last minute due to the pandemic. Ex KS2 saw an increase in tempo from the first exercise, with the Sqn fully deploying all three Troops into the field, in a round-robin style peer-

on-peer context. Each Troop had 48 hours to conduct recces, observation posts, and plan their attack or defence. Having to contend with a thinking, competitive enemy, rather than a pre-positioned red force required the Troops to be adaptable in their planning. The old adage of 'no plan survives first contact with the enemy' was quickly proved to be true. Soldiers at all levels had to be fully switched on and use their initiative as the situation rapidly changed around them. A series of night and dawn attacks took place as the week went on, before the first phase of the exercise drew to a close. A visit by the Brigade Commander provided the opportunity for the soldiers to demonstrate what they had learned, and some of the tasks they had been completing throughout the exercise. The second phase then involved partnering with our paired reserve Regiment, 151 RLC. 1 Sqn hosted a patrol competition, run by RV Tp's Sgt Anil, Cpl Bijay and Cpl Navin, designed to test the soldiers of both the Sqn and 151 Regt on all their basic soldiering skills – from section attacks and battlefield casualty drills, to CBRN drills and vehicle recovery. All involved gave their best effort at making the event as enjoyable as possible, while also making it a valuable training exercise. The Commanding Officer of 151 Regt was thrilled to hand out CO's coins to those who had made the competition run as smoothly as it had and spoke about the continued work between 10 QOGLR and 151 RLC.

As the Exercise drew to a close, the Sqn reconvened for a sports competition, the first incarnation of the OC's shield, admirably won by 94 MAT Troop. There was just time before ENDEX to take a Sqn photo with the Colonel of the Regiment's Khukuri, awarded to 1 Sqn for winning the CoR's khukuri competition amongst all 6 Sqns of the QOGLR.

It was an intense four-week exercise, in a number of environments, in every type of weather, but the learning and revision of skills was invaluable. With the Sqn rehabilitated back in camp, the troops could finally relax, and look forward to the celebrations of Dashain and Tihar, and a well-earned Christmas leave - including for many the first opportunity since the pandemic to return to Nepal and see families.



Ex KHUKURI STAR 1 - Live Firing Exercise



1 Sqn QOGLR Exercise Troop

94 Supply Squadron

Ex TRAILWALKER 21

By WO2 Lok Thapa

For the first time since becoming part of 9 Regiment RLC, 94 Squadron QOGLR entered a team into the gruelling Ex TRAILWALKER 21. It felt like the perfect opportunity to shine in the eyes of both the Regiment and wider Brigade of Gurkhas.



94 Squadron Trailwalker Team

The competition was held on Saturday 25 Sep 21. It was a given for the Gurkhas that the 100km distance would be covered as it always had been – by running. The team, consisting of Pte Dipesh, Pte Prakash, Pte Milan and Pte Durga, ably trained and supported by LCpl Parush and WO2 Lok Thapa respectively, gave themselves 30 hours to complete the event, looking to push their physical and mental robustness to the limit. However, their stamina, grit and determination would ultimately go on to surprise even themselves, as they completed the entire course in a hugely respectable 12 hrs 30 mins. Given their minimal training and prior experience, to have secured a sixth placed finish out of a total of 1242 teams should be a source of immense satisfaction and pride for them all, and certainly fulfilled the brief of bringing great credit upon the Sqn.

EX CAMBRIAN PATROL

By Cpl Triven Gurung

EX CAMBRIAN PATROL is renowned as one of the toughest events of its type in the world and is a huge test of physical fitness, military knowledge, leadership ability and endurance. The main event took place from the 12th -14th of October 2021, organised by 160th (Welsh) Brigade in the countryside around Brecon and the Black Mountains. The team undertook a 65km, two-day foot patrol carrying in excess of 35kg, and was constantly tested in military serials mirroring a range of real-world scenarios. Amongst the taskings issued on the patrol were: reconnaissance and intelligence collection, dealing with mock IEDS, casualty evacuations, river crossing scenarios, complex navigation, CBRN, Artillery target indication, AFV reconnaissance, and section attacks and debriefs. This year's event had 84 patrols, although only

few teams succeeded in grasping the top award. The final results were as follows: 11 gold medals, 26 silver, 14 bronze and 18 certificate finishes. A total of 15 teams failed to finish.



The CAMBRIAN POATROL Team with their medals

The 9 Regiment RLC team, call sign “E23G”, secured a coveted gold medal. It was a fantastic moment, and a true testament to the effort put in by all those elite members who took part, in particular Lt Daniel Harrison (Patrol IC) and Cpl Triven Gurung (Patrol 2IC).

Squadron Function 2021

By Cpl Triven Gurung

On the 29th of October 2021, 94 Sqn came together with family and friends for a first and long-awaited Sqn function since the start of the seemingly endless COVID 19 Pandemic. The function captured those missed moments from the lockdown which were significant but unable to be celebrated in the traditional QOGLR manner. All those present at the event relished a great entertainment programme and superb food. A thoroughly entertaining evening was enjoyed by all, and the Sqn looks forward to the next time it can reconvene once more.



OC 94 Sqn, Major J Kedge RLC, saying a few words at the start of the evening



OC 94 Sqn group photograph

Tihar Celebration

By SSgt Dhurba Gurung

Tihar is one of the major Hindu festivals. Also known as the festival of lights, it is the second biggest Nepali cultural holiday after Dashain. Tihar is also known by many names such as Dipawali, Bhai Tika or Laxmi Puja. It is a five-day festival all about worshipping the Hindu Goddess of Fortune and Wealth (Goddess Laxmi). During this time great meals are cooked at home, brothers and sisters buy gifts for one another, card games are played with friends, homes and streets are lavishly decorated, and it all culminates in the giving of a special temporary mark on the forehead called a 'tika'.

The festival is novel in that it shows reverence to not just the gods, but also to those animals that have long-lived in harmony with humans. The five days of Tihar each have their own significance. The first day of Tihar honours the crow, as it represents the Messenger of Death sent by the God Yama.



A traditional "Puja" prior to the start of Tihar celebrations



A traditional part of Tihar - gaming

The second day, known as Kukur Tihar, pays respect to dogs for their loyalty towards human beings. The third Day of Gai Tihar & Laxmi Puja worships the cow, as it is considered a sacred creature and the national animal of Nepal. It is on this day that the Goddess of wealth, Laxmi, is also revered. On the fourth day, Goverdhan Puja & Mha Puja, Oxen are the focus due to their cultural significance. The last day of the festival, known as 'Tika Day' or more popularly 'Bhai Tika' (Bhai in Nepali means Brother), sees the festival draw to its traditional close with sisters wishing a long life to their brothers!



Lighted discussions in the margins of the Tihar celebrations

EXERCISE CUNNING RUNNER 2021

Army Inter Corps Orienteering Championships 13/14 Nov 21

By SSgt Arun Gurung

The Inter-Corps Orienteering Championships 2021, split into both night and day events, were respectively held at Tweseldown Racecourse on Sat 13 Nov 21 and Long Valley North on Sun 14 Nov 21. The Championships were organised on behalf of the Army Orienteering Association by the Royal Artillery in conjunction with the British Army and Berkshire Orienteering Clubs. Orienteering is of a high standard across the Army, it being classed as Individual Military Training and so practised by a wide range of individuals.

To this backdrop, soldiers from 94 Sqn QOGLR proudly represented the Regiment in this exhausting and demanding competition. In order to compete with multiple highly skilled competitors, the participants required presence of mind, fitness and skill, alongside a 'think fast, go hard' attitude. The soldiers from the Regiment performed exceptionally well and managed to secure a runner up place after totalling both the night and day results. This was an incredible achievement, and all participants should be rightly lauded for their exceptional diligence and effort.



94 Sqn Ex CUNNING RUNNER Team

12 hrs Watt Bike Challenge on Remembrance Day

By *Tukraj Gurung*

To mark Remembrance Day on 11 November 2021, Pte Tukraj and Binod completed a 12-hour charity watt bike event, covering an incredible 709.5 km and successfully raising £1458.79 for the Royal British Legion: a truly inspiring achievement. They even found time to participate in the poppy appeal collection at Morrison's in Chippenham, enjoying the prestigious opportunity to chat with WWII veterans and the local community. Congratulations to them both for the credit they have brought upon the Regiment and wider QOGLR.



Royal British Legion fund raisers in WW2 uniform



Pte Tukraj and Binod during the 12-hour charity Watt bike challenge

COM ARRC Visit to HQ 104 BDE (BDE Capability Day)

By *SSgt Bipendra*

Capability Day was held at Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney. With 104 Sust Bde resubordinating to ARRC on 1 Oct 21, it was the intent of the Brigade Commander to deliver a capability day in order to demonstrate to COM ARRC and HQ ARRC staff the full range of capabilities held across the TEG. The demonstration was targeted at guests from HQ ARRC, JFHQ and SJFLogC who were seeking a larger

understanding of 104 Bde and TEG capabilities, as well as developing their knowledge of the specific units and trade groups held within.

Capt Wilkins, representing 94 Supply Sqn QOGLR, described the Sqn's LSS capability, outlining how they transition from initial theatre enablement to routine sustainment. Additionally, he described how their output is both scalable and modular, able to support large Theatres or smaller operations as required.



HQ ARRC staff being briefed about 94 Sup Sqn's capabilities



The Chief guest was Commander of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, Lieutenant-General Nicholas Robert Macrae Borton DSO MBE.

9 REGT RLC Dashain Celebration

By *Sgt Abhiman Gurung*

This year 9 Regiment RLC managed to celebrate the auspicious Dashain festival on 8th Oct 21 at Buckley Barracks in Hullavington. The event was organised and led by Capt Dipendra Rai (2IC 94 Sup Sqn QOGLR). Against the backdrop of another busy and challenging period for the Regiment, the Dashain organisational committee commenced their preparations for the event - determined to make it a hugely successful affair. All the ICs worked extremely hard, with special mention to Cpl Saroj who pulled together a highly talented dance team in very short period of time - the main attraction of the event. Around 200 people participated in the festivities, with all the available Officers, SNCOs, soldiers from 94 Sqn and their families and guests excitedly making the effort to attend. We were honoured to host Brigadier Chris King, the 104 Brigade Commander, and Commanding Officer of 10 QOGLR as VVIP guests. The party included a mouth-watering buffet or 'Bada



Dashain Guests



Khana', free drinks, an amazing cultural show and a very intense cocktail dance! However, it was the 'Lazy Dance', hilariously performed by the junior bhaiharu, that proved to be the ultimate highlight of the evening.

The Dashain celebrations didn't just embody the tradition, culture and 'kaida' of the Gurkhas, but promoted other fundamentals too. The festivities celebrated an ethos of culture sharing that is significant to our people, and important to our Regimental cohesion and subsequent operational output. Promoting relationships, embracing other beliefs, championing inclusion and celebrating diversity are the elements that drive us closer to one another, ensuring we are all travelling on the same journey and destined for the best results. After what felt like an eternity, the 9 Regiment Dashain celebrations proved to be an outstanding event well worth the wait, and we hope to celebrate many more COVID-free in the years to come.

Jai 94 Sqn QOGLR!



Brigadier Chris King, the 104 Brigade Commander chatting to members of 84 Sup Sqn



Guests and hosts enjoying a traditional Dashain meal

My journey towards the Infantry Training Centre (ITC) Catterick
By Cpl Samir Rai (10 QOGLR)



Despite the unprecedented pandemic, Gurkha Company (Gurkha Coy) at Infantry Training Centre (ITC) Catterick successfully delivered the Combat Infantryman Course (CIC) to Recruit Intake 2021. It was my true honour and a genuine privilege to serve as a Section Commander (Sect Comd) within the Gurkha Company to produce the next generation of soldiers for the Brigade of Gurkhas. As a Gurkha soldier, we all start our military careers at ITC Catterick. Most of us aspire to serve as an instructor in this proud organisation at some point in our careers however only a few succeed due to the competitive nature of this post. Whilst reflecting on my own journey, I cannot explain in words how proud I am to have served as a Sect Comd where I started my journey 8 years back as a Gurkha recruit.

My journey to becoming a Sect Comd in the Gurkha Coy was challenging as well as fulfilling. I needed to go through the 4 months of the rigorous Section Commanders' Battle Course (SCBC). SCBC is the mandatory course to become a Sect Comd in all the Infantry Regiments of the British Army. This course demands a high level of physical and mental robustness with first-class levels of command and control. For me, it was worth confronting these challenges as it had helped me to make my dream come true to serve as a Sect Comd in the Gurkha Coy. Moreover, it also armed me with the advanced infantry skills to lead and command a section both on the battlefield or in peacetime, and in any challenging situation.

The best part of being a Sect Comd in the Gurkha Coy, in my opinion, is seeing the young civilian boys growing under your lead to eventually become fierce Gurkha soldiers. The journey for the recruits is something I too can relate to and reflect on since it was also my journey whilst becoming a Gurkha soldier all those years ago. Likewise, there was not a single day where the trainees did not surprise me with their talents. This total sense of fulfilment you feel when you see them growing with your effort cannot be reflected in words. Moreover, the unique bond you develop with your recruits during this fast-paced infantry training will remain with me forever. In short, my experience with ITC Catterick was like a rollercoaster. Every day was a learning day. I was there to teach the trainees, but I also learnt so much from them. I cannot describe how fortunate I was to serve alongside the other high calibre instructors, handpicked from the Brigade of Gurkhas. Furthermore, I have created many memories to cherish for the future. Lastly, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to my coveted Regt, The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR) for offering me the wonderful opportunity to serve at this incredible establishment.

Jai Brigade of Gurkhas!

GURKHA COMPANY (CATTERICK)



Gurkha Company Mission
“To deliver trained Gurkha Soldiers in order to meet the operational requirements of the Brigade of Gurkhas”

Gurkha Company History

Prior to Indian Independence, recruits for Gurkha Rifles regiments were trained at Regimental Centres and then despatched to Battalions. Regimental Centres were often shared by two regiments and were staffed by Officers and men from those cap-badges. The history of centralised training to Gurkha Recruits can be traced to the formation of ‘The Boys Company, The Brigade of Gurkhas’ in April 1948. This amalgamation of the Boys Companies of the 4 Regiments of the Brigade saw the creation of an organisation similar to the modern Gurkha Company in terms of staffing and general course content, although it was responsible only for the preparation of Line Boys ahead of Recruit training.

At the same time as The Boys Company was formed, the creation of a ‘Brigade of Gurkhas Recruit Training Centre’ was announced, and the first Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas was originally due to be Commandant Gurkha Training Centre. On 15 Aug 1951, the ‘Recruit Training Centre’ was opened in Sungai Patani, Malaya, commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel and consisting of two Training Companies, The Boys Company, the Signal Training Squadron and an Administration Company. Even at this early stage, the Training Centre had a staff representing all contemporary cap-badges of the Brigade.

By 1953, the Brigade of Gurkhas Recruit Training Centre had changed its name to ‘Depot The Brigade of Gurkhas’ and – as well as conducting training – had started to become known as the ‘home’ of the Brigade of Gurkhas, which played host to several events and meetings which are recognisable in the contemporary Brigade Week. By 1956, training had expanded from the Boys and Recruits to include certain NCO courses and language courses for junior British Officers.

In 1961, Depot The Brigade of Gurkhas’ was retitled Training Depot Brigade of Gurkhas (TDBG), a moniker it retained (with the exception in 1971 of a short spell as ‘Training Centre the Brigade of Gurkhas’) until 1995. In Hong Kong, TDBG occupied Malaya Lines, Sek Kong and took increased ownership of the course qualification of NCOs on behalf of various Arms Schools, as well as continuing training delivery to all Gurkha recruits.

On 1 December 1994, and in line with the transfer of sovereignty over Hong Kong, Training Depot Brigade of Gurkhas was drawn down and closed. The Unit was reborn on 01 February 1995 at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham as the Gurkha Training Wing (or GTW) under the Command of Maj J G H Corrigan MBE RGR. Between 1995 and 1999 the GTW was responsible for the training of all recruits to the Brigade, the preparation of NCOs attending career courses at the School of Infantry, and for the conduct of certain intra-Brigade qualifications.

In 1999, GTW moved from Church Crookham to the Infantry Training Centre Catterick and became Gurkha Company. This marked the first time in history that the training of Gurkha recruits had been conducted alongside their British counterparts but did not change its fundamental role. The Company was originally part of the 3rd Infantry Training Battalion, but a restructuring in 2006 saw it move to the 2nd Infantry Training Battalion, where it remains today. Through its lineage from the formation of The Brigade of Gurkhas Recruit Training Centre on 15 Aug 1951, Gurkha Company continues to train recruits to the highest standard of infanteering, and in the highest traditions of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

Battle Honour	Date	Platoon
SOBRAON	10 February	1
KANDAHAR	01 September	2
TOBRUK	21 May	3
IRAQ	21 March	4
HELLES	25 April	5
ASSAYE	23 September	6
KABUL	23 December	7
ARAKAN	11 May	8
MEIKTILA	03 March	9

Gurkha Company Staff List - Recruit Intake 2021

OC	Maj M F Barney RGR
2IC	Capt Vijayprakash Subba Limbu RGR
CSM	WO2 Sajan Limbu (2 RGR)
Trg CoOrd	WO2 Akash Tamang (QGE)
CQMS	CSgt Biken Rana Magar (1 RGR)
Asst CQMS	Sgt Dipendra Rana (1 RGR)
ChClk	SSgt Bhishmaraj Jabegu (GSPS)
A WING	
Wing commander	Capt Santoshkumar Rai RGR
Wing 2IC	WO2 Jayandra Garbuja (QGE)
B WING	
Wing commander	Capt Ashokkumar Gurung QGE
Wing 2IC	CSgt Ratnabhadur Gharti Magar (2 RGR)
C WING	
Wing commander	Capt Basanta Rai RGR
Wing 2IC	SSgt Kumar Thapa (QG SIGNALS)
1 (Sobraon) Platoon	
Platoon Commander	Captain Mukunda Rajali RGR
Platoon Sergeant	Sergeant Sunil Gurung (QG SIGNALS)
2 (Kandahar) Platoon	
Platoon Commander	Captain Santoshkumar Rai RGR
Platoon Sergeant	Sergeant Bhupendra Rai (QGE)
3 (Tobruk) Platoon	
Platoon Commander	Captain Ramkumar Rai QGE
Platoon Sergeant	Sergeant Ashok Gurung (1 RGR)
4 (Iraq) Platoon	
Platoon Commander	Captain Sekendra Gurung QG SIGNALS
Platoon Sergeant	Sergeant Manikumar Subba (2 RGR)
5 (Helles) Platoon	
Platoon Commander	Captain Naresh Gurung RGR
Platoon Sergeant	Sergeant Bijaysing Subba Limbu (2 RGR)
6 (Assaye) Platoon	
Platoon Commander	Captain T G Washington-Smith RGR
Platoon Sergeant	Sergeant Bishal Gurung (QOGLR)
7 (Kabul) Platoon	
Platoon Commander	Captain Kumar Purja Pun RGR
Platoon Sergeant	Sergeant Mohan Angdembe (1 RGR)
8 (Arakan) Platoon	
Platoon Commander	Warrant Officer Class 2 Rajkumar Gurung (QOGLR)
Platoon Sergeant	Sergeant Manish Gurung (2 RGR)
9 (Meiktila) Platoon	
Platoon Commander	Captain Narbir Galami RGR
Platoon Sergeant	Sergeant Santosh Goley (QGE)

Champion Recruits

The Overall Champion Recruit	30359000 T/Rfn Gobindra Budha Magar
1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles	30359000 T/Rfn Gobindra Budha Magar
2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles	30359894 T/Rfn Santosh Rai
The Queen's Gurkha Engineers	30358978 T/Rfn Manoj Thapa
Queen's Gurkha Signals	30358962 T/Rfn Oshis
The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment	30359089 T/Rfn Nabin Ale
The Band of the Bde of Gurkhas	30358977 T/Rfn Bhuwan Singh Gaha
Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support Company	30359084 T/Rfn Prashish Gurung
Champion Shot	30359864 T/Rfn Kismat Rai
Fittest Recruit	30359089 T/Rfn Nabin Ale
Most Improved English	30359057 T/Rfn Bashant Nepali
The Champion Platoon	5 (Helles) Platoon Commanded by 21170528 Capt Naresh Gurung RGR
The Champion Section	1 Section, 6 (Assaye) Platoon Commanded by 30142363 Cpl Arjun Gurung (QOGLR)
The Commandant's Trophy	30141919 Cpl Resham Magar (2 RGR), 3 (Tobruk) Platoon
The Role Model Award	21171806 Sgt Santosh Goley (QGE), 9 (Meiktila) Platoon

Gurkha Company Catterick News

For the Permanent Staff and, now qualified, Gurkha Riflemen of Gurkha Company it has been a busy, eventful, and highly successful year. The 39-week Combat Infantry Course (Gurkha) (CIC(G)), which was somewhat stretched and strained by the effects of Covid, has now been successfully completed, with 339 T/Rfn passing out into their respective regiments. The Permanent Staff have sought every opportunity to shape the Nepali youth who arrived at Manchester Airport in February, into competent practitioners of Light Infantry excellence. CIC(G) is an incredibly intense programme, consisting of significant periods of static ranges, Live Fire Tactical Training, the Recruit English Package, progressive tactical exercises, cultural activities, and a wide range of other activity. Special thanks must also go to the extremely busy and highly influential team of NCOs working in the gym, providing excellent Physical Development instruction and exercise support.

After a year of limited sporting opportunity, 2021 saw a series of individual and team successes, with members of The RGR sitting at the heart of these sporting achievements, whilst fulfilling their primary role as

instructors. Individuals such as Cpl Pradeep Gurung have made a significant impact having led a mixed BG team for the Great North Run, taken part in the Three Peaks Challenge and whose team came 4th in the Infantry Orienteering Championship – narrowly missing out on 3rd place. Further to this, Gurkha Company has excelled in racquet sports with Sgt Bijaysing Limbu winning the UK North Men's Doubles Badminton Championship and Sgt Manikumar Subba becoming a Plate Winner during the UK North Men's Open Squash Competition. There has also been some friendly competition between a football team made up of Gurkha Company Platoon Commanders and Platoon Sergeants and a somewhat more agile team made up of Section Commanders during the Sungai Patani Cup. The accuracy of the score was somewhat lost in the celebrations, but there was no doubt in anyone's mind who was the winner, with the JNCO team claiming victory.

Gurkha Company also celebrated its 70th Birthday with a series of sporting, mentally challenging and social events alongside the families of the Permanent Staff and guests. A morning of sport included a 70km

running challenge led by Cpl Paribartan Rai and a Chello competition organised, and spectacularly lost, by Capt Washington-Smith (to a T/Rfn half his height... something to do with unpredictable wind conditions in North Yorkshire). An interactive Jungle Survival Lane was produced by Cpl Til Magar for the T/Rfn and families to experience. The afternoon provided an opportunity for a social event, cake cutting and the opportunity to bid on a Charity Art Exhibition ran by Cpl Resham Magar, with highly impressive art produced by him and a team of T/Rfn.

Gurkha Company has also taken part in public engagement, and notably conducted a Self Defence Training Day for the students of Ampleforth College at the request of Miles Blackford, who now instructs at the College. This demonstrated the strength and resolve of the wider RGR family and benefitted all of those involved, with the students gaining a good understanding of self-defence techniques and a greater awareness of the Brigade of Gurkhas; for the Permanent Staff and T/Rfn it was a wonderful opportunity to gain a more detailed understanding of British culture, the education system and to proudly demonstrate the capability of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

Gurkha Company was also given the opportunity to run a Potential Officers' Visit from RMAS, due to the deployment of 1 RGR on Op ELGIN. This saw 7 OCdts meet Permanent Staff from The RGR. The visit was successfully conducted with some highly interesting instructional periods conducted by RGR NCOs, with one of the highlights being an incredible Jungle Skills lesson conducted by Sgt Ashok Gurung, who demonstrated how to cook, build shelter, track, and move tactically in the Jungle. We are sure that the visit left a lasting impact on the OCdts and will have added to their motivation and desire to work with individuals like their instructors.

Cpl Ujwal Thapa was fortunate to employ his linguistic ability on short notice in support of Op CUSTOMHOUSE, where he deployed to Manchester to support 1 REME in the administration and relocation of Afghan Refugees. He coupled his Pashtu skills with previous experience from Op TORAL to enable the Refugees to feel welcome, their needs met and to set a solid foundation for their future in the UK. Cpl Ujwal and a QGE NCO were highly praised for their initiative, effort and attitude by the CO of 1 REME. It was a proud moment for Gurkha Company to be able to support the resettlement process and a great opportunity for the NCOs involved to gain experience.

CIC (G) for RI 21 culminated in an impressive Passing Out Parade with the Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, as Reviewing Officer. We were honoured to host several of the Council of Gurkha Colonels and representatives from across The RGR and wider Brigade. The parade provided an opportunity to present the awards for 2021, which saw Rfn Gobindra

Budha Magar of 1 RGR awarded Overall, and 1 RGR, Champion Recruit, and Rfn Santosh Rai awarded 2 RGR Champion Recruit, having both performed admirably throughout the CIC. Cpl Resham Magar was awarded the Commandant's Trophy having been identified by CHQ as having contributed the most to Gurkha Company in 2021, and the Champion Platoon award was presented to 5 Helles Platoon, who dominated throughout the competitions, led by Capt Naresh Gurung and Sgt Bijaysing Limbu. All Permanent Staff and RI 21 would like to express their deep thanks and appreciation for the attendance and support of all the guests and families who attended and made the day even more special - one they will not be able to forget.

63 Riflemen have now progressed to 1 RGR and 63 to 2 RGR, all of whom are now beginning the next stage of their careers in The RGR, employing their experience, instruction, and the examples of their role models from Gurkha Company. The Permanent Staff of Gurkha Company will take some well-deserved rest before travelling to BGP to support the closing stages of Central Selection and the Asseritation Parade of RI22.



Col RGR made a flying visit to Gurkha Company and was able to speak to some of the newly selected RGR Trainee Riflemen (and enjoy a bhat unmatched by any of 6XX's cookhouses)



Cpl Pradeep taking a break from instructing... and carrying a doko around instead



RGR Permanent Staff enjoy a traditional game of 'friendly' basketball



In the highest traditions... it's a hard life for a Platoon Commander at Catterick



Sgt Mohan debriefs a fireteam of Trainee Riflemen



In the highest traditions... it's a hard life for a Platoon Commander at Catterick

GURKHA COMPANY (SITTANG) GC(S) ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY SANDHURST (RMAS)



Staff List

Major Shreshkumar Thapa MVO RGR
 Captain Binod Kerung RGR
 Capt Padam Gurung RGR
 Capt Tarjan Gurung RGR
 Warrant Officer 2 Rabi Gurung RGR
 Colour Sergeant Pritam Gurung RBR
 Sergeant Pratap Gurung GSPS
 Sergeant Tulasi Gurung RGR
 Sergeant Ranjib Limbu RGR

Officer Commanding
 Second in Command
 Platoon Commander 1
 Platoon Commander 2
 Company Sergeant Major
 Company Quarter Master Sergeant
 Chief Clerk
 Platoon Sergeant 1
 Platoon Sergeant 2

Newsletter

2021 was undoubtedly one of the most challenging year due to COVID-19 and it also changed how we operate, fight, communicate and work professionally as well as execute our day-to-day activities. It forced us to embrace technology more closely, how to remain effective and connected while working from home, and more importantly how to manage crisis when faced to some of challenging problems during COVID. Despite all COVID risk, restrictions, and constraints; the Gurkha Company Sittang (GC (S)) kept the momentum and maintained a high level of resilience. We continued to provide military field training and contingency real-life support to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) in support of Officer Cadets training. With the total of 74 personnel, the GC(S) has configured itself to support three Regular Commissioning Courses (Intakes) that run concurrently throughout the year. We managed to send many GC(S) personnel to Nepal to see their loved ones, to sustain their morale and maintain our 'Culture, Kaida and Tradition' by observing the RGR Birthday, Battle Honour day and all religious event throughout a year within a safe environment. We kept our winning mentality by taking part on Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL (Ex CP), managed to secure SPs career courses, maintained strong 'Team Bonding and Cohesion' by organising families and SPs events and managed to continue SP's Personnel Development (PD) plans and continued to participate in sporting events. Training is vital and we ensured our training programme throughout the lock down was designed to ensure GC(S) remain effective, competent, and ready to support every single requirement. It included supporting field exercise in Germany, Guard of Honour, Community Engagements (CE) events, temporarily filling the gap posts across the Academy, extra manpower support during COVID pandemic time and sporting events.

The RMAS remains the most highly sensitive place and the security is a top priority in the RMAS's battle rhythm. GC(S) plays a crucial part in providing extra security during key events like Sovereign's Parade. GC(S), well known as the RMAS an engine room, provides manpower and other resources to support these activities.

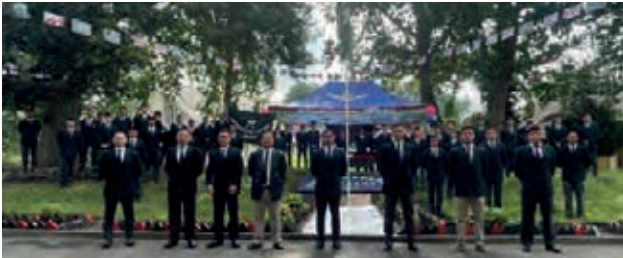
Exercises: There are five major field exercises in each term for all three Intakes that run concurrently; Ex DYNAMIC VICTORY and Ex TEMPLAR'S TRUMPH (Senior), Ex ALLENBY'S ADVANCE and Ex SLIM'S STAND (Intermediate) and Ex MONTGOMERY MARKS (Junior). Moreover, there are 13 small to medium range field exercises that GC(S) provides manpower for. All these exercises are manpower intensive, which means a rapid deployment in the field for the soldiers. On average, a soldier spends 37 nights in the field every term. GC(S) is far more committed and busier delivering training support now than in the past.

Ceremonial Guards: One of the standing key tasks at the Academy that is the 'Guard of Honour' for Her Majesty's representative at Sovereign's Parade. This is more commonly known as the 'Street Lining' and takes place along the Queen's Walk-in front of the Old Collage during each Sovereign's Parade.

Security: The RMAS, due to its nature and history, is a highly sensitive place and which could attract groups or individuals with terrorist intent. The threat to the RMAS is a top priority in the RMAS's battle rhythm. Although routine security responsibility lies with MPGS, GC(S) provides extra security during Sovereign's Parade at the end of each term and during an annual RMAS Heritage Day when thousands of people are expected to attend the event.

Additional Activities

27th RGR Birthday Celebration



Gurkha Company (Sittang) celebrating RGR's 27th Birthday

Gurkha Company Sittang (GC(S)) celebrated the 27th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR) with great zeal in recognition of this unique milestone, ensuring all COVID-19 measurement in place. This year's RGR anniversary was delivered in a unique way for the second consecutive years due to COVID restrictions. It was organised by HQBG, combining all RGR personnel across the globe, and Officer Commanding (OC) GC(S) Maj Shureshkumar Thapa MVO delivered birthday message on behalf of GC(S) via virtual platform.

Sittang Battle Honour Day

The Battle of Sittang was a part of the Burma Campaign during the Second World War (WWII). It was fought between 19 - 23 Feb 1942. CO, Sandhurst Support Unit (SSU), Lieutenant Colonel Samantha Hull and Officer Commanding GC(S), Maj Shureshkumar Thapa MVO laid wreath at the memorial of those fallen heroes who fought and sacrificed their lives in the Battle of Sittang.



GC(S) observing a minute's silence to honour the Fallen



Commanding Officer Sandhurst Support Unit (SSU) Lt Col Dodge giving presenting Cpl Birhang Limbu the Marksman of the year 2021 trophy

Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL 2021 - Gold Medallists



WO2 Rabi Gurung (CSM) with the GC(S) his CAMBRAIN PATROL Team



Commandant Sandhurst Major General Capps CBE, CO SSU Lt Col Dodge and Ac RSM with Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL teams

Ex DYNAMIC VICTORY (FTX) 2021

Exercise Dynamic Victory (FTX) is the final field exercise of the British Army Officer Cadets (OCdts). They normally go through a LFTT package, followed by three rotations of 48hrs training cycle which comprises of rural, urban and interface lane. Each rotation and FTX (Coy attack - FIBUA) is carefully designed to test Ocdt's planning ability, command and control (C2), and leadership in a variety of different scenarios under arduous conditions. Ex DV is one of the more difficult hurdles that every senior cadet must go through to pass.



GC(S) on Ex Dynamic Victory CC202 (Spring Term) Mar 2021



Exercise Dynamic Victory CC302 (Summer Term) July 2021



*Exercise Dynamic Victory
(Winter Term) Nov 2021*



**Sittang - Ex First Attempt
(Model making and CE Exercise) 2021**

Gurkha company Sittang (GC(S)) conducted Ex First Attempt which focused on Model Exercise (ModEx), Combat Estimate (CE), conceptual and practical process and delivery of a full set of orders up to Pl level.

On 25 May 2021, the ModEx commenced, and it was a progressive trg as part of Ex Sittang Warrior 003. The aim was to develop all JLC candidates, JNCOs, SCBC and PSBC candidate. The Final phase was to Command, Lead and Execute mission on the ground whilst the Company command post was set up to support and response.

EX SITTANG WARRIOR (Summer 2021)

Despite the tempo of commitments at RMAS; GC(S) 2IC Capt Binod Kerung (new GC(S) 2IC) planned and designed a Coy level exercise which entailed offensive, defensive, and enabling activities. Coy HQ and Tac HQ were deployed forward to control the battle. The BCS (B2B) objectives which were part of training, were considered and applied throughout; it prepared potential JLC candidates by giving them plenty of command appointments, prepared potential SCBC and PSBC candidates, tested Pl level activities and tested their platoons' SOPs. It practiced everyone in making decisions under intense pressure, command, admin in the field and built leadership skills. Always 'build back better'.



Preparing the model for Orders



Preparing the model for Ord Receiving orders using the model



*Gurkha Compnay Sittang (GC(S)) with OC GC(S)
Maj Shureshkumar Thapa MVO*



Platoon Orders Group



Getting into position for the attack

Family Fun Day (FFD21)

RMAS Families Fun Day (FFD21) is an annual multi-activities event organised within the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) which run by GC(S). The day is open to all families, permanent staffs including permanent civilian staffs and children who work in RMAS. This year the band from Brigade of Gurkhas supported the events.



The Band of Brigade of Gurkhas



GC(S) QOGLR Chefs display their culinary skills

Camberley Community Engagement (CE) Event

Camberley Community Engagement is a key annual event which is an opportunity to express our gratitude to the locals and local authorities for their support. The main audience is locals who people who support the Army and RMAS. This year it took place on Sat 24 Jul 21 and RMAS once again supported the event to foster our relations with the local community. GC(S) contribution was a Taekwondo skill displayed and Khukri pattern show.



CO SSU Lt Col Hodge, 2IC SSU Maj Lok Gurung, OC GC(S) Maj Shureshkumar Thapa MVO and GC(S) personnel



Khukhri Pattern Display



Display of Gurkha Memorabilia

Religious events - 2021



Dashain 2021



Tihar 2021 - Tika



Teej 2021 - GC(S) Families

G1/Welfare and Team bonding events - SPs and families



G1 & Welfare brief by OC and 2IC to the new families



Visit to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew



Delta Force Paintball Berkshire

Welcome and Farewell programme



Welcome

Brigade of Gurkhas Inter Unit Golf Competition 2021 - Winner

Gurkha Company Sittang GC(S) took part in the Brigade Inter Unit Golf competition 2021 and for the third year in a row, won the competition. The team was consisted of 2IC GC(S) Capt Dipakraj Ghale, SSgt Gajendra Gurung, CSgt Prakash Gurung and Cpl Jhamak Limbu. The event was held on 30th Jun 21 at Tidworth Garrison Golf Club in Wiltshire with 14 teams from Brigade of Gurkhas Units participated on this competition.



GC(S) - Winners of the Brigade Inter Unit Golf Competition 2021



Farewell

GURKHA WING (MANDALAY) INFANTRY BATTLE SCHOOL BRECON



GW(M) Staff list

Major	Prembahadur Gurung MBE	RGR	OC TSD
Captain	Buddhibahadur Gurung	RGR	2IC TSD
Captain	Madankumar Jimi	RGR	Sp Pl Comd
Warrant Officer Class 2	Hemraj Rana Magar	RGR	DSM TSD
Warrant Officer Class 2	Yakthunghang Angbuhang	QGE	QMSI Aslt Pnr
Colour Sergeant	Pralon Kulung Rai	RGR	CQMS TSD
Sergeant	Bibi Limbu	RGR	Pl Sgt Sp Pl
Sergeant	Bikram Gurung	QGE	Det Comd Aslt Pnr
Sergeant	Tikaraj Limbu	RGR	Det Comd Aslt Pnr
Sergeant	Gaurab Gurung	QGE	Det Comd Aslt Pnr
Sergeant	Suresh Dewan	GSPS	SSA/GWM Chf Clk

Newsletter

The Ex-CP is one of the toughest patrols and takes place around the Brecon Beacons in Wales. Run by 160 Brigade, it has a long history of more than 60 years. This year, for the first time in their history, 'Gurkha Wing (Mandalay), IBS, Brecon participated in the event.

The Patrol was led by Sgt Gaurab Gurung (QGE). Under the very limited resources both in manpower and training time, the team was carefully cautiously well managed by Capt M Jimi. The highly motivated team started their training during mostly off-hours and weekends.

The challenge for the team was manpower as an SME to support course divisions hence very limited options was left to replace the team member should they pick up any injuries. With teamwork and good planning, the team accomplished an injury-free training session.

On the day, the team was determined to do well, and it was a promising start, conducting all the test stands of day 1 as best as they could have done, and the pace of the Patrol was the fastest of the day. Navigation skills are a key to the success of the Patrol. The team succeeded through all the checkpoints without any issue despite adverse weather.

The Patrol was completed within 39 hours with all members, and the team was optimistic with DSs' comprehensive debrief. The following day, the presentation ceremony was held at Sennybridge Training Camp. Finally, the team's hard work was paid off with a Gold Medal. A proud moment for the team, the IBS, and the Brigade of Gurkhas. Out of 84 teams, only 11 teams achieved Gold Medal. It's been a real privilege to represent GW(M) and IBS, Brecon, at one of the most prestigious military events of the



Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL 21

year. With determination and good leadership, the team showed that they could prevail best.

Mandalay Day 2022

On 18 Mar 2022, the Infantry Battle School in Brecon, commemorated the 'Mandalay Day'. The members of IBS honoured the courage and bravery demonstrated by the 6th Gurkha Rifles including all the allied forces; and recalled and remembered all the fallen soldiers during the course of this battle against the ever-increasing Japanese forces.



Mandalay Day 2022



Best Rifleman of the Year - Rfn Pawan Gurung

Following the memorial parade, an award ceremony was in line. The CO IBS, Lt Col D J Flanagan MBE presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals (LSGC) to CSgt Yadesh Rai, SSgt Edmondston, Sgt Vout and Cpl Swodesh Rai for their exemplary service. Likewise, the CO's coins were also awarded to few outstanding individuals within the Training Support Division (TSD). Last but not the least, the spotlight was on Rfn Pawan Gurung for receiving The Best Rifleman of The Year for his outstanding output throughout the year.

EX SURUWAT, Training Support Division (TSD)

Infantry Battle school (IBS), part of the School of Infantry delivers trained officers & soldiers to meet the operational requirements of the army & Defence. Training Support Division (TSD) is part of the IBS, which main mission is to support IBS to run all the courses smoothly. OC TSD intent is to maintain operational effectiveness & low-level basic field craft through such exercises. which main mission is to support IBS to run all the courses smoothly. OC TSD intent is to maintain operational effectiveness & low-level basic field craft through such exercises.

On the morning of 10th May 2021; all the TSD members were deployed to Sennybridge Training Area. We were all divided in 2 Pl. First important thing was to integrate each other as a team as we were from different department and Cap badges. On our first day, each department representative took a lesson i.e. Bowman, Mortar, Machine Gun, Vehicle recovery. It helped us to know each other's strength, weakness and got information of different department & what they can offer in a team. Over the course of 3 days exercise both PL conducted Recce Patrol, Ambush, Deliberate Attack, Order delivery & model making. On a final day of exercise, CO IBS, RSM paid a visit during final coy attack.

As we all know the Army comes first, it is crucial that we maintain the skills and knowledge of a field soldier. Coming from different cap badges, each provides a set of skill however, we will only stay strong if we work



Orders delivery on Ex SURUWAT

together. Thus, Ex SURUWAT gave us the opportunity to refresh our skills and work as a team to further enhance our team bonding.

"A finger on its own it useless against a fist."

QOGLR Chefs in Action on EX SURUWAT By Pte Dipesh Deuja Catering Department

Catering Department from Infantry Battle School, Brecon were deployed to support EX SURUWAT from 10 – 14 May 21 in Sennybridge Training Area. Our goal was to feed approximately 80 soldiers by setting up a field kitchen. The satisfied faces of soldiers as hot meals were being served was worth the hard work in heavy rain and wind.

Moreover, this exercise provided us with an excellent opportunity to receive hands-on training on the operation and management of the Operation Field Catering System (OFCS). Furthermore, it boosted our confidence to work in the field kitchen while sharpening our culinary skills.

After a long night of the final attack, soldiers had a delicious end to the exercise with a very hearty 'Champagne Breakfast'. The CO Saheb and all exercising troops enjoyed the breakfast, and we were thrilled to receive praises from all rounds.



Pte Dipesh Deuja showcasing his Field Kitchen skills

Armed Forces Day Event

On 25th Jun 21, The training support division (TSD), IBS, organised The Armed Forces Day at Brecon Mount Street Junior School. Cpl Sailendra Gurung led the event under the direction of Capt Madan Kumar Jimi. The event's main aim was to maintain the long-standing relationship with the school of Brecon as part of community engagement. The secondary aim was to display the kit and equipment that British Army uses on a day-to-day basis.



Orders delivery on Ex SURUWAT

There were many educational and entertainment stands; RANGE FINDER, SIGNAL, PLCE, CAMO TUNNEL. As this event was organised for the primary level students, they were very excited to get familiarised with the equipment. Along with the students, there was good involvement of teachers too. They really praise the hard work and dedication we had given to make a successful military display at the school on such a special day.

The event was accomplished safely and successfully under the COVID rules of the school. We hope this event foster the relationship with the local people and IBS. The TSD is really looking forward to organising such an event in the near future.



Children getting the "military" experience

IBS Families Open Day 19 June 2021

As the restriction slowly lifted, the urge to bring back the norm was irresistible, and thankfully that was met when IBS organised the Family Open Day on 19 June 2021. As always, the TSD being the muscle of the IBS, took this opportunity to create a safe and engaging environment where families, children and serving personnel could come and mingle around.

When it comes to mingling, no one does it better than the children, so much so, that brought it back memories as they showcased their carefree nature. While the children were preoccupied with face paintings, the grown-ups were entertained by the Band of Brigade of Gurkhas performing their musical display.

And the cream of the crop was the traditional Gurkha curry served by the CAT department. Overall, the event was a breath of fresh air after what felt like never-ending COVID restrictions, and the opportunity to socialise had never felt better.



Children testing their reflexes - hitting the rat



Families Open Day Shooting Competition

Mrs Dipti Kulung Rai

Wife of CSgt Pralon Kulung Rai (2RGR)

The Gurkha Wing Mandalay (GWM) team had organised a shooting competition for the Infantry Battle School (IBS) family members. The event was special and a breath of fresh air, fun filled day after the whole pandemic situation. I felt lucky to have experienced such an amazing event.

Seeing all the ladies coming together after such a long time made me so happy and fortunate. Certainly, it was hard to recognise them in their husbands' military outfits but likewise, I could clearly see the excitement on their faces. With all the exhilaration inside me; learning to hold a real rifle and shooting real bullets on



Pte Dipesh Deuja showcasing his Field Kitchen skills

a target was a different story for me. However, it didn't seem as easy as we see in movies. The weight of the gun, timing, positioning, evaluating the target point, etc, all the process is so much harder than we had ever imagine. Of course, all the participants were very attentive, competitive and gave their best. The top 3 ladies winners truly deserved the award and applause. Winning or losing doesn't matter, just to be a part, learn and how much fun you have that counts. Overall, it was our moment of triumph.



Prize giving ceremony

On behalf of all the ladies who participated, thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving us this opportunity to experience and reminding us we are cared and loved for.

Brecon High School Outdoor Recreational Area Project (Good Health Garden)

The Assault Pioneer Platoon from Training Support Division (TSD), Infantry Battle School (IBS), Brecon seized an opportunity to maintain strong public relationship with the local community by constructing an outdoor recreational area "The Good-Health Garden" at Brecon High School in Brecon over the period 21 Jun – 09 Jul 21. The project was funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Trust, and the vision of this project is to promote good health by allowing students to grow own vegetable, carry out investigative studies and enjoy lunch by cooking vegetable from their own garden in the open space.

The project mainly involved constructing of a wooden gazebo, a wooden shed and some seating benches over the aggregate and concrete slabs outside of the school. It required various trade skills from the Assault Pioneer Platoon, mainly Plant Operator, Bricklayer, Carpenter and Joiner to complete the task in a very restricted timeline. In addition, general workforce from Support Platoon, TSD were the key element on the completion of this project in time. The project provided a great opportunity to refresh trade skills for soldiers from the Queen's Gurkha Engineers and it provided a suitable environment to learn new skills to the soldiers from the Royal Gurkha Rifles.



Brecon High School Project - Construction Phase

The project started with levelling up and setting up of the ground, where the Plant Operator was heavily used. After the completion of the plant work, the construction team started to work on the foundation of ground for gazebo, shed and seating benches by laying aggregate and concrete slabs under the supervision of the Bricklayer. Meanwhile, the Carpenter and other tradesmen worked hard to construct the wooden gazebo, shed and benches prior to installing them into their places. The members of Assault Pioneer Platoon completed the project in good standard within the scheduled timeline by demonstrating their versatility and adaptability in addition to their primary role as capability provider to the Training Divisions in IBS.

Finally, on Fri 09 July 21, the Good-Health Garden was officially opened by the Commander of the 160th (Welsh) Brigade, Brig Andrew Dawes CBE by unveiling of the commemorative plaque in the presence of teachers from the Brecon High school, staffs from the Army Welfare Service and officers and soldiers from the Infantry Battle School.



Brig Andrew Dawes CBE opening the Good-Health Garden

27th The Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR) Birthday Celebration, IBS

As every other year, 1st July 2021 marks as a milestone for the Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR) and veteran all over the globe. However, due to COVID restrictions, the date had to be pushed right. As soon as COVID restrictions easing off, there was room to stretch, and GW(M) had no intention of letting it slip away and pencilled in the date for 24th July 2021.



CO, Lt Col DJ Flanagan MBE and Maj Prembahadur Gurung MBE cutting the RGR Birthday Cake

A celebration with families and children makes a whole lot of difference and thankfully we finally had that opportunity this year. Families and children were bound for surprises to see fun games, foods, drinks and many more programmes in stock for them.

As per our tradition, the most senior Gurkha officer, Maj Prembahadur Gurung MBE accompanied by the CO, Lt Col DJ Flanagan MBE, initiated the celebration by cutting the ceremonial cake and wishing everyone present on that day. Soon after, welcome/farewell individuals were presented with "Khatas" and flower bouquets for ladies. "Bhutwan" were served as a starter and concurrently everyone was engaged in socialising.

There is a saying that a picture speaks a thousand words, beam of smiles was seen on every face as the games kicked off. The children were allocated with their own games spaces where they played and compete to their hearts content. And as for the ladies, a simple yet challenging game was organised to keep them on toes. As for the main contenders (service personnel), had the opportunity to flex their muscles during the "Chhelo" game.

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Children taking penalties trying to score goals



Ladies absorbed in completing the challenge

Just like sprinkle salt on food, the background music add flavour to our celebration and was further enhanced by the finger licking traditional Nepalese food to top-up our bellies. Finally, like every other happy ending, a cocktail dance summed up the 27th RGR birthday celebration for 2021.

TSD Mountain Biking 2021

*By Corporal Yudip Tumrok
Gurkha Wing (Mandalay)*

As simple as it may sound, mountain biking has a lot to offer when it comes to benefiting one's physical and mental wellbeing.

Mental health is an extremely important subject and one that has been getting increasing coverage over recent years in the British Army. With the multitude of stress in modern life, it's more important than ever to find ways to cope with these issues.

That's where mountain biking comes in; this adrenaline-fuelled, action-packed and stoke-inducing sport has all the necessary ingredients to help people cope with mental health issues. Getting in touch with nature has significant benefits for one's mental health wellbeing especially for depression. Luckily, as mountain bikers, those hours spent out on the trails helps connect to nature and helps you get away from the stress of day-to-day work. Just don't connect too closely with the tree on the other side of that jump!



TSD "Team Bonding" - Mountain Biking



Mortar Live Firing demonstration

Furthermore, team building is a vital part of the British Army, Soldiers need to feel as though they are a part of a team if they are going to be willing to fight and die for a teammate and their country.

Thus, mountain biking is an excellent way to engage everyone to become a part of a team. It provides a perfect opportunity to build personal bonds and make new friends as social interactions are key to being happy and finding meaning in life.

Therefore, given all the benefits, a day out of work makes a whole lot of difference in one's life.

"None of us is as smart as all of us." - Ken Blanchard

Brecon to Cardiff 70 Km Ultramarathon 20 Feb 22

By Rfn Pawan Gurung, Sp Pl, TSD

Many congratulations to Rfn Pawan Gurung and Rfn Mahesh Limbu for taking part in this year's Brecon to Cardiff 70 km Ultramarathon.



Rfn Pawan Gurung and Rfn Mahesh Limbu during the 70Km Ultramarathon

Besides the gruelling 70 Km distance, the two had to face the challenging weather. Despite the strong gust of wind and never-ending rain, both managed to complete it within 8 hrs. Both displayed a high level of determination and perseverance.

Weapon Capability Demonstration

Hosted by Mortar Division, Warminster

The IBS mortar Platoon seized the initiative during a gap of courses to conduct the 81mm mortar live firing on Salisbury Plain. The event was aimed to demonstrate mortar capabilities to delegates and visitors who visited the Mortar Division in Specialist Weapons School (SWS). It was a real privilege and an opportunity to support the sister division in the SWS.

The mortar platoon from Infantry Battle School (IBS) and 3 Parachute Regiment (MAB 7) combined mortar live firing was held between 13 - 14 Jul 21 aimed to demonstrate capabilities, flexibility and proficiency of 81mm mortar. Moreover, it showed the importance and ability that mortars must accommodate alongside current technologies like drones and air OPs' to delegates who decides the future of mortar, infantry and the army itself in the contemporary situation.

The main components of the live firing were direct fire, dispersed barrel, shoot and scoot and use of air OP (drone) to adjust and engage the targets. It was also an occasion to get the mortar men qualified for ACMT and a chance for such divergent training, which we really do, especially from IBS.

Visitors and delegates were impressed by the mortar's capabilities and the standard set by the mortar division, Warminster. We, IBS mortar, look forward to supporting and working alongside Mortar Division in the future too.

EX GURKHA STRIKE 2

The Support Platoon, Training Support Division from Infantry Battle School (IBS), has recently deployed on Ex GURKHA STRIKE 2; the PARA joined the Gurkhas for the special MFC training of Jungle and Urban warfare. These skills were pioneered during Vietnam and Malayan emergencies.



Mortars providing supporting fire

The skills and ability to adjust indirect fire by Sound and Survey is called the Aural Adjustment. It is particularly useful in the jungle and Urban to engage obscured targets.

The Ex GS2 was held between 28 - 30 Mar 21 at SENTA. The Ex GS2 was led by the Subject Matter Expertise (SME) Capt Jimi, who spent 14 years in Brunei with Mortars and experienced as an MFC from Op HERRICK 9 & 14. On Day-1, the AA theory and Black-Board Fire Control (BBFC) lesson were delivered to aural MFCs/observers in camp. Day 2 began in slow motion in the A range, SENTA as it was the first time for all. Mission 1 "Mark Mission", followed by Mission 2, "Pressel Method," where the real experience and training of the AA began. The exercise area was set up very carefully to bring the real feel of the aural adjustment, sitting the OP in the dead ground or re-entrant and positioning the MFCs in a subsurface OP was a clever way to achieve a complete Training Objectives (TO) of the Ex GS2. The final day was focused on supporting PSBC 2101 by providing indirect fire support to Ex GREEN DRAGON, followed by practice of the remaining Mission 3 "Triangulation or Hot Contact". The exercise ended with adjusting targets at night using night optics in TI mode.

There was a little disappointment due to the restriction on flying Drone by Range Control during live firing. The Drone camera was initially agreed to fly and film the procedure involved in the AA for the BCS video. This was an additional TOs of the Ex GS2. Though it's incomplete at this stage, we are hoping that the Aural Adjustment BCS video will be accomplished soon for others to watch and use as a handrail for future Aural Adjustment

training, particularly for those units who wouldn't have an opportunity to exercise deep in the jungle.

In the end, Capt M Jimi mentioned that transferring these rarely used but substantial MFC skills to the next generation is most important, and it was a real privilege to conduct the Aural Adjustment live-firing in SENTA." The Ex GS2 was a perfect example of the AA training that can be practised in the UK.

EX FORAGING

Cpl Teny Gurung from QOGLR Chef department organised one day course for the permanent staff in IBS.

Foraging in simple terms, is finding uncultivated wild plants for edible and medicinal purposes. The course aimed at educating the participants about safe and responsible foraging whilst enjoying nature. The course was led by the foraging guide from Brecon Beacons foraging.



The "Foraging Team"

The attendees learnt about edible wild plants, their nutritional values, poisonous and invasive species, the history of certain plants and how our ancestors used them and much more!

With the newly acquired knowledge, the chefs in IBS enthusiastically produced food made from foraged ingredients for the Commander QOGLR visit to IBS.

Nettle leaf momo, nettle curry, wild garlic shekuwa, wild mint chutney was some of the few mouth-watering delicacies presented. The sloe berry gin homemade in the IBS kitchen with sloes picked from around the camp became the showstopper. The food that was served is something that we believe will forever remain in the tasters' memory.

The thoughts that were provoked by the foraging course was immense. In the wake of climate crisis and subsequent depletion of the natural environment, appreciation for nature seems to be the fundamental to making changes.



Nettle leaf momo, nettle curry, wild garlic shekuwa, wild mint chutney

Keeping this in mind, the food on both occasions was served in "Tapari," handmade disposable plate made from leaves in Nepal used from centuries ago until now. The best part though is that it is biodegradable and sustainable.

The course reminded and enforced how we must all play our part and find ways to protect nature before we lose it forever! When done responsibly and safely, foraging can produce delicious and nutritious food as well as beautiful, practical and biodegradable dish.

Foraging brought back fond memories from childhood. Blackberry Crumble, katus (for most Gurkhas) and Tapari itself.

If you sit back and think of traditional Nepalese food, you will realise that our food always has one or the other ingredient from the wild. We the Gurkha chefs from IBS are looking forward to promoting the agenda to save nature.

Over to you... What was your favourite thing to forage where you grew up and is it still plentiful and flourishing there?

IBS Bonfire Night 2021

After a years' gap, IBS once again lit up the night with extravagant fireworks display on the 05th November 2021. Approximately 3k + spectators from all over Powys County had turned up to witness the spectacular event.



Bonfire Night spectacular fireworks display

For the first time, IBS had experienced such an overwhelming attendance shadowing the previous events and staggering £8k plus was raise in the process. Sadly, the organiser had to close the main gate last due to overflow and was running out of car park and scheduled while bit of spectators was still on cue.

Kudos to all the departments involved and external support from Brecon Police and Fire Brigade for working together to make the event successful. The fruit of the labour was clearly seen when IBS received positive feedbacks from the community thus, further strengthening our bond with local community.

"..coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." - Henry Ford

IBS Remembrance Sunday 14 November 2021

The Infantry Battle School (IBS) participated in the REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY-2021 on 14 November 21 hosted by Brecon Town. The IBS marked Remembrance Sunday to honour those who have died in wars, with a military parade across the Brecon Town. Wreaths were laid, and tribute paid by all the attendees. The Royal British Legion Charity describes it as "a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life".



IBS contingent at the Remembrance Day Parade "WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

As usual, members of the IBS alongside Gwent and Powys ACF with their bands paraded centred at the cenotaph near the St Mary's Church and marched through the Brecon Town streets up to the Cathedral. The whole event was witnessed and accompanied by the public.

We all remembered to all those that have served and sacrificed. It is also a part of Community Engagement where we can be alongside the public

The Queen's Green Canopy

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree-planting initiative created to celebrate the 70th year of Queen Elizabeth II's reign by encouraging people to plant a tree which will benefit future generations.

IBS, Brecon support to the Queen's Green Canopy, an initiative to leave a lasting legacy from the Queen's Platinum Jubilee took root in IBS, Brecon on 07th April 22. All the service personnel and their families including civil worker of IBS were involved in planting a sapling. More than 300 saplings were planted near Lewis Pugh Avenue, IBS Brecon.

After a tree planting event Lt Col Cuthbertson and Tom Flanagan, son of Lt Col DJ Flanagan CO IBS, officially inaugurated The Queen's Green Canopy commemorative plaque in celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



Tree planting near Lewis Pugh Avenue

Infantry Battle School (IBS) Messing Hut Opening

The opening ceremony of the Messing Hut in IBS was held on 08-Apr-22 by Lt Col Alistair Cuthbertson (SQM) and all available members. Three-phase of messing cooking demonstration was delivered prior to serving a typical Gurkha meal to all attendees.



Lt Col Alistair Cuthbertson (SQM) opening the IBS Messing Hut

The project was planned and designed by QMSI APNR and delivered by all members from APNR PI with the sporadic workforce support from Sp PI, TSD. Additionally, the LAD and Carpenter Bay have also contributed towards the project by building some seating benches and metal oven. The whole process took for 28-Feb-22 to 07 Apr 22.

Messing cooking facility is a vital infrastructure to have in any unit and it plays a vital role in relation to moral component of the fighting power. The process of cooking and eating messing around the fireplace within the team, allows team bonding and mutual trust, which ultimately improves the organisational operational effectiveness.



IBS Staff enjoying "Messing" at the new facility

Families' Educational Visit to Gurkha Museum (Winchester) 11 April 22

*By Mrs Rosie Gurung Rana,
Wife of WO2 Hemraj Rana (1RGR)*

On 11 Apr 22, Families from the GW(M) visited Gurkha Museum at Winchester, the home of over 200 years of the Gurkha history. A total of 35 families, including children, visited the museum.

The visit comprised of a briefing delivered by a curator/historian on the formation of Gurkha Regiments, involvement, and the bravery shown by the Gurkha soldiers in the First and Second World Wars, Malayan Emergency, Borneo Confrontation, and the present-day operations. It also highlighted the sacrifices made by the bravest men in history.

It was an exciting visit for our kids whilst they were on Easter leave. They were thrilled to learn about their ancestors' history, and it was a wonderful opportunity to educate them about the Gurkha Culture and origins through a well-articulated exhibition. Notably, the secondary school children were amazed by the history once they came to know it, and they appreciated the event a lot.

The final phase of the day was a visit to the stunning Hillier Garden, which was 10 minutes walking distance from the museum, and spent some beautiful moments



Families visit to the Gurkha Museum

close to nature. Some of us were really overwhelmed by the visit and bought some plants to remember the day.

On the way home, the kids were still fascinated by what they had learned about the history of the Gurkhas. The trip was full of sentiments and pride, which will not be forgotten soon.

Photo News



Families visit to the Gurkha Museum



Ladies at Hillier Garden



Celebrating Tihar



IBS Group Photo with Families



Volleyball Competition - 2021



Volleyball Competition - 2021



Comd QOGLR Visit - 2021



Queen's Green Canopy



Quints Cup - 20-21



Nepal Cup - 2021



Celebrating Dashain 2021

GURKHA COMPANY (TAVOLETO) SPECIALIST WEAPONS SCHOOL (SWS) WATERLOO LINES, WARMINSTER



Staff List

Major Bikulman Rai RGR	Officer Commanding
WO2 Dinesh Rai 2RGR	Company Sergeant Major
WO2 Biken Rana Magar 1RGR	Signals Platoon Commander
WO2 Bhaskar Gurung 1RGR	Assault Pioneer Platoon Commander
WO2 Simon Boase FTRS	Commander CPCMM
Colour Sergeant Bhim Limbu 2RGR	MT Platoon Commander
Colour Sergeant Hira Bahadur Gurung 1RGR	Company Quarter Master Sergeant
Colour Sergeant Paul Farrant FTRS	Bowman System Manager CPCMM
Sergeant Bhim Parangden QGE	Recourses SNCO
Sergeant Nabin Gurung 2RGR	Signals Platoon Sergeant
Sergeant Prakash Rai 2RGR	Assault Pioneer Platoon Sergeant
Sergeant Tara Bahadur Rana 2RGR	MT Platoon Sergeant
Sergeant Sunil Kumar Thapa 1RGR	Signals Platoon Trg Sergeant
Sergeant Chris Roberts FTRS	G4 SNCO CPCMM
Sergeant Raju Tulachan QGE	Assault Pioneer Platoon Sergeant

Orienteering Competition

By- Rfn Upendra Singh Maske Rana (2RGR)

The annual orienteering competition was organized and led by Cpl Budesh Rai under the government's COVID-19 guidelines in Gurkha Company (Tavoletto) (GC(T)) on 06 May 2021. The event was conducted successfully by achieving all its objectives and aim of the orienteering.

The event unfolded with a speech by Major Chandra Bahadur Pun (OC GC(T)) and OIC Cpl Budesh Rai. There was a total of 9 checkpoints covering approximately 10km of distance. The time limit was 1 hour 30 minutes which included two routes; red (clockwise) and blue (anti-clockwise). The participants were released in an interval of 5 minutes to collect all the checkpoints at a designated time that was rather challenging. Rfn Upendra Singh Maske Rana secured the first position by acquiring the highest score. Moreover, this event had supplemented more experience within the participants for the challenges ahead.

VE 76 Victory Challenge

By Rfn Bhupen Sunari Magar (1RGR)

On the occasion of the 76th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) day on 8th May 2021 Saturday morning, an event was run to support British Limbless Ex- Service Men's Association (BLESMA) charity organization that supports limbless veterans, serving soldier and their families. A team of eight from Gurkha Company

(Tavoletto) GC(T), led by Cpl Budesh Rai and Cpl Abinash Limbu took a challenge of 7.6km run, 76 squats and 76 lunges to commemorate the event and raise funds. The team's goal was to raise £250, however, they managed to raise a generous amount of £705, which was not possible without well-wishers and supporters of team GC(T). Several GC(T) members took part in the event as a volunteer and supported the event to run successfully.

Team GC(T) would like to thank all volunteers and generous supporters for helping to raise funds for this worthy cause and the BLESMA charity organisation for this opportunity.

Ex TAVOLETO EXPEDITION (TE)

By Cpl Abinash Limbu 2RGR

A team consisted of four members of the Gurkha Coy (Tavoletto) led by Sgt Ratanraj Rai, instructed by Sgt Bhim Parangden, team medic Cpl Roshan Chhantyal and admin IC Cpl Abinash Limbu completed the Ex TE at Afan Forest Park, Port Talbot, Wales on Wed, 26 May 21. This excursion aimed to develop participants professional skills and enhance team bonding to support operational effectiveness and promote LWC Mental Health (MH) awareness by delivering mindfulness activities.



Permanent Staff of GC(T) in a Temple service on the morning of Tavoletto Battle Honour Day on Friday 3rd September 21

Tavoletto Battle Honour Day

By Rfn Padam Tamang 1RGR

On 3rd September 2021, Gurkha Company Tavoletto (GCT) celebrated the Battle Honour Day of Tavoletto in Warminster. The parade was held in front of GC(T) headquarter, to remember the fallen heroes in the Battle of Tavoletto in Italy.

The day started with the temple service with all the members of GC(T), where the religious teachers (Lama Guru and Pandit Ji) from Aldershot came along to preach their ritual knowledge and blessing that was vital to all service personnel and their families. After

the temple service, there was a short presentation about the Tavoletto Battle Honour Day by Sgt Bhim Parangden. The main activity of the event was the Honour guard commanded by Sgt Tara Bahadur Rana and the wreath-laying ceremony by the Commanding Officer Lt Col Arran Wade MBE (CO SWS) and Officer Commanding Maj Bikulman Rai (OC GCT). The overall event was coordinated by Company Sergeant Major WO2 Dinesh Rai with adherence to the strict COVID-19 guidance. After the parade, there was a finger buffet lunch for all the guests, service personnel and families. Lastly, the event concluded with a football competition organized by Cpl Sagun Dewan in the afternoon and the evening was dazzled with the delicious Gurkha curry messing.



GC(T) celebrating Battle Honour Day of Tavoletto in SWS, Warminster



Gurkha Company (Tavoletto) ladies on a Team bonding and family educational visit day posing in front of Windsor Castle

Gurkha Company (Tavoletto) Family's Visit and Team Bonding Event

By Cpl Surya Gurung 1RGR

Gurkha Company (Tavoletto) GC(T) has organised an educational visit and Team Bonding event for families on 25th Sep 2021. The event was led by Cpl Surya Gurung from Pioneer Platoon which was tailored in such a way that families could rejoice the day to their fullest by strictly adhering to the COVID-19 government guidelines.

The event started with the visit to Windsor Castle to give an insight into the castle. Later in the afternoon, they enjoyed the Bowling in Salisbury for an hour and the event concluded with a delicious messing in the evening.

Overall, the families experienced a productive and wonderful day with an enthusiasm shown by all the families throughout the day. They also reflected that it was a long-awaited event what they were beholding.

Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL 21

By Rfn Upendra Singh Maske Rana 2RGR

Exercise CAMBRIAN PATROL (CP) is a mentally and physically demanding exercise that examines all the basic skills of a modern-day soldier, enhancing leadership skills, endurance and determination.

This year Ex CP from GC(T) SWS was managed by Sgt Bhim Limbu and commanded by Sgt Sunil Thapa. On 12th Oct 21 at 0645 hrs, our Team GC(T) moved off from Assembly Area (AA) and sharp at 1200 hrs the team crossed the LD and began the patrol. The Battlefield Casualty Drill (BCD) stand was very realistic, thanks to 160X for giving us such a real-time experience. On the final night due to lack of sleep and rest, we started



Team GC(T) posing after awarded Gold Medal on Cambrian Patrol 21

to hallucinate, where one of my section members was seeing buildings on both sides of the road and that was hilarious. While approaching the final stand all members were mentally and physically exhausted, but that was the time where Patrol Commander showcased his mental resilience and voice of leadership, which completely changed our mindset and helped us to push beyond our limit.

Lastly, thanks to all the supporting elements both inside and outside our organisation for helping us to achieve our aim and secure this prestigious award (Gold Medal).

Honour, Award & Achievement 2021



Rifleman Inardev Chaudhary 2RGR was awarded the best rifleman of the year 2020 for his outstanding contribution to the Specialist Weapon School, Warminster



Sergeant Ratanraj Rai 1 RGR who served in Specialist Weapons School, Gurkha Company Tavoleto, Warminster, received 2*GOC Commendation on the New Year's Honours list 2021

Photo News



Cpl Budesh Rai 2RGR who served in the Signals Platoon, Gurkha Coy (Tavoleto), Specialist Weapons School (SWS) Warminster, was awarded **DISTINCTION** and **TOP STUDENT** on the Regimental Signals Advance System (RSAS) Course



Col BG Jody Davis visit to GC(T)



Col BG Saheb briefing GC(T) on the Defence Integrated Review, Army strategy and future Army Model.

TRAINING SUPPORT (BABAJI) COMPANY SUPPORT BATTALION INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE CATTERICK



Introduction

On the 19th of September 2018, a parade was held at Infantry Training Centre, Catterick Garrison to exult the official renaming of Support Battalion, Headquarter Company as Training Support (Babaji) Company and raised the Company Flag. The parade was conducted on the presence of Chief of Staff (COS) Army Recruiting and Initial Training Command (ARITC) and Col GSPS, Col A D Griffiths OBE as a reviewing officer.

It has been an honoured to name the Company as “Babaji”, one of the furious battles in Afghanistan that was undertaken by the NATO forces as a part of “Op PANTHERS CLAW”. The battle of Babaji took place in the North-West part of the provincial capital Lashkar Gah in Helmand province, Afghanistan. More than 3,000 British troops took part in the operation over the period 19 June – 20 August 2009. Despite of multiple attacks from Taliban fighters, the British forces secured three key crossing points and established several checkpoints to restrict Taliban movement. More than 200 insurgents were killed during this intense fighting. Unfortunately, 10 British soldiers were also KIA during the operation which was later dubbed as the “Battle of Babaji”

The Training Support (Babaji) Coy itself is unique and also divers represented by the multi-cap badge; Royal Logistics Corps (RLC), Queen’s Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR), Infantry soldiers from 1st and 2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles, Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support (GSPS), Regimental Duty Staff (RDS), Medical Centre, Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) and Civilian drivers from across the Catterick Garrison. All departments have their own critical roles and responsibilities in providing G1 to G8 functions. As a whole, Training Support (Babaji) Company has been continuously functioning at its best in providing a first-class training support outputs to the CIC training delivery teams both 1 and 2 ITB in order to meet the Defence operational requirements.

Staff list

Lieutenant Colonel	J C F Huxley	ROYAL IRISH	Commanding Officer
Major	Dillikumar Rai MVO	RGR	Officer Commanding
Warrant Officer Class 2	B A O’Connor	ROYAL LANCERS	Company Sergeant Major
Sergeant	Raju Dura	RGR	Platoon Commander/Company Quarter Master Sergeant
Sergeant	Subinkumar Rai	RGR	Platoon Sergeant
Corporal	Bishal Gurung	GSPS	Company Military Personnel Administrator

PARAS’ 10 Competition

By Rifleman Ashish Gurung

On 02 Oct 2021, a team of four individuals (Rfn Ashish Gurung, Rfn Rupesh Adhikari, Rfn Pradeep Chaudhary and Rifleman Ashok Gurung) from Training Support (Babaji) Company led by Sgt Raju Dura took part in the PARAS’10 Challenge in Colchester at Merville Barracks. The PARAS’10 competition is a gruelling 10 miles Endurance Race based on the 10 miler from the Parachute Regiment’s P-Company test week. The event comprises of two categorised races; The PARAS’10 TAB which is where individuals must compete the course in boots and carrying a 35lb pack or the PARAS’10 Run which is the same course but without bergen and boots.

The event itself is jointly run by the Support Our Charity and P Company military staff who are currently in the Parachute Regiment. It is a non-profit event with all proceeds going to the charity which benefits the soldiers and their families.

On the day, it was a rainy Saturday morning with lots of people travelling from different locations of the UK to take part. The Babaji Coy team was the first ever team to enter this event since its formation. There were 80 teams participating the PARAS’10 TAB from different regiments. The TAB started at 1100hrs from the open



Rifleman Ashok giving his best on individual category



Team Babaji Coy at the starting point

field just outside the Merville Barrack. The route was challenging with mixture of all terrain and made it even worse with the morning rain.

As all the participants crossed the finishing line, they were greeted by some Parachute veterans who awarded them with their finisher medal, t-shirt and goodie bag. A professionally run event from start to the finish. All the Babaji Coy team agreed that they had given their

best effort on completing the course and rewarded with securing overall 1st position under a cracking time amongst all who took part. Rfn Ashok Gurung managed to secure overall 2nd position in an individual category. Finally, we as a team would like to thank our chain of command for allowing us to partake in this event and we are again looking forward to next year's event. The Babaji Coy hope to enter more teams and be in with a shot to win the fastest team prize again.



Team Babaji after conquering the event



Babaji Coy Trailwaker Team with Coy Chain of Command

Trailwalker 2021

By Rifleman Rupesh Adhikari

The Trailwalker UK challenge is to, as a team of four, walk, jog, or run 100KM across the South Downs way in under 30 hours. It covers 100KM over the South Downs, starting at Queen Elizabeth Country Park and ending at Brighton Racecourse. A team of 4 members (Rfn Srijeet Tamang, Rfn Rupesh Adhikari, Rfn Rupesh Rai and Rfn Ashok Gurung) from Training Support (Babaji) Company, ITC Catterick took part in the Trailwalker 2021. This was the first-ever Trailwalker team from Babaji Coy participating in such a long endurance event.

The ultimate physical and mental endurance event took place over the period 25 - 26 September 2021. The Babaji Coy Trailwalker team was led by Cpl Mahendra Rai with multiple responsibilities of planning, coordinating, and executing an arduous event. The team prepared themselves with rigorous training for almost one month prior to the event despite of several Combat Infantryman Course (CIC) commitments in the ITC Catterick. The team moved to Worthy Down Camp one week before the event to let the team familiarise themselves with the actual running trail and do final collective training.

The actual ace started at 0600hrs in the morning of 25 Sep 2021. Team run through via series of checkpoints with lots of encouragement and support from the spectator. The administration team played a significant role on encouraging and looking after the team providing essential foods and water supply throughout the day.

Finally, Babaji Coy Team managed to complete the arduous journey in 12 hours 49 minutes which placed us in the overall 8th position out of almost 450 teams.

The result was a remarkable achievement for the team and Babaji Coy itself. The team was welcomed with traditional Khada and congratulated by the Commanding Officer Support Battalion ITC, Officer Commanding and Platoon Chain of Command on return.

Trailwalker 2021 was an astonishing experience for all the runners and support team which was both mentally and physically challenging. This was the hardest, toughest, and longest endurance event we have done so far. Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the organiser and to all those who supported us directly or indirectly to complete the event successfully.



Team at the finish.

Babaji Company's 3rd Birthday Celebrations

By Rifleman Abiral Rai

Training Support (Babaji) Company celebrated its 3rd formation anniversary on 16 September 2021 at ITC Catterick Garrison. The Coy was officially reformed and renamed from ITC Headquarter Company to Training Support (Babaji) Company on 19 September 2018. The OIC of this event was WO2 Barrie O'Connor, Company Sergeant Major. The event was cheered in presence of Key Battalion Headquarter personalities.

All the available Babaji Coy service personnel were in attendance to witness the first phase which saw the welcome and farewell of incoming and outgoing Officer Commanding Sahibs. The Coy welcomed Maj Dillikumar Rai MVO as the new Officer Commanding with a traditional Coy Khada who has just been posted to Babaji Coy after his successful tour in Aldershot as a SO2 Whole Force Approach (WFA) at Specialised Infantry Group. He thanked to all the Coy personnel for the warm welcome and mentioned about the importance of professionalism within the Army in his initial speech.

The Coy also took the opportunity to bid farewell to Maj Gyan Dhenga who departs for his new role as SO2 Requirements Manager at Northwood HQ, London with a traditional Khada and leaving memento. Maj Gyan Dhenga Sahib also presented the Babaji Coy Soldier of The Year trophy to LCpl Kishan Tilija Pun QOGLR (400Tp) for his outstanding contribution to the ITC. The event concluded with a short citation of Battle of Babaji read out by LCpl Sagar Gurung and followed by a cake cutting ceremony by outgoing Officer Commanding Sahib. Overall, the event went smoothly and executed so well as planned and all the members of the Babaji Coy enjoyed to the fullest.



Commanding Officer SP BN ITC congratulating the team with traditional Khada



Farewell to Maj Gyan Dhenga



Farewell to Maj Gyan Dhenga



Welcoming the new Officer Commanding, Maj Dillikumar Rai MVO

THE BAND OF THE BRIGADE OF GURKHAS



History

The Sirmoor Rifle Regiment, later 2nd Gurkha Rifles, was the first Gurkha regiment to form a band immediately after the Indian Mutiny in 1859. In the mid-1950s, authority was given to raise an additional 'Staff Band of The Brigade of Gurkhas', until 1970 when both bands were amalgamated as The Band of The Brigade of Gurkhas (2nd King Edward's VII's Own Gurkha Rifles). Twenty years after being formed, the Band undertook its first operational tour of duty by providing support to the Army's deployed medical units during the Gulf War of 1991.

At the beginning of 1994, the Band was re-located on a permanent basis to the United Kingdom and was re-structured and established as 'The Band of The Brigade of Gurkhas', where it served on short tours of duty with British Forces both in Germany, Cyprus and Nepal, and deployed as a military band to the operational theatres of Bosnia and Afghanistan.

During 2019 the Band's command structure placed the unit within the LONDIST sphere allowing closer relationships between Brigade, the Royal Corps of Army Music (RCAM) and the Army Music tasking Authority (AMTA). The Band's command structure comprises of a Director of Music (RCAM), an Assistant Director of Music (Gurkha), Gurkha Bandmaster, Band Sergeant Major and Assistant Band Sergeant Major.

All Gurkha musicians undergo basic infantry training with all other Gurkha recruits before being assessed and accepted into the band, where they receive formal musical training, including attendance at the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall. The band is undergoing an important period of growth as it aligns with all other British Army Bands by becoming larger in order to support the growing demands for musical support by Brigade and the wider Army.

Staff List

Director of Music	Captain S O'Neill RCAM
Assistant Director of Music	Captain Basudev Gurung
Senior Band Sergeant Major	WO1 Krishna Tamang
Gurkha Bandmaster	WO2 Sunil Gurung
Assistant BSM	WO2 Bhim Gurung
Administrative Officer	Miss Barbara Ramharak

Foreword

By Director of Music

As with many across the globe, this year has again been challenging for the Band. Our main efforts were to regain normalisation, as the world recovers from the pandemic. Many people have reacted differently to forced isolation that the virus created, and it is no different for band personnel. We do all our admin, training and performance together, face to face. We learn off one another in our everyday work, therefore, that break in this routine required attention. Additionally, any performer will tell you, that any period away from normal practice and certainly performance in front of an audience leads to serious skill fade, with potentially debilitating anxieties. Nevertheless, measured aims at performance output with matched training was the formula to deploy. As I come into the last year of my assignment with this unit, it was important to get this



*Captain Séan O'Neill OMS MA BMus
BA PG Dip DMSL MST*

popular and front face of the Brigade back to 'normal jogging'. It can only be said that the Gurkha resolve has not evaded the Band and the boys have shown the uttermost determination to remain professional and at the top of their game.

Jai Gurkha Band!

Pipes and Drums Concentration 2021

By Lance Corporal Gokul Rai

The Pipes and Drums are an important asset to the Brigade which of course is steeped in history going back to the Anglo-Nepalese war, often with Scottish regiments impressed with the fighting power of Gurkhas and passing on their own traditions such as piping and drumming. For the band, we will often utilise the various pipers and drummers across the Brigade, especially to enhance main performances of the year such as the Brigade Week Sounding Retreat. For Brigade pipers and drummers, this skill is often their second, third or fourth role, therefore it is vitally important to provide them with vital coordinated training. The Band aim to conduct a concentration week annually, to provide this training, and improve the skills of these dedicated players.

In June, Pipes and Drums from across the Brigade gathered at Sir John Moore Barracks; the main aim was to develop their already present musical skills, practice newly learned musical pieces, and perfect any displays for the forthcoming year. This week was productive as ever, particularly for the less experienced.

From this year the Band has introduced an award for the Best Piper of the Year, which was awarded to LCpl Padam Gurung (1 RGR). We hope that this can continue into the future and hone the very important skills of our Brigade musicians.

The Gurkha Welfare Trust Doko Race 2021

By Corporal Sanjeev Thapa

Leading from the front the Director of Music Captain Séan O'Neill and Assistant Band Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class 2 Bhim Gurung took part in the Gurkha Welfare Trust Doko race in Wimbledon on Sunday 6 Jun 2021.

For Captain O'Neill it was an opportunity to raise money for the important charity as he enters his last year with the band. For the Assistant Band Sergeant Major, it is 22 years since he first raced up the demanding course in Pokhara at his Gurkha selection.

As it was Captain O'Neill's very first Doko carrying experience, the Band physical training instructors ensured that both individuals carried out training, getting used to running with the basket. On the day of

the race, the weather was quite hot, and perhaps not the same terrain as Pokhara, but exhilarating all the same. We are very proud to say that both participants completed the 5K race; although the fastest time was 21 mins and 18 seconds, both and participants came in at a respectable 31 mins and 20 seconds. Nevertheless, by far the best effort was from Jinks Hoskins - 91 years old and completed the race in 1 hour and 6 mins - what an amazing gentleman.



DOM (Captain Sean O'Neill) and ABSM (WO2 Bhim Gurung) during on the GWT Doko Race

A huge 'thank you' to all our friends and followers who donated and helped to raise much needed funds of £650 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust. There is an aspiration that will become a regular event for the Band, especially for the serving Director of Music. Perhaps in the future previous Directors could also take part, making it a great tradition.



DOM (Captain Sean O'Neill) and ABSM (WO2 Bhim Gurung) proudly displaying their medals



DOM and ABSM with their Dokos

Cyprus 2021

By Corporal Sanjeev Thapa

After a long period of moratorium on performances due to the pandemic, the band was tasked with its first overseas tour of 2021 to Cyprus.

The main event was at Happy Valley in Episkopi for Remembrance Day. This is a well-attended event by military service personnel and their families. With the suspension of remembrance activities during lockdown, this felt like a step towards normality, and being able to remember those who had fallen before us.

This short tour of Cyprus gave the band the opportunity to provide other entertainment to service personnel, their families, and residents. The Band performed at Akrotiri Garrison school, where the children enjoyed joining the Band practices and marching activities, trying out their skills at marching. There was also a fun physical training event for service personnel, where parents and children cheered on the participants. Unfortunately, COVID got the better of some of the Band members and we had to isolate for nearly two weeks. We were well looked after and despite this slight hiatus, we managed to finish the tour with a concert at Dhekelia Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. This well received concert finished off this long-awaited tour and finally allowed to get back to what we enjoy and love.

Adventure Training (Naulo Kadam) 2021

By LCpl Binayak Limbu

Every year the band organises adventure training to refresh the team and have a break from the hectic schedule of the year. This year we selected our own local area for our adventure training 2021. The South coast in Kent is an ideal setting for a variety of outdoor activities and visits to historic sights.

Gurkhas enjoy exercise and the Band is no exception. Our first activity was hiking; and we set off from the starting point at Deal Memorial Bandstand. This gave us the opportunity to pay homage to fellow military musicians who lost their lives and others that were seriously injured as the result of an IRA bomb at the Royal Marines School of Music in Deal on 22 September 1989. We started our journey along the coastal path; the weather was typically British, lots of rain and wind, but this made the hike more challenging and fun. Although we did not cover the whole 66 miles of the Kent coastal path, restored by the National Trust, we completed an enjoyable hike to the South Foreland Lighthouse which stands on top of the famous White Cliffs of Dover. This, interestingly, was the first electric lighthouse.

We also took the opportunity to try out our cycling skills at a local attraction, Betteshanger Park in Deal. This is one of the South East's most important cycling centres, as it has a traffic free tarmac track as well as off-road

single tracks for mountain biking. This gave the Band the opportunity to split into two groups, green and red, with the aim of exploring all routes in the park. There were varying levels of challenges throughout the venue, and all members were able to challenge themselves according to their ability.

The adventure training was a huge success and enabled all Band members to relax with their brothers whilst enjoying the exercise and taking in the glorious Kent countryside.

Trailwalker 2021

By Musician Ashish Tamang

For the first time in history and during a very busy schedule, a team from the Band took part in Trailwalker 2021. A total of 490 teams from across the country including teams from the Brigade of Gurkhas took part in the challenging 100km, 24-hour race.



Band team: LCpl Milan Gurung, Musicians Amrit Gurung, Diwahang Rai and Ashish Tamang

Our team was led by Lance Corporal Milan Gurung with Musicians Amrit Gurung, Diwahang Rai and Ashish Tamang. Overseeing the event was Sgt Khushman Gurung guruji who looked after the planning and safety aspects. Because of the busy Band diary, we were unable to get much time for training; but somehow, we managed to familiarise ourselves with to 50 km of the course.

The night before the event we camped at Queen Elizabeth Country Park. Next morning at 0630 hrs after having breakfast with all our equipment packed, we were ready to begin the challenge. Our admin team were there to support us at every check point. After check point 2 unfortunately one of our team members developed an injury, which slowed us slightly. Nevertheless, we did not give up and kept on walking and running. At check point 6 (of the 10 check points),



The Band Trailwalker Team at the Finish

we were approximately 9 hours in, so we changed our clothes and shoes and had some rest. We did our best to maintain our morale and we certainly enjoyed the challenge. However, we knew it was going to be difficult after 80km, but we persisted, and we managed to keep moving with torch lights on. We struggled the most from last check point to the finishing. Nevertheless, we were warmly welcomed at the finishing line with clapping and cheering from the crowd. This race was the hardest challenge I have ever undertaken, and it was one of the proudest moments of my life. I was immensely honoured to be part of the team, especially as it was the first time that the Band took part in this race. The Band team excelled and completed the challenge in 17 hours and 29 mins securing overall 43rd position.

Thank you to the organisers, support crew, my Trailwalker team members all the Gurkha Band members for your support.

Three Military Generations

By Sergeant Ramesh Rai

“Dad I have decided to join the army” is how Nisan revealed his aspiration. I remained silent for a while as I wanted him to attend university and try his luck as an officer cadet. I had partially agreed with his idea to take a year’s break after finishing his A-Levels, however a COVID lockdown favoured his ambition in becoming a couch potato. Something was better than nothing, therefore, I gave him the green light that would allow him to realise and experience what his military grandfather and father have gone through. I was somewhat satisfied with his laudable decision as he was willing to adopt the British Army’s Values and Standards.

Dropping him off at Army Training Centre Pirbright for his basic training on the 15th of August 2021 was torture for my wife since he had never left home before. I joked, “Would you still like to yell at him for playing a virtual game and keeping the room untidy?”. To be honest, I also felt his absence on finding his empty bed and silent gaming console. Finally, I realised how my

parents might have felt when I flew to the UK in Jan 2002; it is called karma.

During a Cyprus engagement in September 2021, the Band could not return to the UK because of unexpected COVID cases. I recalled William Shakespeare’s quote; “*all the world’s a stage and all the men and women merely Players*”. The quarantine process prevented me from attending my son’s passing out parade. Fortunately, cutting edge technology provided Facebook live streaming of ATC Pirbright’s not-to-be-missed parade. I thanked innovative Mark Zukerberg, the founder of Facebook.

My son’s parade reminded me of my tough and memorable days at ITC Catterick in 2002. I also remembered my late father who survived the heatwave of Lucknow, India during his arduous infantry training (7/11 Gorkha Rifle) in the late 1970s. Sadly, he is no more with us to witness his grandson’s achievement. I am, however, proud that my son has followed our footsteps and has acquired the military skills which will enable him to survive in any kind of situation. I am a firm believer that he as a member of the Armed Forces will perceive the world from a different perspective and dimension. Although he is a trained soldier, it is does not mean that he does not get told off at home for his imperfection and sloppiness. After all, my wife is the strict Regimental Sergeant Major of our family. No excuse at all, watch out!

Finally, we encourage our son to lead by example and always retain the core values. We are determined to respect, follow and preserve the well-disciplined military tradition and culture. We must not forget who Gurkhas are, where we came from and what we have done for Britain over the glorious period of 207 years. Make us and Band BG proud. Good luck Nisan!

THE GURKHA STAFF AND PERSONNEL SUPPORT COMPANY (GSPS)



Staff List

Colonel of the Regiment
Officer Commanding

Brigadier A D Griffiths OBE
Major Jit Bahadur Hamal

Officers

Major Suryakumar Rai
Major Narendra Kumar Gurung
Major Anil Gurung
Captain Chandrakumar Limbu
Captain Suren Limbu
Captain Surendra Limbu Lingden
Captain Dugendra Tamang
Captain Sumitkumar Joshi
Captain Bijay Limbu
Captain Samitchya Gurung
Captain Santosh Kumar Gurung
Captain Nabin Rai

Army HQ
DCOS BGN
RAO British Forces Brunei
SO Admin Defence Sect Nepal
RAO HQ Warminster Gar
RAO 30 Sig Regt
RAO 36 Engr Regt
Det Comd 2 RGR
Det Comd 1 RGR
Det Comd 3 Sig Regt
Det Comd 9 Regt RLC
Adjt British Gurkhas Nepal

Warrant Officers Class 1

WO1 Priyachandra Rai - Supt Clk HQBG/2IC GSPS

GSPS Soldier of the Year 2020

Corporal Bishwajit Rai

GSPS Senior NCO of the Year 2020

Sergeant Munesh Ghale

GSPS Highlights 2021

The GSPS remains an integral part of the serving Brigade and delivers effective personnel administration capability to BG and wider Army contributing to the operational outputs of all units.

This year marked the 10th anniversary of the formation of the cap badge. A proud moment for the organisation to have reached its first milestone with astounding success over the past decade on all fronts. To mark this historic occasion all members from around the globe attended a virtual celebration on 30 Jun, followed by a formal parade in Oct. As part of the 10th Anniversary celebrations, many members organised and participated in various charity activities and raised funds totalling over £4,000 towards good causes.

This young cap-badge has achieved some outstanding success in the first 10 years of its existence; the size of the organisation has grown by almost double to 140 serving officers and soldiers, two officers received the prestigious national award of Member of the British Empire (MBE), another officer has made history by being the first GSPS officer to be appointed in the prestigious appointment of Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officer (QGOO) while many soldiers have received high level commendations and educational awards.

Our personnel have recently returned from a successful Operational tour of Kosovo (Op ELGIN). With the diverse and fast-paced reorganisation, redeployment, and recovery of troops in support of the UK response to COVID19 (Op RESCRIPT), the members of the GSPS have really been put to the test which involved deployments to various parts of the UK and overseas at short notices.

In short, our officers and soldiers continue to live by the GSPS ethos and excel under challenging circumstances to deliver top class administrative services to the Brigade and wider Army, setting the 'gold standard' for others to aspire to. This year, 8 new members from Intake 2021 have joined the growing GSPS Pariwar.

The future looks equally challenging and successful for the GSPS.



OC/SO2 GSPS talking to the Right Honourable Priti Patel MP (Home Secretary) and Lt Gen Wardlow (Col Comdt Brigade of Gurkhas)



OC/ SO2 GSPS putting a beret on newly joined GSPS Recruit



GSPS group photograph after Commissioning and Kasam Khane Parade



GSPS soldiers checking travel documents during Op ELGIN (Bosnia)



Maj (Retd) Bijayant Sherchan receiving MBE from HRH Prince of Wales



GSPS Intake 2021 Passing Out Parade



Mr Raju Lama (famous Nepali singer/celebrity) paid a visit to HQBG and HQ GSPS to meet with his special friend, Maj Jit Hamal (OC/ SO2 GSPS)



Pte Prashish GSPS talking with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Right Honourable Rishi Sunak MP after the Passing Out Parade



GSPS 10th Anniversary Bhela 2021

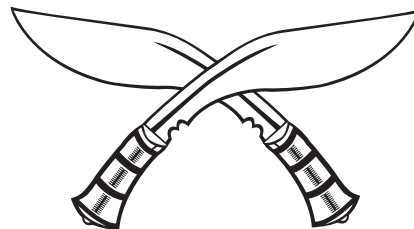


OC/ SO2 GSP, Col GSPS and Buddhist Lama Guru during Kasam Khane Parade at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst



GSPS Ladies Dinner Night 2021 held in Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

BRITISH GURKHAS NEPAL (BGN)



Staff List

Headquarters British Gurkhas Nepal

Colonel Paul Smith

Lieutenant Colonel Simon Townsend QOGLR

Maj Narendrakumar Gurung GSPS

Major Ranjan Kumar Badgami RGR

Captain Nabin Rai GSPS

WO1 Basantajang Gurung RGR

Captain Sundar Sherchan R Sigs

Captain David Gibson RLC

Mr Thomas Howard

Gaurav Chandra Gurung

Commander BGN/Defence Attache'/

Director GWT(Nepal)

DComd/COS

DCOS

GM

Adjt

RSM

SO3 G2/3/6

SO3 G4

Civ Sec

Communications Officer

Defence Section British Embassy Kathmandu

Colonel Paul Smith

Major Kamal Gurung QG Signals

Captain Chandrakumar Limbu GSPS SO Admin

Defence Attaché

AMA/MLO

British Gurkhas Kathmandu

Major Graham Boardman RRF

Major Neil Fidler AGC (SPS)

Captain Lalitbahadur Thapa QG Signals

Major (Retd) Rajeev Shrestha QG Signals

Mr Sisir Kumar Pandey

QM

RAO

OC NST

BUWO

LEC HR Manager

British Gurkhas Pokhara

Major Philip Lambert RGR

Captain Ganeshkumar Gurung RGR

Captain Krishnakumar Pun QGE

Captain Hannah Karas R Sigs

Maj (Retd) Manbahadur Gurung AGC (SPS)

Captain (Retd) Ganeshkumar Rai RGR

Captain (Retd) Tirthabahadur Gurung RGR

Captain (Retd) Hariprasad Rai QOGLR

Captain (Retd) Ashok Sen RGR

OC

2IC

QM

Ops Co-ord Offr

Records Officer

SARO

ARO Co-ord

ARO (East)

ARO (West)

Defence Infrastructure Overseas (Nepal)

Capt Christopher Hatchard RE

Senior Estate Facility Manager

British Gurkhas Dharan

Mr Chandra Kamal Rasaily

Head of BGD

Gurkha Settlement Office

Maj (Retd) Gyanbahadur Limbu QOGLR

Mrs Jamuna Gurung

LO GSO

Dep Proj Manager

Commander's Foreword

By Colonel P T Smith, Commander British Gurkhas Nepal



This has been yet another challenging year for British Gurkhas Nepal amidst the ongoing disruptions triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, we continue with our focus on delivering BGN core outputs primarily recruiting. 2021 has seen a significant turnover of staff and saw the arrival of a new Commander, Gurkha Major and the RSM. This year, for the second time we repatriated a number of staff, and all dependents back to the UK as directed by the FCDO during the DELTA variant wave of the pandemic.

Attestation Parade for Recruit Intake 2021 (RI21) took place on 26 Feb 21. This year selection was markedly scaled down due to COVID-19 with adjustments made to the number of tests Potential Recruits (PRs) undertake every year. However, this was carefully managed without jeopardising the quality and standards we expect from the recruits. Her Majesty's Ambassador to Nepal Her Excellency Nicola Pollitt witnessed the attestation parade for the successful recruits.

We continue to maintain our strong connection with the Government of Nepal. Her Majesty's Ambassador to Nepal Nicola Pollitt, as the Defence Attaché with Assistant Military Attaché Maj Kamal Gurung I met with the Rt Honourable President of Nepal Mrs Bidhya Devi Bhandari in Aug 21. This included the annual report on behalf of the Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas.

BGN has been in the forefront of providing military medical support to the Nepalese Army through Defence Engagement. The support commenced with interactions between the Military Assessment Team (Nepal) (MAT(N)) of the British Army and Nepali Army which took place in Jun 21. This focussed on exchanging knowledge and information on how each organisation was contributing to its country's fight against COVID-19 and seeking ways to optimise the age-old cooperation between the two Armies. The British Army's COVID-19

medical equipment support to the Nepal Army arrived in Kathmandu on 20 Dec 21. Equipment and supplies including a PCR machine delivered by a Royal Air Force (RAF) C-17 were handed over by the Defence Attaché, and Commander British Gurkhas Nepal, Col Paul Smith to Technical Col Dr Moon Thapa of the Nepali Army at the Tribhuvan International Airport. The assistance further strengthens the long-standing cooperation between the British Army and Nepal Army.

During this year we have hosted several high-profile distinguished visitors from the UK. BGN was honoured to host Minister of Parliament (MP) Helen Grant, the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Girls' Education and MP for Maidstone in Oct 21. During her visit, she met with representatives of BGN's Women's Network and Wives' Committee, as well as being appraised of the British Gurkhas recruiting and support to Gurkha Veterans and Families.

It is good to see that the hard work of our soldiers and civilian staff are getting recognised across Defence and the UK government. Eleven military and civilian personnel of BGN were recognised for their outstanding services in the Queen's Birthday Honour List 2021.

Despite the pandemic, we continue to take an active part in the community engagement arena supporting our local communities. BGN Wives' Committee extended support to the nurses working in the frontline in Patan Hospital during the pandemic with basic medical and sanitary utilities. Dep Comd BGN, Lt Col Simon Townsend accompanied by the RSM BGN WO1 Kamal Bahadur Pun and Sgt Prakash Gurung led the engagement with Lalitpur, Ward No 5 where financial support was provided through Ward Chairman Mr Bikashman Shrestha. On the same day, Dep Comd BGN, RSM BGN and SMCA BGN Bir Bahadur Thapa presented medical equipment and an oxygen concentrator to Alka Hospital, Jawalakhel represented by the Hospital's CEO Mr Dipendra Pokhrel. On 8 Jun 21, Gurkha Major Major Muktiprasad Gurung MVO and RSM BGN WO1 Kamal Bahadur Pun presented medical equipment to the Medical Team of Nepal Police on behalf of BGN. In addition to this, on 10 Jun 21, Gurkha Major BGN led the initiative of financial support to Nepal Snehi Kaakha, an organisation helping women and children abandoned by their families.

Lastly, BGN continues to provide its key outputs through support from well-motivated staff both serving personnel and locally employed civilians. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all BGN staff for their undivided support and loyalty through what has been a difficult year caused by the pandemic.

Jai BGN!

UK Defence Covid support to Nepal Army

The Covid-19 medical equipment support pledged earlier by the British Army to the Nepal Army arrived in Kathmandu on 20 December 2021. The UK Royal Air Force (RAF) C-17 landed at Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu with medical equipment package. Colonel Paul Smith, Defence Attaché & Commander British Gurkhas Nepal (BGN) handed over the equipment to Technical Colonel Dr Moon Thapa of the Nepal Army.



Commander BGN Col Paul Smith hands over the equipment to Nepal Army (T) Col Dr Moon Thapa at Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu

Shedding light on the unique Army-to-Army cooperation between the UK and Nepal, Colonel Smith said, “The British Army has long been associated with the Nepal Army and we recognise their responsibility to those that are serving as well as the many veterans and families that depend on their Medical Services. In the spirit of continued cooperation we are pleased to support them with equipment and stores to make them more resilient in case of any further complications from Covid. This support marks the high regard we have for the Nepal Army and we send our best wishes to the highly professional and dedicated staff of the Nepal Army Medical Corps.”

The equipment which included a PCR Machine, Venturi Reservoir Masks and Continuous Positive Airway Pressure would form part of a 25 bed Covid control facility.

In response to the request made by the Nepal Army in May last year, their British Army counterparts sent a



The Covid control support equipment ferried by RAF C-17 arrived in Nepal on 20 December 2021

specialist team to advise on their response and work on a proposal to provide this Covid-19 medical support package to their Nepal Military comrades.

This material assistance follows interactions between the Military Assessment Team (Nepal) (MAT (N)) of the British Army and the Nepal Army in June 2021 where knowledge was exchanged on how each Army has been contributing to its country’s fight against Covid-19 and seeking ways to optimise over 200 years of cooperation between the two Armies in the present situation.

The UK MOD’s head office has also supported this effort from the British Army with Staff Officers and Civilians supporting this work and gaining the personal sign-off from the Secretary of State for Defence Mr Ben Wallace MP. This delivery also complimented other aid provided by the UK Government to help Nepal to cope with the Covid-19 situation. These included the provision of oxygen concentrators, a direct vaccine contribution and also vaccines made available through the COVAX distribution programme.

Going beyond the event to highlight the wider and long-standing cooperation between the British Army and the Nepali Army, Colonel Smith remarked, “Nepal and the UK have long worked together and continue to do so on UN Operations around the world. This donation of Medical equipment direct to the Nepal Army Medical Services is in recognition of that close relationship and to support such a long-standing ally.”

HMA, DA present Brigade Report to Nepal President

Her Majesty’s Ambassador (HMA) to Nepal Her Excellency Nicola Pollitt, Defence Attaché (DA) and Commander British Gurkhas Nepal (BGN) Colonel Paul Smith and Major Kamal Gurung Assistant Military Attache’ (AMA) met with Right Honourable President of Nepal Mrs Bidhya Devi Bhandari on 13 August 2021.

On behalf of Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas Lt Gen Richard Wardlaw OBE, DA Col Paul Smith presented the Annual Report of the Brigade of Gurkhas to the Honourable President on the occasion.



Defence Attache’/Commander BGN Colonel Smith presents his credential to the President of Nepal Right Honourable Mrs Bidhya Devi Bhandari

BGN providing support locally during Covid-19

Continuing its close engagement with the local communities, British Gurkhas Nepal (BGN), on 24 June 2021, extended further support in the critical times of Covid-19. Deputy Commander (Dep Comd) BGN Lieutenant Colonel Simon Townsend, accompanied by Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) BGN Warrant Officer 1 Kamal Bahadur Pun and Staff Sergeant Prakash Gurung, led the engagement with Lalitpur, Ward -5 where financial support was provided through Ward Chair Mr Bikashman Shrestha.



Dep Comd and RSM BGN with Lalitpur, Ward 5 Chair

Separately on the same day, Dep Comd BGN, RSM BGN and Senior Medical Centre Attendant (SMCA) BGN Bir Bahadur Thapa presented medical equipment and an oxygen concentrator to Alka Hospital, Jawalakhel, represented by the Hospital's Chief Executive Officer Mr Dipendra Pokhrel.

On 10 June 2021, Gurkha Major BGN Major Muktiprasad Gurung MVO had led the initiative of financial support to Nepal Snehi Kaakha, an organisation helping women and children who have been abandoned by their families.

Earlier on 08 June 2021, Gurkha Major and RSM BGN had presented medical equipment to the Medical Team of Nepal Police on behalf of BGN.



GM and RSM BGN with Nepal Police Medical Team

Eleven military and civilian BGN personnel on the Queen's Birthday Honour List 2021

It was with pleasure that Commander British Gurkhas Nepal formally announced that eleven military and civilian personnel of British Gurkhas Nepal had been recognised for their outstanding services by being included in the Queen's Birthday Honour List 2021. The awards were conferred as:

Chief of the General Staff (CGS) Commendation:
Captain Bijay Limbu GSPS, Defence Section.

Commander Home Command Commendation:
Warrant Officer 2 Thomas Brian Stone RLC, MCC
Corporal Khagendra Gurung QG Signals, NST
Mr Suman Shakya, DIO BGN
Ms Shashi Rai, Medical Centre BGP
Mr Ganga Bahadur Lama, BGP

General Officer Commanding (GOC) Regional Command Commendation:
Sergeant Maheshkumar Wanem QOGLR, MT Kathmandu
Lance Corporal Santosh Lama Tamang RGR, RDS BGP
Mrs Stella Subba, QM BGK
Ms Anju Gurung, Assistant Civil Secretary BGN
Mrs Laxmi Thapa, QM British Gurkhas Pokhara



Brig James Coote DSO OBE, Chief of Staff, Col Richard Hallet OBE and Lt Col Edward Paintin from Regional Command and Colonel Jody Davies MBE, Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas at the General Officer Commanding (GOC) Regional Command Commendation awards presentation to Sergeant Maheshkumar Wanem and Corporal Khagendra Gurung

Repatriation of BGN Serving Personnel and Dependents

Responding to the critical COVID-19 situation in Nepal, namely the second wave, decision was made at the highest level to repatriate all the dependents and vulnerable for their safety on 28 May 21 accompanied by few serving personnel to create a Rear Ops Group (ROG) UK, this was BGN's second round of repatriation to the UK within 15 months period. BGN was well supported by the Regional Command, Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas and the Larkhill Garrison in the planning and execution of the repatriation, facilitating RSOI and accommodation in the UK, provision of welfare support and eventual withdrawal to Nepal in September 2021.



BGN staff at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu during repatriation

JPX 98th Birthday

Colonel (retd) J P Cross celebrated his 98th Birthday with some tea and cakes in the BGP Kalikhola Mess. Col Cross was greatly involved in bringing the camp from Paklihawa to Pokhara, this has always been his second home.



Col (Retd) J P Cross cutting cake during his 98th birthday celebration at BGP

British Gurkha Pokhara

By Capt HB Karas

British Gurkhas Pokhara

British Gurkhas Pokhara (BGP) occupies an important position in the Brigade. All Gurkhas recruited into the British Army are selected and recruited at BGP. Most Gurkha Officers visit BGP at some stage in their careers, either on their language course, on a duty trek or to

assist with recruiting. No one is immune to the charm and beauty of the camp, with its splendid backdrop of the Annapurna Himal. It occupies a special place in the hearts of all Gurkhas – Nepalese and British – much as the old Regimental Centres in the hills of India did in the past. BGP has continued to carry out its key tasks of recruiting, pension paying and welfare over the past year. In addition, BGP supported two annual survival Nepali language courses and several important events for the Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT) and the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association. In October BGP hosted a very successful Commander's Cup competition, although sadly we failed to defeat BGK. Led by an Officer Commanding Royal Gurkha Rifles Major, and Deputy Recruiting Officer, Major Phil Lambert, British Gurkhas Pokhara the central activity of BGP remains recruiting.

Recruit Intake 21

Numerous adjustments to our regular selection process were put in place in order to make this year's selection safe for all involved. Central Selection for the Recruit Intake 2021 concluded on 11 Feb for the Western Region and 22 Feb 2021 for the Eastern Region. A low-scale attestation parade was held on 26 Feb 2021 before the selected travelled to the UK for Phase 1 training.

Recruit Intake 22

In July 2021, online registration was introduced for the first time. It was well received with thousands of positive comments and variety of applications flooding in. With about 630 potential recruits submitting their applications each day, we are reaching the most remote areas of Nepal in numbers never seen before. Previously it would have taken some potential recruits 4 days to travel to Pokhara to register but this year we brought registration to them virtually. The Recruit Cell, led by Captain (Retired) Ganeshkumar Rai BEM and the Deputy Recruiting Officer, with a team of 83 support staff (civilian, military, and veterans), rigorously planned, and enhanced force health protection measures. By September 2021, nearly 6000 potential recruits (PRs) who successfully registered online were taking part in the Regional Selection being conducted strictly under the COVID-19 safety guidelines.



Recruit Intake 22 Regional Selection at BGP

Diversity

Gurkha Recruiting has continued to support the increase in diversity in the Brigade of Gurkhas, a wide range of castes are being selected from all regions of Nepal. Recruits from all 77 districts and from all of Nepal's ethnic groups are eligible to apply to join the British Army and many are doing so, although approximately 63.3% continue to come from the Gurung, Magar, Rai, and Limbu castes down from 67.36% in RI21 and almost 80% back in 2008.

Team Gurkha

British Gurkhas Pokhara is co-located with the Gurkha Welfare Trust and neighbours with the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association and together form Team Gurkha. This partnership regularly combines during contingency training to maintain our readiness against earthquakes or other crisis events, but also recently in sporting events. A cricket tournament saw Kadoorie come out on top and a united team in played a football match against the local Pema Tsal Buddhist monastery.

Pension Paying and Records Office

The Pension Paying and Records Office continued to provide vital welfare support to ex-servicemen, their widows, and families. The Pension Paying Office in BGP, along with the offices in Dharan, Kathmandu, and Darjeeling, are responsible for providing pensions and other administrative services to service pensioners in Pokhara and West Nepal. There has been a major drive in to encourage pensioners to use the bank and

approximately 20,000 of them are now bank paid. In the BGP Records Office, Records Officer Major (Retd) Manbahadur Gurung and his staff have been busy, holding 38,000 records for all the Gurkhas who have served in the British Army, including those who transferred from the pre-1947 Indian Gurkhas into the British Brigade.

Survival Nepali Language Courses

BGP supported the first survival Nepali language course following the pandemic in September 2021. The courses are run by staff from Brigade Language and Culture Team from HQBG over a period of three months. For part of this time students are attached to Area Welfare Centres (AWCs) to consolidate their language skills. At the end of the course, they do their Directed Duty Trek to further consolidate their Nepali. In addition, all the students must do the doko race - a challenge many are keen to do. The J P Cross Award for the Best Student is awarded to highlight the continuing importance of British Officers being able to speak Nepali.

In summary, RI22 is being conducted in a free, fair, and transparent manner as I write this article. The success of Brigade units, and the feedback received from units, suggests that BGP are selecting the right quality of recruits with the combination of intelligence, robustness, honesty, and discipline to continue to meet the changing demands of the modern British Army.

Jai BGP!

Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association British Gurkhas Nepal (KAAA BGN)

Staff List

Colonel (Retd) Andrew Mills OBE

Major (Retd) Krishna Gurung BEM

Dr Engineer Narayan Gurung

Captain (Retd) Rajan Rai, ex-10 GR/2 RGR

Captain (Retd) Pradip Limbu, ex-QOGLR

Captain (Retd) Meenjang Gurung, ex-QGE

Director KAAA

Deputy Director

Technical Director

Projects Director

Administrative Officer

Training Director

KAAA contributes to Sustainable Summits 2021

The Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association (KAAA) and their partners, the Gurkha Welfare Trust, were asked to contribute pieces for the Sustainable Summits conference which took place in Kathmandu last year. Later, these contributed to a wider film that was shown at COP 26 in Glasgow.

KAAA is a privately funded charity which has been helping poor communities in the hills of Nepal for the past 53 years. Whilst its primary role is infrastructure, namely trail bridges, drinking water and small-scale hydro-electric projects, it also conducts remote medical camps, provides solar home lighting systems, builds cliff tracks, provides kitchen garden and improved cooking stove training, and employment training to youngsters.



*Author: Major (Retd) Krishna Gurung
BEM QGS, Dep Dir KAAA*

It has also, so far, rebuilt 11 villages, 650 homes, which were damaged during the 2015 earthquakes.

We are close long-term partners with the Gurkha Welfare Trust. Our ethos “Help those who help themselves” and “Opportunity in life to the disadvantaged” are reflected in the way we work. We always work alongside the beneficiaries. In keeping to the theme of mountains nurturing communities, I showcase 2 examples of our work.

First, our 100-kilowatt micro-hydro project at Kyanzin-Langtang in Rasuwa District. With an intake at 4,200m it is our highest project. It took 6 months to complete in 2016/17. It is the first hydro project in Nepal to be fed from a glacial lake. It produces power for 130 households of Kyanzin, Langtang and others. The project has not only enhanced the quality of life for the villagers but it also assisted the rebuild of Langtang itself, and increased the opportunities in the community. KAAA also built a 74 metre trail bridge over the Lazza River at the approach to Kyanzin benefitting on average 2,000 locals, and visiting tourists.

My second example is Lingjo Village in remote North Dhading District. The village was heavily damaged in the earthquake but was reconstructed by KAAA in 2017, after which villagers who had migrated to urban centres like Dhadingbesi and Kathmandu returned to the village to resettle permanently. There are now 146 households whereas before roughly half the village was deserted. KAAA has also installed a community drinking water system and a 45 kW micro-hydro plant which both survived the effects of the earthquake. With 24-hour access to water and electricity, and a KAAA apple project, the community is thriving.

To conclude: Over the past 53 years, KAAA has made an important contribution to the development of remote villages, in the hills. Whilst I used to think that we were doing no more than delaying the inevitable migration of pastoral hill people to the urban centres, I now believe that it is possible to reverse this trend and make once unviable villages flourish again. “Mountains nurturing communities.”



Kyanzin Micro Hydro Project



Lingjo Dhading

THE GURKHA WELFARE TRUST

Gurkhas living their lives with dignity

Staff List

Director

Mr Al Howard

Director The Gurkha Welfare Trust

Headquarters British Gurkhas Nepal

Colonel Paul Smith Director GWT(N)

Headquarters GWT

Lieutenant Colonel Matt Hing RLC

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Yambahadur Rana Ex QGS

Dr Gerda Pohl, MRCGP

Captain (Retd) Gamarsing Gurung Ex 1RGR

Captain (Retd) Badri Kumar Rai Ex RGR

CI (Retd) Haribahadur Gurung Ex GCSPF

Mr Aahat Regmi

WO2 (Retd) Deepak Kumar Shrestha Ex RE

Dr Satish Gurung MBBS, MD

Mr Mohan Darlami

Mr Sidhartha Gurung

Mr Tej Bahadur Rana

Mr Om Bikram Gurung

Mr Roshan Dahal

Ms Samridi Shrestha

Mr Purna Bahadur Rana

Mr Dev Bhakta Thapa

Field Director

Deputy Field Director

Medical Director

Support Manager

Head of Assurance

Head of Individual Aid

Financial Advisor

Programme Director Resilient WASH & Emergency

Preparedness Programme

Deputy Medical Director

Coordination Officer

Communications Officer

IT Officer

Logistics Officer

Clinical Systems Manager

Human Resources Manager

EO (L) Admin Residential Home Kaski

EO (L) Admin Residential Home Dharan

Area Welfare Centres (AWCs)

Cluster 1

Major (Retd) Yambahadur Rana MVO MBE Ex RGR

Sgt (Retd) Tejbahadur Thapa Ex 1RGR

Sgt (Retd) Koshbahadur Gurung Ex QGS

SSgt (Retd) Gambahadur Thapa Ex QGE

Major (Retd) Purna Gurung Ex QGS

Senior Area Welfare Officer (SAWO) Butwal

Cluster Support Team Manager (CST Mgr) Butwal

Area Welfare Officer (AWO) Bheri

AWO Gulmi

AWO Chitwan

Cluster 2

Captain (Retd) Kedar Rai Ex QGS

Sgt (Retd) Kumbasing Rana Ex QOGLR

Captain (Retd) Nimbahadur Pun Ex QGS

Major (Retd) Birbahadur Gurung Ex RAMC

CI (Retd) Amrit Kumar Malla Ex GCSPF

SAWO Kaski

CST Mgr Kaski

AWO Lamjung

AWO Syangja

AWO Tanahun

Cluster 3

Captain (Retd) Pimbahadur Gurung Ex GSPS

Hon Lieutenant (QGO) Tirthabahadur Thapa Ex 2RGR

Captain (Retd) Phattabahadur Gurung Ex QOGLR

Insp II (Retd) Shyamkumar Rai Ex GCSPF

SAWO Bagmati

CST Mgr Bagmati

AWO Gorkha

AWO Rumjatar

Cluster 4

Captain (Retd) Purnaparsad Limbu Ex 2RGR

Sgt (Retd) Birbahadur Limbu Ex 2RGR

Captain (Retd) Pratapsing Rai Ex 2RGR

Sgt (Retd) Mangalsing Tamang Ex QGS

Insp II (Retd) Govinda Kandangwa Ex GCSPF

SAWO Dharan

CST Mgr Dharan

AWO Diktel

AWO Khandbari

AWO Tehrathum

Cluster 5

Hon Lieutenant (QGO) (Retd) Punendraprasad Limbu Ex 2RGR	SAWO Damak
Hon Lieutenant (QGO) Khemraj Maden Ex QOGLR	CST Mgr Damak
Major (Retd) Bharat Shrestha Ex QGS	AWO Taplejung
SSgt (Retd) Debendra Maden Ex QGS	AWO Phidim
Sgt (Retd) Ramesh Lama ex RGR	AWO Darjeeling

Liaison Officer, Gurkha Settlement Office, British Gurkhas Nepal (LO GSO, BGN)

Sgt (Retd) Dhiraj Dewan Ex GSPS

Changeover of Key Staff

GWT(N) said goodbye and wished well for the future to the following senior management staff who were departing either on retirement or completion of tour:

Lieutenant Colonel Elton Davis	Field Director
Mr Sindhulal Shrestha	Finance Advisor
Hon Lieutenant (QGO) Purnabahadur Gurung Ex 1RGR	Support Manager
Major (Retd) Hitman Gurung Ex QGS	Head of Assurance
Major (Retd) Yam Kumar Gurung Ex QGS	Head of Individual Aid
Major (Retd) Gyanbahadur Limbu MVO Ex QOGLR	LO GSO
Hon Lieutenant (QGO) Thakursing Gurung Ex 2RGR	CST Mgr Bagmati
Sgt (Retd) Bishwaraj Gurung Ex 6GR	CST Mgr Kaski
WO2 (Retd) Shriprasad Tamang Ex 1RGR	AWO Gorkha
WO2 (Retd) Khargabahadur Rai Ex 2RGR	AWO Taplejung
Hon Lieutenant (QGO) Kharkabahadur Thapa Ex QGS	AWO Bheri

Welcomes were made to the following:

Lieutenant Colonel Matt Hing	Field Director
Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Yambahadur Rana	Deputy Field Director
Major (Retd) Purna Gurung Ex QGS	AWO Chitwan
CI (Retd) Amrit Kumar Malla Ex GCSPPF	AWO Tanahun
Captain (Retd) Phattabahadur Gurung Ex QOGLR	AWO Gorkha
Captain (Retd) Pratapsing Rai Ex 2RGR	AWO Diktel
Major (Retd) Bharat Shrestha Ex QGS	AWO Taplejung

Our Successes in 2021

Throughout the year COVID-19 continued to impact much of our work, both delivering aid in Nepal and fundraising in the UK. Nevertheless, by adapting and persevering the team were able to achieve tremendous success – culminating in vital support for thousands of Gurkha veterans and their families across Nepal. We faced many difficulties during the year, but our staff have indeed risen to the challenge and continue to provide essential aid to the most vulnerable. As always, we could not do this without the incredible generosity of our supporters.

Covid-19 Support

As the pandemic continued, the Nepali healthcare system has been overwhelmed and struggling to cope with the surge in COVID-19 cases. We continued to support the COVID intervention programme in Nepal, providing handwashing stations, sanitation equipment, medical supplies and PPE as well as advocacy and guidance as a result of the generous support of the FCDO and KAAA.



New handwashing station at Kalika Nagar Hospital



Medical check-up for Sherbahadur Gurung

Since the start of the programme, 369 sites have been provided with COVID relief support. The programme reached across six provinces and helped 208,675 beneficiaries in health facilities, quarantine and isolation centres, at Government and frontline institutions and agencies, and social organisations which care for the vulnerable.

An incredible gift of £500k worth of medical kit

As our teams worked tirelessly through the pandemic, they were buoyed by news of an anonymous gift of £500k worth of medical equipment. Our network of Area Welfare Centres proved invaluable as hubs for distribution of this kit to hospitals and healthcare facilities across Nepal.

Our Mobile Support Teams

As the crisis intensified, our team doubled their efforts to get out to the homes of vulnerable Gurkha veterans and widows to deliver essential medication, finances and check-ups. Thanks to special dispensation from the Government of Nepal, we were able to continue our vital work even through regional and national lockdowns. The team undertook 8,053 home visits over the course of the year. Without our intervention these people would have been totally isolated.

When travel restrictions made it impossible for teams to visit our pensioners, they kept in regular contact by text and carried out medical consultations by phone. We have also been working hard to catch up on water projects and school builds which were suspended during lockdown.

Life-Changing Treatments at our Medical Camps

Our medical camps provide free treatment for people living the most remote communities in Nepal, not just ex-Gurkhas. For some this is the only medical assistance they receive. In August we had a successful medical camp in Humla, a deprived district in the mountains of north-west Nepal. Our GWT medical staff worked tirelessly to provide medical treatment, check-ups and surgeries, treating 633 patients over three days. At the camp we carried out 22 ear surgeries, completed 50 cataract surgeries. Sixty patients with disabilities were provided with mobility aids or measured for prosthetics.



Our medical camps provide life-changing cataract surgery



At a follow-up fitment camp in Humla, we fitted patients with their new prosthetic limbs

Building a Brighter Future for Nepal's Children

In 2021 we completed the renovation of Shree Malawar Devi Secondary School, providing better facilities and a safer, more comfortable learning environment for the 641 pupils. Our team built 12 new classrooms, refurbished three rooms, updated the library, established a community centre, and built a perimeter fence. We also built gender separate toilet blocks and provided sanitary packs and feminine hygiene training, thus improving attendance of female students. These enhancements will allow the school to accept more pupils and teach smaller classes, providing a brighter future for the children.

Building Home for the Families of Heroes

Since the devastating earthquake of 2015, thanks to your support we have been working hard to rebuild homes for Gurkha veterans and widows across Nepal. These homes are designed to an earthquake-resilient standard, to give our pensioners the best chance of staying safe should the worst happen. To date, we have built over 1,500 new homes and made vital repairs to pre-existing homes, such as fixing roofs and mending walls after damage caused by monsoon rains and landslides.

Widow Thagisara Thapa feared she would have to leave her beloved village when cracks in the walls of her house weakened the structure and made it dangerous to live in. After getting in touch with our team, her home was approved for renovation, and she now has a safe new home painted in bright cheerful colours.



Pupils at Shree Malawar Devi Secondary School are delighted with their new classrooms



Widow Thagisara Thapa in front of her new earthquake-resilient home



Fundraiser Jim Morton on his epic coastal walk

Activities in the UK

Our Incredible Fundraisers

In 2021 our valiant supporters took on some incredible challenges and activities to raise funds for The GWT. Miranda Gillott set up a fundraiser in memory of her late husband Martin Gillott, who served in The Queen's Gurkha Engineers and was passionate about supporting others. Miranda's 'LEJOG' team cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats, raising over £58,000 towards a school renovation.

Jim Morton set off from Sheffield on his own epic journey in April 2021, aiming to walk the entire coast of mainland Britain and support Gurkha veterans with every step. By the end of the year, having tackled challenging conditions on the rugged Scottish coast, he had walked over 4,000 miles and raised over £8,000. The 61-year-old remained undaunted even after surviving a terrifying fall from a cliff and aims to complete his journey in 2022.

The Doko Challenge 2021

In the UK, we were delighted to be able to hold our first public fundraising event since the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting lockdowns. On 6 June over 120 participants arrived at Wimbledon Common to take on the mighty Doko Challenge 2021. Based on the traditional Gurkha Recruitment Doko race in Nepal, the challenge saw participants run 5km of difficult terrain, carrying a traditional Doko basket weighing either 5kg, 10kg or 15kg with a time to beat of 46 minutes. The event was a huge success with 100% of participants finishing the course, the leader crossing the finish line in an incredible 21 minutes 18 seconds.



The Doko Challenge returns in 2021!

Trust Supporter Rob Cross Awarded an MBE

In January we were delighted to report that long-standing Trust supporter, Major Rob Cross, was appointed MBE in the New Year's Honours for his services to Gurkha veterans. As the former Chairman of the North Midlands branch of The Gurkha Welfare Trust, Rob, alongside his late wife Margaret, has been a huge supporter of our work for almost 25 years. Rob very much sees the MBE as a joint award in recognition of both his and his wife's efforts - together the couple have raised more than £100k for the Trust.

Chief Executive of The Gurkha Welfare Trust, Al Howard commented on the news:

“This is thoroughly deserved. Rob and Margaret’s tireless efforts have left a lasting legacy in Nepal and changed the lives of many.”

Partnership with Bremont Watches

In February we partnered with luxury British watch brand Bremont to create an exclusive and limited-edition Gurkha Welfare Trust timepiece for supporters. Based on the Broadsword Bronze timepieces, part of their Armed Forces Collection, the elegant piece features subtle crossed kukris on the face and The Gurkha Welfare Trust logo etched on the back. The partnership continues to raise vital funds for our work.

Our New Chairman: Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE

On 2 November 2020 Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE (ex QGE) became the Chairman of The Gurkha Welfare Trust, taking over from Lieutenant General Sir Nick Pope, KCB, CBE. Commenting on his new role, General Wardlaw said:

“A defining feature of Gurkha service is the extraordinary commitment our soldiers provide in the service of our Nation. For many, this is a life-long relationship which continues as veterans, long after they have retired from the Army. It is for this reason that I am clear we should all place the greatest importance on through life support for our Gurkha community. As Colonel Commandant and Chairman of The Gurkha Welfare Trust I am uniquely well placed to lead this ambition and look forward to serving you all in this vital endeavour.”

Our Year in Stats

Supporting Impoverished Gurkhas

We deliver a package of care to Gurkha veterans and widows to ensure they can live with dignity. Our Pensioner Support Teams journey into the hills



When Veteran Mansing Pun was unable to travel, we delivered his pension and medicines

of Nepal on motorbikes, in 4x4 vehicles and on-foot to pay them a pension, check their health and deliver medication in their own homes.

Financial aid

We continue to pay a pension to thousands of impoverished Gurkha veterans or widows in Nepal who are not eligible to receive a British Army pension. The rate is calculated each year using a ‘shopping basket’ of basic goods such as rice, vegetables and firewood. For many people this is their only source of income. Last year we paid a pension worth 12,600 Nepali Rupees per month to over 3,800 Gurkha veterans and widows, with an average age of 81. We provided a Disability Support Grant to 231 people, and a Home Carer’s Allowance to 374 people.

Winter Allowance

Winters in Nepal can be bitterly cold, with the temperatures often plummeting to a chilly sub-zero. We help Gurkha veterans and widows prepare with a Winter Allowance.

In the past we have distributed blankets, warm jackets and hats. Last year, thermal flasks were requested by many. A hot drink (that stays hot) during the winter months is a luxury that many of them have not had since their Army days. The insulated flasks were distributed to almost 4,000 Gurkha veterans and widows. We are only able to deliver this annual gift thanks to the incredible generosity of the British public in response to our winter appeal.

Medical Aid

We provide an international standard of healthcare and medication to Gurkha veterans and their families living in Nepal. We provide a range of GP services, including medicines, free to all ex-Gurkhas and their families at our regional medical clinics and via home visits by specialist staff. We also arrange subsidised treatment at carefully selected national hospitals. During the year our team made 8,053 home visits to carry out medical check-ups and deliver medication, specialist equipment and mobility aids.

Medical Camps

We were also able to conduct four medical camps in remote districts of Nepal, treating a total of 1,894 patients. We continued to offer cataract surgeries, hearing-aid fitting and eye treatments and the provision of prosthetics and mobility aids. Dental treatments were temporarily suspended at the camps due to the higher risk of infection, but we were able to resume these at our camp in Solukhumbu in November. Demand for treatment was so high that we had to extend the camp by two days and fly in two more dental technicians!

Residential Homes

Our two Residential Homes provide round-the-clock care to Gurkha veterans and widows who would otherwise struggle to live alone. With no comparable facility in



Widow Dhanmaya Bohora with her son Maheshwor, making good use of her new thermal flask

Nepal, they set the standard of care for the elderly. In addition, they also host our new and flourishing rehab facilities with dedicated space being allocated for respite care or the rehabilitation of beneficiaries that require further intervention from our specialist Rehab Therapists.

Last year there were 33 permanent residents across the two homes.

Clean Water and Sanitation

Our water projects bring clean water and sanitation to remote communities in Nepal. We install individual tap stands and toilets to households and schools. By ensuring a safe water source and providing a comprehensive education programme on the importance of sanitation we see sharp drops in water-borne diseases such as dysentery.

The team were able to complete 60 water projects last year, which benefitted 26,580 people across 4,920 households. In addition, we finally received confirmation of FCDO funding for a new 5-year contract until 2026.

School Projects

Our Schools Programme builds, repairs and improves schools in remote regions of Nepal, in turn providing access to education and a better future for Nepali children.

Major School projects include the construction of new two-storey classroom buildings, a library, gender-separate toilet blocks, handwashing facilities, incinerator, and secure perimeter fencing. Even the provision of new classroom furniture can make a huge improvement to the learning environment. All buildings are constructed to an earthquake-resilient standard to ensure their safety and longevity.

Last year we completed 3 major school builds, 12 minor school extensions and 59 school refurbishments.

Earthquake-resilient Homes

Nepal is situated in one of the most seismically active areas on earth, at severe risk of an earthquake happening at any time. Many people in Nepal still feel the effects of the devastating 2015 earthquake which destroyed homes, families and their livelihoods. Since then we have been working tirelessly to build earthquake-resilient homes for our most vulnerable pensioners, so that they will be protected when the next tremors strike.

During the year, we built 100 new homes for Gurkha veterans and widows. We awarded Emergency Hardship Grants to 332 people, to provide emergency supplies, essential items and home repairs for those hit by disasters including heavy monsoon rain, floods and landslides.



Installing tap stands for every household reduces the burden on women and children who used to travel for hours to collect water

THE GURKHA MUSEUM

Patron, Trustees and Staff List

Vice Patrons

Field Marshall Sir John Chapple GCB CBE DL
Lieutenant General R Wardlaw OBE
Colonel D R Wood MBE

Trustees

Mr M R Brooks Esq
Colonel CM Barnett MBE
Lieutenant General Sir David Bill KCB
Mr JW Bulbeck MSCI
Major JR Harrop
Mr S Masin FCA
Mrs S Rai
Colonel W Shuttlewood OBE
Colonel D Robinson (ex officio)
Major Shuresh Thapa MVO (ex officio)

Staff (as at 31 Dec 21)

Director	Dr Daren Bowyer MA MPhil PhD FRSA
Assistant Director	Christine Bernáth
Head of Fundraising and Marketing	Charlie Martin
Collections Officer	Doug Henderson
Digital Officer	Brad Hall
Museum Assistants	Meghbahadur Rai
	Mekbahadur Rana
	Hombahadur Pun
	Richard Croydon
	Ms Anga Soni Tamang

The Director's Report

Despite the restrictions imposed by the Covid Pandemic, 2021 was an exciting year for the Gurkha Museum, that saw significant enhancements to its public engagement, an award for its innovative digital outreach programme, some interim modernisation and the foundations laid for its ambitious future redevelopment plans. We were particularly pleased to see that as Covid restrictions lifted, visitor numbers returned rapidly to pre-pandemic levels. With the addition of our online activity this has meant a very significant uplift in our engagement figures.

Enhancements to our Wi-Fi and IT infrastructure not only facilitated highly effective remote working when required by lockdowns, but have left us in a much more resilient and robust position with regard to data security and the use of digital communications for the future. As we look to an enhanced digital offer and global access to our archives and activity, a very firm base has been laid.

Visitors and Engagement

Our programme of on-line activity was started as a response to the Covid-related closures, but has gone

from strength-to-strength in its own right, adding significantly not just to the quantity of our engagement but also to its geographic spread. In 2021 we grouped our on-line activities under the brand “*Gharma Sunn*” with sub-brands for lectures, exhibitions, podcasts. Lectures in the series included: *Operation Hellfire*, with Brigadier Christopher Bullock, and *High Risks at Black Four Zero*, with Brigadier Bruce Jackman, both relating experiences as junior officers leading Gurkha soldiers on operations in the Borneo Confrontation; and *Who are the Gurkhas?* by Major General Craig Lawrence. Later in the year, John Mackinlay, Lieutenant Colonel Bob Couldrey and Major General Ray Pett delivered an online version of *Slim Saheb*, a lecture on the life and service of Field Marshal Viscount Slim, having previously delivered this in person twice at the Gurkha Museum and also in the beautiful setting of Clothworkers Hall, in London. The latter was a very successful experiment in running a London event to raise both funds and profile. *Gharma Sunnu* won us a coveted Winchester Business Excellence award for Digital Innovation and (hot off the press) early in 2022 was awarded the Digital Income prize by the Association of Cultural Enterprises.

The *Slim Saheb* lecture augmented our online exhibition

Uncle Bill - Field Marshal Slim and his Leadership Legacy. General Barny White-Spunner gave a lecture based on Partition, his very thorough examination of the issues surrounding India's Independence (an online version is also now available). And a team of mountaineering legends, Mike Kefford, Adrian Hayes and Andrew Todd (who presented via Zoom from Brunei) provided a fabulous trio of evening lectures with a bhat supper, to complement Tales from the Mountains, an online exhibition examining the history of Gurkhas and mountaineering. A pilot to test the waters of evening events of this nature, it was a resounding success both in raising funds and in attracting a new audience.

2021's Summer Exhibition was "*Khelkud and Chaddi, a celebration of Gurkha Sporting Achievement*". After the physical exhibition closed, an online version was launched, attracting a very pleasing level of engagement from Nepal. Just to be a little different and show our support for the business community we participated in Winchester Fashion Week with an exhibition of new menswear designs based on a fusion of traditional Nepalese dress and military uniforms.

In all of this the aim has been to expand our appeal and introduce the inspiring story of Gurkha service to new audiences. We were also able to resume our regular programme of lecture lunches and were pleased to see attendance numbers revert quickly to pre-pandemic levels.

Our plans for an interim update of the main displays to bring the story up to date, were fully executed during the year, with significant assistance from the Queen's

Gurkha Engineers who built a mock-up of a defensive sangar as used in recent operations in Afghanistan, and HQ Brigade of Gurkhas who 'set-dressed' the installation for us.

The refurbishment of the McDonald Gallery, our principal multi-function space, has given us a vastly improved facility for lectures and exhibitions, and facilitated a re-display of key art works better to illustrate the history of Gurkha service from early days to recent conflicts. The commercial leverage of this improvement will be a key target for next year but the potential for increased revenue is already being shown. Our visitor total for 2021 was 8,212, an increase of 137% on the previous year but still lower than normal as a result of Covid closures. Considering that we were forced to close for more than four months, the figure stands up well against the last pre-Covid year, 2019, which saw a visitor total of 10,898.

Education and Family Activities

In addition to our programme of public lectures – both in person and on-line – we have been delighted to see a return of school visits and to be able to reintroduce our family activities in school holidays. These well-received events have included Nepalese curry tastings for both adults and children, and arts and crafts activities. Introduced this year was a medal making workshop in which children are asked to think what they might wish to award a medal for and to whom they would award it. They then design and make a medal to take away.



Newly installed mock-up of a defensive sangar



Jill Bowyer (Director's wife) with school children's visit



Developing a taste for curry at an early age at the Museum

Looking to the future, we have begun conversations with school, local authority and academy trust leaders and curriculum leads so that we can design educational programmes tailored to their needs. A new programme, Gharma Siknu ('To Learn at home') is planned and will include short animated films.

Collections and Acquisitions

Significant accessions in 2021 include:

- The Medal Group of Captain Rampr
- asad Pun MM, 2/2GR, purchased at auction with funds from the Friends of the Museum and 2 GR Regimental Trust.
- The Medal Group of Jemadar Balandhar Rai, 2/7GR purchased at auction with funds from the Friends of the Museum.
- A photo-board showing QGE activities in Sudan, from 69 Gurkha Field Squadron QGE.
- The papers of Brigadier C.C. 'Guinea' Graham, 10GR, from David Harding.
- An engraved kukri presented to Maj. A..J. Yeomans, from all ranks BGRD 1951, from John Yeomans.
- The Mutiny Medal (w/ Lucknow Clasp) of Sgt A. Delahay, attached to what would become 4GR, purchased at auction with funds from the Friends of the Museum.
- The IGSM 1909 w/ North West Frontier 1920-1931 clasp to Dhubie Nabi, 1/6GR, from Richard Hughes.
- Albums and papers of Maj. General William Beynon, KCIE, CB, DSO, from Maj. T. O'Leary.
- Papers of John Tytler VC, 4GR, from Adam Tytler Edwards.
- An inscribed and mounted shell-piece from the Battle of Dargai, from 2GR Regimental Trust.
- A framed poster of the QGE Covid-19 Response Operations, from 36 Engineer Regiment/QGE.
- 35 x Items relating to Maj Alexander Duncan, including maps, a survival compass and a number of rare badges including the Nazi Indian Legion patch, from Ian Brunton-Reed.
- 18 Medal groups from the estate of Lt. Col Mike Barret, purchased by the museum at a significant discount provided for in Lt Col Barrett's will, with funds from the Friends of the Museum.

- The Medal Group of Lance-Corporal Kambersing Rai MM, 7GR, purchased at auction with funds from 7th Gurkha Rifles Regimental Association.

Staff

The team has been augmented by two new positions: Brad Hall joined us in July as Digital Officer and quickly stamped his mark on our social media output; and in September we employed Anga Tamang as Retail, Events and Admin Assistant. As the daughter of a Gurkha (who himself worked at the Museum) she is an ideal fit.

Looking Ahead

Exciting progress has been made towards the Gurkha Museum's ambitious plans for a full refurbishment in order to create a world class facility for the collection, display, and promotion of the inspiring story of Gurkha service to Britain over more than 200 years. Movement towards closure on a long-term lease agreement with the MOD, gave us the confidence to commission a Visioning Study from the world class museum design consultancy Ralph Applebaum Associates of New York and London. This will form the basis of a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2022, which, if successful will underpin a capital appeal.

This bid will include not only a major refurbishment of the physical display of our collections at the Museum in Winchester, but also an extensive plan for educational and outreach activity and the full digitisation of our archive. As a step towards digitisation, we intend, early in 2022, to become fully participating members in the Army Museums Ogilby Trust's (AMOT) national programme for digitising military museum's archives for the period covering the First World War.

Plans for redevelopment of the library into a research and education facility have been drawn up for inclusion in the major redevelopment. We have also developed plans to refresh and reorganise our office space, with an open plan layout to facilitate team expansion and collaborative working and to create an additional meeting space to serve both internal needs and offer a resource to the Brigade.

The Gurkha Museum, its trustees, staff and volunteers take pride in our navigation of the challenges created by the Covid epidemic, and in our institutional adaptability. We have not only survived two very difficult years, but have thrived, innovated, progressed and set ourselves well poised for future development.

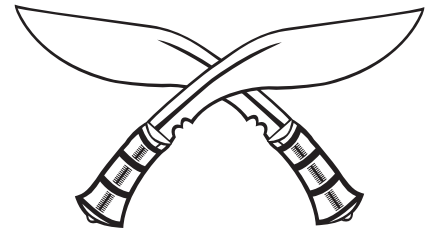


Children making copies of medals



An artist's impression of how the Museum MIGHT look

THE GURKHA BRIGADE ASSOCIATION



Regimental Association Staff List

President

Lieutenant General Sir David Bill KCB

Life Vice Presidents

Field Marshal Sir John Chapple GCB CBE KStJ DL

General Sir Sam Cowan KCB CBE

Chairman

Colonel D G Hayes CBE

Secretary

Major Manikumar Rai MBE, DL

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The Sirmoor Rifles Association 2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkhas (The Sirmoor Rifles)

President	Brigadier I Rigden OBE
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Hon Secretary	Major ND Wylie Carrick MBE
Chairman Sirmoor Sathis	Captain Raju Gurung
Hon Treasurer	Captain EC Mackaness
Editor of Sirmooree	Colonel NJH Hinton MBE

6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles Regimental Association

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Hon Secretary	Major D Bredin
Gurkha Secretary	Major Kushiman Pangilama Gurung
Regimental Trust Secretary	MFH Adler Esq TD
Editor of Journal	Major RG Beven

7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles Regimental Association

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Editor of Journal	Brig DR d'A Willis CBE

10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles Association

President	Lieutenant General PTC Pearson CB, CBE
Chairman	Colonel NDJ Rowe
Hon Secretary	Major HGW Stanford
Gurkha Secretary	Captain Capt Ashok Rai
Treasurer	Major SA Archer
New Letter Editor	Colonel R Litherland

The Royal Gurkha Rifles Association

President	Major General GM Strickland DSO MBE
Chairman	Colonel D Rex MVO
Regimental Secretary	Major B McKay MBE
D/Chairman & Gurkha Secretary	Major Dammarbahadur Sahi
RGR Journal Editor	Major B McKay MBE

The Queen's Gurkha Engineers Association

President	Brigadier JL Clarke CBE
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Gurkha Secretary	Maj Prembahadur Ale
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Editor of Magazine/Website	Major A Gooch RE

Queen's Gurkha Signals Association

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Chairman	Lieutenant Colonel M R Complin
Assistant Secretary	Lieutenant Colonel Yambahadur Rana
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The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment Regimental Association

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Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support

President	Colonel A Griffiths OBE
Chairman	Major Jit Hamal
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Former Regimental Associations

- 1st King George V's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment) Regimental Association
- 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles Officers' Association
- 4th Prince of Wales's Own Gurkha Rifles Officers' Association
- 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force) Regimental Association
- 8th Gurkha Rifles Regimental Association
- 9th Gurkha Rifles Regimental Association

Regimental Association officials may be contacted through The Secretary of the Gurkha Bde Association

The Gurkha Welfare Trust

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GBA Forecast of Events 2023

Date	Regimental Association	Event	Location
Jan 23			
21 Jan 23	7GR	7GR Lunch (Delayed from Sep 22)	Gurkha Museum Winchester
tbc	6GR	6GR Shoot and Dinner	Stanford Hall
tbc	QGE	Trg Party Attestation Parade	
Feb 23			
25 Feb 23	6GR	5GR/6GR Memorial Service	St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington
Mar 23			
13 Mar 23	GBA	Memorial Gates Ceremony (Commonwealth Day)	Constitution Hill, London
18 Mar 23	6GR	Service of Dedication, and Lunch	Pokhara
Apr 23			
15 Apr 23	QOGLR	Op TOSCA Medal Parade	Aldershot
May 23			
05 May 23	6GR	Committee Meeting & Cuttack Lunch	Oriental Club, London
tbc	RGR	RGR RA Reunion	TBC
tbc	10GR	10GR Reunion	

Jun 23			
tbc / Jun 23	7GR	All Ranks Reunion	TBC
03 Jun 23	GBA	GBA Memorial Service and Lunch	RMA Sandhurst
tbc / Jun 23	7GR	7GR lunch	Gurkha Museum Winchester
11 Jun 23	GBA	The Patcham Down Memorial Service	Brighton
tbc	HQBG	Bde Golf	TBC
21-Jun-23	QOGLR	QOGLR Regimental Birthday & RI22 KASAM KHANE Parade	Aldershot
26-30 Jun 23	HQBG	Brigade Week	RMA Sandhurst
29 Jun 23	HQBG	Brigade Week Dinner Night	RMA Sandhurst
Jul 23			
01 Jul 23	RGR	RGR Regtl Birthday	TBC
08 Jul 23	GBA	GBA Bhela & Nepal Cup Final	Queens Avenue, Aldershot
Sep 23			
09 Sep 23	6GR	All Ranks Reunion	Farnborough
9 Sep 23 (tbc)	2GR	SRA Delhi Day	Empire Banquet Hall, Aldershot
tbc	7GR	Annual Reunion	Aldershot
16 Sep 22	QG SIGS	Regimental Birthday Parade	Bramcote
16 Sep 22	QG SIGS	QGSA Reunion	Bramcote
tbc	2GR	Sirmoor Club Reunion	London
21 Sep 23	GBA	GBA Golf Competition	The Weybrook Park Golf Club, RG24 9NT
28 Sep-23	GBA	GBA Trustees Meeting	Gurkha Museum, Winchester
Oct 23			
tbc	QG SIGS	QGSA (UK South) Bhet Ghat	TBC
26 Sep 23	6GR	Regtl Trust Meeting	Gurkha Museum
tbc	10GR	AGM & Luncheon	TBC
Nov 23			
09 Nov 23	GBA	Field of Remembrance, GBA AGM/Briefing & Dinner	Westminster Abbey, A & N, London
11 Nov 23	GBA	NMA Gurkha Chautara Memorial Service	NMA, Staffordshire
12 Nov 23	GBA	Remembrance Sunday - Cenotaph Parade	Horse Guards & Cenotaph, London
18 Nov 23	6GR	Book of Remembrance & AGM	Winchester
Dec 23			
01 Dec 23	6GR	Cuttack Lunch	Oriental Clun, London

Letter from Nepal 2021

By Lt Col JP Cross OBE

100 has 'magic' to it whereas 96, 77 and 45 have none at all. However these last three figures are germane to this article so I have included them: the first is my age as I write this and although many Nepalis say I'll reach my century, they may be wrong, so I am writing this now, not wishfully waiting for the three-digit number. The second is the years I have spent with Gurkhas/Nepalis, less the three and a quarter when Defence Attaché in Laos. The third is the years I have lived in Nepal, from my twilight posting as a recruiter, a 'scholar of sorts' in a Research



Centre of the Tribhuvan university, a permanent resident, with the uniqueness of being the only foreigner ever to be allowed to be a land- and house-owner in my own name and finally the only Englishman ever to be granted Nepalese citizenship, although it took 32 years, 6 months and 2 days to 'come through'.. I have also been made an Honorary Hindu and an honorary Buddhist. I have walked more than ten thousand miles in 65 of the 75 districts (the unvisited ten are in the Far West) and since living in my own house in Pokhara since 1986 my morning walks have added up to a bit over five years.

With that background I'd like to put on record the changes I have seen in Nepal and to an extent with Gurkhas since 1944. Some are as slow as a growing fingernail, other happen overnight. For the first the need to put a thread of red cotton on the top left hand corner of an envelope containing news of a death, for the second the order that enlisted Gurkhas need not have a shaven pat and 'middling' wearing white canvas shoes and going bare-headed signalling a death in the wearer's family, a woman's total submission and 'small eats' in the K/QGOs' Mess from a chicken's skull and goat's testicles to 'alu dam' and nuts.

My first visit to Kathmandu was in 1947, before the British left India. My friend and I left Razmak on the North-West Frontier and it took a week to reach Kathmandu. In those days only two non-Indian foreigners annually were allowed in, on the invitation of the Tin Sarkar, at that time Padma Shamsher Jang Bahadur Rana, were 'Englishmen'. My friend and I were thought to be the 125th and 126th such visitors since 1796. And were we curios! Large crowds gathered wherever we went and one attractive but particularly smelly Tibetan girl came over to me, pulled back my sleeve and pinched me, wondering, no doubt, if this albino monstrosity had flesh even if he had no blood.

We went by Nepal Government Railway from Raxaul to Amlekhganj (I still have the ticket), by car to Hetauda then by foot to Thankot where we were met by the Residency car, one of the six in the Valley that had one and a half miles of 'pitch' roads. Water from all valley rivers was potable.

On our walk back we saw a car chassis and its engine being carried on two large platforms, with ten men on each handle, over the rough track by a horde of porters, ant-like in their scurrying. The spare wheel and the tool box were carried separately.

There were four 'English' families in Kathmandu at that time, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, the First Secretary (Lt Col 'Sandy' Macleod, 1 GR) who paid out pensions as well as helping any soldiers coming on leave or discharge, a man in charge of the city's infrastructure and a man looking after the forests, especially those of the Terai. The official language used between the Residency and the Nepalese Government was Farsi.

We had a painful audience with the Maharaja whose English was not even basic and who had the habit of saying 'Ke are, ke are' at the beginning, in the middle and the end of sentences, in Nepali and English, which we had to speak because it was 'protocol'. I had to ask him to repeat himself so much that he observed to the two men on either side of him that I was unable to speak my own language. At least he was better at English than a previous maharaja who had been to India and seen 'Horn Please, Thank You' on the back of trucks. After that whenever anyone said 'Thank you' in English his inevitable answer was 'Horn please'.

The Colonel in charge of the mint thought that my friend, who introduced me as Lieutenant Cross, had said something to the effect that I had won the Victoria Cross: that led to a fatuous and hilarious conversation. When he realised he'd made a fool of himself he threw down my hand which he had been shaking and turned away in high, not low, dudgeon.

However, it is not so much what has changed in Nepal since my visit in 1947 as 'What has not changed since then?' Seldom indeed does the woman of the house rise at around 2 a.m. to ground the grain for the day's food. Smoke in village houses' cooking place does not ruin the eye sight of the women cooks as now most kitchens are outside the house. The red thread tied onto women's 'queues' are not seen. Love marriages are increasingly common. Marriage is now later with fewer children and career girls are finding marriage harder and harder the elder they get. Women have held the three top political posts, all with aplomb and, seemingly, successfully. I have met a woman lieutenant colonel, in the legal branch.

Trust in the British remains strong (leaving aside those devilishly tricky points of the Tripartite Agreement's pay and pension provisions) and, briefly, the flag, names of the currency, names of military ranks and units, and driving on the left of the road. Examples of what have changed are the name of the country, the form of government, young women wearing casual western dress, elder Gurung women's clothing (they now wear red, originally only Chhetri and Bahun women did) - they can choose their own: after a stay in a village house of several days I wanted to give my host's wife and mother a present of cloth. We went to a cloth shop in Pokhara and my host chose two piece of cloth the same colour. I remonstrated. 'The cloth has to be the same colour,' he explained, 'otherwise one will think the other's is better.' He needed a peaceful household.

Another major change was the introduction of tractors for ploughing. Initially it was resisted as the ground was not fertilised by dung but the time factor and people being richer than before won out. Also the tractor was quicker and did not need occasional rests. In many places the cost of land has risen by 2000% in the last thirty years.

As for other relatively new wheeled contrivances, the proliferation of scooters and motor bikes. If I'd bought shares in them I'd be a millionaire!

More changes are men's names (now no 'Bahadur's), the national anthem, army uniforms, some religious ceremonies, treatment of 'dalits' (now mainstream) and, as 'hukums' were 'royal edicts', with no royalty an order is plain 'adesh'.

AD 2008 was a year that saw the King taken off his throne after several years of military and political trouble caused by a faction of the population known as Maoists. I wonder if the Great Helmsman himself would have seen a sufficient likeness to have approved of the name? Although there were many casualties on both sides, alleged human rights abuses and much infrastructural damage, it was never known as a 'civil' war. The Royal Nepal Army, as far as I know, never used artillery. The Maoist leaders seemed to have been 'underground' in India and not China, although the latter has been visited with more panoply and propaganda than the more frequent visits to the former which were in a lower key.

Many people still see politics as 'murky' and especially the young, are asking themselves why royalty was overthrown. Of course personalities come into it: when Prince Harry visited us he caused such ripples of joyful amazement that royalty could be like ordinary people as well as maintaining traditional standards. Some have gone so far as to say if 'ours' had been like him they would still be here.

An example of how much hill men's knowledge has widened is the man who enlisted during the war in 2 GR. He knew not his father's or his village's name. He was asked if he wanted to continue service. He did. 'Go on leave and find out the names of your father and your village: if you do you will serve on.' Find out he did and served on for a pension and his son was educated to Bachelor of Education.

Treatment of idiots I'm glad to say is now humane: many years ago I twice saw a naked lunatic of middle age tied to a cow in a byre, to keep warm as well as not to escape.

However, the Communist governments seem to me to be less 'left' than the government that took over from Churchill in 1945 that was known as 'labour' or 'socialist': here it is more like the German Christian Democrat party's manifestos.

There has been plenty of re-organisation. There are now 'provinces' with their own government with ministers and a budget as well as the central organisation. After taking some time to organise budgets bridges ruined by Maoist action now mostly appear to have been mended and many feeder roads up into the higher villages have been constructed. When this was first started the road building often caused landslides so were not particularly popular.

Whether or not the Belt and Braces but Belt and Road is behind it or not, a railway from Lhasa to Kathmandu has been planned – certainly a long-term project – and overseen by the Chinese. It will be popular. The southern border has been closed too many times, sometimes for months at a time with only a couple of places where transport can cross. We had to cut down some fine trees in our garden for cooking, there being no other fuel. Petrol and cooking gas shortages have plagued us so the entry point from the north will be welcome.

A Chinese-constructed international airport has now been constructed in Pokhara.

Many new landing strips have been made, some not all that far from the snowline above its lowest. Sadly accidents have been all too frequent for comfort but the entrepreneurial spirit is good and strong.

Many Hillmen have taken a disliking to caste-ridden Hinduism which they see as a means of keeping them down. Calls not to observe major religious festivities, such as Dashera, have been made with those observing them fined by village committees. Buddhism is flourishing so is a new type of Christianity, known as Sachai, which allows the best parts of all religions to be observed within its template. It seems to be spreading.

I do not know how many hotel rooms there are now, with many hurriedly built for a million tourists in 2021, but in 25 years the bed capacity in Kathmandu increased from 83 beds in 1959 to 5637 in 1983, with a further 1182 in other parts of the kingdom. Foreign exchange also dramatically increased, from \$78,000 in 1961/62 to \$35,071,100 in 1982/83, having been as high as \$51,831,000 in 1980/81. Gurkha remittances, as money from the Brigade of Gurkhas is known, overtaken as the number one foreign exchange earner by tourism in 1972 and by jute and jute products in 1975, then sank to third. That, of course, is no longer a factor with ex-servicemen and their families living in the UK.

Nowadays many 5-year plans for the country's enhancement have proved elusive. One can motor to the Far West of the country from any other part of Nepal without driving drive through India. The call of the Gulf for work is the priority with Malaysia not far behind. For education, Australia is a destination as, indeed, are the USA and UK. Many subjects not previously taught are now available, such as, for example, forensic medicine. Successful government scholarship candidates have to serve for two years where told to by officialdom but after that can choose where, privately, they can earn their living. At the lowest level, small children seem to have known how to operate mobile phones and the web almost as soon as they learn how to walk. What price on-line schooling? And if that is not change, I wonder what is. 'For progress there is no cure!'

One unforeseen result of the growth of tourism is the use of drugs amongst young Nepalis, to say nothing of

smuggling and a black market when air travel became easier and more extensive. Certainly, in Kathmandu and in Pokhara, hippies have contributed much to the idea that they represent western youth.

Hemp and heroin are plentiful in Nepal. Hemp seeds are used in chutney and oil is also extracted from the seeds and the plant. The base of the plant is used to make sacks. Before tourism 'took off' in Nepal, social constraints, family discipline and village life generally kept drug abuses to a minimum. With the process of modernisation, urbanisation and importation of a so-called western type of culture, especially through hippy-type tourists some with the morals of the proverbial tomcat, social values changed, life styles became different, with impersonal relations and the anonymity of urban life becoming common. The community has enlarged and fewer people know each other than was the case.

Another factor, still an unknown, is the amount of raw material now thought to be found in the mountains. A hill of uranium that will last the world for a century is one rampant rumour and 'tis said that the Americans and Indians are 'positively' interested therein. Lead and gold have also been discovered in large quantities. Extraction is a problem. Some thirty years ago - was it petrol? - was found but Nepal being a land-locked country was so severely hampered by its neighbours that the whole scheme died a natural death. Now, with a dry dock and China more friendly than other neighbours, a new and easier situation has developed.

And what was once thought to be an aberration, Gurkhas playing cricket, Nepalis have taken to the sport like the proverbial ducks to water. I have watched them playing an MCC team here in Pokhara and most impressive they were. Golf has also become popular and one of Buddhiman's tasks was to go up to Mustang and help design a golf course.

So what of the future? A six-lane highway to be built south from Kathmandu with a road also being made through a tunnel; a railway along the southern border with India are all being planned...in time for 100, 81 and 49?

Gurkhas in the First Afghan War 1838-1842

A Short account of the 4th Goorkha Regiment in the Service of Shan Shuja

By Andrew Duncan



The first Afghan War came about when the British in India attempted to place the deposed ruler, Shah Shuja, back on the throne of Afghanistan in order to create a friendly buffer state between India and the perceived threat from Russia. It was an ill-advised move that was to end in disaster.

Gurkhas became involved in this conflict when the British raised a force to support Shah Shuja's claim to the throne. In particular an Engineer regiment, known as Broadfoot's Sappers contained roughly one third Gurkhas (200 men). Also raised at that time was what became known as the 4th Goorkha Regiment. Initially comprised half of Gurkhas and half of Indians from the plains, it was later to become almost totally Gurkha. Under GOCC of 28 April 1840 volunteers were called for from the Nusseree and Sirmoor Battalions to serve in this contingent, the men being offered promotion on transfer. The regimental history of the 2nd Goorkhas records that from each battalion 3 Havildars went as Jemadars, 4 Naiks as Havildars and 6 Sepoys as Naiks. The survivors of these units went to the Nusseree, Sirmoor and Kumaon Battalions after the disaster in Afghanistan. There is also mention of a Corps of Jezailchees, which included a number of Gurkhas, in this campaign.

The 4th Goorkha Regiment was a part of what was known as Shah Shuja's Levy. In theory it was under the control of the Shah, who financed it, but it was under the operational command of the British Army of the Indus. Further, the regiment was to be raised, officered and trained by officers detached from the armies of India.

Accompanying the main British force through the Bolan Pass in 1839, the regiment saw action at Ghazni (still celebrated by the Queens Gurkha Engineers to this day) and at Bamyan. The Asiatic Journal and Monthly Register of September to December 1840, recording the action at Bamyan, states: "The conduct of the Goorkhas

on the 30th (of August 1839) and the following day has in no small degree added to their reputation"; and later, "in dislodging (the enemy from the heights) the Goorkhas suffered, but they are reported to have done their work well and have won great credit".

In the Spring of 1840 a serious rebellion broke out in the Afghan province of Kohistan and was only subdued with much difficulty towards the end of that year by troops under the command of the British General Sale. Subsequently it was felt that an armed presence was required to keep order in the province and to that end a small regiment, which became known as the Kohistanee Regiment, was raised for the purpose and stationed at Charikar, the principal town of that province, under the command of Lieutenant Maule of the Bengal Artillery. The town of Charikar lies some 69 kilometers North of Kabul, close to what was, until recently, the American airbase of Bagram. Kohistan, at that time, had an Afghan Governor. In addition, a British Political Officer (Major Eldred Pottinger), Assistant (Lieutenant Rattray) and a doctor (Dr Grant) were stationed at Lughmanee, some 3 miles distant from Charikar. In early 1841, clearly under pressure from increasing insurrection, the small regiment under Lt. Maule was considered insufficient for the task and the 4th Goorkha Regiment were sent to take over responsibility for maintaining security in the area. They were supported by two six pounder and one eighteen pounder guns from the Shah's own artillery manned by Muslims from the Punjab.

Before posting to Charikar the regiment had been remodelled by substituting Gurkha recruits for the Indians. These young recruits had yet to see any action and now comprised the bulk of the regiment. The British officers were drawn from the regiments of the British-Indian Army. The commanding officer was Captain Codrington, of the 49th Bengal Native Infantry and he had under his command Lieutenant William Broadfoot, of the Bengal European Regiment as second-in-command; Lieutenant John Haughton, 31st Bengal Native Infantry as Adjutant; Ensign Salisbury, 1st Volunteer Regt., Quartermaster; and Ensign Rose of the 54th Native Infantry, Subaltern. There were two European non-commissioned officers, Sergeant-Major Byrne and Quartermaster-Sergeant Hanrahan. There were sixteen native commissioned officers and 745 rank and file. Some of the Gurkha officers and NCOs were accompanied by their families, so including the families, Muslim gunners and camp followers the garrison must have comprised nearly 1,000 souls.

On arrival in Charikar the regiment was obliged to live in tents whilst a barracks, started by Lieutenant Maule, was constructed. The design and location of this barracks, and the budget to build it, were controlled by the Afghans and did not meet with the approval of the 4th Goorkha officers who considered it to be indefensible, consisting, as it did of simple mud huts surrounding a central square or courtyard. A major

drawback was the lack of an adequate water supply. The barracks, close to the town of Charikar, was also overlooked from many places in the surrounding countryside and a mud 'fort' between it and the town. The regiment also provided a security detachment of company strength at Lughmanee on a weekly rotation.

Many of the independent tribal chiefs in the surrounding district had not submitted to Shah Shuja and it was not long before indications of possible trouble ahead began to be received by the Charikar garrison. A number of petty acts of thievery took place and Haughton was warned by a fakir, to whom he had given alms, to spend the winter in Kabul. When Captain Codrington, the CO, wrote to Major Pottinger (the Political Officer) expressing concern, he was reassured by a written reply from the latter that adequate warning would be received of any impending rebellion. However, it would seem that Pottinger was himself concerned about the situation and had applied, unsuccessfully, to Sir William Macnaghten, in charge of the British mission in Kabul, for reinforcements towards the end of October.

Events came to a head on 3 November when, at a meeting of tribal chiefs called at Lughmanee, Lt Rattray was assassinated. A Goorkha Moonshee (Interpreter/Translator) named Mohun Beer was with Rattray but managed to escape by dodging under the bellies of the assailants' horses. The small force at Lughmanee were soon surrounded and it was their good fortune that Lt Haughton, hearing firing in the direction of Lughmanee from the barracks at Charikar, came to the rescue with 2 companies of Goorkhas, Capt Codrington having earlier gone to be a part of the meeting at Lughmanee whilst Broadfoot, the 2ic, had been recalled to Kabul to become secretary to Sir Alexander Burnes. (He was later killed in the uprising there).

Over the coming days the pressure on the garrison increased. An attempt to relieve Lughmanee on the 4th failed. Gurkha Subedar Singh Beer, Ensign Salisbury and Quarter Master Sergeant Hanrahan were wounded in the face of strong opposition on this expedition. That evening Lughmanee was abandoned, with Pottinger, Dr Grant and the Gurkhas from that location making their way to join their comrades in the barracks at Charikar. Two Gurkhas were sent to Kabul with a message for Sir William Macnaghten, the British commander, but by this time the garrison at Kabul was also under siege and unable to help. The two Gurkhas were later to receive the Order of Merit on Haughton's recommendation.

Casualties continued to mount as the barracks was subjected to repeated attacks. On 5 November Codrington was severely wounded and died later that evening. Lt Haughton now assumed command. Ensign Salisbury also died of wounds received the day before. Pottinger was wounded in the thigh and had to take to his bed. On 6 November Sergeant Major Byrne was killed and buried together with the corpses of some 200 sepoy in a mass grave. That night Codrington and

Salisbury were buried in secret, as it was felt that to do so openly would discourage the men.

One of the problems faced by the defenders was that the soldier's "Brown Bess" muskets had only limited range whilst the Afghans could stand off and snipe at them with their jezails, which had greater range. This was countered by pitching the officers' tents on the roof and hanging a curtain of material across the main gate. This might not have offered cover from fire, but it did offer cover from view. The Afghans preferred only to fire at targets which they could see in order to conserve ammunition, so this proved very effective. Pottinger had also brought with him from Lughmanee his hunting rifles and these were issued to the better shots among the sepoy who used them to good effect.

By this stage word had started to filter through of the desperate situation in Kabul and it was readily apparent that it was not possible to hold out for much longer, but the garrison at Charikar felt that by continuing to do so they would help to tie up more of the Afghans who might otherwise have increased the pressure on the British under siege in the capital.

At one stage the enemy occupied a number of huts on the southeast corner of the barracks and commenced a vociferous singing. This was to cover the noise of an attempt at mining which succeeded in blowing up the front of the southeast bastion. However, they did not press home their advantage and Haughton was able to barricade the breach before further damage was inflicted. After this a piece of lighted port-fire was dropped over the walls at each bastion every half hour by night to see what was going on below.

On the 12th Havildar Mottee Ram records Ensign Rose being sent to try and get water with one hundred men, including the Havildar himself, and all the collected receptacles that could be gathered. On return from the water point they caught a number of the enemy napping. They were sleeping in the early evening after breaking their fast for Ramadan. Haughton recalls this group of enemy as being located between stables and a Mess house erected for the officers on the far side of the canal opposite Charikar fort. Ensign Rose immediately gave the order to open fire on the sleeping enemy, who had neglected to post sentries, and many were killed without waking up. Among the enemy dead was a chief, Mahommed Shah, whose Standard was carried back to Charikar in great elation. Haughton was less impressed when he found that they had brought back little water for the beleaguered garrison!

By the 13th it had become evident that their position was untenable, and a meeting of the British and Gurkha officers was held in the room where Pottinger was lying wounded at which it was decided to evacuate Charikar and make for Kabul. That same day the Muslim gunners mutinied and went over to the enemy. In the process the Subedar of the artillery assaulted Haughton with

a sword incurring severe injuries to Haughton's neck, shoulders and wrist.

That evening, the survivors, whom Haughton estimated to number no more than 390 worn out men, prepared to leave the barracks, leaving those too severely injured behind. Added to this they had over one hundred women and forty children plus some one hundred camp followers. The whole party had not a drop of water. They still had enough rations for about seven days and enough ammunition for 200 rounds.

Haughton recalled a Gurkha Jemadar, Hunooman Singa, handing out whatever cash remained in the regimental chest to whoever would take it. The doctor spiked the guns and it was proposed to blow up the magazine. This was however, vetoed by Haughton on the grounds that it would alert the enemy as to their intentions and would also likely blow up the wounded, of whom there were many now left in the barracks and who would have to be abandoned. It was agreed that the force should be divided into two parties, one leaving by the main entrance and one by the postern gate at the rear of the barracks. The two parties would then meet up and continue their withdrawal.

As a final act before departure Dr Grant amputated Haughton's useless right hand and stitched and bound the wound. Haughton was then placed on a horse with two Gurkhas to support him on either side, and a cushion under his chin to keep his head up, and in this manner he left by the postern gate. Discipline had, by this stage, largely broken down and in the confusion the two parties became separated. Pottinger, with Haughton led one party whilst Ensign Rose and Quartermaster-Sergeant Hanrahan (who had recovered from his wound) brought up the rear with another.

In the event the two parties failed to meet up and Haughton, Pottinger, Haughton's Orderly, Maun Singh and Pottinger's moonshee, Mohun Beer, pressed on alone, accompanied by Pottinger's bull terrier which he did not wish to leave behind.

After further adventures these four (plus, presumably, the dog) finally made it to Kabul where Mohun Beer elected to be dropped off at the house of a Hindu merchant. Maun Singh, Haughton and Pottinger eventually made it to the British lines where, after being challenged, they were finally admitted, and Haughton was taken off his horse to have his wounds dressed. It was now the 15th of November, twelve days since the uprising began. The remainder of the Charikar garrison, including Ensign Rose, Dr Grant and Sergeant Hanrahan, were largely either killed or captured. A very few Gurkhas eventually made their way back to India, including Havildar Mottee Ram.

Haughton was too unwell to join the British retreat to Jellalabad and remained in Kabul. So, too, did Pottinger who was among several officers who were left behind as

hostages against the British return. They both survived to welcome the British Army of Retribution, as it was known, under Major-General George Pollock when it finally fought its way into Kabul almost a year later. Maun Singh was awarded the Order of Merit and promoted. After returning to India he joined the 48th Native Infantry with whom he fought in the First Sikh War, where he lost his thumb. Later he was pensioned and also had a small pension which was attached to the Order of Merit. Houghton records that in August 1848 Maun Singh travelled from Almorah to Chyabasa to see him, after which they did not meet again.

Many of the wounded who were left behind in Charikar were slaughtered, but some, including the senior Subedar, Oomer Singh and his wife, were taken prisoner. It was also learnt that the treacherous Subedar of artillery, passing the castle where Oomer Singh was being held prisoner caused him to be put to death. The poor Subedar's widow, long a prisoner, used to go daily to weep over his bleaching bones.

It is to his credit that Houghton, on the return of the British, made extensive efforts to find as many of his former soldiers as possible and is recorded as having successfully found, and in many cases liberated from slavery, no fewer than 165 of his Gurkhas whom he managed to track down in the fields, streets and slave markets of Kabul. Some of these eventually made it back to India and joined, or rejoined, the regiments of the British-Indian Army

Houghton, then a Major, was part of an expedition that was sent to Bhutan and there met a number of survivors in January 1867 including Havildar Motee Ram, a Havildar Puddum Singh, and Naik Bullay Sarkie, who were serving with the 1st Gurkha Rifles there. Puddum Singh was a sepoy with the 4th Goorkha Regiment at Charikar and Bullay Sarkie was what would be called a "line boy" having gone there in the company of his sister who was married to Havildar Sookea Sarkie of the same regiment.

Mohun Beer, the Moonshee, who escaped with Pottinger and Houghton also survived and his statement, as recorded by Sir R Shakespear, appears, as do the recollections of the other survivors as an Appendix to Houghton's memoir recording these events.

John Colpoys Houghton continued to serve and attained the retired rank of Lieutenant General in 1882. He was made C.S.I. in 1866, the only reward he received for his long and valued services. He died at Ramsgate, Kent, on 17th September 1887 at the age of 69.

The regimental history of the 2nd Goorkhas records that: "On conclusion of the (First) Afghan War certain of Sha Shuja's forces were amalgamated with those of the Bengal Army and of these 36 Goorkhas from the 4th Afghan Regiment were drafted into the Sirmoor Rifles, which further received a few from Broadfoot's disbanded

sappers." Thus ended the short, but distinguished history of the 4th Goorkha Regiment.

With thanks to The Gurkha Museum, Winchester, for the references from the History of the 2nd Goorkha Rifles.

Bibliography:

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OBITUARIES

The Editor records with regret the deaths of the following members notified between 1 January and 31 December 2021.

2 GR

6 GR

Major Michael Roberts

3 Jan 21

7 GR

10 GR

QGE

QG SIGNALS

QOGLR

Brigadier Peter Bowser CBE, DL

22 Apr 21 *

Lieutenant Colonel Jim Massey

18 Jan 21 *

Note: Those marked with an (*) after their date of death have their Obituary published in this Journal.

Brigadier Peter Bowser CBE DL



Brigadier Peter Bowser, who died on 22 April 2021, three months short of his 91st birthday, was Commanding Officer 31 Regiment RCT and Chief Transport and Movements Officer (CTMO) in Hong Kong when he also took over command of the Gurkha Transport Regiment (GTR) on the arrival of the Regimental Headquarters from Malaysia in July 1970. He was instrumental in the combination of the two Regiments into one in September 1971; a crucial time in the Regiment's history. (Richard Cawthorne, who was a subaltern in 28 Squadron GTR when Peter arrived and, as the Regimental Historian, recently completed a detailed historical record of the Regiment has referred

to the steps Peter took to ensure the survival of the Regiment as one of his major legacies.) After command, Peter stayed on in the Colony as CTMO, and was responsible for all transport and movement matters in the Far East, including setting up RAF trooping flights for Gurkhas between Hong Kong and Kathmandu to avoid travel by sea and the tedious train journey from Calcutta. He often travelled to Nepal and spoke lovingly of those trips.

Peter Christopher Bowser was born on 13 July 1930 in Merton and lived in Epsom with his elder brother Michael. With their father serving abroad in the Army for five years, the boys were brought up by their mother and experienced the horrors of the blitz. In reality, he actually found the blitz quite exciting. Peter was educated at Shaftesbury and Epsom Grammar Schools.

At the age of 18, Peter started his National Service in the Army. He immediately stood out in his barrack room as the only soldier who possessed any pyjamas and washed ones at that. It was no surprise that he was wolf-whistled by the other soldiers, which is perhaps what convinced him to apply for a commission in the East Surreys in 1949. Two years later and wanting to stay in the Army on a Regular Commission, he transferred to the RASC, and was posted to Korea followed by Singapore and Malaya.

Between 1955 and 66, Peter earned his parachute wings, served during the Cyprus EOKA insurgency and the Suez Crisis, married his boyhood girlfriend in 1958, attended Army Staff College, and served as a

staff captain in the Commonwealth Brigade in Malacca, where he rebadged to the RCT. In 1966 he was promoted to major and posted to command a transport squadron in Germany followed by a Grade 2 staff job in HQ I (BR) Corps.

During the EOKA campaign, Peter came close to hand-to-hand combat with the terrorists. He and his troop set a night ambush and, after a while, heard movement. When his demand that the insurgents identify themselves was ignored he gave the command to open fire. He and his men then swiftly extricated themselves from the scene to avoid casualties. When they returned the following day to assess the success of the ambush, they found the only casualty was a luckless donkey that had strayed into the killing zone.

By the time Peter and Jean (née Mercer) arrived to command 7 Armoured Brigade Transport Squadron, they had three daughters, who remember Friday evenings with the subalterns. Jean's glorious food and Peter as a welcoming and entertaining host made everyone feel part of their family. As John French recalls: "I remember with particular affection Friday evening, subbies evening, when you so kindly invited us into your home, en famille, in Pinewood Camp.



After his two years in Hong Kong, Peter found himself in the Ministry of Defence (MOD) as a member of the Adjutant General's staff working on the 1974 Defence Review and parliamentary liaison, before being promoted to colonel in 1975 and posted as the Chief Logistics Officer (Colonel AQ) HQ Commando Forces and Garrison Commander Plymouth. Not only is he remembered as one of the most distinguished, level-headed, and benevolent Colonel AQs ever to serve with Commando Forces, but he also earned his Commando Green Beret at the age of 45! During his time, he introduced new logistic standard operating procedures, which were subsequently used during the Falklands Campaign.

Peter was promoted to brigadier in 1979 after attending the Royal College of Defence Studies in

London and was posted to HQ 1st British Corps in Germany, where his responsibilities for logistic support to the Field Army included planning for the largest logistics exercise since WW II - Exercise CRUSADER 80 - for which he was awarded the CBE. Part of the citation reads: "His infectious smile, his cheerfulness, energy, expertise, calmness and encouragement, and his devoted long hours of work has given a positive lift both to the administration and to logistics within the 1st British Corps. His contribution has been immense and entirely positive. Also, with all these actions, he positively fought for the well-being of soldiers." Peter genuinely loved his job.

In 1982, it was back to MOD in charge of Joint Services Movements and, critically, as Chairman of the Joint Services Movements Coordinating Committee ensuring provision of supplies and fuel, as well as suitable shipping to transport the troops to the South Atlantic. The only possible British ship was the QE2 luxury liner. Government ministers were fearful of the reaction should that ship be lost in the fighting and Peter had to produce a paper to support the need for this ship. He and Sir John Nott met with Margaret Thatcher to obtain the Prime Minister's approval for the requisition of the ship. Peter said later he was relieved that approval was forthcoming because what he had not told the Prime Minister was that "an additional flight deck for helicopters had already been fitted".

Around this time he was offered promotion to major general but having lived out of army quarters for decades he chose to retire from the army in 1983 and accepted the job of Secretary Territorial, Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association (TAVRA) for

Greater London. People still speak of him as a 'giant' of TAVRA, when he established the 'Bowser Style' way of getting things done with passion and vision. During his tenure, he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of London and also a Freeman of the City, and he and Jean also bought their home in Plymouth, to where he retired permanently in 1995.

Peter quickly established himself as the backbone of the community and neighborhood through civic pride and duty, humour, generosity and wisdom and the unerring ability, first seen during his military career, to make everyone feel special and be interested in them. He was a master at communication and at getting others to do things that they didn't really want to do. Peter made no compromise when it came to loyalty, whether it be to friend, family, or community. After the news of his death, Jean received many letters from people remembering times with him in Korea, with TAVRA or when he mentored young officers and gave sound career advice.

As vascular dementia took hold during his final years, Peter found independent living increasingly difficult and he came to rely on many kind people who would drop everything at any time, day or night, when Jean needed help. It was only shortly before his death that he was placed in a care home near the family in Stamford. Peter lived a full, meaningful and fun life. He was devoted to Jean and doted on his girls, the grandchildren, his great grandchildren and all his nephews and nieces. He will be sorely missed, but his legacy is one where he made the world a better place and those that knew or loved him will all have been positively affected by him and will have amazing memories of a remarkably good man.

Lieutenant Jim Massey



Lieutenant Colonel Jim Massey, who died peacefully on 18 January 2021, at the age of 94, was one of the founding fathers of the Regiment as a captain in 31 Company Gurkha Army Service Corps in Malaya and Singapore from 1960-63. He was OC 30 Company/Squadron in Tidworth, Singapore, and Borneo from 1963-66, and his final tour with the Regiment was as Second in Command in Kluang and Hong Kong from 1969-72. He was the second Chairman of the Regimental Association from 1979-96 and became a Vice President when he retired as Chairman.

James Blakeney Massey was born on 18 December 1926, at home in Liverpool's docklands. His peaceful childhood was shattered by the Second World War,

particularly the Blitz. Throughout 1940 and 1941, Liverpool competed with Hull to be the second most bombed city in Britain. Jim was educated at St. Edward's College, a boys' school run by the Christian Brothers and as a teenager, he joined the Air Training Corps. In 1944, he was accepted as a Royal Navy "Y" Scheme entrant at Glasgow University, but left in March 1945, without completing the degree course because, in his own words, he was "otherwise committed".

During 1945, Jim served as a Naval Airman 2 in three separate ships, but pilots were not needed and, since other opportunities in the Navy were limited, he enlisted as a private in the Queen's Royal Regiment at Maidstone, later the same year. This was the start of an Army career, including a near drowning in the River Medway during basic training that would span 44 years in and out of uniform.

The following is a digest of the uniformed part of that service:

- 1945 - Private, Queen's Royal Regiment
- 1946 - Officer Cadet, Officer Training School Bangalore, India
- 1946/47 - Second Lieutenant, 10th Battalion Rajputana Rifles, India
- 1947/48 - Lieutenant, 2nd Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment, Egypt, Palestine
- 1951 - Lieutenant, 5th Battalion Kings Regiment (TA), Liverpool
- 1952-58 - Lieutenant/Captain RASC: London, Korea, Singapore, BAOR
- 1960-67 - Captain/Major Gurkha ASC/GTR: Malaya, Singapore, Tidworth, Borneo
- 1968 - Operations Major 26 Regiment RCT (Bridging) BAOR
- 1969-72 - Major Gurkha Transport Regiment, Kluang, Hong Kong
- 1972-74 - Commanding Officer UK Support Unit SHAPE, Belgium
- 1974-78 - Combined Manning & Record Office, HQ Northern Ireland, HQ 1 (BR) Corps

Jim held three commissions: Emergency - 21 July 1946; After Indian independence, he was posted to the Canal Zone in Egypt and Palestine but decided to leave and return home to Liverpool when the Army was being reduced; Territorial Army - 19 June 1951; Regular - 30 September 1953. He challenged anyone to have worn more cap badges than he had.

Jim and Norah were married on 18 June 1949. Jim re-joined the regular Army in 1952 and was posted to Hounslow, followed by Korea. The family were reunited in Singapore and then moved to the garrison of Paderborn in Germany with 123 Company RASC, a tank transporter unit. During this tour, Jim was involved in a serious road accident when a Champ overturned, and he was in hospital for several weeks.

In 1959, Jim volunteered to help set up the Gurkha Army Service Corps and was posted to Kluang, Malaysia, as 2IC of 31 Company. In 1963 he was promoted to Major and took over 30 Company which was posted to Tidworth in Wiltshire. His Senior Queen's Gurkha Officer (SQGO) was Jarnabahadur Rai, a WW2 veteran who had served in the Italian Campaign. There was a mix of seasoned NCOs and bright young people and one, Yambahadur Khan later became a Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officer (QGOO) and Gurkha Major - Jarnabahadur had held both these posts. The Company made national news when three Gurkha children went missing and a largescale search was undertaken. Eventually, all three turned up safe and sound in a house, which was only three from where they lived. The Company returned to Singapore and did three six-

month tours in Borneo during the Confrontation. Jim's years with the Gurkhas were the happiest days of his life. He learned to speak Gurkhali and was endlessly proud of his soldiers, who in turn loved him. He also made lifelong friendships - his children remember curry lunches that extended late into the evening, when his young officers would, over a few beers, hold deep conversations, which included topics such as 'Are northerners better than southerners?' With two Yorkshiremen in his company, he usually won.

In Kluang, in 1960/61, Jim and Norah Massey were kind and hospitable to everyone, especially the junior officers of 31 Company. They consistently welcomed them into their home and made them feel part of the family. At weekends, Jim would take his family to the swimming pool, and everyone would all join in with his group with much noise and laughter. He was foremost a family man and led a happy family of four children, which was always entertaining. Jim also devoted his life to public service, putting himself out there for the greater good; a natural leader and a very efficient and dependable operator and administrator. He was a role model for many.

He was often the first to get up and dance. During one *Kalaratri* in Kluang, a team of dancers started a Limbu nautch and Jim got up and left the hall. Very shortly after, as the end dancer touched a side curtain an extra dancer appeared - it was Jim who had acquired an empty dustbin that he was able to use as his madal at the new end of the dancers. Jim usually joined in with very good versions of the Kalo Kalo Rata Ma and Dhan nautches at Dashera, which summed up his good



humoured attitude to life and always brought great cheers and laughter from the audience. During the 50th regimental birthday celebrations in Kathmandu, a shoeless Jim was not at all embarrassed by displaying his holed socks, as he joined the professional dance group at the Bojan Griya restaurant. This was one of several visits to Nepal.

In 1972 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and selected to command the British Support Unit in Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium. This was a tri service unit composed primarily of senior staff officers (full Colonels and above), some of whom were a pain and drivers (mainly Corporals) who were not. Here, his past background with air cadets, Navy and Army, came into play, as he had no trouble dealing with members of the other services. There was an officers' club run on American lines, and he and few of his fellow officers formed an unofficial club, called the Parrott Club. They were a lively group, who instigated many of the social events, and after one friendly American officer was admitted into it, many of the other Americans were very keen to be connected with them, such was their popularity.

Jim was always good at sport and in 1956 set the 400-metre record at the Far East Land Forces games, a record that remained unbeaten for many years. Jim also loved soccer and was a keen Liverpool supporter. He was known for his skill at heading a ball with some accuracy. He was the first British officer to play for the Regiment in the Nepal Cup and was a stalwart of The Amblers regimental football team in Hong Kong. Whilst at SHAPE, a young NCO, who was a West Ham United fanatic, raised a team - West Ham United Away - which played in the SHAPE League. At the age of 49, Jim turned out; he was only capable of playing the first half, but the young soldiers appreciated him for doing so. Jim kept his football and rugby boots at the ready, and finally announced, aged 80, that he was hanging them up after the Regiment had won the Nepal Cup.

Jim and Norah's long association with Devon began with a posting to the Army Records Office in Higher Barracks, Exeter in 1974. He worked for three regiments but is remembered most for representing families of The Parachute Regiment, whose sons were killed in the Warrenpoint Massacre of 1979. These cases involved several trips to Newry, a dangerous border town in Northern Ireland. By the use of some smart interpretations of their career profiles, he succeeded in persuading the Crown Solicitors to award more compensation than would usually have been the case. It was at this time, that he and Norah decided to settle in the village of Silverton. He became a stalwart of the British Legion, President of the Exeter Branch of The Royal Corps of Transport Association for thirty years and became Chairman of the Gurkha Transport Association for seventeen years. Norah was highly active in the Silverton Women's Institute, so between them, they contributed greatly to village life

for many years. During those years, Jim also wrote many thundering letters to the editors of the Daily Telegraph and Daily Mail and shared his opinions in correspondence with various politicians. He was a regular contributor to the Journal. After retiring from the Army in 1978, Jim worked in the Infantry Manning & Records Office, Exeter, until he finally retired in 1989.

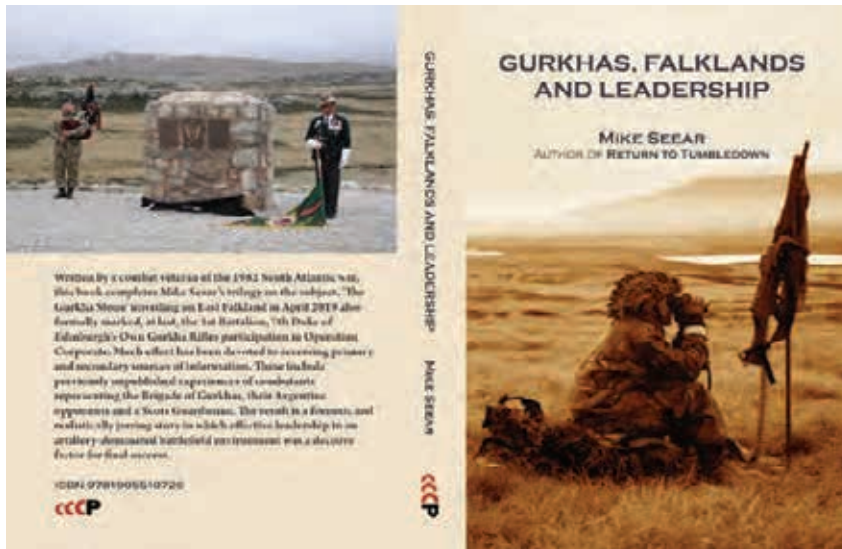
Jim and Norah had twelve grandchildren, who were raised in Canada, Norway, Sweden, Germany, and England. By the time of Jim's death there were seven great grandchildren.

In his final years, Jim was affected by Alzheimer's and died peacefully in the Old Rectory Care Home, Exeter, where he had lived since April 2019. His funeral took place on 2 February 2021 and was seen via live stream in numerous countries, ranging from New Zealand to Canada.

To many he was a real friend, a true gentleman with a marvellous sense of humour. Irreplaceable.

BOOK REVIEWS

Gurkhas, Falklands and Leaderships By Mike Seear



Published by Critical, Cultural and Communications Press
ISBN: 9781905510726

This is a 420-page account (including 64 photographs) from the different perspectives of fourteen combatants, i.e. seven British (the majority being 1st/7th Gurkha Rifles) who also include a Nepalese Queen's Gurkha Officer and a Gurkha Lance Corporal, and their opponents represented by seven Argentines. It is supplemented by a commentary that includes a running 'checklist' of concise leadership criteria. The latter are deliberately short and precise, reflecting the crucial need to be aware of the precious commodity of time during such an intensive joint expeditionary warfare operation. These criteria relate to the initial preparations and training, first on land and then at sea, before continuing with the Gurkha fourteen days of land operations that culminated in the Battle of Tumbledown during the war's final night. Interwoven with this are a series of red air alerts and individual experiences of coming under sporadic and intense enemy artillery and mortar fire. Also included is a detailed individual account of the shock of first contact with the enemy, returning fire, a bayonet charge, receiving fatal and wounded casualties, and a deadly mortar strike.

There is focus on the detailed Gurkha planning (via the Battalion's Royal Artillery attachments) and precise implementation of the first British artillery Regimental Fire Mission (of eighteen 105mm Light Guns) since the 1950-1953 Korean War onto B Company's objective: Tumbledown's north-east spur. This intense and deadly ten-minute action occurred immediately prior to the next phase: D Company's daylight (but unopposed) assault onto Mount William, the Battalion's main objective. The final two chapters include the author's six post-war visits to Argentina that established a rewarding long-term contact network with Argentine war veterans. Extending goodwill to them led to the author's gathering and recording the detail of their actions and reactions before, during and after combat.

A Spanish language version of the book is now being prepared by former Argentine Navy Tactical Divers Group officer Commander (Retd.) Diego F Garcia Quiroga for publication later in 2022. A combat veteran of the 1982 war, he received two serious gunshot wounds at the rear of Government House, Stanley on the night of 1-2 April 1982 and was the first serviceman of either side to be casualty-evacuated from the Islands. Married to the current Norwegian Ambassador to Cuba, he has been a good and trusted friend of the author for the past twenty years.

What Mike Seear has brought to the table of post-conflict relations is unique, recognized as such by former comrades and adversaries alike; especially in the trouble he has taken to seek out, meet with, interview and, increasingly, speak publicly to eager audiences in the UK, Argentina, Europe including, not least, Norway, where he has lived since 1984. He narrates, he reveals, he questions, patiently if ever with urgency, in his refusal to accept as cliché the 'Nunca más' or 'Never again' that echoed throughout the return to democracy of a post-dictatorship Argentina in respect of both the internal 'dirty war' of the criminal junta and the sad if inevitable war it had triggered. Unlike so many historians on both sides he has taken the trouble to dig deep in gathering the raw testimonies, including those rendered in admirably accurate translation, in exposing the respective courage and flaws of those conducting the battles in which the Gurkhas and Scots Guards engaged with their Argentine Marine and Army adversaries. Facing up together, resisting reluctances to re-confront memories and contemporary documentations of violent deaths and irreparable losses, of successes and, yes, of painful failures, is here shown to have constructed, too, a common denominator that has served as a long-term motivator for eventual combat veteran goodwill.

Professor Emeritus Bernard McGuirk, University of Nottingham, expert in post-conflict studies, author of *Falklands-Malvinas: An Unfinished Business* (2007, Seattle, New Ventures), multilinguist and Professor of Romance Literatures and Literary Theory.

Very well done. This is a huge effort and makes fascinating reading

Brigadier (Retd.) David Morgan, OBE, former Commandant of the 1st/7th DEO Gurkha Rifles in the 1982 Falklands-Malvinas War.

I predict this is a book that will be read by both sets of participants of that long-distant event. It will strike a chord and further indicate the common ground that exists between veterans from both sides and will, in so doing, will hopefully act as a further step for reconciliation between our nations.

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Gareth Pugh Officer, 132 Battery (The Bengal Rocket Troop) to 1st/7th DEO Gurkha Rifles in the 1982 Falklands-Malvinas War; A forensic account of the involvement of the Gurkha battalion in the Falklands War.

This is the third of Mike Seear's books about the Falklands War and, like the first book, focuses mostly on the role played by the one Gurkha battalion that was there, 1st Bn., 7th Gurkha Rifles. But since that first book was published, Seear has not only 'walked the ground' more than once, revisiting the battlefield, but

The Chakrata Incident

By Neville Sarony



Published by Blacksmith Books (30 April 2022)
 ISBN-10: 9887554677
 ISBN-13: 978-9887554677

has made numerous trips to Argentina, establishing connections with countless Argentine veterans. In this book, he has included many of their accounts of the war – principally the battle for Tumbledown and, to a slightly lesser extent, Mt William (for reasons that will become obvious to a reader). By interweaving the accounts of British, Gurkhas, and Argentines who were there, he creates an almost forensic account of the Tumbledown battle, which nicely complements his second book, Return to Tumbledown that quite rightly concentrated on 2nd Battalion, the Scots Guards. At no point does he claim that the Gurkhas did anything that they didn't do. His account is thoroughly researched and frank. And what comes through as a result, is a more rounded picture of the battle than has hitherto been published. Because of the Argentine withdrawal and surrender just as the Gurkhas were crossing their start line, their close-quarter battle for Mt William never took place, thus saving many lives, their own as well as Argentine. But their involvement in the war is far more complex and interesting than those final couple of hours. The casualties they suffered, and their contribution to eventual victory is usually overlooked. In this book, Seear recounts all of it in minute, absorbing detail; from United Nations, British Government, Foreign Office, and Ministry of Defence level, down through divisional and brigade levels, to the regimental, company, and platoon headquarters, and various of the individual officers and soldiers who comprised the closely-knit team that sailed to war in that extraordinary summer, 40 years ago.

Major (Retd.) Nigel Price 7GR

'The Chakrata Incident' is the prequel to Neville Sarony's two earlier books in the Max Devlin series - 'The Dharma Expedient' and 'Devlin's Chakra'. This covers Devlin's last months with the Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR) and his secondment to the Secret Intelligence Service and subsequently Indian Intelligence, with the mission of training an elite Tibetan unit called the '22s' - the Special Frontier Force (SFF) - who are responsible for intelligence gathering on PLA movements and dispositions in Tibet. There is an American involvement with Max's opposite number from the CIA being a rather insensitive and gung-ho caricature of how the American military are perceived - and this lends some drama to the story as it unfolds. We move from the RGR, to SIS HQ, to listening in on the Indian Prime Minister's deliberations (with the equivalent of the Joint Intelligence Committee), the SFF Training Camp near the Tibetan Border and inevitably to the infiltration and extraction of the 22s into Tibet. Neville is particularly well equipped to tell this story given his background as a National Service Officer with 7 GR, his time as a barrister in Nepal and his intimate knowledge of the sub-continent, but his outstanding accomplishment is being a riveting story-teller, who ensures the reader is always waiting to turn the page.

Max has three Gurkhas with him from 1 RGR - who play a major role in the story, and in keeping with Tibetan

culture, rather than political correctness, there are two hugely impressive female Tibetan company commanders in the 22s ! Neville seduces the reader into his characters in a manner that encourages intimacy, which in itself lends much to the relationship between author and reader. There are a few minor inaccuracies which in no way detract from the narrative, and the absence of maps, while an irritant to those not familiar with the Indo-Tibetan Border (most of us) was a requirement of the publishers - as Neville addresses an area of significant political sensitivity.

Operation Red Tidings

By J P Cross



Published by Monsoon Books Ltd., UK, 2021

www.monsoonbooks.co.uk

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Malaya, 1954, and a military convoy is ambushed by communist terrorists on a road that winds up a jungle covered hillside, resulting in the death of a senior British officer. This sparks a rapidly improvised operation, codenamed 'Red Tidings', to hunt down the killers responsible and exact revenge. The action in this latest book by John Cross featuring his protagonist, Jason Rance of the Gurkhas, is set during the Malayan Emergency (1948-60), the arduous campaign by British and Commonwealth military and police forces to defeat a communist insurgency in peninsula Malaya, and at a time when the Security Forces were beginning to gain the upper hand. There are various facets to the plot which unfolds at pace: military operations in the jungle, the plans of army high command and intelligence officers, and the activities of the Malayan police and Special Branch. In parallel, the scheming of communist leaders and the consequent actions of their foot-soldiers is revealed.

Rance is a complex character, highly professional and fiercely loyal to his men but sometimes in conflict with those sat in authority over him who either are envious of his success or lacking in imagination when working out how best to deal with the demands of defeating an insurgency. Intelligence, patience, precision targeting and 'thinking outside the box' are the principal weapons for the material success of the security forces against an elusive enemy. Some understand this; others won't. In one delicious scene, Rance's frustration with the sledgehammer approach of

Neville draws on a couple of incidents in the Brigade's history that the 'bhuros' might recognise and there is a sprinkling of Nepali and Hindi to remind us that Neville is 'Family'!

This is another rip roaring read in the Max Devlin tradition and a book that I would commend to both those familiar with Gurkhas, the Tibetan 'dilemma' and the general reader.

*Reviewed by Colonel Christopher Lavender MVO
Late 2nd Goorkha Rifles*

aerial bombing to destroy a tiny, bandit encampment boils over with near disastrous results for his career. From jungle bashing, the plot develops a second thread bringing the intelligence war into focus. Chin Peng, the real-life leader of the communist insurgency in Malaya, makes an appearance and with his committee plans to shore up faltering morale amongst the cadres with a propaganda newspaper which in an ironic twist is also called 'Red Tidings'. This introduces the shadowy war of the infiltration of agents to both camps, of the reward for 'turning' erstwhile enemies into allies by humanitarian treatment, and of the vital work of the Malaya police alongside the army in the campaign. The genesis of the newspaper and its fortunes when it is subverted to become a 'false flag' operation are for the reader to discover but the Tidings offer little comfort and joy to the enemy leadership.

The author brings to the story a wealth of detail from his personal experience of thirty years military service in South East Asia, much of it spent leading active operations in the jungle so he knows his subject inside out. Rance's Gurkha soldiers are no slouches when it comes to fieldcraft but even they admit to a grudging admiration for the bandits' efforts to conceal their presence. To quote from the book, Rance's own mantra (as no doubt was the author's) is: 'Never cut what you can break naturally; never break naturally what you can bend; never bend what you can move; never move that which you can get through without moving; never tread on what you can step over'

Fact and fiction are woven inextricably together in John Cross's novel. It is not always possible to know where the watershed is, where the actuality and his fertile imagination divide. Occasionally the truth is revealed in a footnote, and one is left thinking, 'Wow! It really happened'. He writes from his deep knowledge of the Malayan Emergency and his understanding of the people on both sides of the hill who fought it. There is much to be learned about the military aspects of the campaign, but it is his observation of the Asian scene, of its people, culture and above all its linguistic nuances that, like others by the author, set it apart from others in the genre.

Reviewed by Brigadier DR d'A Willis CBE late 7GR

