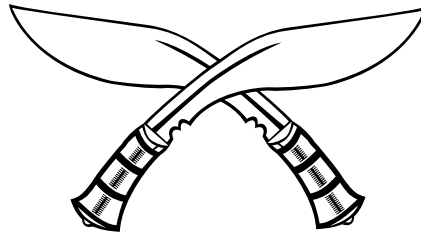


THE JOURNAL OF THE BRIGADE OF GURKHAS



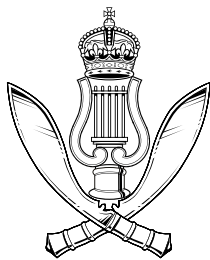
THE KUKRI

2022

Number 73, August 2022

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



Front Cover: Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers

Captain Krishna Loksam MVO RGR and Captain Surenda Limbu MVO GSPS

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EDITORIAL

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

As I write this year's Editorial, once again, I am very pleased to be able to report that the 4 Pillars of the Gurkha Brigade have emerged from the Covid pandemic and continue to represent the Brigade with great distinction and enhanced the name and reputation of the Gurkha soldier. The dedication and exemplary conduct of the officers, soldiers, veterans, civil servants and volunteers has kept the Brigade and Gurkhas in the forefront of operational and defence engagement activities.

The Gurkha Museum

2022 has been a demanding but exciting and highly productive year for The Gurkha Museum. It has renewed its engagement and activities with renewed vigour.

Admissions income showed, despite an experimental period of free entry for 2 months, a noticeable improvement from 2021. Lectures, in person and online, continue to draw large military and civilian audiences, which they hope will boost the much-needed revenue. The Museum's digital outreach programme "Gharma Sunnu" and "Gharma Siknu" has gained traction with the Nepali diaspora, especially the younger generation.

After lengthy discussions and negotiations, with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation the Museum now secured a lease that gives them a minimum of 30 years tenancy in its current space. This has allowed the Museum to progress its ambitious plans for redevelopment, entitled **Project Kaida**. There has been significant progress during 2022 and an expression of interest has been submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for a major project grant to underpin their plans. This was accepted, allowed the Museum to forge ahead with the work required to make a Phase 1 (Development Funding) application.

The Museum continues to acquire a range of objects through both donation and purchase. This year they were able to acquire a WWII-Era Japanese Warrant Officer's military katana (sword) and two significant medal sets: that of Major General Geoffrey Bruce (donated by his family), including his 1924 Olympic Medal for Alpinism, and that of Sergeant Kambarsing Rai 7GR, which included his Military Medal awarded as a member of the short-lived 'Ferret Force' during the early stages of the Malayan Emergency (purchased).

Fund raising will start in earnest in 2024 to address the delta between the NLHF and the cost of making the Gurkha Museum fit for the mid-20th century.



The Brigade of Gurkhas (BG)

The Brigade of Gurkhas remains in readiness for whatever lies ahead and continues to build the talents of all its soldiers to ensure they are equipped with the skills to excel in the modern British Army. Units have been deployed globally in Peace Keeping, Defence Engagement and training roles. The Corps Units remain fully integrated with their parent Corps and have taken their place alongside other units, prepared to face the variety of challenges that may present themselves. The professionalism, dedication and resourcefulness of Brigade of Gurkhas is apparent in their ability to perform at the highest level on operational, in Defence Engagement tasks and in the sports arena.

The instability around the world over the last 12 months has provided unique opportunities for the Brigade, as the British Army refocuses on its commitments to Europe and NATO. The QOGLR deployed to Cyprus as part of the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping mission ensuring the peace and security. Other Brigade units have been deployed to Eastern Europe in support of BG operations in Kosovo, Iraq, Kenya, and Somalia. Those soldiers not on operations have delivered military assistance to civilian authorities such as the deployment to London for the funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and supporting ambulance services.

The Brigade has continued to prove that it remains a vital part of the operational outputs of UK Defence both at home and abroad. Gurkha personnel are now in practically every British Army unit, at officer or soldier level.

The BG continues to excel in all military skills competitions and sports within the British Army. Once again, the Queen's medal was won by a Gurkha, 11 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)

Throughout the year, the GWT team of over 500 staff in Nepal have continued to work tirelessly to deliver financial, medical, and development aid to Gurkha veterans, their widows, and communities. The team continues to not only reach our pensioners to give pensions and provide medical care, but also met ambitious deadlines for the completion of school builds, earthquake-resilient homes and clean water projects. In the UK a host of our supporters have been raising money through a range of physical challenges and community fundraising initiatives. They have also seen the return of two popular events, Trailwalker and the Doko Challenge. Despite the challenges of the current economic climate, our loyal supporters, including many serving and ex Brigade members, have continued to give generously to provide the vital funds that we need to continue our work in Nepal.

The GWT Schools Programme, funded by individual donors and charitable trusts, has helped to build, repair and improve schools in remote regions of Nepal. All the buildings are constructed to an earthquake-resilient standard to ensure their safety and longevity. The schools are providing a brighter future to Nepal's children by giving them access to education better and reliable educational facility.

The Gurkha Brigade Association (GBA)

The GBA continues in providing support and advice to our veterans both here in the UK and in Nepal. The Regimental Associations (RAs) likewise have continued to support their own veterans, keeping them informed about the activities of Brigade of Gurkhas and the work being done by the other 3 Pillars.

The Gurkha Museum as the repository for our heritage has been and will be for the next 3 years the GBAs "Main Effort".

The GBA remains "In Support" of HQBG as the UK and Nepali Governments address the Gurkha Veteran's Grievance.

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 Ms 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 2022 annual report on the Brigade of Gurkhas. Throughout this report you will see that this year has been incredibly busy for all of our Gurkha units but also a year filled with much success. Our Gurkhas have continued to deliver excellence across a wide variety of tasks, ranging from peace keeping operations in Cyprus to supporting the funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. 2022 is another year of which the Brigade of Gurkhas can be rightly 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 enhance 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 and observing religious and cultural festivals. The families of our serving Gurkhas also continue to

provide the foundation of the Brigade's culture and ultimately, support our success. In addition, the great work of our charity in Nepal, The Gurkha Welfare Trust, remains hugely important to the Brigade and people of the UK, and I hope for the people of Nepal.

Looking to the future, we remain in a time of unprecedented uncertainty on the international stage. In readiness for whatever lies ahead the Brigade of Gurkhas will continue to nurture the talents of all our soldiers to ensure they are equipped with the skills to excel in the modern British Army and are fully prepared to face the variety of challenges that may present themselves. One thing is certain, the professionalism, dedication and resourcefulness of the Gurkha soldier are qualities the British Army continue to deeply respect and I am in no doubt that our Gurkhas will continue to show themselves as outstanding representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.



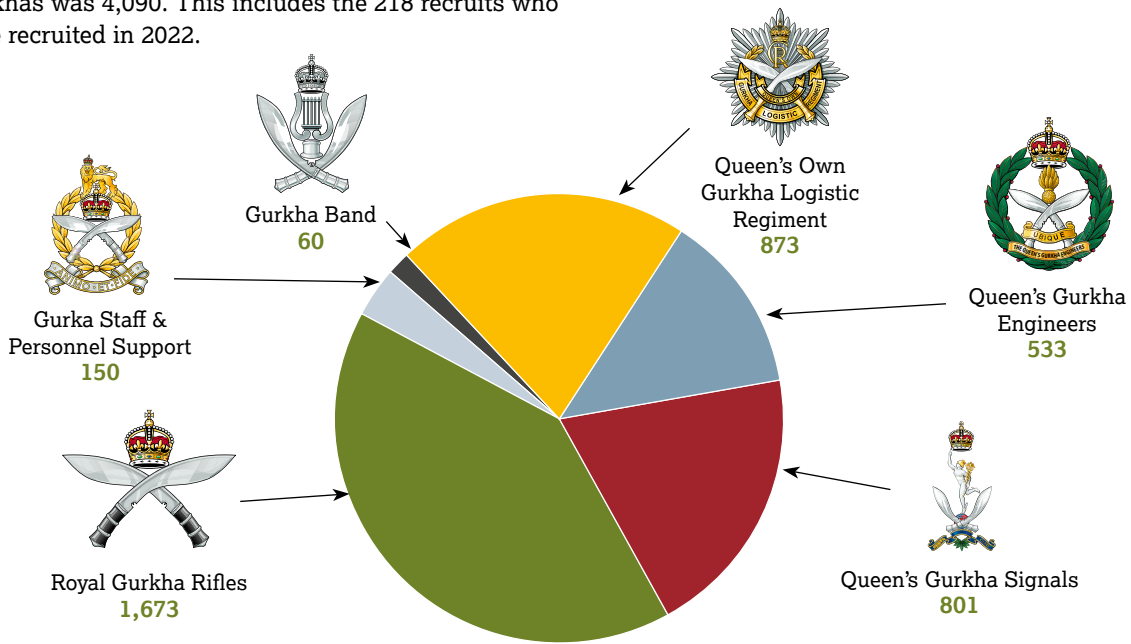
Members of QOGLR on the UN Peacekeeping Mission on Cyprus



Members of the Brigade of Gurkhas preparing for the funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Manning Update

As at 31 December 2022, the strength of the Brigade of Gurkhas was 4,090. This includes the 218 recruits who were recruited in 2022.



Brigade of Gurkha Growth

There has been continued growth and change in the Brigade of Gurkhas in 2022. The Queen's Gurkha Signals (QG Signals) have established another subunit, 242 Gurkha Signal Squadron, within 22 Signal Regiment and the Queen's Gurkha Engineers (QGE) have established another Gurkha Troop. The Gurkha Allied Rapid Reaction Corps support battalion continues to showcase the talents on this multi-Gurkha capbadge unit and the Brigade has also successfully retained two RGR companies within the newly established Ranger Regiment, giving greater opportunity for Gurkha soldiers to expand their knowledge and operational experience.

There has also been the reorganisation of several Gurkha subunits within the last 12 months. 70 Gurkha Field Squadron, QGE becoming 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron and 60 Sqn Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR) becoming 15 Squadron QOGLR. Both Squadrons have reorganised to support the British Army's very high readiness airborne forces within 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team. This has clearly demonstrated the flexibility of the Gurkhas soldier to adapt to the challenges presented by the changing global picture and the needs of the modern British Army.

Operational Activity

The pace of change seen on the global stage in the last 12 months has provided unique opportunities for the Brigade as the British Army refocuses on its commitments to Europe and NATO. The Brigade has subsequently seen deployments to Eastern Europe with the QG Signals deploying with a 2* Headquarters to reassure our allies, and QGE placed at readiness to support the region. This additional activity has all been achieved alongside other BG operational commitments in Kosovo, Iraq, Kenya, and Somalia.

Whilst many soldiers have deployed overseas, some have remained in the UK and delivered military assistance to civilian authorities such as the deployment to London for the funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and support to ambulance services through periods of immense pressure. The QOGLR have also deployed to Cyprus as part of the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping mission ensuring the peace and security of the Mediterranean island country as well as representing the BG and British Army within the UN. The Brigade has continued to prove that it remains a vital part of the operational outputs of UK Defence both at home and abroad.



QOGLR deployed on the UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus



QG SIGNALS soldiers deployed to the Baltic States in support of Standing Joint Force HQ



An RGR soldier deployed on exercise in Romania



Soldiers from QOGLR line the route at the Funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



RGR deployed on operation in the sub-Saharan Africa



QGE deployed on Operation ROCKSTAFF in Northeast Poland

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.

Advertising. For the first time in 3 years, the recruiting briefing teams were able to physically visit 71 of the 77 districts across Nepal. An update to the recruiting cycle was given to PRs, parents and local dignitaries alike and our Mantra of Free-Fair-Transparent was reiterated. Staff travelled 9,595km to brief 10,225 PRs, including the people of Humla, walking 180km to reach Simikhot.



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

Online registration was maintained and simplified this year to give greater access to PRs from disadvantaged backgrounds. This year saw 19,385 applicants register interest, including a sharp increase from applicants from the most remote regions of Dolpa, Rolpa, Jumla and Humla, who would have previously travelled many days to register.



Heaves - part of the physical assessment, rigorously assured throughout

Phase 1 (Registration). Of the 19,385 PRs registered online, 12,889 PRs registered an interest in joining the British Army and made the journey to their nearest Army Career Information Office (ACIO). For the first time we opened a new ACIO in Birendranagar, Surkhet, based out of one of our Area Welfare Centres (AWCs) in Bheri. This enabled 2,520 PRs from the furthest and most isolated far-western districts to attend Phase 1 without having to commute to Pokhara. In total, 5,057 PRs were successful across Nepal.



Candidates arriving for Phase 1 (Registered)

Phase 2 (Initial Selection). 5,057 PRs were called forward to attend Phase 2. This stage of the recruiting cycle requires PRs to pass objective medical, physical, and education assessments. All assessment processes are carefully assured by personnel from the UK to ensure standards and procedures are followed and our Mantra is protected. A call-forward list of 420 PRs was subsequently published in late December 2022 to start Phase 3 in 2023.



Running – Part of Phase 2 (Initial Selection)

Phase 3 (Final Selection). The penultimate phase of Gurkha Selection will see PRs return to Pokhara to face interviews, more physical assessments, as well as summative education assessments. The infamous doko race will also take place, where PRs will run 5.8km carrying a 15kg doko. Phase 3 is the final filter to select the best PRs fairly for service in the British Army.



The Doko Race - a test of determination and stamina



Attestation to His Majesty King Charles III. RI23 will take their oath at the Attestation Parade in British Gurkhas Pokhara on 10 February 2023. The 204 selected Trainee Riflemen will attest for the first time to His Majesty King Charles III. Families will attend the parade along with dignitaries from the diplomatic community.



Colonel Commandant, Lieutenant General Wardlaw OBE, inspecting the recruits



Colonel Commandant, Lieutenant General Wardlaw OBE, taking the salute at the Attestation Parade

Unit Activities

1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles (1RGR)

1RGR has had a significant focus on training this year. Prior to moving to Brunei in the summer, the first few months of the year were spent conducting a range of training exercises intended to bring the Battalion up to the highest level of readiness possible. They conducted a full unit deployment rehearsal in the UK, demonstrating that it remains ready and trained to conduct operations anywhere in the world. Since moving 650 soldiers and their families across the world to take over the Garrison in Brunei, they have conducted jungle familiarisation training and have already deployed on overseas tasks to Singapore, New Caledonia, the Philippines, Fiji, Malaysia and Malawi in support of the UK's foreign policy. 1RGR also won the British Army's prestigious shooting competition and gained the Queen's Medal for the best individual shot across the Army.



Dashain celebrations in Malawi



A Company in the Hills of Romania on Ex SARMIS



Instructing multinational partners in the Fijian jungle



C Company on EX GAULISH in CENZUB France

2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles (2RGR)

2RGR have returned to the UK after an extended five year period in Brunei, moving back into 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team in the summer. Since returning the Battalion has been busy with overseas exercises to France and Romania. 2RGR also provided troops to support the funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth

II, both assisting members of the public and with the Pipes and Drums forming part of the massed Pipes and Drums on the route. All their companies have now conducted initial Air Assault training and look forward to the new year where they will be put through their paces on the largest exercise in the UK for 10 years before taking over the role of the Air Manoeuvre Battle



Vehicle ambush drill in CENZUBs

Group; ready to deploy on operations at short notice to anywhere in the world. 2RGR came second in the British Army's shooting competition reinforcing the Gurkhas notable shooting prowess.

The Queen's Gurkha Engineers (QGE)

The QGE had yet another successful year, a year which marked a significant point in history for 70 Gurkha Field Sqn as they resubordinated to 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment and were renamed as 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron. They have since deployed on exercises in Uganda, Brunei and France, whilst 69 Gurkha Field Squadron took part in operations and projects in Nigeria, the Middle East, Cyprus and Gibraltar. The QGE was also actively involved in ceremonial duties during the funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The QGE continued to protect and promote our culture, tradition and Kaida, including Dashain, Tihar, Teej, Nepali New Year and the Braemar Gathering in Scotland. This year the QGE won the Nepal Cup football competition, became the Army Badminton Champions and members represented the Corps, the Army and UK Armed Forces in Golf and Mountain Biking.



Instructing multinational partners in the Fijian jungle



The QGE, Nepal Cup Winners 2022, their 13th title in their history

The Queen's Gurkha Signals (QG Signals)

QG Signals continued to support broader operational activity with personnel routinely deploying on various high-profile operations and overseas exercises. Recently, 246 Gurkha Signal Squadron personnel returned from the USA after taking part in a multi-national interoperability experimentation exercise. This year, 247 and 249 Gurkha Signal Squadrons have been on exercise in Germany, and 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron deployed on a NATO warfighting exercise in Denmark. The Regiment also made history by winning TRAILWALKER UK (100km team foot race) for a third year in a row. QG Signals sub-units have also conducted various charity work and raised funds for the Gurkha Welfare Trust, Oxfam GB and Gurkha Museum UK.



QG Signals Soldiers during NATO warfighting exercise



QG Signals Ex TRAILWALKER winning team

The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR)

It has been another extremely busy year for the QOGLR. On completion of pre-deployment training, the Regiment deployed on a UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus and will return to UK in March 2023. A small team of personnel was also deployed to Estonia as part of the NATO's enhanced presence at Europe's eastern front. This year, 14 Squadron deployed to many overseas locations and most notably supported the NATO Allied Rapid Reaction Corps. 60 Squadron is also reforming

to its new role in support of the 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team, the British Army’s rapid response airborne formation. Perhaps most importantly though, 94 Squadron deployed on Ceremonial Duties, a prestigious task to guard the Royal family at Buckingham Palace, St. James’s Palace, and Windsor Castle. During the state funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, they were all on parade and present at Horse Guard Parade Ground to pay tribute to the late Queen.



94 Squadron, QOGLR paying a final tribute to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



QOGLR Officers and Soldiers in Cyprus

Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas (Band BG)

2022 saw a return to almost normality and the Band were able to conduct an engagement tour in Nepal at the beginning of the year. They provided support for the Attestation parade in Pokhara and also trained and performed with the Nepal Army, Nepal Police and Armed Forces Police Band, a successful cohesion of multiple units. Over the summer period they supported the QOGLR during their public duties in London. The Band with the Pipes and Drums, alongside the Gurkha soldiers of the Regiment, produced high levels of performance during what was HM Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee period. After the sad news of the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II, the Band were deployed to support Her Late Majesty’s Funeral. The Band look forward to a busy 2023 including a return to Nepal to enhance the close relations between our two countries.

Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support (GSPS)

This year has been a remarkable year for the GSPS. Achievements range from many commendations, medals in sport and military events, and raising money for the Gurkha Welfare Trust. The most notable of all has been Cambrian Patrol 2022 (the renowned premier international military skills competition), where the GSPS achieved a Gold Medal at their first attempt. The GSPS Company has had a very busy year. Its members have been involved in highly demanding events, be it military or civilian. They have been hugely successful on all fronts, demonstrating professionalism, dedication and camaraderie. These couldn’t be more evident than the various military deployments both within the UK and overseas (including US, Cyprus, Singapore) supporting units both in the field and in barracks. The contributions have been acknowledged and highly praised by commanders in all units where GSPS personnel are present.



GSPS Recruit Intake 2022



Captain Surendra Limbu successfully completing his duties as a Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officer



The Kasam Khane parade for GSPS at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

Honours and Awards



Captain Som Chhantyal Magar (RGR) was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal



Outgoing Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers (RGR and GSPS) received their MVO medals at Buckingham Palace. Dame Joanna Lumley also received her honour



Major Hebindra Pun (QG Signals) received a 4 Commendation from the Vice-Chief of Defence Staff for his outstanding work as Assistant Military Attaché at the British Embassy Kathmandu during the pandemic*



Sergeant Santosh Goley (QGE) was awarded a 2 Commendation from the General Officer Commanding ARITC exemplary service and dedication*



Major Amrit Gurung (QG Signals) being presented with a 4 Commendation from Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas*



Lance Corporal Milan Rai (RGR) received a 2 Commendation from Commandant Royal Military Academy Sandhurst*



Captain Deepakkumar Gurung (RGR) was awarded the SLIM Trophy - an award given to the RGR Late Entry Captain who has delivered the most exceptional leadership in the year



Warrant Officer Class Two Eka Bahadur Rai (QGE) was awarded the Fishmongers' Medal for his charitable contribution to the NHS and GWT



Sapper Madan Limbu (QGE) received his Carpenter of the year award from The Worshipful Company of Carpenters in London

Other Activity



The COVID-19 medical equipment support pledged by the British Army to the Nepali Army arrived in Kathmandu



2RGR Preparing for a deployment to Australia



The Band BG and QGE support the Braemar (Scotland) gathering



Winner of the Gurkha Photography Competition 2022



Gurkhas support the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



RGR soldiers patrolling through the jungle in Brunei



Freedom of the town of Maidstone for the QGE



10 QOGLR parade for the Jubilee in Winchester



QGE working alongside the French Army



F (Falklands) Ranger Company Formation Parade

The Gurkha Welfare Trust

The third wave of COVID-19 in January 22 meant that at one point over 24% of our 500+ team of national staff had tested positive. However, our dedicated teams were able to adapt, regroup and go again; working together to achieve their ultimate goal of supporting our Gurkha veterans and the people of Nepal.

At its core, the Trust delivers a package of care to Gurkha veterans and widows to ensure they can live with dignity. Even faced with the challenges of COVID-19 and the difficult monsoon season this year, our Pensioner Support Teams journeyed into the hills of Nepal on motorbikes, 4x4 vehicles and on foot to pay them a pension, check their health and deliver medication. This year we spent almost NPR1.2 billion on medical services, available to all Gurkha veterans and their families with the team also delivered outstanding community projects (statistics below).

Finally, at the request of the Government of Nepal, the team delivered immediate and practical support to protect the population and health workers. As part of this response, GWT provided sanitation awareness training and advocacy, hygiene kits, and sanitary pads. A total

of 36,649 people benefitted this year and the programme supported six Isolation Centres, three orphanages, 78 Health Care Facilities, 23 local government institutions, and 75 schools.

We installed 76 water projects, benefitting 30,812 people across 5,652 households.

We built three major schools, worked on 12 building extensions and 90 refurbishments.

GWT medical services provided 115,000 face-to-face patient consultations, 47,000 telephone consultations and over 9,000 home visits.

We conducted three Medical Camps, in Humla, Solukhumbu and Khotang, with 1,701 patients registered.

3,453 veterans and widows, with an average age of 81 years-old, received a pension worth NPR 174,000 per annum.

Emergency Hardship Grants were awarded to 1,346 people and 101 earthquake-resilient homes were built.



HEADQUARTERS BRIGADE OF GURKHAS



Staff List as at 31 December 2022

Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas	Colonel D Robinson
Chief of Staff Major	Major D O'Conner RGR
Deputy Chief of Staff	Maj G Power QOGLR
SO2/OC GSPS	Major Jit Hamal GSPS
SO2 Personnel/Policy	Major Dammabhadur Shahi RGR
Brigade Secretary	Major (Retd) Manikumar Rai MBE, DL
RGR Regimental Secretary	Major (Retd) B McKay MBE
RGR Adjt	Captain N Halliday RGR
Brigade Adjt	Capt T Sachs QGS
OC BCLT	Captain Dirgha KC QGE
QGOO/SO3 Plans	Captain Jiwan Gurung RGR
QGOO	Capt Basantadhoj Gurung QGE
Superintendent Clerk	WO1 Priyachandra Rai GSPS
WSM BCLT	WO2 Akash Limbu GSPS
Man & Est SNCO	Staff Sergeant Tankabhadur Rai GSPS
BCLT Instr	Sergeant Shankar Gurung QGS
BCLT Instr	Sergeant David Rai QOGLR
Communications NCO	Corporal Shekar Gurung QGS
Administration NCO	Corporal Pratik Paija GSPS
Welfare NCO	Lance Corporal Minbahadur Gurung QOGLR
Executive Staff	Mr G Trafford Smith
Finance Officer	Ms A Lopez
Communications Officer	Mr M Latter
Brigade Welfare Officer	Captain (Retd) Mahendra Limbu MBE
Asst Brigade Welfare Officer	Hon Lieutenant (Retd) Tulbahadur Gurung
GWAC Welfare Clerk	Mr Bhanu Jabegu

2022 HQBG Review of the Year

2022 has been a challenging year for the Headquarters. The lifting Covid restrictions enabled the HQ staff to get out and about to meet the Brigade units to continue to provide support and influence the ongoing work.

Personnel

This year saw the inevitable changes in the staff at HQBG. We said farewell to, Major Jit Hamal GSPS (DCOS), Captain Carter (Bde Adjt), WO2 Sushil Gurung GSPS (WSM BCLT) and Staff Sergeant Tankabhadur Gurung GSPS (Man & Est SNCO). The summer leave period also saw us say goodbye to Captains Krishna Loksam RGR and Surendra Limbu GSPS who completed their year tour as Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers.

We welcomed Captain Jiwan Gurung RGR and Captain Basantadhoj Gurung QGE as the two new Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officer.

Report

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 Recruiting & Retention and training wastage within the rest of the BA is an issue. This was a positive for the BG as it did not face these challenges.

There was scope for Gurkha recruiting to be increased to establish a strategic reserve, however monetary pressures may preclude this from coming to fruition.

The BG continued to excel in all military skills competition 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.

Events

Conclusion

HQBG has risen to the demands of expansion and remains a proactive and robust organisation poised to meet the challenges of the future. Our strong links and support both in MoD London and Army HQ in Andover continue to serve us well. Brigade units have risen to the challenges and come through with hard work, team effort and high spirits.

Jai Brigade of Gurkhas

Brigade of Gurkhas Briefing Day and Sounding Retreat 2022

By Mr Mick Latter, Head of Communications, HQBG

On the 29th of June 2022 the Brigade of Gurkhas gathered for the annual Briefing Day, Sounding Retreat and Dinner Night.

Briefing Day

Over 250 members of the Brigade of Gurkhas gathered in Churchill Hall, at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for a series of presentations about the Brigade, related organisations and a leadership presentation by Neil Jurd OBE who runs Leader Connect a leadership training organisation and is author of *The Leadership Book*, written to encourage and enable effective leadership and a top seller around the world.



Colonel BG, Colonel Robinson's welcome address

Other speakers through the day included Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas, Director of the Gurkha Museum, Chairman of the Gurkha Brigade Association, Officer Commanding British Gurkhas Pokhara, Officer Commanding Gurkha Company Catterick, CEO Gurkha Welfare Trust and the Chairman Britain Nepal Society. The briefing day was concluded by the Colonel Commandant.



Neil Jurd OBE of Leader Connect giving his presentation

Sounding Retreat and Cocktail Party

Serving members of the Brigade of Gurkhas and guests gathered for a cocktail party on the Old College parade square at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Time to catch up with friends and colleagues from across the Brigade.

The principal guest for the evening was the Ambassador of Nepal to the UK, His Excellency Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya who assumed his responsibilities as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nepal to the United Kingdom on the 23rd of February 2022 and presented his credentials to Her Majesty The Queen on the 31st of March 2022. On arrival he was greeted by the Colonel Commandant and was then introduced to a number of the Brigade. The Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas and Pipes and Drums from across the Brigade then took centre stage and performed a marching band display, followed by the Sounding Retreat ceremony and National Anthems of the United Kingdom and Nepal.

Dinner Night

After the Sounding Retreat those in attendance moved to the Old College Dining Hall for the Brigade Dinner Night. Over 200 people took their places on allocated tables for each Regiment or Corps. An ensemble from the Band performed music throughout the dinner and then after the toasts to Her Majesty The Queen, Nepal and the Regiment the whole band and bagpipers marched into the dining hall to entertain. They concluded by performing each of the regimental marches for the organisations of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

At the end of the evening our Colonel Commandant, Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE, praised the Brigade for the great work and multiple successes in all areas over the last 12 months. Including the very recent The Royal Gurkha Rifles' successes at the Army Operational Shooting Competition at Bisley. He went on to talk about the importance of our 4 Pillars community of the Gurkha Museum, The Gurkha Welfare Trust, the Gurkha Brigade Association and the serving Brigade. All four play a key role and work together to support the Gurkha brand, serving soldiers and our veterans.

Major General Sitaram Khadka (Nepal Army) visits Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas

By Mr Mick Latter, Head of Communications HQBG

Major General Sitaram Khadka who is the Head of Directorate General of Military Training Nepal Army, was hosted by Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas on the 11th of October at Robertson House at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS). In attendance with the General was Colonel Paul Smith, Commander British Gurkhas Nepal.



Corporal Minbahadur Gurung QOGLR welcoming Major General Sitaram Khadka to HQBG

During the visit he was greeted by the Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas and his staff, and in the afternoon went on to meet the RMAS Commandant, and a tour of the Academy.

In the evening he joined Gurkha Company (Sittang) for messing in their building located in the grounds of Sandhurst. He was given a brief on how the Company support the training of over 1000 Officer Cadets per year from countries from all over the world, including Nepal. He then was given time to socialise with all ranks from Sittang and HQ Brigade of Gurkhas, and enjoy a Nepalese Curry prepared by the Company's very own chef from the Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment.



Major General Sitaram Khadka signing the Gurkha Company (Sittang) visitors book with Colonel Smith (Comd BGN) and Major Ramkumar Rai (OC GC(S)) in attendance



Major General Sitaram Khadka enjoying "Bhat" with GC(S) Staff

Survival Nepali Culture and Language Course 22/02

By Second Lieutenant Alex Combe, 1 RGR

For Survival Nepali Culture and Language Course (SNCLC) number 22/02, 14 British and two Singaporean officers descended upon British Gurkhas Pokhara (BGP) to take on the course, which all new Platoon and Troop Commanders must complete when serving in the Brigade of Gurkhas. With the monsoon drawing to a close, we got stuck straight into the Nepali language guided by our excellent instructors Sergeant Shankar Gurung, Queen's Gurkha Signals and Sergeant David Rai, Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment.

Initial progress was varied. Some of us excelled due to their hard work before the course while others were more a little distracted by the bright lights of Lakeside. However, little by little we all got to grips with 'ho, chha and hunchha' and the basics of the language under the watchful guidance of the SNCLC instructors. Cultural activities included trips to Durbar in Gorkha as well as the Gurkha Museum in Pokhara. Although none of these could top the fantastic Dashain celebrations led by the team at British Gurkhas Pokhara.

Towards the middle of the course came the day many had been dreading, the Doko Race. In the early hours one Autumn Day when the fog meandered sleepily through the steep valleys, the serene morning tranquillity was shattered by the thunderous steps and laboured breathing of the SNCLC course students. In a matter of minutes, Lieutenant Harry Davitt, Queen's Gurkha Engineers crossed the line victorious much to the chagrin of his infantry colleagues. Is he any good with weight I hear you ask? Yes, he clearly is.

In the week following the Doko Race, the students were paired off and sent to various Area Welfare Centre locations around Nepal to practice their language and meet some of local pensioners. It was a memorable experience, and we certainly learned a huge amount. As the course began to draw to a close, the final examination loomed as the culmination of our linguistic venture. After late nights of vocabulary learning and speaking practice, the course was finally complete.

Our minds finally turned towards our duty treks; two weeks in the hills of Nepal visiting pensioners and their families. This was the absolute highlight and a truly unforgettable experience for everyone who took part. While we were all scattered across the country, everyone shared the exact sentiment, and we cannot wait to come back to Nepal.



Suitably attired to absorbing the Nepali Culture

Gurkhas take part in the Festival of Remembrance

By Rifleman Arpan Bista, 2 RFG

Two Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers led eight soldiers from The Second Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles at the Remembrance Festival on the 12th of November 2022, at the Royal Albert Hall, London. It was televised around the world by the BBC.

The Festival of Remembrance is organised by the Royal British Legion, working alongside the BBC to commemorate our fallen heroes in the presence of His Majesty King Charles III, members of the Royal family and other dignitary and politicians, plus a sell-out audience in the auditorium. The event focuses on paying tribute and commemorating our fallen soldiers, officers, marines, sailors and aviators and thanking their families. This event also paid tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II following her death in September 2022, for her glorious reign of 70 years. The event is supported with military musicians from the Royal Corps of Army Music, RAF Music Services and the Royal Marines, plus hundreds of serving personnel. Special guests are invited to take parts as well.

Remembrance is a ritual that unites everyone regardless of their beliefs, religion, social status, or nationality. It gives us a sense of the sacrifice made by our forefathers for us, who are not to be forgotten but always to be remembered. It is to reflect that their sacrifices have not gone in vain but will always be treasured with respect and praise.

As a Gurkha, I have always been proud of our history. From the early 18th century, thousands of Gurkhas have

lost their lives and many others suffered a permanent loss of physical ability. It started from the Kingdom of Greater Nepal to East India, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom; places changed, but their legacy never changed. Battle from Nalapani to Burma, Malaya to the Brunei Revolt, Iraq to Afghanistan; the battlefields may have changed, but never did the fighting spirit. From injury to casualty, casualty to death, an immortal story, the story of courage, the story of Loyalty and the legendary legacy of the Gurkhas.

Brigade of Gurkhas Annual Golf Championship 2022

By Major Dammarbahadur Shahi, RGR

The Brigade of Gurkhas Annual Golf Championship was held on Wednesday the 22nd June at South Winchester Golf Club, and played between 14 teams from the Brigade of Gurkhas Units.



Brigade Golfers

Overall Unit Champion:

- Champion team of the Year 2022 - Gurkha Company Catterick
- Second - Queens Own's Gurkha Logistics Regiment
- Third - The First Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles

Individual Top 5 of the Brigade of Gurkhas:

- 1st - Staff Sergeant Rohit Gurung - Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support
- Second - Sergeant Raju Roka - Gurkha Company Catterick
- Third - Warrant Officer Class Two Prakash Gauchan - The First Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles
- Fourth - Corporal Jhamak Limbu - Gurkha Company (Sittang)
- Fifth - Captain Kumar Purja Pun - Gurkha Company Catterick

Novelty Prizes:

- Nearest to the Pin - Corporal Rabindra Sambahamphe - 10 Queens Own's Gurkha Logistics Regiment
- Nearest to the Pin 2nd Approach - Corporal Benoy Gurung - 249 Squadron, 3 Signal Regiment
- Longest Drive - Corporal Rabindra Sambahamphe - 10 Queens Own's Gurkha Logistics Regiment
- Most Walk Golfer - Warrant Officer Class Two Sanjay Raj - Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas

THE ROYAL GURKHA RIFLES



Regimental Battle Honours

History

Amboor, Carnatic, Mysore, Assaye, Ava, Bhurtpure, 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 Major General GM Strickland DSO MBE BA (Hons) psc(j)
Regimental Secretary Major (Retd) B McKay MBE

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)

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

Colonel, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, General
Commanding 6th (United Kingdom) Division

Dep Head, DI CA Land, MOD

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 Directorate,
Army HQ

Commandant, School of Infantry, Warminster

Officers of RGR

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

Lt Col N J Aucott MA

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)

A/Lt Col A Blackmore BSc, MEd

A/Lt Col C P A E Bairsto BSc

A/Lt Col P A Houlton-Hart BEng(Hons)

A/Lt Col D P O'Connor

A/Lt Col Rajeshkumar Gurung

SO1 Comd Plans, LWC, Warminster

COS, BDILS, Washington DC

SO1 Prog, HQ Field Army

CO, 1 RGR

BMM Sang, Saudi Arabia

SO1 CTS, HQ Field Army

CO, UOTC Exeter

CO, 2 RGR

SO1, J3 Lands OPS, PJHQ

CO, ATFC Winchester

SO1 Parliamentary Engagement, Army Staff London

CO, IBS Brecon

LS BMM SANG, Saudi Arabia

Overseas Staff Courses, Virginia, America

Student, ACSC

Student, ACSC

COS, HQ BGN

Maj M J James BSc(Hons)

Maj B G Birkbeck

Maj N R Lloyd BSc

Maj Chandrabadahur Pun

Maj Prembahadur Gurung MBE

Maj Hemkumar Tamang

Maj R E Morford MEng (Hons)

Maj Muktiprasad Gurung MVO

Maj S T Meadows BA(Hons)

Maj J S Marden

Maj Rajkumar Rai

SO2 J7 Plans, NATO, MNC NE, Poland

SO2 Assurance, The Sandhurst, Group

COS, HQBG

SO2 Individual Training Policy, Army HQ

SO2 T and E, HQ ETG

2IC, ATG, ATFC

Bn 2IC, 1 RGR

QM, BATSUB

Directing Staff, ICSC(L), Shrivenham

Bn 2IC, 2 RGR

OC, Gurkha Company, (TAVOLETO), SWS,
Warminster

XO, UOTC Oxford

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

OC, JWD, Brunei

SO2, G3/G5, HQ 77 Bde

OC, Gurkha Coy (Sittang), RMAS

Directing Staff, ICSC(L), Shrivenham

DCOS Watchkeeper Force, HQ WKF

OC, A Coy, 1 RGR

OC, F Coy, 2 RANGER Bn, Aldershot

GM, BGN

OC, Trg Sp (Babaji) Coy, ITC Sp Bn, Catterick

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

Maj J Devall

Maj A E Genillard

Maj Rajankumar Badgami

Maj Dillikumar Rai MVO

Maj J England	Student, Overseas Staff Course, Germany
Maj T E B Latham	SO2, Force Dev, 77 Bde
Maj J K Armstrong	OC, A Coy, 2 RGR
Maj Sanjipkumar Rai MVO	GM, 2 RGR
Maj H Gardner-Clarke	A Block, MOD
Maj C J Schroeder MA	SO2 Commitments, ICSC, Shrivenham
Maj Subas Gurung	SO2, Dismounted Close Combat, HQ Fd Army
Maj Babindra Gurung	OC, TSD, IBS Brecon
Maj Ganeshkumar Rai	OC, HQ Coy, 2 RGR
Maj C L J Collins BA(Hons)	SO2, J7 TRG, NATO, Italy
Maj C F D Diamond	OC, CTLO, Kuala Lumpur
Maj G G Davies	COS, RHQ SGSG
Maj J A Millar	OC, C Coy, 1 RGR
Maj W J D Patrick BA(Hons)	SO2, CT and UK Ops, MOD
Maj Nawalkiran Yakha	SO2 G1 Ops, HQ 11 Inf Bde and HQ SE Bde
Maj C R Jones	SO2, J5, PJHQ
A/Maj M F Barney BA(Hons)	OC, Gurkha Coy, ITC Catterick
A/Maj Krishnaprasad Loksam	OC HQ Coy, 1 RGR
A/Maj Lalitbahadur Gurung (9323)	QM, 1 RGR
A/Maj Som Thulung	OC, Sp Coy, 1 RGR
A/Maj P O V Lambert	OC BGP, Nepal
A/Maj W P Reeve BSc(Hons)	SO2, E&C, Army HQ, Andover
Capt J P Christy	SO3, G5 Plans, HQ 7 Inf Bde
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 Chhatraman Limbu Lingthep	SO3, TF Hannibal, CRTIC EXECUTE
Capt Giri Prasad Gurung	RCMO, 1 RGR
Capt C R Boote	MOD, A Bloc
Capt Belbahadur Gurung	2IC, Mandalay Coy, IBS Brecon
Capt Genendra Rai	MTO, 2 RGR
Capt Vijayprakash Subba Limbu	2IC, Gurkha Company, ITC Catterick
Capt Bahadur Budha Magar	UWO, 1 RGR
Capt Shreeman Limbu	QM (T), 2 RGR
Capt Bhaktaprasad Sherchan	QM (T), 1 RGR
Capt W P Reeve BSc(Hons)	Student, DCLS, Shrivenham
Capt S J Marshall	Adj, 2 RGR
Capt T W C Hunter BA(Hons)	SO3 G3, HQ Field Army
Capt Jiwanprasad Gurung	QGOO/SO3 Plans, HQBG
Capt Suresh Sambahamphe	RCMO, 2 ITB, ITC Catterick
Capt Sangam Rai	RCMO, 2 RGR
Capt Prem Shreesh	SO3, 2 ITB, ITC Catterick
Capt J G Adamson	SO3 Policy, Int, Comms & Engagement, MOD
Capt J R Dick BSc(Hons)	Adj, 1 RGR
Capt O C H Goldfinger	MOD, A Block
Capt Kailash Khebang Limbu	UWO, 1 PWRR
Capt Padambahadur Gurung	MTO, 1 RGR
Capt D R Carter BSc(Hons)	SO3 J3 OPS, HQ 16 AA Bde
Capt T P Gardner BSc(Hons)	UK Exchange Officer, The Royal Military College, Australia
Capt Bikash Gurung	2IC, F Coy, 2 RANGER Bn, Aldershot
Capt Tarjan Gurung	ACI Plans, Trg Staff, RMAS
Capt Imbahadur Ghale	2IC, Sp Coy, 1 RGR
Capt S L Sears BA(Hons)	MOD, A Block
Capt S G Bird BA(Hons)	Pl Comd, RMAS

Capt C F Cavell	Instr, SWS, Warminster
Capt A P B McWilliam BA(Hons)	MOD, A Block
Capt Shivakumar Rai	2IC, B Coy, 2 RGR
Capt Lakhbahadur Gurung	2IC, A Coy, 2 RGR
Capt Madankumar Jimi	2IC, Sp Coy, 2 RGR
Capt Basanta Rai	2IC, G Coy, 4 RANGER Bn, Aldershot
Capt Santoshkumar Rai	MTO, IBS, Warminster
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	Pl Comd, Mandalay Coy, IBS Brecon
Capt E D Hicks BA(Hons)	SO3 Media Ops, Army Comms, Army HQ
Capt Deepak Kumar Gurung	Trg Offr, 2 R ANGLIAN
Capt Narbir Galami	2IC, A Coy, 1 RGR
Capt Arunhang Nembang	Pl Comd, Gurkha Coy (Sittang), RMAS
Capt Bhupendra Gaha	2IC, B Coy, 1 RGR
Capt Santosh Rai	2Ic, C Coy, 2 RGR
Capt Basantakumar Rai	SO3, CIS, ETG, Warminster
Capt Ramkumar Serpuja Pun	2IC, C Coy, 1 RGR
Capt D W-I Dewick BA(Hons)	OC BTT, Shorncliffe
Capt W C Rushworth BA(Hons)	ADC, GOC, HQ, 6 UK Div, Upavon
Capt R K Weale BA(Hons)	Student, London School of Economics
Capt J J Hogg BA(Hons)	Trg Offr, 1 RGR
Capt N F Pollinger	SO3, INTORT, HQ, 6 UK Div, Upavon
Capt B A S Atkinson BA(Hons)	Int Offr, 2 RGR
Capt T G Washington Smith BSc	Team Leader, G Coy, 4 RANGER Bn, Aldershot
Capt R Cannon BA(Hons)	Ops/Coord Offr, BGP
Capt T H J Parsons BSc(Hons)	Int Offr, 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	Trg Offr, Gurkha Coy, ITC Catterick
Capt Mukunda Rajali	Pl Comd, Gurkha Coy, ITC Catterick
Capt Surendra Tamang	Pl Comd, A Coy, 2 RGR
Capt Cholanath Limbu	Tp Comd, Close Support Troop, 14 Sqn, Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn
Capt Nishan Gurung	Team Leader, G Coy, 4 RANGER Bn, Aldershot
Capt Bhimbahadur Gurung	Pl Comd, C Coy, 1 RGR
Capt Govinda Gurung	Pl Comd, A Coy, 1 RGR
Capt Sombahadur Chhantel Magar	Pl Comd, B Coy, 1 RGR
Capt Sanjib Rai	Pl Comd, C Coy, 2 RGR
Capt T B L Wood BSc(Hons)	Pl Comd, MMG Pln, Sp Coy, 2 RGR
Capt P D F Foster BSc(Hons)	Team Leader, F Coy, 2 RANGER Bn, Aldershot
Capt A GJ Baker BA(Hons)	Team Leader, F Coy, 2 RANGER Bn, Aldershot
Capt C Fraser BA(Hons)	RSO, 1 RGR
Capt A W Fall BSc(Hons)	OC ATk Pln, Sp Coy, 1 RGR
Lt L M Whyatt	Pl Comd, Gurkha Coy, ITC Catterick
Lt D Hamill BA(Hons)	Pl Comd, Recce Pl, Sp Coy, 1 RGR
Lt J M Howlett BA(Hons)	Team Leader, G Coy, 4 RANGER Bn, Aldershot
Lt A P Cousins BA(Hons)	Team Leader, G Coy, 4 RANGER Bn, Aldershot
Lt F N Kingdon BA(Hons)	Pl Comd, Recce Pl, Sp Coy, 2 RGR
Lt T J Moore BA(Hons)	RSO, 2 RGR
Lt M T Bennett BSc(Hons)	Pl Comd, MMG Pl, Sp Coy, 1 RGR
Lt M A Emmott BA(Hons)	Pl Comd, Mor Pl, Sp Coy, 2 RGR
Lt R C St C Logan	Pl Comd, Mor Pl, Sp Coy, 1 RGR
Lt M H A Pilkington BA(Hons)	Pl Comd, Atk Pl, Sp Coy, 2 RGR
Lt A H C Atkins BA(Hons)	Pl Comd, A Coy, 1 RGR

Lt G D C Summerton BA(Hons)
 Lt S H Williams
 Lt O G Blofeld BA(Hons)
 Lt B J O Gartland BA(Hons)
 Lt G A C Patterson BA(Hons)
 2Lt J R Hazelden
 2Lt T A D Last BA(Hons)
 2Lt G F Counsell BA(Hons)
 2Lt T Pennington
 2Lt A Jacob MA
 2Lt A J Combe BA(Hons)
 2Lt M C Roche BA(Hons)
 2Lt L Jennings MSc(Hons)
 2Lt D Z Johnston BA(Hons)
 2Lt P N Rex BA(Hons)
 2Lt E J Chalmers MA
 2Lt H K J Clarke

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

Attached and Seconded Officers

1 RGR

Maj J Black
 Maj S Makin RAMC
 Capt Sumit Joshi AGC (SPS)
 Lt G Hemblett SPS
 Mr Bhishma Niraula Civilian

OC, Coy, 1 RGR
 RMO
 RAO
 AGC Det Commander
 Religious Teacher

2 RGR

Maj D Sharp RIFLES
 Maj A Mclachlan RAMC
 Capt Bijay Limbu GSPS
 Lt A Austin SPS
 Maj T Cummings SCOTS
 Maj A Emerson R ANGLIAN
 Maj B Collier LANCS
 Mr Shankarmani Nepal Civilian

QM
 RMO
 RAO
 AGC Det Comd
 OC B Coy
 OC C Coy
 OC D Coy
 Religious Teacher

1 RGR - Battalion Update

After an exceptionally busy five years' operating in 16 Air Assault BCT, 2022 marked a period of change for 1 RGR as the Bn began to focus, finally, on its long-anticipated move back to Brunei. Despite this the Bn has still achieved a huge amount of training and operational activity in both the UK and Brunei.

The Bn entered the year on readiness for Op ELGIN as the UK's Strategic Reserve Force, a battlegroup held at readiness for deployment to Kosovo in support of NATO forces there, following on from 1 RGR's Bn-level deployment to the Balkans in Autumn 2021. Despite this background operational focus there remained a high tempo of training activity in the first months of the year, with B Coy deploying to Cyprus for Ex LION SUN and A Coy running a particularly gruelling Junior Leadership

Cadre for Intake 19 in abysmal weather in Otterburn. Support to wider Bde operations also continued, with OC C Coy leading a small STTT to Jordan to teach the Combat Estimate.

With the move to Brunei approaching rapidly, however, the Bn's primary training focus was on delivering a Bn-level training exercise before the move to Brunei, given the difficulty of achieving this within the annual cycle of Coy and Bn commitments in Asia. Ex KUKRI WARRIOR, run throughout the whole of March, saw an initial rotation of Coy-level blank and live firing exercises in Brecon, Caerwent and Corsham Mines, overseen by a well-resourced Bn HQ training cell. After a brief reset in Folkestone, the whole Bn re-deployed to Salisbury Plain for a final exercise. Entirely self-

resourced and planned, with a mobile, free-playing enemy, the exercise saw 1 RGR conduct a series of advance-to-contacts from east to west across the plain, culminating in a Bn attack on Imber Village and subsequent defence of the village. The exercise provided an invaluable opportunity to test every part of the Bn, including our Headquarters, support weapons platoons and Echelon elements.



The CO delivers a Battalion Orders Group on Salisbury Plain during Ex KUKRI WARRIOR

2022 had plenty of highs for 1 RGR but also its fair share of lows. In April the Bn was struck with shock and grief after the tragic death of LCpl Milan Thapa Chohan. The news of his death hit the Bn like a thunderbolt, as he was a much-loved and respected member of the Pipes and Drums and the Bn's longstanding Bass Drummer. Moments like these demonstrate the power of the Gurkha bond, as the Bn pulled together for each other and for Milan's family. Milan was buried in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery at a funeral attended by the whole Bn, Milan's family, and hundreds of numberis, friends and colleagues from across the Bde of Gurkhas.



The Bn and hundreds of family and friends gathered at Shorncliffe Military Cemetery for the funeral of LCpl Milan Thapa Chohan

Normal life continued, however, and 1 RGR's preparations for the Unit Move became the focus. An advance team was deployed to Brunei to prepare for the Bn's arrival and begin delivering a jungle induction cadre for the Coys, called Ex JUNGLE GURUJI. Back in

the UK our Bn shooting team achieved huge success at the Army Operational Shooting Competition, winning the overall team competition alongside a host of silverware and, on top of this, securing another Queen's Medal for the Bn through Sgt Dhanprasad Ghale of Sniper Pl. The Bn also bid farewell to the CO, Lt Col Edd Oldfield, prior to its departure to Brunei and his move to the LOC in HQ Fd Army. Over the course of the summer the Bn was dispersed between Folkestone and Brunei, with groups of soldiers moving, taking leave, and beginning their jungle induction cadres in sequence.



The 2022 Queen's Medallist, Sgt Dhanprasad Ghale, on the victorious team's return to Folkestone



The OpsWO, WO2 Shishir Gharti Chhetri, delivering basic jungle lessons on Ex JUNGLE GURUJI in Brunei

On arrival in Brunei, however, 1 RGR was met with tragedy once again as we came to terms with the death of A Coy's Cpl Navin Thapa Magar, killed in a training accident in the Brunei jungle on exercise. The Bn bid him farewell on his journey back to his family in Nepal at a poignant ramp ceremony held at Rimba Air Base, followed by a memorial service in the mandir at Tuger Lines after his funeral in Nepal.

In the meantime, the Bn began to settle back into its role in Brunei. Jungle cadres continued as the Bn refreshed its basic skills, while we also deployed teams on a steady drumbeat of regional tasks. A team of four jungle instructors deployed to Fiji on Ex CARTWHEEL, a multinational exercise alongside Fijian, Australian and

New Zealand Defence Forces as well as a Coy from the US 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii, hopefully opening opportunities for a larger scale deployment in the future. Shortly afterwards a team led by the new Det Comd, Lt Glen Hamblett, deployed to Ex SUMAN PROTECTOR in Singapore, a collaborative Five Powers Defence Agreement planning exercise.



Capt Som Chhantel Magar teaching survival skills to multinational partners on Ex CARTWHEEL in Fiji

In Brunei the Bn bade farewell to 667 Sqn AAC, and sixty years of Army Aviation in Brunei, as the Sqn stood down and retired the Bell 212s that generations of RGR officers will be familiar with. At the same time, we welcomed the incoming 1563 (Viper) Flight RAF, with their three Puma helicopters, as they began to establish their new presence in country. Although sad to see the last of the Bells, 1 RGR and British Forces Brunei have already received fantastic support from Viper Flight, and we are looking forward to their permanent arrival in Medicina Lines from their current temporary home at Rimba Air Base.



The Garrison held a Remembrance Service at the Gurkha Cemetery in Kuala Belait, attended by Maj Gen T Bateman, GOC 1(UK)XX

1 RGR was able to celebrate a historic achievement when the Gurkha Major, Maj Rajesh Gurung, was pulled from the role early to take over as Chief of Staff BGK as an Acting Lt Col. His tow out, always an auspicious event, was especially so when Rajesh Saheb was presented with his Lt Col rank slide by a junior

soldier at the front gate, the first RGR LE Officer to achieve such a promotion in decades. We wish him and Memsahab all the best for their tour in Nepal.



The outgoing GM, A/Lt Col Rajesh Gurung, being presented with his rank slide by a junior Rfn on his tow out

2022 has presented challenges to 1 RGR on several fronts, however the Bn is glad to be back in Brunei after such a protracted absence and to be presented with all the opportunities that service here provides. A huge proportion of the Bn was able to go on Nepal leave over Christmas after five years of readiness and COVID that tied many to the UK, including the 38 Rfn of Recruit Intake 22, recently arrived from Catterick. The forecast for 2023 is already full of opportunities, with a JLC planned in New Zealand, deployments to Australia, Thailand, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Japan, and South Korea all already on the horizon.

Jai 1 RGR!

2 RGR - Battalion Update

A (AMBOOR) Coy

A full, fast paced, and challenging 2022 began with A (AMBOOR) Coy putting the newest Rfn from Recruit Induction Cadre 21 (RIC 21) through their paces in the Jungle environment during Ex KALI PERTAMA. The 2IC, Capt Lakh Bahadur Gurung, cast his sharp eye over the newest recruits and former JWD instructor and PC1, Capt Surendra Tamang, instructed the boys on everything from how to move through the jungle without ground sign to camp attacks. With such expert instruction, all Officers new to the jungle environment were directed to participate, with Cpl Dawa Sherpa famously undertaking the most rigid of kit checks for every Major in attendance!

As RIC 21 came to an end, another cadre immediately began. It was the moment every Rfn from Intake 19 had been waiting for with equal amounts of anticipation and trepidation and in March 21, JLC22 began at Jerudong Camp. The cadre took in all elements of military skills, command and leadership and fitness, testing the



On exercise in the jungle. 1 RGR has a host of regional deployments and exercises lined up for 2023

soldiers and stretching them in all aspects. A Coy's Rfn Tembhang Tumbapo performed excellently and was awarded Top Student, earning promotion to LCpl and the honour of being the Commanding Officer's Orderly.

Following Easter leave, A Coy once again threw themselves into the jungle, achieving Alpha, Bravo and Charlie validation and testing themselves in Area B and Area C. With a number of Cpls on career courses or supporting wider Bn activities, this training provided the perfect opportunity for many of the younger Rfn to step up and test their leadership ability in arduous terrain. The final flourish in the jungle ahead of the Unit Move came in support of D Coy's Sp Wpn and Recce Cadres, with a final 10km jungle insertion march culminating in a camp attack. Upon return, A Coy hosted 11X Comd, Brig Cattermole, with Cpl Ajaya Tamrakar impressing him with survival methods and unexpected local "delicacies" that he won't forget for a long time!

With the Unit Move in full swing, Maj Jon Armstrong assumed command of the Coy from Maj Jon Black, who stayed in Brunei to assume command of B Coy, 1 RGR. Upon return to the UK, A Coy immediately began build-up training for their deployment to Romania on Ex SARMIS, with Ex AMBOOR LION and Coy-level LFTT providing the opportunity to adapt to a new environment outside of the jungle. Alongside his Pl Sgt duties, Sgt Megh Thapa worked tirelessly as UDO. His hard work shortened a process that would usually take six months to two, and he was often found among a mountain of customs documents. From one mountain to another, Sep arrived and the Coy deployed to Brasov Mountain Training Area for Ex SARMIS 22 and the Coy's first test in mountainous warfare. In testing climatic conditions and steep ascents, A Coy performed admirably, surviving with minimal resupply, and fighting a free-thinking enemy that tested the Coy's patience as much as their tactics by avoiding contact with our forces wherever possible. Despite this the Coy dominated the high ground, restricted the enemy's freedom of movement, and seized fleeting opportunities with ambushes and surgical raids followed up with

a final FIWAF attack. The OTX concluded and, after the mandatory DV and cultural days, the Rfn took the advantage to explore Brasov and Bucharest, immersing themselves in the culture and history of a former Soviet-Bloc nation with museum visits and cultural tours. That's if you believe their version of events...

As A Coy returned to the UK in Oct, we celebrated a belated Dashain and former CSM Capt Jitendra Tamang's commissioning. There was no let-up in training as Capt Surendra Tamang organised Ex AMBOOR LION 2, testing the Rfn in navigation and robustness.

2022 has proved to be a fantastic year for A Coy, with many more exciting challenges to look forward to in 2023. With Jan 23 already seeing the deployment of four JNCOs to Norway on the Cold Weather Instructors Course, Capt Lakh Gurung leading the RIC22 and the Bn preparing for LFTT and eventual validation as the lead element of the 16AABCT Global Response Force, A Coy is looking forward to raising its wolfpack mentality to the next level.

B (GALLIPOLI) Coy

2022 has been an exciting year for B (Gallipoli) Coy, delivering a huge variety of training and conducting the Unit Move back to the UK. The year began with the arrival of Recruit Intake 21 who launched straight into their Induction Cadre. The package, designed to introduce the new Rfn to life in 2 RGR, taught them the skills required to operate in the jungle environment. It culminated with the Kasam Khane parade, a proud moment that saw RI21 formally welcomed into the 2 RGR and B Coy family.



No better tool, Rfn Raj Kumar Limbu demonstrates the use of his Kukri on Ex PACIFIC KUKRI 22

In late February after years of preparation and Covid delays, B Coy deployed to Australia on Exercise PACIFIC KUKRI 22 (Ex PK 22). Supported by elements from Recce, Anti-Tank, Machine Gun, Sniper, Mortar and Pioneer Platoons, Ex PK 22 was the largest overseas exercise 2 RGR has deployed on since 2019. The exercise consisted

of both Live Fire Tactical Training and Blank Firing, beginning with section attacks by day and night and building up to a series of complex and dynamic Coy operations. Ex PK22 concluded with a well-deserved R&R package following the demanding exercise. A ferry journey to a nearby island gave B Coy personnel the opportunity to snorkel with turtles on the Great Barrier Reef. Despite Covid outbreaks, flooding, and high temperatures, EX PK 22 was a memorable and hugely successful exercise for all personnel who took part and prepared us well for the move to 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team in July 2022. On return from Australia, B Coy's efforts shifted to Champion Company Competition 22. Across a wide variety of events, from football to the infamous Sittang race, B Coy personnel gave their absolute all. Despite close competition in all events, B Coy continued their reign as Champion Company, winning for the 2nd consecutive year.

In the summer of 2022, B Coy flew to the UK as part of 2 RGR's Unit Move. On arrival, our efforts focussed on fine-tuning the skills required to be part of the Army's highest readiness Bde. The soldiering skills required to operate in the jungle have proven to be a solid foundation from which to build, and the Coy quickly adapted to overcome the challenges involved. Alongside learning new skills and almost immediately, B Coy took on the role of the UK's Standby Battalion (UKSB), held at very high readiness and ready to deploy within the UK on request of the civil authorities. This role required that we develop a wide range of new skills including police liaison and the setting up of flood defences. Alongside this commitment, almost half of the Coy completed Adventurous Training courses, including parachuting, climbing, caving and multi-activity.

The end of 2022 saw us deploy on a range of Blank Fire exercises in the UK, using facilities which had not been available in Brunei. The nearby Hythe ranges have not only provided B Coy personnel the opportunity to spend time on the range fine-tuning their marksmanship across the variety of weapons systems the Coy uses, but also provides a large urban complex from which dynamic serials can test the mental agility of the Coy. B Coy also deployed on Ex Gallipoli Warrior in Corsham Mines Training Area, an environment unfamiliar to the majority of the Coy. The underground complex consists of tunnels created in the 1950's as the threat of nuclear war loomed. The tunnels became an underground facility for the potential relocation of Government in time of crisis, but since it's declassification in 2004 has provided a unique environment B Coy utilised to develop its ability to fight in complete darkness.

As 2022 comes to an end, B Coy concentrate their efforts towards Ex Wessex Storm, 2 RGR's validation Exercise for taking on the role of Air Manoeuvre Battle Group 1 (AMBG1) in 2023. B Coy look forward to January, where those from Recruit Intake 22 destined to join the Coy will be welcomed formally into the family. Particular

congratulations this year go to Capt Shiva Rai who earned the Slim Award, and Cpl Rajesh Chemjong who was awarded a GOC's Commendation. An exciting year now draws to a close with a great deal to look forward to in 2023.

C (TAMANDU) Company

2022 has been another year of globetrotting for C (TAMANDU) Company with time divided between Brunei, Folkestone and an OTX to France. On top of this C Company has had personnel in Papa New Guinea, Australia, and Romania on STTTs and exercise.

The year started with some Company level exercises aimed at prepping the Company's Intake 19 for their upcoming Junior Leadership Cadre (JLC). The cadre itself took place in February and March and was run by C Company, this saw the majority of the Company spending 8 weeks living in Penenjong Garrison and large periods of time deployed into the jungle to support the JLCs formative and summative exercises. For many this was a last opportunity to train in the Jungle after 5 years in Brunei. Despite being a sweaty and insect filled environment, C Company have very much made themselves at home "in the trees" and will severely miss the 9 hours uninterrupted sleep in their hammocks each night.

Champion Company Competition 22' came shortly after JLC with C Company competing competitively across all events but thriving in Basketball and Football where the Company was victorious.

In June C Company was the first Company to move back to Sir John Moore Barrack's as part of 2 RGR's unit move back to the UK that took place during the summer. The early arrival allowed C Company to settle back into life in 16 AABCT and prepare for a non-stop second half of the year. Ex TAMANDU WARRIOR 1 in early September took place on the local Cinque Port training area and provided the opportunity to reintroduce conventional war fighting skills in a rural environment after so many years in Brunei for many of the Company. Ex TAMANDU WARRIOR 2 followed a few weeks later and was the first opportunity for C Company to turn its attention to our main focus for the year, urban warfare. 5 days in Eastmere Village on Thetford training area allowed C Company to progress from section to platoon skills in the urban environment, before culminating with a series of Company level defensive and offensive actions, for many in C Company the first time working as a complete Company in some time.

Ex TAMANDU TUNNEL exposed C Company to yet another environment, the three days spent at Corsham Mines training area was a unique exposure to subterranean warfare. The cramped, complex, and completely dark environment honed the Company's ability to work using Night Vision and communicate clearly in chaotic environments. The exercise also saw

Chief of Staff Field Army Major General Colin Wier DSO CBE visit which was a great success.

Ex PEGASUS FLIGHT was the first opportunity for C Company to trial its Air Assault Skills. The exercise took place over the course of one day, testing the Company's command group with a hasty planning cycle. The Company was then collected by Chinook from SJMB football pitches and flown onto the objective, a novel experience for many of the younger soldiers, although many grins were replaced with slightly green grimaces as the realities of flight sickness set in.

The grand finale of 2022 was Ex GAULISH, a 2-week OTX to France which took place in the highly impressive CENZUB training area which contains two large, modern, and very realistic urban centres. The C Company group of 180 which deployed included personal from all support weapon platoons, as well as Engineers from 70 Para Engineer Squadron, a section from 1 Military Working Dogs and a Fire Support Team from 4 Para RHA. CENZUB is centred around the Town of JEOFFRECOURT a high-rise residential area complete with railway station and hospital. Once deployed C Company faced a sophisticated armoured opposing force who stretched the company's urban skills and challenged their ability to fight against tanks and armoured fighting vehicles. The time in France also afforded the Company the opportunity to spend a day in Paris. While the Eiffel tower was unsurprisingly the most popular destination, a close second was the Paris St Germain football stadium, the team seems to have the support of at least half of C Company!



C Coy on Ex GAULISH in CENZUB, France

A busy and thoroughly enjoyable year for C (TAMANDU) Company. With a well-earned Christmas leave complete, C Company's attention turns to welcoming Intake 22' and preparing for Ex WESSEX STORM a Battalion level exercise in April. Jai C (TAMANDU) Company.

D (IMPHAL) Company

The most obvious change for Imphal Company this year was the change of name from 'Support' to 'D' Company. This followed the Commanding Officer's direction to generate 2 RGR's fourth manoeuvre company and his mantra that support weapons are the Battalion's winning capabilities: They don't exist to support Rifle Coy manoeuvre – the smart application of these weapons should be our main effort.

OC D Coy

2022 has seen Imphal Coy employed on tasks covering the full spectrum of military activity. From conducting a Battle Group attack in the jungle on Exercise KUKRI THUNDER, to providing medical testing assistance to the Bruneian Ministry of Health (Op ICARUS). We have maintained troops at readiness for our UK Standby Battalion role, whilst concurrently providing troops to support to civilian authorities coordinating the lying-in state of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (Op BALLAM). We have conducted a specialist weapons cadre to reinforce all platoons, and we have tested new methods of warfighting on Ex IMPHAL WARRIOR. That brief synopsis probably doesn't cover half of what has been achieved, but it does highlight how impressively flexible our soldiers have been. Below is a short summary of activity conducted in 2022 from each platoon. Reconnaissance Platoon, D Coy

Recce Platoon has had a characteristically busy 2022. The year started with the Platoon simultaneously aiding the Bruneian Ministry of Health during Op ICARUS at the height of the COVID pandemic, whilst supporting B Coy on Ex PACIFIC KUKRI in Australia. On return from OTX and with the easing of lockdown restrictions, the platoon's reinforcement cadre was highly successful. We welcomed three of the finest Rfn from across the battalion, who are now a central part of our team.

Recce Platoon expertise were called upon as the advance party for the 2 RGR Unit move from Brunei, setting the conditions for the smooth passage of taking over Sir John Moore Barracks. On arrival back in the UK, Recce Platoon's pace did not relent. Supporting on Ex PEGASUS FLIGHT and Ex AMBOOR LION in the UK, as well as overseas exercises in Romania and France. We continue to be at the forefront of the Bn's output.

Anti-Tank Platoon, D Coy

2022 has been a very busy and diverse year for the ATk Pl. The Brunei tour ended with an unforgettable bang on Ex PACIFIC KUKRI; firing four NLAW and two Javelin missiles. We welcomed four new members to the Pl from the Cadre '22, further firing five NLAWs and one Javelin as part of the cadre's live fire training package. This was a momentous experience and a fitting testament to the Pl before returning to the UK and starting the next chapter. With global events in the forefront of our

minds, the Pl started developing new TTPs and with new assets on hand to get to grips and master for Ex IMPHAL WARRIOR. The Pl took to the skies supporting Ex PEGASUS FLIGHT, a first chance for many in a Chinook and adding a new perspective of what we can achieve. The urban exercise Ex GAULISH proved a new hunting ground for the ATk Pl. Training alongside our NATO allies, members from ATk Pl proved a formidable fighting force at the spear tip of every action. From the jungle of Brunei to a concrete jungle in France, ATk Pl has had a great year and is looking forward to what the future has in store.

Machine Gun Platoon, D Coy

2022 has been a busy yet successful year for MG Pl which began with the training of nine new gunners on the MG Cadre and our final farewell to the Ulu of Brunei. Once the Pl had regrouped in the UK, there was little time between feet hitting the ground and our first MG det heading out the door to Romania on Ex SARMIS in support of the NATO training mission in Eastern Europe. The challenging mountain terrain presented new challenges and considerations for our gunners and was a fantastic opportunity to develop new TTPs. Simultaneous to this, a second gun det deployed to Otterburn to support the GCC LFTT FTX and inspire some future gunners in the making. As one section returned, another departed, and this time to CENZUB, France on Ex GAULISH WARRIOR. With dominating buildings and operating with a combined arms enemy this was a fantastic opportunity for those involved. Outside of exercises the Pl has done some incredible work including the raising of over £2000 for the RBL poppy appeal and three gold medals on Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL. A great year setting the foundations for an even better year ahead.

Mortar Platoon, D Coy

The Mortar Pl started off their year in Australia, with a section deployed on Ex PACIFIC KUKRI. Putting five years of training in Brunei's jungle to good use, flash floods and adverse weather conditions were not enough to hamper IDF support. Immediately following this, six new mortarmen were trained during the Mortar Cadre with their skills put to the test on Ex KUKRI THUNDER, our last training exercise in the jungle environment. Upon returning to duty in the UK half of the platoon were deployed on Op BALLAM to support HRH Queen Elizabeth's lying-in state. This provided the Mortar Pl with a completely new challenge and the opportunity to be part of a truly historic event. Meanwhile, the second half of the Pl were preparing to deploy to Romania on Ex SARMIS. This NATO training exercise enabled the Mortar Pl to live fire in a gruelling mountainous environment, with demonstrations put on for Romanian special forces. Notably, two mortarmen successfully passed P Coy in preparation for our transition to 16 Brigade, a huge achievement. The Mortar Pl finished the

year in CENZUB, France on EX GAULISH WARRIOR. The urban environment and peer+ enemy allowed the Platoon to develop their dispersal TTPs and fire and manoeuvre capability.

Pioneer Platoon/Pipes and Drums Platoon, D Coy

Asslt Pnr/P&D Pl was heavily involved in both pioneer and ceremonial activities throughout the year of 2022. Pioneers deployed on Ex PACIFIC KUKRI (Australia) with B coy, built main defensive positions on Ex KUKRI THUNDER, constructed a jungle village for the visit of 11X Comd and conducted works to upgrade the old magazine guard to an urban training facility. Before completing the Unit move to the UK, the Pipers and Drummers in the Platoon executed a number of high-profile performances including Defence Engagement events in Singapore, and a performing for HRH The Sultan of Brunei during his official visit to 2 RGR. Op BRIDGE presented a huge opportunity for our musicians to parade in front of a global audience as they formed part of the ceremonial event marking the funeral of HRH Queen Elizabeth II. Another Royal performance was given to Princess Anne during the Falklands War 40th anniversary event.

Sniper Platoon, D Coy

Sniper Platoon started the year by swapping their rifles for swabbing kits as they conducted COVID testing on Op ICARUS. The gruelling 10-week Sniper Operator Cadre followed this and completed the training of the next generation of 2 RGR snipers prior to the unit move. Since being in the UK the Sniper Platoon has been heavily involved in Ex GAULISH (an OTX with C Coy) as well as the new warfighting concept development. This included working as part of a Recce Group on Ex IMPHAL WARRIOR, and the trialling of a new equipment.

CSS (CASSINO) Company

With the end of COVID restrictions and a Unit Move looming in front of us, 2022 felt like the start of a new journey, a time of optimism, and to make the most of every opportunity.

One of the first opportunities that we grasped was Ex CASSINO WARRIOR in February, a Jungle exercise in Brunei to keep CSS Company current and competent in the skills and tactics of jungle warfare. We refreshed our knowledge on jungle survival, practised jungle navigation in the thick vegetation as well as various patrols. Unlike rifle companies it is rare for the entirety of CSS company to deploy at the same time, so it is somewhat special when it happens. The exercise ended with CSS Company conducting a Company dawn attack. These exercises give the members of CSS Company a chance to train in a combat role which is what being a soldier is all about.



CSS Coy in 'Defensive Action' during Ex CASSINO WARRIOR

Another opportunity afforded to the Coy, due to decreasing COVID restrictions, was to participate in the time-honoured competition between the Coys in 2 RGR, the Champion Company Competition. The competition consists of different sports and military events. All the companies give their all to be named the "Champion Company". CSS company was able to get 1st place in Military Skills, an event where participants are tested on military knowledge, weapons handling, and their ability to deal with a casualty. It not only tests the knowledge but the calmness in the chaos that can only come with practice and experience. Another memorable moment from the Champion Company was the comeback of CSS Company in the football. Even with a rough start of losses the CSS team never lost hope and brought out an amazing performance, displaying fierce fighting spirit, going on to become the runner-up.

Concurrently, we also had the Unit Move at the back of our minds. Having to leave Brunei, which we had called home for the last five years was disheartening, but returning to the UK and Sir John Moore Barracks, our home ground, and all the opportunities that lay in front of us meant that all of us were excited at the same time.

Once we got back to the UK, we began to prepare for Ex WESSEX STORM and to be a part of 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team. To ensure the BG planning cycle is in good order, command and staff training exercises are conducted every year. We conducted Ex KUKURI CONTROL 1 and 2 in Sep and Dec 2022 respectively. One of the main tasks of CSS company is to facilitate the BG Planning Cycle. With the help of Signal Platoon, the preparation and confirmatory exercise of all the FFR Land Rovers are done and a planning tent is set up to accommodate the battalions planning team, which involves members from the HQ, Int Cell, Ops Cell, A1 and A2 Echelon, Engineers, iHUB and other BG members. All the members train in how to work together effectively and efficiently. These exercises test 2 RGR's ability to formulate plans and overcome problems,

giving us the opportunity to test and improve SOPs, enabling us to win the battle.

2022 has been a year of significant success and progress. We have accomplished a wide range of objectives, from training and readiness exercises to real-world operations. It has also been an opportunity for growth and progress. As we look ahead to 2023, we are confident that CSS Coy will continue to strive for and achieve great things.

Jai 2 RGR!

The Prince of Wales Kukri Winners

The Prince of Wales' Kukri is awarded on 1 January annually to the outstanding WO2 or below who has, in the opinion of the Colonel of the Regiment, done most to enhance the name of the Regiment in the preceding year.

1994	21162366	CSgt	Krishna Prasad Gurung	1 RGR
1995	21167350	LCpl	Bishnubahadur Singh	1 RGR
1996	21164709	Sgt	Punendraprasad Limbu	2 RGR
1997	21168102	Cpl	Beindrakumar Magar	2 RGR
1998	21162986	WO2	Rajendra Scherchan	GDC RMAS
1999	21167359	Sgt	Kamalprasad Rana	1 RGR
2002	21167722	Sgt	Tejbahadur Limbu	2 RGR
2003	21168976	Sgt	Muktiprasad Gurung	A Coy, 1 HLDERS
2004	21167724	CSgt	Kulbahadur Gurung	2 RGR
2005	21168291	CSgt	Kajiman Limbu MC	2 RGR
2006	21169389	Sgt	Jiwan Pun	1 RGR
2007	21168432	WO2	Rajeshkumar Gurung	1 RGR
2008	21169918	Sgt	Genedra Rai	2 RGR
2009	21169126	CSgt	Yambahadur Gurung	1 RGR
2010	21169698	Sgt	Bikash Gurung	1 RGR
2011	21169783	Sgt	Jiwan Prasad Gurung	1 RGR
2012	21170896	Cpl	Sanjib Rai	2 RGR
2013	21170660	Sgt	Sombahadur Chhantel	1 RGR
2014	21169783	CSgt	Jiwan Prasad Gurung	1 RGR
2015	21170334	Sgt	Arjunsamy Limbu	2 RGR
2016	21171132	A/CSgt	Raj Rai	2 RGR
2017	21170743	CSgt	Phurba Tamang	2 RGR
2018	21170307	CSgt	Mukunda Rajali	1 RGR
2019	21170887	CSgt	Dikbahadur Tumkhewa	2 RGR
2020	21171243	CSgt	Sojit Gauchan	3 RGR
2021	21170573	WO2	Bhimbahadur Gurung	G (Coriano) Coy, 4 RANGER Bn
2022	21171247	CSgt	Suman Ale	1 RGR

The Toker Award Winners

The Toker Award is awarded on 1 January annually to the most outstanding Subaltern or Captain who has, in the opinion of the Colonel of the Regiment, done most to enhance the name of the Regiment in the preceding year.

1995	Lieutenant	Q W M	Naylor	2 RGR
1996	Lieutenant	R M	Abernethy	1 RGR
1997	Lieutenant	W R	Kefford	2 RGR
1999	Captain	A G	Alexander-Cooper	3 R IRISH
2000			Not Awarded	
2001			Not Awarded	
2002	Lieutenant	N St J F	Lea	2 RGR
2003	Lieutenant	B P	Gifford	1 RGR
2004	Lieutenant	C R	Picton	1 RGR
2005	Lieutenant	P G	Howgego	1 RGR
2006	Captain	E D P	Oldfield	2 RGR
2007	Captain	A R C	Mathers	2 RGR
2008	Lieutenant	J A	Jeffcoat	1 RGR
2009	Lieutenant	A C	Colquhoun	2 RGR
2010	Lieutenant	A C	Connolly	1 RGR
2011	Lieutenant	C E F	Russell	1 RGR
2012	Captain	B E	Norfield	Gurkha Coy, ITC Catterick
2013	Lieutenant	M B	Reardon	2 RGR
2014	Captain	C J	Schroeder	2 RGR
2015	Captain	J A	Armstrong	2 RGR
2016	Captain	M F	Barney	1 RGR
2017	Lieutenant	O C H	Goldfinger	2 RGR
2018	Lieutenant	C J R	Hornby	1 RGR
2019	Lieutenant	D W	Dewick	2 RGR
2020	Captain	W C	Rushworth	3 RGR
2021	Captain	C	Cavell	2 RGR
2022	Lieutenant	G	Patterson	2 RGR

The Slim Trophy Winners

The Slim Trophy is to be awarded annually to the LE Gurkha Captain who has provided the most inspirational leadership.

2017	Captain	Babindra	Gurung	1 RGR
2018	Captain	Vijayprakash	Subba Limbu	2 RGR
2019	Captain	Jiwan	Prasad	1 RGR
2020	Captain	Chhatraman	Lingthep	2 RGR
2021	Captain	Deepak	Gurung	1 RGR
2022	Captain	Shivkumar	Rai	2 RGR

Roll of Honour

551359	Maj A M Roberts	1 RGR	KIA Afghanistan	04-Oct-07
21170127	Rfn Yubraj Rai	2 RGR	KIA Afghanistan	04-Nov-08
21168855	CSgt Krishnabhadur Dura	2 RGR	KIA Afghanistan	15-Nov-08
21169587	Cpl Kumar Pun	1 RGR	KIA Afghanistan	07-May-09
551249	Maj J Bowman	Rifles/1 RGR	KIA Afghanistan	13-Jul-10
25154732	Lt N Turkington	1 RGR	KIA Afghanistan	13-Jul-10
21169379	Cpl Arjun Purja Pun	1 RGR/GCS	KIA Afghanistan	13-Jul-10
21171487	Rfn Remand Kulung	1 RGR (GRC 1 MERCIAN)	KIA Afghanistan	12-Aug-10
30047633	Rfn Suraj Gurung	1 RGR	KIA Afghanistan	02-Oct-10
30085734	Rfn Vijay Rai	2 RGR	KIA Afghanistan	15-Oct-11
30048322	Rfn Sachin Limbu	1 RGR	KIA Afghanistan (WIA 24 Jun 10)	02-Jan-12
21171410	LCpl Gajbahadur Gurung	2 RGR (GRC 1 YORKS)	KIA Afghanistan	27-Jan-12
25194218	Lt E A Drummond- Baxter	1 RGR	KIA Afghanistan	30-Oct-12
21171435	LCpl Siddhanta Kunwar	1 RGR	KIA Afghanistan	30-Oct-12

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 re-designated 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. On 1 April 2022, the Squadron resubordinated to 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment as 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron, QGE.

Both 69 and 70 Gurkha Field Squadrons re-rolled to Search Squadrons in February 2011. They have been deployed to Afghanistan in a Search role as part of EOD & Search Task Force.

Both 69 and 70 Gurkha Field Squadrons re-rolled to Force Support in 2013 and was firmly within 12 (Force Support) Engineer Group, 8 Engineer Brigade until 31 Mar 22.

70 Gurkha Field Squadron re-rolled to 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron on 1 Apr 22 within 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment, 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team. Whilst, 69 Gurkha Field Squadron continues to be firmly established within 12 (Force Support) Engineer Group, 8 Engineer Brigade.

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

The Queen's Gurkha Engineers

Brigadier J L Clark CBE

Colonel of the Regiment

Regimental Headquarters

Lt Col Ryan Castro RE

Commandant

Maj Govindabahadur Rana QGE

Gurkha Major

Maj Mark Johnson RE

Deputy Commandant

Maj Jamie Rankine RE

Quartermaster

Capt Edward Griffiths RE

Adjutant

Capt Narendradhoj Gurung QGE

SO3 QGE Sldrs (GRCMO)

Field Officers

Maj Richard Lawrence RE

OC 69 Gurkha Field Squadron

Maj Adam Loots RE

OC 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron

Maj Buddhibahadur Bhandari MVO QGE

Quartermaster Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn

Maj Ganeshprasad Gurung QGE

QM 101 Engr Regt

Maj Purnasingh Tamang QGE

2IC, REWW

Maj Kamal Bahadur Khapung Limbu MVO QGE

SO2 Pers & Ops, HQ RE

Maj Khadkabahadur Gurung QGE SO2 G1

Welfare/SSO HQ Brunei Garrison

Captains

Capt Michael Wallis RE

2IC 69 Gurkha Field Squadron

Capt Charles Collins RE

2IC 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron

Capt Krishnakumar Pun QGE

Quartermaster (Technical), British Gurkhas Pokhara

Capt Khelendrabahadur Gurung QGE

Quartermaster (Technical), GARRC Sp Bn

Capt Ashokkumar Gurung QGE

Log Officer, 50 HQ & Sp Sqn

Capt Nareshkumar Limbu QGE

Operations Officer, 69 Gurkha Field Squadron

Capt Rambahadur Rai QGE

Operations Officer, 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron

Capt Prithibahadur Chhantyal QGE

Training Officer, 1 RSME Regt

Capt Prem Kumar Jabegu Limbu QGE

Platoon Commander, Gurkha Company, ITC, Catterick

Capt Lalbahadur Rana QGE

Support Troop Commander, 69 Gurkha Field Squadron

Capt Hemraj Gurung QGE

Echelon Commander, 37 Fd Sqn, 32 Engr, Regt

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 Brandon Ovens RE

G Troop Commander, 69 Gurkha Field Squadron

Lt William Rutter RE

H Troop Commander, 69 Gurkha Field Squadron

Lt Mathew Anderson RE

I Troop Commander, 69 Gurkha Field Squadron

Lt Stephen Watson RE

J Troop Commander, 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron

Lt Harry Tomsett RE

K Troop Commander, 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron

Lt Luke Thorn RE

Sp Troop Commander, 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron

RSM

WO1(RSM) Anthony Malone RE

RSM

WO1(RSM) Andy Hurren RE

RSM Des

SSM

WO2(SSM) Jayandra Garbuja

SSM 37 Fd Sqn

WO2(SSM) Suresh Sherma

SSM 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn

WO2(SSM) Yakthung Angbuhang

SSM 70 Gurkha Para Sqn

WO2(SSM) Akash Tamang

SSM 14 Sqn Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn

Colonel of The Regiments's Message

Brigadier J L Clark CBE



Moving to my third year as the Colonel of the Regiment, The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, it is an utmost privilege and honour to continue to serve and be a family of our very renowned 'Paltan' the QGE and 'Pariwar', sabai jana daju bhai, didi bahini ani bhanja bhanji haruma mero ani Sheema memsaheb ko tarpaha bata namaskar.

It has been significant changes in the QGE structure and at the RHQ command level. Sadly, we bade farewell to our Commandant QGE, Hendry Saheb, who has left the QGE and the Army. He spent most of his military service working with the QGE and its families, and we still remember when he said once, "The QGE is in his blood". We thank and congratulate him for his contribution and dedication and wish him the best in his future endeavours. A warm welcome to new Commandant QGE Ryan Saheb to our family. I now have a very capable Commandant and the Gurkha Major Govinda Saheb, to whom I do not doubt that the Regiment will move forward as smoothly as the cruise ship. As you read this article, I would have completed my duty trek with them, visiting your country, people, and Ex QGE Pariwar back in Nepal.

It has been another busy but highly successful year for the QGE. An unfortunate moment when our Colonel in Chief, Queen Elizabeth II, sadly passed away last year. We had to reschedule our QGE Birthday to respect the Royal Mourning Period as we had close relationships with the Colonel in Chief; we participated in the Platinum Jubilee and an integral part of LONDON BRIDGE, a state funeral. Following in King's Coronation, our small contingent, including a piper, a drummer, and our own King's Gurkha Orderly Officer (KGOO) Capt Narendra Saheb, were amongst the group, which was a

significant representation to reflect our deep connection to the Royal Family.

As the Defence changes its shape and posture in the Future Soldiers, the Paltan QGE is also shaping towards its goal. I am great to see the rebirth of 67 Gurkha Field Squadron, the first ever Gurkha Engineer Squadron, established in 1949. With our 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron still based in Invicta Park Barracks, we will see the most significant mass in one place along with the RHQ QGE after the post-Hong Kong era. In addition, a troop including a Gurkha Officer and a Sergeant Major remaining with the 32 Engineer Regiment is brilliant news, and the QGE may grow further.

As the Colonel of the Regiment, I am immensely proud to see the successes of a sapper to a sub-unit. Despite changes on not building up 67 Gurkha Field Sqn to Catterick Marne Barracks, the troop with 37 Field Squadron has excelled in their performance to the optimal level, directly impacting the 32 Engineer Regiment and 7 Brigade. Whether on operations to assist Ukrainian Forces by constructing training facilities or deploying in Kenya on overseas exercises, the QGE Sappers have put their footprint so deep, flourishing the QGE brand to the Northern part of the country. It is great to see that the Squadron recently deployed to Nepal on high-altitude trekking.

70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron has already dominated its effect to 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment and 16 Air Assault Brigade in a brief period. I saw the varieties of commitment accomplished by our Gurkha Parachute Sapper in maroon berets, either that be in London supporting the State Funeral on Op BALAM or deploying in several overseas countries, including Macedonia, as part of Exercise SWIFT RESPONSE and a joint venture training with French Parachute Regiment or delivering training as part of Short-Term Training to Ugandan's Peoples Defence Force in Uganda. I also witnessed performing Public Duty working alongside the 9 Parachute Squadron, a diverse and inclusive delivery. I wholeheartedly thank Jack Saheb, the Commanding Officer 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment, for his initiative. I am also seeing the production of parachute-trained Gurkha Sapper, accelerating from the front, not to mention the Officer Commanding himself leading the way; not often we saw this kind of feat; a huge congratulations Major Adam Loot Saheb.

69 Gurkha Field Squadron, on the other hand, deployed on similar kinds of operations and exercises. The Squadron also bade farewell to their Officer Commanding Major Richard Lawrence Saheb, to whom the Squadron members were so attached. I wish him the best for his future post. The Squadron spent considerable time in readiness but managed to deploy their personnel in various exercises, projects, and operations, such as a construction task in Germany, Gibraltar and in-country, and operations in Chad and Nigeria, the Middle East,

Cyprus, Romania, and Poland. The most significant commitments were in ceremonial duties during Platinum Jubilee, State Funeral and the King's Coronation, making a remarkable history. I also acknowledge a special delivery of professionalism on Exercise SAILFISH, a Joint Force Enabling Exercise in Belize, where the Squadron received multiple BATSUB Commendations.

How much I am proud to hear the news of the successes in sporting events. Winning the Nepal Cup, the equivalent of the FA Cup in the UK and awfully close to winning Trailwalker are just some examples of our success in the sports. I am tracking SSgt Gajendra Gurung, representing the Army in the Inter-Service Golf Championship and Spr Rabindra Tamang, who was overall second in Army Powerlifting Championships. It is great to see our team winning the Army Badminton Championship again, keeping Paltan's reputation so high. From young sapper to young Officer, it is good to see the young Officer keep winning the Doko Race in Pokhara and a young sapper winning the cross-country and breaking Minley Station's record on Soldier Conditioning Review (SCR). It is always great to see our Gurkha Sappers representing in other sports, such as paddling the canoe in Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race or mountain biking and cyclocross at the Corps level, and not forgetting the participation in CAMBRAIN PATROL.

We never had empty-handed on receiving varieties of commendations and awards. This year, we saw so many CO's Coins recipients across the employment, three outstanding General Officer Commanding (GOC) Commendations, Carpenter of the Year Award, Fishmonger's Gold Medal Award, 8 Engineer Brigade Commander's Coin, CRE Commendation, Collective Training Group (CTG) Coin BATUK and BATSUB Commendation. Congratulations to Lance Corporal Rajan Rana on his selection to RAPTCI and ERI C1 1 Course, the first ever selected for such a course. He will transfer to RAPTC Corps upon his completion.

In closing remarks, I am confident and proud of the Paltan moving smoothly, driven by such a high calibre Commandant Ryan Saheb and Gurkha Major Govinda Saheb. As we enter the 75th Anniversary of QGE, many efforts have been put together led by Capt Chandra Pun Saheb under the direction of the Gurkha Major, organising events across the UK and homeland in Nepal to celebrate its milestone. I want to thank the Queen's Gurkha Engineers Association committee for contributing to the new form and especially for organising the QGE 75th Reunion in Nepal; well done, Colonel (Retd) Richard Walker Saheb and his entire team.

I look forward to my Regimental Duty Trek in Nepal in May and celebrating the QGE 75th Reunion in Nepal later this year.

Thank you for all you do. Keep up the excellent work.

Baliyo Rahanu Hos! Jai QGE!

Commandant's Report

Lt Col RP Castro RE



Greetings to the Brigade of Gurkhas Pariwar, I write to you having recently taken up post as Commandant QGE. I was extremely honoured and humbled to have been selected for such a prestigious post and look forward to meeting you all and strengthening the ties between the QGE and wider Brigade. I have recently returned from my Duty Trek where I was able to witness and experience the amazing culture and landscape of Nepal and to state that I am awed at the journey taken by our soldiers is an understatement; we truly are privileged to serve alongside such incredibly talented and resolute soldiers.

This is an important year for the QGE, and I am thrilled to be able to celebrate the 75th anniversary since our first Squadron was raised in Kluang, Malaysia in 1949. We are continuing to reform our structure following the direction outlined in the Integrated Review. These changes are continuing at pace and, following the move of 70 Parachute Gurkha Field Squadron to 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment last year, will see the redesignation of 20 Field Squadron to 67 Gurkha Field Squadron. This is a momentous occasion for QGE as we see the return of our first ever squadron back to our Paltan and three fully formed squadrons at our centre of mass, Maidstone, for the first time since our return from Hong Kong.

The QGE Paltan have continued to demonstrate the highest levels of professionalism this year and have contributed to a staggering amount of wider Defence outputs. 69 Gurkha Field Squadron have recently returned from a construction exercise in Belize where they achieved some of the highest standards of construction by a military construction force ever witnessed by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO); they are now preparing for a large-scale deployment into Europe as they assume the duties of the Theatre Enablement Group lead Field Squadron. 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron have settled in well within 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team and have already conducted successful deployments on Ex

SWIFT RESPONSE and Ex WESSEX STORM where they have been validated as a ready and agile force that is able to respond at a moment's notice; they have also supported Ceremonial Public Duties at Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace. The Troop aligned to 37 Field Squadron have been equally busy and supported Ex ASKARI STORM in Kenya as well as providing some vital training for Ukrainian Armed Forces on Op INTERFLEX. Our external units and members continue to provide essential support across all frameworks and whilst their achievements are too numerous to mention here, they must not be understated.

Also, our important and special relationship with Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II allowed us to be part of both her Platinum Jubilee celebrations and her funeral; we also made our inaugural appearance at the Braemar Highland Games last year in front of our future King. While not able to have our own marching contingent for the Coronation we had several selected individuals marching as part of the Corps of Royal Engineer's and of course our Kings Gurkha Orderly Officer was at the centre of it all.

QGE have had an impressive year in the sporting arena and across all disciplines; I am continuously impressed with the scale of investment and the level of talent of our people. I of course must mention the Nepal Cup, it was with immense pride that I learned of the Cup arriving home to RHQ QGE after 6 long years, a feat I hope to see repeated this year! I also must mention our successes on Ex TRAILWALKER, whilst QGE could not replicate their victory over QGS a well fought and well-earned second place overall is an excellent result and one to be proud of, Shybas to the team!

I look forward to what I know will be a historic and special year for our Paltan and I am honoured to be able to share it with you. Having had a taste of Nepalese culture and seeing the immense josh in which we deliver our events I am looking forward to not just our redesignation and birthday parades but also Dashain and Tihar and immersing myself deeper into the Nepalese culture. To the QGE Pariwar I say Thulo Syabas tapai haru ko kosis ani kam ko lagi.

The Gurkha Major's Report

Major Govindabhadur Rana QGE



I am grateful and honoured to write my first message as the 27th Gurkha Major of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers. My wife Kalpana and I are so proud and honoured to take the responsibility of the most prestigious role as the Gurkha Major. I thank Major Kamal Khapung Limbu MVO Saheb for handing over the Paltan in good shape. I wish him and families the very best for his future endeavours.

It is a real privilege to serve under the Colonel of the Regiment Brigadier John L Clark CBE Saheb, so influential and the key personality for the Army's new structure design, and the Commandant QGE Lieutenant Colonel Mark Hendry MBE Saheb. Only a few officers got a chance to work together as the Commandant and Gurkha Major, who previously worked as the Officer Commanding and Squadron Sergeant Major; it was perfect. Having worked together as the Officer Commanding and Squadron Sergeant Major in 69 Gurkha Field Squadron, the work ethic, ideology, and practicality happened automatically, producing effective operational output. Although I was just under seven months together, Kalpana and I enjoyed having Hendry Saheb and Sarah memsaheb. We had some quality time together; that will remain forever.

It is saying that "good deeds always come back to you". As soon as I said goodbye to Mark Hendry Saheb, new Comdt QGE, Ryan Castro Saheb, came into the Regiment and immediately bedded into the QGE Paltan. I felt no gaps and void of the Comdt QGE and I never saw a person like him, so energetic, keen, and professional. He has never served with the QGE before but is eager to understand the people, its culture, and Paltan. I am very comfortable working with him as his advisor on the QGE matters and better for the people and Paltan. Kalpana and I are looking forward to have a good time together with Ryan saheb and Hazel memsaheb during our tenure.

GM Role and the RHQ QGE

Since I took over as the Gurkha Major on Friday, 8 July 2022, the Paltan has observed significant changes in Work Forces, Structure, and Shape. Many activities were halted due to COVID, and now normality started to feel normal. Re-establishing the normality that was halted for two years was somewhat challenging. The people and society were got into different lifestyles, the working pattern, procedures, and the new norm were difficult, which I felt during the first half of my first year in the post.

The Gurkha Major post is unique and vital; it carries many values, history, and prestige to sustain, protect and promote the QGE Paltan and its WFs. As the Gurkha Major, my views and approach are always free, fair, and transparent. I always give my 100% effort to advise Commandant Saheb.



With Corps Col, Corps SM and Comdt QGE Ryan Castro, Sahebs at St James Palace

The home of the QGE - Invicta Park Barracks

I am very content with the development of the overall QGE Structure, the redesignation of the 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron to the 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment, and the reforming of the 67 Gurkha Field Squadron being a sub-unit of the 36 Engineer Regiment, becoming two Queen's Gurkha Engineers sub-units under the Commandant QGE. For at least a couple of years, three sub-units will be collated within Invicta Park Barracks, the largest numbers in one place since the disbandment in the 1990s. By 2025, 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron will move to Rock Barracks, Woodbridge, Ipswich, but the centre of mass of the QGE will remain here in Invicta Park Barracks. The barracks is set to be closed by 2027/28 and moving to Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore, Rutland.

Policies

This year, the QGE Late Entry Officer's Career Model Structure is finally endorsed as People Policy Note

22-08. The previous Commandants and Gurkha Major Sahebharu worked hard to reach this point, and now we have a clear Career Structure. PPN 22-07 also saw a transfer opportunity for the Recruit Intake 13, 14 and 15, allowing a direct transfer to Royal Engineers on the same rank and trade and changing the terms of service from Versatile Engagement (Short) to Versatile Engagement (Long) that gives the years of service from 12 years to 24 years. This year, we will also see the first WO1 post in Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn as the RSM after Hong Kong days in the 1990s. The QGE Memorandum has been amended and is planned to have a new Chapter 10 of the Royal Engineers Corps Memorandum.

QGE Culture, Tradition and Heritage

The main highlight of this year's success is winning the Nepal Cup after a long time. The team was brilliant and hoped to retain the trophy for another year; the ultimate goal is to win three consequent years, making the second history since the QGE won the Nepal Cup three years in a row in 1991-93 and becoming the new LEGEND. The TRAILWALKER 2022 was so close to with, accepting only second position by the TEAM ISHWOR. However, there has been significant participation from the QGE personnel in their ERE units across the British Army. The only one in the QGE, we organise Intake Rising Cup, a 7-A Side Football and Spr ISHWOR CUP, a basketball competition between Recruit Intakes. These events are so important within the QGE personnel as well as in the families; this brought the number bonding and team cohesion and reinforced team spirit, ultimately, the high rate of operational outputs.

Due to the loss of Colonel in Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, we had to reschedule our Birthday celebration to respect the Royal Mourning Period; we moved the date and combined it with the QGE Birthday and Dashain, which was well received. As you read in the previous year's journal, we have almost built up the numbers for the Pipes and Drums. We currently have 18 pipers and drummers at the time of writing this article,



Visiting Capt Ram Bahadur Limbu VC MVO Saheb

an excellent number to establish our QGE Pipes and Drums. During QGE 75th Birthday Celebration this year, the QGE Pipes and Drums will be reformed, which was disbanded in Hong Kong in the 1990s.

QGE Veterans and families

I organised a Regimental Duty Trek in Nepal for outgoing Commandant Saheb and Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) Saheb, who had yet to have a chance to take part in the trek due to COVID-19. The main aim of the trek was to meet veterans, their families, and communities, as well as to visit our work that was carried out during Operation MARMAT.

We visited the western part of the country, mainly in Gorkha, Lamjung and Pokhara. Although Mark Hendry Saheb had visited the country, it was significant for the RSM to meet local people and deeply understand our culture and tradition. We saw many veterans and their families, some QGE veterans and widows. It was fascinating to have experiences, speak to them and understand their real issues, problems, and the story of their time in service. Whomever we met, they hosted us so impressively that it felt like we knew each other for a long time; their honesty, loyalty, and hospitality were just unimaginable for those people outside of a Gurkha family. Meeting with Late Capt Ram Bahadur Limbu VC MVO Saheb and Lt Col JP Cross OBE Saheb, and Regimental Association Nepal QGE Branches in Kathmandu and Pokhara and listening to their conversation were some of the trek's highlights. Seeing that they were happy with what they had was incredible, and they immensely appreciated our visit. I have encouraged all QGE members and their families to visit their villages, communities and give them back something to live their lives with dignity.

Conclusion

Lastly, it has been a hectic year for the Gurkha Major, but nevertheless, I am enjoying the role every day. Visiting all ERE units, taking the Commandant, and the RSM on Nepal Duty Treks is one of the highlights and huge successes. The Queen Elizabeth II's passing, and King Charles III's coronation have also made the highlights in the QGE history that will remain in our history book. I am keen to continue our growth plan, rebalancing the WF structure and promotion pyramid, a swift move of the 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron, sustaining QGE heritage and Kaidas and improving some of the weaknesses that would make my tenure successful.

See you in the following Journal, "Namaste and pheri bhetaula".

Jai QGE

Jai 36 Engineer Regiment

Jai Brigade of Gurkhas



With Lt Col (Retd) JP Cross OBE Saheb

RHQ QGE News

Captain Narendradhoj Gurung QGE, SO3 QGE Sldrs



I have now had the honour of completing my first year as SO3 QGE Soldiers having took over from Maj Govindabahadur Rana, the current Gurkha Major saheb, and the appointment of the Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officer (QGOO) and later King's Gurkha Orderly Officer (KGOO). It has been a momentous year for me personally to work as SO3 QGE and QGOO/ KGOO.

As SO3 QGE Sldrs, I am responsible for QGE Soldier's Career Management across the ranks of Sapper to Warrant Officer. SSgt Seesan Gurung has supported me in RHQ QGE and Sgt Kulbir Sapkota Pariyar in APC Glasgow, who has taken over the new QGE Sgt post at APC from GSPS this year. We are heavily involved in preparing, planning and delivering all QGE Promotion, Appointment, Assignment and Conversion of Versatile Engagement (VEng) Boards. As QGOO/ KGOO, my primary responsibility is to attend investiture held at Buckingham Palace and other royal residences. Under normal circumstances, there will be thirty-one such Investitures per year. The KGOOs will be required to support His Majesty during the investitures. In addition, the KGOOs may be required to support the Sovereign on other State occasions as required by The Royal Household. As such, I had the great honour and

privilege to be part of the Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's funeral procession and His Majesty King Charles's coronation procession.



State Funeral Op LONDON BRIDGE

In my first year as SO3 QGE Sldrs, most of my work focused on Project SHERPA and Future Soldier's structure. 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron is now firmly part of the 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment, and 67 Gurkha Field Squadron is starting to take shape within Invicta Park barracks. My team have been working in the background to balance the workforce after endorsement from the Army HQ to retain 1+34 QGE soldiers in the 32 Engineer Regiment, 37 Field Squadron.

QGE Workforce (WF). Future Soldier Structure has seen the growth of the overall strength of the QGE. It is largely due to the growth of the 3rd QGE Squadron, 67 Gurkha Fd Sqn and a Tp+ strength within 37 Field Sqn in Catterick. Additionally, the growth of 5 new PiDs will see the first QGE RSM in the Gurkha ARRC Support Battalion in August 2023, including RQMS and Fitter Sgt.

In Summary:

Strength 510

Liability 477

Over Strength +33 (4 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 the Future Soldier structure is achieved, and the transformation of 36 Engineer Regiment and Pj SHERPA is delivered. The natural End of Employment (EED) and transfers to RE Corps and wider have started to balance the Work Force Requirement (WFR).

Training Pipeline. 33 x Sappers from Recruit Intake (RI) 22 joined QGE in December last year and moved to Minley for their Initial Trade Training (ITT). They recently completed their ITT and subsequently progressed to Cat B and C driver training and Subsequent Trade Training (STT) in 1 RSME.

67 Gurkha Field Squadron Redesignation. As per the recent Future Soldier Structure, the 67 Gurkha Field Squadron will no longer form within the 32 Engineer Regiment but now be formed under the 36 Engineer Regiment. As part of the 36 Engineer Regiment transformation plan, 20 Fd Sqn will change to 67 Gurkha Field Squadron on Jul 23. Tranche 1 of 67 Gurkha Field Squadron within 20 Field Squadron has completed on 31 Mar 23. The remaining transformation is ongoing and will become Full Operational Capability Squadron by Apr 24.

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 3 RGR growth. WF requirements and quotas for conversion and promotions are all dictated by WF Plans. This may continue until 2025, when the Future Soldier Structure is achieved, and the Regiment begins to experience a stable outflow and inflow. In 2022, only 8 out of 45 candidates were offered VEng(F). The recent People Policy Notice to retain the QGE soldiers of Intake 13 -15 within Royal Engineers has allowed QGE soldiers to transfer and convert Versatile Engagement (Short) to Versatile Engagement (Long), allowing a full 24-year career. Twelve soldiers are in the process of transferring to the RE Corps.

Honours, Awards and Achievements

Courses

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

30380738 Spr Yugal Limbu Overall Top Student
30380712 Spr Manish Rai Top Academic Student

ME Digital Communications Technical (DCT) 2-1

30312724 Spr Hitson Magar Top Student

ME Digital Communications Technical (DCT) 0-2

30359852 Spr Animes Chamling Rai Top Student

ME Plant Operator 0-2 Course

30337593 Spr Mandil Rana Magar Top Student

ALDP Top Student Awards

30252497 LCpl Rajan Rana
30252501 LCpl Chet Bahadur Gurung

Soldiers' Soldier Award ALDP MT

30208383 LCpl Ishwor Gurung

GOC Army Recruit and Initial Training Commendation

21171806 Sgt Santosh Goley

Force Commander's Commendation - Op TOSCA

30312757 Spr Dipesh Magar

Commander Queen's Gurkha Signals Commendation

30188642 LCpl Nayan Mabo Limbu

Regional Command GOC Commendation

21171803 Sgt Dibesh Lama

SCHINF Commander's Coin

30141874 Cpl Laonya Bikram Singh Limbu
30141942 Cpl Rajendra Rai
30120297 Cpl Gaurav Tamang

32 Engineer Commanding Officer's Coin

30120653 Cpl Gyanendrabahadur Thapa Magar
30293315 Spr Pujan Chapagain

GARRC SP BN Commanding Officer's Coin

30085152 Sgt Roshan Budha Magar
30188422 LCpl Gobinda Rana Magar

8 Brigade Commander's Coin Chief Instructor Coin

30166317 LCpl Bijay Ale

3 RSME Chief Instructor's Coin

21171726 Sgt Krishna Kumar Rai

1 RSME Commanding Officer's Coin

21171251 Sgt Rashon Gurung

71 Engineer Regiment Commanding Officer's Coin

21171726 Sgt Krishna Kumar Rai

The Armed Forces India Coin

30312757 Spr Unique Rai

Collective Training Group Coin - BATUK

30229764 A/LCpl Sadip Rai

BATUK Commander's Coin

30274151 Spr Bhupendra Rana

22 Signal Regiment Commanding Officer's Coin

30166801 Spr Prabesh Dewan Rai

Bowring Trophy 2022

30166778	LCpl Sandeep Sombaphe	Winner
30207803	LCpl Deepak Magar	Runner Up

Hendry Trophy 2022

30229679	Spr Suraj Rai	Winner
30252519	Spr Lal Bahadur Khati	Runner Up

Conversion of Commission/Commission/Appointments**Short Service Commission Late Entry (SSC LE) - Captain 2022**

21170737 WO2 Suresh Sherma 36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn

Squadron SSM (Sergeant Major Appointment) 22

21170526	WO2 Yakthunghang Angbuhang	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Fd Sqn
21170737	WO2 Suresh Sherma	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
21170652	WO2 Jayendra Garbuja	32 Engr Regt 37 Fd Sqn
21171246	WO2 Akash Tamang Gurkha ARRC	Sp Bn 14 Sqn

QGE Conditional VEng (Short) to VEng (Full) Conversion 2022

30229745	Spr Binod Angbuhang Limbu	3 RSME Regt 63 HQ and Trg Sp Sqn
30229679	Spr Suraj Rai	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30229260	Spr Gun Bahadur Saru	Infantry Battle School Trg Sp Div
30229227	Spr Devendra Thapa	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30207839	LCpl Sagarkumar Limbu	Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn 14 Sqn
30207803	LCpl Deepak Magar	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30229682	LCpl Tej Hang Rai	32 Engr Regt 37 Fd Sqn
30207786	LCpl Bijay Sherpa	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd SQN

Promotion**Promotion to WO1 2022**

21170652 WO2 Jayendra Garbuja 32 Engr Regt 37 Fd Sqn

Promotion to WO2 2022

21171144 SSgt Joseph Subba 36 Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Fd Sqn

Promotion to SSgt 2022

21171624	Sgt Gaurab Gurung	Infantry Battle School Trg Sp Div
21170545	Sgt Bikram Gurung	Infantry Battle School Trg Sp Div
21170686	Sgt Premjung Thapa	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn

Promotion to Sgt 2022

21171936	Cpl Nirajan Budathoki	36 Engr Regt 50 HQ Sp Sqn
30048420	Cpl Victor Fombo	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn
21172020	Cpl Manoj Gurung	Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn 14 Sqn
30048323	Cpl Suryahang Rai	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30047635	Cpl Kulbir Sapkota Pariyar	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn
30047651	Cpl Madan Thapa	2 RANGER F Coy

Promotion to Cpl 2022

30166317	LCpl Bijay Ale	HQ 8 Engr Bde
30120267	LCpl Kaji Gurung	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30166829	LCpl Jagdish Gurung	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn
30229173	LCpl Amit Gurung	Infantry Battle School Trg Sp Div
30207816	LCpl Sahadev Magar	32 Engr Regt 37 Fd Sqn
30120293	LCpl Nabin Pun Magar	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30166832	LCpl Anup Rai	36 Engr Regt 50 HQ Sp Sqn
30141915	LCpl Min Rai	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30142341	LCpl Chandra Roka	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn
30166794	LCpl Finju Sherpa	HQ Brunei Gar
30188404	LCpl Santosh Tamang	Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn 14 Sqn
30208391	LCpl Arun Thapa	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn
30188392	LCpl Angshihang Thorpa Limbu	Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn 14 Sqn

Promotion to LCpl 2022

30293206	Spr Migin Alay	Infantry Battle School Trg Sp Div
30252572	Spr Bishnu Ale	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn
30229745	Spr Binod Angbuhang Limbu	3 RSME Regt
30229211	Spr Shishir Budha Magar	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30274585	Spr Jayandra Budha Magar	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30293315	Spr Pujan Chapagai	32 Engr Regt 37 Fd Sqn
30252491	Spr Ghan Bahadur Chhetri	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30274599	Spr Abinash Gurung	1 RSME Regt
30252493	Spr Bijendra Gurung	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn
30274694	Spr Prasan Gurung	32 Engr Regt 37 Fd Sqn
30274609	Spr Shiva Gurung	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30312119	Spr Ashish Gurung	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30252519	Spr Lal Bahadur Khati	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30293301	Spr Sabin Pun	32 Engr Regt 37 Fd Sqn
30293240	Spr Sishir Pun	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30229679	Spr Suraj Rai	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn
30252415	Spr Rohan Rai	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn
30229684	Spr Wagok Rai	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30229747	Spr Samit Rai	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30293298	Spr Renish Roka Magar	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30229260	Spr Gun Bahadur Saru	Infantry Battle School Trg Sp Div
30312796	Spr Binod Saru Magar	32 Engr Regt 37 Fd Sqn
30274638	Spr Pujan Shrestha	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30229717	Spr Santosh Sunuwar	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30293201	Spr Prashant Tamang	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn
30293219	Spr Saugat Thapa	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn
30274588	Spr Prabesh Thapa	32 Engr Regt 37 Fd Sqn
30229227	Spr Devendra Thapa	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn
30208407	Spr Sunil Thapa Magar	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn

Transfer to UKTAP 2022

30188410	LCpl Ngima Dhenduk Bhote	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30188416	LCpl Himal Limbu Angbuhang	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn

Clerk Of Works 2022

21171859	Cpl Arpan Gurung	1 RSME
30166252	LCpl Sunil Gurung	Gurkha AARC Sp Bn
30166862	LCpl Nripesh Rai	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn
30120267	LCpl Kaji Gurung	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30085059	Cpl Sangit Gurung	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30084993	Cpl Manoj Gurung	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
30166778	LCpl Sandeep Sombaphe	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn

Retirement/Discharge 2022

30120281	LCpl Bibek Gurung	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn
21170030	SSgt Chandrabahadur Budha Magar	23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn
21170082	Sgt Devbahadur Pun	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
21170042	Cpl Krishnabahadur Thapa	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
21170063	Cpl Govinda Tamang	36 Engr Regt 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
21170100	Cpl Bhimbahadur Pun	Infantry Battle School Trg Sp Div

69 Gurkha Field Squadron**2IC 69 Gurkha Field Squadron - Capt Michael Wallis RE**

Joining 69 Gurkha Field Squadron in September of last year as the Squadron Second in Command I was immediately swept away by the tempo 69 maintains. A Squadron with few gaps, and an incredibly elevated level of individual readiness, 69 can tackle several commitments at once, evidence of which is the sheer number of exercises and operations detailed in the update below. I was immediately immersed in the planning of UK Standby Battalion (UKSB) providing military aid to civil authorities; Ex SAILFISH planning, a four-month Joint Forces Enabling Exercise in Belize; alongside conducting reces to Germany for small scale construction tasks and allocating workforce to support Op INTERFLEX, the UK's training of partner forces, alongside a multitude of other smaller commitments we find ourselves supporting. When allocating our workforce, I am always impressed by just how ubiquitous the QGE are; our personnel are highly adaptable, capable, and competent, which is demonstrated by the successes 69 has achieved across the globe this year.

Due to our UKSB commitment 69 deployed in two waves to Ex SAILFISH. I deployed initially to create a firm base for the exercise prior to handing over to OC 69 Major Rich Lawrence, who has worked incredible hard during his tenure to secure 69 this opportunity. As is the way in the Army, Major Rich Lawrence was selected to fill a crucial post and had to leave 69 earlier than expected,

meaning that he was unable to reap the rewards of his efforts, commanding 69 overseas. Instead, I found myself covering both the Officer Commanding and Second in Command roles. It has been an incredible privilege and opportunity to have effectively been a sub-unit commander of a QGE Squadron on an overseas exercise, however, it has not been easy juggling the two roles and I am incredibly fortunate to have been supported by an immensely capable team in SHQ.

Of course, it is the Squadron Sergeant Major who has really ensured I have stayed on the straight and narrow throughout this period. His pro-activeness and diligence know no bounds; it is of little surprise that he was successful selected to commission this year. 69 will be sad to lose him, but we look forward to welcoming him into the Officers' Mess. He has selfless volunteered to write this year's news article, which I hope you will enjoy reading. Another extremely impressive year, the Squadron should be proud of all they have achieved.

Introduction**WO2 (SSM) Suresh Sherma QGE**

As I write this newsletter for 69 Gurkha Field Squadron, covering April 2022 to April 2023, my Squadron Sergeant Major tenure is ending. It has been an incredible two years fulfilling the role of Squadron Sergeant Major for a QGE Squadron. It has been a fascinating, as well as a rewarding, experience for me to serve our people with

sincere **'Purpose and Passion'** and I am extremely proud of what we have achieved as a Squadron within the Regt, Corps, and the wider Brigade.

It has been an extremely busy year for the Squadron, which has constantly evolved to support the tremendous outputs of all our personnel who seek to leave a legacy for the Paltan and Pariwar. I hope this journal gives some insight into what an exciting year it has been for 69 Gurkha Field Squadron and the wider 36 Engineer Regiment family.

The past year has been a successful and productive year for 69 Gurkha Field Squadron. It has seen members of the Squadron deploy to over thirteen countries on 4 different continents including Germany, Belize, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Oman, Estonia, Albania, Bahrain, UAE, Kuwait, Nepal, Kenya, and Singapore. Other notable highlights are the opportunities we have had to celebrate as a 69 Squadron family, such as: the Squadron summer and Christmas functions, important QGE cultural events such as the QGE birthday, Dashain, Tihar, and the attestation parade of the 75th Training Party QGE (Recruit Intake 2021).

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 complex implications to the Armed Forces. As a result, readiness has continuously been a key feature of the past year, with a focus on individual, vehicle, and equipment readiness and preparedness, whilst inculcating a mindset of adaptability and reactivity to support short notice taskings. The Squadron has been greatly supported by RHQ QGE, families and friends of the Squadron and Regiment, and we are hugely grateful for the help and support they have given us over what has at times been a turbulent year.

Personnel Changes

As ever in the Army there is a constant churn of personnel moving in and out of the Squadron. This summer sees a particularly large turn-over in senior Squadron positions, notably in SHQ. Major Rich Lawrence was due to leave this summer, however, was required to leave earlier than anticipated after being selected for a role crucial outside of the Regiment. For the interim the Officer Commanding role is being fulfilled by our new Squadron Second in Command, Captain Michael Wallis, till the new Officer Commanding Major James Burbidge takes post from May 2023. Captain Naresh Limbu will be handing over the Operations Officer role to Captain David Castle and WO2 (SSM) Suresh Sherma will be handing over the SSM role to WO2 Ganesh Rana. There will also be transition in all troops and departments with Capt Robert Green handing Echelon Comd to Capt Chandra Pun, Capt Lalbahadur Rana leaving Sp Tp and being posted to 1RSME as Training officer, Lt William Rutter handing over H Tp to 2Lt Sebastian Harris, SSgt

Furtenji Sherpa has already handed the SQMS role to SSgt Jas Rai, as has Sgt Beharry in handing over Log SNCO to Sgt Michael Thimba. The CSC has also seen an influx of new personnel with the arrival of SSgt Pengelly (MPF), SSgt Duddridge Clerks of Works (C) and SSgt Bijay Shrestha Clerks of Work (M). We will unfortunately be saying farewell to WO2 Liam Philpot (QMSI) in May 23, who leaves the Army after an impressive and varied career. Of course, there have also been changes in our more junior ranks, far too many to list here, but I wish to extend a massive thank you to those who have left either on promotion or posting for everything you have contributed to 69 Gurkha Field Squadron in your tenures.

Green Exercises

On successful completion of Ex WESSEX STORM, reported in last year's newsletter, followed by build-up Exercise KHUKURI CRAWL focusing on BCS, the first major event of this year was Ex PULNIRMAN, the Squadron Section Competition. This was one of the Squadron's main efforts for 2022 and was the final confirmatory exercise to enable the Squadron to undertake future challenges and to work within the Brigade context. This took place across the Longmore training area and Wyke Regis Training Area (WRTA) during the month of October 2022.

Ex KHUKURI CRAWL 22 was a Soldier First Syllabus orientation exercise which was held on Minley and Hawley training areas over the month of March 2022 to refine individual green skills, starting from basic infanteering and building up to section level tactics. This enabled all Squadron members to enhance their soldiering skills on battlefield discipline, to plan, prepare and deliver orders at section level, and to conduct section battle drills in challenging scenarios. It was an excellent build up package for all Squadron personnel, which was faultlessly delivered by SSgt Deepak Rai. Soldiers must be competent in the basics to be combat efficient, and this exercise allowed a perfect opportunity to instil and develop combat skills within the Squadron.

Following Ex KHUKURI CRAWL, 69 Squadron had a rare period of remaining on camp to rehabilitate equipment and stores prior to going summer leave. During this time the Squadron were able to have enjoy a summer function led by Cpl Ushal Mukhiya Sunuwar. The function was outstandingly delivered on 27 July 2022 building and promoting a sense of belonging, team cohesion and togetherness among Squadron members and families. This event also provided a platform to welcome and farewell Squadron members. With fantastic entertainment it provided an opportunity to say farewell to the outgoing Gurkha Major (Maj Kamalbahadur Khapung Limbu MVO) and welcome the incoming Gurkha Major (Maj Govindabahadur Rana QGE).

The Squadron continued its steady drum beat of lower-level training undertaking demolition training on Ex KHUKURI DHAMAKA at Casterley Range.

The Squadron also conducted driver training and local section and troop level exercises, gradually building up towards Ex PULNIRMAN, led by Sgt Bhim Limbu in WRTA in October 2022. This focused on some of the less commonly practised combat engineering skills including captive ferry, aerial ropeway, and trackway. Ex PULNIRMAN helped the Squadron to achieve its Combat Engineering training objectives, enhancing the Squadron's Combat Engineering skills and knowledge in a challenging and realistic environment, Ex PULNIRMAN culminated with the Squadron Section Competition led by SSgt Prakash Gurung at Longmore training Area. This Section competition allowed the Squadron personnel to revise the Soldier First Syllabus and Combat Engineering Skills which they had covered in the previous months, whilst at the same time assessing the command, control, and leadership at section level in challenging conditions preparing the Squadron for future deployments. A total of 8 sections participated in the Section Comps with Cpl Shiv Gurung's section securing the overall Top Position, and LCpl Sandesh Rai's section securing second position.

With several members of 69 dive qualified the Squadron is always well represented on the dive site, contributing greatly to the Regimental Dive Team's output.

This became even more apparent with Capt Lal Rana and WO2 (SSM) Suresh Sherma being brought back in date and serving on the team. An excellent year with a number of opportunities for our divers. Three members of the Squadron supported the Brigade Dive Team on a dive concentration to Cyprus, whilst four members supported the Regt'l dive training conducted in Belize, as well as supporting several 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 Squadron starting the year with Project 579 Field Squadron outdoor welfare area upgrade. On 9 May 2022, elements of 69 Gurkha Field Squadron deployed to 579 Field Squadron, Tunbridge Wells Army Reserve Centre (TWARC) with aim to upgrade an Outdoor Welfare Area. The project was led by me troop, 69 Gurkha Field Squadron with various key artisan trades to construct and seize the opportunities to refresh on key trade skills prior to deployment to Ex SAILFISH in Belize. This project gave an opportunity to display the artisan skills and capabilities of 69 Gurkha Field Squadron, QGE. It also provided development opportunity to the tradesman enabling higher productivity and quality of work. The structure built will be utilised by 579 Field Squadron as an outdoor welfare facility and will certainly improve the wellbeing within TWARC.

Following 579 task, G Troop from 69 Gurkha Field Squadron deployed to Gibraltar for Ex KHUKURI DHUNGA Phase One over the period of July 22 and Phase Two over the period of November and December 2022 led by SSgt Prakash Gurung. The Squadron undertook the British Forces Gibraltar scoped project tasked by 12 Group. The main objective of the project was to provide an opportunity for pre deployment training to the tradesman who will be deploying on Ex SAILFISH. The task was to renovate a building in Buffadero Training Area. The team comprised of trade personnel particularly Building and Structural Finisher (B&SF), Bricklayer and Concreter (B&C), Carpenter and Joiner (C&J), Electricians, and Combat Engineers. Overall, it was an excellent opportunity for tradesmen to uplift and hone their trade skills especially to new sappers. It was the first overseas construction project for many young sappers in the Squadron and it provided experience and knowledge to take forward for future deployments, significantly developing confidence among young sappers to perform their trade tasks and perfected the skills for future deployment. This deployment has been best place to showcase sappers' trade and combat engineering skills mastered from their courses. Turning the hallowed building into a vibrant training centre within Buffadero Training Area provided a huge sense of achievement and satisfaction for the tradesmen and management team alike.

As part of PDT Ex PINESTICK 24/1, elements of 69 Gurkha Field Squadron led by SSgt Deepak Rai deployed to Sennelager, Germany from 13 Feb to 03 March 2023 for the construction project, which will also help the Squadron personnel to be prepared for Theatre Entry Group (TEG). This series of project has been named Ex KHUKRUI SUDHAAR. Following liaison with DIO and the Garrison Support Unit, this project has provided an ideal opportunity to deploy personnel to the near abroad, testing deployment procedures and reduces travel distances to the INTORT JOA where current readiness commitments are focused. The task was focused on fencing, building demolition and refurbishment of Urban Dry Training Area (UDTA). The task was easily achieved within a short timescale, largely at section strength, supporting empowerment of Section Commanders. Ex KHUKRUI SUDHAAR has offered an excellent opportunity for 69 Squadron to conduct meaningful artisan and combat engineer training in support of DIO. Focused on Sect Comd level it has provided a real opportunity for empowerment and ownership of tasks for junior commanders. This exercise also provided an opportunity for troops to develop the design, resource and construction process for additional activity that is required by DIO in Germany. This gives scope to develop larger, and more complex deployments either by 69 Gurkha Field Squadron or other Engineers Subunits in the future.

The final major construction project for this year undertaken by the 69 Gurkha Filed Squadron was

Ex SAILFISH 22-1. The Squadron has deployed total of 117 personnel on Ex SAILFISH 22-1 in Belize. After the continuous engagement of the Squadron personnel for the whole year in IFFG readiness for Ukrainian and UKSB, this was a great opportunity to test the Squadron in Joint Force Enabling Exercise (JFEE). Ex SAILFISH is a JFEE hosted by British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB) that challenges a Subunit to independently deploy, sustain, and conduct multiple construction tasks as a Military Construction Force (MCF). This exercise has tested 69 Squadron in all aspects from G1 to G9. The main aim of the exercise was to complete a construction project in 3 different locations: Price Barracks, Camp Belizario, and Charlie trackway. The MCF consisted mainly of members from 69 Gurkha Field Squadron but also included attached personnel from the wider corps, army, and reserve. These included soldiers from the RLC, REME, Clerk of Works, Medic, Reserve, and others. This deployment has given 69 Squadron a great opportunity to showcase to not only the Regiment but also the wider Army that the Squadrons are still able to take on and complete tasks overseas in challenging and unique circumstances. This exercise has given all trades a chance to refresh their artisan skills from bricklayers, to plumbers, Plant Operators, electrician, Digital Communication Technician (DCT), Carpenters, and drivers etc.



Squadron Personnel (Ready for Ex SAILFISH BFBS Gurkha Radio Interview)

G Tp, led by Lt Brandon Ovens & SSgt Prakash Gurung, were deployed to Camp Belizario and they were assigned with the refurbishment task of 2 buildings. They were involved in removing and replacing roof structures, windows, doors, and electric equipment of anti-source pads. They commenced the main initial task of removing all the roof structures, which was completed ahead of schedule; however, they identified a few significant cracks in the building infrastructure before proceeding to the next phase, which was highlighted to the technical advisor, CSC department. Unfortunately, with the cracks, the task was changed to demolish both buildings instead of doing a construction task. The Tp completed the demolition of the buildings during the

exercise. H troop led by Lt William Rutter & SSgt Bishnu Gurung were responsible for constructing the Quarter Master (QM's) building at Price Barracks. Bricklayers and Carpenters' trades are pivotal for the success of this task. The Tp started with constructing the courses of block which includes horizontal and vertical re-bars and infill of the hollow block with concrete. They have managed to complete the task including manual excavation of ground for concrete pads on the side of the block. Whilst the Sp Tp led by Capt Lal Rana & SSgt Poshan Tamang were deployed to Manatee Training Area to upgrade the existing route Charlie Track in a total of 1.2 Km on completion of the Exercise. This was a vital route upgrading task, which facilitates the British Army for any casualty evacuation during the exercise and protect them from using private lands, saving from unnecessary liability for exercising units/ BATSUB and providing quick route.



Camp Belizario team



Charlie Track Opening Ceremony

Ex SAILFISH has been a major Joint Force Enabling Exercise (JFEE) for 69 Gurkha Field Squadron, QGE. It has provided an excellent opportunity for all Squadron personnel to explore command & leadership challenges whilst enhancing and fostering their trade skills, achieving Squadron's common goal. The Workshop department, Catering department, Squadron HR, Medical team, Echelon department, DCT department, and CSC Cell with the direction from Ops Cell and Squadron SHQ were pivotal to the success of this exercise. The Sqn also had a great opportunity to explore beautiful Belize country at the same time conducting AT, visiting different local islands, and enjoying the warm weather in the Caribbean. The Squadron did a fantastic work in support of the British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB).

Operations

Whilst the past year hasn't seen 69 Gurkha Field Squadron deploy on operations as a whole body, we have had personnel deployed to numerous theatres around the world including: OP KIPION (UAE, OMAN, and BAHRAIN), OP SHADER (Kuwait), OP ALUMINIUM (Albania), OP CABRIT (Estonia) and OP TOSCA (Cyprus). WO2 Liam Philpott from the CSC Cell deployed to Middle East in support to UK Middle East PJHQ Tri service operations in the review and testing of IT electrical infrastructure against the requirements for UK electrical conformity and safety. Electrical assessment included the proposal of remediation response to PJHQ, SME advice to on-site clients on delivery of the response and rear based SME advice to the response delivery team. SSgt Lewis Holloway from CSC Cell and WO2 Campbell (SASC) deployed to Albania from 22 August - 5 September 2022 as part of OP ALUMINIUM (Albania) on a recce to provide the Defence Attaché and Albanian MOD direction on how to bring their principal small arms range up to NATO standards to enable joint live fire training between Albanian and NATO Forces. SSgt Holloway's was responsible for assessing the feasibility and gave an initial indication of size and buildability of the projects in Zall Herr (25m and 200m range) and Poshnje (100m - 300m range). Spr Dipesh Magar from I Tp and Spr Krishna Gurung from G Tp were deployed to Op TOSCA (Cyprus) in United Nation Peace keeping deployment in Quarter four of the year 2022. They have been responsible for a significant amount of engineering activity in both the Buffer Zone and Wolseley Barracks, Nicosia where they got the opportunity to improve the infrastructure within the Buffer Zone and enhanced the lived experience of United Peacekeepers within Sector 2. Both gained huge credit for their hard work and Spr Dipesh Magar was awarded with the Force Commander's Commendation for his professional, excellent performance, unrelenting service, and dedication to UNFICYP, an outstanding achievement. Elements of Squadron personnel deployed to OP PLATINUM JUBIEE to provide the necessary workforce and appropriate support to represent the Corps contribution. Following this, the same personnel were deployed to OP LONDON BRIDGE to provide the necessary workforce to conduct the Processions, Lying-in-State, State Funeral and Committal of Her Majesty the Queen and concurrently support the Proclamation of His Majesty the King.

Additionally, 12 personnel from Squadron were deployed to Ex DESERT KHANJAR to OMAN from 12 September to 12 December 2022. Their main task was to provide combat engineering support and real-life support to 2 SCOTS. They were heavily involved on route upgrading task on which they have managed to upgrade total length 50 km route during their deployment. They also built the Ranges, Grenade Pits and villages for the training purpose supporting 2 SCOTS in Desert Kanjhar. The team also took part in different sports

charity events held between OMANI Army and British Army representing 36 Engineer Regiment and the Queen's Gurkha Engineers. In addition, Spr Bikash Khudang from Squadron also deployed to OP CABRIT (Estonia) with 20 Squadron to provide the engineering support to the Enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup in Estonia. The Squadron also continued to support the government agenda when called on to support the fuel industry under Op ESCALIN. There, soldiers were trained to drive civilian tankers and deliver petrol across the country. Having previously attended training to drive civilian tankers, Squadron personnel from Sp Troop were called up to assist delivering fuel round the Southeast of England. Concurrently, Squadron Drivers were called up to support Op RESCRIPT as a General Duties vaccinator.

Cultural Events

As per our culture, costumes, traditions, and Kaida, the Squadron members and families were able to come together to celebrate the important cultural events including QGE Birthday, Dashain and Tihar led by an assortment of people from across QGE. The Close Quarter Combat Advance Fighting Khukuri Skills Demonstration display with over 30 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 Kalaratri festival supporting 70 Squadron where we had Brigadier J L Clark CBE (Colonel of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers) as chief guest. This culminated in an evening of outstanding Nepali food and entertainment in the ABLE hangar which was superbly decorated for the festivities. Over 500 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 October was well attended by people from across QGE and wider community with some high-quality entertainment performed as Deusi/Bhailo (Nepalese Carol Singing) and some soft betting.

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 Squadron's success on the Clerk of Works applications board, with three members of the 69 Squadron family. LCpl Dikendra Limbu, LCpl Indraman Gurung were selected Clerk of Works and Cpl Arun Gurung selected as MPF, to attend the course in August 2023. There are personnel undertaking education from GCSE through to master's degree level. As a wider education piece some members of the Squadron visited the Defence Security & Equipment International 2023. This has 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 also provided an opportunity to understand the procurement process that kit and equipment undergoes 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, Shooting Team, Football Competition, TRAILWALKER and Badminton. Additionally, we had LCpl Shishir Budhamagar and Spr Tek Bahadur Karki representing the Regiment in the Devizes to Westminster canoe race and have secured third place overall in the Endeavour Senior Doubles category. Team Balam (Lt William Rutter, Spr Sanjok Lungeli Magar, Spr Fadindra Rai and Spr Jeevan Sinjali Rana) and Team Ishwor (LCpl Himal Limbu, Spr Sulav Rana, Spr Anish Darji and Spr Rabinjang Magar) took part in the 100km race (Ex TRAILWALKER) along the South Downs, on which, Team Ishwor secured second position overall with the total time of 11:01:56, a remarkable achievement.

The Squadron also had an opportunity to take part and enjoy the Brigade of Gurkhas week and successfully won the Nepal Cup led by Sgt Dilbahadur Pun (Nepal Cup Manager). The Nepal Cup Trophy came back to QGE after 2016, on which Sgt Dil Pun was awarded with the Nepal Cup Manager of the year, LCpl Chet Gurung with Top Scorer and Spr Dinesh Thing as best player of the year. The Squadron took part in the 1st Divisional Operation Shooting Competition (OSC) led by SSgt Prakash Gurung representing 36 Engineer Regimental shooting team and has managed to secure overall second position among 17 teams in 1st Division OSC. Following the 1st Division OSC competition, the team were selected to take part in Army OSC on which LCpl Bikash Gurung from DCT Tp, 69 Squadron managed to secure Army 100 badge in July 2022, an impressive achievement overall. The Squadron also seized the opportunity to go to Adventure Training 'Ex KHUKURI JAHAAS'. This exercise saw 5 personnel from the Squadron, including Maj Rich Lawrence (OC 69 Squadron), head to challenging coastal sail training down the West and South coasts of the UK. Spr Sameer Rai from the Squadron fully qualified in a Day skipper practical course. This has also allowed the deployed personnel a great opportunity to continue to develop their sailing experience which has developed their sailing skills ahead of the Royal Engineers Expedition – Ex ATLANTIC QUEST where 36 Engr Regt will lead Leg 3 in August 2023. It has additionally provided esprit de Corps and regimental cohesion.

Five members (Cpl Sureen Thapa, LCpl Min Rai, LCpl Niraj Gurung, Spr Ashish Tamang, and Spr Shubhraj Rai) from the Squadron also deployed in Ex ALPINE SAPPER 2022 in Fulpmes, Austria. They took part in the annual Corps Ski Race representing the Regiment in the championship. The whole exercise comprises of four weeks of camp, split into two phases; during phase one all participants conducted Alpine race training suitable for their ability and Phase Two involved the Corps Alpine Race championship. The team under the leadership of team captain (Cpl Sureen Thapa) delivered an excellent example of determination and enthusiasm and came 7th overall, whilst he also won the races in his category (Veteran) in Slalom, Giant Slalom and combined. A remarkable achievement overall.

Initial Follow-On Force Group (IFFG)

Last year, with the Russians massing on Ukraine's borders, the Squadron ramped up its readiness as the British Army stood up a range of formations to prepare for short notice deployments to Eastern Europe. On completion of 69 Squadron commitment to the Humanitarian Assistance Task Force (HATF) from 1st February - 30 April 2022, under 7 Brigade, the Squadron was stood up for Initial follow-on Force Group readiness commitment from 1st May - 2nd December 2022. The IFFG was a readiness aimed for Eastern Europe vanguard where the Squadron was roled onto this readiness following immediate completion of HATF to support countries neighbouring Ukraine to deal with an anticipated large outflow of refugees from conflict zones into adjacent areas. The Squadron were put at R2 (five days' notice to move) in IFFG commitment, and it was not long after increased to R1 (48 hours' notice to move). With the preparation from HATF, Squadron was in very good position for IFFG commitment on which all necessary vehicles, maintenance, completing numerous vaccination, dental and hearing stats were in a very good position ensuring 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 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.

At the end of the year 2022, 69 Squadron was selected as the primary fill for the C2 and RLS support as part of the UKSB commitment as directed by 1(UK) Division from 2nd December 2022 to 06 February 2023 and had 86 personnel on UKSB commitment. The Squadron had to maintain SOR @ R1 (12hrs NTM) and (24hrs NTM). This has enabled five personnel from the Squadron deployed to OP REMAGE as part of the UKSB task across the country to support the Military Aid to Civilian Authority (MACA) task within

the UK. The task was to support London, Northwest, Southeast Coast Ambulance Service across the UK in various challenging real scenarios during Christmas. The deployed personnel, partnered up with paramedics in ambulances specific task coordination serving the public in need, a great lived experience for the deployed personnel and Squadron.

Future Commitments/Plans

Looking ahead, with the completion of HATF and IFFG readiness commitments, the Squadron is always ready to remain at readiness for the foreseeable future, and being the most prepared Squadron in the Regiment, it affords us some flexibility to undertake any upcoming readiness commitments. With completion of Ex SAILFISH 22-1, the Squadron is ready to undertake any other construction projects across the globe. We are hoping that the Ex PINESTICK 24, deployment to Cyprus can be successfully deployed from January – April 2024. Additionally, we have planned and are scoping construction projects within the UK and Germany and are hopeful that we will continue to add to the list of countries that people have deployed to. I am very humbled by the achievements of those in the Squadron and the breadth of activity we take part in. Whilst I write this, we have personnel preparing to take part in Kings Coronation Parade, Ex PINESTICK Recce, Ex AUSTRERE SHIELD (Squadron deployment to Germany) in preparation of Theatre Entry Group (TEG) and other future Operations. Whilst we may not know what the future holds, what we can be certain of is that 69 Gurkha Field Squadron will remain the most prepared Subunit to react to whatever comes our way and we will continue to do 36 Engineer Regiment and the Queen's Gurkha Engineer proud.

Jai 69 Sqn, Jai QGE



69 Gurkha Field Squadron with their Close Quarter Combat (CQC) Advance Khukuri Fighting Skills

70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron

By Maj Loots RE, Officer Commanding

Introduction

The journey of 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron (70' Squadron) has bounded forward on a new trajectory over the last year, driving towards the goal of establishing a new capability for the QGE. An organisation that is adept at dealing with change, having re-rolled three times already, the engagement and commitment demonstrated by the Squadron has been inspiring. All of which has paled in comparison to the professionalism of our people and unwavering support of our families.

Over a time of increasing uncertainty, from the invasion of Ukraine to the cost-of-living strain, the focus of the soldiers and officers in 70' Squadron has never wavered. They have developed a QGE Parachute capability within 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment to deliver the UK Defence's Very High Readiness force, ready to react when required. They have done this with keen proficiency and humility; ever keen to learn and to further progress. They have managed this substantial task whilst still supporting 36 Engineer Regiment and the QGE as well as finding the fun inherent to service life.

The overriding focus of 70' Squadron over this time has been to ensure Defence can deploy overseas effectively as part of the UK's Global Response Force (GRF). Operational effectiveness, as laid down in Defence Doctrine, is defined as 'fighting power' which encompasses three key elements: Physical, Conceptual and Moral components. This provides a useful framework to reflect on the progress and success of 70' Squadron this year.

Physical Component

Ex WESSEX STORM

The culmination of 70' Squadron's progression was encompassed in the collective training event Exercise WESSEX STORM 23/1. This saw the Squadron deploy to Salisbury Plain Training Area for seven weeks over April and May. This event demonstrated a more agile, integrated, lethal and expeditionary capability from the Army. It sought to assure the 2 Royal Gurkha Rifles Battle Group (2RGR BG) as a newly created entity; the third Battle Group (BG) within 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team (16 AA BCT).

The fighting force, made up of infantry, artillery, engineer, and logistics elements, was tested through numerous varied simulated missions. The ultimate aim was to prove the Battle Group ready to respond to international crises, either limited military engagements or humanitarian operations. Coincidentally, over the first weeks of the exercise, the GRF responded rapidly to the devolving situation in Sudan. This meant that elements were withdrawn from the exercise to deploy or support

deployment of the GRF that was at Readiness. The responsiveness of the Squadron was tested as some 21 people had to deploy to Cyprus as part of the force. This proved an early measure of the flexibility and ability of the Squadron to perform its new role of Very High Readiness as part of 16 AA BCT.

As part of the exercise 70' Squadron delivered several tasks to demonstrate the progression made and ability to operate within 16 AA BCT. Mobility, counter-mobility, and survivability allowed the BG to operate effectively. These key roles for Engineers were delivered through various phases of the exercise with 70' Squadron integrating Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Search and Military Working Dogs capabilities. Regardless of the pressures of time and resource, the Troops were excellent at providing the BG the support that they required, consistently innovative in approach.



Building a BG Water-Point

Newly learnt Air Assault skills were also tested through seizing, repairing, and holding an airfield and allowing follow-on forces to insert; a key role to deliver Theatre Entry. Support Troop were integral to delivery, focussing on their vital capability of Airfield Damage Repair, employing new kit and an adaptable approach. SSgt Dekraj has been excellent in planning and generating the skills and equipment to deliver this new role. He is looking at further developing it through lighter more robust kit and innovative approaches to ensure the task could be delivered in the most austere circumstances.



Minefield breaching by hand, core Cbt Engr skills

Ex KHUKRI PARICHHAN

This training event was hugely useful for 70' Squadron to baseline our skillset conduct a training gap analysis and develop a plan to improve the Physical Component of our fighting power. For four days in November the entire Squadron deployed to the training area in Aldershot. We tested Combat Engineering, Recce, Logistics and vitally the Command and Control required to ensure we could operate effectively, efficiently, and safely. Long days, challenging tasks and numerous cups of chai were encountered, and we learnt much collectively; a fantastic start on the Squadron's journey towards assuming Readiness.

LFTT

As part of being physically prepared for battle the Squadron must be able to fire our weapons safely and accurately. Ex KHUKURI BATTLE 2023 (13-24 Mar 23) was a range package in Otterburn. The key objective was to prepare J Troop to the required standards to conduct live firing alongside 2 RGR BG on Ex WESSEX STORM. SSgt Tilak delivered an excellent package that was challenging but equally rewarding to those who undertook the training.



SSgt Tilak delivering a Range Brief - Otterburn Ranges

The progression of 70 Squadron has been supported by the physical development of our people. This has been best reflected by the number of personnel to pass arduous courses and the breadth of unique courses that have been overcome. We have had success on the All-Arms Pre-Parachute Selection, Army Diver and Physical Training Instructor course.

Arguably the toughest course that our people choose to test themselves against is the AAAPS course. This is formed of four phases:

- Regimental conditioning- 5 weeks at Rock Barracks
- Brigade Screening- 2 weeks at Aldershot Training area (or somewhere replicating Catterick)
- Brigade selection- 1 day with 2 pass/fail events
- AAPPs- 3.5 weeks at Catterick

This gruelling course has an average pass rate of 50% but the QGE personnel have fared better than this. So far 32 Squadron members have passed the course. The most recent course in March seeing 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment form one third of all successful candidates.

Our people never cease to impress me, displaying interminable courage and fighting spirit inherent to the ethos of the QGE and UK's Airborne forces.



Minefield breaching by hand, core Cbt Engr skills

This, however, is only part of the puzzle; once AAPPS is passed, there is still the requirement to pass the Basic Parachute Course. This is a three-week course conducted at Brize Norton, run by the RAF to train soldiers to safely parachute from service airplanes. Over the past year 70 Squadron has been a high priority to attend the courses with 12 personnel passing and qualifying as paratroopers. This is one of the prerequisites to assume the task on VHR as the Lead Airborne Task Force. Unfortunately, due to poor weather over the winter there have been several incomplete courses; weather conditions direct when safe to jump. With improving weather, it is envisaged that 70 Squadron will generate the required trained personnel this summer.

Conceptual

Ex EAGLE SAPPER

This was an exercise delivered by 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment that focussed on testing soldier and engineer skills in simulated warfighting conditions. It provided an ideal opportunity for 70' Squadron practice inherent skills and to measure progress against numerous training objectives. It further developed the collective understanding of the Squadron towards operating as part of 16 AA BCT. Making conceptual leaps through time and space; starting in the rear, establishing Theatre Entry, and delivering Close Support to frontline operations.



70 Gurkha Para Sqn on watermanship training

Ex MANTICORE and GAULISH

Part of 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment's role is to support the Combined Joint Expeditionary Force alignment with the French Forces. 70' Squadron has thus deployed on two integration exercises to display UK capabilities and learn with and from our French partners. A/Sgt Sangum and Cpl Anil represented the Regiment and the QGE in the best of lights, even drawing praise from the French CGS.



After winning the battle

Pg APOLLO

Programme APOLLO is the £700m Estate rationalisation and seismic upgrade of facilities within the Permanent joint operating bases (PJOBs) and outstations for Headquarters British Forces Cyprus (HQ BFC). The Clerk of Works (CoW) assigned to the Squadron have been providing support to HQ BFC SO1 Infra by analysing the estate development plan (EDP) and UKStratCom forecasted programme of works to ascertain the enabling works required for new infrastructure to be built whilst not impacting Operations and limiting the effects to BFC business as usual (BAU).

Over two separate six-month periods the APOLLO support team consisting of SSgt Hall and Brown then SSgt Paija and Phillips provided technical assistance to SO1 Infra, BFC to develop infrastructure and deliver the change management plan for RAF Akrotiri.

This complex programme, over many areas of BFC, has required substantial stakeholder engagement and management by the CoW from the Squadron. This has been mutually very beneficial as an excellent opportunity for the CoW to expand their knowledge and experience in strategic development plans and generate some valuable Continuous Professional Development.

Moral

Op BALLAM

8 September 2022 was a truly sad day for the entire nation and beyond; the day Her Majesty the Queen passed away. It was only fitting that Service members supported the ceremony to commemorate one who has taught us all so much about servitude. 70' Squadron deployed 81 personnel from across the Regiment to provide security support to London District.



The Op BALLAM Joint team - Central London

This was my first deployment in command of the Squadron, and I was humbled by the unerring professionalism and dedication displayed by the team, in uncertain times. Without complaint or hesitation, the Op BALLAM team flexed to any task, integrating well with the Metropolitan Police and wider security provision. Eight hectic days were spent living and operating in central London and I will always hold a lasting memory of walking from Knightsbridge to Waterloo at 5am on conclusion of the Op. The streets were devoid of life, it was eerily calm with a bright blue sky overhead and all round me I could sense the collective pride of having been part of delivering the farewell to our late monarch.



70 Squadron recovers on foot through the streets of London

QGE Festivals

70 Gurkha Para Sqn may now be resubordinated to a new Regiment, but our hearts still firmly sit in the QGE community. It was a great honour for the Squadron to deliver the QGE Birthday, Dashain, Tihar and the Attestation parade this last year. Supporting the professional and cultural celebrations inherent to life in the Brigade of Gurkhas invests in the moral component completely. It rightly celebrates the past that we are built on, it invests in the people and their families that currently serve and it promotes a bright future for us all. Vitally it also provides the ideal opportunity to showcase the inclusive nature that imbues our culture, a great example to others in our profession and local communities. I am particularly thankful to SSgt Tilak (QGE Birthday and Dashain), Sgt Basanta (Tihar) and Sgt Satish (Attestation parade) for their tireless dedication and fortitude to show the best of the QGE whilst ably balancing support to operational outputs.

Awards

It hasn't been all just working over the last 12 months, there have been numerous celebrations as well as awards won by members of the Squadron. Of note were two Royal Engineers Awards of Excellence won by SSgt Paija (Innovation) and Cpl Bray (Top JNCO Instructor). These awards recognised instances of distinction for inspirational commitment, professional invention and leadership and all levels. Shybash to our two deserving Squadron members.

Wider tasks

In August 2022 a 6-person team from the Squadron deployed to Uganda on Op CONTINUED ASSISTANCE, a peace time training operation organised by British Peace Support Team Africa, to train the Ugandan Peoples Defence Force (UPDF) in a variety of skills. Our Support Troop delivered excellent training and generated much mutual benefit.



Proof that POMs shape the world, even in Uganda

J Troop delivered a short notice construction task for 15 Squadron, The Queens' Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR) in February. The timber shrine will be used for worship and for holding social and religious activities by the QOGLR and their families in Colchester. It was a great opportunity and privilege for our team to use their trade skills and help one of our 'paltan' to maintain our 'Gorkhali kaida'.



A new shrine for the QOGLR in Merville Bks

Adventurous Training

70 Sqn working hard in the Italian Alps. A key element of the Moral Component is sport and Adventurous Training (AT), both of which our people have conducted and represented at numerous levels. We should reward our people in this way and with AT we are afforded the unique opportunity to challenge them, developing skillsets and resilience on the way. The Squadron delivered two formed AT packages on behalf of the Regiment this year. SSgt Dekraj planned and delivered a fantastic package in the Italian Alps that completely met the aims of AT, in a breath-taking setting. SSgt Hall also delivered a short notice multi activity package in Wales which was incredibly rewarding for our people. Examples of dedication, as displayed by these two individuals, that always humble me; thank you.



SSgt Dekraj investing in our people - September 2022, Italy

A Troop from 70' Squadron supported the Regimental commitment of Public Duties in London. 21 Of our personnel were responsible for providing the Windsor Castle Guard. The majority of contingent were new soldiers, and they loved every moment. As they marched into the Castle forecourt, the crowds that gathered and the loud applause made all the training worthwhile. The highlight of the PDRC was meeting members of the royal family and the private tour of St George's Chapel.



70 Sqn Pic 20. 70' Squadron PDRC contingent looking smart at Windsor castle - February 2023

Summary and the future challenge

I arrived, back in the QGE, in 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron in Jul 22. For me, command is the greatest privilege of our profession, and one for which the

opportunities are all too fleeting. It also comes with a great deal of responsibility, which I do not take lightly. My hope is that whilst the custodian of 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron, I will be able to continue the good work of my predecessors in generating a culture and vision of one empowered effective team. My hope is that the Squadron will be a place that is known to be welcoming and inclusive, unafraid to challenge or to engage with fierce conversations but a place where integrity, trust and people flourish; fast to adapt to the changing needs of the Army, whilst also being results-oriented; and, ultimately, a place where stories and memories can be made, with lots of fun. I would not even come close to realising this vision without the fantastic people that I am fortunate to command nor the amazing, resilient, and welcoming families that provide a support that is hard to quantify but is of immeasurable quality.

The Squadron will now spend a year at VHR as part of the GRF. This will see numerous limited exercises, deployments, and tasks to ensure we remain honed and ready. Personnel will deploy to Oman, Cyprus, Gibraltar, and Jordan whilst we remain ready to deploy anywhere, at short notice, should the UK require it. We will also start planning the move of the Squadron and our families to Rock Barracks in Suffolk. Whilst a new start is exciting, it is even more vital to get it right for all those that it affects. I look forward to updating you all next year on our progress.

37 Fd Sqn, 32 Engr Regt

By Lt Ed Quare 1 Tp Comd

37 Fd Sqn have enjoyed a busy year with a wide range of outputs. Since our return from Kenya last May after completing Ex ASKARI STORM we've supported Op INTERFLEX constructing numerous trench systems to train Ukrainian personnel, we've been held at readiness for Op VENTUS last Autumn and the Sqn is currently aligned to Op ELGIN, a contingency operation in Kosovo with the 1PWRR BG. Despite this busy schedule the Sqn has found time for several other activities and 1 Tp, our QGE Tp have been front and center of it all. From our great showing at Trailwalker in Sept where we entered two hybrid QGE/UKTAP teams to the Cambrian Patrol where Cpl Gyan stepped up and led a junior team to an outstanding silver medal in what was a demanding yet richly rewarding patrol. Perhaps the highlight for the Sqn has been the delivery of a challenging AT package to Nepal where our SSM Garbuja, assisted by Sgt Santosh Goley led a team from across the Regt on the Annapurna Circuit trek. The trek was a challenging yet rewarding experience and was the culmination of months of hard work with 14 members of the Regt travelling to Nepal where they conducted cultural activity learning about Nepali culture before completing the trek including a visit to Tilicho lake, the highest in Nepal.

Looking ahead our focus is on training for the VJTF(L) commitment which we assume in 2024. The Sqn is converting to PM and looking forward to a busy autumn with a deployment for a Tp to Kosovo with 1PWRR as part of the Op ELGIN commitment, quickly followed by a Sqn validation exercise where the Regt will put us through our paces to confirm we are trained and ready for VJTF task. The challenge now is to train all the Comd's, and drivers required to make the Sqn ready to operate from the Mastiff and Ridgeback platforms which are arriving in camp. Despite this the Tp continues to make its mark on Marne Barracks, and we are drawing up plans for a messing hut which will be a great addition for us and the wider Sqn to further develop our bonds.

I leave you with some of the highlights of the year from members of the Troop.

Annapurna Circuit, A Glamorous Expedition of EX NORTHERN NODDY HIMALYAN 2023 *By Spr Tula Raj Rai*

The Annapurna Circuit is a popular trekking route within Nepal in the Annapurna region. The route circles around the Annapurna Massif, the 10th highest mountain in the world. The circuit takes about 18-21 days to complete and covers approximately 230 km. We conducted the circuit as part of our 12-day expedition. The main aim of our expedition was to complete Tilicho lake and Thorong la pass without any injuries, under the guidance and supervision of expedition leader. A group of 14 members from 32 Engineer Regiment undertook the trekking expedition to the Annapurna region.

The trek started from Beshisahar, we passed through various landscapes including lush subtropical forests, terraced fields, alpine meadows, and arid deserts. The mesmerizing waterfall, stunning mountain views, and soothing river sounds made every day more exciting and pleasant. Along the way we passed through traditional villages of diverse ethnic groups such as Gurung, Thakali, Bhotey and Manangba. These villages offer a glimpse into the unique cultures and traditions of the region, giving a real insight into our heritage and ancestry to the British members of the group. During the 12-day expedition we successfully completed Tilicho lake (4919m) and Thorong La Pass (5416m) which is the highest point of the trek that offers stunning panoramic view of the surrounding peaks including Annapurna, Dhaulagiri, and Manaslu. This proved to be a day to remember and a proud moment for all of us. We also visited the holy Hindu temple Muktinath, a revered site for both Hindus and Buddhists.

Overall, the Annapurna Circuit is a challenging yet rewarding trek that offers a unique opportunity to experience the natural beauty and cultural richness of the Himalayan region. It was an incredible experience.

Cambrian Patrol 2022

By Spr James Tamang

I was privileged to take part as a Section member representing 32 Engineer Regiment in the Army's toughest patrol competition, Cambrian Patrol 22. My experience on the Cambrian Patrol 2022 was intense and gruelling, both physically and mentally. We were required to navigate through challenging terrain while carrying all our equipment and supplies, which weighed no less than 40 kg. As a team we were also required to complete a range of tactical and technical tasks, such as dealing with the CBRN environment, Treating Heli crashed casualties, carrying out reconnaissance, extracting through minefields, recognizing enemy vehicles, responding to simulated enemy attacks and so on.

Despite the challenges, it was an incredibly rewarding experience. The exercise provided us with the opportunity to test our skills and abilities, work closely with our fellow Section members and push ourselves to our limits. Taking part in the Cambrian Patrol has helped me develop greater self-discipline, resilience, and confidence, which I have been able to apply to my military career and personal life. It was a challenging and rewarding experience for me, providing me with the opportunity to develop valuable skills and experiences.

Despite the toughest time and challenges, we managed to secure a Silver medal and represented 32 Engineer Regiment and the Queen's Gurkha Engineer at the Cambrian Patrol. It is for the first time in the history of the 32 Regiment which is something to be proud of.



Ex Cambrian Patrol

Op INTERFLEX 2023

By Spr Dammar Kshetri

37 Squadron deployed to The North of England in support of Op INTERFLEX over the period of 23 January 2023 to 10 March 2023. Our task was the construction of a trench system to provide training and support to the Armed Forces of Ukraine to help ensure Ukraine's territorial Integrity.

Operation INTERFLEX provided us with one of the most challenging, yet prestigious tasks I have been involved with allowing us to add value to the armed force of Ukraine. The operation began by deploying an advance party to recce the sites. This comprised of Surveyors who were deployed to survey the ground in detail as well as Plant Mechanics who deployed to start the initial breaking of ground. Finally, we then saw the deployment of the Royal Engineers and the Queen Gurkhas Engineer field troop soldiers to begin the construction of the trenches. All the Field soldiers were deployed to apply their skills and knowledge at the trench site. The task allowed us to enhance and improve our Combat Engineering knowledge, as well as helping boost our trade knowledge and skills. The Sqn managed to accomplish a 200-metre-long trench. Timbers were used on the either side of the wall and Insert Pickets were used in every 1.2m distance to support and hold the timber. In order to successfully complete the task every trade sapper had equal and balanced role over the period, and we managed to finish two sites in the required timelines provide an excellent training facility.

We encountered multiple technical challenges and issues, but we remained composed and delivered the required effective solution. The Signallers working alongside helped to resolve the technical issues giving us an opportunity to learn and prepare for future deployment. Over the course of operation, many Ukraine and the NATO allied soldiers visited the task site. This provided us with a fantastic opportunity to exchange knowledge about each other's capabilities and proficiency. Overall, it's been a challenging yet rewarding task working on a project of such importance.

TRAIL WALKER 22

By Spr Suraj Pariyar

- Team Spr Adam Morale (134)
- Finish Time: 13:40:50

Trail walker is an ultra-marathon charity event open for all to participate. The route is a gruelling 100 km route starting off at the Queen Elizabeth country park finishing at Brighton racecourse. The time limit for this is 30 hours.

What is it that inspires you?

A question we all ask ourselves wondering where our strength lies. Running has been my inspiration and I've been doing it for a while. When I decided to run for the trail walker, I knew it was not going to be a walk in the park. You would say it's hard thinking about it, it's harder running it. Hours of arduous running on the most challenging route. Considering the terrain, my main concern for this event was to avoid any injury but also push my limits.

The event started on 24 Sept at 0600. Everybody has a point where they struggle and start to question their choices. For me it was 30 to 50km. There were a series of consecutive checkpoints with our support teams waiting for us. Their rigorous aid surely kept us going.

You would think going uphill is the most challenging thing to do but when you're running for hours the hardest thing to do is keep going. It's all in the mind. Positive mental attitude is essential. The other important thing is to know your pace. Always be careful to not go faster than your pace. You should not feel ashamed to tell others to slow down. If you don't, the whole team could suffer. It is like the saying "There is no I in a team".

We kept on dragging our feet through the atrocious hills, one after another turning day into night when we finally saw the finish line. The energy that was drained a moment ago came back rushing in. The final few meters holding the regiments flag, what an honour. Every little effort each one of us contributed, finally turned into a conclusion. The completion of this race gives you a different sense of accomplishment; a very proud one.



Trailwalker Team

50 HQ & SP Sqn

By Cpl Sanjok Gurung DCT LCpl

Despite of the Regiment's preparation for possible deployments, external trawls, and various other commitments, QGE soldier employed within 50 HQ and Sp Sqn managed to achieve a lot this year. A very popular phrase that you will hear as a member of this Regiment is, '50 is a different beast'. I always use to wonder why they say that until I was posted to the Sqn last year. If I must explain this Sqn in one sentence, then it would be "The brain and the backbone of the Regiment".

Gurkha's role in the Sqn

Although a RE Sqn, there is no department within the Sqn where Gurkhas are not involved. To put things into perspective, following is the nominal roll and the roles and responsibility of the Gurkhas within the Sqn:

Current serving members of the QGE

- Capt Ashok Gurung (Ech Comd)
- SSgt Paban Kumar Thapa Magar (DCT SNCO)
- Sgt Rabin Thapa (Sp Tp SNCO)
- Cpl Devi Ram Rai (Sp Tp Cpl)
- Cpl Nirajan Budhathoki (Log Node Cpl)
- Cpl Birendra Thapa Magar (DCT Cpl)
- LCpl Anup Rai (MT JNCO)
- LCpl Sanjok Gurung (DCT JNCO)
- Spr Hitson Magar (DCT Tp)
- Spr Rudip Kala Magar (DCT Tp)
- Pte Ram Raja Ghale (SQN MPA)

Ex QGE

- Sgt Surya Gurung (Log Node SNCO)
- Sgt Sanman Thapa (Accommodation SNCO)
- Cpl Bhabin Paija (SQMS JNCO)

Introduction to the Troops

Log Node: Commanded by Capt Ashok Gurung, where the only QGE member is Cpl Nirajan. As a Sqn PTI he is an instrumental to not only his troop but to the Sqn alike. The main role of this Tp is to provide Engr asset to the engineer call sign on the ground, ultimately supporting Battle Group (BG).

DCT: Commanded by SSgt Paban Kumar Thapa Magar, this Tp is a true reflection of the 36 Engr Regt & QGE. The most diverse Tp in the Regiment, where 50 percent of the members are from the QGE. As part of the cross posting within the regiment which started in 2013, QGE personnel have been serving in this tp since then. This tp is responsible for providing communication between A2 Ech, RHQ and the BG during any deployments.

MT/SP: 50 HQ and Sp Sqn holds the biggest fleet of Military vehicles within the Regt and SSgt Rabin carries a huge responsibility on his shoulder to keep them going. To achieve this, working with him are Cpl Devi and LCpl Anup with rest of RE counterparts. Like any other Sp Tp, the main role of this Tp is to facilitate transportation and provide drivers but in bigger scale.



BCS training

Achievements: Despite of the extremely busy period, Gurkhas from 50 HQ and Sp Sqn were heavily involved in various activities throughout the year. Out of many, following are the highlights of the year:



EPOCH GPS Uplift

EPOCH GPS & Firmware Uplift and C2 Capability Uplift

Under the supervision of SSgt Paban Kumar Thapa Magar, DCT Tp led the EPOCH GPS & Firmware and the C2 Capability Uplift for the whole Regiment. The main reason for these uplifts across the Tri-Service is to uplift and upgrade all Bowman radios and UDTs to keep it current and competent with today's modern world.



Capability Uplift

United Kingdom Standby Support Battalion (UKSB)

UKSB is a force prepared on an enduring basis. Each UKSB will provide a trained body of workforce, with integrated command and control, at extremely high readiness, which can provide general duties support to the civil authority. Each UKSB has two specified tasks: firstly, to act as a TEMPERER Standby Battalion (TSB), and secondly to respond to domestic incidents where the Civil Authority has requested military support (MACA). 50 HQ & Sp Sqn and 36 Engineer Regiment &

The Queen's Gurkha Engineers were on UKSB readiness from 2 Dec 22 to 3 Mar 23 where various ROG drills were conducted.



UKSB Communication Training and UKSB Flood Barrier Training

Theatre Entry Group (TEG)

Theatre Enablement is the Log effect delivered by 1st echelon Joint Logistic Enablers to open and activate a (non-permissive/permissive) theatre following swiftly after Theatre Entry and in time redeploy the force. Delivered by a System of Systems - scalable and modular TE capabilities, optimised to operate independently and dispersed, utilising established webs of regional networks. It establishes logistic C2, JLSN and Comms networks. The activity begins in Phase 1 through persistent understanding and liaison. 50 HQ & Sp Sqn and The Queen's Gurkha Engineers are on Readiness for TEG now.



Ex AUSTERE STALLION

To keep the RHQ elements and the Sqn itself operationally fit, 50 Sqn deployed on a Regimental exercise, Ex AUSTERE STALLION which took place in different areas of UK Mainland where field sections were deployed in regions including Dibgate, Bramley,

Kineton, Lydd, Hythe where RHQ elements were centrally located in IPB. Every department within RHQ and the Sqn were put to test during this exercise.

It has been an extremely busy year for 50 HQ and Sp Sqn, either because of the deployments or a day-to-day work. Like I explained 'Brain and the Backbone of the regiment' this Sqn is always on its toes. Gurkhas in the Sqn are extremely proud to be part of it and praises the Sqn for all that it does, not only work wise but also to look after its people.

ITC Catterick

By Capt Prem Kumar Jabegu Limbu, 3 Platoon Commander



Gurkha Company Mission:

To deliver trained Gurkha soldiers to meet the operational requirements of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

Gurkha Company Role:

To mould a Nepalese youth into a Gurkha soldier trained to the standards of the British Army, who retains his Nepalese identity and will live up to the traditions of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

Combat Infantry Course (Gurkha) (CIC (G) is a progressive and intense training programme designed to deliver world class infantry training for the Gurkha recruits to reach their full potential. The training programme is divided in 2 phases consisting of 7 modules.

Basic Training (BT) Phase occurs during Week 0 - Week 14 and consists of 1,2 and 3 modules.

Initial Trade Training (ITT) Phase occurs during Week 15 - Week 40 and consists of 4, 5, 6 and 7 modules.

Each phase consists of significant periods of static ranges, progressive tactical exercises, Live Fire Tactical

Training, the Recruit Culture and English Language Training (CELT), cultural activities, and a wide range of other activity. 2 weeks Mid-Course leave is included within this period and separate additional 2 week driving practical and theory training (For selected RGR only) is included after week 40.

The training team of Gurkha Coy consists of service personnel from various cap badges of Brigade of Gurkhas including Brigade Band, as such it is very fortunate to operate alongside all selected diverse team with different talent, skills, and experiences. As usual beyond day-to-day responsibilities, the training team of Gurkha Company are also busy supporting the usual trawls and tribulations of Fd Army, particularly year 2022 Op INTERFLEX (training recruits of the Ukrainian Armed Forces) has been unavoidable hence, majority of training teams were involved to support this trawl. In addition to the Infantry training course, QGE training team members have demonstrated outstanding trade skills in various in-house projects. Recently QGE training team members along with equally enthusiastic volunteers from the wider team of the Coy have completed several DIY projects which includes the construction of a pagoda at the mandir, construction of the huge centre piece display cabinet as a backdrop of the Coy foyer, messing hut upgrade projects and various ongoing minor projects all leading to an enduring contribution to preserve Gurkha Company's culture and heritage.

Central Piece Display Cabinet

An outstanding display of UBIQUE, QGE training team members Cpl Rajendra and Cpl Laonya demonstrated their trade skill whilst constructing the centre piece display cabinet. The Cabinet is constructed to showcase all the awards and trophies provided to the recruits during their course of training and the trophies won by permanent staff of Gurkha Company during numerous events, tournaments, and competitions. The display has led to valuable contribution towards preservation of Gurkha Company's heritage and culture. This will surely boost the morale of winning mentality to the young Gurkha recruits and motivate them to achieve for the highest standards. The Pagoda is constructed for the protection of Maulo (sacrificial post / pillar in Hindu Temple) from inclement weather as a result rites and rituals can be conducted during ever changing inclement weather conditions of North Yorkshire. Both projects will benefit the Gurkha Coy and the entire Gurkha community for many years to come.

Catterick PARAS' 10 Race 2022

Cpl Rajendra Rai has yet again performed above and beyond his primary role and volunteered to lead a team for Gurkha Coy for the PARAS' 10 race event. He has shown hard work, dedication, and excellent leadership by organising and coordinating the training as a result his team managed to secure winner position out of 44 teams. The ultimate PARAS'10-mile endurance

race is an annual event organised by the serving soldiers of the Parachute Regiment, aiming to raise funds for "SUPPORT OUR PARAS" whilst providing a challenging and enjoyable event remains key attraction of the event. The event comprises of very challenging 10 miles tabbing or running carrying a Bergen weighing 35 lb (excluding food & water) at best effort. Gurkha Coy has always endeavoured to motivate, inspire, and encourage permanent staff to conduct additional physical activity and pursue continuous improvement on physical fitness through events like PARAS'10. Cpl Rajendra and his team has successfully demonstrated and proven to motivate permanent staff and young trainees to allow them to undertake similar challenges in future.



Cpl Rajendra leading Paras 10 race event

Honours and Awards

Currently, there are eight SPs from The Queen's Gurkha Engineers delivering the CIC (G) training in Gurkha Coy. The current CIC (G) training program itself is very demanding and challenging physically and mentally both for the recruits and for the training teams. All members of QGE within the Company are extremely talented and performing above and beyond their capacity. Their hard work, dedication and selfless commitment has been recognised and rewarded by their CoC. Few QGE JNCO's were awarded with the SCHINF Commander's coin, Commandant trophy and Guard Company's coin for the arduous work and excellence.



Corporal Rajendra Rai was awarded the Commandant's Trophy



Corporal Rajendra Rai and Cpl Laonya awarded SCHINF Commander's Coin

Corporal Rajendra Rai (QGE) was awarded the Commandant's Trophy for having made the greatest contribution to Gurkha Company in 2022. In addition, he was awarded SCHINF Commander's coin and Guard Company's coin for his hard work and selfless commitment.

Corporal Laonya Limbu (QGE) was awarded the SCHINF Commander's coin for his hard work and selfless commitment towards Gurkha Company in 2022.

3 RSME

By Cpl Sahadev Magar



QGE B2 Bridging

QGE B2 Bridging

Once again, the active training schedule for 2023/24 presented various obstacles that Curragh Troop at 3 RSME Regt had to tackle. Curragh Troop faced a challenging period as they had to balance their standards with the increasing demands for Initial Trade Training (ITT), Specific Trade Training (STT) courses and the eagerly awaited QGE B2 course for the 76 Training Party. Despite the challenges, our proficient QGE instructors fulfilled their duties with uttermost perfection, while adhering to the high standards of QGE. Following a triumphant endeavour of managing a hectic timeframe, Capt Chandra Pun transferred the Troop command role to Capt Suresh Sherma. Throughout his time in 3 RSME, he achieved several notable accomplishments, including successfully conquering

the DOKO challenge, dominating Ex TRAILWALKER 22, and, perhaps most impressively, completing the London Marathon while carrying a weighty 15 kg DOKO. Cpl Amber Mangmu recently left Curragh Troop and moved on to a new assignment with 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron, thus saying goodbye to his old unit. During his three years at Curragh Troop, he demonstrated exceptional leadership, continuously adhering to QGE KAIDA and setting a positive example for future generations of QGE Sappers. Cpl Sahadev Magar has assumed his role in Curragh Troop.

Curragh Troop consistently achieves excellence in providing various training courses such as ITT, STT, AABBO, Assault Pioneer course, and Reserve courses. This is achieved through a team of competent instructors composed of three GURTAM and two UKTAP instructors, whose superior training is overseen by Capt Chandra Pun and managed by SSgt Suman Ghale. A tight knit team of QGE instructors, including Cpl Omraj Gurung, Cpl Krishna Tiliya Pun, Cpl Sahadev Magar and Cpl Brown (UKTAP) are currently with Curragh Troop.

There is a strong QGE community within Minley station. Zonnebeke Troop, 63 HQ and Training Squadron supervises 6 ERE positions of QGE, which are currently held by Spr Govinda Rajbanshi, Spr Khadka Sunuwar, Spr Bibek Thapa, Spr Prabin Ghising, Spr Kushal Gurung and Spr Sante Gurung. Sergeant Krishna Sampang Rai is currently employed within RECISS wing, providing instruction for Defence Communication Technician training for both Class 2 and Class 1 levels through the REWW. Furthermore, LCpl Bhupal Rai is engaged in providing aid to Comd 8 Engr Bde beyond the confines of Minley station.



Bridging training

76 Training Party Combat Engineer Class 2 Course

The integrated QGE B2 Course which involved 47 Trainees (33 GURTAM & 14 UKTAP) required diligent understanding of diverse culture and linguistic obstacles. The extra efforts were required by all

instructors to enhance readiness of QGE trainees for upcoming challenges. Obtaining a stable belt in the B2 course was a challenge for all trainees, nevertheless the solidarity and comradery during difficult moments served as a source of pride for all trainees. After undergoing the rigorous 12-week Combat Engineer training, Spr Yugal Limbu was recognised with the Top Combat Engineer Student award and Spr Manish Rai was awarded the Top Academic Student award, proving their exceptional abilities to the Training Team and exemplifying their commitments to excellence.



Final Exercise

There are 12 QGE permanent staff within 3 RSME:

Rank	Name	Appointment
Capt	Chandrabahadur Pun	Curragh Troop Commander
SSgt	Suman Ghale	Curragh Troop SSgt
Sgt	Krishna Sampang Rai	REWW-RECISS-Sgt
Cpl	Omraj Gurung	Section Commander (Curragh Troop)
Cpl	Krishna Tiliya Pun	Section Commander (Curragh Troop)
Cpl	Sahadev Magar	Section Commander (Curragh Troop)
LCpl	Bhupal Rai	Driver (Commander 8 Eng Brigade)
Spr	Govinda Rajbanshi	Section Sapper (Zonnebeke Troop, 63 Sqn)
Spr	Khadka Sunuwar	Section Sapper (Zonnebeke Troop, 63 Sqn)
Spr	Prabin Ghising	Section Sapper (Zonnebeke Troop, 63 Sqn)
Spr	Sante Gurung	Section Sapper (Zonnebeke Troop, 63 Sqn)
Spr	Bibek Thapa Magar	Section Sapper (Zonnebeke Troop, 63 Sqn)
Spr	Kushal Gurung	Section Sapper (Zonnebeke Troop, 63 Sqn)

1 RSME

By Capt Prithi Chhantyal QGE, Tp Comd

1 Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) is based in Brompton Barracks, within Chatham station, where a significant amount of training is delivered, through a large variety of courses, to a diverse population of trainees including: potential recruits, under 18 trainees, serving soldiers and serving officers of all ranks. On average there are between 800 and 1,100 personnel training at any one time on courses that can be up to 11 months long.

1 RSME delivers initial and subsequent construction, engineering, and watermanship trade training in partnership with Mid Kent College Training Services (MKCTS) and TQ, to achieve the output of trained and motivated personnel directed in the Statement of Training Tasked (SOTT). They will be delivered by the two Squadrons: 24 Training Squadron is responsible for delivering construction artisan trade training. 36 Training Squadron is responsible for delivering engineering artisan trade training, plant, and boat training. PEW is to deliver trained and motivated personnel in infrastructure engineering, design, and management.



Spr Subash on FOB Upgrade Project

Most of the QGE Sappers on completion of their B2 training in Minley, come here in 1 RSME for their relevant trade course and 41 QGE Sappers have completed their 0-2 / 2-1 courses in 2022.

Recently, Neame Troop which used to be a holding troop has been transformed to Training Wing, led by Capt Prithi Bahadur Chhantyal and assisted by Sgt Ashish Malla and the training wing team, including three QGE Sappers. Training Wing is responsible for all training delivery and assurance, ensuring adherence to RSME Gp and LWC policies.

There are nine QGE permanent staff within 1 RSME:

Rank	Name	Job Role
Capt	Prithi Bahadur Chhantyal	Trg Wing Officer
Sgt	Ashish Malla	Trg Wing SGT/ GLO

Sgt	Bal Budha Magar	McPhie Tp SGT, 36 Trg Sqn
Cpl	Sagar Gurung	Jarvis Tp Cpl, 36 Trg Sqn
Cpl	Ganesh Khatri	Durrant Tp Cpl, 36 Trg Sqn
Cpl	Sunrise Gurung	Lendrim Tp Cpl, 24 Trg Sqn
Spr	Abinash Gurung	Trg Wing Spr
Spr	Jesh Magar	Trg Wing Spr
Spr	Subash Chand	Trg Wing Spr

**Heating & Plumbing Trade SNCO/Tp Staff
McPhie Tp 1 RSME**
By Sgt Bal K Budha Magar

I have assumed the post of H&P trade SNCO in McPhie Tp, 36 Training squadron 1 RSME as of September 2021. McPhie Tp, which accommodates H & P, Fabricator/Welding and Fitter ACR trades. Among which, I am liable for H & P trade management and delivery in liaison with Mid Kent college (MKC) civilian instructors and managers. It is a unique partnership between military and civilian cohorts committed in delivering highest standard of subsequent trade training (STT) class 0-2 and 2-1 trade training to the regular RE and QGE soldiers.



The UK South volleyball 1 RSME

Being a QGE SNCO in the Squadron, I advise and help OC in terms of QGE matters and soldiers in liaison with GLO. After successful completion of trade training, it involves compiling comprehensive course report for individual soldiers in reference to the trade and military performance during their trade training in Chatham station. Out of trade training, my job role revolves around looking after the G1 of soldiers, maintaining the values and standard and committing to extra Regimental commitments.

Now I have taken over the roles and responsibilities of Tp Staff along with my H&P trade commitments since October 2022 which I have been privileged and fortunate

to have. This has led to me to learn and develop my troop management skills, looking after 102 trade trainees and 9 permanent staff in rank of Cpl and Sgts at times.



Observing Ghazni Day

British Forces Brunei
By Maj Khadka Gurung QGE, SO2 G1 Welfare / Station Staff Officer (SSO)

The British Forces Brunei (BFB) Garrison



Maj Khadka (SML) leading GSPS team at high camp, KK

Single Key Outpost in The Far East. British Forces Brunei (BFB) is the largest and most diverse Garrison; dynamic, engaged and growing. Since my last update, there has been a lot of changes. BFB's wide range of regional and in-country outputs are reinforced by our Garrison community of soldiers and families, and the infrastructure to support them. With increased footprint and defence activities, BFB housing and welfare support is at the heart of the business as ever. Challenging, busy year but good busy! It is very satisfying experience while providing the service to the BFB community of over 2,200 people. Beside this, I managed to nip out of the office leading (SML) the GSPS team to Mt Kota Kinabalu (4,095m) on a level 3 AT and a trip to Vietnam on a battlefield study. Amazing!

In summer 2022, 1 RGR arrived swiftly as part of the unit move and established their presence in no time. Fighting Coys are delivering a wide range of Bde outputs including the CBRN readiness and the planned 4 Light Brigade Combat Team (LCBT) patrols competition deep inside the Borneo jungle.



BBS Team Skiing AT in Japan

The increased focus on the Indo-Pacific following the Integrated Review has seen BFB widely engaged in the region. From fireteam to Coy strength have been deployed to Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, STTT to Fiji and Papua New Guinea as well as delivering a low-level DE activity in numerous countries. In addition to the overseas OPERATE activity the Garrison remains well set to ENABLE those operating in the region; recent support to 40 Commando Royal Marines on Exercise PACIFIC DAGGER and replenishment to HMS Tamar are some of the finest examples of BFB's diversifying strength with unifying purpose ably supported by a sound firm base. The departure of 667 Sqn AAC's Bell 212 helicopters from Brunei indicated the arrival of 1563 Flt with their three Pumas and their establishment as 230 Sqn RAF, an organisation with deep regional history. An extensive work including a new aircraft hangar in Medicina Lines, SFAs and SLAs across the BFB estate are being renovated, funded by the Joint Helicopter Command. Completion of infrastructure projects delivered by DIO(B) under the leadership of Maj Ashok Rai (GE BFB) marks the full integration of the RAF into the BFB community.

In July, Company Groups will deploy to Thailand and Japan for OTXs to operationalise BFB. 1 RGR will also take part on Ex HAKA STORM (CAST), a key milestone with an aspiration for FOXTROT level validation in Brunei in 2024 on Ex PALAWAN WARRIOR, exercising alongside US and Bruneian partners.



Fastest means of insertion and extraction of Troops is the BBS Boat and Operators

That said, Sappers from both RE and QGE have been the backbone of all enabling activities to plan, deliver, maintain, and sustain the firm base and supporting an overseas deployment. For now, sending our best wishes to our wider QGE Pariwar (Past and Present) and the Paltan - The Regimental Flag is still flying high in the Far East where we were born (Kluang, Malaysia). With the Land Regional Hub in mind, future will tell us when we grow bigger - opportunity is here!

Life in the Brunei Boat Section (BBS), BFB By SSgt Sangharsha Rai QGE



Operation - Troops are dispatched deep into the jungle

'Small but mighty' Brunei Boat Section (BBS) has been an ambassador of Queen's Gurkha Engineers (QGE) to British Forces Brunei (BFB) in Southeast Asia. With only four members of QGE and two Locally Employed Civilians, BBS has been an indispensable department throughout BFB. BBS is responsible for delivering boat capabilities to support enduring and contingent riverine activities for BFB. It maintains high readiness to support BFB, MOD A BLOCK (MAB), Operation NEPTUNE (Flood Rescue) and different riverine operations.

BBS also assists Special Forces Selection, the jungle phase known as Exercise ATAP HURDLE providing the boats, vital safety equipment and support for the waterborne activities. We provide this support twice a year. Furthermore, we regularly support Jungle Welfare Division (JWD) during their infamous Jungle Week in all aspects of waterborne activities; capsize drills, river crossing and riverine operations where the troops will plan and carryout riverine assaults by using multiple boats. Additionally, Company level riverine exercises are also ably supported by BBS team to execute the mission safely on the river. At the heart of all this, expertise from BBS is responsible of safe boat operations and creating a safe environment for exercising troops. All BBS members are highly qualified, experienced, and competent all arms safety boat operator, water safety equipment manager, and OBM maintainer. It is a moment of pride and truth when we rapidly infill and exfil troops in and out of the hostile and wildest jungle environment to safety. Recent support to 40 Commando RM on Ex PACIFIC DAGGER

(21 Mar -13 May 23) in Brunei was a key milestone to BBS, stretching our capability to the limit by working tirelessly day and night to provide water safety and emergency casualty extraction plan. BBS was involved from the outset with 40 Cdo on initial reconnaissance, riverine operations, and river crossings offering some advice on a meticulous planning and execution. For the first time, the HHRC course was conducted (23 Apr -12 May) in Brunei where Boat School 1 RSME and BBS delivered a 3-week intensive course (written and practical examination). Two members from 1 RGR were passed the course. Pre-requisite for HHRC course is, minimum JNCO and qualified AABBO and AASBO. Despite of all busy commitments and career courses, BBS managed to attend a week of Skiing – AT in Japan. An excellent opportunity to develop individual resilience, courage, enhancing the ski skills and exploring the Japanese culture.



GOC RC visited BFB families at CCCC on 31 May 23

Infantry Battle School Brecon
By LCpl Migin Alay - “Tip of a Spear” - Assault Pioneer Platoon, IBS, Brecon



IBS 01 Battle Simulation support

As the history witnesses- “The great battle cannot be fought and won without the utmost help of supporting elements.” We as an assault pioneer is one of them, who always act as a backbone to support infantry units in various combat operations. These are the inaudible voices of an “Assault Pioneer Platoon” from the Infantry Battle School, Brecon which portrays an image about the outstanding jobs that we provided here.

We are highly specialist and skilled soldiers who provides engineering expertise and specialised skills to support all the infantry courses in Brecon. We are well trained to operate specialist equipment including explosives, mines, demolition charges as well as constructing and breaching obstacles. We are trained to operate in all types of environments, from urban areas to rural terrain. The role of the assault pioneer is significantly important in modern warfare, where our ability to create and breach obstacles, construct barriers and provide rapid mobility can make a huge difference between victory and defeat in frontline combat operations.



Defensive harbour construction

We are part of the Training Support Division (TSD) within Infantry Battle School (IBS) in Brecon. The Assault Pioneer Platoon is combination of both “The Queen’s Gurkha Engineers” (QGE) and “The Royal Gurkha Rifles” (RGR) SPs serving together delivering Cbt Assault Pioneering capabilities to the IBS such as delivering lessons on mobility, counter mobility and survivability including demonstration of Explosive Method of Entry (EMOE) and providing BATSIM (Battlenoise Simulation) throughout the year. During these rigorous infantry battle courses, our support plays a significant part in delivering realism and relevance to the training. As a British companion of Ukraine, we are providing our immense support by providing various defence and combat engineering lessons to the Ukrainian forces and infantry courses.

Currently, the unit is due to implement IBS Optimisation which will see the future training and supporting elements to be more adaptive and agile meeting recent threat possessed by the adversaries. Additionally, the Pl is closely blended with the local communities and delivers wide range of community projects which helps us maintaining public relationship.



IBS Brecon - Pic 3. IBS 03 Russian trench refurbishment

In conclusion, the assault pioneer platoon is a unique team coupled with multi cap badges integrated together which focuses in delivering basic combat engineering and assault pioneering capabilities. We are the team which acts as a “Tip of a Spear” and responsible for clearing the way for an advancing force ultimately gives us deep sense pride and job satisfaction.

Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn

By WO2 (SSM) Akash Tamang QGE, SSM HQ Sqn

The Gurkha Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) Support Battalion is part of 1 (UK) Signal Brigade. The Battalion provides enabling and force protection support to the ARRC NATO Warfighting HQ on all operations. It has two Squadrons: 14 Sqn QOGLR and Headquarter Sqn, plus BHQ. QGE personnel have been delivering in various capacities from all positions and roles.

Close Support Troop - SSgt Bhupendra

Engineers, infantry, trade specialists, and subject matter experts all in one troop; a unique organisation, Close Support Troop carries a fine reputation in the Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn. The troop comprises ferocious infantry soldiers (RGR) and skilled combat tradesmen (QGE), commanded by Capt Cholanath Limbu as Troop Commander, and SSgt Bhupendra Gurung as Troop SSgt. In total, there are three sections of fully integrated and mixed teams from both cap badges. As an Assault Pioneer troop, CST works relentlessly to aid the Battalion in meeting its operational requirements in every condition. The primary role of the troop is to support HQ ARRC and 1 Signal Bde with force protection and combat engineering. Some crucial tasks in the field include setting up perimeter fencing, commanding the ACP (Access Control Point) Bridging training in Weymouth training area

Power Troop - Cpl Angshihang

Ex FLYING JAVELIN, 1 (UK) Sig Bde's Training Level GOLF exercise was conducted in RAF St Mawgan and various locations in the UK, including Imjin Barracks. The Battalion's missions were to PREPARE, PROJECT, SUSTAIN and REDPLOY RLS resources to enable

the exercise. Power Troop, comprised of electricians and fitter trades were at the front and centre of the exercise, playing a key role in the planning, installing, and maintenance of the power supply in all exercise locations. The Troop also conducted experimentation exercises during the installation phase to determine an efficient and cost-effective ways to complete set tasks. It was identified that the use of correct types of FEPDS (Field Electrical Power Distribution System), PMDS (Power Management Distribution System), and LAPDS (Lighting and Power Distribution System) in conjunction with a competent trades person is imperative to achieve our tasks efficiently and effectively.

In addition, Power Troop was also responsible for providing the heating system in Staff Working Environment for the HQ ARRC personnel. DANTHEM Heaters and Environmental Control Units were used simultaneously in different locations. They were powered separately with FEP generators, accurately assessing the quantity of fuel used. Forward Support Troop (FST) - Sgt Roshan

SSgt Roshan leads FST team



SSgt Roshan leads FST team

FST is an evolving Troop with 14 Sqn QOGLR and has mixed cap badge personnel comprising RLC, QOGLR and QGE personnel. FST started life as a concept to allow forward deployment and recce capability for the HQ ARRC in early 2017. The troop is responsible for the reconnaissance of locations for HQ ARRC. On completion of reconnaissance, it engages in the preparation and execution of close protection and mobility of COMMARRC and the Staff movement between the TAC CPs. As part of Project SPRING GENERATION, the troop has lost the Protective Mobility capability. At the beginning of 2023, FST was restructured again and is now responsible for transporting kit and equipment to HQ locations. The troop ORBAT consists of 1 x QOGLR Troop Commander, 1 x QGE Recce Sgt, 1 x QOGLR Section Commander, 3 x QOGLR Section 2ICs and 13 QOGLR Privates. In addition, the troop holds 14 vehicles ranging between SV MAN Cargos, SV MAN TCVs and GS Land Rovers.

Mandir Project: It has been yet another busy year for Sappers at the GARRC Sp Bn. SSgt Bhupendra Gurung led the construction of Battalion's Temple Project. With

tradespeople and combat engineers from across the Bn, renovation of the Bn Temple project was led by the Gurkha Major, Maj Baldeep Tamang. The construction included roofing, formworks, a 5m x 5m concrete pad and decorations. It was an excellent opportunity for the tradespeople to engage and practice their trade skills.

Ex JAVELIN REFLECT: On 16 Oct 22, members from Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn deployed on Ex JAVELIN REFLECT, a battlefield study of the WW2 Italian campaign. The main aim of the exercise was to provide professional military education, applying current doctrine through the prism of military history.

The focus of the study was the battle of Monte Cassino at the Gustave line (a defensive position created by enemy forces), and the landing of allied troops on Anzio beach to secure the route to Rome. The first three days were spent studying the battle of Monte Cassino and its surrounding positions. It was a vital ground during the battle as it was the only route to Rome passing through the city. Standing at the foothill of Mount Trocchio, in the foreground we could see the battle area and in the background was Monte Cassino and its monastery. Each day was divided according to different battles and operations of Allied forces to secure the town of Cassino and its surrounding hills. We concluded the Cassino visit with an act of remembrance at Cassino Commonwealth Cemetery. The visit to the Ardeatine Caves, where 300 innocent people were sacrificed brutally by the Nazi reign, was a moving experience. **Adventurous Training:** In February 2023, QGE and RE personnel deployed on Ex SNOW SAPPER in Austria for a week of skiing Adventure Training. It was an excellent opportunity for QGE Sappers to learn to ski and enjoy the experience after a busy year of exercise and training. All the novice participants achieved the Ski Foundation level one certificate.

British Gurkhas Pokara (BGP) (BGP)

By Capt Krishnakumar Pun QGE, Quartermaster Technical BGN

As I ran into the final year of my posting in BGP, there has been a major change of my role from QM BGP to QM (T) BGN from 01 Jul 22. This brings the additional responsibilities of Unit Equipment Manager and the lead for delivering the Land Equipment Assurance (LEA) in BGN. Despite the role change, the location of the posting has remained in British Gurkhas Pokhara.

Recruit Intake (RI) 2023

It is needless to remind the readers that Gurkha Recruitment for the British Army (BA) and Gurkha Contingent Singapore Police Force (GCSPF) is the core mission of BGN with the support from various SMEs deployed from the UK. BGN's mantra of Free, Fair and Transparent recruitment is at the heart of what we do and how the recruitment is delivered in BGP.

A total of 12,889 Potential Recruits (PRs) registered for the British Army and 7019 PRs registered for GCSPF during Online Registration for Recruit Intake (RI) 23. On completion of Phase 1 Registration across three Army Career Information Offices (ACIOs) located in Pokhara, Dharan and Surkhet, 5056 PRs for BA and 2879 PRs for GCSPF were call forwarded for Phase 2 Initial Selection. After Phase 2 Selection in Pokhara, the numbers of PRs were further reduced to 420 PRs for BA and 280 for GCSPF. The Phase 3 Final Selection took place in Pokhara, and 204 PRs were selected in the British Army and 144 PRs were selected in the GCSPF. The biggest change during RI23 Selection was the removal of East: West 50:50 quotas in Phase 3 Final Selection. The removal of 50:50 quotas from other Phases (Phase 1 and 2) will be introduced gradually to ensure the best PRs get selected on merit rather than on East: West quotas. A full-scale Attestation Parade for 204 BA recruits with their close families and dignitaries took place on the 09 Feb 23.



Defensive harbour construction

74th QGE Birthday Celebration - 12 Oct 23

The QGE SPs, QGE RAN members and families from Pokhara celebrated the 74th QGE Birthday on 12 Oct 23. We were truly fortunate to celebrate the Regimental birthday with the RHQ Team: Lt Col M Hendry MBE (Comdt QGE), Maj Govinda Rana (GM QGE) and WO (1) A Malone (RSM QGE) who were visiting Nepal on a Regimental Duty Trek. The event presented an ideal opportunity for the RHQ team to meet and greet SPs, RAN member and families.



Defensive harbour construction

BGP Coronation Day / Dinner - 06 May 23

BGP Kalikhola Mess Coronation Dinner Night Photo Sgt Dibesh Lama organized a family lunch and formal Dinner Night on 6 May 23 to mark the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and his wife Her Majesty the Queen Consort Camilla of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms. The day unfolded with the SPs, Civilian Staffs (CS) and families from Team Gurkha (BGP, GWT (N) and KAAA) gathered in BGP for family Insert Picnic, fun games, entertainment from local dance group and cake cutting ceremony. Later in the evening, mess members of Kalikhola Mess gathered for the formal dinner night to mark the historic day.



BGP Team Cycling Tour (Pokhara- Bandipur-Pokhara)

Gurkha Company Tavoletto, Combined Arms Manoeuvre School, Warminster

By Sgt Bhupendra Rai, Resources SNCO, CAMS HQ

Gurkha Company (TAVOLETO) is the Training Support Company at Waterloo line, Warminster. It used to be Specialist Weapons School, but since the merging with the Reconnaissance Armoured Tactical Division in July 2022, it was rebranded to Combined Arms Manoeuvre School (CAMS). CAMS mission is “To train the required number of Officers and Soldiers to the appropriate standard in order to support the operational requirements of the Infantry and Defence.”



The QGE Extra Regimental Employed (ERE) members serving at Gurkha Company (TAVOLETO) Warminster

Gurkha Company (TAVOLETO) comprises the Signals, Assault Pioneer and MT platoon, where a total of four Queen’s Gurkha Engineer Extra Regimental Employed (ERE) members, two SNCOs and two JNCOs are assigned with the recognised role and responsibilities, and additional of combat engineer and trade support. Resource SNCO Sgt Bhupendra Rai, posted to HQ CAMS, is responsible for managing resources to support various courses, identifying and producing the workforce and equipment shortfall in advance to bid Support to Experimentation and Training (SET) through Land Operations Command (LOC). Likewise, Sgt Raju Tulachan was assigned as Assault Pioneer Platoon Sgt and LCpl Pujan Shrestha, who took over from LCpl Anil Tamang on Apr 23 appointed as Assault Pioneer Section 2IC. They are responsible for pioneer support, providing water safety as the Watermanship Safety Officer and Battle Noise Simulation to the numerous exercises and courses conducted by CAMS and the Warminster Garrison. In addition, they also provide support for Operations training and other activities as directed by the HQ CAMS and OC GCT. Similarly, MT Section Commander, Cpl Roshan Chhantyal, assigned to MT Platoon, holds the responsibilities of Detail JNCO, Unit JAMES Administrator, and CAMS green fleet manager, performing a critical role for the company.



Sgt Raju delivering Demolition familiarisation training to the Canadian forces during Op INTERFLEX

With a deep sense of responsibility and upkeeping the Queen’s Gurkha Engineers ethos, the Sappers are always at the forefront of every company commitment. Highlights of the year 22/23 are Sgt Raju Tulachan leading Temple refurbishment and decoration, Cpl Roshan Chhantyal delivering numerous General Service vehicle Conversion Courses and LCpl Anil Tamang fulfilling the role of challenging Cambrian Patrol 2IC. We are small in number but have established ourselves as the central cog of the company and CAMS. The Queen’s Gurkha Engineers ERE personnel at Warminster feel valued, honoured and inspired as this

organisation has personnel from across the Brigade and wider Army. Maintaining the Army Values and Standards, Gurkha KAIDA, and The Queen's Gurkha Engineers work ethos, we want to continuously maintain what we have set so far and try making it better in the future and be able to meet the CAMS and the future army demand.

Jai QGE



LCpl Anil Tamang fulfilled the role of Patrol 2IC and secured a silver medal representing Gurkha Company (TAVOLETO) CAMS HQ

Unit Welfare Department - QGE Families News

By Spr Rakesh Rai, Unit Welfare Assistant

Inter Unit Nepal Cup Ladies Volleyball Team

On Saturday 9 July 2022, the annual Nepal Cup (NC) and Gurkha Brigade Association (GBA) Bhela 22 were held at the Queen's Avenue sports field in Aldershot. The day included the NC Final, the Kathmandu Cup for Gurkha veterans, the Gurkha Women's Volleyball Competition, and GBA stalls. This event brought together members of all ranks from around the Brigade, and it gave our veteran community and their families a chance to create memories by spending an excellent and worthwhile day together.



The QGE Ladies volleyball team

The QGE ladies' volleyball team was led by Mrs Sarita Gurung, W/O Cpl Jagadish Gurung under the direction and guidance from Mrs Kalpana Rana didi (W/O Gurkha Major Saheb). The Gurkha Women's Volleyball Tournament was contested on a single-elimination

basis. The QGE and QGS teams advanced to a highly competitive final after a series of hard-fought pool matches. This was a difficult competition for the ladies, who played tirelessly all day. Despite all obstacles, they were able to secure the position of worthy runners-up. This was a tremendous accomplishment for the QGE ladies' volleyball team, which was their first time participating in this event.

Volleyball is a physically demanding sport that requires strength, power, and speed. SSgt Dekraj Thapa, a volleyball coach from 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron, coached the QGE players. He also focussed on fundamental teaching and coaching methods, gained from his own experience in playing and coaching volleyball at a high level.

It was a fantastic opportunity for the entire Nepalese community to gather and catch up with old friends. They also had the opportunity to try different Nepalese foods while attending the event. This occasion taught our QGE families that they are stronger when working together and that they can accomplish great things in doing so.

Teej Celebration

One of the most significant festivals in Nepal, especially for women, is Teej. The event is a tribute to Lord Shiva's wife, Parvati, and is a celebration of women's strength and resilience. The festival is also a chance for women to celebrate being together, regardless of where they are from, standing in solidarity and support for each other. The event was held at the Corporals' Club in Invicta Park, Maidstone. It was led by Mrs Kalpana Rana (GM DD), W/O Maj Govindabahadur Rana (Gurkha Major). All QGE ladies gathered to commemorate the occasion. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to rejoice. They celebrated by wearing traditional Nepalese clothing, and engaging in other activities such as dancing, singing, socialising with friends, reminiscing and telling stories. Also, they applied mehndi to their hands and feet. The celebration started off with a snapshot of all the attendees together. I was fortunate to be assigned as a photographer for this event. They had a lot of fun taking Insert Pictures of themselves wearing their Teej garments against various artistically designed backgrounds. They were offered a selection of Nepalese dishes along with several beverages. They took part in a full schedule of events that were enjoyed by all, including dancing, a photo session, quiz competition, and a raffle. The winners of various events, each received a prize.

Shree Sanatan Mandir - Cultural Education

On Saturday, 22 October 2022, QGE families travelled to Shree Sanatan Hindu Mandir in Wembley, London, for an educational and cultural tour. The visit gave an opportunity for the families of all service members deployed on operations and long-term exercises, or



**Shree Santaran Hindu Mandir
Cultural Education**

courses, to foster community togetherness and the exchange of cultural and religious knowledge. I was responsible for guiding and looking after the ladies. They entered the temple as soon as they arrived, where they observed all the Hindu gods and goddesses, and then performed a religious Puja.

After this, they went to visit and interact with the community. They were also given the opportunity to taste various types of Indian cuisine. Because this visit was scheduled near the Tihar festival, they used it to prepare for Tihar shopping. The event's main goal was to promote diversity and inclusivity through educational and cultural temple visits and spiritual practises. This event was a success in terms of building bonds amongst families whose spouses were deployed on operations and long-term courses.

Coffee Meeting

QGE families led by Mrs Kalpana Rana (GM Didi), along with the Unit Welfare Team, occasionally organise coffee meetings to bring unity and community spirit among families. The first meeting was conducted at the IPB Community Centre on 29 March 2023. At the event,



Coffee Meeting

the women joined together to signify unity and preserve the QGE culture. This allowed individuals to gather with friends, and to meet new ones. The event was very rewarding, allowing escape from the stresses of work and home life.

All participants were given a brief, information about the QGE culture, and Kida, by Maj Govindabahadur Rana (Gurkha Major), and WO2 Rojan Rai (Unit Welfare Warrant Officer). New friends were also welcomed. Although the QGE ladies were very busy, they made and brought in a variety of Nepalese home-cooked dishes. In addition, they presented bouquets of flowers to families who have recently joined the QGE, as well as sincere goodbyes to those families who are being posted away or departing the service.

The QGE ladies initiated these events to provide an enjoyable and social occasion for everyone associated with the regiment. Taking place on the 2 Mar and 28 Apr, in the IPB Community Centre, they were a great opportunity for all serving personnel and families of the regiment to gather over a cup of fair-trade tea and some homemade treats; all the while raising money for SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity, and celebrate the 75th birthday of the QGE.

Community members volunteered to bake cakes and prepare homemade delicacies. They worked tirelessly throughout the events and as a result, successfully raised £400.00 on the 2 Mar and £490.00 on the 28 Apr. Both events were a tremendous success for the entire community. Serving Persons and their families generously donated to a worthy cause. This has helped shape a stable and harmonious environment, which encourages people to work together towards achieving common goals. A very well done to all those ladies who organised these events!!

The Queen`s Gurkha Engineers support the State Funeral - Op LONDON BRIDGE

By LCpl Subash Malla Thakuri, QGE

The Queen`s Gurkha Engineers support to the State Funeral, Operation LONDON BRIDGE was the state funeral for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in which



QGE contingent during the State Funeral

the UK and Commonwealth military personnel were involved on 19 September 2022 in London and Windsor for the final funeral and committal service.

26 service personnel from The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, led by Capt Lal Bahadur Rana and Lt Anderson Matthew, were deployed to support the state funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The ceremonial dress was issued, and tailoring took place; this was followed by a series of dress inspections by the Gurkha Major, the Commanding Officer, and the Corps Colonel. The contingent then moved to Pirbright for a week to master heavy drills, including specific funeral reverse arms drills for the parade. It was an arduous week of rehearsals with the Army and Commonwealth participants over 4000 members.

On 19 September, the contingent formed up in Wellington Barracks, Central London and at 1030hrs stepped off in procession and marched to Westminster Abbey. After the state funeral service, participants marched along the roads of Parliament Street, through Horse Guards Arch, along The Mall, past Buckingham Palace, and up Constitution Hill to Wellington Arch. Her Majesty's coffin on the state gun carriage was at the rear of the procession throughout. The casket then departed in a hearse to Windsor accompanied by members of the Royal family and high dignitaries, including Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers (QGOOs) representing the Brigade of Gurkhas. It was a huge parade, attended by thousands in person and witnessed by millions worldwide through various media.

The late HM Queen Elizabeth II was the Commander in Chief of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers and was bestowed the "Royal" title on 21 April 1977. All service personnel involved and representing the QGE was a great sense of pride and privilege with a unique experience to pay final respect and bid farewell to the Her Majesty.

Farewell to the Commandant of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Hendry MBE RE and his family

By Sgt Dilbahadur Pun

Under the direction of Gurkha Major QGE, Major Govindabahadur Rana, WO2(SSM) Suresh Sherma (Event OIC), Sgt Dil Pun (Event 2IC) and their team delivered an outstanding and well-choreographed historic farewell event in a traditional manner, befitting as per the QGE culture and Regimental tradition. The event was witnessed by all serving personnel and their families from the home unit, including ERE units.

The main purpose of the event was to come together as QGE Paltan and Pariwar to bid farewell to the



Comdt QGE Farewell Blessing at the Temple



Comdt QGE Farewell handing over the "Baton"

Commandant of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers with high spirits maintaining our unique culture, kaida, & traditions, to enhance broader QGE integration as QGE Paltan & Pariwar and to sustain & promote awareness of our Culture, Values, Customs, & Identity within QGE.

The main aim of this event was to bid farewell to the 31st Comdt QGE, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Hendry MBE RE & his family. 36 Engineer Regiment and The Queen's Gurkha Engineers (Home of QGE) has been his second family home for two decades. He started his military career in 2002 as a young Second Lieutenant; since then, he assumed the appointment of Tp Comd, Sqn 2IC and OC (All in 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn), as a Project Officer in Pokhara in between, and finally the Comdt QGE (Jul 20 – Feb 23). He left the Regiment "Paltan", but his legacy will remain forever, in particular; securing the home of QGE, production of QGE Memoranda, QGE crest, and QGE LE Officers career model and structure, restructuring the QGE Pipes & Drums, initiating Best QGE Sapper of the Year Trophy and Advance CQC Khukuri Fighting Skills, and the procurement of two QGE silver pieces are the most significant events. He was supported superbly by the 26th GM QGE, Maj Kamal Bahadur Khapung Limbu MVO, and the current 27th GM QGE, Maj Govindabahadur Rana.



Comdt QGE bidding his final farewell to QGE

After 22 years of sterling service, he proudly leaves the Regt, the QGE, and the Army, especially on completing the prestigious role of the CO 36 Engr Regt and the Comdt QGE. We would like to thank him for his outstanding and unwavering service to the Paltan, Corps and the Brigade of Gurkha and wish him and his family the best of luck in future endeavours.

The Queen’s Gurkha Engineers LE Officers’ Winter Bhela 2022

By Capt Ram Rai QGE

The Winter Bhela for the Queen's Gurkha Engineers, Late Entry Officers was held on 30 December 2022 at Invicta Park Barracks in Maidstone. Ops Officer 70 Gurkha Para Sqn, Capt Ram Rai QGE, and his team produced a wonderful winter event. The event's goals were to maintain and preserve the QGE tradition, culture, and Kaida in line with relentless change around us. The event was attended by a total of 72 personnel, including families and kids.

The event began with a round of golf organised by Capt Narendradhoj Gurung (SO3 QGE Soldiers) at the Ridge Golf Course. The main event commenced at 1700 hours with a cordial welcome speech, a group photo, delicious dinner, and congratulations to newly commissioned Officers, followed by the QGE updates. The QGE update was delivered by the GM QGE Major Govindabhadur Rana, who also thanked all Officers and families for their continued interest and support to the Regiment. He also stressed the importance of the unique QGE LE event in preserving our distinctive culture whilst changing in line with the norms of a changing society. The entertainment included a family karaoke event and musical chairs for all 11 senior Officers.



QGE LE Offrs Winter Bhela



QGE LE Offrs Winter Bhela

76th Training Party, Attestation Parade (Kasam Khane Parade)

By Sgt Satish Gurung, MT SNCO, 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron

On 31st March 2023, 33 Sappers from 76 training party of The Queen’s Gurkha Engineers (QGE) Recruit Intake 2022 took the oath of allegiance at Invicta Park Barracks, Maidstone. Kasam Khane is a formal ceremony undertaken annually by all QGE Training Party since 1996. Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier J L Clark CBE, attended this historical event as a reviewing officer, delivered a speech addressing QGE and its achievements, and congratulated the 76 Trg Party. This historic event was attended by various dignitaries, VIPs and guests from across the Regiment and wider, totalling 300 guests. The special guest list included serving and retired personnel from 1 RSME, 3 RSME, 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment, QGEA and ERE. In addition, Top Combat Engineer Student and Top Academic Student were presented to Spr Yugal Limbu and Spr Manish Rai by the Col of the Regiment, respectively. The Band of Brigade of Gurkhas displayed a magnificent musical extravaganza, and the CQC Advanced Khukuri pattern display entertained the guest with their Khukuri fighting skills. The event concluded with delicious Nepalese curry and an entertainment package delivered by the talented trainees.

The QGE would like to formally welcome the 76 Training Party into the family again and congratulate all trainees on achieving this historic milestone.



76 Trg Party RI22 Group Picture with the RHQ QGE



76 Trg Party RI22 take oath under the QGE Flag

Ex BRAEMAR GATHERING - Braemar Scotland

The Queen’s Gurkha Engineers and the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas took part in Braemar Gathering on Sat 1 Sep 22. Over 100 personnel and families deployed from Maidstone and Folkestone to take part the annual event. This kind of involvement by the Brigade of Gurkhas was the first time. The Band displayed magnificent performance to over 1000s spectators whilst, the members of the QGE and their families displayed Nepalese cultural dances, Advance Close Quarter Combat Khukuri Fighting Skills Demonstration. The QGE Athletes also participated in the hill run and few track and field events.



Group performers



Advance CQC Khukuri Fighting Skills Demonstration



Typical Nepalese Jhyaure Dance



Typical Nepalese Jhyaure Dance



QGE Ladies Showcasing Nepalese Costumes

The QGE 74th Birthday

By Sgt Nagesh Sunuwar 70 Gurkha Para Sqn

The 74th birthday of the Queen’s Gurkha Engineers (QGE) was celebrated at Invicta Park Barracks, Maidstone, in the presence of the Colonel Commandant the Brigade of Gurkhas, Lt Gen Richard Wardlaw, OBE, along with serving and retired members of the QGE on 1st October 2022. This was the annual highlight in the QGE calendar and one of the significant events in the QGE. Moreover, it revitalises the proud history of the QGE and presents an excellent opportunity to boost morale and strengthen the bond between current and former members of the QGE.



Col Comd Brigade of Gurkhas, Comd and G M QGE Cutting the cake



Capt Lal Rana, Capt Bikash Shrestha & Capt Prem Jabegu commissioned by the Col Comd BG Lt Gen Richard Wardlaw OBE

This year, 70 Gurkha Para Squadron was tasked with the formalities and the event was led by SSgt Tilak Pun and his team. It was an excellent occasion to integrate the newly formed Para Squadron to highlight the QGE history and KAIDA. In addition to the formal activities, a competitive Inter Rank Football Competition, KALIPRASAD Shield, Ladies Football and CHHELO, was organised prior to the celebration to socialise and develop interaction between the members of the QGE and their families.



QGE Sprs demonstrating the Advance Khukri Drills

Members of the QGE, QGEA and non-QGE, along with family and friends, assembled in front of the Able Hanger to celebrate the QGE birthday. VIP guests, earlier Commandant QGE, and previous GMs were also present at the event. On arrival of the Chief guest, the QGE birthday routine order was read by the Adjutant, Capt Edward Griffiths. Consequently, LCpl Sandeep Sombaphe was announced as the Bowring Trophy winner in 2022 and LCpl Deepak Magar runner-up. It is awarded to the best JNCO of the year in the QGE. Similarly, Spr Suraj Rai was awarded the Hendry Trophy, and Spr Lal Bahadur Khati was runner-up. This is awarded to the best Spr of the year.

Capt Lalbahadur Rana, Capt Bikash Shrestha and Capt Premkumar Limbu were officially commissioned as an Officer by the Colonel Commandant the Brigade of Gurkhas, Lt Gen Richard Wardlaw OBE. After

that, the Regimental Birthday cake-cutting ceremony was commenced; the Regiment was fortunate to hear from Comd QGE, Lt Col Mark Hendry MBE, on the achievements of the QGE over the past 12 months. An aggressive advanced CQC Khukuri pattern was demonstrated by the QGE sappers, which was undoubtedly the highlight of the day.

Inside the ABLE hanger, an excellent set-up was made to highlight QGE Squadrons and Extra Regimental Employment achievements. The diverse capabilities and achievements of the QGE soldiers were a testament to their professionalism and dedication to be the best wherever they serve. In the afternoon, the Gurkha chefs prepared and operated a delicious Gurkha curry lunch, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. It was an excellent opportunity for everyone to get together and share their experiences. The event ended with a promise to meet again on the next birthday.

QGE Sports News

By WO2 (QMSI) Joseph, QMSI FE

Football: The Queen's Gurkha Engineers creating yet another history.

The first Nepal Cup final was played in 1949 in Malaya between 1/ 6GR and 2/ 7GR. The cup carries a huge significance because it was presented by His Royal Highness Maharaja Mohan Shamsher Jangabahadur Rana GCIE CBE, who at the time was the Prime Minister of Nepal and Colonel in Chief of the Gurkha Brigade in 1947. The competition takes place annually during the annual Gurkha Brigade Association (GBA) Bhela. It is played in accordance with the Army 11-a-side football competition rules, involving teams from major and minor BG units from the BG. Since its inception, the QGE has won Nepal Cup thirteen times including in 2022 (defending champion). The QGE boasts in being the only team to consecutively win Nepal Cup three times in a row in 1991, 1992 and 1993.

The QGE started their Nepal Cup journey in May 22. FC Tongba, which is a civil football club comprised of ex-QGE and serving QGE soldiers shaped the initially



Nepal Cup Winner 2022

inexperienced entries to a winning team. The team was led by OIC Sgt Dil Pun, Head Coach Cpl Nirajan Budathoki and Assistant Coach Spr Suraj Rai. The QGE advanced to the semi-finals finishing top in Group B. It was a tough battle against 2 RGR in which The QGE were victorious. On Sat 9 July 2022, The QGE played the final against the defending champions, The QGS, who had won two times in a row at Queen's Avenue, Aldershot. The final match was significant for both teams not because it was the final match but both teams were fighting to create history. The nail-biting final match had to be decided by penalty kicks as both teams scored a goal each. LCpl Prakash Rai (team Captain) scored for The QGE and LCpl Vivek Gurung for the QGS. The finals ended with QGE 4 - 3 QGS which meant that the prestigious Nepal Cup trophy was coming home.



Nepal Cup Winner - Receiving the Trophy

The winner team was then presented the Cup by Col BG, Col David Robinson. Further out, individual awards, Top Scorer, Best Player and Best Manager were awarded to The QGE individuals, LCpl Chet Gurung, Spr Dipesh Thing and Sgt Dil Pun respectively.



Nepal Cup Winner

Special mention: Cpl Arpan Gurung played his very last Nepal Cup match after playing 15 years wearing QGE shirt.



QGE Ladies Volleyball Team

Badminton

Badminton is one of the most popular sports in the world and getting more popular because it is a fun social activity that can be played by people of all ages and skill levels. The Invicta Badminton Club (IBC) is no different. The club is run by the past and present members of The QGE and is widely known amongst the Nepalese community.

In the realm of sports, few experiences can match the sense of pride and accomplishment that comes from excelling as a team. Our team has recently achieved extraordinary feat that has further solidified our name within the badminton community. We proudly celebrate our team's remarkable achievement, highlighting the hard work, dedication and camaraderie that has propelled us to succeed in various championship such as Army Badminton Championships and Royal Engineer Badminton Club Championships



Badminton

Army Badminton Championships 2022:

- **Army Unit Champions Winner**
36 Engineer Regiment & The Queen's Gurkha Engineers (WO2 Joseph Subba T/capt)
- **Inter Unit Doubles Runner-Up**
SSgt Jas and Sgt Deoman Limbu
- **Men's Doubles Runner-Up**
SSgt Jas and Sgt Amber
- **Mixed-Doubles Winner**
SSgt Jas and Cpl Brand
- **Novice Men's Singles Winner**
Spr Rohit

Royal Engineers Badminton Championships 2022:

- **Unit Champions Winner**
36 Engineer Regiment
- **Men’s Singles Winner**
WO2 Joseph Subba
- **Men’s Unit Doubles Winner**
SSgt Jas and Spr Rohit
- **Men’s Open Doubles Winner**
SSgt Jas and Spr Rohit

Seizing the opportunity, Royal Engineers Badminton Club comprising of 8 QGE players had the privilege of travelling to Malaysia for a memorable sporting adventure. Through friendly matches and joint training sessions, we forged connections and friendships with talented players, experiencing the true spirit of sportsmanship.

Finally, our team has exemplified the values of dedication, teamwork, and perseverance, setting new standards and inspiring others to follow in our footsteps. With our eyes set on even greater triumphs in the future, we will continue to train hard, support one another and embrace the joy of playing this beautiful sport as a united team.

TRAILWALKER 2022



QGE members participation in Trailwalker 2022

This year a record breaking, the QGE members from across the ERE units, participated the Trailwalker 2022 in nine different teams representing the home team and ERE teams. The teams that the QGE members participated are as follows: .

- 125 Team ISHWOR (36 Engr Regt & the QGE)
Overall 2nd Posn (11:01:56 hrs)
- 159 GURKHA ARRC Sp Bn
Overall 5th Posn (12:05:56 hrs)
- 134 Team Spr Elijah Bond 32 Engr Regt
Overall 6th Posn (12:20:59 hrs)
- 108 23 Para Engr Regt 70 Gurkha Para Sqn QGE
Overall 11th Posn (13:09:19 hrs)
- 147 Team Spr Adams 32 Engr Regt
Overall 15th Posn (13:40:50 hrs)

- 120 Team BALARAM (36 Engr Regt & the QGE)
Overall 16th Posn (13:49:42 hrs)
- 117 Brecon Warriors
Overall 19th Posn (15:06:57 hrs)
- 119 3 RSME - TEAM 3
Overall 22nd Posn (15:06:57 hrs)
- 146 3 RSME
Retired (16:33:31 hrs)

Intake Rising Cup 2022



Intake Rising Cup 22, winner Intake 15

On 6 Aug 22, Intake 07 (61 Trg Pty) hosted the ‘Intake Rising Cup’ (IRC), an annual 7-a-side football tournament between Training Parties (Recruit Intakes) within The Queen’s Gurkha Engineers.

The event was initiated by Intake 07 since 2011, which now is in The Queen’s Gurkha Engineers Regimental Memoranda. The event itself plays a huge part in identifying potential players for Nepal Cup team, RE and Army team. In addition, it is a great opportunity to bring all the QGE personnel together contributing to Operational effectiveness of QGE as a whole.

20 teams took part in this year’s IRC. Congratulations Intake 15 for winning the tournament. GM QGE, Maj Govindabhadur Rana presented the trophies to the prize winners.

A big thanks to Cpl Umesh Umesh Chamling Rai and team for organising a successful IRC 22.

Mountain Biking & Golf

Mountain Biking is getting popular in the Army, more so within the Brigade of Gurkhas. The adrenaline rush combined with speed and skills make the participants come back for more. There are more than a dozen riders from The Queen’s Gurkha Engineers who compete from Regimental level to National level achieving multiple podium positions.

Cpl Top representing the Army Mountain Biking Cpl Top Jung Rai has represented the Army Team since 2019. He has been the backbone of The QGE Mountain Biking and more QGE Riders are encouraged to ride



Cpl Top representing the Army Mountain Biking



Sgt Gajendra representing the Army

and race following his footsteps. Sgt Victor Fombo has completed a season with the RE Corp Enduro Team for 2022, finishing high and Spr Basanta has recently joined the RE Corps XC MTB team for 2023. There are many upcoming potential rising stars who are ready to race and keep the QGE flag high in upcoming days.

Although The Queen’s Gurkha Engineers have sparse representation on Golf, the quality of the players is unquestionable. SSgt Gajendra Gurung represented the Army at the Inter Services Championships where the Army managed to secure runners up overall. He was also presented with the Army blazer during the championships. To top it up, SSgt Gajendra Gurung finished 2nd at the 99th Army Match Play Championships.



SSgt Gajendra in action

Adventure Training

The Queen’s Gurkha Engineers continues to have a strong participation on numerous Adventure training such as Mountain Biking, Hill walking, Rock Climbing, Skydiving etc. This has provided the opportunity for all participants to push themselves beyond comfort zone at the same time fostering team cohesion and developing leadership qualities. In addition, LCpl Sishir Budha Magar and Spr Tek Bahadur Karki finished the Devizes to Westminster International Canoe race in 3rd place in the Endeavour doubles category.

Among all the adventure training there is nothing so thrilling, scary and risky as skydiving. However, Spr Kiran Gurung and Spr Rahul Darai have overcome these fears and are currently employed at JSAT Parachute Programme as junior staffs. They carry out multiple tasks which include parachute packing, delivering parachute packing lessons to ranks ranging from Private to Colonel, dispatching assistant, manifesting aircraft lifts all in a risk to life environment.



WO2 (SSM) Eka Bahadur Rai won the 1st Runner Up position on Army Cross Country MTB Series Round 2



Devizes to Westminster International Canoe race in 3rd place



Kiran Gurung Sky diving instructor

Moreover, Spr Kiran Gurung has become the first Gurkha Sapper to qualify for British Skydiving National B License.

Athletics

Athletics is a great way to push we, explore new places, challenge ourselves, run faster, compete against other participants and enjoying the great outdoors. It provides a positive influence on the life of an individual and develops as a person. It consists of several track and field events in which hard work and dedication is utmost.

Spr Rabin Jang Magar was awarded the 1 RSME Elite Sapper 2022 where he won the 3000m run, Javelin Throw, Shot Put, Long Jump and the 800 m run. In addition, Spr Bibek Lamichhane secured 2nd position in the U23 category at the Army Athletics in Minley.



Athletics representation in RSME



36 Engr Regt Squash Team

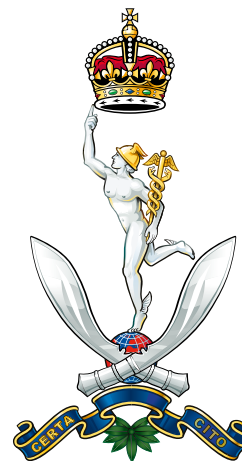


Spr Rabin Jang Magar awarded Elite Sapper 2022

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

Brig M J Fayers

British Officers

Lieutenant Colonel S M Smith
 Major J McEvoy
 Major A Cotterill
 Maj M Hollingsworth
 Major D Prady
 Major J Leigh
 Major C Dowling
 Capt A Richards
 Capt A Richards
 Lt J J Standford
 Lt S Cole
 Lt A Harding
 Lt L Moore
 Lt A Aintree
 Lt J West
 Lt E Tebbutt
 2Lt O Ingram
 Lt J Keaveney
 Lt E Natolie
 Lt R Riley
 2Lt K Simpson
 Lt O Masterson
 2Lt F Niekirk
 2Lt N Clark
 Lt A Thompson
 Lt R Debbage
 Lt J Sankey
 2Lt M Lymar
 Lt B Richardson

Comd QG SIGNALS
 OC 242 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 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 Offr 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Ops Offr 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Ops Offr 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Tp Comd 242 Gurkha Sig Sqn
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 Tp Comd 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn

Gurkha Officers

Major Deepak Rai, MVO
 Captain Ashok Gurung
 Captain Subaraj Sunuwar
 Captain Khagendra Pun
 Captain Indra Thapa
 Captain Gyanendrabahadur Rai
 Captain Simbahadur Chochangi
 Captain Laxmanbabu Rana
 Captain Lalitbahadur Thapa
 Captain Gopal Saru
 Captain Hembahadur Rana
 Captain Robin Rai
 Captain Jagatram Rai
 Captain Rajkumar Gurung
 Captain Sanjeev Rai
 Captain Sekendra Gurung
 Captain Pramod Gurung
 Captain Ashok Pun
 Captain Prem Gurung
 Captain Bhupal Gurung
 Captain Pandu Tamang

GM QG SIGNALS
 Adjt QG SIGNALS
 RCMO QG SIGNALS
 2IC 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 2IC 242 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 SO3 G1 1 (UK) Div
 2IC 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 OC BST
 OC NST
 QM T, 16 Sig Regt
 2IC 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 2IC 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 2IC 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 OPSO 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Trg Offr 4 (Mil) Sqn
 MTO 30 Sig Regt
 Tp Comd 30 Sig Regt
 OC Battleaxe Tp 3 Sqn
 OPSO, 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Tp Comd 242 Gurkha Sig Sqn
 Pl Comd ITC Gurkha Coy

Gurkha Officers holding E1/E2 Appointments

Major Hebindra Pun	QM 30 Sig Regt
Major Dhirbahadur Pun	AMA Nepal
Major Omprashad Pun	Station Comd MoD Corsham and CO Joint Support Unit
Major Amrit Gurung	QM 1 Sig Regt
Major Lokbahadur Gurung MVO	2IC Sandhurst Sp Unit, RMAS
Major Vishal Pun	2IC 3 (UK) Sig Regt
Major Kamal Gurung	QM 21 Sig Regt
Major Sureshkumar Limbu	QM 22 Sig Regt

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).

Foreword by Colonel of the Regiment

Brigadier M J Fayers



A very warm welcome to this edition of newsletter and my first as Colonel of the Regiment. I feel greatly honoured for the opportunity to serve you once more - our serving Paltan, our Association and our wider regimental pariwar. In doing so, I draw immense inspiration from our soldiers and officers, for their professionalism, enthusiasm and relentless pursuit of excellence. Indeed, it is exactly these qualities which continue to build on our distinguished history and create opportunities within the Brigade of Gurkhas, the Royal Corps of Signals and the wider Army for our people. Turning to this newsletter I would like to do three things: say thank you to my predecessor General JJ Cole saheb; to outline my role in the plan; and to

highlight my priorities. I know our other contributors will capture our successes over the last year and a look forward to the exciting year ahead.

First, however, I would like to pay tribute and thanks to General JJ Cole saheb and to Jackie memsaheb. General JJ saheb's leadership throughout his service and as our Colonel of the Regiment for the last 7 years has been truly inspirational. He has led us through a period of unprecedented change and growth: initiating the formation of new sub-units and sub-unit moves; ensuring our voice is heard during changes to recruiting; contributing to the refinement of welfare provision in Nepal; and providing support to our people during earthquakes and of course the pandemic. Plus, many career and welfare issues, where he has personally engaged to ensure the best outcome for our people and families. On a personal level, during my time as Commander, he was generous with his time and banter, and thoughtful in his advice. Furthermore, I would like to offer our collective thanks for his generous gift of a silver Sumguar as a prize to celebrate our sporting success at our Paltan's birthday. In many ways this gift reflects General JJ saheb style - a moderniser conscious of our traditions, with a keen sense of humour and a passion for supporting our people. On behalf of the serving Paltan, our association and our wider pariwar. I offer a dherai dhanyabad to Jackie memsahib and General JJ saheb for all they have done.

Secondly, I thought it useful to reaffirm my role as the Colonel of the Regiment. My overarching role is to foster success within the 4 pillars: to promote and protect the QG SIGNAL's unique heritage; to ensure effective welfare support to our people and their families; as President of the QGSA to ensure we deliver its objectives; and to provide guidance and leadership to the serving Paltan. Clearly these pillars

are underpinned by our reputation which we all have a role to play in protecting and reinforcing. But they are also enabled by working closely with our museums, our service charities including the GWT, the Brigade of Gurkha Association and Royal Signals Association, and both the Brigade of Gurkha and the R SIGNALS. I am delighted to report that these relationships are all in great health - thanks to your hard work and your support.

Thirdly, to my priorities. One of the many things I love about our Paltan is its progressive approach. Always looking to adapt, learn and improve, whilst celebrating our heritage. My priorities are reflective of this progressive outlook:

- To maximise the talent of our people;
- To foster future opportunities for the Paltan; and
- To ensure the QGSA and GWT continue to evolve to support the changing needs of our families and soldiers past and present.

Finally, may I thank you all once again for all that you do - I am exceptionally grateful and proud. I (and Cheri!) look forward to the year ahead and seeing you around the bazaars.

Jai QG SIGNALS!

Foreword by Commander

Lieutenant Colonel S M Smith



What a year 2022 has been, so much has been achieved across the Regiment and I know that every single member of our Pariwar continues to serve to the very best of their abilities. Thankfully we have seen the much-needed return of our collective celebrations, formal parades, and the chance to visit our distributed personnel. It has been fantastic to be able to come together once more and I sense there was greater energy and importance placed on these events than in our recent past. Participation exceeded expectations and the combined Birthday Parade, Dashain festival and Farewell to our Colonel of the Regiment, Major General JJ Cole CB OBE, on 8 October was one of the highlights of the year. I'd like to take the opportunity to personally thank General JJ for his unwavering guidance, support and dedication during his tenure as Colonel of the Regiment. We all wish him and his family the very best for the future. It is also my pleasure to welcome

Brigadier Mike Fayers back into the Pariwar as the new Colonel of the Regiment. I offer him and his family our warmest of welcomes, we look forward to his leadership and direction, to help navigate the Regiment's future.

It has been my own privilege to command the Regiment over the past two years, in some of the most testing of times, but, as with all good things it must come to an end. In June 2023 I will handover command to Lieutenant Colonel Jonny Carey who is himself no stranger to the Paltan, having previously commanded 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron, I know he will be made to feel as welcome as I did on my return. Over my final 6 months I will take the opportunity to visit our Association members in Nepal and the UK, and where possible these will be conducted alongside our new Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Mike Fayers and the Gurkha Major, Major Deepak Rai MVO.

Reflecting on the year it was significant in many ways and it would be remiss of me not to comment on Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the summer, then her death and funeral in the September and accession of King Charles III. They were truly national events of celebration and mourning that captivated the wider world. Our personnel who were involved conducted themselves to the very highest of standards and represented the Queen's Gurkha Signals impeccably.

2022 was an exceptional year, our people continued to set the example and excel, both collectively and individually. We delivered on multiple borders: operations, exercises, career courses, sports, and our charitable endeavours (a personal thanks to those who generously sponsored my London Marathon exploits). With our six regular sub-units and numerous detachments across the globe, our people have received praise and plaudits wherever they have operated – they

are the very best of us. Winning Trailwalker for a third consecutive time was outstanding, an extraordinary achievement of teamwork, individual commitment, and mental strength that typifies our Paltan. In April 22 I was fortunate to visit Nepal spending time in Kathmandu, Pokhara, Dharan and Chitwan. My thanks to the Association leaders who hosted us so well; Majors (Retired) Balbir Thapa, Govinde Gurung MVQ, MBE, and Krishna Gurung BEM. More recently I was able to visit Brunei, the first time since Covid restrictions lifted, meeting our families and witnessing the excellent work our detachment is conducting in the region was motivating. Our growth remains on track, and we now look to develop our 7th Squadron, 243 Gurkha Signal Squadron, in 15th Signal Regiment.

As this will be my last update, I will take the opportunity pass my personal thanks to all who have supported me

Foreword by Gurkha Major

Maj Deepak Rai, MVO



I was deeply honoured and humbled to have been appointed as the 27th Gurkha Major of the Queen's Gurkha Signals. I am very grateful for the commitment, hard work and passion of my predecessor, Major Amrit Gurung and would like to extend my sincere gratitude for his exceptional service to the Paltan and significant achievements throughout his tenure. I wish him and his family all the best of luck and success in the future.

Since taking over the post, it was my real privilege to visit most of the UK-based sub-units, Seremban Tp at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS), Gurkha Coy at ITC Catterick and Brunei Signal Troop (BST) with Commander sahib. Praised by the Chain of Command, I have been very impressed by our officers' and soldiers' highest professionalism, commitment, and dedication.

so well during my time as commander, but especially Lt Col (Retd) Mike Complin and Col (Retd) Taff Watts from an Association perspective - thanks for the guidance and education.

It has and will remain my absolute honour to command the finest of Regiments. We go from strength to strength, are held in the highest of regards across the whole of the Brigade of Gurkhas and continue to set the example for others to follow. I remain unconditionally committed to looking after our Pariwar and delivering excellence in everything we do.

Jai Paltan!

2022 has been another exceptional year for the Paltan and one in which we must all take great pride. Our officers and soldiers have excelled, both collectively and individually on operations, exercises, career courses, sporting events and charity endeavours. With six regular sub-units and detachments across the globe, members of the Paltan deployed on multiple operations, including mourning period of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on numerous high-profile exercises and Adventurous Training. Members of the Paltan currently serving in Blandford, ITC Catterick, Hereford and other singleton posts are relishing the challenges and opportunities to work across the Field Army and wider Defence arena.

Workforce: The Paltan's current workforce is 29 + 721 strong. This figure does not include 42 Recruit Intake 2022 (RI22) Service Personnel who are undergoing our Paltan induction and Trade Selection training at Bramcote.

Paltan growth and basing: The four-year growth plan of our 6th Squadron, 242 Gurkha Signal Squadron, within 22nd Signal Regiment is now well into the second year of growth assigning an additional Troop into the subunit. The aim is to reach the Initial Operating Capability (IOC) by this year on 31 March 2023 and then Full Operational Capability (FOC) by 30 April 2024. The future formation of our 7th Squadron remains on track. It will be 243 Gurkha Signal Squadron within 15th Signal Regiment at Perham Down.

Promotions, VEng (L) Conversion and Commission Conversions: 2022 has been a better year for our officers and soldiers in the field of promotions, with a total of 89 being successful; 1 x WO1, 5 x WO2s, 11 x SSgts, 15 x Sgts, 26 x Cpls, 27 x LCpls and 8

conversions to VEng (L) on Transfer to Royal Signals for the first time in the Paltan's history. We also had a good year on officers' promotion and commission conversion with 1 x Major, 1 x Regular Commission (Late Entry) and 3 x Intermediate Regular Commission (Late Entry) (IRC (LE)). This year 11 x Warrant Officers have gone forward for Army Officer Selection Board - Senior Soldier Entry (AOSB (SSE)) and 3 x were successful. They will be commissioned directly into IRC (LE).

Sports: Our service personnel continued to see success on Operational Shooting Competitions within the Corps, making up most Corps unit teams and with an increase in the numbers of our service personnel in the Army 100. The main highlights of the year have been winning the Trailwalker for 3rd time and making it a hat-trick of titles covering 2019, 2021 and 2022. Our ladies have made us proud by winning the Volleyball Competition during the Brigade of Gurkhas Bhela 2022. The Nepal Cup team also secured Runner Up in inter-unit football competitions within the Brigade of Gurkhas. A massive well done and thank you to all those participating and supporting these crucial and tough events.

Regimental Events: 2022 has been a fantastic year for the Paltan to celebrate the regimental events at Bramcote after almost 3 years. Annual Regimental Dinner was held at Bramcote, and everyone who attended the dinner thoroughly enjoyed and had a great time. Members of the Paltan and families came together to celebrate a combined 73rd Regimental Birthday, the most auspicious festival Dashain 2079 and farewell to our outgoing Col of the Regt Maj Gen JJ Cole CB OBE and welcomed our incoming Col of the Regt Brig Mike Fayers on 08 and 09 Oct 2022. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Brig Mike Fayers in his new role as Col of the Regt and a huge thank you to the outgoing Col of the Regt, Maj Gen JJ Cole CB OBE, for his monumental efforts and tremendous support over the last 7 years to the Paltan and Associations both in Nepal and the UK.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all association members. In particular to Col (Retd) Taff Watts and Lt Col (Retd) Mike Complin sahibs for their devotion and hard work to the Queen's Gurkha Signals Association. Sadly, we had to cancel our Association Dinner in 2022 but I am very much looking forward to hosting our association members during the Association Dinner in 2023.

Conclusion: 2022 has been yet another hugely successful year for Queen's Gurkha Signals. As the Paltan we continue go from strength to strength, our reputation is so high in the Royal Corps of Signals, in the Brigade of Gurkhas and Wider Army. Our service personnel delivering exceptionally well on operations, exercise, courses and sporting events both in the UK and overseas. I thank you all for the continued support that you and your families have given to the Paltan.

I want to remind you all that kaida is what makes us different, and we must maintain this, always. I very much look forward to visiting you all soon.

Jai Paltan!

RHQ QG SIGNALS News

Farewell to GM QG SIGNALS, Maj Amrit Gurung and his family

By LCpl Ravi Ghale

On 24th June 2022, Queen's Gurkha Signals bade farewell to Major Amrit Gurung and his family after completion of his successful two-year tenure as the Gurkha Major Queen's Gurkha Signals.



Outgoing GM, Major Amrit Gurung getting towed out from the paltan

A grand social evening was organized in a traditional theme on 23rd June 2022 to maintain the rich KAIDA and thanking outgoing GM Saheb for his vision, drive and contributions to the Paltan. Around 350 personnel and family members across from the Paltan bade farewell to Maj Amrit Gurung and his family. The superb venue setup provided festive and buzzing atmosphere where many of us got a chance to be together with our own members of the Paltan with whom we have not met due to the dispersed nature of subunits. On his speech, Commander QG SIGNALS, Lt Col SM Smith thanked Amrit Saheb and spoke about his unrelenting dedication and love for the Paltan. In his reply, Maj Amrit Saheb

thanked his RHQ team and the whole of the Paltan for supporting him throughout his tenure as a Gurkha Major. In particular, he congratulated all of us for our hard work both on operations and barracks, and on sporting fronts which has significantly contributed to the Paltan's existence and reputations. Following that, the evening was celebrated with a cultural programme which followed 'Khusi ko Naach' to conclude the event.



Outgoing GM Saheb receiving a Guard of Honour before his departure

The next morning started with breakfast with all members and their families in their respective Messes. After the breakfast, all members of the Paltan lined up for a traditional Tow Out. Once the Tow Out was concluded, a Guard of Honour was presented to the outgoing GM, which was led by Sgt Givendra Rai, in which I too got a chance to honour him. After Guard of Honour, he gave his final speech to the Paltan and thanked everyone for their support. He wished his successor Maj Deepak Rai, MVO for a successful tenure before leaving Bramcote as the 26th Gurkha Major of Queen's Gurkha Signals.



Outgoing GM Saheb and his family with the RHQ QG SIGNALS Comd Team during the farewell programme

On behalf of Col of the Regt, Comd and all ranks QG SIGNALS, we extend Maj Amrit Saheb, Jamuna didi and Swikaar babu our sincerest gratitude and wish them good health and very best of luck for the future. Finally, the event culminated with welcoming the new Gurkha Major, Major Deepak Rai, MVO, and his family.

Jai QG SIGNALS !

QG SIGNALS Trailwalker UK 2022 Winner

By Sig Mousam Limbu

Trailwalker 2022 was another successful year for the event with 230 teams, both military and civilian, participating in the event. 2022 marked the 41st anniversary of Trailwalker which started in 1982 in Hong Kong as a QG SIGNALS exercise. It has since been moved to the South Downs and opened up as a long-distance event for everyone. Together the Brigade of Gurkhas and Oxfam, under the direction of QG SIGNALS, successfully planned and carried out the event. Oxfam GB and the Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT) each receiving a share of the funds, raised by this event, which will be utilized to support Gurkha Veterans in Nepal.



QG SIGNALS TW Team at the start line

The Trailwalker route begins at Queen Elizabeth Country Park early on Saturday morning and ends at Brighton Racecourse and it takes you along the beautiful and historic South Downs Way. This annual 100km endurance event comprising of 4 members teams who can walk, jog, or run the route but must complete the course within 30 hours. Upon finishing the event the competitors are congratulated at the finish point with a fantastic meal prepared by Gurkha chefs.



QG SIGNALS Team celebrates the victory

Trailwalker 2022 was not just a QG SIGNALS success from an organisational standpoint, the QG SIGNALS team took victory on the day itself making it the third win in a row for the QG SIGNALS. The team led by Sgt Khagendra Gurung; 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn was made up of volunteers who represented each of the QG SIGNALS squadrons from across the Paltan. The dynamic leadership seen from the team's leader and an innovative and challenging training regime enforced by the teams' mentors Cpl Hum Gurung and Sig Ritesh Rai lead the

QG SIGNALS team to an outstanding victory. They clocked in at 10 hours 16 minutes less than half an hour from the record time. A feat that was made all the more impressive given the team only had 8 weeks to prepare for the event.



QG SIGNALS Team with the RHQ QG SIGNALS personnel

Overall, Trailwalker 2022 was an enormous success and this year we made history. The effective training programme, outstanding leadership, and superb management from our trainers and exemplary dedication and discipline from the runners. Last but not the least, we are thankful to our Chain of Command and RHQ QG SIGNALS for supporting us throughout the process and giving the opportunity to represent the paltan.

Jai QG SIGNALS!

**QG SIGNALS' 73rd Birthday, Dashain Celebration & Farewell of the Col of the Regt
By Sig Shivraj Gurung**

On 8th October 2022, Queen's Gurkha Signals celebrated three major and equally essential events. These events were previously postponed due to Her Majesty the Queen's state funeral and national mourning period. On that day, Serving and retired members of the Paltan with their families assembled at Bramcote, home of Queen's Gurkha Signals to celebrate 73rd Regimental Birthday, farewell to the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General JJ Cole CB OBE, and the On 23rd September 1954, Maj Gen LECM Perowne CBE presented Gurkha Signals with their own cap badge and saw the official formation of the unit. He also quoted, "By your badge men shall know you. By your loyalty, by your behaviour and by your technical skill, they will judge you as men and measure your efficiency as soldiers". As part of Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1977, the Regiment regained its Royal title, becoming Queen's Gurkha Signals. Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal has continued to serve as the Colonel-in-Chief of QG SIGNALS. This year marked the Regiment's 73rd birthday and it gave us immense pride looking back to see how far we have come forth since our first footprints during the First World War. The Regimental birthday parade also saw the opportunity for the Col of the Regt to present Regimental awards

to exceptional service personnel who have performed outstandingly over the past year.



Col of the Regt, Comd and GM Saheb after cutting the cake during 73rd Birthday Celebration of the Paltan

The day also marked another huge significance as we bade farewell to the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General JJ Cole CB OBE. As ever always calm and poised, the Regiment saw momentous changes under his command as we expand from 5 squadrons to 7 squadrons to deliver and achieve the strategic missions placed upon us by Defence. His leadership has warranted a smooth and swift transition as we enter the 5th dimension of battlespace, Cyber and ensured that we are appropriately trained and prepared to take on the new challenges as we edge forward into the digital era.



An snapshot of Inter Sqn TOW competition during 73rd Birthday celebration



OC 250, Maj C Dowling with the "Cole Trophy" as the overall champion of the inter Sqn competition during 73rd Birthday Celebration

Annually, the dispersed Paltan's squadrons come together to celebrate Dashain as one big family, as such is the significance of Dashain. It is vital in bringing the entirety of the Regiment on this festive occasion to honour our ties with one another in a joyous

environment. This year, the external marquee was bedecked grandly alongside the gym and adorned with colourful lights embracing the warmth of the festival as we moved into the *Kaalratri* phase. With roars of laughter and greetings across the reception hall, the Paltan came together as one big *pariwar* dressed in their cultural best. As the call for Bada Khana was raised, a splendid Dashain feast fit for royal was laid out by UCM SSgt Ram Gurung and 2IC, Cpl Rockeyraj Gurung. Once everyone was seated in the main hall, with all toasts in hand, Lt Col S Smith, Comd QG SIGNALS and the Regiment came together to welcome the new Col of the Regt, Brig Mike Fayers. A video was also played which consisted of well wishes from deployed personnel who could not join us that day. Whilst in the presence of the entire Regiment, the Gurkha Major took the opportunity to thank and bid farewell to 5 guruji haru who achieved 22 years of colourful service. With all having said and done, the cultural programme commenced starting with the 'Devi Dance' act, which symbolises the battle and victory of the goddess Durga by defeating the demon Mahishasura. The new intake 20 bhai haru also managed to showcase their amazing talents with such energetic and dazzling group choreography. The big night was concluded with Khushi ko Nach and everyone made merry into the night.



An snapshot of Inter Sqn TOW competition during 73rd Birthday celebration



Outgoing Col of the Regt, Maj Gen J J Cole CB OBE getting towed out by the QG SIGNALS officers' & SNCOs'

The following morning, the entirety of the occasion was concluded by the tow-out of the outgoing Col of the Regt. A traditional farewell gesture where an instrumental figure of the Regiment is towed-out on an ornated vehicle by all serving members of the Regiment at the end of their tenure. The Guard of Honour presented the final compliment as the Col of the Regt departed from Gamecock Barracks. To conclude, the span of events over the 2 days bore huge significance in commemorating such events since the pandemic period to foster harmony and paltan's kaida.

QG SIGNALS Commissioning and Attestation Parade 2023

By Sgt Gyanendra Rai

On 1st March 2023, the Queen's Gurkha Signals attestation and commissioning parade was held at Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote. The event holds significant importance on the paltan's calendar as it is one of few events where QG SIGNALS personnel along with their families from dispersed subunits and troops come together to witness the commissioning of QG SIGNALS officers and attestation of new members of the paltan. This year, 42 trainees took the oath in front of the Col of the Regt, Brig MJ Fayers flanked by the Comd QG SIGNALS, Lt Col SM Smith, Gurkha Major, Major Deepak Rai MVO.



42 RI22 Trainees formed up in front of Regt for their attestation into the paltan



RI22 Trainees dressing prior to taking oath in front of Col of the Regt, Comd and GM QG SIGNALS

The attestation parade marked the new beginning for 42 trainees joining the paltan upon completion of their Phase 1 Infantryman training in ITC, Catterick. After arriving in the paltan, they underwent 13 weeks of induction programme designed to train and assess the academic and technical challenges to become communication experts in a battle-winning IT, cyber and information systems; and enhance their knowledge on structure, roles, history and kaida of the paltan. The induction training was coordinated by Capt Subaraj Sunuwar, RCMO QG SIGNALS as the Training Officer and assisted Sgt Gyanendra Rai along with their team of section mentors.



Capt Prem Gurung and Capt Bhupal Gurung formed up for their formal commissioning

On the morning of the attestation parade, the 42 trainees stood proudly with their heads held high, in front of the Regiment along with invited guests and families. As the morning sun glistened upon the polished khukuris and boots, it was a very picturesque and proud moment for all. The Col of the Regt took great pride in inspecting the parade, notably mentioning that these smartly dressed soldiers were going to be future leaders of QG SIGNALS. Without a shadow of a doubt and roaring with confidence, all 42 trainees proudly placed their hands on the paltan's flag taking oath and pledging their allegiance to the paltan and the crown. That was followed with the commissioning procession of two newly commissioned QG SIGNALS Officers; Capt Prembahadur Gurung and Capt Bhupal Gurung. They confirmed the realisation of their new duty and responsibility as an officer to the Col of the Regt and ceremony concluded with the returning of the sword back to scabbard by the Col of the Regt.



RI22 Trainees & Training Team march pass in column of route

As the parade drew to a close, trainees and section mentors led by Training coordinator marched past off the parade square with the pride as the spectators cheered them on. It was indeed a very proud moment of the paltan. From there on, everybody moved into the dining area where a lavish and sumptuous lunch

had been prepared by the chefs. The trade allocation results for the trainees were announced and most of the trainees got the trade that they wanted. We wish them all the best for their Phase 2 trade training in Blandford as future leaders of the paltan.

Jai QG SIGNALS!

QG SIGNALS WOs' & SNCOs' Development Package and Dinner Night 2023

By SSgt Ridesh Mukhiya

The QG SIGNALS WOs' & SNCOs' Development Package is an annual development and study period for all WOs' and SNCOs' in the QG SIGNALS. The event was held at 30th Signal Regiment, Gamecock Barracks over the period on 22 - 23 Mar 23 under the direction of WO1 (RSM) QG SIGNALS. The main aim of the package was to develop WOs' and SNCOs' of the QG SIGNALS, promote cohesion and uphold ethos and kaida of the paltan.



QG SIGNALS WOs' & SNCOs' with the RSM QG SIGNALS and Corps SM during meet and greet



Sgt Govinda Rai with Col of the Regt, Comd, GM and RSM QG SIGNALS during his farewell from the mess and paltan

The event commenced with a meet and greet session at the Himali Club on 21 Mar 23 where Warrant Officer 1 (Corps SM) P Steel was cordially welcomed and presented with a QG SIGNALS tie on behalf of the WOs' and SNCOs'. The two-day development package comprised of informative presentations and updates on the latest developments in the Regiment and Corps. The package also covered various ongoing

and future projects at the Corps, Army, and Defence levels. Furthermore, it included a series of presentation from various speakers sharing their experiences and perspectives on leadership, career progression, and the relevance of kaida in contemporary era. A busy all-day program was followed by a formal dinner at the WOs' and SNCOs' Mess, which was attended by Brigadier M J Fayers, Colonel of the Regiment, as the guest of honour, along with Lt Col S M Smith, Comd QG SIGNALS, and Maj Deepak Rai MVO, GM QG SIGNALS. The dinner was a delightful opportunity to socialise and bid farewell to those members who had been commissioned and were leaving the paltan to join the R SIGNALS.



QG SIGNALS WOs' & SNCOs' with Col of the Regt, Comd and GM QG SIGNALS

This year's event had far greater significance as it was held after a gap of three years due to the unprecedented impact of COVID-19. The event was a success with the tireless work of organising committee led by WO2 Dipal Gurung as the PMC, support of RHQ QG SIGNALS and high attendance of QG SIGNALS WOs' and SNCOs' despite their busy schedule. The event was engaging, informative, and memorable, highlighting the cohort's selfless dedication to gather, socialise, share experiences, and bid farewell to its members.

Jai QG SIGNALS WOs'&SNCOs'!

Jai Paltan!

RMAS Instructor Cadre selection course 2022

By SSgt Sul Bahadur Pun

The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) is a world-renowned military leadership establishment, known for its prestigious role in developing officers. Every year, hundreds of motivated individuals from both the UK and around the world seek to pass this demanding 44 weeks. Equally, moulding these young men and women into an officer requires highly driven Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (SNCO) Instructors.

The RMAS SNCO Instructor Cadre is held in Sandhurst at the beginning of every year, and it is a 4-week arduous course that incorporates the key events that Officer Cadets (OCdts) must undertake. Each year, hundreds of SNCOs apply for the course with a capacity of only 60, and out of that, roughly 30 will be selected.

On 6th Feb 22, I was one of the 64 SNCOs selected to start the RMAS cadre. From the beginning, I could gauge that the atmosphere was intense as everyone was keen to perform well. We had the arrival brief and before we knew it; the “starting pistol” was fired and the course has begun.

Throughout those 4 weeks, we were assessed on our instructional abilities in military skills, including BCD, foot drills, fieldcraft, tactic, and rifle lessons. Conceptually, the planning tool, combat estimate, is also assessed and it is a time-consuming process during the cadre. As potential RMAS instructors, it is important to understand the challenges OCdts will face on the course. Hence, fitness includes SCR, 5 ways (2 hours of hill sprint/endurance run), 5 miles (20kg), log race, obstacle course, and culminating to the infamous Ex LONG REACH, a 40 miles tab around the Black Mountains, in the Brecon Beacons.

The cadre was a great test of my leadership qualities and exposed me to some good SNCOs with different styles of leadership. We were focused on getting the job done and showing grit and determination, but empathy and welfare are just as important. The unique part of being an instructor in RMAS is that SNCOs need to have the emotional intelligence to integrate and communicate effectively with highly intellectual OCdts. On a similar note, we were assessed on our abilities to socialise with OCdts during the social evening, discussion groups and demonstrate problem-solving abilities in various scenarios. Academically, current affairs and politically related presentations are also part of it.



SSgt Sul Bahadur Pun in front of old college, RMAS Sandhurst

As an SNCO, the ability to identify the strengths and weaknesses of a soldier is essential to develop their effectiveness to support the higher command intents. Hence, during the cadre, a peer-to-peer review is conducted every week which assesses our ability to know our peers. Like any other organisation, a job

interview is conducted on the cadre too. Each individual will go through a series of the interview process at least once a week with various interviewers. The interview question varies from basic knowledge and scenario-based questions to understand more about us.

On a personal note, the RMAS Cadre course was demanding and rightfully it should be. It goes through 4 weeks of a rigorous selection process to identify suitable candidates for this job. On 4th Mar 2022, the final day of the course, everyone was in the holding room anxiously waiting to hear the result one at a time. The result is not passed or failed, but it goes by the infamous phrase of being “selected in” and fortunately for me, I was.

To conclude, being selected in a diverse cap badge of SNCOs within the British Army is something that I very much take pride in. It is a privilege to be selected as an Instructor in RMAS, instructing the next generation of leaders whilst representing the Queens Gurkha Signals and the Corps. The footprint of a technical RMAS Instructor is vital to enable OCdts to understand about our Corps, which will aid their decision-making when selecting their Choice of Arms. Just as I was fully supported by paltan and those who were selected before me, I would encourage those aspiring instructors to attempt the distinguished cadre.

Jai QG SIGNALS!

QG SIGNALS Ladies Volleyball Team's Path to the Brigade of Gurkhas Championship
By LCpl Ganesh Chand

On 9 July 2022, the QG SIGNALS Ladies Volleyball Team participated in the highly competitive Brigade of Gurkhas Ladies Volleyball Championship held at Queens Avenue, Aldershot. The tournament comprised four teams representing their respective units of the Brigade of Gurkhas, and the QG SIGNALS ladies emerged victorious as the champions of the 2022.



BG Ladies Volleyball Champion 2022

Securing victory in the competition proved to be a challenging feat for the QG SIGNALS Ladies volleyball team. Given the geographical dispersion of the team throughout the UK, it was a daunting task to train and form a cohesive team. However, the dedicated ladies, who were based in Blandford, Bramcote, Stafford, and Bulford, exhibited tremendous initiative by training in their respective units under the guidance of their corresponding coaches.

The team selection process took place at RHQ QG SIGNALS in Bramcote which was a rigorous and competitive one. All aspiring ladies who wished to represent QG SIGNALS and be part of the team were present for the selection process. After a thorough assessment of their game, team spirit, leadership qualities, and technical skills, the selection committee narrowed down the candidates to a final team of 12 players. The team began to train together immediately after the selection process, with the aim of building their cohesion and tactical synergy.



Winning Team with the RHQ QG SIGNALS personnel

On the day of the competition, the QG SIGNALS Ladies Volleyball Team arrived early at the venue to commence their warm-up routine. The team's first match was against the QOGLR, and the ladies played with great enthusiasm and determination. The QG SIGNALS team emerged victorious in a comfortable win against their opponents, setting them up for the finals against QGE.

Thanks to their high morale and excellent team cohesion, QG SIGNALS secured an effortless victory over QGE, clinching the championship for the first time in the paltan's history. The team's happiness was palpable, and they celebrated the victory with, dancing, shouting, and shedding tears of joy. Vice-Captain Mrs Roshni reflected on the journey to victory and said that it had brought the team closer and instilled in them a sense of belonging. The win is a moment of immense pride and joy that will be treasured for a lifetime and has undoubtedly aided in each player's individual growth.

Team captain Mrs Sushma expressed her profound gratitude for the team's dedication and hard work, as well as the unwavering support provided by all the

team members, coaches, and RHQ QG SIGNALS. The team is already eagerly looking forward to next year's competition, with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and determination.

Jai QG SIGNALS!

242 Gurkha Signal Squadron News

Since the formation of 242 Gurkha Signal Squadron on 1st Apr 22, the Squadron have enjoyed a challenging yet interesting period. While delivering our primary role for the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Headquarters (ARRC HQ)'s TAC CP, enabling the ARRC's Corps Recce Teams in the warfighting environment, and being poised to contribute to the Corps WAN, the Squadron have been equally conscious of meeting the Project SHERPA timeline. We have been actively supporting a number of operations and ARRC exercises, including two Squadron level deployments to support the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and in support of the ambulance strikes. This has all been in the context of harnessing the diverse workforce available in the sub-unit, with a mix of UKTAP and GURTAP personnel, giving wonderful opportunities to work with and learn from each other.

Fulfilling our core roles and responsibilities, Command Post 242 deployed to Germany in support of Ex DYNAMIC FRONT. Our people delivering the service have done a sterling job on the exercise, receiving high praise from the HQs staff. The technical expertise that our SPs have displayed on the state-of-the-art communications installation are second to none. Outside barracks, our soldiers have deployed on Op TANGHAM and Op SHADER, delivering in the J6 arena. Similarly, a number of NCOs are on a BATUK tour providing CIS support to formations on their training serials. Back in the camp, officers and soldiers have kept themselves active on their career courses, driver training and AT. ITRs and Upskilling are something that the Squadron have kept on top of.

Within the sporting arena, we had officer and soldiers represented the Regt at Corps level on a myriad of sporting fields winning many team events. This year 242 Gurkha Signal Squadron have had a strong contribution and representation on the Nepal Cup Football Competition, securing the runner up position.

The newest squadron within QG SIGNALS, we have looked to promote the use of more innovative means to foster kaida amongst UKTAP and GURTAP service personnel, holding traditional welcomes and farewells, messing, team bonding activities such as management functions and quizzes. Diversity and fair opportunity are the key for the success of the Squadron, and we will continue to embrace it for the successful formation of the Squadron.

Respect, hard work, dedication, and teamwork have all contributed to the effectiveness of the Squadron and when coupled with the wonderful achievements of our soldiers has maintained a high level of morale. The Squadron seeks to be a place to welcome everyone and get the very best out of all of them, and it is truly wonderful to see our people flourish. We continue to go from strength to strength and look forward to a successful year ahead.

Jai 242 !!!

Op TANGHAM - J6

By A/Sgt Ealash Gurung, J6 SNCO, Op TANGHAM

Op TANGHAM is a UK led mission in Somalia that encompasses 5 sub-missions - the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) Mission Support Team (MST), UN Support Team (UNST), Comprehensive Approach to Security Strand 2A Planning and Delivery Team (CAS 2A), UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and Somali National Army (SNA) Training and Advisory Team (STAT).

HQ TANGHAM provides J1 - J9 support to enable British Force Elements (FE) across the sub-missions and coheres their efforts against the Military Strategic Objective. Most of the FEs are based within Mogadishu International Airport (MIA), whilst STAT is based in Baidoa. The J6 team provides Inter-theatre as well as Intra-theatre secure comms for all the deployed personnel in the theatre. The J6 team is comprised of a SNCO and two JNCOs, who all have different roles. The J6 SNCO is the lead on the ground who ensures that all the processes and procedures followed in the theatre are policy compliant, for which continuous engagement with stakeholders at different levels is required. The JNCOs ensure the availability of all the services by maintaining a robust PACE plan across all domains.

Op TANGHAM has a varied range of Information Technology, Communication Information Systems (CIS) and telephony systems that are used by the deployed personnel to carry out their daily tasks, with a robust reach back capability back to the UK Hub. The J6 tasks include routine maintenance and testing of the CIS to ensure they are readily available whenever required. The team also act as the SPOC for any Comms related issues in the theatre, this is not just limited to the core services we provide but also includes PEDs.

During my deployment, there have been a series of projects for the J6 team to progress. The first one was the migration of data from Shared Housekeeper drive to the Op TANGHAM SharePoint on ModNet OS. This required careful consideration to ensure data confidentiality, integrity, and availability. This is still a work in progress however, the migration note

was pushed out early to give everyone enough time to migrate their data to the SharePoint. The theatre also saw the successful rollout of Secure Motorola in both locations. This was accomplished in 5 phases - planning, configuring, testing, implementing, and recovering of old radios once the secure net was commissioned. The third was the migration of DII(S) to ModNet (S), again I had to ensure this was approached with more caution and done in a sequential order to allow legacy data to be accessed while upgrading to a newer system. The J6 team also do a routine visit to STAT, in Baidoa, for assurance and provide J6 support as and when required. The J6 support is also provided to CJTF HoA on an ad hoc basis.

For the past few years, the J6 roles in Op TANGHAM has been filled by QG SIGNALS personnel. This adds value to the diverse Op TANGHAM community that has SP from different cap badges and services. The Comd was very kind to let us celebrate QG SIGNALS 73rd Anniversary with the Op TANGHAM personnel based in MIA. We also organised Dashain and Tihar celebration for all the British forces in Somalia. The event was also attended by His Majesty's Ambassador to Somalia, members of the BEM and some elements from the US Army deployed in location. This was a great opportunity to introduce our culture, tradition, and belief to the wider Op TANGHAM family. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The bingo game, raffle draw and some dice games from both the events helped raise \$400 towards Queen's Gurkha Signals Trust Fund. The charity hair cut run by the team has also contributed towards the named charity.



LCpl Amol on a routinework

Op TANGHAM has also been a great opportunity to complete upskilling courses as individuals are able to spare some time in the evening to conduct personal development. The CoC are extremely supportive of soldiers' career and professional development. There are also comprehensive facilities within OB SHAND and fantastic welfare support to complement the great working environment.

Overall, the deployed experience on Op TANGHAM has been great for all involved. Being able to work in a HQ with mixed cap badges and a wide rank range has instilled us with invaluable knowledge and experience that we hope to utilise for subordinate development when we get back. When I reflect on my time in Somalia, I feel very proud of what I have achieved not just professionally but as a person. Op TANGHAM is by far one of the best operations I have deployed on, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time.



LCpl Tilak checking Satellite positioning



Sgt Ealash busy on weekly Op SITREP

Project SHERPA - Formation of the 6th QG SIGNALS Squadron

By Sgt Bibek Gurung

Since the implementation of Project SHERPA, there have been many changes in the Brigade of Gurkhas. It has brought growth in the Queen's Gurkha Signals, and so in the Brigade. There will be the formation of the 6th and 7th QG SIGNALS Squadrons in support of the project. The formation of the 6th QG SIGNALS Squadron started in April 2021. The Squadron will form under 22nd Signal Regiment (22 Sig Regt). It will be named 242 Gurkha Signal Squadron (242 Gurkha Sig Sqn) by re-designating 217 Signal Squadron (217 Sig Sqn) in to 242 Gurkha Sig Sqn, reorganising existing UKTAP Workforce Requirement to GURTAP.

On 25 Nov 2020, I was fortunate enough to be assigned to 217 Sig Sqn in support of the project. I felt very proud to be the first QG SIGNALS soldier to get posted to the Sqn. The formation of 242 Gurkha Sig Sqn would be in three phases. C troop, along with a few SHQ elements, would be formed by Apr 2022, and the following year will be the formation of B Troop. Then by Apr 2024, QG SIGNALS WF will fully form A troop and 242 Gurkha Sig Sqn will achieve its final operational capability.

Currently, 1+ 7 QG SIGNALS service personnel have been posted in the Sqn. Under the vision of Capt Robin Rai, the team has come up with a concrete and achievable plan. Equipment accountability, handover takeover of detachments and individual's KSE are the main priorities. There are many backlogs on courses due to covid restrictions, and it has been one of our challenges to get the courses and qualify our soldiers. Another challenge is to balance between different cultures and traditions. In the Sqn we have got a multi-national workforce each with their own unique cultures and traditions. As part of the cultural education, Capt Robin delivered a presentation on Gurkhas' culture and KAIDA to the Sqn. Therefore, it is hoped that the transition phase from 217 Sig Sqn to 242 Gurkha Sig Sqn will be as smooth as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Sqn personnel and RHQ QG SIGNALS for their support and direction. There is no doubt that we will meet our FOC and achieve our mission. It has been a unique experience so far being part of the project SHERPA team.



Sqn photograph with Commander QG SIGNALS, CO 22 Sig Regt and GM Saheb.



OC 242 Gurkha Sig Sqn, Maj Thorpe, cutting the special cake in the presence of the Comd, CO and GM Sahebs

Op BECOMPASS 18 - 19 Sep 22

By LCpl Osanya

Op BECOMPASS was a deployment to support the police force in the London area to enable the funeral procession of Her Majesty the late Queen Elizabeth II. The funeral procession was planned for 19 Sep 22, after completion of a 10-day National Mourning. Circa 80 SP from 242 Gurkha Signal Squadron were deployed to Feltham camp on 18 Sep 22 to support the London Police to enable the state funeral. All deployed SPs were given an RSOI package, with much detail and crucial information for the operation.

In the early morning of 19 Sep 22, the Sqn deployed to the Science Museum, Central London. A consolidated brief to both the Police Forces and Armed Forces was given by the Inspector Police of the area. The aim was to integrate with the Police Force and enable a secure passage of the state funeral. All members of the Sqn were then shown the AoR and were given a place to control the crowd and provide information if required to the spectators.

Small groups of people were scattered in the early morning but started to get bigger around mid-day. At around 1400 hrs the funeral procession drove past our AoR. It was an emotional moment not just to me but also to those people around me. It was clear that she was dear and loved by a lot of people. After the funeral drove past, the crowds started to fade, and all deployed personnel were recovered. We were then taken back to Feltham camp and returned to base on the same night. It was a privilege to be part of the team to enable the funeral of the longest reigning British monarch and I wish the best to King Charles III as King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.



22 Sig Regt contingent formed up to be addressed by Police commissioner



The civilian police contingent that service personnel supported to during the operation

246 Gurkha Signal Squadron News

2022 was an exciting year for the Sqn, and one that afforded plenty of opportunities to deploy overseas on operations, exercises, and expeditions. The team continued to excel across all fronts. It tackled challenging interoperability experiments, short notice operational deployments, patrol competitions, and pre deployment training; all while being held at high readiness to support 20 ABCT.

By virtue of its scale and complexity Project CONVERGENCE 22 was perhaps the standout event. It was a high profile, three eyes, interoperability experiment that sought to validate battlefield technologies for 2030. It was led by the Department of Defence's Joint Modernisation Command and took place in the sands of the Mojave Desert outside Fort Irwin in California. The network that underpinned the experiment was vast and complex, it was littered with gateways and a plethora of firewalls that truly tested the expertise of our supervisors and engineers. It will surprise no one reading this piece to learn that our people delivered; earning the plaudits of the Master of Signals, D Info, and Comd 20 ABCT; as well as our coalition partners in 'Team Mercury'.

One of our proudest achievements was the deployment of a Rear Link Detachment at less than 10 days' notice to support the Agility Task Force on Op CABRIT. With minimal Pre-Deployment Training, a very junior team deployed to Estonia for six months as part of a NATO surge to reassure and deter in the Baltics. Operating in Estonia, Finland, and Poland, they ably supported 2 RIFLES throughout their tour and received glowing reports upon their return. The Sqn also continued to Force Generate for Op ELGIN, supporting 4 SCOTS and the Royal Lancers during their recent deployments to Kosovo.

2022 also marked the return of overseas Adventurous Training and the Sqn led several challenging expeditions. Lt Atree and Sgt Samir took 24 personnel to South Africa for a two-week multi activity package. There was skiing in France, Norway, and Austria, and Capt Gopal Saru's unforgettable 'Death March' through the Jungles of Malaysia. Whilst in the UK, Sgt Arjun led a fantastic multi activity package in North Wales. At the elite level, Sig Manish Rai took part in an Army expedition that attempted to summit Mt Himlung Himal (7126m) in the Annapurna / Manaslu region of Nepal.

The Sqn entered a junior team into the Cambrian Patrol, that the then Cpl Milan Chemjong led to a commendable silver medal, and the Trail Walker team secured a 7th placed finish for a second year running. A terrific New Year celebration was held for the first time in Perham Down and a split sqn celebrated Dashain and Tihar on both sides of the Atlantic; linking up over VTC to share speeches and blessings.

2023 will be dominated by Op CABRIT. The Sqn will deploy 35 personnel to Estonia and Poland on Op CABRIT 12 in March and is stood by to support 200 Sig Sqn's deployment in September. Personnel will also shortly be deploying to Texas on Ex WARFIGHTER, and we will continue to support the QRH's PDT in Germany on Ex TALLIN DAWN.

Jai 246!

Pj CONVERGENCE 22

By LCpl Nirajan Darlami, Sek Kong Troop

Project CONVERGENCE 22 was a joint experimental exercise involving the UK, US and AUS testing more than 300 different future capabilities. The aim of this experiment was to test the Sensor, Decider and Effector chain using modern technologies. It focused on multinational collaboration, testing different AI software, communications equipment, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and artillery assets for future ground combat operations.



Cpl Niraj and the team building the UK TOC during the initial phase of the exercise

246 Gurkha Signal Squadron (GSS), being a primary OPCIS Squadron within 1st Signal Regiment, deployed with OpNET Blue, LDG and Falcon capabilities to provide a robust network to facilitate experimentation. The Sqn rose to the challenge impressively. It was up for the massive responsibility presented ahead and successfully established and maintained the network to test and trial Army Futures capabilities such as PUMA, WATCHKEEPER, ZODIAC and FC-BISA / AFATDS integration. This work has positively impacted the continuation of PC22 at the right pace, from acting as a sensor to aid in the decision-making process with AI and executing as a team of coalition forces.

Despite the busy period, the SP celebrated Dashain, Tihar and QG SIGNALS 73rd birthday within the deployed environment, boosting the moral component of fighting power and promoting Regimental KAIDA across the Brigade. Additionally, the team managed to run two charity events during the period. Firstly, Cpl Niraj, LCpl Chirayu and Sig Asmin ran weekly Hair Salon and raised \$121 for Royal Signals Charity alongside hugely contributing to maintain the high standards of appearance and bearings. Secondly, Sig Suman initiated a Mt Everest Challenge and Charity to promote active lifestyle and raise funds for Gurkha Welfare Trust. A total of 884.886 km was covered between 26 Oct - 11 Nov alongside raising £735 for the Charity.



Ravi receiving the winner's award during the Mount Everest challenge

After the experimentation, the Squadron was fortunate to host DCGS (Master of Signals) Lieutenant General Nesmith for an evening as she paid a visit to appreciate the effort of the deployed Royal Corps of Signals soldiers. She also awarded FofS (IS) Ramesh with a DCGS Coin and Sgt Giri and Sgt Chick with a Master of Signals Coin for their outstanding contribution during the preparation and execution phase of PC22.



Sgt Bir receiving the Veteran's winner award during the Mount Everest Challenge

Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL 22

By Sig Anupam Sunuwar, Island Troop

Preparation for Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL 22 (CP22) for the 1 Sig Regt team commenced with the team formation in Aug 22. Due to the Regt's upcoming deployments on Project CONVERGENCE 22, Ex STANZEN FIST and Ex CERBERUS 22, forming a team was a significant challenge. Despite the challenge, a strong team was successfully formed, led by Sgt Arjun as the Patrol Manager, and commanded by Cpl Milan as the Patrol Comd. On 16 Aug 22 we commenced the first training session with a gentle 5km tab carrying a weight of 15 kg. We then progressively intensified our physical training programme, ensuring it was conducted in a well-structured and methodical manner. As the event grew closer, classroom based lessons, field crafts, ITRs and military skills and tactics were included in the training package.



Team formed up and conducting progressive training

After a few weeks of training, the team deployed on pre-CP22 training from 7 - 13 Sep 22 in the Brecon Beacons led by the Brigade of Gurkhas Training Team (BTT). This training programme bestowed upon us the valuable opportunity to learn the nature of Brecon, and most importantly the format of the main event, with this being effectively communicated through excellent field lessons. The training concluded with a formative assessment of a 36-hour patrol carrying 35 kg in demanding terrain and weather, which included nine military skills stands across the route. This was a very useful experience as it gave us an insight into what would await us on the main event. We are very grateful to the BTT for delivering such an outstanding training package which significantly contributed to our team's success on Ex CP22.



Cpl Milan delivering an excellent set of Patrol Orders during Pre-CP22 training in SENTA

Three weeks after the pre-CP22 training, we hosted 19th Punjab Regiment of the Pakistani Army and subsequently went through a week-long joint training package superbly delivered by the 1 Sig Regt Training Wing. The training was instrumental in refining our military skills and drills before we embarked on the actual patrol the following week. The joint training with the Pakistan Army developed our cultural understanding and communication abilities as well as stimulating the fruitful exchange of military skills.



Pakistan Army team being mentored by the Regt and conducting BCD practice

Ultimately, 13 Oct 22 was the D-Day for our long-awaited Ex CP22 event, which started at 0415 hrs in the pitch black with a kit inspection followed by Patrol Orders. Living by the phrase “first impression is the last impression”, the morale of the team was boosted by the extremely successful execution of the first two stands. Each stand was very challenging and amongst them, the CBRN & CEO stands were especially tricky. Although some of the equipment that we had to operate was quite new to us, we still managed to deliver effectively due to our efficient drills and situational awareness. Overall, we were assessed at 12 different stands and patrolled for 42 hrs across the notoriously challenging Brecon Beacons carrying 35kg. There was no doubt that we would not have been able to complete the patrol so successfully without the strong foundation built through the completion of a thorough and challenging training programme. It was a surreal experience to break through our pain barrier and perform beyond our expectations in the British Army’s premier patrol competition.



The team at the start point of the event



Prestigious award ceremony where the team achieved a richly deserved SILVER medal

Ex CP22 concluded with the award ceremony on 15 Oct 22, with the team achieving the prestigious SILVER medal, a hard earned and richly deserved accolade. It was impossible to achieve this recognition without the management and administration of our Patrol Manager, and leadership and command of our Patrol Commander and 2IC. We worked together, motivating and supporting each other throughout the journey and accomplished this feat as a team. Without a doubt, 246 GSS will not rest until the GOLD medal is in our hands and we have a firm resolve to accomplish this objective.

EX DRAGON CERTA CITO 22

By LCpl Jagman Gurung, Sek Kong Troop

Everyone dreams to visit South Africa, even just once in their lifetime, but only a few ever get the opportunity. When you think of this country, the first things that come to mind are Cape Town, the natural beauty, the culture, and the wildlife – especially the rare opportunity to go on safari and see the unique flora and fauna. I was lucky enough to visit the country along with my colleagues from 1st Signal Regiment to celebrate the Corps Centenary.



The group pose for a photo with the stunning scenery

Ex DRAGON CERTA CITO 22 was a two-week long (4 - 22 July) Type 3 multi activity Adventure Training in KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa led by Sgt Samir. A mutli-cabpage group of 20 SP from 1st Signal Regiment deployed to South Africa on 4 July on an

endless 12-hour flight from London to Cape Town, but the excitement of travelling to a different part of the world kept spirits high and the long journey flew by. I count myself lucky that, as we landed in Cape Town, we were able to visit the city for a couple of hours while waiting for our connecting flight to Durban. This was to be the hub for our expedition, where we bought our essential goods for the stay.

Our first stay was in the beautifully situated Thendele Camp in the Royal Natal National Park, approximately three hours' drive from Durban. Our attractive and comfortable chalets had a magnificent view of the Drakensberg Mountain ranges that were right outside our window. Everyone was astonished by the scenic view, and I felt fortunate to stay in such a peaceful and amazing place for the next three days.



The mountain biking group taking a well-earned break

The first day began with a group photo harmoniously serenaded by Sgt Samir's bagpiping. We were divided into rotating groups taking part in mountain biking, hill walking, and rock climbing. Not only were the activities challenging and fun, but seeing the various unique wild animals while driving was something that increased everyone's spirits further. Some lucky individuals even saw lions and giraffes!



Rock Climbing

After three days at Thendele, I was sad to leave such a beautiful place, thinking nothing could top it. I was proven totally wrong upon reaching Didima Camp. The panoramic view was even better, and the chalets were a

great improvement. With its stunning mountain range, beautiful scenic rivers and breathtaking sunrise and sunset, no one could ever complain about this place. We took part in the same activities, but the terrain could not be more different than Thendele. During the three days we took part in challenging activities around the Drakensberg Mountain range, and in the evening, we were able to catch up and share our experiences while cooking. A social night was organized on the last night by Sgt Samir, cooking a delicious local chicken in Gurkha style. It was a great way to build team cohesion and proved quite educational.

We left this astonishing place for Giant's Castle. This time I was not sad, in fact, I had begun imagining our new location and couldn't wait to be there. As expected, its beauty was no less than Thendele and Didima. In Giant's Castle, whilst hill walking around the area we also had a chance to visit to the 'Main Cave' that let us learn something about the history and the culture of the local people. As everyone who was deployed loved cooking, Sgt Samir and Lt Altree came up with an idea to organize a friendly cooking competition, 'Come Dine with Us.' It was an unexpected evening and I felt like I was at a buffet restaurant, but it turned out to be another fantastic evening of socialising with one another.



The cooking competition in full swing

Our two-week AT package ended with an educational Battlefield tour. We had a day in Rorke's Drift, giving us the opportunity to learn about the history of the station's Defence by the British Army as well as the escape of a young Winston Churchill from Boer forces.

Wherever we stayed, wild animals such as ostriches, zebras, antelopes, baboons and many more, were always playing around us and it felt like they were our pets. After two nights in Battlefield Lodge, Dundee, we drove to Durban for our last night in South Africa, where we took the opportunity to relax and reflect on all the memories that we had made throughout our stay.



The group take a break to reflect during the Battlefield Study to Rorke's Drift

Ex DRAGON CERTA CITO 22 was a memorable adventure for all who took part. The activities, beautiful natural sceneries, lodges, food, friendly locals, and the cooking competition. All those things are unforgettable and will be looked back on fondly by everyone who was lucky enough to be involved. For me, one of the most memorable things were the sneaky Baboons who used to open the doors like humans and stole our food.

Before going to South Africa, all I could think was Cape Town, animals, and hot weather. Now, I know there are more things that will entice me to return in the future. I know that people enjoy hiking, good weather and nature on their own, but it is surreal to think that we got to experience the famous mountains, perfect weather, breathtaking views, and incredible wildlife all at once on this expedition. The opportunity to physically challenge ourselves while also developing as a cohesive team made this expedition unmissable. We would not have had the opportunity to explore this part of the world if it hadn't been for the hard work of Sgt Samir and the Exped leader Lt Altree, so our heartfelt gratitude goes to them and everyone who helped make this expedition a success.

247 Gurkha Signal Squadron News

Looking back over the past year it is clear that 247 Gurkha Signal Squadron has had to contend with some very significant demands. It is of no surprise that the power of the Squadron is in its people and the Squadron's success throughout 2022, despite these significant demands, belongs wholly to them and the wider parivar whose support is critical to the Squadron's success.

2022 undoubtedly unfolded to become the busiest year since the Squadron's re-formation in 2019. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022 led to the Squadron being activated to support the deployment of 104 Theatre Sustainment Brigade on Op INTERLINK.

All those activated for deployment subsequently deployed well within the EHR or VHR timelines they were held to, a striking testament to the professional excellence of those who deployed and those who supported them. The Squadron recce team from Hong Kong Troop, Sig Sabin Rai, Sig Sachin Rai and LCpl Arjun Neupane under the command of LCpl Bishal Shrestha deserve particular mention, deploying to South Cerney within 3 hours and establishing FOC in Poland within 12 hours of activation. This swift activation allowed the Brigade Commander of 104X to deploy King Troop under Lt Alex Richards in short-order, also to Poland, where they established a 104X Point of Presence headquarters alongside US counterparts. March brought more operational demands for the Squadron with Borneo Troop under Lt Will Skirrow deploying to Germany to establish the full 104X headquarters to FOC within 16 hours. On arrival the Troop immediately set to work on building the headquarters, regardless of the fact they had just completed an extended road-move across Europe. This was all to ensure the headquarters could host the UK Defence Secretary the next morning. A truly phenomenal performance.

Over time this headquarters has evolved into the International Donor Coordination Centre (IDCC) and currently accommodates over 30 countries all working in-unison to co-ordinate the supply of Military Aid to Ukraine. The headquarters continues to be UK-led and pivotal in the suppression of Russian military efforts in Ukraine, receiving regular political and 4* visitors from across numerous NATO nations. Squadron personnel finally returned from the IDCC in December following an extended operational period where the Squadron was trusted to run the headquarters since February. Although not aligned to return to the IDCC until the latter half of 2023, Squadron personnel deployed in December to Logistic Enabling Nodes (LENs) in Poland, Romania and Slovakia, continuing the Squadron's reputation for operational excellence.

While 2022 has clearly been dominated by Op INTERLINK, the Squadron has continued to support 104X on exercises both in the UK with Ex WINTER WOLF 22, and Germany on Ex CERBERUS 22. Throughout, the proactive and professional attitude of Squadron personnel has continued to receive repeated plaudits and admiration from staff across 104X and beyond.

Not content with performing to an exceptional standard on operations and exercises, 247 personnel have impressed throughout the year in the sporting arena. Most notably, FofS(IS) Poulter led the Squadron Tug-Of-War team to a well-earned victory at the 73rd Regimental Birthday celebrations. The Squadron also found success at the 11 Sig & WM Bde operational shooting competition, where it also secured victory under the seasoned guidance of WO2 (SSM) Rabin. Success in leading the Corps basketball team for Cpl Lokendra

Thapa at the Army Inter Corps Basketball championships resulted in a richly deserved QG SIGNALS sports person of the year award. With Sgt Krishna Khajum and Cpl Nayan Waiba leading a Regimental team to victory in the Corps Badminton Championship.

Ex TRAILWALKER 22 was a key date in the Squadron's calendar and particular thanks go to Sgt Bir Rai who led a team of 25 to provide an exceptional Gurkha Village at CP9 this year. Sgt Khagendra Gurung was tasked with leading the training, preparation and race management of the QG SIGNALS team. His herculean efforts along with that of his team, notably Sig Ritesh Rai and LCpl Hum Gurung ensured the team were fully supported both over the course of their training and throughout the race. This combined with the iron-will and determination of Sig Mousam Limbu and Sig Tyson Limbu along with Sig Suraj Tamang (249) and Sig Sachine Ale (248) secured a clear-cut win, contributing to a dominating hat-trick of victories for the QG SIGNALS - Shyabaash!

This formidable spirit was reflected on Op INTERLINK with a charity TRAILWALKER run organised by Sig Krishna raising over £1200. Investment in our people and our wider pariwar continues to rightly dominate the Squadron's calendar with numerous AT exercises and charity events having been successfully organised throughout the year. Of note was the families' hiking day in the Peak District superbly organised by LCpl Nabin Gurung. The hugely successful MoD Stafford International Day was sublimely organised by Sgt Mohan Gurung and raised over £1500 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust and the Army Benevolent Fund. While Squadron runners under LCpl Santosh Rai raised £748 at the Solihull Half Marathon. Dherai Shyabaash!

2022 will be remembered by 247 as a highly demanding year where the ability of the Squadron to meet and succeed against a vast array of different outputs was tested. The fact that the Squadron was not found wanting is testament not only to its servicepeople but also to their families across the wider Squadron pariwar. The successes above would simply not be possible without their unwavering and steadfast support, Dherai dhanyabdh.

The Squadron continues to represent the Paltan in the highest tradition through a focus on our Kaida and continued pursuit of professional excellence. Following a hugely successful year we look forward to the challenges and opportunities that 2023 will bring.

Jai 247!

OP INTERLINK (ROTO 1)

By LCpl Sajal

In March 2022 Borneo Troop, 247 GURKHA SIG SQN was deployed to Op Interlink with the Squadron Headquarter elements to provide CIS support to 104 Log Bde to enable them to provide logistical support to Ukraine as part of NATO's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. On 24 February 2022, Vladimir Putin began the war by claiming Ukraine needed to be "demilitarized and de-Nazified". Our squadron was on readiness from December 2021 and our troop was deployed to South Cerney at the end of February 2022.



The group take a break to reflect during the Battlefield Study to Rorke's Drift

ROTO 1 duration was March-June 2022. In this time, Borneo Troop along with Hong Kong Troop (Recce team) built the foundation of the CIS support to the operation. The first few weeks were very busy, but everyone looked after each other and worked as a team to form 104X HQ. Since it was the main HQ, all plans and coordination with allies were made there, including the USA, Canada, France as well as Ukraine. This made our CIS contribution vital. Later on, a few service personnel also had the opportunity to re-deploy to the smaller logistic enabling nodes based at Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

During our deployment in Germany, we stayed in a hotel and travelled to work inside a US Army Barracks. There was no cookhouse, so we were given a food allowance. Despite working long hours and having busy days, we also had the chance to use gym facilities and enjoyed playing football after our shift. A commissary, food court and other food trucks were inside the barracks which conveniently saved our time in the busy working day. For most of us in Borneo Troop it was our very first operation. It has taught us how important communication services are in the success and sustainability of operations. Significantly, LCpl Manoj was awarded with the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps medal from Lt General NRM Borton for his vital role as the Det Commander providing SECRET services to staff users.

King Troop, 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn in EX CERBERUS 22

By Sig Sajan Limbu

Right after a successful tour on Operation INTERLINK in the first half of the year and the required recuperation period, King troop from 247 Gurkha Signal Squadron, 16 Signal Regiment, deployed to Germany for Ex CERBERUS 22 over the period of 5 Sep – 20 Oct to provide ICS support to an OF4 Headquarter, 29 RLC, 104 Theatre Sustainment Brigade. Ex CERBERUS is the largest and the most ambitious UK led Field Army exercise in Europe in more than a decade, validating the Bde HQ's of the 3rd (UK) Division - the Warfighting division.

On the 5th of Sep 22, King troop deployed from MOD Stafford to a German army barracks, Delmenhorst travelling both via road and ferry. Upon arrival to the exercise location, after a two-day long journey, we received RSOI brief from the 29 Enabling Group Operations team. The troops then retired for the much-needed rest. Early morning, the following day, we hit the ground running. The build phase involved offloading the (CIS) equipment, defence items and setting up the required infrastructure for Network Engineering Room (NER) and Staff Working Environment (SWE). The progression of the days saw setting up three-tier barbed wires around tentage complex for defence and security while the detachment commanders and crew got busy bringing the detachments online to meet the Initial and Full Operational Capability deadline.

During the early stages of providing services to staff users, we encountered a variety of technical challenges and issues, but we remained composed and focused on the resolution of the problem. The engineers worked around the clock working alongside level ¾ support engineers to resolve the technical issues giving us an opportunity to learn and prepare even more for future deployments. It was humbling to receive compliments from staff users on our professionalism and trade knowledge. The exercise also provided the platform to successfully test the new detachment of our squadron, SATCUBE, a satcom capability, integrating with all MODNET laptops. Over the course of the exercise, there were multiple German and Canadian soldiers visit in the exercise location. This provided us with a fantastic opportunity to exchange knowledge about respective capabilities.

Furthermore, during the exercise, there was some good news for the troop as both Signaller Sandesh Rai and Signaller Anush Gurung were promoted to the rank of LCpl. Despite a busy schedule, Cpl Tshering organized our most important festival, Dashain, for all the deployed personnel from 16 SR and 29 Enabling Group. Lt Col Elizabeth Sedgwick, the 29 RLC Commanding Officer, attended as the main guest. During our time there, we also seized the opportunity to

go on educational visits to Berlin, Hamburg, Dortmund, and Hannover. In addition to educational trips, we also hosted the deployed personnel with Gurkha messing, organized charity haircuts and a charity 5k run. In hindsight, the most exciting and enjoyable activity, however, was a football game between the 16 Signal Regiment and the 29 EG which saw how well we integrated with each other.



247 GURKHA SIG SQN and 29 RLC deployed personnel on Ex CERBERUS 22

Once the ENDEX was called out, we began the recovery process by packing all the equipment back into the vehicles and returned to base just making it to the Tihar celebration back in the unit. Overall, we had a fantastic time as a troop on Exercise Cerberus 22, working as a team to support TEG in enabling the entire warfighting division to train and incrementally improve their Combat Ready competency.

Survival Nepali Culture and Language Course (September - December 22)

By Lt J Keaveney

Starting in September 2022, 14 British Army Officers from across the Brigade of Gurkhas and two Singapore Police Officers found themselves travelling to Kathmandu, Nepal, to embark on the three month 'Survival Nepali Culture and Language Course' (SNCLC). Having received the familiarisation briefs in British Gurkhas Kathmandu camp (BGK) and begun to assimilate into the unfamiliar environment that Nepal presents to British Officers, we made our way on the gruelling 11 hour road journey to Pokhara, 200km West of Kathmandu.

As a language course, we spent the majority of our time studying Nepali grammar and vocabulary within British Gurkhas Pokhara camp (BGP). Quickly integrating ourselves into the Kali Khola mess and with the permanent BGP staff. Despite the busy language schedule, we all made an effort to absorb as much Nepali culture as possible whilst in Pokhara. Whether in the tourist heavy Lakeside district, or trekking in the Annapurna circuit, we put the language skills that we had been learning to best use in a live environment.



A team photo after a gruelling doko race

A highlight of the course, and another fantastic opportunity to showcase our newly discovered Nepali language abilities was the one week attachment to Gurkha Welfare Trust Area Welfare Centres (AWCs). Divided into groups of two Officers at each centre, we were sent to gain a valuable insight into the crucial work of the GWT and how Nepali people live in different parts of the country. I was lucky enough to spend my attachment at Gorkha, the eponymous home of the Gurkhas, with the world famous Gorkha Durbar only a five minute walk from the AWC itself. Whilst staying in Gorkha I had the fantastic opportunity to visit GWT supported schools and welfare pensioners, hearing about life in Nepal and times gone by in the Brigade of Gurkhas. Upon returning to Pokhara, we were tasked with delivering a 20 minute presentation about our AWC attachments in the Nepali language, judged diligently by the famous J.P. Cross Saheb, who consistently helped us in our pursuit of ever more fluent language skills.

Another stand out aspect of the SNCLC was the Directed Duty Trek (DDT). Once again we were divided into teams of two Officers. However, this time we were transported to the more distant areas of Nepal, from as far afield as Taplejung in the East to Lamjung in the West. I found myself taking two domestic flights to reach Terathum, a district in the far East of Nepal. 10 days of trekking through the steep valleys and camping in tents with our porters gave us a true insight into rural Nepalese life. We also performed the duty of reporting the welfare status of several welfare pensioners on behalf of the Area Welfare Officer, which enabled future help to be provided where it is most needed.

Overall, the SNCLC fulfils a vital function in the education of young Officers in the Brigade of Gurkhas. It provides us with the fundamentals of the Nepali language, enabling us to communicate more freely and comfortably with our soldiers in the UK and Brunei. More importantly however, the time spent in Nepal exposes us to a culture, and customs, completely unlike those that we are accustomed to. This improves our



A photo opportunity with a local school children and staffs supported by GWT (N)

leadership ability when commanding Gurkha soldiers on operations, exercise and in barracks. Finally, our time spent on AWC attachments and DDT completes our education on the Brigade, as we can see how previous Gurkha soldiers have served the British Army and how important the work of the GWT is in ensuring they and their families continue to live in dignity.

DASHAIN Festival in EX CERBERUS 22

By Sig Keshav Gurung

On the 5th of September 2022, 247 Gurkha Signal Squadron, along with the members of 29 Enabling Group (29EG) deployed to Ex CERBERUS 22 in Delmenhorst, Germany. Our main role was to provide ICS support to 29 Enabling Group (29EG). Dashain, one of the major Nepalese festivals and an important festival celebrated widely in the Brigade of Gurkhas, fell during the exercise. We were fortunate enough to be able to celebrate this festival even though we were away from home.

Dashain is a major Hindu religious festival celebrated by the Nepalese people around the world. It is the longest and most auspicious festival which falls in the lunar fortnight of September and October every year. The festival lasts for fifteen days, however, in the Brigade of Gurkhas, it is celebrated for only four days. There are many mythological stories associated with Dashain but the most famous one is the 10 days fierce battle between Goddess Durga and demon 'Mahishasura', where Goddess Durga achieves victory over the demon on the tenth day of the battle.



King Troop celebrating Dashain during Ex CERBERUS 22

On the 5th of October 2022, we had the privilege to celebrate Dashain in Delmenhorst, Germany in a deployed space. The day started with Pooja rituals which is a prayer to the gods to wish for blessings. In the evening, we had small Dashain celebration which commenced with a short presentation by Sig Sandesh on the importance of celebrating this Hindu festival. On this special occasion, we were treated with traditional Nepalese food that reminded us of home. It was a special moment for everybody to be able to celebrate this day whilst being so far from our family and friends. The night concluded with some entertainment performed by our own troop members such as the popular 'KHUKURI DANCE' followed by live acoustic music. Overall, we had a fantastic Dashain celebration alongside the members of 29EG in Germany.

248 Gurkha Signal Squadron News

My second newsletter submission captures another characteristically busy and successful year for 248.

We have retained our commitment to provide the Communications Information Services (CIS) for the 1* Forward Headquarters and the 2* Rear Headquarters for the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC). Set against the backdrop of Russia's invasion of Ukraine these commitments are more important than ever. We have held individuals at high readiness for UK Counter Terrorism, and deployed to Europe, Africa, and the Middle East in support of Training and PJHQ operations.

When the ARRC's major overseas training exercise was cancelled because of the Russian invasion, 22nd Signal Regiment lost its major commitment and the trawls quickly followed. Squadron Headquarters was hit particularly hard, with the 2IC, SQMS and YofS all deploying for 6 months or more. The remaining team were required to step up and did so admirably; one individual stands out - newly posted in as a Troop Commander, Captain Rajkumar Gurung quickly found himself covering 2IC and Squadron Operations, he has really impressed.

Despite the relentless trawls and reduced team, we successfully planned and led a 96 strong sub-unit group deployment. Soldiers drawn from across 1st Signal Brigade deployed to support staff from the ARRC and Multi-National Field Artillery Brigade on a Corps level joint fires integration exercise in Grafenwoehr, Germany. Overcoming several technical and logistical challenges along the way, we delivered exemplary services to the 121 staff. The exercise was deemed a huge success with several soldiers receiving Brigade Commander's and CO's coins and Staff Sergeant Parasmani Gurung receiving a Brigade Commander's commendation. I was particularly proud of the way that the soldiers from across the Brigade came together as a cohesive team, which was underpinned by the exemplary teamwork and leadership of the soldiers from 248.

On the sporting side we have continued to contribute to the Paltan and 22nd Signal Regiment's significant sporting successes. We led and contributed most of the members of the Regiment's first Cambrian Patrol entry in several years, earning a prestigious silver medal. We have continued our community engagement activity and raised over £4000 for various charities. Despite our busy schedule we managed to conduct overseas Squadron Adventure Training in Bavaria and members of the Squadron have also organised and participated in several other expeditions, of note Sergeant Milankumar Rai led an excellent, belated Corps Centenary expedition to Peru.

During our Squadron Summer BBQ we bid farewell to Captain Jagatram Rai who departed to be 2IC 250 and welcomed Captain Rajkumar Gurung. We also bid farewell to WO2 (SSM) Saroj Rai who moved to take up the WO1 (RSM) QG SIGNALS appointment and welcomed in WO2 (SSM) Debendra Gurung, who I am delighted to report was subsequently successful on the Army Officer Selection Board (Late Entry). Throughout the year we have said hello and farewell to many others who have all contributed to 248 - I wish you all the very best for the future from the Squadron. Testament to the very high calibre of our soldiers, we have also enjoyed a very successful year for promotions. Another example of our excellent soldiers - Signaller Anil Gurung successfully completed the All-Arms Commando Course - 127 started and only 13 finished, which gives an indication of how demanding it was!

We have continued to invest heavily in our Kaida, supporting the Tihar celebrations and leading the Stafford Station Dashain that saw 450 members of the Gurkha community come together to celebrate. Notably, with support of the Stafford Station Support Unit we have also secured a £125,000 refurbishment of our Gurkha Temple, which has delivered a significant improvement.

Many of the achievements I describe and more besides are captured in greater detail in the articles below. None of our successes would have been possible without the dedicated support of our pariwar, we could not do what we do without you - dherai dherai dhanyabadh. We look forward to another successful year ahead where we will continue to do all we can to uphold and promote the Paltan's ethos and Kaida.

Jai 248!

Ex KHUKURI HOPTON 22, CT A/B
 By *LCpl Abhishek Raj Bhandari, November Troop*

248 Gurkha Signal Squadron conducted a CT A/B from 17 - 28 Jan 2022, to prepare and refresh our military knowledge and skills. This Exercise was designed to develop the skills and confidence of the soldiers for their future career courses. The main aim of this Exercise was to refresh the knowledge on both communication and military skills.



LCpl Abhishek delivering Recce Order to his section

The Exercise was run in two phases, first week a comms phase in camp where we had a lesson on basic bowman voice service, radios, voice procedures and report delivery over the radio. Whereas the second week was field phase at Swynnerton Training Camp. The physical demanding phase on basic soldiering skills designed to develop the professionalism from low level tactics. The first day of deployment we had a night navigation where we were divided in pairs to develop our orienteering skills. The second day we had several field lessons on patrol, harbour, model making and section attack. The third day was the day of deployment to field phase.

I'm glad that I was given the opportunity to lead a section as a section commander in this exercise, Where I delivered a recce order to my section and lead a section to a night recce patrol. It became more interesting when we had an aviation flight during our exercise. All the member from each section got an opportunity to take a flight on Chinook. In the end of the Exercise our Pl Comd Sgt Shem planned a deliberate dawn attack where each of the section had 2 challenging enemy position each to be cleared.

All in all, the exercise commenced very well delivering enough knowledge where everyone had a chance to do such a realistic exercise with a real time aviation. We were certainly grateful to the organising team lead by the Planning Officer, Sgt Milan Rai and his team of Instructors who made this Ex more fun and interesting.

Jai 248!!

Ex KHUKURI GRILL 22 (Sqn Summer BBQ)
 By *LCpl Swrawan Rokaya, Lima Troop*



The first SQN family photograph post easing of social distancing rule of 2 metres

On 10th June 2022, 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron organised EX KHUKURI GRILL 22 (Squadron BBQ) led by Sgt Tek Rana at Beacon Barracks, Stafford.

It was an event we all had been waiting for a long time after Covid restriction. It provided an ideal opportunity to promote team cohesion and foster close bonds amongst the personnel in attendance. There were series of events to keep all the member entertained throughout the event. Fun games and live music with delicious barbeque in the sun provided a good time to socialise. Annual OC's Challenge cup was awarded to November Troop for this year.



Winner of the inaugural OC's Challenge NOV Tp poses with the highly sought after Sungur!

It coincided with welcoming new members into the squadron and bidding farewell to some key personalities of the Sqn. Sqn welcomed 2Lt Niekirk (OC November Tp) and WO2 Devendra Gurung (Incoming SSM) while bade farewell to Capt Jagatram Rai (OpsO), Lt Masterson (OC Oscar Tp), WO2 Saroj Rai (Outgoing SSM) and Sgt Dhan Gurung with their families, wishing them good luck for their new venture.



A fond adieu to Capt Jagatram (OpSO) and WO2 Saroj (SSM)

Ex DRAGON CERTACITO QUECHUA 22

By Sgt Milan Kumar Rai, Lima Troop

Ex DRAGON CERTACITO QUECHUA 22 (Ex DCQ22) is the Corps Centenary Adventure Training which took place in the South American Andes Mountain, Cordillera Huayhuash located in Peru over the period of 22 Aug - 12 Sep 22. 14 serving members from 22nd Signal Regiment, led by the Exped Leader Sgt Milan, participated in the arduous Summer Mountaineering expedition during which they summited Saint Antonio peak at the altitude of 5050m.

In the early morning on 22nd August, the expedition team left MOD Stafford to Heathrow airport to commence the expedition. This day had ultimately come after breaking through numerous setbacks during the planning phase. The expedition itself was long overdue which was planned in 2020 as part of the Corps Centenary. However, as the COVID pandemic affected almost everything, the expedition was under no exception, and therefore it had to be patiently reorganised from the scratch.



LCpl Abhishek delivering Recce Order to his section

With the aim of developing team cohesion, individual confidence, and enhancing leadership skills whilst operating in a culturally and geographically unfamiliar environment, the expedition team landed at Lima Airport in the capital city of Peru. Despite the tedious 13 hours flight and then 10 hours road travel covering 200km to reach the destination Huaraz, the team had that excitement to begin the adventure of their lifetime. Huaraz is the touristic province of Peru providing an open gate to plethora of summer and winter mountaineering. As it is situated at the altitude of 3050m, we could feel a minor shortness of breath even when walking short distance.

The Exped team started the first day of acclimatisation trek to Wilkacocha lake situated at the altitude of 3600m. With no surprise, the altitude sickness hit majority of us resulting headache, fatigue, and difficulty in breathing. We were well-prepared physically, nevertheless no one was exempt from Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS). Therefore, 6 days of acclimatisation trek was conducted in a varying altitude up to 4800m to cope with the AMS before commencing the 10 days expedition.



Sunkissed enroute to Laguna at 4600 m above the sea level

Though the weather was hot and sunny during the day, we had to gear up with enough layering in the morning and at night to keep us warm. We started the first day of expedition travelling by bus from Huaraz to Llamac with our trek guide and couple of chefs. On the way, we stopped at a small village, Chiquain for lunch, and fortunately witnessed the locals in traditional dresses dancing and celebrating the St. Rose Day. It was an icing on the cake to our expedition journey. We reached the first campsite Matacancha in the afternoon where we set up tents. Three donkey drivers who we hired for the trek were at the campsites. They controlled 15 donkeys to carry our food and equipment throughout our journey. We trekked up the hills up to 4300m altitude for couple of hours. We could see the mesmerising Andes Mountain range spreading north to south. The next morning, we set off early and reached the Canan pass at 4700m. As the altitude was quite high, we had a mild symptom of AMS and therefore we had to look out for each other. When we reach the campsite at Mitucocha, we were tired, however it was a worthwhile the second day trek.



248 GSS members taking a breather whilst enroute to Machu Pichu

The third day trek was comparatively easy. In addition, the campsite Carhuacocha was very scenic and beautiful, as it was located at the edge of the hill near to the gigantic Yerupaja mountain 6634m. We could feel the surreal and heavenly atmosphere which took our fatigue and tiredness away. The most arduous, but equally beautiful trek was on the fourth day when we had to climb up Siula Pass at 4850m. The climb was very steep and slippery due to loosen gravels which made it dangerous. Therefore, we had to be very cautious and needed frequent breaks. Despite all, the

panoramic view of the three consecutive blue lakes, with Yerupaja and Siula mountains at the background, was simply sensational. This route was the trademark of this whole expedition and every one of us, at that time, felt the adventure of our lifetime. The remaining trekking routes were alike and equally enjoyable. On the 10th or the final trekking day, we descended back to Llamac in the early afternoon. We were exhausted and looking forward to return to Huaraz.

After completing the expedition, all participants expressed their sense of accomplishment, and the sense of victory over fear. It was worth waiting for more than two years whilst planning and re-planning, going through pre-deployment training and attending pre-requisite course. It would not have been possible, and as successful as it is, without a continuous support from the CoC, the various financial sponsors and invaluable enablers. Thank you all very much.

Ex TRAILWALKER 22 - A prospect from Troop Commander

By Lt Clark, Oscar Troop

On Tuesday 20 SEP 22, 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn deployed on Ex TRAILWALKER 22 (Ex TW 22), in their familiar role as providers of the Start Point for Trailwalker. Located at the Queen Elizabeth County Park (QECP), the start point comprises a camp site and dining facilities as well as a race starting point for 1,500 civilian and military competitors about to undertake the 100km race across the South Downs Way. The runners raise money for the Gurkha Welfare Trust and OXFAM.

Ex TW is rather unique in a military context. A standing military commitment to enable a joint civilian and military charitable event, from an organiser's perspective it has a feel all its own. In 2022 this out of the ordinary feeling was reinforced by the sad passing of Her Late Majesty, The Queen only three weeks before the event was scheduled. Whilst the planning for the Start Point and wider event began months in advance this tragic news posed many hard questions for the organisers in the final weeks and days before Trailwalker.



The mighty Start Point team with all smiles before the havoc

22nd Signal Regiment personnel were honoured in the week preceding Trailwalker to take part in the funeral arrangements in London and Windsor. This meant that

the actual time available for the set up at the QECP had to be reduced to enable both commitments. In the spirit of the determination embodied by our longest reigning monarch, soldiers from 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn deployed in support of OP BRIDGE over the weekend of 13 SEP 22 with all the kit necessary for another seven nights in the field to conduct Ex TW 22 the following week.

Buoyed by the warm reception given to them on the streets of London the troops travelled by minibus to the South Coast and immediately began 4 long days of set up for the event and another 3 of delivering the Start Point before recovering their kit back to MOD Stafford.

As a newcomer to the event, and the wider Queen's Gurkha Signals Paltan (family), I was taken aback not only by the incredible work ethic on display during the build phase but also the irrepressible morale of the whole team. Working from just after dawn until sunset each day the team worked hard for each other and for the overall goal of enabling funds to be raised by the runners over the weekend. Smiles and high spirits never seemed to stop despite the relentless schedule of work. It was truly a privilege to work with and lead the Gurkha Soldiers for the first time on exercise.

The hours and days seemed to fly by as tent after tent was erected, powered, lit, the OFCS, parking and water points built, and the entire site decorated to give the professional feel of a large charitable event. Finally, every member of the team stepped up to provide front of house, marshalling, pan bash and logistical support for the competitors in the hours before the event started.

The mood on site was perhaps best captured by Col D Robinson (Col Bde of Gurkhas) in his address to the runners when they began their race at 0700 on Sat 24 SEP. Col Robinson spoke of the challenge of the 100km course ahead before asking the runners to remember that every one of their thousands of steps along the way were each, a step taken in the service of the people of Nepal. That sense of deep pride taken in the service of others was on full display as the 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn team worked tirelessly to enable the event in the week leading up to it.

Reflecting on my own role as the Start Point commander I can now appreciate the great deal of trust placed in my hands as well as those of the 40 soldiers deployed to enable Trailwalker. The opportunity to work alongside the volunteers from OXFAM and GWT as well as the appreciation shown by the runners the evening and morning before they set off were fantastic.

I know that for myself and many others Ex TW 22 will be a lasting memory of the privilege of being able to serve. Especially for those of us at the Start Point in Queen Elizabeth Country Park, as we remembered our country's greatest public servant after whom the park was named.

Jai Paltan!

Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL 22

By Sgt Sunil Gurung, Sqn MT

Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL is a mission-focused and scenario-based exercise where participants from all three services (Regular and Reserve), the University Officer Training Corps (UOTC) and international militaries participate.



A quick Pit stop amidst the Check Points

Patrols are loaded onto phases, and each phase lasts for approximately 48 hrs, during which time each patrol will cover no more than 60 km (average climb and descent are over 1000m) carrying approximately 35 kgs (with weapon 40 kgs) per person. The exercise is designed to be arduous with the challenging terrain and weather of Brecon and the Black Mountains.

This year 22 Sig Regt formed up a section of 8 led by Sgt Sunil to participate in the exercise. The team underwent rigorous physical and military skills training to prepare for the upcoming CP22. The 22SR team also attended Pre-CAMBRIAN PATROL training organised by the Brigade Training Team (BTT Brigade of Gurkhas), which provided the 22SR team with ample opportunity to test themselves and prepare for the actual event.



The jubilant team of 22 Sig Regt after bagging silver medal with the Regiment and Squadron Command team

22SR team was proudly presented with a silver medal at the end of Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL 22.

ALL ARMS COMMANDO COURSE 02 / 22

By Sig Anil Gurung, Oscar Troop

This summer, I was fortunate enough to embark on one of the toughest and most well-renowned courses in the Armed Forces. A course which tests individuals to their limits, the All-Arms Commando Course (AACC) is an 11-week arduous course which provides Service Personnel with core military skills for very high readiness Commando operations. Priority for places is usually set for those who serve under 3 Commando Brigade and not being part of the brigade, the chance to attend the course was low but a glimmer of hope was always there inside of me. My excitement went through the roof when I was notified of my place on the course.



The fewest on a pass out parade that I have witnessed! The final 12 out of 127 that made it to the finish line

The first hurdle to cross was a 5-week Pre-Commando Package sponsored by 24 Commando Engineers in RMB Chivenor. With people attending from across the globe, it was quite a diverse course, with international counterparts from the Royal Brunei Special Forces, Egyptian Navy, United States Marines and Dutch Marine Corps to name a few. The package consisted of a series of training and assessments, which had to be passed to move on to the Potential Commando Physical Assessment. This first phase was survived by only 70 out of 127 personnel and we were moved on to the next phase of the physical assessment. This was a one-day assessment consisting of a multistage fitness test, basic swim test, bottom field test and a navigation theory test. By the end of the five weeks, only 36 personnel made it to the actual All Arms Commando Course which started the following week. The main reason for the detriment in the pass rate was because of the elevation in test standards in recent times. The usual 30ft rope climb, with 15 lbs webbing, has been increased to three climbs instead of the usual one.

Weeks of gruelling training in barracks with alternative weeks in the field awaited us next and was conducted by Commando Training Centre Royal Marines in Lympstone. The training conducted in barracks included lung pumping inter-section log circuits, individual best effort fartlek runs, obstacles drills, fitness enhancing training and lectures. This was all to test our levels of



*When the going gets tough,
the tough gets going*

fitness and build team spirit. The field training focused on navigation, fieldcraft and numerous insertion yomps (a “yomp” is Royal Marines slang describing a long-distanced loaded march carrying full kit). With 40Kg plus of kit, we went yomping around the undulating terrain of Woodbury Common, Dartmoor and Brecon, and I have now lost count of the yomps I have completed. However, what I can vividly remember is the longest and toughest yomp, known as the ‘Death Yomp’ on the final exercise. This was conducted over 13 miles in under 8 hours with full exercise kit and was a real test of one’s determination and ability to fight after enduring true hardship.

The final week consisted of the endurance run, 9-mile speed march, Tarzan, and concluded with the infamous 30 mile yomp. Personally, it was emotionally hard not to see those people cross the finish line with whom I had spent the past 15 weeks and formed a strong camaraderie with from day one. Some forced to leave due to injuries sustained and for some, luck was not on their side. Out of the 127 who started, only 12 made it to the finish line and rightfully earned the coveted Green Beret on 7 Dec 22. This statistic itself speaks volumes of the difficulty and low success rate of the course.



*Sig Anil rightfully earning the
coveted Green beret*

It was an honour and privilege to represent the QG SIGNALS and the Corps. I have immense pride in earning the Commando Dagger and wearing the Green Beret for the rest of my career. I also hope this brings a source of inspiration to the young and aspiring soldiers of the Paltan who want to have a go at the course. Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my chain of command who have had numerous tussles with the Commando Training Team to secure a place for me. I am forever indebted to them.

249 Gurkha Signal Squadron News

2022 has been another busy but highly successful and rewarding year for 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn, providing Command Support to the 3 (UK) Div HQ on exercises in the UK and overseas. At the beginning of the year 249 deployed on Ex ORTHRUS, a Div CPX for its Bde HQs, not only demonstrating our technical capacity but also bravely fighting through Storm Eunice, setting an excellent and positive impression to the newly appointed GOC, Maj Gen James Martin DSO OBE MC. The relationship and rapport built with the Div staff continued with a positive vibe during Ex CERBERUS 22, a validation of subordinated Bdes by 3 (UK) Div, which took place in Sennelager, Germany over the period Sep - Nov 22. The entire Sqn deployed on the exercise, including backfilling gaps within the Regt, and yet again delivered an outstanding performance, which resulted in soldiers earning multiple GOC, Army SM and CO’s coins in the process. Ex CERBERUS has set a benchmark that will be taken forward for Ex WARFIGHTER 23.4 in the US over the period Feb - May 23.

On the sporting and AT front, the Regimental Operational Shooting Competition (OSC) team, led by Lt Thompson and Sgt Dhak Ghale (both 249), was predominantly composed of 249 soldiers and had huge success despite very limited training. The team fought through their way to qualify for the Army OSC, with 7 out of 8 team members making it into the top Army 100 in the final. Members from 249 also had the opportunity to deploy on AT activities; 40 attending Sqn AT in Germany, and SSgt Prakash Chhantyal leading a Type 3 expedition to Nepal. Orienteering is another forte for 249 soldiers who have been regularly representing the Regiment and Corps in multiple competitions, whilst Sig Suraj Gurung made it into the QG SIGNALS Trailwalker team that ultimately became the champion of the 2022. Some of our soldiers also represented the Paltan in the Nepal Cup 2022.

On the charity front, our soldiers continue raising charity funds for various organisations such as the ABF the Soldiers’ Charity, GWT, the Royal Signals Charity et al. Most notably was a Regimental Charity Doko race, led by Cpl Lal Changbang Limbu, raising over £2000 for the GWT. The event was a simulation of the gruelling

“Doko Race” carried out by all potential Gurkha recruits during central selection in Nepal. He and LCpl Dev Limbu also raised another £2500 for the ABF The Soldiers’ Charity via a raffle draw and charity haircuts during Ex CERBERUS.

Mindful of the importance of Nepalese and Gurkha culture, the Sqn organised an excellent Dashain for the entire Nepalese community including their families within the Regt before deploying on Ex CERBERUS. The Sqn also marked the 73rd QG SIGNALS Regimental Birthday, Dashain Tika and Tihar whilst deployed in Germany.

Other notable achievement includes one of our soldier’s success on the SFC selection. He will now be assigned to 18 (UKSF) Sig Regt flying the QG SIGNALS flag high.

The Sqn is very much looking forward to Ex WARFIGHTER 23.4 in the USA from Feb to May 23, and another seemingly extremely busy year in 2023.

Jai 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn!

Ex TIGER TILICHO YATRA 2022

By Lance Corporal Rabin Buduja

The vibes of ‘Heaven is a myth Nepal is real’ stroke me the moment when we landed at Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal and encountered the exuberant ambience oozing from every nook and corner of the city. Exercise TIGER TILICHO YATRA 2022 (Ex TTY 22) was 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt’s Type 3 expedition around the Annapurna region, trekking via Tilicho Lake (4919m) and crossing through Thorang La Pass (5416m), over the period 17 Apr - 3 May 22. The expedition was led and co-ordinated by SSgt Prakash Chhantyal and closely supported as the 2IC by Sgt Ramesh Gurung. In total, fourteen personnel including one external instructor, Cpl Hemanta Nembang, from 22 Sig Regt participated on the expedition. The main aim of the expedition was to improve morale, and build team cohesion and leadership skills through controlled exposure to the expedition whilst developing Nepalese and Gurkha cultural understanding for the non-Gurkha participants. In addition, the secondary aim was to deliver Summer Mountain Foundation (SMF) course for new expedition members.

After months of planning, pre-expedition training, medical and technical approval from Adventure Training Group (Army), we set off our trip from Bulford Camp on 17 Apr 22 and arrived in Nepal the following day. The team were welcomed by trekking tour guides from Adventure Tansen Trek at the airport who were responsible for co-ordinating our feeding, accommodation and act as a liaison and provide local knowledge to the expedition leader and the instructors.

The first day started with a planned visit to the British Embassy to issue the satellite phone and receive in-country security brief from the Assistant Military Attaché (AMA). Concurrently, expedition 2IC and a few members visited the British Gurkha Kathmandu (BGK) to exchange local currency. As we drove our way out of Kathmandu heading towards Besisahar, we could clearly see cultural shock in our British counterparts because of the chaotic driving and traffic in Kathmandu valley and Prithvi highway leading to our destination. At Besisahar, we also had the privilege to visit Area Welfare Centre (AWC) Lamjung and were given a detailed brief about GWT and all its contributions to the welfare pensioners and the community, by the Area Welfare Officer, Capt (Retd) Nim Pun (ex QG SIGNALS).

We then continued our trek by road reaching Chame (2650m) on 20 Apr; start point of our on-foot journey. From here onwards, the expedition members were divided into two teams where the SMF students would focus on learning AT skills and gaining foundation qualification. The route itself was very commercial with tea houses along the way which are the bedrock for trekking industry providing food, accommodation and assistance to the trekkers during emergencies. The scenic beauty of the mountain ranges gave us the feeling of ‘the mountains are calling, and we must go’. However, as we gained altitude and progressed closer to the mountains, most of us had some symptoms of Acute Mountain sickness (AMS) - headache, diarrhoea and difficulty in breathing to name a few. It took toll on few of our expedition members and by the time we arrived at Tilicho Base Camp (4150m), we had to evacuate two of our team members - one via road and the other by Heli. This didn’t dampen our spirit and on 25 Apr at around 0430 hrs, there was a mighty line of people covered in warm parka with lit head torch, ascended slowly towards Tilicho lake (4919m). After around four hours of slow trekking, heavy breathing and gasping, we reached the Tilicho lake napping silently frozen under the lap of Mt Tilicho. We were all awestruck by the beauty of the lake, and its surrounding and stayed in situ for a few moments before descending back to the Base Camp. The following few days, we slowly and steadily bypassed the undulating vast and arid valley, eroded canyons, barren high-altitude deserts, hanging bridges under which clattering rivers snaking down the mountains, reaching Thorong Phedi (4450m) on 27 Apr. The following day was the very final day of our on-foot trek and to capture objective “Thorong La Pass”. Therefore, early morning of 28 Apr at 0430 hrs, we set off from the Line of Departure (LD), Thorong Phedi for the dawn attack. We ascended gradually towards Thorang La Pass (5416m) reaching the summit after six hours of gruelling uphill trek. Azure blue horizon, colourful Buddhist prayers flags, stunning view of Thorang peak and the chilled mountain breeze was unforgettable which made me realise, we live for moments like this! The trekking expedition came to an end in Muktinath where we took holy bath in 108 sacred taps before heading to Jomsom by road for an overnight stay.

Expedition members had a few days of cultural and educational visit in Pokhara and Kathmandu. Visit to British Gurkha Pokhara (BGP), Gurkha Museum, Residential Home in Pokhara and BGK were very significant as we learned about the current recruiting process, history of the Brigade, stories of elderly residents and the role of BGK in assisting welfare support to serving SPs. The team eventually flew back to the UK on 3 May 22.

The expedition was a great success with its safe execution and five members achieving SMF qualification. It provided participating members a unique opportunity to experience Adventure Training in a completely different landscape to that of the UK, enhance team cohesion and for British counterparts, learn Nepalese culture and tradition. Finally, the team would like to thank CoC, 3XX and HQ Royal Signals for their financial support. Our sincere gratitude also goes to the AMA, Service Desk BGN and BGP for their assistance during safe evacuation of AMS casualties.

Jai 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn!



Visit to Area Welfare Centre Lamjung



Acclimatisation Day in Manang



Enroute to Tilicho Base Camp from Khangsar



Expedition team, a frozen Tilicho Lake (4919m) in the background



Thorang La Pass (5416m)

EXERCISE ORTHRUS - 3 (UK) DIV CPX
 By LCpl Penjor Sherpa

On Monday, 14th of February 2022, 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn deployed on Ex ORTHRUS, having the privilege to lead in delivering CIS for the Div level CPX. It was the Sqn OC's intent to deploy members of 249 to enable the Div HQs to test the BCTs conceptual ability of warfighting and prepare them for the upcoming Ex CERBERUS.

After 2 weeks of PACEX, the Div Main CP was built in a highly impressive time of 60 hrs, achieving FOC by 1400 of the third day. Leadership from the Sqn CoC and exceptional hard work from the Sqn members meant that the FOC was met promptly. Following that, during their respective visits, Comd 7 Sig Gp, Col Moran and Commanding Officer, 3rd (UK) Div Sig Regt, Lt Col Harris were full of praise for the Sqn and their achievement.

From the challenging build of Div Main CP to providing all the ICS facilities to Div Staff to sustain the exercise, members of 249 worked exceptionally hard, especially when the exercise phase was hit by Storm EUNICE followed by Storm FRANKLIN, sources of natural disaster all over the UK. This meant the Sqn had to dig deep to keep the HQ upstanding (literally!) be it by sanding sides of the tentages or even holding the guy ropes by personnel. Although at times, it looked like the wind speed was going to thwart all our hard work, all

Sqn personnel were on constant patrol with hammers, pegs and steely determination. This made sure that the tents remained in place, and we were able to deliver the capability to the Div Staff users.

Finally, the execute week started on the 28 Mar. It was clear that the Sqn had prepared well and rehearsed the arrival as it went very smoothly. Staff users from 3 (UK) Div were provided with various ICS services such as secret voice, data, email, J-Chat, Sitaware, MODNet, internet, VTC and many more. The GOC, 3 (UK) Div, Maj Gen, James Martin DSO OBE MC and DCG 3 (UK) Div Brig Gen D Meredith (US Army) paid daily visits to the HQ IOT lead conferences with all the exercising Brigades. Throughout the week, the ICS services remained on point and every conference of the GOC, DCG and his BCT Comds went exceptionally well. The Staff Officers expressed their satisfaction with the service delivery and attentive assistance they received during this exercise.

This was a huge opportunity for 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn to represent the QG Signals and the Brigade of Gurkhas. In the end of the exercise, the GOC expressed his gratitude to 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn and the Regt for all of our hard work and the professionalism we exhibited throughout. He also presented a GOC's Coin to LCpl Rupak Pun, who was the lead power engineer for the exercise. A fitting award for an outstanding tradesman.

Jai 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn!

Army Benevolent Fund The Soldiers' Charity By Sig Suraj Sunam

Members from 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn organised two charity events in support of ABF The Soldiers' Charity whilst deployed on Ex CERBERUS 22, the largest and the most ambitious UK-led exercise in Europe for over a decade.

A charity raffle draw was organised by Cpl Lal Changbang Limbu and his team which included the prestigious QG Signals 'Kothimara' Khukuri as the first prize. This generated a lot of interest amongst the deployed personnel and the team managed to raise £2031. Similarly, LCpl Dev Limbu organised a charity haircut event during the exercise which raised another £500 towards the same charity organisation.

The team were fortunate to have the audience of General Sir James Everard, the President of the ABF The Soldiers' Charity who not only handed out the prizes for the raffle draw but was able to receive the cheque for the substantial sum of £2531. He expressed his gratitude to the organising team and all those involved in supporting the events; furthermore, he presented Cpl Lal with the 'Churchill' Coin for his outstanding initiative and delivery.

Jai 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn!



Cpl Lal and LCpl Dev presenting the cheque for the fund raised to General Sir James Everard, the President of ABF The Soldiers' Charity



General Sir James Everard presenting the winner with their prizes



Service Desk team preparing prizes for the Charity Raffle Draw

EXERCISE KIWI TROPHY 2022

By LCpl Gam Gurung

3 (UK) Div Sig Regt organised its annual 10-mile March and Shoot competition, Ex KIWI TROPHY on 6 Dec 22. The event is named after the famous Bulford Kiwi, a hill figure carved into the chalk above Bulford military town by the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces stationed at the camp at the end of The Great War. The annual event dates to 1981, and this year the event was led by Cpl Om Magar and LCpl Gam Gurung (2IC) from 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn. The aim of the event was to enhance soldiers mental and physical robustness in a challenging environment, assess individual marksmanship skills, and encourage competitive spirit within the Regiment; factors which are key for operational effectiveness.

The event started under the signal of Commanding Officer 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt, Lt Col R J T Harris. Thereafter, the waves were released in an interval of 10

mins. The runners had to run/tab 10 miles in a Combat Equipment Fighting Order, less body armour weighing 15 kgs. The course incorporated some challenging and undulated trails, a river crossing, and a steep climb to the top of Kiwi Hill (Finish Point).

Shooting was the most critical phase of the race, a shot missed would add 2 mins to the runner's finish time. The range was 9 miles away from the start point, where the runners had to fire 10 shots on a figure 12 target at 200m from prone position in 60 seconds. For added complexity, before they could reach the shooting range competitors had to pass through a river crossing 1 mile before the range. After the shooting phase, the runners had to complete the final stretch of the race, a 1 mile run to the finish point, located at the top of a 300m steep hill climb beside the Bulford Kiwi.

The winners for **Ex KIWI TROPHY 22** were as follows:

- Overall champion Sqn. 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn, 1 hr 34 mins
- Fastest Male. LCpl Finn Thompson, 1 hr 18 mins, 228 (Armd) Sig Sqn
- Fastest Female. Capt Araminta Stoddart, 1 hr 59 mins, 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn
- Fastest Veteran (over 40 yrs). WO2 (RQMS) Kieran Roberts, 1 hr 33 mins, Sp Sqn

The competition was a resounding success, and both Cpl Om and LCpl Gam were commended with the CO's coin to acknowledge their endeavour to plan and execute the competition successfully around the Regt's overseas exercise commitments.



LCpl Gam conducting his initial safety brief



River crossing before the 2nd phase



SSgt (FofS) Dipendra at his best

Experience in my first unit

By Sig Pranap Paija

Being assigned to a unit is a defining time in the career of a soldier. The first unit is a step up from the trainee phase, where you are no longer spoon fed. In my opinion, it is a preview of adulthood in terms of career progression of a soldier. After successful completion of the 9 months of basic infantry training, followed by almost a year of Phase 2 trade course, I chose 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn, 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt, Bulford as my first preference which I luckily got it too.

Being under guidance from seniors 24/7 for almost first 2 years of my military career, it was challenging at first for me to work on my own, but due to the help and the right direction given my senior gurujis, I was standing on my own two feet in no time. Despite the trade course that I completed in Blandford, I had less practical knowledge than I would have liked as the course was almost all theoretical. 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn and 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt has given me great opportunities to sharpen my practical knowledge alongside revising my theoretical knowledge. After being assigned to MONS Troop, I learnt more about their capabilities, and the detachments they operate such as OpNET Blue, LDG, Housekeeper, T4N, and Reacher among others. I aspire to become a detachment 2IC or even the commander during my tenure in this unit.

I am a firm believer of “when there is no struggle, there is no strength.” Since 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt is one the busiest units delivering communication to the one and only warfighting division of the British Army, I am sure I will struggle at first, but I have no doubt that the reward will be worth the strive. Being deployed on Ex CERBERUS 22, I acquired lots of new knowledge and skills, and many are yet to be discovered and learned.

And I very much look forward to another huge exercise, Ex WARFIGHTER in the USA in 2023.

Michelangelo once said “I am still learning” when he was aged 87. I am highly motivated and looking forward to deploying into as many exercises as possible, where I can acquire new skills and continue developing throughout my career to become the soldier I aspire to be.

Jai 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn!

EXERCISE CERBERUS 2022

By Cpl Rajan Rana

Ex CERBERUS 22 is the largest exercise conducted by British Army over a decade, with nearly 3500 troops, and 800 vehicles deployed in the NATO's Forward Holding Base at Sennelager, Germany. It is a command post exercise aimed at validating the five British Army Bde HQ's that falls within the warfighting division on its readiness to deploy and work together with the NATO alliances.

As members of the 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt, we were deployed on exercise to support the one and only warfighting division of the British Army, 3 (UK) Div HQ. For a little over 2 months in Germany, we worked alongside other Signal Regiments under the 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt to facilitate staff users with robust OpCIS and TacCIS capabilities. 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn, under the command of Maj Leigh (OC Sqn), delivered communication services to the Div Main CP for the General Officer Commanding (GOC) and his staff to plan and execute the exercise.

The exercise was delivered in four key phases. The first phase was deployment where personnel and vehicles in small packets were deployed to Germany. The second phase was to build Div Main HQ, including collecting the ISO containers that had been shipped out to Germany in advance. The third phase was to conduct internal and external PACEXs of the deployed CIS equipment to ensure robust communications across the AO ahead of subsequent execution of the exercise. The final phase of the exercise was the recovery, which incorporated manifest, packing, and loading of all equipment's for Ex WARFIGHTER 23.4 and safe retrieval of deployed troops back to the UK.

Ex CERBERUS 22 was not just about testing and validating Bde HQs but also to stress test OpCIS, WAN, and TacCIS capabilities. Every individual at every level played a vital role in the successful execution of the exercise, whether it be maintaining detachments or running a conference for the GOC. In short, every personnel deployed were on their toes to deliver to the best of their capability.

Over the exercise period, numerous outstanding personnel were identified across the Regiment. From

249 Gurkha Signal Squadron, Cpl Om Magar, Cpl Kranti Mani Subba, LCpl Jiwan Pun, and LCpl Suresh Pariyar were recognised by the GOC 3 (UK) Div, Maj Gen James Martin DSO OBE MC, with the awarding of the GOC's coins for their hard work and dedication in their area of expertise for the exercise.

Jai 249 Gurkha Sig Sqn!

250 Gurkha Signal Squadron News

250 Gurkha Signal Squadron has had another busy and successful year, with several deployments and being at high readiness for its supported 2* Headquarters. Since I took up post as the Officer Commanding in the Summer, I have been constantly in awe of the hard work and positive attitude shown by all ranks. Furthermore, the Squadron has continued to uphold its reputation for excellence, whether it be on Squadron-level deployments, TRAILWALKER, individual operational deployments, sports, cultural events and so much more, which are highlighted below.

With a backdrop of reduced Covid restrictions and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a high point of the year was undoubtedly Op MARZANNA. At short notice, the Squadron deployed headquarter elements to Lithuania, playing its part of a wider deterrence effort by Western nations in a show of force and intent. The Squadron demonstrated both its capability and its enthusiasm for excellence, reflected in the staff's feedback.

The Squadron led TRAILWALKER 22 with an outstanding iteration of an event that has been running for decades and is such an important event in the wider Brigade's calendar, where over 250 teams participated and raised charity for such a noble cause.

250 also continues to support several individual and small group deployments. At time of writing, there were 4 of the Squadron personnel deployed across Mali, Chad and Somalia. Whilst away from Bramcote, deployed personnel continue to distinguish themselves. The 250 Chain of Command have been delighted by the positive reports received from their in-theatre hierarchy.

Ex KHUKURI LEADER presented the Squadron with the opportunity to reinforce its foundation of solid 'green' skills and to achieve its Individual Training Requirements. From battle drills to navigation, it was fantastic to see the troops donning their webbing and performing well, under the high-quality direction of their instructing staff.

After a two-year break due to Covid, there was a welcome opportunity for a sizeable number of the Squadron to undertake an adventurous training package in Wales this year. During Ex DRAGON KHUKURI,

personnel were able to go hill walking, mountain biking and kayaking in the sunshine and during one of the hottest summers on record.

In all, the reputation of the Squadron continues to be renewed by the efforts put in by all members of the Squadron. We are not often able to gather as our full contingent, but our ethos and teamwork remains a key strength of the Squadron. Now, the Squadron is 'full steam ahead' in preparation for deployments to Germany, Brunei, Iceland and TRAILWALKER 23.

Jai 250!

Op NEWCOMBE LRRG(M) ROTO 4
By Lt B Robinson, V Tp OC

The 22nd of November 2022 saw 4 members of 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron, 30 Signal Regiment, return to the UK from a 6-month tour of Op NEWCOMBE LRRG(M). The team, consisting of Lt Robinson, accompanied by A/Sgt Arjun, LCpl Pritam and Sig Rojal, enjoyed a successful and demanding time in the southern Sahara Desert in the city of Gao, residing within the British Camp Bagnold, alongside numerous other United Nations partners, whose reach spanned the globe.



Op NEWCOMBE LRRG(M) ROTO 4

Upon arrival, a favourite of British conversation soon arose and remarks of the notable rise in temperature was common. Arriving in the dry season, temperatures often easily topped 40°C, however, within a month, we soon moved into the wet season, which brought its own challenges. Extreme rainstorms, unlike anything I have ever seen in the UK, combined with a barrage of giant sandstorms that stretched across the horizon, was nothing short of incredible to witness. At night we were subjected to high winds, rain and intense electrical storms, which could last anywhere from an hour to all night. As Signallers, the weather certainly tested not only our knowledge, but the durability of the equipment as well. Overheating, being blown over and dust getting into connections was commonplace, and equally as common was our attempts to build makeshift shelters to mitigate the weather whilst ensuring there was no disruption to communications.



LRRG(M) ROTO 4 Team - Lt Robinson, A/Sgt Arjun, LCpl Pritam and Sig Rojal

The timing of our tour also brought with it a fascinating geopolitical landscape change, as we witnessed the French withdrawal from Mali first-hand. We often moved across to the French camp to visit the CH-47 detachment and Signallers there, who we assisted in their closedown and equipment return. Our tour also meant we were away from friends and family during the Queens Gurkha Signals Regimental Birthday, Dashain and Tihar, but despite this separation, we were still able to find time to come together and spread awareness of these occasions. Receiving care packages from our Squadron back home allowed us to share Gurkha culture and KAIDA with all those we deployed with, and this was greatly received by all. Messing events at Dashain and Tihar were spectacular and a welcome treat for many, but most especially by other Gurkhas deployed under different cap badges in the camp. We were also fortunate enough to liaise with a small contingent of the Nepalese Army and celebrate together.



Op NEWCOMBE LRRG(M) ROTO 4 Team

An overall incredible experience for us all and one I am sure each of us will look back on fondly. I believe we all learned a considerable amount about not only our own limitations, but the limitations of our equipment as well. The troops performance was nothing short of exceptional, testing their skills in the most demanding of environments, and I am extremely proud of not only what they achieved, but what they enabled as well.

Op MARZANNA 22

By Sig Biswas Rana

On 21st Apr 2022, service personnel from 30th Signal Regiment deployed on Op MARZANNA to provide J6 capabilities and support to the 2* Standing Joint Force Headquarters (SJFHQ) in Nemenčinė, Lithuania.



Op MARZANNA Pre-Deployment briefing

SJFHQ was embedded under Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF), a collaboration of nine partner nations led by the UK, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden, as part of Op MARZANNA.



Preparing to board the plane

30 SR were deployed in advance to set conditions for the main body comprising of staff users. Prior to deployment, plans were formulated and scrutinised to ensure full operating capability (FOC) was achieved within the timeline.

Once the initial requirement and request by the staff users were satisfied, sustainment and continuity of services and capabilities were prioritised in parallel with the HQ operational battle rhythm. Due to the importance and nature of Op MARZANNA, it garnered immense interest from multiple organisations, and, as such, multiple visits were coordinated throughout the duration to accommodate them.



The Op MARZANNA Team

Concurrent social events, Gurkha messings were organised to foster a team cohesion spirit in a multi-nation and branch working environment. In addition, a charity volley-ball competition and 2k relay race event were also organised in support for the local Nemenčinė children. A ferocious effort displayed by all participating teams where mighty team 250 GURKHA SIG SQN triumphed. The successful charity event raised a total sum of five hundred Euros.

Visits to Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital city, was arranged routinely to provide opportunities to learn about and exchange the cultural prospect of the deployed theatre. We were able to witness the beauty and understand to some aspect the lifestyle of Lithuania. Moreover, we also had the chance to taste local cuisines.

We were deployed for seven weeks. To new soldiers like us, it provided us with much needed opportunities of acquiring experience on working with multiple partners and on a multi-state cooperation. Furthermore, Op MARZANNA delivered deployed personal with first-hand experience and knowledge on the altering face of conflict and the shifting importance on the swift relay of information and the impact it has on the output, delivered by frontline deployed soldiers.

Ex JOINT PROTECTOR 22

By Sig Bhim Bahadur Gaha

On the 15th of October 2022, 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron of 30 Signal Regiment deployed to Nymindgab, Denmark for the Ex JOINT PROTECTOR 22.

Ex JOINT PROTECTOR is an annually committed and collective exercise of ten Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) nations across the Europe. The main aim of the exercise was to share the common interest among the nations in maintaining the security of the North, the North Atlantic and the Baltic region. It is a mission rehearsal command post exercise of Joint Expeditionary Forces, Combined Joint Inter Agency Task Force Headquarter (CJIATFHQ) in coalition with multiple JEF nations and supporting to the UK led 2* Standing Joint Force Headquarter (SJFHQ)

against adversary sub threshold grey zone operation. This year's Ex JOINT PROTECTOR 22 was hosted by Denmark.



Preparing the SJFHQ tent

As enablers, our mission was to establish the joint multiple headquarter and operate the headquarter with the right and effective communication and information system (CIS) equipment providing robust and resilient communication services. Our main challenge was to function the CIS equipment and sustain the faults without any disruption to the staff users.

To begin with, during the build-up phase, Commanding Officer 30th Signal Regiment, Lt Col Simon Smith visited the deployment area to observe the progress of the exercise, guided by 250 GURKHA SIG SQN Officer In Command, Maj Chloe Dowling and Troop Commander Capt Pramod Gurung. The battle rhythm of the exercise was hectic and intense as we had to complete the headquarter before the arrival of staff users and provide the 100 percent staff readiness of CIS equipment. Despite of the challenging weather and busy schedule, everyone was committed to their work. However, it would not have been possible without the morale of 'messing'.



A relaxing moment during Ex JOINT PROTECTOR 22

Between the build-up phase, we were visited by 1 Signal Brigade Commander, Brigadier Philip RD Muir and upon his visit Sgt Agnesh Rai, Cpl Hom Yongya and

LCpl Sangam Shrestha were awarded 1 Sig Bde Comd coin for their excellence hard work within the past year. In completion of build-up phase, on 1st November the staff users started to arrive, and Ex JP officially began. As numerous faults were rectified and dealt with on the scene, it provided us ample opportunities to test and enhance our technical skill.



Ex JOINT PROTECTOR 22 Group

Despite being deployed in overseas theatre, one of the key events was the Tihar celebration. It is an undeniable fact that Gurkhas hold their rich tradition and culture within the British army. Regardless of busy nature of the exercise, we got ourselves opportunities to celebrate Tihar (Festival of Lights) as a squadron where distinguished guests witnessed our rich KAIDA and tradition under the leadership of Sgt Givendra Rai. In addition, we were pleased to welcome our Squadron 2IC Capt Jagat Ram Rai Saheb and religious teacher Pundit Jagadish Poudel for our welfare visits. Furthermore, the Remembrance Day on 11th November was another day well marked day on the deployed calendar, where all the JEF nations came together to honour and commemorate fallen heroes.

Finally, on 10th of November, Ex JOINT PROTECTOR 22 concluded. It was an absolute moment to witness ten JEF nations collaborating to achieve the desired operational effectiveness. LCpl Akash Tamang of 250 GURKHA SIG SQN and Cpl Justin Reeves of Sp Sqn were awarded SJFC coin for their excellent technical skills and commitment throughout the Ex. Maj General Jim Morris, Comd SJFHQ gave a thank you message to all the Ex personal for all their hard work and commitment in bringing success to the Ex. Coming to the end of the exercise, recovery phase began, after the complete close down of the CIS/G4 kits and equipment we departed for UK on 18th of November.

All in all, it was a golden opportunity to enhance KSE beyond expectations. It helped in boosting the confidence in junior, after working alongside with the staff officers. Every day was learning day, regardless of the rank, everyone played a vital role in achieving the objective of the exercise.

A visit of 1st Signal Brigade Commander Brigadier PRD Muir

By Cpl Shanteshwor Pun

1(UK) Signal Brigade Commander, Brigadier PRD Muir MBE, visited 30 Signal Regiment on 1 March 2022. The visit started with a physical training session with 244 Squadron followed by an office call and QG SIGNALS presentation at the Himali club by Maj Amrit Gurung (Gurkha Major).

Later in the afternoon, the Brigade commander presented the Long Service and Good Conduct (LS&GC) medal to six service personnel and two other honour and awards in WOs and Sgts mess in recognition of their unblemished long service in the Army. It is a matter of a great pride to be a recipient of such recognition for any service personnel.



1st Signal Brigade Commander, Brigadier PRD Muir signing the Visitor's Book

The medal ceremony was attended by the Squadron OCs and other head of departments within the Regiment along with the family members of the personnel receiving the medals. The citations for each recipient were read out during the ceremony. The level of experience and contributions of the personnel receiving the medals were interesting and impressive. Brigade Commander expressed his greatest gratitude to all the recipients and thanked them for their service. After the official medal ceremony, the service personnel got the opportunity to share their day-to-day experiences with the Brigade Commander during lunch.



Brigadier PRD Muir with medal recipient

The Regiment took the opportunity to share the outcome of Op TEAMWORK, during the challenge board in their respective Mess and Junior club, to the COS, Brigade Commander and Brigade Sergeant Major respectively. Finally, the visit was concluded by presenting General

It was a great privilege and honor to host Brigade Commander and his team in our Regiment. This day will always remain a special day for me and all the personnel who were recognised and awarded on the day.

A visit by Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas Lt General Richard Wardlaw OBE

By Cpl Sanam Ghale

On the 7th of March 2022, Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE, Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas paid an official visit to 30 Signal Regiment, Regimental Headquarters of Queen's Gurkha Signals. This was his first visit to the home of QG Signals.



The Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE talking to QG SIGS soldiers

On his arrival, he was welcomed by Lt Col Simon Smith, Commander QG Signals, Maj Amrit Gurung, Gurkha Major QG Signals, WO1 Pandu Tamang, Regimental Sergeant Major QG SIGNALS and other key personalities of the Regiment. He then spent the morning expanding his knowledge on the Regiment, its roles and responsibilities and its impact on modern dynamics. He acknowledged how busy the Regiment is with various roles and commitments, whether it be exercises or numerous operational deployments.



The Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas welcomed by the C and GM

He was then moved on to the next phase which reflected Gurkha culture and cuisine. A traditional

Gurkha cuisine was served for lunch where he was joined by other key personalities. A team of 4 young bhaiharu displayed Khukuri dance after lunch which was highly applauded. He also visited the Gurkha Temple with enthusiasm.

The final phase was a presentation of OSM medals to all the personnel who had recently returned from their operational deployment. 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron has a total of 4 operational commitments: Op TANGHAM (Somalia), Op LRRG (Mali), Op TURUS (Chad and Nigeria). On the day of Colonel Commandant's visit, this opportunity was taken to present the OSM medals to the personnel. Colonel Commandant awarded 9 medals to personnel and addressed the Squadron. He was delighted by our performance and numerous achievements.

Personnel from 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron also had an opportunity to deliver short presentations on the Squadron's roles and commitments. This was delivered by a spectrum of ranks from the Sqn OC, all the way down to the most junior Signaller. Colonel Commandant was very keen and interactive during all the presentations. His visit was brief; however, many activities were covered, and we hope he had a pleasant visit to our Regiment.

Tihar celebration in Bramcote Station

By Sig Diwash Adhikari

Tihar, an auspicious five-day-long festival, is a festival of lights mostly celebrated by the Hindus in Nepal and India. It is the second biggest festival in Nepal after Dashain. It also carries a great religious significance and honors certain animals including crow, dog, cow, ox, etc.



The Commanding Officer offering prayers at the Mandir

250 Gurkha Signal Squadron also celebrated this important festival all while also realizing the fact that the young children will get to be involved and learn about the cultures and traditions of Nepal. This would also extend our efforts on cultural exchange with our British counterparts so that we better understand each other's values and origins. The celebration started with a brief explanation and significance of the festival by

Pandit ji and Squadron 2IC Saheb. There were various cuisine and delicacy which was thoroughly enjoyed by all along with the Tihar games.



Tihar Celebration in Bramcote

On the second day, the 'Bramcote ladies' community' had prepared a variety of delicious foods that reminded me of my mother's cooking back home. Then they performed 'Deusi-Vailo', loosely similar to carol singing during Christmas, where all the audience gave them blessing of good wishes and money. On the third day, we, the serving personnel returned the favor of the day by preparing an equally delicious messing which everyone enjoyed.

The days would end with gambling in controlled manner on card and dice games with small losses and wins, but more importantly, laughter and joy throughout. The whole coming together and celebrating the festival filled the void of being far from our family back home. I thoroughly enjoyed this warm and wonderful time.

Blandford Camp Gurkha Community (BCGC) News

Having arrived in post as CO at the end of the summer last year, I was delighted to be returning to Regimental Duty to command 11 (Royal School of Signals) Signal Regiment but more than that, returning to the Paltan once again. Commanding 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron remains the best time I have had in my career thus far and returning to the fold has been fantastic.

My first few weeks were dominated by the death of Her Majesty and the events that surrounded planning for and deploying on Op LONDON BRIDGE. This was a huge amount of work, conducted at pace and against an ever-changing requirement and I was hugely impressed by the effort put in by the whole Royal Signals contingent formed from 11 Sig Regt. Within this, the Paltan was represented by Sgt Om, Cpl Kishan and Cpl Satkar. As you all know they did a fantastic job and represented the Regiment, the Brigade of Gurkhas and the Corps to the highest of standards.

The rest of the time has been something of a blur, with Dashain running into Tihar and then on into Christmas all of which have been marked within the Blandford Camp Gurkha Community (BCGC). At Dashain, I was

honoured to be welcomed into my post and able to dust off my favourite *daura suruwal* and my basic grasp of the Nepalese language. Tihar was a fantastic event as ever, one of the highlights of which being hosting AVM Maddison, Air Officer Commanding 22 Gp to brief him on the importance of the Nepalese culture to the community and how this is exercised in Blandford. Cpl Bisal even demonstrated a game of Tripasa, where the AVM was able to lose some of my money!

Throughout all of this has been the hard work that goes into the mission of 11 (RSS) Sig Regt, to train soldiers for the Field Army, and we have a large cohort of both Queen's Gurkha Signals officers and soldiers and Royal Signals and MPGS transferees delivering day-in, day-out to support our contribution to the Army.

As I type this we are pulling together the Royal Signals contingent for Op GOLDEN ORB, the coronation of King Charles and Capt Sanjeev and SSgt Kumar are preparing for some drill practice in the weeks to come.

Jai Blandford Camp Gurkha Community!

Senior Gurkha Captain Sanjeev Rai

As my tenure as the Senior Gurkha Officer comes to a close, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for making the last three years a truly unforgettable experience. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as the SGC and to be a part of this vibrant and richly diverse community.

Our community is unique, in that it is not just a military camp, but a home to over 300 people, including young ITT Trainees, Permanent Staff, and their families. It is a place where we come together to learn, grow, and support one another. I have been constantly amazed by the resilience, strength, and commitment of the Community.

BCGC is steeped in tradition and ethos, that has been passed down from generation to generation. It is the dedication and hard work of our Permanent Staff and the integral role played by the ladies of our community that has allowed us to maintain these values and to instil them in the future generations of QG SIGNALS soldiers.

It has been truly inspiring to witness the sense of camaraderie and spirit of unity that exists within BCGC. It is this spirit that has enabled us to overcome challenges and to achieve great things. Whether it is through ladies' events, cultural celebrations, or community service projects, we have always come together to support one another and to make a positive impact on the world around us.

As I reflect on my time as the SGC, I am filled with pride and gratitude for all that we have accomplished together. I hope this newsletter will serve as a reminder of the

incredible achievements of our community, and of the dedication and hard work of each and every one of us.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this amazing community. I look forward to watching it continue to grow and thrive in the years to come.

Finally, it has been a true honour and privilege for me to lead this fantastic community on behalf of the Paltan. I take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the BCGC for their truly outstanding support to me and my wife Sushma during my tenure as the Senior Gurkha Captain.

Jai Blandford Camp Gurkha Community!

Trainees Prospective on Regimental Birthday and Dashain 2079

By Sig Pemba Tamang

It was a historic remarkable day, Major General JJ Cole CB OBE was bid farewell as the Colonel of the Regiment (CoR) and Brigadier MJ Fayers was announced as his successor in conjunction with Regimental Birthday and Paltan's Dashain celebration.

On 8 Oct 22, all the serving Queen's Gurkha Signals members with their families from dispersed sub-units and troops came together to celebrate 73rd QG SIGNALS Birthday and Paltan's Dashain 2079 in Bramcote. In my opinion, this day also represents the progression of QG SIGNALS and how each of the member contributed for it's success, and to share stories of struggles and celebrate success. Soldiers also gets awarded for their relentless pursuit of putting Paltan before their personal interest. It inspired me to be a part of that honour.

During the day various sporting events were organised including ladies' Volleyball. It was competed amongst the field Sqn's and Blandford. With the aggregate of scores from all the sports, a champion Sqn was announced who received the Silver Pig Trophy, reincarnated by JJ Cole Saheb before leaving as the CoR to bring back the golden values and tradition of Hong-Kong days.



Sig Pemba Tamang 'Best Trainees Intake 2021'

I was honoured to be a part of the event and it was one of my proudest moments to be awarded the best Trainee Intake 2021.

Ultimately, it was definitely the 'day to be remembered'. I felt that, it is an indispensable culture of our Paltan and it has definitely got a special place in my heart and memory as one of the youngest member of the Paltan.

Blandford Gurkha Ladies Hiking 2022

By Mrs Ganga Lama

On the 16th of July 2022, a clear and warm Saturday morning, 16 ladies from Blandford Camp Gurkha Community headed out to hike in Mt Snowdon, the highest mountain in Wales. Sgt Milan Dai kicked off with a short brief about the event and to expect a little surprise along the way. A long journey was ahead of us however, everyone's face was full of excitement. The van was buzzing with music and ladies' conversations on what they had brought in their backpacks. Some ladies were complaining about how their husbands overpacked for them which led to playful teasing from the others on how supportive and cute their significant others were! After a quick stop for breakfast, we pulled up to a car park that was far from any mountain but instead a rather familiar sign board read 'McAuther Glen Designer Outlet'. This was the lovely surprise that Milan Dai mentioned earlier. We spent a few hours shopping and lunching before heading towards Wales.

Just before we reached our destination, we had a hearty dinner nearby. It was quite a unique welcoming at our accommodation when we were greeted by our drunken host. And our confusion grew further as there were some mixup regarding the room bookings. Thankfully, it was sorted. Our accommodation was a hostel with 8 people to a room, spread across 2 floors. Everyone rushed to choose their beds as soon as we got out of the van. My preference was a top bunk opposite the window. The setting took me right back to my school days.

We quickly went to get snacks from Asda before it closed for lunch and drinks for the next day. After that, a few of the ladies went out for a stroll. All the ladies from my room decided to stay in and prepare for the next day. Most of the ladies had left theirs' children with their husbands. Due to first time leaving theirs' kids, I witnessed mixture of emotions. A few ladies was calling their children frequently and others were hesitant to call as they feared they'd start crying after hearing their children's voice. Meanwhile, there were some who were just happy and laughing, joking hoping that this would teach their husbands a lesson.

By 10:30pm, most of us were settled in our beds. I started preparing myself and played bedtime story as I get 'First Night Effect'. Nevertheless, there was no sign of sleep for another hour when all of a sudden,

the unconventional lullabies started one by one! To the point I had to googl 'how to sleep with snoring people and followed some tips: rolled up some tissues and used it as ear plugs. Still no luck, one of the websites suggested falling asleep before the snoring starts... well it was too late for that. I was unsure when I fell asleep. The sleep was short lived as I was wide awake again after two hours and started to overthink. Sleep really affects my mood and I was mainly worried about completing the hike with little sleep and was worried what if I pass out!

It was another clear sunny day as we got ready. After a much-needed strong black coffee with my breakfast, we jumped in the van and off we went towards our starting point. We started our hike from Llanberis path and overall, it was a killer! Beginning of the hike, everyone was uploading Insta and Tik-Tok stories and taking videos however, it faded as we progressed. The group naturally divided into three depending on their physical abilities. I stayed somewhere in the middle because I didn't have the stamina. Besides, there was one huge benefit, I could stop for a few seconds to look back at the view with no fear of being left behind. The weather changed when we were 1km away from Snowdon. The wind picked up yet the sky was still clear and we could see the surrounding hills and mountains. It was breathtaking!

We reached the summit of Snowdon and everyone was gathered to take pictures of the infamous monument. Milan Dai had brought a bottle of port to celebrate the ascend and we all had a well deserved sip of that as we opened our snacks. The view from the Snowdon top was majestic - the layers upon layers of hills all the way to the horizon could be seen. I soaked up the scenery, it was truly gratifying. I was interrupted by our group howling with laughter and I went towards it. Everyone was laughing as someone on the team had mistakenly bought dog food instead of 'Peperoni'! Yesterday, the shop was closing in 30 minutes so in a rush someone grabbed the wrong food. Luckily, they were not in rush to eat.

We made our descend from another route with a beautiful view of Llyn Llydaw. The view of the lake was the motivation to take further steps downhill. At times it looked so close, yet felt like forever. Our tiredness was increasing, legs were shaky and the increasing heat was not helping. As soon as we reached the lake, we did a few stretches and took off our shoes to dip in the cool refreshing water. The water was cold and blue. It was refreshing and relaxing. We stayed there standing in the water, once again awed by the natural beauty around us. It was so calm and peaceful. Some of the sisters made 'chatpat' and we all sat together and enjoyed well-earned traditional snack. We took some more pictures and marched ahead.

After an hour walk, we reached our end point where our van picked us up. Everybody was cheerful about

completing the hike at the same time we had a great feeling of a sense of accomplishment. Although I was exhausted, it wasn't hard as I expected. The lack of sleep finally caught up and I was fast asleep in the van. When I woke up, my muscles, my thighs and somehow even my chin, were sore. All the muscles that I had never felt in my life, I was feeling them! I was in agony! When we took a service break, I did some stretching and took a pain relief. It was a long drive back home but I was kind of pleased that I didn't sleep well the night before because I slept well through the whole journey and saved myself from feeling the pain - I guess everything happens for a reason. I am writing this reflective experience after a week. Now, all the blisters are healed and the muscles pains are gone however, all the memories and the friendship we deepened still remains! If you know, you know! If not may be it is time for you to visit Mount Snowdon.

Thank you, Milan Dai, for taking on this bold idea organising the hike and to Sushma Didi for encouraging all of us. This would not have been possible without our Milan Dai and his team - Tolok Dai, Sandip Bhai, Babu haru Shamip and Biron and all the ladies taking part. Massive thanks you to our BCGC. We, Blandford Gurkha Ladies are always grateful.

Jai Blandford Gurkha Ladies !



Ladies Hiking



Ladies Ready to Take on the Challenge



Absolute delight!



Hostel Experience



Blandford Ladies at the summit of Snowdon

Ex BLANDFORD SWING 2022

By SSgt (Fofs) Subash Gurung

13 members of 11 (RSS) Sig Regt and Blandford Garrison Support Unit (BGSU) took part in Ex BLANDFORD SWING between 4 - 17 Dec 22. This was a 2-week Overseas Sport Visit (OSV) to Nepal, led by Capt Sanjeev Rai that aimed to allow the participants to play different golf courses in Nepal and ultimately, develop and enhance their golfing skills. The team consisted of players with varying abilities, ranging from scratch golfers to beginners with 36 handicap.

On Sat evening, we booked in at the British Gurkhas Nepal (BGN) Camp, looking ahead with much excitement and anticipation. The following day, we received a mandatory security brief in BGN. As soon as that was finished, we hurriedly changed to our golf attire and headed towards the Gokarna Golf Resort for our first round. After a quick warm up session and a group picture, we broke down into our teams and headed towards the first tee. With jelly legs and nervous smile, we all teed off in our groups; some teeing off more than others.

In total, the team played in 4 different golf courses in Nepal, 2 courses in Kathmandu, Nawalparasi and Pokhara. All courses had their unique characteristics that presented us with its own sets of challenges and experience; be it the ever-present stream dissecting the fairway in Gokarna or the low-lying trees in the Meeraya Golf Course in Nawalparasi. However, the Himalayan Golf Course in Pokhara, which is built around a

river canyon, was undoubtedly the most unique and challenging course of the tour. Enjoying beautiful views of the Himalayas and teeing off from an edge of a cliff to a fairway 50 metres down below was an experience in itself. Climbing up and down the elevated hillside tees definitely raised our heartbeat and so did a number of our golf balls veering towards the river or bushes... never to be found again!

Throughout the tour, there were individual and team competitions. This helped, particularly for the novice players, to learn the rules of the game as well as gain invaluable experience of playing under pressure and match conditions. It also taught us all to adapt to varying course conditions and hit different shot shapes that overall improved our skill and helped gain new knowledge. Besides golf, the tour offered us opportunities to better understand the Nepalese culture and enhance team cohesion and bonding among the participants. Overall, a thoroughly enjoyable experience that we all can look back with fond memories.

Jai 11th (Royal School of Signals) Signal Regiment!



OSV Group Photo at Gokarna Golf Club



OSV Members posing for a picture in Gokarna Golf Club



OSV Miraaya Golf Resort, Nawalparasi



OSV R&R in Pokhara

Ex TIGER BLANDFORD 22

By Cpl Kishan Gurung

Ex TIGER BLANDFORD 22 was a 11th (RSS) Sig Regt expedition to the Annapurna region of Nepal, reaching up to the height of Thorang La Pass (5416 m), the highest pass in the world. A Team of 14 personnel participated in the expedition from 11 Oct – 26 Oct. The expedition was led by Capt Ashok Pun (Exped leader) and SSgt Kumar Thapa (Exped 2IC). The expedition included 7 days of high-altitude trekking on the Annapurna circuit followed by cultural visit to Kathmandu and Pokhara.

The Exercise gave all participants a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore the Annapurna circuit and test themselves in a very challenging environment. The exercise was mentally and physically challenging and without high levels of leadership, physical robustness, resilience and self-confidence the challenge would have failed. Morale and team cohesion were a must for the successful completion of the Exped and this was developed to a high degree to ensure completion. Prior to the deployment, there were build up trainings (PDT) to various locations which provided an ideal opportunity for individuals to assess their stamina and prepare for summer mountaineering disciplines at high altitude. Similarly, High Altitude First Aid (HAFA) course was also organised to gain knowledge and experience on any medical and emergency actions if required.

The team departed UK on 11 Oct and was warmly welcomed by Trekking Company “Promote Nepal Trekking Pvt Ltd”. The culture and historical education continued the next day with a visit to a Buddhist monasteries “Swayambunath” and “Boudhanath” in

the morning followed by “Pashupatinath” and “Patan Durbar Square” in the afternoon. The following day, the team left for Dharapani (1960m) which took us 12 hours by road.

Journey started with everyone being completely mesmerised by the scenic beauty, wildlife, calmness, and purity of the nature. We gently introduced ourselves to the increasing altitude of the route and along with that journey became steeper and challenging, this put us all to the test to push ourselves physically and mentally. As the journey continued towards Yak Kharakha (4000m), the symptoms of acute mountain sickness started for some team members. Unfortunately, one of the members had to be evacuated by helicopter from Thorang Phedi (4500 m). However, this didn't dampen our spirits, instead it made us strong by coming together to push ourselves as a team, as we ascended slowly towards Thorang La Pass. In the process of reaching the peak, the team spirit was enlightened by picturesque view of the magical and mystical Himalayas.

On 21 Oct 22, the final destination of the trek was to pass through “ Thorang La Pass ” and reach Muktinath. As we started the trek before the sunrise at 4 am with the aim to reach the peak by 10 am this was important due to the fluctuating weather conditions such as strong wind and snowfall. After 6 challenging hours, the peak was waiting with the beautiful architecture chortens and was presented with the colourful prayer flags, blowing with the wind in front of our eyes. We then descended to the holy town of Muktinath after 4 hours. At the Muktinath temple, the Exped members took opportunities to run through icy shower of 108 scared taps. Then, we took a transport to Jomsom for our final leg of the day to rest our tired feet and body.

Pokhara was the next destination, which we got there in 10 hours. During the drive we had a stop at the most famous “ Marpha Village ”, which is known for its apple production and lovely old village. Once reaching Pokhara, team had an opportunity to visit the British Camp Pokhara, Mountain Museum, Lord Shiva statue and Peace pagoda. Before leaving the beautiful city of Pokhara, we had an early sunrise to see the breathtaking sunrise view from top of Sarangkot.

Overall, the Exped was a great success, this would not have been possible without the detailed planning by our Exped leader, the guidance from our instructors, tour guides, funding from sponsors and our excellent team work. It was a lifetime experience, which the team will cherish for a long time. All of the team members embraced the challenge of the journey it brought and beautifully immersed themselves into the culture and the beauty of the Himalayas and with the people of Nepal.

Jai 11th (Royal School of Signals) Signal Regiment!



EXPED Team arrive in Nepal



Team at the Thorangla Pass



Team enjoying a well earned tea break

Being Part of Her Majesty's Funeral By Sgt Om Gurung

After the call out of the Op LONDON BRIDGE, a few of QG SIGNALS soldiers from Blandford got the opportunity to be the part of the one in lifetime historic event, to serve the Queen for one last time.

As the nation went on a national mourning for 10 days, we deployed to Pirbright along with different other Cap-badge soldiers. We only had an intensive week of learning the drill for the Funeral parade. The rehearsal during the mid-week down in London was very different, difficult, and interesting at the same time. It was astonishing to see the number of soldiers and civilian partaking in the parade during the rehearsal. A series of visits from the Royals and, the Prince of Wales and the Corps Colonel took part on the rehearsal parades to boost the morale of the soldiers.

In the early hours of the 19th of September 2022; we deployed to London for the main event. I haven't felt any prouder in my career as I was marching down the street of Whitehall. I was experiencing the mixed feeling of Pride and Sorrow as I stood by the side of the street with Royal salute to the Queen's hearse as it passed by.

It truly was an honour and a privilege to be a part of this historic event, witnessed by millions of people across the world.

Rest in Peace your Majesty!



Op LONDON BRIDGE - Sgt Om Gurung on parade



OP LONDON BRIDGE - Three Gurkha Soldiers from Blandford

Seremban Troop News

It has been another hugely demanding, yet successful year for Seremban Troop providing unparalleled support to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS). Seremban Troop has continued to maintain its high reputation in RMAS, constantly delivering reliable and resilient Bowman Tactical Communications and Power support to circa 45 exercises per year, including overseas from Company to Battle Group level.

Besides our professional commitment, Seremban Troop has remained active in all aspects of Ac life. Despite

a busy schedule, Seremban Troop members delivered CT1 level military exercise and Adventure Training (AT) for the Squadron personnel and continued to maintain operational effectiveness and team cohesion whilst upholding the Gurkha kaida by conducting traditional events. We have been involved in charity events raising £350 for the Mental Health Charity UK. 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 a tremendously busy yet rewarding year for Seremban Troop. We have continued to stamp our mark as a highly professional Troop within RMAS and deliver first class service to the Ac. We are also mindful to ensure our strong Regimental ethos, kaida are maintained while continuing to integrate with the diverse community within the Ac and Squadron.

Ex CHURCHILL’S CHALLENGE

By Sig Rajesh Gurung

Ex CHURCHILL’S CHALLENGE for the Commissioning Course 221 took place in Caerwent Training Area, Wales over the period 26 Sep - 1 Oct 22. The exercise particularly focuses on urban operations and predominantly operates out of Forward Operating Base (FOB) incorporating multiple specialist agencies such as military working dog, engineers, medics, etc. The exercise also reflects the Pre-Deployment Training (PDT) and Range Staging Onward Integration (RSOI) period for a deployment.

Eight personnel from Seremban Troop deployed a day early to provide tactical communications support to this exercise. Whilst a Signaller and a FFR (Fully Fitted Radio) to serve as the Company Command Post (CP) were attached per company, rest were tasked to run EXCON (Exercise Control) throughout the exercise. EXCON was swiftly established and operational. Following an occupation of a hasty harbour, the Company went on routine and the Company CP was set up and the communications was established with the EXCON.



Sig Rajesh delivering a brief to CO Sandhurst Support Unit, Lt Col S Dodge

The following morning, the Company attacked and occupied a building that would serve as their FOB for the duration of the exercise. The Coy Ops room was set up, and the Company established a FOB routine in coordination with the Coy 2IC. Over a few days, the Company underwent several serials, culminating with the Coy attack and completion of all objectives in their area of responsibility (AOR). The Coy also gained knowledge and developed a basis for interacting with the civilian population (CIVPOP) and captured personnel (CPERS).

Commanding Officer (CO) Sandhurst Support Unit (SSU) Lt Col Dodge and Troop Commander Seremban Troop SSgt Mehar paid a visit to this exercise, where they were briefed in the EXCON and about the role of a real time Signaller in a Coy CP and the battle picture was delivered by the Coy 2IC. Since this was my first exercise in this environment, I personally learned a lot about the technical and tactical considerations that must be made when providing tactical communications in this setting. Likewise, this exercise gave the Officer Cadets the grounding they needed to handle challenging situations in the upcoming exercise **TEMPLER'S TRIUMPH** and **DYNAMIC VICTORY**.



RMAS permanent staff and their families learning the history about the England's national flag



"Doko feels light gentlemen" - Maj Gen Stenning, Commandant RMAS ready to take on the famous Doko Race



Sig Kiran busy radio logging in EXCO

Ex SCOVELL KNOWLEDGE 22/2
By Cpl Raja Subba Limbu

Ex SCOVELL KNOWLEDGE 22/2 was a military history session visiting the Gurkha Museum and RLC Corps Museum. During this event, Sqn members received two excellent briefs; Cpl Subash explained the history of the Brigade of Gurkhas and Cpl Bradwell briefed on the Victoria Cross winners of the RLC in addition to guided tours of both museums. The day culminated in a cultural evening meal provided by the Sqn's Seremban Troop. The event was planned and led by Cpl Raja Subba Limbu.

RMAS Cultural Day
By Sig Sujan Tamang

RMAS hosted a Cultural Day at Scovell Lines, RMA Sandhurst on Wed 19 Oct 22. The event featured various cultural and multinational food stalls serving samples of home cooked traditional cuisine from different parts of the world, cultural entertainment in the form of folk dance, music, and briefs. The event was opened to all permanent staffs from the RMAS and lodger units and their partners. The main aim of the event was to enhance and improve teamwork, belonging and organisational culture. The event was planned and executed by SSgt Mehar Singh Gaha.



Cpl Subash briefing on the history of the Brigade of Gurkhas

Brunei Signal Troop (BST) News

The Brunei Signal Troop (BST) has had another busy but phenomenally successful year. Despite several challenges, BST continues to provide robust CIS/ICS support to British Forces Brunei (BFB).

COMMCEN and the Service Desk have been a single point of contact (SPoC) for all IT and communication-related matters 24/7. Our competent technical team has managed the vital Reach Backlink to the UK, providing level 2/3 technical support and delivering various communications projects. The crypto cell has played a crucial role in safeguarding and accounting cryptographic materials for the BFB and external elements such as Jungle Warfare Division, 667 Sqn AAC and MAB2 exercises. On the other hand, Power Engineers has been delivering MT and Signal Dispatch Services efficiently. They have played a pivotal role in maintaining generators 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. For example, 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 crucial role in bringing the Brunei Healthcare Information Management System (Bru-HIMS) online into the MOD system and completing the COVID isolation facility in Sittang Camp (training camp in Tutong). In addition, we are working on several initiatives: an alternate reach backlink to further our network resilient; Integrated User Services (IUS), which deliver fixed voice, mobile voice & conferencing services across the core Defence networks providing an enhanced user experience; and an infrastructure upgrade from existing copper to Fibre to the Building (FTTB) for higher speed networks, simple and fast network management, maintenance, and scalability.

Our small but cohesive team has been punching above its weight on all fronts, maintaining its prominence in the Garrison. We have been very proactive, leading events from the show, be it military, sporting, adventurous, charitable, or social activities. For example, this year, the troop was able to put up Swimathon, a charity swimming competition and a charity movie screening to generate funds for charities. Equally, our ladies have been proactive in leading/participating in all community engagement programmes, becoming an integral part of the BFB ladies' community, and adding significant value to it.

Overall, the year 2022 has been a significantly successful year for the members of BST and their families. We are excited about the challenges and possibilities that await us.

Jai QG SIGNALS! Jai BST!

QG SIGNALS 73rd Regimental Birthday Celebration

By LCpl Sajan Gurung

Brunei Signal Troop (BST) celebrated the Regiment's 73rd Birthday on 25th September 2022, a significant event in QG SIGNALS' calendar. BST members effectively executed this event in a traditional fashion and in a true family like atmosphere. The event was commemorated with immense pride and excitement amongst serving members, retired members, families and invited guests. Lt Col Hugo Stanford-Tuck, Comd BFB took the salute on the dice; it was his first time attending QG SIGNALS Birthday celebration and he was fascinated by our regimental traditions and hospitality. Attendance of Lt Col Jon Carey (Comd QG SIGNALS - Des) enhanced the event further.

SPs and retired members arrived at the venue in a smart regimental mufti, whereas our ladies turned up in beautiful Red and Blue saris. The Birthday parade began with the arrival of Comd BFB, led by SSgt Ganesh Khamcha. The famous birthday speeches were delivered by SO3 G6 (Capt Kyle Macaulay) and OC BST (Capt Laxman Rana) in English and Nepali, respectively. The parade was concluded with a beautifully decorated birthday cake-cutting ceremony followed by an inspirational speech by Comd BFB Saheb, who emphasised the ethic and ideals of being a Gurkha soldier.

The event continued with Cpl Tshering Sherpa delivering an outstanding presentation on QG SIGNALS' history at the celebration's dinner and entertainment programme. In addition, the entertainment team put on a fantastic cultural show spellbinding all attendees. Overall, the whole event was a tremendous success bringing QG SIGNALS 'Pariwar' together and maintaining our beautiful 'Kaida.'

Jai QG SIGNALS! Jai BST!



QG SIGNALS Birthday- Members of Brunei Signal Troop on parade during the Queen's Gurkha Signals 73rd Birthday celebration.

Khukuri Dance - Defence Academy Royal Brunei Armed Forces (DA RBAF) International Night

By Cpl Tshring Sherpa

Brunei Signal Troop (BST) received an invitation from Lt Col Jon Carey (Comd QG SIGNALS – Des) Saheb to set up and perform a cultural display at Defence Academy Royal Brunei Armed Forces (DA RBAF) international night on 01 Jul 2022. Accordingly, under Cpl Tshring's leadership, a team of five members from the troop was formed to display the Khukuri dance and exhibit a collection of Khukuris on the night.

When we arrived at the venue, the hall was already embellished with international stands from India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, and the UK. All the stands in the hall looked stunning. However, the UK stand stood out the most by adding our varieties of Khukuris to the display. It was like the cherry on top. In addition, the idea of a joint UK and Nepal stand to portray the relationship between the two was also liked by most spectators on the night and drew attention to the stand.

The Chief of Defence Staff, Commander Land Forces, Commander Joint Force, and a significant number of High Commissioners and Defence Attaches attended the event. Soon after the team introduction to the crowd of over 200 people, we performed the Khukuri dance with our heart and pride. We were delighted to receive huge applause all round and immense respect for our performance.

The Khukuri dance honours our ancestor's gallantry, discipline, sacrifices and, most notably, our history and identity as the Gurkhas worldwide. We were honoured and grateful for the opportunity to perform the dance and pay tribute to our ancestors.

Jai QG Signals! Jai BST!



DA RBAF International Night- BST personnel after the cultural display with Lt Col Jon Carey Saheb (Comd QG SIGNALS - Des)

RHQ Team visit to Brunei Signal Troop

By Sig Saesey Hang Begha

The Commander Queen's Gurkha Signals, Lt Col S M Smith, the Gurkha Major Queen's Gurkha Signals, Maj Deepak Rai MVO, and the Regimental Sergeant Major Queen's Gurkha Signals, WO1 Saroj Rai, paid an official visit to Brunei Signal Troop (BST) from 14 November 2022 to 17 November 2022.

Despite their hectic schedules, the team RHQ QG SIGNALS managed a week-long visit, which was well received by BST SPs and families. The primary purpose of the visit was to meet all BST members in person, receive troop update/brief, understand working practice and issues/concerns if any, as well as to deliver Regimental updates to the troop. The visit programme was comprised of Office calls, BST overview brief, each department brief, MS, and welfare interviews followed by RHQ presentation to the troop. The visit also encompassed an exhilarating boat trip on Bruneian river, basic jungle survival skill stands, and of course an entertaining social evening with entire BST families. The visit concluded with a cultural excursion to Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB), the capital city of Brunei, before bidding farewell to the RHQ team from international airport, BSB. Overall, the whole package was conducted smoothly; team RHQ enjoyed the visit to the fullest whilst fulfilling their duty of care to soldiers and families. BST pariwar is sincerely grateful to team RHQ QG SIGNALS for the visit.



BST, Boat Ride- The RHQ team cruising along the Bruneian River

Jai QG SIGNALS! Jai BST!

Nepal Signal Troop (NST) 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 mission”.

General

Whilst I write this note, I must not hesitate to mention Nepal Signal Troop (NST) has been busy as ever not only continuing deliver to core outputs but heavily involving and significantly contributing to the HQ BGN commitments. Members of NST are always at the forefront, leading both military and families' activities, whether a routine business or Defence engagements and social life. Our main task is to deliver both strategic and contingency tactical CIS/ICS capabilities 24/7 throughout the year in support of Headquarters British Gurkhas Nepal (HQ BGN), as well as supporting FCDO, HQ GWT and Area Welfare Centers based in various parts of Nepal. Besides our primary role, the Tp is actively supporting HQ BGN's mission to maintain the firm base in Nepal to enable Gurkha recruiting and welfare services.

Nepal Signal Troop's current held manning strength remains 1+12 including Senior System Engineer in BG Pokhara. Our professional and outstanding technical experts not only deliver Gurkha Recruiting System but also provide exceptional and most compatible IT facilities and services throughout the selection process.

Ongoing projects and Commitments

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 a few projects are successful completion of DII (S) migration to MoDNet (S), NST's responsibility to engage, plan and execute MML Win 10 rollout completed as at first quarter of year 2022. WiFi Accreditation - While we all in the UK enjoy free Wi-Fi in workplace through DBI, the onus here in Nepal is vested upon NST to deliver OFFICIAL Wi-Fi. 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 features such as central management and conference hosting after Mar 22. Global Connectivity (GC)- IPLC 4Mbps link was recently upgraded to 10Mbps GC link.

Activities and Exercises

Nepal Signal Troop have been involving and contributing significantly to Year 2022.

- Members of troop deployed to British Gurkhas Pokhara as part of Assurance team to assist Gurkha Recruit Selection (RI23) Phase 2 & 3 over the period Sep 22- Feb 23 to ensure selection process is fair and transparent.
- Troop Planned, coordinated and conducted a very successful Ex CONTINGENCY preparation exercise for disaster relief in Nepal in May 22.
- Successful deployment of Ex PURBA PASCHIM SIGNAL KHUKURI (PSK) 22. (An annual and mandatory HF Communications radio installation, maintenance, and training exercise across the Area Welfare Centres in Nepal including Darjeeling).
- Ex SANSKRITIK ANUBHAB 22 (Educational and cultural visit to Chitwan National Park for the SPs and Families team cohesion).
- Outstanding contribution so far from NST members and their families, leading and representing the HQ BGN is always worth mentioning. We have been able to seize an opportunity to take part on various Defence engagement activities such as annual COAS 10K run (organized by Nepal Army), Kathmandu Run (10k), Dharan Run (10k) and many more. Nepal Signal Troop also maintains strong relationship with (BURO TOLI) QG SIGNALSA(N) members by providing a Regimental update on regular base by OC NST.
- Nepal Signal Troop celebrated 73rd Queen's Gurkha Signals Regimental Birthday on Sat 24th Sep 2022 at HQ British Gurkhas Nepal, BG Pokhara and Dharan Respectively. Altogether 63 Ex members of the Paltan (QG SIGNALSAN) based at Kathmandu and similar numbers in Pokhara and Dharan witnessed the Birthday celebration.

Conclusion

Yet again, year 2022 has been another successful and productive year for Nepal Signal Troop. We have been continuing to deliver excellent CIS/ICSS support the Headquarters British Gurkhas Nepal. 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 to achieve its mission and maintain core functions. With outstanding personal and departmental achievements throughout the year, our SPs' and families' morale remains high and NST is always looking forward for a challenging year ahead.

***Jai Nepal Signal Troop!
Jai Paltan!***

Gurkha Company ITC Catterick News

Gurkha Company Mission

“To deliver trained Gurkha Soldiers in order to meet the operational requirements of the Brigade of Gurkhas”

It has been an incredibly busy but very successful and impressive year for the QG SIGNALS detachment serving at G Coy, 2 ITB. Personnel serving at ITC Catterick have been providing outstanding services, not only to Gurkha Coy but whole of School of Infantry (SCHINF) Training Centre. Our small team has been continually exploiting every opportunity; competing, leading and organising various events such as Nepal Cup, Dashain and Tihar celebration, UK North Badminton Championship, Army Badminton Championship and taking part in Royal Corps of Signals badminton tournament overseas; all adding to the productivity of the company which have been well recognised across the school. This clearly proves and demonstrates that our soldiers and officers are highly capable and always leading from the front in most demanding and challenging situation balancing both ethical and moral principles in such a most reputable Phase 1 training establishment.

2022 has been an exemplary and proud year for the Regiment. Our officers and soldiers continue to deliver the ideal balance between technical skill and robust soldiering with remarkable success, whilst maintaining a strong presence and enduring commitment in the wider sporting fields. This year, Gurkha Company reiterated its commitment to quality infantry training by accepting 218 recruits to begin their career as Gurkha soldiers, a substantial decrease from the previous year's 340 recruits.

Recruit Intake 2022 (RI 22) Capbadging

On 31 Aug 22, the Cap Badge Ceremony for RI 22 was held at Gurkha Company, ITC. Lt Col S Smith (Comd) and WO1 (RSM) Saroj Rai along with QG SIGNALS Representative Capt Pandu Tamang (1 Pl Comd, Gurkha Coy) handed the new cap badge to the 42 Trainees



RI 22 QG SIGNALS Trainees with Comd, RSM and QG SIGNALS permanent staffs



Comd QG SIGNALS during Capbadging parade

(Total 218) selected to join the QG SIGNALS. The Trainees have successfully completed the training and they have now joined the QG Signals as of 4 Dec 22.

Pl Sgt perspective

By Sgt Rohan Limbu (Platoon Sergeant, No 4 Platoon)

Gurkha Company is renowned for producing the Gurkha prodigies for years. I was fortunate enough to join the Gurkhas in 2008 and complete my training. I was impressed by Training team by their utmost professionalism, knowledge and their desire to better us in every lesson and exercise. From that moment on, I started to dream on returning to Gurkha Company as an Instructor. My desire to be back in Gurkha Company and coupled with perseverance and hard work on my Platoon Sergeant Battle Course, I was assigned to Gurkha Company on 06 Dec 2021. I was elated with the posting and looked forward for all the challenges it entailed.

My first major task was deployment to Nepal for Recruiting Duty for Recruit intake 2022. The task included managing a holding area with several hundred Potential Recruits and deliver induction training to Recruits. Despite various hardships and complications caused by COVID, I was able to manage and deliver Induction training with the help of my training team. The recovery back to the UK with successful candidates was a task complete. This deployment brought back my memories of my selection process and all the challenges that I had faced. It wasn't an easy journey, but it was all worth it.

The Combat Infantry Course (CIC) 21 for the Gurkhas is 39 weeks long incorporating basic and Initial trade training. The basic training phase is 14 weeks long and ends in Passing off the Square competition. On completion of basic training, initial trade training commences where Trainees are taught and tested on Ranges, Fieldcraft, Navigation, Fitness and Drill. My job included facilitating the training programmes and resources for the smooth delivery of CIC 21. I was

responsible for organising and supervising Platoon social, religious, welfare, cultural, physical and team building activities which we did in abundant to maintain team bonding and teach Kaidas to young Recruits. The deployment on Exercises saw my role and responsibilities changed, tasks included preparing troops for the Exercises, issuing ammunition, transport, rations and managing the security of weapons and equipments and their accountability. The fun parts were inter-platoon competitions which promoted a healthy rivalry between platoons and incentive to be the Champion Platoon within RI22. My platoon highs were winning Drill and March & Shoot competition.

It has been a steep learning kerb for me working as an Infanteer Platoon Sergeant. I was fortunate enough to be surrounded by highly qualified and experienced colleagues who supported and guided me when required. One of the many perks of working in Gurkha Company is the opportunity to work with all the cap badges from the Brigade. It's been an exceptional year to see all my 39 Recruits to pass the gruelling 39 weeks long training and join their respective Regiments. 2022 has been one of the highlights of my career and I am looking forward to train and mould the RI 23 to a Gurkha Soldier.

Jai Paltan!



Sgt Rohan on Recruit Assistant duty for Recruit Intake 22



Sgt Rohan receiving winner trophy of March & Shoot Competition



March & Shoot winner Platoon led by Sgt Rohan Limbu

A Section Commander's Perspective

By Cpl Sunil Subba (Section Commander, 5 Platoon)

Section Commander at ITC, Catterick is unquestionably one of the most sought job roles amongst those who want to pursue their carrier further on to the instructional role within the wider Army. The job itself is very challenging and one that always keeps you on your toe. I have been in the army for 12 years now, of which I spent my last two years in ITC, Catterick as a section commander and I must say these two years have been exceptional years for me in terms of growth and personal development.

The opportunities and experiences that this institution can provide are as diverse as they can get. During my tenure, I have had the opportunity to serve along with all the cap badges within the brigade of Gurkhas and have learnt and shared different knowledge, skills and experiences. A working environment that very few other organisations possess.

The job role demands a high level of commitment, competency and confidence. Be that in the field during exercises or in the classroom during lessons. We, as section commanders, are looked upon as role models by the new trainees and our conduct and qualities as an instructor and a soldier will be observed and will leave a lasting impression on the trainees. So, it's our responsibility to set that example and conduct ourselves at the highest standard.

At ITC Catterick, Section commanders are also looked upon as a parental figure by the new trainees as we are their first POC and we have that responsibility to find the balance to play our part as a guardian and as an instructor. Our trainees are highly motivated and together with guidance and instructions, they can explore their full potential with ease. This year, we as a 5 (Helles) Platoon managed to become the champion platoon. I am sure it is, these achievements that trainees will take away and build upon to that competitive winning mindset. This will later help those individuals and our Brigade as a whole to maintain highest standard and excel amongst our counterparts within the Army.



Sunil Subba with his Champion Platoon

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 of the Regiment

Gurkha Army Service Corps (Gurkha ASC) was raised at Nee Soon, Singapore, in 1958 and comprised: 28 and 30 Companies Gurkha Army Service Corps (Gurkha ASC) raised	1958
31 and 34 Companies Gurkha ASC raised	1959
HQ Royal Army Service Corps 17 Gurkha Division redesignated Headquarters Gurkha ASC	1960
Gurkha ASC redesignated The Gurkha Transport Regiment (GTR)	1965
34 Squadron GTR redesignated 34 Training Squadron GTR	1967
30 Squadron GTR disbanded	1968
34 Training Squadron GTR redesignated The Gurkha All Arms Mechanical Transport Training Wing GTR	1970
The Gurkha All Arms Mechanical Transport Training Wing GTR redesignated Gurkha Mechanical Transport School and absorbed into 31 Squadron GTR	1971
29 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport (RCT) and 415 Maritime Troop RCT absorbed into GTR on disbandment of 31 Regiment RCT	1976
Headquarters Squadron GTR formed	1978
28 (Ambulance) Squadron GTR raised for service in the Gulf War	1990-91
34 United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) Transport Squadron GTR raised for service with the UNFICYP	1991-92
GTR redesignated The Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment (QOGTR)	1992
29 Squadron RCT and 415 Maritime Troop RCT redesignated	
29 Transport Squadron Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) and 415 Maritime Troop RLC	1993
28 and 31 Squadrons QOGTR redesignated 28 and 31 Transport Squadrons QOGTR	1993
28 Transport Squadron QOGTR transferred to 10 Transport Regiment RLC	1993
Headquarters Squadron GTR (to include 415 Maritime Troop RLC) disbanded	1994
29 Transport Squadron RLC and 31 Transport Squadron QOGTR transferred to the Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment RLC	1994
31 Transport Squadron QOGTR disbanded	1994
Headquarters QOGTR co-located with Headquarters 10 Transport Regiment RLC	1995
29 Transport Squadron RLC disbanded	1996
QOGTR redesignated The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR)	2001
94 Stores Squadron RLC 9 Supply Regiment RLC redesignated 94 Stores Squadron QOGLR	2002
1 Engineer and Water Support Squadron RLC redesignated 1 Transport Squadron QOGLR	2005
10 Transport Regiment RLC redesignated 10 Transport Regiment QOGLR	2006
36 Headquarters Squadron RLC redesignated 36 Headquarters Squadron QOGLR	2006
94 Stores Squadron QOGLR redesignated 94 Materiel Squadron QOGLR	2008
10 Transport Regiment QOGLR redesignated 10 QOGLR	2008
94 Materiel Squadron QOGLR redesignated 94 Supply Squadron QOGLR and resubordinated to 10 QOGLR	2012
28 Transport Squadron QOGLR redesignated 28 Fuel & General Transport Squadron QOGLR	2012
1 Transport Squadron QOGLR disbanded	2012
94 Supply Squadron QOGLR redesignated 1 Supply Squadron QOGLR	2012
First Troops move to 4 and 9 Regiment RLC under The QOGLR Growth Program	2018
60 Close Support (CS) Squadron RLC 4 CS Regiment RLC redesignated 60 CS Squadron QOGLR	2019
94 Supply Squadron RLC 9 Regiment RLC redesignated 94 Supply Squadron QOGLR	2020
14 Squadron Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) redesignated 14 Squadron QOGLR	2021
60 Close Support Squadron QOGLR disbanded	2022
15 Air Assault Support (AASP) Squadron QOGLR raised and subordinated to 13 AASP Regiment RLC	2022

Current Organisation

RHQ 10 QOGLR
 HQ QOGLR
 1 Supply Squadron 10 QOGLR
 28 Fuel & General Transport Squadron 10 QOGLR
 36 (Headquarters) Squadron 10 QOGLR
 14 Squadron QOGLR, Gurkha ARRC
 15 Air Assault Support (AASP) Squadron QOGLR, 13 AASP Regt RLC
 94 Squadron QOGLR, 9 Regt RLC

Operational Service

Brunei	1962
Borneo	1962 - 66
Malay Peninsula	1964 - 65
Gulf War	1991
Cyprus 1	1991 - 92, 2007 - 08, 2011 - 12 & 2022 - 23
Balkans	1995, 1996 - 97, 1999 & 2001 - 02
Iraq War	2003, Iraq 2006 - 07
Afghanistan	2009 - 10, 2011 - 12 & 2021
Sierra Leone	2014 - 15

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

Officers Staff List - 2022

Brigadier P S Reehal MBE	Colonel of The Regiment	
Lieutenant Colonel G R Sugdon RLC	Commander	RHQ
Major J Revell 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	Regimental Operations Officer	RHQ
Captain Deny Gurung MVO	Regimental Career Management Officer	RHQ
Captain Safin Magar	Regimental Welfare Officer	RHQ
Captain K McLeod RLC	Regimental Technical Officer	RHQ
Captain P Ryan RLC	Regimental Intelligence Officer	RHQ
Captain D Limbu RLC	Regimental Signal Officer	RHQ
Captain Ram Thapa GSPS	Regimental Administrative Officer	RHQ
Lieutenant W Northcott SPS	Detachment Commander	RHQ
Major M Ruocco RLC	Officer Commanding	1 Sqn
Captain Pawan Sherchan	Second-in-Command	1 Sqn
Captain C Reedman RLC	Operations Officer	1 Sqn
Captain T Nazir RLC	Ammunition Technician Officer	1 Sqn
Captain Shanchu Lama	Troop Commander	1 Sqn
Lieutenant F Dickson RLC	Troop Commander	1 Sqn
Lieutenant S Jackson RLC	Troop Commander	1 Sqn
Major G Randell RLC	Officer Commanding	28 Sqn
Captain Prakash Gurung	Second in Command	28 Sqn
Captain H Ziegler RLC	Operations Officer	28 Sqn

Captain T Dynan RLC	Troop Commander	28 Sqn
Lieutenant S Davies RLC	Troop Commander	28 Sqn
Lieutenant R Old RLC	Troop Commander	28 Sqn
Major E Hanley RLC	Officer Commanding	36 Sqn
Major J Revell RLC	Regimental Quartermaster	36 Sqn
Captain Nirmalkumar Ingnam	Second-in-Command	36 Sqn
Captain Dipendra Rai	Regimental Quartermaster (Technical)	36 Sqn
Captain J Craig RLC	Regimental Training Officer	36 Sqn
Captain Vivekjung Shah MBE	Regimental Contracts Officer	36 Sqn
Lieutenant J Baseluoss RLC	Operations Officer	36 Sqn
Lieutenant J Fitzgerald RLC	Troop Commander	36 Sqn
Captain Harry Wright REME	Officer Commanding	LAD
Major A Wise RLC	Officer Commanding	14 Sqn OGLR
Captain Surendra Purja	Second-in-Command	14 Sqn OGLR
Captain K Leech RLC	Operations Officer	14 Sqn OGLR
Captain Cholanath Limbu RGR	Troop Commander	14 Sqn OGLR
Captain P Newsome RE	Troop Commander	14 Sqn OGLR
Lieutenant C Jose RLC	Troop Commander	14 Sqn OGLR
Lieutenant A James RLC	Troop Commander	14 Sqn OGLR
Major B Cowan RLC	Officer Commanding	15 Sqn OGLR
Captain Todhan Ghale	Second-in-Command	15 Sqn OGLR
Captain B Rai RLC	Operations Officer	15 Sqn OGLR
Lieutenant J Aird RLC	Troop Commander	15 Sqn OGLR
Second Lieutenant G Myers RLC	Troop Commander	15 Sqn OGLR
Major R Irvine RLC	Officer Commanding	94 Sqn OGLR
Captain Uttam Limbu	Second-in-Command	94 Sqn OGLR
Captain M Llewellyn-Jones RLC	Operations Officer	94 Sqn OGLR
Captain A Wilkins RLC	Ammunition Technician Officer	94 Sqn OGLR
Captain Giriraj Limbu	Troop Commander	94 Sqn OGLR
Lieutenant B Langridge RLC	Troop Commander	94 Sqn OGLR
Lieutenant L Williams RLC	Troop Commander	94 Sqn OGLR
Second Lieutenant E Smith RLC	Troop Commander	94 Sqn OGLR

Extra Regimentally Employed

Lieutenant Colonel Devendra Ale MVO MBE	CI Supply Training Wing	DSL
Major Baldeep Tamang	Gurkha Major	GARRC Sp Bn
Major Chakra Khatri	SO2 ES Mat	3 (UK) Div
Major Ram Rai	Quartermaster	3 Regt RLC
Captain Dhungana Rai	SO3 Family Support	HQ Regional Comd
Captain Prakash Rai	SO2 Log Sp	101 Ops Sus Bde
Captain Dawanuri Sherpa	OC QOGLR Detachment	Brunei Garrison
Captain Lalkaji Gurung	Second-in-Command	HQ Sqn, GARRC Sp Bn
Captain Bikram Thapa	Troop Commander	109 Sqn, 25 Regt RLC
Captain Harkaman Tawa	Platoon Commander	Gurkha Coy, 2 ITB

Gurkha Major's Notes

The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment Chefs & ERE Manning

By Capt Bhim Shreesh - Gurkha Adjutant QOGLR

First and foremost, I am extremely delighted to have this opportunity to write a few lines in this 2022 edition of the Kukri Journal. Besides my various other responsibilities as the Gurkha Adjutant QOGLR, the overall QOGLR Manning is one of my key responsibilities and this is what takes most of my time, energy, and effort in my daily routine. Perhaps you all know that the British Army is going through a most radical transformation in recent history, called Future Soldier. The concept of the Future Soldier is about modernising the British Army and transforming them into more lethal, agile, and expeditionary forces required for future conflict and challenges. The QOGLR is not odd from this transformation, and the effect of this structural change is huge. Currently, the Regiment is going through a re-organisation phase. The 60 Squadron QOGLR is redesignated to 15 Air Assault Support Squadron and the role of the Squadron has been changed from Close Support to the Air Assault Support Squadron. The regiment will see growing more laterally next year in 2023. I am sure further development of the Future QOGLR will be published in next year's edition.

By virtue of appointment, it is my responsibility to provide career advice and regimental administrative support to all QOGLR Chefs and ERE personnel. Therefore, in this article I am writing about the QOGLR Chefs, their most highlighted activities and achievement gained throughout the year. I will also briefly discuss the QOGLR ERE Manning.

The QOGLR Chefs Manning

In 2002, the Chef trade was formally integrated into the QOGLR which brought to have Four Career Employment Group within the QOGLR Cap badge. Since then, they have been an integral part of the regimental family and they are the vanguard of our Regiment in showing off our Regimental values to the Brigade of Gurkhas and the wider army environment. They have been employed in 23 different Units across the British Army and their current manning figure is shown below.

Chefs' Activities and Achievement

Albeit being employed in very dispersed locations in a small group, the QOGLR Chefs collectively achieved so much this year. They organised and participated in a range of activities including operational deployment, and impact and influence was acknowledged by various Comd level including 2* HQ.

On 15 Mar 22, a team of QOGLR Chef participated in Exercise JOINT CATERER at the National Exhibition

Centre in Birmingham. The Ex JOINT CATERER is the highest level of culinary competition for the Armed Forces Chefs where they can showcase their culinary skills in various categories. This year again, they demonstrated their outstanding culinary skills and won a number of gold, silver, and bronze medals. This year, the QOGLR chef celebrated their 20th Anniversary. In order to commemorate the Anniversary, five members of the QOGLR Chef ascended the 3 highest Peaks of the United Kingdom over the period of 23 - 24 May 22. Never before was this challenge accepted and organised by a member of the QOGLR Chefs but SSgt Deepak Gurung volunteered to lead this arduous expedition and successfully completed the entire course in under 24 hours. The actual celebrative event to signify the 20th Anniversary was held on 18 Jun 22 at Aldershot, and the event was comprised of a family day and Commander's Cup competition in the day, and Dinner Night in the evening. The event was coordinated and led by WO2 Durga Saru under the direction of the HQ QOGLR. All retired and serving members were part of this celebration.



QOGLR Chefs on first peak, Ben Nevis



QOGLR Chefs 20th Anniversary Cake Cutting Ceremony

Rank	WO2	SSgt	Sgt	Cpl	LCpl	Pte	Total
Warm Body	3	6	11	23	21	39	103

On 25 Sep 22, a group of QOGLR Chefs from various BG units deployed to North Wales to attend the first-ever organised chef led AT activities. Due to the nature of the job, it is extremely difficult for them to come together and participate in these kinds of activities. However, all Chef unit ICs took it very positively and managed to make some of their soldiers available for this AT activities. The event not only offered respite from their daily routine work but also assisted in developing confidence, mental & physical resilience, cooperation, and teamwork, which are fundamental aspects of Leadership. It was a huge success and feedback received from all participants was very positive.



Mountain Biking in Wales

Besides many military activities, the QOGLR chef also organised many Charitable events to raise the much-needed fund for various charity organisations. Collectively, they raised more than £4000 this year and it clearly illustrates that the awareness of charitable work and culture of compassion amongst the QOGLR Chef is very high.

Honour and Awards

This year, the contribution of the QOGLR Chef was well acknowledged. The following Awards were received by QOGLR Chefs from across the units.

Extramural Courses & Qualifications

Additional to their own trade related courses, the following soldiers attended extramural courses and obtained the qualifications.

ERE Manning

From the manning perspective, The Queen’s Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment is one of the unique regiments with the Brigade of Gurkhas. This is the second largest cap badge within the Brigade of Gurkhas and members of the regiment have been employed in the most dispersed units and locations.

Awards' Name	Rank/Name	Date of Award	Unit
MacKenzie Award	LCpl Umit Rai	09 Mar 22	BGN
Conductor's Coin	LCpl Umit Rai	09 Mar 22	BGN
Tri-Service Apprenticeship Award	Cpl Vivek Gurung	10 Nov 22	13 AASP Regt
Highfield Level 3 Award	Cpl Teny Gurung	06 Dec 22	IBS Brecon
Force Commander's Coin	Pte Rajkumar Tamang	16 Dec 22	10 QOGLR
11 Bde Comd's Commendation	Sgt Purna Budha Magar Cpl Sangam Rai		1 RGR 1 RGR
Commanding Officers' Coin	Cpl Tara Gharti Magar	10 Feb 22	21 Engr Regt
	Cpl Rockey Gurung	31 Mar 22	3 DSR
	Pte Ashish Thapa	31 Mar 22	3 DSR
	Pte Anish Bishwakarma	15 Jun 22	1 RGR
	Cpl Sagar Gurung	08 Nov 22	3 DSR
	Pte Ashish Thapa	08 Nov 22	3 DSR
	Cpl Teny Gurung	14 Dec 22	IBS Brecon
QOGLR Chef of the Year Award	Pte Dipesh Deuja	18 Jun 22	IBS Brecon

Qualifications	Rank/Name	Date	Unit
Ski Foundation (L2)	Pte Dipesh Deuja	24 Feb 22	IBS Brecon
Ski Foundation (L1)	Cpl Teny Gurung	24 Feb 22	IBS Brecon
	Pte Manish Rai	24 Feb 22	IBS Brecon
SA(M)18	Cpl Dhan Pun	02 Dec 22	1 Sig Regt
	Cpl Bikash Gurung		4 Ranger
	Cpl Krishna Pun		10 QOGLR
AAPT1	Pte Dipesh Deuja	26 Sep 22	IBS Brecon
Mountain Bike Leader (Level 2)	Cpl Teny Gurung	11 Mar 22	IBS Brecon
	Pte Manish Rai	26 Sept 22	IBS Brecon
DTTT-T4 (L3)	Cpl Dhan Bahadur Pun	24 Jul 22	1 Sig Regt

Currently, QOGLR soldiers have been employed in 33 different units and 5 countries. Not taking the GARRC Sp Bn, 9 Regt RLC & 13 AASP Regt RLC as the ERE units, there are 112 SPs employed outside the regiment and a breakdown of the figures related to each trade is shown below.

CEG	Capt	WO2	SSgt	Sgt	Cpl	LCpl	Pte	Total
Driver		1		6	11	4	4	26
LSS			3	4	3	4		14
Chef		2	3	7	15	17	20	64
Dvr Comms Spec			1					1
UnSpec	4			2		1		7
Total	4	3	7	19	29	26	24	112

Summary

In Summary, year 22 offered abundant opportunities to all QOGLR Chefs and the Service Personnel employed outside the regiment. The triumphs they achieved individually or collectively mean that they grasped something they can be proud of, the sense of achievement. The sense of achievement is the fuel of the motivation, and the motivation is what drives individual soldiers to achieve their goals. Therefore, let’s hope for a more successful year ahead.

*Jai QOGLR!
Jai Brigade of Gurkhas!*

1 Squadron QOGLR Update

By Cpl Navin Rai

1 Squadron (Sqn) QOGLR has continued to remain exceptionally busy with a huge variety of commitments keeping all Sqn personnel busy all the while receiving attention and high praise throughout the year. Early this year, members of the Sqn led by Sgt Shovit and his team were deployed to Land Fleet Training (LFT) Sennelager to provide equipment support for deployed forces in Germany. Whilst deployed, they organised virtual “Mount Everest” Challenge to raise funds for the Gurkha Welfare Trust. Their efforts were highly appreciated and recognised by the Commander, 20 Armoured Infantry Brigade Combat Team who rewarded them with Commander’s coins.

Later the Sqn proceeded with trade exercises at troop level. Ex KHUKURI CHAMKAUNE was a combined CT (Collective Training) A (exercising the Sections) and B (exercising the Troop) which was a great refresher for more experienced hands and an important step in the training pipeline for those who had arrived more recently. Similarly, Ex KHUKURI ENDEVOUR, CT C (exercising the Sqn) and D (testing the Regiment) were conducted in West Frouth, Scotland and tested our soldiers in all aspects of their trade skills - from



1 Sqn on Public Duties

receiving and issuing materiel to providing equipment support to forward mounted units.

Despite this hectic schedule, the Sqn was able to contribute to the Army’s State Ceremonial and Public Duties commitment, embarking on a training journey that was quite different to anything most had done before. Under the stewardship of then OC (Officer Commanding) 1 Sqn Major Jim Sutton, around 80 personnel from the Sqn maintained a proud Regimental tradition in delivering faultless ceremonial duties covering four different locations: Buckingham palace, St James palace, Tower of London and finally Windsor Castle. This was made all the more special and poignant by the fact it coincided with Her Majesty The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations - a true once in a lifetime experience for our young soldiers.

On the sporting front, for the second time in the Regimental history, the Sqn won the prestigious “CORK” (Colonel of the Regiment Khukuri) challenge which is contested between all six QOGLR Sqns. The winning trophy was awarded by the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier P S Reehal MBE and witnessed by all QOGLR members and their families during the Regiment’s 64th birthday celebration. The responsibility of leading, coordinating and executing the Regimental Birthday celebration was also given to the Sqn. This important event brings the whole Regimental family together, and

was delivered to an exceptional standard. Moreover, the Sqn has been integral to the successes the Regiment has achieved in various sporting competitions at every level including football, volleyball, badminton, cross-country and skiing.



COR Khukuri Challenge Winner, 1 Sqn

Whilst the members of the Sqn have been deployed to many parts of the world in support of Operations, Op TOSCA 37 saw majority of the Sqn deployed in Cyprus for the six months. As part of HQ UN Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP) they formed the Mobile Force Reserve (MFR) and were tasked with supporting efforts to maintain peace throughout the UN Buffer Zone. 1 Sqn was located at the Blue Beret Camp (BBC) working directly under the 2* UNFICYP Force Commander and maintained a state of high readiness and training to allow rapid deployment throughout Cyprus. Since deployment, MFR has covered a wide variety of roles ranging from providing integrated patrol support to Sectors on the ground and proving the key capability of Public Order response to any civil unrest.



Public Order Training, Op TOSCA 37

This year has tested the Sqn's ability to remain flexible and comfortably switch between the disparate foci of warfighting to peacekeeping to public duties and everything in between. It has been a packed year and, with the transition back to warfighting and Ex IRON TITAN on the horizon, 2023/24 looks to be just as busy!

**Jai QOGLR!
Jai Brigade of Gurkhas!**

10 QOGLR Regimental Shooting Competition Team

By Captain T A Nazir (Naz)

Having just recently joined the Regiment, in a matter of days I heard that the Regimental Shooting team was well into the training season ahead of a competition that holds so much prestige across the Army; the Army 100 championships that is part of the Defence Operational Shooting Competition (DEF OSC). With the chain of command hearing of my previous shooting experience in my first posting at 94 Squadron QOGLR, naturally, I was thrown into the world of shooting once again. To add a bit of context to the matter; back in 2019 I had the privilege of competing in the DEF OSC and narrowly missed out on the Army 100. Unbeknown to me, some of the very individuals I was competing so fiercely against would now be in the same team I was about to join. Nevertheless, hearing that 3 years on there was a chance for redemption to reach that coveted position of the top 100 shots across the whole army, I pounced onto the opportunity and straight away.



10 QOGLR Shooting Team

A mere few hours into my 4th day at my new Regiment, I found myself with a rifle in my hand and a full house of some of the most experienced shooters in the whole army putting me through the paces. It was a tough start, with the whole team having already spend a month or so honing their skills. I however, still jaded by the rigours of the ATO course, was playing a monumental game of catchup. Soon after I was properly set up, zeroed and in a position to conduct the main aspects of the training, I was handed a shooting booklet which felt at the time thicker than War and Peace. Turns out, of all the kit that would assist me in the shooting, this would prove to be one of the most essential instruments in my toolkit. With the nature of the external ballistics of the Weapon systems we employ and the individual differences between all ranges, one can quickly notice that the point of Aim (POA) is pretty much unique for every range and every firing position. This becomes even more pertinent when competitions employ more points for hitting dead centre of the target. Our human instincts tell us to align the sights to the centre of the target since there is a definite image to focus on. Due to the aforementioned POA, there are situations where

to hit the centre of the target you may have to aim on the top left of the target if one was to be sitting at 300m or having to aim slightly lower in a supported position at 200m. Now imagine that each competition has on average 5 different ranges to fire from up to 500m, each in a unique position, targets are sometimes moving or up for a mere 3 seconds, add to this that you are running with weight between each of the positions to simulate a firefight, finally add to this that you have to memorise the whole shoot, and all your POAs. There are 10 unique shoots. It is easy to visualise now that even getting a good score, let alone into the Army 100 is no mean feat. This is why as mentioned before, the shooting booklet is so essential to every firer, as it holds info of all the 50 or so different POAs which are unique to each firer. These have to be figured out over the course of the shooting season and training.



Taking careful aim

Competition day was fast approaching, and we have been training and training relentlessly. In the last week, many of the 40 teams who managed to qualify for the DEF OSC descended upon Pirbright. This added to the pressure in the last few days of training, where everyone was assessing the competition and themselves, trying not to give too much away about their own abilities. The team and I now knew that in a matter of days, all the blood sweat and tears put into training would be put to the ultimate test of marksmanship. The anticipation was agonising for all of us, but before we knew it, Friday was here, and I was in the team captains briefing ahead of day 1 of the competition. That night was a very difficult one, even the slightest millimetre wrong at the firing point could be the difference between a hit or a miss. All we could all think about is the details of the shoots, where we had to go, what position we had to adopt, when to reload and most importantly our POAs. We went to the temple the night before with the whole team and our wider chain of command, not only for the spiritual reasons one might expect, but the change of scenery and pace was welcomed. All we could do now was rest and wait; training was over and now the competition begins.

The competition went past like a breeze, we were firing up to 5 competition matches a day. The hardest bit was waiting for the daily results to get published. Everyone was tracking everyone in the rankings. Once the competition had finally come to a close, we knew that we had done all that we could. Once the results



Waiting for the target to appear

were released, we couldn't have been happier. Not only did our team come 6th across the British army, but every one of our firers was in the top 100, with Lcpl Upendra coming an eye watering 10th position across the army. Later we pushed on to compete in our Brigade Operational Shooting Competition and wiped the floor. A Special thanks go to all the individuals who helped and sustained the team throughout the whole training period. We are already looking ahead to next year's competition where we aim to position even better and score even higher. Our foundations are set and we are ready for the next challenge.

15 Air Assault Support Squadron Update **By WO2 (SSM) Tirtha Limbu**

2022 has been a historical moment for 15 Air Assault Support Squadron QOGLR. On April 2022, 15 Squadron was formed under 13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC through the renaming and re-subordination of 60 Close Support Squadron from 4 Regiment RLC. Historical record states that 15 Sqn was formed at Woolwich on 8 May 1878 with a group of men and their horses and was generally employed on transport duties throughout the British Empire. Ever since its inception, it has changed its configuration many times due to strategic restructuring of the Army, and ever evolving character of conflict. Since rebasing to Colchester, 15 Sqn has had a productive year, with new opportunities and real successes that have enhanced the reputation of both QOGLR and BG alike.

In May 2022, 15 Sqn deployed on Ex KHUKURI TAYARI at Longmoor Camp to improve leadership, field craft, military knowledge, and robustness to prepare to take over Very High Readiness duties in 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team. It was a weeklong, arduous ITR based training and led by instructors from the Sqn. Deployed personnel were able to refine their infantry skills in preparation for future integration and interoperability with other Brigade Combat Team units.



Comd 13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC presenting maroon beret to the newly formed 15 Sqn QOGLR personnel



15 Sqn QOGLR personnel on Ex KHUKURI TAYARI - ITR lessons in progress

In September 2022, 15 Sqn deployed on Op LONDON BRIDGE as the stewarding force ensuring that the public could safely pay their final respect to Her Majesty The Queen. For the Sqn, it was an experience of a lifetime. All deployed personnel showed utmost professionalism and made a meaningful contribution to delivering a safe and successful state funeral.

In the autumn, 15 Sqn QOGLR members took part on Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL representing 13 Air Asslt Sp Regt and winning a gold medal - the first ever for their Regimental history. The patrol team was led by Capt Bipin Rai and managed by SSgt Yogendra Thakuri. This achievement sums up three gold medals in three consecutive years, including two gold medals for 4 Regt RLC.



15 Sqn QOGLR, 13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC gold medal winning team for Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL 2022

15 Sqn QOGLR re-subordination into the Regiment has introduced QOGLR soldiers to an opportunity to learn new air skills and further understand an airborne logistician's role. To support the Regiment at full capacity, the Sqn must have a fully functional Airborne Troop consisting of Para trained, and respective air skills qualified service personnel; a normal Airborne Troop ORBAT would consist of a qualified Helicopter Handling Instructor (HHI), Helicopter Landing Site Manager (HLSM), 2 x Heli Handling Team (HHT) and a Drop Zone (DZ) section.

Since the re-subordination, most of the individuals aligned to 15 Sqn were allocated to numerous DZ NCO, Landing Point Commander and Rigger Marshaller courses. Though the air skills capability is an entirely new avenue for the QOGLR soldiers, the Sqn is making swift progress these capabilities ahead of Ex WESSEX STORM 2023. To date, the Sqn has generated enough competent personnel to conduct air skills taskings. Most recently, five more DZ NCOs were qualified to call live store drops, providing good opportunity to test and trial new TTPs and SOPs.



15 Sqn QOGLR troops conducting training in RAF Wittering

On Thursday night, 24 Nov 22, at Cpl Budd VC Gym, Colchester, yet more history was made. Each Sqn in the 13 Air Asslt Sp Regiment has actively participated in the Regimental Boxing event since its formation. All curious eyes were on the newly formed 15 Sqn, who successfully participated in the competition at a very short notice. Walkout songs, limelight and cheering soldiers - the boxing night had everything. The atmosphere turned intense as soon as Gurkha fighters entered the venue. Gurkhas fought fiercely inside the boxing ring reminiscent of them paying tribute to their ancestors.

The Sqn had three fighters representing on that night: Pte Daniel Magar, Pte Saroj Rai, and Pte Ankit Chhetri. Pte Saroj Rai became a runner up on the final after performing a knockout win in the semi-final, the only boxer in the competition to win by a knockout in 20 seconds of the first round. Pte Daniel Magar won the Lightweight category, and Pte Ankit Chhetri won the



Pte Daniel Magar, Pte Saroj Rai, and Pte Ankit Chhetri

Light-Middleweight category. This was no mean feat considering a short notice and lack of training schedules.

The Regiment is well known for its rich boxing heritage across the Brigade and RLC. Boxing night is highly considered a holy ritual every year. It is the unit's signature sport, celebrated and enjoyed every year like Gurkhas Dashain Festival. All winners have made the Regtl Boxing Team and will compete in the RLC Championships.



15 Sqn QOGLR boxing team with coaches

In November 2022, the Sqn deployed on Ex DRAGON CHAMKILO KHUKURI, a Type 2 Adventurous Training Exped in the Lake District, to develop leadership, resilience, and team cohesion. The trip enhanced the participants physical and mental conditioning and challenged their teamwork, courage, discipline and leadership.

In conclusion, 15 Sqn has fully integrated into their role in 13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC, and the 2 Royal Gurkha Rifles Battle Group. Our short time in the role has surpassed all expectation. The Sqn will continue to develop and implement a culture of experimentation and innovation commensurate with the pursuit of excellence. Our duty is to protect 'Gurkha Kaida' and build upon the legacy of our forebears, ensuring that we hand to the next generation an enhanced reputation and capability.

Jai QOGLR!



Ex DRAGON CHAMKILO KHUKURI in Lake District

28 Fuel & General Transport Squadron QOGLR

28 Squadron has been involved in operational activity across Europe this year, testing our officers and soldiers across the spectrum of military activity: at trade, ceremonial and peacekeeping.

The year has been neatly bookended by Homeland Resilience Operations. As covered in the last edition, 28 Squadron deployed to Yorkshire in early 2022 to support the Ambulance Service in the recovery from COVID and, in early 2023, elements of the Squadron did so again, this time in response to strike action. Following the operation in 2022, the Squadron 'Main' deployed on Regimental exercise to Scotland, a 450-mile road move barely 60 hours after returning to Yorkshire, re-uniting with the 'Rear' who had already been operating for around two weeks. The ability of the Squadron to deliver on two substantial tasks concurrently owes much to the dedication of leaders at every level.

After Easter, as attention turned to the next big deployment, Operation TOSCA, the very real prospect of an alternative deployment emerged. In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Army was generating a light-role Battlegroup around 1 RIFLES to support our NATO allies in the Baltic and Eastern Europe on Operation CABRIT. The original prospect reconnoitred by the OC was for a Squadron-sized deployment but this demand receded to a transport troop once the task was firmed up. Captain Nirmal Ingam, recently posted to 36 Squadron, returned to lead his drivers once more on their time in Eastern Europe. They returned in December 2022.



The troops are briefed before departing on Exercise KHUKURI GERMANY YATRA



Safely arrived in Germany

The remainder of the Squadron returned their focus to Cyprus, with one last foray into driving. Planning for a Squadron exercise to Sennelager, Germany began in 2022, concurrent with the operation in Yorkshire. The war in Ukraine gave added impetus to this exercise but with concurrent commitments to Operation CABRIT, Operation TOSCA and Public Duties, the scale of the exercise was revised to be a route recce from Aldershot to Sennelager. Two sections departed Aldershot on two axes, one North via Hull and another East via Harwich. All vehicles made it safely to Sennelager and on arrival the team took advantage of the cultural opportunities available, including a visit to Wewelsburg Castle, reputed to be the spiritual home of the NAZI party. Many of the soldiers who took part had never been to Germany and the Petroleum Operators who drove proved that driving is too important a logistic skill to be left to drivers. On return the team delivered a recce report, including a jargon-free guide to deployment, which was identified by the Land Warfare Centre for exploitation across the Army. 28 Squadron once again at the forefront of innovation and improving effectiveness across the force. For those who did not deploy to Germany, the highlight of the summer was undoubtedly the opportunity to support 1 Squadron in Public Duties over Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in June.

A well-earned break over the summer set the conditions for the Mission Rehearsal Exercise for Operation TOSCA, held in Nescliffe, to transform 28 Squadron into the United Nations Force In Cyprus (UNFICYP) Sector 2 Operations Company. The Shropshire countryside was transformed into the Cyprus Buffer zone, replete with landmarks and a mob of actors playing opposing forces on the island. The exercise also offered us the opportunity to welcome and integrate attached personnel, joining us from 151 Regiment, 106 Battalion REME and 3 Regiment RLC. The culmination of the exercise was centred around a Public Order incident at Ledra Palace Crossing, the jewel in the crown of Europe's last divided capital city. The protestors were rowdy, and the Company deployed to both deter incursions into the Buffer Zone and to reassure the northern forces that there was no threat there to them. The protestors advanced up to the gates blocking the crossing and it looked like the Company might see some action. Then, reinforcements arrived, torrential rain! The ardour of the protestors soon faded, and, in a realistic twist, they returned to their 'homes' with the Buffer Zone in-tact.



1 Platoon of Operations Company, Operation TOSCA 37, leave their mark on UN outpost 51



The OC's Challenge on Operation TOSCA was fiercely contested

Fully prepared and trained, the Company deployed to Cyprus in September, only delayed by an enforced period of isolation in the unforgettable 'Camp Ken,' a Republic of Cyprus National Guard transit camp. Taking over from 21 Engineer Regiment, the troops were quickly into the routine of patrolling to deter violations of the Buffer Zone and reassure the opposing forces; a daunting task when you consider the unfavourable force ratios across our 30km frontage of 1 Company of peacekeepers to 10 battalions of opposing forces. Over the six-month tour, the Company dealt with a wide variety of incidents including unauthorised military constructions and manoeuvres that threaten peace on the island, environmental incidents like wildfires and civilian incursions and farming disputes from those whose desire to 'get on with life' could have had a large political impact if left uncontrolled. These were activities truly in the 'grey zone' between war and peace, where every military action has a consequence interpreted by one side or the other. The six-month deployment will have left an impression on everyone, seeing the impact of a war all around us while also seeing the effects of the war in Ukraine broadcast daily.

Further reminders came with the earthquake that struck Türkiye and Syria in February 2023. Cyprus, with its Turkish (as well as Greek, British and Venetian!) history was bound to help and Operations Company, in Sector



3 Platoon on top of UN outpost 84



Operations Company found themselves custodians of many artefacts from the past - frozen in time

2 of UNFICYP was at the front of that. In less than 12 hours, a donations collection point was set up from our camp's main car park and operated for 16 days to receive aid from locals who wanted to help. In the end, more than 400 boxes of food, water, clothing, blankets, toys, and cleaning supplies were collected and delivered to the Turkish Cypriot community for onward moves to the worst hit areas. Even when away from our trade, 28 Squadron continues to excel in logistics - both transport and supply!

The Rear Operations Group had the unenviable task of doing 'everything else.' On the eve of deployment, they were called into action on Operation BECOMPASS, delivering support to those operating from Aldershot during HM Queen's funeral. Supporting over 1700 service-personnel at short notice was no mean feat. Thereafter, multiple small deployments within the UK and overseas kept the team very busy and the operations room tracker board needed substantially more lines than usual! Of particular note, they took on a number of vehicles from Canada and regiments in the UK closing under the Future Soldier programme, in preparation for the re-activation of 31 Squadron. Arriving in a 'mixed' condition, the small team had their work cut out maintaining a Squadron's worth of vehicles with barely a section of personnel.

Away from operations and exercises, a team from 28 Squadron won the inaugural 'Waggoners' Challenge' held at Sledmere House, Yorkshire. The competition commemorates the work of the Wold Waggoners, a Territorial Force (predecessor of the Territorial Army)

unit raised in 1912 comprising farm workers from Yorkshire who specialised in driving horse-drawn wagons. More than 1000 were called-out during the First World War to serve in the Army Service Corps conducting vital logistic work. The team had to turn their hand to olde-time skills such as carriage driving, sheaf-throwing, barrel lashing and the perennial favourite of every village fete, 'splat the rat.' We did, of course, retain the Commander's Sword, as is only right and proper!



The victorious Waggoner Challenge team

*Jai 28 Sqn!
Jai QOGLR!*

36 (Headquarters) Squadron and the Rear Operations Group QOGLR

36 (Headquarters) Squadron has had yet another exceptionally busy year, in which it has delivered operational outputs both in the UK and overseas. With some Squadron personnel deployed on the Regimental main effort of Operation TOSCA 37, large elements remained in the UK as part of the Rear Operations Group (ROG); specifically the Squadron Headquarters in command of the home base.

As covered in the previous edition, the Squadron was heavily involved in the Regiment's Collective Training Level Charlie event Exercise KHUKURI ENDEAVOUR in West Freugh, Scotland. Here it delivered its core operational outputs including management of the Divisional Support Area and establishment of Convoy Support Centres along the 400 mile route to and from the area. On redeployment, thoughts quickly turned to delivering Exercise WYVERN TOR. Supporting Ten Tors - the Defence's largest youth engagement event - the exercise sees around 3000 young people of varying ability, complete a trek across Dartmoor National Park. With Officer Commanding, Major Emerson Hanley, completing his Duty Trek in East Nepal, Major Jim Revell led a 100 strong team deployed as the Moor Support Group, responsible for the safety of all participants and volunteers. A highly successful resilience operation, enhancing the reputation of the Squadron, 10 QOGLR and the wider Army.

Moving into the Summer, and with Operation TOSCA on the horizon, the Squadron was on point for the coordination and execution of pre-deployment training, specifically through the Training Wing and the Squadron's G4 enabling teams. Despite considerable time constraints, Transition to Live Fire Tactical Training, Public Order training and validation, Individual Training Requirements and the Mission Rehearsal Exercise were delivered with aplomb. Specific mention must be given to Staff Sergeant Niraj Gurung and Sergeant Yubaraj Gurung from the Training Wing, and Corporal Jitang Jimi as lead for real life support.

The Rear Operations Group (ROG)

The ROG established their full operating capability in late August the remainder of the Regiment prepared to deploy. Major Emerson Hanley stepped up as Commander ROG, and Warrant Officer Class 2 Volaman Limbu as Sergeant Major ROG. Soon after, the death of Her Royal Highness the late Queen Elizabeth the Second, required the group quickly transition to an operational footing in support of Operation BRIDGE. This saw two sequential operations executed at short notice: BECOMPASS and BALLAM. Across both, the ROG transformed Aldershot Garrison into a Concentration Area, receiving over 1700 military stewards, training and sustaining all before deploying and recovering to Central London via road and rail. In what was a monumental effort for the small team, they were subsequently thanked through a visit from Her Royal Highness Princess Anne; the entirety was a privilege to be involved in.

The delivery of and support to operations was a constant throughout the period of the ROG. Maintaining the Regiments' readiness commitments to Operation TEMPERER and ESCALIN were added to following widespread industrial action. Specifically, drivers were trained and deployed in support of the Southeast Ambulance Service, as part of Operation REIMAGE. In support of Operation TOSCA, a steady stream of Battlefield Casualty Replacements were generated to augment the deployed force in Cyprus and maintain the required footprint in theatre. In addition, the small detachment deployed on Operation CABRIT received support throughout their deployment to Estonia, and on their return to the UK.

The Regiment's annual internal and community engagements have been maintained. Superb Dashain and Tihar celebrations enhanced cohesion across the ROG and were brilliantly coordinated by Capt Safin Magar. Prominence across Aldershot and Garrison Remembrance activities remained. This included the inaugural parade at the Gurkha Memorial Statue in the heart of Aldershot town; a service which is sure to endure and grow with 10 QOGLR a central component. Further afield, Warrant Officer Class 2 Humbahadur Rana commanded a detachment which deployed to Nepal to deliver assurance of all 21 Gurkha Welfare Trust locations. The 10-person team delivered more than expected, writing new policy regards health and safety, equipment management and stores accounting as a huge leap forward in their overall management of Area Welfare Centres.



The Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs of the ROG



Rear Operations Group on parade at the Gurkha Memorial Statue, Aldershot



Delivery of RSOI to over 1700 Military Stewards in support of Op BRIDGE

As expected, welfare was a key component of the ROG with around 45% of the Regiment deployed. With the Welfare Department enhanced and under the expert control of Capt Safin Magar and Staff Sergeant Phillip Fauch, they have delivered a vast amount of events to provide cohesion and respite for the families of those deployed and, crucially, those personnel who remained within the ROG. Low level coffee and bingo evenings, through to large scale family days out have been vital to the morale of the wider 10 QOGLR family.

The ROG has seen significant success on the sporting and competition front. A strong showing on the Royal Logistic Corps Military Skills competition, Ex NORTHERN STRIKE was quickly followed up by a fantastic Silver Medal on CAMBRIAN PATROL. Our 10 QOGLR Ladies Team excelled their previous best TRAILWALKER time, completing the course in under 20 hours. In badminton, the ROG delivered a fantastic performance in the Army Championships, finishing runners up in the team competition but achieving first place across no less than five categories. A superb effort by Cpl Suraj Limbu and his team. 2022/23 will conclude with the first ever Comd ROG Sporting Challenge, an inter-squadron competition conducted over 4 weeks across Basketball, Football, British Army Warrior Fitness and Volleyball. Competitive as ever, lets see who reigns supreme.



10 QOGLR CAMBRIAN PATROL Team with Silver Medals

Comment from the Officer Commanding...

It has been a pleasure to command both 36 Squadron and the ROG this year with so much achieved. My pride in seeing all personnel deliver across multiple roles and often above their rank is enormous. I thank you all!

**Jai 36 Sqn!
Jai QOGLR!**

**EXERCISE KHUKURI SHINE 2022
By WO2 (SSM) Lok Thapa, 94 Sqn QOGLR**

On 31 January 2022, 94 Squadron QOGLR deployed to Sennybridge Training Area (SENTA) in Brecon for two weeks, on Exercise KHUKURI SHINE to hone their soldiering skills in accordance with the Battle Craft Syllabus (BCS) and maintain the currency in the battlefield in line with the regiment's readiness standard.

After a long journey from Buckley Barracks, the exercising troops arrived at Farm 4 by the afternoon. Soon after receiving the safety brief, they hit the ground running and went straight into lessons. The next few days were spent conducting basic fieldcraft such as fire control orders, the six section battle drills, recce patrols, advance to contact and patrolling drills. After a week of the training phase, they established a patrol harbour

for the following five days. The Brecon conditions proved tough, not only due to the infamous weather but also the unforgiving terrain. This gave the troops an excellent understanding of how to look after themselves in adverse conditions, as well as how to react to, locate and defeat the enemy even when the conditions are not in their favour. The troops did exceptionally well, with the field phase culminated in a deliberate platoon attack which was executed flawlessly and was highly commended by regimental training wing staff for their leadership, teamwork, professionalism and hard work. Following a long week, the troops were delighted to hear 'ENDEX' and enjoyed a fantastic messing in the field, courtesy of the SQMS and his team.

The exercise was professionally delivered by 94 Squadron's newly qualified NCOs in the role of DS and was superbly organised by Sergeant Raj Kumar Gurung under the direction of the Squadron Sergeant Major, WO2 (SSM) Lok Bahadur Thapa. Overall, Exercise KHUKURI SHINE was proven to be an exceptional training experience where every SP benefited from the well-planned scenarios which challenged all ranks.



Fieldcraft lesson delivered to exercising troops



Troops receiving the scenario from exercise DS



Final push as uphill casualty rescue

**Jai QOGLR!
Jai Brigade of Gurkhas!**

94 Supply Squadron QOGLR 9 Regiment the Royal Logistic Corps By Lt Brandon Langridge

Between January and December 2022, members of the Queen's Own Gurkha Logistics Regiment have continued to serve within 9 Regiment RLC. A large influx of GURTAM PIDS have now been filled and the transition to a full QOGLR Supply Squadron at Buckley Barracks is almost complete.

2022 has been a demanding and rewarding year for the QOGLR LSS members of 94 Supply Sqn. We have had personnel conduct PDRC, deploy on Op LONDON BRIDGE, Op INTERLINK and on Ex DEFENDER 22 across Europe as well as the Falkland Islands whilst simultaneously being aligned against the Theatre Enabling Group @R2 component. Our personnel have achieved some remarkable qualifications on courses such as the Physical Training Instructor course and we have also celebrated some outstanding success with a fantastic number of promotions across the ranks.

In January 22, 94 Sqn deployed on Ex KHUKURI SHINE, organised by Sgt Rajkumar Gurung. This included two weeks in Brecon, in the first week we conducted ITR lessons ensuring readiness on ODR and in the second week we conducted a CT A-B Exercise culminating in a successful Platoon attack. With the war in Ukraine breaking out in February 2022, 9 RLC where immediately called upon to establish Theatre Log RV's, members on 94 Sqn deployed across Eastern Europe on Op INTERLINK. Supplying the Ukrainian forces with aide and weapons to beat back the foreign invaders. Individual members across the Sqn provided some incredible output to an extremely important time in history. Ex DEFENDER 22 followed in March, with a section of LSS from the Sqn deploying under Cpl Hari Malla, as the only LSS team on the ground they supplied the entire exercise that stretched across Europe. 94 Sqn then switched its focus to preparing for Public Duties Reinforcement Company, Cpl Suraj Gurung did a fantastic job in acquiring No.1 dress from every corner of the QOGLR, ensuring we were in good order for the fit for roll inspection. The Sqn spent upwards of two months practicing drill every day to learn the intricate movements of each guard location. Upon passing our FFR inspection on the 8th September 22 the tragic news of Her Majesty the Queens death struck headlines. 94 Sqn were immediately deployed to Pirbright to begin drill practice for Op LONDON BRIDGE. We would conduct the role of street lining in and around the Horse Guards Arch. After a week of relentless drill practice 94 Sqn performed their roll superbly, proving the adaptability and professionalism of the QOGLR on a world stage. Post-summer, some members of the Sqn deployed to Norway on Ex NORDIC KNEES STRETCH 22 in November to compete against other units across the RLC in Nordic ski racing under the direction of Lt Lewis Williams.

This year the Regiment managed to give a good account of itself on the shooting front. The team qualified for the Army Operational Shooting Competition, led by Sgt Rajkumar Gurung. The team achieved brilliant results with impressive team scores. A special mention to LCpl Abhivnavan Rai Shrestha was also recognised as one of the army's top 100 shots.

As with tradition, our QOGLR soldiers celebrated a late Dashain festival post PDRC. The main highlights of the evening were the Bada Khana (Dinner) and a fantastic cultural show which was organised by Cpl Saroj Pun. The evening was enjoyed by all. Maintaining Kaida in the Sqn has been crucial post COVID-19 that had stopped large social gatherings.

The QOGLR growth has provided a platform to explore wider opportunities and expand understanding within the wider army. 9 Regiment RLC prides itself as one of the most diverse Regiments from across the Army, and as such QOGLR soldiers have been welcomed with open arms. It has been an exceptional period for the QOGLR team in 9 Regt, with opportunities to develop our trade, sporting and leadership skills. We now look forward to the coming year where we hope to provide more fantastic output.

GURKHA COMPANY (SITTANG) GC(S) ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY SANDHURST (RMAS)



Staff List

Lieutenant Colonel S Dodge RLC
Major Shureshkumar Thapa MVO RGR
Captain Binod Kerung RGR
Captain Padambahadur Gurung RGR
Captain Tarjan Gurung RGR
Warrant Officer 2 Pritam Rai RGR
Colour Sergeant Pritam Rai RGR
Sergeant Pratap Gurung GSPS
Sergeant Tulasi Gurung RGR
Sergeant Ranjib Limbu RGR

Commanding Office, Sandhurst Support Unit
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

Having experienced a challenging time during COVID-19, 2022 brought us some of hope to returning to normality and allowing us to carry on our normal routine. Gurkha Company (Sittang) (GC (S)), with the total of 74 personnel continued to provide invaluable training support to the Officer Cadets (OCdts) on the Commissioning Courses at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS). RMAS runs Commissioning Course, split into three terms (Junior-Inters-Senior), each term is 14 weeks long and is run concurrently throughout the year. The course selects, trains and develops officers to be future leaders of the British Army and the Nation. The Academy training and manpower support is carefully designed and planned well in advance, incorporating the GC(S) CoC in the planning process to ensure we can meet the requirements. The support consists of small field exercise to large scale overseas exercise in Germany.

Despite the tempo and commitment at RMAS, GSC(S) has managed to take part in the various competitions and achieved outstanding results including, Cambrian Patrol (Gold Medal), Army Operational Shooting Competition (AOSC) (12th), Nepal Cup, PARAS 10 (2nd) and many other significant events. The RMAS is a sensitive place, and security is a high priority in RMAS's battle rhythm. GC(S) plays the most pivotal part in providing extra security during Sovereign's Parade, RMAS Heritage Day when thousands of people including Royals and VVIPs are expected to attend the event. Apart from these routine support activities for the Academy, there are many other high-profile activities running concurrently throughout the year.

GC(S) continues to demonstrate the highest possible standard and pursue excellence; determined on

developing Rfn and JNCOs' for the future, organising team bonding and AT events, maintain Gurkha culture, kaida and tradition, organizing variety of events within GC(S) and across RMAS throughout the year and more importantly supporting the needs of BG.



Maj Ramkumar Rai assumes command of GC(S) with effect from 29 Jul 22 with a handshake with outgoing OC Maj Sureshkumar Thapa MVO



WO2 Dipjang Angbuhang takes over as CSM from WO2 Rabi Gurung, with effect from 10 Oct 22



The presentation on the Battle of Sittang

Colonel of the Brigade of Gurkhas, Col D Robinson visits GC(S) - 08 Mar 22



GC(S) said farewell to the outgoing Comdt of the RMAS Maj Gen Capps CBE on 19 Jan 22



Col BG, Colonel Robinson signing the Visitors Book

Gurkha Coy (Sittang) celebrated its Battle Honour Sittang Day - 22 Feb 2022

The Battle Honour of Sittang was a part of the Burma Campaign during the Second World War (WWII). The battle of Sittang was fought between 19 - 23 Feb 1942. Thus, to commemorate the historical battle which was fought 80 years ago; all serving members and families from the Gurkha Company Sittang (GC(S)) gathered on 22 Feb 2022 to celebrate 'Sittang Day'.



Col BG addressing members of GC(S)



CO SSU and OC GC(S) Laying a Wreaths

Commanding Officer, 2nd Bn the Royal Gurkha Rifles, Lt Col N Moran visit to GC(S) on 19 Oct 2022

All the member of GC(S) felt proud and privileged to welcome CO 2 RGR as his visit demonstrated his commitment to the duty and care of GC(S).

Commanding Officer, Sandhurst Support Unit (SSU), Lieutenant Colonel Dodge and Officer Commanding GC(S), Maj Sureshkumar Thapa laid wreath in the memory of those fallen heroes who fought and sacrificed their lives in the Battle of Sittang.



OC GC(S) Major Ram Rai welcoming CO 2RGR Lt Col Moran



CO 1 RGR visiting troops on exercise

Sandhurst Support Unit (SSU) CO's sports day - 27th July 2022

The aim of the SSU CO's sports event was to provide opportunity for team cohesion and to inspire a winning mentality within various departments and cap badges within SSU at RMAS. The day was a very enjoyable and popular event.



GC(S) Team receiving their prize from CO SSU



Taking the strain during the Tug-of-War

Ex SITTANG WARRIOR 12 -15 Sep 22

Ex SITTANG WARRIOR (Ex SW) is an exercise conducted by GC(S) in the first week after the RMAS summer recess period. The exercise is designed for GCS personnel to revise and maintain infantry skills and tactical knowledge before the term starts. This year, Ex SW was conducted in the Barossa Training area, which provided opportunity to train and develop tactical skill on the ground up to Pl level.



Receiving Orders during Ex SITTANG WARRIOR

GC(S) Cambrian Patrol team 2022 proudly Secures a Gold Medal achieving the highest overall score amongst 95 team



Q & A session during Ex SITTANG WARRIOR



The GC(S) Cambrian Patrol Team with CO SSU

Exercise Dynamic Victory (CC223 Winter Term)

8 - 27 Nov 22

By **LCpl Bishowpratap Limbu**

Ex DYNAMIC VICTORY (Ex DV) is the final exercise for Officer Cadets (OCdts) which confirms their ability to command and qualifies them to be Commissioned during Sovereign's Parade. It takes place at the end of each Senior term in Germany. It is a three-week exercise that includes both Live Firing Tactical Training (LFTT) in both an urban and rural setting. Gurkha Coy Sitting plays a major role on Ex DV, supporting OCdts and contributing to the shaping of young trainee officers into competent and professional British Army Officers.

I felt lucky to deploy on all 3 Ex DVs. The winter term Ex DV was held from 08 – 27 Nov 22, 31 Pax from GC(S) led by Capt Arun Hang Nembang were deployed to Germany in a supporting role. After the LFTT, I was deployed as a Fire Sp Comd during urban and rural phases. It was a vital role during the planning and attack phases. Along with the GPMG gunners attached in every Coy to make the exercise more realistic and demanding.



Service in the field prior to deploying on exercise

I was very surprised to see how quickly the OCdts had developed into professional soldiers and officers, when compared to their performance during their Junior term. It was also a great experience working alongside a thinking and agile OPFOR team from the US Army and a platoon of Slovenian Army attached to the Coy. Ex DV is designed to train, develop and test the OCdts on their physical, conceptual and moral components that determines fitness to be Commissioned. The OCdts demonstrated their professionalism and enthusiasm in line with the Sandhurst motto **“Serve to Lead”**.

Ex DV was a very successful exercise for GC(S) and it delivered all the objectives for the OCdts throughout the 3 weeks in Germany.



Instructors supervising GC(S) soldiers on exercise

Project Oyam Donation

On 22 February 2022, LCpl Rajan Limbu AGC (GSPS) and Maj Gen DF Capps CBE, Commandant, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) presented a cheque to Lt Col (Retd) Gilham and Maj Chakra Khatri, representatives from the Oyam Memorial Hall Project (OMHP) in Nepal.

The OMHP is a fundraising campaign to raise money to build a Memorial Hall, as an extension to the Shree Gupteshwor school. It will provide essential hostel accommodation, IT studio and library facilities for children in the remote rural village community of Oyam in East Nepal.

LCpl Rajan ran 5 Kilometres a day for 30 days and smashed his original target of £1,500 by raising an impressive £5,459.27 including Gift Aids; more than triple his goal. He said: “ I am very proud to have such a supportive team around who helped me raise such an incredible amount. The strength of purpose drove me both physically and mentally. I am most grateful to my family, friends and all who donated so generously and my OC, Maj Shureshkumar Thapa MVO RGR for his unfailing support and all ranks of GCS.”

The charity funds were raised in the loving memory of LCpl Rajan's late mother Mrs Prem Maya Limbu. The project is being executed by the Pahar Trust Nepal (PTN) with great support from Hello World, the Gurkha Welfare Trust, QOGLR and many other units across the Brigade of Gurkhas and individuals which the project is very grateful for. The aim of the project is “Nepal ko Nimti” and we are confident on achieving our target of £184,000. The project starts in April 2022.



LCpl Rajan Limbu AGC (GSPS) presenting Lt Col Gillham with a cheque £5,459.27

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.

Staff List (as at 31 Dec 22)

Major M F Barney	RGR	Officer Commanding
Captain Vijayprakash Subba Limbu	RGR	2nd In Command
Captain Kumar Purja Pun	RGR	Training Officer
Captain Pandu Tamang	QG SIGNALS	1 Platoon Commander
Captain Mukunda Rajali	RGR	2 Platoon Commander
Captain Prem Jabegu Limbu	QGE	3 Platoon Commander
Captain Naresh Gurung	RGR	4 Platoon Commander
Captain Harkaman Tawa	QOGLR	5 Platoon Commander
Captain Lyle Whyatt	RGR	6 Platoon Commander

Platoon Battle Honours

Platoon	Battle Honour	Date	Attributable Unit
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1 Platoon	Tigris	23 Feb (1917)	1/2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles), (later 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles))
2 Platoon	Kandahar	01 Sep (1880)	2nd (Prince of Wales' Own) Goorkha Regiment (The Sirmoor Rifles), (later 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles))
3 Platoon	Tobruk	21 Jun (1942)	2/7th Gurkha Rifles, (later 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles)
4 Platoon	Iraq	06 May (1941)	2/10th Gurkha Rifles, (later 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles)
5 Platoon	Helles	01 May (1915)	1/6th Gurkha Rifles (later 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles)
6 Platoon	Assaye	23 Sep (1803)	10th Madras Native Infantry (later 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles)

RI22 Prizes and Awards

Overall Champion Recruit	30380633 T/Rfn Nirmal Karki	3 (Tobruk) Platoon
1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles Champion Recruit	30380338 T/Rfn Ashish Thapa Magar	2 (Kandahar) Platoon
2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles Champion Recruit	30380198 T/Rfn Roshan B C	1 (Tigris) Platoon
The Queen's Gurkha Engineers Champion Recruit	30380673 T/Rfn Bikram Karki	4 (Iraq) Platoon
Queen's Gurkha Signals Champion Recruit	30380633 T/Rfn Nirmal Karki	3 (Tobruk) Platoon
The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment Champion Recruit	30380671 T/Rfn Ajaya Saru Magar	4 (Iraq) Platoon
The Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas Champion Recruit	30380672 T/Rfn Bishow Thing Lama	4 (Iraq) Platoon
Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support Company Champion Recruit	30380716 T/Rfn Cherab Sampang Rai	5 (Helles) Platoon
Overall Champion Shot (The Sarbadhan Rai Trophy)	30380748 T/Rfn Ujal Rai	6 (Assaye) Platoon
Fittest Trainee (The Prince of Wales Trophy)	30380750 T/Rfn Rabin Mahat	6 (Assaye) Platoon
Most Improved English (The Meerendonk Trophy)	30380520 T/Rfn Ronal Rai	2 (Kandahar) Platoon
The Commandant's Trophy	30141942 Cpl Rajendra Rai (QGE)	1 (Tigris) Platoon
Role Model Trophy	30048399 Sgt Manikumar Rai (2 RGR)	1 (Tigris) Platoon
Champion Platoon	5 (Helles) Platoon	Commanded by Capt Harka Tawa QOGLR

RI22 in Numbers

Enlisted:	218
Passed Out First Time ¹ :	216
Pass out Rate:	99.08%
Days spent on field exercise:	32
Hours of Close Quarter Combat lessons:	10
Number of live rounds expended per T/Rfn:	3738
Number of cultural awareness exercises:	6
Rifle ACMT First Time Pass:	56.88%
Rifle ACMT Marksman:	29.82%
GPMG ACMT First Time Pass:	11.92%
Role Fitness Test (Soldier) First Time Pass:	100%
Military Swimming Test First Time Pass:	21.55 %
Military Swimming Test Pass:	70.64%
Fastest SCR (2 km) :	06 min 28 Sec
Fastest 1.5miler:	07 min 40 sec
Fastest RFT (2km with 25 kg) :	08 min 38 sec
Fastest 2 Miler (with 21 kg) :	15 min 27 sec
TST score required for any BG trade:	94.50%
TST score required for any British Army trade:	62.39%
Entry Level 3 English Pass:	100%
Level 1 Speaking and Listening Pass:	100%
Level 1 Reading and Writing Pass:	75%
Posting to first choice cap badge:	70%
Posting to second choice cap badge:	23%
Posting to third choice cap badge:	7%
1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles:	38 Riflemen
2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles:	39 Riflemen
The Queen's Gurkha Engineers:	33 Sappers
Queen's Gurkha Signals:	42 Signallers
The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment:	57 Privates
The Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas:	5 Musicians
Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support Company:	4 Privates

Unit Annual Newsletter

For the Permanent Staff (PS) and, now qualified, Gurkha soldiers it has been a busy, eventful, and highly successful year. The 39-week Combat Infantry Course (Gurkha) (CIC(G)) has now been completed, with 216 Trainee Riflemen (T/Rfn) passing out into the wider Brigade. 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. Combat Infantry Course (Gurkha) (CIC(G)) is an 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.

This year, in line with the planned end of Pj SHERPA, Gurkha Company was drawn down to its 'business as usual' establishment. This provided an opportunity for a rebalance which reflects the needs of the contemporary Brigade and which has ensured a better balance and representation of cap-badges through formal amendment to the establishment. Notably, Band BG are now part of the team, with Corporal Siddhishwor Limbu a welcome asset to the PTI cohort, perhaps marking the first time in the Brigade's history that all cap badges have answered to one command. The establishment is fortunate to retain both our Pandit, Mr Atmaram Dahal, and a Lama, Mr Chewang Gurung, both long-serving Religious Teachers who are on hand to provide spiritual

¹ Of 2 injured T/Rfn, one completed his training in Feb 23. The second is due to complete his training in Jul 23.

and pastoral support to our Recruits when they are fresh into the UK and at their most vulnerable. Both Religious Teachers have had a busy year. Amongst other notable events, Panditji has continued to champion the Defence Hindu Network, and found the time to run over 10 half-marathons or 10Ks as well as 2 full marathons and the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge, while Lama Guru consecrated the BG first ever Buddhist Stupa in Sir John Moore Barracks, as well as speaking at The Somfy Group's annual conference in Paris.

Gurkha Company's wider PS continue to strive for the delivery of 'world class infantry training', with a Gurkha edge. Nuances which differentiate the CIC(G) from its Line, Parachute Regiment, and Foot Guards counterparts include Close Quarter Combat (kukri), cultural awareness exercises and the Recruit English Package (REP) (which will soon be known as the Culture and English Language Training (CELT)). This year the Company has adopted a slightly refined outlook with a greater focus on delivering Light Infantry tactics and battlecraft at the level required by The RGR's Battalions, whilst balancing the requirement to ensure kaida is fully understood by Recruits (particularly those with no familial links to the Brigade), as well as ensuring that soldiers joining the Field Army are fully prepared for life in the UK, and alongside British soldiers and civilians. In the field this has manifested itself in a drive to deliver more realistic training, encouraging complexity and designed to prove initiative amongst T/Rfn as well as ensuring they are as current and competent with the relevant weapon systems and equipment as they can possibly be. Physical Development has also been a focus with the mandatory fitness tests brought forward in the programme in recognition of the high start state which we enjoy, and to prepare for the possibility of service in 16th Air Assault Brigade, or with the Commandos. Towards the end of the course R122 were subjected to the All-Arms Pre-Parachute Selection (Screening) test constituting an 8 miler (in 1hr and 50mins) and (the same day) a 1.5mile run (in boots, in 9mins) with 82% of them passing. In the cultural awareness 'sphere' a concentrated effort towards closer cooperation with the English Language Wing has seen the codification (and expansion) of the Kadam exercises. This year's activity saw T/Rfn visiting Catterick and Darlington; London, York and Newcastle; Whitby; the BG Bhela; the Gurkha Museum; the Wensleydale Agricultural Show and 23 parish churches for Remembrance Sunday. These proved enjoyable and hopefully beneficial, and the confirmation of funding for future years should ensure they retain a place in the course. On the more traditional side, Nepalese New Year, Dashain and Tihar were celebrated with gusto.

Beyond their day-to-day responsibilities, the PS of Gurkha Company have been busy supporting the usual trawls and tribulations of Fd Army, with pan-Brigade Section Commanders deployed to Op INTERFLEX (training recruits of the Ukrainian Armed Forces), and a cohort of Jungle Warfare Instructors deployed to the



R122 arriving in the UK



R122 Cross-Country Competition



R122 on the Drill Country Competition



Band BG at the Unit Presentation

greenest corners of the world to assist courses and exercises. Closer to home, tradesmen from The QGE and equally enthusiastic volunteers from the wider staff have completed several projects, including the construction of a pagoda at the mandir, which will allow ceremonies to be conducted outside regardless of the North Yorkshire weather; an enduring contribution to Gurkha Company's culture built by its own.

The instructors of Gurkha Company have expanded their involvement in a plethora of sporting events throughout 2022. Corporal Raju Roka (2 RGR), a novice sailor, embarked on a 7-day sailing expedition (Ex BAYONET BOOMERANG) with members of HQ School of Infantry (SCHINF) as one leg of an Infantry effort to sail around the UK. Corporal Raju also took ownership of the first ITC Squash Championship to be held for many years. The competition consisted of multiple skill categories catering for all participants and was widely supported across the Infantry Training Centre (ITC)... and widely won by Gurkha Company. Sgt Kumar has continued this trait in racquet sports as part of the overall winning team in the Army Inter-Corps Squash Competition and having been selected for the Army Development Tennis Team. The 2 ITB Badminton squad (mainly from Gurkha Company) achieved success in the UK North Inter-Unit Badminton Championship, with Cpl Nichahang and LCpl Kshiteez Rai (GSPS) becoming Mens' Doubles Winners. In more traditional competition, SCHINF's entry to the DOSC was (shock!) entirely GURTAP with Team A and Team B placing 4th and 9th respectively. Led by Capt Nabin Gurung SASC (late 1 RGR), several JNCOs from the Brigade made the Army 100.

Members of the PS also took part in several charity and endurance events this year, taking the opportunity to develop closer links to other training teams within the Infantry Training Centre. Permanent staff represented at the 'Every Step You Take' run, the Great North Run 10K, the PARAs' 10, the Commando Speed March and the GWT's Doko Challenge South. Corporal Amir (QOGLR) invited British staff from the wider ITC to take part in the latter so that they could experience something of Gurkha Selection.

Gurkha Company celebrated its 71st Birthday with a day of sporting and social events alongside the families of the Permanent Staff and guests. This included the Tough Gurkha competition (a contributing factor to Champion Recruit and Champion Platoon competitions) where Recruits competed against each other to complete a series of physical challenges in the quickest time possible. Slightly less exhausting was the traditional *Chello* competition, organised by Sergeant Bhupendra Rai of The Queens Gurkha Engineers, and slightly more exhausting was the musical chairs game organised for the *didi-bhainiharu*. Predictably, perhaps, the game became a highlight of the day as the participants' collective mood changed from one of reluctance to Olympian spirit in the first couple of rounds. The Birthday also saw the annual



On the bayonet lane



6 Platoon's Fire Support waiting for H-Hour



2 RGR MMG Pl firing in support of R122 LFTT



Cpl Rajendra receives the Commandant's Trophy from the Colonel Commandant, Lieutenant General Wardlaw OBE

“friendly” football match between a combined Officers and SNCO team and the JNCOs. The accuracy of the score was (fortunately) lost in the celebrations, but there was no doubt in anyone’s mind who deserved to take home the Sungai Patani Cup, with the JNCO team claiming victory.

Competition remains healthy within Gurkha Company. A codification of the rules has ensured fairness and the focus on Platoon-level competitions has encouraged Training Teams and their T/Rfn to bond more closely. RI22’s competition consisted of the Passing Off the Square, Shooting (incorporating Rifle and General-Purpose Machine Gun), Orienteering, Tough Gurkha (CrossFit), Cross Country, March and Shoot, BG History and Drill events. Gurkha Company were honoured that Lt Gen Wardlaw OBE, Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas agreed to give his title to this competition which will henceforth be known as ‘The Colonel Commandant’s Inter-Platoon Competition’.

Combat Infantry Course (Gurkha) for Recruit Intake 22 culminated in an impressive Passing Out Parade with Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE, Colonel Commandant of the Brigade of Gurkhas, as Reviewing Officer. We were honoured to host several of the Council of Gurkha Colonels and representatives from across the entire Brigade. The parade provided an opportunity to present the awards for 2022, which saw Rifleman Nirmal Karki of Queens Gurkha Signals awarded Overall

Champion Recruit, having proved to be the best of his intake throughout the tests and rigours of the course. Sergeant Manikumar Subba (2 RGR) was awarded the Role Model trophy, having been judged to have best represented the values of an instructor at the Infantry Training Centre. Corporal Rajendra Rai (QGE) was awarded the Commandant’s Trophy for having made the greatest contribution to Gurkha Company in 2022, and the Champion Platoon award was presented to 5 (Hellas) Platoon, who dominated throughout the competitions, led by Captain Harka Tawa QOGLR and Sgt Manish Gurung and then Sgt Subash Rai (both 2 RGR). All Permanent Staff and Recruit Intake 22 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.

217 Trainee Riflemen have now become Riflemen, Sappers, Signallers, Privates and Musicians (with one injured Trainee due to join The QOGLR in 2023). The Permanent Staff look forward to a short opportunity of reset prior to deploying to Nepal in support of Phase 3 (Final) Selection. Recruit Intake 23 is due to form up in February and it will be back to Day 1, Week 1 soon enough!

Jai Gurkha Company!

Jai Brigade of Gurkhas!

GURKHA WING (MANDALAY) INFANTRY BATTLE SCHOOL BRECON



GW(M) Staff list

Major	Babindra Gurung	RGR	OC TSD
Captain	Belbahadur Gurung	RGR	2IC TSD
Captain	Nawaraj Jimee	RGR	Sp Pl Comd
Warrant Officer Class 2	Hemraj Rana Magar	RGR	DSM TSD
Warrant Officer Class 2	Eka Bahadur Rai	QGE	QMSI Aslt Pnr
Colour Sergeant	Manjil Gurung	RGR	CQMS TSD
Sergeant	Bibi Limbu	RGR	Pl Sgt Sp Pl
Sergeant	Rashon Gurung	QGE	Det Comd Aslt Pnr
Sergeant	Mohan Gurung	RGR	Det Comd Aslt Pnr
Sergeant	Suryahang Rai	QGE	Det Comd Aslt Pnr
Sergeant	Suresh Dewan	GSPS	SSA/GWM Chf Clk

IBS Staff list

Colour Sergeant	Yadesh Rai	RGR	SD Instructor
Colour Sergeant	Dipendra Rana	RGR	JD Instructor
Colour Sergeant	Samrat Gurung	RGR	CQMS IWD

Overview

By Officer Commanding Maj Babindra Gurung

The Gurkha Wing Mandalay (GWM) is one of the largest ERE units with over 90 Gurkha Soldiers from the Brigade of Gurkhas and plays a critical role within the Infantry Battle School (IBS). The primary role is to provide capability support and specialist training to the IBS in order to meet and maintain the effective operational requirements of the IBS. In addition to this, the GWM acts as the IBS Community Engagement Task Force lead in support of HQ Wales and the Brigade of Gurkha. Since the COVID-19 restrictions eased,

the GWM resumed its Battle Rhythm and continued to display its utility and effectiveness by delivering timely and effective capability support to the Infantry Battle School (IBS). Following the IBS Optimisation announcement by the IBS Commander, the GWM began 2023 with the planning and preparation for the IBS Optimisation, which will be implemented in May 2023. This will see significant changes in the current GWM structure, its Role and Responsibilities, and capability support to the IBS. The current structure includes



Member of the TSD on Ex SURUWAT

and awareness of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community in their area, encourage both communities to work together, support each other, and strengthen the Military and Civilian links within Powys. The highlights of the GWM's notable success over the year are summarised in the paragraphs overleaf.

Exercise SURUWAT 22 - Tuesday 10 to Friday 13 May 2022

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 provide capability support as well as specialist training to the IBS's courses, mainly Section Commander Battle Course (SCBC), Platoon Sergeant Battle Course (PSBC) and Platoon Commander Battle Course (PCBC). The TSD takes the opportunity to conduct a refresher training when time and space are available. This helps the TSD maintain the Operational Effectiveness & Low-Level basic field craft through such exercises.

This year, on 10 May 2022, all available TSD members deployed to Sennybridge Training Area. Upon arrival in the area, the first important thing was to integrate each other as a team, as we were from different departments and had Cap badges. Day one began with cross-lessons within the department, exchanging their knowledge and experiences. Each department's Subject Matter Expert (SME) took the lesson, which included Bowman Radio System, Mortar, Machine Gun, Vehicle recovery and Assault Pioneer. It helped us to know each other's strengths and weaknesses and get information about different departments & what they can offer in a team. Over three and half days of exercise, all TSD members took the opportunity to conduct a Recce Patrol, Ambush, Deliberate Attack, Order delivery & model making few to name. The CO and RSM IBS paid a visit on the final day during the Company attack.

Although the exercise was designed for three and a half days, it was a fruitful experience for all the TSD members. Following the completion of recovery, the TSD Chain of Commands (CoCs) conducted a Post Exercise Report (PXR) where everyone had an opportunity to share positive and negative feedback, which helped the OC TSD to review the Training Objectives (TOs) and plan a similar Ex for the following year.

Brecon Freedom Parade - Sunday 19 June 2022

In 1985 Gurkha Company (Mandalay) were declared an Honorary Citizen of Brecon for recognition of their service to the community. To mark the occasion, the first parade, known as the Brecon Freedom Parade, was held on 03 May 1986, and the tradition has continued ever since.

On Sunday, 19 June 2022, the 37th annual Brecon Freedom Parade was led by Captain Madan Jimi. He led the parade through the town with musical support from the Band of the Brigade of the Gurkhas. It was followed by a cultural show for the community, including the famous Khukuri dance performed by Gurkhas. This parade has been pivotal in showing our role and presenting the Gurkhas in the eyes of the locals. This event is an excellent opportunity to engage and maintain our close relationship with the locals and retired Gurkhas living in Brecon. For those serving in the GWM, it was a real privilege to participate in the Brecon Freedom Parade, which was admired and witnessed by huge crowds.



Gurkha Company (Mandalay) marching through Brecon

Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2022

By Rfn Hitesh Rai

Exercise Cambrian Patrol is the premier patrolling event of the British Army, which is held in Wales and hosted by Headquarters 160th (Welsh) Brigade. This exercise, Cambrian Patrol, aims to provide a challenging World class patrol exercise to enhance Operational Capability. Honestly, this event has much to do with your mentality. The event is challenging as it sounds, and it is not even child's play. It involves a great deal of effort, labour, and a strong mentality. There is a saying by Darwinians, 'Not the strongest, not the fittest, but the most adaptable and resilient can make it through, and the same goes for us too. Given that most of the Gurkhas team had completed the Patrol and we were the second last group, with lots of anxiety and pressure on our minds, however, overcoming all the nervousness, we were able to endeavour the situation with the best results (Gold Medal). Besides many hindrances, we did a training ourselves in limited time, utilized free time for the indoor lesson, made winning solid mindsets and hosted the international (France Army) in a hectic schedule for their best performance in Cambrian Patrol. With all of that said, it is worth doing. Once-in-a-lifetime achievement. We had many unforgettable good and bad memories during Patrol (SAMJHANA BIRSANA). This is a short overview of how the 2022 Cambrian patrol rolled out.



GWM Cambrian Patrol Team 2022

Mountain Bike Leader Course 14 - 15 Sep 2022

By Cpl Teny Gurung

An exciting Mountain Bike Leader (MBL) course was brought forward for serving members of the Gurkha Wing Mandalay, Infantry Battle School, Brecon. Coordinated by Cpl Teny, putting the expertise of in-house instructor WO2 Eka Rai to use, six serving members secured MBL level 2 instructor certificate through Mountain Bike Instructors' Award Scheme (MIAS). All participating personnel could use up their Standard Learning Credit (SLC) towards funding this course. The course was aimed at promoting safe mountain biking experience by providing training and assessment in technical and group management skills henceforth, producing leaders with excellent off-road biking knowledge who can lead in the trails of UK and abroad. The two-day course integrated training and assessment via a theory lesson in camp followed by practical lesson in the spectacular and thrilling trails of Pontsticill, Merthyr Tydfil. GWM, IBS has now gained six newly qualified MTB leaders who will be seen advancing their skills whilst leading several MTB events. Furthermore, this course has helped to prepare a strong and competent team for IBS to participate and compete in upcoming Army Mountain biking events.



GWM boys on MBL course

General Dynamics Armed Forces Covenant Re-signing

By Cpl Mikesh Gauchan

General Dynamics UK is a defence company delivering in two main areas – Land Systems and Mission Systems. It is one of the UK's leading defence companies and a key supplier to the UK and the Ministry of Defence. They are supplying the future of Armoured Fighting Vehicles, AJAX, and Bowman communications systems to the British Army and providing avionics and tactical communication and information systems to a global customer base. Also, they proudly support active military and veteran families by providing financial support to several non-profit organizations that work toward improving the quality of life for veterans and others through their programs and social contributions.



Sgt Mohan and Cpl Mikesh from GWM attending the event

On 29th Sep 2022 Company got the opportunity to resign from the Armed Forces Covenant and was presented with the Gold Award. We were invited to the event because General Dynamics has a long-standing connection with the Brigade of Gurkhas and the Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT). I and Sgt Mohan Gurung from GWM got the opportunity to attend the event by being the ambassador for the Brigade of Gurkhas and GWT. They were extremely grateful and pleased to have us. The event took place at GD HQ in Oakdale Business Park, Blackwood (South Wales). There were several representatives from the services and military charities that they support. They issued a security pass on arrival and gave a short welcome address in their Boardroom. Then, there was a short resignation of the Armed Forces Covenant ceremony involving a senior UK Military Officer, followed by an informal social event where we got to network with Defence colleagues and General Dynamics personnel with meals and refreshments. Our heartfelt thanks to General Dynamics for inviting us. It was a great opportunity and a different experience. Also, congratulations on resigning from the Armed Forces Covenant and winning Gold Award.

Team bonding exercise - Go Karting

By LCpl Sangam Gurung

Training Support Division is one of the busiest divisions of the Infantry Battle School. Almost two third of the year goes past being fully committed to supporting all other divisions of IBS. Despite being busy with the commitment this year, in November, with the help, support and encouragement of the Chain of Commands, the CIS platoon of TSD successfully organised a platoon event. For the event, we were looking to do something adventurous, demanding, refreshing, memorable and frisky sports. Out of the blue, I remembered the quote by famous Formula One racer Ayrton Senna "Either you do something well, or you do not do it at all!" that was when we decided we would be Go Karting for our platoon event.

The overall event was led and organised by me (LCpl Sangam Gurung) and being event 2IC Rfn Anish Bhujel helped a lot to make this event successful. On the 6th of Nov 22, we all gathered at our central car park, where I quickly briefed everyone on safety points and how the event would be executed. Then we headed to GO KART CARDIFF, roughly one and a half hours away by drive. By the time we reached there, it was already lunch time, and everyone was hungry. Thanks to my food IC, Rfn Amit Gurung, as he had already planned for the lunch. So as soon as we reached the GO KART CARDIFF, we had our lunch then everyone was recharged and good to go for the karting experience. So, without wasting any time, we all went straight into the briefing hall, where we were also briefed about all safety points and the go-kart itself. After the brief, everyone was eager and excited to kart it already.

We did the Mini Grand Pier package on the go-kart, where we did the first 5 minutes of the practise session followed by 10 minutes qualifying round. Without a doubt, for the first 2 to 3 laps, every individual was cautious. However, once everyone got used to then, everyone was accelerating the Kart. After that, we went for 15 minutes break before we headed for our 15-minute final race. Again, all the participants enjoyed the final session. At the same time, they were competitive, and we could see the winning spirit in their eyes. After the vying and interesting final race between all 15 competitors, our winners were decided. Our platoon sergeant, Sgt Richard Vout, secured the first position, Rfn Anish Bhujel was first runner up, and Rfn Vinay Kumar Shahi was positioned as second runner up. Regardless of who won the event and who could not, the main achievement was that everyone enjoyed the Go Kart, which was a memorable day. After a unique and exciting Go Kart at Cardiff, we all returned to Dering Lines for our Platoon's Pizza dinner, led by event food IC. Go Kart is an astonishing, frisky, and indelible sport that is also quite expensive. However, thanks to our Head of Department and IBS for granting funds which made the expense relatively less affordable for everyone.



CIS platoon Team Bonding Exercise

Overall, the event was successful, and all participants enjoyed the day. This was an excellent opportunity for all CIS platoon members to explore and experience the physically and mentally demanding sport, Go Kart. This event also united the platoon members to enhance team cohesion and bonding.

Gurkha Wing Mandalay Dashain 2022 Celebration

By Rfn Mahesh Limbu

Gurkha Wing Mandalay, Training Support Division (TSD), Infantry Battle School (IBS) celebrated the auspicious festival Dashain 2022 with tremendous success. The Service Personnel from the wider Brigade of Gurkhas units come together with various experiences to organise and celebrate the celebration even more uniquely. TSD organised it in an imposing manner despite being a small ERE Unit, and it was my first Dashain in TSD which I enjoyed thoroughly. As a MUGLISE (Single living Soldier), I felt very proud and blessed to receive a TIKA and blessings from TSD OC and 2IC Saheb in the absence of my parents, who are back in Nepal. Afterwards, as a family, we all shared the table for lunch hosted by GWM SNCOs and Officers in Mandalay Hall.



Dashain Celebration

It was one of the significant events within IBS for exchanging culture with other British Officers, Soldiers, and families for a wider understanding of the Brigade of Gurkhas Culture and KAIDA. In addition, the Commanding Officer, local dignitaries, and key personnel within IBS observed a few religious ceremonies. Dashain has tremendous significance and contributes massively towards boosting the morale of the Gurkha soldiers, who continuously operate professionally.

GWM Families Educational Visit to Gurkha Museum (Winchester)

By Mrs Rosie Gurung Rana

On 11 Apr 22, Families from the GWM 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 children 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 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 children 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.



Ladies at Hillier Garden



GWM families visit to Gurkha Museum

GWM Photo Album 2022



GWM Nepal Cup Team 2022



Marching through Brecon Town on Remembrance Sunday 22



Gwm Trail Walker 2022



Displaying Khukuri Pattern in Brecon Town



Warm Welcome to Comd CMC, Brigadier B J Cattermole CBE during his visit to GWM on Oct 22



Warm Welcome to Col D Robinson, Col BG during his visit to GWM on Dec 22

TRAINING SUPPORT (TAVOLETO) SPECIALIST WEAPONS SCHOOL (SWS) WATERLOO LINES, WARMINSTER



Staff List - Dec 22

Major Rajkumar Rai 2RGR
 WO2 Suman Sherpa 2RGR
 WO2 Simon Boase FTRS
 WO2 Biken Rana Magar 1RGR
 WO2 Bhaskar Gurung 1RGR
 Colour Sergeant Bhim Limbu 2RGR
 Colour Sergeant Hira Bahadur Gurung 1RGR
 Sergeant Steven Lawrence
 Sergeant Chris Roberts FTRS
 Sergeant Bhupendra Rai QGE
 Sergeant Nabin Gurung 2RGR
 Sergeant Sunil Kumar Thapa 1RGR
 Sergeant Tara Bahadur Rana 2RGR
 Sergeant Prakash Rai 2RGR
 Sergeant Raju Tulachan QGE

Officer Commanding
 Company Sergeant Major
 Commander CPCMM
 Signals Platoon Commander
 Assault Pioneer Platoon Commander
 MT Platoon Commander
 Company Quarter Master Sergeant
 Bowman System Manager CPCMM
 G4 SNCO CPCMM
 Resources SNCO
 Signals Platoon Sergeant
 Signals Platoon Trg Sergeant
 MT Platoon Sergeant
 Assault Pioneer Platoon Sergeant
 Assault Pioneer Platoon Sergeant



Maj Gen Gerald M Strickland DSO, MBE paid an official visit to GC(T) on 18 Jan 22 where he received company update from GC(T) OC Maj Bikulman Rai



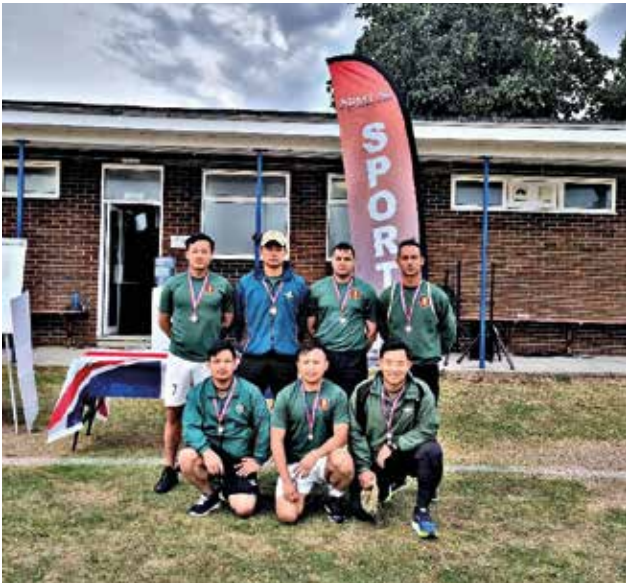
RAO, Capt Suren Limbu (GSPS) led on tree planting initiative on 21 Mar 22 to mark her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee in 2022



Col BG, Col David Robinson, paid an official visit to GC(T) on 11 Feb 22 where he received company update from GC(T) OC Maj Bikulman Rai



CO 1RGR, Lt Col H P S Stanford-Tuck paid an official visit to GC(T) on 20 Jul 22. He received a Coy update from OC GC(T), Maj Rajkumar Rai and provided an update about the future 1RGR commitments



Warminster Garrison Sports Day was conducted on 27 Jul 22 where a team from GC(T) managed to secure 1st position in volleyball competition



Warminster ladies celebrated Teej festival on 31 Jul 22 with ritual fasting, great feasting and sharing great memories. It was led by Mrs Mina Gurung W/O GCT CSM WO2 Suman Sherpa



A charity movie night, organised by Sgt Nabin Gurung, on 05 Aug 22 raised £106.00 for the company fund



The Battle Honour Day, TAVOLETO Day was observed by all the members of GC(T) and families on 05 Sep 22. The event was well executed by CSM, WO2 Suman Sherpa



Family educational visit to Hindu temple in Southall was organised on 25 Sep 22 which was led by Sgt Tara Rana



Congratulation to team GC(T) led by Sgt Nabin Gurung and administered by Sgt Raju Tulachan on completion of world's toughest 48 hrs exercise, Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL on 12 Oct 22 and securing a silver medal



All the members of GC(T) including their families celebrated festival of lights, Tihar on 26 to 28 Oct 22 coordinated by CSgt Ashim Gurung



GC(T) ladies' night was organised by Mrs Meena Gurung W/O WO2 Suman Sherpa On 26 Nov 22. It was an occasion to build interpersonal relationship between the Coy members.



GC(T) participated in Remembrance Day Parade with resident Warminster Garrison on 13 Nov 23 in the memory of all soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the World Wars



CO 2RGR, Lt Col Nicholas Moran and GM 2RGR, Maj Sanjip Rai paid an official visit to GC(T) on 15 Dec 22 where they received Coy update from OC GC(T) Maj Rajkumar Rai



Sgt Nabin Gurung won the lucky draw winner of World Cup 2022 organised by Rfn Upendra Singh Maske Rana on 18 Nov 22



GC(T) celebrated Christmas with their families on 16 Dec 22. They said farewell to WO2 Biken Rana Magar and Cpl Jit Siuthani on the successful completion of their service and CSgt Bhim Limbu on moving to his next assignment. Event coordinator: Sgt Nabin Gurung.

TRAINING SUPPORT (BABAJI) COMPANY SUPPORT BATTALION INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE CATTERICK



Overview

Training Support (Babaji) Company has been continuously functioning at its best in providing first-class training support to deliver the best Combat Infantry Course (CIC) outputs to meet the Defence operational requirements. Despite busy CIC commitments, a few members of Training Support (Babaji) Company managed to take part in the sports and military competition events to enhance the reputation of the Company as well as developing the soldiers' confidence and leadership. To be honest, the Company has achieved quite a lot in 2022. We shall continue to look for opportunities in 2023 whilst maintaining first-class training support for the training teams of both 1 ITB and 2 ITB.

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	Subinkumar Rai	RGR	Platoon Commander/Company Quarter Master Sergeant
Sergeant	Manish Gurung	RGR	Platoon Sergeant
Corporal	Bishal Gurung	GSPS	Company Military Personnel Administrator

Training Support (Babaji) Coy activities 2022

Queen's Green Canopy Tree Planting Ceremony

The Queen's Green Canopy is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 across the United Kingdom which invites everyone from individuals to scouts, villages, Cities, Counties, Schools and Corporations to plant the trees as many as possible which is once in a life time event. This is not only for celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee but most crucially to enhance our environment, protect our planet, nature and stop climate change. The nature is giving us enough warning which we cannot ignore. Therefore, we need to play our part to protect our beautiful planet for our upcoming generations. The Queen's Green Canopy will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service to the Nation.

The Pan ITC Queen's Green Canopy project was led by Major Dillikumar Rai MVO RGR - Officer Commanding, Training Support (Babaji) Company. On Thursday 21 April 2022, an English Oak tree and a Cherry Blossom tree were planted by the Headquarters Support Battalion and Training Support (Babaji) Company HQ/Platoon Support Platoon (TSP) respectively in support of the



Pan ITC Queen's Green Canopy Team planting an oak and cherry blossom tree



Babaji Company tree planting team

Queen's Green Canopy project to commemorate Her Majesty's The Queen's Platinum Jubilee to recognise her 70 years of faithful service. We also took a moment to celebrate a special occasion as The Queen marked her 96th birthday on 21 April 2022. The tree planting ceremony was successfully executed in attendance of ITC Support Battalion HQ personnel, civil servants and Coy HQ/TSP personnel. He also delivered a brief information on significance of the Queen's Green Canopy project. In total 25 trees have been planted across the Infantry Training Centre Catterick. You all be very pleased to know that over 5 million trees have been planted across the country from 3 years old child to 99 years old. We hope the Queen's Green Canopy initiative will have a significant impact in our living lives creating a much cleaner and greener environment for generations to come.

Ex TRAILWALKER 2022

Training Support (Babaji) Company put a team for the Ex TRAILWALKER22 led by Sgt Subin Rai. The team completed the course in 10 hours and 19 minutes, securing overall 9th position amongst more than 250 teams. A remarkable achievement from the TSP which is made of only 38 GURTAP within the Training Support (Babaji) Company.



Training Support (Babaji) Company Trailwalker Team

PARAS'10 Competition

Training Support Platoon (TSP) took part in two PARAS' 10 competitions held in Colchester and Catterick respectively. 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 complete 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 serving in the Parachute Regiment.

Training Support (Babaji) Company PARA 10 TAB Team
 Training Support (Babaji) Company PARA 10 TAB Team
 It is a non-profit event with all proceeds going to the charity which benefits the soldiers and their families. The TSP successfully secured second position as a team in both categories in both competitions. This was the taste of success for TSP this year which has encouraged the whole platoon to strive for more.

Training Support (Babaji) Company Soldier of the year 2022 Award

LCpl Bhim Gurung from 2 RGR has been awarded the 'Babaji Coy Soldier of the Year 2022' award. The award was presented by Maj Dillikumar Rai MVO, Officer Commanding in recognition of his hard work, dedication, exceptional performance and consistently setting an example and more importantly in doing so, inspiring others as a junior leader and role model."



Training Support (Babaji) Company PARA 10 TAB Team



Training Support (Babaji) Company PARA 10 TAB Team



Lcpl Bhim Gurung receiving his award from Maj Dillikumar Rai MVO

ITC Support Battalion Family Day

ITC Support Battalion Family Day was successfully organised on 27 July 2022. Over 400 Service Personnel and families were present on the event.

The event was led by Sgt Subin Kumar Rai, Training Support Platoon, Babaji Company. The main aim of this event was to socially engage with families and children of service personnel and take little time off from busy commitments. The event was full of entertainment with combination of various stands ran by different departments. The attractions of the day were Adjutant Football Challenge Plate final, raffle draw with attractive prizes, weapons display, bouncy castle, face painting, magic show and the famous Khukuri dance. All the attendees also enjoyed the typical Nepali food. Most of the attendees contributed to the Raffle Draw and helped to raise £550 to support the ABF Soldiers' Charity which was then handed over to Mr Jim Duffy, representative from the ABF Charity.



Maj Dillikumar Rai MVO handing over the cheque to Mr Jim Duffy

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 Esther Hayes FRSM
Assistant Director of Music	Captain Sunil Gurung LRSM
Senior Band Sergeant Major	Warrant Officer Class One Bhim Bahadur Gurung
Assistant Band Sergeant Major	Warrant Officer Class Two Shyam Bahadur Gurung
Senior Bugle Major	Warrant Officer Class Two Sher Bahadur Tangnami
Assistant Officer	Miss Barbara Ramharak

The Braemar Gathering in Scotland

By Musician Sumin Thapa

On 03 September I got the opportunity to witness the famous Braemar Gathering in Scotland which is celebrated every year on the first Saturday of September at the Princess Royal and Duke of Fife Memorial Park in Braemar, Scotland.

This historical event which has been held in one form or another for the last 900 years, fosters local community development and educates the public about traditions, sports, language, culture, and the heritage of Scotland. The band and the Queen's Gurkha Engineers display team mirrored the deep cultural heritage of Scotland and were well received by the crowds.



Preparing for the Braemar Gathering

Our journey was a day before the event; I woke up at 4 am in the morning as our journey was early very that morning. It was a very long journey for us, from southern part of England to the northern part of Scotland which took around 16 hours of by bus. I was really eager and excited to travel as this was my first national journey with The Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas.



A photo with the Braemar Gathering Organiser

I enjoyed the events at the gathering very much, even though the weather was not very impressive. At the Braemar Gathering, there were many events organised like ‘toss the caber’, ‘put the stone’, ‘throw the hammer’, ‘children’s sack race’, ‘tug of war’ and many more. The atmosphere of the event was very pleasurable. The Queen’s Gurkha Engineers performed their ‘Kukri Pattern’ accompanied by a Nepalese women’s dancing team. The crowd were mesmerised by the Gurkha culture and traditions. The Band, of course, performed a marching display at the ‘light pace’ which the audience found fascinating. There were many local Pipes and Drums bands in their traditional dress, therefore the much quicker pace and our Rifle Green uniform was a sight to behold.



Band Display at the Gathering

I got this golden opportunity to travel with my unit and really loved the cultural exchange between people of two nations. I felt really proud to be a Gurkha and a member of The Band of The Brigade of Gurkhas.

Team Building Exercise ‘DADA CHARGE’

By Musician Bhuwan Rai

A visit to a historical place is always an exciting experience and a fascinating adventure. I had such an experience during the last team building exercise when I visited Dorset. Dorset is one of the best tourist destinations with its popular seaside, Jurassic coastline, and outstanding natural beauty.

On 07 Sep 2022, The Band of The Brigade of Gurkhas travelled for 4 hours, all the way from Folkestone to Weymouth, Dorset for its annual team building exercise. We were accommodated at Chickerell Camp, from where we could see the very captivating Weymouth Bay. On the first day, the Band spent the whole afternoon exploring the Tank Museum in Bovington. The Museum has the largest collection of tanks and third largest collection of armoured vehicles in the world. We saw lots of armoured vehicles and tank-like Tiger 131, and Iraqi T-55 which traces their own history.



The Band Pariwar

The next day, we were looking forward to hiking to the historical and beautiful spots in Bridport, Dorset. We met our tour guide around 0900 hrs in the morning to commence our gruelling hike to the highest point of the area. Our guide, Mr Scott McGregor, originally hailing from Scotland, had served in the Lifeguards of the Household Cavalry, continued his career as a Police Officer which had finally brought him to Bridport, where he had lived for the last 20 years. Scott aimed to give us an ideal coastal walk, while stopping at key historical points of interest. We hiked alongside the Jurassic coast passing through lots of historical monuments, which included a Catholic Church via a hollow path called Hells Lane that runs between Symondsburry and North Chideock; these date back at least 300 years and would trodden by smugglers and Catholics hiding their faith. There were many eye-catching landscapes and several seaside resorts, one view that was very familiar due to it being featured on the TV program Broadchurch. The best part of the hike was boys competing in an uphill 100-metre sprint, on the slopes of the famous Colmer’s Hill.

We had a very long wait for this refreshing day, as the Band was not able to organise any team-building

exercises due to the Covid Pandemic. As a young musician, it was a perfect opportunity for me to explore one of the historical tourist attractions, as our tour guide shared his useful insights about British culture and heritage. By the end of the day, the Band managed to cover almost eighteen kilometres and the day concluded with a social evening in a Nepali restaurant The Gurkha in Weymouth.

In summary, this team-building exercise has left an pleasing mark in our hearts and we cannot wait to revisit Dorset in the future.

OP LONDON BRIDGE - The funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

By Lance Corporal Jhanak Dhungana

The tribute to HM The Queen's extraordinary reign and her remarkable life of service as Head of the State, Nation and Commonwealth took place on Monday 19 Sept 2022 at 1100 hrs. The dawn had barely broken but London was already stirring, as people from every corner of the country and indeed the world came to say farewell to HM Queen Elizabeth II. It was clear that the nation was totally unprepared for the inevitability of losing their beloved monarch. Thousands of people lined the streets of London and Windsor, watched on their televisions, and followed the ceremonies on social media.

At 0530 hrs, we made our way from our training area in Pirbright, Surrey to Wellington Barracks; there was an acute feeling that the day ahead would be one for the history books. Every individual involved in that historic procession from the highest-ranking officer to the junior musician strived to deliver perfection for The Queen. We were accompanied by the Band and Bugles of the Rifles led by Major Sean O' Neill and found that we were leading the procession with the Commonwealth contingent. I will not forget the phrase repeated by our leader during the procession that he was expecting the highest standard; he repeatedly said "remember, always, you are not only representing the army, but you are also representing the Gurkhas. As you conduct your duty, make sure you do it to the highest standard, as the eyes of the world are on you". We were all nervous and exhausted due to the gruelling rehearsals prior to the funeral however, it was a matter of utmost respect and pride to be a part of this honourable procession. It was essential to maintain precision our in individual drills, regardless of how tired you were. Additionally, the many funeral marches that had to be played with utmost accuracy was challenging, but we were given plenty of time to rehearse until it became second nature. We may have had shaking legs, tired faces, but it was breathtaking to be part of such a spectacular send off to our most treasured monarch.

The Royal British Legion Wales Festival of Remembrance 2022, St David's Hall, Cardiff Wales

By Lance Corporal Adarsh Gurung

The Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas had the opportunity to perform at St David's Hall in Cardiff to support the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance.

We started our journey early in the morning and made our way to St David's Hall for a quick rehearsal of the evening's entertainment. There was a varied program of music, the opening featured Fanfare and Flourishes by James Curnow, the ideal opening to set the mood of this most fantastic festival. The festival is usually supported by the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums of The Royal Welsh, who perform a fantastic black light display. The Band turned to what they knew and introduced a new Nepali composition March to the Everest by our Assistant Director of Music Captain Sunil Gurung. The boys demonstrated their traditional dress and danced to a traditional Nepalese song. The younger boys showed off their talents with their composition which featured Nepalese Bamboo flute, guitar and a vocal beat box feature.



Band ready to "March On"

There were numerous performances by local artists, a choir group from Cardiff sang hymns while the Band played as their accompaniment, and a marching display by the Corps of Drums from the Royal Logistic Corps, performing a black light display, where they performed with glowing stick and demonstrated their complex stick movements. There were many service personnel from different military units and both the serving and retired members joined the event with their unit flags to mark their respect for the fallen soldiers.

In the end, we showed our sincere gratitude to the fallen soldiers who had given their lives for a better life today. We concluded our program in the traditional military manner by performing marches from the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, Army, the Royal Air Force, and of course the Brigade of Gurkhas March - Yo Nepali. This was an enjoyable experience for the unit, and we were received very well by the audience.

Gurkha Welfare Trust Concert at the Garden Rooms at Tennants, Leyburn

By Corporal Doran Gurung

On the 28 Nov 2022, the Band performed an exhilarating charity concert in support of the Gurkha Welfare Trust in Leyburn, North Yorkshire under the joint direction of Director of Music Captain Esther Hayes and Assistant Director of Music Captain Sunil Gurung.



The Director of Music (Captain Hayes) conducting the Band

The concert was a mix of traditional military and concert band music. The most outstanding was a feature on traditional Nepali Bamboo Flute with a 'beat box' accompaniment. Although the art of 'beat box' has been around since the invention of Hip Hop, which incidentally celebrates its 50th Anniversary next year, it seems a strange choice for a traditional military style concert. For those of you not familiar with this art, it is a vocal form of percussion using a microphone, that mimics drum machines and beats. Nevertheless, the outcome was well received by the audience, especially as this was a composition written by Musn Ashish Tamang on bamboo flute, Musn Sagar Pulami on guitar, and Musn Ankit Rai as our vocalist Beat Boxer. I was given the opportunity to perform a solo on my Tuba, an instrument not associated with solos - Bass in the Ballroom, a very fun piece. The talent did not stop there as singer Staff Sergeant Mani Kumar Rai and saxophonist Sergeant Gajendra Gurung performed the song What A Wonderful World. The Bagpipers from The Second Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles perhaps stole the show from the Band as they performed Last of the Mohicans and Highland Cathedral. The concert also had traditional Nepalese dancing to a very popular Nepali folk rock song "Taal ko Pani" performed by the new six members of the band, dressed in traditional Nepalese outfits.

The Gurkha Welfare Trust ensure that Gurkha veterans, their widows and their dependants can live with dignity. They achieve this primarily through the provision of financial, medical and community aid in Nepal, operating through 21 Area Welfare Centres spread across traditional Gurkha recruiting areas in Nepal. In the UK, in conjunction with other service charities and government bodies, they offer advice and support to

help the thousands of retired Gurkhas and their families who choose to settle here. Therefore, the Band were very pleased to be able to support this fantastic charity.

Community Christmas Concert Lydd

By Corporal Doran Gurung

On 09 Dec 2022, the band performed a Community Christmas Concert at All Saints Church Lydd, a town not far from the home of the Band in Folkestone. Since the Band has been entertaining the locals in Lydd for five years, they eagerly anticipated the upcoming show.

The unit has a good rapport with the public in Lydd and we are always highly impressed by their warm hospitality. Again, this year, the concert served as a culmination of hard work and the perfect opportunity to showcase our talents. The unit has had a particularly heavy ceremonial commitment throughout the year, and it was great to end the year with a Christmas concert for this community.

Once again, the concert featured a mix of traditional military and concert band music along with some popular contemporary and traditional Christmas selections of music. In addition to that, my solo item on the Tuba and a duo based on the evergreen hit song, What A Wonderful World with singer SSgt Mani Rai and saxophonist Sgt Gajendra Gurung was yet again highly praised. The audience also expressed great appreciation for the bagpipers from The Second Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles who performed some popular pipe tunes with the band.

Overall, it was a very successful concert and the Band managed to accumulate a total cheque of £1500 which was presented to The Gurkha Welfare Trust by Councillor Clive Goddard and Town Clerk Angela Alexander.



Captain Sunil Gurung conducting the Band during the Community Christmas Concert

As the Lydd Concert was the last concert of the year, Director of Music Captain Esther Hayes, Assistant Director of Music Captain Sunil Gurung, and all the ranks of The Band of The Brigade of Gurkhas reflected on the unconditional love and support they have had throughout the year.

GURKHA ALLIED RAPID REACTION CORPS SUPPORT BATTALION

2022 proved to be both a challenging and rewarding year for the Gurkha ARRC Support Battalion. Early in the year, the Battalion swapped tents for TES as they helped test some exciting new technology on Salisbury Plain in an urban exercise. The exercise saw the Battalion clear a notional enemy from Copehill Down Village, utilising the benefits of training with TES - such as the consequences of not using cover properly! The exercise was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part, with the exercising troops privileged to receive a visit from the Brigade commander, Brigadier Muir.

After Easter leave and up until May, the Battalion's Forward Support Troop received orders to prepare for its Mastiff Armoured vehicles to be sent to support the Ukrainian Army as part of Op SPRING GENERATION. Five of these vehicles were prepared, with soldiers working long hours to ensure they were in the best possible condition. The troops can be proud knowing that due to their selfless commitment and hard work, they have contributed to events playing out on the global stage.

June saw the Battalion deploy on Exercise DYNAMIC FRONT 22, which took place in Grafenwöhr, Germany, over the course of seven weeks. The exercise saw more than 2,700 service members, 65 artillery pieces and a number of aircraft working together to conduct integrated fire missions – essentially a test opportunity for the Multinational Field Artillery Brigade (MNFAB) concept. A multinational exercise, allied nations of NATO trained together under the unified command of ARRC HQ. It was the role of the Support Battalion to establish this HQ facility, keep it sustained in terms of real-life support (RLS), and fulfil the re-deployment. We deployed with compact team of 32 soldiers, who in true GASB fashion represented a wide range of roles and capbadges. Due to the nature of the exercise, there were limited opportunities to enjoy some down time, however these occasions were well exploited. Educational trips to Munich and Nuremburg were organised and well-attended, which included a visit to Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site, and several local museums. The trips provided an opportunity for our soldiers to recognise the scale of the holocaust and the long-term impact of the Second World War on German society; as well as improve their knowledge, appreciation and understanding of wider European culture and history.

Later in September, four members from the Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn completed the arduous Trailwalker 2022 challenge. The team finished in 5th position (of 200) with an outstanding time (12:05:56) and displayed excellent demonstration of grit, determination, and physical robustness. Moreover, it was also a great opportunity to showcase the newly formed Battalion across the Brigade of Gurkhas and the wider army.



Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn Trailwalker Team with the Bn flag



Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn Trailwalker Team and admin staff

Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn Trailwalker Team and admin staff
In October, the Battalion took part in the arduous Exercise CAMBRIAN PATROL in Brecon, Wales. Teams from the Nepal Army and Kazakhstan Army were hosted, trained and guided by members of 14 Squadron on the run up to the event, putting them in the best position possible for success on the competition start. The team was lead by Lt T Oakes with LCpl Roshan Rai as his second in command. The Battalion's team had a very strong performance at the event, and after a gruelling 48 hours managed to secure a Silver medal. The squadron is quietly confident that we can win gold next time.

Towards the end of the year, the Battalion conducted a five-day Battlefield Study of the Italian Campaign in World War 2. It shone a spotlight on the involvement of the Gurkhas in the battles of Monte Casino, Anzio and the capture of Rome. The Battlefield study demonstrated the scale and complexity of the campaign, and it also provided an opportunity to understand the challenges that come with working in a multinational coalition, as the Battalion does now as a component of HQ ARRC. The visit to the Ardeatine Caves, where 300 innocent people were murdered by the Nazi regime, was a moving experience. The visit was concluded with an act of remembrance at Cassino Commonwealth Cemetery. Our soldiers took away lessons learned, some useful insights, and will use their learning to prepare for future operations.

The year finished off with Ex KRONOS HUNTER in December, which saw much of the Battalion deployed to Cyprus for two weeks. The exercise featured one week of LFTT, plus a week of cultural visits and of course, plenty of PT. The Exercise enabled the Battalion to continue to develop the essential skills to deliver PROJECT, PROTECT and SUSTAIN effects in a tactical setting as well as complete its Collective Training Objectives.



Urban Warfare Training during Ex KRONOS HUNTER



Live firing exercise during Ex KRONOS HUNTER



Exercise team photo after completing the LFTT package in Cyprus

A busy year filled with many achievements, the Battalion now looks forward to its preparations in 2023 to being held at high readiness, ready to deploy at short notice. Jai Gurkha ARRC Support Battalion!



Group photo after a successful cultural visit to heritage of Stadium in Cyprus

THE GURKHA STAFF AND PERSONNEL SUPPORT COMPANY (GSPS)



Staff List

Colonel of the Regiment
Officer Commanding

Brigadier A D Griffiths OBE
Major Narendra Kumar Gurung

Officers

Major Suryakumar Rai
Major Jitbahadur Hamal
Major Anil Gurung
Captain Chandrakumar Limbu
Captain Suren Limbu
Captain Surendra Limbu Lingden
Captain Dugendra Tamang
Captain Sumitkumar Joshi
Captain Bijay Limbu
Captain Ram Thapa
Captain Samitchya Gurung
Captain Santoshkumar Gurung
Captain Nabin Rai
Captain Niraj Gurung

Army HQ
DCOS BGN
ICSC (L)
SO Admin Defence Sect Nepal
RAO HQ Warminster Garrison
RAO 30 Sig Regt
RAO 36 Engr Regt
RAO 1 RGR
RAO 2 RGR
RAO 10 QOGLR
Det Comd 3 Sig Regt
Det Comd 9 Regt RLC
Adjt British Gurkhas Nepal
Det Comd 22 Sig Regt

Warrant Officers Class 1

WO1 Priyachandra Rai - Supt Clk HQBG/2IC GSPS

GSPS Soldier of the Year 2022

Sergeant Suraj Rai

GSPS Senior NCO of the Year 2022

Corporal Amit Rai

Year 2022

The GSPS continues to thrive as an integral part of the serving Brigade, delivering outstanding personal capability to the BG and the wider Army in the 34 units, the members are based at.

Leap frogging into the 11th year and compounding on the remarkable success over the past years, the 147 serving Officers and soldiers delivered on all fronts in 2022. The year kick started with one of our soldiers receiving a 3* commendation on the New Year's Honours list while many more high-level commendations followed throughout the year for the others. Our first ever appointed Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officer (QGOO) was awarded the Member of the Victorian Order (MVO), one of many opportunities for this young cap-badge.

Our personnel continued to deploy at short notices to Kosovo, the USA, on Op REIMAGE which is the support to the NHS in combating the industrial strike called on by the ambulance drivers, and on various defence engagements in Europe, Singapore and New Zealand. At home, we remained agile and competitive by participating in all major sporting events; achieving a historic GOLD

at our very first attempt at the Cambrian Patrol 2022 which we aim to replicate next year and beyond. Yet, we remained humble in our beliefs by raising considerable amount through charities for those in need back home in Nepal and for charities here in the UK.

We ended the year by welcoming 4 new members from Intake 2022 to our growing GSPS Pariwar. We expect them to accept no less than the 'GOLD' standard that we have set, abiding by the 'KAIDA' and ethos we continue to promote which has allowed us to deliver first class administrative service to the Brigade and the wider Army under any challenging conditions.

Our future looks bright!

Queens' Gurkha Orderly Officer

Captain Suren Limbu MVO GSPS recieved the award from The Princess Royal. Captain Suren becomes the first ever to represent the GSPS cap badge and hold the prestigious appointment of QGOO. He also becomes the last QGOO from the Bde of Gurkhas.



Captain Surendra Limbu receiving his MVO

PROJECT OYAM

By LCpl Rajan Limbu

Oyam Memorial Hall Project (OMHP) is a fundraising campaign to build a memorial hall, with an extension to the Shree Gupteshwor school to provide essential accommodation, IT studio, library and other facilities for the children in the remote rural village community of Oyam, Nepal. The project is being executed by the 'Pahar Trust Nepal' with the support from Hello World, the Gurkha Welfare Trust and other units across the Brigade of Gurkhas. LCpl Rajan ran 5 kilometres a day for 30 days raising an impressive £5459.27, more than triple his target of £1500. He thanked his family, friends and the donors who were behind all the strength that supported him physically and mentally throughout his challenge.

For his commendable effort, LCpl Rajan was awarded with Commandant RMAS's Coin and Lt Gen Sir David Bill KCB, PTN's "Certificate of Thanks".



Corporal Rajan Limbu handing over the cheque to Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Paul Gillham

Cambrian Patrol

Our first ever GSPS Patrol Team stepped off in the early hours of the Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2022. This event is an annual international military exercise that involves its participating patrols covering a 40-mile course in less than 48 hrs while performing numerous types of military tasks and tests placed throughout the rugged Cambrian mountains and swamp lands in Wales.

The team comprised of GSPS participants who were geographically dispersed across 8 different units in the Brigade. A lot of blood, sweat and tears were spent in training and preparation in the build up to this event. Ultimately, the team managed to secure a historic Gold medal at the very first attempt in this world premier patrolling event of the British Army.



GSPS Cambrian Patrol Team



Cambrian Patrol Gold Medal

AGC Triple Crown Challenge 2022

An annual event in the Adjutant General Corps (AGC) calendar, the Triple Crown challenge is a military event where Units compete in the 'March and Shoot' over 10 miles and 'Military skills' obstacle course where participants are put through their paces testing their physical and mental resilience.



The challenge begins



The water obstacle



The Adjutant General presenting the Triple Crown Trophy



GSPS Triple Crown Team with Brigadier A D Griffiths OBE

On the 30th Anniversary of the AGC, the event was hugely attended and contested. GSPS personnel based at 1 RGR outperformed the rest of the field in the March and shoot whilst those based at 36 Engineer Regiment were winners in the Military skills - a clean sweep for GSPS.

Project CONVERGENCE 2022

By Cpl Sohan Rai

Pte Abijal Gurung and Cpl Sohan Rai - Pj CONVERGENCE 22 is a multinational campaign of demonstration and experimentation which evaluates technologies with a focus on advancing interoperability for future operational environments, Fort Irwin California USA to support 20X.



Waiting for a lift into the training area

Tough Mudder

By Sgt Manoj Thapa

Sgt Manoj and his team at Gurkha ARRC Support Battalion successfully took on the 'Tough Mudder' challenge - a globally renowned arduous 10 km course with 19 obstacles, each one engineered to test the participant's teamwork, mental grit and physical boundaries.



Sgt Manoj Thapa leading the Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn Team



Water obstacle on Ex Tough Mudder



At the finish line

Through their crowdfunding page, the team managed to raise £1050 for SSAFA, a charity organisation who has been supporting the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families since 1885.

Ex KRONOS HUNTER 8

Pte Subash Gurung

Ex KRONOS HUNTER 8, a Battalion Live Fire Tactical Training (LFTT) took place in November 2022 in Cyprus for Gurkha ARRC Sp Bn personnel. A multi-cap badged training exercise allowed participants to undertake basic fire and manoeuvre drills up to section level over the 3 weeks under hot climatic conditions. An excellent opportunity for the Unit HRs to polish their skills and drills!



A welcome break during Ex KRONOS HUNTER 8

Unit Badminton Championship

By LCpl Kshiteez Rai

LCpl Kshiteez Rai leading his 2ITB team at the UK North Inter Unit Badminton Championship. A regular starter for his Corps, LCpl Kshiteez looks forward to showcasing his skills at the Army Championship later in the year.



LCpl Kshiteez Rai warming up before his match

Movember Challenge

Stafford based GSPS personnel competing in the Birmingham Half-marathon to raise charity and awareness for prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention. They managed to raise over £500.



Movember Challenge Team

Op CABRIT

By LCpl Prashant

LCpl Prashant Rai and Pte Priyajit Gurung from 10 QOGLR RAO Detachment deployed to Op CABRIT to support the Enhance Force Presence (eFP) Battlegroup. Our main role was to provide G1 administrative and financial support to the TSS (Theatre Support Squadron) including all aspects of operational/non-operational G1 issues.



GPS Triple Crown Team with Brigadier A D Griffiths OBE

Whilst taking part in the many multinational sporting events, our standout event was the 26 km DANCON March. Through this event we managed to raise £830 towards our Gurkha Welfare Trust. This Op tour has been a good opportunity for us to push ourselves out of our comfort zones.



Pte Priyajit Gurung with his Diploma

Ex SUMAN PROTECTOR 22

By LCpl Ashish Thapa

A Five Power Defence Arrangement exercise comprising of five nations (Singapore, United Kingdom, Malaysia, Australia, and New Zealand) held in Singapore at Changi Naval Base. LCpl Ashish Thapa based at 1RGR RAO Detachment had the excellent opportunity to deploy on the exercise, gaining first hand experience working with multinational forces.



LCpl Ashish Thapa on Ex SUMAN PROTECTOR 22

Photo News



LCpl Ashish Thapa on Ex SUMAN PROTECTOR 22



GPS Attestation Parade



L Cpl Ashish Thapa on Ex SUMAN PROTECTOR 22



GSPS SNCO of the Year - Sgt Suraj Rai



GSPS Annual Ladies Dinner night at RMA Sandhurst



Pte Suraj Sinthan attended the Army Taekwondo Team Training and earned his 4th DAN from the World Taekwondo Association



Sgt Sanjay on completing his BA (Hons) Business Management Graduation from Staffordshire University



GSPS Soldier of the Year - Cpl Amit Rai

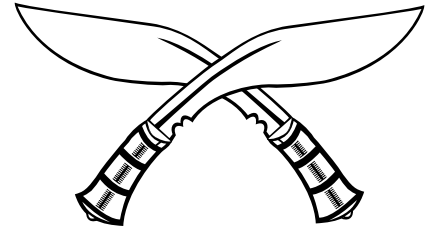


Cpl Taraman Gurung being presented the Comd 101X commendation by Brig J M Lancaster PC TD (Dep Col Comdt Brigade of Gurkhas) in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the unit throughout the year



Farewell to WO1 Priya Rai. He joins AGC(SPS) on extended service

BRITISH GURKHAS NEPAL (BGN)



Staff List

Headquarters British Gurkhas Nepal

Colonel Paul Smith Late RLC

Lieutenant Colonel Rajeshkumar Gurung RGR

Major Jit Hamal GSPS

Major Ranjankumar Badgami RGR

Capt Nabin Rai GSPS

WO1 Basantajang Gurung RGR

Capt Sundar Sherchan R Sigs

Mr Kerry Burrows

Commander BGN/Defence Attache'/

Director GWT(Nepal)

DComd/COS

DCOS

GM

Adjutant

RSM

SO3 G2/3/6

Civ Sec

Defence Section British Embassy Kathmandu

Colonel Paul Smith Late RLC

Major Kamal Gurung QG Signals

Captain Chandrakumar Limbu GSPS

Defence Attaché

AMA/MLO

SO Admin

British Gurkhas Kathmandu

Major Douglas McCutcheon

Major Surya Gurung AGC (SPS)

Capt Lalitbahadur Thapa QG Signals

Maj (Retd) Rajeev Shrestha QG Signals

Mr Sisir Kumar Pandey CS HR Manager

QM

RAO

OC NST

BUWO

British Gurkhas Pokhara

Maj Philip Lambert RGR

Capt Ganeshkumar Gurung RGR

Capt Krishnakumar Pun QGE

Capt Robert Cannon RGR

Maj (Retd) Manbahadur Gurung AGC (SPS)

Capt (Retd) Ganeshkumar Rai RGR

Capt (Retd) Tirthabhadur Gurung RGR

Capt (Retd) Hariprasad Rai QOGLR

Capt (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

Foreword By Commander BGN

By Colonel Paul Smith:

Defence Attaché Kathmandu, Commander British Gurkhas Nepal & Director Gurkha Welfare Trust



This year I wish to begin by remembering those that we have lost in what has been a challenging period for BGN/GWT. The Yeti Airlines flight 691 crash, on 15th January 2023, at the new Pokhara Airport with the cost of 72 lives was a great tragedy. Dr Ganesh Thapa, who was on board, of the GWT was known by many and played an important role in the medical improvements that GWT has implemented. His loss was terrible, but gave all of us who depend on air travel in Nepal, a pause for reflection and some difficult decision making as we returned to business as usual. Then came the loss of VC Saheb and Cpl Mani Gurung, both on 22nd Apr 2023. Both characters, both of whom made their own lasting contributions, with wonderful families that they leave behind. BGN conducted the difficult task of paying our respects in the same week and our condolences are forever with their families. But I couldn't be prouder of the way our community of soldier, civilian, veteran and family member came together. There were too many acts of selfless commitment, generosity, respect, integrity and courage to list, but they were most evident, and I use this opportunity to record my thanks and enduring loyalty to this wonderful team.

I might say that the rest of the year was normal, but there is no such thing in Nepal. We then rode the bow wave of delayed visits, inspections, treks and adventure training all returning to Nepal and reminding us of the amazing opportunities we have. The highlight, as ever, was the attestation parade and we enjoyed having the

Minister for Defence Personal & Veterans attend as well as so many others. We have been honoured with the visits of nearly all Colonels Commandant, CO's and GWT supporters.

A particular highlight for many was our participation in Everest 70. To celebrate this Captain Rob Cannon, Ops Coord at BGP led a multi-cap badge expedition to Everest Base Camp. This was really successful and while in the region they not only got to support Everest 70, but also Hari Budha Magar's successful Everest Summit, the Everest Marathon (which had GWT runners) and even supper with Nirmal Purja's team before they parachuted from above Everest into the event. As an 'official' I was also lucky enough to attend the main events with HMA as well as the Hilary and Tenzing Sherpa families at Khumjung, that included a private Sherpa ceremony at the local Monastery that will stay long in the memory. I also met with Col John Hunt's (the expedition leader) daughter, and while Everest was a civilian undertaking, it nonetheless informed me that it drew on experience from the British Army and the Brigade of Gurkhas.

If anything encapsulated the special bond between the people of Nepal, its leaders, our Veterans and the diplomatic relationship, then it was the way Nepal honoured our Royal Family and Royal Colonel in Chief. In this year we have celebrated the Platinum Jubilee, loss of Her Majesty and Coronation of the King. Our

contribution has been marked with notes from the then Prince of Wales, during the Platinum celebrations and then as King his generous personal agreement that our new Multi Use Hall in Pokhara should bear his name. Throughout both HMA and I have received private and public notes of respect for our Royal family and what their close personal interest in Nepal means, either via Gurkhas, but also development and wildlife sustainability. This really is a special place with a people-to-people relationship embedded in mutual respect and similar ideals that we are honoured to nurture and grow.

I look forward to welcoming many of you to Nepal over the next year and showing you the work, we are doing on behalf of the Brigade.

Jai BGN!

Foreword By Deputy Commander BGN **By Lieutenant Colonel Rajeshkumar Gurung RGR**

Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) Rajeshkumar Gurung joined BGN as the Deputy Commander / Chief of Staff BGN from October 2022. His appointment is historic to BGN, the unit having a Gurkha officer of Nepali origin as the Chief of Staff for the very first time.



Lt Col Rajeshkumar Gurung enlisted into the Brigade of Gurkhas in 1990 in Pokhara, Nepal, as a Combat Clerk. On completion of basic training, he joined 2nd Battalion 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles in Brunei. Following Options for Change and the merger of Gurkha units, he volunteered to be re-rolled as General Duty Infantry in 1994.

As a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer, he has held the appointment of Platoon Sergeant, Assistant Intelligent

Officer and was the first Gurkha to pass Special Duties selection and served with the unit between 2005-2007. On promotion to Warrant Officer, he was appointed Warrant Officer Instructor in the Brigade Training Team.

Lt Col Rajesh was commissioned in June 2008 and was appointed as the first Gurkha Battlegroup Intelligence Officer. He then took over the appointment of Regimental Signals Officer and deployed on Operation HERRICK 12. On completion of this tour, he was appointed Quartermaster Technical of 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles (1RGR) and deployed on Operation HERRICK 16/17 as Camp Bastion Quartermaster Technical in Acting Major rank. On completion of his operational tour, he was appointed Second-in-Command Gurkha Company Catterick in 2014 and was promoted the same year and took over the command of Support Company 1RGR in Brunei. He was the first Gurkha Late Entry officer to have been selected to attend the Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Land) at Joint Services Command and Staff College Shrivenham and on completion he was appointed to SO2 Training Plans in Command and Staff Tactical Training Group. He commanded the biggest recruit intake of 432 recruits and 104 permanent staff as Officer Commanding Gurkha Company Catterick. He was appointed as the Gurkha Major in July 2021, a firm believer in Gurkha kaida. Lt Col Rajesh was delighted to have been appointed as the Deputy Commander BGN and looks forward to serving both the United Kingdom and Nepal with enthusiasm.

During his career he has served in Hong Kong, New-Zealand, Canada, Belize, France, Germany, Brunei, Kenya and New Caledonia. He has completed numerous operational tours including Kosovo, Bosnia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Afghanistan (three tours).

Lt Col Rajesh received the CBF Commendation during Op AGRICOLA in Kosovo for his valuable service and was further awarded the Prince of Wales Kukuri for outstanding service and broadening the name of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

Lt Col Rajesh is married to Vhaumati and they have three children, Lilly, Rasmi and Mahesh.

Tribute at Queen's Funeral in Nepal

British Gurkhas Nepal paid tribute to Her Majesty The Late Queen at the National Botanical Garden, Kathmandu on 19 September, the day of the Queen's funeral. Her Majesty's Ambassador (HMA) to Nepal, Nicola Pollitt and Colonel Paul Smith, Commander BGN laid wreaths at the tree which Her Majesty had planted on her visit to Nepal in 1986. The tree stands beside another tree which was planted by the late Prince Philip.

On the same day, Gurkha veterans and BGN officers and staff took part in a condolence ceremony organised

by the British Embassy at the White Monastery in Kathmandu where HMA to Nepal and Maj (Retd) Yam Bahadur Rana MVO MBE, representing the British Gurkha veterans' community, lit lamps and offered prayers for late The Queen. Buddhist monks recited prayers and performed rituals at the ceremony.

Many Gurkha veterans turned up for the funeral programme screening held at the British Embassy premises in Kathmandu which brought the events to a close. HMA to Nepal thanked everyone for their attendance and for coming together on such an sad occasion.



HMA to Nepal Nicola Pollitt presents the LSGC Medal to Corporal Kailash Rai



HMA to Nepal Nicola Pollitt lays wreath at the tree planted by The Late Queen at the National Botanical Garden, Godawari, Nepal as BGN and British Embassy Staff pay their respects

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal Parade

Awards were presented to BGN's deserving staff on 08 September by HMA to Nepal Nicola Pollitt and Commander BGN, Colonel Paul Smith. They addressed the assembled group on the occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal Parade (QPJM) at BGN Kathmandu. They highlighted the special relationship between the United Kingdom and Nepal and the important role Her late Majesty, The Queen, played in fostering and nurturing which was the foundation of the British Gurkhas.

The Awards presentations included Long Service and Good Conduct (LSGC) Medals to Corporal Kailash Rai and Lance Corporal Durga Gurung, Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medals to 24 Serving Personnel of BGN Kathmandu, Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) UK Service Medal and Honorary Associate Certificate to Mr Khadka Prasad Thapa, QM SFM C, and National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (NPLQ) UK to staff of BGN Kathmandu and Pokhara camps.



Colonel Paul Smith, Commander BGN lights a candle to The Late Queen's picture at a funeral ceremony in Bouddha, Kathmandu

HMA, Dignitaries mark Queen's Green Canopy in Nepal HMA to Nepal, HE Nicola Pollitt, Defence Attache' Colonel Paul Smith and Deputy Commander British Gurkhas Nepal (BGN) Lt Colonel Simon Townsend along with Dr Buddhi Sagar Poudel, Director General



BGN Officers and Staff following the presentations of the QPJM Parade

Department of Plants and Resources, Nepal, marked the Queen's Green Canopy in Nepal on 24 March 2022 commemorating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee to ascension. The dignitaries started the programme at the National Botanical Garden, Nepal by planting the Nepali Holi tree 'Punwale' (Aquifoliaceae), the same plant species planted by The Queen during her visit to Nepal in 1986 in the same Garden. They were followed by other guests who helped plant 70 saplings at the site marking 70 years of the Queen's reign.



The Serving Members, dependents and Civilian Staff of British Gurkhas Nepal were among the guests at the programme.

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative was a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invited people from across the United Kingdom and beyond to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". The event was also linked to the historic tree planting that her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II conducted in 1986 at the National Botanical Garden.

Remembrance Service, BGN

The Remembrance Service at British Gurkhas Nepal was observed on 11 November 2022, marking Armistice Day. The Parades in Kathmandu, Pokhara and Dharan were attended by large numbers of Gurkha veterans who came to pay their respects for all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Colonel Paul Smith, Commander; Lt Col Rajesh Gurung, Deputy Commander and Major Ranjankumar Badgami, Gurkha Major laid wreaths at the Gurkha Monument in Kathmandu. Kerry Burrows, Civil Secretary BGN and Mr Khadkprasad Thapa paid their respects on behalf of the BGN Civilian Staff community.

The Service in Pokhara was held at the Gurkha Memorial Museum. Major Phil Lambert, OC and Captain Ganeshkumar Gurung 2IC, British Gurkhas Pokhara (BGP) led the Service in Pokhara, while Major Jit Hamal, DCOS BGN led the service held at the cemetery for British Gurkha soldiers in Dharan.

Maj (Retd) Bhim Bahadur Gurung, Chairman, Regimental Association Nepal (RAN); Lt Col (Retd) J P Cross and Maj (Retd) Jhaptaman Limbu, Chairman RAN East laid the wreaths in Kathmandu, Pokhara and Dharan respectively on behalf of the Gurkha veteran community in Nepal.

Officers and staff present at the Services observed a two-minute silence in tribute to those who gave their lives in service and who remain in our memories. We in turn, maintain their traditions and ethos.



HMA to Nepal Nicola Pollitt; Colonel Paul Smith, Commander BGN; Lt Colonel Simon Townsend, Deputy Commander BGN and Dr Buddhi Sagar Poudel, DG, Department of Plants and Resources, Nepal, plant a sapling marking the Queen's Green Canopy campaign in Nepal



Pokhara- Veterans and family attend the Remembrance Service in Pokhara



Remembrance Service in HQ BGN, Kathmandu



Remembrance Service in Dharan

Community Engagement

Major Ranjankumar Badgami, in his capacity as the Gurkha Major BGN, ran various activities related with engaging with the local people and communities. Community Engagement has become a core activity of BGN which the Gurkha Major oversees. As in previous years, 2022 had several different events aimed at strengthening the support and relation between BGN and the local groups and communities.

Gurkha Recruitment

Increasing access, deselection early, and diversifying further to select raw talent for the Brigade.

Our role in Nepal. HMG's role in Nepal remains as multi-faceted as ever. Aside of recruiting, HMG staff and projects help the people of Nepal in governance, poverty reduction, job creation, investment, and economic growth. We continue to assist Nepal in developing and building disaster-resilient infrastructure, whilst supporting serving and retired Gurkhas, their dependents, and communities. Above all, our principal focus is Gurkha recruitment.

Nepal remains the second smallest economy in South Asia. It will soon graduate from Least Developed

Country (LDC) status through its recent and impressive economic surge to become a lower middle-income country. Like its people, it remains resilient in the face of the reduction in growth due to the pandemic and against all odds. It is however important to note that, as experienced in the great 2015 Earthquake, Nepali households are only one shock away from falling back into poverty. In this relative vulnerability, despite Nepali people's unique positivity in the face of hardship, we owe it to them to create opportunity where possible.

Nepal is undergoing a distinct societal and total paradigm shift from the primarily rural and arable farming community you might have experienced as a child, on your language course or mid-way through a Directed Duty Trek. As many of you will be acutely aware, economic migration towards the densely populated areas of Dharan, Surkhet, Nepalgunj, Chitwan, Pokhara and Kathmandu is more pronounced than ever and continues to grow steadily. This mass-migration manifests itself in the increased number of Basai Serai or District migration certificates that our team processes at the earliest stages of the recruiting cycle. Nepal is changing at a rapid rate, with a population of circa 30M and increasing life expectancy, from 69 years for men to 72 years for women (2021 census).

Opportunities for Nepal. BGN continues to create opportunity in Nepal. In 2022, BGN recruited 218 Trainee Riflemen (T/Rfn) and 140 Trainee Policemen (T/Pcn). This year, we have just recruited 204 T/Rfn in for service in the Brigade of Gurkhas and 144 T/Pcn for the Gurkha Contingent Singapore Police Force (GCSPF). In parallel, HMG is creating opportunities elsewhere too. Given the trained surplus that exists in Nepal, our NHS has plans to recruit 2,000 Nepali Nurses over 5 years with a manageable pilot scheme starting this year, a process for which BGN offered guidance in its infancy. The Tri-partite Agreement of 1947, from which we enjoy international legal authority, continues to be shaped by Indian influence. The Indian Army recruits 2,000 to feed a parade strength of 32,000 Indian Gurkhas across 40 battalions. India has directed a vast Defence transformation known as Agnipath, creating an impasse with the GoN that has paused Indian Gurkha recruiting entirely for the second year running. In BGN we are watching that space as it may have a marked impact on the numbers of Potential Recruits (PRs) we welcome for registration as day-visitors across Nepal.



All 77 districts saw successful registrations in RI23



Recruit Cell Offices, British Gurkhas Pokhara

Recruiting update. Recruiting remains stable and resilient in the face of recent public health and geopolitical world events. Despite lengthy evacuations of families, BGN successfully delivered 2 successful recruit intakes under the pressures of the pandemic. Recruiting remains unique and complex in its structure. HQ Home Command (HC) as the Training Requirements Authority (TRA) delegates the policy and standards for Gurkha selection to HQ Brigade of Gurkhas (HQBG).

GOC Regional Command (RC) maintains responsibility for delivering Firm Base in Nepal, with a clear and Interdependent relationship between HQ RC and HQBG supporting its structure. It is important to note that Gurkha Recruiting is not owned by Army Recruiting and Initial Training Command (ARITC). The Comd of Gurkha selection is delegated to Comd BGN (HQ BGN) as Chief Recruiting Officer (CRO), via direction from GOC RC. The delivery of Gurkha selection falls to the Deputy Recruiting Officer (DRO) based in Pokhara.

As recruiting was not covered in last year's edition of the Kukri, I will begin by covering wave-tops from Recruit Intake 2022 (RI22). Last year's OMICRON surge required British Gurkhas Nepal (BGN) to adapt force health protection measures to ensure the Nepali Potential Recruits (PRs), their families and the local population remained as protected as feasibly possible. With over 35% testing positive at the gate by the first day, we decided to offer the opportunity to re-attempt selection after 10 days isolation. After four weeks of recruiting, 218 Trainee Riflemen were chosen from 420 PRs, and flew to the UK in Feb 22 to begin their careers. RI23 started immediately afterwards, and a relative return to normality enabled the Recruiting team to return to the delivery of Community briefs in the RI23 Advertising Campaign.

Advertising. For the first time in 3 years, the recruiting briefing teams were able to physically visit 71 of the 77 districts across Nepal. An update to our



Recruiting Activities in the hills of Nepal

recruiting cycle was briefed to PRs, parents, and local dignitaries alike in person and our Mantra of Free-Fair-Transparent was reiterated. We travelled 9,595km to brief 10,225 PRs, including the people of most isolated district of Humla, walking 180km to reach the District Headquarters in Simikhot.

Online registration was maintained and simplified this year to give greater access to PRs from disadvantaged backgrounds. This year saw 19,385 applicants register interest, including a sharp increase from applicants from the most remote regions of Dolpa, Rolpa, Jumla and Humla, who would have previously travelled many days to register.

The cycle. Our recruitment cycle post advertising and online registration is broken into 3 phases of execution; Phase 1 (Registration), Phase 2 (Initial Selection) and Phase 3 (Final Selection). Phase 1 (Registration) concluded on 29 Jul 22 and provided a call forward list of Potential Recruits (PRs) from 19,385 down to 5,057 PRs for British Army (BA) and 2,879 PRs for Gurkha Contingent Singapore Police Force (GCSPF) for attendance at Phase 2 (Initial Selection) from across all districts of Nepal. Phase 2 (Initial selection) takes place at BGP and concluded on 27 Sep 22 for GCSPF and on 15 Dec 22 for BA. A call-forward list of 280 PRs for GCSPF was published on 29 Sep 22. A call-forward list of 420 PRs for BA was published at the completion of Phase 2 (Initial Selection) on 16 Dec 22 on the BGN Recruiting Website. Phase 3 (Final Selection) was run at BGP between 9 Jan - 23 Feb 23 (9 Jan - 9 Feb 23 for the BA and 11 - 23 Feb 23 for GCSPF). Immediately after selection, Gurkha Company Catterick (GCC) delivered an improved Induction Programme for the BA T/Rfn. A total of 420 BA and 280 GCSPF Potential Recruits (PRs) from Phase 2 (Initial Selection) attended this phase, from which 204 T/Rfn were selected and returned to the UK to begin the Combat Infantry Course (Gurkha). 144 T/Pcn have been selected and have returned to Singapore. The Attestation parade took place on 10 Feb 23 and was attended by Minister DPV (The Hon Dr Andrew Murrison) and Col Comdt BG (Lt Gen Richard Wardlaw) amongst other high-profile dignitaries.



Recruit Selection Test - Repeated Lift and Carry Test



The Doko Race

Deselection. The considerable reduction in PR numbers detailed above is achieved by evaluating eligibility and suitability for service. PRs are scored and placed in an Order of Merit (OOM). The OOM is used to select PRs for service in both the Brigade of Gurkhas and Singapore Police Force. If at any point an applicant fails to meet one of the required standards (administrative, medical, physical, educational or character) they will be deemed unsuitable for selection into the BA and GCSPF and will not be permitted to proceed any further. Phase 1 (Registration). Of the 19,385 PRs registered online, 12,889 PRs registered an interest in joining the British Army and made the journey to their nearest Army Career Information Office (ACIO). For the first time we opened a new ACIO in Birendranagar, Surkhet, based out of one of our Area Welfare Centres (AWCs) in Bheri. This enabled 2,520 PRs from the furthest and most isolated 27 far-western districts to attend Phase 1 without having to commute to Pokhara. In total, 5,057 PRs were successful across Nepal.



Army Career Information Office (ACIO) locations in Nepal

Phase 2 (Initial Selection). 5,057 PRs were called forward to attend Phase 2. This stage of our recruiting cycle required PRs to pass objective medical, physical, and education assessments. All assessment processes are carefully assured by higher HQs from the UK to ensure standards and procedures are followed and our Mantra is protected at all costs. A call-forward list of 420 PRs was subsequently published in late December 2022 to start Phase 3 in 2023.

Phase 3 (Final Selection). The penultimate phase of Gurkha Selection saw PRs return to Pokhara to face interviews, further physical assessments, as well as summative education assessments. The infamous doko race saw the hopeful PRs ascend over 500m, along a testing 5.8km route, with 15kgs of sand in a wicker basket suspended on their shoulders and neck, in under 46 minutes. This year our record was broken several times in Balam Danda, with the fastest time being recorded as 32mins48secs by an GCSPF PR on 13 Feb. Once the Doko is completed, remaining PRs return to BGP to conduct interviews with a panel of 3 board members. The board is made up of one British DE Officer, one Gurkha LE Officer and one retired (Ex-Capt) GSF Civilian Staff Recruit Cell member. Once all interviews are complete, the results are collated and the final quota of T/Rfn (BA) & T/Pcn (GCSPF) are selected from an OOM that is assured by the lead assurer, CIVSEC BGN.



Phase 3 (Final Selection) in BGP



Maj Phil Lambert RGR, DRO, congratulating a successful candidate

Attestation to His Majesty King Charles III. Recruit Intake 23 took their oath at the Attestation Parade in BGP on 10 February 2023, in presence of our Col Comdt, Lt Gen Richard Wardlaw, and Min DPV, The Rt Hon Dr Andrew Murisson MP. The 204 selected Trainee Riflemen attested for the first time to His Majesty King Charles III. Over 700 Family members witnessed the parade along with many dignitaries from the diplomatic community.



Capt (Ret'd) Ganeshkumar Rai BEM, SRO, briefs PRs before their Final result



Inspection of Intake 23 by our Col Comdt, Lt Gen Richard Wardlaw, and Min DPV, The Rt Hon Dr Andrew Murisson MP



Following their Attestation, RI23 march past Col Comdt, Lt Gen Richard Wardlaw, and Min DPV, The Rt Hon Dr Andrew Murisson MP

The future of recruiting. BGN's underlying recruiting principles and Mantra remain intact as we move into RI24. We will continue to agree our common approach to Recruit Intake 2024 (RI24), with a renewed commitment to BGN's underlying recruiting principles and Mantra of Free, Fair and Transparent. We are committed to increasing access for PRs living in the most isolated areas of Nepal. We will do so by maintaining and improving our footprint in Far-Western Nepal via the renovation of our Army Career and Information Office (ACIO) in Birendranagar, Surkhet. Thanks to ongoing



Recruit Intake 2023

support by the Army Career and Information Office (ACIO) in Birendranagar, Surkhet. Thanks to ongoing support by the GWT, we have been able to make use of Area Welfare Centre (AWC) Bheri, as a base from which to conduct the initial stages of online registration. We will diversify recruiting further by advertising across 72 of the 77 districts. We remain focussed on anticipating any change in the permissive operating environment and extrinsic factors that may extend our remit (i.e., female recruiting). Throughout our planning, we ensure it is only credible statistics that shape measurable and progressive change in our recruiting cycle. Thereafter it is only objective deselection that guides our cycle, except for interviews, for which the APC framework model helps interviewers rely on set descriptions in which to situate the most accurate depiction of a candidate's interview performance. This entire process is zeroed deliberately to ensure the boards agree on the marking scheme. Although interviewing is primarily subjective, the framework we call upon helps make the decision-making process and grading as objective as possible.

Removal of the 50/50 quota. This year, for the first time in Gurkha Recruiting History, the 50/50 East/West quota removal was implemented at Phase 3 (Final Selection). This decision is driven by credible statistics and made by the BG Council of Colonels. Early signs are extremely promising with a healthy balance observed between the East-West (55/45% approx.). Although done to maximise opportunities for PRs that are most deserving on our OOM, we are conscious and directed to monitor its progress, as we would not

wish to impede on our relationship with Nepal and our permissive operating environment. This is a significant move in the right direction.

Inclusion of Kathmandu Valley. For the first time in our history, PRs from Lalitpur, Bhaktapur and Bagmati Districts were allowed to apply and attempt selection for the BA and GCSPF. This represents a significant milestone and development in Gurkha Recruiting has seen the first successful PR from one of the three Kathmandu valley districts join our Brigade. Kathmandu valley applicants were not allowed to apply for the Brigade of Gurkhas until RI23. GoN's Defence Minister approved this amendment and this year saw one applicant from Lalitpur succeed with an NPP registered in one of the three Kathmandu Valley districts.

Our Brigade's Recruit Cell. It is crucial not to forget the Retired Gurkha Officers that continue to support the Bde with a thorough grasp, corporate understanding, and deep passion for recruiting. Three Area Recruiting Officers (AROs) and one Senior Recruiting Officer (SRO) continue to offer advice and guidance to the British Officer leading Recruiting, Kaida, and a *raison d'être* in all matters of public perception which is vital in protecting the permissive operating environment we are fortunate to enjoy. Selecting the next generation of Gurkhas is an honour and a vocation from which a DRO learns many valuable life lessons. Most importantly, it is the team in place, their talent and commitment, which makes recruiting more fulfilling. Of note, two pillars of our recruit cell are leaving us after over a decade of service. Their corporate understanding and grasp of intricacies only those living here can fully emphasise BGN's current SRO, Capt (Ret'd) Ganeshkumar Rai BEM, will hand over all he knows to his successor in May 24. He will be accompanied by our ARO Coord, Capt (Ret'd) Tirtha Bahadur Gurung, retiring from the recruit cell in Apr 24. The job adverts for both positions will be advertised at the next Brigade week in Jun 23. The future of the Brigade depends on the Recruit Cell here in BGP.

Hami Jasto Kohi Chaina

Jai BGN! Jai Recruit Cell! Jai the Brigade of Gurkhas!

Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association

Staff List

Colonel (Retd) A M Mills OBE, late QGE
Major (Retd) Bijayant Sherchan MBE, ex-GSPS
Dr Engineer Narayan Gurung Phd
Captain (Retd) Rajan Rai, ex-10 GR/2 RGR
Captain (Retd) Pradip Limbu, ex-QOGLR
Captain (Retd) Meenjang Gurung, ex-QGE

Director
Deputy Director
Technical Director
Projects Director
Administrative Officer
Training Director

It began over dinner at Flagstaff House, Hong Kong, in 1968 when Sir Horace Kadoorie and the then Brigadier Bunny Burnett agreed to help Gurkha pensioners returning to Nepal. Resettlement Lessons in agriculture were provided at Kadoorie Farm in the New Territories; then two additional farms were established in Nepal and, before long, agricultural training and projects were provided through the Gurkha Welfare Trust's network of Welfare Centres. Today, the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association (KAAA), with its 66 permanent staff and 143 seasonal tradesmen, is still generously funded by the Kadoorie Family. We provide infrastructure projects and employment training to poor communities in the mid and upper hills of Nepal.

Over the past year we have:

Infrastructure

- **Bridges.** Built 14 trail bridges spanning 24-120m.
- **Water Supply.** Built 13 water projects, providing water to 5,000 people. 3 of these projects have involved vertical pumping powered by solar arrays.



Villagers carrying a bridge cable



Chumling micro hydroelectric plant in NE Gorkha

- **Micro Hydro Electricity.** Built 5 hydroelectric projects, providing electricity to some 7,000 people.
- **Earthquake Repair.** We have completed our earthquake reconstruction programme, building some 800 houses in 13 remote villages. For the most part we have used metal-fibre-sandwich and stone construction.

Special Projects

- **Cliff Trackways.** Built 7 kms of trackway in areas affected by landslides.
- **Trout Farm.** A Trout Farm that sold 11.5 tons of trout, generating welfare income.
- **Apple Orchard.** Planted 3,700 saplings. Apples to market in 2025.
- **Solar Home Lighting.** Provided 560 solar home lighting sets.
- **Medical Camps.** Conducted 3 remote area camps, each treating some 2,000 patients.

Employment Training

We provide employment training to some 540 youth per annum. These range through 30 different courses; from 3-months masonry training to a 3-year diploma in Medicine (HA).

Discretionary Funding

We have provided some £45K in discretionary funding, mostly in the fields of medical support, earthquake repair, destitution, education and support to NGOs. In addition, The Kadoorie Charitable Foundation provides funding to a number of NGOs.

Governance

Close partners with the GWT, we work to our own trustees, who are based in Hong Kong. We also support the British Embassy and, granting us a license to operate, the Nepal Ministry of Defence.

It is a great honour to play our part in Team Gurkha, at the request of the British Government. We value the help we receive from the GWT, the Brigade and the Embassy and, after 55 years of successful partnership, we look forward to many more.



Team Gurkha: KAAA, BGN & GWT(N)

THE GURKHA WELFARE TRUST

Gurkhas living their lives with dignity

Staff List

Al Howard
Nigel Rowe
Adam Bentham
Francine Coles
Gary Ghale

Colonel Paul Smith
Lieutenant Colonel Matt Hing RLC
Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Yambahadur Rana Ex-QGS
Dr Gerda Pohl MRCP

Chief Executive Officer
Chief of Staff
Head of Fundraising & Communications
Head of Finance
Head of Gurkha Welfare (UK)

Director Gurkha Welfare Trust (Nepal)
Field Director
Deputy Field Director
Medical Director

Throughout the year, our team of over 500 staff in Nepal have continued to work tirelessly to deliver financial, medical, and development aid to Gurkha veterans, their widows, and communities. The team continue to not only reach our pensioners to give pensions and provide medical care, but also met ambitious deadlines for the completion of school builds, earthquake-resilient homes and clean water projects.

In the UK a host of our supporters have been raising money through a range of physical challenges and community fundraising initiatives. We have also seen the return of two popular events, Trailwalker and the Doko Challenge. Despite the challenges of the current economic climate, our loyal supporters, including many serving and ex Brigade members, have continued to give generously to provide the vital funds that we need to continue our work in Nepal.

Financial Aid

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 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.



Rfn Jitbahadur Gurung receives a pension from the GWT

Last year we paid a pension worth 14,500 Nepali Rupees per month to over 3,400 vulnerable Gurkha veterans and widows.

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 this is their only source of income.

We also provide financial aid through other grants. The Home Carers Allowance is a grant for family members of Gurkha veterans or widows who care for them full time and are not able to work. The Disability Support Grant is provided for disabled dependents of Gurkha veterans and widows to help them live in comfort and with dignity.

We provided a Disability Support Grant to 239 people, and a Home Carer's Allowance to 302 people.

Our Mobile Support Teams

Our teams travel by motorbike to reach pensioners in remote locations.

As our pensioners grow older, they are increasingly vulnerable, and many are reliant on home visits by our Mobile Support Teams who deliver pensions, carry out



Our teams travel by motorbike to reach pensioners in remote locations

health checks and deliver medical equipment, mobility aids and medicines. 54% of our pensioners are now over 80 years old, and over 60 of them are centenarians. Without our continued intervention many of them would be totally isolated and unable to look after themselves.

Our medical teams undertook 8,870 home visits over the course of the year.

Hope in her time of need - Chij Kumari’s story

Chij Kumari Gurung’s late husband, Chyomal Gurung, served in the 4th Gurkha Rifles at the height of World War Two. Chyomal enlisted into the army shortly after they were married. Chij Kumari spoke of her late husband’s service with great pride, remembering how bravely he fought before being captured and held as a prisoner of war.



Widow Chij Kumari Gurung

“My husband said that he fought continuously for seven days and seven nights. While fighting against the Japanese, he was captured, but he managed to escape somehow. He survived on the roots of banana trees as he was fleeing through the jungles. Later, Chyomal was asked to produce his certificate and claim the seven medals he was awarded. He was awarded seven medals!”

When Chyomal returned to Nepal and was reunited with his wife, their life was far from easy. “We worked on the land and survived on what we could. As we grew older, it was getting difficult. He had a stroke and was paralysed and bedridden.”

Desperate to make ends meet and support their eight children, the couple discovered Chyomal was eligible for The Gurkha Welfare Trust’s pension. “There was a Lieutenant from our village who helped us get the GWT’s pension. Chyomal could not speak properly but he was able to say when he had joined and when he left the army.”

The pension that we provided each month ensured they could afford the essentials of life such as food, clothing, and fuel. Even after Chyomal passed away, we continued looking after his widow - the pension has been a lifeline for Chij Kumari and her children.

For a 93 year-old, Chij Kumari is coping well with life in the village. She is looked after by one of her sons but

is still active and walking around the house, using the walking stick we provided for her. She keeps busy by spending time with her family - two daughters, six sons, and nineteen grandchildren.

Chij Kumari’s home was destroyed after the devastating earthquake of 2015. She was one of the first to receive the Trust’s earthquake-resilient homes, skilfully designed to protect her when the next tremors strike.

“The GWT built a new house for me!” she exclaimed, gesturing around her. “Yes, I am happy. How can I not be when you are helping me? You provide clothing items every year. You provide me with medicines too. It is because of the GWT’s medicine that I continue to live as I do.”

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 for the cold weather with a winter gift. In the past we have distributed blankets, warm jackets, hats, scarves, and gloves. Last year, we provided rice cookers, something which was requested by many of our pensioners.



Delivering the Winter Allowance

Medical Aid

We provide an international standard of healthcare and medication to Gurkha veterans and their families living in Nepal. We do this through our regional medical clinics, via home visits by specialist staff and by arranging subsidised treatment at carefully selected national hospitals.

Last year we treated 120,920 medical cases and dispensed 53,481 items of medication.



Mobile Health Practitioner on home visit

Life-Changing Treatments at our Medical Camps

With the generous support of one of our UK donors, we also provide free medical camps for people living in the most remote communities in Nepal. For many, this is the only medical assistance they receive. Relatively simple procedures like cataract removals, ear operations and dental treatment can make all the difference to those living in discomfort. We also organise dedicated prosthetics camps where we fit prosthetic limbs, transforming the lives of many adults and children living with disabilities.



Manma Medical Camp

We saw a total of 2,245 patients at our four medical camps in Manma, Mugu, Bajura and Sankhusaba.

At our Medical Camp in Manma, Kalikot District, we carried out 165 dental treatments, assisted over 35 patients with rehabilitation, and performed more than 168 ear operations, of which 25 patients received hearing aids.

Building a brighter future for Nepal's Children

Our Schools Programme matches specific commitments from individual donors and charitable trusts to build, repair and improve 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. School refurbishments include repairs to existing classroom buildings, installation of handwashing stations and toilets. Even the provision of new classroom furniture can make a huge improvement to the learning environment. All our buildings are constructed to an earthquake-resilient standard to ensure their safety and longevity.

Last year we completed 2 major school builds, 17 school extensions and 80 school refurbishments.



Shree Saraswati Balkalyan Secondary School

Giving students at Shree Prithvi a safe place to learn Shree Prithvi Secondary School was initially built in 1960 as a primary school. Since then, Shree Prithvi has grown substantially through the decades, and now runs classes for 560 students. Each day, many of the pupils walk for over an hour to and from the secondary school, as it is the only school in the area that teaches up to grade 12.

Before our intervention, Shree Prithvi was in a poor state. Holes in the classroom roofs leaked water when it rained, and the floors would become slippery with mud. Strong winds would also blow dust into the rooms. With no lights or electricity, students studied in the dark.

We got straight to work, constructing two school buildings of 18 classrooms, one community hall, a toilet block, a tap stand and chain link fencing. We also refurbished an existing school block, the school's library, and furnished all of the new classrooms.

"After the school project's completion, the place looked completely different," said one of our team members. "A big, sturdy school building was standing strong. It now has proper desks and benches, whiteboards in every classroom, lights and electrical sockets, ceiling fans, a library full of books, toilets for boys and girls with handwashing tap stands, a disability-friendly toilet, a multipurpose hall, fencing surrounding the school, solid doors and windows and most importantly, a proper school environment where children can focus on their studies."

All the children and teachers were thrilled with their new school. Fourteen-year-old Mahesh is looking forward to studying his favourite subject, mathematics, in comfort. "The new building is very good. Before, when it rained, water used to enter the classrooms. The floor was not cemented so the classrooms used to be all muddy. But now we don't have to worry about these things. The desks and benches were also old and damaged, but now we have new ones. Now we have a proper toilet and hand washing tap stand.

“I love the new school building and I am very happy to be able to study in this school. I want to thank all the donors from the bottom of my heart for such a wonderful school building. I will study hard and make them proud.”



Shree Prithvi Secondary School

Another student, 16-year-old Renuka, expressed how happy she was with her new school. “We love everything about this school building. We have now lights and electricity in our classrooms. We are well protected from the water. This the only school in our area with such a wonderful infrastructure. We want to thank the donors very much. We will try and do better in our studies. We are very happy. Thank you.”

Rana Bahadur Rai, the school’s principal, said that after the school rebuild, student enrolment increased by ten percent. “The work done by GWT is very professional and very good,” he said. “New books have recently arrived in our library. The students are very happy. “We feel very fortunate to have received this major school project and so does the community. This village will not forget the work that GWT has done for us.”

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 livelihoods. Since then we have been working to build earthquake-resilient homes for our most vulnerable pensioners, so that they will be protected when the next tremors strike.



Earthquake Resilient Home for Gurkha veteran Krishna Ram Rai

During the year, we built 73 new homes for Gurkha veterans and widows.

We also awarded Emergency Hardship Grants to 117 people, to provide emergency supplies, essential items and home repairs for those hit by disasters including heavy monsoon rain, floods and landslides.

Trailwalker team funds earthquake-resilient home

Having a safe place to call home is increasingly important to Gurkha veterans and widows, especially as they grow older. World War II veteran Kerbahadur Ghale now has this, thanks to the funds raised by the 2019 Trailwalker team ‘24-Hour Dal Bhat Power’.

The team of four raised an incredible amount in 2019. Originally, they had set a £12,000 fundraising goal to complete the construction of a rural school project in Nepal. By the end of the event, the team raised over £17,000, enough to additionally fund a new earthquake-resilient home for a GWT pensioner.



Maj Dillikumar Rai with Rfn Kerbahadur Ghale 3GR

Kerbahadur served with the 3rd Gurkha Rifles, in the British Indian Army. He enlisted in 1943 and did his recruit training in Dehradun, before being posted to the 2/3 Gurkha Rifles. At the height of the war, he had pre-deployment training in Ranchi and was then deployed straight to Burma in 1944. He served as a medical orderly, tending to the wounded. At the end of the war, he returned to Dehradun and was released from service in early 1948.

“I wanted to come back to my village,” Kerbahadur said. “I am originally from a village in the Syangja district. But it was tough in the hills, so we decided to move to the Terai plains around 17 years ago.”

Kerbahadur's new house was built next to the home of his daughter-in-law, where he had lived previously and shared a room with his grandsons. Now he has the space to live comfortably and with dignity, which is more important than ever at 96 years old. Most essentially, this home will keep Kerbahadur and his family safe from earthquakes, landslides, and flooding in Nepal's unpredictable environment.

"The British have compassion for us," Kerbahadur said. Major Dillikumar Rai, pictured above left, was delighted to visit Kerbahadur in his new home last year.

Clean Water and Sanitation

Our water projects bring clean water and sanitation to remote communities in Nepal. We install individual tap stands and toilets for 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.

Bringing clean water to a remote village in Nepal is a mammoth task. There are many steps, from designing the water system and gathering the building materials, to constructing the piping and tap stands. However, the most important part of our water projects is getting the village community involved. We empower residents with education on sanitation and how to maintain their new water system, so they can enjoy the benefits for years to come.

Last year we completed 32 water projects, installed 1,125 tap stands and benefited 6,034 people.



GWT Water project

Bringing clean water to Barswara

Gurkha widow Masino Gurung told us that she is forever grateful to the GWT's donors for helping bring clean water to her village. At 78 years old, Masino cannot walk far distances, and before our intervention she struggled to collect clean water every day.

"We faced a lot of hardship for water in the past," Masino said. "I have a problem with my back - so it was very difficult to fetch water."

Masino's rural village of Barswara is 100km from Pokhara, and you'd need to travel off-road for half the journey to reach it. When we first arrived, it was clear that the communal water tap system was far from adequate - perhaps even dangerous. During the monsoon, the water became dirty as it would fill with debris from its unprotected source, putting the health of villagers like Masino at risk.

The GWT worked together with the villagers to create a plan that would provide water for years to come. From water tanks to pipes to sand and cement, none of it would have been possible without the help of our supporters.

"The GWT's new water system was difficult to build and took three months to complete - with everyone working together," Masino said. "Now, we have water to our doorstep. We have forgotten all the hardship. We are forever thankful."

Lila Gurung, another villager in Barswara, helped coordinate the water project's construction as the Chairman of the Water Users and Sanitation Committee. He said the community is thrilled to have safe water at their doorsteps.

"It has become very convenient now," said Lila. "We have running taps at every house. We use it in our bathroom, kitchen and also to feed the animals. We are no longer required to carry water from the streams and communal taps.

"The donors have helped this remote community. From me personally and the villagers, a million thanks!"

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 Nepal, they set the standard of care for the elderly. In addition, they also host our new and flourishing rehabilitation facilities with dedicated space being allocated for beneficiaries who require further intervention from our specialist Rehab Therapists.

Last year there were 36 permanent residents across the two homes.



Veterans at Dharan Residential Home

Looking after a hero in our Residential Home

Padam Bahadur Rai, aged 79, is one of the Gurkha veterans who lives at our home in Dharan. Much beloved and full of character, Padam has been looked after by our staff since 2018. Padam served as a Gurkha for just under 10 years. He enlisted with the 2/7 Gurkha Rifles in 1961 and trained in India before being sent out to Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Brunei.

“Those ten years were some of my most treasured times, during which I battled against adversaries,” said Padam. “In Brunei I would carry a hefty load of supplies to the general-purpose machine gun. After being released from the British Army, I went back to Nepal in 1971. I continued to reside in my village with my family once I was sent back home.”

About twelve years after retiring from the army, Padam discovered The Gurkha Welfare Trust’s services. He registered with our Area Welfare Centre in Diktel, and for decades we ensured that he lived with dignity by providing him with a monthly pension and medical care.

Four years ago, Padam had suffered from a sudden illness. He was in a particularly vulnerable situation as he was living in a remote village, far away from any hospitals or health posts. One of his family members reached out to the Trust and we immediately arranged for his transportation to the hospital. Once he was in a more stable condition, we invited him to live at our Residential Home in Dharan to receive round-the-clock care.

When it comes to looking after our Gurkha veterans and widows, we take a holistic approach. We wanted to not only ensure Padam recovered from his illness, but also monitor his overall nutrition and mental wellbeing. It is all about boosting the quality of life for our pensioners in every way possible, to help them live the lives they deserve.

“My initial impression of the Residential Home was that they provided excellent lodging, medical care, and cuisine in a pleasant setting,” Padam said.

In our Dharan Residential Home, our specialist staff helped Padam recover and regain a healthy weight with nutritious meals.

“My favourite is the Dhido (thick porridge) with chicken curry soup,” Padam said. “The Residential Home provides this meal every week and I love it.”

Our staff also organise plenty of activities to keep residents busy, including board games, field trips, and celebrations for religious holidays.

“I like taking quizzes and playing indoor games. I enjoy exploring new locations too,” Padam said. “Most recently, we visited Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha. I also appreciate how the Residential Home

respectfully observes all the various holidays, which helps me connect with the other residents and is just lovely.”

“I owe a huge debt of gratitude to everyone at The Gurkha Welfare Trust, and the donors in the UK, for the great Residential Home service. It gives us veterans a warm, comfortable place to receive high-quality, all-encompassing care and I am happy to stay here.”

Activities in the UK

GWT Fundraisers take on epic challenges. Last year we saw hundreds of supporters take on a range of races and endurance events to raise funds for the Trust. Our challengers ran marathons, climbed mountains, cycled the length of the country, trekked to Everest Base Camp, and more.

In May 2023 our Ambassador Johnny Fenn raised over £30,000 for the GWT and Hello World by walking nearly 1,500 miles across Nepal. The journey took 114 days, and Johnny continued steadily despite the unpredictable conditions he faced, including freezing weather, heavy rains, snowstorms, landslides, thunderstorms, and high winds.

Trailwalker 2022



*Earthquake Resilient Home for Gurkha veteran
Krishna Ram Rai*

Trailwalker 2022 saw a great turnout of participants ready to take on this gruelling 100km trek across the South Downs Way. Gurkha pipers were on hand to encourage the 191 teams through the start and finish lines.

Teams had a target to finish the 100km course in 30 hours or less and put in an incredible effort to tackle the hilly route as fast as possible. The winning team was the Queen’s Gurkha Signals, who crossed the finish line in an incredible 10 hours and 16 minutes. The Queen’s Gurkha Engineers came in second at 11 hours and one minute, and third were the ‘A Team’ from The First Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles at 11 hours and 38 minutes.

This year we put together a GWT 'Platinum Jubilee' team to take on Trailwalker, with the money raised going toward two school projects: Siddeshwar Basic School in Parbat District and Maidan Secondary School in Syangja District. Not only did the Platinum Jubilee Team cross the finish line in less than 24 hours, but they raised an incredible £18,469.

Huge thanks to everyone who supported the event. We also owe a big 'thank you' to our mighty team of volunteers, who cheered on challengers and kept everyone fed all weekend.

The Doko Challenges

In June we had two fantastic Doko Challenges in the north and south of the country. Based on the traditional Gurkha Recruitment Doko race in Nepal, the challenge saw participants run 5km on a hilly cross-country route, carrying a Doko basket weighing either 5kg, 10kg or 15kg, with a time to beat of 46 minutes.

We were well supported at our first Doko North race at Roundhay Park in Leeds. One of our challengers was Jeffrey Long MBE, who will be 92 this year. A former paratrooper from Bingley, Jeffrey has a passion for fundraising challenges. Despite a back injury sustained during his service, he put in a huge effort and finished the course in 1:57:09.

Our Doko South Challenge was another great success, raising over £7,000 for the Trust. We welcomed 116 runners to Wimbledon Common, where they braved the heat to take on a hilly 5km course. All participants crossed the finish line, with leader Santosh Rai from Nepal Run UK finishing in an incredible 23:25.



The Doko South Challenge returns to Wimbledon Common

THE GURKHA MUSEUM

Patron, Trustees and Staff List (as at Dec 2022)

Vice Patrons

Lieutenant General Sir Peter Duffell KCB CBE MC
 Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE
 Colonel Denis Wood MBE

Trustees

Mr Martin Brooks (Chairman)
 Colonel Charlie Barnett MBE
 Major Michael Barney
 Lieutenant General Sir David Bill KCB
 Mr John Bulbeck MSCI
 Major John Harrop
 Mr Steve Maslin FCA
 Major Ram Rai (Ex Officio)
 Mrs Sudha Rai
 Colonel David Robinson (Ex Officio)
 Colonel William Shuttlewood OBE

Staff (as at 31 Dec 21)

Director	Dr Daren Bowyer MA MPhil PhD
Head of Fundraising & Marketing	Vacant
Assistant Curator	Doug Henderson MA
Operations Manager	Kimberley Matthews
Digital Officer	Brad Hall
Retail, Events and Admin Assistant	Anga Soni Tamang
Museum Assistants:	Meghbahadur Rai
	Mekhbahadur Rana
	Hombahardur Pun
	Richard Croyden

Director's Report

By any standards, 2022 was a demanding but exciting and highly productive year for The Gurkha Museum.

Sadly, however, this report must begin by marking the news, early in the year, of the passing of Field Marshal Sir John Chapple, GCB, CBE (27 May 1931 - 25 March 2022).

Sir John was a long-standing, engaged and supportive Vice-Patron of the Museum, and had been a driving force behind the Museum's move and re-development in Winchester in 1990. He will be sadly missed, and we extend our thoughts to his family.

We are, though, delighted to report that Lieutenant General Sir Peter Duffell KCB CBE MC has agreed to become a Vice Patron. General Peter not only enjoyed a distinguished Army career but is also a noted authority on Gurkha History; his book *Gurkha Odyssey* is a seminal work on the subject.

Engagement and Activity

Two important anniversaries in Gurkha History were marked in 2022.

In June, we mounted a small temporary exhibition on 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles' participation in the liberation of the Falkland Islands. We took this to the National Memorial Arboretum as part of the Royal British Legion's commemoration event. The exhibition included our 'Voices from the Falklands' podcasts, featuring veterans of the conflict and all but one of which were delivered in Nepali. As we redevelop the Museum, it is our intention both to grow our Oral History archive and to present a greater range of material in Nepali as well as English.

December saw the 60th Anniversary of the Brunei Revolt, in which 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) played an instrumental part in restoring order and ensuring Bruneian self-determination



Brunei 60th Anniversary at The Gurkha Museum

in the face of the Indonesian-fermented insurrection, that proved to be the overture for the wider Borneo confrontation 1963-66. The Gurkha Museum, with 2nd Gurkhas Regimental Association marked the occasion by hosting a reunion lunch of 5 British Officer and 18 Gurkha veterans (one of whom, in his mid-90s had flown from Nepal especially for the event). The veterans were invited to share their memories of the events, which were recorded as part of our Oral History project.

Two new events were added to our calendar - a 'Burns night with a Twist', celebrating Gurkha-Scottish links, and a Halloween 'Museum after Dark' celebration of ghosts and evil spirits in Nepali culture – and proved to be outstanding successes. The centre piece of both was a Nepali bhat (curry) supper. As well as generating significant revenue, both events introduced the Museum to new audiences, many of whom have become regular visitors and even Friends.

We continued to develop our digital offer, expanding our award-winning Gharma Sunnu (Nepali for "to listen at home") programme and adding Gharma Siknu ("to learn at home"), a series of actor-led animations aimed at children. Gharma Sunnu won its second award – a Cultural Enterprises Award for Digital Innovation. This output, promoted on our social media feeds, is reaching large and growing audiences; our view count for the series stands at over 65,000 from our primary social media channels of YouTube and Facebook. This has surpassed many of our expectations and is very encouraging for future projects. In addition, we have seen more than 47,000 views on TikTok and 26,000 on Instagram using shortened adaptations of the videos. Smaller curator-led 'reels' on TikTok have seen hit counts in the hundreds of thousands. Our success in this field was noted by an invitation to present at the Army Museums Ogilby Trust (AMOT) Annual Conference.

2022's Summer exhibition was "Off the Battlefield; on the Scene" looking at Gurkha involvement in non-conflict operations – from earthquake relief to anti-poaching and more recent pandemic-related activity.

We also touched upon the setting-up and the work of GWT. To tie-in with this, our children's summer holiday activity included the opportunity to build and programme motorised Lego vehicles in a disaster relief setting.

Acquisitions

Through the year, the Museum continued to acquire a range of objects through both donation and purchase. Objects included a fine example of a WWII-Era Japanese Warrant Officer's military katana (sword) and two significant medal sets: that of Major General Geoffrey Bruce (donated by his family), including his 1924 Olympic Medal for Alpinism, and that of Sergeant Kambersing Rai 7GR, including his Military Medal awarded as a member of the short-lived 'Ferret Force' during the early stages of the Malayan Emergency (purchased at Auction with the help of 7th Gurkha Rifles Regimental Association).



Handover of Major General Geoffrey Bruce's medal collection

Archive material added included the journals of Colonel J Holy-Hasted and the archive of Major General Derek Horsford CBE DSO & bar, whose memoirs have been expertly edited on our behalf by Brigadier David Willis, with a view to publication.

To mark the 40th anniversary of the Falkland Islands conflict 7th Gurkha Rifles Regimental Association presented a newly commissioned painting by the distinguished War Artist Michael Alford of the Regiment's approach to Mount William, in the closing battles of that Conflict.

Looking to the Future

Our ambitious plans for redevelopment of the Gurkha Museum, now entitled Project Kaida1, took several very significant strides forward during the year. Firstly, in January we received Ralph Applebaum Associates' Visioning Study for the Museum redevelopment. Then, in March, after lengthy discussions and negotiations, we executed a lease agreement with the Defence

Infrastructure Organisation (on behalf of the MoD), regularising our position and ending our long-held status as a tenant-at-will. This lease gives us a minimum 30 years tenancy of our current space within 'Short Block' Peninsula Square, Winchester, our home for the last 33 years and will be a significant factor in our ability to raise funds for redevelopment.

These two key developments gave us the confidence to submit to The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) an Expression of Interest (EoI) for a major project grant to underpin our plans. This was accepted, allowing us to forge ahead with the work required to make a Phase 1 (Development Funding) application. This significant piece of work required the commissioning of a RIBA Stage 1 (equivalent) Project brief, an Access Audit, Outline Partnership and Engagement Plan and the in-house development of a Business Case and many other necessary supporting documents.

Our application was prepared in time for the November 2022 funding window but, on advice, we deferred to February 23. (Afternote: In June 2023, as this report was being prepared, we received the excellent news that our application had been successful and an NLHF grant for Development Phase funding had been awarded.)

Financial Review

Admissions and Other Primary Purpose Income

Admissions income at £14,231, was a noticeable improvement on the prior year (£9,243), which had been affected by further Covid-related closure. Nevertheless, it remained below the last pre-pandemic year (2019) figure of £16,585. In part this may be explained by our experiment with two months of free admission, in order to judge the potential benefits on secondary spend and voluntary donation. While secondary spend did indeed see an uptick (c25% in those months), there was insignificant increase in voluntary donation. This is an area in which we will undertake more research and experimentation as Project Kaida develops. In total, Primary Purpose income, at £34,627 was a significant improvement on 2021 (£19,313) due to a large increase in lecture and event income and charges for research activity. The latter reflects a new commercial agreement with the Gurkha Welfare Trust for historical research and imagery licensing.

Trading Income

Although we saw a drop in shop sales, most likely due to postal disruption and an interruption to our internet connectivity at our busiest time, overall trading income saw a small increase due to better than expected gallery hire and event income. Overall Gross Profit Trading was £30,201 (2021 £19,399).

Voluntary Income

Donations and legacy income at £54,138 was disappointingly lower (2021 £86,567) and other grants income was also, as expected, significantly less than in 2021, when we benefited from both central and local government support related to the pandemic. Friends' subscriptions of £9,093, was a drop from 2021 (£10,280) and we recognise this as an area for further work as we redevelop the Museum. We were pleased to see the start of grant income specifically for our redevelopment project. Funds totalling £102,950 were received from the Brigade of Gurkhas Education and Welfare Fund as part of a likely two year increase in allocations from the Service Days Pay Giving Scheme. This very significant commitment is reassuring support from the serving Brigade, demonstrating their very firm commitment to our future plans, for which we are enormously grateful.

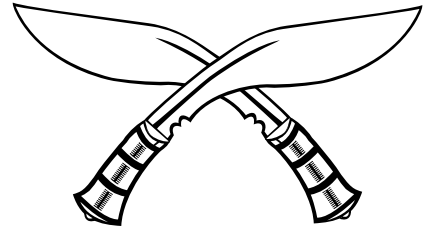
Expenditure

Total Expenditure of £526,197 included £83,653 (primarily consultancy and design fees) on the redevelopment project and drawn against the fund designated for this purpose.

Outturn

Overall outturn, then, was a deficit of £110,680 (before investment gains/losses) reflecting planned additional expenditure required in preparation for the redevelopment project.

THE GURKHA BRIGADE ASSOCIATION



Regimental Association Staff List

President:	Lieutenant General Sir David Bill KCB	
Life Vice Presidents:	General Sir Sam Cowan KCB CBE	
Chairman:	Colonel D G Hayes CBE	
Secretary:	Major Manikumar Rai MBE, DL	
Chaplain:	Lord Chartres GCVO, ChStJ, PC, FSA, FBS	
Office:	Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas Robertson House Camberley Surrey, GU15 4NP	
Telephone:	0300 1650582	Fax: 01276 412694

Regimental Associations

The Sirmoor Rifles Association 2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkhas (The Sirmoor Rifles)

President	Brigadier I Rigden OBE
Chairman	Colonel WF Shuttlewood OBE
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

President	Brigadier JA Anderson OBE
Chairman	Lieutenant Colonel D McK Briggs
Hon Secretary	Major D Bredin JP
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

Chairman	Colonel MH Kefford OBE
Hon Secretary	Major PH Gay
Gurkha Secretary	Major Padambahadur Limbu MVO
Editor of Journal	Lieutenant Colonel SJM Dewing

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 Shahi
RGR Journal Editor	Major B McKay MBE

The Queen’s Gurkha Engineers Association

President	Brigadier JL Clarke CBE
Chairman	Colonel R Walker OBE
Hon Secretary	Lieutenant Colonel I Moore
Gurkha Secretary	Maj Prembahadur Ale
Hon Treasurer	MFH Adler Esq TD
Editor of Magazine/Website	Major A Gooch RE

Queen’s Gurkha Signals Association

President	Brig M Fayers
Chairman	Lieutenant Colonel M R Complin
Assistant Secretary	Lieutenant Colonel Yambahadur Rana.
Treasurer QG SIGNALS Trust	Colonel RJ Watts MBE

The Queen’s Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment Regimental Association

President	Brigadier P Reehal OBE
Chairman	Brigadier P Reehal OBE
Hon Secretary	Maj (Retd) Palijar Tamang
Hon Treasurer	Lieutenant Colonel LM Evanson-Goddard
Editor of Journal	Lieutenant Colonel JD Fenn

Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support

President	Colonel A Griffiths OBE
Chairman	Major Narendra Gurung
Hon Secretary	WO1 Priyachandra Rai

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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The Gurkha Museum

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An Historical Glimpse of Gurkha Service Matters

By Lt Col JP Cross OBE

In August 2021, the pleasant, well-educated ex-serviceman's daughter, somewhere in her early 40s, came to see me. We hadn't met before except when she was a little girl and I, on my morning walks, had made her laugh. It took some little while for her to reach her main points: 'What you say about Gurkha pay, pensions and who is allowed to settle in the UK will be listened to and acted on by the Sarkar because you are a senior officer and very old,' she said. Nothing either I or my surrogate son Buddhiman said could convince her she was wrong in her reasoning. 'All we Nepalis know that is how matters happen. How can you deny it?'

Her point was that in Nepal a person of rank, e.g. general, minister, never loses it. The rank he has

reached is his for life, influencing events and decisions 'behind the scenes' rather than openly, after he has retired. I told her that for the British 'once you are out you are out'. But she just knew she was correct and could not understand my recalcitrance. So she tried another tack. She asked Buddhiman what my favourite dish was and that she would cook it and bring it round for me. That, surely, would change my mind and would help her in her problem. Again, Buddhiman told her that such would not, could not; make any difference to what I could do for her. I was powerless to change or influence anything official. I was now a civilian and was out of it.

'But he is a Nepali citizen so the British government must listen to him. How could it take the Colonel saheb

for granted in the same way that it has taken Gurkhas for granted for so many years?' We have not met again although she has rung Buddhiman several times for a chance to continue her conversation. I find such confrontational situations difficult.

That was not the first time such thoughts have been expressed to me by a Nepali and the woman's points put me in mind of my experience of Gurkha matters that are not about training or operations that have come my way since I started my service with them in December 1944, both directly and when researching for material for books I was writing. Money and the British government's thoughts on how financially to recompense non-British subjects for military work done for Britain are 'treading-on-eggs' issues.

The British Government is and its colonial siblings and the East India Company were always reluctant to provide financial equality for equality of effort: in 1815 a subadar's pay was Rs 8 a month, a havildar's 1 rupee and a sepoy's 8 annas. Prize money at Bhurtpore in 1826: a British lieutenant's share was Rs 2381, 14 annas and a sepoy's was Rs 26.14 annas. One hundred and thirty years later the pay of such units as the Royal Malta Artillery, the King's African Rifles and the Ceylonese Pioneers was much below that of their British counterparts. In the pre-independent Indian Army there was never any unwholesome reaction to IORs' and GORs' terms and condition of service being different from BORs' as they were in a different army. That changed when Gurkhas became part of the British Army as opposed to working alongside it.

For 180 years the only honourable employment for a Hillman was soldiering. Army service alone let merit play a significant part in a Gurkha's life. Our men's pragmatism and tenacity were ideal for army service. Life in Nepal was then, compared with Western standards, maladroit and inefficient, albeit it has recently much improved. Apart from the ever-present reality of a subcutaneous 'cold war' of the residual caste system, where our traditional martial classes are in the bottom half, there are only three methods of enhancement, 'source', 'force' and 'course'. The first is 'who you know', the second is 'who you can buy' and the third is 'what job you can do'.

Only a very few of us are left who were in at the start of British Army Gurkhas in January 1948 and it is, I believe, salutary to look back and see how wonderfully well we have done after a start that was distressingly inauspicious, almost unreal and unremittingly difficult.

However 'mind-blowing' the war was to many, the end of it was 'mind-blowing' to every one of us in India. Apart from the political uncertainties of the unheard-of splitting of India into two dominions, everywhere was in a state of flux. The Glass Curtain of rumour and prejudice clouded, coloured and distorted all, making us unsettled with a feeling of helplessness.

Passions among Indian politicians caused massive civic unrest all along India's northern cow-belt, especially where Muslim and Hindu lived in close proximity. The maladroitly handled and politically charged court-martial of the pro-Japanese and anti-British Indian National Army, Azad Hind Fauj, inflamed tempers ever more critically, and depending on which side one was, made mock heroes out of actual traitors and mock traitors out of actual heroes.

Thousands of Gurkhas enrolled when bucolic peasant lads; having fought a bitter war they were now experienced, mature men, finding themselves no longer needed. Their outlook was different; broader, materialistic and less malleable. Facilities for a quick and speedy release were swamped: peace was too sudden and shallow to be quickly and adequately assimilated and something had to give. In a surprisingly few cases only did standards drop.

There are four reasons why a full military career cannot be realised: death, dishonour, disability and disillusion, later in the Brigade to be seen as 'disillusion with the differential' between terms of service for British soldiers and their Nepalese counterparts, a derogatory equation in the algebra of British Army regulations that eventually became like the root of a boil, especially in many an ex-servicemen's body. It is only since GORs and BORs have been in the same army that the 'differential' has been seen as our men being 'taken for granted', anathema to all Nepalis.

After the war most soldiers of the twenty regular battalions had to stay put, apart from a few men sent on release or leave at the end of the fighting, until the future status Gurkhas had been decided. Two factors prevented a straight 'yes' for service with the British Army; strangely one was who could now trust the British anymore because British behaviour was seen as unbelievable folly: fight a devastating war to regain Burma and defend India – then give them both up! What a waste and, especially when, even after independence was granted, no terms of service were announced until mid-June 1947 thus making any comparison between Indian Gorkhas and British Gurkhas such as pay, allowances, leave and family facilities impossible.

Very few Indian Army Gorkha soldiers were allowed home leave for maybe three years as it was feared that men would try to join British Gurkhas. In a few cases that did happen. By the time I visited my Indian Army battalion in 1959, meeting a number of senior ranks whom I knew, there was no talk of not staying.

In 1946 and 1947 one destabilizing factor for Gurkhas was the vindictive, vicious and virulent anti-British propaganda that emanated from Indians generally and Darjeeling-domiciled Nepalis for Easterners with threats against those now in British Gurkhas and their families that worked at two levels - unabashed, unsubtle and

unending outside a unit but insidious, sly and full of half-truths within. In India battalions had Indian or, occasionally, line-boy chief clerks, not hillmen, and such men were not slow in spreading anti-British poison. Small wonder that, when the 'opt' – the declaration of which army to serve in – was concluded, it showed a direct ratio between the fewness of men volunteering for the British and the nearness of that unit to Delhi. The start of British Gurkhas (initially 'The Gurkha Regiment') saw two battalions reach Malaya with about only 50 Gurkhas: the three senior British officers involved in recruiting et cetera were appropriately if disturbingly nicknamed Loopy, Bumble and Fog.

It has to be remembered that no Gurkha had ever been asked to serve permanently outside the subcontinent and never with his family there. Being treated as Hindus (despite many preferring Buddhism), they were in spiritual, if not moral, danger of becoming contaminated by losing caste from having lived 'over the black water', so necessitating ritual purification, pani patya, before being allowed to be re-accepted into their family.

The stumbling block for Gurkha and British equality was the 1947 Tri-partite Agreement between India, Britain and Nepal. The prime minister of India, Nehru, only ratified it with financial conditions to echo the colonial norm - regardless of any downstream consequences for Britain. Any basic financial difference between the Indian Gorkhas and British Gurkhas would have meant no passage through India to Calcutta so the British Government had no option but to agree if it wanted Gurkhas, which it did, to accept financial limitations this imposed.

We all wondered how the British Army would treat us. How would senior officers in the War Office regard us? The Maharaja had stipulated that Gurkhas be treated equally with British troops: the Prime Minister of India would refuse passage to Calcutta for Malaya if basic rates of pay and pension were not the same for Gurkhas of both armies. Who would blink first?

Originally 7GR were detailed to be Gunners and 10 GR Sappers. I learnt that when I visited the Commander of British Gurkhas, India, Brigadier Hedley, in the Red Fort, Delhi, in November 1947, to give him 1/1 GR's Gurkha Officers' recommendations for full officer commissioning. In early December, in Madras, I told that to the first British Army CO of 1/10 GR. The result was that 10 GR remained infantry: had 10 GR become Sappers what would have happened to Rambahadur Limbu's VC?

Once in Malaya, with grave shortages of men, especially specialists, and material, we junior officers tried our utmost to remedy the difference, the 'differential', between British and Gurkha pay: a 12-times increase in the meat ration was made possible, thereby drastically reducing the amount of tuberculosis patients.

When travelling by rail our KGOs hated sharing 2nd Class sleeper accommodation with British rank and file whose manners, especially with drink taken, and were not to their liking. In those days few soldiers knew what beer was: 'That bitter stuff?' Nor were brush and comb allowed on the clothing scales for recruits as Gurkhas had only recently stopped having their heads shaved.

The British government can be excruciatingly mean and begrudging: with only two months' notice orders were given for 2/10 GR to be disbanded and each soldier to be given £10.00 as recompense. General Sir Walter Walker, the Major General Brigade of Gurkhas, was threatened with a court-martial when he attempted to prevent this happening. He was successful, even though he had to use the Nepalese throne to help him.

I still well remember my disgust and anger in April 1965 at finding my Gurkha Independent Parachute Company getting 4/6d (22½ new pence) 'Para pay' only on the days men made a descent when British soldiers got 7/6s (37½ new pence) a day, decent or not. I vociferously queried how Gurkhas bodies' worth could be shown so blatantly. 'You're wrong. The body's worth is the same, but Gurkhas will volunteer for less money.' I managed to get 'Para pay' daily but still only at the lower rate.

The allure of the 'differential' being in their favour is the root cause of many ex-servicemen and their wives going to Britain. There the 'allowance' given to people over a certain age is looked on as something not to be missed, unexpected philanthropy, a restorative gesture to make old age secure and make up what should have been theirs during their service. But sadly, for many people the final outcome is not nearly so rosy as originally told it would be by certain unscrupulous people.

Whatever rules may be in force for recruiting Nepalese citizens for the British Army, it is wrong to say that only those brought up in sight of the eternal snows are the required material. Alas, those who live along any of the tourist trails often pick up many undesirable traits even if they have similar potential to those whose parents have moved to an area in the Tarai where back-breaking toil cultivating virgin soil has enhanced the ancient virtues of hard work and family discipline, when sometimes no snowy mountains can be seen. When I started living in Nepal in 1976 as a recruiter, Nepal had started to change irrevocably. The towns were filling up and I then had yet to realise the implications of what it meant that many Hill Men had not adapted to town life nor did the young know how to while away idle hours. After all, it was but a short time in the process of development that a sheep drover had become a Jeep driver.

When there have been occasions of indiscipline, FM Slim's dictum 'no bad soldiers only bad officers' invariably needs to have 'bad officers' changed to the 'differential' aspect. When on a visit to England I was interviewed by the BBC the Hawaii incident of

indiscipline was flung at me. I answered, asking if there were any British units that had always been on their toes the whole time and never on their heels? That part of the interview was cut in subsequent broadcasts.

Education has spread dramatically. The call to the larger towns for good schools using English as the teaching medium, the displacement from villages during the years of Maoist turmoil and the opening of the country with roads and aeroplanes, to say nothing of the ubiquitous mobile phone and virtual worlds of You Tube and their ilk, have made an almost 180-degree difference in many people's outlook.

Nowadays potential recruits are no longer simple village lads but educated youths, often with a degree, already endowed with adult savvy and many of them 'street-wise' and computer literate, to whom other jobs are open. The lure of British service is strong: 'no subcutaneous cold war of caste', equality of financial totals where merit wins through and later, as a civilian, where one can 'do one's own thing' in an efficient society are more alluring for an ex-serviceman than the haunting, taunting, flaunting songs of the Lorelei.

And, provided the political will of both Britain and Nepal remains positive, Gurkhas will continue to be the envy of all, as they have been since 1815 and our Brigade since 1 January 1948, feared by our enemies and emulated by those not up to our high standards, which, of course, bring their own penalties of expectation. Over the years we have done wonderfully well despite or because of the 'differential'. Even though my lady visitor strove in vain to convince me to try harder to alter matters - but could we really have done any better?

The 4th (Gorkha) Afghan Regiment

By Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) J P Cross OBE

The East India Company's expedition to Afghanistan to restore Shah Shujah ul-Mulk to the throne from which he had been deposed by Dost Mohammad remains one of the most disastrous episodes in British India's military history. Not so well known is the presence of Gurkha volunteers who formed one of the battalions in Shah Shujah's contingent, a mercenary force raised with his own funds, which accompanied the ill-fated British Indian Army of the Indus in what became known as the 1st Afghan War.

The General Order issued by the Commander-in-Chief of the Bengal Army, dated 28 April 1840, was unequivocal albeit unexpected: 'Volunteers (Native Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers) from the Nusseeree and Sirmoor Battalions are required for service of HM Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk', as reinforcements for the 4th (Gorkha) Afghan Regiment, a hastily and recently raised unit. Previously, on 29 October 1838, an 'Emergent Indent on the Delhie Magazine for Fuzils &ca required

for the use of the 4th Regt. of Shah Shoojah's Infantry... [list follows] was signed by 'T. McSheery, Captain In Charge of Shah Shoojah's Force.' The unit is also found as 'a Battalion of Goorkhas, in the Service of Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk', 'Goorkha Levees for Shah Shoojah's Service', 'Shah Shoojah's Goorkha Levies' and 'Fourth Light Infantry (Ghoorkhas)' (Note 1).

News of the British invasion of Afghanistan in the spring of 1839 had reached the Nasiris and Sirmooris soon after it had taken place (2). From each battalion three havildars, three naiks and three sepoy were required for promotion to the next higher rank in the 4th (Gorkha) Afghan Regiment. This battalion of Gorkhas, along with other units provided by the Bengal Army, had been raised sometime in 1838 and the soldiers had been allowed to take their families with them, at their own expense. The Gorkhas were entitled to the same scale of pay and marching allowance, bhatta, as in the Bengal infantry of the line, in other words the pay of regular troops and not of irregulars, the equivalent of a rise of a third of the previous total, certainly for the sepoy and more for the havildars and naiks. As most sepoy could only hope to see a rupee a month after various cuttings had been deducted, this new order provoked much interest.



Officer and soldiers of the 1st Nasiri (Nusuree) Regiment, c.1834, from which men volunteered for service with Shah Shujah's contingent
© National Army Museum
1959-12-186-1)

There was a recruiting office for Gorkhas in Gorkhapur under a civilian, a Mr Reade. Those Gorkhas who were enlisted were all raw recruits, including two hundred as sappers. This new Gorkha battalion had no British officers who had served with Gorkhas before, did not know their men and was made up of soldiers who were all strangers to one another and did not have enough training. Not surprisingly they were given a bloody nose at Bamian, the site of two enormous Buddhas carved in the rock face. None of the three existing Gorkha battalions sent any men originally. In an article written five years previously in the United Service Magazine the writer summarised the points

in which the general condition of the Native army had deteriorated: 'a decrease of pay as compared with the increase of expenses; an increase of duties; decrease of consideration; and want of general kindness.' The few Gorkha reinforcements carried fusils, shorter and lighter than the muskets carried by Bengal regiments.



200-ft high carving at the Buddhist shrine at Bamian (Bameean/Bamyan) near where the 4th Gorkha Afghan Regiment was roughly handled in the early stages of the campaign (© NAM 1950-11-55-29)

In Kabul, the British officers were quickly called over to the headquarters to meet General William Elphinstone, the army commander recently arrived from Calcutta. His nickname was Elphy Bey and, apart from obviously being too old at nearly sixty and crippled by gout, his reputation for vacillating stupidity, incompetence and ignorance had spread round the camp – and probably, by that time, the bazaar. One of the more irreverent subalterns was overheard denouncing him by saying he would be out of his depth in a puddle and another added that if anyone gave him a penny for his thoughts there would be some change.

Shah Shujah's Gorkhas, once split with battalion headquarters in Kabul and rifle companies on detachment in other places, were now mainly at Charikar, an important strategic town about forty miles away where all roads and tracks over the Hindu Kush joined before leading on to Kabul (3). About a hundred Gorkhas were garrisoning small forts, some quite a distance from the rest of the troops, all easy targets. Before the recent Gorkha reinforcements left Kabul an Ensign Rose, on loan from the 54th Bengal Native Infantry, called the three ex-Nasiri havildars to him so as to know them better. Rose was an affable young man and his reputation for guts and quick thinking had endeared him to the soldiers.

The road from Kabul to Charikar had to cross a range of hills and any movement across them in bad weather or with wounded would be atrociously difficult. There were many places for troops to be ambushed. Charikar was a stinkingly dirty town of about five thousand people whose main occupation was making knives. The camp had no integral strength and was ill-adapted for making any protracted defence. The water supply could easily be cut off with no alternative source available. There

were two 6-pounder guns and a small detachment of the Shah's own artillerymen with a 17-pounder piece.



Image 06-04_3 Caption: Charikar, north of Kabul (left) and at the base of the Hindu Kush

The original battalion had been too quickly raised to have had time to shake down properly. There were too many cases of slackness and minor indiscipline for easy command. None seemed to be deliberate and many were caused by ignorance. Apart from tactical and administrative problems, the wives and children would be an additional and unwanted worry if matters came to a head; indeed, they were not easy to control even now. All officers, British and Native, were new and none of the latter category was a Gorkha except the recently promoted jemadars from the Nasiris and Sirmooris.

One aspect of those times people forget is that most British officers never spoke to their men. For one thing, it 'was not done'; for another they spoke Bengali, Urdu or Persian and the only person in a company who was expected to know Urdu was the subedar. It was to the subedar that the officer commanding troops would speak and the subedar would be responsible for passing on orders. It also must not be forgotten that many hill men only spoke their one language, not the Nepali lingua franca, now known as Nepali, then known as Parbatiya. The language known as Khas (fallen) kura was used by those hill men and women, chiefly in Kathmandu, who could not speak correct Court Nepali, as spoken by the educated ruling classes. The Emergency Commissioned Officers of World War Two broke the taboo of not talking to their men. After passing a Roman Urdu exam they learnt what we now know as Nepali so could talk to their soldiers face-to-face. In many cases pre-war Regular officers were shocked (author's personal knowledge).

By the early autumn, battalion headquarters of the Gorkhas had moved from Kabul to Charikar. Captain Codrington, the commanding officer, gloomy with the inefficiencies and lack of planning by his superiors, had hoped that his men would by now be showing some improvement due to the trained men from the Nasiris and the Sirmooris. Yes, there was a difference but not as much as he had hoped for, because there were too few of them and time for training limited.

Late October 1841: summer heat and dust in Charikar had turned to winter chill. Cold winds from the Hindu Kush mountains lashed them. The snow line came right down. Morale among the Gorkhas plummeted: no thick clothing, inadequate rations, not enough medicine for sickness or drugs for anticipated wounds, peevish families, an indefensible and cramped camp. There were boring, unexciting yet dangerous duties with a hostile population outside daily becoming more restive and abusive, and a steady trickle of casualties, to say nothing of being in a country few had had any idea about before and none wanted to remain in any longer. The three Nasiri havildars worked hard to keep their men happy but time and the odds were against them. The atmosphere grew tense.

The third day of November dawned cold and clammy at Charikar. Apart from the dust and the dirt, the numbing chill meant that cold fingers fumbling with buckles and straps were equally slow getting firearms loaded, fired and reloaded. Dysentery had bitten deep and some of the worse affected men had had to cut away the back of their breeches the easier to evacuate in a hurry. So short were they of new clothes and water for washing there was no easy way to keep themselves unsoiled. That morning the sentries at key places on the walls saw many bearded and sneering faces approach, stare and glare at the camp with obvious venom. All were armed. A pall of fear drifted over the camp, fear of inadequate resources, no reinforcements and impending doom.

Then, on the morning of 5 November, large bodies of Afghans closed in round the camp and strongly attacked the outposts. They were driven out though not before a civilian named Pottinger was wounded in the leg and Codrington killed. Fighting, in short bursts, on and off, continued for five days, during which time many were killed and wounded on both sides. The assaulting Afghans managed to divert the river so that there was no water at all in the camp. On the eighth the Afghans offered terms if all those left alive would convert to Islam. That was rejected. By the tenth water was so short there was only enough for half a wineglass for each fighting man. There was none for the horses or the cattle who had to endure the extremities of thirst. On the eleventh a sortie was made for water and some, not enough, was brought back to the camp.

By 12 November the garrison was reduced to two hundred men. A Lieutenant Salusbury had been killed and the medical officer, Doctor Grant, amputated Lieutenant Haughton's right hand and could only adequately dress the severe wounds on his neck and left arm. The innate soldierly qualities of Nepal's hill men were being tested to their limits, nor, in the majority of cases, were they found wanting.

The hardship was almost indescribable. Everyone became mad for water and the wounded started screaming for it. Throats dried up, lips became swollen

and bloody, and tongues stuck to palates. Another hazard was the muskets. Many were so foul from overuse that the balls were forced down into the barrels with great difficulty, even though separated from the paper of the cartridges which usually wrapped them around. At the end of the second day of debilitating thirst men demanded they be allowed to go and fetch water, whatever the perils. Ensign Rose led a hundred men, along with non-combatant bhistis, carrying all the containers they could lay hands on to where water from the new cut, above the block in the old river course, had overflowed its banks. The water-carrying party drank to repletion before filling their containers. Before returning to camp Rose led them to a field of radishes and the hungry men uprooted them, merely wiping off the dirt before cramming them into their mouths. They put some in their pockets and stuck some in their belts for their comrades. Unexpectedly, on the way back, they came across an outpost of Afghans, sleeping without any sentries. The non-combatants and water vessels were hidden behind a mud wall and, as one man, the rest of the Gorkhas opened fire on the sleeping men, with a battle cry 'Gorakh Nathki jai'. They killed all the Afghans they had come across and went back to camp and gave the others what water and radishes they could but there was not enough for everybody (4).

Early on the morrow, 13 November, the main Afghan force opened up with a piece of artillery. People later blamed that for breaking the Gorkhas' spirit entirely but that was not so. Orders were given to break out of camp, 'as and how', and the crazed men, desperate to relieve their thirst, rushed out to where Rose and his men, the night before, had filled their vessels. Forcing their way through the Afghan lines, many men managed to reach the river. They bent down to drink and, as they drank, most of them were massacred. The doctor himself spiked all the guns and then the camp was evacuated. Those Gorkhas whose families were still alive stayed back to defend them but all were killed by Afghans. The advance towards Kabul was led by Pottinger and Haughton on horseback, the latter so badly wounded that he could not get on or off his horse without help. Doctor Grant led out the main body and Ensign Rose and a British quartermaster sergeant brought up the rear. Grant, Rose and the British soldier were never seen again. Two 'politicos', some Madhesi sepoy with the two Gorkha havildars and one unidentified Gorkha, made their way to the high ground where they were ambushed.

One hundred and thirty-six Gorkhas were eventually rescued from the surrounding countryside. By then Shah Shujah had been assassinated and, three months later, his son was killed. Dost Muhammad Khan, strangely admiring the British and never acting against them in future, returned once more. Full circle – and at what a price!



Lieutenant John Haughton, 1842, who lost a hand at Charikar but survived the 1st Afghan War and later became a Lieutenant General
(© NAM 1950-11-55-5)



Major Eldred Pottinger, a political officer for the East India Company, who led the escape from Charikar. He died in Hong Kong in 1843 (© NAM 1964-07-111-1)

Tailpiece: an e-mail from Colonel Alastair C Rose of Earlsmln, 3 GR and 7 GR, dated 16 August 2011 which said:

Family history relates that an Ensign Alexander Rose, of another branch of my Clan, was attached to a Goorkha regiment during the disastrous expedition to Cabul of 1838-42 and was in Charikar. The small British force was harassed and decimated by every device open to a teeming population of fanatics. The officers were reduced to four, of whom two were wounded and the rank and file to a mere remnant without food or water and with ammunition practically exhausted. It was decided to retreat to Cabul. After a severe struggle they reached Kar Durra but at the end of their third day's march the devoted band was cut to pieces. Ensign Rose fell fighting with the utmost bravery and in the final struggle killed four of the enemy with his own hand before his life was taken. His relatives had the consolation of knowing that throughout these terrible experiences he maintained the character and gallantry of a British officer.

General Sir Hugh Rose [mentioned in a longer version of this article, who made his name with victories against the Indian mutineers in 1858], later Field Marshal Lord Strathnairn and Jhansi, was of my branch of the clan. He never married so no direct descendants exist. An equestrian statue was in Knightsbridge up to September 1939 with the inscription, 'Chivalrous and brave; an intrepid leader; the friend of the soldier; for 65 years in the service of his Queen and country; his splendid gallantry won the devotion of his troops he led so often in victory during a most critical epoch in the history of the British Empire.

It is recorded that those Gurkhas, in both the infantry and sapper contingents, who survived the expedition and returned to or joined the Nasiri and Sirmoor regiments were entitled to the 'Jellalabad' and 'Cabool' medals (5).

Notes:

- (1) East India Company archives at the British Library, Oriental and India Office Collections (BL/OIOC): P/36/28, No 52 dated 29 October 1838, P/37/15, P/3715 India Military Proceedings No. 69 dated 23 September 1840, Z/P/1558, Index to India Military Proceedings 1840 and P/37/34, India Military Proceedings No. 289 of 14 April 1841.
- (2) These regiments later became the 1st and 2nd Gurkha Rifles respectively.
- (3) Of recent historical interest, modern Charikar is just 10 miles north west from what was until August 2021 the large American airbase at Bagram supporting the war against the Taliban.
- (4) Personal Narrative of Mootee Ram, in the United Service Magazine, 1842, Vol II, pp. 409-410.
- (5) Gurkha Museum, Campaign and Service Medals Awarded to Gurkha Regiments in British Service (1997), pp. 1-2.

Author's note:

I would like to thank Brigadier D R d'A Willis CBE, late 7 GR and RGR, for his help in editing my article, for obtaining the pictures to go with it and for tracing some of the sources, and the National Army Museum for permission to reproduce the images from its collection.

Gurkha Participation in State Funerals

By Colonel R Cawthorne late QOGLR

The Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022 was only the second time that Gurkhas have taken part in the State Funeral of a Monarch. The first was more than a century ago, in 1910, for the Funeral of King Edward VII; this was also the only occasion that King's Indian Orderly Officers (KIOOs), which included two Gurkha officers, were to take part in a State Funeral. At the Funeral of King George V in 1936, there was an Indian Services Contingent comprising only British

officers, to include some from Gurkha regiments, while there was no representation of those Gurkha regiments that now formed part of The British Army at the Funeral of King George VI in 1952.

In 1910, the four KIOOs were Subadar Majors Santbir Gurung 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) and Singbir Ghale 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles and two subadars of the 39th Garhwal Rifles. King Edward VII had initially been Honorary Colonel and was subsequently Colonel-in-Chief of 2nd Gurkha Rifles while Queen Alexandra was Colonel-in-Chief of 3rd Gurkha Rifles. Shortly after the arrival of the KIOOs in London in April 1910, King Edward VII died. The Orderly Officers were therefore received in Audience by King George V, who invited them to guard the body of King Edward VII during the Lying-in-State and afterwards continue to be his Orderly Officers. A few days later, they were summoned to Buckingham Palace to attend a private Lying-in-State of the King in the Throne Room to pay their respects. On 17th May, the KIOOs were taken by open landaus to Buckingham Palace where they took their place in the procession immediately in front of the massed bands leading the gun carriage cortege that was to convey the coffin of King Edward VII to Westminster Hall for the Lying-in-State (this was the same position taken by the Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers (QGOOs) in the Funeral Possession of Queen Elizabeth II, as part of the Royal Household, both in London and Windsor). On arrival at Westminster Hall, the KIOOs joined the Gentlemen-at-Arms, Yeomen of the Guard and officers of the Household Cavalry and Foot Guards in keeping vigil over the coffin. The four Orderly Officers mounted guard at the foot of the coffin one at a time, for one hour each. They performed this duty day and night continuously for 72 hours receiving much praise, to include that of the most senior and revered officer of the Indian Army, Field Marshal Lord Roberts VC, who commented on the admirable and steadfast manner in which they had performed such a difficult and trying feat. The KIOOs then took part in the procession that conveyed King Edward VII's coffin from Westminster Hall to Paddington Station. Just before the procession was about to set off, King George V sent verbal orders that he wished the Orderly Officers to accompany the coffin to Windsor which they duly did on the Special Train. They processed to Windsor Castle and attended the committal service in St George's Chapel. The KIOOs returned to London later that day after more than 80 hours of continuous duty, feeling both highly honoured but overwhelmed at being invited by King George V to perform such an important role. Queen Alexandra later showed her gratitude by presenting each officer with a gold & pearl pin in memory of King Edward VII and a signed photograph of herself and King Edward, in recognition of their services whilst on duty during the Lying-in-State. The part played by Subadar Major Santbir Gurung in the funeral of King Edward VII was later to form the basis of Rudyard Kipling's story "*In The Presence*".

A quarter of a century later, King George V died in January 1936, which was before the newly appointed KIOOs had departed India to assume their annual season of duty. Nevertheless, an Indian Services Contingent formed of British officers, who were on duty, courses or leave in the United Kingdom at the time, took part in the State Funeral procession from Westminster Hall to Paddington Station, after which the body of King George V was conveyed by train to Windsor. The Indian Services Contingent was commanded by Lieutenant General Sir John Coleridge, Colonel 8th Gurkha Rifles, with representatives of Indian Regiments of which King George V had been Colonel-in-Chief (to include Major General Sir Charles Powell, Colonel 1st King George's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment), and Major JL Miller-Hallett, representing 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles)). A further four British officers of Gurkha regiments also marched with the Indian Contingent, one of whom was Lieutenant Colonel William Slim, who was a member of the Directing Staff at the Army Staff College, Camberley. The funeral procession took three hours and due to large crowds and congestion along the route, was delayed by half an hour before eventually reaching Paddington Station.

At the State Funeral of King George VI in 1952, there was no Gurkha representation, despite Gurkha regiments now forming part of The British Army (although Field Marshal Sir William Slim as Chief of the Imperial General Staff (CIGS), and at the time Colonel of both 1st Gurkha Rifles of the Indian Army and 7th Gurkha Rifles, was present). It was, therefore, to be another seventy years before Gurkha regiments would once again take part in the State Funeral of a Monarch, that of Queen Elizabeth II.



Lying-in-State King Edward VII - 1910

OBITUARIES

The Editor records with regret the deaths of the following members notified between 1 January and 31 December 2022.

2 GR

Colonel John Parkes OBE*	15 Jun 22
Major Tony Wright MC*	14 Sep 22
Major John Burlison*	23 Jan 23
Colonel Sandy McNeil*	5 Feb 23

6 GR

7 GR

Mr Nick Sanders Esq	12 Dec 22
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10 GR

QGE

Colonel Mike Gaffney	17 Aug 22
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QG SIGNALS

QOGLR

Major John Collar*	3 Aug 22
Lieutenant Colonel David Ivison*	13 Aug 22
Major General Tony Meier CB, OBE*	17 Sep 23
Captain Hugh McLean *	29 Oct 22

Note: Those marked with an (*) after their date of death have their Obituary published in this Journal.

Colonel John Parks OBE



John Parkes, who died on 15 June 2022, was commissioned into the Regiment from Sandhurst, after winning the Sword of Honour for his intake, in December 1959, and joined the 2nd Battalion in Slim Barracks in early 1960. His regimental service culminated in

command of the 2nd Battalion from 1976 to 1978, initially in UK and then in Hong Kong. After command he went on to be MA to VCGS, a high-profile job which earned him an OBE in the 1982 New Year List and promotion to Colonel. He took early retirement in 1985.

Away from his military duties, John was a keen cricketer, bowling leg breaks and batting left-handed. He captained the Sandhurst XI and played regularly for the Army in the Far East as well as for the Free Foresters. A good horseman, he enjoyed hunting, and later became involved in breeding a number of packs of fox hounds.

John was always seen as ambitious: looking rather more mature than most of his contemporaries, he could seem rather pompous and opinionated, but to those who knew him well was a loyal and supportive friend. A persuasive speaker, usually confident that his views on subjects ranging from Gingerbir Pun's promotion prospects to foxhunting or international affairs were right, he would put them across to anyone he felt needed to be convinced, whoever they might be.

An excellent Gurkhali speaker, he had an outstanding rapport with, and gained considerable respect from,

the Gurkha officers and soldiers. He looked after those he commanded, and at promotion conferences would make a forceful case for the advancement of his soldiers. Despite his somewhat bulky figure, he regularly participated in the afternoon games periods, gaining much Gurkha “intelligence” at the post-games beer sessions. A shrewd judge of the abilities and limitations of his fellow British Officers, he would often encourage those he felt deserving, and would give sound career advice when appropriate. A strong supporter of the Regiment and indeed of all Gurkhas within the British Army, John was never afraid to approach those with influence with a cogent argument if he thought either needed a boost in high places or was being sold short.

Between 1960 and attendance at the Staff College in 1971 John remained with the 2nd Battalion, filling a wide variety of appointments, including command of every rifle company except D. His time as Colonel Nick Neill’s adjutant/ops officer from 1964 to 1966 throughout Confrontation, often needing firm dealings with superior headquarters, earned him a well-deserved mention in despatches. He was one of four officers of the Regiment selected for Staff College 1971-2, after which he was posted to MoD as a GSO2 in MO2. Despite the pressures of this prestigious “black bag” appointment he found time to hunt, through which he met Miss Elizabeth Hasler (Liz): they were married on 20 April 1974.

Returning to the 2nd Battalion, after a few months commanding a company he was appointed 2IC for the forthcoming UK tour, arranging two overseas exercises at battalion level, which helped relieve the tedium of public duties. He was a leading light in arranging for the Queen, after reviewing the Queen’s Truncheon at Buckingham Palace, to join officers of the Regiment for lunch in the Officers’ Guardroom at St James’ Palace, where she enjoyed a memorable Samuel George curry.

In September 1976, after attending the United States Armed Forces Staff College and promotion to Lt Col, he took over command of the 2nd Battalion, then in the last few months of their UK tour. While concentrating on preparation for the return to Hong Kong, he found time to enjoy hunting with Liz, who for health reasons would be unable to accompany him overseas. Despite this he had a most successful tour commanding a battalion he knew better than most, this time alongside the 1st Battalion in Gurkha Field Force (then commanded by Brigadier John Chapple). Notable successes included the 2nd Battalion shooting Team winning the Major Units Championship at Bisley in 1977 and in 1978 (the start of a record run of four years). He handed over command in November 1978, drawing on his deep knowledge of the Gurkha officers and senior ranks of the battalion to give his successor, Bruce Jackman, who had not previously served in the 2nd Battalion, a very thorough insight into the Battalion’s personalities.

John next returned to the MoD as MA to VCGS, then General Sir John Stanier, who was reputed to be somewhat short tempered. John however developed an excellent relationship with him, partly through gentle teasing: according to a cavalry colonel “an officer in your regiment is one of the few people who can control that b***** Stanier!” He remained in post with Stanier’s successor, Sir Tim Morony: an OBE in the New Year’s Honours List in 1982 and promotion to colonel confirmed an equally good relationship with Morony.

Another high-profile job followed, as Assistant Director Strategy and Long Term Costings, entailing membership of the ad hoc Falklands Planning Team, and further advancement seemed assured. His early retirement from the Army in 1985 thus came as something of a shock. He had long had an ambition to farm, and when a suitable opportunity arose, combined with family concerns affecting his ability to serve accompanied abroad, decided to submit his resignation, despite excellent prospects. As he put it, he was “told to go and think about it.” However, he did not change his mind and left the Army at the end of April 1985.

After retiring, as well as raising their two daughters, John and Liz occupied themselves farming, breeding horses, and of course hunting. John became an expert on hound breeding and a respected judge of puppies, as well as becoming involved at the national level in the organisation of point-to-point racing. He had long had an interest in politics and applied to be considered as a conservative parliamentary candidate, but without success: perhaps retired colonels who hunted the fox were not then in demand! He did become chairman of his local constituency association, enabling him to make his views known to the party hierarchy.

Although for the last few years ill health prevented John from hunting himself, he continued to follow hounds by car, and to advise on hound breeding. His last act, on 14 June 2022, was to make his annual visit to the Blackmore Vale kennels to view the hounds before their Puppy Show, where in the words of one of the Joint Masters: “Colonel Parkes has been so instrumental in the breeding of these hounds and he took much pleasure in seeing the results of his advice. He commented on every hound”. John himself said “Seeing these hounds has made me feel that I have died and gone to heaven!” Wherever he may be now, he was undoubtedly one of the Regiment’s characters.

Major Tony Wright MC

Reprinted from the Daily Telegraph 22nd November 2022, with permission



Major Tony Wright, who has died aged 95, was awarded an MC in 1950 during the Malayan Emergency. In 1948, after the assassination of three plantation managers in Perak, the British colonial authorities declared a state of emergency. Leftist parties were outlawed and trade union activists and communists were arrested. The Malayan National Liberation Army was formed, drawing much of its support from landless communist Chinese, and fought a guerrilla campaign in a 12-year conflict with the aim of driving the British from Malaya.

Early in January 1950, the night mail train from Singapore was fired on between Bekok and Labis in Johor. The next morning Wright, a junior officer serving in a company of the 1st Battalion 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles took out an understrength platoon of riflemen to hunt down the perpetrators.

Wright had been brought up in the countryside, and besides having developed fieldcraft of a high order, he was the best jungle fighter in the battalion. After his men lost the trail, he put them right and they followed a skilfully camouflaged track.

When his leading scout was shot and killed, Wright left half his party to evacuate the dead man and, taking 10 men, he took the lead and pressed on. They discovered a camp for 150 communist terrorists (CTs) and, as they entered a clearing, heavy fire was brought down on them on three sides from CTs positioned on the jungle edge. During a firefight which lasted for almost an hour, Wright was wounded in the neck. The CTs tried four times to charge and overwhelm the small force, but each time Wright moved to the threatened flank and beat them back by hurling grenades.

The citation for the award to him of an MC paid tribute to his inspiring courage, the control of his men and the effectiveness of his fire. Had the men wavered, even for a moment, it added, a disaster would have ensued. Joseph William Anthony Wright was born in York on February 28 1927 and educated at Nunthorpe School in

the city. Always known as Tony, in 1944 he enlisted in the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) as an Indian Army cadet and, after basic and infantry training, he was sent to the Officers' Training School at Mhow in India.

On being gazetted to an emergency commission in the Indian Army, he was appointed to the 8th Gurkha Rifles (8 GR) and joined a training battalion at Saharanpur for jungle training and to learn Gurkhali. In October 1945, he went to the 8 GR's Regimental Centre in Quetta as company officer in a training company. In December he was posted to the 1st Battalion 8 GR, which he joined in Batavia in the Dutch East Indies (now Jakarta in Indonesia).

The following year, he moved with the Battalion to Kohat, North West Frontier Province. After a posting to Loralai, Balochistan, he was appointed adjutant and went with the battalion to Attari, a Sikh village on the side of the Grand Trunk Road between Lahore and Amritsar. There, close to the new border between India and Pakistan, they were employed on internal security duties, and Wright and his CO, Lt Col Alastair Langlands, were the two British officers left to hand over the battalion to Indian officers.

Wright and Langlands transferred to the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (2nd Goorkhas) and joined the 1st Battalion at Kitchener Lines, Poona [Pune] in December 1947. Thereafter, Wright served with the battalion in a succession of appointments in Singapore, Malaya, Hong Kong and Sarawak.

In 1948, he became company officer in C Company at Batu Anam, Johor, under command of the 1st Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders. He had been granted a regular commission in The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry but remained seconded to the 2nd Goorkhas. For the next two years, as regimental signals officer and intelligence officer, he was engaged in operations in Malaya against the CTs. He commanded the 1st Battalion's contingent in England for the Coronation in 1953, following which he was appointed adjutant in Malaya, serving until December 1956.

After further service in Hong Kong, followed by staff appointments at GHQ Far East Land Forces, Wright's last appointment was that of second-in-command of the 1st Battalion.

On one occasion, on operations in Sarawak, sliding down a rope from a helicopter, his orderly above him slid too fast and knocked them both into the River Rajang.

In July 1964 Wright took early retirement and settled in Australia, where he became a farmer, first at Undera, Victoria, and then at Wolumla, New South Wales. For many years, in retirement, he and his wife, Arda, lived at Merimbula, New South Wales.

As a younger man, he enjoyed tennis and golf. He was a keen fisherman and also sailed his own boat until he was in his late eighties. He had been a member of the Regimental Association, the Sirmoor Club, since its creation.

Tony Wright, who died on the Regimental Anniversary Day, married, in 1957, at Gladstone, Queensland, Arda Houtgraaf. She survives him with their two daughters.

Major John Burlison

Major John Burlison was a widely-experienced and much-respected officer who served in both the 1st and 2nd Battalions. During a long military career he made many significant contributions to Regimental, Brigade and Army life. Tall and well-built, the impressive size of his footwear earned him the nickname 'Boots', and he was occasionally referred to as 'Mother' due to his immaculate personal organisation and the close attention he paid to helping others.

John was educated at Ampleforth and Mons. He was commissioned in early 1959 as a short service officer into the 2nd Green Jackets (which until 1958 had been the King's Royal Rifle Corps) and served with them in Northern Ireland and at the Rifle Depot in Winchester. Appointed to a Regular Commission he joined the 1st Battalion of the 2nd Goorkhas at Burma Camp in Johore in July 1961 as MTO. He was Adjutant of the initial two-company force sent to quell the Brunei Revolt in 1962, and in 1963 commanded D Company at Belaga during the Battalion's operational tour in Sarawak. During the rest of his Regimental service he held appointments as Regimental Signals Officer, OC B and C Companies in the 1st Battalion, Training Officer and OC D Company in the 2nd Battalion and Second-in-Command of the 1st Battalion. He also served as Regimental Amalgamation Officer in 1969.

He held three Brigade appointments away from the Regiment: Adjutant of the Transit Camp in Singapore in 1966; Officer Commanding the British Gurkha Centre Pokhara (as a Local Lieutenant Colonel) 1984-7; and Officer in Charge of the Brigade Manning and Records Office in Hong Kong in 1992-4. He was also Military ADC to the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Murray Macle hose, in 1971-2. Further afield he was Staff Captain Q in HQ 39 Brigade in Northern Ireland 1972-4; GSO2 Coord in the Commonwealth Military Advisory Team in Ghana 1976-8; Deputy Chief of Staff in HQ British Forces Belize 1982-4; and Second-in-Command of the Gibraltar Regiment 1990-92.

John's relationship with Gurkhas was characterised by his determination to do his best for them, and in return his efforts were widely appreciated and he himself much respected. He could boast that he had championed one

Gurkha who later commanded a Battalion of The Royal Gurkha Rifles and three others who went on to become Gurkha Short Service Commissioned Officers. When in Nepal he recruited the only Gurkha to become a British Army helicopter pilot.

In retirement he lived in Wadhurst. From 1995 to 2005 he was Regional Director for the British Executive Service Overseas (BESO) in South East Asia and the South Pacific, latterly taking on work in China too. He travelled widely abroad as part of his work, often to Nepal, and completed some 500 assignments arranging for retired British experts to help and advise small businesses and charity organisations in that part of the world.

He was a staunch supporter of the Sirmoor Club, edited The Sirmooree from 1996 to 2015 and was a Regimental Trustee. He also wrote many articles for the Regimental Journal and the Sirmooree, between 1966 and 1994 contributing at least one annually, and sometimes more, for 25 out of those 28 years. These were often to do with the Gurkhas and Nepal but some touched on his wider travels and other topics that caught his interest. Often wry and witty, his observations and comments were invariably honest, astute, and timely. A fine example is his article 'Triple Twilight' in the Regimental Journal for 1994, the year the 2nd Goorkhas disappeared from the British Army Order of Battle and merged into the Royal Gurkha Rifles. It is without peer as an authoritative and insightful commentary on the changes and reductions in the Brigade of Gurkhas in the late 20th century, as seen and understood by someone directly involved.

John had a penchant for the unusual and amusing. When in Belize he at one stage had a pet jaguar. He also named a hill near Punta Gorda 'Sirmoor Hill' which can be seen on maps of the area to this day. He enjoyed considerable autonomy in charge of the British Gurkha Centre in Pokhara at a time when his superior was two days' travel away in Dharan. He took this opportunity to refer to his command as the 3rd Battalion of the Sirmoor Rifles and to decorate the camp with 2nd Goorkhas flags and black and red diceboarding. The Headquarters had only limited success curbing his enthusiasm for putting his Regimental credentials on display.

John's life had strong foundations in his unswerving loyalty to his Regiment and his faith. A confirmed bachelor and a private man, his modesty, generosity, kindness and good humour won him many friends and much affection from both his fellow British Officers and Gurkhas. His long service was an admirable demonstration of his many virtues. He will be much missed and very fondly remembered by all those who had the privilege of serving with him.

Colonel Sandy McNeil



The news, before Christmas last year, that Sandy had been diagnosed with late-stage pancreatic cancer, was hard to accept because, apart from a shortness of breath, he was as vital and engaged as ever. He retained a wide spread of interests; his quiet, slightly sideways and gentle humour was still in evidence and the list of projects that he was undertaking had not got any shorter. If anyone was going to come out the other side of this, one felt, it would be the immensely fit, vital, hugely determined, pretty well indestructible Sandy.

It may surprise members to know that Sandy, before he joined the Army had considered two other possible careers: ballet dancer and missionary. On reflection it seems entirely likely that he would have succeeded in but, happily, he chose service in 2nd Goorkhas.

Alexander (Sandy) McNeil was born on 11 December 1946 in Glasgow, shortly after which his parents moved to Skye, a place with which Sandy retained an association throughout his life and was a part of his distinct Scottishness. He went to school in Glasgow as one of about 40 boarders in Glasgow Academy where he excelled at sport, particularly swimming and rugby which he played with a ferocity that most of his friends will recognise and which earned him a place in the 1st XV.

Sandy's father John had served in Italy (where he won an MC) and served in a reconnaissance regiment in Palestine after the war and at some point in Singapore, which is perhaps where the idea of service with Gurkhas may have lodged itself in Sandy's mind. In any event he was commissioned into 2nd Goorkhas on 29th March 1968 and joined the 2nd Battalion in Slim Barracks, Singapore where he became a Company Officer in C Company. It was a time when run down was in full swing and British Officers quickly acquired additional responsibilities. Sandy was made Battalion Hygiene and Fire Officer and set about his job with a will. Christopher Bullock records that Tony Harrison, then Commandant, on visiting C Company, asked Sandy how that was going. He was told that the battalion was 'Sitting on a hygiene volcano'. Asked what he meant Sandy responded with a

detailed list of fire hydrants, fire extinguishers, lavatories, pig swill containers and so forth that had failed to meet required standards and the Commandant made swift arrangements to deal with the problem. As ever, Sandy was not one to give half measures.

He moved to Support Company and the Recce Platoon both in Singapore and after the battalion's move to Brunei. Here he lived, with other bachelors, in a quarter on the married patch which allowed some memorable parties. Included among the guests was Jane Truss, the daughter of Annette, widow of Major D A Truss, then married to the Commandant Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Lawes MC. She was very much a daughter of the Regiment. Sandy married Jane in September 1971 by which time there had been a change of Commandants and a move to Hong Kong. There followed command of A Company, which included a notable exercise in Fiji, before being Adjutant in Gallipoli Lines and a return to Support Company when the battalion moved to UK in 1975.

Sandy asserted that it was because of his science O Level that he was selected for Division 2 at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham which he attended from January 1978 followed by Staff College in 1979. It seems likely, in view of his return to Shrivenham as a DS after Command, that his grasp was rather better than O Level standard. There followed a staff job in the Operational Research world before returning to the 2nd Battalion in Brunei and Hong Kong commanding Support Company and Battalion 2IC. After an 18 months' tour in MS Sandy became Commandant of the 2nd Battalion, initially in Church Crookham and then in Hong Kong.

In the memories of the officers then in the battalion the word 'inspirational' crops up regularly in relation to Sandy. He led from the front and there was a distinct feeling that they would be ready for any eventuality and would do pretty well anything for him, partly at least because they knew that he would back them if they did and partly because they knew that he would not ask anything from them that he would not or could not do himself. Given the soul-sapping routine of life on the border that occupied so much of our lives, Sandy determined that the Battalion should have a hard edge and at all times be ready for operations. The core of this was being physically fit and Sandy set high standards from the front, running with weighted packs with each company. Ian Rigden records that, as his Adjutant, he one day surreptitiously weighted Sandy's pack with several extra kilos in the hope that he would slow him down. Not a bit of it. He appeared not to notice at all, and Ian never admitted anything to Sandy! It is, of course, quite possible and in character that Sandy knew but would have given no indication barring a sideways glance from underneath the eyebrows. He was a particularly shrewd judge of character and a number of his officers have remarked that he made them see

abilities and potential in themselves that they had not seen. He was, in many eyes, the epitome of what a Commanding Officer should be.

After command he was a DS at Shrivenham before being appointed as the Defence Attaché in Harare from January 1992 to March 1995. Given the choice of three possible Colonel jobs, he chose Harare because it would give his family, and his boys in particular, the chance to make use of an almost unrivalled adventure playground, a chance to really grow their independence as they launched into the wider world. Whilst Sandy had to deal with the likes of General (now President) Mnangagwa and doing things like arranging security for Princess Diana when she visited, he arranged for the boys to go on safari, go white water rafting and build on the outdoor independence he had taught them on family expeditions in the hills of Hong Kong. He got them jobs in safari camps and the freedom of a car (with diplomatic plates). Both James and Andrew remember those years with huge gratitude.

Whilst at Shrivenham he and Jane bought a house in Sutton Montis, on the Dorset/Somerset border and a wing was built for Johnny and Annette in which Johnny still now lives, alone. This convivial arrangement allowed those of us living close enough by to visit several Sirmooree friends at once. Very sadly it was after the Zimbabwe tour that Sandy and Jane decided to separate, and Jane returned to Zimbabwe. Sandy met Jo, the Head of Art History at Sherborne Girls, in 1997 and they married in 2014.

This opened a new chapter in Sandy's life, attacked with the familiar quiet gusto. Whilst working in the MOD Project Management world in the MOD, and in his last job as the Director of Exams and Courses Sandy set about managing several projects in Sutton Montis at Laburnum House. He became a much-appreciated member of the village and its church, a memorable Father Christmas arriving at the Riding Class Christmas party on a lawnmower. Few builders got opportunities to do much to the house and Sandy became a familiar sight to passers-by up a ladder dressed in short shorts wielding a paint brush. To support Jo he became an expert at hanging paintings at exhibitions and converted the summer house in their garden to a studio. They bought a small agricultural building in the hills behind La Spezia and turned it into a wonderful retreat with added, productive, olive grove and, inevitably with Sandy, a small plunge pool. Il Fienile provided a wonderful base from which to explore the splendour of Renaissance art in Italy, greatly added to the sum of their happiness and made a base for a first, largely Sirmooree, 'Palladio tour', intended as the forerunner of many.

Jo brought with her two children, Nicky and Jonathan, who gave Sandy another chance to use his genius for inspiring young people. Nicky remembers a moment when Jo had to be away with a school trip over Nicky's

half term. Faced with the requirement to entertain his 10-year-old guest Sandy devised a complex set of instructions for a journey (that seemed vastly longer than the 2km cycle trip it really was) to hunt for a mysterious creature with long neck and fluffy coat. Instructions carefully followed, Nicky reported back about this thrilling creature, part camel, part giraffe, part lion, hugely proud that she had managed it. History does not record what the alpaca, for such it was, thought of it all.

Sandy had a long association with the Isle of Skye. Whilst his father was alive Sandy would visit regularly and enjoyed fishing with him. There exists a trophy, a kothimora kukri, known as the Two (or possibly Twa') Colonels' trophy for the largest trout of the season caught in the wilder lochs of the Hebrides. As James now has a house there it seems likely that the competition will continue to be intense.

Sandy was a very complete man. He was not a showman but, clever and observant, he had the intelligence, energy and confidence to, almost surreptitiously, bring out the best in others. He was a leader and one who consistently tested himself. Generous with his energies and hospitality (as anyone who has attended a Burns Night with him will attest), he was a hard man to repay as he was deeply self-sufficient. Above all he was good company and a brilliant friend. We will miss him.

Major John Collar



Major John Collar, who died from cancer on 3 August 2022 aged 85, joined the raising cadre for 31 Company Gurkha Army Service Corps as a platoon commander in 1960, and also served in 30 Company (1962-65) and 34 Squadron Gurkha Transport Regiment (1969-70). During his time in the Regiment, he served in Kluang, Singapore, Tidworth, Kuching (Borneo) and Brunei. He was a good friend, an excellent colleague, and highly respected by all ranks, both British and Gurkha.

John Alan Collar was born in High Wycombe on 16 December 1936. His father was an electrician for one of the many furniture factories in the town, and his mother worked in a local greengrocer until the family came along. His father was a founder member and Chairman of the High Wycombe District Rifle Club, and John was a member from an early age; he stood in as secretary for the Club aged 12 and had fond memories of shooting with his father; no wonder he became such a good shot!

After the 11+, John was educated at Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, where he specialised in A-level languages, and continued shooting and winning medals in junior competitions at Bisley. He also joined the school Combined Cadet Force. John enlisted into the Regular Army in May 1955 and did his recruit training at the Green Jackets Depot, Winchester, before going to Sandhurst and emerging with a commission in the Royal Army Service Corps. Perhaps unsurprisingly, he was captain of shooting during his time at Sandhurst, and helped to win a good haul of shields, medals and trophies. In one competition, they beat the Navy and secured for themselves a trip on a submarine as an additional prize. Shooting reflected his character as an officer - firm, steady, clear-headed, and reliably accurate.

After commissioning, John's first posting was to 107 Company RASC in Germany in 1957, where he stayed for nearly three years before travelling out on the troopship

SS Nevasa to Singapore to help form 31 Company, as part of the newly raised Gurkha Army Service Corps. For the next five years, John served in two of the Regiment's four companies and rose from lieutenant to captain via platoon commander, operations officer, and administrative officer. He loved his time with the Gurkhas, which included a move to Tidworth with 30 Company (as part of the Strategic Reserve) and a change of cap badge to the Gurkha Transport Regiment (GTR) in 1965. John took a detachment of 30 Company Composite Platoon from Tidworth to Thailand on Exercise DHANA RAWATA.

For John, Tidworth was most memorable for his first meeting with Captain Kathrine McKenna QARANC, a midwife at the military hospital. They were parted soon after when Kathrine was required urgently in Singapore but, a few months later, 30 Company was sent back to Singapore to reinforce efforts to combat the Indonesian incursions into Malaysia, on the island of Borneo; John commanded two operational detachments of 30 Company in Kuching and Brunei during 1964-65. John and Kathrine met again in Singapore and were engaged within a year; they were married on 29 May 1965 at St John's Church in Singapore and daughter, Helen, arrived in December the following year.

Over the next 26 years, there followed the usual round of postings, including service in Wales, Germany, Malaya, Scotland, and RAF Lyneham. After 1976, apart from operational tours or exercises, John remained in the UK because of Kathrine's increasingly debilitating rheumatoid arthritis. He served in London, South Cerney, Preston, Colchester and HQ Land Forces, Wilton, from where he first retired in 1991.

John's last tour in Germany was as Training Major of 8 Regiment RCT in Munster (1974-76); arguably, one of the most demanding and responsible major's posts in the

Army, and requiring only the most reliable, capable, and conscientious officers. 8 Regiment was the 1st British Corps nuclear warhead regiment and a crucial part of the deterrent against the Soviets. John was responsible for training and overseeing the guard force for the warheads, drawn one week at a time from all major units in BAOR, and subject to intensive US inspections.

A feature of John's career was Movements. In all, he completed six tours in a Movements capacity, either in a dedicated unit or in that role in a headquarters and was involved in the planning and logistics for operations dealing with the Turkish invasion of Cyprus (June 1974), the withdrawal from Rhodesia (Christmas/New Year 1979/80, which he went out to), the Falklands War, and the 1991 Gulf War. The movement of thousands of personnel, hundreds of vehicles, many thousands of pounds of freight, and sometimes aircraft, were massive tasks requiring calmness under pressure and attention to detail. John was in his element.

With three months of service to go, John was diagnosed with colon cancer. Thanks to Kathrine's medical knowledge, the diagnosis was swift; John was operated on at RAF Hospital Wroughton, and his life was saved. After recuperating in their new home just outside Salisbury, John returned to work as a retired officer at HQ Land Forces before finally retiring in 1999. Retirement suited them well with a long list of places to visit both home and abroad. At home in Wiltshire, John joined the Winterslow Singers (he had been a choirboy during his school days), as well as the village horticultural society, where he won many awards for his vegetables. Gardening and growing things was always one of his passions and, over the years, many army quarters had benefitted from his efforts to improve the soil and his 'green fingers'. There was never any shortage of produce for the family to enjoy.

Grandson, Ruaraidh, was born in 2005 and the Collar family was complete. John and Kathrine's life became firmly focused around their only grandchild, who grew up under their patient guidance and love and, in time, with many of the same passions for the outdoors, adventure and experiences that he learned at his Grampy's knee.

In 2011, Kathrine became seriously ill. John cared for her unwaveringly at home and she died in November that year. With the help of the devoted bond between John, Helen and Ruaraidh, they picked up the pieces until, a year later, a routine check-up showed that John's colon cancer had returned. Very luckily, surgery remained a viable option and, although this time it was more serious, John survived and recovered.

All seemed to be well but, in December 2019, John was diagnosed with cancer of the pancreas. The consultant was pretty sure that, despite his age, John would be strong enough to undergo a nine-hour operation known

as the Whipple's Procedure. He was set a two-week fitness routine (at least half an hour's fast marching per day), followed by a stringent fitness test, without which he would not survive the long and invasive operation. Marching with Team Collar in all weathers suited John fine and he was ready, including organising his affairs for the third time – just in case.

The operation took place on 6 March 2020 in Southampton General, the same night the first case of covid was diagnosed among staff at the hospital. The next 15 days were very worrying at times, but throughout his ordeal and the constant threat of covid, John was unfailingly polite and obliging. Recovery after discharge was hard and slow, but John weathered every setback. Very slowly, life returned to normal over the next two years; John spent time doing what he loved most; being with Helen, watching Ruaraidh grow up, and working quietly and steadily in his garden.

But life was not quite set fair. John started getting pains in his tummy at night. In late June 2022, a scan revealed that the cancer had returned and was rife in his liver. There was no further treatment, and the prognosis was short months. Things were generally fine until 8 July when he suddenly had difficulty walking and seeing; his energy levels and appetite diminished. Each day thereafter became progressively worse. John died at home in the early morning of Wednesday, 3 August with Helen and Ruaraidh at his side.

John joined the Association during its earliest days, and in his own words, it was "one of the planks of my life ... and has given Kathrine and me so many enjoyable times and provided so many good and lasting friends." In return, John was a strong supporter, invariably interested in what was happening and keen to take part in events, whenever he was able. One of the 'old school', honourable and decent.

John's military career was one of great merit. He was totally reliable, very hardworking, calm under pressure and invariably cheerful. Many people regarded him as a quiet, almost shy, officer, but his meticulous administration was crucial to the success of units he served with. His quiet inner strength was never better demonstrated than when he nursed Kathrine during her final days, as well as his wish to help Helen and Ruaraidh as he came to the end of his life. He did not wish to be 'sorely missed' (to his mind an overused expression), but the people crowded into the small church to say farewell felt otherwise, and to many he was a true friend.

Lieutenant Colonel David Ivison



Lieutenant Colonel David Ivison, who died suddenly on 13 August 2022, aged 86, was part of the second phase of British officers, who helped to form the fledgling Gurkha Army Service Corps. Between 1959 and 1966, he served in all four companies of the Regiment, ending as the adjutant in Kluang, and proudly claimed that this length of continuous service in the Regiment was never surpassed. David and the Gurkhas he served with, developed a deep and lasting respect for each other. He was OC 28 Squadron Gurkha Transport Regiment in Hong Kong from 1971-73 and returned as the Regiment's ninth commander from 1977-79.

David Malcolm Ivison was born and grew up in Lichfield, where he attended King Edward VI School from the age of eight. Aged 18, he went to Sandhurst, emerging 18 months later as a commissioned officer in the Royal Army Service Corps. His first tour of duty was with 113 Company RASC in Mulheim, Germany, in 1955. It was in Mulheim that Second Lieutenant Ivison met Fraulein Liesel Verse, and they were married in Kluang in 1961.

One of David's claims to fame in Malaya was rugby. He was a good fly-half and skippered the RASC Malaya XV for three years in a row. Company OCs would moan benevolently about subalterns, who were always away playing matches around Malaya, because a third of the side was from the Gurkha ASC; they always beat RASC Singapore.

A short tour as a staff captain in Germany in 1967, was followed by Staff College and the first of two tours in MOD. But, only four years after leaving Kluang, he returned to the Far East to command 28 Squadron GTR in Sham Shui Po, Kowloon. David generally employed an umbrella style of management and ran a relaxed

squadron. He led rather than drove those under his command and dealt with problems in his own fair way. This was backed up by a real family atmosphere and wonderful hospitality from Liesel.

A short tour in MOD in 1974 was followed by two years as a liaison officer at Australian Army HQ, in Canberra, before he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and sent back to Hong Kong to command the Regiment in 1977. David's time in command marked the end, as well as the pinnacle, of his long service with Gurkhas. By the time David arrived, the RHQ and 28 Squadron had moved into Gun Club Hill Barracks, which resembled an oasis of greenery surrounded by the concrete jungle of Kowloon. Even so, it was pretty much a building site, as construction work continued to make the barracks fit for the Regiment's purpose with a new temple, Gurkha children's school, a families' hospital, and three blocks of Gurkha married quarters. As the construction site grew, David would assemble the Gurkha Major and adjutant to tour the site, trying to make sense of the architect's plans! Later, they would wander through the shells, along scaffolding walkways and even up and down ladders; all without any form of protective clothing! From these explorations, David saw what this would mean for the Gurkha families and was determined to have the very best for them.

Two important and long-lasting changes took place under David's command. He decided to form a headquarters squadron to run the more centralised elements of the Regiment; in time this became 36 (HQ) Squadron QOGLR. Secondly, based on three pipers, the first steps were taken to form the Regiment's own Pipes and Drums, which despite ups and downs over the years is 26-strong today. The Regiment was transforming from the 'Gas Company', as it was sometimes disparagingly called, to being an equal partner with other regiments in the Brigade of Gurkhas. David, along with many others in the early days, set the Regiment on its way towards enjoying the very high reputation that it does today, not only in the Brigade of Gurkhas, but also in the RLC and the Army.

In 1981, after handing over command in Hong Kong, David went to SHAPE, in Belgium, on the logistic operations planning staff. Sadly, he retired from the Army in 1983, aged 47, under something of a cloud. However, between 1985 and final retirement in 2017, David had a number of high profile jobs; he was head of the Institute of Road Transport Engineers (IRTE), sales director of Tate and Lyle and from 2005 served with great commitment as a Surrey county councillor.

In retirement, David had a long-lasting impact on the local Nepali community in Camberley, where he and Liesel lived for many years. Starting in 2012, he was able to use his influence with the council to secure essential help for elderly Gurkha veterans and their families, as they often struggled to make a new home in

Camberley. With patience, charm and an ability to know how best to make the system work, David managed to obtain a total of £30,000 over six years to provide facilities for regular gatherings, lectures, English classes and advice. Over the years, David and Liesel also dipped into their own pockets to keep things moving along, and the Nepali community will be forever grateful.

On 12 August 2022, it was at one of the regular coffee meetings that David was unable to get up the stairs. He managed to get himself home but the next day he was gone. Within hours, a small Nepali shrine had been set up in Liesel's sitting room in David's honour; his legacy will live on and Liesel will never lack for support or help from David's many Nepali friends.

At David's funeral, attended by many British veterans of the Gurkha Brigade, and even more Gurkhas, he was eloquently remembered by Major Tekbahadur Gurung

(ex 7th Gurkha Rifles), who said "... I sometimes get asked about the enduring relationship between British and Gurkha. What is the formula, what's the magic? To which I say, I don't think there is a formula. It is not something that can be contrived and applied as a formula. As for magic, if indeed it is magic, then it is simply David, and people like David, who in them have that ethereal, innate, abstract quality, all the more wondrous for being so, that makes the whole thing tick over nicely. Polite, humble, kind, steadfast, thoughtful, generous to a fault, and a whole lot more. David was blessed with these qualities in abundance; qualities that are usually also inherent in a hill-born Gurkha ..."

Gurkha veterans in Nepal still remember David fondly for his many personal kindnesses over the years. In the words of the QOGLR Regimental Association in Nepal, he was "such a nice and efficient British officer".

Major General Al Meier CB OBE



Major General AL (Tony) Meier CB OBE, who died on 17 September 2022, two weeks after his 85th birthday, joined the Gurkha Army Service Corps in 1960, as a founder member of 31 Company in Nee Soon, Singapore. During the next four years he served also in 28 Company in Hong Kong (1961-62) and 30 Company (1963-64), in Tidworth and Nee Soon, rising to captain as a composite platoon commander during operations in Borneo. Later he was OC 31 Squadron Gurkha Transport Regiment from 1972-74.

Anthony Leslie Meier was born in Isleworth, Middlesex, on 3 September 1937 and moved to London in 1940, where he remained throughout the Blitz and the rest of the War. He obtained a scholarship to Latymer Upper

School, Hammersmith, from the age of 11, where he was a self-confessed 'reluctant student', far more interested in extra-curricular activities and a wide range of sports. He was a devoted, lifelong Arsenal supporter. As a result, his school reports ranged from "He never seems to be prepared." (as a boy scout in the 2nd Form!), to "I hope he is not degenerating into a nonentity. He used to have such spirit. Better to be wicked than dull." in the Lower Sixth, with not a lot of encouragement in between. After passing the Civil Service Commission exam, he went to Sandhurst in 1956, emerging after two years, second in the order of merit and a commissioned officer in the Royal Army Service Corps. Sandhurst provided his first introduction to Gurkhas; one of his fellow cadets in Intake 20 was Chandrabahadur Rai (10th Gurkha Rifles), the first Gurkha to be commissioned from Sandhurst. In fact, Intake 20 produced several officers destined to find their way to the Gurkha Army Service Corps sooner rather than later.

Tony's first posting was to 108 Company RASC, in Bünde, Germany, home of the Soviet Military Liaison Mission (SOXMIS), where he found himself commanding mainly National Servicemen only 13 years after the end of the War. Later, he was amused to contrast this with being presented with a clock by the CIA when he retired.

In 1960, Tony found himself on the SS Nevasa bound for Singapore to join the newly forming Gurkha Army Service Corps. He shared a cabin with John Collar heading to the same Regiment, who became a close and lifelong friend; John predeceased him by a month and, although he wasn't fit enough to attend the funeral, Tony wrote a eulogy for his friend that was read out during the service.

For the next four years, Tony served in three of the Regiment's four companies in places steeped in regimental history – Nee Soon, Kluang, Tawau, Sabah, Kowloon ... Tidworth. With 30 Company, he took part in operations against Indonesia during the Confrontation. He stood out in the Regiment, particularly as his great height gave him a distinct advantage against diminutive Gurkhas on the basketball and volleyball courts. He was a good player and later, whilst CO in Germany, played in the BAOR unit finals in both disciplines. Like those before him and since, those early years with Nepal's finest sons cemented the long-lasting affection and pride that Tony had for the Regiment and Brigade.

The four years after the Far East were spent in junior staff appointments in Germany, a short period of regimental duty, and ended with a year at Staff College. Significantly, the period of regimental duty was spent in 8 Regiment RCT, to where he would return and make his name as commanding officer. Tony's first job after Staff College was in Defence Intelligence dealing with Warsaw Pact ground forces, where he was best known for writing a 1972 pamphlet called 'Notes on the Soviet Ground Forces', which became essential military reading during that period of the Cold War. The main direction of the next 24 years of Tony's military career was sealed - in intelligence.

But first, it was back to Hong Kong to command 31 Squadron Gurkha Transport Regiment in Sek Kong, New Territories. The Regiment had been reduced to two squadrons by that time and whilst 28 Squadron had tank transporters to play with – later transferred to 31 – the main emphasis was more on keen sporting rivalries between them. Tony is remembered by his squadron officers as quite a hard task master but always friendly and courteous. However, at the age of 34, Tony's perceived status as a confirmed bachelor was about to change, when he met Lieutenant Susanne Manley, a nurse at the British military hospital. They were married in Kowloon in January 1973, an occasion notable for their transport from the reception – a 3-ton lorry with armchairs on the back. The last of their three children was born in 1979.

After a short spell in Northern Ireland, Tony was promoted to lieutenant colonel during his time as a student at the National Defence College, which was followed by an intelligence job in Germany. It was during Tony's next job as CO of 8 Regiment RCT (1978-81) that he left a lasting legacy to the UK's defensive posture in Germany. He introduced new operational security into 8 Regiment's nuclear role and support for US forces. He wanted to bring in Gurkhas to provide convoy protection but this came to nought on security grounds, since they looked so conspicuously different. He was made an OBE in 1981.

In command, Tony was a slightly austere, thoughtful,

highly professional and very family orientated officer, who expected high standards and could be a stickler for detail. You knew where you stood with him, and he made sure that everyone understood what was needed and was up to the challenge. His legacy to 8 Regiment was the "scorpion" emblem that set it apart as the logistic unit with a sting in the tail! His knowledge of Soviet ground forces stood him in good stead during his time in command.

Within four years of leaving 8 Regiment, Tony was a brigadier as a student (and course president) at the NATO Defence College in Rome. Thereafter, his last nine years of service were spent at the very heart of UK and NATO defence intelligence, either in MOD or HQ Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT). In his final post (1991-94), as Director General Management and Support of Intelligence (DGMSI), and one of the few logistic corps officers to hold a two-star appointment outside his own Corps, Tony created and implemented a new concept for defence intelligence, for which he was deservedly made a CB in 1995 and no doubt earned him that CIA clock.

After an illustrious Army career, Tony continued to cut an imposing figure. Angular, tall, dapperly suited, still slim and athletic, his bearing was of a man used to handling situations and dealing with people, with the rare capacity to appear wholly inscrutable. Tony's humour, his enjoyment of people and conversation, was always accompanied by a sense of clear moral purpose. Utterly dignified, he was driven by a strong sense of service and duty to the communities of which he was a part.

A glance at Tony's post-military CV shows that his main interest, outside of family life, was to use his experience and expertise to help organisations and people, mainly in the fields of health and education. During 1994-96, he was the director of a Macmillan Cancer appeal for a new hospice in Hove, whilst holding down a non-executive directorship of Eastbourne Hospitals NHS Trust. The latter post lasted from 1994-2002, and he was vice-chairman from 1998. In 1994, Tony became a governor of St Bede's School, in Sussex, where his own children had been educated. This was a long-lasting association; he was chairman of the Prep School from 1994-99 and deputy chairman of the whole school from 1999 until well into his 80s. In 1997, he became an adjudicator on the Home Office Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel and, in 1998, became one of Her Majesty's Commissioners (governors) for Duke of York's Royal Military School, and chairman from 2003, until the rules forced him to retire at the age of 70.

Tony was a strong supporter of the Association. In 2019, driven by his son, he attended the Kasam Khane parade and AGM but did not stay due to an operation on his spine the next day. He also contributed many carefully researched articles for the Journal, dealing with regimental history from his era.

Towards the end of his life, Tony had become increasingly incapacitated. Two operations on his spine failed to live up to their potential and then he lost all mobility in his arms. He bore all the difficulties bravely, concerned mainly with reducing any time in hospital to the minimum. He died still negotiating a return to hospital, only after the funeral of Her Majesty the Queen two days later.

Tony was dedicated to, and immensely proud of, his family. He would talk with love and humble gratitude

Captain HH McLean



Captain Hugh McLean who died of heart failure on 29 October 2022 at the age of 81, first joined the Gurkha Transport Regiment in 1965, in Kluang, Malaysia, where he served in 34 Squadron as a troop commander, and then as the mechanical transport officer (MTO) in the rank of captain until 1968. He later served as MTO with 31 Squadron in Nee Soon, Singapore (1970-71), before the Squadron moved to Hong Kong, based in Sek Kong, New Territories, where he was the administrative officer (1971-72).

Hugh Hadow McLean was born in Glasgow on 27 July 1941 and was educated at the High School of Glasgow from the age of 14, where he developed a flair for German and French and discovered a love of history. His father had been a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps and served with the Indian Army throughout the Second World War. In 1961, Hugh joined Intake 30 at Sandhurst, from where he was commissioned into the

about Suzanne and her sacrifices throughout his career. He was hugely proud of Alexandra, Peter, and Richard, and he often spoke of his joy in his growing brood of grandchildren and one great grandchild. He was always interested in what they were doing, encouraging, and celebrating success; a relationship the family summed up at Tony's funeral, attended by many veterans from his military life, in the words Pride, Spirited Ambition and Love.

Royal Army Service Corps, in December 1962. Hugh passed out in the top 40 of his intake, above the rest of his RASC peers, for which he was awarded the RASC Sword of Honour in spring 1963.

Hugh's first tour was with 60 Company RASC, then part of I Division Column, in Germany, where he learned the basics of his trade in transport management and resupply. It was during this time that romance blossomed with Ilse Schmidt, whom he met at a dance in Bremen. His request to get married was turned down by the Army, who obviously thought that sending him to serve with Gurkhas in the Far East, in 1965, might cool his ardour. In fact, Ilse travelled out to join him a year later and they were married in 1966; their only child, Fiona, was born in 1967. At a time when very little English was spoken by Gurkhas, Hugh's language skills (bi-lingual in German and fluent in French) combined with his outgoing personality and sense of humour, helped him establish a strong bond with his soldiers and their Gurkha officers. This affection lasted for the rest of his life, and his home was full of memorabilia to remind him of his happy times with Gurkhas.

A second tour in Germany followed, this time with 26 (Bridging) Regiment RCT, but Hugh's affinity for Gurkha soldiering had been noticed. Less than two years later, the family was back in Singapore with 31 Squadron before its relocation to Hong Kong, following the move of the RHQ and the rest of the Brigade of Gurkhas to the Colony.

It was probably as a result of these frequent family moves that Hugh's mind turned to life after the Army, and he decided to transfer to the Royal Army Pay Corps. After attending the long RAPC transfer course, he took up his first appointment as the paymaster of 1st Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders for a year in Belfast. But, Hugh was determined to provide stability for Ilse and Fiona, and could not see this happening as long as he remained in the Army. In 1974, he left the service and took up employment with the European Commission, whom he served for the next 30 years. In their egalitarian terminology, he was an EU official and spent most of this

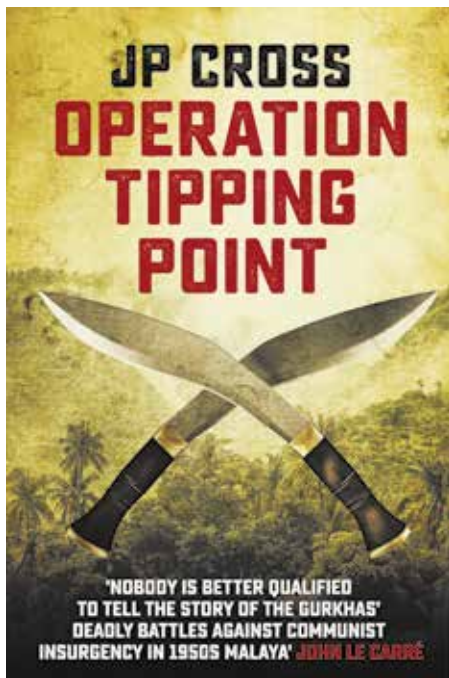
time in Brussels working with Development Aid, which included time in Addis Ababa, and also in Bonn. He was forced to retire early due to mobility problems and finally returned to Glasgow in 2004.

In retirement, Hugh's interest in politics and history came to the fore and he was a frequent contributor to the letters page of the Glasgow Herald. He was outspoken on many issues and some of his correspondence appeared under the by-line 'Thoughts of Chairman Mac'. Unsurprisingly, he was a passionate anti-Brexiteer and equally passionate about Scottish independence from the 'auld enemy'. Hugh was a strong supporter of the Association and the Regiment and would make the long trip down from Scotland (sometimes accompanied by Fiona) for the AGM or key regimental birthdays. He could be relied on to bring his paymaster experience to bear in a critical examination of the annual accounts, as well as being a jovial companion on trips to Nepal.

Hugh's ever-increasing lack of mobility was borne philosophically, and he was determined not to rely on a wheelchair. Nevertheless, the resulting heart problems meant it became difficult to get out to walk his dog, and a nasty fall at home took him to hospital with a broken shoulder, followed whilst there by a bout of septicaemia. He recovered but did not survive a second visit to hospital shortly after. He died in 2011 and he is survived by Fiona.

BOOK REVIEWS

By Lt Col (Retd) Elton Davis



Title: *Operation Tipping Point*

Author: *JP Cross*

ISBN: *9781915310149*

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Publisher: *Monsoon Books*

Price: *£9.99*

Available in paperback and ebook formats from leading bookstores worldwide and from www.monsoonbooks.co.uk.

Another tour de force in Jason Rance's escapades during the Malayan Emergency

In this, the eighth tale in the exploits of Major Jason Rance in post-war Malaya, we find JP Cross weaving another intricate web of intrigue and guile as his spotlight expertly alights upon the stratagems and ruses of the communist insurgency in the late 50s. The communist plot to infiltrate and discredit the British Gurkhas and delay and confound the British counter-insurgency effort must be thwarted by the guile and good fortune of JP Cross' young, wily hero, aided and abetted by a childhood friend who is a deeply embedded security force agent in the Malayan Communist Party Politburo.

Although a work of fiction, the insights provided by JP Cross into the tactics and thinking of the insurgents and the security force operations are needle sharp, and clearly borne from personal experience, which adds immeasurable authenticity and credibility. With its rich tapestry of characters, locations and interwoven sub-plots, JPX delivers another ripping yarn. Behind the Boy's Own magic and old-world charm of Rance's character, there is a maturity and steely determination to succeed, coupled with ingenious planning and great opportunism. However, the stakes and consequences of failure go far beyond what one might expect a young officer to achieve. On which side of the "tipping point" will Rance's efforts fall? It hangs on a knife edge and makes for another excellent window into operational life during the Malayan Emergency. Anyone with any interest in this period of history would benefit hugely

from the depiction of the plots and events in *Operation Tipping Point*. Anyone else would just benefit from the cleverly constructed story-telling that JP Cross excels at.

